

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RESEARCHERS KEEPING FINGERS ON THE PULSE FOR THE UN

Australian pulses are helping to meet global demand thanks to South Australian research.

Pulses, food grain legumes that include lentil, faba beans, field peas and chickpeas, are a staple food source in many parts of the world and are often used as a rotational crop to regenerate the soil in between cereal harvests. The many benefits of pulses are being recognised this year as the UN International Year of Pulses and research is underway in South Australia to improve the production of these essential crops.

Pulses are able to 'fix' nitrogen, converting it from an atmospheric gas into ammonia, a compound that helps fertilise soils and enables the plant to form amino acids and proteins. Pulses are also a good source of carbohydrates and vitamins and can be dried and stored in much the same way as rice or wheat, making them a reliable staple food for many people. With growing populations, the global demand for pulses is now outstripping supply and this is where local research is helping out.

Researchers around Australia have joined forces with growers to improve pulse crop yields in a collaboration that will aid global production. The joint venture, known as Pulse Breeding Australia (PBA) is a government-funded initiative through the Grains Research and

Development Corporation (GRDC) and includes the work of Adelaide researchers from the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) – a division of Primary Industries and Regions SA, and the University of Adelaide.

Larn McMurray, a principal researcher at SARDI, has been tackling the problem of lentil crop production for over two decades. "In 1996, there were virtually no lentil crops grown in Australia," he said. "This year we're expecting to reach approximately 150 000 hectares in South Australia alone."

This increase has in a large part been the result of successful breeding, pathology and agronomic programs involving many groups including Pulse Australia, individual growers, and researchers including Mr McMurray and his team. Private industry consultants and advisors as well as marketers and traders have also contributed to the success of these programs that have seen lentil crops adapted from their native Middle Eastern origins to grow successfully on a relatively large scale in Australia.

Now Australian lentils are exported to the world to improve supply in many countries including India, Bangladesh, Egypt and Turkey, where they are a staple food.



Illustration of the lentil plant, 1885

"The global pulse market is changing and the demand for lentil is increasing more rapidly than local supply," says Mr McMurray. For example, Turkey was once a major lentil exporter but now imports Australian lentils to meet demand. Shifting weather patterns and changes in land use have also contributed to the changing markets.

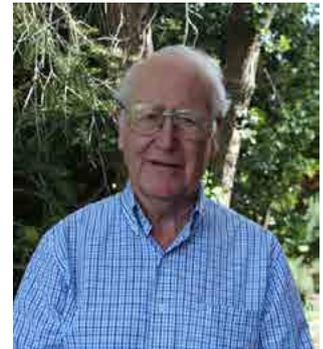
The many benefits of pulses including a cheap and efficient source of protein for people and a natural fertiliser for soil, makes them an essential crop in many parts of the world and Australian research is ensuring a sustainable supply.

More information available at pulseaus.com.au, grdc.com.au, Larn McMurray (SARDI), larn.mcmurray@sa.gov.au and Fleur Winter (PBA) fleurwinter@bigpond.com

Jacqui McRae, freelance science writer



Six varieties of Lentils

DISCUSSION EVENING – ALL WELCOME**Tuesday 17 May 2016,****5.30 to 7.30 pm****57/81 Carrington Street, Adelaide****INDEPENDENCE IN EAST TIMOR – UPDATE****DR RICHIE GUN AO**

Dr Richie Gun AO is a medical graduate of the University of Adelaide and was a Labor Member of Federal Parliament during the Prime Ministership of Gough Whitlam. He first visited the then Portuguese colony of East Timor in 1975, six months before the invasion and occupation of that country by the Indonesian Army, which resulted in the loss of many lives. Dr Gun has made frequent visits to East Timor since that country achieved independence in 2002.

Dr Gun will discuss the painful road of the Timorese people to achieving independence, and the formidable problems facing this young nation. He will focus on the contributions – mostly negative – of successive Australian governments to East Timorese independence and economic development.

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.

Special Invitation: Come to the Public Forum**Breaking the Silence****Hear West Papua Leader****Benny Wenda****6.00 pm for 6.30 pm****Thursday 19 May 2016****Lecture Theatre Napier 102,****(First Floor Napier Building)****University of Adelaide****North Terrace Campus****(download map at www.adelaide.edu.au/campuses)**

Benny Wenda is a West Papuan independence leader and an international lobbyist for the independence of West Papua. He has acted as special representative of the Papuan people in the British Parliament, United Nations and European Parliament. In 2014 he was appointed as the spokesman for the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP),

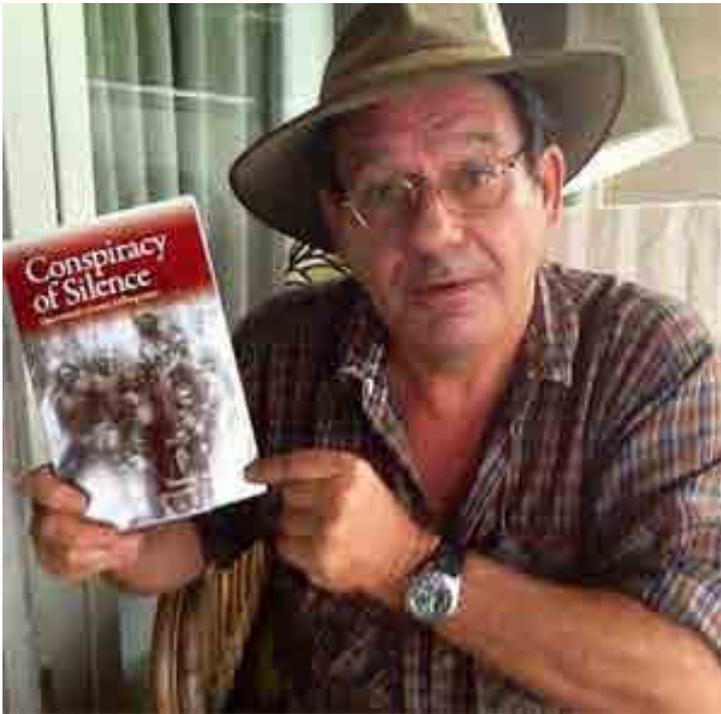
Benny has been nominated twice for the esteemed Nobel Peace Prize, awarded annually by the Norwegian Nobel Committee for those who have “done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses”.

Entry:- gold coin donation. For further info Contact:
 Dave Arkins 8345-4480 <dave-arkins@bigpond.com.au>
 Rosemary McKay 0433 101568 <scotiaforever@hotmail.com>

The forum is presented by Australia West Papua Association (SA) Inc. ; United Nations Association of Australia SA Division Inc.; Australian Institute of International Affairs, SA Branch; Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Adelaide; Australia East Timor Friendship Association, SA Inc.; The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom SA Branch; Sister Janet Mead and The Romero Community

BOOK REVIEW CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

by Dr Timothy Bottoms, published by Allen and Unwin, 2013



relevant dates illustrate the extent of the massacres that took place not just in Queensland, but in the Northern Territory and South Australia as well.

The author concludes that how we respond as a nation to this inhumane chapter in our history, will reflect on our maturity as a nation. It could be hoped that the lengthy period it took Australia to ratify the Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is not an indicator of how long it will take Australia to come to terms with some uncomfortable facts about its past.

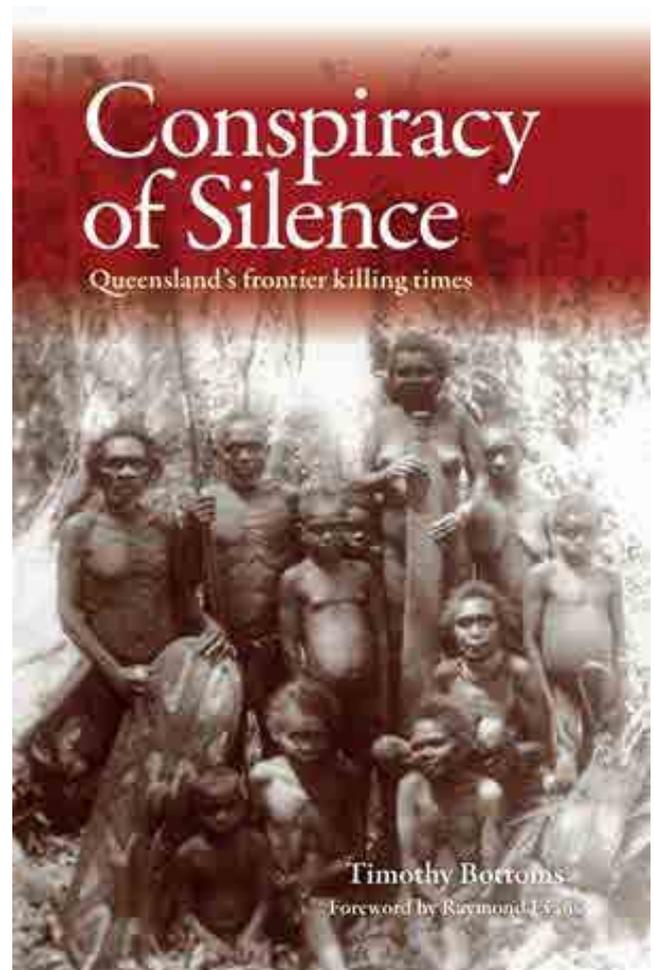
Another historian, Noel Butlin in *Economics and the Dreaming*, provides us with an afterthought to ponder: *"If Australian history is about human existence in Australia, it begins now about 60 000 years ago ... We are dealing with one of the very longest settled countries on earth, so far as Homo sapiens is concerned - not the longest but a very long history indeed. We can no longer approach Australian history as an 'area of recent settlement.'"*

After the period of the pastoral settlement of North Queensland in the 1840s and 1850s around Cairns large tracts of land were taken over by white settlers. In the process many Aboriginal people lost not only their land and culture but also their lives in a most barbaric fashion. Some settlers also lost their lives in confrontations but the numbers of Aboriginal fatalities were much greater.

According to the *Cooktown Courier* in an 1880 article *The Way We Civilise* it was noted that "the protests of the minority have been disregarded" and "unchecked" while the "Government of the colony has been always at hand to save them [the perpetrators] from the consequences of their crime."

Dr Bottoms explains that the British Colonial Office required dual use of land which allowed the Aboriginal inhabitants to hunt and access waterholes but pastoralists ignored this. He describes how white violence moved from New South Wales into Queensland and how the removal – dispersal – of Aboriginal people enhanced profits. *Conspiracy of Silence* documents the role of the Mounted Native Police in this barbaric behaviour, along with the complicity of the first Governor and Executive Council of Queensland who sanctioned this "highly questionable frontier policy."

Dr Timothy Bottoms, a Cairns based historian, challenges the pioneer myth of the early days with his descriptions of "frontier violence" that have been largely ignored or even denied up to the present. Maps with



The book's cover features a photo of the small-statured Ngadjanydjii people from the rainforests just south of Cairns.

PEACE MESSAGES (AND THE PEACE BOTTLE)

Included with this newsletter there is a dove outline that we are using for peace messages. We have been asking people to write a brief message of peace within or around the outline of the dove.

Since the Peace Bottle arrived on the *One and All* at Port Adelaide last year we have been collecting peace messages to be placed in the bottle.

Our plan is to send it to the UN at an appropriate time later this year to express our desire for a peaceful world.

We have approached schools to record their message for peace in whatever way they wish to be brought together in the bottle.

We hope our UNAA SA members and friends might like to photocopy

the enclosed sheet with the dove template, and return them during the next couple of months for inclusion in the bottle.

When the students from Yorketown Area School were here for the Yoga For Harmony and Peace event, they presented a good number of peace messages to go in the bottle. Some are shown on this page. We hope they will provide inspiration for more messages.

We would be delighted to receive them by hand, by post, (to 57/81 Carrington Street, Adelaide 5000), or for the more technically adept, by scanning and emailing them to mail@unaasa.org.au.

The dove template will also be included in pdf form alongside this newsletter on our web site.



Our Peace Bottle is almost 2 metres tall: there is plenty of room for messages

The Colourful flock of messages below are a very small selection from all the messages received from Yorketown Area School on Yorke Peninsular.



2 APRIL – YOGA FOR HARMONY AND PEACE

After Auntie Leonie’s Welcome to Country, our MC for the morning, Gill Hicks, introduced the event by calling on her personal experiences in a most inspiring start. She explained how important it is for people to make their voices heard in support of Peace and Multicultural Harmony.

On the 21st March we celebrated Harmony Day. This offers a day that is about inclusiveness, and a sense of belonging for everyone. It is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common.

For the first time last year the UN declared 21 June to be the first International Yoga Day.

Hence the decision for UNAA SA, the World Peace Flame and Dru Yoga to organise a morning of Yoga for Harmony and Peace.



MC, Gill Hicks, introducing the event. Photo: Tom Moretti



Lynn Arnold and Ladan with the multifaitth blessing. Photo: Andrew Baines

The World Peace Flame has been burning since July 1999. It is a symbol of peace, unity, freedom and celebration. It emphasises the essential freedom of the human spirit to create peace at any time under any circumstances – a view endorsed by the millions of people who have lit The World Peace Flame as a symbol of this dream.

This event provided our opportunity to bring the Flame to Adelaide for the first time, although not the first in South Australia. Yorketown is the first school in the state to have its own flame from the World Peace Flame Foundation.

Gill’s organisation M.A.D. for Peace (Making A Difference) is making an important contribution towards this goal.

Rev. Dr. Lynn Arnold and Ladan gave most appropriate readings providing a multi-faith blessing for the day.

Apart from helping by taking photographs of the day, surrealist artist Andrew Baines also suggested the concept of the Peace Bottle (it is in the foreground of the photo on the first page of this newsletter). Gill explained how UNAA SA is asking people to write peace messages to be placed in the bottle.

Our patron for the day, the Lady Mayoress of Adelaide, was then welcomed. She spoke eloquently about the importance of multiculturalism, and how Adelaide brings together so many people from diverse backgrounds.

It was then time to ask two students from the Yorketown Area School to join the Lady Mayoress in receiving the World Peace Flame for Adelaide.



Yoga time. Photo: Andrew Baines

2 APRIL – YOGA FOR HARMONY AND PEACE



Yoga time Photo Andrew Baines



Patricia Brown and Angela Baker who manage the World Peace Flame Australasia came from Canberra to light the flame, and assist with the yoga.

Angela introduced the vision of the Flame, and with the students and Lady Mayoress they lit the Adelaide flame.

Following the lighting of the flame, Patricia Brown guided everyone through the yoga movements.

There were many wonderful moments throughout the event but a stand out was watching Peter Faulkner doing Yoga!!!

ABC evening News gave the occasion almost 3 minutes coverage and Channel 9 News mentioned it briefly also. Attendance was in excess of 170.

There are quite a few great outcomes already emanating from this event:

We need to say thank you to quite a large group of people involved in making this such a memorable morning, offering a message of harmony and peace



Peter Faulkner. Photo Andrew Baines

in a gentle way. Gill Hicks was a great MC. We thank the lady Mayoress, Lynn Arnold, Ladan, Patricia Brown and Angela Baker, and Andrew Baines.

We owe special thanks to Lidia Moretti and Danyse Crotti for the concept and all the hard work in making it happen.

We thank Piccadilly Springs for the water, and the Adelaide City Council for their support.

We would welcome suggestions as to an appropriate venue in Adelaide for us to be able to permanently house and display the Peace Flame.



The Yorketown Student visitors who came with their Peace Flame. Photo: Yorketown Area School



A DAY IN THE VEGGIE GARDEN: CELEBRATING UNITED NATIONS 2016 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PULSES

On Saturday 27 February, members and friends of Slow Food South Australia and United Nations Association of Australia (SA Division) joined together with hosts Glenelg North Community Garden to celebrate 'A day in the veggie garden'.



Lunch Time

After meandering through the garden, picking and learning about the fascinating range of produce being grown in this thriving community garden, guests relaxed under the shade of the vines to celebrate the United Nations 2016 International Year of Pulses.

Pam Sando, President of Slow Food South Australia and of the Community Garden, welcomed guests and talked about the shared principles and vision of the three groups: enjoying good food responsibly and promoting a fairer and more sustainable

food system.

Lidia Moretti, Vice President of United Nations Association of Australia (SA Division) spoke about the Association's activities and the United Nations 2016 International Year of Pulses, including the role of pulses in her family's diet. Lidia's Italian heritage means that she has grown-up with and continues to enjoy lupini beans as a wholesome snack, which she prepared for guests to share.

Andrea Ball, Vice President of Slow Food South Australia told us a little more about the health benefits of pulses and their role in

contributing to food security and sustainable agriculture.

There was plenty of lively conversation around the contribution of

pulses to good health — with the value of eating two or three serves of pulses a week and the role of pulses in preventing cancers, diabetes, heart disease and obesity. And as more recently discovered, pulses make an important contribution to the gut microbiome — the population of bugs in our gut that differs greatly from person to person and has a significant influence on health. How we feed the tiny microbes in our gut is key, and research is confirming the importance of pulses (and many other plant-based foods) in providing good gut fodder.

All this talk about pulses was making us hungry, so we were lucky to have Slow Food members working the barbecues behind the scenes to transform pulses and garden produce into our tasty lunch. Guests enjoyed homemade hummus, felfel, lupini beans, crushed lentils with tahini, chickpea burgers, lentil burgers, local sour dough bread, zucchini salads decorated with edible flowers from the garden, and an assortment of pickles, chutneys and kimchi — and took home the recipes.

We washed our feast down with delicious kombucha prepared by Michael Dwyer from the Community Garden. In fact, we were all so impressed with the kombucha and kimchi, Slow Food South Australia

has decided to follow up this event with a 'Fabulous Fermentation' workshop on Monday 30 May at The Central Market Kitchen.

Everyone left with satisfied tummies and a new appreciation of pulses and their contribution to healthier individuals, communities and farmland.

Have you had your two or three serves of pulses this week?



A very pleasant lunch

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY 22 APRIL

On this day, representatives of more than 170 countries gathered at UN Headquarters in New York to sign the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. This landmark pact, in conjunction with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, holds the power to transform our world.— Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon

This year, Earth Day coincides with the signing ceremony for the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which took place at UN Headquarters in New York. The Agreement was adopted by all 196 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015. In the agreement, all countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and given the grave risks, to strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius. The signing ceremony takes place on the first day that the Agreement will be open for signatures, marking the first step toward ensuring that the Agreement enters into legal force as quickly as possible.



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon poses for a group photo with world leaders attending the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France. UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

The General Assembly, recognizing that Mother Earth is a common expression for the planet earth in a number of countries and regions, which reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet

we all inhabit, and noting that Earth Day is observed each year in many countries, decided to designate 22 April as International Mother Earth Day in 2009, with resolution A/RES/63/278.



