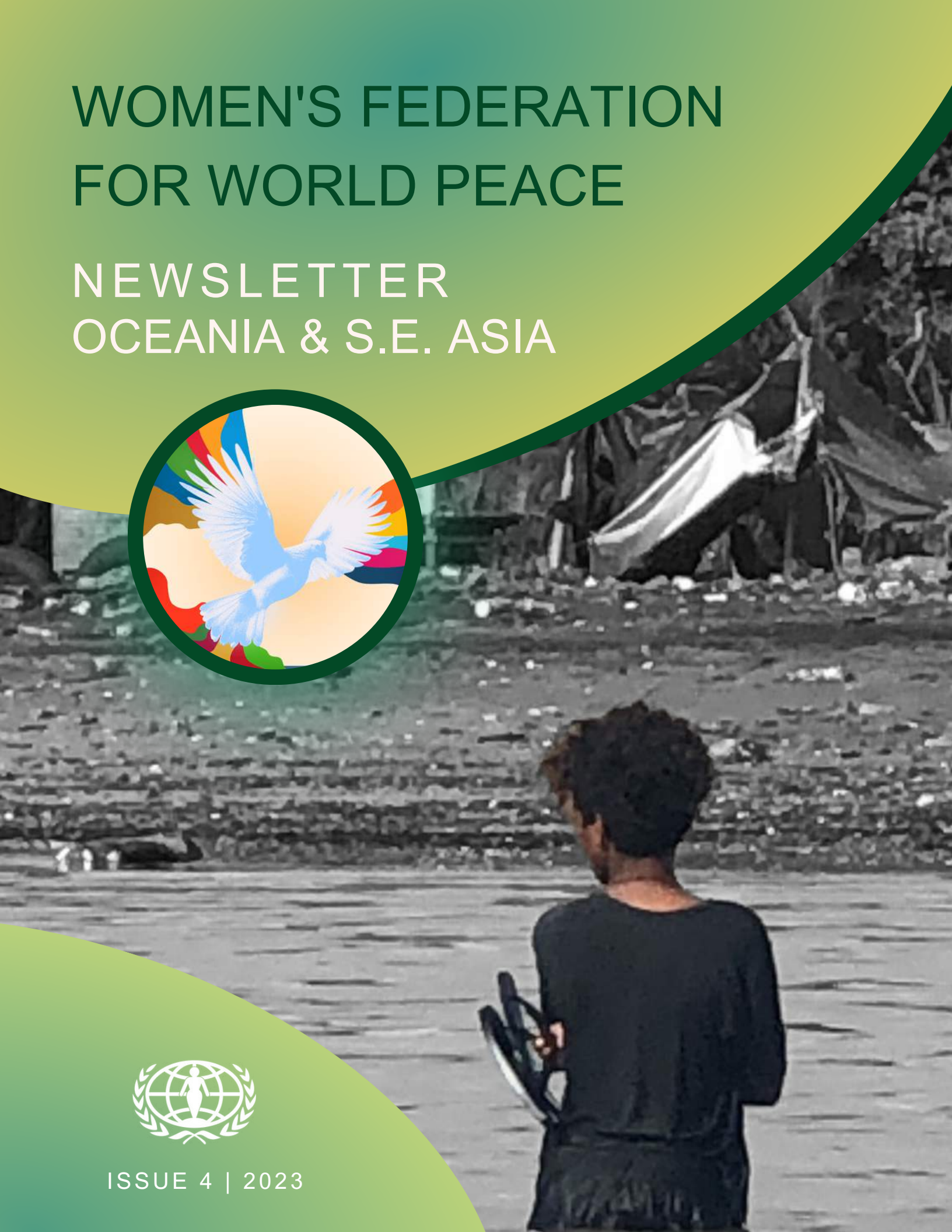
WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE

NEWSLETTER
OCEANIA & S.E. ASIA



ISSUE 4 | 2023

OCEANIA / S.E. ASIA WFWP NEWSLETTER



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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



United Nations Day of Peace 2023
A Headwing Approach to Reconciliation

September 16 | Melbourne, Australia

Written by Dr John Bellavance
Vice-President, UPF Australia
Chair, UPF Victoria

OVERVIEW

- THE 2023 UNITED NATIONS DAY OF PEACE THEME IS "ACTIONS FOR PEACE: OUR AMBITION FOR THE #GLOBALGOALS".
- WITHIN THE AUSTRALIA CONTEXT, THE UN GOAL OF PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS WAS SEEN AS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT BECAUSE AUSTRALIA WILL BE VOTING YES OR NO IN OCTOBER THROUGH A REFERENDUM ABOUT INCLUDING WITHIN THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION AN ABORIGINAL VOICE TO PARLIAMENT.

UPF Australia (UPF), Women's Federation for World Peace Australia (WFWP) and Family Federation for World Peace Australia (FFWP) decided that it was appropriate to address issues surrounding reconciliation and justice during this annual Peace Day conference. Recognising the cultural heritage of Australia's First Nations peoples in the Constitution was seen as an important step.



It was also recognised that there is a need for distributive justice due to the ongoing disadvantages faced by our fellow Australian Indigenous citizens. Conference speakers shared their views about how Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians can talk, walk, and work together to make this ancient culture an integral expression of Australia's nationhood for the benefit of all.



The spirit of the event was Headwing – A Common Humanity Identity Approach to peacebuilding that was proposed by Dr Moon in 1986, co-founder of UPF, WFWP, and FFWPU. 50 people from four states took part in the blended face-to-face and online conference. Masters of Ceremony were Tua Manase-Ale, President of WFWP Samoa and VIC Advisory Committee member of WFWP Victoria and Will Abdo, who is Assistant to the President of UPF Victoria.



The conference was co-sponsored by the Centre for Global Nonkilling, the Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Global Opportunities Commercialisation, and the Global Somali Diaspora.

EDUCATING WITH VALUES REPORT

Launched at the conference, the Values Report is a Holistic Approach to integrating Values in Education. This report will now be distributed widely to politicians and decision makers.



From left: Will Abdo, Assistant to the President of UPF Victoria (editor), Dr John Bellavance (contributor and editor), Dr Shahid Yamin, Executive Chair and Co-Founder of Global Opportunities Commercialisation and Ambassador for Peace (contributor), Roland Jabbour OAM, President and National Chairman, Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Honorary Consul General of the Kingdom of Morocco and Ambassador for Peace (contributor), Dr Chris Sotiropoulos, President Rotary Melbourne and Australia, Executive Chair and Co-Founder Global Opportunities Commercialisation, Ambassador for Peace (contributor). Additionally, Dr Joy de Lio not pictured here was online. Dr Joy is Founding President of UNESCO APNIEVE Australia, and Ambassador for Peace (UPF) (contributor and editor).

The Values Report represents the contributions of Australian and International presenters during summits undertaken in 2021-22. This report is unique because contributors came from a broad spectrum of society in the fields of academia, primary, secondary, and tertiary education, as well as the community and business sectors.

