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Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the June 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

World Environment Day

June 5 2021 marked the start of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. As their website states: "The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world, for the benefit of people and nature. It aims to halt the degradation of ecosystems, and restore them to achieve Global goals. Only with healthy ecosystems can we enhance people's livelihoods, counter climate change, and stop the collapse of biodiversity.

The UN Decade runs from 2021 through 2030, which is also the deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals, and the timeline scientists have identified as the last chance to prevent catastrophic climate change.

IMAGINE. RECREATE. RESTORE.

“This is our moment.

We cannot turn back time. But we can grow trees, green our cities, rewild our gardens, change our diets and clean up rivers and coasts. We are the generation that can make: peace with nature.

Let’s get active, not anxious. Let’s be bold, not timid.

Join [#GenerationRestoration](#)”

As part of this decade a Restoration play book has been developed which provides information and examples that can be used for projects and action. It can be found at: <https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/get-involved/ecosystem-restoration-playbook>

This is an area that is of vital importance in our region of the world. Read what other clubs have done in this edition and plan your project action..

Di Lockwood

Programme Director

Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific

swpprogramme2020@siswp.org

United Nations declared the theme of World Environment Day 2021 as Ecosystem restoration. We celebrate 5th June as world environment day for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of the environment.



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?





Australian Council for Human Rights Education

Date: Tuesday, 29 June 2021
Time: 10am-4.00pm
Venue: Sibyl Centre, The Women's College, 15 Carillon Avenue, NEWTOWN NSW 2042
REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL [TO achre.live@gmail.com](mailto:achre.live@gmail.com)
RSVP BY 20th June 2021

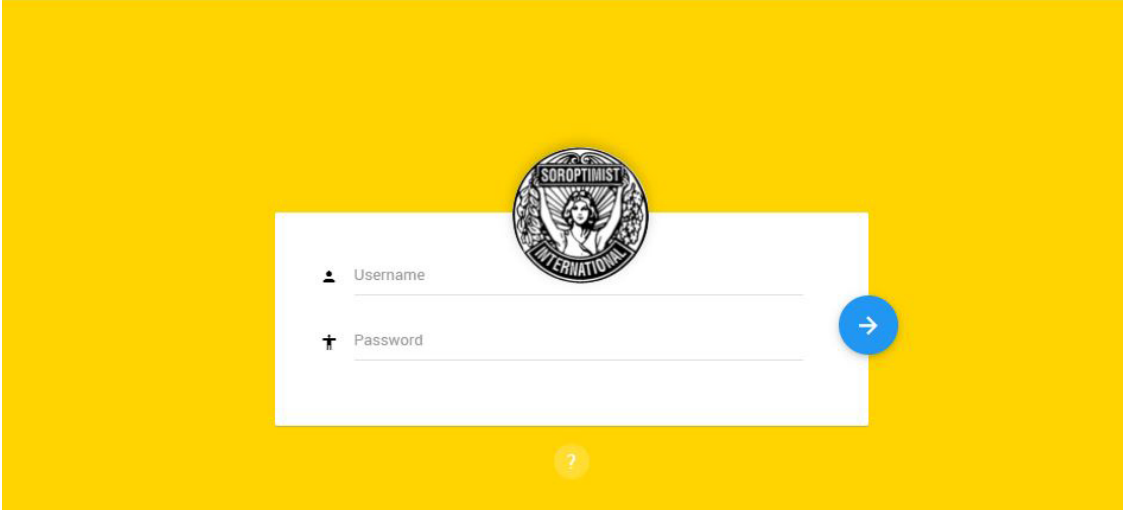
Stop Sexual Assault

The Australian Council of Human Rights invites you to attend a conference to address the human right to be safe from sexual harassment at home, at school, at work and in the community. [Read more](#)

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

Soroptimist  International
 Federation of the  South West Pacific

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.

All clubs please note

The reporting period for official data for Annual Reports for the Federation is from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2021.

Reports not entered for approval by 31 December will not be included in official data for the Federation annual report. Any report for 2021 entered after this date will be marked later and if

clubs wish to re-run their club's Annual Report they may do so. It is unreasonable to expect the Programme of Service team to have to work very long hours because clubs did not bother to enter data as work was completed during the year.

The report will go onto the database so it will not be lost. Clubs will be able to run full complete Annual Reports after 1 February 2022.

Reporting update

Did you know that there are still 95 Rejected Reports on the database? Many of these need only minor adjustments to be able to submit them again. Look at the [tip sheets](#) on how to do this. Once done you could rerun the club's 2020 Annual Report to update your club's contributions to the federation's work

Which SDG and target?

Again, information to assist you with this task can be found at:

<https://www.siswp.org/downloads/412-resources/programme-reporting-database-help-documents.html>

You can also see some examples of high scoring Best Practice Awards there to assist you with your next submission.

You did WHAT?

What has your club done so far this year? It may have been a breakfast for IWD, planting something, donating money or goods or an interesting activity. Have you reported it on the database yet? Why not?

The POS team would appreciate this as it would make life easier for all of us. As you plan something, decide who will report it on the database. Partner someone confident with a novice and, before long, people may even volunteer to do it!

