WFWP
OCEANIA NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | 2021



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WFWP is committed to:

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

Australia

WFWP Victoria Annual Retreat

January 17th | Victoria, Australia

Goals

- Begin the year with an official meeting to discuss the 2021 action plans and goals.
- Project Coordinators report their activities to the Victoria Advisory Committee and participating members.



The Annual WFWP Victoria Retreat was a get together and luncheon for all key Victoria Coordinators to report to the Victoria Advisory Committee, and for members to meet, discuss and share our action plan and goals for 2021. Following a delightful lunch at the Clayton Hotel, members were invited to participate in ice-breaker games and Table Trivia and informative

presentations by our Project Coordinators. Members were farewelled with a gift bag as a token of appreciation for all their hard work and contribution to WFWP.



Members were introduced to the SLACK digital program, which is our new communication tool to improve reporting and communication. Highlights of the day included commencing our afternoon with a meditation led by Venerable Bodhicitta. Table Trivia and games and prizes were awarded, kindly donated by our event sponsors. A delicious lunch at the Clayton Hotel provided to all members was donated by WFWP. Gift bags donated by Baker and Baker Salts in Belgrave were a wonderful finishing touch to a fun and productive day for our Victorian WFWP members.

Thank you to our speakers on the day: Anne Bellavance (social enterprise, events, and planning), Venerable Bodhicitta (opening mediation), Hena (GWPN), Suzanna (trivia, games, fundraising and Facebook), Carmel (grant writing), Giulia (SLACK training and Google forms), Anita (Faith Stories), Shill (digital media). We seek to work together and collaborate ideas to ensure optimum progress. Thank you to everyone for making the Retreat heartfelt with much laughter.



SUPPORTERS

Clayton Hotel
Baker & Baker Salts
Cameo Theatre
Nevedya

Written by Suzanna Hoffman (WFWP Victoria Volunteer)



Conversations that Build a Culture of Heart

Theme: Mystic Women

March 6th | Victoria, Australia

Overview

- Celebrating Women in their Faith for International Women's Day, Faith Stories builds cohesion and harmony by connecting faith communities to share conversations that build a culture of heart.
- We believe that acceptance and respect come from understanding each other's values, beliefs, and most importantly our similarities rather than our differences.
- It is our hope that these conversations start a ripple effect of understanding that spreads and becomes a catalyst to alleviate unfounded stereotypes that hinders community cohesion.



An incredibly beautiful, shared experience of love and the outpouring of emotions that come with it. Tears were shared, warm hugs were given, laughs and smiles all round. The 2021 Faith Stories event with the theme of Mystics, invited inspiring and caring women from all around the world to share in storytelling and conversations around mysticism, love, humanity and the Divine. Five inspirational guest speakers shared their personal stories and spiritual journeys, which allowed guests to engage in deep discussions around spirituality, faith, God/Divine Power/All things, and ways in which we are creating a more peaceful, equal, loving world. The event was an opportunity to hear different cultural and spiritual perspectives uniting humanity as one. The day showcased the future path for empowered women to bring peace to this world. Extended gratitude to all organisers, speakers', and participants and guests.

Presenters

Annmaree Sutton: Catholic Stories



Annmaree is the coordinator of a Jesuit Outreach Ministry team at Corpus Christi Community in Greenvale. She is a trained 'Giver of The First Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola' for the aged care facility of homeless men founded by Saint Teresa of Calcutta in the early 1970's.

A line in Leonard Cohen's song 'The Anthem' 'There is a crack, a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in' … sums up my journey growing up with the foundations of a very traditional Catholic background. I did not have the maturity or the real understanding of what my Catholic

upbringing was asking of me. Over the decades and with many a twist and turn as I walked my labyrinth of life, my internal cracks stretched and splintered, corroded my thinking plundering me into my “dark nights of the soul”. My God of light and love has in time guided me to understand and truly know now that Love was never ever absent...never far from reach...was there constantly shining deep into my painful transforming cracks.

Love has been my constant navigation and with that Love, being immersed in that Love, slowing hearing, welcoming, and receiving that Love, I have come to understand with deep gratitude the gifts I received growing up Catholic. My cracks are still with me. The Light of Love continues to shine through, every breathing moment. And every breathing moment I now welcome all that is ahead of me, receiving the perpetual gifts of timeless Love and Peace.

With deep Love and gratitude, I wish to say I was a real great privilege to have been asked to share my story and to hear other women share their courageous and life inspiring stories.

Daniella Greenall: Unification Stories



Born in Brazil, Daniela moved to Italy and obtained a Diploma in Tourism and Arts in Rome. In 1980 she Joined the Unification Movement in France and worked as a volunteer translator and supported peace events such as participating to bring down the Berlin Wall.

“My first experience with invisible reality, or mysticism, was through my dad's love for Jesus. I experience Jesus' love for Heavenly Father, for others, and his capacity to forgive his enemies. I feel that Jesus guided me to the Holy Spirit Association for World Christianity, now known as FFWPU (Family Federation for World Peace and Unification).



Mother Moon is a living embodiment of the same love. She is bringing together likeminded people who are working towards peace from all walks of life to manifest the power of LOVE.

I am committed to transform myself and work together to seize this golden moment and build an incredible foundation for our future generations.”

Maureen Chen: Brahma Kumaris Stories



Maureen studied and taught Raja Yoga Meditation for over 40 years, establishing and sustaining Meditation Centres in Australia, Hong Kong, Cambodia, and the Philippines. Living in Hong Kong for 22 years, she was involved in networks promoting interfaith and values.

Maureen shared her experience of meeting her Chinese husband from Malaysia. His aim was to become a Buddhist monk and Maureen and her husband travelled to India to find a monastery to become a monk ... and nun! However, the practise was not a good fit and they returned to Australia, soon coming across the Brahma Kumaris. Maureen has now been practising and teaching Raja Yoga Meditation with the Brahma Kumaris for almost forty-five years, setting up and supporting centres throughout Asia, including Hong Kong, Cambodia, Singapore, Philippines, and Japan.



Recently publishing a book, *Mystic at the Edge*: *A Western Woman Coloured by Asia*, Maureen shares her spiritual insights from the 50 countries in which she has lived and taught; the psychology which she has experimented with and adopted; and her philosophy on life regarding the big questions.



Anita Carter: Buddhist Stories

Spiritual Director and Abbot of the Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd. Anita was born in India and her family settled in Australia in 1971. As Abbot and resident Dhamma Teacher she has maintained the key objectives of the Centre as a place of learning, practice, realisation, and preservation of the Buddha Dhamma. What have I learnt in the last 24 years? I

learned to give God a break! A lot I can do myself. According to Buddhism, all religions are good, and all peoples' beliefs are valid and truthful. Buddhism loves all religions and sees them as being needed by people at that time. God exist in all heavens and the Christian God is highly respected and honoured. Jesus Christ is seen as a great being.

I have learnt that life is difficult and that I need wisdom to operate and live well. I need all the help I can get, and so request help from all god's and all enlightened ones. One verse that we use regularly to bless self, and others is:



May all blessings come to you, may all god's protect you; by the grace of all Enlightened Ones, may wealth ever abound in you! May all blessings come to you, may all god's protect you; by the grace of the Sacred Teachings, may wealth ever abound in you! May all blessings come to you, may all god's protect you; by the grace of the Holy Order, may wealth ever abound in you! As you can see it can be applied to all religions.

To develop wisdom, I set about meditating daily and practising mindfulness to grow my concentration. To build my virtue, I keep the five precepts and practice generosity. I practice loving kindness and compassion daily.

Barbara Galloway : Healing Stories



Barbara completed a Bachelor of Arts-Law. After practicing as an intellectual property lawyer, she ran the Victorian component of an Entrepreneurship and Business Planning program. Barbara left these endeavours in the late 1990s to become a Spiritual/Earth Healer, which became her passion and 'soul' purpose.

Barbara shared what she learnt through her path so far. Her main points were:

- Our thoughts absolutely create our reality.
- Segregation is an illusion.
- As we recognise and release our past, our old beliefs and old patterns, we become more magnificent and can embrace within ourselves the joyful, playful, and wise inner child who has divine feminine and masculine attributes.



Barbara invited participants to join in a mini workshop on visualisation and meditation to see themselves as part of a vast tapestry consciously co-creating Heaven on Earth.

Reflection from Participants



A very deep and rich experience to be with others in sharing and hearing their stories… Annie

The talks and the people I met lifted my spirit and inspired me to 'surrender' more to the spirit in all that I do and whatever I am confronted with is happening for a reason… Louise

I felt very welcomed into a circle of women who are of curious mind and actively in service working for the common good of all beings… Maxine

A beautiful event with lovely people who want to make this world a better place… Vinse

The event touched my heart and soul… Kokab



An enriching and spiritual experience. What a privilege and wonderful gift to listen to and share a little of the presenters' life's journey.

The time, thought and energy which each person put into the presentations is greatly appreciated by all of us who attended. You have inspired us to seek the wisdom and truth in our own faith journeys. The hope and love which you brought to our day has had a ripple effect and will inspire us to journey deeper. May each of speaker be blessed with deep peace as you continue your work for the common good… Anita



A big thank you to our brilliant Mistress of Ceremony, Suzanna Hoffman, for guiding us throughout the day with Q & A panel sessions, discussion, and introductions.

PARTNERS and SUPPORTERS

A Global Partner with:

The United Pasifika Council of Victoria (UPCOV) is a platform for all Pacific Island Communities living in Victoria to come together with a shared mission to support each other and advocate community issues. http://unitedpasifikacouncilofvictoria.com/

With Support from:

Multicultural Commission of Victoria

Yarra Ranges Council



Clean Up Australia Day

March 15th | Melbourne, Australia

https://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/fundraisers/suzannahoffman https://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au

Objectives

- Partner with local businesses, community groups and members to support *Clean Up Australia Day.*
- Together create a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable community environment by choosing an area of need and remove built up garbage to prevent entry of plastics and garbage into the water ways.



Clean Up Australia inspires and empowers communities to clean up, fix up and conserve our environment. What was started thirty years ago by an "average Australian bloke" who had a simple idea to make a difference in his own backyard, has now become the nation's largest community-



based environmental event. Of course, Australia's waste challenges cannot be solved in just one day. Over the past three decades *Clean Up Australia* has evolved into an organisation that works with community, government, and businesses to provide practical solutions to help us all live more sustainably every day of the year.



The WFWP event focus was to partner with *Clean Up Australia Day* and local community businesses and members to help as much as possible to prevent rubbish entering our environment by removing garbage that had already accumulated. The Women's Federation for World Peace Victoria organised the event for the local area of Belgrave. With 30+ people participating at different times of the day, 50 large bags of rubbish were collected, with garbage and recyclables separated. The bags were later picked up by Yarra Ranges Council.



It was great to see our Federation working collaboratively with the community to create a safer cleaner community. Thank you to all our sponsors and thank you for the marketing support from local business in the area. Thank you to all our wonderful, dedicated peacemakers in WFWP Victoria.



Reflection from Participants

A fun day! It felt really good to help out my local community and meet some awesome people! Thank you for doing this… Angus

PARTNERSHIP WITH

Clean Up Australia Day

Yarra Ranges Council

Ranges First National Real Estate

James Merlino Office

Belgrave Buzz

Report by: Suzanna Hoffman, WFWP Victoria Volunteer







Solomon Islands

New Hope Academy Begins a New Chapter

- Opening of the new SunHak Building -

February 17th | Solomon Islands

School Vision: Establish an enviroment for students to have their own vision, and provide good and smart citizens within the Solomon Islands community.

New Hope Academy Milestones:

- 2010- 2013 - Establishment and set up of the Preschool/ Kindergarten Division is completed.
- 2014-2020 - Establishment and set up of the Primary/ Elementary Division is completed.
- 2021-2026 - Establishment and set up of the Secondary/ High school division. In 2022, the Secondary Division will begin.
- 2027 - Establishment of the New Hope Academy student boarding facilities and services.



Opening Ceremony of the new building at the start of the academic year

Honiara City Education Director (2nd from the left) | City Mayor, Wilson Mamae (2nd from the right)
Rex Masuaku, UPF Director (far right)



Class 3 Students with their Teacher Tracy Vicky.

Honiara City, Solomon Islands has added another Primary School to it's list of education providers with the official opening of the new classroom building for New Hope Academy. The availability of the new SunHak building has enabled the school to reach the peak of primary school education with the addition of Year 5 and Year 6 classes.

New Hope Academy classrooms are well constructed and offer a suitable and conducive learning environment. It is the first school in the country that uses white board and white board markers instead of black boards with chalk writing in the classroom. This will reduce dust from the classrooms. The ablution (toilet) blocks for boys and girls are a good standard compare to others in the country and have a full time cleaner.

WFWP Australia donated school books which enabled New Hope Academy to set up the Library room to help students with their reading. With the library books the school has set up a reading program for students. WFWP Japan provided tables, chairs and equipment for the new classrooms.



WFWP Australia brought the school to another level with the staff office and students activities accessing the use of projectors donated to the school.

Leaders who attended the opening were all impressed to have this standard school set in the City of Honiara. Parents of New Hope Academy are really proud to have their children enrolled in this kind of school.

For the start of the new school year, 10 new teachers were posted to New Hope Academy through the Department of Education. The teachers commented, “we are blessed to come to a different environment from previous schools.” Teachers expressed their feelings that the school environment can change staff and students lives. New Parents are still rushing to the office to look for spaces for their children.







Greeting VIPs as they arrived for the opening



2021 Teachers with the Dr Deo, Building Constructor (centre) | Selina Galo, Principal (left of Dr. Deo)



Report by Selina Galo
(President, WFWP Solomon Islands and Principal New Hope Academy)

History of New Hope Academy and Kindergarten

2000 - 2021 | Solomon Islands

Year 2000 – The concept to establish a school began during the leadership of Dr. Song (Oceania Continental Director) by WFWP Japanese Missionaries, Solomon Island mothers, and the leadership from the Oceania Regional Head Quarters located in Australia who initiated the Oceania Leadership Training (OLT) program for Pacific Islands students. Upon the students training, the regional HQ gave money to the Solomon Islands chapter to purchase land for the school where the New Hope Academy Primary was built.

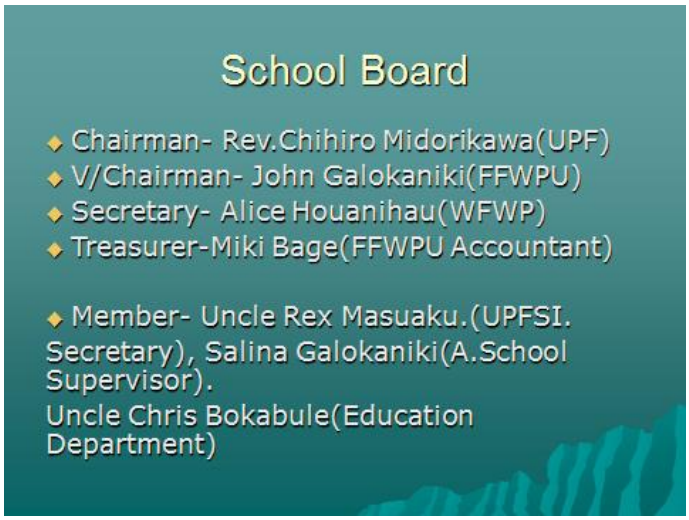
During the height of ethnic tensions during the same year, the International and Interreligious Federation for World Peace (IIFWP) and the Family Federation for World Peace (FFWPU) began a joint peace-building program of International Leadership serminars (ILC) in Honiara targeting a broad audience from scholars to community members.

The population of the City of Honiara and the number of school age children was increasing as many settlements were closed. The need for more schools in the countries capital became very clear.

The New Hope Academy school vision came strongly after receving many recommendations from the ILC participants that school is one of the best institutions to rebuild peace and promote peaceful coexistence. As peace advocators, FFWPU local members who were teachers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, administrators, community leaders, women leaders, youth leaders and IIFWP Ambassador for Peace held meetings and decided to establish a school as a national tribute to quality education and to foster peace through peaceful coexistence. FFWP members bought land in Honiara and leased it to the Interim School Board to develop a school facility.

Year 2011 - With the the united support of local members, Ambassadors for Peace and the FFWPU communities in Honiara, a meeting was held to discuss the new Kindergarten. Each family contributed $SI 500. With the support of FFWPU, UPF and WFWP, the School Board renovated an old building and started the Early Childhood Education Division (ECE). The New hope Academy kindergarten open in February 2011 with the ECE Division only.

The School Development Plan Board of that time were: Dr. Kim (Oceania Continental Director), Chihiro Midiorokawa representing the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) was Chairman, John Galokaniki representing Family Federation for World Peace (FFWPU) was Vice-Chairman, Alice Anthonia Houanihau represented Women Federation for World Peace (WFWP) was Secretary, Chris Bokabule who served as FFWPU Educator had the Board role of member, Miki Hata who served as the FFWPU Treasurer had the Board role of treasurer, and Selina Galokaniki represented the teachers of New Hope Academy.



