

 MEMBERS LOGIN

Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



Federation Programme Director, Catherine Evans

September has some well-known and significant UN International days. 8th September is International Literacy Day and 21st September is International Day for Peace. I have always found it unsurprising that many women's groups were initiated about the time of World War I except the International Council of Women (ICW which was founded in 1888). Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF founded in 1915), Graduate Women International (previously International Federation of University Women, founded 1919) and our own organisation of Soroptimist International founded in 1921, all identify PEACE as part of their mission/vision /purpose.

As Miroslav Lajčák, President of the current 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly, said in his address to the Forum on a Culture of Peace, on September 5th 2018, *"We are recommitting to the very ideals of the United Nations Charter. We are showing that it is in our power, to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". Not in some places in the world – but in all."* [Read More](#)

October has a significant number of International Days starting with 1st October that celebrates the [International Day of Older Persons](#) and our own Soroptimist International Friendship day 3rd October where we can send greetings to the many friends we have made through Soroptimism.

[The International Day for the Girl Child](#) on 11th October highlights and addresses the needs and challenges that girls face throughout the world.

Other significant October days are:-

[The International Day of Rural Women](#) 15th October, recognises the crucial role that women and girls play in ensuring the sustainability of rural households and communities, improving rural livelihoods and overall wellbeing.

[World Food Day](#) 16th October is one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar, with over 150 countries showing their commitment to SDG goal 2 #Zerohungerby2030 .

Similarly, 17th October, [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#) is a commitment to SDG 1.

International meetings in our South West Pacific region have been organized by ESCAP (Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) to prepare for the 6th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development in 2019.

Meetings were held in Tbilisi, Georgia for North & Central Asia; in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia for North East Asia; and in early September in Bangkok, Thailand for South East Asia on implementation of the SDGs. Further meetings are to be held in New Delhi, India for South & South West Asia and in Nadi, Fiji later this month. Experts from government agencies responsible for national coordination of SDGs, representatives of non-government and private sector organizations, regional and sub-regional organizations and other stakeholders involved in SDG implementation at national, regional and global levels are expected to attend.

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](#)

Advocacy Work

Advocacy is an integral part of any club's Programme of Service and does provide a great opportunity to seek to influence government policy in your country. It would be great to hear what is happening around the federation. In Australia at the moment a committee is pursuing club action on a ban nationally, of plastic bags and is advocating for a can and bottle deposit scheme. As well, a survey of clubs has identified violence against women, homelessness and treatment of refugees as priorities for the current biennium. Of course, other issues will arise and the committee will plan an approach to dealing with these. What are priorities in your country? What are clubs doing in advocacy?

Club Project Partnership Opportunities

Is your SISWP Club currently working on a fantastic project and are you looking at partnering with another SISWP Club for either financial, in kind or further project development?

We have recognised that it will be helpful to have a dedicated space on the SISWP Website to enable Clubs to advertise current projects pursuing partnership and support.

[The SISWP Clubs Partnership page](#) is found in the Main Menu of the Website under 'What we Do' - 'Project Work' and is a Members Only page. This means that is only viewable to members once logged into the SISWP Website.

This page is also available to all Club Position Holders i.e. President, Secretary, Treasurer and ICT person to edit their own Clubs information on upcoming projects you want to promote for partnership.

If you have a project needing a Club partner, log in to the SISWP website and edit the page by entering your project information. See tip sheet link below for details on editing and adding information onto this page.

Tip sheet

[How to Modify the SISWP Club Partnership Page](#)



SISWP website has an information page on scholarships that have been awarded by clubs in the federation. Does your club/region information need upgrading?

See tip sheet link below for details on editing and adding information onto the page.

[How to modify the SISWP scholarship page](#)



Environmental Concerns

Our Mother Earth is currently facing many environmental concerns. The environmental problems like global warming, acid rain, air pollution, urban sprawl, waste disposal, ozone layer depletion, water pollution, climate change and many more affect every human, animal and nation on this planet. Over the last few decades, the exploitation of our planet and degradation of our environment have gone up at an alarming rate. As our actions have been not in favor of protecting this planet, we have seen natural disasters striking us more often in the form of flash floods, tsunamis and cyclones.

Different environmental groups around the world play their role in educating people as to how their small actions when combined together can play a big role in protecting this planet. If you look at the environment around us, you can see that there are a number of issues that come to our attention. Here are [25 of the most important environmental](#) concerns to keep an eye on today. *UN*

Global Voice

Does this information from Soroptimist International come directly to your inbox once a month?

If not, you are missing out on a wonderful source of information and inspiration about the world-wide efforts of our organisation.

The latest edition provides updates on the [Women, Water and Leadership project](#) including activity in our Federation, the SI blogs written by individual Soroptimists address issues as diverse as plastic pollution and climate justice while other sections look at recent advocacy action. You can choose to further investigate any section by clicking on a read more banner. You can receive this by signing up on the [SI Website](#) and read as much or as little as you wish each month.

Similarly access to the [SI Website](#) opens up more information and again, you can choose to learn more in each section. By clicking on [Members](#) in the top right hand side you have access to resources and more specific information in each of clearly labelled sections. Doing some advocacy and need to check that it fits into the official SI position? Go to the section headed [SI Statements](#) and here you will find the current 11 statements with more under preparation. Check out the topics listed on the right of these for other areas of interest.

We are an international organisation and these sites are part of your subscription so why not use them and through their information become more educated and empowered about our organisation.



- 2.1 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water services.
 - 4.5 billion people lack safely managed sanitation services.
 - Water scarcity already affects four out of every 10 people.
 - 90% of all natural disasters are water-related.
 - 80% of wastewater flows back into the ecosystem without being treated or reused.
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UN SDG



Sustainable Development Goal 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions” calls for promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

A peaceful society is one where there is justice and equality for everyone. Peace will enable a sustainable environment to take shape and a sustainable environment will help promote peace.

The theme for the International Day of Peace in 2018 is "The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70"

In the lead up to the *International Day of Peace on 21 September*, what we can all do to take action.

- Support SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by seeking peaceful resolution of conflict when disagreements arise around you.
- Be part of the solution by taking small steps.
- Prevent an injustice at school or in your community by adopting a non-violent approach to problem solving and reporting potential crimes, including online bullying.
- Promote human rights by collecting and promoting videos of as many articles as possible in as many languages as possible. Record yourself reading one of the 30 articles of the Declaration in any of the 135 languages currently available and share your video with your friends.
- Engage by speaking up when others are at risk and stand with others' human rights at work, in school and around the dinner table.
- Reflect how each of us can stand up for rights, every day.

Human rights are everyone's rights.

Around the Federation

Soroptimist International Club of Bangkok - Women in Prison Project. Helping women develop skills they can apply to work once they leave the prison. SIB invited two ladies from Elvira Sewing Machines to teach the women to sew cloth bags. They were surprisingly enthusiastic in participating. The prisoners learnt and taught fellow prisoners the craft.



Soroptimist International Brisbane Water Inc

Recently SI Brisbane Water presented a cheque to teachers from the Henry Kendall High School Special Unit. As well as the funding for the Lifting Aspirations Program, SI Brisbane Water are supporting three girls with their registration fees for the State Athletics Carnival for students with disabilities.



SI Bayside/Students Alexandra Hills State High School

On Thursday 23rd August it was with much appreciation that SI Bayside president Hisako and Program Convener Mitch, accepted a donation from Alexandra Hills State High School students of 150 care packs! This was an amazing donation by the students and will enable SI Bayside to keep Redlands Hospital Emergency supplied with care packs for women for quite a while!



SI Bangkok members including, President Niru, Jarunee, Napaporn and Christiane visited Rajavithi Hospital to donate 500 small cloth bags that SI Bangkok member Jarunee stitched by herself. The bags are for the distribution of medicine and 30 big cloth bags were given to the surgery department of the hospital as well. This initiative was taken in order to replace the use plastic bags.



Education through partnership

In the area of education in developing countries, Soroptimist International's aims are twofold: to raise educational levels among children, on the one hand, and to close the gender gap in education, on the other. Last year, a project focused on these aims was the building of a classroom in a kindergarten in a village 30 km south of Phnom Penh in Cambodia. A joint project of SIS (*Soroptimist International of Singapore*) and SIROM (*Soroptimist International Region of Malaysia*), members of all the clubs visited Tonle Bati last month. It was an insightful trip for all involved, especially since most members had not visited a kindergarten in a village setting before. Aside from seeing the completed rooms -- built as part of a tree house -- Pushpa Ratnam from *SI Bangsar* led in a personal safety workshop for the girls from ages 6-12 years. Besides seeing the fruit of their labour, Club members also brought with them gifts of stationery sets for the children donated by SIS member, Alicia Tong, as well as t-shirts, sports items, and snacks.



SI Torrens recently partnered with *Women's Legal Services SA* to provide a symposium for workers in the Domestic Violence sector to make them aware of the variety of organisations offering courses and services for their clients.

The over-subscribed day whose attendees included 2 State Ministers and a Federal Senator, was opened by Natasha Stott-Despojia, chair of Our Watch. It had diverse speakers from violence survivors and ex-prisoners to indigenous run courses for males, in-school programmes for respectful relationships and information on the impact of homelessness on women and children. Individual speakers were balanced by panels and attendee group workshops. Those present particularly enjoyed a presentation by the Luke Davis, a magistrate in the youth court. Evaluation sheets were very positive and there were calls for similar events on different topics.



Zita Ngor CEO Women's Legal service SA, Natasha Stott-Despojia, CEO Our Watch, Helen Fischer President SI Torrens with Senator Tim Storer

Downloading and Printing eSPAN

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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](#)



Educate, Empower, Enable



Copy for the October 2018 eSPAN edition is required by 1st October 2018 to
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