# WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE

## NEWSLETTER
## OCEANIA & S.E. ASIA





ISSUE 1 | 2024

# 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



# Boxing Day

February 27th | Melbourne, Australia

Written by Anne Bellavance,
President WFWP Australia | IVP, representing AP2

## OVERVIEW

- PREPARING DONATED ITEMS TO BE SHIPPED TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.
- A TOTAL OF 33 BOXES OF SEWING MACHINES, CHILDREN'S BOOKS, DAYS FOR GIRLS RE-USABLE MENSTRUAL PADS, AND LAPTOPS WAS ORGANISED READY FOR SHIPMENT.



Reusable menstrual pads are made by volun-teers at the Days for Girls Wandin East Chapter. We are so inspired by Lorena Hayes who oversees the team and lovingly prepares the beautifully coloured kits to be used by women and girls in developing nations. WFWP Solomon Islands volunteers will teach girls about menstrual health and hand out the pads at local schools. The sewing machines will be used by the New Hope Academy in their technology department to teach high school students the art of sewing.

It was a beautiful summer morning in the Melbourne Hills for our volunteers to gather for a half day of boxing good quality second hand items ready for shipment to the Solomon Islands. A big thank you to our wonderful volunteers who sourced used boxes and spent their Saturday preparing 33 boxes of goods to be picked up for delivery to the shipping warehouses.

The children's books will go to augment the New Hope Academy school library and laptops will be used by teachers at the school.





A big thank you to Doug's Mini Movers who has been supporting WFWP for the past seven years. Doug and his team pick up our boxes and transport them free of charge to shipping company warehouses, where goods are bundled together in containers and then loaded onto ships ready for port departure.

## PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

**Days For Girls Wandin East Chapter** Lorena Hayes is the Team leader for Days for Girls Wandin East Vic. The team work tirelessly sewing to create the kits and fill the demand. Organisations such as WFWP ship them to communities. https://www.daysforgirls.org/australia/

**Doug's Mini Movers** has been supporting WFWP Victoria's Global Development & Aid projects since 2015. Thank you, Doug, for your friendly, reliable, and efficient team. We could not support our WFWP Chapters as well without you. https://dougsminimover.com.au/




# Clean Up Australia Day 2024

March 2nd | Victoria, Australia
https://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/

Written by Anne Bellavance
President, WFWP Australia

## OVERVIEW

- WFWP AUSTRALIA VICTORIA CHAPTER, AND UPF VICTORIA VOLUNTEERS JOINED TOGETHER FOR CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, WHILE ALSO PROMOTING EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION.
- SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
  - GOAL 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
  - GOAL 15: LIFE ON LAND
  - GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





The WFWP Victoria and UPF Victoria volunteers, family and friends came together on Wellington Road, Lysterfield to help keep our community clean and promote sustainability. Not only was Clean Up Australia Day a chance for WFWP volunteers to participate in helping the environment, but it was also a great activity to bring the community together and foster meaningful relationships.

Twelve enthusiastic souls gathered on the major arterial road at Lysterfield Park leading towards Rowville in one direction and Emerald in the opposite direction. Couples parallelled the road to collect the overly large amount of roadside litter.






This year we partnered with Clean Away transfer station in Lysterfield who received the collected bags of garbage at no charge.

Sadly, there are many single use plastic water bottles, soft-drink cans, fast food containers, and plastic wrapping that are thrown out of car windows as people drive by. Garbage bags falling off utility trucks, and people using ‘pull in’ spaces to dump their garbage is also a problem on these fast-paced and busy arterial roads.

As the day carried on, it was very inspiring to see everyone stepping up and getting involved to make a difference.
Participants came back for a break and enjoyed a BBQ lunch. A rewarding day for a great outcome!



## REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

*“What a fun, great day to get the community involved in keeping our streets clean!”*
*“Great day with lovely people.”*
*“It’s so great to see the community get together for such a good cause.”*



## 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 - www.wfwpaustralia.org

**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

### IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**Clean Up Australia** is a not-for-profit Australian organisation promoting environmental conservation. Clean Up Australia Day empowers communities to address environmental problems and supports local action to make a difference in the world.
www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au



