

**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC**

**Patron His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC
Governor of Western Australia**



**ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12
Western Australian Division**

**Presented at the Annual General Meeting
12 August 2012**

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UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA) INC

Annual Report 2011/12

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2011/2012	3
REPORTS	4
1. President's Report	4
2. Financial Reports	7
2.1 Audit Report	7
2.2 Statement of Income and Expenditure	8
2.3 Balance Sheet	9
2.4 Treasurer's Comments	10
3. Human Rights Committee.....	11
4. Environment Committee	12
5. Yolande Frank Memorial Award 2012	13
6. UNAAWA Office	14
7. Key Events/Activities.....	15
7.1. "Lessons from Rwanda" exhibit	15
7.2. International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust	16
7.3. Multicultural Women's Leadership Group - Leadership Training	17
7.4. Australia's Human Rights framework.....	18
8. Global Representative	20
9. UN Youth WA.....	22



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA WA INC

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2011/2012

OFFICE BEARERS

<i>President</i>	Carolyne Gatward
<i>Vice President (Ordinary Members)</i>	Neesha Seth
<i>Vice President (Organisations)</i>	Ilona Quahe (UN Youth WA)
<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>	Carl Logan
<i>Honorary Secretary</i>	Ester Steingiesser, (National Council of Jewish Women)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Judith Parker AM DSJ

ORDINARY MEMBERS

Nkandu Beltz Joseph Caruso Harvey Davies Tony McRae Jan Ryan Jessica Watts	International Global Ambassador Website/Assistant Treasurer
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ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERS

<i>Australian Asian Association</i>	Delegate:	Radha de Mel
<i>Esperanto League of WA Inc</i>	Delegate:	Owen Loneragan
<i>Multicultural Women's Leadership Group (MWLG)</i>	Delegate:	Margaret Chiramba

AUDITOR

Peter Illidge FCPA FCIS MBA

United Nations Association of Australia (Western Australia) Annual Report 2011/12

REPORTS

1. President's Report

The past year has proven to be a very busy and productive time for the Association. As outlined within this Report, numerous successful events have been held. We have many passionate and dedicated volunteers who assist in a variety of ways. Given our relatively small size, it is difficult not to be impressed by the diversity and effectiveness of our work. It is delightful to see that our membership has again increased - by nearly 15%.

Amanda Joseph became the new Convenor of the Environment Committee in early 2012 and was immediately thrown into action. She deftly led the Committee through the Rio+20 briefing and the World Environment Day event with Young UN Women. Appreciation is expressed to Amanda for her enthusiastic adoption of the role and for the creation and maintenance of the UNAAWA's Facebook page. Thanks also to Paul Elkington for his diligent work leading the Committee prior to February and for assisting Amanda particularly during the transition period.

The Human Rights Committee, driven by Curtis Clark and Owen Loneragan, has held several very important and popular human rights events during the year, while as a Committee considering issues such as homelessness, mental illness and domestic violence. The "Lessons from Rwanda" exhibition was a highlight - more details are inside.

Under Judith Parker's guidance as Chair, the Yolande Frank Memorial Award Committee has flourished. Highly successful fundraising activities were undertaken and the Yolande Frank Memorial Award 2012 has just recorded 78 entries - a record number. The judges were impressed with the exceptionally high standard of the entries and it was great to see five entries arrive from Karratha this year.

The Association continues to thrive on the tireless services of our office volunteers. Special thanks to our Office Manager Curtis Clark, along with the team of Harvey Davies, Kadie Vincent, Rees and Anne Barrett and Ailsa Allen, for the time and skills they generously donate to UNAAWA.

It is also timely to thank the members who have assisted in the creation and writing of the newsletters during 2011/12, including Ailsa Allen, Jessica Watts, Judith Parker, Amanda Joseph, Curtis Clark, Nkandu Beltz, Renata Sivacolundhu, Neesha Seth and Joseph Caruso. We are also grateful for the many positive comments we have received from members about the newsletter.

It is noted that planning has been undertaken during 2011/12 for events later this year, including:

- World Humanitarian Day Q&A with UN Youth (20 August);
- UN Children's Day stall (21 October, as part of Children's Week);
- UN Day 24 October (partnership event with UN Women, UN Young Women, UN Youth WA. Proceeds to be donated to UNHCR).

While we have regular Committee work and event undertakings, we continue to have significant flexibility to take on different projects that may arise. For example, we have been recently approached by a director of international film festivals seeking interest in partnering with us for the showing of UN films about sustainability issues. Details are yet to be explored.

Meanwhile, Jan Ryan and other members are presenting workshops and preparing teaching packages to help actively ensure that an awareness and understanding of human rights is promoted in Australia in accordance with the Government's human rights framework initiative.

Supported by UNAAWA, members of the Multicultural Women's Leadership group are coordinating a Train-the-Trainer program for young culturally and linguistically diverse women in August 2012.



Photo: Members of UNAAWA & the MWLG receiving the grant cheque for the MWLG leadership training program from the Member for Bateman, Christian Porter (see MWLG report)

I thank our Executive team for their hardworking effort and support during the year. Their effort and dynamism give purpose and energy to the organisation.

