



Women's Federation for World Peace Oceania Newsletter



Vanuatu women receive reading glasses

For several years, the NSW Chapter of WFP has sent schoolbooks and sewing machines to our sisters in Vanuatu. Many of these schoolbooks have been distributed to schools on distant islands where the need for these is great.

Members of WFP Vanuatu were invited by local women to visit some of these islands like Malakula and Tanna. While there, the members realised that many homes on these islands do not have electricity which impedes children and adults from studying or working at night while residents in homes that use firelight as a source of light have experienced deteriorating eyesight.

To respond to these difficulties, WFP Victoria contributed to a project which supplied solar lights to Tanna Island while WFP NSW donated reading glasses to help those whose eyesight has deteriorated.

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Reflections from the Sewing Trainee

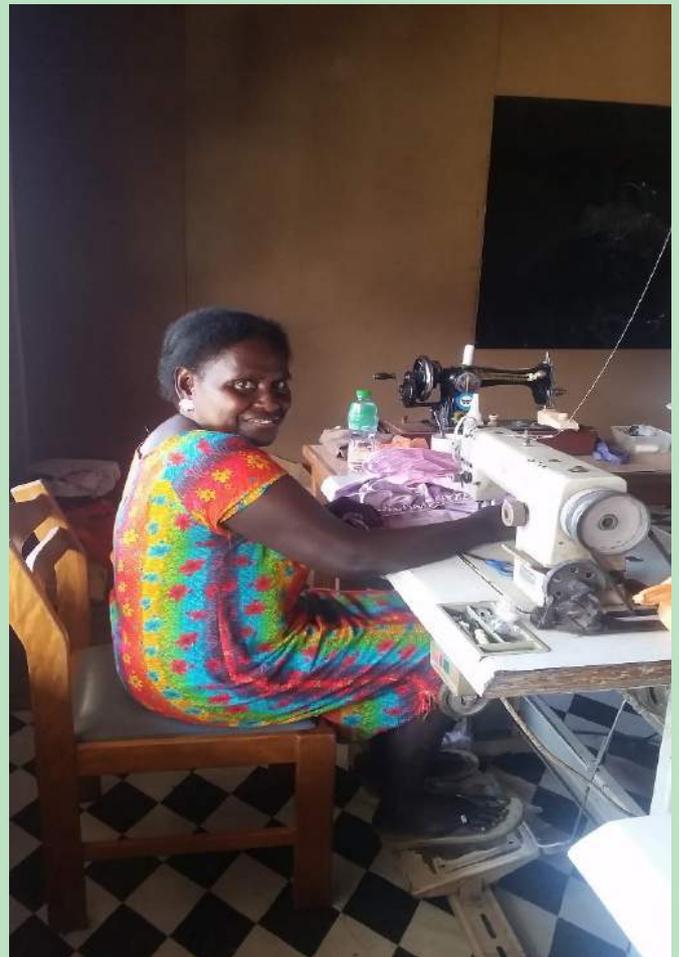
Nelly Masuaku - WFP Solomon Islands

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

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

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

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



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

The Hope for Humanity Comes from Mothers



“History is calling for reconciliation, compassion, love, service and sacrifice. Today’s problems cannot be solved by the logic of power. Our present problems can only be solved by the logic of love.”

Dr. Hak Jan Han Moon
Founder, WFWP International

Overview of WFWP activities in Oceania

Empowering women
Strengthening families
Connecting communities

WFWP is founded on the belief that a peaceful world begins in the heart of each person and in each family. The family is the cornerstone of peace and mature couples are the foundation for strong and loving families. The organisation encourages every woman to become a ‘woman of peace’ through cultivating her heart, the mother’s heart, to care not just for her own children, but for the children of others, the children of other nations, the children of the world, by developing and expressing the qualities of empathy, forgiveness, and unconditional love.

WFWP is committed to

Serving communities – Service projects within Australia & the Pacific Islands

Strengthening the family – Workshops, forums, seminars and conferences

Bridge of Peace - Reconciling differences and healing wounds of the past

Global Women’s Peace Network (GWPN) – A network of women leaders and organisations dedicated to solving pressing social issues and securing an environment for human development.

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

WFWP is a dynamic organisation committed to providing women with the opportunity to create lasting peace in the world by fostering dialogue, developing projects that nurture reconciliation and conflict resolution, and supporting projects that serve the community and overcome racial boundaries; all centering on the inherent feminine characteristics of care, empathy, support, nurturing and cooperation.

Victoria

Building a Culture – The Role of Egypt in Peace Building

Melbourne, Australia, 16th of June 2018

On the 16th of June a Peace-building Leadership Seminar was held, with a focus on Egypt in history with respect to peace building.

twenty-one years and was subsequently written and published.

At the end of the seminar, Dr Coles proposed that Egypt could play a significant role in resolving the Israeli Palestinian conflict and presented this proposal to Mr Mohamed Fakhry. The proposal involves the international community funding and building a new Capital City for Palestine. To do this Egypt and Israel would work together and give up a tiny amount of territory within a twenty kilometre radius of point C, outlined on the map below.



The Consul General of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Melbourne, Mr Mohamed Fakhry was in attendance. He was welcome by Adel Gaballa our Egyptian Ambassador for Peace living in Melbourne.



The keynote presenter was Dr John Coles. Dr Coles is the author of the book published by CFT Press: Macroscopic Historical Correlation – Jacob is Revealed and God Affirmed (2016).

Dr John Coles is an Australian Physicist who obtained his PhD at the University of Cambridge, UK. He was a Research Fellow at the Australian National University, Canberra, and other universities. His research on human history spanned



Rev John Izvernariu was the master of ceremony for the day.



David Westbrook, CEO and Founder of Westy-media Group and Building a Better Australia Group, received the Ambassador for Peace award at the end of the seminar. Westymedia produces media material for: corporate promotions; conference and training; documentary programs for hospitals, various levels of government, the United Nations, UNESCO, World Vision, Kenyan BCC, CNN and ABC USA; and, plus various cable shows. Building a Better Australia Group was set up to provide free of charge training for young people wanting work experience in the film production. The organisation focusses on helping new migrants to Australia.

Written by John Bellavance



Faith Stories - Conversations and Story Telling

Sharing values, connecting communities, empowering women

Belgrave Heights, Australia, 7th of July 2018

At a time when news reports expound the tensions between races, ethnicities and religions, it is heart-warming to know that a group of women in the Yarra Valley are working towards breaking down racial and religious stereotypes to create community cohesion.

Women's Federation for World Peace ran the 2nd Faith Stories event on 7th July 2018 with a focus on Eastern faiths & philosophies.

The panel of speakers were well known representatives from their faith communities.

Five women from very different ethnic groups, faith backgrounds, and life histories with one common thread expressed best by John, an attendee, who said "Faith Stories made me realise that we are so close to each other. Our spiritual journeys are so similar; we are 'one family' and share such a common experience as human beings in our personal growth, our relationship

within our families and how we relate to each other within our community. Everyone should hear these stories!"



Attended by over 40 people, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. "Insightful", "informative", "builds community", "speakers were excellent", "stories all resonated with everyone", "a wonderful day" were just some of the lovely words shared with us.



In the picture above, VIC Board members with the five Speakers. From the left: Venerable Bhikkhuni Bodhicitta, Theravada Buddhist nun (front, second); Anda McMillan from The World Peace Prayer Society (front, third); Geeta Devi, Victorian State President of Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc. (World Hindu Council of Australia) front, fourth; Param Kaur, Co-director of Sikh Australian Support for Family Violence (back, fourth); Irene Anania member of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (back, fifth);

Local media provided support for the event via 3 interviews with WFWP Victoria President Anne Bellavance. “It was encouraging that local Community Radio embraced the concept of Faith Stories, it made me feel connected to my Hills community,” said Anne Bellavance.



As a visual anchor to reinforce the intent for this event which is to connect communities, the word COMMUNITY was designed using faith emblems - Islam, Buddhism, Shintoism, M to represent the Many other faiths that are included as part of our community, Sikhism, Dreamtime Aboriginal (symbol for Person), Wicca/paganism (but also symbol for other faiths: Baha'i, Latter Day Saints), Christianity, and Judaism. These emblems represent that all faiths working together make up a community.



Based on the success of this event, WFWP are looking forward to further promoting community cohesion through another Faith Stories event next year. We would welcome any ideas / suggestions for our theme.

Written by Anne Altamore



Self Care through Creativity Workshop Afternoons with WFWP

Belgrave Heights, Australia, 4th of August 2018

On Saturday August 4th, participants gathered to share an 'Afternoon with WFWP' where different activities were provided to enhance one's self care and practise mindfulness. Led by WFWP member Elise Hanson, the afternoon was a wonderful opportunity for participants to discover their own potential on the journey to self-development.

Elise, affectionately known as "Mama Elise", is a spiritualist and holistic healer, proficient in Self Mastery and Metamorphic Healing and her talents were shared freely with all the participants who not only enjoyed the experiences but gained many insights.

The theme for the afternoon workshop was C.A.R.E. which was put into practice with activities related to each aspect of the theme -

C for Calm:

A Mindfulness exercise aimed at creating inner peace through exercises of the mind

Activity: Colouring Book

A for Acceptance:

An exercise to create acceptance of self by developing the ability to make changes from within

Activity: Game – Snakes and Ladders

R for Resonance:

An exercise on how to develop a realm of resonance

Activity: Mandala

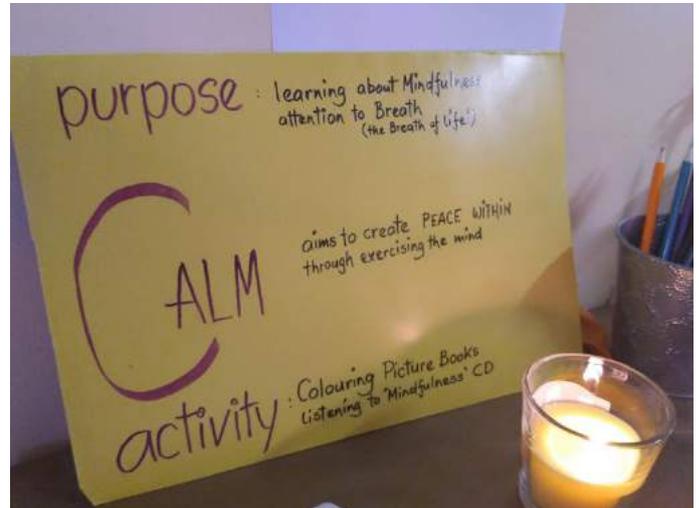
E for Energetic:

An exercise to encourage practical application by developing a masterpiece

Activity: Glass Painting ('Soul' expression)

The next session will be held on Saturday October 6 at the Belgrave Training Centre.

Written by Elise Hanson



New South Wales

Vanuatu Women receive reading glasses

Port Vila, August 2018

Continued from page 1

Mrs Lee, a Board Member of WFWP NSW, kindly delivered 50 pairs of these glasses when she visited Port Vila and Tanna Island this August.

While the needs for these items continues to be great, we hope to maintain our support for these projects by collecting funds to organise another shipment of books and glasses to Vanuatu.

Many people have supported these projects and their kindness and generosity are truly appreciated as they have helped to make a difference to the children and women on these islands.

Written by: Aila Willitts



WFWP Mission and Vision



WFWP Chapters adhere to the principle that women, working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion to create healthy families, are resolving the complex problems of our societies and world.

Ultimately “solutions” come as true partnerships between men and women and are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society’s most elemental level - the family.

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

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

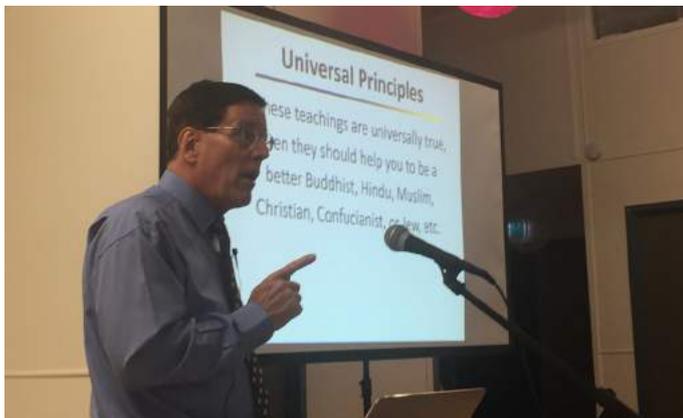
Queensland

The Importance of Fundamentals to Resolve Social Issues: The Need for Universal Principles

