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ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Who is Soroptimist International?

Soroptimist International is a worldwide service organisation for women. We are committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide. Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships.

Soroptimist International is a global volunteer movement working together to transform the lives of women and girls. Our network of over 80,000 club members in 129 countries and territories works at a local, national and international level to educate, empower and enable opportunities for women and girls.

Vision - Soroptimist International is committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.

Mission - Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships.

Inside

PAGE 3 50th Anniversary Cruise

PAGE 4 Hope Farm

PAGE 5 Mothwa Haven & Cheshire Homes

PAGE 6 International Visitors

PAGE 8 Dream Seekers Project



Women inspiring action, transforming lives

Message from our President – Yatisha Ramdarie

This year has been a very exciting year for me as the newly elected and youngest ever President of SI Durban. A position that comes with as much responsibility as it does privilege.

The year started with a bang with SI Durban celebrating its 50th Anniversary on board a 3 night cruise to the Portuguese Islands on the majestic MSC Opera. We held a cocktail party to celebrate our 50th Birthday as well as the inauguration of the incoming office bearers. The weekend was a resounding success with 197 people in attendance.

Our meetings are well attended and are a vibrant affair with members discussing projects, world issues and matter that are important to us. We learn from each other each and every time we meet. Our members are not only members of an international organisation but they are friends. We have lost a few members this past year due to various reasons but the commitment and perseverance and enthusiasm shown by those who have remained has proven that these ladies are dedicated to a cause greater than ourselves and that is to serve the community and to uplift women all over the world. We have all joined Soroptimist International for a reason and these women are shining examples of that reason.

I would like to thank them for their Time, Talent and Treasury. Their willingness to give off themselves in these 3 departments is exemplary.

To my immediate past president, friend, mentor and guide, Annisha Shree, THANK YOU for being no more than a whatsapp away. Your advice and support will always be appreciated.

I look forward to my next year of presidency at SI Durban with renewed vigour and will endeavour to improve on the weaknesses of the past year and to grow on the strengths.

President's Project



I have been associated with MSC Cruises Floats Campaign since its inception in 2011. The Hope Floats Campaign is associated with a few charities in South Africa and through these charities MSC sells their “distressed inventory” on their cruise ships. These are cabins that they believe they will not be able to sell before departure. This is usually no more that 4 weeks before departure. These cabins are given to charities to sell at a fraction of the normal selling price. The charity gains all the cruise fare and in turn MSC retains just the Port Charges and Service Fees.

During the 2013-2014 cruise season I was once again part of the Hope Floats Campaign and was able to sell cabins to the benefit of SI Durban. I raised a total of R 1, 460, 466.17. A record collection! This collection has allowed us to think out of the box. We are able to look at the bigger picture with regards to uplifting our community and so I came up with the idea of a sustainable business project that would be a Non-Profit, Non-Governmental, Public Benefit Organisation and would employ the local community as well as enabling them to learn a vast array of skills.

This project is in its foetal stages at the moment but I hope to get it up and rolling during the next year. I am incredibly optimistic about this project and I look forward to providing more elaborate feedback as time progresses. We at SI Durban are extremely grateful to MSC Cruises for their benevolence.

50th Anniversary Onboard the MSC Opera

On the 2nd of February 2014 SI Durban celebrated their 50th Anniversary in style onboard the MSC Opera. A cocktail party was held for our members, special guests, friends and family.

Approximately 200 people attended the extravaganza. A video presentation was shown highlighting SI Durban and Soroptimism in general. This gave our organisation some much needed exposure.



Book Drive

MSC Cruises donated the entire cruise fare from some 97 cabins booked for this group to SI Durban. An incredibly handsome sum was raised.



Our club collected 1000s of books from friends and family. These were sorted by age group and subject. The junior books were donated to the library at Duffs Road Primary School and the senior books went to Southlands Secondary. The staff from Duffs Road Primary joined us to sort the books. Both Schools were delighted with the collection.



Our immediate past president, Annisha Shree and her family have very generously started the Shree Future Foundation, where one student per year is awarded a full academic scholarship to University. The Shree family have partnered with SI Durban for this initiative and it is one that we are incredibly excited about.

