

Having difficulty viewing or reading this email? [View this email in your browser](#)

Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the August 2021 edition of the Programme Action News

To translate this Bulletin into Chinese, Khmer, Thai, Indonesian, or Malay, please use the 'View this email in your browser' link above, and click the translate button.

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

FROM OUR PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Recently I spent some time looking at some of the Federation's past history and this resulted in some reflection about some 27 years ago when I decided to join our organisation. I had grown up in a home where civic service was normal and had reached an age when I felt that I could give some time to others. I recall being confused about Region and a little overawed at the time by its requirements.

I recall also becoming frustrated that there was so much discussion and so little action. I felt that "they" should do something. Of course, I eventually realised that "they" also meant me and I became more involved. There were some wonderful women that I met and we did some good work but after 9 years and a period of recycling position holders, the club folded because too many members would not step up. A few transferred to another club.

Why did you join a club? Some people are involved members while there is fundraising or social activities but can become less active where service work is undertaken. There is no doubt that our clubs provide wonderful friendship and support. In fact, membership can enable contact across the world and fabulous friendships within countries in our Federation and this should not be underestimated.

We are, however, service clubs and this is our core business. The majority of us joined because we wanted to make a difference in the lives of women and girls and this is essentially our Programme work. Yes, it has been more difficult this year, but remember that, even more, this year our decision to make a difference is even more vital.

My current position, although a very busy one, gives me the honour of knowing what all our clubs are doing. I am humbled by their decisions, their actions and their commitment not only in their local areas, but across nations. Soroptimist sisters take a bow. Stay Strong. You are truly seeking to do what is best for women.

Di Lockwood

Programme Director

Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific

swpprogramme2020@siswp.org



Please Help Us

Every month the Programme of Service team spend many hours researching and producing the Soroptimist Programme Action News better known to you as SPAN. It is a time-consuming but interesting task. However, figures show us that even while it is delivered to individual email boxes, less than 50% of members open it.

Is it worth the trouble and time?
Is it not giving you something that you value?

We wish to know, so we are asking you to complete a short survey which will help us review and determine the content of SPAN. Please take the time to open it, complete it and submit it. It will take you less than 5 minutes.

Help us to help you and your club and complete the 5 minute survey [HERE](#).

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?

The programme team are hoping to have a webinar on advocacy this year

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

Soroptimist  International
Federation of the  South West Pacific

Women Inspiring Action, Transforming Lives

A screenshot of a login page for the Soroptimist International Programme Reporting Database. The page has a bright yellow background. At the top center is the Soroptimist International logo, which features a woman's profile inside a circular emblem with the words 'SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL'. Below the logo is a white rectangular login form. The form contains two input fields: 'Username' with a person icon to its left, and 'Password' with a key icon to its left. To the right of the password field is a blue circular button with a white right-pointing arrow. At the bottom center of the yellow background is a small yellow question mark icon.

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.

Reporting Update

- August 2021 – Three quarters of the year is nearly done. Has your club entered all reports? Please do so as we do not want a “logjam” in December.
- 31 December – Last day for entry of reports to be part of the Federation official data for 2021. Why? A specific deadline each Year enables us to have comparative data for analysis for the Strategic Plan.
- 31 January – All reports assessed and clubs can run their Annual Report and their data will be included in Federation figures
- All reports entered after 31 December will now be assessed. Clubs may choose to rerun their annual report to include this information but it will not be counted in official figures.
- Rejected reports – 102 of them currently. Clubs can reuse these taking into account any suggestions made by the POS team and resubmit them. A Tip sheet is on the website.
- Delete the originals of reused reports and any reports you do not wish to continue. Use the rubbish bin symbol.

UN SDG WORK

SI and the UN

Our Voice at the UN Parts 1 and 2

This edition of ‘Our Voice at the UN’ is divided into two parts

New York – Part 1

Bette Levy, SI’s Lead United Nations (UN) Representative in New York, introduces the principal organs of the UN and looks at how the pandemic has impacted SI’s activities. [Read more](#)

New York – Part 2

This edition takes a closer look at the current assignments of SI’s Representatives operating at the UN Headquarters in New York. [Read more](#)

The following information is sourced from UN Day Observances pages:

World Humanitarian Day (uploaded from UN site)

A global challenge for climate action in solidarity with the people who need it most.



The climate emergency is wreaking havoc across the world at a scale that people on the front lines and in the humanitarian community cannot manage. Time is already running out for the world's most vulnerable people — those who have contributed least to the global climate emergency yet are hit the hardest — and millions of others that are already losing their homes, their livelihoods, and their lives.

With most climate campaigns focused on slowing climate change and securing the planet's future, **World Humanitarian Day 2021**, will highlight the immediate consequences of the climate emergency for the world's most vulnerable people and ensure that their voices are heard, and their needs top the agenda at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November. Therefore, everyone is invited to join **#TheHumanRace**, which is the global challenge for climate action in solidarity with people who need it the most; and to put the needs of climate-vulnerable people front and centre at the UN climate summit (COP26).

Join **#theHumanRace** Run, ride, swim, walk or do any activity of your choice for a cumulative 100 minutes between August 16 and August 31 in solidarity with vulnerable people and to tell world leaders that they expect developed countries to deliver on their decade-old pledge of \$100 billion annually for climate mitigation and adaptation in developing countries. If you don't wish to take part physically you can **ADD YOUR VOICE** [here](#).

The World Day of Peace 2021 Theme Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

In 2021, as we heal from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are inspired to think creatively and collectively about how to help everyone recover better, how to build resilience, and how to transform our world into one that is more equal, more just, equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and healthier.

The 2021 theme for the International Day of Peace is "Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world". We invite you to join the efforts of the United Nations family as we focus on recovering better for a more equitable and peaceful



world. Celebrate peace by standing up against acts of hate online and offline, and by spreading compassion, kindness, and hope in the face of the pandemic, and as we recover.

UN DAYS



August

- 19 Aug [World Humanitarian Day](#)
- 21 Aug [Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism](#)
- 22 Aug [Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief](#)
- 23 Aug [Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition](#)
- 29 Aug [Against Nuclear Tests](#)
- 30 Aug [Victims of Enforced Disappearances](#)

September

- 05 Sep [International Day of Charity](#)
- 07 Sep [International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies](#)
- 08 Sep [International Literacy Day](#)
- 15 Sept [International Day of Democracy](#)
- 18 Sep [International Equal Pay Day](#)
- 21 Sep [International Day of Peace](#)
- 26 Sep [International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Centennial Celebrations - Get on board for \$25 AUS

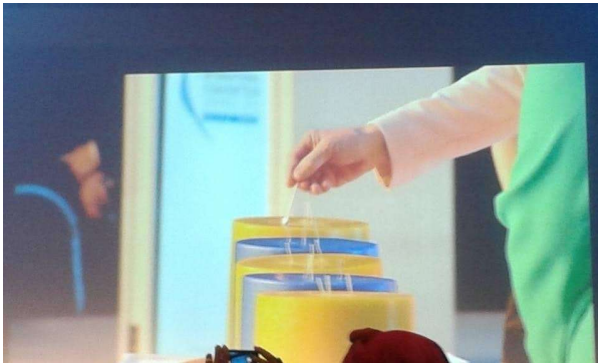


Have you joined the Walk!

This virtual walk provides you, your family and friends a great opportunity to virtual walk to the 5 Federations, whilst visiting countries you get to hear about our bright past, relive projects which Soroptimists have implemented, get to know the other members of your walking group, post up images of where you walk, all in the knowledge that you are improving your own health whilst contributing to the [Brilliant Futures Fund](#), which will change the lives of women and girls through club based projects.

The team members of C100, We Stand up for Women, and Gender Equality await you joining them and helping them walk to the Gala Celebration. [Join here](#)

100th Gala Celebration




Another way to contribute to the 100th Gala Celebrations is to join the **100 Candle Ceremony - 3000 clubs together.**

We invite you to light your candles during the 10 days before our 100 Celebration, starting 21 September on the International Day of Peace. The 2021

theme for the International Day of Peace is "Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world". What better wish can we have for our brilliant future!

This is an initiative of the Soroptimist Lab Community. If you wish your club to participate in this ceremony, then please read the full details of how to [participate here](#).

Federation Project - Brilliant Futures Fund



A new resource for the Federation Project has been developed. This brochure explains What is the Brilliant Futures Fund, How to nominate a project for funding and How to donate to the Fund.

Please download this [resource from here](#), print out and distribute to club members or use it to publicise the fund.

The SISWP website has a new page for the Federation Project - Brilliant Futures Fund, with all the latest information, links to documents and links to nominate your project.

