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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the September 2026 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Welcome everyone to our September edition.

More information now on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW71) to be held in March 2027 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Details are provided below including application forms for self funded delegates and for a Scholarship Delegate who would like to attend. Our attendance at CSW is made possible due to SISEAP's special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Let's hope we can get a strong, motivated team together and be heard.

See the registration below for the upcoming **Federation wide Programme Database Training** on 27 September at 12 noon AEST. Don't miss this opportunity.

Day of the Girl Child is our next Campaign on 11 October, and the toolkit is available on the website for members to utilise. The theme for 2026 is Educated Girls: Educated Futures. I encourage all clubs to do something interesting to celebrate this day. "It's a day when we can unite, raise our voices, say out loud and clear: Girls are powerful, girls are resilient and girls are our future". HOWEVER, progress has been made for girls who are better educated but our SI Position Papers report some 15 million girls are still not enrolled in primary school and girls entering secondary school remains low.

Also on 11 October at 11.30 AEDT the Federation wide "Power of my Voice" Public Speaking Competition finals presentation takes place. See registration details below.

President Anthea sends a message to all members.

Join us during the afternoon Saturday 24 October on a Women's Health Forum, presented as SISEAP's Her Health - Our Wealth campaign. Chaired by Joanne Yeoh (IPP). The forum will explore why women's health matters, share a snapshot of women's health across the compelling lived-experience story and include an expert panel on Access, Awareness and Action. The Program will also

also showcase strong Soroptimist Health Projects and introduce the campaign toolkit, with a clear call to action.

Pauline Glover,

Programme Convenor 2026-2028

programme.pauline@siseap.org



CSW71 (2027)

The seventy-first session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from [8 to 19 March 2027](#).

- Priority theme: Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Review theme: Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes
- Critical area of concern or cross-cutting issue: Poverty and the economic empowerment of women

Preparation has started for our participation in this important annual event. In New York, Soroptimists are not bystanders. Our in-person delegation will ensure our advocacy message is loud and clear, and will transform our advocacy from a message into a movement. There will also be opportunities for members to interact virtually.

The energy from a group of SISEAP Soroptimists will ensure that gender equality issues from Asia Pacific will be front and centre, we will ensure that the Soroptimist voice is heard.

Applications are now open for a Scholarship delegate and self funded attendees.

Scholarship applications close 31 October. All delegates will be announced 15 November.

[INFORMATION SHEET](#)

[APPLICATION FORM](#)



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](#)

Nepal Disaster



The recent catastrophic flooding and landslides along the Nepal-China border have caused immense devastation across entire communities. Essential infrastructure, roads, and homes have been swept away, leaving thousands of vulnerable families in desperate need of emergency shelter, clean water, food, and basic medical care.

As Soroptimists, we are dedicated to empowering communities and supporting women and girls through crisis. Our thoughts are with all those affected by this disaster.

For members wishing to contribute to the ongoing relief and recovery efforts, SISEAP suggests directing donations to the **Emergency Action Alliance (EAA)**.

The Emergency Action Alliance brings together 15 leading Australian humanitarian charities in times of major international crisis to ensure aid is delivered quickly, efficiently, and where it is needed most. Among its 15 member organizations is **ActionAid**, a trusted global partner that SISEAP has proudly collaborated with on past project initiatives. ActionAid's expertise in women-led emergency response ensures that gender-sensitive support and community safety remain prioritized during critical disaster response operations.

How You Can Help:

- **Online:** Donate directly to the response effort via the Emergency Action Alliance website at emergencyaction.org.au.
- **Phone:** Make a contribution over the phone by calling **1300 939 000**.

Your generosity will directly support emergency teams on the ground as they deliver critical shelter, clean water, and relief to families beginning the long road to recovery.

Kathmandu Club Nepal Relief Action

This is a recent story from Kathmandu members on their relief effort.

Our club members and their families internally made generous contributions for the relief works. We decided to carry out two relief works at the heavily affected areas of Nuwakot and Rasuwa districts.

The first relief work was carried out with Rotary Club of Kathmandu for the affected people in Dhunge, Rasuwa. We prepared female dignity kits for 100 affected households and handed them over to representatives of the Rotary club. They distributed the relief materials along with our kits to the affected people on 4 Sep 2026.

The second relief work was done in coordination with the local contact person of the affected area. We targeted 70 affected households of Tupche, Dole, Betrawsti and Akkre of Nuwakot districts. The contact persons had collected the relief materials including gas cylinders in which we made the additional support of 70 two-burner gas stoves for 70 affected households. On 5 Sep 2026, two Soroptimist members Prabha Panta (President Elect) and Uma Ghimire also reached the affected site for the distribution with the local contact person.

