 MEMBERS LOGIN

Soroptimist  
Federation of the



International  
South West Pacific



## Programme Director Catherine Evans

As mentioned last month 9th August just passed is the [International Day of the World's Indigenous peoples](#). I understand that a couple of clubs in Victoria are assisting indigenous students. SI Gippsland since 2015 has supported a 'Koorie' (or indigenous) Homework Class at a Primary School in Traralgon on Mondays. The Koorie Educational Support Officer (KESO) organises activity sheets for the different primary school levels, reinforcing the class work undertaken with their teachers. The students apply themselves and are happy to take home their completed achievements. Other aspects of the Koorie Homework Class include a variety of craft sessions which all have inherent Koorie values so the children are working in their own culture. After the homework or craft class there is a healthy afternoon tea and the pupils then have a vigorous 20 minutes of sport to round off the class.



Left is Aunty Vera with children, and right Soroptimists with children holding vouchers presented to them. Aunty Vera says "You Soroptimists ladies are awesome - a big hug and thank you from all of us. I know all our Koorie kids appreciate the support you give us"

12th August is [International Youth Day](#) and about this date there is to be an International Forum on Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goals at Kathmandu Nepal 17-18 August. [Youth for Environment, Education and Development Foundation \(YFEED Foundation\)](#), Nepal in collaboration with Youth for Human Rights International, Nepal and several other civil and private agencies will be organising this important youth event. The theme of the conference "**Partnering with the Youth to achieve SDGs: Moving from policy to actions**", will provide opportunities for young people from around the globe to discuss, understand, share, find new solutions and develop strategies for issues relating to human rights, peace, inclusive societies and Sustainable

Development goals. It aims to encourage them to build resilience and innovation in their local communities to achieve human rights and sustainable development goals.

There are several other significant days in August, 19th August being [World Humanitarian Day](#) to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service and to rally support for people affected by crises around the world.

21st August is remembered as the International day of [Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism](#).

23rd August is the [International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave trade and its Abolition](#)  
**September**

Some international days in September are well known, for example [International Literacy Day](#) 8th September which is an opportunity for Governments, civil society and stakeholders to reflect on the world's remaining literacy challenges. Literacy is a key component of the UN's SDGs and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by world leaders in September 2015, promotes, as part of its agenda, universal access to quality education and learning opportunities throughout people's lives. **SDG 4** has as a target to ensure all young people achieve literacy and numeracy. A particularly special date 21st September is observed as the [International Day of Peace](#). The theme for International Day of Peace 2018 is "The Right to Peace – the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70". This theme celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. I know many clubs have acknowledged this special day with a "Peace" ceremony and I have been a participant myself at a few. Hopefully many clubs this year will celebrate this significant 70th anniversary.

Catherine Evans

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## --IMPORTANT NEWS --

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Due to unforeseen circumstances, the long awaited and planned for new Programme Reporting Database will be delayed.



Good News is that the Programme Team have been working hard and have developed a online temporary reporting form for clubs and regions to use to report their focus reports.

Even better news is that the new online reporting form is based on all the data capture for the new database, this will enable the information entered into the form to be upload to the new reporting database when it is implemented.

The Form is simple to use, but you will need to read the following instructions.

Detailed instructions and example document are attached at the bottom of the article,

**High level outline** is that the form requests basic information such a club name, region, country, zone etc, and then you are required to answer a question, is your focus report about a project, advocacy, scholarship, donation or activity your club performed.

Upon answering the question, you will be directed to answer only the questions specific to your report, upon completing the questions you will proceed to press the **SUBMIT** button. This action will send an email to the programme team to review and either approve or reject your report. You as the responder will receive a copy of your completed report as a interim record, when the report is either approved or rejected you will receive another email telling you if it was approved or rejected along with comments.

You will need to submit an **individual** report for each and every project, advocacy, scholarship, donation or activity undertaken since August 2017.

### **Already submitted a report for 2017?**

One more request, if you have already submitted a report since 2017 and have received a

temporary number, we kindly ask that you now resubmit that report onto the new database. Data is gold to the Programme Team and SISWP, therefore we request that all clubs start submitting reports. We want to know what you have been doing, we love to hear what you have been doing.

You will also find the Example report and tip sheet in the downloads area Programme Forms of the SISWP website and also the link to the form.

[SWP ONLINE PROGRAMME FOCUS REPORT TIP SHEET AND EXAMPLE DOCUMENT](#)

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## Advocacy Work

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Some more news of Soroptimists involved in advocacy work. At the time of writing, Australian Soroptimists are collecting information for a submission to the **Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee of the Australian Government's Senate** on the inquiry into the issue of dowry and dowry abuse in Australia due 17th August 2018. There have been several deaths in the Indian and Sikh communities over the last 8-9 years that have been identified as associated with the dowry arrangement of these cultural groups. 8 women in 2 states are known to have died following dowry abuse. [Read more about this report.](#) The outcome from the submissions to the inquiry are to be reported 6th December and there may be some changes in legislation following this inquiry. Dowry abuse would in reality be considered Domestic Violence.

### **10th Water Business Forum**

Theresa Devsasahayam from SI Singapore recently represented Soroptimist International at this forum. The forum was attended by Ms Eunhyung Kim, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, as well as high level officials from the Korean Government as well as representatives from the International Water Association (IWA) and relevant UN agencies.

Key points raised include:

- a) changing technology and its impact on water security. There is a need for stakeholders at every level (governments, financial institutions, private sector companies, NGOs, and individuals to capitalise on the latest innovative technologies to meet water security needs;
- b) that water security, while a rights issue, should also be recognised as a business opportunity;
- c) ensuring the right to water involves cultural sensitivity;
- d) that water security requires the commitment of leaders; and e) the necessity for "water literacy" at every level of society and understanding the critical nature of water in our everyday lives and recognising that it is every person's right.

At the Question & Answer session, Theresa Devasahayam from Soroptimist International of Singapore (SIS) made a comment on women's role going forward in the agenda on water security. She emphasised that while action is necessary, women should not be left out of the agenda let

alone in the actions and frameworks undertaken by governments.

[SI President's Appeal Women Water and Leadership](#)

Catherine Evans



Reminder to keep the programme team informed of any Advocacy work your club, region or country is currently undertaking.

We want to make this a regular section of eSPAN.

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## CSW62 - Leaving no one behind report

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Whilst at CSW62 SWP Delegates Sylvia Heywood, Katherine Gribble, Cesarina Gigante and Christine Johnstone attended a UN Women co-convened Flagship event: ***Leaving no one behind for Plant 50/50 by 2030; every rural woman and girl everywhere***, this was a full day event held on the 15th March 2018. The event brought together over 300 women and girls, including those living in rural communities, it was an incredible day where the 300 women were able to participate in the recommendation of a set of policy standards and benchmarks on how the implementation of the SDG's and Agenda 2030 will ensure no one is left behind. We were able to hear several panel discussions, to enable some of the women who were denied visas to attend, some interviews and presentations were done via video linkup. The event gave women the opportunity for inter sectional conversations to lift the blanket of invisibility from the extreme discrimination and injustice that is experienced by women in rural communities. It was exciting to be part of the dialogue and attend an event where all voices were heard. UN Women have now just recently published the recommendations which were developed out of the days event. The recommendations will focus on reducing the social marginalization cultural discrimination, economic deprivation faced by women and girls in rural communities, if you would like to read the full report it is available below.







***Leaving no one behind for Plant 50/50 by 2030; every rural woman and girl everywhere.***  
[Recommendations Report](#)

## Highlighting SDG 5



### **SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. SISWP clubs should align their project work to an Objective and one of the 17 Sustainable Goals. Today we look at **SDG 5**. Gender inequality persists worldwide, depriving women and girls of their basic rights and opportunities.

SDG 5 has 9 Targets and it is important that members familiarize themselves with the Targets for the correct identification of reporting against SDG's when you submit your programme focus reports.

***Do you know the 9 SDG 5 Targets?***



### **SDG5 9 Targets**

1. End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
2. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
3. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital

mutilation.

4. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.
6. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.
7. Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
8. Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
9. Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

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## Our Impact

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Our Impact is a area on the SISWP website dedicated to programme focus work around the Federation. I hope you take the time to explore the information on this area of the website, this month the major article is about [UN World Indigenous Peoples Day](#) and [UN International Youth Day](#). Whilst we provide information about these days and how you as a Soroptimist can become involved in highlighting these days in your Programme Work, we also take tremendous pride in showcasing the work clubs are achieving in these two focus areas. Congratulations to the clubs who's work we have showcased this month.

[Read the Our Impact section here](#)



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## Around the Federation

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Showcasing projects and activities undertaken by clubs and regions in the Federation.

In recognition of UN International Youth Day, **SI Loutaka - Life Skills for Girl Guides**

SI Lautoka had the opportunity to partnership with Girls Guides Fiji. On July 20th the Girl Guides held a district camp in Lautoka and SI Lautoka had an opportunity to organize a floral arrangement activity station for the participating students.

Forty schools participated in this event with close to 300 girls taking advantage of the skills organized at the camp.

The SI Lautoka members taught the girls the various ways of floral arrangements through demonstrations which the students appreciated as they were also given the opportunity to try the activity hands-on under the guidance of the members.

Our floral station was full the whole day with the girls doing the floral arrangements, enjoying the event with friends from their own schools as well as other schools, and even taking their artwork back to their home.

The Girl Guides association appreciated the effort of the club and the feedback from the various schools was very positive since the students went back to school and shared this with their school heads and teachers.

Also, since July 15th was World Youth Skill Day (SDG 4 & 8) it turned out to be an opportune project for SI Lautoka.

Life skills which are learnt by young girls as a part of their Girl Guides activities usually turn out to be very beneficial for them in future.



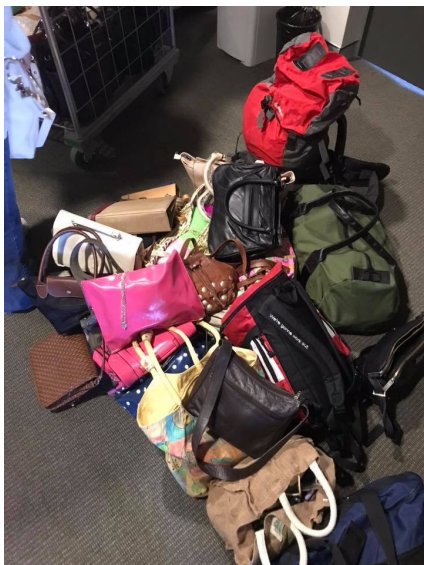
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SI Mornington Peninsula combined their recent July meeting with a Birthday celebration and recruitment drive. Whilst celebrating member Sue Slater's 70 Birthday they also hosted 4 prospective members, much fellowship, laughter and sharing of Soroptimist ideas and projects. Sue who has been a member of SIMP for 5 years, is very active in their Cambodian project work (Women's Resource Centre in Siem Reap)





Providing crisis care packs for women, children and the homeless is a project which many clubs throughout the Federation participate in. Thousands of people are assisted each year through the generosity of women who call themselves Soroptimists giving freely of their time and money to make others more comfortable. Today we showcase SI Sydney's recent drive to pack and distribute their crisis packs.





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Go to the 'Members Area' in yellow at the top left of screen.

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Educate, Empower, Enable



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swpasstprogrammedirector1@siswp.org

Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific ACN 147 990 627

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