



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division

JUNE 2012

UNAANA Newsletter

President's Report



It has been a tremendous month for UNAANA with three very successful activities - a partnership event with Young UN Women for World Environment Day, the Yolande Frank Memorial Award lunch and the Lessons from Rwanda exhibition (details inside).

Many thanks in particular to everyone who generously volunteered to assist with the Rwanda exhibition. I am delighted to advise that approximately 450 people viewed the exhibition - a most impressive achievement for our Association. Special thanks to Renata Sivacolundhu for her outstanding effort in co-ordinating the exhibition from beginning to end.

The Association's Annual General Meeting is **2pm on Sunday 12 August** at the UNAANA's Subiaco Office. Please consider nominating for a position on our Executive Committee to help contribute to our valuable work. Nomination forms are available from the Office or our website. Contact either the Office or I if you would like more information. We are also keen to hear from people interested in helping with events - or perhaps with writing a short article for this newsletter - just let us know if you can assist.

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We are presently developing a membership survey to find out more about our members - to establish what our members really like (or dislike!) about our Association and to receive suggestions about what we could offer members in the future. The survey will be available in both hard copy and on the internet and there will be some prize giveaways to encourage responses. Watch this space.

Our National President, the Hon Robert Hill, has been recently awarded a Companion to the Order of Australia for his public service and commitment to the community. UNAANA conveys its heartiest congratulations to Robert, who is a former Australian Ambassador to the UN, and especially thanks him for his significant contribution to UNAA for the past three years. UNAA continues to do amazing work in a broad range of areas, for example, recently undertaking very successful pilot model UNs in both Tonga and Vanuatu as part of the Pacific project.

You are all invited to the UNAA National Conference to be held in Brisbane from 22-24 August 2012. For more information or to register, contact the Office or see the events section of the UNAA Queensland's website (<http://www.unaaqld.org.au>). As a UNAANA member, you may also wish to attend the National Council meeting on 25 August as an observer.

This year on 18 July is Nelson Mandela's 94th birthday. In 2009, the UN declared 18 July to be "Nelson Mandela International Day". The UN has joined a call by the Nelson Mandela Foundation for people, if possible, to devote **67 minutes** of time helping others on this special day.

The figure of "67" recognises the number of years that Nelson Mandela has spent in the service of humanity — as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker and as president of South Africa. The activity can be something very simple like donating goods or helping someone in need. To see 67 suggestions for action, visit the Nelson Mandela Foundation website.

- *Carolyn Gatward*

UNAAWA Human Rights Committee—Rwanda Exhibition

The “Lessons from Rwanda” educational exhibit about the horrors of the Rwanda genocide opened on 18 June at the State Library of WA. The exhibit was one of many activities throughout Australia in commemoration of Refugee Week and was opened by His Excellency Malcolm McCusker, Governor of WA and Patron of the United Nations Association of Australia’s WA Division.

“We all have a role to play in the prevention of genocide: government representatives, civil society organizations, the media, religious groups and each and every one of us. Understanding the warning signs that lead to such tragic events is a key part of prevention and the “Lessons from Rwanda” exhibition is an important contribution to that effort,” explained Governor McCusker.

The opening event also featured guest speaker Mick Broderick, Associate Professor and Research Coordinator in the School of Media, Communication & Culture at Murdoch University, who is part of a multi-disciplinary University project entitled “Sustaining Reconciliation in Rwanda”.

“Despite the tragedy of the genocide, the resilience and pragmatism of the many Rwandans I have met continues to inspire me. Their stories of survival, hope for the future, and reconciliation, are lessons we in Australia, along with the rest of the international community, can draw strength from,” said Professor Broderick.

Representatives from the Rwandan community in Perth welcomed the exhibit as an important tool for increasing understanding about the events of 1994 and promoting ethnic tolerance.

“Every person who sees this exhibit will understand that it is the responsibility of us all to prevent such a tragedy from happening again, whether in Africa or closer to home,” said Celestin Ngoga, a Perth resident from Rwanda.

Another Perth resident, Mussa Gatera, knows the horrors of the Rwanda genocide first-hand. His parents and five siblings were brutally murdered in 1994, during 100 days of violence, which saw the slaughter of more than 800,000 Rwandans while the international community stood by.

Mr Gatera sought refuge in South Africa with his only surviving brother and nephew, however the violence soon followed. In 2008, his brother was murdered and his shop burned down in a wave of xenophobia against refugees. Finally, he sought protection in Australia where he has settled in Perth with his wife and young daughter. His nephew remains in South Africa. Deeply traumatized by his experience, he underscores the importance of understanding what happened in 1994 and learning from the tragedy.

“We can learn to forgive but we should never forget. The lessons to be learned from Rwanda are important for everyone, not just for Rwandans”, said Mr Gatera.

The exhibit, which was free, was showing at the State Library of WA throughout Refugee Week, from Saturday 16 June to Sunday 24 June.

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. See www.un.org/preventgenocide/rwanda for more information.

If you know an organization who would be interested in hosting the “Lessons from Rwanda” exhibit, please contact Renata Sivacolundhu on ph. 0421 167 127 or email renata_sivacolundhu@yahoo.com.au.

[Renata Sivacolundhu, UNAAWA member]



Photo (left): Governor Malcolm McCusker, Patron of UNAANA, opens the exhibit.



Photo: (below): an attentive audience at the opening.



Photo: Judith Parker, Past President UNAANA, addresses the audience.

Yolande Frank Memorial Award—Fundraising Luncheon

On 9 June, a group of friends of the late Yolande Frank met to raise money for the 2012 Memorial Award. The aim was to raise funds to cover the cost of the 2012 prizes. The lunch was held in the meeting room of the UNAAWA offices. The guest speaker was Renata Sivacolundhu who spoke of her experiences as an Australian working at UN New York and the lessons she had learnt. Renata's speech was most informative and gave those attending a thoughtful insight into the inner working of the UN. Question time was lively and discussion continued over a delicious lunch supplied by a small committee of members.

It was a great time to remember Yolande and her interest in the Association and, in particular, her interest in the Declaration of Human Rights. Donations and the raffle raised \$635 towards the prize money for 2012. Sincere thanks to those who attended, donated food and raffle prizes to make the day most successful. This year's award closes on 31 July and judging will be on 1 August. Judges include Diana Warnock, Owen Loneragan and a representative of the National Council of Jewish Women. WA school children are asked to illustrate Article 26 dealing with the right to education. 2012 is the third year of the award.

(Judith A. Parker AM DSJ, Chair of the Yolande Frank Memorial Award Committee.)



[Photo: Guest speaker Renata Sivacolundhu (2nd from right) with her parents Brock and Anna Bryce along with some of the attendees—Harvey Davies, Curtis Clark (our Office Manager) and Caroline Pembroke.]

United Nations - Important Dates

- 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
- 7 July** International Day of Cooperatives
- 11 July** World Population Day
- 18 July** Nelson Mandela International Day
- 28 July** World Hepatitis Day [WHO]
- 30 July** International Day of Friendship



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

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 UNAANA 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 UNAANA 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 UNAANA 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 UNAANA.

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, 1st 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.

The award will be announced at the AGM of UNAANA 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.

World Day against Child Labour—12 June

Going to school, walking the dogs and running in the park may seem the norm for some children, but hundreds of millions of children across the world are denied these basic childhood rights on a daily basis. A horrifying number of boys and girls across the world are engaged in work that deprives them of adequate education, health, leisure and basic freedoms, violating their rights.

In 2008, over 215 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 were engaged in child labour. Of these children, more than half are exposed to the worst forms of child labour such as work in hazardous environments, slavery, or other forms of forced labour and illicit activities such as drug trafficking and prostitution, as well as involvement in armed conflict.



12 June marked the 10th year anniversary of World Day Against Child Labour, after it was launched by the UN's International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 2002.

The day is intended to serve as a catalyst for the growing worldwide movement against child labour, reflected in the huge number of ratifications of ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour and ILO Convention No. 138 on the minimum age for employment.

[Photo: A young girl doing her school-work in Karachi, Pakistan. (UN Photo/John Isaac). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to free primary education.]

The World Day Against Child Labour provides an opportunity to gain further support of individual governments and that of the ILO social partners, civil society and others, including schools, youth and women's groups as well as the media, in the campaign against child labour. *[Jessica Watts, UNAOWA Executive Member]*

References cited: www.ilo.org

Global child labour developments: Measuring trends from 2004 to 2008, (2008), International Labor Office.

World Environment Day Event—5 June

On 5 June, UNAOWA's Environment Committee partnered with Young UN Women to mark World Environment Day 2012. The event, titled '*Women Leaders in the Green Economy*', was attended by approximately 60 people. The event was fortunate to attract four exceptional speakers, namely: Belinda Bastow from Ashanti, Kim Holland from Organic Waste Solutions, Jenny Campbell from Encycle Consulting and Donna Pershke from URS Australia.

These four leaders spoke about their respective roles in leading environmental initiatives within organisations. They also shared their personal tips and experiences they endured whilst doing so.

It was an inspirational event that relayed messages regarding the importance of researching government grants when looking to commence a business, the benefits of having a mentor and the importance of your values aligning with those of the organisation.

The function was proudly supported by the City of Perth and CitySwitch Green Office signatory, Central Park Management.

[Neesha Seth, UNAOWA Vice-President]



United Nations Association of Australia WA



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division

2012 AGM

The meeting will include:

- Presentation of the Annual Report
- Election of Office Bearers
- 2012 Annual Address
- Guest Speaker Margaret Lobo
(Past International President,
Soroptimist International)

Light refreshments from 1.30pm

2pm on Sunday 12 August

UNAAWA Office
Level 1, 1 Roydhouse St, Subiaco

For information:

- tel: 6380 7304
 - email: office@unaa-wa.org.au
 - visit: www.unaa-wa.org.au
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Photo: Members of the International Court of Justice, The Hague, Netherlands, 2005.
UN Photo: ICJ/Jeroen Bouman

UNAAWA – working towards a fair and sustainable world

UN Rio+20 Conference—Achievements

United Nations senior officials have highlighted the achievements made during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held last week in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, stressing that they represent a global movement of change in which governments, the private sector and civil society all contribute to achieve global prosperity while protecting the environment.

More than 40,000 people – including parliamentarians, mayors, UN officials, chief executive officers and civil society leaders – attended Rio+20 from 20-22 June.

The event followed on from the Earth Summit in 1992, also held in Rio de Janeiro, during which countries adopted Agenda 21 – a blueprint to rethink economic growth, advance social equity and ensure environmental protection.



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted several parts of the Rio+20 outcome document, entitled ‘The Future We Want.’ Through the document, the UN chief said, countries renewed their political commitment to sustainable development, agreed to establish a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), and established a high-level political forum on sustainable development.

The outcome document also calls for a wide range of actions, such as detailing how the green economy can be used as a tool to achieve sustainable development; strengthening the UN Environment Programme (UNEP); promoting corporate sustainability reporting measures; taking steps to go beyond gross domestic product to assess the well-being of a country; developing a strategy for sustainable development financing; and, adopting a framework for tackling sustainable consumption and production.

It also focuses on improving gender equity; recognizing the importance of voluntary commitments on sustainable development; and stressing the need to engage civil society and incorporate science into policy; among other points.

Mr Ban emphasized the importance of the **more than 700 commitments** registered during the Conference. “This is a remarkable testament to bottom-up, grassroots commitment,” Mr Ban said. “The world is watching and will hold us all accountable to the commitments made in Rio.”

[Extract from "UN senior officials highlight Rio+20 achievements", UN News Centre, 28 June 2012]



[Photo: James Chau of CCTV China moderating a side event on forests at the Rio+20 UN Conference.

UN Photo/Guilherme Costa, No. # 517527]

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 at: www.unmillenniumproject.org

UNAA National Conference 2012—All welcome to attend

'Resilient People, Resilient Planet - a future worth choosing'. **

PROGRAM

Day 1 - Round Table Sessions - Locations in Brisbane

Wednesday 22 August 2012

Round Table Sessions time 1.30-5pm

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 - UNAA National Conference Parliament House

Thursday 23 August 2012

- Plenary Session 1. The United Nations
Plenary Session 2. Peace & Security
Plenary Session 3. Governance
Plenary Session 4. The next generation

This day will start with breakfast and finish with a Socratic Forum at Parliament House.

Day 3 - UNAA National Conference at Parliament House

Friday 24 August 2012

- Plenary Session 5 Climate Change
Plenary Session 6 Health - what are the issues?
Plenary Session 7 Empowering Women
Plenary Session 8 Human Rights
Plenary Session 9 Sustainable Development
Plenary Session 10 Life after Rio+20 - the future planet under pressure.

The day will end with the Conference Gala Dinner at Parliament House.