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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



SOROPTIMISTS  
EMPOWER CHANGE

# SISEAP BULLETIN

March 2026

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



**President  
Joanne Yeoh** 2024-2026



### **SISEAP Legacy Fund – Building a Future That Will Outlast Us**

We are proud to announce the establishment of the SISEAP Legacy Fund, a meaningful milestone in our Federation’s journey of service. This Fund is more than a financial resource — it is a promise. A promise that the work we do today will continue to uplift women and girls for generations to come.

The Legacy Fund strengthens our future by providing stability, continuity, and resilience. It ensures that long after each of us has served our term, the Federation remains empowered to act boldly and sustainably.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

## CLUB SECRETARY NEWS



[2026 Conference of Clubs](#)

**Plant a Mangrove Sapling” Campaign Gains Momentum — Join Us in Growing Impact!**

Our **Plant a Mangrove** initiative is gaining wonderful traction, with **27 mangrove saplings already paid for or pledged**. This growing support reflects our shared commitment to environmental stewardship as we move toward the **Conference of Clubs (COC)** and strengthen our collective ESG efforts across the Federation.

Mangroves are powerful symbols of resilience — protecting coastlines, restoring ecosystems, and supporting biodiversity. By planting one, you are not only contributing to a greener future but also aligning SISEAP with global sustainability actions.

As we build momentum leading up to the COC, we warmly encourage more members, clubs, and supporters to subscribe to this initiative. Every sapling planted is a step toward climate action, community empowerment, and environmental sustainability.

Let's continue this positive wave. Register Now

[PLANT A MANGROVE SAPLING](#)

[CONFERENCE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION](#)



[Call for Directors](#)

Here's your chance to make a difference and further your professional experience. Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific (SISEAP) is seeking applications from interested and qualified Soroptimists for vacancies for Directors.

To ensure we have a good breadth of skills across the Directors, we have skill deficits in the areas of Marketing, Grant Writing, Fundraising and publicity.

The successful applicants will take office at the end of the AGM on **May 1, 2026** and in the first instance, serve for three years, renewable to a maximum of nine years.

SISEAP has nine Directors and one third must retire each year. According to the

Corporations Act, at each annual general meeting, any Director appointed by the Directors to fill a casual vacancy or as an additional Director must retire, and at least one-third of the remaining Directors must retire. Under our Constitution, the Immediate Past President automatically retires after one year in that position and is replaced by the new President Elect. At the end of her biennium, the President remains for one year as Immediate Past President and a Director.

It is a legal requirement you have a Director Identification Number before you can be appointed, and we will only consider applicants that have already obtained their Director Identification Number. Refer to the Australian Business Registry website for further information here <https://www.abrs.gov.au/director-identification-number>

For further information please contact:

**Company Secretary Theresa Lyford** [companysecretary@siseap.org](mailto:companysecretary@siseap.org)

Applications close: **Friday 20 March 2026 5:00 pm AEDT**

## [APPLICATION FORM](#)

The **Role of Directors** is in the **Company ByLaws v12 - Section 11. Governance:**

Clause 11.1 Role of Directors and

Clause 11.2 Responsibilities of Directors, and

Clause 11.3 Skill required by Directors and

Clause 11.4 Term of Office

## [ROLE OF DIRECTORS](#)



[Attendance at Company and Federation Meetings](#)

Dear

Members,

The Board wishes to update you on the upcoming Company and Federation Meetings.

These meetings are an important part of our governance responsibilities and ensure that **Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific** continues to operate with transparency, accountability, and alignment with our shared mission.

We are pleased to inform you that **all SISEAP members attending the Company and Federation Meetings will not be charged any meeting fees.**

Members who have already registered and paid the **A\$75** fee will receive a **full refund**. Tea, coffee, and water will be served during the meetings for all attendees, and the meeting room can comfortably accommodate **up to 100 members**. Lunch will be at your own cost @ Cafe Boleh on the ground floor of the conference hotel, The Pacific Sutera, Sutera Harbour.

Full meeting details, including agendas and key documents, will be circulated shortly. We encourage all members to review the materials and participate actively, as your engagement strengthens our Federation.



[Notice of SISEAP 15th Annual General Meeting & General Meeting](#)

The 15th **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific will be held on Friday 1 May 2026 at 9:00am (Malaysian time), followed by a **General Meeting of the Company**.

