



United Nations Association of Australia  
WA Division

MAY 2012

# UNAAWA Newsletter

## President's Report

Dear Members,

We have a blockbuster issue for you this month! We have been exceptionally busy with many different activities and events as you will see.

It is my great pleasure to invite you to a morning tea reception at the State Library of WA on Monday 18 June 2012, from 9.15am—10.30am for the opening of our 'Lessons from Rwanda' exhibit.

The exhibit will be officially opened by His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker, Governor of WA and patron of UNAAWA. The event will also include remarks from guest speaker Professor Mick Broderick of Murdoch University, who was part of the Sustaining Reconciliation in Rwanda project.

The purpose of the exhibition is to raise awareness of the lessons to be learned from the genocide, to generate discussion on the responsibility of the international community for the prevention of genocide and to raise awareness of the lasting impact of genocide on survivors. I do hope you can join us.

If you are able to attend this morning tea reception, please RSVP by phoning the Office on 6380 7304 or email [office@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:office@unaa-wa.org.au) by Thursday 14 June.

Please also check out our other forthcoming events (details inside), including:

*Women Leaders in the Green Economy* (5 June—celebrating World Environment Day)

*Yolande Frank Memorial Competition—Fundraising Lunch* (9 June)

*Lessons from Rwanda Exhibition* (State Library, 16—24 June).

It's an exciting time for the Association and as always, your involvement is much appreciated. Please check our website, our Facebook page or telephone our volunteers at the office if you would like to make any suggestions or obtain more information about our work and activities.  
*(Carolyn Gatward)*

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## UNAAWA Environment Committee — Rio+20 Briefing

### RIO + 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development National Briefing & Q&A Held 2 April 2012, Palms Community Centre, Subiaco

*Presented by Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population  
& Communities (Rio+20 taskforce) and UNAAWA*

The Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, is being held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 20-22 June 2012. David Forsyth, of the Australian Rio+20 taskforce, provided an overview on the process the Department has undertaken to canvas stakeholders on the aspects on which the Australian government has built its agenda of representation for the critical issues at the Rio + 20 event.

The 7 critical issues are:

- Jobs** - Economic action and social policies to create gainful employment are critical for social cohesion and stability. Its also crucial that work is geared to the needs of the natural environment. "Green jobs" are positions in agriculture, industry, services and administration that contribute to preserving or restoring the quality of the environment.
- Energy** - Sustainable energy is needed for strengthening economies, protecting ecosystems and achieving equity. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is leading a Sustainable Energy for All initiative to ensure universal access to modern energy services, improve efficiency and increase use of renewable sources
- Cities** - Cities are hubs for ideas, commerce, culture, science, productivity, social development and much more. At their best, cities have enabled people to advance socially and economically. However, many challenges exist to maintaining cities in a way that continues to create jobs and prosperity while not straining land and resources
- Food** - A profound change of the global food and agriculture system is needed if we are to nourish today's 925 million hungry and the additional 2 billion people expected by 2050. The food and agriculture sector offers key solutions for development, and is central for hunger and poverty eradication.
- Water** - Water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security, livelihood choices and educational opportunities for poor families across the world. Drought afflicts some of the world's poorest countries, worsening hunger and malnutrition. By 2050, at least one in four people is likely to live in a country affected by chronic or recurring shortages of fresh water.
- Oceans** - The world's oceans - their temperature, chemistry, currents and life - drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. Our rainwater, drinking water, weather, climate, coastlines, much of our food, and even the oxygen in the air we breathe, are all ultimately provided and regulated by the sea
- Disasters** - caused by earthquakes, floods, droughts, hurricanes, tsunamis and more can have devastating impacts on people, environments and economies. But resilience -- the ability of people and places to withstand these impacts and recover quickly -- remains possible. Smart choices help us recover from disasters, while poor choices make us more vulnerable.



**RIO+20**  
United Nations  
Conference on  
Sustainable  
Development

*(continued next page)*

## Rio+20 briefing (continued)

David discussed the rationale behind each of the critical issues and the Australian government's approach that will be put forward to other nations at the Rio Conference. In attendance were representatives from the Conservation Council WA, educational institutions, local government and State government departments including the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Many questions were asked, including in relation to:

- the consultation process the taskforce used to collate the information on the priorities identified in each of the 7 key themes;
- clarifying the background around the themes;
- the lack of consultation with WA potential stakeholders especially in the areas of conservation, water and biodiversity habitat protection;
- the process for an organisation to be included as a stakeholder for future feedback to the Department.



The briefing was enjoyed by everyone in attendance. Thanks to Amanda Joseph for representing the Environment Committee and opening the event and thanks to Carolyn Gatward and other members of UNAANA for helping to find a venue, sending out the invitations, following-up and then assisting on the night. It was an excellent group effort. Finally, the Department of Sustainability Environment, Water, Population and Communities are thanked for enabling UNAANA to organise the night.

For more information, please see the website <http://www.environment.gov.au/> with the link to Rio+20 via the events tab on the homepage.

## United Nations—Important Dates

### May

- 3 May — World Press Freedom Day**
- 15 May — International Day of Families**
- 22 May — International Day for Biological Diversity**
- 29 May — International Day of UN Peacekeepers**
- 31 May — World NO-TOBACCO Day [WHO]**

### June

- 5 June—World Environment Day**
- 8 June—World Oceans Day**
- 12 June— World Day against Child Labour**
- 20 June— World Refugee Day**
- 26 June— International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking**
- 26 June—International Day in support of Victims of Torture**

For more information, visit <http://www.un.org/en/events/observances/days.shtml>

# Women Leaders in the **Green** 5 June **Economy**

Join the United Nations Association of Australia WA Branch and Young UN Women Australia Perth in celebrating World Environment Day on 5 June 2012!

## Speakers include:

**Belinda Bastow** Anglo-Gold Ashanti  
**Kim Holland** Organic Waste Solutions  
**Jenny Campbell** Encycle Consulting  
**Donna Pershke** URS Australia Pty Ltd

\$15 for financial members of UN Women Australia and the UNAA; \$20 for non-members.

Central Park Theatre, 152-158 St Georges Terrace, Perth  
6.15 pm for 6.30 pm start

Tickets are available at [www.trybooking.com/BMOM](http://www.trybooking.com/BMOM)  
Contact: [perthyouth@unwomen.org.au](mailto:perthyouth@unwomen.org.au)

***Our vision is of a world where all women have equal access to opportunities and positions of leadership.***

This event is proudly supported by the City of Perth and CitySwitch Green Office signatory, Central Park Management.



CITY of PERTH



CENTRAL  
PARK

## National Conference 2012

The UNAA National Conference 2012 is being held in Brisbane. Over 150 Speakers/presenters/delegates are expected from overseas and throughout Australia.

The conference will consider the steps that need to be taken on international, national, state and regional levels to ensure a peaceful and secure world. More details are provided below.

**The 2012 UNAA NATIONAL Conference** will welcome delegates to Brisbane from all Australian States, and New Zealand, from Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Asian UN Associations.

### THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

#### **Day 1. Wednesday 22 August, 1.30–5.30pm**

A series of round Table Sessions in the Brisbane metropolitan area will focus on

1. Education MDG 2
2. Status of Women empowering women. MDG 3
3. Health- what are the issues? MDG 4, 5 & 6
4. Global systems for Sustainability MG7
5. The UN Global Compact MDG 8
6. Governance & Rule of Law
7. Major contemporary challenges -human Rights
8. Militarism - Disarmament –R2P – choosing peace.
9. Democracy and the UN. Can the UN System be effective?
10. Ethical Approach to Refugees - Racism
11. Climate change and Sustainable Development in the Pacific
12. Academic Network

#### **Day 2 Thursday 23 August, 7.30am –5pm**

Welcome, Conference Breakfast, The UN, Peace & Security, The Next Generation, the Rule of Law, Plus more  
6pm Socratic Forum



#### **Day 3 Friday 24 August:, 9am–5pm**

Climate Change, Governance, Global Compact, Plus more  
6.30pm UNAA Conference Gala Dinner.

*Note Program may change slightly*

## UNAAWA Human Rights Committee – Rwanda Exhibition

**Reception & Morning Tea**  
**With opening by His Excellency Mr. Malcolm McCusker, Governor of WA**

Monday 18 June 2012  
 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Guest speaker: Professor Mick Broderick, Murdoch University**  
**"Rebuilding after Genocide – Sustaining Reconciliation"**

**To RSVP** for the morning tea reception, please email: [office@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:office@unaa-wa.org.au) or phone the UNAAWA office on tel: (08) 6380 7304, **by Thursday 14 June.**

Volunteers are needed for the UNAAWA's showing of the "Lessons from Rwanda" exhibit at the State Library of WA during Refugee Week (16 - 24 June).

In the lead up to World Refugee Day on 20 June 2012, UNHCR is asking people to reflect on what causes conflict and displacement in the world today and to think about the dilemmas faced by refugees who are often forced to choose between the horrific or something worse.

The Rwanda genocide was one such horrific tragedy that unfolded while the international community, most significantly the UN Security Council, stood by and did nothing. There was and still is much to be learned from the case of Rwanda in terms of humanitarian intervention for the protection of civilians. These lessons are crucially relevant today as we face issues of gross human rights violations in places such as Libya and Syria.

The "Lessons from Rwanda" exhibit is an excellent educational tool which has been shown in more than 15 countries around the world. It was launched at UN Headquarters in New York for the 13th commemoration of the Rwanda genocide and has been shown at venues such as the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania, at a former World War II SS concentration camp in the Netherlands and at the Capetown Holocaust Centre in South Africa.



A reading by professional actors takes place during the memorial ceremony at UN Headquarters to mark the 18th anniversary of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

Source: UN Photo

We are very honoured to be able to bring it to Perth and to show it in the State Library, where it will have significant public visibility during this week.

What's in it for you??

- Learn about genocides in history and the use of the term in international law
- Inform yourself about the events leading up to and during the Rwanda genocide
- Learn about the impact of genocide on survivors, even many years on
- Engage with community members who wish to know more about the UN and the UN Association. A great chance to recruit newcomers!

Volunteers will be provided with resources to distribute to people who want further information concerning the UN and the prevention of genocide, the responsibility to protect and other topics. The main responsibilities are to monitor visitor numbers, distribute materials and engage with members of the public seeking further information on the exhibit or the UNAA-WA. Shifts are around 3 hours long but if you can do less, we would still love your help!

Please call or email the office on 6380 7304 or [office@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:office@unaa-wa.org.au) to discuss your availability. Thank you.

Refugee  
Week



The United Nations Association of Australia  
(WA Division) presents

## “Lessons from Rwanda”



**Saturday 16 June to Sunday 24 June 2012**  
**as part of Refugee Week**

**State Library of Western Australia**  
(James St entrance, Perth City)

Refugee Week 2012 provides an opportunity for us all to reflect on what causes conflict and displacement in the world today and to think about the dilemmas faced by refugees who are often forced to choose between the horrific or something worse.

The Rwanda genocide was one such horrific tragedy that unfolded while the international community stood by. There was and still is much to be learned from Rwanda in terms of humanitarian intervention for the protection of civilians. These lessons are crucially relevant today as we face issues of gross human rights violations in places such as Libya and Syria.

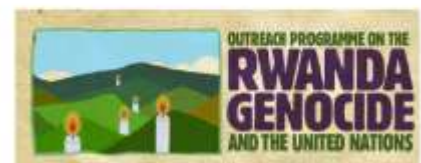
The "Lessons from Rwanda" exhibit is an educational exhibit from the *United Nations Outreach Programme on the Rwanda Genocide*, which has been shown in more than 15 countries around the world.

For more information, contact Ms. Renata Sivacolundhu on tel: 0421 167 127 or email: [renata\\_sivacolundhu@yahoo.com.au](mailto:renata_sivacolundhu@yahoo.com.au)



**United  
Nations  
Association  
of Australia**

The UNAAWA gratefully acknowledges the support of the State Library of Western Australia and the United Nations Outreach Programme on the Rwanda Genocide and the UN for this showing.



## 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.





United Nations Association of Australia  
WA Division

## **Yolande Frank Memorial Competition Fundraising Luncheon**

**On Saturday 9th June 2012 from 11:30am to 2:30pm**



**First Prize Yolande Frank 2011 Competition**

**UNAAWA, Level 1, 1 Roydhouse Street, SUBIACO**

Short walk from Subiaco Station. See <http://www.unaa-wa.org.au/contact.php>

**Guest Speaker: *Renata Sivacolundhu***

**Topic: *An Australian at U.N. New York***

Light Lunch after talk

Please donate \$20 to Yolande Frank Award fund

Raffle available

RSVP or inquiries : UNAAWA office [office@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:office@unaa-wa.org.au) 6380 7304

# International Day of UN Peacekeepers—29 May



*(UN Photo/Marie Frechon)*

2012 celebrates 64 years since the UN pioneered peacekeeping in 1948.

During this time, peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the UN to assist host countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace.

United Nations peacekeeping operations are a vital instrument employed by the international community to advance peace & security across the globe.

Peacekeeping operations are comprised of civilian, police and military personnel guided by three basic principles: consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.

Today's multidimensional peacekeeping operations are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; support the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights and assist in restoring the rule of law.

As of 31 March 2012, the workforce consisted of: 84,186 serving troops and military observers; 14,421 police personnel; 5,468 international civilian personnel (31 December 2011); 12,290 local civilian staff (31 December 2011) & 2,421 UN Volunteers. 117 countries contribute military and police personnel; as the UN does not have its own military force it depends on these contributions from Member States.



*An officer from the UNMIT's Military Liaison Group plays football with children in Timor-Leste. (Photo: Martine Perret)*

International Day of the United Nations Peacekeepers has two purposes; the first is to honour the memory of the UN peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the cause of peace. Since the first UN Peacekeeping mission was established in 1948, more than 2,980 military, police and civilian personnel have lost their lives in the service of peace as a result of acts of violence, accidents and disease.

The second purpose is to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in UN Peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage. In addition, the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal is awarded posthumously to the peacekeepers who have fallen while serving in the cause of peace, during the preceding year. It is with the knowledge that so many men & women continue to work toward a more peaceful world that we pause & salute them.

*(Ailsa Allen, UNAOWA member)*

# UN Environment Day—5 June 2012– A Green Economy

The UN 2012 Environment Day focus is a “Green and Sustainable World”.

*“The UN Environment Programme defines the Green Economy as one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive.*

*Practically speaking, a Green Economy is one whose growth in income and employment is driven by public and private investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. These investments need to be catalysed and supported by target public expenditures, policy reforms and regulation changes.”*

Our planet of land, sea and air is constantly under threat from manmade, industrial factors and natural disasters with impacts to the wellbeing and longevity of our greater natural environment, human livelihoods, food production, water and atmosphere quality in which we all share a connection.

The current ongoing international and Australian debate encompassing Environmental Corporate Social Responsibility, challenges, solutions of “the protection and safekeeping” to the ecology biosphere terrestrial and oceans of the planet, namely, the principles set out in the United Nations global compact form the ethical foundation on global sustainability, to ensuring that future generations enjoy a healthy environment, stable economic and social enduring life living standard, are all very much in the forefront of modern day headlines.

The United Nations’ compact principles of universal, environmental and social principles and of sustainability principles generally cover, but are not limited to:

- Supporting environmental strategic management
- Compliance with Human Rights
- Analysing ecological and social impacts
- Implementing sustainable programming and monitoring
- Constant review of programs.

Irrespective of NGO corporate and Government agenda, the International recognised and accepted Model ISO14001 (Environmental Certification) it comes down to the individual initiative to:

- Increase awareness to the range of sustainability of products, goods and services, he or she purchases.
- Reduce carbon footprint by use of emission free and friendly goods and services and initiatives.
- Education and implementing activities that are responsible to our environment.

Currently in Australia, the debate on Carbon Tax and emissions reduction is alive and complex. There is a real opportunity to each of us to make our mark on Australia’s Climate “Carbon Footprint” Strategy, by taking into account, social governance and sustainable commitment to the land, sea and oceans which support our human survival and habitation.

Protecting our environment is our core and first fundamental principle in moral, ethical and social value. Your heart will allow you the feeling, your mindset will allow you to make the decision and your actions will impact on the world that we wish to save for our future generations for we are all empowered as custodians and stewards.

***JOSEPH A. CARUSO, UNAOWA International Representative***

## **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)