



**NEW ZEALAND**  
**MAORI WHARENUI**

# Zone 3

# HIGHLIGHTS | ZONE 3

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Australia/PNG	76	3,537	571	1	1
Fiji	9	309	169	1	1
New Zealand	25	1,051	149	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>4,897</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>



## ZONE 3 | COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



### Australia

Embracing the sentiment, 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness', SSIO volunteers enthusiastically participated in Australia's National Clean-Up Campaign. In Adelaide, 21 volunteers collected 14 bags of rubbish from the city's parklands. In Willetton, a suburb of Perth, more than 60 volunteers cleaned up a local park, native bushland, and surroundings of a small shopping complex.

Guru Poornima was celebrated with numerous devotional programmes and service projects across Australia during July 2018. The SSIO launched the Serve Our Sai Families (SOS) initiative, which encourages a spirit of camaraderie and caring for those who may be in need. In Sydney, SSE children offered gratitude to their teachers by presenting talks and poems. In Western Australia, volunteers packed and distributed dental hygiene kits, to the people in need in and around Perth.

Around 300 Sathya Sai volunteers across Australia celebrated Plant-a-Tree Day on 29th July 2018 by planting over 17,000 trees across the country. YAs in Western Australia took their service a step further by joining the ambitious Trillion Trees Challenge administered by a Western Australian not-for-profit organisation, with a goal of planting a trillion trees worldwide. The volunteers also lovingly dedicated each tree they planted to a person, creating a heart-to-heart connection with their labour of love.



Australia

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS | ZONE 3

On 4th August 2018, 90 SSIO volunteers set upon a journey of service across New South Wales, visiting six nursing homes in Quakers Hill, Greystanes, Merrylands, Baulkham Hills, Carlingford, and Ryde. The volunteers bonded with the seniors through music and games, which brought a splash of joy and colour to their lives. In turn, they were inspired by the enriching life experiences shared by the senior residents.

SSIO volunteers further brightened the lives of 300 senior citizens by welcoming them to a unique, multicultural Christmas celebration on 15th December 2018. The event showcased an array of cultures as well as festive songs and dances. The audience, comprising of Chinese, Serbian, Iranian, Spanish, Bhutanese, Turkish, Indian-Fijian, and Caucasian ethnicities, joined the holiday festivities. The organisers awarded a certificate of appreciation to the SSIO of Australia.

The SSIO hosted a successful blood donation campaign. To reach a broad audience, the YAs compiled a promotional video titled 'You don't need a cape to be a Superhero'. Donors shared photos of their experiences on social media platforms, encouraging others to donate as well. These efforts led to a total of 718 blood donations.



Australia

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### Fiji

In May 2018, SSIO volunteers and medical professionals from New Zealand lovingly served over 3,300 people at large medical camps held at the Fijian islands of Ovalau, Koro, Gnau, and Viti Levu. In addition to the comprehensive health screenings, medical specialists in gastroenterology, women's health, optometry, dentistry, physiotherapy, nutrition, and endocrinology provided their valuable services. A total of over 2,000 prescriptions were written and around 4,000 medicines were distributed, completely free of charge.

On 13th January 2019, SSIO YAs and children from the Sathya Sai Centre of Drasa, visited the Golden Age Home in Lautoka, where they distributed groceries and supplies, and lovingly conversed with the 22 resident seniors.



### New Zealand

As part of Guru Poornima celebrations, 29 SSIO volunteers participated in a local tree planting programme to rehabilitate the wetlands around Hamilton. The volunteers joyfully planted 800 trees to restore the vital ecosystem of the area.



New Zealand

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS | ZONE 3

The day of Guru Poornima also witnessed the launch of the 'KAI from SAI' food project in Auckland which aims to provide meals for people in need throughout the year, rather than on sporadic occasions. Approximately 180 SSIO volunteers participated in the project over the first six weeks and have already received rave reviews from the local community.

On 1st September 2018, a group of YAs met with members from the Tamaki Estuary Protection Society to learn about the local area and understand the environmental impacts of human actions over time. The YAs saw first-hand, how the mangroves and shorelines were littered with plastic and were inspired to help clear rubbish along the Panmure Basin.

On 6th October 2018, the SSIO of New Zealand, in partnership with the Kaipatiki Ward of the Auckland City Council hosted the third Annual Day Out for Special Needs Children. More than 1,100 children, parents and caregivers from local schools and the community gathered to participate in a wide array of activities ranging from skating to multi-cultural entertainment and music.

### New Zealand

