

 MEMBERS LOGIN

Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



You will remember that [October is Membership month](#) and members should be interacting with as many women as possible to encourage recruitment to our organisation. My own club held its second Kenyan fundraising dinner to support a Nairobi club to provide water and sanitation for a school in rural Kenya. There were larger attendance numbers than our first dinner some 2 years ago and positive feedback suggests that the function could be repeated at a later stage. The dinner raised money to help our Kenyan SI sisters (SI Milimani- Nairobi) to provide an ablution block to ensure that the girls' education is not disrupted every month. Functions are usually a way we get our name out into the community and if repeated we start to get increasing participation of the community and recruitment to membership.

I hope you all celebrated Soroptimist Friendship Day and Girls Day earlier this month and are getting ready for the 16 Days of Activism in November/December leading up to the final day being the International Human Rights Day 10th December when we particularly remember the International Presidents Appeal but more of that next month.

International Issues

Reminder about CSW scholarships for CSW 64

31st October is the closing date for applications for the fully funded scholarships to CSW 64, a very special Commission for the Status of Women because it particularly celebrates the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and reviews what has been achieved in the last 25 years throughout the world in the 12 Critical areas of concern for women raised at that time. As SISWP is an accredited organisation with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations we are able to register 20 attendees from our organisation so there are quite a few places available for self-funded applicants from SISWP and it would be great if we could fill all the SISWP allocated registrations.

[Register NOW.](#)

In preparation for CSW 64 there are several regional meetings, the first of these to be held in the Asia Pacific will occur in Samoa 21st October and it is hoped that we will be represented at that gathering. The next Asia Pacific regional meeting prior to CSW is to be held in Bangkok 24-25th October and Assistant Programme Director Christine Johnstone (also incoming President-Elect) will represent SISWP at that gathering and Theresa Devasahayam from SI Singapore will also attend as the Soroptimist International representative.

SI has joined with Zonta International with a statement for CSW64. SI will publish the zero document shortly and we will be able to provide you with a link to the statement.

I have listed significant UN Days later in this bulletin, one of the days to be held on the **5th of November is World Tsunami Awareness Day**, this day provides clubs and members with the opportunity to promote President Anusha's Makmur Appeal, Clubs could promote this appeal on their facebook site, website and at club meetings, encouraging members and friends to [donate to the appeal](#).

Catherine Evans
Programme Director 2018-2020

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.

Elimination or Reduction of the Use of Plastics is still a focus of many Soroptimists across the Federation. A search of the Programme Database revealed three clubs who have reported on Advocacy work in this arena.

SI Adelaide

The club has provided time at meetings for members to share individual activities they have learnt about, or practice in their individual lifestyle, home and officers, to reduce or eliminate plastic items from their lives. This same information is compiled and then sent in letters to their local parliamentarians with a call to action. The club then circulates this information to print media and social media via their Facebook page, this is done to demonstrate and illustrate the harm caused by the indestructible plastics, as a result the clubs hopes that improved legislation is designed to reduce plastic use and to promote plastic product reuse.

SI Launceston

The club has written advocacy letters to state politicians describing the impact of soft plastics to the environment and advocating for reduction in soft plastic use

SI Brisbane Water

The club has advocated to Transport NSW Australia, this action was taken to highlight waste on long distance travelling, and suggestions of alternative ways of collecting wastes from individuals while travelling long distances.

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

SANCTUARY: Shelter for Women

As the building is over 50% built, focus shifts to internal fit outs, such as basic necessities such as taps, toilets, internal doors, painting and of course furnishing. Some of us can only imagine the impact of a major disaster such as flooding, a hurricane, or domestic violence inflicts on your family,



A family seeking refuge in this Sanctuary will feel warmth and security; children will be able to smile and laugh, women will receive the counseling and training required to re-establish themselves and support their family. You can provide the type of sanctuary required for them to rebuild their lives. Donate now to provide, essentials such as toilets, taps, painted walls, curtaining, chairs, tables, kitchen utensils, couches, beds with beautiful bed covers and sheets, all the beautiful furnishings you would want for your own home, and of course toys and games for the children, image a child laughing and smiling, you can provide this by [DONATING NOW](#).

