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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



Welcome to the June 2024 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Welcome to the June Edition as we celebrate Environment Month.

Even though we **workshopped environment and climate at the Conference** in May, we now have many tools that mandate the work we have been doing intuitively - because we know it's the right thing to do. UNFCCC (climate), UNEP (Environment) with UNEA (15 resolutions) and Biodiversity rules, UN Water, NOAA (Oceans), and UN Habitat (sustainable communities, urban living) have strengthened our positions on caring for the land, soils, waterways, oceans, estuaries, plants, animals, and the air we breathe.

We are pleased the role that young students, youth and young professionals are taking in 'owning the future of the planet' and working beside older generations to care. This is why there is a chapter dedicated to **intergenerational leadership** in the Pact for the Future. Read about it [HERE](#). Young people must be included at the table, as we expect women to be participating. Find out more [HERE](#). Our young students have been busy with the SISEAP Environmental Art Competition, with guidance from school teachers and clubs. We recognize winners **Jazlyn** under auspices of SI Invercargill (New Zealand) and **Ava** from SI Logan and Beenleigh (Australia) as a joint club initiative.

In our efforts to **showcase projects** across the Federation we acknowledge: Fiji intensive Mangrove planting by 3 clubs, Mongolian land restoration, Waimea New Zealand estuary erosion prevention and endemic specie planting by students, Beach cleanup at Bayside, plastic collection and innovative recycling in Malaysia and Fiji, Waste collection into artwork in Western Australia, Indonesian initiatives, and many more. Our partnerships are also innovative and long term relationships are nurtured. Our Zone coordinators will provide case studies in future editions, as well.

However, we should be proud of the other preventative and **proactive approaches for 'duty of care'** coming from the 75th anniversary of UN Human Rights declaration from 1948. There is a clear call for **humanitarian attitudes** and actions across the globe as global peace is fragile when leaders of countries abuse the International Rule of Law. This need for Humanity-thinking is louder than ever and this is spilling into all

our decision-making across all UN portfolios and programs. An example is Free and Equal 2024. **Every child is born free and equal in dignity and rights**. Read more about it [HERE](#). In South East Asia Pacific we have many G77+ countries that have a different legacy from others, so we just need respect for the common-ground consensus of all countries who endorsed and **The Rights of the Child**, and build humanity-mind from there.

This feeds nicely into the preparation for CSW69 because it will be 30 years since the Beijing Platform for Action that put systems under the CEDAW (Commission of the Elimination of the Violence Against Women 1993) with 14 guiding principles. **Natasha Stott Despoja** announced re-election to CEDAW to bring the commission to the Pacific. We congratulate her and wish to work more closely with her to make the Pacific and South East Asian home a safe and strengthening place for all women. Read more about it [HERE](#).

In the meantime enjoy our stories and recordings from the Conference that achieved so much for us.

Dr Donnell Davis,
Programme Convenor 2024-2026
siseaprogramme@siswp.org

ADVOCACY WORK



SISEAP World Environment Month
UN World Environment Day Theme - 5 June 2024:
Land Restoration, Desertification & Drought Resilience

[VIEW THE TOOLKIT HERE](#)



World Environment Day Message by SI President Siew Yong Gnanalingam can be read [HERE](#). View President Siew Yong's Presentation from the SISEAP Conference **"Together we Heal Mother Earth"** [HERE](#).

A World Environment Day message from Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director. Watch it [HERE](#).

SI together with the five Federations are sharing examples of best practices from across our Federations to educate and inspire. Presentations can be found [HERE](#).

At the Recent SISEAP Conference Prof Susan Harris Rimmer enlightened us on the PoE of Community and commitment through the exploration of Feminist Climate Justice. Her presentation can be found [HERE](#).

Feminist Climate Justice in the Asia Pacific

A Climate for Change –
The Power of Community and
Commitment
Your Voice, Our Future
Soroptimist International
South East Asia Pacific
4 May 2024



SI Theme/Focus:

World Environment Month, please be aware of the following Environmental Observances:

- 5th June** [World Environment Day](#)
- 7th June** [World Food Safety Day](#)
- 8th June** [World Oceans Day](#)
- 17th June** [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought](#)
- 29th June** [International Day of the Tropics](#)

FEDERATION PROJECTS



Thank you to all clubs, schools and students who participated in 2024 SISEAP Environmental Art Competition. Your work was skillful, varied and thoughtful. The evidence of local themes was illustrated in unique ways, so all entrants should be very proud of your creations.

