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SPAN

Seroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the April 2022 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME DIRECTOR



Change

Where I live, the air at night has become cooler, the leaves are dropping and there is a real sense of change in the atmosphere. Autumn has arrived and the end of the 2020-22 biennium is fast approaching.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead

Change is occurring elsewhere and we need to be alert to this. We have a resolution to change the name of our federation, we are proposing a new structure under which to work, we are adjusting our view of membership and a new strategic plan for the federation and for programme has been crafted. All of these proposed changes need your understanding and support at our upcoming meetings as part of the Conference of Clubs.

Reports will soon arrive at clubs and I hope that members will look at the programme reports. There is much of which we should be proud and of course there are some reminders about issues of which we need to be aware. Despite the impact of COVID clubs have served their communities and their members well. This resilience will continue I am sure and from a very internal focus we can now again look outwards, and perhaps even travel.

There will be changes in the Programme Team personnel and a great balance between experienced members and enthusiastic newcomers augurs well for the future. Training has begun for these newer members as I am sure that it has for new position holders in clubs and regions. Every change brings new challenges and with it the opportunity to look back in order to improve the future. I am confident that clubs will make the most of new opportunities and I wish them every success.

Di Lockwood

Programme Director

Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific

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FROM OUR COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



Campaign Toolkit

So, why are we having an environment month? If we look at the world around us we recognise that we are inextricably linked to our environment and that our health, employment and well-being is as dependent on the natural world as its health is in our hands. If nature suffers so do we.

To promote **'World Environment Month'**, the Programme Team and Communications Team have developed the World Environment Month Toolkit.

SISWP will run a Social Media campaign including highlighting Club's activities.

This toolkit is provided to Clubs, Regions, Countries and Members for promotion and use.

Download the toolkit [HERE](#)

Social Media Assets are available from [Trello Board](#)



Promote your Programme Work to Increase Membership

Date: **Saturday 23 April 2022**

Time: 2.00 pm AEST (Sydney Time)

Link: To register for the webinar click [HERE](#)

Have you ever wondered **how to use the Federation Toolkits** that the Communications Team produce? Come and learn how to promote the campaigns, and your club's programme works to increase your membership. We will go through the World Environment Toolkit and learn how to download the toolkit including the social media assets and Trello Board.

We will also explore social media and share some tips and tricks for Clubs to use on Facebook to promote themselves and our programme work.

Sue Latta

Chair, Communications Team

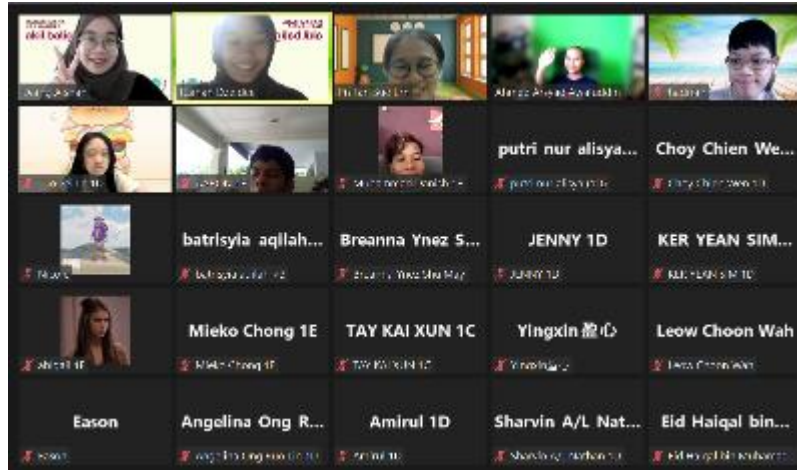
SWP Public Relations Convenor 2020–2022

swppublicrelations2020@siswp.org

FEDERATION PROJECT



As you know this is our current federation project that enables clubs to apply for a grant to undertake a project. Has your club donated to this in the last 12 months? If not, there is still time to do so. Part of the grant includes regular updates and reports have been received from SI Bangsar, SI Petaling Jaya, and SI Port Moresby on the progress of their projects.



SI Petaling Jaya Project: The SPOT

SI Petaling Jaya The SPOT project fulfills the gaps in Malaysia's sexual health and education for young people, especially young girls on the cusp of poverty.

SPOT team are reporting professionally with monthly online publications.

You can find the February report [HERE](#).

You can find the March report [HERE](#).



SI Bangsar Project: SICB Teenage Survival Kit

In March 2021, Soroptimist International Club of Bangsar (SICB) launched a programme targeted at teenagers aged between 13-19 years old to help them deal with problems such as stress, bullying, sexuality, peer pressure, depression and other topics pertaining to teen health. The project was named SICB Teenage Survival Kit (TSK).

The Objectives of this project are:-

1. To create awareness and **educate teenagers** about the challenges they may experience in the growing up years.
2. To provide Guidance on **where** and **how** to **seek help** when they are faced with such problems.
3. To provide a **safe platform** for open communications with teenagers to address some

Taboo Issues

As Malaysia is a conservative country many Malaysian teenagers may not feel comfortable asking their parents or adults for advice on “taboo” subjects like sex and mental health, which means that they often resort to asking friends, who may be just as clueless, for advice or seek information online. .

The SICB Teenage Survival Kit consists of four modules:

1. Teenage Sexuality which includes topics on teenage pregnancies, underage sex, child marriages, and baby dumping,
2. Teenage Safety, which includes physical and cyber safety, bullying, grooming and harassment
3. Teen Health, which includes physical health (healthy bodies and body shaming) and mental health)
4. Teen Empowerment which teaches self-confidence, good values, respect for self and others, and how to achieve their best.

Read more about their project [HERE](#).

SI Port Moresby Project: 4E’s: Breaking the Cycle of Violence & Poverty for Vulnerable Women

SI Port Moresby (SIPOM) has launched the 4Es community grant program that targets some of the most vulnerable women in PNG rural communities. Women who are fleeing from tribal fights or who have been wrongfully accused of sorcery related deaths and tortured. They are women and girls who are striving for a better future for themselves after escaping from a life of abuse. For many of them, their fervent hope is to integrate into the society after being in prison.

Tanya Kassman, President of SIPOM explains “Our projects are strategically planned for capacity building outcomes. The programs are created and adjusted to ensure we are creating a sustainable change for all the recipients. Soroptimists at SIPOM are determined to help these women develop a support system for themselves. Every woman’s success should be an

inspiration to another. We're strongest when we cheer each other on as Serena Williams, the renowned tennis player once said."

The 4Es program will take place in 5 locations around Port Moresby and the rural villages of Central Province. Each location aims to have up to 30 participants complete a 3-day work shop with a qualifying certificate in Financial Literacy & Business Development. A unique bonus happens on Day 4 when Soroptimists and other volunteers help these women to create their resumes and expression of interest letters to help them on their path to job placements.

The recipients will be presented with SME (small business enterprise) Start Up Packs to help them start a small business in their communities. They will be provided with mentoring to successfully secure jobs and small business development. It is hoped that this 4E's programme will inspire the recipients to take on leadership roles and be exemplary citizens in their local communities.

Anusha Santhirasthipam

SISWP IPP & Federation Project Liaison

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SI PRESIDENT APPEAL



OPENING DOORS TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

SI PRESIDENT'S
APPEAL 2021 - 2023

The first project for this appeal is in Cambodia one of our member nations. It is a project about education - getting girls back into school and providing support and opportunities. It deserves our support and donations can be made on the website or by sending money to headquarters and making sure, by email, that they know of your club's contribution. More information can be found [here](#)

ADVOCACY WORK



What are priorities in your country?

What are clubs doing in advocacy?

