



**United Nations Association of Australia**  
Annual Report  
2010 – 2011



## United Nations Association of Australia

Suite 206, Griffin Centre

20 Genge St, Canberra City ACT 2601

(02) 6247 4499

[admin@unaa.org.au](mailto:admin@unaa.org.au)

[www.unaa.org.au](http://www.unaa.org.au)

Cover image:

### Darfuris Receive Efficient Water Rollers

Women filling an orange Water Roller at a water distribution point in the Abu Shouk Camp for internally displaced people. With its large drum capacity (usually 75 litres), the roller frees women and children from having to spend a large portion of every day dedicated to collecting water for their households. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) has distributed some 3,000 such rollers across Darfur.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The global issues of today are just as demanding as those of previous times. We need only to think of the unfolding political events of the Arab Spring, or the famine of East Africa or the major challenges facing the world economy. Many millions of the global community still live in poverty, large numbers are on the move to escape persecution and abuse, and women and girls remain generally worse off than men. The world's natural resources continue to be plundered with irreplaceable losses.

Addressing these issues does require unilateral action of States, and sometimes the circumstances lend to regional solutions, but in an ever more integrated world, most of these major issues require a global response.

The primary global organization capable of leading and coordinating effective international responses is the United Nations. Although an organisation of 192 Nation States, the work of the United Nations is underpinned by the broader legitimacy of the global community... "We the peoples" ... as the Charter says. It is this responsibility of individuals, civil society, which is core to the functioning of United Nations Associations across the world. Nation States have the primary responsibility to act, but effective responses require support and encouragement from the peoples not just governments.

So whether its efforts to avoid or end conflicts, counter human rights abuses, give substance to humanitarian responses, encourage democratic reform, support economic development, counter climate change or in fact address any of the major global challenges, the role of civil society is vitally important.



In Australia, this is the work of the United Nations Association of Australia. It's a privilege to be President of a body which has this responsibility. Much of the work is done by the State Divisions and I pay tribute to those who lead this cause across Australia.

Whilst we have a federal structure and appreciate the importance of strong local participation, the National Executive has also been of the view that the national office and presence should be strengthened in order to better meet our mission.



We commissioned a review of our organization and I'm particularly grateful to former Senator Russell Trood who volunteered his services to do this task. His review will be debated at this year's National Council Meeting. We were also pleased to be able to employ Beth Shaw as our Executive Director. Her sterling efforts have made a big difference to our organisation and I am very appreciative of her contribution.

Our major national program to date has been a project supporting the establishment of UNAs in Pacific States. It has been led by David Purnell and is making good progress. I'd like to specifically acknowledge David's contribution and thank him. I also want to thank the Australian Government and DFAT for their support of that project. We expect to be able to announce a second national project at this year's

Council Meeting and are working on others. I am confident that we are in the process of building a stronger national presence, and given the importance of our work, that is a good thing.

In conclusion, I want to thank the Federal Executive for its continuing support. I want to particularly thank our Treasurer, Harold Wilkinson, for his extraordinary efforts. I also want to thank the Editor of UNity, Lucinda Millsom for her important work. Effective public communication is vital to our mission.

**Robert Hill**  
**President**



UNAA President Robert Hill discussing the Pacific Project with Prime Minister of Vanuatu Sato Kilman, UNA Vanuatu Representative Jenny Ligo and UNAA Executive Director Elizabeth Shaw

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It was with great excitement that I started work at the UNAA National Office in Canberra in November 2010. UNAA has an incredibly important mission to engage the community in advancing the goals of the United Nations around the world. It is an honour to join such an outstanding team of volunteers as I work to build a stronger national presence for the UNAA and to develop some national projects.

The organisation has been undertaking a period of significant change. We commissioned the **UNAA Review** of our entire operations, which was generously led by Senator Russell Trood, who spent time with divisions around Australia before presenting his 16 recommendations for reform. I am looking forward to discussing these at our National Council meetings in Perth in August, and incorporating as many of them as possible in our future work.

Thanks to support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, we continue to make important progress in **supporting the establishment of UN Associations in five countries in the Pacific**: Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa and Papua New Guinea. The Vanuatu UN Association was launched by UNAA President Robert Hill, as well as UNAV President Hannington Alatoa and Vanuatu Minister for Justice Ralph Regevanu in May 2011,

with other Associations newly formed or close to launch.

