

Zonta Says Now October '23 online meeting



From bad does comes good – sometimes!



Amy Steel

Psychology tells us that negative experiences can have a larger impact on your life than positive ones. Undoubtedly true, but some amazing individuals can turn their negative life-changing experiences into positive impacts for the world.

Amy Steel is one of these people. Currently the head of office and global subject lead for Climate Risk and Adaptation at Engie Impact, a French based company working to provide sustainable energy solutions and aiming to support a transition to a carbon neutral economy in Australia. Her career has delved deep into both mitigation and adaptation over the last decade.

On the mitigation side she has undertaken numerous projects exploring both an energy optimised mix to decarbonisation and the pathway required to maintain a safe and habitable climate at either a site, city, country, or regional level. On the adaptation side Amy has led the development of a suite of tools to understand, model and quantify the financial impact from a changing climate on site-specific operations.

Amy is immensely passionate about climate change and reducing emissions rapidly to protect the health of ecosystems which she takes great joy from – like coral reefs and snow-covered mountains.

Amy does volunteer advocacy work for groups like Sports Environment Alliance and Front Runners as well as the global group Eco Athletes and **it is her involvement in national level sport which provoked Amy's interest in climate change.**

Amy was a highly talented member of national netball teams.

Playing in Adelaide she collapsed after a netball game in 39 degrees of heat. Even though the match was indoors the cooling system was not working well and Amy suffered a heat stroke collapse after the game. Before and after the game, she had stood in the sun signing autographs and she had played the whole match as goal defense, the physically most intensive position of the game

Initially she expected to recover quickly but the heat stroke had caused permanent damage to her body, and she was unable to resume any exercise, let alone A level netball. Her daily life was impacted, and everything became a huge chore.

This led Amy to question – ‘How much heat is too much heat for the human body? How much will increases in temperature affect the human body and the world?’ What can we do to help reduce the impacts of climate change’.

Professionally Amy now works in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Academically, following a commerce degree, she has completed a master's degree where she worked with the Wudjari Noongar people in Southern Western Australia to explore the interrelationship between fire management techniques, catastrophic fire risk and the changing climate. Her current PhD is about ‘Managing Threats to Healthy Country in the Recherche Archipelago in WA.’

Amy is on the current cohort for the Homeward Bound program and hopes to travel to Antarctica with other women in STEMM. <https://homewardboundprojects.com.au/>
The Homeward Bound STEMM leaders' program is creating a diverse group of women leaders with STEMM backgrounds to help create a sustainable world.

Walking the talk, Amy is presently building a sustainable house near Margaret River WA.

It is fantastic to have had the opportunity to hear Amy's personal story and to see how she has since worked towards creating a sustainable future for herself, Australia, and the Earth!

To join in the online Zonta Says Now D23 meetings go to: <https://zontasaysnow.org.au/think-tank/> and send an email to info@zontasaysnow.org.au requesting a link for the meeting. The next meeting is Saturday 16 December 4pm AEST for 90 minutes.

Zonta Says Now is ‘now’ international. For more information about meeting dates go to <https://zontasaysnow.org.au/intercontinental-think-tank/>

And, of course, go to <https://zontasaysnow.org.au/>



Amy's netball days