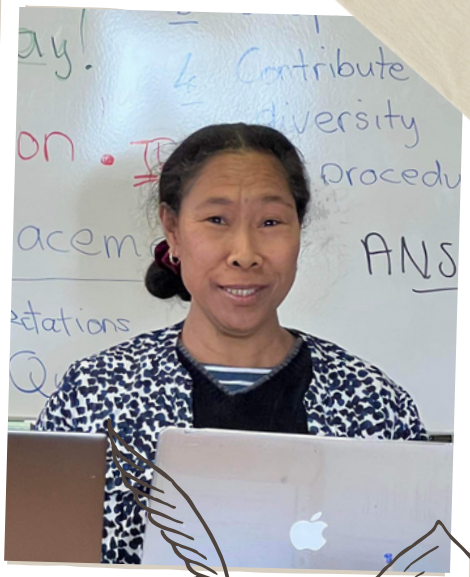
**Clean Away – Lysterfield transfer station**

Cleanaway is one of the largest waste management companies in Australia and provides the most complete range of sustainable total waste management services. Cleanaway adheres to the highest regulatory and environmental standards to collect, process, treat, recycle and dispose of waste.
www.cleanaway.com.au

# ESTHER MAMAI – SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

## SGSCC Community College

Email address- Essyme@gmail.com
Start date- 06/03/ 2023
Start Work Placement- 06/03/2023
Finish work Placement- in June 2024
Sponsored by- WFWP Australia's Pasifika Scholarship Fund
Thank you for the kind support for paying my remaining tuition fees. I really appreciate your support.




I always want to be around children, and I love to help children who are in need, especially children coming from the Pacific Islanders. Because compared to the life level of standard from Western Countries to some Pacific Islanders are not the same. So growing up in my country in the rural area wasn't easy. We don't have much resources and materials to see, receive and use. When I came to Australia to work as a full time staff to our church I always watched children going to school, having good food, wearing good clothes and this makes me feel sad. That's when I thought when I finished from the church I wanted to study to become a kindergarten teacher. I was still working for the church in 2020, I enrolled in Greenwich College to study English. After Learning English for 6 Months, Extended to another 3 months in the same college to do Cambridge, and to practice for the IELTS test, In the end of 2021 I did the IELTS test from Greenwich College.

## Feb 2022

I enrolled at SCSCC Community College to Certificate 111 with self sponsoring. While I was still doing Certificate 111, I was offered a job from my aassesor friend Early Learning Child Care Center. So when I finished my Certificate 111 and got my Certificate, I just continued working as a casual and last June I was employed as a part time permanent staff.



## Feb 2023

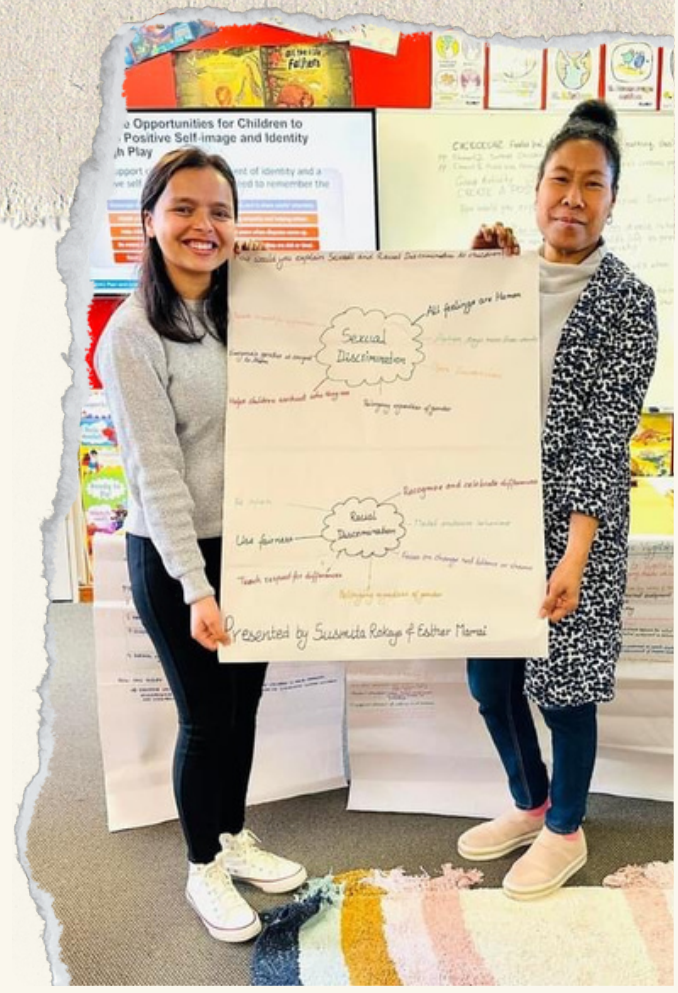
I decided to continue to do a diploma. Due to the restrictions from the migration laws students were unable to work long hours. That's when I ask for assistance. Thank you for believing in me and accepting my request to pay off my remaining tuition fees. Soon I will graduate. Anyway, becoming a student is not easy here in Australia. However, If it's in God's will, things will happen naturally. I believe in God and I have few people who have supported me including WFWP Oceania. They have supported me in many ways, not only financially. I started working 2 jobs when I became a student, but due to covid everything changed.

