



A People's Movement for the United Nations

November 2010 Newsletter – Vol 2, No 11

President's Message

Thank you to committee members who have assisted with two events lately. The member's afternoon and the fundraising raising stall at Cockburn Rotary fair. Both hard work however worth the effort.

The strategic plan process is almost completed. It will be essential for the growth of the association that the executive committee and members take note of the recommendations and act to implement change. One change very much needed is a more modern and user friendly constitution and the setting up of a policy manual. The final report and plan will be received at the planning day late in January. This will be a living document to be reviewed regularly.

I flew to New Zealand on November 5th to attend the Asia Pacific regional conference of International Council of Women. On November 10 I had dinner with the members of UN Association Auckland and at their meeting provided information on the workings of UNAAWA. Hopefully it encouraged some to attend the National Conference in 2011.

Slowly we are settling back into the office. I have serious concerns about the new security arrangements to the building. Specifically, it is most difficult for visitors to enter the building and will deter many visitors to UNAAWA. Some pieces of furniture were lost and damaged in the move. Four boxes received water damage. I had originally suggested that UNAAWA should move all its property out of the building before the renovations. In retrospect it would have been the better option. Our furniture was returned in a filthy state. I have unsuccessfully negotiated for a larger office. There have been problems installing the new phone system, resulting in inability to set up the answering service. Carolyn Pembroke has offered to nominate for the Claisebrook Lotteries House Committee for 2010-2011. Her nomination will go forward to the AGM

Office closure for Christmas. The executive has decided that the office will close from Friday December 17 to Monday January 17. This will give the volunteers a good break. The first week in January is always very quiet. I thank the volunteers for their support over this difficult period.

Yolande Frank Memorial Committee: Will meet on Nov 18th at 1pm to decide on the format for the 2011 award. It is hoped to judge the award a little earlier so that the shortlisted entries can be on display at the conference.

The National Conference Planning Committee: Next meeting Monday 29th November at 4.30pm Claisebrook Lotteries House. Conference dates August 4th PM to Sunday 7th 2011.

Judith A. Parker AM DSJ - President

Diary Dates/Events

November 16: International Day for Tolerance

November 20: Universal Children's Day

November 21: World Television Day

November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

December 1: World Aids Day

December 2: Internal Day for the Abolition of Slavery

December 10: Human Rights Day

December 18: International Migration Day

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 UNAANA. 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 UNAANA, we wish Eddie a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him in the office again.

Members Event – Celebrating UN Day

Thank you to members Joseph and Carolyn Caruso, Katharina Rieniets and Jan Ryan who led UNAANA's celebration of UN Day on 24 October. These speakers enlightened those present and shared personal experiences, observations and visionary goals promoting the valuable work that supports the United Nations' mission around the world. Thank you also to UNAANA's intern, Thiru Mungai, who produced and launched the new UNAANA speaker's kits. These kits will provide an invaluable resource for UNAANA members raising awareness of our work in the community through a speakers program. Thank you to those members who helped prepare and serve lunch. Your support is very much appreciated.

UN Migration Day Dec 18

UNAANA has received funding through the Australian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Alliance to arrange an event to celebrate UN Migrant Day and International Women's Day 2011. UNAANA is a member of AIRWA, many of the members being refugees and immigrants. The following event has been arranged. Friday Dec 17 at Claisebrook Lotteries House meeting room 11am to 2pm.

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

Planning is ongoing for our International Migrants Day celebrations. We will host an informal meeting and lunch at Claisebrook Lotteries House on **Friday 17 December 11am to 2 pm**. Six refugee and migrant women will tell their stories of arrival in Australia. A publication collating recipes from each of these women will be launched on International Women's Day 2011. \$3000 funding has been made available for this project, which aims to create awareness of the diverse cultures here in WA and the contribution of the women to society and their needs as they settle into WA. Any members who would like to be involved in this project please contact Judith Parker by phone on 95272438; or via email to judithannparker@bigpond.com.

Celebrate the Diverse Cultures of WA:

A panel of six speakers will speak frankly about their arrival and assimilation into Western Australian culture, a light lunch will be served. Those attending are invited to bring along a written copy of a recipe from their culture. A small committee will be formed to compile a recipe book using as many recipes as possible- one from each culture. The book will be printed and launched on March 4th at an event in the Perth Town Hall.

This is a free event so come along and help UNAANA celebrate the diverse cultures in WA. Please advise if you are interested in being a panel member or in the audience. Booking essential: Judith Parker 95272438 or email: judithannparker@bigpond.com by 15th December 2010. UNAANA acknowledges the support of AIRWA and the office of women for this function.

UN Day of Remembrance of Victim of the Holocaust

UNAANA will hold a small memorial service at the Jewish Memorial in Stirling Gardens, Perth on **27 January 2011 at 11am** to remember victims of the holocaust. Leaders and members of the Jewish community will be present and the City of Perth will host refreshments afterwards. UNAANA thanks Councillor Janet Davidson for her support of this event. Ceremony in the gardens is open to all. Refreshments by invitation only- please contact Judith Parker 95272438 or email judithannparker@bigpond.com if you would like an invitation, name and contact mailing address required.

National resolution passed

The UNAA passed a resolution proposed by UNAAWA's Human Rights Committee, to reduce the rate of indigenous incarceration in Australian prisons. We have since notified and received positive responses from a number of local government Ministers. We will continue communications with them to see changes implemented to support the resolution. Members can view these communications in the correspondence files in 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. 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.

If you are interested in joining the committee then leave a message at the office for its secretary Caroline Pembroke.

Upcoming Events

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: <http://unaa-wa.org.au/events.php> or ring Harvey Davies on 9387 6789.

Book Launch - 2pm Sunday November 28

UNAAWA will host the launch of Dr Kaye Murray's forthcoming book at Claisebrook Lotteries House. Kaye is a long term member of UNAAWA and known throughout Australia for her work on Conflict resolution. Kaye will donate \$5 of every sale to UNAAWA. Further information: <http://unaa-wa.org.au/events.php>

Human Rights Day Lecture – 8 December 2010

Professor Robert Hill, President UNAA and Chancellor of the University of Adelaide will present a lecture, '*Human rights and justice for all....the global agenda*'. The event will commence at 6.00pm at the Social Science Theatre UWA. Gold coin donation. Please mark it in your diaries.

Further information: <http://unaa-wa.org.au/events.php>

UNAA Administrator Elizabeth Shaw will fly from Canberra to attend the lecture. The executive will host a dinner for Robert and Elizabeth on December 8th.

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 that relate 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 and three sessions have been completed by the Executive Committee. A strategic plan will clarify and strengthen organisational priorities. The final plan will be ratified at the planning day in January and circulated to members. The plan will be a “living document” referred to as the year’s progress. Please let our consultant, Kathryn Choules, know via email to kathryn.choules@gmail.com if you have comments. 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 Chow’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.

New Administrator for United Nations Association of Australia

President Robert Hill has announced the appointment of Ms Elizabeth Shaw as the part time administrator for United Nations Association of Australia. UNAAWA welcomes Elizabeth to this position and looks forward to working with her. Elizabeth will visit Perth with Robert Hill on December 8th for the UN Human Rights Day lecture. The executive committee will take Robert and Elizabeth to dinner after the lecture.

Russell Trood has accepted the challenge to develop a review of UNAA. The presidents of UNAA(Vic), UNAA(Qld) and UNAAWA have compiled a draft document for Russell to work on.

Asia Pacific Regional Council Seminar and Training Workshop presented by International Council of Women in Auckland New Zealand November 7, 8, 9 2010-11-14

Guest speakers included: Her Excellency Lady Susan Satyanand, Governor General of New Zealand, Professor Martin Manning Director of the new Zealand Climate Change Research Institute of Victoria University of Wellington, Tamara Raven Scientist, Phenomenologist, Consultant – a staunch proponent of environmental sustainability, Hon Pansy Wong Minister for Women’s Affairs, Energy and Resources, Angela McLeod President BPWNZ. Bachelor of Agriculture. Angela is passionate about healthy and sustainable living, Joanna Collinge: Executive Director Human Rights Commission, Rowena Phair: Chief Executive – Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Kate Radka – Senior Associate – Bell Gully’s Climate Change Practice, Christina T. Cavaliere Manager and researching sustainable tourism and climate change projects.

The seminar provided 3 days of intense and stimulating discussion on many aspects of climate change. A copy of Professor Manning’s paper as the keynote address will be available through the office. Considerable discussion focused on environmental refugees. The representative of Tuvalu, a small collection of coral islands in the South Pacific, the lowest islands in the world pleaded that this issue is vital for discussion and decision. It is anticipated that Tuvalu could be flood in 30 years. There was a recommendation passed that all countries present (21 countries were represented) should urge their governments to sign and ratify the UN Convention of the Rights of Migrant Workers and their families- an issue for UNAA to follow up.

On the evening of Thursday 10th I met with the members of UN Auckland to discuss common issues and the 2011 conference.

Judith Parker President UNAAWA

Further Resources

- UNity: www.unaa.org.au
- UN Wire: http://www.smartbrief.com/un_wire/index.jsp
- Millennium project: www.unmillenniumproject.org

www.unaa-wa.org.au

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