



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division

JUNE 2013

UNAAWA Newsletter

This month has seen Australia proudly sign the global arms treaty which is designed to stop the illicit trade in weapons. The treaty was co-authored by Australia and will help regulate the international sale of arms. It was passed by the UN General Assembly in April. Australia still needs to ratify the treaty after it is examined by the relevant Federal Parliamentary Committee.

Meanwhile, hearings about the whaling dispute between Australia and Japan are underway at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague. Proceedings will continue until mid-July. While the final judgment of the ICJ will be binding, this only applies if countries do not withdraw from the relevant international agreements. Updates about the case are available from the UN News Centre or ICJ websites.

In relation to our UN Security Council membership, the Minister for Foreign Affairs has announced that Australia will use its Presidential term on the Security Council in September to emphasise the role of women in global peace, conflict and security issues. This will include highlighting how women can help to achieve long-lasting peace from post-conflict situations.

You are invited to the 2013 UNAA National Conference being held from 9-11 August in Canberra. The conference theme of "Inform, Engage, Inspire" will be explored in relation to four key issues: peace and security, human rights, sustainable development and international justice. See details in this issue (page 6) and go to <http://www.unaa.org.au/national-conference.html> for more information.

A reminder that entries to the Yolande Frank Memorial Award close on Wednesday 31 July. This art competition, now in its fourth year, is open to all children aged between 9 and 13 years. This year we have asked for the creative expression (e.g. drawing, painting, pastels, etc) of Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights relating to equal protection under the law. For more information, please see <http://www.unaa-wa.org.au/YolandeFrank/notice.pdf>.



Our Annual General Meeting is being held on **Sunday 18 August** at 2pm at our Subiaco office. Light refreshments will be available from 1.30pm. I urge you to 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. If you would like to know more about what we do, please come along to our next Executive Meeting on Thursday 18 July at 5.30pm and see us in action!

There are also many other ways you can assist us if you can, such as with our events, fundraising, newsletter, volunteering in the office or by attending our Human Rights Forums or Education Working Group meetings - and so on. Just contact the office or myself and we will have a chat with you about it.

The thoughts and prayers of the global community are with Nelson Mandela and his family at the moment. On "Nelson Mandela International Day" (18 July) we are called to "take action and inspire change" in honour of Mr Mandela's life. We are asked to try to spend **67 minutes** of our time on this day to helping others or the environment in some way. For example, the activity can be donating goods, tidying your local park, reading to people (young, old or lonely), helping out at a community centre or animal shelter, etc. More ideas can be found at <http://www.mandeladay.com/static/join>. Take the challenge!

[Carolyn Gatward, President]

Event—International Day of Peace 21 September

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

The United Nations encourages all nations throughout the world to honour a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and to commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.

Various events will take place in WA to mark the occasion. UNAAWA members and friends have been invited to attend the 2013 International Day of Peace celebrations at the Community Centre in Subiaco. Representatives from different faiths will be participating in the event. Please join us for the performances.

Date: Sunday 22 September 2013

Time: 3.00pm - 6.00pm

Venue: Palms Community Centre; Corner Nicholson and Rokeby Roads, Subiaco

RSVP: eszauter@yahoo.com.au



The
INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF PEACE



United Nations - Important Dates

June

1 June—Global Day of Parents

5 June—World Environment Day [UNEP]

8 June—World Oceans Day

12 June—World Day against Child Labour [ILO]

14 June—World Blood Donor Day [WHO]

15 June—World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

17 June—World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought

20 June—World Refugee Day

23 June—Public Service Day

26 June—International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26 June—International Day in support of Victims of Torture

July

6 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



United Nations Association of Australia WA



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2013 AGM

The meeting will include:

- Presentation of the Annual Report
- Election of Office Bearers
- 2013 Annual Address
- Guest Speaker Juan Larranaga
(WA Program Manager, Save the
Children Australia)

Light refreshments from 1.30pm

2pm on Sunday 18 August

UNAAWA Office
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For information:

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- visit: www.unaa-wa.org.au



Photo: UN Security Council meeting, 2007.
Photo by: Paulo Filgueira (139475)

UNAAWA - working towards a fair and sustainable world

World Day against Child Labour

Each year on 12 June, the World Day against Child Labour brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them. Around 215 million children (at a conservative estimate) are trapped in this form of slavery today. The focus for World Day against Child Labour in 2013 is 'no to child labour in domestic work'. The ILO estimates that 15.5 million children are engaged in paid or unpaid domestic work in the home of a third party or employer.

This year, UNAAWA partnered with the World Organisation for Early Childhood Education Australia and the National Council of Women WA to hold an event on this issue at the Rod Evans Centre in East Perth. Approximately forty people attended to hear from the smorgasbord of guest speakers on the topic, including Judith Parker (UNAAWA), Dr Dawn Butterworth (OMEP Australia), Jan Mantel (ASeTTS), Jessica Watts (Walk Free), Kay Benham (Department of Child Protection & Families) and Major Donna Bryan (Salvation Army).

Thanks to everyone who was involved in this very successful event. A special thanks to Judith for organising and undertaking much of the behind the scenes legwork to make the night run so smoothly.