Our relationship with a number of organisations, such as UN Young Women and UN Women, has grown closer in the past twelve months and this is assisting with the creation of event partnerships.

We have developed an excellent working relationship with UN Youth WA and this has been reflected in the success of our joint events. I thank Ilona Quahe for her readiness to engage more closely with UNAAWA and I look forward to developing a similar accord with Julia Crandell, President of UN Youth 2012/13.

Similarly, our relationship with the national body of UNAA is growing stronger. In addition, a number of events were allocated funding that was facilitated by the National Office, for example, the Rio+20 briefings and the Q&A relating to Australia's bid for a Security Council seat. We are presently liaising with the national office in relation to the redesign of our website. This initiative will be funded by the national body.

I am pleased to advise that five of our members, Judith Parker, Neesha Seth, Curtis Clark, Ailsa Allen and I, have booked to attend the UNAA National Conference being held in Brisbane from 22-25 August. This year's theme is *'The Future is in Your Hands: Life After Rio+20'*. Judith Parker, Neesha Seth and I will be representing you at the 2012 National Council meeting. As part of the proceedings, Western Australia will be presenting a draft resolution for consideration which calls upon the Australian Government to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

It is a challenging and exciting time of development and change around the globe. The United Nations is well placed to help promote international justice, peace, security and sustainable development for present and future generations. We will find out after October whether Australia has a seat on the Security Council - a possibility for a even more positive influence in UN affairs.

Finally, thank you for your support for our Association and the United Nations - it is very much appreciated.

*Carolyn Gatward, BA MBA Grad Dip LGMgt, MIPAA
President, UNAAWA*



(Photo Top left clockwise: Neesha Seth, Carolyn Gatward, Judith Parker, Elsie Tester)

2. Financial Reports

2.1 Audit Report

United Nations Association of Australia (WA) Inc

Audit report

Statement of significant accounting policies

The attached financial reports of the United Nations Association of Australia (WA) Inc (the Association) have been prepared to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the WA Associations Incorporation Act (1987). The Association is not a reporting entity and accordingly no International Accounting Standards, urgent issues, consensus views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

Audit Report

The accompanying financial reports of the Association show a surplus for the 12 months to 30 June 2012 of \$1,088.79. The net assets, mainly cash at bank, as at 30 June 2012 were \$15,075.18

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements of the Association present fairly the assets and liabilities at 30 June 2012 and the income and expenditure of the Association for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of the WA Associations Incorporations Act (1987)

I am a little unsure as to why special reserves to the value of \$10,413.49 have been created but as they do not materially alter the accounts I will merely note their existence and seek an explanation in the current year.

The standard of record keeping was excellent. I endorse the move, as from 1 July 2012, to keeping the books of account on MYOB as opposed to Excel.

I would also recommend the association avail itself of the ATO exemption and ignore GST in its transactions.



Peter Illidge FCPA FCIS MBA
Auditor
5 July 2012

2.2 Statement of Income and Expenditure

United Nations Association of Australia (WA Division) Statement of Income & Expenditure for the year ending 30th June 2012

Income

Membership subscriptions		
ordinary	\$1,381.95	
concession	\$545.52	
family	\$227.25	
organisation	\$545.40	
	<u>\$2,700.12</u>	\$2,700.12
2011 National Conference		\$16,605.43
Bank		
interest		\$411.05
Donations to general funds		\$630.90
Joint Project with AIRWA		\$5,642.73
Miscellaneous events		\$955.99
Office sales		\$318.43
Yolande Frank Memorial		
Fund		\$801.68
		<u>\$28,066.33</u>

Expenditure

2011 National Conference		\$16,567.61
Bank		
charges		\$24.00
Computing and website		\$691.90
History doc		\$1,035.09
T-shirts		\$295.45
GST 2010-		
11		\$88.00
Joint Project with AIRWA / MWLG		\$902.84
Membership in other organisations		\$154.55
Miscellaneous event/committee expenses		\$1,077.55
Office supplies		\$1,325.85
Sundry Expenses		\$214.70
Rent and associated		
expenses		\$4,200.00
Yolande Frank Memorial		
Fund		\$400.00
		<u>\$26,977.54</u>

Surplus

\$1,088.79

2.3 Balance Sheet

United Nations Association of Australia (WA Division) Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2012

	30 June 2011	30 June 2012
Assets		
Current Assets		
BankWest cheque account	\$7,354.25	\$5,843.65
BankWest telenet saver account	\$6,614.49	\$10,025.79
Total Current Assets	<u>\$13,968.74</u>	<u>\$15,869.44</u>
Non-current Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00
GST credit	\$3,072.13	\$2,404.87
Total Assets	<u>\$17,040.87</u>	<u>\$18,274.31</u>
Liabilities		
Unpresented cheques	\$0.00	\$1,291.58
GST debt	\$3,054.48	\$1,907.55
Total Liabilities	<u>\$3,054.48</u>	<u>\$3,199.13</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$13,986.39</u>	<u>\$15,075.18</u>
Members' Funds		
Opening Balance	\$10,567.72	\$13,986.39
Current Year Surplus	\$3,418.67	\$1,088.79
Total Members' Funds	<u>\$13,986.39</u>	<u>\$15,075.18</u>
Allocation to Special-purpose Funds		
Model UN funding	\$2,900.00	\$2,900.00
Joint Project with AIRWA / MWLG	\$802.21	\$4,400.00
Yolande Frank Memorial	\$2,707.32	\$3,113.49
2011 Conference	\$3,150.32	\$0.00
	<u>\$9,559.85</u>	<u>\$10,413.49</u>
Remaining Members' Funds	<u>\$4,426.54</u>	<u>\$4,661.69</u>

2.4 Treasurer's Comments

The conference held on 4 – 7 August 2011 presented a unique opportunity to raise funds and generated an income of \$3,100.

