



Women's Federation for World Peace

Oceania Newsletter 1/2018

From the Regional Office

Each March, WFWP Oceania sends women delegates to New York for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. This year we have six women attending, five from Melbourne and the sixth is a WFWP youth leader from New Zealand. WFWP International will be holding two Parallel Events organised through CSW NGO and one Side Event in the United Nations. During CSW62, we have the opportunity to network with women NGOs from around the world, participate in Side Events at the UN organised through UN Women, participate in Parallel Events held throughout New York, and attend the WFWPI events. It is especially advantageous for our Oceania delegates; we have the opportunity to meet with WFWP leaders from around the world and attend meetings in the evenings with our WFWP International leader, Prof. Yeon Ah Moon. After the first week of conferencing, we will attend the WFWPI Horizon Summit organised by the NY WFWP UN office. The week-end Summit provides a forum for senior WFWPI leaders and young women leaders to learn from each other, and share strategies of best practice.



Recently my husband and I have been reading a book by Damon and Coldy, *The Power of Ideals*. Eleanor Roosevelt is featured as a moral exemplar for her "enduring commitment to the ideals of social equality and her evident humility ... Roosevelt's humility went a long way toward disarming the strong egos of the world leaders she needed to line up behind the value-laden document [the UN's Declaration of Human Rights that she crafted] for which she was trying to gain worldwide acceptance." It was Eleanor's heart of empathy, caring and humility towards all people that brought to society the document of human rights that is still changing people's lives. Reading these pages made me think of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, our founder. Dr. Moon is always encouraging us to live and pursue our work with the 'Mother's Heart' of unconditional love to make this world a peaceful place. Reading Eleanor's journey gave me courage that 'living by the logic of love' is not warm and fuzzy, but a powerful tool of change that brings long lasting results, and does transform lives.

Warmest wishes,

Anne Bellavance

Reflections from the field

Reflections from a student team leader at Glen Waverley College

Mrs Anne,

Thank you for being our community engagement leader for the Glen Waverly College, Year Nine Community Engagement Program. This experience has taught us how to become more responsible for our actions and to understand what was needed in order to meet the criteria for the teachers in this assessment task. From the fundraiser stall, we managed to raise over \$80 from handmade items and games. The money we fundraised is to help with shipping costs when sending the data projectors and books to the Island Nations of Oceania. We have also received many notebooks and stationery from students at our school. We hope that this is enough to make even the smallest impact in the islands. We had lots of fun with the market and also helped the community.

We are so glad that we were able to have this opportunity and we hope that this will help support the Island Projects of WFWP Australia.

In regards of the 'ACE' group.

CONTENTS

From the Regional Office	1
Reflections from the Field	1
Overview of WFWP activities	2
News from the Oceania Chapters	
Australia	
Victoria	3
New South Wales.....	11
Queensland.....	14
Contact Us	15

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, WFPW International

Overview of WFPW activities in Oceania

Women are Empowered
Families are Strengthened
Communities are Connected

WFPW is founded on the belief that a peaceful world begins in the heart of each person and in each family. The family is the cornerstone of peace and mature couples are the foundation for strong and loving families. Our organisation encourages every woman to become a ‘woman of peace’ through cultivating her heart, the mother’s heart, to care not just for her own children, but for the children of others, the children of other nations, the children of the world, by developing and expressing the qualities of empathy, forgiveness, and unconditional love.

WFPW is committed to

Serving communities – service projects within Australia & the Pacific Islands

Strengthening the family – workshops, forums, seminars and conferences

Reconciling differences and healing wounds of the past – Bridge of Peace

Global Women’s Peace Network (GWPN) – a global network of women leaders who are peace builders within their community

Philosophy

Shine & stand up

Action; starting in the family

Transformation through teaching

Impact with love

Nurture self and others

WFPW Australia supports projects within Australia and the Island Nations of the Oceania region. Projects include: Global Women’s Peace Network; Dignity Project; Annual Walk-a-thon to support our Pacific Neighbours; Workshops, Seminars, Conferences and Forums on Peace Building; Books for the Islands; Solomon Islands New Hope Kindergarten; Pacific Islands Scholarship Fund; Women’s Sewing Centres; Island Lights Project; Marriage, Family and Wellness education; Character education; and, reconciliation through the Bridge of Peace ceremonies.

WFPW is a dynamic organisation committed to providing women with the opportunity to create lasting peace in the world by fostering dialogue, developing projects that nurture reconciliation and conflict resolution, and supporting projects that serve the community and overcome racial boundaries; all centering on the inherent feminine characteristics of care, empathy, support, nurturing and cooperation.

Victoria

Community Engagement Program by Glen Waverley Secondary College Year Nine students

Glen Waverley, December

The Active Community Engagement (ACE) Program is a learning inquiry unit which runs specifically for Year 9 students during Semester Two.

The aims of the ACE Program are to:

- Encourage students to develop a deeper understanding of their communities and their role as both local and global citizens;
- Make connections with and actively contribute in a positive way to the world around them;
- Feel a stronger sense of engagement with their communities and the issues facing them now and in their future;
- Promote deep, authentic and meaningful learning by embedding 21st Century Skills at the heart of the program;

My group members and I have chosen to write about our most outstanding memories from a Community Engagement Program in which we were involved.

Glen Waverley Secondary College teamed up with the Women's Federation for Peace in the first ever Year Nine Active Community Engagement Program (ACE) with two groups participating. Our mission as GWSC students was to provide donations for school children in the island

nations of Oceania. We decided to organise a market to raise funds for the cause. The market was split into three different sections - games, stalls and a place to donate items. By holding this market, we managed to raise over eighty dollars and collect stationery items and notebooks for young students in Oceania.

We are proud of what we achieved in the time-frame given. We had less than two weeks and two lunchtimes to organise everything. This experience has given us a glimpse of the real world and how hectic life can be. It strengthened our skills in time management, planning and leadership. We realised how much we are able to contribute to the lives of others just by putting in a little of what we have.

We feel so honoured to have had this opportunity to help children who may not be as blessed as we are, and to work with someone as amazing as the WFWP President. Thank you Anne, for giving us a chance to share a little of what we have.

Thank you again, for letting us work with WFWP.

Sincerely yours,
Faith



Overview of the Women in Leadership Conference

Melbourne CBD, December 7-8th

Women leaders from a range of different fields including government, finance, ICT, sport, biotechnology, media and NGOs gathered together in Melbourne to attend the fifth Women in Leadership Conference. The theme for this year's conference was "Debunking stereotypes and bridging the gender leadership gap, one woman at a time". The conference offered opportunities to listen to thirty speakers presenting their views on panels or in round table sessions. While sharing their personal experiences, each speaker offered a range of solutions for women to employ when faced by the challenges in our Australian culture.

Anne Bellavance (President, WFWP Australia) was the keynote speaker for day two and her presentation titled A Conversation about Parity – equity vs equality vs parity focused on notes based on CSW61. During the presentation, Anne set the stage for attendees to recognise where we are at as women, and how we can instigate change by shifting prevailing mind-sets, attitudes and behaviours. While providing reflections on leadership of the heart, Anne described some of the policies that are working successfully on a global level along with some of the issues facing many developing countries which restrict the acquisition of equity.

A key point raised at CSW 61 was the necessity for an equal partnership between men and women if parity between genders was to be achieved. This was recognised by the WFWP when they pioneered the partnership model of peace building twenty five years ago. Women, Anne explained, are key elements in anchoring

the family and the community and their skills need to be recognised in order to create cultural change which encourages partnerships and ultimately parity between men and women. When this occurs, stability and ongoing peace are more likely to ensue.

Andrew Clark (Managing Partner for Boston Consulting Group – BCG) reinforced Anne's key points by sharing how his organisation is working towards gender parity by supporting 'Male Champions for Change' - a group of influential male CEOs in Australia. This group aims to use their individual and collective influence and commitment to ensure the issue of women's representation in leadership is elevated on the national business agenda.



A panel of speakers presenting their views on "Women who have travelled the road less travelled" inspired participants by recounting their journey towards achieving senior executive positions. They advised women to recognise their own potential by believing in themselves and by having a go. They reassured women that although it takes courage and strength to follow this pathway, the rewards were possible.



Another key speaker Susan Oliver, the Chair of Scale Investors, heads the Steering Committee for the 30% Club. The role of this Club is to lobby for 30% women on ASX 200 boards by the end of 2018. By doing this, she explained, a gender balance could be achieved on governing boards. Gender balance, she believes will not only encourage better leadership and governance but ultimately increased financial gains for both the

company and its stakeholders.

In order to acquire a place on a Board, she advised women to strive towards leadership positions in the organisations to which they belong. Through networking with other organisations and getting others to recognise their talents, leadership roles could be achieved. She suggested that once women achieved a leadership role, they could redesign a workplace to allow other women to benefit. Cultural change, she believes, comes from a position of power so heading towards leadership positions would enable that change. She encouraged women to believe in themselves and to build on their personal resilience as this would help them to achieve success.

Head of SaaS Consulting for Aus/NZ in Oracle, Angela Mager then shared her views on the need for an emotional component within business. Leadership, she suggested, begins with the heart not the head. To encourage women to recognise the potential for success, she identified three changes in business which could energise women to feel a sense of hope.

i) Women's role in entrepreneurship: Currently, she explained it is easier for women to develop start-ups at a reasonable price as more people are investing in female entrepreneurs and the trend for blended teams of men and women is rising. Women are now investing in other women as more capital becomes available. The unconscious bias that existed within society about women is finally being challenged as more conversations are raised about this topic.

ii) Inside entrepreneurship: Women are now experiencing 'power' in a range of organisations as senior leaders. As members of blended teams and boards, women now have the power to influence decision making and change. Women, she believed, are in an enviable position to support their gender and to change the mindsets of their male colleagues. They now have the opportunity to voice their opinions and be heard. By operating in this style, women will also recognise the value of their female colleagues and thus the circle will widen.

iii) Social involvement: Angela posed the question of whether or not we live in an economy or society to raise consciousness about the importance of human connections. Today, she warned, the hierarchical model of command and control is no longer viable. For businesses to thrive, building emotional and human connections are the key to success.

Continuing with valuable advice for leaders searching for advancement, Dr Jennifer Fitzgerald (CEO, Scope Australia and 2016 Telstra Victorian Business Woman of the Year) suggested that leaders need to build their own personal brand of operating. Endeavouring to build an authentic brand that engenders trust and confidence amongst their staff will have positive outcomes. Effective leaders need to be good listeners, not be afraid to share their emotions and most importantly, be ready to focus on the bigger picture to energise staff to work collaboratively towards the achievement of the business goals.

To conclude, Jennifer shared some of her favourite quotes which resonated with the audience as they encapsulated the themes of the day...

"You could certainly say I've never underestimated myself, there is nothing wrong with being ambitious." Angela Merkel

"Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence." "In the future, there will be no female leaders. There will just be leaders." Sheryl Sandberg, author of *Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead*.



Interfaith Christmas Party

Melbourne Family Church, December 17th

Sunday the 17th of December was a perfect day for members of WFWP, UPF and the congregation of the Melbourne Family Church (FFWPU) to gather together in Belgrave to celebrate Christmas. The interfaith gathering which is an annual event was an opportunity to celebrate Christmas in Australian style.

The Melbourne Family Church Choir accompanied by Rick McInerheney on guitar welcomed the gathering into the sanctuary with Christmas Carols.



While presenting his public address "Through the Eyes of Love", John Bellavance (UPF State Director) urged the gathering to see themselves as part of the journey established by God for the purpose of unification.

As members of the three organisations have specifically joined a movement for the realisation of God's ideal, each member, he counselled, has a role in the restoration of society towards an 'ideal state'. He invited each member to use the guiding principles of Unification Thought to work towards the creation of a society which was just, loving and prosperous. Through interdependence and the sharing of universal values, he acknowledged, mutual prosperity was attainable.

Unification Thought, John explained, is not a new religion but a systematic thought that outlines:

- i) A blueprint for the order of society that satisfies God's purpose of creation and the inherent aspirations of human beings
- ii) A finding of the cause of separation between God and human beings, between conscience and behaviours, and between people.
- iii) How God has worked in history with human beings to restore the ideal.

In conclusion, John shared that human history is the history of the restoration of love. He encouraged the gathering to follow the advice of the poet Rumi who once said: "Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it."



