



United Nations Association of Australia  
WA Division

# UNAAWA Newsletter

## President's Report

### Special points of interest:

- Remembering Wangari Maathai
- Yolande Frank Memorial Award is now open!
- UN Youth voice: our youth put their public speaking skills to the test.

On 27 January, a moving and well attended function for the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust was held (article inside) - well done to all involved for their efforts.

Our 2012 Planning Day in January was a great success. Thank you to everyone who participated. The calendar of events for 2012 is available on our website and it will be regularly updated. Its shaping up to be an exciting year. Some of the activities include:

- UNAAWA will be represented at various International Women's Day functions on 8-9 March (details inside if you would like to attend).
- In April, we are partnering with UN Youth WA to bring you a Q&A style evening at UWA where we will be looking at Australia's bid for a UN Security Council seat. The event is sponsored by the National Office. More information soon.
- Entries are open now for the Yolande Frank Memorial Award for children aged between 9-14 years old (see inside) - spread the word to young people and schools.
- A UN Day function — already we have support both from UN Young Women and UN Youth for this big event in October at the Constitution Centre. Proceeds from the Day will go to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- Brisbane will be hosting our UNAA National Conference from 22-24 August 2012.

Finally, a warm welcome to the new Environment Committee Co-Convenor, Amanda Joseph.

Many thanks for your continued support for our Association and I hope to see you at one of our events soon.

- *Carolyn Gatward*

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## Can you help please?

*Office volunteers* — do you have some time to help out in the UNAAWA office? There are morning, afternoon or full day shifts available at our lovely office in Subiaco. Your duties could include answering occasional phone calls, greeting visitors and helping with general administrative duties. Training is provided. Please contact Curtis, Office Manager on 6380 7304.

*Events volunteers*—are you interested in working with us to organise functions and help create new partnerships to strengthen UNAAWA? We are looking for new members for our Events Committee—and also members to help with short term events projects. Please contact Neesha via email to [events@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:events@unaa-wa.org.au).

## Empowering Women to Lead – CHOGM event

On 27 October 2011, the Honourable Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia invited guests to a landmark event, incorporated into CHOGM 2011. *Empowering Women to lead* commenced with a pre-dinner reception, hosted by Her Excellency, Quentin Bryce whom spoke of her passion to assist women to lead and humbly explained that we all stand on the shoulders of the women who led before us. At the commencement of the dinner, the guests were delighted to be addressed by The Honourable Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia who opened by highlighting the attributes of the exceptional panel.

The panelists included: the Honourable Julia Gillard MP, Prime Minister of Australia, the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar MP, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Sheikh Hasina MP Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Catherine Ashton, Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Honourable Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala MP, Minister for Finance of Nigeria and the Honourable Fiamé Naomi Mata'Afa MP, Minister for Justice of Samoa. The panel was skillfully facilitated by Virginia Haussegger, whom currently presents ABC news in Canberra.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr Kamalesh Sharma was also invited to speak prior to the commencement of the panel discussion. Notably, Mr Sharma explained that ‘...the test of the health of a society could be achieved through the measurement of the engagement of its women’. He is also later exclaimed that women ‘... hold half the sky up, why should they not inherit half’. Mr Shama also made the link between the empowerment of women and economic growth, which was later endorsed by the panel.

During the panel discussion, other pertinent points included the importance of education and the integration of this on the agenda of all parties within politics. The Honourable Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala MP explained that she had increased the participation of women at the local government level to assist with this education. All panelists agreed that there were challenges for women progressing however the Honourable Fiamé Naomi Mata'Afa MP made the relevant point that ‘...public life is an unparalleled opportunity to serve your country’. The latter point led to the panel discussing incentives, such as quotas for women participation on boards as well as funding for education programs.

The event was dynamic, inspirational and I believe, a catalyst for many guest to reflect and reinvigorate their approach to empowering women within their relevant contexts.

It is a truly inspirational moment when you are privy to the thoughts of women who have the courage of their convictions and the audacity to take action. It was also a great opportunity to network and share the important work of AIRWA and the UNAA.

