

THE SOROPTIMIST SWP

a global voice
for women

Soroptimist International



Federation of the South West Pacific

SISWP *Walk The Talk* Stop Violence Against Women Campaign



Volume 33 No 1
February 2013
ISSN 0157- 437X

SI Benalla



SI Hong Kong



SI Hobart

Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific

(ACN 147 990 627)

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Grant of Friendship

Working to develop a spirit of friendship and unity among Soroptimists of all countries, Northwestern Region of Soroptimist International of the Americas started a Grant of Friendship Project in 1990, bringing international Soroptimist guests from other countries and/or Federations to promote and encourage cultural exchanges and foster International Goodwill and Understanding.

SIA's Northwestern Region, which includes Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Northern Idaho and Montana, is pleased to again offer a Grant of Friendship to one or two Soroptimists or a Soroptimist and her partner from outside the United States. The Grant is for a 2-3 week period beginning in April 2014. This Grant will include the Soroptimist Northwestern Region Conference, 24 - 27 April 2014 in Portland, Oregon. Visitors will be responsible for their own travel expenses to and from the United States. Lodging, meals, hospitality and travel between clubs will be provided by the Northwestern Region. Spoken English is required. Interested Soroptimists should request an application by April 1, 2013. Please address inquiries to:

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THE SOROPTIMIST -SWP The Magazine of SISWP



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Hi everyone and welcome to 2013. Here I am in my busy office putting some final touches to this magazine.

Isn't it fabulous to have a focus like *Walk the Talk* to engage so many of our clubs across SWP. Well done to all participants, especially Malaysia.

Please note that some of the photos you have sent are small files intended for facebook or web pages and therefore do not reproduce very well when professionally printed. But, they still tell us your story, and thank you all for the great response.

Kerry

The deadline for the May SISWP Magazine is 25th March 2013.

The theme will be:

The Image Factor

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.



The "Walk" started with the flag off by the Royalty of Perlis on 22nd November 2012 at Arau, Perlis, Malaysia



The three star walkers - Elizabeth Mayrice, Rose Moguloi and Clarice Mojigoh from SI Kota Kinabalu

Our President - Walks The Talk in Malaysia

"From Perlis to Sabah, we have succeeded" is a line from the lyrics of an old patriotic Malaysian song which was my inspiration for an idea of an impactful walk for the Malaysian "Walk The Talk - Stop Violence Against Women" campaign. And so we did succeed beyond my dreams to walk the talk from Perlis to Sabah, as an event to lead by example for the Federation's Walk The Talk campaign.

The Walk was officially launched in Arau, a town in Perlis by the Crown Prince of the Perlis royal household and his wife and daughter on 22nd November. It was a grand launch with about 800 walkers accompanied by a police band. It set the tone for the next seven city walks in Penang, Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur, Seremban, Johor Bahru, Kuching and Kota Kinabalu, which were organised by the clubs in each of the cities.



Seremban walk - 2nd December

The walk from Perlis to Johor Bahru, approximately 850 kms, was accomplished by two of the three SI women, with the third being unable to complete, having been sick half way. This has earned the two women, both over 50 and grandmothers, an entry in the Malaysian Book of Records. The walk was completed in Sabah with a city walk with about 100 walkers from the Kota Kinabalu airport to the city centre, some six kms away on 9th December.

The walk had created tremendous awareness of the need for people to speak up and do more to prevent and eliminate violence against women. The profile of SI in Malaysia was certainly raised as the organiser of the walk and our connection to the theme "Stop Violence Against Women", through the city walks and media publicity including a news item on BBC and CNN. There were free slots airing a public awareness advertisement on several TV stations on the subject of "Violence Against Women". A special "Walk the Talk Facebook" was also created to keep the public updated with the event.



Penang walk - 25th November



Ipoh walk - 27th November



Johor Baru walk - 8th December

Kuching walk - morning 9th December



Funding to organise the walk came from the Malaysian Ministry of Women and a corporate sponsor, The Body Shop. The sale of T shirts helped to raise funds for SI clubs and SIROM to further the cause through workshops for relevant groups. The Ministry of Women has

against women must not be tolerated and nor perpetuated. At this point, with news of the tragic death of a victim of sexual violence in India; on behalf of the Federation of SISWP, we strongly voice our protest against the repulsive acts of violence and extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of the victim. We trust that her death will not be in vain but help put an end to all senseless and cruel acts of violence committed against women and girls around the world.

**Siew Yong
President SISWP**



Above left: Arrival of the three walkers greeted by guest of honour and traditional dancers of Sabah

offered SIROM further funding for such workshops throughout the country. All in all it was a successful inaugural event for "Walk the Talk" to Stop Violence Against Women.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Federation Co-ordination team led by Theresa Lyford and all the clubs in SWP that have "walked the talk" to make a stand that violence



Above: The three walkers with the crews of Walk Management and St John's Ambulance

Certificate of appreciation to the 3 walkers



Walk the Talk

At her inaugural speech at the Conference of Clubs in Greymouth New Zealand at the SISWP Conference of Clubs, President Siew Yong announced "Walk the Talk" (WTT), an exciting event that would unite SWP clubs and regions/countries together to promote our stand against all forms of Violence Against Women.

The event was scheduled to occur during the 16 days of activism from November 25th through to December 10th, 2012 and a team of co-ordinators was set up to begin the process of working with clubs to organize their own events.

It was decided early on that we really needed to promote this event and with the support of President Siew Yong and the Board we asked to have a unique brand or logo for the Walk the Talk Event designed. Sarah Stirling – a young designer – also a daughter of one of our co-ordinators – took up the challenge and designed a logo that would enable the event to be identified within the wider community.



President Siew Yong with a T shirt - WTT logo

Our Public Relations Convenor, Christine Johnstone, also worked on having a banner designed using this logo for our SISWP Facebook site and our Webpage as well as finalizing a full media kit that clubs could use to advertise their events. Again the use of a consistent design to clearly identify this activity when advertised



Marching members of SI Beenleigh proudly holding their WTT banner
success of publicity around these events.

over the various media that our organization is using enables us to have a format that is instantly recognizable by outside visitors to our social media and web pages.

While slow to begin, as it is with all movements, once the seed is planted, watered and nurtured, the idea grows and develops. SISWP clubs embraced the idea and began to develop their various activities that would occur locally.

Clubs in Malaysia embraced this activity with zeal and vigor – because this is where our President comes from. They embarked on the biggest “Walk the Talk” event to be held during the 16 days of activism where three Soroptimist sisters walked for 17 days across Malaysia, 850kms. There were supporting walks in seven major Malaysian cities with hundreds of walkers participating in each. Malaysia media gave them huge coverage. Other clubs across the Federation were also successful with their media coverage which helped to contribute to the overall

The following is a list of clubs/regions/countries who took part: SI Western Australia, SI Port Hedland, SI Townsville, SI Beenleigh, SI Gold Coast, SI Griffith, SI Goulburn, SI Barossa Valley, SI Hobart, SI Georgetown, SI Burnie, SI Devonport, SI Benalla, SI Melba, SI Brighton & Southern Districts, SI Business on Collins, SI Deakin, SI Melbourne, SI Shepparton, SI Cobram/Barooga, SI Geelong, SI Mornington Peninsula, SI Chisholm, SI Auckland, SI North Shore, SI Rotorua, SI Taupo, SI Tauranga, SI New Plymouth, SI New Plymouth @ Mission, SI Waitara, SI Wellington, SI Christchurch, SI Gore, SI Invercargill, SI Nelson, SI Waimea, SI Westland, SI Singapore Garden City, SI Hong Kong, SI Region of Malaysia, SI Lae, SI Lautoka, SI Ramu, SI Ulaan Baatar.

Well done everyone in making our first “Walk the Talk” a success. Let us endeavor to make this an annual event so that we will have a public event for which our organization can be known and which will enable publicity of SISWP in the wider community both nationally and internationally.

Theresa Lyford
2012 WTT Coordinator

Left: Members of SI Victoria, and the WTT banner, during their march



Joining White Ribbon

SI Benalla joined forces with the White Ribbon campaign on the 8th December.

Above is SI Benalla Secretary, Win Sebire, with her daughter and granddaughters listening to the Aboriginal guest speaker encouraging all present to sign up for no violence against women

Val Whan
SI Benalla



Involving Girl Guides

SI Westland held their Walk the Talk at the local square on December 8th. We had live jazz music, and Kapahaka (Maori action songs) performed by the local school students. The Girl Guides provided a sausage sizzle.. Our oldest walker was 96 years old. Many participants achieved 10km. One of our members encouraged the local Girl Guides to participate.

Yvonne Simpson
IPP SWP

Above: Susan Clarke, SI Westland with the Girl Guides



Walk the Talk in Mongolia

Today our club members hiked through the snow to Bogd Khan mountain to support the "Walk the Talk" campaign. Afterwards we visited the shelter house for the Centre against Violence. We all made a personal donation to the Centre.

SI Ulaan Baatar member Gerelchimeg is a women's doctor and she spoke to the girls and women in the Centre about health care, sex and STDs. The girls performed a theatrical number for us about domestic violence. It was a really sad story.



Bolortsetseg is photographed with her new clothes.

To further our commitment to President Siew Yong's "Walk the Talk" message SI Ulaan Baatar member, Dulambayar bought a wool blanket for 120000 togrogs. It was a gift from our New Zealand sisters. We used this money to buy clothes for a seven year old orphan girl who is now living in the Center against Violence. Soon she will move to the SOS centre.

S. Tugsoyun
SI Ulaan Baatar



Caryl Ryan, SI MN, Maree Lubach, SI SQ, Audrey Martin, SI MN, holding the Wall of Hands

Southern Queensland

25th November is the UN Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the beginning of 16 Days of Global Activism to raise awareness of this issue throughout our local and global community.

Yesterday, SI South Queensland Region President Maree Lubach was our guest speaker and shared the importance of the role of grandparents and child protection issues. This included the inclusion of the needs of grandparents in child protection legislation, her

recent visit to Istanbul in Turkey for the International Child Protection Conference, and the chance to meet with the Turkish Soroptimist members.

Maree will be Walking the Talk with SI Beenleigh Members on 1 December to raise awareness of violence against women – SIMN has sponsored Maree in this walk. We also had displays of our Walk the Talk, White Ribbon Campaign – I Swear and our Literacy Project in the Northern Territory Wall of Hands.

Chris Knight
SI Moreton North.



Members of SI Gold Coast

White Ribbon day and Port Pirie

On Friday November 23rd at a central park in the town, four members of SI Port Pirie and one Soroptimister joined forces with members of the Domestic Violence Action Group (organisers of the march), several ambassadors for White Ribbon, and a few secondary school girls.

White balloons and sign boards displaying the oath were distributed among the 60 participants. At the head of the march a police car was followed by a few police officers holding balloons. Next in line was a motorcycle trike ridden by a past

Soroptimist member who is a local councillor. Everyone else followed behind the large black and white banner saying NO VIOLENCE until we reached the foreshore.

Here we were entertained with two local singers, interspersed by speeches from ambassadors - a District Superintendent of Police, the Deputy Mayor and Editor of The Flinders News.

A free sausage sizzle cooked by Rotary members was provided, after which the 20 men present were asked to come to the front to read the White Ribbon oath together.



SI Port Pirie



Walk the Talk – Say No to Violence against Women and Children

The busy streets of Ba came to a standstill on Saturday December 1st as more than 100 women, children and men marched as an advocacy stand against gender violence.

The march was organized by SI Ba and SI Lautoka, and Ba Women’s forum, consisting of various women’s clubs who joined to support the cause. Ba Town Administrator, Mr Arun Prasad joined the group which carried banners and placards denouncing gender violence.

All those who participated in the march in Ba were provided with

refreshments by SI Ba and according to SI Ba President, Ms Dorine Charan the turnout and support from the public was very pleasing.

Meanwhile SI Sigatoka achieved this awareness by organizing a silent march through Sigatoka town on December 8. SI Sigatoka President, Ashni Sharma reported that the guest speakers were the Crime Officer from the Police Department Henry Steele, the Court Officer Sigatoka Tuliana Naivaluwaqa and Reshmi Lal of Women’s Crisis Centre, Nadi.

“It has turned out to be a very successful programme and we are very passionate about this cause.” President Sharma stressed.

Zareena Bi
SI Fiji

Walk the Talk in NZ

SI New Zealand clubs created a focus and raised awareness during the 16 days of international activism with WALK THE TALK (WTT) events. Soroptimists and supporters either wore black or orange t-shirts with a very clear message across our backs or chests “Say no to violence against women”

NZ club members were appalled to learn that in NZ domestic violence is one of the leading causes of injury and death to women. It also leads to short and long term health problems such as mental illness and problems with sexual and reproductive health. Between 33 to 39% of NZ women experience physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner.



SI Nelson members

One in five women in their lifetime are sexually assaulted or raped in NZ. Many of our WTT activities were done in partnership with White Ribbon Family Day, local Womens’ refuges, WISE, WAGGGS and local schools.

Several clubs organised sponsored high profile walks, others walked through local markets, shopping malls, town squares and along coastal walkways. We talked to radio stations and local newspapers, we held community dances, sausage sizzles and one club wrapped Christmas presents for many hours as their fundraiser “ Stand the Talk”.

Committing to this great project we know that next year our activities will be even bigger and better.

Paula Siddle
SI NZ



White Ribbons at Park

On 24th November SI Townsville members were guests of the City Council at the opening of new playground facilities in Soroptimist Park. Last year we lobbied very heavily to have this upgrade maintain the ethos of our park and a good working relationship has developed. The results are spectacular and in the few weeks since the work was finished the playground has been

SI Townsville President, Rosaline Miller pinned a White Ribbon on City Councillor Vern Veitch whilst the Mayor, Jenny Hill looks on.

filled with children from dawn to dusk.

We took our white ribbons with us to the park and handed them out to the dignitaries and families present. After the formalities we invited anyone interested to join us in our “Walk the Talk” around the park. The walk provided a great opportunity for meaningful discussions with the Mayor, Councillors and staff from the Parks and Gardens Department. The occasion also gave us the chance to pass on some of the history of the park.

Judy Hunter
SI Townsville

BIP CHW Graduates October 12th, 2012



Where to now? President Siew Yong has agreed to continue with the project in 2012 and the revised plan and budget (AU\$300,000 so far) have been allocated and approved by the board. I am confident that we will receive further funding

Reflections on Project BIP January 2013

In April 2010, SWP members voted to help birthing women in PNG by enabling the ongoing education of midwives through Project Birthing in the Pacific (BIP). The desperate statistics of maternal and infant mortality in PNG still challenge many organisations to meet the Millennium goal Number 5.

To commence a project with an "assumption" that money would be donated constrained any vision for planning the project. My profession was in nursing and midwifery, and I was horrified on my first visit to PNG to witness the conditions that midwives and nurses were expected to practise under for birthing women in their clinics and hospitals. I am constantly exposed to horror stories of women and infants dying in their villages because they have extremely limited access to a skilled birth attendant. Sharing these stories has moved our members and an International President's Appeal to contribute generously to Project BIP.

After a lot of consultation and learning, meetings with professionals, governments, politicians and leaders, heads of significant NGOs, midwives nurses and Village Birth Attendants (VBA) I was able to implement a plan. This is based on the desperate need for ongoing education and obstetric education resources for "midwives" throughout PNG.

now we have a project that can be measured and evaluated with achievable outcomes and goals. We are making a difference that is noted by many throughout PNG. SI midwifery projects are known in the jungles of Huon District, the flats and mountains of Morobe Province and the mountains of the Western Highlands.

Our commitment now is to four levels of education

1. Pacific Emergency Obstetric Care (PEmOC) programme run by the Reproductive Health Training Unit (RHTU). Short courses for midwives, doctors and nurses who work in suitably resourced hospitals and clinics.

2. Community Health Worker (CHW) training programme run by National Dept. of Health and Provincial Health Authorities. A six month residential midwifery skills training programme for CHWs. The cost for this training is approx. AU\$6000 and project BIP will be assisting several CHWs to attend this training.

3. VBA training programmes coordinated by SI Lae and SI Ramu in conjunction with their local Provincial Health Authorities.

4. Midwives Exchange programmes

It has been a joy to witness the appreciation, delight and emotion shown when the clinical tools "Karim work Bilum", text books and obstetric charts, safety goggles and LED torches are presented to graduates and education

facilitators. Obstetric models and "NeoNatalies" will be distributed by RHTU and left at hospital and clinics for their ongoing instruction and training programmes. The nurses and midwives get great delight and use from the hand sewn midwifery dolls and the women just love the hand crafted billums that members have made.

This has been a journey that I have shared intimately with May Lamont who lives in Brisbane. The great times and achievements that May and I have laughed, cried and agonised over defuse the complexities and frustrations I have of running the project in Townsville, 1000 km away from Port Moresby. I have had great support from the members of SI Port Moresby, Lae and Ramu. As National Rep Judy Muliap is an advocate and drives the Soroptimist projects and advocacy. Now that Yvonne Simpson is Project Liaison she has offered her support and closer links with SWP Board

So, it is with great regret that I hand my resignation as Project Manager to President Siew Yong, effective from the end February 2013. For the past two years I have struggled with family grief, eye surgery, and many calamities combined with a full time job that has left me depleted in resilience both physically and mentally. I need a break and President Siew Yong has asked May to accept the Project Manager role. I am confident May will continue with the same desire and enthusiasm to ensure this project is delivered in the way we have envisioned.

Congratulations SWP for making this project happen. The women of PNG are most grateful for all your efforts.

Janet Askern
Project Manager





Visit to Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Representatives of Soroptimist International South West Pacific (SISWP) were invited to the headquarters of The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) in East Melbourne on 31 October 2012 to present an overview of our Birthing in the Pacific Project. Our SISWP project – BIP - is the RANZCOG Staff Charity for 2012.

Also attending the session were four senior midwives in leadership roles from Papua New Guinea, who are currently attending the RANZCOG Pacific Midwifery Leadership Fellowship Program in Sydney, funded through the Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship (ALAF) programme offered by AusAID, and the programme facilitators from the



Back Row: Richard Gilfillan, Tracey Wheeler, Peter White (CEO), Ros Winspear, Lisa Westhaven

Third row: Monique Maloney, Penelope Griffiths, Mackenzie Mavis

Second row: Mary Kililo, Helen Pok, Linda Baynham, Val McDonald

Front row: Maggie Mitchell, Carmel Walker, Elizabeth Natera, Shushila Boswell

Liverpool Hospital. The visit had been organised to raise the profile of the Pacific Midwifery Leadership Fellowship programme and to give each of the midwives the opportunity to present information on their roles and challenges in providing birthing services in their environments, what they are learning in Australia, and what they hope to implement back home following their return in mid-November.

On behalf of SISWP, I presented the background and aim of the Birthing in the Pacific project, and presented a Karum Work Billum to each of the midwives. All were thrilled with the contents of the billums. The chance for the RANZCOG staff to see what their fundraising efforts are providing, was much appreciated. The opportunity to link with RANZCOG in our mutual goal of contributing to regional efforts in making pregnancy and childbirth safer in the Pacific, was very successful and we hope this relationship will continue.

Maggie Mitchell
SI Business on Collins

Fires over Hobart



I am certain you would have heard of the bush fires that have hit Australia. SWP has a Special Appeal Fund started by IPP Yvonne, when floods hit Australia last year. After distributing the funds to clubs which submitted applications to help in the recovery and relief process to date, there are still some remaining funds of AUD\$5,868.10. The Management Committee has agreed to open this Appeal to support relief and recovery work, particularly in relation to schools and educational needs. However as the amount remaining is not large we are appealing to our SWP members who wish to donate to the President's Special Appeal fund to do so, to enable us to readily offer financial assistance to our members in their efforts to help their local communities in their hour of need.

Donations to SISWP can be made by any of the following options:-

1: Post cheque made out to "Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific", PO Box 746, Surry Hills NSW 2010 Australia

2: Direct Deposit (please email Gabbi at hq@siswp.org with details of the donation)

Account name: Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific

Bank Name: Westpac Banking Corporation

BSB: 032-007

Account Number: 36-4444

Swift Code: WPACAU2SXXX

3: FOR Credit Card donations contact Gabbi at hq@siswp.org or via Telephone +61 2 8096 6072

On behalf of the Board and Management Committee of SISWP, I thank you in anticipation of your generous support.

President Siew Yong

News from the clubs



"Tiny trees" leader retires

Dawn Mills past Region NZ Central and Past SI New Plymouth President is retiring and a small celebration was held in New Plymouth on 3 December 2012. She headed the "Tiny Trees Environment Project" 2003-2007 which won a SISWP Environment award in 2008 at the Chiang Rai SISWP conference.

In partnership with the Taranaki Trust SI New Plymouth members grew seedlings to replant a threatened native vegetation area. The culmination of the four year project was the planning and presentation of a Environmental Education workshop for children.

**Karen Eagles
SI New Plymouth**



Cootamundra having fun

Rosemary, Mary, Maureen, Denise, Brenda and Kerry selling ANZAC and chocolate chip cookies made by members at the Wattle Time Fare.

**Lyndsay McGlynn
SI Cootamundra**

Health Awareness Programme



On 30th September 2012, SI Bangsar held a Public Awareness Forum on menopause and early detection of cervical and breast cancer. This forum took place at the Life Care Diagnostic Medical Centre from 8am to 4pm, for the urban poor and underprivileged women, specifically aged 40 years and above, in the Kg Kerinchi locality.

This is the second programme in the pilot phase of the Health Awareness Campaign launched by SI Region of Malaysia on 17th June 2012 at Desa Mentari Sunway. The campaign is supported by the Malaysian Health Promotion Board (Lembaga Promosi Kesihatan), the National Family Planning Board (Lembaga Penduduk dan Pembangunan Keluarga Negara), and the Malaysian Menopause Society. The third programme is to be organised by SI Petaling Jaya in November.

The Awareness programme is aimed at educating women to understand the natural changes in their body and to adapt to these changes, to detect early signs of diseases and to attend regular medical check ups.

The Health Ministry through its Health Promotion Board supported this programme with a grant, whilst the National Family Planning Board provided the staff at the venues for conducting free health screening for blood pressure, cholesterol, high blood sugar,

SI Bangsar and members from the LPPKN working together to promote health awareness

BMI measurements, and a mobile van for breast examination and pap smears. Free mammogram facilities were also made available at selected partner hospitals for women above 40 with breast lumps or a family history of breast cancer.

About 200 women and their spouses attended the talks on menopause, breast and cervical cancer, conducted by consultant obstetricians and gynaecologists from the General Hospital Kuala Lumpur. The participants enjoyed a further bonus, free bone screening, as the Centre opened its doors to the public as its promotional activity. *Simple Life*, Vegetarian Restaurant provided us a healthy organic meal package at a very discounted rate.

As the co-ordinator of this programme I gather that many are reluctant to go for a regular check up because they fear the diagnosis. I am hopeful this trend will change with similar programmes being conducted and with the recent government announcement of free mammograms for more women.

**Indira Naidu
SI Bangsar**





Sports awards from SI Lautoka

SI Lautoka club held their annual sports awards for the Primary school students of Lautoka on Thursday November 29 to reward students on their sporting abilities as part of the education process.

The awards function was held at Jasper High and ten students from various schools around Lautoka

were rewarded with certificates, trophies, cash prizes and medals.

Chief Guest Fiji National hurdles record holder Jovesa Naivalu shared his experiences on the field to inspire the young athletes. Meanwhile, Fiji's 3000 metres and 1500 metres track queen, Mereseini Naidau of Jasper Williams High

School was recognised in a special manner at the awards ceremony.

The fourth former, who won four gold medals at the Oceania championships in Australia this year, was rewarded with a scholarship worth \$300.00 by SI Lautoka and a special trophy donated by the CITY STAR newspaper.

Along with Mr Naivalu, Naidau was invited to the function as a special guest and a special slide show on her achievements this year was shown as an inspiration to all the young athletes.

According to the SI Lautoka President, Ranjini Sanjay the sporting capabilities and achievements of these young students are amazing.

Mrs Sanjay thanked all participating schools, the panel of judges for the awards and the sponsors for their support in making the awards a success.

Zareena Bi
SI Fiji



Trivia for scholarship

SI Launceston held a Trivia night in October to raise funds for a scholarship named in memory of our former member, Dame Marjorie Parker. Members of the club and friends joined us for the evening. The quizmaster was the husband of our secretary. He provided thought provoking questions such as:-

Who won the Eurovision song contest in 2010 and what is Dr Who's method of transport (Germany and TARDIS-Time and relative dimension in space)

A raffle was held and a delicious supper was served. Almost \$800 was raised and a great night was had by all.

Jane Laidlaw
SI Launceston Inc.



New Year party for children

Last Saturday we celebrated New Year by holding a party with the children suffering from Blood Cancer. SI sister Gerel's daughter Hulan, a famous singer, attended the party and very kindly sang for us and the children. She also donated two

of her new CDs and two big cakes. The children were so happy with us enjoying the cake and the presents.

After the visit to the children's hospital, our members celebrated New Year in a local restaurant where we gave each other a gift.

S.Tugsoyun
SI Ulaan Baatar

Tully Project



Out of "Cyclone Yasi" 4th February 2011 came the "Tully State High School Students' Services Precinct" project

Tropical Cyclone Yasi crossed the Queensland coast at midnight as a category 5 cyclone, size 500km wide, eye 100km wide, as day broke many people were only just beginning to see the destruction caused over night by the violent 250km/hr wind gusts, and 1000ml of rain and storm surge. About 200km of coastline settlements were severely damaged by one of the worst cyclones recorded to hit Australia.

SI North Queensland sourced a Project through the SISWP Disaster Fund and found the Tully State High School was in need of help. 75% of the Tully State High School, including

the special education unit was destroyed. This unit was quickly transferred into a temporary building while a new centre is being built, and will hopefully open by the end of 2012.

Many students have been living in circumstances that were far from

desirable as homes await repairs, and families are in crisis. The Centre will improve access to formal and non-formal learning. Goal 1 Objective 1. It will improve access to best available health care for victims of trauma by providing a safe and pleasant environment for counseling etc

Work began on the project early 2012, with the rooms being painted, furniture sourced and purchased via local businesses where possible.

The Multi Media Students have put together a DVD on the works in progress and teachers and students experiences of Yasi and this has been posted on U Tube, the site for this is as follows: <http://youtu.be/c5QqIR5nQDI>, and will be updated when work is complete

[c5QqIR5nQDI](http://youtu.be/c5QqIR5nQDI), and will be updated when work is complete

On the 16th July 11 members of SINO visited the Project for the first time. We met with Principal Leanne Fox and Deputy Principals Frank Brunetto and Adrian Hooper. We were given a tour of the Project consisting of four rooms under conversion to counseling rooms for the Guidance Officer, part time School Nurse, Chaplain and part time Vocational Education Co-coordinator and Indigenous Liaison Officer.

Principal Leanne informed us that following Cyclone Yasi many students just needed a 'space' – the school had power (and air-conditioning) and water – something many homes did not get for weeks. While the physical needs of students were relatively easy to accommodate, it was evident that these kids needed more emotional and psychological support. Roughly about 40 to 50 students a week made use of these rooms. For some months the school was providing meals to severely affected children. After cyclone Yasi, about 70 students had permanently left the community. The Manual Arts students made a plaque to commemorate SINO for their part in this project

Wendy Logan
SI North Queensland

Aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Evan

Families who were been badly affected by one of the most powerful cyclones to hit Fiji on December 17th, 2012 SI have been assisted with groceries by SI Lautoka. Ironically, the areas of Western Viti Levu that have sustained major damage are the same areas that were hit by the two floods early this year.



The club assisted families in Drasa Seaside, Matawalu, Johnson Road, Waiyavi and Rifle Range on December 28. Most of these families have either had the roof of their homes blown away or find there is not much left of the structure of their house. One family, had been badly affected by the two floods at the beginning of 2012 since their home was on a low lying area. So they rebuilt their home on higher ground. They had just completed their house when the cyclone struck and now they have lost their home again.

SI Lautoka President, Ranjini Sanjay, said their club will look into assisting families with building materials so that families can rebuild their lives.

Zareena Bi
SI Fiji