


Welcome to the April 2020 edition of Soroptimist Programme Action News (SPAN).

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Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



CSW 64 although cancelled this March because of COVID 19, has not been finalised as yet and the committee for CSW 65 scheduled for March 2021 has not been decided. We had the largest contingent of SISWP Soroptimists scheduled to attend CSW 64 when cancellation of CSW64 was announced by UN Women on the 3rd March not leaving much time to cancel flights and accommodation.

Most canceled their attendance but some from SI Morton North continued to New York and attended a reduced opening session on Monday the 9th March before traveling on to other destinations Such is life! Hopefully provided COVID 19 will have run its course, although it seems

unlikely at this stage, CSW65 should occur next March.

During the pandemic some clubs such as SI Kemang are actively supporting their communities in particular ways. I understand that SI Kemang is distributing batches of medical equipment to hospitals, other Malaysian clubs are providing shelf stable foods to hospitals. In my own suburb in Canberra a community pantry has been developed to help those who have been stood down from their jobs, jobs that involve large closely associated groups of people like restaurants and picture theatres and are now without an income until government support is provided in the next few weeks. It has been a very different world these last few months since the disease was identified in China and one way of helping is to assist as my local community is doing with its "Street Pantry". This "pantry" looks just like a phone box with shelves for the donated foodstuffs. Hopefully the corona pandemic will be contained this year but in the meantime many people will need help with food and medical equipment so help out where you can.

The Programme Team was delighted with the large number of nominations for Best Practice awards for 2019, and these will be announced at the Conference of Clubs in Yogyakarta rescheduled to November later this year. It would seem that most clubs have taken to the new database to record their projects, activities, and donations. Keep up the good work.

Some International Days

23rd April - **International Girls ICT Day** this year is celebrated 23 rd April. Why Girls in ICT Day? There are job opportunities in ICT, the number of female technical students is low, because the sector is male dominated. Now many companies realise that diversity in the workforce positively impacts financial performance and are looking to increase the number of women represented in the sector. Supporting education of women and girls in ICT is also in line with the SDG goals particularly SDG5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and achieve full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making.

15th May each year is the **International Day of Families**. This day encourages awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of those issues affecting families

particularly.

Catherine Evans

Programme Director



Nominations for the Best Practice Awards have closed, and Programme Director Catherine is pleased to announce that there were 30 nominations received across the 8 objectives, and numerous nominations received for the President's Award. The Programme Team is reviewing and scoring the nominations. The award winning projects will be announced at the Conference of Clubs which has been rescheduled for November.

Programme Team Reports

This biennium is fast drawing to a close, this month the programme team present their final reports. Some will be leaving their positions whilst others will be staying on.

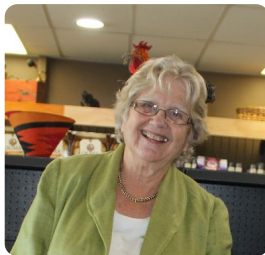
Programme Director - Catherine Evans,



Catherine has completed her 2 year term, and her report can be read in the Federation Reports.



Asst Programme Director 2 Zareena Bli, leaves the programme team after serving in this position for 2 bienniums. Read Zareena's report in next months eSPAN.



Programme Zone Coordinator - Jennie Van Driel. Jennie leaves the programme team this year, after an enjoyable 4 years as Programme Zone Coordinator 1. Jennie has this to say, "Over the last 4 years I have had the privilege to co-ordinate Zone 1 of the Federation of Soroptimists and the tremendous amount of energy, effort and accomplishment you have all made to better the world for women and girls.

I know you all better, I know your countries and regions better and it has given substance to the International in the title of Soroptimist International. Like all organisations we depend on the "grass

roots”, the clubs themselves, to make this new system work. It all begins with the individual club report, whether this is for a major project or a simple activity; it must be correctly presented." Thank you! My very best wishes for the future of Zone 1."

[Read Jennie's report here](#)



Asst Programme Director 1 - Christine Johnstone. Christine leaves the programme team this year and has this to say "What an experience the past two years have been working with my colleagues from the Programme Team. Accomplishments have been many, least of all the dedication the programme team provided in bringing in the new programme database.

We are still learning about the capabilities and possibilities that this data will provide. Clubs have embraced the ease of entering the data, and the searching capabilities provide wide choices and excellent reading of what our fellow clubs are working on. I wish every success to the new incoming programme team, as they continue to forge ahead and provide us with programme opportunities. [Read my full report here.](#) "

Programme Coordinator Zone 2 - Dixie Brown. Dixie will be continuing on with the Programme Team for the next biennium. Thank you to clubs and members who have supported and promoted Soroptimist International throughout 2019.

