

Information for Secondary Colleges in Bendigo

You may be aware that the Zonta Club of Bendigo awards the Gwen Symons Memorial Scholarship to a female senior secondary currently studying in year 10, the focus on the scholarship is for a girl who is succeeding academically but in needy financial circumstances. The scholarship is to support her to continue her Year 11 & 12 education, and we hope therefore give her the opportunity to undertake senior schooling and tertiary studies.

The value of the scholarship is \$1,000 and is awarded to a student who will be commencing Year 11 in following year. Should she make good progress in Year 11 and continue her education the second year funds of \$1,000 will be awarded for her Year 12 studies.

The student selected will be above average in her schoolwork and have potential for tertiary studies. She will display good personal qualities, and most importantly, will be in need of financial support.

I would be pleased if your college would nominate one student to be considered for this scholarship. The nominated student if shortlisted will be interviewed within the following two weeks.

I have enclosed a nomination form to be completed electronically. We would appreciate this being sent to the coordinator of this award, outlined on the application form.

Once all schools have sent in their nominees a member of this committee will contact the shortlisted students to arrange for them to attend the interview, which typically takes about ten minutes. Once the successful nominee is selected the school will be notified with a hope that they can be presented with the award at a School Assembly

Yours sincerely,

Zonta Club of Bendigo Inc
zontabendigo@gmail.com



Who was Gwen Symons

Charter member Gwen Symons was very involved in the initial setting up of the local Zonta International Bendigo Club in 1980 and continued her membership until she passed away in September 1993. Gwen was our Club's Charter Treasurer and held various positions on the club Board and Committees over many years.

In 1981, Gwen was an active participant in the establishment of the Zonta Day Centre for elderly "shut in" members of our community and fundraised towards the purchase of the ZONTA BUS in 1983. She spent many hours driving this bus that would collect attendees, transport them to the Zonta Day Centre and then spend time with the clients before driving them home. Gwen had great respect for the elderly in our community as they did for her.

Gwen had a great love of sport, horses and the people she met, and as a member of the Bendigo Pony Club was an active supporter of riding for the disabled. She also played tennis, hockey and polocrosse and excelled in sport as well as life.

She had a great love of horses and along with her husband George, they had many successes with their horses they trained and raced. You can see from this short outline of Gwen's life she was an active member of her community, had a great love of sport, horses and the people she met.

Since 1984, the Zonta Club of Bendigo has awarded a scholarship to a local Year 10 girl student to assist her with continuing her schooling into Year 11 and hopefully create a path into Year 12.

Gwen's love of her family and community is reflected in the Gwen Symons Memorial Endowment left by her family after her passing in 1993 so that girls in the final years of their secondary schooling could be supported to succeed. The Zonta Club of Bendigo is very proud to administer the Gwen Symons Memorial Award on behalf of her family each year.