



PAN PACIFIC AND SOUTH EAST ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

**PPSEAWA is an international women's association devoted
to peace and understanding in the Asia Pacific Region**

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International Year of Forests

International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015

International Day of Families	May 15
World Refugee Day	June 20
World Humanitarian Day	August 19
International Literacy Day	September 8
International Day of Peace	September 21

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are needed to see this picture.

C O N T E N T S

President's Message	Jannette Smith	3
International Women's Day	Mary Cabrera	5
UN Officer's Report	Pam Rhemrev	6
NSW Group News	Margaret Groenewegen	8
Australian Women's Coalition	Luisa Latukefu	9
NSW International Women's Day	Margaret Groenewegen	10
PPSEAWA ACT Report	Jean Bennett	11
Quilt Recipients		12

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a difference a day makes in our lives. Here I was at Glengarry Guide Centre on Friday 11th March celebrating 100 years of International Women's Day with PPSEAWA members and friends. Almost at the same time, on the other side of the world, Mother Nature produced one of her cruellest events, the 2nd largest earthquake and tsunami ever recorded, in northern Japan. The scenes of devastation seen on television were almost too much to comprehend. Christchurch, New Zealand suffered a smaller but never-the-less devastating earthquake in September 2010 and then again in February this year. Australia has also had its share of natural disasters with massive flooding in Brisbane and Toowoomba, followed by Cyclone Yasi which destroyed so many North Queensland coastal towns. The atmospheric conditions created by Yasi caused massive rainfalls in country Victoria. At the same time there were bushfires in Perth. My thoughts are continually with the thousands of people who have suffered through these unprecedented acts of nature.

I would like to record my thanks to all members and friends who so willingly parted with their unwanted fabric and yarns for our Pieced for Peace Project. So much material arrived, mostly from friends, that it was overwhelming. However, it has all been turned into quilts/bedcovers etc. Experience has shown that it is better not to put batting into these fabric quilts. They can be used in more diverse ways if they are not too hot and heavy. To date we have made 30 fabric quilts and about 30 knitted or crocheted rugs. Mary Cabrera has been inundated with knitted and crocheted squares and has a team of willing volunteers creating colourful rugs.



Jannette and Mary with some of the quilts

Because I was not prepared for our quilts to be stockpiled in a disaster relief store house, (as happened in Banda Aceh) I decided to send the quilts for the Grantham/Lockyer area directly to Fairholme College Toowoomba, where the Principal, Mrs. Linda Evans has undertaken the task of making sure the quilts reach the people most in need. The rugs for New Zealand were sent directly to Rev. David Morgan, Rector of St. Clementines Anglican Church, Christchurch. This church was destroyed in the September earthquake and many people were also left homeless.

Fabric quilts were also given to Rev. Dr. Helen Richmond, for her personal use and for her educational work at Nungalinya Ecumenical College in Darwin. Helen was a

guest speaker at PPSEAWA, New South Wales, when she was working on her PhD Thesis.

Helen writes “We have had a number of sessions when we sit down on the floor around the quilt for sharing stories. One woman from Maningrida said that the quilt reminded her of the 8 language groups/clans who live together in her community and how they need to respect each other with differences and work together. Another student from Milingimbi said the quilt reminded her of the different nations of the world and how we need to live together.” Both these comments were unsolicited.

We will continue this project and send quilts and rugs where we feel they will be of most benefit. **Please** support our efforts to assist others in their time of need.

Transport costs play a big part in our ability to get goods to their destination. Two friends (not members) of PPSEAWA, unable to attend the Women’s Day lunch in Sydney have covered postage costs for the Toowoomba/Grantham quilts. Britannia Travel, Beecroft have covered transport costs for rugs to Christchurch.

The last 6 months have been a quiet time for me as President. I attended the round table meeting with the New South Wales Minister for Women, where updates were given on various projects. The National Council of Women Australia Day Luncheon was once again an uplifting occasion with young women being presented with cheques to assist them with their ongoing studies.

I have attended a Technical Skills Program run by North Sydney Institute of Technical and Further Education which covered Internet Skills. Some of our members are attending the TAFE basic Computer Skills Training designed as a ‘women only’ course. I also had the opportunity to represent PPSEAWA at the Australian Women’s Coalition meeting in Sydney.

On the international scene, our International President, Terese Hintzke was elected to the United Nations Council of Non Government Organisations (CoNGO) and was voted in as the Vice President. I wish Teresa good luck for her new role in this organisation.

Kate Morioko, a PPSEAWA Youth Ambassador who lives in Brisbane has been financially supported by her local Lions Club. This will assist her with her plans for establishing Young Women’s Group.

Jannette Smith



International Women's Day. 8th March 2011.

A message sent to PPSEAWA international member associations by PPSEAWA Peace Ambassador.

This year, 2011, sees us celebrating the centenary of International Women's Day on the 8th March. Over this period women in many nations have worked for the rights of women in diverse societies and it is good to remember those women, whatever their circumstances, who have supported the advancement of women over the past 100 years. As we plan our programs for IWD our thoughts are with our PPSEAWA sisters, their families and friends in New Zealand.

What do women really want? Food, Shelter, Proper clothing, security, education for their families and the list goes on.

I am confident that in whatever way you plan to celebrate International Women's Day it will be appropriate for your situation and that the Peace and Understanding of PPSEAWA women will shine through your activities.

I would love to hear of your activities for International Women's Day. Mary Cabrera – Ambassador for Peace.

Below some of the responses received:

Toledo Chapter, PPSEAWA USA

Thank you for your message regarding International Women's Day.

The Toledo Chapter in PPSEAWA USA usually attends a Spring Luncheon around this day but the luncheon was postponed, hopefully it will resume next year. In its place though several of us were invited to attend a potluck by Great Lakes Consortium, March 8th to bid farewell to a Russian Delegation consisting of women and men business entrepreneurs after a 3 week visit in America. We also had an opportunity to listen to a brief history via an interpreter about International Women's Day from a Russian Woman. They have been celebrating it for a longer period of time than when it was first declared an international holiday by the UN. The woman also expressed how happy she was that we were beginning to recognize this as a holiday in America after hearing about Teresa Hintzke as the International PPSEAWA President extending greetings to the USA as well as the other countries.

Every woman there was approached by a Russian man and presented with a beautiful pink tulip, which is their tradition for celebrating International Women's Day. There was a lot of peace and love exchanged in that room with a new understanding of one another and that we share many of the same values and concerns. This was based on the support and the feeling of being welcomed as "family" by Americans and the host families in the past 3 weeks. It was only fitting that International Women's Day would be a part of this.

PPSEAWA Fiji.

PPSEAWA Fiji will be celebrating IWD with our 8 Peace Garden Partners (Women NGOs) and other women NGOs and the general public. We are having a speaker to kick off our discussion on the theme: "**Equal Access to Education, Training and Science and Technology. Pathway to decent work for women**". This will be followed by a panel of women lecturers (tertiary education) who will speak on the opportunities for women in their respective institutions. One of the panellists will be from a corporate body who will speak on the opportunities available and those to explore for women's employment. Wishing you all a fruitful International Women's Day Celebration.

PPSEAWA Taiwan

Dear Mary,

During the International Women's Day, we celebrated it in 3 days

(1) March 6, 2011: We have the program of Blood donation. Almost 100 person came to donated their blood.

(2) March 7, 2011: All Taiwan NGO s attended the seminar for Women's Forum on National for the settlement of women's policies and rights in our government. A social and political participation.(the convention on the elimination of all forms discrimination against women).

(3) March 8, 2011: Get together of 100 years Women's Day of R.O.C. in the Grand Hotel.

with Regards,

Sophia Ling - PPSEAWA Taiwan President



Mary Cabrera

UNITED NATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT

On 21st October, 2010, to mark the 10th Anniversary of Security council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, WILPF and UNIFEM in Canberra hosted a panel of speakers who provided a range of information on what women in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region are doing to implement UNSCR 1325. Their theme was: "*How UNSCR1325 is taking women to where they want to be 1325 in action in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region*".

