

# WFWP OCEANIA NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | 2020

## 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

### *Page      Inside This Issue*

2	International
15	Australia
21	New Zealand
25	Fiji
27	Papua New Guinea
32	Solomon Islands
42	Contact Us & Get Involved

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.

# International

## International Association of First Ladies for Peace Inaugural Assembly

« Building a World of Lasting Peace: A First Ladies' Initiative »

World Summit 2020

February 5 | Seoul, South Korea

## Executive Summary

By Carolyn Handschin

The International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP) held a successful inaugural world assembly affirming the unique and essential role that women leaders are called to play in bringing about a world of lasting peace. The high-level assembly, “Building a World of Lasting Peace: A First Ladies’ Initiative” was part of the World Summit 2020, and special centenary celebration of the life and work of Dr. Sun Myung Moon. It was held at the KINTEX Centre outside Seoul on February 5, 2020. The Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWPI), hosted the assembly with First Lady Debbie Remengesau, who had convened the Asia Pacific First Ladies Summit in December in Palau, and the Universal Peace Federation (UPF).



In its founding Resolution, the IAFLP declared it brings together “women leaders from all national, racial and religious backgrounds and all sectors of society, together with those who have lived the responsibility of First Ladies in their nations, uniting in solidarity to respond to today’s challenges. The loving and sacrificial leadership of women working together to empower our youth for goodness, to build cohesive communities and, with men, establish models of ethical and balanced leadership to guide them has never been more critical.”

Unanimously passed at the conclusion of the assembly, the IAFLP Resolution stands up for the central role that women and mothers have played throughout human history and as “decisive contributors to reconciliation, peacebuilding, reconstruction and development in the wider society and world.” IAFLP proudly takes its place beside the International Summit Council for World Peace (ISCP) and the Summit’s host, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and its core associations, which are dedicated to creating a world that is interdependent, mutually prosperous and based on universally shared values.

**Ms. Merly Berlaan**, WFWP President in the Philippines invited the current First Ladies to the be seated on the stage. **Ms. Carolyn Handschin**, director of the WFWPI United Nations Office and Emcee, welcomed a room full to capacity with prominent women leaders from every continent, and explained the significance of the assembly.



Opening Remarks were given by **Ms. Julia Moon**, president of WFWPI and director of the Universal Ballet. Addressing the prestigious gathering, she spoke with warmth of the visionary leadership of **Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon** and her husband’s lifelong commitment to peace, as well as the vast network of organizations to which they have dedicated their lives. She thanked Madam Madame Debbie Remengesau, First Lady of Palau for pioneering the First Ladies Association, saying, “Your passion, love, warmth and embracing leadership is an inspiration. IAFLP is an innovative initiative started by Mother Moon to harness the maternal qualities of women to work for peace beyond our families.” She added, “Imagine what change could come about if we could bring together our wealth of knowledge, talent , experience and resolve to remedy some of the social, environmental and other problems of our time”.

## Special Addresses I: Toward a Culture of Peace and Co-Prosperity:

### The Role of First Ladies

In the first panel, “Special Addresses I: Toward a Culture of Peace and Co-Prosperity: The Role of First Ladies”, **Madame Debbie Remengesau**, first lady of Palau, referred to the December gathering in Palau at which the Asia Pacific First Ladies Summit was launched. “We are gathered again today to inaugurate this special session to jumpstart what would become a powerful partnership between first ladies, visionary women and prominent women leaders who share the same desires and ideals to build a future filled with peace, prosperity and stability.





.. We must look into ourselves, draw upon that value, and work together as women traditionally would, to create solutions to challenges that threaten our families, our homes and our nations.” She asked all the attendees to make IAFLP an organisation that does not just speak, but creates actionable outcomes. “Let us commit to creating a solid outcome that can be reported at the next meeting. It does not have to be a giant step, but together with small steps we can affect environmental change on a global scale such as protecting 30% of our oceans or creating a national environmental pledge.”

**Madame Ingrid Aingimea**, First Lady of Nauru, population 10,000, addressed the audience. She spoke about building people power and the importance of accountability. “The critical issues of our time and the thematic areas we must first of all ensure are the values which we hold dear so that goodwill, integrity and kindness and respect are extended at all times.” Continuing, she explained, “A government cannot be seen as democratic if it is not accountable to its people, and that democracy must value people over profits.” When we look beyond power, wealth, status and influence and apply the universal values of peace and goodwill, it becomes a common cause of empowerment and prosperity for our nations.”

On behalf of First Lady Mme. Ginger Kabua of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, **Mme. Lieom A. Loeak** Former First Lady, thanked Mother Moon on this very special occasion. We are currently facing a 6-month health emergency due to dengue fever and we are always confronted with the serious effects of climate change. As now the world is affected by a global pandemic, the COVID-19 virus and coming together to stop it, we must do the same for all issues. “We must use opportunities such as we see at this Summit to learn from one another and be proactive in our responses to each-others struggles. “

Former First lady of Nicaragua, **Mme. Maria Fernanda Flores Lanzas’** speech was titled, “The Role of Women in Nicaraguan Politics”. With conviction, she described the inaccessibility to decision-making of women in Latin America until the mid 1900s, expressing that to date, there have only been 3 women heads of state. Global legal frameworks for women’s empowerment, like CEDAW have helped, but progress has been more on an individual scale. Nicaragua’s civil rebellion of 2012 had a women’s face. “Gender equality policies must translate into women’s voices being able to contribute to problem solving”. Let us work together to claim respect and not rest until we live in a world of freedom, justice and opportunities for all women. Thank you to Mother Moon, a spiritual guide and great woman leader!

The next speaker was **Mme Patience Jonathan**, former first lady of Nigeria, a country of over 206 million. She explained that “Peace is the ground upon which sustainable development is built. It is the atmosphere in which prosperity and other virtues like love and justice and equality can blossom. This is why everybody has to volunteer to promote peace, no matter our role and status in our societies.” She called for gender equality and justice in all spheres of society. “I call on women around the world to stand firm and continue with their task of peacebuilding in their respective nations, no matter the challenges and difficulties they face,” she said.