[Follow this link to view](#)

The COVID pandemic has been estimated to put gender parity a further generation away. The World Economic Forum stated that:

***"in 2020 gender parity was 99.5 years away.
It is now 135.6 years away."***

There is some good news: the gender gaps in education and health are closing, albeit slowly.

There is a **Safer Sooner** document which reflects efforts to establish a “Global Binding Norm to End Violence against Women and Girls.” Also known as the Every Woman Treaty, this drive involves 1,700 activists, including 840 organisations in 128 nations. Not one country in our Federation has a Treaty to prevent violence against women and girls. Only one country in our Federation has committed to achieving this. That country is Fiji. (Further information can be found at everywoman.org) [Read more](#)

United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration

PREVENTING, HALTING AND REVERSING THE DEGRADATION OF ECOSYSTEMS WORLDWIDE.

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is a global rallying cry to heal our planet. What will you restore?

Follow the movement

Image by UNEP

Find out what the **United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration** is. It aims to “prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean. It can help to end poverty, combat climate change and prevent a mass extinction.”

What plans does your club have to play a role?

[Read more](#)

AROUND THE FEDERATION

Well done Fijian Soroptimists!



All clubs in Fiji have been playing a vital role in providing food security and sanitising items to an often remote population that is suffering from COVID and the collapse of the tourist industry which plays a significant role in Fiji's economy. Clubs and individuals have surveyed needs, sourced supplies of funds from the Federation, overseas Fijians and local businesses and

delivered packs to needy families. Soroptimists have received recognition from the government for their role.

SI Suva became aware that in the Makoi Birthing Unit there were 28 new born babies and their mothers who were COVID-19 positive. To help the unit to take care of the babies and their mothers, SI Suva donated baby milk, diapers, maternity sanitary pads and some stable food items.

SI Ba members collected funds and prepared dinner packs for front line workers during a period of lockdown in June.

Mongolia

For most of 2020 Mongolia was not affected by COVID19, however, in November 2020 that all changed and since then infection rates have been rising, causing the country to experience

periods of lockdown.

SI Darkhan saw the affect this was having on many people as parents struggled to work from home, with often more than one family member having to deal with online meetings and work schedules and also with children also in the same household having online classes. Some of the SI Darkhan club members organised a 3 day activity to make a video call with 15 families who were covered by their projects. The response from the receivers of these calls was very positive, significantly reducing the stress and worry of the families.

SI Erdenet was concerned about the affect that the COVID19 restrictions would have on their very successful Shuuder program. They looked into how they would be able to adapt their programme to an online format. By involving teenagers from various schools and suburban areas, they were able to identify some possible issues and created specific online lessons to address these. The school social worker assisted in selecting a number of teenagers to participate in training and thereby ensuring the programme can continue to be delivered online.

Australia

SI Brisbane Waters normally hosts a breakfast to celebrate International Women's Day. In 2021

holding a big public event was not possible, so instead club members, after consultation with the

organisation that oversees all the Women's Shelters on the Central Coast, made up 20 personal

care items that were gifted to women in the shelters - in lieu of the big breakfast.

SI Mackay were unable to host their Mother's day Morning Tea for women at Quarry Hill.

Instead the Club arranged for fresh flowers to be delivered to the women living at Resthaven Nursing

Home in Quarry Hill. Visitors were unable to visit due to the lockdown, so to know that they were

being thought of by this personal gesture meant a lot to the residents.

Malaysia and Mongolia

Clubs in Malaysia and Mongolia have responded to the needs of young people by promoting and delivering vital information online. In some clubs they have even supplied the means of connecting students to technology so that their education can continue.

Thailand

Clubs in Thailand, apart from their "climate change action", have focused on the need to protect the well-being of members when face to face meetings have been impossible. Zoom

meetings have kept friendly faces in touch, small gifts have lifted spirits of individuals and COVID safe coffee chats have stimulated people when opportunities presented a chance for smiles and laughter. That “spirit of friendship” has been reflected in reality rather than something that we just state, as members support each other and those they do not know. Every club’s members should take a moment to congratulate themselves.

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



Copyright © 2021 Soroptimist International South West Pacific, All rights reserved.

This email was sent to all Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific Clubs

Our mailing address is:

Soroptimist International South West Pacific
PO Box 1400
STRAWBERRY HILLS, NSW 2012
Australia

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)