New Hope Academy's School Board

The school Board has representation from the following departments: Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and the Education Department (EDU).



New Hope Academy School Badge

Winner of the School Logo Competition was Chris Bokabule.

Year 2011 - First building of New Hope Academy in Honiara, Solomon Islands



This building that was renovated by members of FFWPU. There were three classes: age 3, age 4, age 5-6.



First School Sign Board

New Hope Academy Kindergarten opens in 2011. This sign was placed at the front of the kindergarten and designed by a young man from Makira Ulawa Province.



2011 Star Class – students aged 3+

Teacher: Jenny Quta and Miki Hatae
Class number: 4 students and 2 teachers
Teachers Salary: $SI200 fortnight
No Uniform



2011 Moon Class – students aged 4+

Teacher: Alice Anthonia Houanihau
Class Number: 6 students and 1 teacher



2011 Sun Class – students aged 5+
Teacher- Selina Galokaniki
Class Number: 9 students and 1 teacher

Years 2012-2016 – Enrolment Increases



Increase in enrolment to ninety students. An extension was built from the main building.

Year 2017 – Kindergarten moves to Kukum; the number of students grows



The school moves to Kukum in preparation for clearing the original property, and erection of the new school buildings.

Years 2018 – 2019: Primary School division commences. A new building is developed to cater for primary level students.



Primary Grade One students: 34
Principal: Selina Galokaniki and assisted by teacher Cathy Visuni









Year 2020



Total enrolment: 210 students
Staff: 10 teachers and 2 ancillary staff
Grade 3 commences

ENROLMENT-2020



Class 1 student with their Teacher Connie

Challenges: COVID -19
Library develops: New Hope receives donation of books from WFWP Australia.



2020 Teaching Staff

Year 2021 - Primary Division Opening of the new SunHak Building



Ribbon cutting ceremony with Mayor and officials

With the opening of the new SunHak building on February 17th for the 2021 Academy Year, New Hope Academy Primary becomes a full capacity primary school offering facilities and classrooms up to year 5 and 6. The Kindergarten win



Contact Us

WFWP Oceania, Australia and Victoria Chapter Office
42-46 Bartley Rd., Belgrave Heights, VIC 3160
T: +61 3 5968 2664
E-mail: contact@wfwpaustralia.org
Australian website: www.wfwpaustralia.org
International website: www.wfwp.org
Oceania Facebook: www.facebook.com/wfwpoceania

New South Wales Chapter
Oceania Peace Embassy
824 - 826 George St, Chippendale, NSW 2008
E-mail: wfwp.nsw@gmail.com

Queensland Chapter
60 Furore St, Sunnybank Hills, QLD 4019
E-mail: susi.evans57@yahoo.com

WFWP New Zealand
NZ Peace Embassy
24 St. Stephens Ave, Parnell, Auckland, 1052
Tel: + 649 263 6984
E-mail:wfwpnz@gmail.com
Website: www.wfwp.org.nz/

WFWP Solomon Islands
P.O. Box 1603, Honiara, SI | Tel: +677 779 8483
E-mail: selinagalo@gmail.com

WFWP Fiji
GPO Box 13186, Suva, Fiji | Tel: +679 9271 875
E-mail: sharila2011@gmail.com

WFWP Papua New Guinea
PO Box 264 Mount Hagen, Western Highlands Province
Tel: +675 7534 2907
E-mail: betty.kaime61@gmail.com

WFWP Vanuatu
P.O. Box 1145, Port Vila, Vanuatu | Tel: +678 777 4517
E-mail: malereaclaude@gmail.com

WFWP Samoa
Federal Pacific House, Vaea St. Saleufi
P.O. Box 814, Apia | Tel: +61 452 561 811
E-mail: wfwpsamoa685@gmail.com

Newsletter Team
Editor: Anne Bellavance
Co-editor and Proofreading: Joan D'Abreo and Cathy Bishop
We thank all our members, sponsors and supporters.

Feeling inspired?



Support our Pacific Islands Humanitarian Service Projects

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

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.

Quality junior and secondary school books: *Books for the Islands* donates to primary and secondary schools within the Pacific to either establish school libraries, or enrich them.

Contact us to organise a pick-up or drop off time.