

# The Soroptimist

SWP

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## SOROPTIMISTS "Walk the Talk"



Support of Australia's  
Campaign to Stop  
Violence against women

*Soroptimist  
International  
of the Hills*

presents

**White Ribbon  
Breakfast**

during the 16 Days of  
Activism in November

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a global voice  
for women

Soroptimist International



Federation of the South West Pacific



## Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific

(ACN 147 990 627)

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## President's Message

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to the 20th Conference of Clubs of SI South West Pacific from 29 April – 1 May 2016 at WatervieW in Bicentennial Park, Sydney. The theme of the 2016 Conference will be “Challenge the Future: Women Accepting the Challenge”.

We will have a keynote speaker and panel discussions on “Women Accepting the Challenge of Leadership” and “Women Addressing the Challenge of Gender Equality”. Workshops will involve Soroptimists accepting the challenge, too.

The Conference of Clubs is, of course, the General Meeting of the clubs of our Federation – the time when members from across the 13 countries of SISWP come together to consider the future of our federation.

One of the Challenges of the Future is a very modern interactive website – we've already Accepted that Challenge. We will launch our new website at the Conference.

Sydney is a great city to visit and a wonderful place for a holiday. I encourage you to make the Conference part of a longer holiday and stay a while in Sydney to visit some of our iconic sights and spectacular scenery. Whatever you choose, I look forward to welcoming you to the 20th Conference of Clubs 2016.

Do register early! Full details are at [www.soroptimist-swpcoc-2016.com](http://www.soroptimist-swpcoc-2016.com)

*Carolyn Hudson  
 President 2014-2016  
 Soroptimist International  
 of the South West Pacific*

*Editor's note: This is an abridged version of the article that first appeared on the SISWP website.*



## From the Editor

As we approach the end of the year, may I take this opportunity of wishing you season's greetings and a happy and healthy New Year of renewed hope and friendship!

The year 2015 has seen the last of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2000-2015 and the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2030. SI Port Pirie has already embraced these Goals, working with the Girl Guides (see pages 4 & 5).

The year 2015 has also seen the launch of the President's Appeal 2015-2017 “Educate to Lead: Nepal” by our new Soroptimist International President Yvonne Simpson (see page 6). My club was honoured by the presence of Guest of Honour Malathi Das, President of the Singapore Council of Women's Organizations, to kick off our Nepal Appeal event.

The new year 2016 looks like the start of exciting new areas of focus for all Soroptimists to make a difference!

Happy New Year!

Triena  
 SI (Singapore) Garden City



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## SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL A Global Voice for Women

The Soroptimist SWP is the Magazine of Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific.

Soroptimists are business and professional women who work to maintain high ethical standards in their business and professional life and who use their talents and energy in the service of their local and global communities.

Through international partnerships and a global network of members, Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls. Soroptimist International (SI) is a Global Voice for Women working through AWARENESS, ADVOCACY and ACTION.

One of four Federations globally, SI of the South West Pacific (SISWP) is the smallest in terms of membership with 13 member countries. The other federations are SI of the Americas, SI of Europe, and SI Great Britain and Ireland.

### An Expanding and Dynamic Federation

Since its Charter as a Federation in its own right in 1978, SI of the South West Pacific has grown from three member countries -- Australia, New Zealand and Fiji -- to include 13 countries including Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands as well as many in Asia, namely Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Singapore, and Thailand.

Clubs within the Federation provide service to their local, national and international communities.

**Cover photo:** SI of the Hills members and guest speaker, Rob Critchlow, at the Healthy Relationships Seminar that followed the White Ribbon Breakfast. Both these events serve to educate and raise awareness to Stop Violence against Women, in keeping with SISWP's annual Walk the Talk campaign.

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The deadline for the February 2016 issue of the SISWP Magazine is **10 January**. Please include action photos with captions.

# SI Port Pirie & Girl Guides Celebrate



Making kites and flying them is great fun! This was discovered by ten Crystal Brook Girl Guides aged 6 to 12, their three leaders and four members of SI of Port Pirie. They were celebrating this special UN Day of the Girl Child at the Crystal Brook Guide Hall in October 2015.

