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Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the May 2021 edition of the Programme Action News

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To access all links and stories, [please log in to the website with your member details](#).

FROM OUR PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Environment and more

The outbreak of COVID-19 has caused significant social, political and economic consequences worldwide. A health crisis, leaving no country behind with a greater challenge and impact on our lives.

A number of surveys I have seen have indicated that climate change is of great concern to young people and they see action about this as a priority. Similarly, a number of our member nations are concerned and taking action to try to offset deforestation, rising sea levels and destructive natural forces. In other of our member nations, species decline or eradication, drought, fires, floods and food security concerns have initiated actions.

"... climate change is of great concern to young people and they see action about this as a priority."

The health of our environment is vital to us all and hence our new campaign this year is focussed around **June 5** which is **World Environment Day**. There is little doubt also that gender and climate are inter-related and studies show that women suffer most at several levels when climate issues are involved. This is truly an international issue but as always it is reflected at the local level and it is there that clubs can take action.

What has your club planned to protect the earth? Hopefully, it includes switching off your power for an hour?



There is still time to act. Sign up for [Earth Hour](#) as part of **100 Acts of Kindness**, plan a speaker on some aspect for June, plant some bee friendly species, see what your local council is doing and assist, plant some of your 100 trees or work on a plan to educate children in some way. This is truly a 'think globally, act locally' type of movement. We hope to see this grow to challenge the 16 Days of Activism in terms of club involvement.

Now for the 'and more' ... There is a new 'note' on the **Report Database** front page. Please read it before entering your report. It will save you from having to rework a report that was rejected because you had dates outside of 2021.

At the recent Interim Board meeting, aka IBM, decisions were made that determined SISWP directions and priorities. Some of these decisions involved Programme directions, so stay tuned.

Hopefully, almost all clubs are back to face to face meetings and enjoying the fellowship that is such a significant part of our organisation. Stay safe, stay healthy and look after each other.

Di Lockwood

Programme Director

Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific

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Gender and Climate Change – [Gender Responsive Climate Finance](#) from Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung
Washington, DC

ADVOCACY WORK



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

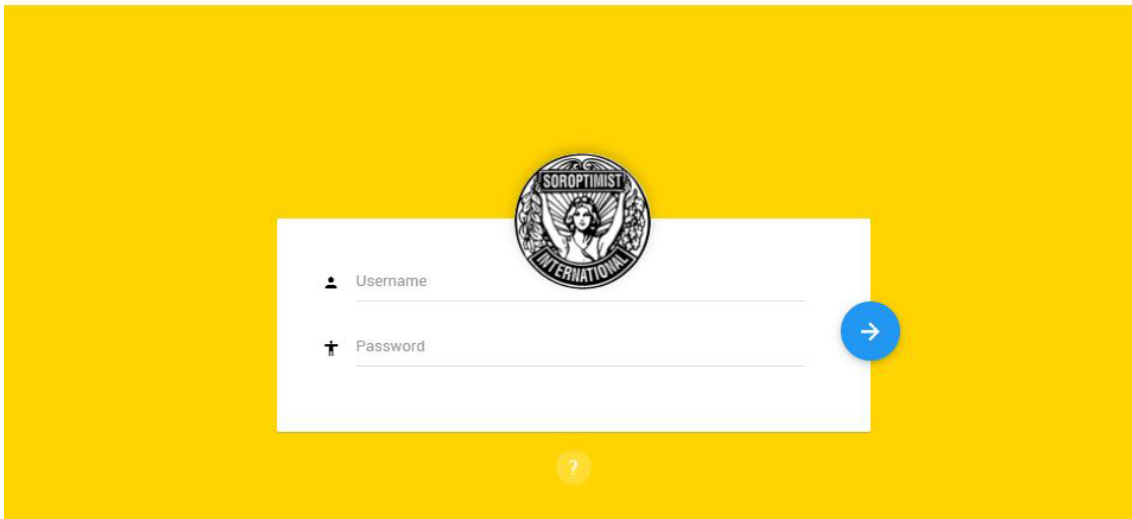
Advocating on behalf of women is a core Soroptimist function.

