



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division

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UNA AWA Newsletter

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Congratulations to everyone involved with our recent and highly successful spate of October events and activities, commencing with the sausage sizzler and culminating in UN Day. Approximately 100 people attended the UN Day function at the Constitution Centre to hear guest speakers Ms Carina Hoang and Professor Gillian Triggs discussing issues including Australia's contribution in the area of humanitarian aid, specifically for refugee and asylum seeker processes, and how Australia is tracking under the 1951 Refugee Convention. A full report of the UN Day event will be in the November edition (with photos).

"... the UN is the world's only body that houses the divided fragments of humanity...it symbolises a world in which those condemned to die in fear are given the chance to live with hope again, want gives way to dignity, and apprehensions are turned into aspirations...."

(Professor Ramesh Thakur, AIIA Policy Commentary, 2012)

In his UN Day 2012 speech, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon reminded us that the UN is not just some meeting place for diplomats, rather, it is a peacekeeper disarming fighters, a health worker distributing medicine, a relief team aiding refugees, a human rights expert helping deliver justice. He points out that the UN relies on numerous friends, partners and experts and **every one of us, in our own way, can do something**. The tremendous news of Australia's win of a UN Security Council seat for 2013-14 highlights a fundamental role for us in educating the community about the UN's work and the opportunities (and challenges) that Australia faces as a Security Council member. For more about the Security Council seat win, see the report inside by our Global Representative Joseph Caruso.

Everyone, including the UN itself, is aware that the UN has shortcomings, yet it plays a vital role in global affairs and in undertaking global action, for example by bringing peace to conflicts, organising special elections, protecting citizens, helping the poor and refugees, empowering people and coordinating disaster relief. Our voice at the UN can help make the UN a stronger body, particularly in the areas of global security, international

justice and the responsibility to protect (R2P). As identified by Kevin Rudd, the Security Council has never been so active!

Thanks to your support, UNA AWA will continue to do whatever it can to support these types of endeavours and the promotion of the UN's work.

*(Carolyn Gatward,
President)*



*Attendees, September
Executive meeting*

Sausages Sell Out @ the Mighty Sausage Sizzler– 21 October

What a brilliant day - kick-off at 7:30am, always busy, more volunteers than on the roster, good spirits, some eclectic music and much fun!!

Subiaco Bunnings had advised that sales for the BBQ were about 400 sausages and 120 drinks - so of course I ordered 500 sausages and 170 drinks. And we were sold out by 3:30pm!!



We made a profit of over \$900. Big thanks to everyone involved.

Huge thanks too to our donors - especially butcher Mondo de Carno in Inglewood, Mias Bakery in Canning Vale, K-Mart for their big special on drinks (sans Coke) and Mr and Mrs Woolworths for chopping all those onions. And many thanks to Bunnings for being fantastic.

It's a great feeling that most people left talking about wanting to do it again and that UNYA is planning a similar event. Well done everyone!

(Tony McRae, Executive Member & Sizzler Co-ordinator)

(Photo: early shift volunteers Ailsa Allen, Renata Sivacolundhu, Amanda Joseph, Kombe Musonda, Harvey Davies)

Family FunSafe Day Stall–22 October

Thousands of children attend the Family FunSafe Day at Whiteman Park each year. The event is co-ordinated by the Meerilinga Young Children's Foundation.

This year, the popular UNA AWA stall provided badge-making activities for the children and the chance to win a UN Peacekeeper Bear. The badgemaking activities were overseen by members from our Women's Multicultural Leadership Group. The bear attracted many young fans while the contest itself required children to guess where the bear had served as a peacekeeper. The winner of this special collector's item was Sean Ryan. Congratulations Sean!

We also distributed information about the UN and children's rights and received several positive comments from parents and carers about Australia's security council seat win.

UNA AWA has received a certificate of appreciation from the Meerilinga Foundation and looks forward to being at the event again next year.

(Photo: volunteers Carlyne Gatward, Terese Micallef, Cathy Cooper & Stephanie Oromo).



