



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION)

A People's Movement for the United Nations

October 2010 Newsletter – Vol 2, No 10

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

President's Message

I have just attended an event in the Supreme Court Gardens Perth to mark the centenary of the Guiding Movement. At 10am on the 10th day of the 10th month 2010, guides all over the world gathered to renew their guide promise. It was moving to observe guides of all ages take part in this ceremony. The guide movement in Australia has an initiative to encourage the girls to learn more about the Millennium Development Goals and what they can do to see the goals achieved by 2015. A large group of guiders attended the UN International Conference held in Melbourne recently which addressed issues to do with global health and the Millennium Goals. Guides Australia should be commended for this initiative.

Some months ago UNAAWA became a member of the Australian Immigrant and Refugee alliance funded by the Federal Government. I am pleased to report that the members of the alliance here in Perth have been allocated \$3,000 to celebrate International Women's Day 2011. On 17th December, a function will be held to mark UN Migrants Day. Immigrant and refugee women in WA will be invited to attend the function which will launch the concept of a recipe book to celebrate the diversity of cultures in WA. The aim is to launch the book on International Women's Day and acknowledge the contribution immigrant and refugee families make to WA society. UNAAWA is proud to be associated with this project. An offer of funding support for printing costs has come from Goodrun Solutions, a firm which provides training for childcare workers who work with children of ethnic backgrounds.

Jan Ryan and I have had a further meeting with Brad Pettitt, Mayor of Fremantle, to discuss the concept of Fremantle becoming a Human Rights City. The proposal will go before the Fremantle Council in November. We meet with councillors beforehand to answer questions on the proposal.

Thiru, an intern working with UNAAWA has almost completed information kits which in future will be available from the UNAAWA office for the use of speakers, schools and the media. The kits outline various aspects of the work of the UN and our Association. These kits will be particularly useful for schools encouraging students to enter the Yolande Frank Memorial competition in 2011. Thiru will explain the kits at the member's event on October 24.

In Early November, I fly to Auckland New Zealand to attend the Asia Pacific forum representing the UNAA Status of Women network. While there I will address UN NZ's Auckland branch. On November 11, representatives of UNAAWA will attend Remembrance Day ceremonies at Kings Park and Fremantle.

At last UNAAWA is back in the office at Claisebrook Lotteries House. An application has been made to Lotterywest for funding to refurbish the office. At present the office is open for business with the old furniture and our team of enthusiastic volunteers. I look forward to meeting many of you at the member's event on October 24th and the Human Rights lecture on December 8th.

Judith A. Parker AM DSJ - President

Diary Dates/Events

- October 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**
- October 24: United Nations Day**
- November 6: International Day for Preventing Exploitation of Environment in War**
- November 14: World Diabetes Day**
- November 16: International Day for Tolerance**

UNAAWA Office reopens

The UNAAWA office reopened on the week of October 4th. The building still being completed. Vice President Carolyn Gatward has completed an application to Lotterywest for office refurbishment and we await the results of that application. The refurbishment will include more modern furniture, with a desk for the President, Secretary and Treasurer to use, a new computer desk and bookshelves. The new office design should give a little more space to welcome visitors to the office. However, for the time being, UNAAWA will be open from Oct 11 in the same office, with the same furniture, new carpet and walls painted. The meeting room is much larger with a kitchen now attached. When the IT is completed there will be a video conferencing facility.

It has been a huge task to unpack and reassemble the office and I would like to thank volunteer office assistant Kadi Ngele for her assistance. Kadi has a placement with UNAAWA under a TAFE program for women two days per week.

Curtis Clark has informed UNAAWA that he can no longer continue as office manager. Curtis will remain a member and will be in the office one day a week as a volunteer following his holiday overseas. Curtis has completed some years as office manager - working with volunteers, working with interns, keeping the supplies in order and being the public face of UNAAWA to visitors to the office. UNAAWA has benefited from his dedication and commitment to the UN and its work globally. Thank you Curtis. We look forward to your continued involvement with the 2011 National Conference Planning committee and the Human Rights Committee.

Judith A. Parker AM DSJ - President

Position of Office Manager

The volunteer position of Office Manager UNAAWA is vacant. Duties include:

- Arranging the roster of office volunteers and ensuring the volunteers are aware of the policies for running the office - particularly for the processing of mail, phone calls and emails;
- In cooperation with the president [supervisor of interns] ensuring that interns to UNAAWA complete their required hours in the office;
- Ensuring the office diary is maintained;
- Ensuring that office supplies are purchased e.g., envelopes, stamps, paper;
- Responsibility for a small office petty cash float;
- Preparing a short written report for the executive meetings;
- Preparing the office report for the Annual Meeting.

This position would require attendance at the office one day or half day per week and work on email. The office manager should have a sound knowledge of the workings and terminology of the UN, UNAA and UNAAWA. Please apply to Judith Parker phone 95272438, email: judithannparker@bigpond.com.

Volunteer on the sick list

Volunteer Eddie Bouchard, member of the 2011 Conference Planning Committee and office volunteer, has just returned home from hospital after breaking his neck in a bike accident. Eddie will be in a neck brace for 8 weeks. On behalf of the members of UNAAWA, we wish Eddie a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him in the office again.

UNAA(WA) Human Rights Committee

UNAAWA and the Australian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Alliance (AIRWA)

Earlier this year, UNAAWA became an affiliate of the alliance. UNAAWA will work with the women's committee of Ethnic Communities Services to celebrate International Migrants Day on 18 December. An informal meeting will be held in the meeting room Claisebrook Lotteries House on Friday 17 December 11am to 2 pm. An informal lunch will be served and six refugee and migrant women will tell their stories of arrival in Australia. Participants will be encouraged to supply a recipe from their country of origin. A small committee will be established to collate the recipes into a publication to be launched on International Women's Day 2011. \$3000 funding has been made available for this project. An offer of funding has been received for the printing of the publication. The project has the aim of creating an awareness of the diverse cultures here in WA and the contribution of the women to society and their needs as they settle into WA. It will enable UNAAWA to continue the work begun by Sara Farga during her internship at UNAAWA - increasing contact with refugee and migrant families. Any members who would like to be involved

in this project please contact Judith Parker by phone on 95272438; or via email to judithanparker@bigpond.com.

Mental Health and the Rights of those with a Mental Illness

The association was represented at a forum held to mark Mental Health Week. The Human Rights Committee has established a collection of informative leaflets dealing with mental health issues. These are for reference only. Further copies are available from the Mental Health Law Centre 9328 8266, email: office@mhlcwa.org.au. Topics include: the Mental Health Law Centre; Volunteer Patients; Involuntary Patients; Psychiatric Treatment; Community Treatment Orders and the Patients' Rights Guide- a self help guide to the Mental Health Act.

Issues of Interest: Human Rights and Informed Consent

The Australian Communications Consumer Action Network has recently released reports addressing emerging consumer issues in telecommunications and convergent communications and media. Of particular interest is its research report about obtaining informed consent from consumers in this industry. The report aims to provide information for the Network to better understand their consumers' perspectives on informed consent. Focus areas include investigating the type of information that should be provided to a consumer, the methods of conveying that information and the point at which a consumer is taken to have been informed. The research identified that particular consumer groups have special needs when consenting to giving and receiving information. These groups include people with relevant disabilities – intellectual disabilities and cognitive, hearing, visual and communication impairments; indigenous consumers, young people and culturally and linguistically diverse consumers.

The report found that more than 40 000 consent complaints are received by communications sector organizations each year. These organizations expressed concern about informed consent and vulnerable consumer groups. The report also found that current industry practices, legislation and guidelines are diverse, inconsistent and often ineffective. The report made important recommendations, particularly regarding developing a body of guidelines, laws and policies around informed consent. It recommended further research into this area including into the effectiveness of potential methods to obtain genuinely informed consent. For further information on this report, please contact the UNAAWA office.

UNAA(WA) Environment Committee

UNAAWA is seeking a chair person for this important committee. If you feel you can contribute in this way please contact: Judith Parker on 95272438 or email judithanparker@bigpond.com. Conservation week will commence on 23 October. The committee maintains a close link with the Conservation Council, Greening Australia and Men of the Trees.

Considerations for 2011:

- Indian Ocean Activity for Schools 2011;
- 2011 International Year of Forests;
- 2011 International year of Chemistry;
- Possible project working with Wayne Walters of Perth Zoo.

Contact Environment Committee secretary Caroline Pembroke by leaving a message at the office if you are interested in joining the committee.

White Striped Bats: Bellwethers of Climate Change (attachment)

At the start of Conservation Week on 23 October, the Conservation Council (WA) and ClimateWatch will launch the white-striped bat monitoring program. This species is one of the 25 Western Australian climate change indicators selected by ClimateWatch. The attached flyer describes the program and the way interested members of community groups and the public can participate via the ClimateWatch website database.

Upcoming Events

United Nations Day Event – 24 October 2010

UNAA WA will be holding an event to celebrate 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 UNAAWA in their travels abroad and will be speaking in relation to these experiences. They will also be happy to answer related questions.

Cockburn Rotary Fair Stall - 31 October 2010

The *Cockburn Rotary Fair* will be held on Sunday 31 October 2010 at Manning Park, Spearwood. UNAAWA will be running a stall selling items at the fair. The stall will be open from 11am to 6pm on Sunday. 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! If you have any queries, please contact Carlyne Gatward on gatty1@tpg.com.au or 0417 459 978. If you are attending the UN Day event, you may wish to drop off items for sale at the fair to the office on that day.

Sausage Sizzle - 21 November 2010

To be held at Bunnings Midland on Sunday 21 November. Helpers needed on the day for 2 hour stints from 8am to 3pm. Donations of bottles of tomato sauce, BBQ Sauce, onions, serviettes needed. Please contact Caroline Pembroke. Email henco31@skymesh.com.au or phone 9574 6937.

Book Club - 12 noon Tuesday 23rd November 2010

The book to be discussed will be *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. This is the remarkable autobiography of a woman who, despite being raised a Muslim in Somalia, became a Dutch parliamentarian, an atheist challenger of Islam and one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people in the world. Bring along some lunch to share. All welcome. Venue: Claisebrook House, 33 Moore Street, East Perth. Further information: Ring Harvey Davies on 9387 6789.

Human Rights Day Lecture – 8 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*' - not be missed. The event will commence at 6.30pm. Please mark it in your diaries and check the website soon for more details.

UN Secretary General appoints head of UN Women

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, has appointed Ms Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, as the head of the new entity UN Women. UN Women incorporates the 4 UN Agencies which related to women's interests. Ms Bachelet brings to this critical position a history of dynamic global leadership, highly honed political skills and the ability to create consensus and focus among UN Agencies and the many partners in both the public and private sector. UNIFEM Australia will coordinate UN Women in Australia.

UNAAWA Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning process is underway with one session completed by the Executive Committee on 2 October and our final session to be held from 9:30am until 2:30pm on Saturday 16 October at City West Lotteries House. We are creating a strategic plan to strengthen direction about organisational priorities for our future development. The draft plan will be circulated to members once it is developed. Please let our consultant, Kathryn Choules, know via email to kathryn.choules@gmail.com if you wish to attend the next session. UNAAWA is grateful to Lotterywest for their financial support for this endeavour.

Postcards for Sale - 50 cents each or 4 with envelopes for \$2.00

The first in the UNAAWA series of Declarations of Human Rights Cards is now available. Card Number 1 shows Amanda Chan's illustration of Article 1 of the declaration. The Article is printed on the back. Amanda was the winner of the Yolande Frank Memorial Award 2010.

Fundraising: Book Sales

Used books and videos are for sale for \$2.00 a copy at the office. Donations of books, videos and DVDs for sale are welcome. Please leave at the office. A number of books have been removed from the UNAAWA library and are for sale for a gold coin donation. These will be available at the member's event on Oct.24.

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**

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