PRESENTERS



YUTAKA YAMADA

Introductory remarks were given by Rev Yutaka Yamada, Chair of UPF Oceania. He encouraged participants to learn from Dr Moon's Headwing thoughts and reflect on how peace can best be achieved in Australia. Before his appointment as the chairman of Universal Peace Federation Oceania, Rev. Yutaka served in various roles promoting peace building. He was President of UPF Malaysia, Director of the Youth Leadership Program in 10 nations throughout Asia and served as a Youth Leader in Korea. Rev Yutaka Yamada has widely travelled around the world and trained thousands of youths. In 2014, he received his master's degree in theology from Sun Moon University, Korea.

PEARL WYMARRA



Ms. Pearl Wymarra is from the Gudang Aboriginal Clan. She holds a master's degree in health science (Primary Health Care), a Diploma in Primary Teaching, and soon to graduate with a Diploma of Theology from Charles Sturt University. Pearl is an Honorary Fellow at the University of Western Sydney and an Ambassador for Peace with UPF.

Speaking on the topic of "Restoring Good and Proper Cultural Ways of Love, Joy and Peace", Pearl shared about the values she inherited from her family as a modelled way to achieve harmony through being loving and respectful to all. She shared her very personal story of how her son committed suicide after being bullied. She urged us to create a culture of respect, not one of name calling.

Pearl's life is an example of service, healing, and reconciliation. For many years she provided leadership by addressing the crisis of violence experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. She is a distinguished teacher and researcher in the restoration of people's emotional health and social well-being.

DR JOHN BELLAVANCE



Dr John Bellavance spoke on the topic "Headwing – A Common-Humanity Identity Approach to Peacebuilding". Dr Moon said 30 years ago, "that neither left-wing ideology, nor right-wing ideology will work. We need a movement through which a new advanced right-wing type can be supported by the left-wing, and a new advanced left-wing type that can be supported by the right-wing."

Such a Headwing approach is truly needed in our social climate of increasing polarisation. The common-enemy identity that we see in politics, mainstream media, and social media tries to unite a coalition using the psychology of us versus them to promote their cause and get attention. This causes the public to lose a sense of the values we share and binds us as people.

A common-humanity identity, a Headwing approach, seeks to find common ground based on shared spiritual and moral values. John reflected on "What if the Yes and No sides got together to find a way forward?" This question has not been raised in the Australian media. Rather, polarisation has occurred over the constitutional changes being proposed through the 'Voice to Parliament' referendum. The long-term benefits of the Aboriginal Voice to Parliament cannot be achieved through political processes alone, but must involve a commitment to truth, shared values, and personal change.

SOPHIE YORK



Sophie York is a speaker, writer, and a barrister, who in recent years has been working as a university lecturer at the Sydney University and the University of Notre Dame. Sophie is also a Naval Legal Officer in the Reserves. She was National Spokeswoman for Marriage Alliance for 3 years.

Sophie spoke on the topic of 'Australia the Lucky Country - united in making respectful room for each other!' With her extensive experience as a professor of law ethics, Sophie raised concerns about rushing through constitutional change without knowing the full details of how these proposed constitutional changes will work out. She argued that we all agree that better outcomes are needed for Indigenous Australians, but not at the expense of future peace, national unity, and equality with all fellow Australians. She pointed out that what is being proposed via change in our Constitution through the upcoming referendum requires further examination for us to forge the way forward to reconciliation and unity.

PASTOR DANIEL MEADOWS



Pastor Daniel Meadows is the Victorian Director of FFWPU Australia and has been involved in the Not-for-profit sector for 15 years. During this time, Pastor Daniel has directed several youth organisations such as the Oceania Leadership Team, and Youth and Students for Peace. Daniel is the founder and Director of Camp Belgrave and is undertaking a master's degree in Peace Studies. Together with his wife Chizuru, they are raising a family of 5 children, with a sixth child expected this year.

Daniel spoke on the Topic: "Peace Begins in My family". He reflected on the topic of Headwing and how this applies to family values. He asked "how can we raise wiser children who will not fall prey to the untruth of us versus them and the self-righteous 'call-out' culture it breeds. How can we foster a way of thinking about a common- humanity?" Daniel shared that when children fight in the family, the parents love and values come in to reconcile the conflict. Just as parental values bring harmony, the broader society should also reflect such values and practices.

MOHAMED MOHIDEEN OAM



Mohamed Mohideen OAM, is a Victorian Multicultural Commissioner and is also Chair of the VMC Regional Advisory Committee for Gippsland. As a microbiologist by profession with over 30 years' experience in the field, Mohamed is a Professional Member of the Australian Society for Microbiology. He was an academic at Monash University's Department of Microbiology for over 20 years, and from March 2021 to June 2022, was Head of Priority Communities and Engagement for the COVID-19 Vaccination Response at the Department of Health. Mohamed also sits on the Victorian Department of Health CALD Advisory Group.

Mohamed spoke on “The Need for all Australians to engage with 1st Nations People and make an informed decision on the referendum.” Mohamed shared his values as Muslim. Whenever a Muslim visits another persons’ home, it is the custom to acknowledge the owners of the home with a greeting of peace.
He argued that recognising the traditional owners in the constitution was an important step towards reconciliation and a no brainer for Muslims.

Reflection from Participants

“This event will be recommended to my community members.” - Shick
“Respectful sharing of various views of controversial topics. Such civil dialogue is precious to find.”
“Though provoking and relevant presentations. Very well organised.” - Will
“The learning is in the discussions.” - Sina
“Well organised and good dialogue.”
“Amazing, comprehensive and amazing.”

PARTNERS

he **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.

Universal Peace Federation (UPF) is an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We support and promote the work of the United Nations and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals - www.upf.org

Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) is comprised of families from around the world striving to establish a world of peace and unity among all peoples, races, and religions as envisioned by Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon and to embody the ideal of true love, which is to live for the sake of others. FFWPU champions three ideals: family, peace, and unification. https://www.familyfedaustralia.org/



Gold Sponsors at the Pacific Expo

September 9 | Melbourne, Australia

Written by Dr Anne Bellavance
President, WFWP Australia

OVERVIEW

- **NETWORKING WITH PACIFIC ISLAND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, BUSINESSES, AND CULTURAL DANCE GROUPS.**
- **SHOWCASING BEST PRACTICES OF WFWP AUSTRALIA GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT & AID PROJECTS WITHIN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS AND PROMOTING THE MELBOURNE PASIFIKA FESTIVAL.**

VIDEO LINKS

1. Tua Manase-Ale introduces WFWP Australia
2. Marie Pewhairangi speaking about WFWP and the 2023 Melbourne Pasifika Festival
3. Tua Manase-Ale speaking about the Global Women's Peace Network



WFWP Victoria was delighted to be part of the Pacific Expo as a gold VIP at the Maritime Museum in Werribee. There were a variety of diverse and brilliant Pasifika businesses and organisations and food, all topped off with some exciting cultural performances. Our WFWP team had a fantastic time speaking to store owners, participants, WFWP members, and friends.



We had the opportunity to speak to the crowd about the WFWP Global Development & Aid projects in the Pacific Islands and promote the Melbourne Pasifika Festival (MPF) coming up on Saturday, December 2nd, at Banjo Paterson Park, Lynbrook.

The MPF is hosted by WFWP Australia, alongside leaders and volunteers from the Pasifika community. Co-directors of the MPF Organising Committee are Tua Manase-Ale of Samoan heritage, President WFWP Samoa and member of the VIC Advisory Committee, and Anne Bellavance, President of WFWP Australia.



Our 2023 MC's were Marie Pewhairangi of New Zealand heritage and Canada McCarthy of Samoan heritage. Both Tua and Marie spoke to the crowd representing WFWP.

A big thank you to Tua, Marie, and Jacinta Darbishire who helped on the day. Congratulations to the Pacific Expo team and all the volunteers!



Capacity Building in the Solomon Islands

October 25 – Nov. 3 | Honiara, Solomon Islands

Written by Anne Bellavance
President, WFWP Australia
IVP, for the region of Asia Pacific

OVERVIEW

- ANNE BELLAVANCE, REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT (IVP) FOR OCEANIA AND SE ASIA, VISITED THE SOLOMON ISLANDS (SI) CHAPTER TO SUPPORT THE LEADERSHIP TEAM.
- THE SOLOMON ISLANDS CHAPTER CONDUCTED THEIR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND VOTED ON THE NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM.
- NEW HOPE ACADEMY (NHA) CONCLUDES THE ACADEMIC YEAR WITH THE AWARDS AND GRADUATION ASSEMBLY.
- PLASTIC POLLUTION IS FOUND ON BEACHES THROUGHOUT THE ISLANDS.

NEW HOPE ACADEMY GRADUATION AND AWARDS ASSEMBLY

Anne had the blessing to attend and speak briefly with students during the New Hope Academy (NHA) 2023 Awards and Graduation assembly held on October 26th. All the schools, colleges, and universities throughout the SI ended their academic year early due to preparations for the Pacific Games, hosted by the Solomon Islands.

A VIP from the Department of Education was in attendance, as were parents of students in both the primary and secondary school departments. The SI Peace Embassy assembly hall was brightly decorated and full of excited students and proud parents.



All graduating Year 6 students received Primary School completion certificates. Within the Pacific Islands, some students are unable to continue with their education. Some NHA graduates move into Year 7 at NHA, while remaining graduates move to other secondary schools.

The highlights of the assembly were the academic awards and class dance and singing performances. Parents crowded the stage to take videos of the Tong Il Moo Do martial arts performance with the instructor and students. Students who attend this after school co-curricular activity also received their new belt colours.



NB: Some of the top athletes from the South and West Pacific region will be in action from November 19th to December 2nd, 2023. The Games bring together sports athletes from many countries and territories in the area, plus invitational teams from Australia and New Zealand.

SI CHAPTER MEETINGS



From October 27-29, WFWP SI members gathered to share their progress and discuss future activities. Updates to the SI Constitution was addressed and the Annual General Meeting was conducted. A big addition was the introduction of WFWP membership fees that can be used to conduct future activities. There was an encouraging push to welcome SI women leaders as Global Friends, set up the Global Women's Peace Network and introduce environment initiatives.



The new SI leadership team, with Monica to the right of Anne

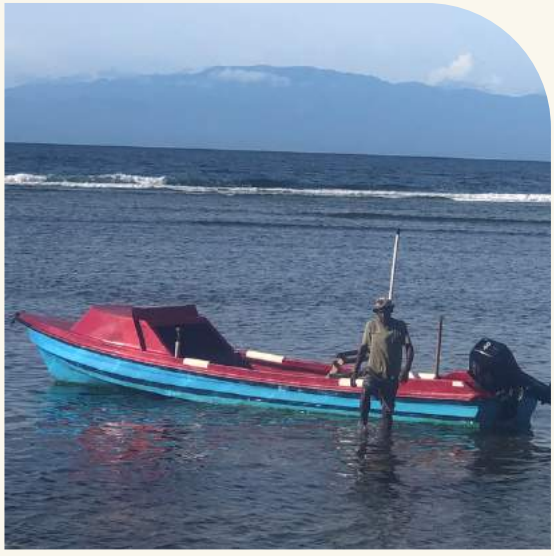
Monica Ilala Longanimala was voted in as President Candidate. Anne went with Monica to purchase office equipment for WFWP SI; a generous donation from the WFWP Victoria membership. Three laptops were donated from WFWP Australia for use by the key positions of President, Secretary, and Treasurer. An additional four laptops were donated by WFWP Australia to be presented to four New Hope Academy departments at the beginning of the 2024 school year.



On the final day of meetings, Anne worked with the new leadership team to answer questions, share development ideas and general capacity building for the team. Afterwards, we all went out for lunch, sponsored by WFWP Australia.

VISIT TO CENTRAL ISLANDS PROVINCE

Travelling by banana boat to the neighbouring Central Islands Province, Anne accompanied Monica and Judith's family to Monica's ancestral Village of Longapolo, located on the south-east end of the main island.



Children, adults and produces purchased from Honiara, travelled the two-hour open sea. It was an experience never to forget!

For the next two days, travelling with as many children who could fit in the banana boat, we visited many small uninhabited islands to swim, snorkel, and picnic.



The stark reality is the presence of washed-up plastics and garbage that travel across the ocean to all the shores in the Pacific Islands.



Village families are custodians of nearby uninhabited islands. These pictures are taken from Mandoleana Island. On an annual basis, villagers travel across the open sea to conduct beach clean-ups. On a monthly basis, Longapolo Village residents clean their beach foreshore, but the garbage continues to wash in, especially during storms. Collected garbage is placed in dug out holes.

Ever wondered where our garbage ends up? It travels to the Pacific Islands' beautiful beaches, now permanently littered with our thoughtless waste!

WASTE IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF HONIARA



On the waterfront of Honiara where the Matanikau River reaches the sea, garbage is everywhere! At the site where travelling banana boats dock from neighbouring islands, directly on the shore of downtown shops, is washed up garbage from the sea. Local waste flows down the river due to Honiara residents using the river as a dump. Clearly, a lack of awareness and education about plastic pollution is necessary. WFWP SI will be conducting education and clean up campaigns to help address this pressing issue.

The following pictures represent our sad reality!









