



Women's Federation for World Peace

Australian Newsletter 4/2014

From the National Office

As the rest of Australia begins to heat up, Melbourne and Hobart still experience cool days dispersed with a few warmer ones that indicate summer will eventually come to us. Every evening I complete a prayer and walk along my country road in the foothills of the Dandenongs. I pray for my sisters who give their time and effort for the work of WFWP around Australia and the region. It is a testament to the philosophy behind WFWP that our members can put their families first, being the 'cornerstone for peace,' and yet still offer their time and service as volunteers in such a profound way to reach out, serve and connect with women of all walks of life and nationalities. It is to you my dear sisters that I honour and appreciate, and on behalf of our new International President, Prof. Yeon Ah Moon (who took office this year), I pass on her gratitude to you. Yeon Ah's closing words in her inauguration speech were: "I pray that we, as the WFWP, can unite as one, encourage each other, and go through all hardships and rejoice together with hearts of shimjung," (the Korean expression meaning humility and whole hearted sincerity).

I wish all our WFWP members and friends throughout Australia and the Oceania region a safe and blessed Holiday Season. Over the holiday break, I pray that you gain rest and renewal, and that you strengthen ties with family and friends.

See you all in the New Year; let's kick more goals for WFWP in 2015.

Warmest wishes,
Anne Bellavance
President WFWP, Australia



Her Story - REFLECTIONS FROM THE FIELD

Beloved brothers and sisters, greetings of love and peace from Johor Bahru, Malaysia, where I reflect about my journey through S.E. Asia. Our dear sister and President, Anne Bellavance, has asked if I could write something for the newsletter. Sounds simple enough I thought, but then as I began to reflect deeply on what I might actually say, I found myself at a loss to know where to begin. There is so much that came to mind; reflections on peace and what that might mean and how it may look, much contemplation on inner peace, and so on.... Also, I did not want to write a mere tour report detailing my journey through Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia, although this experience in itself has certainly been a great opportunity for learning and discovery.

In our travels, I could not help but notice the incredible polarity that existed wherever we went, between the have's and the have not's. How can this be? How did it get like this? I wondered about the ancient traditional inhabitants of these countries and dreamed of a time when they must have all been living their 'simple' lifestyles, carving their requirements from nature, and eating coconuts, bananas and whatever else foods were native to each area. Everything required to build their shelters came from the local area; bamboo, palm leaves, vines and a few timbers. My, how life has changed!

Sadly though, many of them are caught between the old and the new, which is true also for our own
page 19 ➤

CONTENTS

From the National Office	1
Overview of WFWP activities in Oceania	2
Local Chapter News	
Victoria	3
N.S.W.	10
Queensland	11
Regional News	14
International	19
Contact Us	20

The Hope for Humanity Comes from Mothers



“History is calling for reconciliation, compassion, love, service and sacrifice. Today’s problems cannot be solved by the logic of power. ... Our present problems can only be solved by the logic of love.”

Dr. Hak Jan Han Moon
Founder, WFWP International

Overview of WFWP activities in Oceania

W^F**W**^P chapters adhere to the principle that women working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion can create healthy families and resolve the complex problems of our societies and the world.

The philosophy behind WFWP is:

Shine & stand up

Action; starting in the family

Transformation through teaching

Impact with love

Nurture self & others

Since the inauguration of WFWP International in 1992, WFWP is now active in 122 nations worldwide. As an NGO, WFWP obtained the prestigious General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations after only three years of international humanitarian service. Go to our Australian chapter website to see where and how you can get involved. www.wfwpaustralia.org WFWP Australia supports projects within the Island nations of the Oceania region. These include Books for the Islands, the New Hope Academy Kindergarten (Solomon Islands), the Vanuatu Women’s Centre, the Island Lights Project, marriage, family and wellness education, character education and reconciliation through the Bridge of Peace ceremonies.

Join us in our efforts to promote a culture of peace through fostering dialogue, developing projects that nurture reconciliation and conflict resolution, supporting projects that serve the community and ones that overcome racial boundaries. They all centre on the inherent feminine characteristics of care, empathy, support, nurturance and cooperation. Connect with other likeminded people around the world who are dedicated to a more harmonious and peaceful world. WFWP contact details can be found on the back page of this newsletter. We hope to hear from you soon.

Aims & Activities



WFWP Chapters adhere to the principle that women, working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion to create healthy families, are resolving the complex problems of our societies and world.

Ultimately “solutions” come as true partnerships between men and women are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society’s most elemental level - the family. Therefore, WFWP works to provide women worldwide with: the knowledge, tools and support needed to create peace at home, peace in our communities and our nation.

Victoria

WFWP Victoria, Bridge of Peace -commemorating the International Day of Peace - Burrinja Cultural Centre, Upwey, September, 20th 2014

To commemorate the International Day of Peace, a beautiful Bridge of Peace event was held in Upwey, Victoria at the Aboriginal Burrinja Cultural Centre. Over 70 people attended the event. Leading the event, it was an honour to have Aunty Janet Turpie-Johnstone, a Mullum



Mullum Aboriginal Elder in the Yarra Ranges district and Yue Ying Wang from the Australian Chinese Women's Association. After Aunty Janet graciously opened the event by welcoming us 'to country,' Jason Wood, federal MP for La Trobe, and Cr. Samantha Dunn from the Lyster Ward of Yarra Ranges, also welcomed us to the Burrinja

and reconciliation. Anne gave a short presentation about the history of WFWP activities including the Bridge of Peace events held internationally, within the Oceania region and within Australia.

The occasion had many highlights. John Hurley and his granddaughter, Jasmine,

brought eleven white homing pigeons from 'Doves for Peace,' and they were symbolically released by eleven lucky volunteers. A very special orchestral performance was given by teachers and students from the New Eastern Arts School who played traditional Chinese, classical music, and who wore traditional costumes.



New Eastern Arts School (Mrs. Qian Qian Wang, the Principle and Founder is sitting front left)

Centre and their electorate. Anne Bellavance, WFWP National President and MC for this event, introduced the theme for this year's International Day of Peace, 'The Rights of People to Peace.' She also presented Ban Ki Moon's message of "Let us all reflect on peace and what it means for our human family. Let us hold it in our hearts and minds and tenderly nurture it so it may grow and blossom." Anne commented that this is what the Bridge of Peace is about, with its focus on the strength of our hearts and opportunities for grassroots healing



Mrs. Qian Qian Wang, principal and founder of the orchestral ensemble, lead the performance. Participants met their sisters and brothers and had the opportunity to share their stories during the buffet lunch period. Kellie Grattidge and Matthew Fagan brought the afternoon to a close with a collection of ancient Celtic music and songs. Participants sang along and were mesmerized by Matthew's guitar work.

The most important element of the Bridge of Peace event is to connect with a new sister or brother, and to pledge to join in friendship in order to build a

bridge of peace between nations. Each participant represents and strives towards becoming a peace maker at all levels of society. Participants provided positive feedback about the event, with some describing the experience as “wonderful people, exciting and unforgettable, great event, truly moving.” Many participants expressed that they felt the spirit of God and were visibly moved and joyful.



Jason Wood, federal MP for La Trobe (front left) beside him is Dr. Mimmie Claudine Watts (WFWP Patron) and Cr. Samantha Dunn from the Lyster Ward of Yarra Ranges

Our event partners were Yarra Ranges Council, the Universal Peace Federation, Africa Day Australia, Knox Interfaith Network, Zimbabwe Community in Australia, Nigerian Community, Doves for Peace and Paradigm Images. Thank-you to all our WFWP Victoria Committee members and volunteers whose team work made this year’s Bridge of Peace event a deeply moving experience.

Principles of Peace Building – Advanced Seminar –

Saturday September 27th During the morning of the AFL Grand Final Day, the ‘Advanced 1’ seminar on Peace Studies took place at Monash University on Saturday September 27th Dr. Mimmie Watts (WFWP Patron) gave a presentation on Peace Building Principles based on the societal perspective, John Bellavance spoke about Concepts of the End of Human History and Anne Bellavance presented Universal Principles in Peace Building based on chapter 1 of ‘The Principle’.



We had a most enjoyable morning and then participants went their separate ways to view of the grand final of the AFL, with Hawthorn winning for another year.

WFWP Victoria is a chapter of WFWP Australia, one of the 122 national chapters of WFWP International; an International NGO having general consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. WFWP supports the UN millennium goals and seeks to serve with the ‘logic of love’ (the WFWP motto) and empower women to find their unique value.

For more information visit www.wfwpaustralia.org



The Role of Interfaith in International Relations and Peace Building



“Let us create a laboratory for dialogue to open minds and possibilities for peace”

On October 18th 2014 a dialogue took place at Monash University in Melbourne. This seminar was sponsored by UPF and WFWP. Both organisations believe that men and women must work together for peace to be realised. The new paradigm for leadership and peace building is based on parental leadership. This seminar was the first in a series that will explore the role of religion, morality and interdisciplinary perspectives in addressing current moral, humanitarian and peace challenges facing our world and took the view that the best solutions to these challenges can emerge if the diverse perspectives of spiritual leaders, scholars, diplomats, government leaders, experts in geopolitics and leaders of NGOs can be combined.



New Ambassadors for Peace

From the left: John Bellavance (UPF national vice-president), Dr Imran Syed (founder & CEO of SADAAT Foundation), Anne Bellavance (WFWP international vice-president), Honourable Hong Lim MP (State Member for Clayton) and Rev Soon Teck Lim (FFWPU national president). Both Dr. Syed and Hon. Hong Lim received their Ambassador for Peace awards during the seminar.



