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SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the June 2022 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME DIRECTOR



What an exciting time to be part of Soroptimist International! After celebrating our centenary, we are reinventing ourselves to meet the challenges of the foreseeable future, as SISEAP.

We rely on the foundations laid by our predecessors, and look with fresh eyes towards the incremental improvements and landslide achievements, wary of the inequality that still exists everywhere. Let's remember that everything we do as Soroptimist helps a female, a family or a future, and this is captured in our club reporting.

This biennium, we are looking to convert our activities to projects to advocacy where appropriate. We know our scholarships shape lives and livelihoods.

We thank the past teams in Programme Director Di Lockwood, Dixie Brown, Silvia Heywood (espan expert). We respect those who are staying and guiding us effectively Cesarina Gigante and Anne Allen. While welcoming new faces Saradha Narayanan, Nooraini Yasin, Pauline Glover, Rhonda McCormack, and myself. In the meantime, Sue Latta, whose prompt attention saved many a day, is reinventing as the Federation Secretary while Oriana Titisara will be our Communications expert and in membership, Yvonne Simpson is leading a diverse team.

Our new President for SISEAP (formerly SISWP) is Christine Johnstone and Global Policy and Impact Team is chaired by Leigh Ellwood-Brown. The global Soroptimist International AGM is scheduled for July 2022.

In May-June we acknowledge our members participating in person and online:

SISWP Conference of Clubs

UN ESCAP (Economic and Social Council for Asia Pacific) 78th meeting

Blue Pacific Meeting

Status of Women Network

[Stockholm +50 \(50 years of Environment Program\) 10 actions for women \(WEDO\)](#)

World Economic Forum at Davos – W7 (statement)

During June – July (online)

20-26 June: CHOGM (Commonwealth Forums: women, business, youth and peoples)

27 June - 6 July: UN Oceans Conference

3-9 July: IPBES – International Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystems

World Bank (Women's Climate Funding)

4 Set themes for SISEAP (with toolkits)

5 June: World Environment Day / Month of 4 themes

Information from the UN about this, can be found [HERE](#).

World Environment Month Toolkit can be found [HERE](#).

11 October: Day of the Girl Child

Nov-Dec: 16 days of Respect / Action: Orange the World (Eliminate Violence Against Women)

8 March: International Women's Day / Month CSW 67 (hotlinks CSW66 outcomes)

I look forward to working with you.

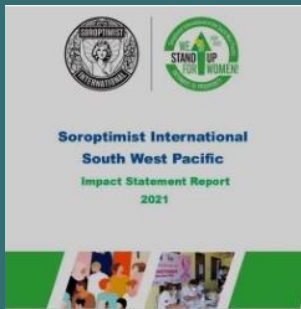
Warm Regards

Dr Donnell Davis

Programme Convenor / SISEAP Director

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific

swpprogramme2020@siswp.org



The Programme team is pleased to release the Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific Impact report for 2021.

This video reports on the work undertaken and reported by SISEAP clubs to the Programme reporting database. The video showcases the initiatives, objectives, money spent and the number of women and girls who benefited from our programme work in 2021. Please take the time to play this at your next club meeting and public events. The video has been published to the SISEAP YouTube site and is viewable [HERE](#).



SISWP Special Appeal - Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis

Soroptimists in SISEAP have been supporting their European sisters through the SISEAP Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal. Funds are to assist European Soroptimists with projects for the Ukraine Humanitarian response to aide women and girls.

In June SISWP was able to send to SIE **AUD 3,722.48**

There is still a great need for funds to assist clubs with their humanitarian aide, you can donate through the SISEAP website [HERE](#).

FEATURED ARTICLE -

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) happens each year on the 15th of June.

Elder abuse as defined by the World Health Organisation as “a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person”. It is a global social issue which affects the Health and Human Rights of millions of older persons around the world, and an issue which deserves the attention of the international community.

Elder abuse can take various forms, including: financial, physical, psychological, emotional and sexual abuse, or neglect. No older person should be subjected to any

form of abuse.

WHO have posted these key facts (4 October 2021)

Around 1 in 6 people 60 years and older experienced some form of abuse in community settings during the past year.

Rates of elder abuse are high in institutions such as nursing homes and long-term care facilities, with 2 in 3 staff reporting that they have committed abuse in the past year.

