



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division

UNAAWA Newsletter

President's Report

BOOK NOW FOR UN DAY

The biggest event in the UNAAWA 2012 calendar—the Celebration of UN Day—is being held on **Wednesday 24 October from 5pm-7pm** at the Constitution Centre in West Perth. The topic will be about Australia's role in the protection of refugees.

We have an amazing line-up for this event. Professor Gillian Triggs of the Australian Human Rights Commission and Ms Carina Hoang, Special Representative from Australia for UNHCR, will be our guest speakers. The moderator will be Mary Anne Kelly, Director of the Centre for Human Rights Education, Curtin University. Proceeds will go to the UNHCR.

This special function is sponsored by AusAID and supported by UN Women, Young UN Women and UN Youth. Tickets are \$15 for members/concession/ students and \$20 full price. For catering purposes, bookings are to be made via <http://www.trybooking.com/BYIU> or by calling Ms Neesha Seth on 0421 316 717.

The vote in relation to Australia's bid for a UN Security Council seat will be held on 18 October and the process may take a few days. Australia, Luxembourg and Finland are competing for two of the temporary Security Council seats for 2013 and 2014. The seats will be decided by secret ballot of the 193 UN member states. Fingers crossed for Australia!

A reminder that applications for the UNAA Young Professionals Conference in Sydney 26-17 October close on 5pm Monday 15 October 2012. The Conference will bring together 100 young professionals in their 20s and 30s who are passionate about making the world a better place and looking for a way how. For more details, please refer to <http://www.unaa.org.au/applications-open-for-the-young-professionals-national-conference.html>.

We are currently seeking a Treasurer - if you are interested, please ring or email the Office (ph: 6380 7304; email office@unaa-wa.org.au).

Please see our call for helpers (next page) at our big annual fundraiser, the mighty sausage sizzle. Your help is needed and it will be great if you can make it - or alternatively, if you can donate some barbeque sausages or buns etc.

- *Carolyn Gatward*

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New National President

Dr Russell Trood was elected President of the UNAA in August 2012. Dr Trood is the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Australia for Eastern Europe and Professor of International Relations at Griffith University. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the Defence and Security Program, US Studies Centre at the University of Sydney.



In 2010 Dr Trood completed a term as a Liberal Senator for Queensland in the Australian Parliament. While serving in the Senate, he was a very active member of several parliamentary committees, serving terms as Chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade and of the Senate Select Committee on the Reform of the Federation.

He was also a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade and the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security, among others. He assisted in the foundation of a United Nations Parliamentary Group and served as its Deputy Chair for several years.

Prior to his election to the Senate in 2004, Dr Trood was Associate Professor of International Relations and between 1991-2003, Director of the Centre for the Study of Australia-Asia Relations at Griffith University. He has also been a Visiting Fellow at the Lowy Institute for International Policy.

Dr Trood has a law degree (LLB) from the University of Sydney, a Masters degree (MSc.Econ) in strategic studies from the University of Wales and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in international relations from Dalhousie University in Canada.

Sausage Sizzle—20 October



On Saturday 20 October, UNAAWA will hold its biggest fundraising effort for 2012 at the Bunnings Store, Salvado Road, Subiaco (behind our office).

Volunteering two to four hours of your time will make a big contribution to our work.

Please contact Tony on 0419 834 329 or email tmcrae@vtown.com.au and advise your first and second preference times for helping and whether you fancy yourself as a barbeque master chef or as the seller/cashier in the team.

This should be a fun day and please feel welcome to bring a friend if you like cooking in teams!

If you are unable to donate time, please consider donating supplies such as sauce, sausages, buns etc.....

UNAAWA Member Profile—Rani Dogra

Rani Dogra has worked with the United Nations in Nairobi, Kenya and then in Arusha, Tanzania for a total of 18 years. She joined the UN Centre for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat) in 1993, before which she was teaching data processing management in Nairobi. She worked in the Information & Audio Visual Division of Habitat as a desktop publisher and a few years later became the web contents manager. The internet was very new at the time, and she assisted in creating the pages and populating the website. She was also the focal point for staff facing problems with encrypted emails.

She moved to the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, (UN-ICTR) based in Arusha, Tanzania in 2000 where she worked as an editor.

The tribunal is an international court established in November 1994 by the UN Security Council in order to judge people responsible for the Rwandan genocide and other serious violations of international law in Rwanda, or by Rwandan citizens in nearby states, between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

The tribunal has jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, which are defined as violations of Common Article Three and Additional Protocol II of the Geneva Conventions. Members of the tribunal staff represent more than 80 different nationalities, making the tribunal the most internationally diverse UN station outside the UN Headquarters in New York.



At the tribunal, in addition to maintaining and updating the website, Rani assisted in designing and publishing brochures, leaflets, posters and DVD covers. As she worked in the Public Information Unit, her responsibilities broadened. Visitors to the courtrooms, international journalists, researchers and students had to receive passes from her office. She was also the unofficial photographer for the tribunal. She could be regularly seen in the courtrooms during a Judgement or Initial Appearance taking photos of the detainees. These photos were distributed to the journalists and used in the monthly newsletter that she produced. She also took photos of important visitors and at UN functions.

[Photo: Rani Dogra (centre) with two of the judges at the ICTR, Judge Hikmet (Jordan) and Judge Arrey (Cameroon).]

She undertook the enormous task of photographing all the female personnel of the tribunal in order to create an exhibition in honour of International Woman's Day in March 2011. The exhibition portrayed women at all levels – ranging from the cleaners and drivers to the judges.

Rani's office produced short videos on some of the 'famous' accused in the Rwanda genocide, the material for which was collated and edited by Rani and her supervisor by going through the vast video archives of the trials and by filming interviews with the accused and senior legal personnel of the tribunal, usually in English and French and in some cases even in Kinyarwanda, the language of Rwanda. These were shown to the visitors to the tribunal before they were taken on a tour of the facilities.

Rani resigned from the tribunal in August 2011 in order to relocate to Perth. For information about the tribunal, please see <http://www.unicttr.org/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>.

UNAA Peace Award 2012 Winner - Dame Judith Parker

Dame Judith Parker AM DSJ has been awarded the UNAA National Peace Award 2012. The award was presented at the UNAA National Conference, Parliament House on 23 August 2012 by the Governor of Queensland, Ms Wensley AC.

Judith has been a member of United Nations Associations of Australia in the ACT and Western Australia for 36 years. She is the immediate past President of UNAAWA.

In 2004, she was awarded the Order of Australia AM in recognition of her work defending the rights of women and girls, particularly those with disabilities. In 2004, she became Senior Citizen of Perth, recognising her continued volunteer community work. She is a Guides WA Woman of Distinction.

In 2007, she was awarded the Lions Australia Human Rights Award in recognition of her work for the disabled. In 2009, she was invested as a Dame in the Order of St John Knights Hospitaller in recognition of her work throughout the world in her capacity as a board member of the International Council of Women, the Australian National Council of Women and the United Nations Association for the betterment of women and girls.



(Photo: Curtis Clark, Neesha Seth, Judith Parker, Carolyne Gatward)

From 2003 to 2009, she was a member and then Vice-President of the International Council of Women. In that capacity she represented women from 78 countries at the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN in New York on three occasions. She was responsible for 34 projects around the world educating and training women and girls.

In 2011, she was acknowledged by the State of WA and became an inaugural member of the WA Roll of Honour for contributing to State and community life, including as Patron to the Centenary of International Women's Day. Currently she is a Director of SCALES Legal Centre, a joint partnership between Murdoch University and the City of Rockingham to provide legal assistance to low income citizens. Many congratulations Judith from UNAAWA!