# My dream

is to open a kindergarten school at my Village to support the children and teach them at an early age so that they can think and understand why education is very important. I want to make sure the children are well taken care of, and teach them the good things and also apply what I have learned from here in Australia and also to become an independent not to rely on somebody else. I want to make sure to keep the children safe and secure in a safe environment where there is no harm, no abuse.
I hope my dream will come true and one day I'll have my own kindergarten school.

Thank you WFWP for supporting Pacific Islanders to receive better education, so we can get better qualification. With this qualification, we can use them to educate young children, not only children but youths, and mothers, or in the community as well.

Written by
Esther Mamal





Left to Right: Aila Willitts, Anne Bellavance, Satomi Terasaka

# Passing on the Baton

March 10th | Sydney, Australia

Written by Anne Bellavance
President, WFWP Australia

## OVERVIEW

- WFWP AUSTRALIA LEADERS CONVENED IN SYDNEY AT THE OCEANIA PEACE EMBASSY.
- AILA WILLITTS PASSED ON THE BATON OF WFWP NEW SOUTH WALES PRESIDENT AND WFWP AUSTRALIA VICE-PRESIDENT, TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERSHIP.





We farewelled Aila with a magnificent flower bouquet, certificate, letter of appreciation, and a lovely gift.
Anne Bellavance, WFWP Australia President, convened the ceremony.





During her farewell address, Aila expressed her gratitude for everyone's support during her leadership, and for the commitment of our next generation.
We welcomed Satomi Terasaka as WFWP NSW President, and Vice-President of WFWP Australia, with a letter of appointment and a warm welcome.

Satomi shared her goal to build a vibrant NSW team that empowers the younger generation to take the lead in nurturing resilient and joyful families. During her opening presentation, Satomi pledged to guide the NSW Chapter in the following areas: benevolent programs, environmental regeneration of degraded sites, raising funds for WFWP Australia Global Development and Aid projects in the Pacific Islands, and the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN).

Cake cutting together concluded the handover, followed by luncheon and of course, cake.






# Her Story
# Theme: Inspiring Inclusion

March 23 | Sydney, Australia

Written by Satomi Terasaka
President, WFWP New South Wales

## OVERVIEW

- TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND PROMOTE INCLUSION BY HAVING THREE SPEAKERS SHARING THEIR INSPIRATIONAL LIFE STORIES.
- THE EVENT SYMBOLISED THE PASSING OF WISDOM AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM OLDER TO YOUNGER GENERATIONS AND THE SHARING OF STORIES ABOUT OVERCOMING ADVERSITIES.
-

The NSW Chapter of the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) orchestrated a captivating 'Her Story' presentation, commemorating International Women's Day within the framework of GWPN initiatives. Hosted in Sydney, the event resonated with the overarching theme of this year's International Women's Day, 'Inspiring Inclusion'. Against the backdrop of personal narratives, three esteemed



guest speakers illuminated the concept of inclusion through the lens of their own life journeys. Furthermore, the event fervently endeavoured to embolden the next generation of young women, facilitated by the guidance of a youthful educator and a high school student. The presence of thirty enthusiastic attendees emphasised the event's mission to empower and inspire. Each speaker's account bespoke of arduous journeys towards their present triumphs, imbuing the audience with profound inspiration.



A transitional passage from one generation to the next is akin to a relay race, wherein the baton of wisdom and experience is passed on. This event served as a symbolic relay baton, facilitating an exchange of insights and encouragement between generations. It is undeniable that the narratives of overcoming adversity — whether stemming from the ravages of war, genocide, refugee crises, or domestic turmoil — wield a profound impact on the younger cohort. These testimonies serve not only as reminders of resilience but also as beacons of hope, illuminating pathways to happiness and achievement amidst the challenges of life.

