


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

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Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific

Translation of the eSPAN, To translate this edition of the eSPAN, into Chinese, Thai, Khmer, Malay, Indonesian, click on the View this email in your browser link at the top of the page, when viewed in a browser a further toolbar is displayed, click on the Translate button, then choose the language you want it translated into.



16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence had its origins in 1991 and has largely been coordinated by the Women's Global Institute for Leadership. This civil society initiative runs from 16 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against women to Human Rights Day on 10 December. This year it is strengthened by the UN Secretary-General's, UNiTE by 2030: to end Violence Against Women. This violence is recognised as the greatest human right violation in the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated all those factors which work to generate violence as social and economic stress have resulted in steep increases in the types of violence experienced particularly by women and girls. Quarantines and social isolation have dramatically increased pressure on mental health providers. Perhaps the greatest danger is that humanity is running a risk of slowing and even reversing the fragile improvements that have been made and women's human rights risk being eroded.

The UN system has responded with a programme including civil society in all its forms and

governments to Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect in their fight against violence against Women. TI Secretary -General's fight has the slogan:

Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect.

Our Federation campaign can work in all these areas and a Toolkit will shortly become available with ideas for clubs and individuals to help eliminate violence against women. Clubs need to start thinking about how they will respond to this very important campaign.

[Read More](#)

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## Advocacy Work

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**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.

### International Day of the Girl Child

Celebrated annually throughout the world on the 11th of October. SI Europe produced a video on the 2020 theme **My Voice, Our Equal Future** which collectively represents the 5 Federations involvement of the Global Advocacy team.

The [video](#) showcases key projects from each federation shows how Soroptimists work to provide a future for girls in which equality is possible and education and training becomes the means by which their future may be achieved. Get on line and check out the video, it provides an excellent showcase of our work around the globe and the progress we have made.

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) annually organises events for World Environment Day, which encourages worldwide awareness and action for the protection of the environment. It is celebrated on 5 June in over 100 countries.

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

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# Programme Reporting Database

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## Programme Database Changes

There have been some improvements made to the programme reporting database.

**Improvement 1** - When you first log onto the Reporting database, you will notice a pop up message box. This is so that the programme team can communicate messages and reminders to you. Sometimes it will be there sometimes not. Please take the time to read the message and then use the CLOSE button to close the message box.

**Improvement 2** - When you are viewing a report from the Reports table, or the Search Reports Table, if you use the eye icon to view the report, you will notice that there is now a bubble above the response fields "VIEW DETAIL", clicking on this bubble will display a pop out with the full response making it easier to read.

**Improvement 3** - Search Reports - Export to excel. When you search on a report, set your criteria, ie Date Range, Country, Objective etc, depends on how big or small you want your result list to be. After you have completed your search and have received a result list, you now will see an additional green button "DOWNLOAD ALL INFORMATION", this will allow you to download the result list in an excel spreadsheet. Having the data in an excel spreadsheet will allow you to do more in-depth analysis of the data.

**Improvement 4** - Searching by the ID no. Each of the reports is assigned a unique ID no, you are now able to search by this ID no. If using the Report table, just type in your ID in the search field. Using the Search Reports table, you will notice that there is a search field titled Report ID, type the report no here and then perform your search.

The Programme team hopes that the changes improve your experience of using the database.

**Report by: Dixie Brown Zone 2 Programme Coordinator**

Well done to the clubs who submitted reports in the last month. There was a total of 55 reports from the 4 zones published from 10

September to 9 October. Congratulations to SI Brisbane Water who submitted 6 reports.

Remember to write and submit your reports very soon as there is only 2 and a half months of the Soroptimist year remaining.

**Zone 1 (12)**

Brisbane Water 6, Randwick & Eastern Suburbs 2 and 1 for Mackay, Darkan (Mongolia), Canberra and The Hills.

### **Zone 2 (23)**

Joondalup, Launceston and Hobart submitted 4 each, Waitara, Rockingham and Maylands Peninsular 2 each and 1 for Wellington, Circular Heads, Burnie, Kapiti and New Plymouth.

### **Zone 3 (13)**

Westland, Christchurch, Beenleigh, Gold Coast submitted 2 each and 1 for Brisbane, Bayside, Waimea, Moreton North and Logan.

