



# Women's Federation for World Peace

Oceania Newsletter 2/2016

## From the Regional Office

Last month during our 'Afternoons with WFWP' workshops in Melbourne, an inspiring young lady presented an introduction to Mindfulness. During the section on 'what makes you happy', I was surprised to find out that having freedom was not an important personal value, and I reflected on why freedom received a zero score on most important. A few years ago I learnt about the '90|10 Principle' by Stephen Covey. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKvEYKoiJ48> The thought behind the principle is that 10% of life is made up by what happens to us, and 90% of life is decided by how we react to this 10%. This means we really have no control over the 10% of what happens to us, we can only control how we respond. There is no freedom without responsibility is one of the key constructs of the philosophy presented by Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, and the 90 | 10 supports this well. Do we get angry, resentful, hurt and lash out when something does not go our way, or do we remember to practice 'living for others'.



"Absolutely everything we do, give, say, or even think, is like a boomerang. It will come back to us. If we want to receive, we need to learn to give first ... Maybe we will end up with our hands empty, but our hearts will be filled with love ... And those who love life have that feeling marked in their hearts." Stephen Covey

*Keep warm this winter,*

*Anne Bellavance*

## Her Story -

### My Experience at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

My name is Bianca Joyce and I am a board member of the Women's Federation for World Peace Australia, Melbourne Chapter. I was given the opportunity to attend the Commission on the Status of Women held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on behalf of WFWP Oceania and I am so grateful for the opportunity.

On the 25th of September 2015, the 193 countries of the UN General Assembly adopted the Development Agenda and set 17 Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030. Some of these goals include: Ending poverty in all its forms, everywhere. Reduce inequality within and among countries. Take urgent action to combat climate change and all its impacts and the CSW 60 focus goal 5 was 'Achieve Gender Equality and empower all women and girls.'

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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

**Women are Empowered**  
**Families are Strengthened**  
**Communities are Connected**

**WFWP is founded on the belief** that a peaceful world begins in the heart of each person and in each family. The family is the cornerstone of peace and 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, the children of the world, by developing and expressing the qualities of empathy, forgiveness, and unconditional love.

### WFWP is committed to

- Serving communities – service projects within Australia & the Pacific Islands
- Strengthening the family – workshops, forums, seminars and conferences
- Reconciling differences and healing wounds of the past – Bridge of Peace
- Global Women’s Peace Network (GWPN) – a global network of women leaders who are peace builders within their community

### Philosophy

- Shine & stand up
- Action; starting in the family
- Transformation through teaching
- Impact with love
- Nurture self and others

**WFWP Australia** supports projects within Australia and the Island Nations of the Oceania region. Projects include: Global Women’s Peace Network; Dignity Project; Annual Walk-a-thon to support our Pacific Neighbours; Workshops, Seminars, Conferences and Forums on Peace Building; Books for the Islands; Solomon Islands New Hope Kindergarten; Women’s Sewing Centres; Island Lights Project; Marriage, Family and Wellness education; Character education; and, reconciliation through the Bridge of Peace ceremonies.

**WFWP is a dynamic organisation** committed to providing women with the opportunity to create lasting peace in the world by fostering dialogue, developing projects that nurture reconciliation and conflict resolution, and supporting projects that serve the community and overcome racial boundaries; all centering on the inherent feminine characteristics of care, empathy, support, nurturing and cooperation.

# Victoria

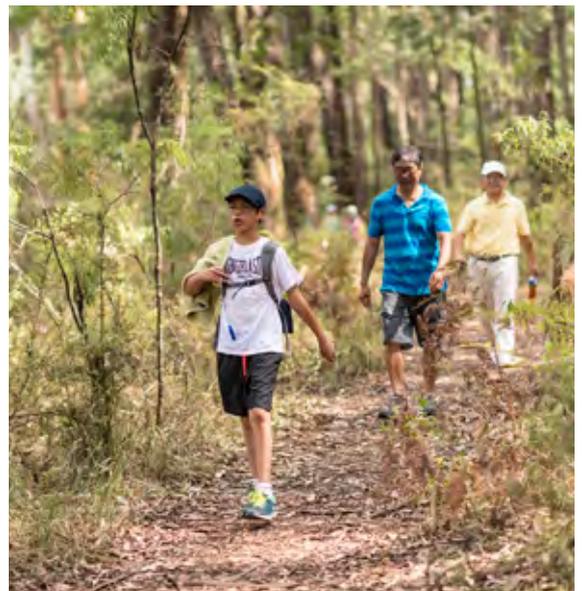
## Support our Pacific Island Neighbours WALK-A-THON

Saturday March 5th 2016

### A project of WFWP Australia to raise funds to support the Island Projects of WFWP

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. The goal of the walk-a-thon is to raise funds for the WFWP Australia projects within the Oceania Island nations. WFWP Australia has undertaken practical service projects within the Oceania Island nations since 2003. These include Books for the Islands, Sewing machines sent to support the Womens Sewing Centres and Character Education programs for youth.

**"A very nice event with friendly people, good food and music. I was happy to get sponsors to support the cause"** wrote Beth Treacy from Belgrave Heights.



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 event was very exciting and a great experience to promote health factors"**, Gai Scrivens from Yea.



This year, funds raised from the walk-a-thon will support the New Hope Academy Kindergarten in the Solomon Islands. In 2010 WFWP Australia provided funding for the building of the Kindergarten, which 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.



The kindergarten is a private school, recognised by the government and now takes care of 60 plus children. Today the school receives funding from

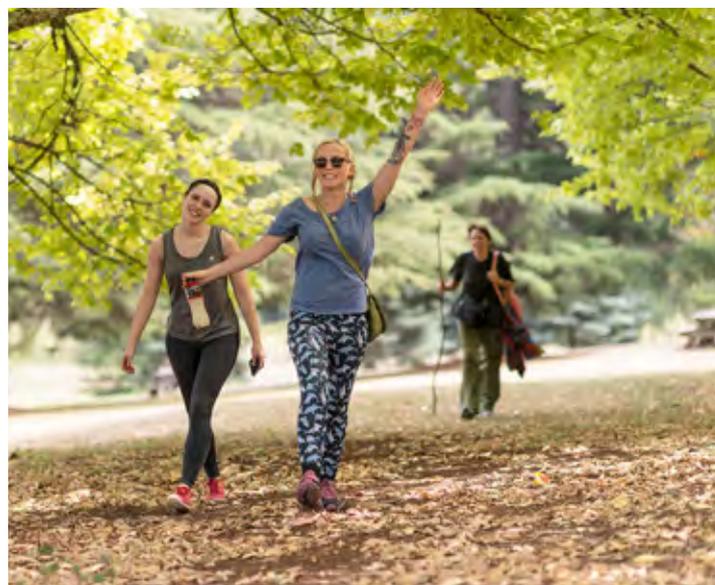


WFWP Japan. The school opened in 2011 with the 1st intake of 40 students ranging from 3 to 6 years old. The three classrooms are: age 3; age 4 and age 5-6. Then the children move onto the local primary schools for their schooling.

Mrs. Selina Galo, Principle of the New Hope Academy Kindergarten, explained that present opportunities for the school are to gain registration with the government. This will ease the difficulty of funding and continue its development into a primary school. The kindergarten has a strong parents association.

Challenges are always funding, Mrs. Galo explained; because as a private school in the Solomon Islands, the government provides no funding support. Mrs. Galo shared the philosophy behind the school as being value and family centred; teaching the children to develop their hearts through sharing, developing empathy and understanding.

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.**

# Connecting Community Dinner Dance An evening with WFWP

24th Anniversary | April 10th 2016

This year we celebrated the anniversary of the Womens 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.



Registration.



Councillor Rebecca Paterson receiving a door prize.



MC for the evening - Jessica Greenall.



Honouring our Volunteers.



WFWP Vic. board (left to right) Bianca Joyce, Barbara Von Dracek, Anne Bellavance, Monique Joyce, Tsuneko Babb.



