

THE SOROPTIMIST SWP



a global voice
for women

Soroptimist



International

Federation of the South West Pacific



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Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific

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THE SOROPTIMIST -SWP The Magazine of SISWP



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When PP SWP Lorna Mead asked me if I would take on the Federation Appointee position of Editor, SWP Magazine in 2006 I had two initial aims. The first aim was to produce a magazine that the grass roots club members would take home from a meeting and actually read. At the time I had 40 years experience as a Graphic Designer but I mostly produced large glossy magazines for tourism or government departments. The first SWP Magazine to hit the clubs for the 2006-2008 biennium was in two colours and 12 pages. For the second magazine the Printer offered to print the SWP Magazine in full colour for the same cost as two colours, but we were still stuck with 12 pages, owing to the budget.

So, now the magazines are full of colour photos, for the colour helps to produce a bright and cheerful magazine that can be used for Extension purposes. This was my second aim. To actually send the clubs a product that was professional enough to be used for publicity.

With the help of the regular contributors the task of collecting articles and photos four times a year has become less onerous, and re-occurring events like IWD have helped to make the contents easier to obtain. I am most appreciative, and a big thank you to you all.

I also wanted to involve as many of

Erratum:

In the SWP Magazine, February 2014 edition on page 12, the top article contained the words "by the late Janice McDonald". The Editor wishes to tell the readers that the line should read "by Janice Macdonald..." We apologise to Janice for this mistake. According to the SWP Data-base Janice is a member of SI North Shore, New Zealand North.

The Editor, SWP Magazine

The deadline for the August SISWP Magazine is **30 June 2014**.

Please send articles and photos to hq@siswp.org until further notice.

Front cover photographs: *From the top: 4 Federations of Soroptimists attending CSW58 in New York; The attendees at the Future African Federation conference, Nairobi; IWD in Benalla, Victoria.*

the 13 Countries in our Federation as possible in each edition. I was always pleased when I found reports from more than half the SWP Countries in any one issue. There is information on seven Countries in this one, thanks to President Siew Yong.

I have worked with 4 Federation Presidents during my eight years. All have been dedicated to their role, and have continued to help, and send items of interest to me, after they left office. Many of the past and present Coordinators have done the same. I am most grateful and thank you all for your time and assistance. Especially when I'm frantically looking for a photo of someone.

My two proof readers have been with me for the eight years. Maggie Mitchell and Judy Hunter have always been there to meet every deadline. A huge thank you to them, and to the rest of the editorial committee, that has altered from time to time.

I have enjoyed the role of Editor. It has enabled me to learn so much about our organisation. I have made contact with so many members of SWP that I would not have met otherwise. I thank you all for your friendship in Soroptimism.

Kerry



Above: The SWP Directors, and most of NRs, Convenors and Appointees at the International Board Meeting 2013

Thank you SWP

I can't believe it but it seems that time has flown by so fast since I became President in May 2012 in Greymouth, New Zealand. This is my last article as the President of SWP and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kerry Garrett, Editor of SWP magazine for her dedication, professionalism, patience and her sterling effort in editing and publishing the magazine for the last eight years including the two of my biennium.

I would also like to dedicate this article to the Management Committee for their unstinting support and encouragement for the hard decisions that we sometimes have to make and the Directors, NRs, Convenors and Appointees for their dedication and hard work in carrying out their duties whether they were elected or appointed. You have all made my work and responsibilities so much lighter and easier to manage. I am grateful and feel blessed to have your support and friendship.

For the last quarter of my term of this report from January to March, I did

not have time for many official SWP activities. I did manage however visit our youngest country club SI Phnom Penh, Cambodia which was chartered in 2010. The visit, undertaken with SWP Asst Extension Convenor (Asia) Beh Suat

Status of Women (CSW). This year's CSW 58, had the Priority Theme:



Pheng, was to run a training Programme for the members and an introduction to SI for potential members. The visit went well with many members feeling more knowledgeable and comfortable with SI. A few of the ladies who attended the presentation are expected to become members.

"The Challenges and the Achievements of the Millennium Development Goals", and saw six Soroptimists from SWP at the event.

March is always a busy time as we celebrate International Women's Day and attend the UN Commission on the



Courtesy call on President of Cambodia Women Entrepreneurs Association, Seng Takakneary, (in blue)

With Soon Young Yoon, Chair of the NGO CSW/ NY Executive Committee



Continuation of President Siew Yong's article



SISWP CSW/UN six member Delegation together with SI President Anne Garvie (third from left).

