



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year (fifteen months) ended

30 June 2015

United Nations Association of Australia
New South Wales Division Inc.

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UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION Inc.

PATRON:

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC (Retd)
Governor of New South Wales

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE as at 30 June 2015

President:	Kel Gleeson
Vice-Presidents:	Daryl Le Cornu Antoinette Smith
Secretary:	Geoffrey R Usher
Treasurer:	Paul Malliate
Immediate Past President:	Valerie Weekes
Vice-President Emeritus:	Kenneth Weekes
Committee Members:	Peter Airey Elizabeth Carpenter Amber Ferguson Patricia Jenkins Geoffrey Little Judy MacGregor Alexander Maron Lindsay Mell Siobhan Moran Hugo Rojas Dianne Sackelariou OAM Mina Singh Batra AM Thich Minh Tam

BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES

Blue Mountains:	Franklin Scarf
Central Coast:	Audrey McDonald
Hunter:	Martina Bowen
Public Officer:	Valerie Weekes

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Over the past year the UNAA(NSW) has continued to develop and grow into a professional and competent organisation. This has primarily been driven by its energetic and enthusiastic members. Whilst our primary objective is to promote the vision and values of the United Nations, I believe that this should also be linked to the development of the individual volunteers without whom this organisation would not exist.

From a financial and organisational perspective, obtaining the services of an auditing company and Paul Malliate as Treasurer has ensured that it remains a compliant organisation. In conjunction with the development of a new committee structure, which comes into being in August 2015, this will ensure that the UNAA has the structure and procedures in place to remain a viable and participating organisation in NSW.

From an events perspective 2014 saw another successful UN Day Commemoration Ceremony at the Cenotaph in Martin Place. As usual this was professionally organised by Geoffrey Little and in fact it was the 21st time he had done so. In this important event he was supported by Peter Airey, who organised the UNAA Lunch at the State Parliament House. At the Lunch we had the honour of awarding the outgoing State Governor, Professor Dame Marie Bashir, Life Membership. She truly is a one-in-a-thousand person, someone who, whilst being very grounded, is an individual whom people respect and admire. A great individual!

There were two key events staged in 2015. The first was a collaborative event between the UNAA(NSW) and the Sydney Philharmonia Choir at the Sydney Opera House over the weekend 16-17 May. If it can be described at all, then the phrase would be "utterly incredible". The level of singing by the Choir, supported by wonderful music, was amazing. This success is due to Paul Malliate and his hard-working team who proved that team work can achieve anything. It was a showcase of epic proportions and I hope that it can be repeated next year.

The second event was the UNAA(NSW) Climate Summit which was conducted on 5 June at the Old Sydney Mint. It attracted a veritable list of accomplished and renowned experts on climate change. The speeches and briefs were all challenging and thought-provoking, and it has been a good lead for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris later this year. This Summit outlined the current status of climate change and the options which can be embraced as we move forward. One of the primary aims of the UN is education, and the Summit helped us to understand the seriousness of the issue and what we as individuals need to do. For this I need to thank Amber Ferguson, Peter Airey and Antoinette Smith.

In 2013 I developed a vision statement for the UNAA(NSW) which was "To establish the UNAA(NSW) as an energetic and participative partner in the growth and development of community activities and policy in NSW". As the organisation continues to grow, and judging by the quality and success of the activities that it has conducted, I believe that we are on the right path. However, there is a principle in business called "Continuous Improvement". We are on the right path but still have some way to go, and I hope to still be at the helm of this wonderful organisation for another year.

Finally, like last year, I must pay tribute to the Executive Committee who have put a lot of time and effort into the operations of the UNAA, particularly the Portfolio Officers who worked tirelessly in their specialised areas. I thank them all for their efforts and dedication.

It has been an exciting year and I believe that 2015/2016 will be just as challenging and rewarding as this year has been. It has been a privilege to be at the helm of the fantastic organisation and I hope to see all of you at some stage in the coming year.

Kel Gleeson

DR DARYL LE CORNU
CO-VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

EDUCATION

- **Legal Studies in NSW**

The NSW Legal Studies syllabus is a world-class document that mandates that the 25,000 students undertake it each year learn a great deal about international law, international organisations (IGOs), the work of non-government organisations (NGOs), geopolitical rivalry, human rights and the environment. As an organization we need to continue to look for ways to provide opportunities to Legal Studies teachers and students to learn more about the United Nations system and international law. This can be done by writing articles for professional journals (read by educators), giving public lectures, or running public events. Legal Studies teachers and students have attended the 2014 UNAA Conference and the UN Day Luncheon in 2015.

- **New Modern History syllabus coming for NSW**

A revised Modern History syllabus for NSW is currently being considered by the NSW Board of Studies. As an organization, we need to engage in the consultation of this very important document and think about how the history of the United Nations can be included in the content. In 2010 Alison Broinowski and myself wrote a submission for the national Modern History curriculum setting forth how the United Nations could be included in the new ACARA national curriculum, and this led to the inclusion of a Year 12 option that includes the United Nations. When the time comes, the UNAA NSW will need to make a submission to the NSW Board of Studies on the revised Modern History syllabus for NSW.

- **'Rights and Freedoms' unit in YEAR 10 History**

Very few students, and their teachers, know much about the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) yet 100,000 students in Year 10 in NSW each year study the 'Rights and Freedoms' unit in History. The UDHR and the United Nations is mentioned specifically in the syllabus dot-points for 'Rights and Freedoms' unit. This represents a massive potential market that the UNAA NSW could be reaching each year through the Un Booklet program and providing online teaching resources for teachers and students which explain the history and significance of the United Nations and particularly the UDHR.

- **UN Booklets Program**

The UN Booklets program has enormous potential for reaching a variety of groups. Both the UDHR and the UN Charter can be used (as a package) with Legal Studies students, Modern History students, university students and Model UN Societies. The UDHR can be used on its own with Year 10 students and university students and general community. In the absence of a 'Charter of Human Rights' which the Australian government seriously considered creating in 2010, and which many other comparable democracies have, the UDHR is the next best thing. Its short simple text spells out what our human rights are. It is astounding how many people in our society are not aware of this document or the rights it contains. The UDHR needs to make this foundational document a cornerstone of our engagement with the community. The UN Charter, being the hub of international law, is

indispensable to understanding our globalized world today. The UNAA NSW needs to do all it can to promote it.

- **UN Academic Network**

UN Academic Network has been a useful vehicle for interesting academics in the promotion the knowledge about the United Nations in their tertiary institutions. It has also led to some very fruitful relationship with other organisations, such as Steve Killelea's *Institute for Economics and Peace* that produces the Global Peace Index.

- **University Students**

Something which the UNAA NSW does not do in any substantial way, is reach out to university students. We need to find ways to do this by running events aimed at university students and inviting them to our other big events such as conferences.

- **The 'National Strategic Review of State Division Initiatives in Schools'**

UNAA National Board's review includes the NSW initiatives of the 'UN Booklets Program' and the 'UN Teachers' Network.' These two NSW programs, now in their infancy, are looked upon with great interest by the other state divisions. UNAA NSW needs to look at the various initiatives being run in the other state divisions and consider which may be appropriate for NSW. UNAA NSW also needs to engage at the national level in crafting a truly national UNAA educational strategy. The UNAA National Board held a teleconference on these matters on 7 July and will further consider these matters at the UNAA National Board conference at the UNAA conference in Canberra in late August.

- **Education Sub-Committee**

We need to establish an education sub-committee in UNAA NSW to coordinate all the various educational initiatives in NSW. We need to find ways of fully implementing various educational initiatives and to do this we need to involve more UNAA members in the work.

UN PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK

It has been an honour to represent the UNAA NSW at a number of events held in Parliament House in Canberra by the UN Parliamentary Group led by Melissa Parke (ALP) and Chris Beck (Coalition). These MPs and a number of others (some Independent and Greens) are working hard to ensure that fellow parliamentarians receive the most up-to-date information about the United Nations. We need to support their work and we need to seek out politicians in NSW Parliament who are doing similar things. It was great to see that on the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations Charter (26th June) that copies of the UN Charters were distributed to all members of parliament in both houses.

UNAA 'TO END ALL WARS' FACEBOOK PAGE

UNAA NSW Facebook page 'To End All Wars,' continuing a conversation about war and peace, and has built up a following of nearly 800 people, and has made connections with very many likeminded groups both in Australia and overseas.

THE NUCLEAR THREAT

- **ICAN Roundtable**

In November I represented the UNAA NSW at the ICAN Roundtable held at Amnesty International House. Representatives of various groups were

in attendance including Jamie Parker MP. We discussed strategies for raising community awareness about the upcoming Vienna Conference.

- **Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons**
I represented the UNAA at the Vienna Conferences (ICAN and Australian government) held between 8-11 December 2014 at which 158 governments and 600 individuals representing various NGOs discussed the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. This is the third such conference in two years and it has created a momentum to get nuclear disarmament back on to start moving towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. After the failure of the 2015 NPT Review conference in May 2015 there is now a commitment by 108 nations to start the process of creating a nuclear weapons convention.
- **The Marshall Islands Forum**
I attended a forum in Vienna on Friday 5th December held to discuss the legal action undertaken by the government of the Marshall Islands. The Marshall Islands is taking the 9 nuclear weapons states to the International Court of Justice. The Marshall Islands has suffered from the effects of 60 nuclear bombs being exploded on their tiny islands. They are not seeking compensation but are seeking to end the threat that nuclear weapons pose to all life on this planet. We are sure to hear more of this case in the ICJ.
- **'The Man Who Saved the World' – film coming to Australia**
In another role I have (with ICAN) I am assisting the Human Survival Project (HSP) and the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPACS) in organising a public screening of 'The Man Who Saved the World' on the 26th September 2015, the UN day for the 'Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.' We are currently working with the Danish producers to facilitate this. This will be held in the week of the UN International Day of Peace activities and will be important additional event for this week. Being a UN international day the UNAA needs to promote this. There is no cost involved for the UNAA.

UNAA PEACE PROGRAM

Much of the success of the UNAA in working towards its educational objectives has been due to the tireless efforts of Zeny Edwards and the UNAA Peace Program, which was her project. Zeny has opened many doors for the UNAA NSW in the last two years. Her assistance in the UNAA State Conference in booking the venue at a discounted rate, assisting with planning and promotion, overseeing the logistics of the two days, recruiting and leading a group of keen university students as volunteers, and the provision of gifts to the speakers (at no cost to the UNAA) was most appreciated. The UNAA Peace Roundtables run in 2014 and 2015 have also been invaluable in linking the UNAA with university students and with other like-minded organizations. The Peace Program events in September 2014 also drew many people to the UNAA NSW who had never heard of our organization. Zeny's many contacts and her expertise in running large programs has opened up doors for the UNAA NSW in the last two years. Zeny has been strongly supportive of the UNAA's educational activities in NSW and though the Peace Program is now being overseen by the UNAA at a national level the UNAA NSW will continue to benefit from its activities.

PUBLIC OFFICER and IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Activities I carried out over the year included:

DUTIES

- * Elected Public Officer at the 2014 Annual General Meeting, after which I drew up and sent, with payment, the appropriate annual forms to the Department of Fair Trading.
- * Attended all Executive Committee meetings.
- * Received notification of new members from TidyClub and informed Secretary Geoff Usher and the Executive Committee for their approval of new members.
- * Was Membership Officer until Amber Ferguson accepted the role in the first half of 2015.
- * Organised Special General Meeting on 20 September 2014. Drew up and had a successful vote to have the change back to "Divisions" (which had been passed at the AGM) incorporated into the constitution. Had copies of the constitution printed for those attending the meeting.
- * Organised a second Special General Meeting on 21 March 2015. Drew up a motion and had a successful vote to change the constitution to ensure dates when annual reports are due comply with change of end of financial year from 31 March to 30 June.
- * When there was discussion about financial transactions, distributed to members of the Executive Committee material relating to the Associations Incorporation Act 1984, and spoke about our constitutional obligations regarding financial transactions, including prior approval of activities involving expenditures.
- * In June 2015 drew up and mailed to members and interested parties the necessary information and forms for the Annual General Meeting on 1 August.

ATTENDANCES

- * Several lectures of current Indigenous issues and Indigenous art displays at the University of Technology, Sydney, and in the city and suburbs, as well as participating in UNAA(NSW) Conference.
- * Organised a celebration on 13 December for Human Rights Day (10 December) at Sydney Mechanics School of Arts with Professor Edward Blakely, world-renowned disaster relief expert, as the guest speaker.
- * On 6 March attended the UN International Women's Day Breakfast, with about 2000 attending.
- * On 9 March gave a speech on Women's Rights Today at Parliament House as part of UNAA(NSW) IWD celebration organised by Dr Affie Adagio.
- * On 16 May attended the Concert for Peace at Sydney Opera House, where the Executive Committee meeting was arranged by Paul Malliate.
- * On 29 May laid a wreath at the Indigenous Veterans Ceremony at Sydney War Memorial in Hyde Park, accompanied by President Kel Gleeson.
- * On 5 June attended the Climate Change Summit organised by Amber Ferguson, and Antoinette Smith.

Several of these events were also attended by Vice-President Emeritus Kenneth Weekes Esquire, whose assistance with clerical work during the year was greatly appreciated.

Valerie Weekes

COMMUNITY PROJECT PORTFOLIO

Personal and Relational Diversity Through Universal Mutual Experience

Throughout this year, we broached our Forum Dialogues as a Community Project Group through the perspective of the 'Personal Diversity' theme as this pertained to 'Relational Diversity' in the context of 'Authenticity and Mutual Experience'. This further definitive theme evolved from our pivotal April 2014 Panel session on 'The Peace Activist's Journey', convened through the good auspices of the University of Sydney Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies.

Out of the abundant dialogue generated through this popular event we then broadened out this theme to encompass the dynamics of 'Authenticity and the Volunteer Journey' for our June and November 2014 Panel Dialogues respectively. Various Community Project authors featured in these later Panel Forums, including particularly Glen Martin, Rosalind ('Shoshana') Brenner, and Marc Marusic. Former Volunteering NSW Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Lynne Dalton also presented some splendid insights.

Meanwhile, we especially appreciate the efforts of current Volunteering NSW CEO, Gemma Ryegate, along with Heesun Chung, in enabling this to be such a lively combined UNAA(NSW) / Volunteering NSW collaborative event. Attendance at these further sessions was modest in that they proceeded during a phenomenal change orientation for Volunteering NSW, yet represented considerable collaborative endeavour.

Complementary to our by then core theme of 'Personal and Relational Diversity Through Mutual Experience', we were treated to a comprehensive 'Overview of Current Aspects of Mediation' for our October 2014 Forum Dialogue, convened through our Community Project colleague, Teik Hock Lim. This group of dynamic practitioners provided a series of succinct case studies of mediation as currently broadly applied in the everyday life context.

Our initial Forum Dialogue for 2015 ultimately manifested a little later than usual, mostly owing to preparatory and follow-up activity associated with my workshop presentation for the November 2014 World Volunteer Conference – the 23rd International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) Biennial Conference – which proceeded at the Gold Coast Convention Centre in Queensland. It was such a buzz to present this workshop as only my second international workshop contribution.

This contribution, on the broad theme of 'The Learning Journey in Capacity Building Through Collaborative Partnerships for the UNAA (NSW) Community Project', followed from the 2005 'Aspects of Global Community' poster presentation for the International Conference on Engaging Communities, convened at the Brisbane Convention Centre.

Lynne Dalton introduced my World Volunteer Conference presentation, which drew a packed audience into the modest-sized seminar room. Among the outcomes of this endeavour was the resolution to essentially establish a UNAA(NSW) Community Project website – 'Equanimity Mate!'

