

THE SOROPTIMIST SWP

a global voice
for women

Soroptimist



(ACN 147 990 627)

International

Federation of the South West Pacific



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Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific

(ACN 147 990 627)

PRESIDENT: Siew Yong Gnanalingam

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Carolyn Hudson

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT : Yvonne Simpson

SECRETARY: Anne Gover

TREASURER: Karen Ford

Administration Officer:

SISWP HEADQUARTERS:

PO Box 746

SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

Australia

Phone: +61 2 8096 6072, Fax: + 61 2 9690 2261

Email: hq@siswp.org

Website Address: <www.siswp.org>

SISWP SHOP: As above Email: hq@siswp.org



Grant of Friendship New Zealand North

The Region of New Zealand North invites Soroptimists – residing outside New Zealand to apply for its Friendship Grant 2014.

Those eligible are: Two Soroptimists or one Soroptimist and spouse/partner/friend and preferably not to have been a past Gift of Friendship recipient. The five clubs in the Region offer home hospitality and accommodation for a period of three weeks between the months of March and November 2014.

The visitors will be expected to pay all travelling expenses to and from New Zealand North. They will be asked to pay admission fees where these apply. Some transport between clubs may be at the recipients own expense. If a club meeting coincides with a visit, the guests may be asked to speak informally.

Applications should be in English, and no more than 500 words. They should include the applicant's Soroptimist background, occupation, interests, if possible a recent photograph and reasons for wishing to visit New Zealand.

Applications close on October 30th 2013 and should be sent to:

Laurice Botica
276A Shirley Rd
Papatoetoe, Auckland 2025
New Zealand

email: galbot@clear.net.nz

Photographs on the front cover are at top: The Waterfront at Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia place of the CofC 2014; Next 4 photos are from the SI Australia AGM; Bottom photo: Past Presidents of SI WA at their 60th celebrations

Many thanks to all the photographers who have contributed to the photos throughout the issue.

The deadline for the November
SISWP Magazine is
30 September 2013.

The theme for the next issue is **Friendship, Goodwill and Understanding** as October 3rd is a day to celebrate Soroptimist Friendship Day Please send your stories and photos as soon as your Oct 3rd celebration is over.

THE SOROPTIMIST -SWP The Magazine of SISWP



As you can see from the photo today is raining and cold. Actually a great day to be inside typing up an editorial. This issue of the SWP Magazine is crammed full of club news. In fact I have not been able to fit in everything that you have sent, for which I apologise. And, yesterday I received two important articles that I had given up on. So, I had to find some more space and decided to remove an article that will be just as appropriate next issue.

The cold weather has me dreaming about warmer climates and I have read the information about the next Conference of Clubs in Kuching with enthusiasm. One of the first adult books I read was the story of the Brooks family in Sarawak and it fascinated me. I am looking forward to visiting Kuching next year and reliving my memories of "The White Rajah".

Please note the new logos that President Siew Yong has had designed. Write down the dates of the events to which they relate. We anticipate some wonderful support for the 'Walk the Talk' campaign this year between November 25th and December 10th and I applaud the new slogan, "**Zero Tolerance, Zero Violence, Zero Victims**".

Kerry

From the Editor

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Kerry Garrett
39 Tulip Street, Violet Town
Victoria 3669 Australia
Phone: (61.3) 5798 1206
Email: garrettb@internode.on.net
Committee:

Judy Hunter, SI Townsville

Maggie Mitchell, SI Business on Collins

Indrani Manuel, SI Damansara

Printer: Prominent Press, Drummond Road, Shepparton, Australia

Soroptimists Share and Care

This issue's theme is sharing and caring. As a service organization, we have no doubt many opportunities to share and care. Our service projects should ably demonstrate our motivation to share the diversity of strength we have individually and as an organization, in terms of our skills, expertise, experience, time, goodwill, friendship, outstretched hands, even money if we have the means, because we care for the less fortunate, the marginalized and the disadvantaged, to enable and empower them to help themselves and their families and one day even help others.



A cash donation raised in place of gifts for my grandson's first birthday, was my daughter's way of sharing and caring

I have been fortunate to see for myself some of the sharing and caring in our member countries. At events that I have attended, I get to hear of the impact that our projects, which are carried out in the spirit of share and care, have on the communities you serve. I believe that is the essence of who we are and what we are about. We are not a social club nor just a networking one or a charity fund raiser. We carry out programmes of service in the spirit of share and care to the best of the combined resources of members of the club and the federation

The BIP project in PNG is a good example of share and care. Soroptimists from around the world have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars towards this project. Our former Programme Manager, Janet Askern, shared so much of her time and effort and no doubt her own funds to make this BIP project grow and be meaningful enough to be adopted as the International President's Appeal Project for two years. We thank Janet for her contributions, IPP Yvonne Simpson for adopting BIP as the Federation project and International President Alice Wells for allowing SI to share and care for the BIP project.



At the Vocational Training Centre made out of containers, a SI Ramu project

To continue the journey, I was able to go to PNG to visit the BIP project with May Lamont, our new Project Manager. The project clearly demonstrates the amount of sharing and caring by Soroptimists from SI Lae and SI Ramu who are on the ground to make the project happen.

There are many Soroptimists to thank who have taken the project this far, but I have to single out Soroptimists like Jane Kenni, Meredith Tutumang and Nellie McLay from SI Lae who are behind the two mobilisation projects that have taken place to assess birthing needs of the remote villages and health centres.

Then we have Judy Muliap, Sister Serah and members of SI Ramu who have worked hard to deliver the VBA training workshops. All our 3 clubs in PNG, SI Port Moresby, SI Lae and SI Ramu have initiated many projects for women and children among the marginalised groups that demonstrates their sharing and caring values. From raising funds to build a Women's Training and Resource Centre by SIPOM, to building a Training Centre from containers by SI Ramu, we demonstrate sharing and caring

I was privileged to have been able to witness the induction of many new members by SI Lae and SI Ramu. I also took the opportunity to present

to SI Lae President Jane Kenni the Best Practice Award for the Momase Candidate Strategy Training for the National Elections (Goal 2)



My visit to Lae included Haus Claire Children's home, St Luke Centre for Street children.



While I was in Ramu, I gave an impromptu speech to the upper school students at a Primary School on the importance of education and gender respect.

My visit to PNG was capped by a dinner graciously hosted by Her Excellency Datin Blanche Obery, High Commissioner of Malaysia to PNG for a group of women leaders based in Port Moresby. (see below)

Siew Yong Gnanalingam
SISWP President





Charter of Soroptimist International Gippsland

Three years after the idea was first raised we held the Charter of SI Gippsland on 26th May, 2013. We were honoured to have the President of SI SWP Siew Yong Gnanalingham from Malaysia as our official guest. Latrobe City Mayor Sandy Kam gave a speech and toast. SI Victoria Region President Sue Whitehead was also present and many Past Presidents and Honorary Members.

Gippsland was first introduced to SI after the 2009 bushfires. SI members and clubs from around Australia and the world raised money to support a community affected by these fires. Gippsland was chosen and local projects as well as individuals were supported in bushfire recovery work.

This led to the idea of establishing a club in Gippsland and Maggie Mitchell, the SI Victoria Region Extension Officer started the process of running meetings to raise awareness and interest in a local club. Even before the club was chartered, various fundraising activities have been undertaken with the proceeds supporting local organisations including Fitted for Work, the Victorian Aboriginal

Child Care Agency and Latrobe Valley Palliative Care Fundraising Association.

A very successful fundraising event was held last year at Monash University for the SI SWP - Birthing in the Pacific project. Attendees were educated on the difference between first world births and third world births, including a tour of the Monash midwifery teaching suite.

The club has a diverse group of members. They are amazing women who selflessly donate their time to supporting women and women's causes. SI Gippsland, with 26 members, and still growing, will be a strong club as the members come from a large region with several communities, which can offer opportunities for many meaningful projects. The new club is in very good hands and leading them into their inaugural year is Samantha Brick as President, Joanne Ramselaar as Secretary and Wendy Ritchie as Treasurer.

Meetings are held at the Morwell Central Hotel -192 Commercial Road (Entrance via Tarwin Street) on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 5.30pm. New members are most welcome. email sigippsland@gmail.com.

Samantha Brick
SI Gippsland

Charter members gathered together with SWP President Siew Yong and SI Victoria Extension Maggie Mitchell

Congratulations and welcome to SI Gippsland

On 26 th May I had the privilege to present the charter to SI Gippsland and welcomed them as our 139th club to SISWP. I was thrilled to hear that the club had embarked on several projects which reflected the Soroptimist spirit of sharing and caring, even before they are chartered. I was also pleasantly surprised to discover that Charter President, Samantha Brick is no newbie to Soroptimism having grown up with a mother who is a long time Soroptimist and that she even attended the Conference of Clubs at Greymouth before becoming a member.

