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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



SOROPTIMISTS
EMPOWER CHANGE

SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the December 2024 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR

Welcome to the December 2024 update. Wishing you a well-earned break over Christmas and the holiday season, and may you thrive in 2025.

Please enter your work into the database **before 31 Dec** so your efforts can be counted, recognised and rewarded.



This month we:

1. Welcomed our new team member Elizabeth Harrison
2. Welcomed nominations for Commission for the Status of Women 69 for New York in March 2025
3. Encourage and mentor your applications for Brilliant Futures Fund (celebrate past grant projects below and on our website)
4. Reflect on UNESCAP for President Joanne and Donnell - lessons learned from side events
5. Prepare for **6 priorities will we take to CSW** from Beijing +30 deliberations in Asia Pacific
6. Listen to Asia Pacific Climate Women's anthem [HERE](#)
7. Learn about Baroness Patricia Scotland - the Woman who **chaired negotiations for 56** countries over her 8-years as Secretary-General for the Commonwealth. Read it [HERE](#)
8. Read about Climate-Health-Justice for Pacific women, which can be viewed [HERE](#) where we showcased Soroptimist projects (pages 48 to 57) launched at CHOGM and can be viewed [HERE](#).
9. Understand impacts from a Decade of Feminist Foreign Policy and Funding - IWDA story view [HERE](#) and OECD [HERE](#) and formal outcomes view [HERE](#)
10. Review the workshop from Disinformation in the Pacific [HERE](#)
11. Learn that the COP29 on UNFCCC climate financing did not deliver for women or progress financing (but we have other ways) [HERE](#)
12. Appreciate your work - 16 days celebrations continue during November and December - new ways to eliminate violence against girls and women
13. Share video of 16 days webinar (for short time only) - access for those who bought tickets/ registered
14. **Encourage your club** to enter your work into the database so your impacts can be counted [HERE](#)
15. Prepare for **Education Day** 24 January 2025. Background information can be found [HERE](#)

As we plan for 2025, we have our:

- Signature campaigns: **March** International Women's Day and CSW69, **June** Environment month, **October** Day of the Girl Child, and **November-December** 16 days of Activism.
- September special tour of **Mongolia** hosted by 2 clubs (please express your interest)
- Your special UN Days for your club - Education in January, Peacekeepers in May, Refugees in June, Literacy in September, Modern Slavery (several days)
- **80th anniversary of the United Nations** - all year, 24 October (Women in the UN recognized February 2025)

