



**United Nations Association of Australia
(New South Wales) Inc.**
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E-News & Notes

Volume 4: July - August 2010
International Year of Biodiversity
International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures

Editors: Peter Airey and Lynne Chevor

From the New President



Our NSW Division welcomes the participants to our National Conference on Friday 13th August, wishing them success and hoping that it will provide a foundation for continuous collaboration and renewal for the coming year.

Much appreciation is due to Dr Peter Airey, Immediate Past President, who has worked so hard and so capably to organize the Conference, as well as to those members of the Executive and the non-Executive volunteers who so freely assisted.

As the newly elected UNAA(NSW) President, my goal in the new term is fourfold:

- Encourage members (and non-members) to uphold the high ideals of the United Nations and minimise distractions that may soften this focus.
- In following these ideals, to maintain open and factual communication among members of the Executive and within the Association generally.
- Encourage and support those who are undertaking projects, while at the same time maintaining a balance and not interfering intrusively with the progress of their projects.
- Develop and increase UNAA(NSW)'s profile and resources; Sydney is the largest city in Australia, offering unique possibilities.

These goals have already largely been followed, but there are still several more areas for further activity.

The Federal Election of 21st August is an opportunity for UNAA members to encourage their prospective Members of Parliament to respect United Nations values in their policies. We have to persuade the community of the urgency of the problems the human race now faces.

The United Nations Association has the challenge of supporting the peoples of the world as we try to create a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

Valerie Weekes
 President
 30 July 2010

UNAA (NSW) MID NORTH COAST BRANCH MAIDEN EVENT

**United Nations International Day of the World's
 Indigenous People Monday 9th August**
*Celebrating the World's Indigenous People and their
 connection to the World's Rainforests*

10:15am Welcome to Country by Uncle Bill O'Brien
**10:30am Bush Tucker Tour; 11:30am Short Film
 Mine: Story of a Sacred Mountain, followed with a
 performance by the Badu Dancers**



Organiser: Zita McGregor, Chair MNC Branch
zita.mcgregor@aph.gov.au or phone 0415 454 533



Environment,
 Climate Change & Water
 National Parks & Wildlife Service



SAT 7 AUGUST 2010 (2.00-4.00pm)
Social and Cultural Diversity: Open Dialogue/ Forum
Sydney Mechanics School of Arts 280 Pitt St, Syd.
 Convened by the UNAA (NSW) Community Project Program. Guest Presenter Kirk Huffman, Anthropologist
 Entry via donation, light refreshments **Refer** Lindsay Mell
 (02) 9523 5749 lindsaym772000@yahoo.com.au
 0410 439 649 (Sandy Yang)

UNAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE



FRIDAY 13 AUG (9:15am - 5:15pm)
NSW Parliament Theatre, Sydney
**Includes UNAA (Vic) International Peace
 Award presentation to Dr Stella Cornelius AO OBE**
Reception 5.30 – 7.30pm Strangers Dining Room

TUES 21 SEPTEMBER 2010

UN International Day of Peace The UNAA (NSW) will support the **Ministry for Peace Australia (MFPA)** in their celebration of the **UN Peace Vigil**. The 2009 program complete with photo's may be viewed at <http://mfpa.org.au/?p=407>

FRI 22 OCT 2010 (10.30 am – 11.30 am)

Annual Cenotaph Ceremony

Honouring Australia's contribution to UN Peacekeeping. 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.

FRI 22 OCT 2010 (12.30 pm – 2.30 pm)

Annual UN Day Luncheon NSW Parliament House

The keynote speaker will be the Hon Michael Kirby AM CMG. Our National President Professor Robert Hill is planning to attend both functions.

SUN 24 OCT 2010 (UN DAY)

The UNAA (NSW) will support the **Rotary District 9750 plenary** session on the UN within its District Conference in Campbelltown.

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 Burdyski, 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.

AGM REPORT

The AGM was held on Saturday 3rd July in the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts.

We were privileged to have as our guest speaker, Sue Conde, National President UNIFEM Australia who spoke on **Towards a New Strong UN Women's Entity**. Sue's presentation reflected the excitement of the previous day in New York when the UN General Assembly unanimously voted to create a new entity "UN Women" www.unwomen.org to accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women and girls world wide.

Thanks are due to the AGM Committee: Valerie Weekes (Convenor), Dianne Sackelariou and Lindsay Mell for the arrangements and to John August, President of the Humanist Society of NSW for the sensitive role of Returning Officer.

The outcome of the AGM was as follows:

President Valerie Weekes

Co-Vice Presidents Geoffrey Little JP, Public Officer (Cenotaph Convenor)/ Bianca Pace (Peace Portfolio)

Treasurer Anne McLennan

Secretary Lynne Chevor (Co-Editor E-News&Notes)

Immediate Past President Dr Peter Airey (*ex-officio*)
Co-Editor E-News&Notes

Committee (Portfolios)

Affie Adagio (Status of Women)

Dianne Sackelariou OAM (Fund-Raising)

Franklin Scarf (Environment/ Chair, Blue Mountains Br.)

Lindsay Mell (Community)

Mina Singh Batra (Interfaith/Human Rights)

Zuzanka Kutena (Intercultural Communications)

Ven. Dr Thich Minh Tam (Intern. Buddhist Organisation)

Morgan Forrest : 2008 UNYA NSW President

Sibella Matthews : 2009 UNYA NSW President

Ex-Officio Kelly Hoare (Chair, Hunter Branch) -

Tom Jones (Vice-Chair) / Yvonne Brent (Secretary)

Audrey McDonald (Chair, Central Coast Branch)

Zita McGregor (Chair, Mid North Coast Branch)

Tim Matthews (UNYA NSW President)

REPORT ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT "Drawing the Threads Together"

On Thurs 29 July 2010 at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, **Lindsay Mell** (Community Convenor, UNAA NSW) in association with the Chain Reaction Foundation and Volunteering NSW presented an interesting and informative Panel Session to members and visitors.

Unfortunately, the guest speaker, Senator the Hon. Ursula Stephens, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and Voluntary Sector, was unable to attend. However; **Prof. Stephen Hill AM**, former Director UNESCO, **Margaret Bell AM** Founding President/CEO Volunteering Australia and **Winsome Matthews NSW** Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council, gave exceptional talks and open discussions on what individuals and communities can achieve to benefit and enrich our lives, especially in time of crises, e.g. Tsunami in Aceh, Indonesia, & general local communities such as Mt Druitt.

UNAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE The UN and Your World 2010



FRI 13 AUGUST 9:15am- 5:15pm

NSW Parliament Theatre, Sydney

Includes UNAA (Vic) International Peace Award presentation to Dr Stella Cornelius AO OBE 12.35 – 2.00pm (with lunch) \$35

Reception 5.30 – 7.30pm Strangers Dining Room \$55

WELCOME TO THE UNAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

A special welcome is extended to our international and interstate visitors.

The Conference will comprise a series of presentations on issues of direct relevance to the UN in 2010; the presentation of the UNAA (Vic) International Peace Award; a Panel of Speakers to answer any questions on the UN and its programs and a reception.

More information on the detailed Program and the Award presentation overleaf or www.unaansw.org.au

**RSVP Mon 9 August : Conference Coordinator
Peter Airey pairey@optusnet.com.au or 0404 257 515
UNAA (NSW) PO Box K229 Haymarket NSW 1240**

UNAA Conference Program 2010

8.45 am Registration / Viewing of Affie Adagio's artwork / Seating

9.15 am Acknowledgement of Country

Mrs Valerie Weekes President UNAA (NSW)

9.20 am Official Opening

Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG QC

9.35 am Keynote Speaker

Professor Robert Hill National President UNAA

10.15 am Morning Tea

10.35 am Millennium Development Goals

Christopher Woodthorpe: UNIC Director

11.15 am An Australian Parliamentary Perspective

Rob Oakeshott MP, Member for Lyne; founder of the Mid North Coast Branch

11.35 am Reflections on Youth and the UN

Nicky Vreugdenhil National President UNYA

11.55 am Initiatives for Peace around the World

Keith Suter: Author, broadcaster, UNAA (NSW) Life Member and former UNAA President

12.35 pm Lunch

Concludes with the presentation of the UNAA (Vic) International Peace Award* Dr Stella Cornelius AO OBE

Presentation: Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG QC

Acceptance: Dr Cornelius



Speakers: Mr Graham Hunter, President UNAA (VIC)
Professor Robert Hill, National President UNAA

On 4 September 2000 the former president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, presented Dr Stella Cornelius, founder of the Conflict Resolution Network (left), and Faith Bandler, campaigner for indigenous rights in Australia, with certificates for their dedication and achievements in conflict resolution and education. The [Sydney Peace Foundation](#) was proud to have such an honoured guest.

2.00 pm Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament; Where are we Going? Martine Letts, Deputy Director, Lowy Institute for International Policy

2.40 pm Presentation on Human Rights (to be advised)

3.20 pm Afternoon tea

3.40 pm Linking Conservation and Poverty

Robert Fisher, Senior Researcher, Australian Mekong Resource Centre

4.20 pm Panel: Your World and the UN 2010

Panel of Speakers - Bring your questions

5.20 pm Close of Conference

5.30 pm – 7.30 pm Reception

* The International Peace Award is 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.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Editor's note: From time to time a guest Editorial will be commissioned on an issue of particular importance to the Association. Dr Daryl Le Cornu, UNAA (NSW) member and Prof. Alison Broinowski, ANU, prepared a submission on the importance of the adequate inclusion United Nations studies in the National Modern History Curriculum. The document was submitted to the Australian Curriculum and Assessment Authority by the UNAA National President. Copies are available from the Editors through office@unaansw.org.au



Dr Daryl Le Cornu is Head Teacher of the Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) faculty, Mount Annan High School, NSW

Thomas Weiss' recent book, *The United Nations and Global Governance: An Unfinished Journey*, is an outstanding account of the United Nations' central role in analysing the threats that face the world, in finding solutions to these threats and in building consensus to take the necessary action. Weiss' book is just one of a host of recent quality academic works on the history and functions of the United Nations.

However, the general public remains largely unaware of the United Nations' role in global affairs both in the present and in the past. This could all change with the new national curriculum that is now being formulated by the Federal government.

The proposed national syllabus for Modern History provides an opportunity for the study of the history of the United Nations to be included as an option for all Australian students to study. In our submission to the Australian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (ACARA) the UNAA argued that the United Nations' 65 year history is not only worthy of study but that knowledge of the history and functions of the UN is an essential for understanding many of the critical global issues that will soon face the students of today.

To have the study of the history of the United Nations in the syllabus of a new national Modern History course would be a great opportunity for giving senior students a deep understanding of both the UN and its role in dealing with the important global issues that affect us all.

In addition, the UN represents a key Australia component of Australia's foreign policy and that Australia is seeking to play an ever-increasing role in the UN though its bid for membership of the Security Council and its activism in the area of nuclear weapons.

The UNAA has suggested that the history of the United Nations could form a prominent part of a one-semester option that focused on the quest for international peace and security since 1945 to the present. Including the study of the United Nations in a national Modern History syllabus would help assist our nation to engage the future citizens of Australia with the issues that will confront us all as we proceed further into the 21st century.

Dr Daryl Le Cornu, July 2010



The Reverend

Peter Holden

1935 – 2010

*“Jauh di mata dekat di hati”
“Far from sight, close to the heart”*

Peter was a long-standing and highly esteemed member of the Association, serving the Mid-North Coast Branch for many years. He and Velvy had recently moved to Port Macquarie. Those present will long remember Peter's statement of great power and humanity at the inauguration of the Mid-North Coast branch 11 October 2009 at the Falls Forest Retreat.

Peter was a poet and penned the words sung at the opening of the UNAA National Conference 2006. The poem by Harold Grant below is a tribute to his life.



Peter Holden and his wife, Velvy (top row; 3rd & 2nd from the right) at October 2009 launch of the UNAA (NSW) Mid-North Coast Branch, Falls Creek Retreat

THE WORLD IS HIS PARISH

This poem written some years ago by Harold Grant the then Australian Representative of the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) depicts very succinctly the life of the Reverend Peter Holden.

In paraphrasing John Wesley there comes to mind
Visually in images over the years
A face resolute of purpose but always kind
In determination that awed his peers

Memories encapsulate a life full of doing
Baptised, confirmed, ordained in the Church
Pastoral duties left little time for wooing
But marriage came with Velvy who spared the birch

Studies and degrees, foreign languages nurtured
The universality in thought perceived
Whenever Greek or History featured
Magna Cum Laude, Master of Divinity received

Social research, arts and education, theology
Furthered who we are and why we cannot be
One within, between ourselves and God with no apology
To those materially endowed refusing to see.

Ecumenical in deed and action before the fashion came
With it in music as Woodstock soared
In songs, eclectic, boisterous for the world to frame
A new order less disease, dissension, guns that roared

As Jesus in the Market Place did he sell the concept
Of the Village Church and rapport with the alienated

Housing projects for aged persons, promises kept
Volunteering pastoral work abroad, solidarity created

Nationally, internationally executive positions held
Vigorous letters to potentates, Ministers sent
In Delegation to the Vatican with His Holiness spelled
Bound by the picture Down Under did present

Identifying, sharing, learning was the creed
To others he imparted for the fight that the good
Must never resile from if society is to heed
The Church and the rock and where Peter stood

St Augustine said it is faith to believe
On the word of God what we do not see
For Peter that has been reason enough to perceive
As a pilgrim why exists the A.C.C. *

Issues he has raised despite ill health
Refugees and displaced owe much to what he has done
Wife, family and grandchildren have renewed that wealth
Of fire and values in the race not yet run

The Gospel and its meanings have filled his life
Realities are the experiences assessed
In the links that chain despite storm and strife
An ordered path to where reside the blessed

In saluting the man, pastor and friend
Love and truth are virtues he shared
And to each taught by example to bend
But never deflect from challenges cared.

Peter John Holden: Adieu

* Australian Council of Churches

REQUEST FOR NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

The Association welcomes new members and volunteers interested in learning more and promoting the ideals of the UN.

Background Information

The UNAA (NSW) 2010/2011 Executive Committee comprise a President, two Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, Public Officer, nine Committee members, four Branches (Blue Mountains, Hunter, Central Coast, Mid North Coast) and UNYA (NSW) President, who organize various activities to carry out the aims of the organization.

When you become a member

As a member of the United Nations Association, you can participate in the activities of UNAA, become better informed on international affairs through publications and newsletters, attend talks by experts in various fields, participate in seminars and meet people whose interest you share.

You are welcome to offer assistance to those who are organizing activities. When you have become familiar with the UNAA you may wish to nominate for a position on the State Executive at our AGM (held around June) or, with the approval of the Executive become a co-opted member at any other time.

To join Please refer to our website www.unaansw.org.au or email office@unaansw.org.au

The UNAA (NSW) look forward to meeting you !

2 August 2010