Hong Lim (left) with Shillar Sibanda (in the background, president of the Zimbabwe Community of Victoria and an Ambassador for Peace) and Rev Soon Teck Lim (right). Hong Lim gave the welcoming remarks and is the sitting state member for Clayton. Hon. Lim strongly suggested the all Moon family members should receive the Nobel Peace Prize and he warmly thanked UPF and connecting to WFWP through the Bridge of Peace event in his electorate earlier this year for having the opportunity to attend the World Summit 2014.





Dr Julian Droogan spoke on the topic of: **The Role of Religion in International Relations.**

He is the Senior Lecturer, Director of Learning and Teaching & International Security Studies Program. Editor, Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism (JPICT) Centre for Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism - Macquarie University. Dr Droogan argued that at a time of remarkable global instability, such a dialogue is timely and important. His presentation sought to unpack questions such as: What is the role of religion in addressing some of the current conflict and security challenges facing the world? Is religion a net positive or negative force in global affairs and peace building?



Adel Gaballa spoke about: **The Role of Islam in Peace Building - Obstacles and Solutions to Peace Building in the Middle East**

Mr Gaballa is a former Senior Teaching Fellow in the Faculty of Economics and Politics at Monash University and is an expert in Sufism. He spent 15 years in the Airlines and Aviation Industries, a Planning and Research Advisor for Qantas Airways in Airports Aircraft Ground Movements Control computer System. Adel left the business life in 2011 to devote himself to the support of international interfaith dialogue, by spending over two years researching and writing a book about: "Mary and Jesus in Islam and Islamic Mystic Traditions (Sufism). He argued very convincingly that a true form of Islam is force for peace.



Fr. Dr Herman Roborgh's topic was: **Going Deeper into Inter-religious Dialogue**

Dr. Roborgh worked for many years as a chaplain to students in Jakarta, Indonesia. He completed his MA in Islamic Studies at Birmingham University, England, and moved to Lahore in Pakistan where he rebuilt a library consisting of important Muslim and Christian source material. Since receiving his PhD from Aligarh Muslim University in India, he has been active in various inter-religious dialogue projects in Australia. Dr Roborgh argued that interreligious dialogue will be more effective when we can move beyond an exchange of information about our different religious beliefs and practices. Going deeper into dialogue requires the humility to keep reviewing our self-understanding and to overcome our fear.



Dr Yusuf Sheikh Omar spoke on: **Islam, Dialogue and Peace – (A Personal Perspective)**

Dr. Omar did his doctoral research at La Trobe University, focusing on Somali youth and their experiences of integration, particularly within the USA and Australian context. He spoke about the value of dialogue between different faith and cultural traditions using social and cultural negotiations.



John Bellavance spoke on: **Dr Moons' Proposal for an Interfaith Council at the United Nations and in Nation States.**

John is the Vice-President of the Universal Peace Federation in Australia, an Information Technology teacher and currently doing a PhD on the Role of Values in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies. Mr. Bellavance presented the history behind the proposal for an Interfaith Council at the UN. He argued that the world is changing and demands on the United Nations and its role in world peace is also changing; emphasising that the wisdom of faith-based traditions constitute the spiritual assets for peace building nationally and internationally and this spiritual asset should be utilised by the UN to foster peace between nations.

The outcomes of the dialogues were:

- That we continue to explore the role of faith traditions to addressing peace challenges.
- That a formal proposal be put together to create of state and national Interfaith Peace Councils that provide a fresh perspectives to peace building to the Australian government agencies and broader Australian society.
- That such a council would including interdisciplinary perspectives; religious perspectives and NGO perspectives.

Supporting Organisations



WFWP in the City – Her Story



This season 'WFWP in the City' held the bi-monthly 'Her Story' at the Multicultural Hub in the city of Melbourne. Each gathering is an opportunity to hear the spiritual journey of women from different cultural and religious backgrounds. Each story gives wisdom, strength and connection for the participants. The stories are being collected to form a book on Her Stories – a spiritual journey that will be published online in the near future. We have been honoured to hear the stories and the favourite recipes of Lucy Verstegen, Gai Scrivens, Ingrid Hindell and Miti Tangianau. Ingrid's story offered a message about becoming empowered. Ingrid gave this insight through a story about a friend who offered to help clean her house. Ingrid went



to the bathroom and saw her friend using Ajax cleaner on the bathtub. Ingrid explained to her friend, "Yes, the bath could be cleaner, but my husband and I prefer not to use harsh chemicals." Her

friend tried to keep her ground but Ingrid repeated her response again without raising her voice or showing anger or frustration until her friend complied with her wishes. Ingrid explained the empowerment steps as:

1. Begin your sentence by acknowledging what the other person just said or did with "yes, .."
2. Use 'I could' instead of 'I must' or 'should.'
3. Use 'I prefer,' instead of 'I want.'
4. Never raise your voice in frustration.

