



News Flash! Coming Events!

- o UNAA(WA) Book Club Launch - Tuesday 28 April 2009
- o Environment Committee Annual Tree Planting - Sunday 7 June 2009
- o UNAA(WA) Quiz Night in July - details to be announced shortly

President's Message April 2009

The past month has been a busy month for the association. Two excellent forums have been held. One forum was arranged by the Environment Committee and one by the Human Rights Committee. The association was honoured to have the Western Australian Chief Scientist, Prof. Lyn Beazley, act as MC at the Alternative Energies forum. She chaired an impressive list of speakers and lively questions followed the presentations. The second forum to mark World Health Day presented high level and challenging speakers. Sadly UNAA(WA) members attending both forums were few. At the 2008 Annual General meeting, one member commented that not enough events were offered to members. The present committee has been working hard to present more activities. Are the activities being presented at the wrong time of the day or on unsuitable days? Please send your suggestions about encouraging attendance to the office.

Carolyne Gatward, Vice President, will represent the association at the Perth Anzac Day services, while I will attend the service in Paris where I will be attending a board meeting. In early May, I will be presenting two speeches on the work of the United Nations in Canberra and will take that opportunity to meet with the ACT UN committee.

Congratulations to Joan Mann for facilitating a lunch themed on Peace as a fundraiser for the work of UNAA(WA).

The Annual General Meeting of the association will take place on 10 August 2009. All positions will be vacant. Please consider nominating for a position on the committee. Committee meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the office between 5.30 - 7 pm.

Secretary required

The association urgently requires a secretary to complete the year April to August. Duties include processing the correspondence and working with the President to respond to correspondence. Much of the work can be done by email; one visit to the office per week would be required. Attendance at the monthly committee meeting is essential. Anne Harris, the minute secretary takes the minutes of the meetings and prepares the agendas. Please contact Judith Parker 95272438 or email: judithparker@bigpond.com if you can assist in this position. Your help will be much appreciated.

Judith A. Parker AM

UN International Days May 2009

- 3 May: World Press Freedom Day
- 15 May: International Day of Families
- 17 May: World Telecommunication Day
- 21 May: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- 22 May: International Day for Biological Diversity
- 29 May: International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
- 31 May: World No Tobacco Day
- 4 June: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- 5 June: World Environment Day

UNAA(WA) Human Rights Committee

The Human Rights committee presented an interesting forum on 7 April to mark World Health Day. The speakers included:

Carol Franklin, President and founder of the CASA group. This group is committed to securing accommodation and respite care for those with severe physical and mental handicaps. Carol's presentation was most thought provoking regarding the needs of the person and the families.

The Hon. Helen Morton MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Hon. Dr Graham Jacobs MLA, WA Minister for Mental Health. Helen spoke about the government's initiative to establish a Ministry for Mental Health and its soon to be released Mental Health Policy. She made particular reference to the needs of Indigenous people and provision for these needs in the new policy.

Judith Parker discussed briefly the millennium goals relating to health and the progress towards the 2015 target for these goals.

On 31 March, a fundraising lunch was held by Joan Mann, UNAA(WA) Human Rights Committee Convenor. Congratulations to Joan and her team who raised \$540 for the work of UNAA(WA). The theme of the lunch was Peace.

The next meeting of the Human Rights Committee will take place on Friday 1st May at Claisebrook Lotteries House between 12 noon - 1.30pm. Come long and bring your lunch, new members welcome!

UNAA(WA) Environment Committee

The Environment committee is holding its **annual tree planting** at the Woorloo Brook, Noble Falls Bushland on Sunday 7 June 2009. This is assisted by a grant of \$4,150 from Perth Region NRM Work commences at 10am and continues until 1pm, when refreshments will be provided. Contact Caroline Pembroke for further details and to indicate attendance. She can be emailed using c.pembroke@inet.net.au or phone 0427 746 937.

In March, the Environment committee organised a public forum on Alternative Energy and Options for Climate Change Mitigation at UWA with four speakers covering WA's Synergy response, Geothermal Energy, Nuclear Energy and CO2 sequestration. Professor Lyn Beazley, Chief Scientist of WA, acted as MC. It was followed by a lively panel discussion and questions from an audience of approximately 60 people.

This friendly committee is always keen to welcome new members, and where possible, give support to any community projects or undertakings which they may be interested in, provided such events are in keeping with UNEP Principles. Please contact us through the UNAA(WA) Office, if you would like to know more. Phone 9221 9455, or email unaawa@tpg.com.au.

UNAA(WA) Book Club Launch - Tuesday 28 April 2009

An informal meeting to discuss forming a UNAA(WA) book club will be held at 5.30pm on Tuesday 28 April 2009 (a few days after World Book and Copyright Day, 23 April) in the Conference Room, Claisebrook Lotteries House, 33 Moore Street, East Perth. The envisaged aim of the club is to provide a forum for UNAA(WA) members to discuss books related to the UN and its concerns. Interested? If so, please come to this meeting. If you cannot attend, then you can indicate your interest and provide ideas by contacting either the office or Harvey Davies. He can be emailed using harvey.davies@graduate.uwa.edu.au or phone 9387 6789. More details at <http://www.unaa-wa.org.au/events.php>.

UNYA Conference 2009 - "Crossing the Line: Territories in Dispute"

Anita Kelleher, Executive Member, UNAA(WA).

I had the honour of representing UNAA(WA) President Judith Parker at the opening of the 2009 UNYA conference held from the 6-8 March 2009 at UWA's Claremont Campus. UNYA President Rosie Sitoris, Vice President Tom Antoniazzi and Master of Ceremonies, Mark Katsikandarakis, welcomed the delegates and outlined the theme of this year's conference: "Crossing the Line: Territories in Dispute". The ambitious 3-day agenda included a range of activities and debates designed to encourage students to examine territorial disputes around the world. The Minister for Youth, Donna Faragher, officially opened the conference and commended the 100 delegates and 30 facilitators for their commitment to human rights issues.

Melissa Parke MP, the Federal Member for Fremantle, gave a relevant and motivating keynote address. Specifically, she shared her personal experiences of working for the United Nations in Bosnia giving delegates deeper insights into the horror of living in a conflict zone.

I came away from the opening ceremonies really impressed with the high standard of organisation – no doubt the result of many months of hard work by a dedicated team of conference organisers – and the professionalism of UNYA members who looked after their guests from arrival to departure. I only wish I were young enough to have participated in the conference sessions!

Congratulations UNYA!

Further Resources

- Subscribe to UNity for 2009, as well as earlier issues are available at: www.unaa.org.au
- For international updates, sign up for UN Wire: http://www.smartbrief.com/un_wire/index.jsp
- Read more about the Millennium project: www.unmillenniumproject.org

www.unaa-wa.org.au

33 Moore St, East Perth, 6004 Western Australia, AUSTRALIA

Ph: (+61 8) 9221 9455 Fax: (+61 8) 9325 7061 Email: unaawa@tpg.com.au