



Soroptimist International Gold Coast Inc

South East Asia Pacific

a global voice for women

viSlon

Hello everyone,

Back in February of 2022 when I became a Soroptimist, I did wonder just how much a small club like SI Gold Coast could actually achieve. Well, since then I have been continually amazed by our dedicated members. Here is a snapshot of what we have been doing just in the last few weeks, some of which are detailed in the newsletter.

Not only did we have our own Pyjama Drive during May and June, but we also were given nearly 1000 pairs from the boys and their families at The Southport School (TSS) Prep School. Once sorted in the centres' requirements Leonie, Sue G and Sue R and I delivered them to the various Child Safety Service Centres.

It is very exciting to think that the money we donated together with SI Konstanz-Imperia is already in Mongolia ready to be used to build another ger. I can't wait to see the photos of the handover.

When I read the letter from SI Lviv thanking us and other clubs from around the world, I was so heartened. To see these gorgeous children from war-torn Ukraine enjoying a fun time away proved that when Soroptimist women work together we can make a difference.

Coming up on Friday night is our second Trivia Night for the year. So, if you are at a loose end and wondering how to start off your weekend, why not join us for a fun night. Contact Robyn on 0476395018 to reserve your place.

That's just a snapshot!

As the well-known writer and teacher, Dale Carnegie, once said, "You never achieve success unless you like what you are doing." We Soroptimists must like what we're doing.

Thank you SI Gold Coast for all that you do.

Warm regards,

Beu Lubke

President 2025



Soroptimist International Gold Coast

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A few things to remember

Recycling reminder

PLASTIC only bread tags

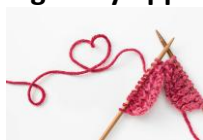


Foil tablet blister packs



Keep knitting, ladies!

We welcome knitted or crocheted squares which are sewn together to make lovely rugs, also other items like beanies and baby clothes. We distribute them to a number of places where they are greatly appreciated.



We collect the annoying 5 cent pieces that are a nuisance in your purse. The funds are used for numerous projects to support women and girls.



Coming Events



Friday 22 August

Details on page 7



Dates 2025



Friday 22 August	Trivia Night
Monday 25 August	Business meeting
Wednesday 10 Sept	Executive meeting on Zoom
Monday 22 Sept	Business meeting
Saturday 11 Oct	Planning Day

kiva news

Thank you to members who have made a loan in the last month

SIGC vISion Against Poverty

It's so easy to join and very satisfying.

Ask our Team Captain, Dorothy Elliott, how to be part of our lending team.

dorothycecilia1712@gmail.com

kiva

Read this month's update of the kiva news on page 16

CLUB HAPPENINGS

TSS Prep School supports our Pyjama Drive for kids in foster care

Pyjama Day at TSS Prep School

Today our Prep students and teachers embraced all things cosy for Pyjama Day —coming to school in their favourite PJs and bringing along brand new pyjamas to donate to children in foster care. These donations will be given to Soroptimist International Gold Coast, an organisation that supports vulnerable children in our community. We had close to 1000 pairs of pyjamas donated today - which was an incredible demonstration of the TSS value of service. Thank you to our wonderful Prep families for your generosity and kindness supporting children in need.



CLUB HAPPENINGS

TSS Prep School supports our Pyjama Drive for kids in foster care



What an absolutely fantastic contribution from the TSS students and staff to kids in foster care!

They donated 1,000 lovely warm new pyjamas. They were sorted into sizes and girls/boys, counted, packed in bags with attractive clear labels by the Round Square team. When Leonie and Sandra went to collect 61 bags, the leader of Round Square at Prep Miss Jessica Ermer, supported by the Round Square Captain and Vice Captain, packed them into the cars.

A heartwarming gesture of generous community service by TSS Prep School for kids in care!



CLUB HAPPENINGS

TSS Prep School supports our Pyjama Drive for kids in foster care

The 60+ bags of PJs went to Bev's home and a working bee was arranged to sort the pyjamas for the needs of the four Child Safety Service Centres which support foster children locally.



The sorting was easy because the PJs were so well sorted and labelled by the TSS boys. Leonie and Bev, with Bev's daughter in law Tiffany divided them into four groups.



Sue Robinson and Sue Graham helped with the sorting and later made the first of the deliveries to Anglicare in Nerang.



Foster and Kinship Care Service



The two Sues delivered bags of lovely warm pyjamas for kids in foster care to the Anglicare Foster and Kinship Care Service where the staff helped get them up all those stairs.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

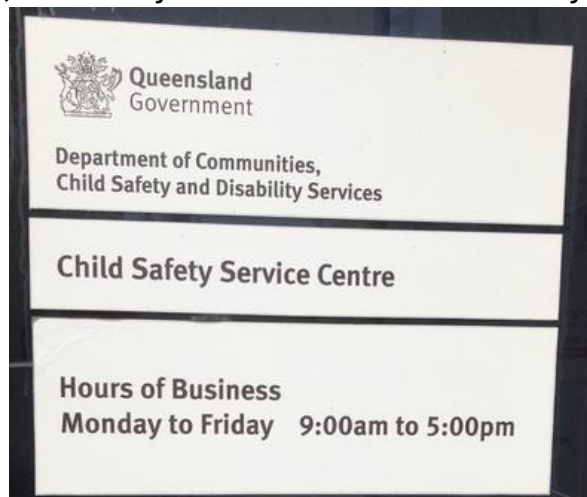
TSS Prep School supports our Pyjama Drive for kids in foster care

The pyjamas were delivered to the four Child Safety Service Centres who will distribute them to the kids in foster care on the Gold Coast.

THANK YOU, TSS STUDENTS AND STAFF!



Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety



Bev with the staff at Mermaid Beach
Child Safety Service Centre



Rachael and Tash with Leonie at Labrador
Child Safety Service Centre



Bev delivered to Nerang Child Safety Service Centre

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Don't miss out! Book now



Soroptimist International Gold Coast

Join us for some fun and
laughter at our upcoming

Trivia Night



Friday August 22nd 2025

In Function Room at CSI Club Southport

***Feel free to book a table for dinner prior to start of event**

Eyes Down at 7pm

Tables of 8

\$10 per head. Eftpos/Cash

Bring your coins for Heads & Tails

Plus

Fabulous Raffle Prizes at 3/tickets for \$5.00

Contact Robyn via text on 0476395018

With table Names and number of guests

RSVP BY Wednesday 13th August 2025



CLUB HAPPENINGS

Ger for SI Darkhan in Mongolia

Soroptimists from Australia have arrived to take part in the 25th anniversary of the Ulaanbaatar Soroptimist Club and the 20th anniversary of the Darkhan Club.

Welcome to Mongolia!



They will deliver our donation to our Friendship Link SI Darkhan to purchase a ger to become home for a homeless woman and her family.



Dinner with a few of the ladies who are heading into the semi Gobi desert tomorrow.

Just missing Lorna Mead and Leigh Ellwood-Brown.

Cherrie Power (SI Shep/ SI Melb), Terry Anne Maunsell (SI Randwick/ SI Sth West Slopes) Cecilia Brooke (SI Sth Perth), Donnell Davis (SI Logan), Astrida Uptis (SI Canberra), Christine Johnstone (SI Beenleigh), Filomena Pingiaro (SI Griffith), Loretta Shillinglaw (SI Sth Perth).



After spending the night in a ger, they had a day on the road to get to the Semi Gobi.

Cherrie & Terry



CLUB HAPPENINGS

SI Lviv's summer camp for Ukranian orphans

Dear sisters,

We are pleased to announce that thanks to your donation and the donation of clubs from Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Germany, Denmark and Switzerland we were able to organize a summer holiday for children.

Children from the Livchytsy orphanage spent summer vacation in the recreation center in the Carpathians. The center is situated in the picturesque area in the village of Rozlutch. The children stayed there for three weeks. The accommodation was comfortable, the staff skilled and catering. Children had healthy ecologically clean food rich in vitamins. Teachers who accompanied children took care of both their physical and mental health. Children played all kinds of outdoor games, went hiking in the forest, once they went to the mineral water source, they drank water and liked its taste very much. There is a swimming pool in the recreation center and children enjoyed bathing and swimming there. They also played indoor games. We visited children in the center, brought them new games and some ice-cream they asked for. Children had wonderful time in the Carpathians, they enjoyed every moment of their stay there. Beautiful nature of the Carpathians, picturesque place, various entertainments made their vacation thrilling and unforgettable. Children express their sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to their incomparable summer rest.

With love and deep gratitude, Olga and the Soroptimist of the Lviv Club



CLUB HAPPENINGS



INC 1A16209 ABN 79 843 001 913
CHARITY NO. 1327 DGR 900/495785

TEENAGE ADVENTURE CAMPS – QUEENSLAND

Phone (07) 5593-6160 admin@tacq.org.au

PO BOX 2910, BURLEIGH WATERS 4220

A NON-PROFIT, ALL VOLUNTEER ORGANISATION PROVIDING
ADVENTURE CAMPS FOR TEENAGERS WITH LIFE-THREATENING AILMENTS

We provided funds for five children to attend the Adventure Camp in July

We want to extend our deepest thanks for your generous support of our Teenage Adventure Camps QLD. Thanks to you, we were able to run our week-long camps in early July for teenagers and young adults with terminal or life-threatening illnesses and disabilities. We have a team of incredible young, volunteer carers who look after these incredible campers 24/7. By the end of the week, everyone becomes one big family, forming friendships and support that extends far beyond the camp.

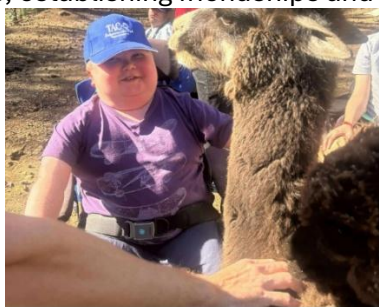
This year's camp was truly unforgettable.

One parent shared, "Dan had the best week of his life. We are so very appreciative," while another said, "Thor grows more and more confident every camp and is a changed young man who didn't want to come home."

Here are some photos from the week capturing some of the unforgettable moments your support made possible. I hope this helps you feel some of the joy you helped to create in these young people's lives.

With heartfelt gratitude from everyone at TAC-q

The camp is arranged for teenagers suffering from Cystic Fibrosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Cerebral Palsy, various forms of Cancer, and other illnesses and provides them with the experience of living with their peers, establishing friendships and the realisation they are not alone with their misfortunes.



TAC-Q Camp 2025



CLUB HAPPENINGS

Dorothy met Leonie midway to hand over lots of goodies

Dorothy remains an active and involved member despite the tyranny of distance preventing her from attending some of our activities. She attends Business and Executive meetings on Zoom and contributes to all the items we collect or donate. She and Leonie met at Burleigh to exchange a boot load of items for our projects – bras, sanitary products, coins and bread tags.



Soroptipacks delivered to refuges

Thanks to the generosity and support from our members and friends who donated a variety of toiletry products, we were able to deliver about 60 SoroptiPacks to refuges which provide assistance to domestic violence victims and homeless women. Leona and Bev packed the bags with basic toiletry needs and Leona arranged for them to be shared between Macleod Refuge and Still Waters so that women in emergencies have the essential items when they arrive.



Macleod Accommodation Support Service Inc



Supported Accommodation Still Waters



Once again, thank you for co-ordinating the delivery of Toiletry Packs to the Gold Coast Salvos which have been popular with our residents and our community members accessing our services.

Still Waters Management and Staff appreciate the ongoing kindness of everyone at Soroptimist International Gold Coast with your Toiletry Packs providing support to the women through their accommodation journey and to those we now reach providing mobile support for people facing, or at risk of homelessness in the community.

Your continuing support and generosity with your Soropti-packs is greatly appreciated.

Julie Garwood, Gold Coast Salvos

Still Waters/Gold Coast Temple Corps

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Knitted treasures from our friends and supporters

Elwyn has since received further donations of beautiful beanies, baby blankets, jackets and dresses, rugs and more which were delivered by Karin to the Mater Hospital in Brisbane for premmie babies. Thanks to our wonderful knitters for their continuing support.



Happy Birthday



Birthday in August

Leona on 27th

Thank you, Florence, for sending cards to our members

How's Florence? Very well thank you.



Benji and Karin popped in to see Florence who was delighted to see them again. Karin said Florence was in good spirits after having a skin cancer removed a few days before. She had no ill effects from the surgery and no pain associated with it. She was very pleased to have had a couple of other SoroptiVisitors as well that week.



CLUB HAPPENINGS

More blister packs saved from landfill

These boxes were posted last week. The other photo shows the extras found in the recent collection. Aluminium we put in our council recycle bin. The glasses we have given to Lions Club, pills disposed of and batteries to recycle bin at the supermarket. Occasionally we have extras added but this was by far the worst. It's better to have the blister packs and dispose of unwanted items than not get them. Cheers, Gwen

Please ensure your blister pack donations don't include unwanted rubbish which entails a lot of unnecessary time for Gwen and Rod to have to sort through and remove.



Share the Dignity – August Dignity Drive

Homelessness. Escaping domestic violence. Choosing between food or period products. These are some of the heartbreaking challenges faced by women and girls across Australia right now. Your support can help change that. By giving to this appeal, you help ensure every woman and girl has access to the period products, dignity and support she deserves.

Members – please bring a donation if you can to our August meeting



PROUDLY SUPPORTING *sharethedignity*

Q "DIGNITY DRIVE"

SOROPTIMIST HAPPENINGS

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific

Wondering if your donations matter?

You've given your time and money to causes you care about, but have you ever been left wondering if your efforts actually made a difference? That's a common and difficult question. At Soroptimist International of South East Asia Pacific (SISEAP), we believe in turning that question into a confident "yes." For over a century, our work has been built on transparency and measurable results. When you support us, you're not just making a donation; you're making a direct investment in the education and economic empowerment of women and girls. We are recognized by the United Nations for our work, and we are committed to showing you exactly how your contribution leads to positive, predictable outcomes. With SISEAP, you can be sure that your actions are connecting to a larger, meaningful outcome.

Join us today and be a part of a solution you can see.



SOROPTIMIST HAPPENINGS



August 19 marks World Humanitarian Day, a day designated to honour humanitarian workers and recognize those who dedicate their lives to helping others in crises—whether caused by conflict, climate disasters, poverty, or inequality. For global NGOs like Soroptimist International, this day is not only a moment of reflection but also a reaffirmation of purpose: to serve, to uplift, and to stand in solidarity with women and girls across the world.

Moving Forward, Together

On this World Humanitarian Day, 19 August, let us renew our commitment—not just to respond in times of crisis, but to prevent crises by empowering women, strengthening communities, and building sustainable futures.

To be a Soroptimist is to be a humanitarian. And on this day, we stand proudly with every woman, every volunteer, every frontline worker who continues to shine a light in the darkest of times.

“The essence of humanitarian work is not just to help, but to empower. To not merely serve hands in need, but to strengthen hearts, voices, and dreams.”

Joanne Yeoh, SISEAP President, 2024-2026



Dear Leonie

Just thought it was time we wrote to you to let your members (especially those who write the articles and get it all together!!) just how much we enjoy reading the SIGC newsletter.

Your President's comments about how everything we do is worthwhile were excellent.

We have finally (been talking about it for ages) decided to start making donations to KIVA so we were extra interested to read about KIVA this time.

We have also been collecting lots of things that can be recycled. Congratulations on what you have done... it takes a lot of blister packs to get that many kgs!!

With best wishes

Will Mead, SI Griffith

Our latest Kiva lending team loan

It is traditional for us to make a new KIVA loan after a fundraiser, so Dorothy made our latest loan from the Sausage Sizzle profits. It was to Rosa Maricela in Ecuador. Dorothy notes:

I chose this loan because we have never loaned to a woman in Ecuador before. Also because the loan of \$475 will be repaid monthly for 8 months. This loan is to be used to buy young chickens and pigs, feed, medicine, sandals, running and casual shoes. She is very grateful to the good people who support her with the loans.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

kiva update

We have 80 members of our "*viSlon Against Poverty*" lending team. **Some members have made over 100 loans**, usually using their Kiva credit when it reaches \$25. Members can feel very proud of their commitment to their Kiva membership because of the huge benefits that borrowers achieve.

Every time we make a loan we support industries as diverse and necessary as agriculture and farming, water and sanitation, solar energy, shelter, education, food and retail.

In the 14 years that our Lending Team "*viSlon Against Poverty*" has been operating we have made a total of 2,596 loans with a total of \$65,300. Imagine the number of people in many countries who have benefitted from the commitment of our 80 members!

I encourage everyone to consider joining our Kiva Lending Team and to be a part of this wonderful ongoing successful project. You will gain great rewards in following the progress and success of the borrowers you lend your US\$25 to. **FUND A LOAN - GET REPAID - FUND ANOTHER LOAN**
Each Kiva loan helps people build a better future for themselves and their families.

An example of how a KIVA loan can assist a woman



Deydi in Columbia

\$625 will help to purchase an automatic brush cutter that will make it easier to maintain her coffee and plantain crops.

She owns a 2.5 hectare farm where she has planted over 12,000 coffee trees alongside 230 plantain trees, allowing her to diversify her production and make better use of the land.

Deydi currently maintains her coffee plantation using manual tools such as a machete, hoe, and shovel, a process that requires constant physical effort and long workdays to keep the crops in good condition.

There were 28 loans made in July totalling \$525 using Kiva credit or US dollars which supported 82 women and their families.

We welcome Diane, a new member, who made three starting loans

Check out our SIGC Kiva website www.kiva.org/team/vision_against_poverty and consider joining the team so you too can help make a difference and change lives one loan at a time.

All it takes is US\$25 to get you started. I am happy to guide you through the process.

My mobile phone number is 0428 778 353. I look forward to hearing from you.



Our Lending Team Captain, Dorothy Elliott, looks after our *viSlon Against Poverty* Team. She will tell you how you can make this meaningful gift, or she will do it for you. For more information 0428 778 353



SOROPTIMIST FRIENDSHIP

Since early August Leonie has shared communication with these clubs:

SI Hornsby	Celebrated International Friendship Day at a lunch
SI Tunbridge Wells	Received a certificate from SI congratulating them on their outstanding project – Grassroots Activism Podcast Series.
SI Joondalup, WA	Held their July Orange Café to raise awareness about eliminating violence against women and girls.
SI Perth	Celebrating their 76 th Anniversary.
SI Suva	Celebrating their 54 th Anniversary.
SI Tunbridge Wells	Held their Day of Reflection – looking back and looking forward.
SI Singapore	Celebrating their 42 nd Anniversary.
SI Hobart	President Wendy and Nicole dropped off care packages to the NICU and ward 7A Medical unit. Thanks to Richard and the NICU team.
SI Joondalup, WA	Calling for nominations for their 2025 Soroptimist International Award for Achievement which recognises a Western Australian woman (who does not have to be a Soroptimist) who has made a significant contribution to her chosen field and to the community. The winning recipient will receive a monetary grant to a maximum of \$10,000 to undertake a project over two years that will benefit women and girls.
SI Devonport	Attended the opening of The Hub by the Salvation Army. It supports the homeless.
SI Geelong	Held a book sale at Lara Market.
SI Fremantle	Donated \$1,500 to a deaf student to support her travelling to a 10 day camp in Canada from deaf students from around the world.



Soroptimist International Kampala, Uganda

We proudly presented scholarships to seven girls, generously donated by our Friendship Link club, Soroptimist International Saskatoon,

Educating a girl is one of the most powerful tools for transforming communities. An educated girl is empowered to make informed decisions, break the cycle of poverty, and contribute meaningfully to society. Education opens doors to better health, economic opportunities, and leadership roles—not only for the girl herself, but for future generations as well.

Our Friendship Link between SI Saskatoon and SI Kampala continues to thrive, united by a shared commitment to fighting illiteracy and creating brighter futures for girls.

SI Kampala



Especially number 10

**THINGS
MONEY CAN'T BUY:**

1. Manners
2. Morals
3. Respect
4. Character
5. Common sense
6. Trust
7. Patience
8. Class
9. Integrity
10. Love

