



March 2010 Update – Vol 2, No 3

**News Flash!!**

Visit us online at [www.umaa-wa.org.au](http://www.umaa-wa.org.au) and keep abreast of our activities throughout 2010!

Renovations have begun at Claisebrook Lotteries House. There is no doubt we will be inconvenienced by the work taking place in the building. However, the end result will be that the UNAA(WA) office will be painted and carpeted. The meeting room will be able to cater for 90 people. My sincere thanks to the office volunteers who are working under difficult conditions.

Fundraising has begun for the National Conference with a \$500 donation from the women who attended a lunch time talk that I presented on International Women's Day. Further funds will be raised by an auction on eBay and a Tupperware demonstration to be held on **Friday 26 March** at 10.45am to 12 noon. Orders for Tupperware are being collected now and leaflets are available from the office. UNAA(WA) receives a cash incentive for holding the demonstration and a percentage of the sales as well as a gift the organisation can raffie. So please consider placing an order. We thank member Kirsty Stewart for coordinating this fundraiser. UNAA(WA) has also applied to hold a sausage sizzle at Bunning's Midland later in the year. We will need volunteers to man the sausage sizzle. Please advise the office if you can help.

Intern Katharina is busily working on the two documents recording Past Presidents and Life Members. She has discovered an interesting fact searching the minute books. Three UN Peacekeeper soldiers were awarded life membership when they returned to Australia. Unfortunately the minute books do not record the names. UNAA(WA) has contacted the UN Peacekeepers Association with a request to search their records. Katharina has some gaps in information on Life Members and Past Presidents - please contact her at the office if you have any information. The committee has received two nominations for Life Membership of the Association for consideration.

Donations are still being sought for the Yolanda Frank Memorial Fund. Please send your donations to the office. The following three people have agreed to be judges for the inaugural award to be presented in August: Gillian Green [National Council of Jewish Women WA], Diana Warnock [previous MLA of Perth and Patron of the Arts] and Owen Lonergan [Life member].

UNAA(WA) participated in a number of events during the week of International Women's Day. These are detailed below.

May you have a blessed and peaceful Easter.

**Judith A. Parker AM DSJ - President**

**Diary Dates/Events**

- March 21: **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**
- March 22: **World Day for Water**
- March 23: **World Meteorological Day**
- March 25: **International Day for the Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery**
- April 2: **World Autism Awareness Day**
- April 4: **International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action**
- April 7: **World Health Day**
- April 13: **UNAA(WA) Book Club 11.00 am**

**UNAA(WA) Human Rights Committee**

*Recent Events to mark International Women's Day 2010*

**Exploring the meaning of Leadership for Western Australian Women:** This forum was presented by the Department of Communities.

The speakers included:

*Susan Hunt:* Chief Executive Officer of the Perth Zoo since 2004. Perth Zoo is a world leading zoo, acknowledged for its conservation programs, education, research, conservation medicine and breed for release programs. In 2010, Susan was recognised for her leadership and contribution to conservation in the Australia Day Honours list.

*Liz Harris:* Managing Director, Challenger Institute of Technology and responsible for guiding WA's most diverse provider of vocational education and training. She won the Telstra Business Women's Award. She has worked at Universities and spent 4 years at the former Australian National Training.

*Maria Saraceni:* Chairperson of the Women's Advisory Council of Western Australia and a partner of Norton Rose Australia.

The forum provided excellent speakers and an opportunity to network. For instance, I met two representatives from Australia Post involved in the training of indigenous workers for Australia Post. We discussed UNAA(WA)'s priority during 2009 to connect with indigenous people in WA. Both expressed an interest in speaking with the UNAA(WA) Human Rights Committee about their work.

**UNIFEM Breakfast:** Held on 8 March 2010, 520 participants enjoyed an excellent series of speakers: Anne Banks-McAllister, Convenor of the Perth Chapter of UNIFEM; Hon Robyn McSweeney, Minister for Women's Interests and Hon Stephen Smith, Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Prime Minister's message was read by a student from Frederick Irwin School. A video message was presented from Nicole Kidman, Ambassador for UNIFEM. A stirring presentation was given by Elizabeth Shaw, WA Youth Citizen for 2009 and Australia's Youth Ambassador to UN New York in 2009. Dr Hamidah Marican, Executive Officer, Sisters of Islam presented the keynote address. The sisters of Islam [Malaysia] work to create an understanding of Islam, do advocacy work, educate the public and research into interpretation of the Koran. This event provided an excellent opportunity to network concerning the work of UNAA(WA).

**International Women's Day Event Rockingham:** This event, billed as "The Three Judes" was attended by 140 women. President Judith Parker was one of three guest speakers. Judith Parker, Judith Fordham and Judith Killen spoke of their work to protect the rights of women. It was a celebration of women and their achievements past, present and future. The Three Judes are ordinary women doing extraordinary things. A cheque for \$500 was presented to President Judith Parker for the work of UNAA(WA). This event provided an opportunity to showcase the work of UNAA(WA), gain new members and make new contacts.

**International Women's Day Event at the Karrakatta Club:** Guest speaker was Liz Butson, State Commissioner for Guides WA. Liz spoke of the centenary of guiding in Australia 2010 and how the organisation is meeting new challenges in Australia and internationally. The Karrakatta Club was influential in the establishment of Guides WA. In 2004, President Judith Parker was made a Guides Woman of Distinction. This event again provided an excellent opportunity to network and introduce the work of UNAA(WA) to new people.

**Business and Professional Women's International Candle Lighting Ceremony 12 March:** This ceremony acknowledges the plight of women throughout the world and the influence of business and professional women to assist women living in poverty. WA BPW President, Arlene Quinn invited UNAA(WA) President to speak about the work of UNAA(WA). BPW has expressed an interest in partnering with UNAA(WA) during 2010 to present events, in particular a Model UN designed especially for women to debate an issue relating to women and learn more about the working of the UN. Dialogue was established with the City of Canning Council [where the event was held] to work in partnership to present events regarding the environment and human rights. It has been a busy but worthwhile week.

**Judith A. Parker AM DSJ - President**

**UNAA(WA) Environment Committee**

During March 2010, UNAA(WA) Environment Committee have had discussions with Patty Weaver, Vice President of Sustainable Population Australia-WA Branch (<http://www.population.org.au/>) about the possibility of holding a public talk and forum to coincide with the International Day of Biodiversity on 22 May and the concurrent UNEP's theme for 2010 (<http://www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?ArticleID=6182&DocumentID=585&l=en>; <http://www.unep.org/iyb/>).

Both parties agree that a main speaker should present issues regarding the biodiversity of WA, associated ecosystems and the impact from the projected population growth in WA and Perth. The suggested format is for a main presentation (30-45 minutes + question time) from a noted expert in the field, followed by short talks from a small panel of speakers with audience participation encouraged. The tentative date is for Saturday 22 May (2-4pm). Both organisations are affiliate members of the WA Conservation Council and are considering holding the event at the large seminar room at the West Perth Lottery's House, however that is still to be approved. Other developments during March include the costing and drafting of promotional postcards with website and contact details for handouts at such events.

**Rob Hewson – Environment Committee Convenor**

**Additional Information**

**UNAA(WA) Strategic Planning - Lotterywest Grant Application**

Our grant application has been submitted to Lotterywest and we will be advised the outcome around the middle of the year. If successful, we hope to commence the Strategic Planning process in July. The involvement of UNAA(WA) members will be vital to ensure the success of the plan. As UNAA(WA) has a strong grassroots environmental and human rights base, it is intended that the strategic planning process will consolidate these areas of strength and raise opportunities for potential new growth - such as through the 2011 UNAA Conference to be held in Perth.

The grant application to Lotterywest is seeking funding to produce a strategic plan for our future development that shall:

- provide direction about organisational priorities;
- include a detailed focus for the next three to five years (including key objectives, actions, outcomes and responsibilities);
- investigate and plan for the specific challenges of increasing membership, promotion and sustainability; and
- give consideration to longer term objectives (five to ten years) and ensure that our short term priorities are complementary.

We will advise members further once we hear back from Lotterywest. In the meantime, you are welcome to contact the office with your thoughts or suggestions about the plan.

**UNAA(WA) Registered for GST**

Thanks to the persistent work of Treasurer Harvey Davies, UNAA(WA) is now registered for GST. This will be to UNAA(WA)'s advantage when applying for grants. The committee will discuss at its next meeting the change to the cost of membership costs 2010-11 caused by the need to pay GST on membership dues in the future.

**Upcoming Events - Vice Chancellors Oration 2010**

Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce AC Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, will present the oration to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Thursday 18 March 2010, Edith Cowan University [building 32] Joondalup Campus, 270 Joondalup Drive, Joondalup. Contact James Fuller, Manager Public and Corporate Relations Edith Cowan University, phone 6304 2131.

**UNAA(WA) Office Volunteers**

The UNAA(WA) office is open most week days and is staffed by a dedicated group of volunteers. UNAA(WA) is most appreciative of their support, time and expertise. The following members are regular volunteers: Nola Andrews, Kadi Ngele, Scott Lambert, Harvey Davies and Curtis Clark. Please call the office on 9221-9455 if you can offer a few hours. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers for their time and effort within the UNAA(WA) office.

**Further Resources**

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