The Federation Best Practice Award nominations highlight the outstanding work carried out to



support Women and Girls.

My Zone 2 Coordinator Report highlights information that should be remembered when writing reports during 2020.

It is important for clubs to start and develop Advocacy Projects.

Also consider writing Activity Reports as Projects. In many cases all that is needed is more information and a greater emphasis on planning, starting from the time that the suggestion was mentioned at a meeting. It is essential that the start and end date are in the same reporting year.

Best wishes for a successful year. Even with the new restrictions a different path can still be exciting and have effective outcomes.



Federation Programme Coordinator 4 - Cesarina Gigante. The clubs in Zone 4 have continued to invest significant effort in a variety of projects and activities that promote the work of Soroptimism to Enable, Educate and Empower women and girls to meet their potential. They have also been active in recording these efforts on the Programme database. It is hoped with further familiarisation and training that all clubs in the zone will continue to record and increase the number of

reports they submit and use the information available to further Programme work.

My report gives further detail in relation to the main areas that have been the focus of Programme work and areas which can be further developed. I look forward to working with clubs in the next biennium and would like to take this opportunity to thank club members for their efforts in building a strong Programme base encompassing the vision, mission and values of Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific. Please feel free to contact me if you require any assistance. Cesarina Gigante. [Read full report here](#)



Programme Coordinator Zone 3 - Joanne Yeoh leaves the programme team after serving 2 bienniums. Joanne's report will be available in next months eSPAN.

Programme Team - Nomination

Incoming Programme Director Theresa Lyford announces that there is still one vacant position in her incoming programme team. Theresa is seeking suitably qualified members to nominate for the position of Asst Programme Director 1, normally nominations would be called from the floor at the Conference of Clubs, but due to the postponement of the conference the incoming Programme Director is seeking suitable

qualified members to fill this position, the Programme team cannot function properly without a full team.

Position Description is available from the SISWP downloads area -

Downloads > Governance > ByLaws and Membership Documents - Roles and Responsibilities.pdf .

[Complete this application form.](#)

This quote from UNWomen

**Activism isn't cancelled.
Feminism isn't cancelled.
Caring for others isn't cancelled.
Fighting for equality isn't cancelled.
We still have work to do in the time of #COVID19.
#GenerationEquality**



Whilst we find ourselves in isolation, as the quote above states "We still have work to do in this time of #COVID19", we are not isolated, the internet and online learning provides us with many opportunities for self awareness and education. Whilst isolated we as members can focus of advocacy issues, there are many areas to advocate on behalf of, homelessness, improved

services for domestic violence, paid parental leave, the financial impact for women who are the majority of unpaid care work providers, managing households and volunteering. Form discussion groups and work on your advocacy plan.

The internet provides us with great online learning. Courses available to you from the UN is a open online course - Monitoring selected SDG indicators in Asia - Pacific SIDS. You can register here <http://bit.ly/sdgind>

Monitoring selected SDG indicators in Asia-Pacific SIDS
Massive Open Online Course

19 Dec 2019 - 30 April 2020

Modules

- 1 Mapping SDG indicators to national processes
- 2 Measuring poverty and hardship in the Pacific
- 3 Monitoring health-related indicators
- 4 Finance-related SDG indicators

Data producers from members of National Statistical Offices and line Ministries, and other audiences, including decision-makers and other data users.

UN Certificate upon completion

Free of charge

Register here:
<http://bit.ly/sdgind>

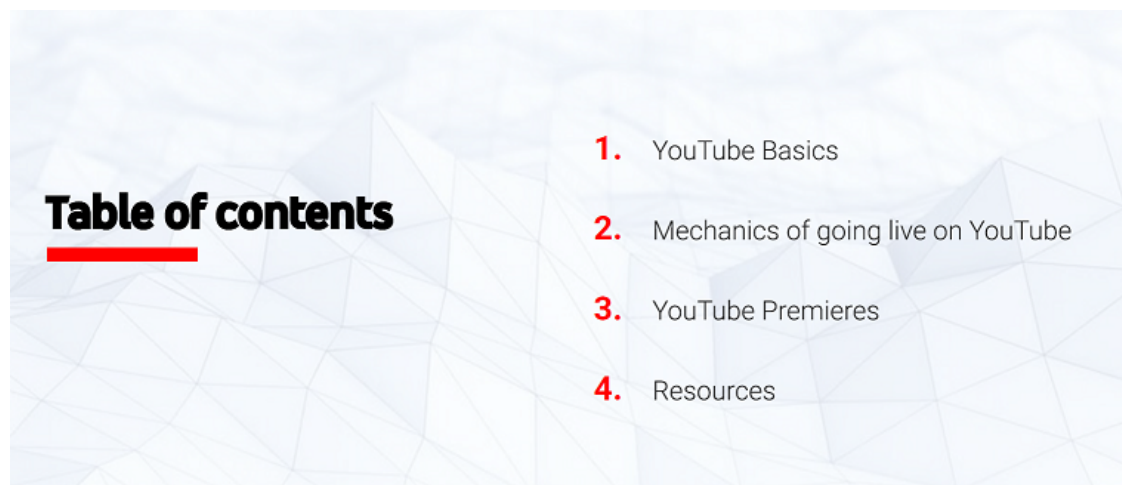
Contact: a2030@unitar.org

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with support from

Have you had your events calendar severely curtailed for the coming months, events and project launches postponed due to Coronavirus? Well, Google Admin have put together this handbook on

how to use Youtube to launch a virtual event, or just how to use youtube better. Click on the link here to [download the handbook](#).



Soroptimist International **Where We Stand** statements are the organisations' stance on various issues that affect the lives of women and girls. These have recently been reviewed, and some new statements added, please take this time to [review these](#) here. They are an important tool for use in your advocacy work.

Centennial Celebrations

As most of you will be aware Soroptimist International will be turning 100 in 2021. The Soroptimist movement began in California in 1921, and the SI Americas will be hosting a celebration event on the 1-3

October in California. [To find out more read here.](#)

Soroptimists of the South West Pacific are planning our own Federation celebrations and a year long celebration of project work. The Bright Past Brilliant Future will set the theme, as we reflect on the impact of our work as Soroptimist and look to a Brilliant future of continued work which "Makes a Difference" to the lives of women and girls worldwide.

One of the campaigns has already started, "**Reflections of a Soroptimist**", we invite all Soroptimists to write a short blog on what you have found has changed over the years, be it meetings, dress code, conventions, conference, projects, and where you see us heading into the future. These will be published on the website and produced into a publication.

More details to follow in later editions.



The Road to Equality

SI PRESIDENT'S APPEAL 2019 - 2021

The ideals and aims of President Sharon's "The Road to Equality" appeal has not slowed down due to the Covid-19 virus or our own isolation. The need has probably increased as our most vulnerable women will feel the effects of increased domestic violence, trafficking, elder abuse and migration, and also be the most likely to develop the virus due to women being the primary carers of their families. So please consider whilst you are unable to get out and have that morning coffee chat or the Friday afternoon social outing, consider how we as members of a club can donate to the SI President's Appeal. If every club internationally donated just \$100.00 US then the target would be reached and the success of this project will be assured. Soroptimists from the SISWP

website.

DONATE NOW!

Don't forget to contact Nora Lam the SISWP contact for the SI President's appeal for further information.

CSW 64

As reported this important event in the activist calendar was cancelled due to the Covid 19 virus. NGO CSW group were undaunted and moved some of the Forum events to virtual events.

Virtual NGO CSW64 Forum Events

Thank you to everyone who has joined the Virtual NGO CSW64 Forum Events so far! If you weren't able to join them, you can listen to/watch the recordings!

- [Virtual Consultation Day](#)

Virtual NGO CSW64 Forum Conversation Circles Space:

- [Transformation through Inter-Connectedness: Presence and Connection](#) led by [Mallika Dutt](#)
- [Log On. Rise Up. Webinar](#) with [World Pulse](#)

More Virtual NGO CSW64 Forum events soon!



As reported in last month's eSPAN, work was to commence on the Generation Equality Forum's - Realizing Women's Rights For a Equal Future, both of these forums scheduled for 2020 have now been cancelled. The key objectives of the Forum were to chart forward a fresh and bold feminist agenda and to launch a set of '[Action Coalitions](#)' that will allow to achieve tangible results on gender equality during the [UN Decade of Action](#) (2020-2030) to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. The NGO CSW group have produced a fact sheet Recommendations to be implemented based on the Six Thematic Groups. The Thematic Groups are - Participation, Climate Crisis, Freedom from Violence, Poverty Eradication, Peaceful and Inclusive Societies, Inclusive Development. "Finally, the NGO CSW/NY Beijing + 25 Study Group asks for the political will of Member States, the UN, the private sector and NGOs to make our recommendations/asks/demands a reality. We intend to organize, educate and make enough noise to implement the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW." Soroptimist's might like to read the recommendations and see how these can be incorporated into the programme advocacy work. [Read the Document Here](#)

SISWP Reporting Database

Clubs have had to postpone many of their activities, events and projects due to social distancing and self isolation, so lets use this time to catch up on club Administration work. Why not use this time to:

- Learn about the new database. [Watch the webinar](#), or read [the tip sheets](#).
- Do you normally do the reporting for you club? Then use this time to hold an online training session with your fellow members

- Use this time to enter any projects, activities, donations etc already completed for this year.

