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**Soroptimist International**



Federation of the

South West Pacific



# SPAN

## Soroptimist Programme Action News

**Welcome** to the December 2021 edition of the Programme Action News

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## FROM OUR PROGRAMME DIRECTOR



It's that time of year again and for many of us we are looking forward to time with family and friends or perhaps just a breathing space where we can relax and get ready for another year. We do not know what lies ahead but we will tackle it positively.

Clubs can look back on 2021 with mixed feelings but certainly they all have reason to be proud. Clubs have looked after their members, they have helped local communities in both practical and empathetic ways and they have persisted, wherever possible in seeking to educate, enable and empower women and girls in their communities.

It may have been providing meals to frontline workers, continuing programmes to girls and others by switching to online delivery, making masks for workers or it may have been by providing a source of comfort to the elderly or the vulnerable in their community. Many clubs continued to advocate for the world we want and donations both financial and in kind were generous. Scholarships at all levels ensured that education continued. Clubs should be proud of their efforts.

It is also a time when we recognise the need to plan ahead. Some clubs have held planning meetings while others are yet to come. Whenever it occurs do not be happy with the same things, challenge your members, suggest a new project, commit the club to tackling more advocacy, research the skills set of members and work to utilise them, decide to get a better understanding of the "International" that is part of our name or plan a series of development possibilities that will encourage stepping up to leadership positions. The programme team has some plans afoot already.

As you look back and then forward to our brilliant future, the programme team will be hard at work assessing reports but we will also be spending time enjoying family and friends and wherever you are in our Federation we wish you happiness, contentment and peace for the holiday season.

See you all in 2022!

***Di Lockwood***

**Programme Director**

**Seroptimist International of the South West Pacific**

[swpprogramme2020@siswp.org](mailto:swpprogramme2020@siswp.org)

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## 2022 Campaigns

As you know, we have 4 campaigns that run during our year and we ask clubs to consider some action for each of these. It may be a social media campaign, an activity or a project, a display in the local library or some action that involves students. The 4 campaigns are:

- **International Women's Day - 8 March**
- **World Environment Day - 6 June**
- **International day of the Girl - 11 October**
- **16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence - 25 November to 10 December**

Each campaign is supported with a toolkit and a social media campaign. Please consider these in your planning for 2022.



**CSW66 - 14-25 March 2022**

Leading up to CSW66, Soroptimist International will host a series of webinars to prepare members on taking full advantage of the many parallel and side events expected to be offered. All the webinars will be recorded. A tentative schedule for the webinars is as follows:

**Webinar 1** - Logistics for CSW/Advocacy/Working with member states is tentatively scheduled for January 29.

**Webinar 2** - Will focus on CSW Priority Theme: Climate Change, Environmental and Disaster Risk Reduction (February)

**Webinar 3** - Will focus on CSW Review Theme: Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World or Work (March)

If you are considering attending the virtual CSW66 these webinars will be most useful. Put them in your calendar now. The second two webinars will be recorded and held in one time zone. The first webinar is planned to be hosted in two time zones and recorded.

**Registration for CSW66 will open on 15 December so stay tuned for information coming through to your club.**

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## ADVOCACY WORK



**What are priorities in your country?**

**What are clubs doing in advocacy?**

Advocating on behalf of women is a core Soroptimist function.

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

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## Advocacy Example by SI Griffith Inc

In the lead up to the COP26 Climate Conference, SI Griffith Inc decided to advocate on the issue of climate change, knowing at the time that the Australian government had not committed to net zero emissions by 2050.

They researched the issue, used the SI Where We Stand statements and took part in webinars. At their October meeting, a draft letter was discussed and approved. Members were advocating for:

- A commitment to no new coal, oil or gas developments
- No led recovery
- 75% emissions reduction by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2035

The letter was sent to the Prime Minister, Deputy PM, Treasurer and Ministers for Energy and Emissions Reduction, Environment and Agriculture, Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Ministers for Climate Change and Energy, Agriculture, Environment and Water.

