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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the August 2026 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Welcome to the August edition of eSPAN. Please enjoy reading and being informed of what has been happening around the Federation.

The time is near:

President Anthea's "Her Health Our Wealth". a Federation-wide Health Campaign will be launched in September 2026. See poster and information below.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will take place 1-4 November 2026 in St John's Antigua and Barbuda bringing together the Heads of Government, Ministers and representatives from business, civil society and youth organisations. The theme 'Accelerating Partnerships and Investments for a Prosperous Commonwealth' sets the vision and ambition for CHOGM 2026, which will bring together 56 Commonwealth Nations and strengthens collaboration, drive sustainable investment and deliver prosperity across the Commonwealth. **To sustain our Commonwealth status**, Leigh Ellwood Brown (SI Advocacy Advisor 2026) requested SISEAP Programme team provide a Best Practice Project relating to Partnerships and/or Entrepreneurship and Skills Development for Women and Girls. We have sent through the **SI Joondalup - Remote Op-Shop Project**, for CHOGM26.

What else happens with our projects

The Projects on the 'Elimination of Violence' requested by the UN Women have been submitted to Berthe, (SI Director of Advocacy). Also Projects for the next campaign 'Day of the Girl Child' will be sent by the Programme team by 30 September and will be showcased across the Federations as was the case for the campaigns World Health and Environment. Our next request is for projects relating to 'Pay Gap and Social Justice'.

Some members from SI Brisbane Water attended the 50th Anniversary of the Central Coast Community Women's Health Centre who have supported generations of women through compassionate healthcare, advocacy and community. The keynote presentation by Jessica Hill was very appropriate with leading into the '16 Days of Activism'. Jessica is known for her Investigative

Journalist work and as an award-winning author focusing on social issues and gendered violence. Her book 'See What You Made Me Do' re Power, Control and Domestic Abuse and after a decade of extensive work in this area (400 gender based presentations) she advised she is driven to continue writing and advocating in the area of gendered violence, coercive control and patriarchy.

Thank you Jessica.

Preparations will commence in August for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW71) to be held in New York 8-19 March 2027. There is a process to follow each month in preparation for the event and up to 2 months post CSW71. More on this later especially for anyone who is thinking of attending.

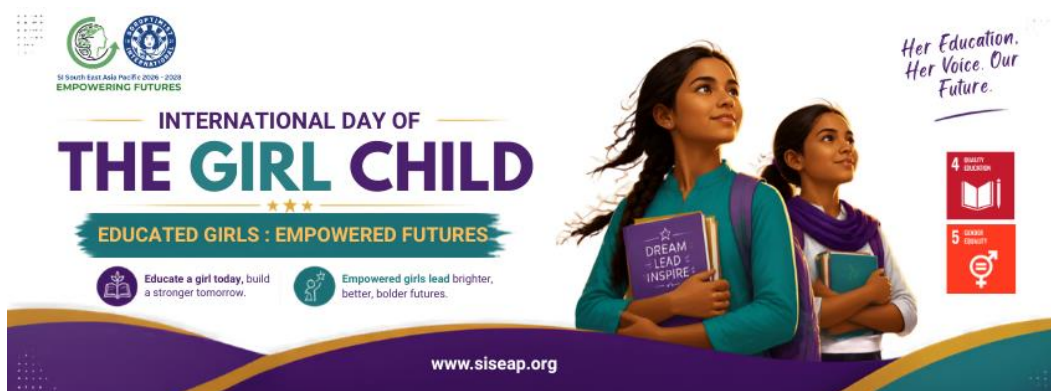
Read further for updates on:

- International Day of the Girl Child
- Her Health-Our Wealth Campaign
- Public Speaking Competition
- Brilliant Futures Fund Winner
- Around the Federation stories

Pauline Glover,

Programme Convenor 2026-2028

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD - 11 October

SI Theme: Educated Girls. Empowered Futures.

Education remains one of the most effective ways to break cycles of inequality. When girls have access to quality education, they gain the tools to shape their own lives and influence their communities.

On the International Day of the Girl, Soroptimist International will focus on its work supporting girls' education and empowerment, and on advocating for equal access to learning opportunities worldwide.

Key message: Educating girls empowers the next generation of women leaders.

The toolkit and resources can be found on the trello board which will be updated as resources become available. Clubs are encouraged to check regularly.

[IDGC TRELLO BOARD](#)



The banner features the 'HER HEALTH - OUR WEALTH' logo on the left, which includes a stylized figure holding a heart. To the right is the Soroptimist International logo, a circular emblem with a woman's face and the text 'SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL'. The central text reads 'HER HEALTH - OUR WEALTH' in large blue and green letters, followed by 'Women's Health Matters' in a script font. Below this is the title 'A Federation-wide Health Campaign'. A paragraph describes the campaign as SISEAP's new health initiative to raise awareness and improve health for women and girls. A green box highlights the slogan 'Local Action. National Impact.' The bottom section, titled 'OUR VISION', features a heart icon and states the goal of strengthening gender-equitable health and wellbeing through community-led action. The background of the banner shows a group of five women of diverse ages and ethnicities standing together, with a world map visible behind them.

HER HEALTH - OUR WEALTH
Women's Health Matters
A Federation-wide Health Campaign

"Her Health - Our Wealth" is SISEAP's new health campaign bringing Soroptimists together across our Federation to raise awareness, advocate for change, and improve the health and wellbeing of women and girls.

Local Action. National Impact.

OUR VISION To strengthen gender-equitable health and wellbeing for women and girls across SISEAP communities by improving **access, prevention, protection** and resilience through community-led, evidence-based action.

President Anthea is delighted to invite you to get on board with an important new Federation-wide initiative for the 2026–2028 Biennium: **“Her Health, Our Wealth”**, a campaign dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of women and girls across the SISEAP Federation.

This campaign reflects something deeply important to all of us: when women and girls are healthy, families are stronger, communities thrive, and futures are brighter. Across our region, the health needs of women and girls are diverse and at times urgent, but together we have the reach, commitment, and compassion to make a meaningful difference.

More information about this initiative and how to get involved will be shared via a campaign launch in September.

[DOWNLOAD FLYER](#)

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

FEDERATION PROJECTS



Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific Federation Public Speaking Competition 2026



Federation Public Speaking Competition 2026

Thank you to countries and regions that have advised that they will be participating. We look forward to listening to the speeches of our upcoming and inspiring leaders and change makers.

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** Federation wide presentation **11:30am AEST**.

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

**REGISTER TO ATTEND THE POWER OF MY VOICE COMPETITION
FINALS**

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION INFORMATION



Congratulations to SI Griffith - Awardees of Round 12

Congratulations to SI Griffith for being awarded funding for their project "Enable Empower - Turning Theory into Action". The project will support educational access by equipping young women with leadership skills, emotional intelligence, resilience, and confidence to advocate for change in their schools and community. The program will be inclusive, engaging students from culturally diverse, First Nations disadvantaged backgrounds, and students with disability or additional access needs. It will foster collaboration across Griffith's high schools. Through partnerships with Burn Bright, Griffith City Council, and participating schools, SI Griffith will deliver a high-quality, evidence-based learning experience that builds capacity, strengthens student voice, promotes inclusion, and supports safer, more equitable school communities while developing emerging young leaders.

Round 13 has now closed.

Announcements for Round 14 will open shortly.

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

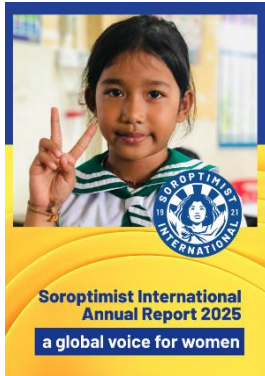
PROJECTS & APPEALS

Learn more about our projects and appeals, or make a donation, by clicking on the image below. SISEAP values and encourages you to support our projects and appeals, your donation makes a huge difference to the lives of women and girls.

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.



FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



Soroptimist International Annual Report 2025

President Renata is pleased to present the annual report for 2025. The report showcases a year of global initiatives across education, empowerment, health, and equal rights for women and girls. Members are encouraged to read it to discover how collective grassroots efforts are driving Soroptimists impact worldwide, review key financial and strategic milestones, and draw inspiration for upcoming local projects

[READ THE SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT](#)

The **AI for Good Global Summit 2026** took place on July 7-10 in Geneva. The summit is the UN platform focused on applying artificial intelligence to accelerate the UN Sustainable Development Goals. SI representatives attended the summit.

Blogs:

Is it Artificial or Real? The Gen-Alfa Perspective by Alice Paola Pomè - 2010 marked the birth of Generation Alpha, the first generation raised inside an AI ecosystem. While those with access to technology are needing to anxiously question what can be trusted as real, others remain on the wrong side of a widening digital divide, excluded from opportunities that should belong to everyone. Read more [HERE](#).

Technology as a Third Path: Opening Doors Through AI Literacy by Eliette Thurn - AI and tech, built thoughtfully, can dismantle old injustices instead of repeating them. Read more [HERE](#).

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

Clubs are strongly encouraged to report their projects, donations, and activities regularly and promptly upon completion, ensuring our global network's full impact is always visible and ready for high-level advocacy.

Programme

Database

Training

On Sunday **27 September at 12 noon AEST** Programme database training is open to all Soroptimists not just club programme reporters, training will equip you with the skills to effectively report project outcomes, ensuring your local initiatives gain the visibility they deserve. Properly documenting your impact not only showcases your achievements across the region, but also paves the way for successful submissions toward Best Practice Awards.

[REGISTER TO ATTEND THE TRAINING](#)

Congratulations to SI Waitara for their outstanding dedication to timely and thorough reporting! By submitting report details promptly following the completion of each action, SI Waitara provides vital groundwork that enables the Programme Team to present an accurate, real-time picture of our collective impact to the Federation board, regional leadership, and UN Representatives for upcoming international forums. I encourage all clubs to follow SI Waitara's inspiring example.



ICT Christine Johnstone



Programme Database Training - On Sunday 27 September at 12 noon AEST. Register to Attend

Public Speaking Competition Final - 11th October Federation wide presentation 11:30am AEST Register to Attend

[SISEAP EVENTS HERE](#)

AROUND THE **FEDERATION**

The Programme team wishes to advise that club or region newsletters will not be shared in eSPAN. In this section individual projects and activities are highlighted.



SI Shepparton Kindness Packed into a Backpack

SI Shepparton has an increasing number of homeless people and a large proportion of them are female and youth. The local community groups do not have enough resources to help everyone in need and are in desperate need from other organisations to assist with donations and goods. Many of the women leave abusive relationships and often leave with no belongings or money.

After consulting with local community hubs SI Shepparton decided to put together 60 backpacks filled with essential items to support women experiencing homelessness. The Health, Human Rights and Status of Women Committee sourced items, purchased 60 backpacks and filled them with winter essentials such as scarves, warm socks, beanies and gloves, toiletries and personal items, a mug, plate, cutlery, and small personal items, a torch, notebook, pens. Some of the goods are donated by local businesses and the remainder purchased from Soroptimist fundraising.

An excerpt from publicity printed in the Shepparton News “A group of Shepparton women are quietly supporting the lives of some of the region’s most vulnerable through a simple but powerful act of kindness — a backpack filled with essentials.

The Shepparton Soroptimists, a volunteer-based group, now with 32 members, have spent the past four years supporting women experiencing homelessness.

Thirteen of those members are part of the club's "grey warriors", meeting once a month and responsible for sourcing, packing and delivering these winter backpack donations.

This year, the group donated 60 backpacks to three local organisations, The Bridge Youth Service, The Salvation Army and Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre, which then distributed them directly to women in need. “



Soroptimist International Lautoka Club

The club undertook planting 1,000 Mangrove seedlings under Sustainable Development Goal Objective 6 – Environmental sustainability/water/sanitation at the Tavarau Village Coastal area, Lautoka, Fiji. This project was undertaken as a club initiative to restore coastal ecosystems, protect shorelines from erosion and promote environmental stewardship within the community. Mangroves play a vital role in supporting marine life, improving water quality and reducing the impact of storms and coastal flooding.

The activity involved careful site preparation, transportation of seedlings with the help of Forestry Department Officers and the planting of 1,000 healthy mangrove seedlings in the area. Members of the club together with volunteers worked together to ensure proper spacing and planting techniques giving the seedlings the best opportunity to survive and grow.

This project was made possible through the commitment and cooperation of volunteers and the club members. Club Secretary Kiran Lata said teamwork and dedication were key to achieving our planting target. She added that the club will continue to plant more

Mangroves in various coastal areas in Lautoka, Fiji.

In conclusion, planting 1,000 mangrove seedlings is a meaningful investment in the health of our coastal environment. While the benefits will develop over time, this project represents an important step toward building more resilient coastlines and supporting future generation.

SI Brisbane Water Supporting Women Living with Endometriosis

When Soroptimist International of Brisbane Water explored how our club could support SI Australia's health focus on endometriosis, we began by understanding the needs within our own community.

Our first step was to connect with the Central Coast Community Women's Health Centre, where we discovered exciting news. The Centre had recently been selected as one of the Australian Government's Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Centres, receiving ongoing funding to deliver a holistic model of care for women. Beyond managing pain, the Centre supports the many ways endometriosis can affect a woman's life—from education and employment to relationships and emotional wellbeing. Recognising the impact this service will have on local women, our club committed to supporting the Centre through a two-stage project.

The first stage focused on providing practical resources for women accessing the service. We funded patient education materials and equipment for the Centre's "Yoga for Endo" program by hosting a community High Tea attended by around 100 guests. Club members worked together to prepare delicious sweet and savoury treats, source vintage cups and saucers, decorate the venue and ensure the event ran smoothly from beginning to end.



Guests were inspired by presentations from the Centre's CEO, an endometriosis researcher, and two women who courageously shared their lived experiences. One spoke about the disruption to her education caused by chronic pain, while the other highlighted the importance of improving access to diagnosis and treatment through her advocacy work. Combined with a successful raffle, the event raised more than \$5,000.

Building on this success, SI Brisbane Water secured a \$10,000 grant to establish ongoing financial assistance for women experiencing financial hardship. Working in partnership with the Central Coast Community Women's Health Centre, the fund will help eligible

women meet costs associated with their treatment, including specialist ultrasounds and travel to medical appointments. Referrals will be made by the Centre, with applications assessed by the club's committee.

This project reflects Soroptimist International's commitment to improving the lives of women and girls through practical, community-based action. By partnering with local health services, SI Brisbane Water is helping to ensure that women living with endometriosis receive not only compassionate care but also the support they need to access it.

SI Penang Environment Sustainability Awareness Talk

As part of SI Penang's commitment to promoting environmental sustainability the club set out to educate young people about environmental sustainable behaviours aiming to inspire them to be actively involved in the protection of oceans and the natural environment for their future.

After consulting with multiple councillor's offices and numerous follow-up phone calls the club approached Sri Mutiara Secondary Girls School, Penang and obtained permission from the Education Department to coordinate, liaise with teachers at the school to develop an environment sustainability awareness talk to 54 secondary year school girls.

The session focused on the importance of beach cleaning and responsible waste arrangement, highlighting the devastating effects of litter and plastic pollution on oceans and marine life. Club members developed the programme content, including presentation materials, lesson syllabus, and interactive games.

From the drawings done by some students after the talk, the students understood their role as environment/ocean ambassadors, concept of "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle", and no litter and improper disposal in the oceans.



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



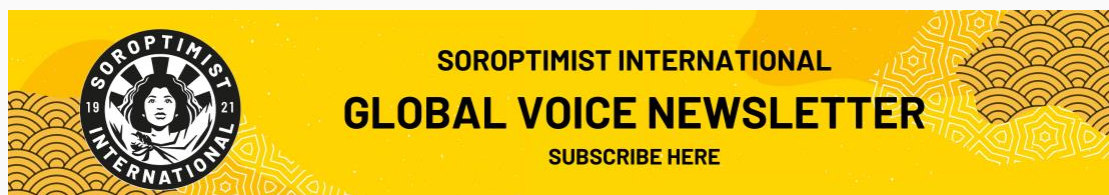
Best
Practice
Awards



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!

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and

printing

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SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Help us empower women and girls across the South East Asia Pacific region. Your contribution drives real, lasting change.

 [Donate to SISEAP](#)

Have a story or update to share?

Email your submissions for the next eSPAN edition to programmecommunications.cesarina@siseap.org.

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