The guides had earlier decorated their blank kites with messages and pictures, advocating what girls should be able to do. The messages showed deep thought about the topic as well as empathy with their less fortunate peers throughout the world. For example: girls should be able to "speak up, be loved, read, go to school, get a good education, decline forced marriage, have a flexible job, wear their choice of clothes, play sport, go to friends' houses to play".

After constructing the kites from the kits with help from leaders and Soroptimists, the girls trooped out to the nearby oval and launched them successfully. Despite a very threatening sky earlier in the day, the sun and breeze appeared just in time for the exercise.

Soroptimists Jenny Hughes, Heather Hunt and Bev



Adele Clarke, Esther Clarke, Amelia Venning, Akon Baak, Hazel Mitchell, Claire Mitchell, Lydia Clarke and Ella Tilly is just off the end.

(Left, inset) Girl Guide Amelia Venning making her kite.



Clarke and 'Soroptimister' Rooka Ramsay enjoyed the afternoon as much as the girl guides! Group Leader Lorraine Saunders commented that "the whole exercise was very worthwhile" and "it was a great event", sentiments shared by the Soroptimists, who hope to carry out other activities in 2016 with the Girl Guides. Both groups follow the UN 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development 2015-2030, which have replaced the Millennium Development Goals 2000-2015. (See page 5 for the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030.)

*Heather Hunt*  
Secretary  
SI Port Pirie, South Australia

UNITED NATIONS

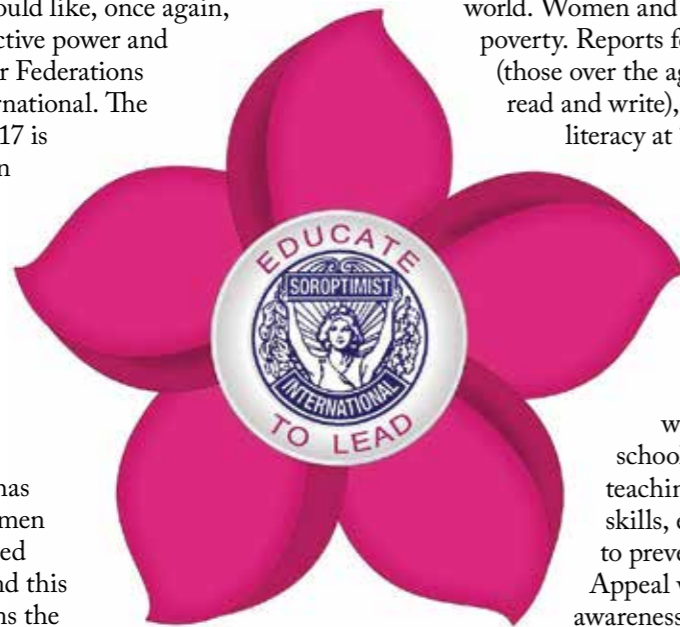
## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<p><b>1</b> NO POVERTY</p>	<p><b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p><b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p><b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION</p>
<p><b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p><b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p><b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p><b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>
<p><b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p><b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p><b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p><b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>
<p><b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p><b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p><b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND</p>	<p><b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>
<p><b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>			

## SI President's Appeal 2015-2017 Educate to Lead

This December, the International President Yvonne Simpson would like, once again, to harness the collective power and generosity of all four Federations of Soroptimist International. The Appeal for 2015-2017 is in support of women and girls in Nepal, as they take steps to rebuild their lives, following the devastating earthquakes of 25 April and 12 May 2015.

Historically, the President's Appeal has supported those women and girls most in need around the world and this year the goal remains the same. Nepal is amongst the



poorest and least developed countries in the world. Women and girls bear the brunt of the poverty. Reports found that female literacy (those over the age of 15 years able to read and write), is just 44.5%, with male literacy at 71%.

The 2015-2017 President's Appeal will fund projects addressing the specific educational needs of women and girls in Nepal. Eligible projects will include building schools, providing scholarships, teaching income-generating skills, educating girls and women to prevent trafficking etc. The Appeal will also create public awareness opportunities for SI and the Federations.

## SI LOGAN, YEAR 10 GIRL'S LEADERSHIP DAY

"Our Year 10 Leadership Day Conference was a resounding success. Year 10 girls were empowered, enthralled and entertained by the speakers at the Leadership Day convened by SI of Logan," said Conference Organizer, Tania Gibson. "This was our biggest Leadership Day with 76 girls and teachers attending from eight state and private local schools and Papua New Guinea, in addition to guest speakers, members and guests. SI Logan sponsored a teacher and two girls to attend from Kosec High School, Kokopo PNG."

The conference was officially opened by Dr Jim Chalmers, member for Rankin, who said, "It is inspiring to see so much potential in the minds of these terrific young women." President of SI Logan, Tracey

Finlay gave an overview of Soroptimist International and its focus on education and Cr Steve Svenson from Logan City Council appealed to the girls to make the most of their potential and opportunities.



SI Logan member, Maria Mijts conducted an interactive session with teacher, Elizabeth Baking and girls from Papua New Guinea, Demaris Lee and Carolyn Theodore. In the feedback at the end of the day several students and teachers said this was one of the best sessions.

Bev Ditton  
Publicity Officer  
SI Logan, Queensland, Australia

## SI (SINGAPORE) GARDEN CITY: NEPAL NIGHT



To celebrate its 9th Anniversary and raise funds for the Appeal of International President Yvonne Simpson, SI (Singapore) Garden City organized a dinner at the local Shish Mahal Nepalese Restaurant.

The setting was outdoors in the humidity of tropical Singapore, with attractive decor of twinkling lights adorning the palm trees. More than 100 guests and members enjoyed a sumptuous buffet of Nepalese food, with entertainment of songs and dance and a raffle draw. Members dressed in Nepalese and South Asian sarees,

adding to the spirit of the evening. More than \$3,000 was raised.

The funds will help to educate and empower Nepalese women and girls whose lives have been disrupted by the massive earthquake.

Triena Ong  
Member  
SI (Singapore) Garden City

## SI LAUTOKA: INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY



SI Lautoka marked this year's International Literacy Day on 8 September by donating more than 100 storybooks to Lautoka Sanatan Primary School, disadvantaged due to its location. It has about 170 pupils.

The club members did not just want to donate the books - they wanted to ensure that the students actually read them. So the club organized a "readathon" where students were to read as many of the donated books as they could and submit their book

summaries by the end of October. The three best summaries will receive prizes. SI Lautoka members feel that it is a big achievement to be able to make a difference in the literacy level of these young students.

Zareena Bi  
President  
SI Lautoka, Fiji

## SI SIGATOKA & FIJI GIRL GUIDES

SI Sigatoka has successfully held their much awaited annual camp with the Fiji Girl Guides.

A total of 111 schools, 623 girls and 102 Guide Leaders (Teachers) from all over Fiji participated in the three-day programme, 24-26 August 2015. SI Sigatoka sponsored 10 awards related to Leadership. The programme also included a focus on "Voicing Against Violence" and "Free Being Me". The Guides' theme was "Empowering Girls to be the Agents of Change through Girl Guiding". Awareness of these themes was heightened by the presence of the Minister for Education, Dr Mahendra Reddy, and a closing ceremony attended by thousands – wonderful visibility for Soroptimism!

*Suman Lal  
SI Sigatoka, Fiji*



## SI OF THE HILLS: FIRST EVER WHITE RIBBON DAY MARCH

White Ribbon is the world's largest movement of men and boys, and recently women & girls, working to end violence against women and girls, promote gender equity, healthy relationships and a new vision of masculinity.

With the support and early encouragement of Liam Dooley, the White Ribbon Ambassador in early 2014, Carmen Lalehzari on behalf of SI of the Hills organised the Breakfast in the Hills on 25 November 2015, the first day of the 16 days of activism. The local Police and the RSL Club were involved as joint partners.

The goal of our Club was not only fundraising but also to use the opportunity to create awareness and encourage more people to become Ambassadors and Advocates.

