



Women's Federation for World Peace Oceania Newsletter



Solomon Islands Sweing Department – official opening of the business

Sunday 16th September was an auspicious day for the WFWP Solomon Islands Sewing Centre as it was officially opened by the pastor from our local church. The opening was well attended by church members and their children. All present at this occasion were treated to a special lunch which included ice-cream for dessert.

Both Nelly Masuaku and Catharine Rongona are to be commended for their efforts in developing this sewing venture. Nelly who was at the opening was delighted to be part of this venture. She felt that the official opening was a truly 'blessed' occasion and was the realization of a wonderful dream. Catharine echoed these sentiments and acknowledged the possibilities this business offered other young girls and women in the Solomon Islands.

Soon after the ribbon was cut by the pastor, many young girls attending the event excitedly raced into the venue which caused Nelly to comment that the venture was more than likely to have a bright future seeing the enthusiasm of the future generation. Nelly encouraged all the women present to contribute to this venture so that it could continue to grow and provide them with a successful business while increasing employment opportunities.

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Reflections from the Sewing Trainee

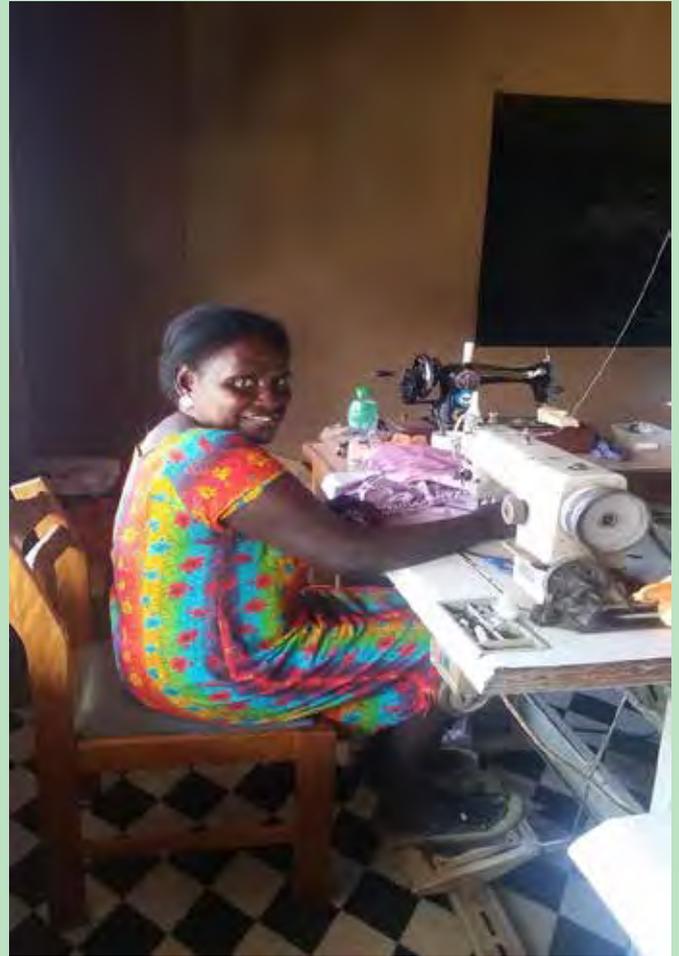
Nelly Masuaku - WFP Solomon Islands

Attending the Sewing Training program was not only a great privilege but a wonderful opportunity to learn many new skills. The program which ran for five days from 7th May to 11th May 2018 focused on training trainers in the development of skills in using industrial sewing machines. The program also provided the trainers with skills in how to instruct other women interested in using these sewing machines.

Although short, the program provided me with a range of skills in using industrial sewing machines from threading the machine to using different types of decorative stitches and overlocking techniques. As well, I feel more confident in being able to share my skills with the young girls and women who are interested in developing their sewing skills.

One of the major aims of conducting this training program was to build the skills of women involved in sewing the school uniforms of students at the New Hope Academy School. Eventually, it is hoped that these women will be able to participate actively in the proposed WFP sewing outlet whose aim it is to encourage women to become more financially independent. Through this outlet, women will be able to design and sew a range of outfits using island inspired patterns which will be used as a stream to earn an income.

I appreciate the efforts of the WFP SI team who organized this training program and I look forward to sharing my skills with other girls and women in our organisation who are interested in developing their sewing skills.