Siew Yong
SI SWP President





**Best Practice Awards
2012 - 2013-06-30**

Hearty congratulations to the clubs who featured in this year's awards, which were announced at the AGM in Sydney in May. The quantity of nominations may not have been there but the quality certainly was. It was interesting to note that Objective 4 was in fact so close that a tie was the result.

Special mention must go to the Fiji clubs whose members are always keen to report their special project work. The work done in Papua New Guinea to promote women to parliamentary office by facilitating training programmes for candidates is also worth a special mention. In the elections women who had participated in the training were elected.

Following is a list of the winners.

Goal 1: Soroptimist International will improve the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities.

Objective 1: Increase access to formal and non-formal learning opportunities.

SI Gold Coast - Laos: Laos Academic Opportunity Scheme [PFR #26946]

Objective 2: Improve access to economic empowerment and sustainable opportunities for the employment of women.

SI Gold Coast - Kiva Lending Programme [PFR #27031]

Objective 3: Eliminate violence against women and girls and ensure women's participation in conflict resolution

SI Griffith - men say NO! to violence [PFR #29089]

Objective 4: Ensure women and girls have food security and access to highest attainable standard of health care

SI Lautoka - Water relief for rural schools [PFR #29056]
SI Ulaanbaatar - Help for visually disabled women [PFR #27098]

Objective 5: Address the specific needs of women and girls by improving environmental sustainability, and mitigating effects of climatic change and disasters

SI Lautoka - Flood relief emergency response [PFR #24472]

Goal 2: SI will be a global voice for increasing access to education and leadership for women and girls

SI Lae - Momase Candidate Strategy Training for recent elections [PFR #28587]

Members from SI Lae with Siew Yong



All the nominations from this year will be eligible for the SPECIAL BIENNIUM AWARD at the Conference of Clubs in Kuching in 2014. The details are still to be confirmed but as outlined by President Siew Yong:

In line with the theme, "Flower Power – Uniqueness in Diversity", I would like to remind clubs that we will showcase five projects selected from the best of each of the 13 countries which reflect the most unique solutions to meet the diverse needs of the community you serve. There will be a "Uniqueness in Diversity Award" for the five selected projects and the clubs can also bask in the pride of being able to showcase your club project as your country's best at the Conference. Time is short, so start winding up your creative minds to create and implement your project, if you have not done so, to be able to compete and be selected. Remember a PFR will be part of the requirements.

Robyn Cain
SI SWP Programme Director



SI Lautoka proudly displaying their 2 BP awards



SINQ Bras for PNG

The SI North Queensland region made up of six clubs - Cairns, Tablelands, Townsville (x3) and Mackay began a project in 2012 to collect bras for women in Papua New Guinea. In PNG bras are very expensive. The health authorities in PNG are anxious that women wear bras as support, particularly, after childbirth. The absence of a bra in the tropical heat and humidity often leads to rashes, and infections. At our Region weekend on 16/17th March the six clubs brought hundreds of bras and this resulted in Cairns club packing 1332 bras. These were delivered to SuSu Mamas by Bryant Industries.

Wendy Logan, SINQ

SISWP Conference of Clubs May 2-4 2014



Kuching is proud to be the host city to the SISWP 2014 COC, planned for early May 2014. The Conference will be held on 2-4 May 2014 at Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Tourism and Culture is sponsoring a three hour Kuching City Tour on the 5th May, a day after the Conference ends for all registered delegates of the conference.

Originally a busy riverine trading post, Kuching is today a delightful blend of the old and new. The Brooke family, who once governed Sarawak from 1841 until 1946, left behind a legacy of buildings which still stand majestically amidst modern-day buildings.

The Sarawak Museum, built in 1891 in the style of a Normandy town hall, is regarded as one of the best museums in Southeast Asia. The Textile and Costume Museum is housed in the Pavillion, a three-storey rectangular structure built in 1907. Located just in front of the general post office, this is the place to

learn more about the textiles of the indigenous people of Sarawak. Take a walk along the award-winning Kuching Waterfront, a beautifully landscaped esplanade on a stretch of the old part of the city. Near the Waterfront, shops on the Main Bazaar, (see photo left) dating back to 1864 offer a rich variety of souvenirs, antiques, arts, crafts and the like. The city offers entertainment and nightlife and eating out is a favorite pastime. Restaurants offer a wide variety from traditional Chinese, Indian and Malay to contemporary Japanese as well as Western cuisines.

Kuching is also home to world-class resorts and golf courses. Only minutes away from the city are sandy beaches and virgin tropical rainforest. Kuching has other attributes that make it a pleasant, comfortable, nice place to be. It is one of the cleanest cities in Malaysia and has been recognized by the United Nations, the Alliance for Healthy Cities, and the World Health Organization for this achievement.