Brisbane, July 4th 2018

WFWP Queensland in conjunction with UPF Queensland organised an evening seminar on July 4th 2018 at the Interfaith Community Centre in Annerley. The seminar was attended by a total of 75 people amongst whom were several community leaders. Susi Evans, President of WFWP Queensland and the Reverend Steve Evans, Director of UPF Queensland coordinated the event together.

Amongst the special guests were Dr. Robert Kittel, World President of Youth and Students for Peace (YSP), Rev. Shang Park (FFWPU Continental Director for the Oceania Region), Mr. Greg Stone (UPF Secretary General for the Oceania Region) and Rev. Soon Teck Lim (FFWPU Australia President). After Aunty Peggy Tidyman, an Indigenous elder and Ambassador for Peace (AFP) delivered the 'Acknowledgement of Country, the seminar commenced.



The evening's activities included an inspiring speech from Dr. Kittel who enlightened the audience about why his speech could be the most important speech in life, the presentation of four awards to UPF Ambassadors for Peace, and entertainment by Robert and Rowa Kaforau who sang two inspiring songs about peace and healing love.

Feedback from the community leaders who attended was positive and indicated that the pre-

sentations had a great impact on them. They also expressed an interest in inviting some of the presenters to community events to share their views.

Maureen Mopio, host of a radio program "Women's Profile" was impressed by the evening's message and invited Susi to share this message on air. Susi will be speaking on Maureen's program on July 27th. The evening was a success and it is hoped that further programs will be organised enabling us to continue to share the message of peace and offer strategies to resolving social issues. The efforts of all the people who helped to organise the evening are greatly appreciated.

Written by Susan Evans

Character and Values Education Seminar

Brisbane, August 6th 2018

A seminar on character and values education was held at the FFWPU centre on Monday 6th August. Organised by WFWP Qld for members of the Young Indigenous Women for Peace (YIWP), it was attended by six members of YIWP, three members of WFWP Qld and the leader couple of the centre.

The evening commenced with a video on WFWP Japan's annual activity report after which John Adamedes, the UPF education officer, delivered a presentation on the Family as the School of Love. Additionally, he provided two lessons from the Celebrating Life program on "Who Am I?" and "Responsibility". His presentation was most inspiring and had all the members of the audience listening attentively.

To conclude the evening, Yejeong, a Board member of WFWP Qld described the journey she undertook to achieve her professional goals. She advised the audience particularly the younger members to continue to work at achieving their goals if they wanted to succeed in life.

The next WFWP project titled "The Peace Road Event" is to be held shortly and Yejeong invited the audience to attend this event.

Feedback from the participants indicated that they found the content of the evening most interesting and of value to them.

Another seminar is planned for the future to enable us to complete the remaining content of the Celebrating Life program.

Prepared by Mamiko Rattley



Upcoming events in Australia

- Sep. 22nd** UN International Day of Peace Conference (Clayton, VIC)
- Oct. 5-7th** Creating Confidence 3-Day Seminar (Collaroy, NSW)
- Oct. 6th** Creativity Workshop (Begrave Heights, VIC)
- Oct. 13th** Peace Road - Charity Cycle & Walk (Kedron, QLD)
- Oct. 20th** Peacebuilding Seminar (Clayton, VIC)

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

New Zealand

Afternoon Meeting on WFWP Volunteer Policy

Parnell, July 14th 2018

It was a miserable rainy day and many of the members had apologised to say they were unable to come.

Felicity, Lia, Dohee, Anne Pala, Ata and the Japanese ladies, were the only ones present at 2.30pm. Just as we were about to start Nita Wallis arrived after she had walked and bussed her way to Parnell, as no one was available to give her a ride. Nita wasn't missing the meeting if she could help it. She had looked forward to the next meeting with eager anticipation. Even more remarkably, she also brought with her a trolley full of items knitted by herself and Maysoon.

