

REPORTS FOR FEDERATION BOARD MEETING  
17<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF CLUBS  
Gold Coast, 16-18 April 2010

		PAGE
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	LEIGH ELLWOOD-BROWN	2
<b>IPP</b>	LORNA MEAD	4
<b>SECRETARY</b>	DEBRA HUNTLEY	5
<b>TREASURER</b>	JANE KENNI	7
<b>PRESIDENT-ELECT</b>	YVONNE SIMPSON	7
<b>HEADQUARTERS ADMINISTRATOR</b>	ROSHEEN O'HARE	8
<b>NATIONAL REPS</b>		
AUSTRALIA	MARGARET SMITH	9
FIJI	LATA KUMAR	9
HONG KONG SAR, CHINA	CINDY KAM	12
INDONESIA	ISLA WINARTO	14
MALAYSIA	SIEW YONG GNANALINGAM	16
MONGOLIA	BATDULAM JAMBADOO	18
NEW ZEALAND	KATHY GLASS	20
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	FLORENCE BUNARI	22
SAMOA	RUNA CURRY	23
SINGAPORE	PREMALA GOPALAKRISHNAKONE	23
SOLOMON ISLANDS	PATTI DUKE	25
THAILAND	KATHY BARNETT	27
<b>CONVENORS</b>		
CONSTITUTION	ANUSHA SANTHIRASTHIPAM	30
INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUTION	ANUSHA SANTHIRASTHIPAM	32
EXTENSION	LYNN CIURLIONIS	33
FINANCE	CAROLYN HUDSON	40
HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE	CAROLYN HUDSON	43
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE	CAROLYN HUDSON	44
MEMBER DEVELOPMENT	BARBARA BOSTON	45
PUBLIC RELATIONS	CHRISTINE JOHNSTONE	46
<b>PROGRAMME DIRECTOR</b>	JENNY HUGHES	48
<b>COORDINATORS</b>		
OBJECTIVES 1 & 10	JANET ASKERN	51
OBJECTIVE 2	BERENICE RITCHIE	54
OBJECTIVE 3 & 4	ESTHER BRYAN	56
OBJECTIVES 5 & 6	ROBYN CAIN	58
OBJECTIVE 7 & 8	JENNIE VAN DRIEL	61
OBJECTIVE 9	THERESA LYFORD	65
<b>APPOINTEES</b>		
ARCHIVIST	ANN THOMAS	70
ASSISTANT PROGRAMME DIRECTOR	ROBYN CAIN	70
ASSISTANT PROGRAMME DIRECTOR	ISLA WINARTO	71
ASSISTANT TREASURER NZ	THELMA LUXTON	72
EDITOR	KERRY GARRETT	73
FEDERATION PROJECT - HAB	HELEN HUTCHINS	74
FIVE-O	HELENA CHEAH	75
FRIENDSHIP LINK COORDINATOR	DOLGORMAA JAMIYAN	75
ICT LIAISON	MICHELLE JANSEN	76
INTERNATIONAL PROJECT LIAISON	CHRIS KNIGHT	77
STOCKS & MARKETING	JANICE LEE	79

---

## PRESIDENT

Leigh Ellwood-Brown

---

Soroptimist International is journeying through one of the most transitional times of our organisation, as the SI Strategic Plan is working down through the Federations and back up to SI, we are implementing change to suit and streamline our Federation. Each of the Officers, Convenors and Committees has been donating immensely valuable expertise, time and professionalism to develop this constant change that is currently happening to benefit members for which I sincerely thank them.

As Leadership is one of my focuses for this biennium, I see each one of you as Leaders within your communities and within Soroptimist International at various levels; I wish to develop the capacity of such leadership to be able to work with a greater IMPACT towards our SI Mission in everything we do. I chose Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the location of the Interim Board Meeting (IBM), in April 2009, as Malaysia is the fastest growing country with membership in our Federation, and the third largest membership base in SISWP. We have chartered 2 clubs in Malaysia during 2009, SI Ipoh & SI Sentul which now brings their club numbers to 15. The members of Malaysia supported the IBM with numerous members who attended the Board meeting as observers to learn more of the operation and business of SISWP. During this Board meeting we were lucky enough to have a session on 'Leadership' by Dr Wilson Tay, to build the capacity of our Board and Officers.

We have 4 taskforces within the Federation to review the Travel Pool, the Muriel Barber Extension Fund, the Disaster Fund and the Honorary Life Membership criteria within the Federation, reports from these will come to the Board in April.

At the SI Board Meeting held in Pharmakon, Denmark in August 2009, the 3 voting delegates to SI, being President, President Elect and Immediate Past President were supported by our two very able consultants, Anusha Santhirasthipam, SISWP Constitution Convenor and Isla Winarto, SISWP National Representative for Indonesia as well as one of our 2 Assistant Programme Directors for Federation. We had a number of observers that strengthened our SISWP team; I thank them all for their valuable input and participation. At this meeting SI IPP Margaret Lobo, handed over the International Presidency to our now SI President Hanne Jensbo from Denmark. The Board meeting spent endless hours over deliberations for the SI Strategic Plan.

**Programme:** Programme is our 'core business', the common thread that unites us and the reason we are Soroptimists. Some of the more noticeable changes made are within our Programme area, where we have restructured our Federation Programme team, we have removed the 6 Programme areas that were voted out at the SI Convention in Glasgow, as well as developed and accepted the geographic zonal Programme Coordinators to hopefully engage, support and develop clubs and members more than we have previously. We are currently working towards developing an SI Long Term Project, (LTP) where your Programme team have been working to tight deadlines at every stage of this creation; I thank them on your behalf for all of their effort, innovation, professionalism and time. The LTP is now ready to be voted on by clubs, you will learn more at Conference on this subject.

I congratulate the 4 clubs within the Federation to achieve the recognition of being presented with an SI Best Practise Award, (BPA), our Federation clubs and projects are listed below:

SI Penang, Malaysia for 'Blossom Project'

SI Bangsar, Malaysia – 'Halt Violence –Child Personal Safety Workshop'

SI Brisbane, South Queensland – 'Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre-Prenatal education and Support Project'

SI Brisbane South, South Queensland – 'Motor Neurone Disease Art Show'

**Project Sierra:** The Study tours of our International Project Sierra have been life changing events and SISWP have had wonderful representation, in the February 2009 1<sup>st</sup> tour, Sandra Mottram from Sydney and Paula Siddle from NZ participated. Chris Knight, our SI Project Liaison and Gina Olivieri from SI WA have just returned from the 2<sup>nd</sup> tour and then we have already selected 2 members to represent us in May 2010 the 3<sup>rd</sup> tour – Siew Yong Gnanalingam, Nat Rep from Malaysia & Robynne Paget from NZ.

**Hands Across Borders, (HAB):** Our Federation Project HAB is culminating a final 'big build' to complete our project of 4 years in Cambodia. Helen Hutchins our SISWP Project Liaison will present at the Conference for all to know the outcome of your work and support for this project.

**Website:** Our new website, launched on International Women's Day- 8<sup>th</sup> March 2009, has provided a wonderful tool for SISWP that has become much more than just communication. It is a modern and advanced website that is very under utilised by our members, this factor has become a major challenge for us. Due to the changes within the world of the IT industry, particularly within the last 10 years, SISWP has no choice but to look forward, and utilise the benefits that this new website provides. For those members that cannot use computers, we need to help you recruit members that can, or develop one of your current members so that you will not be one of the 'have nots' in this field. We are now voting online via the Bigpulse Poll Manager. For clubs across the federation the process is very easy, and it allows us to save valuable time at Conference of Clubs to enable us to provide more innovation, training and interaction in place of the time you would normally spend dealing with voting. We are now only presenting to Conference those issues we feel would require broader discussion amongst the clubs before voting.

**Constitution:** This has been one mammoth effort for our Constitution Committee, the further updating of Manuals and Constitutions that have all needed to be reformatted, refined and improved.

**Public Relations:** This is another area where the expertise and direction is changing to a very modern approach and resources. Internationally our emblem is the subject of a new direction to reflect the various and diverse countries and cultures that are now Soroptimist members. Our whole International 'Branding' is undergoing change, of which you will hear more in the future.

**Extension:** This is the most critical committee for our survival at all levels, it is very important for every Region and Nation to be planning: the chartering of new clubs, recruiting more members into each club, planning of the retention of our current members through successful and interactive Projects and Programme work. Every Member, Club, Region and Nation within the Federation is responsible for this role at any given time. Our Federation Extension Committee is in the pre-charter mode for our first club in Cambodia, of which we are in the middle of planning to have 2 of the members from the proposed club at Conference.

**SI Extended Officers Meeting in London Feb 2010:** I have just returned from the first SI Officers meeting that has been extended to include Federation Presidents, it was one of the most successful meetings most of us have experienced. I will report the outcomes within the March Bulletin online.

**Biennium 2008 – 2010:** I encourage as many members as possible to attend the Board meetings and the Conference of Clubs. You will find out more about the changes happening and participate in our decision making. Thank you for your work done within the name of Soroptimist within the last 2 years, we need to further continue the changes of our organisation so we can be more effective around the world to inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships.

---

## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Lorna Mead

The workload at Federation level seems overwhelming at times. SI is now web-based, and the volume of emails challenges our personal time. Reflecting back to 1973 when I joined SI, the world moved at a slower pace. Communication via the postman meant that letters frequently crossed in the mail.

Keeping in step with the wider world, most clubs in SI have accepted the IT revolution. Individual members have grown in knowledge and understanding of computerisation, enabling them to keep up with the electronic world of today.

S.I. is proud of the commitment and high standard of volunteer service work by clubs on issues relative to women and girls. Our service record is exemplary, and a visit to the Programme Reports on the SI website is worth your time.

In the role of immediate Past President, there are 2 main areas:

Soroptimist International Board: As a voting delegate to the annual SI Board for the last six years, I served as a Federation voting delegate for SWP, (first two years as SWP president-elect, two as President and the final two as Immediate Past President). In recent years, S.I.'s commitment has focussed on the development of a progressive Strategic Plan to move forward as a progressive and evolving service organisation. SI has undertaken a number of email ballots for positions and on issues. SI now employs both a Finance Director and a Programme Director to provide critical support for S.I. volunteers' enormous workload.

SI. SWP: I have had varying responsibilities in my Federation role as an Officer to the SWP. During this year, my last in the six-year journey, my Federation activities included involvement in four Task Forces (Honours, Travel pool, Muriel Barber and Disaster Fund). Proposals for Constitutional and Manual changes have been numerous, and are a positive indication that SISWP is alive and preparing for the future. Many difficult decisions for both now and the future relate to S.I.'s focus on the well being of women and girls.

### ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AT BOARD.

Younger members are SI's future and we must encourage their involvement and exposure to our global organisation.

I recommend the establishment of a Task Force to examine the potential of a MEMORIAL FUND for the Federation. This Fund could be initiated by a Federation donation in honour of past international presidents.

The sole purpose of the Fund would be to support and encourage younger women to attend Conferences of the Federation. Guidelines of management and conditions of use will be required. (Eligibility would stipulate nominations by women who have been members for at least 2 years and not over 45 years in age). Opportunity to attend Conference, and be stimulated by involvement with members from around the Federation, aims to inspire them to further involvement. This Fund will specifically target young women in responsible positions from a wide range of fields including business, industry and management. Many of our senior members are moving into retirement; therefore it is critical to stimulate the younger generation's involvement. Through this Fund we would make an investment in our future.

Motion to Final Board 2010. Reference Club Manual 6.14, which reads:

*While Honorary members and Honorary Life Members are not required to pay membership subscriptions, Clubs are responsible for their Region and Federation fees and levies.*

There is some discontent regarding the payment for many years, of subscriptions (capitation) for HLM of club or Region. I recommend that the first part of Club Manual 6.14 (which refers to non-Soroptimists) be amended in two sections, to read:

*Honorary Members of club and/or Region are not required to pay membership subscription.*

6.14 would continue:

*However, Honorary Life Members of club or region are required to pay subscriptions for club and/or region from 2012.*

*Furthermore Honorary Life Members cannot be listed as members in more than one club.*

Maintaining positive growth of all global service organisations is an intense challenge in the last decade. Soroptimist International must maintain a dominant role as a leading voice for women and girls. The future brings challenges relative to our size, diversity, scale of economies and sustainability of membership.

My journey with SISWP as an officer ends at the Final Board and Conference of Clubs at the Gold Coast in April 2010. Unfailing support and cooperation from members has made my role easier, and I leave the Board with the knowledge that the Federation is in good hands for the future.

I value the opportunity to have been involved in SWP's stimulating, challenging and evolving journey.

---

SECRETARY

Debra Huntley

---

The Federation Secretary completed a range of tasks during the year, including:-

- Duties associated with the Interim Board Meeting ( pre and post ), this time held offshore in Malaysia which is our third largest Soroptimist country in the SWP

and certainly our fastest growing country. This meeting was very productive for the Board members and Officers and other position-holders, and also provided leadership training for all attendees. There were a large number of observers from Malaysia who benefited from a closer observation of Federation. An important amount of networking was also undertaken, as well as very enjoyable social events. Thank you very much to the Malaysian Soroptimists for their organisation and their hospitality.

- Duties associated with being one of the five officers of the Federation, which involves a great deal of time and communication and decision-making.
- Assisting the Federation President as much as possible in the execution of her very busy schedule.
- Liaison with Rosheen from Headquarters office. Thank you very much to Rosheen for her hard work, her expertise, and her tolerance and humour.
- Postal voting, and our first ever electronic voting, which I feel was a great success, and was professional and had high integrity.
- Updating of Supplement 5C – Role Specification of Federation Secretary
- General secretarial duties including a vast amount of email communications.

Thanks also to President Leigh and ICT Liaison Appointee Michelle and Constitution Convenor Anusha for their patience and assistance, and to all position-holders for the long hours and expertise they freely give to SISWP.

My recommendation is to the Board, and that is to update Supplement 9A “Procedure for the Conduct of Mail Ballots”.

#### **9A – PROCEDURE FOR THE CONDUCT OF MAIL OR EMAIL BALLOTS AND SECRET BALLOTS**

1. A Returning Officer shall be appointed to receive the ballot voting papers – this may be the Federation Secretary.
2. The ballot paper will be prepared with instructions as to how to complete the ballot. The ballot paper is to be checked in advance of distribution by the Officers and by the Constitution Convenor.
3. Non-secret ballots are all voting items except for Federation position elections. For non-secret ballots, these can be by EITHER of the following two methods:-
  - A. The ballot paper prepared as per Item 2 above, and emailed to either National Representatives (NR) or to Club Secretaries, depending on the content of the voting. NR or club secretaries to return completed voting papers by email back to Headquarters office or to the Fed Secretary (the returning officer).
  - B. The ballot paper prepared as per Item 2 above, and then set up on an electronic polling system (in 2010 this is currently BigPulse). Links are then sent to either NR’s or clubs with instructions on how to vote on-line. The Returning Officer shall finalise the votes on the day after the voting close date or deadline day.
4. Secret ballots will be all Federation position elections. These will always be as per 3B.
5. Once the voting result is determined, the Returning Officer will communicate the result to the Federation President, who will advise the result in the next Federation

mailing. In the case of elections, the Federation President shall contact all candidates prior to her announcement in the Federation mailing.

---

## TREASURER

Jane Kenni

---

Many thank to all the Clubs and Regions for settlement of fees on timely bases and also for your donations to countries and regions in our Federation during their time of need from various major disasters.

The Extension in Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia is pleasing and hope to see more clubs to be chartered around the Federation to increase our membership base.

As this is a Conference year, there will be heavy use of the Travel Pool. The Travel Pool is available to Club Conference delegates as well as all Board Members for attending the meetings.

My special thanks to Carolyn Hudson, Thelma Luxton, Leigh Ellwood-Brown, Rosheen O'Hare and Yvonne Simpson for their valued advice, friendship and work.

---

## PRESIDENT – ELECT

Yvonne Simpson

---

The President Elect position gives two essential years of training for presidency while being an officer. I was privileged to attend the charter of SI Maylands Peninsula (Western Australia) and SI Sentul (Malaysia), and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of SI Auckland and SI Christchurch; and to attend the SI board meeting in Denmark as a voting delegate for SISWP. En route President Leigh, HQ Rosheen and I visited SI Mongolia and saw their programme of service in action. We met with representatives of the ACWF (All-China Women's Federation) to strengthen the bond we have in China. It has been truly a global experience. There are exciting times ahead with the development of the SI strategic plan especially in reference to programme and branding.

**Mentors:** Taking on any office for the first time involves a lot of learning. My journey has been assisted by the generous and patient help of President Leigh, IPP Lorna, Programme Director Jenny, PP Elaine. It has also been helped by the incoming team members, especially Finance Convenor Elect Merle. My thanks to you all.

The federation has made a major shift in leadership development with the introduction of elections for convenors and National Representatives 6 – 12 months before they take up office. Mentoring of all incoming position holders is essential for us to keep moving forward with confidence. Empowered members mean that we, as a team, can be prepared. I recommend mentoring at all levels.

**Questionnaire results:** A questionnaire was sent to all clubs in October 2009. 80 Responses were received (65% return). However 5 countries were not represented. This baseline data will serve as the basis to set goals for the biennium 2010 – 2012. These are significant:

- The priority for the next 2 years is recruitment (75%) and especially of younger members (73%)

- 45% of clubs requested training to use the SISWP website
- 78% clubs support Federation and international projects
- 64 clubs and 4 regions have entered PFRs (Programme Focus Report) in the database = 191 reports on a project in the last year
- Education (95%) was considered the most important programme of service goals for transforming the lives of women and girls. Health was next at 88%
- 60% clubs would like to work on a project with another SISWP club
- Clubs asked for publicity material
- The president can best support the federation
  - getting to the regions, clubs in person and supporting them
  - be a spokesperson, create a high profile, have dialogue with national leaders
  - attracting media coverage

**Future directions** include

- Adopting the technology of social networking to promote SISWP. Each club to appoint members to monitor developments on the web and report back to their club.
- Managing communication: including
  - Quarterly on-line meetings for board members and convenors to report back on goals.
  - Utilising email protocol and a designated prioritisation key to mail.
- Setting specific, measureable, realistic and achievable goals for the next biennium by each committee
- Promoting the benefits of membership. Investigating ways of getting more Soroptimists to federation conference.
- Connecting SISWP clubs in active projects of service
- Embracing the new directions of the SI strategic plan

I look forward to continuing the development of SISWP and the progress to date.

---

## HEADQUARTERS ADMINISTRATOR

Rosheen O'Hare

---

Headquarters currently has a temporary assistant Kathryn Curtis, after Sarah was offered a position too good to refuse as an Associate Lecturer with UNSW. Kathryn has been of great assistance in the busy lead up to Conference 2010.

The website database is now providing up to date information for clubs and their members. Most clubs are now accessing the website to manage their club and member details. New members and exited members must still be processed through HQ and we request this information be forwarded as soon as available. New members are not able to access the database until their fees have been received by HQ and they have been issued with their membership number.

Generic email addresses, e.g. [hq@siswp.org](mailto:hq@siswp.org) are also managed by HQ and the forwarding email address is vital information for emails to reach the appropriate person. All important Club and member information regarding fees, postal ballots, new member numbers, the notification of the monthly mailing, etc. are addressed to the generic email addresses. Please use these as a preference.

As per the Interim Board Meeting Kuala Lumpur, Federation Capitation fees have been collected by the Regions for the first time this year (for those Clubs who are in a Region). This process will be further refined for the 2011 returns.

I support the Finance Convenor Carolyn, in her recommendation to the Board to close the New Zealand bank accounts, and consolidate the accounting procedures for ease of administration and accounting.

Accounting procedures and policies related to the administration of the Federation Headquarters have changed quite dramatically since the beginning of my contract in July 2007. I would like to recommend that a new accounting policies and procedures document be developed for HQ in the next biennium and I am willing to start this process with the assistance of the incoming Finance Convenor, Treasurer and others who would like to be involved.

I would like to offer my thanks to Carolyn Hudson for her wonderful support to me over the last three years and wish her well in her International role as Treasurer. I would also like to thank President Leigh and Janice Lee for their kindness and support.

---

## NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – AUSTRALIA

Margaret Smith

---

I have pleasure in presenting my final report to the Conference of Clubs of Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific. My comments apply specifically to Australia but I am sure that there are similar problems elsewhere. During the last twenty one months I have tried very hard to improve communications between the National Representative and the Clubs. I have visited six of the eight regions and attended meetings and spoken to delegates about the role of the National Representative and the issues in which SI Australia has been involved. I have also been invited to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of a number of clubs formed in 1948 and 1949 and this has been an excellent opportunity to meet club members. The cost of attending region meetings etc has not been cheap but I have only asked for the refund of my air fares and have carried the not inconsiderable extra costs myself. This is something else we need to consider. We levy a charge of \$1 per member per year to fund the office of the National Representative. Is this realistic? Should it be a little higher and more in keeping with the need for better exposure for the National Representative and her role as the President of Australia? Perhaps this is something for the incoming National Representative to consider.

It has been interesting, when speaking to members at Region meetings and dinners, to see the reaction to the information presented. In some cases there appears to be no awareness of the existence, or the role, of the National Representative. The National Representative has been in existence now for twelve years and I consider that the position has an even lower profile than that envisaged in its original form. In fact in Australia the job has been dumbed down. I have found that I am rarely contacted about issues arising within the regions or clubs and that SISWP is usually the first point of contact. When I have been contacted, it is about matters that are the concern of the Federation, so there is certainly confusion about who is responsible for what.

We need to have a better form of communication. We need to ensure that regions and clubs know that the National Representative exists. We need to encourage clubs to actually read the emails sent out about issues of importance.

I have requested input into submissions on: Paid parental leave, Henry review on taxation, Review of pensions, Domestic violence, Disability parking permits, Grocery choice, Shadow CEDAW report, Human rights consultations. I did put in a submission on domestic violence using our "Where We Stand" paper, but could not contribute to the others because there was no feedback whatsoever, and I have no idea how Australian Soroptimists feel about those issues. Do we have any concerns at all about issues outside our clubs? We are certainly not saying so, even if we do.

Because of the lack of response we have missed opportunities to show the Australian Federal Government and the Minister for Women how we work as an organisation. We are the sum of many parts but we do not have a concerted voice that says what we think or want for our members. We can recycle "Where We Stand" but there have been many other opportunities to have our voice heard and we have missed that chance. How do we do this better? I do not believe in sending emails on non-relevant issues so have limited my emails to matters on which I would like a response, or to particular events which club members can attend. How many did attend? Not many I suspect, because these were not passed on to the general membership.

We need to work hard on ensuring that SI Australia is recognised as the lead agency for matters concerning clubs in Australia and that the first point of contact is the National Representative, not the SISWP office or President. Each National Representative is responsible for the clubs in her country and should be given the support and resources to manage these clubs.

On the positive side I submitted an application to the Federal Office for Women for a Women in Leadership grant to enhance our SISWP website and we were successful in being given a grant of \$18,335 to establish a media data base as part of our website. Michelle Jansen from Queensland is the project manager and she is in the process of finding website developers to write the appropriate program. The money is being managed by SI Australia but is not part of our general funds and needs to be separately accounted for and audited.

My desire to have a suitable badge or emblem for the National Representative to wear has not come to fruition but I hope that Catherine will continue the proposal. I wish my successor Catherine Evans the very best of luck and hope that the groundwork I have laid will result in more awareness of the role of the National Representative.

---

## NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – FIJI

Lata Kumar

---

### **The political situation:**

A national dialogue forum is expected to meet in February, this year to set the groundwork for a new Fiji constitution. The forum will facilitate with wide ranging discussions in the lead up to the drawing up of a new constitution. Work on a new

constitution will begin in September 2012 with the set up of a consultative constitutional forum.

Fiji's administration has extended the Public Emergency Regulation for another 30 days effective from today (01 Feb). Under the regulations, police, military and public servants have the powers to stop events they deem to be a threat to the country's security.

**The socio-cultural situation:**

Progress towards achieving gender balance in the Pacific has been slow. This has only increased by 1.7 per cent in the last 14 years. This was revealed in a recent joint report by the Commonwealth Local Government Association, International Women's Development Agency and the United Nations Democracy Fund. The report was presented at the Local Government Association meeting by consultant, Priscilla Singh. Focusing on local government, she stated that on average, local governments had a higher representation of women which stood at 20.9 per cent on the international scenario and 6.9 per cent on the Pacific level.

**The economic situation:**

The Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics revealed that Fiji's visitor arrivals has decreased by 15 per cent at 37,666 when compared to the 2008 period. Fiji's traditional markets, New Zealand and Australia recorded "significant" decreases of over 14 per cent and 16 per cent respectively.

**Fiji Bank rules changes**

All Commercial banks and players in Fiji's financial industry, including new entrants, will have to comply with three new policy guidelines issued by the central bank following its final 2009 meeting.

The new guidelines, issued to commercial banks in December includes:

- Minimum guidelines for the establishment of a Local Advisory Board;
- Policy guideline on complaints management;
- Minimum requirements for commercial banks on Internal Microfinance Divisions and Units.

**Other topical issues in your country and how they impact on women:**

**HEALTH - 2009 World Aids Day Theme "Universal Access and Human Rights"**

It was stressed that the protection of human rights is fundamental to combat the HIV epidemic. There is still no cure for HIV and taking away the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS would not solve anything. "Depriving HIV-positive people or people from high risk groups, such as injecting drug users, men who have sex with men, or sex workers of their human rights, will deprive everyone of access to solutions". "Protecting and promoting individual human rights also protects communities as new infections can be prevented and people who have HIV can live free from discrimination and continue to contribute to their families, communities and countries. Some women who are HIV positive are still discriminated against in public centres.

**Other conventions/laws that may be relevant to a specific topical issue in your country:**

Fiji's President has commended Government for its initiative to put in place measures to comply with International laws on human trafficking.

"The Decree creates a new and separate offence of trafficking in person.

Section 112 of the Decree provides that a person commits an indictable offence of trafficking in person if the person organizes or facilitates the entry or proposed entry of another person into Fiji with the use of force or threat."

New provisions in the Decree ensure that Fiji has now fully compliant with its international obligations that dealt with human trafficking.

### **Action taken or requested to address issues raised in this report.**

Members of the Fiji NGO Coalition on Human Rights, "Generation Next" produced a series of programmes with members and other civil society partners to add to the message for the 16 Days Campaign.

On November 25th women from local clubs joined femLINKPACIFIC in launching the live radio campaign and the message was clear, that women should not be silent when it comes to the issue of violence against women.

During the annual 16 days campaign in Nadi, it was very evident that there is a need to continue to invest in raising awareness about women's human rights campaigns and commitments, in order to education and empower more women in our rural communities. At one such event (December 2) organised by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, women from town councils in the western division, from Sigatoka to Tavua came together to boost their knowledge and understanding of gender equality commitments, while also addressing the theme for the 16 days campaign. Ending violence against women is critical to be able to support women's participation in local level decision making – strengthening good governance indeed!

---

## NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – HONG KONG

Cindy Kam

---

### Hong Kong Economic review 2008-2010

The economic downturn in Mid-2008 triggered by the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers has led to a global recession. The outbreak of swine flu in 2009 has further weighed on the battered economy, in particular the tourism related industries.

The Hong Kong economy rebounded in the second quarter of 2009, benefiting from the faster growth of the Mainland economy. Hong Kong's economy improved further in the third quarter with real GDP growing 3.3%. With both domestic and external sectors likely to show further improvement in the fourth quarter, GDP rebound to 4.5% in August.

The Labor market showed initial signs of improvement after a period of successive worsening since late 2008. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell slightly to 5.3% in the third quarter 2009, the first decline since the onset of the global financial crisis. Because of exceptionally large stimulus measures by governments and central banks to shore up demand and stabilize financial markets, the global economy is finally expanding again. The unemployment rate slightly improves to 4.9% in the first quarter of 2010.

### Lack of Old age Pension Scheme

Hong Kong is in an aging population. In 1998, there are 930,000 elderly people aged over 60, about 14.1% of the total population. The aging population will increase to 1,620,000 in 2016, about 19.8% of the total population, 52.6% of the aging population are old women. Having the longer life expectancy, elderly women are more victimized than men as they have to undergo longer and never-ending poor life.

Hong Kong does not have comprehensive old age pension scheme. Over 60% of the 65 million populations are not entitled to any form of the retirement protection. Worse still over 90% of the senior citizens do not receive any retirement payment.

It is a well-known fact that the elderly people need greater medical expenses yet in H.K. As one gets older, one has to keep a tighter budget on their daily expenses and their monthly expenditure is being distorted. The Chinese elderly people usually adopt traditional herb medicine and Chinese medicine. But this great medical expenditure is not covered by the welfare assistance. Medical expenditure share a great part of their welfare assistance.

#### Youth problem

Statistics from the Fight Crime Committee indicated that the number of 7 to 15 year olds arrested from January to July 2000, was 18% higher than the same time period the year before. Amongst 16-20 year olds, the numbers were decreasing, but remained twice that of adults arrested. Research by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups<sup>1</sup>[2] found that triad influence began with the initial development of New Towns, which could lead to the breeding of youth gangs.

In integrating the above analysis, it can be determined that youth are not confident in either their own employment prospects or their abilities towards life-long learning. This is a cause for concern. As Hong Kong becomes more of a knowledge economy based society, the current concepts on speciality and educational credentials have become outdated. The upcoming entry of China into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) will lead to competition in the human resource market of Hong Kong. A sound life-long education would be especially advantageous to youth with a lower educational standard and with little experience, to adapt to the ever-changing labour market. The education, industrial and commercial sectors should work together to provide more opportunities for life-long learning in order to increase the confidence of youth.

#### Youth drug abuse

The use of psychotropic drugs, such as Ecstasy and Ketamine, increased among adolescents. There was a rise in Ecstasy use for all abusers from 2.3% to 10.9%, while those using Ketamine rose from 0.2% to 4.6%. Abuse was also found to have increased across the boarder in Mainland China, particularly Shenzhen. Statistics indicated that the number of youth abusing drugs has risen in the past few years.

#### Cross-border marriage

The Immigration Department announced it has smashed a syndicate that is believed to have arranged about 500 bogus marriages over the past 3 years that profited by some HKD 5 million.

Mainlanders tying the knots with Hong Kong people in fake marriages aim to get permits to stay in the city for a longer time for work. Their ultimate goal is to obtain one-way

permits to stay in Hong Kong. Under present regulation mainlanders holding travel permits generally are permitted to stay in Hong Kong for seven days per visit.

The investigation revealed that Hong Kong brides or grooms are offered between HK 5,000 and HK 17,000 for each marriage and 'marriage fixers' charge each mainland man HK 25,000 and each mainland woman HK 35,000 for a fake wedding.

### Discrimination against women

Hong Kong has gone into a recession from 2009. Many men have been made redundant and their wives have gone out to look for a job, if they did not already have one.

Government statistics show that increasing numbers of women have entered the labour market over the last six to nine months. And yet their pay has stagnated over the last ten years or so, and for the same work a women worker employed in the private sector earns between 75% and 80% of a man's wage.

We have also observed that a very large number of women are only able to obtain precarious formal work. There are twice as many women in this situation as there were five years ago. As women are more inclined to accepted poorly paid and/or insecure job than men, the rate of unemployment is currently higher among men than women. The crisis has also led to a considerable increase in working hours.

Furthermore, whilst discrimination in the employment of married women was already rampant prior to the crisis, it is even worse now: employers would rather avoid hiring them as they fear they will fall pregnant. Many women workers are fired if they get pregnant. The birth rate is already very low in Hong Kong and this type of discrimination does nothing to help matters. Sometimes is difficult to gather proof of discrimination because the employer puts pressure on the pregnant worker so that she ends up resigning.

We should place pressure on the government to tackle these issues, and raise public awareness about the problems experienced by women workers.

*(Report written by Maureen Kwok, National Representative-Elect of Hong Kong)*

---

## NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – INDONESIA

Isla Winarto

---

### **The political situation:**

Indonesia has enjoyed relative political stability over the past year. The 2009 Indonesian *General Elections* were peaceful and resulted in 101 (18%) of the contested 560 seats in the House of Representatives being won by women, an increase from 11.8% in the 2004 legislative elections. Five (15%) of the 34 new Cabinet Ministers are women.

### **The socio-cultural situation:**

In 2009, Indonesia experienced serious earthquakes, landslides and flooding affecting thousands of its people. Generally speaking, the safety, health and basic needs of the women and children survivors of such natural disasters in Indonesia are not being fully met. Occasionally there is even discrimination towards women seeking aid, usually extended to male bread winners.

On-going social issues: domestic violence against women (54,425 cases in 2008, up 213%), the trafficking of women and children (80,000 - 100,000 cases/annum), migrant worker exploitation, and child abuse (1,998 cases reported in 2009), especially among the thousands of street children.

According to the UNDP's 2009 *Human Development Index (HDI) Report*, Indonesia ranks 111 out of 180 countries, based on economic opportunities and access to healthcare and education. This is behind the average of 0.77 for East Asia and the Pacific. Experts also fear Indonesia will soon face a major HIV epidemic. In 2010, an estimated 110,000 Indonesians will be living with AIDS, the majority being youths and women.

**The economic situation:**

Indonesia's economy, which grew by 4.5% in 2009, is expected to increase to 5.6% in 2010. In the region, it is among the top performers (after China; India; and Vietnam). Unemployment, however, is predicted to reach 10% in 2010, and will impact more on women.

**Other topical issues in your country and how they impact on women:**

The National Commission on Violence Against Women continues to pressure the Indonesian government to put a halt to all discrimination against women. Decentralisation in Indonesia, providing greater authority to the provinces, has, unfortunately, frequently led to uneven implementation of women's human rights in certain areas.

An independent report of NGOs Concerning the Implementation of CEDAW in Indonesia (Jakarta, May 2007) states that in some cases, "*religious fundamentalism and cultural absolutism have become the... basis for the formulation of public policies*" at national and local levels, impacting negatively on women. Examples include polygamy; the lack of women's rights in property ownership and inheritance; and under-age marriages.

There is serious concern regarding Article 24 of the Sharia law in Aceh, condoning whipping for single people committing adultery, and stoning to death of married people in extra-marital affairs. The wearing of slacks by women in certain parts of Aceh is also now against the law.

**Country ratification, reporting and/or implementation of CEDAW:**

Indonesia ratified CEDAW in 1984, one of the first SEA countries to do so. Its combined 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> reports, due at the UN in October, 2009, are coordinated by the Ministry for Women's Empowerment. Overall, Indonesia remains committed to implementing CEDAW, despite the complex plurality of its laws (*state; religious; customary/ethnic*).

Other obstacles to CEDAW implementation in Indonesia include the general lack of knowledge of the full obligations and provisions of the Convention, on the parts of lawmakers, law enforcement bodies and Indonesian women alike. Preference is also usually given to domestic and/or religious laws, in cases where there is direct conflict with CEDAW.

In 2009, Indonesia's National Commission on Women's Protection began urging the government to consider the elimination of 154 bylaws with gender-based vulnerabilities.

Sixty-three of the 154 bylaws are deemed to disadvantage women, thus being in direct violation of CEDAW.

**Country ratification, reporting and/or implementation Ratification of 1325 Resolution with United Nations:**

Resolution 1325 has not been fully implemented in Indonesia. The government does, however, report to the UN Security Council on progress made to strengthen Indonesian women's capacity to participate in reconstruction and reintegration efforts in areas of conflict. Examples of work undertaken include the UNDP programs in certain conflict areas in Indonesia, focusing on leadership and peace building training for local women. NGOs are also encouraging stronger female participation in decision making through the establishment of effective networking links.

**Other conventions/laws that may be relevant to a specific topical issue in your country:**

In 2009, local NGOs placed pressure on the Indonesian government to ratify the *UN Convention on Migrant Workers*. 70% of Indonesian migrants working overseas are women, many of whom frequently face physical and mental abuse at the hands of their employers.

**SI action taken or requested to address issues raised in this report.**

Major focus areas for Soroptimist International of Jakarta (SIJ) in 2009 were an *International Women's Day* reception to highlight SIJ's projects to advance the status of women; funding activities for a street children's school; managing a village girls' empowerment program; awarding a scholarship to a female university student; conducting a community-based program for pre-school children and their parents from a Jakarta slum; funding lip/cleft palate operations for disadvantaged baby girls; and providing a loan to a village in Aceh for micro-hydro power generation and a micro-financing programs for the women. In 2009, SIJ also started to explore the possibility of establishing an SI Club in Bali.

---

## NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – MALAYSIA

Siew Yong Gnanalingam

---

**The political situation:**

For 2009, the political scenario was stable for advancement of women, despite the loss of a few parliamentary seats by women MPs of the ruling party during the election in March 2008. Most notable was the former Minister of Women, Family and Community Development who lost her seat. She was subsequently made a Senator and minister in the Prime Minister's office, responsible for Muslim Women affairs and more recently took over as Minister of Women, Family and Community Development from Dato' Ng Yen Yen who is now Minister of Tourism. Another long serving woman minister was dropped from the Cabinet, despite winning her parliamentary seat.

The federal government has been weakened as it does not have 2/3 majority but that may not be too bad a situation, as it needs to govern with a more even keel and has to give due regard to women's development and gender equality, as the opposition could take advantage of any unhappiness among the women voters, who make up more than half the electorate.

**The socio-cultural situation:**

An important impact of the economic crisis is unemployment among women, whilst the country still is bringing in more foreign workers including women as maids and spa workers. With a few cases of abuse of maids highlighted there was a spat between Malaysia and Indonesia on the subject of employment of Indonesian maids. The issues and differences have been resolved but has brought to the fore the question of the need for more Malaysian women to take up these positions to reduce the need for foreign maids. The Ministry of Women even came up with a "Home Manager" training Course to encourage Malaysian women to be trained to provide more than a maid service to enable more professional women to remain in the work force.

Women's rights in Malaysia received a boost from the government with the official launch of the national Women Policy 2009. An update of the original policy made in 1989, it focuses on 3 key areas to empower Malaysian women:

To provide an enabling environment for women to excel in the chosen field of expertise.

To eliminate gender discrimination, in regulations, laws and mindset of society and push for gender equality.

To have a minimum of 30% participation of women in the country's decision making.

The policy covers 13 sectors and includes the setting up of a Women's Development Institute.

**The economic situation:**

The financial crisis that hit the world in September 2008 has had its impact on Malaysia but not as bad as anticipated, as the year wore out. Nevertheless MPs and women NGOs have lamented that women have been discriminated against in the retrenchment exercise, with statistics showing that more than half who lost their jobs, are women. This was refuted by the Malaysian Employers Federation claiming that companies follow the last-in-first-out principle and retrenchment was a gender-free exercise.

As a result of the retrenchment of women, many government agencies and NGOs have initiated programmes to help women who have been laid off by giving them entrepreneurial and skills training to equip them for self employment opportunities

**Other topical issues in your country and how they impact on women:**

The most interesting and impactful topic has been the case of a muslim woman being sentenced by the Syariah Court to a fine of RM5,000 and caning for being caught consuming beer. She was a first time offender and the first women to be caned if sentence was carried out. With fierce protests questioning the severity of the sentence and others who feel the sentence is justified under Islamic law, the issue became highly controversial and the sentence was suspended. However, several months down the road, the issue has quietly died down, without the sentence being meted out.

Another incident was the ban by the Home Minister on a book “Muslim Women and the Challenge of Islamic Extremism”, which is a collection of essays by activists and international intellectuals, published by Sisters in Islam (SIS). SIS applied for a judicial review of the order and had the ban lifted. The judgment is a victory for freedom of expression and for muslim women, in particular, and a boost to the cause of SIS to ensure that there is equality and justice for women, in the Islamic context.

Malaysia was also the venue of the launch of Musawah, a Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim family which was organized by SIS.

**Country ratification, reporting and/or implementation of CEDAW:**

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states.htm>

Malaysia ratified CEDAW in June 2005 with reservations to articles 5b, 7b, 9, 16 a, c, f, g. These articles touch mostly on certain sensitive issues which are currently governed by Syariah (Islamic) laws eg inheritance, marriage, guardianship, divorce, etc.

The last review by the CEDAW committee was in 2006 and 3rd and 4th periodic report was due in 2008 but not carried out as yet, with two changes of Minister in charge of the Women’s Ministry.

**Country ratification, reporting and/or implementation Ratification of 1325 Resolution with United Nations:**

[http://www.un.org/events/res\\_1325e.pdf](http://www.un.org/events/res_1325e.pdf)

As Malaysia is blessed with no war, there has been not much discussion or action on this subject. However this does not mean there is no interest in general on the need for peace in the world. The Perdana Peace Foundation, chaired by former Prime Minister, Tun Mahathir Mohamad recently held a Global Forum on Peace to highlight the need for peaceful conflict resolution in the world, although no particular focus was given on women’s roles. Another interesting point to note is that 10 Malaysian female soldiers are part of the 745 Malaysian strong peace-keeping troop serving under the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

**Other conventions/laws that may be relevant to a specific topical issue in your country:**

The National Council of Women’s Organisation (NCWO) has recently submitted a strategic plan for inclusion in the 10th Malaysia Plan. The strategies are to cover laws and policies which will help put right some issues not implemented under CEDAW and to pass a gender equality law to cover gaps in existing laws which does not protect women adequately.

**Action taken or requested to address issues raised in this report.**

Took advantage of President Leigh’s and PE Yvonne Simpson’s visit to KL for the SI Sentul Charter, to organize a courtesy call on the new Regional UNDP Representative, Mr Kamal Malhotra, together with the SIROM Exco.

Organised a forum at SIROM Biennial Conference for a better understanding of key issues like “Where We Stand on CEDAW” by Ms Shanti Dairiam of IWRAW-Asia Pacific, “Equality in Family and Marriage” by Zainah Anwar of SIS, “Breaking

## NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – MONGOLIA

### Batdulam Jambaadoo

---

We have two clubs in the country – Soroptimists International Mongolia. Currently we have 41 members in our 2 clubs.

All two clubs in Mongolia, are determined to continue their work towards encouraging education, to help transform the lives of women and girls and providing health care and sustainability in small communities.

#### **Human rights and status of women**

“On the occasion of International Women’s day, Mongolian non-governmental organizations called for making amendments on laws of Women’s Rights and SI Mongolia has been cooperated for sending supporting letters to the community in March, 2009.” Also on the International Women’s Day, SI Ulaanbaatar club members visited Women’s shelter house by the National Center Against Violence, Mongolia and distributed old and new clothes and food. It is nice to tell that National Center Against Violence and SI Ulaanbaatar club deepen mutual cooperation on helping those women at Women’s shelter house.

#### **Economic and social development**

Sadly economy has come under increasing pressure in the last two months. Mongolia is experiencing winter conditions that are even more severe than usual, with over half of the country’s provinces estimated to be experiencing “Dzud” conditions (severe winter conditions leading to large livestock losses). Livestock losses are already sizeable and are likely to have a significant impact on the well-being of vulnerable households specially women and children.

##### **a. Sorop Sheep Ongoing Project**

Soroptisheep project which started to be financed by the SI clubs in the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, has successfully been implemented by Wallgut School in Konstanz, Germany so far. As of September, 2009 total 1506 sheep were donated to 82 families and its number reached to about 4200 together with their offspring. The project is equal to \$ 40700.

##### **b. Home for homeless family – Sorop GER Ongoing Project**

Darkhan SI club provided GER to 3 homeless families in 2009. The GER were sponsored by SISWP, SI NewPlymouth , SI Hong Kong, SI Denmark and presented by SISWP President Leigh and Elect President Yvonne and SI Hilleroid delegates from Denmark .

##### **c. Family Vegetable and Gardening Ongoing Project**

In this year SI Darkhan club continued VEGETABLE GARDENING project. In frame of vegetable gardening project we are organized course for gardeners 3 times (tesis on how to plant vegetable & fruit bush, how to grow them, how to process fruit or harvest) for selected 30 poor women. We distributed hand book, some seed of vegetable, seedling of bush, handtools etc. for them. Targeted women are planted 300 fruit bush in October.

## **Health**

SI UB club sisters organised a Christmas performance, which has been a tradition since 2006, and gave gifts that were equal to \$250 to 25 children who are currently staying at Leukemia Unit of Maternal hospital, Mongolia. Parents' house furnishing was done in October with financial contribution of 3500 euro from Luebech, Badschwartau, and Passau Clubs.

Luebech and Passau Clubs gave grants to one surgeon and two nurses who were involved in one month internship at Children's hospital, Germany in the years of 2008 - 2009.

## **Environment**

Within the framework of establishing National Botanical Park in Ulaanbaatar in the years of 2009-2015 to reduce air pollution, SI UB Club members initiated to plant trees at the park. SI Darkhan members are organized training on growing method fruit tree or bush for 20 poor families in 2009.

## **International Goodwill and Understanding**

### **International Visitors:**

1. SISWP President Leigh Ellwood-Brown, President elect Yvonne and Headquarter officer Rosheen visited SI Ulaanbaatar and Darkhan clubs between 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of July in 2009. The honorary guests presented the GER to homeless family and visited project sites and families of GER project, and vegetable garden of Sorop Vegetable project.

2. Leo and Liff Knudsen, from Hilleroid, Denmark, visited Darkhan in June, 2009 and presented the GER to homeless family.

As our clubs look forward to 2010, we are excited about the possibilities for service to the woman of this country. With an increase in club members, we anticipate being able to be more involved in projects around the country. For our two clubs activities were spent \$5600 in 2009.

---

## **NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – NEW ZEALAND**

Kathy Glass

---

### **The political situation:**

New Zealand in addition to having stable government is internationally recognised as having an excellent human rights record. There are fewer female than male Members of Parliament, although the proportion increased in the 2008 general election. Similarly, female representation in local authorities is lower than that of males, but it increased in the 2007 elections. Women are more likely than men to be perceived as a group subject to discrimination.

### **The socio-cultural situation:**

Ethnic woman can be particularly vulnerable (i.e. to intimate partner violence), and have particular issues around safety and access to services. Barriers to be addressed include a lack of knowledge and information, communication difficulties and a lack of a social support network.

Cultural attitudes and economic conditions are two primary factors that account for the extreme variation in crowding levels between ethnic groups. The variance in population

age structures is also a factor: the Māori and Pacific people's ethnic groups both have younger age structures than the European population.

Compared to other OECD countries, New Zealand has a relatively high proportion of families with children less than 18 years headed by sole parents (28%).

### **The economic situation:**

The economic climate over the last year has been the worst New Zealand has experienced in over 60 years. The recession has had a significant impact on Unemployment Benefit numbers which increased 187 % during the year with even greater growth in youth unemployed. Demand for Student Loans and Allowances grew as people, who might have entered or stayed in the workforce, chose to enter or remain in tertiary education. Difficult economic times put pressure on families, increasing the need for care and protection, youth justice and community support services.

### **Other topical issues in your country and how they impact on women:**

According to *The Social Report 2009* outcomes are generally better for females than for males in the Health and Knowledge and Skills domains, but are mixed in other domains such as Paid Work and Safety. In some areas, sex differences have narrowed in recent years.

Men are more likely to be employed than women, although faster employment growth among females between the mid-1990s and 2009 has narrowed the employment rate gap. Among wage and salary earners, males earn more, on average, than females. The ratio of female to male median hourly earnings was 88 per cent in 2008, similar to the ratio in 2001.

Between 1998 and 2008, females were slightly more likely than males to be living in households with low incomes.

In the Safety domain, women experienced more offences than men did. Females were twice as likely as males to be the victims of sexual offences.

### **Country ratification, reporting and/or implementation of CEDAW:**

The next report is due 2010 and women's groups throughout New Zealand have begun to participate in consultation groups which will contribute to the next Alternative report.

In the last report New Zealand has received mixed ratings in terms of gender equality. Although we are ranked fifth in the Global Gender Gap report, produced by the World Economic Forum, our Gender Development Index in the UNDP Human Development Report 2009 was much lower. "In New Zealand many women face violence and discrimination every day. Increases in women's educational attainment have not translated into gender equality in earnings and women continue to be severely underrepresented in decision making bodies," according to Elizabeth Bang. (National President NCWNZ).

The Ministry of Women's Affairs is focusing its work on three areas where the outcomes for women are clearly unacceptable, to the detriment of women and to New Zealand as a whole. These are eliminating sexual violence, increasing the participation of women in governance positions and reducing the gender pay gap.

## **Country ratification, reporting and/or implementation Ratification of 1325 Resolution with United Nations:**

New Zealand ratified the international treaty banning cluster munitions 22 December 2009 one week after domestic implementing legislation was signed into law. SI New Zealand was one of 23 non government organisations making up Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munitions Coalition (ANZCMC) which lobbied relentlessly to achieve this result.

New Zealand' International Aid and Development Agency spends half its budget on development programmes in the Pacific. Core funding is provided to UNIFEM as part of its commitment to gender equality in development.

### **Action taken or requested to address issues raised in this report.**

“Gender equality is an important focus not only for domestic, but also for foreign policy decisions. Women’s groups have lobbied for an increase in aid programmes that support initiatives to address the gender dimensions of health, violence and governance.” Projects in at least one New Zealand Soroptimist Club are focused on supporting Migrant women.

A four year Campaign for Action on Family Violence is part of a community-wide movement led by individuals and organisations throughout New Zealand who are working together to help prevent family violence. It will provide information, resources and support to create a society that says family violence is never ok. Soroptimist clubs support the campaign through a variety of projects including White Ribbon Day.

---

## **NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

**Florence Bunari**

---

The Government of PNG in its continued efforts to promote the UN MDG in line with **promoting gender equality and empowerment of women** has allowed recruitment in to the PNG Defence Force 23 young soldiers, who passed out of the training depot with deployment expected into support roles in logistics, administration and medical units accordingly. The government has also increased the fire fighters personnel by adding for the first time in history 15 young female intakes in 2009. These female officers all underwent the same training requirements as their male counterparts and did well by all passing out at the end of training. This for PNG is history in the making.

This is seen as a major step and a breakthrough in a society where females continue to struggle to find and prove their place in a male dominated society. It was reported that the number of female intakes may increase in the coming years.

### **Economic and Social Development:**

The Government has appointed for the first time a female to head the Small Business development Co-operation Department in the Commerce and Industry of PNG, so far this chairperson has setup a women’s desk which is being co-ordinated by women.

Interested women have been encouraged to register their business profile or intending business profile for a database which then will help the desk coordinators organise

training, advise and assist women in applying for loans to banks to fund their business's.

Long term goals being set by this desk is to secure a micro-finance with full Government Funding separately for women.

### **Women's Seats in Parliament:**

There were international pressures to have more women MP's and the settings of a quota as a necessary threshold to ensure a "critical mass" of influences which would ultimately lead to gender equality.

As a result, a recent governor's summit in PNG endorsed 22 reserved seats proposal making a turning point in the Nation's history in promoting equal participation of women as enshrined in the nation's constitution.

Although the UN quota of 50% has been set as the global target for women's participation in governments, PNG has adopted the 30% commonwealth quota as a target. Currently there is a legislation for 22 seats being drawn assistance from UNDP and has been given to the Minister for community development to present to the NEC for approval. At least at 22 seats PNG will ensure 19.8% of the seats for women, this is considered a right direction from a mere 0.9% currently.

However, the motion by the Prime Minister in 2009 for three nominated women to parliament is still on the notice paper, unfortunately this agenda is yet to be debated in parliament.

Soroptimists in their professions are in the technical team drafting and setting up the legislation for this important event and are called in as observers.

### **Health:**

The Health department Secretary recently issued a circular to all the hospitals, clinic and aid posts in PNG to remove fees for battered, raped and abused women who seek medical assistance for their injuries. Many battered and abused women are charged a fee between K20 and K50 to pay for immediate attention to their injuries in the main hospitals - some are left unattended until other paying patients are treated first.

As Malaria continues to be the number one killer in PNG, Soroptimist International Ramu have partnered with Rotary PNG to distribute mosquito nets to villages within Ramu valley.

Soroptimist International Lae continues to publish health magazines promoting good health and ideas to improve and avoid contracting malaria. These magazines are distributed to villages within the Morobe province.

### **Human Rights:**

Currently there is no specific legislation in place to prosecute human traffickers and the government does not see human trafficking as a major crime/concern, so it has not prioritised to address legislation in direct relation to human trafficking; however there is other appropriate legislation within the judiciary to prosecute accordingly.

Currently there are no confirmed statistics and data for human trafficking in PNG, and many people do not know what trafficking is. However more sustainable but still

anecdotal evidence for domestic trafficking was found in a Commercial Sexual Exploitation report published in 2005 by concerned NGO's who researched in 'hot spots around PNG'.

From this report, some case studies, though not named directly as trafficking, but confirmed on a checklist as having ACT, MEANS, PURPOSE, were found, indicating a dire needs to address domestic trafficking in appropriate legislation in PNG.

Soroptimist International Port Moresby have been advocating and conducting awareness since 2008. 2010 has seen a slight increase in the interest from organisations and groups who are concerned about human trafficking and child prostitution.

---

## NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – SAMOA

Runa Curry

---

No report

---

## NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – SINGAPORE

Premala Gopalakrishnakone

---

### **The political situation:**

Singapore is a Republic and Parliamentary Democracy and the major political party is the People's Action Party (PAP). Elections are held every five years. Singapore was only founded in 1819 and came into existence as an independent state in 1965 with a seat in the UN and a place in the Commonwealth. It is a wealthy nation compared to the rest of South East Asia. Singapore's economy is expected to revert to positive growth next year, thanks to the global recovery.

According to some economists, growth could even surpass the government's estimates for 2010. They are looking at GDP growth of more than 5 per cent, compared to the government's current forecast of a 3 to 5 per cent growth. This follows 2009's roller coaster ride, where the economy took a beating in the early part of the year before recovering in the second half.

Export-dependent Singapore was among the first in Asia to fall into recession towards the end of 2008. The economy contracted by 14.6 per cent on-quarter in the first quarter of 2009, following a decline of 16.4 per cent in the previous three months. Then it took a sharp turn upwards, catching the markets by surprise.

### **The socio-cultural situation:**

Singapore's decreasing fertility level, ageing population, and the need to build strong family structures have been of particular concern to the government. Fertility has been declining and has remained below replacement-level for more than 30 years, while at the same time we are a society of increasing longevity. At the same time, more foreigners are living and working in the country on a

permanent or temporary basis. These demographic trends have tremendous ramifications for Singapore families and society.

**The economic situation:**

Women are pushing for increased corporate social responsibility through fair trade where workers' rights, in particular women's rights, are protected through improved corporate standards.

**Other topical issues in your country and how they impact on women:**

Women have, in fact, emerged as the flexible labour force par excellence. However, their entry into the workplace has also coincided with trends towards outsourcing and subcontracting; relegating women's jobs to the informal sector without any job security or benefits. The inherent risks of this positioning are now becoming apparent as the economic crisis unfolds. Members of the Women's Wings play a key role in the community. Besides providing assistance at the Meet-the-People sessions and house visits, the women activists are also empowered through skills training to play significant roles in serving the community through participation in Project WINGS.

**Country ratification, reporting and/or implementation of CEDAW:**

Singaporean women have continued to enjoy all the privileges and benefits of the nation's development and growth, alongside men. For example, girls are given equal access as boys to quality education, scholarships, bursaries and financial assistance. Women benefit from excellent yet affordable healthcare services and receive attention and support from the government for women-specific health issues. Women are also eligible to purchase and own property on similar terms as men. As stated in Article 12 of the Singapore Constitution, all Singaporean women enjoy equal rights as men.

**SINGAPORE'S APPROACH TO SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN**

**D.1** Singapore subscribes to the philosophy that the family undergirds society and that closely-knit and supportive families make for a cohesive nation. Therefore, many policies in Singapore are designed to promote the healthy development of families.

**D.2** Women form about half of Singapore's population. They receive equal opportunities as men. This has been made possible by upholding the principle of meritocracy, which underlies the planning and implementation of policies and programmes across government ministries. **D.3** Besides the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations which encourages women to take lead positions in the community, the National Family Council is another platform where issues concerning women are raised. This people-led advisory and 4 As at June 2007, women made up 50.4 percent of the entire population.

**THE WOMEN'S CHARTER IN SINGAPORE is very active.**

**SINGAPORE'S WORK IN THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN**

**F.1** The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (hereafter referred to as the Convention) came into force for Singapore on 4 November 1995. However, the principles of gender equality had been in place prior to Singapore's accession to the Convention. These provisions can be found in the Constitution of Singapore and other relevant legislation such as the Women's Charter mentioned above.

**Other conventions/laws that may be relevant to a specific topical issue in your country:**

Domestic -violence, whether mild or severe, is not acceptable.

APEC economies are projected to be the locus for global economic growth in 2009. We now have the chance to create a new paradigm for sustainable growth; to build not just economic infrastructure, but also social infrastructure. We must make sure that growth is more inclusive and socially equitable. This includes ensuring that women have access to opportunities to participate in national economic recovery and that they emerge from this crisis in a better position to participate in our regions' bright economic future.

**Action taken or requested to address issues raised in this report.**

**All women organizations work in collaboration** with Government agencies, Non Governmental organizations like Singapore council of women's organization (both the Soroptimist Clubs in Singapore are part of this Organization) to deal with these issues.

---

## NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – SOLOMON ISLANDS

Patti Duke

---

**The political situation:**

Currently there are six women at the provincial government level but there are no women at the national parliament level. A submission from women through the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs presented to the government caucus and cabinet to create 10 reserved seats for women in parliament for the 2010 national elections did not get the full support of the government. It was put on hold while work on supporting women candidates who are contesting the national elections is underway. Also, women will be contesting the six provincial elections immediately after the national elections.

**The socio-cultural situation:**

A lot more women are coming forward to have medical checks such as getting their pap smears and breast examinations at the Soroptimist Pap Smear Clinic at the National Hospital. This has come about after the awareness programs conducted by our club in the last few years.

In education, the intake of girls has gone up and at the end of year prize giving at a lot of schools more girls took top honours than in past years.

**The economic situation:**

Families have been impacted by the global financial crises. More and more women are looking to small income generating activities such as selling food, market produce and handicrafts to help meet the basic needs of their families. Floods, king tides, tsunamis and earthquakes in some areas of the Solomon Islands have destroyed gardens and houses. The government has taken steps to address climate change through the Ministry of Environment as it is really affecting our islands and coastal villages. It is impacting on women and their families in terms of food security and their livelihoods. Women in Solomon Islands are well engaged in small income generating activities thus contributing to the economic development.

**Other topical issues in your country and how they impact on women:**

**Violence Against Women:** According to a national study completed in 2009 two out of three women in the Solomon Islands have experienced violence. This national study was prepared by the South Pacific Commission in partnership with the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs. (Source: Solomon Islands Government Response to Beijing+15 Questions) Actual violence, and the fear of violence, negatively impacts on women's ability to safely participate in the social, political and economic life of their communities.

**Women In Leadership:** Although there are still no women in parliament, there are six at the provincial government level. There are also six women Permanent Secretaries and about four women Under Secretaries. There are a few women who are members on Commissions and boards, and directors of non-governmental organizations. There are also fifteen women members on the Constitutional Reform Commission, including the chairperson, who are at the moment looking into the draft federal system. Women in parliament would know the issues affecting local women so they would be able to contribute meaningfully during debates. (Source: Women in Leadership Desk Officer)

**Cervical Cancer:** There is a high rate of cervical cancer in the Solomon Islands. Many women do not get regular Pap smears and a significant number of women die from this disease leaving families without a mother. (Source: Soroptimist sponsored symposium conducted by Dr Hou, head of gynecology at the National Referral Hospital)

### **Country ratification, reporting and/or implementation of CEDAW:**

The Solomon Islands Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy has been passed by cabinet and it is at the printing stage after which women's stakeholders will go out to the communities to conduct awareness on the policy and how it will be implemented.

A National Policy On Eliminating Violence Against Women is in the final draft stages. The Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs with its NGO partner, the Solomon Islands National Council of Women, has been working on ensuring the government meets its obligation as a signatory to CEDAW. Work is underway by the Ministry on the initial reporting to the United Nations on the implementation of CEDAW which is overdue.

### **Country ratification, reporting and/or implementation Ratification of 1325 Resolution with United Nations:**

The Solomon Islands Government in its commitment to peace and security has established an independent Truth and Reconciliation Commission Body that will work in conjunction with the Ministry of Unity, Peace and Reconciliation.

Women organizations such as the Vois Blo Mere Solomon and the Solomon Islands National Council of Women are engaged in conducting media awareness and advocacy throughout the country on 1325 and how it impacts / effects women in the communities.

### **Action taken or requested to address issues raised in this report:**

#### *Women in Leadership:*

Funding from a Soroptimist International President's appeal has been used to build nine Women's Resource Centres in the provinces which are now completed and women in the provinces are beginning to use these centre to conduct workshops and trainings on issues that affect them along with basic skills trainings and business trainings which will assist women with their small income generating activities. A member of our club is on the National Steering Committee

for the Women's Resource Centres and she continues to assist the Provincial Councils of Women to establish training programs in these centres.

*Cervical Cancer:* SI Solomon Islands continues to support the efforts of the Pap Smear Clinic funded by SI Italy. A significant amount of funds recently donated for women's health will be spent on needs identified by the staff of this clinic. According to the Ministry of Health in the Solomons Islands, two of the number one killers for women are cervical and breast cancer. It is such that the national hospital is not fully equipped to treat women with confirmed cases especially when most of the cases are detected very late. Whilst more women now are coming forward to get medical checks, some are not doing so because of cultural reasons. Soroptimist Club has an ongoing project on cervical cancer and is moving forward with it, whilst another group, the First Lady Charity Group, has a project for breast cancer. Funds are being raised every year on Pink Ribbon Day.

*Violence Against Women:* As mentioned earlier violence against women is a huge problem. With the working together of our NGO organizations such as the Family Support Centre, Christian Care Centre, South Pacific Commission, the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs and the Police, to address this problem through awareness programs in the media and communities, a lot of these cases are getting reported by women to the responsible authorities.

---

## NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – THAILAND

Kathy Barnett

---

### **The political situation:**

The situation in Thailand is still tenuous. Since the silent coup in Dec/2008, [after the standoff at Suvarnavhumi Airport], we have a non-elected Government in power. But, somehow this Government has maintained some stability, even through the recent economic turmoil affecting most of the Developed Countries. At the end of January, things may change, depending on the final decision from the High Court re: Mr Taksin. [Involving the sentence given by the court re: assets obtained and sold during his PM tenure.]

### **The socio-cultural situation:**

80% of the population lives in rural areas. The 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city has a population of just over ½ a million compared to Bangkok, 12 – 16 million [depending on differing figures]. A type of feudal system is still predominant in the Kingdom, with the upper classes, ruling, and holding the higher positions. In the last 10 years I have noticed a huge growth of the middles classes, esp. in Bangkok. This is the outcome of education being made more available to the average Thai. Many of the upper echelon attend high-schools and universities overseas.

The Poor continue to suffer the most, as because of the economic system, they hold no permanent job, which then leaves them out of the social health system, wage control, etc, and other benefits that are given to registered workers. The thousands/ of itinerant and illegal workers, who come into Thailand also compete with the Thai Labourer, often taking their jobs, as they are in a situation where they will work for much less. This also has a huge effect on women trying to join the work force.

**RF: United Nations** ,•Division for the Advancement of Women. •Expert Consultation on the 2009 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: “Women’s control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance”  
Bangkok, Thailand 12-14 November, 2008

**“ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY IN THAILAND”** by **Poonsap S. Tulaphan**□

As a voluntary worker in Klong Toey [Bkk] helping with the distribution of milk powder to babies up to the age of 12 months, for the last 10 years. This report touches on the reality that over 70% of women in the work force, work for very little, and sometimes under unsatisfactory conditions.

Constant CoNGO reports, UN reports, the reading of situations on the web, show that people are still writing reports, but the reality is that action NOT words can only make a change.

**The economic situation:**

The Thai Baht has surprisingly maintained its value in the last year, and the world situation has been slow to have an immediate effect in Thailand.

The health and strength of the Royal Family continues to give incredible love for its people to put their energies into.

Some International Companies have been forced to leave Thailand as part of their Mother company’s greater cut-down in employment, expenses, eg: the cost of International /Expat schooling, housing etc.

This has started to create an awareness of the world situation to some in Thailand.

Tourism has dropped, and again this has had some affect on the service industry, of which Thailand is the Service Industry Capital of the world.

**Other topical issues in your country and how they impact on women:**

The UN is huge here and there are many International conferences. Thailand has signed most of the UN agreement, except anything re: refugees etc. It is said that Women do have equal rights, but, from the work force, to marriage, education, there still needs to be some improvement.

In implementing anything agreed on internationally, women are still behind Men. Trafficking, illegal workers, informal labourers are not aware of any rights that they may have.

I have personally spoken with many groups of independent, well educated, intelligent women, and when they ask, how can they make changes. I have replied, “the only way anything will change is when women get into the political field and become leaders, enabling themselves to make changes”.

**Country ratification, reporting and/or implementation of CEDAW:**

The CEDAW agreement has been signed by Thailand and yes...the government is starting to make progress in this field.

**QUOTE: CEDAW/C/THA/4-5**

*“55. Violence against women and children is a major problem that hinders their development. Many women and children suffer from physical, emotional and sexual*

*abuse within the family, at home, in school, in the workplace and even in public places. This situation has existed for a long time, but was antagonized further by the Asian economic crisis which puts additional pressure on the family. Simultaneously, society still does not adequately understand and recognize the problem, which has led to inadequate assistance for victims.*

*56. As in other societies throughout the world, physical and sexual abuse against women persists in Thai society even though the government and non-governmental organizations have conducted prevention campaigns and other measures to solve the problem.*

*Unfortunately, data from various organizations indicate that the situation is worsening. The victims range in age from very young children to the very old, including those who have mental or physical disabilities. Most offenders are family members or acquaintances of the victims. “*

Most rural areas do not have the provision of Government orphanages, and so the individual is often kept at the back of the house, and hidden from the general public.

To make changes here means a total change of tradition, culture, religious beliefs, and the fundamental make-up of the country. Where do you start? Education, empowering women etc.? It may take quite a time.

#### **Action taken or requested to address issues raised in this report.**

No action is taken by SI-Thailand, we stay completely non-political

Also, .at this time in the year 2010, professional women work 12-16 hrs a day. With the new IT world, everybody no longer has any relaxing time during their working day; even travelling home etc...any spare time is spent on iPhones, blackberries, laptops, and mobiles, making reporting etc. difficult. So much is now received by email and the average Business Woman does not have the time to respond to all the SI and SISWP deliveries.

---

## CONSTITUTION

### Anusha Santhirasthipam

---

This is the fourth and final year of my term as Constitution Convenor and I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the Officers, Convenors, POS Committee and Past Presidents of SISWP and some Region Presidents who have contributed their valuable opinion and expertise to help shape ground-breaking policy shifts and vital constitutional changes, who provided constructive appraisal of current procedures and practices that need improvement and who generously shared their experiences working at all levels of Soroptimist International to assist the Constitution Committee to package Motions that will enable SISWP to thrive and prosper in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Thank you also to all those Region and Club position-holders who came forward to share your concerns, hopes, expectations and priorities. SISWP is evolving because you frankly and openly shared your experiences and challenges. You have helped the Constitution Committee to see the 'big picture' and 'keep it real'; you made us realise that it isn't all fixed if all we do is 'tweak' the Constitutions and Manuals or throw away outdated rules and practices. We are happy to discover that clubs and regions are ready to turn the page in our Federation's history. **It is your needs, values and goals**

**that have inspired the Constitution Committee to develop Items for Discussion and Motions for the Federation Board and Conference of Clubs. These dynamic new initiatives and strategic measures are the answers which you seek.**

**What did we achieve over the past one year since the IBM 2009 in Kuala Lumpur?**

- Assisted POS Committee with Motions to approve a new Programme Model to improve management of POS activities and reporting at all levels as well as introduction of zone-based support and training.
- Advised the Federation voting delegation to SI Board Meeting on all policy matters especially on proposed revisions to the SI Strategic Plan Goals, Objectives and Recommendations including the manner and timelines for implementation.
- Worked closely with NR New Zealand to make changes to the Constitutions of clubs and regions in New Zealand to comply with requirements for clubs and regions to secure charitable status from the NZ Charities Commission.
- Advised the Region of Malaysia on a variety of constitution, procedural and protocol matters including the necessary statutory compliances for the establishment of a charitable foundation by the Region.
- Advised some clubs and regions on dispute resolution and grievance handling involving individual members and position holders at club and region level.
- Advised several office bearers of Regions in Australia and also Club Presidents in Australia on legal procedures and constitution matters of SI Australia Inc. prior to the National Annual Meeting.

During 2009, the Constitution Committee made an appeal for volunteers from clubs and regions to assist with the massive 'tidying-up' task requiring a meticulous study of the Region and Club Manuals and Supplements to highlight any discrepancies, anomalies and errors in need of rectification. Despite 2 articles in the Monthly Bulletins, only a handful of volunteers came forward to assist with this investigative task. I am immensely grateful to these wonderful Soroptimists for their eye for detail and recommendations for improvement. The 'take home' value for these volunteers is that they are all now well-versed in the Region and Club Manuals and Supplements.

**The Constitution Committee has developed a whole package of Motions to be sent out for Postal Ballot voting by National Representatives involving the long overdue 'tidying-up' amendments to the Federation, Region and Club Manuals and Supplements. These will not be dealt under the Agenda of the upcoming Federation Board Meeting in the interest of time and expediency. They will be sent out immediately after COC2010 to enable National Representatives to have sufficient time to discuss with regions and clubs prior to voting on the proposed changes.**

Over the past year, it has become increasingly apparent that the role of National Representative is still not well understood by clubs and regions leading to several

instances of problems with coordination, protocol, governance and reporting. Also, there were problematic issues concerning the use of club proxies for voting at Region meetings and at Conference of Clubs and as to who could be a proxy for a National Representative at the Board meeting.

**These thorny issues have all been addressed in a package of Motions that are going out to clubs for postal ballot prior to Conference of Clubs 2010. There are 25 Motions for clubs to deliberate upon and they are all necessary Constitution changes to promote efficient decision-making, manage performance effectively, practice effective governance and develop leadership capacity in line with the Strategic Leadership Goals of the SI Strategic Plan.**

#### **PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2010**

**As the year 2009 came to a close, I realised that the dawn of a New Decade in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century was upon us and it is time to reflect on what works for us, to contemplate on the possibilities to evolve and grow and to meditate on how to make it all happen.** We live in exciting and challenging times where internet-based social networking sites like Face Book, MySpace and Twitter are able to reach out to tens of millions of people and create awareness, inspire advocacy and galvanise action in the form of socio-economic and political reform, mobilise millions of dollars in humanitarian aid, manpower and resources for disaster relief. They can do exactly all that we Soroptimists have been doing, except that they are 10 times faster and 100 times more effective.

#### **What do we need to do as a Federation to stay proactive, dynamic and relevant?**

Use all available and affordable technological tools and internet-based networking and marketing opportunities, tap into available Government policies and aid programmes and attract corporate partners through appropriate incentives and benefits; all of which will enrich our clubs, regions and Federation and in turn attract more members thereby swelling our coffers to carry out more programmes and projects in our 12 member countries.

#### **How do we accomplish this?**

- **Incorporate SISWP as a company limited by guarantee and work on securing tax-exempt status to attract corporate sponsorships and government grants.** SISWP's transformation into a corporate vehicle for managing a network of service clubs will not affect any clubs or regions in terms of their constitution/registration, tax status or holding of assets or properties. The current Constitutions and Manuals of Federation, Region and Club will remain effective. Only minor changes are envisaged for the Federation Constitution and Manual to comply with Australia's Corporation Act 2001.
- **Mobilise resources and expertise through a Corporate Partner Incentive Package and Membership Recruitment Strategy which will be particularly successful in cities and large industrial or commercial areas.**
- **Promote and further develop the SISWP Website and train members to maximise usage of the Website as a medium of publicity, education and marketing links and for interactive communication between members,**

**clubs and regions that will help foster friendship links and galvanise cross-border joint action on projects and fund-raising.**

- **Develop Dispute Resolution Procedures and a policy framework for dispute resolution involving clubs and regions and their members and position-holders.**

NOTE: The Constitution Committee is submitting Items for Discussion and related Motions to enable most of these priority areas to materialise. The support of clubs and regions is vitally important to help the Federation materialise these 21<sup>st</sup> Century strategies for our survival and growth. I believe that Soroptimists in South West Pacific are willing to think 'out of the box' and embrace the pace of change with the same faith, hope and courage that our founders had when they gave breath of life to SI.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as Federation Constitution Convenor. I have learnt so much and grown as a person. I am truly humbled by this rich and rewarding experience.

---

## INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Anusha Santhirasthipam

---

I was honoured to be appointed as Consultant to the SI Voting Delegation from SISWP Federation at the SI Board Meeting in 2009. This is the first SI Board Meeting that I have attended despite serving on the SI Constitution & Resolutions Committee for 2 years. It proved to be a very enlightening meeting and a great learning experience, especially so because of the opportunity to actively participate in a specially organised Workshop to clarify the roles, responsibilities and relationships of the four Federations. This was done within the context of the SI Strategic Plan and to clearly define and prioritise how each Federation intends to implement the SI Strategic Plan-Goals and Recommendations.

In preparation for the SI Board Meeting 2009, the SI C&R Committee was tasked with a Review of the SI Constitution for the purpose of implementing the SI Strategic Plan recommendations. Among the issues that the SI C&R Committee presented to the 2009 SI Board meeting for discussion and voting were:-

- To abolish the rotation system for Treasurer and review the rotation system for Committee Chairs.
- To continue the 2 year term of office for all positions.
- To change the selection process and term for Committee chair appointments.
- To develop new processes and tools to measure performance in the implementation of SI Strategic Plan.
- To have all position holders review their job description, including performance expectations and measurement standards.
- To develop new criteria for representation of Programme Voting Delegates at SI Convention including proposal for a weighted voting system.
- To develop a more effective and equitable Convention Registration Refund policy.

As a member of SI C&R Committee, I was also required to study proposals submitted by other Federations for discussion at the SI Board from a constitution context and in particular, whether policy or procedural changes are anticipated or required. When analysing these proposals, I have been ever mindful and vigilant of all the possible implications on our Federation, our regions and member clubs.

I have also been appointed to serve as SISWP's representative on the SI Foundation Task Force whose purpose is to investigate the establishment of an SI Foundation. This will be in addition to the continuing role on the SI C&R Committee till the SI Convention in Montreal in 2011. There is still much ahead in store for all four Federations as we need to review our policies, procedures and practices to be able to fully realise the long term goals of the SI Strategic Plan.

---

## EXTENSION

Lynn Ciurlionis

---

### Statistics: As at 30 December 2009

<b>Clubs Chartered.</b>	SI Ipoh February 2009 SI Maylands Peninsula (WA) June 2009 SI Sentul (Malaysia) December 2009
<b>Dissolutions:</b>	SI Brisbane City SI Goldfields SI Nepean and Blue Mountains
<b>Name change:</b>	SI Pine Rivers to SI Morton North Inc
<b>Number of clubs</b>	139
<b>Number of members</b>	2721

If projects are the soul of our organisation and members are the life blood then our spirit is well but we are haemorrhaging fast. This is not a new problem and convenors have reported the same gloomy statistics for many years. So, what do we do? How do we address this dire situation? If you want something to change you can't keep doing what you've been doing. Change requires commitment. Change can also be very painful.

Clubs with membership falling below the constitutional number of fifteen were asked, in May of 2009, to examine the reasons for their low membership numbers and to pursue a plan to increase numbers.

This communication caused much discomfort but with our membership numbers down by 30% over the last ten years we needed to address the situation. Yes, small clubs can, and do, accomplish miracles but they also find succession planning difficult, with members taking on more and more responsibility, they burn out and leave and are often not replaced. Clubs are victims of their own compassion and tolerate inappropriate behaviour from members that would be unacceptable in a workplace situation.

Recommendation 2

How do we bring enthusiastic women into clubs where the dynamics are not working? The biggest challenge our organisation is facing is the need to accommodate those members who should have moved on. We need to remove the gatekeepers.

Recommendation 1

Unfortunately we don't! We can talk about the changing role of women in the workforce, the demands of generation X and Y people who want to help once but not sign up for life and the related demands of meetings and volunteering in this busy world. Now we must act.

In the last eight years, and in particular the last four years, Soroptimist International has been through some huge changes in structure, program focus and the way we report. For those of us involved in the new strategic plan it is a time of streamlining and excitement as we move forward. Sadly, for those with a less than professional approach or are dismissive of Soroptimist information and strategy the result is a member with a poor knowledge of her own organisation who is incapable of being a passionate, informed ambassador. An indication of this is reflected by the low number of 'hits' on SPAN and the Bulletin each month. In contrast with this we have had over sixty enquiries directly to our website membership section from women interested in membership of clubs in the South West Pacific Federation.

This year communication from Regions and individual clubs has been revealing, confirming and heartfelt. Most clubs are actively working on the issues of recruitment and retention with terrific results. Congratulations to the clubs who have retained and recruited this year because your success helps us to survive and grow.

But what if the SWP Board were to follow the constitution and dissolve clubs, what would be the result? Club closures, whole countries could be lost, but, most importantly, we would lose our soul.

The Federation cannot recruit women into clubs, only members can. However, by investing in resources SISWP can support us to attract women who are interested in our 'core business'.

This investment will result in a stronger organisation, better positioned to improve the lives of women and girls. We must measure our success not just on our brilliant project work but on the quality of the experience our members are having.

There is no one reason why women **join** a Soroptimist Club however, they **stay** because they can contribute as part of a team and enjoy it, if, being a member of a Soroptimist Club enhances their lives.

Is service empowering? Yes! Could we double the membership of Soroptimist International South West Pacific in the next two years? Yes! Never has it been more important.

**Working with like-minded women can make the seemingly impossible happen.**

Recommendation 1. Those members who have been retired from a profession or business for 10 years are given 'associate' status and will not be eligible to hold a Club, Region or Federation position.

Recommendation 2. That a policy be implemented that allows a SWP appointed mediator to be used within Club or Region to facilitate improved relationships between members. This should be extended to allow the mediator to recommend that the invitation of membership is withdrawn if members cannot reconcile.

## Current Extension Projects 2010-2012

### Current Extension Projects 2010

Country	Club	Contact Person	Notes
Thailand	Chiang Rai	<p>Margot Waramontri  <a href="mailto:margo.ssw@gmail.com">margo.ssw@gmail.com</a>  Voralak Suwanvanchkij  <a href="mailto:voralak@gmail.com">voralak@gmail.com</a>  Lynn Ciurlionis  <a href="mailto:lynnciurlionis@hotmail.com">lynnciurlionis@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p>The potential for a fourth club in Thailand is being supported given the role of SI in the province of Chiang Rai and the SWP conference held there in 2008. Also following a third club being chartered in 2007 in Chiang Mai. An extension grant from SI was received in 2008.</p> <p>Initial meeting with interested women in October 2008. Further meetings in 2008 resulted in establishment of core group Thai women who will develop the club with assistance from Bangkok and Chiang Mai.</p> <p>Venue and project identified. SI publicity materials translated into Thai. Incoming National Rep Voralak and project co-ordinator from BKK to liaise with Chiang Rai. A further grant from SI has been received for 2010.</p> <p><b>This extension project has been suspended due to the slow down in the economy in the North of Thailand</b></p>
Cambodia	Phnom Penh	<p>Lynn Ciurlionis  <a href="mailto:lynnciurlionis@hotmail.com">lynnciurlionis@hotmail.com</a>  Sokphyma <a href="mailto:sokpymaly@yahoo.com">sokpymaly@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p>SWP has been working in Cambodia with their Biennial Federation Project and visits to the capital of Phnom Penh resulted in the SWP seeking registration with the Cambodian government as an official NGO. This was granted in 2008 which then allowed SWP to look at forming a club.</p> <p>An extension grant was received in 2008 from SI.</p> <p>Members of SWP visited in June 2008 for an official introduction to SI. Translators are vital and translated SI material is necessary. Leaders have taken on executive positions and a project has been developed.</p> <p>A further grant of funding has been received from SI for 2010.</p> <p><b>Charter July 2010</b></p>

### Proposed Extension Projects 2010

PNG	Wewak Madang	Jane Kenni <a href="mailto:janekeni@datec.net.pg">janekeni@datec.net.pg</a> Florence Bunari <a href="mailto:florence.bunari@global.com.pg">florence.bunari@global.com.pg</a>	Both Wewak and Madang are proposed locations for new Soroptimist Clubs. The focus for development has yet to be decided. It is hoped that with the possible establishment of a SWP Biennium 'Pacific project' in PNG the project may be taken to Madang and Wewak for further development.
Australia Gippsland	Taralgon	Maggie Mitchell <a href="mailto:maggie13@bigond.com">maggie13@bigond.com</a> Margo Kelly <a href="mailto:margokel@bigpond.com">margokel@bigpond.com</a> Kay Drysdale <a href="mailto:jdrizz@netspace.net.au">jdrizz@netspace.net.au</a> Karen Thorton SI Geelong Supporting Clubs SI Berwick, SI Mornington	Region of Victoria has developed support projects ( 6 months-3 years ) in the fire stricken region of Gippsland and the possibilities of beginning a club were explored while a SWP Project Manager was working in the area. Contact has been made with women in towns within the Taralgon geographical area and several leaders identified in different locations Communication and meetings are social at this point Meetings to establish a club will begin in March 2010 after the next fire season has passed. Some funding is being sought from SWP Muriel Barber fund.
Australia NSW	Newcastle	Audrey McCallum <a href="mailto:audrey.mccallum@ozemail.com.au">audrey.mccallum@ozemail.com.au</a> Dian Crockford <a href="mailto:butterflydi@hotmail.com">butterflydi@hotmail.com</a> Supporting Clubs Gosford, Brisbane Waters	Region of NSW is keen to follow – up on enquiries to from women living in Newcastle. It was felt that is a growth area and with so many possible contacts from Soroptimist members in the region it was worth pursuing. Funding from Muriel Barber is requested
Western Australia	Duraig/Cari ne Bussleton	Sue Eagleton <a href="mailto:regale@iinet.net.au">regale@iinet.net.au</a> Berenice Ritchie <a href="mailto:berenice.ritchie@iinet.net.au">berenice.ritchie@iinet.net.au</a>	Contact has been made with interested women in both locations and extension work is due to begin. Funding from Muriel Barber is requested

### Extension Plan for SWP 2010-2012

	OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES	TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS (REQ RESOURCES)	BUDGET
1	To create an	To involve all	Extension Convenor	Target. All members of the	

	<b>effective extension team</b>	Federation Co-ordinators and Extension convenors in the development of extension targets through email and Conference meetings	Member Development Convenor Publicity Convenor Region Extension Convenors Program Co-ordinators	committee engage fully with the extension projects as requested  (R)That members of the team are on SKYPE	
2	<b>Increase the number of clubs in the Federation by establishing extension as a priority for all Regions</b>  <b>Identify locations in which potential Soroptimist Clubs could be developed.</b>	Support Region Extension committees and neighbouring clubs to mentor proposed new clubs.  <b>Western Australia</b> Broome Goldfields Busselton  <b>New South Wales</b> Newcastle  <b>Victoria</b> Taralgon  <b>New Zealand South</b> Blenhiem	Extension Convenor Region Extension Sponsoring clubs  Sue Eagleton Berenice Ritchie  Audrey McCallum Dian Crockford  Maggie Mitchell Kay Drysdale  Cheryl Waterstone  Region Extension Convenors and committee/ club members	Target: At least one extension project in each Region for 2010  (R)Extension and recruitment resources for location preview)  To re-establish clubs in The Goldfields and Broome <u>March 2011</u> To develop a club in Busselton <u>March 2011</u>  To develop a club in Newcastle <u>March 2011</u>  To develop a club in Taralgon (Gippsland) <u>December 2010</u>  To develop a club in Blenhiem <u>June 2011</u>  <u>Target.</u> To have every Region working toward the development of two new clubs by <u>Jan 2011</u>	TBA  TBA  \$2237.00  \$3000.00 (MB SWP)
3	<b>Consolidate and conserve at risk countries</b>	Support. Fiji, Hong Kong, Singapore, Samoa and Indonesia with a plan for recruitment and member development. Countries must establish what would help them attain higher membership numbers.	<b>TEAM</b> comprising: Federation Extension Committee Member Development Convenor SWP President Program Director(s)	<u>Target.</u> To increase membership by 100% in at risk clubs by 2011 <u>Target</u> To have a team of experienced Soroptimists visit the countries as a 'training/recruitment team'	\$10,000.00

		<p>In co-operation with each club/country prepare a recruitment plan for each country/club. Visit countries clubs as a TEAM with presentations and resources</p> <p>Provide support for clubs to follow-up on the recruitment drive</p> <p>Each Club will require a 'monitor' from the TEAM</p> <p>Develop a project from existing club projects or a new one that can be used as an extension tool</p>	<p>'Monitors'/mentor</p> <p>'Monitors' (Monitor to be selected from a Soroptimist known to the club)</p> <p>Program team with Club program convenor</p>		
4	<b>Provide extension packages using existing and new SWP Federation materials and resources</b>	<p>Prepare resources for use by amalgamating and streamlining all available resources from four Federations. ie: new Extension DVD (SIGBI)</p> <p>Within the resources Provide examples of what has worked recently, timelines and reporting</p>	<p>Federation Extension Team</p> <p>Member Development</p> <p>Publicity</p> <p>Select personnel with time and capability to utilize website and provide links</p>	<p><u>Target.</u> To have available online or from SISWP HQ by April 2010 those resources required for extension within the Federation.</p> <p><u>Target.</u> Provide opportunities on SISWP Website for 'Potential Clubs' to have their own space.</p>	\$5000.00
5	<b>Develop the friendship links from Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia into mentors and partners with clubs in</b>	<p>Promote friendship Links as a way to partner clubs in project work and the purpose of <u>administration assistance</u></p>	<p>National Reps</p> <p>Friendship Link Co-ordinator</p> <p>Club liaisons</p>	<p><u>Target.</u> To <u>direct</u> each 'at risk' club to partner with a thriving club in either Malaysia, New Zealand or Australia</p>	

	<b>developing countries.</b>				
6	<b>Explore opportunities for extension in countries allocated to SWP</b>	Visit Vanuatu  Prepare applications for funding from SI for 2011-2012	Lilly Hanghangkon (Vanuatu Council of Women) National Rep Fiji Extension Convenor and team	<u>Target.</u> Members of TEAM to visit Vanuatu in conjunction with visit to Fiji and PNG with the intention of assessing viability of establishing a club in 2011 Develop a partnership project with Vanuatu Council of Women	\$3000
7	<b>Charter Fourth Club in PNG</b>	<b>PNG</b> Wewak or Madang To be decided	TEAM National Rep Extension Convenor Project Liaison For Federation Biennial Project	<u>Target.</u> To Establish a fourth Club in Wewak or Madang by mid 2011 To develop a project in Wewak or Madang that reflects the Biennium Project in Port Morseby	2010 SI funded \$3364

8	<b>To extend into SWP 13<sup>th</sup> Federation Country Cambodia</b>	<b>Cambodia</b> Charter of proposed SI Phnom Penh	Extension Convenor SWP Mentoring Club SI Business on Collins Contact Maggie Mitchell Charter President Ly Sokpyma	<u>Target.</u> To bring two members of Proposed SIPP to the Gold Coast conference for 'orientation' <u>Achievement.</u> Date for Charter 4 <sup>th</sup> July	2010 SI Funded \$2471
9	<b>Explore possibilities of 'University Clubs'</b>	Clubs with Universities within their local to begin recruitment program targeting university students with short term project work on behalf of SWP ie; participate in support for Biennial Project in Pacific through volunteer program.	Federation Project Liaison Project team Mentoring Club	<u>Target.</u> To establish a pilot program within region of Victoria with support from post graduates. <u>August 2010</u> <u>Required Resources.</u> Project needs to be visible and have website updates. Publicity for potential applicants	
10	<b>Explore 'Cyber' clubs</b>	Develop and explore possibilities of a 'pilot' cyber club with <b>existing</b> members who have an understanding of the organisation.	Cyber Club President Volunteers from membership	<u>Target.</u> Have a structure or frame work in place for the 'cyber club' <u>June 2010</u> Report and review for board by <u>Feb 2011</u> .	
11	<b>Develop two new clubs</b>	Details to be received			

---

## FINANCE

Carolyn Hudson

---

As I come to the end of 4 years as SISWP Finance Convenor, the obvious question I am asking myself is “did I achieve what I wanted to?” The answer is, of course, “no”. Does one ever achieve everything? As you become familiar with a job, paid or voluntary, you learn more and more about it – which leads to seeing more things that can be improved.

I am pleased that we have simplified the MYOB ledgers to make them more workable. I am equally pleased that we have sorted out the Project & Special Appeals Account, moved it out to a new ledger and got it well and truly under control. We are trying a new method of collecting capitation fees in the hope of streamlining things for clubs; we have introduced “bands” for capitation fees (not perfect yet); we have new bank accounts; we have re-established the “shop” at HQ and closed the New Zealand “shop”. There are some things that have not been achieved and some of these are addressed below. Others will have to be tackled by the next Finance Convenor.

### **Capitation Fees – our major income source**

When I took up this position the Federation, and the economy generally, was in a much sounder financial position. Because of this, I recommended that any fee increase should be limited to the rise in the Consumer Price Index (Sydney). Since then, we have had the Global Financial Crisis and our financial position has changed.

At this stage, I have no idea of the recommendations coming from the Muriel Barber and Travel Pool taskforces. I cannot, therefore, make any recommendations regarding fees. However, I would therefore like to suggest to my successor that she gives serious consideration to submitting a motion to rescind the motion passed in Berwick in 2007, and to calculating a more realistic figure for our fees.

***Food for thought:** as service clubs go, we are relatively cheap. Are we de-valuing our membership, saying that it is not really worth very much?*

### **Collection of Capitation Fees**

At the 2009 Meeting, the Board agreed to trial the collection of capitation fees via the Regions (and maybe collective remittance by clubs not in regions). At the time of writing this report, I cannot tell you how this went. I do know that several region treasurers are tackling this in a very professional way and are not really worried about extra responsibilities. Some regions designed forms, set their figures and tackled this a couple of months before the end of the year. Also some region treasurers are consulting each other quite happily.

### **New Members & Fees**

When I first joined a Soroptimist Club, it was accepted that a new member paid her fees from the quarter in which she was inducted. In other words, if you joined in the first quarter of the year, you paid a full year’s fees; if you joined in July, you paid half a year’s fees, and so on.

Over the years, this has been re-interpreted: now it is accepted (and codified in the ROD) that new members should pay from the quarter after they join. I think this is patently unfair – unfair to existing members, that is. By the current interpretation, members inducted in January would pay only 75% of a year's fees – but existing members will pay 100% of the fees for the same number of meetings.

**Recommendation 1:**

- a) That ROD 10.680 be amended by the deletion of the second sentence “*New members of existing Clubs pay a pro rata amount from the quarter after their induction.*”
- b) That a new clause 10.685 be added, reading “*New members of existing Clubs pay a pro rata amount from and including the quarter in which they are inducted*”

**Travel Costs – Incoming Officers, Convenors, AFPDs & Programme Coordinators**

Until now, we have elected the officers, convenors, programme directors, programme coordinators for the coming biennium at the Conference of Clubs. Nominees for all these positions knew that, should they be elected, they would need to be available for the first Board and/or Programme of Service Meeting of the next biennium.

ROD 11.232 does allow for incoming Officers and Convenors to have their fares paid,. This includes the incoming Federation Programme Director, as convenor of the Programme of Service Committee, but not the incoming AFPDs or Programme Coordinators.

In the past, this money has rarely been claimed. Now, however, these position holders are elected six months prior to Conference and, with time to think about it, the incoming officers and convenors will obviously be claiming fares. We must be prepared for an increase in travel costs in change-over years to cover these extra fares.

Alternatively, the Board may feel it appropriate to amend ROD11.232 to exclude incoming Officers and Convenors (just leaving National Representatives).

Without wanting to pre-empt the findings of the Travel Pool Taskforce, I do suggest that it is time our priorities are reviewed. Perhaps we should fully fund the members doing the work - the Board, the Programme of Service Committee, Committee Convenors, Appointees, etc. – but not club delegates. We are tending more and more to electronic voting outside conference and therefore the need for clubs to have specific delegates at Conference is reducing. Perhaps an interim measure would be a small fund to assist delegates whose fares are over a certain figure. Remember that no members are funded to attend an International Convention.

**New Zealand Bank Account**

I do not believe that there is, nowadays, any necessity for SWP to hold a bank account in New Zealand (or any other country). One of the purposes of the NZ bank account was to collect fees, then remit them to Headquarters. If the collection of fees by regions proves a success, the NZ regions could remit their money direct to HQ or possibly SI New Zealand might consider collecting from the three regions and forwarding one payment.

In these days of credit cards and electronic banking, there should be minimal need to make payments from the New Zealand bank account. I realise that for the coming biennium, the President and the Extension Convenor will be resident in New Zealand.

However, there should be no problem with them using Westpac credit cards as is currently the practice. These cards are automatically reimbursed from our cheque account each month.

**Recommendation 2:**

That the incoming Finance Convenor develop a plan and timeline to work towards the closure of the New Zealand Bank Account and repatriation of the funds to the Federation's main accounts.

**External Accountant**

Finally we have acquired the services of an external accountant to assist with the reconciliation of our accounts. So far he has assisted the HQ Administrator with the quarterly reconciliation necessary for the submission of our Business Activity Statement and some payroll-related matters.

I hope in 2010 he will also be able to prepare quarterly accounts from MYOB for submission to the Treasurer for her approval and circulation to the Board. This was the intention of this appointment.

**Denzi Pty Ltd**

It is past time that we revisited Denzi. The shareholders hold their shares in the interest of the Federation. The death of our dear Joan Banks has meant that her share in Denzi must be re-allocated and a decision will need to be made as to who will take this responsibility. It has also affected the directors of the company – now we have only Delores Caboche, Audrey McCallum and Betty Loughhead-Turland (and I believe Betty would like to resign).

I would like to recommend that

- Delores Caboche remain as a Director and Company Secretary, if she is willing to do so.
- The other directors should be the office bearers of our Federation - the President, Immediate Past President and President Elect or Treasurer.
- Except for Delores, the Directors should serve only for the duration of their terms as Federation officers – which means one will come off and one join every second year so we have a reasonable rotation.

We also need to take into consideration that at least one director must be an Australian resident – Delores as Director and Company Secretary ensures that at least one will be Australian. When the time comes that Delores wishes to step down, then perhaps the Australian National Representative of the time could be the fourth director.

I am not making a formal recommendation to the Board at this stage. However, once we have managed to sell the old HQ premises (or the new one!), then the Board will need to address the question of Denzi's directors.

**Budget**

Once again, we are preparing a budget for the current year to be presented at the Board Meeting – one third of the way through the budget year. I have found this a strange process for the whole of my term as Finance Convenor – we are budgeting sometimes for something we have already spent; we set fees before we have worked out what we need for the coming year. It's all a bit strange! At International level we

are now working on the budget for 2011, a draft to be presented at the February Officers' Meeting.

To be more business-like and professional, at the coming Board Meeting we should be looking at the budget for 2011 – not 2010. Maybe we don't need to do it as early as the Board meeting – maybe budget could be prepared in, say July, for approval by the Board in an email ballot in August ...and this could include the fees. Then we would start working to the new budget on 1<sup>st</sup> January (instead of three or four months later). Again, I am not making a formal recommendation at this stage, but may have one by the time the Board Meeting arrives. And on the subject of budgets, my thanks to incoming convenor Merle for accepting the task of drafting the 2010 budget – it is greatly appreciated.

### **Audit**

I am delighted that at last we have someone to audit the accounts that were not done by our former Auditor. Our external accountant, Matthew Cranitch, is handling the old audits. Unfortunately he can't do the 2009 audit as he has been involved in entries during that year. However, I am confident that I will come to the Board Meeting with everything audited and up to date.

### **Conclusion**

Being Finance Convenor has been a serious learning experience. The job turned out to be completely different from what I had expected. I certainly did not anticipate having to rework the accounting system or prepare our annual accounts.....not something that I hope is inflicted on my successor.

And talking of my successor, Merle was elected shortly after I took office as International Treasurer. I was not supposed to continue working in a Federation position, but I couldn't dump it all on her as soon as she was elected. However, she immediately took over my position on the International Finance Committee and she has gradually been taking over the rest of the work from me. I am very grateful for this – in fact for the last few months I would say she has been the Acting Finance Convenor. Merle, thank you so much for stepping into the breach. I wish you well for the coming biennium – I am not saying "good luck" because I know you are so well organised that luck won't be an issue!

To HQ Administrator Rosheen – thank you so much for your hard work and dealing with my midnight email requests; to President Leigh and the other officers and convenors – it has been a pleasure working with you.

---

## HEADQUARTERS RELOCATION TASKFORCE CONVENOR

Carolyn Hudson

---

Our mission this year was to sell the old Headquarters and in this we have been singularly unsuccessful. At the beginning of the year, we had one offer – a very low offer. As it was the first, we declined it. The agent did not produce any more,

Later in the year, we changed agents – great enthusiasm, "yes we have people seeking property in this building". Almost immediately there was an offer. We felt this was a little low but indicated we were willing to negotiate, making a counter offer. Nothing more eventuated.

At the end of January, the report from the agent said *“In last two weeks, there have been 2 inspections and 3 enquiries on your property. Unfortunately by so far there is no one to make an offer. I've contacted previous enquiries. Grace (who made the offer late last year) says she is still considering. Today we also put your property in the newspaper on our cost. And see what happens next week. Generally speaking, it is still quite. Many people are still on holiday mood.”*

I sincerely hope that I shall have better news by the time the Board Meeting commences.

---

## INTERNATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

Carolyn Hudson (2007-2009) & Merle Thomson (2009-2011)

---

The 2009 year has been split between two representatives, as we changed representative at the end of the 2007-2009 International Biennium.

### **January – August 2009**

For this period, the International Finance Committee had no chair. As this Federation was supposed to provide the chair, I was asked, as SWP representative to work on **Recommendation 22 (4.1)** of the Strategic Plan. This concerned investigation in to SI acquiring status (Trust, Foundation, Charity) that would allow the receipt of funds from other sources to promote the SI goals.

This resulted in my recommending to the SI Board Meeting in August that the most practical location to establish such a Fund would be the United Kingdom and the most appropriate structure would be a Charitable Trust or possibly a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which is a new structure which should be available from April 2010.

A special taskforce was commissioned by the SI Board to continue working on the setup of this Fund and, hopefully, this will be ready to go ahead by the next SI Board meeting. The SI Board voted at the 2009 meeting to allocate the majority of the profit from the 2007 SI Convention in Glasgow to start this Fund.

### **August – December 2009**

The International Finance Committee Chair for Biennium 2009- 2011 is Janet Stevens Donahue. During the period following on from the SI Board meeting held in August 2009 there was an initial call from the Committee's Chair for all members of the SI Finance Committee to respond with input for a review of the Finance Committee's role and how it would interact with the newly created part-time employed position of Finance Director at SI HQ.

After advising the Federation officers I made my submission to SI Finance Chair based on this request. Subsequently it was discovered that it was actually a matter of a review of SI Treasurer's duties and her role in conjunction with the Finance Director at SI HQ, rather than the Finance Committee.

At the 2009 SI International Board meeting all committees were asked to carry out a review of the committee and chair job descriptions. SI Finance Committee's review is to be conducted during the first half of year 2010 and before the 2010 SI International Board meeting. When carrying out our review we will also assess the roles of SI HQ

## MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

Barbara Boston

---

What a difference a year makes! In January 2009 when I was preparing my report for the Interim Board Meeting we were still anticipating the launch of the new website. It is now well and truly up and running and is constantly in use. Unfortunately the Club Leadership Handbook and the Information Handbook were not put on the site until late in the year, even though I had sent updated versions of these two documents to Head Office in February.

In March I attended a workshop on CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women) conducted by the Australian Government Office for Women. As a result of this workshop I prepared a presentation which was delivered to all Board Members and Observers attending the Interim Board Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in April.

In October I attended a full day workshop on Advocacy conducted on behalf of the Australian Women's Network. I have prepared a power point presentation on Advocacy which has been presented to the National Council of Women NSW and is to be presented to the Region of NSW this year.

In August I met with President Elect Yvonne to talk about the role of Member Development. I outlined the materials I had prepared over my four years in office. The following is a list of what has been achieved:

Information Handbook – Revised and updated the original document prepared by Lorna Mead

Club Leadership Handbook – Used 1996 Training Manual as the basis for preparing a new document to assist clubs

National Representatives Handbook – Updated original document prepared by Lorna Mead using most recent changes to Constitution, Manuals and ROD

Officers Handbook – Compiled all relevant data from Constitution, Manuals and ROD into one document for easy reference.

Convenors, Program of Service and Appointees Handbooks Compiled all relevant data from Constitution, Manuals and ROD into documents for easy reference by each position holder.

### **Other materials for use as resources:**

National Reps Roles and Responsibilities - A double A4 sheet outlining the roles and responsibilities of a National Rep

Revised Guide to Advocacy      Suggestions for Member Development  
Activities in Clubs

Notes and overheads on: International Board, Federation Board, Program of Service; SI Structure; The United Nations Connection.

Power Point Presentations CEDAW; Effective Advocacy: Soroptimist International Structure; Using the Constitutions and the Manuals; Life Cycle of a Project (Prepared by Anne Sheehan Region of NSW Program / UN Liaison)

I have enjoyed my time as Convenor Member Development and hope that the materials devised will continue to be of value to members. I wish Laurie Swift all the best for her term.

---

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

Christine Johnstone

---

President Leigh appointed me to the position after the resignation of Audrey McCallum, the year started off with a steep learning curve for me as I had to review the Strategic Plan and make myself familiar with the Public Relations recommendations from the SI Interim Board Meeting in Windsor in 2008. Prepare a presentation for the SISWP Interim Board Meeting, my thanks to go Soroptimist International Public Relations Liaison Colleen Newnham for her valuable assistance. President Leigh conducted a 4 hr workshop on the Strategic Plan the workshop assisted the board and convenors to understand the Strategic Plan and develop strategies for the board to take to the SI Board meeting in Denmark.

The Strategic Plan recommended that SI look at rebranding the organisation, many hours were devoted to working with the International Public Relations team, Colleen Newnham (SI) Leigh Wintz (SIA), Rosie Coutts (SI), Jenifer Beles (SIE), Patricia Black (SI), this work involved the review of the proposals by 4 organisations. Reports and recommendations were distributed to the SISWP board. These reports were to assist the board in discussions at the SI Interim Board meeting in Denmark 2009.

I have continued to work closely with Michelle Jansen (ICT Liaison) on the SISWP web site. The Web Site is an invaluable tool to assist with publicity and awareness of our organisation and the activities undertaken by clubs, regions and nations. The web site has a public and private face, I believe that members have not embraced the many advantages of the members area. The public domain area of the web site has seen increased traffic and interest in what we as an organisation do, and as a result has generated many enquiries in regards to membership, this can be attributed directly to the content found in the public area. Clubs need to embrace this technology and keep their club pages up to date with interesting data in regards to their projects. Latest News and Public Relations pages rely heavily on the Public Relations Convenor being informed of events which can be posted to these areas, these should also take the form of press releases, but the convenor needs to be kept in the loop, this is not happening, it is too late after the event, please remember to drop me a email in regards to events so that I can keep this area fresh.

I have also written articles on Email etiquette (available from the downloads area of the web site), and the need for Soroptimists when working on Soroptimists business to use their respective club or position generic email address. Remember to promote Soroptimist International South West Pacific at every opportunity, if we continue to use our personal or business email addresses, we are NOT promoting the organisation. On all brochures adverting events, meetings and requests include both the web site address and your clubs web site, if responses are required make sure that the response email address is to your club or position generic email address, once again promote SISWP not yourself.

I have promoted the need for all soroptimist to have a business card, this card should be double sided, and will be able to be used as a promotional tool, to make it easy for

members to have business cards printed I have given members two options, you can use the Word Template available on the website downloads area, or use the link (web site download area) to take you to ClickBusiness cards where you can order your cards with or without images. Please use ONLY these two options it is important that members present a 'corporate' image to people we come in contact with.

I am continuing to work with Angie Powell on developing a series of brochures for clubs and regions to use for promotion of SI and the attraction of new members. Angie is a Soroptimist from WA and is a graphic artist. Members within SI Australia were successful in securing funding via Margaret Smith, ( SI Australia NR) to develop a Public Relations database, I have been working with Michelle Jansen (ICT Liaison) who has prepared the project scope, when completed this database will assist clubs, regions and position holders in the preparation of events and projects, the distribution of media releases, provide the organisation with statistics in regards to successful media campaigns and what worked best.

Clubs have had mixed success in regards to obtaining promotion of their projects in non soroptimists publications, at all times, remember to promote both verbally and visually our organisation, invest in banners and display these at every event, make sure this is strategically placed when taking photos, so that if a photo is published, viewers will see "Soroptimist International". We need to promote at every opportunity. Use your local library - donate a Soroptimist International or South West Pacific magazine to your library, send copies to your local politicians. Some clubs are creating the most amazing monthly or quarterly newsletters promoting Soroptimist International and their activities, these newsletters are sent out to the wider community and posted to the web site, congratulations go out to Karratha & Districts and the Region of North Queensland on their publications, pay a visit to the web site to read these publications. Use your local FM radio stations, make yourself available for interviews.

I encourage clubs to continue to promote Soroptimist International. A reminder that the "Latest News" and "Public Relations" pages on the web site can be used to promote and raise awareness to issues and activities, please keep me informed so that these areas can remain current.

I would also like to receive copies of brochures prepared by clubs and regions, and information about successful publicity.

---

## FEDERATION PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Jenny Hughes

---

This Biennium has been notable for **change**. This will continue. Change is always difficult for those who are not comfortable with it but as the saying goes "Change does not happen without pain". I have been noted in the past for not embracing change but I have enjoyed the challenge of the last two years and I hope have represented the Federation well on the SI Executive Programme Team. It has been great to have Robyn Cain, your newly elected Federation Programme Director, being able to participate in the SYKPE and Teleconference calls since her election during the latter part of 2009. An added bonus is her being able to attend the CSW Conference in New York in March, thanks to President Leigh, where she will be able to meet with all of the SI Executive team and talk with them face-to-face.

After the Interim Board in August 2008 when the **SI Strategic Plan** was accepted by the Board, Federations needed to find some way to stop referring to the 6 “Programme Areas” that we had been doing for a long time – the first big change to embrace. This was doubly difficult because they had been around for a long time and all of a sudden we had to deal with 10 Objectives and 4 Goals, which of course didn’t fit exactly into the these objectives. I would like to thank all the Programme/UN Liaisons, National Reps and Federation Programme Co-ordinators for their input and in the way that they have tried to work with a system that became known affectionately as Model 3. FPD-Elect Robyn and her team are already working on making this more workable in the next Biennium and I would ask all members to embrace this new plan and keep giving feedback when asked and also if you have an idea I’m sure Robyn will be willing to listen.

**The Long Term Project Proposal** was another significant change that was an outcome of the SI Strategic Plan. (see AFPD Robyn’s report for an explanation about the reason for this change) A large amount of time has been invested in finding topics and writing papers on these topics during the last six months. AFPD Isla Winarto has been an invaluable member of this team and I thank her for her expertise in writing the paper SISWP had to prepare after a number of the programme team had done research on the topic. Isla also did the editing of the papers written by the other Federations, after feedback was provided by members of the Executive Programme Team. During the next Biennium members will have the opportunity to have input into which of the six topics they would like to be involved in.

**The role of FPD** has a large component of International duties. Attendance at the International Board Meetings in the London and Copenhagen sounds great but they are not holiday trips. This is where decisions are made about the work the Programme Team has done during the year as a result of the influence of the Strategic Plan. It was at the Windsor meeting that the decision to change the presentation of The International Soroptimist was made. It will from the beginning of 2010 be an electronic production. Writing articles for TIS – The International Soroptimist – was one of the challenges which I enjoyed – promoting the projects that the clubs in SISWP were doing focussing on a particular Programme Focus Objective. The selection of club projects from PFR’s to nominate for SI Best Practice Awards requires much trawling through the database searching for the most suitable projects and I was ably assisted by AFPD Robyn with these tasks. The other large task for the FPD is to write the Programme Report for the Federation to go to the International Board Meetings. AFPD Isla has ably assisted me with this. The Objective Implementation Outcome Table is a challenge to complete as it requires the number of PFR’s for each Objective and whether they have an Advocacy, Hands on Service or Fund Raising component. The number of clubs who report on each objective and how many regions are represented takes a great deal of time to collate. **SPAN** was overwhelmingly supported by members and I was asked to continue this during the last year. I must stress that for this to be a success it is up to the clubs to provide the articles about programme action within their clubs. It is a production that, primarily, should be about **your** club programme activities. Many thanks to Editor Berenice Ritchie for her unerring dedication to this publication.

The Guidelines for the **Federation Project** Application had to be revised to comply with the Objectives and Goals rather than Programme Areas and another change was the resultant writing of the new Role Specifications for AFPD’s and Programme Area Co-ordinators. The FPD and President-Elect are responsible for ensuring that the criteria

for applications for Federation Projects are met before the information can go to clubs so that they can be prepared for voting at the Conference of Clubs

During this Biennium, particularly in the last 15 months, many members have embraced the entering of **PFR's** on to the International database. It is pleasing to note that every Region has entered at least one PFR. Not all of the single club countries have been able to do this yet but I am sure with the extra guidance and help that is planned this will be rectified early in the next Biennium. Having said that, I also need to say, that in many regions it is only one or two clubs who have embraced this concept. There is still a misunderstanding that you need to log on to the SISWP Website to enter a PFR. This is not the case. The PFR's are entered on to the International database which has nothing whatsoever to do with the SISWP Website. Many, many hours have been spent by Programme/UN's, Member Development Convenors at Region Level, in running workshops on entering PFR's as well as time spent by Robyn and me spelling out the process. There is even a PowerPoint presentation done by Robyn that shows step by step what you need to do and showing the screen that you should have in front of you. I'm not sure what else we can do to help members but I am sure that Robyn and her team will not stop trying to train people in what to do.

Some **statistics** up to and including Jan 10 from April 1 2009:

PFR's entered 144 and of these 21 were from Western Australia, 14 from South Australia, 7 from North Queensland, 23 from South Queensland, 11 from New South Wales, 2 from Riverina, 3 from Victoria, 1 from Tasmania, 5 from New Zealand South, 13 from New Zealand Central, 5 from Fiji, 11 from Malaysia, 23 from Thailand, 4 from **Indonesia** and 1 from Papua New Guinea.

There are 138 clubs in the Federation so 144 PFR's entered is not really very many, but a vast improvement on 2008's entries. I would encourage you to keep up with entering a PFR whenever it is completed, or even if it is half way through and you can up-date it at the end of the year. This is the way that the UN Reps find out what is happening in SI in programme – it is vitally important for them to be able to access all the projects we are working on so that they can put the Soroptimist view with confidence and have the example at hand from the database. It is also an interesting exercise to do a search in the other Federations to see what is happening in programme in their area.

From the 144 PFR's entered there were 12 from Objective 1; 15 from Objective 2; 34 from Objective 3; 5 from Objective 4; 5 from Objective 5; 13 from Objective 6; 14 from Objective 7; 4 from Objective 8; 36 from Objective 9 and 6 from objective 10.

**Objective 1** 18,610 women were helped, 2,782 girls were helped and \$96,123 was raised

**Objective 2** 19,362 women were helped, 620 girls were helped and \$23,306 was raised

**Objective 3** 1,447 women were helped, 994 girls were helped and \$42,872 was raised

**Objective 4** 195 women were helped, 55 girls were helped and \$1,200 was raised

**Objective 5** 294 women were helped, 278 girls were helped and \$2,657 was raised

**Objective 6** 1,290 women were helped, 3376 girls were helped and \$5,913 was raised

**Objective 7** 342 women were helped, 652 girls were helped and \$1,043,907 was raised

**Objective 8** 291 women were helped, 242 girls were helped and \$933 was raised

**Objective 9** 553 women were helped, 3,170 girls were helped and \$118,779 was raised

**Objective 10** 1,087 women were helped, 9,000 girls were helped and \$38,407 was raised

22 PFR's were entered under **Advocacy**

71 PFR's were entered under **Hands on Service**

51 PFR's were entered under **Funding of Projects**

## **CLUB AND REGION REPORTS**

The Federation Programme Co-ordinators have all reported on their individual Objectives but I would like to make comment about these from a management point of view. I quote from my last report to members *"One request I have is, if you take on a Programme position at club or region level, that you be committed to the task – make sure you know what is involved before you say 'yes I'll take the job'. There are deadlines to be met and I know that we are all volunteers but we must be committed if we volunteer."*

The deadline for club reports to be in to their region Programme/UN and FPD is October 1 – that is something that has not changed for a very long time. Only the clubs in 2 Regions were able to get their reports in by that deadline – New Zealand South and Riverina. This puts at a disadvantage the next level of reporting as their deadline is November 1 – something that has also not changed for a very long time. Not surprisingly only 3 Regions were able to meet this deadline – New Zealand South, Riverina and South Australia. Congratulations to the clubs and reporters in those 3 Regions.

As I write there are still reports from some clubs and some region reports that have not been received. This of course makes a difference to what can be reported by the Federation Co-ordinators as they can't give a total picture of what the activities and projects are in the Federation. This not only disappoints me as FPD but it also disappoints the co-ordinators. As part of an International organization I have to report up the line as well. I can only report on what material that you, the members, provide me with and I know that there is a lot more going on out there in clubs that I don't get to hear about.

It is vital that we are able to report on the statistics that we have been asking for in the PFR's about women and girls being helped. This is one of the criteria that the United Nations asks for when they appraise NGO's to be given status at the UN. If we can't provide the statistics then we are jeopardising our chances of losing our No 1 status with the UN. A plea from me for the next Biennium is to please try to answer those questions when you do club reports as well as putting them on the PFR's.

In conclusion I would like to acknowledge, in particular, the work of my 2 AFPD's – Robyn for her support in all things "programme" and Isla for her writing expertise and support for the National Reps of single club countries. I know that they are always only a phone call away if I need help and they have always been there for me. The Programme Co-ordinators in the 2008-2010 Biennium, Janet Askern, Berenice Ritchie, Esther Bryan, Robyn Cain, Jennie van Driel and Theresa Lyford, a big thank you for your work over this period. If I needed something done on any of the Objectives I only had to ask and it was done.

As this is my last report to the Federation I would like to thank all the Programme people that I have worked with in my roles of AFPD, Acting FPD and FPD over the last 4 years

for their support and I wish Robyn and her team well for the 2010-2012 Biennium and I'm sure that you will give her and her team the same support you gave me.

---

## OBJECTIVES 1 and 10

Janet Askern

---

### ***Programme Focus Goals -- Enjoy equity and equality, Have leadership and practical skills***

As we look at developing our projects we need to be aware that income and poverty are not the only welfare goals. The health of our families and the size of our families in all communities also need our attention. If we align our projects to providing, better nutrition for women, enable higher earnings and incomes for more highly educated women, increase their basic household assets and invest in children's health and education, we will then be well on the way in helping communities achieve economic growth and social sustainability. We also will be aligning our projects to the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals with an ambition to eradicate extreme poverty.

Amazingly by Advocacy initiatives, community Awareness programmes and "Hands-On" Action, members have shown they are prepared to take up the challenge to improve conditions, particularly within their local areas. The outstanding and diverse work that is being done by individual members, clubs and regions cannot be adequately described nor given the deserved credit in a 2 page report.

Clubs have contributed in many diverse ways in supporting the **homeless** in their communities. Welfare packs and hampers have been distributed, funds have been provided for the establishment of support housing, meals are provided in a multitude of localities and conditions. Furniture, white goods, clothing and everyday life items are collected and distributed.

Workshops and training programmes have been conducted **teaching skills** which allow women to earn an income and also learn of micro financing. Candle making materials, cloth materials and sewing machines, sheep and chickens are provided. Child minding and **supporting children** of these families ease the burden to allow women to attend the classes. Transport and uniforms is provided by soroptimists to allow the women to attend the courses or employment.

Christmas is celebrated across the Federation by Soroptimists delivering Christmas hampers to welfare organisations and disadvantaged groups of women and children. It is impossible to estimate the number of women and girls that have been assisted by our Soroptimist projects. Well done Soroptimist members.

### **Objective 1: Eliminate poverty and gender discrimination through ensuring women's full social and economic rights**

#### **ADVOCACY**

**SI Davenport** provided funds for "Chicks in the City helping birds in the Bush."

#### **AWARENESS**

**SI Gold Coast** invited guest speaker to speak of the plight of the homeless and marginalised women and children on the Gold Coast and in the Tweed Valley.

**SI Waimea** held major fundraising breakfast with prominent local speaker,

**SI Penang** through major multi media fundraising drive, raised funds to provide facility and education supports for a disadvantaged orphanage.

**SI Townsville** distributed white ribbons to men to wear displaying awareness and dissatisfaction of violence against women campaign.

**SI Fiji** encouraged women farmers and families to use motor bikes as an alternative to carry their wares to market.

## **ACTION**

**SI Damansara** provides work skills (driving lessons, computer classes to single mothers) and also provide education support for their children.

**SI Port Pirie** took over the running of a second hand book shop. Profits are distributed throughout the community.

**SI Finley** set up a “Shabby to Chic” Opportunity Shop.

**SI Christchurch** Provide school stationery and uniforms for mission school children

**SI Dusit** provides funding to allow 6 hill tribe girls to continue higher education at boarding schools away from their home town. These girls return to their villages as teachers, nurses, electricians.

**SI Moreton North** in association with community groups provide support for accommodation and life utensils for young women living at risk in their community.

**SI Townsville** set up train the trainer reproductive health workshops for women from developing countries. These women will use their new skills to teach other village women when they return from their stay in Australia.

**SI Shah Alam** raised funds to support for a shelter and support 3 children for 1 year. These children are victims of domestic violence.

**SI Shah Alam** arranged a candle making workshop and taught and supported disadvantaged women a skill that allows them to sell their wares for income.

**SI Tocumwal** provided season tickets to the swimming pool for three families who could not afford to use the pool otherwise.

**SI Fiji** assisted the Old people’s Home in Lautoka to renovate the kitchen and dining area.

**SI Jakarta** provide a loan to another community group to assist local community to become more self sufficient in electricity generation. They then sell electricity to Electricity Board.

**SI IPOH** set up a training programme to teach women cleaning, ironing, basic home cooking and social skills to allow them to work as Home assistants,

**SI Petaling Jaya** provides meals for people who are terminally ill or abandoned living in a home located in a cemetery.

## **Objective10: Assure women’s advancement in management, politics and decision making**

### **ADVOCACY**

**SI Kapiti Coast** wrote a series of letters to Politicians re the need to retain employment for women in times of economic recession.

**SI Singapore and SI Singapore Garden City** affiliate with other women’s organisations to promote and improve the status of women in all fields in particular education, economics, social welfare and community involvement, Culture and Sports.

**SI Dusit**; members keep in touch, mentor and support past assisted students to integrate into their communities. **SI Dusit** also assist girls throughout Thailand to access education. They do this by raising awareness of assistance if required.

### **AWARENESS**

**SI Helena** in partnership with **SI On the Terrace** joined the Zig Zag Arts Committee in their festival street parade raising awareness of values of organisations such as SI and other community groups.

**SI Eastern Districts of Adelaide** provides a monetary award for most outstanding student of Gender Studies at their local University.

**SI Ramu** organised a 3 day introductory course on micro-finance and leadership roles training for 100 women

## **ACTION**

**SI Dusit** continued a project to assist leaders in communities affected by the tsunami to continue their efforts of ensuring that the aid given and implemented was continued.

**SI Bayside** obtained a grant from Council to produce a book (for 5-9 year olds) featuring women who had contributed to the Redland community.

**SI Eastern Districts of Adelaide** held a function highlighting women's achievements in the community awarding 3 women for their achievements.

Clubs throughout the Federation have engaged in an amazing array of different projects and activities. I hope that members recognise that their outstanding work can be nominated for Best Practice awards. There are plenty out there.

Congratulations to all members who have participated and to the clubs and regions who have compiled reports. Apologies if something has been omitted. I sincerely thank all clubs and regions which sent in reports and I encourage those who have not already done so to consider some projects to be entered into the SI Database.

---

## OBJECTIVE 2

Berenice Ritchie

---

### **Objective 2: End Human Trafficking and all forms of Violence Against Women and girls.**

This year 15 out of 20 Regions/countries in our Federation have reported and they show that projects towards Objective 2 have been undertaken by most, if not all, clubs. This is a great effort.

#### **Human Trafficking:**

##### **AWARENESS**

- The film "The Jammed" has been shown widely throughout the Federation, both among members, and to the wider population in some countries. **SI Port Moresby** held discussions after the film to determine how to advance awareness of trafficking among the community in PNG and also viewed "I Just Keep Quiet". **SI Jakarta** showed a USAID film "Women and Children for Sale" to raise awareness of trafficking in Indonesia, and followed it with discussion on how to prevent this.
- Members have attended Trafficking Information Workshops/Seminars throughout Australia, New Zealand and PNG, while some clubs have had speakers outlining the situation and the future, for those found to be victims of trafficking.

##### **ADVOCACY**

- A number of clubs have written to local members of Parliament, and have responded to government calls for submissions, with regard to trafficking and prostitution issues.

- Project Respect, giving assistance, accommodation and vocational training to trafficked women found in prostitution in Melbourne continues to get support from clubs throughout Australia.

## **ACTION**

- SI Murray Bridge, SI Barossa Valley, SI Joondalup and SI Jakarta collaborated to ascertain background information and then to assist a rehabilitation programme for girls returned to Jakarta, Indonesia, after being found trafficked into prostitution in Australia.
- SI Rockingham assisted with a BBQ for Aboriginal and culturally diverse women and children, to promote awareness of how Violence and Trafficking affect women.

## **Violence Against Women and Girls:**

### **AWARENESS**

- The annual White Ribbon Day, bringing awareness of Domestic Violence, has again been supported by clubs including SI Solomon Islands, SI Naracoorte, SI Murray Bridge, SI Adelaide, and SI Townsville.
- SI Murray Bridge and SI Randwick & Eastern Suburbs developed projects to design a poster showing the problems associated with Domestic Violence. The SI Murray Bridge poster includes 5 languages and they hope to have permission to display them near main public toilets. SI Randwick & Eastern Suburbs will display theirs in bus shelters.
- Club members have attended International Women's Day breakfasts and lunches throughout the Federation, where the theme was Elimination of Domestic Violence.
- Many clubs have had guest speakers raising awareness of local and international issues of Violence Against Women
- SI Cambridge had a guest speaker on the need to focus on centres of expertise to assist women in country areas suffering isolation, depression and domestic violence.
- SI Ramu conducted a forum "To End Domestic Violence in RAIL Community" attended by over 100 people which has resulted in the establishment of Ramu Women's Community Group comprising members of 11 organizations, who have actioned a plan specifically to address violence against women in the Ramu Agri township and surrounding communities.
- SI Lae also held a workshop aimed at awareness of Human Rights and Gender based violence, covering 4 districts in Morobe province.

### **ADVOCACY**

- Throughout Australia and New Zealand, SI clubs have members on Boards of Women's Refuges and at the National Council of Women.
- **SI Penang** members successfully stood to become Board members under the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development where decisions are made to improve women's status.
- Many club members have signed the UNIFEM petition "Say NO to Violence"
- **SI Karratha and Districts** are concerned at the possible threat of increased prostitution and violence in the area due to a huge influx of working men, and have registered their concern with State Government of Western Australia pending proposed repeal of state legalisation of the sex industry.
- Clubs in Australia have sent submissions to Federal Government supporting a national "Human Rights Charter" for Australia.

## **ACTION**

- SI Mt Gambier promoted, managed and catered a Conference entitled “United Against Domestic Violence: for the sake of the children”, the result of which was valuable feedback from an attending local Magistrate who will now take Domestic Violence cases most seriously.
- **SI Petaling Jaya** continued its programme in schools to run workshops educating youth on gender equality issues.
- **SI Shah Alam** inaugurated a safety programme to help young people avoid, and to give strategies to escape from, violent situations.
- **SI Townsville Focus After Five** handed out balloons to mark “Child Protection Week”
- **Almost every club** in every region/country supports a local Women’s Refuge with funds and/or goods, ranging from “pamper packs”, clothes, bedding and furniture, to toys, Christmas and Easter gift packs.
- **SI Brisbane** used funds raised at a Fashion parade to send women from a local shelter to a Motivational Health and Well-being Camp.
- **SI Cairns** continues to provide “sexual assault kits” to victims in hospitals and police stations for women in need.
- **SI Bangsar** organised a 'Train-the-Trainers' workshop on “Halt Violence - Child Personal Safety” for a core group of 26 Myanmar from 8 tribal refugee groups. With further funding they hope to extend this programme
- **SI Karratha and Districts** have continued their “Winter blanket Appeal” collecting and distributing 3 trailer-loads of blankets to needy people in the area.

I have picked just a few examples of the outstanding projects being undertaken by clubs, focussing on Objective 2. Many clubs have donated to the International Project Sierra, to the Federation Project Hands Across Borders and to the President’s Appeal in Ethiopia.

It has been another busy and productive year and as we look forward to the new structure and new Programme Coordinators, I wish you all every success with your projects and encourage you to submit Programme Focus Reports on these projects in 2010, so that we can all log-on and see the fantastic work you are doing.

---

## OBJECTIVES 3 and 4

Esther Bryan

**Goal - Soroptimists** will ensure that women and girls live in safe and healthy environments

Thank you to region health reporters and single club National Representatives who submitted reports. Unfortunately not all reports were received which was disappointing as I know all clubs do work hard on their projects and activities, showing their commitment to women and children. Much of the hands on service, particularly in rural clubs, was of a local nature. Yearly club reporting means that it is important to learn of club activities, and if club reports do not come in we lose what happens at a local, community level. Monetary donations were many and varied for the support of needy areas locally and internationally. It was pleasing that all clubs had supported Past International President Margaret’s December appeals. There was Project support for Federation and International also. It was very pleasing to see more PFR’s entered on

the data base, particularly for Objective 3 and I hope that clubs will focus more on Objective 4 in the next Biennium.

### **Objective 3 – Ensure access to health care for women and girls**

#### **ADVOCACY**

**Letters** to Government from **SI Brighton and Districts** for more centres at Victorian hospitals for stroke victims and promotion of cardiac arrest awareness. Requesting increased access to community transport in rural area by **Riverina** clubs. **SI Adelaide** in regard to Safe@home programme - also **Tasmania**. **SI Cootamundra** requested access to allied health therapists for rural areas. **Guest speakers** on diseases and various health issues resulted in support for local and national activities and projects with donations from many clubs throughout the Federation.

#### **HANDS ON SERVICE**

Clubs are working in the maternal and infant care area providing education for the care of infants and young children. **SI Jakarta** is involved in family planning. **SI Brisbane Water** supported the training of midwives for East Timor, locally and in Australia. **SI Randwick & Eastern Suburbs** provided a scholarship for a rural midwife to be trained. **SI Barossa Valley** supported training of midwife for HAMLIN Fistula Hospital, **SI Hornsby** donated to disadvantaged babies in India and mental health ward at the Hornsby Hospital. **SI Canberra** supported a Timorese woman for medical treatment. **SI On the Terrace** support Alzheimers Disease by compiling an anthology of true life stories of sufferers. **SI Albury/Wodonga** support an orphanage in Timor. **SI Moreton North** supported **SI Dusit** with knitted articles for Karen Villages. **SI Hawksbury & District** organised a renal unit in Westmead Hospital. **SI Beenleigh** sent pain medication to SI Harare for their support to the elderly refuge in Zimbabwe. Motor neurone disease research was supported by **SI Brisbane South** with proceeds of an Art show and **SI Cobram/Barooga** collected corks. **Western Australian** clubs provide ongoing funding in Bali for the John Fawcett Foundation and Bali Birthing Clinic. **New Zealand** and **Australian** Clubs support Ronald McDonald Foundation which provides accommodation in major cities for families who live away from home while their children are seriously ill in hospital. **SI Devonport** worked with Local Country Women's Association members to supply pamper packs to rural women disadvantaged by drought in Tasmania. **Riverina** clubs support their Regional project 'Country Hope Trust'. (The children in that region diagnosed with cancer and/or life threatening illness have to travel great distances for treatment which places incredible stress on the rural families. The trust aims to reduce this stress by assisting with sibling support, and help with travel to medical appointments). Angel Flight and The Royal Flying Doctor Service are supported by many **Australian** clubs. Clubs gave support to various disabled groups within their communities. Many clubs from all regions supported local hospitals, hostels, women's refuges and crisis centres with toiletry packs; rape crisis packs; midwifery packs. Assistance to aged care by members visiting residents was also in evidence by many clubs in **Australia** and **Fiji**. **SI Tropical Tablelands** found interaction is an essential part of aged care. **SI Nelson** supported the NUIE hospital (?is where) with supplies following the cyclone. **SI Barossa Valley** send soft toys and parcels of medical supplies to Tonga quarterly. **SI Port Pirie** provides tea and coffee for travellers in busy holiday times to prevent car accidents caused by driver fatigue. **Rural Clubs in Tasmania** and **Riverina** deliver meals on wheels to the elderly in their homes on a roster system. Several clubs also supply knitted rugs to hospitals, hostels and nursing homes. Blind and Hearing dog societies were supported by **SI Southern Districts of Adelaide** and **SI Cairns**. **Townsville clubs** and **Region of Tasmania**

supported COP CAR Cuddlies - the provision of teddies and soft toys which are carried in police cars to assist when dealing with traumatised children. **New Zealand** clubs continue to support the Brains Trust for the monitoring of children up to 3 years. A large number of bras were sent to Pacific Island countries for indigenous women from clubs throughout **Australia, New Zealand and Thailand**.

**Objective 4 – Support programmes and policies that eliminate HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and other major diseases**

**Guest speakers** on Tuberculosis were heard by **SI Chisholm** and **SI Deakin**.

Mosquito nets to halt Malaria were from **SI Torrens** and **SI Townsville**. Clubs from Regions of **South Queensland** and **South Australia** knitted and sent jumpers /clothes to Africa for HIV/AIDS children and babies. **SI Chisholm** continues to support the Mirabel Foundation for children removed from their drug addicted parents for safety. **SI Johor Bahru** conducted workshops for teenagers on how to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS and also ran train the trainer sessions to help in education about HIV/AIDS. **SI Gold Coast** sponsored a workshop on HIV/AIDS prevention for Massai girls. **SI Sigatoka** worked with police on a drug and substance abuse program on national youth day.

CANCER - the support for cancer and cancer research is supported in almost all clubs - breast screening, bone marrow, leukaemia, hospice, and cancer support groups, such as **SI Port Pirie's** and **SI Cairns** Look Good Feel Better Programme, where women who have had radiotherapy or chemotherapy are shown how to put on make up and wigs/scarves in a friendly group therapy setting. Research into other forms of cancer was the subject of awareness in many clubs. **SI Dusit** assisted an outreach breast cancer programme for rural women. Local community cancer support groups were supported by **SI Narrandera, SI Toowoomba, SI Goulburn, SI Cootamundra, SI Randwick & Eastern Suburbs** to mention a few. **SI Singapore** and **New Zealand South** clubs supported cancer through a Pink ribbon fund raiser. The biggest morning tea functions for Cancer Foundation were held by several clubs in Australia – **SI Finley, SI Lightning Ridge, SI Townsville, SI Townsville Breakwater** and **SI Townsville Focus After Five**. Walk for Cancer, another large fundraiser for cancer research was supported by **SI Sydney, SI The Hills, SI Hawksbury & District, SI Tropical Tablelands** and all clubs in **Tasmania**. The Cancer Foundation was supported in **Western Australia, SI Barossa Valley, SI Deniliquin** and **SI Logan**. Cancer research is supported by the sale of daffodils on and clubs involved in this were: **SI Cobram Barooga, SI Ballarat, SI Geelong, SI Waverley, SI Naracoorte, SI Mount Gambier, SI Southern Districts of Adelaide. SI Canberra** continues to knit Easter chickens as a fundraiser for Clare Holland House, the Australian Capital Territory Palliative Care Hospice. **SI Sigatoka** ran a workshop on breast cancer awareness and self examination.

---

## OBJECTIVES 5 and 6

Robyn Cain

---

***Programme Focus Goal -- Soroptimist International will ensure that women and girls live in safe and healthy environments.***

With the news that the last decade was the warmest ever recorded\*, and uncertainty about a new Climate Agreement, negotiations – promised but not delivered in Copenhagen 2009, it is now more vital that Soroptimists show leadership through their

Advocacy, Awareness and Action in areas of concern. Soroptimists' primary interaction is with women and girls, and as research continually indicates, it is this cohort of the population that is unduly affected by Climate Change. It is with them we can best concentrate our service work. Clubs throughout the Federation have engaged in an amazing array of different projects and activities. An interesting sidelight to the reports is that there seems to be less service work in the areas covered by Objective 5 than Objective 6. It appears many have heeded my advice about not being known just as 'rubbish collectors' – perhaps it is more pleasant to plant a tree than collect other people's garbage! I do know which I'd prefer! Overall 18 Programme Focus Reports were entered on the International Database for the reporting period. 15 on the new database and 3 on the old database. Of these, 8 relate to Objective 5 and 10 to Objective 6. Remember to be recognised as Best Practise, projects have to be entered on the database. I am impressed with the increase in Advocacy for these Objectives. It is also very pleasing to note the interaction of clubs with schools and young people in these environmental objective activities. Congratulations to members who have contributed to and been a part of environmentally oriented projects and activities over the past year and thank you to the reporters who have fulfilled their obligations to their Soroptimist position. However it is disappointing to note that a number of clubs and regions have not submitted reports.

### **Objective 5: Improve access to clean water, sanitation and essential food resources**

#### **ADVOCACY**

##### **Sanitation:**

- **Rubbish: SI Gore** made a submission to their council re Waste Disposal. In cooperation with **SI Petaling Jaya**, **SI Miri** has made representation to local agencies regarding waste management within a local kampong, which will be a continuing project.  
**SI Deakin** has lobbied state political parties requesting deposits on drink containers to reduce pollution of waterways and parks. **SI Karratha** has a member on the on Shire of Roebourne (*Western Australia*) CARE (*Communities Against Rubbishing our Environment*) committee, initiated to care for local environment; Similarly **SI Finley** has a member on the Tidy Town Committee.

#### **AWARENESS**

- **Clean Water: SI Miri** has begun a campaign of advocacy to a palm oil company about stagnant water in the district. A guest speaker at **SI Penang** introduced the idea of using enzymes to clean up polluted water whilst **SI Bangsar** is taking up the case of the Orang Asli Janda Baik community which is badly affected by murky waters from a building project upstream from the village.  
**SI Waitara** had a speaker on clean water and its place in the wider community.

##### **Sanitation:**

- **Rubbish: SI Bangkok** works alongside the city municipal council to create awareness in the community of sanitation issues. **SI Carnarvon** members contributed to the joint meeting with the shire and other service clubs regarding rubbish recycling. Members of **SI Port Pirie**, **SI North Canterbury** and **SI Gore** have all participated in meetings concerned with sustainability or had guest speakers talk to them about environmental issues.
- **Food Resources: SI Albury Wodonga** hosted a speaker on the benefits of the School Kitchen Gardens Programme at a local primary school.

## **ACTION**

- **Clean Water** – Clubs throughout the federation, including **Devonport, Georgetown, Helena, Northern Highlands, Port Pirie** and all **clubs in the Riverina Region** have regularly donated old mobile phones to WaterAid so they can be sold to a recycling operation. The funds raised are directed to Water and Sanitation Projects in the near international regions. **SI Rockingham** donated funds directly to WaterAid. In Western Australia, **SI Fremantle** and **SI South Perth** donated funds to Peduli Bali, towards provision of a tap and water pipeline in a village in Bali.
- **Sanitation:**
  - Toilets:** Donations from clubs to WaterAid Toilet Projects as above – flow-on effect.
  - Rubbish:** Many clubs regularly participate in “clean up” activities. Members of **SI Deakin** cleaned up along the banks of the Yarra River in Victoria and in South Australia, **SI Murray Bridge** and **SI Barossa Valley** participated in the ‘Keep South Australia Beautiful’ ongoing regular rubbish collection. **SI Griffith, SI Gold Coast** and **SI Cootamundra** members assisted with the ‘Clean Up Australia’ campaign.

## **Food Resources:**

**SI Albury Wodonga** supplied fruit trees for the local school’s kitchen garden. **SI Gold Coast** made a donation to You Have A Friend Inc for perishable breakfast items and bags of non-perishable items to be distributed amongst homeless and marginalised local women and children. **SI Petaling Jaya** provide meals twice a week for the elderly residents of a facility for high care aged and terminally ill. The club also raised RM10,000 to aid the Kechara Soup Kitchen, which distributes nutritious food and provides basic medical aid to the homeless and urban poor in the Klang valley. **SI Johor Bahru** members distributed 100 kilos of rice and dates to the families of the children from the Rohingya School. Members of **SI Upper Hutt** and **SI Auckland** collected food items each meeting for distribution to the local Food Bank which are then distributed to the needy and **SI Chisholm** made up Christmas food parcels for a local refuge. **SI Cambridge** continues to fund the supply of bags used by the Western Australian Foodbank to distribute goods to needy families.

## **Objective 6: Mitigate the effects of climate change and integrate sustainability into personal choices and government policies and programmes**

### **ADVOCACY**

All clubs in **SI Riverina** have contacted relevant government ministers and agencies in regard to *The Water 4 Food* strategy which focuses on the equitable distribution of water in the Murray- Darling River Basin, between food producers and the environment with the emphasis on food security. **SI Adelaide** also submitted a letter to the South Australian Premier regarding the state of the River Murray and the proposed Wellington Weir which may affect the equal distribution of water. **SI Geelong** submitted letters to relevant state and Federal Ministers for the Environment regarding the Murray Darling Basin crisis, and the silting up of the mouth of the Murray River. **SI Townsville Breakwater** helped organise a petition to send to the Australian Climate Change minister before the climate change meeting in Copenhagen in December 2009. **SI Perth** has committed to ongoing coordination of Strategic Plan for the Bibra Lakes Wetlands Precinct on behalf of three interest groups for presentation to the City of Cockburn to develop the area a viable environmental area. **SI Joondalup** wrote to local councils asking for protection of wetlands from development and have committed to this for a follow-up project in 2010.

Following the disastrous Victorian bushfires, **SI Naracoorte** wrote to the local council seeking information about updates to the local Disaster Plan and how the club could be involved.

## **AWARENESS**

Clubs have continued to connect with speakers on the subject of environmental issues. These include **SI Helena** and **SI North Canterbury**. **SI Joondalup** heard a speaker on the ecological health of lakes and wet lands in their area. **SI Townsville Breakwater** sought from Oxfam on Sisters for the Planet and received information on climate change. **SI Northern Highlands** heard from a speaker about Wind Energy and **SI Griffith** had a speaker on water policies/irrigation.

**SI Townsville** took an educational visit to a recycling plant.

## **ACTION**

Several clubs use the recycling of household goods in garage sales to raise funds including **SI South Perth**, **SI Logan** and **SI Brisbane South**. In **Port Hedland** a member organised 'Cash for Trash' (Recycling) and members worked at the collection sites.

**SI South Perth** contributed support to the Perth Wilderness Intervention Project.

**SI Karratha and Districts** took a significant role in the organisation of the local section of the Climate Change 'Sustainable Torch' Relay. **SI Helena** assisted in the organisation of 'Trek the Trail' initiative in partnership with local Shire to promote citizens use of local walk trails within the district. **SI Beenleigh** entered a float in the Beenleigh Cane Festival Parade, this year with an environmental theme – Keeping Waterways Clean.

**Tree planting, Bushland Preservation and Weeding** activities involved many clubs including:

**SI Coleambally, SI Kapiti Coast, SI Gore, SI Auckland, SI Jakarta, SI Griffith, SI Chisholm, SI Canning Districts, SI Penang, SI Auckland, SI Waimea** and **SI Waitara**.

**SI Karratha and Districts** members have undertaken the restoration of the overgrown Arid Lands Garden at the entrance to town which also involves many townspeople. **SI Likas Kota Kinabalu** organised a mangrove planting with a group of schoolchildren and arranged for these children to participate in a climate change awareness talk on Earth Day. **SI Randwick and Eastern Districts** collected seeds while **SI Moreton North** (formerly **Pine Rivers**) continues the weed busting project.

**SI Nelson** through the Tasman Soroptimist Trust will fund a seat for beautification of an area which has been set aside for the traditional placenta planting in memory of a local midwife.

**SI Bangkok** has completed and distributed a brochure to educate and encourage the public to help reduce global warming; this was produced with assistance from the Bangkok Municipal Association and the Clinton Foundation. **SI Waimea** continues to make and sell eco bags. **SI Gold Coast** observed Earth Hour and sponsored a young person to attend Green Day Out on World Environment Day

The **Region of NSW** was responsible for the production of the 'Be Kind to my world' booklet which was presented at the Copenhagen Climate Conference as part of the Soroptimist International information stand. **SI Penang** organised an Environment Debate at a local high school and followed up with an Art Competition which has resulted in the production of a calendar. **SI Fremantle** support the local High School's

Carbon Neutral Project and **SI Coleambally** financially supported an Environment Day Poster competition for local schools.

Throughout Australia, many clubs donated time and funds to support communities affected by the disastrous Victorian bush fires.

Several clubs have contributed to the support of endangered and 'at risk' animal species, including **SI Helena, SI Nelson, SI Manly** and **SI Moreton North**. **All Tasmanian** clubs have contributed to a Region project to collate a recipe book to sell for funds to support research into the disease threatening the Tasmanian Devil.

Congratulations to all members who have participated and to the clubs and regions who have compiled reports and to clubs for the imaginative activities undertaken. PLEASE endeavour to put your club name in the email Subject line when submitting. Apologies if something has been omitted.

\* NASA report Jan. 21, 2010

**Recommendation:** That clubs identify the objective related to a project or activity.

---

## OBJECTIVES 7 and 8

Jennie Van Driel

---

### **Objective 7 Meet the needs of women and girls during and after armed conflicts and disasters**

#### **AWARENESS**

**SI Torrens** raised awareness of the plight of some women in Afghanistan through public talks and Guest Speakers.

**SI Griffith** provided morning tea and activities in the park for a group of refugee women from Afghanistan and Iraq.

**SI Adelaide's** President attended Focus on Youth Public Forum on the needs of girls after armed conflict, and the club heard a speaker on respecting Aboriginal culture when exploring for minerals.

**SI Brisbane Water** has tried to provide a brighter future for Afghanistan's children through Mahbob's Promise Organisation.

#### **HANDS ON SERVICE**

**SI Beenleigh** donated learning aids to an Ingham kindergarten after floods devastated their building.

**SI Pine Rivers/SI Dusit** and **SI Torrens** donated warm jumpers to the Karen Women (refugees from Burma) in Thailand and the transport was arranged by SI Dusit.

**SI Beenleigh** sent a large quantity of analgesics to Harare in Zambezi.

**SI Beenleigh** donated bags of stationery to bushfire ravaged Victorian schools.

**SI Coleambally** knitted woollen squares to be made into blankets for the Victorian bushfire victims.

**SI Albury/Wodonga** provided 64 colourful bed quilts for an orphanage in Baguia, East Timor, and included toys and other gifts in the container. **SI Brisbane Water** supported East Timor midwives. **SI Darling Range** supported a youth project in East Timor. **SI Bendigo** continues to collect, pack and send goods to East Timor.

**SI Rakiraki** has provided two basic dwellings for destitute families in conjunction with Welfare Agencies after the January floods.

**SI Nadi** provided baby clothes for needy new mothers and babies at Nadi hospital. They also distributed hamper packs to 26 families.

**SI Cootamundra** provided Christmas boxes for underprivileged children overseas.

**SI Deakin** has provided a sequential reading scheme for girls in Afghanistan schools.

**SI Waitara** knitted squares to make blankets for women and children in Eastern Europe.

**SI Miri** donated kitchen ware items for women of 57 families of fire survivors of Rh Lepong Ajai Sungai Liam Miri.

## **FUNDRAISING and FUNDED PROJECTS**

**SI Dusit** set up a scholarship for “New Life Project” for 11 applicants to continue their education in villages destroyed by the 2004 tsunami.

**SI Logan** supports a “Hope for Himalayan Kids” for children who have been orphaned or abandoned.

**Region of Victoria** is holding funds of \$31500 donated by Soroptimist from all over SI for the recovery needs of victims of the Victorian bushfires. These projects have included the sponsorship of the Boolara Netball Team who lost clubhouse, uniforms and all equipment in the fires.

**SI Tropical Tablelands** along with many other clubs in the Federation donated to the Victorian bushfires.

**SI South Perth** has joined with other groups to construct a “Place of Reflection” for those who have suffered loss. This memorial will be built in Kings Park, a major public park in Perth.

**SI Gold Coast** raised funds so that a nurse could accompany Dr Goh on her humanitarian trip to the DMR of the Congo to treat women who had suffered traumatic sexual assaults. **SI The Hills District** supported a year 12 project to raise funds for the rehabilitation of child soldiers in The Democratic Republic of Congo.

**SI Joondalup** supported “Stiches of Hope” which supplied sewing material and machines to children in an orphanage in Cambodia, so that they could learn to sew for themselves. **SI Hawkesbury and District** maintains their support of educating a child in Cambodia.

**SI Dusit** assisted tsunami victims from fishing villages and supported refugees with help from **SI Pine Rivers** and **SI Torrens**.

**SI Lautoka** collected donations to assist victims of the Ba flooding.

**SI Waimea** supports a school in Afghanistan with supplies and funding.

**Region of Tasmania** has donated funds to assist victims of the Samoan Tsunami Appeal.

**SI Brighton & Southern District, SI Chisholm and SI Business on Collins** have donated to disaster relief funds in Burma and programmes sponsored by SI and SISWP.

**SI Jakarta** have agreed to supply a loan of \$AU35,600 to build a Micro-hydro power plant for Aceh to assist the local community to become more self sufficient in electricity. The income raised by selling electricity would be utilised for community activities.

**SI Kapiti Coast** raised funds for Fiji and Solomon Islands after a natural disaster devastated much of the infrastructure

**SI Joondalup** is providing five scholarships for secondary and tertiary students in East Timor.

## **Objective 8 Promote peaceful conflict resolution, intercultural and inter-racial tolerance and condemn all forms of genocide and terrorism**

### **AWARENESS**

**SI Mackay** supported the regional Citizenship Ceremony for 69 new Australians.

**SI Moreton North** supported “Reinbo” a meeting of Elders of minority cultures to promote peace and understanding.

**SI Geraldton** advocated for very poor children in Bali.

**SI Perth** were involved in a week long camp organised by the Muslim Women’s Centre for girls of different religions and nationalities.

**SI Karratha & District** held an International Night to celebrate the diverse cultures in the area.

**SI Port Headland** celebrated International Women’s Day with 100 women attending afternoon tea with guest speakers and international dancers, while **SI Rockingham** joined the International Women’s Day March Against Domestic Violence.

**SI Goulburn and SI The Hills District** have both been advocating the “Say No to Violence” campaign.

**SI Cootamundra, SI Moreton North and SI of Hornsby** have all acted for the banning on cluster munitions and land mines.

**SI Sydney** had Helen Hutchins and Sister Joan Evans from Slums Mission Bangkok to speak at a gathering of over 100 people on “HAB” and “Slums Mission” to raise funds for both projects. They also organised a “Harmony Day” centred on Nan Tien Buddhist Temple on another occasion.

**SI Lightning Ridge** showed a power point presentation of their International Project ‘Operations for Orphans’ depicting the work done in China by the club’s partner organisation ‘Helping Hands Volunteer Association’.

## **HANDS ON SERVICE**

**SI Townsville** has entered a Service Level Agreement with the Townsville Correctional Centre to assist women inmates to learn new skills which help reduce the tension and violence of prison life.

**SI Westland** held a seminar and workshops for high school students, staff and parents on dealing with bullying with particular reference to cyber bullying and the misuse of the mobile phone.

**SI Jahor Bahru** continues to support the Rohingya children at their school, and distributed rice and dates to their families.

**SI Fremantle** made 200 dolls for the Uthando project, and they were supported by **SI Cambridge & SI Helena**.

**SI Albany** donated toys to an Indian orphanage and supported a mother’s project in Swaziland.

**SI Toowoomba** is actively participating in the resettlement of Sudanese women in the local community.

**SI Griffith** provides support for local women refugees (helping with language classes and tutoring).

**SI Townsville** helped migrant women to assimilate into Australian society with instruction in English and daily household tasks.

**SI Canberra** have hosted members of SI Ramu in Canberra, helped secondary student to greater understanding of ANZAC and supported the assimilation of migrants into the Canberra Community.

**SI Townsville** is working with the Multicultural Resource Centre to enable a smoother transition to Australian society for migrant women, particularly in the areas of mental health and peace. **SI Brisbane South** is also supporting migrant women in Brisbane with language classes.

**SI Finley and SI Naracoorte** have donated large amounts of clothing for Zimbabwe families.

**SI Randwick & Eastern Suburbs** gave encouragement to women in PNG to seek medical help when they have their babies by supplying maternity units with blankets,

knitted jumpers, beanies and dolls, including some produced by a women's centre in PNG.

**SI Ramu** set an example to nearby villages by thoroughly cleaning the local Health Centre.

**SI Torrens, SI Northern Highlands and SI Port Pirie** have collected bras for the women of Fiji.

**SI Southern Districts of Adelaide** has continued with Girl Guides South Australia to provide life skills for African women refugees in South Australia.

**SI Cobram/Barooga** made donations in kind – spectacles for Mongolia, knitted caps for third world countries, pre-loved bras for Bathurst Island women and made donations towards the cost of ducks and sewing machines in Asia.

### **Fund Raising and Funded projects**

**Clubs across the Federation** have supported The President's Appeal – Fistula Clinic – with donations of money. There has also been wide support for Project Sierra and The Federation Project "Hands Across Borders".

**SI Cambridge** donated \$1000 to the Wakimbzi Project to pay for Sudanese student's study expenses, and have widely supported micro credit lending to numerous countries worldwide.

**SJ Joondalup** is providing a three year scholarship to a Thai secondary student in partnership with **SI Chiang Mai**.

**SI Shah Alam** secured a grant from HSBC to enable the children from 20 families in the Orang Alsi Settlement in Ulu Yam to receive an education. The grant supplied transport to school, books and uniforms.

**SI Helena, Fremantle and South Perth** have supported the Bali Birthing Clinic.

**SI Fremantle & SI Helena** donated money to the John Fawcett Foundation.

**SI Mornington Peninsula** has a two year project to provide toilets at a school at Eludzibina in Swaziland.

**SI Fremantle** supported the residential care of a blind Balinese girl, and sponsored two refugee girls to join a local netball team.

**Region of Tasmania** has sponsored a World Vision child in China.

**SI Ballarat** donated money to an orphanage in Malawi, in Central Africa

**SI Port Moresby** has held two very successful sausage sizzles to raise funds for Cheshire Homes.

---

## OBJECTIVE 9

Theresa Lyford

### **Objective 9: Ensure equal Access to Education and training for women and girls throughout their lifespan.**

The year 2009 was dominated by the Global Financial Crisis and the impact on women and girls has been profound especially when money and budgets begin to tighten and thus activities for growth and development are sacrificed to enable families to simply survive in a depressed economy. It was amazing however in contrast though to see the huge sums of money that were poured into the economy to try and stabilize it and the turn around in getting the money out to where it was needed was a feat in itself. Now just imagine if that same amount of money could have been poured in Education activities for women and girls throughout the world

and also in our poorer sister nations around the Pacific! It is mind blowing what could have been achieved.

Reports this year on Objective 9 were down on previous year and not all Regions submitted consolidated reports which meant that this final report on Objective 9 to the Conference of Clubs is somewhat incomplete as this is only a representation of those Clubs/Regions who submitted reports.

## **ADVOCACY**

**SI Eastern Districts of Adelaide:** Two members attended a graduation ceremony for students at Woodville High School as a follow up from a talk from one of their speakers about Youth Opportunities. **Northern Highlands:** Mock interviews were held at Jamestown Community School. **SI Auckland:** Approved National Council of Women remits to NZ Government regarding the importance of ongoing education for 16-19 year olds; protection orders for the victims of domestic violence; sound investment of NZ Superannuation Funds. **SI Tauranga:** Increasing our awareness this year in issues of rural Maori health, changing styles of education in our young people locally and also teaching in rural areas and towns in Mongolia. **SI Rotorua:** Letter to National Council of Women recommending keeping school hours as they are at present. **SI Jakarta:** Articles written by SIJ members have appeared in various publications throughout 2009, promoting SIJ's community work and advocating for: support of tertiary education of local women; the commemoration of *International Women's Day (2009)* and the dissemination of information on SIJ projects through the ASEAN Women's Group. **SI Fremantle** and **SI South Perth:** members created awareness and advocacy for high school students attending the International Women's Day breakfast. **SI Rockingham:** The members met with local high school students to promote SI projects and to collaborate on a project for the purpose of mentoring female students with disabilities. **SI Tasmania Region:** Advocacy for the financial support of primary school student with diabetes. **SI Cootamundra:** re funding for local library and Community Colleges. **SI Penang:** Wrote to Penang State Department and Tanjung Bunga Secondary School for permission to help School leavers be equipped with living and working skill techniques and invited School Teachers from local and International schools to help poor children get extra free tuition for Maths and Science and help in conversational English. **SI Canberra** wrote to the ACT government to provide funding for 2010 for one of Canberra women's refuges so that women could learn a skill in the refuge's Day Centre. **SI Hawkesbury & District** organised a women's forum to celebrate the lives of 3 extraordinary women, obtaining press coverage. **SI Sydney** contributed to the Commonwealth Government sponsored meeting on CEDAW and contributed to the NGO report to CEDAW. Also attended the Beijing +15 caravan in Sydney and acted as discussion leaders for the input to go forward to the Regional meeting in the Philippines in October. **SI Solomon Islands:** Club President has played a vital role in the recent push to reserve 10 seats for women in Parliament by lobbying the government for education, scholarships and opportunities for girls. **SI Christchurch:** Advocacy re ongoing free education for 16-19 year olds. **SI Brisbane Water** members attended the 'Women of Influence' Forum presented by Gosford City Council, Status of Women Committee promoting women to influence business, politics and the community.

