



**Federation Virtual General Meeting  
Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific  
Sunday 18 May 2025 at 10am AEST**

**MINUTES**

**1. President Joanne Yeoh welcomed club representatives, observers and position holders to this Federation General Meeting being held virtually.**

**2. Announcement of Quorum** 44 Clubs were online at the beginning of the meeting so the quorum of 30 clubs was met . [56 Clubs were registered, but 13 of those clubs did not join the meeting. However 6 clubs whose representatives were not shown on the registration list joined the meeting so at one point there were 52 clubs represented on line]

**3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**4. Honours and Remembrances PowerPoint**

**Honours**

Nasiba Akram, SI Hornsby *Medal of Order of Australia OAM*

Sarah Barnbrook, SI Melbourne *Women Changing the World Global Awards Volunteer of the Year and an award for Youth Impact*

Rosa Masserano, SI Mackay Club Life Membership

Enkhul Renchindavaa, SI Ulaanbaatar Order of the Polar Star

Margaret Smith, SI Canberra Medal of Order of Australia OAM

**Remembrances**

Jennifer Benecke, SI Christchurch

Florence Brennan, SI Helena

Rennie Herbert, SI Devonport

Carolyn Hudson, SI Hornsby

Alice Noble, SI Westland

Ann Thomas, SI Devonport

**5. Acceptance of Agenda**

**MOVED** that the Agenda as circulated be accepted.

Moved by: SI Devonport

Seconded by: SI Brisbane

Carried

**6. Consent Agenda**

● **Greetings and Apologies:**

Greetings from Past SI & Federation President Margaret Lobo

Apologies from SI Dunedin, SI Northern Beaches

● **Acceptance of Standing Orders For Conduct of Federation General Meetings as Per Company By-Law 14.**

● **Appointments:**

**Returning Officer:** Anne Gover Asst Federation Secretary

**Procedural Consultant:** Michele Kaur

**Scrutineers:** Hanaa Wong Adbullah, Cherrie Power and Cesarina Gigante

**Timekeeper:** Sandra Richards

● **Attendees - Representatives, proxy representatives and other attendees**



- **Acceptance of Federation Meeting Minutes 3 May 2024**
- **Reports (not including Recommendations)**
  - Management Committee – President, President Elect, IPP, Federation Secretary, HQ Officer
  - National Presidents
  - Convenors & Committee Reports
    - Programme
    - Membership
    - Governance
    - Restructure Committee
    - Communications
  - Appointees
  - Other Reports

### **SISEAP Discussion Ground Rules**

We agree to disagree.

We agree to treat each other with dignity and respect, even when we disagree.

When we disagree, we agree to (1) explain why, and (2) provide other alternatives.

We agree to speak slowly and remind others to do so, remembering that English is not everyone's first language.

We agree not to play the "Blame Game".

We agree that we are all in a state of learning and that we will be open to suggestions or questions from each other that are offered in the spirit of learning and support.

We agree not to attack the person raising the issue.

We agree to support the consensus of the group.

**MOVED** that the Consent Agenda be accepted.

Moved by: SI North Shore                      Seconded by: SI George Town Carried

### **7. Proxy Representatives**

Canning District Proxy South Perth

Northern Beaches Proxy Brisbane Water

Port Pirie Proxy Southern Districts of Adelaide

Wyndham Proxy Geelong

**Moved** that the Proxy Representatives be accepted.

Moved by: SI Ulaanbaatar                      Seconded by: SI Griffith                      Carried

### **8. Federation Business - Federation Team**

#### **Position Holders - 2nd year of term**

- Treasurer – Wendy Evans
- Communication Convenor – Hanaa Wong Abdullah
- Finance Convenor – Helena Cheah
- Governance Convenor – Michele Kaur
- Programme Convenor - Donnell Davis
- Assistant Programme Convenor 1 Rhonda McCormack
- Assistant Programme Convenor 2 Saradha Narayanan
- Zone Programme Coordinator 1 – Robyn Cain
- Zone Programme Coordinator 2 – Nooraini Binti Mohd Yasin
- Zone Programme Coordinator 3 – Pauline Glover
- Zone Programme Coordinator 4 – Elizabeth Harrison
- Membership Convenor – Kristeen Johnston



- Assistant Membership Convenor – Australia – Elizabeth (Liz) Butson
- Assistant Membership Convenor – Asia – TBC *Linna Khorn's resignation means that this position will be advertised.*
- Assistant Membership Convenor – NZ & Pacific – Jane Stent

### **Federation Appointees**

President Joanne acknowledged the resignation of Berice Julian as Federation Secretary and announced that Cynthia Martin would be Federation Secretary during this second year of her term.

- Federation Secretary – Cynthia Martin
- Federation Assistant Secretary – Anne Gover
- ICT – Christine Johnstone
- Webinar Training Coordinator – Sue Latta
- Federation Project Liaison – Christine Johnstone
- Programme Communications – Cesarina Gigante
- Programme Database Support – Anne Allen
- Friendship Link Coordinator – Eileen Middleton
- Archivist – TBC
- Federation Project Manager – TBC

### **9. Questions submitted to the Federation Team through Chat**

Written questions received from SI Moreton North and SI Helena

**Question 1:** Can the SISEAP Management Board clarify the status of Regions in Australia under the SISEAP Constitution?

**Question 2:** Are you able to give clarity around the rights and status of unattached clubs, who are members of SI Australia?

**Answer 1:** There is nothing in the SISEAP Company Constitution regarding Regions, but the SISEAP Company By-Laws state the following:

#### **National Associations**

- 11.5 Each country with Soroptimist clubs in the territory allocated to the company may form a National Association.
- 11.6 Each National Association may be responsible for creating the internal structures required for organising the clubs in that country.

**Therefore the Australia National Association is responsible for creating whatever internal structures are required.**

**Answer 2:** The SISEAP Company Constitution states the following:

#### **Members**

#### **14 Membership and register of members**

- 14.1 The members of the company are all Soroptimist clubs formed within the territory assigned to the company by Soroptimist International and hold a Charter issued by the company.
- 14.2 The directors have the right
  - 14.2.1 to propose new classes of membership of the company, and
  - 14.2.2 to establish categories of informal association with the company who are not members of the company and who shall have only the rights and obligations ascribed to them in the company by-laws.
- 14.3 The company must establish and maintain a register of members.  
The register of members must be kept by the secretary and must contain:



14.3.1 for each current member of the company:

14.3.1.1 name

14.3.1.2 address

14.3.1.3 any alternative address nominated by the member for the service of notices, and

14.3.1.4 date the member was entered on to the register.

**All clubs, which include online clubs, are required to be registered and so the address of the club will show in the National Association of that country and so a club cannot be unattached.**

#### **10. National Presidents Presentations** *[shown throughout the meeting]*

**Terry Maunsell, SI Australia National President**, presented a power point showcasing SI Australia clubs and activities.

**11. Communications** – Hanaa Wong Abdullah referred members to her report and advised she had no further update.

Unfortunately no reports or presentations had been received from these three National Presidents.

**National President Presentation – SI Singapore** Sukanya Pushkarna

**National President Presentation –SI Indonesia** Sylva Hutagalung

**National President Presentation – SI Thailand** Christiane Kitchakarn

#### **12. Membership Presentation including Best Practice Awards**

Membership Convenor Kristeen Johnston presented the following Membership information -

- **2024 Membership Snapshot**

100 younger members joined during 2024

Establishment of a new High School club in Rangiora, New Zealand

SI Samoa club has been re-energised

New Soroptimist member growth each year has been reasonably steady

2024 - 322, 2023 - 300, 2022 - 321

Essential membership manuals/resources have been updated.

During 2024 - anecdotal evidence of increase in SISEAP social media posts = promoting our club activity!

- **Best Practice Award presentations**

SI Ba for Membership Diversity

SISEAP Sisters Online for Membership Diversity

SI Northern Beaches for Membership Innovation

SI South West Slopes for Membership Innovation

SI South Perth for Membership Recruitment and Retention

- **Online Community** chartered in February 2024 with 12 -16 members which operates over multiple time zones. Kim Hainsworth reported that they had a successful 16 Days of Activism campaign in 2024. and have strong connections with Friendship Link clubs – Canada West online, collaborating on two well-received online events.

- **Friendship Links** – Co-ordinator Eileen Middleton reported that during 2024 SISEAP Friendship Link protocols and systems had been re-established with the SISEAP Friendship Link database access improved with a streamlined process. Seven clubs Friendship Links have been confirmed with new certificates created. Clubs are encouraged to see the potential for joint club projects across Friendship Links.

- **Certificates to celebrate Long Serving Members** 50 + were presented to Lesley Lambert and Margaret Lobo



- **Concluding Remarks** Un-financial clubs as at 29<sup>th</sup> April, 13 clubs total 118 members. Two clubs under 5 members. Effective strategies and strong leadership are needed Strategic Membership action plan is essential for SISEAP's survival – a call to action!

There were no questions from the floor.

**Khongorzul Togtokhbayar, SI Mongolia National President**, presented a power point showcasing SI Mongolia clubs and activities.

No report or presentation had been received from **Lynette Sarry, SI Papua New Guinea National President**.

**Sabrina Percival, SI Samoa National President** had sent a presentation showcasing SI Samoa club activities which IPP Christine Johnstone spoke to.

### 13. Programme including Best Practice Awards

Programme Convenor Dr Donnell Davis presented work in the **Programme & Advocacy** area -

- **Club, Regional, National**
  - Inform what's happening, shape policy, be a watchdog
- **Federation level**
  - National Presidents Engagement, share case studies, practices, innovation, legislation wording, implementation, benchmarking,
- **International**
  - UN - ECOSOC
  - UNESCAP
  - CSW
  - CHOGM
  - HLPF
  - Pacific Women
- **Website redesign**

She shared **Programme Campaigns** that had been undertaken during the year.

- International Education Day
- International Women's Day
- World Environment Day/Month
- International Literacy Day
- International Day of the Girl Child
- 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

with special mention of the following -

- **International Biennium Theme** "Save Mother Earth, Save the Future" and "No War, Only Peace"
- **Brilliant Futures Fund** Women investing in women - Soroptimist donations to our soroptimist projects are transparent / ACNC reporting changes
- **SI Foundation** - celebrated on Human Rights Day 10 December

The Programme Team presented the **Best Practice Awards**

1 Education	SI Joondalup 'East Timor 24' SI Moreton North 'Shining a light on Invisible Illnesses'
2 Elimination of Violence	SI Melaka 'Personal Safety for Children Project' SI Moreton North 'Maprik PNG 16 Days of Activism Forum'
3 Economic Empowerment	SI Adelaide 'Fix Child Support Campaign Phase 2'
4 Food Security	SI Region of Malaysia 'Sustainable Food Security for Rural Communities' SI Moreton North 'Seeds of Friendship Darapap Village PNG'



5 Health

SI Moreton North '2024 International Gynae Awareness Day'

SI Launceston 'Pamper Day for Women with a Disability'

6 Environmental Sustainability SI Penang 'Rehabilitation of Abandoned Shrimp Farms to Seaweed Farming'

SI Logan 'Sustainable Styles by Sorooptimists'

SI Waimea 'Repair with Flair'

8 Disaster Relief

SI Moreton North 'Maprik PNG Disaster Recovery after Earthquake'

There were no questions from the floor.

**Melanie Plaisted, SI New Zealand National President and Michele Navinder Kaur, SI Malaysia National President** presented power points showcasing SI Aotearoa New Zealand clubs and activities and SI Malaysia clubs and activities.

No report or presentation had been received from **Audrey Lo, SI Hong Kong SAR China National President.**

#### 14. Federation Project 2024 – 2026

Christine Johnstone gave a presentation on 'The Brilliant Futures Fund – Pathways to Future Possibilities'

She explained that this project began in June 2022, but President Joanne had agreed to continue it during her biennium. It is a funding source for clubs with funding for new or continuing projects from as little as AUD1,000 up to AUD10,000. The granting of ACNC charities status meant that application documentation and other policies and forms were required to be written during 2024.

A survey had been undertaken with some good responses which would be considered and she concluded her presentation with the following –

- Your project does not need to be “big” or “major” eg SI Joondalup “East Timor 24”
- Use your Zone Coordinators to assist with project plan and completion of the application form
- Reach out to other successful applicants
- Read all the information on the SISEAP website.

Reports but no presentations had been received from **Bunthary Srun, SI Cambodia National President or Senata Tinaiseru Ratumaitavuki, SI Fiji National President.**

No report or presentation had been received from **Hnin Nu Hlaing, SI Myanmar National President.**

#### 15. Other Business

*Recommendation from Membership Convenor Kristeen Johnston's Report.*

She recommended that a 12 month Membership Strategic Plan be completed to be submitted to the Directors for their June/July Meeting. This plan should include actions to be taken to address the rapid decline in the membership numbers.

*Recommendation from Programme Convenor Dr Donelle Davis' Report.*

1. Clubs should write their reports on the data base about their projects, activities and advocacy immediately, rather than leave it till the end of the year.
2. Use the Zone Co-ordinators to assist you with writing these reports.
3. Request training in using the database from the Programme Team.
4. Show more accurate time spent on projects and activities to include from the planning stage through to the evaluation.
5. Show funds raised so an accurate amount can be shown for the total given in each financial year by clubs in the federation.



President Joanne reminded attendees that the next Federation Meeting would be during the SISEAP Conference at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia 1 - 4 May 2026

There being no further business President Joanne thanked all attendees and closed the meeting at 1pm AEST.