We also kindly inform all the sisters around the world to contact officially with email IDs, club email address: info@ [soroptimistktm.org.np](mailto:info@soroptimistktm.org.np), President [Kabita Rijal Thapaliya](mailto:thapaliya.kabita@gmail.com) 's email: thapaliya.kabita@gmail.com and Program Action Officer Mousami Guragain's mousaminepal77@gmail.com.



FEDERATION PROJECTS



Federation Public Speaking Competition 2026

"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.

Join for the finals which coincides with the International Day of the Girl Child on Sunday, **11 October Federation wide presentation 11:30am AEDT.**

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

Brilliant Futures Fund

Round 13 deliberations are now underway.

Round 14 now open. Applications close 31st October 2026



BFF APPLICATION

EmpowerHER Futures: Bridging Digital Literacy & Entrepreneurship for Refugee Women

Marketing the Dream

Immediate Past President Joanne Yeoh, recently visited the SI Iskandar Puteri club who were the winners of Round 8. Joanne accompanied by past Programme zone coordinator Nooraini Dato Mohd Yasin visited the EmpowerHer training to see first hand how this empowerment project is progressing.

IPP Joanne reports: "During my recent visit to the **EmpowerHER Futures: Bridging Digital Literacy & Entrepreneurship for Refugee Women and Girls** project, I had the opportunity to witness first-hand the positive impact of the initiative implemented by **Soroptimist International Iskandar Puteri (SIIP)** in partnership with **Pertubuhan Kebajikan Cahaya Surya Bakti (CSB)**."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Empower Her Futures

Women are nearing completion of a business empowerment course

to learn how to financially fund and market the products they have produced.



It is through members and clubs generous donations that these 20 women have a future. Ensure that more women and girls have opportunities and pathways to a better future by continuing your support to the Brilliant Futures Fund. Donate Now!



Her Health - Our Wealth

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific (SISEAP) President Anthea Penny has announced her Presidential campaign, Her Health – Our Wealth.

The campaign brings Soroptimists across South East Asia and the Pacific together around a shared commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of women and girls. Through awareness, prevention, support, advocacy and community-led action, the campaign aims to address some of the significant and uneven health challenges experienced by women and girls throughout the SISEAP region.

With the message “**Women’s Health Matters,**” **Her Health** – Our Wealth recognises that better health outcomes for women contribute to stronger families, stronger communities and a stronger future.

Join the campaign launch on Saturday, 24 October at 2pm AEDT, or read all the information on the SISEAP website.

[HER HEALTH OUR WEALTH FORUM - REGISTER TO ATTEND](#)

[FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION](#)

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



Have you taken the time to read the latest blogs by Soroptimist International and our dedicated United Nations Representatives. These blogs can be read on the [SI website](#)

SI Convention 2027

Soroptimist International announces that registration for the SI Convention 2027 is now open

Visit the dedicated SI Convention website for more information about the upcoming event to be held in Prague, **28 September - 1 October 2027**



[SI CONVENTION WEBSITE](#)

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

NOTE: The **Programme Database** provides the recording of the grass-roots work undertaken by SISEAP clubs, capturing Projects, Advocacy, Scholarships, Donations and Activities. This information can be searched, analysed and

aggregated to demonstrate the breadth and nature of the Federation's collective work and its impact.

It is nearing the end of the year and clubs will have many projects and activities to report. Please do not leave this until the end of the year to report. This action places too much stress on our dedicated programme team members. Report as soon as you have finished your actions.

Programme Database Training

On Sunday **27 September at 12 noon AEST** Programme database training is open to all Soroptimists not just club programme reporters. The 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](#)



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

Doing It Differently - Soroptimist Club Forum - Sunday 4 October 10am AEDT Join
via this link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84289454711> Meeting Passcode 046298

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

Her Health: Our Wealth, With Women's Health Matters. Saturday 24 October 2pm
AEDT. Register to attend this launch of the campaign.

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 Port Moresby - Celebrating Literacy Day

This morning, the Soroptimist International Club of Port Moresby (SIPOM) celebrated International Literacy Day by giving back to our local schools and supporting the power of reading and education.

We were delighted to deliver a massive donation of books to two schools in our community:

- 64 cartons of books to Iobuna Kouba Primary School
- 64 cartons of books to Laloki Secondary School

That's a total of 128 cartons of books that will provide hundreds of students with new learning resources, stories, knowledge and opportunities to explore the world through reading.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make this donation possible. A special thank you to the Rotary Club of Port Moresby, from whom these books were sourced, for helping us bring this initiative to life.

