



# WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE, AUSTRALIA

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2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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## From the National Office



As a leader of an NGO working to empower women, strengthen families and connect with communities, I look back over the year to gauge our development of local and regional projects and to determine which projects have been organised

well or still need some fine tuning or expansion.

Highlights that come to mind are:

The presentation of the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) partnership award between WFWP and like-minded organisations - a prestigious award offered once a year in each of our Australian Chapters. In Victoria, we celebrated our partnership with the United Muslim Sisters of Latrobe Valley (UMSLV) by presenting the award to its president Arfa Khan during the Connecting Communities Anniversary dinner in April. In Queensland, Access Community Services with Gail Ker as the CEO and Logan Elders represented by Aunty Peggy Tidyman were honoured during the Christmas Party. While in New South Wales, the South Pacific Island Foundation with Bernice Torstensson as the president was recognised during the AGM.

Attendance at the 61st Annual Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) held in New York in March 2017. WFWP Oceania organised a delegation of inspiring women to attend this event whose theme, "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work", offered a global view of women's issues today. Held over two weeks, the delegation attended forums and workshops at the UN headquarters and five other venues located in uptown Manhattan.

While attending these sessions, we had the opportunity to network with organisations run by women from different nations and cultures. We listened to the address of the UN Secretary General, gained insights from sessions panelled by UN Women, supported WFWPI parallel sessions organised through CSW NGO, joined professional development sessions run by the UN office of WFWP International, attended WFWPI meetings during the evenings and celebrated the

25th Anniversary of WFWP International at the Gala Dinner. While over the weekend, we participated in the intergenerational Horizon Summit in upstate New York. Another highlight was the initiation of two service projects within the Island Nations of Oceania: the Pacific Island Scholarship Fund and Endeavour Credit. Through the Scholarship Fund, Jenny ? has been sponsored to attend an Early Education Course at the Solomon Island University. On completion of this course, Jenny will take up a teaching position at New Hope Kindergarten (NHA), as the school expands into a primary school. Endeavour Credit has supported Island women to gain micro-credit financing for their prospective enterprises. Another rewarding achievement occurred through the Active Community Engagement Program. The Year Nine Level Coordinator of a prominent secondary college in the eastern suburbs contacted us to see how the college could become involved in this project. Over Semester 2, three student groups from the college collected stationery items, workbooks, readers and school bags which have been sent to the New Hope Kindergarten and Vanuatu. Besides collecting these items, the students also raised funds to help with the shipment costs of these items. Their efforts are truly appreciated. As an organisation, we depend entirely on the goodwill and efforts of our volunteers. We are stronger and better because of them. While our local Chapter Boards invest their time and energy in sharing the vision and mission of WFWP which is "living for the sake of others", our volunteers help us to fulfil this statement. As a representative of the Executive Board of WFWP Australia, I wish to thank all our volunteers for their contributions.

I take this opportunity to encourage anyone interested in joining our organisation. This is our time as women leaders. I invite you to join us in our efforts to promote peace through fostering dialogue, through involvement in projects that nurture reconciliation and conflict resolution, and that serve the community to overcome racial boundaries; all these actions centre on the inherent feminine characteristics of care, empathy, support, nurturing and cooperation. May you have a blessed and safe holiday season. I look forward to sharing with you in the New Year.

**Anne Bellavance**  
Vice-president, WFWP International (Oceania Region)  
President, WFWP Australia



# WFWP Australia

## Women's Federation for World Peace

### *Living by the Logic of Love*

**WFWP Australia asserts that the family is the cornerstone of peace in the world, and that 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 and the children of the world by developing and expressing the qualities of empathy, forgiveness, and unconditional love.**

WFWP Australia has ongoing programs in four areas:

**1/ The Global Women’s Peace Network**

**2/ Bridge of Peace events**

**3/ Forums and seminars**

**4/ Service projects within the Pacific Islands.**

As an organisation of women, we adhere to the principle that by working together, taking initiative, and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion; we can create healthy families and resolve the complex problems of our societies and world.

WFWP Oceania Region: Australia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Vanautu, Fiji and Samoa.

WFWP Australia has three chapters: New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. Victoria is the regional and national head office.

### **We stand for:**

1. We affirm women’s value in the eyes of a loving Creator, and promote a world of goodness and peace.
2. We uphold and defend the God-given rights and dignity of women here in Australia and worldwide.
3. We promote healthy and virtuous relationships within the family between husband and wife, parents and children and extended-family members. We educate and nurture young women to develop a character of internal and external excellence.
4. We embrace one global community transcending long-held barriers such as race, religion and nationality through service, education and celebration of unique differences.
5. We empower women to take the lead for the sake of World Peace in all sectors of society, utilizing their qualities of selflessness, compassion and a desire for mutual prosperity that are central to a mother’s heart.



# WFWP International

## Mission Statement

**WFWP International was established in 1992 by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. Dr. Moon and her husband, the Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon are a remarkable couple who have worked together for over 50 years to pioneer a way for peace on the global arena. In 1997, after 5 years of humanitarian service work, WFWP International received the prestigious General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ESOCOC) and has maintained this status to the present day.**

WFWP International's worldwide network of national and local chapters seeks to realise a peaceful and harmonious global family through four major activities worldwide:

- \* Service projects targeting the empowerment of women and children through supporting the UN 2030 Sustainable Development goals.
- \* The peacebuilding "Bridge of Peace" sisterhood project focuses on reconciliation, forgiveness and healing between people.
- \* Educational conferences, seminars, forums and workshops seeks to empower women, and raise society towards a stronger moral value system.
- \* The Global Womens' Peace Network (GWPN) is a network of women leaders and organisations dedicated to solving pressing social issues and securing an environment for human development. Through peace leadership based on a feminine paradigm, the GWPN seeks to ensure lasting peace and prosperity for generations to come.



WFWP's international service projects and activities support the realisation of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals of:

- No poverty
- Zero hunger
- Good health and well-being
- Quality education
- Gender Equality
- Reduced inequalities
- Climate action
- Partnership for the goals



WFWP is founded on the belief that a peaceful world begins in the heart of each person and in each family. Women from WFWP are committed to serving communities, strengthening the family, reconciling differences and healing wounds of the past.



As a Global Women's Peace Network, we are working together to establish a culture of heart in the family, community, nation and ultimately the world; in order to achieve genuine and sustainable peace under God.



# Global Women’s Peace Network

United Muslim Sisters of Latrobe Valley receives the GWPN award  
Melbourne, April 8, 2017

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This year, WFWP Oceania initiated the Global Women’s Peace Network partnership award. This prestigious award is given to one organisation each year, in each of our Chapters. The Global Women’s Peace Network (GWPN) is a project of WFWP International and was established with the goal of creating a peaceful world, aiming to strengthen and enhance cooperation among Women’s organisations beyond political, racial, cultural and religious backgrounds. The GWPN adheres 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.

This year’s recipients were the United Muslim Sisters of Latrobe Valley (UMSLV). Arfa Khan (President) and Khatija Halabi (Founder) are both WFWP members and received the award from Dr Mimmie Watts (WFWP Vic. Patron). The UMSLV were selected to receive this award because both of our organisations have similar goals and work to empower women and foster peacebuilding within their communities. The reading on the award sums up the purpose of the partnership: Women working together to realise one global family rooted in a culture of sustainable peace. Presented to (organisation) for your inclusive partnership with the Women’s Federation for World Peace, Australia, that place people and the planet at the centre. Through this partnership both organisations will support each other’s work and stand as advocates for our common goals.





# 2

## Bridge of Peace

### The 4 Steps for Peace Making in the Bridge of Peace

**Responsibility:** We break the chains of our resentments and anger by realizing these emotions poison and debilitate us. Our attitudes, thoughts and mind-set are more essential than our external circumstances. As we take responsibility for our mind-set and determine to begin anew, we can be liberated from the effects of past or present hurt even if our basic circumstance is unchanged.

**Respect:** By recognizing the rights of the other, no matter who they are, we are able to open our minds to the possibility of a solution. Without respect, the only answer is death of one kind or another and the perpetuation of the cycle of conflict.

**Repentance:** A Personal Cease-fire: As we take responsibility, we have the strength to see our own shortcomings and our capacity to disregard the needs and situations of others. To end conflict in our own lives, we need to hold a personal “cease-fire” precipitated by self-awareness, honest assessment of our own actions and a willingness to see from the viewpoint of the other.

**Commitment:** As we embrace our partner of peace, whether new sister, spouse, friend or family member, we seal our personal commitment to one another and the tasks of self-development and peace building.





# Bridge of Peace Celebration

Melbourne, 16 September 2017

The Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) and the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) hold an annual 1 day conference in Melbourne to support and foster peacebuilding within our diverse multicultural city. Titled Peace Building in a Global Village, the event attracted 68 participants, many of whom are Ambassadors for Peace and members of WFWP. The organising committee comprised members of the Victorian Peace Council: UPF, WFWP, And I declare Peace and the World Peace Prayer Society.

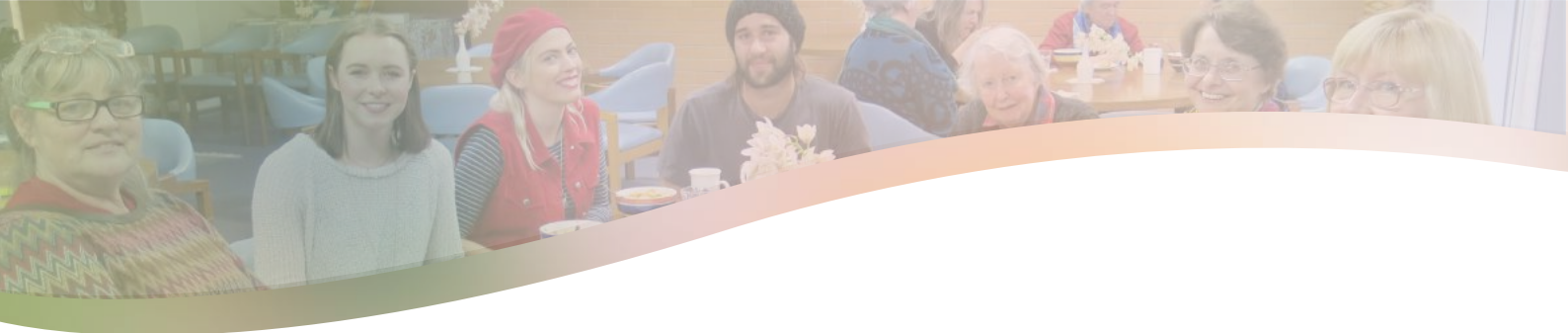
The Bridge of Peace seeks to build real and lasting friendships between people from different cultural, religious and national backgrounds. The motto of the ceremony, coined by the founder of WFWP

International Dr Hak Ja Han Moon is: "If the women of the world can be sisters, the men of the world won't go war."

The purpose of the Bridge of Peace is to enable healing and reconciliation between people who may have been enemy nations in the past. Hatred is generational, passed on by the attitudes and conversations that children learn from their parents. The Bridge of Peace seeks to break this cycle of mistrust and prejudice. By becoming sisters (and brothers) who share each other's stories and develop true friendship, then our world view changes. This brings about a change in how we think, communicate and act; resulting in healing and reconciliation from the grassroots level.







# 3

## Forums, Seminars & Conferences Afternoons with WFWP, Victoria

During the winter months in Melbourne, WFWP Vic. hosted a series of three workshops in partnership with the Kildara Centre in Malvern, an education and conference centre of the Brigidine Sisters. On the first Saturday of May, June and July, Sr. Catriona Devlin (director of the Kildara Centre), opened the doors of the beautiful and peaceful Centre for the Afternoon's with WFWP workshops. In the dining room participants networked and shared over a warm and healthy lunch. Workshops took place in the conference room, where Anne Bellavance introduced the activities of WFWP International and WFWP Australia, followed by each workshop presenter. The following is a report on each of the three workshops.

