



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION)

A People's Movement for the United Nations

September 2010 Newsletter – Vol 2, No 9

Visit us online at www.unaa-wa.org.au for information on donating to the Pakistan Flood appeal.

I welcome new and returning committee members elected at the AGM 2010. UNAANA has a busy and challenging year ahead, settling into the newly renovated office, a strategic plan to complete, Human Rights Day Lecture in December, National Conference to plan, and much fundraising. As I begin my third year as President I am continually inspired by the dedication of our members and volunteers. UNAANA is a strong organisation which completes many tasks and has high standing in the community.

Over the past month UNAANA has been represented at the UNAA National Conference and the UNDP/NGO Conference in Melbourne. Both were important meetings, you will find comments on the Melbourne conference in this newsletter. There were 1600 participants discussing global health issues, much networking and contacts made. While in Melbourne I was able to meet with the chair person of the new women's migrant and refugee network. UNAANA is a member of the network and it is hoped that through the network UNAANA will be able to increase contact and support for migrant and refugee families in WA. Funding will be available through the network to present an event on International Women's day. I have become part of the planning team working out the processes for the set up of the national office of the network and future directions. This month I have presented keynote addresses on the work of UNAA and Human Rights at Yass, NSW and the Trefoil Guild of WA Annual Conference. Curtis, Carolyne and I were honoured to be present at the International Peace Awards in Sydney in August.

Prof. Jan Ryan and I continue negotiations with the City of Fremantle on the establishment of a human rights city. A further meeting will be held on 30th September 2010.

Renovations at Claisebrook Lotteries House are nearing completion and it is anticipated that the UNAANA office will reopen on Oct 4th. In the mean time direct enquiries to the email address: unaana@tpg.com.au or phone enquiries to 9527 2438.

A members' event will be held on Sunday 24 October 2010 from 1.30 to 4pm at Claisebrook Lotteries House. The new meeting room will hold 90 people, so please bring along some guests. There will be three UNAANA members present to discuss their travels and experiences whilst meeting with UN officials and international organisations. Please watch for the flyer to come out soon. A raffle will be conducted on that day to raise money to bring students to the National Conference to be held in August 2011. The conference will discuss the Millennium Goals (essential dialogue for students).

Please check the website for information on donating to the Pakistan Flood appeal. I urge you most sincerely to donate to this appeal. Rev. Tim Costello from World vision spoke most passionately at the Melbourne conference on the need for support to the people of Pakistan.

Judith A. Parker AM DSJ President

Diary Dates/Events

September

- 15th: International Day of Democracy
- 16th: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- 21st: International Day of Peace
- 27th: World Tourism Day

October

- 1st: International Day for Older Persons
 - 10th: World Mental Health Day (WHO)
 - 13th: International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
 - 24th: United Nations Day
-

Advance Global Health: Advance the MDGs
63rd Annual UN Department of Public Information/Non-Government Organisations Conference
Melbourne, 30 August to 1 September 2010

UNAAWA was represented by President Judith Parker, Vice President Carolyne Gatward and UNYA President Harry Midalia.

The UN Secretary-General States "Health is the tie that binds all of the Millennium Goals together". Since its inception the United Nations has been concerned about international collaboration in the health field to ensure that people all over the world have access to and achieve the highest possible level of health. Its efforts in this were assisted by the establishment of the World Health Organisation in 1948, its overarching goal is to promote technical co-operation amongst nations and carry out programmes aimed at controlling and eradicating disease, as well as improving the quality of life for all people around the world.

There are three critical MDGs relating directly to health: child health, maternal health and HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other infectious diseases. If we, the Global community, fail to meet our target on health, we will never overcome poverty, illiteracy, achieve universal education and meet the other MDG challenges.

The conference was well designed; presenting keynote lectures, round table discussions and a variety of workshops. A long lunch break enabled participants (1600 in total) to network. The organisers aimed to have participants leave Melbourne inspired and reinvigorated, ready to advocate governments, businesses, researchers and the wider public to better contribute to meeting the MDGs and improving global health. The UNAAWA representatives took the opportunity to encourage people to attend the UNAA National Conference in Perth 2011 which will follow up many of the issues raised at the Melbourne conference.

I attended the following workshops:

- Identifying Children as the Hub — The Grassroots Approach to Chronic Health Conditions Affecting Children in Poor Communities
- Code Red: The Aboriginal Health Crisis in Australia
- An Integrated Approach to achieving Global Health and Environmental Sustainability
- Improving maternal health: Tackling the underlying causes
- A new Picture of Health Pacific Friends of the Global Fund
- Sharing "Best Practice" to advance Global Health

Tim Costello from World Vision gave a factual account of the consequences of the flooding in Pakistan and pleaded with the international community to support relief for the people of Pakistan.

The next conference is to be held in Germany 2011

Judith A. Parker

Conference Reflections...

The DPI/NGO conference was inspiring. The sessions were intense with energy, enthusiasm, goodwill and occasionally frustration. One of the key messages was that NGOs need to work together more effectively to achieve our aims. I felt honoured to be among so many people and organisations trying to improve global health and make lives better.

I attended workshops that discussed an incredible variety of important issues including how NGOs can be an effective presence at the United Nations, hygiene promotion, water scarcity, the value of educating women and the lack of political interest in maternal health. Much has been achieved and we need to push on with the campaign. We were told, for example, that around 2.6 billion people lack access to improved sanitation, while achieving all of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) would cost only 10% of the annual military budget of the world.

A declaration that appeals for action from government leaders was drafted at the conference and was strongly supported by delegates. The declaration concludes that it is unacceptable for people in low income countries to continue to suffer from such preventable causes. UN Under Secretary-General Kiyoo Akasaka took the declaration back for consideration at the summit with world leaders about the progress of the MDGs in New York on 20 September 2010.

The UN Secretary General has appointed an Advocacy Group to stir up global action to achieve the MDGs. We must help get the message out to our leaders and the community. It is ideal that our 2011 National Conference in Perth has the MDGs as its theme.

Carolyne Gatward Vice President

Further Reflections...

I attended the UN DPI/NGO conference representing UNYA (WA). It was an enormously beneficial opportunity not only to become educated about the work of a wide variety of international health and development issues, but also to network extensively with other NGOs. The plenary sessions in the morning were interesting and engaging discussions about some of the key theoretical issues in global health, whilst the workshops allowed more detailed exploration of particular issues.

I attended workshops on Youth Empowerment and its relation to achieving the MDGs, Child-based approaches to healthcare, Engaging with other NGOs and alternative approaches to Mental Health. These workshops were highly interesting and provided interesting perspectives on some very important issues.

It was also very beneficial to hear and see about some of the work of the United Nations. Often the UN is criticised by those who seek to focus on its weaknesses. However, the development work done by the UN is probably its greatest and most important work, and being able to explore this work in depth was a great opportunity.

Finally, networking with organisations as diverse as Friends of the United Nations, Oaktree, UNANZ and UNYANZ, UniFem and the Australian Medical Students Association was a great opportunity for me to establish contacts that the organisation can use to collaborate on certain projects.

Harry Midalia President UNYA WA, Vice President UNAA WA

UNAA (WA) Environment Committee

The environment committee continues its good work and planning for the year ahead. Please watch our website for the next meeting date shortly. Any queries in relation to this committee can be fielded through our office, by email: unaawa@tpg.com.au.

Caroline Pembroke – Environment Committee

UNAA (WA) Human Rights Committee

The Human Rights Committee will welcome new members to the committee. If you are interested please contact Judith Parker: judithannpaker@bigpond.com. The next committee meeting will be on Friday 24th September 2010 at 12 noon-1.30 pm. A venue to be advised. Please contact Judith Parker closer to the date. The agenda for that meeting will include arrangements for the Human Rights Day Lecture on 8th December 2010. Future fact sheets, links with school P & C associations to create a greater awareness of the work of UNAAWA and speakers' kits will also be discussed.

Judith Parker AM DSJ

Committee elected at the AGM on 10th August 2010

President: Judith Parker AM DSJ

Vice-President representing ordinary members: Carolyne Gatward

Vice-President representing organisational members: Harry Midalia (United Nations Youth Association)

Secretary: Kylie Kerin

Treasurer: Harvey Davies

Delegates representing organisational members

Owen Loneragan (Esperanto League of WA)

Ester Steingisser (National Council of Jewish Women)

Olga Ramasamy (Australian Asian Association)

Ordinary members

Joseph Caruso

Joan Mann

Tony McCrae

Caroline Pembroke

Dr Jan Ryan

Neesha Seth

Thank you to the auditor

UNAAWA would like to record thanks to the Honorary Auditor Mr G Rackham from Bunbury. For several years Mr Rackham has audited the accounts of the association and his time and expertise is most appreciated. This year he has guided the association through GST Registration. The fact that the accounts are well audited is a comfort to the treasurer and is also one of the reasons the association has been so successful with grants received over the past 12 months. Thank you Mr Rackham.

Upcoming Events

Cockburn Rotary Fair — Fundraising Stall

The *Cockburn Rotary Fair* will be held on Sunday 31 October 2010 at Manning Park, Spearwood and this year's theme will be *Halloween*. The fair includes various stalls, sideshow rides, radio-controlled rally cars, helicopter rides, stage entertainment, youth activities and a fireworks display at 7.30pm. Around 5,000 people will attend.

UNAA(WA) is applying for a 3m stall to sell items at the fair. The stall will be open from 11am to 6pm on Sunday although we can stay open until 9pm if we wish. Please think about what you could donate for sale and whether you can help on the stall for a couple of hours. It would be great too if people can drop by the stall and cheer us on and/or buy things! More details will be provided in next month's newsletter. If you have any queries, please contact Carolyn Gatward on gatty1@tpg.com.au or 0417 459 978.

United Nations Day Event – 24th October 2010

UNAA WA will be hosting a Global Outreach on United Nations Day: 24th October 2010. Please join us at 1.30 pm until 4 pm for a light lunch at Claisebrook House, 33 Moore Street, East Perth. The light lunch will be served at 1.30 pm and guest speakers will commence soon after. Our guest speakers have recently represented the UNAA WA in their travels abroad and will be speaking in relation to these experiences. They will also be happy to answer related questions.

Human Rights Day Lecture – 8th December 2010

Professor Robert Hill, President UNAA and Vice-Chancellor of Adelaide University will present a lecture, *Human rights and justice for all...the global agenda*, which is not to be missed. The event will commence at 6.30 pm. Please mark it in your diaries and check the website soon for more details.

Miracles Charity Foundation

Joseph Caruso, UNAA(WA)'s International representative, recently inspected the minefields clearance operation and visited MIRACLES, a charity foundation (www.miraclesthecharity.org) in Bosnia.

Whilst there, it was evident that there was an urgent need for clothing and garden implements to assist families in dealing with their dire situation.

Therefore, we are issuing an *urgent call* for any:

- Unwanted or unused clothing (especially warm winter items) suitable for children aged from babies to 18 years old or adults in the age-range 20 to 40
- Sporting items (i.e. footballs, soccer balls, tennis rackets)
- Footwear of all sizes and types — especially sports shoes, joggers etc
- Toys and costume jewellery
- Blankets, towelling or bedding (i.e. sheets or pillows)
- Items that may be useful in their endeavour to plant and cultivate vegetables (e.g. rakes, wheelbarrows, shovels)

If you are able assist with just one item it would be gladly appreciated. We will pick up from your place or from any nominated drop off area.

Please call Carolyn on 08 9317 7626 or mobile 0419 257 109 or Kerry on 08 9451 6911 (office hours) with the details.

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