



# Zone 3

Kangaroo



**Australia**



**Fiji**



**New Zealand**



**Papua New Guinea**

# ZONE 3 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Australia/ Papua New Guinea	82	3,398	666	1	1
Fiji	8	193	138	1	1
New Zealand	26	1,029	208	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>4,620</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>





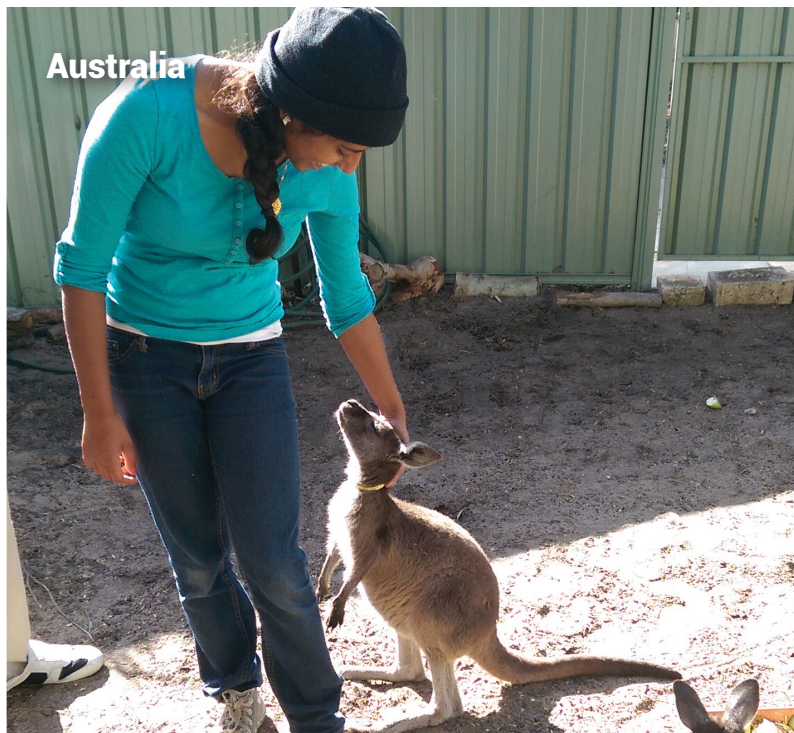
## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



**In Australia**, tree planting is popular in July, not only because the National Tree Planting Day falls in this period, but also because of school holidays, cooler winter weather, and soil conditions. In 2015, SSIO members in Australia, in conjunction with their local governments, planted more than 50,000 native tree saplings to protect and nourish Mother Nature. On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015, SSIO members in Western Australia were invited to plant native trees with the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL), which has worked cooperatively with the SSIO since 2008. More than 50 volunteers from three Sathya Sai Centres planted more than 2,500 trees in three hours, to help restore the catchment and wetlands systems in that area.

Australian SSIO members demonstrated a strong commitment to unity of faiths activities. In Western Australia, SSE students, youth, and their families were hosted by religious leaders in mosques, synagogues, churches, and other places of worship. A Jewish Rabbi, in particular, was pleased that the SSE students knew how to chant the Shema Yisreal as the Torah was being opened.

Sathya Sai volunteers in the Victoria region, in collaboration with the Whitehorse Interfaith Network, organised an All-Faiths Music Festival at Box Hill Town Hall







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on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2015. More than 350 guests and dignitaries attended this landmark event. Sathya Sai volunteers and members of Hindu and Christian faiths joined in performances by Buddhists, Sikhs, Muslims, and whirling dervishes from the Sufi tradition.

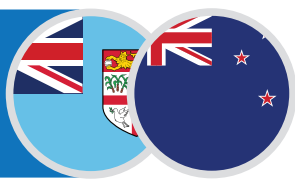
SSIO members participated in a Christmas celebration on the morning of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015 in Blacktown, New South Wales. The event was organised to make Christmas a joyful event for the migrant, multicultural, senior residents of western Sydney, and came alive with Turkish, Serbian, and Greek dances. A beautiful skit was presented by Sathya Sai children and 20 Chinese seniors rendered a melodious Chinese folk song and a Christmas carol in Chinese.

Over the last two years, Sathya Sai youth in Western Australia have been regular volunteers at Native Arc. This largely volunteer-run wildlife rescue sanctuary operates in the protected wetlands of Bibra Lake for the rescue and rehabilitation of injured Australian native animals in the region. Every three months, the youth spend a day serving animals, including cleaning enclosures, preparing feed, and establishing new enclosures.



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**In Fiji**, tropical cyclone Winston wreaked havoc on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2016, leaving many inhabitants without basic supplies and shelter. Remote communities in the townships of Ba, Tavua, and Rakiraki (on the northwest side of the main island, Viti Levu) along with about 100 smaller outlying islands were amongst the worst-affected areas. Sathya Sai volunteers from Fiji began offering hot meals, food packets, drinking water, clothes and medical care to the victims of the natural disaster immediately after a nation-wide curfew was lifted. Equipped with small packs of biscuits, milk, bottled water and juice, as well as cooked meals, volunteer teams reached out to those who needed help. SSIO volunteers delivered food and clean drinking water in many cases by foot and even on horseback. In some instances, four-wheel-drive vehicles were needed to reach stranded families inland.







**In New Zealand**, as part of a Community Adoption Programme (CAP), Sathya Sai volunteers have provided educational assistance to refugee children in the Glen Innes area of Auckland for the past 15 years. The present programme is an extension of a previous project to offer tuition-free classes for Burmese refugees in basic foundational skills in English and mathematics. Currently, 14 volunteers tutor 20–30 children, ages 5–17. Classes take place twice weekly in the evening at St. Mary Church in Glen Innes and at the Panmure Library, which has excellent facilities, including computers and study rooms.

The SSIO of New Zealand organised a Big Day Out for 108 Sathya Sai members on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2015, in Auckland. The event, themed “Ceilings on Desires,” started with a morning breakout session in which six groups, comprising SSE Groups 1–4, youth, and adults, reflected on the significance of the Ceiling on Desires programme. In the afternoon, the youth operated five stations to demonstrate the conservation of resources – Water, Food, Time, Money and Energy.



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A Rongomai Community Day was held for the third year on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Rongomai is a disadvantaged community, supported by Sathya Sai volunteers in New Zealand. The programme, themed “Be the Love That You Are,” focused on animals as a means of educating and informing visitors as to how the practice of human values can help strengthen communities. Adults came dressed in carnival regalia, while children were decked out in imaginative and colourful costumes representing various animals. A total of 568 people from the Rongomai community participated in workshops, cultural performances and other activities.

SSIO volunteers have been serving the children of the Sathya Sai Pre-School at Rongomai, Otara, and three other neighbouring schools in Auckland. On 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015, ten volunteers from the Royal Oak Sathya Sai Centre in Auckland distributed refreshments and other savouries to the school children.



**New Zealand**





*Foster the tiny seed of Love that clings to 'me' and 'mine,' let it sprout into Love for the group around you, and grow into Love for all mankind, and spread out its branches over animals, birds and those that creep and crawl, and let the Love enfold all things and beings in all the worlds. Proceed from less Love to more Love, narrow Love to expanded Love.*

—Sathya Sai Baba, 23 July 1975