



The Eleventh Hour tapestry captures the moment when Mary Cassini heard the P.O. clock strike the 11th hour at the conclusion of an Adelaide Peace Vigil (Sat. 17/12/83) The "3 Minutes World Silence" idea developed from this.

*Weft: Wool and Silk. Warp; Swedish Linen.*



Mary shares the Oakbank Weaver studio with her husband Peter Stapleton, also a weaver. They are well-known for participating in peace Crusades. Since 1984 Mary has paused for 3 Minutes silence at 11 am every New Year's Day and has travelled the world to spread her mes-

Children who saw "The City of Hope" tapestry being woven were invited to put their names on buildings, etc. and to express their hopes to the Weaver. The children wanted a City free of adults so there would be no more wars! They wanted a place where people can come for help, where animals are protected and where laughter and music and theatre prevail!

*In December '89 Mary's initiative was honoured by front page coverage in Pravda.*

Journalist Kylie Fleming writes :  
"Strong Beliefs Influence a Couple's Craft.

"Oakbank artisan Mary Cassini's philosophical Artworks are interwoven with her long-held belief in the possibility of world peace.

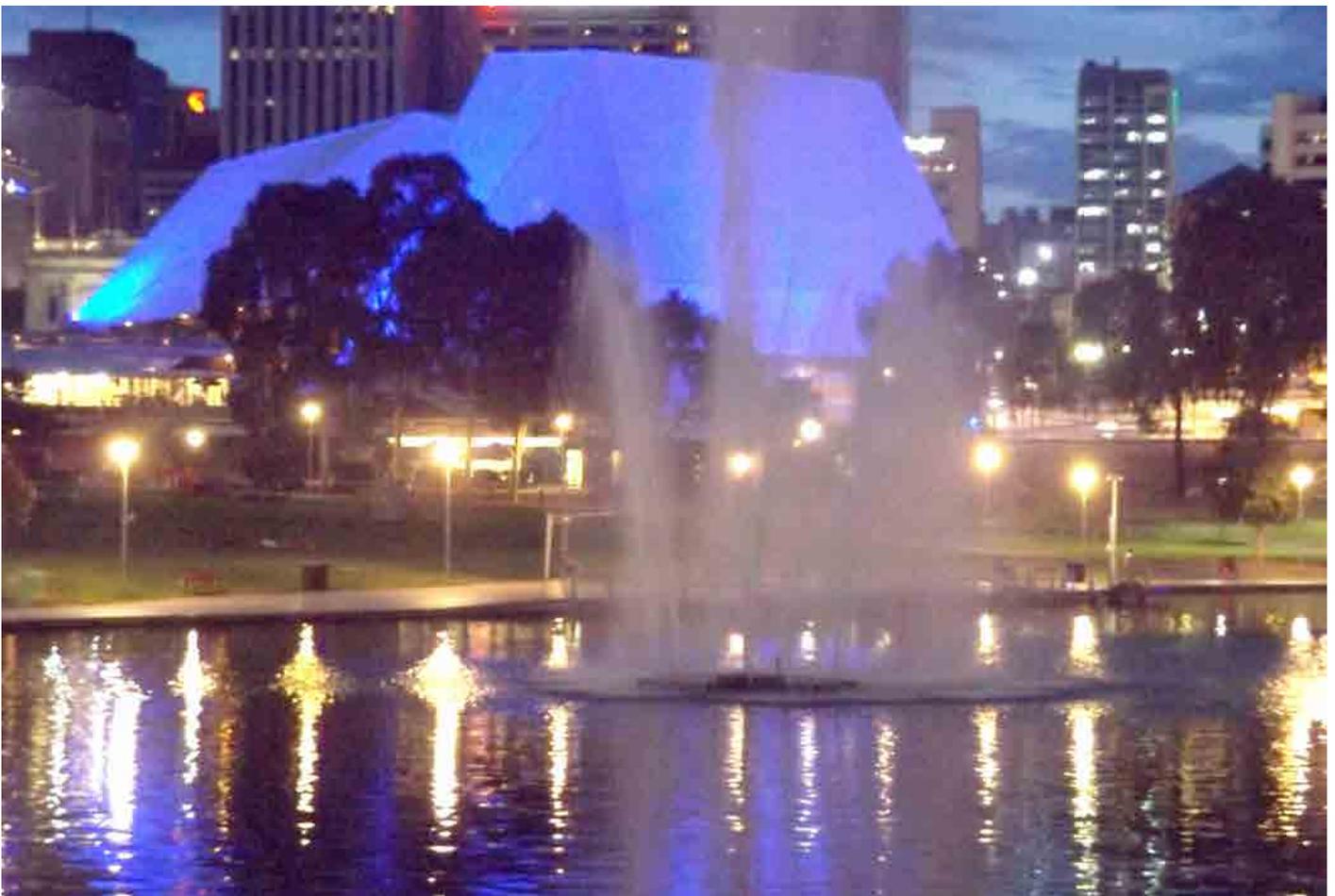
sage including a 2005 trip to the war-torn Middle East."

Some of the tapestries, together with a globe made by students and staff from Birdwood High School have travelled with Mary, along with a growing collection of letters from world leaders including Pope John Paul, King Hussein of Jordan and the Dalai Lama.

*PJF*

## THE FESTIVAL THEATRE IN UN BLUE For the "UN at 70" on UN Day, 24 October 2015

*Photo: Dylan Whiteford-Hall*



## DISCUSSION EVENING – ALL WELCOME

Tuesday 19 January 2016,  
5.30 to 7.30 pm

At the UNAA(SA) Office: 57/81 Carrington Street, Adelaide

### THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What do we understand about the Charter of the UN?

This is the organization's constitution, but like many documents of this kind we may talk about it occasionally, but rarely look at what it actually says.

Instead of a speaker, we will examine the wording of the Charter, and see if we can learn more from the inspired words (as well as the constraints) that embody and set out the operation of the UN.

Copies of the charter are available from the office, phone 8344 4978, or email [pres@unaasa.org.au](mailto:pres@unaasa.org.au).

Being the holiday season we do not expect a large attendance, but for those who make the effort we hope they gain an insight into how the UN operates at its most basic level.



UN Photo/Yould The UN Charter being signed by a delegation at a ceremony held at the Veterans' War Memorial Building on 26 June 1945.

*Our evenings offer a great opportunity to engage our guests in informal discussion, with the small numbers attending providing a chance for discussion and to ask questions.*

## Dr Basil Hetzel AC awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of the University

Dr Basil Hetzel has been a member of UNAA SA for over 30 years. We are therefore very proud to have noted in the University of Adelaide newsletter, *Lumen*, that he has been awarded the University's highest academic recognition, an honorary degree of Doctor of the University.

Genevieve Sanchez writing in *Lumen* said that while his career in the Air Force was ended by a bout of pulmonary tuberculosis following his graduation "it saw him take a pioneering path in medicine that would go on to affect up to one billion people around the world. It was Basil who first recognised the effects of iodine deficiency in contributing to high rates of brain damage called cretinism.

He established the International Council for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD) to increase awareness of the serious-

ness of iodine deficiency and to work on programs to eradicate this widespread but easily remedied condition.

"While working as the University's Michell Professor of Medicine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, he began his most influential studies of iodine deficiency in Papua New Guinea. He proved the effectiveness of iodized oil in treating goitre and it was incorporated into the international public health practices of the World Health Organisation and UNICEF."

His work continued in Melbourne, as the first Chair of Social and Preventative Medicine at Monash University where by 1970 his team demonstrated that correction of iodine deficiency before pregnancy totally prevented endemic cretinism and related conditions.

From 1986, as the CSIRO's first Chief of the Division of Human Nutrition,

he showed that iodine deficiency caused retardation of brain development in sheep and in marmoset monkeys.

Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD) is now recognised by WHO as the most common preventable cause of brain damage in the world with more than 2 billion people at risk in 130 countries.

Basil says "By 2000, household usage of iodized salt had increased from less than 20 per cent before 1990 to 60 per cent in 2000, with further progress since.

"This is regarded by WHO as a global success, comparable to the eradication of small pox and polio." Of his life's work which has made a difference to the lives of millions he says: "I was interested in making a better world."

UNAA SA is proud to have Basil as one of our members.

## Glen Woodward and his Chinese Friends

*Discussion evening 17 November*

*Glen Woodward was a member of the UNAA SA Committee during the late 1970s. He represented the Education Department on the Committee from 1976 to 1980. Ron Hall (and possibly Lynn Arnold) might remember him from those years. He rejoined the committee in the year 2000 after he retired serving through to 2011. He was very active in seeking a UN year of Community: something we could not achieve in spite of much persuasive lobbying around Australia as well as overseas.*

*When he said he would be delighted to speak at one of our Discussion evenings on "My Chinese Friends" we were quick to accept.*

Glen introduced his talk by explaining that as a primary school student at Wallaroo, he had been intrigued by the Chinese sailors who used to squat on the wharf there eating their rice meal with chopsticks. It was the start of a life-long interest and friendship with people and things Chinese.

In country South Australia at that time there were occasional encounters with strange people: children learned to be fearful of gypsies, and there were the strange men—fortunately not to be similarly feared—the Afghan hawkers about whom we heard at our previous evening.



The Children of C L Pak in 1954

When he came to Adelaide there was one Chinese restaurant—The Silver Dragon, about which they said "Don't eat there, they kill cats!". Down at the East End of Rundle street there was the specialty shop of Gladys Sym Choon, alongside this there was the shop of much greater interest to a young man, the Chinese fireworks shop.

After graduating as a teacher he asked for Darwin or the Barossa as his preferred country school at which to serve out his bond away from the city, and was therefore sent to Clare for 12 months before being sent to Darwin in 1953.

In Darwin he found the food in the Government mess uninspiring, and



The 1953 Pak Store and Residence in Darwin

was not happy, and he quickly discovered the shop belonging to Chin Lun Pak (CLP) in Chinatown in a ramshackle shop surround by bomb craters from 1945, with typical living quarters upstairs above the shop. This was special as they had a shaved ice drink machine, and in the hot humid Darwin climate this was great to quench one's thirst, and cool down. Conversation was difficult, but Glen still became a friend.

Mr Pak asked Glen to help him type his business letters, and inevitably as a new friend of the family, was asked to stay to dinner, and quickly learned how to use chopsticks and to eat fast.

Although the family name was Chin, CLP's eldest son Fred was called Fred Pak (Europeans assumed the family name was the last initial), although subsequently the younger children were all correctly named Chin.

Why is a question Glen is still unable to answer, but he quickly became attracted to the Chinese people. He just felt so comfortable in their company. Mr Pak made tailored clothing, and Glen still has a pair of sharkskin tennis shorts

he made for him. Missy Woolwool (Mister Woodward) was asked to help westernise the family, assisting Freddie, Ernie, Kevin Ernie and Lynette fit in with Darwin life.

A brief posting to Edithburgh (all European, hot and dusty) lasted until Mr Pak's sudden death, when Glen resigned from the Education Department to answer an appeal to help the boys run the business.

He imported crates of Christmas decorations (a distinct success), but had trouble selling 15 year old tins of rabbit meat. They rebuilt the shop and added glass windows, and built a restaurant next door.

Photographs of the Pak/Chin family showed Glen's close contact with the extended family ever since, expanding to a wide range of other Chinese friends collected over the years.

When his godson Glen Wee was married, Glen was asked to act as Glen's father, and asking what his responsibilities might be, was promptly told "as father you just have to pay all the bills".

We thank Glen for an absolutely fascinating ramble through a lifetime of friendship and interest in people from China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.



A BBQ at Glen's Place at Glen Avenue

## The Letters Patent – South Australia's Founding Document

10 December, at Kathleen Lumley College, with "The King's Seal" and Owen Karpany

Special guest, Owen Karpany, at our 2015 Human Rights Day commemoration, explained how he became involved in the award winning documentary, *The King's Seal* which was screened as a feature of the evening. Owen had won a case brought against him under the Fisheries Act regarding catching under size fish by referring to the Letters Patent. The State Government immediately appealed the decision and won in the Supreme Court while excluding Owen and his son Daniel from attendance in court and using a lawyer whom to this day they have never met to run their case without any reference to *The Letters Patent* as a defence. However, in a successful appeal to the High Court of Australia using the Native Title Act to make their case it was ruled that the South Australian Fisheries Act did not extinguish native title.

After the screening Owen emphasised the main point of the Letters Patent whereby the Indigenous inhabitants had been granted the right to enjoy and have access to the land they had always occupied, but added that this has clearly not happened. Instead colonisation had deprived his people of their livelihood. Destruction of the natural environment had, for example,



Watching the "King's Seal" documentary, Ron Hall, Owen and guests..

caused the disappearance of natural sources of food. He had grown up knowing he had the right to gather Aboriginal foods. But this was called poaching—hence his court case about the 24 under size abalone. No longer could swans be taken or their eggs be collected. The traditional practice was to see if the eggs would float and then return the fertilised ones to the nest after splashing water on them, so that the swans would not sense that people had handled them.

Owen lamented the high rates of Aboriginal incarceration across Australia and partly explained

the situation by saying that many people are making money out of the system – the police, lawyers, judges, prison officials and those involved in organising rehabilitation programs.

*The King's Seal* has a moving and empathetic approach, revealing much about government responses to Aboriginal claims, especially where respect for Indigenous rights and cultural practices are concerned. At the same time it does offer hope for justice as Owen sees it, which would ultimately benefit all Australians. At the end of the meeting the suggestion was made that *The King's Seal* would be a valuable educational tool for teaching about South Australian history and particularly about Aboriginal culture.

King William's Letters Patent clearly says the aboriginal people were to have a clear right to occupy and enjoy the land. But the land has been fenced and the original inhabitants are locked out. Their only way to get access is by doing a heritage survey.

The UNAA is most grateful for the support from Amnesty International, especially for arranging for the Letters Patent to be screened, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the AIIA. In addition, we are most grateful to Professor Felix Patrikeeff for making the excellent venue of the Kathleen Lumley College available for the meeting.



Owen Karpany introducing the "King's Seal" documentary.

# UN Day Dinner Report 2015

On Sunday, 1st November 2015, the United Nations Association of Australia - SA Division held their annual fundraising dinner at the National Wine Centre.



The event was funded by a seating grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and featured a number of invaluable donations in the forms of food, time, energy and gifts of which we are very grateful. Commencing at 6.30pm the UNAA SA committee members arrived a few hours prior to assist with the setup and preparation of what turned out to be a very memorable evening. Guests filtered through the foyer from 6pm, John Langton, Joan Young and Kathy Romeo acted their parts superbly in meeting and greeting.



UN Youth SA asking Senator Wong for a job

First of many esteemed dignitaries for the evening was director of UNIC Chris Woodthorpe. Following on (in no order of importance) was our guest speaker, the Honourable Senator Penny Wong; His Excellency, The Governor of South Australia, Hieu Van Le AO; Emcee for the evening Sonya Feldhoff; Michael Atkinson and Jennifer Rankine MP representing the Premier, and Rachel Sanderson MP, representing the Leader of the Opposition; Chief Justice, Chris Kourakis, and the Chair of the Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia Rauf Soulio and many others.

Festivities began in earnest in the Wine Centre courtyard, with glasses of champagne and iced water offered to guests. Cheese platters were the centrepiece, kindly donated by TAFE SA and featuring camembert, cheddar and brie. A range of caramelised figs donated by Willabrand complimented the cheese and were eagerly devoured by patrons. Circulating the courtyard in addition were a number of wine centre specialities from house cured salmon and chicken Yakitori skewers to the kindly donated Heidi van Gerwen speciality, Chicons au gratin.



Dr Lynn Arnold Creating a Masterpiece



Senator Penny Wong with members of the Bamboo Orchestra

Yet it seems a blemish not to mention the most popular addition to the entrée which was Dr Lynn Arnold's slow cooked seafood Paella. Mr. Arnold arrived two hours prior to the event and was eagerly assisted by Tom Moretti and Laura Vaccario in preparation and cooking. Revered head chef Tze Khaw even made an appearance for plating and presentation in what eventuated into a dish worthy of a Michelin star.

It was hard to tear many away from the entrée's yet after some gentle persuading people began taking

country. Mr. Crawford thanked the Kurna people of the Adelaide plains, acknowledging their traditional lands. His Excellency the Governor, Hue Van Le, then took the stage to read the UN Secretary General's UN Day Message and welcome guests to the auspicious 70th Anniversary of the United Nations founding after World War Two.



Chris Woodthorpe orating beautifully



Velvet Henna hard at work

their seats in the main auditorium, made easier by the kind donation of time and effort by Velvet Henna. For those who don't know, Henna is a traditional leaf based plant that when harvested becomes a skin or hair dye utilised in Hindu and Northern African cultures to symbolise fertility for women on their wedding evenings. As many women were enjoying their new-found colouration Emcee Sonya Feldhoff (ABC 891 afternoon announcer) welcomed the guests with her typical humour before passing the baton to UNAA SA President John Crawford for the welcome to

His Excellency's welcome was well received, yet may I say slightly surpassed and complemented by the UNICEF created video that was to come. The video featured quick fire statistics about the United Nations around the world, discussing poverty, malnutrition hunger and clean water. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon then gave a statement about the importance of the United Nations in the wider community as a peacekeeping body. The highlight of this video however was the John Lennon song, "Imagine" which was sung by a number of celebrities ranging from Katy Perry to Cody Simpson with

a feature backing from John Lennon and Yoko Ono.

Chris Woodthorpe Director of United Nations Information Centre and ambassador of the United Nations to Australia then took to the stage, stating he had a hard act to follow after the video. Mr. Woodthorpe spoke raptly

about his role in UNIC and discussed how UNIC has five employed staff for the entirety of the Asia Pacific region. This led to a discussion that revealed UNAA existed before the actual United Nations and that the work of the Australian Association was integral to the wider success of the United Nations in the Asia Pacific region.

Mr. Woodthorpe handed over to the main speaker of many in the evening, The Honourable Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator Penny Wong. Senator Wong began her talk with her usual humility and coyness stating "I'm speaking to a hungry audience before the main course which is dangerous". Recovering from her jibe she spoke about a number of topics. Commencing with a brief allusion of the often criticised effectiveness of the UN, Senator continued stating "no path to peace is possible without the UN". She then focussed on two examples where the UN had held great impact in peacekeeping,



View from above

namely; The Khmer Rouge regime of Cambodia and the fight for independence in Timor-Leste. The role of Australian's in the UN was not ignored either, as Senator Wong referenced Bert Evatt Third president of the General Assembly and Gareth Evans the architect of the Cambodian Peace process and the revered R2P principle.

Senator Wong concluded her talk with a fitting reference to the role of migration in building Australia's harmony consistent with principles from the United Nations charter Article 1. It was her grandparents that originally migrated to Australia with her father arriving at the University of Adelaide on a Colombo Plan scholarship. It was a sense of nationalism that was left hanging thick in the air as Senator Wong took her seat to a raucous applause.

With sighs of relief from some, the main courses began filtering through the auditorium, truly a spectacular sight. Two choices were offered with one being a Cajun spiced chicken breast with a Polenta base and Jus, whereas the other was a Crispy Skin Salmon in Red Wine Butter and Garden Peas.



His Excellency the Governor Hieu Van Le AO with bamboo orchestra

Both were accompanied with Fresh Garden Salad by Rainbow Fresh, Mushrooms by The Food Studio and a crispy bread to die for donated by Our Place @ Willunga Hill.

Interrupting the audible sounds of eating pleasure was Sonya Feldhoff to point out the raffle and auction prizes along the side walls. The auction prizes, kindly donated consisted of; Lunch for 10 in the Barossa Valley with Costa Georgiadis celebrity chef, a BBQ with the Belgian Tour Down Under Cycling team, a reversing mount car camera, two dozen bottle of wines featuring Two Hands Winery and pearls donated by Bizzarro amongst others. The raffle prizes were also donated and featured a life size teddy bear from Grandparents for Grandchildren, Annabel Crabb's book 'The Wife

Drought' and many others.

Before the auction could be drawn however, there was another night highlight with the voluntary performance of the Bamboo Orchestra. Regaling the crowd with the Indonesian tune Maka Tadali followed by Waltzing Matilda they proved a comical and entertaining addition to the evening, with the conductor Ferry Chandra, our impromptu photographer for the night, donning an Akubra and garnering the Australian spirit.

Desert arrived featuring a Crème Caramel with Parkers Strawberries and Mascarpone Cream as there was a last dash bid for the silent auction. Guests delighted in Freshly Brewed T2 Tea selections coupled with an assortment of wine centre chocolates.

Sonya Feldhoff concluded the evening with drawing of raffle prizes which resulted in some happy campers, including one lucky woman who was presented with the door prize handbag for sitting in the right spot. Overall it was a great success, the UNAA SA Division has received many comments of thanks with many patrons wanting to come back next year.

*Tim Buttery UNAA SA*

## We Congratulate Mike McRae

Mike McRae, pictured right, is one of our UNAA SA members. It was with considerable pleasure that we heard recently from Geoff Barker, the SA Secretary of the United Nations Overseas Policing Association of Australia (UNOPAA) SA Branch. In his message Geoff said "that at the recent Annual General Meeting of UNOPAA held in Canberra on 22 October 2015, Mike was awarded a Certificate of Life Membership for outstanding service to United Nations Peacekeeping. – Congratulations on this fine achievement."

Talking to Mike to offer him our UNAA SA congratulations he explained that he served in Cyprus as part of the Australian Police Peacekeeping presence in 1975 and 1976. He explained that he was responsible for not only looking after 36,000 refugees as an inter-communal liaison officer, he was also also the investigating officer into crimes involving the two sides.

Australia has had a police presence in Cyprus since 1964. This 51 year presence is the longest ongoing continuous presence by any country in UN Peacekeeping.

He was also President of the United Nations Civilian Police Association South Australia branch for 17 years.

Congratulations Mike, the recognition is well deserved.



## UN at 70: Hon. Jing Lee MLC speaking in the SA Upper House



It is with great honour that I rise to move this motion today, congratulating the United Nations for celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2015.

I believe it is important for members of parliament and the broader community to acknowledge the signifi-

cant work and commitment of the United Nations in global development and respecting the principles of equal rights and self-determination of all peoples and international cooperation in solving economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems around the world.

This motion also recognises the local South Australian branch: United Nations Australian Association, South Australia, and the long standing commitment made by the committee, volunteers and community leaders in bringing global concerns to the forefront of the South Australian community.

I am incredibly delighted that Lidia Moretti, representing the United Nations, is here joining us in the Legislative Council chamber today. She has been very patient: she has been here since 5pm this afternoon waiting patiently for me to move this motion. I am glad that she

is joining us and listening to this particular contribution. Congratulations to the United Nations South Australia Branch for its remarkable efforts in organising many innovative and visible community events to commemorate its 70th Anniversary in 2015.

Throughout Australia there are so many people and volunteers committed to advancing the work of the United Nations, including members of the United Nations Association of Australia, the South Australian branch. They are committed to building a strong, credible and effective United Nations.

I would like to put on the public record my sincere thanks to the very active South Australian branch, particularly to President John Crawford and the Vice President, Lidia Moretti, for all their wonderful work.

*An extract from Jing Lee's motion in the Legislative Council, 18 November 2015*

## Technological Advances to Achieve Zero Hunger Worldwide

*It is estimated that almost 800 million people in the world today suffer from malnutrition and poor nutrition has contributed to the deaths of around 3 million children under five years old. These staggering statistics have led to the development of the UN campaign for Zero Hunger.*

One way to improve nutrition in developing countries is through increasing the nutritional content of staple foods using genetic modification (GM) technologies.

Plant GM is achieved by inserting a gene (package of information) into the DNA to change one characteristic of the plant, such as increasing the production of specific nutrients. The plant remains identical to the parent in all other respects. By comparison, conventional breeding produces greater changes to plant DNA due to selective and mutagenic breeding, where genetic mutations in seeds are induced by exposure to x-ray radiation and toxic chemicals.

“What GM gives you is the opportunity to transfer desirable genes from a wild species into the cultivated version of that same genus,

without taking on undesirable traits. This can't always be done with conventional breeding,” says Dr. Ian Dry, research scientist at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Adelaide.

GM food research in Australia has produced many successes that can help tackle malnutrition. For example, rice with enough iron and zinc to meet daily nutritional requirements has been developed at the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics (ACPFPG), Adelaide, and bananas with more Pro-Vitamin A have been produced at the Queensland University of Technology. These crops are currently undergoing field trials.

The safety of any new crop, particularly a GM crop, is critical to minimize risk to people and to the environment. Before any GM crop is approved in Australia it must first meet stringent safety assessments as carried out by the Office of the Gene Technology Register (OGTR) as well as the independent statutory agency, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

Crops that produce any negative effects are not able to be grown commercially. “...as a member of public as well as someone with some understanding about the science involved, I feel comfortable in saying that the benefits of these foods to humanity would far outweigh the perceived risks,” says Professor Mrinal Bhave, senior lecturer at the Department of Chemistry and Biotechnology at Swinburne University of Technology

Safety assessments of GM crops need to be carried out on a case-by-case basis due to the significant differences in the type of crop and the type of modification. An overriding ‘safe’ or ‘unsafe’ designation of all GM crops is therefore impossible.

With ongoing safety assessments, strict regulations and greater understanding of GM technology, the production of GM foods could help to achieve Zero Hunger.

More information can be found at the OGTR, FSANZ and WHO websites.

*Jacqui McRae (Freelance science writer)*

## The Man who Stopped Nuclear War



Vasili Arkhipov, who died in 1998 (Channel 5)

If you were born before 27 October 1962, Vasili Alexandrovich Arkhipov saved your life. It was the most dangerous day in history. An American spy plane had been shot down over Cuba while another U2 had got lost and strayed into Soviet airspace. As these dramas ratcheted tensions beyond breaking point, an American destroyer, the USS Beale, began to drop depth charges on the B-59, a Soviet submarine armed with a nuclear weapon.

The captain of the B-59, Valentin Savitsky, had no way of knowing that the depth charges were non-lethal "practice" rounds intended as warning shots to force the B-59 to surface. The Beale was joined by other US destroyers who piled in to pummel the submerged B-59 with more explosives. The exhausted Savitsky assumed that his submarine was doomed and that world war three had broken out. He ordered the B-59's ten kiloton nuclear torpedo to be prepared for firing. Its target was the USS Randolph, the giant aircraft carrier leading the task force.

If the B-59's torpedo had vaporised the Randolph, the nuclear clouds would quickly have spread from sea to land. The first targets would have been Moscow, London, the airbases of East Anglia and troop concentrations in Germany. The next wave of bombs would have wiped out "economic targets", a euphemism for civilian populations – more than half the UK population would have died. Meanwhile, the Pentagon's SIOP, Single Integrated Operational Plan – a doomsday scenario that echoed Dr

Strangelove's orgiastic Götterdämmerung – would have hurled 5,500 nuclear weapons against a thousand targets, including ones in non-belligerent states such as Albania and China.

What would have happened to the US itself is uncertain. It seems likely that America would have suffered far fewer casualties than its European allies. The fact that Britain and western Europe were regarded by some in the Pentagon as expendable pawn sacrifices was the great unmentionable of the cold war.

Fifty years on, what lessons can be drawn from the Cuban missile crisis? One is that governments lose control in a crisis. The worst nightmare for US defence secretary Robert McNamara was the unauthorised launch of a nuclear weapon. McNamara ordered that PAL locks (Permissive Action Links) be fitted to all ICBMs. But when the PALs were installed, the Strategic Air Command had all the codes set to 00000000 so that the locks would not impede a quick launch in a crisis. Nuclear weapons security will always be a human issue – at all levels. On one occasion, Jimmy Carter, the sanest of US presidents, left nuclear launch codes in his suit when it was sent to the dry cleaners.

The cold war has ended, but the thermo-nuclear infrastructures of the US and Russia are still in place. And the risk of a nuclear exchange between the superpowers remains very real. In 1995 a Russian early warning radar mistook a Norwegian weather rocket for a ballistic missile launched from an American submarine. An emergency signal was sent to President Yeltsin's "Cheget", the nuclear suitcase with launch codes. Yeltsin, presumably with vodka close at hand, had less than five minutes to make a decision on a

retaliatory strike.

"As long as nuclear weapons exist, the chances of survival of the human species are quite slight." Every study of long-term risk analysis supports Noam Chomsky's claim. Ploughshares estimates there are 19,000 warheads in the world today, 18,000 of which are in the hands of the US and Russia. Whatever the exact numbers, the American/Russian nuclear arsenals are the only ones capable of totally destroying all human life. As security analysts Campbell Craig and Jan Ruzicka point out: "Why should Iran or North Korea respect non-proliferation when the most powerful states lecturing them possess such enormous arsenals?"

Most of all, the Cuban missile crisis showed that the weapons themselves are the problem. Britain is now in pole position to lead a "nuclear disarmament race". In a 2009 letter to the Times, Field Marshal Lord Bramall and Generals Lord Ramsbotham and Sir Hugh Beach denounced Trident as "completely useless". Ditching the system may be a no-brainer for the generals, but not for politicians afraid of a public opinion that equates nuclear weapons with vague notions of "being strong". And yet getting rid of Trident would gift the Treasury a windfall of more than £25bn – enough to finance a million affordable homes.

The decision not to start world war three was not taken in the Kremlin or the White House, but in the sweltering control room of a submarine. The launch of the B-59's nuclear torpedo required the consent of all three senior officers aboard. Arkhipov was alone in refusing permission. It is certain that Arkhipov's reputation was a key factor in the control room debate. The previous year the young officer had exposed himself to severe radiation in order to save a submarine with an overheating reactor. That radiation dose eventually contributed to his death in 1998. So when we raise our glasses on 27 October we can only toast his memory. Thank you, Vasya.

*Edward Wilson, The Guardian*

## ANOTHER SOUTH AUSTRALIAN "FIRST" – 175 YEARS AGO

On October 30 1840, a number of men gathered at the Beehive Corner in Adelaide to elect members of the Municipal Corporation for the City of Adelaide.

Not only was this the first local government election in Australia, but it was also the first public election in the world using proportional representation principles.

This significant election was conducted under Ordinance no. 4 of 1840 of the Governor-in-Council (Governor Gawler) entitled '*An Act to Constitute a Municipal Corporation for the City of Adelaide*'. This Act specified in detail a method of election with an untested but primitive form of proportional representation, whereby those entitled to vote (at this stage men only) could meet together to form groups or 'quorums' to elect candidates.

On this day, two councillors were publicly elected (secret ballots were not introduced into Australian elections until 1856). The workmen of Messrs. Borrow and Goodiar's yard combined to elect their foreman, John Wakeham, a carpenter, as their representative, and another quorum chose a councillor, William Sanders, a draper.

In addition to these two 'firsts', this election was noteworthy in that the author of that part of the Act dealing with the method of election was Rowland Hill, Secretary of the Colonisation Commission for South Australia (later to invent the penny post and adhesive stamps), while the Town Clerk of the Corporation was David Spence, the father of Catherine Helen Spence.

According to Miss Spence, her father explained the election to her, even though she was only a girl of fif-

teen. She was later to describe this historical election in the following words: 'South Australia appears to be marked out for the initiating of this greatest political improvement of modern times'.

*Deane Crabb  
Electoral Reform Society SA*

*Note:* Ancient Greece and Rome used secret ballots for special purposes, and the French Constitution of 1795 says "All elections are to be held by secret ballot", with Napoleon unsuccessfully trying to ban them in his plebiscite of 1850.

In Tasmania (2 Feb 1856), Victoria (19 March) and SA (2 April) they were first enacted into law.

In the UK the London School Board election of 1878 was the first secret ballot.

While the US called it the "Australian Ballot", Massachusetts held the first state to hold a secret ballot in 1888, Kentucky was the last in 1891.

## INTERNATIONAL DAYS – December 2015 to April 2016

### DECEMBER

- 1 December World AIDS Day
- 2 December International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 3 December International Day of Persons with Disabilities (A/RES/47/3)
- 5 December International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development (A/RES/40/212)
- 5 December World Soil Day [FAO] (A/RES/68/232)
- 7 December International Civil Aviation Day [ICAO] (A/RES/51/33)
- 9 December International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime (A/RES/69/323)
- 9 December International Anti-Corruption Day (A/RES/58/4)
- 10 December Human Rights Day (A/RES/423 (V))
- 11 December International Mountain Day (A/RES/57/245)
- 18 December International Migrants Day (A/RES/55/93)
- 20 December International Human Solidarity Day (A/RES/60/209)

### JANUARY

- 27 January International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust (A/RES/60/7)

### FEBRUARY

- 4 February World Cancer Day
- 6 February International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (A/RES/67/146)
- 13 February World Radio Day [UNESCO]
- 20 February World Day of Social Justice (A/RES/62/10)
- 21 February International Mother Language Day [UNESCO] (A/RES/56/262) (30C/62)

### MARCH

- 1 March Zero Discrimination Day [UNAIDS]
- 3 March World Wildlife Day (A/RES/68/205)
- 8 March International Women's Day
- 20 March International Day of Happiness (A/RES/66/281)
- 21 March International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/RES/2142 (XXI))
- 21 March World Poetry Day [UNESCO]
- 21 March International Day of Nowruz (A/RES/64/253)

- 21 March World Down Syndrome Day A/RES/66/149 (draft A/C.3/66/L.27)
- 21 March International Day of Forests (A/RES/67/200)
- 22 March World Water Day (A/RES/47/193)
- 23 March World Meteorological Day [WMO] WMO/EC-XII/Res.6
- 24 March World Tuberculosis Day [WHO] (WMO/EC-XII/Res.16)
- 24 March International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims (A/RES/65/196)
- 25 March International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (A/RES/62/122)
- 25 March International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members

### APRIL

- 2 April World Autism Awareness Day (A/RES/62/139)
- 4 April International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (A/RES/60/97)
- 6 April International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (A/RES/67/296)
- 7 April International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda
- 7 April World Health Day [WHO] (WHA/A.2/Res.35)
- 12 April International Day of Human Space Flight (A/RES/65/271)
- 22 April International Mother Earth Day (A/RES/63/278)
- 23 April World Book and Copyright Day (Resolution 3.18 of the 28th session of the UNESCO General Conference)
- 23 April English Language Day
- 24 - 30 April World Immunization Week [WHO]
- 25 April World Malaria Day [WHO]
- 26 April World Intellectual Property Day [WIPO]
- 28 April World Day for Safety and Health at Work
- 29 April Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare
- 30 April International Jazz Day

### INTERNATIONAL WEEKS 2015

- 23–29 April 2007 UN Global Road Safety Week A/RES/60/5
- 25–31 May Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories A/RES/54/91
- 1–7 August World Breastfeeding Week [WHO]
- 4–10 October World Space Week A/RES/54/68
- 24–30 October Disarmament Week A/RES/S-10/2, p. 102
- 11–17 November International Week of Science and Peace A/RES/43/61 (The week in which 11 November falls)

### INTERNATIONAL YEARS 2015

- International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies A/RES/68/221
- International Year of Soils [FAO] A/RES/68/232
- 2016
- International Year of Pulses (A/RES/68/231)
- International Year of Camelids (draft A/C.2/69/L.41)

### INTERNATIONAL DECADES

- 2015–2024 International Decade for People of African Descent A/RES/68/237
- 2014–2024 United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All A/RES/67/215
- 2011–2020 Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism A/RES/65/119
- United Nations Decade on Biodiversity A/RES/65/161
- Decade of Action for Road Safety A/RES/64/255
- 2010–2020 United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification A/RES/62/195
- 2008–2017 Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty A/RES/62/205
- 2006–2016 Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions (third decade after the Chernobyl disaster) A/RES/62/9
- 2005–2015 International Decade for Action, "Water for Life" A/RES/58/217

From <http://www.un.org/en/events/observances/index.shtml>

*Note: The A/RES/mn/nmn references refer to the UN resolution establishing the Day etc. The full resolution can be found by an internet search for that number.*

## POSTSCRIPT

As we rapidly come to the end of 2015 it is timely to reflect on the major areas on which we have focussed during this past 12 months.

These have included:

- UN at 70
- The UN International Year of Light and Light Based Technologies.
- The UN International Year of Soils.
- Paris conference on Global Warming.
- Millennium Development Goals (MDG), as we pass the end date for the original 8 goals, and move on to 2030 agenda with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

For the coming year we will celebrate the UN International Year of Pulses, maintaining our interest in food and sustainability. Currently the Year of Camelids resolution is still in draft, awaiting some answers to questions.

I am sure there will be much to say about the Paris Conference, but while we can celebrate and welcome the signing of the agreement, I hesitate to comment further so soon after the event. We await the detailed reports and analysis with interest.

### Recent Events: UN Day Dinner

The Dinner has been a great success. Between our speaker, Senator Penny Wong, the SA Governor, Hieu Van Le, and UNI Director there was food for thought celebrating the UN at 70, and multiculturalism. It was well supported with a record number attending. The venue, the weather and the food was great. We thank the Wine Centre again, with Lynn Arnold, Heidi Van Gerwen, TAFE SA for the Cheese deserving special mention.

Apart from all the others who worked so hard to make it all run smoothly, I must offer a special thank you to Lidia Moretti, who worked so hard to bring it all together (she always tells me *not* to mention her by name, but occasion-

ally I must disobey.)

### The Peace Bottle

After the Port Adelaide launch, and display in the Port Adelaide Gallery, the bottle was on display at the dinner. We are holding it at our office until we can arrange for it to go to New York. Probably later in 2016. In the meantime we will continue to collect Peace Messages to place in it.

We again wish to record our gratitude to artist Andrew Baines for the ideas and support.

### My Chinese Friends discussion evening

Glen Woodward (or Missy Woolwool as they used to call him in Darwin) was his usual entertaining and insightful self, telling about a long life of multicultural experiences. Thank you Glen.

### The King's Seal. HR Day Video and Talk

We thank Owen Karpany (who featured in the SBS Documentary *The King's Seal*) for coming and speaking to us about King William's charter for South Australia. See the report on page 5.

### Coming Events:

At the **Discussion Evening at 5.30 pm January 19** in the office we will look at the words of the UN Charter. We ought to be more familiar as to what this most significant document says, and while it is holiday season, and attendance will not be high, I feel it will offer food for thought and reflection, helping our understanding of the UN's fundamental founding document.

Working with Slow Food SA, and recognising the coming year of Pulses, we will celebrate **"A day in the Veggie Garden" on 27 February 2016** at the Glenelg North Community Garden. More details to come in the New Year.

May I wish all our friends a peaceful, and restful holiday, and a healthy and happy New Year.

December 2015, John Crawford, President  
phone: 8344 4978 email: pres@unaasa.org.au.

## The 17 SDG Goals



[SDG 1:  
No poverty](#)



[SDG 2:  
Zero hunger](#)



[SDG 3:  
Good health and well-being](#)



[SDG 4:  
Quality education](#)



[SDG 5:  
Gender equality](#)



[SDG 6:  
Clean water and sanitation](#)



[SDG 7:  
Affordable and clean energy](#)



[SDG 8:  
Decent work and economic growth](#)



[SDG 9:  
Industry, innovation, infrastructure](#)



[SDG 10:  
Reduced inequalities](#)



[SDG 11:  
Sustainable cities and communities](#)



[SDG 12:  
Responsible consumption, production](#)



[SDG 13:  
Climate action](#)



[SDG 14:  
Life below water](#)



[SDG 15:  
Life on land](#)



[SDG 16:  
Peace, justice and strong institutions](#)



[SDG-17:  
Partnerships for the goals](#)