



WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE, AUSTRALIA

2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT



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From the National Office



It is with great joy that I present our 2015-16 National Report to you. The report shows a snap-shot of our Australia wide activities over the last year and the vision of WFWP comes through strongly.

Women are Empowered
Families are Strengthened
Communities are Connected

This report is a testament to the heart of service and giving by all our amazing volunteers; women who serve and serve again to make our families stronger and happier and our community's safer and more connected places to live.

Thank-you for your commitment and heart, thank-you for walking with me as the National President, and thank-you for supporting your local Chapter Presidents in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

As a National Chapter of WFWP International, we stand in solidarity with women world-wide by carrying the mission and vision of WFWP in our hearts. We understand that it is only through substantially 'living by the logic of love' that true and sustainable peace can be accomplished, one family at a time. This is the alternative to force and aggression.

Recently I was a guest speaker at a local community radio station. The radio show brings in speaker's courtesy of South East Volunteers; an organisation WFWP Victoria is linked with to provide volunteer opportunities for people. I told stories about our service projects in the Island nations of Oceania; the development of the kindergarten in the Solomon Islands; the supplying of solar lights to remote villages in Vanuatu; the establishment of Women's Sewing Centres in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji; the sending of children's books for primary school libraries; our local chapter activities; and, the annual Support our Pacific Neighbours walk-a-thon. I explained we are an international women's organisation that focuses on empowering women, with projects managed by women for the benefit of their families. The presenter chatted with me and confirmed that women play the leading role in raising their families to a better position; the result being peace and stability starting at the family level. He was taken by our organisations name, Women's Federation for World Peace.

When people hear the organisations name it truly takes their breath away. I had this same experience at a local council meeting for NFPs within the municipality. The room was full of community group representatives. When I introduced myself and said our organisations name, I heard a definite awe struck sound as people breathed in, similar to going outside on a cold crisp morning and the coolness of the air takes your breath away. We do not realise the profound affect the heart, philosophy and spirit of the Women's Federation for World Peace has on people when they meet us and hear about our activities. Dr. Hak JA Han Moon and Rev. Moon, we thank you for your vision to initiate WFWP International.

We have made new friends and new partner organisations and we are better, because you our readers, have shared in our journey.

Warmest Wishes,



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 Women's Peace Network is a network of women leaders who are peace builders within society. The GWPN is a project of WFWP International.



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

Launch of the GWPN in Australia
Sydney, September 15, 2015

The launch of the Global Women’s Peace Network (GWPN) in Australia was held at the Oceania Peace Embassy in downtown Sydney. It was organised by the Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP), and co-sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and the South Pacific Islands Foundation. About 110 people attended the event including WFWP members, guests and Ambassadors for Peace. After a Welcome to Country by Aboriginal elder, Auntie Jenny, and a didgeridoo performance, WFWP Australia President, Anne Bellavance, introduced WFWP’s mission and the range of activities that have been taking place in Oceania.

Following her presentation, Anne introduced and welcomed Professor Yeon Ah Moon, International President of the WFWP, who gave a speech on ‘Women as Global Peacemakers.’ Professor Moon shared the vision behind the GWPN, and relayed the words of Co-founder, Dr Hak Ja Han Moon who spoke at the GWPN launch in Korea in 2012.

After Professor Moon’s speech, WFWP representatives were invited to the cake cutting ceremony. Dinner was then served, and the guests were entertained with a flute performance during the course of the meal. After the meal, the President of the Indonesian Women’s Association offered her congratulatory remarks; a representative from the Tongan Women’s Association gave her reflections on the evening; and, a member of Fairfield Council, who is also a representative of the Cook Island Christian community in Sydney gave us strong encouragement to work together as women of faith during her remarks. Each woman spoke with sincerity and a passion to work together to empower women in their efforts to bring peace to the world.

The evening came to a close as the Japanese Ladies Choir performed two songs. Everyone was asked to stand up and join in during the final song, ‘Let There Be Peace on Earth.’ The President of the NSW Chapter of WFWP, Aila Willitts, gave her closing remarks, and the evening finished with a group photo.





Victoria, Connecting Communities Dinner-Dance

This year we celebrated the anniversary of the Women’s Federation for World Peace International with a Community Bush Dance on the actual foundation day of April 10th; we are 24 years old. The evenings theme of ‘Connecting Communities’ sits nicely with the third key objective of WFWP Oceania; Communities are Connected.

Mount Waverley Community Centre has become our home for the anniversary Community Dinner. This is due to the high quality of the community centre, its convenience and the ample space to invite our families, friends and members. Jessica Greenall, our lovely MC, began the evening with a welcome to country. Councillor Rebecca Paterson from the Monash City Council welcomed us to the Mount Waverley Ward and Anne Bellavance gave an introduction about WFWPs activities. Highlights of the evening were the door prizes, a large collection of quality raffle prizes, and a yummy and healthy three course meal featuring Indian and Australian food, plus anniversary cake for desert later in the evening.

The Unification Band featuring Rick McInerhoney, Jacinta Darbshire, Tim Anania and Barbara Von Dracek entertained us during dinner. Afterwards, John McDonald, the caller in the Soopa Doopa Bush Band, encouraged everyone to get up and join in the fun. Thank you to the City of Monash for supplying the Community Centre; our youth volunteers, Chris, Naomi, Young Ju and Antoine for serving us during the evening with a happy spirit; Jessica who Emceed even with a croaky voice; our WFWP Board who pulled it all together; and, to the Soopa Doopa Bush Band for sharing their fun, traditional bush instruments and music with us. It was a great night.





New South Wales, 24th Anniversary Dinner & Fundraiser for Indonesia

Women’s Federation for World Peace invited a delegation of ‘Batik Girl’ to visit Australia from 29th March to 15 April. During their stay they visited many NGOs and institutes, including WFWP Australia in Melbourne and Sydney. Ladies from many organisations, NGOs and backgrounds came to the Sydney Anniversary meeting and helped to raise funds for this noble cause by purchasing the Batik Girl dolls which are clothed in Indonesian style dress.

The ‘Batik Girl’ roadshow travelled to Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney and had three main goals:

1. To strengthen relationship between Indonesia and Australia and gain wider Australian support for the prison program, which has 100 inmates sewing the clothing for the ‘Batik Girl’ and boxing the dolls, plus more than 540 inmates who benefit from the program.
2. Share the social mission of the ‘Batik Girl’ in the hope the program can also be applied in Australia. The ‘Batik Girl’ program provides therapy for the drug users in the prison.
3. Promote the 1000 Batik Girl Initiative for Indonesia. This Initiative supplies Batik Girl dolls to needy children; including those with cancer, HIV, Thalassemia and disabilities. The aim is to provide a thousand Batik Girl dolls in 10 cities throughout Indonesia.

The delegation is hoping the message of helping women and their children in the most difficult situation of being imprisoned will spread in Australia and in other countries.






1000 BATIK GIRL FOR INDONESIA



Australian Embassy
Jakarta

Some children need "Batik Girl" that can bring happiness to the children especially HIV Kids, Cancer Kids, Thalassemia & Disabilities Kids

Our Target:

Jakarta	100 Children
Batam	100 Children
Malikassar	100 Children
Sulawesi	100 Children
Acchi	100 Children
Pantai	100 Children
Bali	100 Children
Pontianak	100 Children
Medan	100 Children
Togayakumi	100 Children
Total	: 1000 Children

1 Friend 1 Doll



Contact:
Cinderella From Indonesia Center
Email:
lusi.kkrc.batam@gmail.com
Facebook:
CFIC Batik Girl
PH:
Voice: 0812 7530 5825
Aster: 0852 6100 5245
Viber: 0813 2877 4428





Queensland, 24th Anniversary Celebration

WFWP Queensland had a beautiful celebration for its 24th anniversary and was attended by WFWP's supportive members. The room was nicely decorated in green which is the colour of WFWP's logo. The evening's MC was Mamiko Rattley, president of WFWP Queensland and the program began with Aborigine Elder Aunty Peggy Tidyman's Acknowledgement of Country. Mamiko welcomed all participants and gave a talk on WFWP's aim and activities, which have been well recognised around the world. She particularly emphasised the values and teaching of WFWP which is 'Living for Others' and 'Family is the School of Love.' Everyone enjoyed the tasty cultural pot-luck dishes brought by the participants.

The second half of the program was led by our new and young secretary, Yejeong DeGeer. Her cheerful spirit lifted up everyone during the Trivia session. Afterwards we drew the winners for the raffle prizes. The money raised will be donated to support the Fiji cyclone victims.





Bridge of Peace

The 4 Steps for Peace Making in the Bridge of Peace Ceremony.