The final speech of the first panel was delivered by **Dr. Emilia Patricia Alfaro de Franco**, former First Lady and a Member of Parliament of Paraguay. With passion, she spoke of the struggle to be recognized and of the historic deep yearning for democracy of the women of Paraguay. Though always being at the side of her husband during his office, she was able to recognize and create opportunities for the vulnerable and disenfranchised -and pursue actions for the promotion and protection of human rights in many areas. At that time, two women ministers were appointed. “Our countries and peoples need us”, she expressed to the First Ladies in attendance. “I urge that we do not leave vacant the role of the First Lady, but work to foment the credibility of the family, social commitment and faith in our beliefs.”

## Special Addresses II:

### Identifying Successful Initiatives and the Future of IAFLP

A second panel of the session entitled, “Special Addresses II: “Identifying Successful Initiatives and the Future of IAFLP,”” was introduced by Mrs. Handschin as an opportunity to think together about plans, networking and concrete initiatives that could coalesce First Ladies, institutions, civil society and the private sector in the pursuit of cultures of peace.



The first speaker was **Madame Fionnuala Kenny**, wife of the former prime minister of Ireland, described Ireland as a nation which for many years was devastated by poverty and immigration. “There are 6.2 million Irish people on the island of Ireland now, but we have 75 million people around the world who claim Irish heritage”. Attributing Ireland’s progress and economic growth to its entry into the European Union in 1973, Ireland now works to support new, especially less developed nations. She praised the new first ladies’ association. “For women leaders, particularly for first ladies, who may have little experience in public life, there is great value and importance in a network that can show you the power you can have, or that you can use, to make the world a better place for our children.”

**H.E. Anneli Jäätteenmäki**, former prime minister of Finland, addressed the lack of progress in women's participation in decision-making. "Equality in participation and decision-making in society at all levels, from grass-roots to governmental positions, is important," she said. Despite the many advancements and achievements, the former prime minister said "most of the world's illiterates are women, and poverty among women is increasing." She called on civil society and governments to improve these "disturbing signs."



**Dr. Svjetlana Jovic** of the Civil Affairs office, UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), who has had more than 20 years' experience in UN peacekeeping, peacebuilding and conflict resolution, emphasized the involvement of women in the peace process. Dr. Jovic called upon the participants "to promote core values and to serve as role models to younger generations. ... Young people need someone to look up to and someone who will advocate for their interests: parents, mothers, grandparents, guardians. The more women are seen in positions of power and decision-making, the more positive, holistic and based on empathy these decisions will be."

**Dr. Celine Guerin**, neuroscientist and trauma therapist, Switzerland reminded the audience that the critical element in healing, and living in peace is "love". All my research and clinical therapy as a neuroscientist is rooted there. The trauma of violence, anger, death, fear, competition is embedded in our cells over generations and will affect our emotions and relationships. Through science, we are able to reverse the epigenetic modifications so that we heal trauma and bring ourselves to be able to receive and give love unencumbered.

**Mrs. Laura Clark**, Co-founder of the Palau Legacy Project spoke of the effect of the First Lady's project has had on her daily behavior and her own life work. Through the Palau Pledge, a mandatory stamp in the passport of all visitors, addressed to the children of Palau, thousands become more aware of the effect that they personally have, good or bad, on the natural environment. Reiterating the words of Mrs. Remengesau, she closed by saying that we need to take responsible action in our own countries.



Other attendees included **Madame Aman Agbomson Klutse**, wife of the former prime minister of Togo; **Madame Callista Mutharika**, former first lady, Malawi; **Madame Graciela Rompani**, Álvarez Caldeyro Barcia Foundation, Uruguay; **Madame Koila Nailatikau**, former first lady, Fiji; **Madame Bernadette Tong**, former first lady, Kiribati; **Madame Sitti Abdallah Mwinyi**, former first lady, Tanzania; **Madame Flutura Ahmeti**, wife of the former prime minister, Albania; **Madame Medine Hanku**, wife of former president, Albania and: Among the other speakers and attendees were **Madame Patricia Marroquín de Argueta**, former first lady, Guatemala.

Closing Remarks for the Session were given by **Dr. Samia Burton**, assistant clinical professor of medicine, George Washington University in the United States, who described the establishment of the IAFLP as “the ‘crème de la crème,’ the best of the best, as they say in French. The very best of all the associations for peace that were founded by Mother Moon.” She thanked Mother Moon for her “vision, commitment, courage and hard work” and praised her family, Dr. Sun Jin Moon and her husband, Dr. In Sup Park, and Dr. Julia Moon of the Universal Ballet.

A short interlude The Little Angels Children’s Folk Ballet of Korea provided delightful cultural entertainment while a light meal was served at each table.

## Inauguration Session

The Inaugural Session of the IAFLP, moderated by **Mrs. Angelika Selle**, president, WFWP USA, who said, “We can all feel this new association is well off the ground and ready to move to the next level and into action.” **Dr. Thomas Walsh**, the chair of UPF International, was invited to give congratulatory remarks. He thanked WFWPI and Mrs. Remengesau for the quality of the assembly and explained UPF’s hopes for a strong collaboration in the future. The role of women “is no longer a question...In this room, there are parliamentarians, heads of states, not just First Ladies, but many other leading figures, religious leaders”. We need what women bring to the table and we need to be able to integrate that fully into our work.

**Hon. Faustina Rehurer-Marugg**, minister of state, Palau, gave opening remarks on behalf of president Tommy Remengesau. We live in peace, and stability with nature which provides our sustenance. If the plant is endangered, so is the human. “Let’s use this opportunity .to build strong partnerships and solidarity as we continue to champion our good causes for the good of the whole world.”



Senior Vice-president, WFWP International, **Dr. Sun Jin Moon** took to the stage to inspire the IAFLP delegation with her vision and call to action. She shared that her parents [Father and Mother Moon] are global trail-blazers, “My parents spent their entire lives to work for peace and lived the philosophy of, *Living for the Sake of Others* centred on God, our Heavenly Parent. They devoted themselves to bring peace to the world with universal values.

She outlined many of the critical issues facing humanity, but most fundamentally, “At the deepest level, there is a crisis of the human heart and conscience. There is a crisis rooted in a failure to understand our true identity.”

“It is only when we come to recognize the depth of God’s reality, and the divine dignity of each person, that we each can become a light, a

compass that shows the way out of the chaos that surrounds us, our families and communities.”

To formally inaugurate the new association, **Mrs. Blessie Dhakal**, president, WFWP Nepal, read the Resolution for the Establishment of the IAFLP. She quoted, “The loving and sacrificial leadership of women working together to empower our youth for goodness, to build cohesive communities and, with men, establish models of ethical and balanced leadership to guide them has never been more critical.” After a presentation of gifts, congratulatory addresses were offered by distinguished participants.



**H.E. Anneli Jäätteenmäki**, former Prime Minister, Finland said that she would like to thank the founding members/ mothers of the Women’s Federation and all that has been happening here during the Summit, because of Father and Mother Moon and their family. It is very important that we have signed this resolution, wiring our names in history. While women have always shaped the histories of their nations, they are seldom remembered. In Finland our new Prime Minister is a woman, and the majority of our governments are women. I am sure that they will shape the future for a better Finland.

**H.E. Dalia Itzik**, former President, Israel addressed the group, saying. “It is astonishing to me to see how one woman ( Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon) dedicates everything, together with her family, after all her life seeking for peace and fostering noble values”. My husband is here with me. “I truly pray that when my daughter reaches my age and looks back, she will be as satisfied as I am today.”

**H.E. Sujata Koirala**, former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Nepal, praised the IAFLP, which “will be led by women in order to foster maternal instincts such as unconditional love, the willingness to sacrifice, forgiveness and sibling harmony. Mother Moon calls this the ‘Logic of Love.’” The family is the bedrock of society, she said. “When families are strong, stable and nurture children and grandchildren properly, then the society and the nation benefit.”

**Mme. Bernadette Meme Tong**, former First Lady of the Republic of Kiribati, came to the stage with a written speech but explained that she preferred to speak from the heart. “Coming from the smallest island in the middle of the South Pacific, I see that we are all striving for peace in so many ways. I cannot say more than has already been said, I am just so happy to be a part of this organization.”



## Closing Remarks



Closing remarks were offered by **Madame Koila Nailatikau**, former first lady of Fiji. “Women’s representation matters, but it is essential for men, (and I hope all the men in the room are listening), to realise their privilege and make a seat at the table for women, just as Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon did when he acknowledged Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon as True Mother, as his equal in their path and work towards universal peace. Reverend Moon knew that when you teach a man, you teach a man, but when you teach a woman, you teach a generation. May we take these lessons to our nations, our homes, our families and instil the seeds of love, respect, inclusivity, and equality to begin a better world for our next generation. And for our strong powerful women: may we know them, may we be them, and may we raise them!”

The session concluded with all 18 former and current first ladies in attendance, alongside WFWP International President Julia Moon, Dr. Sun Jin Moon and Professor Yeon Ah Moon, chair of UPF-Korea, signing the resolution of commitment to work together for peace and to address the international cultural and social issues of the day. Support for the new IAFLP partnership was further confirmed in the resounding closing applause of all women leaders present.

Very special appreciation to the WFWPI headquarters staff and the advance team, including those not yet mentioned; Mrs. Paris Moon, Ms. Mion Migouchi for their tireless work behind the scenes.

## Global Women’s Peace Network



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

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

# Asia Pacific First Ladies Summit 2019

## Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values

December 9-12 | Koror, Palau

Held in Koror, the inaugural Asia Pacific First Ladies Summit was conducted in December 2019. The Summit co-hosted by the First Lady Debbie Remengesau, the Office of the President, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and the Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) drew participants from many parts of the globe. While there were over three hundred international guests, two hundred of these were dignitaries from 36 nations.



HE Debbie Remengesau



HE Thomas Remengesau Jr.

During the Summit, a number of discussions were held on a wide range of topics including the strengthening of social and family relations, improving the health and wellbeing of humanity, sustainable development and youth empowerment. As a result of these discussions, a resolution was agreed on to establish the International Association of First Ladies for Peace – an association that would work towards advancing peace with the support and cooperation of government bodies and civil society.

### December 9<sup>th</sup>



To open the Summit, a welcome banquet hosted by the Office of the President was held at the Palau Pacific Resort where all the delegates were able to enjoy the breathtaking beauty of their surrounds. After being warmly welcomed by the First Lady of Palau and her husband, the delegates enjoyed a buffet dinner and entertainment provided by traditional dancers.

December 10<sup>th</sup>



*The Opening Plenary* on December 10<sup>th</sup> comprised a range of keynote speeches by HE Debbie M. Remengesau, Dr. Julia Moon (WFWPI President) representing Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon (Co-Founder of UPF and WFWPI), HE Teiraeng Maamau (First Lady of Kiribati), HE Ingrid Aingimea (First Lady of Nauru), HE Diann Torres (First Lady of the N. Mariana Islands), HE Rachael Marape (First Lady of PNG), HE Adi Lieom Loeak (former First Lady of Fiji), and HE Lieom Loeak (former First Lady of Marshall Islands).

In the matriarchal society of Palau, Debbie Remengesau explained, it is women who hold the power to choose and dismiss their leaders and to make decisions regarding finances. Women play an important role in Palaun society and therefore, Palau is an ideal place she believed for inaugurating the Association of First Ladies for Peace. When women have a voice, societal change is possible. It is through the woman's voice that we can achieve independence, mutual prosperity and share universal values on a global level. She expressed her appreciation for the wisdom she has acquired as a result of her heritage and encouraged the participants to support the drive to care for the environment.