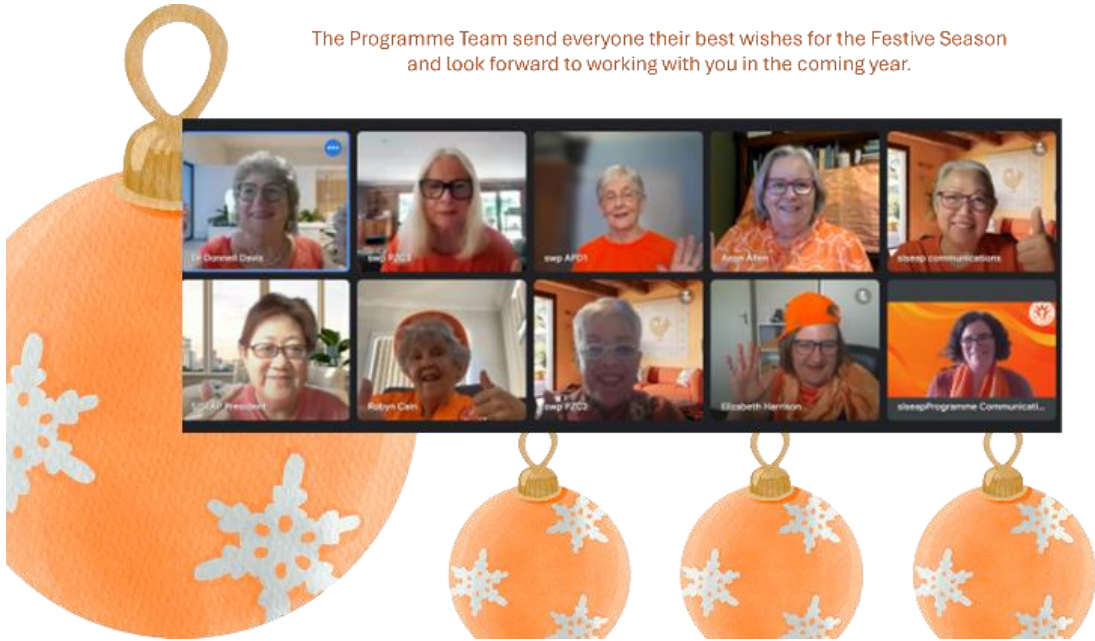


**Meet our new Team Member
- Programme Zone 4 Coordinator & GIC
Youth Representative**

We're excited to welcome Elizabeth Harrison to our team as the Programme Zone 4 Convenor and SISEAP Youth Representative to the SI Global Impact Committee! Elizabeth, who joined SI Brisbane in 2023, has an engineering background, Youth Rep on UN Habitat for SEQ (for 2032 Olympics) completed the Effective Directors Course, and is passionate about SDG14 governance.

She's also working on her Masters in Teaching. Welcome aboard, Elizabeth!

The Programme Team send everyone their best wishes for the Festive Season and look forward to working with you in the coming year.



Soroptimist members should take the time at a club meeting to discuss advocacy pathways raised in the presentation.

When feeling overwhelmed by the enormity of the problem, we must not forget that as individuals we have enormous power to make a difference by the way we live our everyday lives, how we interact with others and demonstrating life values that we hold.

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When feeling overwhelmed by the enormity of the problem, we must not forget that as individuals we have enormous power to make a difference by the way we live our everyday lives, how we interact with others and demonstrating life values that we hold.

There is a difference between misogyny and masculinity. Apart from the violent deaths, whilst shocking, this is only the tip of the iceberg – lives shortened, disabilities acquired, and injuries must not be forgotten.

When the term toxic masculinity is used, it is sending the wrong message to young boys and men. In most cultures being masculinity means the provider and protector, but with contemporary media and pornography the role of the male is distorted. **Masculinity is not the problem.**

- Don't underestimate the young – equip them with critical thinking, support them with the skills they need.
- Quote from Richie: "If you want your daughters to be safe, you need to raise your sons right"
- Upskill Dads, encouraging them to approach these topics, and talk to their sons.
- Involve more men in the change making conversations. Men listen to other men, – start at home, school and businesses.
- Involve whole of school community in a gender transformative approach. We need to disrupt and challenge stereotype attitudes in everyday life. We must be prepared for uncomfortable conversations.

Some prevention strategies:

- Child/forced marriages happen in almost every country in Asia Pacific, including Australia. 22 million globally.
- Gender, race, language sensitivity approach is important, where empathy, empowerment, justice, safety and healing should be emphasised.
- Statistics are important, but we should never forget the human beings behind those statistics. Always centralize the voice of the victim – what she wants for herself, and make certain that systems are informed by those voices.

Some key points that seven of my club's members and I reflected on:

Presenters included Richie Hardcore from NZ. Richie uses martial arts as a conversation starter with men who have been through the juvenile justice system, many of whom have grown up with family violence. It was refreshing to have a male perspective. The webinar was well attended by SI members and members of the community, from several different countries. It was both informative and challenging. The presenters were from diverse backgrounds, perspectives and lived experience.

SISEAP presented a successful "Preventing Gender Based Violence online event" with over 100 people in attendance.

Asst Programme Convenor 1

Rhonda McCormack

asstprogramme1.rhonda@siseap.org

SI Griffith - Unite Vigil

During the UN 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence SI Griffith in partnership with Linking Communities Network and the Griffith Local Domestic Violence Committee held our inaugural Memorial Vigil to remember the women and children killed in domestic and family violence incidents this year. At one point during the hour long silent vigil, held on 29 November, we were welcomed to Country by a Wiradjuri elder, Dot Watts, followed by very short addresses by our local state MP Helen Dalton, Mayor Doug Curran and representatives from LCN and Soroptimists.



SI Malaysia - Unite Walk Against Gender Based Violence



SI Region of Malaysia in collaboration with YWCA Malaysia, the Girl Guides of Kuala Lumpur and YWCA Kuala Lumpur had a heartfelt Unite Walk to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls for a 2km walk through ChinaTown in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Soroptimist International President Siew Yong Gnanalingam and SISEAP President Joanne Yeoh joined 160 participants in the advocacy event which also included a Panel Discussion on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls. The event featured the esteemed guest of honour, YB Teresa Kok, Member of Parliament Seputeh. President Joanne passionately expressed, 'We stand united with women and girls worldwide to eliminate violence. By engaging our communities, we raise awareness and advocate to end gender-based violence.' During the 16 Days of Activism campaign, organizations globally, from international human rights agencies to grassroots communities, come together to strengthen the activism of campaigners everywhere. Break the silence, Stop the violence!"

ADVOCACY WORK

CSW69 Delegate Applications have closed

Applications to attend CSW69 as a SISEAP delegate have closed. The Programme team will review all the applications and choose the successful candidate for the CSW scholarship and the successful candidates for the self-funded delegates. The delegates will be notified by the end of December 2024.



12 CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

- | | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------|----------|------------------|
| 1 GIRL CHILD | 2 WOMEN IN POWER | 3 INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS | 4 ECONOMY | 5 VAW | 6 ARMED CONFLICT |
| 7 HUMAN RIGHTS | 8 HEALTH | 9 ENVIRONMENT | 10 EDUCATION | 11 MEDIA | 12 POVERTY |

12 Critical Areas of Concern flagged in the Platform of Action © UN Women



Soroptimist Voices in Action

SISEAP President Joanne Yeoh and Programme Convenor Dr Donnell attended UNESCAP in Bangkok.

President Joanne Yeoh delivered a statement for Beijing plus 30 platform for action on Gender Equality. Both Joanne and Donnell attended 3 days of serious attention to 12 critical areas set 30 years ago. The future has only 6 that sound very different. Soroptimist advocating for Every Woman Treaty and 15 countries already on board.

[LISTEN TO JOANNE YEOH'S STATEMENT](#)

UNESCAP was established in 1947 with its headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the regional development arm of the United Nations . With 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members, the region is home to 4.1 billion people, two thirds of the world's population.

The 2025 Best Practice Awards are now accepting entries! Your club's outstanding project deserves recognition. The impact of our grassroots projects on women and girls, largely thanks to the fantastic work of Soroptimist clubs, is significant.



Why not let your project become an inspiration for other clubs? They may be looking for similar ideas to implement in their own communities. To nominate, your project must have been completed in 2024, submitted to the Programme database and have a valid ID number. The Programme Team eagerly awaits your nomination for these prestigious awards, set to be presented in May 2025. Don't miss this chance to shine!

[BPA NOMINATION FORM](#)

PROJECTS & APPEALS



**Round 7 is now open & closes on
the 30 December 2024**

Does your club have a project which requires funding?, consider applying now for funding of up to \$10,000 AUD to bring your club project to life. Read the guidelines document, and the supporting documents and then make your application. Members of the Programme Team are ready to assist you in completing your application.

[READ THE GUIDELINES & APPLY HERE](#)

Watch our video to see how the SISEAP Brilliant Futures Fund winners are shaping the future for women and girls in their communities. Their stories are a testament to the amazing work supported by your contributions.

[BFF GRANT WINNERS VIDEO](#)

Now, we need your help! By donating, you can ensure that even more transformative projects are funded and positive change continues. We are investing in our own projects in our own region.

[DONATE NOW](#)

SI Foundation

December 10th is Foundation Gift Giving Day, traditionally Soroptimists from across the world give up a favourite thing to do, like a cup of coffee, glass of wine, and donate that to the SI Foundation. To make your personal donation [HERE](#)

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION DAY

10 DECEMBER

An appeal by Soroptimist
International President
Siew Yong Gnanalingam



Listen to Soroptimist International President Siew Yong Gnanalingam's presentation about the projects currently being delivered by the foundation [HERE](#)

Correction: Last month, it was reported that SISEAP members donated \$6,400 AUD to the SI Foundation. Actually, **\$4,142 was donated from January to October 2024**. The \$6,400 AUD combines donations from 2023 and 2024 up to October 2024. This contribution showcases the incredible dedication of SISEAP Soroptimists, empowering women and girls through transformative projects.

UN DAYS

UN Days and their links can now be found on our Members Programme Page on the website. Pauline Glover, Zone Coordinator 3 is writing stories on a few of our special days that also go to our Facebook.

UN DAYS

International Education Day

The 24th of January is the International Day of Education. The UN sees 'Education is a human right, a public good and a public responsibility. International Day of Education was proclaimed in celebration of the role of education for peace and development. In November 2024, Education was the key to progressing B+30 critical issues. Background paper [here](#)

Education is a Soroptimist International key mandate. **Clubs are encouraged to acknowledge this day and highlight club activities related to Education through their meetings, activities and social media platforms.**

FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Soroptimist International has a new podcast discussing the 16 Days of Activism. Listen to this podcast "Ending Violence Against Women and Girls", SI President Elect Renata Trotman speaks about SI and the 16 Days of Activism. Listen to this and other podcasts [HERE](#).



