



Soroptimists International of Victoria Inc A0047590H March 2019

Vol 2 / 19
March 2019

Editor: Meredith Wise mdwise15@gmail.com

A Message from President Karen

Thank you to everyone for your vote of confidence in appointing me the President of SI Victoria. I know this will be quite a challenge and a very interesting journey.

My sincere thanks to the previous team lead by Erica & the Executive Committee.



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Meet the new Region Team:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|
| * | Erica Myers-Tattersall | Immediate Past President |
| * | Margie O'Kane | President-elect |
| * | Sally Cole | Secretary |
| * | Wendy Medhurst | Treasurer |
| * | Gale Jurkiw | Programme/UN Liaison
with Kerry Beers assisting |
| * | Leeanne Summers | Member Development
& Training |
| * | Theresa Lyford | ICT Liaison |
| * | Sue Whitehead | Hospitality Convenor |
| * | Liz Hyde | Archivist |
| * | Gale Jurkiw | UNAA & NCW |

*Thank you for your continuing support
for*

*Soroptimists Connect,
Meredith Wise*

The Membership Extension role is vacant – please contact me if you could be interested in this position.

A Message from President Karen (continued)

I was very impressed after reading the club annual reports about all the amazing projects that are happening. Thank you Gale for the presentation at the AGM giving us all an overview of what we have all achieved over the past 12 months – congratulations to all members. Erica was keen to develop ways and ideas to support membership growth and this is something I would like to develop further.

The SI Region of Victoria is 'your' Region and I would like to have an inclusive Region and involve members where possible in the decision making process, listen to your ideas and any concerns you may have. I look forward to visiting clubs and meeting members. Members have told us we need to include training & workshops as well as speakers at our meetings. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for both training/workshops and speakers.

At the recent Region Council Meeting there was discussion about supporting clubs in Townsville who are working to support the community after the recent floods. Some clubs indicated that they will be sending donations. We asked about the SISWP Disaster Fund and how it is used. I have been in touch with our National Representative, Kath Gribble who is going to follow this up with SISWP.

Things are happening – it's going to be a busy year!

A webinar to learn How to use SISWP Gmail Account on 2 March

<https://www.siswp.org/news/230-upcoming-webinars-register-now.html>

I would encourage all club secretaries and new office bearers consider registering for this webinar.

Check out the SI Australia website <https://www.siaustralia.org.au/> for details on how to register for the SI Australia AGM and Conference and the SISWP IBM in May.

Hope to see good representation from Victorian clubs in the Barossa Valley.

Don't forget the SI International Convention in July in Kuala Lumpur. To book see the SISWP website - <https://www.siswp.org/event-portal.html>

Dates for this year's meetings will be sent out as soon as possible after the new executive meet. I am keen to get a calendar out to everyone as soon as possible that includes all meeting dates and the dates when reports need to be sent in by.

Sally Cole, Joye Pinnis and I have just met for a handover and debrief about the Region role of Secretary. Hopefully all new club office bearers are undergoing a similar handover to assist them with their new roles.

Could I ask that all new members be made aware of the emails that come from Meredith Wise and explain they are about our Soroptimist Connect newsletter that is sent out every two months and which relies on your contributions.

No doubt many clubs will be celebrating International Women's Day on March 8. This year there seems to be more than one theme.

UN Women's global theme for IWD 2019 is 'Think equal, build smart, innovate for change', Australia's IWD 2019 theme, More Powerful Together

From the IWD website - Better the Balance, Better the World.

Whatever theme you choose to use I wish you all a Very Happy International Women's Day.

Karen Thornton

Soroptimist International of Deakin Inc. A0048947L



Our keen team for 2019:
Treasurer—Janet O'Dell,
Secretary—Joye Pinnis
& President—Gale Jurkiw
We're ready at SI Deakin
Inc to tackle the year ahead
with gusto!

At our AGM we decided this year to focus on projects addressing *Bicycles for Work, Health and Pleasure*.

We plan to continue to support Cycles for Cycles in Cambodia and on a local level, support the various programs which:

- * Give children with disability the opportunity to ride their very own customised bike
- * Provide reconditioned bicycles to women needing to be mobile to get to their work places,
- * Provide training of bicycle skills, safety and confidence.

With our growing membership numbers we're looking forward to a positive and productive year ahead.

Submitted by Gale Jurkiw

Soroptimist International of Ballarat Inc. A0031987J

SI Ballarat News:

In 2017 a guest speaker told us of the wonderful work the local Soup Bus does for the many homeless in Ballarat. It is hard to believe that we have people, women and men, sleeping out in Ballarat especially in our cold winters. The Soup Bus provides delicious meals five nights a week. Two nights, for security reasons, the Soup Bus does not operate. Lorraine, who coordinates the Soup Bus, told us that she would like to give the "regulars" a litre of long-life milk them over the two night break each week. We decided that we would supply 50 litres of milk every month.

New Members:

SI Ballarat inducted new member Hannah at our September General meeting and new member Helen at our October General meeting. We are so pleased to welcome these two lovely ladies to our Club.

