

MEMBERS LOGIN

Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



Indonesia earthquake recovery

The Lombok Indonesia recovery is well on its way. It is scheduled to receive the second amount of money to complete some of the physical elements caused by earthquakes and provide water and sanitation for the community in line with the International President Mariet's Appeal. The report from Isla Winarto, the Project Manager, for the Lombok project is worthwhile reading and can be [read here on the SISWP website](#). Don't forget that this project needs money from the International President's Appeal if the water and sanitation component is to be completed so PLEASE SEND more money to the International President's Appeal before the end of September.

CSW64 & Beijing+25

Various regions are preparing for Beijing + 25, the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA+25) gathering in Beijing where women assembled to discuss issues of gender equality, identifying 12 critical areas of concern that needed to be addressed to achieve gender equality. Every 5 years there is a review of the BPFA and next year will review the achievements against the critical areas of concern since the last 5 year review in 2015. CSW64 is concentrating on the achievements since the last review. Its theme: UN 2020 the **World We Want, the Future We Need** will result in a number of very interesting sessions at CSW 64 in New York in March 2020, so you should apply for a scholarship to attend CSW64 or self-fund to attend if you can. Don't forget to think of attending CSW64, application forms are available on the website. Return flights from Australia (Sydney) are only \$1100-1400 currently and accommodation would be not much more than that, but flights need to be booked soon to avail yourselves of these cheap flights.

Important days of October

You will recall that at the 2019 Interim Board Meeting, October was approved as Membership Month by our Federation membership team and is to be a permanent feature for our Federation. Without members, SISWP will cease to exist and we won't be able to improve the lives of women and girls in areas and countries more disadvantaged than ourselves. Recruiting and retaining members is extremely important, particularly if we are to contribute in the global arena to achieve

our objectives of this biennium to improve the lives of women & girls of Embrace, Create & Prosper. However, one of the most essential elements of retaining membership is the friendships we offer to those joining our organisation. After all, our name of soror and optima literally means best sister and it is the sisterhood that keeps many of us in the organisation.

A Membership Toolkit has been developed and is provided here to Regions, Clubs and Members for promotion of the Membership Month.

[Download the toolkit here.](#)

Please read about upcoming UN days further in this month's eSPAN. Enjoy the read, and remember if you have a good story you would like to share with us, please email me with the information.

Catherine Evans

Programme Director

Consultative Status of Women (CSW64)

Programme Director and the Programme team are pleased to announce that nominations are now open for SISWP members to nominate for the fully funded delegates position to CSW 64, and also nominations for the self funded positions to CSW 64.

As this year is the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Conference CSW 64 promises to be exciting and not to be missed.



CSW64 / Beijing+25 (2020) will be held 9 - 20th of March 2020 in New York. The successful fully funded Delegate will be funded to attend the 1st week of the Commission. Self Funded Delegates may attend the 2 weeks.

You can nominate by following these two links.

[Fully funded Application Nomination to CSW64](#)

[Self Funded Application Nomination to CSW64](#)

There is also a link to the application forms from the SISWP website downloads area. Log on and

click [HERE](#). Nominations close on the 31st of October 2019 and the winner will be notified on the 30th of November 2019

16 Days of Activism - End Gender Violence

The 16 Days of Activism campaign to bring about an end to Gender Based Violence is an important programme event in the Soroptimist Calendar. The campaign runs from the 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. Clubs and members should use this time to advocate, demonstrate, hold rallies, presentations, events which call for action to end violence against women and girls.

As of going to print with this month's eSPAN UN Women have not yet announced the theme for 2019.

SISWP will be continuing with the very successful **Orange the World** campaign from 2018.

The Programme team and the Communications Team have put together a Toolkit to assist you with your campaign. The toolkit can be downloaded from the SISWP Downloads section - [Download the Toolkit here](#)



Social Media - Over the 16 days the communications team will post each day to Facebook and Twitter, please share these postings with your club and personal facebook pages. The SISWP website will have a 16 days slider, with news releases and articles for you to share.

We also ask that you share your events with us so that we have a strong united voice over this time.

Advocacy Work

What are priorities in your country? What are clubs doing in advocacy?

Advocating on behalf of women is a core Soroptimist function, and this month the programme team is pleased to once again be able to report on Soroptimist Advocacy work.

SI Devenport report to the database of a recent advocacy action. Advocacy to the Tasmanian

State Government on Mental Health. As a result of a guest speaker informing us of the difficulties faced by mental health patients when presenting at hospital emergency departments we saw the need for a designated area where they could wait in safety and receive immediate specialized treatment. We advocated to the Tasmanian State Health Minister on this issue. The Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing replied to our concerns and assured us of the Department's ongoing attention to these issues. The General Manager of our local Mersey Community Hospital has undertaken to provide a quiet room for patients needing this facility.

Tell us what your club is doing to Advocate on behalf of women. Send us the information or complete a Advocacy Programme Report

Club Reporting and Annual Reports

Programme Database Information

\$14,438.00 AUD worth of projects have been delivered by Soroptimists of the South West Pacific. This is what has been reported to the database.

For the period 1 June to 10th September

Clubs have spent \$14,438.00 AUD on projects which have assisted 582 women and 492 girls and \$1978.00 has been donated to organisations.

Are you impressed by the figures mentioned above, imagine if all clubs had reported something for this period of time, these figures would be outstanding, and the organisation would really have something solid to shout about.

The Programme team congratulates clubs from the following countries who have submitted reports to the database

Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia.

We need many more clubs from our South West Pacific federation to begin submitting their reports, clubs need to begin their reporting NOW.



Club Annual Reports

Do remember that your club annual reports will be due for submission in January. There will be no paper forms to complete. Your club reporting will be very easily completed by going to the Annual Reports

section on the database, and pressing the button. This report will produce only if your club has submitted to the database all of your club projects, activities, advocacy, donations and scholarship.

Programme Webinars



How to prepare a successful Best Practice Award Nomination.

Give your club the best possible opportunity to be acknowledged for the valuable work your club does to Educate, Empower and Enable women and girls. Make sure you attend this presentation which will provide you with all the information to complete your nomination.

Register now: 22nd of September 2019 at, 3:00 PM AEST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8126294029059007499>

Dare to be Gyn-ae Aware

To celebrate International Gynecological Awareness Day on September 10, the programme team showcased "Dare to be Gyn-ae Aware" webinar about gynecological issues and how to run a successful event for your club around awareness raising.

If you missed this most successful event, it is now available for viewing from the SISWP website Webinars section. [View Here](#). Please do view this learning and training session by Kath Mazella (<http://www.kathmazzella.com/>).

International President's Project - Women, Water and Leadership - Final donations required

For the past two years, Soroptimists worldwide have been raising funds to support the SI President's Appeal [Women, Water and Leadership](#). This successful appeal will cease accepting donations at the end of September 2019. If any clubs are holding funds, or are considering donating to this appeal, you will need to have your funds paid into the SISWP President's Appeal account by the end of September.

ACT NOW
DONATE NOW

International Day of the Girl Child, 11 October 2019



Soroptimist International 11 day Advocacy Action Plan, this is an initiative by Soroptimist International who have asked clubs world wide to participate in the **11 Days of Action Campaign for the International Day of the Girl Child**.

The campaign will run from 1st October to 11th October. The campaign addresses progress made for girls and highlights goals for girls' human rights globally. Each day of the campaign focuses on a different topic or area of concern.

Clubs are requested to take part and share these messages as scheduled in the document which can be [download here](#). The campaign has been set up by The Day of the Girl Summit to be a Twitter chat but the messages can be shared on other social media channels too (just delete the Twitter handles). Once the campaign starts you can search #WithGirlsForGirls to read messages and get involved in conversations.

We have amended the messages slightly to personalise to Soroptimists. There is a photo album on Flickr with 11 images, labelled for each day, [view here](#) or use your own.

Find out more about the campaign [here](#).

Hope all clubs can participate.

SANCTUARY: Shelter for Women

Call out to all Clubs and Regions! What part of this new Sanctuary Shelter will your Club be fundraising for?

Perhaps a new front door? Beds and chairs? Or kitchen equipment to enable women to cook meals?

Nominate a fixture or fitting for this new Shelter which your Club will be donating towards purchasing and [DONATE NOW!](#)



The walls are nearing completion, electrical and plumbing works are also progressing well with the construction. This sanctuary is a reality, women will benefit from the progressive work of Soroptimists. Your donations are needed now so that internal works can proceed.

Around the Federation

Over the past few months several clubs in Australia have put the spotlight on women, here we showcase a region and a club.



SI Western Australia Stella Giles Award.

The Award recognises a Western Australian woman who has made a significant contribution in her chosen field and to the community (who does not have to be a Soroptimist). A monetary grant up to a maximum of \$10,000 provides funds for the recipient to undertake a project over two years that will benefit women and girls. The 2019 Stella Giles Award for Achievement was awarded to Ngarluma woman Jolleen Hicks for her project the **Roebourne Women's Place**, a community support centre operating within the Aboriginal community-controlled health organisation, Mawarnkarra Health Service, which has operated in Roebourne since 1986.

Read more about this prestigious award visit the [Soroptimist Western Australia website](#)

SI Cootamundra - "Celebrating Inspirational Women in Our Region"

To celebrate the club's 35th Birthday, the club showcased 3 inspirational women from their Region, one of the women was **Emma Godsell** is a 20-year-old who has achieved so much in such a short time. Emma is a fully qualified metal fabricator who spoke of how she obtained her apprenticeship and how she is the only female in her workplace. Emma was awarded Student of the Year for Southern NSW in the category of "Innovative Manufacturing, Robotics and Science".