**Parenting Workshop:** presented by Kosina Hanson, May 7th

Songsil Adamedes-Schmid emceed the afternoon. In presenting the Afternoons with WFWP's Parenting Workshop, Kosina Hanson (social worker with the Salvation Army and Vice-president of WFWP Vic.) was able to draw on her experience and training while working with The Salvation Army, in their Children and Parenting Support Service division (CaPSS). A

variety of parenting programs and positive parenting concepts were discussed.

Dividing the workshop into three parts, Kosina began by covering the basic concepts that set the historical foundation for today's parenting literature. As well, she set the tone for a 'no-drama discipline' approach to parenting, following ideas set by prominent leaders in this field such as Tina Bryson, Dan Siegal and Louise Porter.

During the final two sections of the workshop, Kosina gave her insight into two evidence-based positive parenting programs; Mindful's Tuning into Kids, and the Australian Childhood Foundation's Bringing up Great Kids. Although several participants had children who were already all grown up, the feedback was very positive. Participants reported that the information could be further applied to any meaningful relationship in their lives, and was not only useful for parents and young developing children.

Kosina said, "personally, I certainly enjoyed the opportunity to share the knowledge and inspiration I have gained through working as a Parenting Support Practitioner."

Thanks to WFWP!





**Mindfulness Workshop: presented by Malika Ramdhayan, June 4th**

Biance Joyce from the WFWP Vic. Board emceed the afternoon. Malika Ramdhayan has worked as a social worker for the past 6 years. She focuses on improving the quality of life of youth in the homeless section. This work led her into gaining qualifications as a Life Coach and a Meditation Practitioner. At present she works for Launch Housing and focuses on homeless youth or those at risk of homelessness. In this capacity, she is able to coach youth using her Life Coaching and Mindfulness skills. Malika is passionate about improving the quality of life for young people and is very successful in guiding people to achieve their goals; therefore improving their quality of life and finding peace and happiness.

Melika began the introductory workshop by explaining the meaning and philosophy behind Mindfulness. She led us through exercises by guiding us to be present in the room, present to oneself, and to acknowledge our feelings and emotions. Afterwards we completed a series of questionnaires to help us explore what is important in our lives and what our needs and value are. The results were quite revealing and much discussion about what values are dear to us in our lives was brought up during the group discussion. Malika concluded the workshop with guided meditation.

Participants commented that they were quite surprised how the workshop revealed their inner most values and felt more aware of what is important in their lives. We were definitely relaxed after the meditation and inspired to be more present in our daily lives. We were very grateful that Malika could spend her afternoon with us.

**Yoga Workshop: presented by Didi Shamita & Didi Nirupama from Ananda Marga, August 6th**

Prior to lunch, Didi Shamita and Didi Nirupama guided participants through stretching techniques specific to

women's health. The conference room was laid out with yoga mats and inviting cushions. We learnt the correct breathing process during exercise and how to give a self-massage, with a targeted focus on joints and the endocrine glands of the body.

The women's welfare department (WWD) of Ananda Marga celebrated their 50th year of international service last year. <http://anandamarga.org.au/women/>

The Women's Welfare Department of Ananda Marga was established in 1965 especially to serve and create avenues for women to develop their full potentialities. Yoga nuns provide instruction, counselling and personal guidance to women as they advance along the path of yoga. The meditation & yoga centres, schools, children's homes, medical clinics, youth hostels: and short and long term disaster relief, with branches in almost every part of the world, are fully run by women. "Let women be the vanguard of a new revolution which humanity must achieve for a glorious tomorrow." - Shrii P.R.Sarkar

WFWP Australia and WWD Australia became partners after their participation in the UN International Day of Peace conference of 2015 in Dandenong. Each Ananda Marga nun begins their names with Didi, meaning sister.

We were very fortunate to have Didi Shamita present the philosophy of Ananda Marga yoga and give insight into the structure of the mind, according to yoga. Didi Shamita is the vice-president of WWD Australia and in this capacity conducts yoga and meditation retreats throughout Australia, and supervises the social projects of WWD in Australia and Oceania. The WWD Oceania social projects are located in Australia, New Zealand, PNG and Guam. Service projects include pre-schools, children's homes, women's health clinics and farm projects. In Victoria the Didi's run 2 pre-schools and long day centres; in Fitzroy North and a recently opened centre in Coburg.



# Forums across Victoria

## ■ Dignity Forum

As a project of WFPW Victoria, committee members of the Dignity Project met throughout the year to organise a public forum in the City of Dandenong. The Dignity Project was initiated at the 2015 UN International Day of Peace Conference, with the forum being an answer to the call for action from participants on the day. The outer eastern growth corridor of Melbourne is an area showing high levels of documented violence against women and children, plus drug and alcohol abuse. These council areas include Cardinia, Casey and Greater Dandenong. According to the 2016 'Profile of Health and Wellbeing in Greater Dandenong' the number of family-related violent offences documented by Victoria Police in 2014/15 was 87% higher than the metropolitan average and the second highest rate in Melbourne. In 2010/11, the rate of child abuse in Greater Dandenong was more than the Victorian rate and the second highest level in metropolitan Melbourne.

The Dandenong forum raised awareness about family violence, but took the approach that restoring the dignity of individuals in the relationship cannot be undertaken in isolation. Both women and men

need support, education and healing. Hurt people, hurt people.

The forum date was chosen to support the Nov. 25th UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and supported Orange Day, a campaign initiated by UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, who said, "Break the silence. When you witness violence against women and girls, do not sit back. Act."

The UN day advocates that:

1. Violence against women is a human rights violation
2. Violence against women is a consequence of discrimination against women, in law and also in practice, and of persisting inequalities between men and women
3. Violence against women impacts on, and impedes, progress in many areas, including poverty eradication, combating HIV/AIDS, and peace and security
4. Violence against women and girls is not inevitable. Prevention is possible and essential
5. Violence against women continues to be a global pandemic.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/>





The goals of the forum in the short term were to raise awareness, and educate about the dignity of men and women through the sharing of real life experiences. In the intermediate term to educate, heal and strengthen couple/family relationships, foster respect, and empower men and women. Finally, looking at the long term, change behaviours for a ripple effect within society.

After an introduction about the significance of the forum, Anne Bellavance presented the projects and goals of the Women’s Federation for World Peace. Honourable Julian Hill MP and Federal Member for Bruce welcomed participants to the forum. Julian shared about his experiences being raised by his mother, a single parent, and how her strength guided him. He emphasised that more women should be represented in the leadership of political parties, and this should likewise be the case in all aspects of society.

As the keynote speaker, Dianne Simboro spoke on, “Working collaboratively to create a new normal.” Dianne is founder of Family Violence Mindset Solutions and for the past seven years has used her own lived experience to support and benefit other survivors of family violence in the Western Women’s Break the Cycle Program, providing Court support and advocacy, and one to one counselling for complex cases. She became co-facilitator of the Women’s Multicultural Support Group, and over time created seven training programs specific to the women’s needs.

Four forum panelists, who are experts in their own fields, offered presentations to raise awareness about the different aspects of Dignity and answered questions from the audience. Khatija Halabi, founder and current Vice President of the United Muslim Sisters of Latrobe Valley, shared about the Dignity of Muslim Woman. Veronica Hassett, director of Wellsprings for Women in Dandenong, shared about the Dignity of Asylum Seekers. Bianca Joyce, social worker in the homeless sector, shared about the Dignity of the Homeless and challenged the audience to develop a new mindset towards people they see living rough on the streets of Melbourne. Dr. Les Spencer shared about the Dignity of Women after experiencing violence. Dr. Spencer works in the Bio-Psycho-Social field of community psychiatry, clinical psychology, clinical sociology, neuro-psychology, and behavioural science. He shared the stories of his experiences with tribal women who have experienced violence in South East Asia and the Oceania Islands, and re-enacted to us how the women regained their dignity and healed each other.

The day concluded with a workshop session on relationship tools based on the ‘Mastering the Mysteries of Love’ Relationship Enhancement® Program. This interactive workshop was presented by John Bellavance and followed by a lively discussion about empathic listening and its benefits to develop better communication within any relationship.





# Seminars across Victoria

## ▪ Peace Building Seminars

The 2017 Peace Seminar series theme was: “Building a Culture of Values and Peace in Australia”. The series of seminars seeks to open a conversation about universally shared values that can be used to build peace. This seminar was the first for the year, in a series of four, held to explore the moral, spiritual and methodological principles that underpin the work of WFWP and UPF. In addition, it was our great honour to have six new Ambassadors for Peace sworn in, working in areas of social development, community work and the Christian ministry.

Dr Yves Moreau, Assistant Director of UPF Victoria, spoke about the importance of realising peace on the individual and family levels. This is the foundation for peace in society and in the world. He emphasised the need for a revolution of character and a culture of love.

John Bellavance, Vice-President UPF Australia and director of UPF Victoria, spoke about peacebuilding as the battle between selfish love and unselfish love. Self-love is the source of the misuse of people, the misuse of love and the misuse of material wealth at the detriment of others. Peacebuilders must master self-centred love, pride, jealousy and anger in themselves.

Anne Bellavance, President WFWP Australia and IVP for the Oceania Region, urged leaders to go the path of living for the sake of others. A life of living for the sake of others opens the gates of peace. She noted the importance of learning from historical successes, when loving the enemy brought reconciliation and peace.

Anne had the opportunity to explain about the Island Projects of WFWP, particularly the Pacific Island Scholarship Fund, a partnership between WFWP, UPF, FFWPU and the YFWP. She explained that the Scholarship Program supports the UN Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all, and promote lifelong learning.

In many Pacific Island nations, basic education is not free. In the Solomon Islands, 4/10 children drop out of primary school; and in Vanuatu, only 7/10 students enrol in high school. In Vanuatu \$500 Australian will send a child to school for one year. Anne shared with the audience, “By each one of us here today contributing \$20, we collectively, today, can achieve this for one child, and all your money will go to where it is intended to go, because we are all volunteers.” A money cup was passed around; \$240 was raised, enough for half a year’s education for one child!





# Seminars across Victoria

## ▪ Faith Stories

March 21 is Harmony Day, a celebration of our cultural diversity – a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. The Day coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which is about working towards inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

The Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP) hold an annual Faith Stories Symposium in Melbourne to support and foster peacebuilding between faiths within our diverse multicultural city. This year, the symposium focused on the Abrahamic faiths. Presenters shared Faith Stories from the feminine perspective covering: Aboriginal people’s stories, Muslim stories, Jewish stories and Christian stories.

We were blessed to have Aunty Janet Turpie-Johnstone, a Mullum Mullum Elder and WFWP member, present her Welcome to Country for us. Janet also presented the Aboriginal people’s story, outlining the history of Aboriginal communities in early Melbourne. Janet is a lecturer in Aboriginal Art and Culture at the Faculty of Education at ACU, and is currently also a HDR student at ANU, where she is completing her PhD titled *Bunjil Patterns: The Mess of the Past and Future in the Present*.

Janet presented her research based on human relationship with land and waters and briefly analysed the colonial impact on the colony of Port Phillip Bay (now Melbourne). During her presentation, Janet

emphasised how we can learn from our ancient Aboriginal ways of life, which are highly philosophical and religious and are based on a relationship to land and all that is on the land. Janet strongly feels that people need to become more sensitive and humble in the way they relate to the land and all the natural resources.

Khatija Halabi is the founder and Vice-president of UMSLV and a WFWP member. Khatija was both humble and proud that interfaith dialogue was not a new concept in her family. Her great grandfather and Mahatma Gandhi had an interfaith conversation in Durban, a city they both lived in, in South Africa.

Khatija spoke about how growing up in South Africa during the transitional period between apartheid and a new democracy shaped her identity. She grew up in a community that allowed her to develop a strong Muslim identity. The community leaders supported families through the difficult times of lack of opportunity due to their beliefs and philosophies based on Islamic teachings. Those community members who felt strongly about social injustice helped the country get over the ills of apartheid by joining the struggle for liberation. With Khatija’s exposure to people of different races and different religions, her identity grew stronger as she developed the ability to treat everyone that she came into contact with as members of the human race (not an ethnic one)! She is grateful that her children, and the born free generation of South Africa, are now a part of a global community.





Sarah Price then shared her faith journey with us. A Jet Ski accident motivated Sarah to contemplate some big questions about life. She realised that she wanted to travel and live life to the full. Raised in a country town meant the opportunity to interact with people of multicultural backgrounds was limited and her own views on Muslims and Islam were tainted by what was portrayed in the media. During Sarah's stay in Malaysia as a journalism student, she began to observe the lifestyle of Muslim women. She gained valuable insight into their lives during her interviews of top profile women. After a lot of research and reflection, she was drawn to Islam and on returning to Australia, she converted to Islam. Sarah is admired and loved by the community of Gippsland for her courage, determination and sincerity.

Frances Prince is a member of the JCCV (Jewish Community Council of Victoria) Executive, holding the Multicultural and Interfaith Portfolio. She is a Board member of the JCMA (Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia) and of the FCCV (Faith Communities Council of Victoria.) Due to our Faith Stories being held on a Saturday, Frances provided her presentation via video. She explained what it meant to be a Jewish person in relation to religion and ethnicity. According to Jewish traditions, if you are born of a Jewish mother you are Jewish. Thus religious and ethnic identities overlap, because a person can become a Jew through conversion or can be considered a Jew even if they do not adhere to Jewish beliefs, but are cultural adherents. Frances openly shared her experiences as a woman in her faith and described the traditional role of women as standing in parallel position to men. Most of Jewish life and Jewish traditions take place in the home which is under the domain of women. However, the public

eye sees the men in the synagogue. The laws were set up to protect women in the home life, so that women did not need to attend the synagogue, because traditionally women did stay at home rather than working outside the home. Today, women work and so the traditional roles have changed. Modern Jewish women in the orthodox world now push boundaries. Today in progressive communities, women have more choices to engage and participate in the synagogue.

We were very fortunate to have Sivan Barak answer questions from the audience and briefly share her story of being raised in a Kibbutz in Israel. Sivan is a cultural Jewish woman and was not raised in Jewish religious traditions.

Rev. Ruth Harrison was ordained an Anglican deacon in 1990 and a priest in 1992. She was among the first women in Melbourne to be ordained to the priesthood. Ruth shared the story of how she was drawn to contemplative prayer at an early age, and then was called by God to the ordained ministry in the Anglican Church, before the Church was prepared to ordain women. Ruth emphasised that this journey towards ordination should be viewed as a struggle for the right to obey the call of God, rather than fighting for women's rights, per se.

In her conclusion Ruth reflected that what emerged most clearly from her experience of sharing her story was that she was able to observe how those of other faiths - and in particular, the Muslim faith, could understand the reality of her faith story, just as she could connect with the reality of others who shared their faith story. She was able to experience a meeting of the spirit in each other, something she will always treasure.





# Conferences Across Victoria

## ■ UN International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace (“Peace Day”) is observed around the world each year on 21st September. The day was established in 1981 by a unanimous resolution by the United Nations, after which the General Assembly declared this as a day devoted to “commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.” The 2016 theme was: ‘Building Blocks for Peace.’

The Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP) and the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) hold an annual 1 day conference in Melbourne to support and foster peacebuilding within our diverse multicultural city. This year the conference was held at the Ibis Hotel in Glen Waverley (City of Monash). Titled Peace Building in a Global Village, the event attracted 68 participants, many of whom are Ambassadors for Peace and members of WFWP. The organising committee comprised members of the Victorian Peace Council: UPF, WFWP, And I declare Peace and the World Peace Prayer Society.

After registration, participants had the opportunity to join in the flag ceremony. They were each offered hand-painted world flags to place in holders on their way in to the conference room. At the opening of the day, Jenny Funston from the World Peace Prayer Society explained the significance of the world flags displayed around the venue and led everyone through the World Peace Prayer - ‘May peace prevail on earth’.



On the public officials’ panel, the Mayor of the City of Monash Cr. Rebecca Paterson joined with John Bellavance to share their experiences of peace building within local communities.

During the break periods, participants had an opportunity to wander through an exhibition titled, “Peace-Loving Global Citizen” displaying a number of banners supplying information about the life and works of Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

The keynote address titled Measuring Peace and its Economic Benefits was presented by Jose Luengo-Cabrera who flew in all the way from Sydney for the address. Jose is a research fellow from the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). He spoke about the research undertaken to quantify peace, its drivers and its economic benefits. The 2017 IEP report indicates that in 2016, Syria was ranked the least peaceful nation and Iceland the most peaceful. While Ethiopia and Burundi registered the largest deteriorations in peace, the Central African Republic and Sri Lanka showed the largest improvement. Since 2008, research indicates that the world has become less peaceful. One reason for this is the increase of non-state actors in conflict. Alarming, the global economic impact of violence in 2016 was \$14 trillion.

Three workshops were also held during the day.

Workshop 1: Rick McInerheney, Former National







Director of UPF and FFWPU provided a brief overview of the remarkable founder of UPF and WFWP - the Reverend Sun Myung Moon. After screening the video, "A Peace-Loving Global Citizen", Rick touched on Reverend Moon's life, his teachings and vision for the world. He mentioned that when Reverend Moon died just 5 years ago, he was leading together with Mrs Moon, the fastest growing religious movement in the world during the lifetime of a founder. Reverend Moon's international and interfaith peace activities are also considered in history the maximum number of peace activities conducted by one person. Rick also emphasised Reverend Moon's belief in the divine significance of marriage that underpins the most famous events of the Unification movement - the World Peace blessing and wedding ceremonies under the banner of "One World Under God" and which have drawn together thousands of participants from all over the world.

Workshop 2: Anne Bellavance began the 'Conversation about Parity' workshop by first defining equity, equality and parity and shared her insights from the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) held in New York this year. At the current rate, research indicates it will take 170 years for women to gain parity with men in the workplace. Anne explained that the WFWP has advocated the partnership between men and women as the model for peacebuilding since its founding 25 years ago. It is only in the last few years

that governments and organisations are recognising the value of engaging with women in security and peace negotiations.

Anne concluded her presentation by stressing the need for a cultural change, where women and men advocate for each other as partners so that parity between men and women is achieved; the end result being stable and ongoing peace. Afterwards, the audience were invited to share their concerns, ideas and experiences and many participants joined in with their views. For more information visit the Why Women Report at [www.inclusivesecurity.org](http://www.inclusivesecurity.org)

Workshop 3: John Bellavance, Vice-president of UPF Australia presented a workshop on Unification Thought and Mindfulness. John described the key principles for peacebuilding based on Dr Moon's teaching. These are: 1- Break down barriers and build bridges that separate people, such as race, religion and culture. 2- Faiths must work together to promote peace, we are one family under God. 3- A partnership between men and women is needed to build peace. 4- In our global village and the multicultural society which is Australia, for peace to be achieved, we need shared universal values. 5- Left and right in politics must work together for the sake of the common good. Neither side, on its own, can solve our shared problems. 6- Living for the sake of others. 7- Peacebuilding requires unity between mind and body. 8- The family is the cornerstone of peace.





## ■ Connecting Communities Dinner Party

Kosina Hanson, our lovely MC, began the evening with a welcome to country and Anne Bellavance gave an introduction about the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) at the UN in New York where eight delegates from Oceania attended. Anne also highlighted the work of WFP International, with this year's community dinner commemorating 25 years of our international activities, plus our activities in Victoria. Giulia Iacono, our new secretary and co-ordinator of the Island Projects, gave an overview of ongoing Oceania Projects and two new initiatives: The Scholarship program and the micro-credit program.



Highlights of the evening were honouring our Board and volunteers who helped develop the activities of WFP Victoria and Australia throughout the year. Our new caterers 'Bay Leaf Kitchen' provided an Australian and Indian 3-course meal. Vanitha Prabaear and her husband are new Australians who originate from India. As a start-up company, Vanitha has become our official caterer for our events, offering exceptional service with healthy and tasty meals that cater for all dietary requirements. We are very grateful for her heart of service.



In the Key of B Community Choir began in 2012 as the Brunswick Neighbourhood House Community Choir, where they meet on Monday nights. Ruth Kennedy, the choir's director and conductor, is a member of WFP Victoria and has performed at a number of our events over the years. We are very grateful that Ruth could bring the choir along to perform for us and be our primary entertainment during the evening.

Thank you to the City of Monash for supplying the Community Centre; all the supporting organisations who contributed towards the raffle prizes; our youth volunteers, Giulia and Ashley, for serving us during the evening with a happy spirit; Kosina who Emceed; our WFP Board who pulled it all together; our volunteers on the night; our members who shared together during the evening; and to the In the Key of B Community Choir for sharing their fun and beautiful voices with us. It was a great night.





## Across New South Wales

### ■ Annual General Meeting

The AGM for the NSW Chapter was held on November 28th. Anne Bellavance, International Vice President for Oceania, took time from her busy schedule to attend and share with us the developments that have taken place in Victoria. We were inspired to hear about the volunteer program that is producing good results, and also Anne shared with us the Governance Policy Manual which clarifies our roles as board members.

We received the NSW President, Secretary and Treasurer's reports for the year and the outcome of our election is that all officers will hold their positions once again for 2017 with the exception of Debra Bruce who has resigned as secretary/treasurer. Silvana Daly is the new treasurer and that is wonderful as she has a well-spring of knowledge to share and so much enthusiasm. We are confident that the new board will make a wonderful contribution in 2017.

Our first project for 2017 will be a seminar on Peace Negotiation, which will be in February. We are hoping that 25 guests will come. We will be advertising on Meet Up to reach out to the wider community and of course by word of mouth.

Silvana Daly will be researching prices for reading glasses that will be sent to Vanuatu. These glasses are very useful for the village women's sewing groups.

We will continue to network with other women's groups in the coming year to promote world peace and encourage youth to take more responsibility as well. 2017 will be a great year.





## Workshops across New South Wales

### ■ Empowering Women For Leadership

The Empowering Women for Leadership Workshop was very well received by participants, who enjoyed discovering new ideas about Emotional Intelligence, Leadership and Working with Teams from the two facilitators, Siti Hamidah Bahashwan and Esther Lay. Two participants were so inspired they requested for a facilitator to conduct future training in their community.

AHA moments in the participants' own words:

1. In the game of "Blue and Red Ribbons" led by Esther I learned that relaxing helped. Although I had no idea how to solve the problem, I just learned to trust the others.
2. There are so many ways to solve a problem when I am open to others' help.
3. I can make mistakes over and over again, and I can learn from my mistakes. Eventually, I know now not to lose patience with myself.
4. The world can be interpreted in two or more ways. Motivation is most important.
5. Focus, listen to others and recognize we have to learn new things.

6. I have learned to relax when under pressure.
7. I have learnt to let someone else lead and take control.
8. To think like a child.
9. To solve conflicts always be in a relaxed state, change my mind by breathing in and letting it out (strongly) six times. To hug people, heart to heart. To find true self – look to your heart in a mirror – not outside the mirror.
10. Stay focused and forgive. Concentrate. Forgive. No prejudice.
11. To stay positive, remove negativity
12. You-tube has many good lessons (I will use it for teachable moments.)
13. It helped me to reflect in more detail on my inner life, in terms of my deepest core identity. I hadn't been able to reach in that deeply, by myself, before, despite serious effort to do so.
14. The lessons by both Hamidah and Esther, through the activities, were very helpful, as it's easier to remember and practise the lessons we felt with our bodies. I would like to have, if possible, more such activities in future workshops.





