



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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2011



International Year of Forests

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

World Mental Health Day	October 10
International Day of Rural Women	October 15
United Nations Day	October 24
International Day for Tolerance	November 16
International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	November 25
Human Rights Day	December 10

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a welcome sight it is to see the trees all coming to life again after the cold winter months. The sun is beginning to shine brilliantly on the world around us. Hopefully the sun is also starting to shine for all those around who have not been so lucky.

The quilt and rug program is continuing, with knitted and crocheted rugs being sent to PPSEAWA Japan where they are being given to help those in need.

More fabric quilts have been given to Rev. Dr. Helen Richmond from Nungalinga College. Helen was in Sydney recently and she returned to Darwin with 5 quilts to be given to her students and for use in the College. I also had the privilege of meeting Gamaritj Gurruwwi, originally from Elcho Island in north east Arnhem Land. She has been working at Nungalinga College for almost 20 years, where she teaches students numeracy and literary skills. Gumaritj was in Sydney to participate in a cross cultural workshop with the aim of building cultural awareness skills within communities. I personally gave Gumaritj 2 quilts, one for herself and one for her 7 year old grand-daughter.

International Peace Day was once again celebrated at St. David's Uniting Church in Lindfield, Sydney, when the Church Bells were rung at mid-day. Many local school choirs contributed to the inspiring contributions from members of 13 different religious groups.

The Mid-Term International Conference was held in Taiwan. Unfortunately I was unable to attend, but Mary Cabrera has reported on the meeting later in the Newsletter.

The Technical Skills Morning Teas are continuing this term and I will be attending. It is interesting to know what the new communications gadgets can do, but that does not necessarily translate into my ability to use them.

Jannette Smith



**Report - PPSEAWA International Midterm Council Meeting Taipei, Taiwan 7th
– 10th October 2011.**

The midterm council meeting was held at the Chientan Youth Activity Centre over a period of two days. A workshop for PPSEAWA members and other women and a computer course for young women were held at the same time. You will find a report in this newsletter from a delegate from Japan who attended the computer course.

Most delegates stayed at the CYA centre enabling us to share friendship over breakfast and when we met in the lobby for our different activities.

The Council meeting was led by the International President, Teresa Hintzke USA and most voting members of the International Council were present. The following Member associations were represented at the Council meeting and workshop – Australia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, USA and of course our hosts Taiwan ROC.

Many topics were addressed at the Council meeting. The report from the 24th International Triennial Conference of PPSEAWA held in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia 18th to 22nd May 2010 was received with one printed report presented to each national member association.

Resolutions and recommendations from Bali were discussed and the outcomes will be circulated in due course. There was much discussion on issues such as guidelines for PPSEAWA nominations and elections, updates to the international by laws, second draft of PPSEAWA International Corporate Strategic Plan, evaluations from the Bali Conference and, **most importantly the proposed program for the 25th PPSEAWA International Conference to be held in Fiji Monday 26th to Friday 30th August 2013 with the theme *Managing the Environment for a Peaceful and Balanced World*.**

On the lighter side – We ate well at numerous banquet style celebrations and dinners, attended part of the National day celebrations, viewed fireworks from a suite in the Grand hotel, enjoyed a dinner at Taipei 101 on the 86th floor, visited the Chiang Kai-shek memorial and enjoyed an overnight trip, by very fast train, to Kenting National Park in the south of Taiwan.

Japan brought illustrated folders depicting the tsunami with photos of contributions from overseas PPSEAWA associations. Our rugs were there.

And from PPSEAWA Malaysia – A regional seminar on Human Trafficking to be held in Kuala Lumpur in September 2012. All PPSEAWA countries will be invited with details to be announced at a later date. Human Trafficking



is a serious crime, very often hidden in the community. Are we as members of PPSEAWA aware of this crime within our communities in Australia?

Personally I would like to thank Sophia Ling, President of PPSE members of PPSEAWA Taiwan, for hosting a wonderful time in Taiwan.

Mary Cabrera
Ambassador for peace,
PPSEAWA International Council.

Two photographs of rugs sent
to Japan



Australian Year of the Farmer to be celebrated in 2012

By Director Marie Lally AM

former National President of CWA of Australia, Member Regional Women's Advisory Council to the Dept of the Prime Minister, also serving on the Dept. Ag. Fisheries and Forestry Drought review panel.

