

# OCEANIA / S.E. ASIA WFWP NEWSLETTER

Issue 4 | 2021

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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

WFWP is committed to:

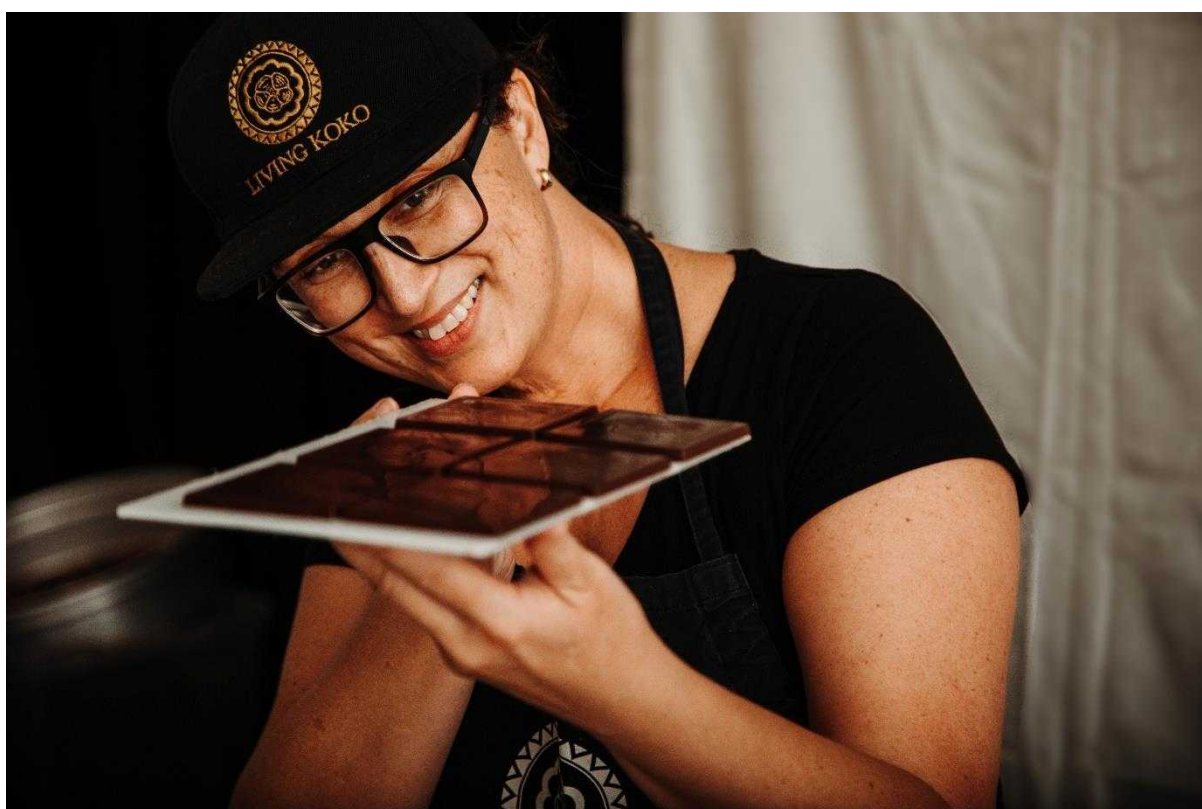
- Serving communities – Service projects within Australia & the Pacific Islands.
- Strengthening the family – Workshops, forums, seminars, and conferences.
- Bridge of Peace - Reconciling differences and healing wounds of the past.
- Global Women’s Peace Network (GWPN) – A network of women leaders and organisations dedicated to solving pressing social issues and securing an environment for human development.

# Feature Column: Women Entrepreneur's

## Women Entrepreneurs' Living Koko, Living Culture by Fipe Preuss November 2021 | Australia

### Overview

- It can take up to three years for a Koko (Cacao) tree to be mature enough to produce her own fruit and grow her own seeds.
- With the right care and relationships, she has the capacity to continue to produce her fruits until she reaches 100years of age. The importance of her relationships starts from the moment she is planted.



My name is Fipe Preuss, I am a Samoan indigenous woman and entrepreneur. I want to acknowledge all the relationships through space and generational time that positioned and supported me through my journey by activating my cultural identity and connecting me to our lands across the Pacific Ocean. It is my ongoing responsibility to ensure these kinships are

approached with respect, reciprocity, and a shared value. These kinships and values are the currents guiding my business, Living Koko.

This respect and reciprocity continue from community back to the environment, from *Papa* (Mother Earth) to community. For Living Koko, this is where our journey starts. From understanding and appreciating each relational space from *Papa* to community, we can collaborate ensuring we are all taking a shared valued approach. A soulful approach that is not driven by profit, but by working together to develop something that is sustainable, healing and stems from food sovereignty in the Pacific. Together with indigenous knowledge and complimentary production practises, we all can sustainably offer our Cacao medicine to the world.

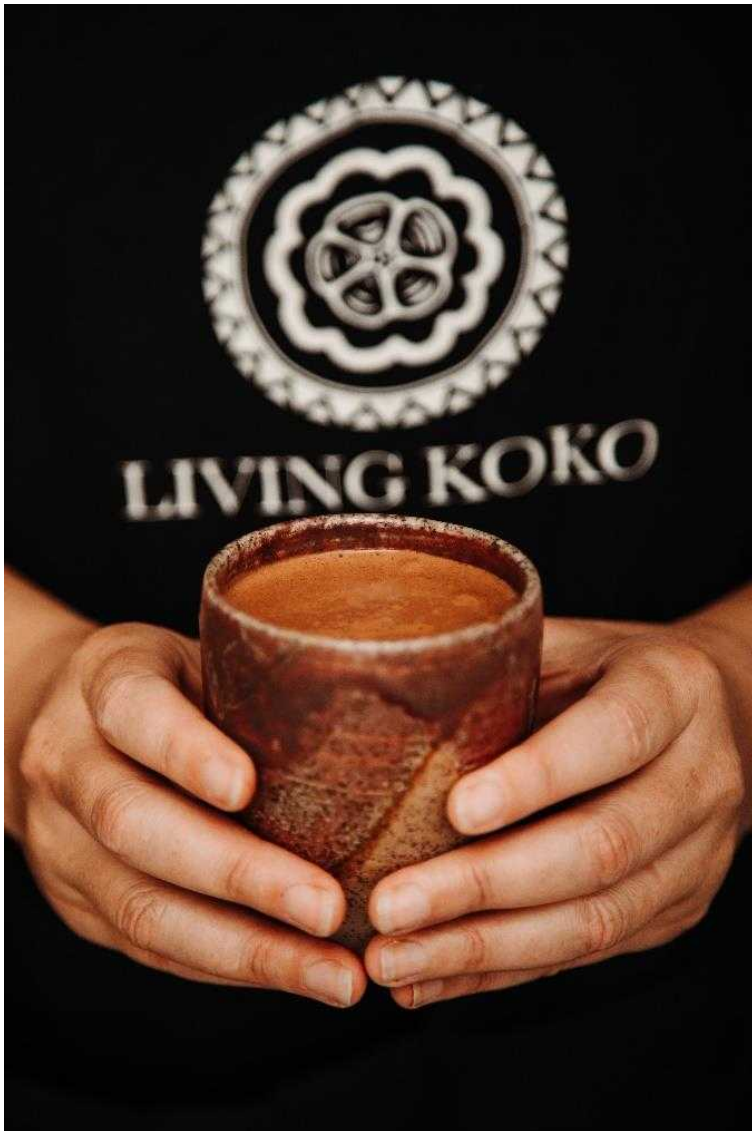


With the lack of tourism in our Pacific Island nations due to Covid lockdowns, many people are turning back to the land and working on finding markets for their Cacao and other produce. Living Koko sources most of our ingredients from small plot Pacific Island farms. Over the last 2 years our imports from the Pacific to Australia has increased 1,200%

We are a no waste manufacturing space, focusing on supplying retailers of bulk wholefoods with a bring your own container philosophy. When our products are packaged, it is with home compostable biodegradable wear.



We focus on creating delicious Cacao creations that are good for you and the planet. Our organisation Living Koko is immersed in family and Samoan history. My ancestors and family still till this day use traditional ways of cultivating Cacao, ensuring the health of *Papa* is supported and knowing in turn they will be honoured.



There is reciprocity when you honour the land. Our best practises for our business revolve around the fundamental principles of authenticity, transparency, creating a no waste manufacturing space, and ensuring we approach all spaces ready for *Talanoa* – a Pacific Island concept of deep communication.

### **I start with Authenticity**

From the very beginning speaking about Cacao is like talking about another family member...one we care about deeply. Growing up in a family of Cacao cultivators the essence of conversations is about how we grow more resilient plants, and the external factors affecting the growth of our Cacao. Raising *Koko* to maturity takes patience and appreciation. Our authenticity lies in understanding the genesis of our product, where it comes from, who's

hands have supported the creation of it and the reasons why we have created this business. This leads to ensuring everyone within our chain feeling valued and supported.

### **We are completely Transparent about our practises and business methods.**

Having walked first-hand the journey from seed to community gives us a deeper understanding of climate change challenges, post harvesting techniques and *fa'asamoa*, the Samoan way of life/being. This transparency also opens up *talanoa* with the farming community on the true costs of living and the monetary worth of the Cacao. Transparency builds trust with our team, with our farming community and with those that enjoy our cacao.

### **No waste manufacturing space using all components of the Cacao**

In Samoa the Cacao pods are used in mulch for planting the seed, the Cacao leaves are placed at the trunk of the trees to self-compost, which creates a natural pesticide.



After roasting, the bean skin is used to make cacao husk tea, and the inner bean nibs make drinking cacao and chocolate.

With Cacao that is unfit for consumption we started a skin care range with Le Spa De Jour called *Koko Smooth* by sourcing more ingredients from small Pacific Islands farm. Profit of *Koko Smooth* goes towards assisting small plot farmers with post-harvest processes and infrastructure.

To successfully navigate our cornerstone business practises we must apply the Pacific Island concept of *Talanoa*. *Talanoa* is a word used across the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory, and transparent dialogue.

Coming together to share stories that builds trust and empathy assist us to make decisions for the collective good. With our business activations, we

begin with and continue with *Talanoa*, opening a safe space of mutual respect to support everyone's story.



At first, we did what felt intuitively correct with running a business, it wasn't easy and at times felt overwhelming and debilitating.

I knew that for this business to be successful I needed to also enjoy the success and focus on the abundance I was creating. The abundance was not in my bank account, but I was learning about my capacity and how much I could achieve. I realised that money is just one of the currencies within a business. When I sat in our Living Koko *Va'a*, our canoe, there were many currents that kept our canoe afloat, and money was just one of them.



As a woman pushing this canoe forward, I felt like a canoe on the open seas being susceptible to the tidal changes and environments. I wanted to work with what my definition of being a woman meant and honour it. Within my business I consider my own circular monthly rhythms and schedule my meetings and work schedule accordingly.



Like the permaculture methodologies our indigenous farmers were using, each week is connected to a time of cultivation. For farmers, the new moon is for leafy annual, for us at Living Koko it's for new ideas and intentions for our business. The First Quarter is for sowing or transplanting fruiting annuals, a time for

nurturing our ideas.

Full Moon is for root crops, a time for deep reflection and to close off goals by accepting where we are at.



The Last Quarter is for improving our soils, a time to go gently with ourselves, honour our team and reflect with appreciation and celebration, and get ready to set our intentions and goals for the new moon to come.

This helped me ensure that I was showing up to myself, and my business the best way I could, for the energy levels I have. I believe understanding these rhythms can be our superpower and aids us to not burn out, to continually selfcare and not force what is not working by saving the task for the right week and the right cosmos alignment. This approach brings in the *talanoa* and connection that farmers have with the cosmos into our business practises.

Living Koko Pty Ltd  
[www.livingkoko.com](http://www.livingkoko.com)

Written by Fipe Preuss,  
Co-Founder and Director

# Australia

MELBOURNE

# Pasifika Festival & CHARITY WALK

[melbournepasifikafestival.org](http://melbournepasifikafestival.org)

Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup> | Melbourne, Australia

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJ7-RHj9ZTA&t=945s>

## Overview

- Promote unity and respect among Island communities within Australia.
- Showcase Pasifika culture, family connection and spirituality with the broader Australian community.
- Raise funds to support Humanitarian Projects within the Island nations of the Pacific.
- Promote Pacific Island businesses through stalls selling food and merchandise.