'WFWP in the Hills'- Sunday October 5th

During the WFWP in the Hills bi-monthly workshop, participants practiced their public speaking skills. During the presentation, we had the privilege of meeting our WFWP organisational mentor, Michelle Dunscombe, with the CEO of Governance Mentors, Natalia Perera who introduced Michelle. The WFWP Victorian Committee has decided to work with Governance Mentors for one year. Governance Mentors is a non profit organization



funded through the state government that supports other NGOs with their organisation structure, financial structure, social media, outreach work etc. The WFWP Committee has decided to develop a Strategic Plan with the assistance of our mentor. Michelle will speak at our Annual General Meeting in December before

assisting WFWP members with developing a three-year Strategic Plan.

A 'living centre of peace'

Article by Sara Cohen, psychologist
Ivanhoe, VIC, Australia

Our capacity for inner peace is both universal and innate. One need only reflect on the sacred texts of many great spiritual traditions to recognise that inner stillness and peace is closely aligned with descriptions of our essential, core nature. Yet for most of us, our lived reality can feel far removed from peace within the self, and those who have it stand out and touch us in most profound ways. If we didn't know any better, division and inner disharmony seemingly appear to embody our natural state. Given the task of spending time with ourselves, what immediately becomes apparent is the busyness in which our mind inhabits and the many forms that a disharmonious mind can take. Even in times when overt, inner conflict is relatively absent, we might still create division within the self by projecting our thoughts in time and thus compromise our capacity to be fully present in the moment. In the collective arena where conflict and tension play out between people, races and nations, even more configurations for disharmony exist.

In light of such turbulence – seemingly arising from all directions – how can we as individuals, become a 'living centre of peace?' How can we cultivate the capacity for, and the willing dedication to radiate peace 'powerfully' and 'ceaselessly' within ourselves as well as in our relationships?¹

To begin with, let us first present a more compelling description of peace, one that moves beyond what is commonly depicted as the *absence* of conflict, violence or war both at the individual and collective levels.

Consider the word 'shalom,' which has the same linguistic derivation as the Arabic word 'salām,' and which is commonly translated as peace. Founded on the three consonants in the Hebrew language – shin-lamed-mem – the word 'shalom' traces its roots to, and has close associations with many meanings including wholeness, completeness, harmony, welfare and soundness. It both describes an end point in its form as a noun as well as a movement towards an end point in its verb form. It is both 'whole' and at the same time, the action of 'restoring and making something whole.'



In a world filtered and structured through language, we can begin to appreciate that 'shalom' has application in all spheres of life and human activity be it physical, mental, emotional or spiritual, and all levels of human relations including individual, community and global. By implication, it cannot be separated from notions of the harmony, welfare and wellbeing of humanity. This representation of peace is also closely akin to the expression of wholeness and harmony of mind, body and spirit that is central to a holistic model of health. Differences and tension amongst the various elements innately exist and play out, and any movement towards health and wellness inherently involves restoring the harmony and unity of the system as a whole.

Psychosynthesis and a model of peace

Founded by psychiatrist, Roberto Assagioli, psychosynthesis is a psycho-spiritual, holistic model of the psyche that offers a framework for understanding the principles involved in restoring a sense of peace

¹ In his book, *Transpersonal development. The dimensions beyond psychosynthesis*, Italian psychiatrist, Roberto Assagioli (1888-1974), asks these questions before formulating a response that draws on psychological and spiritual principles that reflect his understanding of the human psyche.

and wholeness within our inner world. Specifically, Assagioli's map of the psyche² can be used as an internal navigation system, guiding us towards the coordinates of peace that reside within the vastness of our consciousness.

When we set out on this path, we are met with our initial discovery that our mind excels on being constantly occupied and that an array of internal voices immediately make themselves known to us. That this is our experience simply reflects that we have aligned ourselves with the ever shifting content of our mind. I know myself as joyful one day and sad the next, peaceful in one moment and conflicted in another. In this experience we find ourselves *subject* to inner and outer forces rather than *active agents* who have the capacity to make choices about how we wish to express ourselves in our world. We are thus held captive and lack a sense of inner peace that would otherwise exist in a state of freedom.

However, Assagioli's map of the psyche holds a psychological reality and view of human potential and human experience that is far more expansive and optimistic than this. Essential to his understanding of our nature is the awareness that within us lies a unifying centre of self – our existential experience of our inherent wholeness that is both stable and permanent. It is within this inner space where our true self inhabits – the self that does not change with the changing states of our mind, and is aware that we are separate from, and independent of, all that which we observe in our consciousness. Assagioli taught that this 'observer' within is a reflection of our essential, spiritual nature. It is open and receptive to higher ideals like love, freedom and peace, and it is here that through direct experience, we truly come home to ourselves.

Concluding reflections

In modern times we observe that war and violence are not confined to one region of the planet. The

psychological and social reality of such widespread and severe conflict has resulted in individuals and whole communities that have been traumatised, shattered and fragmented. The extensive impact of such devastation cannot be underestimated: terror, despair, depression, dislocation, loss of meaning and destroyed faith in others and even life itself. Such trauma is the very definition and source of dis-unity both in our internal and external worlds, and it is these deep wounds that require healing in order to restore unity, wholeness and 'shalom' in the world around us.

Fostering peace and unity begins within the individual and then radiates outward between individuals, communities and nations. Just as we need to honestly and courageously meet the disparate and often wounded parts within ourselves for unity and balance to occur within, equally, we must listen deeply and lovingly – bearing witness to the pain and suffering of our fellow humans. We will have to empower our most compassionate instincts to help restore wholeness to ourselves and others, and we will need to draw on our tolerance and goodwill to support this gesture. In all that this demands of us, we are called to arouse our will and have faith in our potential and deepest intentions for bringing forward the 'shalom' that we desire.

Let us remember that the mind separates and the heart connects and so it is the spirit within – the essence of who we are – from which bridges of peace and unity can be made where legal measures and treaties have failed. That we are interconnected with, and interdependent on each other, and that we necessarily and inevitably radiate what we are, undoubtedly means that becoming a 'living centre of peace' *will* affect the world around us.

***Article by Sara Cohen, psychologist
Ivanhoe, VIC, Australia***

*The full text of this article was published in The Melbourne Hebrew Congregation's publication, The Destiny Magazine, Issue 22, September 2014, and can be accessed online (pages 48-50):
http://www.melbournesynagogue.org.au/Templates/documents/2014aDESTINY_page43_56.pdf*

²Assagioli's map of the psyche is referred to as the Egg Diagram.

Women's Circle Report

WFWP, Sydney had a Women's Circle October 6th, 2014. We welcomed back Brenda Okada, her husband, Masaya, and daughter, Celine, from Vanuatu. They travelled to support our Women's centre on Tanna Island in Vanuatu.

Celine is a passionate designer and talented pattern maker and she conducted lessons in the use of electric sewing machines. Earlier WFWP, NSW Chapter sent 20 secondhand sewing machines to Port Vila, Vanuatu, which were donated from Ingleburn High School in Sydney.

WFWP Vanuatu donated 7 machines to Tanna Women's centre and is waiting for other Women's centres to have electricity connected in order to donate the remaining sewing machines. Please, enjoy the pictures of Okada family's working holiday in Vanuatu and the Women's Circle and Brenda's report and future plans.



More for this story in regional report!

Interfaith Prayer & Walk for Peace

Celebrating UN International Day of Peace

14 September 2014, Brisbane Queensland

Women's Federation for World Peace hosted an Interfaith Prayer & Walk for Peace with two other organisations, Universal Peace Federation and Believing Women for a Culture of Peace. This timely event was initiated by WFWP's supporter State MP, Freya Ostapovitch.

We organisers were determined to make it inspiring. With so much conflict and war in many places, the world more than ever needs prayer for peace. It was particularly meaningful that we could hold this event at the time of the UN International Day of Peace.

The walk started at Queens Park in the heart of the Brisbane CBD, with Aborigine Elder Aunty Kerry Charlton offering Welcome to Country and blessing of the event. Freya Ostapovitch MP, welcomed and thanked the participants.

We walked toward State Parliament House for several blocks behind a slogan banner with peace music playing. Many participants carried peace lanterns.

It was a beautiful Queensland spring day!



To set the atmosphere, Mr Demont Dorgan sang a peace song.





Participants were encouraged to write on paper their own prayer for peace and attach it to the Prayer Tree.

At the destination, Speaker's Corner next to the Queensland Parliament House, we held a program.

Seven different faith leaders (Christian, Jewish, Islam, Buddhist, Hindu, Baha'i, Spiritualist) offered moving prayers for peace. Then we all said a common prayer in unison and attached own prayers for peace onto the Prayer Tree.

Leaders of the three host organisations (WFWP, BWCP,UPF) thanked everyone and shared peace statements.

To finish the program we sang together 'Let There Be Peace on Earth'.

* * *

We believe that this event inspires each participant to keep praying for those who are suffering in the world so that peace may come to them in the near future.

It reminded all of us that we need to make effort to be tolerant and reach out toward people of different religions and backgrounds in order to have a peaceful and harmonious society and world that is unshakable by any negative force.

We are grateful to the 50 or so participants including speakers and faith leaders who graciously spoke and offered prayers to support this event.



Prepared by Mamiko Rattley, Chair WFWP Queensland

Photographs by Chan Ju Lin, President World Harmony Society



Culture of Healing Circle workshop

by Mamiko Rattley and Rachel Newman



On October 25, 2014, the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) and the Logan Elders held an Aboriginal "Culture of Healing Circle" workshop.

The event was held at Murrigunyah Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Women (Murrigunyah) in Logan and was facilitated by Aunty Peggy Tidyman. Aunty Peggy is the President of both the Logan Elders and Murrigunyah.

The MC of the workshop, Mamiko Rattley Chair of WFWP Queensland, welcomed everyone and invited Aunty Peggy for 'Acknowledgement of Country'. Mamiko briefly reported on WFWP's aims and activities. Then the 15 participants introduced themselves.



and nature. Therefore it's vital for us to connect to the four key elements of nature and then intuitively know who we are and understand what we are going through in our heart in order for the healing process to work." Then she explained each of the **four elements of life: Fire, Earth, Water and Air** in detail to help us understand how they connect to our lives.

Aunty Peggy took us outside and showed the four elements, which were set up outside the centre of Murrigunyah. She suggested we have miniature symbols of those four elements in our home to help us to be aware and connect with them in our daily life. For example: burning candle - Fire, a potted plant - Earth, a small water fountain - Water, wind chime-Air.



Before the main topic Aunty Peggy presented a history of Aborigine people and culture with a map of Aborigine tribes. She emphasized the importance of circles and asked everyone to remove shoes because the ground rejuvenates and regenerates us and brings us into connection with Mother Earth.

Aunty Peggy said, "In this modern materialistic world we have lost our intuition and connection to our past, each other

All participants were very grateful to Aunty Peggy for her sharing of the precious culture of the Healing Circle with us.



To conclude the workshop Mamiko thanked Aunty Peggy and said that WFWP will keep providing opportunities like today for women to learn skills to heal and grow so that we women can be active promoters for a culture of Peace in our family, society and world.

(WFWP donated all participants' workshop fees to Murrigunyah.)

Regional

Women's Federation for World Peace, NZ Theme: Cultural Diversity and Tradition 25 October 2014

Women's Federation for World Peace NZ held a Korean Tea Ceremony to celebrate the beauty of cultural diversity and tradition at Parnell Peace Embassy, Auckland on 25 October 2014.



60 people attended. The purpose of the event was to help to break down the barriers between different cultures and traditions to improve relationships, understanding and to foster new friendships amongst the people of New Zealand and the people of Korea.

Award winning Master Mila Kim Oh presented the ceremony. She was born in South Korea and graduated from the prestigious Yea Myung-Won Cultural Foundation; a Korean Government recognised Educational Institute for Korean Tea Culture and Ceremonies and is currently the president of the Ye Myung-Won New Zealand branch.

WFWP NZ President Mrs. Felicity Cairns gave a brief introduction of the significance of Korean Tea Ceremonies: The practice of tea ceremonies has

been known in Korea since ancient times but in recent years, the traditional tea ceremony has united with traditional Korean music, resulting in a new artistic form of "performance tea" The tea plant is seen as a 'noble plant'

Tea is a source of spiritual refreshment and conveys great wealth of cultural traditions. The ultimate goal of the Korean way of serving tea is to enable everyone to cultivate the tradition of tea with a pure mind and body, to work together to establish a world in which all may live truly healthy lives.

Master Mila Kim and her team did not say much while serving the tea but their expressions and attitudes reflected their deep heart of service, respect and gratitude.

It was a truly beautiful and amazing event. Every-one who participated had a great and deep experience.

A special thank you to Mrs Sami Lee who was the overall co-ordinator of this event and a big thank you to every-one who supported and helped to make this a successful event.



Master Mila Kim Oh & her team



Participants at the tea ceremony



Serving the Tea



WFWP Executive members



WFWP members & guests



Group Photo

Working Holiday in Vanuatu

On Sunday September 14th, 2014, my husband, Masaya, and I together with our daughter, Celine, left Sydney for a six day visit to Vanuatu on a short family holiday, but most importantly to fulfil a dream Celine and I have held for several years; to visit the Women's Centre on Tanna Island for Celine to assist them in upgrading their sewing skills. Celine, a passionate sewer and creator, studied fashion design and technology and has worked for 2 years as a professional pattern maker in a design company in Sydney. She is soon to leave for Europe for further study, so we had a sense of urgency to fulfil this dream before any more time passed.

