



Women's Federation for World Peace

Oceania Newsletter 1/2016

From the Regional Office

Welcome to a new year of WFWP Oceania newsletters. The summer edition is always a short one due to our offices and activities closing over the holiday season. I hope that you too had a restful and rejuvenating holiday break. A big THANK YOU to all our chairwomen and Board members throughout the Oceania Region for their vision, consistency, and labours of love in making an impact in their communities throughout 2015. And a big THANK YOU to all our partners, supporters and financially contributing members who through your contributions and support make it possible for WFWP to continue making a difference!

Heading into 2016, our regional Strategic Plan, Nurturing a Culture of Peace 2015-20 is up and running. We are now working on the implementation plan to give a timeframe to the Strategic Goals. Our key areas of focus are: Women are Empowered, Families are Strengthened, and Communities are Connected. Each Chapter has identified local strategic priorities according to the needs within each community. Our newsletters highlight these activities.

"Think of the world as your stage as you decide what you want to do in life. You have only one life to live, so use it to do something that the world needs. Please think beyond your own country, and think of the world as your stage in setting your goal." *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen - Father Sun Myung Moon.*

Anne Bellavance
President WFWP, Australia



Reflections from the Field...

My WFWP experience is summed up well by Paul Newman (the humanitarian) "Helping is its own reward. It's surprising how it just feels right." People volunteer for various reasons and at the top of my list is the need to make a difference to the people I meet and the communities I work with. Some people are uncomfortable with the notion that a volunteer 'benefits' from volunteering. But I say it's OK to ask "What's in it for me?" because I can assure you that you will get what you ask for and even more.

Last July I had the privilege of meeting with the ladies of WFWP Victoria and I have never once looked back. In a very short time I could see what was in it for me - the blossoming of an amazing PARTNERSHIP and one of the most ENERGISING experiences I have ever had. The work with the Board on the Strategic Plan (2015 – 2020) confirmed that the goals of the organisation were aligned with my personal goals in life. My motto is, 'I strive to know that even one life has been lifted because I have lived.'

Sometimes I can get locked into the 'rat-race' of life. My volunteering experience has given me an escape from the everyday routine and has created a balance in my life. It has given me the opportunity to just be me and to do what I am good at ...

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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

Overview of WFWP activities in Oceania

W^F**W**^P chapters adhere to the principle that women working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion can create healthy families and resolve the complex problems of our societies and the world.

The philosophy behind WFWP is:

Shine & stand up

Action; starting in the family

Transformation through teaching

Impact with love

Nurture self & others

Since the inauguration of WFWP International in 1992, WFWP is now active in 122 nations worldwide. As an NGO, WFWP obtained the prestigious General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations after only three years of international humanitarian service. Go to our Australian chapter website to see where and how you can get involved. www.wfwpaustralia.org WFWP Australia supports projects within the Island nations of the Oceania region. These include Books for the Islands, the New Hope Academy Kindergarten (Solomon Islands), the Vanuatu Women’s Centre, the Island Lights Project, marriage, family and wellness education, character education and reconciliation through the Bridge of Peace ceremonies.

Join us in our efforts to promote a culture of peace through fostering dialogue, developing projects that nurture reconciliation and conflict resolution, supporting projects that serve the community and ones that overcome racial boundaries. They all centre on the inherent feminine characteristics of care, empathy, support, nurturance and cooperation. Connect with other likeminded people around the world who are dedicated to a more harmonious and peaceful world. WFWP contact details can be found on the back page of this newsletter. We hope to hear from you soon.

Aims & Activities



WFWP Chapters adhere to the principle that women, working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion to create healthy families, are resolving the complex problems of our societies and world.

Ultimately “solutions” come as true partnerships between men and women are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society’s most elemental level - the family. Therefore, WFWP works to provide women worldwide with: the knowledge, tools and support needed to create peace at home, peace in our communities and our nation.

New South Wales

International Leadership Conference (ILC)



Participants

A two-day International Leadership Conference sponsored by UPF and jointly organised and supported by WFPW in Sydney was held on December 1st and 2nd 2015. Participants gathered at the beautiful Oceania Peace Embassy and travelled from Queensland, Victoria, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Fiji, New Zealand and of course Sydney itself.

Peace, Security and Human Development in Oceania was the conference theme, with discussions and presentations focusing on the four sessions of: Peace Councils, Values Education; New Village Movement; and, Climate Change issues in Kiribati & Tuvalu. A brief outline of each session is below.

1. The formation of multi-faith, multi-disciplinary Peace Councils at the state, national and Regional levels in Oceania. This session was chaired by UPF Australia Vice-President John Bellavance.

2. Values Education with a particular focus on following up on the Fiji Government's invitation for UPF to introduce values education to Fiji secondary school teachers. This session II was jointly chaired by values education teacher and authority Ms Irene Anania, and by UPF and FFWPU Fiji President, Santosh Neupane.