Date: **Friday 1 May 2026**  
Time: **9:00am**  
Place: **Function Rooms 1-3, Level 1, The Pacific Sutera Hotel, Sutera Harbour, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia**

#### **Quorum**

Required quorum for a general meeting to be held, at least thirty [30] members (a quorum) must be present (by representative or by proxy) for the whole meeting. When determining

whether a quorum is present, a person may only be counted once (even if that person is a representative or proxy of more than one member). *[Company Constitution 24.1]*

### **Club Representatives Registration Form for AGM & General Meeting**

An authorised representative must attend from **each financial member (clubs)** within the Federation. A proxy representative must be an individual Soroptimist from another member club.

Clubs will need to nominate a Club Representative for the AGM and Company General Meeting and you will need to show that the Club has voted on their Representative or Proxy Representative at a club business meeting and this will need to be recorded in your Club Minutes.

### **Registrations close on 26 April 2026 at 5pm AEST (Sydney time)**

This link will take you to the Registration Form for the Club Representative or Proxy Representative and will be used for both the AGM and the Company General Meeting.

**[REGISTRATION - CLUB REPRESENTATIVE OR PROXY](#)**

**Please note:** Your club president, secretary or treasurer are required to use the link to register your club representative. This link will need to be utilized from your club email account, i.e. you will need to be logged into your club email account from [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) If you have your club email account forwarded to a personal email account such as outlook etc, the link will not work. The reason for this is that we need to register that the nomination was made from the club email account and that the president, secretary or treasurer have to acknowledge that they were authorised to complete this form on behalf of their club.

### **Silent**

### **Observers**

This link will take you to the Registration Form for Silent Observers and will be used for both the AGM and the Company General Meeting.

**[REGISTRATION - SILENT OBSERVERS](#)**

### **Question to the Auditor and/or Directors**

Clubs are invited to submit questions to the Directors and/or the Auditor. Please submit your questions from your club email address by **Sunday 26 April 2026 5:00pm AEST** to enable a comprehensive answer to be given.

### **QUESTIONS FORM**

### **Business Papers**

Member (clubs) will be informed via their club official email address when business papers will be available for download from the website. Notifications will commence to be circulated to club's official email addresses on or before the **10 April 2026**. You are also able to log in and check for updates for the AGM and Company Meeting via the Members area of our SISEAP Website.

We are looking forward to your attendance at the AGM and General Meeting.

*Warm Regards,*  
*Theresa Lyford*  
*Company Secretary*



[Notice of Federation  
General Meeting](#)

The **Federation General Meeting** of Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific will be held on:

Date: **Friday 1 May 2026**  
Time: **1.00pm**  
Place: **Function Rooms 1-3, Level 1, The Pacific Sutera Hotel,  
Sutera Harbour, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia**

**Quorum**

The required quorum for a General Meeting to be held is at least thirty [30] members who must be present (by representative or by proxy) for the whole meeting.

### **Club Representatives for Federation General Meeting**

An authorised representative or a proxy representative from **each financial member (club)** within the Federation must attend this meeting. A representative or proxy may only represent one member club. A proxy representative must be an individual Soroptimist from another member club.

Clubs will need to nominate a Club Representative for the Federation General Meeting. You will need to show that the Club has voted on their Representative or Proxy Representative at a club business meeting and this will need to be recorded in your Club Minutes.

**Please note:** Your club president, secretary or treasurer are required to use the link to register your club representative. This link will need to be utilized from your club email account, i.e. you will need to be logged into your club email account from [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) If you have your club email account forwarded to a personal email account such as outlook etc, the link will not work.

**Registrations close on Monday 20 April 2026 at 12 Midnight AEST (Sydney time)**

This link will take you to the Registration Form for the Club Representative or Proxy Representative and will be used for the General Meeting.

**[REGISTRATION - REPRESENTATIVES & PROXY](#)**

### **Silent Observers Registration Form**

This link will take you to the Registration Form for Silent Observers and will be used for the Federation General Meeting.

**[REGISTRATION - SILENT OBSERVERS](#)**

### **Questions to the Federation Team**

Clubs are invited to submit questions to the Federation Team. Please submit your questions from your club email address by **Wednesday 1 April 2026 5pm AEST** to enable a comprehensive answer to be given.

## QUESTIONS FORM

### **SISEAP Honours & Remembrance**

Soroptimists are invited to submit notices for Soroptimists who have received Honours throughout 2025, and to remember Soroptimists now passed. **Submissions close 15 April 2026 midnight AEST.**

## HONOURS & REMEMBRANCE FORM

We are looking forward to your attendance at the Federation General Meeting.

### [Nominations for 2026-2028 Position Holders](#)

Our By-laws state the following -  
15.16 Positions unfilled by 1 February in each even-numbered year  
15.16.1 If there are positions for which no nominations have been received, nominations shall be called for at the beginning of the next Federation meeting. If more than one nomination per position is received, and the nominees meet the eligibility criteria, voting will be required.



As a number of Federation positions were not filled on 1 February, nominations are still being invited for the following Federation positions with the closing date now being **1pm MYT / 3pm AEST on Friday 1 May 2026.**

We encourage you to consider standing for these positions for the 2026-2028 Biennium which will take office on **1 June 2026**. It is recommended that nominations be sent prior to the Federation Meeting, as long as the correct form and requirements are all received.

Nominations have already been received for the positions highlighted below. Roles and

responsibilities are currently being reviewed and will take effect for the next biennium, but the current roles and responsibilities are valid for these nominations.

#### **LIST OF FEDERATION POSITIONS TO BE FILLED AT FEDERATION MEETING**

- Programme Convenor
- Zone Programme Coordinator (4 positions)
- Governance Convenor
- Communication Convenor
- Membership Convenor
- Assistant Membership Convenor (Asia)
- Assistant Membership Convenor (NZ & Pacific) – **Jane Stent**
- Assistant Membership Convenor (Australia)
- Programme Database Support
- Friendship Link Coordinator - **Eileen Middleton**

The completed nomination form, CV and photo must be received by the Federation Secretary/Returning Officer at [federationsecretary@siseap.org](mailto:federationsecretary@siseap.org) with a copy to HQ [hq@siseap.org](mailto:hq@siseap.org) by **1pm MYT / 3pm AEST on Friday 1 May 2026**.

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#### [SI President Elect Nomination](#)



SISEAP has supported and submitted **Theresa Lyford** 's nomination for the position of Soroptimist International President Elect.

We wish her every success in this process.

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## [SISEAP Federation Membership Convenor](#)

We are pleased to announce that **Kerry Beer** has been appointed as the new Federation Membership Convenor, effective immediately.

She takes over from **Kristeen Johnston**, who has stepped down from the role due to family commitments.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Kristeen for her dedication and service, and we offer our full support to Kerry as she assumes this important position.



## [Introducing the SISEAP Legacy Fund](#)

President Joanne Yeoh is pleased to announce the establishment of the SISEAP Legacy Fund — a permanent, responsibly managed fund created to secure the long-term future of our work across South East Asia and the Pacific.

SISEAP is committed to advancing the status and well-being of women and girls through education, empowerment, and advocacy. Currently, SISEAP relies on member dues to fund its activities. However, administrative and operational costs remain a continual challenge especially with membership challenges we face. Establishing a dedicated fund sourced from donations and bequests will provide a stable, long-term revenue stream to offset these costs.

The Legacy Fund preserves capital and uses investment earnings to support strategic initiatives that empower women and girls for generations to come.

Members and clubs are warmly invited to consider contributing, either through a donation today or by including SISEAP in their Will.

A legacy gift is not about size — it is about ensuring that our mission continues well into the future.

For more information or to make a confidential enquiry, please visit the SISEAP website or contact SISEAP Director, Deborah Wood, [director.deborah@siseap.org](mailto:director.deborah@siseap.org) who is spearheading the SISEAP Legacy Fund.

Together, we are building a future that lasts.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

[DONATE HERE](#)

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### [Federation Fees 2026](#)

A reminder that Federation Capitation fees were due on 28 February. Clubs that have not yet made their payment are now overdue, please submit your Annual Return forms and payment to HQ as soon as possible.

**PAST DUE**

To all Clubs who have submitted their Annual Returns, thank you for your patience in advance whilst we continue to process them over the coming weeks. Once processed, you will receive an invoice receipt along with any new membership numbers if applicable.

**ACTION REQUIRED**

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### [2026 Club Position Holders Changeover](#)

Each year after the Club AGM, the newly elected Club Officers & Position Holders need to be added into our database. It is very important that each Club completes this task **by 31 March 2026**. See

Tipsheet (link below) on how to add club position holders to the SISEAP database.

## HOW TO TIPSHEETS



A yellow banner for the SISEAP SHOP. On the left, there is a circular image showing a group of people and a book titled "Join your local SOROPTIMIST CLUB" by Pauline Mills. The text "SISEAP SHOP" is prominently displayed in the center in large white letters. Below it, a grey button reads "CATALOGUE & ORDER FORMS HERE". On the right, there is a circular logo featuring a woman's face.



An orange banner for new member registrations. On the left, there is a circular image showing four women standing together. The text "NEW MEMBER REGISTRATIONS" is at the top in white. Below it, the main text reads "Link for Clubs to Register NEW MEMBERS" in large white letters. On the right, there is a circular logo featuring a woman's face.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### [Effective Membership Communication within SISEAP](#)

Effective communication plays a vital role in sustaining a strong and connected Soroptimist community. In today's digital environment, members increasingly rely on online platforms and mobile applications to stay informed, collaborate, and maintain relationships across our thirteen countries and regions.

Across SISEAP, communication patterns are evolving. Anecdotally, we observe that email responses are often limited, attendance at webinars varies, and readership of the SISEAP Bulletin may not be as widespread as we would hope. This suggests not a lack of interest, but a possible mismatch between how we communicate and how members prefer to receive information.

[READ MORE](#)



[SI Randwick & Eastern Suburbs Promotional Video](#)

SI Randwick & Eastern Suburbs has created this inspiring promotional video — we encourage you to share it to help showcase Soroptimist International, highlight your club, and spread the word about the work we do in empowering women and girls.

[VIEW MEMBERSHIP PROMO VIDEO HERE](#)

[Friendship Links](#)

Congratulations to the following clubs who have established friendship links in the last month:



**SI Moreton North**, Australia and **SI Suva**, Fiji - both from within our Federation  
and

**SI Gold Coast**, Australia and **SI Lviv**, Ukraine, SI Europe.

We wish these clubs every success in their partnerships across borders. Thanks to all clubs who are successfully using the online link on the Federation website to either request new friendship links or database changes. It has been great to receive so many in recent months, with several further friendship links in the making.

Please do also send in any reports or updates on shared projects or events with your linked club; I hope to share some of these in the next bulletin prior to the end of the biennium in May. You are able to contact me directly via the email below.

**In  
Eileen**

[friendship.eileen@siseap.org](mailto:friendship.eileen@siseap.org)

**friendship,  
Middleton**

## FRIENDSHIP LINKS



### You Make A Difference

Discover how our Clubs are transforming the lives of women and girls — thanks to members like you.

## CLUB PROJECTS CHANGING LIVES

## PROGRAMME NEWS

Projects & Appeals - Donate Now





**SOROPTIMIST  
INTERNATIONAL  
FOUNDATION**

## FROM SISEAP ICT



### [Website Document Search Form](#)

We are pleased to announce the introduction of a search form for the Members Downloads area of the SISEAP website. Instead of manually browsing through folders, you can now use the **dedicated search form** at the bottom of the downloads page. Simply type in a keyword, and the system will instantly generate a **hit list of relevant documents**, making it easier than ever to access resources, forms, and reports.

We're committed to making your digital experience as seamless as possible. Log in today and try the new search facility. Download the Search tip sheet to get you started.

[TIP SHEET - DOCUMENT SEARCH FORM](#)



SISEAP WEBSITE - MEMBER AREAS  
**Webinar Tutorial**  
VIEW HERE



Watch the [tutorial](#) to learn what information is available in the member areas of our website, creating a club page, posting events, viewing the membership Directory and other resources.

## COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS

[SI Convention 2027](#)

Soroptimist  
International  
Convention 2027  
Prague



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
**GLOBAL VOICE NEWSLETTER**  
SUBSCRIBE HERE

Contact Us

HEADQUARTERS

LEADERSHIP TEAM



The *eBulletin* includes stories and documents you can also find on the [SISEAP website](#).

Copy for the next edition of the eBulletin is required by **20 March 2026**.

Please click to send to [hq@siseap.org](mailto:hq@siseap.org). Thank you.

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This email was sent to all Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific Clubs

**Our mailing address is:**

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific

PO Box 1400

STRAWBERRY HILLS, NSW 2012

Australia

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