Five years ago manual sewing machines were donated by WFWP Australia to the ladies in Imaelone Village, Western Tanna. The women used them while sitting on mats on the floor of their women's centre. Recently, Ingleburn High School in Sydney upgraded their sewing room machines and graciously donated their used machines to WFWP Sydney, through contact via our National website our state president, Aila Willitts. They were then transported to Vanuatu. FFWPU missionary/ New Village Movement co-ordinator Rev Jong Dueg Yoo was then able to arrange for electricity to be connected to the community centre in the village. With our arrival



There was great excitement as men brought tables from homes in the village to be used as work tables. Women quickly covered them with colourful clothes, the machines unboxed, put in place and plugged in. Celine began with the basics, filling the bobbin. The sound of the bobbin filling caused shrieks of delight to explode from all the women. Threading the machine correctly was a very serious affair and then came the time to sew, again shrieks of delight and wonder at the speed of the action.

Men stood and wandered around in the background, quite curious and a little in awe of what their women were experiencing.

Everyone was very eager to have their turn at this new-fangled machine. Many women proved to be quite adept and soon the sound of the racing machines filled the air as one by one they were taken over. Brightly coloured fabrics seemed to suddenly appear from nowhere, as some women rushed home and returned with eyes wide with determination and intention of sewing new curtains, new dresses and new tablecloths. There seemed to be no stopping them.

Celine and I are both collectors of fabric and knitting/crochet yarns, so we took along two large bags full to share with the women as well. For those not at a machine we began to teach them to crochet, suggesting that they start with simple

a ceremony was held to officially present the seven machines to Tess, the wife of the Taffeta Province President, Nakau Natuman, on behalf of the village.

squares, recommending them as good cleaning cloths. When we returned the next day great progress had been made with the crocheting but cleaning

cloths were not the desired end product. Everyone wanted a bag.

On the first day we held a four hour session before packing up for the day. The following day we held a six hour session interspersed by lunch which had been prepared by the women. The bag of fabrics and notions was unpacked on this day. The women were initially hesitant to investigate but quietly and surely each piece of fabric was taken by the end of our session with skirts, cushion covers, shirts and curtains, all in the process of being made. Embroidery settings were shown to one lady who sewed and sewed until unfortunately her machine burnt out.

All in all it was a wonderful experience for all. To provide an activity for women to gather together and be productive is a wonderful thing. While caring for their babies, toddlers and small children, they can create items for



gathered around us and one puppy slept while resting its head on a skein of yarn.

Also for Masaya and me to see Celine interact so professionally, warmly and happily with the women and their children was a source of pride for both of us. We felt privileged to be given the opportunity to interact with such warm, generous and proud people. It was a shame that it was only for 2

days, but we certainly hope to visit them again, next time, with more fabrics patterns, notions machine spare parts and reading glasses.

Many of the women's eyesight seemed to be poor. At one stage one pair of glasses was being handed around and shared to aid in the threading of needles and even crocheting. To this end I ask members and friends if they could

please donate some of this type of item to be included in our next shipment of goods to Vanuatu.



their families, for gifts or for sale. To hear the sound of women chattering and laughing as sewing machines buzzed and children played and cried in the background was truly a joyous experience. Even the local dogs

From sewing classes we then braved a bumpy one hour ride up to the crater of Mt Yasur, an active volcano, to virtually peer inside the crater and very nearly be sprayed with molten lava. The desert of

ash surrounding the summit was a surreal landscape. So suddenly the tropical rain forest gave way to a desolate grey desert.

On our last day in Port Vila we managed to snorkel over the coral reefs of Hideaway Island and then swing like Tarzan at the Blue Lagoon before finishing with a celebratory seafood feast at the Grand Hotel. We had been in Vanuatu for only five days, but felt as if we had filled two weeks of activities into that short time. It was wonderful.



Celine herself said that to have had more time to laze in the sun would have been boring.

We wish to thank our current WFP Australia President Anne Bellavance and WFP NSW President, Aila Willitts for their advice and encouragement in planning the trip and especially FFWPU missionary Jong Deug Yoo who served as our constant advisor and escort making this wonderful experience possible.

Written by Brenda Okada



<https://www.facebook.com/wfpaustralia>

To donate go to WFP Website
www.wfpaustralia.org

International

➤ page 1

indigenous people, in fact for all the indigenous survivors throughout this planet. They struggle to hold onto the last threads of their traditional ways; ways which sustained them for eons, in a delicately balanced web within the cycles of nature, taking only what they needed and always respecting “creation” and the great “creator”, who always provided for their needs, so long as they continued to practice their harmonious ways of co-existence with nature.

It made me very sad to see how these beautiful souls, in their innocence, have been so exploited by our modern “western” culture, which has created such a impact on their lives. I pondered with wonder, asking myself a million questions, as to what benefits these gorgeous people have obtained and unfortunately, I could come up with nothing positive that did not come attached to a huge price tag of human suffering. It made me feel so ashamed...

As far as I can see, these traditional cultures throughout the world, lived in their own special “paradise” until foreigners came to their lands, imposing their beliefs that somehow they could improve on “perfection” – or as close to perfection as I can imagine, in terms of living balanced, harmonious lifestyles based on respect, trust, selflessness, co-operation and profound wisdom & understanding, intuition and a finely tuned sense of their place within the web of life.

Boy, how I long for these ways of “being”, to return to this planet, for when I look around at the chaos we have created with our “modern” lifestyles, it makes me want to shout from the rooftops... Wake up world!!! I laugh when I see how our “new age” enlightened thinkers are now steering us back towards an existence that incorporates these ancient principles, for the wise ones know that it is our only hope for salvation & survival. We must stop this madness we have created... STOP the Greed, the Hatred, the violence, the Jealousy, the Ingratitude, the Anger, the Selfishness, the Ignorance and the FEAR which has enslaved us all in this mythical, deluded belief that modern living, with all its manmade, artificial everything, is somehow better or superior to what the Great Creator gave us in the first place.

We are now living in an era where we are paying the high price of physical, mental, emotional and



spiritual bankruptcy, in return for our obsession with money and possessions, power, profits, economical “growth” and so called progress. Progress towards what? Self-destruction, as we move closer each day to total extinction of our planet and all the inhabitants on it?

I realise that this all sounds like some doomsday picture of how things are on this Earth spaceship, but think about it for a while.... Really consider & digest what is going on at present. Yes, there is still an amazing world out there, with much that is beautiful and

inspiring, but in the bigger picture, beneath the surface, where all disease begins, there is something brewing... Many can feel it... Many know....

It is time for change!!! We must not keep on our greedy, hurtful path of self destruction. We must now look beyond illusions and see the truth for what it is, and acknowledge the reality; for until we are willing to admit that what we have created is not working, nothing changes. I believe it is time for drastic changes, founded in the heart of LOVE, not in the mind of greed. So I pray for all who understand; to put our hearts and minds together, to co-create a better future for all the generations to come... not a future of more suffering, sickness and struggle against each other.

HOW?

I believe the answers are quite simple. We have simply missed the point to see the message clearly. We must move beyond our mind created egos and move with compassionate hearts of love, which is the well-spring of all life.

All change begins with an Honest, Sincere Desire... followed by some enlightened action, for the good of all... based on loving kindness & respectful dialogue & consultation...

UNITED WE STAND... DIVIDED WE FALL

I hope that my reflections may spark something deep within you, hopefully encouraging you to commence your own journey inward in search of something deeper and more meaningful, based on Wisdom and Universal Truth.

All ancient traditions and teachings are based on these Universal Truths. We just need to recognise what they are and what they are trying to show us and teach us.

Sue Kerr (vice-president of WFWP Vic., 2014)

UNITED NATIONS 8 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger



2 Achieve Universal Primary Education



3 Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women



4 Reduce Child Mortality



5 Improve Maternal Health



6 Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases



7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability



8 Develop a Global Partnership for Development

For update on the Millennium Development Goals go to www.mdgmonitor.org/

Contact Us



WFWP Australia

Website: www.wfwpaustralia.org

E-mail: contact@wfwpaustralia.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wfwp.australia

YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UC9cW3xHmHDXkOoRTcIHDLOW

WFWP National Office

42-46 Bartley Rd.

Belgrave Heights, Vic. 3160

(03) 5968 2664

N.S.W. Chapter

Oceania Peace Embassy

824 - 826 George St, Chippendale NSW, 2008

wfwp.aila@gmail.com

Queensland Chapter

PO Box 631, Annerley, Qld., 4103

0425 212 898

United Nations Affiliation

WFWP International became a "NGO in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations" in 1997. This status has continued to be renewed based on the preparation of the Quadrennial Report.

Consultative status is granted by ECOSOC upon recommendation of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs, which is comprised of 19 Member States.

There are only 139 NGOs worldwide that hold the general consultative status. The requirements of this level of affiliation include:

- ❖ Applying organisation's activities must be relevant to the work of ECOSOC
 - ❖ The NGO must have been in existence (officially registered) for at least two years in order to apply
 - ❖ The NGO must have a democratic decision making mechanism
 - ❖ The major portion of the organisation's funds should be derived from contributions from national affiliates, individual members, or other non-governmental components
 - ❖ NGOs granted General Consultative Status must submit to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, every fourth year, a brief report of their activities, in particular regarding their contribution to the work of the United Nations (Quadrennial Report)
- general consultative status is reserved for large international NGOs whose area of work covers most of the issues on the agenda of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. These tend to be fairly large, established international NGOs with a broad geographical reach.

The benefits of receiving this status include:

- ❖ The NGO may propose new items for consideration by the ECOSOC
- ❖ Organisations granted status are also invited to attend international conferences called by the UN General Assembly special sessions, and other intergovernmental bodies.

WFWP International maintains a UN office in New York City. WFWP International has twenty UN representatives in seven countries: Austria, Chile, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Switzerland, Thailand, and the US.