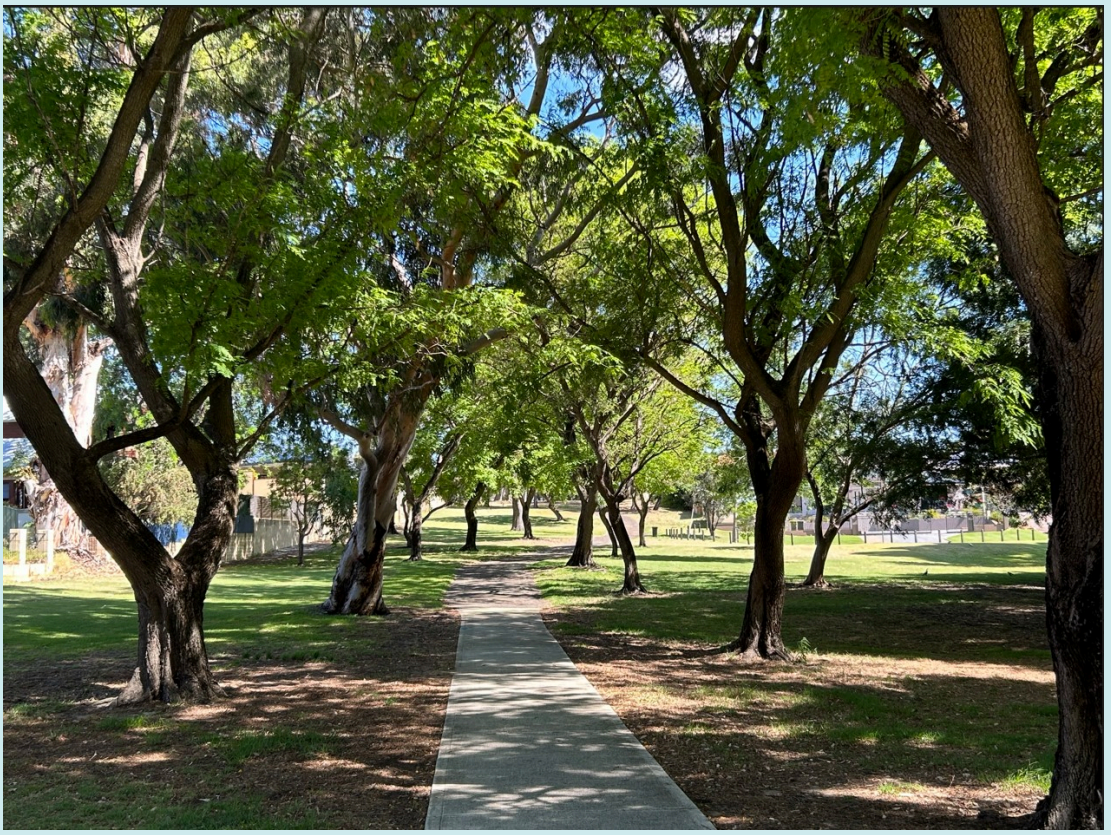
Zonta Says NOW Think Tank
DISTRICT 23 UPDATE
November 2023



Keeping cool

How shady is your neighbourhood? Temperatures are starting to rise as summer approaches. Do you live in an urban heat island or a leafy, cooler community? This photograph shows the inviting walk from my home to the nearest bus stop. The temperatures are cool below the trees and the birdsong above lightens my spirit. I often meet people, and dogs, on my walks that all help me to feel part of a community.

At our December Think Tank meeting, we will learn from **Alida McKern**, about the role of local government in creating liveable communities. Alida is a councillor with the Banyule City Council in Victoria. She is a professional landscape architect and urban planner who is working to make her community leafy, locally connected, safe and prosperous. This will be a great opportunity to explore Alida's experience in taking on a local government leadership role; her work promoting more environmentally sustainable lifestyles in the council; and learning how we can best engage with councils to support their work.

Don't forget that the **16 Days of Activism** **Against Gender Based Violence** kicks off on 25 November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women)

and runs through to 10 December (Human Rights Day). If you have wondered how climate change contributes to gender-based violence, take a look at this video presentation prepared for the Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Tank (18 minutes). It contains some fascinating statistics. For example, one major study undertaken in India, Pakistan and Nepal found that a one degree rise in average annual temperatures was associated with a 6 per cent rise in physical and sexual domestic violence. And a UNICEF report found that a ten per cent increase or decrease in rainfall was associated with a 1 per cent increase in child marriage.

Climate change is definitely a threat multiplier for vulnerable people - and it is no wonder that young people today are so worried about its impacts on their future health and wellbeing. The **Duty of Care Bill** will require decision makers to consider the health and wellbeing of children in Australia when making significant decisions; and not to make significant decisions in relation to the exploration or extraction of coal, oil or natural gas if the decision poses a material risk of harm to the health and wellbeing of children in Australia.

The Bill has passed its first reading and is currently with the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communication. Public submissions are being sought from interested parties before 23 November. As the District 23 Zonta Says NOW Coordinator, I have submitted a letter in support of the Bill. Have you considered signing Senator David Pocock's petition to support the Duty of Care Bill? It's one of the easiest climate actions you can take!

National climate negotiating teams will soon be packing their bags and heading to **Dubai for COP 28** that runs from 30 November to 12 December. Countries will be reporting on their progress against the Paris Climate Agreement and identifying course corrections necessary to dramatically reduce emissions. We already know that renewable energy needs to triple by 2030 and financing for adaptation and investments in climate resilience need a quantum leap. We will report on the outcomes of COP 28 at the December meeting.

There is never a dull moment with Zonta Says NOW, so please register today for the 16 December meeting - bring a drink so at the end of the meeting we can celebrate our achievements in 2023 and have a chat about what we would like to do in 2024!

Keep breathing, keep smiling and have fun!

Kind regards

Carole
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https://zontasaysnow.org.au/think-tank/

REGISTER NOW FOR THE
District 23 Think Tank on Saturday 16 December 2023

1:00 - 2:30 PM Western Australia
3.00 - 4.30 PM Queensland
3:30 - 5:00 PM South Australia
4:00 - 5:30 PM Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales

Register for Saturday 16 December



A G E N D A

1. Welcome / Zoom Housekeeping
2. **Guest Speaker: Alida McKern, Councillor, Banyule City Council. Professional landscape architect working in urban planning.**
3. International News
4. District News
5. Club News
6. Any other business
7. Next meeting – 17 February 2024
8. Celebration and fellowship



Upcoming Zonta Says NOW Think Tank Meeting

District 23 Think Tank Saturday 17 February 2024

1:00 - 2:30 PM Western Australia
3:00 - 4:30 PM Queensland
3:30 - 5:00 PM South Australia
4:00 - 5:30 PM Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales

Register now for Saturday 17 February 2024

District 23
Zonta Says NOW Think Tank
www.zontasaysnow.org.au
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