

Zonta Club of Bendigo Inc.

Ann Horrocks STEM Annual Award

The Zonta Club of Bendigo Inc., a member of Zonta International, is a human rights organization, dedicated to building a better world for women and girls. www.zontabendigo.org
To create a world where everyone has an equal opportunity, women must have an active role in technology and science developments.

To encourage a local girl to pursue a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Mathematics (STEM), the Zonta Club of Bendigo Inc, will award one merit-based competitive award of **\$1500.00** to a young woman who meets the criteria and demonstrates an ambition to pursue study in STEM areas at a tertiary level.

The award has been named after our member Ann Horrocks, in recognition of her contribution to Zonta at all levels: International, District and Club. It also acknowledges Ann's commitment to women and children through service and advocacy. A short biography is attached.

The STEM awardee will be a female student who has completed year 12 or a TAFE University entry requirement, in the last five years and who has enrolled in tertiary education in one of the above fields. See the Club's STEM Award detailed criteria on the application form.

Based on the winner's first year results, the award may be continued for a second year, provided enrolment is continued in STEM subjects.

The Ann Horrocks STEM Award application form is available under Awards, on the Zonta Club of Bendigo Inc. web site www.zontabendigo.org. or through your school or university.

If you have any questions about this Award, please contact member - Ember Chittenden.
Email: e.chittenden@latrobe.edu.au

Those students enrolled in purely health related sciences are not eligible to receive this award.

Ann Horrocks STEM Award General Information

Eligibility Criteria:

The following areas as detailed in the application form apply.

- Applications can be submitted by female students who have completed Year 12, in the last 5 years in the Loddon Mallee Region provided that the school is not located within 20 km of another Zonta Club.

OR

- Completed a university entry level STEM course at TAFE in the above area.

The applicant must have been accepted into a course offering further education in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (not health related).

Applicants must be:

- an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident of Australia
- have an active commitment to volunteerism with a focus on supporting women and children
- have knowledge of the programs of Zonta at International and the local level.

Application Requirements

- Completion of the official Application Form available on the Zonta Club of Bendigo Inc. webpage under Awards: www.zontabendigo.org
- Submission of a copy of your Year 12 or TAFE academic record
- Two (2) References in support of your application and
- Verification of current enrolment at a University in Australia in a STEM related field.

Application Process

Applications must be received by 31st May 2026. References may be emailed separately if preferred, however they must be received no later than the above closing date.

All applications are to be submitted electronically by the deadline to:

- Zonta Club of Bendigo Inc
Email: zontabendigo@gmail.com

Evaluation Process

A panel will consider all applications, assessing them against the eligibility criteria and the detailed response to the Professional Information and Goals section.

At least 3 candidates will be shortlisted for final evaluation. This may include an interview.

The successful applicant will be notified prior to the Bendigo Zonta Club announcing the winner. A presentation evening may be held to acknowledge the winner.

Biography Ann Horrocks

Member Zonta Club of Bendigo 1988 to current

Ann completed Year 12 at Presentation Convent Windsor in 1959. Rather than take up teaching or nursing, which was the norm for girls at that time, and with the support of her family, particularly her mother, she pursued studies in Applied Chemistry at RMIT. This course was undertaken by those wishing to work in industry rather than following an academic or teaching career. Ann graduated after 6 years of night school, while working full-time in the Research Laboratories at Kraft Foods. During these years, as well as being part of a team developing new products, she set up a new testing laboratory for fresh vegetables in Tasmania.

Ann moved to Bendigo and enjoyed the next 16 years at home with her growing family. To help support their boys with their sporting ambitions and university studies, Ann began work at the Ordnance Factory Bendigo, initially in the office as a clerk. She started a Graduate Diploma in Electronic Computing but before completing this course, was appointed as the Facility Chemist - a new field for her with the work involved being all metals based. With great support from the laboratory personnel and after several years, Ann was appointed the Metallurgical Laboratory Manager.

While Laboratories Manager, Ann also held many other roles, including Environmental Manager, Project Manager, and a term as the OH&S Manager. Ann continued studies in these fields and qualified as a NATA auditor. After achieving NATA (National Australian Testing Authority) registration for the Bendigo laboratories, Ann was appointed as an assessor of other NATA registered testing laboratories throughout Australia. During this time, Ann was a member of many Professional Scientific Organizations.

While continuing with laboratory responsibilities, Ann was appointed as a Project Manager for several Defense projects including the US Army program for the High Mobility Engineer Excavator, a vehicle that could travel on the highway at speeds of 100kph. Ann assisted in a small way, during the development of the Bushmaster.

After 25 years at ADI (now Thales), Ann retired in 2006 and was able to devote more time to her Zonta club which she had joined in 1988. Zonta is an international human rights organization supporting women and children both locally and internationally through service, advocacy and education. It also provided the opportunity to meet like-minded women. Ann has held all positions at club level including President initially in 1996, which was followed by 2 years as the Area 4 Director. Ann was elected club president for a second biennium in 2018-20.

Ann held the position of District 23 Secretary for 4 years and during this time assisted with the introduction of electronic voting at two Zonta International Conventions in 2006 and 2008. In 2012 in Torino Italy, Ann was installed as the elected District 23 Governor being responsible for Zonta membership in WA, SA, NT, Vic and Tasmania, a position she held for 2 years.

At international level Ann has been the elected vice-chairman of the Zonta International (ZI) Nominating Committee, a member of the ZI Foundation Development Committee and has served 4 years on the ZI Service Committee. She was also a Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign Regional Representative. As District 23 Parliamentarian from 2016-2022, and a previous Nominating Committee Chairman she has been very involved in all levels of Zonta. At various times Ann has been a member of all club committees.

Outside of Zonta, over the years Ann has been involved with many community organizations in Bendigo and was a member of the Friends of the Bendigo Art Gallery of which she was treasurer for many years. With family having moved away from Bendigo, there are many reasons to travel and spend time with grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Ann feels quite humbled by the honour bestowed upon her with the naming of this scholarship, but at the same time is very proud to be acknowledged in this way and to continue her membership and support of the Zonta Club of Bendigo. Ann thanks all members, past and present, for the support she has received along her Zonta journey.

Ann looks forward to continuing to support Zonta at all levels for many years to come.