[SISEAP EVENTS HERE](#)

SISEAP will be publishing a quarterly calendar, to view important dates for action and events, which can be viewed [HERE](#). The calendar is viewable from the front page of the SISEAP website, under the EVENTS tab.

AROUND THE FEDERATION



SI Griffith - International Day of the Girl Child Project

SI Griffith shares with us the publication by Murrumbidgee Regional High School on their International Day of the Girl Child, SI Griffith invited girls from across Griffith to participate in their **Enable Empower** workshop.

The customised workshop was delivered by Burn Bright who are a not-for-profit organisation that deliver student leadership and wellbeing programs. Throughout the day, the girls focused on enhancing their emotional intelligence, building positive self-expression and confidence, identifying personal values, building capacity and fostering resilience. This brilliant project and the impactful outcomes can be read in full [HERE](#).

Lombok (Indonesia) Earthquake Recovery Project: Through Water, Shelter and Capacity Building Final Report

The Makimur President's Appeal, initiated by SISEAP Past President Anusha Santhirasthipam in 2018 after a devastating earthquake and tsunami in Lombok, Indonesia, has achieved remarkable success.



Funds raised through the SISEAP appeal, supplemented by the SI President's 'Women, Water & Leadership' Appeal (2017-2019), enabled transformative projects led by SI Kemang and SI Jakarta under Isla Winarto's leadership. The primary goal was to improve the lives of 124 Rebuk Satu villagers, including 60 women, by providing clean water through bore construction and WASH facilities. This reduced women's burden of fetching water daily. Additionally, the project aimed to empower Rebuk Satu women through vocational education programs and community awareness initiatives in health, hygiene, waste disposal, climate change, and environmental management. By the project's end, Rebuk Satu was envisioned to become a model village, with extended capacity building for women in surrounding villages.

Please take the time to read the detailed report and a video featuring Isla Winarto discussing the project's impact,

[READ THE FULL FINAL REPORT](#)

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



SI South Perth - Prevention Strategy for Family and Domestic Violence

SI South Perth held a 2.5hour awareness raising pilot workshop for 16 carers, grand-carers and others with children in their lives.

South Perth members participating in the 34th Annual March Against Domestic and Family Violence in Perth.

The workshop aimed to advocate for Relationships and Sexuality Education, and Consent and Respectful Relationships. Education in ALL schools at ALL levels as a primary prevention strategy for Family and Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence, child sexual abuse and sexual assault.

Objectives: by the end of this session, participants will:

- have increased knowledge and understanding of gender-based violence
- understand the what, why and how schools are a significant setting for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children
- know and have access to current, evidence-based, relevant and free resources for all ages
- indicate their willingness to start discussions with family and friends
- know how they could advocate with family and friends, local schools and communities for more importance to be placed on this vital area of education.

The participants in the pilot were 16 SI South Perth members and friends. It was presented by Sue Dimitrijevic, MHP BEd. Sue is a member of SI South Perth. Sue is a private Health Promotion and Education Consultant with more than 40 years' experience as a primary educator and principal, curriculum and resource writer, and presenter and facilitator at all levels of education for audiences young and old(er). Sue's special interest areas include Relationships and Sexuality Education, and Consent and Respectful Relationships Education.

SI South Perth are right on target for 2024's 16 Days of Activism theme of Prevention first. More workshops are proposed to be offered to other SI clubs in 2025. We look forward to hearing more about this programme next year.

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

It's that time of the year! All clubs should complete their reporting to the Programme Reporting Database. Not too sure where to begin? Then watch the video below on how to use the Programme Reporting Database.



Remember that 2024 reports should be uploaded by the 31st of December so that the Programme team can process reports for annual reports.

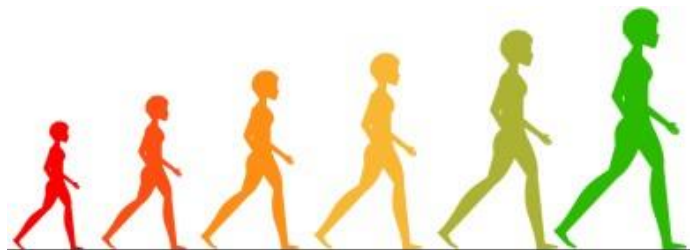
[WATCH THE 'HOW TO' VIDEO](#)



Having problems with the Programme Database?

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

DID YOU KNOW?



Be the Change

Click the image to download.

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.

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 2025 eSPAN edition is required by **Tuesday 4 February 2025**. Please email your submissions to programme.donnell@siseap.org Thank you.



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