We believe that access to books is access to opportunity. By investing in literacy and education, we are helping empower young people to learn, dream and build a brighter future for themselves and for Papua New Guinea. Together, we can continue to make a difference, one book, one student and one community at a time.



SI Beenleigh - Every Dollar makes a Difference - Target 10

When you see Sorooptimist International Beenleigh selling raffle tickets at [Club Beenleigh](#), you're doing much more than buying a chance to win, you're helping us support local students.

Twice a year, our members come together to provide school supplies to more than 100 local students, as well as additional teacher packs and classroom resource packs.

- Pencils
- Scissors
- School supplies
- Student packs
- Teacher and resource packs, and so much more...

These are practical things that can make a very real difference to a child starting or continuing their education.

Every raffle ticket purchased and every direct donation helps us do more. This is just one of the many ways we work together to make a real difference in our local

community.

****Educate • Empower • Enable****



FUSING DAY
with
GOULBURN SOROPTIMIST
TURN WASTE INTO WARMTH 
FOR OUR COMMUNITY

 **SATURDAY**
10 October  **2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**  **GOULBURN COMMUNITY CENTRE**
155 Auburn St,
Goulburn NSW 2580

 *Everyone is welcome!* 

Drop off chip packets, learn how to make a chip packet blanket and be part of something that makes a difference.

BRING ALONG
✓ Chip packets (clean and dry)
✓ An iron (if you have one)
✓ Your friends and family!

OR JUST BRING YOURSELF!
Participate or watch – everyone is welcome.

FREE EVENT

 Your used foil-lined snack packets can be transformed into weather-resistant blankets for people in need in our community. 

 *Soroptimist International of Goulburn*
Working to improve the lives of women and girls through education, empowerment and community action.

 Find us on Facebook:
SI Goulburn



SI Goulburn - Turning Chip packets into blankets

This project by SI Goulburn fulfils two of SISEAP's 8 objectives

Soroptimist International (SI) Goulburn's "Chip Packets to Blankets" initiative stands at the intersection of environmental upcycling and humanitarian aid, diverting single-use foil wrappers from landfills to create vital gear for people experiencing homelessness.

The foil lining in snack packaging acts as an effective thermal barrier that reflects body heat while repelling moisture, providing rough sleepers with lightweight, waterproof, and

windproof protection against harsh weather. By transforming non-recyclable soft plastic waste into practical warmth for vulnerable community members, this dual-impact project tackles plastic pollution while delivering essential aid. Linking the making of the blankets with the community enables SI Goulburn members to participate in this hands-on effort, showcase SI Goulburn's wider community involvement, and support member retention and extension.

SI Canberra - Margaret-Findlater Smith receives an award celebrating women.

Each year the National Council of Women invites communities to nominate women in their organisations eligible for a Jean Arnot Recognition Award. For over 30 years, NCW have come together to recognise women aged ninety and over in our communities for achieving that extra length of time in their volunteer roles.



This year Margaret Findlater-Smith was the recipient of an Award. Margaret is a member of SI Canberra. The 2026 Jean Arnot Awards were presented at a beautiful luncheon at NSW Parliament House, celebrating women making a difference across NSW. Over the years Margaret has held many positions in SI, including President of SI Australia. Thank you, Margaret, for your decades of dedication in supporting and advocating for vulnerable women.

**SI Brisbane Water - Members
acknowledge Orange the World**

**An initiative that clubs can take up for
the 16 Days of Activism and beyond.**

Orange the World is now part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based violence and runs from 25 November to 10 December every year. Orange is the chosen colour as a global symbol of hope and a future free from violence.



Despite all the publicity on Gender-Based violence, the numbers of women experiencing this violence are rising. In 2024–25, half or 9,500 of the hospitalisations that involved treatment for assault were due to Gender-Based violence with 76% being women. Additionally, 67% of all female victims of domestic homicide were killed by an intimate partner – 30 women so far this year.

By wearing orange, we acknowledge Orange the World at a different location on the Central Coast on the 25th of every month. We focus on the increasing number of victim-survivors, and other women who did not survive, by engaging with local communities and preparing flyers to hand out. We also post our location on Facebook encouraging other women to join us. These monthly meetings have also been an opportunity for a catch up for members and recently we were able to join with two of our young members who each have had a baby in the last few months. So, lots of baby cuddles were had by everyone.



**SI Jakarta - Commits to 'Pusaka 10' a
community food kitchen and support
program for disadvantaged elderly
people**

In 2025, SI Jakarta committed
AU\$100/month to Pusaka 10, to help

supplement its food program, allowing the elderly beneficiaries to continue to receive meals regularly from Monday to Friday. In mid-2026, SIJ doubled this amount to AU\$200/month, as many long-term donors to the program were no longer committing regular funding.

