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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 June 2025 edition of the Programme Action News

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## FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



In June, we campaign for greener, safer, healthier futures as we celebrate World Environment Day for a whole month. Internationally and locally much is happening about plastics.

In this edition we also recognize our best practice award winners, read about them [HERE](#). We also encourage clubs where the coordinators recommended projects and advocacy for BPA in the feedback box on the database to consider formally applying. Your projects show innovation or impact. It is not ethical for the programme team to nominate your work if you don't formally enter the BPA process in the beginning of each year. We were so pleased with your 2024 entries.

Some of our Soroptimists are individual achievers in other spheres in society. I encourage you to nominate our quiet achievers in every public forum, national award, and international award. We have some of the worlds best operators, but we are not celebrating this. If you do nominate someone, ensure all the details are absolutely correct (sit with the nominee), otherwise they are disqualified over a date or statistical detail. We should acknowledge them and shout from the rooftops as they model desired ambition for younger members.

With changes in National President Reports for AGM, one country's celebration of policy achievements against B+30 view [HERE](#) and showcase other countries with National President Reports. The new 2025 Global Gender Gap report is [HERE](#), so find your country pages.

We pray with the families of over 50,000 children who died in 120 days of genocide (2000 classrooms of children) - innocent collateral of a war not of their making.

Currently, the convention on biological diversity CBD focuses on target 23, view [HERE](#) for gender equality and the Environment program UNEP, and the UNOC Ocean Conference is in Nice, France. Find out more [HERE](#). Online sessions are available, especially for ecocide, climate justice, pacific, women, pollution, innovation and coastal migration. Those UN recommendations make us

more effective and innovative with our projects, and worthy of international recognition.

It is the end of an era for the UN Commission on the Status of Women. CSW revitalisation now has a zero draft. UN has 4 sets of reforms so we need transparent inclusive representative solutions that meet our future needs - honour the past, honour the future with better logistics - making CSW accessible and affordable for all. SISEAP and SI will share the next drafts.

Personally, I met Soroptimists on my road trip to New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory learning rural needs and city pressures. Escaping eastern floods and western dust storms, I participated in regional conferences for NSW, Queensland and South Australia in May and June, noting the diversity of scope and depth of our Soroptimist work. Thank you for your warm hospitality and all your good deeds.

**Dr  
Programme**

**Donnell  
Convenor**

**Davis,  
2024-2026**

[programme.donnell@siseap.org](mailto:programme.donnell@siseap.org)

## SISEAP ENVIRONMENT MONTH



### World Environment Day/Month - June

[UNEP](https://www.unep.org/)

World Environment Day 2025 has a thematic focus on ending plastic pollution. UNEP's global campaign uses the symbolism of nature—balance, circularity, and unity—to inspire reflection and action to #BeatPlasticPollution.

SISEAP will be taking up the challenge to end plastic pollution with a focus on microplastics and how they are affecting all aspects of life on Earth. The key messages will revolve around SDG 3/6/12/14.

Toolkit and resources can be found on the Trello board.

Looking forward to receiving articles and reports from clubs on their activities.

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY/MONTH



### SI Save Mother Earth - Save the Future: Women and Water, Webinar

The recording of our powerful World Environment Day webinar, is now available!

Co-hosted by Soroptimist International and Women for Water Partnership, the session featured global women leaders tackling the intersecting challenges of water security, gender inequality, and environmental justice.

Read the blog [HERE](#). Watch the recording [HERE](#).

In other environment news:

- Double Jeopardy: Addressing compound flood and heatwave events. Read report [HERE](#).
- The Status and Trends of Coral Reefs in the Pacific: 2024 – A Call to Action for Pacific Islands and People. Read more [HERE](#).

