



**United Nations Association of Australia  
(New South Wales) Inc.**  
**Patron Her Excellency the Governor of New South Wales**  
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## E-News & Notes

**Volume 2: Mar-Apr 2010**  
(Revised issue 16 May 2010)  
**International Year of Biodiversity**  
**International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures**

### From the President



The Association was very encouraged by the reception of the first volume of *E-News & Notes*.

We will therefore continue to focus on news and activities of particular local interest.

Special reference will be made to the **UNAA National Conference, which is scheduled for Friday 13 August in the NSW Parliamentary Theatre.**

The Conference will be opened by Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG QC. A magnificent line-up of speakers will deal with topics a widely varying as *Climate Change, the Millennium Development Goals, Peace in our Time, Nuclear Disarmament, Human Rights and Young People at the UN*. There will be special recognition of the International Year of Biodiversity.

**The Annual General meeting will be held on Saturday 3 July at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts. All financial members are encouraged to seek election to the Committee as a service to the Association.**

Finally a good news story with a twist: The UN Habitat Report *State of the World Cities 2010-11* reports 227 million people rose out of the slums between 2000 and 2010 exceeding the MDG 7 target of 100 million by 2020. Much of the good news came from China and India. Despite this, the world now has 55 million more slum dwellers than in 2000 due for instance to the population increase in the slums and the flight of the rural poor to the cities. (UN Wire 18 Mar 2010)

Our proposed Editor, Pooja Kholi, is currently on leave in India.

Peter Airey, President

### Next Edition

Our next edition will feature further details on the **National Conference**; a **Member's Event** on **'Living in small communities in the NT'** proposed after July 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](http://www.icv.com.au); and the sale of **original pen & ink works (10)** kindly donated by Executive Member/Status of Women Convenor, Affie Adagio, @ \$300 each - to be displayed at our National Conference or by prior arrangement.

## UPDATED DIARY

**WED 19 MAY 2010 (6:30 pm – 8:00 pm)**

**Stanton Library, Heritage Centre, Level 1  
234 Miller Street, North Sydney**

Launch of a public exhibition celebrating the UN International Year of Biodiversity by North Sydney Council, NSW Environmental Trust, University of Sydney and the Stanton Library.

**Peter Airey will be the guest speaker at 6.45pm.**

**RSVP 14 May** [Megan.Hughes@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Megan.Hughes@northsydney.nsw.gov.au)  
02 9936 8258 or 02 9936 8228

**SUN 23 MAY 2010 (9.30 am – 1 pm)**

**Vesak / Buddha Day (note the new venue)  
Thien Phouc Pagoda, 29 Avenal Street Canly Vale**

Interfaith dialogue event coordinated by Executive Member, Ven. Thich Minh Tam, with music, food, presentations and discussions from a number of faith groups concerned with world peace & environmental conservation for our children.

**SAT 3 JULY 2010 (12.30 pm - 4.30 pm)**

**Annual General Meeting  
Sydney Mechanics School of Arts (refer pp.2, 6-8)**

**THURS 12 AUGUST 2010 (1.30 - 5.00pm)**

**Status of Women Network Seminar  
Sydney Mechanics School of Arts (SMSA)**

This seminar coordinated by S.O.W.N. is the ½ day event to the UNAA National Conference below.

**FRI 13 AUGUST 2010 (9.30am – 5pm)**

**UNAA National Conference** NSW Parliament House  
The theme of the Conference is *"State of the World Post Copenhagen"*. It will be opened by the eminent jurist Sir Laurence Street, the son of Jessie Street.

The keynote lecture will be delivered by the National President, Professor Robert Hill. The Conference will feature an interactive Panel Discussion and conclude with a Reception (refer p.2)

**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 60<sup>th</sup> 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**

### **Post UN Week celebration in the Speakers**

**Garden, Parliament House** (date to be confirmed)

## **UNAA (NSW) AGM**

**Saturday 3 July 2010 : 12:30 for 1:00 pm**  
**Sydney Mechanics School of Arts (SMSA)**  
**280 Pitt Street, Sydney**

The Annual General Meeting of the UNAA(NSW) will be held on Saturday 3rd July 2010 at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts. All financial members are invited. Besides our guest speaker and Returning Officer, non-members may not attend.

**All financial members are encouraged to nominate for the Committee at large or for one or more of the Office Bearers, namely President, Vice-president (2 positions) and Treasurer. All nominations must be with the Returning Officer by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Nominations cannot be accepted from the floor. Financial members who have not served on the Committee in the past three years should submit a CV with the completed nomination form.**

Should an election be necessary, the nominees will be contacted by the Returning Officer before Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June with the detailed procedures for conducting the election.

*Since there is a limit of five (5) proxies per person with either the President or a financial member, the Returning Officer shall advise if there are more than 5 proxies received and another financial member as a proxy will be required at least 48 hrs prior to AGM.*

## **Status of Women Network Seminar**

**1:30 to 5:00 pm Thursday 12 August 2010**  
**Sydney Mechanics School of Arts 280 Pitt St, Syd.**

Convenor: Sheila Bayard (National Convenor S.O.W.N.) in conjunction with UNAA(NSW)

**This S.O.W.N Seminar is linked to the UNAA National Conference next day and is cost free to registrants of the Conference (non-registrants \$20)**

## **UNAA National Conference** **“State of the World after Copenhagen”**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August (9:30 am - 5:00 pm)**  
**NSW Parliament Theatre, Sydney**

*This is an opportunity to hear a survey of key issues affecting the world in 2010 and to present your questions to a panel of experts*

*All members, their families, friends and colleagues are cordially invited*

**Summary** This one-day conference will focus on issues surrounding major UN Meetings in 2010 including the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review Meeting, New York (May), the Millennium Development Goals Review Summit, New York (Sept), and the Climate Change Conference COP 16 in Mexico (Nov/Dec). The Conference will also mark the UN Year of Biodiversity.

The proceedings will be opened by Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG QC, former Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor of NSW and the son of the eminent Jessie Street. The keynote speaker will be our National President Professor Robert Hill, former Cabinet Minister and UN Ambassador.

In the final Session, participants will be invited to question a Panel of Speakers on issues currently facing the UN and the world. Bring your questions!

### **Speakers**

The panel of eminent speakers include:

Professor Robert Hill will address issues associated with the aftermath of Copenhagen and the build-up to the Mexico climate conference.

Mr Christopher Woodthorpe, Director UN Information Centre, Canberra will discuss the *Millennium Development Goals*.

UNYA Speaker: Young People and the UN

Dr Keith Suter, author, broadcaster, member of the Club of Rome will address the movement towards peace around the world (Accepted, subject to confirmation)

Ms Martine Letts, Deputy Director, Lowy Institute for International Policy will discuss “*Nuclear Non-Proliferation & Disarmament: Where are we going?*”

Mr John Pace, Secretary, Former UN Human Rights Commission will speak on human rights around the world. (Accepted, subject to confirmation early June)

Dr Robert Fisher, Senior Researcher, Mekong Resources Centre, U Sydney will discuss: “*Linking Conservation and Poverty Reduction*” This is a Conference contribution to marking the UN Year of Biodiversity 2010.

**Reception** The Conference will conclude with a Reception (5:30-7:30pm) in the Strangers Lounge which will provide people to discuss issues raised during the day in a relaxed environment. Cost \$55

### **Conference + Seminar Costs**

Students	\$45
Members (Concessions)	\$80 (\$70)
Non-members (Concessions)	\$100 (\$90)

Members UNAA / UN affiliated organisations

Concessions Unwaged persons

**Contact :** Peter Airey [pairey@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pairey@optusnet.com.au)

## REPORTS

### Sydney Multicultural Festival Manly Vale



A special thanks to our **Honorary Treasurer, Anne Pickworth**, who facilitated our involvement in the Multicultural Festival organised by the Manly Vale-Calabria Bowling Club at Passmore Oval, Manly Vale, over the weekend 27-28 February.

Between 15,000-20,000 people enjoyed the cultural performances, rides, food and general displays, including Australia for UNHCR.



*The active and enthusiastic Anne Pickworth, UNAA (NSW) Honorary Treasurer and Treasurer of the Manly Vale-Calabria Bowling Club, who now resides in Cairns and commutes monthly to Sydney to undertake her honorary, personal and working roles.*

The Association's stall was decorated with UN posters and material and was visited by a steady stream of people and potential members/volunteers.

Peter Airey headed the volunteers who looked after the 2-day stall: Dianne Sackelariou, Valerie & Kenneth Weekes, Lynne Chevor, Lindsay Mell & Sandy Yang.

We look forward to contributing to this successful annual event again next year!