As a result, there was little need to undertake any significant fundraising activities in the 2011 – 2012 financial year.

Furthermore, greater member numbers resulted in an increase of \$1,089 in member fees than the same period last year.

There is, however, a greater need to increase membership fees due to increased financial requirements from the national body and a general increase in office expenses.

Carl Logan
Honorary Treasurer

3. Human Rights Committee

The Human Rights Committee met monthly during the year to discuss human rights issues and to provide a forum for members to share their specific interests. Attendance ranged from five to twelve at each meeting and on two occasions we had a speaker to address a human rights issue. The meetings were held on Saturdays from 10am to midday in the boardroom at our Subiaco office. The meeting time was moved from Friday during the working week to enable those with a work commitment to attend.

This year our focus has been on the rights of refugees, the homeless, Indigenous persons, persons with mental illness and persons suffering domestic violence. The consensus of the committee has been that a forum on mental illness may go a long way in addressing the major problems in our society that result in human rights and social justice abuses.

The committee was involved in the organisation, initial planning and support of events during the year. These were:

- International Children's Week – joining with Meerilinga on Sunday 23 October 2011 at Whiteman Park and Wednesday 26 October 2011 for International Children's Day;
- UN Human Rights Day – joining with the Young Lawyers Society for breakfast and an address by Dr Michael Ondaatje entitled "Martin Luther King, the United Nations and the struggle for Human Rights: A Historian's Perspective" on 8 December 2011;
- International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust – joining with NCJWA, the Jewish Historical Society and the Genealogical Society on 27 January 2012 to view a DVD "Into the Arms of Strangers";
- Refugee Week and UN Day for Refugees (20 June) – the exhibition "Lessons from Rwanda" opening event on 18 June 2012 at the State Library with volunteers from the Rwanda Community, UNAOWA members and Human Rights Committee staffing the exhibition from 16 June to 24 June 2012.



As always we extend a welcome to members to come to the monthly meetings - call or email the office or check the calendar on the UNAOWA website.

- Curtis Clark & Owen Loneragan, Convenors, Human Rights Committee.

*Photo:
Curtis Clark (centre) introduces Owen Loneragan to the Governor of WA, Malcolm McCusker, at the "Lessons from Rwanda" exhibition.*

4. Environment Committee

It is with great pleasure that Amanda Joseph joined the Environment Committee as the new Convenor in February 2012, with Paul Elkington remaining as the Deputy Chair of the Committee. It has been a busy financial year, with many new partnerships and opportunities being explored.

The Environment Committee partnered with Young UN Women to mark World Environment Day to host the 'Women Leaders in a Green Economy' event, which was a great success with some 60 members from both organizations in attendance. The function was proudly supported by the City of Perth, CitySwitch Green Office and Central Park Management.

With all talk being around Rio+20, the Environment Committee was proud to host the Australian Rio +20 delegation from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. The delegation briefed members on Australia's position going into the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development which was held in Rio de Janeiro, marking 20 years since the first Earth Summit.



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

Photo: Participants at the Rio+20 briefing session, Subiaco.

In the coming financial year, the Environment Committee is looking forward to building educational partnership with local schools, increasing our membership and participation and gaining greater influence on government policies through submissions and awareness raising campaigns.

Thank you to all members of the Environment Committee for their continued dedication and hard work championing the mission of the United Nations in Western Australia through various fundraising events and activities.

*Amanda Joseph,
Environment Committee Convenor*

5. Yolande Frank Memorial Award 2012

This award was established three years ago upon the death of Yolande Frank, a long time member of the Association.

Yolande was a survivor of the Holocaust. She had a strong belief that the children of Western Australia should understand the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Australia's part in the formation and acceptance of the document.

Each year children between the ages of 9 and 13 are asked to submit creative illustrations of a particular article in the Declaration. Notice of the award is sent to all district school offices for dissemination, to the Anglican School Administration and the Catholic School System. Teachers' information kits are distributed through the office.

In 2012, the article is number 26 which deals with Australia's right to education.

Everyone has the right to education and education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on a basis of merit.

The closing date for entries is July 31 and judging will take place on August 1. The winner receives \$200 in prize money and a book dealing with human rights. The library of the winning school receives \$100 and a suggested list of appropriate books dealing with human rights.

The winning entry becomes the property of the Association and each year a postcard is made using the winning entry and detailing the article illustrated. Copies of the 2010 and 2011 postcards are available from the office.