2

Responsibility: We break the chains of our resentments and anger by realising 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 Ceremony Qld. commemorates the 70 year end of WWII

The Bridge of Peace Sisterhood Ceremony was held at the Premiers' Hall in the Queensland State Parliamentary Annexe in Brisbane to commemorate the 70-year anniversary of the end of World War Two. It was hosted by the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Queensland and the National Council of Women of Queensland (NCWQ).

The program started with an Acknowledgment of Country by Aunty Peggy Tidyman, President of Logan Elders. Anne Bellavance, President of WFWP Australia and MC for this event, introduced the history and background of the Bridge of Peace Sisterhood Ceremony.

Host and President of NCWQ, Noela O'Donnell, welcomed all the participants.

This event was ennobled by the participation of dignitaries from the highest office in the state, the Governor of Queensland as well as international guests including the President of WFWP International, Professor Yeon Ah Moon, and 19 WFWP Japan delegates.

The MC invited the Governor of Queensland, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, to offer his welcoming remarks. The Governor congratulated the hosts of this historic event, and commended the work of both the NCWQ and the WFWP.

Professor Yeon Ah Moon, President of WFWP International, gave her greetings and said that we need to 'forgive, love and unite' in order to bring lasting peace in the world.

As a representative of WFWP Japan's 19 delegates, Mrs Oizumi, former MP of the National Parliament of Japan, gave her greetings and said that through today's ceremony, Japan and Australia can reconcile the past of World War Two and develop truly deeper relations and friendships.

Following these preliminaries, the Sisterhood Ceremony began. The participants who were to be paired eagerly lined up – 19 WFWP Japan delegates on the left side of the room and 19 Australian women on the right. With background music, 'Let there be Peace on Earth,' each participant crossed the stage to greet her new sister.

Mamiko Rattley, President of WFWP Queensland, spoke about the background behind WFWP Queensland deciding to hold this Bridge of Peace Ceremony. She expressed her gratitude to distinguished guests: the Governor, Mrs Mayor, WFWP International President, WFWP Japan delegates, representatives of the veterans community (RSL, War Widows Guild QLD, Red Cross etc.) and many accomplished women leaders of Brisbane. She especially thanked co-host NCWQ and the four sponsor organisations, WFWP International, WFWP Japan, UPF and the City of Brisbane.

If the women of the world can be sisters, the men of the world can't fight a war.

Dr Hak Ja Han Moon, WFWP Founder





Forums, Seminars & Conferences

Annual General Meeting, Victoria

Our Annual General Meeting brought to a close our calendar of activities for the year. We gathered at the Multi-Cultural Hub in downtown Melbourne on Saturday 7th November. After a light lunch, attendees introduced themselves and the meeting commenced. Anne presented the President’s report on our activities and developments throughout the year and the vision for the new year. Jacinta Darbishire gave the financial report for the 2014-15 financial year.

After the voting and General Business, Anne introduced Elaine Hendricks and thanked her for her expertise in assisting WFWP Victoria over the past five months as a consultant, assisting us in the development of our Strategic Plan and working as a volunteer, pro-bono. Elaine presented the WFWP Australia STRATEGIC PLAN page by page. Feedback was recorded on the wording, vision, goals and outcomes of the document.

VISION: Promoting a professional profile and networking with other organisations is important to the WFWP, especially since we would like to develop and expand the Global Women’s Peace Network. We need to act in a manner that is congruous with our vision and the four pillars of WFWP International.



Strategic Planning

After the voting and General Business, Anne introduced Elaine Hendricks and thanked her for her expertise in assisting WFWP Victoria over the past five months as a consultant, assisting us in the development of our Strategic Plan and working as a volunteer, pro-bono. Elaine presented the WFWP Australia Strategic Plan page by page. Feedback was recorded on the wording, vision, goals and outcomes of the document.

The Oceania Strategic Plan received feedback from each of the Australian WFWP Chapters and WFWP New Zealand. The 2020 WFWP Oceania Strategic Plan came into effect in February of 2016.

The overall goals of the WFWP Oceania are:

- Women are Empowered
- Families are Strengthened
- Communities are Connected

The next step is the development of the Time Line document to link in with the Strategic Plan.



Conference - Victoria

■ UN International Day of Peace

Melbourne sunshine, energy and the warmth of friendship, made a perfect combination for the 'Peace Building in the Asia Pacific Rim' conference on 19 September, commemorating the United Nations (UN) International Day of Peace. The co-hosts for the conference were the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP). This year's UN theme, 'Partnerships for Peace – Dignity for All,' aimed to highlight the importance of all segments of society working together to strive for peace.

