



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division

Volume 8, issue 8

UNAAWA Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- UNAAWA welcomes the new Executive
- UNAAWA establishes a Multicultural Women's Leadership Group
- Check out how our UNAA Conference went in Perth this year!
- Find out who is on the new UN Youth (WA) Executive

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President's Report

Carolyn Gatward

It is a great honour to be elected your President and I thank you. I would firstly like to acknowledge the tremendous work of our immediate Past President, Judith Parker. Her drive and commitment have been inspirational. I also thank the past Executive for their outstanding effort, along with the many members throughout our Association who have helped make events such as our hosting of the National UNAA Conference so successful. I am looking forward to working with our highly dedicated Executive team to build on UNAAWA's achievements.

It was fantastic to see the UN Secretary General meeting with our PM and Foreign Minister recently - the first trip by a UN head to Australia in over a decade. They discussed matters such as the UN missions in Afghanistan and East Timor, the developments in Libya, the Horn of Africa crisis and climate change. Mr Ban commended Australia's strong support for the UN and praised Australia as a model country for our record on humanitarian issues, while expressing concern about our treatment of asylum seekers.

UNAAWA has worked closely with UN Youth Western Australia to apply for funding from the National Office to hold a Hypothetical style event about Australia's UN Security Council bid. We will hear shortly if this application has been successful.

I am delighted to report that the Governor, Malcolm McCusker AO QC, has accepted patronage of our Association.

I recently attended the *You Me Unity* forum about whether the Constitution should be updated to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. An Expert Panel is consulting people and will advise the Government by December 2011 about the options. To have your individual say, you must write to, or email, the Expert Panel by 30 September. Submissions can be as short as a few words. See www.youmeunity.org.au for details. The heartening news is that there seems to be



Judith Parker / Carolyn Gatward

strong support across the nation for the Constitutional recognition. I also attended the *Indigenous Justice Forum: Legal Pathways to Reconciliation* where the issue of Constitutional reform was again highlighted.

The Commonwealth Foundation in London has confirmed UNAAWA's attendance at the Commonwealth People's Forum 2011 (CPF) from 25-27 October 2011. The CPF is held every two years and brings together leaders of civil society from the Commonwealth's 54 member countries. The forum will consider topics such as climate change, education, economic development, gender, human rights and Indigenous people.

Beatriz Zapata, Manager of the UN Bookstore in New York, sends us warm greetings - she is also forwarding the following books to us - *'UN Ideas that changed the World'*, *'A Global Agenda: Issues before the UN 2011-12'* and *'Basic Facts about the UN'* (2011). They will soon be available in the Office for borrowing.

Over 10,000 people are expected to enjoy the activities at Whiteman Park, Sunday 23 October. UNAAWA will operate a stall, which will include African drumming activities for children, in recognition of Children's Week and UN Day. Children can enter a contest to win a UN Peacekeeper Bear (photo pg 4). Hope to see you there.

Thank you again for your support for our Association and for helping us spread the word about the vital work of the UN.

UNAA Polo Shirts available

UNAAWA, Eclipse Universal and much appreciated sponsors, CJ Carmichael and the Caruso family have started our merchandise range. The polo shirts are made using top quality materials that are compliant with UN conventions and are available in an array of sizes (small to XXL). The UNAAWA urges you to purchase this trendy polo to assist with our educational activities and awareness raising of UN related issues, as well as to raise funds to help upcoming projects. More information will be available shortly on our website: www.unaa-wa.org.au or please email Neesha Seth: events@unaa-wa.org.au.

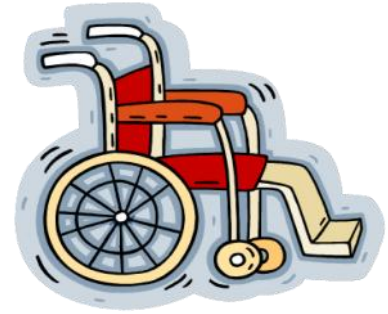
Welcome to the new UNAAWA Executive



In August, the UNAAWA held its Annual General Meeting. We warmly welcome the new Executive team and thank our ongoing Executive members and departing members. We are particularly pleased to welcome our regional Executive member, Nkandu Beltz from Kununurra.

President:	Carolyne Gatward
Vice-President (Members):	Neesha Seth
Vice-President (Organisational):	Ilona Quahe (UN Youth WA)
Treasurer:	Vacant
Secretary:	Ester Steingiesser
Ordinary Members:	Nkandu Beltz
	Joseph Caruso (UNAAWA Global Representative)
	Harvey Davies
	Tony McRae
	Jan Ryan
	Jessica Watts
Organisational Members:	
Australian Asian Association	<i>Delegate:</i> Radha de Mel
Esperanto League of WA Inc	<i>Delegate:</i> Owen Loneragan
Multicultural Young Women's Group	<i>Delegate:</i> Margaret Chiramba

CHILDREN'S WHEELCHAIRS FOR IRAQ



Dear People,

We need support to get more children's wheelchairs to Iraq - and more.

Recently, I put out a fundraising call for assistance so we could transport children's wheelchairs to Iraq - we had intended they leave for Iraq in late November however after raising more than \$4,000 sooner than expected we have organised for the shipment to head off.

They are now at the wharf, after Trinity Grammar students packed the container for us at the Wheelchairs for Kids factory - and sooner than expected they'll be in Iraq.

We are now striving for another load to Iraq, and for the goal for wheelchair assembly factories in Iraq, in the hands of Iraqi folk, so as to be able to ship with each container 1,000 unassembled chairs rather than 330 pre-assembled chairs, and hence help more children.

Many of you may know I coordinated one of Australia's computer recycling program, if not the largest, donating more than 55,000 computers, mostly to WA, and to many overseas destinations, and we have a goal of 1,000 recycled computers to Iraq.

Anyway, as progressive and caring types I am asking if you can donate something towards the shipment of containers of the children's wheelchairs. Any financial contribution will be obviously much appreciated.

Gerry Georgatas, UNAAWA



Farewell to Dr Kaye Murray

UNAAWA is sad to announce the death from lung cancer of Dr Kaye Murray PhD on 30 July. Kaye had been a member of UNAA for a long period. UNAAWA was honoured to launch two of her books.

Her book *Voice for Peace – The Spirit of a Social Activist Irene Greenwood 1898 – 1992* was launched in 2005. Her autobiography *Power of Peace – A Journalist's Story* was launched last November. She also wrote *For the Love of Peace: Women and Global Peace Building, 1995*.

Kaye Murray was a former ABC Radio National current affairs reporter. She was the producer of the ABC Radio National series *Resolution of Conflict: Everyone can win*, a co-production of the ABC and the *Conflict Resolution Network*, an organisation originally formed by UNAA. She represented that organisation and the *Women's League for Peace and Freedom* as an international media-accredited delegate.

Judith Parker AM, DSJ

Internships

The UNAAWA is very proud to support a number of interns by providing supervision and UN-related projects each year. As part of the learning experience, the UNAAWA interns liaise with the Executive members in relation to their selected topic and the students also have the opportunity to present their findings.

An example of the wonderful work being focused upon by our interns is demonstrated through the studies of Rebecca Casadio. From the middle of October to the beginning of December, Rebecca Casadio will be joining the organization to complete an internship for a practicum unit. Rebecca studies Italian and European Studies at the University of Western Australia, and is interested in exploring the particular values and ideals held by the United Nations as a possible career path.

While volunteering at the UNAAWA's office in Subiaco, Rebecca will be working on a manual outlining the International UN Days, describing how they have been celebrated in the past, as well as suggesting new ways of honouring them in the future. Drawing from a large amount of research, including personal interviews with long-term members, she will aim to format the manual in a way that is both very accessible to all members and easy enough to replicate if there is new information at hand. Rebecca looks forward to being of use to the organization in the next two months, and hopes to contribute something of high value at the end of her internship.

September / October Calendar

- Friday 30 September Human Rights Committee meeting, UNAAWA Office, noon
- Monday 10 October Environment Committee meeting, UNAAWA Office, 5.15pm
- Thursday 13 October Executive Committee meeting, UNAAWA Office, 5.30pm
- Tuesday 18 October Book Club, UNAAWA Office, 11am
- Sunday 23 October UNAAWA stall - Children's Week, Whiteman Park (village area), 10am—2pm.
For information please see:
<http://www.childrensweekwa.org.au/events/opening-event-at-whiteman-park/>



Peacekeeper bear

UN Dates

September

21st International Day of Peace

October

1st International Day for Older Persons

3rd World Habitat Day

4th - 10th World Space Week

10th World Mental Health Day

16th World Food Day

24th United Nations Day

24th - 30th Disarmament Week



Environment Committee Report

The UNAAWA Environment Committee would like to acknowledge the outgoing Executive Committee for 2011 and thank our new committee members for taking the reins as we head towards 2012.

The commencement of 2011 has involved the UNAAWA executive working hard as a team to get ready for the UNAA National Conference, recently hosted in Perth. It was a great success and I would like to personally thank one of the sponsors I approached, being Australian Ethical Funds management, who for 20 years here in Australia have been applying environmental screening to their investment selection in the management of the funds. We thank Phillip Vernon, the managing director of Australian Ethical and their management, not only for their sponsorship but also their dedication to supporting companies that support the environment.



I am pleased to report that the Environment Committee is starting to investigate ways of developing project partnerships with organisations and other committees as we head towards 2012. The role that the Environment Committee members will take, includes identifying global UN environment milestones or projects that are being supported in Perth and then building a network of partnerships to facilitate greater action for environmental issues in Perth collectively.

The Committee held their last meeting on 12 September 2011 and had the pleasure of being addressed by the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) Environment and Waste Team Environmental Policy Manager Jessica Sheppard. Ms Sheppard provided the committee with a comprehensive overview of the role WALGA play (in particular the Environment and Waste Team role) in the advocacy of environmental issues in relation to local government stakeholders.

Ms Sheppard talked to us about issues such as climate change, water security, waste policy and biodiversity protection policy that local governments are responsible for and how WALGA's advocacy role is to help local governments adopt best practice and uniform management of these and other issues across their 141 member local councils. On behalf of the Environment Committee we thank Jessica for her time and knowledge and look forward to working with her team in the future.

The Environment Committee is currently planning activities for the next 6 months so please keep an eye on the website and your emails. If you are interested in joining the Environment Committee, please contact the UNAAWA Office.

Paul Elkington, Environment Committee convenor, UNAAWA

Seeking a UNAAWA Treasurer

Our recently elected Treasurer, Gerry Georgatas, is unfortunately unable to take on the position due to other commitments. We are therefore urgently seeking a volunteer to take on the role of Treasurer.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact President Carolyn Gatward on 0417 459 978.



UNAA Conference 2011: A great success!

The UNAA 2011 National Conference was a great success drawing nearly 100 people to Perth from August 4-6 for the two day conference held at the Metro Hotel in South Perth. The conference addressed the progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with expert speakers for each goal addressing the conference over two days. Delegates included dignitaries from the Pacific Islands, the UN Youth Ambassador and rural members travelling from both rural WA and interstate. A roundtable discussion and Status of Women meeting were held prior to the conference on Friday 5 August.

The Hon Robyn McSweeney delivered the opening address at the Status of Women meeting. Following an indigenous welcome and the official opening on Friday 5 August, refugee children from Parkwood Primary School choir performed. Judith Parker awarded the Yolanda Frank Memorial Award to Si Yu Zhang from Parkwood Primary School. After morning tea, Susan Cromb, Eversley Mortlock, Jenni Ng, Trisha Langdon and Dr Brad Pettitt delivered presentations on topics including Achieving Universal Primary Education, Gender Equity and Empowerment, Maternal Health, Combating HIV Aids and Environmental Stability. Later in the afternoon, the floor was opened to delegates and comments and questions arising from the presentations were addressed.

Saturday August 6 opened with a panel of speakers including Benson Saulo, Claire Patterson and Cliff Morris talking on the International Years of Youth, Chemistry and Forests. Tim Costello delivered a fantastic presentation on the Elimination of Poverty and Robert Hill spoke on Global Partnerships for Development. Workshops on the eight MDGs facilitated brainstorming and discussion in groups. The progress of the MDGs in the Pacific was illustrated by the Pacific delegates in their presentations which marked the end of the formal proceedings. Delegates donned bright national dress and beautiful ball gowns at the gala dinner to hear Benson Saulo speak on the Relevance of the MDGs to Youth. The dinner wrapped up a highly successful and interesting conference. UNAAWA would like to thank all those who attended.

Jessica Watts



Professor Robert Hill, Neesha Seth, Elizabeth Shaw, Nkandu Beltz and Mr Russell Trood



Benson Saul— 2011 UNAA Youth Ambassador of Australia



UNAA rural delegates



Reverend Tim Costello AO, Dame Judith Parker AM DSJ and Professor Robert Hill, UNAA National President

UN Youth (WA) Report



The executive for 2011-2012 is as follows:

President	Ilona Quahe
Vice President (Administration)	Julia Crandell
Vice President (Hammarskjold Trophy Competition)	Bodie D'Orazio
Vice President (State Conference)	Ruth Collins
Policy	Robbie Williamson
Education	Sasha Quahe
Media, Communications & Membership	Sam Herriman
Regional	Amy Coetzee
Sponsorship	Callum Davidson

All members of the executive are extremely enthusiastic and capable and it will be an excellent year for UN Youth WA with these people at the helm.

UN Youth Voice

Throughout September, we will run the inaugural UN Youth Voice – a junior public speaking competition for years 8-10. The competition is being co-convened by Sasha Quahe and Grace Hutchison. The purpose of the competition is to give students an opportunity to develop public speaking skills and to learn about international or other issues in the process. The competition is split into two divisions by age group and includes five nights of rounds followed by a final. Students give one prepared and one impromptu speech.

The response from schools in this first year has been phenomenal with over 85 registrations from a wide range of different schools. The competition starts next week. We are also lucky enough to have Dr Sue Boyd, a career diplomat, as a guest judge at the final on 22 September.

Day Forum

We have a day forum scheduled for 4 November and Daniel Kirkby was elected as convenor. We will be using UN Youth Voice as an opportunity to promote this event. The event will engage a number of year 9 and 10 high school students from across the metropolitan area. In addition, we plan to run similar events to years past, whilst bringing some new ones to the table. Rather than re-hashing all our traditional events and activities, there are two other main initiatives that will be new this year, on top of UN Youth Voice.

This year we will also run a Southern Regional Conference, which will be similar to our State Conference but will run in the south-west of the state. Duke Cole has been elected as convenor of this conference. This conference will be held at the end of February.

Robbie Williamson, our Policy Officer, has been working on expanding our policy campaigns this year. Our policy topic is the extremely topical issue of asylum-seekers and refugees. He is currently working on a publicity stunt for early next year. The activity will draw attention to the UN's position on refugees and the basic facts of the issue – important things that are too often lost in the public debate.

Ilona Quahe, President—UN Youth (WA Division)

Letter from UNAAWA International Representative

21 September 2011

Dear Madam President, Executive and Members,

I quote from the United Nations mantle of Peace. The International Day of Peace 2011 ("Peace Day") provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly. The first Peace Day was celebrated in September 1982. In 2002, the General Assembly officially declared September 21 as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace.

By having an International Day of Peace, the UN devotes itself to worldwide peace and encourages all of humanity to work in cooperation for this goal. During the discussion of the UN Resolution that established the International Day of Peace, it was suggested that:

"Peace Day should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples... This day will serve as a reminder to all peoples that our organization, with all its limitations, is a living instrument in the service of peace and should serve all of us here within the organization as a constantly pealing bell reminding us that our permanent commitment, above all interests or differences of any kind, is to peace."

Since its inception, Peace Day has marked our personal and planetary progress toward peace. It has grown to include millions of people in all parts of the world, and each year events are organized to commemorate and celebrate this day. Events range in scale from private gatherings to public concerts and forums where hundreds of thousands of people participate.

Anyone, anywhere can celebrate Peace Day. It can be as simple as lighting a candle at noon, or just sitting in silent meditation. Or it can involve getting your co-workers, organization, community or government engaged in a large event. The impact if millions of people in all parts of the world, coming together for one day of peace, is immense.

International Day of Peace is also a Day of Ceasefire – personal or political. Take this opportunity to make peace in your own relationships as well as impact the larger conflicts of our time. Imagine what a whole Day of Ceasefire would mean to humankind.

Peacebuilding 101

Peacebuilding is different from "peacemaking" and "peacekeeping" in that it focuses on creating a long-term culture of peace, rather than solving existing conflicts or preventing old ones from re-occurring. Peacebuilding activities aim at building understanding and tolerance between individuals, communities and societies and establishing new structures of cooperation. Peacebuilding activities range in scale from personal acts of kindness toward others to global inter-governmental programs.

Definitions of Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding is the construction of new environments and new cultures which transform deficient structures, and capabilities which unite the strengths of emerging innovations in all pathways of our local-global planetary life. Peacebuilding creates and maintains beneficial conditions for sustainable (life-enhancing) social, economic, political and spiritual development of all peoples.

The Peacebuilding Commission plays a unique role

It brings together all of the relevant actors (including international donors, the international financial institutions, national governments, troop contributing countries); engages in marshalling resources and advises on and proposes integrated strategies for post-conflict peace building and recovery. Where appropriate, it highlights any gaps that threaten to undermine peace.

The concurrent General Assembly and Security Council resolutions establishing the Peacebuilding Commission also provided for the establishment of a Peacebuilding Fund and Peacebuilding Support Office, which together form the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. Australia has been integrally involved in global efforts to build and restore peace for more than 60 years. As a capable and dependable partner, Australian expertise is sought after in developing the framework for promoting Human Rights, protecting the most vulnerable and preventing a return to conflict. Australia's long term commitment to peace building is recognised by its active engagement as a member of United Nations Peace Building Commissions 2010.

I urge you all to carry forward the ethos of the United Nations into our local and distant communities, to portray yourself as an ambassador of the members of UN in upholding global peace.

Joseph A Caruso, UNAAWA International Representative

Red Cross Event - 'Make Nuclear Weapons the Target'

The Australian Red Cross has invited all UNAAWA members to attend an event entitled "**Make Nuclear Weapons the Target**" which will consider the humanitarian impact and international legal issues surrounding the use of nuclear weapons.

Speakers will include:

- Dr Chris Hubbard, Senior Lecturer Curtin University of Technology
- Mariko Ishii, Third generation Hiroshima survivor & antinuclear activist
- Dr Peter Underwood, Medical Association for Prevention of War VP.

The forum is being held from 6pm-7.30pm on Thursday 29 September 2011 at Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Level 10 Central Park, 152 St Georges Terrace. The event is free, however please RSVP to Vivienne Ryan on 9225 1928 or email vryan@redcross.org.au.

2012 Magabala Indigenous Diary

Released September 2011 by Magabala Books (Broome), this diary celebrates Aboriginal culture, the land and people. It includes significant artistic and other information, providing a beautiful keepsake and practical guide to Indigenous culture.

Features of the diary include the recognition of significant dates in history, inspirational artworks from Indigenous artists from around Australia and stunning photography from one of Australian's leading Indigenous photographers, Wayne Quilliam.

Dates and information on historical events are distributed throughout the diary, with short pithy explanations. Events such as the 1965 Freedom Ride, Tent Embassy and National Apology Day are all discussed and featured. The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies [AIATSIS] language map is prominently displayed with helpful planner information.

The 2012 Magabala Australian Indigenous Diary is available from September 2011 and on-line at www.magabala.com for \$29.95. Launched in 1987, Magabala Books is a not-for-profit Aboriginal Corporation based in Broome WA that aims to promote preserve and publish Indigenous Australian culture.

Establishment of Multicultural Women's Leadership Group

In 2011, the UNAAWA hosted a training program and worked with the Australian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Alliance (AIRWA). The program focused on leadership skills for women aged between 18 and 30 years of age. The program was very successful and the participants of the course, alongside interested UNAAWA members, have established a Multicultural Women's Leadership Group.

The group aims to meet monthly at the UNAAWA offices in Subiaco. If you want to find out more, please email Neesha Seth at: events@unaa-wa.org.au or call the Office.



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division

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
- **Read more about the Millennium project:** www.unmillenniumproject.org

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