



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division

UN Matters

April 2014

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Carolynne Gatward

At packed Anzac Day dawn services in Perth and Fremantle, wreaths were laid on behalf of UNAANA members by Joseph Caruso (Global Representative) and myself. "Lest We Forget".

The UNAA NSW Conference 2014 will be held at Customs House, Sydney from 25-26 July. The theme is 'To End All Wars - Preventing War. Building Peace'. Experts from government, NGOs, business and academia will discuss the significance of the centenary of WW1 and suggest ways we can effectively reduce conflict and build peace for the future. The programme can be viewed at <http://www.unaa.org.au/unaa-nsw-conference.html>. The conference will then be followed by the national UNAA's Annual General Meeting on Sunday 27 July. All are welcome.

On the national scene, representatives from the SA and NSW Divisions of UNAA will be attending the meeting of European UNAs in Geneva on 2-3 June 2014 as UNAA observers. The Queensland Division has sent a representative to attend the UN University for Peace (Costa Rica) for the environmental sustainability programme.

The UN's World Health Organisation (WHO) has released a report indicating that antibiotic resistance has become a major threat to public health throughout the world. Find out more about WHO on page 3. For information about what WHO suggests should be done now by all countries, see <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47691#.U2JisJWKC8>.

Entries to the Yolande Frank Memorial Award close on 31 July (see page 4) so please let kids between 9 and 14 years of age know about it. Great prizes to be won. The 2014 theme is Article 24 of the UN Human Rights Declaration (i.e. right to rest and leisure).

Time to buy your tickets to our event on Friday 30 May at the Irish Club, Subiaco. The theme of our hypothetical is 'Perth 2050: Post Climate Change in the Most Isolated City in the World'. Watch our panellists grapple with the unpredictable questions posed by Elisa Williams (from Strictly Hypothetical) who will be our MC for the evening. Panelists will include Professor Ray Wills, Jemma Green, Simon Blackwell and Peter Langlands. During the evening, you could also attempt our challenge to become the champion of limericks! Refer to our flier (page 2) for more details about the event. Book at <http://www.trybooking.com/ETTP> or phone the office or our dedicated secretary, Ailsa. I look forward to seeing you there.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Perth 2050 Hypothetical	2
Global Representative's Report ..	3
What is the WHO?	3
Yolande Frank Memorial Award	4
Australia's New Youth Representative	5
Flagship Model UN Conference ..	6
World Wildlife Day	6
News from Other Organisations	7
UN Important Dates	7

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Join the fun! UNAANA Event—Perth 2050 Hypothetical
- Exciting new opportunities for UN Youth—flagship conference in Rome
- Introducing Laura John—UN Youth Representative

PERTH 2050

Post climate change in the most isolated city in the world

Perth 2050... Oil has peaked and dwindled, oceans have risen and coral reefs have become the stuff of legend. What is life like in the West, when hail stones are as big as grapefruit, cyclones are an annual event and white wine production is almost impossible?

Join our live, unrehearsed panel for a journey into our possible future and discover the answers to all the big questions:

? Is Australia still the lucky country?

? Has Rotto become an underwater resort?

? Have the Dockers won a premiership yet?

Speakers:

Professor Ray Wills – Sustainability expert and previous CEO of the Sustainable Energy Association

Jemma Green – Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute

Simon Blackwell – Planner / urban designer, sustainability practitioner and committee member for Future Perth

Elisa Williams – Strictly Hypothetical (MC)

Peter Langlands – Co-founder of Transition Town Guildford

Details:

WHEN: 7pm for 7.30pm, Friday 30 May 2014

WHERE: Irish Club of WA, 61 Townshend Rd, Subiaco

TICKETS: \$20 online, \$25 at the door. <http://www.trybooking.com/ETTP>
or ring Ailsa on 0417 982 055



United Nations Association of Australia

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United Nations Association of Australia WA Division

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GLOBAL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

WHAT IS THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)?

WHO is the directing and coordinating body for health within the United Nations system.

It is responsible for providing leadership on matters such as global health, research, preventable diseases and increasing awareness by education. A platform of uplifting health particularly in developing countries requires lifting the threshold of poverty as a primary mandate in the Millennium Development Goals, as agreed by UN Member Nations.

THE WHO 6-POINT 2014 AGENDA

1. **Promoting Development:** Central focus on uplifting the dire poverty of the disadvantaged and improving health and social/economic platforms, irrespective of colour, creed or religion.
2. **Fostering Health Security:** Shared responsibility to combat both known and new epidemic diseases.
3. **Strengthening Health Systems:** Increasing trained medical, nursing and specialist staff, allocating greater funding and using advanced medicine technology.
4. **Harnessing Research Information and Evidence:** Research provides the foundation for defining priorities of existing and new frontiers in the battle against human illness and disease.
5. **Enhancing Partnerships:** WHO carries out its work in a collaborative effort with private organisations, NGOs and strategic health international partners.
6. **Improving Performance:** Aims for constant improvement in the task of the human health condition, in the pursuit of better health for the disadvantaged.

We celebrated World Health Day on 7 April 2014.

The health of individuals within a population partly makes up the Economic and Social (socioeconomic) wellbeing of a country.

Presently, half the world's population is at risk from a vast number of curable and incurable diseases. One billion people are infected and a further one billion die from vector borne diseases. Malaria, yellow fever and mosquito infestation are also prone to occur in our own country as in many overseas countries.

The transmittal of disease via contaminated polluted water, sub-standard sanitation and lack of basic personal hygiene is still increasing in this modern world.

The UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to end poverty 2015 pledge to :

Reduce Child Mortality

- Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five.

Improve Maternal Health

- Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio
- Achieve universal access to reproductive health.

Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases

- Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS:
- Achieve, by 2015, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS to all those who need it
- Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

It is this initiative that the world and UN Member States must action to combat the threat of disease for the protection and in essence, the preservation of human life.

[Joseph Caruso, UNAAWA Global Representative]



United Nations
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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 2014

**A Creative Expression of an article from
the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

Theme

Article 24 of the Universal Declaration of
Human Rights:

“Everyone has the right to rest and leisure,
including reasonable limitation of working
hours and periodic holidays with pay.”

Prize

\$200 and a book for the winner and \$150 for
their school library. Additional prizes may be
awarded at the discretion of the judges.

Submission

Teachers can submit entries for whole classes.
Parents (and other adults) can submit entries
for individual children.

Details

www.unaa-wa.org.au/wa-art/wa-yolande-frank-award.html
and distributed notice.

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE 2014



LAURA JOHN

'I am a recent law graduate from Melbourne, Australia. I've interned with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and human rights organisations at home and abroad. I've worked with the Oaktree Foundation, the Victorian Government's Multifaith Multicultural Youth Network and I was the 2011 Victorian Young Member for National Youth Week. I've seen firsthand the ability of young people to drive policy change and I can't wait to meet more passionate young Australians this year.'

Photo from www.unyouth.org

The 2014 Australian Youth Representative to the UN is Laura John, a 24 year old Melbournian with an impressive history of leadership roles with the Oaktree Foundation, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and most recently Human Rights First in New York, all while completing her Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Law at Monash University.

UNAA Executive Director Elizabeth Shaw met with Laura at the launch of the UN Youth's Australian Youth Representative to the UN in Melbourne this month. Elizabeth offered Laura the support of the UNAA around Australia in pursuing her listening tour and representing the voices of Australian young people over at the UN in New York.

You can check Laura's schedule for her dates around Australia: <http://youthrep.org.au/get-involved>. Laura will be visiting Perth around 22–23 June. More details will be available shortly.

FLAGSHIP MODEL UN CONFERENCE JUNE/JULY 2014

The World Federation of United Nations Associations has invited their colleagues in Australia to send a delegation to the first **WFUNA International Model United Nations (WIMUN)** conference. The conference will take place from 30 June to 4 July 2014 in Rome.

In a letter to all United Nations Associations, WFUNA Secretary-General Bonian Golmohammadi writes:

More than 700 youth from around the globe will gather for a five-day simulation of UN conferences. The thematic focus of WIMUN will be the Post-2015 sustainable development agenda. Through this program, WFUNA aims to equip young participants with a core set of skills to participate in a dialogue with the UN, which is fundamental to becoming effective Global Citizens, responsible leaders, and creative visionaries.

In this regards, we strongly encourage you to reach out to youth from your UNA, as well as partners, to participate in this flagship conference. It will be an important opportunity for our youth network to meet and strengthen their work and engagement with WFUNA as well as with participants from all over the world.

If you need more information or details about the program, please visit the link: <http://www.wfuna.org/wimun>.

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

World Wildlife Day is an opportunity to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora and to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that conservation provides to people. At the same time, the day reminds us of the urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime, which has wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.

Some examples of wildlife crime and what this day tries to abolish include:

- Illegally trading in endangered species
- Poisoning of animals, such as birds of prey
- Disturbing or killing wild birds, or taking their eggs
- Poaching of game such as venison and fish
- Disturbing, injuring or killing bats, and damaging or obstructing their roosts
- Taking protected plants from the countryside
- Smuggling protected species and their parts (ie tortoises, ivory and caviar)*1.



[UN Photo: John Isaac]

World Wildlife Day (cont...)

What is significant about this day and wildlife in general: Wildlife has an intrinsic value and contributes to the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic aspects of sustainable development and human wellbeing. For these reasons, all member States, the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, non-governmental organizations and individuals, are invited to observe and to get involved in this global celebration of wildlife.*2

What is the date of the World Wildlife Day: On 20 December 2013, the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim **3 March** as World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora. The date is the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Convention in 1973, which plays an important role in ensuring that international trade does not threaten the survival of species.

What can we do to get involved: So what can we do to make a difference? The easiest way for an individual would be to spread the word and official documents through social media, including Facebook and Twitter. Another way to help is to generate ideas, either individually or in a group, and submit these ideas through the UN website and also to your local council. Through these portals you can share your ideas with a worldwide network as well as the local community.

[Max Fouda, UNAAWA member]

REFERENCES:

- (1) www.wspa.org.uk/...wildlife.../What%20is%20wildlife%20crime.aspx
- (2) www.un.org/en/events/wildlifeday/

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

ICRC—International Committee of the Red Cross

The ICRC has recently undertaken the Australian launch of the publication "International Review of the Red Cross: Business, Violence and Conflict". A full copy of the publication can be accessed at <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/international-review/review-887-business-violence-conflict/index.jsp>



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UN IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 2014

3 May	World Press Freedom Day
8-9 May	Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During World War 2
10-11 May	World Migratory Bird Day [UNEP]
15 May	International Day of Families
17 May	World Telecommunication & Information Society Day [ITU]
21 May	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity
23 May	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula
24 May	"Vesak", the Day of the Full Moon
29 May	International Day of UN Peacekeepers
31 May	World No-Tobacco Day [WHO]