## PRESENTERS

### **DR TUONG PHAN -** ACADEMIC PROFESSOR



Dr. Phan has devoted her career to the esteemed realms of academia within Australia and New Zealand's higher education sector, focusing her scholarly pursuits on the vital arenas of public health advancement and mental illness diagnosis. Upon her arrival in Australia via a humanitarian program for political refugees arriving by boat, she candidly shared the formidable obstacles encountered during her assimilation and the unjust tribulations endured as a woman. With a profound insight, she underscored the transformative potency inherent in assuming personal responsibility, industrious perseverance, and self-evolution as indispensable catalysts for realising gender parity.

### **YULIANA FRANCIE** - AUTHOR AND SPIRITUAL MENTOR



Yuliana is dedicated to guiding driven women to unlock their full potential, elevate their vitality, and attain extraordinary success while remaining authentic to themselves. During her presentation, she recounted her journey through divorce, single parenthood, financial struggles, and the ensuing depression. However, she found her authentic identity by defying societal norms. She emphasised, "We foster a brighter future when we empower others to recognize and appreciate the significance of women's inclusion. When women feel empowered to participate, they experience a profound sense of belonging, relevance, and empowerment."

### **DEMILA GABRIEL -** AMBASSADOR FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, MEMBER OF THE UN WOMEN'S COUNCIL



Demila, a refugee who sought refuge in Australia following displacement due to the Bosnian and Herzegovinian war, is fervently dedicated to combating domestic family violence, safeguarding the rights of women and children, and alleviating poverty. With poignant candour, she shared her firsthand experiences of war's horrors and the enduring trauma endured by refugees. Stressing the paramount importance of extending assistance to refugees with dignity and a profound respect for diverse cultures, religions, and Indigenous peoples, she champions a compassionate approach. Additionally, having faced domestic violence herself, she recounted her journey of seeking protection and now channels her experiences into community advocacy as an ambassador for the Women's and Children's Shelter.

# Solomon Islands



“We all have dreams but in order to make them a reality, it takes an awful lot of dedication, determination, effort and self-discipline” – Jesse Owens.

## Pasifika Scholarship Fund: Myo Eun Masuaku

January 22| Honiara, Solomon Islands

My first semester of university has provided me with many challenges and lessons, not only for my university career, but for the rest of my life. The fact that this semester of college is already over seems surreal. I was nervous but excited during the orientation sessions. It seems like it was only yesterday. The first semester of studying combined degrees of the Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Law flew by.



As I reflect on these months, I recall telling myself, at least once a week, that I wanted to drop out of school. The thoughts were followed by breakdowns, crying fits and calls of defeat. The past few months haven't been at all easy. There were times I thought I wasn't intelligent enough to attend university. I was constantly engulfed in a swarm of stress.

The work load is greater than I expected. It took a significant amount of time to adjust to all of the assignments, reading and writing requirements. Managing a laptop with a flat battery, along with other technical problems, added to the workload. With the 2023 Pacific Games rapidly approaching, I also needed a great deal of planning and flexibility to support this event. For several months, there was a daily power outage in Honiara, Solomon



Islands. It lasted at least five to six hours a day, due to the preparations and modifications implemented. As a student, using a laptop with technical problems is difficult, especially because most classes and courses are now offered online rather than in-person. It is challenging when there is a power outage every day, and you are trying your best to study.

Even though I had no idea what I would be learning, I knew that I wanted to learn as much as I could. I'm relieved this class wasn't just about law simulations and mock trials. This semester I learnt about new and important topics. My perspectives on Law and Arts have evolved as a result of studying this course.