A fundraising lunch was held in June to raise money for the 2012 prizes. A group of Yolande's friends gathered to hear Renata Sivacolundhu speak about her experiences as an Australian working at the United Nations, New York. Her talk titled "Lessons learnt at the UN" was both entertaining and informative. Many memories of Yolande were exchanged during the shared lunch which followed. Elsie Tester presented a raffle to increase the fundraising. In all \$635 was added to the fund.

There is a small committee which arranges the award each year. If any member is interested in joining the committee which only meets twice a year - (as most work is done by email), please advise the office. You would be most welcome.

It is hoped this award will continue for many years.

*Judith A Parker AM DSJ
Chair, Yolande Frank Memorial Award Committee*



Above: First prize entry, Yolande Frank Memorial Award 2011

6. UNAAWA Office

We have now been in the Subiaco office for just about 20 months. For part of this time, it had been difficult for volunteers to adjust to the new location and settle into a regular routine. More recently with the addition of several new members who have offered to staff the office it has been possible to post weekday office hours from 10am to 3pm.

Currently, when you call the office you can expect to find Harvey Davies, Kadie Vincent, Rees and Anne Barrett, Ailsa Allen or myself on the other end of the phone. However, it is now more common, with the UNAAWA website and more than 80% of our members with email addresses, for office volunteers to manage email correspondence and stay abreast with publications that seem to flood the office from the United Nations and a multitude of community organisations.

The office complex is well serviced by the Sisters of St John of God (who own the building). When you visit the office you will be greeted by Administrative Coordinator, Lindsay Davies-Moore who is employed full time by SSJG Ministries. We have access to a board room suitable for committee meetings, a well-appointed kitchen and a photocopier. Our individual office is approximately 14 square metres and has built-in wall cabinets and filing cabinets. A large desk with a north facing first floor view of Salvado Road has a computer (connected to the internet) and a printer provided by a grant from Lotterywest.

In the coming year, we would welcome both long-time members and new members who are able to volunteer a few hours to call or email the office. Such a volunteer position is an excellent way to learn more about UNAAWA and the United Nations.

Curtis Clark, Office Manager.

7. Key Events/Activities

7.1. "Lessons from Rwanda" exhibit

The "Lessons from Rwanda" exhibit was displayed throughout Refugee Week from 16 to 24 June 2012 in the State Library of Western Australia, sponsored by the UNAAWA.

The Governor of Western Australia, Malcolm McCusker, officially opened the exhibit at a reception event on Monday 18 June 2012. Judith Parker AM DSJ, former President of the UNAAWA, presided over the event which was attended by approximately 45 people. The Governor spoke about the Outreach Programme on the Rwanda Genocide and the Lessons exhibit as one of various resources the Programme offers to teach the lessons of Rwanda. Judith spoke about Refugee Week and the opportunity it presents to reflect on the reasons why people flee their homeland in search of safe haven elsewhere.



Photo: Judith Parker addresses the "Lessons from Rwanda" audience

The event also featured guest speaker Professor Mick Broderick from Murdoch University, who spoke about the University's multidisciplinary "Sustaining Reconciliation" project in Rwanda.

The exhibit tied in well with the theme of Refugee Week – "restoring hope". A key message was that Refugee Week is an opportunity to reflect on the circumstances and historical events that have led people to flee their home countries and to consider the dilemmas faced by refugees who are often forced to choose between the horrific or something worse. The Rwanda genocide and other genocides in history are examples of such instances.

The opening event was attended by a cross-section of the community: members of the Rwandan community, faith groups, former politicians, civil society representatives working with refugees and on similar issues and members of the United Nations Association.

Throughout the week the exhibit was open every day, staffed by volunteers from the UN Association and the local Rwandan community. It was a great addition to the showing to have people on-site to answer questions and to put the exhibit into context. The display area was in an excellent location to catch passersby in the city. A media release resulted in two local newspapers covering the showing and one piece on local ABC radio news. The exhibit was also advertised on the Refugee Week Australia website and two local tourism websites. Approximately 450 people viewed the exhibit throughout the week.

Feedback on the exhibit was very positive, a sampling of the visitor remarks in our guest book is provided below:

This exhibit is a good way to inform people and hopefully to prevent genocides from happening in the future.

Thank you for bringing this important exhibit to Perth. It inspires me to help to make a difference.

It is really important to be reminded in an exhibition like this what happened in Rwanda.

Thank you for sharing this harrowing yet very important exhibit in Perth...to bring this kind of information to light is necessary for humanity to improve as a whole. Thank you!

The exhibition is very moving and informative. It educates viewers as to why we must not ignore genocides, but undertake to "prevent and punish".

Thanks for an informative, honest and candid re-telling of this critical piece of history.

So much information! Great to see education on the topic. This should be taught in schools.

A poignant and stirring exhibition.

Renata Sivacolundhu, Event Co-ordinator

7.2. International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust

On Friday 27 January 2012, the UNAANA observed this important date at a function hosted by NCJWA in collaboration with the Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society of WA and the UNAANA.

Despite the extreme heat, over 80 people attended, including representatives from the Office of Multicultural Interests, Umbrella, National Council of Women, the Catholic Women's League, the Jewish Community Council, Bridges of Peace, Friends of Israel, and AUJS. A display of Holocaust books, DVDs and other material set up by Michelle Urban from the Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society attracted a great deal of interest. The books and DVDs displayed were available for borrowing.

