

UNAA PACIFIC PROJECT

The United Nations Association of Australia has been working with community groups in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands to develop UN Associations in the Pacific. This project was made possible by a grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). David Purnell, the previous National Administrator of UNAA and current UNAA ACT Committee Member has been the Project Manager and his involvement has kept the ACT Division very involved in the project. The project involved scoping the need for a UN Association in the three pilot countries and making some assessment as to what model might be appropriate and useful.

The initial trip to PNG found that while there are many people actively involved in promoting UN-related concerns (human rights, development, justice, peace, education), there is no formal umbrella group of NGOs providing coordination. Similar issues were raised in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

So far, the project has led to definite moves in each country to establish an interim UNA committee, with practical advice from UNAA. These groups are identifying potential members, determining priorities for activities, draft constitutions, and working towards public events to launch the associations. The aim is to have a viable, registered organisation with broad appeal to local people. Initially the primary focus will be the capital city of each country, as expansion to other regions will be more challenging and long-term.

More information about this project is available at www.unaa.org.au



SWITCH TO GREEN 2009

The ACT Division are hosting the UNAA National Conference in Canberra in September this year in conjunction with our annual Switch to Green Conference.

Following the success of last year's event, Switch to Green 2009 will take place on 10 – 12 September at the Canberra Convention Centre addressing Canberra's progress in its bid to become a **Carbon Neutral Capital**.

Bringing together key stakeholders of the ACT community from government, community, business, academics and scientists, the Switch to Green conference will offer new insights into the implications of climate change for the ACT region. The Expo will showcase the best in 'green' products and services available to the public, demonstrating practical and tangible steps which can be made to help us live 'a greener lifestyle' and reduce our carbon footprint.

Switch to Green provides an opportunity for you to gain a greater understanding of the environmental impact of our lifestyle and how we can switch to a greener, more sustainable way of life.

More information about the conference and how to register can be found at www.switchtogreen.unaa.org.au

With thanks to:

Executive Committee Members

President	Russell Rollason
Vice-President(s)	Harold Wilkinson Julie McKay
Secretary	Margaret Moreton
Treasurer	Damien Scarlett

Committee members

David Purnell	Mike Hettinger
Wendy Conway-Lamb	Sarah Chapman

Immediate Past President

Helen Disney

Corporate Members

Quakers	Margaret Bearlin
UNIFEM	Libby Lloyd
PSEAWA	Calmar Annandale
	Doreen Hurst
NCW	Helen Raymond
Baha'i	Maryam Bell



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Russell Rollason AM

Were you ever (or are you still) a fan of Sesame Street? Remember how a number or letter was the sponsor for the day. Looking at the global situation over the past year, it looks as though the sponsor for the year was the letter "F". F for food, fossil fuel, finances and flu.

The food crisis earlier in the year saw production fall and global prices of basics such as rice and wheat rise dramatically. According to the United Nations, the number of people in developing countries without adequate food increased by 75 million in the last year to around 925 million.

Fuel prices were also rising rapidly. Since then they have fallen back to more reasonable levels but are on the increase again as demand grows. Oil prices are likely to continue rising in the light of the announcement by the world's second largest oil company Royal Dutch Shell that world demand for oil and gas will outstrip supply within seven years. But can we afford to burn what is left? If we do, we will all be looking for paddles as the world faces dangerous climate change.

Speaking of paddles, the arrival of the sub-prime sank the financial system leaving us all up the creek! The Global Financial Crisis is having a sharp impact in Australia with rising unemployment, but it is devastating the developing world. An estimated additional 90 million people are now living in poverty due to the financial crisis, according to the World Bank.

And finally, the flu: the first global pandemic for 40 years.

What becomes more obvious every day is that the we are a global community facing global challenges. What affects one, affects all. To address these global challenges we need an effective United Nations. Whether it is the World Food Program responding to the global food crisis, or the global negotiations occurring under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to achieve a Copenhagen agreement to reduce carbon emissions, or the World Health Organization managing the response to the H1N1 flu pandemic, the UN is critical. Thankfully, under the leadership of Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, the UN has grown in strength and stature.

For the UNAA (ACT), our challenge remains to increase public understanding of the role of the UN and how it works. UNAA can also play an important role to facilitate community cooperation in addressing the impact of global issues here at home. For example, in Switch to Green, the annual climate change Conference and Expo co-hosted with a range of key stakeholders in our local community UNAA is working with the ACT Government and community to achieve a carbon neutral Canberra. To strengthen our contribution as a Forum for the Future, what we need are more Friends of the UN and of UNAA!

But enough of the Fs, let's make 'G' the sponsor for 2010. G for the new Green Deal we need and look forward to as we step out on the road to a low carbon sustainable future.



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Independent Audit Report to The Members Of United Nations Association of Australia (ACT Division) Incorporated

We have audited the financial statements of United Nations Association of Australia (ACT Division) Incorporated for the year ended 31 December, 2008. 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

The Association, in common with similar non profit making associations, does not have a comprehensive system of internal control over income and consequently I was unable to confirm that all amounts receivable were properly accounted for. I was able to sight adequate support for income and expenditure recorded in the books of account. It is not practical to establish control over receipts until their initial entry into the accounting records. Our audit was therefore restricted to the amounts recorded as received.

Audit Opinion

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

- I. so as to give a true and fair view of:
 - A. the association's financial position as at 31 December 2008, and income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December, 2008;
- 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

Scott Ellis CPA
Wednesday, June 17, 2009

**Due to space restrictions, the full audited accounts have not been printed in this report. For a copy of these accounts, please email unaaact@cyberone.com.au*

UN Reform and a new Secretary General

Tuesday 18 March 2008

Steve Pratt (Deputy Speaker, ACT Legislative Assembly) hosted a seminar for the UNAA (ACT) where Robert Hill (Australia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, NY) spoke about "How Ban Ki-Moon has change the UN".

Sustainable Development

Wednesday 21 May 2008

The UNAA (ACT) supported an event hosted by the Bahai Centre in which Dr Amir Abadi spoke about the UN Commission for Sustainable Development.

Movie Night - Hope Premiere

Thursday 24 July 2008

We hosted the Canberra Premiere of "Hope" - a film about the Siev X which sank at sea with 400 asylum seekers on board. 350 people died as a result of this tragedy. This moving film followed the story of one of the survivors of the Siev X - Amal Basry. Tony Kevin, former Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, spoke at this event, as did Steve Thomas, director and narrator of this film. 138 people attended this event at the Dendy Cinema complex and participated in an animated discussion about the film, the sinking of the Siev X and about the courage of Amal.

UN Day Celebration Dinner

Thursday 23 October 2008

We held a very successful dinner at the Kurrajong Hotel in Barton. The Hon Stephen Smith, the Foreign Minister attended and spoke of the government's commitment to regenerating an active involvement in the UN. Mr Richard Towle (Representative of the UN Secretary General in Australia), Professor John Langmore (UNAA National President), and Melissa Parkes (MP) attended and addressed approximately 130 people who attended.

Human Rights Day

Wednesday 10 December 2008

UNAA (ACT) and UNIFEM co-hosted an evening to acknowledge and celebrate the 60th anniversary of the declaration of Human Rights. An evening seminar was facilitated by Mr Jack Waterford (Editor at large - The Canberra Times) and entitled "Human Rights and the Northern Territory Intervention". Professor Mick Dodson (Australian of the Year, Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies and member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues) and Kerry Arabena (former Executive Director of an Indigenous health services in the Northern Territory and Cape York. She has chaired a number of national and international Boards and Committees) both made presentations and then answered questions from many of the 104 people in attendance.

UN Millennium Dev Goals Seminar

Wednesday 25 March 2009

Salil Shetty, Director of the UN Millennium Campaign and Minar Pimple, Director for the Millennium Campaign in the Asia Pacific discussed how the global financial crisis is adding new urgency to the Millennium Development Goals. Caroline Le Courtier MLA hosted the seminar and 45 people attended.



Professor John Langmore (UNAA), Melissa Parke MP, Richard Towle (UNHCR) and Alex Rafalowicz (UNYA)



Melissa Parke MP with guests at the UN Day Dinner 2008.



UNAA ACT Switch to Green Exhibition 2008.