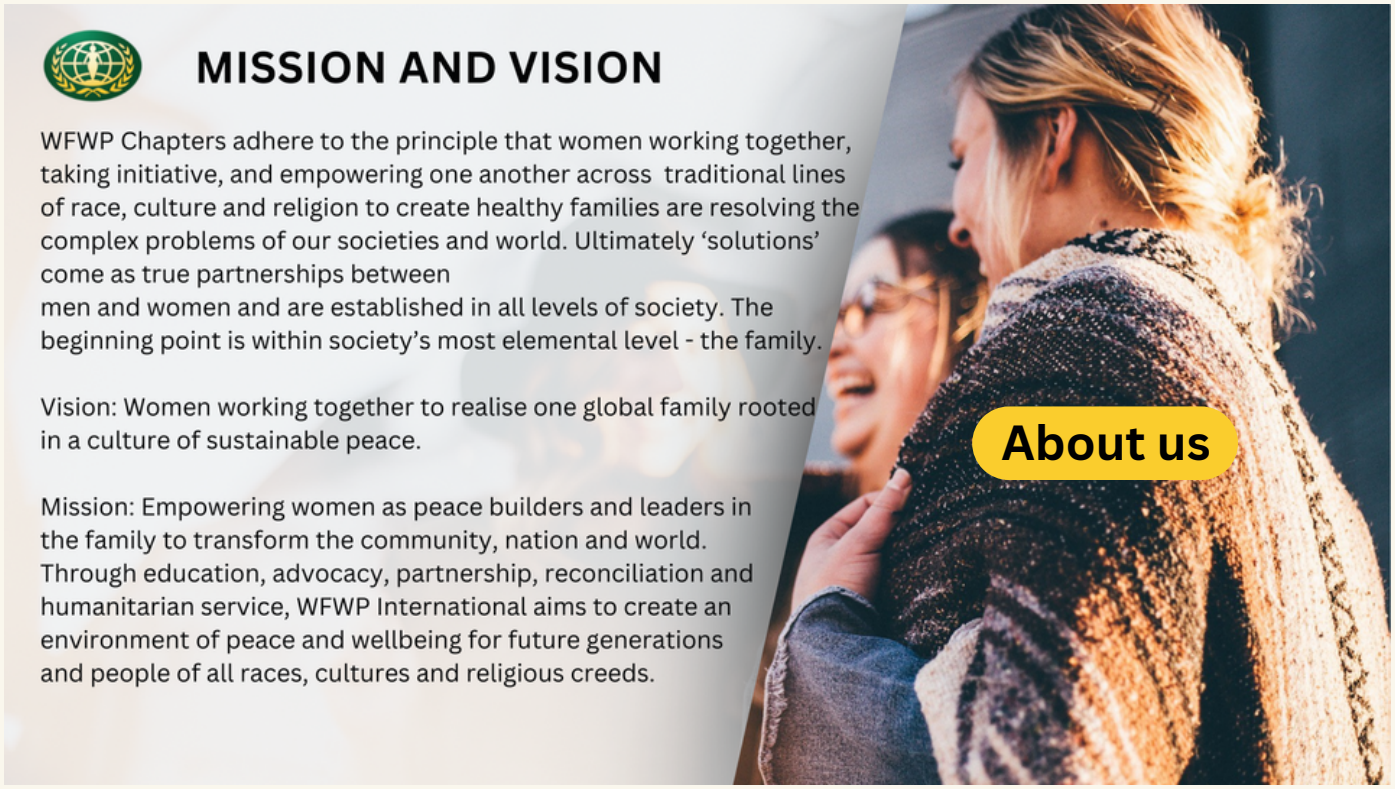
More significantly, I discovered that you can never be sure what challenges life will present. I've discovered that it's not always fun and games. There will be times when you realize the benefits of spending time alone. There will be days when you are up at two in the morning because you have three examinations the next day. I've learnt from my first semester that while there are plenty of wonderful things about attending college, it's also okay if things don't turn out the way you had hoped. Unexpectedly, you will meet new people, live new experiences, and create new memories.

Even though this semester was one of the most challenging aspects of my life, I’m not upset about it at all. Considering how successfully I've adapted to this new academic environment and knowing that I can make it through the remaining years ahead, gives me a sense of empowerment and hope. Learning how to train your ear to certain intervals and dissonances takes a fair amount of practice and patience. Nevertheless, the knowledge I have acquired is worthwhile, despite all the stress and sleepless nights. I've developed new modes of thinking and am aware of the advantages of practice, diligence, and resilience.

## PASIFIKA SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

The Pasifika Scholarship Fund was initiated in 2017 by the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Australia. WFWP Australia is committed to provide young adults living in the Pacific Islands an opportunity to access empowering education programs. The scholarship is for persons who do not have the financial means to attend university, but who have a driving desire for education.

The program supports young adults who are passionate about getting an education to become future leaders, and who align their beliefs and goals with the values of WFWP International: 'Living for the sake of others'.



# John Galokaniki: Pasifika Scholarship Recipient

January 15 | SINU, Solomon Islandsw Hope Academy




My name is John Galokaniki. I am writing to provide an overview of my academic pursuits and the significant opportunity bestowed upon me by the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Australia. I am currently enrolled in a two-year, diploma degree at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU), majoring in History and New Testament Study. I am honoured and wish to express my deepest appreciation to WFWP Australia for awarding me with such a prestigious scholarship that supports my educational journey from 2023 to 2024. This scholarship not only represents a personal achievement but signifies the commitment of WFWP Australia to fostering education and empowerment within our global community.

