

THE SOROPTIMIST SWP

a global voice
for women

Soroptimist International



Federation of the South West Pacific

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Members Matter in SISWP
SI Sydney's 75th
SISWP Project Update
New Charters
Club News

Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific

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SISWP – Walk the Talk

16 Days of Activism from -
 25th November to 10th December 2012
Stop Violence Against Women

The latest update of clubs who are committed to activities: SI Lautoka, SI Singapore Garden City, SI Malaysia, SI Westland, SI Hobart, SI George Town, SI Burnie, SI Hong Kong, and SI Victoria.

A gentle reminder to any club who hasn't yet decided. Let me know if you club decides to become involved and *Walk the Talk* during the 16 Days of Activism.

Theresa Lyford
SWP Coordinator Walk the Talk

THE SOROPTIMIST -SWP

The Magazine of SISWP



From the Editor

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The theme for this edition of the SWP Magazine is *Members Matter* and I have been flooded with articles and photos as so many of you related to the topic very closely. Unfortunately I have been unable to fit everything in as there was a backlog from the August edition as well. The magazine is restricted to 12 pages because of cost so articles are edited to fit.

Could I please draw your attention to my email address (on this page). I am not receiving some articles or photos as some of you are leaving the 'b' letter out after the word garrett. The email will not bounce back to you because you have

sent your piece to another recipient, not to me. Would you please take time to check your email addresses before pushing that send button.

Some weeks ago I was pleased to have Janet Hutton to stay with me for a few days. Janet is a member of SI Harrogate and Dist. Nth Yorkshire, UK. .SI Benalla entertained Janet with a lunch at the Benalla Art Gallery. A strong Friendship Link has existed between the two clubs since SI Benalla was chartered in 1985 and club members from both countries have exchanged a number of visits over the years. Both clubs also assist each other with our respective projects.

I hope you are all getting involved with SWP President, Siew Yong's *Walk the Talk* programme to draw attention to gender violence. The concept is great because it allows clubs to do something as big or small as they wish.

Kerry

The photo from left: Dorothy Meagher, Ellen Crocker, Win Sebire, Judy Bertalli, Kerry Garrett and Janet Hutton

The deadline for the February 2013 SWP Magazine is 30th December 2012. The theme will be **Programme Impact**

Articles, letters and all other matters appearing in this magazine do not necessarily express the official views of Soroptimist International or of the Editor of The Soroptimist SWP.

Welcome from our President

Members Matter - Members are the life blood of the organisation, and having chartered three clubs, with SI Mandurah being the latest on September 14th, we are hungry for more charters and more members.

SWP President Siew Yong with SI Sydney President Marilyn Black at Sydney's 75th birthday celebrations on 13th October



SI Western Australia President Naomi Glasson, incoming SI Mandurah President Carolyn Jurgens and SISWP President Siew Yong with the new club's charter.

At the same time, we must ensure our clubs endure with membership numbers growing. Newly chartered clubs must be nurtured and helped to take baby steps by our elder sister clubs. That's the spirit we must have to ensure we are able to

Extension and membership recruitment events are good avenues to invite your friends to so they understand why you have "disappeared" from their lives every now and then. Perhaps they will appreciate what you do to make a difference and they might think they can too. Training and empowerment sessions to re-energise our members will help to sustain and retain our membership.

Our membership numbers are dropping for a myriad of reasons, but I am confident if we focus on the positives, we will not only stem but even turn the tide.

Let us not allow our movement to be turned into an ugly receding shore but a beautiful and clean ocean of water, reaching out as far as the eye can see. That is our potential.



SI Lae recently inducted six new members into their club

We would like to recognise clubs for their growth and high spirited membership. I would recommend that our Board present special awards at the SWP 2014 Conference of Clubs in Kuching. These will be presented to clubs



SI Cobram Barooga's 20th

SI Adelaide members (right) at the start of the Welcome to Australia Walk in June. The Walk Together, was a happy and supportive community event.



sustain clubs. Members in clubs need the spirit for give and take, sharing and caring, like a family, to not only retain membership, but enlarge it. Celebrating anniversaries are wonderful and opportunities for remembering good times, acknowledging those who have contributed and celebrating the future of better things to come.



SWP members of Northern Highlands, Port Pirie and Barossa Valley clubs enjoying an annual tri-club lunch

which have used creative membership recruitment tools to show both good retention of old members and robust induction of new members.

Let us strive to uphold our belief that members matter and numbers count, in helping us carry out our mission to transform the lives of women and girls.

