



SWP Bulletin

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President Yvonne

CELEBRATE

I am delighted to inform you that Margaret Lobo has been awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in Australia's honours General Division, for her services "as an advocate and promoter of the Status and Health of Women particularly through Soroptimist International". This is a very prestigious award and a wonderful recognition. Margaret has served us, and our women and girls, with dignity, graciousness and focus. Our congratulations to Margaret (currently our International Past President and a member of SI Perth, Western Australia).



EDUCATE

Taskforces: We have the following taskforce topics. If you are interested in being on such a taskforce please send your registrations of interest to swpsecretary@siswp.org by 1 August.

1. **Honorary Life membership** – alternative ways and titles to honour excellent service
2. **Disasters** – how to manage the process of application
3. **Conference Awards** – how to encourage more Soroptimists to attend conference. Establishing the funding for an awards system to support younger members to attend

Finance: The board agreed to increase the travel levy by \$A10. The disaster fund contributions are now compulsory. They will be kept small.

HQ Liaison is Kathleen Crilly: Kathleen is based in Sydney and has been closely involved in Headquarter administration and has extensive knowledge of Soroptimism.

International Board Meeting, August.

This is a very important meeting where the Voting Delegates from the four Federations vote on the future directions of our organisation. On the agenda are the SI Strategic Plan, Long Term Project choice, a new logo, proposed changes to constitution, budget (and therefore fees), and promoting programme. We have an excellent team for this meeting. President Hanne's goal is to bring the federations closer together and asks that we listen to the voice of the volunteers and staff. Our consultants will be; Board member **Anne Gover** (SISWP Secretary) and SISWP representative on the SI Constitution and Resolutions Committee **Anusha Santhirasthipam**. We will be assisted by Federation Administrator **Rosheen O'Hare**. The agenda will be available from 17 July.

99 York St (our old HQ building) is for sale. Federation Programme Director, Robyn Cain, will be included in future Officers' Meetings.

"63rd Annual UN Department of Public Information / NGO Conference"

This Conference will be held in Melbourne, Australia from 30 August to 1 September 2010 under the theme of "Advance Global Health: Achieve the MDGs". Soroptimist International will be sending delegates to this conference.

CELEBRATE

The international scene.

SI committees: Each federation has a representative on the SI committees for the SI biennium 2009 – 2011.

Our SISWP representatives are:

Constitution: Anusha Santhirasthipam (SI Petaling Jaya, Malaysia)

Finance: Merle Thomson (SI Riverside, Western Australia)

Extension: Lynn Ciurlionis (SI Dusit, Thailand)

SI Treasurer: Carolyn Hudson (SI Hornsby, NSW)

SI Public Relations: Colleen Newnham (SI Townsville Inc, North Queensland)

We thank them for their service at international level.

Congratulations to the following clubs celebrating anniversaries of Charter:

Australia – Randwick & Eastern Suburbs [57], Eastern District of Adelaide [42], Waverley [36], Gold Coast [23], Beenleigh [22], Berwick [20], Northern Highlands [20], On the Terrace [17] Malaysia – Damansara [17], New Zealand – West Auckland [24], New Plymouth @ Mission [8], Solomon Islands [18]

On 4 July SISWP will be chartering our first club in Cambodia: **Soroptimist International of Phnom Penh**. I am sure you will join with me to send greetings and congratulations to Ly Sokpyma SIPP President sokpymaly@yahoo.com and Sun Phun Lang SIPP Secretary phunlang.sun@yahoo.com Our thanks to Past Extension Convenor Lynn Ciurlionis for her hard work making this possible.

SI Gold Coast's newsletter is called **viSion** – well done. A good look.

The SI YouTube Video Channel named **"SoroptimistGlobal"** is now online! YouTube, free to use and available all over the world via the internet, is an ideal medium to promote our projects and activities. SI UN Representative New York: Yoko Komori Olson is looking for material.

www.ykostudio.com www.soroptimistinternational.org

PE - Siew Yong

Secretary - Anne

“Extend our Lifeline”

Extension is the lifeline of SI and in the case of SISWP, very much so, as we cope with loss of members and closure of clubs. Membership is also critical to our financial sustenance of maintaining the minimal staff at HQ, pay for administration cost and funding the travel pool to subsidise the club delegates to attend the Biennial Conferences and for Officers and Board Members (comprising the National Reps) to attend annual Board Meetings.