The Programme team would be pleased to hear what your club is doing?

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE



Women Inspiring Action, Transforming Lives



Having problems with the Programme Database?

If you have any issues logging in to the SISWP Programme Database, please contact Di Lockwood, Programme Director swpprogramme2020@siswp.org.

BEST PRACTICE AWARDS



Programme of Service Meeting at the IBM

The Best Practice Awards showcase the excellent projects in the Federation, and acknowledge outstanding projects by

member clubs.

The following awards for 7 of the 8 Goal 2 Objectives were announced at the Interim Board Meeting held on 16 May:

Education – SI Griffith

Elimination of Violence – SI Beenleigh

Economic Empowerment – SI Damansara

Healthcare – SI Beenleigh

Environment – SI Lautoka

Conflict Resolution – SI Lautoka

Disaster Relief – SI Beenleigh

Congratulations to these clubs which will be showcased in upcoming eSPANs.



The Road to Equality

SI PRESIDENT'S APPEAL 2019 - 2021



Beyond Football

As a part of the Soroptimist International (SI) President's Appeal 'The Road to Equality', SI is delighted to announce its collaboration with Shreeja India, and the 'Beyond Football' programme.

In India, even if village girls enrol in schools as children, around 63.5 percent of them leave school during adolescence. Almost 27 percent of girls are married before the age of 18 years and 70 percent of girls suffer abuse in different forms across the nation.

[Read more.](#)

UN SDG WORK

SI and the UN

Vienna

The sixty-fourth Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in April 2021, during the [64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs](#) Vienna, scholars shared their considerable

research with their audience during a presentation entitled '**Shifting the Needle: The Impact of Global Policy on Women**'. The research, which is now part of a [book](#), was just one example of the harrowing and at times sad and tragic journey endured by many women and girls as they try to survive the dangerous world of illicit drugs.

[Read more.](#)

Paris

UNESCO Report on Education and Civil Society

UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education 2030 (CCNGO) Coordination Group has released a new report, entitled '**The Role of Civil Society Organisations in 2050 and Beyond**'.

[Read More.](#)

Solidarity of NGOs Facing the Pandemic: Communication and Culture

United Nations (UN) Representative, Evelyne Para, brings us the third instalment in her series of blogs about how Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. This blog focuses on Communication, Information, and Culture.

[Read more.](#)

UN DAYS



May

- 15 May – [International Day of Families](#)
- 16 May – [International Day of Light](#)
- 16 May – [International Day of Living Together in Peace](#)
- 20 May – [World Bee Day](#)
- 22 May – [International Day for Biological Diversity](#)
- 23 May – [International Day to end Obstetric Fistula](#)
- 29 May – [International Day of UN Peacekeepers](#)

June

- 1 June – [Global Day of Parents](#)
- 5 June – [World Environment Day](#)
- 7 June – [World Food Safety Day](#)
- 8 June – [World Oceans Day](#)
- 12 June – [World Day Against Child Labour](#)
- 15 June – [World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#)
- 19 June – [International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict](#)
- 20 June – [World Refugee Day](#)
- 26 June – [International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking](#)
- 26 June – [United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



With World Environment Day in mind ...

1. Biodiversity involves 8 million plant and animal species, the ecosystems that house them, and the genetic diversity among them.
2. In the last 150 years, the live coral reef cover has been reduced by half.
3. Within the next 10 years, one out of every four known species may have been wiped off the planet.
4. It would take 1.6 Earths to meet the demands that humans make on nature each year.



Offset your Carbon Footprint

Offset your Carbon Footprint with native trees and shrubs which have a powerful role to play in the fight against climate change.

Did you know 62 trees will help to remove about 14 tonnes of carbon? National Carbon Calculator helps you work out how many native shrubs and trees you will need to plant to mitigate your carbon footprint from today as your trees or forest grows over time.