This is the third year that we have commemorated this date. Two years ago we organised a visit to the Holocaust Museum and last year we went to the Holocaust Memorial in the Stirling Gardens in Perth, a monument that everyone should visit.

The event was organised by Ester Steingjesser and chaired by Judith Parker AM DSJ who spoke of the UN Secretary-General's message to the world that children must be taught about human rights and the Holocaust.

In keeping with the message about children, the film "Into the Arms of Strangers" was shown. It was an intensely moving experience to watch families consent to be torn apart so that the children could be sent to safety in a land that was foreign to them in every way, and the subsequent lives and thoughts of those people.

Following the film, Michael Zusman read out a testimony by his mother Lore, whose happy and privileged childhood in Koenigsberg was torn apart after the Nazis confiscated the family business. With her father fleeing to escape the nightly roundup, the family was split up, and Lore was able to leave with her sister and eventually she was placed in a home in Belgium. Her parents were able to come to them and leave to Australia just as the war started.

Ester Steingjesser – Chair, UN Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust

7.3. Multicultural Women's Leadership Group - Leadership Training

In 2011, the *Australian Immigrant and Refugee Alliance* (AIRWA) conducted a leadership training course for young women from cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. UNAAWA was happy to host the training at their Perth offices and provide mentors from the executive committee during the rollout of the course. The course was instrumental in providing education and training in relation to key skills required to be work-ready in the community. Specifically, the training focussed on cultural awareness, resume development skills, presentation skills and an increased understanding of governance procedures, practices and competencies.

In addition, all participants had the opportunity to increase their research skills and discuss engagement initiatives to enhance their input into the local, national and international community. A key success story involved a participant securing a job within one month of completing the course. The UNAAWA was so pleased with the effectiveness of the training that they requested the formation of a Multicultural Women's Leadership Group, whom are currently organisational members of UNAAWA. This group is currently chaired by one of the participants from the program.

The importance of this training

Despite the high percentage of CALD women living in Australia, immigrant and refugee women continue to face multiple barriers to equal participation in the workforce and in the wider community. Many of these barriers are systemic in nature, indicative of intersecting discriminations arising due to cultural, religious and linguistic background as well as gender. The training has been specifically designed and targeted towards young immigrant and refugee women, aged between 17 – 30 years old.

The UNAAWA has placed their full support behind the Multicultural Women's Leadership Group and have supported their successful application for the Grants for Women program from the Department of Communities. This will see the MWLG coordinate and facilitate a Train-the-Trainer program utilising the AIRWA Young Immigrant and Refugee Women's Training Package in Perth. This important program will take place in August 2012.

Neesha Seth, UNAAWA Vice President



Above: Graduation photo from the MWLG training program 2011

7.4. Australia's Human Rights framework

The Australian Government launched 'Australia's Human Rights Framework' in 2010 with the aim to 'promote awareness and understanding of human rights in Australia'.

This commitment focussed on Australia and the United Nations, the Universal Declaration and Australia's responsibilities within their declaration. The focus is concentrated in the following areas: the public service, education, business and communities.

The Attorney General's Department claims that 'education is the highest priority for improving and promoting human rights in Australia'. UNAAWA believes we are well placed to offer consultative, educative and practical assistance in these areas. We strongly support

the view that human rights education would ensure students learn about their rights and responsibilities to respect the rights of others, or as cited by UNESCO, to develop a 'culture of democracy, peace, tolerance and understanding among cultures and peoples'.

A two pronged approach has been taken, the first to meet with Curriculum authorities to ensure that Human Rights would be incorporated in school curricula. Secondly, workshops, presentations and training materials and teaching aids would be a priority for both the Human Rights Committee and the Environment Committee.

Jan Ryan, with Radha de Mel, met with the Chair, (Professor Patrick Garnett) and an executive member (Mr Alan Blaigaich) of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) to discuss ways to develop human rights and responsibilities into Western Australia's primary and upper level school curricula. SCSA was supportive of our proposals and provided valuable advice. Further meetings were held with Curriculum Council members and the Presidents & advisory board members of different disciplines.

Workshops, presentations and the preparation of training materials and teaching aids have commenced. For example, Jan Ryan presented a workshop with the Catholic Education Office – teacher's professional development day on the 'Australia's Human Rights Framework & the Universal Declaration of Human Rights'. Jan, Amanda Joseph (Environment Committee), and United Nations Youth WA are presenting workshops for the Australian National History Teachers Conference. The Environment Committee is currently preparing teaching packages for teachers, and we are working with a university and a school, to further ensure that these materials are effective aids for teachers at both primary and upper school levels.

8. Global Representative

It gives me pleasure to summarise the past year's activities which encompass on important events from home and abroad.

We live in a changing world where 'generational' core family values and principles have been replaced, and at times have eroded with the rapid change in communication and the millennia culture way of doing things in our lives, community and workplace .

The key platform foundation of the UN, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, faces ever demanding challenges to its very core fundamental value and ethos in the pursuit of affording security, freedom and prosperity to the underprivileged in the world that we live in.

