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SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the October 2022 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Hello Members of 13 Countries,

This month's theme is about the **Power of Non-Government Organisations** (NGOs). Do you remember why you joined Soroptimist? Our website interviews tell great stories. Our Clubs comprise diverse personalities who care about each other and issues at local, regional, national and international scales. However, the international scale is only made up of trends across villages, cities and countries. In all those scales NGOs are so important for setting the expectations for decision makers to enhance everybody's quality of life. In the attached paper [HERE](#) spells out **why it is imperative for NGOs to shape** the desirable future. Without NGOs explaining and leading the way with recommendations, the governments may be working in the wrong direction. That's our job to participate in society, whatever scale that might be.

During September, over 4 days, the UNDRR **Asia Pacific Minister's Council for Disaster Risk Reduction** met with members of NGOs, advocates for disability and some feisty women to review the Sendai Framework from the vulnerable people's perspectives. Ministers, **women's groups**, world bank leaders, indigenous stewards and people who care about our common future were given equal voices for reforms. All sessions are recorded and can be found [HERE](#)

The Islands Innovation Online Summit [HERE](#) and separately the Global Social Enterprise Convention were held, where women's voices were loud and clear. It is so different from a decade ago. We could only dream of this inclusivity but we do not wish to waste this milestone, so our role in Soroptimist includes advocacy to go beyond the talk-fest to **making reform relevant** in our own backyards, or at whatever scale we need to influence.

Advocacy has been demonstrated by many Clubs (few reported) and is evidenced in ongoing partnerships. Letters to Ministers, Commissioners, faith-based groups, local councillors, professional bodies, and strong international bodies help **impetus for change**. Meanwhile, invitations to sit in Summits, advisory groups, and delegations are the validation of the credibility of our work. These have included stronger laws, better education options for girls, chasing errant parents who don't pay for the upkeep of their children, better budgeting so that money from the government benefits girls, women, families, and communities Rather than companies, better legislation and safer policies and better enforcement of laws and existing orders in place. In cities, everybody has a role for improving safety, access to opportunity and making life better for teenagers, entrepreneurs and vulnerable communities.

This month we acknowledge the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and her 70 years of influencing Commonwealth countries. Was she a feminist? Read that story [HERE](#).

During late September and October, Soroptimists are planting the seeds for advocacy with: **Toolkit: End Femicide: 16 Days of Activism** (Respect) from **25 November to 10 December**, it can be found on the Trello Board click [HERE](#)

Femicide is a crime - A global initiative (prevent harm, interventions, enforcement)
CSW 67 – Digital Democracy – Where the most vulnerable people, girls, and elders are empowered.

Climate and the Sendai Framework Review – Transformative gender lens. [HERE](#)

Literacy – Both children's and adults reading and writing. 3 easy steps
The UN General Assembly met in late September and better Asia Pacific Relationships were confirmed in a Speech by Hon Penny Wong. This strengthens our framework for a **feminist foreign policy** where aid and funding for programs directly improve the lives of girls, women, families and vulnerable communities. Find out more [HERE](#) Our common futures are looking brighter with opportunities for stronger and long-term partnerships.

Our webinars this period included speakers from 8 countries strengthening our understanding. This month I have visited 5 South Australian Clubs and 3 Queensland Clubs, to understand their respective challenges. Our Federation President participated in the chartering of a new Club in Tavua in Fiji, visiting 9 of the 10 Clubs there. Please join us for Soul Sisters (cooking together online) on 22 October, Register for the event [HERE](#).

Thank you for reporting your stories on the database.

Dr Donnell Davis,
Programme Convenor 2022-2024
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FEDERATION PROJECT

Announcing that Brilliant Futures Fund round 3 grants are now closed.



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

Nominations for round 3 have now closed, and now the judging panel will review the applications. Watch this space for the announcement. You can view the guidelines and application form [HERE](#).

