



**United Nations Association of Australia WA Division**

# UN Matters

April/May 2015

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**Carolyn Gatward**

Congratulations to everyone involved in the recent UNAAWA Women's Committee Launch - an outstanding success (pg 2). An interview with the Convenor of the Women's Committee, Kristy Tyrie, is on page 4.

Our "Australia & the UN Security Council" function on 26 May with the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) also attracted a 'full house'. The audience heard from Claire Elias, who spent three years in New York as First Secretary at the Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations. Claire spoke of her work in areas such as disarmament, non-proliferation and counter-terrorism and as a member of the negotiating team for the Arms Trade Treaty.

#BeTheFuture is the message that our Young Professionals (YPs) want to deliver to WA's YP sector. Find out more about our Young Professionals network at the event at QV1 on **Thursday 30 July** (see pg 3).

On **Tuesday 9 June**, UNAAWA and AIIA are hosting "The Climate Talks" at the Bayliss Lecture Theatre, University of WA. Our guest speakers are Kevin Petrini, climate specialist from the UN Development Program, Professor Petra Tschakert, IPCC Coordinating Lead Author and Christopher Woodthorpe, Director of the UN Information Centre, Canberra.

These talks help to remind us that 2015 is a critical year for global climate management. Under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, nations are working together to achieve a global agreement in Paris in December. This agreement will aim to ensure that there is an adequate reduction in the global emissions of greenhouse gases. It will also try to reduce the impact of climate change on vulnerable peoples around the world. A small group of UNAA observer delegates will be attending the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP21, Paris) and will report back to the UNAA National Board on these vital negotiations.



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## WOMEN'S COMMITTEE LAUNCH



On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April we successfully launched the UNAAWA Women's Committee with an evening of inspiring presentations and networking around women's rights and empowerment. We were overwhelmed with the amazing response and support we received for the event that saw 120 guests packed into the Constitutional Centre of Western Australia to hear our three guest speakers.

The evening saw Margaret Lobo from Soroptimist International speak on women in poverty, Lord Mayor of the City of Perth Lisa Scaffidi speak on leadership and women in decision making positions, and Elizabeth Shaw from UN Women Australia speak on how the Beijing +20 and Commission on the Status of Women are assisting the progress of women's rights.

Our first speaker for the evening was Margaret Lobo, the past International President of Soroptimist International. Margaret spoke on the similarities the Soroptimists share with the Women's Committee in their fight for equality and went into detail about some of the specific projects Soroptimists have undertaken in developing countries to educate, enable opportunities and empower women and girls.

We then heard from Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi who spoke on her experiences being the first female to occupy the Lord Mayor of the City of Perth seat. Lisa spoke on attitude and how confidence, respect and integrity are essential to progress in your career. One of

her key points for increasing the number of women in management roles was the necessity for women to support and champion for each other in the workplace.

UN Women Australia National President Elizabeth Shaw spoke on her experience at the UN Commission on the Status of Women conference in New York with a focus on how the international community has progressed in establishing gender equality 20 years after the last World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995. She emphasised how it is becoming more difficult to achieve the outcomes that were set in place in the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and urged us not to become complacent with what we have achieved, as there is still a long way to go.

The UNAAWA Women's Committee would like to thank all of our guests and our three amazing speakers for their time and support and AltusQ for making the evening possible.

If you would like any further information about the committee, please contact the Convener Kristy Tyrie at [womens.committee@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:womens.committee@unaa-wa.org.au).

[Kristy Tyrie, Executive member]

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS READY TO #BETHEFUTURE



Did you know the UNAA WA has a Young Professionals (YP) network? Initiated in January 2014 by current convenor Neesha Seth, the committee is comprised of youth working and studying in several of Western Australia's (WAs) biggest industries and universities.

In 2015, the UNAA WA YPs are preparing for their biggest event yet. On 30th July, the UNAA WA YPs invite Perth to attend **#BeTheFuture**, the group's formal launch event to be held at the city's QV1 building. Come along to learn about why the UNAAYP WA exists and what goals the group has for informing and inspiring our community about global international affairs. **#BeTheFuture** is the key message the UNAA WA YPs want to deliver to Perth's vibrant young professionals sector, so keep an eye out for the hash tag to learn more about the event!

### **Event Details**

**Where: QV1 Ground Floor Foyer, 250 St George's Terrace**

**Time: Doors open 6:00pm**

**Cost: \$20, includes refreshments**

**Register: [www.trybooking.com/133060](http://www.trybooking.com/133060)**

Want to meet the committee and learn more about the YPs in WA? Watch this video: [#BeTheFuture](#)

The UNAAYP's WA committee is always keen to hear from potential new members passionate about the United Nations and international relations. Send your CV to [waypconvenor@unaa.org.au](mailto:waypconvenor@unaa.org.au).

## PROMOTING THE GENDER MESSAGE- AN INTERVIEW WITH KRISTY TYRIE

*‘My vision is to help the broader community understand gender equality issues. Developed countries like Australia continue to have issues like domestic violence and underrepresentation of women in leadership that need to be addressed.’*



Kristy was spending a semester at the foot of the French Alps when she applied for an internship with the UN Development Program (UNDP). ‘Working for the UN seemed like a pipe dream at the beginning of my degree in International Relations,’ she said.

The UNDP offers a few students the opportunity to complement their studies and gain practical exposure via placement in one of their country offices/regional centres or New York headquarters.

Assignments vary greatly and selection includes matching UNDP needs with interests of prospective interns. With a communications background and marketing experience, Kristy earned a place with the UNDP Gender Team alongside two other interns.

‘I was told they were looking for applicants with different backgrounds and strengths during my application round. If I hadn’t applied at that time I may have never had the same opportunity.’

The application and interview processes were surprisingly quick. ‘It all happened in a few weeks,’ she remembers. ‘I had to pack up and complete my studies from New York. I was very excited but also really nervous.’

The Gender Team comprised around 20 people, from various countries including Spain, India, Canada and Germany, many with over a decade of experience. Kristy developed communication materials, events, newsletters and social media including live tweets on gender related topics. ‘Everyone worked hard. They were all very passionate and happy to have an extra pair of hands. I was given a lot of work and responsibility which was a great learning curve.’

Kristy helped launch the UNDP Gender Equality Seal, a certification process for UNDP Country Offices to increase gender mainstreaming in the countries, part of the organisation-wide strategy for advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment.

(cont. page 5)

A key achievement during her time was developing social media infographics that were picked up by a respected blogger as an example of good practise and received a UNDP record number of re-tweets. 'Re-tweeting can provide evidence that the message is being heard,' Kristy explains.

Kristy learned much about how the UN operates. From a corporate background, she was used to quick decisions. 'The UN has considerable processes to maintain quality standards, protect its credibility and maintain neutrality to member states, so sometimes approvals took a while.'

While her focus was on gender issues, she also attended meetings of the Security Council and General Assembly, helping to broaden her knowledge. 'The range and sheer number of diplomatic and international issues was fascinating. We don't often hear about a lot of them in Australia.'

Since returning from New York in July 2014, Kristy has led the establishment of the UNAOWA Women's Committee and was pleased with the success of the recent launch.

'There was overwhelming interest. We had to find space for extra people,' said Kristy.

'As convener, I help set the scene, bring everyone together, keep things on track and be the link to the Executive,' she said. 'It's a collaborative group where all committee members can contribute and jointly influence decisions. We're always looking for new partnerships and passionate people to connect with.'

'My vision is to help the broader community understand gender equality issues. Developed countries like Australia continue to have issues like domestic violence and underrepresentation of women in leadership that need to be addressed.'

Further information:

[www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/gender-equality/overview](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/gender-equality/overview)

[www.undp.org/internships](http://www.undp.org/internships)

[www.empowerwomen.org/en/news/undp-gender-seal](http://www.empowerwomen.org/en/news/undp-gender-seal)

[www.unaa-wa.org.au/modx/wa-committees/womens-committee](http://www.unaa-wa.org.au/modx/wa-committees/womens-committee)

[Melanie Chatfield]

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

The war on terror continues to receive widespread media attention thanks to the self-directed propaganda videos circulated by the likes of ISIS, al-Qaeda and Boko Haram. These videos are usually of violent beheadings and mass killings, and serve a dual-purpose of inciting terror and calling others to join them in jihad.

However, there is another mark of violence that is just as brutal and prevalent as the bloody atrocities regularly filmed and posted online that does not receive anywhere as much attention. This mark of violence is the use of rape and sexual abuse as a tactic of war.

Australian Ambassador to the United Nations and former Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, H.E. Gillian Bird, addressed the UN Security Council on 15 April 2015 in an attempt to heighten awareness of this shocking subject.

Referring to a report released on April 13 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Bird was 'appalled' that 2014 saw a marked increase of conflict related sexual violence. The report found that rape, sexual slavery, forced marriage, pregnancy, prostitution and sterilisation against both female and male victims continued to escalate due to inadequate monitoring and support services in conflict areas, as well as a lack of accountability by governments.

Bird stated that regions where women were marginalized and discriminated against were more likely to experience severe incidences of violent conflict. These regions are usually home to ethnic and cultural groups where it is common for a woman's worth to be based entirely on her sexual purity, and both state forces and violent extremist groups are increasingly targeting this vulnerability as a way to undermine and destroy minority communities.

As well as imploring the international community to do more to bring perpetrators of sexual violence to justice, Bird used her speech to stress the importance of supporting the fundamental issues adopted in UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which reaffirms the vital role of women in conflict prevention and resolution, and highlights the importance of equal involvement and participation by women in securing and promoting peace.

She concluded by reminding us that the most effective way to counteract the devastating impact of sexual and gender-based violence is to act before conflict erupts. Perceptive words that should be applied by everyone everywhere, not just those affected by war.

[Susan Manwaring]

## GLOBAL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT



A solemn sacred day has arrived.

We remember ANZAC Day each passing year from our national historical archives, student education, past members of our families, brothers, mothers, grandmothers, fathers, grandfathers. We remember the relatives that have served in the theatre of war 100 years ago this sacred ANZAC Day.

The history of Gallipoli can never pass without the reflection of the supreme sacrifice of these Anzac's as we assemble at dawn to relive the devastating morning, where so many young lives were lost in battle, in fact over 8,000 Anzac lives vanished to the call of duty.

It is most encouraging to observe the attendance of such large numbers of young people, families, RSL veterans, senior military and civilian citizens and ordinary people at the commemorative Anzac Dawn services in honour of our fallen. For all men, women and military ranking who served our country, we must never allow this moment to escape our observances. They should be always be in our hearts.

As I pen this commemorative message, the distant scarred soils of Gallipoli and the battlefields of ANZAC Cove and Lone Pine will have many people from all walks of life, including our Prime Minister, in attendance as a sign of respect to all our ANZAC fallen in 1915.

That our soldiers went into combat for our freedom, the liberty that all Australian citizens share today a centenary after, can never be forgotten.

In 2010 I attended as invitation from the then Minister of Defence, Hon Stephen Smith, to the Dawn Service in Villers Bretonneux France where Australian and British troops defeated the German Alliance on the Western Front in 1918.

In 2014, I undertook an extensive solemn memorial visit to all the major battlefields of the European Western Front which still

have remaining and symbolic solemn memory scars of war. I was touched immensely from both visitations and as the soft breezes drifted between the thousands of white cross war graves of the soldiers' final resting place, now peaceful fields then raging war zones, I pondered what was achieved and whether humanity has advanced in the pursuit of peace.

If I had one message to impart, I believe it should go to our young, our leaders of tomorrow to continue with the Anzac spirit of their parents, grandparents and relatives in the rally for freedom in the Australian way of life; a freedom that the Anzacs made possible. We must work tirelessly in eradicating conflict as members representing the core values of the United Nations.

April 25<sup>th</sup> is indeed a solemn day of reflection for each of us holding a moment of a family member, comrade or an unnamed soldier that gave to the duty of their country.

May we always keep those known and unknown both at home and in distant foreign fields in our memory, our prayers and forever in our thoughts. Our oldest veterans are few, however their supreme act of valour, courage and sacrifice lives as 'eternal flames forever.'

There will be much news coverage presented during the ANZAC Centenary. I encourage you to become more familiar with the historical war experience as proud Australians. Remember its raw origins at Gallipoli a centenary ago. The Spirit lives on. It is our duty to hold and pass the message to future generations. It is also our mission to advance the cause of Peace.

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor do the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them. Lest we forget.

[Joseph Caruso, Executive member]

## WEDDING BELLS FOR VP RICARDO HERNANDEZ !



Wedding bells chimed happily at the marriage of Ricardo and Brillit this May. UNAABA VP and YP Convenor Neesha Seth MC'd for the evening while President Carolyne Gatward got to sit back and enjoy the celebrations. Congratulations to Ricardo and Brillit from all of us at the UNAABA! We wish you both all the love and joy in the world.

## NEW APPOINTMENTS AT UNAABA

We are pleased to announce the following appointments:

Kerri Lugton—Office Manager (Executive member)

Neomi Kodikara—Communications Officer (Executive member)

Saskia Tjahja—Assistant Communications Officer

Katherine Iliopoulos—Human Rights Chair (Executive member)

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## NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

### Oxfam

Oxfam is hosting a Restoring Nepal Fundraiser at Fremantle Sailing Club on 13 July. For ticket sales and more information visit : <http://tickets.oztix.com.au/default.aspx?Event=52560>

### Issues in International Humanitarian Law

Issues in IHL is designed for those seeking in-depth knowledge and an examination of contemporary themes in IHL. Topics to be covered in this course include: Cyberwar, autonomous weapons systems, terrorism and IHL and latest developments in international tribunals such as the International Criminal Court.

Speakers include: Dr Lara Pratt from Notre Dame University, Associate Professor Dale Stephens from the University of Adelaide and LTCOL Darleen Young. Approved by the LPBWA for 6 CPD Points (across CA1, CA2 and CA3)

**Date:** Wednesday 10 and 17 June 2015

**Time:** 5.30pm - 8.30pm

**Venue:** College of Law WA, Ground Floor, Durack Centre, 263 Adelaide Tce, Perth

**Cost:** \$40 fulltime students/Red Cross staff/volunteers/members; \$80 standard registration (non CPD); \$100 for CPD registration.

To register click [here](#) or go to [www.trybooking.com/128325](http://www.trybooking.com/128325)

**For further information contact:** Renata Sivacolundhu: +61 8 9225 1928, [rsivacolundhu@redcross.org.au](mailto:rsivacolundhu@redcross.org.au)

### Soroptimist International

Soroptimist International of Joondalup and Hillarys Rotary Club invite you to a dinner at Hillarys Yacht Club on Monday 27 July at 6.30pm.

These two service clubs are united in raising funds for joint projects in East Timor.

Professor Lyn Beazley, Australian of the Year 2015 (Western Australian recipient) will be the Guest Speaker, and she has called her talk "Education Matters Here and Now".

Tickets \$30. For further information phone Jennie van Driel on 9300 4752 or email [jennievandriel@icloud.com](mailto:jennievandriel@icloud.com)



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## UN OBSERVANCES

### JUNE 2015

**1 June** Global Day of Parents

**1 June** "Vesak", the Day of the Full Moon

**4 June** International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

**5 June** World Environment Day

**6 June** Russian Language Day at the UN (in Russian)

**8 June** World Oceans Day

**12 June** World Day Against Child Labour

**13 June** International Albinism Awareness Day

**14 June** World Blood Donor Day

**15 June** World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

**17 June** World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

**20 June** World Refugee Day

**21 June** International Day of Yoga

**23 June** United Nations Public Service Day

**23 June** International Widows' Day

**25 June** Day of the Seafarer

**26 June** International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

**26 June** United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture