

 MEMBERS LOGIN

Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



Catherine Evans - Programme Director

As previously mentioned June was a month of special UN days relating to the environment but also included June 20 World Refugee Day. This is a particularly significant day in view of the number of refugees fleeing their native lands whether from various countries in Africa or across borders in the Middle East or South East Asia. Some clubs have been working with refugee women, particularly SI Gold Coast with its sewing circle with refugee women (images displayed below of SI Gold Coast members working with refugee women on this project).



Another club, SI Canberra raises money for scholarships for refugee women and girls to further their education, whether it is to improve their English or obtain skills at the local Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college. Please take the time read the about these scholarships, in the **SI Canberra Refugee Support** article in the Around the Federation section on this month's eSPAN.

Mentioned last month some significant UN days in July, amongst them 30th July being the [World](#)

[Day against Trafficking in Persons](#), a situation whose victims are mainly women and girls but of course young children are particularly vulnerable.

A special UN day in August is 9th August the [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#). According to the UN there are an estimated 370 million indigenous people across the world, living in 90 countries, but even though only 5per cent of the world's population, unfortunately they account for fifteen per cent of the poorest populations, speaking many different languages and represent 5,000 different cultures. Most indigenous peoples have retained their social, cultural, economic and political characteristics which are quite different from the dominant societies in which they live. However, despite their cultural differences, indigenous peoples from around the world share common problems relating to their rights and their distinct cultures. Consequently 13th September, 2007 these common problems were accepted and the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a major milestone between indigenous peoples and Member States. The Declaration is a very comprehensive international instrument on the rights of indigenous peoples and although some significant successes have been achieved at all levels, there is still a gap between formal recognition and implementation of policies on the ground. United Nations

Another UN significant day is [International Youth Day](#) celebrated 12 August.

Following a meeting in Lisbon 8-12 August 1998, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth that 12 August be declared International Youth Day. There is a growing recognition that young people can become agents of change particularly in the peace and security agenda. Having attended a few Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) sessions since 2010, it has become obvious that young women are taking their place in society and attending and participating at CSW in ever increasing numbers, such that a youth forum has become part of CSW.

Goal 16 of the SDGs aims to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. The World Programme of Action for Youth, provides a policy framework and practical guidelines to improve the situation of young people, and also encourages "promoting the active involvement of youth in maintaining peace and security". United Nations.

Catherine Evans

SWP Programme Director 2018-2010

Introducing the Programme Team

Last month we had the pleasure of introducing Catherine Evans, Dixie Brown and Jennie Van Driel. This month we would like to introduce the rest of the 2018-2020 Programme Team.

Christine Johnstone - Asst Programme Director 1.

Christine as director 1, looks after Zones 1 and 2.

Hello everyone, most of you will know me as the long serving ICT Liaison Convenor, I have long wanted to contribute to the organisation in the programme arena. Programme is not foreign to me having been club and region programme convenor many times, and also as Federation Past Public Relations convenor and ICT I have had to work very closely with previous Programme Directors. My background is in ICT having worked in ICT related industries for 40 years, from computer operator, coder, Microsoft Product Specialist, Project Management and Business Analyst. Just this month I received my 25 year badge as as Soroptimist, I have held positions as club president, treasurer, secretary, as well as Region President, Region Programme Convenor twice and region delegate numerous times. Projects and Programme should be at the forefront of all that a club



does, and I hope that this programme team will be able to inspire members and assist with the development of quality projects.

Zareena Bi - Assistant Programme Director 2

Zareena looks after zones 2 & 3.



I was elected to the position of Assistant Programme Director 2 at the 2016 Conference of Clubs in Sydney and this is my second term in this position.

This year I complete 10 years as a Soroptimist and I am a charter member of the SI Lautoka Club. In the last 10 years I have served the organization in various positions at Club and Region Level as well as the current position that I hold at Federation level.

At the club level I have served in

the roles of President, Treasurer and Publicity Officer while at the Region level I have served as President, Constitution Convenor, Publicity Convenor and have also served as the National Rep from 2014-2016.