#### Program Content & Methodology

- Emotional Intelligence (EI) principles and strategies
- Leadership Styles and Skills
- Conflict Resolution principles and skills

Participants were kept engaged through various activities which included short presentation on Emotional Intelligence and Great Leadership and videos and music. Lessons were learned experientially through body-mind-soul connections via many fun activities and games, which helped participants, incorporate the lessons and become inspired to do more to learn, relearn and unlearn after the workshop.

#### Facilitators' comments:

- Participants were aware and committed to practise and further develop Emotional Intelligence Skills

in their daily personal and professional lives. They expressed their understanding and willing to do their part to lead with the heart (Emotional Intelligence).

- Participants also appreciated the skills and strategies on great leadership and the steps to improve on how they communicate to their children, family and friends.
- Participants were willing to share real life experiences, taking the brave steps to self-disclosure for personal and professional development. A few participants demonstrated courage in letting go of past hurt and were willing to start afresh, taking each day at a time, giving their best to make it meaningful and to be more positive and brave to make mistakes in order to learn. (Mistakes are learning experiences)





## Across Queensland

### ■ Religious Youth Service Forum

On July 27th, WFWP Queensland in partnership with UPF sponsored a Religious Youth Service (RYS) Forum, on the topic “Peace and the Environment.” The forum was attended by youth, Ambassadors for Peace (AFP) and members of WFWP and UPF. The faith communities represented at the forum were Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh.

Steve Evans of UPF Queensland emceed the proceedings. The program began with an Acknowledgement of Country by Aunty Peggy Tidyman, president of Logan Elders and an Ambassador for Peace.

Mamiko Rattley, chair of WFWP and UPF Queensland, welcomed all participants, especially the young people in attendance. She said that WFWP and UPF are very happy to sponsor this forum, because it provides an opportunity for young people of different faiths and cultures to discuss ways of working together on

crucial issues such as peace and the environment. Representing AFPs in Queensland, Mr Surendra Prasad OAM, greeted everyone.

The three speakers of the forum were:

- Dr Yejeon Degeer, Vice president of WFWP Queensland. Yejeon gave a PowerPoint presentation to introduce RYS Queensland.
- Ms Anne Clarke OAM, Executive Officer of the Oxley Creek Catchment Association. Anne explained her lifelong work to keep Oxley water clean. She asked everyone to be mindful of how our wasteful lifestyle causes damage in the environment around us.
- Miss Sam Nolan, from Quaker Earthcare. Sam described their work for the environment and her belief that people in faith communities need to lead the way in conservation.

A question and answer session followed.





After the presentations, WFWP's Project Advisor, Ms Sharon Orapeleng, skilfully led a discussion with the young participants. Topics focused on how young people can promote peace and develop projects that RYS can adopt; in so doing encourage young people to engage in dialogue and collaborate for peace beyond their own faith community.

Many were eager to join the discussion. The General Manager of Multicultural Youth Queensland, Etienne Roux, shared how he and his youth leader, Paul Joseph, organise projects with thousands of young people to promote harmony and Peace in his local council area. Both Etienne and Paul are happy to help the RYS initiative.

Yejeong DeGeer suggested creating a Facebook page to keep in touch with the youth who are open to get involved with RYS Queensland.

The program finished with networking over supper. It was an inspiring gathering with enthusiastic young participants.





## ■ Christmas Party and End of Year Celebration

WFWP Queensland had a beautiful end-of-year and Christmas celebration with WFWP members and many new guests, on 7 December 2017. The cosy room at Harmony on Carmody was decorated in a Christmas theme.

The program commenced with Aborigine Elder Aunty Heather Castledine 's Acknowledgement of Country. Then MC Mamiko Rattley welcomed everyone, especially new guests from War Widows Guild QLD and other organisations. She thanked Gail Ker of Access CS and Harmony on Carmody Cafe for their support in providing the venue for us.

The first guest speaker was Anne Bellavance, National President of WFWP Australia who came from Melbourne to attend this event. She gave an inspiring presentation on the mission and objectives of WFWP and its worldwide and local activities.

The second guest speaker was Gail Ker OAM. She gave a moving talk with video and the background music Imagine. She shared some of the heartbreaking stories she has heard directly from refugee women at UNHCR conferences and encouraged us to think about these displaced, abused women who are struggling to survive in hopeless situations, and to search for an effective way to support them.

We enjoyed a delicious dinner, sang Christmas carols and played a fun trivia game.

At the end we drew raffle tickets to raise funds for the preschool of WFWP Solomon Islands. In addition, many participants brought children's books for the school.

It was a joyful and inspiring Christmas and end-of-year celebration.







## ■ WFWP 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Queensland held the 25th anniversary celebration with WFWP members, distinguished guests and friends at a beautiful venue – the Centre for Interfaith & Cultural Dialogue in Griffith University Nathan Campus. Since it was such a historical event for WFWP, we tried to make it a special occasion with entertainment and distinguished guests.

The MC was Sharon Orapeleng, the Project Advisor of WFWP Qld. Special guest was Queensland Federal Senator Clair Moore who praised and encouraged WFWP’s work of empowering women. Another distinguished guest was honorary WFWP member, Gail Ker OAM, CEO of Access International Group. She spoke about her background which led her to

work in the refugee settlement field and shared her reflections on attending the UN CSW 61\* and WFWP Parallel events in New York representing WFWP QLD. She feels we need to work harder to improve the situation of women in the world even though it has been 45 years since the UN has started to host CSW.

Mamiko Rattley, President of WFWP Qld, shared the 25-year history of WFWP and emphasised WFWP’s core mission: empowering women by education and support. She also explained WFWP’s project to raise funds to support WFWP Solomon Islands’ Dressmaking business for their kindergarten.

It was an inspiring 25th anniversary celebration.





## Workshops across Queensland

### ■ Professional Development with Access Community Services

On July 12 and 13, six Board members from the WFWP Chapters of Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane met in Brisbane with team members of Access Community Services for two days of professional development for our Boards. Topics covered were grant writing, marketing and the project acquittal process.

Access is located in the City of Logan, Queensland, an area south of the Brisbane metropolitan area, which is quite multicultural. Gail Ker (CEO of Access) was one of our WFWP Oceania delegates at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) in New York in March, and she graciously offered support for the development of our Boards. Access Community Services was started just over thirty years ago by Noeline Clamp, Gail's mother. Both women have been nominated Ambassadors for Peace by the Universal Peace Federation. The organisation has been a national leader in the provision of settlement, employment, training, youth support, and housing and social enterprise services to migrants, refugees and mainstream clients. Focusing on settlement and

employment initiatives in particular, Access recognised the need to nurture employment opportunities and pathways for clients, who would otherwise be excluded from them.

Some marketing tips we came away with were:

1. With today's digital users 50% are internet users, 37% are active social media users (an increase of 21% since 2016), and 34% are active mobile social users (an increase of 30% since 2016). This means that unless an organisation spends time to develop their digital social profile, their message is not getting out. Most importantly, websites need to be responsive in order to adapt to mobile phones screens. With almost 4 billion internet users, 2.5 billion of them only use a mobile phone to surf the web. This means that by not optimising its own website to mobile screens, the organisation loses more than 60% of the audience it wants to target.





## 2. Facebook:

a. Only 1–2% of the people who have liked a Facebook page actually see the posts that are uploaded. The reason for this is that there are companies ready to pay lots of money to put their advertisements posts on Facebook. So these posts are prioritised to be shown first to the audience.

b. As a consequence, organisations need to be ready to boost their posts and pay for them to get their event noticed, otherwise their posts are always going to be lined up behind the paid ones.

c. Video is more visible than photos on Facebook. Today's audience prefers videos as they are more engaging than pictures.

3. Importance of branding: Choose a set of colours for the organisation and use these in all publications and marketing materials.

Some grant writing tips gained were:

1. Use persuasive language to grab the reader's attention. Grant applications are very competitive as funding released is limited.

2. Ask questions to get the reader thinking and then answer these questions throughout the application to show how the project will address the need raised through the question.

The acquittal meeting was extremely informative, not only for evaluating data after a project, but also using the Logic Model as an outcome based framework to plan, monitor and evaluate the project. We had many questions; this is an exciting planning tool and needs further exploration in our teams.

It was overall a great eye-opening experience. It was a blessing to be able to meet and interact with professionals in the different fields of grant writing and marketing. These are fields that need to be developed and improved by our board members, until the time comes where WFWP will be able to sustain a professional service. We came back with lots of feedback and ideas on how to improve WFWP on different levels. Most precious is the relationship we have established with the Access team members, who have offered us their professional advice and support pro bono to help WFWP grow and develop. We are very eager to get to work now.

We are very fortunate that two of the Access team members will be presenting during our proposed WFWP Oceania retreat next year. A big thank you to everyone from Access participating in this unique partnership.





## Conferences across Queensland

### ■ UN International Day against Drug Abuse

Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) jointly with Universal Peace Federation (UPF) held a meeting to observe the UN International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking on 12 July 2017.

Aunty Peggy Tidyman, President of Logan Elders and an honorary WFWP member, gave the Acknowledgement of Country and reminded us about the significance of NAIDOC week. Mr Surendra Prasad OAM, UPF's Advisory Committee Chair, welcomed everyone and former State MP Freya Ostapovitch greeted everyone as an honorary WFWP member.

MC Mamiko Rattley, president of WFWP Queensland, highlighted the UN's slogan for the day 'Listen First' in which the UN emphasises the importance of parents and caregivers talking to their children and young people so that they may avoid the temptation to start using drugs. She further explained that UPF in a ceremony two months ago appointed four respected senior Police Liaison Officers (PLO) as new Ambassadors for Peace (AFPs). They were nominated by the Queensland Police Commissioner's office. Purdy Huang, one of those four senior PLOs, was present and was welcomed by everyone

UPF's Educational Officer John Adamedes introduced UPF via a DVD and explained its vision and mission. He also gave one of UPF's peace principles' presentations on 'Cause & Resolution of Conflict' which addresses the deeper reason people need to escape from reality by taking drugs or other types of harmful substances, and how they can overcome it.

Our special guest speaker for the day was Sergeant Teresa Thoi of Queensland Police. She spoke about drugs in Queensland and showed us samples of actual drugs. She emphasised the trend of cheaper ICE becoming a big problem in the state. It was a very informative presentation.

A little over 20 participants were AFPs, WFWP members and several new guests. They were inspired with these presentations and many of them filled out the questionnaire to express their desire to attend future seminars to further understand UPF's peace principles.

We concluded the evening with sharing and networking over supper.





## Across the World - International

### ■ WFWP Oceania Delegates travel to CSW61

This year WFWP Oceania sent 8 delegates to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), held each year during March at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The delegates came from Brisbane, Melbourne and the Solomon Islands. WFWP International (WFWPI) as an international NGO holds parallel events during the CSW with other NGOs who operate either at the national or international level.

WFWPI held two parallel events, and WFWP members from different regions participated as panel members in three other parallel events, including myself. I had the opportunity to speak about the effect of climate change on the families in Kiribati. I informed the audience about the concept of 'Climate Refugees', coined by the past president, Mr Anote Tong. Mr. Tong won the 2015 Sun Hak Peace Prize for his work to transition his people off the islands as skilled migrants, rather than climate refugees. According to climate modelling, Kiribati will be un-inhabitable in 30–60 years and has a population of 100 000 people. I was surprised to realise how most people did not know about the fate of Kiribati.

During evenings of the 1st week of CSW61, WFWPI delegates had the opportunity to attend professional development sessions at the New Yorker Hotel. These were organised by the WFWPI New York office, led by Alexa Ward (Deputy Director, WFWP UN Office). Topics included developing a Financial Foundation for WFWPI Chapters, Strategic Planning and Peace Studies as an Academic Discipline. Afterwards, WFWPI National Chapter Presidents, International Vice-presidents from each region (IVPs) and Regional Secretary Generals (SGs) met with our International President, Professor Yeon Ah Moon. It was an opportunity to gather together as representatives of the International organisation to hear developments from each region, and share strategies and best practice for the organisation. On one occasion, each region shared dinner together at the New Yorker to brainstorm the three key goals given to us by Prof. Moon: partnership development with UPF to support

the initiative, 'Parliamentarians for Peace' (a project of UPF); developing financial independence as a region; and, strategies for our service projects. We were blessed to have five members of our WFWP Vic. Board around our table. Afterwards, the IVPs met with Prof. Moon to report back and make final decisions.