News from other organisations

- Magabala Books has just released its 2013 Australian Indigenous Diary. The diary celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, land and people. It includes full colour reproductions of Indigenous artwork and stunning photography from Indigenous photographer, Wayne Quilliam. It is \$29.95 and can be found in bookshops or on-line at www.magabala.com. Magabala Books is a not-for-profit Indigenous publishing house based in Broome, ph: 9192 1991.
- Red Cross is holding a 'Towards Eliminating Nuclear Weapons' conference looking at the urgent need to develop a legally binding tool to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons. The conference is on 3-4 November 2012 in Adelaide. For more details, see <http://www.redcross.org.au/conference.aspx>.

15 September—International Day of Democracy



The International Day of Democracy was established in 2007 by the United Nations General Assembly. Member states and organisations were invited to commemorate the day by raising the public awareness and importance of democracy.

The preamble of the 2007 resolution affirmed that: *'While democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and democracy does not belong to any country or region... democracy is a universal value based on the freely-expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems, and their full participation in all aspects of life.'*

(UN Photo: Martine Perret. Timor-Leste Parliamentary Elections, July 2012.)

Democracy comes in many forms but it has been proven to be the most effective form of policy to promote human rights, freedom of expression, freedom of religion and equal opportunities and participation. Democracy is still lacking in large sections of the world but we have seen progress, particularly in the last few years.

The main outcomes of this international day include emphasizing the importance of democracy, what it involves, the challenges it faces as well as the opportunities it offers and the central responsibility that all parliaments have as the key institution of democracy. It also examines and discusses how well a parliament performs its democratic functions, possibly on the basis of a self-assessment, and identifies what steps it may take to strengthen its effectiveness.

One of the major issues that democracy advocates and promotes is the equal opportunity for all, including women. Women's equal opportunity is a major issue across the globe and is often barely or not at all emphasized in many countries. Democracy is one of, if not the major source of inspiration for providing equal opportunities for all. So what can we do as individuals to promote and raise awareness? We can:

1. Find out about your member of Parliament
2. Educate yourself, your family and friends
3. Follow Parliamentary business in the news & visit the Parliament's website
4. Make sure you are correctly enrolled to vote
5. Contact your member of Parliament
6. Visit your Parliament
7. Hold member(s) of Parliament to account
8. Participate in the lawmaking process
9. Advocate for more women in Parliament
10. VOTE!

(Max Fouda, UNAAWA member)

References: <http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/161-dem.htm>; <http://www.ipu.org/dem-e/idd/yoursay.htm>;
<http://www.un.org/en/events/democracyday/>.

8 September—International Literacy Day

The aim of International Literacy Day (ILD) is to highlight and remind the international community that literacy is a fundamental and vital human right and is a key developer in sustainable, social and human development.

The statistics to no or little literacy skills amongst the global population is staggering. Some 775 million adults lack minimum literacy skills. One in five adults is still not literate and two-thirds of them are women. UNESCO's "Global Monitoring Report on Education for All (2006)" shows a clear connection between illiteracy and countries in severe poverty, and between illiteracy and prejudice against women.

The theme of the 2011-2012 ILD celebrations is 'Literacy and Peace.' Literacy contributes to peace as it brings people closer to attaining individual freedoms and better understanding the world, as well as preventing or resolving conflict. The connection between literacy and peace is demonstrated by the fact that in unstable democracies or in conflict-affected countries it is harder to establish or sustain a literate environment.

Things we can do to help include donating books and reading materials to the community, giving donations to literacy programs both nationally and internationally, starting a reading club, volunteering to teach literacy classes and becoming a mentor of a non-literate person. For more information, please see <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/literacy-day/>.

(Max Fouda, UNAAWA member)

References: <http://www.uis.unesco.org/literacy/Pages/adult-youth-literacy-data-viz.aspx>
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/efareport/reports/2006-literacy/>
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002163/216302E.pdf>

United Nations - Important Dates

September

- 8th– International Literacy Day [UNESCO]**
- 10th-World Suicide Prevention Day [WHO]**
- 15th-International Day of Democracy**
- 21st-International Day of Peace**
- 27th-World Tourism Day [UNWTO]**
- 28th-World Rabies Day [WHO]**
- 29th-World Heart Day [WHO]**

October

- 1st-World Habitat Day**
- 2nd-International Day of Non-Violence**
- 5th-World Teachers Day [UNESCO]**
- 10th-World Mental Health Day [WHO]**
- 11th-International Day of the Girl Child**
- 11th-World Sight Day [WHO]**
- 16th-World Food Day [FAO]**
- 17th-International Day for Eradication of Poverty**
- 24th-United Nations Day**



Rio +20 Earth Summit—UNAA Member’s Report

Over 45,000 participants attended the largest ever United Nations event with over 500 on-site meetings and activities. More than anything else, the enthusiastic attendance by this great number of ‘global citizens’ demonstrated that there is a tremendous commitment by many organisations and individuals to meet the global challenges of sustainability.

There were over 700 voluntary commitments made by civil society groups, businesses, governments and universities to engage with and promote the goals of the Earth Summit.

The outcome document approved by world leaders, entitled “*The Future We Want*” in the words of UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon ‘provides a firm foundation for social, economic and environmental well-being’ and contains the following major points:

- launching a process to establish sustainable development goals
- detailing how the green economy can be used as a tool to achieve sustainable development
- promoting corporate sustainability reporting measures
- taking steps to go beyond GDP to assess the well-being of a country
- developing a strategy for sustainable development financing
- adopting a framework for tackling sustainable consumption and production
- stressing the need to engage civil society and incorporate science into policy
- recognising the importance of voluntary commitments on sustainable development.

The major commitments outlined in the ‘*The Future We Want*’ include the initiative made by more than 50 governments from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Small Developing States in supporting the UN’s ‘*Sustainable Energy for All*’ – ensuring energy access, doubling energy efficiency and doubling the share of renewable energy by 2030, with the investment of over \$50 billion on energy plans and programs and benefit to over one billion people.

Under a commitment for ‘*Global Partnership for Oceans*’ – Australia will declare the world’s largest marine park – the Coral Sea Marine Park. More than 200 commitments to sustainable development by businesses were announced in the *Corporate Sustainability Forum*.

Important voluntary commitments include:

- planting 100 million trees by 2017
- greening 10,000square kms of desert
- saving 1 Megawatt-hour of electricity per day
- empowering 5,000 women entrepreneurs in green economy businesses in Africa
- developing an Environmental Purchasing Policy and Waste Minimisation & Management strategy
- recycling 800,000 tonnes per year of PVC by 2020.

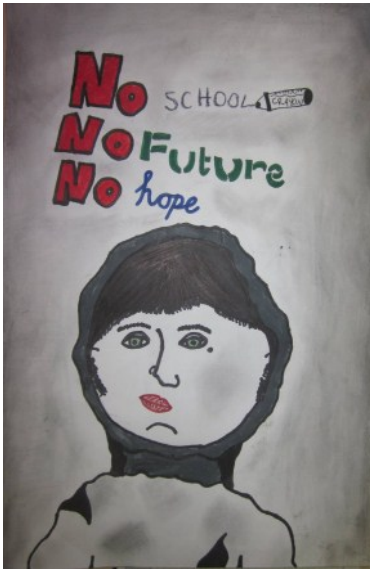


RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

United Nations websites provide a full report of the outcomes of the Rio +20 Earth Summit, however for me an important outcome was the recognition by the United Nations in ‘*The Future We Want*’ that GDP does not assess the well-being of a country and other measures need to be developed. For more information, please go to <http://www.uncsd2012.org/>.

(Clem Campbell, Vice-President, UNAA Queensland)

Yolande Frank Memorial Award—Winner 2012



Entries closed on 31 July and 78 entries were received from the Perth area and Karratha. Children ages 9-13 were invited to creatively illustrate Article 26 of the Declaration of Human Rights 'Everyone has the right to education'. The standard of entries was very high and the judges had a difficult task deciding on the winner.

The Winner: Chris Kovacs from Parkwood Primary School Intensive English Course. Chris receives \$200 and a children's book relating to Human Rights plus \$100 for his school library. The winning entry remains the property of UNAAWA and will be made into a postcard. This will bring the UNAAWA collection of Human Rights postcards to 3 - illustrating Articles 1, 3 & 26. This year's postcard of the 2012 winning entry will be available from the office for purchase for 50 cents from mid-October.

Highly commended prizes: were awarded to Sarah Tucker (entry below) and Milla Lemer (entry left) from Carmel Primary School. These children receive \$50. Highly commended prizes were donated by: George Parker and the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia.

Judges Special Awards: Recognising the effort of the children and teachers of Pegs Creek Primary School Karratha, the judges decided to award two special prizes of \$50 each to: Meme Gosper and Giovanna Siale. Special prizes were donated by Diana Warnock and Fay Enston.

All children who participated will receive a participation certificate and a postcard of last year's winning entry.



On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the judges Diana Warnock, Fay Enston and Owen Loneragan. UNAAWA is appreciative of the availability of the meeting room on 1st floor Arcadia House, St John of God Offices, Subiaco for the judging. I also thank **Barefoot Book Shop** in Tree Lane, Busselton for its generous discount on the books purchased for the award. Owen has indicated he will retire as a judge next year. I thank him for his dedicated work over three years. The committee will meet in November to decide the format for the 2013 competition. Schools throughout WA will be notified in February 2013.

(Judith A Parker AM DSJ, Chair, Yolande Frank Memorial Committee)

(Photo below, left: Winner Chris Kovacs & family with Judith Parker. Photo below right: 2012 award winning entry.)



PM Gillard @ the United Nations

Prime Minister Julia Gillard used her recent speech to the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly to advance Australia's bid for a seat on the UN Security Council. PM Gillard covered a wide range of topical issues on the global agenda, as well as Australia's efforts in each of them, while re-affirming Australia's commitment to the UN and its ideals.

"Australia embraces the high ideals of the United Nations and takes a practical approach to achieving change," Prime Minister Gillard told the 67th Assembly's General Debate. "The work of the United Nations is an historic task in which Australia wholeheartedly joins."

"Australia's ideals in the world are those of the UN – and Australians know the practical value of the UN's work," she added, noting that that was why Australia seeks to serve in all areas which the United Nations works in, and particularly on the Security Council. Australia is seeking one of the ten non-permanent seats on the 15-member Council for the 2013-2014 period.

The PM noted Australia's work in peace and security affairs around the world, including its lead-role in the UN-mandated peacekeeping mission in Timor-Leste, its UN-endorsed regional assistance mission to the Solomon Islands and its contributions to the UN-mandated International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

"Australia will bring this record of service to the international community to our service on the UN Security Council should we have the privilege to be elected by the UN membership in October," she said. "There and beyond, our work and the work of every nation for peace must continue."



In relation to the crisis in Syria, Prime Minister Gillard called on UN Member States must do everything possible to end the suffering of the Syrian people. "We urge the members of the Security Council to do so and to act decisively," she said.

More than 18,000 people, mostly civilians, have died in Syria since the uprising against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad began 18 months ago. A further 2.5 million Syrians urgently need humanitarian aid, according to UN estimates.

Prime Minister Gillard also met with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. They discussed issues concerning recent developments in Afghanistan and Australia's military support, the strengthening of the partnership between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum, the political achievements in Timor-Leste, the democratic transition in Fiji and the escalating conflict in Syria. The Secretary-General also emphasized the important role Australia has played on peace and security issues in the Pacific region and beyond.

[Extract from UN News Service, 26 September 2012]

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
- **For national updates, sign up for the UNAA newsletter UNity:** <http://www.unaa.org.au/subscribe.html>