Rates of elder abuse have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Elder abuse can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences.

Elder abuse is predicted to increase as many countries are experiencing rapidly ageing populations.

The global population of people aged 60 years and older will more than double, from 900 million in 2015 to about 2 billion in 2050.

[READ MORE](#)

This issue needs our attention. Members are urged to:

Familiarise themselves with the situation in their country - Current research, support services available, key groups working in this area

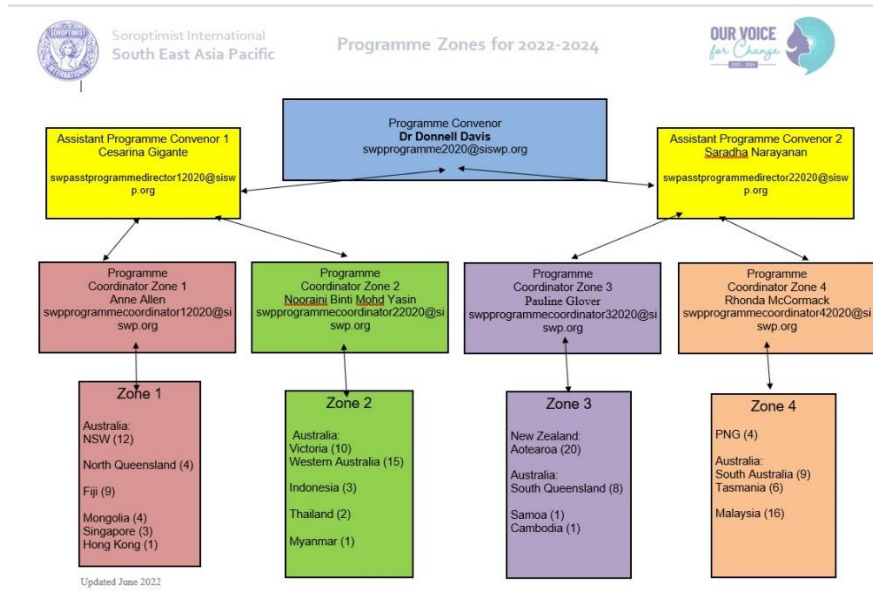
Organise awareness raising events to inform members and greater public about the issue

Discuss the issue with local government officials

Cesarina Gigante

Assistant Programme Director 2022-2024

Meet the **Programme Team 2022-2024**



The programme team have updated the zones for the 2022-2024 biennium, you can download the latest zone diagram [HERE](#).



Programme Convenor - Dr Donnell Davis.

Originally from tropical Far North Queensland, my basic rural upbringing made me appreciate the opportunities that came my way for study and work options for girls. I was so fortunate to have a strong mother who expected us to be self-sufficient and pave our own path, in a time that affirmative action was introduced in Australia. I worked from age 15, gained senior at night school and early entry to university by correspondence.

I married young. My work encouraged women to take professional direction which allowed me to accelerate my career, even though I was a single mother of two at age 24. Armed with my first degree in Business (Audit) and useful work experience, I relocated for better opportunities for my kids and myself.

As a professional, I was given challenging assignments which were also rewarding. I was supported to continue study (Masters Environmental Management) and introduce reforms for sustainable development portfolios, in central agencies and in intergovernmental relations. Retiring early to consult, lecture, undertake masterclasses for diverse professional bodies, volunteer for charities, I finally gained a Doctorate of Professional Studies that captured my life's work putting 'policy into practice'. I worked with UN Habitat, and Commonwealth Human Ecology Council for two decades while undertaking roles reinventing regional governance and interdisciplinary professional bodies. I worked and played in 48 countries, and learned much about different cultures.

Back in Australia, I was elected as President United Nations Association Australia (Queensland) and National Director for UNAA for several terms, advocating

Sustainable Development Goals. More than ever our Region deserves better governance and I believe Women set the example of efficiency and ethos for a better future.



Asst Programme Convenor 1 - Cesarina Gigante .

As member of Soroptimist International I am committed to the goals and objectives of the organisation in terms of human rights and the opportunity afforded to women and girls to reach their potential. Our programme work forms the basis of what we do and is of vital importance to our local, national and international communities, to bring about change and maintain our ECOSOC status. I have been a Soroptimist since my clubs Charter in 2005. As a member of SI Logan I have held many positions.

My interest in Programme has been the motivation to put up my hand at Region (President, Secretary and Programme) and at the Federation level where I have been Programme Zone Coordinator for the last 4 years and am now Assistant Programme Director. I am currently working as an Educator in the disability area and have done so for over 35 years. During this time, I have worked in the classroom as well as holding administrative positions. I strived to create inclusive and supportive learning environments, my work with students with disabilities has been the catalyst I feel to wanting to contribute to the wider community. I have also been involved with various community groups in the dissemination of information on specific topics, fundraising and event coordination. This has included UNAA Q and my local churches' Social Justice Committee.



Asst Programme Convenor 2 - Saradha Narayanan

Saradha has been a Soroptimist since 2008 and most recently served as the National Representative of Malaysia and a board director at SISWP from 2020 – 2022. She has previously held several positions at club and region level including President of SI Malaysia (SIROM) from 2017-2019. She spearheaded SIROM's project "Clean Water for Rural Communities" to address the lack of potable water in rural villages in Sarawak and Sabah. In 2020, she helped to set up two more

clean water projects in indigenous villages in Peninsula Malaysia.

She also served on the Organising Committee of the SI Convention in Kuala Lumpur in 2019. She is passionate about education and environmental projects and believes that Soroptimists can be the bridge connecting community with the private and public sectors for optimal outcomes.

Saradha is a medical doctor and worked in both public and private hospitals for more than 25 years as a Consultant Physician/Cardiologist. She has also authored 3 books.



Programme Convenor Zone 1 - Anne Allen

I am very happy to be continuing in my role as Zone Programme Coordinator for this biennium and look forward to working with the Programme Team and President Christine

Johnstone. Programme is an exciting area to work in and hearing about what amazing work each club undertakes is certainly enriching my own Soroptimist experience.

I retired a couple of years ago from my role at Murdoch University where I supported the development and implementation of a new curriculum database - stepping into the programme team seemed a natural step. There have certainly been some similarities and I have found the role very rewarding.

I live in Safety Bay, a seaside suburb in Western Australia with my husband Gary. Our daughter lives not far from us with our two granddaughters, and we enjoy being part of their growing up. Our son lives in Melbourne and we hope to be able to visit him a little more frequently than the last two years have allowed.

In addition to my Soroptimist work, both at Club, Region and Federation level, Gary and I belong to a landcare group, Friends of the Spectacles, where once a month we care for a section of bushland through weed removal and new planting, mainly of beautiful banksia. We are also involved with Cycling Without Age, where our local chapter has recently purchased three additional tricycles. Between us we certainly lead busy and fulfilling lives.



Programme Convenor Zone 2 - Nooraini Binti Mohd Yasin

Nooraini Yasin graduated with a BSc (Econs), Accounting and Financial Management degree from University of Buckingham, UK. After gaining experience in banking and journalism she joined the research department of a stockbroking firm and was promoted to head the Research Department. She holds a remisier's license and Certified Financial Planner (CFP) license under Financial Planning Association of Malaysia (FPAM).

In 2007 Nooraini stepped in to take over a small floundering private school her daughters were in and established Sri Ara Private & International Schools. She serves as Chairman of the Board of Governors and CEO.

She joined SI Johor Bahru to help the refugee schools in 2011 and was asked to step in as president two years later. In 2016, she chartered SI Iskandar Puteri. She served as Member Development Convenor for 4 years and is currently Programme Convenor on the Executive Committee of SI Region of Malaysia.

She is Chairperson of the Remuneration Committee and member of the Audit and Nomination Committees of a public listed company on the Malaysian Stock Exchange.



Programme Zone Convenor 3 - Pauline Glover

I live on the Central Coast in New South Wales in a nice bushy location on two acres of land. I studied at Newcastle University and Sydney University as a mature student to gain my formal qualifications and worked as an Allied Health Professional in the Worker's Compensation Industry for workplace injuries.

I joined SI Brisbane Water in 2007 one year after their charter and enjoy being involved with like minded women. My husband, daughter and son have always supported me in my sport, study, work and in SI along with our two grandsons who are very familiar with the work that Soroptimists undertake to assist women and girls.



Programme Zone Convenor 4 - Rhonda McCormack

The Central Coast of NSW is my home and I live in a suburb called Green Point on the shores of the Brisbane Water. I have been a member of SI Brisbane Water since its charter in 2006. I am passionate about women's issues in particular and other identified injustices in our community and beyond. I have always enjoyed reading of the many projects that our SI sisters are involved in, so being Programme Co-ordinator Zone 4 will give me even more access to these projects and activities.

My working background has been in administration, and I have held positions in both my club and Region. I have a supportive partner, 4 adult children and 11 grandchildren. Life is full, busy and always interesting.



**World
Environment
Month
June 2022**

SISWP TOOLKIT FOR MEMBERS

Advocacy and project focus for the month of June is on the Environment. This is our first Federation-wide month dedicated to a very important issue and we would like all clubs to participate in some way. Each Week in June has a focus.

As point 3 in the United Nations Ocean Conference zero draft statement says:

"We recognize that the ocean is fundamental to life on our planet and to our future. The ocean is an important source of the planet's biodiversity and plays a vital role in the climate system and water cycle. The ocean supplies us with oxygen to breathe, contributes to food security, nutrition, and to decent jobs and livelihoods, acts as a sink and reservoir of greenhouse gases and protects biodiversity, provides a means for maritime transportation, forms an important part of our natural and cultural heritage, and plays an essential role in sustainable development, a sustainable ocean based economy and poverty eradication." Our oceans, our responsibility!

Not done anything yet? all is not lost, there is still 2 weeks left to amplify Your Voice, to Advocate for change. So, what can clubs do? A good starting point would be the Environment Toolkit sent to each club. If a club has a social media presence the easiest thing would be to share the post which the Federation will do each day and share them to club and personal sites making sure to use #SISEAP as well as your own. This will help the Federation to track its impact.

Of course, to measure our impact you need to ensure that your actions are recorded on the programme reporting database. .

Download the toolkit [HERE](#)

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

FEDERATION PROJECT



Our projects are life-changing. The Brilliant Futures Fund provides a funding source for clubs. 3 clubs have received grants from the Brilliant Futures Fund. Without donations our project actions are diminished. **Has your club or have you personally donated to this fund.** [Please donate NOW](#) This video from Port Moresby on the benefits of their 4E's project is compelling. [View the video here](#) . Grant recipients have to provide regular updates and reports. Read reports from Bangsar, SI Petaling Jaya, and SI Port Moresby on the progress of their projects. Read more about their projects [HERE](#).

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

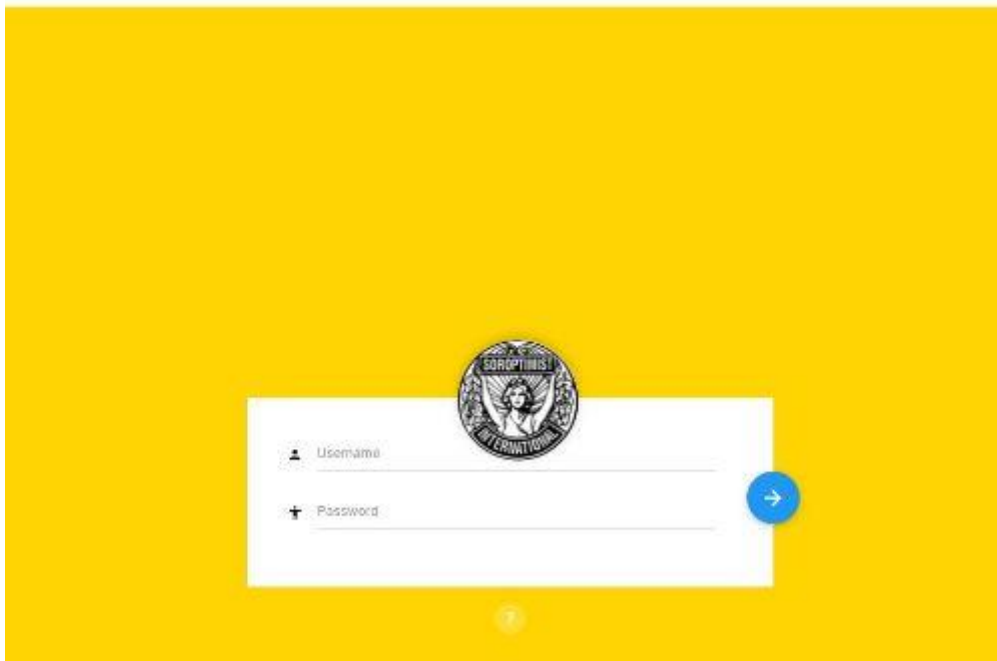


**What are priorities in your country?
What are clubs doing in advocacy?**

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



Do you know how to log on and access the Programme Reporting Database! Access to the Programme Reporting database is via a unique club code and password. You do not use your siseap membership no, or your club email address. The unique code will start with swpxxxx and have a 4 digit number commencing with 1. If you do not know your club unique code then please contact your zone coordinator or the programme convenor on swpprogramme2020@siswp.org.

All members have READ only access to the database, this access allows members to search, read, and print reports by all CLUBS. Log on information for READ access is:

Username: swp5004

Password is Member21.

Do you need assistance with how to use the programme reporting database then view this help webinar [HERE](#).

BEST PRACTICE AWARDS

Last month when congratulating the clubs which won Best Practice Awards for their projects, we omitted to congratulate SI Bangsar for their Food Security project - Bank Runcit Project (Food Bank Project). Congratulations to SI Bangsar on their win. Read more about their project and the other winning projects by visiting the SISEAP website.

The SISWP website has been updated with details about the awardees and their project

details

READ MORE



In a Virtual world where the BPA winners were announced during the virtual conference, the outgoing Programme Coordinator Zone 2 Dixie Brown was able to present in person the certificates to the 4 NSW winners at the SI Region of New South Wales meeting on 28 May. A representative from SI Sydney, SI Griffith and SI Brisbane Water spoke briefly about their project and made a comment about submitting a Programme Best Practice Award nomination

Great Opportunity

Are you an enthusiastic Soroptimist under 40 years of age?

The Global Impact Committee, which seeks to ensure cooperative action between the five Soroptimist Federations, is looking for a representative from each Federation to give a youthful perspective on decisions about projects and advocacy.

If this interests you and you have at latest some knowledge about the structure of Soroptimist and are enthusiast to learn and give more please send your name and a brief paragraph about what you could contribute. Please contact Dr Donnell Davis, Programme Convenor on swpprogramme2020@siswp.org.

UN DAYS



July

11 July - [World Population Day](#)

15 July - [World Youth Skills Day](#)

18 July - [Nelson Mandela International Day](#)

28 July - [World Hepatitis Day \(WHO\)](#)

30 July - [International Day of Friendship](#)

30 July - [World Day against Trafficking in Persons](#)

AROUND THE FEDERATION

SI Yangon

SI Yangon missed the opportunity to showcase their work at the recent Virtual Conference. Myanmar faces significant humanitarian, development and political challenges and our Soroptimist sisters continue to support their communities where ever possible.

Please take the time to read the presentation presented by SI Yangon [HERE](#).



SI Townsville Breakwater

Soroptimist International Townsville Breakwater were invited by NQ Women in Motorsport to sell raffle tickets and promote their club and work this activity raised \$1,200 to our Safe Nights Townsville project.

The ladies at NQ Women in Motorsport have donated the proceeds from their recent Show and Shine event to the project, making sure that more women and children in Townsville, who are fleeing domestic and family violence or facing homelessness, can access crisis accommodation and sleep safely. That's 12 safe nights for women and children in our community!

Yet again our amazing community partners are helping us to make a difference in Townsville! Thank you ladies for you wonderful generosity! You too can make a

difference - no matter how big or small - by giving to our Safe Nights Townsville project [HERE](#).



Flood Disaster Response

34,000 homes between Tweed Heads and Ballina were flood affected, with many families still not able to access their homes. SI Beenleigh applied for the Presidents Disaster Relief package and were successful, they were then able to partner with SI Gold Coast and SI Bayside, to provide Target 10 Education packs, classroom reader sets, assorted colouring books, readers, stationary items and story books, these goods went to 3 schools in the Northern NSW region, these schools are in temporary accommodation.

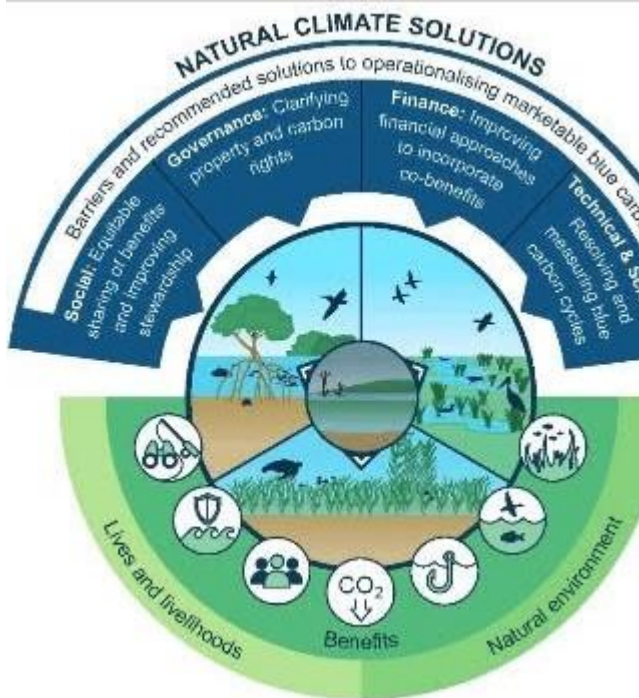
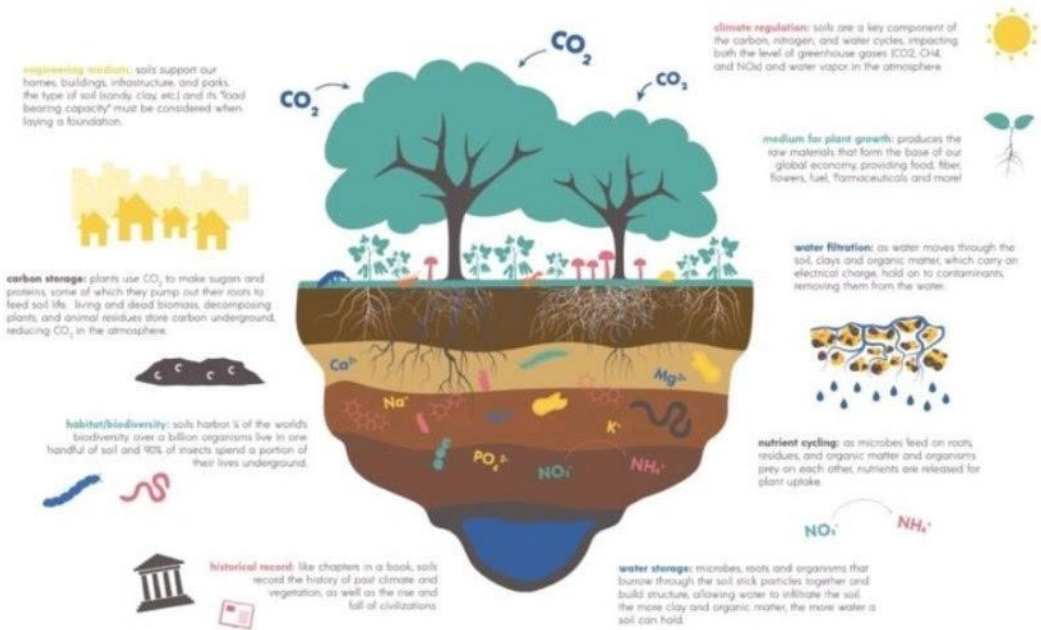
SI Gold Coast are also supporting the students by providing funds to the schools to provide hot lunches. With club funds and additional donations from SI clubs, SI Beenleigh have also been able to provide Target 10 packs to students in Eagleby, Beenleigh, Brisbane and Ipswich areas who were flood affected.



DID YOU KNOW?

how soil sustains ecosystems

"essentially, all life depends upon the soil... there can be no life without soil and no soil without life; they have evolved together" -charles kellogg



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.

Downloading and printing eSPAN

If you would like to download copies of eSPAN to print, go to the [SISEAP 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 July 2022 eSPAN edition is required by 8 July 2022. Please email your submissions to swpasstprogramdirector1@siswp.org. Thank you.



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