The Melbourne Pasifika Festival and Charity Walk is an annual celebration of Pasifika culture and gives families the opportunity to enjoy Pasifika culture through dance performances, modern and traditional music, art, crafts, sharing Pacific Island stories, and Pasifika businesses offering food, merchandise, and children's activities.





The Charity Walk raises much-needed funds to support Humanitarian Projects located within the Pacific Islands run by the festivals organiser, Women's Federation for World Peace Australia (WFWP).

The MPF promotes a culture of peace through fostering dialogue, reconciliation, and conflict resolution at all levels by celebrating and promoting the beauty and uniqueness of each Pacific Island culture to provide

the wider community a window into all things Pasifika.

By supporting and advocating for the Pacific Island communities living within Australia, WFWP connects with like-minded people who are dedicated to building a more harmonious and peaceful world. As Global Partners working to achieve the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the MPF Committee and supporters work towards:

- o Goal 16: To promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies, and
- o Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goal.



The Ava Ceremony, led by the Samoan community, was a beautiful way to officially start the festival. It is a solemn ritual performed at the beginning of all important Pasifika services and gatherings where a ceremonial Kava beverage is shared to promote unity and respect among groups. Typically led by the high chief of the hosting village, the ceremony begins with words of welcome from religious leaders and elders.



VIPS who participated during the Opening Ceremony were the New Zealand High Commissioner, Dame Annette King, the New Zealand Consul-General in Melbourne, Vanessa O'Neill, Hon. Kaushaliya Vaghela MP, State Member for Western Metropolitan Region (representing Hon. Ros Spence MP, VIC Minister for Multicultural Affairs) and Cr. Anthony Tran, Mayor of Maribyrnong City Council. Community leaders, or their representatives in attendance

were from Samoa, the Cook Islands, the Solomon Islands, Niue, Fiji, and PNG.

Giving the Opening Address, Anne Bellavance spoke about 4 ways to bring world peace, highlighted by the Founders of WFWP International, the late Rev. Dr Sun Myung Moon, and his wife, Dr Hak Ja Han Moon.

First, a life of 'living for the sake of others' opens the gate to peace. In this sense, the path to peace ultimately must be based on head-wing thought that can reconcile and embrace all sides by dealing with the starting point of conflict in relationships.



Second, our family is the fundamental unit for building peace. The only way to create wellbeing, harmony, family peace, and ultimately world peace is by thinking and living beyond the individual,

and serving each other entirely by realising the philosophy within ourselves of 'living for the sake of others'.

Third, interreligious reconciliation and cooperation is an essential condition for world peace. The inner power of religion touches our hearts and can recreate us as citizens of peace. It can cultivate our ability to practice self-control from within, and it can overcome historical hatreds and resentments among us. This is the root from which true peace and stability arise.

Fourth, the role of the UN in realising world peace is vital. The United Nations and nations of the world need to transcend the power of politics and motives ruled by self-interest. Only then can the human rights of all people be truly protected and work together towards world peace.





Families appreciated the Children's activities



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## **PARTNERS and SUPPORTERS**

### **Hosted by:**



The **Women's Federation for World Peace** is an international NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. WFWP adheres to the principle that women working together, taking initiative, and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture, and religion to create healthy families can resolve the complex problems of our societies and world.

### **With Support from** (in alphabetical order):

Bank of Melbourne

Biggin & Scott Maribyrnong

Greater Western Water

Maribyrnong City Council

Multicultural Commission of Victoria

United Pasifika Council of Victoria (UPCOV)

Written by: Anne Bellavance

MPF Committee chairperson

WFWP Aust. President and WFWP IVP (rep. Oceania & S.E. Asia)

# GWPN Assembly

## Theme: Leadership Advancing a Culture of Heart

October 2<sup>nd</sup> | Melbourne, Australia

Website: <https://www.wfwpaustralia.org/gwpn>

### Overview

- Development of the Global Women's Network (GWPN) down under. An interconnection of women leaders from all sectors of society.
- Sharing compelling stories of successful women leaders.
- Development of the 'Leading into the Future' mentoring program; a GWPN Australia project, matching established women leaders with emerging leaders to encourage leadership of the heart and education with values.

Sixty-one guests came together over zoom for the launch of the GWPN Australia Assembly and heard inspiring leadership journeys from five powerful women speakers. The GWPN forum for transformative leadership focused on women's leadership, under the themes of Passion and Advocacy, and Leadership of the Heart.

The GWPN is a quality leadership framework based on universally shared values that fosters successful intergender partnerships by:

- providing women with a framework to enhance leadership skills to create harmonious relationships and promote peacebuilding.
- increasing access to leadership opportunities through the Network.
- amplifying the feminine qualities women naturally bring to leadership.
- advocating for gender equality and sustainable peace.
- increasing personal and organisation performance by developing peace-building leadership styles with a 'culture of heart'.
- offering leadership connections for women from CALD, Aboriginal and disability backgrounds who continue to miss out on high-level leadership and decision-making.

It is well established that the economic empowerment of women isn't just good for women, but good for everyone. Likewise, there is a growing body of evidence (McKinsey & Co) showing that when more women sit at decision-making tables, better decisions are made. However, despite record numbers of women graduating college and entering the workforce, there is still a 'leaky pipeline' - a large chasm between the number of women starting out on the professional track and those advancing to senior positions.

One of the many ways we can help to 'leak-proof' this pipeline is through mentoring, hence the establishment of GWPN's 'Leading into the Future' mentor program to connect established women leaders with emerging leaders. This mentoring program goes beyond the boosting of individual careers by providing a means for:

- knowledge transfer across generations and professions.
- understanding universally shared values.
- gaining 'soft power skills' of peace-building and reconciliation that are essential for today's leaders.
- mentoring outside the workplace that is open to leaders in the wider community, ex. community organisations.



## Presenters in order of Appearance

**Anne Bellavance** - TOPIC: A New Perspective on Leadership: living for the sake of others.



Anne is the President of WFWP Australia, and a WFWP International Vice-president representing Oceania & S.E. Asia. She has been a Not-for-Profit pioneer and volunteer for 43 years within Australia, the U.S. and Canada.

When we consider the principle of ‘Living for the Sake of Others’, the most positive life view would be where we think beyond ourselves to care for humanity, the physical environment, the nation, society, one’s family, one’s partner and children. By living in such a way, you discover happiness within. Happiness is possible only in a relationship with others because nothing exists for its own

sake.

If you follow a worldview that supports only your own interest, you cannot lead or solve problems. It may appear that a selfish life benefits the individual, but ultimately it is a life of self-destruction. To realise we exist for the sake of others is the great achievement that changes our lives. When we realise that our life is not ours alone but is meant to be for the sake of the other, we begin to follow a path different from the one we were on. To be a good leader a person must think of the problems encountered as his own and have the pioneering spirit that is needed for finding difficult solutions.

In reality, a leader’s value comes from acting on behalf of the people, NOT from the exercise of leading. As a leader in your career, your community, and your family, by upholding this principle of ‘Living for the Sake of Others’ you’ll find that you will always bring success, and your leadership will always be sought after. You become a leader advancing a ‘Culture of Heart’.



**Gen Simmons** - TOPIC: Making a Career out of your Passion.

Gen is President of Women Sport Australia and has always been very passionate about sport, having grown up playing netball. She established a mindset for a career in sports after participating in Year 10 work experience at Hawthorn Football Club. Gen went on to study a Bachelor of Communication at RMIT.

To work towards her sports career, Gen volunteered with

Latitude Global volunteering, Boxhill Hawks, Balwyn Football Club, and the Play Up mobile app to gain the experience needed to realise her dream. Her first work sports position was through Netball Australia and ANZ Championship as the Digital Communications Manager. Through this, she was able to work in Australia and in New Zealand.

From here Racing Victoria approached Gen with an offer to be their Social Media Strategist for Racing.com.

She then began working for the Melbourne Rebels as the Senior Associate of marketing. After working in this position Gen decided to move onto a different field of sport and worked as the Marketing and Communications Manager for Gymnastics Victoria. Through this position she was able to bring in three interns who developed social media, news and created a marketing toolkit for the club. Gen was involved in running corporate events, such as award nights and the Women in Sport Breakfast.

Gen is currently president of Women Sport Australia. She participated in the Women in Sport mentoring program in 2017, which exposed her to the Women in Sport Australia organisation. She became a board member in 2017, was elected as a deputy chair in 2019, and became president in 2020.



**Rita Seumanutafa - TOPIC: Pasifika Leadership and Advocacy.**

Rita is the principal consultant of Vasa Consultancy and Managing Director of Pacific Island Creative Arts Australia (PICAA).

She holds a Bachelor of Music with Honours and started a Master's in Music Research. Rita is now completing a PhD, being the only person in the world who is Samoan and studying traditional Samoan music. Rita is a church choir director for her community and teaches piano.

Five years ago, Rita founded PICCA (Pacific Island Creative Arts Australia) with the aim to provide a platform for Pacific Island art and music creators and share their talents. PICCA holds their own productions, choir, and workshops, and has been very successful in promoting Pasifika creative arts and artists by partnering with larger organisations, such as city councils.

Rita is also a consultant for Pasifika community engagement. For this end she created VASA Consultancy and runs programs such as Pasifika Navigators (a youth leadership and advocacy Program), Pasifika Health Collective (a network for health professionals), and the Village Response Collective (a community engagement lead). Rita works as the Pasifika consultant for the Department of Health leading the programs/strategies and COVID vaccination rollouts for her community. In this position, she creates group bookings and organises community elders to be present on-site to support those attending the vaccination.



Her leadership journey involves community membership and insights, skill development and knowledge, and applies this with passion and drive. She believes that emotional support through trusted family and friends, the courage to prioritise tasks and feelings, and service to the community allows you to become a great leader. She has faced challenges in her leadership journey when growing up in a male-dominated culture and community, with her cultural status, being a migrant, and when things just don't go to plan. Her key lesson to pass on to future leaders is to choose wisely and choose areas you are drawn to, be brave, be healthy, and be flexible.

### **Heather Yelland** – TOPIC: Leading by Heart; Exploring the Power of Beliefs.



Heather is President and Founder of The Elevation Company. She believes that one of our biggest challenges is to bring heart into the most challenging times. For Heather, leadership from love and leading by love is about experiencing expansion and connection, inspiration, possibility, innovation and openness, and surrender. Heather shared, “great leaders don't create followers, they create other great leaders – Tom Jones”. She elaborated that we need to use our strength, power, and love to do what we can to bring those qualities out in others. The more we can use our ability to lead and encourage the development of leadership in others, the more the whole world will benefit.

Heather reaffirms that leading from heart causes us to think about what sort of beliefs we hold and see the best in the human experience. This being community, family, and the things which matter to us. Heather questioned; how do we bring more heart into our leadership to be leaders from the heart? If you are someone who stands for leadership from the heart, you must first understand your own heart. This allows space for others to understand their own heart.

Heather believes we need situations in our lives which will disrupt us from our comfort zones and challenge us to be different. Leading from the heart is a choice! To lead from the heart, we need to reflect on who we are and what difference we were born to make. Reflection allows you to challenge your own beliefs. Heather explained the idea of leading from behind, to create a space for others to do the leading. She believes the more we do this, the better the world will be long-term. Heather encouraged the audience to challenge what we think about ourselves, because our success is not defined through what happens to us, but rather by what we come to believe about ourselves.

Heather ended with three tips for leading by heart:

- To know your own heart and know what you stand for.
- Fill your own tank first by looking after yourself before spreading your energy to everyone else.
- Promote love, but challenge fear.

## Dr. Yasmin Raja - TOPIC: Embrace Uncertainty; A Hallmark of Good Leadership



Dr. Yasmin is Founder and Director of The EQBIZ Academy.

Yasmin discussed her past, when she was forced to deal with circumstances related to her restaurant business, leaving her and her family with very little money. Through this experience, she met a homeless person. Yasmin could see this person was struggling even more, and did not have a roof over his head as she did. She learnt to be vulnerable in this situation and shared what little money she had with the homeless person. His eyes of gratitude moved her deeply and left a lasting impression.

Through this extremely difficult experience, Yasmin learnt to face fear with courage and explained, “the secret of a good leader is having the courage to jump off the cliff.” A leader must have the ability to face uncertainty. From uncertainty you become more compassionate, because you have faced the struggles and situations others are going through. You can then hold a space for others.

Yasmin explained, there are 6 core needs for every person to feel fulfilled. These being: certainty, variety, significance, love and connection, contribution, and growth. Leadership comes from your VOICE – your heart, your values, and your beliefs.