Donation of Laptops for New Hope Academy in Solomon Islands

November 11 | Melbourne, Australia
Star Rez https://www.starrez.com/
WFWP Australia Global Development & Aid Project – New Hope Academy https://www.wfwpaustralia.org/new-hope-academy

Written by Anne Bellavance
President, WFWP Australia
IVP, for the region of Asia Pacific 2

OVERVIEW

- **SUPPORTING NEW HOPE ACADEMY IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS WITH LAPTOPS FOR SCHOOL DEPARTMENTS.**
- **WFWP AUSTRALIA THANKS STAR REZ, OUR 2023 LAPTOP SPONSORS. LINKEDIN-STAR REZ**



With the heart to support the developing P-12 New Hope Academy in the Solomon Islands, WFWP Australia reached out to organisations and businesses within Australia to donate staff laptops. Most businesses and schools upgrade their staff laptops every two years. If these laptops can be serviced and donated to not-for-profit charities, such as WFWP Australia, they can be shipped to institutions in the Pacific Islands that are in desperate need of this technology.

In 2023, New Hope Academy begins secondary school classes with its first intake of Year 7 students. With WFWP Australia's donation of sewing machines this year, the Academy

opened the Technology Department. The secondary campus also aims to establish IT as a Technology subject and are seeking good quality, second-hand laptops and computers for this purpose.



A big thank you to the Star Rez team, who cleaned up and recalibrated the laptops for their first donation to New Hope Academy. A big thank you to Elgy Koay, principal accountant for Star Rez, who enabled our partnership.

WITH SUPPORT FROM

Star Rez StarRez is the leading provider of housing accommodation automation software solutions on the market. StarRez has unmatched experience with university, college, and private property manager housing and conference operations in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Asia, and the Middle East.

Star Rez: https://www.starrez.com/

Unlock Your Potential Work, Life Balance and Sports

September 16 | Brisbane, Australia

Written by Dr YeJeong Degeer Kim
President, WFWP Queensland

OVERVIEW

- **THIS EVENT FOCUSED ON FIVE DISTINGUISHED AND AMAZING GUEST SPEAKERS PRESENTING AND SHARING THEIR LIFE EXPERIENCES AND HOLISTIC STRATEGIES TO 20 ATTENDEES FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS.**



WFWP Queensland conducted their second official event at Mantra on Queen Hotel, Brisbane. Each esteemed speaker discussed topics relating to women's empowerment, leadership and life skills, resilience and how the values of sportsmanship enabled them to build holistic and healthy practices in their lives. This event also sought to educate and inform participants how sporting practices can assist them in developing clarity in the mind, body and soul, in order to achieve their life potential.



During the event, one of the Indigenous Australian speakers, Yvonne Orley, also shared her unique story about her tribe and the importance of the Voice referendum to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The Voice was a proposed federal advisory body created by the parliament. Australians voted on the Voice on October 14th, 2023. Dr Yejeong Kim De Geer concluded the heart-warming and empowering event by sharing the visions by Dr Hak Ja Moon and how WFWP was first created. All attendees were feeling moved and grateful, acknowledging that hope and love exist within all of us, as ambassadors for world peace and cultural diversity.



A massive thank you to Nadia Anand, secretary of WFWP Queensland, who put her heart into organising this event. We are profoundly appreciative of all her efforts and hard work. The event was also generously supported by the Foot and Ankle Experts Health Clinic. $1500 of its funding contributed to the location rent and catering services.

As a result of this event, three participants pledged to become WFWP Queensland members. Dr Catherine Norton signed up as a diamond WFWP member, donating $600 a week later after the event finished. All attendees showed interest in attending the next WFWP forum. It was inspiring to have at least 85% of the guests in their early 20's and 30's. There were many men in attendance to support their partners. Committee members will soon be organising another forum in a few months' time.

PRESENTERS



DR CATHERINE NORTON

Dr Catherine Norton was nominated as the next Global Women's Peace Network ambassador by Dr Yejeong Kim De Geer. Dr Norton shared her comprehensive stories about the 7's that empowered her to transform into a successful business woman. She is a strong advocate for women rights. In the past, she travelled to South Korea to visit SookMyung University in regards to empowering women's rights and preventing burnout for working mothers.



AMELIA JACKSON

Amelia Jackson is a former two-time national champion in figure skating who represented Australia in the 2014 Winter Olympics. Amelia talked about her professional life experiences as an athlete after retirement, and how she managed to reframe her expectations being a double degree student in law and journalism. She discussed her experiences staying at the Athlete's village in Russia when she injured her ankle. Amelia emphasised how privileged we are living in Australia with. access to high quality medical staff and technologies. She also shared her passion of becoming a news anchor in the future, encouraging others to always dream big



COURTNEY SIPPEL

Courtney Sippel is a current Queenslander and Cricket player from the Brisbane Heat. She could not attend the event in person due to sickness. During the event, WFWP Queensland Secretary, Nadia Anand, presented on Courtney Sippel's behalf. Courtney comes from a very remote town in Queensland called Moffatdale. In her high school, she was one of the only 16 students attending. She was always self-driven and passionate about achieving her life goals. She pushed herself to be better, participating in many programs to improve her skills. Courtney remembers the day when she was selected as a future state cricket player by Brett Jones. She always dreamed of playing for Australia. Courtney played men's cricket in Murgon and bowled to professional male athletes, always holding her own ground. She always wanted to be at the top of her game and that drive simmered down when she joined the state cricket team. She stopped training, as there were more mature players whom she thought deserved more attention. Later, she realised that she wasn't fully committed to her dream. She nearly quit her dream because she struggled with her team mates because she didn't know how to communicate with them. Cricket is a team sport - if you don't have good communication skills, the team does not function well. Courtney taught us about how she overcame her personal and professional struggles, and how she regained her path to move closer to her dreams.



ANGEL CENIA LINDING

Angel Cenia Linding is a Fitness and Holistic Health Coach and Personal Trainer. As a Holistic therapy and counselling student, Angel shared her chronic condition which hindered her from living an ordinary life. She was abandoned by her mother due to her mental health issues at the age of 6, which caused her to develop an auto-immune disorder that affects her blood pressure regulation system. Her cardiologist informed her that she will not be able to exercise for more than 30 minutes. It is likely that exercise is the very last thing which helps extend her life span. However, she challenged the prognosis and became a personal trainer. She found strength within herself to control her sympathetic nerve system. Angel shared her advice with everyone who was in the conference room on how to overcome mental barriers. Many of the participants were moved and comforted by her story, shedding tears after Angel finished presenting.



YVONNE ORLEY

Yvonne Orley is an Indigenous Australian elder and business woman who is active in the field of Indigenous rights, disability, health and environment awareness. She shared her life experiences and ways of contributing to world peace our multicultural society. She shared stories about her childhood, as well as her passion for Indigenous culture and people as a First Nation citizen. Yvonne shared her perspectives about the global climate crisis and violence, including the events occurring in Ukraine.