Soroptimist International provides its members with a vast platform for self-development at a personal level but ultimately it is up to the members to take advantage of this by learning about the Organization and taking up the challenges.

The heart of SI is programs and as an NGO the work (projects/programs/advocacy) that we do at the Community, National and International is the true reflection which gives us our identity. Hence, I am immensely glad to be a part of the Programme Team and wish to encourage members and clubs to learn from the best practices of the clubs that have been rewarded in the previous years as this will assist the clubs in gaining an understanding regarding projects.

Where best practices are concerned it is also important that the projects are documented through the current Program Report Records and that the members are provided the necessary training in this aspect to ensure the timely flow of the Program Reports.

At the professional level I am a Human Resource Practitioner employed as a Team Leader HR and Payroll at Energy Fiji Limited and I am also a Consultant Management Lecturer with the University of the South Pacific where I teach on a part time basis.

Hoping to see a lot more inspiring projects this year through the Program Report Records (PRR).

Joanne Yeoh - Programme Coordinator Zone 3

Joanne looks after the clubs in New Zealand Central, Western Australia, Tasmania, Singapore and Hong Kong. Joanne looks forward to assisting you and can be contacted on swpprogrammecoordinator3@siswp.org.

I have been a Soroptimist since 1998, serving as Secretary, Membership Convenor, President, Immediate Past President and this year, I just completed my term as the President of Soroptimist



International Club of Damansara for the second time.

I have also served as President of the Soroptimist International Region of Malaysia, Publicity Convenor, National Representative of Malaysia and currently serve as the Region Extension Convenor. Other than serving as the SWP Programme Co-ordinator Zone 3, I also serve on the committee of the 21st Soroptimist International Convention Kuala Lumpur 2019 as the Local Co-chair of Operations and Protocol.

My passion and interest has always been in the area of education with a focus of helping financially and emotionally challenged youths and children to help realise their potential. Literacy, self-development and skills training are some of the areas that have been the forefront of the SI Damansara club, resulting in the award of International, Federation and regional Best Practice Awards for the club's service projects in education.

I stepped down as the Chairperson of the Vocational Resource Center and the LifeSkills4Youth work readiness program but is still very involved as the Master Trainer of the program. To date, the program has already helped 1,800 underprivileged and "at risk" youth who face difficulties getting jobs with the "employability skills" for today's workforce environment and opening the doors to better employment opportunities.

Last year, I took over the presidency of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Kuala Lumpur. I am currently a Board Governor of YWCA Vocational Training Opportunity Centre and also serves as the Chair of the VTOC Finance Committee.

Cesarina Gigante - Programme Coordinator Zone 4

Cesarina is responsible for the Clubs in Papua New Guinea, South Australia, Malaysia and Indonesia, Cesarina can be contacted on swpprogrammecoordinator4@siswp.org.



I have been a Soroptimist since my club's charter in 2005. Professionally I have been a teacher for over thirty years working with students with disabilities. I have also been involved with various community groups information sharing, fundraising and event coordination.

During my membership I have held programme positions both at club (SI Logan) and region level (SI South Queensland). I see programme as the cornerstone of our organisation and if we are to progress a National and Federation SI programme agenda, it is important that issues related to women and girls are clearly articulated in our projects. Through my recent attendance at CSW62 and my involvement with the UN association in Queensland I have developed a greater understanding of the UN, its processes, international mandates and civil societies role at the UN. This understanding is essential at all levels if we are to progress our project work in relation to our objectives, the SDG's, and if we are to hold accountable our national bodies. I am excited about working with the clubs in my zone to further our programme work and to ensure that our reporting requirements are met. With our biennium theme in mind together we can embrace the challenges, create meaningful projects and prosper across our borders.



Advocacy Work Across the Federation

Soroptimist of the South West Pacific advocate for social change, law reform, better consumer protection, closing the gender gap, promoting human rights, social justice, healthier environments and as a NGO we should make advocacy part of our mission at club, region and federation. In what is hoped will be a regular inclusion in the eSPAN we bring you Advocacy news of Soroptimists in action across the Federation.