Dr. Julia Moon shared greetings from Mother Moon. Dr. Moon explained that in order to create a world of peace, we need ideal families and testified that Mother Moon does not rest.

Continuing the work of Father Moon, she feels deep love for humanity. Mother Moon does not speak about the results of distress in the world, but focuses on the root cause of these problems.

Following this introduction, Dr. Julia shared Mother Moon's speech.

My late husband and I knew the secret that the Pacific Rim Era will become the central civilization centred on Korea, bringing an era of one global family centred on God. The culture of the Asia



Pacific Rim is to respect one's elders, conserve the environment and is non-materialistic. Such a culture is an ideal culture to realise a global family centred on God, our Heavenly Parent. This is a culture of heart, where people live for the sake of others and give unconditionally. Peace will come based on the woman's nature of love and sociability by creating healthy families that are true families. My hope is that the First Ladies Summit will spread to all nations so that enlightened women can bring about peace for all.

Concluding the keynote addresses, a resolution to establish the International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP) was signed by all the speakers.



*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Session* was run by WFWPI, with the theme: The role of Women Leaders in Addressing the Critical Challenges: Solutions and Best Practices. Speakers from Korea, PNG, the Philippines, Tuvalu and Europe shared their insights and knowledge about practices that are working in the regions they represented.

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Session* was run by the government of Palau, with the theme: Palau, Preserving the Environment through Cultural Wisdom. The session was a rally cry for future generations to preserve the environment through cultural wisdom.



Real examples of how this is occurring in Palau were presented as follows. The Palau constitution stipulates that the nation is a nuclear free zone. Historically, the women of Palau rose up against international pressure to prevent Palau from being a nuclear testing ground. People died for this cause! Palau has also banned fishing trawling. At present, the government is working to ban commercial fishing within Palau waters, with the aim to become the first national marine sanctuary in the world. Palau has the philosophy that “we borrow this Earth from our children,” rather than the notion that our children inherit the Earth from us. Palau is making intentional decisions that their children and grandchildren will be proud of.



When visitors pass through immigration, a pledge is stamped in their passports to read and sign in front of the officials, this is a government law. The government seeks to conserve Palau's fish, culture and natural beauty. "We want our visitors to be part of this! It isn't the government's responsibility, but everyone's."

**December 11<sup>th</sup>**

*WFWPI Interactive Session: Leadership Paradigms – Asia Pacific Partnership Projects.*



This program was designed to showcase WFWPI's best practices in the field of education, humanitarian service outreach and peace-building initiatives within the Asia Pacific region. It became a great platform for women leaders to network and work together to solve critical challenges within their regions.



Following the keynote address by Mulipola Anarosa Ale-Molio from Samoa, Moriko Hori (WFWP IVP for Asia) presented an overview of the WFWP humanitarian projects in Asia while Anne Bellevance (WFWP IVP for Oceania) provided an overview of similar projects in Oceania.

The presentations raised a number of significant issues which were then discussed amongst each group of participants. While the discussions centred on the incidence of these issues within their own nations, possible solutions were also given consideration. The results of these discussions were shared with the whole group in order to initiate a joint Asia Pacific project which would deal with these issues. Many of the women present were keen to offer their assistance with this project.





## Reflections from Alexis Lewgor, a delegate from New Zealand

I particularly enjoyed the session on The Role of Women Leaders: Solutions and Best Practices. I reflect upon my enriching experiences and summarize in what ways this summit will help me to make a contribution to my community. I would like to adopt an international perspective on how to benefit from exchange of ideas, sharing of expertise, socializing with international colleagues and to examine its relevance to what I currently do.

I also welcomed the WFWPI Special Interaction Session where the Theme was: Women Peace-Leadership Paradigms: Asia Pacific Partnership Projects. This session was really exciting and lively since the interaction between the group presenters and the audience revealed some of the key issues that the committees have to figure out, are also of concern for the women. I also made a very brief remark on the point of whether these sessions should be at a strategic level and visionary. Some of what was shared were very impressive, through which I learned that the experiences in those countries are designed to assist the women run their projects.



Inspired by what I learnt from some of the sessions, during the week, I introduced myself to many delegates, to find out what they are doing in their communities. There is no doubt that the challenges confronted by the women and their concerns are not easy. In contrast with some well-developed projects, some of the women face very tough environments

where there is not sufficient specific enabling programs intended to ease the adjusting period for them, who are usually left to explore the sometimes treacherous processes, at their own risk. Trial and error is more often the norm rather than exception, which is very problematic, giving rise to various risks and issues. Just as in other countries, some women, among other things, have to face up to the enormous financial pressure, given the fact that they are newcomers and do not have major income sources.



# Australia

## Books for PNG

December 2019 | Queensland, Australia

WFWP Queensland have recently organised a shipping container filled with books to be sent to a school near Rabaul in Papua New Guinea. A volcanic eruption destroyed much of this area some years ago and as the locals continue with their rebuilding efforts, the need for resources is still high. Aware of the need to help the schools affected by the disaster, WFWP Queensland members contacted local schools to see if they could donate books they no longer needed.

Over the last few months, a number of schools and libraries in Queensland have donated large collections of books including text books which have been shipped by East New Britain Queensland to Papua New Guinea. We are most grateful for the generosity of this company as they offered to ship this container without charges.



# ‘Days for Girls, Wandin Chapter’ reach the Highlands of PNG

January 2020 | Victoria, Australia



In many developing nations not having sanitary supplies can mean days without school, days without income and days without leaving the house resulting in girls missing up to two months of school every year.

To address this issue and give girls across the globe education, safety and dignity, *Days for Girls International* was founded in 2008. *Days for Girls* provides washable feminine hygiene kits to girls and women who would otherwise go without, enabling them to not miss valuable days from their education or employment.

It has been proven that:

- Girls who have sanitary hygiene are confident in school and are more likely to graduate;
- For every year of education a girl receives her future income increases;
- When a girl has seven or more years of education, she marries four years later than without these years of education, and is able to gain better qualifications and greater employment opportunities.

WFWP Victoria is so happy to be partnering with the Wandin Chapter ladies who sew the menstrual kits with *Days For Girls, Australia*, located near our Regional office. Our plan is to ship boxes of kits to our WFWP Chapters within the Pacific Islands so that our WFWP members can distribute them free of charge.

Along with the kits, WFWP Victoria has duplicated the Days For Girls menstrual health book so that our members can educate the girls about menstrual health as a platform for empowering the young women.



Lorena Hayes (left), Chapter Leader of *Days for Girls Australia*, Wandin Chapter assisted Jan Smetak (WFWP Victoria Vice-President) load the boxes bound for Papua New Guinea. Her team of volunteer seamstresses sources the fabric, funding and materials to sew and assemble the menstrual kits.

Anne Bellavance (WFWP Australia President) and Jan were able to bring 200 kits with them to the Central Highlands to be distributed by WFWP PNG at the launch of the Pasifika Micro-Credit program in Jiwaka.



This picture shows a single *Day for Girls* kit. Costing about \$20AU to make, one kit can keep a girl in school for up to 3 to 4 years. The kits are sewn from quality fabric and are washable.



# Exposition Activities

## March 2020 | Victoria, Australia

As a lead up to the Melbourne Pasifika Festival, WFWP Victoria took the opportunity to showcase and promote WFWP Australia's Humanitarian Projects, and our International activities at two Melbourne expositions.



The Pacific Connections Exposition promotes the products of businesses and services of community groups operated by Pacific Islanders living in and around Melbourne. The exposition also provides workshops for Pasifika entrepreneurs and is managed by diaspora volunteers from the Island communities. This is the second year that WFWP Victoria has run a stall at the expo.



With the help of Emma Kamupala (President of the Nieu Community in Victoria), Anne Bellavance and Emma networked with food and craft stall holders, and invited them to hold a stall at the upcoming Melbourne Pasifika Festival. They also chatted and connected with community island residents attending the expo.

Emma, weaving with reeds to create a Nieu style hat.



Some of our friends also had stalls at the expo. The Victoria Māori Wardens volunteer their services at festivals and community events by providing support, security, first aid, traffic and crowd control, and other services to the community. The registered charity is made up of Kiwi volunteers.

We are honoured to have the Wardens supporting the Melbourne Pasifika Festival as a presence to help take care of attendees.

Eva Tai Rakena, centre,  
President of Māori Wardens Victoria



Miss Samoa Victoria INC connects Miss Samoa contestants to their Samoan roots in order to share Samoan culture with the Australian community. The organisation endeavours to support their contestant representative with honour, humility and integrity as they represent the Samoan culture to the world. They work in partnership with Samoan families, community organisations and businesses.

At the official opening of the Melbourne Pasifika Festival, Miss Samoa will be a guest of honour and will be representing Samoan culture throughout the festival.

Miss Samoa 2019 (Zahriya Sina Fuala'au Leaoasoma) with Anne at the Pacific Connections expo.



The Holland Festival association holds a cultural festival in the outer East of Melbourne for the benefit of the community, including people of Dutch heritage, and raises funds gained from the event for charitable purposes, including Rotary community service projects. The festival is managed by volunteers and provides the opportunity for local charities to showcase their activities.

During the day some of our Board and volunteers manned the WFWP stall to connect with the local community and showcase the WFWP Australia Local and Humanitarian Projects within Oceania.



# It's a Sizzle!

January-March 2020 | Victoria, Australia



Using the iconic Bunnings sausage sizzle tents, some of our Board and volunteers hold a Saturday or Sunday barbeque to raise funds for our WFWP Australia Humanitarian Projects. For our readers who do not know this Australian icon, Bunnings warehouse stores sell everything from plants, to timber supplies, to kitchen cabinets. Bunnings invites local community organisations to hold these fundraisers for their customers. Bunnings supplies all the barbeque equipment, the community organisations bring the supplies and good cheer.



It's a fun day to connect with members of the local community, Bunnings managers and staff, and of course each other. Throughout the year, WFWP Victoria holds sausage sizzles on a regular basis. A big thankyou to our dedicated volunteers and Board members! These pictures show some of our sizzles!



# New Zealand

## Annual Global Peace Network Assembly

October 2019 | Parnell Peace Embassy

Lia Goijarts and Felicity Cairns

This year's assembly focused on the theme – 'The Role of Women in the Challenges of Our Time' and there were several speakers who presented their views on this theme. The first speaker was Felicity Cairns, the President of WFPW New Zealand.



Mrs Matapa Shelley (MC)



Mrs Felicity Cairns (WFPW NZ President) addressed the audience

Felicity provided a comprehensive description of the different roles women played in society. Besides being the primary caretakers of children and the elderly in every country of the world, she explained that women are also most likely to be the prime initiators of external assistance and therefore play an important role in facilitating changes and challenges in family life. International studies on this issue indicate that when the economy and political organisations of a society change, it is women who take the lead in helping the family adjust to new realities and challenges.

She then went on to describe the various challenges families of today face. While some of those challenges include addiction, abuse, grief, financial hardship, illness and relationship breakdowns, it is often the women who provide care and guidance when facing these situations as they have a unique ability to alleviate the difficulties that are part of these challenges. Women play nine prominent roles in their lifetime which change as they age. As a result of their biological structure, women are able to be more sensitive and emotional which contributes to their ability to create a loving and peaceful home and a loving and peaceful community.