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. https://www.wfwp.org/

WITH SUPPORT FROM

Foot & Ankle Experts Health Clinic specialises in pain recovery and provides high quality care, as well as encouraging patients to share their experiences with qualified podiatrists.
https://footandankleexperts.com.au/



Gold Sponsors at the Pacific Expo

Saturday December 2nd | Melbourne, Australia
Video link: https://youtu.be/52EXFr0sRvQ

Written by: Anne Bellavance
MPF Committee Co-Chair
WFWP Aust. President and WFWP IVP
(rep. Oceania & S.E. Asia)

OVERVIEW

- OADVOCATE FOR THE PACIFIC ISLAND COMMUNITIES LIVING IN AUSTRALIA.
- OSHOWCASE PASIFIKA CULTURE, FAMILY CONNECTION, AND SPIRITUALITY WITH THE BROADER AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY.
- ORAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT WFWP GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND AID PROJECTS WITHIN THE ISLAND NATIONS OF THE PACIFIC.
- OPROMOTE PACIFIC ISLAND BUSINESSES THROUGH STALLS SELLING PASIFIKA FOOD AND MERCHANDISE.



The Melbourne Pasifika Festival and Charity Walk is an annual celebration of Pasifika culture, giving families the opportunity to enjoy Pasifika culture through dance performances, art, crafts, food, merchandise, children's activities, DJ, and a live band.

The Charity Walk and the Festival raises much-needed funds to support WFWP Global Development and Aid Projects located within the Pacific Islands.

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 Australia 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:

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

This year the rain brought out umbrellas and jackets. However, our spirits were high as we danced and jived to the music under our umbrellas.



This year's Opening Ceremony was conducted by the Fijian Community Association Victoria and led by Ratu Kitione Tuibua, Chief and President of the Queen Victoria School Old Boys Association in Victoria.

The Welcoming Ceremony, or Veiqaraqaravi Vakavanua in the Fijian language was very dignified and is 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 ceremonial Kava is shared to promote unity and respect among all the groups participating. 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 Welcome Ceremony were:

- Anne Bellavance, WFWP International Vice-president representing Oceania & SE Asia - President, WFWP Australia | Co-Chair for the Melbourne Pasifika Festival Committee.
- Sylvia Coombe, VIC Multi-cultural Commissioner and President of the Fiji Community Association of Victoria.
- Neil Hay, President Rugby Victoria.
- Jacob Sigabalavu, Parliament of Victoria's Community Engagement team.
- Pulotu Canada Mcarthy, President Samoa Community Advisory Council Victoria.
- Kylie Hatch, Secretary Pacific Connections.
- Veronica Kurufher, Secretary PNG Australia Association of Victoria.
- Roshelle, Secretary Australian Integrated Fijian Association Victoria.
- John Bellavance, President UPF Victoria.


Sylvia Coombe


Roshelle


Anne Bellavance

Giving the Opening Address, Anne Bellavance thanked the Melbourne Pasifika Festival Committee and all the volunteers that make the festival hum so smoothly. She shared that this year's stall holder payments enabled one young woman to undertake 1-year of university in 2024. Anne briefly explained the Global Development & Aid project run by WFWP Australia and encouraged people to get involved through the philosophy from our Founders, Father, and Mother Moon, of 'living for the sake of others' as a methodology to create peace within myself, my family, my community, and on in society.

Each VIP shared about their organisation themselves and themselves.







Children's Activities are a big part of the Festival. Despite the rain, the Melbourne Rebels Rugby Club coaches and team members conducted a morning junior and senior rugby clinic for primary aged and secondary aged children. Face painting brought magic.

The festival featured Pasifika food and merchandise stalls from 6 Pasifika Island Heritages. In alphabetical order: Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa. A big thank you to all our Pasifika businesses who participated this year despite the rain!











Cultural Dance groups were phenomenal, showcasing each Pacific Island culture. Our PNG Momase group of Papua New Guinea Australia Association Victoria were so inspired after their performance that they continued to ‘boogie’ to the DJ music, off stage in the rain.











MT Fao Band, and DJ Faiza brought a concert feeling to the festival.

A big thank you to our MCs throughout the day, Marie Pewhairangi from Māori heritage, and Canada Mcarthy from Samoan heritage

This year, some of the ABCs Talent Development Lead, Asia Pacific Newsroom team participated during the Festival to gather stories. Johnson Raela and Hilda Wayne, Presenters/Producers both shared the microphone as MCs.





Another big thank you to our Melbourne Pasifika Festival Committee members, and volunteers who put in many long hours.

Together, we made the festival a fun day of dancing in the rain, despite the poor weather.









REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

Great day celebrating the pacific culture with family and friends. Delicious food that reminds you of home and fantastic stalls.



Great event, awesome to see diversity growing in Melbourne, beautiful atmosphere.

Such a beautiful day out celebrating the Pacific, thank you so much we had so much fun!!

A great series of dance performances choir and bands. Great vibe with the communities dancing. Good activities for the kid and food stalls.

Fantastic event. Looking forward to a bigger and better one next year! Round of applause to the organisers and all those involved in moulding of the event!!

Very well organised. Can't help bad weather. But spirits were high.

Fun day and culturally enlightening.

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

HOST 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. https://www.wfwp.org/

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Fiji



UN Youth Day

August 21 | Suva, Fiji

Written by Sharila Lazarus
President, WFWP Fiji

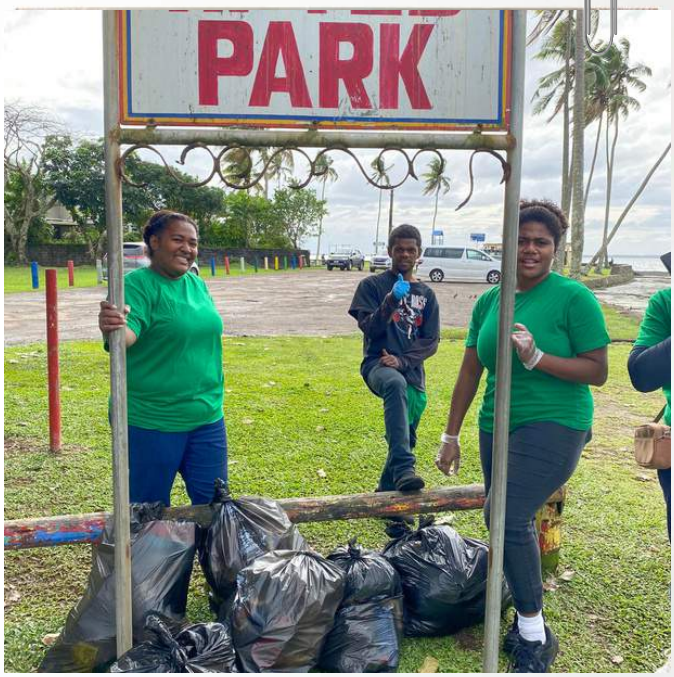
OVERVIEW

- WFWP FIJI CELEBRATED UN YOUTH DAY BY CONDUCTING A COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP PROGRAM AT THE SUVA POINT PICNIC AREA.



Starting in the early morning from 7am, 12 participants including 4 WFWP members and 8 guests, with majority of youth attendance, cleaned the foreshore areas. This location caught our attention due to vast amounts of pollution and debris evident throughout the environment. It was obvious this location was necessary and suited for our clean-up program. The clean-up program was pivotal in WFWP Fiji's progress to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals focusing on Climate Change and environmental protection.







