

WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE AUSTRALIA

NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 1 | 2026

WFWP AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

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

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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.

Feature Article



Nature's Renewal Power for Urban Youth

Written By Deborah Harvey
The Earth & I Magazine

SUMMARY

. IN MANY CITIES, YOUNG PEOPLE GROW UP SURROUNDED BY NOISE, POLLUTION, AND LIMITED ACCESS TO GREEN SPACES, WHICH CAN NEGATIVELY AFFECT THEIR MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL BEING. HOWEVER, EVEN SMALL INTERACTIONS WITH NATURE SUCH AS SEEING TREES, PLAYING IN A PARK, OR SPENDING TIME IN A GREEN SCHOOLYARD CAN REDUCE STRESS, RESTORE ATTENTION, AND SUPPORT HEALTHIER DEVELOPMENT. THESE EVERYDAY MOMENTS IN NATURE ALSO ENCOURAGE CREATIVITY, SOCIAL CONNECTION, AND A SENSE OF BELONGING. RESEARCH SHOWS THAT REGULAR ACCESS TO SIMPLE NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS CAN PLAY A POWERFUL ROLE IN BUILDING RESILIENCE AND IMPROVING THE OVERALL WELL BEING OF URBAN YOUTH.



In many cities, childhood unfolds amid concrete, traffic, and persistent dirt and noise, conditions that shape the emotional and physical well-being of young people growing up in dense, underprivileged urban environments.

In these settings, access to nature is often a luxury. Urban density limits access to safe, quiet outdoor spaces, particularly in lower-income neighborhoods where green space is unevenly distributed and opportunities for restorative contact with nature are rare.



Yet, even in these difficult conditions, simple pieces of nature, like a tree on the street, a schoolyard with grass, or a nearby park, can provide important moments of relief. Research shows that these modest encounters with nature can significantly support the mental and emotional well-being of inner-city youth, especially when these spaces are accessible and used regularly.

Childhood and adolescence are periods of rapid cognitive and emotional development. During this time, environmental conditions, whether they be chaotic or nurturing, can strongly influence mental health outcomes, as documented across multiple reviews of child development and nature exposure.

In dense urban environments, young people are frequently exposed to chronic stressors such as overcrowding, air pollution, and environmental noise, all of which are linked to elevated psychological stress and reduced attentional capacity over time.

These daily realities create emotional scars that may not be visible but are deeply felt, leading to heightened stress, anxiety, and a sense of powerlessness. For many young people, it is difficult to focus on anything beyond immediate survival, and their emotional and cognitive development can suffer as a result.

Exposure to natural environments provides relief. Evidence suggests that nature supports emotional regulation, helping to reset the mind from daily stressors and offering a space to reclaim peace in the midst of chaos.

Attention Restoration Theory suggests that nature engages the mind in a gentle, unconscious way, allowing directed attention to recover from fatigue.

A common misconception is that the benefits of nature require extended time in wilderness or access to large parks. But evidence increasingly suggests that even brief or indirect encounters with nature can produce measurable psychological benefits, including improved mood and reduced stress, in highly built environments.



Even more impactful are those rare moments when urban youth can actually interact with nature in a more meaningful way. Whether it's sitting on a park bench during lunch, playing in a schoolyard edged by bushes and flowers, or gathering with friends in a local garden, the act of engaging with nature, no matter how insignificant, provides much-needed emotional balance.

Natural play spaces have been linked to gains in creativity, cooperation, and social development among urban youth, particularly when environments allow for open-ended exploration rather than fixed, rule-bound play.



Evidence consistently shows that nature functions as a developmental asset for urban youth, supporting emotional regulation and psychological resilience through everyday contact rather than prolonged exposure or remote landscapes.

International research highlights the relevance of urban nature across diverse cultural and geographic contexts. A large multicity study conducted across 25 of India's most populated cities found that proximity to green and blue spaces such as parks, rivers, and lakes was associated with improved well-being and reduced mental distress among urban youth.