3. The New Village Movement (NVM) using the example of its implementation in Vanuatu. This session III was chaired by Rev Jong Deug Yoo who gave a presentation about the NVM and the NVM programs in Vanuatu.

4. Dealing with the impacts of climate change on low-lying atoll nations such as Kiribati and Tuvalu and how we can help. This session IV was conducted by Rev Suamalie Iosefa Naisali, Tuvalu Christian minister and President of The Pacific Island Climate Change Action Forum in New Zealand.



Oceania Peace Council

After a warm welcome to all the delegates from Oceania Regional Chairman, Rev Jong Deug Yoo, Oceania Secretary-General Greg Stone, gave an introduction to UPF and an overview of the conference themes.

Each session began with a presentation and concluded with round table discussions, whereby participants asked questions and put forward their comments. The sessions attracted a lot of interaction and discussion, with a call for volunteers to participate in the follow up committee about the session topic.

At the end of the two days, participants gave very positive reflections and indicated they were inspired by the content and wished to support the ongoing projects stemming from the conference content.

The three chairpersons of WFP Australia, Mamiko Rattley (Queensland), Aila Willitts (Sydney) and Anne Bellavance (Victoria) had the chance to catch up during the conference and share with Dr. Mimmie Watts from Victoria and Sharon Orapeleng from Queensland.



(left to right) Mimmie, Mamiko, Anne, Aila & Sharon



Mamiko, Anne & Aila

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- to always be positive, patient and understanding
- to share my skills and knowledge with others
- to have the passion to support & contribute towards a good cause



I have always been inspired by the words of Arthur Ashe. "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

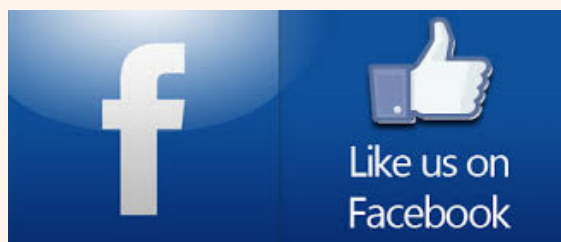
I believe that no one person can solve all the problems of the world, but what I can do is make that

little corner of the world where I live, just that little bit better. Although the millennium has dawned an era of infinite volunteering opportunities ... I could skydive for a charity - a chance to experience the ultimate thrill and raise funds to help the charity continue its work. I wouldn't change a thing ... and I shall forever be grateful to WFP for the opportunity to volunteer with them.

Elaine Hendrick:
<http://www.elainehendrickconsulting.com/>



To donate go to WFP Website
www.wfpaustralia.org



<https://www.facebook.com/wfp.australia>

Queensland

Report - Activity in November 2015

Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Queensland

On 26th November, 36 used and restored sewing machines and one box of sundries (consisting of bobbins, needles, oil and brushes) were brought to the depot of a shipping company which were dispatched to Fiji in early December.

Those 36 sewing machines were donated generously by a retired engineer Mr Dickinson. He had also donated 31 machines for WFWP Solomon Islands last May.

This time WFWP's supporter Ann-Maree Saver has been helping the Queensland branch by contacting the shipping company and WFWP Australia's partners in Fiji. Her father Paul Saver helped to drive the 37 boxes to the shipping depot by trailer.

A Women's Sewing Centre in Fiji is planned to be established 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, WFWP Queensland donated 5 sewing machines to a young Aboriginal women's 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.



Ann-Maree & Paul Saver and Mamiko Rattley before leaving for the depot.

New Zealand

Women's Federation for World Peace NZ

December 5th 2015

Women's Federation for World Peace NZ December 5th 2015 Women's Federation for World Peace NZ (WFWP NZ) held its final event for 2015 on December 5th at the Parnell Peace Embassy in Auckland. About 45-50 women and a few gentlemen attended.

To mark this very special occasion a video was shown of the launch of the Global Women's Peace Network, with special emphasis on the different topics that were delivered by WFWP International President, Prof Yeon Ah Moon and other women leaders from different women's organisations in New Zealand.

Mrs. Felicity Cairns, president of WFWP NZ gave the opening remarks and thanked everyone for their generous donations, support and participation throughout the year. She highlighted the fact that women have a very important role to fulfil in the peace building process and that essentially that process begins at home in the family.

Mrs Tracey Dean and her husband, Elijah presented a beautiful hand crafted Korowai Frame to WFWP NZ as a symbol of the Launch of the Global Women's Peace Network that was held in Auckland on 14 September 2015. Tracey and her husband are Ambassadors for Peace and work in their local community in the Waikato South region of New Zealand. Elijah explained that he crafted the frame from inspirations that he received while crafting. The multi-coloured feathers symbolise the different women's organisations and women leaders from the many groups that would comprise the Global Women's Peace Network. The Korowai Frame is made from wood that is native to NZ.



Mrs Felicity Cairns - President, WFWP NZ



Guests at the event



Elijah & Tracey Dean
Felicity, Elijah & Tracey

Afternoon Tea, Raffle Draw, Gift Exchange & Entertainment followed



Mrs. Sami Lee offered Korean tea



Raffle draw



Refreshments



Gift Exchange



Raffle draw





Entertainment



Entertainment



Group Photo

Fiji Sewing Training Centres Opening Ceremonies

Fiji received 36 sewing machines through WFWP Australia in late December, 2015. To initiate the Sewing Training Centre's, WFWP Fiji offered a grant of sewing machines to local Fijian NGO's and asked for submission of applications. Based on the NGO's impact within society, six organisations were selected across the regions of Fiji.

A distribution ceremony was held on January 23rd. to the following organisations:

1. Catholic Women's League Fiji
2. Sita Women's Club Fiji
3. Nandani Mahila Mandal Fiji
4. Fiji Muslim Women's League Fiji
5. Labasa Kindergarten Parents Association
6. Qelema Women's Club

The Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare was the keynote speaker during the ceremony and expressed appreciation for the work of WFWP Fiji and its partner organisations, UPF and FFWPU. He Welcome WFWP to work with the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare for the benefit of the local women's groups in Fiji. In the informal talk after the program, Mrs Shobhana Ram, (WFWP President, Fiji) and Santosh Neupane (UPF president, Fiji) spoke with the Permanent Secretary about the possibility of WFWP helping local women in the field of education, especially focusing on family values and the significance of marriage.

Rev Yoo, (regional president, UPF Oceania) flew in from Sydney to attend the ceremony as a special guest and spoke about the role of women leaders in society. Mrs Shobhana Ram, WFWP President, Fiji, presented an overview of WFWP International's philosophy and worldwide activities, as well as WFWP Fiji's activities dating from 1996 to present. Shobhana thanked Dr Hak Ja Han Moon (founder, WFWP International) for sending very committed Japanese WFWP volunteers to worked in Fiji in past years. Shobhana testified how she was inspired by their commitment to world peace through social activities. Mrs Ram further explained the importance of the family as the first school of love. She thanked Mr. Dickson from Queensland for restoring and repairing all the machines and being a bridge between WFWP Australia and the Fiji Islands.



Collection of sewing machines sent to Fiji



Left to right, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Women, WFWP Fiji

The women's groups pledged to establish a 'sewing training center' in their respective areas and train local women. WFWP Fiji aims to regularly visit and consult with the women's groups and buy products made through the sewing centre's, using this clothing to raise funds for the sake of needy people in society.

Nandani Mahila Mandal (a Hindu women's group), located in the town of Nasinu had their own opening ceremony on January 25th. Mrs Shobhan Ram, (President of WFWP Fiji) and Mr. Akhatar Ali, (Nasinu Mayor) were special guests during the afternoon.

Shobhan gave a lecture on the importance of women as the wife, mother, sister and daughter in the family. She encouraged women to develop the quality of “saving and keeping for tomorrow” and

inspired the NGO to start a cooperative for the sake of needy people in the local area. Nandani Mahila Mandal are committed to partner with WFP Fiji in future activities.



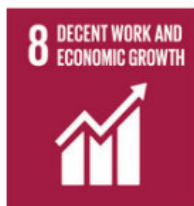
Mr Akhtar Ali (Nasinu Mayor), together with Nandani Mahila Mandal (NGO group)



Mrs. Shobhan Ram, President of WFP Fiji Speaking in the Programme



Opening Ceremony of Sewing machine Training centre by Nandani Mahila Mandal



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Support the efforts of WFP volunteers in Oceania



New Hope Academy Kindergarten
(Solomon Islands)
Women's Sewing Centres
Island Lights Project
Character Education
Books for the Islands



United Nations Affiliation

WFP International became a "NGO in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations" in 1997. This status has continued to be renewed based on the preparation of the Quadrennial Report.

Consultative status is granted by ECOSOC upon recommendation of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs, which is comprised of 19 Member States.

There are only 139 NGOs worldwide that hold the general consultative status. The requirements of this level of affiliation include:

- ❖ Applying organisation's activities must be relevant to the work of ECOSOC
- ❖ The NGO must have been in existence (officially registered) for at least two years in order to apply
- ❖ The NGO must have a democratic decision making mechanism
- ❖ The major portion of the organisation's funds should be derived from contributions from national affiliates, individual members, or other non-governmental components
- ❖ NGOs granted General Consultative Status must submit to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, every fourth year, a brief report of their activities, in particular regarding their contribution to the work of the United Nations (Quadrennial Report) general consultative status is reserved for large international NGOs whose area of work covers most of the issues on the agenda of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. These tend to be fairly large, established international NGOs with a broad geographical reach.

The benefits of receiving this status include:

- ❖ The NGO may propose new items for consideration by the ECOSOC
- ❖ Organisations granted status are also invited to attend international conferences called by the UN General Assembly special sessions, and other intergovernmental bodies.

WFP International maintains a UN office in New York City. WFP International has twenty UN representatives in seven countries: Austria, Chile, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Switzerland, Thailand, and the US.