Towards the end of 2008 I had a phone call from Mr Geoff Bell, whom I had never heard of before, telling me that my name had been recommended to him as someone who would be interested in working with him to have 2012 as The Australian Year of the Farmer, when all Australians could celebrate what Australian primary producers do for this country. Well of course I said YES, as I have lived and breathed Farming all my life.

I flew across to Adelaide a few days later to meet Geoff, a former CEO of the Sydney Markets, and Phillip Bruem a prominent NSW farmer and former National President of the Dairy Farmers Association.

These men first came up with the idea of having AYOF, over a drink after a busy day as committee men at the NSW Royal Easter Show in Sydney. We all agreed that we as a Nation need to celebrate what Australian farmers and rural communities do to Feed, Clothe and sustain all Australians. We were all passionate about the idea. So The Australian Year of the Farmer 2012 was on it's way.

Our Objectives are

- To establish closer ties between Australia's rural and urban communities.
- Celebrate the broad range and fine quality of the produce our farmers grow and harvest.
- Share how Australia is leading the world in farming techniques and innovation.
- Highlight the essential role of Australian Agriculture to the maintenance of National and Global food security.
- Promote the role our farmers play as environmental managers, creating and delivering sustainability through best practice management.
- Recognise farmers for feeding the Nation and sustaining our vital

agribusinesses.

- Communicate to all Australians the importance of farming and rural communities to our national economy and social fabric.
- Encourage Australians to reflect on the origins of the food they consume and the fibre they use every day and perpetuate the call to buy Australian produce
- To focus on and prepare for the future of farming in Australia by creating awareness of career opportunities in Agriculture and related areas.

Over the next 12 months a Board was established. We then undertook a broad feasibility study to give us the confidence to initiate the planning process and to go to Government to ask for seed funding to facilitate the process. We have formed a not for profit Company AYOF LTD. We have engaged external expertise where required to ensure that the program is well planned, legally secure and financially viable. We have received seed Funding from the Commonwealth of \$160,000 and State & Territory Governments of \$125,000-00 - \$285,000-00 all up. That enabled us to put the regulatory and financial processes in place, such as, not for profit status, financial planning, strategy planning, logistics planning and consultation with a broad range of stakeholders. We have also put in place a Website, brochures and AYOF DVD featuring Glen McGrath as a key Ambassador Her Excellency Ms. Quentin Bryce AC. has accepted the position as Patron for the Year. We have an Honorary Accountant and Lawyer and have enlisted the services of Professional Public Relations (PPR) to handle publicity, promotions and the securing of future sponsors. Elders are our founding major sponsor with many other National bodies in the wings.

It is hoped that all Australians will Breakfast on a Bridge on the same day to start the year rolling - 2012. Please work to get your community involved.

Reflections – 25th May 2011

In an evening class at Stanford the last lecture was on the mind-body connection - the relationship between stress and disease. The speaker (head of psychiatry at Stanford) said, among other things, that one of the best things that a man could do for his health is to be married to a woman, whereas for a woman, one of the best things she could do for her health was to nurture her relationships with her girlfriends. At first everyone laughed, but he was serious.

Women connect with each other differently and provide support systems that help each other to deal with stress and difficult life experiences. Physically this quality "girlfriend time" helps us to create more serotonin - a neurotransmitter that helps combat depression and can create a general feeling of well being. Women share feelings whereas men often form relationships around activities. We share from our souls with our sisters/mothers, and evidently that is very good for our health. He said

that spending time with a friend is just as important to our general health as jogging or working out at a gym.

There's a tendency to think that when we are "exercising" we are doing something good for our bodies, but when we are hanging out with friends, we are wasting our time and should be more productively engaged - not true. In fact, he said that failure to create and maintain quality personal relationships with other humans is as dangerous to our physical health as smoking!

So every time you have coffee with a girl friend, just pat yourself on the back and congratulate yourself for doing something good for your health!

PPSEAWA Youth Report, Taipei, Oct. 2011
Yukiko Takezawa (Japan)

Through the PPSEAWA Youth Seminar in Taipei, I could learn a lot about computer skills, the importance of networking between youth members, and how to keep contact with them.