Geraldine Henderson was the next speaker. Geraldine is the youngest member of the National Council of Women in New Zealand. Founded by the suffragette Kate Sheppard, the National Council of Women aims to achieve gender equality across the political, social and economic sectors of the country. While describing the role the Council plays, Geraldine described some of the actions they take including the writing of submissions to Parliament to ensure the voice of women is given consideration in the decision making process. Although change continues to occur, Geraldine believes it is very slow and discrimination is still a challenge although it is much more subtle than it used to be in the past. As

women will continue to be affected by the challenges of our time she cautioned the audience to become aware of the influences of social media and technology as these have a powerful impact on society and to work on reducing the negative influences.



Mrs Zabila Khan, the President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association NZ spoke next about the challenges of our time. Her belief is that these challenges occur as a result of the denial of human rights. While terrorism threatens human rights to education, life, liberty and security, the depletion of natural resources threatens the future of our children. She explained that in order to preserve the human race, women play a vital role as they can use love and affection to break down the barriers caused by these challenges. The Prophet Mohammed believed that Paradise lay at the feet of the mother as she is the first teacher.

She encouraged mothers to ensure they taught their children respect, empathy and ways of living for the sake of others to inspire peaceful living. She believes that if one is to follow this precept, and women use love and purity an Age of Universal Peace is possible.



The next address was presented by Ms Tara Singh, a philanthropist and executive member of the Auckland branch of the UN Women Aotearoa New Zealand – an organisation that focuses on issues of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Tara believes that women are the key to unlocking and solving the challenges of our time. If women are involved in security and peace agreements, success is more than likely to occur. She explained that peace starts with all of us. Through compassion for ourselves and others, peace can be wrought at a wider level. Using the analogy of Yin and Yang, where Yin is like the softness of a loving grandmother and Yang is like the tiger protecting ourselves and others,

she suggested that women need to use both these forces in harmony. By embodying the soft and the fierce in our efforts of compassion, she suggested, we can work towards peace. She invited participants to join her organisation to find out more about these issues.



Japanese Volunteers performed a dance and song

The afternoon ended with entertainment provided by the Japanese volunteers who performed a lively song and dance routine.

# End of Year Event

November 2019 | Auckland New Zealand

To celebrate the end of the year, a special function was organized at the Te Manawa Community Centre on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Sponsored jointly by the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), the Women's Federation for World Peace NZ (WFWP NZ) and the World Sports Fishing Federation (WSFF), the celebration drew 120 people to the community centre.



Emcee: Mrs Matapa Shelley



Mr Adel Jamati

The centre beautifully decorated by the Japanese missionaries was an ideal setting to celebrate the achievements of the year. After being warmly welcomed by Mrs Matapa Shelley who was the MC for the evening, Mr Adel Jamati, Director of UPF NZ commenced the evening's festivities with an Opening Prayer. Following this, the Rev. Kenji Watanabe, the National Leader of FFWPU NZ provided a short address where he reviewed the year's activities and expressed his appreciation for the contributions made by those present.

After giving thanks for the food, the guests enjoyed a sumptuous meal contributed by the different members.



After dinner, a slide show of the highlights of the various events hosted by the different organisations was screened. Following on, there were a number of performances provided by a range of different cultural groups which kept the audience entertained.





Rev Kenji Watanabe



The evening concluded with an exchange of gifts and a short speech by Mrs Felicity Cairns, President of the WFWP NZ where she expressed her appreciation for the support and assistance received during the year and for the efforts made by those who travelled overseas to attend international conferences. She farewelled all the guests after wishing them all a safe and happy festive season and a New Year that would be a good one for all of them.

## Food Rations Distribution

March 8-10

Many households in Fiji, especially those living in informal settlements, experience both malnourishment and illness as a result of a lack of access to an adequate food supply. As they rely heavily on food handouts, WFP Fiji decided to support these households while celebrating International Women's Day. The goal was to empower women by providing them with physical help in the form of food parcels and psychological help in the form of a listening ear.

Following the vision of Dr Hak Ja Han Moon, members of WFP Fiji initiated a project to lend a helping hand to local women to deal with their struggles. Members put together several items to create Food Baskets which were distributed to ten women and their families. This initial project saw us spend \$500 altogether.

### Some of Our Food Basket Beneficiaries



Sashi Lata who lives in a suburb in the Central part of Fiji with her 14 year old daughter who has intellectual disabilities was one of our beneficiaries. Sashi is a single parent who has no means of support while she cares for her daughter's health and well-being.

Sharila Lazarus from WFP hands over a food pack to Paulini Bote who cares for her grandson. Paulini lives in the Central Division. With them is Samriddhi Neupane who is displaying her handmade banner for the project.







Another recipient of a Food Basket was Gyan Nand. Gyan is a widow who has recently lost her job.

We are grateful that we have had this opportunity to be a blessing and support for women in need. WFWP Fiji is committed to helping these women and it is our hope that we will be able to continue to support these women by providing regular assistance in the form of food packs or financial aid. Helping our sisters in this way is a key to enabling them to improve their lives.

## 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.

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, WFWP International aims to create an environment of peace and wellbeing for future generations and people of all races, cultures and religious creeds.



# New Papua New Guinea

## Pasifika Micro-credit Project

January 15-18



Taking a partnership approach between WFP Australia and the WFP Chapters within the Pacific Island Nations, *Pasifika Micro-Credit* aims to empower women in the Island Nations of Oceania by directly investing in their business idea, economic activity or micro-enterprise with a micro-credit loan. Pacific women are under-represented among business owners, and face financial barriers to start and develop businesses. As a result, female-headed businesses are less likely to be successful due to limited capital.

Studies show that when women are given economic opportunity, it benefits not only their families, but their community, and ultimately national economic development. Highlighting the first Global Goal, providing economic opportunities for women puts poverty reduction on a faster track.

## Who benefit?

- Women with low to moderate-income who have viable business ideas that do not meet the criteria of banks or other traditional lenders and, therefore, are unable to access bank credit for their small businesses.
- Women with existing businesses and/or start-up businesses that have strong business plans.