Fund-raising:

We again held a most successful fund-raising Garden Party in the beautiful garden of member Jan, on the afternoon of Saturday 17 November. The weather was kind and the delicious food was enjoyed by all. Special mention of the beautiful homemade decorated Christmas cake made and donated by our President, Karen, as the raffle prize.

Up-coming events:

International Women's Day dinner

SI Ballarat is holding dinner to celebrate International Women's Day, on Thursday 7 March. Our special guest speaker for the evening is Associate Professor Rosemary Aldrich, Chief Medical Officer at Ballarat Health Services. Our flyer is on Page 4.

SI Ballarat 40th Birthday celebration preparations are well underway, and we have a "Save the Date" for Sunday 14 April. More information to follow!

Submitted by Linda Harris & Fiona Tonkin

Soroptimist International of Ballarat Inc. A0031987J (continued)



a global voice
for women

Soroptimist International



International Women's Day Celebration Dinner



Barkly's Restaurant
Main St, Ballarat
Thursday, 7 March 2019 6.30pm

Join us to celebrate International Women's Day

Guest Speaker: Associate Professor Rosemary Aldrich
Public Health Physician and Chief Medical Officer, Ballarat Health Services

Topic: *Imagine...*

Tickets are available at Ballarat Books \$40.00
(2 course meal, tea & coffee - drinks at bar prices)

Submitted by

Linda Harris

Happy Football Cambodia Australia (HFCA)



Many Victorian Soroptimists and our wonderful Supporters will remember the visit to Melbourne of the Cambodian footballers in 2008 to compete in the Homeless World Cup.

Since then another 70 players have been given the opportunity to travel overseas and compete in 10 HWC competitions.



These experiences have been life changing and given the HWC players a far broader world perspective. It has also ignited the desire in their Khmer team mates to attain this goal of representing their country at the HWC even though it may take years of practice and participation in training.



We now have two centers of training, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.

And, most importantly, we have fifty girls regularly training and keen to show us all how skillful they are.

Happy Football Cambodia Australia (HFCA) (continued)



Girls in Cambodia face unique challenges and through participation in our program they develop self esteem and appreciate the value of teamwork.

It is the desire of HFCA to send a girls' team to the Homeless World Cup in 2020. And, of course, that requires funding.



In May 2020 HFCA has organised a Cycle Ride between Siem Reap and Phnom Penh which encourages sponsorship and provides an opportunity for riders to meet our players at training sessions.

This is just small group, with a few Soroptimists and others riding at a gentle pace for no more than 25-30kms each day.

If this is something you think you might like to do email me with your questions or check out the website.



I also have an ever increasing list of fundraising ideas.

lynnciurlionis@hotmail.com

www.grasshopperadventures.com

We are supported totally by fundraising and sponsorship and appreciate all donations for uniforms, boots and soccer balls and training expenses.

Donations can be made through our website and in partnership with Global Development and are tax deductible.

www.hfca.org.au

Submitted by Lynn Ciurlionis

Soroptimist International of Shepparton Inc. A0010678K



BUNNINGS BARBECUE

On a very hot AUSTRALIA day we were kept busy keeping up with the sausages and cold drinks to all who came by.

The comment that we were asked many times was "Are you putting the onions on the top or bottom"?

It is always a lot of fun as well as a great fundraiser.

SI Shepparton's latest Project as part sponsors of the Anne Frank Story which is currently being shown at the Shepparton Library until 20th March.

The exhibition has brought many visitors to our library and our Club is visiting it next week for our monthly social event, followed by lunch.

For our Pampering Day in April, *(details page 8)* we have been lucky enough to have received assistance with a \$500 grant from the Local Council

Soroptimist International of Shepparton Inc. A0010678K



**SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL OF SHEPPARTON INC
A0010678K**



**WOMEN'S
PAMPERING DAY**

**THURSDAY 4TH APRIL, 2019
10.00AM TO 3.00PM**

**at PEPPERMILL in the Function Rooms
7900 Goulburn Valley Hway, Shepparton**

Fantastic

Door Prizes

Hand Massage

Foot Spa

Health Check

Hair Braiding

TAFE Hair & Beauty Students

Trading Table

Refreshments



Entry: Gold Coin donation

**like us on
Facebook!**

Submitted by Jeanette Berry

Soroptimist International of Mornington Peninsula Inc A0010603B



**Soroptimist International of the
Mornington Peninsula Inc**

Invites you to join us in celebrating

International Women's Day 2019

Friday 8th March 2019

at

Mornington Country Golf Club

Tallis Drive, Mornington 3931

(Melway Map 104 H9)

6:45am – 8:30am breakfast

Guest Speaker – Hayley Cull

Director – Advocacy and Community Engagement

Plan International Australia

\$40.00 pp payable on booking

(Please indicate if wishing to sit with a friend or if you have any dietary requirements)

RSVP by 1st March with payment to

Jenny Blackford – Treasurer

3/19 Clarkestown Avenue, Mt.Eliza 3930

Make cheques payable to SI Mornington Peninsula Inc.