On 25th October, 2010, the UNAA, jointly with UNIC, Unifem, the UN Parliamentary Group and the Australian Institute of International Affairs celebrated UN Day with a reception, which a number of PPSEAWA members attended . The speakers were Mr Chris Woodthorpe (Director, UNIC); Ms Melissa Parke MP; and Professor Robert Hill. Their subject was “*Is the United Nations Rising to Meet Today’s Global Challenges?*”

UN Women/ONU Femmes, (the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women) was formally launched on 24 February 2011. Ms Michelle Bachelet, a former President of Chile, is its Under- Secretary-General/Executive Director. The appointment of her two deputies was announced on

11 March: Ms. Lakshmi Puri of India as Assistant Secretary-General for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships and Mr. John Hendra of Canada as Assistant Secretary-General for Policy and Programme Director. The Australian Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs has begun to produce a history of the involvement of Australia in the United Nations system. In February 2011 a UNAA committee member participated in a Forum on the project and reported that: ”*Overall the forum was a valuable opportunity for a distinguished range of people with a strong interest in the UN to meet and share their knowledge and views. It would be desirable for UNAA to reinforce the value of the research being done by DFAT and to encourage the Department to dip into the history of UNAA as part of its work.*”

On Friday 4 March a number of PPSEAWA members were among the 1000 who attended the UN Women Lunch in Canberra to celebrate International Women’s Day. This year’s speaker was Princess Kasune Zulu, one of Africa’s most prominent activists in combating HIV/AIDS.

Pam Rhemrev

UN Officer



NSW GROUP REPORT

Since our last report we have continued with our regular monthly meetings.

In September we held a very inspiring multi-faith International Day of Peace. This Service was well attended and in addition to an order of prayers for peace from representatives of various faith communities, a spectacular array of candles was lit by the gathered people. Boys from the local Lindfield (Newington) Prep School provided beautiful music. It was good to see other young people in attendance and hopefully, this will increase.

At our October Luncheon our Speaker was a young woman, Melissa Seville, from the Australian Federal Police. Melissa's particular expertise is in the field of educating people in the safe use of our ever growing communications technology and alerting users, particularly young people and those responsible for their safety, of the real dangers of "careless" use. Melissa's talk was enlightening to many of us and she encouraged us to "master" these useful tools.

Members of our branch have been encouraged by Mary Cabrera and Jannette Smith to join with them in putting together covers, either from cotton squares or knitted or crocheted squares. It is hoped to build up a supply of these to be sent quickly to places that suffer from the results of natural disasters. The ones that were already finished and which made a very colourful display at our IWD Luncheon were intended to be earmarked for sending to Queensland, Victoria, Aborigines in Central Australia and, through contacts with PPSEAWA in New Zealand, to Christchurch, when and if required.

We commenced our year with a regular meeting at which the speakers, Ian Collins and Peter Berry, told us of their involvement with Kangra Girls' Hostel in North India, an organization which aims to educate Dalits girls, India's poorest of the poor, in the Amritsar Region.

So we look forward to another challenging year and as in previous years we continue to meet for morning tea at 10.30 am, level 2, Piccadilly Court, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney, followed by the meeting to which you are cordially invited to bring a friend.

Margaret Groenewegen,



THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S COALITION

An Update.....

The Australian Women's Coalition (AWC) is a National Coalition of 18 women's organisations who work collaboratively to advance the status of Australian women. These 18 member organisations represent a broad and diverse cross-section of women who have continued to work together effectively to create and strengthen communication between the Government and the women of Australia.

PPSEAWA'S participation in the AWC since 2002, if I may quote Coral Fleming, PPSEAWA'S AWC delegate for the last 8 years, " has not only raised the national profile of PPSEAWA enormously but has also given PPSEAWA the opportunity, alongside other women's organisations to have a voice in decision-making regarding women's issues at federal level." I must thank Coral for being an inspirational mentor for me, not only for the last 8 years but she still continues to be so.

Although the AWC funding arrangement with the Government ceased as of the 30th June 2010, the Coalition has continued to move forward with the same *VISION*to advance the status of women but not without a lot of discussions and planning for the future of AWC

Projects had to be finalised according to scheduled timeline such as:

1. **Happy Healthy Women, Not Just Survivors** a very well researched project looking at improving long term care for women who have been victims of violence etc. The project was officially launched in September 2010 in Melbourne and Sydney.
2. Commissioned an update on Australia's response to Human Trafficking and recommendations for policy improvement in this area, to the Attorney General's Department.
3. Submission to the House of Representatives' Inquiry into ATSI Young Offenders, early 2010
4. AWC Advocacy training workshops in which more than 50 Non AWC organisations nominated women to attend.

