

## **Samoa Association of Women Graduates' Educational initiatives:**

Children's Hospital Library & Playground Project: In August 2008, a Children's Library was established at the Paediatric Ward of the Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital at Motootua. The aim of this undertaking is to create educational opportunities for young children, women and their families who are disadvantaged due to illness or injuries where some 300 children are missing school every month. The Library is fully furnished, complete with more than 2000 books and texts both in the Samoan and English language, educational games, boxes of toys, videos, DVD's, etc.\* It now has a full-time Librarian, is open from 9-5pm Monday to Friday, and sometimes it opens on Saturday too. SAWG encourages its members and anyone interested to volunteer, pick up a book and read to these kids in their spare time!

See: [www.ifuw.org/brpid/samoa.htm](http://www.ifuw.org/brpid/samoa.htm)

Annual Dictionary Distribution: Recently Samoa Association of Women Graduates (SAWG) distributed dictionary prizes to 44 government, mission and private High Schools and Colleges in both Upolu and Savaii, for the 'Best all round Female and Male student in the first year of college or high school (yr 9)'. The message inscribed in these dictionaries is "*Aim to be a graduate*" urges the recipients of dictionaries to strive to complete year 13 and move on to achieving tertiary level educational qualifications. This is the first time SAWG has included young male counterparts in their annual presentation to girls and is an effort to address 2008 United Nation's international theme and Millennium Development Goal 3 - Gender Equality.

### Executive Officers for 2008-2010:

SAWG (Samoa Association of Women Graduates) during their Annual General Meeting held at Mari's Café, Tamaligi on Saturday 22nd November 2008, elected new Executive Officers as follows for 2008-2010:

President - Maryann Lameko-Vaai

Vice President - Epenesa Pouesi-Young

Secretary - Niusila Faamanatu-Eteuati

Treasurer - Sasa'e Walter

Coordinator of International Relations - Susana Tauaa

Media Officer - Laura Fepuleai



(Photo: National University of Samoa)

Some of the SAWG Executive during a farewell breakfast at Aggie Grey's Hotel. From left:- Oketevi Tanuvasa, Laura Fepulea'i, Maryanne Lameko-Va'ai, Juliet Boon-Nanai, Niusila Faamanatu-Eteuati and Andrea Williams Stewart.

Outgoing SAWG President, Dr. Juliet Boon-Nanai, thanked all the members for their support in the previous years' events. Newly elected President Maryann Lameko-Vaai looks forward to continuing the activities of the association in promoting continued education for women and to contribute to community projects which foster continuing development for Samoa by the women graduates. She also encourages anyone interested in joining SAWG, to contact SAWG Secretary or any other members listed above.

\* As a result of firm friendships made at IFUW Conference in Manchester, 2007 Manawatu Branch has partnered with SAWG in this exciting initiative.