We decided to have the power point presentations over afternoon tea. Felicity presented the aims and values of the Women's Federation and the benefits of being a member or a volunteer.

We felt happy and warm as Felicity shared about



making connections and feeling satisfied and respected. Then Lia shared a summary of the sexual harassment and bullying policies. Anne was amazed that in all her volunteer work, she had never encountered or been instructed in these policies. There was discussion about the policies and then we took a picture. Thank you ladies, another great meeting!

Report by: Lia Goijarts – WFWP NZ secretary



Networking with women's group New Zealand, May 5th 2018

The Ahmadiyyan Muslim Women's Conference held on Saturday the 5th May 2018 was attended by eight members of the Women's Federation for World Peace, New Zealand. The theme for the day was "Religion is the Pathway to Peace".

The speakers were all women who presented perspectives of the Auckland Interfaith Council,

Buddhism, Sikhism, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and Islam. There was a guest speaker too from Positive Women's Inc.

The conference was followed by a lavish afternoon tea which gave our members an opportunity to catch up with the friends we have made amongst the Ahmadiyyan women.



From left to right: Grace Prentice, Cathy Whitley, Lia Goijarts, Felicity Cairns, Dame Jane Secombe, Zabila Khan, Ruth Cleaver & Pauline Jamati

Meet our Board Members

Joan - WFWP VIC



Tell us a bit about your history:

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

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

What makes you passionate about WFWP?

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

Tell us something funny about you:

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

Japanese ladies enjoying morning tea with a WFP member

New Zealand, July 20th 2018

A Mother's Heart:

On 20 July 2018 one of WFP's members, Nita Wallis who joined WFP in the early nineties invited our the Japanese ladies from Japan for morning tea.

She really moved their hearts as she told them she knows what it feels like to be new in a country and she just wants to make them feel at home in NZ.

She prepared home baked cakes/cookies especially for them and gave them each a nice warm hat for the winter months here in NZ.



Back row left to right: Nita, Taeko and Sayuri;
front row left to right: Ayaka & Misao.



Middle: Nita with Japanese sisters

Global Women's Peace Network



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

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

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

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

Support our Service Projects in the Pacific Islands

Why the Pacific Islands?

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

Some of our Service Projects in the Island Nations of Oceania

Women's Sewing Centres



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

New Hope Academy



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

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

Pacific Islands Scholarship Fund



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

Our first chosen recipients are Jenny (currently in her second year of studies to become a primary school teacher) and Janet (currently in her first year of studies in early childhood education). As a newly graduated teachers, Jenny and Janet will be employed in the New Hope Academy.

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

Solomon Islands

Report on WFWP SI Sewing Department Program Training of Trainers

Honiara, February 27th 2018

The WFWP Solomon Islands are privileged to have two wonderful women who are dedicating themselves to keep our sewing department operating effectively. These two women are Nelly Masuaku and Catharine Rongona.

With the help of these women, the following achievements have been made possible -

- During July, 50 sets of uniforms for students were produced in response to a request from New Hope Academy.
- During August and September, sets of uniforms for 2019 will be produced. Altogether, it is planned to produce 100 shirts, 100 pairs of trousers and 100 dresses.
- To increase sales, new products have been designed and manufactured. The new products are different sized clothing hanger bags. So far, 7 large bags, 4 medium bags and 2 small bags have been produced. While the larger bags will be sold for SBD 50, the medium size bags will be retailed at SBD 30 and the small bags for SBD 25.

The women intend to increase the types of products they design and create in the future. These products include handbags, shirts, peg holders, pillow cases and floor mats although the prior-

ity will be to produce school uniforms for 2019. To facilitate the sales of these products, it is intended we build an extension next to the current school retail shop.

Reflection from the Tailors:

1) Nelly Masuaku

I really enjoy creating, cutting and sewing products. I feel really good when I am doing these activities. To make our sewing more effective, it would be lovely to get a machine that can do button holes. It is our vision to train more women to sew products and so we can make more products and sell these in our shop. It would be good to open up our own WFWP shop.



1) Catharine Rongona

I really enjoy sewing and it is my aim to improve my sewing to a high standard. It would be nice to be able to create new designs and dressmaking patterns. I would appreciate attending a workshop on pattern designing so that I can broaden my knowledge and skills and sew better quality products. I am really enjoying my time sewing for WFWP SI and for the New Hope Academy.

Written by Monica Longanimala Ilala



Feeling inspired?



Support our Service Projects in the Pacific Islands!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Changing lives through education

Janet's experience at SINU

Honiara, August 24th 2018



A new scholarship candidate sponsored by the WFWP 'Pacific Island Scholarship Fund' has been successful in enrolling in the Early Childhood Education Course at the Solomon Islands National University. Janet, who is our candidate enrolled at the University in March 2018 and is currently completing her first semester. With a passion for helping children to receive an excellent education, Janet hopes to achieve success in her course and is looking forward to becoming a professional early childhood teacher.

When interviewed, Janet explained that her favourite school subject was Social Science. She explained further, "I really enjoyed it because I learnt more about the wellbeing of human beings which has helped me to develop and has contributed to my current studies."

Janet is happily married and mother to two children. She, herself, comes from quite a large family, having ten siblings (four brothers and six sisters). Her parents, she explained worked hard to send each one of her siblings to school.

"In the Solomon Islands," she revealed, "Many young people find it difficult to complete their education due to financial restrictions. School fees are very expensive, especially if the family lives in rural areas, which was my situation. In fact, many students in the Solomon Islands

come from rural areas, which make it hard for their family or themselves to afford school fees." In most cases, parents can only afford to send the older children to school, resulting in limited opportunities for younger children in a family. Furthermore, when finances are no longer available, many young adults end up dropping out of school or college and not completing their education. As a result, they have limited access to well paid jobs as they lack qualifications.

In Janet's family, only a few of her siblings managed to complete high school. Luckily, three of them were able to attend university - one brother graduated with a Bachelor of Theology and is now working as a senior priest in the local Anglican Church; one sister graduated with a Diploma in Nursing; and another one of her brothers is studying to be a mechanic.

We asked Janet what her aspirations are for the future: "I want to support my siblings and those who go through the same struggles as we did growing up. I want to improve our standard of living and build a better life for my family. Through these studies at SINU, I want to become someone who people will respect and look up to for guidance. I want to become a good and responsible leader for my community."

To conclude the interview, we asked Janet what she would have been doing had she not enrolled in university. "I am not sure," she replied. "I feel there would be limited hopes for achieving my goals. I would probably be involved in a small business that could support my family on a day to day basis."

"As a young passionate university student, I am very proud that I received a scholarship from WFWP Australia. It is such a great blessing indeed to me personally and to my family as a whole. Our future is much brighter now. Thank you!"

Written by Giulia Iacono

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United Nations Affiliation

WFWP International became a "NGO in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations" in 1997. This status has continued to be renewed based on the preparation of the Quadrennial Report.

Consultative status is granted by ECOSOC upon recommendation of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs, which is comprised of 19 Member States. There are only 139 NGOs worldwide that hold the general consultative status. The requirements of this level of affiliation include:

- Applying organisation's activities must be relevant to the work of ECOSOC
- The NGO must have been in existence (officially registered) for at least two years in order to apply
- The NGO must have a democratic decision making mechanism
- The major portion of the organisation's funds should be derived from contributions from national affiliates, individual members, or other non-governmental components
- NGOs granted General Consultative Status must submit to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, every fourth year, a brief report of their activities, in particular regarding their contribution to the work of the United Nations (Quadrennial Report). General consultative status is reserved for large international NGOs whose area of work covers most of the issues on the agenda of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. These tend to be fairly large, established international NGOs with a broad geographical reach.

The benefits of receiving this status include:

- The NGO may propose new items for consideration by the ECOSOC
- Organisations granted status are also invited to attend international conferences called by the UN General Assembly special sessions, and other intergovernmental bodies.

WFWP International maintains a UN office in New York City. WFWP International has twenty UN representatives in seven countries: Austria, Chile, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Switzerland, Thailand, and the US.

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