CSW 64 - Nominate Now!

Nominations close on the 31st of October, have you been thinking of applying? Well stop thinking

and get your application in now you can apply for a fully funded position or a self funded position. 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**



Nominations for Best Practice Awards 2019 opens on the 1st of November 2019 and closes on the 17th of February 2020. Award winners will be announced at the 2020 Conference of Clubs to be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Best Practice Awards for each of the 8 Objectives

There will be one award presented for each of the eight Soroptimist objectives.

To be eligible to nominate your project for these awards, your club or region must have submitted the project to the programme database, and provide a Programme Focus Report (PFR) Number or Report (ID) with your application.

Additional Awards

President Anusha Sangithrapisam is pleased to announce additional awards as follows:

Inter-Club Skills Exchange

To nominate for this Best Practice Award, 2 or more clubs or a region must have collaborated together. The project could have been on an advocacy campaign, public awareness programme or project activity, the project will have to demonstrate how members combined the special skills and talents of members from each club either through train-the-trainer programme or teaming up to share tasks so that everyone in the inter-club project team is able to contribute something significant to the project including fund-raising and publicity.

Mentor Young Creators

To nominate for this award, the club or region must be able to demonstrate how the project or programme has involved schools, colleges or universities as partners. Inspired young people to create products, services or an advocacy campaign in line with SDGs and Soroptimist programme objectives. There must be evidence of mentoring of young leaders and prospects for long term sustainability.

Develop Social Enterprise

To nominate for this award clubs or regions must be able to demonstrate a collaborative effort to develop a social enterprise that produces, promotes and markets products or services of their target beneficiaries, example rural women, single mothers, refugees or people with disabilities.

Prosper Across Borders

To nominate for this award Clubs and Regions will have to demonstrate how they partnered with other clubs in other regions or countries as well as with like-minded third party organisations to fund raise and jointly carry out programmes. This may also involve third party organisations or local government agencies to help facilitate, promote and support the expansion of their programme across borders.

Best Social Media Advocacy Campaign for a Rural Women Enterprise Project.

To nominate for this award a club or region must be able to demonstrate how they used social media (website, facebook, instagram etc) for an advocacy campaign they will need to be able to provide statistical evidence of highest number of followers, shares, likes and best commentaries, evaluation of success.

Best Short Documentary Video on a Rural Women Empowerment Campaign.

To nominate for this award a club or region will have produced a video documentary on a project they have delivered. The video will be approx 5-8 minutes duration, deliver a strong advocacy message, be sustainable and have good potential to be shared and used as a public awareness and social transformation programme across the Federation.

Best SISWP Club Facebook Page

To nominate for this award a club/s or region/s will have to demonstrate how they used their Club or Region Facebook page to promote the concept of the Embrace, Create & Prosper Theme. Statistical evidence of facebook likes, shares, reuse of facebook banner, call for support and comments will need to be provided.

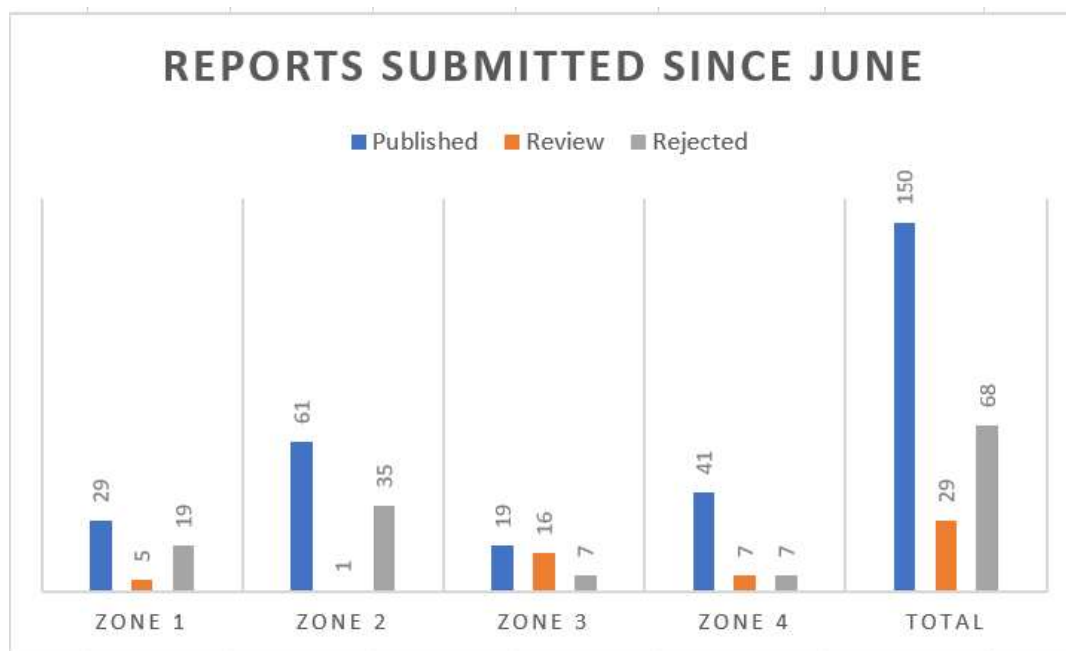
Iconic Rural Women Leaders

Clubs or regions will be able to nominate a qualified and highly recommended woman who is currently working in partnership, promoted or supported by a Soroptimist club or region. There will be 6 awards to be presented in this category.

the SISWP website. These links will be available from the Latest news, Programme page and the Downloads area, Notification and links will also be available from facebook and the November edition of eSPAN. The programme team looks forward to receiving many nominations.

Programme Database Reporting

Clubs are once again to be congratulated, they are embracing the database website and are submitting their club reports. We have had a few teething issues and the programme team are working through them, please contact your zone coordinator if you have any queries. Latest news is that the Development team are working on migrating the site from the temporary site on the Developers website to our own hosting site, once this occurs then the final outstanding issues will be investigated, and the new website will then go live, you will be given notification of when this will occur.



The chart above shows reports submitted to the Programme Database, overall there have been 247 reports submitted to the database, of which 150 have been approved. These approved reports are ready and available for all members to use as a resource for future projects and information to be supplied as supporting data. SI UN representatives are very aware of the value of this data.

Your zone representatives are available to assist you with any queries you may have about using the database, please make use of them.

CLUB ANNUAL REPORTS

In January you will need to start to prepare your club annual reports for the 2019 year, this report will be completed based on reports submitted to the database. If you have not as yet started to use the database you should start now and not leave it until December to add to the database any club

projects, activities, donations, scholarship and advocacy work.

Your work is valued, to date reported to the database clubs have provided:

Scholarships to the total of \$8306.00aud

Donated to 3rd party organisations \$4937.00aud

Delivered projects to assist women and girls worth \$24,998.00aud

Donated inkind and money to organisation of \$18,575.00aud

Totalling \$48,510.00 of club funds which benefit women and girls

UN SDG Work

Soroptimist International is represented at most UN meetings, you can read the latest reports from our representatives on the Soroptimist International web site [click here](#). Just recently **Theresa Devasahayam** from Singapore attended the 3rd South-East Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The main objective of the Forum was to foster deepened and shared understanding of member States and other stakeholders in South-East Asia on opportunities for accelerated and balanced implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national and sub-regional level. In regards to disaster risk and climate change, Theresa as the SI UN Representative, had the opportunity to speak about the success SISWP had with Project Makmur in Indonesia, sharing how Soroptimist International worked with the provincial government of Lombok by raising funds to provide medical equipment and tents, as well as provide technical assistance on water conservation and harvesting in the aftermath of the earthquake in 2018. Theresa was able to share with those present about the work of SI at the international level as most present had little, if not no knowledge about the organisation.



The breakout session on Disaster Risk and Climate Change at the Forum in which SI Representative Dr

As 2020 approaches, the UN is focusing more on Beijing + 25. The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the core United Nations platform on **Sustainable Development**. It is the mechanism which follows up on UN Member States' implementation of the 2030 Agenda and seeks to hold governments accountable by encouraging them to submit national reviews on their progress toward the 2030 Agenda. Each year, the HLPF focuses on a different theme and reviews a different set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Every year, 12 million girls marry before the age of 18. Child marriage happens across countries, cultures and religions.

In this report *Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director*, notes that progress on SDG 5 (gender equality) has been made but remains too slow: every year, 12 million girls marry before the age of 18; one in three women and girls experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetimes; women hold only 24% of parliamentary seats globally; and the global gender pay gap is 23%. Read the [full report here](#), or download from the programme area on the website

Soroptimist Position Statements



Do you need information to support advocacy work, grant applications, or when speaking with Government officials. Did you know that Soroptimist International has produced **Where We Stand statements** on various issues that affect the lives of women and girls, these statements are located on the Soroptimist International website and you can [read them here](#). You will also find a link to the statements from the SISWP downloads website.

Around the Federation

SI Lautoka and SI ACT & Monaro work in friendship link for literacy program

Despite the progress that has been made worldwide literacy challenges still persist in the uneven distribution of quality education and learning opportunities throughout people's lives which is also a target of **United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 4**.

International Literacy Day which is celebrated on September 8 annually provides an opportunity for Governments, civil society and stakeholders to promote literacy. In collaboration with their sister club in Australia, SI ACT & Monaro, SI Lautoka presented story books to Lautoka Ahmadiyya Primary and Amichandra Memorial during the month of September to promote reading and writing. During the presentation of the books at both the schools the Lautoka club members encouraged the students to read and submit summaries which will be judged and rewarded during their annual prize giving day.

The club has ensured that the books will cater for students from year one to eight so it gives all the students an equal opportunity to read and submit their summaries by October 30.

This project will benefit more than 600 students at both the schools and this is a sustainable project since the books will remain at the respective school libraries to benefit current and future students at the schools.

SI ACT & Monaro provided the funding for the story books as well as the prizes which will be awarded to the students and SI Lautoka is working closely with the allocated teachers at the schools to ensure that the summaries are received in a timely manner for judging and the awards ceremony.



The International Day of the Girl Child

The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.

Adolescent girls have the right to a safe, educated, and healthy life, not only during these critical formative years, but also as they mature into women. If effectively supported during the adolescent years, girls have the potential to change the world – both as the empowered girls of today and as

tomorrow's workers, mothers, entrepreneurs, mentors, household heads, and political leaders. An investment in realising the power of adolescent girls upholds their rights today and promises a more equitable and prosperous future, one in which half of humanity is an equal partner in solving the problems of climate change, political conflict, economic growth, disease prevention, and global sustainability.

Girls are breaking boundaries and barriers posed by stereotypes and exclusion, including those directed at children with disabilities and those living in marginalized communities. As entrepreneurs, innovators and initiators of global movements, girls are creating a world that is relevant for them and future generations.

For girls in the developing world, gender equality isn't just about glass ceilings. It's about basic rights.

[Read about how](#) Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific Club projects are enabling girls to break new boundaries.



Many clubs provide scholarships to women in their communities and we always love to showcase these awards, please continue to inform the programme team so that they can be showcased in eSPAN.

SI Canberra - The 2019 Soroptimist International Canberra Inc Scholarships

SI Canberra has long supported scholarships for Canberra migrant and refugee women to attend the Canberra Technical and Further Education Institute (CIT) to gain skills to suit them for employment. The money is raised by the SI Canberra International Women's Day function each year. Previously we provided the money to Canberra Refugee Support organisation to issue the scholarships in our name at their presentation ceremony but with the change in their President, decided this year to liaise directly with CIT so that our moneys would be directed to support women. The IWD money raised could only support 2 students this year, but as there was a 3rd very worthy nomination in a non-traditional course of studies, an anonymous donation made it possible to award \$1000 to each of the 3 students. The award ceremony was celebrated with afternoon tea and family members where possible came to the function at CIT to support the students.

President Jane Brassington and 2 other SI Canberra members were able to meet the students before President Jane presented the cheque and certificate to each of the 3 awardees. The

awardees this year came from Ethiopia, Indonesia and Greece, have been in Canberra since 2014 and are well advanced in their studies, with Arifah spending a large amount of time on volunteer activities.



2nd from left is Scholarship winner Arifah, the next is scholarship winner Despina , President Jane, member Ella Rosso who works at CIT and Catherine Evans

United Nation Days

Some dates of UN significance for October and November

I mentioned in the last eSpan about the [15th October being the International Day of Rural Women](#). Rural Women are a feature of President Anusha's Special Awards, the information for which will be released soon. Rural Women have been the focus of 2 CSW meetings I have attended, because of their particular difficulties with support services that are taken for granted by those of us who live in urban centres.

[16th October World Food Day](#)

Food is a requisite for human survival and wellbeing. This day was proposed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in 1980 and was first celebrated 16th October 1981 and governments at all levels were urged to commemorate World Food Day

[17th October International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.](#)

The theme this year for this UN International Day is: 'Acting Together to Empower Children, their Families and Communities to End Poverty'. 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in November 1989. This landmark human rights treaty sets out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their

race, religion or abilities. In particular, the Convention recognizes the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Poverty hurts children's development and, in turn, leads to lower income and health in adulthood. When child poverty is recognized as a denial of children's human rights then people in positions of responsibility and power are legally bound to promote, protect and fulfil children's rights. Above all, it is imperative to recognize and address the specific discriminations experienced by the girl child.

24th October [United Nations Day](#)

I mentioned this UN International Day last year. This UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being. 24th October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly recommended that the day be observed by Member States as a public holiday. UN

31st October [World Cities Day](#)

You will recall from last year that the UN General Assembly designated 31st October as World Cities Day to improve the international community's interest in global urbanisation (SDG11). The 2019 Theme: Changing the world: innovations and better life for future generations.

2nd November [International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists](#)

In the period 2006-2017 close to 1010 journalists have been killed for reporting the news and bringing information to the public. In nine out of ten cases the killers go unpunished. Impunity leads to more killings and is often a symptom of worsening conflict and the breakdown of law and judicial systems.

"On this day I pay tribute to journalists who do their jobs every day despite intimidation and threats.

Their work - and that of their fallen colleagues – reminds us that truth never dies. Neither must our commitment to the fundamental right to freedom of expression." -UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

5th November [World Tsunami Awareness Day](#)

I mentioned this UN day last year and how it came to be recognised in 2015. Palu in Indonesia experienced a tsunami not long after the earthquake in Lombok that Isla Winarto and her team are working to rehabilitate. President Anusha initiated a Disaster Appeal, the [Makmur Appeal](#) to raise money to rehabilitate the sanitation for both areas of Indonesia and generate some social enterprises. Consider nonrecognition of this day by donating to the appeal, or holding a club function. Do **DONATE NOW** to assist this appeal .

6th November – International Day for [Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Conflict](#)

Though the world has counted war casualties in terms of dead and wounded soldiers and civilians destroyed cities and livelihoods, the environment has often been the unpublicised victim of war. Water has been polluted, crops torched, forests cut down, soils poisoned, and animals killed to gain military advantage. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has found that over the last 60 years that at least 40% of all internal conflicts have been linked to the exploitation of natural resources, whether high-value resources such as timber, diamonds, gold and oil or scarce resources such as fertile land and water. With populations increasing around the world, the scarce resources may well become sources of conflict. On 27th May 2016, the UNEP adopted a resolution to recognise the role of healthy ecosystems and sustainably managed resources in reducing the risk of armed conflict and reaffirmed its strong commitment to the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

14th November - [World Science Day for Peace and Development](#)

Celebrated every 10 November, World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives.

By linking science more closely with society, World Science Day for Peace & Development aims to ensure that citizens are kept informed of developments in science.

14th November - [World Diabetes Day](#)

I mentioned World Diabetes Day last year. The prevalence of diabetes is increasing so member countries are being encouraged to develop national strategies for the prevention, treatment and care of diabetes in health care systems.

16th November – [International Day for Tolerance](#)

As I mentioned last year, this day initiated in 1996 marked the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi and that every second year a prize is awarded in memory of this great man.



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Copy for the June 2018 eSPAN edition is required by 10 of November 2019 to
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