Zonta Australia
Zonta Says NOW Think Tank
MAY UPDATE

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The Changing Face of Parliament



Like us, this 'parliament' of owls is waiting for the final election results...

One of the advantages of proportional representation is that no vote is wasted but one of the disadvantages is that it takes ages to allocate preferences and finalise the result for both houses. Postal votes were received until 16 May, so hopefully it will not be too long until we have a final result from the 3 May election.

One thing is for sure already - we do know that there will be more women in Parliament than ever before.

The incoming Labour Government has a female majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has

included 19 women in his Ministry and it was great to see our Zonta Australia patron, the Governor-General, Sam Mostyn swearing them in.

Around one fifth of Liberal members of parliament are female and for the first time the party is led by a woman - Sussan Ley. Ms Ley has held her NSW seat for over 20 years and has held many senior ministerial roles.

The Greens also gained a new leader in Senator Larissa Waters. Senator Waters is an environmental lawyer from Queensland and has served her electorate since 2010. She was the first politician to breastfeed her baby in the Senate chamber.

The 'teal' independents also did well, with many holding on to their seats and consolidating their positions.

All in all, the results are positive for women. Many thanks to all the Zontians who raised the issues of gender equality and climate action with their candidates.

Now is the time to congratulate your incoming federal member and remind them to accelerate progress!

Keep breathing, keep smiling and have fun!

Kind regards

Carole
Carole Theobald
Chair, Zonta Says NOW Working Group
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Generation Justice in June



If we don't accelerate climate action, young people in Australia will bear the brunt of the climate crisis. They are the ones who will have to deal with global

heating of over three degrees by the end of this century. They are the ones who will be living with no coral reefs, islands under water, uninsurable homes, and more conflict as countries fight over ever-diminishing resources.

In 2021, the United Nations recognised access to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right. This 90 second video describes how this right includes access to clean air, safe and sufficient water, healthy and sustainably produced food, a safe climate, flourishing ecosystems and biodiversity and toxic-free environments where people can safely live, work, study and play.

Growing up, we took many of these things for granted. Future generations cannot.

Maya Farmer is a Zonta Young Women in Leadership awardee and is one of nine young people taking a stand for future generations through *Generation Justice*. They have made a formal complaint to the UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change as they believe the Australian Government's lack of ambitious action on climate change is breaching their human rights.

Join the **Australian Think Tank on Saturday 14 June, 3-4.30pm AEST** to hear more about how Maya and her team are fighting for their future, and how we can support them. Materials to advertise the event through your networks are available here.

Register for the 14 June Think Tank here

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Women's Climate Congress News



Zonta Says NOW works with the Women's Climate Congress (WCC) to magnify our voices and spread the gender-equal climate justice message. Zontians are encouraged to join the WCC (it is free) and support their events:

- Wednesday 21 May 5-6.30pm AEST, Members Forum where you can meet other members and hear what's happening across the WCC. RSVP here.

- Monday 26 May 5-6.30pm AEST, Book Club where members will be discussing *The Intersectional Environmentalist: How to dismantle systems of oppression to protect people + planet* by Leah Thomas. RSVP here.
- Thursday 5 June 6-7pm AEST, Climate Conversation entitled: *Compassion and kindness in government - a gateway to action on climate change and other challenges?* This event will feature:
    - Jennifer Nadel FRSA, Co-Founder and CEO, Compassion in Politics (UK); Director of Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education (CCARE) at Stanford Uni; Award-winning Journalist, Sunday Times Bestselling Author (including *WE: A Manifesto for Women Everywhere* co-authored with Gillian Anderson), qualified barrister and more;
    - Kate Chaney MP, Independent MP for Curtin, WA; and
    - Chloë Spackman, CEO, Next25, an independent think-and-do tank devoted to improving public discourse around major challenges.
    - RSVP here

The recordings from the WCC's Victorian Congress event in Castlemaine are now available online. Check them out here.

When we support each other, we are all stronger!

Learn more about the Women's Climate Congress here

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Zonta Says NOW Virtual Art Gallery



With Easter and Earth Day happening last month, you may have missed having a look at the Zonta Says NOW Virtual Art Gallery.

Here is one of the entries in the 2025 Collection. It was created by members of the Zonta Club of Schenectady in New York USA using recycled and upcycled material.

We created this art to highlight the impact of overconsumption and wastefulness, which contributes both directly and indirectly to climate change,

and disproportionately impacts women and girls. By using these recycled materials we not only create a circular model, keeping these often over-consumed, and often trashed items out of landfills, while also creating art and raising awareness. We will be displaying our art in the community to promote the message of Zonta Says NOW!

Which is your favourite piece and why? How about featuring an artwork from the Art Gallery at your next club meeting to prompt a Zonta Says NOW discussion?

Virtual Art Gallery

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Sharing Our Stories



When was the last time you looked at the Share your Story area on the Zonta International website? It is a great place to go to be inspired and to get some ideas on how to take action with Zonta Says NOW!

For example, in Australia, see how the:

- Zonta Club of Bendigo participated in a Sustainability Festival and encouraged everyone to colour-in a Zonta Says NOW banner;
- Zonta Club of Bunbury hosted a month-long social media campaign to raise environmental awareness and promote local sustainability initiatives - and held a candlelight Earth Day long-table soiree to reflect on their efforts; and
- Zonta Club of Armidale joined forces with the Armidale Tree Group and planted 800 trees and shrubs in five hours!

In other countries, clubs have

- held advocacy sessions on climate justice and child marriage;
- hosted a three-day celebration of sustainable fashion and conscious design;
- provided crisis relief following a typhoon;

- partnered with children for an environmental clean-up drive
- partnered with other agencies to train participants in sustainable livelihoods;
- hosted climate justice forum at a local university;
- provided access to clean water;
- and participated in many more projects!

When you hold your next Zonta Says NOW event, remember to take a photograph and fill in the Share Your Story form!

Read more from 'Share Your Story'

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