The Mayor of the City of Dandenong, Sean O'Reilly, warmly welcomed the capacity crowd of 195 dignitaries, community leaders and participants to his municipality. Jenny Funston shared with us the vision of the World Peace Prayer Society, guiding us through 'May Peace Prevail on Earth.' Dr. Mimmie Watts, Patron of WFWP Victoria, introduced our key note speaker, Professor Yeon Ah Moon, President of WFWP International. Prof. Moon's address focused on the theme of 'living for the sake of others,' which underlies the philosophy behind WFWP International. She emphasised that harmony between communities and nations is only possible when it is first realised within oneself and one's family. Since the family is the starting point of world peace, she emphasised that the role of women in creating peace within the family is pivotal, and that lasting solutions to our social problems can only be achieved when true partnerships between men and women are achieved at all levels of society.

A discussion on the 'Dignity of Women Project' was emceed by Dr. Jacinta Morea, and offered us the opportunity to participate in the Australian launch of this initiative. Anne Bellavance, WFWP National President, presented a historical overview of the European Dignity of Women project, outlining the mission, philosophy and outcomes of this project throughout Europe from 2002 until the present time. A panel session allowed for an exploration of three very different cultural perspectives on dignity.

The 'Bridge of Peace' moved our hearts and gave participants a real and empowering way to create personal bridges of reconciliation and healing with their new sister or brother. It gave an opportunity to connect in heart with someone from a different cultural background, heal wounds of the past, build lasting friendships and resolve conflict that may have been passed on from generation to generation. Both women and men had the opportunity to demonstrate their bonds of friendship by passing under a Jewish Arch that served as the bridge. Participants were encouraged to get to know each other during the day and meet up after the conference. The final session of the day were workshops on Mastering the Mysteries of Love led by Rick McInerheney and Migrant Women, Culture and Contraception led by Dr. Mimmie Watts.





Seminars across Victoria

▪ Peace Building Seminars

A series of five Peace Seminars are held at Monash University, Clayton each year. The introductory seminar gives an overview to the Peace Building principles and philosophy of 'living for the sake of others' as shown through the life work of Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon. These seminars seek to find solutions to the moral and social problems facing Australian society. Below is a report on one of these seminars.

On April 30th 2016 UPF Ambassadors for Peace gathered for a peacebuilding leadership seminar. Over 30 people were in attendance. The seminar was part of a series of Peace Seminars on the theme: "The Search for Shared values in a Multicultural Australia". The Peace Seminars seek to open a conversation on the universally shared values that underpin social cohesion in a multicultural and multi-faith Australia. Additionally, the moral, spiritual and methodological principles that foster peacebuilding based on the teachings of Rev Sun Myung Moon were outlined.

John Bellavance, UPF Australian Vice-President spoke about how faith-based principles and human self-reliance based on reasoning need to be combined to resolve social problems. If one of these our approaches to peacebuilding is ignored, then peacebuilding is not holistic. Rick McNerheney, former UPF Australian National President presented the Shared Values that underpin peace in the individual, the family and with our environment. Anne Bellavance, President of Women's Federation for World Peace, Australia spoke about the Principles that underpin reconciliation and restoration of peace. The closing remark on – What is Peace? - were made by Rev. John Izvernariu, new Ambassador for Peace.





Seminars across Victoria

▪ Africa Day Australia - Forum day

The 2016 Africa Day Australia Forum comprised three mini forums; academic, families and youth. The whole day event found a new home at the newly refurbished Victoria University Metro West facility in Footscray and was held on Saturday May 14th.

Rabecca Mphande is the ADA Forum Chairperson and worked tirelessly behind the scenes to organise key note speakers, panellists and outreach with the support of each forum sub-coordinator and the ADA forum committee. 2016 is the fourth year that ADA has been sponsoring forums as part of the celebration of Africa Day, or African Freedom week and was the most successful forum to date. The message to showcase African Australian successes is definitely having a ripple effect within the African diaspora communities in Melbourne, plus the wider community.

Each forum had its own theme, listed here in order of the program on the day.

Academic Forum: Advancing the Africa Australian agenda - the role of African Australian diasporas.

Families Forum theme: Holding together the African Australian family unit.

Youth Forum theme: Africa Australian youth finds a fit.

The day was opened with welcome remarks by Rabecca Mphande (ADA Forum Chairperson) and a Welcome to Country. The VIP speech was given by Hon. Robin Scott, Minister of Finance and Multicultural Affairs. Fred Alale was the MC for the academic and families' forum.

Dr. Apollo Nsuguba-Kyobe, (academic forum coordinator) introduced the Key Note Speaker Mr. Mathew Nuehas (assistant secretary, DFAT Middle East and Africa Division for the Academic Forum. Dr. Charles Mphande moderated the panellists; who were Dr. Apollo Nsuguba-Kyobe, Mr. Haileluel Gebreselassie (Executive Director AAAA), Soeti Kadir (youth poet and co-founder of In Our Own Words) and Berhan Ahmed (Director of the African Think Tank). Dr. Apollo gave the closing remarks to the forty plus audience.

After a healthy African lunch, Jo Dolan from Vic. Police presented the VIP speech for the Families Forum to the fifty eight participants. Sharon Orapeleng, (mental health specialist) who flew in from Brisbane for the event, presented an energetic and insightful Key Note Address about wellbeing for new African Australians and offered a holistic approach. Rabecca Mphande was the moderator for the panel, who were: Kamil Ebrahim from Quit Victoria, Sainab Sheik, Kamil Ebrahim, Teresia Kanyi, John Bellavance, Theresa Sengaaga Ssali and David Leonard. Panel topics focused on well-being with a holistic approach, family empowerment, and violence preventions and mediation. We were honoured to have the outgoing ADA president, Stephen Sibanda give closing remarks for this segment.





Seminars across New South Wales

■ WFWP Australia get together, NSW

During April, WFWP Australia state presidents and vice-presidents came together in Sydney as part of a 1½ seminar for FFWPU, UPF and WFWP representatives. Mamiko Rattley (Qld. president), Aila Willitts (NSW president) and Anne Bellavance (national president) gave reports on the development of each local chapter during the year, with an emphasis on future goals and plans. Kosina Hanson (Vic. Vice-president) gave a report on her activities in developing the new series of workshops entitled 'Afternoons with WFWP' and her experience as a youth working with the WFWP Vic. board.

On the 1st day, local WFWP NSW members and the Vic. representatives shared their experiences during a break out session. Mamiko, Aila and Anne had the opportunity to share more personally during lunch on the second day. The national meetings provide the occasion to support and connect with each other in heart, as each chapter works together towards the shared vision of WFWP International.



Silverbells Choir



On 29 August 2015 the Silverbelles Choir sang for 40 residents at the Dorothy Henderson Lodge in Macquarie Park, Sydney.

The audience was very responsive, as our MC, Lauren Lewis, included them in every song. One of the residents started dancing alone until one of our choristers, Lata, joined her in a ballroom dance. Lata told me later that this woman, though elderly, knew every ballroom dance move. The same resident pulled a harmonica out of her purse and started playing it after we finished singing.

You might not be able to imagine this, but one lady of a ripe old age of 103, upstaged all of us when she was wheeled over to the piano and played three pieces on the piano he was definitely the centre of the choir's attention.

Kathy Edwards, the Recreational Officer who invited us to this event, thanked us for coming and gave us a framed certificate of appreciation for the six happy Silverbelles choir members.

Across New South Wales

■ A Case of Spectacular Dreams

I had the wonderful opportunity to work with Roslyn McGregor, Senior Leader of Community Engagement at Walgett Community College. She invited me to be part of a very inspiring art project in Walgett, which is home to a small Aboriginal community. I thought it was a worthwhile project for the Women's Federation for World Peace, and that it would certainly empower the youth. Tentatively, the project was scheduled to start on 6 October and, in my efforts to gather as many suitcases as possible before the project commencement date, I visited op shops, made phone calls, and spoke to every friend that I knew. I also called the head office at Strandbags, which proved to be very lucrative, as they donated a large number of suitcases.

In Sydney, I rounded up 31 cases from friends, workmates, choristers and op shops. But what were all these suitcases for and how did they empower the youth? With the help of artist, James Pike, from Scribbly Gum Art and Media, 100 youth would be painting the suitcases, depicting the Aboriginal culture and also their dreams of visiting a particular part of the world that they would love to visit. The theme of the project was 'This is Our World Going Global.' With a suitcase in one hand and a paint brush in the other, these students were going to make a statement about where they live and who they are, and in turn, their place in the larger world.



Recently I received photos of the completed project and was informed that a calendar will be made of the youth in Walgett; those who contributed to the project will be featured in the calendar. The calendar is a concept designed to bring the outside world up to speed with events of importance in the local community. Just like opening the hinged lid of a suitcase to reveal the contents, turning the pages of the Country to Country calendar each month, will tell a story of events, journeys and destinations in a year at Walgett Community College. The calendar serves many functions; it is a Christmas present, a thank you gift and a fundraiser, creating awareness of the positive aspects of this school community. More importantly, it is also a way of connecting community. I felt really happy to think that these children had the opportunity to proudly showcase their art, and that WFWP in Sydney, had the chance to donate almost 70 suitcases to this project.





Seminars across Queensland

■ UN International Day of Families

WFPW Queensland had a gathering to celebrate UN International Day of Families and Global Day of Parents on 11 June.

Mamiko Rattley, President of WFPW, and Winnie Green, President of Wahine Maori, together gave a presentation on the topic 'Empowered Women - Healthy Families.' Then we discussed the importance of women in families having clear moral values and educating themselves in order to guide and inspire their families, especially their children.

Although it was a cold and wet winter night, a committed handful of members attended and celebrated these important events, which covered topics that are undervalued in society.

Written by Makiko Rattley





Service Projects for the Pacific Islands

4

The Pacific Island development projects of WFWP 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 WFWP members, volunteers, friends and partnership with local providers.

■ Queensland Electric Sewing Machine & Sewing Skills Training for the Solomon Islands - August 2015

Report by Ann-Maree Saver

This past month I was sponsored by WFWP Queensland to deliver some basic sewing training to WFWP members in Honiara, Solomon Islands. They received a donation of 29 reconditioned sewing machines in July which were collected and kindly donated to WFWP Australia by Mr Dickinson. Mr Dickinson tirelessly reconditioned and repaired them in the hope that they could be put to good use and would help the women of the Solomon Islands in their efforts to make a good livelihood for themselves. WFWP Queensland decided that offering sewing training would provide a great opportunity for these women to learn about how to use the machines with a greater level of competency.

I arrived in the Solomon Islands for an orientation session the weekend before the scheduled training week during which time I had the chance to inspect the machines and classroom, and to meet with organisers and participants. For all but two participants, this was the first time that they had ever used an electric sewing machine, and most if not all, had not sewn since high school.

Though initially apprehensive, it wasn't long into the introduction session that this sentiment was replaced by a palatable excitement, and the atmosphere in the room became electric. Over 30 women attended this session where we made children's headbands. Needless to say it was chaotic, and thankfully my husband, Ritatsu, and two other experienced sewers who participated in the training, Ester and Sunny, stepped in to help. Everyone had a memorable introduction session.

The training program covered the making of a reversible bucket hat and a lined tote bag. However after the second day, I opened the class earlier for those who could attend earlier, and thereafter participants started arriving as early as 2:00pm, continuing through till 7:30pm. *Continued>*





This schedule continued throughout the week, with many coming at 9:00am on Saturday. The sense of achievement participants felt, as well as their desire to complete their project during the week, saw many women eventually re-schedule work or off-load childcare duties to other family members so that they could make full use of the opportunity. Many women also mentioned that aside from the sewing aspect, it was a strengthening social experience where they could laugh again and do something new and enjoyable together, reinvigorating many friendships.

The sewing program was also punctuated with an article in the local paper mid-week that covered the sewing training, and to our surprise, another article was included the following day. This generated much interest, with many family and friends of the participants requesting to join next time. During the week, the mornings were full of meetings and trips to local suppliers and competitors to discuss and assess the viabilities and vision of starting a school uniform business by WFWP, Solomon Islands.



The participants extended much gratitude to WFWP Queensland and Australia, and to Mr. Dickinson for making this opportunity available to them. They also expressed their commitment to continue learning, expressing hope that they could do a similar program again in the future. Finally, this program personally demonstrated how the acquisition and development of skills such as sewing in the Solomon Islands, can assist in supplementing future incomes for women, and improve their lives as well as their surrounding communities.





■ Sewing Machines for Fiji

On 26 November, 36 used sewing machines and one box of sundries* were brought to the depot of a shipping company to be dispatched early December to FFWPU Fiji. Those 36 sewing machines were donated generously by a retired engineer Mr Dickinson. He had donated 31 machines for WFWP Solomon Islands last May.

This time WFWP's supporter Ann-Maree Saver has been helping us by contacting the shipping company and FFWPU Fiji. Her father Paul Saver helped to drive those 37 boxes by in a trailer to the shipping depot. FFWPU Fiji is planning to open a sewing centre for women, using these sewing machines. As was the case in Solomon Islands, we hope these machines can make a difference for women in Fiji.

In addition, on 28 November we donated 5 sewing machines to a group for Aboriginal young women group in Logan which conducts empowering workshops. The coordinator of this group, Aunty Heather Castledine, has been a supporter of WFWP Queensland for almost 3 years. She was grateful to receive these machines for her youth group.





■ Support our Pacific Island Neighbours WALK-A-THON

The goal of the walk-a-thon is to raise funds for the WFPW Australia projects within the Oceania Island nations. WFPW Australia has undertaken practical service projects within the Oceania Island nations since 2003.

The 'Support our Pacific Neighbours WALK-A-THON' has found a new home at Silvan Reservoir Park. The park is nestled in the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges on the outskirts of Melbourne. The walk-a-thon was a community and family event in partnership with FFWPU, UPF and the YFWP. Considering the hot summer and the rainy nature of Melbourne during winter and spring, the 1st Saturday of Autumn was chosen as the date for the annual walk-a-thon.

Walk-a-thon participants registered from 10:00am before the walk-off and assembled behind the starting banner, as 10:30am drew near. There were two walks to choose from, a rigorous three hour walk into the Dandenong Ranges, or a 2 hour walk around the base of the park. As a family activity, participants came from different cultural backgrounds, walks of life and age groups, including children, youth, adults and seniors. Back at Silvan Reservoir entertainment by the Federation Peace Quartet and a hearty BBQ awaited us. As participants came back to the finish line, first, second and third place winners were presented with their ribbons.

The funds raised from this year's walk-a-thon supported the New Hope Academy Kindergarten in the Solomon Islands. The kindergarten did not have electricity and our support enabled the installation of solar panels. The school now has fans, electric plug ins and lights.

Continued>





In 2010 WFWP Australia provided funding for the restoration of an old building for the Kindergarten. It is located in Honiara on the Provincial Island of Guadalcanal. Honiara is the capital city and the kindergarten is situated in the commercial area close to the city centre called Town Ground.

A big thank you to all our sponsors, supporters and walkers who made the walk-a-thon a growing success. We raised just over \$2,500 on the day and have extra funds available for the Kindergarten through our annual membership, where 50% of membership fees goes to support the Island projects. We have had a request to send used summer clothing to the recently opened Solomon Island Sewing Centre and will be sending off a shipment in the near future.

See you at the walk-a-thon next year.





■ Books for the Islands - from NSW to Vanuatu

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.

WFWP NSW received a very generous donation of 30 boxes of valuable primary school books from Sydney's Grandville Elementary School, which will be forwarded on to primary school children in Vanuatu. A group of kind ladies in Sydney also donated some lovely girls' and boys' clothing as well as four sewing machines that are all in working order.

These will be sent over to Vanuatu to support the local women in their efforts to build a small business and strengthen their community after the devastating Cyclone Pam. The books, clothing and sewing machines were kindly brought to the shipping company by our friend and supporter, Leif Helland. WFWP Sydney staff would like to thank all our supporters for donating their time to make our service projects a reality.





Spotlight on a Partner Organisation

■ World Peace Prayer Society

May 21st 2016 marked the first Symphony of Peace Prayers (SOPP) held in the Gippsland of Victoria. The event was held on an exquisite sunny day in the community hall of Rokeby, a rural community located just outside Warragul.

The SOPP day is about LOVE; the essence of all that is real in life. When we trace back any positive feelings, we always come back to LOVE. The presence of each participant was a testament to the love within people's hearts, people who felt the call to join together and send out waves of positive thoughts around the world; sending prayers of kindness and compassion. Symphony of Peace Prayers (SOPP) events were held throughout the world. Put together, these prayers symbolise the ONENESS of humanity.

Why are the flags so special? They are handmade by a small group of Japanese Byakko Shinko Kai members with great mindfulness; putting prayers and energy of peace into the flags as they are painted. Each flag is hand sewn, printed and painted! Only one large set & two small sets can be made each year. The flags are not representing anything political, but hold the energy of that country. There is a deeper spiritual dimension in the flags; that being the positive aspirations for each county.



Jenny Funston
Oceanic Co-ordinator,
Byakko Shinko Kai

May Peace Prevail on Earth



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



Victoria Team

- President** – Anne Bellavance
- Vice-President** – Barbara Von Dracek
- Vice-President** – Kosina Hanson
- Treasurer** – Jacinta Darbshire
- Ordinary Member** – Bianca Joyce
- Ordinary Member** – Elise Hanson
- Ordinary Member** – Monique Joyce



Queensland Team

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



New South Wales Team

- President** – Aila Willitts
- Vice-President** – Rika Lim
- Secretary** – Debbie Bruce
- Treasurer** – Debbie Bruce



Financial Report - Vic.

Income			Expenses		
MYOB	Type	Income	MYOB	Type	Expenses
4-1020	Commonwealth Grants	\$ -	6-0010	Accounting fees	\$ -
4-1050	State Grants	\$ 4,950.00	6-0020	Advertising/promotion	\$ 453.04
4-1080	Local Council Grants	\$ 847.80	6-0040	Assets purchased	\$ 346.00
4-2020	Tax deductible donations	\$ 2,500.00	6-0050	Audit fees	\$ -
4-2030	Public collections	\$ 22,293.30	6-0070	Bank charges	\$ 396.00
4-3010	Contributions (members)	\$ 6,928.43	6-0080	Bad debts	\$ -
4-3020	Contributions (public)	\$ 200.00	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	\$ 5,308.64	6-0220	Computer expenses	\$ -
4-5020	Interest	\$ 0.14	6-0230	Consultancy fees	\$ -
4-5035	Recoupments	\$ 2,161.14	6-0300	Donations paid	\$ 20,033.00
4-5050	Other sundry income	\$ -	6-0315	Entertainment Costs	\$ 1,600.00
4-5060	Sale of assets	\$ -	6-0320	Equipment hire/lease	\$ 947.80
			6-0330	Fees/permits	\$ 123.00
			6-0340	Fundraising exp. (Vic.)	\$ 3,123.57
			6-0400	Insurance (general)	\$ -
			6-0410	Insurance-public liability	\$ -
			6-0440	Insurance - volunteers	\$ -
			6-0445	Interest paid	\$ -
			6-0450	Legal fees	\$ 219.00
			6-0460	Loss on sale of assets	\$ -
			6-0480	Meeting expenses	\$ 5,939.87
			6-0490	Membership fees paid	\$ -
			6-0510	Postage & freight	\$ 354.80
			6-0520	Printing & stationary	\$ 1,165.91
			6-0540	Publication resources	\$ 1,444.45
			6-0670	Sundry expenses	\$ 1,981.06
			6-0680	Telephone & internet exp	\$ 654.53
			6-0700	Staff training & dev.	\$ 281.00
			6-0710	Travel & accommodation	\$ 17.08
			6-0730	Volunteer costs	\$ -
			6-0740	Write off expenses	\$ -
	TOTAL Income	*****		TOTAL Expenses	\$ 39,080.11
Year End Balances as of June 30 - 2016					
301684	Women's Federation for World Peace, Victoria INC		\$	7,856.71	
1E+07	WFWP Island Project (savings)		\$	1,196.26	
	TOTAL End of Year Balance		\$	9,052.97	

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



Our Supporters

- Councillor Samantha Dunn**
Lyster Ward,
Yarra Ranges Council

- Councillor Rebecca Paterson**
Oakleigh Ward,
City of Monash

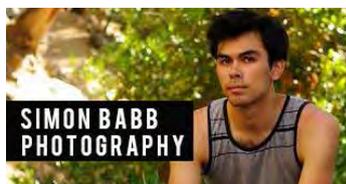
- Councillor Bill Pontikis**
Oakleigh Ward,
City of Monash

- Anna Burke MP**
Federal Member for Chisholm

- Hong Lim MP**
State Member for Clarinda

- Jason Wood MP**
Federal Member for La Trobe

- James Merlino MP**
State Member for Monbulk



- Anniversary Dinner**
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New Society Café
Oceania Seafoods
Office Works - Pakenham,
Glen Waverley, Narre Warren
Shankias Restaurant - Pakenham
Simon Babb Photography
Shyun restaurant Café
The Paper Place





WFWP Videos

Pacific Island Nations Walk-a-thon

Upwey Bridge of Peace Ceremony

Clayton Bridge of Peace Event



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THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT