WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE

NEWSLETTER AUSTRALIA



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WFWP AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER



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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.

Featured Article



Can Our Standard of Living Keep Growing Forever?

And, if Not, Must Societies Impoverish Themselves to Stop Climate Change?

Website:
https://tinyurl.com/earthandi-climatechange

Written by Jana Perez-Angelo
The Earth & I Magazine | www.theearthandi.org

For over two centuries, GDP has measured economic success, but its growth has driven severe global environmental degradation. As planetary limits near, experts clash over two solutions: degrowth thinkers call for wealthy nations to intentionally scale back industrial output and GDP to save the biosphere, while green growth advocates argue technological innovation and electrification can decouple economic expansion from environmental harm.

The Case for Degrowth: Embracing Less by Design

The core philosophy of degrowth began decades ago by scholars, according to Degrowth.info, which allies with the Research and Degrowth International and other organizations.

The concept of degrowth starts with a simple ecological fact: The Earth is a closed system with strict physical boundaries. Degrowth scholars argue that treating endless economic expansion as a non-negotiable goal is completely incompatible with a stable planet. Today, an organization called Earth Overshoot Day even tracks to the day when "humanity's demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year." In 2025, the overshoot day was July 24.

1. The Trap of Total Growth

Critics of conventional GDP accounting argue that growth statistics often fail to distinguish between activities that improve human well-being and activities that merely generate economic transactions.

"Growth is a sort of absolute number," pointed out Kate Aronoff, a staff writer with The New Republic, during a panel discussion on climate and capitalism at Columbia University. "If there's an oil spill, growth [GDP] goes up because people need to clean it up. We must think a little bit about what the content of growth is."



Many economists have argued that GDP alone is an incomplete measure of societal progress.

Environmental disasters, pollution cleanup efforts, and climate-related reconstruction can all contribute to GDP even while reflecting ecological damage and social costs. For this reason, many economists have argued that GDP alone is an incomplete measure of societal progress.

Degrowth advocates point out that historically, making things more efficient rarely cuts down on total resource use. Economists call this the “rebound effect” or Jevons paradox, an established macroeconomic principle detailing how microeconomic resource efficiency improvements can inadvertently expand overall consumption. When technology makes a resource cheaper and more efficient to use, society usually ends up using far more of it in the long run. Think of fuel-efficient planes: As flying got cheaper, the explosion of global flights completely wiped out any environmental benefit from better engines.



A cattle yard in Argentina. Degrowth proponents say the world’s industrial meat production needs to be sharply reduced. Jorge Royan/Wikipedia

1. Targeting Excess, Not Well-being

It is vital to understand that degrowth isn't about forcing society into a miserable, chaotic recession. Instead, it is envisioned as a planned, democratic reduction of energy and material use especially in wealthy nations. The strategy targets structurally wasteful, high-carbon industries rather than cutting things that make people genuinely happy. Proponents argue society should intentionally shrink sectors like:

- fast fashion and electronics, which are built with planned obsolescence
- industrial, grain-fed meat production
- private aviation and oversized, gas-guzzling sport utility vehicles.

"Certain parts of the economy need to grow, and certain parts need to shrink."

"For example, a degrowth economic model would likely look to cut down beef production," Matt Orsagh, cofounder of RISE Sustainable Investment Consultancy, told a 2024 Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance. "If beef production and consumption significantly declined, the result would prove beneficial to climate change mitigation (less methane and CO2 from beef transport), water resources (beef production is very water intensive), [and] land use (many acres of forests are cleared for cattle grazing), and [would] result in less nitrogen and phosphorus leaking into our waterways (pesticides on crops to feed cattle have nasty consequences)."

At the March 2026 Columbia University forum, Aronoff said, "I don't think it's accurate to say that the entire economy has to degrow. Rather, certain parts of the economy need to grow, and certain parts need to shrink. We need fewer fossil fuels, for instance."

Degrowth advocates generally argue for selectively reducing activities that generate large environmental costs while expanding sectors that improve human welfare, such as renewable energy, public transportation, education, healthcare, and ecosystem restoration. Their goal is to reduce material and energy throughput in the economy while maintaining or improving quality of life.

The Case for Green Growth: Reinventing Prosperity

On the other side, green growth advocates argue that halting economic expansion is a political dead end and completely unnecessary. They view the climate crisis not as a fatal flaw of growth itself, but as a system design error, a failure of market pricing and technology that can be engineered away.

1. The Reality of Absolute Decoupling

The cornerstone of the green growth argument is "absolute decoupling." This is the holy grail of green economics: a state where a country's GDP continues to climb while its total environmental footprint and emissions steadily drop.

"Some countries have reduced their CO2 emissions while increasing their gross domestic product (absolute decoupling)."

Supporters of green growth argue that absolute decoupling is already occurring in several advanced economies.

"Over the past decade," wrote Jefim Vogel and Jason Hickel in Lancet Planetary Health in 2023, "some countries have reduced their CO2 emissions while increasing their gross domestic product (absolute decoupling). Politicians and media have hailed this as green growth."



While experts still argue over the speed of this shift, the structural data is verified. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, more than 30 advanced nations, including the UK, France, Germany, and the US, have successfully decoupled absolute territorial emissions from GDP expansion. This has been achieved largely by shifting toward digital, service, and knowledge-based economies.

2. Market Dynamics and Technological Innovation

Advocates of green growth contend that competitive markets can accelerate the deployment of new technologies at unprecedented speed when supported by effective public policy. They point to the dramatic declines in the costs of solar panels, wind turbines, and battery storage over the past two decades as evidence that innovation, investment, and economies of scale can rapidly transform entire industries.



Canada's largest coal-fired power plant, the Belledune Generating Station, is located in the Atlantic province of New Brunswick. Both degrowthers and green growthers seek to replace such plants with renewable resources. Quinton Soloviev/Wikipedia

“For the first time,” said Bloomberg climate reporter Akshat Rathi, “humanity has a plan for how to transform at least one major part of the economy—the energy system—over the next few decades. Reforming capitalism might be the only practical way to get to zero emissions quickly.”

Proponents also argue that government policy can steer private capital toward low-carbon development. Carbon-pricing systems, clean-energy incentives, emissions regulations, and industrial policy have increasingly been used around the world to encourage investment in renewable energy, electrification, and other climate solutions.

“If you look at where [climate] solutions are scaling,” Rathi said, “it’s a combination of people, policy, and technology coming together to make the capitalist system work.”

China, for example, has become one of the world’s largest investors in low-carbon technologies, directing hundreds of billions of dollars annually toward renewable energy, electric vehicles, and related infrastructure—even while keeping 3,100 coal-fired power plants on line and several hundred more in planning or development.

Both perspectives seek a prosperous future, but they differ fundamentally on whether that future requires consuming less or innovating more.



