

OCEANIA / S.E. ASIA WFWP NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | 2021

Inside This Issue

Page

2	Feature Column: WFWP And Me
24	Australia
32	New Zealand
34	Papua New Guinea
36	Philippines
37	Contact Us and Get Involved

The Hope for Humanity Comes from Mothers



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

Dr. Hak Jan Han Moon
Founder, WFWP International

WFWP is committed to:

- Serving communities – Service projects within Australia & the Pacific Islands.
- Strengthening the family – Workshops, forums, seminars, and conferences.
- Bridge of Peace - Reconciling differences and healing wounds of the past.
- Global Women’s Peace Network (GWPN) – A network of women leaders and organisations dedicated to solving pressing social issues and securing an environment for human development.

Feature Column: WFWP and Me

Memories by Jynene Hellend Celebrating 30 Years of WFWP International Service Sydney | Australia

I felt connected to WFWP in heart and a quiet excitement when the inauguration of WFWP International was announced. I was happy for the opportunity to attend this inauguration in Seoul in 1992. It is natural that God has a feminine motherly aspect, and Mother Moon (Co-Founder of WFWP) was enabling Heavenly Mother to have a voice, and an avenue to heal the world.

I went to Korea with a small group of women from Australia and New Zealand. The inauguration was held on a very wet day, and all the guests on stage were provided raincoats. I was in the stands watching. At one point, I, and many women around me began singing repeatedly, 'You Are My Sunshine' to encourage an abundance of spiritual sunshine before Mother Moon spoke and boldly proclaimed the age of women.

Two years later, WFWP Japanese volunteers were sent all over the world. We will always remember their motherly, sacrificial hearts. The women who came to Australia began to work in an area in Sydney with many Indigenous families. I was moved when they said they worked in there because in Japan, when you go to someone's house, you first greet the elders of the house. The Indigenous people of Australia were the original caretakers of the land, so they should be greeted and acknowledged first.



Japanese sisters volunteering in Australia, 1994

The first Bridge of Peace Sisterhood ceremony in Australia was held in Sydney with Japanese and Australian WFWP women and Aboriginal women. Later, we all worked together on an exchange art project titled 'See Through Children's Eyes', themed 'What Peace Means to Me'. The art works of Aboriginal children and Japanese children were displayed at the Japanese Cultural Centre in Sydney.

In 2000, I took on the role of International Vice President for the Oceania region. I held the position until 2013. It was a special experience, and privilege. An international conference was held annually to report, share, and discuss ideas. These annual conferences were held in different regions, providing the opportunity to visit many parts of the world and make deep connections with other WFWP sisters.



At Hangnamdong for the Garden Party

One very memorable experience was attending a garden party at Hangnamdong (the residence of Father and Mother Moon), during the 2001 WFWPI Conference in Korea. I remember the tables were decorated with pink tablecloths and silver accessories, and there was an impressive selection of delicious food. I was together with WFWP women from around the world. It was one of those moments in your life when you wouldn't want to be anywhere else; it felt like a little taste of heaven.



At the Garden Party at Hangnamdong

Father and Mother Moon came out into the yard and walked arm-in-arm from one table to another. They stopped at one of the cooking areas to watch. One of the ladies from WFWP Korea motioned for me and others to move inconspicuously and stand behind our Co-Founders, gesturing that she would take a photo. So, we moved around and one by one stood in position.

I'm not sure if Father and Mother Moon were aware of what was happening, but they lingered there awhile, giving many the opportunity for a memorable photo. That photo is a treasure from a very special evening together with Father and Mother Moon, and my WFWP sisters.

In 2005, WFWP held a Pacific Women's Friendship conference in Koror, Palau in collaboration with First Lady Debbie Remengesau. It was attended by women from Korea, Japan, and the Pacific Island nations. Palau had a significant connection with Japan in the past. Many older Palauan's understand Japanese language. Fierce fighting occurred in the Pacific during WW2.

The Pacific Ocean is the resting place of many fallen heroes from both sides of the conflict. During the conference a sisterhood ceremony was held. It was a very moving event bringing together many wonderful women. Before we left Palau, First Lady Debbie arranged a sightseeing day. We went to various amazing and beautiful places. One special place we visited was First Lady Debbie's family taro patch, (taro playing an important role in Palauan culture). She wanted to offer us a glimpse of typical Palauan life. She harvested some taro for us to see. It was a very natural, down-home experience – a cherished memory.



With Julia Moon at Mt Kumgang

Another cherished memory was going to North Korea for the WFWP conference in 2007. Oceania women joined more than 700 women from 32 nations to visit North Korea. We climbed Mount Kumgang, which I was told was an experience Koreans often would like the opportunity to do in their lifetime. It was something I never imagined that I would do in my lifetime!

One special memory was a candle lighting at the end of the program. The room was glowing. It was a very moving experience. We were one with North and South Korea, foreshadowing what is destined to be substantially realized in the not-too-distant future. I was very happy to share this experience and show the photos to my Korean friends when I came back home.

In 2013, I attended the WFWP conference in Las Vegas. My understanding is that this was the first event where Mother Moon spoke after her husband's passing. It was very special for all who attended. The next morning, I went with many others to Mother Moon's home and shared morning devotion before she embarked on a tour around USA to visit places Father and Mother Moon had once visited together. As Mother Moon's bus departed, I was determined to stand with Mother Moon and work even harder to realise a world of peace.

These are just a few of the many cherished experiences working with WFWPI. The work nourished my spirit, opened my mind, stretched my heart, and I am grateful.

Jynene Helland was the WFWP International Vice-President representing the region of Oceania from 1992-2013.

Memories by Felicity Cairns

Celebrating 30 Years of International Service

Auckland | New Zealand

I would like to thank Women's Federation for World Peace International for the compilation of the 30th Anniversary book to highlight the extraordinary service and hard work of courageous WFWP women from all regions of the globe.



I became the president of WFWP NZ in 2003 and retired in 2021. When I took on the responsibility, my youngest child was 4 years old, and my eldest son and daughter (twins) were 11 years old. I was a Registered Nurse working 5 days per week, 8 hours per day. My husband wholeheartedly supported my decision and assisted me by taking care of our children and household duties while I spent time on WFWP activities and travelled overseas to represent WFWP NZ.

I was fortunate to be in a position to prepare and welcome the Co-Founders of WFWP International, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and Dr. Rev. Sun Myung Moon to New Zealand in 2005.

I feel very honoured to have led such an incredible organisation and did my best to uphold the mission, vision, and purpose of WFWP International. My team and I focused on building relationships with women from like-minded women's organisations and supported charitable organisations that



helped people in times of disasters. We gave financial assistance through fundraising drives and charity concerts.

I focused on working with women at grassroot levels, considering their different ethnicities, cultures, and backgrounds. To achieve this, I arranged monthly meetings and chose topics for discussion that were interesting and educational for the specific target group.

I encouraged the empowerment of women by working in collaboration with other women's groups, and shared responsibilities with my executive committee board members, giving them the opportunity to represent WFWP NZ at conferences on a national, regional, or international level.

I was honoured to be invited by like-minded women's organisations to speak on topics related to peacebuilding and the education of women. We celebrated the UN International Women's Day on an annual basis in collaboration with UN Women and a few other women's organisations.



I kept in mind that there also needed to be some fun activities for women, so I arranged a range of activities such as yoga classes, flower arranging, health and wellbeing sessions, line dancing, colour your wardrobe, and visits to members' homes to celebrate their birthdays.

To appreciate and thank our executive committee members and the general membership for their loyalty, friendship, and hard work throughout the year, we arranged a party at the end of every year.



One of my highlights was the launching of the Global Women's Peace Network in NZ in 2015. One hundred and twenty women from different women's organisations attended. The keynote speaker was the previous WFWP International President, Professor Yeon Ah Moon.

I would also like to acknowledge the attendance of Mrs Anne Bellavance, WFWP Australia President/WFWP International Vice-Chairwoman representing Oceania and S.E. Asia who travelled

abroad to attend and support the launch. Since then, the Global Women’s Peace Network assembly was held annual.

As WFWP International has general consultative status within the economic and social council of the United Nations. WFWP NZ supported the UN International Day of Peace and the UN International Fay of Families, and in collaboration with the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification and the Universal Peace Federation, celebrated these days annually. The WFWP signature project ‘Bridge of Peace Ceremony’ was a well-recognised ceremony at the UN International Day for Peace events.



In conclusion, I would like to thank WFWP’s Co-Founders, Dr Hak Ja Han Moon, and Rev. Dr Sun Myung Moon for the founding principles and spiritual foundation that WFWP International is guided by.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the WFWP NZ Executive Committee members and general membership for their hard work and loyalty during my time as president.

A big thank you to Mrs Anne Bellavance, WFWP International Vice-Chairwoman representing Oceania and S.E. Asia for her support and great leadership.

Written by Felicity Cairns
President, WFWP New Zealand 2003 - 2021

Australia

Faith Stories Theme: Prophetic Wisdom March 5th | Melbourne, Australia

Interview with Yarra Ranges Life TV: <https://www.facebook.com/YRLife.tv/videos/live-sharing-the-womens-federation-for-world-peace-australia-story-from-their-cu/1150640482340919/>

Overview

- Faith Stories facilitates community connection by providing a panel of multicultural women faith leaders who share a deeper understanding of their faith and culture, resulting in a breakdown of barriers and unfounded stereotypes that hinder community cohesion.
- This event is about sharing one's faith story, not about doctrine.



Mistress of Ceremony

Elizabeth Banza - founder of Amazing Trans4mation



Liz is a certified Life and Personal Development Coach and a Motivational Speaker, delivering empowerment workshops, programs, and one-on-one services.

Elizabeth's smile embraced us all.

Presenters

Dr Mary Coloe – Catholic Stories



Mary is Professor of New Testament at the University of Divinity, and a Catholic Nun of the Presentation Congregation. She was part of the founding group of the JMCA (Jewish Christian Muslim Association) and worked on an international dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Church of Christ.

Growing up, Mary recited prayers, but didn't really learn how to pray until much later in life. In her family, the Catholic faith was taken for granted as 'a given'. Mary shared

when God broke into her life; at 15 she experienced a strong sense of call to be a nun, then later mysteriously affirmed her vocation in 'dark', silent mystery.

Over the years, her image of God changed: God as a loving, caring father like her own father; God as friend and companion; God as Master of the Universe when she needed a bigger, more expansive language; with Jesus; as lady wisdom; and I AM.

Mary came to know and appreciate the wisdom of her spiritual tradition through the writings of women and men who wrote their experiences as a guide to others. Finishing with the words of Israel's great prayer, the Shema, 'Hear, O Israel'. Mary shared that this prayer is about the importance of entering 'the silence' with ears open to listen to God's word.



Jynene Hellend– Unification Stories



Jynene attended the international inauguration of WFWP in Seoul in 1992. She is one of the founding members of the WFWP Australia and was International Vice President of WFWPI, representing Oceania, from 2000 to 2013.

Jynene gave a brief background of her journey and shared some of the lessons she learned with God and to God. The lessons were illustrated through simple, meaningful stories.

The points Jynene shared were:

- God loves us and is deeply involved and concerned about our life. “From my prayers, I know God is with me, and loves me. The reminders are all around; the breeze brushing on my face, people helping me, challenges I met that made me stronger. I felt and still feel God’s love around me. I am not alone.”
- God is not in second place. God is in subject position in our life. Father and Mother Moon showed Jynene that God wants much more for our lives and for this world. It’s our Heavenly Parent’s will, heart, and perspective that really matters.
- God has a fatherly heart, but also a motherly heart. God is our Heavenly Mother, as well as our Heavenly Father. God is our Heavenly Parent.
- Our life goal is to grow to embody unconditional love in the image of God. Father and Mother Moon taught that, to reflect God within us, we need to forget ourselves and ‘Live for the sake of others’. Forget we have given, give again, and then again.

Anne (Juo-Wen) Fan – Tao Stories



As a Master Teacher certified by the Tao Academy, Anne is a Tao Hand Practitioner, Tao Calligraphy Master Practitioner, Tao Calligraphy teacher, and Direct Soul Communicator.

Born in Taiwan, Anne graduated from the Taiwan Academy of Art and received a double degree from Deakin University. She has taught Mandarin for more than 20 years and is currently teaching Mandarin in Primary

School.

Anne shared that drawing from her background as a Mandarin teacher and Calligraphy teacher, she now leads workshops, tele-classes and courses that empower people to improve every aspect of their lives. For instance, from Tao Calligraphy practices, people can experience a great equanimity and alignment that helps to create a flourishing life.

Anne went on a spiritual quest to find her True Master and was deeply moved by the wisdom of Master Sha who helps people to become happier and healthier. As a Certified Master Teacher from Tao Academy, Anne now provides a nourishing blend of practical intelligence and inspired wisdom on Tao thought learned from Master Sha.

Venerable Bodhicitta – Buddhist Stories



Venerable has a biomedical science degree from Monash University and is Spiritual Director of the International Centre for Inner Peace and Happiness INC (Nisala Arana), being a renowned meditation teacher with over 35 years' experience.

She has conducted many meditation retreats, lectures, Dhamma talks, and discussions in Australia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Japan, India, Canada, and USA.

Venerable shared that negative emotions can greatly influence our psychological and physical well-being, as well as our capacity to develop spiritually. She analyses emotions and discusses how to deal with them effectively according to the law of nature.



Sue Mendelson – Progressive Jewish Stories



Sue has a Master's in Arts and History from Monash University. Her passion is history with a Jewish focus.

Although raised an Anglican, Sue converted to Judaism in 1984 and raised her children as Jewish.

Sue has been a speaker with a focus on inter-faith with the State Zionist Council, Temple Beth Israel, and the Jewish Christian Muslim Association.

As a Progressive Jewish person, Sue shared the following points:

- Belief in One omnipotent, omnipresent, and incorporeal God.
- Throughout life, Sue celebrates Jewish lifestyle and festivals.
- The home is the centre for celebration of the weekly Shabbat and the Passover.
- Women are cherished and the centre of the home.
- There is equality of women in progressive Judaism. Women can be Rabbis and cantors.
- There is a strong belief in justice and tolerance for all other religions, cultures, and peoples.

Reflection from Participants

It was very interesting to listen to the stories of women from diverse faith backgrounds and share experiences and lessons along our own journeys. Faith Stories offers a valuable opportunity to learn how God works in the lives of peoples of all faiths. We have much in common. – Jynene

PARTNERS and SUPPORTERS

Hosted by:



The **Women's Federation for World Peace** is an international NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. WFWP 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 can resolve the complex problems of our societies and world.

With Support from:



Family Federation for World Peace and Unification



Yarra Ranges Council



Multicultural Commission of Victoria

Written by Anne Bellavacne

President, WFWP Australia

IVP, WFWPI representing Oceania & S.E. Asia



Clean Up Australia Day

March 13th | Victoria, Australia

Overview

- WFWP Australia, Victoria Chapter volunteers joined together for Clean Up Australia Day to address environmental problems, while also promoting education and community connection.

The WFWP Victoria volunteers, family and friends came together in Belgrave to help keep our community clean and promote sustainability. Not only was Clean Up Australia Day a chance for WFWP to participate in helping the environment, but it was also a great activity to bring the community together and foster meaningful relationships.

With a total of 30 participants, it was a great turnout. It was also encouraging to see children participating and, in the process, learning about the importance of keeping our planet clean. Amongst these participants were WFWP Australia President, Anne Bellavance, and UFP Vice-President, Dr John Bellavance.



As the day carried on, it was very inspiring to see everyone in the community stepping up and getting involved to make a difference. To finish off the fun day, a sausage sizzle and Easter eggs were provided.

As a team, we collected over 12 large garbage bags from our local Belgrave area and raised money from the BBQ to aid our communities in the Pacific islands. It was a fun day.



Reflection from Participants

“What a fun, great day to get the community involved in keeping our streets clean!” – Richard

PARTNERS and SUPPORTERS

Hosted by:



The **Women's Federation for World Peace** is an international NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. WFWP 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 can resolve the complex problems of our societies and world.

With Support from:



Clean Up Australia is a not-for-profit Australian organisation promoting environmental conservation. Clean Up Australia Day empowers communities to address environmental problems and supports local action to make a difference in the world.

Written by Suzanna Hoffman
WFWP Events Coordinator and Volunteer, Victoria Chapter

Peace Building Seminar series

Theme: 'Head-Wing', meeting global challenges together, beyond religious and ideological divides

Saturday April 2nd | Melbourne, Australia

Overview

- Women's Federation for World Peace, and the Universal Peace Federation Peace Seminar series 2022 explores the concept of 'Head-Wing' put forward by Dr. Sun Myung Moon.
- Humanity faces serious global challenges. National and international solutions cannot be achieved through political compromise alone but must involve a commitment to personal change and shared values.