Nelly during her training at the WFP Women's Sewing Centre

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

Empowering women
Strengthening families
Connecting communities

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. The 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

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.

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

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

Right to Peace | Legacy of Peace Builders UN International Day of Peace conference

Melbourne, Australia, 22nd of September 2018

OVERVIEW

As international NGOs, WFWP and UPF support the realisation of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals. These Global Goals encompass 6 essential elements:

- Dignity: to end poverty and fight inequality
- People: to ensure healthy lives, knowledge and the inclusion of women and children
- Prosperity: to grow a strong, inclusive and transformative economy
- Planet: to protect our ecosystems for all societies and our children
- Justice: to promote safe and peaceful societies and strong institutions
- Partnership: to catalyse global solidarity for sustainable development

The International Day of Peace (“Peace Day”) is observed around the world each year on 21st September. This special day was established in 1981 by a unanimous resolution by the United Nations, after which the General Assembly declared this as a day devoted to “commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.” The 2018 theme was: ‘The Right to Peace.’

The Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP) and the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) hold an annual 1 day conference in Melbourne to support and foster peacebuilding within our diverse multicultural city. This year, the conference was held at the Church of Christ Convention Centre in Clayton. Titled ‘The Right to Peace | Legacy of Peace Builders’, the event attracted 58 participants, many of whom are Ambassadors for Peace and members of WFWP. The organising committee comprised members of the Victorian Peace Council: UPF, WFWP and I Declare Peace.

GOALS

1. Support the realisation of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals through implementing Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals.
2. Foster reconciliation to heal hatred and prejudice between people through the Bridge of Peace Ceremony.
3. Showcase workshop presenters who speak about acquiring and understanding the right values, and how to implement these values in how we live our lives and manage human affairs.
4. Honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela and Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon who both encourage us to live for the sake of others.
5. Share insights that will enrich the lives of participants.



PROGRAM

During the breaks, while refreshing themselves with drinks, participants were able to view an exhibition in the foyer gallery titled the ‘Legacy of Peace Builders’. The exhibition showcased the deeds of both Nelson Mandela and Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon. While viewing the banners, participants enjoyed the soulful music of Sandy Dickinson who played the handpan and Oliver Jones who played the classical guitar.

BRIDGE OF PEACE

Anne Bellavance, WFPW International Vice-President (Oceania) and Veronica Hassett WFPW Vic. Vice-President conducted the signature Bridge of Peace Ceremony. The Bridge of Peace seeks to build real and lasting friendships between people from different cultural, religious and national backgrounds. The motto of the ceremony, coined by the founder of WFPW International Dr Hak Ja Han Moon is: "If the women of the world can be sisters, the men of the world won't go war."

The purpose of the Bridge of Peace is to enable healing and reconciliation between people who may have been enemy nations in the past. Hatred is generational, passed on by the attitudes and conversations that children learn from their parents. The Bridge of Peace seeks to break this cycle of mistrust and prejudice. By becoming sisters (and brothers) who share each other's stories and develop true friendships, then our world view changes. This brings about a change in how we think, communicate and act; resulting in healing and reconciliation from the grassroots level.



The leading ladies for the ceremony were: Charlotte Mukamuberwa from Rwanda and Jody Dontje from Australia. Both women provided a personal perspective on the powerful role played by women in peacebuilding.

Before the commencement of the Key Note Address, participants enjoyed a repertoire of Latin music performed by the Huanchaco Band.

The keynote address titled Positive Peace:



Peace building using the Positive Peace research from the Institute for Economics and Peace was presented by Charles Allen who works in Sydney for the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).

Charles works with existing and new partners within the IEP to identify and support practical peace building and development at policy and community levels. He spoke about the research undertaken to quantify peace, its drivers and its economic benefits. The 2018 IEP report indicates



that Syria is ranked the least peaceful nation and Iceland is the most peaceful.

While Ethiopia and Burundi registered the largest deteriorations in peace, the Central African Republic and Sri Lanka showed the largest improvement. Since 2008, research indicates that the world has become less peaceful. One reason for this is the increase of non-state actors in conflict. Alarmingly, the global economic impact of violence in 2016 was \$14 trillion.

WORKSHOPS

Six workshops were also held during the two afternoon breakout sessions, with participants choosing between one of the three workshops.