**Conference Chair,
Audry Wan Ullok**

The Website:

Please check it out at www.soroptimist-swpcoc.com to find out more about the destination, the conference venue, accommodation available, how to get there, pre and post tour packages, etc.



The Logo:

In line with the 2012-2014 Biennium Theme "Flower Power- Strength in Diversity", the logo has been developed incorporating the 13 petals of a flower reflecting the flags of the 13 countries of SISWP.

The Theme:

In sync with the biennium slogan "Flower Power - Strength in Diversity", the theme of the Conference is "Uniqueness in Diversity" to reflect not only the strengths but also the uniqueness of the diversity of the member countries of SWP as a Federation, particularly in delivering our programme of service to meet the needs on our communities.

A special Conference Best Practice Award will showcase 5 best projects which reflect the theme "Uniqueness in Diversity" of the countries of the South West Pacific.



Serious blowing

Watched by Catherine Evans, IPP SI Australia, PE SWP Carolyn Hudson, PP SWP Leigh Ellwood Brown, and May Lamont, SWP Project Manager, valiantly blew out the candles on SI Australia's 15th birthday cake, during the lunch break of the AGM

Educate, Exchange Connection

The Educate . Exchange Connection programme will be held from 3rd to 13th October 2013 with 18 ambassadors celebrating SI Friendship Day in Kuala Lumpur on 3rd October before they move on to their respective host country for 5-7 days.

The EEC logo which shows "2 members holding hands" (embrace graphically) to symbolise solidarity and unity. When the circle is bent and viewed at an angle, it appears to create an infinity symbol which represents continuity, ie something that never ends, not having a beginning and ending point. This suggests the continuous exchange of ideas and understanding and a friendship that never ends among members of the federation. The SI colours that seem to merge with each other also emphasize this concept.



**EDUCATE • EXCHANGE
CONNECTION**
3RD - 13TH OCTOBER 2013

Global Ambassador at SI SWP AGM

Guest speaker at the SISWP Annual General Meeting in May was Her Excellency Penny Williams, Australia's Global Ambassador for Women and Girls.

The Global Ambassador for Women and Girls is responsible for high-level advocacy to promote Australian Government policies and activity regarding gender equality and the social, political and economic empowerment of women and girls, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. The Ambassador works closely with foreign governments and international organisations to support measures that eradicate violence against, and trafficking of, women and girls; promote better educational and health outcomes; protect women and girls in conflict and promote the role of women in peace-building; eliminate discrimination; and enhance the participation of women in decision-making and leadership.

That should sound very familiar! The aims of the role are very much in parallel with the vision and mission of Soroptimist International.

The Office of the Global Ambassador for Women and Girls was established by Prime Minister Julia Gillard, then Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd and then Minister



SI SWP President Siew Yong, Her Excellency Penny Williams, SWP IPP Yvonne Simpson and SWP PE Carolyn Hudson enjoying time for a chat at the SI SWP AGM

for the Status of Women Kate Ellis in September 2011. As Penny commented, being appointed by three ministers is quite unusual and showed the strong government support for this role.

Appointed on 13 September 2011, Penny is a career diplomat whose overseas postings have included Malaysia (High Commissioner 2007-2010), Santiago and Damascus. In between overseas postings, she worked in the Department of Foreign Affairs, most recently as First Assistant Secretary.

Penny has focused her efforts and her travels initially in the Pacific, where there is a "potential to make a real difference" and health and social data reveal women to be among the most marginalized in the world. She spoke about her travels in this area, emphasizing two themes – violence against women and the importance of getting women into positions of political influence.

Penny spoke of her "boots on the ground" approach to her position and the broad scope of the role, across governments and civil society, including close liaison with AUSAID. The situation for women in the Pacific is a challenge on which the Australian government is willing to work and put money behind this work. Penny's optimism was very infectious!

This is a woman who is working for us, doing the work we wish we could all do. We were extremely fortunate she was able to attend our AGM to speak to us.

To all Australian Soroptimists – with a forthcoming federal election, we must ensure there is commitment to continue the role of the Global Ambassador for Women and Girls. The world, and particularly the Pacific, needs this Ambassador.

Carolyn Hudson
SI SWP President Elect



SI Australia AGM

The SI Australia AGM was held in Adelaide on May 18th 2013.