Applicants meet with their mentors and understand the process before the training program. Repayment of lent funds will be repaid over a 3 year period. Returned funds will replenish the available funds for the local Chapter to lend to future applicants. All lending arrangements will be incremental and staggered. WFWP will use the model developed in this project, to extend micro financing to other areas of the Pacific.



The Pasifika Micro-Credit Program (PMC) is a project established by WFWP Australia specifically to support women within the island nations of Oceania. This project was launched in Papua New Guinea in January 2020.

Trainees with Anne Bellavance, Jan Smetak and Betty Kaime

A Training Program to introduce the PMC project to rural women was held in Minj, located in Jiwaka Province in the Central Highlands of Papua New Guinea.





During the training program, participants were introduced to the philosophy of the project along with the basic elements of running a micro-business. The philosophy of PMC aligns with WFWP goals which are to empower women, strengthen families and connect communities. Although the focus of the training program was local women, the men of the community were encouraged to attend to build their support for any prospective business in the future.



With a mix of group discussions, worksheets and presentations, topics covered included Micro-Credit and the PMC Process, Setting Goals and Objectives, SWOT Analysis, Using GANNT Project Planning tools and Business Planning. To assist some of the women, a Pidgin English interpreter was present during the entire program.

Participants were organised into small groups led by a supervisor who assisted them in filling in their business plans during the Business Planning sessions. Some of the businesses chosen were to raise livestock such as chickens or pigs for sale in the local markets, sewing garments for sale, expanding and developing coffee fields, setting up trade stores and setting up wholesale businesses.





The supervisors who are local professionals will continue to provide mentoring support on business management. It is our hope that these women will become trailblazers whose success will provide an example for women in other provinces to follow suit.

After attending the three day program, sixty one women were presented with their certificates at a colourful and cheerful Graduation Ceremony. Dressed in traditional PNG colours, the ceremony was a joyous occasion attended by several family members and local dignitaries.



Dignitaries included Hon. Bari Palma (MP for Kerowagi), Sheila Kuli (wife of the MP for Anglimp South Waghi), Marilyn Saonu (wife of the Provincial Governor for Morobe), Chief Inspector Eluh (Gold Commander for CIS Barawagi), Inspector Patrina Dikin from Port Mosesby, Ronnie Akim, (Chief Sargent for Minj) and Simon

Hans Gilpip (Minj Town Mayor). These VIPs were presented with the “Global Women’s Peace Leadership” award or the autobiography of our Founder Rev. Dr Sun Myung Moon.

The PNG Prime Minister (Hon. James Marape and his wife Mrs. Rachael Marape), and the Kerowagi Provincial Premier (Hon. Bari Palma) have pledged significant financial support to the Pasifika Micro-Credit project to enable WFWP PNG to educate and empower as many rural women in the Central Highlands as possible.



We look forward to hearing from our friends in Minj PNG to learn how they are progressing in their business endeavors and we wish them every success as they work towards long term positive outcomes for their rural communities.



# Solomon Islands

## Projects of WFWP Solomon Islands

March 2020 | Honiara

Supporting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, WFWP Solomon Islands is committed to achieving freedom from poverty, as well as implementing development cooperation activities according to local needs. The Solomon Islands Chapter, with support from our Regional Head office in Australia, developed small projects with local women who have taken initiative to run start up business.

This report acknowledges the WFWP Australia team who work closely with us, shipping a variety of useful resources, and each year offering local women the Pasifika Scholarship to gain tertiary education. We are really empowered indeed! I am really proud of our local women for their contribution to our communities.



*Selina Galokaniki (WFWP SI Chapter President)*

The following projects are currently active in the Solomon Islands. I have included testimonies from our local women who take responsible for each project.



## Project One: Tailor Business



*Nelly Masuaku (Manager) with two of her colleagues*

My name is Nelly Masuaku. I'm from Choiseul Province, the Western Part of the Solomon Islands. I'm good at sewing and easily make friends. Firstly, I would like to thank the President of Australia, Anne Bellavance and our Local Chapter President, Selina Galo and her hardworking committee who organise the activities that we are involved in.

I am personally involved in a small tailoring business which employs three people, which also supports us financially. We provide uniforms for the New Hope School, and sew clothes to sell to the public.

## Project Two: New Hope Academy School Mini Retail Shop Services

My name is Josephine Wane. I'm from Guadalcanal Province and a member of the Women Federation for World Peace in Solomon Islands Chapter. I want to acknowledge our Women Federation Australia and our Solomon Islands Local Chapter for giving this privilege to support us.



*Josephine Wane*

I'm involved in running a retail business for the New Hope Kindergarten and the Sun Hak Primary School. At the same time the shop supports my family financially and contributes to surrounding communities. Working as a manager in the business really empowered me and broadened my life vision to another level. It changed me, and I want to give the same opportunity to another family in the future, if I recover the money that I took to start this retail shop.

### **Project Three: New Hope Academy School Restaurant Service**

This project is purpose built to serve the students, teachers and parents of the school. Both of us (photo below) are members of the WFWP Solomon Islands local Chapter. We are very proud of our women activities, because we see that we are moving forward. When we reflect back two years ago, we did not have this project to conduct small business to empower women.

It is eye opening that we are involving ourselves practically. We gain respect from the parents of New Hope Academy. They are our first target when preparing a balanced diet of local food, which is healthier, for the students and other customers. When we received positive feedback from customers we are so happy and want to achieve more.



*On the left is Judith Meke, and to the right is Jessie Pitabelama*

This business really empowered us and supports us financially to help our families living needs. Thank you so much to the regional Women Federation for World Peace Oceania, especially Australia and to our Local Chapter in the Solomon Islands.

