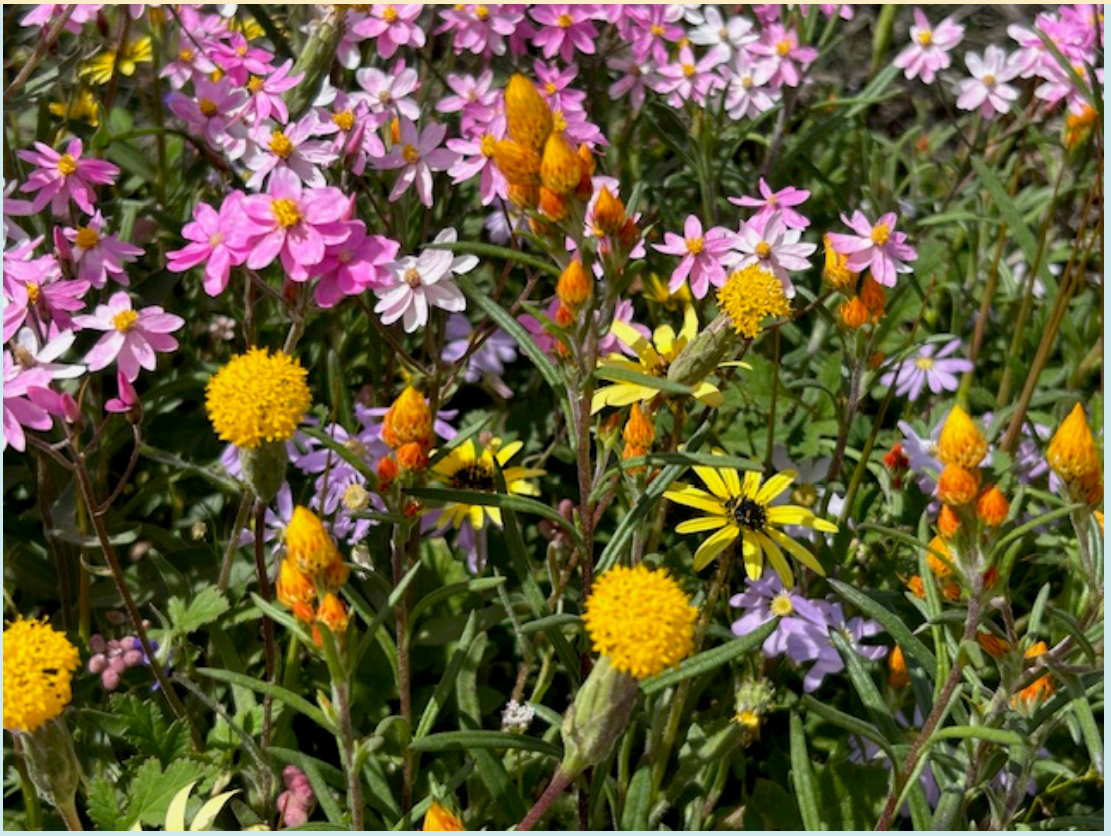
Zonta Australia
Zonta Says NOW Think Tank
UPDATE
13 September 2024

In this September Update:

- Inspiration from Nature
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- COP 29 - meet Australia's chief negotiator
- 16 Days of Activism - UN Women's new campaign
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Inspiration from nature

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope", said Lady Bird Johnson. There must be a lot of hope in Australia at the moment, with wildflowers in bloom around the country - including these near Mullewa in Western Australia. There is nothing like a walk in nature to lift the spirits!

Thanks to inspiring activists like our August speaker, Alana Mountain, future generations may be able to walk in old growth forests in Victoria. If you missed the August Think Tank, the video containing Alana's talk and that of Dr Janet Salisbury the indefatigable founder of the Women's Climate Congress, can be found on our website.

If you read Dr Ayana Elizabeth Johnson's uplifting book *All We Can Save*, you will be pleased to know her latest book *What if We Get it Right* will be out soon. This is a collection of essays and conversations, infused with data, poetry and art - built, around visions of climate futures. As Dr Johnson puts it, "climate solutions need more romance". Can't wait to read it.