- Blue Economy: a summary of oceans law and resolutions. Read more [HERE](#).
- The Oceans Conference UNOC is happening now, protecting 1/3 of Pacific, bringing treaties, and more.
- 2024 in CHOGM Samoa, Soroptimists were involved in the Commonwealth Oceans Declaration (for 56 countries) [HERE](#).
- Women are more exposed to plastic-related toxins due to biological differences and gendered roles. — from (1) chemical exposure in caregiving, cleaning and cosmetics, to (2) unsafe conditions in waste and textile industries. And yet, women are too often excluded from decisions that affect their health and communities.
- Ecocide has been led from Pacific countries. But its convoluted legal path was restricted to conflict zones, and other arguments about definitions. Precedent may be in Scotland with severe and reckless harm to nature. View [HERE](#).



### Showcase your clubs work: 'Soroptimist Action: Improving Our Environment'

SI Voices podcast episode featuring SI President Siew Yong Gnanalingam. In this inspiring podcast episode, Soroptimist International President Siew Yong Gnanalingam shares her deep personal connection to the environment and why protecting Mother Earth is so close to her heart. She reflects on growing up surrounded by nature and how that shaped her values and commitment to sustainability. At home, she takes small but meaningful actions—like reducing plastic use and conserving energy—to live more mindfully.

As SI President, she has placed climate change at the centre of her advocacy, urging Soroptimists to act locally while thinking globally. One of her key initiatives has been

raising awareness about the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls.

She now calls on Soroptimists around the world to help create a powerful legacy by submitting short video clips of the environmental work they are doing. Whether it's tree planting, recycling drives, or renewable energy projects—every contribution counts. The best clips will be featured in a special SI climate action video to be shared on 24 October, the International Day of Climate Action. Full video guidelines and submission details are available on the Soroptimist International website: [www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org). Let's unite for our planet and let the world see what Soroptimists can do!

Listen to the podcast [HERE](#).

Information that explains this project and lists the guidelines for sending in video clips can be viewed [HERE](#).

**COMPLETED VIDEOS CAN BE SUBMITTED BELOW**

**VIDEO SUBMISSIONS**



**President's Special Appeal: "Myanmar Rising: Earthquake Response Fund"**

We are proud to support the **Emergency Action Alliance**, a trusted collective of leading Australian aid organisations, who are working together to deliver fast, effective, and coordinated help on the ground in Myanmar.

**All donations to this fund will go directly to the Emergency Action Alliance.**

**Every donation counts. Every act of kindness matters.**

[DONATE NOW](#)

## ADVOCACY WORK

**Key Takeaways from CSW69**

Analysis of the 12 Critical Areas of the Beijing Platform for Action. This document articulates the progress or regress on each of the 12 critical areas from Beijing Platform for Action over 30 years. It also calls for Soroptimists to take action for the future. Read more [HERE](#).

See how our countries have implemented in our 2024 Federation National Presidents reports [HERE](#).

[INFORMATION CSW69](#)

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### **Federation Public Speaking Competition**

Get ready to be inspired by bold ideas, passionate perspectives, and thoughtful solutions from the next generation of changemakers.

This year's theme, "Empowered Voices, Sustainable Choices," encourages young people to explore how individuals and communities can make informed, ethical, and bold decisions that support a more sustainable and equitable future.

Categories:

12 years -15 years

16 years - 19 years

This is your opportunity to express your interest in talking part in this Federation initiative.

Please **complete by the 24th June.**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM**

**BEST PRACTICE AWARDS**

## Best Practice Awards

The Programme team wish to extend their congratulations to the award winners in each category.



### BPA Winners

SI Joondalup - Education  
SI Melaka - Elimination of Violence  
SI Adelaide - Economic Empowerment  
SI Moreton North Inc - Health  
SI Region of Malaysia - Food Security  
SI Penang - Environmental Sustainability

### BPA Highly Commended

SI Moreton North Inc - Education  
SI Moreton North Inc- Elimination of Violence  
SI Launceston - Health  
SI Moreton North Inc - Food Security  
SI Moreton North Inc - Disaster Relief  
SI Logan - Environmental Sustainability  
SI Waimea - Environmental Sustainability

PROGRAMME BPA WINNERS

## PROJECTS & APPEALS



**Round 9 is now open & applications have been extended until the 30th July**

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](#)



**SOROPTIMIST  
INTERNATIONAL  
FOUNDATION**

### **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](#)



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

## 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](#)

FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



[SISEAP EVENTS HERE](#)

## SI Convention 2027

**30 September to 2 October 2027**

Soroptimist International (SI) is excited to announce that the 2027 Soroptimist International Convention will be held in the stunning city of Prague, in the Czech Republic.