## **HANDS ON SERVICE**

**SI Adelaide:** Sally Nicholson spoke to the club about cross cultural training. Members packed books for Little Big Book Club. **SI Eastern Districts of Adelaide:** As part of Children's Week activities Autism SA received an award under the Play Category after being nominated by SIEDA. **SI Mount Gambier:** Speaker Dr Lucy Walters commenced

the Rural Medical School for Medical Students to receive tuition and experience in rural communities. **SI Murray Bridge:** Six members of the club volunteered to be on the Year 12 Interview panel at Unity College. **SI Naracoorte:** Participated on a panel hearing Middle School presentations of students. **SI Northern Highlands** and **SI Port Pirie:** High School Awards and Female Science Student Scholarship. **SI Southern Districts of Adelaide:** Speaker from the Aboriginal Literacy program outlined 2 new initiatives. Baby Bookworms provides Aboriginal mothers of pre-school children with books to foster a love of reading and Deadly Start to High School for Aboriginal teenagers. **SI Torrens:** barbecue was held to provide funds for proposed use in a 'Footsteps to Freedom' programme reconnecting Aboriginal students with their culture and education. **SI Beenleigh:** Arranged for the making of 700+ library bags. Filled with basic stationary item for the Flowerdale Primary School which had been destroyed by the Victoria bushfires. **SI Logan:** Held an annual Year 10 Leadership Day attended by 60 students from nearly 30 schools. **SI Moreton North:** Members support a local Murri playgroup by providing reading material and toys. Members also assist the local elder to build social skills and promote early childhood development. **SI Brisbane South:** The club provides an annual bursary to a promising migrant child at the Milpera migrant high school. **SI Brisbane:** Two members regularly attend the local women's prison and a half way house to assist with Self esteem classes. **SI Toowoomba:** The club annually gives the Jean Bryant Memorial Bursary of \$400 for a local female tertiary entrance student. **SI Brisbane North:** The club supports Pongborong Primary School in the Upper Nile region of Sudan. **SI Gold Coast:** The club members support a local toy library and crèche in the community, by providing toys and educational items and cleaning indoor and outdoor play areas. **SI North Shore:** Betty Loughhead Scholarship presented to two young women. **SI Rotorua:** Linen Raffle to raise money for our annual Karen Trautmann Memorial Citizenship Scholarship. **SI Sigatoka:** Organised W/Shops on Breast Cancer and Substance abuse to women groups and girls. **SI Rakiraki:** collected funds and distributed these to 6 secondary schools in the area to support the purchase of much needed Text books and Reading materials for school library. **SI Lautoka:** Designed Call Cards as needed Emergency Tool for women and girls and these were distributed randomly to the Public. **SI Nadi:** Educating & Encouraging women to make relevant choices in going for the Environmentally friendly Bikes. **SI Jakarta: Paud Melati Pre-school Project** Funding a 6 month project to support a local, community-run pre-school in a slum area of Jakarta. Goodwill Scholarship Program (GSP) On-going support for bright but underprivileged female university students through the Goodwill Scholarship program. Cisarua Young Girls' Empowerment Project to assist a group of 33 young women in a local village. One More Chance Project funded by the Jakarta International School, under which a halfway house has been set up for young, underprivileged children. Nurani Insani, School for Street Children. **SI Carnarvon:** Members attended East Carnarvon Primary School to support the launch of the book "Carnarvon's Inspiring Role Models." **SI Port Hedland:** The members presented an engraved lady's watch as an encouragement award for a deserving Hedland Senior High School female student. **SI On The Terrace:** The members supported Cyril Jackson Senior High School by manning a stall at the school's health festival. **SI Perth:** The members supported the Muslim Women's Centre for Girls of different nationalities in a weeklong cross-cultural awareness camp in the Perth Hills. **SI Albany:** The members provided a grant to a female student attending Albany TAFE College to assist her with her educational expenses towards further education and a career path. **SI Cambridge:** Study Grant for Sudanese Refugee (Wakimbizi Project): The members contributed part of the study expenses for a refugee student. **SI Carnarvon:** Joy of Achievement Project: The members encouraged Carnarvon primary school students to work towards a joy of achievement prize. **SI Darling Range:** The

members partnered with Rotary to send 12 High School Students from several high schools in the Darling Range hills to participate in an East Timor Youth Project. **SI Fremantle:** Access to Training in Ophthalmology: The members provided a grant to the John Fawcett Foundation Education Fund, Bali to assist in the training of students in Ophthalmology. **SI Helena:** Scholarship for Orphan from Kenya: sponsored a female science student to attend an International Science Conference in Russia. High School Music Scholarships: members aligned with Kalamunda Youth Swing Band to assist 2 students to complete a music course. **SI Joondalup:** Indigenous Education Project: The members provided a grant to the Culunga Aboriginal Development School, Swan Valley to establish a vegetable garden. Scholarship to AIDES Orphans: Quarry Heights, South Africa. Educational Scholarship for Chiang Mai High School, Thailand aligned with the Chiang Mai High School to pay for a full three year's high school educational costs. **SI Karratha:** Joy of Achievement Project. **SI Perth:** Access to Education – Timore Leste Vision Scholarship: The members provided a grant to the Timor Leste Vision group to assist a young woman to continue her High School Studies: **SI Port Hedland:** Award for a female student attending Pilbara Technical and Further Education (TAFE). Primary Student Book Award: **SI Rockingham:** Guidance for High School Students: The members provided scholarships to 2 female students at Murdoch University. **SI South Perth:** Sports Scholarships for Disadvantaged Children. Learning for Life Program: assist 2 female students in the "Learning for Life educational programme run by the Smith Family. **SI Dusit** helped over 100 students, including some men from Tsunami area [south] and some young doctors through the Vivian scholarship funding which we are asked to manage. **SI Bangkok** continues work with their cross-stitch programme, women prisoners programme, and the boarding houses for Hili-tribe schools, which they have built and still support. **SI Chiang Mai** is working steadily for their major fund-raiser next year, doing the same as Dusit with a "house and garden tour". They are still supporting their solo mothers programme. **SI Singapore:** Five needy female students will be given a bursary in October 2009. **SI Tasmania Region:** Youth Awards acknowledgement, support local community organisations to acknowledge students and young people in a variety of endeavours, Expo showcasing activities to enhance the lives of children 0-5 years of age. **SI Burnie & Circular Heads:** Careers Day for Grade 8 girls Devonport, Annual bursary awarded Provision of books to Local child care centre. **SI Coleambally:** Lassies to Ladies Night: dinner for local school girls in Years 10, 11 and 12. **SI Griffith:** Raising funds for tertiary scholarship and promotion for scholarship. **SI Cootamundra:** Held UNIFEM Spring Walk to support girls from developing countries to study at university in Australia. **SI Bangsar:** Janda Baik, Pahang choral reading, a word treasurer hunt and other activities to encourage more reading and library usage Career Guidance Workshop - A Bahasa Malaysia version has been developed. **SI Johor Bahru:** Girl Guides - Training the Guide Volunteers. This training was specially tailored for the SIJB Project Volunteers involving the Girl Guides. **SI Ipoh:** SIHA, Soroptimist International Home Assistant Training was given to the SIHA ladies in cleaning and ironing. **SI Penang:** Continuation of the Blossom Project with a Job Clinic run for school leavers, using teaching material applied from a workshop to help improve skills. Tuition for Mathematics and Science subjects were provided for the lower Secondary girls and Conversational English Classes for Adult Blossom ladies.

**SI Petaling Jaya:** SHINE PROJECT – Supporting Hope in Education. **SI Shah Alam:** The Orang Asli Project, 2008-2009 (Economic/Social/Educational) The dual approach of assisting the Orang Asli and Orang Asal (indigenous people) financially, while also helping to build capacity within the community. Revision Programme in Maths & Science for Form 3 Schoolgirls, **SI Deakin:** held a sequential reading programme for

girls in Afghanistan sent to Save the Children, Kabul. Banyule City Council's children's holiday camp involved fund raising to send a child to a summer camp. **SI Ballarat:** Two members volunteer at Pinarc - a local organisation which assists intellectually disabled children and those with learning difficulties. **SI Benella:** Annual scholarship to local year 12 girl for tertiary studies **SI Berwick:** Assisting people with disabilities in providing work and assistance in life skills. **SI Brighton & Southern Districts:** Bayside Buddies program, Young Carers support and specific needs project. **SI Business on Collins:** **HIPPY** (Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters) targeting disadvantaged families in our community. **YWCA Sista** provides mentoring and support for teenage girls from 'older' women volunteers and **Indigenous Australian Women's Scholarship – 2009** scholarship which is awarded to a second year female indigenous student. **SI Geelong:** Pearls Day to fund Junior Female Vocal Winner at the annual Geelong Eisteddfod. **SI Brisbane Water** has initiated a scholarship to provide an Award and Mentoring Programme to a student in Children's Services Stage II at Hunter Institute of TAFE. **SI Canberra** supported the Woden Special School by holding a Dinner at the School which was prepared and served by the Hospitality students. **SI Goulburn's** 'Spirit of Christmas Fair' assist young people with learning and physical disabilities **SI Hawkesbury & District** supported a Local School's Breakfast program for disadvantaged children to help with their learning Maintained the education for a child in Cambodia through sponsorship. **SI The Hills District** Organised TAFE students to run our Trivia Night as their project. **SI Hornsby:** member liaised with several local schools to obtain contributions for the NSW Region environment book "Be Kind To My World Because... Continues to support the work of member Radha Simhadri, an audiologist who funds and runs SARAFAM, an early intervention hearing programme for disadvantaged children in India. Sponsors Amy, a 5 year old girl, through the Smith Family. **SI Ku-Ring-Gai** supported the prize-giving and Christmas function held by Sir Eric Woodward School for handicapped children (this School is one of their main fundraising projects). **SI Randwick and Eastern Suburbs** members have run a breakfast club at a local primary school for the last 18months. Forged a link between the Bowen Library and the school with a reader going into the two kindergarten classes and the library and also presented books to the school. Set up a playgroup, one morning a week at a local school. **SI Sydney** continues to support the Pioneer Living & Learning Centre for Adults with a Disability and the local senior high school students. **SI PNG Region:** Project: Ramu School Girl's Club 'Education for Life'. This is an on going project fully supported by SI Ramu and the Ramu school Girls Club. **Ramu Vocational Centre** 2009 saw only three female students graduated from this school. **SI Port Moresby** - Donated stationery to Sr. Helen's Elementary School at Waigani to start 2009. Also donated stationery supplies, reading & stories books, educational posters and charts to Crispin's Elementary in Oro Province. **SI Waimea:** Brainwave Trust Presentation: facilitated educational evening for parents of young children. **SI Invercargill:** Organised Fundraiser for local Disability Support centre. Science Fair judging and prizes. **SI Nelson:** Investigating Teen parent Unit in the city. **SI Waimea:** Presented prizes for female student at Primary and College level – one at Science Fair and on for senior female student who is pursuing a science subject at University. **SI Gore:** Books for babies in conjunction with Salvation Army. **SI Christchurch:** Adult reading and literacy information, and annual Music Scholarship. **SI Westland:** Scholarships at local high school. **SI Waimea:** Science prizes for female students. **SI Nelson:** Dictionary & Atlases for gifted children; Science Prize for female student and production of Brainwave booklets to new mothers. **SI Townsville and SI Townsville Focus After Five:** collected and covered books for Ronald McDonald House library. **SI Townsville Breakwater:** collected and covered books to go to PNG, funded two Solomon Island Girls to continue their education. **SI Cairns** provided support for

indigenous students from Kowanyama to attend boarding school and provided prizes for local eisteddfod. Also donated a scholarship to an early childhood student. **SI Mackay and SI Tropical Tablelands** both sponsored Chaplains in local schools. **SI Townsville:** Ongoing project providing educational materials to the remote village on Belanimanu in the Solomon Islands.

### **Funding of Projects**

SI Adelaide - \$200.00	SI Barossa Valley - \$1260.00
SI Eastern Districts of Adelaide- \$1300	SI Mount Gambier - \$800.00
SI Murray Bridge - \$3279.00	SI Naracoorte - \$5471.70
SI Northern Highlands - \$200.00	SI Port Pirie - \$100.00
SI Southern Districts of Adelaide - \$1500.00	SI Torrens - \$1118.00
SI Jakarta - \$37,939.00	SI Tasmania Region - \$500.00
SI Narrandera - \$1500.00	SI Griffith - \$1150.00
SI Deniliquin - \$1800.00	SI Tocumwal - \$200.00
SI Coleambally - \$500.00	SI Cootamundra - \$1050.00
SI Finley - \$6880.00	SI Albury/Wodonga - \$40.00
SI Ipoh - \$3380.00	SI Penang - \$93,242.00
SI Mornington Peninsula - \$200.00	SI Deakin \$1600.00
SI Benalla - \$345.00	SI Ballarat - \$723.00
SI Business on Collins - \$3000.00	SI Bendigo - \$460.00
SI Brighton & Southern Districts - \$4500.00	SI Berwick - \$600.00

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Region Program UN to compile FINAL Education reports rather than individual Clubs submitting Club Reports.
2. Region Program UN to encourage the reporting of Program Focus Reports for Education Projects.

---

## ARCHIVIST

Ann Thomas

---

No report

---

## ASSISTANT PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Robyn Cain

---

As this biennium draws to a close and as an Assistant Programme Director, I reflect on a period that has seen the beginnings of tremendous change within the Soroptimist International movement worldwide.

The Strategic Plan was first introduced to members at the 2007 Convention in Glasgow and accepted by the SI Board the following year. It was envisaged that the resultant changes would move SI forward to be a more influential voice for women world wide. Gradually we are seeing some of those changes being implemented, but given the nature of change, it may well be a difficult task if members are reluctant to embrace these changes. Much of my role over the past 12 months has been targeted towards promoting the changes.

Two of the major changes have directly impacted on Programme Reporting.

- We have moved away from 'Programme Areas' to *Focus Goals* and *Objectives*. As these do not correlate directly to the old Programme Areas it has caused a little angst to some members. Because of the difficulties associated with this, the incoming Assistant Programme Directors and Programme Coordinators will be assuming responsibility for the total operations for a group of regions and clubs rather than an individual Programme Area across the whole Federation.
- The other major change has been the move to electronic reporting. A key part of my AFPD role has been to support PD Jenny Hughes in the approval of the reports being entered onto the international database and it is pleasing to note the steady increase of Programme Focus Reports (PFR's) being submitted by clubs in SWP. However instances are still occurring where clubs use the outdated PFR form thus creating significant additional re-work for the whole programme team who then has to return and recap the instructions on how to enter a PFR online. Of importance to note - Future Best Practice Awards will only be drawn from projects which have been reported on the database so it is hoped that all clubs will ensure that future reporting is undertaken in the correct manner. Club members should realise that when projects are well planned and 'focussed', completing the PFR online becomes an easy undertaking.

I have been privileged to have had the opportunity of being involved in several strategic undertakings which have given me a real insight into the future directions of our organization. Late in 2009, along with AFPD Isla Winarto and Programme Coordinator Theresa Lyford, I had the privilege of working with the International Programme Team on the Long Term Project Proposals and papers which we will all be soon reviewing to choose for the major SI Project for the next decade — hopefully culminating in the centenary of Soroptimist International in 2021. It is envisaged that the Long Term Project will replace the present Quadrennial Project.

I have also been able to 'listen in' as a Silent Observer to an International Teleconference involving members from each Federation, UN reps from New York, Copenhagen and Vienna, as well as International President Hanné Jensbo. My upcoming second trip to New York for the Commission on the Status of Women incorporating the Beijing +15 Update Forum with President Leigh, will give me a chance to interact with our UN representatives and Programme Directors from the other Federations. It is through these (personal contacts and discussions) face-to-face meetings that (all Federations will be able to progress forward in unison) we will learn how to work together effectively.

As part of my role, it has been my pleasure to complete two articles for *The International Soroptimist Magazine* in the past year. The first concentrated on the aspect of Objective #9 – Education Projects within the SWP Federation and the second on Objective #6 – Environmentally based projects.

I wish to thank Federation Programme Director Jenny Hughes for her patience and wisdom over the past three years and for helping me 'learn the ropes'. I hope I can carry on the position to the high standard Jenny has set. Thanks also to my fellow APD Isla Winarto and the Programme Area Coordinators who have worked diligently to assist members in making the transition towards the new method of delivering our Programme of Service to the Federation.

I embrace the challenge of a new Soroptimist Position and moving forward with the new Programme team to present an exciting and progressive plan of action for the fulfilment of our Programme of Service aspirations during the next biennium.

---

## ASSISTANT PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Isla Winarto

---

In 2009, the role of AFPD became increasingly more involved, given the significant change processes being implemented at both Federation and SI Executive Programme level.

For me personally, it was an exciting time to have been part of the Federation Programme (FP) team and to have had the honour of working closely with the extremely dedicated and conscientious Federation Programme Director, Jenny Hughes, and my co-AFPD, Robyn Cain. Together our “trio” tackled each Programme related challenge that came along, always able to complement each other extremely well in all aspects of the work. For the opportunity to have been involved in Programme at the AFPD level, I must take this opportunity of thanking President Leigh who had the foresight two years ago to plan ahead for the huge workload “around the corner” for Programme, and her decision to provide extra support.

Essentially my role as the second AFPD throughout this biennium has been to contribute ideas on Programme matters and to provide on-going practical assistance to the Federation Programme Director, as required. However, my main areas of focus over the past year have been, to a great extent, on report writing and document review.

Throughout the biennium, the FP team has been required to review all Programme Focus Reports (PFRs) submitted by Clubs. This was to ensure these reports were documented properly, quantified the number of women and girls who were beneficiaries of the project activities, and described projects rather than single activities as such. Upon the FPD’s request, I assisted in the review of select PFRs and assisted with their classification .

One significant task in mid-2009 was the review, conducted by the Federation Board, of the *Guidelines for the Federation Project Application* to ensure compliance with the 10 Programme Objectives. It was necessary to complete this review in time for the SISWP Conference of Clubs in April, 2010, where the topic of a new Federation Project will be on the agenda. To help with the review process, I contributed to the rewording/rewriting of some sections of this document and made a number of recommendations for the other parts.

One of the biggest challenges for the FP Team in 2009, in collaboration with the SI Executive Programme Team, was in the preparation of six topics for the proposed SI Long-Term Project (LTP). This involved a number of long distance telecons for the FP team (bearing in mind that the FPD lives in SA; APFD Robyn lives in WA, and I live in Indonesia), and scores of emails back and forth discussing the LTP process. I was pleased to have been able to write the LTP paper on behalf of SISWP, as well as contribute ideas and recommendations to the other three Federations on their LTP submissions.

In October, 2009, the Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney (USYD), invited SISWP to conduct a lecture on project/programme evaluation as part of a unit for its post-graduate Development Studies course. USYD also requested information on

specific SISWP projects. The FP team responded to this request by providing as many appropriate programme related materials as possible. I produced a powerpoint presentation as well as a background paper showcasing techniques utilized by an SISWP Club to design, monitor and evaluate a major donor-funded project conducted in Aceh, Indonesia, post-tsunami. This information formed part of the USYD lecture delivered by SISWP Club members and HQ staff in Sydney, on behalf of the organization.

Finally, as I have held joint Federation roles of both APFD and National Representative for Indonesia for this past biennium, I was able to contribute ideas to the redesign of the National Representative reporting template. The new version of this template is now being used for the first time this year (2010) to report on all countries in the SISWP Federation.

It has been a pleasure to have worked with the SISWP Programme team for the past two years and I take this opportunity to wish the in-coming Programme team, under Robyn Cain's , much success in the next biennium.

---

## ASSISTANT TREASURER NEW ZEALAND

Thelma Luxton

---

This year as Assistant Treasurer has been a year of learning and I trust I have been able to comprehend the change in reporting that Carolyn Hudson developed. I wish to thank Carolyn for her patience and forbearance throughout the year and previous ones and to welcome Merle Thompson. I have been most grateful for the contact I have had with Merle as the incoming Finance Coordinator. Thank you Merle.

To all those Clubs and individual members who have help make our organisation a great one through their contributions to the appeals which have been made, and this year has seen a number of them.

Shop Sales – Xmas Cards	1194.00
Project Sierra	6817.60
Hands Across the Borders	4050.00
Presidents Appeal 09	985.50
Australian Bushfires	2177.00
Fiji	600.00
Presidents Appeal 08	1851.20
Samoa	1693.00
Indonesia	<u>308.00</u>
	<b><u>19676.30</u></b>

It is good to see clubs undertaking various projects many of which are not reported in the financial returns. It has also been pleasing to see the names of new members coming through.

At present we also have 3 Term Deposits held at the National Bank and when these come due I will act on instructions from Merle as to what is to happen to them. Thank you President Leigh for your friendship and assistance and may you enjoy your IPP year and welcome to President Yvonne who I am sure will keep me busy.

---

## EDITOR

Kerry Garrett

---

During 2009 the SWP Magazine has continued to receive contributions from all 12 of the SISWP countries. Generally the articles are accompanied by photographs which make the articles more interesting and easier to picture the circumstances in the story. I am still receiving photographs that are embedded into WORD files and not sent as separate files, but that has become less of a problem as members become more computer literate. I am most grateful to the regular contributors as they send in their articles and photos correctly and on time without having to be prompted.

The Magazine is produced using In-Design software. This software is a professional package used in printing houses to produce the layout and design as seen in the SWP Magazine

I would like to acknowledge the two proof readers, Judy Hunter and Maggie Mitchell who are always available to meet the very short deadline between their receiving of the first draft, and the finished pdf file being sent to the Printer. The Printing firm has continued to supply 3000 high quality magazines in full colour to us at a discount price. This means we have a quality product we can be proud of, enabling us to give out copies to potential members, guest speakers or to the press.

A different colour, for the left-hand column, has been chosen to make each Magazine easily recognizable. Therefore you will find that each February issue is green, each May issue is blue, each August issue is red and the November editions have been yellow. This enables easy recognition for a particular edition, but also means if you make a presentation of SWP Magazines, February to November, it makes an attractive gift.

I enjoy the role of Editor. It gives me such a wonderful opportunity to communicate regularly with Soroptimists from all over the world.

---

## FEDERATION PROJECT – HAB

Helen Hutchins and Lynn Ciurlionis

---

In celebrating Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific 4 year federation project “Hands Across Borders” I reflect on how much has been accomplished. The development of the project has been a wonderful experience and journey that has been built on trust, respect, flexibility and communication, whilst recognising the importance of collaboration and partnerships.

The appointment of Sopheap Duong in June 2008, as HAB local project officer has had major benefits for the project. Sopheap is a national who lives within the community, she speaks Khmer & English is well respected and an excellent communicator. Sopheap is the day to day manager of HAB reporting to both Lynn and I regularly. Sopheap has made a real impact and contribution in connecting with the administration of the school and hospital. She has monitored the progress of our goals through our Memorandums of Understanding, by holding regular meetings with the Headmaster of the School and Hospital Director.

In November 2008 when we visited Sampovloun & Cambodia we had a few challenges

- The devalue of the Australian Dollar against the US\$ which impacts when converting money,
- and forecasting a budget that would enable us to meet our commitments.

A meeting was held with all the key persons and our plans were redefined with emphasis on achievable goals, empowering the directors of the school & hospital, to look at options for improving their services, rather than just having funds & desirable equipment provided, the challenge was accepted, and this can be seen in the openness when working with the hospital and school administration.

The economic climate during 2009, was factored into work plans and it is with pleasure that I share the key achievements and highlights of the past twelve months.

- Purchase of an oxygen concentrator ( which is a safe and effective way of administering oxygen)
- The drilling of a well, and upgrading of the guttering to improve water collection during the wet season at the hospital, (the number of patients attending the hospital for care has increased as services are improving the need for water is paramount).
- Repaired a donated sterilizer which is now working effectively.
- Neonatal resuscitation training will be conducted in February for midwives and doctors.
- Teacher training has continued with four teachers participating in the courses conducted by the NGO Teachers Across Border in Battenbang
- The designing of the teacher accommodation at Santepheap School by an architectural student at Developing Cambodia by Degrees, Phnom Penh
- Commencement of the building at the beginning of January this year.
- 

In Phnom Penh Sokoeun Suon has continued to manage our official business by completing reports on our activities and lodging these reports with City Hall, translating & preparing MOU's and drawing up contracts as needed.

On visits we continue to consult and communicated with other NGO's and persons who can support our work in Sampovloun, as well as keep us abreast of their work within the provinces so that we are not doubling up on resources. Agencies we have worked with during the past year are New Hope for Cambodian Children, Developing Cambodia By Degrees, Norton University, Department of Education & Health, Marie Stopes and Dr Vuthy (Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon)

On reflection when this project commenced in 2006 few of us would have imagined, what would ultimately be achieved. To all those Soroptimists, family, friends and supporters who have been part of the journey, I thank you for your donations, support and commitment to HAB. To Lynn your passion, dedication & friendship are immeasurable.