This initiative would be based around the Sense of Purpose Affinity > Affection > Affiliation > Appreciation relational trajectory derived through the Community Project 'Global Aspects of Community' nexus of Meaning > Significance > Relevance > and Resonance. These were key relational principles explored in the context of this workshop presentation.

Consequently, our customary traditional March Forum Dialogue was delayed until May 2015!

Then Patricia Garcia, an international humanitarian aid worker, provided us with a truly vital yet sobering series of cameo instances of really tough situations in which she had been engaged through her various assignments. The theme of 'Group Relational Diversity' formed the context for Patricia's stark graphic humanitarian case studies. How groups and those who comprise

them can be suitably situated in the personal/relational diversity context through the mutual experience of those concerned comprised the essential content Patricia explored.

Next we further broadened our relational group focus to consider the theme 'Coming Together in Relational Diversity' with Indigenous Aboriginal artist Stan Yarramunua, of the Melbourne-based Art Yarramunua Centre, in June 2015. Our perspective thereby broached the Learning Journey of affinity through our shared mutuality, as this was authentic for us. Affection and affiliation were then evident in this context, as these elements were palpable in their infusion of our mutual enterprise and collaboration, so that we could realise substantial appreciation through our earnest endeavours.

Stan explained that in 'staying focused' we need to 'get back to the basics of caring and sharing' – a process 'which folds back into the whole of life' and enables us to remain 'connected as brothers and sisters'.

Canadian Indigenous commentator, Standing Bear, reminded us that 'trust is based on knowledge', through which we 'can feel secure in our relationships'. 'We have to believe in what we're doing with passion, and with right motives.'

Moreover, 'Everything is for a reason'. I know where I've come from, where my ancestors came from, and who they were, and I know this naturally,' Stan responded to Sandy Yang's enquiry as to how and from where his 'strong philosophy and value for living' were derived.

Many other vital pertinent insights emanated from this rich confluence of vibrant analysis, soon to be reviewed comprehensively.

As ever, we appreciate the support and encouragement of our Association and Executive Committee members and friends in our quest to pursue our Learning Journey. Especially this includes President Kel Gleeson, and regular member attendees this year, which include Patricia Jenkins, Pamela Lemoine, Judy MacGregor and Marie Maguire. Thanks also go to all our dynamic presenters for their profound insight, inspiration, and encouragement.

Our hearty appreciation goes to all at the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, especially Professor Jake Lynch, Dr Ken Macnab and Dr Wendy Lambourne, along with special support for our panel sessions from Frank Hutchinson, Anne Noonan and Geoff Usher.

This year my series of various Continental Philosophy Group (CPG) Seminar Paper and *Deep Friendship* Presentations has been arranged around the themes of 'Authenticity and Perceptual Expression' and 'Mutual Experience in the Universal Context'.

Thanks go to Noel Tointon and our stalwart CPG participants, to Sandy Yang for her ever diligent logistic support, and to all at Sydney Mechanics School of Arts for superb accommodation.

Lindsay Mell

UN CHALLENGES

With our fates ever more entwined, our future must be one of ever deeper co-operation – nations united by a spirit of global citizenship that lives up to the promise of the organisation's name ...
UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, June 2015

The United Nations' recent 70th anniversary provided an opportunity for reflection. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon expressed the need for unity in addressing a fresh set of challenges and called for deeper co-operation amid growing global concerns. He also confirmed that the UN was standing once again as a nexus of collaboration for all Member States. "Our goal," he said, "is

transformation. We are the first generation that can erase poverty from the earth – and the last that can act to avoid the worst impacts of a warming world.”

To promote UN goals, throughout the year UNAA(NSW) embarked on a diverse range of innovative activities. These included educational programs, functions and engaging with the NSW community to discuss relevant issues. The inaugural UNAA(NSW) World Environment Day Climate Summit was held which contributed to the UN World Environment Day, the UN 70th Anniversary Seminar Series on Climate Change and the UNAA Climate Campaign 2015. It also served as a vehicle for the distinguished list of speakers to discuss with delegates, proposed solutions to the impact of global warming.

With a future focus, UNAA(NSW) in association with Sydney Philharmonia Choirs organised a unique concert for peace, held at the Sydney Opera House. The performance was a significant moment to reflect on the importance of peace and stability. Fittingly, it was preceded by the release of doves on the forecourt of the Opera House.

Over the UN's 70 year life span, this unique organisation has re-assessed and restructured to implement its mandate and address the challenges of the three pillars of its work - peace and security, development, and human rights. In the 21st century the world is no longer organised into countries but rather global networks. The UN therefore works to embrace flexibility, re-position and reciprocate to more effectively meet the demands of today's globalised and fragmented world. In efforts to address the world's dramatic changes and more 'problems without passports', as the UN Secretary General has said, we are becoming increasingly global citizens.

To advance UN goals globally, throughout the year I worked collaboratively with international teams to improve conditions for disadvantaged people in Northern Uganda; in terms of global health, to raise awareness about the need to combat non-communicable disease, the leading cause of death worldwide with 80% of these deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries. For Uzbekistan, I completed a UN local Governance Project in the pursuit of a more accountable and inclusive system by increasing citizen participation. I am currently working on improving education for girls in Nigeria.

