



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION)

*A People's Movement for the United Nations*

December 2010 Newsletter – Vol 2, No 12

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Visit us online at [www.unaa-wa.org.au](http://www.unaa-wa.org.au) for more information about our upcoming events!

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### President's Message

The UN Day for Persons with Disabilities was a day to reflect on the achievements of those with disabilities and to focus on support to enable employment. I represented the association at an event held on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> to showcase the achievements of those with disabilities and hear about employment strategies and programs.

On Wednesday Dec 8<sup>th</sup> UNAAWA was honoured by a visit from the President of the United Nations Association of Australia, Hon. Professor Robert Hill. Robert presented the annual Human Rights lecture to mark Human Rights Day. This important day is celebrated on December 10<sup>th</sup> each year. Robert discussed the formation of the United Nations, its expansion to the current 192 states [countries] and the development and importance of conventions. Following the lecture, the President joined the life members and executive for dinner. The newly appointed administration officer to UNAA, Elizabeth Shaw, accompanied Robert. Elizabeth is now studying in Canberra and will work part time for UNAA. I met with Elizabeth on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the work of UNAAWA. Specifically we spoke about the strategic plan, UNAAWA's link with the Australian Immigrant and Refugee Women's alliance and the developing plans for the National Conference. It was a useful meeting to establish a working relationship and gain clarification on a number of issues.

Plans for the National Conference are proceeding. The planning committee is seeking sponsorship for speakers. I am delighted to announce that the City of Perth has agreed to fund the production of CDs to be presented to each delegate at the conference. On the CD, there will be a document outlining the Past Presidents and Life Members of UNAAWA. The conference committee will meet monthly from January.

The Yolande Frank Memorial Committee met this month to decide on the format for the 2011 award. The children of WA will be invited to creatively illustrate article 3 of the Declaration of Human Rights : "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person". The timeframe for the award will enable the shortlisted entries to be displayed at the conference. A presentation to the winner to take place at the national conference. There is a need to raise money to cover the award prizes and a small function will be arranged in January to raise the \$350 to cover the prize money and presentation book.

I am delighted to announce that long term member of the association Curtis Clark has offered to chair the environment subcommittee of UNAAWA. Curtis would be pleased to hear from any member who would like to join this committee, please leave a message at the office. This committee will focus on environmental issues such as climate change and celebrations for the UN Year of Forests in 2011. Carolyne Gatward continues her work preparing applications for grants. This year applications have been most successful. Grants have been received from Lotterywest to fund the development of the strategic plan and the purchase of new office equipment, the City of Perth has provided funds to cover the production of CDs and Australian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Alliance are funding celebrations for UN Migrant Day 2010 and International Women's Day 2011. Congratulations and thank you to Carolyne for her work on these applications and acquittals.

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, UNAAWA will present its final function for the year, gathering together Immigrant and Migrant women to discuss their settlement in WA. This event will mark UN Migrant Day.

On behalf of the executive Committee, I wish you all a joyous Christmas and safe holiday season. May the spirit of peace and goodwill enfold you and your family.

**Judith A Parker AM DSJ President**

### Diary Dates

**December 18<sup>th</sup> 2010 International Migrants Day**

**December 20<sup>th</sup> 2010 International Human Solidarity Day**

**January 27<sup>th</sup> 2011: International Day of commemoration in the memory of victims of the Holocaust.**

## **Position of Office Manager**

The volunteer position of Office Manager UNAANA 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 UNAANA 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, UNAANA and UNAANA. Please apply to Judith Parker phone 95272438, email: judithannparker@bigpond.com.

## **UNAANA Human Rights Committee**

### **Annual Human Rights Day lecture**

The annual Human Rights Day lecture was a successful event, with about 50 people attending to hear Professor Robert Hill, current UNAANA President, give an address about achieving global justice for all. His address was informative and inspired questions and discussion amongst audience members following the event. He challenged us all to remember that we can all be human rights defenders – that it only takes one person to inspire a movement for change.

Following the lecture, the Executive Committee treated Professor Hill and newly appointed UNAANA Executive Administrator, Beth Shaw, to dinner for an opportunity to share ideas and goodwill on such an auspicious occasion.

### **Taser fact sheet**

We have no further response from WA Police regarding their assessment of our Taser fact sheet, although this is not surprising given the current Corruption and Crime Commission investigation into abuse of Taser weapons. The Human Rights committee will compile and keep up to date a folder with information about the use of Taser weapons, including references to websites. Members are welcome to access this information at any time.

### **Attendance in the community**

UNAANA members continue to be active participants within the local human rights community, attending at public lectures, special occasion events and in writing to local governments regarding local issues.

### **Aboriginal Elder honoured by the Jewish Community**

Many of you will have heard of the great Australian Aboriginal leader, William Cooper, a proud and dignified man. William was singleminded in his fight to empower his people. Age and sickness did not prevent him from his daily activities of walking to the city and standing on a fruit box on the banks of the Yarra River speaking of the Aboriginal issue. In 1932, aged 71, William alongside other Aboriginal Elders formed the nucleus of the then Australian Aborigines League. Some of their most noted actions include: 1938 - "*Day of Mourning*" Protest - On 26<sup>th</sup> January 1938, to coincide with the 150 year Celebration of Colonization. 1940 - Declared National Aboriginal Day - now NAIDOC.

His memory has been honoured by the Jewish communities in Sydney and Melbourne in recent years. For those who don't know, William Cooper, in 1938 led an Aboriginal delegation to the German consulate in Melbourne to protest the Nazi persecution of Jews in Germany following *Kristallnacht*. This was at a time when Aboriginal people were denied citizenship rights in Australia and were not even counted as people in the census. William Cooper was not a well man but fought tirelessly for human rights for his own people and for others. He passed away in 1941. In acknowledgement of his stand, Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, will be opening the William Cooper Memorial Garden in December. His grandson ('Uncle' Boydie Turner) and great grandson (Kevin Russell) are trying to arrange up to 35 potential family and community reps to travel to Yad Vashem for the opening.

## **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. The ceremony in the gardens is open to all. Refreshments by invitation only - please contact Judith Parker on 95272438 or email [judithannparker@bigpond.com](mailto:judithannparker@bigpond.com) if you would like an invitation, name and contact mailing address required.

## **UNAANA Environment Committee**

### **New Convenor for the Environment Subcommittee**

Curtis Clark has agreed to convene the Environment subcommittee in 2011. Curtis is a past President and office manager for the association. He has a scientific background and up-to-date knowledge on environmental issues. Curtis will arrange an informal meeting of those members interested in environment issues in January. If you would like to be informed about the environment committee, please leave a message for Curtis at the office or email: [unaana@tpg.com.au](mailto:unaana@tpg.com.au).

## **UNAANA Book Club**

The book club met on November 23rd, with an attendance of 5 people. We had an excellent discussion of the book *Infidel*, with a variety of opinions presented in relation to the difficult issues related to controversial practices in other cultures, e.g. genital mutilation, forced marriage.

After a year of such serious reading, it is time for some fun! So we are going to read the satirical novel *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* by Paul Torday. Our next meeting is on Friday 18 February. We will discuss this book while enjoying a picnic meal at the Somerville outdoor cinema, prior to watching the movie *Desert Flower*. This is the inspiring true story of Waris Dirie, an extraordinary, proud and brave woman whose bestselling biography *Desert Flower* touched the hearts of readers worldwide. Since becoming a United Nations Special Ambassador, she has dedicated her life to fighting the horrific practice of female circumcision. Her story is similar in many ways to that of Ayaan Hirsi Ali, the author of *Infidel*, the book we discussed at the November meeting. All are welcome, even if you have not read *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*. If you are coming please contact Harvey Davies on 9387-6789 or send an email to [Harvey.davies@graduate.uwa.edu.au](mailto:Harvey.davies@graduate.uwa.edu.au)

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### **Congratulations to Marie Coleman**

UNAANA has sent congratulations to Marie Coleman who has been named ACT Senior Australian of the Year for her long contribution to many fields of endeavour as a public servant. Marie has worked for reform in social security, child care, aged care and other areas of Government, especially the advocacy of human rights, issues relating to women and gender equity. She has been a firm supporter of the Australian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Alliance. UNAANA is a member of this alliance.

### **Postcards for Sale - 50 cents each or four with envelopes for \$2.00**

The first in the UNAANA 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.

## **Upcoming Events – please refer to attached posters and our website.**

### **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 Millennium project: [www.unmillenniumproject.org](http://www.unmillenniumproject.org)

[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 Email: [unaana@tpg.com.au](mailto:unaana@tpg.com.au)**



## **UNAAWA celebrates International Migrants Day**

**Date: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

**Time: 11 to 2pm**

**Venue: Meeting room. Claisebrook Lotteries House  
33 Moore Street East Perth 6004**

An event for women arranged in cooperation with the Australia Immigrant and Refugee Women's Alliance AIRWA

Join UNAAWA to celebrate the diversity of cultures in Western Australia and the significant contribution made to WA society by Immigrant and Refugee Women.

You are invited to contribute a recipe to be included in a recipe book being compiled to mark the Centenary of International Women's Day. UNAAWA is seeking 100 recipes for this publication. Bring along a written copy of a recipe from your country. Make sure you name and a few lines about your family's journey to WA are included. Western Australia is now home to families from many cultures and UNAAWA wants to include the diversity of cultures in this publication.

Bring the recipe written down or email to the President's email address:

[Judithannparker@bigpond.com](mailto:Judithannparker@bigpond.com): Post: 516 Safety bay Rd WAIKIKI WA 6169

### **AGENDA**

- Welcome to this event to mark an important UN Day
- Acknowledgement to Land: Joan Mann Life member UNAAWA
- Panel of Speakers discussing their experiences arriving in Western Australia.

Light lunch served

UNAAWA thanks the many volunteers who are contributing to this event.

Bookings essential [for catering numbers] RSVP by Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Email: [judithannparker@bigpond.com](mailto:judithannparker@bigpond.com) phone 95272438.

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.



# UN International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Organised by the UNAA (WA),  
NCJWA (WA) and the City of Perth.

**On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 11 am**

**Visit to the Memorial to the Victims of the Holocaust**

**Stirling Gardens, corner St. Georges Tce. & Barrack St.**

The memorial was erected as part of the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War and commemorates all those who died as a result of the Nazi regime.

**"Firstly they came for the Jews and I did not speak out  
Because I was not Jewish  
Then they came for the communists and I did not speak out  
because I was not a communist  
Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out  
because I was not a trade unionist  
Then they came for me and there was no-one left  
to speak out for me - Pastor Niemoeller"**

**Please RSVP**

Judith A. Parker	9527 2438
Ester Steingiesser	9457 2847
NCJWA <a href="mailto:wa@ncjwa.org.au">wa@ncjwa.org.au</a>	9276 8040