Voice stands for:

- **V = vulnerability** - Suffering from no income at a stage in her life, Yasmin learnt how to be vulnerable, to ask for help, and to seek help.
- **O = opportunity** - Looking for opportunities in every situation - even in failure.
- **I = inspiration** – As a leader, be an inspiration for others. Inspire people both with your successes and how you rose from failures.
- **C = courage** - Have the courage to face your feelings and allow yourself to feel the fears of different experiences. Even then, continue on the journey.
- **E = emotional connection** - Embrace moments of uncertainty in your life, but provide love, kindness and compassion to others who are going through similar situations as you have been through.

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## Reflection from Participants

Thank you, Anne, and the GWPN Committee. I am very grateful to have been inspired for 2 hours to meet and experience so many beautiful souls. To our presenters, a very big and warm hug of thanks for your insights, your spirit, your energy, and your inspiration ... Heather

Thank you, Anne, and the team, for the honour! Such a beautiful gathering and much needed during these times. It was lovely meeting and listening to you all today, my sisters ... Rita

I found so much inspiration and above all was honoured to moderate such a high-level gathering ... Elizabeth

Marvellous stories of women who have shown leadership in their professional careers, as well as within their service to community. A lot to take away from the seminar, would recommend it to anyone ... Katherine

What a lovely way to spend a Saturday during lockdown, coming together with you all and hearing such inspiring presentations ... Gen

It was an uplifting event which clearly demonstrated many of the benefits and strengths of women's leadership. Each of the speakers represented different backgrounds and interests, yet each were similarly inspiring as they stepped us through the motivating factors of their lives, especially how each lead by example. A well-spent couple of hours ... Penny

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Written by Anne Bellavance, President WFWP Australia

# New Zealand

## WFWP-NZ Empowering Her Virtual Forum Theme: Peace begins with me and my family 30<sup>th</sup> October | New Zealand

### Overview

- The New Zealand Chapter of the Womens' Federation for World Peace successfully held a virtual forum themed: "Peace begins with me and my family".
- The highlight of the event was the launching of their new program entitled "Empowering Her".

The event was emceed by Mrs Matapa Shelley (President, WFWP-NZ) who also gave the opening remarks. She was followed by a panel of highly inspiring and powerful speakers including Zarina Ginai, a Conscious Parenting Coach; Manutai Leaupepe, a Review Officer with the New Zealand Education Review Office; Tin ma ma Oo, a Peace Activist and Advocate for Human Rights and Chairwoman of Democracy for Myanmar Working Group-NZ and Anne Bellavance (Australian WFWP President) who, were amongst the 30 men and women gathered via a zoom webinar to share their perspectives on the day's topic. Matapa Shelley delivered the final remarks noting the calibre of the speakers and their insightful responses to the theme. The event was a joyous one, providing insight, empowerment, and food for thought for all in attendance, and challenging each to become catalysts for peace in their homes and communities.



Matapa Shelley set the tone for the event with an ‘inspiring and motivating’ opening, where she first introduced the WFWP, noting its founding purpose and activities focusing on 3 main points. The first is our commitment to strengthening the family. Second, is service to others, through our numerous service projects world-wide. The third, is peace and reconciliation activities centring on our signature project, ‘The Bridge of Peace Ceremonies,’ and our work with the United Nations. Following the opening remarks, was the programme’s launch.

Matapa explained that this program will contain several projects designed to empower women, strengthen the family, and connect communities. The biannual webinar is one such project with aspirations to empower not only women but anyone who attends. Anne Bellavance (Australian WFWP president and Oceania representative on the WFWPI executive) expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to officiate the launching. Before long, the spotlight was on the panellists. In her introductions, Mrs Shelley conveyed words of appreciation and acknowledgment of each for their participation and contribution to the event.

The first speaker was Zarina Ginai. She commenced her talk with a definition of the word peace, referencing the Oxford dictionary’s version which states, “peace means freedom from oppressive thoughts or emotions or a state of tranquillity”. She proceeded by articulating how this freedom was to be attained. “...it is, in the understanding and curiosity in regard to our beliefs”. She asserts that our beliefs lead to our thoughts which then lead to our feelings and then our reactions. The manifestation of these is determined by the type of voices in our heads that dictates these reactions. “We often experience mental chatter (internal monologue) in our heads all the time. Whatever situation we are in, our mental chatter will make it an order of magnitude worse.” She goes on to illustrate this point using the parable of the “2nd Arrow”. The story is a metaphor for our lives, the way we deal with daily situations and the determinants that dictate the outcomes. The first arrow is a negative situation, and the second arrow (optional) is your reaction to it.

A negative reaction results in suffering. Zarina explains that the “mental chatters” and models we hold and entertain in our heads ends up dictating our lives. However, these can result in positive outcomes. “When you begin to make (positive) changes to the mental models, you will be astonished at how quickly a situation will resolve itself”, she said. She goes on to explain the correlation of this with her field of work. “In Conscious Parenting, we know we have to raise ourselves first before we have a chance to raise the child in front of us. If we don’t, then we run the risk of passing our unhealed trauma and patterns down to them”. In closing she reiterated the role of women in their capacity as nurturers, carers, and peace builders by remarking, “As women and mothers we know that we are central to the home, and we set the tone and vibe of our micro world that we have created. Therefore, I feel it’s incumbent on us to do the work around this very topic”.

In her response to the theme, Manutai Le'aupepe was clear from the outset that she was in no means an authoritative on the topic. Nonetheless, no one can dispute her accomplishments as an educator in the field of Early Childhood Education both as a teacher, lecturer, and researcher. In addition, she is the mother and grandmother of ten children and four grandchildren with another on the way. If this doesn't qualify her to be an authority on parenting, I don't know what will. Manutai touched on three key principles that helped her with parenting: values, boundaries, and wisdom. "I have a crazy household.

But, in the midst of it is the knowledge of knowing that I have peace. It's in knowing that no matter what is happening around me I know I am assured that God is in control of everything," she professed. From a pragmatic stance, establishing the non-negotiables (things the parents hold dear and not willing to back down on) at the very early stages, running a tight ship on routines and household chores, while applying the values of respect, integrity, confidentiality, patience, accountability, understanding, care, and love for one another were foundational in shaping and grounding her children.

With such a large family plus work and study commitments, these measures aided in keeping order and her sanity intact. "We really had to make it work", she remarked. Manutai understood the challenges of parenting, when she said, "...parenting is never an easy thing." However, as the parent she needed to be the driver (live by example) of the values and laws she was enforcing in the home. In challenging times, she sought solace in her faith and God who played an integral part in the blossoming of this family.