Hosted by Soroptimist International Europe (SIE), this highly anticipated event will bring together Soroptimists from around the world to re-connect, collaborate, and advance our global mission of achieving human rights and gender equality for all women and girls.



[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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 Shepparton's Mega Garage Sale SDG12 (Responsible Consumption) Target 12.5**

100 women and 100 girls helped.

*Photo by Rechelle Zammit*

When people move house, declutter or upgrade their household goods, they want to dispose of their old goods, even though they are still functioning and could be reused by others. SI Shepparton advertised in local papers and radios stations about the events (\$320). SI Shepparton identified that by collecting these goods and making them available to both community groups and the general public, a significant amount of resources are reused, recycled and prevented from going into landfill.

From early 2024 SI Shepparton collected and stored goods from deceased estates, people who are downsizing and/or decluttering their homes. They hired storage sheds at a cost of \$195 per month. Prior to holding the garage sales, members would sort and clean goods as necessary. For two weeks in June and again in October, SI Shepparton then held mega garage sale. Goods were made available to various community groups as well as the general public. This prevented these goods including furniture, homewares, books, toys and clothing from going to landfill. Shepparton Harness Club made their reception rooms available for modest rent for the duration of the garage sales (\$500). They had 18 people rostered during the garage sales (8 hours a day for six days in June and October 2024) plus 2 people collecting, sorting and cleaning donated goods for at least one day a week for ten months making a total of 448 hours covered by members for this project. A mighty effort SI Shepparton.

The featured photo appeared in the Shepperton News with the caption: **The ladies of Soroptimist International of Shepparton on the first day of their Giant Charity Garage Sale.**

## PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

### June Top Tip

Topics:

1. Your Zone Coordinators
2. Communication from the Programme Team

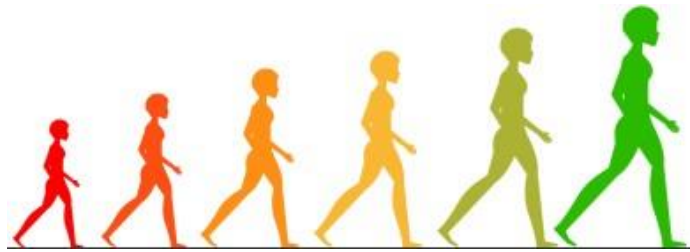
PROGRAMME  
DATABASE TIP SHEET



3. How to calculate time spent on an activity

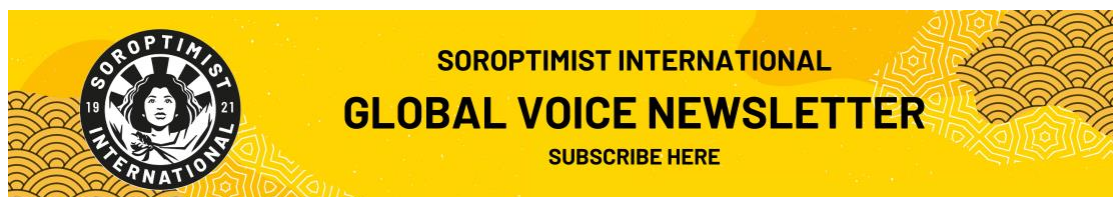
## JUNE TIP SHEET

## 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.



SI

Global

Voice

Newsletter

Stay connected and informed from Soroptimist International! Click on the image above to subscribe and receive the SI Global Voice monthly updates directly in your inbox. Don't miss out—subscribe today!

## Downloading and printing eSPAN

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Copy for the April 2025 eSPAN edition is required by **Wednesday 2 July 2025**. Please email your submissions to [programme.donnell@siseap.org](mailto:programme.donnell@siseap.org) Thank you.



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