Please see the April SWP Bulletin for a very comprehensive report by Andrea Murray, our holder of the SWP scholarship to attend CSW58, as well as a report in SPAN. The SWP team joined other Soroptimists to promote SI's own wish list of what it would like to see achieved in the Statement of Agreed Conclusions and made connections with other NGOs and delegates from many countries, in particular from our Federation, like the Pacific countries.

One of the highlights of CSW is the Celebration March organised by the CSW-NGO committee. This year the March was held on 14th March in not nearly as freezing weather as last year.

Our Soroptimists with their striking blue background and yellow inscribed SOROPTIMIST scarf were again visibly noticeable at the march. See top front cover photo.

On my way to CSW I made a transit visit to Hong Kong and connected with six members of SI Hong Kong at a lunch gathering, I was briefed on the projects that the club has carried out in the past year; such as the Sunbeam

Project where language lab computer hardware and software was donated; and the sponsoring of 50 vaccinations against cervical cancer for underprivileged women aged 20-50 from low income families.

On February 8, 2014, I was invited as guest of honour at the SI Sentul fund raising "Une Soiree a l'Orchid" for their Educare project. The event was fun and enjoyable with friends and families of the club members providing very "professional" entertainment for the night (please see story on the event on page 10).

As this magazine will be in the hands of Soroptimists in May during the COC I take this opportunity of wishing all Soroptimists attending the COC a very warm welcome to my country Malaysia and in particular to Kuching in the State of

Sarawak. I know you will have a very enjoyable time in Kuching and hope you will immerse yourself in the hospitality of the members. The people of Kuching are very proud to welcome you. I wish there were more Soroptimists coming to Kuching to enjoy the special events planned, the unique culture of Sarawak, the entertainment specially crafted to make it a fun conference. I thank the SI Kuching host committee and the SIROM Organising committee who have worked long and hard together, literally across the South China Sea to make COC 2014 Kuching a most memorable conference for all the delegates and accompanying friends and family.



Food tasting at the Riverside Majestic venue of CofC Gala Dinner



SISWP COC Conference Committee Meeting



I wish a warm SELAMAT DATANG to my dear Soroptimists sisters and TERIMA KASIH to every Soroptimist who has made my every encounter a very pleasant and beautiful memory and for extending to me the warm and sincere hand of friendship which I treasure and which makes me proud to be a Soroptimist.

SWP President Siew Yong

Promoting SWP COC 2014 to the SI Hong Kong members

SI Future African Federation (SIFAF)



For several decades leading members of some of the clubs in Africa have talked of forming their own Federation. Currently the clubs are within SIE or SIGBI following the traditional colonial ties. Discussions have been held in those Federations.

In 2012 a conference was held in Nairobi where a task force was formed to work on the ground rules and the way forward. A five year plan was developed to lead to the achievement of federation status in 2017. The members, coming from various clubs in Africa, donated their time and talents. Internet cafes were used by some for regular meetings; some members used their business facilities; the remainder accessed technology by various means.

A conference, named the SI Africa Assembly, was planned for 20-22 March 2014 in South Africa. To assist in the mounting of this conference SIGBI and SIE both donated money and some support was given by local organisations and businesses. In February 2014 all clubs were asked to levy \$10 per member which will continue annually. SI assisted firstly by opening a bank account for this fledging organisation and then by managing the nomination of members for a task force for 2014-2016 and the voting mechanism. Based in Pretoria the local South African clubs prepared for the conference, including registration, which was held in a college for girls with catering contracted out. Transport from hotels and return was organised through a bus company.

160 registrants from 27 countries were joined by SI President, Ann Garvie; SIGBI President, Margaret Oldroyd; SIE President, Ulla Madsen; Anne Ainsworth, Past International Treasurer; Marriet Verhoef-Cohen, Past SIE President and Maria Lulsa Frosio, SIE Extension Chairperson. Also present by invitation from the Task Force were Meryl Caldwell-Smith, Past CoC President, SI Goulburn, and Christine Paton, Past Federation President, SI Melbourne.

The conference had simultaneous translation, with English as the primary language; live streaming of the proceedings was announced. This resulted in hurried text messages to their club members and to the Chat line. The conference hall was a kaleidoscope of colour, the delegates wearing every combination of colour possible. Many with the Soroptimist emblem within the pattern of vivid yellow/orange and blue fabric. The languages were as varied as the colours, with French and English predominant.

