

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2006 MELBOURNE:

The 2006 Zonta International Convention was held at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre with the theme "Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide" focusing on international understanding, justice and peace.

The challenge of hosting Convention 2006 was embraced with enthusiasm by District 23 Zontians, who were drawn from all Areas of the District.

Convention Committee was chaired by Naomi Arnold Reschke from Gawler (SA), the secretary was Alison Martin from Western Australia and Pauline Burton from South Australia was Treasurer.

Bendigo Zontians joined other members of clubs closest to Melbourne to provide 'hands on' support during the Convention. Melbourne's winter weather was benign, registrations totalled 1923, Convention business was conducted calmly and effectively, social events were marvellous and pre and post-convention tours were successful. ZCB hosted a tour which meant several international members were able to partake of Bendigo's renowned hospitality.

As expected, a record number of Bendigo and District 23 members attended the 2006 Melbourne Convention and gained a greater appreciation of the internationality of Zonta. To our delight, Zontians from around the world still comment on how much they enjoyed the Melbourne Convention. All the hard work and attention to detail proved worthwhile.

Zonta Club of Bendigo members had very successful Market Place selling Zonta cards and ceramics made in Bendigo.

"The Melbourne Convention was my first one and it broadened my horizons and gave me a better understanding of where our Club fitted in to the scheme of things. I understood the need to go beyond Club level to Area, District and International level.

The Opening Ceremony was very colourful and impressive with flag bearers wearing their country's traditional dress. The swapping of badges was a great way to meet people and Bendigo Council provided us with Poppet Head Badges which members from all over the world loved receiving. I was proud to be a Victorian and showcase our Capital City and many people commented it was the best Convention they had attended." Naidene Parry, Zonta Club of Bendigo, President 2000-2002.