Over forty participants throughout Australia took part in the first peace building seminar for 2022. Thirty participants joined face-to-face in Melbourne. Adelaide chapter members of UPF, led by Dr Joy de Leo participated online, as did others across the country.



Our keynote speaker was Dr. Thomas Ward, president of the Unification Theological Seminary in New York. He spoke on Adam Smith's Theory of Moral Sentiments. Smith argued that Moral Sentiments, or conscience, must underpin all human activity, including economics. One can argue that this lies at the foundation of 'Wealth of Nations', and resonates with the UPF views of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universal Values.

Dr. Ward also gave an insightful presentation about the historical background to the Ukraine conflict. He argued that after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States and other Western powers should have actively reached out to help Russia become a stable and prosperous democracy. Instead, several American presidents and leaders boasted that the U.S. had won the cold war, creating a division that remains today.



Anne Bellavance, WFWP Australia President, and International Vice-President of WFWP International (representing Oceania and S.E. Asia) spoke on the 'Cornerstone for Happiness', focusing on men and women relationships. Continuing the theme of head-wing, Anne's interactive presentation emphasised the importance of being good listeners, and good communicators as a means for reconciliation and good relationships.



The final presenter, Dr. John Bellavance, Oceania Coordinator of the International Association of Academicians for Peace, and Vice-President of UPF Australia, spoke on 'Head Wing' - Moving Beyond Political Divides.

John maintained that to find solutions to the critical challenges of our time requires us to move beyond political and ideological economic theories, and policies of left and right. As a society and nation, we need to move beyond these divides to find shared values and solutions that incorporate various religious, political, ideological, and economic perspectives.

Ambassadors for Peace



Three new Ambassadors for Peace joined the UPF ranks. From left to right with the awards are Abdullahi Aden Ibrahim, and Inaam Barakat.



Aden Ibrahim is the CEO of Blueshield Technologies and has served society for over 30 years as the Vice President of the Somali Australian Council of Victoria, and President of the Somali Cultural Association. Aden is currently undertaking various community projects funded by State and Local Governments in the Greater Dandenong City Council. In 2001, the international year of Volunteering, Aden received a certificate of honor in recognition from the Ministry of Community for his active contribution as a volunteer in the development of various ethnic communities or groups in Australia.



Inaam Barakat is currently the Community Engagement and Community Development Coordinator for the Brotherhood of St Laurence. She has served the multicultural communities in Australia for over 30 years. Inaam has held numerous leadership roles such as: the Chairperson Employment Committee and Victorian Planning Committee, Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, the Police and Community Multicultural Advisory committee, advising Ethnicity issues and Law and Order to the Family Court of Australia, Victorian Settlement Planning Committee and a leading figure in The Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership Program. In 2008 she was conferred Victorian Multicultural Commission Award for Excellence in Multicultural Affairs and Employment.

Her voice for peace has been heard as the Producer, Presenter, and operator of 3CR Radio and Producer Presenter, SBS Radio for 20 years, focusing on women's issues and empowering new migrants. SBS

Arabic Radio covered the award in a [recent broadcast](#).

David Malinda received the award in Adelaide. He has worked as a research scientist with the Waite Agricultural Research Institute - University of Adelaide in Soil Science. David studied Dryland Farming Systems in Adelaide and Electrification of Agriculture Kakhovka Agricultural Institute, in Ukraine. David also worked with the South Australian Department of Agriculture and a Soils Research Scientist, and in Kenya with the Ministry of Agriculture as a Senior Agricultural Engineer. In his service to society David served as the President of the African Community Organization of South Australia, helping families of refugees by mediating with the Federal Government, organising forums and encouraging

community and school participation at forums and sports events. He also coordinated the Artists workshops for schools for thirteen years servicing 35,000 students.

David is the National Chairperson for the Climate Change, Food Security and Sustainability for the Pan-African Australasian Diaspora Network. His awards include: Australian of the Year Award presented by the Port Adelaide Enfield Council for his contributions to the community, the Governor's Award for his contribution to community and multiculturalism in South Australia, Australia Day Ambassador, National Living Legend Award in recognition for his contributions to Australian society in the areas of science, and the Order of Australia in recognition for his scientific work and contribution to multiculturalism.

PARTNERS



The **Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP)** is an international NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. WFWP 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 can resolve the complex problems of our societies and world.



The **Universal Peace Federation (UPF)** is an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We support and promote the work of the United Nations and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals - www.upf.org

Global Women's Peace Network



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

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

New Zealand

Growing Gardens

March 26th | Auckland, New Zealand

Overview

- WFWP New Zealand launched the Community Service Workshop, “Growing Gardens”, to inspire and enthuse participants to grow their own produce.



On a bright summer’s day on February 26th, the Women’s Federation for World Peace, New Zealand, held a Community Service Workshop entitled: “Growing Gardens”. A highlight of the workshop was its launching as a new project of the WFWP-NZ.



“Even though this was a launch, we did not anticipate a large turnout due to Covid restrictions and the size of the venue,” said Matapa.

The session was an introduction to the project, covering its founding purpose, structure and those responsible for leading it. Secondly, it was an opportunity to step into Nita Wallis’s “magical garden” and get a glimpse of her passion for planting. The main session was followed by a light afternoon tea and further mixing and mingling amongst the group.



The workshop successfully ended with Matapa giving closing remarks on the new project, noting its potential and appeal to inspire and lead anyone who’s keen to grow their own produce by utilising and living off the land we know — our own backyard. Furthermore, plants from the workshops will be donated to help raise funds for WFPW-NZ projects and Global Development and Aid project work carried out

here in New Zealand and abroad.



As a request from one participant, the next session will be on how to grow and care for garden herbs, which will be held in May of this year.

Reflection from Participants

“My first impression was, ‘Wow’. I was amazed at the effort of work that went into it.” – Temura

Hosted by:



The **Women's Federation for World Peace** is an international NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. WFWP 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 can resolve the complex problems of our societies and world.

Written by Matapa Shelley, President, WFWP New Zealand

Celebrating International Women’s Day Wednesday March 9th | Suva, Fiji

Overview

- Enabled networking between women from different faith groups and professions.
- Women shared their views on gender equality and women’s empowerment.
- WFWP Fiji could finally kick-start after the long COVID lockdowns and begin again building a presence and membership.

Though Fiji hasn’t been spared the deadlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year we did not want to be robbed of celebrating International Women’s Day again. The WFWP Fiji Chapter celebrated International Women’s Day with close to 30 women.

As COVID cases gradually slowed, the day marked a reason to celebrate, and was an opportune time for us at WFWP Fiji to invite women and give them a platform to engage in dialogue while celebrating International Women’s Day.

The program included a presentation about WFWP International Founder, Dr Hak Ja Han Moon, video messages from women in business, and women leaders, including the Fijian Minister for Women, Hon. Rosy Akbar, and Anne Bellavance, WFWP International Vice-President representing the Oceania and S.E. Asia. Hon. Rosy acknowledged WFWP Fiji President, Sharila Lazarus and the work of WFWP.



Each woman had a chance to share their views on the 2022 theme of International Women’s Day, “Break the Bias”. Our motivational speaker Dr Bernadette Pushpangaeli, a graduate from London University and President of Dental Association in Fiji, shared her personal life experiences and gave a very inspiring talk.

The event attracted participants from teens to senior and many sectors, medical fraternity, education, domestic, and religious organisations. The two-hour program concluded with a wonderful dinner and photoshoots.

PARTNERS and SUPPORTERS

Hosted by:



The **Women’s Federation for World Peace** is an international NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. WFWP 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 can resolve the complex problems of our societies and world.

Author: Sharila Lazarus, President of WFWP Fiji



Global Development and Aid project: Food Baskets

March 9th | Fiji

Overview

- WFP Fiji's Global Development and Aid project 'Food Baskets for the Needy', launched during International Women's Day, assisted those in need of basic food and health supplies.

It was indeed a feeling of fulfilment to see the recipients brimming with joy as they received some necessities delivered in a box to their doorsteps.



This year during the International Women's Day celebrations, WFP Fiji distributed 25 food baskets. The 25 households selected were those who reside in impoverished conditions with very low or no income, and some who are physically challenged. A bag of toiletries and hygiene items was also given to those needing support with healthcare.

Each food basket consisted of the most basic food items that could keep a family going for a week during these difficult times. The grocery items would allow recipients to at least plan their meals for the next few days. Through this Global Development and Aid project, WFP Fiji could ensure these needy families had some food on the table to help ease their woes.



