Zonta Australia
Zonta Says NOW Think Tank
UPDATE
6 June 2024



Changing Seasons

The leaves are falling, winter is here and it is not long to go until we will meet up in sunny Brisbane for the Zonta International Convention.

We have **cancelled the June meeting**, due to low numbers as many members were already making their way to Brisbane. Luckily, our two exceptional speakers (see articles below), have agreed to speak at our next meeting on **17 August**:

- **Alana Mountain,** environmental activist whose work in the forests collecting data on wildlife and logging activities contributed to the passing of laws to protect old growth forests in Victoria. Alana was co-winner of last year's Women Taking Climate Action Award; and
- **Dr Janet Salisbury,** founder of the Women's Climate Congress. The WCC has developed some excellent initiatives to promote women's participation, leadership and priorities for action on climate change.

Register for the Think Tank today, so the meeting is in your diary. You wouldn't want to miss it!

The Convention marks the end of one biennium and the start of the next. The International Working Group has been developing the **Strategic Plan for 2024-2026.** It is being finalised and includes these initiatives:

- Reducing the monthly Intercontinental Think Tank meetings to 'odd numbered months' so that national Think Tanks can meet on 'even numbered months';

- Focusing on these recommendations in the Statement on Climate Change:
    - supporting women in decision-making on enviromental sustainability; and
    - enabling women's full and equal participation in the economy; and
- Creating a Zonta Says NOW global campaign for Earth Day on 22 April. If you have ideas, please share them!

So there will be lots to 'get our teeth into' in the next biennium!

At Convention we have so much to look forward to including the:

- Zonta Says NOW Workshop on Thursday 27 June at 1.30 pm in Plaza P3
- Launch of Zonta Australia on Thursday 27 June at 5.45 pm in the Great Hall Q4
- Informal 'catch ups' of Think Tank members before sessions on
    - Thursday 27 June at 8.15 to 8.45 am and
    - Saturday 29 June at 7.45 to 8.15 am in the Convention Centre. (We will meet at the top of the escalators and have signs of where to go from there)
- Zonta Says NOW panel discussion on Sunday 30 June at 9am in the Great Hall

Please see the Whova app for more information.

We hope to see as many 'Think Tankers' as possible in Brisbane.

Keep breathing, keep smiling and have fun!

Kind regards

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

Register here for the Zonta Australia Think Tank meeting on Saturday 17 August



Saving the trees

Alana Mountain will be our guest speaker at the August meeting. She says:

Victoria's Mountain Ash forests have been voted the most carbon-dense forests on planet Earth. However, across many decades, they have been consistently destroyed and over-logged by the government for cheap paper products primarily. This has been to the detriment of the precious ecosystem services these forests provide, as well as providing critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. We know that these forests are worth more standing!

For the past 10 years, Alana has been a dedicated activist involving herself in various efforts such as campaigning, hosting fundraisers, and developing media content for grassroots forest community groups. She has also been working hard on the front line to stop logging in its tracks to buy time whilst court injunctions were granted, temporarily protecting forests, and raising awareness within the community of the destruction of precious native forests. This will be a fascinating insight into grassroots activism.



Environmental Day Meet up

Photo L-R: Helene Jaccomard, Carole Theobald and Janet Salisbury

On 5 June, Janet Salisbury, founder of the Women's Climate Congress, was in Perth for the day. (She was making her way home to Canberra after visiting her grandchildren in Margaret River.)

Think Tankers, Helene Jaccomard and Carole Theobald (both from the ZC Perth) took the opportunity to meet up with Janet in King's Park. What a lovely venue for World Environment Day!

We spent a couple of hours listening to each other's stories and sharing ideas for the future. We soon realised that there are so many ways that our organisations could collaborate to magnify our voices. The WCC's strengths include their advocacy work, intranet, book club and their Charter for Change. We have our Think Tank meetings, and our international advocacy links with international organisations including the United Nations and Council of Europe.

Janet readily agreed to speak at our Think Tank meeting so that we can learn more about the WCC and explore ways that we can work together.

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