### **Zone 4 (7)**

Torrens submitted 4, Eastern Districts of Adelaide 2 and Kuantan (Malaysia) 1.

The Programme Team are looking forward to reading about the work you have been doing. Set yourself a target to have your reports submitted as soon as possible.

"Any club undertaking work related to the bush fires in Australia is asked to include the words Bushfire Relief in the title of their database report. This will assist with searches."



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Please upload your Programme Reports to the SISWP Programme reporting database, and also remember to report to the [Road to Equity Database](#) on what you are doing in relation to this threat. Watch the 'Exploring the Road to Equality' a webinar recording from 20 August 2020 and check out information on the upcoming webinar SI Voices Webinar ENDING FGM.



## SOROPTIMIST WEBINARS

Soroptimist International have been hosting a series of webinars to keep members informed. When these webinars are not often live streamed in suitable times for the members of the South West Pacific, they can be viewed at your convenience from the [Soroptimist Global Youtube channel](#). You know you don't always have to watch, you can pop in your ear buds and do your housework, gardening, drive to work and still listen to these informative webinars. We never stop learning



## UN SDG Work

### CSW65 (2021)

The sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 15 to 26 March 2021.

**Priority theme:** Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

**Review theme:** Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session).

### CSW65 Statement: Women as Leaders, Decision Makers and Participants in Public Life

This statement is presented by Soroptimist International on behalf of its 72,000 members active in 121 countries. Soroptimists are leaders in their communities and professions, working in partnership with women, girls, and their communities, to educate, empower, and enable. For almost 100 years, Soroptimist' grassroots projects have addressed discrimination and inequality experienced by women and girls. We actively support the achievement of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Read the full statement by SI.

[READ MORE](#)



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## Best Practice Awards for each of the 8 Objectives

Clubs are to be congratulated for the quality and quantity of nominations for the 2019 Best Practice Awards. These awards will be announced at the Virtual Conference of Clubs, to be held on the 20 to the 22nd of November. [View the Conference Program Here](#), Registrations will be open shortly.

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## 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

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The UN 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence activities, from 25 November to 10 December, will take place under the 2020 global theme:

"Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!"

Check out the UN Women's Good Will Ambassador, Nicole Kidman's video:

"Play your role in ending violence against women"

As we all start to think about ways that we can be involved in the 16 Days of Activism, we thought would be timely to reflect on some of the advocacy that has taken place during the last 18 months. Maybe it is time to reinforce the messages from those advocacy actions, or perhaps we can be inspired to take up the call in some other areas.

Friendship Clubs might like to support each other and make a concerted effort to advocate jointly. Here are a few examples, most from 2019, with the objective- Elimination of Violence:

### **SI Brisbane Waters (New South Wales, Australia)**

Members of SI Brisbane Water joined with the local Domestic Violence Committee and planned an awareness campaign to highlight the scourge of domestic violence in their community.

Several meetings were held during the year, where strategies were put in place for maximum impact. The Committee liaised with the Police and Central Coast Council regarding a march for permission, road closures on the day and installation of light boxes at a local beach area.

The light boxes displayed details of women who had been affected by domestic violence. For the march community groups were contacted and asked to participate. Local indigenous groups were invited to participate, along with several performances from local High School students.

Members of Parliament, both State and Federal were invited and most were present on the day. The march saw approximately 500 people take part, walking from the local Police Station along the main street to a local park where the speeches by local dignitaries took place, some highlighting the statistics regarding the high incidence of domestic violence particularly in the local area. Members also organised and assisted at 5am at 3 local train stations distributing white ribbons to commuters on their way to work and stalls at local shopping centres and community clubs.

## SI Ba (Fiji)

A march was organised through the town with slogans to stop Violence Against Women and Girl Employers, employees and spectators were watching with interest, with some joining the march the Gujarati Grounds where speeches and refreshments was organised. The speakers were from Fiji Police force and Legal Aid Department who highlighted the rights of women and girls and what they can do when adverse circumstances arise.

This public advocacy action was aimed at educating the public, especially men to be responsible and treat women with dignity and respect. To educate women and girls about their right to live in that society with high self esteem and report any sexual or verbal abuse by their partners, employers or people in authority.