Author: Sharila Lazarus, President WFP Fiji

Philippines

WFP Global Development and Aid Relief Distribution to Typhoon Victims

January 2022 | Philippines

Overview

- The Philippines was struck by super typhoon Rai, commonly known in the Philippines as typhoon Odette, last December 16, 2021. It made nine landfalls in the areas of Visayas and Mindanao, affecting 11 regions in the country and leaving a massive destruction to the areas being hit.



Many houses were flooded, submerged, and even washed away by the raging water. Others were completely destroyed by the strong winds, leaving countless families homeless and forced to take shelter in evacuation centres.



A total blackout resulted in no water supply, lack of safe drinking water, limited communication due to destroyed cell sites, and inaccessible roads, which resulted in

family members from afar not being able to contact their families from the affected areas.

In response to this, WFP Philippines organised a fundraiser for the victims of the typhoon. Through this, we were able to distribute food packages to the areas that were strongly affected, such as some barangays (villages) in Roxas, Palawan, where the typhoon made its last landfall in the Philippines.



The relief distribution started last December 29-30, 2021. It was through the collaborative effort of the WFP Philippines with partner organisations IAYSP Palawan Chapter, UPF and FFWPU that 800 food packages were distributed to the typhoon victims.

Another relief operation was held at Mabuhay, Sison, Surigao del Norte last January 4, 2022. This was led by WFP Philippines National President Mrs. Almera Grace Mayo. There were 150 food packages distributed to the families in the area.





One more relief operation was held in Negros Oriental last January 11, 2022, where 50 households were provided with food packages. This was made possible through the coordinator in the area.



The recipients were overjoyed upon receiving the food packages and were very grateful to the donors.

PARTNERS and SUPPORTERS

Hosted by:



The **Women's Federation for World Peace** is an international NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. WFWP 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 can resolve the complex problems of our societies and world.

Author: Jinky Hora, Executive Secretary, WFWP Philippines

Contact Us

WFWP Regional & Australia HQ

42-46 Bartley Rd., Belgrave Heights, VIC 3160, Australia

Office: +61 3 5968 2664

E-mail: contact@wfwpaustralia.org

Australia website: www.wfwpaustralia.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wfwpaustralia

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/women-s-federation-for-world-peace-australia/>

WFWP New Zealand

NZ Peace Embassy

24 St. Stephens Ave, Parnell, Auckland, 1052

Tel: + 649 263 6984

E-mail: wfwpnz@gmail.com | Website: www.wfwp.org.nz/

WFWP Solomon Islands

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

E-mail: selinagalo@gmail.com

WFWP Fiji

GPO Box 13186, Suva, Fiji | Tel: +679 9271 875

E-mail: sharila2011@gmail.com

WFWP Papua New Guinea

PO Box 1127

Vision City, Waigani, National Capital District, PNG

E-mail: prismauve@gmail.com | Tel: +675 7537 0608

WFWP Vanuatu

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

E-mail: malereaclaude@gmail.com

WFWP Samoa

Federal Pacific House, Vaea St. Saleufi

P.O. Box 814, Apia | Tel: +61 452 561 811

E-mail: wfwpsamoa685@gmail.com

WFWP Philippines

32 Samar Avenue, South Triangle, Dilliman

Quezon City, 1800

E-mail: wfwpphilippines@gmail.com | Office: +63-9241833

WFWP Malaysia

12, Jalan Utara, Section 52,

46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor

E-mail: wfwpmal2010@gmail.com | Office: +603-7932 0991

Newsletter Team

Editor: Anne Bellavance

Proofreading: Sara Vojdani and Maddy Stewart

We thank all our members, sponsors and supporters.

Feel inspired?



Support our Pacific Islands Humanitarian Service Projects

Volunteer: Get involved with one of our Oceania Chapters. Contact us to find out how.

Donate: Make a financial contribution to our WFWP Island Projects, where 100% of your donation supports humanitarian projects. Within Oceania, WFWP is a fully volunteer based NFP charitable organisation.

Used sewing machines: Sent to our *Women's Sewing Centres* in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, PNG, and Samoa, where local women start cooperatives to support their families. Please ensure that your sewing machine is in good working conditions. The Women's Centres are also in need of fabric and tools.

Quality junior and secondary school books: *Books for the Islands* donates to primary and secondary schools within the Pacific to either establish school libraries, or enrich them.

Contact us to organise a pick-up or drop off time.