Then, it was time for Santa. Looking very Australian in his summer shirt and shorts, Santa arrived riding on a lawn mower! After making his way to the stage, Santa explained the reasons why he had to shed his heavy winter gear and assume an Australian persona.

After sharing some special gifts with all the chil-

dren, they were more than happy to share a hug with him in return. Following some more carol singing, it was time to enjoy a beautiful banquet while relaxing in the sunshine and catching up with friends and family.

Thanks to everyone for making it a truly festive family day.



Mission and Vision

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 and are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society’s most elemental level - the family.

Vision: Women working together to realise one global family rooted in a culture of sustainable peace.

Mission: Empowering women as peace builders and leaders in the family to transform the community, nation and world. Through education, advocacy, partnership, reconciliation and humanitarian service, WFWPI aims to create an environment of peace and wellbeing for future generations and people of all races, cultures and religious creeds.



WFWP VIC Board Retreat and AGM

Emerald, January 27th

The Board members of the Victorian Chapter of WFWP met on the 27th of January to attend their annual Retreat and to conduct the AGM. Two guests representing other organisations were welcomed to the gathering – Khatija Halabi - Vice President of the United Muslim Sisters of Latrobe Valley and Jody Dontje – Appeal Founder and Program Director of The Help Nepal Appeal.



While the morning was dedicated to the presentation of reports from different representatives, the afternoon was an opportunity to spend some time on professional development. Giulia Iacono as Secretary and Island Project Coordinator presented a report on current Island projects and projects planned for 2018. Anne Bellavance, President of WFWP Australia, presented a report on the work she has been involved with in the creation of a National Constitution for the organisation. Plans are in progress to raise the classification of the WFWP to a national entity to achieve DGR (deductible gift recipient) status which in turn, will raise the profile of the organisation as a charitable organisation.



The professional development session presented by Anne on Mind-sets, Development and Outreach encouraged each member to reflect on the roles they play on the Board and the contributions they can offer to ensure the effectiveness of the team. During this session, a special guest presenter, Mrs. Vona Beiers was welcomed. Vona, a retired psychiatrist, conducted a session on Connection and Communication; a must for any Board.



After discussion to put in place the calendar of activities for 2018, the meeting concluded. We headed off for an evening outing to spend time together- to a movie and then to dinner at a local restaurant. Overall, the whole day was both inspirational and productive.



Merly Barlaan visits Melbourne

Belgrave, February 10-11th

The Victorian Chapter of WFWP was honoured to invite Mrs. Merly Barlaan to Melbourne from WFWP Philippines for the week-end of February 10-11. Many of our community members participated in a get together on Sunday morning and our Board had the opportunity to share with her over coffee at Earthly Pleasures in Belgrave (one of our supporters).

Merly gave an overview of her activities as the WFWP Philippines President. The programs are explained in brief below:

1. WFWP Peace Leadership Conference for Social Development– An advocacy aiming to forge partnership between the primary pillars of social development: Government, Educators, and Civil Society Sectors, and to promote Heart-based, Parental Leadership paradigms by integrating the universal peace principles through the “living for the sake of others” leadership model in local and national governance system.

2. Mothers’ Hearts Network: Mother’s Raising Filial Children and Patriots for the Nation – a grassroots-based project, designed as a national campaign to provide vision, educate, inspire, and empower women to practise their role as women leaders and nation-builders by raising patriotic children, creating a community of peace-makers, using a feminine and holistic, soft power leadership paradigm to end all forms of corruption and promote peace and social development.

3. Patriots of the Nation Leadership Training Program – a holistic leadership training program for the youth, geared towards empowering youth to blossom to their fullest potentials, and become honourable future leaders and incorruptible stewards of the nation introducing the core leadership values of Pure Love, Filial Piety, and Patriotism.

4. Peace Village Movement: – is a family-centred, community-driven development program based on universal peace principles and organizational principles of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universally Shared Values. This program intends to build model villages

substantiating the over-arching goals of the UN Sustainable Development Goals through partnership with the local government units.



Shipment to Samoa and Solomon Islands

Melbourne, February 23rd

It has been a busy February for some of our Board members who organised and packed boxes destined for shipment to Samoa and the Solomon Islands.

Twenty sewing machines were donated through people contacting us through our website. The sewing machines will be sent to WFWP Samoa to start up a new Women's Sewing Centre. Also packed were 2nd hand clothing for the WFWP Shop in the Solomon Islands, and early learn-

ing reading books for children at the New Hope Academy Kindergarten in the Solomon Islands. We are very happy to support our new grade one students as the Academy develops its primary school focus.

A big thank you to Hilary Manning, a very special WFWP member who has been bringing good quality summer clothing in preparation for the shipment. Giulia and Anne delivered the boxes to the shipping warehouse, go girls!



Global Women's Peace Network

Mission: A network of women leaders and organisations dedicated to solving pressing social issues and securing an environment for human development. It seeks to ensure mutual prosperity and lasting peace through feminine peace leadership rooted in a culture of care, responsibility and education in family values.

People in our 21st century are demanding a new style of leadership. Leaders in our 'flattening world' need a different set of skills; requiring aptitude in emotional intelligence, reconciliation, mediation and forgiveness.

In 2012 during the GWPN inaugural assembly, the founders of WFWPI, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her husband Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon called for a new era of women's leadership in peace building. The assembly highlighted the need for a body of NGO leaders, whose collective wisdom and judgment can complement the deliberations of the United Nations; which as a body of government representatives is overwhelmingly male. The GWPN is a project of WFWP international.



Find out more at wfwpaustralia.org/global-womens-peace-network

New South Wales

Christmas Party

Sydney

A gathering of the NSW Chapter of WFWP for a Christmas Pot Luck was a multi-cultural affair with 13 different nationalities being represented. Seventeen wonderful women attended contributing a range of different culinary delicacies for all of us to enjoy.

After lunch, Aila shared a film about the work being done by WFWP around the world including areas in Oceania. The film was inspiring and encouraged an animated discussion amongst the audience.

The audience were then introduced to Ms Bernice Torstensson by Aila. Ms Tortensson is the President of the South Pacific Island Foundation – an organisation with whom WFWP has networked when sending aid to Vanuatu after it was badly damaged by a cyclone some years ago. Since then, Aila and Bernice have developed a strong friendship.

Bernice, who continues to be involved in the reconstruction work in Vanuatu, presented a report on the Foundation's work in Port Vila. The Foundation has contributed towards the building of a school, a hospital and 90 cyclone proof dwellings for the community of Port Vila. In recognition of her efforts, Aila nominated Bernice as the recipient of the GWPN award for 2017.

Inspired by the work carried out by our Chapter, Patricia, one of the visitors to the event, was moved to join the Board. Patricia is warmly welcomed to our organisation.

The contribution of each member at this gathering is truly valued and it is hoped that the underlying mission of WFWP will continue to inspire these members to build families and communities who are healthy and happy.

Report by Debbie Bruce, Secretary/Treasurer



WFWP NSW Board Annual General Meeting

Sydney CBD, January 2nd

On Tuesday the 2nd of January, members of the NSW Chapter of WFWP gathered together for the AGM to hold elections for new members to the Board and to review the activities and events held during 2017. As a result of being inspired by the work done by the organisation, one of two visitors to the AGM was motivated not only to join the organisation but to join the Board.

In her report, Lina Tuzet provided details about a donation made by a French school in Sydney. The school has donated 1600 books which are being prepared for shipping to a library in the village of Lamalu in Vanuatu. Currently, the library has only 5 books and this number will be boosted by this very generous donation.

Besides this donation, ten boxes of books collected by members of the Victorian Chapter will also be shipped to Lamalu.

Planning for another seminar in 2018 was another item on the day's agenda. It is hoped that the next seminar will focus on leadership training and networking with people within the Aboriginal community. After the success of the 2017 seminar, Hamnida, a corporate trainer has expressed an interest in working again with our Chapter in 2018.

The contributions of all the women to our Chapter are valued and have helped us to move forward and achieve our goals.



Books for Vanuatu Project

Sydney, February

While participating in a youth volunteer program in Australia for a year, Lina Tuzet from Canada visited Vanuatu to work on a service project there. On her visits to several schools there, she realised that most of the libraries were empty and this inspired her to make a change by promising to send them books to fill their shelves.

On her return to Australia, Lina was determined to fulfil her promise and embarked on a search for books in Sydney. One of the schools she contacted was Lycee Condorcet - a French School who willingly offered 67 boxes filled with French school books, stationery and educational games. Their generosity was most inspirational! Donations of books and money were received from many other kind people in Sydney and a community in Montreal Canada. The money will be used to ship these boxes to Tanna Island in Vanuatu. Funds from WFWP Chapters will assist in sending these boxes to Vanuatu.

Giulia Iacono, a volunteer with WFWP in Melbourne who had accompanied Lina in Vanuatu, collected eight boxes of books in Melbourne which will also be sent to Vanuatu. The WFWP have been strong supporters of projects such as this one by providing finance and arranging shipping through known contacts.

Kalgin International Shipping Company in Sydney one of the WFWP contacts will ship these boxes to Vanuatu. This company has supported many of the WFWP projects over the years and we are grateful for their support.

Over a hundred boxes will be transported to Tanna which will involve a range of people in Vanuatu from customs officials in Port Vila to the boat operators and truck drivers. Without their help, this project would not be possible and we are truly grateful to all of them.

I believe that beautiful things happen when you have great people around you!

Author:
Lina Tuzet



Queensland

Christmas Party

Brisbane, December 13th

WFWP Queensland had a beautiful annual End of the year/Christmas Party on 13 December with over 35 participants.

In the program we presented 2 organisations, Access Community Service LTD and Logan Elders INC, Global Women's Peace Network Partnership Award plaques. They are our close partners and supporters of WFWP. And we also recognised three organisations which supported and collaborated with us in many ways with Certificates of Appreciation. Those three were Believing Women for a Culture of Peace, National Council of Women QLD and Logan's Helping Hands.

For my resignation from the president of WFWP Queensland and the vice president of WFWP Australia, I was very moved and humbled to

receive certificates of recognition and gratitude from the WFWP international president Yeon Ah Nim and the national president Anne Bellavance. We also introduced our future president of WFWP Queensland, Susi Evans. She shared her vision for WFWP.

The program ended with Christmas trivia & sing-along lead by Yejeon DeGeer, and of course we enjoyed celebration supper.

We were very happy to have a joyful program with WFWP members and contacts.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for your support for WFWP Queensland for past 5 years.

Written by Mamiko Rattley



Contact Us

WFWP Australia and Oceania Regional Office

42-46 Bartley Rd.
Belgrave Heights, VIC 3160
T: +61 3 5968 2664

E-mail: contact@wfwpaustralia.org

Australian website: www.wfwpaustralia.org

International website: www.wfwp.org

Oceania Facebook: www.facebook.com/wfwp.oceania

Oceania YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UC-9cW3xHmHDXkOoRTcIHDLOW

New South Wales Chapter

Oceania Peace Embassy
824 - 826 George St, Chippendale, NSW 2008

E-mail: wfwp.aila@gmail.com

Queensland Chapter

60 Furore St, Sunnybank Hills, QLD 4019

E-mail: wfwp.qld@yahoo.com

WFWP New Zealand

N.Z. Peace Embassy
24 St. Stephens Ave, Parnell, Auckland, 1052
Tel: + 649 263 6984

E-mail: wfwpnz@gmail.com

Website: www.wfwp.org.nz/

WFWP Solomon Islands

East Kolaridge
P.O.Box 1603, Honiara, SI
Tel: +677 779 8483

E-mail: selinagalo@gmail.com

WFWP Vanuatu

P.O. Box 1145, Port Vila, Vanuatu
Tel: +678 777 4517

E-mail: onispeter@gmail.com

Newsletter Team

Articles by: Anne Bellavance, Aila Willits, Debbie Bruce, Lina Tuzet, Giulia Iacono, Mamiko Rattley

Editor: Anne Bellavance

Co-editor and proofreading: Joan D'Abreo

Design & Layout: Giulia Iacono

Support our Island Projects in Oceania



New Hope Academy Kindergarten
Pacific Island Scholarship Fund
Micro-credit Fund
Women's Sewing Centres
Island Lights Project
Books for the Islands

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.

We thank all our members, sponsors and supporters for their contribution to WFWP Oceania.