The proceedings began with addresses by Ann Garvie, Margaret Oldroyd and Ulla Madsen each bringing in historical and future aspects of their responsibilities and the links to the future new federation. Adv Chinwe Ezemwa-Mbah delivered the report of the Task Force. On the second day Maret Verhoef-Cohen presented an extension workshop.

The main business of the Assembly was to adopt the proposed constitution;

to receive the reports of Asha Abdulrahman, Task Force Extension and Membership; Nneka Chris-Asoluk, Programme Action and of Betty Kitayo, Task Force Financial Director. The discussion on the constitution, arguing vehemently on major points, took more than three hours before agreement was reached. The main bone of contention, not surprisingly, was the objection by the French speaking countries that the official language was to be English, as it is in the SI constitution. This resulted in a change, finally, to having both English and French as the official languages.

On the lighter side, we had the large choir from the College present songs at the beginning, then several times between plenary sessions performances by the Nia Dancers. Immediately after the end of the first day we enjoyed a Friendship Night. At the end of the second day we went back to our hotels before being transported to the Gala Dinner. The speaker that evening was exceptional: Professor Nthabiseng Ogude, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the Tshwane University of Technology. She spoke, with understanding, on many aspects of, and progress in, overcoming the gender divide.

On the last half day the result of the election of the new Task Force was announced. This resulted in much excitement. Two key members of the previous task force will continue. The next conference will be in two years. Countries are asked to submit details if they wish to host this. From the floor both Madagascar and Seychelles indicated their intention to offer.

So the five year plan has accomplished much in the first two years. If progress continues and the number of clubs and members increases to meet SI requirements, the Charter Ceremony will occur in 2017. In the meantime SIGBI and SIE are generously refunding the fees, paid by the clubs, at an increasing rate commencing this year until in the Charter year all fees will be reimbursed.

**Meryl Caldwell-Smith,
Christine Paton**

Photo L-R: Anne Ainsworth, Past International Treasurer, Lilla Madsen, SIE President, Margaret Oldroyd, SIGBI President, Anne Garvie, SI President, Christine Paton, Past SISWP President, Meryl Caldwell-Smith, Past CoC President SISWP

International Women's Day (IWD) March 8th



Shepparton

SI Shepparton held their annual IWD Breakfast on Thursday 6th March. 200 women enjoyed a cooked breakfast and were then entertained by two excellent

speakers. The first speaker (shown above) was Janet Gill Kirkman who spoke on her life and the responsibilities of being the Principal of a Special School, The second speaker, Lyn McNaught, is

the owner and operator of a local Travel Agency. A presentation to the speakers was made by the new President, SI Shepparton, Pam Ewert.

Carla Farrell
SI Shepparton, Victoria



Malaysia

Soroptimists from various clubs in Malaysia gathered on Saturday March 8, at the Vocational Resource Centre (VCR), newly set up by SI Damansara. The centre had been furnished courtesy of donations from JP Morgan Chase Bank.

We all headed to the kitchen first for breakfast and a catch up. Then, we rolled out our project showcases interspersed with talks, comedy, song, food, chocolates and more. SIROM President Nora Lam presented an "Ode to Man" composed for the event which highlighted the need for men to recognize women's talents as equal - the mention of "aviator and contractor" instead of stereo typed careers for women. Dr Maria Fernandez had many in stitches with her mime of the song "Memories" and hinting at "getting

our keys lost" and other senior moments.

SI Ipoh's Project showcase on their "Edufun" project, which provides tuition and other programmes for children from neglected and poor backgrounds, had many in tears. This was especially true with the video of the children testifying to their happiness at receiving the attention and care from our Ipoh sisters. President Lanka advised that many donors had come forward to help and this encouraged them to do even more. SI Bangsar "wow-ed" everyone with the number of projects handled by them - a whole gamut covering several SI objects and goals. SI Damansara's VRC was proof of action by Soroptimists. They had even placed the tiles on the floor! It is a great place for youth training skills in preparing them for working life.

Phng Li Kim from SI Petaling Jaya in an interview session shared her views on life balance when one has to juggle motherhood, a challenging career (she hosts a talk show on the paranormal) and one's own interests. Her firm statement that there is no real balance, but we need to make choices and accept the choice we make, was food for thought. Our guest Jermaine Bee, a young vibrant trainer keen on bringing women to the

forefront in leadership was so impressed with our Soroptimists, she took photos to show her friends and even her mother to encourage them to join. Her talk on "Changing Mindsets to Achieve Workplace Equality" gave pointers on how women could find their edge.

We ended the afternoon with the CONGA (referencing the "CONGO" conference outcome) led by Anusha, SI Petaling Jaya and a celebration song and dance by Sandra and the SI Ampang Dancers. The whole event was definitely Soroptimists at their best making laughter, sharing projects, life stories and giving each other encouragement and applause.

Nora Lam
SI Bangsar,
President SIROM 2013-2015



Phng Li Kim



George Town

My name is Nora Wood and I have recently joined the Soroptimists Club in George Town. We decided to mark International Women’s Day by having a “Quest for Quiet Achievers” An event to recognise the women in our community who contribute their time and efforts to make George Town a better place. So many women work behind the scenes and often don’t get the recognition they deserve. We contacted organisations within George Town and asked for nominations of women who give tirelessly of themselves to help others. Our “Quest for Quiet Achievers” opened on December 1, 2013 and closed on January 31, 2014. 10 wonderful women in our community were nominated and each of woman was awarded “Quiet Achiever 2014”. The award ceremony was held on March 8, 2014 after a breakfast at Peppers, York Cove in George Town.”

The image above shows six of our “Quiet Achievers” who were able to attend the award breakfast. From left to right – Helen Ackerley, Kaye McLean, Elaine Burns, Roseanne Geale, Wendy Fittler & Christine Price.

Our other four ladies, who were unable to attend the breakfast were Kathy Flood, Judy Leslie, Sheryle Phillip and Adrienne Smeeton.

Nora Wood
SI George Town, Tasmania



Oratory winners

Lautoka

This year’s UN theme ‘Equality for Women is progress for all’ was endorsed firmly on March 7 by students of twenty Primary schools around Lautoka during an Oratory organized by SI Lautoka for IWD.

Around 500 students and teachers were present at Saru MGM Primary School to listen to twenty student orators supporting the theme. The Oratory provided a unique opportunity for students to enhance their individual talents. In fact the orators had the audience spellbound making the task of the three judges a bit difficult. Miliana Botitu of Jasper Williams High School was the winner with a \$75 cash prize and trophy, while Abigail Sword of Central Primary received \$50 and trophy as runner up. The next place went to Kacey Elizabeth Young of Zhong Hua Primary who received \$25 and trophy. All the students who participated were awarded with certificates and consolation prizes.

This was the first Oratory organized by SI Lautoka and it was proudly supported by Punja & Sons Limited, Total Navutu Service Station and the CITY STAR Newspaper. SI Lautoka hopes to make this an annual event to mark IWD.

Zareena Bi
SI Lautoka, Fiji



Logan

This year, SI Logan’s IWD and Handover Dinner was held at Shailer Park State High School.

Mayor of Logan, Pam Parker was our entertaining guest speaker. She told us of the difficulties of leading a city as a woman. However through hard work, tenacity and humour Mayor Parker has many achievements to be proud of. She did however, reveal her secret weapon when things became really tough – chocolate, made by a local business of course.

President, Wendy Lihou spoke of the club’s achievements in 2013. SI Logan had a bumper fundraising year and welcomed a number of new members. The SEW (Soroptimists Empowering Women) Project in New Guinea, in which the club has given 7 sewing machines to Kosec High School in Kokopo, is well under way with students now being taught sewing skills. Member Maria Mijts regularly visits Kokopo. Local projects included the Winter Warmth project and the Year 10 Girl’s Leadership Day.

We appreciated the delicious meal prepared and served by the school’s hospitality students.

Ann McFarlane,
SI Logan, Sth Qld.

Photo: Cutting the Cake: Wendy Lihou, Mayor Pam Parker, Tracey Finlay



Hobart

IWD Monday March 3, 6-7.30pm Pre-election Q&A Forum focusing on women’s issues. Organised by SI Hobart, Hobart Women’s Shelter (HWS) and Zonta.

Then on Thursday March 6, “Join me on the Bridge” at Constitution Dock, Hobart at 5.30pm. 2014 theme was “Inspiring Change”

Julie Marsaban
SI Hobart, Tasmania

International Women's Day events continued:



Griffith

Over 160 guests enjoyed an excellent IWD breakfast at the Griffith Ex-Servicemen's Club, hosted by SI Griffith. Our guest speaker, Libby Davies, CEO of White Ribbon Australia, gave an outstanding presentation about the work of White Ribbon with special reference to their schools' programme and their workplace programme. Libby also presented a White Ribbon Certificate of Appreciation to our local paper, *The Area News*, for their outstanding support for SI Griffith's White Ribbon advertisements featuring local men with the White Ribbon oath. Breakfast organiser Sonia Casanova thanked her committee for all their hard work. Nearly \$3000.00 was raised for the Griffith Women's Refuge and our SI President's Appeal 'See Solar; Cook Solar'.