In our own country, the Australian Government wrestles in framing an essential workable policy on refuge and asylum seekers. Our nation's leaders from all sides of the political divide must take ethical humane lessons as documented from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights in that "All human beings are born with equal and inalienable freedoms in living their lives".

Our UNAAWA Human Rights committee has excelled in pursuing the core values of promoting the standing rights of the individual, and promoting our family unit as the pedestal pillar of society.

In my earlier capacity as Vice President, I have presented (and continue to write) a number of essays in relation to the advancing of the eight Millennium Goals (MDG) to alleviate poverty by the year 2015. The key drive is to reduce poverty in developing nations, which will allow the uplifting of basic social and living standards; health, education, equality and maternal care. There is on-going progress slowly being achieved by developing nations, in the capacity of building, health and medicine, funding, technology and the advancement of knowledge with regards to life support.

In reference to international peace; conflict is our greatest threat to society. Concern is extant due to the current wave of global insecurity, wars, insurgence and acts of terrorism. Much unified energy, irrespective of creed, religion and political belief is required in maintaining peace among countries spanning the global demographic, geopolitical and geographic divide. The UN plays an important role in peace keeping, and unfortunately our peace keeping troops are always strained. From our country we observe, but cannot fully comprehend the reasons for conflict, however we pray for peace to prevail.

In my current capacity I have personally visited war torn countries in both past and present conflict theatres and can report first hand, from my experiences of daunting, unbelievably devastating, and unreachable human economic destruction, to coming to grips with horrid barbaric atrocities. My visits to Bosnia –Herzegovina, West Africa and Middle East leave unforgettable etched memories of another world.

I have attended and represented UNAAWA at local ANZAC services, remembrance ceremonies and overseas war memorials on the Western front at Villars- Breatnaux in order to pay tributes to our fallen soldiers on foreign lands. Again, in this new millennium the world is still experiencing global and sovereign conflict as we currently witness genocide in Syria, the United Nations Security Council being called on to mobilise action under its charter and also the engagement of Australian troops in Afghanistan.

On environmental matters [UNEP] and stewardship of our Mother Earth both at home and abroad, we face dire challenges of climate change with diminishing potable water and fertile land for human, animal and agricultural food production. In fact, a world population approaching 8 billion within the next several decades imposes the question, how will we will sustain food production demands to feed this exponential populating growth? The key and life sustaining question also arises. How can we harvest sufficient water and cultivate semi-arable land with new food cropping water and insect resistant crop species to produce food for every living citizen? The facts of food security are real.

The protection of our land, oceans and air environments are impacted by industrial, domestic emission pollution, de-forestation, acid soils and imposition of carbon taxing, which drives this ethos to greater awareness of a 'greener footprint environment.' We all must practice 'good stewardship' in protecting and caring for our planet. It's refreshing to appreciate major investment institutions that are committed to the United Nations ten principles of ethical foundation for sustainability, as set out in the UN Global Compact. It has been embraced from ethical fund managers now advocating social and responsible investments into corporate activities in renewable energy, public transport, recycling, water and technology.

The recent conference event of 'Rio+20', several decades on from the first inaugural Rio Earth Summit and attended by global leaders including Australia's Prime Minister Julia Gillard and prominent international NGO delegates shows a shared promise that international frameworks for marine, ocean and forest sustainable agreements development beyond GDP as a measure of growth must be actioned with expediency.

The activities of our UNAAWA environmental committee, of which I am proud to be a team member, show the further concern for the protection of all the endangered species, whether marine or terrestrial and their land habitat to allow the continuing propagation of biodiversity ecological values of the planet for future generations.

Finally, Australia's push for representation in a permanent seat at the United Nations General Assembly as a member must be supported, as highlighted at the UNAA's National Conference held in Perth in August 2011.

As we look forward to a horizon of changing the local and geopolitical world, whether it's environmental desertification, peace or human rights conflicts, we are all touched, at times troubled - and as true and upholding Ambassadors in advocacy of the United Nation's value and aims, we can do something. Doing nothing is not one of the steps to make this world a better place for our future generations.

May I wish you every success in your endeavours.

Joseph A Caruso, UNAAWA Global Representative

9. UN Youth WA

OVERVIEW

WA began the year in a strong position, with a solid core membership, financial situation and a smooth handover period with last year's executive. This was the year to be ambitious, so our main goal was expansion – of members, events and delegates. We wanted to run new events, increase and consolidate our membership and re-think traditional ways of thinking.

We had a great year in terms of events and the number and effectiveness of members. I believe we achieved our goals. The entire executive and all members are to thank for a successful and fun year – it is the combined effort of everyone that allows our organisation to prosper.

The executive for 2011-12 was as follows:

President	Ilona Quahe
Vice President (Administration)	Julia Crandell
Vice President (Evatt Trophy Competition)	Bodie D'Orazio
Vice President (State Conference)	Ruth Collins
Policy	Robbie Williamson
Education	Sasha Quahe
Media, Communications & Membership	Sam Herriman
Regional	Amy Coetzee
Sponsorship	Callum Davidson

The co-opted members of the Executive were:

Marketing Officer	Christiaan Gerritsen
Southern Regional Conference Convenor	Duke Cole
UN Youth Voice Co-Convenor	Grace Hutchison

STATE CONFERENCE

State Conference was convened by Ruth Collins. It took the traditional form of a weekend long camp at Ern Halliday Recreation Camp (the second year at that venue) from March 16-18. This was a change in the timing of State Conference – we moved it back three weeks from the date in previous years. The rationale was that we would have more time to promote and thus could increase delegate numbers. Unfortunately, it was actually more difficult to attract delegates as schools apparently get busy rather quickly.