Urban design plays an important role in shaping access to nature, particularly in dense cities where land is limited. Green schoolyards, tree-lined streets, community gardens, and rooftop greenery can integrate nature into daily routines rather than treating it as a special destination.



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Global development, aid & service projects



Empowering Futures: Scholarship & Micro-Credit Recipients Connect and Celebrate

Honiara, Solomon Islands

Written by Monica Ilala Longanimala
President, WFWP SI

OVERVIEW

- WFWP SOLOMON ISLANDS ORGANISED A HALF-DAY REFLECTION AND EVALUATION WORKSHOP FOR PASIFIKA MICRO-CREDIT AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS, WITH OVER 30 PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING.
- PARTICIPANTS SHARED STORIES OF THEIR CHALLENGES, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THEIR SMALL BUSINESS PROJECTS AND ACADEMIC JOURNEYS.



The Women's Federation for World Peace – Solomon Islands (WFWP-SI) organised a half-day Reflection and Evaluation Workshop for the Pasifika Micro-Credit recipients and Pasifika Scholarship recipients. This was a great opportunity for everyone to gather, listen, and learn from one another. The stories became testimonies for others.

More than 30 people attended, including the WFWP-SI Executive members. The aim of this reflection workshop was to gather stories from the Micro-Credit and Scholarship recipients and listen to their experiences, challenges, achievements, lessons learned, and the way forward to strengthen the Micro-Credit small projects and support the scholarship recipients.

Some of the Micro-Credit recipients faced challenges with their project plans, so they shifted to other businesses where demand is higher to generate extra income. For instance, Yvonne shared that her original project was to sell cooked food at her community market stall, but this did not work well, so she shifted to baking instead. She now produces doughnuts and sells them to her community. Yvonne did not give up but ventured into another form of small business where there is demand and quick revenue generation, and this supported her in repaying her dues according to her repayment schedule plan.



Another testimony came from Salome. Her project was to raise poultry and resell it to her community in Honiara. However, she decided to take a risk by paying for day-old chicks and sending them to her home province. She regularly visits her family members there, who run the poultry project. She now successfully sells her chickens in the village where there is high demand, especially during the pre-festive season. She managed to successfully repay the principal amount she borrowed and is hoping to complete her repayment by the end of her repayment schedule plan.



Monica Ilala Longanimala, WFWP-SI President, acknowledged and thanked the participants for making time from their busy schedules to attend the event and share their inspiring stories. Their testimonies will serve as a valuable guide and motivation for other women, helping them take steps toward improving and enriching their lives. It was a wonderful opportunity to gather; WFWP-SI looks forward to hosting more collaborative events.

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FOR WORLD PEACE AUSTRALIA

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



- Support local community projects
- Join humanitarian initiatives in the Pacific
- Build leadership skills through our mentoring programs
- Participate in family and youth programs
- Contribute to peace events, forums, and cultural celebrations



Resilience Against the Odds: Norma Matatia's Journey Through Hardship and Hope

University of the South Pacific, Samoa

Written by Norma Matatai
Pasifika Scholarship recipient

Norma Matatia, a Pasifika Scholarship recipient at the University of the South Pacific in Samoa, reflects on a challenging yet transformative Semester 2 of 2025. Despite beginning the semester with confidence and strong academic performance, she faced increasing pressures from work commitments, financial burdens, and unexpected personal setbacks, including the loss of her job during exams and disappointing academic results.

Balancing her responsibilities as a mother, student, and provider, Norma experienced moments of deep discouragement, especially as her family faced financial hardship and her young son took on work to support the household.



However, drawing strength from her personal experiences and her motivation to pursue justice through law, she remained determined to continue her studies.

Her story is one of resilience and perseverance. With the support of the Pasifika Scholarship from WFWP Australia, Norma has chosen to push forward, re-enrolling for the next semester and committing to completing her degree. She expresses deep gratitude for the support she has received and hopes to one day give back and uplift others facing similar struggles.

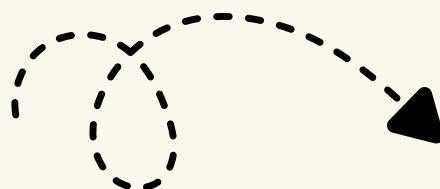
Throughout these challenges, Norma was reminded of the importance of purpose and persistence. Even when circumstances became overwhelming, she continued to hold onto her long-term goal of becoming a lawyer and using her education to advocate for justice and vulnerable communities. This sense of purpose became a guiding force during her most difficult moments.

Her experience also highlights the realities faced by many students who must balance academic life with employment and family responsibilities. The pressures of financial stability, limited time for study, and emotional strain created significant barriers, yet she continued to show determination in staying connected to her studies and future goals.

Looking ahead, Norma remains focused and hopeful. She is committed to completing her remaining courses and improving her academic performance despite past setbacks. She also expresses a strong desire to eventually reach a position where she can support others, especially women and families who face similar struggles.



Norma extends her sincere appreciation to the Women’s Federation for World Peace Australia for their continued support through the Pasifika Scholarship Fund. She acknowledges that this assistance has played a vital role in allowing her to continue her studies and remain committed to her academic journey despite the many challenges she has faced.





Andrea Derby completes her studies as a Pasifika Scholarship recipient

SINU | Solomon Islands

Written by Andrea Derby,
Pasifika Scholarship recipient

My name is Andrea Derby, and I am a recipient of the Pasifika Scholarship Fund from the Women's Federation for World Peace Australia (WFWP Australia). In 2025, Semester 2 of my third year of study marked my final semester as a nursing student at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU), as well as the final year of my Pasifika Scholarship.

Before presenting my semester report, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the individuals and organisations who have continuously supported me throughout my academic journey.

Firstly, I am deeply grateful to WFWP Australia for your generous financial support and ongoing encouragement. Your assistance has not only supported my education but has also inspired me to remain resilient, work diligently, and strive to give back to my community in the future.

Secondly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to WFWP Solomon Islands, especially President Monica and your team, for your continuous support, communication, and coordination. Your dedication to my education has been truly meaningful.

My special appreciation also goes to President Anne Bellavance for taking the time to visit and personally engage with us. Your presence provided hope, confidence, strength, and reassurance throughout my academic journey.



This scholarship has been more than just financial assistance. It has been a constant source of encouragement and emotional support throughout my studies. As this chapter comes to an end, I feel both deep gratitude and sadness, knowing how impactful this support has been in my life. Thank you all sincerely.





Florence Liliu Pasifika Scholarship

SINU | Solomon Islands

Written by Florence Liliu,
Pasifika Scholarship recipient

My name is Florence Liliu, and I am currently a student at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU). I am pleased to share a report on the course units I completed during Semester 2, 2025.

First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Pasifika Scholarship Fund Team, WFPW Australia, Victoria Chapter, for your generous sponsorship during my Semester Two studies in 2025. Your financial assistance greatly helped me overcome the challenges my parents faced in paying my school fees. Because of your support, I was able to focus fully on my studies without the burden of financial stress. Once again, thank you very much for your time, kindness, and continued support.

A I enrolled in my final two course units, which were Teaching Experience and Music Notation. For the Teaching Experience unit, I completed a 10-week practical placement at New Hope Academy School.

This experience provided me with valuable opportunities to engage in real classroom teaching, interact closely with students, understand their learning needs, and develop my teaching skills. Each day, I prepared lesson plans and learning activities appropriate to the students' levels, which helped make lessons more engaging and effective.

One of the main challenges I encountered during this placement was managing a noisy classroom environment, which occasionally disrupted lesson flow. However, this experience helped me practice and improve my classroom management skills by using different techniques to maintain student focus and create a positive learning atmosphere.

In the Music Notation course, I learned how to read and interpret musical melodies, including Solfa notation. I practiced singing various hymn melodies and studied their structures, which strengthened my musical abilities. This course enhanced my confidence in developing students' musical talents and integrating music into my future teaching.





Overall, my studies at SINU have brought meaningful benefits not only to me but also to my family, community, and society. My education equips me with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute positively to my family's wellbeing, enabling me to support them emotionally and financially.

The skills and insights gained through my studies also allow me to engage more effectively with my community, inspire others, and promote positive change. Furthermore, my education at SINU positions me to address challenges within society while encouraging collaboration and progress toward a brighter future for all.

In conclusion, my academic journey at SINU in 2025 has strengthened my personal and professional development. Through gaining knowledge and skills, I am empowered to contribute positively, inspire others, and uplift those around me. I am confident that my education will help foster a more informed, engaged, and hopeful society in the future.



John Galokaniki Pasifika Scholarship

SINU | Solomon Islands

Written by John Galokaniki
Pasifika Scholarship recipient

My name is John Galokaniki, and I am currently enrolled in the Diploma in Teaching Secondary program (2023–2025) at the Solomon Islands National University.

I completed my Teaching Experience/Practicum at St. Nicholas College from Monday 11 August to Friday 24 October 2025. I would like to sincerely acknowledge WFWP Australia (Melbourne Chapter) for sponsoring my school fees from 2023 to 2025. Their financial support enabled me to continue my studies and successfully complete my Teaching Experience

I also extend my appreciation to WFWP Solomon Islands for their encouragement, guidance, and continued support throughout my training as a student teacher. Their assistance played an important role in my academic and professional development.

This report presents a summary of the activities, observations, challenges, and learning experiences gained during my ten-week Teaching Experience at St. Nicholas College. The Teaching Experience is a compulsory requirement for the Diploma in Teaching Secondary program at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU). During the first week of the practicum, my primary responsibility was classroom observation. I observed teachers' teaching strategies, student behavior, and the overall school environment. I also attended the school assembly, where I was introduced to staff and students.



The practicum was conducted from 26 August 2025 to 31 October 2025. During this period, I taught Year 7 Christian Education and Social Studies, with six teaching periods per week. Year 7A consisted of more than 70 students, while Year 7B had approximately 68 students.



Victoria chapter articles



Clean Up Australia Day 2026 Melbourne, Victoria

Melbourne | Victoria, Australia

Written by Anne Bellavance
President, WFWP Australia

OVERVIEW

- WFWP AUSTRALIA VICTORIA CHAPTER MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS PARTICIPATED IN CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 2026 AT APEX PARK, BELGRAVE.
- VOLUNTEERS WORKED COLLABORATIVELY IN TEAMS TO COLLECT LITTER AND RECYCLABLES, CONTRIBUTING TO THE CARE AND PRESERVATION OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT.

Through this activity, WFWP supported the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, Goal 15: Life on Land, and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Clean Up Australia Day addresses growing environmental issues such as litter pollution, waste mismanagement, and sustainability challenges that contribute to broader concerns including climate change and ecosystem degradation. By removing rubbish from parks, streets, and waterways, volunteers help prevent pollution from entering natural habitats while raising awareness about responsible consumption and waste reduction. The initiative also promotes community engagement by encouraging individuals to work together and take practical action to protect the environment.



On the day, WFWP Victoria members and volunteers gathered under the WFWP marquee at Apex Park before forming teams to collect litter and recyclables around the Belgrave area. Volunteers worked along the Puffing Billy and Belgrave Station walkways, behind local shops, and along surrounding roads, helping restore and beautify the local environment. The event was strongly supported by Yarra Ranges Council, which generously partnered with the initiative by collecting and disposing of the waste at no cost, demonstrating the importance of local collaboration in environmental stewardship.

Clean Up Australia Day, now in its 37th year, is the nation's largest community-based environmental initiative. Since 1990, more than 22 million Australians have participated in clean-up activities across the country. In 2025 alone, more than 750,000 volunteers took part at over 10,000 sites nationwide, highlighting the power of collective community action.

Environmental statistics further emphasise the importance of initiatives such as Clean Up Australia Day. Australians generate approximately 540 kilograms of household waste per person each year. In 2017, only 37 million tonnes of the estimated 67 million tonnes of waste produced nationally were recycled, leaving 21.7 million tonnes sent to landfill. In addition, around 130,000 tonnes of plastic enter Australia's waterways annually, posing significant threats to marine ecosystems and wildlife.