Solomon Islands





Semester One Progress Report

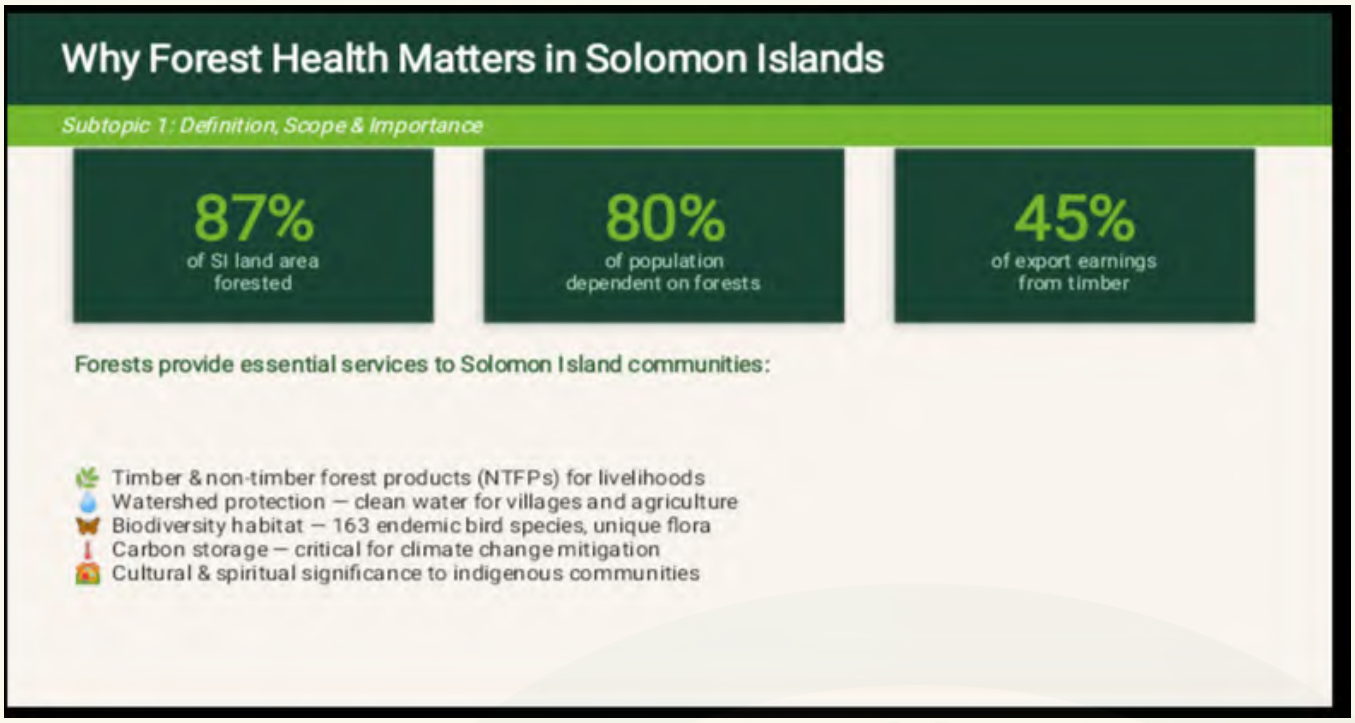
Janitha Imurade:
Diploma of Tropical Forestry

2026 | Honaira, Solomon Island

Written by Janitha Imurade
Scholarship Recipient

OVERVIEW

- JANITHA SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED FOUR DEMANDING SECOND-YEAR COURSES IN THE DIPLOMA OF TROPICAL FORESTRY, STRENGTHENING HER TECHNICAL EXPERTISE THROUGH RIGOROUS FIELD PRACTICALS IN REMOTE TERRAIN, DATA COLLECTION, AND FOREST MANAGEMENT.
- DESPITE MANAGING INTENSE ACADEMIC WORKLOADS, TIGHT DEADLINES, FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS, AND FIELD-WORK ENDURANCE TESTS, JANITHA DEVELOPED ESSENTIAL PROFESSIONAL QUALITIES IN TEAMWORK, DISCIPLINE, AND TIME MANAGEMENT.



Course Overview

For semester one of my second-year studies in Tropical Forestry (Diploma of Forestry), I completed four courses:

- FOR508: Forest REDD+ and Management
- FOR509: Research Methods
- FOR510: Forest Health and Protection
- FOR511: Forest Road and Engineering

Through these learning experiences, I gained a better understanding of the theories learned in class and the practical work we conducted in the field. Because I love nature and the beauty of its environment, it is my dream to become a professional forester, making these studies deeply important to me.



Mangrove forest in Solomon Island

Challenges Faced

Year 2 has been more academically demanding than my first year. The courses required a greater commitment to lectures, practical sessions, assignments, field reports, and examinations, which demanded effective time management and dedication. Field practical exercises presented another significant challenge. Forestry training involved working in remote forest areas where we conducted tree identification, forest measurements, and ecological assessments. The difficult terrain, changing weather conditions, and physically demanding activities tested my endurance and determination.

Although my scholarship greatly assisted my education, I still faced additional expenses such as transportation, field equipment, study materials, and personal living costs. I learned to budget carefully, much like managing marketing at home, and made the best use of the resources available to me.

Additionally, access to reliable internet and learning materials was sometimes limited, making research and assignment completion more challenging. Furthermore, some assignments were given during examination and holiday weeks, limiting the time available to conduct research, prepare quality work, and balance multiple courses. Despite these difficulties, I remained committed to my studies and sought support from lecturers and classmates whenever needed.

Achievements

Despite these challenges, I successfully completed my second-year studies and strengthened my understanding of tropical forestry, gaining valuable knowledge across all semester-one courses in 2026.