"When I think about my influence in this ever-changing world. It is about being still and knowing who you are in God and being assured that what you do counts and makes a difference." Manutai continues to exhibit these values within and beyond her home. Following her speech was a musical item performed by her musically talented children. The song began with a soft melodious opening then escalated into an explosive crescendo of euphonious harmonies charged with conviction, to finally ease into a delicate finish, back to where it all began. It was a captivating and impressive performance and singing.

"Peace for me is letting go, forgiveness and focusing on the important things ahead." Announced Tin ma ma. As a former refugee from Myanmar now living in New Zealand, Tin ma ma Oo, survived the guilt and stigma of being a refugee. The thought of why people were forced to leave their home country for a safer and peaceful place, replayed over and plagued her young mind as she was growing up. While she missed her homeland dearly, she was glad to get away from the endless violence of civil and political unrest, a military coup and ethnic conflicts ending in tantamount and unnecessary loss of lives. This spurred an interest in politics and a crusade to be a voice for victims

of despotic rule. It led to the establishment of organisations which advocate for the wellbeing of refugees and asylum seekers, and for a pro-democracy movement in Myanmar. Her ultimate goal is to work for the United Nations. Work and studies (while juggling between these, married life and motherhood) became not only a challenge but also the driving force that is steering her closer to realising her dream. “In order to gain strength and carry on, and have the confidence to dream, I had to make peace with the things that I witnessed and experienced as a child”, she said. Tin ma ma, along with her family members have never experienced what a peaceful existence looks and feels like.

Discovering a newfound freedom in her adopted country, prompted her to become an advocate for peace and a human rights activist. “Peace starts with me through the little things that I can do that make people feel they are loved and feel I care about them.” Her ordeals as a former refugee and growing up in a different country made her strong. “I kept on believing in myself and working hard to educate myself”, she said. Tin ma ma continues to exert her energy and passion into her humanitarian work and a Master’s Degree.

The final speaker was Anne Bellavance who is a long-time advocate for peace. Her response to the theme centred around marriage as being an important partnership in peace building. “WFWPI’s Cornerstone for happiness, marriage and family seminar is a new way of looking at marriage,” she said. She mentioned four main points in her talk that are pertinent to a successful marriage.

- Talking is not the only way to grow, connect and solve problems because the couple has uneven communication skills. It limits progress for change.
- According to Susan Page (Psychologist and author), action can speak louder than words. It is more effective and where we have more control. She developed a strategy for unilateral change she calls loving actions. This uses loving actions instead of talking. It means we initiate or get the ball rolling rather than waiting for our partner to. But through it, we gain new information about ourselves and our partners.
- When coming together often there is a hidden agenda to change our partner. What in fact is happening is that it’s telling them that they are not good enough, which can trigger resistance. This is not effective, and it gives away our power to the other person.
- Marriage is a spiritual experience that means we give up trying to be right, we sacrifice voluntarily, we focus first on getting good results from the relationship rather than what I need. We don’t worry about acknowledgement. Instead of trying to get our partner to change, we work at becoming more loving, accepting, and focussing on what I can do differently.

- Marriage is always inner work. Our partner helps us to see both our inner beauty and the ways in which we need to grow.

In closing, Mrs Shelley thanked the audience for their attendance and the panel for their participation and contribution to the forum. She summed up their responses as inspiring and insightful, and the event a success.

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## Reflection from Participants

“Empower Her webinar was very informative and inspiring. I would happily listen to any of the amazing speakers again.”- Susan

“The webinar provided an opportunity to hear educational insights from influential women from their unique perspective and experience. I look forward to future events by the WFWP that can bring together not only women but men who can benefit from hearing women’s viewpoint on rebuilding the family culture. Thank you for inviting me to be a part of the audience.”- Geoff

“I really enjoyed your opening (opening remarks). It was quite inspiring and motivating. It was just the perfect tone to begin this awesome event with. So, thank you.”- Zarina

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# UN Peace Day

## Recovering Better for an Equitable and Sustainable World

21<sup>st</sup> September | New Zealand

### Overview

- A partnership between UPF (Universal Peace Federation) and WFWP New Zealand.
- Theme: Recovering Better for an Equitable and Sustainable World.

Geoff Fyers, Secretary General of UPF-NZ, Matapa Shelley, President of the WFWP-NZ, Alexis LewGor, Chairwoman of Rotorua Pacific Islands Development Trust, Zahoor Rahman, UPF Peace Ambassador and Muslim Imam, Tin ma ma Oo, Peace Activist and Advocate for Human Rights and Chairwoman of Democracy for Myanmar Working Group-NZ, were among the 30 men and women gathered via a Zoom webinar to share their thoughts on the impact of the Covid-19 lockdowns and other pressing world issues.

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Mr Fyers started the discussion with opening remarks which included his thoughts on the pandemic.

“Everyone has been put under a lot of stress (by the Covid-19 lockdowns) but, the most important thing is to keep positive and try and find common things that we can all work together on.” said Mr Fyers.

“One positive is that Zoom helped improve networking,” he added.



Coming from a grassroots level, Alexis LewGor revealed how domestic violence escalated in her community. To address the problem, she set out with her team of volunteers on a fundraising mission to raise funds for families affected.

“We were able to provide food packages, financial support and conducted workshops after the lockdown to help people find work, rather than rely on the government.”

By working collectively with other agencies, such as the police and elders from the different ethnic communities, they witnessed a downturn in domestic violence.

“Because of our help, people wanted to come back and support the Trust in almost anything we did. It was amazing,” she added.

In response to the theme, Mr Rahman described how the principle of simple-based living and high-thinking found in the teachings of all the Spiritual Faiths is the solution to our human problems.

According to Mr Rahman, materialistic or commercial-based living, which is based on love for money, possessions, accumulation of wealth which often lead to greed and selfishness, is the major factor behind our wars, pollution, pandemic, stress, anxiety, diseases, crime and more. He believes that “...spiritualisation unites us as one nation and brotherhood,” and encourages people of faith to practise what they preach.



“We have a network of temples, churches and mosques around the world, which could be turned into shelters for homeless people. If we start applying these principles, in a few years we can achieve the goal of an equitable and sustainable world.”



In her capacity as the leader of a women’s organisation and advocate for peace, Mrs Matapa Shelley expressed her thoughts on the theme. “Peace will continue to be a far-fetched dream unless we make a conscious shift of thinking, from the “me” to the “we” and draw on our common values to achieve these UN goals.”

Matapa then proceeded to share the founding vision and work of the organisation.

“Women’s Federation for World Peace promotes women as a key ingredient to creating world peace and empowers them to utilise their natural leadership and peacebuilding qualities to champion peace in and beyond their own homes. They do this through a variety of local and international projects and activities in education, leadership, charity and aid work.”

A former refugee from Myanmar, Ms Tin ma ma Oo shared her experiences as a warrior for peace and how she came to be one.

“I am happy with my newfound happiness and better life in NZ and appreciate the benefits and welfare assistance that comes with it.” However, she goes on to say that it can lead to a dependency mentality which hinders progress.

As a result of the trauma that was inflicted on her and her family, she felt a natural inclination to help others in the same position. She decided to become an advocate for peace and human rights.

The ongoing political and military unrest in Myanmar motivated her to create an organisation called the Democracy for Myanmar working group in NZ, for the sole purpose of lobbying for peace, restoration of democracy and to see the elimination of the military regime.



“We launched a NZ parliamentary petition requesting the NZ government to recognise the National Unity Government as the legitimate government of Myanmar. The petition gained 524,000 signatures which was a first in NZ.”

She is currently writing a Master’s thesis to unpack the United Nations Principles of Responsibility to Protect. Tin ma ma continues to fight passionately and ambitiously for peace and human rights.



Closing the discussion, Rev. Kenji Watanabe delivered the final remarks.

He summed up the panellists’ responses as insightful and the event as being a successful webinar.

He then concluded by thanking the organisers and attendees for their participation.

## Reflection from Participants

Great speeches and speakers. A thought-provoking meeting about peace... Reta

Wow. Inspiring. It sounds like all the speakers are doing great things for their communities... Aylah-Rose

Amazing. That was awesome listening to what women do. It’s so true - women are uprising the world over. We should have more of this. Just invite women and listen to what everyone is doing... Alexis

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Hosted by WFPW New Zealand, with support from the Universal Peace Federation New Zealand.

# Solomon Islands

## Selina Galo Graduates

WFWP Global Humanitarian Aid - Pasifika Scholarship Fund

December 2021 | Solomon Islands



I would like to share my reflection upon achieving my degree in the Bachelor of Teaching at the Solomon Islands National University. It is a two-year program that began from 2019 to 2020. Graduation date was held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

After completing this program, I obtained another level of confidence in participating and maintaining the standard of New Hope Academy as an educational pilot project. New Hope Academy has received positive feedback from parents, and many are rushing to enroll. The Ministries of Education and Health in the Solomon Islands are also enthused to see New Hope Academy as the first school in the country to introduce inclusive classes for those with learning disabilities.



Through the Character Education program taught at New Hope Academy, parents are encouraged to build good character traits, qualities that are currently missing in families and their home environments. The Women’s Federation for World Peace Solomon Islands local women continue to serve New Hope Academy through their various levels of responsibilities.



Selina with her family

The WFWP Global Humanitarian Aid Project – Pasifika Scholarship Fund is supported by the Women’s Federation for World Peace Australia. I cannot express deeply enough the joy in my heart for your great support. Without you, I cannot be in the position to make decision or comments as there are protocols in the management. It is amazing that we are in just the right timing. You are the true model for living for the sake of others. I will do my best in my field of education through the support offered to me by you.

During my two years of studying, I was given the opportunity to network at the Solomon Islands National University. Another graduate and I from the Bachelor of Teaching are now currently teaching at New Hope Academy school. Teachers, elders, and families from New Hope Academy show their immense joy for this amazing opportunity.



Graduation Celebration with staff and friends at the New Hope Academy School

Written by Selina Galo, Principal of New Hope Academy

The Pasifika Scholarship fund is a WFWPI Global Humanitarian Aid Project of WFWP Australia, supporting young women within the Pacific Islands to gain tertiary education.

## WFWP Mission and Vison



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.

Vision: Women working together to realise one global family rooted in a culture of sustainable peace.

Mission: Empowering women as peace builders and leaders in the family to transform the community, nation and world. Through education, advocacy, partnership, reconciliation and humanitarian service, WFWP International aims to create an environment of peace and wellbeing for future generations and people of all races, cultures and religious creeds.

# Janet Korasiara: scholarship recipient

## WFPW Global Humanitarian Aid - Pasifika Scholarship Fund

### November 2021 | Solomon Islands



My Name is Janet Korasiara, and I am currently undertaking a Diploma in Teaching Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program. I am undertaking my studies at Solomon Island National University (SINU).

First, I would like to take this great opportunity to thank Women Federation World Peace (WFPW) Australia for your wonderful help, support, and contribution towards my scholarship. Without your help towards my scholarship, I would not be who am I today.

However, your support will not only support me alone but will really contribute significantly towards my family, community, church as well as my country.

This year is my last year in completing my studies. Last month in September, I completed my Teaching Experience (T.E) practical at the Solomon Islands National Library Kindergarten School. I really enjoyed teaching ECE through sharing my knowledge and skills to early childhood learners

Your great help and support are highly appreciated indeed. Once again thank you and May God richly bless you and your family.



### **Pasifika Scholarship Fund:**



The WFPW Global Humanitarian Aid Project - Pasifika Scholarship Fund was initiated in 2017 by WFPW Australia. The program is committed to provide women with opportunities to access empowering education programs. The scholarship supports young women who are passionate about getting an education and who align their beliefs and goals with the values of WFPW 'Living for the sake of others'.



# Philippines

## Women's Group Dynamics for Peace Report The Women's Response to the Pandemic 29<sup>th</sup> September | Philippines

### Overview

- This event provided a platform for women leaders to address the critical issues faced by women and produce resolutions to create a positive impact on society.

The Women's Federation for World Peace - Philippines hosted the Women's Group Dynamics for Peace in the afternoon of September 29 on the theme, "The Women's Response to the Pandemic." This was attended by 77 participants via Zoom, and 3 guest speakers. This virtual forum highlighted the unique contributions of women as they cope during the pandemic, particularly in the field of mental health awareness, economic and socio-political aspects.





The Opening Address was delivered by the President of WFWP Philippines, Mrs. Almera Grace Mayo. In her speech, she paid tribute to the sacrifices and achievements of women front-liners who have been putting themselves at great risk since the beginning of the

pandemic. She also emphasized that women’s roles as the nurturers of the young generation is not bounded within their own families but should be extended to their communities.