This month has seen SWP President Anusha Santhirasthipam attend the *Girls Not Brides Global Meeting* held recently in Kuala Lumpur. " *girls not brides*" is a global partnership of more than 900 civil society organisations committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfill their potential. President Anusha represented Soroptimist International, and was able to connect with HRH Princess Mabel van Oranje, Founder & Board Chair of GirlsNotBrides.org. Please read the [Girls Not Brides](#) article by President Anusha on the SISWP Web site. Also active in the advocacy arena this month were Soroptimists from various Australian States, including Australian National Representative Katherine Gribble, and Asst Programme Director 2 Christine Johnstone who attended workshops held by the Australian Government seeking NGO and civil society input into the *Australian National Policy Women Peace and Security Plan*. Soroptimists in action being a global voice for women.

To enable us to make this a regular segment, please keep the programme team informed of any advocacy work your club or country is working on.

Upcoming World UN Days

Clubs with projects which cover any of the following UN days, should make use of these days to publicise their projects on the siswp club project page, or their club facebook pages. Or even write up an article for your local newspaper.

15 July

World Youth Skills Day (A/RES/69/145) (SDG 4 & 8)

18 July

Nelson Mandela International Day (A/RES/64/13)

28 July

World Hepatitis Day [WHO] (SDG 3)

30 July

International Day of Friendship (A/RES/65/275)

30 July

World Day against Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/68/192) (SDG 16)

9 August

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/49/214) (addresses many of the SDG's)

12 August

International Youth Day (A/RES/54/120) (address many of the SDG's)

Sustainable Development Goals Update



You know that we now report against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015. Projects undertaken by Soroptimists should be able to address one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). Just as SWP has an obligation to report back to the UN on projects addressing the SDG's, so do Countries have a voluntary obligation to report back to the UN on their progress of implementation of the SDG's. The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. There will be a **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)** at the United Nations from Monday, 10 July, to Wednesday, 19 July 2018.

Breaking News: Soroptimist International (SI) and Women for Water Partnership (WfWP) President, Mariet Verhoef-Cohen will be closing the session on 12 July, 13:15 – 14:30pm at the UN Headquarters Conference Room 8.

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda encourages member states to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven”. These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF. As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

The UN maintains a voluntary National Review Database to view the database [click here](#). Here you can view when your country has to report by, and if they have reported, review their reports. 2018 Australia, 2016 China, 2019 Fiji, 2017 7 2019 Indonesia, 2017 Malaysia, 2019 Mongolia, 2016 Samoa, 2018 Singapore, 2017 Thailand.

To view the HLPF 2018 website [click here](#)

July 11th was *World Population Day* - 2018 theme: “**Family Planning is a Human Right**”

Almost on the verge of completing three decades now, the internationally celebrated event aims to spread awareness on issues such as overpopulation, under-population and birth control. The world population is currently pegged at around 7 billion and according to UN reports is growing at a fast pace, adding 83 million people every year.

As Soroptimists we must call on our governments to fulfill their "**commitments to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care**", as agreed at the 1994 international conference on population. Did you know that Soroptimist International has a position statement on women and girls access to education and sexual reproductive healthcare? [Read the position statement on the SI Website](#)



Around the Federation

SI Canberra - Refugee Support

June 20th was World Refugee Day, and we are pleased to showcase SI Canberra and their Scholarship to the Canberra Refugee Support (CRS) organisation.



SI Canberra continues to provide money to the Canberra Refugee Support (CRS) organisation for scholarships for refugee women & girls. CRS is a volunteer organisation helping to settle refugees and migrants into the Canberra community. The purpose of the CRS scholarship program is to recognise meritorious performance and to encourage and support outstanding Refugee students (from age 6 to adult) in the pursuit of their personal development goals. At the function Tuesday 19 June 2018, 45 scholarships from \$200 to \$1000 were presented to recipients, 28 of whom were girls and women. This year SI Canberra donated 2 x \$1000 scholarships for women refugees studying English or for a career orientated course at tertiary level, for example at the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT). CIT selects relevant women from their courses to be awarded the scholarships on SI Canberra's behalf. This year the girls/women came from such diverse places as Iraq, Jordan, El Salvador, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Tanzania, Pakistan and Burundi studying English to continue their education, including fashion design, child care and nursing. All recipients have done an English course upon arrival in Australia and many still speak their native tongue at home. The **guest speakers included** MR NaiJit Lam, Deputy Regional Representative UNHCR, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith, ACT Minister for Multicultural affairs, Ms Farishta Arzoo, vote of thanks on behalf of scholarship recipients (photo, yellow jumper), Lina Al-Kurdi, recipient with her son, Wasan

Alameri (brown top), Chris RICHARDSON SIC President, Farishta Arzoo, Carol Johnstone (Grey) club treasurer, Speciose Nshimirimana (red), Chris Richardson, Noella Mugisha (Pink).

SI Ramu - Minor Renovation/Maintenance at Gusap Health Centre

SI Ramu's Club project, "*Gusap Health Centre*" is the building of a kitchen facility (hauskuk) for in-patients at the Gusap Health Centre. The Gusap Health Centre does not provide meals for its in-patients. It's a whole days walk from Lihona or K10 per person by PMV so in-patients do not count on having daily visitors bringing food from home. The Tarangau Women's Group provide lunch on a daily business to in-patients; for some that is the only meal they receive for the day. SI Ramu's plan is to build a one room hauskuk, this building will have 2 fire places, 3 preparation benches and another sitting bench. This facility will enable the patients or their wasman to prepare a quick healthy meal with provisions from the market. This will result in the patients being able to eat healthy meals, which will enable a quicker recovery and faster reaction to medication. The hauskuk will also provide patients with laundry facilities.

SI Ramu acknowledges the assistance of Ramu Agri Industries Ltd for approval to use the land space as well as allow its Buildings Department to assist in ensuring the project will be a success. The members of SI Ramu, have also undertaken an inspection of other facilities at the Gusap Health Centre, and identified many areas which require immediate attention. the labour ward, maternity ward and general ward are in need of some minor renovations. The toilet block was not in use and locked down due to blockage. Funds to repair the toilet blockage may not be possible in the current budget, but is is hoped that this can be included. Si Ramu have already started to build the hauskuk but would welcome partnership with other SISWP clubs in the way of financial assistance to enable the upgrade of facilities at the hospital. Please contact SI Ramu on siramu@siswp.org if you are able to assist.

Attached are the supporting documents explaining the project/s.

Image below show the ground breaking ceremony for the erection of the building. The team with Immediate Past President

Philomena Kikitam

[Inspection of GHC](#), [Powerpoint presentation](#), [Drawing of the hauskuk](#)



SI Albany - Story Time



Soroptimists Albany donated \$700 towards a chair to use during story time or by nursing parents. This supports our goal of enhancing the lives of women and girls through education and health care. The colourful chair is part of the library's revamp and modernisation and is situated in the junior area of the library.

SI Bangkok - ChiangRai Sanitation and Education

Soroptimist International Bangkok recently visited **Wiengkaen**, Chiangrai, a mountainous district by the border of Laos. It is one of the poorest regions in Northern Thailand. They visited two villages, Baanong Village and Rom Fa Pa Mon Village where there is a constant need for basic supplies. The villagers there are farmers, and they live on the food they farm, which is why SI Bangkok provided them with basic necessities. The villages lack means of transport due to the underdeveloped roads, and therefore cannot access medical supplies and schools. As a result, they even face challenges to sell their crops. During the visit, SI Bangkok donated items such as clothes and food supplies, canned food and fresh fish, medicines, as well as some stationary and toys for the children. SI Bangkok members were overwhelmed to see the hardships they faced.

SI Bangkok members also visited two schools in Chiang Rai, **Prongprabath School and Wieng Kue Na School**, to handover the completion of the toilets that SI Bangkok built for them. Both the schools have very dedicated and focused principals and teachers, who are determined to provide the best education for the students. They were very appreciative of the much needed toilets which are now being used, and are also teaching the children about proper hygiene. SI Bangkok will continue to work with the school to provide funds for them to complete more construction of wash basins.



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