The field practical sessions significantly improved my technical skills, including road measurements, data collection, report writing, and the use of specialized forestry equipment. These practical experiences have increased my confidence and better prepared me for future employment in the forestry sector.

Throughout the year, I also developed important personal qualities such as teamwork, leadership, communication, discipline, and problem-solving. Working collaboratively during field activities and group assignments strengthened my ability to work effectively with others.

Ultimately, I maintained satisfactory academic performance while moving closer to my goal of becoming a professional who contributes to the sustainable management and conservation of the Solomon Islands' forest resources.

Conclusion and Acknowledgement

Overall, my second year studying for a Diploma in Tropical Forestry has been both challenging and rewarding. The knowledge, practical skills, and personal growth I have gained have prepared me for the next stage of my education and future career.

I sincerely thank WFWP Victoria, Australia for making my educational journey possible through your generous support. I remain committed to completing my studies successfully and using my education to make a positive contribution to my community, church members, and the sustainable management of the Solomon Islands' resources.



Semester One Progress Report

John Galokaniki: Bachelor of Teaching

2026 | Honaira, Solomon Island

Written by John Galokaniki
Scholarship Recipient

OVERVIEW

- JOHN'S STUDIES THIS SEMESTER DEEPENED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF MODERN TEACHING POLICIES, TEST DESIGN, AND THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MIGRATION IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

- DESPITE FACING HURDLES WITH TIME MANAGEMENT, GROUP COORDINATION, AND HEAVY WORKLOADS, JOHN ENHANCED HIS RESILIENCE, RESEARCH SKILLS, AND CONFIDENCE TO PREPARE FOR A FUTURE CAREER AS A SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER.

This semester has been both rewarding and challenging. I successfully completed three courses that broadened my understanding of education, assessment, and history, while strengthening my academic, research, communication, and critical thinking skills. Throughout the term, I also developed greater confidence in presenting ideas, working collaboratively with classmates, and managing university-level assignments.

Challenges Faced During the Semester

Although the semester was successful, I experienced several challenges.

The greatest hurdle was managing multiple assignments from different courses that were often due around the same period. Each task required extensive reading, research, planning, and writing, which demanded rigorous time management.

Another challenge involved preparing and delivering group presentations. Working with different classmates requires cooperation, communication, and coordinating everyone's schedules. At times, it was difficult to arrange meeting times because of varying personal and academic commitments. Nevertheless, these experiences taught me the importance of teamwork, leadership, patience, and responsibility.

Additionally, some assignments required academic research and proper APA referencing, which took considerable time to complete accurately. There were also occasions when balancing university work with family, church responsibilities, and personal commitments became demanding. Despite these challenges, I remained committed to completing my coursework to the best of my ability.

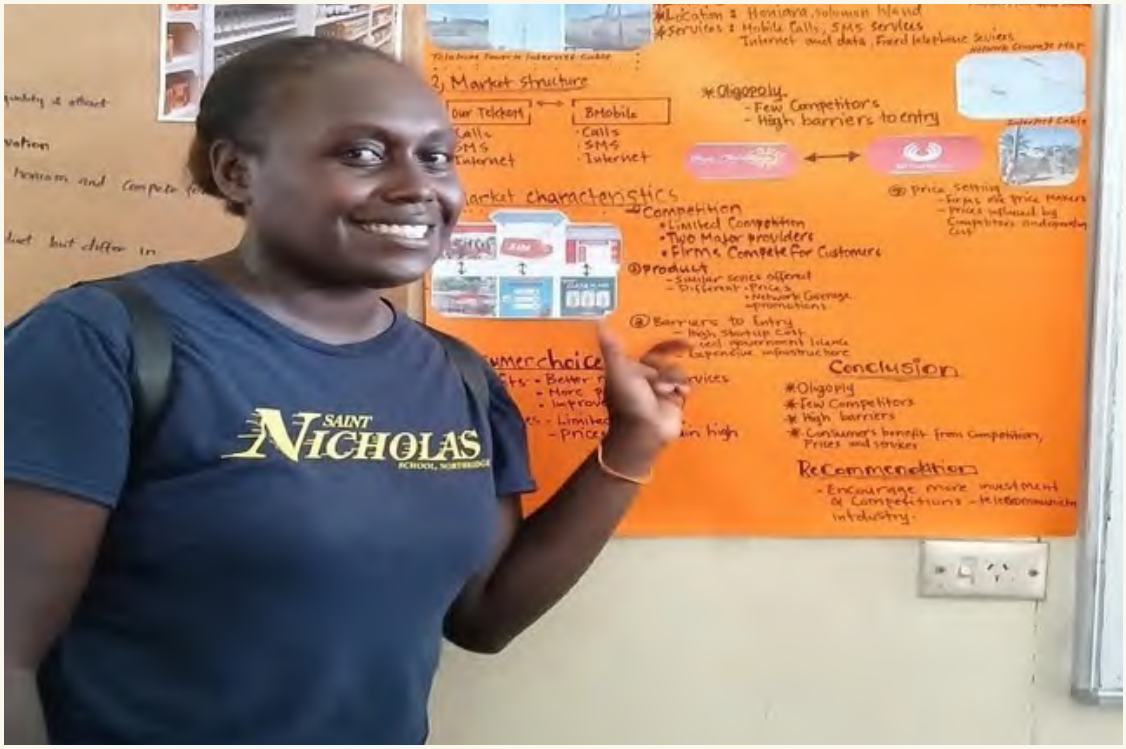
Ultimately, these experiences strengthened my resilience, improved my organisational skills, and increased my confidence in handling rigorous academic work.

Personal Growth

This semester has helped me grow both academically and personally. I have become more confident in conducting research, presenting ideas, analyzing educational issues, and developing assessments for classroom use. Furthermore, my communication, critical thinking, problem-solving, and time management skills have improved significantly.

I believe these experiences are preparing me well for a future career as a secondary school teacher who can positively contribute to the education system in the Solomon Islands.





Semester One Progress Report

Elizabeth Pitabelama: Diploma of Business Studies

2026 | Honaira, Solomon Island

Written by Elizabeth Pitabelama
Scholarship Recipient

OVERVIEW

- ELIZABETH ADVANCED HER UNDERSTANDING OF BUSINESS CONCEPTS AND STRENGTHENED KEY COMPETENCIES—INCLUDING RESEARCH, CRITICAL THINKING, PUBLIC SPEAKING, AND TEAM COLLABORATION.

- ELIZABETH AIMS TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE HER DIPLOMA OF BUSINESS STUDIES WITH STRONG ACADEMIC RESULTS, ULTIMATELY USING SCHOLARSHIP- SUPPORTED EDUCATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS THROUGH ETHICAL LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICES.

Academic Progress

This semester has been a valuable learning experience. I have continued to strengthen my understanding of core business concepts through lectures, research, class discussions, presentations, and group assignments. Each course has challenged me to think critically, improve my communication skills, and apply theoretical knowledge to real-life business situations.

I remain committed to attend classes regularly, complete assignments on time, participate actively in classroom discussions, and maintain a positive attitude toward learning.

My studies have also helped me refine my skills in:

- Business research
- Critical thinking
- Report writing
- Public speaking
- Team collaboration
- Leadership
- Time management
- Problem-solving

These competencies will continue to benefit me throughout my academic journey and future career.



With my classmates during our group assignment presentation.

Personal Reflection

This semester has been both challenging and rewarding. Every assignment and presentation has helped me grow academically and personally, making me more confident in conducting research, presenting information, and working collaboratively with others.

The experience of preparing presentations and completing group projects has taught me to become more organised, responsible, and disciplined. I have also learned to manage my time effectively while balancing lectures, coursework, and independent study.

I recognise that education requires commitment, discipline, and perseverance, and I am determined to continue improving my performance throughout my studies.

Future Goals

Moving forward, I aim to successfully complete my Diploma of Business Studies with excellent academic results. I hope to continue building my knowledge and skills so that I can contribute meaningfully to the development of the Solomon Islands through ethical leadership, responsible business practices, and community service.

I remain committed to making the most of every opportunity that this scholarship provides.





Semester One Progress Report

Who Wha Alicia: Bachelor of Accounting

2026 | Honaira, Solomon Island

Written by Won Wha alicia Houanihau
Scholarship Recipient

OVERVIEW

- DESPITE CHALLENGES SUCH AS INTERNET ISSUES AND TEACHER ABSENCES, ALICIA ADAPTED WELL TO THE NEW UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT AS A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT.
- ALICIA GAINED DEEPER KNOWLEDGE OF ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS WHILE IMPROVING HER TEAMWORK, COMMUNICATION, CONFIDENCE, AND RESILIENCE.

In Semester 1, I officially enrolled in the Bachelor of Accounting program and have successfully completed four units:

- Introductory Financial Accounting (ACC506)
- Academic English (SNU500)
- Principles of Economics (ECO501)
- Business Mathematics (MTH513)

I completed all coursework for the semester and sat for my final examinations on July 3. Transitioning to a university level academic environment, attending classes and meeting people from diverse age groups—was a brand-new experience.

Although it required a period of adjustment, I have successfully adapted, gaining valuable knowledge and practical skills along the way.

Key Achievements

Despite the demands of the semester, I met several important milestones, including successfully completing all internal assessments and sitting for all of my final examinations. I also maintained a strong commitment to my education by keeping consistent attendance across all scheduled classes, which allowed me to actively acquire foundational and advanced knowledge and skills pertinent to my degree program.

Challenges Faced

Like any rigorous academic term, this semester presented several obstacles, including frequent instructor absences that disrupted the learning flow, a lack of sufficient learning materials that made independent study and research more difficult, and technical hurdles where network and internet connectivity problems created stress during online class participation and digital assignment submissions.

Despite these hurdles, I exercised resilience, managed my time carefully, and ensured my coursework was completed to the best of my ability.

Learning Experience and Growth

The semester provided deep insights and personal development, particularly by helping me gain specialised skills in accounting work and a deeper understanding of accounting systems.

Through collaborative tasks, I also improved my teamwork and communication skills, which collectively increased my self-assurance in handling higher education studies and tackling complex problem-solving tasks.





Scholarship Update

Florence Liliu Graduates her Diploma in Primary Teaching

2026 | Honaira, Solomon Island

Written by Florence Liliu
Scholarship Recipient

OVERVIEW

- FLORENCE LILIU SUCCESSFULLY GRADUATED WITH A DIPLOMA IN TEACHING PRIMARY FROM SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (SINU).

- OVERCOMING SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL AND PERSONAL CHALLENGES, FLORENCE PLANS TO LEVERAGE HER EDUCATION TO SERVE AS A STRONG ROLE MODEL, BRING HOPE TO HER FAMILY, AND ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PEACE, AND HARMONY IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

Throughout my studies, I have been deeply motivated by the values of the Women's Federation for World Peace. The support I received from the Australian Chapter not only alleviated financial burdens but also inspired me to strive for excellence in my academic pursuits.

I am committed to applying what I have learned to contribute positively to my community and to promote peace and harmony in our society. This scholarship has truly made a vital difference in my educational journey, and I am endlessly grateful for the opportunities it has opened for me.



I am proud to share that I have graduated with a Diploma in Teaching Primary. On 30 April 2026, I had the incredible honor of participating in my graduation ceremony, and I was overwhelmed with a profound sense of achievement and joy.

After years of dedication and hard work, and overcoming many challenges, reaching this milestone was deeply meaningful. Walking across the stage to receive my diploma certificate symbolised my perseverance and dedication. I am so grateful for the unwavering support of the Women's Federation and my family throughout my studies. It was a profound moment that marked the end of a difficult, yet rewarding journey.

My academic career at SINU was truly challenging, but those very challenges helped me grow stronger and shaped me into a positive role model. This journey has also mutually benefited my family by giving them hope and new opportunities.

I plan to apply what I have learned to help my community by sharing knowledge and getting involved in local activities. Ultimately, I believe my education will equip me to make a meaningful difference in our society and help people when they are in need.

PASIFIKA SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

The Pasifika Scholarship Fund was established in 2017 by the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Australia to provide young adults in the Pacific Islands with access to empowering educational opportunities. The scholarship is designed for students who may not have the financial means to attend university but possess a strong commitment and passion for learning.