Will Mead
SI Griffith, Riverina



Sigatoka

For International Women's Day SI Sigatoka organised a "Health screening and a talk on non communicable diseases". We approached the nurses from the Ministry of Health to conduct screenings and prepare the talk. We designed and distributed flyers on health tips, rights and grooming. Then, we targeted all women and girls from the Sigatoka area and their families.

The talk was held at Glory Gate International School. The health screening included height and weight, diabetes, hypertension and Pap Smear tests.

Suman Lal
SI Sigatoka, Fiji



Benalla

Early evening on Friday March 14 saw 200 women gathering at the Benalla Lakeside Centre for our annual IWD celebration. Light refreshments were available on each table to be savoured, as we listened to an interview style programme. The guest speakers, Cathy McGowan, Independent Local Federal MP; Ella Hooper, Australian rock music singer and TV personality; and guest interviewer, ABC radio presenter Gaye Pattison provided us with a most entertaining evening.

Janet Gourley
SI Benalla, Victoria

Photo: Val Whan, SI Benalla, Cathy McGowan, Ella Hooper, Councillor Ellen Crocker, SI Benalla

Cobram-Barooga

SI Cobram Barooga enjoyed a literary lunch for International Women's Day. The three Australian authors, (photo above) Ber Carroll, Dianne Blacklock and Liane Moriarty. spoke to us about their books and their journeys to become published authors. A very interesting and informative day.

Plus it looks as though we have encouraged two new members from the day. So an added bonus.

Kay Morgan,
SI Cobram Barooga, Victoria



Vale: Mary Whitehead A.M. B.A

I received word from SI Torrens of the death of Mary Whitehead on Saturday 1 March.

Mary Whitehead became a Soroptimist in 1957 as a member of Northern Districts of Adelaide (now S.I. Torrens), and as Charter President. She proudly received the Charter on 27th August 1957. Her category was "Civil Service – Mathematical Scientist"

She quickly became involved in the advancement of Soroptimism in South Australia and from 1957 to 1968 she was club Delegate to the Divisional Union of South Australia (now Region), Delegate from the Divisional Union to C.O.C. (Co-ordinating Committee of Australia & New Zealand), Secretary of the Divisional Union, and Vice-President of the Divisional Union.

She was President of the Divisional Union of South Australia (Region) from 1968 - 1969. In 1971 with the Charter of Suva, Fiji, the C.O.C. became "The Council of the South West Pacific", and at the Interim Meeting of the Council in 1972, Mary was appointed second vice-president, and became Convenor of the Finance Committee. In August 1973 the Conference of South West Pacific Clubs was held in conjunction with that of the Federation of Great Britain & Ireland in Sydney. Here Mary was appointed First Vice-President of C.S.W.P. for the next biennium. An Interim meeting held in Melbourne in 1974 appointed committees to enquire into every aspect of the formation of a Federation and

Mary as Vice-President was appointed as C.S.W.P. representative to the Board of Governors of SI for the meeting in June, 1975.

At Easter 1976, at the Conference of Clubs of the South West Pacific at Wollongong, Mary was installed as President of the C.S.W.P. Mary worked on the many problems to be solved before approval was given to proceed with preparations for the inaugural Conference of the new Federation in Adelaide at Easter, 1978. As the Federation of SWP officially came into being on 1st January, 1978, Mary, as its first President (Caretaker President) had to see to the preparations and supervise the administrative machinery until the Charter was presented by Her Excellency, (Australian High Commissioner to Nauru) Maris King, M.B.E., on 24th March, 1978.

Maris King led the first delegation (including Mary) from the Federation of the South West Pacific to SI Board in Cambridge, England, in 1978.

At the end of the Conference of Clubs held in Canberra in 1980, Honorary Membership of the Federation was conferred on Mary. On receiving congratulations for such a memorable inaugural Conference in Adelaide in March 1978, she graciously remarked that the smartest thing she did as President, was to choose the right people on Council and from South Australian Soroptimists. During her term as President of the Council of the SWP, Mary derived much pleasure from visiting as many regions and clubs as she could throughout Australia and New Zealand. Unfortunately she could not visit Fiji.