Workshop 1: The Peace Building Legacy of Rev Dr Sun Myung Moon



Dr John Bellavance, National Vice-President of UPF and UPF Victoria chairperson, provided a brief overview of the life of the remarkable founder of UPF and WFPF - the Reverend Sun Myung Moon. After screening the video about the peace building legacy of Dr. Sun Myung Moon and his wife Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, a historical view of the world wide initiatives were presented with regards to the role of faith, the arts, media, education in peace building. Dr. Bellavance also shared some personal experience with our founders while he played a leadership role in Canada.

Workshop 2: Friendship equals Peace

"Greater understanding and respect of each other's cultures leads to a more harmonious existence, and with friendship comes the two way benefits of peace and prosperity".

This was the theme that Robin Matthews, National President of the Australia China Friendship Society spoke about in her presentation. Robin explained the work of the ACFS which was established in 1951 to promote friendship and understanding between the peoples of Australia and China by fostering interest in each other's civilization, history and heritage. This is achieved by cultural exchanges, Chinese language broadcasting, organising exhibitions, concerts, specialist tours to China and arranging delegations to Australia.

Robin spoke about her family's friendship with China including welcoming a delegation of agricultural officials to her family's farm in the 1980's to learn about wool production. Another aspect of the ACFS was supporting the establishment of the Pacific China Friendship Association which contributes to a peaceful and prosperous Asia Pacific community.

Workshop 3: My Samoa



Lio Ale, Chairman of the Victorian Samoan Advisory Council spoke about the history and geopolitical situation of Samoa. His personal testimony touched on family, culture and faith. There's a Samoan saying, "le ala i le pule o le tautua" meaning to be a chief, you need to serve first. Chiefs are not only responsible for the village people but their family welfare as well. This creates a culture where everyone gets along with each other and they learn to love one another. Family, culture and Christianity work hand in hand. They all exist in all families, villages, churches and the whole country.

In Samoa, the family can't function without culture and Christianity; the chiefs and each family make up the villages and culture, and the same people make up each religion. It's the people that make up these three pillars and the love that binds them is intrinsic to Samoan culture. This love is shared between parent and children, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, chiefs and the village people, church ministers and the congregation, and every single person. Everyone in Samoa has a role to play and it's everyone's responsibility to make sure that there is peace within each families, village and faith.

Workshop 4: The Quest for World Peace and UBUNTU: African Perspective through Nelson Mandela

On the 100th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's birth, Dr Appollo Nsubuga, committee member of the Melbourne Nelson Mandela Commemorative Committee, spoke about the values that drove the efforts of Nelson Mandela. Dr Apollo explained the philosophy behind Ubuntu, namely the belief that "I am because we are", that who we are depends on the investments that others make in us. The second core principle of Ubuntu is the belief in the universal nature of the human family, which is that we are all connected and that our future is connected.

Workshop 5: Purposeful Strategies for Peace



Jody Dontje, founder of The Help Nepal Appeal opened her presentation by raising the question – 'Would you rather be happy or fulfilled in life?' To help her audience recognise their position, she explained that the first step to identifying one's true fulfilling life mission was to reflect on one's current life priorities and begin to make a conscious effort to build peace within one's self and to create more peace for others. Jody provided participants with the opportunity to find a peaceful balance between life priorities by reflecting on their 'Wheel of Life' and creating 5 Action Steps to begin to make positive changes that would allow more peace within oneself and for others.

Participants were able to purchase handmade Nepali gift items to support her non-for-profit charity efforts in Nepal. If you wish to gain contact with Jody, you are welcome to contact her

via her email address: dyleedontje@gmail.com

Workshop 6: Living for the Sake of Others – the Legacy of Peacebuilding

During this session, Dr John Bellavance presented the peace building principles of UPF. He explained that moral and spiritual values play a significant role in transcending self-interest, including national ones. He suggested that this principle be followed because only then, could the UN truly protect the human rights of all people and build peace.

The three pillars of peace were outlined, namely, peace between mind and body, peace with the family and peace with our natural environment. With respect to mind and body unity, character is needed which is the individual's capacity for self-regulation of impulses and to act morally. The second pillar is the family. In the family we mature in our love for others and our in values. The family is the unit for building a peaceful society, nation and world.

Ambassador for Peace Awards

Two individuals were presented the Ambassadors for Peace Award at the conference - Shick Q Jabateh Sr. the President of the Liberian Community in Victoria and the National Treasurer of the Federation of the Liberian Communities in Australia and Maria A. Jevic Founder and President of Planetary Healing Artists' Association of Australia.