First of all, the computer course gave me a lot of knowledge about convenient skills on "Windows 7". I have recently bought my "Windows 7", but I have not been able to make use of it. The teacher gave us many skills on the software, such as managing display or desktop, Sticky Notes, and Snipping Tools which are important for me to make valuable documents in my jobs and other activities.

Moreover, the lecture gave me a lot about networking, starting from the system of webs to the skills of using sites on Google. I was not so familiar with the concepts of websites, portals or cloud computing, so the lecture about these concepts and information were very usable and interesting to me. Also about managing sites, I learned how to create sites, page templates on sites, and how to share the information and pictures on them. Personally I really enjoyed making the sites and managing them.

Another lecture on Google, which was about how to make questionnaire on Documents, was very informative. We all tried to make a questionnaire with various forms such as multiple choice, scale, and checkbox, etc. And we sent our own questionnaires each other by email to collect answers. This skill seemed really useful to everyone to do some surveys on our jobs or other activities.

Finally the most important thing I have learned from this seminar was that we have to, or we can keep contact using these networking skills. It is often difficult for us to keep contact with the person we meet, despite we have little chance to meet each other. Especially in the case of PPSEAWA Youth, before I felt it was very hard to keep in touch with the friends I have met at the seminar in the past. However, this time, thanks to the development of the applications we can use such as Google sites and Facebook, I felt it would be easier for us to keep contact even after the seminar. The teacher has created a group of PPSEAWA Taipei on Facebook during the course, and now we can easily connect to the group. Also as I mentioned, we have the sites on Google, so now we know that we can, we have to develop them by visiting them and posting new materials on them.

In addition to the useful applications, I strongly felt that I need a strong will to keep contact with the friends I met at the seminar and to continue the relationship. I have already posted some pictures we took at the seminar with some messages. I could feel that other youth members felt the same way that we have to keep this friendship. So I expect my friends (other youth members) to develop our sites and pages often, and at any rate I myself will contribute to develop our sites or pages, and our relationship.

So far I have learned many important things through the seminar. I liked not only the seminar, but also I really liked the way PPSEAWA Taiwan welcomed me with warm hospitalities, delicious foods, and friendships. I liked all of the programs held, and I really want to thank all the people who gave me a wonderful stay and valuable chance to study in Taipei.

PEACE POLES

Have you or any of your community organisations considered planting a Peace Pole? Maybe a group could approach your local council to discuss whether this would be a worthwhile project.

Many Peace Poles have been “planted” around the world. As the Peace Pole website says:

“When you plant a Peace Pole in your community, you are linking with people all over the world who have planted Peace Poles in the same spirit of peace.

Every Peace Pole proclaims the prayer ‘May Peace Prevail on Earth’ in the language of the country and often several other languages as well.”

For more information visit the website: www.peacepoleproject.org



PPSEAWA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

Fiji has advised that the next International Conference will be held from Monday 26th August to Friday 30th August 2013, with delegates officially departing Saturday 31st August.

- **Registration** from Saturday 24th August.
- **Conference Venue** is Novotel Convention Center, Novotel, Lami, Suva. Fiji.
- **Registration cost:** US\$250 before 31st January, 2013 and US\$275 after 31st January 2013.
- **Accommodation:** Novotel, Holiday Inn, Tanoa Plaza.

CONFERENCE THEME

Managing the Environment for a Peaceful and Balanced World.

Sub themes:

Natural Disaster Management and Food Security;

Our Biodiversity, Our Identity, Our Responsibility;

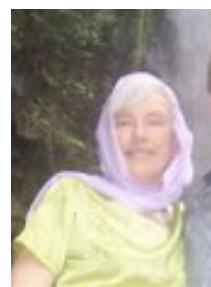
Managing the Home Environment for a Peaceful and Balanced Family Existence.

ACT GROUP REPORT

The last six months have seen a number of interesting events. Most months, we have had a speaker who has enlightened us on various topics related to either Asia or the Pacific Region. In addition, we had a visit to the Embassy of Timor-Leste which was most interesting and I hope that one day we shall be able to return. Socially, we have enjoyed a Malaysian lunch and an afternoon tea at the NGA and we supported the Biggest Morning Tea for the Cancer Council. This month, we have the AGM and it is anticipated that a very similar committee will serve for the next year.

I would like to thank the Canberra Southern Cross club for their continued support both financially and for the use of the club.