Discussions and planning around the future of AWC led to a many important changes as we had to look at AWC from an operational perspective. Changes such as:

1. Constitution which needed to be reviewed and amended to accommodate the **New Operational Model** . The special resolutions for amendment was

submitted and approved at the AWC AGM on the 24 September 2010 and lodged with the Office of Regulatory Services ACT in September 2010.

2. The **Funding Model** required looking for sponsors and donors, also membership self funding models etc...
3. **Decision making process** in consideration of the broad and diverse member organisations making up AWC.

To date, the majority of the member organisations are happy and willing to remain with AWC in order to ensure that our collective **VOICES** continue to be heard and represented at the Federal Level.

At the AWC Annual General Meeting in September 2010, Sharyl Scott was chosen to take over from Dr Gabrielle Caspar as the President of AWC.

Luisa Latukefu



NSW INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCHEON FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2011

The Girl Guide Conference Centre at Glengarry, North Turrumurra once more provided a pleasant atmosphere for our annual IWD Luncheon – a lovely bushland setting at a convenient distance from the city, accessible by train and with plenty of parking space.

Once again, Senior girls from Hornsby Girls' High, accompanied by a staff member were present and this year were joined by Senior students from Abbotsleigh. It is good to see these youngwomen being encouraged by their schools to attend such functions. The girls from Hornsby High were particularly delighted to learn that our speaker, Rebecca Eckert from ACORW, was a former student from their school. Rebecca encouraged all the young women present to look wide, aim high and follow their dreams and that it was at school that for her the first spark was ignited, which has led to her present place.



Rebecca Eckert and
Margaret Groenewegen

Rebecca, in a very easy style and in her limited time, was able to explain to us some of the difficulties faced by women and children in the process of resettling. This was especially difficult for those coming from a vastly different culture but, said Rebecca, the things she found were that all women sought in common, which, in the last analysis were no different to our own, were first, safety for their families, good and healthy living conditions and education.



Cr Ian Cross, Mayor of Ku-ring-gai with Rebecca Eckert and Margaret Groenewegen

Rebecca was graciously thanked by our Secretary, Marjorie Wood, who presented her with a small personal gift and a cheque for the work of ACORW.

An enjoyable lunch was had by all, and here we must thank in particular, three of our members: Jan Currie, Heather Sulerzyski and Lorraine Prowse who worked tirelessly in the kitchen.

As it was the 100th Anniversary of the International Women's Day we had provided a Birthday Cake. Our longest Life Member, Kaylin Simpson-Lee and the youngest guest, a student from Hornsby High, cut the cake.



Kaylin Simpson-Lee and Jessica Xu cutting the cake

Many of our 90 guests expressed their appreciation of the time of fellowship together.

Margaret Groenewegen

Report of PPSEAWA ACT Group

I am very pleased to be taking over the presidency of PPSEAWA and hope that I shall be competent in my role.

The AGM on 28th August was well attended and a committee of eleven was appointed. The big news is that the Canberra City Group has joined with the ACT Group and we thank them for their support. In October, our speaker was Frances Declan from PNG. In November, we heard from Anna Pilloni and Bruce Millar who spoke about their voluntary work with hill-tribe children in Northern Thailand.

Christmas was celebrated with a lunch at Charlie's Ala Thai restaurant.

The New Year started with a Yum Cha lunch which was well patronised.

The biggest and most enjoyable and important function was a lunch at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Australia with the chief representative, Dr Lin, and his wife, Sophia, to celebrate IWD. We thank them for their interest and hospitality.

Coming up is a talk on the South Pacific region by Jenny Blaik and one on the islands of Micronesia.

The group is in the throes of organising a week-long trip to Taiwan.

Jean Bennett, President.

QUILT RECIPIENTS



One of the quilts sent to Nungalinga Ecumenical College in Darwin is going to Maningrida to a family who lost a young son to suicide recently. Another is going to a family in Milingimbi who lost a son to the crocodile attack. A third quilt is going to a woman who recently lost her mother and aunt and has been feeling the loss greatly.