In her address, she said that, as mothers, we women nestle and nurture the values, moral upbringing, and unlimited potential of human beings, and that itself is a vital role in ensuring a better future for the future generation.

The opening address was followed by a Keynote Address given by Mrs. Theresia Kittel, a mentor of the Surrendered Wife and Adored Wife Program. In her message, she spoke about the Six Intimacy Skills wives need to enjoy a happy marriage.



She highlights that good marriages and families are the cornerstones of a peaceful nation, so the role of wives and mothers is crucial to ensure a fulfilled marriage. Some of these intimacy skills include being respectful to your husband and having a happy and grateful attitude.



The first panellist was Dr. Janet Liban-Kabayama. She is the Secretary-General for the Asia Mobile Medical Services (AMMS). Her topic was about Mental Health Awareness where she spoke about the mental toll the pandemic can take, not only on women, but most especially to the senior and

younger generations. She emphasized that, as mothers in the homes and community, it is our responsibility to ensure mental health issues are addressed and are given proper attention to.

She said that while mental health issues have become more rampant than ever during the pandemic, there are simple ways to improve them. Some of these ways include having a healthy lifestyle of exercise and diet, employing relaxation techniques such as meditation and yoga, and most importantly, having a support system you can talk to and open-up to about your emotions. She emphasized that, as women in the homes, we must be the first ones to ensure that the mental and emotional wellbeing of our families are in check.

The next panellist to share her insights was Mrs. Blessie Dhakal. She is the International Coordinator of the International Association of First Ladies for Peace. Knowledgeable in the socio-political arena, thanks to her extensive experience working with



several diplomatic and political leaders in her field, Mrs. Dhakal emphasized the importance of being intentional and inclusive in our efforts towards achieving gender equality. She especially highlighted a focus on education to advance awareness and efforts on women empowerment and equality. She said broadening women's access to education will eventually broaden their access to economic opportunities.

Mrs. Dhakal said that economic empowerment isn't just about having a steady income. It is about women being confident in themselves. It is seeing them claim and hold power in making life decisions. Economic empowerment is about teaching women, young and old, to stand up against discrimination, violence and inequality.

The final panellist Hon. Pillar C. Braga, a city councillor of Davao City who gave an in-depth insight on the socio-political perspective on women's roles during the pandemic. In her message entitled, "The Pathway to Peace," she spoke about the importance of the



education of the mind going hand in hand with the education of the heart. Women should never allow compromise of heart and values. She says that the preservation of our culture, ethics, spirituality, and character is what our challenge is as women in the field of educating our young.

The school's most important task is the formation of human beings with solid ethical values, individuals who not only can navigate their way in a complex world, but who can also be relied upon to help make the world a better place to live in.

She also spoke about women empowerment to achieve a more prosperous nation. She quoted UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon who said that countries with better gender equality have better economic growth, and those with more women leaders perform better.

Now that the Philippines legislature has more women leaders, we have more bills that cater to health, gender discrimination, child support and the likes. Thus Hon. Braga concluded her speech by highlighting the fact that when women work together, nothing is impossible. She quoted some words from the Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, that problems faced in the world today cannot be solved by the logic of power. Our present problems can only be solved by the logic of love.

This was followed by an open discussion where participants sent in questions for the panel speakers to address.



Mrs. Angel Lorenzana, the Vice President of WFWP Philippines gave the Closing Remarks.

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Author: Grace Mayo, President, WFWP Philippines



# Malaysia

## “Give Me a Chance” – Laptop Give-Away

30<sup>th</sup> October 2021 | Malaysia

### Overview

- Refurbished laptops given away to four underprivileged female students.
- Students were given a chance to pursue a richer tertiary education.

The "Give Me a Chance" laptop give-away saw refurbished laptops being given away to four underprivileged female students. In her opening speech, Datin Wellens Mimi Maria Farizan, Deputy President of WFP Malaysia, inspired the participants by sharing how she overcame the many challenges in pursuing a tertiary education over the years. The ceremony was witnessed by Mr Ding Eow Chai, Village Head of Kampung Baru Sungai Way who extended his sincere appreciation for the ongoing humanitarian work of WFP, especially in his area.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, many families have suffered from pay cuts and job losses. The education system has been greatly affected. Many students faced difficulties staying connected to their teachers and were unable to keep up with their studies. The Laptop Give-Away Project makes a huge difference, especially for those students who lacked a computer or who were sharing a device with siblings for their studies.



In an interview, Ashiny, 20, who was working a part-time job in a boutique while pursuing a diploma course, shared her struggles in coping with online classes without a laptop. “We were barely able to cope with our studies as my brothers and I took turns to attend online classes with one mobile phone. I had to go to my friend’s house so that I could borrow her laptop to complete my assignments.”

Syah, 18, was excited to be given a chance to pursue a tertiary education. “I’ve never dreamed of furthering my studies as I wasn’t confident, and I didn’t want to burden my parents. I am keen to pursue a Diploma in Business. Thank you to WFWP for the encouragement and opportunity given.”



Born in a family where both parents are deaf, Chee, 20, is determined to study hard to complete her studies in Accounting. She hoped to secure a stable job to support her family. “To be honest, there were so many times that I wanted to give up studying because it was just too hard for me. But I believe

education will help me secure a better job. I really wanted to repay my parents by giving them a better life.”

“The laptop is really very timely as my course is beginning next week,” said an excited Xin, 18, who just took up a Diploma in Advertising at a local college. “I am very passionate about designing. I can’t wait to start learning new skills and knowledge with the laptop.”



The "Give Me a Chance" Education Empowerment Initiative provides financial assistance and used laptops to underprivileged female students who intend to pursue a tertiary education. We thank all donors and volunteers for contributing to the success of this program.

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Author: Wan Tan, Public Relations Officer

## **Global Women's Peace Network**



Purpose: 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.

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. GWPN is a project of WFWP international.



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Donate: Make a financial contribution to our WFWP Island Projects, where 100% of your donation supports humanitarian projects. Within Oceania, WFWP is a fully volunteer based NFP charitable organisation.

Used sewing machines: Sent to our *Women's Sewing Centres* in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, PNG, and Samoa, where local women start cooperatives to support their families. Please ensure that your sewing machine is in good working conditions. The Women's Centres are also in need of fabric and tools.

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