

Welcome to the May edition of Soroptimist Programme Action News (SPAN).

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Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



The Conference of Clubs 2018 has finished. Its exuberance, enthusiasm and renewal of friendships was well reflected in images on social media and the challenges issued by speakers both from our Federation and our guests have now to take root. President Anusha's banner message: Embrace, Create and Prosper together with her logo ask us to reach out, be innovative and communicative and bring growth to our Federation. It is our responsibility as individuals and as clubs to respond to this message and work together in harmony for our Federation.

[Download Banner Artwork Here](#)



EMBRACE, CREATE & PROSPER

Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific
2018 - 2020



Best Practice Awards 2017-18

These awards recognise excellent projects which not only reflect our programme objectives but also are well planned, carefully monitored and evaluated to achieve sustainability and success.

Winners at the recent Conference of Clubs 2018 were:

Education: SI Petaling Jaya *Soroptimist Puberty Organising Toolkit*

Elimination of violence: SI Brisbane *Answer the Call*

Economic empowerment: SI Damansara *Life Skills 4 Youth*

Food security: SI Lautoka *Food Security*

Healthcare: SI Gold Coast *Mothers Journey*

Environmental sustainability: SI Penang *Winds of Change*

More information about these projects can be found on our website under the banner *Our Impact* on the home page. [Or Click Here.](#)

Special Awards

At the start of her biennium IPP Theresa announced some special awards and these were presented at the Conference.

“**Soroptimists: Be the Changemakers**” was won by a coalition between four clubs, SI Damansara, SI Melba ,SI Singapore and SI Phnom Penh to obtain improved transport via cycles to assist Village Malaria Workers to visit villages in their fight against the crippling disease.

“**Overall Excellence**” was awarded to SI Petaling Jaya for their outstanding SPOT Community project addressing puberty issues for young women.



New Programme of Service Team

The Programme of Service team underwent some changes at the Conference with the retirement of a number of the 2016-18 team.

The new team is:

Federation Programme Director: Catherine Evans

Assistant Programme Director 1: Christine Johnstone

Assistant Programme Director 2: Zareena Bi

Programme Coordinator 1: Jennie Van Driel

Programme Coordinator 2: Dixie Brown

Programme Coordinator 3: Joanne Yeoh

Programme Coordinator 4: Cesarina Gigante

Available now on the SISWP website, **CSW62** reports from Di Lockwood , Belinda Lee and Sylvia Heywood These can be found on front page of SISWP Website in article CSW62 in *Read more* PDF copies available. Or [Click Here](#).

CLUB ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE CHANGED

The deadline for submitting your Club Annual Report is now 31 December 2018. For this year only, report from 1 September 2017 until 31 December 2018



World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

Held on 17 May this day helps raise awareness of the possibilities of the internet and other information and communication technologies to bridge the divide between nations. Certainly at CSW62 there was acknowledgement that reliable internet access could go a long way to improving education and employment opportunities. It was shown also that healthcare, finance, transport and agriculture could all respond with improved growth with a parallel improvement in access to the internet. *United Nations*



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

1st June is the designated day on which to think about that mainly silent form of abuse, elder abuse. With the number of older people in the world accelerating in the next 15 years it will be an increasing problem. The focus this year is upon understanding and ending financial abuse to ensure that older people have the right to a life of dignity and freedom from all forms of abuse which can lead to poverty, hunger, homelessness, poor health and even early death. *United Nations*



World Bicycle Day

On June 3 2018 the first world day will be celebrated. Why?

The bicycle is a sustainable form of transport that is simple to service, reliable and environmentally viable. As Cycling for Cycles project in Cambodia showed it can be vital in bringing medical assistance to villages. It has a positive impact on climate and contributes to the health of its rider. In developed cities it is providing a rapid means of free transport around cities and it provides an alternative to the use of fossil fuels. Long may the bicycle last. *United Nations*

I'm With Nature



World Environment Day: 5 June

“ Without a healthy environment we cannot end poverty or build prosperity. We all have a role to play in protecting our only home: we can use less plastics, drive less, waste less food and teach each other to care.” Secretary -General , Antonio Guterres.

We are creatures of our environment and we mould it by our actions . It is up to each of us to consider how we relate to nature and to check if we respect and protect it or use and abuse it. What can you and your club do to show your concern for the degradation of our environment? *United Nations*

Around the Federation

Cambodia



In Cambodia, the water wells in Kantout village have been made safer to visit, particularly at night by the installation of solar powered lights provided through the generosity of SI Karratha with the support of SI Helena and SI Port Hedland. Workers installed the lights under the supervision of a Phnom Penh member. Villagers are deeply appreciative of this funding.

Thailand



SI Dusit continued their commitment to education in remote areas by a water based project in Ban Mae Phae Village where clearing of land for commercial crops had led to reduced water retention. They supported an exploratory drilling exercise for a new bore. This led to fresh water to replenish tanks that ran dry and created problems in health and sanitation for the school children. The water was made available to villagers in the afternoon as their supply was dirty. The villagers are committed to maintaining the system.

Indonesia



SI Jakarta launched the Women Entrepreneurs Project in February 2018. The overall objective is to facilitate marginalized women living around our Community Learning Center (run by our partner: Titian Foundation) near South Jakarta to create small businesses within one year. This is a joint project with SI Okazaki, Japan, which provide the funding.

They have used group coaching to hold the space for the women to be accountable for taking steps in achieving their goals and integrating their learning into their real life and work.

SI Jakarta have provided the women with skills in how to improve the quality of their products, what the market will buy, and pricing strategies.

After running for 3 months, the women can work together effectively and produce handicrafts from tie-dye materials made by themselves. They also have been able to successfully sell the products.

The club will continue to facilitate & support their entrepreneurial efforts over the remainder of the year.



The Federation project Sanctuary is nearly ready to start. Agreements with five Fijian Ministries have been signed and land allocated for 3 sites. We are ready to start subject to the availability of the builder. It is hoped to have the first one finished this year.

President Anusha has announced that she will continue this project. All we need now is your financial support. Why not use funds or part funds from a fundraiser to donate to the project. There is a desperate need as the stories on the Sanctuary pamphlet show. Give generously to support our Fijian sisters.

Current appeals for funds

In your club planning for 2018, there is an opportunity to assist with funds for our own [Federation Project Sanctuary: Shelter for Women, Fiji](#), plus [International Presidents appeal, Women, Water and Leadership](#).

See below for details for your donations.

Resources and documents for these appeals can be found in the members section of the Soroptimist International website [Soroptimist International](#) and at www.siswp.org (you need to log on then scroll through programme information.)

***Please send donations to
SWP project
and SI Presidents Appeal***

Mail: PO Box 746, Surry Hills NSW
2010 Australia

Cheques made payable to
Soroptimist International of the South
West Pacific (*please write in full. No
abbreviations*)

By Direct Deposit

Soroptimist International of the South
West Pacific

Bank: Westpac Banking Corporation
Branch: King & Castlereagh Streets,
Sydney NSW

BSB: 032-007 Account No: 36-4444

Bank Swift Code: WPACAU2SXXX

*Please include Club name + Project
name in Reference*

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Go to the 'Members Area' in yellow at the top left of screen.

Here you can access all previous copies of eSPAN Newsletters Archived. Or if you are already logged in [Click Here](#)

After the many years that we have been editors of SPAN, and then with the introduction of eSPAN, it is now time hand over to the new POS team. Its been a pleasure to bring you interesting articles from the United Nations, WUNRN, IPS,IRIN and club news. We look forward to reading eSPAN in the future. *Di and Sandra*



Educate, Empower, Enable



Copy for the June 2018 eSPAN edition is required by 20th May 2018 to
swpasstprogramdirector1@siswp.org

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