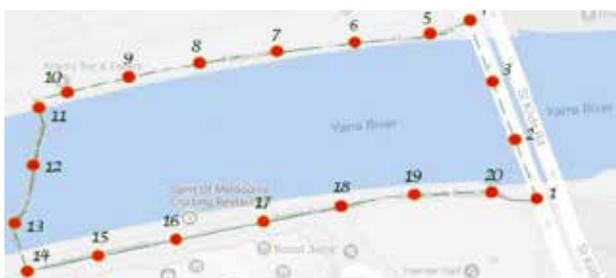


'I Declare Peace' event in the CBD of Melbourne

The 'Hands for Peace' event was held in the Melbourne CBD from 1-3pm on Sunday 23rd. A human chain joined hands to encircle Princes Bridge (just south of Flinders Street Station), the footpaths along both sides of Yarra River and the South Bank Pedestrian Bridge. This final event was organised by Negin Mansoury and her friends. Negin is a peace activist and Ambassador for Peace.



Around 170 people gathered to fill 20 stations to make a circle from bridge to bridge. Different nationalities and organisations operated these stations providing music and cultural events. To conclude the event at 3pm, cheers and trumpets for peace sounded out over the gathering.



Global Women's Peace Network



Mission: A network of women leaders and organisations dedicated to solving pressing social issues and securing an environment for human development. It seeks to ensure mutual prosperity and lasting peace through feminine peace leadership rooted in a culture of care, responsibility and education in family values.

People in our 21st century are demanding a new style of leadership. Leaders in our 'flattening world' need a different set of skills; requiring aptitude in emotional intelligence, reconciliation, mediation and forgiveness.

In 2012 during the GWPN inaugural assembly, the founders of WFWPI, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her husband Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon called for a new era of women's leadership in peace building. The assembly highlighted the need for a body of NGO leaders, whose collective wisdom and judgment can complement the deliberations of the United Nations; which as a body of government representatives is overwhelmingly male. The GWPN is a project of WFWP international.

Find out more at: www.wfwpaustralia.org/global-womens-peace-network

Island Projects Partnership

Glen Waverley Secondary College, Melbourne, Oct 2018

To encourage their Year 9 students to deepen their understanding of communities and the role they play as global citizens, Glen Waverley Secondary College conduct a special program - the Active Community Engagement Program (ACE). A partnership has been formed with WFWP Victoria who was invited for the second time to work with these students in achieving the goals of the ACE program.



During the 2 weeks of this program, the students were educated about the communities who inhabit the islands in the Pacific and WFWP's role in assisting these communities whose lives are less privileged than those living in Australia. Besides having no access to free education, many students are unable to attend school as their parents do not have the financial means to pay for their children's education. Without an education, the future for these children is bleak.



To help break this cycle, WFWP conduct a number of humanitarian projects on these

islands. Information about these projects was provided to the Glen Waverley students to help them understand how WFWP supports the islanders and to encourage them to partner with WFWP in their endeavours.

Information was provided on the Women's Sewing Centres, Books for the Islands project, the New Hope Academy in the Solomon Islands, the Island Lights projects, the Endeavour Credit Micro Fund program and the Pacific Scholarship Program.

Students were also informed about the reality of young women around the world who do not have opportunities for education above primary age due to:

- Their families' lack of funds
- The global preference for boys to be educated
- The struggle for teenage girls to get to school once they reach puberty due to lack of sanitary goods
- Feeling threatened to walk to school
- Being married off early so that more resources were available for the rest of the family
- Lack of opportunities

Once the information was shared, students formed small groups to decide which projects they would support. A decision was made to contribute to the Island Books Project, the New Hope Academy shop and the Pacific Islands Scholarship program.

The students displayed much enthusiasm as they designed the following action plan to contribute to these three projects –

Collect books from the local public library and the school library

- Bring books and clothing from home
- Raise funds through friends and family
- Raise funds through conducting a Car Wash activity at school for teachers' cars
- Raise funds through organising a school sausage sizzle
- Raise funds through placing special donation boxes in locations around the school and at public venues within Glen Waverley.

The students were provided with a special certificate from WFWP Australia for their enthusiastic and supportive contributions.