Our **2011 National Conference** this year is focusing on **Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals**. With little over three years until the deadline, it is an important time to discuss how we can accelerate progress in areas we are lagging behind in, such as maternal health, and also examine progress in areas within our region, such as the Pacific. These conversations will be enlivened enormously by the participation of the heads of the Pacific UN Associations, who are attending the National Conference with thanks to AusAID's International Seminar Support Scheme.

UNAA publication *Australia and the UN* is on track to be published in the second half of 2011. *Australia and the UN* is a Report Card which assesses Australia's performance in relation to its international obligations under various UN conventions and charters relating to the environment, women, indigenous people, disarmament and peacekeeping. It is an important report that helps us hold the government to account for its performance in these areas.

Finally, the UNAA will be launching a **Young Professionals Network** in the second half of this year, as a way of formally engaging younger

people in the work of the Association, and more closely connecting the UNAA to the wonderful work of UN Youth Australia. The Young Professionals Network will run campaigns on behalf of the UNAA that advance the goals of the United Nations, as well as holding awareness-raising and fundraising events.

Thank you to the National Executive and their committees for a wonderful year and I look forward to supporting the exciting activities of the UNAA over the coming months.



**Elizabeth Shaw**  
**Executive Director**



**Assembly Approves Admission of South Sudan to UN**

Members of the delegation of the Republic of South Sudan, led by Vice President Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon (right), follow the proceedings of the General Assembly meeting.  
© 14 July 2011 UN Photo/Mark Garten

## UNAA ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Our UNAA Committees continued to organise events and activities designed to promote and advance the work of the United Nations. Here are some highlights from the last year:

### NEW SOUTH WALES

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#### *Key events*

The **UNAA National Conference** was hosted at Parliament House in Sydney in August 2010. The Conference was opened by Sir Laurence Street and featured speakers including Rob Oakeshott MP, head of the UN Information Centre Christopher Woodthorpe and futurist Dr Keith Suter.

The **United Nations Week Cenotaph Ceremony** was held in October 2010, attended by former Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police Mick Palmer, UNAA President Robert Hill and representatives from the blue berets, consular corps, defence forces, government, community groups and schools.

Justice Michael Kirby was the keynote speaker at the United Nations Day luncheon at Parliament House, where he spoke on “**UN Agencies: Heroes of the Organisation.**” Other speakers included UN Women Australia President Sue Conde and founder of Friends of the UN Lance Innes.

#### *Other activities*

The new **Mid North Coast Branch** of UNAA (NSW) founded by Robert Oakeshott MP held its first major event on 9 August 2010, with a function to celebrate the United Nations International Day of the World’s Indigenous People.

### VICTORIA

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#### *Key events*

Winners of the **2010 Media Peace Awards** were announced at the Awards Presentation Dinner, hosted by Virginia Trioli, Presenter, *ABC News Breakfast*. The 2010 Winners included SBS and ABC Television and Radio, the Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, Blackfella Films, Leader Community Newspapers and The Adelaide Review. Key human rights and social justice issues highlighted by the Awards included alcoholism and domestic violence; the devastating long-term environmental and health consequences of the use of depleted uranium in the Iraq war; the importance of indigenous literacy and the preservation of indigenous languages and culture.

The 2011 **World Environment Day Awards** program was held in support of the International Year of Forests and UNEP World Environment Day theme 'Forests: Nature at Your Service'. There were a record number of people in attendance at the 2011 Awards Presentation Dinner, hosted by Mark Davis, Presenter, *SBS Dateline*, with representatives from all of the finalists travelling from across Australia to attend the event. Winners of the Awards in 2011 included: Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation; Heyfield Community Centre; Design Inc; Westwyck Ecovillage; Bungwahl Public School; NAB; Willoughby City Council and the District Council of Mt Barker.



UNAA Environment Awards (L-R): Patricia Collett, Executive Director UNAA Victoria; Mrs Chernov, the Governor of Victoria Hon. Alex Chernov AO; Graham Hunter, President UNAA Victoria; Ryan Smith, Minister for Environment Victoria; Robyn Parker, Minister for Environment NSW; Sean Treweek, Managing Director WSP Lincoln Scott.

In May 2011, the UNAA Victoria and the Association's Environment and Sustainability Committee held the first **Earth Summit Series** event hosted by Allens Arthur Robinson. The event entitled 'The Future of Energy in Victoria: Towards a Sustainable Economy' was moderated by Rob Gell, Sustainability Consultant and

President of Greening Australia, with guest speaker Richard Bolt, Secretary of the Victorian Department of Primary Industries. The Earth Summit Series is being held in support of the key theme of the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (Rio +20) - the green economy in the context sustainable development and poverty eradication.

#### *Other activities*

UNAA Victoria continued to build on its **Model UN Conferences** program for metropolitan and regional secondary schools and universities.

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

#### *Key events*

Guest speakers Chris Woodthorpe (Director, UN Information Centre), The Hon. Melissa Parke MP (Member for Fremantle) and Professor Robert Hill (President UNAA) hosted a **UN Day Reception** in October 2010 and discussed how the UN should rise to meet current global challenges.

To celebrate **Human Rights Day**, Simon Rice (Director of the ANU Law Reform and Social Justice Centre) presented on Australia's relationship with the UN on human rights and perspectives on Australia's National Human Rights Consultations in December 2010.



UNAA ACT AGM with Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC at the ACT Legislative Assembly (L – R): Lieutenant General John Sanderson; Elizabeth Shaw, UNAA Executive Director; Shane Rattenbury, Speaker ACT Legislative Assembly; Michael Curtotti, UNAA ACT President.

The Head of the UN Democracy Fund Roland Rich gave the Executive Committee and other interested members a fascinating presentation on the mandate, operations and purpose of the UN Democracy Fund in December 2010.

UNAA (ACT) co-sponsored the launch of the **Global Peace Index** in May 2011. Camilla Schippa (Director Institute for Economics and Peace) presented on this year's Index and Professor Do Aitkin AO (Chairman of the National Capital Authority) moderated a panel of eminent experts that included Australian Institute of International Affairs John McCarthy AO and ANU Head of Strategic and Defence Studies Professor Hugh White.

## NORTHERN TERRITORY

### Key events

**United Nations Day** was marked with a celebration at the NT Parliamentary Library in October 2010.

The **International Human Right's Day Breakfast** attracted 110 attendees from NT and Commonwealth government departments, and was held in partnership with the NT Anti-Discrimination Commission in December 2010.

The **International Women's Day Walk** in Darwin in March 2011 was a huge success, with a sea of colourful banners representing all the community and women's organizations that joined the celebrations. The Northern Territory Police Commissioner John McRoberts, together with Deputy Commissioner Shayne Maines and Assistant Policy Commissioner, Reece Kershaw, led the march through Darwin City, flanked by two police women on police horses. Also at the lead was the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy, the Administrator of the Northern Territory, the Hon Tom Pauling AO QC, and Darwin Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer.



UNAA NT International Women's Day 2011 March through Darwin

### Other activities

UNAANT launched the first edition of the UNAANT Newsletter in March 2011.



## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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### *Key events*

UNAA President Robert Hill was the keynote speaker at the **International Human Rights Day** event at the University of Western Australia in December 2010.

The **UNAAWA Book Club** discusses books dealing with human rights issues, with regular meetings and robust discussions.

### *Other activities*

In July 2010, working with the Australian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Alliance, a **three day training program** was held for young immigrant and refugee women.

To celebrate Migrant's Day, UNAAAWA produced a **recipe book** containing recipes from Immigrant and Refugee families. The recipe book was launched for International Women's Day 2011 and has been widely distributed.

The **Yolanda Frank Memorial Award** invites primary school children to illustrate Article 3 of the Declaration of Human Rights. The 2011 Award will be presented at the National Conference.

## QUEENSLAND

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### *Key events*

The UNAA QLD participated in the **Australia Pacific Earth Charter + 10 Festival**, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Earth Charter and attracting individuals, businesses, government, community groups and academics from across the region to discuss ways to respond to climate change, the global financial crisis and regional conflicts. UNAA QLD partnered with Griffith University to hold a session on global and corporate governance entitled, 'Harvesting the Benefits: Business Action on the Earth Charter.'

UNAA QLD observed the **UN International Day of Peace** by holding a Community Fair in September 2010.

In conjunction with the 65th anniversary of the United Nations, UNAA QLD launched the **UNAA Community Awards**, which are designed to recognise community initiatives based on UN principles. The first Community Awards were presented in October 2010 at Brisbane Girls Grammar School, and included awards for groups who worked to promote international understanding.

### *Other activities*

UNAA QLD is busy organising the **2012 UNAA National Conference** which will be held in Brisbane in October 2012.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### *Key events*

At the UNAASA Annual General Meeting in June 2010, Sean Berg (Editor of *Coming to Terms – Aboriginal Title in South Australia*) addressed members on indigenous land rights policy in Australia.