At the Conference of Clubs at the Gold Coast, Soroptimist International President Hanne challenged every member in the audience to help their club increase the membership by at least 2. It is an excellent idea. I would go further to suggest that it be a “member get member” concept. If each club organizes a “fellowship event” like a lunch or dinner and each member brings a friend, we can get the ball rolling to fulfill more than our promise to President Hanne as, if half the number of the friends sign up, it would be more than the 2 that we promised. Many of us agree that SI is the world’s best kept secret of an NGO, except at the UN, where SI has made its name and mark. As a service organization that has survived 90 years and contributed so much to communities around the world as in Rwanda, Cambodia, Bosnia, Georgia, Sierra Leone, places we may never ever visit but have supported through our SI connection, we should be proud of our achievements. Yet, we are struggling to get members. As such, raising the profile of SI is a high priority and is the responsibility of every member, club and region.

I would like to suggest that one way of promoting ourselves is to have an “Open Day”, perhaps on Dec 10th, UN Human Rights Day, which has also been commemorated by SI as Soroptimist International Day and marked as Presidents’ Appeal Day. The Open Day organised by the club or region could include an exhibition and video showcasing who we are and activities undertaken by the club or region, a booth for enquiries on membership and perhaps a fund raising jumble sale or food sale to raise money for the Dec 10 President’s Appeal.

After consultation with Karen Eagles, SISWP Extension Convenor, she has this to add, “Perhaps you can also use your local library or friendly retailer to sponsor a window display featuring SI activities”.

With our Corporate Partner Incentive Package and Membership approved at COC 2010, it would be timely that we also include the staff of companies who are responsible for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in our list of potential members and partners to invite for the event. The objective is to network and seek their support of your club’s future projects.

Hopefully all the efforts which start as ripples will bring in new members from diverse backgrounds and add talent to our clubs.

ACTION REQUIRED

Travel Pool Questionnaire – Taskforce chair, Jane Zimmerman, requests that the email questionnaire be returned by 31 July to swpsecretary@siswp.org. This questionnaire is in Word format and can be downloaded from the web or filled in from the email that was sent to all clubs on Tuesday 1 June. Please remember to put your club name at the top of the form before sending it back. If you cannot find this email contact me and it can be resent. There is a background explanation and nine questions. This is your opportunity to give feedback on how the travel pool can be managed and the frequency and locations of federation conference.

SISWP RESULT OF SI LONG TERM PROJECT VOTING Clubs in SISWP decided to support ‘Education and Leadership’ as their option for the SI Long Term Project. This result will be forwarded to SI and the final decision will be announced at the SI Convention in Montreal in July 2011. The other three federations are also currently conducting polls of their clubs and all four federations will be notifying SI of the results by 15 July this year, so that all Federation Delegates at the International Board Meeting in August will receive this information. This poll closed on 30 June and 134/138 (97%) of clubs voted. Voting results were: ‘Education and Leadership’ - 119 votes (89%) / ‘Violence against Women’ – 15 votes (11%).

INSERT

Soroptimist Action Guide 1: ADVOCACY This area is a key focus for Soroptimists and one that is often neglected because we are unsure of the procedures to be followed. This guide is an excellent resource and if a copy was printed for each member it could be used at a club meeting as a discussion tool before deciding on appropriate advocacy action.

Public Relations – Christine

I have a small team. There is much enthusiasm, and commitment for this team to meet the goals for the Biennium. Please let me introduce my team:

Shikha Raturi (Fiji) – a chemistry educator for nearly 20 years and now an independent education consultant combines her expertise in chemistry education and use of technology (elearning and Open Education Resources) , Shikha has a passion for promoting Soroptimists, highlighting the diversity in SI in terms of age, ethnicity and profession, and her wish would be to create an interactive PR section on the website!

Jo Haywood (Sth Qld) – Journalist, working for Unitywater. as a Media and Communications Officer, Jo is also a professional writer, and is particularly passionate about homeless youth, the arts and education. Jo will be assisting with the production of a series of Fact Sheets to be used by clubs in promoting SI. Angie Martin (WA) – up to now Angie has provided graphic artwork and advice on the web site, due to work and family commitments Angie is now only available to assist in an advisory capacity, so if there are any members who have graphical art skills and would like to come on board please let me know.