Hands Across Borders may have finished as a Soroptimist Project, however it will continue in the hearts of all those who have had the opportunity to be part of this amazing project.

---

## PROJECT FIVE-0

Helena Cheah

---

At the Annual International Five-0 meeting on the 27-28 February 2009, it was decided that SI is no longer a member of 5-0.

Even though, after IPP International President Margaret Lobo's announcement that we are no longer the partner of 5-0, SI clubs especially in Australia still carry on with their existing activities. SI strongly encourages clubs and UN Representatives to continue collaborative partnership with other organizations including Five-0 partners.

---

## FRIENDSHIP LINK COORDINATOR

Dolgormaa Jamiyan

---

### **New Friendship Links from January 2009 to January 2010**

<b>SWP club</b>	<b>Linked with</b>	<b>Federation</b>
1.SI Brisbane North(AU)	G. Yarmouth, London	GB I
2. SI Adelaide Ink (AU)	Capital City Reikjavik	E
3. SI Westland NZ South	SI Hereford	GB I
4. SI Penang Malaysia	SI Schwwaebish Gmuend	E

Please see the Official Friendship Link Register as for January 2010 at the back of this booklet.

---

## ICT LIAISON

Michelle Jansen

---

It is fair to say that a lot has happened in this biennium with respect to ICT (Information and Communication Technology) largely as a result of the launch of the new website. Having lagged behind other Federations in that area, we believe our new website now places us in good stead by giving some much needed control back to the members themselves. Members are able to keep their own contact information up-to-date and use the South West Pacific (SWP) Directory to bring up a myriad of reports pertaining to member and club details as well as member expertise. Club and Region Officers have access to creating News articles and Club Officers have the ability to create club pages and also update any member's details as well. The downloads area has been re-built and with a search system within it, locating Federation documents has never been easier. Of particular benefit are the new club websites – each club has one – which are completely in the control of club officers who can update as frequently as they desire using the simple built-in editing system.

The team responsible for bringing the website to you included three core members – myself (Michelle Jansen), Ralda Forzin and Christine Johnstone. Extended members of the team included Leigh Ellwood-Brown, Lorna Mead, Angie Powell and Denise Smithson but there were other people who offered support and advice along the way and I thank all of them.

I want to extend a special thank you to Christine Johnstone who didn't really pass the reins of the ICT Liaison administration duties over to me until well into the first year when the new website was launched. This was to minimise the need for me to learn a lot of procedures that were going to be superseded.

In addition to the website, we were successful in getting a grant for SI Australia to build a media relations database. Whilst this is progressing, it is running behind schedule. The end result will be a simple tool that will have four key benefits. It will:

- 1) train members in the role of publicity and how to write a press release;
- 2) allow members to maintain a list of media contacts which can be shared;
- 3) provide a mechanism for setting up a media campaign; and
- 4) allow the results of that media campaign to be stored for future reference.

We also introduced an electronic voting system using the third-party service; Big Pulse. Big Pulse is a subscription based service and allows us to not only do voting but also set up surveys (among other things). As we are a voice for women, it will be a vital collaboration tool that overcomes our geographical dispersion.

We are working on some online partnerships to bring good quality, cost effective business cards to you and we are also considering an online merchandise 'shop' to complement our existing shop.

I know many of you find any form of technology daunting however, because we are an organisation across 12 countries with very limited financial resources, technology gives us a very cost effective way to get on with our business. In addition, it is now clear that in order to grow and be heard in this modern world, we must become technically savvy.

As an organisation, we are losing members and I attribute this largely because we are not attracting and retaining the younger generation who are technically savvy and want our organisation to be modern, efficient and move swiftly with the times. On the flip side to this, our new website has seen a marked increase in membership enquiries but we know that if clubs really start to use the tools available to them, this would increase ten-fold.

Smart, savvy, humanitarian organisations have not only embraced the Internet and websites but they have used add-on technologies, such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and so on, to martial thousands and even millions of supporters. One such organisation leading the way is [www.avaaz.org](http://www.avaaz.org). If you don't already know who they are, I would encourage you to visit their website and join up to their email alerts. It is free. They have been involved in every major issue over the last few years and you will see and feel the power of the Internet through them. What is important to understand here is that you all have the tools to join in this new wave. For example:

- 1) You have a SISWP club website home page.
- 2) You have the ability to include YouTube videos into your web page (refer to the ICT Liaison blog article on this). Anyone can upload a video to YouTube. It is free.
- 3) Anyone can sign up to Twitter. It is free.
- 4) Anyone can sign up to Facebook and they allow organisations to do this. Look for the link on Facebook's home page that says: Create a Page for a celebrity, band or business. It is free.

- 5) Anyone can set up email lists but due to ISP (Internet Service Provider) restrictions, you would be best off using a third-party service to manage your lists. There may be a small cost but there are free services although do compare as they may have limitations. Perform a Google search on 'email list management'.

I strongly believe that if clubs want to survive and get new members, they must embrace technology and the new online world. You have the tools. They are free. There is no excuse.

---

## INTERNATIONAL PROJECT LIAISON

Chris Knight

---

**PARTNERSHIPS** - I am really thrilled with the enthusiasm of SI Members who have been working very hard to support **Project Sierra: A Family and A Future**. Through our partners **Hope and Homes for Children (HHC-UK)** and **HANCI** (Help a Needy Child in Sierra Leone) we have made an enormous difference to the lives of orphaned children, teenage mothers and families at risk over the past two and a half years. The quarterly reports and case studies provided by our International Liaison Alison Sutherland and HHC highlight how well these programs are achieving life changing opportunities for the recipients. The resource section on the website [www.projectssierra.org](http://www.projectssierra.org) is regularly updated with information on club events and material for SI members to share with their club, families, friends and networks.

**TARGET FUNDRAISING** - The exciting news is that globally we have raised nearly **£500,000 (Dec 2009)**. Within SISWP, we have raised just over \$60,000 (Aus) as at November 09. I am confident that there will be a substantial increase in donations collected over the Christmas period and more will be sent with the Annual Capitation Fees. An update on the total monies raised will be provided at the Conference of Clubs in April 2010. As reported previously, my **target for SISWP by June 2011 is \$200,000** so we still have some way to go however the knowledge of the project is slowly filtering through to clubs with many special events planned for 2010. Can I please urge Club Treasurer's to send their donations for Project Sierra to SISWP HQ on a regular basis. SI forwards a quarterly cheque to HHC and the sooner that monies are received then even more children, teenage mothers and needy families can be helped.

**EVENTS** - Clubs have been very innovative with ideas to raise funds and awareness for this project and I thank you all for your generous contributions to date. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to accept invitations to provide presentations at Club and Region meetings and in particular I enjoyed attending the SI New Zealand Conference in March 09, the Region of NSW Conference in May 09 and SI Adelaide's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in June 09. I hope to visit more Clubs and Regions over the coming year. Special thanks are extended to Sandra Mottram (Australia) and Paula Siddle (NZ) who represented SISWP on the Study Tour to Sierra Leone in January 2009 – they have both been doing a fantastic job as SI Project Sierra Ambassadors visiting clubs, organising events and speaking to others in their local community about this project. Audrey Martin and Pat Pain (Australia) have also been wonderful Club Ambassadors for this project and have helped make craft items to sell. So far we have raised over \$6,000 and my personal challenge is to raise \$20,000 by June 2011.

**RESOURCES** – Please consider purchasing an On-line Gift Card [www.projectsierra.org](http://www.projectsierra.org). These gifts provide an excellent opportunity for Club Members to help transform the lives of the young children and teenage mothers and can be sent anywhere in the world.

**REPORTING** – Only a few Clubs have sent me information on their fundraising events and publicity and I really appreciate that. I would like to receive more information from Clubs to include on a photo display at Conference and on the Project Sierra website [www.projectsierra.org](http://www.projectsierra.org)

**SUCCESSFUL STUDY TOURS** – SISWP has been well represented in Sierra Leone with Immediate Past International President Margaret Lobo's visit in 2008, Sandra Mottram (AUS) and Paula Siddle (NZ) in 2009, Gina Olivieri and Chris Knight (Australia) in January 2010. Our next SISWP representatives will be Siew Yong Gnanalingam (Malaysia) and Robynne Paget (NZ) who are heading off in May 2010. It is an unforgettable experience to see first hand the success of this project and to represent SISWP. **Please continue to keep the people of Sierra Leone in your hearts and Project Sierra at the top of your fundraising list** so we can reach (or exceed) the \$200,000 target for SISWP. This project is not only making a difference to the families in Sierra Leone but also to those families that have migrated or were resettled as refugees in SISWP. Please reach out to them in your local community. My newfound Sierra Leonean friend Sally who lives in Brisbane Australia recently expressed these thoughts when I told her about my visit to Sierra Leone. **“Chris, I am very happy to meet you at last. I can't express how I feel now, you just brought life back to a corner of my heart that was in total darkness and I love you for that. On behalf of all Sierra Leonean I say thank you Soroptimist International for caring for my people.”** We go si bak (goodbye) for now. See you at Conference in April 2010. I look forward to sharing more information with you in the coming months.

---

## STOCKS & MARKETING and HQ LIAISON

Janice Lee

---

The HQ part time staff member Sarah Keech was responsible for processing 'shop' requests. Regrettably Sarah has now taken a position tutoring at Univ of NSW whilst she finishes her studies. I would like to thank her for the professional competent manner in which she handled her job – always with a smile. As HQ Liaison (and for some moral support) I joined her in a presentation, to post graduates at Sydney University, of an International, Federation and Club project undertaken by SI – the process, outcome and reporting methods. SI was one of three NGOs present and Sarah did a great job.

As HQ Liaison I have been available when Rosheen O'Hare requested an extra hand in HQ or asked for guidance. Rosheen has had to include additional long term tasks in her role this year and as always she manages these with her usual efficiency. I enjoy working with her.

**Recommendation:** The SISWP appointed position of Stocks and Marketing coordinator be abolished.

**Reason:** SI items for sale are virtually all related to the running of SI – badges, stationary, SI information and promotional material. The branded items and gifts are

minimal and I understand it is not anticipated this range will increase. Orders of SI items are simply processed through the normal HQ working day there is no need for a specified SI appointed position.

**OFFICIAL REGISTER OF S.W.P. FRIENDSHIP LINKS 2010**

<b>CLUB</b>	<b>S.W.P.</b>	<b>G.B. &amp; I</b>	<b>AMERICAS</b>	<b>EUROPE</b>
ADELAIDE		Walsall GB		Sarpsborg N. Genova 2 Capital city Rekjavic, Iceland
ALBANY	Lae PNG	Birkenhead GB	Hachinohe J Brazillis B	
ALBURY- WODONGA	Samoa	St Albans GB	Merced CA	Doetinchem- Ijsseloever NL

<b>CLUB</b>	<b>S.W.P.</b>	<b>G.B. &amp; I</b>	<b>AMERICAS</b>	<b>EUROPE</b>
AUCKLAND	Rakirak FI Brighton & Sth Districts AU Brisbane North Port Pirie AU Petaling Jaya MSA	Manchester GB		Bieleheld D
BA (Fiji)	Deniliquin AU			
BALLARAT		Reigate & Dist, GB	Ogaki J	
BANGKOK	The Goldfields	Great Yarmouth GB Grenock & Dist GB	Osaka- Higashi J Kyoto- Tachibaba J	
BANGSAR (MSA)	Sydney, East Districts Adelaide Dusit (Thai)	Croydon & District GB	Hirakata- Chuo J Kmoto-Toka J	
BAROSSA VALLEY	Rakiraki (Fiji) Pine Rivers QLD		Okayama J	
BAYSIDE (formally Redland District)		Badford GB Johannesburg SA		Karhula Nakuru, Kenya
BEENLEIGH INC				Odsherool DK
BENALLA		Harrowgate GB		Clermont- Ferrand (FR)
BENDIGO		Nottingham GB		Hameenlinna FN
BERWICK			Fukuyama J	
BRIGHTON & SOUTHERN DIST.		Bilston GB Dundee GB Poona II	TokyoAzumaJ Suburban Chicago	
BRISBANE CITY	Griffith NSW		Kent County Grosse Point Cataback	Hildesheim D
BRISBANE INC	Darkhan (Mon)	Ilkeley GB	Milwaukee Burlington	Malmo SW
BRISBANE NORTH	Kuala Lumpur Solomon Islands Singapore	Great Yarmouth	Maryland	
BRISBANE SOUTH		West Kirby & Hoylelake GB Leicester (GB)	Wakasa J Handa, Chuo, Japan	

<b>CLUB</b>	<b>S.W.P.</b>	<b>G.B. &amp; I</b>	<b>AMERICAS</b>	<b>EUROPE</b>
BRISBANE WEST		Garston & Speke		
BURDEKIN			Caloocan City Ph	
BURNIE		Burnley GB Jersey GB	Bloomington-Normal IL	
BUSINESS ON COLLINS	Kuantan MSA		New York Mie-Kita J Chuo	Siayliai Lithuania
CAIRNS		Bangor WL		
CAMBRIDGE		Cambridge GB		
CANBERRA	Gold Coast	Bury GB	Seattle South WA Nara Heijo J	Hanover (D)
CANNING DISTRICTS		Douglas GB Reigate & District Calcutta (I) Rugby GB		
CHIANG MAI	Helena (WA) Joondalup (WA)			
CHISHOLM		West Bromwich GB	Okayama J Shimonoseki J	

<b>CLUB</b>	<b>S.W.P.</b>	<b>G.B. &amp; I</b>	<b>AMERICAS</b>	<b>EUROPE</b>
CHISTCHURCH	Naracoorte AU SA, Adelaide AU Tamworth AU	Tamworth GB Accrington GB	The Langley A	
CIRCULAR HEAD	Rakiraki FIJI		Apple Valley (C)	
COBRAM-BAROOGA			Algona LA Saijo J	Essen (D)
COLEABALLY		Winchester GB		Aalesund N
COOTAMUNDRA		Dolgellau GB Sunderland GB		Mainz (D)
DAPTO(Changed name to ILLAWARRA)			Yamaguchi Nishi J	
DARKHAN	Waitara NZ			
DEAKIN	Plymouth NZ	Coventry GB Reading & Disticts GB	Nara-Mahorora J	Schweingen NL
DENILQUIN		Aberdeen (S) Central London GB	Fort Collins CO	
DEVONPORT (INC)		Whitehaven GB	Pt, Townsend & Jefferson County	Hoffit, ISR
DUSIT Thailand	Motueka & District NZ Bangsa (MY)		Sapporo Acacia J Kakogawa J Tokyo-Hiro J Tajima, J	
EASTERN DIST - ADELAIDE	Labasa, FI Bangsar, MSA	Dumfernline S West Birmingham	Nihama J Kyoto J Nishinemiya J	

CLUB	S.W.P.	G.B. & I	AMERICAS	EUROPE
FINLEY			Courtenay, CDA	
FREMANTLE	New Plymouth NZ	Great Yarmouth GB		Greater Victoria
GEELONG		BarnstapleSWCI Hertford & Dist GB	Osaka-Izumi J Sno-Kingm WA	Bergen No.2 N Grenaa, DK
GEORGETOWN		Sherrol/Windsor GB	Chuo- Shizuoka A	Harstaad, N
GERALDTON	Lae PNG	Bingley GB	Dixon A	
GOLD COAST	Canberra	Selby GB	Osaka J Fukuoko J	Fort de France FR Noumea (FR)
GOULBURN		Bath GB NorthamptonGB	San Jose Desert Hot springs	Kuusama F
GRIFFITH	Mount Gambia AU	Harare ZM Brixham, GB		
HELENA	Lae PNG Chiang Mai (T)	Bournemouth GB Kolkatta Ipsae GB	Helena Mt.	The First Cracow Club, (PI)
HOBART			Yaizu J La Mesa CA Kushiri-Amity, J	
HORNSBY		Carlisle GB		Esch-Sur- Alzette L Nairobi, Kenya SA
INVERCARGILL	Tuggerah Lakes AU			
ILLAWARRA, NSW, AUS		Ballymoney		
JAKARTA			Okazaki J	Alphen aan den Rijn ( (NL)
JOONDALUP	Miri (MS) Wellington (NZ) Chiang Mai (Thai)	Leeds GB Tiverton GB	Tsuyama J Wickenburg AZ	Molde N Nea Smyrna GR
KAPITI COAST			Vista CA Hagi J	
KARRATHA & DIST		Gosport GB Reading- Wokingham & Bracknell GB	Wentache	

CLUB	S.W.P.	G.B. & I	AMERICAS	EUROPE
KUALA LUMPUR	Ulaan Bataar M New Plymouth NZ	Rhyl & Dist WA		Forssa FN
KUATAN	CircularHead Business On Collins AU	West Lothian Sc High Wycombe & Districts GB		
KURINGGAI	Suva FI	Inverness S Stratford-on-Avon BG		
LABASA	Eastern Dist Adelaide AU			
LAE	Albany AU TownsvilleAU Helena AU Tauranga NZ New Plymouth Geraldton AU	Lions Head SA Ikley GB East London GB Croydon & Dist, GB South End on Sea & Dist GBI		Desert Tucson AZ
LAUTOKA Fiji				
LAUNCESTON			Napa (C)	
LIGHTENING RIDGE		Peterborough GB	Osaka-Kita J	Karkur-Pardess-Hawnd ISR
LOGAN			Hirakata (J)	
LOWER HUTT	Devonport AU Nadi FI	Anglesey WL Falkirk S Kenilwoth & Dist GB	Martinez CA	
MACKAY		Northampton GB Western Super Mare GB		
MANLY		Bedford GB	Greensboro NC Sasebo J	Hjorring D
MELBOURNE		Cambridge GB Cannock GB Durban SA	Nara J	
MORNINTON PENSINULAR		Glasgow Cent, S	Anchorage AK Twenty Nine Palms	Alsancak (TR)
MOTUEKA & DIST,	Dusit TN			Frederikssund DK

<b>CLUB</b>	<b>S.W.P.</b>	<b>G.B. &amp; I</b>	<b>AMERICAS</b>	<b>EUROPE</b>
MOUNT GAMBIER	Griffith AU	Warrington GB		Freiburg D Rehovot ISR
MURRAY BRIDGE		Newport & Dist GB		
NADI (Fiji)	Sydney AU Lower Hutt NZ			
NARRCOORTE	Christchurch NZ	Beverley GB		
NARRANDERA		Ashton-Under-Lyne	Auburn SIA	
NELSON	Mt Gambia AU	Colne & Nelson GB		
NEW NORFOLK		Norwich GB		Renuion FR
NEW PLYMOUTH	Fremantle AU Laae PNG Kuala Lumpur MAS Ulaan Bataar M	Plymouth & Dist GB Lions Head SA Motherwell & Wishaw (GB)	Suraga J	Carcassonne FR Nairobi Karen Blixen
NORTH CATERBURY				
NORTH SHORE		Keighley GB Stafford GB	Lake Havasu AZ	Bergamo I
NORTHERN HIGHLANDS INC	Penang MSA		Sao Paula BR	Haifa-Carmel ISR
ON THE TERRACE	Kuala Lumpur (MSA) Waimuiomata NZ		Visalia A	
PALMERSTON NORTH		Dumbarton & Dist Rugby GB		
PENANG	Malaysia			Schwaebish Gmuend (Germany)

CLUB	S.W.P.	G.B. & I	AMERICAS	EUROPE
PERTH		Cannock & Dist (Perth S) Glasgow Central S		Malmo-Limhamin SW Esberg D Maribor (Slovenia)
PETALING (MY)			Nagoya Sakee Chui J	
PINE RIVERS	Barossa Valley SA		Onomichi- Nshi J Cambridge CDA	St Petersburg-Neva Rus.
PORT HEDLAND			Manduluyong Phii	
PORT MORESBY		Taw & Torridge (GB)		
PORT PIRIE		Bilston & Dist GB Chichester & Dist	Austin T	Glostrup DK
RAKIRAKI	Auckland NZ Barossa Valley SA Circular Head TAS			
RAMU( PNG)	Fremental, Melbourn, AUS Johabaru, Malaysia			
RANDWICK		Preston GB Tunbridge Wells	Klamath Falls OR Nagoya J San Francisco (A)	Arendal N
RIVERSIDE		Edinburgh S		
ROCKINGHAM		Llantrisant Dist WL	Nishiharima J	
ROTORUA			Flagstaff AZ	
SAMOA	Sydney (AU) Albury- Wodonga (AU) Upper Hutt NZ		Parker AZ	
SHAH ALAM (MSA)			Sakaide J	
SHEPPARTON	Southern Districts Adelaide AUS	Edinburgh (S)		

CLUB	S.W.P.	G.B. & I	AMERICAS	EUROPE
SIGATOKA (Fiji)				
SINGAPORE	The Hills AU			Kyoto Yayoi J Nara (J)
SINGAPORE GARDEN CITY	Johore Bahru			
SOLOMON ISLANDS		Eastbourne & District		Sondrio (I)
SOUTH AUCKLAND		Lincoln & Districts	Utsunomiya (J)	Nokia F
SOUTH PERTH		Cape of Good Hope SA (GBI) Cwmbran Distr. WL		
SOUTHER DIST OF ADELAIDE		Epsom & Dist GB Scarborough GB Southampton GB	Jamiaca	Gottenborg SW

<b>CLUB</b>	<b>S.W.P.</b>	<b>G.B. &amp; I</b>	<b>AMERICAS</b>	<b>EUROPE</b>
SUVA	Nelson NZ Ku-Ring-Gai AU Townsville Breakwater (AU)			
SYDNEY	Samoa Bangsar Nadi FI	Alfredton & Dist GB Gravesend GB Barrow-in Furness Bulawayo ZM	Kyoto J UBE Nishi J Greater Hartford SIA Kyoto J	
TAURANGA	Lae PNG	Crosbie GB Newport.WL South-end on Sea GB	San Bernadino Buenos Aires B	
TERUNTUM				
THE GOLDFIELDS	Bangkok T		Yasugi-Nishi J	
THE HILLS DISTRICT		Colombo SRI L. Colchester GB		
TOCUMWAL	Waitara		Marysville (US)	
TOOWOOMBA		Rishton & Greater Harwood GB		Brugge B
TORRENS		Glasgow West S		
TOWNSVILLE INC	Lae PNG	Taunton GB Kirkintilloch GB	Mantecca CA Tokyo-Nishi J Mariene Iwaki J	
TOWNSVILLE BREAKWATER	Cairns AU Suva FI		Middletown US	
TOWNSVILLE FOCUS AFTER FIVE	Solomon Islands	Eastbourne East Londaon Douglas Ilse of Man		
TROPICAL TABLELANDS				Oran-Turket E

<b>CLUB</b>	<b>S.W.P.</b>	<b>G.B. &amp; I</b>	<b>AMERICAS</b>	<b>EUROPE</b>
TUGGERAH LAKES			Tanabe J	Tanabe (J) Gold beach (CA)
ULAAN BATAAR	New Plymouth NZ		Hirakato J Takatsuki J	Sorieil Tomami
UPPER HUTT	Samoa	Kingston-on Thames GB Cardigan (WL)		Liege B
WAIMEA	On The Terrace	Kings Lynn GB		
WAINUIOMATA				Spittal A
WAITARA	Tocumwal Darhkan (Mon)	Preston		
WAVERLEY		Waverley GB Aylsbury GB Aberdeen S		
WELLINGTON	Joondalup	Cheltenham & Dist Kettering GB Bridlington GB	Sakai J	Hilversum NL Moss N
WELLINGTON EAST	Rockingham AU	Skipton in Craven GB	Hofu J Novato CA Susanville CA	Bremerhaven D
WEST AUCKLAND		Llandudno WL		
WESTLAND	Likas Kota-Kinabalu MSA	Hereford	Wakaycirna J	Stockholm/Vaxholm (SW)
WHYALLA				Lippe-Detmold D

## KEY: COUNTRY CODE ABBREVIATIONS FOR LINK REGISTER

A	Austria	IA	Iowa	NY	New York
AU	Australia	IN	Indonesia	NZ	New Zealand
IS	Iceland	IS	Iceland	OK	Oklahoma
AK	Alaska	II	India	OR	Oregon
AL	Alabama	IL	Illinois	PAK	Pakistan
AR	Arkansas	IN	Indiana	PNG	Papua New Guinea
AZ	Arizona	ISR	Israel	PH	Phillipines
B	Belgium	J	Japan	PAN	Panama
BR	Brazil	KOR	Korea	POL	Poland
CDA	Canada	KS	Kansas	S	Scotland
CA	California	KY	Kentucky	SC	South Carolina
CP	Colorado	L	Luxembourg	SA	South Africa
CT	Connecticut	LA	Louisiana	SW	Sweden
DK	Denmark	MEX	Mexico	SD	South Dakota
DC	District of Columbia	MA	Massachusetts	SL	Sri Lanka
DE	Delaware	MSA	Malaysia	SI	Solomon Islands
GB	England Nth Ireland	MD	Maryland	SW	Sweden
IRL	Eire	MI	Michigan	CH	Switzerland
FI	Fiji	MN	Minnesota	TR	Turkey
FL	Florida	MO	Missouri	TX	Texas
FN	Finland	MT	Montana	UT	Utah
FR	France	N	Norway	VA	Virginia
D	Germany	NC	North Carolina	W	West Indies
GA	Georgia	ND	North Dakota	WA	Washington
GR	Greece	NE	Nebraska	WI	Wisconsin
NL	Netherlands	NJ	New Jersey	WL	Wales
HI	Hawaii	NM	New Mexico	WV	West Virginia
I	Italy	NV	Nevada	WY	Wyoming
				WS	Western Samoa
				Z	Zimbabwe

**THE END**