WFWPI celebrated its 25th Anniversary during the Celebration Dinner at One UN New York Hotel, located opposite the United Nations. The room was packed with international guests and VIPs. Angelica Selle (USA President), Alexa Ward (Deputy Director, WFWP UN Office), Carolyn Handschin (Director, WFWP UN Office), and Professor Moon (International President) presented three Global Women’s Peace Awards to international awardees. Titilope Alao from Melbourne had the opportunity to present two of her books to Prof. Moon after dinner.

A WFWPI Anniversary party was held on the Friday evening at West 43rd Street. We had the chance to unwind in a relaxed atmosphere and dance to upbeat music performed by ‘Apple Heaven USA’, as they entertained us wearing modern day cowboy costumes. During the evening, awards were presented to long service WFWP members from each region. Representing Oceania, Debbie Bruce received an award for remarkable service, dedication, sacrifice and long service to WFWP Australia.

A young women leaders retreat titled ‘Horizon Summit’ was held at East Garden during the first weekend of CSW61. We had the privilege of Dr Rima Sala (retired executive director of UNICEF) speak to us about the role of women in reconciliation and conflict prevention. A very lively question and answer session followed. Many of the young women present took the opportunity to discuss the process of youth getting involved in this dialogue. Dr Sala explained about Resolution 2250, a UN resolution for youth, peace and security, enacted to protect the 2 billion youth of our world population—the largest number of youth on our planet ever! Dr Sala stated that today the amount of conflict may be less, but the nature of conflict is different. Now conflict is targeted at communities, and often schools are used as breeding grounds to recruit violence.

Dr Karen Smith gave professional development on the topic of Advocacy and Leadership, based on her working experience at the UN. Karin, a native born Australian, introduced the concept of ‘transilience’, meaning resilience to adapt and change. She asked participants: Is a challenge a barrier or an opportunity? Are we willing to learn something from the situation that now makes us feel uncomfortable; can we go beyond this challenge to learn and move forward? Dr Thomas Ward led an interactive simulation activity by dividing us into groups representing different oil rich nations. It was a fun way to bring home the concept of establishing partnerships and putting aside differences for a ‘win-win’ benefit for all stakeholders.

Anne Bellavance  
WFWPI Vice-president (Oceania) | WFWP Australia President





## ■ CSW61 Horizon Summit Report

On Saturday March 18th WFWP members set out on a cold spring morning in New York City to begin the Horizon Summit for WFWP youth members. Our destination on the first day of our weekend was Rev and Mrs. Moon's beloved home and esteemed church venue, East Garden. WFWP USA President and Vice-President of WFWP International, Angelika Selle, who has participated in the past seven UN CSW's representing WFWP, introduced the program for the day. We also had our President of WFWP International, Professor Yeon Ah Moon, encourage musical entertainment from the participants.

The three inspirational speakers, Dr Rima Salah, Karen Smith and Dr Thomas J Ward, were thoughtfully selected based on their relevant experience. Dr Rima Salah spoke from the heart, calling on youth to advocate for their inclusion in important decision-making processes. In this way she spoke about the importance of intergenerational dialogue. This is in line with the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development by 2030. The agenda identifies the need to support children and youth within its vision. Hearing from Dr Thomas J Ward we did an activity to practise finding mutually beneficial ways to work with other people and resolve conflicts that may arise in this process. This was a fun, interactive session. Karen Smith drew on her practical skills and knowledge derived from her work at the United Nations followed by her book titled United Nations Unlocked. Karen discussed the goals we set, the mindset we have and the motivation that drives us. This discussion was tackling the central question of how to effect change in ourselves and other people.

One point that resonated with me, and that summarises the work we can do through the CSW, is that societal change is three-dimensional. Within the UN, the CSW was effecting 'top-down' change by having agreed conclusions available for its' member states, their governments and local authorities, to inform their policy-making processes and overarching systems. Furthermore, we had WFWP in attendance (along with other NGO's and community groups)

hosting 'parallel' events to communicate the goals and vision of WFWP. In this way, WFWP's work at the grassroots, community level was used to effect overarching local governance systems, like the UN, via a 'bottom-up' approach. Most powerfully for myself, change occurred 'sideways' within the dialogue that occurred as I networked with passionate peers. These people challenged my current life constructs and thought patterns. Change in this way can be small and incremental, but it can also make a profound impact through the subsequent ripple effects.

The final day of the Horizon Summit comprised of an education tour of Franklin D. Roosevelt presidential library, museum and home, as he was the founder of the UN. We also heard about the life of his wife and human rights activist, Eleanor Roosevelt. We gained insight into their purpose and vision for establishing the United Nations soon after the two horrific world wars. This built on my understanding of WFWP and its' relationship to the UN through its' peace-building efforts. The year the UN was founded was 1945 and on September 7 1993 Mrs Moon became the first Korean woman to give an address in the United Nations. What's more, WFWP has achieved General Consultative Status with the UN, the highest level of authority for consultation. WFWP is recognised as making substantive and sustained contributions in many fields that are directly relevant and valued by UNWomen. As a result, WFWP has access to UN grounds passes as well as entitlements to deliver oral presentations during the UN Council's meetings.

It was an honour to attend the CSW representing WFWP. The Horizon Summit was the cherry on top of a great experience. The weekend events were well-organised, informative and relevant. It was exciting to witness the significance of the work we do with WFWP as it is emboldened by a strong foundation and prestigious network of influence.

Kosina Hanson  
WFWP Vic. Board member



## ■ CSW61 Report on Child Marriage

The priority theme of the 61st Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) was “Economic empowerment in the changing world of work”. At the opening session United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres stated, “We are all better off when we open doors for women and girls.” This statement set the tone for what was to come in the coming weeks.

There were hundreds of sessions and round table discussions highlighting the challenges that women have faced historically and are still currently facing around the world today. Hundreds of NGOs from around the world hosted sessions highlighting many issues such as child marriage and FGM (female genital mutilation), sex trafficking and the gender pay gap, just to name a few.

One inhumane act taking place globally that was discussed at the UN, and is still regularly in conversation at a global level, is that of child- and early-forced marriage. After learning about this horrible act over the years I have grown incredibly passionate about it. This is a human rights violation and has horrific and detrimental effects on the girls’ lives. The very root causes of child marriage are embedded in gender inequality, tradition, culture and poverty. This human rights violation partners with other forms of violence against women and girls, such as psychological, sexual, economic violence and physical violence. Marriage for girls can lead to pregnancy and child birth complications, which are the main causes of death of 15–19-year-old girls in developing countries according to Dr Babatunde Osotimehin in the 2012 Flagship Report. Along with pregnancy and birthing complications, marriage for a girl can also mean an end to education, exposure to sexually transmitted diseases and the inhibition of the girl from living a life of free choices and having access to a career.

Fifteen million girls are forced to marry each year. Women’s rights are human rights. Attacks on women are attacks on all of us. In a 2012 Flagship UN Report it states that by 2020 some 142 million girls will be married

by their eighteenth birthday if the trends in place continue. Child marriage persists especially in poorer and more rural parts of countries in the developing world. The decision to marry should be freely made. “No society can afford the cost opportunity, waste of talent or personal exploitation that child marriage causes.” (Dr Babatunde Osotimehin)

Although the focus of this year’s CSW 61 was in fact ‘Economic empowerment in the changing world of work’, global challenges for women were still very present in the UN conversations. The issues of gender equality and economic empowerment are intertwined with the other issues that women and girls face globally. Child marriage affects the access young girls have to education and career growth impacting the global input girls and women have to the economy. On the opening day of the 61st CSW, Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres stated that “Women’s equality can add 12 trillion dollars to the global economy in the next decade. Economic empowerment is hand in hand with the overall empowerment of women and girls.”

This year’s completion of the CSW 61 saw thousands of NGO representatives from all over the world advocating to delegates for change. Change has begun, but there is much more to do. The CSW gives people from around the world the ability to contribute to the agreed conclusions and advocate for issues they face in their own country to their delegates. It’s an inspiring, informative and enlightening experience, and I am incredibly grateful to have experienced this magnificent life-changing event twice. Thank you to WFP for this opportunity. I left this year’s CSW more inspired to contribute to change in the world than ever before. Until next year’s CSW62, let’s keep being the change we want to see in the world.

Bianca Joyce  
Vic. Chapter, WFP Board member





## ■ CSW61 Women and Girls Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work

I felt so honoured and privileged to participate in this Forum as a Queensland member of the Women's Federation for World Peace in Australia. It was indeed inspiring to be among the massive ground swell of powerful, dedicated and influential women drawn from all corners of the globe. Individually and/or collectively they represented their areas of passion, interest and tireless efforts as members coming from a very diverse spectrum of International organisations and groups: including government; corporate and business entities; faith, community and welfare agencies; human and women's rights and advocacy based organisations and groups; legal and judicial system; sporting associations; educational, learning, training and entrepreneurial institutions; health services and medical fraternity; the UN; and many others. Along with four other Victorian based WFWP members, ably led by Anne Bellavance, I believe we individually and collectively represented the work of our Australian chapter with pride and passion.

It was pleasing to note the small but significant smattering of men participating and supporting this forum who were fully committed to the work being championed around addressing the ever challenging issues impacting women in terms of equity, participation, leadership, inclusion, economic, educational and business opportunities, and the achievement of successful outcomes for women and girls within the ever changing nature of work in our world today. It was clearly identified that the inclusion of men and boys into this important work is both keenly sought and desperately needed as we strive together to achieve the outcomes defined in the theme of this Forum, "Women and Girls Economic Empowerment".

To mention a few of what I considered to be the key "Take Out Messages" I would refer to the framing of discussions around the need to re-think, re-imagine and re-invent the "Norms and Culture" of our global economy, considering a greater focus on "Feminist Based Economics" and the call for greater involvement of female economists in shaping and

taking the lead in building a new focus of the purpose of our world's economy. Today 90% of economists are male and of the 10% who are female, the question lingers as to what percentage represent a feminist based framework. It was frightening to hear that half of the world's wealth sits with just eight (8) men. The SDGs are shaped around education, health, and the inclusion of women and Indigenous peoples, with the aim of reducing poverty, discrimination, violence and the abuse of human and basic work rights. Where is this thread incorporated within the Global economy?

The frightening numbers of young refugee children being completely excluded from the educational system was alarming, with an estimated 3.5 million Syrian children today experiencing this plight. The additional impact of this situation is the consequential increase of children and women into the sex and slave trade. It is estimated that around 67 million women and girls are involved in the Domestic Workers trade with some 30% performing these duties without any form of rights. I was horrified to hear of women and girls being locked up in cages along with animals without any form of pay, working merely for food and shelter. The resources, aide and investments needed to alleviate these extreme and unacceptable levels of abuse requires the formation and commitment of an alliance of players, including governments, who bring greater political will into the process, the involvement and advocacy efforts from civil society, the media and the business and corporate sectors. The point was made that 45 years on we are still talking about and fighting for these issues and rights. It's time for action!