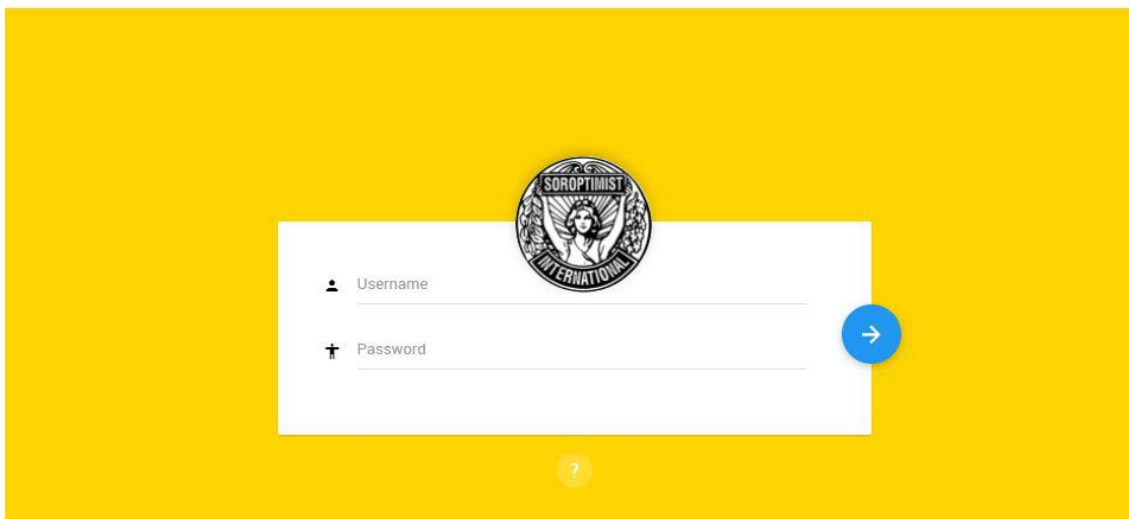
Advocating on behalf of women is a core Soroptimist function.

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

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

Soroptimist  International
Federation of the South West Pacific

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.

BEST PRACTICE AWARDS



SWP Best Practice Award Nominations 2022 - Now Closed

Nominations for these closed on 8 April and they are currently being assessed. The awards will be presented at the programme meeting at the Conference of Clubs and will hopefully involve a real time cross to successful clubs. Make sure that members from your club have registered.

UN SDG WORK



UN Asia Pacific,

From Pacific Beat – Hilda Wayne -

In June this year, Papua New Guinea will head to the polls to decide who leads the country for the next five years.

Unfortunately, the country does not have a good track record of electing an equal number of women and men to its Parliament, with only seven women being elected since the country gained independence in 1975. Alleged vote-buying, intimidation, and election-related gun violence, coupled with entrenched patriarchal beliefs, has dashed the political aspirations of many women. But could this be about to change? Hilda Wayne explores the growing chorus of concern among women, who say men are actively preventing them from contesting the upcoming election.



CSW66 – How does climate change impact women and girls.

These comments from several CSW66 event held by Asia Pacific NGO's.

Climate Change is not 'gender neutral'

The way in which Men and women manage resources are different.

Migration caused by climate change and climate disasters, environmental degradation will see women and girls face a greater risk of experiencing gender based violence, sexual exploitation and barriers to find solutions for their situations.

18 Member states of the Pacific Islands are now acting as one Blue Pacific continent, they are stewards for over 40 million sq kilometres of the Pacific Ocean, Read there statement [HERE](#).

This chart by UN women will assist members when advocating for climate change.

United Nations

Geneva

Rising Concerns for Children's Rights

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the body of 18 Independent experts that monitors State implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This monitoring process relies on each State's willingness to submit timely reports and reviews to the Committee. SI UN Representative, Berthe De Vos, blogs about the alarmingly low levels of State party input at this year's CRC. Read more [HERE](#).

Paris

Education and Gender Stereotypes

Blog by Marie-Christine Gries, SI Representative at UNESCO, Paris. Read Blog [HERE](#).

"Among the online events marking UNESCO on March 8, Women's Day, a webinar was held on the theme: "Smashing stereotypes: Challenging gender bias in and through education". You can watch the full webinar [HERE](#).

Nairobi

UNEP@50: OUR CLIMATE; OUR FUTURE!

Read blog [HERE](#)

Blog by Mary Muia, SI United Nations Representative at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

“The United Nations Environment Assembly’s Fifth Session (UNEA 5.2) doubles up as a perfect opportunity for the UNEP fifty years commemoration since its inception at the [1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment](#). The Stockholm conference is widely seen as the first international meeting on the environment. It was at the Stockholm declaration that led to the [Creation of United Nations Environment Programme](#) and the formation of environment ministries and agencies globally. For the past 50 years, the UNEP has steadily provided coordination among Member States, Major Group Stakeholders, the business community, and Civil Society in addressing the world’s biggest environmental challenges.