[VIEW THE FULL REPORT HERE](#)



Category 8-12 years awarded to:

'Don't let coke choke the ocean' through SI Logan SI Beenleigh Club: mixed media collage with ocean and beach scene. SDG 14, SDG 12, SDG 15



Category 13-18 years awarded to:

'Intergenerational Custodians' through SI Invercargill Club. This depicted the evolving role of humanity to protect the environment.

PROJECTS & APPEALS



We deeply appreciate the support that the Brilliant Futures Fund has received, enabling us to pave the way for women and girls. **Your donation dollar can be traced directly to females and families in our own Federation.** The ongoing and completed projects are a testament to the generosity of donors like you. If you or your club haven't had a chance to contribute recently, we kindly ask for your assistance this month. Your donation will allow us to open another round of funding, empowering clubs to propose projects that

will foster educational and economic opportunities for women and girls.

Discover more about our work on the SISEAP website [HERE](#). Updates on current projects were highlighted at the Federation Conference.

SI Foundation

With a focus on education, poverty prevention and human rights, striving to foster positive change and create a more inclusive world. Delivering short, medium and long-term projects internationally for women and girls.

For further information, click [HERE](#)



FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

The most recently revised **Where We Stand Position Papers (WWSPs)**, on Climate Change and Criminal Justice, have been approved by the SI Board.

The full list of WWSPs can be found [HERE](#) on the SI website.



AROUND THE FEDERATION



SI Joondalup in WA was acknowledge for their work in the community during volunteer week. They have been working on a project supporting women from Timor-Leste to achieve their continued educational goals.

Equity and Education - SI Penang

Soroptimist International Penang in collaboration with Uplands International School of Penang contributed 40 computer monitors to Penang Science Cluster (PSC). This project provided valuable resources to students with access to equipment to provide opportunities for further education. Some of these computer monitors will be used in PSC's growing activity centre and some will be utilised in their outreach programs at schools in Penang. Penang Science Cluster's multifaceted programs include coding, robotics, mobile app development, tinker boxes, MakersLab, TECHStart and many more.

Thank you to the Uplands team for their generous contribution. Soroptimist International Penang is dedicated to supporting science and technology, innovation and technopreneurship to the next generation.



Equity and Health - SI Brisbane

Supporting Indigenous Mothers through the Ngarrama Program: Our Commitment to Culturally Respectful Care. SI Brisbane supports Indigenous mothers in Brisbane through our collaboration with the Ngarrama Program at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Ngarrama offers culturally sensitive care, focusing on holistic health, continuity of care, and community engagement. The program includes antenatal classes, postnatal care, and breastfeeding support, empowering mothers with knowledge and confidence.

Recently, SI Brisbane provided maternal support packages to Ngarrama, which were gratefully welcomed. Ngarrama midwives noted that there is currently an influx of Indigenous mothers from across the state, staying in the hospital for up to 8 weeks at a time. SI Brisbane ensures that our support aligns with their needs and traditions.



PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

Top Tips for June

Report Types

When you access the Programme Reporting Database and view the drop menu list for Reports, you will notice that there are various types or stages of reports, the table below will assist you to understand the report types.

Article can be found [HERE](#).

Thank you Anne for teaching us database tips at the conference.

Clubs are advised that any rejected reports that are contained in the data base from 2019 to 2022 will be deleted at the end of June 2024.

Having problems with the Programme Database?

If you have any issues logging in to the SISEAP Programme Database, please contact SISEAP Database Support: siseaprogrammedatabase@siswp.org

UN DAYS

UN Days and their links can now be found on our Members Programme Page on the website [HERE](#). Pauline Glover, Zone Coordinator 3 is writing stories on a few of our special days that also go to our Facebook. Thank you Jess for making us look so professional with your timely updates.

[UN Days](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



Be the Change

A reminder to report 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. Only documented and peer reviewed reports can be use as evidence for our UN reporting. We report on our 8 objectives and 17 SDGs, as well as find special items through words searches. You can search all that too, anytime.

Thank you for 200 projects and 52 advocacies, 74 scholarships, nearly AU\$300,000 in donations, volunteer hours and much more. Our ACNC method for valuing our collective contribution to humanity is over AU\$3 million. Congratulations hard working Soroptimists!

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 2024 eSPAN edition is required by **Monday 1 July 2024**. Please email your submissions to siseaprogramme@siswp.org Thank you.



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