For example, of the number of native trees you would need to plant to mitigate your CO₂ emissions from today over 50 years:

- A return flight from Auckland to Sydney = 4 native trees
- Household electricity use for 1 year (8,000 kWh) = 3 native trees
- Use of medium sized car, 10,000km = 9 native trees

The above total tree count CO₂ calculation is derived from using the carbon calculator and is based off an assumption that the tree count is made up of a range of between 5% tall tree species and 95% shrubs (smaller trees) through to 25% tall tree species and 75% shrubs (smaller trees) and is calculated over a 50-year timeframe – assuming the trees are planted and grow for all of that period.

Have you measured how big your carbon footprint is?



SI Bangkok's planting initiative

In 2018, SI Bangkok launched its Climate Change Initiative to promote sustainable development, to decrease air pollution by planting trees in Thailand and to reduce the consumption of disposable plastic.

"Their goal is to improve air quality and combat climate change in Thailand by planting 10,000 trees."

Their goal is to improve air quality and combat climate change in Thailand by planting 10,000 trees. At the heart of air pollution is the invisible air pollutant, PM 2.5. Planting trees improves air quality by cooling and removing pollutants from the surrounding area (i.e. within a 100 foot radius of each individual tree). Commonly known as the 'silent killer', smog kills 50,000 people in Thailand every year. SI Bangkok has for several years been involved in a tree planting exercise with a number of partners.

SI Bangkok organises and executes 'planting' days which aim to get local communities involved and thereby feel more responsible for protecting their environment. To date, over a thousand trees have been planted. An example of their actions was in May 2019 when Soroptimist members and tree planting enthusiasts waded through muddy water to plant 441 saplings in the mangroves in Samut Songkram province. Mangroves benefit forests and help to protect coastlines from storm surges, filter out pollutants, and provide shelter to a wide array of diverse lifeforms. Mangroves also sequester massive amounts of carbon, which helps mitigate the impact and combat climate change. More information in our next eSPAN.

AROUND THE FEDERATION

SI New Zealand North – 100 Trees to Celebrate 100 Years



SI New Zealand North region has set up an account with the Trees that Count organisation as part of its contribution to both the environment and SI 100 years celebration. Clubs in the region are supporting this initiative by purchasing trees to offset their carbon footprint. This is a great way to support the planting of native trees.

Fiji

Women in Fiji, including some Soroptimists, have been actively involved in a multi-tier consultation progress about the future. President Suman Lal gave a detailed summary in the recent Bulletin. We encourage such consultation and networking and would be delighted to hear about any such work that your club has done.

SI Ba, Fiji



The Federation project first Sanctuary: Shelter for Women was handed over in May 2020, the Covid lockdown in Lautoka slowed everything down and resulted in a delay in the handover of the building. SI Ba did not let this delay or deter them from undertaking hands-on activities to maintain the building, ensure it was clean inside and out, hanging curtains and preparing beds for their first visitors. Activities also included planting a combination of ornamental plants around the building with some fruit bearing trees also planted on the grounds.

The club has been very busy this year after Tropical Cyclone Yasa. They donated 100 pillows to affected households in one area and followed this by the collection and distribution of household necessities in the Rakiraki area.

SI Petaling Jaya

SI Petaling Jaya was busy working with a partner to organise an online presentation of critical information about child sexual abuse and access to accurate and appropriate information about sexuality and safe puberty issues.

Five podcasts were created as well as 3 practical online sessions for 100 young participants.

Downloading and printing eSPAN

If you would like to download copies of eSPAN to print, go to the [SISWP website](#) and log in using your member login. Go to the **'Members Area'** in yellow at the top left of screen. Or if you are already logged in, [click this link](#). Here you can access all previous copies of archived eSPAN Newsletters.

COPY DEADLINES

Copy for the June 2018 eSPAN edition is required by 8 June 2021. Please email your submissions to swpasstprogramdirector1@siswp.org. Thank you.



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