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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the December 2022 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Thank you to all Soroptimists who wore orange and participated in 16 days of respect, action and advocacy to end violence against women to **End Femicide**. The 16 days ended on UN Human Rights Day, now introducing 75 years since the 1948 Declaration with 31 articles that demonstrated how countries should treat their people. Since then, we have more human rights – recently SDG 6 the Right to (access to

drinkable) water, SDG 11.1 Right to safe shelter (housing), SDG 15 Rights of the Child to a clean environment. SDG 16 the Right to a nuclear-free future.

This month's theme is **resilience** and maybe it should be for the whole year 2022. Resilience is the art of bouncing back after an adverse situation. This might mean resilience after COVID, earthquake, cyclones, typhoons, flood, drought, fires, violence, or economic recession. Furthermore, it's time for renewal and reinventing ourselves – like SISEAP.

For **resilience**, we use lots of skills and knowledge to find a better stronger position. Those skills include awareness, preventing or avoiding harm, learning lessons from others and best practice, adapting to change, working with others to be better, getting mentally stronger yourself and using new technology like mobile apps to be efficient and accountable. Or maybe it's just caring about others in need. Once we strengthen ourselves, we can help others, so benefits multiply with long-term relationships.

For psychologists, **resilience** relies on personally acknowledging what happened to you and how you are renewing for a stronger you. For community activists, its about getting stronger together, our social cohesion. To accountants or engineers, its about recognising risk, preparing for the worst and building better systems for tomorrow. For scientists it's a simple formula: $E \times S \times C \times A = R$ by reducing your **Exposure** to hazards, minimising your **Susceptibility** of harm (impact), strengthening your **Coping** capacity (Sorooptimists are leaders here) and quickly **Adapting** to a changing future. The design-thinkers are those who don't just survive, they thrive after adversity by ensuring each those elements get better every day. They learn lessons from others and proactively adapt their systems for decisions and actions to face a range of 'uncertain futures'. Like athletes, they are agile and can pivot when trouble comes. **To thrive**, we must learn from each of these approaches.

After 100 years, Sorooptimists gathered wisdom, learned from each other, gathered best practice and compassion through UN negotiations and together made a better world for our vulnerable peoples – our girls, women, disabled, elders, marginalised families, and communities at risk of harm. More than that, Sorooptimists plant the seeds to enable and empower **everyone to thrive**. Please review the **Fairer Feminist Futures Paper** [HERE](#)

This year the UN introduced empowering Declarations so that Non-Government Organisations like Sorooptimist International can enact immediately. We don't have to wait for slow governments to ratify, because our role is to demonstrate resilience and show leadership to guide governments in many countries. In summary, we each have different rates of recovery but all the ingredients are here. The rights of the child (1957, 1989, 2022) and the rights of the older person (Oct 2022) [HERE](#) strengthens our vulnerable people. Meanwhile, rules making perpetrators pay for loss and damage are making multinational companies and corrupt systems more accountable (November 2022). [HERE](#)

Traditionally Sorooptimists worked in Health and Education but now we address barriers preventing girls and women from reaching their potential, through addressing existential threats, discrimination,

misogyny, violence (at home, at work, in sports, in cities) and imbalance.

The role of gender equality is seen as the recipe for economic stability (GDP) but this must recognise the care economy in balance with work and entrepreneurship. See Asia Pacific principles [HERE](#). In 2022, our health systems cooperated so we are all living longer with better quality of life. The Asia Pacific women are more exposed to harm through climate, systemic corruption, Covid, job losses, natural disasters, modern slavery and trafficking, and barriers to digital technology innovation for vulnerable peoples. Despite this, Asia Pacific have some high achievements in SDG reforms, often led by women.

- December, we welcome reforms for Peace negotiations, peaceful elections in several countries, Biodiversity COP15 for a healthy planet, and modern slavery reporting.
- 24 January 24, we welcome **SI President Maureen Maguire** showcasing **Educational Achievements** for every Federation.
- 8 March we welcome **International Women's Day** "Crack the Code - innovation for a gender equal future"
- Mid-March the **CSW67 parallel event** will also be a webinar at a sensible time on **Digital Democracy for Disasters** where we seek leapfrog innovation so vulnerable and rural women can use digital technology. Apply for self-funded attendance at CSW67 [HERE](#)

We can be **resilient together**.

Dr Donnell Davis,

Programme Convenor 2022-2024

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FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

24 January - Education Webinar with SI President Maureen Maguire register online [HERE](#).

8 March IWD - Crack the Code - innovate for gender equal future.

12 March CSW67 Digital Democracy for Disasters Workshop



Thank you for **advocating the END FEMICIDE** but there is more to do in some of our countries Burma - Myanmar [HERE](#). May our thoughts and prayers be with you.

The poster for the "Soul Sisters" event features a light blue background with a teal and purple logo on the left. The logo consists of two stylized profiles facing each other, with the text "OUR VOICE for Change" and "2022 - 2024" below it. To the right of the logo, the text reads "Soul Sisters", "Every Dish has a Story", "Celebrity Chefs", "SI Ba, Fiji", "Women's Forum", and "Trainees". Below this, the date and time are listed: "Wednesday, 18 January 1pm AEDT". On the right side of the poster, there is a photograph of a person's hands garnishing a dish in a wooden bowl. At the bottom left, there are two small circular logos, one of which is the "OUR VOICE for Change" logo.

Announcing our next Soul Sisters event

Join the members of SI Ba, as they demonstrate how to cook two traditional Fijian dishes, Kokoda seafood salad and Cassava which is a traditional Fijian root vegetable. The demonstration will take place in the SI Ba Women's Forum Centre, which will feature the trainee chefs learning their craft at the centre, SI Ba President Dr Maria Doton will take us on a tour of the centre. Book your calendars for this interactive Soul Sisters Event! Register [HERE](#)

FEDERATION PROJECT



Soroptimist Art Competition - Living With Nature

President Christine announces a Federation wide Soroptimist Art Competition - ***Living with Nature***. this art competition is designed to allow Clubs to participate in a Federation wide initiative to raise awareness and educate students about climate change. The art competition is open to children 5-17 years and will allow students to engage and promote environment / climate, what they see as the cause, effect and solution. Clubs will hold a art competition, judge the art work and then submit the art work to Federation for overall judging. Please read the toolkit [HERE](#) for all the information.



Round 3 Nominations are now closed. Watch this space for the winner!

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 aide women and girls impacted by the ongoing Ukraine crisis.

Thank you Dorothy!



Thank you Dorothy from 10 flooded schools and many families.

Soroptimist International South Queensland recognised the efforts of **Dorothy Elliott from Gold Coast Club** in her efforts to support 10 schools and many families on the Lismore Floods in 2022. She was awarded the **2022 Florence Drury Prize** for outstanding community service on 27 November 2022.

Floods in Northern New South Wales were close to the Queensland border, and estimated as one of the most expensive disasters in Australia. Most places were impacted multiple times during the year, with permanent relocation is planned for businesses. 5000 residents with young families still live in temporary accommodation in neighboring towns but many others will never return. please see some stories here pages 12 to 19 [HERE](#) The **full SI Gold Coast disaster report is now available** to be read on the SISEAP website [HERE](#).