- Neesha Seth, Vice President UNAAWA

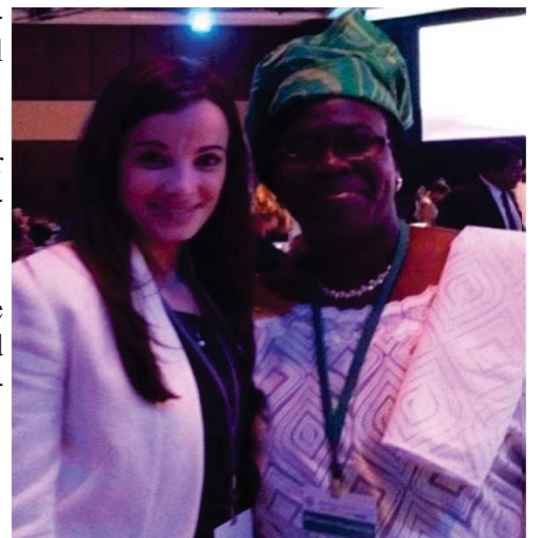


Photo: Neesha Seth & a Nigerian representative

## Commonwealth Youth Forum

UNAAWA Executive Member Nkandu Beltz, from Kununurra, was one of the 30 young Australians chosen to participate in the 8th Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) that led up to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

More than 130 delegates from 54 Commonwealth countries with different backgrounds - but all focussing on development, diversity and democracy - were present.

"This is our Commonwealth, our future," Ms Beltz said. "Many of the problems some Commonwealth countries face are preventable, 60% of the world population are youth and we need to have a voice in matters that affect us".

Ms Beltz was invited to present the summary of the CYF's communiqué to the Foreign Minister and other dignitaries. On behalf of 1.2 billion youth across the Commonwealth, she urged the Foreign Ministers to give youth a chance and hold them accountable if they do not deliver.

The core recommendation from the CYF was the establishment of an independent youth-led governing body to oversee the administration of a youth development fund. The other supporting recommendations centred around five key areas: peace building and conflict management, health, youth enterprise & IT, environmental sustainability (including climate change), and youth impact & participation in decision making.



Photo: Sebastian Robertson, Nkandu Beltz, Marcellus Cazaubon



## International Women's Day – Breakfast 9 March 2012 hosted by UN Women

We have booked a UNAAWA table for 10 people for the International Women's Day 9 March breakfast commencing at 7am at the Perth Convention Centre. Tickets are \$60 individuals / \$45 concession—please contact Carlyne Gatward on 0417 459 978 or email [gatty1@tpg.com.au](mailto:gatty1@tpg.com.au) (or the Office) if you would like to attend.

The guest speaker for the event is Sally Sara, ABC Afghanistan correspondent.

Sally Sara is an award winning journalist and foreign correspondent with the ABC. She has reported from more than 30 countries including Iraq, Lebanon and Sierra Leone. Sally has spent the past year covering the news from the frontline of the war in Afghanistan. During her career, she has broken the glass ceiling, as the first female correspondent appointed to the ABC's Africa, South Asia and Kabul bureaus. Sally has written for The New York Times and The Boston Globe and is the author of the bestselling biography, 'Gogo Mama.'

Sally has been named South Australian Young Journalist of the Year and Queensland Journalist of the Year. She has won United Nations Media Peace Awards and medals at the New York Festival Radio and Television Awards. She has been a finalist in the Walkley Awards for Journalism, six times. In 2011, Sally was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia for service to journalism and the community.

## UNAAWA Book Club Update

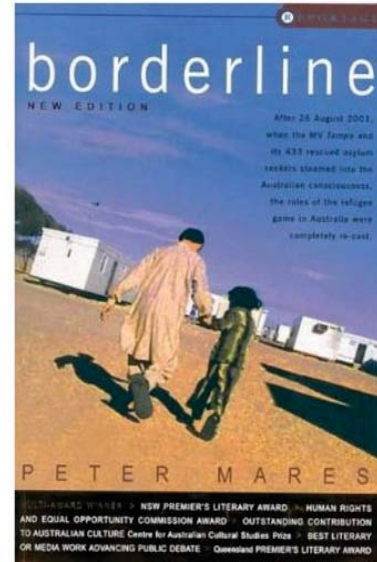
The Book Club last met to discuss the Peter Mares book, “Borderline”. Those present found the book a difficult read because of the extensive detail the author used to make a case that was sympathetic to refugees and to onshore processing.

Even the new edition was dated 2002 (the first edition was just post 9/11). So none of us felt that we gained much “new” information—nor were we exposed to arguments for a strong border protection policy.

At the meeting, it was decided that UNAAWA members should be asked whether the day and the time of the Book Club meetings should be changed to attract more members – for example, an evening time for those with a full day time schedule.

Please either call or email the office with your opinion. Members of the Book Club would also be interested in knowing if any UNAAWA member has read a book they enjoyed & would like to send the office the title and author of the book — and/or perhaps a short review that would be suitable for publication in a future edition of the newsletter.

*Nola Andrews - Convenor*



## United Nations - Important Dates

### February

**20th — World Day of Social Justice**

**21st — International Mother Language Day**

### March

**8th — International Women’s Day**

**21st — International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

**22nd — World Day for Water**



## Yolande Frank Memorial Award 2012

### *A Creative Expression of the Declaration of Human Rights*

2012 is the third year of the award in memory of Yolande Frank, a long time member of UNAAWA and survivor of the Holocaust who passed away in 2009. Yolande had a passion to ensure that the children of WA should understand the importance the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The inaugural award in 2010 was won by Amanda (aged 11 years) from Rossmoyne Primary School. The 2011 award was won by Si Yu Zhang (aged 11 years), from the Intensive English Centre, Parkwood Primary School.

This year UNAAWA calls for creative expressions of Article 26 part 1 of the Declaration of Human Rights:

*Everyone has the right to education, education shall be free, and at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on a basis of merit.*



Teacher's education kits are available from UNAAWA office, free of charge.

The award is open to children aged between 9 - 14 years as at the closing date of the award, 31 July 2012.

Prize: A cheque for \$200 and book presentation for the artist and a cheque for \$100 to the school library to purchase teaching aids or books focusing on human rights issues.

**Photo: Highly Commended, Yolande Frank Memorial Award 2010**

Entries may be submitted in the following forms - drawing, painting, collage, screen print, charcoal, water colour or pastels. The winning entry remains the property of UNAAWA.

Size: Minimum A4 [21cm x 29.5cm] or maximum 37cm x 70cm.

Entries should be clearly marked with the child's name, age, school and contact details on the back.

Entries are to be posted or delivered to:

United Nations Australia Association WA  
Yolande Frank Memorial Committee  
St John of God Serviced Offices, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Arcadia House  
1 Roydhouse Street  
SUBIACO WA 6008.

Entries must be received by 3pm Tuesday 31 July 2012.

Enquiries to Judith Parker 95272438; email: [judithannparker@bigpond.com](mailto:judithannparker@bigpond.com).

The award will be announced at the AGM of UNAAWA in August.

Arrangements will be made with the school of the winning entry to present the award.

All children who enter will receive a participation certificate.

The decision of the judges is final. The appointed judges are Diana Warnock, Owen Loneragan and a representative of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia.

# UNAAWA celebrates Children's Week at Whiteman Park



UNAAWA attended this popular Whiteman Park fair alongside other organisations to celebrate Children's Week 2011.

The event included members from our Women's Multicultural Leadership Group creating and engaging in arts and craft with the children—while parents had the opportunity to learn more about the valuable work of the UNAAWA.

Around 70 children entered the "Name the Bear" competition, which gave them the chance to win a special collector's item UN Peacekeeper teddy bear.



The winning name was "Percy the Peacekeeper".

It was a lovely day and a great opportunity for us to engage with our local community.

UNAAWA has been invited to attend the event again for Children's Week 2012 and we look forward to the opportunity.



## Inaugural *UN Youth Voice*



Towards the end of 2011, UN Youth WA ran its inaugural junior public speaking competition *UN Youth Voice*. Engaging with students from years 8 to 10, students were separated into junior (Years 8 and 9) and senior (Year 10) divisions and were given a choice of a range of topics to prepare and deliver.

The night also involved an impromptu speech given to participants who had just 10 minutes to prepare and then deliver the speech to an expectant audience.

There were over 85 registrations and 20 schools competed, with the final held at UWA. Career diplomat Sue Boyd sat on the panel of judges, helping to finalise the difficult decision of choosing a winner of each division.

Students broached broad subject matters, anything from global hunger to obesity – leaving all audiences with a sense of what issues were important to young people, and what an impressive and engaged bunch of young people the competitors were.

## International Story of Interest – Wangari Maathai

### *Wangari Maathai, first African woman to win Nobel Peace Prize, dies*

extracts from the article by JASON STRAZIUSO AND TOM ODULA

Wangari Maathai, the first African woman recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, has died after a long struggle with cancer. She was 71. One of Kenya's most recognizable women, Ms. Maathai won the Nobel in 2004 for combining environmentalism and social activism.

She was the founder of the Green Belt Movement <<http://greenbeltmovement.org/>>, where over 30 years she mobilized poor women to plant 30 million trees. In recognizing Ms. Maathai, the Nobel committee said that she had stood up to a former oppressive regime in Kenya and that her "unique forms of action have contributed to drawing attention to political oppression."

Ms. Maathai said during her 2004 acceptance speech that the inspiration for her life work came from her childhood experiences in rural Kenya, where she witnessed forests being cleared and replaced by commercial plantations, which destroyed biodiversity and the capacity of forests to conserve water.

Although the Green Belt Movement's tree planting campaign did not initially address the issues of peace and democracy, Ms. Maathai said it became clear over time that responsible governance of the environment was not possible without democracy.

"Therefore, the tree became a symbol for the democratic struggle in Kenya. Citizens were mobilized to challenge widespread abuses of power, corruption and environmental mismanagement," Ms. Maathai said.

Tributes have poured out for Ms. Maathai, including from Kenyans who remember planting trees alongside her as schoolchildren. One popular posting on Twitter has noted that Ms. Maathai's knees always seemed to be dirty from showing VIPs how to plant trees. A long time friend and fellow professor at the University of Nairobi, Vertistine Mbaya said that Ms. Maathai showed the world how important it is to have and demonstrate courage.

"The values she had for justice and civil liberties and what she believed were the obligations of civil society and government," Ms. Mbaya said. "She also demonstrated the importance of recognizing the contributions that women can make & allowing them the open space to do so."



*Photo: Wangari Maathai with Barack Obama (2006)*

A former member of Kenya's parliament, Ms. Maathai was the first woman to earn a doctorate in East Africa – in 1971 from the University of Nairobi, where she later was an associate professor in the department of veterinary anatomy. She previously earned degrees from Mount St. Scholastica College in Atchison, Kansas and the University of Pittsburgh.

Ms. Maathai first latched on to the idea of widespread tree planting while serving as the chairwoman of the National Council of Women in Kenya during the 1980s.

The Green Belt Movement, which was founded in 1977, has said on its website that Ms. Maathai's death was a great loss to those who "admired her determination to make the world a more peaceful, healthier and better place."

Ms. Maathai is survived by her three children.

*[reported from Nairobi, The Associated Press, 26 September 2011]*

# International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

On Friday 27 January 2012, the UNAAWA observed this important date at a function hosted by NCJWA in collaboration with the Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society of WA.

Despite the extreme heat, over 80 people attended, including representatives from the Office of Multicultural Interests, Umbrella, National Council of Women, the Catholic Women's League, the Jewish Community Council, Bridges of Peace and AUJS. A display of Holocaust books, DVDs and other material attracted a great deal of interest.

The event was chaired by UNAAWA's Judith Parker AM DSJ, who spoke of the legacy of Yolande Frank in dedicating her life to teaching children about the meaning of the International Declaration of Human Rights. Yolande's work is now celebrated with an annual UNAAWA art competition for children, in which a clause of the Declaration is chosen to be illustrated.

Judith Parker also spoke of the UN Secretary-General's message to the world that children must be taught about human rights and the Holocaust. She also referred to last year's commemoration at the Holocaust Memorial in the Stirling Gardens in Perth, a monument she suggested everyone should visit.

In keeping with the message about children, the film "Into the Arms of Strangers" was shown. Even for those who had seen it before, it was an intensely moving experience to watch families consent to be torn apart so that their children could be sent to safety in a land that was foreign to them in every way, and the subsequent lives and thoughts of those people. After Kristallnacht, the British Government's agreement to the proposal that Jewish children must be rescued paved the way for many thousands of young lives to be saved. Even so, this did not prevent this same Government from deporting some of the older boys on the Dunera as enemy aliens.

The magic of this film is enhanced in the way old and current images are used as people's childhood memories are told, with liberal usage of original film footage. As the old photographs were screened, one scanned the faces for resemblance to the old people now telling their stories on film. A sensitively delivered commentary by Dame Judi Dench gave the film continuity.

Following the film, Michael Zusman read out a testimony by his mother Lore, whose happy and privileged childhood in Koenigsberg was torn apart after the Nazis confiscated the family business. With her father fleeing to escape the nightly roundup, the family was split up. Lore was able to leave with her sister by train. On the train were about 500 children, all crying and traumatised. She was placed with all the girls in a home in Belgium and later transferred to a home in Brussels. The kindness of the people running this home ("Yvonne de Vielsnet") was such that, although being only 12, she resolved to name her daughter Yvonne if she had one. And she did.

This is the third year of the commemoration in Perth by the groups involved.

*Extract of article by Sue Levy (NCJWA)*

## UNAA Polo Shirts available

The UNAAWA, Eclipse Universal and much appreciated sponsors, DJ 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).

We encourage you to purchase this trendy polo to assist with our educational activities and awareness-raising of UN related issues, as well as helping to raise funds for our upcoming projects.

For more information, please contact Neesha Seth by email to [events@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:events@unaa-wa.org.au) or liaise with the Office.



## Human Rights Day Breakfast

The UNAAWA paired with the Young Lawyers Society (WA) on 8 December 2011 to mark International Human Rights Day. The audience was intrigued and challenged by a well-articulated presentation by Dr Michael Ondaatje.

Dr Ondaatje's presentation was titled '*Martin Luther King, the United Nations, and the struggle for Human Rights: A Historian's perspective*'. The speech contextualised the long journey in history towards enforcing human rights and marked the important place in history that Martin Luther King had in this movement.

Dr Ondaatje epitomised the ideology of needing to know where you have come from to know where you are going. It is not often that we are exposed to such a breadth of knowledge that is so well linked to our current day understanding. The event involved individuals dialling in from regional areas and a question time that proved very rewarding for the participants. It was a pleasure to pair with the Young Lawyers Society and we look forward to bring our members more enticing events—please visit: [www.unaa-wa.org.au](http://www.unaa-wa.org.au) or email: [events@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:events@unaa-wa.org.au).



Photo: Neesha Seth, Judith Parker and Carlyne Gatward with Dr Ondaatje and members of the Young Lawyers Society WA.

## UNAA National Conference 2012 - Brisbane

**Day 1. Wednesday 22 August:** Round table sessions (six – eight). Topics will be drawn from the following: Academic Network, Climate Change, Constitution/referendum, Disarmament, Global Compact, Governance, Human Rights, the Pacific, Parliamentary Group, Peace & Security, Responsibility to Protect, Status of Women, WHO, HIV/AIDS Women -Violence & Trafficking, Women - Empowerment.

**Day 2 & 3 Thursday 23 – Friday 24 August**

UNAA National Conference “The Future is in Your Hands”: Focusing on: Peace & Security, Sustainable Development, Human Rights and Life after Rio+20.

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