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## Welcome to the August 2022 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](#).



Welcome back to eSPAN. Your service is important. Our team is busy supporting all 142 clubs to ensure our good work on the ground is documented and recognised.

Soroptimists are proud to be one of the civil society organisations around the world that confidently reports progress through Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which gives us more voice and credibility at international forums. We have an honourable legacy and envisage a brilliant future.

At the moment only projects and advocacy reports nominate SDGs, although we realise that many of the activities could easily fit the criteria for projects and some projects fit into advocacy. When we look at our club's Facebook posts, much work has been achieved. Sadly, we can't find those reports on our database so it looks like we do very little formally.

Although previously we focused on education and health under our traditional 8 core objectives, our new strategic plan articulates 5Es – Education, Equity, Economic, Enterprise and Environment. This also reflects the recommendations from CSW66 which young women illustrate pictorially. You can view the image [HERE](#). When we look at Facebook activities, our collective work demonstrates all of these already. So, in order to convert Facebook entries to formal reports, the Programme Team is preparing a fact sheet and we will run (re-run) webinars to help the club and regional programme reps. Please let us know how else to help you with the reporting journey. Your Zone Coordinators are also your facilitators and supporters. You can view the Zone Coordinators [HERE](#). We apologise for the temporary technical database transitions.

There are four (4) days that SI President Maguire has agreed with the 5 Federation Presidents for everyone to work on together, no matter how big, so the impact of all Soroptimists around the world deliver the same message. Days for Combined Federation & SI Work together - ACTION, same theme, take Photos, upload to Social Media: **8 September - Literacy Day** – Every Soroptimist to read to a child or give a book- take photos, upload to Social Media.

**11 October - Day of the Girl Child**  
**25 November – 10 December 16 Days of Activism – END Femicide + 30th Anniversary**, all Federations to use the same theme as Femicide is increasing around the globe.  
**24 January 2023 - Education Day** - Everyone to Give pencils to those that do not have them, or education equipment! Take photos, and upload them to Social Media. Your club may also choose to recognise UN days, aligning with your members' interests.

On other global matters, the ['Every Woman Treaty'](#) empowers women in the 128 signatory countries to actively advocate for culturally appropriate ways forward. Climate change, human rights and modern slavery are linked – all of which disproportionately impact girls and women.

We have scheduled a **SISEAP Programme Webinar on 8 October at 11 am AEST**, with special guest speakers on Girls not brides, teenage pregnancy, baby-dumping, selling your daughters, violence against girls and modern slavery to recognise the UN Day of the Girl Child on 11 October. Invitations and Club toolkits will be sent through our Zone Coordinators as soon as it is approved. The link to Webinar will be provided soon.

Personally, I am impressed with the diversity and depth of the work undertaken by Soroptimists in our Federation. It is a privilege to work with our new Programme team (Cesarina, Sharadha, Anne, Nooraini, Pauline and Rhonda) and be able to share your stories locally, nationally, regionally and globally.

**Dr Donnell Davis,**  
**Programme Convenor 2022-2024**  
[swpprogramme2020@siswp.org](mailto:swpprogramme2020@siswp.org)

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## Announcing that Brilliant Futures Fund round 3 grants are now open.

Do you have a project but are short of funds to implement the project? Announcing that the Brilliant Futures Fund Round 3 is now open. The grant will provide up to \$10,000 to one or more clubs to implement their project. Find out more information

Read more about previous Brilliant Futures Fund Project grant winners [HERE](#).

You can view the guidelines and application form [HERE](#).

### **SISEAP**

### **Disaster**

### **Appeal**

Extreme climate caused several disasters across our Federation. Recently several clubs assisted recovery from severe flooding in their countries. The Federation has provided disaster relief funds to SI Bangsar, SI Beenleigh (reporting their efforts for relief) and SI Gold Coast.

**SI Bangsar report** - On 16 Dec 2021, a Tropical Depression brought 3 days of torrential rains throughout Peninsula Malaysia. Floods covered 8 states with over 125,000 people affected, resulting in 54 dead and 2 missing. At its height, more than 71,000 survivors were displaced from the worst hit in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Pahang and Perak. After much research SI Bangsar connected with Prakash from Sri Satya Sai Global Malaysia. We agreed that we would concentrate outside the Klang Valley, where aid was less available. Being familiar with the Karak floods from various rivers in the state of Pahang, he could arrange storage, ground logistics, staff and transport to distribute the goods contributed by SICB and his networks. Upon evaluation of 4 housing suburbs in Karak Town, SICB decided on Taman Wijaya where 175 single storey houses were under 2 metres of water.