I really enjoyed greeting members on arrival and to see the joy of them reconnecting with friends. Members were keen to meet Federation President Siew Yong in person and they were delighted with her energy and humour

As I had been unwell. I asked SI Australia Past National Representative, Catherine

Evans, to chair the morning's AGM while Anne Sheehan, SI Australia National Representative Elect chaired the Business Meeting.

In her comments at the end of the morning's AGM meeting Past Federation President Eileen Mitchell congratulated Past National Representatives on their commitment to SI Australia. The afternoon's activities, included talks by Dr Elspeth McInnes on 'Natural Disasters and the Increase of Domestic and Family Violence' and Libby Davies, CEO of the Australian White Ribbon Campaign. Both sessions were practical and informative.

My part of the afternoon consisted of a brief discussion on the results of the International Women's Day and White Ribbon Day surveys sent out to all clubs across Australia. Not surprisingly White Ribbon Day was not as well supported

as International Women's Day. The results of the survey will form a key area of my work with clubs.

The evening dinner was held at Rydges Hotel where Federation President Siew Yong spoke on the Educate, Exchange Connection, and Walk the Talk. Past Federation President Leigh Ellwood Brown gave a potted history of SI Australia including asking those Past National Representatives present to talk about highlights of their term.

Those who attended a brunch on the Sunday at 'The Monastery' continued on with their networking while enjoying the food and surrounds.

Annette Korzeba
SI Australia National Representative 2012-2014



Midwives Day

SI Helena members in WA marked International Midwives Day on May 5th with a visit to their local Maternity Unit

at Swan Districts Hospital in Midland, a suburb of Perth, where they provided a sumptuous afternoon tea. Each midwife was presented with a single yellow rose and a bookmark from our club. The visit was timed to reach midwives about to go on duty and those coming off duty.

Information about SI and the Birthing in the Pacific Project was available to everyone.

Berenice Ritchie
SI Helena, WA



SI Nadi's kindness

Members of SI Nadi joined forces with teachers and students of Andrews Primary and Nadi Muslim Primary to give a special treat to around 20 children who live at the Treasure Home Orphanage in Nadi. Treasure Home is a haven for under-privileged children from one day old to adolescents up to 18 years of age. The group visited the Home and cleaned up the compound. This gave them the opportunity to spend quality time with the children who were also delighted to be served lunch and snacks by the group. According to SI Nadi President Elect Famiza Fareen, "We donated stationery, sanitary items and pot plants to the Home. The stationery items were received from Canada by the club and we decided that the students at this home were the most appropriate beneficiaries for these donations".

Zareena Bi
SI Fiji



Moreton North online

Congratulations to the organiser and sponsors of Virtual International Day of Midwives. This amazing virtual conference celebrated the contributions

of international midwives. Our members from SI Moreton North Inc. and other SI friends around the world have been tuning in at different times on our home computers. We held a special afternoon tea to listen to our SISWP Birthing in the Pacific Project in Papua New Guinea – well done Yvonne, Judy, Christine and May. SIMN raised has \$2,000 for our BIP Project and nearly \$2000 for two scholarships for Indigenous midwives through the Rhodanthe Lipsett Charitable Trust Fund.

Chris Knight
SI Moreton North, Sth Qld



Pam's Friendship Link

SI Essen Victoria, Germany hosted a Friendship Link visit by SI Cobram Barooga member, Pam O'Dwyer, from Australia in May. Travelling on my own

I first visited Munich and Berlin before arriving by train at Essen. Rail travel is fabulous in Europe but sometimes challenging. Two trains arrived joined together at Berlin Station and guess what, I got on the train that was going to be detached during the journey. Panic as I made a mad dash at the next station to get onto the correct train. Elisabeth Pieper, our Friendship Link contact, was there at Essen and was a wonderful host. Essen was an industrial town in the past with a huge coalmine. Wealthy industrialist families have provided great facilities for the Essen community. The city is now a wonderful green area on the Rhur River. Meeting with several of the members in their workplaces was an insight and an inspirational experience.

SI Cobram Barooga members contributed to the making of a patchwork quilt to present to SI Essen as a parting gift from the "Aussie Club". Having

seen some of the handcrafts done by the host club members it was a little humbling to present our quilt. To us the quilt was special as Elisabeth had sent a personal gift to share with our club of original prints of costumes and dresses worn in the 19th century from her family trunk. We had them transferred to fabric and one side of the quilt was of these wonderful prints.

Quoting Elisabeth, "We will talk a lot about you at our next club meeting and the goodtime we all had, and the last evening we had together and you coming out with your amazing present. It's coming to stay with me and I love it. A big hug to you and my thanks to all the club sisters who contributed." A wonderful journey to have shared with like minded people.

Pam O'Dwyer
SI Cobram-Barooga, Victoria

Photo shows Pam with the quilt



35th Birthday

SI Bendigo celebrated its 35th Birthday with a luncheon on Sunday 30 June, when President Margaret welcomed SI Victoria Region President, Sue Whitehead and Soroptimists from SI Ballarat and SI Benalla. Kerry Garrett, SWP Magazine Editor for the last eight years, gave an interesting and enlightening talk on her role as Magazine Editor. Two members, Lola Miller and Wilma Skidmore were presented with a gift on reaching 25 years service to SI Bendigo. A celebration cake was cut by a charter member Jessie Wade, and our youngest (and newest) Soroptimist, Tawney Leithhead-Craigie. (photo above)

Wilma Skidmore
SI Bendigo, Victoria



40th Birthday

SI Tauranga recently celebrated their 40th birthday. We were fortunate in having four charter members present including the charter president and the NZ President, Annette Smith. Our guest speaker for the evening was Claire Szabo, NZ CEO of 'Habitat for Humanity' who gave a truly inspiring address on her life and career. Note the birthday cake which was made and iced with NZ Soroptimist roses by Sandra Johnson, club member and Region President.

Carol Butler
SI Tauranga, NZ

The charter members: Mary Hitchcock, Lois Whiting (Charter President), Myra Millar and Peg Lynds (Club Patron).

30th Birthday

Fifty people gathered at Fork and Cork Restaurant on Saturday June 15th to celebrate 30 years since SI Port Pirie was chartered in 1983. Among the guests were Mary Hanley, President of the SA Region, and Alan Paterson from Rotary who proposed the toast to the club. Also Nan Taylor, inaugural President and many past and present members. We welcomed Bev O'Meara, member of SI Geelong and former Port Pirie member, who arrived with her sister Christine Wilson, a past member of SIPP and their mother.

Guest speaker was Mary Hanley, who



outlined her earlier career as a music teacher and musical director in Adelaide. Louise Hausler, a charter member, was invited to light the ornate candle made by MC Deb Tregilgas and Nan Taylor, was asked to cut the 30th birthday cake.

Heather Hunt
SI Port Pirie, SA

WA's glittering 60 years

SI Western Australia marked 60 years of service to the community this year with a glittering event on May 25. About 100 Soroptimists and guests donned their diamonds for the dinner dance which was attended by the Hon. Helen Morton MLC, Fremantle Mayor Dr Brad Pettit, and PE SI SWP Carolyn Hudson, Past SI President Margaret Lobo, and several Past Presidents SISWP. It was fantastic to see that every SI WA club was represented.

There was entertainment from Willetton High School Music students. Chris Hughes from SI Canning District was MC and kept everything running smoothly.

SI Perth was the first club established in Western Australia in 1949 and has clubrooms in West Perth. With the formation of a club in Fremantle in 1953 the region of Western Australia was established. Over the years, new WA clubs have continued to be formed, or expanded, with the latest being Mandurah in 2012.

During the evening past President SIWA Delores Caboche and President Elect SI WA Lisa Bowen gave a history of the 60 years of the region which documented all the different activities clubs are involved in. Another highlight was a presentation by PE SWP Carolyn



Soroptimists from SIWA rural clubs

Hudson of two special awards one was to Bobbi Buckle for the chartering of SI Mandurah in 2012 and the other was to Jennie Van Driel for ideas and enthusiasm about membership development.

What would such a celebration be without a cake? Two special women Delores Caboche and Ronda Williams who have been Soroptimists for 50 years did the honours and cut the SIWA cake.

Denise Smithson
SI WA

SI WA President Heather Jopek and PP SI Margaret Lobo





Open garden

SI Beenleigh recently catered for a local Open Garden weekend. This gave us a great opportunity to promote Soroptimism and earn some funds. We made sandwiches, served Devonshire Teas, and provided soft drinks and cakes. It was a tremendous success as we raised a little over \$1,000 and the raffle (provided by the owners of the garden) raised \$285 which will go to the Region Project SSKIP (Soroptimists Saving Kids In Plight – a Life Diary box containing the wherewithal for foster children to keep records of life, especially as they often move around a lot and this box can go with them). We had banners on display and put magazines as well as brochures on the tables and wore caps and aprons with the Soroptimist logo.