When Mary completed her term as Immediate Past President of the Federation of the South West Pacific in 1980, she maintained her interest over the years, attending Interim Meetings, and Conferences as an Honorary Member of the Federation. She was often consulted on many matters, retaining a keen interest in Finance, Record of Decisions and the Travel Pool as well as policy. She was given tasks at Conferences where her intelligence and wisdom were greatly appreciated. Just recently she had found distance travel rather difficult, but still attended club and Region Meetings regularly taking a keen interest in all Soroptimist activities.

Anne Gover.
Secretary SISWP



Day for fire victims

Free massage, reiki, reflexology, kinesiology, and other healing and relaxation therapies were offered free of charge to all affected by the Morwell mine fire on Friday, 21st May, between 1pm - 5pm at Morwell Neighbourhood House. SI Gippsland, Victoria, organised this as part of their contribution to the community recovery process.

Club President, Samantha Brick, received a \$500 donation from the SI Region of Victoria to contribute to the Morwell recovery. Local club members wanted to do something early and practical to provide support and assistance to the Latrobe Valley community. They decided that a well-being recovery day, where people could come and receive some practical therapeutic assistance would help people to deal with the stresses of recovery. Over 10 therapists donated their time to assist on this day. "We are particularly grateful to the therapists involved who have accepted a very small payment for their expenses and we sincerely thank them for their contribution", said Samantha.

The club will be raising more money over the next few months and hopes to provide more well-being days to continue their support to the community.

Samantha Brick,
SI Gippsland, Victoria

Liz and Judy, SI Gippsland, at the front desk



Club News



Une soiree a l'orchid

Internationally - acclaimed pianist and Malaysian, Paul Duraisamy, crooners Rahim Ismail and the SEASONS 4, and talented "Soroptimister" Ashveen Sekaran all came together to support the SI Sentul's EDUCARE Programme, to benefit underprivileged children. The Soiree, the club's annual fund-raiser, held at the Royal Lake Club, Kuala Lumpur on February 8, 2014, was graced by Guest of Honour, Siew Yong Gnanalingam, SISWP President and by our club's MC Extraordinaire, Brenda Marshall. President Siew Yong was joined by several Soroptimists from clubs in

and around Kuala Lumpur, including SI Malaysia National Representative, Indira Naidu. The evening, with good food & wines, saw a rich tapestry of nostalgic songs from Classical/Operatic and Broadway hits while Paul Duraisamy's classical piano pieces included those from Rachmaninoff, Franz Liszt and A. Khachaturian. The finale was " Its a Wonderful World ", sung by all the artists with improvised lyrics generously peppered with " Soroptimist" in the chorus!

**Amuthambigai Tharmarajah
SI Sentul, Malaysia**



Student award

SI Eastern Districts of Adelaide presented their Student Award to July who came to Australia from Burma and studied at the Secondary School of English. The award was presented at the Burnside Australia Day citizenship ceremony .

Photo: July receiving her award from Elizabeth Flint, President of SI Eastern District,s and David Parkin the Mayor of Burnside.

**Louise Bruce
SI Eastern Districts, SA**



Planning day

SI New Plymouth held a "PLANNING Day" earlier in the year. This was a new arrangement and was a highly successful venture! We worked hard and quickly formulated a plan and ideas for 2014, ordered pizzas to be delivered and enjoyed a great start to our year. Revitalised the club !

SI New Plymouth member Andrea Murray is a vet working for AssureQuality, and has been chosen from the 13 SWP Countries to attend the very high powered CSW58

in New York. Andrea has been a member for about six years and shows great promise as a younger woman leader

The President SWP, Siew Yong, feels that showing leadership is important and Andrea has been active in leading "Stopping Violence against women" projects in the New Plymouth club.

**Karen Eagles
SI New Plymouth. NZ**

Newer members taking part in the Planning meeting are left: Jill Baker, Andrea Murray, Clare Smiley, Helen Silcock



Country PE

SI Joondalup members met Region President Elect, Lisa Bowen, at a Pot Luck Supper hosted by Jennie Van Driel. Lisa, who is a member of SI Port Headland is the first Region President Elect outside the metropolitan area. The Region of WA has country clubs in Karratha, Carnavon, Geraldton and Albany and soon a new club will be started in Bunbury. Lisa had travelled the 1,700 kilometers, a two hour flight, to attend the WA Region AGM held in Guildford, WA. Lisa outlined the problems country clubs faced, not the least being distance and cost of attending Region meetings.

