ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 23
EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

ZONTA SAYS NOW

To gender equality and climate action

Zonta Says NOW News - FEBRUARY 2022



Acting on the science

Here we are in 2022, the Year of the Tiger, and the momentum around taking climate action is growing. Can we be as brave and strong as the tiger in the year ahead?

We start the year by considering how Zonta Says NOW is accelerating Zonta International's mission and vision in our changing world. Zonta Says NOW will feature at the CSW 66 (NGO parallel forum) on March 15 - so spread the word with this save the date flyer and register today to be part of this international online, free event.

At this critical time in human history, we need to have as many brains as possible exploring climate solutions - women, men, young, old - from all cultures.

February 11 is the United Nations International Day of Women and Girls in Science and a time to advocate for STEM. Recently, I saw the Netflix movie, Don't Look Up. The story revolved around scientists observing a threat to the Earth (a comet) and how political donors influenced politicians' actions - to the detriment of humanity. The science was ignored. Replace the comet in the story with climate change, and you could have our world today!

With the Australian Federal election fast approaching we have an opportunity to lobby candidates to close the gender gap, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and end violence against women. We can take action today by completing 1 Million Women's new survey that asks what women think about climate change and if it will affect the way they vote in the election.

This newsletter celebrates Zonta, women in science and reflects on how we respond to advances in science and technology in our daily lives.

Enjoy!

Carole
Carole Theobald
District 23 Futurist/Leadership Coordinator



Accelerating Zonta's Mission

As we enter a new year, it is time to reflect on the purpose of *Zonta Says NOW to gender equality and climate action* and how it fits with the Vison of Zonta International.

Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights, and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.

During the pandemic, we have seen more social disruption, uncertainty, poverty, and family violence, and our women's refuges are full. Oxfam estimates the disruptions caused by the pandemic have set gender equality back thirty years.

What will happen as the disruptions caused by climate change increase? Many Zontians have already experienced extreme weather events triggered by climate change – intense heat, storms, floods, drought, and terrifying bush fires. We don't know for sure how many people will be displaced globally by climate change, as estimates vary from over 200 million to around 1.2 billion people by 2050.

We do know that the severe weather events triggered by climate change disproportionately impact women. Among other things, women are more likely to be injured or killed, lose their job, or be pushed into slavery or prostitution to survive. Girls are at high risk of being forced to leave school or marry early. Women are half the world's population yet make up a quarter of the parliamentarians who decide the world's future.

Zonta International's *Statement on Climate Change: a gender equality issue* highlights the importance of educating girls, having more women in parliament, and achieving gender equality, especially in economic participation and responses to climate change.

Zonta Says NOW provides a practical framework to implement initiatives in the Statement. We can apply Zonta Says NOW's five key activities to any advocacy issue: gathering the facts, leading by example, adding your voice, advocating, and collaborating. Zonta Says NOW complements Zonta International's *Zonta Says NO to violence against women* initiative.

Together the programs are essential tools to achieve Zonta International's mission: they help close the gender gap and slow down climate change so that women will have a chance to achieve their full potential - and not live in fear of violence.

Action: Make a list of the issues that you will advocate for in 2022.



What else are you cooking with gas?

For years, we have followed the lead of professional chefs and used gas stovetops as they provide faster, more evenly distributed heat. However, this efficiency comes at a cost to the planet.

A new report of a USA study from the journal *Environmental Science and Technology* has found that natural gas stoves release methane through leakage and incomplete combustion.