Adventure into Womanhood

We at SI Durban have scheduled our Adventure into Womanhood Program for the 16th of August 2014. This year we have set out to ensure that the girls experience an out of school event by changing the venue of the function to the Pavilion Hotel.

This year we will also be launching our scholarship program with this event. We will be having a number of speakers to address the girls on a variety of topics. Breakfast and a hot lunch will also be served and each girl will receive a lovely goodie bag packed with interesting and fun items.

Hope Farm

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE FAMILY AT HOPE FARM

Andrew and Rae Wartnaby and their family of 11 at Hope Farm in Camperdown just 40 minutes from Durban have been associated with SI Durban for more than 10 years. We look forward to our visits to the family.

This year we celebrated World Family Day with the Wartnabys. Our members and their families put together a massive picnic and off we went in a mini bus, compliments of Annisha Shree, to visit spend the better part of the morning out on the farm. An enjoyable day was had by all.

This year we have made many visits to Hope Farm. This family continues to inspire us on each and every visit.

Stove – We visited Hope Farm with the ladies from SI Southern England in November 2013. They were so inspired by Andrew and Rae that they decided to donate a brand new gas stove that the family were in desperate need of.

Batteries – Further donations were received from these wonderful ladies that allowed us to purchase 6 batteries that now enable the 11 members of the Wartnaby family to live totally off solar and battery power.

Animal Pens – So inspired was SI Durban member Sally Ensor-Smith by the work that Andrew and his family do, that she decided to donate R 1500 personally towards the buliding of new animal pens on the farm.



Our visits to Hope Farm are always to heart warming and inspiring.

World Environment Day – SI Durban donated a shade cloth worth R 1500 to Hope Farm. This cloth will provide cover to all the crops that the family grows for their consumption. Andrew and his family now look forward to many successful crops because of this.



WORLD FOOD DAY

SI Durban has made a added effort this year to support our flagship project, Hope Farm, so in doing so took a boot full of groceries up to the farm for the family. The hamper contained large volumes of sugar, flour, rice, oil, milk, tea bags, coffee, milo, nesquik, cereal, canned products, biscuits, peanut butter, jam and even custard and jelly. The family were ever so grateful.



Mothwa Haven Home for the Aged

Our feel good project of the year is definitely our annual laughter yoga session at Mothwa Haven. Su Haripersad, an internationally trained laughter yoga therapist once again had the senior citizens in a riot of laughter.

The Grannies and Grandpas enjoyed a very high-tea comprising of Samosas, Scotch Eggs, Pies, Cakes and Biscuits courtesy of our giving members.



Cupcakes for Cancer

SI Durban President, Yatisha Ramdarie, baked 48 chocolate cupcakes for the National Cupcakes for Cancer Project. These were donated to the drive at the La Lucia Mall where she also volunteered her time to sell the cupcakes. Over R 1 million was raised country wide by the sale of cupcakes on one day.

Cheshire Homes



On the 19th of July 2014, the ladies of SI Durban spent the morning at the Sparks Estate Cheshire Homes. This is a heart wrenching experience as these children are both physically and mentally handicapped.

SI Durban donated 1000 childrens nappies and 600 adults nappies to the facility worth R4000. Wendy Maharaj the Manager of the home was overjoyed by our contribution.

Visitors

VISIT FROM SI SOUTHERN ENGLAND

In November 2013 a group of 14 SI members and one spouse toured South Africa. Our club hosted them on their visit to South Africa's playground, Durban.

They visited our flagship project, Hope Farm, the Tala Game Reserve, Ushaka Marine world and the beautiful Durban Beach Front.



A fun time was had by all and new friendships were formed with our Sisters!

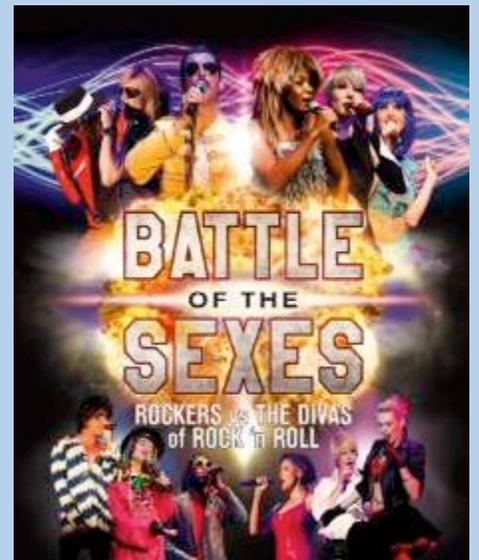


INTERNATIONAL DINNER

The international dinner for 2013 was a double celebration as we had the SI sisters from Southern England present for the evening. We held the celebrations at Moyo, an African themed restaurant at Durban's Ushaka Marine World. Both our members and our friends from England were treated to a wonderful evening of good food and African culture.