The Status of Women Network held a film night in July 2010.

To celebrate **United Nations Day** in 2010, UNAA President Robert Hill addressed a dinner and spoke about the current challenges facing the

UN. This dinner serves as a significant fundraiser for UNAASA with a silent auction taking place during the night.

### *Other activities*

UNAASA moved office from Victoria Square to our “shop front” new office in Carrington St, with great support from the SA Government.

The **Norman Percy Cole Bequest** continues to assist us to fund disadvantaged young people in a variety of ways. Funding is typically used to send young people to courses and extra-curricular activities which they otherwise would not be able to participate in.



2011 Hawke Lecture, delivered by the Hon Dame Silvia Cartwright, Trial Judge, UN Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials.  
(L – R): Lidia Moretti, UNAA SA; Silvia Cartwright; Rosemary McKay, UNAA SA.

## NETWORK REPORTS

### UN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

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The UN Parliamentary Group is co-chaired by Melissa Parke MP and Senator Russell Troad. UNAA ACT members have participated in the following events and briefings at Parliament House:

#### **Crises, issues and highlights – what happened at the 2010 General Assembly**

Senator Alan Eggleston (WA) and Senator Kerry O'Brien (Tasmania) relayed their personal experiences of the work and key agenda items at the UN General Assembly that they attended from September – December 2010 as part of the Australian delegation.



#### **United Nations Development (UNDP) Seminar**

Helen Clark, Administrator of the UN Development Programme and former Prime Minister of New Zealand spoke about the work of the UNDP in relation to the Millennium Development Goals.

#### **Gareth Evans on Libya and the Responsibility to Protect**

Professor the Hon. Gareth Evans AO QC gave an animated briefing on the principles of Responsibility to Protect and its application to an appropriate response to the political situation in Libya.

#### **World Food Programme Seminar**

Mr Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the World Food Programme spoke about the global challenges facing WFP.

### UNAA STATUS OF WOMEN COMMITTEE

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The SOWC has been working on a Women's Sector Roundtable to be held in August as part of the UNAA National Conference in Perth. The Roundtable will be opened by the Minister for Women's Interests, Robyn McSweeney and will focus on discussing the action sheets for the Australian NGO report on the Convention on the

Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The SOWC has been discussing how to contribute to the recently announced review of the Charter of Rights and Responsibilities.

The UNAA SOWC is part of both the Equality Rights Alliance and the UN Women Australia Working Group and has been participating in regular meetings with these groups.

### UN YOUTH AUSTRALIA

UN Youth Australia is part of the UN Association of Australia, and is run by and for young people to educate about the United Nations, international relations and global issues.

#### Key Events

Over the past 12 months we have connected with around 15 000 young people, and some of the highlights were:

#### Count Me In!

UN Youth volunteers took to the streets to enrol thousands of young Australians in time for the federal election. This hugely successful project was run in partnership with the Australian Youth Forum and fits with our aim of promoting youth representation and participation.



#### Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations

Benson Saulo was appointed the 2011 Australian Youth Representative to the UN and he is the first indigenous person to ever hold this position. UN Youth runs the Youth Representative program with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Benson has been travelling around Australia consulting with young people about their hopes and dreams for the future, and about the challenges that they face. He will take these stories to the United Nations and work with the Australian Mission in New York.



### Evatt Competition

The Evatt Competition is Australia's largest schools' debating competition. This year, hundreds of teams competed in State and Territory rounds, with the top 15 teams travelling to Canberra for a week-long national final in December 2010.

### National Conference

The UNYA National Conference was held in Adelaide in July 2011. 90 delegates are selected from State and Territory conferences, and Japan and New Zealand, for a week of discussion, debate, fascinating speakers and workshops on topics from youth activism to human rights in the Pacific.

### Other Activities

#### The National Youth Summit

Two hundred young people converged on Sydney for the first UN Youth National Youth Summit. One highlight was the 'youth declaration', which is a document that captured the beliefs and opinions of the participants at the summit.



### International Activities

We sent delegations of young people to East Timor, Europe and the United States. On all of these trips, the goal is to give a unique educational experience that equips delegates with a better understanding the work of the United Nations.

### UN ACADEMIC NETWORK

The Academic Network has been quiet this year, with many members preoccupied with the subjects on the UN which they teach and the books and articles which they are writing. Convenor Alessandra Pecci retired early in 2011 after valuable organisational work establishing the network. The network is looking for a new Convenor and a volunteer would be very warmly welcomed.

