

 MEMBERS LOGIN

Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



As the new Programme Director for SISWP biennium 2018-2020, I'd like to acknowledge the great work done by Immediate Past Programme Director Di Lockwood and her programme team. As you will have noticed in the May E Span, there have been a few changes in the Programme team but thankfully there are some continuing, in particular, Zareena Bi, Jennie Van Driel and Joanne Yeoh which will be a help to all the newcomers to the Programme team including me.

5th of June as you know was **World Environment Day** and I hope you all reviewed the [Our Impact section on the SISWP website](#) about how we all can reduce plastic waste, but there are a number of other days in June of significance to the environment.

8th of June is **World Oceans Day** to remind everyone of the major role that the oceans play in our lives. World Oceans Day was declared in 2008 and the UN Oceans Conference convened in Rio de Janeiro 2017 was to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. SDG 14 is to sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

The Declaration of World Oceans Day in 2008 catalysed action worldwide. Twenty-five years after the first Oceans Day took place in Rio de Janeiro at UNCED, a special event on June 8th marked its celebration during the United Nations [Ocean Conference](#) held from 5-9 June 2017. The Ocean Conference was convened to support the implementation of [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) 14](#) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. One of the major problems for our marine resources is the amount of plastics that end up in the oceans causing major problems to the marine life, that mistakenly consume the plastic materials. *United Nations*

17th of June **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought** is another significant UN day of relevance to the environment. Desertification occurs because dryland ecosystems are extremely vulnerable to inappropriate land use. Poverty, political instability, deforestation overgrazing and bad irrigation practices can all undermine the productivity of the land. The purpose of this UN celebratory day is to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. *United Nations*

Another significant UN day in June is the 20th of June or World Refugee Day. It was resolved at

the [United Nations General Assembly](#) that, from 2001, 20 June would be celebrated as World Refugee Day. In this resolution, the General Assembly noted that 2001 marked the 50th anniversary of the [1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees](#). *United Nations*

All months have special United Nations Day, two in July come to mind, 11 July **World Population Day** and 30 July **World Day against Trafficking in Persons**. World Population Day was established by the then-Governing Council of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989 and in 1990, the UN General Assembly decided to continue observation of this day to increase awareness of population issues, including their relations to the environment and development.

*United Nations*

30 July World Day against Trafficking in Persons: Human trafficking is a crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes including forced labour and sex. Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit, or destination for victims and children make up almost a third of all human trafficking victims worldwide. Additionally, women and girls comprise 71 per cent of human trafficking victims according to the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#), the report states. In September 2015, the world adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and embraced goals and targets on trafficking in persons. These goals call for an end to trafficking and violence against children; as well as the need for measures against human trafficking, and they strive for the elimination of all forms of violence against and exploitation of women and girls.

Catherine Evans

Federation Programme Director 2018-2020

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## Programme Team for 2018-2020

Over the next two editions the Programme Team would like to introduce ourselves to members. This edition we hear from Programme Director Catherine Evans, Programme Coordinators Jennie Van Driel and Dixie Brown.

### SWP Federation Programme Director - Catherine Evans.



I decided early in my life that I wanted to be a veterinarian because I liked working with animals. My father and uncle were also veterinarians so perhaps it was not surprising. Although I did spend my early years in private practice in country Queensland, I travelled overseas on a working holiday returning to Australia 2 years later, and undertook a Postgraduate Diploma in Education. I then joined the Australian Government as a veterinarian, visiting export meat processing premises throughout Australia to assess compliance with overseas processing standards and Australian legislative requirements. My wandering lifestyle meant that I couldn't join sporting groups or organisations until my wandering stopped in 1990 and I then became involved in drafting legislation for the Quarantine Act and was able to take up sport and bushwalking again and joined SI Canberra soon after where I have been involved in a number of activities especially in fundraising to support the projects that the club had selected. I have been involved in the NSW Grant of Friendship committee after hosting Monaro Region GOF recipients soon after I joined SI Canberra and really enjoyed the opportunity to meet women from other cultures and have encouraged members whether in SI Canberra (or SI Gold Coast where I spent 3) years to visit or receive soroptimists from other countries. One activity I am looking forward to is the 20th anniversary of SI Ulaanbaatar in 2020 because a group of us from Canberra attended their charter in 2000 when the Soroptisheep project was initiated and had a fabulous time. We hear that they are going to significantly celebrate their 20th anniversary!

### Programme Coordinator 1- Jennie Van Driel

Jennie looks after clubs in New South Wales, North Queensland, Fiji and Mongolia, look out for Jennie's emails as she reaches out to assist you in Programme matters, and don't forget to provide Jennie with the latest project news from your club so that it can be shared with the Federation.



I have been a member of SI Joondalup since 2002 and have been continual position holder of all offices in the club except treasurer.

I have served two terms at Region level as Region Membership Development, and at Federation level as Goodwill and Understanding and I am now serving my second term as Zone One Co-ordinator.

Most of my working life I have been a farmer in the wheat-belt of Western Australia, but I also trained as a nurse and later retrained as a teacher.

My interests are varied, I belong to The Australian Sewing Guild, The Joondalup Bridge Club, I am chair of the Board of a Mental Health support group, I am director of a small investment company.

I am a strong supporter of my Soroptimist Club which has given me so many opportunities for personal development, and I am enjoying the wider vision at federation level.

#### **Programme Coordinator 2 - Dixie Brown**

Dixie looks after clubs in New Zealand Central, Western Australia, Tasmania, Solomon Islands, Singapore and Hong Kong, look out for Dixie's emails as she reaches out to assist you in Programme matters, and don't forget to provide Dixie with the latest project news from your club so that it can be shared with the Federation.



At the 2018 Conference of Clubs I was elected to the SWP Programme Team as a Programme Coordinator for Zone 2, replacing Wendy-May Logan. My areas are Western Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand Central.

After 24 years in Western Australia we headed to Sydney where I continued as a High School teacher. We ran our own catering business.

After retiring from the NSW Education Department I continued my involvement with students as a tutor at my last high school, in remote areas and travelled and

camped with students showing their cattle.

I joined Soroptimist International as a charter member of SI Brisbane Water Inc. (NSW) in 2006 and was elected President in 2014.

In 2016, I was elected SI Region of New Wales Programme/UN Liaison after being an Elect for the previous year and a Region Programme Coordinator for 4 years.

I will encourage members to feel part of the wider organisation and be aware of what is happening at a variety of levels and in other countries. The work of Soroptimist International and SISWP at the International level is outstanding and is extremely important to improving the 'lives of women and girls'.

To ensure this continues the projects and activities must be documented. I will encourage clubs to submit their Programme Report Records (previously Programme Focus Reports, PFRs) throughout the year and complete their Club Annual Reports before the dead line.

All members should be reading the important information in the Soroptimist Programme Action News (SPAN) which will assist them to keep up to date and be familiar with other clubs.

I wish you a rewarding and exciting journey as a Soroptimist.

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## **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

For your convenience you can download (link provided below) the 2018 Annual Club Report and Zonal Diagram. For additional Programme documents please refer to the SISWP Website

Downloads area located at: [Downloads > Programme Information > Programme Forms](#). [Club Project Report Form](#)  
[2018-2020 Zonal Reporting Diagram](#)

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**World Environment Day** - If you haven't already done so, please visit the SISWP website and view the [Our Impact statement on World Environment Day](#). Plastic pollution is a defining environmental challenge for our time. It is estimated that roughly 5 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year. That is almost 10 million plastic bags per minute. If tied together, plastic bags could be wrapped around the world seven times every hour.

**Beat Plastic Pollution**  
**If you can't reuse it, refuse it**  
**#BeatPlasticPollution**

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### **Human Rights across the Federation**

Many of us take our human rights for granted but are aware that in many parts of the world these rights are not tolerated and can even be suppressed. [Amnesty International](#) is a recognised expert in this area and each year the organisation publishes a report outlining areas of concern. Their 2018 report indicates areas of concern in some of our Federation countries. While the whole report is enormous it is possible to select an individual country and look at its situation. [The Amnesty International Report 2017/2018 can be download here](#).

### **Equal Rights Alliance (ERA) Australia.**

*This report by Immediate Past Programme Director Di Lockwood, who attended along with current Programme Director Catherine Evans and other Australian Soroptimists.*

Late in May a number of Soroptimists including current Programme Director Catherine Evans, went to Canberra for a planning day for the Equality Rights Alliance (ERA), one of the 5 women's alliances through which the Australian Government interacts with women's organisations. It was an opportunity to review work from the previous year and plan areas of focus for the next 12 months. Some 42 organisations were present which led to some interesting points of view but all involved in group discussions around various issues saw it as a valuable opportunity to contribute to priorities for the next 12 months.

One interesting presentation was by the Federation of Australian Women which had released a report which applied a gender lens to the recent government Budget. While there were some small gains it was apparent that key areas related to homelessness, an area of focus for ERA, were not addressed significantly. As a result, a press release for Ministers and shadow ministers was issued. Participants were reminded about the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) process and the fact that Australia which was due to report some years ago will now not report until 8 years after their original report was due in 2014. All countries in our Federation whose nation is a signatory to CEDAW can use the process, as well as a range of Human Rights Treaties or Conventions, to hold their respective governments accountable for what

they have agreed to implement. CEDAW permits shadow reports about government reports from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) This is advocacy at its strongest and perhaps most effective.

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## Around the Federation

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### SI Darkham, Mongolia - Tree Planting

On the initiative of President Enkh-Amgalan, the members have started a new project called “**Tree planting**” in Zulzagiin gol-Children’s summer camp in Darkhan –Uul aimag. The Project aims to create a healthy and green environment for the children and develop their eco-literacy. Within the project the club members planted 40 Blueberry trees and 40 Seabuchthorn trees in May, 2018. What a great Environmental Project.



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### SI Ramu - Papua New Guinea (PNG). - Beat Plastic Pollution

SI Ramu's *Beat Plastic Pollution Environmental* project to acknowledge UN Environmental Day. This was a full day of activities, inviting the community to pick up rubbish, awareness of plastic pollution, education about using traditional billums, and the selling of cotton bags to replace plastic bags. This was a project which ticked all the boxes, education, awareness and environmental clean up.





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### SI Joondalup - Even Keel Project



One in four people has a **mental illness**.  
You can be the **one** that helps.

Even Keel is a Mental Health Support Group for people suffering from bipolar and similar mental conditions.

SI Joondalup have formed a Committee to work in partnership with Even Keel to support those people who care for some-one with a mental illness.

Caring for some-one with a mental illness can be frightening, exhausting and confusing, and it is hard to know where to seek help and what help is available.

Through the SI Joondalup/Even Keel Committee we provide the opportunity for family and friends of those who care for a person with a mental illness to connect with those with similar experiences, offer support, information on treatment available and other relevant organisations to contact.

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### Aotearoa New Zealand North - Weaving Hope

Weaving Hope project was part of the larger Weaving of Stars to promote Hope against Violence in the Community.

The Stars were woven as part of the Million Stars to End Violence against Women. The one million stars were installed at the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. Of the 12 Clubs in Aotearoa NZ North, 11 clubs took part in this project with the Waitara Club making 6500 stars, one for each member of their community.

Waitara involved the whole community holding weaving days where members of the local community gathered to help weave the stars. This included pupils from the local Intermediate School, Maori Women's Welfare League, a session at the local High School and even one lady who found the task therapeutic while recovering from a drug addiction. Pleased to know that the process helped her and today she is gaining confidence and improving. Assistance was given to the other clubs in the region by members travelling to help them. This is a great example of a community project which demonstrated how a project can bring communities together to work in harmony and look to bring peace to a community.

**Footnote:** There were 2.4 million stars woven and received from 15 countries. This enabled the stars to be displayed in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns, as well as the Commonwealth Games Village and the Gold Coast. After Festival 2018, the One Million Stars to End Violence project kept a number of the star strings for future projects. In addition, a number of stars were donated to [Reverse Garbage Queensland \(RGQ\)](#), a registered charity that strives to protect our environment.





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### Downloading and Printing eSPAN

If you would like to download copies of eSPAN these are available by going to the [SISWP Website](#) and log in using your member login.

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

You will also find in the Downloads area of the SISWP website, pdf versions of eSPAN, [follow this link](#) you will need to be logged onto the members area of the website.

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Copy for the July 2018 eSPAN edition is required by 30th June 2018 to  
[swpasstprogramdirector1@siswp.org](mailto:swpasstprogramdirector1@siswp.org)

Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific ACN 147 990 627

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