As I embark on this transformative experience, I am mindful of the responsibility and privilege that comes with this opportunity. WFWP's support has eased the financial burden of pursuing higher education and ignited my passion to contribute meaningfully to the education sector in the Solomon Islands community.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM AND MAJOR

This educational journey holds profound significance because it aligns with my academic aspirations and interests. I have chosen to major in both History and the New Testament Study. This decision is driven by my curiosity about the intricate tapestry of human history and the ethical foundations rooted in religious teachings.

The study of history provides a unique lens through which I can examine events, cultures, and individuals that have shaped our world. It is an exploration of narratives that not only enrich my understanding of the past, but also equip me with valuable insights applicable to the present and future.

My commitment to studying New Testament principles stems from a desire to comprehend the ethical and moral dimensions that have influenced societies throughout history. The intersection of historical context and religious teachings is intriguing. I believe that this dual major will provide me with unique and wholesome perspectives, essential for my future endeavours.

By embracing this academic pathway at SINU, I am not only investing in my personal and intellectual growth, but also laying the foundation for my future role as an educator. The knowledge and skills acquired through the History and New Testament Study majors will contribute towards my vision of inspiring and educating others.

## PURPOSE OF STUDY

A fundamental driving force behind my academic endeavours is the aspiration to become a teacher and make a positive impact on the educational landscape in the Solomon Islands. This purpose is deeply rooted in my belief about the transformative power of education and its potential to uplift individuals and communities.

The decision to pursue a diploma at SINU is a strategic step towards realising this long-standing goal. By immersing myself in the rich tapestry of historical narratives and exploring the ethical principles embedded in the New Testament, I aim to acquire a comprehensive understanding of human experiences and values.

My passion for teaching is linked to a sense of responsibility towards the children in the Solomon Islands. I recognize the key role education plays in shaping the future of individuals and,

consequently, the broader community. The challenges faced by the education sector in the Solomon Islands inspire me to contribute actively to its improvement in Christian values in the schools. I seek to not only acquire theoretical knowledge, but also to develop practical and educational skills that will enable me to effectively engage with students. My goal is to create an inclusive and stimulating learning environment that raises interest, critical thinking, and a love for knowledge.

# EDUCATION ASPIRATIONS



One of my core aspirations is to contribute to the betterment of my local community by providing quality education that empowers individuals and fosters positive societal change. I believe that education is the cornerstone of progress. It is through teaching knowledge that we can cultivate informed, engaged, and empowered citizens.

As I progress through this program, I am committed to translating the insights gained into strategies for educational enrichment. My aim is to empower students with the tools they need to navigate the complexities of the world and to instill a sense of pride in their cultural heritage. I express my sincere gratitude to the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Australia for providing me with the scholarship that propels me towards this purpose. With the support of this scholarship, I am confident I will be better equipped to contribute meaningfully to the education sector in the Solomon Islands, ultimately fostering positive change and nurturing the intellectual growth of future generations.

## PASIFIKA SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

The Pasifika Scholarship Fund was initiated in 2017 by the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Australia. WFWP Australia is committed to provide young adults living in the Pacific Islands an opportunity to access empowering education programs. The scholarship is for persons who do not have the financial means to attend university, but who have a driving desire for education.

The program supports young adults who are passionate about getting an education to become future leaders, and who align their beliefs and goals with the values of WFWP International: 'Living for the sake of others'.

GWPN ASSEMBLY

# Global Women's Peace Network

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.






# Laptop Handover to New Hope Academy School

January 19 | Honiara, Solomon Islands

Written by Monica Ilala Longanimala
President, WFWP Solomon Islands

Women's Federation World Peace Solomon Islands (WFWP-SI), in partnership with Women's Federation World Peace Victoria, Australia (WFWP-Victoria, Australia), is proud to provide four laptop donations to New Hope Academy School during the school general assembly. It marks another milestone to fulfil one of our missions: to deliver high quality education for improved learning outcomes.

The focus of this activity is to improve access to quality teaching for children and teachers by creating an efficient and effective learning environment. Another aim was to create branding for WFWP in supporting greater teaching and learning environments for students and teachers.