*Volunteers during the evening (left to right) Chris Bellavance, Naomi Darbshire, Young Ju Ku, Antoine Bellavance.*

*Dinner Banquet.*



*Doopa Doopa Bush Band.*

*John McDonald calling' during the Bush Dances.*

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. It was a hoot! Bush dancing is uniquely Australian. Most of the dances derive from popular country dances originating from England, Scotland and Ireland and came here with the first settlers, soldiers and convicts. Modern bush dancing is a city-based development from the folk revival of the 1950s.

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.



# Melbourne Ambassadors for Peace Search for Shared values in a Multicultural Australia



On the 30th of April 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. These seminars seek to find solutions to the moral and social problems facing Australian society. 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 McInerheney, 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.

*Written by: John Bellavance*



## 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.

# 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 14<sup>th</sup>

Rabeca 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.

- i. Academic Forum: Advancing the Africa Australian agenda - the role of African Australian diasporas.
- ii. Families Forum theme: Holding together the African Australian family unit.
- iii. Youth Forum theme: Africa Australian youth finds a fit.

The day was opened with welcome remarks by Rabeca 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.



*Academic forum- Speakers with ADA committee members (Rabeca Mphande, (in red) Forum chairperson is to the left of Anne Bellavance.*

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. Hailuel 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. Rabeca 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.

Hozey, MC for the Youth Forum kept us entertained with his wit and energy during this segment. Rhoda Mphande and Lizzy Kuoth were the co-chairs who organised the panellists and a dazzling fashion show featuring RKM design by none other than Rhoda herself. Priscilla Mphande who was the runner up at the 2015 Africa's Got Talent competition, entertained us with her beautiful voice and Daniel Elia gave us a Rap about his experiences as an African youth. Melanie Augustine was the moderator for the youth segment. Panel topics focused on building youth capacity, identity at odds, success stories and cloning youth. Panelists were Zaphidah Kanyi, Neera Konara, Gatwech Wal, Roda Mphande, Bianca Joyce, Melanie Augustine, Priscilla Mphande, Adriana Bito, Soreti Kadir, Nyasha Dzingai, Joshua Sahr, Bol Luak and Olivier Mus. Closing remarks were presented by the new ADA president Dr. Steve Rametse to the audience of seventh five participants.



*Bianca Joyce presenting during the Youth Forum.*



*Family Forum panel discussion.*



*Family Forum speakers with ADA committee members.*



*Sharon Orapeleng giving her Key Note Address.*



*Jacinta Darbishire, Sharon Orapeleng, Anne Bellavance at the WFWP stand.*

WFWP was well presented at the forum. WFWP is one of the sponsors for the ADA events and during the forum day, served morning tea and helped out at registration. Anne Bellavance (WFWP national president) was the day coordinator for the forum and sits on the ADA Forum committee. It was great to see Sharon Orapeleng who gave the keynote address during the families' segment. Sharon works with Mamiko Rattley in the WFWP Qld. Chapter and has come to Sydney for national meetings. Bianca Joyce is one of our WFWP Vic. board members and shared deeply about her experiences working in the social sector helping youths affected by alcohol. It was a long, but moving, insightful and interest filled day.

*Anne Bellavance*



*Sharon Orapeleng - Key Note Address for the Families Forum.*

# SYMPHONY OF PEACE PRAYERS (SOPP)

May 21st marked the first Symphony of Peace Prayers 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 and was organised by Anda McMillan.

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. SOPP events were held throughout the world. Put together, these prayers symbolise the ONENESS of humanity in all its exquisite variety.

Laid out on the centre table were elements of earth, air, fire and water to bring a beautiful reminder that we are part of one Earth. The love that flowed during the ceremony was tangible. It was a delight to see people wholeheartedly join the sharing of prayers, even though this was their first experience of such an event.

A vital essence of SOPP is the simple act of participants with religious and spiritual leaders praying according to their faith and sending a powerful message of tolerance and harmony. During the prayer, participants remember the LOVE felt in their heart for their faith, then...for a short moment, step into the LOVE space that resides within

the heart of each faith presenter. This is a powerful moment of saying to each other; 'I respect your belief, I acknowledge our sameness, and our differences in ONENESS; I thank you for sharing.'

During the afternoon the Peace Flame burned continuously, surrounded by the flags of each nation; each representing the flame of love that is ignited in our hearts and the ONENESS of us all. The World Peace Flame was created in 1999 when seven living flames



were lit by prominent peacemakers representing five continents. The flames were brought together and united into one eternal flame as a universal symbol of humanity's combined aspirations for peace. This 'parent' flame now burns in Snowdonia, Wales and until now every peace flame has its origins from this parent flame.

Anne Bellavance (WFWP Australian President and International vice-president for Oceania) gave a wonderful 10 minute presentation on the work of WFWP, which is focused on empowering women. She also outlined the service projects within the Island nations of Oceania. Anne was also a Prayer Presenter for The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.

Igniting the divine spark for a thriving world; participants read the Fuji Declaration together. This declaration encourages all human beings from all



walks of life to raise a global consciousness together and begin to live by a new set of values in harmony with nature and all life on earth. [www.fujideclaration.org](http://www.fujideclaration.org)

As usual, the Peace Flag Ceremony won people's hearts! Some participants had been to previous World Peace Prayer events, but most had not. None had ever experienced a Symphony of Peace Prayer event.

A prayer for peace was offered for each country of the world symbolically by carrying the flag of each nation.

The name of each nation was called out, after which participants said together,

"May peace be in....." This was done for 194 countries.

In closing, Jenny Funston led participants in meditation to honour each nation, symbolised by the Peace Pole and flags. The Victorian branch of Byakko Shinko Kai has nearly 200 flags, the UN flag, nations registered with the United Nations and a special flag for nations not registered in the UN. <http://byakko.org/>

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**

**The Fuji Declaration**  
Igniting the Divine Spark for a Thriving World

As individuals responsible for the future of life on Earth, we hereby declare...

- 

**Affirming the Light of Consciousness Within All Beings**  
We affirm the divine spark in the heart and mind of every human being and intend to live by its light in every sphere of our existence.
- 

**Commitment to Creating Lasting Peace on Earth**  
We commit ourselves to fulfilling our shared mission of creating lasting peace on Earth through our ways of living and acting.
- 

**Intention to Live and Act on Behalf of all Life**  
We intend to live and act so as to enhance the quality of life and the well-being of all forms of life on the planet, recognizing that all living things in all their diversity are interconnected and are one.
- 

**Freeing the Human Spirit for Deep Creativity**  
We will continually strive to free the human spirit for deep creativity, and to nurture the transformation necessary to forge a new paradigm in all spheres of human activity, including economics, science, medicine, politics, business, education, religion, the arts, communications and the media.
- 

**Mission to Advance a Harmonious Human Civilization**  
We shall make it our mission to design, communicate and implement a more spiritual and harmonious civilization—a civilization that enables humankind to realize its inherent potential and advance to the next stage of its material, spiritual, and cultural evolution.

[www.fujideclaration.org](http://www.fujideclaration.org)

© 2015 The Fuji Declaration

*WFWP Victoria is a chapter of WFWP Australia, one of the 122 national chapters of WFWP International; an International NGO having general consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. WFWP supports the UN millennium goals and seeks to serve with the 'logic of love' (the WFWP motto) and empower women to find their unique value.*

*For more information visit [www.wfwpaustralia.org](http://www.wfwpaustralia.org)*

# New South Wales

## WFWP Australia Get together

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.



*Left to right) Rika Lim, Mrs. Yoo, Mamiko Rattley, Anne Bellavance, Aila Willitts, Debbie Bruce and Kosina Hanson.*

On the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Beanies for Sick Kids



Local Sydney lady Auntie Betty has knitted many beanies for sick children in hospitals throughout Sydney. WFWP NSW donated yarn for her to continue supporting her passion to express love for the children and their parents.

We are happy to receive donations of yarn and support her noble cause.

# Batik Girl visits Australia

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 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, Thalassaemia and disabilities. The aim is to provide a thousand Batik Girl dolls in 10 cities throughout Indonesia.



WFWP, Sydney meeting brought together women from 12 different nations.



The "Batik Girl Initiative" delegation with the President of WFWP, NSW.

The 'Batik Girl' Roadshow had over 30 meetings in various communities, including meetings with WFWP ladies in Melbourne and Sydney. 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.