After the clean-up, participants gathered for a complimentary BBQ lunch where they shared reflections on the day's activities and celebrated the positive impact of their efforts.



WFWP Victoria extends sincere appreciation to all volunteers, families, friends, and local partners who contributed their time and energy to the event. Their dedication demonstrated how community cooperation and environmental awareness can create meaningful change. This year's Clean Up Australia Day reinforced the importance of sustainable action, environmental responsibility, and partnership in building a cleaner, healthier, and more connected community.

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

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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.wfwpaustralia.org>



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. <https://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/>



Yarra Ranges Council is a local government area in Victoria, Australia, located in the outer eastern and northeastern suburbs of Melbourne extending into the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges. It has an area of 2,468 square kilometres, of which 3% is classified as urban. <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au>




WFWP Australia Books for the Islands Project

January 2026 | Australia

Written by Anne Bellavance
President, WFWP Australia

OVERVIEW

- 272 BOXES OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND EQUIPMENT WERE DISTRIBUTED TO FOUR PARTNER PRIMARY SCHOOLS ACROSS THE SOLOMON ISLANDS, SAMOA, AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA UNDER THE BOOKS FOR THE ISLANDS PROJECT.
- MORE THAN 1,200 STUDENTS BENEFITED FROM THE DONATION OF WHITEBOARDS, SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL BOOKS, SPORTS EQUIPMENT, AND SCHOOL BAGS.
- FIVE SEWING MACHINES WERE DONATED TO A WOMEN'S SEWING CENTRE IN NORTH AMBAE ISLAND, PENAMA PROVINCE, NORTH VANUATU, SUPPORTING 20 WOMEN IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES.



This project addressed critical gaps in educational equity and economic opportunity in rural Pacific Island communities. By supporting Sustainable Development Goals 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), WFWP Australia created sustainable impact through grassroots partnerships.

Rather than simply donating goods, the project focused on strengthening school libraries and creating welcoming learning environments where children can develop literacy, imagination, and confidence.



The sewing machines provided practical tools for women to build financial independence. In response, WFWP Australia coordinated the shipment of educational resources to four schools across three Pacific nations. New Hope Academy in the Solomon Islands received five whiteboards along with 63 boxes of secondary school books, sports equipment, and school bags. Mulifanua Primary School and Sa'anapu Primary School in Samoa each received 45 boxes of primary school books, while Savia Primary School in Papua New Guinea also received 45 boxes of primary school books to support students' learning. In addition, a Women's Sewing Centre in North Ambae Island, Penama Province, North Vanuatu received 5 sewing machines to support skills development and income-generating activities for 20 women.

The aim of this initiative was to address educational inequity in remote Pacific communities and to promote women’s economic self-reliance. The project focused on strengthening school libraries and classroom learning environments, improving access to literacy and educational resources for students, and supporting women’s skills development by providing practical tools that could help generate income and encourage greater financial independence.



The most meaningful highlight of this initiative was witnessing the collective spirit of service businesses, volunteers, schools, and international partners working together to support children’s education and women’s empowerment.

This project reflects WFP’s guiding principle of “Living for the Sake of Others”, demonstrating how practical service, collaboration, and compassion can create lasting change across borders.

This initiative was made possible through strong partnerships and dedicated volunteer support.

Special appreciation goes to Doug’s Mini Movers, a proud Global Partner of WFWP Victoria. Since 2019, Doug and Daniela Greenall have generously supported WFWP by transporting donated goods to shipping warehouses.

We also extend our gratitude to Kalgin Global Logistics, who coordinated international shipping to designated destinations in partnership with Pacific Island WFWP Chapters.

From 12 December 2025 to 16 January 2026, Doug coordinated the loading and transport of donated goods across four drop-off points, ensuring timely and efficient delivery to shipping partners.

