ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 23
EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

ZONTA SAYS NOW

To gender equality and climate action

Zonta Says NOW News - February 2021



Let's Get Flying

The holidays are over, the children are back to school, and it is time to get going for 2021. During the summer break, Australians experienced a series of Covid lockdowns and weathered a succession of storms, floods, and bushfires – with many homes destroyed.

These events served as a stark reminder of just how quickly our world can change, how adaptable we can be, and how important it is to take climate action NOW. Things will only get tougher, and we must prepare for a more equitable future through our Zonta service today.

Here is a round-up of recent news and some suggested actions to start the year. If you have any other items that have moved or inspired you, please share them!

Let's get off to a flying start in 2021.

Carole

Carole Theobald
District 23 Futurist/Leadership Coordinator



Inspiration

The year started with the USA returning to the Paris Climate Agreement.

At President Biden's inauguration ceremony, many were inspired by Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman's, impressive words in her poem "The Hill we Climb" who reminded us that … *For while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us*.

It was also very pleasing to see the first female Vice President, Kamala Harris, sworn in, as well as a very gender and culturally diverse cabinet. This augurs well for the world – as, according to the Future we Choose, (p150) *companies, countries, NGOs and financial institutions all take stronger climate action when they are led by women or have a high proportion of women in decision making roles*.

One of our key roles in Zonta is to support women (and ourselves) to take on leadership positions. Let's make that our first action for 2021 - and use Zonta's Leadership Development Tools to guide us.



Starting Conversations

Do you find it hard to start a conversation about climate change? Here are a couple of facts that may help break the ice. Did you know that:

- Renewables represented 21% of Australia's total electricity generation in 2019.
- China has more than 400,000 electric buses, about 99% of the world's total.

- In the last 30 years, the UK has grown its economy by 75% while cutting emissions by 43%.
- In Australia, in the last 30 years, energy emissions have increased by 48% (page 16).
- The European Union has decided to cut its emissions by at least 55 per cent by the end of this decade.
- Carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere for between 300 and 1,000 years.
- Climate Analytics points out that: *When emissions from Australia's current coal, oil and gas exports (3.6% of global total) are added to domestic emissions (1.4% of global total), Australia's contribution to the global climate pollution footprint is already about 5%.* That's equivalent to Russia's total greenhouse gas emissions, the world's fifth-biggest carbon dioxide emitter.

Why not start a conversation for your second action?



Mapping Global Climate Change and Gender Inequality

This fascinating report by Carbon Brief describes 130 climate and health studies' key findings to show how the impacts of climate change are experienced differently by men and women.

The analysis shows that 68% (89) of the 130 studies, found that women were more affected by health impacts associated with climate change than men. The report features an interactive map that shows the key findings.

For a third action, explore this map – it is very informative!



Changemakers - The 2020 Goldman Environmental Prize Winners

The Goldman Environmental Prize has been dubbed the "green Nobel Prize" and honours one grassroots activist from the six inhabited continents. Four of last year's six

winners were women.

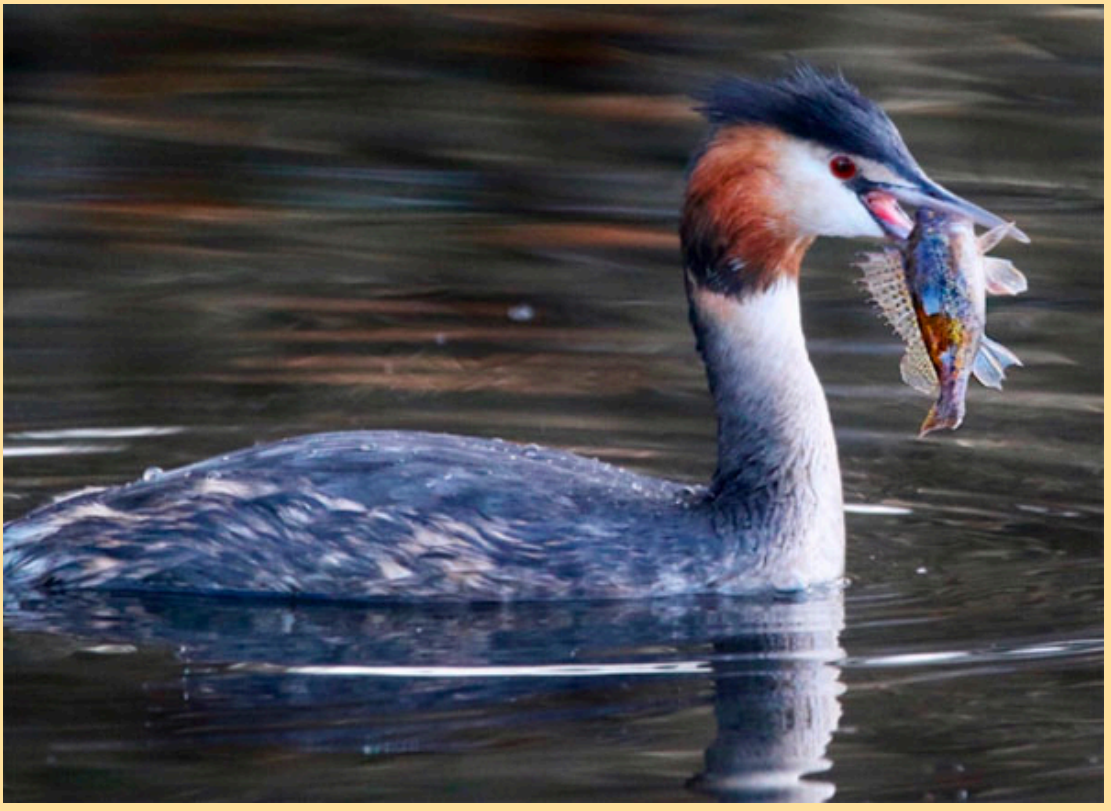
- **Kristal Ambrose** started a youth movement that convinced The Bahamas government to enact a ban on single-use plastic bags, plastic cutlery, straws, and Styrofoam cups and containers.
- **Nemonte Nenquimo** filed a lawsuit against the Ecuadoran government and successfully safeguarded 202,000 hectares of Indigenous territories and Amazon rainforest from oil exploration and extraction.
- **Leydy Pech**, a Mayan beekeeper, spearheaded a coalition that prevented Monsanto from planting genetically modified “Roundup-ready” soybeans in seven states in southern Mexico.
- **Lucie Pinson** used a variety of methods to pressure banks and insurers to cease support of coal development. Now, 17 insurers and 22 global banks have pledged to no longer fund coal projects.

The two male winners were:

- **Chibeze Ezekiel** who led a four-year grassroots campaign to cancel the construction of the first coal-fired power plant in Ghana, changing the trajectory of Ghana’s energy future.
- **Paul Sein Twa** who worked to establish a 546,000-hectare (1.35-million-acre) peace park to safeguard biodiversity and culture in the Salween River Basin in Myanmar, the first in a conflict zone.

Do these supreme advocates inspire you to do your own advocacy?

For action number four, consider contacting your local Federal member to ask if they support the Climate Bill currently working its way through the Australian Federal Parliament – and if not, why not?



Shopping Tips

One Million Women’s new LoveEarth Marketplace has a growing list of package-free, reusable, and compostable products. It also features women-led enterprises, vegan products, fossil-fuel-free financial services – and much more.

Val advises that Zero Co, the Australian company that uses plastic reclaimed from the ocean to make bottles for its earth-friendly cleaning products, aims to go not just carbon neutral, but carbon negative!

Action number five is to refresh your memory with the 5Rs of waste management – reducing, reusing, recycling, rethinking and repairing.



Final Thought

Educating young women and empowering women to come to decision-making tables is the strongest thing that we can do for the climate.

When there are more women in boardrooms and in high-level positions in institutions, you get decisions that are wiser and longer-term.
Christiana Figueres

Everything we do in Zonta will support future generations to prepare for the climate crisis. To do this effectively, we need to ensure that Zonta International's programs are sustainable.

By donating to Zonta International's Endowment Fund, you will help Zonta to:

- educate more girls;
- ramp up the ending of child marriage; and
- support more women to be leaders in their workplace, their community and their democracies.

These actions empower women and girls and create a more sustainable world.

If you would like to donate a "present for the future", please click the button below.

Donate to the Zonta International Foundation for Women Endowment Fund

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