Of course, also presented were the great and inspiring stories and presentations showcasing where good work was being done and some amazing successes being achieved, particularly in the areas of entrepreneurs, innovators and business start-ups. The emerging digital space is clearly playing a significant role in providing women with new and innovative ways of creating their own businesses and support mechanisms. One example shared was where a private



Facebook site was being used as a means of Domestic Workers sharing experiences, providing support to each other and identifying job opportunities amongst themselves. There was also the work being done in initiatives such as Rise Up, One Mama/Shaboom Products and Michelle Obama's organisation "Let Girls Learn" and many others offering investment, philanthropy, education/training and capacity building. It was highlighted, however, that the terms "Micro Business" and "Micro Finance" were still being used when the work related to what women were doing in comparison to businesses started by men simply being referred to as "Business Start-ups" or "Finance Projects". It was disturbing to also hear that an Innovation Centre established in one African country by Medgar Evers Institute was successfully producing some great entrepreneurs and innovators, but it was predominantly attracting and supporting young men and needed to reach out more effectively to ensure the engagement and participation of young women into the process.

Eliminating discrimination and gender based bias was noted as a key feature that impacted not only on third world nations, less human rights based countries and/or emerging economies but surprisingly continues to leave women workers behind even in the more affluent and progressive societies including the USA. Some examples were provided, especially from within the medical and judicial systems, where inequity in pay and parental leave remain a concern. A wonderful story concerning unconscious bias was shared where two computers were loaded with exactly the same information and capacity – one computer was named "John" and the other named "Julie". Participants were invited to use and rate both computers. Overwhelmingly the "John" computer was rated as far superior to the "Julie" computer. Do we have a long way to go – I would say yes!

Esteemed former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres, now UN Secretary-General, attended the Forum held at the New York High Commission offices. One of his contributions to the forum was to hold a "Civic Town Hall" meeting to emphasis the important role civil society plays in this work. Although I was unable to make this presentation,

I have heard him speak previously and commend his views about having the voices, leadership and key positions/roles of women within the political, community, business and faith realms expressed, heard and represented fully and equally by women. He posed the question at a previous conference I attended, an International UN NGO Dialog on Resettlement conference held in Geneva some years ago, that perhaps with a world experiencing an escalating rate of global conflict and the most alarmingly high numbers of refugee and displaced people since WWII, whether the lack of voices and positions of power and leadership by women was in fact a contributing factor impacting on this growing problem. I am disappointed I didn't get to hear what he spoke about this time, but I am confident he would have strongly expressed views of this nature and absolutely sees the role Civil Society plays in mobilising effort and political, media and community will to address and reduce the impacts of war and conflict that almost always places the greatest harm, challenges and negative outcomes on women and girls.

Finally, I wanted to give a huge shout out to the World Federation For World Peace International for their 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner event held at the One UN New York Hotel in the Diplomat Ballroom as part of this Forum Program. The Anniversary program contained an impressive list of guest and key note speakers including Opening Remarks by Prof. Yeon Ah Moon and other eminent speakers including many from the UN such as WFWP IVP & Director, UN Office Carolyn Handschin. I am sure you join with me in especially congratulating "The WFWP National Chapter of Japan" on their Award as well as the other well-deserving recipients of Awards presented on the night. We are part of a global sisterhood that recognises and supports the needs and aspirations of women internationally, and it is comforting to know so many powerful women such as us carry the torch for those who are in desperate need of our support, contributions and commitment to making our world a better place to live for all.

Gail Ker OAM  
Group Chief Executive Officer  
Access Group International Limited



# Service Projects for the Pacific Islands

4

The Pacific Island development projects of WFPW focus on capacity building; empowering women with leadership, support, skills and knowledge to run and maintain the projects.

Financial support is an important component; these projects would not be possible without the vision and generous support of WFPW members, volunteers, friends and partnership with local providers.

## ■ Solar Panels for the New Hope Academy Kindergarten - National

A moment of joy and hopeful smiles was seen in the eyes of all the staff and students of the New Hope Academy Kindergarten (NHA), when we brought into the school grounds the solar panels and electrical material for the Island Lights Project in the Solomon Islands (SI). WFPW Australia funded more than 63% of the solar project through their annual Support our Pacific Island Neighbours Walk-a-thon. The total cost of the project was over SBD \$19,000.00.

The project was managed by WFPW SI. We contracted a wiring and installation person to install the equipment; which included six orbit fans, ten light bulbs, fittings and wiring, and three 100 watt solar panel sets. Within a week the teachers and students were enjoying classrooms with fans, lights and power points to connect laptops.

Thank you WFPW Australia for the assistance and meeting our needs at the right time. On behalf of the NHA and WFPW SI, we convey our sincere appreciation for our major sponsors; WFPW Japan, WFPW Australia, WFPW SI, Jin A school in USA, UPF SI, FFWP SI, and individuals and families within SI and internationally for your sincere and continuous support towards our school development. The New Hope Academy kindergarten will continue to develop. In the New Year, we will be constructing a new building that will provide 3 classrooms for the primary grades. NHA is expanding the kindergarten into a primary school. The total cost will be more than SI \$352,000. Let's continue to work together to raise and educate our young people of the world.

Thank You.  
Alice Hou  
President, WFPW SI





## ■ Pacific Island Scholarship Fund - National

Why does WFPW focus its projects within the Pacific Islands?

WFPW Australia focuses its Service Projects in the Island Nations of the Oceania region (Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Samoa). These regions are some of the poorest countries in the world. The 2014 World Bank ranking of 181 nations according to GDP for the Pacific Islands is: Solomon Island (131), Micronesia (123), PNG (127), Vanuatu (119) Marshall Islands (113), Samoa (103) and Fiji (95).

In these countries there is no social security and education is not free, even in public schools. For these reasons, and especially being these regions our immediate neighbours, we feel responsible for their wellbeing and development.

The initiative

The WFPW 'Pacific Island Scholarship Fund' is a not-for-profit development program launched in March 2017 that aims to provide young adults from Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with opportunities to access empowering education programs in their own country. The program supports young people who are passionate about getting an education and who align their heart with the values and goals of WFPW: 'Living for the sake of others'.

Where the problem lies

Because education is not free in the Pacific Islands, families can afford sending their children to school only until a certain age. As a consequence, youth and young adults do not fully complete their education and the workplaces are therefore taken by foreigners. This creates a tremendous social problem: Islanders become second-class citizens in their own country. With the Pacific Islands Scholarship Fund, we allow young women to receive an education and feel empowered, thereby contributing to the resolution of this social problem.



Through supporting the scholarship Fund, you are supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all, and promote lifelong learning. We firmly believe that people's life and sustainable development can be improved tremendously by obtaining good quality education. Today, 103 million youth worldwide lack basic literacy skills, and more than 60 per cent of them are women.

## ■ Jenny's Story

Jenny is 32 and currently attending Early Childhood Education Training at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU). She enrolled in February 2017 and received a scholarship from WFP Australia in March.

Jenny is very excited to learn new skills that will help her become a good teacher. Ever since she was a child, she has dreamt of becoming the best professional teacher in Early Childhood Care Education in Solomon Islands. She smiles as she says, "I want to teach the children of Solomon Islands to become good students, good citizens and ambassadors for peace."

With four siblings in her family, Jenny recalls how much her parents have struggled to send all their children to school. "The school fees were very expensive. My family had little money, which needed to be used for the survival of the family. In Solomon Islands, only a few young people can complete their education through scholarship programs via the government, aid donors or if their parents are working in town. Most young people find it difficult to complete their education due to a lack of financial support from their parents, who are often not fully employed and have to use the little they do have for basic family survival. In the end, this negatively affects young people's mentality and most of them give up on wanting to complete their education."

Nevertheless, Jenny's family has been blessed in the past. Her older brother was sponsored by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid) to study sound engineering at the JMC Academy in Sydney. He now works privately, recording music for artists in Solomon Islands, and he recently visited Russia. Her younger sister studied accounting at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji, sponsored by the Solomon Island Government. She has now returned home and works as a bank officer in the capital.

As a newly graduated teacher, Jenny will be employed in a local kindergarten in Honiara, the New Hope Academy (NHA) Kindergarten. WFP Australia has been supporting this kindergarten for years.





In 2016, with \$2500 AUD, WFP Australia donated solar panels to provide electricity to the building. As the school is now expanding into a primary school, new teachers will be needed. Jenny has visited the kindergarten during her assignment period.

Jenny has now completed the first semester of her course. WFP Australia wishes her all the best for her studies. We will be hearing from her next time as she graduates at the end of the next semester.

WFP Australia is now selecting new candidates for next year and is planning to expand this initiative to Vanuatu, focusing on high school students. With support from our donors, WFP Australia will be able to effectively support many other young passionate adults into the development of their education and career.





## ■ Second-hand Clothes for Solomon Islands - VIC

WFWP Victoria, in partnership with Anonymous X, prepared second-hand clothing and books for delivery to a shipping warehouse ready for shipment to the WFWP Solomon Islands. This endeavour is part of WFWP Australia's service projects and came after a request from WFWP Solomon Islands for second-hand clothing to complement their women's sewing centre.

WFWP Victoria bought the second-hand clothing that was not suitable for distribution to people living on the streets of Melbourne, thereby supporting Anonymous X in the process. We would like to wholeheartedly thank the volunteers from Anonymous X for helping to box, prepare and load the boxes onto the truck, ready for shipment.

Anonymous X is a charity that consists of a team of volunteers who share a common belief, that they can make a difference and create a change for the homeless and less fortunate in Melbourne. Sean Thornton founded the organisation in 2013. He and his volunteer support staff help identify people in need and then organise the distribution of practical support, through donations of toiletries, food items, clothes, toys and other essential items. <http://www.anonymousx.com.au/>





## ■ Support our Pacific Island Neighbours WALK-A-THON - VIC

A project of WFWP Australia to raise funds to support the Island Projects of WFWP

The “Support our Pacific Neighbours Walk-a-thon” has taken place for the second time at Silvan Reservoir Park, a beautiful location in the Dandenong Ranges on the outskirts of Melbourne. In partnership with FFWPU, UPF and WFWP, this community and family event was open to young, old and those with special needs, providing three different types of walks: gentle, advanced and special needs.

The purpose of the Walk-a-thon is to raise funds for WFWP Australia’s practical projects within the Oceania Islands nations. Undertaken since 2003, successful projects include: supplying books; donating sewing machines to support the Women’s Sewing Centres; a solar panel donation for the New Hope Kindergarten in Honiara; and character education programs for youth.

We were blessed with beautiful weather. Upon arrival, Walk-a-thon participants registered for their walk and at 10.30 am the Walk-a-thon commenced. Participants left the park site well equipped with hats, water and a snack pack.

Back in a barbeque area, an activity table was set up and craft activities were provided for families with small children. They enjoyed playing with our homemade non-toxic play-dough and colouring in the mindfulness illustrations.

We were so excited to welcome participants from different cultural backgrounds, walks of life and age groups.

After the walk, we all relished exquisite homemade salads and burgers, enjoying each other’s company. The overall atmosphere was very positive and participants were friendly and supportive. It was also very inspiring to meet new people interested in supporting our cause.







This year, funds raised from the Walk-a-thon will support the “Pacific Island Scholarship Fund”. This project, in partnership with UPF and FFWPU, is a not-for-profit development program that aims to provide young adults from Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with opportunities to access empowering education programs in their own country. The program supports young people who are passionate about getting an education and who align their heart with one of the values and goals of WFWP: “Living for the sake of others”.

In Solomon Islands, education is not free, so families can only afford sending their children to school until a certain age. As a consequence, youth and young adults do not fully complete their education and their place is therefore taken by foreigners. This creates a tremendous social problem: Solomon Islanders become second-class citizens in their own country. With this scholarship, WFWP allows young women to receive an education and feel empowered, thereby contributing to the resolution of this social problem.

A suitable candidate has already been chosen who is going to attend Early Childhood Education at the Solomon Islands National University. Her name is Jenny Quta Morehaa. We are all very proud of Jenny and we are sure she will do well in university.

Further WFWP projects include the launch of a microcredit initiative for small start-up and existing businesses in Solomon Islands. Through the Walk-a-thon funds, small-scale credit is provided to small businesses to develop an economic activity, thereby improving their financial status. Since legal forms are currently being created, this initiative will most likely be launched later on in 2017.