Listen to the podcast here [The political plight of women in Papua New Guinea - Sistas, Let's Talk - ABC Radio Australia](#)

And this from UN Women in PNG - Women in PNG, drive gender equality thru the **Women Make Change** programme, which provides training to women to be effective political leaders. In March PNG women who have been participating in the first Political Leadership Academy for Women received their final training, which focused on providing appointed and elected subnational politicians with knowledge on how to get elected or re elected. Lets hope that this training has successful results at the ballot.

UN DAYS



April

- 22 Apr - [International Girls in ICT Day \[ITU\]](#)
- 22 Apr - [International Mother Earth Day](#)
- 28 Apr - [World Day for Safety and Health at Work](#)

May

- 15 May - [International Day of Families](#)
- 20 May - [World Bee Day](#)
- 22 May - [International Day for Biological Diversity](#)
- 23 May - [International Day to End Obstetric Fistula](#)
- 29 May - [International Day of UN Peacekeepers](#)

AROUND THE FEDERATION

DID YOU KNOW?

A reminder to send in your work as soon as you have completed it. The Programme team love hearing and promoting club's advocacy and project work. It also helps provide ideas to other clubs in the Federation.

International Women's Day IWD - March 2022

Many Clubs organised and participated in numerous events to recognise International Women's Day (IWD), not just on the 8th of March - but throughout March. Here is a cross section.

SI Brisbane Water held an IWD Breakfast, a well attended event supported by the community and other other Soroptimist clubs with members from Hornsby, The Hills, Sydney and Randwick attending. Their guest speaker, retired Detective Superintendent Deborah Wallace both entertained and informed the attendees.

SI Griffith held their 10th Annual IWD Breakfast where a full house was given the opportunity to hear from [Nadine Champion](#). Nadine is the winner of a Gold Medal at the World Cup of martial arts, an undefeated champion kickboxer, and a cancer survivor. These experiences contribute to a unique perspective on adapting to change, overcoming obstacles, and winning against all odds. She shared with the audience her life-changing concept, 10 Seconds of Courage, a powerful call to action that challenges people to change their thinking in order to create their own success.

Other Clubs celebrated and recognised IWD in similar ways, all taking a strong stand to #Break the Bias which is evidenced by their Facebook posts.



SI Rockingham held their annual IWD Sundowner and were pleased to welcome some 50 women along to hear three women speak about their experiences: Billie-Jo Robinson a highly motivated and articulate Year 11 student from Comet Bay High School who shared her passion and enthusiasm for Science communication; Dawn Jecks who shared aspects of her journey through environmental activism, highlighting her current concern which is the the fragile state of the [Fairy Penguin population](#) on Penguin Island in Rockingham; Kim Logue, Sustainability Officer at Kwinana Council who gave an insight into the work she does and her sometimes difficult task as the only woman in a predominately male workplace.

In addition, entry to the event was a donation to [Share the Dignity](#), a women's charity in Australia, working to make a real difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness, fleeing domestic violence, or doing it tough, which resulted in \$700 worth of toiletries and sanitary items being collected for this worthwhile charity.



Solomon Island Elects Their First Female Premier

Solomon Islands elects Rhoda Sikilabu as their first female premier.

Extract from Rhoda's acceptance speech
Leadership in Melanesia tends to be men's territory but Rhoda Sikilabu has broken the glass ceiling by becoming Solomon Islands first female premier.

"This is the most important thing in my life," she said.

The dream didn't just happen overnight as Rhoda Sikilabu has been at the forefront of provincial politics for more than a decade.

"To be in this position I worked so hard... I would like other women to follow," she said.
Ms Sikilabu wants young girls to be empowered so that they can also take up leadership roles.

"[To] work alongside very peacefully with all these male political leaders," she said.

"I lift women up, I visit the women groups...and I convinced all these male leaders to support my ideas."

Listen to the broadcast by ABC Australia [Solomon Islands elects Rhoda Sikilabu as first female premier - Pacific Beat - ABC Radio Australia](#)

Rhoda also spoke about her plans to focus on environmental and women's issues, and is hopeful of bringing changes to her region as well as transform old mindsets.

She wants women to have authority to speak about their land and property in regards to resources.

"Reforestation is one of the priorities that I will tackle and maybe I can impact more on how women can address or say more on their property, their land ownership. "The environment is very, very important to women just now," she said.

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 for the May 2022 eSPAN edition is required by 8 May 2022. Please email your submissions to swpasstprogramdirector1@siswp.org. Thank you.



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