

## Connecting Communities Anniversary Dinner

Victoria, Australia - Anne Bellavance - Saturday May 4, 2019



Each year WFWP Victoria celebrates the inauguration of WFWP International through the Connecting Communities Dinner on the first Saturday of May. This year we are twenty seven years old! The dinner is an opportunity for multi-cultural communities to mingle and share.



During the evening, WFWP Victoria honours their Board and volunteers and presents the prestigious Global Women's Peace Network partnership award (GWPN) to a new partnering organisation. The partnership between WFWP and our GWPN recipients is intrinsic to connection with the community. Without connection there is no community, and without community, the ability

for society to support our families is lost. In short, the values intrinsic to becoming 'one human family' become meaningless.



WFWP values our partners and works to support their work and development. This year, the award was presented to the Victorian Samoan Advisory Council (VICSAV). We were honoured to have the President, Mr. Lio Ale and the Vice-president, Taupau Salafa Mano in attendance to receive the award. WFWP Victoria partners with

VICSAC through our Charity Walk and Pacifika festival, held annually on the first Saturday of March.

The Victoria Samoan Advisory Council (VICSAC) was established in 1990. VICSAC is translated in Samoan as Fono Faufautua Tagata Samoa i Vitolia. Their mission is to promote and build a stronger spirit of unity and solidarity among and across all the Samoan Communities, from youth to older generations. They undertake matters and issues of common interest, and set up and arrange events, programs and activities to bring the Samoan people together. They promote awareness and ways to help, support and inspire their Samoan community mentally, physically and spiritually.



An evening highlight is always the raffle event which raises funds for our local projects. We are extremely fortunate to have business supporters and friends in the community who offer high quality goods as raffle prizes. These businesses are advertised during the event and receive certificates of appreciation afterwards.



We love to support upcoming young talent during the entertainment segment. This year, Rose de La Montaña shared her passion as a fingerstyle guitarist. She has a dedication to solo Latin American guitar music, merging classical and popular guitar styles. Rose is a bandleader, songwriter, arranger, and educator. Her music truly created a relaxing atmosphere of beauty.



We launched our book *HerStory: a spiritual journey* during the evening. The book is a window into multi-cultural Australia with stories and recipes from seventeen wonderful ladies who shared their stories with us during our Her Story sessions. Each woman shares their journey. The stories are inspirational, heart-felt and often funny. HerStory is our story, our heart, our culture, and our

spirituality as one human family. Some of the ladies featured in HerStory were present during the evening and conducted a book signing for those who purchased the book.



WFWP Victoria auspices a group of young ladies who started an awareness group called 'Enviro Girls'. The girls come with their parents and had the opportunity to share with everyone about their projects, what they have done, and how they started.

#### **Feedback from participants:**

"Beyond words! It's a wonderful experience being in WFWP. Organisation beyond boundaries."

"Wonderful event, and inclusive."

"Very nice, warm and enjoyable evening. Great, it was fantastic."

"Celebrating and recognising the great work that many are doing in our communities and connecting them all together."

"Enjoyed the company, the introduction to the organisation and the food."

"A very enjoyable evening with inspiring people. A wonderful meal and entertainment."

"There was a very warm and friendly atmosphere. A great show."

**See you all next year at the 2020 Connecting Communities dinner.**