## SI Mackay (North Queensland, Australia)



#walkthetalkmackay 2019

16 days of activism signs and Facebook posts were used to promote Respectful Relationships to encourage working towards a world free of violence.

The signs were printed and put in around 40 businesses throughout Mackay, with support from other organisations including the Mackay Police, ABC Radio and Mackay Women's Services.

## SI Burnie (Tasmania, Australia)

A comprehensive display of posters and brochures, using material from the SI website, was erected in a central location in the City of Burnie Library, advocating the elimination of violence against women and girls. These posters and brochures were used to inform the public and heighten awareness of this crucial issue. The local, national and international work of SI Burnie was also publicised.

The aim of the display was to promote community comment and discussion, and influence social and political decisions and action. A total of 4580 people visited the library during the display period.



**SI Lae (PNG)** as part of the UN16 Days of Action in partnership with the Global Safe City Programme, UN Women PNG worked closely with local stakeholders to improve safety across the city in making markets and public transport safe and accessible for women and girls.

Safety audits were carried out in the main street market area of Lae City to ensure women's access to the market is safe by carrying out a Women's Safety Audit in this public space.

The audit of the market in the evening identified the need for lighting, signs, notice boards etc. SI Lae organised the











repainting of the pedestrian crossing at the Lae Main Market. Lae City Authority (LCA) was one of several stakeholders that supported this initiative and SI Lae look forward to more partnerships in making their city a cleaner and safer place for everyone.



## Women, Water and Climate: Tackling the Challenges

A Webinar Series organised by Women for Water Partnership (WfWP) in conjunction with partners NetWwater and Soroptomist International of the South West Pacific (SISWP). This event was supported by SEI Asia’s Strategic Collaborative Fund, which aims to foster region cooperation and policy dialogue for sustainable development and environmental sustainability through capacity building, knowledge sharing and increased collaboration. To register for any of the final 3 webinars [follow this link](#)

	<p>TUE, 13 OCT 08:00</p> <p><b>Webinar 3   Rural Bengal Women: Coping with Climate Change</b></p>
<p>FREE</p>	<p>#Business #Conference  </p>
	<p>THU, 15 OCT 08:00</p> <p><b>Webinar 4   Harvesting Nature's Bounty: The Sarawak Story</b></p>
<p>FREE</p>	<p>#Business #Conference  </p>
	<p>TUE, 20 OCT 08:00</p> <p><b>Webinar 5   Facing Nature's Fury: Women Take Charge in Lombok, Indonesia</b></p>
<p>FREE</p>	<p>#Business #Conference  </p>

## UN International Days

## OCTOBER

15 October - International Day of Rural Women (A/RES/62/136)

16 October - World Food Day [FAO] (A/RES/35/70)

17 October - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (A/RES/47/196)

24 October - United Nations Day (A/RES/168 (II); A/RES/2782 (XXVI))

24 October - World Development Information Day (A/RES/3038 (XXVII))

## NOVEMBER

5 November - World Tsunami Awareness Day (A/RES/70/203)

6 November - International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict (A/RES/56/4)

10 November - World Science Day for Peace and Development (UNESCO 31 C/Resolution 20)

16 November - International Day for Tolerance (UNESCO 28 C/Resolution 5.61; A/RES/51/95)

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## Around the Federation

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### UN Day of the Girl Child Ulaanbaata

Child marriage is driven by gender inequality and the belief that women and girls are somehow inferior to men and boys. There is limited information on child marriage in Mongolia, but available reports have shown that it is driven by low levels of education, poverty and trafficking. Girls with primary and lower secondary education have a lower median age at first marriage than those who have completed secondary or higher education.

SI Ulaanbaatar organised "No Apologies" training as a character-based pre-marital sexual abstinence programme that seeks to help young people uncover the truth behind life, love and sex. The training consists of four units:

1. Who am I? (Discovering self worth).
2. Media and you (Influence of media in relationships and values).
3. Boundaries and Choices (Understanding the importance of healthy boundaries in relationships).
4. Healthy Relationships (Dynamics of relationships).

An excellent project to help decrease the rate of teen pregnancy, abortion, single parent households and divorce in Mongolia

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**SI Moreton North Inc (SIMNI)** has embraced SISWP Membership Month and Mental Health We

with some very practical projects to reach out to others in our community to let them know that we care about them.