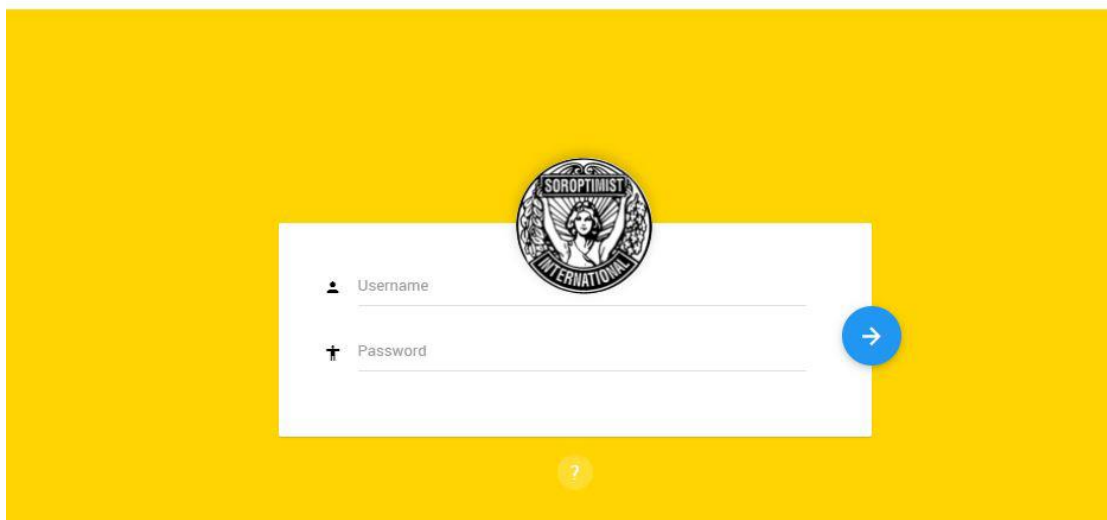


### Advocacy Information

If your club is thinking of pursuing advocacy on a specific issue, remember that what you advocate for, must reflect Soroptimist International's official position.

29 Statements are already published. To check if your issue has been considered or to find any current Position Papers, go to Soroptimist International's site by clicking [HERE](#).

**PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE**



## 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](mailto:swpprogramme2020@siswp.org).

### Report Reminders

IF YOUR CLUB HAS NOT YET ENTERED ANY PROGRAMME ACTIVITY ON THE REPORT DATABASE, DO SO NOW! ASK FOR HELP IF NECESSARY FROM YOUR ZONE COORDINATOR.

The closing date for the official Federation Annual Data Report is **31 December 2021**. Reports entered by this date will be assessed during January.

Club annual reports can be run from **1 February 2021**. This includes any work, completed by the due date, for 2021.

Federation official data for 2021 will include all material assessed by the end of February

Reports entered after **31 December 2021** will then be assessed and clubs may choose to rerun an annual report at any stage to include this information.

## BEST PRACTICE AWARDS



### Best Practice Awards

At the Conference of Clubs in May 2022, Best Practice Awards will be presented in each of the Federation Programme Objectives.

There are a couple of reminders: Firstly, if you won an award in the last round for a specific project you are unable to nominate the same project this time. Secondly, you may nominate a project but unless it receives 75% when marked overall it will not be eligible for an award even if there are no other nominations in that section.

It is important that you read the criteria closely and look at how many marks are allocated for each question. There is a sheet to help you and if you are uncertain about what something means please speak firstly to your zone coordinator.

**Applications opened on the 1st December and they close on the 1st April 2022.**

Best Practice Awards Nomination Form can be found [HERE](#).



## OPENING DOORS TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

SI PRESIDENT'S  
APPEAL 2021 - 2023

Launched on the 1st October 2021, SI President Elect Maureen Maguire invites all Soroptimists to join her in “Opening Doors to a Bright Future”.

With education at its heart, the SI President’s Appeal 2021-2023 will establish projects in each of our five Federations, the first being in Cambodia where we will simultaneously provide vital access to education for girls aged 10 to 15 years and empower women to develop self-confidence through mentoring programmes. Read more about the SI President’s Appeal [HERE](#).

## UN SDG WORK

### SI and the UN

#### New York

##### OUR VOICE AT THE UN – DECEMBER

The OUR VOICE AT THE UN December Edition takes a look at how SI is actively advocating for the ratification and implementation of the ILO C-190 to end harassment in the workplace and brings news from CoNGO’s Civil Society Summit on Substantive Issues and the latest news on CSW 66. Read it [HERE](#).

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#### Paris

##### OUR GLOBAL VOICE AT THE 41ST SESSION OF UNESCO’S GENERAL CONFERENCE

A blog by Evelyne Para, SI United Nations Representative at UNESCO. Read it [HERE](#)

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### Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR is a milestone document, which proclaims the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Available in more than 500 languages, it is the most translated document in the world.

## 2021 Theme: EQUALITY - *Reducing Inequalities, Advancing Human Rights*

This year's Human Rights Day theme relates to 'Equality' and Article 1 of the UDHR – “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

The principles of equality and non-discrimination are at the heart of human rights. Equality is aligned with the 2030 Agenda and with the UN approach set out in the document Shared Framework on Leaving No One Behind: Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Heart of Sustainable Development. This includes addressing and finding solutions for deep-rooted forms of discrimination that have affected the most vulnerable people in societies, including women and girls, indigenous peoples, people of African descent, LGBTI people, migrants, and people with disabilities, among others.

Equality, inclusion and non-discrimination, in other words - a human rights-based approach to development - is the best way to reduce inequalities and resume our path towards realising the 2030 Agenda.

## UN DAYS



### December

10th [Human Rights Day](#)

18th [International Migrants Day](#)

### January

24th [International Day of Education](#)

## DID YOU KNOW?



We are just underway in the UN decade of Ecosystem Restoration and a recent newsletter highlighted a range of actions by women to improve ecosystems. If you are looking for some

inspiration look at what female champions around the world are doing. Decade of Restoration Team [Link here](#)

## AROUND THE FEDERATION

### SI Griffith

#### Women's Wellbeing Event for Afghan Women

Following extensive research on the needs of women in their area, SI Griffith, with knowledge and support from Centacare, identified that often women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) had limited access to information about their health needs, did not get to socialise much outside their homes and had almost no opportunity to meet women outside their own social circle. The highest priority meeting this definition was a group of Afghan women.



The Women's wellbeing event included ten Soroptimist members along with two staff from Centacare, nine Afghan women and five of their teenage daughters. A female Doctor from the local health medical centre spoke on numerous topics such as breast screening, PAP tests and sexually transmitted diseases.

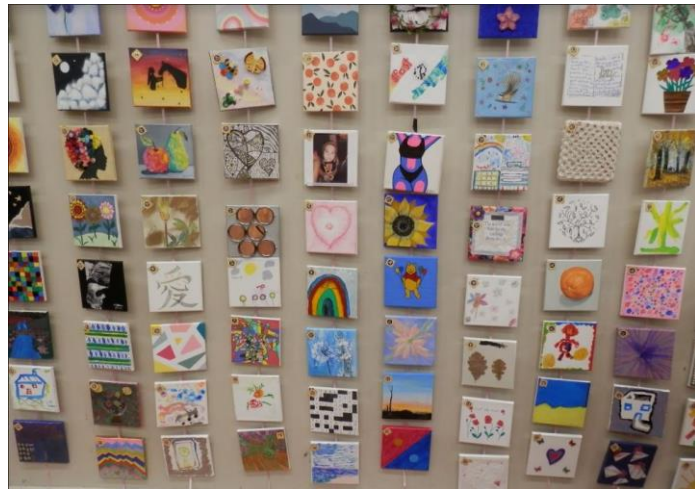
Staff from Centacare attended along with female officers from the New South Wales Police Department, giving a human face to those wearing a police uniform. Following the morning of information, the afternoon was largely dedicated to craft, which resulted in lots of laughter, fun and further informal networking and information sharing.

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## SI Lower Hutt

### Centenary Wall of 100 Paintings for 100 years of Soroptimist International

100 women and girls were given a 20cm by 20cm canvas stretched on a frame and were asked to produce a painting to express the theme of a **'Bright Past and a Brilliant Future'**.



Many of the women have never had the opportunity to shine. By asking them to paint a picture some of them displayed talent they never knew they had. This allowed them to shine through their art.

The money that was raised from selling the paintings provided second chance scholarships for women over the age of 25 years to continue with their education. This further allowed them to shine allowing their family, friends and the community to value them.

One of our artists specifically told us how much it helped her to do a painting, which she dedicated to her mother who had died in 2020.

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## SI Clubs in Australia



Across Australia 50,000 women are homeless on any one night, and another 400,000 are at risk of homelessness. Women over 55 are the fastest growing cohort of homeless people. The most common causes of women's homelessness

are domestic violence and financial abuse.

Award-winning photographer and founder of Blur Projects Belinda Mason, in partnership with Women's Electoral Lobby NSW, has created a multimedia arts project to draw the attention of the public and decision makers to the largely hidden problem of women's homelessness.

**SI Hornsby, SI The Hills, SI Randwick Eastern Suburbs and SI Sydney** have provided volunteers for the displays, and engage members of the public to discuss the issue with them. They have also provided financial help to the artists, and letters of support for grant applications. Next year the arts Hub of the project will tour NSW regional areas to highlight the problem of women's homelessness in country towns and rural and outback areas. Read more about this [HERE](#).

## 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 February 2022 eSPAN edition is required by 8 February 2022. Please email your submissions to [swpasstprogrammedirector1@siswp.org](mailto:swpasstprogrammedirector1@siswp.org). Thank you.



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

**Our mailing address is:**

Soroptimist International South West Pacific  
PO Box 1400

STRAWBERRY HILLS, NSW 2012

Australia

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