



### **Dear Zontians**

Well, we have completed our 2025 Area Meetings. Thank you to all those in attendance for taking the time out of your busy lives to attend one of our important annual events. A heartfelt thank you to all those that provided travel and home hosting assistance to me so that I could attend each of these meetings and meet so many of you.

### **Dates for your Diary – 2026 Area Meetings**

21 <sup>st</sup> March 2026	Victoria (Area 1 & 4) ~ will be held in conjunction with the D23 Board Meeting – hosted by Area 4
28 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Tasmania (Area 5)
18 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Western Australia (Area 3)
2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026	South Australia (Area 2)

Some wonderful news has been announced with the Zonta International Honorary Membership of Lisa Blair. Dawn Newman from Perth Northern Suburbs was the inspiration behind this nomination and was fully supported by the District 23 Board. Please read the background and more information below.

We also learnt that Maya Farmer, nominated by the ZC Melbourne on Yarra received both the District and Zonta International Young Women in Leadership Award 2025. Those who attended the 14<sup>th</sup> June Zonta Says NOW think tank would have heard from Maya and Generation Justice during this presentation.

Erin Holdorf from ANU Canberra has been selected as an Amelia Earhart Fellow. Clubs have been emailed the announcement and full list of Fellows.

Thank you to all those Clubs who have forwarded their Annual Reports to their Area Director and to myself – I love reading these reports and finding out all the wonderful work that we are doing in our District to build a better world for women and girls. If your Club hasn't yet forward yours, please do.

See you in Devonport !

Regards

*Debbie*

Debbie Schmidt

District 23 Governor 2024-2026

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### **District Conference Deadline Reminders**

*Governor's Award: Heide Taylor Honour Roll – **nominations close 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025***

The D23 Governor's Award: Heide Taylor Honour Roll will recognise and honour individual Zontians who have personified the ideals of Zonta at club level through their support and promotion of local projects and Zonta International. Typically, but not exclusively, the nominee would not have held a District position but may have held leadership positions within their own club. This award is not specifically linked to length of service but instead focuses on the quality of the member's ongoing contribution to Zonta. It is expected that the nominee would have gone 'above and beyond' the expectations of membership and provided inspiration to other members through their service to Zonta and the community.

*Service & Advocacy Awards – 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2025*

*Greater Visibility Awards – 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2025*

*Ceremony of Remembrance at Conference – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025*

*Market Place for Conference – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025*

**\*\* Please visit the District 23 website for more information and nomination forms**

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION'S CLOSE 30TH JUNE 2025**



## Join us in Devonport!

### 5-7 September 2025

Sustainability, Spirit and  
Standing Up for Human Rights



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## ZONTA INTERNATIONAL UPDATES AND NEWS

### **Zonta International and District Club Officer Forms**

Club officer forms were due 1 June to Zonta International. Please ensure your club has submitted their form.

Additionally, I hope all clubs have sent their club officer form to Naidene, our District 23 Secretary so that we can issue an updated District Directory early in July.

**Youth Member Project** (Golden Z Club members are added to their sponsoring clubs membership list):

- 23 out of 97 sponsoring Zonta Clubs have entered their youth members.
- 141 youth members have been added.

**Club Affiliation Forms** – due date is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025. I will receive a list at the end of month of outstanding clubs. If you require assistance, please reach out to Martina at Zonta International. Email her at [mgamboa@zonta.org](mailto:mgamboa@zonta.org)

**Upcoming New Member Event – please see events on ZI website to register**

17<sup>th</sup> July – please encourage your new members to attend if possible. Check out all events: [https://www.zonta.org/Web/News\\_Events/Events](https://www.zonta.org/Web/News_Events/Events)

**Applications for the Zonta Excellence in Service and Advocacy Award are now open!**

Eligible projects can be in any one of the following three categories:

1. Women and girls' equal rights and access to legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional resources.
2. Prevention of violence against women and girls.
3. Climate justice

Has your club done something the world should know about: Learn more at: [www.zonta.org/Web/My\\_Zonta/Tools/Service%20Tools](http://www.zonta.org/Web/My_Zonta/Tools/Service%20Tools)

Zonta Foundation for Women news !



## Endowment Fund Nearing Goal



## Convention 2026 Updates – Website is live!



## LISA BLAIR OAM HONOURED WITH ZONTA INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

How apt it was to announce this award on UN World Environment Day, 5 June, which this year focused on finding solutions to eliminate plastics from our oceans! Exactly what Lisa Blair OAM is focussed on with determination and actions. Recognising Lisa's work in this area and driving change for gender equality, with a Zonta International Honorary Membership, was fitting and very well deserved. It was through Dawn Newman from the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs, who first envisaged nominating Lisa following her second circumnavigation of the Antarctic in 2022, becoming the fastest person to sail solo, non-stop, and

unassisted around Antarctica on her yacht, *Climate Action Now*. Lisa made the name change, despite it being bad luck, to convey climate awareness and to follow her motto – “*Just do.....because the world is changed by doers*”.



Dawn is shown here with Lisa (holding the ‘Antarctica Cup’) in Albany the morning she completed her record-breaking circumnavigation.

Dawn first met Lisa in August 2017 at the Fremantle Sailing Club when she was visiting yacht clubs seeking support to sail around Antarctica and bring climate change awareness to the fore. To reinforce this, attendees were asked to write on a Post-it Note how they, as individuals, would contribute to climate change. Dawn was one of those people whose note was subsequently laminated to the hull of Lisa’s yacht! Lisa has continued spreading her message by using her solo sailing as a platform, taking every opportunity to speak to audiences wherever she is. During, and following the launch of her documentary “*Ice Maiden*” last year, Lisa has been invited to various symposia as far away as the UK and Europe. Many of us had the pleasure of meeting Lisa at the Brisbane Convention last year. Lisa’s goals and aspirations certainly align with Zonta’s Mission and Vision, as shown here.

- Lisa is certainly a visible voice on gender equity, driving change for gender equality.



- She works towards building a better world for women and girls.
- She is passionate about sustainability in building a green and clean future.
- She develops partnerships to strengthen her message and inspire individuals to take positive actions towards our environment.
- She uses her sailing exploits to spread the message about climate change and a plastic free world.

No doubt we will be hearing more about Lisa's exploits and climate advocacy and her desire to collaborate with Zonta International on shared initiatives. So, watch this space!

Click [here](#) to read ZI's Press Release.

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