



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION)

*A People's Movement for the United Nations*

## March 2011 Newsletter – Vol 3, No 2

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**The UNAA WA is hosting the National Conference in Perth this year. To find out more and receive updates register with our office now!!**

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### President's Message

The disasters within Australia, New Zealand and Japan have shocked us all. They encourage questions and discussion about the climate change debate and the effect of changing weather patterns on one's life style. A number of statements have been issued on the United Nations website concerning the UN response to these disasters. It is worth checking the website for further developments and responses from various countries.

UNAAWA was most honoured to have a visit from Senator Russell Trood on Friday 11 March 2011. Russell is conducting a review of the United Nations Association of Australia and during that process is visiting all UNAA divisions in Australia. The committee and members were able to meet with Russell to discuss issues. I thank those who found time to meet with Russell and particularly thank Russell for his time and interest in the association. He will be preparing a report for UNAA by the end of the year.

I have had a busy few weeks in the role of patron for International Women's Day and in that capacity had the opportunity to present several radio interviews and discuss along with the centenary of International Women's Day, the work of UNAAWA. On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011, I was honoured to be conducted into the inaugural role of honour of the Women's Hall of Fame. It was quite humbling to think that I was linked with such inspiring women as Edith Cowan, Georgiana Malloy, Fiona Stanley, Sue Gordon and Fiona Wood. I was honoured particularly for my work in the area of human rights and for those with disabilities in this state. It has been through the continued support of my husband George that I have been able to carry out my humanitarian work. Sadly he has been too ill to celebrate with me this week; however I do wish to acknowledge his support and encouragement over the years.

The recipe book "Celebrating Diversity in Western Australia - recipes from Migrant and Refugee Families in WA" was launched on March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Perth Town Hall. This was developed as part of a project funded by the Australian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Alliance. Complimentary copies are available at the UNAAWA office to those who contributed recipes. Copies are available for purchase for \$11 (this price inclusive of GST) from the office. UNAAWA would like to acknowledge the work of Damon Staples and Jessica Watts in the preparation of the book. A donation from Gudrun Solutions has enabled the cost of the book to be as low as possible. Sincere thanks to Gudrun Benjamin for facilitating this donation. Further funding from AIRWA will enable UNAAWA to present a training program for immigrant and migrant women. Please watch the website for the announcement of dates and registration for this program.

Thiru Mungai has returned from Kenya and has taken on the role of Office Manager. Welcome back Thiru. I will be on leave from April 13 to 29 (visiting Turkey and attending Gallipoli for Anzac Day) and again from 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011. I am seeking a member to work in the UNAAWA office on Thursdays during that time. Kadie Vincent is also on duty on Thursdays. Please email: [judithanparker@bigpond.com](mailto:judithanparker@bigpond.com) if you can assist on Thursday's between 10am and 3pm, between the dates of 13<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

### **Judith A. Parker AM DSJ**

#### **Diary Dates/Events**

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>: World Water Day**  
**March 25<sup>th</sup>: International Day of Remembrance - Victims of Slavery & Transatlantic Slave Trade**  
**April 7<sup>th</sup>: World Health Day**  
**April 22<sup>nd</sup>: International Mother Earth Day**

## **UNAAWA Human Rights Committee**

The Human Rights Committee is planning some exciting events for 2011. All members are welcome to attend our next meeting at 12 noon, Friday 25 March at Arcadia Chambers . We will be hosting a guest speaker from the Coalition for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees (CARAD), to learn about current issues in Western Australia for refugees and the WA community. We will be discussing options for UNAAWA to assist WA in education, awareness and advocacy around these ideas. For more information, please contact the office.

## **UNAAWA Environment Committee**

The Environment Subcommittee of the UNAAWA met on 12<sup>th</sup> March. If anyone would like to join the committee, please call Caroline Pembroke on 9574 6937 or contact the Office.

On the agenda was World Water Day, March 23, actions for the International Year of Forests and Chemistry, a bus trip to rehabilitation sites around Perth; and the adoption of Growler, our Tassie Devil. Anyone interested in helping to support Growler, please let us know. His details will soon be on [www.tassiedevil.com.au](http://www.tassiedevil.com.au). The plight of these little animals is horrific with 90% now gone from the wild. They will only survive if enough research can be funded for this purpose.

### *Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge, Australia*

The next World Water Day will be held on Tuesday 22 March 2011. This year's theme is 'Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge'. This is the first time in human history that most of the world's population live in cities: 3.3 billion people ...and the urban landscape continues to grow. The objective of World Water Day 2011 is to focus international attention on the impact of rapid urban population growth, industrialisation, and uncertainties caused by climate change, conflicts and natural disasters on urban water systems. Visit the UN World Water Day website: <http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday>.

## **UNAAWA Book Club**

The next book club meeting is on Tuesday 3rd May at 11am at the UNAAWA office. We will be discussing 'A Fortunate Life' by Albert Facey. Bring lunch to share afterwards. If you are interested in the book club but would prefer evening or weekend meetings, then please contact the office or ring the book club convenor Nola Andrews on 9364-6553.

## **UNAAWA acknowledges the outstanding work of the retiring Governor of Western Australia**

His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC, Governor of Western Australia, retires from his position in several weeks. The Governor has acted as the patron of UNAAWA during his term of office. In that capacity he presented the Huelin Lecture on Human Rights Day 2008. UNAAWA has appreciated the support and interest of the Governor in the work of the association and on behalf of UNAAWA, I wish him and his wife Julie Michael a happy and peaceful retirement. Julie Michael was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March. There was an acknowledgement of her support to the Governor in his vice regal role, her work for the Government House Foundation and for the Greek community. Congratulations to Mrs Michael.

## **Upcoming Events**

### ***Yolande Frank Memorial Award 2011 Luncheon***

The friends of the late Yolande Frank invite you to a fundraising lunch in aid of the Yolande Frank Memorial Award 2011. The memorial award was established following Yolande's death in 2009. Yolande was an active member of United Nations Association, National Council of Jewish Women and the National Council of Women WA. The award encourages Western Australian children to learn about the significance of the Declaration of Human Rights. The inaugural award took place in 2010. Test your knowledge with 100 fun questions about women to celebrate the centenary of International Women's Day

When: 11.30am on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Venue: Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Starr and Archer Street Carlisle

Cost: \$20 including lunch & quiz, payable at the door. Raffle: 3 tickets for \$5. Bring or buy table.

RSVP essential by 25 March [for catering]. Please phone Elsie Tester on 9444 7548 or Judith Parker on 9527 2438.

### ***Banksia Woodland Symposium Friday 25 March 2011***

The symposium will be held on Friday 25 March 2011 between 8.30am and 4.30pm at the Wollaston Conference Centre, Mount Claremont. Please contact the Urban Bushland Council WA (Inc.) on phone 9420 7207 or visit: <http://www.bushlandperth.org.au> for more information.

### **Positions Vacant: Work in a dynamic organisation**

These are voluntary positions and you will be contributing to a worthwhile organisation, United Nations Association of Australia WA Division.

1. **Officer in charge of 2011 UNAA National Conference registrations:** UNAAWA will host the 2011 UNAA conference to be held 4-7 August 2011. Work will entail assisting design of the registration leaflet, processing and recording registrations as received [most work is by email] and recording the details on a spreadsheet. You will be required to visit the office in Subiaco each week to collect relevant mail. You will also need to be in attendance at the registration desk on the mornings of 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011 at the Metro Hotel, Canning Highway, Como.
  2. **Fundraising Coordinator:** Your task will be to lead the fundraising team. This will involve initiating fundraising for essential income for the association. You will be required to report to the Executive Committee in the form of a written report and recommendations.
  3. **Office Volunteer:** Several office volunteers are required to work in the office. There are morning, afternoon or full day shifts available at the new office in Subiaco. Duties include: answering phone calls, processing mail, greeting visitors, occasional newsletter mailouts. Training is provided.
  4. **Library Officer:** Attend the office for several hours once a week to catalogue acquisitions to the library. Initial work is needed to sort the library after the move. Recommend new purchases to the Executive.
- The new office is situated in Subiaco, close to the station and provides a pleasant working environment. Please contact the President Judith Parker email: [judithannparker@bigpond.com](mailto:judithannparker@bigpond.com) or phone 95272438 if you are interested in any of these positions. Your help would be much appreciated.

### **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.

### **DVD Available: 'On her Shoulders'**

This short documentary was made by the Australian National Committee for UN WOMEN to celebrate the centenary of International Women's Day. It details the struggle of women in Australia to achieve equality and the importance of the achievement of the Millennium Goals regarding women's health and empowerment. The documentary is excellent to use as a basis for a group discussion in a follow up to the International Women's Day. It is available for short loan from the UNAAWA office or by contacting [www.unwomen.org.au](http://www.unwomen.org.au).

### ***Further Resources***

- **The United Nations Information Centre for Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific:** <http://www.un.org.au>
- **The United Nations Youth Association Australia (UNYA) WA Division:** <http://wa.unya.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)

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