There must be plenty of romance in Tasmania and South Australia as according to the Climate Council's *Race to the Top: Australia's clean energy momentum*, these states are leading the way in clean energy solutions! Check this report to see how well (or poorly) your state/territory is doing. Remember, Zonta Says NOW works at both ends of the 'train' - to hold governments to account to meet their Paris Agreement commitments and close gender gaps. So let your local member know how you feel about the results in *Race to the Top*!

In coming weeks, there is a lot to look forward to. In September, there is the UN's Summit of the Future, and Zonta International will be launching a video campaign to raise awareness of October's International Day of the Girl. The remarkable Anjali Sharma is speaking at our October Think Tank. In November we have the 16 Days of Activism and COP 29. Lisa Blair's film Ice Maiden is also showing in cinemas around the country. Find out more about these events in the articles below.

Until next month, keep breathing, keep smiling and have fun!

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Register here for the
Zonta Australia Think Tank
meeting on Saturday 12 October



Summit of the Future

As Antonio Guterres says, “We can’t build a future for our grandchildren with a system built for our grandparents". The United Nations' *Summit of the Future* on 21-23 September in New York, aims to turbocharge global actions so we can get the Sustainable Development Goals back on track for implementation in full by 2030.

The Summit will produce a *Pact for the Future* based around 5 chapters:

- Sustainable development and financing for development
- International peace and security
- Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation
- Youth and future generations

- Transforming global governance.

All chapters will address human rights, gender and sustainable development.

The UN is also finalising for the Summit a *Declaration on Future Generations* and a *Global Digital Compact* that will work towards intergenerational justice and protecting human rights online among other things.

Ideally, Zonta's advocacy should align with the information in the *Pact for the Future*. Check it out online!



Anjali Sharma - Call of Duty

Anjali Sharma is 20 years old. At 16, she became the lead litigant of Sharma vs Environment Minister, a class action legal case which argued that the Environment Minister owes all young people a duty of care to protect them from the impacts of climate change. In 2021, she was successful, but following an appeal from the Minister, this ruling was overturned.

However, Anjali continued the campaign, by calling to have this duty legislated through Federal Parliament. Anjali's actions featured in the ABC's Australian Story in March 2024.

Anjali aims to raise awareness about the disproportionate impacts of climate change, particularly towards young people and people of colour.

The Zonta Says NOW team has followed Anjali's journey since the initial court case and feels privileged to hear from Anjali first-hand at the October Think Tank. Please spread the word and encourage members and guests to hear her story!

Date: Saturday 12 October
Times:
1.00 - 2.30 pm in Western Australia
3.00 - 4.30 pm in Queensland
3.30 - 5.00 pm in South Australia
4.00 - 5.30 pm in Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria.

Register today!

Register for 12 October Think Tank featuring Anjali Sharma



COP29 - Meet Australia's Negotiator

This year's United Nations Conference of the Parties Climate Conference (COP29) will be hosted by Azerbaijan in its capital, Baku in November. The COP will revolve around two mutually reinforcing parallel pillars. The first pillar — to “enhance ambition” — encourages all parties to commit to ambitious national plans and transparency. The second pillar — to “enable action” — reflects the critical role of finance, a key tool to turn ambition into action and reduce emissions, adapt to climate change, and address loss and damage.

Every two years countries are required to submit a Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) to show how they are meeeting their Nationally Determined Contributions and encourage them to 'up' their climate ambitions. The first BTR is due in December 2024 and you can follow progress on COP 29 here.

COP30 will be held in Brazil in 2025. Australia hopes to co-host COP31 in 2026 with a South Pacific nation and will find out in November if they are successful.

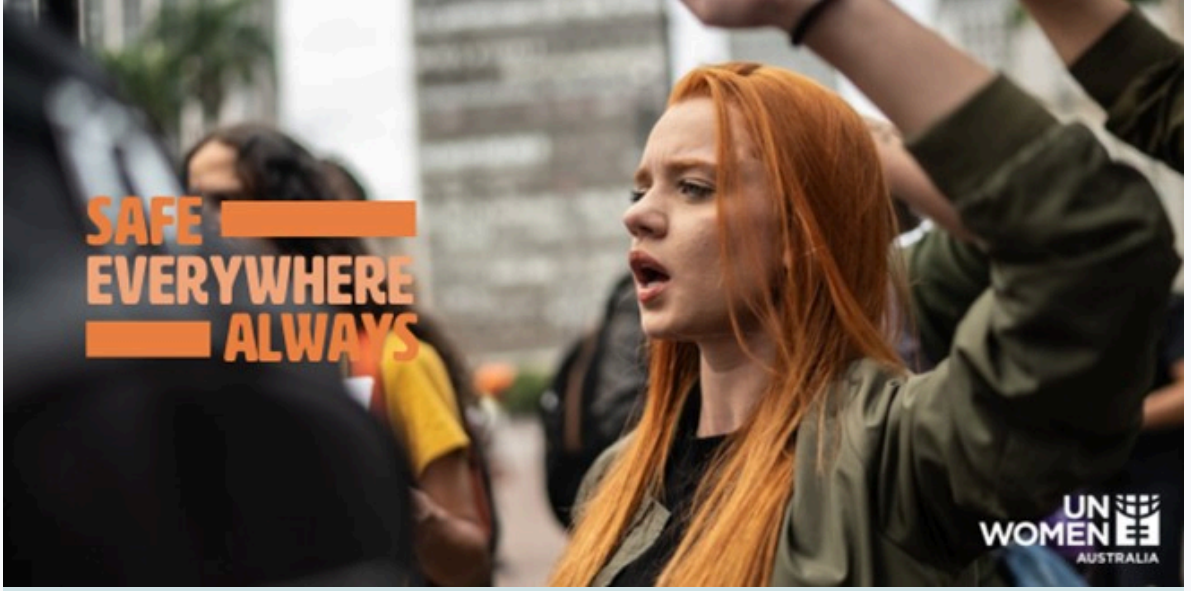
The next event in the Women's Climate Congress' (WCC) popular Women’s Climate Conversations online series, will feature **Dr Sally Box, Australia's Chief Negotiator** at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) conferences.

Dr Janet Salisbury (who spoke at our August Think Tank) will ask Dr Box about the outlook for COP29 in Azerbaijan later this year and forward plans towards a possible Australian-Pacific COP31 in 2026. They will be joined in the conversation by WCC members Kesaya Baba (Senior Manager, COP31 Strategy and Partnerships, WWF-Australia) and Tamara Inkster-Draper (Programme Manager, International Climate Politics Hub).

This free event is not-to-be missed! Register via Humanitix below.

Date: Wednesday 25 September 2024, 6-7.30pm AEST.

Register for WCC's Women Negotiating the Climate webinar



16 Days of Activism is coming up!

Many Zonta clubs arrange special events during the 16 Days of Activism to end violence against women and we strongly encourage you to do so.

However, if you are not a member of a club or your club has not organised something and you want to do something physical, consider joining UN Women's Safe. Everywhere. Always campaign.

The challenge is to complete 30, 60, or 100kms any way you want from 25 November to 10 December. You can walk, run, swim or roll your way through the 16 days to raise funds for UN Women's Trust Fund. The Trust Fund has supported over 670 projects to end violence against women in 140 countries so far!

Your local gym, workplace or school may be up for the challenge!

Sign up for the Safe. Everywhere. Always. challenge



Ice Maiden, the Movie!

At the Zonta International Convention in Brisbane we were spellbound when Lisa Blair shared her experiences of sailing solo around Antarctica. If you were not able to be at Convention, you can now see the movie of her adventure!

Ice Maiden is now playing in selected cinemas around Australia - and the list of venues continues to grow. For some events, Lisa attends in person, or via Zoom

Not just a stunning portrait of an incredible woman, *Ice Maiden* is also an inspiring call to arms for climate and societal change.

“After seeing the film, I would like audiences to feel that anything is possible if you set your sights on it,” says director Nathaniel C.T Jackson. “If you work towards your goal, you can achieve amazing things. You have to believe in yourself. Lisa is a small woman, and she had many naysayers telling her she couldn’t do it. Her story and her commitment to climate change communication show us that we can change things.”

See her website to learn more about her incredible story!

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