



Join us in Devonport!

5-7 September 2025

Sustainability, Spirit and
Standing Up for Human Rights



2025 Conference Newsletter Issue 1, November 2024

An Invitation from Governor Debbie

It gives me great pleasure and excitement to invite all District 23 members to the 2025 District 23 Conference in Devonport, Tasmania. Our conference will commence on Friday 5th September and conclude on Sunday 7th September 2025.

The theme for our Conference, indeed as is for our biennium is *Sustainability, Spirit and Standing up for Human Rights*. Our conference will be held at the **paranple Convention Centre**. A perfect facility to conduct our District business and is easily accessible from the Conference Hotel, the Novotel, as well as the many accommodation options nearby.

The Conference Committee, headed up by Julia Taylor from the Zonta Club of Devonport, has been working hard to put together a fun, informative and inspirational program for you.

Our conference logo, designed by Tracey Clark of the Zonta Club of Cradle Coast, has embodied the notion of Spirit. In Tracey's own words "*The spirit of Devonport is one of unity, optimism and a profound connection to the sea and land. This spirit fuels the community's sense of purpose, encouraging growth, cooperation and an unwavering dedication to moving forward, much like the waves guided by the steady light of the lighthouse*". Reminds me of our Zonta Spirit.

I look forward to welcoming as many members as possible who can take the opportunity to join us in Devonport, to reconnect with Zonta friends and make new ones.

Regards

Debbie

Debbie Schmidt

Governor 2024-2026

Zonta International District 23



paranaple Convention Centre

In local punnilerpanner language, “paranaple” means “gathering place” and refers to the mouth of the Mersey River as it flows through Devonport to Bass Strait. The essence of paranaple reflects past, present and future; communicating a welcoming experience to both visitors and the Devonport community alike. Proudly embracing this concept, our Convention Centre serves as a riverside venue for coming together, sharing ideas, and igniting inspiration.

Your Conference Team

Conference Committee

Governor – Debbie Schmidt, ZC Geelong

Chair – Julia Taylor, ZC Devonport

Secretary – Vicki Carman-Brown, ZC Devonport

Treasurer – Jo Clayton, ZC Devonport

Committee Members

Jill Taylor – Area 5 Director, ZC Hobart

Jeannette Lander – ZC Devonport

Conference email: zontad23conf@gmail.com

Please contact us with any queries at this dedicated conference email account.

Conference Speaker



Dr Kate Warner is an Emeritus Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where she taught Criminal Law, Criminology and Evidence Law before her appointment as the first female Governor of Tasmania in December 2014. Kate was Director of the Tasmania Law Reform Institute from 2002 until 2014. She was the first woman Dean of the Faculty of Law and was Head of Department in the Law School.

She has served on numerous boards and is a fellow of the Australian Academy of Law and the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology.

In October 2021, with Professor Tim McCormack, she presented a report to Government on a Pathway to Treaty and Truth-telling. And in 2022, with two interstate colleagues, she conducted a review of the Tasmania LawReform

Institute.

She is currently working on a national project on judicial well-being and a new edition of a sentencing text.

In 2012 Kate was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal at the University of Tasmania and in 2016 was made a Companion of the Order of Australia, for her significant service to the law.

Travel Options

Flights and Ferry Services

Direct Qantas daily flights between Melbourne and Devonport

Flights to Launceston (1.25 hour car drive to Devonport)

Please check Virgin and Qantas for direct flights from Perth and Adelaide to Launceston

Spirit of Tasmania Ferries sail daily between Geelong and Devonport

Book: <https://book.spiritoftasmania.com.au>

*****Please note that caravan or motorhome bookings need to be made early. Currently, caravan/motorhome spaces are booked out until July next year.***

Accommodation Options

Link for your discount bookings at **Novotel Devonport** (*Conference Hotel*)
<https://www.idem.events/r/zonta-international-district-23-conference>

- Standard room is \$180
- Superior Room \$200
- Deluxe Room \$225
- Breakfast can be added at a discount price of \$25pp, down from \$35pp

2 Best Street, Cnr Rooke St, Devonport

Also, the **Gateway Hotel** is happy to offer the following rates for the Zonta District 23 Conference:

- Studio King - \$145.00 per room per night
- Executive King or Twin - \$169.00 per room per night
- Deluxe Spa King - \$209.00 per room per night
- Buffet Breakfast - \$24.00pp if pre-booked

Guests would need to call or email directly and mention the Zonta Conference to be offered these discounted rates.

Credit card details will be required to hold rooms; however, payment is not required until arrival.

If you would like any further information, please contact the Gateway Hotel, 16 Fenton Street, Devonport. Phone: 03 6424 4922

Email: gatewayinnaccommodation@alhgroup.com.au

Explore the many other options available e.g., Apartments, Airbnb, caravan parks, etc. <https://www.visitdevonport.com.au/>

To learn more about Devonport and its surrounds, please visit the link below
[SEE CLEAR HERE \(youtube.com\)](#)

***Looking forward to welcoming you to Devonport,
The City with Spirit and Australia's Top Tourism Town 2024!***



This is the official newsletter of Zonta International District 23,
2025 Conference - Devonport, Tasmania

Governor: Debbie Schmidt

Our email address is: zontadistrict23@yahoo.com.au

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