A lively discussion over dinner about fund raising impressed Lisa. SI Joondalup's theatre night had raised \$2,385 towards their many projects.

**Margaret Martin
SI Joondalup. WA**



Models for scholarship

On Tuesday March 25, SI Benalla held a Fashion Parade at Rafferty's Reception Centre. The Benalla Retailers supplied the fashion garments, shoes and hats. The models for the evening were local Year 12 students, supported by several older women. The evening was compered by Councillor Ellen Crocker who is also a member of SI Benalla

There were ten donated raffle prizes and four lucky door vouchers. A delicious supper provided by Rafferty's was enjoyed by the 160 people who attended the parade. SI Benalla raised over \$2500 for our annual year 12 scholarship for local girls.

Patricia Thompson
SI Benalla, Victoria



New enthusiasm

I am sending you a photo of the five new members who were inducted at our AGM on Monday February 3, 2014, standing together with incoming President Heather McNeill. They are an enthusiastic group of women who will enhance the membership of SI Bendigo

Wilma Skidmore
SI Bendigo, Victoria

Photo L to R: - Samantha Coughlin, Wendy Betts, SI Bendigo President Heather McNeill, Karen Doolan, Denise Kirke and Emily Gartside.



A focus on extension

SI South Queensland Region held its annual Conference in the city of Ipswich, on 29 - 30 March. SI Australia National Representative Annette Korzeba, Incoming NR. Anne Sheehan, Incoming Federation Programme Director Di Lockwood, Incoming Constitution Convenor Rosaline Miller and Region of Victoria President, Sue Whitehead all joined the other 50 or so delegates.

Ipswich was chosen because the Region is currently developing a new club there, as well as in the Springfield area. Region President Ralda Forzin said: "We chose to extend into these areas because of their strong sense of community and rapid growth - a perfect foundation for a service movement like ours. It was wonderful to have six keen women from these areas join us for the Conference.

Workshops followed the conference theme of "3Es for Women": Educate, Empower, and Enable. Two Indigenous students spoke of the rewarding, experiences they had in attending boarding schools where they were embraced into an excellent programme at the Ipswich Girls Grammar School for Indigenous students. *See photo above.*

We had the opportunity to celebrate when the recipients of the Region's Best Practice Awards were announced: SI Moreton North for its series of health forums aided by a grant of \$14,000, SI Beenleigh and SI Logan for their Best Practice Activities that raised funds for cancer research. The Extension Award went to SI Moreton North, who had inducted eight new members in 2013. President Ralda Forzin announced the recipient of the 2014 Florence Drury Award for Excellence as a Soroptimist: Bev Miles, SI Brisbane North. Congratulations to all!

Janet James
SI Sth Queensland



President speaker at FTU

The SI Fiji President, Dr Maria Doton was a guest speaker at the International Women's Day (IWD) celebrations on 12 March organized by the Fiji Teachers Union (FTU) Lautoka Branch Women's Wing. Dr Doton spoke around the theme of the function 'Protecting Women against all forms of Violence'.

"Equality can only be achieved if both genders work together hand in hand and support each other to achieve common goals and all forms of violence against women are reported. Violence is not only physical and sexual, but there are various other forms of violence prevalent in the society involving psychological and emotional means which is often not reported by women".

"It is vital that women raise their voice against violence of any form to counter this worrying rising trend in society. Also, teachers are role models for students so I urge all teachers to start educating their students at a very early age regarding gender issues to prevent violence of all forms".

"The empowering of women is only possible if women themselves become more visible by getting involved in activities and take up the challenge of leadership roles. It is also important that women are protected against all forms of violence and discrimination not only at home but also in the workplace and community" she stressed.

Meanwhile, awareness was also raised on women's health issues by the Ministry of Health personnel, who educated on HIV, Cervical cancer and Stress management.

Zareena Bi
SI Lautoka, Fiji

Photo: SI Fiji President Dr. Maria Doton (middle) with members of Fiji Teachers Union Women's Wing

Happy 65th birthday to seven clubs in 2014

Congratulations to Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart, Launceston, Christchurch and Auckland.

In 1949 Mrs. Florence Rutter, Founder President of Central London Soroptimist Club, at age 71, was in Australia and in some 10 months established five clubs in Australia, and two clubs in New Zealand. In recent years the finding of a number of letters dated 1949 between Mrs Rutter and Mrs Hilda Chandler (Hon. Sec. of Melbourne club, itself the result of preliminary work by Florence Rutter in 1947) reveals Florence Rutter's tireless enthusiasm and work across all these clubs. These letters give no indication of her amazing connection with the art of the children of the Carrolup Native Settlement in W.A. but more of that later.