WFWP would like to sincerely thank all our sponsors, supporters and walkers who made the Walk-a-thon a successful event this year. We raised over \$1500 on the day and have enough funds available for Jenny’s Early Childhood education training. A big thank you also to all staff that helped with the preparation of the event: the cook; the photographer; and the coordinators.





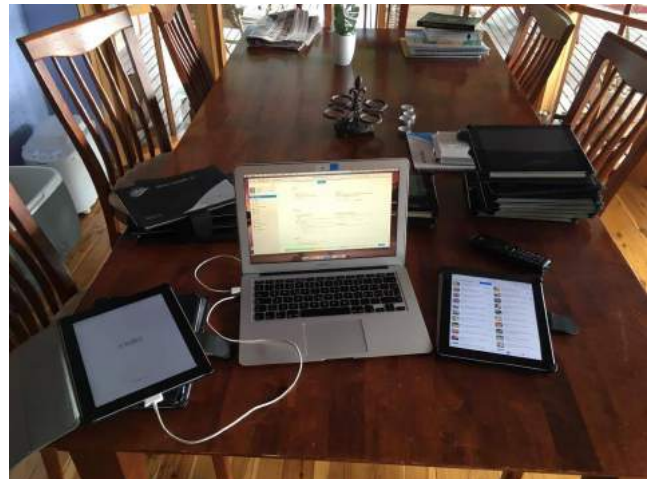
## ■ Ipad for the NHA Kindergarten - VIC

Beaconhills College, Melbourne, has kindly donated 40 used iPads to the New Hope Academy Kindergarten (NHA) in the Solomon Islands (SI). The iPads have been reformatted and primary aged teaching apps installed on them. The iPads will be used by students to develop numeracy, reading, writing and comprehension skills. No games have been added. Due to the excessive cost of internet use in the SI, it was necessary to install the educational apps on each individual device in Australia.

Giulia Iacono (WFWP Island Projects coordinator) uploaded apps and prepared the iPads for delivery to the school. Fortunately, Selina Galo (the principal of the New Hope Academy School) was in Australia and come to Melbourne with Judith and Sunny from WFWP Solomon Islands to learn how to use the iPads. Giulia taught them application basics and ran through the children's educational apps.

During the training, Selina commented that she will first introduce the iPads to the parents and teachers of NHA. She is very grateful to the Beaconhills College for donating them and to the Beaconhills students who offered their time during the IT Club to prepare the devices.

NHA will be the first school to have such technology in the Solomon Islands, because children in the Solomon Island schools have never had access to this type of educational technology; it will empower the staff, parents and students to enter a new world of education. With the iPads, Selina will now introduce a new curriculum into the school for students. It is very timely as the NHA opens up a grade one class in 2018. Selina said, "We are extremely grateful for the donation, but my words cannot truly express enough gratitude for the heart and love that the donors have given for the school. It will be our pride."





## ■ Ipad Program at NHA - SI

Recently, our students at the New Hope Academy (NHA) received a number of iPads from Beaconhills College in Victoria. The teachers of NHA were delighted to receive these gifts as they felt the iPads would enrich the students' education and assist them to keep up to date with the world around them. Beaconhills College is to be commended for their generosity in reformatting the iPads and uploading appropriate apps for the students of NHA. The efforts of Giulia from WFWP in Victoria in organising the delivery of the iPads are much appreciated too.

Before introducing the iPads to the students, parents were informed about the gift and the school's aspirations about the educational outcomes these iPads would generate. The parents were excited about the opportunities that this new technology offered their children. They were pleased that their children would now be able to access new information which would help to broaden their knowledge and thus enhance their education.

While classrooms were rearranged to accommodate

a new computer lab for the use of the iPads, teachers worked overtime to ensure the lab was suitable and safe. They worked collaboratively and with a sense of unity which was heart-warming. The lab was also carpeted to ensure the children have a safe surface to use their iPads.

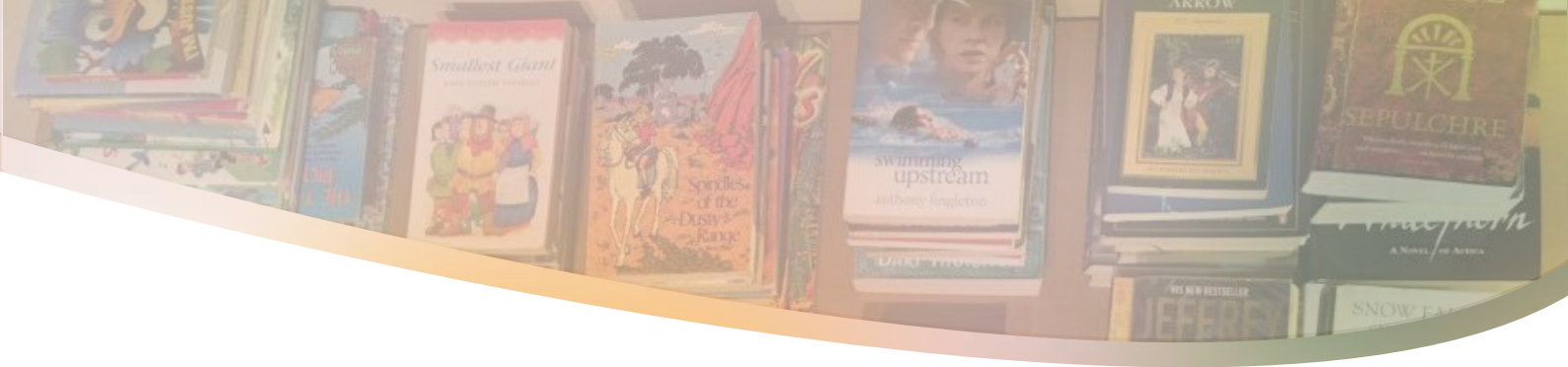
While parents wait patiently outside for their children after school, the students are reluctant to leave school each day for such is their enthusiasm for this new educational tool.

Schools reflection:

NHA is the first kindergarten in the Solomon Islands to access the educational possibilities of technology. It is also the first time that the teachers have been able to teach basic numeracy and literacy skills via the use of computers.

On behalf of the students and staff at NHA, I wish to thank the donors for their generosity and their commitment to furthering the education of our children in the Solomon Islands.





## ■ Books for the Islands - VIC & NSW

WFWP Australia initiated the 'Book for the Islands Project' in 2008. Since then, WFWP has shipped thousands of boxes of children's books to local primary schools in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Samoa.

Many of the Island nations do not have libraries for their primary schools, and WFWP Australia has worked towards expanding the resources of libraries by supplying good quality children's books in either the English or French language.



This year WFWP has decided to support the remote villages of Lamlu and Lamnatu on Tanna (Vanuatu). This project has been initiated by Lina Tuzet collaboration with Giulia Iacono (WFWP Australia Secretary and Island Projects Coordinator).

The two girls spent one month together in different villages in Vanuatu during their volunteering experience, where they connected to the communities, built toilets and renovated houses. They fell in love with the people and the culture and realised how much the locals desire to have good quality education.



Lamnatu and Lamlu are remote villages situated on Tanna Island, in the Tafea province of Vanuatu. The entire island has a population of 29000 people and is mainly known for their coffee, which is exported to other countries. A few villages are modernised, with access to electricity and running water. But most villages, such as those in the inland area where Lamnatu and Lamlu are located, do not have these services.

The village children were very curious to learn about the world, since none had ever left their village on Tanna before. Although most love their life on the island, there is a strong desire to see the world and to pursue a proper education. Due to the lack of resources on the island, most of the young adults are forced to study overseas to pursue any kind of career.





This puts much pressure on their families, which have to make enormous sacrifices to pay for their child's study expenses. Nevertheless, most families believe in education and parents hope their children will have the chance to leave the island to have a future with more resources.

Local schools (a French and an English one) are located nearby the two villages. Lina, Giulia and the other volunteers visited one of them and had a chance to present themselves to the students and talk about their respective countries of origin. There they learned that the school did not have a world map, so they arranged for one to be donated to the school. Now, in collaboration with WFP Australia, Giulia and Lina are hoping to support these villages and create school libraries by supplying good quality books.

Giulia and Lina are now collecting books donations from shops, libraries and schools in Melbourne and Sydney.

The books will be delivered to the school by one of our WFP Australia members in Port-Vila, Vanuatu. Lina and Giulia are also going to start a fundraising campaign to help support the cost of the shipping.





## Glen Waverley Secondary College Supports the Pacific Island Service Projects

During term one this year, Ms Helen Mason, a Year 9 Coordinator from Glen Waverley College, contacted the office of WFWP Victoria to inquire if WFWP would participate in the Year 9 Community Placement Program, where students choose to work with a community service organisation within Eastern Melbourne. We were very excited to have the opportunity to work with three groups of girls who were inspired to support women and their families through one or two of our Pacific Island service projects.

Anne Bellavance prepared the Project Preparation Checklist and Project Planning/Outcomes worksheet for students and went to the school to visit with the team, answer any questions and run through the project goals to assist in achieving them within the allotted timeframe.

At the end of their project, Ms Mason thanked each of the girls for their efforts and handed them a WFWP Certificate of Appreciation, a WFWP pen and the latest newsletter from WFWP International.

The students organised a stationery collection among the Year 7 and 8 classes and collected over 15 bags full of stationery, work books and story books. These were packed into boxes ready for shipment.

Varsha, one of the team leaders, said, “Our group would like to create a campaign to collect stationery for kindergartens in the Solomon Islands, since we feel that we are making a first-hand impact in that aspect, which is really exciting.” Students also raised funds to pay for the shipment of the stationery to the New Hope Academy Kindergarten in the Solomon Islands.





## ■ Uniform Sewing Workshop - QLD

Over an extended weekend from Friday 23rd to Monday 26th of October, an intensive sewing training workshop was conducted in Honiara, Solomon Islands with eight local women. The workshop focused on the acquisition and development of both technical sewing skills and clothing production enterprise concepts.

The 40-hour workshop built upon the skills gained during last year's introductory sewing program, which was attended by some thirty local women, and made possible by the generous donation of numerous refurbished sewing machines by Robert Dickinson and their shipment to Honiara by WFWP Brisbane.

Since the initial introductory program, the local Honiara WFWP chapter carried out multiple practice classes and practice sewing projects to continue developing their skills over the year. From this group, the most committed women who desire to further their technical skills and learn bulk production level processes, attended this sewing workshop. The goal was to learn as a group how to produce 100 sets of children's uniform by the end of 2016. During the workshop the women completed multiple boys' shirts and girls' dresses, and learnt to work economically as a team.





The Solomon Island WFP Chapter sees these sewing projects as the beginning of a long term vision of how they can foster women's economic empowerment in their region. One part of this vision is to establish a sewing centre, where they can bring women together to learn and volunteer their sewing skills as a vocational pathway and outreach program. The second half of the vision is to build an employment space to establish clothing production businesses; where women can work for a wage as an employee, or as subcontractors in self-employment.

This vision is in line with goal 5 of the UN's Sustainable Development goals for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The project has gained a lot of interest from the broader community, and in the process has strengthened WFP Solomon's drive to implement this vision. They seek to become one of the first locally initiated social enterprises, with an aim to make a profit, but also uplift the wellbeing of the nation's women in the process.







# Spotlight on a Partner Organisation

## ▪ United Muslim Sisters of Latrobe Valley

The UMSLV began four years ago as a united women’s voice for all Muslim denominations in the Latrobe Valley, a region adjacent to Melbourne. The UMSLV have been instrumental in bringing the Muslim community and broader community together to better understand our differences, but most importantly to celebrate our likenesses. Through events such as Understanding Scarves and Understanding Journeys, a climate of acceptance, understanding and friendship has been established in the Latrobe Valley amongst a broad range of women.