Or

Direct Deposit
SI Mornington Peninsula Inc.
NAB Hastings
BSB 083 668
A/C No. 047982822

(Use your name as a reference)

Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment

Seroptimist International of Brighton & Southern Districts Inc. A0013556S

The February monthly meeting of SISBD was very special in several ways.



Our immediate past President, Margo Kelly, welcomed Alison Stakula as our new President and presented her with the Chain of Office. This year will be Alison's first term as President having been a very active and contributing member of our Club for more than 15 years.

We look forward to supporting Alison as we move into another year of friendship and raising funds for our chosen causes.

As part of our program for the night, members were invited to bring along a book that has influenced their lives over the years. What a wonderful array of personal anecdotes we were able to enjoy!

Just to choose one example. Who would have expected to see photos and hear details and excerpts from the published biography of Eric Nave, father of an SIBSD Member?

Eric Nave, as a young Australian Navy midshipman, and a self-taught Japanese speaker, was the first to unravel Japanese naval telegraphy codes. Early in his career his skills were recognised by the Royal Navy which led to him living in England for several years as an R.N. officer and involving considerable time working alongside other code breakers at Bletchley Park (and we've all seen those films and television programs!). His various skills gained him widespread respect and admiration within the closed confines of Allied code breaking before, during and after World War Two. In penetrating Japan's codes, his work contributed to the safety and security of our country at a time when we were most at risk.

And that was just one example!

Submitted by **Gabi Walton**

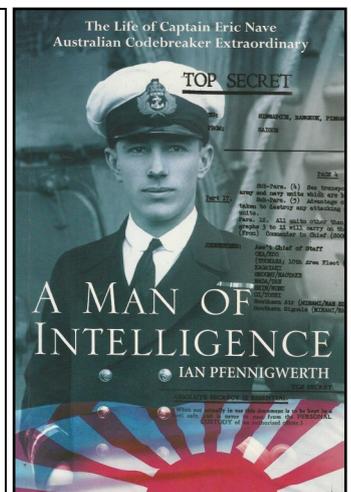
Editor's Note:

Ian Pfennigwerth, The Author of the book "A Man of Intelligence", was a retired Naval Captain who had been researching Eric Nave's life. He asked Meredith's husband, Ian, for an introduction to Libby's family, on the grounds that they had served together at the Royal Australian Naval College.

In his Acknowledgements, Ian Pfennigwerth wrote:

"This book could not have been written without the assistance and support of many people. Foremost amongst those are the members of Eric Nave's family who have given me access to their father's records and reminiscences on their life with Eric. They have also directed my attention to many potential sources of information that I would not otherwise have uncovered".

A great read!!



Soroptimist International of Geelong Inc. A0012463A

SI Geelong News



Exciting announcement – SI Geelong are delighted to share that our SI Geelong member, Karen Thornton, was unanimously elected President of SI Victoria at the AGM on Saturday 16th February. Congratulations , Karen!

Social gathering January

Anna See Tho hosted our annual summer gathering in her beautiful garden overlooking the bay. The weather was windy but delightful and lots of laughs and good times were shared. Our special guest on the day was Nacia Quast, from SI Friday Harbour, Washington State, USA. Thanks to Anna for being such a welcoming host.



Days for Girls

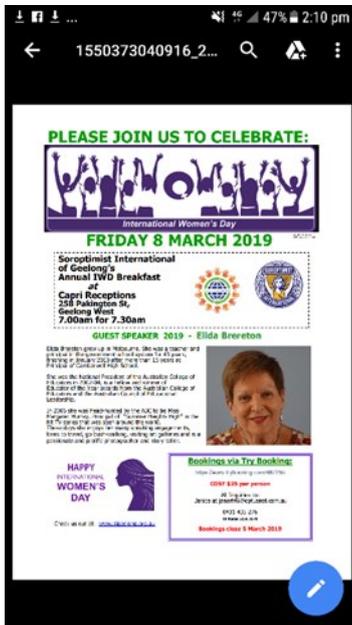
At our Christmas social function, SI Geelong members collected items for donation to the Days for Girls charity.

This organisation provides washable feminine hygiene kits to girls and women in third world countries.



Seroptimist International of Geelong Inc. A0012463A (continued)

Upcoming Events



March 8th:

SI Geelong's annual International Woman's Day Breakfast (7am at Capri Receptions, Pakington St. Geelong, Cost \$25).

This year's guest speaker is **Elida Brereton** – a Melbourne teacher; Principal, president of the national college of Educators (2002-4); a Fellow and winner of Educator of the Year awards from the Australian College of Educators and the Australian Council of Educational Leadership.

In addition, Elida was cast by the ABC as Miss Margaret Murray, Principal in the TV series of 'Summer Heights High'.

We are looking forward to welcoming her to Geelong and hearing her speak. If you are interested in attending bookings can be made through <https://www.trybooking.com/467259> or contact Karen on 52563570.

Bookings close March 5th.

Social Movie Evenings

Every third Tuesday of the month (starting February) SI Geelong holds a social/film evening. The movies are fun and the chat over supper with friends afterwards are a highlight of the evening. February's movie 'Finding Your Feet' was well attended and everyone really enjoyed reconnecting after the holiday break.

March 19th movie is 'Hachiko'. The evening is 6.30pm for a 7pm start – If you are interested in coming along contact Beverley on 0427840577.

English Conversation at the Gordon Tafe

Our next conversation session is on Monday April 29th between 9-11am.

There will be over 20 students requiring assistance with their English language skills.

If any SI member from another club is near/visiting Geelong and would like to assist please contact Helen Rodd on hrodd@bigpond.net.au

Entertainment Books

SI Geelong fundraiser in March. Did you know that while locally these books cover the Geelong, Werribee and Ballarat region they can also be bought for any major city in Australia? I have personally bought one for Hobart and easily recovered the cost in the discounts I was able to avail myself of over a week's holiday in that city. In addition, they have an e-version for your smart phone so you no longer find yourself without your book on an outing. For any information regarding purchasing a book or e-book, contact me ritaj2048@gmail.com.

Check out our Facebook page for information from SI Geelong as well as Seroptimists Clubs around the world.

<https://www.facebook.com/Seroptimist-International-of-Geelong-Inc-101135683916408/>



Soroptimist Headquarters (Victoria)

A.C.N. 004 714 792

Trading as Soroptimist House

Telephone
613 9827 2720

Chairman:
Joclyn Hanby

Registered Office:
383 Toorak Road
South Yarra
Victoria 3141
Australia

SOROPTIMIST HOUSE FIRE DRAMA

On Saturday February 2nd we held a Soroptimist House Committee meeting. It was an extremely hot day with a with a strong north wind, and as we are only a small group we met in the garden room. Present were myself, Janice Binns SI Geelong, Erica Myers Tattersall then SIVictoria President, and Carol Harper SI Melbourne.

Erica was sitting on the sofa facing the windows when she spotted a man who had walked in up the drive, sat on the ground & then he lit a paper taper & tossed it in to the dry garden on the drive side.

Erica let out a shriek and bolted like a greyhound out the back door yelling her head off & chased him up Toorak Rd towards Williams Rd. Janice grabbed a phone to call the police & fire brigade & I went as fast as I could out the back door to the hose. The smoke was incredible, I couldn't turn the tap on but it just shows what desperation can do & gave it an almighty shove, the hose lying on the lawn went berserk but I managed to capture it & focused on the fire which was licking toward the paling fence.

Meanwhile Erica, still yelling, chased the villain, did a rugby tackle & sent him flying on the to the tram lines. She also went down with her glasses going in a different direction, banging her head. Still yelling two men, who had were waiting to cross at the lights, heard her, ran over and sat on him— still on the tram lines.

The traffic was held up in both directions and a driver stuck in the traffic called the Police saying that four people were brawling in the middle of Toorak Rd, Another Police car was sent as well as the one Janice had called. Meanwhile Carol had opened both the front and back doors and locked the security doors in case anyone took advantage of the situation & entered the House.

Two fire trucks turned up & double parked on Toorak Rd alongside the two police cars, creating more traffic problems. I had stopped the fire from spreading & the firemen got a rake & raked over everything to make sure there were no live embers.

It ended with Erica giving a statement to the Police in Toorak Rd, Janice to another policeman in the back yard & me giving one to the Fireman in charge. He stated that we were very lucky to have met that afternoon as there was no doubt the House would have been destroyed! Our tenant Andrew had gone away for the weekend also.

Erica returned with a bang on her head, grazed elbow & knee but luckily her glasses were intact. She developed a headache also later on & saw a Doctor on Sunday, had her wounds dressed & a Tetanus injection.

We regrouped, had a lovely cup of tea & thanked our lucky stars that we had scheduled a meeting on that 38 degree day!

Submitted by Jocelyn Hanby, President Soroptimist House (SI Brighton & Southern Districts Inc.)

Seroptimist International of Benalla Inc. A0011413B

At the end of 2018, Benalla Seroptimists made a number of donations as follows:

- * \$383 to the Benalla Rotary Club to sponsor a child to attend the summer camp at Portsea
- * \$200 to the Seroptimist International Appeal for the Women & Water Project
- * \$200 to the SISWP Fiji "Shelter Project"
- * \$200 to Benalla's Tomorrow Today Foundation to provide back to school vouchers
- * A large collection of toiletries donated to *Vinnies* to make into packs for needy women in our community

December always sees the awarding of a scholarship to a Year 12 female student going onto tertiary study in the following year. The applicants were all of a high standard so, instead of awarding a \$1,500 scholarship to one recipient; two scholarships each of \$1,000 were awarded. The successful winners were Jessica Stocker and Samantha Desailly. Both attended Benalla P-12 College and both are pursuing careers in Nursing.

Our AGM was held in January. There were a number of resignations, for a variety of reasons, leaving the Club having difficulty in making the necessary appointment of office bearers. We were pleased to welcome an enthusiastic new member in Ann Baron-Smith.