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

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Dougs Mini Movers is a family-run business with over 25 years of experience, proudly delivering professional, reliable, and friendly service. <https://dougsminimover.com.au/>

New South Wales chapter articles



International Women's DAY 2026 Theme: Women, Families & Youth Voices for Peace

7th March | New South Wales, Australia

Written by Satomi Terasaka
NSW Chapter President | WFWP
Aust. Vice-President

OVERVIEW

- THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT ENGAGED 59 PARTICIPANTS IN MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS ON WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP, YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, AND PEACEBUILDING.
- KEYNOTE AND YOUTH SPEAKERS SHARED POWERFUL PERSONAL STORIES AND INSIGHTS ON RESILIENCE, INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING, AND INCLUSION.
- THE PROGRAM FOSTERED INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE, ENCOURAGING PARTICIPANTS TO REFLECT ON THEIR ROLE IN BUILDING PEACEFUL FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.



The event, “Women, Families and Youth Voices for Peace,” highlighted women’s leadership, youth empowerment, and peacebuilding. Through inspiring speeches and dialogue, participants reflected on resilience, inclusion, and their role in creating peaceful communities.

Addressing the growing need for stronger women’s leadership and youth engagement in today’s society, the program created a space for meaningful dialogue and storytelling. Participants explored the vital role women play in fostering peace and resilience within families and communities, with around 90% reporting they felt inspired to take a more active role in promoting social harmony.

Bringing together women and youth voices, the program created a unique space for reflection and a shared sense of purpose. A key takeaway was the recognition that everyone has a role to play in building peace, beginning within their own families and communities.



Keynote speaker Abang Anade Othow shared her powerful journey of overcoming adversity and building resilience. She emphasised the importance of education, emotional strength, and the role of women in shaping future generations.

Youth speakers Nikita Kapahi and Mirabel Somers highlighted the importance of intercultural understanding, inclusion, and neurodiversity. Their presentations encouraged empathy, respect, and meaningful communication as foundations for peace.

Dr Patricia Jenkins delivered a message of encouragement, emphasising the importance of continued efforts toward gender equality and a better future for women and girls.



FEATURE SERIES



Women Leading with Purpose

January | Perth, Western Australia

Written by Roshani Fernando
(Editor for the WFWP Australia
Newsletter)

OVERVIEW

- THE REPORT HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN BUILDING INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES THAT SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH, FINANCIAL SECURITY, AND OVERALL WELLBEING.
- COUNCILLOR RAJ DOSHI'S JOURNEY REFLECTS HOW LIVED EXPERIENCE, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND GRASSROOTS ENGAGEMENT CAN SHAPE RESPONSIVE AND PEOPLE-CENTRED LOCAL LEADERSHIP,
- THE CITY OF PERTH PROMOTES INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP AND GENDER EQUITY, ENSURING POLICIES AND INITIATIVES REFLECT THE NEEDS OF WOMEN, FAMILIES, AND DIVERSE COMMUNITIES.

Mental Health, Financial Security, and Community Wellbeing



Women's leadership plays a vital role in building peaceful, resilient, and inclusive communities. In Perth, women in local government are demonstrating how leadership grounded in lived experience, service, and compassion can directly improve mental health, financial security, and overall wellbeing for families and communities.

A Journey Shaped by Community and Service

Raj Doshi's path to becoming a City of Perth Councillor was shaped not by ambition alone but by lived experience and community connection. An East Perth resident, Chairperson of the East Perth Community Group and a volunteer for nine years, Doshi observed firsthand how local government decisions affect everyday life, influencing safety, accessibility, inclusion and opportunity.

Doshi arrived in Perth in August 2014 with her young family, far from their support networks. Like many women and families new to a city, she experienced the isolation that can accompany such a transition. That experience taught her that strong communities are not formed by chance. They are built through listening, representation and leadership that reflects real life experiences.

To foster connection, Doshi took over the local playgroup and during the COVID years volunteered her time to keep residents engaged through online initiatives such as Live at 5. She also helped establish walking groups and organised small gatherings in her strata complex, including wine and cheese nights, quiz nights and music concerts, providing social connection for high-rise residents during a seven weeks lockdown.



