



For immediate release
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Zonta Club continues to empower Central Coast women with Wallarah 2 grant

With the Central Coast and in particular the Wyong Shire having extremely high levels of domestic violence incidents, community organisations such as the Zonta Club offer vital advocacy services for local women affected by domestic violence.

With thanks to a recent grant from the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation, the Central Coast Zonta branch has launched its project *Zonta Says "NO" to Violence Against Women* in a bid to help combat this issue.

The project focuses on three distinct programs – sponsoring ten male students and five male teachers from five Wyong Shire high schools to attend the annual White Ribbon Men's Breakfast, organising working bees to clean up the outdoor play space at Toukley Women's Refuge and coordinating a White Ribbon campaign in the Wyong LGA.

Robyn Rex, the Zonta Advocacy Chair on the Central Coast says that the project will help to increase awareness of domestic violence situations particularly within the Wyong Shire.

"Our project, *Zonta Says "NO" to Violence Against Women*, aims to advocate for the rights and safety of women by involving the entire community. Domestic violence is not just a women's issue, but a full community issue and this is the message that events such as White Ribbon Day and the White Ribbon Men's Breakfast seek to highlight.

"As part of the project we will be sponsoring ten Year 11 male students and five male teachers from local high schools to attend a White Ribbon Men's Breakfast so that they will be able to understand more about domestic violence and hopefully act as positive influencers amongst their peers on the subject of domestic violence.

"We will also be making 2000 White Ribbons for members of the Wyong Shire community to wear in support of women and children in domestic violence situations, as well as running working bees at the Toukley Women's Refuge to update the children's outdoor play area.

"None of these initiatives would be possible if it weren't for Wallarah 2's generous grant and we are thankful for their support to update the children's outdoor play area and provide gross motor play equipment for the children," concluded Robyn.

Peter Smith, Community Manager of the Wallarah 2 Coal Project said, "Wallarrah 2 is proud to support the Zonta Club of the Central Coast and its important advocacy work with local women in domestic violence situations."

The Wallarah 2 Community Foundation grant application process is now closed, with 14 grants presented to support organisations that benefit the Wyong local government area. For further information please visit www.wallarrah.com.au.

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For more information, interviews or photos:

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Photo from left to right: Environment and Community Manager Peter Smith and General Manager Peter Allonby from Wallarah 2, President of Zonta Central Coast, Gael Butler and Robyn Rex, Zonta Advocacy Chairperson.