



Chapter 42

Zonta in Australia and New Zealand – the Non-Districted Period (1965–1974)¹

The clubs chartered in Australia and New Zealand between 1965 and 1974 were non-districted.

1969: All non-districted Zonta clubs worldwide were organized in five areas, effective from 1970. Clubs in Australia and New Zealand were grouped as Area III – Asia Pacific.²

The first area meeting was held in Canberra, Australia, celebrating Zonta International's 50th anniversary. Joyce Fildes OAM, of Canberra, was elected area representative, and Australian and New Zealand clubs began to work together.

1970: Joyce Fildes' term of office as area representative/observer started at the international convention in Chicago.

1972: In April, 13 Australian and New Zealand Zonta clubs met in Sydney for the first Area 03 workshop and advised International President-Elect Harriette Yeckel that they were ready to form a district.

Area III Asia Pacific became Region III Asia Pacific at the convention in Portland, Oregon, and on 2 July 1972, the Zonta International Board agreed that Region III should be granted district status.

1974: The Zonta International Board granted District status to Region III. District XVI for clubs in New Zealand and Australia was effective from 20 July 1974

¹ Compiled from information in *Zonta International Down Under and Across the Ditch* (2019), Jennifer A. Loughton's *District 16 History in Brief*, Zonta International Directories, and additional research by Eva Nielsen, with contributions from District Historians of Districts 16, 22, 23 and 24.

² Zonta International Directory 1971, 1972-73

Australia

Australian Capital Territory

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1969	0626	Zonta Club of Canberra Inc.	

New South Wales

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1966	0557	Zonta Club of Sydney Inc.	
1972	0687	Zonta Club of Sydney North Inc.	2017

Queensland

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1971	0680	Zonta Club of Brisbane Inc.	

South Australia

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1969	0627	Zonta Club of Adelaide Inc.	

Tasmania

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1971	0682	Zonta Club of Hobart	

Victoria

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1966	0555	Zonta Club of Melbourne Inc.	
1973	0724	Zonta Club of Melbourne Yarra.	2007

Western Australia

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1971	0685	Zonta Club of Perth Inc.	

New Zealand

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1965	0549	Zonta Club of Auckland	
1969	0629	Zonta Club of Wellington	
1970	0656	Zonta Club of Hamilton-Waikato	
1970	0657	Zonta Club of Christchurch-Canterbury	
1970	0661	Zonta Club of Dunedin-Otago	
1973	0723	Zonta Club of Hawke's Bay Area	
1973	0728	Zonta Club of Whangarei	
1973	0729	Zonta Club of Marlborough Area	1994
1973	0731	Zonta Club of Rotorua	

From the history of the Non-Districted Period, 1965–1974³

Sponsored by Zonta International and her own club, “Zontian extraordinaire” Dorothy Thompson, from the Zonta Club of Toronto, was delegated by Zonta International to organize new clubs in Australia and New Zealand. Over a number of visits, she founded the first 12 Australasian clubs, and a total of 35 Zonta clubs worldwide.

Thompson established the Zonta Club of Auckland, club number 549, which became the first post-war Australasian Zonta club — and the first club in New Zealand, with a Zonta International charter signing on 15 November 1965. With its charter presented by Past International President Jane-Maria Pierce, Cherry Raymond, a well-known New Zealand journalist and feminist, became charter president. Charter members Joan-Mary Longcroft, Anne Gambrill, the charter treasurer, and Lillian Chrystall were still, as of 2016⁴, active members of the Zonta Club of Auckland, and Joan-Mary and Anne remain members in 2020. Zonta International congratulated them for 50 years of active service in the November 2015 e-newsletter.

Other notable international visitors included France de la Chaise Mutin, who attended the first meeting of the Zonta Club of Wellington in 1969, and Zonta International President Helvi Sipilä, who later made Zonta Club of Wellington’s charter presentation in early 1970. Air travel made Australasian visits by important Zontians a more frequent occurrence.

³ *District 16 History in Brief*, researched and written by Jennifer A. Loughton

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 28