SI PRESIDENT APPEAL



OPENING DOORS TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

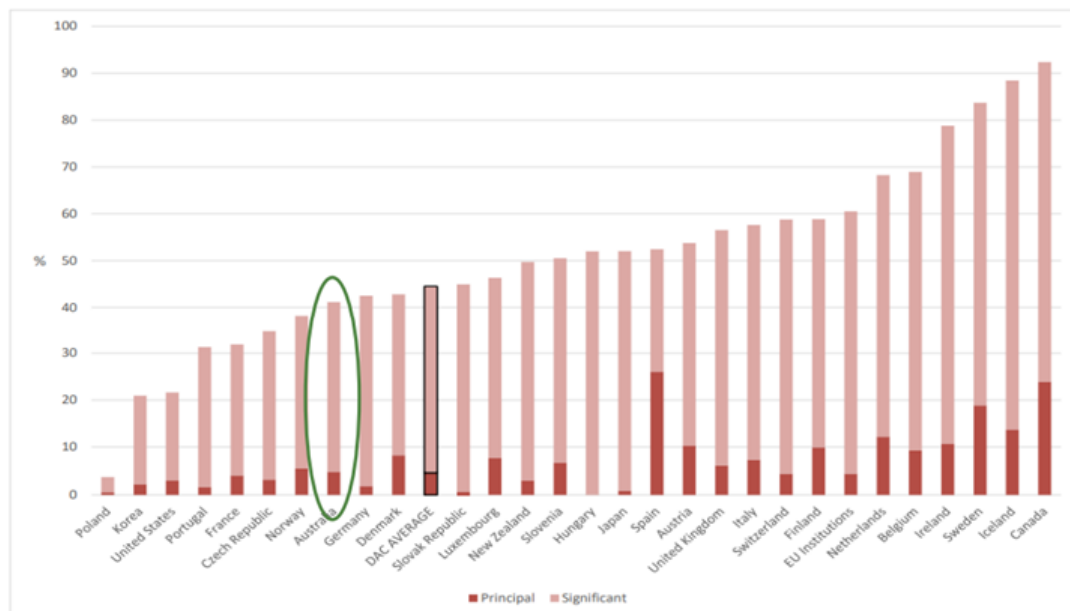
SI PRESIDENT'S
APPEAL 2021 - 2023

Read the latest story from SISEAP SI President's appeal coordinator Linna Khorn and then donate to this life changing appeal.

[DONATE NOW](#)

ADVOCACY WORK

*Percentage of ODA focused on gender equality in Bilateral Allocable Aid
2018-2019 average*



Source: [OECD, 2021, Aid in Support of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment](#), pp 4; annotation added

Fairer Feminist Futures - Foreign Policy Paper

How to Fund Women's Projects Internationally - Full paper can be found [HERE](#)

1. Invest the differential between Australian ODA (.22) and average OECD (.39) in advancing a suite of ongoing **programs transparently benefiting women.** (17 cents in 100 dollars of GDP)
2. Invest in **educating girls** and women in the Asia-Pacific region (SISEAP)
3. Re-assign resources to projects that benefit females, families and communities rather than opaque multinational businesses and the corruption fund. (WEP, Transparency)
4. Prioritise investment into climate resilience and especially to **microenterprise for women for the Blue Economy** outcomes (UNFCCC)
5. Assign resources proactively into preventative projects for **mitigating risks of disasters** rather than be an emergency fund (UNDRR)
6. Promote **preventative diplomacy** and training programs for women to diffuse potential conflict (UNHRC)
7. Promote **women in peacekeeping** and capacity building around conflict and disaster (UNSC)
8. Invest in long-term peace through **local school** re-establishment and ongoing support
9. **Multiply opportunities** for placements, scholarships, bursaries, and work experiences by coordinating with International Non-Governmental Organisations with systems in place
10. Prioritise transparent trade agreements to benefit communities through ethical procurement with **environmental safety and acceptable labour conditions** (WTO, APAC)
11. Assign resources to strengthen skilling opportunities for **Pacific Labour Migration** program
12. Invest in **women's entrepreneurship** seed funding as a priority to strengthen local resilience
13. Invest in **leapfrog innovation** for most vulnerable peoples (satellite digital cultural inclusive)
14. Commit to ethical leadership correcting the barometer up to a trusted partner in the **Asia Pacific Region for a Fairer Feminist Future.**

FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENTS



SI Aotearoa New Zealand National President Report by Deborah Wood

National Association progress: At the beginning of 2022 SIANZ began preparing to transition from 2 Regions into a National Association. Clubs began the discussions as to how they envisaged this new association. The 2 Regions agreed the National Association needed to be an Incorporated Society and that the Regions would cease as of 31st December 2022.

The Constitution and By Laws were drafted by a working group formed from both Regions, Clubs were consulted and a webinar held. The new constitution was unanimously accepted and is now being registered with the NZ Companies office. This working group also adapted the model Club constitution to fit New Zealand 's new Incorporated Societies Act 2022. This new Club constitution is now being used by our Clubs.

The SIANZ Executive with supporting committees have also now been formed ready for 2023. We are currently creating a logo for SIANZ and developing our own National Association web page as a strategy to promote and encourage new members.

Membership: A strategic group was established in 2021 which undertook a membership survey and identified 6 strategic areas to help with membership and retention. Two leadership courses have been held in 2021 and 2022 for members resulting in a positive effect on our membership development and recruitment.

National Projects: Ovarian Cancer is our National Project - We have identified 3 Charities to support being

1. Cure our Ovarian Cancer NZ
2. Talk Peach Gynaecological Awareness and
3. K9 Medical Detection NZ

We aim to **Educate women** on symptoms and what to do, to **Advocate** for research and government funding, to **Advocate for women** to be heard, action to be taken and development of a campaign on "see us hear us, help us" and Fundraise to support these initiatives.

Our newest Club SI Rangatahi Wellington have produced 4 podcasts "SI Chats Podcast" to help raise awareness of this disease. **Ovarian cancer is the fifth** leading cause of cancer death in New Zealand women yet our Government assigns limited to **no funding** on Ovarian

cancer research. SIANZ hopes to raise funds and awareness and help increase the survival rate of our women. See webinar [HERE](#)

Our Clubs also continue to support our Betty Loughhead **Soroptimist Scholarship Trust** (second chance scholarship grant) and the **Yvonne Simpson Scholarship** (to financially assist members to attend CSW).

2022 has been a demanding year for our Clubs but amazing progress has been in preparation to begin the SI Aotearoa New Zealand National Association in 2023.

Deborah Wood

SI Aotearoa New Zealand National President

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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 new international statement on the rights of women and girls is [HERE](#).

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

BEST PRACTICE AWARDS



A Club may nominate a project for each of the 8 objectives for consideration for a Best Practice Award. Have your project showcased to the organisation at the Best Practice Awards.

Nominate NOW. The Nomination Form can be found [HERE](#).

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

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.



Database Tips for December 2022

Thank you to all the Clubs that have already submitted their Activities, Projects, Donations, Advocacy and Scholarships contributions for 2022. The Programme Team is looking forward to getting submissions from all the Clubs in our Zones by the **31st December**. We will be working hard to confirm all the submissions so that Clubs can run their Annual Reports in February. Remember that only Published Reports will upload into your Annual Reports.

Just a couple of reminders:

- The database is to record work that you have undertaken for the 2022 year. START DATE can be no earlier than 1 January 2022 and END DATE no later than 31 December 2022. If your project continues past the 31st of December then you need to break your project into **parts or phases** and complete one phase for 2022 and then another entry for 2023.
- The Submission Date is populated when you commence entering information into your Report. If you have an item in draft for sometime the submission date will remain as the date you commenced, you cannot change it. Don't worry as the critical dates are the START and END dates you enter.
- If you provide donations and scholarships to a number of different schools or organisations, each one needs to be entered as a separate entry.
- Please remember to enter the **number of women and/or girls** helped by your Project. Quantifiable data is very powerful.

- Images can only be added to a Project Report. Currently the system is only allowing ONE image to be SAVED.

Please don't hesitate to contact your Zone Programme Coordinators if you have any questions:

- **Zone 1 - Anne Allen** swpprogrammezone12020@siswp.org
- **Zone 2 - Nooraini Yasin** swpprogrammezone22020@siswp.org
- **Zone 3 - Pauline Glover** swpprogrammezone32020@siswp.org
- **Zone 4 - Rhonda McCormack** swpprogrammezone42020@siswp.org

Anne Allen

Zone 1 Programme Coordinator

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UN SDG WORK

Educate, Empower, Enable



SDG Achievements for ASEAN

As we move into the decade of action towards achieving the 2030 UN SDGs, timely achievement of the goals is being derailed by various crises most notably the Covid-19 pandemic. This deadly pandemic which forced several countries into a complete lockdown between 2020 and 2022 has had a knock-on effect on the global supply chain.

While countries in ASEAN struggle to repair their sagging economies and increase tourism revenue once again, food and energy prices have soared, and cost of living has gone up tipping more people below the poverty line. Climate change and the Ukraine war have combined to add to the burden of struggling economies in the ASEAN region.

The **2022 ASEAN SDG Snapshot Report** which covers 2016 and 2020 serves as a follow-up to the earlier baseline report, albeit with limited focus. Specifically, it examines 29 SDG indicators (SDGIs) selected based on data availability and consistency. The SDGIs of focus are those in Poverty (Goal 1) Nutrition (Goal 2), Health (Goal3), Education (Goal 4) Work (Goal 8), Industry (Goal 9), and Partnerships which include digitalization (Goal 17).

ASEAN Countries which include several member countries in SISEAP (Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia) appear to have performed well in some areas and poorly in others.

Under **Goal 1**, the number of people vulnerable to climate-related disasters increased by 27.8% in 2020 compared to 2016; 2,546.8 individuals per 100,000 population either died, had gone missing or were directly affected by climate-related disasters!

Under **Goal 2**, child malnutrition has lessened – 25.4% (approximately 1:4) children under 5 were stunted in 2020 down from 27% in 2016; while 6.9% under 5 suffered from wasting. Minimal progress in maternal and child health (Goal 3) was achieved.

For **Goal 4**, the average participation rate in pre-primary organized learning (1 year before official primary entry age) was slightly increased to 76.2% in 2020 compared with 74.4% in 2016. Singapore maintained its high participation rate of around 96% while Malaysia (87.5%) and Indonesia showed a slight decline (92.8%). On average, 45.3% of primary schools in the ASEAN region have access to computers for pedagogical purposes. Malaysia and Singapore maintained their high proportions of 100% each while Indonesia (40.4%) and Myanmar (1.1%) clearly need to improve in this area.

Efforts for developing renewable energy sources (**Goal 7**) need to be intensified as the region saw minimal improvement in this area. In 2020, the share of renewable energy in the total final energy consumption across ASEAN was only 4.5 %

In 2020, the ASEAN region experienced an unemployment rate of 5.4% compared to 3.9 % in 2016 (**Goal 8**) while the GDP per capita contracted by 4.3% on average. Interestingly, 3 out of 4 individuals were reported to be using the internet in 2020 (76.8%) compared with 52.8% in 2016. This change is largely attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic which led to closures of businesses and schools forcing people to use digital platforms for communication.

It is hoped that this overview will provide Soroptimist clubs in the ASEAN region some ideas and guidance on which areas to focus on, in choosing projects or activities. For more information [HERE](#).

Dr Saradha Narayanan

Assistant Programme Director 2

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UN DAYS

December:

18 December - [International Migrants Day](#) ([A/RES/55/93](#))

18 December - [Arabic Language Day](#) (Arabic)

20 December - [International Human Solidarity Day](#) ([A/RES/60/209](#))

Decades:

2022–2032 International Decade of Indigenous Languages ([A/RES/74/396](#) par.24)

2021–2030 United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration ([A/RES/73/284](#))

2021–2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
([A/RES/72/73](#))

2019–2028 [Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace](#) ([A/RES/73/1](#)) [United Nations Decade of Family Farming](#)
([A/RES/72/239](#))

2018–2028 [International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development"](#) ([A/RES/71/222](#))

2018-2027 Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty ([A/RES/72/233](#))

AROUND THE FEDERATION



SI Maylands Peninsula - Local Perspectives on Homelessness

SI Maylands Peninsula drive to provide service to the community resulted in a forum entitled The Local Perspectives on Homelessness, an evening event held on **27 July 2022** featuring four speakers who provided different perspectives of programs to address homelessness at the local level.

