



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION)

*A People's Movement for the United Nations*

[www.unaa-wa.org.au](http://www.unaa-wa.org.au)

June 2010 Newsletter – Vol 2, No 6

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## Letter from the President

June 5<sup>th</sup> was World Environment Day – a time to remember the importance of caring for and protecting our environment. It was pleasing to hear discussion on the local ABC Gardening program about environment day and caring for endangered species. The environment committee has a caretaker chair person Henk Stappenbelt. Henk is a founding member of the committee and I thank him for his willingness to chair the committee upon the departure of chair Dr. Rob Hewson. The committee is in the process of producing a promotional post card, depicting a whale shark.

Assoc. Prof. Jan Ryan and I met with Adele Carles, the member for Fremantle on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the proposal that Fremantle become the first Human Rights City in Australia. Adele was enthusiastic about the proposal. She is particularly interested in the involvement of the children of Fremantle in the process. Later that afternoon we met with the Mayor of Fremantle Dr Brad Pettitt to discuss the proposal. Brad was equally enthusiastic and has agreed to put the proposal to the Fremantle Council in August. Jan and I will meet informally with councillors to answer questions before the motion is put to council. The proposal now has the support of Dr Pettitt, Mayor of Fremantle, Melissa Parke, Federal member for Fremantle, Adele Carles, member for Fremantle and Notre Dame University. A lot has yet to be done. However UNAAWA is well on its way to achieving its aim to have the first Human Rights City in WA established.

Vice President Caroline Gatward is optimistically waiting for news on UNAA WA's application for funding to develop a strategic plan. If successful it would be anticipated the plan would be developed between July and September.

A reminder that the National Conference of UNAA is being held in Sydney over the three days August 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. At this stage WA will have a delegation of three, Curtis Clark, Carolyn Gatward and myself.

Other observers are welcome. Please contact the office if you require further information.

The executive met on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010. It was agreed to formulate a motion to be put to the conference regarding the high level of indigenous people in the prison system throughout Australia. It is intended that the motion would be a positive one directed at the contributing factors which cause indigenous people to be involved with the law.

The AGM of UNAAWA will take place on Tuesday August 10<sup>th</sup> at 5.30pm at the Rod Evans Community Centre, 160 Hay Street. Nominations are called for committee members (both individual and organisational). I urge you to consider contributing to the work of UNAA WA by nominating for the committee. Currently the committee meets bimonthly from 5.30 to 7.30. Nomination forms are available from the office.

Best wishes go to UNYA for the forthcoming National conference to begin on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010 here in Perth. The WA UNYA group have worked hard to develop an excellent program for the conference.

**Judith A. Parker President AM DSJ**

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## Diary Dates/Events

June 20 <sup>th</sup> :	World Refugee Day
June 23 <sup>rd</sup> :	United Nations Public Service Day
June 26 <sup>th</sup> :	International Day against Drug Trafficking and Illicit Trafficking
June 26 <sup>th</sup> :	United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
July 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	International Day of Cooperatives

## **UNAA (WA) Human Rights Committee**

The committee was pleased to welcome three new members at its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Members had attended a number of events and lectures over the past month.

Curtis Clark and Judith Parker attended a meeting arranged by Amnesty International which aimed at linking all the various human rights groups in WA and encouraging partnerships and better communication.

Joan Mann and Curtis Clark attended the WARE meeting and offered assistance from UNAAWA. The WARE group offered to partner for the Human Rights lecture on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

Several members attended the World Early Childhood Association lecture presented by the Children's Commission Michelle Scott, who is recommended as a future speaker for UNAA WA. The Grace Vaughan lecture presented by Prof. Williams from South Australia was attended, as was the Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade presentation on Sanctions.

Work has begun on the Tazar Gun fact sheet. New member Kylie Kerin is working on this document. It is hoped the a two-page factual sheet will be available on request outlining the legal situation, health and safety risks and steps victims can take if they have Tazar guns used on them.

Jan Ryan conducted a model UN at Notre Dame University on 26 May 2010 with the support of UNYA. The situation of the high number of indigenous people in the prison environment in WA and interstate was discussed. It was recommended that UNAAWA propose a resolution to the National meeting in August regarding the high level of indigenous people in the prison system throughout Australia and calling for:

- An investigation into the reasons indigenous people are incarcerated at a greater rate than non-indigenous people
- The development of strategies to lessen the level of incarceration
- An investigation into adequate representation of indigenous people within the court system.

Several members of the HRC offered to serve on a subcommittee to develop this resolution. The executive committee accepted this recommendation at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010. A draft resolution will be circulated and approved by the committee. Any comments or relevant information should forwarded to the office (email [unaawa@tpg.com.au](mailto:unaawa@tpg.com.au) ).

The next meeting of the committee is on Friday July 30<sup>th</sup> at 12.30. Contact the office for the venue.

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## **UNAA(WA) Environment Committee**

The Environment Committee, in tandem with Sustainable Population Australia, held a seminar on biodiversity for World Biodiversity Day, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2010. We had about 70-80 attendees, excellent speakers, and a terrific MC in the person of our own Dame Judith.

Prof Pierre Horwitz, from ECU was our keynote speaker, defining biodiversity and outlining some of the consequences of failing to understand and adequately incorporate an approach of sustainable development, with due regard to the health of the biosphere, in particular the tender hot spot of the South West of Western Australia.

Dr Boris Baer spoke about the very precarious situation of the precious honeybees. So don't take to a new hive with the Mortein, get someone to move it for you. The dire news is that the average age of WA beekeepers is 57, so over the next 10 years, we are looking at a very changing industry indeed. Australia, and especially WA are areas so far clear of the bee virus and skin affliction which is ruining hives over a very large area of the Planet indeed.

Dr. Jill St John of the Wilderness Society spoke about the precarious ocean life surrounding WA, in particular the South West Capes, and pointed out that there is no Heritage Marine park in this area.

Dr Paddy Weaver of Sustainable Population Australia spoke about the relevance of population size to biodiversity.

We are about to lose our popular Convenor, Dr Rob Hewson, but action is being taken to fill his very capable shoes. Until we have a new appointee, Henk Stappenbelt, also a seven-year veteran of the Environment Committee, is very kindly taking the reins in an acting position.

Many thanks Henk, from us all.

## **United Nations Youth Association (WA)**

On July 4<sup>th</sup> over 150 bright minded and politically astute young Australians will arrive in Perth to embark on the 49<sup>th</sup> annual United Nations Youth Association National Youth Conference (UNYC). UNYC is the flagship event of the United Nations Youth Association (UNYA) of Australia and returns to Perth for the first time in seven years.

The annual weeklong conference aims to educate delegates about important international issues in the pursuit of social justice. UNYC 2010 challenges today's youth to face up to discrimination and unfairness in their own communities as they become advocates for change through the conference theme of *Advocating for Change: Empowering Minorities*.

The opportunities and activities that have been arranged for delegates are extensive. The official conference opening will be hosted by the Governor at Governor House and will kick the week off in style. From then on delegates will have the opportunity to take part in Model UN debate, participate in workshops, hear from a wide range of speakers in unique and revolutionised speakers' sessions, engage with our community's minority groups through the ECU Faculty of Business and Law Change Excursions and (hopefully) have a lot of fun and get to meet other like-minded individuals from across the country.

UNYC in 2010 will see UNYA Australia launch *YouthChange*. This is a new and exciting initiative that allows young people across the country to express what they want to change in their local community, here in Australia or in our world, through any means they want. Whether through artistic expressions, writing a policy paper, writing a song or engaging politicians directly, YouthChange will enable the voice of young people to be heard across Australia.

The ECU Faculty of Business and Law Change Excursions are a true reflection of the conference theme, which focuses on the empowerment of a range of disadvantaged social groups, including young people, indigenous people, women, ethnic minorities and disabled people. The delegates will be travelling throughout the Perth metropolitan region visiting a range of community groups and organizations.

"It is an opportunity for delegates to get some valued insight as to the challenges facing empowerment from real situations and real struggles" says UNYC Convener Katherine Broad. "This will be the first time a UNYC has run this type of activity, which invites delegates to actively walk in the shoes of those less fortunate than themselves."

UNYC is a conference organized by the United Nations Youth Association Australia. Believing in the purposes and principles of the United Nations, UNYA aims to encourage young people to strive towards a greater understanding of global issues and to educate them about the United Nations' structure, functions and future. Operating as a national network of young volunteers, UNYA Australia is based firmly on a philosophy of best practice youth-for-youth leadership.

We look forward to welcoming UNYC back to Perth in July.

**Mark Katsikandarakis**

**President**

**United Nations Youth Association (WA Division)**

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## **UNAAWA National Conference Planning Committee**

The committee inspected the conference facility and rooms (excellent @ \$165/night including breakfast) at the Metro Hotel, Canning Hwy, South Perth. Judith Parker signed an agreement with this hotel, booking accommodation and the conference venue for the Friday and Saturday.

UNAAWA will need to hire roving microphones. Otherwise all needs are included and there is no charge for venue hire. It was agreed that UNAAWA would pay the \$55/person conference package for Friday and Saturday. This will be included in the registration fee.

The chef attended briefly to discuss the menu for the Gala dinner, which will have a WA theme.

The Sunday National AGM will be at Claisebrook House.

It was agreed to block in ten rooms at Rydges Hotel to offer alternative accommodation in the CBD. The cost of rooms is \$245/night (not including breakfast). There will be no cost to UNAAWA. The website will be maintained by Eddie and Curtis. Arrangements have been made with webmaster Harvey to have a listing for the conference. The expression of interest form has been put on the website.

The theme will concentrate on progress towards achievement of the Millennium Goals by 2015.

Keynote speakers will address various issues. Break-away groups will discuss all eight goals and enable delegates to put their point of view. A speaker will address the International Year of Forests.

Attendees will be asked to supply their own registration bag to protect the environment. This is now a common practice at conferences.

A total of \$680 has been raised for the conference fund, which has a target of \$1000. The *cake-less cake stall* is still in progress.

The next Meeting is on July 14 at 11 am at Rydges Hotel, 815 Hay Street, Perth.

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## Upcoming Events

### **Notice of Annual General meeting of United Nations Association of Australia WA Division 2010**

All financial members are informed that the Annual General Meeting of United Nations Association of Australia WA Division will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010 at 5.30 pm at the Craft Room, Rod Evans Community Centre, 160 Hay Street, East Perth (corner of Plain and Hay Streets). Parking is available at the back of the building or in Hay Street. Enter through the back door of the building. This can be accessed from the back car park of the building. The venue can be reached by public transport before 6pm by RED CAT bus east bound (Queens Gardens stop) or buses along St Georges Tce and Adelaide Tce – alight at Hyatt Hotel and walk up Plain Street one block. The meeting will be held in this venue due to the renovations at Claisebrook Lotteries House.

All positions are vacant. Nomination forms are available from the UNAAWA office (phone 92219455 or email: [unaawa@tpg.com.au](mailto:unaawa@tpg.com.au)). Send apologies to the President Judith Parker (phone 95272438 or email [judithannparker@bigpond.com](mailto:judithannparker@bigpond.com) ).

The meeting will include presentation of the annual report, financial report, election of office bearers and a guest speaker. Light refreshments will be served.

### **UNAA WA Book Club**

The club will meet again on Tuesday 27th July at 11 am in Room 2, City West Lotteries House. Ask at the Conservation Council Reception if you need help finding this room.

The book to be discussed will be *The Audacity of Hope* by Barack Obama. Bring along some lunch to share. Further information is available from Harvey Davies (phone 9387-6789 or email [harvey.davies@graduate.uwa.edu.au](mailto:harvey.davies@graduate.uwa.edu.au) ).

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## **Yolanda Frank Memorial Award 2010**

2010 marks the inaugural award of this prize for creative expression of the Declaration of Human Rights. This prize is in memory of Yolanda Frank who died in 2009. She was a survivor of the Holocaust and a long-standing member of United Nations Association of Australia WA Division. She had a passion to ensure that the children of WA should understand the importance of the Declaration of Human Rights.

The United Nations Association of Australia WA Division calls for creative expressions of Article 1 of the Declaration:

*All Human Beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.*

The award is open to children aged 9 to 14 years at the date of the award, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2010. The prize is \$200 and a book for the artist and \$100 for the school library.

Entries must be:

- in the form of a drawing or painting (including charcoal, water colour and pastels), screen-print or collage
- at least A4 (21 cm by 29.5 cm) in size
- no larger than 37 cm by 70 cm
- clearly marked on the back with the child's name, age, school and contact details
- posted or delivered to Judith Parker (UNAA WA), 516 Safety Bay Rd, Waikiki WA 6169
- received at this address by 3pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010

The award will be announced on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2010. Arrangements will be made with the school of the winning entry to present the award at a school assembly. All children who enter will receive a participation certificate.

The judges are Diana Warnock, Owen Loneragan and Gillian Green. Their decision is final.

The winning entry remains the property of UNAA WA.

Further information is available from the president of UNAA WA, Judith Parker (phone 9527-2438 or email [judithannparker@bigpond.com](mailto:judithannparker@bigpond.com) ).

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## What is UNAA?

UNAA WA is a division of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA), which is associated with the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

UNAA is a non-government (NGO) and non-political organisation. It does not receive funding from the United Nations. It promotes and campaigns for the aims and aspirations of the UN. It is made up of a group of people from diverse backgrounds, interests and ages.

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## 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 Millenium project: [www.unmillenniumproject.org](http://www.unmillenniumproject.org)
- For more UN Observances: <http://www.un.org/observances/days.shtml>

[www.unaa-wa.org.au](http://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](mailto:unaawa@tpg.com.au)