



Join us in Devonport!  
5-7 September 2025  
Sustainability, Spirit and  
Standing Up for Human Rights



## 2025 Conference Newsletter Issue 4, August 2025

### A Message from Governor Debbie

The countdown is nearly over – our District 23 Conference in beautiful Devonport is just around the corner!

We have a **wonderful program** lined up for you, with inspiring speakers, engaging learning cafés, important District business, and plenty of opportunities to connect, share ideas, and celebrate the work we do together. From our opening session to the Gala Dinner to the closing session on Sunday, every moment promises to be memorable.

Thank you to all who have registered – your participation ensures a vibrant and successful conference. A big thank you also to our conference committee and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make this event something truly special.

I am so looking forward to welcoming you to Devonport, to share in the learning, laughter, and friendship that make Zonta so unique. Safe travels, and see you very soon!

**Debbie Schmidt**  
Governor 2024-2026

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Friday 5th September	Saturday 6th September	Sunday 7th September
<b>Commencing with Registration from 12 noon</b> <i>Tea &amp; Coffee available</i> <i>Market Place open</i>	<b>8:00am</b> Registration Open <i>Market Place open</i> <b>8:30am</b> Second Business Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome to Devonport (Mayor)</li><li>D23 Governor's address</li><li>ZI Representative – Christine Dersch</li><li>2025 ZI Convention Presentation (Vancouver) – Christine Dersch</li></ul>	<b>8:45am</b> Ceremony of Remembrance <b>9:00am</b> - Guest Speaker Lisa Blair OAM - Zonta International Honorary Member
<b>12:00pm - 12:45pm</b> – Flag ceremony practice <b>12:45pm - 1:15pm</b> – First Timer & Delegate briefing <b>*Lunch is not provided on this day</b>	<b>10:30am - Morning Tea</b> <b>11:00am - Guest Speakers</b> Catelyn Richards and Jane Sargison: "Sustainability" <b>11:55am</b> Zonta Award Winners 2024 Nicolette Chen - Jane M Kizumani Lily Carroll - Women in Leadership <b>12:35pm</b> Luncheon - Catered	<b>10:15am - Morning Tea</b> <b>10:45am - Guest Speaker</b> Christine Finnegan: "Spirit"
<b>1:45pm - Opening Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome to Country</li><li>Flag Parade</li><li>Welcome Zontans</li><li>Conference Opening – Han Jo Palmer MLC</li><li><b>Keynote Speaker</b> – Professor Kate Warner: "Speaking up for Women's Rights"</li></ul> <b>3:15pm Afternoon Tea</b> <b>3:45pm</b> First Business Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Roll Call of Clubs</li><li>Candidate Speeches</li><li>Bylaws</li><li>Approval for continuation of Service Program</li></ul> <b>5:30pm - 6:00pm</b> Meet & Greet opportunity Bar open <b>7:00pm</b> Dine Around Devonport (optional event)	<b>1:30pm - Learning Café x 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Advocacy – Amplifying our Voices</li><li>Unlocking Club Success in Zonta</li><li>Zonta Says: New Climate Emergency Preparedness Plan</li></ul> <b>2:30pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Birthing Kit Champions</li><li>Team of Membership Awards</li><li>Foundation Ambassador</li></ul> <b>3:00pm Afternoon Tea</b> <b>PMNL Market Place open</b> <b>3:30pm Third Business Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Membership Report</li><li>Bylaws &amp; Resolution (continued)</li><li>ZI Strategic Plan</li><li>Zonta Australia</li><li>Advocacy Survey</li></ul> <b>7:00pm - 10:30pm</b> Gala Dinner at Convention Centre	<b>11:00am Zonta Awards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Governor's Award in honour of Heidi Taylor</li><li>Greater Visibility Award</li><li>Service &amp; Advocacy Award (including display of projects)</li></ul> <b>2027 D23 Conference location announcement</b> <b>Conference closes</b> Current and Incoming Board Meeting <b>*Lunch is not provided on this day</b>



We are thrilled to announce that Lisa Blair OAM, acclaimed sailor, environmental advocate, and Zonta International Honorary Member, will be joining us at our District 23 Conference in Devonport.

Lisa is best known for her incredible achievements at sea, including becoming the first woman to sail solo, non-stop, and unassisted around Antarctica and for holding multiple sailing world records. Beyond her ocean triumphs, she is passionate about raising awareness of climate change and ocean health, using her voyages to collect valuable scientific data and inspire action.

Her remarkable story of courage, resilience, and determination promises to leave us all inspired and motivated. We can't wait for you to meet Lisa and hear her extraordinary journey firsthand.

## Conference Speakers



**Catelyn Richards**

Catelyn Richards is a proud Registered Nurse, humanitarian and passionate advocate for regenerative ecology.

Currently the President of Climate Action Nurses, was a 2022 Westpac Future Leaders scholar and has completed a Master of Leadership (Health and Human Services) through the University of Tasmania.

Catelyn has presented on early-career nurse leadership and environmental sustainability across a range of platforms, including the Australian College of Nursing, National Nursing Forum and the South Pacific Nurses Forum.

She has also presented on Zonta Says Now to climate action, internationally, via Zoom.



**Jane Sargison**

"From Jet Engines to Thriving Communities: A Blueprint for Sustainable Progress"

Dr Jane Sargison is an engineer with a passion for building a better future, blending technical expertise with strategic leadership.

As Executive Manager – Land Development for the JAC Group, she shapes communities while also serving on the boards of UTAS Innovation Ventures, Southern Cross Care (Tas) Inc., and Metro Tasmania.

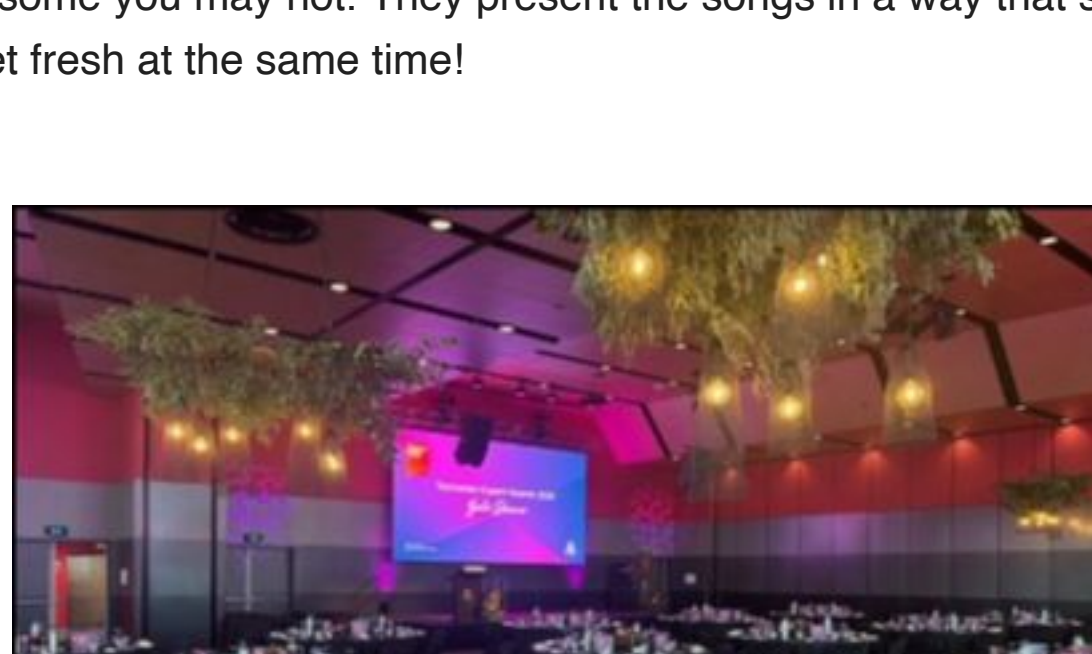
A Rhodes Scholar and Amelia Earhart Fellow, Jane earned her DPhil from the University of Oxford and was named National Professional Engineer of the Year in 2011 for her contributions to the field and her dedication to supporting women in STEM.

## Gala Dinner



**NW Tasmania's Gala Dinner Band – The Opportunists**

Sharni and Peter will be the lead vocalists at the Gala Dinner. The Opportunists perform a vivid cross-section of interesting cover songs from many artists you know and some you may not. They present the songs in a way that sounds familiar, yet fresh at the same time!



Join us in frivolity, great food and there will be room for dancing!

This venue will also offer you a great view of the new **Devonport Light Show** on the bank of the Mersey River.

## What to bring to Conference

For greater sustainability ~~~ bring your –

- Name Badges
- Own pens, paper and devices. Seating will be at round tables
- Water bottle
- Cash for Market Place and raffle
- Clothing for all seasons
- And your Zonta Spirit!

NB Entry to the Paranalpe Conference Centre is via the side entry (double doors) facing Market Square. Look for the Zonta Banner. Conference is on the third level, via the escalator/lift.

## What Devonport and Surrounds Has to offer

\*\*\*\*\*A Must Visit –

The Anver's Chocolate factory, at nearby Latrobe, is a chocolate lover's heaven! Hand-made chocolate truffles, chocolate oranges, fudge and pralines, using fresh Tasmanian cream and butter, single-origin chocolate, fruits, nuts and liqueurs.

To learn more about Devonport and its surrounds, please visit the links below

Visitor Information - [Visit Devonport](#)

[North West Tasmania](#)

[Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre - Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre | Explore Tassie](#)

For those considering a longer stay, some other nearby attractions include –

- Devonport's **Home Hill** – home of Joe Lyons, Tasmania's only Australian Prime Minister and Dame Enid, first female member of the Australian House of Representatives – visit [nationaltrust.org.au](#) for more information
- Tasmanian Arboretum** (10-minute drive out of Devonport)  
[tasmanianarboretum.org.au](#)
- Sheffield, Town of Murals** (25-minute drive from Devonport)
- Water bottle**
- Cash for Market Place and raffle**
- ZI Strategic Plan**
- Zonta Australia**
- Advocacy Survey**

We're looking forward to welcoming you to Devonport, City with Spirit and Australia's Top Tourism Town 2024 and AGAIN in 2025!

Also visit the NW Tasmanian Small Town Winners 2025 of Deloraine and Stanley

**The North West has so much more to offer!**

## 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
- Ann Horrocks - ZC Bendigo

Conference email: [zontad23@gmail.com](mailto:zontad23@gmail.com)

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

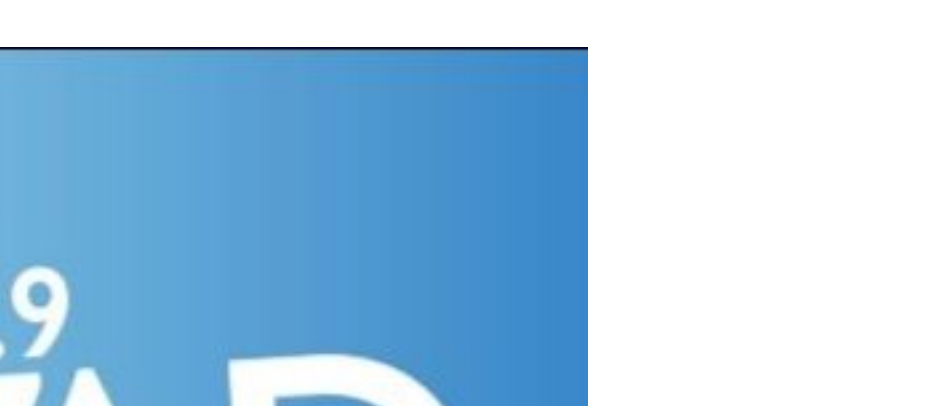
## Sponsorship



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