There was a good attendance at a special meeting held on 4th February and, it was agreed that there was sufficient interest and members for the Club to continue into 2019. The following positions were filled:

President	Robyn Marshall
Secretary	Patricia Thompson
Assistant Secretary	Ann Baron-Smith
Treasurer	Ann Baron-Smith

At the regular February meeting, considerable time was spent making arrangements for our next fundraiser, a Card Day on March 26. The event is being held in the John Cooper Hall at the Uniting Church.

A delicious afternoon tea is guaranteed! All welcome to attend.

*Janet Gourley
handing over the chain of Office to
our incoming
SI Benalla President,
Robyn Marshall,
at our February meeting.*



Submitted by Janet Gourley



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INVITATION to SHQ COMMITTEE

The article regarding the fire at Soroptimist House (page 13) indicates how close we came to losing the property and all its contents. Almost seventy years of Soroptimist memories up in flames. This is what we must consider when discussing the House and its future.

We are the envy of the Soroptimist world having our own property to use for meetings and accommodation. It is like the family home where you can catch up with old friends, meet new ones, celebrate and sometimes console.

It is not appreciated as the nucleus that keeps everyone together until it is gone. If the house was not available then there would be no central meeting place and the problems facing clubs currently would escalate as, like a family, the system would splinter when the family home is no longer there.

Ten years ago there were 10-12 members of the House Committee from various clubs in Victoria. Since then through resignation, bereavement or ill health the Committee numbers have fallen to a core of four or five.

The House Committee meets a maximum of 4-5 times a year, usually on a Saturday for a couple of hours.

In addition to this, the Committee is responsible for overseeing the use of the House, the guest room bookings and meetings of both Soroptimist Clubs and outside organisations.

Each Committee member nominates a month when they would be available to check the House, change the bedding after visitors etc. but would always have a backup member to help when necessary.

As has been, said loud and often, the House belongs to all Victorian Soroptimists and as such is your responsibility. If you would like to be involved and have a couple of hours to spare every couple of months please contact either myself or President Jocelyn Hanby. We would love to have you join us.

Jocelyn Hanby
President

Janice Binns
Secretary

jhanby@netspace.net.au

janart46@optusnet.com.au

Submitted by Janice Binns

Soroptimist International of Cobram Barooga Inc A0027225F

During the United Nations 16 days of activism against domestic violence, SI Cobram Barooga held a very successful “State to State Walk” on 2nd December 2018.

We hope to hold this event annually as it is a great way to highlight the incidence of domestic violence and try to assist those in need.



Pictured is President Noelene Ackerly presenting a cheque to Belinda, from Vincent Care Marian Community, who was a guest speaker at our February meeting.

One excellent outcome from the meeting with Belinda is that she is to become a Soroptimist.

What a great addition to our organisation.

Some of the wonderful support services that Marian Community give to women fleeing domestic violence.

There were some harrowing stories told at the meeting

Marian Community

24-hour crisis support to women and children escaping family violence.

Marian Community assists women and children who are experiencing, or have experienced family violence, to live safely and in the individual needs of each client in a flexible, non-judgemental and holistic way with a focus on providing real opportunities to

Services provided (but not limited to) include:

- Comprehensive risk assessments
- Safety planning
- Advocacy and information
- Income establishment
- Court support (Family Violence and VOCAT)
- Support to report breaches of Intervention Orders
- Emotional support
- Financial/material aid
- Safe@Home Program and Brokerage
- B-Safe Personal Alarm Program
- Social/community engagement
- Support to access long-term, affordable accommodation
- Referrals to other specialist services for adults and children
- Secondary consults to other services regarding Family Violence and Safety Planning.

Marian Community work with women and children from all walks of life, family violence does not discriminate. We are committed every individual is treated with dignity and respect regardless of their ability, cultural background, ethnicity, gender identity, sex, victims themselves, but the children who witness it, extended families, friends, workplaces and ultimately the whole community

Eligibility

To be eligible for assistance by Marian Community, you must be a female experiencing family violence.

Soroptimist International of Cobram Barooga Inc A0027225F (cont)

Members Jennifer Gaylard and Barb Noonan showed what a special bond there is with “Soroptimist sisters” when they arrived at our recent meeting in identical outfits.

They both looked gorgeous as the picture shows.

It's been a quiet start to the year but we have a busy year ahead.

At a planning meeting in February we managed to have events each month from now on, with two major events, so looking forward to reporting on them.



Submitted by Kay Morgan, SI Cobram Barooga

Soroptimist International of Wyndham



Point Cook has a Pop-UP Park in the centre of town, with a planter created by SI Wyndham, displaying Club's information.

Although the planter's not in a good position we have had some inquiries.

The Pop-up finishes end April, however the planter will be on display all year in a better area.

We just have to make sure the plants survive and it looks good.

Photo:

**Margie O'Kane, Julie Ramchander,
Justine Abbott & Jhaiya Naikkar**

Submitted by Margie O'Kane

Soroptimist International of Gippsland Inc. A0059747V

a pleasing start to the New Year

SI Gippsland held its AGM on 31 January welcoming 3 new members to the club.

President Angelika Lieshout



Angelika Lieshout returned after an absence of 2 years and graciously accepted the role of President, having been President-Elect before she resigned.

Angelika works at Fed Uni in Programs, and administers the FAST program - an enabling program - as well as the English Academic Program for International Students.

