



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division

JULY 2013

UNAAWA Newsletter

*"I raise up my voice – not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard."
- Malala Yousafzai.*

On 12 July, hundreds of millions of people around the world watched the live broadcast of Malala Yousafzai (photo right) delivering her inspirational speech to the UN Youth Assembly. Malala, the 16 year old Pakistani schoolgirl who was shot by the Taliban for attending school, urged people to use education as a weapon against extremism.



She said that the Taliban's attack had changed nothing in her life, except that 'weakness, fear and hopelessness died. Strength, power and courage were born.' She called for worldwide action against illiteracy, poverty and terrorism. The speech has caused a social media frenzy and is being widely quoted. If you missed it, it can be viewed from various sites including:
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45395>.

Meanwhile, the UN Secretary General has set an ambitious goal for the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women—to award \$100 million in grants annually by 2015. So far, its grants have helped 24 million girls and women around the world.

In response to the Australia-Papua New Guinea (PNG) asylum accord, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Geneva has announced that it has concerns about the lack of protection standards and safeguards in the policy under which Australia will shift asylum seekers to PNG. The spokesperson stated that the UNHCR shares concerns at issues such as the risk to life via the dangerous boat journeys. However, recent visits to PNG have found 'significant shortcomings' in the current framework for receiving and processing asylum seekers from Australia.

The spokesperson has identified these as including a lack of national capacity and expertise in processing and poor physical conditions within the detention settings. It was noted that this can be harmful to the physical and psycho-social wellbeing of the transferees (particularly families and children). While the UNHCR acknowledges that a number of these issues are being addressed, it is concerned at the prospect of further transfers taking place under the new arrangement without, for example, appropriate protection guarantees.

"As a principle, UNHCR always advocates for countries to grant protection within their own territory, regardless of how they have arrived," the spokesperson said. She added that "the focus must remain on finding ways that complement – rather than undermine – national asylum systems built on the fundamental principles of the 1951 Refugee Convention. This is important for the countries involved, for the global asylum system, and for all those in need of international protection." The full UNHCR statement can be viewed at: <http://www.unhcr.org/51f2560d9.html>.

On 9-12 August, Vice-President Neesha Seth and I will be representing you at the UNAA National Conference at the ANU in Canberra. The 2013 conference will cover three thematic areas: peace and security, human rights and justice and sustainable development. The conference will conclude with the Federal Council meeting during which the new UNAA Constitution will be considered. We will report back to you via the next newsletters.

I look forward to seeing you at our AGM (details inside) on **Sunday 18 August** at 2pm at the Subiaco office. Refreshments will be available **from 1.30pm**. Our guest speaker is Juan Larranaga from Save the Children Australia. Please consider nominating for a position on our Executive Committee. Nomination forms are available from the Office and our website. At the AGM, we will also be hearing from the volunteers from our UNAAWA subgroups such as the Yolande Frank Memorial Award Committee, the Education Working Group and the Human Rights Forum and there will be opportunities for you to ask questions and find out more information.

[Carolyn Gatward, President]

United Nations Association of Australia WA



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division

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
Level 1, 1 Roydhouse St, Subiaco

For information:

- tel: 6380 7304
- email: office@unaa-wa.org.au
- 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

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. The UNAAWA President will convey the UN Secretary General's Message and 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

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

August

- 9 Aug—International Day of World's Indigenous People
- 12 Aug—International Youth Day
- 19 Aug—World Humanitarian Day
- 23 Aug—International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition [UNESCO]
- 29 Aug—International Day against Nuclear Tests
- 30 Aug—International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances



Yolande Frank Memorial Award 2013

The 2013 award will be judged on 7 August. The winner will be announced on Sunday 18 August at the UNAAWA Annual Meeting. This is the fourth year of the award which honours the memory of Yolande Frank, a long term member of the Association.

Framed originals of the past three winners can be seen displayed on the wall of the UNAAWA office. Postcards of previous award winning entries are available from the office for \$1 each. The award is open to all WA children aged between 9 and 14 years. The winner will receive \$200 as well as \$150 allocated to their school library. It is suggested that the money be spent on books dealing with human rights issues. The winner also receives a book prize.

The judges this year are Curtis Clark, representing UNAAWA, Jillian Greene, representing the Australian Council of Jewish Women WA and Diana Warnock, representing the artistic community.

If any members are interested in joining the committee to arrange the 2014 award please leave a message for Judith Parker at the UNAAWA office. The committee usually meets once yearly in November and then operates via email. The treasurer welcomes donations to the Yolande Frank Memorial Award Account.