### Abundant Action ! – Community Project Program Developments

**Lindsay Mell**  
*Community' Program Coordinator*  
*Immediate Past President*



*The UNAA – NSW 'Community Project' sustains the evolution and encouragement of grass-roots community initiative through the auspices and advocacy of the International 'Year of Community Engagement' (IYOCE) Proposal Project.*

*Since my inception of this original project idea and theme, in 1993, a wide range of community groups have interacted through mutual support for this initiative. Further, the project enjoys considerable formal endorsement from prominent community and social representatives and commentators.*

*The project became a program of UNAA – NSW following a **Public Meeting** of endorsement in March 1995, at which **Drs Hugh Mackay and Keith Suter** spoke in emphatic support. Soon thereafter, the project was endorsed by the **UNAA Federal Council** on an ongoing basis.*

*Various community forums have been convened in this project context, with an overview of our more prominent diverse such current activities presented as follows.*

*Those interested in our project are welcome to contact me, as the Project Coordinator since inception, through the UNAA – NSW office.*

#### **Current Program Review**

As progress through our UNAA – NSW '**Growing Community – Living Together**' Project broadens forth into 2010 we are well situated to celebrate prospects for the year(s) ahead.

Among our early vital achievements moving into 2010 was the donation of the full complement of our **Equanimity Mate ! – Ten Years On Overview** of The Community Project/ Culture Lab Collaboration resources to the **Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPACS)** Library at the Mackie Building, University of Sydney.

These resources were presented to the CPACS Librarian, **Peggy Craddock**, in the presence of the Overview Launch (June 2008) Dialogue Co-presenter, **Professor Frank Hutchinson**, and CPACS Director, **Associate Professor Jake Lynch**, on 23 February, after donation to the Centre at the November 2009 CPACS Council Meeting. Thanks so much to all at CPACS for their generosity in this endeavour.

Further copies of the resource package were accepted by the Australian national arm of the **Institute for Cultural Affairs (ICA)**, at the national ICA Conference and Council Meeting in January 2010, held at the NSW Mulgoa/ Penrith Edmund Rice Conference Centre.

Meanwhile, a complementary enterprise proceeded from our '**Grassroots Applied Ideas Forum**', inaugurated in November 2009 as effectively the outcome of our proposed **Centre for Applied Theory and Local Policy Analysis (CATALPA** – derived from an American Indian

name for 'wood'; tree with distinctive heart-shaped leaves).

Moreover, this development was encouraged through the announcement, at our March 2010 Orientation Forum, that the ICA-based '**Transition Towns**' project, pioneered by **Ruth** and **Hugh Southon**, is to be thenceforth linked with the CATALPA initiative.



*International human rights lawyer and social researcher from Sydney, **Mimi Zou** (foreground), enjoys a special 2010 New Year session with a few UNAA – NSW Community Project Cultural Diversity Forum participants.*

We thank Hugh and Ruth for their collaboration, along with **Margaret Bell, AM**, President of the Chain Reaction Foundation, and **Lynne Dalton**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Volunteering NSW for their truly appreciated support in this.

### **Social Inclusion Panel Session**

We are planning a Panel Session on the theme of '**Social Inclusion and Community Development – Drawing the Threads Together**' for July 29 2010. As our **Special Guest** at this event, we have invited the **Honourable Senator Ursula Stephens**, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, to present some opening perspectives on the **National Compact** of the Australian Government with Non-Government Organisations (NGOs).

Senator Stephens and **Nancy Waites**, Advisor to the Senator, have most kindly reviewed the content of our *Equanimity Mate! – Ten Years On* Overview of The Community Project/ Culture Lab Collaboration.

### **Cultural/ Social Diversity Forums Progress**

Given it is a while since the progress of our forums has appeared in an edition of *News & Notes*, further to our May 2009 Forum on **Appreciating Uncertainty – Perceptual Transition** with Author, **Clem Molloy**, a Panel Session on **Cultural Harmony** followed in August, with Former Affinity Intercultural Foundation President, **Mehmet Ozalp** and Sufi Advisor, **Janice Hamida**, then a later session with Jesuit Priest, **Father Herman Roborgh**.

**Anthea Paul**, Author and Unifem Activist, shared about her **Amazing Personal Journey** at our October 2009 Forum, while Charles Sturt University Management Theorist, **Patrick Bradbery**, presented

on the theme **Paradox Personified – Paradox in Everyday Life** for our November Forum Event. Thanks to all concerned for these superb presentations.



Prominent Author of the *Girlosophy* Series and UNIFEM Advocate, **Anthea Paul** (left), shares some perspectives with Lindsay Mell at the Oct. 2009 UNAA - NSW Community Project Cultural Diversity Forum.

**Social Diversity** was the theme of our Saturday, 10 April Forum, with Macquarie University Doctorate Student, **Skye Cleary (nee 'Nettleton')**, who is considering this theme through the broad context of her studies. '**Social Diversity**' has emerged as a basic broad guiding theme for our 2010 forum events.

During the later part of 2009 and early 2010, I have presented two **Academy of the Word** occasional seminar papers on the broad theme of **Friendship and Experience**, and two **Continental Philosophy Group** presentation papers on **Experience and Emotion** and **Vocation and Emotion**.

Hearty thanks to all **UNAA – NSW Executive Committee** and **Association Members** for your ever generous support and encouragement !

Thanks also to **Sandy Yang** for her abundant support with logistics.

Lindsay Mell  
18 March 2010



UN Security Council: UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

**Support your UNAA National Conference**

**NSW Parliament, Friday 13 August 2010**

**It's your world; have a say!**

## SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE CO-VICE PRESIDENT

**Geoffrey B.W. Little JP**  
**Vice President UNAA (NSW)**  
**Convenor Cenotaph Ceremony**



Since being elected your Co Vice President last year along with Mrs. Dianne Sackelariou OAM, the past six months as been a roller coaster ride of meetings, presentations and social interactions, which is a microcosm of the wonderful opportunities afforded to ALL Members of the United Nations Association who are interested in progressing the aims and ideals of the United Nations.

Dr Peter Airey has been a most able President and I marvel at his energy and resourcefulness as he has steered the New South Wales Division through monthly meetings and refereed the occasional outbursts with diplomacy and tact.

Our visit to Canberra to see Federal Member Robert Oakeshott laid the groundwork for the establishment of the Mid North Coast Branch, which was discussed, in the last edition of E-News&Notes.

### **39<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)**

A highlight of my year in August 2009, was to have the honour of attending the 39<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) in Seoul, South Korea, as an Australian Delegate, along with UNAA Federal President and Member UNAA(South Australia), Ambassador Robert Hill, and members of the UNAA(Victoria) in the persons of Vice President Mark Coffey, Vice President Jay Jethwa (now Australian Member the WFUNA Executive Council), Patricia Collett, Executive Director UNAA(Victoria) and Ms. Alice Bleby, President of UNYA.



**Delegates from the WFUNA Plenary Assembly**  
Centre-R: Geoffrey Little JP/VP UNAA (NSW)  
Jay Jethwa (now Member ExCo WFUNA),  
Ms Pera Wells (then Sec General WFUNA),  
Dr Hans Blix (then President WFUNA),  
Mark Coffey (then President UNAA(VIC))

After my attendance at the Plenary Assembly in Seoul, I travelled to Thailand and the Philippines on Rotary business associated with the Rotary District Peace Communities Programme, where I was most honoured by the United Nations Association of the Philippines UNA (Phils) to be made a Life Member.

### **UN Week Celebrations**

Of course we should not forget United Nations Week in late October each year, which incorporates Sydney's Annual United Nations Day Wreath Laying Ceremony and our United Nations Week Luncheon, which was held in the Stranger's Dining Room of State Parliament House. Details were in the last edition of *E News&Notes*.

Crowning these activities was our now traditional post United Nations Week Afternoon Tea, which is hosted by the Speaker of the New South Wales State Parliament.

We were very honoured this year to have Mr Myles Mooney, renowned as the lead singer of the Irish Drovers, but in another life as a Member of the Irish Armed Forces, a United Nations Peace Keeper who served the Congo back in the sixties.

Myles is a very entertaining fellow and sporting his United Nations Blue Beret addressed the assembly on his experiences in the Congo fifty years ago. He also produced a photograph album, which provided a fitting pictorial to his words.



### **UNHCR Breakfast with the Governor General HE Ms Quentin Bryce AC**

L-R: Mr Geoffrey Little, Ms Maureen Burdynski,  
Ms Lynne Chevor (Secretary UNAA (NSW))  
Dr Peter Airey, Dr David Hall, HE Quentin Bryce AC,  
Mr Patrick Medway AM, Mrs Suzanne Medway,  
Mrs Tiffany Sharp McDonald, Mr Noel Cislowski

Other memorable activities over the latter part of 2009 included attending the Federal UNAA AGM in Canberra, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Breakfast at the Westin Hotel in Martin Place, Sydney (above) and the Sydney Peace Awards where this year Journalist John Pilger was the recipient of the Award, presented to him by Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of New South Wales and UNAA (NSW) Patron.

We all look forward to a productive and fulfilling future for the Association with particular emphasis on increasing Membership over the coming months.

Geoffrey Little



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**UNAA (NSW)**  
**Annual General Meeting**

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**12.30 for 1pm Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010**  
**Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney**  
**(between Bathurst & Park Streets)**

- ❖ All members of UNAA (NSW) are cordially invited to the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- ❖ Only properly constituted members will be eligible to vote, i.e. those who are financial and whose application for membership was accepted by a meeting of the State Executive either this year or the year from 1 April 2009.
- ❖ Non-members are not invited to attend the Annual General Meeting (other than the guest speaker and Returning Officer)

**ELECTIONS** (Refer nomination form next page)

- President
- Vice-presidents (2)
- Treasurer
- Ordinary members of the Executive Committee (12)

The following are ex-officio members of the Executive Committee: Immediate Past President, President UNYA (NSW), Chairpersons of the Branches, Public Officer.

For a nomination to be valid it must be signed by two (2) financial members of the Association; be endorsed with the signature of the candidate, and containing the three (3) signatures, be delivered by **18<sup>th</sup> June 2010** to:

**Mr John August, Returning Officer UNAA (NSW) AGM**  
**12 / 225 Darlinghurst Road DARLINGHURST NSW 2010**

UNAA (NSW) members are invited to submit motions in writing to:

The Returning Officer (above) by **21<sup>st</sup> May 2010** for consideration at the AGM. In accordance with the rules, new motions cannot be accepted from the floor.

**Guest Speaker: The National President of UNIFEM Australia, Sue Conde**

Light refreshments will be served before the meeting

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON THE AGM PLEASE ENQUIRE TO THE OFFICE**  
**(02) 9212 0998**  
**OR EMAIL [office@unaansw.org.au](mailto:office@unaansw.org.au)**



**UNAA (NSW)**  
**Annual General Meeting**



**12.30 for 1pm Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010**  
**Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney**  
**(between Bathurst & Park Streets)**

**Call for Nominations**

Financial members are encouraged to nominate for  
Office Bearers of the Association and/or the Committee.

Office Bearers: President, Vice-President (2 positions), Treasurer

Members may nominate for the Committee as well as for an Office.  
If elected to an office, the nomination for the Committee will clearly become  
redundant.

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**NOMINATION FOR THE UNAA (NSW) 2010-2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Nominee's Name**.....

Postal Address .....

Telephone Numbers .....

Email .....

Position Sought .....

Signature ..... Date .....

This nomination form must be accompanied by a 50-word résumé if the nominee has  
not previously been a member of the Executive Committee or if the election  
is contested (in which case you will be contacted after 18th June)

**Nominator's Name**.....

Postal Address .....

Telephone Numbers .....

Email .....

Position Sought .....

Signature ..... Date .....

**Secunder's Name**.....

Postal Address .....

Telephone Numbers .....

Email .....

Position Sought .....

Signature ..... Date .....

**Deadline: This nomination form must contain all three signatures to be valid  
and must be by Friday 18th June 2010 to:**

**Mr John August, Returning Officer UNAA (NSW) AGM**  
**12 / 225 Darlinghurst Road DARLINGHURST NSW 2010**




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**UNAA (NSW)**  
**Annual General Meeting**

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**APPOINTMENT OF PROXY**

I, (FULL NAME) .....

ADDRESS .....

TELEPHONE ..... EMAIL.....

being a properly accepted and financial member of the United Nations Association of Australia (in accordance with UNAA(NSW) Constitution Section 5.c) hereby appoint

NAME OF PROXY.....

ADDRESS OF PROXY .....

TELEPHONE ..... EMAIL.....

Who is a member of the UNAA(NSW) in accordance with the terms of UNAA(NSW) Constitution as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010 and at any adjournment of that meeting

or [ ] THE PRESIDENT (please tick if this is your selection for proxy)

My proxy is authorized to vote (please mark with a tick as appropriate)

[ ] in favour of/against.....

[ ] in all elections

**NOTE**

**No one may receive more than 5 proxies.**

**Proxy votes must reach the Returning Officer by last mail on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June to:**

**Mr. John August, Returning Officer UNAA (NSW) AGM  
12 / 225 Darlinghurst Road DARLINGHURST NSW 2010**

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON THE AGM PLEASE ENQUIRE TO THE OFFICE  
(02) 9212 0998  
OR EMAIL [office@unaansw.org.au](mailto:office@unaansw.org.au)**