Fellowship evenings are important for camaraderie, fun and friendship beyond the serious SI work, which may be put aside every now and then, to enjoy our "sisterhood".

SWP President Siew Yong

Retention of Members

I would like all members to think about the importance of keeping their members

The continuing decline in membership is an ongoing issue with all Federations, but for SISWP it is of vital importance as we have fewer members to start with. There are approximately 90,000 Soroptimists world wide and SWP has fewer than 2,500 of them.

In the constitution and manuals, the Extension/Membership role and the Muriel Barber Fund refer to getting new members and keeping those members for the first two years. At the last SI Board meeting the recommendation that there be a change in the structure of the Membership Team was accepted. This means that there will be one Membership Convenor responsible for both extension and retention with two assistants. One assistant, Karen Eagles, is responsible for extension and one assistant, myself, for retention (to be renamed 'training'). This means that extension is just that – getting new members and new clubs. Now training and information support starts as soon as the new member is inducted. It is my hope that the new Membership Convenor will give equal weight to both extension and retention.

A great effort has been given to extension over the years and in the last couple of years, it has to be said, with great success. However, there has been a slight decline in membership in the last 12 months. So far this year from January 1st to July 31st, four new clubs were chartered, and many clubs have started to make up their deficit in numbers. BUT, 378 members have left and of those, 201 were members with less than three years membership. After all the effort that goes into inducting new members to have them leave because



Roseanne Donaldson and Bea Hitt SI Fremantle met with Karen Eagles in Perth's Kings Gardens to discuss the keeping and retaining of members



WA Extension convenor Bobbi Buckle meeting with SI Mandurah President Carolyn Jurgens giving support before the Charter evening

they don't understand the jargon, or how the organisation works, or to have lost their initial enthusiasm because of the awkward characters present and unhappiness with the way the club is run, is a sad reflection on us all. We must make a bigger effort to retain these members.

For just over 12 months, there has been a club Member Development (MD) position added to the club list. I ask all clubs to identify a person in your club to hold this position. Emphasis will be put on the Convenor in this role to provide support, with the help and guidance of the Regional MD Convenor, the Nat Rep or myself, to new members.

How do we turn around the loss of membership, especially those members who resign after three years or less? Try making use of the booklets or PPPs all available on the Training CD and on the website,

For a newly chartered club – put a short time slot into the agenda to go through the Information Handbook – page by page or paragraph etc. Introduce a Mentor Policy. The club *Leadership Handbook* has two pages of suggestions under the Extension Role Specifications on how to make mentoring work.

Encourage all members to attend Region meetings and Conferences. It is the best way to quickly understand how the SI Structure works. Encourage all resigning members to complete an Exit Evaluation form – it is totally confidential.

It is in the best interests of all Soroptimists to tackle this perennial problem.

Laurie Swift
Membership Development Convenor

All members matter

As the SISWP Extension Convenor I am tasked with supporting clubs where numbers are low. These clubs need constant support and encouragement. We have 140 clubs in 2012. The clubs are in countries of amazing diversity from SI Invercargill in the South Island, of NZ to SI Erdenet in Mongolia in the north of our Federation; to Samoa which lies furthest east to SI Chiang Mai, in Thailand in the west .

How to do this

- Keep in touch by email giving strategies for exciting new initiatives – women's expo, display in libraries, using Facebook and lively club pages

- Assist in writing articles relevant to the district

- Problem solve when difficult members upset clubs

- Encourage a diversity of activities in local, national and international spheres. All members need to be attracted to our programme of service work

- Members can be "attached" or take leave, receive the club newsletter and return to the club after a short break

- Gaining a member takes energy – don't waste it

- Be upfront and say "We would like you to join"

- Have small groups/committees to allow the members to feel valued

- If you are thrilled to hear of new members, remember to retain them as we need to keep them engaged

- "Whats in it for me" principle – all of us like a positive environment.

Karen Eagles
SISWP Extension Convenor



SISWP President Siew Yong giving her support to WA Extension convenor Bobbi Buckle

Welcome to our new clubs

Starting a new club is not an easy process as most new clubs take up to two years from start to charter. Once the new club is formed it is important that the Region and other clubs support them in their first few years. This year, in Malaysia we welcomed SI Kota Kinabalu on 14th April, then shortly after on 21st April, SI Melba was chartered in Victoria, Australia. SWP President Yvonne Simpson chartered both of these clubs before the Conference of Clubs in Greymouth, New Zealand.