January 1 to December 31

These are the crucial dates for entering reports to be included in your 2021 Annual Report.. If you are doing a project that is spread over several years then you can only enter for your 2021 Annual Report inclusion what has been achieved this year. Name the project and add Stage 1 or whatever stage applies to your title.



The Road to Equality

SI PRESIDENT'S APPEAL 2019 - 2021



Awareness, Advocacy and Action on Violence Against Women and Girls

SI President Sharon Fisher's The Road to Equality President's Appeal – strategically focuses on taking Action and Advocating on topics affecting women and girls, including Child Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Domestic Violence, Rights of Older Women, Migration, and Human Trafficking.

Through access to tools, facts and stories, we believe that each of us will be able to raise our capacity to be a global voice for women on our journey towards achieving gender equality. Check out the position paper on Human Trafficking and find out more about this SI Road to Equality theme [here](#)

The crime of human trafficking is complex and dynamic, taking place in a wide variety of contexts and it is often difficult to detect.

UN SDG WORK

What is this?



It is a movement to accelerate change to bring about gender equality, which still has not been achieved, 25 plus years after the Beijing Platform for Action. Started at a conference in Mexico it is a collaboration between all parties including civil society.

What is its focus?

As the UN Women website states

“ the Generation Equality campaign demands equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, an end to sexual harassment and all forms of violence against women and girls, health-care services that respond to their needs, and their equal participation in political life and decision-making in all areas of life.”

What is the next step?

A Generation Equality Forum in Paris will take place from 30 June – 2 July. Attended by Heads of State, the Paris Forum will convene Governments, international organizations, civil society, youth, the private sector and activists from the entire world to make concrete, ambitious and sustainable commitments towards achieving gender equality. It will be virtual and you can register here: <https://forumgenerationegalite.fr/en/get-involved/register>

UN DAYS

**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](#)

July

- 11 July - [World Population Day](#)
- 15 July - [World Youth Skills Day](#)
- 18 July - [Nelson Mandela International Day](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

**Earth Hour**

Did you turn off power for one hour on June 5?
If so, the planet thanks you.

Concerned about pollution from electricity generation?

Watch this short video from UNDESA (UN Department of Economic Social Affairs) promoting the value of solar energy.



Consider the Oceans

The ocean is a vital part of our world and deserves protection. It is part of the global life support system.

How does this impact women and girls?

As the Gender Based Constituency stated in a December 2020 submission to a UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference.

“Women and girls in all their diversity constitute about half of the world's population. In all countries, women disproportionately take higher risks, carry greater burdens and face increased sexual and gender-biased violence resulting from environmental degradation, conflicts and crisis, especially when responsible for their families and living in poverty. The

majority of the world's impoverished are women. Women and girls often have the least capacity to respond to the impacts of the ocean-climate-biodiversity crisis on health including sexual and reproductive health, water, food security, income, infrastructure, mobility, well-being etc."

In many island communities, women are actively engaged in marine-based work yet have limited input into decisions. As recent disasters have shown they are most at risk in ocean based events such as tsunamis, rising sea levels and intensifying hurricanes.

How is this a Soroptimist problem?

We all contribute in some way to the issues and we all can make small changes that will have an impact. We can limit our use of plastic and advocate for the removal of single use plastics, plant trees to absorb CO2 and stabilise soil, push governments to maintain clean rivers, advocate for more marine parks and avoid using toxic chemicals in our gardens. Every small action, good or bad has a consequence.

[Learn more:](#)

AROUND THE FEDERATION

Soroptimists Restoring Earth's Ecosystems

In the May edition of eSPAN we presented **SI Bangkok's** climate change initiative which began in 2018 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."

In 2020 their climate change story continues. Their members, family and friends traveled to Bangkachao Island where over 300 saplings were planted. 50 of each of two species were planted on dry land. 200 mangrove palm trees that do not have to be buried in the soil to flourish were tossed on the firm ground along a canal from kayaks.



The participants also collected any trash that they found. This is used by locals to recycle for community use. The local villagers are active in keeping the area clean and protecting the saplings. With this activity members are certain that the island will remain "the lungs of Bangkok."

SI Lautoka has continued its planting of 500 tree as a counter to climate change in Fiji. From planting 500 trees last year to 2,300 mangrove seedlings this year we have continued our effort by distributing 50 vegetable and fruit seedlings to needy families to mark World Environment Day

2021.

Much further north in Mongolia where deforestation has removed much green growth, members of **SI Ulaanbaatar** planted a grove of 100 trees to mark their 20th birthday while **SI Darkhan** established some 15 trees at a children’s art development centre and later ensured that they were watered.



As part of Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific's 100 year celebrations, club members joined together to plant 100 trees at Eagleby Wetlands.

SI Albany has been enriching the lives of those who live with dementia. The club designed and produced five multi-sensory kits to aid people living with dementia, their carers, friends and family. Trials of kits were held at various locations and settings. The kits are designed to trigger memories and conversation.



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 July 2021 SPAN edition is required by 8 July 2021. Please email your submissions to swpasstprogrammedirector1@siswp.org. Thank you.



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