



United  
Nations  
Association  
of Australia  
WA Division

March 2014

# UNAANA Newsletter

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Carolyn Gatward

Firstly, a warm welcome to the new editor of our newsletter, Ms Colleen Harmer. Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions about the redesigned format of the newsletter. Would you be interested in joining the team that submits articles or photographs for future editions? If so, please contact the office.

Ms Karissa Wilson has offered to lead the environmental portfolio on the Executive. See her article (p.5) about Ningaloo Reef. Contact Karissa (wilsonkarissa@gmail.com) if you have environmental issues or events you would like to raise.

Thanks also to the throng of members who attended our recent sausage sizzle (see pg.3). It was wonderful to see so many volunteers. Special thanks to Tony McRae for co-ordinating the activity. This month, UNAANA also participated in the 'Recognise' event (pg. 2). To support this campaign and receive regular updates, register your details at <http://www.recognise.org.au/about>.

We have locked in **Friday 30 May** at the Irish Club, Subiaco (7pm for 7.30pm start) for our next major event, the Hypothetical. Hypotheticals take serious issues and use comedy and quirky twists to explore the challenging subjects in a fun and engaging way. The topic for our (brave) panellists will be: "*Perth 2050: Post Climate Change in the most isolated city in the world*". Meals can be ordered in advance from the Club and seating will be tables of eight. More details to follow soon. Save the date!

The UN report 'Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability' has just been issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The report concludes that the impact of climate change is already widespread and is affecting all continents and oceans in the world. The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon has called on all countries to move swiftly to take action and tackle the issue on an international level at the UN climate summit on 23 September. The summit is aiming to reach a global legal climate agreement by 2015. To view the IPCC's report, see <http://ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2>.

Finally, it is great news that the UN's International Court of Justice has ruled that Japan must halt its Antarctic whaling activity. Australia commenced the case in 2010 and was supported by New Zealand. The court found that the whaling being undertaken was not for scientific research purposes. It is possible that Japan could re-commence whaling in the future if it revises its scientific research program.



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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Being a part of History: a UNAANA presence at the 'Recognise' Event
- Yolande Frank Memorial Award Submissions Invited!
- UNESCO close to home— Ningaloo Reef sustainability
- Australian Red Cross—Job Opportunity (p.7)

## THE JOURNEY TO RECOGNITION

Members of UNAAWA joined others in the broader community to support constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at the 'Recognise' event on Monday 10 March.

Over 300 people met in Fremantle to send off the Recognise relay as it prepared to continue its journey across Australia.

Tiana Culbong, a young Noongar woman, offered words of inspiration, "It is time to remove the divide between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people; a time to accept and acknowledge a shared history. By doing this, we can move forward together and share Australia's future. I stand here to urge you to join the movement to make a change for a better future for us all."

The event was hosted by the Elders of the

Whadjuk Noongar people, the traditional owners of the land.

'The Journey to Recognition' is a nationwide movement that started in Melbourne last May. Small relay teams have covered 16,000 kilometres by various means. They finished in Perth last December and this most recent event kick-started the re-launch of the Journey.

This leg of the relay will make its way through the southwest of WA, travelling through Mandurah and the Roelands Village. It will continue on through Bunbury and Augusta, ending in Esperance. Campaigners will then travel to Queensland.

[information from: <http://www.recognise.org.au/blog/view/on-the-road-again>]

*'It is time to remove the divide between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people; a time to accept and acknowledge a shared history...'*



Photos by Harvey Davies

## SAUSAGE SIZZLE SUCCESS!

It was a bright and sunny Autumn day and all the gardeners were stirring... and lots of them came to the UNAAWA sausage sizzle at Bunnings Subiaco and gorged themselves on Mondo's sausages cooked by an enthusiastic crew of UNAAWA members and supporters.



We made more than \$800 for the day and owe a big thanks to Mondo's Butchers in Inglewood for the prime snaggers and to all of the volunteers who turned out on the day - not to mention the crowd of people who ate more than 400 sausages and buns!!



[Tony McRae, Executive Member]

Photos by Kombe Musonda

## MULTICULTURAL FEST 2014

### Inauguration of Migrant Pavilion and Children's Playground

This event was organised by the Western Australian Multicultural Association (WAMA), whose Vice-President Dante Maribbay is a member of UNAAWA. It was held on Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 at Ozone Park in East Perth. It lasted from 11.30 am until 5.30 pm and included performances from a wide variety of ethnic groups from around the world. The new pavilion was opened by the Lord Mayor of Perth, Lisa Scaffidi.

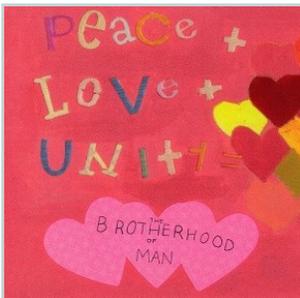
A couple of days after, I had a coffee with the secretary of WAMA Franco Smargiassi, with whom I went to school at Pingelly in the 1950s. We both believe there is potential for a very fruitful future collaboration between UNAAWA and WAMA.

[Harvey Davies, Executive Member]

## UNAAWA MARKETPLACE

The UNAAWA has a number of items available for purchase from our office in Subiaco. From shirts, to postcards, to books there is something for everyone to show their support for the UN, its mission and the local WA network.

Contact Harvey via the website for more details on how to purchase.

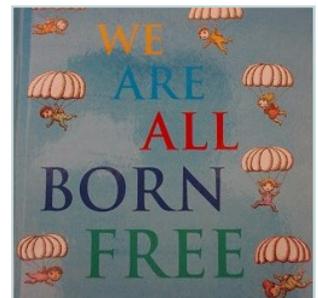


Yolande Frank Award  
Postcards \$1 each or 3  
for \$4

Postcards feature the artwork of the Yolande Frank Memorial Award winner. (See our website for more designs)



UNAAWA Shirts  
(Women) \$10



Books:

We Are All Born Free  
\$15

Celebrating Diversity in  
Western Australia  
(cookbook) \$10

Voice for Peace \$5



United  
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**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA) INCORPORATED**  
**MEMBER WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS, GENEVA**  
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# ART COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN

*For children living in Western Australia aged 9 to 14 years on the closing date, 31st July 2014*

## Yolande Frank Memorial Award

### A Creative Expression of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

This is the fifth year of the award in memory of Yolande Frank, who died in 2009. She was a survivor of the Holocaust and a long-time member of the United Nations Association of Australia WA Division (UNAAWA). She had a passion to ensure that children understood the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Previous award winners can be viewed at [www.unaa-wa.org.au/wa-art/wa-yolande-frank-award.html](http://www.unaa-wa.org.au/wa-art/wa-yolande-frank-award.html)  
 The competition is open to children living in Western Australia aged 9 to 13 years on 31st July 2014.

**2014 Task:** Illustrate article 24 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

*"Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation on working hours and periodic holidays with pay."*

**Award:** The winner receives \$200 and a book. Their school library receives \$150 to purchase teaching aids or books focusing on Human Rights Issues. Additional prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the judges. The decisions of the judges are final and will be announced at the AGM of UNAAWA in August. Arrangements will be made with the school of the winning entry to present the award. All children who enter will receive a participation certificate.

**Entries** may be produced by drawing, painting, collage, screen print, charcoal, watercolour or pastels. The minimum size is A4 (21cm by 29.5 cm). The maximum size is 37cm by 70cm. Each entry should be clearly marked on the back with the child's name, age, school and contact details. The winning entry remains the property of UNAAWA.

**Teacher's Kits** are available free from the UNAAWA office and [www.unaa-wa.org.au/wa-art/wa-yolande-frank-award.htm](http://www.unaa-wa.org.au/wa-art/wa-yolande-frank-award.htm)

**Submission:** Teachers may submit entries for their classes. Entries for individual children can be submitted by their parents or other adults who must include a signed statement that the work was produced by the child. Entries must be received by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014 and should be delivered to the UNAAWA office or posted to:

Yolande Frank Memorial Award, UNAAWA  
 Level 1, Arcadia Chambers  
 1 Roydhouse Street  
 Subiaco, WA 6008

**Enquiries:** Contact the UNAAWA office by email to [yolande.frank@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:yolande.frank@unaa-wa.org.au) or phoning 6380 7304.

**A Peoples movement promoting the aims and ideals of the United Nations through education and awareness**

The Western Australian branch of United Nations Association of Australia is associated with the World Federation of United Nations Associations. It is a non-government and non-political organisation. It does not receive funding from United Nations. It promotes and campaigns for the aims and aspirations of the UN. It is made up of a group of people from diverse backgrounds, interests and ages.

## ‘UNSPEAKABLE ATROCITIES’ IN DPR KOREA



Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry, Michael Kirby. (UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré)

*‘The Commission of Inquiry found systematic, widespread and grave human rights violations occurring in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.*

*It also found a disturbing array of crimes against humanity’*

Chairman Michael Kirby commented on the findings presented by the Commission of Inquiry regarding alleged human rights abuses in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. The UN reported the following:

Detailing a raft of “unspeakable atrocities” committed in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) “without parallel in the modern world,” the head of a United Nations-mandated probe into the human rights situation there called on the international community to hold the country to account, including through referral to the International Criminal Court ([ICC](#)).

“The Commission of Inquiry found systematic, widespread and grave human rights violations occurring in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It also found a disturbing array of crimes

against humanity,” said Chairman Michael Kirby in Geneva during a dialogue with members of the UN Human Rights Council.

The Council set up the Commission of Inquiry in March 2013 with a one-year mandate to investigate several alleged human rights violations, including those concerning the right to food and those associated with prison camps; torture and inhuman treatment; arbitrary detention; discrimination; freedom of expression, movement and religion; the right to life; and enforced disappearances, including abductions of nationals to other countries.

The result was an unprecedented 400-page set of linked reports and supporting documents – initially released on 17 February – culled from first-hand testimony from victims and witnesses, revealing, according to the Commission, crimes that “arose from policies established at the highest level of the State.”

[photo and article from: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)]

## NINGALOO REEF RESILIENCE

Ningaloo Reef, located 1200kms north of Perth, maintains much of its ecological integrity in the face of climate change and development according to the United Nations Education Scientific Organisation (UNESCO).

The concern for Ningaloo reef comes after months of controversy surrounding the Abbot Point Development project on the Great Barrier Reef which proposes to deposit dredge spoil within the nationally iconic Marine Park.

Despite concerns UNESCO has stated that sea level rise and increases in seawater temperatures associated with climate change have had moderately little effect on the reef. The good overall integrity of the Ningaloo reef suggests a higher resilience in comparison to other disturbed systems under additional stress.

Careful monitoring is still, however, recommended for the ecosystem. (continued on p. 6)



Ningaloo Coast

Potential future threats to the Ningaloo reef expressed by UNESCO include invasive species such as foxes, cats, goats and weeds on land and some invasive marine species. If visitation to the reef increases, the extra demand for water could lead to water abstraction, with possible negative consequences for the ground-water systems.

Potential off-shore oil extraction in the region surrounding the reef is also a concern. Whilst the Ningaloo reef benefits from its remote location and low population density the remoteness poses major challenges to responses to pollution incidents, suggesting a need for further investments in emergency response.

In addition to concerns stemming from climate change the Ningaloo reef has sustained a significant threat from tourism development in the early 2000s. Despite this, however, UNESCO has stated that current management programs, an overall tourism development strategy and appropriate response systems are functioning in the area, but will require consolidation in anticipation of further increasing visitation (UNESCO 2014).

Ningaloo Reef gained World Heritage listing in 2011, and is classified as a National Heritage area and is thus afforded protection domestically under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act of 1999 (EPBC). This means Australia has an obligation to both the global and domestic communities to conserve the area for future generations.

UNESCO make the following recommendation to ensure the continued preservation of the reef: 1) Funding from federal and state levels and staffing as of the time of inscription would benefit from increases and 2) that the establishment of a Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee or a similar body bringing together

representatives from the traditional owners, local government, scientific experts and members of the community, has an important role to play (UNESCO 2014).

It could be argued that the Ningaloo Reef is one of Australia's best managed and effectively protected reefs. Layers of legislation, the reef's remote location and active community volunteer agencies provide protection through their ongoing research and very strong community drive to conserve the reef.

However, whilst it is important to recognise our environmental successes and use them as a model for similar ecosystems, we must not become complacent. The Ningaloo Reef is still at risk from a number of serious threats. These threats can be mitigated through continued awareness of the Ningaloo Reef's cultural and ecological significance and continued engagement with mechanisms for ongoing improvement. UNESCO's recommendation to form a world heritage advisory committee for the reef, for example, would ensure that the work already being done by government agencies and volunteers takes a strategic and coordinated approach to secure one of Western Australia's most precious ecosystems.

[Karissa Wilson, Executive Member]

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ningaloo\\_Reef](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ningaloo_Reef)

<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/31a9e336-d04a-48cb-810b-76a2b53751ac/files/ningaloo-strategic-management-framework.rtf>

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1369>

Photo from <http://ningalooatlas.org/about/>.

## NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

### Australian Red Cross

*Issues in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Course.*

Tuesday 8 April and Tuesday 15 April from 5:30-8:30pm at the College of Law WA (263 Adelaide Terrace, Perth). \$40 for Red Cross people/full-time students with valid concession card or student ID to be presented at the course; \$80 standard registration for non CPD; \$100 CPD registration (pending approval from the LPBWA).

Register at <http://www.trybooking.com/ENGG>.

Email [hstamp@redcross.org.au](mailto:hstamp@redcross.org.au) with any questions.

*\*Job Opportunity\* - International Humanitarian Law Officer, 12 months Full-Time, West Perth.*

Job Description: Communicate the significance of IHL and the International Red Cross/Crescent Movement to a range of key stakeholders. Key activities will include the development, organisation and provision of training and events to diverse audiences, in particular speaking on IHL issues to a variety of groups such as Red Cross staff, tertiary students, the medical and legal professions, journalists, and the general public. Applications close 7 April.

For more information or to apply visit :

<http://careers.redcross.org.au/cw/en/#/job/494757/international-humanitarian-law-officer-wa>

### Centre for Human Rights Education

*"Australia's Foreign Policy and Human Rights: Why Australia Should Speak Up on Rights".*

Public Seminar with Elaine Pearson, Australian Director at Human Rights Watch. Wednesday 9 April from 6:30-8:30pm in the Tim Winton Lecture Theatre at Curtin University (Building 213.104). Free parking is available in car park D3. RSVP by Monday 7 April. This is a free event.

To secure a seat please go to <http://chreelainepearson.doattend.com/>.



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## UN IMPORTANT DATES

### APRIL 2014

2 April	World Autism Awareness Day
4 April	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
6 April	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
7 April	Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwanda Genocide
7 April	World Health Day [WHO]
12 April	International Day of Human Space Flight
22 April	International Mother Earth Day
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day
23 April	English Language Day
25 April	World Malaria Day [WHO]
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day [WIPO]
28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work [ILO]
29 April	Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare
30 April	International Jazz Day