The theme of the State Conference was “Revolt and Revolution” through which delegates explored topics such as the Arab Spring and the Occupy Wall Street movement, why revolutions occur and what determines their success. There was a fantastic array of workshops, a Q&A Speakers Panel (quite the family affair), an interactive problem solving activity and model UN debates. Geoff Hutchison chaired the Q&A, and the panelists included Anne Aly, Paul Papalia and Alexey Muraviev. A particular inspiring addition to the Conference was a presentation by Michael Sheldrick, who had spearheaded the End of Polio campaign.

Youth Motion incorporated the creative aspect of Youth Change and delegates seemed to really enjoy the process. Disappointingly, the Youth Motion Launch was poorly attended, though was a great event otherwise. It was held at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery at UWA. Mike Nahan (Government/Liberal), Linda Savage (Opposition/Labor) and Alison Xamon (Greens) attended and accepted the document. We need to figure out how to attract more delegates.

The social side of State Conference was a great success, with the traditional Friday Night Games and the Saturday Night Dance being hits as always. There were 37 facilitators, which was huge. It was really amazing to always have people available when something needed to be done. Facilitators did a great job at socialising with delegates so increased numbers didn't result in a negative impact on the delegates. It is an asset to have so many facilitators (though perhaps quite this many facilitators aren't required) – however, this year we were somewhat unprepared for the huge number, so next year's executive should plan how to best utilise them.

One key area for improvement was that a particular school mentioned their students would be unable to afford the \$115 registration fee. It is unacceptable that cost should prevent students from attending. It should be a priority to obtain sponsorship that would allow us to provide scholarships to the Conference for students for whom the cost is prohibitive.

EVATT TROPHY COMPETITION

Bodie D'Orazio convened the WA Round of the Evatt Trophy Competition (re-named from the Hammarskjold Trophy Competition). This competition consisted of 5 metropolitan rounds and 2 regional rounds in Bunbury and Geraldton - the final will be held on 29 June. The Geraldton round was revived this year mainly due to a Geraldton roadtrip being held two weeks before (something to continue in the future).

As with State Conference, we tried moving the timing of Evatt back, to early-mid term 2. We later realised that due to the varied timing of exams at different schools, it was impossible to avoid a clash with school exams. As such, it was a challenge getting delegates, although we (amazingly) managed to pull almost as many teams as the year before. Term 3 would undoubtedly create similar problems as year 11s and 12 fire up for final exams. Next year's executive should move Evatt back to being at the end of Term 1. The rounds were particularly professionally run on the day, with official-looking and high quality resolutions and the extra touch of flags for each country (a brainwave of Bodie, bought from the UN shop whilst he was on States MUN). Delegates seemed to really enjoy the experience of walking into the chambers and seeing the debate venues and flags set up.

The standard of the rounds was particular high this year and the final should be excellent. Only three teams will attend the national competition this year, but we nonetheless have high hopes for them!

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

Policy

Robbie Williamson led the division in Policy this year. Policy is the key way the division can raise awareness and advocate or enact more direct change on particular issues. An initial focus on refugees was changed at the end of 2011 with South Australia developing the “Take A Seat” campaign to promote Australia’s bid for the Security Council. It was excellent to be able to contribute to discussion on this very topical issue.

Our key event was a Q&A panel run in conjunction with UNAAWA. Speakers included Michael Sheldrick (who moderated the panel), Michael Wood (Director of DFAT in WA), Roderic Pitty, Alexey Muraviev, Tammy Solonec and Renata Sivacolundhu. It was held at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, attended by around 60 people and was a very engaging and high quality event. A Young Leaders’ Forum was also run on this topic (see below).



Photo: Ilona Quahe addressing the audience at the Q&A about Australia's Security Council bid.

Education

Sasha Quahe was in charge of education this year. The education portfolio encompasses educating young Western Australians about the issues, national and international, that affect them. This involves coordinating school visits and all educational materials. This year, the portfolio also encompassed the inaugural junior public speaking competition, UN Youth Voice, with Sasha and Grace Hutchison co-convening the event (see below).

The materials produced this year were of a high quality. A particularly exciting development was the creation of the Education Prospectus; a document that outlines what UN Youth can deliver to schools. It has been distributed to certain schools, and will be distributed more widely at the beginning of next term.

School visits were run at Perth Modern School (“ModMUN”) and Swan View SHS. Swan View in particular presents an exciting opportunity to engage with a school outside the traditional “UN Youth” private and top public schools. School visits are a key area for growth next year, and will be assisted by having a convenor for UN Youth Voice (Shane Chandra was elected in May) who does not also hold the Education Officer position.

Another exciting activity is our involvement with the Sir Charles Court Young Leaders program, where we ran workshops and a MUN. For the first time, an education committee was created – this is an excellent way for members to get involved in the organisation and should be retained.