[Photo (L to R): Jan Mantel, Jessica Watts, Judith Parker, Kay Benham, Dr Dawn Butterfield, Major Donna Bryant]

Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser

On Sunday 2 June Tony, Harvey and Renata had organised a team of helpers, 500 sausages, just as many buns, 10 kgs sliced onions, 168 cans of cool drink, a dozen *wonderful* sauces to tempt the palette, cans of spray oil, an *amazing* array of the necessary kitchen equipment and various other 'bits' to make sure we would 'want for nothing' plus the final touches with our banner and of course the cash float to build our fortune - and so we were set for the Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings in Subiaco.

Harvey and Tony were the anchors of the day and Kombe, Ester and Ailsa joined them at a very chilly 0800. Traffic was very slow and our early excitement was Kombe calling the RAC to open her car where she had locked her keys. We had little bursts of activity to keep us on our toes and keep our circulation flowing. Gradually the temperature rose and people ventured from their homes and purchased the obligatory sausage when visiting a Bunnings store.

Throughout the day the baton was passed to Renata, Shivas, Rees, Anne, Rae and Carlyne and always there was Tony or Harvey to lend a hand. Our profit tallied just under \$700. Until next time, thank you to everyone for their generous support.

[Ailsa Allen, UNAAWA]

News from Other Organisations

Women, Peace and Security Workshop

On Saturday **13 July** at 9am - 12 noon, Young UN Women will be running an interactive workshop on UN Security Resolution 1325 and Australian's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The role of women in peace building and international security is a hugely important issue and this workshop will be of particular interest to university students (especially those studying international relations, law, and development, as well as gender or defence studies), local women's groups and members of the local AFP, Police and defence communities. Materials and morning tea will be provided.

Venue: Office of Commissioner for Children & Young People, Ground Fl, 1 Alvan St, Subiaco

RSVP: by 10 July to perthyouth@unwomen.org.au with the subject line "WPS registration".

Cost: free, but you must register - places are strictly limited.

"Five Years Too Many" Forum

The Baha'i Community of Western Australia extends a sincere invitation to members of the UNAAWA to attend a most important forum for its community on Sunday **July 21** at 7 pm, at the Baha'i Centre of Learning in Myaree, cnr North Lake Road and Marmion Street.

The "Five Years Too Many" campaign acknowledges the fifth anniversary of the arrest of seven imprisoned Iranian Baha'i leaders, and seeks to highlight their unjust and wrongful imprisonment and the deteriorating human rights situation in Iran. Baha'i communities around the world have launched a campaign calling for their immediate release – and the release of all innocent prisoners of conscience in Iranian prisons. (<http://www.bic.org/fiveyears>)

Representatives of major faith communities in Perth will offer prayers and then place red roses on seven empty chairs to symbolise the five men and two women imprisoned for their faith. We would be grateful to receive your RSVP by email if possible, before July 14th.

Email wendywisniewski@gmail.com or tel: 9319 1995. Tea and coffee will be served at the conclusion of the program. Semi-formal dress code is suggested.

Financial Fraud Seminar

This seminar will be presented at the Karrakatta Club by two representatives from the WA Police Fraud Squad. Date: Friday **26th July** -- 11.30am for 11.45am with lunch to follow at 1pm. Cost \$40.00 including 2 course lunch and Lyceum ticket. Please contact Judith Parker email: judithannparker@bigpond.com or phone her on 95272438 if you are interested. She will book you in and you can pay her on the day.

Sir Ronald Wilson Lecture

The Law Society WA, with sponsorship from Murdoch University, is holding the Sir Ronald Wilson lecture on Tuesday **6 August** from 4.30pm-6pm at the Central Park Building Theatre, Podium Level, 152-158 St Georges Tce Perth. The topic is '*Recent Developments in Australian Law Relating to Refugees and Asylum Seekers*' and the speaker will be Associate Professor Mary Anne Kenny, Director of the Centre for Human Rights Education at Curtin University.

The cost is free but registrations are essential on schools@lawsocietywa.asn.au or ph: 9324 8686.

REGISTER NOW



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
**2013 NATIONAL CONFERENCE
INFORM – ENGAGE – INSPIRE**

FRIDAY 9 AUGUST – SATURDAY 10 AUGUST

**SPECIAL WORKSHOPS 8 AUGUST,
UNAA FEDERAL COUNCIL 11 AUGUST**

The world is a challenging place. The United Nations exists to make the world better by rising to the challenges. Nearly seventy years after the establishment of the United Nations, the ideals and endeavours of the UN family remain essential to the daily life of millions, and the trajectory of global affairs.

The United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) invites you to be part of its 2013 National Conference in Canberra. Join a conversation involving expert speakers drawn from government, business, international and academic communities, as we consider issues of peace and security, human rights and justice, and sustainable development.

The UNAA National Conference is unique, in that it brings together a diverse range of specialists from across disciplines, interests and organisations. The real value of the conference is the ability to foster discussion between people with common goals, but different specialisations.

Engage with the problems facing the UN and the world, and be inspired to participate in the solutions. These problems are daunting and often confronting. Nevertheless, the UN and the inspiring individuals associated with it have made a real difference, and continue to do so. Meet people doing great things, be reminded of the UN's ideals and find ways to be involved, however big or small.

REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE ONLINE

at <http://unaaconference.eventbrite.com.au/>

CONTACT THE ORGANISERS: nationalconference@unaa.org.au



**United Nations
Association
of Australia**

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PROGRAM PARTNER



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade