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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



# SPAN

## Soroptimist Programme Action News

**Welcome** to the June 2026 edition of the Programme Action News

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## FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



In the last edition of eSPAN we welcomed new members to the programme team with photographs and a brief introduction on each. I would also like to extend my welcome to Sylvia Heywood, Lyn Stewart, Sue Price and Nurgul Aldanish.

As I commence my term as Programme Convenor, I would like to thank Immediate Past President Joanne Yeoh for her valued work during her presidency term 2024-2026 and extend my congratulations to incoming President Anthea Penny and President Elect Oyungerel Rentsen.

The Programme's outgoing team who have completed their terms include Dr Saradha Narayanan, Nooraini Dato Mohd Yasin, Robyn Cain and Anne Allen. Thank you for your friendship and valued contribution to the team.

Lastly, thank you to Dr Donnell Davis for your wealth of knowledge and your contributions in expanding the programme team during your 4-year term.

Although this was mentioned in the May edition of eSPAN post conference, I would also like to acknowledge the success of the conference in Kota Kinabalu and the re-uniting and meeting of fellow Soroptimist sisters face to face.

There will be training from the Federation Programme Team on Data Base reporting and later in the year a webinar on submitting a Best Practice Report, to further inform and assist members. Talking about webinars in general there are already many on the website that time and effort have gone into. Sometimes it is difficult to find the time or motivation to watch a past webinar, but it could be beneficial if a few members could set a time and meet in one of their homes over a cup of tea/coffee to watch a selected webinar and then discuss it at the next club meeting with fellow members. Put it on your agenda.

The 5 International Campaigns held throughout the year are:

- International Women's Day - 8 March
- World Health Day - 7 April
- World Environment Day - 5 June
- International Day of the Girl child - 11 October and
- International day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls - 25 November

For our most recent Campaign "World Environment Day, 5 June" I hope members went into the website link that was provided in the May eSPAN edition and took advantage of the information, tools, resources and ideas given to undertake during the month of June for Environment month. If not click on the link provided again now. Practice this for future reference. The programme team will look forward to the reports that follow.

For International World Environment Day, Soroptimist International wanted to showcase how women and girls are leading the way toward greener, more sustainable futures. Through education, advocacy and community-based initiatives Soroptimists are demonstrating that when women are empowered to lead on sustainability, entire communities become stronger, more resilient, and more capable of adapting to a changing climate. Across our global network, soroptimists are:

- Educating women and girls to understand environment challenges and develop practical, local solutions.
- Advocating for policies that protect ecosystems, reduce emissions, and ensure that women's voices shape environment decision-making
- Implementing community projects that restore landscapes, promote sustainable livelihoods, and build climate-smart practices from the ground up.

Women are not just victims of climate change, they are innovators, protectors, and leaders. Their knowledge, leadership and lived experience are essential to building a future where people and the planet can thrive together.

Remember the Programme Team are here to assist in developing and clarifying

your programme needs. Feel free to contact us. Also please note that your submissions (project/activity stories) for eSPAN need to be emailed by the first of each month.

I look forward to working with you all.

***Pauline Glover,***

***Programme Convenor 2026-2028***

[programme.pauline@siseap.org](mailto:programme.pauline@siseap.org)

## PROGRAMME TEAM

Programme Convenor - [Pauline Glover](#)

Asst Programme Convenor 1 - [Rhonda McCormack](#)

Asst Programme Convenor 2 - [Sylvia Heywood](#)

Zone 1 Programme Coordinator - [Lyn Stewart](#)

Zone 2 Programme Coordinator - [Sue Price](#)

Zone 3 Programme Coordinator - [Nurgul Aldanysh](#)

Zone 4 Programme Coordinator - [Elizabeth Harrison](#)

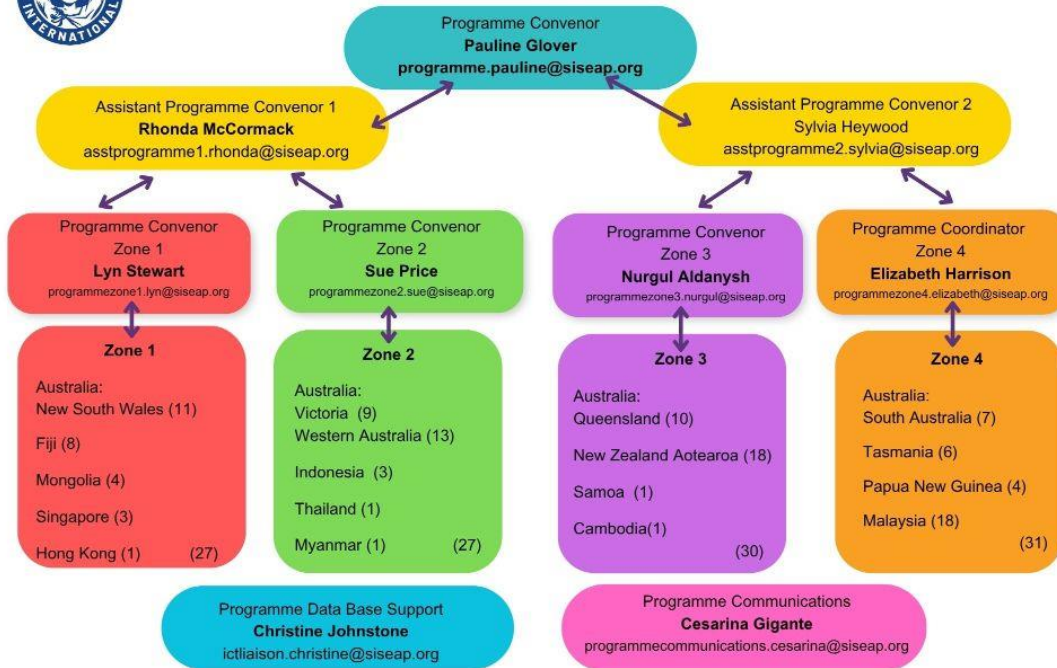
Programme Communications - [Cesarina Gigante](#)

For more information about the convenors and their roles visit the programme website page via the button below.

[\*\*PROGRAMME WEBSITE PAGE\*\*](#)



## SISEAP PROGRAMME TEAM and ZONES for 2026-2028



Do you know what zone your club is in? Take a look and then reach out to your zone coordinator for assistance if required. or [download a pdf of the zones.](#)

## ADVOCACY WORK



**2026 SISEAP  
WORLD  
ENVIRONMENT  
MONTH**

**WOMEN LEADING GREEN FUTURES**



**World Environment Day, SISEAP Environment Month**

The Programme team are looking forward to hearing about your projects and activities over the month. Please send articles and photos to us. See information at end of newsletter.

**Soroptimist International Theme: Women Leading Green Futures** Climate change affects everyone, but not equally. Women and girls are often among the most impacted, while also being powerful drivers of change. For World Environment Day, Soroptimist International will showcase how women and girls are leading environmental action through education, advocacy and community-based initiatives.

**Key message:** When women lead on sustainability, communities become stronger, more resilient and more sustainable.

**UN Environment Program (UNEP) World Environment Day 2026: A Global Call for Climate Action**

World Environment Day 2026 will rally the world around the urgency of climate action. With rising temperatures, collapsing ecosystems, and disruptive weather extremes, humanity stands at a tipping point. But we are not powerless.

The 2026 theme underscores that climate action is not just about reducing carbon emissions—it is about rethinking the systems that power our economies and repairing our relationship with the climate. By doing so, we can secure a safer, healthier, and more just future for all.

**The toolkit is now available on Trello board. Remember to check Trello board regularly as items will be added as they become available.**

**Women, Peace, Security and Climate Justice: Read about it [HERE](#).**

**[DOWNLOAD THE PDF TOOLKIT HERE](#)**

**[SISEAP TRELLO BOARD](#)**

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# SISEAP IMPACT FOR 2025

[VISIT THE WEBSITE ARTICLE FOR ALL THE NEWS AND IMAGES](#)



## Federation Public Speaking Competition 2026

**Thank you to countries and regions that have advised that they would be participating. Opportunity still exists if you would like to participate. Please indicate your Countries/Regions participation using the following form [HERE](#) by the 30th June 2026.**

Public speaking is more than just delivering words—it's about owning your voice, sharing your perspective, and stepping confidently into spaces where ideas matter. For girls, the ability to speak publicly isn't just a skill; it's a catalyst for empowerment, leadership, and self-expression. In a world where female voices have often been sidelined or underestimated, teaching girls the art of effective communication helps them challenge stereotypes, advocate for themselves and others, and inspire change.

Countries/Regions (Australia) are encouraged to hold heats to determine finalists who will represent them in the Federation level of the competition. A maximum of two finalists

for each category are permitted from each country in the Federation. Australia is permitted two finalists, per category per Region.

### **Theme**

"The Power of My Voice" encourages young people to explore how individuals and communities can make informed, ethical, and bold decisions that support a more sustainable and equitable future. It also gives Soroptimists the opportunity to hear for themselves the thoughts and aspirations of these leaders of the future. The finals this year will coincide with the International Day of the Girl Child Sunday the 11th October.

The competition invites girls from 12 years to 19 years (age as at 31 December 2026) to participate. There are two categories: Category 1: 12-15 years, Category 2: 16-19 years. The theme this year is **'The Power of My Voice'** with the following topics:

**Category 1:** Describe one change that would help make life fairer for girls — and explain why this change benefits your community

**Category 2:** Why a girl's opinion matters in creating change for the future.

Information can be found on the Federation Website [HERE](#) for Counties/Regions/Clubs.

Heats and sending of finalist information to Federation is to be completed by the **8th September 2026**.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION INFORMATION**

**FEDERATION PROJECTS**



## Brilliant Futures Fund

**Round 13 now open. Applications close 31st of July.**

Our Federation Project, the Brilliant Futures Fund (2021–2026), is at the heart of our mission to educate, empower, and enable.

Investing in this fund is a direct investment in the collective power of Soroptimists to fundamentally improve the lives of women and girls across the South East Asia Pacific region

[APPLY HERE](#)

[DONATE HERE](#)

From digital literacy for refugees to maternal health and vocational training, this fund transforms lives across our 13 member countries. Your support ensures we can continue funding grassroots projects that provide real, lasting change. Every donation helps a woman gain independence or a girl access the education she deserves. Let's work together to build brilliant futures—please donate today!

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[READ HOW BFF PROJECTS HAVE CHANGED LIVES](#)

## PROJECTS & APPEALS

Learn more about the projects and appeals and to make a Donation please click on the image. SISEAP values and encourages you to support our projects and appeals, your donation DOES make a huge difference to the lives of women and girls.



## FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



[SISEAP EVENTS HERE](#)

## AROUND THE FEDERATION

### Aotearoa New Zealand National Project

Read the progress that this National project has made and how they are changing the lives of women in New Zealand via the button below.



[SIANZ PROJECT](#)

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### SI Lautoka – Heart Screening for young rural students.

SI Lautoka organized a heart screening with Shree Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital at Vasist Muni Memorial School to detect cardiac issues early.

In Fiji, rheumatic heart disease (RHD) remains a leading cause of preventable death among children. Many cases go undetected until advanced stages because routine cardiac screening is not available in primary schools. Vasist Muni Memorial School had no on-site heart screening program, leaving students with undiagnosed murmurs or RHD at risk of serious complications, SI Lautoka hosted this outreach program in Tavua because in rural areas people are finding so many difficulties to go to Suva .

They screened 150 students in Years 5–8 for cardiac abnormalities using portable echocardiography and blood pressure measurement, recording ECG findings, blood pressure readings, and referral notes for each child with the aim of identifying at least 5% with previously unknown abnormalities. Shree Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital, provided volunteer cardiologists and nurses, and with written consent from the school principal and parents. Using the school hall as a temporary screening station, each screening took 10–15 minutes per child.

The project was successful:

They screened 120 children (68 girls, 52 boys, ) who had previously undiagnosed abnormal findings – 5 with cardiac murmurs requiring monitoring, 2 with borderline RHD changes on ECG, and 1 with a suspected mitral valve abnormality. All 8 were successfully referred and attended follow-up appointments, and a parent information session after the screening reached over 90 parents, improving knowledge of sore throat treatment and prophylaxis for RHD.



After the Conference of Clubs Lorna Mead and Catherine Evans travelled to Indonesia where they engaged with the three clubs to discuss moving forward with their club activities.

## PROGRAMME ASSETS

# SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SOUTH EAST ASIA PACIFIC ANNUAL REPORT



## Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific

Every day members make a positive difference to the lives of women and girls by providing opportunities to Educate, Enable and Empower.

SISEAP contributed AUD \$5.6 M value to society in volunteer hours  
SISEAP donated AUD \$96,000 to 3rd parties

## 2025 Impact On Women and Girls

- Strengthened **FOOD SECURITY** by providing training and food to 1680 women and girls
- Contributed AUD\$9740 to **DISASTER MITIGATION**
- Assisted 38,000 women and girls from **VIOLENCE** through 1555 advocacy hours and expending AUD\$170,458
- Provided AUD\$43,785 project funds to **ECONOMICALLY EMPOWER** 2231 women and girls
- EDUCATIONAL** opportunities given to 25329 women and girls  
AUD\$150,000 Scholarships  
AUD\$530,000 Projects
- Tackled **CONFLICT RESOLUTION** through 675 service hours assisting 1650 women and girls
- Expended AUD\$6750 on scholarships and AUD\$211,000 in donations to improve the **HEALTH** of help women and girls
- Contributed AUD\$15,000 to **ENVIRONMENTAL** projects which assisted 2400 women and girls

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific

# PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

## ARE YOU UNDER REPORTING?

We are 6 months into the reporting year, and many clubs have undertaken projects or activities in this period. Have you reported!. Do not make your valuable work invisible, in the global world if it isn't reported it didn't happen. By not entering your reports, the clubs have accidentally made their hard work invisible. Because of this underreporting, SISEAP will look smaller, quieter, and less impactful than it actually is. When the time comes for SISEAP to "sell itself" to governments, to request grants, or to speak with a powerful global voice at UN ESCAP, their voice was missing the weight of a hundred unrecorded stories.

Take the time to report, it is necessary, valuable and the only way to make our work visible.

Do you need help with using the Programme reporting database, if so just reach out to your zone coordinator or [ictliaison.christine@siseap.org](mailto:ictliaison.christine@siseap.org) for assistance.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Programme**

**Members**

**Page**

Have you explored the updated Programme Members website page? All the information you will need is contained here.

*Click the image below to access the page*

### Quick Links

There are now dedicated articles to assist members in all aspects of programme. Use the quick links to quickly jump to the page.

Programme  
Reporting  
Database



Programme  
Downloads



Brilliant  
Futures  
Fund



CSW  
Information



Programme  
Committee



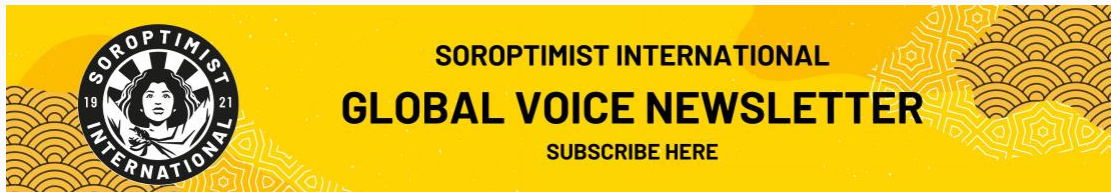
Best  
Practice  
Awards



Goals &  
Objectives



SISEAP will be publishing a quarterly calendar, to view important dates for action and events, which can be viewed [HERE](#). The calendar is viewable from the front page of the SISEAP website, under the EVENTS tab.



**SI**

**Global**

**Newsletter**

Stay connected and informed from Soroptimist International! Click on the image above to subscribe and receive the SI Global Voice monthly updates directly in your inbox. Don't miss out—subscribe today!

### **Downloading and printing eSPAN**

If you would like to download copies of eSPAN to print, go to the [SISEAP website](#) and log in using your member login. Go to the 'Members Area' in yellow at the top left of screen. Or if you are already logged in, [click this link](#). Here you can access all previous copies of archived eSPAN Newsletters.

Copy for the July 2026 eSPAN edition is required by **Friday 1st July 2026**.

Please email your submissions

to [programmecomunications.cesarina@siseap.org](mailto:programmecomunications.cesarina@siseap.org) Thank you.



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**Our mailing address is:**

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific

PO Box 1400

STRAWBERRY HILLS, NSW 2012

Australia

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