Media, Communications and Membership

Sam Herriman did an excellent job at expanding UN Youth WA’s online presence this year. He was particularly good at regularly updating the Facebook page with news and photos, which is incredibly crucial for developing this presence. Further, Sam took the initiative to develop a fun and informative promotional video for State Conference. This sort of use of media would be great to build on in the future.

It is important that generally this executive member is not relied upon to update all pages on the website. Convenors and portfolio holders need to take responsibility for the pages relating to their events and ensure they are completely up to date.

Regional

Amy Coetzee ran two very professional road trips – one to Bunbury and one to Geraldton. These were very well received and gave us an opportunity to engage with new schools. The Geraldton trip in particular ensured that the Geraldton round of Evatt actually ran this year. This is exactly the way in which our events should tie in together and work effectively for the division more broadly.

It would be useful to continue to run road trips at strategic times. Unfortunately, due to a very busy year, the trip to Broome did not happen again. However, this is definitely something that should be pursued next year.

Sponsorship

Under the oversight of Callum Davidson, we secured some excellent in-kind sponsorship deals – most notably with Lawleys Bakery. We also have a long-standing sponsorship arrangement with UWA where they provide us with venues. Callum also did a great job at pursuing closer relationships with other youth organisations, which was somewhat challenging but nonetheless worthwhile. Next year, the focus should be on pursuing corporate sponsorship and applying for grants as soon as the new executive takes office. More funds are needed to ensure that costs of our events are not prohibitive.

UN YOUTH VOICE

This was our inaugural junior public speaking competition, run by Grace Hutchison and Sasha Quahe. It was a huge success – high numbers of delegates, really positive feedback from all of the teachers and parents and very smoothly run. The competition ran with junior (year 8 and 9) and senior (year 10) divisions, over 5 nights of rounds held at Shenton College and a grand final held at UWA. This was an excellent addition to the first half of the UN Youth year and there is definitely scope for this competition to become a flagship event.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

This was unfortunately an event that did not get off the ground due to low delegate numbers. This was the product of a number of challenges, many of which we didn't properly anticipate, rather than the convenor Duke Cole being anything other than a gun. Next year it may be worth investing time obtaining sponsorship for regional delegates to attend State Conference rather than attempting another Southern Regional Conference. There is something exciting for regional students about heading to Perth for an event and the travel time is less likely to discourage delegates from attending a weekend, as it is already a substantial time commitment compared to, for example, a one-day event. Duke is to be congratulated for the professional manner in which he handled the whole situation. The Conference was going to cover the topic of Australia's Security Council Bid, and we had received a grant from UNAA to run this event. Happily they offered to let us retain most of the money if we ran a day forum instead, which we did (see below).

YOUNG LEADERS FORUMS

The "day forum" was re-branded this year as the "Young Leaders Forum" and we ran two very successful incarnations of this event. The first was at the end of 2011, convened by Daniel Kirkby, on the topic of "International Organised Crime". We doubled delegate numbers from the year before to 65 delegates. Speakers included Elizabeth Rumball (the A21 Campaign), Laine McDonald (SISHA) and Holly Cullen (UWA). Whilst perhaps a rather heavy topic for year 10s, the workshops and speakers were great and overall it came together as a successful inaugural Young Leaders Forum.

Duke Cole and Tim Mead convened the second Young Leaders Forum on the topic of Australia's Security Council Bid as a "replacement" event for the Southern Regional Conference. UNAA generously allowed us to retain some Southern Regional Conference grant money for this event. It was an excellent event, very professional and well-organised. It attracted 63 delegates. A Q&A speakers' panel included Michael Wood, Renata Sivacolundhu and Roderic Pitty. Holding it during the June study break presented a bit of a challenge, but ultimately facilitators still volunteered their time, and Duke and Tim (seemingly!) held up well.

The re-brand to "Young Leaders Forums" appears to have paid off, and it definitely worth retaining this new name for these events.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Benson Saulo (2011 Youth Rep) visited Perth in February and ran a workshop, which we helped logistically organise and promote. It was a success, with around 30 people from both high school and university attending, despite the trip being a rather last minute one. This event indicates that the engagement of a Youth Rep with the division is a valuable exercise both for the division and the Youth Rep. The Youth Rep for this year, Dan Ryan, has a trip to WA planned for mid-August, so exciting times are ahead!

CONCLUSION

Everyone who contributed to the division's activities should be proud of what we all collectively achieved. We successfully provided opportunities for young people to explore their interest in and develop a passion for international issues and social justice, whilst developing skills along the way.

There are of course always areas for improvement. It is crucial for any organisation to continually re-evaluate what it does and ensure that it is operating as effectively as possible. Some things we tried didn't work out the way we had hoped – most notably the timing changes of State Conference and Evatt to later in year, and the Southern Regional Conference that fell through. Nonetheless, it was worth giving them a shot. It is always worth trying new things, otherwise the division may miss out on something great.

We also had a great relationship with UNAA this year, which benefitted both organisations.

An executive with drive and vision could develop and improve the division substantially. WA begins the next year with a very strong membership base and hence a lot of capacity. I look forward to seeing where the new executive takes the division!

Ilona Quahe, President, UN Youth WA Division 2011/12