Courtney Sippel is a current Queenslander and Cricket player from the Brisbane Heat. She could not attend the event in person due to sickness. During the event, WFWP Queensland Secretary, Nadia Anand, presented on Courtney Sippel's behalf. Courtney comes from a very remote town in Queensland called Moffatdale. In her high school, she was one of the only 16 students attending. She was always self-driven and passionate about achieving her life goals. She pushed herself to be

As a result, this program successfully achieved both WFWP and UN Goals in relation to the essentiality of living and having a clean, safe and healthy environment. WFWP Fiji intend on conducting this program again at a larger scale next year.



REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

'It was a great effort made by WFWP Fiji and YSP in ensuring that we protect our environment' - Amelia Jogia

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Hosted by:

he **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: Family Federation for World Peace and Unification Fiji

Family Federation for World Peace and Unification is comprised of families from around the world striving to establish a world of peace and unity among all peoples, races, and religions, to embody the ideal of true love as taught in the Divine Principle, the core teachings of the Unification Movement.



UN International Day of Peace

September 21 | Suva, Fiji

Written by Sharila Lazarus
President, WFWP Fiji

OVERVIEW

- WFWP FIJI ORGANIZED AND CONDUCTED AN INTERFAITH WORKSHOP AT THE PEACE EMBASSY OFFICE FIJI IN CELEBRATION FOR THE UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE.

This program celebrated women from different faith groups, participating together in harmony. We gathered and united women of different faith and beliefs, consisting of renowned and esteemed speakers and attendees deriving from various faith groups. There were 22 participants, including 17 guests and 5 WFWP members. Women had amazing opportunities to enhance their communication skills and improve their understanding and knowledge about the teachings of Mother Moon about world peace. It is wonderful to witness women wholeheartedly embrace each other, regardless of their religious perspectives and their beliefs.

WFWP Fiji invited speakers from various faith groups to say few words about the importance of peace and how their religious faiths are contributing towards peace awareness. We had video message from our dear sister, Anne Bellevance.







Dr Shanita Sen, a doctor, and Vice President of ISKCON/Hare Krishna Society, gave a wonderful presentation on the work completed by her organisation.

Ms Letila Sandys, a retired school teacher and serving counsellor, represented the AOG faith and shed light on family values and religious faith as a contributing factor towards promoting peace. She shared her personal experiences about the nature of relationships to convey her messages to attendees.

Dr Meher Angez, from the Islam faith, stated that Peace in Islam is a submission. It is one of names of God himself, the omnipotent and the Supreme. Dr Angez said that Muslims are taught to be peacemakers and inspire to make a better world.

We also had a Priest from the Sacred Heart Cathedral Suva and a Vicar of Education at Archdiocese of Suva, participating as a speaker. Father Stephen Lui Filippo delivered his message based on their scriptures and the importance of having tradition and culture to enable peace building around the world.

The program concluded with a holistic meditation session conducted by the High Commission of India Women's Wing yoga instructors. WFWP Fiji has plans to conduct this successful program annually on UN Peace Day.

REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

'This is a wonderful opportunity! A forum where I have witnessed women come together towards promoting peace building and putting all their differences aside. This has been made possible by WFWP and their founder's effort.' - Jashmin Khan

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

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UN International Day of the Girl Child

October 11 | Suva, Fiji

Written by Sharila Lazarus
President, WFWP Fiji

OVERVIEW

- WFWP FIJI CELEBRATED THE UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD AT NASINU SECONDARY SCHOOL IN SUVA.
- PARTICIPANTS OF THE PROGRAM CONSISTED OF 350 FEMALE STUDENTS, 16 FEMALE TEACHERS, 3 OFFICIALS FROM MINISTRY OF HEALTH FIJI, A COUNSELLOR AND WFWP FIJI MEMBERS.

This event aimed to build awareness about women rights to access equal opportunities, the challenges they might face, and the supportive environment they would like to build in the future. In many developing countries, girls lack the knowledge, support and resources (sanitary materials and facilities), to manage their menstruation with confidence. In some areas of Fiji, there is still a lack of information regarding menstrual hygiene management. Young women continue to face unprecedented challenges to their education, their physical and mental wellness, and the protection needed for live healthy lives.



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Our annual event united hundreds of female students from Nabua Secondary School in Mead Road, Suva. The school has an enrolment of about 700 students, with around 350 female students. The school roll includes mostly iTaukei students and 11 from other culturally diverse backgrounds. The knowledge base program also included distribution of menstrual kits in the school.



The WFWP Fiji President spoke about the goals of the organi-sation and the purpose of attending at such an important event. Afterwards, the Ministry of Health shared a detailed presentation on reproductive health and hygiene. The Counsellor also imparted some words of wisdom. There were two doctors and a medical officer acting as representatives from the Government's Ministry of Health. Mrs Letila Sandys was the counsellor presenting the knowledge-based program. We concluded the program with distribution of sanitary pads and a fabulous photo shoot.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development embodies a roadmap for progress that is sustainable and leaves no one behind. These goals depend on achieving gender equality and women em-powerment. We can achieve justice and inclusion and preserve our shared environment by safeguarding the rights of women and girls across all the goals. This project was a fantastic opportunity in achieving this. It is obvious that in the last decade, there has been an increased awareness on women issues. Nevertheless, investments in women rights remain limited and they continue to confront a myriad of challenges to fulfilling their potential.

This program not only addresses health and well-being practices, but to also inform, educate, and empower young women. Many students shared how this event was the first time they had celebrated the UN International Day of Girl Child. It also gave them life-changing opportunities to learn about holistic self-care practices.



Malaysia



Authentic Encounters Communication Skills Workshop

October 15 | Selangor, Malaysia

Written by Jenisse Lim
Report Writer, WFWP Malaysia

OVERVIEW

- WFWP MALAYSIA CONDUCTED A COMMUNICATION SKILLS WORKSHOP AT THE PEACE EMBASSY IN PETALING JAYA.
- SIXTEEN YOUTHS CONSISTING OF STUDENTS, PARTICIPATED IN THE 3-HOUR PROGRAM WHICH WAS PART OF THE' GIVE ME A CHANCE EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE'.

The goal of this exciting workshop was to empower and educate youth to develop effective communication skills and engage authentically with others. There were a total number of 20 participants, including 6 WFWP members and 14 guests. The workshop aimed to help attendees discover their inner qualities, build self-confidence skills, and improve their ability to communicate, both in public and personal settings. In her opening remarks, WFWP Malaysia President Madam Lina Cheng highlighted the importance of personal development and growth while encouraging young students to be proactive in their learning journey.



The main presenter and facilitator of the workshop, Madam Annie Ling, is a certified educator with



Personality and Human Relations International (PRH). She is a Certified Professional Trainer by the International Professional Manager Association, United Kingdom. Madam Annie Ling led the participants in an interactive and informative session. The workshop covered topics about personal development, self-improvement, and the importance of effective communication in building positive relationships. It emphasizes the concept of encountering others authentically, utilizing one's inner strengths, and fostering inner qualities such as kindness, empathy, and understanding.



Participants were divided into pairs and engaged in role-play conversations. Afterwards, they were asked to share how they felt during their conversations. Some participants stated that they were nervous while con-versing with strangers. Others were excited about the prospect of making new friends. Madam Annie Ling guided participants to discover and identify their posi-tive qualities and strengths to communicate effectively and confidently.

This successful workshop provided a valuable platform for youth to improve their communication abilities, encourage personal development, resilience, and the importance of cultivating love and patience in effective communication practices.



REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

"I learnt to be mindful and aware of my feelings and keep a positive attitude while communicating with others. This workshop also helped me to express myself in public - something I did not have the courage to do in the past." - Winnee, youth participant.

"Since I really love my family, I shouldn't let my emotions come in the way and affect our relationship." - Su Ching, youth participant.

"I find communication becoming easier when our heart is filled with love, patience and understanding for others." – Mary, university student.



Laptop Presentation AND Diwali Charity Giveaway

October 22 | Selangor, Malaysia

Written by Jenisse Lim
Report Writer, WFWP Malaysia

OVERVIEW

- WFWP MALAYSIA LED AN EVENT TO ASSIST THIRTY DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES IN SELANGOR TO RECEIVE FOOD AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES UNDER THE 'GIVE ME A CHANCE EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE'.
- THIS EVENT WAS SUPPORTED BY ASSOCIATES OF THE PEACEBUILDERS NETWORK MALAYSIA, THE UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION OF MALAYSIA AND AJAR-AJAR MALAYSIA. THERE WERE A TOTAL NUMBER OF 70 PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING 5 WFWP MEMBERS, 64 GUESTS AND 1 VIP.



WFWP President of Malaysia, Madame Lina Cheng, described how the Laptop Presentation Initiative started in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic. This program has now aided 200 disadvantaged students with educational and financial assistance. Students were given refurbished laptops and funds to support their tertiary education. In today's digital age, access to modern technology for educational purposes is crucial to the success of future generations. This program ensures that all students can participate equally using online learning and educational platforms.



This program also supported students' health and well-being while pursuing tertiary education. Underprivileged families and their children may lack access to necessary resources for their education, affecting their learning outcomes. By supplying essential food items, the initiative ensures that families also have access to basic needs. The groceries giveaway was held in conjunction with the Deepavali festive season, a cultural celebration of the Hindu community.

All students received grocery packs at the event held in Teluk Panglima Garang Tamil Primary School, Selangor. The program also provided the community by presenting a public lecture and encouraging attendees to participate in further community and social services.





The Guest of Honour, Honorary Papparaidu Veraman, Selangor EXCO member for Human Resource and Poverty Eradication, commended all the organisers for empowering the students through this project. Dr. Udesh Chaskar, UPF Youth Ambassador for Peace, said "I hope the recipients will be successful in their studies and give back to society through community service and social work."

Mr A. Arulnathan, a motivational lecturer, shared career advice and guidance with all participants involved. Past awarded recipients of this program, Ms Loganapriya and Ms Janani, contributed to the event by playing the role of emcee and sharing their personal experiences. Mr Rajaseran, Principal of Teluk Panglima Garang Tamil Primary School, Mr Anpalagan, from Ketua Komuniti India, Mr Joachim Ng, Vice President of UPF Malaysia, and Professor Dr Umah Rani Kuppusamy, Vice President of WFWP Malaysia, also attended this wonderful event

REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

'I feel grateful and excited to be given the opportunity to take up the role of emcee in this charity event held at my alma mater. As a university student, I also wish to develop my leadership skills and gain more experience and exposure, besides studying. Many young people are lost in life and lacking motivation in pursuing their studies. I hope I can continue giving back to society by guiding and encouraging the youths in my community in the future.' - Ms Loganapriya.

'Thank you WFWP for motivating me in my studies. I really want to volunteer myself in future community services project.' - Ms Janani, student.

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

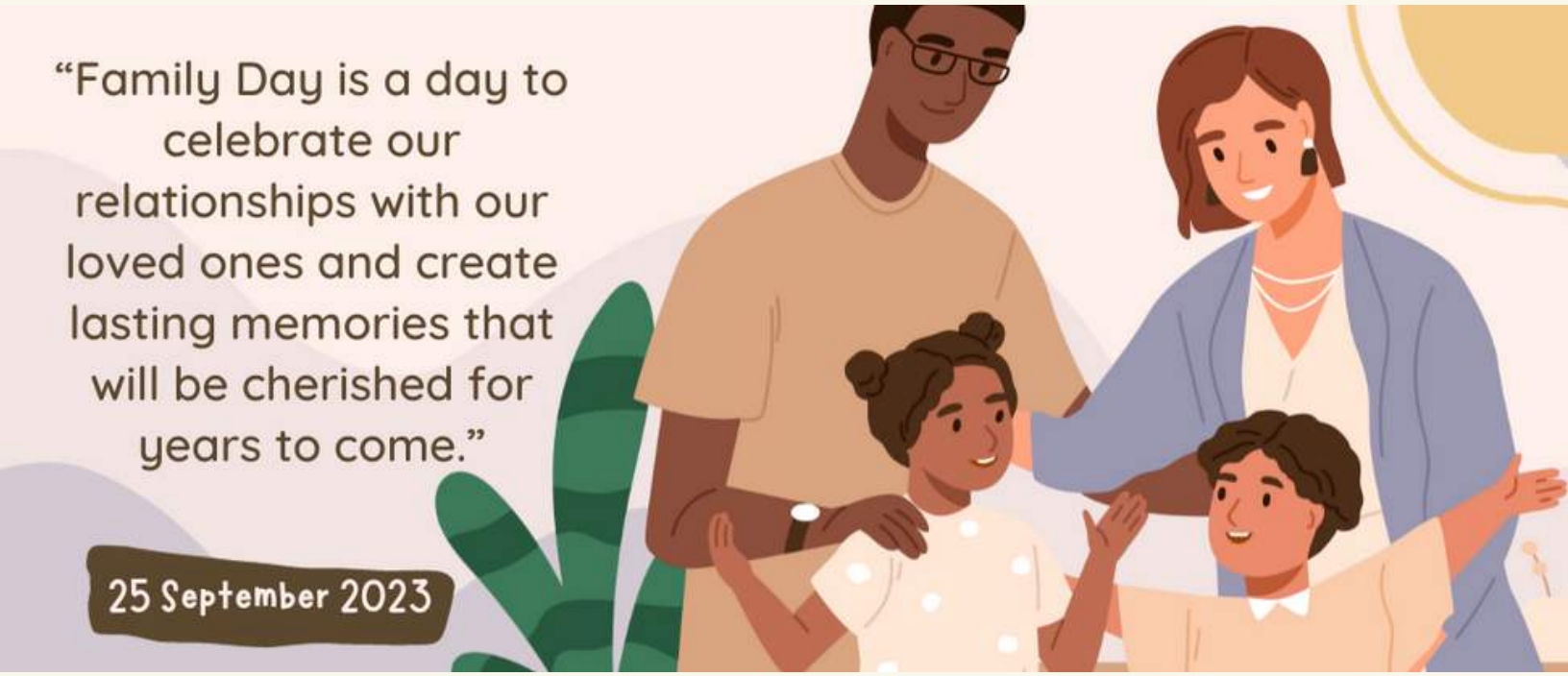
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With Support from: Universal Peace Federation, Ajar-Ajar Malaysia

Universal Peace Federation Universal Peace Federation (UPF), an international and interreligious network of individuals and organizations, including representatives from religion, government, civil society, and the private sector, is dedicated to achieving world peace.

Philippines



National Family Day

September 25 | Manticao, Philippines

Written by Sung Phil Nurlene Jumawan
Report Writer, WFWP Philippines

OVERVIEW

- TO ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO UNITE, SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND ENGAGE IN CREATIVE AND EXCITING ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING, JOY, EMPATHY AND COMPASSION.
- TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIAL BONDS AND REINFORCE THE IDEA THAT A UNITED COMMUNITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE WELL-BEING OF ALL ITS MEMBERS BY PROVIDING A SAFE, NURTURING AND TRUSTING SPACE TO FOSTER A SENSE OF BELONGING.



WFWP-Philippines celebrated National Family Day at Manticao in the province of Misamis Oriental, Philippines. The event aimed to emphasize the importance of family bonds and provide an encouraging platform for children from diverse and unique backgrounds to express their thoughts and hopes for their families. There was wonderful enthusiasm from all attendees with a total of 29 participants, including 25 children and 4 WFWP members. During the celebration, children designed posters, sang songs, and participated in dance competitions. Artistic and creative expression encouraged the children to help articulate their feelings and thoughts in a positive, healthy and holistic manner. These activities provided endless opportunities for the children to communicate their experiences with their peers in a friendly environment.

The National Family Day Celebration also addressed existing challenges for children growing up in families affected by divorce, separation, and other intergenerational complexities. Quite often these children may experience feelings of insecurity, loss, and isolation. This event provided the children with emotional support and reassurance that they are not alone in facing such challenges. The celebration aimed to cultivate a positive, social and joyful community space that is welcoming of all individuals, regardless of their circumstances in life.



The children started the event with creative poster-making activities. They were encouraged to depict their understanding of family values, love, and unity through their artwork. This activity encouraged them to express their thoughts visually, fostering



creativity and self-expression. Children were given the opportunity to share their feelings about their families, where many of them expressed their hopes and dreams. The event also featured an upbeat song and dance competition, where children demonstrated their talents. The competition not only added an element of fun, but also encouraged teamwork and camaraderie among the attendees. Towards the end of event, the children were overjoyed as they received gifts to take home. Each child received a package that included essential items such as T-shirts, slippers, towels, and dental kits. The distribution of these gifts also served as an additional gesture of community support.

The National Family Day celebration was a resounding success. It brought together children from diverse backgrounds to celebrate the significance of family bonds. Through creative activities, group sessions, and gift-giving, the event established a sense of belonging among the children, inspiring hopes for a brighter future. It showcased the power of community support in nurturing future generations through the notion of family values.



In addition, National Family Day serves as an annual reminder of the essential role that families play in our lives. In the hustle and bustle of daily life, it's easy to take our loved ones for granted. Whether through shared meals, games, or heartfelt conversations, this celebration reinforces the concept that empowering families are the bedrock of a thriving society, and that it is important to cherish our family relationships. Family is the cornerstone of society, a fundamental institution that shapes our lives and communities. It provides a haven of love, support, and connection in a fast-paced and ever-changing world.



Medical Mission

October 10 | Quezon City, Philippines

Written by Sung Phil Nurlene Jumawan
Report Writer, WFWP Philippines

OVERVIEW

- THE WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE PHILIPPINES (WFWP), IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND THE TAIWAN ROOT MEDICAL PEACE CORPS (TRMPC), PROVIDED SUCCESSFUL MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES TO OVER 207 PARTICIPANTS AT THE PHILIPPINES PEACE EMBASSY.
- THIS HEALTHCARE MISSION WAS CRUCIAL IN RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE QUALITY OF CARE MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES PROVIDED IN OUR LIVES. THE EVENT ENCOURAGED LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO SUPPORT OTHERS IN NEED.



The Medical Mission addressed the significant challenges in relation to the lack of access to essential healthcare and dental services provided in underrepresented communities. This event aimed to overcome these barriers. Collaboration between partnering organisations exemplified the power of unity by creating a positive impact on communities' health, well-being, and relationships.

This project was organised by the WFWP's senior adviser and former President, Madam Minerva de Leon, the current WFWP President, Mrs. Almera Grace Mayo, and the Family Federation for World Peace Philippines (FFWPU) National Leader, Rev. Leo Angelo Halog.

In many regions of the Philippines, there is a lack of access to quality and affordable medical and dental services. This event provided free medical consultations, dental extractions, and various ECG and laboratory screening procedures, to over 200 community members.

Healthcare services began at 7am and concluded at 5pm. Several established medical and dental volunteer organisations, including the Asian Mobile Medical Service (AMMS), HOG Manila Chapter Ph., Inc., DZRH-VOLTRACOM, and Pilipinas Ngayon Emergency and Rescue Unit (PNERU), joined forces with TRMPC as local representatives in support of this mission.



The TRMPC was led by Dr. Liu Chi-Chun, who arrived in Manila on October 4th and departed on October 5th, before heading to Pagadian City, Zamboanga Del Sur, for a three-day medical and dental mission hosted by Governor Yu. TRMPC returned to Manila on October 9th for the final phase of their project scheduled for October 10th, in Quezon City, Metro Manila, hosted by WFWP. After a delicious feast with Ambassador Wallace M.G. Chow of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO), TRMPC returned to Taiwan on October 11th.



The medical mission concluded with a presentation program and dinner hosted for both international and local counterparts. All attendees expressed their heartfelt gratitude and enthusiasm to participating in future medical and dental missions. The collaborative efforts between WFWP, local medical organisations, and TRMPC in organizing the mission was a resounding success. The dedication and hard work of all those involved, including the leaders and volunteers, were truly commendable

The mission not only provided essential medical and dental services to hundreds of individuals but also fostered a sense of gratitude and a shared vision for future endeavours. It serves as a testament to the potential for positive change that can be achieved when organizations and individuals unite with a common purpose. The success of this mission serves as an inspiration. More importantly, this event established a strengthened bond between diverse nations, reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in advancing the cause of health and well-being for all humanity.



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With Support from:

Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps (TRMPC) Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps is a private, non-governmental, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life through medical services and health education.
http://www.taiwanroot.org

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