BARNYARD THEATRE - BATTLE OF THE SEXES

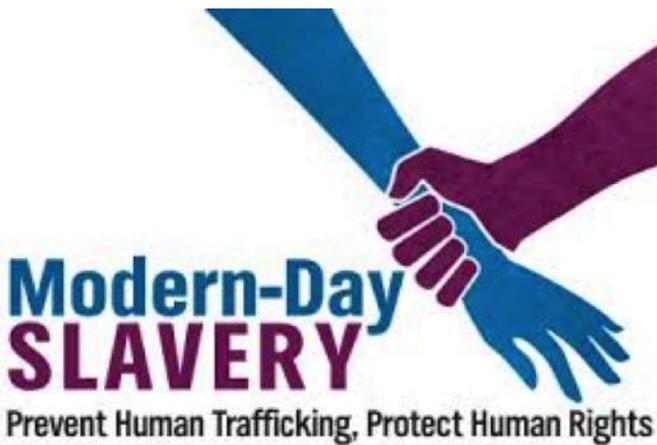
SI Durban organised an evening at the Barnyard Theatre in Gateway for the show Battle of The Sexes. 100 tickets were sold and the club raised R 6000. The profits were used towards the costs of the Adventure into Womanhood event.



MODERN DAY SLAVERY

SI Durban President, Yatisha Ramdarie held a quiz at the offices of MSC Cruises in Durban on Modern Day Slavery. 12 ladies were quizzed and they were shocked on how little they actually knew on the topic.

The staff at Duffs Road Primary were also given the quiz and their reaction was similar. SI Durban will continue to promote the awareness of Modern Day Slavery in our community.



CAPE ARGUS CYCLE TOUR

SI Durban supported a team of 4 gentlemen as they cycled the 109km of gruelling tar on no less than 4 BMX bikes, yes, a single gear BMX. The team, called Elevate, road in aid of the LIV Village in Cottonlands, KZN. Based on a Ugandan model, the village has been running successfully for 8 years now and provides residential care for orphaned and vulnerable children.

We supported them by contributing R 10 per km that they cycled. A total of R 1090 was contributed.



IBV VIP CHILDRENS DAY

SI Durban was invited by International Bank Vaults (IBV) to be part of their VIP Childrens Day where over 1000 children were invited to participate in an extravaganza.

The children are treated to entertainment, food and give aways throughout the day. They are all dressed in tracksuits and takkies which are sponsored by IBV and even transported to the Exhibition Centre in Durban. SI Durban donated 1000 packets of coloured popcorn. Our members were onhand to distribute these to the children in a flea market styled arena.



Dreams Seekers Initiative

As SI DURBAN we are excited to have come so far with our projects and being able to have raised great funds to assist those in need. Our new initiative "DREAM SEEKER" aims to achieve just that.

By creating exposure around our NPO we wish to offer the community the opportunity to write in to us and share their requirements or the need of aids/tools to assist them. We also know that there are those individuals that are selfless and spend time caring for others. We would like to also know about these amazing individuals whom we can spoil in return.

DREAM SEEKER initiative provides individuals, women and young girls an opportunity to share their story with us! We are devoted to assisting the community to get that helping hand to fulfill an urgent need, to spoil someone who is deserving or to shown gratitude to someone who has assisted someone in need. No matter how big or small the request may be, we want to share their story! Whether it may be requiring essentials like clothes, hearing/reading aids, groceries, walking aids or anything essential for healthy living



An article introducing the project was published in the Sunday Tribune Herald on the 3rd of August 2014.

Women are encouraged to share their motivational stories and to email them to soroptimist.dbn@gmail.com



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