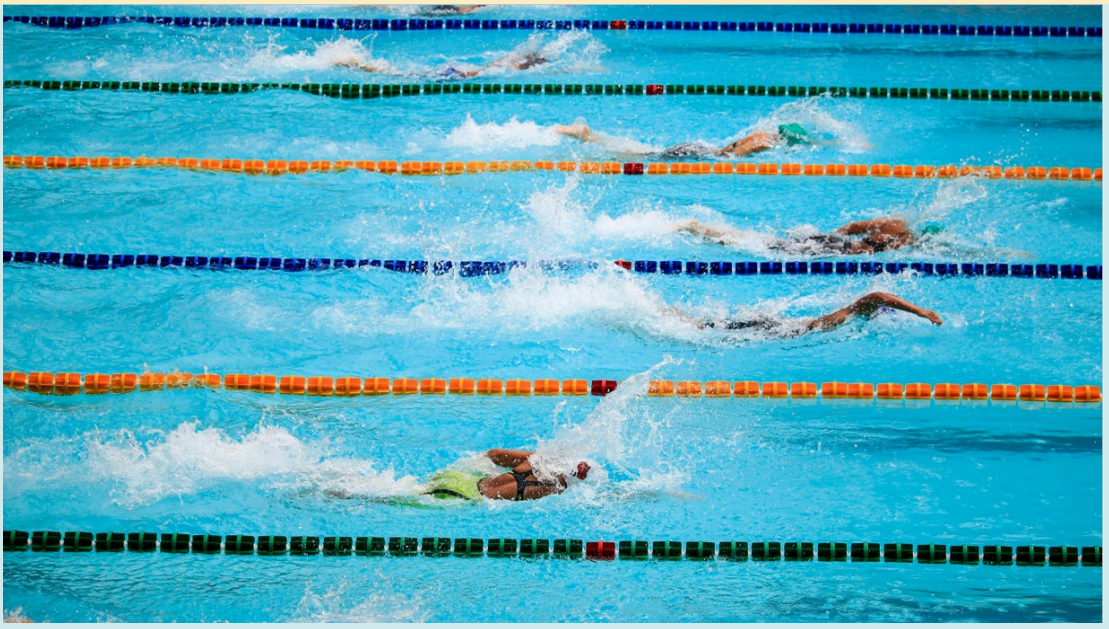
Zonta Australia
Zonta Says NOW Think Tank
UPDATE
8 August 2024

Correction: Just to confirm that the next Australian Think Tank is on Saturday 17 August.
(It was incorrectly shown as Sunday in one place in this Update).



Racing into the new biennium

The Olympic Games are upon us and it is a time when athletes from many nations come together to compete for medals. Did you know that the Olympic Movement also has Climate Action Awards? These are awarded to:

- National Olympic Committees for reducing their carbon footprint when hosting events
- International sporting federations for reducing emissions in their sport, for example, developing artificial turf for hockey that needs less water; and
- Athletes taking personal action, for example launching a Clean Water Sport Alliance to improve river health and water quality.

Finalists were just announced in Paris and the awards will be presented during UN Climate Week in September.

When you check out the Olympics Climate Action Awards, have a look at Olympism365. This is a strategy that aims to:

> *build a better world through sport by bringing together social impact initiatives and diverse organisations under one shared vision. It's sport for sustainable development. Sport for common good. Sport for a better world. Every day. Everywhere.*

So when watching the games, think of how the Olympic Games and Zonta Says NOW are both working to build a more sustainable world!

Have you registered for our meeting on **SATURDAY 17 August at 1 pm in WA, 2.30 pm in SA/NT and 3 pm elsewhere in Australia? We have two exceptional speakers:**

- **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.

Alana and Janet were both due to speak at the June meeting, that was cancelled due to members travelling to the Brisbane Convention. Many thanks to both of them for rescheduling to our August meeting. Register for the Think Tank today, so the meeting is in your diary. You wouldn't want to miss it!

It is with great sadness that we all heard of the sudden passing of Florence Fischer-Herber from Luxembourg. Florence was a great supporter of Zonta Says NOW, attended many of our early Think Tank meetings, and was our conduit to the International Board. She epitomised the spirit of Zonta and will be sadly missed.

Hope to see you online on 17 August - please share the link with members and feel free to invite guests (as you would to any Zonta meeting!). All are welcome.

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 (pictured) 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.



A Meeting of the Minds

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

When Janet Salisbury, founder of the Women's Climate Congress, visited Perth in June, Think Tankers, Helene Jaccomard and Carole Theobald (both from the ZC Perth) took the opportunity to meet up with her in King's Park.

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 global 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.

The next WCC Book Club meeting is on Monday 19 August from 5-6.30 pm AEST. The club will be discussing *Saving the Planet without the Bullshit: What They Don't Tell You About the Climate Crisis* by Assard Razzouk. You don't need to attend the book club to read the book!



Brisbane Convention

At the International Convention in Brisbane, Zonta Says NOW was involved with two events.

The *Disaster Readiness Workshop* was attended by over 150 Zontians and faciliated by Angela Brokmann from ZC Louisville in Kentucky and Carole Theobald from ZC Perth. It was held after our Zonta Says NO to violence against women march, which is why everyone is wearing orange!

The workshop started with a stirring video showing how climate change is impacting Zontians around the world. Using interactive discussion and the Red Cross *Protect What Matters Most* workbook, attendees were able to start creating their own readiness plan. Members were also shown how to use the Disaster Ready Guides to learn more about disaster management in their area. It was a very interactive and enjoyable session.

On the last day of the Convention, there was a *Climate Justice Panel* facilitated by Judith Ainsworth from Canada. She interviewed Lisa Blair, the Australian sailor who single-handedly sailed around Antarctica in her yacht called Climate Action Now; Dipisha Bhujel a menstrual hygiene advocate from Nepal who successfully established a production facility to make sanitary pads from banana fibres; and Carole Theobald whose vision saw the estabishment of Zonta Says NOW.

Lisa Blair is a very energetic, courageous young woman. She showed the trailer from her film, Ice Maiden, that tells the story of her trip around Antarctica. She also signed her book, *Facing Fear*, at Convention. These quickly sold out, so she has made some signed copies available for purchase online.

After the Convention, Dipisha Bhujel returned to Chittagong in Bangladesh where she is studying at university. She was due to speak at the July Intercontinental Think Tank meeting. Sadly riots in Bangladesh meant that internet connections were stopped, there was a curfew and many people were killed. Dipisha is safe, but internet services are still disrupted. We hope to interview Dipisha when the situation in Bangladesh has settled down.

The Panel Discussion at Convention was very exciting and not just because of the stories shared from the stage. Paramedics were called part way through the discussion when someone in the audience collapsed and dozens of people had to move to enable access to the patient. Thankfully, the person regained consciousness and was later reported to be OK. Never a dull moment with Zonta Says NOW!



Think Tank Dates

The meetings for the 2024-2026 biennium have now been booked in Zoom and you can put the dates in your diary.

Intercontinental Think Tank

- Meetings are held in odd-numbered months and the dates, times and registration links can be downloaded here. On the list, you will see that meetings rotate through three times zones.
- If you would like to go on the Intercontinental Think Tank Mailing List, please register here.

Australian Think Tank

- Meetings are held in even-numbered months and the dates, times and registration links can be found here.
- If you would like to go on the Australian Think Tank Mailing List, please register here.

You don't have to be Zontian to attend a Think Tank or go on a mailing list!

Be sure to visit our Australian website at https://zontasaysnow.org.au/ where you can access more information about Zonta Says NOW and see videos of all of our previous Intercontinental and Australian meetings.

Zonta Australia
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