SISEAP DISASTER APPEAL

SISEAP

Disaster

Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has donated energy, expertise and money to support others. Danger, disease and disaster are the definitions of Harm. SIE statement We stand up for women in war zones can be found [HERE](#). Our Soroptimist Pledge includes our commitment to helping others. Projects to help women in disasters include our own climate refugees, Pakistan, Myanmar, Israel, **and Ukraine are SDG 16.3**



SISEAP Special Appeal - Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis, to support European Soroptimists in their humanitarian response to aid women and girls impacted by the ongoing Ukraine crisis.

Soroptimists from SISEAP have contributed generously to this special appeal.

Gold Coast Soroptimists are still supporting the double floods from early 2022. The town centre is shifting, land is being bought back so that people won't have to live in a dangerous zone but this has resulted in homelessness. This is long-term in some cases, despite the military and government buying caravans for families to live in nearby towns and cities. Many may never return, so the disruptions are ongoing for children, stressed families and older singles. Businesses may never return and regional institutions are considering options. Story and photos [HERE](#)

Nelson's Blooming Project showcases giving that keeps growing. We acknowledge the generous donation by **SI Nelson (NZ) of \$20,000** sent separately to SIE. Read their report [HERE](#).

You can continue to make your donation to the SISEAP Special Appeal - Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis below. Alternatively, you can make a donation directly to SIE's Disaster Recovery Fund [HERE](#) or you can make donations directly to projects in the SIE Region [HERE](#).

Soroptimist International of Europe has sent many thanks in advance for your support, solidarity and donations.

[DONATE NOW](#)

SI PRESIDENT APPEAL



OPENING DOORS TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

SI PRESIDENT'S
APPEAL 2021 - 2023

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

Soroptimists from around the world are obliged to support the International Presidents Appeal.

SI President Maureen Maguire explains:

"Education is the tool to tackle multiple barriers faced by women and girls today. Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress was visible in the delivery of quality education around the world, however, the past 17 months, has taken a toll, with UNICEF estimating 156 million children and young people are out of school. Of these, six out of 10 have no access to basic literacy and numeracy."

There are now two active projects in Cambodia and Uganda and two proposed projects in the pipeline. In July, Cambodia surpassed its project target with 2438 students in 29 programs including personal development and small business (at home) with ongoing partnerships with chiefs, local NGOs, women's groups, and media with Smart Women speak out. Read the latest reports [HERE](#)

In Uganda, young girls (aged 8 to 13 year-old) are encouraged for scholarships through private education including reproductive rights, early pregnancy and life skills empowerment. The risks of violence, modern slavery, child marriage, death in childbirth and unsafe working conditions are high.

Have you or your Club made a donation? Without our support, these outstanding projects cannot expand into other Federations.

DONATE NOW

ADVOCACY WORK



Island Innovation

Island Innovation is a global network helping advance innovation and drive sustainable change across Island communities world wide. Out of our 13 countries, Mongolia is the only land locked country. The information from Island Innovation is relevant to all our members.

Island Innovation just held VIS2022, a virtual summit on climate change, indigenous management, international law with diplomacy (ICJ opinion), Blue Economy and better oceans management.

Soroptimist Member Tasneem Ali and other members around the Pacific attended the summit online. Extract below from Tasneem and please take the time to read the full report [HERE](#).

"A key objective of the Island innovation summit is to cover a diverse range of interlinked topics pertaining to climate change and sustainable development that are relevant to the needs and concerns of Island nations in efforts towards co-creating global legal, ethical and moral responsibility on climate change. This platform was seen by many as an ideal opportunity to share information, establish collaboration with other participants from other countries and share climate and sustainable development related knowledge towards potential solutions to the several climate related concerns that have resulted from global warming and climate change. The fact that the participants to the forum comprised a wide network of strong and influential voices representing the civil society and climate disadvantaged countries added much weight to the discussions on sustainable development that transpired through this medium."

Over the 7 days, there were many webinars covering Youth and Climate Change, Financing Ecosystems and case studies from Island nations.

You can catch up on the recordings from the summit [HERE](#)

[ACCESS THE RECORDINGS](#)

Other advocacy undertaken by clubs and countries recently:

1. **Ovarian Cancer** - New Zealand National Campaign
2. **Pinktober Fiji** - Breast screening, education, other care. read more about this [HERE](#)
3. **Indigenous Girls** - Indonesia (more next month)
4. **Respect @ Work** - Eliminate violence at workplaces (several Clubs implement this)
5. **Enforcing existing legislation/policy for errant parents to pay up to support children** - SI Torrens
6. **Making your donations multiply impact** (more next month)
7. **PNG women in Water** - Photos can be found [HERE](#).
8. **Hospital Clothes - Js Wardrobe** - SI Mackay, More about this can be found [HERE](#).
9. **Housing Crisis, Federal Responsibility** - Several Clubs and regions but a widespread national/ international issue



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

Top Tips by Anne Allen Zone 1 Programme Co-ordinator

Don't forget, in order to save your database entries in the draft- you will need to make sure that you have added some information into every compulsory field in the database. **Your report will not save unless you do this.**

These compulsory fields are indicated by a red asterisk *. If you are waiting for detail- just add the phrase < to be completed > this will help you find the sections that need to be completed when you return to the entry, before you submit.

A useful hint is to write up some of the detail for your Report in a separate Word document, which you can cut and paste into your Database Report before submission.

The Reporting database is set to collect and hold information for each calendar year (from the 1st of January to the 31st of December). If your Project runs over into the next year, you will need to create a second stage for your project and enter the information into the following year.

Has your Club reported all your project work to the Programme Reporting Database? There are only a **few months left in this year to report.**

Anne Allen

Zone 1 Programme Co-ordinator

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November will see the launch of the Best Practice Awards nominations. Only projects which have been reported to the database will be eligible. Nominations for the award will showcase and obtain recognition for the value of the project and the contribution to the advancement of women and girls and the contribution to your community.

Having problems with the Programme Database?

If you have any issues logging in to the SISEAP Programme Database, please contact Dr Donnell Davis, Programme Director swpprogramme2020@siswp.org.

UN SDG WORK

Educate, Empower, Enable



UN Work - SDG 5.3.1

Let Girls Speak! The theme for SISEAP's International Day of the Girl Child campaign. SIFederation President's global campaign, was to interview a female student, to enable the students to voice the challengers facing girls today.

To view the interview with SISEAP President Christine Johsntone, as she speaks with Jeannelize Diplock, who is a member of a school based Soroptimist Club, click [HERE](#).

All other Federation President's interviews can be viewed [HERE](#)

The Federation Programme Team held a **What Girls Say** interactive webinar, this focused on the theme of Girls Not Brides and the work being undertaken within our Federation to provide education opportunities as a pathway out of poverty.

The webinar can be viewed [HERE](#).

UN DAYS

October

- 15 October - [Rural Women Day](#)
- 16 October - [World Food Day](#) [FAO] ([A/RES/35/70](#))
- 17 October - [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#) ([A/RES/47/196](#))
- 24 October - [United Nations Day](#) ([A/RES/168 \(II\)](#); [A/RES/2782 \(XXVI\)](#))
- 24 October - [World Development Information Day](#) ([A/RES/3038 \(XXVII\)](#))
- 27 October - [World Day for Audiovisual Heritage](#) ([UNESCO 33/C/Resolution 53](#))
- 31 October - [World Cities Day](#) ([A/RES/68/239](#))

November

- 2 November - [International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists](#) ([A/RES/68/163](#))
- 5 November - [World Tsunami Awareness Day](#) ([A/RES/70/203](#))
- 6 November - [International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict](#) ([A/RES/56/4](#))
- 10 November - [World Science Day for Peace and Development](#) ([UNESCO 31 C/Resolution 20](#))
- 14 November - [World Diabetes Day](#) ([A/RES/61/225](#))
- 16 November - [International Day for Tolerance](#) ([UNESCO 28 C/Resolution 5.61](#); [A/RES/51/95](#))
- 17 November - [World Philosophy Day](#) ([UNESCO 33 C/Resolution 37](#))
- 19 November - [World Toilet Day](#) ([A/RES/67/291](#))
- 20 November - [World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims](#) ([A/RES/60/5](#))
- 20 November - [Africa Industrialization Day](#) ([A/RES/44/237](#))
- 20 November - [World Children's Day](#) ([A/RES/836\(IX\)](#))
- 21 November - [World Television Day](#) ([A/RES/51/205](#))
- 25 November - [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#) ([A/RES/54/134](#))
- 29 November - [International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People](#) ([A/RES/32/40B](#))
- 30 November - [Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare](#) ([OPCW C-20/DEC.10](#))

AROUND THE FEDERATION



Soul Sisters - Every Dish Has a Story

You are invited to the 1st Soul Sisters event, **Saturday 22nd October 12noon AEDT**. Celebrity chefs, Sabine and Sherryn will cook up a traditional Australian dish, whilst their Club members from SI Brisbane, share with us news about their projects.

This interactive webinar is a great way for Soroptimist Sisters to bond. Book a date with your Soroptimists sisters to participate. Register for the event [HERE](#).

Pinktober Fiji



The 10 Fijian Soroptimist Clubs, have collaborated with the Fijian Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for Pinktober. Each Club will be running **breast screening and**

awareness campaigns. The launch function was held at the Nalagi Resort Hotel. Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosa Akbar addressed the event, with a stern message to not fall for traditional medicine, stating that her mission was to educate every household every woman and girl and every man about breast cancer. The summary can be found [HERE](#).

Launch of Pinktober - Past Federation President Suman Lal and National President Fiji Anita Prasad, along with members of Soroptimist Fiji and the Fijian Ministry of Women, launched Pinktober month campaign.

SI Suva, reported their partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Fiji Sports Council, so the large crowd of men and women attending the HFC National stadium during the IDC tournament (this is the amateur Fijian football cup tournament) could become aware of breast and cervical cancer. They provided **free mammograms** by the medical team from MOH on the REACH Bus.

You can view the video, from one of the women who did the breast screening [HERE](#).

Read the newspaper article covering the launch [HERE](#) and the information brochures can be found [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

Images below from the SI Suva campaign





Images below from the Pinktober Campaign launch.



Images from our newest Federation Club, Gold Town Tuvua, who partnered with the Tuvua Town Council for their awareness campaign. SI Labasa conducting their cancer screen clinic.



SI Bentong

The members from SI Bentong have been on road trips this past month, in the beautiful village of the Orang Asli (indigenous people) of Sungai Penjuring, Bentong, We were greeted by the village head, the friendly Mdm Nor Azizah.

We brought some groceries for them and were given some of their homegrown vegetables in return. The 3km road leading to the village is in need of maintenance badly. We will do our best to seek help from a nearby Estate to assist in the maintenance of the road.

Members from Bentong joyfully accepted an invitation to be part of a "Cooking Team" for the community at Kg Kemansur, Bentong.

Every fortnight, YB Wong Tack Member of Parliament for Bentong faithfully sets apart his time to head this initiative with a team of volunteers, often even "cooking himself" for 500 residents, mainly elderly at the nearby villages. The response has been overwhelming and this event will be even more meaningful if more NGOs could join in this effort to serve the community.

SI Bentong attended this week's session and were encouraged and decided to sponsor RM1500.00 towards the event. It was heart-warming to see the elderly looking forward to the social connection as well as a hot meal with others as they queue patiently for their meals. Though it was a little tiring, the Joy of being part of the team at this event was most fulfilling.

Syabas YB Wong Tack & team

SI Bentong

sibentong@siswp.org





SI Port Moresby - Women and Water project

SI Port Moresby, recently visited the Eki Vaki Primary school, to donate a 3000 Lr water tank. Eki Vaki Primary school is one of PNG's oldest schools, needing much needed support. Deputy Principal Mrs Wendy Sasongan said, " *the school has not had any backup water supply in years, and hopes that the Club will continue to support the school and assist with finding corporate support to renovate the toilets and classrooms.*"

SI Port Moresby's other major project is the building of a two level multi-purpose facility the " Training & Resource Centre (TRC)" this is planned to be built on the Kennedy Estate. This facility will provide vulnerable women and girls with an avenue of affordable or free vocational training and upskilling. Read more about the water and Resource centre [HERE](#).

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 November 2022 eSPAN edition is required by Monday 31 October 2022. Please email your submissions to swpprogramme2020@siswp.org. Thank you.



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