New South Wales

Women's Leadership Seminar: Creating confidence through developing a vision for Life and celebrating success

Collaroy Centre, Collaroy Beach, Oct 5th-7th 2018

According to the local Budawa Aboriginal Signage Group the Collaroy Centre, which served as the venue for this seminar, is situated in the area which means 'the junction of two creeks' while Narabeen, which is nearby, means 'source of fresh water'. Taking into consideration these two meanings which connect so strongly with water, it was not surprising that this weekend was blessed with rain.

As the Gadagal clan were the first people to inhabit this area and were caretakers of this land, acknowledgement was given to the clan both past and present before the seminar began.



The Centre was an ideal venue for the seminar as it offered a peaceful atmosphere allowing participants to fully embrace the purpose of the event which was to recognise the value of loving oneself in order to find peace. While participants hailed from seventeen different cultures, the seminar offered each of them an opportunity to discover the role they play in recognising their similarities and working collaboratively to find peace and love even in their differences.

While the staff at the Centre were helpful and supportive, the food supplied contributed to the success of the event as it was tasty and healthy. During the seminar, several topics were covered and the participants were involved in a range of activities which encouraged them to reflect on

their attitudes and their motivations. Other activities focused on building effective skills in communication, presentation and conflict resolution. By sharing in mindfulness activities, participants were encouraged to relax and build on their ability to focus fully on the moment.

Feedback from the participants indicated that all the participants not only enjoyed the event but were able to absorb valuable information that they felt empowered them and energised them. While some participants were able to gain insights about the cultural traditions of different women, others were inspired to discover the elements that contribute to self-improvement and developing a positive attitude. Other comments suggested that some of the practices presented at the seminar would be helpful in dealing constructively with stress and living peacefully.

The event concluded in a joyful way with participants singing a range of songs while accompanied by one of the younger participants on the piano at the Centre.

The presenter Madhu Sharma is an internationally trained psychometrician from the British Psychological Society. With a cumulative experience of 30 years in research and training, she was able to facilitate a most interesting and enriching seminar.

Much gratitude is to be conveyed to all the participants who took time from their busy schedules to attend this seminar and contribute to the learning that took place. To others who supported the event with time, expertise and financial support, thanks is given too.

Queensland

Brisbane Peace Road

Brisbane, October 13th 2018

Held at the Albert Bishop Criterium Circuit in Nundah, the event was co-sponsored by WFWP Queensland, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU). Although the morning was quite wet, the bad weather did nothing to daunt any of the participants who joined in all the events with a great sense of enthusiasm and adventure.

After AFP member Aunty Peggy offered clarity and history of the land with her acknowledgment to Country, the cycling competition began with WFWP members and friends joining Dr Yejeong Kim Degeer, her husband Chris and his brother Robert Degeer leading the way.

With four categories to choose from, participants from different age groups competed in a range



of preliminary races which were followed by the Peace Solidarity Walk. After an explanation of this world wide initiative by Steve Evans the Chair of the UPF, the Walk took place with participants joining together to complete one lap of the criterium. The Walk completed, the two top cyclists competed in the final “one-on-one” race which was won by Chris Degeer.

The day would not have been complete without the obligatory raffle draws and the ‘best dressed walk’. Awards were handed out to winners of the different race categories by Peace Ambassadors Dr Vasugi, Officer Dario and WFWP President Susi Evans.

The passion and sense of unity displayed by the staff and our supporters was both inspirational and wonderful. Special thanks go to our MC Kim Raymond who was supported by Naoko and Julia, our audio – video guru John Adamedes and Chef Shizuyo for her contribution.



To all the volunteers who made this event so special particularly Mamiko Rattley, Yuko Josifoski, William Saver and Robert Kaforau, we offer our appreciation. We look forward to celebrating next year’s event with many more participants as our organisation continues to grow.

New Zealand

UN International Day of Peace 2018

Auckland, September 22nd 2018



Universal Peace Federation New Zealand (UPF-NZ) commemorated the UN International Day of Peace on Saturday 22nd September at Te Mahurehure Cultural Centre, Point Chevalier, Auckland. The event was co-sponsored by the Women's Federation for World Peace and this year's theme was "Communities Together for Peace and Friendship".



Well over a 100 participants from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds gathered for this event which was graced by the presence of Councillor Penny Hulse and enriched by a number of dedicated charitable and religious organizations who were able to share information about their services to society through the displays they had organised.

A solemn Powhiri led by Rev. Bill and Violet Tangariki representing the Marae and Mr. Geoffrey Prentice representing UPF-NZ set a beautiful spirit for the event. Opening remarks

by Mr. Adel Jamati, UPF-NZ Director, set the tone for the day by emphasizing the culture of "Peace Through Service" and pointing out that the essence of all religions is similar: to Love God and Live for the Sake of Others.



Councillor Penny Hulse, as the chief speaker, provided warm and gracious words of acknowledgement and encouragement to all present, enveloping the Marae with a spirit of unity, peace and friendship. She reminded us of the need for Peace building in the very uncertain and sometimes hostile political environment. She has been serving the Waitakere communities for 27 years and has great passion for their diversity.

UPF-NZ recognized three selfless individuals who have contributed greatly to their communities through a life of service and presented them with the Ambassador For Peace Award. The recipients were Mr. Prithi Pal Singh MNZM, Mrs. Anne Pala QSM and Datin Dr. Nor Hafizah Ismail. Launched in 2001, Ambassadors for Peace® is one of the largest and most diverse network of peace leaders worldwide.

Following the presentation, the Women's Federation For World Peace (WFWP) conducted their signature Bridge of Peace ceremony which was officiated by Felicity Cairns, President of WFWP-NZ. Before the ceremony, she explained the deep meaning of the ceremony:



Participants meet a sister from a former enemy nation, a different faith, culture or race and commit themselves to bridge the gaps of heart between them, forgiving and repenting for anything they or their ancestors

have done to cause pain to the other. It is a new and effective way of healing the wounds of the past. Three pairs of women participated in the ceremony: Pauline Jamati (Europe) and Violet Tangariki (Maori), Anne Pala (Islam) and Cornelia Goijarts (Christianity), and Keiko Watanabe (Japan) and Chan Ju Lee (Korea).

citing promotional video encouraging the participants to join the 2019 Peace Road.

To complete the day, all the participants were encouraged to stand and join in singing Michael Jackson's iconic song "We Are the World" which contributed to building an atmosphere of warmth and a strong sense of community. UPF-NZ, with its network of Ambassadors For Peace and in collaboration with leaders and like-minded organizations, seeks unity among all people and endeavours to strengthen the Family Ideal.



The audience were then dazzled by Ambika Krishnamurthi, a Year- 12 student at ACG Strathallan when she presented a beautiful Indian classical khatok dance symbolising a peacock's graceful movements. Her captivating performance added an ethnic charm, reminding us of the cultural diversity of New Zealand.

To conclude the event, Mr. Andrew Halim, UPF-NZ Youth Coordinator, provided a presentation on the local chapter of Peace Road - a global peace project. He briefly shared the background of Peace Road which aims to actualize the International Peace Highway originally proposed in 1981 by Dr Sun Myung Moon, founder of UPF. The presentation concluded with an ex-

Upcoming events in Australia

- Jan. 14-18th** WFWP Vic. Annual Retreat (Sydney, NSW)
- Feb. 17th** Peacebuilding Seminar Series (Clayton, VIC)
- Mar. 3rd** Charity Walk and Pacific Islands Festival (Narre Warren, VIC)
- Apr. 13th** Meditation and Mindfulness Workshop Walk (Belgrave Heights, VIC)
- Apr. 21st** Peacebuilding Seminar (Clayton, VIC)
- May. 04th** Connecting Communities Dinner (Clayton, VIC)

For information and to register, visit: <https://www.wfwpaustralia.org/events>

Inter-Generational Community Building

Auckland, October 27th 2018

After a warm welcome to all, the MC Matapa Shelley invited those present to introduce themselves to their fellow participants.

Felicity Cairns the WFWP President NZ greeted the gathering and expressed her delight to observe the diversity and age range of the audience. To open her address, she showed the audience a plaque created by Elijah Deane to commemorate the inauguration of the Global Women's Peace Network on September 14th in 2015. This plaque represented the merging of the Maori culture with other cultures. She then went on to explain the purpose of the Network which is to assist women leaders to solve pressing social issues and work towards ensuring lasting peace and prosperity for future generations. The GWPN she explained is a project of WFWP and its mission is to empower women to work together to transform their community, their nation and the world.

The theme of Inter-generational community building she explained is an example of living for the sake of others, as in a family of grandparents, parents, children and siblings. For example, she declared that in order to address obesity in one child, it is necessary to teach the whole family about nutrition and exercise for a successful outcome.

The MC then introduced the next speaker, Tracey Deane who is a Project Co-ordinator for the Waikato Regional District Council, Community Leader, Entrepreneur and Ambassador for Peace.



Tracey explored the notion of how people of different ages can work together to improve community outcomes. She believed that every person, no matter their age, could make

a unique contribution. The older generations she explained brought expertise borne out of experience while the younger people were better at implementing the ideas, as well as providing

helpful feedback on whether the plans were in accord with the kind of environment that they would like for their future.

An absence of belonging she suggested was a source of many community problems. In order to reduce these problems, she recommended that generations can get together and by sharing knowledge and companionship, members of a community can acquire a sense of belonging.



By playing together, telling stories, removing barriers and appreciating each other, generations within a community can live in harmony. Neighbourhood parties she recommended were a way of encouraging a sense of belonging as well as participating in art and music programs conducted in rest homes.

Tracey then provided several examples of small organisations within the community that are working towards making a difference. Men in Sheds use the tools collected by older people to make things with the younger people while the Tokoroa Community Gardens are shared with local schools.

The Yak and Yarn Club in Woodville was another project while local soup kitchens brought joy to the homeless and hungry.

She suggested that local government agencies could contribute funds to good community

projects so that the local government bodies were not only regulators, but supporters of efforts to promote good environmental outcomes.

The mission statement of the Waikato Regional Council she explained is to work together to create a good environment, a vibrant community and a good economy. The keys to a successful outcome are having –

- the right people in the room
- good leaders and facilitators to maintain focus



She provided a range of suggestions which included the need to encourage feedback



when planning programs as it was essential for maintaining enthusiasm and provided an opportunity to check whether goals had been met. In order to ensure that programs are successful, she advised there needs to be an awareness of the four pillars of wellbeing –

- Environmental
- Cultural
- Economic
- Social

When designing any program, consideration needs to be given to each of these pillars.

Feedback from the participants indicated that intergenerational collaboration could contribute to building effective communities while reducing social problems. By recognising differences and being respectful to others regardless of these differences, harmony was possible. Art, music, sport and food could be useful pathways to encouraging people to work together.



The program closed with participants joining in with inter-generational Tongan dancing and singing. Thanks to all the participants for their enthusiasm and their contributions.



Support our Service Projects in the Pacific Islands

Why the Pacific Islands?

WFWP Australia focuses its Service Projects in the Island Nations of the Oceania region (Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Samoa). These regions are some of the poorest countries in the world. The 2014 World Bank ranking of 181 nations according to GDP for the Pacific Islands is: Solomon Island (ranked 131), Micronesia (123), PNG (127), Vanuatu (119) Marshall Islands (113), Samoa (103), and Fiji (95). In these countries, there is no social security, and no free education, even in public schools. For these reasons, and especially these regions being our immediate neighbours, we feel responsible for their wellbeing and development.

Some of our Service Projects in the Island Nations of Oceania

Women's Sewing Centres



Dating back to 2003, WFWP Women's Sewing Centres provide Island women with an opportunity to gain skills and support their families economically. These centres have been established in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Samoa.

New Hope Academy



In 2010, WFWP Australia provided funding for the building of the New Hope Academy. The school was established as a kindergarten and opened with an intake of 40 students ranging from 3 to 6 years old. It now accommodates more than 100 children and is a growing primary school.

In 2018 WFWP Victoria donated a set of 32 iPads, which function as additional learning resources for the teachers and students. This donation has boosted the learning curve for students to the next level, making the school grow in popularity. Now the New Hope Academy is the first kindergarten in Solomon Islands that has a computer class where students can access new technology, learn new things and develop their skills as part of their learning experience.

Pacific Islands Scholarship Fund



The WFWP "Pacific Islands Scholarship Fund", is a not for profit development program launched in March 2017 that aims to provide young adults from Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with opportunities to access empowering education programs in their own country. The program supports young people who are passionate about getting an education and who align their heart with one of the values and goals of WFWP: "Living for the sake of others".

Our first chosen recipients are Jenny (currently in her second year of studies to become a primary school teacher) and Janet (currently in her first year of studies in early childhood education). When they graduate, Janet and Jenny will be employed to teach at the New Hope Academy.

Visit www.wfwpaustralia.org/pacific-islands-projects for more information about these projects

Solomon Islands

Report on WFWP SI Sewing Department Program Opening of the Business

Honiara, September 16th 2018

Continued from page 1

Almost all the products displayed that day were purchased by those present with several orders placed for new products. The most popular items purchased were dresses, pillowslips and cloth wall bags.

Currently, the Sewing Centre acts as a work-room and a sales outlet. It is envisaged that as sales increase, funds can be raised to add on an extension specifically for a sales outlet.



Meet our Board Members

Joan - WFWP VIC



Tell us a bit about your history:

Born in Karachi Pakistan, I attended St Joseph's Convent – an all-girls school where I learnt about the values of reaching out to others. After completing my studies at the Convent, I gained a

Bachelor of Arts and later a Bachelor of Education which helped me to enter the teaching profession. In Australia, I have had the privilege of teaching at a one room school in outback NSW and then in several other schools in Victoria where I have been able to enjoy the fruits of teaching - watching young fledglings develop and turn into marvellous human beings.

What makes you passionate about WFWP?

The mission of the WFWP aligns closely with my own personal conviction that women who work together can contribute to the betterment of humanity. The projects that the WFWP have been involved in follow through with this ideal. Therefore, being a part of this organisation offers me the scope to reach out to others and to experience the impact that this behaviour generates.

Tell us something funny about you:

One of my dreams is to be able to ride a skateboard without falling off. Ever since one of my students told me that the jacket I was wearing is one that expert skateboarders favour, I am convinced that I too shall join the ranks of these experts and skateboard smoothly down one of the steepest ramps while performing two or three of the most difficult jumps... The next time I go shopping, I may have to visit a Skateboard shop...

Three industrial sewing machines arrive in SI

WFWP Solomon Islands would like to thank both WFWP Victoria and WFWP Australia for their generous and continuous support to our Chapter. The three industrial sewing machines sent by WFWP friends in Australia will be of great use to our New Hope Academy Sewing Project.

Nelly Masuaku and Catherine Rongona who have been working in this project are really excited to receive this gift as they will be able to use these machines to produce a range of garments. These machines will speed up the process of garment production and contribute to creating even more garments than in the past.

The 3 industrial sewing machines are currently stored at the NHA school but will soon be moved to the sewing department room.



Feeling inspired?



Support our Service Projects in the Pacific Islands!

Here is how **you** can make the difference:

Donate: make a financial contribution to our WFWP National Island Account. 100% of your donation will be used for our service projects. WFWP is a fully volunteer organisation.

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Account Name: WFWP Island Project
BSB: 1037 7911
Account number: 063 503

For more options and to donate online visit:
<https://www.wfwpaustralia.org/get-involved>

Donate your sewing machine: The sewing machines are sent to our Women's Sewing Centres in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Samoa. Through the machine donations from WFWP Australia, local women are able to start a sewing business by sewing school uniforms and women's clothing.

Due to the fact that machine parts need to be ordered from Australia or New Zealand and this is extremely costly, please ensure that your sewing machine is in good working conditions. The Women's Centre is also in need of sewing machine oil and tools. If you can help, please let us know.

[Contact us](#) to organise a pick-up or drop off time.

For more information about our Service Projects, visit: <https://www.wfwpaustralia.org/pacific-islands-projects>

New Sewing Training Centre Location

Plans for the new location

Honiara, November 2018

Currently, one of the classrooms in the New Hope Academy is being used as a Training Centre for our Sewing Project. At a recent meeting, a decision was made to move this Training Centre to a new location as there are plans to use this room for school students in 2020.

As the house has two stories, the plan is to use the ground floor as the Sewing Centre while the first floor will serve as the office for WFWP.

We envisage that the cost of the renovations will be about 400 000 SBD for which funds will need to be raised. The renovations are planned to take place in two stages. Initially, the priority is to renovate the ground floor by 2020 to accommodate the Sewing Centre before it has to move out of the school. Costs for this initial project will be around 200 000 SBD which we are hoping can be raised with the support of WFWP sisters in Australia.

Renovations are expected to begin by June 2019.



A house in East Honiara has become available and would be an ideal location for the Sewing Centre and for an office for WFWP as it offers easy access to local communities. The house will need considerable renovations to make it suitable for our activities.



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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.

We thank all our members, sponsors and supporters for their contribution to WFWP Oceania.