Emma is also the current Young Agricultural Showgirl



SI Circular Head in Tasmania, - Books for New Born Babies. Following on from a project started by SI Burnie, the club decided they would also like to contribute. 20 books were purchased, the SI Logo was printed and placed inside each book, which was then placed in a lovely bag ready for distribution.

These books are distributed to new born babies who are birthed at the Burnie Hospital. The Rural Health got on board and also put up a display in their window showcasing Soroptimists and the books, with an explanation about the project, this will be an ongoing activity for the club.



SI Maylands Peninsula Club partnered with Starting Over Support (SOS) which is a not for profit organisation providing household furniture and items to women and children who have escaped domestic violence and have been found new accommodation. The club supported SOS by providing household goods such as kitchenware, cleaning products, linens, pillows etc as well as volunteering at the warehouse.



During the 6 months to 30 June 2019 there 175 women and 204 children who were referred to SOS by community agencies. These women had experienced domestic violence or were homeless. SOS relies totally on donations from the public to assist these women and children. The contribution by SI Maylands Peninsula in both time and money has assisted SOS achieve its goals. On going support is provided to SOS by club members who volunteer at the warehouse for a day each week. Every woman and her children referred to SOS by community agencies has benefited from this project by having newly acquired accommodation furnished with the provision of all necessary household items and linen.

SI Penang Aquaponics Project. The girls have been busy with this project and use social media to sell their product, I am sure they have plenty of buyers , the produce is fresh, healthy and in great condition, we hope the members of SI Penang share more information about this project.



United Nations Days

15th September - [International Day of Democracy](#)

I mentioned this UN International day last month. Inclusion and Participation are the Foundations for Democracy. It is an opportunity to remember that democracy is about people. Democracy is built on inclusion, equal treatment and participation — and it is a fundamental building block for peace, sustainable development and human rights.

21 September - [International Day of Peace](#)

This International Observance was established in 2001 and the theme this year is Climate Action for Peace which draws attention to the importance of combating climate change as a way to protect and promote peace throughout the world. I am aware that several clubs celebrate this day with a

Peace ceremony. I can recall a region meeting that fell on 21st September and we had a peace ceremony but let us not forget that 'Peace begins with me'.

1 October – [International Day of Older Person](#)

The UN General Assembly designated this date in December of 1990, recognising that the elderly are a) an asset to society and can contribute significantly to the development process and b) the complexity and rapidity of the ageing of the world's population and the need to have a common basis and frame of reference for the protection and promotion of the rights of the elderly, including the contribution that the elderly can and should make to society. *United Nations*

3 October-[International Soroptimist Friendship Day](#).

Some new members may or may not know that October 3rd celebrates the day that the very first Soroptimist club was established in Oakland California in 1921. Now 3rd October is known as International Friendship Day, a day when we particularly celebrate the friendships we have made and value, reflecting on current and past friendships. Past Federation President Theresa stated during her time as President that **Friendship** is at the core of being a member of Soroptimist International. In 2 years' time we will celebrate the centenary of our Soroptimist International organisation. Members of Soroptimist International celebrate International Friendship Day on October 3 by reflecting on current and past friendships and putting friendship at the centre of their work of improving the lives of for women and girls. I regularly receive and send greetings on this day to other soroptimists with whom I have worked or spent some valuable time with because it is through this organisation that I have gained so much.

10 October - [World Mental Health Day](#)

World Mental Health Day, celebrated every year on October 10th, is a day dedicated to raising awareness of the seriousness of the consequences of mental ill-health. There are many different types of mental illness including anxiety, neurosis, depression, psychosis, bi-polar disorder and schizophrenia. Moreover, on this day, health organizations schedule activities to raise awareness of the need to allocate more resources for the treatment of mental disorders. *United Nations*

In Australia we ask people RUOK. (Are you OK)

11 October -[International Day of the Girl Child](#)

This year there is to be a Soroptimist International 11 day Advocacy Action Plan starting 1 October leading up to 11 October, the International day of the Girl Child. The campaign addresses progress made for girls and highlights goals for girls' human rights globally. Each day of the campaign focuses on a different topic or area of concern. The campaign was set up by The Day of the Girl Summit to be a twitter chat but messages can be shared on other social media channels as well. See #WithGirlsForGirls@IDG_summit@SIGBI1 and watch out for SISWP social media post which I urge you to share.

15th October - [International Day of Rural Women](#) recognises the crucial role that women and girls play in ensuring the sustainability of rural households and communities, improving rural livelihoods and overall wellbeing. In many countries, women account for a substantial proportion of the agricultural work force and development. Despite being the labourers for the family's agricultural land, women in many countries do not have ownership of any of the land or its products. The first International Day of Rural Women was observed on 15 October 2008 and at CSW62 the review

theme was Rural Women. The idea of honouring rural women with a special day was put forward at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China in 1995.

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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](#)



Copy for the September 2019 edition of eSPAN is required by 10th of October to
swpasstprogramdirector1@siswp.org

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