The United Muslim Sisters of Latrobe Valley celebrated their fourth birthday on April 22nd in Trafalgar, a regional city in Gippsland, East of Melbourne. Members of the WFWP Victoria Board attended, along

with local community leaders and residents. It was an honour to support our new partners and link with the local community. UMSLV received the Global Women’s Peace Network partnership award from WFWP at our anniversary dinner. As an organisation, UMSLV works to bring unity and cooperation between all Muslims and foster goodwill and better understanding between Muslims and the broader society. UMSLV represents and enhances the profile of the Muslim community by conducting programs and celebratory functions with the local community, this being a platform for social interaction. UMSLV maintains contact with organisations that have similar objectives and raises funds to support charities favoured by the organisation.





# AUSTRALIA'S SMALLEST CHARITIES 2015

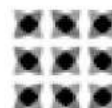
**Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission**



Australian Government



Australian  
**Charities** and  
**Not-for-profits**  
Commission



**CENTRE**  
*for* **SOCIAL**  
**IMPACT**

**SPRC**

Social Policy Research Centre

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report explores the characteristics of charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) in 2015 with an annual income of less than \$50,000. We refer to these charities throughout this report as 'extra small charities' or Australia's 'smallest charities'.

**In 2015, there were 18,892 extra small charities in Australia, accounting for 37.1% of all charities.** Extra small charities are a significant subset of the ACNC's category of small charities (55.2%), which captures charities with annual revenues of less than \$250,000.

Australia's 18,892 extra small charities are of interest not only because of their numerical significance, but because they differ from the wider charity sector in important ways. Compared with larger charities, smaller charities have been found to depend more on volunteers (Morris, 2000) and on fundraising income (Van der Heijden, 2013). Further, while small charities are often considered highly specialised, flexible, locally embedded and responsive to localised or niche needs, they also face some risks. Small charities have been found to be more financially vulnerable for example (Backus and Clifford, 2013; Kay, 2016) and many find it hard to compete with large charities for government contracts or donor funds (Kay, 2016; Morris, 2000). It may be difficult for small charities to offer their paid staff opportunities for professional development, and they may face difficulties contributing to and influencing government reform, and in growing and diversifying their funding base (Cortis and Blaxland, 2014).

By providing a profile of Australia's smallest charities, the report shows how they compare with the rest of the charity sector, and underlines the importance of the contribution these charities make to social, cultural, and economic life in Australia and overseas.

Some caution should be used, however, when interpreting the findings. The extra small size categorisation used in this report is based on reported income for one year only (2015) and does not take into account assets or expenses. Future work should consider how the categorisation of charities by size may be improved.

The report should be read alongside the *Australian Charities Report 2015*. Like that report (which profiles all registered charities), data here comes from charities that were registered with the ACNC at the end of their 2015 financial year. The dataset uses the best and most recent data available for each charity. In most cases, data came from Annual Information Statements (AIS) provided for 2015, or from the 2014 or 2013 AIS (which ever was more recent) where 2015 data was unavailable. Additional data was taken from the ACNC Register and from the Australian Business Register. Where no AIS data was available, data was estimated, where possible using information from the ACNC Register.

## CASE STUDY:

### WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE AUSTRALIA

Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Australia is a chapter of WFWP International, and aims to advance peace through supporting families and children.

WFWP Australia's main charitable activities are categorised under the 'development and housing' sector. Only 5.3% of Australia's extra small charities listed their main activities in this sector in 2015.

The charity has a large range of support and service projects within Australia and across Oceania.

For example, in 2015 the charity donated sewing machines to an Australian rural town to help newly arrived migrants learn how to sew. In a separate project, it donated portable solar lights to families in a remote village of Vanuatu with no access to electricity.

WFWP Australia is a multicultural organisation drawing members across all ages, abilities, nationalities, faiths and cultural groups. This diversity of the charity's membership is mirrored on its Board.

The charity provides volunteers with many enriching opportunities. It has helped its volunteers to connect with others, participate in meaningful community development projects and cultivate a range of skills for their personal development.

WFWP Australia's two main sources of income are its annual fundraising walkathon and its membership fees. These membership fees support the charity's project work and its ongoing operation.

Like 83.4% of extra small charities in the 'development and housing' sector, WFWP Australia employs no paid staff. This helps it minimise operating costs and, in doing so, demonstrate the money it raises goes directly to the causes it supports.

WFWP Australia recorded total income of \$12,543 in 2015. In the same year, it recorded \$12,881 in expenses – a figure which is lower than the overall average spent by extra small charities (\$19,123).

WFWP Australia believes its structure as a small charity has clear benefits. Its reliance on volunteers results in them feeling a very real connection to the charity's visions and vision.

While it is small, the charity is part of a broader network under WFWP International. This means it is able to work with other international chapters, and support them to meet the needs identified in their local community. This provides WFWP Australia with further confidence that its efforts as an extra small charity can help those most in need.

WFWP Australia has plans to grow, but realises there are challenges in finding sufficient funding to support this growth. Given the charity is volunteer-based, it can be difficult to ensure sufficient time is given to both its management and increasing the awareness of its charity's purpose. The charity hopes increasing its volunteer numbers should help to address this issue.



# Who We Are



**Anne Bellavance**  
 Vice-President, WFWP International  
 President, WFWP Australia  
 President, VIC Chapter



**Mamiko Rattley**  
 Vice-President, WFWP Australia  
 President, QLD Chapter



**Aila Willitts**  
 Vice-President, WFWP Australia  
 President, NSW Chapter



## Queensland Team

- President** – Mamiko Rattley
- Vice-president** – Yejeon Degeer
- Treasurer** – Yuko Josifoska
- Secretary** – Yejeon Degeer
- Committee Member** – Naoko Raymond
- Committee Member** – Wendy Millgate



## Victoria Team

- President** – Anne Bellavance
- Vice-President** – Charlotte Mukamuberwa
- Secretary** - Giulia Iacono
- Treasurer** – Jacinta Darbishire
- Ordinary Member** – Bianca Joyce
- Ordinary Member** – Monique Joyce
- Ordinary Member** – Elise Hanson
- Ordinary Member** – Kosina Hanson
- Ordinary Member - Jane Leigh
- Ordinary Member - Veronica Hasset
- Ordinary Member - Manal Shehab



## New South Wales Team

- President** – Aila Willitts
- Secretary** – Debbie Bruce
- Treasurer** – Silvana Onnis In Daly
- Ordinary Member - Rika Lim
- Ordinary Member - Emma Bell

## Financial Report - VIC

WFWP Vic. Financial Report (July 1st, 2016 - Dec. 31st, 2017)					
<b>Bank Balances brought forward as of July 1 - 2016</b>					
901684	Women's Federation for World Peace, Victoria INC		\$	7,856.41	
10377911	WFWP Island Project (savings)		\$	1,196.20	
0					
<b>Income</b>			<b>Expenses</b>		
MYOB	Type	Income	MYOB	Type	Expenses
4-1020	Commonwealth Grants	\$ -	6-0010	Accounting fees	\$ -
4-1050	State Grants	\$ -	6-0020	Advertising/promotion	\$ -
4-1080	Local Council Grants	\$ 540.00	6-0040	Assets purchased	\$ 4,568.22
4-2020	Tax deductible donations	\$ 1,330.68	6-0050	Audit fees	\$ -
4-2030	Public collections	\$ -	6-0070	Bank charges	\$ 2.00
4-3010	Contributions (members)	\$ 23,572.87	6-0080	Bad debts	
4-3020	Contributions (public)	\$ 2,820.20	6-0085	Board expenses	\$ -
4-4010	Sale of goods	\$ -	6-0090	Planning costs	\$ -
4-4050	Other fees & charges	\$ -	6-0110	Client support services	\$ -
4-4070	Sales of tickets	\$ 4,075.36	6-0220	Computer expenses	\$ 1,127.52
4-5020	Interest	\$ 0.06	6-0230	Consultancy fees	\$ -
4-5035	Recoupments	\$ 7,156.68	6-0300	Donations paid	\$ 4,052.28
4-5050	Other sundry income	\$ -	6-0315	Entertainment Costs	\$ 700.00
4-5060	Sale of assets	\$ -	6-0320	Equipment hire/lease	\$ -
			6-0330	Fees/permits	\$ 300.70
			6-0340	Fundraising exp. (Vic.)	\$ 839.14
			6-0400	Insurance (general)	\$ -
			6-0410	Insurance-public liability	\$ -
			6-0440	Insurance - volunteers	\$ -
			6-0445	Interest paid	\$ -
			6-0450	Legal fees	\$ 55.80
			6-0460	Loss on sale of assets	\$ -
			6-0480	Meeting expenses	\$ 7,409.15
			6-0490	Membership fees paid	\$ -
			6-0510	Postage & freight	\$ 2,349.92
			6-0520	Printing & stationary	\$ 1,425.34
			6-0540	Publication resources	\$ 1,292.60
			6-0670	Sundry expenses	\$ 1,082.88
			6-0680	Telephone & internet exp	\$ 643.41
			6-0700	Staff training & dev.	\$ 7,899.23
			6-0710	Travel & accommodation	\$ 8,962.02
			6-0730	Volunteer costs	\$ 401.31
			6-0740	Write off expenses	\$ 19.18
				<b>TOTAL Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 43,130.70</b>
<b>Year End Balances as of Dec. 31 2017</b>					
901684	Women's Federation for World Peace, Victoria INC		\$	1,902.15	
10377911	WFWP Island Project (savings)		\$	3,489.11	
	<b>TOTAL End of Year Balance</b>		\$	<b>5,391.26</b>	

For the financial report for Queensland or New South Wales, contact Mamiko Rattley (QLD) or Aila Willitts (NSW)



## Our Partners



As an Organisation, UMSLV works to bring unity and cooperation between all Muslims, and foster goodwill and better understanding between Muslims and the broader society. UMSLV represent and enhance the profile of the Muslim community by conducting programs and celebratory functions with the local community; these being a platform for social interaction. UMSLV maintains contact with organisations that have similar objectives, and raises funds to support charities favoured by the organisation.



“Our mission is to help improve the quality of life for the poor and disadvantaged people of the world. We believe that the best assistance is that which encourages and enables all people to develop themselves. Hence we help individuals and communities to harness their own resources for securing the basic necessities of life and for gaining greater economic, social and spiritual fulfilment, while respecting their customs, language, and religious beliefs.”



Leaders in Settlement, Employment, Training, Youth, Housing and Social Enterprise. Access Community Services is located in Logan, Queensland and works towards a cohesive community where everyone is valued and can fully participate in the social and economic life of the community. Access has a highly skilled workforce of over 200 workers with a diverse range of skills, experience and qualifications. <http://www.accesscommunity.org.au/>



An international and inter-religious network of individuals and organisations, including representatives from religion, government, civil society and the private sector, is dedicated to achieving world peace. An NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, UPF supports the work of the United Nations, particularly in the areas of interfaith peace building, peace education, and the strengthening of marriage and family.



A mission to spread the Universal Peace Message and Prayer, May Peace Prevail On Earth, far and wide to embrace the lands and people of this Earth. May ‘Peace Prevail On Earth’ is an all inclusive message and prayer. It is a meeting place of the heart bringing together people of all faiths, backgrounds and culture to embrace the Oneness of our planetary family.

### Logan Elders



Aunty Peggy Tidyman is a respected Aboriginal Elder in Logan, Queensland. She is a leading member of the Logan District

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation for Elders, past Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Association, and respected Education Counsellor in the Queensland Education Department for nearly thirty years.



## CREDITS

**Editors:** Anne Bellavance, Wendy Milgate, Joan D'Abreo

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## WFWP LINKS

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**Australian Website:** [www.wfwpaustralia.org](http://www.wfwpaustralia.org)

**International Website:** [www.wfwp.org](http://www.wfwp.org)

**Oceania Youtube channel:** [www.youtube.com/channel/UC9cW3xHmHDXkOoRTcIHDLOW](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9cW3xHmHDXkOoRTcIHDLOW)

**Oceania Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/wfwp.oceania>

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**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT**