



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division

AUG/SEPT 2013

UNAAWA Newsletter

Thank you to the many people who attended our (packed) AGM meeting in August. Our 2013/14 Executive Committee is listed on page 2 for your reference. We welcome Ailsa and Ricardo to the team, and thank our departing members Renata, Radha and Amanda for their efforts. Congratulations to Judith Parker (**pictured below**), who was awarded Life Membership of the Association at the AGM in recognition of her years of dedicated service. The Annual Report for 2012/13 can be viewed at: <http://www.unaa-wa.org.au/annualReport/2012-2013.pdf> or please ask for a copy from the office.

Over the past month, we have seen heartening developments at the UN, during which Australia has chaired the UN Security Council through one of its most challenging periods. A looming threat of military action against the Syrian Government has been replaced by Resolution 2118 which has been unanimously passed by the Security Council. This resolution states that Syria's stockpiles must be checked and destroyed, and it also calls for the convening of peace talks to attempt a negotiated resolution of the devastating civil war. It leaves the door open to further steps being taken if Syria does not meet its requirements. The UN Secretary-General described the breakthrough as the most hopeful news for Syria for a couple of years.

Another achievement was the adoption of the first Security Council resolution on small arms and light weapons (SALW). The adoption of the resolution was proposed by Australia as part of our role as council president. The resolution includes the establishment of practical ways to strengthen responses to the illegal transfer and misuse of these weapons.

A third exciting development has been the defrosting of diplomatic relations between the USA and Iran. The two Presidents have held their first direct conversation since 1979. Should there be eventual agreement on nuclear restraint for Iran, Australia will become involved in changing the Iranian sanction regime as a result of our role chairing the UN subcommittee overseeing the sanctions.

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Former UN (ILO) representative and UNAA Past President, Professor John Langmore, has been watching events firsthand from New York and describes the past month as an astonishing period culminating in 'substantial advances towards the peaceful resolution of major conflicts'. You can see his article '*War and Peace: Australia's enormous September at the UN*' at <http://theconversation.com>.

A reminder that this year's UN Day Celebrations will be held on UN Day **Thursday 24 October 2013 commencing at 6pm** in the Grace Vaughan House lecture theatre, Stubbs Terrace in Shenton Park. The venue is about 500m from the Shenton Park railway station and parking is also available. Details to follow, but please mark the date in your calendar and join us on this special day.

The next meeting of the **Human Rights Forum** will be held on Saturday 5 October from 10am-11.30am in the Subiaco office boardroom. The **Education Working Group** will be meeting on Friday 11 October at 11am in the boardroom. All are welcome to attend either meeting. If you are heading to Whiteman Park for the Family Funsafe Day EXPO (from 10am-2pm) on Sunday 20 October 2013, remember to drop by our stall and cheer on our maskmakers.

[Carolyne Gatward, President]

UNAAWA Executive 2013/14

President:

Carolyn Gatward

Vice-President representing ordinary members:

Neesha Seth

Vice-President representing organisational members:

Bodie D'Orazio

Secretary:

Ailsa Allen

Treasurer:

Harvey Davies

Immediate Past President:

Judith Parker AM DSJ

Delegates representing organisational members

Manita Beskow
Margaret Chiramba
Owen Loneragan
Ester Steingieser

Ordinary members

Joseph Caruso (Global Representative)
Ricardo Hernandez
Tony McCrae
Kombe Musonda
Dr Jan Ryan
Jessica Watts



United Nations—Important Dates

8 September	International Literacy Day [UNESCO]
10 September	World Suicide Prevention Day [WHO]
15 September	International Day of Democracy
16 September	International Day for Preservation of the Ozone Layer
21 September	International Day of Peace
27 September	World Tourism Day [UNWTO]
28 September	World Rabies Day [WHO]
1 October	International Day of Older Persons
2 October	International Day of Non-Violence
5 October	World Teachers' Day [UNESCO]
7 October	World Habitat Day
10 October	World Mental Health Day [WHO]
10 October	World Sight Day [WHO]
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child
15 October	International Day of Rural Women
16 October	World Food Day [FAO]
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
24 October	United Nations Day



Yolande Frank Memorial Award 2013

The 2013 prize winners of the Yolande Frank Memorial Award were announced on 18 August at the UNAAWA's Annual General Meeting. Each year, the competition engages children from primary schools in Western Australia by asking them to create visual representations that reflect an article taken from the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

One hundred and twenty two entries were received for this year's competition. The winning entry has been framed and will hang in the office. It was also printed as a postcard and is available to purchase from the office. Packs of postcards depicting the 4 winning entries from the last 4 years are available for \$3.

Who was Yolande Frank?

Yolande Frank was born in Hungary on 16 September 1921. She had a happy start to life with her loving parents and four siblings. Then her town was occupied by the Germans and her life changed forever because she was Jewish. Her whole family was sent to the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, where her parents and some siblings perished. After the war she migrated to New Zealand and then Australia.



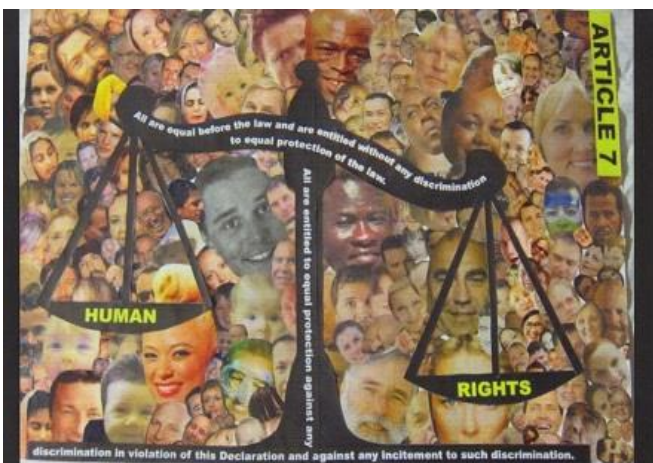
Yolande had such a bottomless pit of energy and exuded such a love of life and optimism that most people had no idea of the hard times she had lived through. Yolande Frank was passionate for human rights and was always ready to raise her voice for equality and respect for all.

She was an active and valued member of UNAAWA for many years. She had a passion to ensure that children understood the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

[Photo: Judith Parker AM presenting a Yolande Frank award]

The Memorial Award was established in Yolande's honour after her death in 2009.

The Prize Winners!

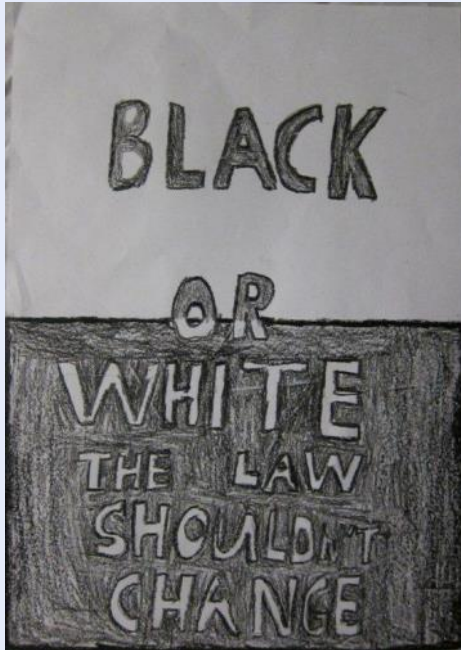


Winner

Jacques Flouzat aged 12 years
from North Beach Primary School
won the 2013 Yolande Frank Memorial Award
prize of \$200 and a book.

The school was awarded \$150 for its library.

Yolande Frank Memorial Award 2013 (cont'd)



Highly Commended Prize
Charlie Sullivan aged 12 from
North Beach Primary School.

Highly Commended Prize
Summer Ash aged 11 from
Darlington Primary School



Judges' Awards



Sean Worthington aged 9 from
Frankland River Primary School



Shai Leib aged 11 from
Carmel Primary School

2013 UNAA National Conference — Report

The United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) is one among over 100 members of like associations representing countries in the World Federation of United Nations Associations ([WFUNA](#)), which has consultative status with the UN. The UNAA's annual conference 2013 aimed to bring together national affiliates and 'inform, engage and inspire' them. This meeting took place in Canberra from 8 to 10 August.

Being a newly active member of the WA division, I had the pleasure of attending the national conference with our President, Carolyne Gatward, and Vice President, Neesha Seth. I interacted with numerous noteworthy people at the conference and this reinforced my beliefs about the importance of getting involved as a volunteer. I met Dr Russell Trood (currently National President of UNAA); Elizabeth Shaw (UNAA Executive Director); various members from other divisions; representatives from the Australian Baha'i community, UN Women, Young Professionals Network, ADF personnel, government, participants from the private sector, and many others.

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”

This was the opening statement of the presentation made by Professor Gillian Triggs, who we last saw as our key speaker for UN Day in Perth in October 2012. Professor Triggs then provided a brief history on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), taking into account the challenges we are facing in the 21st century. It was noted that the Declaration was ratified in less than 2 years and although it is a progressive document, we could not hope to achieve such a similar feat today. The Declaration is fluid and is constantly changing, for example new grounds being added for *discrimination* that may not have been initially conceived.

Professor Triggs went on to discussing the legal status of the UDHR. Since it is not a treaty, countries are not bound by it. In Australia, we have a barely coherent patchwork of laws concerning human rights. Paradoxically, we as a nation have a “robust culture” for protecting such treaties as the UDHR, freedom of speech, equality, as so on. We recognize and try to reconcile complaints despite human rights not being ascertained by Commonwealth laws.

Dr Jeremy Farrall from the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy (ANU) and Dr Russell Trood talked about the importance and the challenges facing Australia during our tenure in the Security Council. This is a significant and historical time for Australia as we have a chance to leave a great legacy from our participation, which began on 1 January this year and will last until 31 December 2014. It is important for Australia to therefore develop early alliances with other council members and facilitate the process of engagement in multilateral diplomacy with other member states. However, we have not yet been notably influential at the international level and a complication we will be facing is that Australia will take up the Presidency of the Council during the month of September, right in the middle of a Federal election.

Dr Susan Harris Rimmer, a Director at the College, highlighted the importance of gender issues. She believes not much global progress has been made in this area, despite it being a ratified Millennium Development Goal (MDG). She argued that since the time to achieve the MDGs is fast approaching, our attention should turn towards planning an agenda post-2015. She added that girls continue to have a “poverty voice” in decision-making and the economic empowerment of women continues to lack, perpetuating inequality. Additional issues include the low representation of women owning homes and inheriting property, arranged marriages, unequal numbers of girls than boys attending primary schools, and disparate women's wages in the agricultural sector.

2013 National UNAA Conference — (cont'd)

Shifting the attention from gender inequality was Peter Baxter, Director General at AusAID. His discussion centred around the importance of the post-2015 agenda. Thinking to the future, Mr Baxter argued any goals should continue to place people at the core. He proposed that the topical issues to consider include: the eradication of poverty; that any new agenda must be built on top of the existing MDGs and reflect the highest priority development challenges; recognising the reality that fragile states are not likely to meet MDGs. “Sustainable development goals need to be global in nature and applied universally” he said. Non OECD nations need to have greater participation/cooperation despite having stagnant social growth.

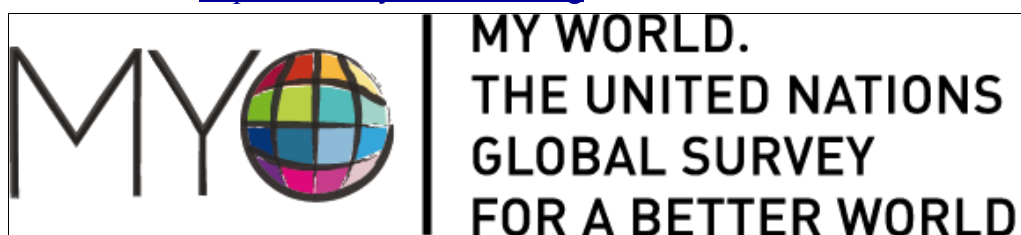


The presentation by Christopher Woodthorpe (photo left, from UNIC), Director at the UN Information Centre in Canberra, highlighted a survey called My World 2015, which follows a similar concept as the MDGs framework. The survey is part of a campaign to identify what the priorities are for a better world, post 2015.

The UN has devised 16 issues through extensive consultation. As a global citizen, you are invited to select the six issues you consider have the highest priority on a personal level.

This survey was launched in Australia at the national conference, and I encourage you to please go to the website below and participate through casting your vote. So far, over a million people from a total of 194 countries have voted. The UN and their partners want to hear from you.

<http://www.myworld2015.org>



About the author:

Ricardo Hernandez (pictured right at the Conference with the UN SG, in spirit) is a new member of the UNAANA executive committee. He attended the UNAA national conference and was assigned with reporting back on proceedings. Ricardo has an MSc in Geography from the University of Auckland, and has lived in WA since 2010. He is actively involved in the community by volunteering for various organizations.



2013—UN International Year of Quinoa

WHAT IS QUINOA?

Quinoa is a grain-like crop grown primarily for its edible seeds. The name is derived from the Spanish spelling of the Quechua name *kinwa* or occasionally "qin-wah". The crop originated in the Andean region of Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, where it was successfully domesticated 3,000 to 4,000 years ago for human consumption. Like the potato, quinoa was one of the main foods of the Andean peoples. Traditionally, quinoa grain are roasted and then made into flour, with which different types of breads are baked. It can also be cooked, added to soups, used as a cereal, made into pasta and even fermented to beer or chicha, the traditional drink of the Andes. When cooked it takes on a nut-like flavour. Today quinoa not only also has a key role in the gourmet kitchen, it has been presented as a viable food option for areas with arid farming conditions and high malnutrition rates.⁽¹⁾



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF QUINOA

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2013 as the "International Year of Quinoa" in recognition of the ancestral practices of the Andean people, who have preserved quinoa as food for present and future generations through their knowledge and practices of living in harmony with nature. The objective is to draw the world's attention to the role that quinoa plays in food security, nutrition and the eradication of poverty, in support of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations serves as the Secretariat of the international year.

CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY AND THE WORLD

Faced with the challenge of increasing the production of quality food to feed the world's population, quinoa offers an alternative for those countries suffering from food insecurity. Quinoa has a strong potential, owing to both its nutritional benefits and its agricultural versatility, to contribute to food security in various regions of the world, especially in countries where the population has no access to protein sources, or where food production is limited. Quinoa is an excellent option for these countries in relation to producing their own food.⁽³⁾

Quinoa has also been studied for pharmaceutical uses and this research may in the future play a vital role in combating health and disease issues around the world.⁽¹⁾

WHAT CAN WE DO TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE YEAR OF QUINOA

The most powerful thing we can do to promote The Year of the Quinoa is to firstly share with our friends the importance of the topic and an excellent way to promote issues in this day and age is through social media. Hop onto Facebook, Twitter or any other medium and tell your friends. Other ways we can help promote and learn more is to attend events that are linked with the Year of the Quinoa. You can find events (local, interstate or international) listed via the various UNA chapter websites. For example, the UNAA South Australian Division will be holding a UN Day Dinner consisting of quinoa dishes prepared by iconic SA chefs. For details, see http://www.unaasa.org.au/Dinner_Invitation_2013.pdf.

- REFERENCES: (1) <http://www.fao.org/quinoa-2013/en/>
(2) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quinoa>
(3) <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44184>

[Max Fouda, UNAAWA member]

Membership & Volunteering Opportunities @ UNAAWA

“What’s in it for me?”

As a member of the United Nations Association of Australia WA Division, you are a part of a much larger worldwide association (WFUNA) that the UN Association of Australia links into. UNAA a national non-profit organisation of volunteers dedicated to informing the community about the work of the UN and seeking to advance the goals of the UN in Australia and around the world. Opportunities exist across all States and Territories within Australia.

Presently, the WA Division’s key focus is in the areas of human rights and education.

As a member, you receive:

- 1.Exclusive invitations to events around Australia
- 2.Emailed newsletters
- 3.Opportunities to contribute in community engagement events and network with like-minded individuals who care about the future of our community.

Whether you have 2 hours or 20 hours to contribute, there are plenty of opportunities.

Please email Neesha Seth, Vice-President (wavp@unaa.org.au) for more information.

United Nations Publications

United Nations Publications brings together all UN publications in one place. They are the source for over 5,300 titles produced by the organization and its key agencies. The website offers on-line access to a complete catalogue, in a range of formats including print, electronic and multimedia. In addition, UN Publications works with 90 agents in 61 countries to facilitate distribution of the titles.



You can visit the website to find out more: <https://unp.un.org/>.

Further Resources

United Nations Information Centre for Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific:
<http://www.un.org.au>

For international updates, UN Wire: http://www.smartbrief.com/un_wire/index.jsp



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