#### **Project Four: PASIFIKA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

This project was made possible with the partnership of the WFWP Australia (Victoria Chapter), and the WFWP Solomon Islands national chapter. During 2019, the project sponsored three women: Selina Galokaniki (Education Bachelor Teaching), Rose Teimana (Bachelor Nursing) and Janet Abba Koraslara (Education Early Childhood Diploma Teaching). Rose Teimana has graduated and completed her studies, while Selina and Janet are still continuing studies during 2020 at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU). In previous years, young women also received scholarships, as well as additional recipients for the 2020 university intake.

#### **Project Five: DONATED SCHOOL MATERIALS (BOOKS FOR THE ISLANDS)**

This project is in partnership with the WFWP (Victoria Chapter) and the WFWP national chapter. The project has an ongoing donation of school materials to the New Hope Academy and to the National Library in the Solomon Islands. A huge thanks goes to the Women's Federation for World Peace Australia (Victoria Chapter) for your continuous and generous school material donations.





*Donated school learning materials which arrived in early March, 2020*

## **Project Six: NEW HOPE ACADEMY SCHOOL**

My name is Selina Galokaniki. I am the school Principal and senior teacher of the New Hope Academy School. I see that Education is a foundation for a student's future life. New Hope Academy is growing day by day to achieve educational goals for the children of Honiara, Solomon Islands. The Academy sets a standard to integrate Character Education into the curriculum.



Teachers at New Hope are encouraged to be more 'heartistic' towards the children when they teach; it has now become a part of their teaching habit. As a result, we can see children respond positively towards their



school activities academically, socially, physically and emotionally. Having books sent to the School from WFWP Australia really helps teachers and students. Students enjoy their Library Corners whenever they finish their written work. Here in the Solomon Islands one of the problems is a lack of books in schools, resulting in student's slower reading knowledge. Therefore, having received donated books is such a great privilege that boosts the learning environment for our students. The New Hope teaching staff and our parents really acknowledge, and highly appreciate the kind support of WFWP Australia, in partnership with the WFWP SI Chapter to continuously donate our school learning materials.



### Project Seven: WFWP SI SEMINAR



Held on the International Day of Families, women who attend this event are really happy and recommend the program to continue. This is because within the Solomon Islands there are many problems related to families, and unfortunately increasing.



*WFWP Solomon Islands team*

## Scholarship Reports

### Rose Graduates Honiara, Solomon Islands



Thanks to the Women's Federation for World Peace Victoria, I have finally been able to achieve a lifelong dream. With their assistance, I was able to graduate from the Solomon Islands National University with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing specialising in Paediatrics. In December 2019 when I graduated, I was aware that without the help of the Scholarship Fund sponsored by WFWP Victoria, I would not have been able to complete this course.

The Scholarship Fund offers women like me an opportunity to receive a tertiary education – an education that not only provides us with a degree but enables us to use our skills and knowledge in helping our community. I feel specially blessed by the generosity of WFWP Victoria for contributing to my



university fees and for supporting me to complete my educational journey. My grateful thanks go to all the people who contributed to the Scholarship Fund. I would highly recommend this fund to any other women who are seeking to complete further studies.

## Janet Korasiara

### Honiara, Solomon Islands

First of all I would like to take this wonderful chance to thank my sponsor for sponsoring my two years scholarship. As a struggling mother it is a great blessing for me indeed. For without your support my dream will not be achieved. I have been receiving my scholarship since 2018 and was supposed to complete my study in 2019, but due to antenatal reasons, I deferred my course for one year. In July this year, I will resume my study as normal. Definitely 2021 will be my final year to complete my study. Once again I want to highly appreciate with great thanks to my sponsor and those who have contributed in one way or the other towards my study. Your help will really contribute a lot with advancing my knowledge and skills within my academic study.



Janet is studying Early Childhood Education [ECE] at SINU. Currently Janet is on maternity leave and she will resume her course in the second semester of this year. This course was already paid already by WFWP Vic.

## Selina Galokaniki

### Honiara, Solomon Islands



I have been very privileged to be one of the 2019 recipients of the Pasifika Scholarship Fund sponsored by WFWP Victoria. The Scholarship has enabled me to continue with my studies at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) in order to gain a Bachelor of Teaching. A two year course, I expect to graduate at the end of 2020.

Without the help of this Scholarship, I would not have been able to gain this qualification. Your generosity and genuine belief in me is more than appreciated. Considering you do not know me, your help has been invaluable. As a result of gaining this qualification, I will be able to contribute to the education of the children in my community. Eventually, this will have an impact on my country as these children begin to make a contribution to our society. I realize that being an educator is an important role in helping my country to develop.

Currently, the children whom I teach come from many different places in the country. Being able to educate these children is a wonderful investment because these children belong to a new generation – a generation who will be able to contribute to our country's progress and development. Your assistance and kindness will never be forgotten. I am indeed most grateful to you and I will continue to use my training to ensure that your investment in me continues to reap rewards.

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## Assistance Acknowledged

January 2019 | Honiara, Solomon Islands

The New Hope Academy (NHA) in Honiara, Solomon Islands was delighted to receive 65 packages of educational resources from the Women's Federation of World Peace Victoria. The teachers and students of NHA are extremely grateful to the members of the Federation for their generosity and kindness. Their continued support is of great assistance as it helps to enrich the lives of our students by making learning more enjoyable and interactive.







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We thank all our members, sponsors and supporters.

## Feeling inspired?



## Support our Pacific Islands Humanitarian Service Projects

Volunteer: Get involved with one of our Oceania Chapters. Contact us to find out how.

Donate: Make a financial contribution to our WFWP Island Projects, where 100% of your donation supports humanitarian projects. Within Oceania, WFWP is a fully volunteer based NFP charitable organisation.

Used sewing machines: Sent to our *Women's Sewing Centres* in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, PNG, and Samoa, where local women start cooperatives to support their families. Please ensure that your sewing machine is in good working conditions. The Women's Centres are also in need of fabric and tools.

### Quality junior and secondary school

books: *Books for the Islands* donates to primary and secondary schools within the Pacific to either establish school libraries, or enrich them.

Contact us to organise a pick-up or drop off time.