Brisbane – May 16, Mrs. Rutter wrote 'I love Soroptimism and all it stands for.' Mrs Maloney was instrumental in quite a number of members for Brisbane and Florence Rutter personally enrolled 12 new members. 'What do you think of that for a stranger in 12 days?'

Adelaide – June 24, Mrs Rutter arrived in Adelaide on May 24 and ten days later posted the petition for charter with 23 names. The Charter Dinner was arranged for June 27 at 8 pm – 38 members to date. In fact the Adelaide Charter was cancelled owing to an Australia wide State of Emergency - there was a lengthy Coal Miners' strike. Instead there was a Charter Luncheon on June 24 with Officers and Executive at a member's Bohemian Tea Rooms. 'These troubles would indicate women need to band together to 'lend a hand' in governing.'

Perth – August 3, Florence Rutter flew into Perth on June 30, and within 12 days the petition for Charter was posted with 25 names - three doctors, two matrons, an archivist, an architect, pharmacist etc. Charter was set for July 28. Oops! Then a telegram – Dinner August 3 - delay in arrival of Charter. 'I am putting all my energy, my time and my money

into spreading Soroptimist clubs in Australia and God is blessing my work.'

Next stop Hobart – September 6, Mrs Rutter was finding things more difficult here and allowed three weeks from date of cable to London and holding of Charter Dinner on September 6. They did have a near call when the Charter did not arrive. Mrs Rutter had the printer (fortunately a member) stand by till 4 pm to change the menu cards to "Inaugural Dinner" and instead of "Presentation of Charter" substitute "Presentation of President's Badge". On September 5, Mrs Rutter phoned Miss Margareta Webber of Melbourne club asking them to send their Charter to Hobart and a telegram advised that Melbourne were unable to comply with the request! In the event, at 3 pm on September 6, the Charter arrived. What a joy!

Launceston – October 4, Launceston was chartered with 42 members with dinner at the Metropole Hotel. The Charter arrived on September 21, and Mrs Rutter was spared the anxiety she had in Hobart.

Christchurch – November 28, Sorry no information from Mrs Rutter.

Auckland – December 21, There was a lapse in the letters and the final letter was a hurried note from Auckland about the Charter Dinner. There were 58 members for Auckland – a record by 2 on Christchurch!

'Well! There are now 12 Soroptimist clubs in the two Dominions, so we can claim they are definitely on the map!'



Florence and art

Now for Florence Rutter's connection with Carrolup! Following an article that appeared about Florence Rutter and the Carrolup Art in the Weekend Australian in March 2006 Soroptimists in Western Australia received an email from Jaimee Phillips, Community Capacity Builder – Carrolup Art Style Katanning informing



SI WA that an Exhibition of Artworks from Carrolup was to be held in New York. The Aboriginal girls were to conduct modelling shoots to be included in a travelling exhibition. The email asked for sponsorships to send some of the models to New York.

Clubs in W.A. contributed \$4,350 towards this sponsorship which helped the girls travel to New York, and to Melbourne, where they were to speak. The travel to New York was in April/May 2007. Later in the year the girls with their coordinator attended one of our special Region meetings and displayed their designs and clothing. The 2007 designs by the Aboriginal girls were also part of the recent (2013) exhibition at the John Curtin Gallery in video clips.

In August-September 2013 the John Curtin Gallery (Curtin University of Technology - Perth) presented an exhibition of rediscovered artworks by the children of the Carrolup Native Settlement. These rediscovered artworks are a small part of the extraordinary Carrolup story of Florence Rutter. W.A. Region and S.I. Perth had special showings at the Gallery. and Margaret Lobo took many visitors to Perth to the wonderful Exhibition.

I was very fortunate to have Margaret Lobo take me to the Koolart Koort Koorliny (Heart Coming Home) Exhibition of Carrolup Artwork in Perth in September 2013. The art had been "lost" after it was sold by Florence Rutter in 1956 and fortuitously found about 2004 in New York State.

Where will we find another Florence Rutter?

Liz Hyde

SI Berwick, Victoria

Carol Johnstone, SI Jakarta, Indonesia, PPSI Margaret Lobo, with Maggie Mitchell, SI Business on Collins, Victoria in WA