An event that was well run and fulfilling with great teamwork in the kitchen provided by the members themselves. Altogether a total of 85 service hours was contributed by members.

The forum was held to raise awareness of actions being taken at the local level to address homelessness. The speakers included the first female mayor of the City of Bayswater, Filomena Piffaretti, the Architect and Chair of My Home, Michelle Blakely, the Service Coordinator of Starting Over Support, Kathie Mitchell and the member of SI Maylands Peninsula Anne Butorac. Read and see more [HERE](#)

SI Hornsby - Local efforts for housing refugees

We organised a public forum with speakers from a number of refugee organisations. We publicized in the local media, social media, and invited MPs and local councillors, concerned citizens and other organisations including SI Clubs, Grandmothers for Refugees, Zonta, Rotary, St Vincent de Paul, Lions and Women's Community Shelters. Elijah Buol had come to Australia as an unaccompanied 16 yr-old and spoke of severe difficulties, which he overcame with the help of generous people. He now heads a number of humanitarian organisations and has been recognized with an Australian honour." Our past doesn't define us".

Rebecca Langton, manager of the Refugee Council of Australia spoke of the need for a real increase in the number of Australian humanitarian visas the numbers of which have been reduced in recent years, an improved resettlement programme, an end to mandatory detention of those who arrived by boat and a change to the visa system with the abolition of Temporary Protection Visas which mean holders can never be given the safety of permanent protection despite having received refugee status.

David Keegan, founder and CEO of Host International spoke of the large numbers with depression and post traumatic stress disorder, their continuing trauma and the need to recognise refugees for what they can contribute to our society. An SI Hornsby member, herself a past asylum seeker, read the forum statement which called on the community to advocate for change to their local Members of Parliament and other key decision makers. "Let them know the electorate is not happy". As a result of the meeting partnerships are being formed between Soroptimists and other organisations to organize other similar forums, spread the message more widely and create real change.



SI Damasara - Building Bridges Beyond Borders

BBB is an educational collaboration between Just Volunteers! (UK) and SI Damansara where international students from various universities overseas and local university students are placed in homes/learning centres under SID's support to provide teaching and mentoring support to local underprivileged children, orphans and refugees. In 2022 alone, 1000 girls and 28 women were educated and supported in many ways. Although this is an ongoing project with 5 refugees schools and supplementary support systems, it is still worthy of our appreciation for the voluntary efforts and strong ongoing partnerships.

"A quote from Mrs. Ema, the Principal from one of Rumah Aman: We can't thank Harriet and Ciara enough for the time, dedication and hard work, teaching team Ocean, Everest and Waterfall groups for the past few months. Thank you for helping the children come"



SI Hobart - Orange the world - Eliminate Violence Against Women

SI Hobart has undertaken a number of activities and advocacy opportunities during the 16 Days of Activism to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Children. The Club was delighted when the State Government endorsed our application to **light up the Tasman Bridge ORANGE** on 24 and 25 November in recognition of the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.

Through this direct approach to the state government and the public display spanning the River Derwent we **continue our advocacy** to end violence against women and girls, and to challenge the attitudes that perpetuate, rationalise and normalise that violence, denying women and girls their right to safety. As Soroptimists we will continue to advocate for gender equality, making this a safe world for all.

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.

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 February 2022 eSPAN edition is required by Wednesday 30th January 2023. Please email your submissions to swpprogramme2020@siswp.org. Thank you.



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