Through her community leadership, Doshi worked alongside residents to advocate for practical, people centred outcomes. One notable achievement was responding to a longstanding community request to illuminate the Causeway Bridge, improving safety and amenity along Adelaide Terrace. When the new Council was formed in October 2020, it endorsed the project and committed over 180,000 dollars to deliver an outcome directly informed by community input.

Listening closely to women, carers and young transient families reinforced Doshi's belief that local government must actively elevate diverse perspectives, particularly those historically underrepresented in decision making. Women, she notes, provide critical insight into safety, accessibility and wellbeing, yet their voices are often absent from leadership spaces. Becoming a councillor represented a natural progression for Doshi, offering an opportunity to translate years of advocacy into action and contribute to long term positive change across the city.

Perth, Australia

Women as Builders of Peaceful and Resilient Communities

Women contribute uniquely to creating peaceful, resilient, and inclusive communities by bringing balance, empathy, and lived experience into leadership. As a councillor, she sees daily how women strengthen decision-making through collaboration and a deep understanding of community needs.

At the City of Perth, women make up 44 per cent of the workforce and hold 63 per cent of managerial roles which is a strong reflection of our commitment to equity and inclusive leadership. This representation matters. When women are present at decision-making tables, policies and programs are more responsive to families, carers, and vulnerable communities.

Creating Safe, Inclusive, and Empowering Cities



Local councils play a crucial role in shaping environments where women and families feel safe, heard, and empowered. The design of streets, parks, and public spaces directly affects people's sense of security and belonging. Practical measures such as good lighting, clear sightlines, accessible pathways, and active public spaces make a meaningful difference.

Equally important is listening. At the City of Perth, women, families, and diverse communities are engaged through accessible consultation processes and strong community partnerships.

We celebrate diversity through events, public art, libraries, and community programs, ensuring people see their culture reflected in the city. Libraries and community centres offer free Wi-Fi, workshops, and learning opportunities that support education, digital inclusion, and personal growth.

Initiatives such as She Codes and women-focused library events help women build skills, confidence, and pathways into employment. Family-friendly upgrades, including playgrounds at Harold Boas Gardens, and inclusive events like the Summer Series at Elizabeth Quay, ensure Perth remains welcoming, connected, and supportive for all.

Advocating for Women's Wellbeing

In Doshi's role as a councillor, she actively advocates for projects and policies that prioritise women's welfare and wellbeing. This includes supporting well-lit streets, upgraded parks, and family-friendly infrastructure that enhances safety and accessibility.



I strongly support programs such as She Codes, women-focused learning events, and migrant women's job-readiness workshops that empower women economically and socially. Through inclusive events and community initiatives, my goal is to help create a city where women feel supported, represented, and valued.

Expanding Opportunities for Women

The City of Perth continues to invest in initiatives that empower women and expand opportunities. Business Improvement and Activation Grants support women-led businesses, social enterprises, and community groups to grow, activate public spaces, and build networks.

Venue Support Grants provide free access to facilities for inclusive programs, workshops, and events, helping diverse communities feel connected and represented. At an organisational level, the strong representation of women in leadership positions reflects an ongoing commitment to professional growth, equity, and inclusive leadership, a positive step toward lasting equalit.



A Message to Women and Emerging Leader



Cr. Raj Doshi's advice to women and young leaders is simple: get involved and stay connected. Volunteer, join local community groups, and attend events to understand the challenges and opportunities in your area.

If you have an idea, follow it through. Reach out to your local councillor or the City sometimes the boldest ideas create the greatest impact. You never truly know what is possible until you try. Stay persistent, stay curious, and don't be afraid to make your voice heard.

Communities grow stronger when diverse leaders step forward. In Australia, a nation built by people willing to give things a go, positive change begins when women believe in their capacity to lead with courage, compassion, and purpose.



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We thank all our members, sponsors and supporters.

Feel inspired?



Support our Pacific Islands Humanitarian Service Projects

Volunteer:

Get involved with one of our Regional Chapters. Contact us to find out how.

Donate:

Make a financial contribution, where 100% of your donation supports Global Development and Aid projects. WFWP International is a volunteer based NGO and a NFP charitable organisation.

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.