To see more of the interview of the 'Batik Girl' initiative, please, log onto the YouTube channel: Batik Girl - Women Prisoners Empowerment Program in Indonesia. We are looking forward to continuing our support for the "Batik Girl" project.






## 1000

### BATIK GIRL

#### FOR INDONESIA



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

**Our Target:**

|              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Jakarta      | : 100 Children         |
| Batam        | : 100 Children         |
| Makassar     | : 100 Children         |
| Surabaya     | : 100 Children         |
| Aceh         | : 100 Children         |
| Papua        | : 100 Children         |
| Bali         | : 100 Children         |
| Pohoraniak   | : 100 Children         |
| Medan        | : 100 Children         |
| Yogyakarta   | : 100 Children         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>: 1000 Children</b> |

**1 Friend 1 Doll**



**Contact:**  
Cinderella From Indonesia Center  
**Email:**  
lusi.kimb.batik@gmail.com  
**Facebook:**  
CFIC Batik Girl  
**PKC:**  
Weber: 0812 7530 5825  
Astri: 0852 6100 5245  
Vivian: 0813 2877 4428



# Queensland

## WFWP 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration

**W**FWP 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 evenings 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.



*Management Committee members cut a celebration cake.*



*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.

We had a wonderful and inspiring anniversary celebration for WFWP.

***Mamiko Rattley***



*Trivia.*

# New Zealand

## Celebrations of International Women's day 2016 Women's Federation for World Peace New Zealand

Women's Federation for World Peace NZ (WFWP NZ) celebrated International Women's day in cooperation with UN Women NZ and the International Women's Peace Group NZ.

On 08 March representatives of WFWP NZ were invited to participate in a Peace Walk that was organised by the Int. Women's Peace Group NZ.

The program was as follows:

- A Peace Walk from Britomart's Queen Elizabeth (QEII) Square to Auckland University Student Quad. 11:15 am to 12:00pm. (the different NGOs brought their flags or banners to the march)

- Welcome remarks and speeches were given by Deputy Mayor Penny Hulse, the Consul General Arlene R. Gonzales-Macaixa of the Philippines, and the Hon Consul of Albania Dr Tane Taylor, also included was a self-defence interactive session.

- The event concluded with a Peace Picnic at Albert Park from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. Food and drinks were distributed (courtesy of Auckland Businesses supporting International Women's Day) at the AU Student Quad and enjoyed at the park with some performers celebrating the day with songs and dances.

*A big thank you to Pauline, Sami and Rosie who represented WFWP at the Peace walk.*



# Fiji Cyclone Disaster Appeal

On March 19th, WFP NZ organised a fundraising drive for the Fiji cyclone disaster appeal. We organized a family friendly movie afternoon. During the afternoon, funds were raised by selling movie tickets and refreshments. Those who were unable to attend supported the event by giving a donation.

We would like to thank every-one for their generous donation and support.



*Fundraising - Movie afternoon.*



To donate go to WFP Website  
[www.wfpaustralia.org](http://www.wfpaustralia.org)



<https://www.facebook.com/wfpaustralia>

# Solomon Islands

## WFWP Anniversary in Solomon Islands

A lively program featuring service awards, song, dance and lunch attracted a crowd of more than 150 WFWP members and supports at the Samsung Cafeteria in Honiara, Solomon Islands on Sunday April 10th to celebrate the 24th anniversary of WFWP International. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's speech given during the 20th Anniversary of WFWP International was read by Alice Hou, President of WFWP Solomon Islands.

Award certificates were presented to Nelly Masuaku and Josephine Wane for their time and commitment to the development of the WFWP Solomon Island Chapter. A celebration cake was shared and the attendees enjoyed six group performances, comprising choir, island worship dances and action songs.



*Alice Hou (President, WFWP Solomon Islands).*



*Cake cutting (Christopher, Dae Yeon Ku, Nelly Masuaku, Alice Hou).*



Lunch featured island dishes of barbecue fish, chicken, baked potato, cassava, pudding with delicious and sweet island fruits and freshly made bush lime drinks.

This is the first year the WFWP anniversary was celebrated and was fully funded by WFWP members and supporters. Everyone really enjoy the program and looking forward for next year's WFWP 25th Anniversary.

Thank you.

**Alice Hou**

# WFWP International Day of Family

WFWP Solomon Islands commemorated the 2016 International Day of the Family with a series of events starting with outreach and culminating with a seminar on the theme of 'Family, Health and a Sustainable Future'. During the week of May 14th to the 21st, two half day workshops were conducted in two different communities, followed by a 1 day seminar to wrap up the commemoration schedule.

The first event on May 14th was held in a catholic community, with 20 catholic mothers in attendance.



*Group Photo - One Day Seminar copy.*



Alice Hou introduced WFWP International, its founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and its activities for World Peace around the globe. She then spoke about activities in the Solomon Island chapter. Participants became very inspired and wished to become organisational members with WFWP Solomon Islands.



*Participants.*

On Sunday afternoon of May 15th, the 2nd event was held in Henderson, which is one of the biggest settlements on the outskirts of the capital city, Honiara. It was attended by more than 20 women and a village chief. This community was assisted by WFWP for their initial set up and they will continue to work with us.

The final 1 day seminar was held at the Samsung Café in Honiara. Two sessions were presented: the need to Educate for Character and Family is the school of love and peace. It was attended by more than 40 participants; women, men and youth.



*Group discussion and sharing.*

**Alice Hou**

# International

## WFWP International leaders meeting



Between February 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, a meeting was held in Seoul Korea for International Vice presidents, representing the twelve regional chapters and United Nations offices of WFWP International. A few of us were National Chapter Leaders. I represented Oceania Region and am the WFWP national president of the Solomon Islands. All the leaders arrived in South Korea on February 12<sup>th</sup> and were housed at the Cheong Pyung Training center facility.



The first inspiring session covered WFWP's ESOCOC connections with the United Nations. A point that stood out for me was, 'Destination is uncertain without a clear starting point.' The next session was an update from the WFWP UN office in New York about the upcoming Commission on the Status of Women (SCW) in March that will be held at the UN headquarters in New York. This session was given by



Carolyn Handschin, director of WFWPI UN office.

Alexa Ward (deputy director of the WFWPI UN office), directly from her office through online connections in the USA. The final session was on strategic Planning. This was facilitated by Carolyn Handschin, who is the director of WFWPI UN office. Leaders from the Asian region shared how they link with the local Government and secure funds for their WFWP projects.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> we went to the WFWPI office in South Korea and discussed about the upcoming 66<sup>th</sup> UN DPI/NGO conference which is to be held in Gyeongju, South Korea between May 30<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> June this year. DPI/NGO stands for the Department of Public Information for Non-Government Organisations within the UN. WFWPI and its national chapters are members of this UN department, being a non-government organisation. The annual conference is held in different countries each year and is the premier event for civil society at the UN. WFWPI is planning to host parallel events during the conference and launch the opening of a new WFWP UN office in South Korea.

Pof. Yeon Ah Nim (WFWPI president) shared with us between sessions; supporting our discussions and helped to clarify issues that arose during the meetings. She extended her time even after the meetings to meet with individuals and groups from each regional chapter.

It was a great experience for me, because it was my first time to attend such an international leaders meeting. I shared rooms with the European sisters and they gave so much love and care. It was also the first time for me to meet our WFWPI President, Prof. Yeon Ah Nim. Although she was so busy during our schedule, she really wanted to listen and share with us. Sometimes, extra meetings continued after dinner until 10-11pm at night. It was joyous experience for all of us; we felt like real sisters after just a week of sharing, dining and living together.

*Thank you,  
Alice Hou*



# My Experience at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York

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This was the first session of the CSW60 since the adaption of the 2030 agenda. The priority theme for this year's CSW was "The Empowerment of Women and Girls and its link to Sustainable Development."

Each Year nearly 4,000 NGO representatives from all over the world arrive in New York to participate in the UN Commission on the Status of Women. It is the largest annual gathering of the international women's movement at the United Nations. This year there were over 450 events held on the priority theme of 'Eliminating and Preventing Violence against all women and girls.' The two weeks at the UN gave women's movements and feminists the opportunity to come together and rally around the priority theme and contribute to discussions and forums that took place at the UN. The agreed conclusions from this session of the CSW would go to contribute to the UN sustainable development goals. It was a dream come true to be a part of such a global changing event.

The NGO CSW 60 forum was a place for activists to speak and learn from each other. Hundreds of women and men stood together passionate about humanity and ending violence against all women and girls. It was inspiring and surreal to be at the UN with so many hopeful and inspirational people all coming together to make this world better.



*UN session on Ending Female Genital Mutilation.*



*Young WFWP Members from all over the world at the WFWP Young Women Leaders Retreat.*



*Left to right - Alexa Ward, Carolyn Handschin, Sharon Pedrosa, Prof. Yean Ah Moon, Amalle Daou & Annie Frankiln.*

The opening session on the 14th of March was the beginning on what was to be one of the greatest experiences of my life. The Opening Session set the mood for what was to come. The venue was full of people buzzing to be inspired and contribute to a positive change in the world it was electrifying.

I had the opportunity to meet fellow Women's Federation members from all over the globe. I forged lifelong friendships and learnt valuable lessons from my fellow WFWP sisters.

A parallel event was held by WFWP International called "Engaging Women in Sustainable Development: Family – Transformation - Co-prosperity. There were

amazing speakers; inspiring women changing the world including Carolyn Handschin (International Vice President and Director of the UN Office and WFWPI), Amalle Daou MD (Founder & Director of Aim), Annie Franklin and Sharon Pedrosa. These inspiring and strong women spoke on “Engaging Women in Sustainable Development: Family – Transformation - Co Prosperity.”

A local school attended the event and asked questions on Family and supporting community to the WFWP Panellists. I felt moved to witnessing so many young people eager to make the world better.

On the following night, a lovey evening event was held by WFWP International and Prof Yeon Ah Moon in Mid-Town Manhattan, celebrating the CSW60. This event brought all WFWP Members into



*Prof. Yeon Ah Moon and Bianca Joyce at East Garden.*



*Left to right - Josephine Stewart (Canada), Bianca Joyce (Australia) and Lilly Tadin (Canada) at a UN session.*

one room for the first time during the CSW and gave us a chance to meet our new Director; Professor Yeon Ah Moon. We hand members from the Las Vegas, Boston, Beijing and New York chapters to name a few. We shared a meal and stood proudly next to each other, knowing we were all there for the same thing; as proud members of the Women’s Federation for World Peace hoping to contribute to the CSW 60 and make this world a better place for everyone.



*WFWP members from all over the world at Hyde Park FDR Presidential Library.*

It was the first time I had met WFWP members outside my own chapter. It made me realise how much of a wonderful organisation WFWP is and how powerful we are when we get together.

The WFWPI UN Office held a Young Women Leaders Retreat where young members of WFWP International stayed together in 2 brownstone homes in Queens. This retreat was the first of its kind for WFWP and its focus was to “Empower young women with the vision, tools and networking opportunities to support their emerging leadership on the public service and civil society sectors.” We had forums on advocacy, the history and formation of the UN, understanding diplomacy and how to develop our networking skills.

We were given the opportunity to attend the Presidential Library of Franklin Roosevelt and tour the Cottages at Val-Kill, where Mrs. Roosevelt lived and where her work on the formation of the UN took place.

On the final day of the Retreat we had the pleasure of attending a formal dinner at East Garden, where Father and Mother Moon once gave sermons and preached on the Divine Principle. During this dinner

we watched a presentation about the founders and the Founding Vision of WFWP. It was a wonderful, inspiring way to end the retreat and say goodbye to some most amazing, strong and inspirational women I have ever met.

I completed the whole CSW 60 leaving inspired, motivated and so hopeful about what we can all do as one global family to make the world a better place. The world is one family and we need to help each other in any way we can; whether it be recycling, donating to charities or volunteering our time. We can all make a difference in this world. I knew that before I attended the CSW, but I left feeling more certain about it.

Thank you to WFWP for one of the most amazing opportunities of a lifetime. Thank you to my fellow WFWP sisters who made the experience so special. An experience I will always be grateful for and one I will never ever forget.

***Bianca Joyce***



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## Support the efforts of WFWP 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

WFWP 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.

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