Whilst the site can be accessed here www.reports.siswp.org, we have to report that this site was recently hacked. The developers are working though finding the security breach and repair the database. Our hosting company has reported that there has been increased activity around sites being hacked in the past month. We will inform all clubs via email when this site is up and functioning.

Friendship Links

Friendship links between clubs across the world are invaluable to our members. Providing members with the opportunity to understand our differences to celebrate and understand different cultures and societies. These friendships make us strong and enable us to engage positively with Sister Soroptimists, enabling us opportunities to engage in projects of worth.

Please take the time to visit the new Friendship List Register on the [SISWP website in the Members Only area.](#)

Step 1 - Follow up on the information and ensure that your clubs links are correct. If not use the link to the form to contact us if amendments need making.

Step 2 - Consider establishing a new Friendship link, to do this follow the link to the form to make you request.

Membership Team Message

Incoming Membership Convenor Yvonne Simpson, has asked me to remind clubs and members about the planned information webinar on the new proposed Membership categories. Clubs will be required to vote on these categories. The webinar will provide clarity around the new categories with a Q&A session. If you have not already registered for this important webinar please do so here. [Register for Webinar.](#) After you register you will receive a link to the webinar. Webinar Details: **Apr 19, 2020 2:00 PM AEST.**

Around the Federation

This month we focus on the work clubs are doing to assist where they can whilst in lockdown. Two of the projects featured here are ongoing and rely on the continued donation of funds, if your club can assist please contact the clubs directly to talk about how you can send funds.

SI Petaling Jaya - Food Packs

We are into our third week of lockdown in Malaysia. Whilst we understand the need to stay at home, the sisters of SI Petaling Jaya also recognised a greater need emerging in this time of crisis.

It is one thing to remain at home whilst you are still drawing a salary, or wages or able to live off savings. It is quite another to be a daily wage earner where no work means no pay which translates into no food. Last year our club supported 3 children's shelters and one refugee centre with our shoebox project. We were unable to replicate the project this year due to the Movement Order Constraints. What we decided to do instead was raise funds and ensure that these families and children received food until the end of lockdown, funds permitting. The 3 shelter homes comprise a total of 36 children; 13 young children, 10 teenage girls and 13 teenage boys. There are 61 children at the refugee centre who form 51 families. Our deepest gratitude goes out to all those

who donated to this worthy cause. Here of some pictures of our activities over the past three weeks.





SI Bayside - Care Packs

Looking after our front line workers and families and children in lockdown. Care Packs were made up and delivered to the Redlands Hospital, and then the following week, delivered Care Packs to the clients of Maybanke (Redlands women's DV refuge) last week, followed up by a third delivery a delivery of toys, games, books and puzzles to help the families at Maybanke. All these items were

donated by SI Bayside members. The staff were delighted and so glad to get them in time to distribute before Easter. These last packs contained some Easter chocolate treats as well.



SI Ipoh - Care Packs

SI Ipoh answered a call for shortage of toiletries, medical supplies, diapers etc by MPKSM Ipoh Rumah Sejahtera Jelapang , an old folks home with 39 residents. In times like this , it is not convenient for our senior friends to stand in long queues to buy basic necessities. They all just want to keep healthy and stay home.

Thank you to Billion Supermarket Jelapang for delivering these items to them.



SI Penang - MCO Frontline Project.

Every day since March 23, the members of SI Penang have been delivering food to essential health workers. They are raising funds however they can to continue to provide this service. If your club would like to assist with **donations please contact sipenang@siswp.org**





SI Kemang - Protective clothing

SI Kemang members were concerned that many hospitals in Indonesia lack of self protection equipment for their staff, SI Kemang has been involved in fund raising for buying and distributing self protection equipment for the medical team in several hospitals in Jakarta and other cities out of Java. SI Kemang members are seeking ongoing **donations to enable them to** continue to supply this equipment, please contact sikemang@siswp.org





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

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Educate, Empower, Enable



Copy for the May 2020 eSPAN edition is required by 31 April 2020
to swpasstprogramdirector1@siswp.org

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