International Day of Peace—Peace Grove Ceremony

On 21st September, NCJWA organised in partnership with Brahma Kumaris WA and with the participation of UNAABA, an Interfaith Event for World Peace, to celebrate International Peace Day.

The ceremony was held at the 'Peace Grove' in East Perth. The memorial was erected in memory of President Anwar el Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel – both Nobel Peace Prize winners – and both assassinated because of their courageous efforts for peace.

Judith Parker AM DCSJ opened the program. Judith was recently honoured at the 2012 UNAA Conference in Brisbane with the UNAA Peace Prize, for her exceptional contribution and dedication to human rights and for her years as President of UNAABA.

We had prayers for Peace from the Muslim, Jewish, Baha'i, Buddhist and Universal Brotherhood representatives.



Mr Richard Farago, a Holocaust survivor and the driving force behind the creation of the Peace Grove, gave respect and honour to Yitzhak Rabin and Anwar el Sadat, and told us about this special place that is surrounded by olive trees and by the word PEACE in many languages. He paid tribute to Janet Davidson, Deputy Lord Mayor for the City of Perth and to Michael Sutherland, then Councillor for the City of Perth, for their great support during the process for approval of this project.

(Photo left: Judith Parker, Eva Szauter, Ester Steingieser & Richard Farago)



We had peace songs in Arabic by the Year 9 class from the Australian Islamic College and in Hebrew by Estee Todres and Jesse Sharp.

The ceremony finished with a Guided Meditation for World Peace by Carolyn Minter, Brahma Kumaris Australia, leading us to a minute of silence.

(Photo left: Australian Islamic College students)

Thank you to Judith Parker for her excellent contribution and to all members that attended and supported this event.

Ester Steingieser (NCJWA WA, UNAABA Executive) & Eva Szauter (Brahma Kumaris WA) - organisers

International Day of the Girl Child—11 October

11 October 2012 was the world's first International Day of the Girl Child. It was launched by the UN to signal its commitment to end injustices such as gender inequality, discrimination and violence that disproportionately affect girls everywhere.

The UN estimates that there are as many as 200 million females missing from the world today as a result of gendercide. Furthermore, in the poorest societies a girl faces greater risk of malnutrition, hunger and disease than her brothers. She will have fewer opportunities for an education and career. In many developing countries, 1 out of 7 girls marries before the age of 15. Almost 90 million girls are involved in child labour.

The inaugural day was held as world outrage greeted the news of a 14 year old Pakistani school girl being shot by the Taliban on 9 October for promoting education for girls. Thankfully, Malala's condition is currently stable and she is making good progress.

Along with other world leaders, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has voiced his outrage and strongest condemnation over the shooting of Malala and has called for the perpetrators of this “heinous and cowardly” act to be swiftly brought to justice. His statement can be viewed at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43255>.

United Nations - Important Dates

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



November

- 10th-World Science Day for Peace & Development [UNESCO]
- 12th-World Pneumonia Day [WHO]
- 14th-World Diabetes Day [WHO]
- 17th- World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims [WHO]
- 20th-Universal Children's Day
- 25th-International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women

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

News & Events - other organisations



Interested in hosting an International Student on Christmas Day or anytime in December?

For a number of years, CISWA (Council for International Students WA) has co-ordinated Christmas Hospitality which provides international students with a great opportunity to make new friends & share in Christmas— Aussie style!

CISWA would like to hear from community people and families, who would be interested in volunteering to open their home and heart and share an Aussie Christmas get-together either on Christmas Day itself, or at any time during December with an international student. If you are interested, then please download the application form from: <http://www.ciswa.com/index.php/student-trips/christmas-hospitality> or ring Lisa on 9451 1544. Host applications close **Tuesday 11th December**.



A chance to see what the young people have been up to!

You are invited to attend the Grand Final of UN Youth Western Australia's junior public speaking competition, UN Youth Voice. You'll get to see the six best speakers in the State in each of the two divisions - Junior (years 8 and 9) and Senior (year 10). The standard this year has been very high, so the final is shaping up to be really exciting!

It will be held from 5-8pm on **Thursday 8th November**, Woolnough Lecture Theatre at UWA. Hope to see you there! (*Julia Crandell, President, UN Youth*)

Australian Red Cross—Free Public Seminar



‘From Civilian to Soldier and Back Again—Understanding the Concept of Direct Participation in Hostilities’

Tuesday 20 November 2012, 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start
Central Park Theatrette, 152-158 St Georges Tce, Perth

Civilians are immune from being attacked by parties to conflict, unless they are deemed to take direct part in hostilities. Contemporary warfare has seen civilians become increasingly drawn into armed conflicts. Where, then, do we draw the line and allow for civilians to be targeted for their ‘direct participation in hostilities’? This seminar is free but bookings are essential. Please RSVP to waihl@redcross.org.au.

UN Women—‘It’s a Girl’ Film Screening

UN Women Perth Chapter is raising funds to address domestic violence against women in developing countries by screening ‘It’s A Girl’ on **10 November** at 3.30pm at ECU Mt Lawley. UNAAWA members – men and women – are most welcome to attend this inspiring yet controversial screening and presentation. Book via Trybooking at <http://www.trybooking.com/35268> - the full \$20 is being donated to fundraising.

Young UN Women—Spring Tea Party

Young UN Women Australia Perth is hosting a Spring Tea Party at the newly renovated No.4 Blake Street Café in North Perth on Saturday 10 November from 3 – 5pm. All proceeds will go towards the UN Global Trust to end violence against women. Book via Trybooking at <http://www.trybooking.com/BZVS>.

Celebrating UN Day & Australia's Seat on the Security Council

Welcome to a special day, the United Nations' 67th Birthday and Australia's win as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2013/2014.

This week, the United Nations celebrates its 67th birthday. What has been the United Nations' greatest accomplishment?

- Negotiating more than 172 peace settlements, preventing war;
- Helping more than 30 million refugees fleeing war, persecution or famine;
- Helping eliminate smallpox and enriching the lives of the world's children through immunisation programs;
- Promoting international cooperation on monetary issues and encouraging stable exchange rates among nations.

Australia's Campaign Mission to Seek Election at Security Council

Australia's campaign slogan was "we do what we say" and the Government based its campaign on eight key elements:

- Commitment to the UN over 65 years;
- A record of achievement in international peace and security, including the contribution of 65,000 personnel to more than 50 UN and other multilateral peace and security operations worldwide;
- Strong endorsement of, and action on, the Millennium Development Goals;
- Strong record of global action on climate change;
- Strong commitment to an effective United Nations, including supporting reform of the Security Council to better reflect the modern world;
- Strong commitment to making a difference for small and medium countries, with the majority of our neighbours developing countries;
- Special commitment to the Indigenous peoples of the world, noting Australia's historic apology to Indigenous peoples for past mistreatment and injustices;
- Commitment to interfaith and inter-religious dialogue.

Australia was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in what Foreign Minister Bob Carr described as "a big, juicy, decisive win." Australia was elected in the "Western Europe and Other" category, competing against Finland and Luxembourg for one of two seats. Finland was widely considered to be the favourite for election, with most pundits suggesting Australia would have to battle it out with Luxembourg in a second ballot.

However, in a stunning victory, Australia was elected in the first round receiving 140 votes, which Foreign Minister Bob Carr said was pretty close to all that were promised. Australia will take up its seat on the Security Council after 26 years between terms. Serving on the Council is a significant opportunity to engage a generation of Australians in the work of the UN Security Council and the vital role it plays in maintaining international peace and security.

As the former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd described, the Security Council is "more relevant, active and interventionist on global and regional security challenges than at any previous time in its history".

The UNAA is hopeful that the Government will use this opportunity to engage both Australian civil society organisations and the broader public in their work on the Council, as a means of engaging stakeholders and educating and informing constituents on Australia's role in the world. The UNAA looks forward to playing an active role in this process.

Parliamentary Secretary Richard Maries was in the General Assembly for the vote and said that the key to Australia winning the seat was the support from the Pacific nations; Africa and the Caribbean nations, who had all pledged their support for Australia.

Foreign Minister Bob Carr discussed how Australia built strong support for our candidacy in these regions, citing examples of bringing African leaders to Australia and showing them how we managed our mining sector and also how Australia's action on climate change had won support from small island nations vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

As the world's 10th largest financial donor to the UN, observers had likened Australia's bid to a major shareholder in a company wanting a seat on the board of directors. This argument was certainly a good one, with Australia one of the top ten contributors to the World Health Organisation, the World Food Programme, the UN Children's Fund UN Women, Central Emergency Response Fund, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Peacekeeping Fund and the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations.

Throughout the campaign, Australia marketed itself as a middle power with global influence and an effective voice for small and medium sized countries.

The Composition of the 2013/14 Security Council

Australia will commence a two year term as a non-permanent member of the Security Council on 1 January 2013 and will serve alongside:

- The Permanent Five (the United States, United Kingdom, Russia, China and France)
- Non-permanent members Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Morocco, Pakistan and Togo who are serving their second year on the Council; and
- Argentina, Rwanda, Luxembourg and South Korea who were also just elected to two year terms.

During the election campaign, Australia argued that many issues that will come up on the Council during the 2013-14 term would relate directly to Australia's interests, including the withdrawal of troops in Afghanistan in 2014, upcoming elections in East Timor, a referendum in Bougainville and the future of RAMSI in the Solomon Islands.

Foreign Minister Bob Carr said Australia would be pushing for an arms treaty at the UN to curb the spread of hand-held weapons, which kill 2,000 people a day in conflicts worldwide. Australia would also use its position to further calls for a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing, campaign for small island states threatened by climate change and share Australia's experience in peacekeeping.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard said that "Australia's key priorities will include Afghanistan, Syria, Iran and North Korea... Australia will also work to ensure the effectiveness of UNSC sanctions regimes, including those targeting individuals associated with al-Qaeda."

While the Security Council is often a reactive body, UNAA National President and UNSC Special Envoy Dr Russell Trood encourages the Government to use Australia's time on the Council to explore ways of working with the international community to address some of the long term challenges of strengthening global security in the areas of peacekeeping, peace-building, international justice and the responsibility to protect.

In closing, I urge each and every one of our members to be proud of Australia's election to the UN Security Council and to participate in the events following and celebrating this significant occasion. There will be times of difficult decision making, however we now hold a special place in the political and peace keeping dynamics of the western world.

*(Joseph Caruso, UNAAWA Global Representative)
24 October 2012*

UN Day Video

In partnership with AusAID, National UNAA has launched a short video “Australia and the UN” which profiles the history of the UN and how Australia works to advance the UN’s goals.

“It is our hope that this video will showcase Australia’s long and proud history of supporting the United Nations. It makes a strong case for us to continue our support to ensure the UN can meet current challenges such as the conflict in Syria; progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and beyond; and tackling some of the problems without borders such as climate change, and disarmament” says UNAA Executive Director Elizabeth Shaw.

UNAANA makes a very short but memorable appearance just before the 7 minute mark of the video. To view, the link is:

<http://www.unaa.org.au/unaa-releases-video-australia-and-the-un-to-celebrate-un-day.html>.

Australian Youth Representative to the UN

This incredible opportunity for Australian young people is open again. UN Youth Australia – in partnership with the government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – is looking for the next talented young Australian to serve as the **Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations!**



The Youth Representative is the only role of its kind. The Youth Rep tours the country, beginning with a road trip through the Northern Territory, collecting the views of young Australians on global issues. In September, the Youth Rep travels to New York to represent Australian youth at the General Assembly of the United Nations.

While in New York, the Youth Rep advances the nation’s agenda as a fully accredited member of the Australian delegation, alongside their role as a global youth advocate.

Culminating in a speech to the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Youth Rep negotiates with diplomats from other countries, and helping inform the debate around topical issues from the youth perspective.

This position is open to all Australian residents aged 15-24. Expressions of interest (EOIs) close **November 15th**. EOIs are short and sweet - the best candidates from the EOI process will be invited to submit long applications, so there's no reason not to take 15 minutes and apply! For more information visit www.unyouth.org.au/youthrep. If you have questions regarding the role, feel free to contact Mashood at vpnyouthrep@unyouth.org.au.

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>