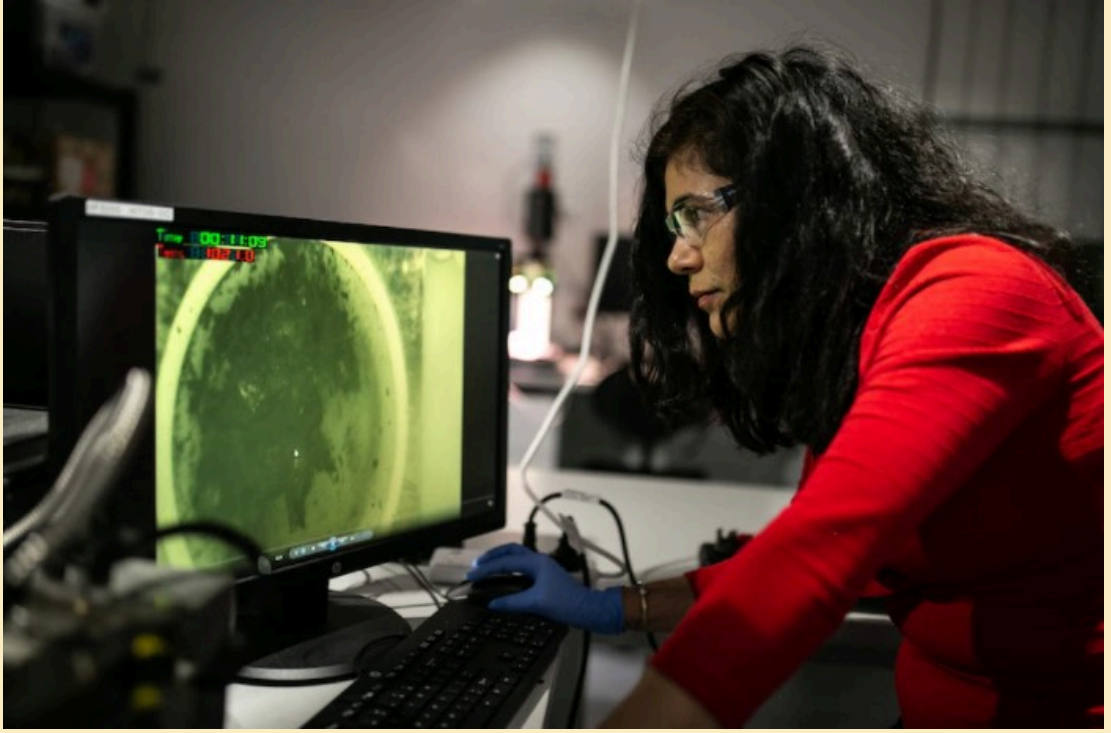
Using a 20-year timeframe for methane, annual methane emissions from all gas stoves in U.S. homes have a climate impact comparable to the annual carbon dioxide emissions of 500,000 cars.

While gas stoves release methane during cooking, three-quarters of the methane was released while the stoves were not in use. Nitrous oxides and fine particulate matter released during cooking can pose a respiratory risk, especially to children.

Scientists hope to replicate the project in Australia.

Methane is a greenhouse gas that can trap twenty-five times more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide - so it needs to be used with care.

Action: Consider these findings when choosing your next stove.



Rewards for transforming waste

On television, you may have seen Professor Veena Sahajwalla from the University of New South Wales 'magically' turning waste into valuable products. She and her team have turned the plastics from old printers into face shields for health workers, old beer bottles and ageing mattresses into ceramic floor tiles and successfully harvested valuable metals from old computers. Amazing.

It was terrific to see Professor Sahajwalla recognised as a finalist for the Australian of the Year Awards. Professor Sahajwalla is part of a growing cohort of scientists looking at the circular economy.

Meanwhile, Sophia Hamblin Wang caught the interest of many global investors at COP26 in Glasgow. She showcased her company that converts carbon dioxide emissions from industrial processes into bricks. The bricks can be used for building materials.

For this year's International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the Women's Agenda has highlighted four incredible game-changers who use their knowledge and skills to make the world a better place. Dr Kizzmekia Corbett, Anjali Sharma, Anorah John and Aileen Tan Shau Hwai have been instrumental in changing our world in the areas of COVID vaccination, the climate rights of children, regenerating threatened species and empowering women in marine science.

The world needs more scientists, technologists, engineers, mathematicians to find solutions to the many problems caused by climate change and pollution. Every day we read about advances in making more efficient batteries, renewable energy, nuclear fusion, rehabilitating coral reefs, reusing materials, or discovering more about our universe.

How can we encourage more girls and women into STEM careers? The *Women in STEM Decadal Plan* shows how. It also has a useful supplement that maps Australian STEM participation initiatives for girls and women. Many scholarships are available, including some from Zonta International and Zonta clubs around Australia.

STEM Women has a directory of women working and studying STEM subjects who can be contacted for mentoring, presentations, and much more. Their profiles cover a diverse range of careers from hydraulics, oceanography, to computer technology and neuroscience. Share the link with your daughters, nieces, and friends.

Action: Invite STEM women in your local area to your next meeting.



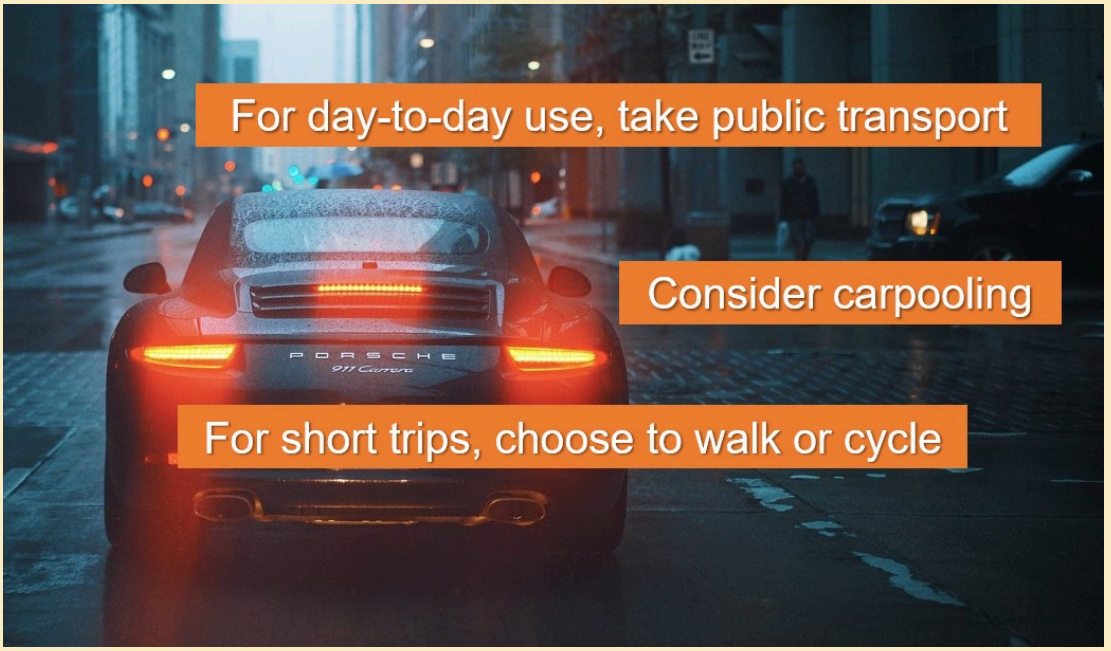
What women think about climate change

Will you take 1 Million Women's 2022 Survey *What Women Think About Climate Change* to help them understand what women are thinking ahead of the next Federal election?

Over 6,500 people responded to their last survey in 2018. In this survey, one-third of women under 30 said they were reconsidering having children or more children because of concern about an unsafe future from climate change.

What do women think today? Please add your voice - it doesn't take long.

Action: Make some time to do the survey.



Is driving the new smoking?

In France, advertisements for new cars now have to carry an 'environmental' warning!

The adverts have short messages to tempt you to leave your car at home - and also show how much greenhouse gas the car produces.

The fine for non-compliance is AUS$56,000.

In 2019, transport accounted for around 19 per cent of Australia's national emissions. Every time you leave the car keys at home makes a difference to our overall emissions.

Action: For those short trips walk, cycle or take a bus if you can!



Getting to Zero ... comfortably with a Tesla 3

As fuel prices rise, it is timely to look at alternatives. Zontian, Sue Lees in Victoria recently became the proud owner of a Tesla 3 and has shared her experiences of handling this new technology in this warts-and-all review.

She explains that there are many things to get used to - regenerative braking, charging, and the car's quietness! The car prepares us for our hotter summers. You can turn the air conditioning on with your mobile phone before you get in the car - so no more burnt behinds as you get in. Our favourite feature is the 'dog mode'. Intrigued? Read the review.

Action: Read Sue's review of the Tesla for more first-hand experiences.



What's been on the Women's Agenda?

If you have not done so already, register for the Women's Agenda. This daily newsfeed provides an absolute feast of what is happening for women in Australia and around the world. Here are a few tidbits to whet your appetite from the last couple of weeks:

- The moments & women that lifted us in 2021
- We start 2022 with more women running the world and a chance for Australian politics to transform
- World's 10 richest men doubled their wealth to USD$1.5 trillion during pandemic
- Disappointment and disbelief' after Morrison government vetoes research into student climate activism
- Women in science still jumping higher hurdles

- Men twice as likely to be highly paid, new gender equality scorecard shows

Action: Use your newsfeeds to keep informed on gender equality and climate action issues.

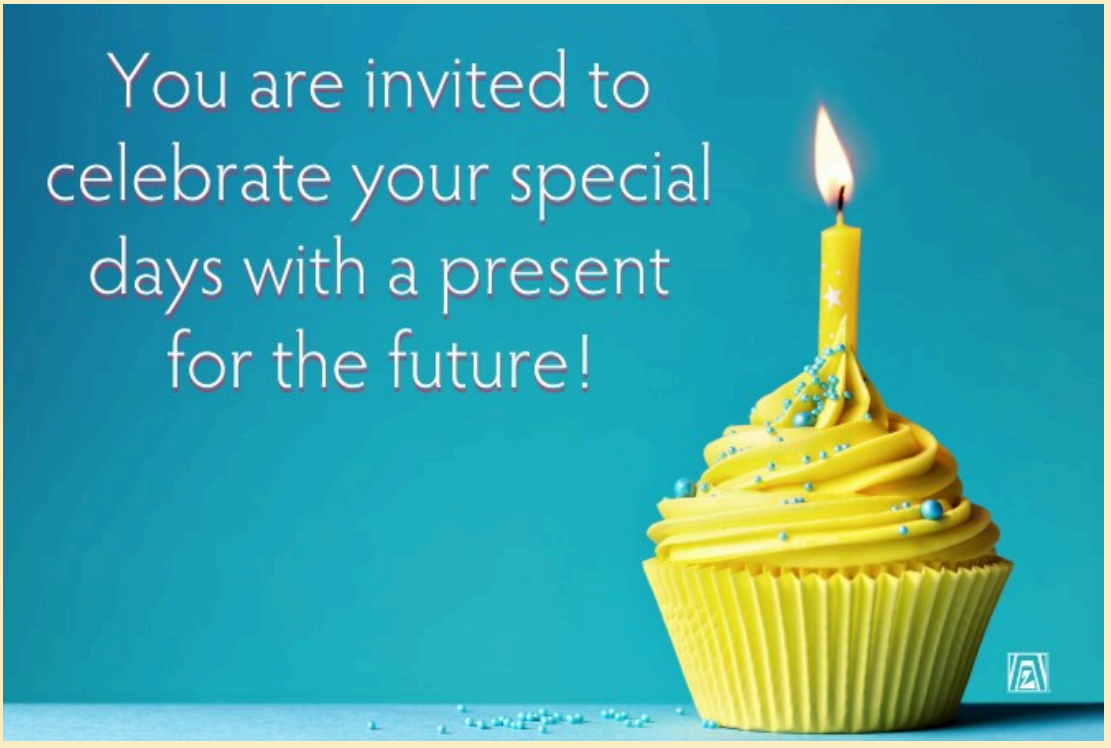


Calling photographers to help spur climate action

We have seen petitions of names, but have you seen a petition of photographs? The #everydayclimatecrisis project aims to gather one thousand photographs from women and non-binary people of Australia illustrating our climate crisis, country-wide.

The images could show degraded landscapes, plastic pollution, droughts, fires and floods. Or they could show hope for the future through teaching young children, planting vegetable gardens, picking up rubbish, or buying vintage clothing. You are only limited by your imagination. Visit the Women Photographers of Australia site for more information. Submit images before Friday, 13 May 2022.

Action: Spread the word to photographers you know.



What is your Present for the Future?

Do you have a special event coming up and don't know what to give? Have you left the gift buying until the last minute? A Zonta Present for the Future is available 24/7. It is the online gift that keeps on giving.

Zonta's education and advocacy programs educate girls, support women's participation in decision-making processes and inspire them to take on leadership roles in their communities.

Every dollar you contribute to the Zonta Foundation for Women's Endowment Fund will help us create a more gender-equal, sustainable world.

Action: *You can celebrate a birthday or special event by giving a Present for the Future to support Zonta's Endowment Fund and send a colourful e-card to acknowledge the occasion.*

Zonta Says NOW
www.zontasaysnow.org.au
zontasaysnow@gmail.com

This email was sent to {{ contact.EMAIL }}
You received this email because you are registered with Zonta Says NOW

Unsubscribe here

Sent by sendinblue

© 2022 Zonta Says NOW, Zonta International District 23