Michelle Tisdale, was formerly a founding member of Women who mean Business, Latrobe Valley, formed after the bush fires of 2009 to provide community support. This group, now closed, made a substantial donation to SI Gippsland last year, tagged to aid projects of our club, especially those ones relating to the needs of local Aboriginal women and girls in the local Gippsland community. Michelle works in Early Childhood Intervention helping families, who have children with significantly delayed development, to access appropriate support services.



Michelle Tinsdale



Joh Lyons

Joh Lyons is a well respected member of the voluntary and social community network, and is the driving force behind establishing the VRI Hall under the auspices of the Traralgon Neighbourhood Learning House.

This hall was the former Victorian Railways Institute.

Under Joh's leadership as Hall Project Manager, the VRI is well known for innovative community work, with 40 organisations now using the space.

The outside area has become a learning centre for horticulture, where Work for the Dole participants up skill in horticultural areas.

The land is a flourishing community garden. The Get Swapped Programme is an exchange scheme for fruit and vegetables. With Joh on board, SI Gippsland club is now looking at using the hall for some meetings and events. The March meeting will be an IT training night at the VRI hall where, under Joh's tutelage, we will look at improved methods of linking up with our distance members.

Distance members.

In 2019 we have now two members accessing our meetings by online communication.

Alison Harrower, now living in Bruthen, participated in our AGM by linking up with her phone as did our newly elected correspondence secretary, Wendy Wills, who has just shifted to Paynesville, near Bairnsdale. Both Wendy and Alison are committed members and will attend meetings in person several times a year.

There is an urgent desire to find a more inclusive method than just linking up by a phone call which Wendy is currently doing for exec meetings and also did for our AGM.



Wendy Wills

Soroptimist International of Gippsland Inc. A0059747V (continued)

◆ **New sponsorship project for 2019: Women's Health and Relationships during Pregnancy in Vanuatu.**

An application for support was made at our February 13 meeting by local Gippsland woman, Stephanie McKelvie, who is a 4th year medical student doing her requisite research project at Monash University as a Student Researcher, Global and Women's Health, School of public Health and Preventative Medicine.

Steph's ground breaking research project is concerned with women's health and relationships during pregnancy in Vanuatu, focusing on intimate partner violence. Unfortunately, as Steph recounted, 60% of women in Vanuatu have experienced this type of violence, which includes both physical and psychological abuse, twice the global average.

A 2010 report on the progress of the Millennium Goals showed that there is still a great discrepancy in gender equality in Vanuatu; compared to their male counterparts women and girls in Vanuatu experience low levels of tertiary education, low wages, fewer work opportunities and are less represented in government bodies. *Female* infant mortality is high, and has stayed high, compared with the gradual lowering of *male* infant mortality rates.

Steph has already done a medical training placement in 2108 in Vanuatu and while there formulated her required 4th year research project to look more deeply in the incidence of intimate partner violence, covering the sexual, physical and psychological aspects. Her research project is supported and will be supervised by a senior hospital doctor in Vanuatu and Monash staff at the School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine. As well, the project will be implemented with the collaboration of Vanuatu counselling staff (SANMA) already working on the ground providing services for women experiencing domestic violence. Steph's research project is strongly endorsed by local medical authorities.

Fieldwork: In a month of planned fieldwork, hopefully taking place in late autumn, Steph plans to conduct over 200 interviews at the hospital's ante natal clinic and look at women's reactions to violence. The interviews will be conducted by 3 local women whom Steph will employ and train. Within her proposed \$4,000 budget that covers airfares, accommodation, employment of interview staff and a hospital fee for the use of its services over the month, Steph also wishes to give all participants a small gift for their participation in the project.

SI Gippsland felt that Steph's project fitted many of the Soroptimist goals, especially those pertaining to good health and wellbeing and gender equality and so have agreed to sponsor the majority of the budget allocated to the gifts to participants. Our \$AU500.00 will be spent in Vanuatu on appropriate supplies or gifts for the pregnant survey participants.

SI Gippsland is looking forward to a return visit by Steph later on in 2019 when she will be able to report on the progress, and, eventually, the outcome of her research into intimate partner violence.



Photo:
Steph McKelvie (R) at our February meeting
with President Angelika Lieshout(L)
and Wendy Ritchie, centre.

Seroptimist International of Gippsland Inc. A0059747V (continued)

On-going projects:

◆ The Koorie Homework Class



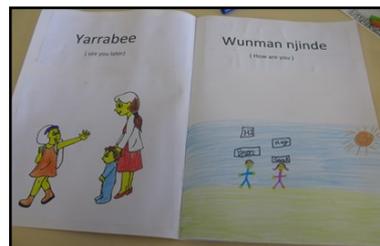
The Koorie Homework Class project is now in its 4th year with Seroptimists International of Gippsland (SI Gippsland) supporting the Koorie Homework Class held at Liddiard Road Primary school, Traralgon on Monday afternoons, straight after school.

Gippsland Seroptimists started their sponsorship in 2016 and provide vouchers twice a year to enable the purchase of sports equipment, stationery, craft requirements & food for healthy afternoon tea snacks.

As well as providing financial assistance, a few Seroptimist members, and sometimes their friends, mostly former teachers, are able to attend the class on a fairly regular basis to assist Vera Harrold, the class co-ordinator, and the other voluntary helpers. Volunteers help with written tasks, craft activities, cooking activities and preparing the afternoon tea. The students appreciate any adult interaction and are studious and happy during the 2- hour class time which includes outdoor sports. Although given the moniker, "Homework Class", it is much broader in purpose than doing class maths and literacy tasks, although all the children have an individual session of reading with a tutor during the 2 hour session.

Vera has introduced a broad cultural appreciation of Koorie language and craftwork into the class. Story books are based on Aboriginal dream time stories.

The SI Gippsland vouchers have already purchased new work books for each student for 2019 and the students are focusing on basic learning Gunai Kurnai language phrases each week.



◆ Orana Gunyah - Women's Refuge



SI Gippsland has been assisting Orana Gunyah, the women's refuge for Aboriginal woman and children in Morwell, since its inception in 2013. In the latter years assistance has been twice yearly donations of pamper pack goods or bed linens and towels so the women have a few necessary items to take with them when they leave the refuge. The refuge is for short stay relief while accommodation is sorted out for women & children fleeing domestic violence.

The refuge falls under the umbrella of services provided by VACCA, the Aboriginal Child Care Agency.

Photo:
Pamper packs collected at AGM
with Angelika, Samantha and Judy

Soroptimist International of Gippsland Inc. A0059747V (continued)

◆ Visits to regional meetings.

Wendy Ritchie (delegate) and Judy van Beek (proxy) attended the extraordinary meeting at Soroptimist House on 19 January and participated in the brainstorming about the future path forward for SI Vic Region. It was worth the journey to meet and mingle with almost 40 other Victorian Soroptimists from around the region and take part in the discussion groups.

Occasions such as this also enable us to meet up with our former region extension officer, Maggie Mitchell, who spent 3 patient years, 2010 - 2012, establishing the SI Gippsland group



*photo: (L to R)
Maggie Mitchell, Liz Hyde
& Virginia Morrison*



*photo: Workshop Group (L to R)
Jan Grant, Kerry Beer & Anthia Hinson*

Again on 16 February, Wendy and Judy attended the AGM, this time both as proxies, and found the talk by guest speaker, Roscoe Howell, on modern slavery sobering, disquieting and informative. Roscoe Howell is the Public Officer of Slavery Links Australia Inc and the author of Australians and modern slavery. His talk was wide ranging, highlighting activities that Soroptimists around the world are involved in, clubs trying to alleviate the scourge of slavery in many various ways. Roscoe also had audience members talking about their own Soroptimist groups and what they have seen and what they are doing to improve conditions. Some mentioned shopping at Fair Trade shops; other members talked about the younger generation of girls being socially conscious and using apps on their phones to check if the clothing or products they were purchasing were ethically made; in other words not in conditions of abject slavery. It was a positive note in this sobering discussion to know that younger members in Australian society are socially conscious and leading the way forward to a more just and equitable world.



*Photo:
Roscoe Howell expounds a point
to Jan Grant during afternoon tea.*

Not surprisingly much discussion ensued in the general region meeting that followed the AGM on how to interest these younger members in Soroptimism and how to counter the distance and travel factor for many girls and women who are interested in the causes but live far away from a Soroptimist Club. This is a question that is a very pertinent one for the far flung area of the Gippsland region. The question of travel is a key issue for our members and prospective members.

Soroptimist International of Gippsland Inc. A0059747V (continued)

◆ Forthcoming event for IWD

Latrobe Women's Creating Conversations and Soroptimist International Gippsland are combining for an International Women's Day Event to be held on 6 March.

The documentary ***Utopia Girls*** will be screened. Fronted by award-winning historian Dr Clare Wright, ***Utopia Girls*** tells the story of how Australian women became the FIRST in the world to gain full political rights with women gaining the right to sit in parliament, ahead of NZ in this instance, as well as gaining the right to vote.

The evening begins with a shared plate meal that reflects one's heritage.
The venue is Power Works History Museum, Morwell from 5.30pm with a Forthcoming Event for IWD
- gold coin entry

Submitted by Judy van Beek

Soroptimist International of Brighton & Southern Districts Inc. A0013556S

STOP PRESS

A Night With The Bard

(with a twist!!)

“I Hate Hamlet”

presented by Brighton Theatre Co.

THURSDAY MAY 16TH 2019

Brighton Town Hall

Tickets: Prudence Hassan

0400 434 163

Combined fundraiser for

S.I. Brighton & Southern Districts and Kiwanis Brighton Bayside

Soroptimist International of Melbourne Inc. A0010754A

SI Melbourne will be celebrating International Womens' Day with a breakfast on Monday 4th March at Soroptimist House, South Yarra.

We will have 27 people attending including 2 teachers and 10 students, halved between Melbourne Girls Grammar School and MLC.

Both schools have been welcomed before and the teachers and girls enjoy the experience.

It obviously has appeal for the senior levels.



Our Guest Speaker will be Carlene Harlock

Carlene has a Bachelor of Community Development and has completed research and fieldwork with a focus on the friendship groups that operate between communities in Australia and Timor Leste.

She is currently the Coordinator of Friends of Suai/Covalima at the City of Port Phillip.

Working in partnership with the Covalima Community Centre (CCC) in Suai, the Friends of Suai/Covalima support a range of community development programs and initiatives in Covalima district.

The CCC has a strong commitment to gender equality and support women to participate in development and become community leaders

The teachers enjoy and see the dialogue over breakfast as very worthwhile.

We begin the breakfast at 7am and the girls must leave at 8am for 8.30 classes.

The room will look festive in purple green and white and both teachers have requested time for the girls to ask "lots of questions"

Submitted by Sue Whitehead

Soroptimist International of Geelong Inc A0012463A

A little bit of Soroptimist History From "The History of Soroptimist International" by Janet Haywood

1938 CONVENTION OF THE SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION IN ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY:

By 1938, expansion of the Soroptimist organisation was now taking place at a rapid rate and by the time members met in the summer of 1938 at the International Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the records state that there were 11,289 members in 191 clubs in 13 countries. Among those attending the Convention of Soroptimist International Association (the title at that time) were representatives of 90 clubs from the Americas, 40 clubs from the British and 10 from the European Federations. This was the largest Soroptimist gathering to date despite the fact that tension was now mounting in Europe. In fact, the Atlantic City Convention in 1938 would be the last International Convention until 1948 after World War II.

As the business commenced it was clear that improved channels of communication were necessary. This was despite the fact that since 1930 both the American and British Federations were producing their own magazines. A more important step was taken to draw the Federations together. The Constitution was amended to provide for an International Liaison Secretary. The person appointed to this important post was Elizabeth Hawes, then President of the Federation of Great Britain and Ireland. With a charm and ability to say the right thing at the right time, Elizabeth Hawes built avenues of friendship that were to be most valuable in the years ahead.

The Atlantic City Convention agreed that efforts be made to encourage women to enter public life. Although both American and British women had received suffrage simultaneously, British women had played a more active role in local as well as national politics. Participation in politics varied among the European countries. While Scandinavian women continued to participate, Nazism and Fascism excluded women and some clubs dissolved even before World War II.

World peace must have occupied the minds of many members at this Convention. In her report, Elizabeth Hawes presented a resolution which received the unanimous approval of all delegates: "The Soroptimist International Association condemns war as an instrument of policy between nations and urges governments to seek other means of settling disputes. The meeting of the Soroptimist International Association affirms its belief that freedom can only be assured and peace maintained by upholding the democratic rights of the individual." This was the first of many future Policy Statements.

The social activities of any international gathering do so much to create an atmosphere of goodwill. The Atlantic City Convention was no exception with members meeting on so many social occasions giving the opportunity for a free exchange of views away from the formalities of the discussion.



As we look back, knowing that war came only a year after the Atlantic City Convention in 1938, it is perhaps poignant to recall an extract from the Christian Science Monitor reporting on the events: "The Soroptimist International Association closes its Convention in Atlantic City and women business executives of Europe and America prepare to leave the seaside resort to preach a 'league of women for Peace.' We don't know just how to define a Soroptimist but we recognize common sense when we see it."

Submitted by

*Rita Jenkins
SI Geelong*

Steve Jobs died a billionaire at age 56. This is his final essay:

I reached the pinnacle of success in the business world. In some others' eyes, my life is the epitome of success. However, aside from work, I have little joy.

In the end, my wealth is only a fact of life that I am accustomed to. At this moment, lying on my bed and recalling my life, I realize that all the recognition and wealth that I took so much pride in have paled and become meaningless in the face of my death.

You can employ someone to drive the car for you, make money for you but you cannot have someone bear your sickness for you. Material things lost can be found or replaced.

But there is one thing that can never be found when it's lost - Life.

Whichever stage in life you are in right now, with time, you will face the day when the curtain comes down.

Treasure love for your family, love for your spouse, love for your friends.

Treat yourself well and cherish others. As we grow older, and hopefully wiser, we realise that a \$300 or a \$30 watch both tell the same time. You will realise that your true inner happiness does not come from the material things of this world. Whether you fly first class or economy, if the plane goes down - you go down with it.

Therefore, I hope you realise, when you have mates, buddies and old friends, brothers and sisters, who you chat with, laugh with, talk with, have sing songs with, talk about north-south-east-west or heaven and earth, that is true happiness!

Don't educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy. So when they grow up they will know the value of things and not the price.

Eat your food as your medicine, otherwise you have to eat medicine as your food.

The One who loves you will never leave you for another because, even if there are 100 reasons to give up, he or she will find a reason to hold on.

There is a big difference between a human being and being human.
Only a few really understand it.

You are loved when you are born.

You will be loved when you die. In between, you have to manage!

**The six best doctors in the world are
sunlight, rest, exercise, diet, self-confidence and friends!**

Maintain them in all stages and enjoy a healthy life.