[Judith Parker, Chair, Yolande Frank Memorial Committee]

'Five Years Too Many' - Forum 21 July 2013

The Forum on 21 July in support of the Baha'i was a really lovely event. The function, held at the Baha'i Centre of Learning in Myaree, was organised to help raise awareness of seven Baha'i leaders being unjustly held as prisoners in Iran.

The leaders have spent 5 years in prison so far of their 20 year sentence. Baha'i communities around the world have begun the "5 Years Too Many Campaign" and this particular event was one that brought together members from the community from different faiths to help pray for the leaders and other prisoners of conscience.

There were a numbers of religious leaders from the Christian, Jewish, Islamic and Muslim community who all said prayers. One non-denomination group then gave a musical gift to the Baha'i people. The event was truly inspirational and peaceful.

For more information about the campaign calling for the release of the prisoners, please see: <http://www.bic.org/fiveyears>.

[Kombe Musonda, UNAAWA Executive]



[Photo: KM, 2nd from left with attendees]

News from Other Organisations

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.

Children's Week

The 2013 WA Children's Week Awards are now open for nominations. The Awards are an integral part of WA Children's Week celebrations. For children, the *'Go for 2&5 Art Award'* seeks creativity in children while the *'Schools and You'* Award recognises groups of children engaged in or participating in an initiative supporting health and wellbeing.

For adults, the Communities Award acknowledges a service or project delivering excellence to children and their families, and the Volunteering Award seeks an individual who demonstrates dedication that enhances children's lives.

Nominations close 16th August. To find out more visit www.childrensweekwa.org.au.

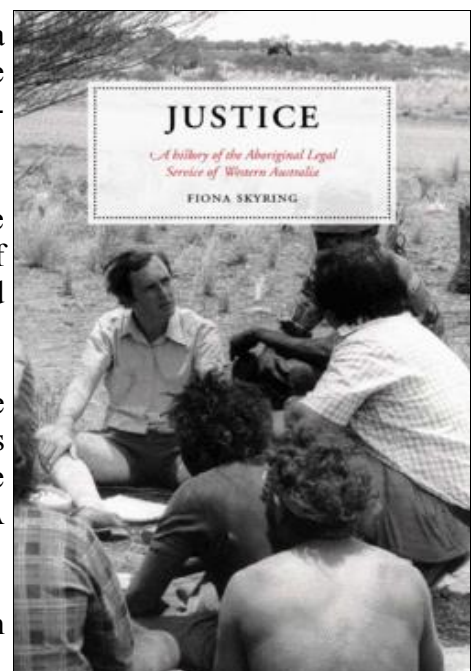
'Justice—A History of the Aboriginal Legal Service (WA)'

'Justice—A history of the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA' by Fiona Skyring looks at the important role that the ALS has played since the 1970s in addressing human rights abuses and the legacies of dispossession.

These issues include Aboriginal deaths in custody, land rights and the legacy of the stolen generations. The book reveals the human face of these reforms and tells the story of the people who built the ALS and who continue to advocate for social justice.

The author, Fiona Skyring, is a historian who works for native title organisations. This book has been awarded the 2011 WA Premier's Prize, the 2011 WA Premier's Book Award (for WA History) and the 2013 Margaret Medcalf Award. Copies can be purchased from UWA Publishing for \$39.95.

The Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia was a finalist in the 2012 Human Rights Awards.





Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project

Commemorating Australian Peacekeeping Past, Present and Future

Progress continues to build a national peacekeeping memorial on ANZAC Parade, leading to the Australian War Memorial in the centre of Canberra. It will honour the Australian men and women, ADF, police and civilians who have been deployed on similar peacekeeping work over the past 66 years. It will express Australia's pride not only in those who have served in past peacekeeping operations and today but also in those who will do so in the years ahead.

The Memorial concept features two large monoliths separated by a glowing passage of golden light which will lead to a commemorative courtyard featuring messages about the service of Australia's military, civilian and police peacekeepers.



The project is well advanced with a site allocated on Anzac Parade, a fully documented design having National Capital Authority approval and a successfully completed extensive prototype test programme. A construction contract is in place, long lead-time materials have been ordered and the Memorial is ready to commence construction immediately. It can be completed within 8 months of receiving assured funding of the further \$2.9million for construction. The Government has recently approved Designated Gift Recipient status for this project so all donations are now tax-free.

The Memorial will be a focal point for national parades and remembrance ceremonies in recognition of Australian peacekeeping on appropriate occasions such as ANZAC day (25th April), UN International Day of Peacekeepers (25th May), Australian Peacekeepers' and Peacemakers' Day (14th September), and United Nations Day (24th October). It will be available always for individual and group commemoration and reflection. For more information or to donate to the project, please see www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au or call 0406 168 655.

[Article supplied by the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project]

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