Simone O'Brien was our victim survivor whose account moved the 350 people that filled the venue to full capacity. Guests included Lisa Harnum's mother and brother who had travelled from Canada and were also interviewed for

Channel 9 News. The Breakfast was opened by messages from Hon Alex Hawke's and Hon David Elliott and closed by Hill Shire Mayor's remarks. Our MC was Tim Webster the TV Presenter. Regional President of Soroptimist International NSW Leslie Lawson spoke about the work of the Hills Shire Soroptimists and their involvement in different volunteering projects for the advancement of women. And Peterson Opio the White Ribbon Day Ambassador undertook the White Ribbon Day pledge.

Publicity for our Club was excellent and an article also appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* titled "Domestic violence is given its marching orders in Castle Hill as hundreds support the White Ribbon campaign".

*Carmen Lalehzari  
Member, SI of the Hills, NSW, Australia*

## SI MORNINGTON PENINSULA'S INDIA PROJECT

A recent trip to India provided a fantastic opportunity to make a personal visit to the Mother & Child Mobile Health Clinics Project. Soroptimist International Mornington Peninsula has been fundraising and supporting this work for nearly two years and the progress has been outstanding.

The project benefits 11,000 women and 7,000 children through mobile health posts for mothers and babies in 30 poor and oppressed Dalit villages in the Punjab. It is a rolling programme of ante and post-natal care, nutrition, contraception, immunisation, support for HIV/AIDS patients, female empowerment and gender equality plus environmental, sanitary and health education.

I met a team of most dedicated people: Dr Alma Ram, Project Leader and several Project Supervisors: Ranjit and Daniel who focus on maternal and child nutrition, health and hygiene through education and 'clean village' competitions;

Sabeena who promotes gender equality and anti-domestic violence programmes. Teena works with widows. She says: "I provide information and help on how to claim pensions and have set up an advocacy group called Single Women

With Strength in Groups. I really like this work because I am helping women and the women also help me."

Two supervisors run the HIV/AIDS programme. Sapna adds: "Much of our work is based on friendship to deal with sadness and problems that arise from being HIV positive."

After a delicious lunch, I attended a village community meeting. It was very humbling, and a real privilege to hear women of different age groups debating issues of culture and gender in relation to their society, history and the future along with the struggle of work, motherhood and family life.

*Helen Beeby  
SI Mornington Peninsula Inc  
Victoria, Australia*



## SI NORTH SHORE WALK THE TALK WITH EMPHASIS ON THE TALK

For many years Soroptimists have worked tirelessly to raise awareness and provide projects that work towards stopping violence against women. "Walk the Talk" provides Soroptimists from the South West Pacific with a focus to maintain momentum. At the local level, our clubs tell the world that as a community we will no longer tolerate violence in any form against women and girls. The United Nations promotes the 16 Days of Activism: from 25 November, International Day to End Violence Against Women, to 10 December, International Human Rights Day.

SI North Shore members spread the word and shared information at their club's stall at Torbay market, North Shore, Auckland, raising awareness to Stop Violence against Women.

*Sylvia Heywood  
Secretary  
SI North Shore, Auckland, New Zealand*



## SI CHRISTCHURCH & PATSY, THE HORSE



Patsy the horse is 16 hands high, has long legs, a big belly and is aged 15. Members of SI Christchurch donate \$1,000 to the Christchurch Riding for the Disabled Group to help towards her care that costs \$3,000 annually. The Riding for the Disabled Group has been operating for over 40 years and it welcomes any disabled individual as long as it is safe to ride. Medical consent is required and a physiotherapist and volunteers assess each referral.

The experience of riding assists the individual to develop muscular strength to walk, improve balance and coordination as well as promote social interaction, confidence and independence -- and have some fun at the same time! The clients range in age from 4 to 70 years. A child arriving in a wheelchair is mostly looking up at the world. Being on a horse and looking down gives a very different experience.

Patsy is the third horse we have supported over about 15 years since the project was first proposed by our member, Mary Holmes. We originally supported a pony, Tuesday, for the entire annual cost of about \$800. Tuesday had to be retired and then we were given George and now Patsy -- both large horses, so the costs have increased.

*Lesley Fursdon  
Publicity  
SI Christchurch, New Zealand*



## SI ERDENET: 4,000 STEPS TO HEALTH

SI Erdenet held a charity walk in May 2015. The theme of the walk was "4,000 Steps to health". The event served to create awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, but specifically to raise funds for their club project for the centre for children with disabilities. More than 144 people and 12 organizations participated in the walk, raising AUS\$ 2,843. Part of the funds will be used to invite a physiotherapist from Germany to assist at the centre.

*Munkhzul Serod  
Secretary  
SI Erdenet, Mongolia*

## FRIENDSHIP LINK: SI HORNSBY-SI KISHIWADA



A Friendship Link was formed in 2013 between SI Kishiwada, Osaka, Japan and SI Hornsby, Sydney, Australia, initiated by the then President Mrs Ikuko Kajino during their 10th Anniversary year. There followed an exchange of Club activities and ideas and SI Kishiwada's most kind donation of kimono garments for SI Hornsby Fashion Fundraiser in 2014. Last December SI Hornsby donated beautiful silk scarves, handpainted by an Australian designer, to support their fundraising activities.

Susanne Dalgas-Hansen (SI Hornsby Friendship Link Liaison) and Sumiyo Mimori (translator for SIK and sister-in-law of SIK member Yumiko Mimori) have kept up a steady correspondence during this time and have forged a strong friendship. This culminated in a visit by eight SI Kishiwada members to Sydney on 16 September 2015 where new friendships were surely made. The day was spent visiting the Koala Park and Cumberland State Forest, lunch at the Garden Centre and a visit to the home of one of our members



Members of SI Kishiwada and SI Hornsby in front of the famous Clock Fountain in Hornsby.

(Left, inset) SI Kishiwada Past President, Mrs Ikuko Kajino, with SI Hornsby President, Mrs Pam Perriman.

to view an Australian garden. In the evening over dinner, formal procedures took place to sign the Friendship Certificates. SI Kishiwada President Toshiko Hara presented our club with a beautiful Japanese, kimono-clad, traditional figurine encased in a glass cabinet which will be treasured by our club. Our members are already thinking about a return visit to Japan to visit SI Kishiwada in the not too distant future.

*Julie Griffin  
Secretary  
SI Hornsby Inc., Sydney, Australia*

## MAY LAMONT, WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!

SI Brisbane member, May Lamont was one of four recipients who received the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Peacewomen Awards 2015 at a special ceremony on 6 November 2015. This award was in honour of May's long-standing participation at the local, national and international levels in campaigns to improve the lives of women around the world. May's award was presented by Noela O'Donnell, Immediate Past President, National Council of Women, Queensland.

Unfortunately, May was unable to attend the Awards ceremony herself because she was in Papua New Guinea. As we Soroptimists all know, May has been a driving force of the SISWP Birthing in the Pacific project, funded by SISWP. At the time of the awards presentation, she was at a graduation ceremony of Community Health Workers in Mt Hagen, Western Highlands of PNG.



*Excerpted from an article by Gayle Carrick  
Secretary SI Brisbane Inc., Queensland, Australia  
and SISQ Region President Elect*

May with Community Health Worker Graduates who have just graduated from the latest Up-Skilling Course held at Kundiawa Hospital, Chimbu Province, PNG.

## SI CHRISTCHURCH HELPS WOMEN'S NIGHT SHELTER

Members of SI Christchurch are seen here putting together dignity packs for the Christchurch City Mission's Women's Night Shelter. The shelter provides emergency short-term

accommodation for homeless women and also social work support, drug and alcohol counselling, budget support and practical assistance such as food and clothing.

*Joanne Mitchell  
SI Christchurch, New Zealand*



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 10 January 2016: Deadline for articles for *SISWP Magazine* (February 2016 issue).
- 29 April-1 May 2016: SISWP CONFERENCE OF CLUBS, Waterview Function Centre, Bicentennial Park, Sydney.
- 2015-2017: SI President's Appeal for Nepal. Funds to be channelled to SISWP HQ labelled with your club name and "Nepal Fund".