Jean Fornasier
SI Beenleigh, Sth Old



Winter warmth

SI Logan recently held its annual events– Winter Warmth Project. Sandra McNeil coordinated and collected donations of warm clothing, hand knitting and blankets for our third annual Winter Warmth project. The Salvation Army provided a list of three solo mothers with young children who urgently needed assistance. A nursing home appreciated the hats, gloves, scarves and warm clothes for the residents. 20 talking books in CD form were also gladly received. Uniting Care Community was also delighted to receive items.

Ann McFarlane
SI Logan, Sth Old



Fashion for India

SI Mornington Peninsular recently held a successful fashion parade. Three SIMP members were the models for the day and members supplied a light lunch. Everyone enjoyed seeing the clothes - so much that when it came to trying on and buying outfits a wonderful \$6,000 was spent - 20% of which goes to SI Mornington Peninsula for our Mother & Baby Health Clinic Project in North India... an amazing day of fellowship and fun for everyone involved.

Helen Beeby
SI Mornington Peninsula, Victoria



Mothers' Day delight

Mothers' Day holds special significance for mothers' and children and for more than forty residents at Lautoka's Golden Age Home this day was made extra special by the SI Lautoka members. They organized morning tea and spent the better half of the day listening to the female residents and sharing their life stories. The SI Members had also made the effort to decorate the venue.

Zareena Bi
SI Fiji



Project Director, **Ginette Collin**, SI Kuching, presenting gifts to **Liza Amin**, 1000th participant of the Financial Literacy Workshop.

"Purple Lily"

SI Kuching has undertaken a project entitled "PurpleLily", which is committed to "inspire and empower women to thrive and shine" by providing life skills training and financial literacy for women. The project caters predominantly for women who are considered the working poor. They have jobs, skills and potential however they are restricted by their low incomes. They are often the forgotten clientele. The club also works with disadvantaged women who have no income or employment. Through training and support, PurpleLily helps build skills to create brighter futures.

Audry Wan Ullok
SI Kuching, Malaysia



New members for Ramu

SI Ramu inducted new members during the visit of SWP President **Siew Yong** to PNG.



Advocacy forum

SI Fremantle members are keen to develop an advocacy campaign against Domestic Violence and members needed to become better informed on issues being faced by the victims of violence and those working in agencies to support them.

A forum was organised for Wednesday, 5th June. The six speakers (*photo above*) were chosen from across a wide range of organisations and provided a good insight into their work and the challenges they face. One of the speakers, Nicole, a recipient of a Soroptimist Scholarship told her extremely moving story of being a victim of abuse and violence. She has turned her life around and is now a successful University student. Dorinda Cox informed us of the specific difficulties for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls due to cultural issues. Vivienne Pillay, who works with multicultural women spoke of the concerns for women who are in Australia on Spousal and 457 visas and their lack of support when subject to domestic violence.

Over 40 women attended including representatives from five Soroptimist clubs as well as BPW and UNAAWA.

Lynne Jones
SI Fremantle, WA

Pampering day

A day of massages, hair straightening, craft, music, dancing and more is sure to put a smile on the face of any woman. A women only event, it is one of our annual events designed to bring local ladies from a range of cultural



Emergency awareness

SI Kapiti Coast decided to raise awareness within our community about how to be better prepared for a natural disaster such as an earthquake or tsunami; both very real possibilities in New Zealand. Secondly they wanted to raise funds for the SI New Zealand Project, ECPAT, and the SISWP Project, Birthing in the Pacific.

Members sought professional advice as to what a household should have that would make it possible to survive at home for 3 - 5 days following a major disaster. The club purchased all the items, including water storage, food, a boom bucket and plastic liners for a temporary toilet, warm blankets, torches, radio, cooker and much more. All the emergency items were displayed at a local Farmers Market and members were on hand to encourage the public to understand what was required. Official government brochures were also handed out.

Whilst selling the raffle tickets we informed people about SI.

Barbara Heaton
SI Kapiti Coast, NZ

Photo: Evelyn Rakich selling the raffle

backgrounds together for a day of fun, food and friendship.

Approximately 200 women and children attended the free event sponsored by SI Shepparton Inc, Greater City of Shepparton, Uniting Care Cutting Edge and Relationships Australia.

Attendees participated in workshops, health checks and a fitness class with an Aquamoves instructor. Students from TAFE provided manicures and hair styling.

Carla Farrell
SI Shepparton, Victoria



Making A difference

In April 2013 the SI Eastern Districts of Adelaide held their annual morning tea at the Pepper St Arts Centre to acknowledge women who volunteer in the community but whose efforts are largely unrecognised. The function is also an opportunity for prospective new members to learn more about Soroptimism in an informal way.

This year two women were invited to talk about their experiences. Ann Stott who does sewing for Anglicare and Tori Toogood who runs marathons to raise awareness of bowel cancer were presented with certificates.

Louise Bruce
SI Eastern Districts of Adelaide, SA

Photo: Ann Stott on the left with SI Eastern President Elizabeth Flint and Tori Toogood



BPA Presentation

President Siew Yong presenting the Objective 3. Best Practice Award to Louise Miller, SI Griffith

SI Griffith - men say NO! to violence





Photo above: Carla Farrell, SI Shepparton, Julia Chance, GOF, with SI Benalla members, Ellen Crocker, Joan Jones, Patricia Thompson, Dot Meagher and Janet Gourley.

Victorian GOF

In the few days I've been back in Italy I've done a bit of research into the path taken by our Soroptimists in Ravenna and the contribution we have made towards 'Birthing in the Pacific'.

During our 2011 Christmas dinner we sold biscuits raising 400 euros (approx 513 A\$) for *Birthing in the Pacific*, which we forwarded to Geneva. We even got a mention in the Christmas 2012 edition of 'The Global Voice'.

For our 2012 Christmas stall we sold Christmas decorations, Theodoras and other delightful fridge magnet dolls. Again we raised 400 euros for the Soroptimist Day Appeal. Our Treasurer has recently sent the money to Geneva for *Birthing in the Pacific*. On the Christmas decorations I have written labels saying: "In addition to your happiness, this gift will bring help to a woman in Papua New Guinea, Birthing in the Pacific, Soroptimist Club Ravenna".

Now I'm back at home, I am accompanied each day by happy memories of my visit to Australia. Meeting Soroptimists across the globe has generated a lot of enthusiasm in me which I hope I can convert into something Soroptimistically tangible!

One of the highlights of my trip was learning that something our club in Ravenna had done had contributed to the BIP project that was started in 'Business on Collins'. I love the fact that Soroptimist threads tie up across the world.

Julia Chance
SI Ravenna, Italy

Grant of Friendship 2014

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND YORKSHIRE REGION

Soroptimist International of Yorkshire Region of SIGBI is offering a grant to a Soroptimist from outside the UK either travelling alone or two Soroptimists travelling together to visit the Region of Yorkshire in the UK in May 2014. The visit will be for a period of up to three weeks, and will be planned to allow our guests to attend the SI Yorkshire Conference planned for Saturday 10 May 2014.

Preference will be given to applicants who have not have been to the UK before. A good working knowledge of spoken and written English is essential. Visitor(s) will be responsible for their own travel expenses to and from the UK and Yorkshire. All accommodation, meals, hospitality, sight-seeing trips and travel between hosting clubs will be provided by the Yorkshire Region.

For an application form please contact:
Angela Edwards
Regional Vice President (GOF)
8 High Garth
Richmond
North Yorkshire, DL10 4DG
United Kingdom
Email – angelamaurice1@yahoo.com
Please include 'GOF' in the subject line.
Telephone number – (0)1748 824240

Your application form must be accompanied by an endorsement from your Region/Union/National Association. Please note all completed applications must be typed and contain a contact telephone number and email address.

Closing date for applications: Tuesday 1 October 2013. NB No application will be considered after this date.



2 new members

Because SI Damansara turns 20 this year we had a celebration in June before the actual date which will be celebrated after the fasting month. Of first importance is our ongoing project on literacy funded by JP Morgan. Our star pupils were invited for the prize giving ceremony and we are delighted that one of our students from Agape Home had achieved eight Distinctions and has earned a place to study Medicine.

SI Damansara is also pleased to announce that two new members (seen above holding yellow certificates) were inducted at this function. SI Damansara has succeeded in inducting Sharina Manmohan, the daughter of President Laila. She is an insurance agent as well as Managing Director of her beauty company. Her comments, "I joined SI in the hope of getting younger women to follow my example. I would love my club to be involved with social networks - Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. I would like to blend tradition and innovation by being current with new trends and ideas that would allow us to care and share."

The second member is Roshan H Bamadhaj. Roshan is Curator of Museum of Master Piece Paintings from 1920s (Malaysia). Her expertise also includes organising Event Hall exhibitions for companies in South East Asia and the Far East. She was invited to join the club by Region President Joanne Yeoh who was also a past president of SI Damansara.

Indrani Manuel
SI Damansara, Malaysia

Walk The Talk 2013

I am also pleased that we have an updated version of the Walk The Talk logo for the period November 25th to December 10th 2013 campaign to advocate "Zero Tolerance, Zero Violence, Zero Victims".