The event was unique and important because WFWP laptop donations were the first electronic learning resources that New Hope Academy (NHA) School ever received from any donor. NHA school was absolutely delighted to receive the laptops. Not only will they add more value to their learning environments, but it will also increase the knowledge and skills of teachers to deliver quality lessons to their students. It will ease the time it takes for teachers to plan their teaching lessons.



The laptop donations will allow the teachers and students to better engage with their learning environments, especially using technological platforms such as e-teaching, e-learning and interactive online learning systems. Integrating these platforms in their classrooms benefit and advance the learning methodologies of educators and learners of NHA school.

## ACKNOWLEDMENT LETTER IN RECEIPT OF LAPTOP HANDOVER



**Family Federation For World Peace and Unification Education Provider**

P O BOX 1603
Honiara, Solomon Islands
Phone: 7261220/ Email: pitabelamanorman39@gmail.com

24th January 2024

**President**
**Women's Federation for World Peace SI**

**Re: Donated Laptop to FFWPU EP**

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification Education Provider would like acknowledge **Women's Federation for World SI** for the donation of a laptop towards its administration.

Laptop is an important tool for nowadays working environment and we believe having this will enhance our effort to develop our education sector.

Thank you for your kindness and look forward for continuous partnership.

Yours Faithfully,

Family Federation for World Peace & Unification (S.I) Education Authority
The Common Seal of

On behalf
Norman Pitabelama
CEO, Interim

FFWPU EP

# Malaysia




## Friendship and Cultural Exchange

January 12 | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Written by Wan Tan
Report Writer, WFWP Malaysia

### OVERVIEW

- TO WARMLY WELCOME WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE (WFWP) KOREA MEMBERS VISITING MALAYSIA.
- TO ENCOURAGE UNITY AND FRIENDSHIP THROUGH WFWP CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

The exciting Friendship and Cultural Exchange Program was held at the Groovitiam Cafe and Jadi Batek. There was a total number of thirty participants, including twenty WFWP members and ten guests. This one-day event was co-hosted by WFWP Malaysia, alongside the Women's Holistic Leadership (WHOLE) Malaysia and Grooville Group.

Madame Lina Cheng, President of WFWP Malaysia, welcomed all participants to the event. She expressed her sincere hopes to foster friendship and collaboration, by uniting people through cultural exchange programs.





The program began with a food and culinary session, conducted at Groovitiam Cafe. Ms Khadijatul Azada, President of WHOLE Malaysia, introduced the authentic Malaysian cuisine the participants would create.

All attendees participated in a fun, hands-on experience brewing Teh Tarik - a term used to describe ‘hand-pulled milk tea’. It is the national drink of Malaysia. Enthusiastic participants decorated curry puffs with spiral edges.

They made Nasi Lemak by soaking rice in coconut cream and wrapping them in banana leaves. Everyone had a wonderful time socialising with each other while being guided by experienced instructors at Groovitiam Cafe.

Before adjourning for lunch, the participants took turns to present cultural performances. This included an array of Malaysian folk songs, as well as traditional Korean and K-Pop music. Participants also exchanged gifts during the session.




During the second half of the program, participants visited the Jadi Batek factory for a traditional Batik colouring class. They were fascinated to learn about its history and process of making Batik. It is a method of decorating fabric by applying hot wax and dye. Each participant unleashed their creativity by decorating the flowers on the batik fabric with a variety of rich, vibrant colours.



## REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

*"As a Malaysian and Nasi Lemak fan, I have never wrapped a Nasi Lemak or had the chance to make my own favourite Teh Tarik. It was a very memorable experience. I feel very proud when introducing our local food to my new Korean friends." - Ms. Ng*

*"It was a very meaningful event to me. I learnt about the beautiful culture of Malaysia through the food preparations and Batik colouring. Thanks to the amazing organising team." - Hwa Jin*

# International Women's Day Theme: Women Exalted, Nation Glorious

March 8 | Selangor, Malaysia

Written by Choong Wan Yee
Staff writer, WFWP Malaysia

## OVERVIEW

- TO PROMOTE WFWP MALAYSIA'S PARTICIPATION IN MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, WHICH AIMED TO HONOUR WOMEN AS PIVOTAL FIGURES DRIVING NATIONAL EXCELLENCE.
- THE EVENT, INAUGURATED BY MALAYSIA'S PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF WOMEN, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, REFLECTS THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING INCLUSIVITY WITHIN SOCIETY - DEMONSTRATED THROUGH INITIATIVES SUCH AS THE CELEBRATION'S DIVERSE RANGE OF TOPICS COVERED IN THE ONE-DAY PROGRAM.



WFWP Malaysia was honoured to take part in Malaysia's national celebration of International Women's Day, hosted by the Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development. The event took place at the Sunway Pyramid Convention Center in Selangor, where WFWP Malaysia was proudly represented by a delegation of five members, led by its President, Mdm Lina Cheng. This year's celebration, themed "Women Exalted, Nation Glorious," aimed to recognize women as pivotal figures driving national excellence, echoing the government's commitment to fostering inclusivity within society. International Women's Day, observed globally on March 8th, commemorates the myriad achievements of women in social, economic, cultural, and political spheres.

The event was inaugurated by Malaysia's Prime Minister, His Excellency Anwar bin Ibrahim, alongside his wife and the Minister of Women, Family, and Community Development, Hon. Nancy Shukri. Over 3000 participants from diverse backgrounds congregated at the convention centre to partake in the festivities. The comprehensive one-day program featured sessions on



Anti-Sexual Harassment Advocacy, discussions on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and forums focusing on "Zero Tolerance on Violence against Women" and "Women of Madani Aspiration." Additionally, the event showcased exhibitions and sales by women entrepreneurs and NGOs, complemented by self-defence demonstrations and live talk shows featuring exemplary women leaders.




During his address, Prime Minister Anwar bin Ibrahim conveyed the government's commitment to formulating policies that safeguard women's rights across all domains. Minister Nancy Shukri echoed this sentiment in her speech, emphasising that the national celebration aimed to honour and uplift the achievements of women nationwide, transcending barriers of background, ethnicity, language, culture, economic status, or political affiliation.

## REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

*"I was amazed by the size of the crowd and was touched to see that many parties are concerned about the welfare and issues faced by women. The speakers provided a lot of interesting and useful knowledge on empowering women. The booths at the exhibition also provided opportunities for local women to showcase and promote their skills and products. It was a very meaningful event,"*

*- Wan Yee, attendee.*

# Phillipines



## Davao Flooding

**February 11 | Davao Province, Philippines**

**Written by Janet Kabayama**

Women's Federation for World Peace Philippines, in collaboration with pastors and community volunteers, distributed bags of rice and gallons of water to help 75 families affected by flooding and landslides in Davao del Norte.

The loss of urban wetlands in Davao City is one of the contributing factors to flooding during heavy rains and other weather disturbances.





# International Women's Day Summit

**March 5 | Quezon City, Philippines**

Written by Janet Kabayama

Women Federation for World Peace-Philippines (WFWPP) celebrated an International Women's Day Summit. It was organised by Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina (KALIPI) and the Social Services Development Department (SSDD). The summit was held at QCX Memorial Circle. The theme was "The Role of Women in Raising Patriots of Quezon City and the Nation: A Continuing Advocacy". 150 women leaders attended the summit. The event addressed the need to empower women and their families to nurture the next generation to become responsible role models.

The event had many notable speakers. They were the WFWPP President, Mrs Almera Grace Mayo, Quezon City Congresswoman, Honorary Marivic Co-Pilar, Councillor of District 6 Quezon City, Honorary Doc Ellie Juan, Mayor of Quezon City, Honorary Joy Belmonte, and Vice-Mayor of Quezon City, Honorary Gian Sotto.





During Mrs Almera Grace Mayo's speech, she highlighted her 15 years' experience of being executive director of Universal Peace Federation (UPF). UPF's mantra, "Living for the Sake of Others", was meaningful to her leadership experiences. She took the Presidency role of WFWPP in 2021. This role taught her new approaches towards achieving world peace. Her husband suffered a stroke a few years ago and despite his condition, found holistic approaches to balance her caring duties and leadership responsibilities at WFWPP. She emphasised that peace starts from women and so, the need to empower women, old and young, is a vital element in nurturing future leaders.

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Pasifika Scholarship Fund:
The full scholarship is for young adults living in the Pacific Islands who do not have the financial means to attend university, but who have a driving desire for education to become future leaders.
The program supports young adults who are passionate, and who align their beliefs and goals with the values of WFWP International: 'Living for the sake of others'.

Pasifika Micro-Credit: Taking a partnership approach between WFWP Australia and WFWP Chapters within Pacific Island Nations, Pasifika Micro-Credit aims to empower Island women by directly investing in their business idea, economic activity, or micro-enterprise. The program provides micro-business training and a low interest micro-loan.