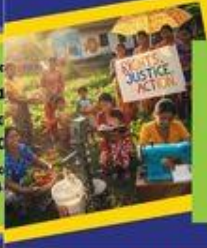
In addition, SIJ members monitor Pusaka 10 activities every quarter through visits, inspection of food being distributed to the elderly, discussions with the centre director and staff regarding any developments and/or challenges and mingling with the elderly. In addition to financial support, SIJ members have also personally provided items required by many of the elderly such as adult diapers, and nutritional supplements. SIJ has also endeavoured to provide the Pusaka 10 kitchen staff with guidance on nutritious food suitable for the elderly. Since being involved in this project, changes that SIJ was hoping to witness was a continuation of this food program for the elderly through Pusaka 10, which in 2025, was facing funding difficulties.

Through its support of Pusaka 10, SIJ has witnessed the food program continuing very effectively in the community. SIJ funding has been very beneficial in helping the centre to keep providing nutritious meals 5x/week to over 50 elderly beneficiaries who make every effort to come to the centre every weekday, rain, hail or shine, grateful to receive their daily food rations. Many of the elderly beneficiaries have personally thanked SIJ for its ongoing support.

PROGRAMME ASSETS

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SOUTH EAST ASIA PACIFIC ANNUAL REPORT

Programme Annual Reports

Total Impact 2025	Project Impact 2025	Donations Impact 2025	Scholarship Impact 2025
 Total Expense \$996,310 Women & Girls 88,580 Service Hours 74,740	 Total Expense \$841,400 Women & Girls 88,400 Service Hours 49,900	 Total Donations \$991,000 Financial Donations \$884,000 Goods in Kind \$106,000	 Total Scholarships \$991,000 Financial Donations \$884,000 Goods in Kind \$106,000
Changing Lives Across Our Community	Changing Lives Across Our Community	Changing Lives Across Our Community	Changing Lives Across Our Community

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 \$996,000 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 18,000 women and girls from VIOLENCE** through 1555 advocacy hours and expending AUD\$70,458
- 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
- Expended AUD\$6750** on scholarships and AUD\$211,000 in donations to improve the HEALTH of help women and girls
- Tackled CONFLICT RESOLUTION** through 675 service hours assisting 1650 women and girls
- Contributed AUD\$15,000** to ENVIRONMENTAL projects which assisted 2400 women and girls

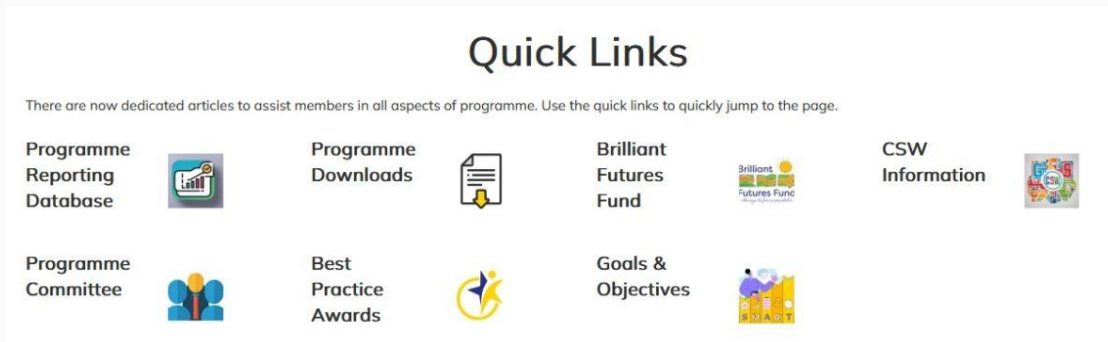
Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific

DID YOU KNOW?

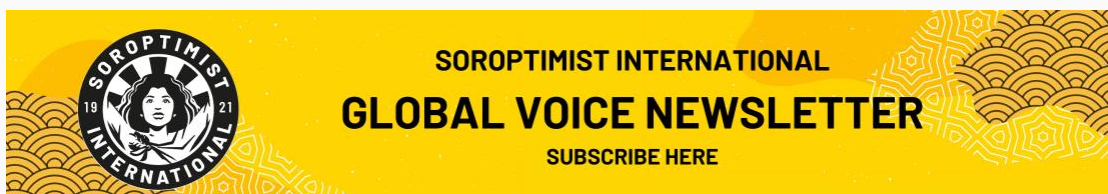
Programme Members Page

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

Click the image below to access the page



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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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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