This program supports aspiring leaders who are dedicated to their education and who embrace the values of WFWP International: "Living for the sake of others." It aims to nurture the next generation of leaders who will make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

Australia



Beach Clean Up with Beach Patrol

August 1, 2026 | Victoria, Australia
https://beachpatrol.com.au/activity-log/repots_year/2026/2

Written by Anne Bellavance
President, WFWP Australia

OVERVIEW

WFWP AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS JOINED TOGETHER WITH BEACH PATROL FOR WORLD OCEANS DAY, AND WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, WHILE ALSO PROMOTING EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION.

- **SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:**
- **GOAL 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**
- **GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER**
- **GOAL 15: LIFE ON LAND**
- **GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**

WFWP Victoria members, family and friends, joined forces with 3207BeachPatrol to care for the treasured inner-city Port Melbourne beaches and promote sustainability. 3207BeachPatrol conducts monthly cleanups across four stretches of beaches: Sandridge Beach, Princes Pier, Station Pier, Lagoon Pier of Port Melbourne.

This month we joined with Port Melbourne Beach Patrol volunteers to clean up Princes Pier.

Not only was it 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.



Beach Patrol volunteer groups in Victoria operate across more than 40 postcodes. These groups meet monthly to collect plastic litter from local beaches, streets, and parks. Volunteers connect with like-minded individuals who share a passion for preserving our environment, wildlife, marine life, and ecosystems.

To find out more, visit: https://www.beachpatrol.com.au/about-us

United Nations World Oceans Day, celebrated on 8 June and throughout the year, mobilises global action for ocean and climate preservation. The UN collaborates with youth leaders, zoos, aquariums, museums, and a wide array of organizations and businesses across all sectors, creating a robust global network dedicated to this cause.

World Environment Day, observed annually on 5 June, promotes awareness and action for environmental protection. Supported by numerous NGOs, businesses, and government entities, it stands as the foremost United Nations outreach day dedicated to supporting the environment.

To find out more, visit: https://www.unep.org/events/un-day/world-environment-day

Although the beach appeared spotless, in just 40 minutes the team collected an astonishing 25 kg of waste—mostly plastics, tiny plastic fragments and small pieces of Styrofoam that can cause significant harm to marine life and our environment.

The Port Melbourne Beach Patrol rotates its monthly clean-ups across the beaches of Port Melbourne, removing an average of 32 kg of rubbish at every clean-up. Their consistent commitment helps protect our coastline, one beach at a time.

To find out more, visit: https://beachpatrol.com.au/activity-blog/repots_year/2026/2



Romana Headifen, the head of Port Melbourne Beach Patrol, explained that the garbage found on the beach originates from stormwater drains and rivers flowing into Port Phillip Bay. When southerly winds blow inland, they push this debris onto the shore, resulting in significant amounts of trash accumulating along the tide lines.

Romana to the left, Anne to the right.



Clean-up bags are emptied into appropriate garbage and recycle bins that Council has placed along the beach walking paths. Bags are taken home to reuse next time! *Out to dry on the line first!*



https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/why-marine-debris-problem/ingestion

This is a photo of the thousands of Styrofoam pellets lying throughout the sand dunes located above Port Melbourne Beach.

Over time, plastics and Styrofoam ending up at the beach break down into small beads which become ingested by birds and fish.

A study found that drifting plastic waste accumulates algae and gives off a smell very similar to the krill that many marine birds feed on.

After our early morning clean-up, WFWP Members gathered for coffee/ breakfast at a local café. It was a chance to get to know each other, develop deeper relationships, and connect. A very rewarding morning.

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

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. https://www.wfwpaustralia.org/

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Beach Patrol volunteers who raise awareness and empower communities to reduce plastic pollution and other litter in our environment. https://www.beachpatrol.com.au/about-us



WFWP Members & Volunteers Networking Dinner

July 25, 2026 | Melbourne, Australia

Written by Dorothy Aguinaldo
WFWP VIC Coorrdinator

OVERVIEW

- IN LATE JULY, WFWP VICTORIA WELCOMED MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS TO A MEMORABLE NETWORKING DINNER AT THE BEAUTIFUL STAMFORD PARK HOMESTEAD IN ROWVILLE.
- THE EVENING SHONE A LIGHT ON THE OFTEN-INVISIBLE BURDENS CARRIED BY AUSTRALIA'S UNPAID CARERS THROUGH CHRISTINA JOHN'S TESTIMONY.

The evening featured an inspiring presentation by Christina Johns, founder of Destination BRAVE, who shared her powerful story of resilience, courage, and hope. Through her heartfelt message, Climbing Mountains, Christina reminded us that while everyone faces unseen challenges, we each have the strength to rise above adversity, rediscover our authentic selves, and support others to do the same.



Through Christina's powerful personal story and the work of Destination BRAVE, the evening also shone a light on the often-invisible burdens carried by Australia's unpaid carers - one of our nation's most overlooked groups.

The evening reinforced the importance of empowering women to rediscover their identity and wellbeing—supporting them not only as caregivers, but as individuals with dreams, purpose, and leadership potential.

Surrounded by delicious food, sparkling chandeliers, beautiful views and wonderful jazz entertainment, guests enjoyed an evening of meaningful conversations, new connections, and shared inspiration. A heartfelt gratitude offers to Christina Johns for sharing your remarkable journey, and to everyone who joined.



PeaceLab-Conflict Resolution Workshop

22 August 2026 | NSW, Australia

Written by Satoim Terasaka
Project manager, WFWP NSW

OVERVIEW

- THE WORKSHOP EQUIPPED YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PRACTICAL COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES—SUCH AS OPEN AND CLOSED QUESTIONS, MIRRORING LANGUAGE, AND INTERACTIVE ROLE-PLAY.
- FORMER WFWP OCEANIA REGIONAL PRESIDENT, JYNENE HELLAND, INTRODUCED THE "BRIDGE OF PEACE" INITIATIVE, EMPHASISING THAT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, SELF-AWARENESS, AND RESPECT ARE FOUNDATIONAL TO PEACEBUILDING.
- TRUE PEACEBUILDING BEGINS DURING DAILY INTERACTIONS AND COMMUNICATION.

The Conflict Resolution Workshop was designed to help young people develop practical communication skills for managing conflict and building more respectful and peaceful relationships. The workshop addressed the need for young people to better understand how conflict can arise in everyday interactions and how effective communication can help prevent disagreements from escalating.



The workshop began with an interactive role-play, allowing participants to explore how conflict can develop through different communication styles and responses. Nikita, an Intercultural Conflict Mediation student, facilitated a practical session introducing conflict resolution techniques, including the use of open and closed questions and mirroring language. Participants had the opportunity to practice these techniques and reflect on how small changes in the way we communicate can create greater understanding. A second role-play brought the learning together, allowing participants to apply the techniques in realistic conversations.







The second part of the workshop featured a presentation on Bridge of Peace, delivered by Jynene Helland, former WFWP Oceania Regional President.

Participants were introduced to initiatives focused on reconciliation between two countries that were once enemies. The presentation highlighted the importance of beginning peace at an individual level, through respect, self-awareness, personal responsibility, and commitment.

The workshop provided a focused and interactive learning environment, with participants actively engaging in the activities, practicing new skills, and sharing their perspectives. Youth Council members also played an important role in organising and supporting the event.

The key take away was that peacebuilding is not only about resolving large-scale conflicts - it begins with how we communicate and relate to others in our everyday lives. The workshop
demonstrated that equipping young people with practical conflict resolution skills can empower them to contribute to more respectful relationships and a more peaceful community.

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We thank all our members, sponsors and supporters.

Feel inspired?



Support our Pacific Island Global Development, Aid & Service Projects

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

Donate:
Make a financial contribution, where 100% of your donation supports Global Development and Aid projects. WFWP International is a volunteer based NGO and a NFP charitable organisation.

Pasifika Scholarship Fund:
The full scholarship is for young adults living in the Pacific Islands who do not have the financial means to attend university, but who have a driving desire for education to become future leaders.
The program supports young adults who are passionate, and who align their beliefs and goals with the values of WFWP International: 'Living for the sake of others'.

Pasifika Micro-Credit: Taking a partnership approach between WFWP Australia and WFWP Chapters within Pacific Island Nations, Pasifika Micro-Credit aims to empower Island women by directly investing in their business idea, economic activity, or micro-enterprise. The program provides micro-business training and a low interest micro-loan.