



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF AUSTRALIA Inc.**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION Inc.**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2003 - 2004**

**FIFTY FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT**

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RICE**

# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION Inc.

**PATRON** Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson -- Nelson AC. CVO. M.B.E.  
Governor of South Australia

**PRESIDENT** Mrs. Heather Southcott A.M.

**VICE- PRESIDENTS** Mr. John Crawford  
Mrs. Sheila Hill  
Mr. Ron Hall

**SECRETARY** Mrs. Sheila Hill

**TREASURER** Mr. John Crawford

**CORPORATE MEMBERS** Catholic Women's League ; Miss Tess Donellan  
Aboriginal Advancement League ; Ms. Wendy Koolmatrie

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS** Ms. Rosemary McKay  
Mr Glen Woodward  
Mrs. Sathavy Suos  
Mr Geoff Dibdin  
Dr. Ricky Lee

**UNYA REPRESENTATIVES** Mr Brendan Lim / Ms Penny Wells

<b>COMMITTEES</b>	UNAA Status of Women	Mrs Sheila Hill
	United Nations Youth Assoc.	Ms Penny Wells
	Int. Year of Community	Mr Glen Woodward

<b>OFFICE STAFF</b> (volunteers)	Mrs Cynthia James	Mrs Sathavy Suos
	Mr Richard Lutz	Mr Ron Hall
	Mrs Mabs Tassell	

# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION Inc.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2003 - 2004

#### *OVERVIEW*

Thanks to our dedicated executive and office volunteers and committee members the work of the association has continued during the past year .

We acknowledge the continuing support of the State Government ,in the form of a small grant and some rent subsidy , which enables us to pay the office rental .

To help us to meet our other commitments, we have turned to fundraising, with some \$700 raised from a very successful film evening organised by our Status of Women committee.

We would welcome some modest sponsorship or the suggestions from members on how we can raise funds. Obviously, increased membership is one avenue we must address.

One concern is the time spent that could be better used in other ways.

We had hoped to be able to replace our ageing photocopier but as we could not afford it, we asked some State and Federal members of parliament to assist us with copying which they readily agreed to do. We have continued to provide funds to the Children's Week committee for their encouragement grants which make it possible for children from disadvantaged groups to attend events during the week.. This is made possible by a grant from the Norman Percy Cole Trust

#### *PATRON*

We were represented at a garden party given by Her Excellency the Governor, by Glen Woodward ( executive member) and Penelope Wells and Brendan Lim from UNYA

*FEDERAL COUNCIL MEETING AND CONFERENCE* were held in Canberra in November

We submitted resolutions on continued funding for Landmine s removals; International Decade for indigenous peoples and appropriate remuneration for indigenous artists.`

The Evatt Memorial Lecture was given by Hilary Charlesworth and a special "whistleblowers" award was presented to Andrew Wilkie.

#### *EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE*

Unfortunately the representatives from the Baha'i community and the Theosophical Order of Service were unable to continue; we look forward to their replacements soon.

Ricky Lee returned to the committee after leave of absence and Br. Peter Faulkner joined the committee with special responsibility for environmental matters

#### *ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*

Angela Hasebroek , an environmental planner from Hassells , spoke to us of her work in planning the rebuilding of Dili in East Timor.

#### *WORLD HEALTH DAY KITS*

The theme for 2004 was ROAD SAFETY and kits were distributed to many groups. As a result a forum will be held by Commonwealth Club on Jun '17<sup>th</sup> in Walkerville Town Hall.

#### ***OBSERVANCES***

United Nations Day on October 24<sup>th</sup> was marked by the flying of the UN flag on No.1 flagpole on North Terrace. The idea came from Barbara Bray and was persued by Glen Woodward with the Town Hall administration.

The annual peace-keepers observance at the War Memorial was attended by Glen Woodward and Brendan Lim who laid some Peace roses. on behalf of UNAA

Human Rights Day on December 10<sup>th</sup> was celebrated at a forum on WATER , and an arts experience for young people .

#### ***International Years***

We promoted the International Year of Water; now we are busy promoting the International Year of Rice and the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition

#### ***OFFICE STAFFING***

Cynthia James (librarian) Mabs Tassell, Sathavy Suos and Ron Hall were joined by Richard Lutz and Peter Faulkner . We are indebted to them for their continued support

#### ***DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE***

We, with other N.G.O. representatives ,met Australian Government Representative in Burma

#### ***VOLUNTEERING***

We attended the State Government's Volunteer Day concert and also the annual Forum

#### ***REPRESENTATION ON OTHER COMMITTEES***

Children's Week ; Refugee Week ; Water Week ; UNIFEM Breakfast ; Human Rights Day Development Action Network; Torrens Building Tenants

#### ***EVENTS ATTENDED INCLUDED***

Mitchell Oration; James Crawford lecture ; Graham Smith Peace Trust Dinner; Austcare Tribute to Lina function; Memorial Service for the Homeless ; Hiroshima Day ; Caritas AGM ; Catholic Women's League Annual Mass ; Grameen Bank meting ; Justice for Refugees Quiz Night ; East Timor and West Papuan functions

#### ***UNAA SA COMMITTEES***

Much of the work of the association is carried out by our two active committees; Status of Women and United Nations Youth Association who have submitted separate reports.

I congratulate them on a very successful year.

Glen Woodward continues to promote the concept of an International Year of Community whenever he has the opportunity

In conclusion I wish to thank all members of executive and committees and volunteers , especially John Crawford , our Treasurer , for their hard work and loyalty.

Heather Southcott President.

**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (S.A.DIV.) INC**  
**STATUS OF WOMEN COMMITTEE**  
**PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2003 - 2004**

**Preamble**

I laughed when I re-read the last paragraph of my 2003 report - "This is my last term as President... I look forward to being a continuing member of the Committee"!

In between a few broken bones and an overseas trip I had a few months rest for which I thank all the members of the committee for their unflagging support during that time. At our Christmas brunch in December I resumed as President for a further year.

**Meetings**

As you are aware we are more of a network than just a committee and, as such all our members are very very involved in the meetings of the various member organisations. It was getting to the point where we were all "+meeting fatigued"

As almost all members are now on the e-mail we came to the decision that bi-monthly face to face meetings would be tried. Consequently, the meeting for November 2003 was cancelled and our December meeting took the form of a meeting/lunch. In fact it has worked well and the consensus is that no-one has been disadvantaged and our information is getting out well. We miss the personal contact but that, unfortunately, is a sign of the times.

**Activities**

Our first priorities for the second half of 2003 were a concerted membership drive and the film fund raiser on 28 June to help our parent body UNAA (SA) Inc.

In my absence a list of dormant and prospective members was drawn up and letters sent out. We were not really surprised when this gained us only two new member organisations, but some who had been quiet for some time were reinvigorated. However, we are keeping up those contacts.

The film night was a great success with all seats sold, two good films, a very happy clientele and \$700 raised for the UNAA.. This encouraged to run a second night this year. The film night for 2004 took place last Sunday and, again, was a great night with almost \$1000 raised. As an innovation this year several Afghani refugee women cooked a hot celebration supper to acknowledge the United Nations Year of Rice. This was rice as you have never tasted before and the women were so delighted to be able to help us instead of the other way around.

**Northfield Women's Prison**

Sadly, the new prison is still "on the Agenda" but there seem to be so many Departments involved that progress is minimal. We completed our annual visit for 2004 earlier this month and had a good discussion with the Director, Ms. Sue de la Santo. She is still pushing hard but there are still no facilities for people with psychiatric and emotional disturbances. Remand prisoners are still crowded in with those serving sentences and at times can be up to a year on remand due to various technical reasons and appeals. However, they do their best. The Prison Liaison Officer is the light at the end of the tunnel there and through him we were able to glean a lot of information for our discussion with Ms. de la Santo. On our visit we took 8 boxes of books and jigsaw puzzles for the library and leisure rooms and the call has now gone out for more jigsaw puzzles and as many set of playing cards as possible. Anyone reading this with spare offerings of these items please contact Sheila Hill on 8293 2289. We noted that our advocacy for more privacy in the non-contact rooms has borne fruit and these are being upgraded with intercoms.

Following this visit we have an information night open to all at which Mr. Peter Severin, Chief Executive Office of the Department of Correctional Services will speak on the present situation in the prison service in South Australia - specifically but not limited to the Northfield Women's Prison. This night is on Wednesday 16 June at 8.00 pm.

### **WomenSpeak Consortium**

Through the UNAA Status of Women Committee in Victoria and the local branch of the Union of Australian Women, we are kept informed of the activities of the Womenspeak Consortium. We have not been able to attend any of the Canberra face to face meetings but have received reports.

### **Department of Human Services**

There was no further outcome with regard to the inter-departmental/community committee which took over the work of the co-ordinator of services for refugees and migrants. Although being invited to participate by the then Minister, Stephanie Key, and despite reminders, it did not seem that there was a place for us after all. However, many members of our committee are actively involved in this area and perhaps this does more good than being on yet another committee - more race horses and not so many camels!

We also wrote to the Minister regarding the woeful facilities in the Adelaide Watch House for female prisoners. The reply was that there had been problems but they were striving to "emulate the level of service that prisoners would receive in the prison system". This also reflects on the overcrowding at Northfield as at times there are no beds for those who should be coming from the Watch house.

### **Speakers**

Less speakers this last twelve months as we had completed our Depression project. However, in August 2003 Ms Elizabeth Wood spoke to that year's open meeting. Elizabeth had been a World Health Organisation Advisor in East Timor - Registered Nurse and Midwife and was able to shed some light on the difficulties in a developing country that arise from bureaucracy - what is needed and ordered is not always what is sent!

At our February meeting we stayed in-house -Ruth Russell reported on her representation at the Mumbai Social Development Conference, (Ruth will be standing as a Democrat nominee at the forthcoming Federal election) Sheila Hill on her visit to Croatia - still a sad poverty stricken country with the only good news the work done by UNESCO grants to restore Split and Dubrovnik and therefore help to kick start the tourism industry again. Pat Hardy also spoke of her encounters in Vietnam with people from both sides of the war and found the predominant spirit "that was in the past - lets get on with the future"

### **South Australia Premier's Council**

Members have been involved during the past six months with fora and discussion groups compiling the "Statistical Profile - Women in South Australia" and also the Women's Safety Strategy. Our views were given a good hearing and many of our comments were incorporated into the documents.

### **General**

Once again I thank the stalwart members of this Committee. They represent us (as well as their own organisations) at a myriad of events so we are kept well informed on the happenings in our city, the difficulties and where we could lobby or offer advocacy. I especially thank my Secretary, Pat Hardy, the present Adelaide Soroptimist President, Heather Beckmann and Heather Southcott whose involvements are too numerous to catalogue but who are always willing to walk the extra mile. My term as President this time ends in August with our AGM - then we shall see!

Sheila Hill  
30 May 2004



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UNITED NATIONS YOUTH ASSOCIATION  
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

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UNAA (SA) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
UNYA REPORT

The Start of a new Term

The UNYA (SA) AGM was held on the 23rd of August 2003. The AGM was attended by a large variety of new and old members, which was very encouraging. Constitutional amendments were proposed and unanimously adopted, which altered the makeup of the division's executive. These changes meant that there were only 5 voting members on the executive (the 'upper tier' comprised of immediate past president, president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer) and 6 non-voting officers on the 'lower' tier. These changes were put in place to make it easier to achieve quorum, as many of our members are from the Barossa and/or have other commitments (including year 12 studies!). This also allowed the officers to diversify their interests, as we have found in the past that specific portfolios result in one member having a lot of work, or particular members getting bored with their tasks at hand.

This alteration has worked very well over the term, allowing executive members to diversify and help each other with tasks. What is more, in the first 5 months of the term a large proportion of the executive were completing year 12, and were still living in the Barossa Valley. The smaller number of voting members allowed the executive to make decisions and keep business moving. Emails and phone calls were utilised to keep other members up to date.

Objectives for the year ahead

As the executive had been injected with a lot of new blood, we were graced with the ability to brainstorm a lot of new ideas for the term ahead of us. The main hurdle that the South Australian division of UNYA faces is a lack of notoriety amongst the school community. This hampers our activities in many ways, in that we are unable to achieve large numbers at conferences and events. This is a large concern for us, as one of our key objectives is to educate and help South Australian students participate more in community life through public speaking, debating and the promotion of youth empowerment. This is indeed an ongoing concern for our division, and we hope to use the upcoming National Youth Conference (to be held in Adelaide July 2005) as a draw-card for many schools we haven't yet dealt with.

Other aims we had were to increase the activities available for UNYA (SA) general members. We felt that outside the conferences and activities for school students, we weren't offering much to older members. This lack then

translates into less people at meetings and conferences, ready to do some legwork for us all!

Another objective was to formalise the way we conduct ourselves at events, make sure we have a policy for facilitator conduct and lesson plans for school activities. This has started to happen, and is something that takes time – more than one term at any rate!

## EVENTS...

### Boutros-Ghali Shield

UNYA (SA) held their Annual Security Council Competition on the 27th and 28th of September 2003. This was held at Concordia College, who kindly allowed us to use their Old Chapel for a reduced price. This was an excellent venue, as it was spacious enough for all our tables and chairs.

We were exceedingly pleased with the level of debate that was demonstrated at BGS and the calibre of the teams certainly made the selection of teams for the Evatt Trophy (the national Security Council Competition) difficult. Our presentation dinner was once again a success, allowing delegates and facilitators to mingle and socialise. We are keen to move BGS to mid August 2004, so that more year 12 students can be involved, whilst also freeing up the end of the year for smaller and 'easier' projects.

### General Meeting

A General Member meeting was held on the 19th of October 2003. Whilst the turnout was not large, the meeting allowed eager members of UNYA (SA) to hear what the executive had planned for the year. The meeting also allowed the executive to probe general members for ideas for activities and direction for the year ahead.

### Public Lecture

We had the pleasure of inviting Mr Andrew Stoler, former Mr. Andrew Stoler, former Deputy Director General of the World Trade Organisation to a public lecture at the Torrens Building on the 28th of March 2004. This was a very informative event; Mr Stoler talked about the way trade has shaped the modern world, and the benefits of trade agreements. Mr Stoler was very generous in donating his time to UNYA (SA), however it was unfortunate that we had a relatively small turnout for the morning.

### Barossa UN Day

An exciting new event for the UNYA (SA) calendar was this years inaugural Barossa UN Day (affectionately dubbed BUN day) at Faith Lutheran Secondary School on the 2nd of April 2004. This event was organised by our co-opted Barossa Representative and another Barossa executive member. This event is a key ingredient in our aim to reach more schools and more areas in South Australia. As the day was



scheduled in Youth Week, we were unable to target students from a couple schools, however they expressed their interest in being involved in coming years.

The day introduced delegates to the UN, its makeup and processes; they were given a talk by a young member of the Barossa community who has worked a lot with World Vision; and of course were thrown in to debating two resolutions in a mock session of the General Assembly. This event was doubly successful, as we were able to draw more students from here to the State Conference.

### State Conference

The state conference this year was held on the 24th and 25th of April 2004 at Annesley College in Adelaide. The use of the hall at Annesley was kindly donated, and we hope to continue this excellent relationship for further activities.

The first day saw students listening to a lecture from Mr Grant Niemann, a lecturer in Law at Flinders University. Mr Niemann has been a prosecutor for both Nazi and Yugoslavian war crimes, and has a long history of experience with the UN. His lecture was very well received by the delegates, and he answered a myriad of questions. Students participated in small workshop groups about Mr. Niemann's lecture, human rights and recent 'actions' of the UN.

The second day was comprised of debate, all delegates participating in 5 mock sessions of the UN General Assembly. Debate was of a very high standard, and the students were congratulated on their level of research, participation and commitment to the day's activities.

10 Delegates were chosen (through interview process on the Sunday evening) to attend the 43rd UNYA National Youth Conference to be held in Melbourne this July.

### School Activities

As in previous years, UNYA (SA) gives schools the opportunity of inviting UNYA members to conduct sessions for classes. This has continued to be successful, as UNYA (SA) has a very flexible format for classes, which usually consists of two separate sessions, the first information on the UN and the second a hypothetical activity or a mock session of the General Assembly. Teachers have also in the past asked us to evaluate students' participation for grading. It is hoped that the schools we have worked with will be able to help us with publicity, but, to our disappointment, this has not yet come into full fruition.

It is hoped that we will soon be able to upload some basic packages to our website that schools will be able to utilise. However, we are still keen for teachers to contact us for help and information. It has been suggested that we hold a teachers' information evening, where we are able to let them know about UNYA (SA), and what we have to offer them. This is a definite goal for the year ahead.

### UNYA National Youth Conference 2005

The prospect of holding a National UNYA event here in Adelaide in 2005 has had an uplifting (if not stressful) effect upon the members of the executive. South Australia was successful in their bid to hold the National Youth Conference here in July 2005, and I was appointed Convener for this event in early January. As well as giving the executive many more tasks to achieve, the looming Conference has given the executive drive to establish a strong membership base for that year. The way looks promising, as the entire executive has been extremely supportive in terms of sourcing venues, speakers, activities, grants and donations; and most importantly, acting as a sounding board for my ideas as Convener (and keeping my stress levels at a manageable level!). [My interim report for the National Executive will be available post July, if anyone wishes to see it.]

### Other Matters

This year's delegation to the 43rd Annual UNYA National Youth Conference in Melbourne is satisfyingly large (we are able to send 4 facilitators, plus myself as the upcoming convener). The facilitators have been gearing up delegates for resolution writing, debate, public speaking and sponsorship.

The UNYA (SA) account has been managed well this term by our treasurer, and is looking healthy due to good profits from the State Conference. A sum of \$615 has been borrowed from this account to put a deposit on accommodation at St Mark's College for the 2005 National Youth Conference.

### Continuing Objectives

It is the opinion of the entire executive that we need to broaden the number of schools that we reach for activities and conferences, and to also increase our profile as a premier youth organisation with a lot to offer. A number of ideas to assist this idea have been brainstormed, and it is hoped that these will have an impact over the next 12 months – this will be no quick-fix solution unfortunately. It is hoped also that the upcoming National Youth Conference will allow us to draw more schools into our reach.

### Another year draws to a close

All in all, it has been a very busy year. The executive must be congratulated on its tireless work to make sure that all our usual events take place. It has been very pleasing also to see the advent of new and exciting activities for the division, and it is hoped that they can be continued in the year ahead.

Consolidation of our membership base, as well as making sure we provide enough activities for all our members is an ongoing concern, which no doubt will be addressed next term.

I would like to think that UNYA (SA) has upheld its position as a premier youth organisation in our state, and hope to see them go from strength to strength in the years ahead.

Regards,

Penelope Wells, President UNYA (SA).