



A People's Movement for the United Nations

August 2010 Newsletter – Vol 2, No 8

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Annual General Meeting: The meeting will take place on August 10th at 5.30 pm. The venue is Rod Evans Community Centre, 160 Hay Street East Perth. Please enter through the back door. The association will be reimbursed for the cost of hiring the room. The speaker will be Maryka Mulder, who is the WA Community facilitator for the Create Advisory Group. Maryka co-ordinates workshops and events for children and young people in care aged between 14 and 25. This speech will mark the beginning of the International Year of Youth (Beginning August 12). She has facilitated and organized youth programs and camps for a number of years and is aware how important and invaluable the voice and participation of youth is to our local communities. She has a BA in Community Development and Politics from Murdoch University.

The election of officer bearers will be conducted by Jann Mc Farlane. The Annual Report has been completed and thanks are due to our member, Kylie Kerin, who has coordinated the report.

The accounts have been audited by the Hon. Auditor Mr G Rackham. Thanks to Harvey for arranging this audit. A raffle will be conducted at the meeting, 3 tickets for \$5, with a number of prizes. Elsie Tester has arranged the raffle, thanks to Elsie. It is requested that the proceeds of the raffle be placed in the 2011 National Conference account

I attended a presentation concerning the Australian of the Year and suggest that UNAAWA should nominate someone for the award. I suggest a small group look at that information and also the Human Rights Awards. There has been no further news on the issue of Fremantle as a Human Rights City. I have sent a follow up email to the Mayor.

It seems that the Claisebrook Lotteries House building may not be finished until late September. I have requested a replacement office in Plain Street. UNAAWA will request compensation for the difficulties of not having an office.

I suggest a meeting for members be arranged in October presenting Joseph Caruso, Katharina Rieniets and Major Lee. This could be done to mark UN Day 24TH Oct is a Sunday and hopefully Claisebrook Lotteries House will be available.

Curtis, Carolyn and I will attend the National Conference and meeting in Sydney August 13th & 14th 2010. I will attend the UN DPI/NGO meeting in Melbourne August 30th 31st & Sept 1st 2010.

Judith A. Parker President AM DSJ

Diary Dates/Events

August 12	Launch of the International Year of Youth
August 19th:	World Humanitarian Day
August 23rd -	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (UNESCO)
August 29th:	International Day against Nuclear Tests
September 8th:	International Literacy Day (UNESCO)

UNAA (WA) Human Rights Committee

The committee met on Friday 30th September 2010.

The fact sheet on Tamar Gun usage was presented for discussion. Kylie Kerin has researched the issue very thoroughly. She will make several alterations and then Judith will email to the police commissioner and Prof Lesley Cala for comment before forwarding to the executive committee for approval. It will be printed and be available through the office and placed on the website.

Human Rights Lecture: Prof Robert Hill has accepted the invitation to present the lecture. He can do so on 8th December 2010. Various members will contact groups which are interested in partnering with UNAAWA for the occasion. Judith will contact Amnesty and Baha'i, Curtis and Joan will contact WARE. The lecture will be held at Claisebrook Lotteries House, a new room that will hold 90. Curtis, Carolyne and Judith will meet with Robert Hill in Sydney to discuss topic of lecture.

Resolution to National Meeting: The draft resolution was discussed and accepted to be circulated to the executive committee for approval on 5th August 2010. Judith has an extension on the deadline and will email it to Julie McKay late on 5th August 2010.

Speakers Kits: A new intern Thiru, will work on developing speakers kits for those speaking at schools and organizations. Please forward any relevant information to go in the kits to Judith Parker for the committee

The Human Rights Committee recommends this resolution to the executive, to be forwarded to UNAA for consideration at its National Meeting.

Resolution to National Meeting of United Nations Australia Association August 14th 2010

Subject of the Resolution:
number of Aboriginal People imprisoned in Australia.

Positive strategies to reduce the

Submitted by WA Division

The United Nations Association of Australia

RECOGNISING that the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous people was adopted by United Nations on Sept 3rd 2007 and that the Australian Government formally supported the declaration on April 3rd 2009 is deeply disturbed at the extremely high level of Aboriginal people incarcerated in Australia

Calls on the Federal and State Governments to:

- a. Recognise that the disproportionately high levels of conflict between Indigenous Australians and the legal and justice systems has its root causes in the colonisation and dispossession of Indigenous people from land, law, language, religion and culture;
- b. Take measures to identify and communicate how this process of loss and despair is a global experience where ever Indigenous people and colonising societies now exist;
- c. Recognise that this process of colonisation and loss requires people of current and future generations – who may have had no direct role in the origins of these circumstances – to continue to work together towards reconciliation;
- d. Take practical and immediate action to reduce the level of imprisonment of Indigenous people that arises from non-payment of minor fines, driving infringements and compliance with basic administrative obligations;
- e. Substantially Increase funding for education and training of Indigenous people within the prison system and provide on-going mentoring and support in post-sentence programs so as to change the patterns of incarceration, hopelessness, offending and re-incarceration;
- f. Substantially increase funding of programs for Indigenous boys and girls that are a the vehicle for personal and social development;
- g. Substantially increase funding for programs that give voice and support to the elders of Indigenous communities in their work to improve the self-esteem of young Indigenous people, in providing role models and mentors and in their work to reduce substance abuse and violence.
- h. Communicate to the wider community that overcoming the effects of dispossession, marginalisation and racism experienced by Indigenous Australians will take generations of effort from us all.

Please note: This resolution was accepted by the executive and forwarded to UNAA August 5th

UNAA (WA) Environment committee activities

An inspection of last year's planting site suggests that due to the long hot summer, the take of the plants was not good, and we should apply to the City of Swan (Grant MacKinnon) to see if he could provide plants for a supplementary planting next winter, 2011. Maybe for the International Day of the Tree. Early discussions with Wayne Walters at the Perth Zoo, regarding proposed partnership for project for next year. Henk Stappenbelt, Caroline Pembroke and Aleisha-Marie Caruso.

Caroline Pembroke – Environment Committee

Upcoming Events

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

All financial members are informed that the Annual General Meeting of United Nations Australia Association WA Division will take place on Tuesday 10th 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, access from the back car park of the building. Venue can be reached with public transport before 6pm by RED CAT bus east bound [Queens Gardens stop] or buses along St Georges and Adelaide Terrace- alight at Hyatt Hotel and walk up Plain Street one block.

All positions are vacant. Nomination forms are available from the UNAAWA office phone 92219455 or email: unaawa@tpg.com.au

Apologies to the President Judith Parker 95272438 or email judithannparker@bigpond.com

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

The meeting will be held in this venue due to the renovations at Claisebrook Lotteries House.

Book Club Meeting on Tuesday 21 September at 11 am City West Lotteries House Delhi St. West Perth. Book to be discussed “ The Bottom Billion by Paul Collier

Yolanda Frank Memorial Award 2010

The judging of the Yolande Frank Memorial Award took place on August 3rd. The winner was Amanda Chow from Rossmoyne Primary school with highly commended prizes awarded to students from Rossmoyne Primary School and Carmel Primary School. The 2010 award was presented on August 6th to a delighted Amanda Chow aged 11 years. UNAAWA keeps the winning entry and it is intended to make it into a postcard.

On behalf of UNAAWA I thank the judges Diana Warnock, Jillian Green and Owen Loneragan. Students were asked to creatively illustrate Article 1 of the Declaration of Human Rights.

The award will be continued next year with children illustrating a different article from the Declaration. Donations towards the award are always accepted and may be directed to The Treasurer UNAAWA clearly marked Yolande Frank Memorial Award. Cheques made out to UNAAWA.

Judith Parker President

Due to renovations to Claisebrook Lotteries House the United Nations Office is closed until further notice. The computer system is still operating and contact can be made through the UNAABA website www.unaa-wa.org.au and email address unaawa@tpg.com.au. Unfortunately the phone/fax system is disconnected and phone enquiries should be directed to 95272438 Judith Parker. Mail is being cleared as usual. Many of our volunteers are continuing to work through email and between the team we are endeavouring to keep UNAABA as efficient as possible under difficult circumstances. Sincere thanks to all volunteers.

Please note: 9/8/10 The UNAABA President has been informed that an alternative office is available to UNAABA at 2 Plain Street Perth, It is expected the office will open next week. Information will be sent out to members by email.

The Western Australian branch of United Nations Australia Association is associated with the World Federation of United Nations Associations and is a division of United Nations Australia. It is a non-government [NGO] and non-political organisation. It does not receive funding from 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.

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

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