We invited our SIMNI Members, SI Chatliners, SIMNI Friendship Link Clubs and the SI Social Isolation Friendship group to join us.

Queensland Mental Health Week 10-18 October 2020 – **Take Time to Talk about Mental Health**  
 Yarning it up #4508 - SIMNI members stayed in contact with each other via Zoom meetings, email and phone chats. While we were unsuccessful in our grant submission we decided to progress with our planned activities that included a series of interviews with members, friends and local business owners who were invited to share some of their coping strategies during social isolation. These are being rolled out each day on our SIMNI Facebook Page / SI Social Isolation Friendship Facebook Page to encourage others to take time to talk about mental health. We are also creating lit memory stones that will be distributed along pathways and parks with positive messages. [www.facebook.com/SIMoretonNorthInc](http://www.facebook.com/SIMoretonNorthInc)



**Postcards & Gifts for Cobargo & Surrounding Communities New South Wales Bush Fires**  
 the Cobargo Community in New South Wales Australia was devastated during the 2019/20 bushfires. We contacted a local co-ordinating community group who advised that many people were feeling alone and forgotten and were still living in temporary accommodation. We offered to organise postcards with greetings from SI Members around the world that could be handed c



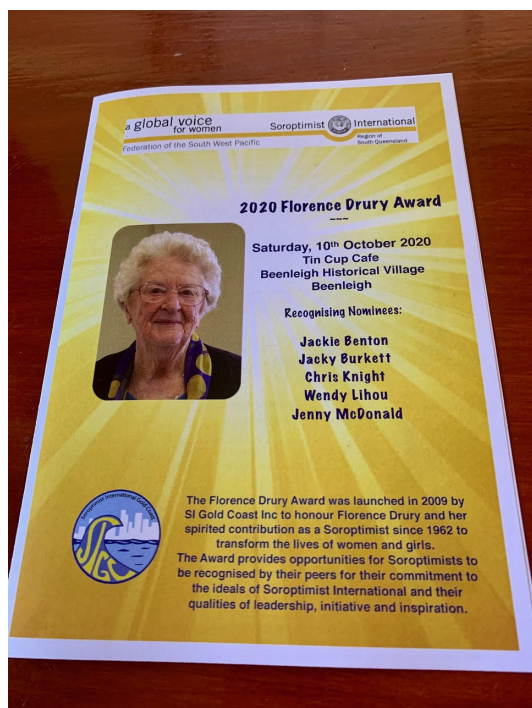
personally to them. The key messages on the postcards are We Care About You /Sending O Love Across the Miles and Memories Matter. Small Forget Me Not gifts of lavender bags and Penny or Your Thoughts (with actual pennies) will also be sent with the postcards.

**SI Gold Coast and the Region of South Queensland: Florence Drury Award.** And there we five worthy candidates from clubs in the Region nominated for the Florence Drury Award this year. The Award had been created in 2009 by SI Gold Coast to honour Florence's spirited contribution as a Soroptimist since 1962 to transform the lives of women and girls. The Florence Drury Award provides opportunities for Soroptimists to be recognised by their peers for their commitment to the ideals of Soroptimist International and their qualities of leadership, initiative and inspiration. In this very unusual year of the Coronavirus where normal club activities and engagement have been impacted, clubs were asked to recognise a member who had quietly continued to support the idea of being a Soroptimist and had continued making a difference in her community without fanfare. This year's function also took the time to celebrate Florence's 100 Birthday which occurred in March but was postponed until now due to COVID19.



The two external selectors said the decision was not easy to separate the nominees, as they had achieved and contributed so much for the benefit of their communities. The nominees were: Jack Benton (Beenleigh), Jacky Burkett (Bayside), Chris Knight (Moreton North), Wendy Lihou (Logan) and Jenny McDonald (Gold Coast). The chosen 2020 Florence Drury Award Recipient was: Jack Burkett from SI Bayside Inc.

The Selectors asked that "a big high five be given to all Soroptimists for the wonderful way they endeavour to provide a better world for us all"!



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Copy for the November eSPAN edition is required by 1st November to  
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