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Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the September 2021 edition of the Programme Action News

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

FROM OUR PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Well that shift in the temperature of the air has happened. Where I live in Adelaide, the wind is warmer and flowers and green shoots suggest that Spring is here. I am ignoring my house's attempts to get me to start spring-cleaning but there is little doubt that for nature it is a time of renewal and of reconstruction and growth.

For all our clubs it is also a time to look back on the year and start thinking about changes that may be constructive. The Federation is doing this in several areas and perhaps we clubs could do the same. How do we know if our members are happy? Do they feel that they can contribute to club activities? Do they feel that their voice is heard? Have you asked them?

Can your club members list our values? Do they see them reflected in the club? Sometimes

conversations are difficult but we need to have them. Clubs that ask members the difficult questions and seek to respond positively to answers grow in strength. Clubs that practice our values remain relevant, friendly and able to withstand difficult times. Is that your club?

We all have our idiosyncrasies and faults yet our fellow members do not hold this against us. This diversity of thought and acceptance of differences is a real strength which we need to foster and accept to make our club team stronger. I know that the work of the Programme of Service team is effective because all members work together, contribute willingly, use each other's strengths and accepts differences in thought and skills. It is this cohesive strength that has created a strong and effective group.

It has not been an easy year. It has tested us at many levels and it would be all too easy to let go but that is not what Soroptimists do. There are many women and girls depending on our efforts, so look at your club, build on its strengths, smile at all your members and plan for a positive 2022.

Di Lockwood

Programme Director

Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific

swpprogramme2020@siswp.org

ADVOCACY WORK



Take your Advocacy to the next level and really make a difference?

Advocacy: Think Global Act Local

25th September 2021 (4pm AEST)

All interested Soroptimists across the Federation are invited to attend this forthcoming webinar on Advocacy. We have two amazing guest speakers who will talk about Advocacy and how they use this important medium to raise awareness as well as enable action that holds our governments and authorities to account locally, nationally and globally.



Ulla Madsen

SI Assistant Director Advocacy Ulla will talk about how SI uses Advocacy at the UN Centres and how the important work that Clubs do across our organisation contributes to the United Nations activities.

Thilan Legierse

Thilan is currently an executive coach & mediator and worked for 12 years (1997-2009) for the United Nations as a human rights and war crimes lawyer in Cambodia (UN High Commissioner for Human Rights), Bosnia and Herzegovina (United Nations Peacekeeping Department) and the Office of the Prosecutor (International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia).



Four SI clubs in our Federation, one from Malaysia, one from Mongolia and two from Australia will provide information on their advocacy.

Please register for Advocacy: Think Global Act Local on September 25, 2021, 4:00 PM AEST - [Register here.](#)



What are priorities in your country?

What are clubs doing in advocacy?

Advocating on behalf of women is a core Soroptimist function.

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

Advocacy Questions Answered

Some questions have arisen about when to enter an advocacy report:

If it is a one off action then enter your report as soon as possible.

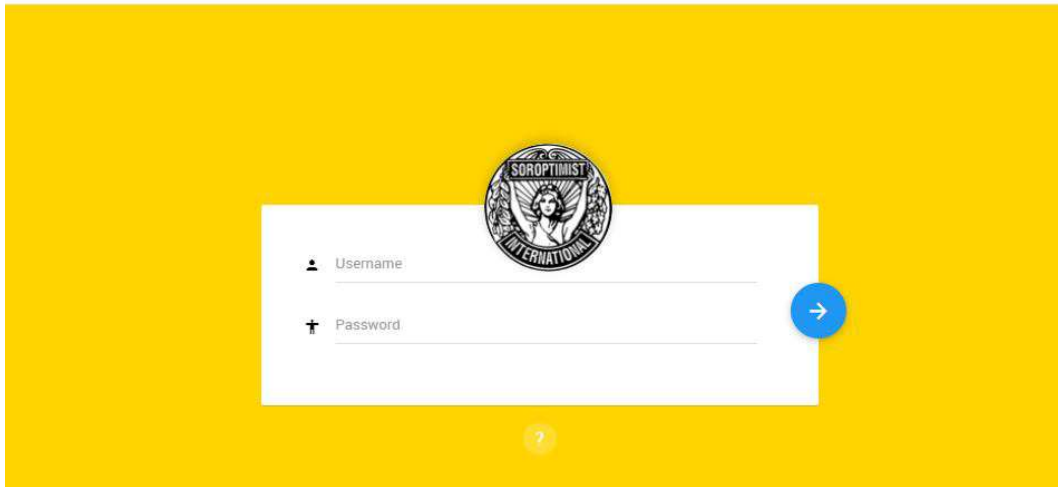
If it is part of a series of advocacy actions on the same issue wait until all have been completed and then enter your report.

Perhaps it is advocacy action that will go over the current year. In that case call the advocacy for the current year Stage 1 and enter by the end of the year. The report for the next year will be Stage 2.

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE



Women Inspiring Action, Transforming Lives



Having problems with the Programme Database?

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

Deadline to Clear Rejected Reports is October 31 2021

There are currently reports in the rejected section of the report database. There have been many reminders to check these and reuse if possible as some require very little attention. How to do this has been addressed in SPAN several times but the message seems to be falling on deaf ears. We would like all these reports to be re-used and thus listed in the database but we do not wish to have them staying endlessly. Therefore it has been decided that **October 31 2021** is the deadline to reuse these reports.

Any reports that are on the database and have not been rejected in the last two weeks of October will be DELETED.

Clubs, please take the time to check if you have a report in the rejected section and decide if you wish to reuse it. If you do not wish to have it on the database please delete it promptly.

A document showing how to delete Rejected Reports is on the website. First login to the SISWP.org website and then go to Programme Information / Programme Reporting

Database Help Documents or [click here](#).

There is also a short video showing how to do it. When logged into the website, it can be found by following the "Link to all SISWP Webinars' then scroll down past 'Recently Added' and you will see 'How to Edit a Report which has been Rejected' or alternatively you can [click here](#). The video was made before more recent changes so you need to check the resource sheet for final deletion of your original rejected report. Please do not waste all the time and effort that went into your original work for the report. Check carefully and decide what the club wishes to do and act now.

BEST PRACTICE AWARDS



As you know, Best Practice Awards are presented at the Conference of Clubs (COC) and the Interim Board Meeting (IBM). The POS team is currently reviewing the nomination form for these in order to help clubs present their project as effectively as possible. This process will be completed hopefully by the end of October and we may seek feedback from a range of clubs in the Federation. See the timeline below.

Best Practice Awards
Timeline for Best Practice Awards
Conference of Clubs 2022

Forms distributed	January 2022
Reminders in SPAN	February to April
Submission Deadline	April 18
Marking completed	May 7
Certificates finalised	May 14

Some amazing club work has been done. Much has been publicised on Facebook but remember that a project report must be on the report database for a project to be eligible.

The Programme of Service team has held some discussions and from 2022 nominations must receive at least 75% to be eligible for an award. **It is after all best practice!**

Statement: Afghan Women Should be Provided with Platforms to Lead the Country

Read the statement by the NGO CSW's youngest Women of Distinction awardee, Gharsanay IbnulAmeen Amin, who reflects on the situation in Afghanistan, its effect on Afghan women and girls, and suggestions for action. [Read here](#).

Commission on the Status of Women CSW66:

In 2022, the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) will take place from 14-25 March. Registration to the CSW for ECOSOC-accredited NGOs will open in October.

Priority theme: Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

Review theme: Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session) [Read more](#)

For the most up-to-date information on the CSW, visit UN Women's website. You can also email them at csw@unwomen.org.

The NGO CSW66 Forum, which will run parallel to the CSW66 session, will take place from 13-25 March 2022, kicking off with Consultation Day on the 13th. The NGO CSW66 Forum will be virtual. Registration will open in the coming months. The Forum is totally open to the public, regardless of ECOSOC-accreditation status.



UN DAYS



September

- 17 Sep [World Patient Safety Day](#)
- 18 Sep [International Equal Pay Day](#)
- 21 Sep [International Day of Peace](#)
- 29 Sep [International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste](#)
- 30 Sep [International Translation Day](#)

October

- 01 Oct [International Day of Older Persons](#)
- 02 Oct [International Day of Non-Violence](#)
- 04 Oct [World Habitat Day](#)
- 10 Oct [World Mental Health Day](#)
- 11 Oct [International Day of the Girl Child](#)
- 13 Oct [International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)
- 15 Oct [International Day of Rural Women](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know: A single tree such as a mature Beech can produce enough oxygen for 10 people for a year and as trees grow they absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂), a major greenhouse gas in the atmosphere.

Has your club participated in the C100 Plant Trees as part of the Centennial Celebrations? Then SISWP needs to know how many trees your club planted. Whilst clubs should be reporting this activity on the Programme Reporting

Database, the database does not provide the opportunity to track how many trees have been planted. SISWP and SI need to know how many trees were planted over the 12 month period, as the amount will have an impact on our reporting to UN departments, to quantify our contribution to the environment and the reduction of greenhouse gases. Can you please complete this simple questionnaire with your club name and how many trees you planted. Your input is important. Follow this [link to complete the questionnaire](#).



You are invited to the SI 100th Candle Ceremony, commencing 21st of September, the International Day of Peace.

During the 10 days leading up to the Soroptimist International 100th Birthday Event, **1-3 October**, we invite every Soroptimist Club to light candles and make a wish for a better world for women and girls. SI of Oakland, our founder club, will begin the ceremony on **21 September**, The International Day of Peace, and from there we hope that Clubs will join us in lighting their own candles and making wishes around the world! The Ceremony will close with the lighting of the 100th event candle by our SI President, Sharon Fisher at our 100th Birthday Event.

Find out how to take part [here](#). To register your club intention [complete this form here](#).



SISWP 100 Year Brooches & Bag Charms

As we approach the Gala event to celebrate our 100th Birthday, have you purchased your SISWP Centennial brooch or bag charm to wear proudly to events which will be held in October?

Remember that funds raised from the sale of the brooch and bag charm go to the Brilliant Futures Fund, the SISWP Federation Project for 2021.

Download the Shop Order Form [here](#) and place your order with hq@siswp.org.

International Day of the Girl

Soroptimist International is planning some postcards for this campaign. If you have worked with girls in the last 18 or so months and have a good quality picture please send a copy to swpprogramme2020@siswp.org along with a sentence describing your activity by 30 September.

Who knows? It may be your club work that is among those selected.

AROUND THE FEDERATION



NEWS FROM JAKARTA

DR. KARINA MOEGNI, SI OF JAKARTA MEMBER, MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO HER PATIENTS AND THE UNDERPRIVILEGED.

Karina graduated as a plastic surgeon in 2007 and gained her doctoral degree in Biomedical Science in 2019. Karina has made it her life's work to help those less fortunate for whom high-quality medical treatment is not easily accessible. [Read more here](#)

Singapore Orchid Club - Sponsor a Student Project



Singapore Orchid Club have recently undertaken a project to enable under privileged children in Henan Province, China to continue their education.

From research by their past President XU Ying who originally identified this need, the club has been able to find that many students from underprivileged families were unable to continue to attend school or college as their family circumstances no longer allowed them to study.

The club has partnered with Niu Kou Yu Village Council, Gao Chun Township, Xing Yang, Henan Province China and has now been able to provide a one year scholarship for 11

students.

The future now looks a little brighter for these young people and their families.

North Queensland Region - Townsville Breakwater



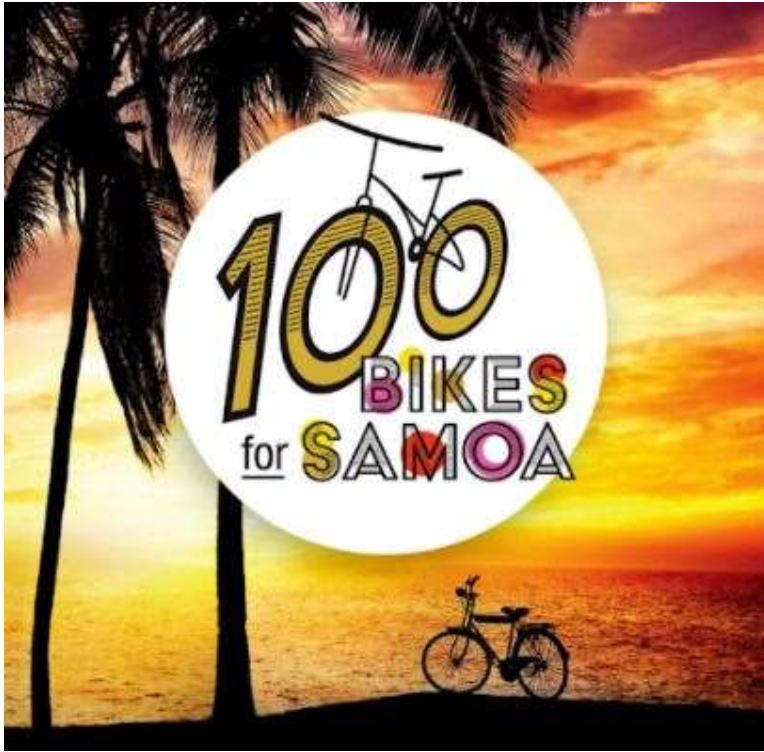
Soroptimist International Townsville Breakwater recently held a family Fun Day to celebrate the Soroptimist Centenary and to also officially launch their Safe Night's Program. \$100 equals one safe night in crisis accommodation for women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

Through this program the club is aiming to ensure vulnerable women have access to a safe nights sleep. \$100 equals one safe night in crisis accommodation for women and children escaping domestic and family violence and the club is looking to raise \$36,500 within a year.

They are well on the way receiving a cheque for \$5,000 from Ergon Energy. They have also have the support of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) North Queensland who are promoting the project.

Check out Facebook [\(12\) Safe Nights Townsville | Facebook](#) [\(12\) ABC North Queensland | Facebook](#)

100 Bikes of Kindness



In response to the centenary challenge to provide 100 acts of kindness, SI Griffith (NSW, Australia) and SI Samoa have joined forces to provide 100 bikes for women and children in Samoa. The idea to work together was born from the clubs' friendship link and provided an opportunity for the members to get to know each other better.

SI Griffith kicked off the project by putting the call out to their local community for donations of bikes for adults and children. They have been overwhelmed by the support so far, with over 90 bikes already collected. Social media played an important role in spreading the message. The club also received positive publicity from local and regional media including a front page article in Griffith's newspaper, an interview on regional radio station, ABC Riverina, as well as numerous mentions on the local community radio station.

Downloading and printing eSPAN

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

COPY DEADLINES

Copy for the October 2021 eSPAN edition is required by **8 October 2021**. Please email your submissions to swpasstprogrammedirector1@siswp.org. Thank you.



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