



United Nations Association of Australia NSW Inc.

Patron: His Excellency the Governor of NSW

World Environment Day 2015

World Environment Day (WED) is a UN annual day of celebrating the environment. Each year WED is hosted by a different city around the world and has a different theme.

The 2015 WED theme is "One World, One Environment" and will be hosted in India by UNEP. WED 2015 precedes the Global UN Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC to be hosted in Paris in December 2015.

The Paris UNFCCC will focus on the three objectives

1. to define an agreement applicable to all;
2. to adopt a legally binding text; and
3. to set an ambitious goal to keep global temperature increase below 2 degrees Celsius

The UNAA(NSW) WED conference will use the above objectives and will produce a document to encourage our government to actively participate in the Paris 2015 UNFCCC.

We will lead an uplifting and inspiring conference on Climate Change (CC). We will discuss how CC will affect us as individuals and as a country as well as what Australia is doing and what pathways we can take to combat CC. We plan to host a brief post conference working group to record the conclusions and pass them on to the relevant Government bodies as our recommendations on Australia's contribution to the Paris UNFCCC.

The arrangements are as follows:

TIME: Friday 5th June 2015

PLACE: The Mint Macquarie St Sydney

A number of exciting speakers have been contacted.

Amber Ferguson, Convenor

The UNAA(NSW) wishes all members and supporters a happy and prosperous New Year. May 2015 be a year of encouragement for all people of goodwill.

For your Diary 2015

An exciting and varied program is being prepared. Please note the dates in your diary.

9 March International Women's Day event (Dr Affie Adagio see p 3)

16/17 May Special Event celebrating UN efforts towards peace. (Mr Paul Malliate)

5 June World Environment Day Climate Conference (Ms Amber Ferguson see p 1)

27 June UNAA(NSW) Annual General Meeting (Mrs Valerie Weekes)

23 October UN Day Cenotaph Ceremony (Mr Geoffrey Little JP)

23 October UN Day Annual Luncheon (Dr Peter Airey)

27 November UNAA(NSW) Annual Dinner (Mr Kel Gleeson)

10 December Human Rights Day (Mrs Valerie Weekes)

For the UNAA Peace Program coordinated by Dr Zeny Edwards, readers are referred to the website www.dayofpeaceaustralia.com

United Nations Day 2014

The UNAA(NSW) celebrated UN Day 2014 in the traditional way with a Wreath Laying Ceremony followed by the annual Luncheon in Parliament House.

Annual Sydney Wreath Laying Ceremony:

The Cenotaph Ceremony honours Australian uniformed personnel who have served the UN and other multi-lateral organisations in peace-keeping roles around the world over the past 67 years



UN Day Wreath Laying Ceremony 2014

The Ceremony commenced with the arrival of the Distinguished Guest of Honour L/General John Sanderson AC and the pealing of the bells at Martin Place. Following the welcome and invocation by Mr Geoffrey Little JP Convenor of the Ceremony, Mr David Coleman Federal Member for Banks presented the message from Prime Minister Tony Abbott MP.

On this occasion, the Cypriot community contributed a special cultural item in the presence of Her Excellency Ms Ionna Malliotis, High Commissioner of Cyprus. This marked the 50th anniversary of the commencement of the UN Peacekeeping mission in Cyprus to which Australia continues to contribute.

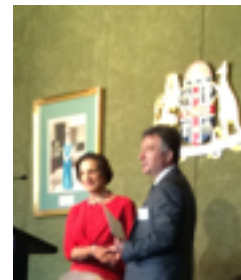
Unfortunately, the school cadet band was unable to attend due to the general security situation. There was a security exercise in some of the buildings in Martin Place, and so our Ceremony was witnessed by an unprecedented number of office workers.

We are very grateful to the City of Sydney for a grant supporting the Wreath Laying Ceremony.

UN Day Luncheon

Our traditional United Nations Day Luncheon was hosted by Mr Mark Coure MP, Member for Oatley who welcomed guests to Parliament House. The Guest of Honour was Professor Ramesh Thakur, Director, Centre for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament ANU and a former Assistant UN Secretary General.

The UNAA(NSW) was delighted that Professor Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, former Governor of NSW agreed to accept a Life Membership at the Luncheon. In her acceptance speech, Dame Marie spoke of her long term support for the UN in its work towards freedom, dignity and equality for all people. It was fascinating to learn that she is related to the late Dr Charles Malik, a scientist and philosopher who as the delegate from the Lebanon played a seminal role in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, together with Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt.



Mr Kel Gleeson, President presents a Life Membership Certificate to Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO Photo Faye Combe

In his very thoughtful UN Day Luncheon address, Professor Ramesh discussed *The United Nations and the Elusive Quest for Peace*. He argued that progress towards the elusive quest is being made in the in the midst of widespread skepticism and cynicism about the UN. Sustained progress will only occur if the Secretary General skilfully plays a political role complementary to but never in competition with the Security Council. A copy of Professor Ramesh's address is available by contacting the undersigned at pairey@optusnet.com.au.

UN Week Afternoon Tea: As a fitting conclusion to the UN Week, an Afternoon Tea organised by Mr Geoffrey Little was held at Parliament House.

International Womens Day 2015

We are looking forward to seeing you, our members and friends, at the March 9 UN International Womens Day (UNPWD) Seminar in the Waratah Room, State Parliament House, Macquarie St. at 2.30-5pm (registration 2pm). As you are aware by now, this is the fourth year we have convened this partnership event between Humanist Society of NSW and the UN Association of Australia (NSW)



The Topic is: **Update on the outcome of CEDAW (the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women 1981).**

CEDAW gave birth to the Committee on the Elimination of All Discrimination Against Women which had the role to monitor the implementation and progress of CEDAW introduced two decades ago. We have several very interesting speakers including:

Dorothy Buckland Fuller: Patron Humanist Society and first women Ethnic Affairs Commissioner;

Valerie Weekes UNAA(NSW): historic overview of discrimination against women;

Sue Conde UN Women Australia: CEDAW Overview;

Dr Nadine Shema: GLADP Rwandan and African Great Lakes Women;

Judy MacGregor : Indigenous Portfolio;

Faye Combe: Women assisted by UN reps to establish a principality in NSW; and

Dr Affie Adagio: Conference Convenor/MC. Dr Adagio attended the UN Women's Conference/ Forum Copenhagen 1980 as a community rep from Australia (when CEDAW was announced).

Message from the President

Dear Friend

Hello everyone and welcome to 2015. It's going to be a challenging year for us and I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to participate in one of the many activities planned for this year.



This year marks the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, a significant milestone for any organization. It will undoubtedly be our most challenging years in terms of the number of activities planned. If ever there was a time that could use your support it is now. Please study the list of events for 2015 on page 1 and if there are any that appeal to you I would sincerely appreciate your support as a volunteer. Just contact the coordinating officer at nsw@unaa.org.au with your offer of assistance. Remember, the UNAA is only as good as the quality of the people who help to participate in the organization, and that is why we need you.

Kel Gleeson
President UNAA(NSW)

From previous column:

In summary the arrangements are:

TIME: 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm Mon 9th March
(registration 2:00 pm)

PLACE: Waratah Room, Parliament House

Please mark it in your diaries and come to support us. The entry fee will be \$15 and includes afternoon tea. If you RSVP by Feb 28 it will enable us to know the numbers for catering, also in the case we need to obtain a larger room. Looking forward to seeing you.

Please send your entry fee to Dr. Affie Adagio
Convenor UNPWD PO Box 617 POTTS POINT
NSW 1335

Capacity Building Through Collaborative Partnerships

The 'Learning Journey' of the United Nations Association of Australia – NSW Community Project: Part 1

Seminar Paper Brief by LINDSAY MELL for the International Association of Volunteer Effort (IAVE) 23rd World Volunteer Conference, 17-20 September 2014

Lindsay is a former President of the UNAA(NSW) and Coordinator Community Portfolio.



Someone once noted: 'Those who fail to learn the lessons of history are destined to repeat them.' This may be a fairly basic version, but [this is] the essence of the original statement.

Who made this statement ?

You might be surprised to learn it was **George Santayana (1863-1952)**, and then ask:

Who was George Santayana? Well, more on 'George' in Part 2 of this series – I like to call him 'The Forgotten Philosopher'.

Throughout this Seminar session, ways and means are offered through which values and principles may be integrated into a cohesive consistent continuous synthesis. They thereby acquire meaning and significance through a continuous comprehensive universal 'ethos' As we proceed, this orientation to profound synthesis will hopefully become steadily more apparent.

As an aside, among the prevalent principles of contemporary social theory is the foundation of '**hermeneutics**' – or the '**interpretation**' of wisdom literature and philosophical texts.

The pivotal approach in this presentation could be referred to as 'the quest for meaning' – that primal sense of longing and anticipation through which we each and all seek to become aware of our circumstances. To pursue this quest, a sense of belonging is required, as well as simply 'longing' in itself.

However, to 'belong' is to appreciate how each facet of ourselves and others – and the 'meaning' in our lives – relates to the whole of life. Essentially, we seek out the 'significance' of what is there in life – its place and relationship to the whole.

Throughout the inevitable '**Learning Journey**' of our **human relationship experience** we recognise that various values, principles and attributes are raised in distinctive contexts.

Yet rarely are these considered as a whole, such that their **meaning** ☒ **significance** ☒ **relevance** ☒ and **resonance** form a dynamic experiential **integrative process**. When human connection and interactivity is evident from inception, such relational connection emanates from a source of self-evident attraction – a kind of 'affinity' through relational connectivity.

Feeling then infuses this situation, it seems, through a form of consensual and mutual affinity, probably optimally considered as 'affection'.

Where affection is more especially and predominantly mutual, it culminates in the phenomenon of intimacy – a deeper more profound aspect of affection and affinity.

Where there is apparent mutual affiliation, based on profound feeling or emotion through affinity and affection, intimacy and/or sensitivity can be realised.

All these elements, and their whole trajectory can culminate in the reality of 'appreciation'.

Consequently, a further ethical synthesis, becomes palpable, around the core values and principles of **Affinity** ☒ **Affection** [hence **Intimacy**] ☒ **Affiliation** ☒ **Appreciation**, as a continuous consistent process formed around ... a dynamic **Sense of Purpose** ...

Part 2 of this series will appear in the next edition of News@Notes.