Read the full report [HERE](#).

**SI Beenleigh** reported on their disaster relief after flooding in large parts of South Queensland and northern New South Wales.

SI Beenleigh concentrated on supplying essential supplies to students and schools impacted by the floods. Twice in one month, in northern New South Wales, 34,000 homes were impacted by floods, where schools were destroyed. The club provided essential school supplies across several locations: Logan, Beenleigh, Eagleby, Goodna, Condong, Crabbes Creek, Chelmer. Additional donations included personal care items, blankets, covid packs for the clean-up staff, and clean up materials. The club wishes to acknowledge the support of other Soroptimist clubs in the Region, who collected goods for SI Beenleigh and Gold Coast to deliver.

You can read the full report [HERE](#).

### **SI President's Appeal - Opening Doors to a Bright Future**

The first project for this appeal is in Cambodia, one of our member nations. Soroptimist International is partnering with the Cambodian Community Dream Organization (CCDO). Located in Siam Reap, the project sought to educate disadvantaged and marginalised girls aged 10 to 15 years of age from their local communities. The girls are absent from school for a number of reasons: helping at home with siblings, cooking meals, or working in the fields or on construction sites. The Appeal project will give extensive support to the girls to allow them to return to schooling, enabling them to obtain better work and future opportunities.

Soroptimists are encouraged to support this appeal 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](#).

## **New opportunity - Women's Council of Australian Governments**

In Australia, a new Women's COAG comprising of all states and territories Ministers for Women met last week to discuss women's safety. In the future Soroptimists plan to participate proactively in other matters of importance. In September the topics include climate congress of women, gender responsive budgeting, and women's homelessness. (Editor: advocacy for Feminist Foreign Policy so aid funds go to benefit females and families in future).

### **Social**

### **Housing**

### **Crisis**

Advocacy: (SDG11.1) SI Randwick and Eastern Suburbs Club members wrote letters to Federal Treasurer Josh Freedenberg regarding the need to allocate greater funding for social housing in the upcoming Federal budget. Seven letters were written to the Federal Treasurer in March 2022, regarding the homelessness situation in Australia and the need for more social housing to help alleviate this problem. The letters were written asking for more funds to be allocated for social housing.

However, new housing is expected in 2025 - what about now? Triggers for homelessness, economic trends, climate disasters, lack of infrastructure for families, housing overcrowding, lack of crisis housing, and impossible choices need to be addressed together.

Read the article about Violence VS Poverty [HERE](#).

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### **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?

Has your club completed projects for 2022? If so, they need to be reported to the database. By reporting to the database SISEAP is able to report on the impact of our work at the grassroots level.

Congratulations to SI Bayside, SI Bangsar and SI Brisbane Waters, you are the only clubs who have submitted projects which have been approved to the database for 2022.

Seven (7) clubs have submitted scholarship reports for a total of \$9800.00  
Thirty-six (36) clubs have submitted donations reports for a total of \$17237.00  
Sixty-eight (68) activity projects for a total of 2360 hours of work  
Congratulations to SI Randwick on the one Advocacy report submitted.

## 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).

### **CEDAW - Mongolia**

The Chair of CEDAW opened the 82nd session on June 13th. For the first time in almost two years, Civil Society had the opportunity to be present in person at the UNOG. They presented very strong reports about the terrible situations of women and girls in Türkiye, Portugal, Azerbaijan and Namibia. They also briefed the Committee about the situation/status of women in Bolivia, Mongolia, Morocco, and UAE. All comments were noted in the report of the Committee and will be reviewed.

Mongolia was praised for its efforts in promoting gender equality, eliminating discrimination against women and the implementation of the National Program on gender equality. There is still concern about the absence of women in the political and public arena, the lack of special programs to include rural and indigenous women and the absence of equal financial support for unpaid care work. Data is needed for school dropouts of girls as well as a dedicated policy on re-entry programs for girls after dropouts.

Read the full report [HERE](#).



## **Anti Sexual Harassment Bill to be approved in Malaysia.**

The Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill proposed in 2011 was finally approved on 20 July 2022 by the Parliament of Malaysia. The passing of the bill by the House of Representatives after a long and arduous process that involved the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, government agencies and NGOs proves the commitment of the Malaysian government in the effort to eradicate discrimination based on gender.

In Malaysia, sexual harassment, as defined by the Employment Act 1955, is “any unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal, non-verbal, visual, gestural or physical, directed at a person which is offensive, humiliating or a threat to their well-being”. Currently, there are some provisions in the Penal Code, Employment Act 1955, Industrial Relations Act 1967, Code of Practice on the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, and The Communications & Multimedia Act 1988; which may give some (limited) protection to the victims.

The Anti-Sexual Harassment law, when passed by the Senate in a few months time will expand the legal recourse for the victims by providing them with a venue to file claims against their assailants through the establishment of a special Anti-Sexual Harassment tribunal. However, the said tribunal will only be set up next year after the Anti-Sexual Harassment law has been enacted. (2023-2024) The tribunal will have the authority to decide cases, namely ordering a statement of apology by the assailant to the victims and up to RM250,000 compensation awarded to the victim for damages and losses.

***Agnes Tan***

**National President of Malaysia 2022-2024**

[swpmalaysia2020@siswp.org](mailto:swpmalaysia2020@siswp.org)

### **August**

**9 Aug - [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#)**

**12 Aug - [International Youth Day](#)**

**19 Aug - [World Humanitarian Day](#)**

**21 Aug - [International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism](#)**

**22 Aug - [International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief](#)**

**23 Aug - [International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition](#)**

**29 Aug - [International Day Against Nuclear Tests](#)**

## September

5 Sep - [International Day of Charity](#)

7 Sep - [International Day of Clean Air for blue skies](#)

8 Sep - [International Literacy Day](#)

9 Sep - [International Day to Protect Education from Attack](#)

15 Sep - [International Day of Democracy](#)

16 Sep - [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)

18 Sep - [International Equal Pay Day](#)

21 Sep - [International Day of Peace](#)

26 Sep - [International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#)

28 Sep - [International Day for Universal Access to Information](#)

29 Sep - [International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction](#)

## Report on an Outstanding Project by SI Albany

SI Albany in Western Australia launched their **multi-sensory Kits** at a recent regional meeting. The Club worked on these kits since Rosalind Sawyer (retired) Occupational Therapist, suggested this project idea. The club developed the concept with partners the City of Albany (through the Brandenburg Trust) and the Western Australian government. Through the Department of Communities, the partnership enabled kits to be produced and for promotion and marketing to commence in earnest.

The trials of the kits in local nursing homes and a local dementia day centre have proved very successful. The project is a very hands on project with Club members crafting the items in each kit. The kits provide memory prompts, by calling on the senses such as sight, touch, and smell, which encourage happy memories and discussion. Each of the themes relates to life experiences.

There are five different themes:

- The Shearing Shed
- The Beach
- The Kitchen
- The Dairy
- The Garden

The kits are available individually or as a set. They would make a great asset to care providers.

**Clubs are encouraged to purchase one or more kits to donate to their local care provider, either as a club or in partnership with another service organisation**

More details can be found [HERE](#) or via the SI Albany's Facebook page, which can be found [HERE](#).

**Anne Allen**

**Programme Coordinator for Zone 1**

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**More stories of Club activities undertaken during the successful Climate Change Environmental Month of June campaign**

### **SI Bangsar - World Environment Day Activity with Indigenous Community**

In conjunction with World Environment Day 5th June 2022, an initiative to raise awareness on effective waste management involved a clean-up activity for the Orang Asli community of Kampung Sebir. The community is not provided with any consistent, effective waste disposal service, resulting in an excessive amount of littering in the vicinity of their homes.

In collaboration with International Medical University, SI Seremban and SWM Corp, the event was successfully conducted between 9 am-noon on 12 June 2022, with an opening address by YB Nicole Tan, (past president of SI Seremban), who is the MP of Bukit Kepayang. Kg Sebir falls under her constituency.

Long-term initiatives were discussed with YB Nicole and her team in sustaining waste management services, and other methods to enhance the quality of life for the community.

### **Soroptimist International of Bentong - Only One Earth**

Soroptimist International of Bentong organized a GOTONG ROYONG event on 25 June 2022 at 8.30am - 2pm at Bukit Tinggi. The event included:

- A walk, collect and clean up around the area was the order of the day.
- The school children joined in, their participation was used as a great educational tool to demonstrate our care for our \*ONE EARTH\*
- Turning trash to cash was conducted by SW Corporation (SDG12)

Many volunteers signed up for the day, cleaning up the environment and recycling. SI Bentong wishes to thank the following:

- Member of Parliament YB Wong Tack & team for their presence.
- SW corp, Alam Flora, Restaurant Gather by the Hill for the venue, Team Kaki, SJKC school & the residents of Bukit Tinggi.

Our heartfelt appreciation to the following Sponsors: Belacan Laa, Restaurant Gather by the Hill, Wong Wing Hing Grocer, Restaurant Summerpark, Restaurant 126, Nam Chan Hardware, and Kong Mushrooms farm.

The Club members were overjoyed with local the community, seeking cooperation on a regular basis (monthly/ quarterly) to make it a sustainable project for the community while educating the children in the process to \*CARE for ONE EARTH\* (SDG 14)

### **Soroptimist Park - Clean Up Day**

Members from SI Townsville Breakwater in North Queensland Region put on their gloves and cleaned up for World Environment Month. Family and friends joined members as they collected litter and cleaned up Soroptimist Park and the surrounding beach on Rowes Bay on World Environment Day.

### **SI Launceston - "Hanging by a Thread"**



SI Launceston is pleased to support an incredible international art project, called "**Hanging by a Thread**", which is aimed to create awareness and support for Afghan women and girls.

As this year is the United Nations "Year of Glass" the mosaic project will be made predominantly with glass tesserae. There are over 40 countries participating in this project to bring attention to the world about the social and economic conditions of Afghan women and girls after the takeover of the Taliban. Mosaic artists are creating glass mosaic pieces which will then be joined together to make one long colourful mosaic scarf. Participating artists drew inspiration from Afghan motifs embroidered on traditional dresses and made their own interpretations. These small art segments are assembled into a collective artwork. They represent the resilience of Afghan culture beyond its own borders in

different parts of the world. Afghan culture will survive outside of its own country and reminds us that our own freedom is also Hanging by a Thread.

In Australia, the project is being coordinated through the Mosaic Association of Australia and New Zealand (MAANZ). SI Launceston member Yvette Hallam is the Tasmanian Branch Rep for MAANZ and the lead for this project in Tasmania. Six members of SI Launceston attended a workshop with Yvette to create mosaic sections for the Tasmanian Scarf. Yvette has held workshops with other community groups such as The Invermay, She Shed, Northern Suburbs Community Centre and the Launceston Women's Friendship Group.

SI Launceston will attend the launch of the completed mosaic scarf in September, which will coincide with the Tamar Valley Peace Festival. Next year, all Australian states will be sending their mosaic scarf to Canberra for a national exhibition.

More information about this project can be found [HERE](#).

**Nooraini M Yasin**

**SISEAP Programme Coordinator Zone 2**

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Women's climate justice: WEDO propose climate actions for women. Find out more information [HERE](#).

Human Rights, Climate Change, Pacific Youth and the [International Court of Justice](#) - opinion

4 ways to consider climate decisions: the Asia Pacific has very high risks:

1. Exposure to hazards (mother nature) beyond our control
2. Preventing worst impacts - protection, mitigation (flash flooding, cyclones, high tides, sea level rise, drought, bushfires), change food, crops, water supplies, recycling and change housing insulation.
3. Coping capacity (human, social cohesion, evacuation plans, when to 'stay and defend' or flee, backup and recovery systems)
4. Adaptive resilience (good governance, participatory decision-making, lived experience to help vulnerable places and people)

View the World Climate Risk Map [HERE](#).

Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change is the third of three reports published in 2022. They first looked at the science that underpins climate change; the second examined the impacts of climate change and this week's report focused on mitigation – or what humanity can do to stop climate change. Niklas Hagelberg, a climate change expert with the United Nations Environment Programme, discusses the report, what it means for the planet and whether the world can muster the political will to tackle the climate crisis. Read the Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change Report [HERE](#).

In summary, view the (crash course in climate change) infographic [HERE](#).

Personal responsibility: One Small Step is a mobile app with tailored programs to help you cut your carbon footprint. Find out more [HERE](#).

If you are interested in a Federation group for climate women, please contact Programme Convenor, Dr Donnell Davis via email at [swpprogramme2020@siswp.org](mailto:swpprogramme2020@siswp.org)

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 September 2022 eSPAN edition is required by Wednesday 31 August 2022. Please email your submissions to [swpasstprogrammedirector1@siswp.org](mailto:swpasstprogrammedirector1@siswp.org). Thank you.



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