Papers given by network members to the conference held in conjunction with Harvard at the University of Melbourne are being published in Kate Macdonald, Shelley Marshall and Sanjay Pinto (Eds.), *New Visions for Market Governance: Crisis and Renewal*, Routledge, New York, forthcoming

A round table for the network is being held in conjunction with the UNAA National Conference in Perth on 4 August. **Professor Jan Ryan** will chair the roundtable. The four speakers and their subjects are:

Professor Linda Briskman, Head of Human Rights Education, Curtin University, who will speak about ‘Inconsistencies between Australian Government Asylum Seeker Policy and Human Rights Treaties; and alternative policies.’

Melita Parker, BA (Hons), Ms Parker completed an outstanding honours arts degree in 2010 during which her major research essay was on ‘Possibilities and Difficulties in Establishing a Permanent UN Peacekeeping Force’, and she will speak about this. She is now completing her LLB.

Henrietta Smith, BA (Hons), Past National President of the UN Youth Association, and

currently Associate of Justice Michael Buss, of the WA Supreme Court, Court of Appeal. She is currently writing a thesis for her honours LLB on whether, in the light of the “Arab Spring”, ‘A legal right to choose one’s rulers?’ has finally crystallised and she will speak about this.

Professor John Langmore, Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne, who will speak about ‘Lessons from Norway for Australian Foreign Policy’ after his research in Oslo last year. Norway has a particularly enlightened foreign policy which includes giving substantially more voluntary support per person than any other country.



WFP and Timor Education Ministry Provide Meals to Schoolchildren

With the support of the UN World Food Programme (WFP), Timor-Leste's Ministry of Education has launched a nationwide initiative to provide schoolchildren from Pre-school to Grade 9 with mid-morning meals. The meals are intended to encourage enrolment and attendance, and increase students' learning capacity.

© 5 February 2010 UN Photo/Martine Perret

**UNAA - Account Balances - As of 30/06/2011**

(Includes unrealised gains)  
As of 30/06/2011 (in Australian Dollars)

Account	30/06/2011 Balance
<b>Cash Accounts</b>	
UNAA	1,866
<b>TOTAL Cash Accounts</b>	<b>1,866</b>
<b>Asset Accounts</b>	
UNAA Cash Management	16,120
UNAA Term Deposit	40,000
<b>TOTAL Asset Accounts</b>	<b>56,120</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>57,986</b>

**UNAA - Income/Expense - 2011**

1/07/2010 through 30/06/2011 (in Australian Dollars)

Category Description	1/07/2010- 30/06/2011
<b>INCOME</b>	
Donations	9,000
Int Inc	5,024
Management Fees	6,500
Project Funding	45,000
UNAA Federal Levy	2,645
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>68,169</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration	219
Advertising	88
Audit	242
Bank charges	141
Executive Director	21,479
Insurance	509
Int Paid	3
Membership subs	2,042
Miscellaneous	75
Nat'l Executive	2,172
Nat'l Prog	1,000
Outreach	800
Pacific Project	49,118
Telephone	125
Travel	1,431
UN DPI Conference	775
UN Parliamentary Group	4,204
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>84,423</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-16,254</b>



LES ELLIS + associates pty.  
registered tax agent + public accountants

PO box 85 Mawson ACT 2607  
Unit 1 Level 1 Isaacs Chambers  
2 Farr Place Isaacs ACT 2607  
P: 02 4286 6522 F: 02 4286 5453  
E: scott@leanda.com.au  
ABN 80 008 550 463

## **Independent Audit Report to The Members Of United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated**

We have audited the financial statements of United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated for the year ended 30 June, 2011. The association's directors are responsible for the financial statements. We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the association.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other Mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the association's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

### **Qualification**

It is not practical to establish control over cash receipts until their initial entry into the accounting records. Our audit was therefore restricted to the amounts received.

### **Audit Opinion**

Subject to the foregoing reservations, in our opinion, the financial statements of United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated are properly drawn up:

- I. so as to give a true and fair view of:
  - A. the association's financial position as at 30 June 2011, and income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June, 2011;
- II. to satisfy the requirements of subsection 72(2) of the Associations Incorporation Act to be dealt with in financial statements.

### **Les Ellis & Associates Pty**

Les Ellis FIPA  
Monday, July 18, 2011