Jean Bennett



President

NSW GROUP REPORT

Since our last report, PPSEAWA has continued with our monthly meetings with good attendances and a variety of speakers.

We have continued with the quilt and cover making and although the plan was to stockpile them against various disasters that may occur, the places where we have felt they would be welcomed seemed to be unending this year. I know that people who have received them have been surprised and grateful. Thanks have to go to Mary and Jannette for their ongoing commitment and encouragement of members to continue this initiative.

The Interfaith Peace Service, again held at St. David's, Lindfield, was inspiring, well attended, especially with a good number of students from local schools participating.

I was also privileged to attend the Marie Bashier Peace Awards, presented by the Governor at Parliament House to six extraordinary young women who gave impressive presentations. It was a difficult task selecting six from over a hundred excellent entries.

As the year comes to a close we are looking forward to a break and hope for better health for a few of our members, especially Marjorie Woods who has continued to print and post out minutes and other correspondence with the great assistance of Helen Richardson.

Margaret Groenewegen
President



INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY, CANBERRA

Mr Steve Killelea AM gave a very interesting presentation on the Global Peace Index, which I must confess I knew nothing about before (and had never heard it mentioned in any of our discussions on peace at PPSEAWA International meetings).

In a world often described by crisis and conflict, which countries are the most peaceful? How do we measure peace? What can we learn about the structures of peaceful environments?

The GPI is the world's leading measurement of national peacefulness. It aims to understand the factors that create and sustain peace. GPI takes into consideration both internal and external factors and uses a range of indicators measuring the

absence or presence of violence in society. It was founded by Mr Killelea and is produced by the Institute of Economics and Peace. I was completely fascinated by what they are doing but also astounded by the fact that "gender equality" was not considered as a factor among the 23 indicators measuring the existence or absence of peace when determining GPI. It doesn't seem to be considered as a key driver in creating and sustaining peace, yet from presentations at our past conferences I really believed that sustainable Peace in our Asia-Pacific region was not possible without gender equality.

Based on the last five years of research carried out on the GPI against other data, a set of attitudes and structures have been identified by the Institute as those which create a peaceful environment, listed as follows:

- well functioning government;
- sound business environment;
- equitable sharing of resources;
- acceptance of the rights of others;
- good relations with neighbours;
- free flow of information;
- high participation in education;
- low levels of corruption.

I suppose "high participation in education" and "equitable sharing of resources" could incorporate "gender equality" but surely it is a very important factor on its own.

Perhaps some of you might like to read more about the Global Peace Index on its website: www.economicsandpeace.org

Coral Fleming



Australian Women's Coalition. *An update.....*

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs did not renew the agreement with the Australian Women's Coalition after the 30th June 2010, but AWC has continued to operate with the funds that was kindly donated by a benefactor in 2004. Other member organisations have also helped by providing free meeting venues and with member delegates paying for their own travel and accommodation expenses when attending meetings. The AWC existing Constitution and Operational Guidelines had to be extensively revised in order to meet the changing structure of the Coalition and to be in line with the context of the new operational model.

The AWC has also been making applications for various government grants in order to be able to continue its work, collaboratively and productively on critical issues

affecting women. AWC has recently submitted an application for the Diversity and Social Cohesion Grants Project, which aims at addressing social cohesion issues related to instances of cultural, racial or religious intolerance. The proposed project will target young women from different cultural backgrounds aiming at providing better understanding of not only their own cultures but also respecting other cultures. The project will hopefully build on the same principles which underpinned the projects ***Bridge Building Project*** with the Muslim women and the ***Harmony Day Project*** which was coordinated by PPSEAWA in Canberra.

AWC received an invitation from the newly launched Canberra's Multicultural Women's Radio Program ***Yes She Can*** so I am excited to be representing AWC as the guest for the Tuesday 25th Radio Program, live from 2 – 3 pm on **CMS FM 91.1**.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 1st October at the AMA Rooms, Christie Street at St Leonards, Sydney. The Election of Executive Members including office bearers:

President: Sharyl Scott

Treasurer: Zubeda Raihman

Secretary: Robyn Gaspari

Vice President 1: Jenny Begent

Vice President 2: Catherine Evans.

The future of the AWC is very much dependent on its fundinganything is possible.

Luisa Latukefu

PPSEAWA delegate



Gumritj Gurruwwi with President Jannette Smith holding one of two quilts given to her