



**United Nations Association of Australia
(New South Wales) Inc.**

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E-News & Notes

Volume 5: September - October 2010

**International Year of Biodiversity
International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures**

Co-Editors: Peter Airey and Lynne Chevor



From the President

**INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF YOUTH**

The UN International Year of Youth (*UN Resolution 64/134*) commenced 12th

August 2010, is expected to generate much needed attention to youth participation, with young people themselves encouraged to foster progress towards the attainment of the UN Millennium Goals (*as stated by Julia Dean, UNIC Information Officer*).

UNAA (NSW) has enjoyed an amazing few weeks in August and September with several events, amongst which were the UNAA Federal Conference in Sydney, the UN DPI/NGO Conference addressed by the UN Secretary-General in Melbourne and the Festival of Peace in Martin Place on the UN Day of Peace, Tuesday 21st September.

One striking aspect of every one of these events and many others is the keen participation of so many young people who are sincere, creative and outspoken in their desire to create a better world.

To look at the UN display stalls set up by United Nations Societies at tertiary students' Open Days in August; to read publications put out by the UN Youth Association reflecting its many activities; to see events such as the one at the Australian Museum in September where several schools celebrated the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity; to witness the model UN Assemblies run by youth groups, is to be heartened that there are so many young people ready to take up the mantle and carry on the work of supporting the United Nations.

Let us salute these wonderful young people and hope that others will be inspired to support and join them in this the UN International Year of Youth.

*Valerie Weekes UNAA (NSW) President
22 Sept 2010*

**Congratulations to Mr Rob Oakeshott,
founder of the UNAA (NSW) Mid-North Coast
Branch on his re-election as the
Independent Member for Lyne in the August
Federal election**

The President & Executive of the UNAA (NSW)
extend to members and friends a cordial

Invitation

to the

Annual Cenotaph Ceremony

Friday 22nd October 2010

Martin Place Sydney

10.30am for 11am - 11.50am

Chief Guest

Mr Michael (Mick) Palmer AO APM

Former Commissioner, AFP

Followed by the

UN Week Luncheon

NSW Parliament House

12noon for 12.30pm - 2.45pm

Guest of Honour

Hon Michael Kirby AM CMG

Former Justice of the High Court of Australia

RSVP Tuesday 19 October 2010

pairey@optusnet.com.au 0404 257 515 (page 4)

FRI 22 OCT 2010 (10.30am for 11am -11.50am)

Annual Cenotaph Ceremony - Martin Place Sydney

Honouring Australia's contribution to UN Peacekeeping since 1947. The Guest of Honour will be Mr Mick Palmer AO APM, former Commissioner AFP. The ceremony will also mark the 60th anniversary of the commencement of the Korean War. Senior representatives of Government, the armed forces, the police, the Consular corps and UN organisations will participate.



FRI 22 OCT 2010 (12noon for 12.30pm - 2.45pm)

Annual UN Day Luncheon NSW Parliament House

The keynote speaker will be the Hon Michael Kirby AM CMG whose topic will be **UN Agencies; Heroes of the Organisation**. Our National President Professor Robert Hill will be attending both functions.

SUN 24 OCT 2010 - UN DAY (11.30am - 3.30pm)

The Cube Conference Centre, Campbelltown

The UNAA (NSW) will support the **Rotary District 9750 Plenary Session 5 on the UN**. Cost: \$15 (free under 30 years) / lunch \$55. Refer attached brochure and <http://www.rotaryd9750.org.au>

NOVEMBER 2010 (date to be advised)

Post UN Week celebration, Parliament House

NOVEMBER 2010 (date to be advised)

'Living in small communities in the NT' by member/volunteer, Maureen Burdynski, based on her recent film project in Elcho Island, Arnhem Land for the Indigenous Community Volunteers www.icv.com.au This will be our contribution to the UN International year of Rapprochement of Cultures.

UNAA National Conference The UN and Your World 2010.

The National Conference held on Friday 13 August in the NSW Parliament Theatre was opened by Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG QC, who was followed by a distinguished list of speakers. A highlight was the presentation to Dr Stella Cornelius of the UNAA (VIC) International Peace Award.

There were 130 attendees, including about 25 students from secondary schools.

Following the *Acknowledgement of Country* by Mrs Valerie Weekes, Sir Laurence Street referred to the on-going significance of the UN and the role of his mother, Jessie Street, in the early days of the organisation.

The keynote address by the UNAA National President, Professor Robert Hill reviewed the current challenges and opportunities of the UN. Many of the aspirations of the Organisation are encompassed within the **Millennium Development Goals** were reviewed by Christopher Woodthorpe, Director UNIC.

An Australian Parliamentary Perspective on the UN was offered by Mr Rob Oakeshott MP, Member for Lyne and founder of the Mid-North Coast Branch of the UNAA (NSW). The National President UNYA, Mr Nicky Vreugdenhil, offered some **Reflections on Youth and the UN** with some practical examples of what can be achieved in the field of human rights by timely and concerted action.

In his address **Initiatives for Peace around the World** Dr Keith Suter, author, broadcaster and former UNAA President challenged those present to respond to changes in thinking around the world concerning peace and conflict by supporting calls for the establishment of **Ministries for Peace** in national governments.

The afternoon session began with the presentation of the International Peace Award to Dr Stella Cornelius, then followed by the presentation **Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament; Where are we Going?** by Martine Letts, Deputy Director, Lowy Institute for International Policy, who addressed issues arising out of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and other initiatives.

Sandra Bailey, Director of the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (NSW) made a moving presentation on the current status of the health and well-being of indigenous people with **Are we there yet?** Finally, Dr Robert Fisher, Senior Researcher, Australian Mekong Resource Centre discussed the crucial issue **Linking Conservation and Poverty** as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity.

The Conference concluded with a Panel of Speakers, moderated by Dr Keith Suter addressing issues around the Conference theme: **Your World & the UN 2010**. Delegates then adjourned to the Sydney Mint Café for a reception. Overall, a successful and informative day!

Note: Audio copies of the speaker's presentations will be soon available for a small fee or via podcast on our website.

Presentation of the International Peace Award to Dr Stella Cornelius

The UNAA (Victoria) International Peace Award was made to Dr Stella Cornelius AO OBE for a lifetime of devotion to peace, to conflict resolution and to social justice issues. In particular, for initiating the *Peace and Conflict Resolution Program of the UNAA 1973; the Conflict Resolution Network; the Media Peace Awards 1979; the Ministry for Peace Campaign 1983; and the Bilateral Peace Treaties Proposal*.

Dr Cornelius was led to the podium through a guard of honour provided by the Ministry for Peace Youth Ambassadors. Mr Graham Hunter, President UNAA (VIC) introduced the award by listing previous recipients, including Dr Nelson Mandela, Ms Mary Robinson and His Holiness, the Dalai Lama.

The citation was read by Professor Robert Hill, and the official presentation made by Sir Laurence Street, a long-standing friend and colleague in the field of Conflict Resolution. In accepting the award Dr Cornelius paid tribute to the great people with whom she had worked over the years and to the role of the UN Associations in promoting the movements for Peace in Australia and around the world. A podcast of her SBS interview may be heard at <http://www.sbs.com.au/podcasts/Podcasts/world-view/episode/104437/Peace-campaigner-wins-UN-award>



Presentation of the UNAA (VIC) International Peace Award to Dr Stella Cornelius by Sir Laurence Street; Graham Hunter is on the right
(Photo courtesy: Biannca Pace)

Post script: Zalman Kastel, National Director Together for Humanity Foundation <http://togetherforhumanity.org.au> made the following comment on the ABC Radio National program Encounter on Sunday 12/09/2010: "... I think there is a Divine Plan. I think the Divine Plan is playing out in many different ways. Someone like Martin Luther King Junior, a much more religious man than some people realise, pushing people to imagine what was unimaginable before that. People like Stella Cornelius, a great Australian woman who pushed the boundaries on conflict resolution. Aboriginal people with their spirituality, their appreciation of some basic things that so many of us have forgotten ..."

UNAA Status of Women Network Roundtable - 12 August

Prior to the Conference, the 2010 UNAA SOWN Roundtable held on Thursday 12 August **Promoting Equality and addressing Discrimination in Australia: Institutional Mechanisms for Gender Equality** was organised by Sheila Byard (UNAA Status of Women Convenor) and hosted by the Australian Human Rights Commission. It was planned to promote a well informed discussion of the Government's Consolidation project announced this year to 'harmonise and consolidate Commonwealth anti-discrimination laws to remove unnecessary regulatory overlap, address inconsistencies across laws and make the system more user-friendly' and what this might mean for the existing commitment to existing mechanisms for gender equality. Sheila Byard unaa.sown@gmail.com

FEDERAL COUNCIL MEETING - 14 AUGUST

Following the Conference, 29 delegates and visitors from the UNAA divisions (ACT/ VIC/ SA/ QLD/ WA/ NSW), UNYA President, UNA NZ and the UNIC Director, Christopher Woodthorpe, convened for the annual AGM at the Embassy Events Centre, Sydney.



The Meeting re-elected Professor Robert Hill as National President and Harold Wilkinson as National Treasurer. It received reports from the Divisions, from UNYA and from the Pacific Project. A number of documents were tabled including the UNYA/UNAA Memorandum of Understanding, a WFUNA Report, the International year of Youth Document and a proposal from UNAA (VIC) for a National Review of the UNAA, which was endorsed.



UN/DPI Conference "Advance Global Health" Melbourne 30 Aug to 1 Sept 10

Biannca Pace, Peter Airey and Kitty Knight had the privilege of representing UNAA (NSW) at the UN Dept of Public Information meeting of NGO's. The principal aim of the Conference was to develop a series of recommendations from the NGO community to the forthcoming Millennium Development Goals Summit 20-22 Sept, NY where Australia will be represented by the Foreign Minister, Kevin Rudd.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard was represented at the Opening by Senator Bob McMullen, and Ban ki-Moon by his Under Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Mr Kiyotaka Akasaka of Japan.

In his message to the Conference, Secretary-General Ban-ki-Moon recognized the role of NGOs in addressing global problems in the following terms: **"You have a unique presence on the ground, in communities. You understand, like no one else, the daily challenges faced by the most vulnerable. You have the passion and networks to spread our messages far and wide."**



UNAA Function at Arintji, Federation Square, UN/DPI Conference clockwise: Biannca Pace, Prof. Robert Hill, Patricia Collette UNAA (VIC), Mr Kiyotaka Akasaka of Japan

The UN deeply respects the voices of NGO's and has granted 3,200 such organisations consultation status with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ECOSOC). The UNAA has further access to the UN through the World Federation of UN Associations (WFUNA) and the UN Dept of Communications and Public Information.

The Conference comprised four roundtables and an impressive series of workshops. All were directed towards Advancing Global Health as a pathway for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Biannca Pace prepared a summary of the sessions she attended. These provide readers with an excellent guide of the tone of the discussions and are posted on the UNAA (NSW) website <http://www.unaansw.org.au> and press conferences, refer <http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ngoconference>

UNIFEM Australia Welcomes UN Women Under-Secretary General - Michelle Bachelet

UNIFEM Australia is pleased to announce that the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon has appointed Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, to be the first Under-Secretary-General of UN Women. Ms Bachelet, Chile's first female President who prioritised women's issues throughout her tenure and since leaving office has been working with UNIFEM to advocate for the needs of Haitian women following January's devastating earthquake, was chosen over two other candidates.

UNIFEM Australia President, Sue Conde and Executive Director, Julie McKay have just returned from the annual meeting of the Global Coalition of National Committees, and are excited to notify their members and supporters that the 2011 National Committee Meeting, which will be the first meeting of National Committees for UN Women, will be held in Australia in September. They hope that Ms Bachelet will attend the meeting.

For more information about the National Committees Meeting, please visit Julie McKay's blog linked to www.unifem.org.au



UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 21 September 2010

Congratulations to the Ministry for Peace - Australia (MFPA) for their exciting 12-hour continuous celebration of this event held in Martin Place. Enormous credit is due to Biannca Pace and her team. <http://www.mfpa.org.au/>



ACCEPTANCE



**ANNUAL UN WEEK LUNCHEON 2010
FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER
NSW Parliament House**

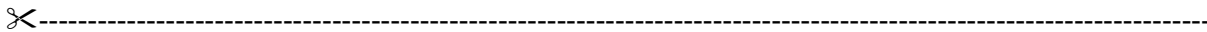
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF OUR INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL WEEK LUNCHEON. THE LUNCHEON HAS BEEN SCHEDULED TO FOLLOW THE CENOTAPH CEREMONY IN MARTIN PLACE. THE DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

**12:00 FOR 12:30PM –2.45PM FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER 2010
THE STRANGER’S DINING ROOM, NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE, MACQUARIE STREET SYDNEY**

THE ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICE FOR THE LUNCHEON, INCLUDING A CHOICE OF MAIN MENU, DRINKS AND A SOUVENIR MENU IS \$89, WITH A SPECIAL DISCOUNT OF \$79 FOR ACCREDITED STUDENTS.

THANK YOU AND KIND REGARDS

*PETER AIREY
UN WEEK EVENTS COORDINATOR*



NUMBER OF TICKETS @ \$89 EACH COST: \$.....

NUMBER OF STUDENTS @ \$79 EACH COST: \$

TOTAL COST: \$

Name			<u>Student discount</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Address*				
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Address * if printed receipt requested

Please add extra sheets if required and indicate any seating preference

1) Cheque or money order: Make payable to the UNAA(NSW) and post to the address below.

2) Credit card (Visa or Mastercard only)

Amount: \$.....

Card number: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry date: __ / __

Name on card..... Signature: (for post).....

3) Direct bank transfer: account name: **United Nations Assoc of Aust NSW**

BSB: 062 734 **account number:** 2812 2520 **Branch:** 48 Martin Place Sydney NSW

Contact UNAA (NSW) Events PO Box K229 HAYMARKET NSW 1240

pairey@optusnet.com.au copy to: office@unaansw.org.au

Peter Airey 0404 257 515 website: <http://unaansw.org.au>

Respondees will receive a receipt via email or by post (tick preference)