



Zonta International District 23 Inc

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

JOIN THE CROWD!

Conference Newsletter No.2



**11th District 23
Conference**

**7th to 9th October
2011**

Melbourne

Greetings everyone!

It's February and planning is well underway for an inspiring, entertaining and informative conference for YOU.

And it's also time for all D23 Zontians to start planning your travel arrangements - as we want you to join us for a great time!!! Our conference theme is "Zonta – Raising the Stakes" with the focus on:

- developing women's leadership potential;
- mentoring members to take on leadership roles;
- sustainable membership;
- instilling confidence in/ motivating members to actively promote Zonta; and
- raising awareness in the community of Zonta and its role in improving the status of women.

We have secured engaging and entertaining speakers for the plenary sessions:

Mark McKeon

Mark McKeon is one of Australia's leading work life balance advocates. He will focus on wellbeing and successful leadership - doing the important things and looking after yourself (something that a lot of women don't do) so that you can enjoy life and also contribute and participate more.

Dr Louise Mahler

Dr Louise Mahler is an opera singer whose passion for people and learning in organisations led her to the study of 'Vocal Intelligence'. Louise will address the development of leadership and presentation skills in a very different way. Be prepared for some stimulating audience participation.



Lauren Burns and ZI director Beryl McMillan

Lauren Burns - 2010 Amelia Earhart Fellow

Lauren is an inspiration and is involved in an amazing research project involving aircraft materials. Lauren will be one of the speakers on the Sunday morning which is dedicated to Zonta awards.

We are also excited to announce that one of the workshop facilitators will be ZI representative – Kathleen Douglass, who will be addressing the topic of promoting Zonta. We intend for the workshops to be interactive and provide practical information you can take back to your clubs.

More information about the speakers and workshops will be sent out in future conference newsletters or the D23 newsflash.



OTHER KEY INFORMATION

But what's it going to cost?? **Market Place**

As the conference is being held in Melbourne, we are paying capital city prices for the event and sponsorship is more difficult to obtain, therefore there will be an increase in the registration fees.

The Conference Registration Form (Form) will not be available until after we confirm all speakers, workshop facilitators and finalise the program. We plan for the Form to be available during the month of May at which time the early bird conference registration will commence.

The early bird conference registration fee will be \$325 and will be available until 15th July 2011. After that date, the standard registration fee will apply. So it pays to be an early bird!

One of the many highlights of the District Conference is shopping in the Market Place for those unique and special Zonta gifts. Clubs are therefore invited to give consideration to the creative wares they could sell, making this Melbourne shopping experience vibrant and exciting, and of course raising much needed funds.

More information regarding the Market Place will be sent out to clubs on 1st June.



Social events

Friday night

Another highlight is the opportunity to dine out in Melbourne, which is renown for its fabulous choice of restaurants with many close by in St Kilda, Southbank, Crown or downtown.

Saturday night conference dinner

Our theme for the Saturday evening conference dinner is inspired by the Spring Racing Carnival. So pack your race day attire including a hat and join the fun! There will be entertainment, fellowship and a prize for the best hat!



Accommodation

The conference venue is The Sebel & Citigate Hotel Albert Park (the Hotel) situated opposite Albert Park Lake. The prize for being the first Zontian to book accommodation at the Hotel goes to Jo Wittorff, President of the ZC of Bunbury. Congratulations Jo! What's the prize? It's a surprise!!

I encourage you to book early to take advantage of the following attractive accommodation rates for participants (and partners and friends):

Twin share rooms from \$140 per night

Triple share rooms from \$180 per night

The accommodation booking form is attached and available from the District 23 website.

Pre and post Conference

You may choose to take advantage of the special conference rate for more time to enjoy Melbourne and all that it has to offer. On the afternoon of Sunday 9th October, the annual Fran Quinn award concert is being held, which is an option that may be of interest to some to consider when booking return travel. Plus of course there is shopping, theatre, Queen Vic Market, shopping and so much more.

Or you may like to take some time to travel around Victoria and enjoy some home hospitality. The ZC of Ballarat is coordinating the pre and/or post conference Zontian home hospitality and will be contacting all clubs shortly.

We look forward to seeing you in Melbourne.

Jasmine Koch

Chairman, Conference Committee