Then our new SWP President Siew Yong Gnanalingam chartered SI Erdenet, in Mongolia on 23rd June 2012,

SI Melba is one of our newest clubs and holds breakfast meetings. They have already inducted a new member and are following up on another who came to them through the website. Their members have been active in pursuing a project in conjunction with Melbourne University and they have had one dinner meeting where they invited Ann Blainey, author of 'I am Melba' as guest speaker.

How we communicate with each other has changed dramatically over the past years and we need to make greater use of the website and social network sites such as *Facebook*. Potential members would be impressed with our organisation when visiting the SWP *Facebook* page as the information is current and updated photos give a strong visual image of SI.

Another impressive Facebook page is the Region of Western Australia with up to date items about their projects, photos from the recent Charter of SI Mandurah, the Region Meeting in September and other club items. This appeals to younger women looking to join SI.

I urge all clubs to make use of the social network sites to welcome potential members to club meetings and events. Congratulations to all those clubs, regions and countries with *Facebook* pages and websites.

Members Matter - help us to welcome more members this year both for our existing clubs and for new clubs.

Julie Griffin,
Assistant Extension (Australia)



It all started with Carolyn Jurgens, the inaugural President looking for a club to join. The nearest happened to be SI Rockingham, and for Carolyn who had a young child, under 12 months, at the time, that seemed a bit more travel than she anticipated. So I asked if she would consider helping to start a new club in Mandurah, and the immediate reply was "Yes!" The first meeting was on 31st August 2011, with a couple of us, over a coffee, and from that time the numbers kept growing. Right from the start, the Mandurah members showed a great deal of enthusiasm. And, finally, on 14th September 2012 SI Mandurah was chartered by SISWP Federation President Siew Yong, ably assisted by SISWP Federation Extension Convenor Karen Eagles. Guests came from far and wide to help celebrate the occasion. The dinner and proceedings were followed by music and dancing. The chartering of a club is a team effort and I would like to acknowledge the assistance given, by Karen Eagles SISWP Extension Convenor, members of SI Rockingham, Berenice Ritchie SIWA Immediate Past President, Jennie van Driel, SIWA Member Development, and, of course, the wonderful members of SI Mandurah.

Bobbi Buckle
SIWA Extension Coordinator



On 7th July SI Kuching, Malaysia, was chartered by the SISWP President Siew Yong Gnanalingam who presented the 18 new members with their badges and certificates. The Guest of Honour, the

Minister of Welfare, Women and Family Development was very supportive. She has opened the door to her ministry for support for SI Kuching's projects. New members include a member of Parliament and an Assistant Principal Secretary to one of the Ministries.

Since their charter they have embarked on the *Purple Lily Project* which aims to inspire and empower women through life skills, training and financial education. So far they have conducted workshops to help working women with low incomes gain self-confidence. They have especially helped the *Songket weavers* from the villages in Sarawak. These women attend the workshops once a month. They have also run three hour leadership workshops in two government schools which are expected to continue through to January 2013. A visit is being planned in October as a follow-up to extend any help required. A training session will also be held on project planning and Programme Focus Reporting.

Suat Pheng Beh
Assistant Extension (Asia)

Around Malaysia

Members are the lifeblood of any non-governmental organisation and this is no different with Soroptimist International. Members join SI for various reasons but whilst we are dedicated to making a difference to society, we should enjoy ourselves while doing so. One of the benefits of membership in SI is the friendship and support of members. It is important for clubs to develop such friendships and the following show events promoting camaraderie in Malaysian clubs.



SI Bangsar - members enjoying themselves at a durian party at IPP Chai Kee's house



SI Bangsar - baking class for members and their families and friends conducted by a professional chef



SI Ipoh – Girls day out at the spa for relaxation and bonding



SI Damansara - A surprise birthday cake for then SISWP President Yvonne Simpson at a potluck party at Dhamayanthi's house.

SI Penang started Fun Baking Classes so that members could get together without any business discussions and learn exciting new recipes, says Anita Pater, President.



SI Penang – Spanish baking class by authentic Spanish cook at their club premise



Tucking into yummy paella

SI Kota Kinabalu - since it was chartered on 14th April 2012 by then SISWP President, Yvonne Simpson, SI KK has inducted another two members making a total of 20.

As Region Extension Convenor, I made a visit to Kota Kinabalu on 17th June as a follow up, and training was conducted on Programme Focus Reports and Project Planning. The members are very enthusiastic and are working on several projects.

April 2012, Members of SI KK, President Yvonne, Guest of Honour, Datuk Jainab Datuk Ahmad Ayid, Assistant Minister Ministry of Resource Development and Information Technology, SISWP PE Siew Yong Gnanalingam and guests



SI Sentul – Bangra Blast
At SI SENTUL'S 2012 Charity Dinner for its EDUCARE Programme, the 3 Best-Dressed ladies (right) and the club's Executive members (left) with popular Malaysian Radio personality, Aanantha Rajaram, who successfully bid for the oil painting by Malaysian artist, Michel Anthony. Mr Rajaram is receiving the painting from the Guest of Honour and past SISWP President, Joanne Fernandez

Suat Pheng Beh
Assistant Extension (Asia)

For their first project, on Personal Safety for Children, they are working with SI Bangsar who have an on-going similar programme. SI Bangsar are sponsoring the cost of airfares for two SI Bangsar members to run a Train the Trainers session for SI KK members in November 2012. SI KK will then run a workshop for the public the next day under the supervision of these two trainers from Bangsar. Also, they have been conducting a reading programme for children of single mothers.



Left: Gene Smith, SI Sydney, Past President SI, Betty Loughhead-Turland, SWP President Siew Yong Gnanalingam, President SI Region of NSW, Anne Sheehan and Karen Ford, SI Sydney, lighting candles dedicating all levels of our organisation to maintain our vision and commitment to the women and girls of the world.

She had many stories to tell about Edith Glanville, our founding President, and the charter members of the club. These included the first fully trained woman dentist in Australia, the first woman engineer and an early aviatrix. These women worked for peace in the world, actively campaigning against war. They supported refugees and the homeless and campaigned for the rights of women and girls: ideals which we are still working for today. Sydney club has maintained its connections to our early members. Diana Craddock, the daughter of charter member Helen Craddock was a member until the beginning of this year, and Past Australian National Rep, Janice Lee is the granddaughter of a 1940's member.

SI Sydney celebrates 75th

On Saturday 13th October 2012 SI Sydney and their guests celebrated the 75th Anniversary of its Charter in 1937. The glittering lights of the Harbour Bridge (1932), and Luna Park (1935) enhanced the enjoyment of all present. In welcoming everyone to the celebrations SI Sydney President, Marilyn Black said how honoured we were to have among our guests: Federation President Siew Yong Gnanalingam; Federation President-Elect Carolyn Hudson; Past International Presidents Betty Loughhead-Turland, Jane Zimmerman and Margaret Lobo; Past Federation Presidents Elaine

Mooney, Pat Strickland, Eileen Mitchell and Yvonne Simpson; and Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee which formed our Federation, Meryl Caldwell-Smith. Guests came from all six states of Australia, from New Zealand, Thailand, Malaysia and a visiting Soroptimist from Munich in Germany.

Many friendships were renewed as guests enjoyed pre-dinner drinks and canapés, while a power-point displaying some of the history of the club scrolled in the background. Guests were entertained and informed about the early history of SI Sydney by Ms Laila Elmoos, a member of the History Unit of Sydney City Council.

In her toast to SI Sydney, Federation President, Siew Yong, paid tribute to the women who founded the first Soroptimist Club in Australia. She concluded with 'after 75 years SI Sydney is no old lady but carries the wisdom and experience to continue to contribute to the local, Federation and International community.' The evening concluded with the celebration cake being cut by Gene Smith, the longest standing member of SI Sydney, a Soroptimist for 40 years.

Barbara Boston
SI Sydney, NSW



SI Mornington celebrates 60 years

SI Mornington Peninsula Inc, Victoria celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on Saturday 6th October 2012 with a luncheon. President Brenda Haines welcomed the 48 guests and members who enjoyed the festivities. Among those present were representatives from Zonta, and Soroptimists from NSW, New Zealand, Berwick, BOC, Waverley, Melbourne, Chisholm, Ballarat and Brighton in Victoria,

Margaret Mitchell
SI Business on Collins Inc, (SI BOC) Vic.



38 years to celebrate for SI Waimea

On Saturday 22nd September we celebrated our club birthday. We have only one charter member remaining and she is battling ill health so as a club we decided to celebrate now. We shared out charter document along with photos of the charter dinner and lots of photos through the years featuring Joan who was there at the beginning. Waimea club is in good heart with 26 members, with five inducted this year, although unfortunately none of them could come to the breakfast. We are a club of travellers and it is unusual for there not to be several members overseas at any one time.

We have a very busy programme from now to the end of the year with a major fundraiser planned for mid October..

Annette Smith
SI Waimea, NZ

News from the Clubs



Members of SI Darkhan and SI New Plymouth with recipients of ger and garden projects

Gardens in Mongolia

June 20th 2012 in Darkhan, Mongolia, is a day we will long remember. We had been involved with SI Darkhan's ger and garden projects for a number of years and hoped to revisit project recipients whom we had met in 2008. The morning was fine and pleasantly warm when President Norjinkhand and Delmer Narantsogt took us to visit ger recipient, Minjin, and several project gardens.

The change in Minjin's circumstances since our earlier visit is exceptional. The area around her ger, previously bare earth, is cultivated with fruit trees and potatoes. She now has a sewing machine and makes traditional Mongolian dress to order, and we understand her 12 year old daughter is doing well at school.

After leaving Minjin's village our first stop was the SI Darkhan's "Greenhouse" project which was instigated by SI New Plymouth and well supported by SINZ

Central and a number of other Zone clubs. In order to extend the very short growing season, a greenhouse was purchased and erected. It is now flourishing with aubergines, cucumbers and tomatoes. The surrounding area of land is neatly laid out with a wide range of thriving vegetable plants. A bonus here is the well to which a pump has been attached so water no longer has to be carried. A group of four families have joined to form a co-operative. Using their individual skills they are producing fruit and vegetables for sale; very high quality traditional clothing and beautiful framed embroidered pictures; and yoghurt, cheeses and other milk products from their four cows.

At the next garden we particularly admired the wealth of fruit bushes where blueberries, currants and berries unknown to us, were beginning to form. Potatoes, tomatoes and salad vegetables were making good progress. The last visit

was to an impressive vegetable garden was brief because of the unexpected absence of the owner in Ulaanbaatar. At each visit we were treated to generous Mongolian hospitality, invited into the home and offered a wide range of traditional delicacies – cheese, yoghurt, milk tea, hard boiled eggs, meats, biscuits and sweets.

Throughout the day we became more and more convinced that the projects were so successful because of the harmonious relationships which have been built between SI Darkhan members and the project recipients. The "Ger" and "Garden" projects have been carefully planned and executed and support is ongoing. As a consequence the women have grown in confidence and their latent leadership skills and talents are now being freely expressed.

The achievements of two of the women were acknowledged the following day at the club banquet when Minjin and Tsolman were presented with awards for excellence and leadership. Both women shone with pride and happiness and this was reciprocated by all the Soroptimists present. During the banquet President Norjin gave an illustrated review of the club's projects past and present, and we were also delighted to have the opportunity to present her with a gift of vegetable, fruit and flower seeds donated by SI New Plymouth.

Helen Elder
Marie Mitchell
SI New Plymouth

SI Fiji's Submission

SI Fiji has made a submission to the Constitution Commission of Fiji for the incorporation of five working days of paid paternity leave to be included in the new Constitution. The Constitution Commission has been set up by the Fiji Government in preparation for the General Elections in 2014 which will witness a new elected Government in the country.

SI Fiji has proposed that the paternity leave should begin from the day of the delivery of the baby and if the delivery is in the weekend then the leave should be counted from the Monday of the new week. The proposal also includes that provisions should be in place for Employers to claim 50 per cent of the gross amount of paid leave to their employees from the Government.

According to research conducted by the National Partnership for Women and Families at least 66 countries in the world guarantee a father's right to paid paternal leave and 31 of these countries offer 14 weeks or more. A father's involvement in the nurturing of his children is very significant nowadays with the current trend of nuclear families in our society.

Zareena Bi
SI Fiji





PNG Defense Force Igam Barracks joins SI Lae

Meredith Tutumang, Team Leader for the Village Birth Attendant (VBA) Project under SI Lae invited the PNG Defense Force to be a partner in the VBA project. Considering the rugged geographical location that was to be covered in the VBA project, Meredith asked if the PNG Defense Force (DF) could provide tracking leadership, site investigation and analysis for building/ water construction, and security for the SI team when tracking to rural remote areas. On Thursday 2nd August 2012, 1200hrs-1300hrs, the PNG/DF team had their first meeting with the President SI Lae, Jane Kenni, . Nellie McLay, Extension Officer, and. Meredith Tutumang. The PNG/DF team thought that it was a great opportunity to work with SI Lae on the VBA project, and that by being involved in more community service work helps to make the Department more credible. The first community mobilization trip began on Monday 4th August 2012.

Above in the picture on right is President. Jane Kenni, second left is LT. Sawasi, Executive Officer to the Area Commander of Engineer Battalion Igam Military Barracks, Meredith Tutumang on the left and second left is SGT. Tovue, a selected personnel who will lead the PNG/DF team with SI Lae's first community mobilization tracking to Salamaua mountains.

**Jane Kenni
SI Lae**



VBA for Mubo PNG

The journey from Kamiatum to Mubo village was very challenging. The topography changed from high mountains with savannah and fern grassland to tropical rainforest filled with moss. The distance was 13km and it took us 11 hours moving continuously, as we had to get to the village before nightfall. We did mountain climbing for four hours and dropped down into a river way, the only path to Mubo village. There are no other roads or tracks except this river way, in which we spent another seven hours and did 50 crosses in this cold, cold water. See photo below

At Mubo, the primary school accepted us and gave us a house and provided food for our entire stay. Mubo is a very remote community with little to no literacy at all. Young babies and mothers lack clothing. During the village workshop a SI VBA committee was formed and people expressed great need for this partnership so they can change their lives. They said their only route to civilization was by the river way and if it flooded they were cut off. Men, women, and babies have died because accessibility to basic services is difficult. They said if one was sick, they made stretchers and carried them hours in the water to get help.

In this village in the last five years more than three mothers and babies have died. Currently six mothers are pregnant and will give birth in the village. I have requested the possibility of having a birthing house with a full clean water system into the house. On this trip the PNG Defence Force has helped to do site investigation for an appropriate location for the house, right materials, and the source of water. Getting cargo into this area would only be by helicopter, so a helipad was also identified. All these technical details form part of my detailed report.

**Meredith Tutumang
SI Lae**

Companies help SI Lae



Above: representative Michael Naeman from one of the major banks in PNG, Bank South Pacific. He is handing over their donation to the Trivia Committee members of SI Lae, Angela, Nancy and Rahab.

The Trivia is our major fund raiser in our calendar year, and this year it was on 25th August 2012. This year the majority of the funds raised will be going towards the Village Birth Attendant (VBA) project.

Not only did the bank support us with donated prizes but they have also bought a table for their managers. As this will be the first time Bank South Pacific has attended we are hoping to market SI to them so they may consider supporting us in a big way. Bank South Pacific has branches in PNG, Solomon Islands and Fiji.



The International Food Corporation representative is seen above handing over a cheque and promotional items bag (in the back ground) in support of the SI Lae fund raiser.

I am also glad to mention here that they are now wanting to partnership with SI Lae to support the VBA project. This is a manufacturing company with its head office in Malaysia and it employs a lot of women and girls in their fish processing factory.

**Jane Kenni
SI Lae**

News from the Clubs



Baby shower in Logan

SI Logan raised \$750 to help train birthing attendants and midwives in Papua New Guinea. May Lamont who is the Assistant Manager, Birthing in the Pacific Project SISWP, was the guest speaker. PNG has a very high mortality rate for mothers and babies and SI Logan is very pleased to help.

Over forty visitors attended including Griffith University, Logan Campus lecturers Diane Tamariki, Jane Menke and Professor Jenny Gamble from the Midwifery faculty. Maria Mijts was the organiser and thanked all who helped make the afternoon such a success. Maria lived in New Guinea for three years and still visits regularly. Two articles and photos were printed in the local paper and Maria also spoke on a radio station about the event so we received excellent publicity as well.

We have a Friendship Link with SI Ramu and five members of SI Ramu stayed with Bev Ditton in Logan on their return from the NZ Conference before returning home. They were: Philomena Kikitam, Rubianne Wahung, Maggie Adams, Vinnie Alir and Dorcas Iki.

Bev Ditton
SI Logan, Qld



Help for aged care

Members of Soroptimist International Devonport presented a cheque for \$5,000 to Wendy Shearer Executive Officer at Meercroft Home for the



Mentoring indigenous girls at Shalom College

For two years, SI Townsville Inc. members have interacted with indigenous students at Shalom College in Townsville. The club also sponsors indigenous female students' participation at the annual International Women's Day breakfast. During these occasions, we have become aware of the lack of self-confidence among the girls, most of whom come from very remote isolated communities across northern Australia.

To build on their self-confidence, and using the skills of our members, a mentoring course was conducted for the senior girls. Topics such as grooming, deportment, table manners and make-up helped the girls' self-confidence. The course culminated in their graduation at our club dinner, when girls arrived beautifully groomed for the big occasion.

The change in these girls was quite remarkable. No longer did they hide their faces, or refuse eye contact. Some bravely made little speeches, when presented with graduation certificates and manuals of the workshops. The success of this mentoring project will spur us to repeat it again next year, but meanwhile, we will watch the girls as they progress beyond high school into the wider world of employment.

SI Townsville, Qld

Aged Inc. Wendy expressed her sincere appreciation as this donation will purchase a palliative care mattress and a high-low automatic chair. SI Devonport raised funds by assisting with *Taste the Harvest*; conducting a cent evening; and a very successful sausage sizzle.

Jan Grey
SI Devonport, Tasmania



Jean turns 90

Jean Jorgensen had her 90th birthday on the 6th June 2012. Jean is the longest serving member of SI Deniliquin and the club decided to hold its June dinner meeting on the day of Jean's birthday. In the 38 years Jean has been a member she has served as President, Secretary and Treasurer of the club. Jean has also been a chairperson on most committees within the club and she has represented the club at regional meetings for over 20 years. She has been a Club Programme Reporter for the same amount of time and is still the Friendship Link member now going into her 26th year in that position.

Jean was presented with flowers and an honorary life membership badge of the club as her sister members felt Jean has been a wonderful asset to our club.

Pam Ward
SI Deniliquin, Riverina

Photo courtesy of Deniliquin Pastoral Times.



Marilla joins SWP

A new member was inducted on Monday Oct 1 at our SI New Plymouth meeting.

Karen Eagles
SI New Plymouth NZ

New member Marilla Tyler, centre, with Past National Rep NZ Kathy Glass, left and SI NP President Judith Bennett, right



Fun and games to bring out the child in us

Emotive workshop

On 22nd June 2012, SI Petaling Jaya organised the Emotional Literacy Workshop conducted by PH Wong, a founding member of Childline Malaysia, and a social worker from the United Kingdom. Conducted exclusively for SIPJ members and associates involved in the club's flagship Project SHINE, the workshop explored ways to identify children in distress through a variety of kid's play. SIPJ's SHINE project runs social English, yoga and tuition classes for shelter home children and poor urban kids.

The workshop required us to dig deep into our own childhood and face our own issues before facing the children. The full day workshop provided insight as well as tips to raise the emotional literacy of disadvantaged children. The feedback from all 12 participants was encouraging. The workshop activities are already being implemented at our SHINE centres - Rumah Sayang in Kampung Tunku and the Right to Learn Centre in TTDI. Moving forward, participants are scheduled to conduct 'live' sessions with workshop knowledge and tools at selected schools because according to Childline's findings, emotional literacy issues are no longer the preserve of welfare homes and the poor.

Premilla Mohanlal,
SI Petaling Jaya, Malaysia



Members and guests of SI Northern Highlands (Jamestown SA) in June

Rae Harding
SI Northern Highlands SA



Hornsby Soroptimist - Women of the Year 2012

Hornsby Soroptimist, Judy Hopwood (former MP for Hornsby), was presented with the 2012 Women of the Year Award for her outstanding work on homelessness in the Hornsby Shire. Judy Hopwood was instrumental in forming the Hornsby Homelessness Task Force in December 2008, which includes representatives from local support agencies. The Task Force has been very active in advocating and assisting the homeless persons in the Shire.

Pru Goward MP, Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister for Women (also member of SI Goulburn) presented the award on 25th September at an afternoon tea hosted by Matt Kean MP, Member for Hornsby.

Julie Griffin
SI Hornsby Inc. NSW



Happy birthday Coleambally

SI Coleambally held their 29th Birthday dinner in February this year. A surprised inaugural member Margaret Sheppard was presented with Honorary Life membership by Janet Mills, Riverina Region President during the evening.

Heather Hogan
SI Coleambally, NSW

Seen cutting the cake are, Left to right Janet Mills, Heather Hogan, Barb Freer, Kerry Creecy, Lorraine Edwards, Margaret Sheppard, Helen Kelly, Bev Weymouth, Jean Mills



Country hospitality

Thirty women attended the SI Victoria Inc Regional meeting in October hosted by Maree Hogan of SI Cobram Barooga. *Above are Win Sebire SI Benalla, Jenny Gaylard, SI Cobram Barooga, Maggie Mitchell SI BOC, Val Whan SI Benalla enjoying the sumptuous afternoon tea.*

Many of the members at the Region meeting continued on to help SI Cobram Barooga celebrate their 20th birthday in the evening with a dinner. Fourteen of the original charter members attended, with the original charter President, Betty Oliver and husband Eric travelling from Port Macquarie to be there.

Pam O'Dwyer
SI Cobram Barooga, Victoria

Molly Brennan
January 1915 to 15
September 2012



Molly Brennan was born in Sedgwick, Victoria. Her academic abilities were nurtured from an early age by parents who believed in education for all.

In 1932 Molly received a minor scholarship to Melbourne University, where she started studying law until in 1935 she gave up law and took up teaching. In 1960 Miss Brennan took up the principal's position at Preston Girls' High School in Melbourne. It was during this time that Molly aligned herself with Soroptimist International and started the Soroptimist International Club in Bendigo in 1978 She was Charter President and Honorary Life Member of the club.

Wilma Skidmore
SI Bendigo

Grant of Friendship SIGBI

Soroptimist International of Southern England Region of SIGBI is offering an opportunity for a Soroptimist to visit to share and exchange experiences for a period of two weeks from 19 June 2013. The region covers the counties of Hampshire, parts of Dorset, Surrey and Sussex and part of Greater London.

A personal itinerary and programme with specific objectives within SI's Programme Action areas will be arranged to allow the successful applicant the opportunity to make professional visits of interest and learn more about the Programme Action work being undertaken in the region and the UK. She will meet members of the 13 clubs in the region. **She will be required** to attend UKPAC meeting in Kensington as a silent observer on 22 June 2013, and give a presentation at the Region Council meeting on 29 June 2013. She is asked to submit a formal report of her visit within three months of her return home, and to undertake post-visit liaison for up to a three year period.

She will be responsible for her own return fare to the UK. Hospitality will be provided in member's homes and transport together with entrance fees (if applicable) and meals will be provided during her stay. She must provide her own personal spending money.

Preference will be given to someone who has never visited the UK. A good working knowledge of both spoken and written English is essential.

Please contact Regional President Rita Renton at rita@deeray.co.uk for an application form.

Closing date for applicants is:
18 December 2012



SWP IPP Yvonne Simpson and Julie Marsaban, SI Hobart enjoying a chat at SI Sydney's 75th anniversary

Grant of Friendship SISWP

SI New Zealand South is offering a Friendship Grant to a Soroptimist or two Soroptimists travelling together or a Soroptimist and her husband/companion.

Preference will be given to someone who has not visited New Zealand before and not previously has a Friendship Grant. The Grant is offered over a period September to November 2013 with a minimum stay of 21 days of hosting. Additional time can be taken at your own expense to visit other parts of New Zealand.

The successful applicant is responsible for return airfares to New Zealand and also between seven clubs of the New Zealand South Region. Additional self-paid accommodation will be required for approximately four or five nights due to the long distances between clubs. Our clubs will give accommodation, home hospitality and sightseeing trips. The recipient(s) are expected to have medical and travel insurance.

Your application, preferably typewritten should be in English. Please include details of your Soroptimist service, brief personal and professional information your full name, address, telephone number, email address and a recent photo.

Applications close 31 May 2013.

For further information please contact:-

Judy Sisam,
Friendship Grant Co-Ordinator
142 Panorama Drive, Enner Glynn,
Nelson 7011, New Zealand

Email Address: judy@doubleview.co.nz

Grant of Friendship SISWP

SI South Queensland Region in Australia is offering a Grant of Friendship to one or two Soroptimists or a Soroptimist and her partner from outside Australia. The Grant of Friendship is for three (3) weeks from 16 September, 2013 to 7 October, 2013. Visitors will be responsible for their own travel (and visa), and accommodation expenses to and from the city of Brisbane, Queensland, and have appropriate travel and medical insurance. Accommodation, meals, hospitality, travel between clubs, and sight-seeing trips will be provided by the Region.

Spoken English is required.

South Queensland is renowned for its varied scenery, golden sandy beaches, rainforest mountains and the diversity of its attractions.

Interested Soroptimists should request an application form by 15 December, 2012.

The application form should be completed in English and returned by 31 January, 2013

Please address enquiries to:

Jan Banfield, Coordinator,
SISQ Grant of Friendship
5 / 70 Marbella Drive
BENOWA QLD 4217, Australia

Tel: +617 5527 8024

Email: aljanban@bigpond.com

Please include the letters 'GOF' in the email subject line.

An outstanding Soroptimist

SI Tauranga is mourning the loss of Dame Mary Josephine "Joy" Drayton, DNZM MBE, Doctor of Education, who passed away on 14 September, 2012, at the age of 96 years.

Joy was a Charter member of SI Tauranga in 1973 and continued to take an interest in the club's progress until her death. She was made Life member of New Zealand North Region in 2008. Joy came to Tauranga, N.Z. in 1959 as Principal of Tauranga Girls College. She received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Waikato where she was Pro-Chancellor from 1986 to 1991. In 1985 she entered local Government politics to fight for a new Tauranga



library, becoming Deputy Mayor from 1986 to 1989. Dame Joy Drayton was indeed one of Tauranga's treasures and will be sadly missed by Soroptimists throughout the world.

Del Little
SI Tauranga, NZ