It was highlighted at the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) Annual European UNA Meeting held in Geneva last year that the UN is vigorously focussed on utilising its unique legitimacy and ability to reach every corner of the earth to combat complex 21st century world challenges. WFUNA is the largest international network of global citizens who support and engage with the UN. It represents and co-ordinates a membership of over 100 UN Associations including Australia. Therefore, its contribution to supporting UN initiatives in the attainment of its principles and purposes could be considered most significant, in particular through working with its global arms and us, fellow global citizens. Furthermore, in the current UN world environment, our engaging with other UNAA Divisions and relevant national and international organisations could be considered most necessary.

Upon reflection, inspired by the UN Charter opening words, “We the Peoples ...” in the wonderful spirit of humanitarian mateship, our enthusiasm, innovation and team play have never been more important!

Patricia Jenkins

INTERFAITH REPORT

In addition to the support and joint works with other sections of UNAA(NSW), the Interfaith group and its volunteers have carried out several activities on behalf of UNAA(NSW).

In July 2014 the Venerable Dr Thich Minh Tam (Chairperson of International Buddhist Organisation) held a meeting with Interfaith Network Auburn NSW aiming at Joint Organisation for Harmony in NSW. A program of active bi-monthly interaction among different religious leaders for mutual benefits was discussed and structured. Leaders of different religions agreed to commit to alternate visits to the religious functions and venues of other religious partners.

In August, in co-operation with Universal Peace Federation Council Australia, a one-day seminar was held on "Religions as Peace Builders". More than 100 religious leaders coming from various religions contributed to the framework for peace building.

In September a Festival for Children was organised in Parramatta. More than 500 children attended the Festival and enjoyed the music performed by themselves and others.

In October more than 200 food parcels and related essential materials were delivered to homeless people on the streets of Sydney.

In November 322 wheelchairs were donated to disabled children in Manila, Philippines.

In December intellectual toys and peace education materials were delivered to children in schools in NSW, the total value of which was around \$5000.

In January 2015 a New Year celebration was held for young children in Casula. More than 500 children attended and enjoyed the festival.

In February visits were organised to more than twenty hospitals and nursing homes. In particular we have the opportunity to examine the health care services and the quality of these services, and palliative care for disabled people in the state.

In April discussions were held with the University of New South Wales on the opportunity to deliver seminars and teachings on Global Peace.

In May we joined others to raise funds for the Royal Hospital for Children. The total amount raised was \$500,032.

In May the International Day of Vesak was held in Sydney Town Hall. More than 2000 people attended, with 20 leaders from various religions.

Thich Minh Tam

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS REPORT

Guringai Festival was held May 26 to June 2014, celebrating Aboriginal Culture and Heritage in the Northern Sydney Region, with the theme "Wellness and Wellbeing for All People". There were photographic exhibitions, children's voices for reconciliation, Aboriginal heritage walks, art workshops and storytelling, a weaving bridges project, presentations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags to schools, Guringai heritage and shared history, screening of "Utopia" and other films.

Reconciliation Week was held May 26 to June 2, focusing on the culture and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and giving the chance for people to work on the challenges of reconciliation. NAIDOC Week was celebrated July 6 to 13, with the theme "Serving Country: Centenary and Beyond". This week was also celebrated in government agencies, schools, local councils and workplaces, providing opportunities for building bridges between people.

The UN International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2014 was celebrated on 9 August, with the theme "Bridging the Gap: Implementing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". More than 350 Indigenous people live all over the world, representing over 5000 cultures and languages, in more than 70 countries. Among local events was a didgeridoo performance at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Other events during the month of August included information from NITV (National Indigenous Television) on the nuclear waste dump on Aboriginal land in Muckaty in the Northern Territory, and the pledging of support by 20 Australian universities on the Human Rights Commission's campaign "Racism: It Stops With Me". At the end of August was the screening of the documentary "Coniston", at the University of Technology, Sydney, as part of the event "Gallipoli to Coniston, Remembering Frontiers".

In September it was said that a referendum to recognise Indigenous people in the constitution might take place in 2017. "Recognise" was the people's movement to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the constitution.

Former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam died on 21 October, at 98. He was the first to create a Department of Aboriginal Affairs and appoint the first full-time Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs. In 1975 Whitlam poured soil through the hand of Gurindji stockman Vincent Lingiari to signify the return of traditional lands for which the stockmen had been fighting for 9 years. This event led to the passing of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976.

In November Sydney's largest Indigenous event, "Corroboree Sydney" was held with over 100 artists, writers, dancers, musicians and film-makers at the Opera House, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Australian Museum.

January 26 (Australia Day) has been re-named Invasion Day, Day of Mourning, Survival Day or Aboriginal Sovereignty Day by many Aboriginals who feel that there is little to celebrate but who sense the loss of rights to their lands, loss of family, and loss of rights to practise their culture.

Plans by the government to close between 100 and 150 Aboriginal communities in Western Australia have brought urgent appeals from all over the country, as this move will violate the rights of Indigenous peoples. The rights are listed in Article 8.2 of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These communities will be threatened by poverty, rights to access ancestral lands will be limited, there will be forced assimilation, rights to freedom of opinion will be eroded, education policies will exclude youth from schooling, juvenile justice policies will lead to increased imprisonment of Aboriginal people. There will be a Summit for Freedom in Alice Springs, and a Sit-In in Canberra to reclaim the Aboriginal Freedom rights struggle.

Faith Bandler, civil rights activist and fighter for justice and freedom for Indigenous Australia, died on 13 February 2015 aged 96. "Godmother of Reconciliation", she is remembered as a tireless campaigner, working for ten years towards the 1967 referendum to give Indigenous Australians rights under the Constitution, and inclusion in the Census. She was a founding member of the Women's Electoral Lobby and the Australian Republican movement, and author of six books.

On 8 March, for UN International Women's Day, a partnership project of UNAA(NSW) and Humanist Society NSW was held in the Waratah Room of Parliament House, convened by Dr Affie Adagio. Pamela Lemoine read out a message from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Acknowledgement of Country was done by Robyn Carroll, Indigenous Speaker, from Walla Mulla Family and Community Support, Woolloomooloo. Robyn was recently named Woman of the Year for Sydney 2015 in the NSW Women of the Year 2015 Awards. She spoke on her life as an Indigenous woman, and how she survived through the worst to reach where she is today, in a centre which was begun by nuns, and is run by women, for women and families.

Close the Gap Day, celebrated mid-March, was initiated as most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People can expect to live 10 to 17 years less than other Australians. Babies born to Aboriginal mothers die at twice the rate of other Australian babies. ATSI people experience higher rates of preventable illness such as heart disease, kidney disease, and diabetes. The United Nations Report, "The State of The World's Indigenous Peoples" (2009) showed that Australia and Nepal have the world's worst life expectancy gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Close the Gap coalition groups aim to close the health gap and achieve health equality by 2030.

On 20 March there was forum at Redfern Community Centre, "Women Speak Out for Treaty", with many Aboriginal women speaking, including Rosalie Kunoth-Monks and Amy McQuire. It was sponsored by Stop the Intervention Collective, Sydney.

Professor Megan Davies, Director of University of New South Wales Indigenous Law Centre, has been elected Chairwoman of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. She has just completed a three-year session at the United Nations in New York. Some issues discussed relevant to Australia include youth suicide, constitutional recognition, and the forced removal of Aboriginal people from their homelands. Professor Davies is the first Indigenous person to represent Australia on a UN body. She and Professor George Williams, a constitutional lawyer, have written a book, "Everything you need to know about the referendum to recognise Indigenous Australians".

On 25 April ANZAC Day celebrations were held, with many people attending at Redfern Park, then walking to Prince Alfred Park. Aboriginal dancers from the Central Coast performed, and there were speeches from the Governor-General, Tanya Plibersek MP, Lord Mayor Clover Moore, and others. There were tales of the "Coloured Digger" and bravery and courage.

Ray Jackson died on 27 April. He was President of the Indigenous Social Justice Association, and winner of the Prix des Droits de l'Homme de la Republique Francaise 2013. His funeral took place on 1 May at Redfern Community Centre, packed with supporters and family. His children and grandchildren said he was the best friend anybody could have.

On 26 May National Sorry Day was observed all over the country, helping people move towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities.

On 28 May Kirstie Parker, Co-Chair of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, was named (with three other women) as one of WILPF's Australian Peacemaker awards for the Centenary year in Canberra. WILPF is the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Judy MacGregor

HUMAN RIGHTS

Australia can set an example as a proud humanitarian country of the world, if it follows and practises the international law of human rights. It has ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as an important instrument of the United Nations. Australia, the lucky country, has all the resources and tools to do so. It needs to practise human rights mindfully and conscientiously, including inequality, social justice, legal recognition of its indigenous people, asylum seekers and refugees, as well as environmental co-operation using the natural resources of the sun, the earth and unique flora and fauna which we have in plenty. Earth repair will give sumptuous food for all, then human rights will bear fruit.

On 4 September 2014 I attended the Aboriginal Literacy Day at the Museum of Contemporary Art. There I learned that, because many tribal languages or dialects have no alphabet, the process has to start with deciding which language is suitable for writing. On 9 September there was an inquiry into children's immigration, followed by discussion on refugee children in detention, deprived of education, which I attended at the Human Rights Commission in Pitt Street.

On International Day of Peace, 21 September, as every year, I participated at St David's Uniting Church, Lindfield, and introduced a younger person who sang a hymn from the Psalm of Peace of Guru Granth Sahib.

I took part in the NGOs Workshop on 3 November at the Human Rights Commission. This was Australia's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on Human Rights which is held by UN representatives every fourth year. UPR's findings regarding how Australia is complying with its international Human Rights treaty obligations were dismal, without any legislative or constitutional protection of human rights. So far there is no comprehensive protection of human rights enshrined in the Australian constitution or by legislation. Thus Australia's legal and institutional protection of human rights is inadequate, especially for individuals and marginalised communities and disadvantaged people, despite public support for a human rights Act. The right to non-discrimination is provided by patch-work protection. The authority of the Human Rights Commission is limited to inquiry and complaint, and there is no need that the Australian Government implement or even respond to the Commission's recommendations.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are worse off than others in education, employment, health, life expectancy and standards of living. Far more Aborigines are incarcerated in dirty, overcrowded conditions without rehabilitation programs or adequate access to justice. No action is taken to reduce poverty, neglect, domestic and child abuse.

Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – with respect to refugees and asylum seekers – is deliberately being violated. Immigration detention should only be used as a measure of last resort for the shortest period, but time limitation and indefinite detention are not codified in Australian law. Prolonged detention is affecting the detainees negatively, both physically and mentally, particularly in off-shore and remote facilities.

At least 25% of non-white citizens have expressed discrimination based on race, ethnic or national background. I can confirm that from my personal experience, including threats to harm me – and I have been an Australian citizen for forty years.

On 16 August, Secretary General of the UN Ban Ki-moon stated that the human rights of every country were being handled with hatred, fighting and bloodshed, but we should unite for peace, the first object of the UN. The state of Muslim Rohingyas in Burma is tragic. If their rickety boats are anywhere near Australian waters, they are pushed away by the Navy at the risk of their drowning, and people smugglers are secretly paid for that risk.

I attended the launch of Social Justice and Native Titles at the Human Rights Commission chaired by Mr Mick Gooda, and I wondered how they could be effective without a Bill of Rights and while the original Australians are excluded from recognition in the Constitution.

On 14 December I was invited to speak on human rights by the Japanese Buddhist group Soka Gakai International at their venue in Olympic Park. It was overwhelming to address over 400 people. I explained how "Ahinsa Parmo Dharma" – the Buddhist preamble – was precursor of the United Nations Charter. Ahinsa means non-violence; Parmo is supreme; Dharma is valued duty. The UN placed peace, disarmament and human rights as non-violent, foremost duties. My message was what it means to be human with physical, mental and spiritual needs (entailing our moral and ethical values) which must be met for peace on earth.

Australia is falling short on its obligations relating to human rights, particularly in areas of constitutional and legislative framework; equality and non-discrimination laws; children's rights in detention; refugees and asylum seekers; linguistically diverse communities; women's rights.

On 15 March at Epping I addressed over a hundred senior Indian Australian citizens on voluntary euthanasia for the human right of dying with dignity. In November 2014 the Voluntary Euthanasia Party had been launched, to work for legal redress for people suffering from terminal painful conditions. On 23 May I attended a seminar on dying with dignity where keynote speaker Dr Rodney Symes stated that dying with dignity is a human right of terminally suffering people in acute pain. Old people with age-related dementia and totally dependent on others, who have lived in dignity, should have the right to die in dignity with legal professional help.

On 29 April the Chief Justice of the Family Court spoke at Affinity International, narrating sad stories of how surrogacy had become commercial, negating any human right of the surrogate children. Australia has no law to protect the surrogate children. Human trafficking and the abduction of minors is another area of concern.

Mina Singh Batra

BLUE MOUNTAINS SUB-BRANCH

The UNAA(NSW) Blue Mountains Sub-Branch is closely aligned with the Earth Repair Foundation (ERF), and both groups are committed to the quest for the progressive implementation of the Earth Repair Charter and Vision 2000 global solution strategy. During the past year our group has been productive with the following projects:

Our commitment to the Sense of Humus composting strategy has taken further steps forward. Meetings, lobbying and learning continue towards all presently-wasted and continuously available bio-degradable materials being composted to breed increasing numbers of earth worms and great quantities of humus-rich soil.

Further, we are actively researching and lobbying for more used plastics to be re-manufactured into hygienic aerobic, conical-shaped, no-dig, composting bins. These bins are to have aerobic airstream holes included at production. Correspondence and communication about this have begun with a local BMCC Councillor. A picture story-board poster to accompany each bin is being designed to show the art of composting, how to layer the ingredients, how to maintain the heap, how to harvest the contents, and how to use this soil to grow small and large scale food-forests in all appropriate places possible.

We see every composting stack as an earth repair bank and every deposit made as an investment into a sustainable future.

Aligned with the composting strategy is nurturing the growth of an edible landscape demonstration of urban Permaculture, where the UNAA(NSW) Sub-Branch is based. A large variety of edible green leaves containing captured sun-power in living enzymes and anti-oxidants are growing as under-storeys amidst a variety of healthy fruit and nut trees.

Growing the leaves is simply a matter of co-operation with the sun, the earth, the wind, and the rain and using a few basic permaculture principles to plant and help grow an abundant supply of regularly harvestable living foods.

Liaison with the Permaculture Blue Mountains, Transition Towns and Community Gardens groups has continued through the year and meetings have been held with some progress made towards creating a multi-language sustainability learning poster. The goal of this poster is to enable people everywhere easily to learn the basics of self-sufficiency agriculture and to participate in growing food forests on the majority of home yards and school blocks and in all other appropriate places possible. This will help create ethical, productive and honourable employment in permaculture enabling the building of valuable natural resources. If this were to happen throughout suburbia globally it would help mitigate and eventually reverse the global climate crisis.

As a self-appointed official Smile Photo collector I attended a number of UNAA functions to take photographs for UNAA Smiles for Peace. I drafted a selection of the photos into a YouTube video with some earth repair songs titled UNAA Smiles for Peace. Read the comments with the video if you would like to contribute to the second draft. The link to the video is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWIUMr6ROzM>

Permaculture and Transition Towns Blue Mountains have endorsed our Vision 2000 Statement which is headlined 'Together we can end the culture of terrorism and war, and co-create a culture of peace that will last for the longest time.'

The Blue Mountains Sub-Branch of UNAA(NSW) has a roundtable meeting room in a house surrounded by an abundant food garden. Meetings are regularly held around this table for environmental and earth repair themes.

Raffaella Washington has continued with her voluntary participation in helping with the Sense of Humus composting strategy and other projects including help with keeping the demonstration organic food garden in good order. Through the year there have been a number of other contributors and many thanks go to all voluntary helpers!

The installation of a Words of Wisdom WOW Wall on the Woolworths/Big W building was recently achieved. Negotiations are progressing towards an ongoing alliance in association with Woolworths and Big W on the Mind-Vitamins theme. This first wall is a step towards the Blue Mountains City Council endorsing a permanent WOW Wall in the Civic Centre of Katoomba.

The Forest Protection petition and strategy was initiated by ERF, and is equally endorsed by the UNAA(NSW). The strategy is still being networked towards eventually protecting in perpetuity all native forests everywhere. It is extremely well endorsed by more than 160 leading organisations representing millions of Australians.

Several years ago, the UNSAA(NSW) Executive Committee sanctioned the creation of a sub-committee to the Interfaith Program called Council for World Unity and Peace. Lobbying has started in promoting the creation of a website and book that will contain an equal space contribution from all the various religions and schools of thought, to summarise their history and essential precepts and to offer readers the best written advice on how to live optimally in the 21st century. The outcome of this will be the creation of a book of wisdom comprising the best advice from every philosophical ideology. Details of this can be seen on earthrepair.net

We invite, welcome and greatly appreciate all voluntary contributions to this work.

I have enjoyed working with the Committee during this last year and thank you all for your positive contributions to the work of UNAA'

Franklin Scarf

United Nations Association of Australia (NSW) Inc.
ABN 85 071 992 936
Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2015

United Nations Association of Australia (NSW) Inc.
ABN 85 071 992 936

Income and Expenditure Statement
For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$
Income		
Memberships		7,603
General donations/grants		3,950
Interest received		90
Surplus from luncheon		208
Surplus from peace program		9,787
Miscellaneous income		3,989
		<u>25,627</u>
Expenditure		
Venue hire		4,905
General administration		2,626
Deficit from annual conference		2,799
Federal levy		715
Fees/licenses		824
Other expenses		5,617
		<u>17,486</u>
Current year surplus		8,141
Retained surplus at the beginning of the year		<u>25,290</u>
Retained surplus at the end of the year		<u>33,431</u>

Assets and Liabilities Statement
As At 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash at bank	2	35,381
Total Current Assets		35,381
Total Assets		35,381
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other payables	3	1,950
Total Current Liabilities		1,950
Total Liabilities		1,950
Net Assets		33,431
Members Funds		
Retained surplus		33,431
Total Members Funds		33,431

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

a) Revenue and Other Income

Interest revenue is recognised using effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the association obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

b) Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payables and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting year for goods and services received by the association during the reporting year that remain unpaid. The balances are recognised as a current liability and the amounts are normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

2015

\$

Note 2: Cash at bank

Cash at bank – # 2734 28122520	14,283
Cash at bank – # 2218 10151440	21,098
	<u>35,381</u>

Note 3: Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payable – Unpresented cheques	<u>1,950</u>
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Note 4: Contingent Liability

At a Committee meeting on 20 June 2015 invoices totalling \$10,877 were approved for payment subject to certain undertakings being provided. As at balance date these undertakings had not been provided.

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (NSW) INC.

Annual Statements Give True And Fair View Of Financial Position And Performance

I, Paul Malliate being the Treasurer of United Nations Association of Australia (NSW) Inc, certify that-

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of United Nations Association of Australia (NSW) Inc during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2015.

PAUL MALLIATE
Treasurer



Dated at Sydney this 9th day of July 2015.



**United Nations Association of Australia (NSW) Inc.
ABN 85 071 992 936**

**Independent Auditor's Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2015**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of United Nations Association of Australia (NSW) Inc, which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2015, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies, and other explanatory information, and the certification by the treasurer on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

Treasurer's responsibility for the financial report

The treasurer of United Nations Association of Australia (NSW) Inc, is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The treasurer's responsibility also includes such internal control as the treasurer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

Independent Auditor's Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (NSW) INC. (continued)**

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of United Nations Association of Australia (NSW) Inc as at 30 June 2015 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 of the financial report and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

Basis of accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting obligations under the association's constitution. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

TROOD PRATT AUDIT AND ASSURANCE SERVICES



D A TROOD
Partner

Dated at Sydney this 10th day of July 2015.

DEPARTMENT OF FAIR TRADING – FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Dept of Fair Trading - Statement for 1 April 2013 to 30 March 2014 (as reported)

Gross Receipts for 2013/14	\$29,284.71
Expenditure for 2013/14	\$22,266.15
Net Receipts over Expenditure 2013/14	\$7,018.56
Grant Funding (included within Gross receipts)	\$7,757.45
Current Assets (31 March 2014)	\$13,868.67
Liabilities	\$0.00

Dept of Fair Trading - Statement for 3 month period from 1 April 2014 to 30 June 2014

Gross Receipts for 1 April 2014 to 30 June 2014	\$30,705.76
Expenditure for 1 April 2014 to 30 June 2014	\$19,269.42
Net Receipts over Expenditure 2014 (3 months)	\$11,436.34
Grant Funding (included within Gross receipts)	\$5,000.00
Current Assets (30 June 2014)	\$25,289.87
Liabilities	\$0.00

Dept of Fair Trading - Statement for 12 month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Gross Receipts for 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015	\$77,776.80
Expenditure for 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015	\$69,635.43
Net Receipts over Expenditure 2014/15	\$8,141.37
Grant/Donation Funding (included within Gross receipts)	\$29,450.00
Current Assets (30 June 2015)	\$35,381.13
Liabilities	\$1,949.95