Zonta Australia
Zonta Says NOW Think Tank
MARCH/APRIL UPDATE

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Heading into unknown territory...



The global pushback on gender equality and climate action means that, like this goat, we are heading into unknown territory. In New York, at the Commission on the Status of Women's annual meeting (CSW69), UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres declared the

'poison of patriarchy is back, and back with a vengeance ...but the antidote is action. Now is the time for us who care about equality for women and girls to stand up and speak out.'

But what can we do? This Update shares some ideas for action!

- At our Australian Think Tank in April, we learned how women are leading the way in conservation - and with 2,245 Austalian plants, animals and

ecosystems threatened with extinction, we need everyone's actions to protect habitat now. I also provided a summary of my experience of attending CSW in New York.
- Last week, Zonta International launched *Elevate Equality on Earth Day* with more practical actions that we can take individually, in our clubs and in our communities. I can't wait to see the 2025 Collection from the Virtual Art Gallery on Earth Day.
- Our allies have also been busy and I encourage you to support the activities of these 'like-minded' organisations. When we collaborate, we are all stronger!

We have a Federal Election coming up on 3 May, so it is up to us to find out where our candidates stand on gender equality and climate action issues so that we can make an informed vote - and, like the goat, choose the landing we want to have.

Keep breathing, keep smiling and have fun!

Kind regards

Carole
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April Conservation Conversation



What a fascinating conversation we had at the April Think Tank with Associate Professor Carly Cook who is the Head of the Conservation Management Research Group at Monash University. She explained that conservation science is dominated by women - and globally about 37 per cent of remaining naturual lands are managed by indigenous people.

Australia is rapidly losing habitat for thousands of threatened species and in 2024 the koala had more habitat approved for destruction than any other threatened species. (See Extinction Wrapped, page 5). In 2020, Professor Graeme Samuel completed an independent review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act) - that attracted over

30,000 submissions. Sadly, the government has not implemented its recommendations.

Carly talked about protecting nature wherever it occurs and sometimes this can include cemeteries, roadside reserves and surfing reserves. Carly described the problems associated with converting state forest - where people can ride horses, go trailbike riding and cut firewood - to national park where natural resources must be carefully managed and where human activities are limited.

Parliamentarians like to paint a picture of a false dichotomy: jobs or environment. Carly explained that we can have both!

What can we do? Advocate at every level of government to protect the natural habitat of endangered species and ask our local MPs where they stand on improving protections through the EPBC Act. If you missed the meeting, check out the video, slides and reports using the link below.

This meeting also featured reflections from CSW69 - check out the video!

April Think Tank - video, slides and reports

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Elevate Equality on Earth Day



Earth Day on 22 April, is a time to reflect on the health of our planet—and the disproportionate impact that environmental changes have on women and girls.

As Zontians, we shine a light on how climate change worsens existing inequalities, threatening women's and girls' education, employment, safety, and leadership opportunities.

Climate-related disasters are on the rise—and so is the urgency to act. That's why this 22 April, Zonta International invites you to *Elevate Equality* by taking action in our own community. Here's how we can get involved:

- Support and recognize businesses committed to environmental, social and governance responsibilities.
- Check that our community's disaster and preparedness response plans adequately address the needs of women and girls.

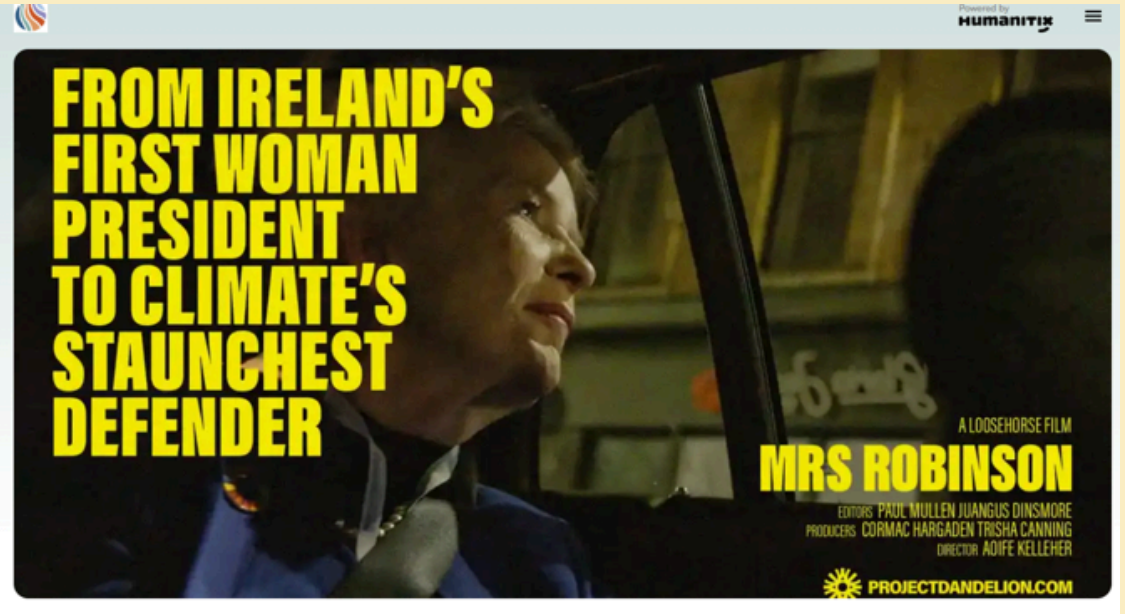
- Engage our local media by sending an op-ed or letter to the editor highlighting the key facts and information about how 22 April is a day for women's rights.
- Attend the Zonta Says NOW Think Tanks.
- Follow Zonta International on social media.
- Share the amazing artwork in the Zonta Says NOW Virtual Art Gallery showcasing creative calls for climate justice.

For more information, check out Zonta International's Elevate Equality on Earth Day page.

Elevate Equality on Earth Day page

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Support our Allies' Activities



What are our allies doing?

Women's Environmental Leadership Australia (WELA), on Earth Day (22 April), is hosting *two free online screenings of the Mrs Robinson documentary* at 12:30pm and 3:30pm AEST. Book here. Mary Robinson is the former President of Ireland, an inspiring climate justice advocate and founder of Project Dandelion.

Women's Agenda is hosting the *2025 Election Webinar: What's at Stake for Women* on Thursday 24 April at 12pm AEST. The cross-party conversation will feature Katy Gallagher (Labor), Larissa Waters (Greens) and Allegra Spender (Independent). The Liberal representative is to be confirmed. Register for webinar here.

Women's Agenda has also produced a scorecard on *Where do the major parties stand on addressing violence against women?* You can sign up to receive a range of Women's Agenda digital publications here.

Women's Climate Congress (WCC) has an online *open letter* calling on all candidates to take gender equal, united and ambitious climate action. Open letter. Are you a member of the WCC - it is free to join!

1 Million Women #*She Votes Email Campaign* asks 1M Women members if they will spread the word to prioritise affordable, clean energy now. On request, 1M Women will email you packs to facilitate posts on social media, host a gathering in your home, or talk to local candidates in the election. Membership of 1M Women is free.

The Climate Council has developed a *scorecard* showing how the major parties stand on climate action. It makes interesting reading! Check out the Council's latest video that uses humour to show that 1 in 23 homes and businesses across Australia are already - or soon may become - uninsurable.

When we support each other, we are all stronger!

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Turbulent Travel? Offset it with Purpose



Climate change is fuelling extreme weather—and chaotic travel. On my recent trip from Perth to New York for CSW69, I spent 48 hours flying and 68 hours delayed by dust storms and tornado warnings.

To prepare for the trip, I made changes. I switched to an electric vehicle powered by home solar, buy local seasonal food, fly economy on modern aircraft, and try to make purchases that meet my *needs*, not *wants*. And while I can't avoid flying altogether, I offset my air travel by supporting the Zonta Foundation for Women.

In our *Zonta Says NOW Guide to Responsible Air Travel*, we shared how we can offset emissions using the Gold Standard for the Global Goals, which certifies carbon credits that reduce greenhouse gases *and* support at least three Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Here's the lightbulb moment.

Zonta may not issue carbon credits, but by implementing *Zonta International's Statement on Climate Change*, we're doing the work—advocating for emission reductions and empowering women and girls worldwide.

Zonta's programs contribute to nearly all 17 SDGs. Yes, we champion Gender Equality (SDG5) and Climate Action (SDG13). But we also educate, help end

poverty and hunger, improve health and sanitation, and foster sustainable economic growth.

So next time you book a flight, consider this.

Why support other offsets when your donation to the *Zonta Foundation for Women* helps build a gender-equal, sustainable future?

Donate to the Zonta Foundation for Women

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