A woman with an umbrella walks under the rain in a field, in the background there is a rainbow. photo WMO

2016 Theme: Trees for the Earth

Earth Day was first celebrated in the United States in 1970 and is organised by the Earth Day Network. Its mission is to broaden and diversify the environmental movement worldwide and to mobilize it as the most effective vehicle to build a healthy, sustainable environment, address climate change, and protect the Earth for future generations. With this year's theme, looking forward to its 50th anniversary, it sets the goal of planting 7.8 billion trees over the next five years.

Why Trees?

Trees help combat climate change.

They absorb excess and harmful CO2 from our atmosphere. In fact, in a single year, an acre of mature trees absorbs the same amount of CO2 produced by driving the average car 26,000 miles.

Trees help communities and their Livelihoods.

Trees help communities achieve long-term economic and environmental sustainability and provide food, energy and income.

Trees help us breathe clean air.

Trees absorb odours and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulphur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.

Trees help us to counteract the loss of species.

By planting the right trees, we can help counteract the loss of species, as well as provide increased habitat connectivity between regional forest patches.

IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT ON IRAN

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

IAEA Director General released a report on 16 January confirming that Iran has completed the necessary preparatory steps to start the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The report was submitted to the IAEA Board of Governors and to the United Nations Security Council.

It was issued after Agency inspectors on the ground verified that Iran has carried out all measures required under the JCPOA to enable Implementation Day to occur.

This paves the way for the IAEA to begin verifying and monitoring Iran's nuclear-related commitments under the agreement, as requested by the U.N. Security Council and authorised by the IAEA Board.

Relations between Iran and the IAEA now enter a new phase. It is an important day for the international community. I congratulate all those who helped make it a reality, especially the group of countries known as the E3/EU+3, Iran and the IAEA Board.



IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano clears for release the report on 'Verification and Monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).' (Photo: D. Calma/IAEA)

In line with its commitments, Iran will start to provisionally implement the Additional Protocol to its Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. Together with other nuclear-related measures under the JCPOA, this increases the Agency's ability to monitor nuclear activities in Iran and to verify that they are peaceful.

We have come a long way since the IAEA first started considering the Iran nuclear issue in 2003. A lot of work has gone into getting us here, and implementation of this agreement will require a similar effort. For our part, we are ready to get on with the job.

CUBAN REPRESENTATIVE MEETS UNAA SA COMMITTEE

Yexenia Calzado met with our UNAA SA Committee during her visit to Adelaide, to discuss the impact of recent changes in the relationship between Cuba and the United States to date.

Apart from the prisoner exchanges and the meeting of the two leaders, Yexenia confirmed that little had really changed. There had been no lifting of the onerous blockade. Countries are still being fined by the American authorities if their ships visit American ports within six months of having been to a Cuban port. We learned that even today Cuba is forbidden from using American dollars for trade or any other purposes.

Regarding her job, Yexenia explained that she was employed by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples to win solidarity for the Cuban people. Yexenia was on her way to Perth where the



National Consultation of Australian Cuban Friendship Societies was being held. Her responsibility was for the Asia and Pacific region which included Australia. As she said, there is a network of friendship societies in Australia as in many other countries around the world supporting the Cuban cause and opposing the American blockade.

Included in the discussion was the large number of Cuban doctors helping the Timorese and the Cuban literacy methodology being used in Australia for the Yo, si puedo (Yes I can) Literacy for Life program among Aboriginal people in New South Wales. We learnt that an Aboriginal community in South Australia is seeking to run such a program.

Reference was made to a long-term collaboration between the Flinders Medical Centre and the Biotechnology Institute in Havana to develop an effective hepatitis C vaccine to be used worldwide.

As a general comment with regard to the people leaving Cuba for the United States, Yexenia explained that in most cases they left for economic rather than political reasons. Yexenia encouraged people to visit Cuba to find out what life was really like there.

PULSES: OUR MARCH EVENING WITH JOAN GIBBS

We were very happy to welcome Joan Gibbs, a lecturer from the School of Natural and Built Environments at the University of South Australia. She explained that she is an environmental scientist and botanist. She was well qualified to tell us about pulses on 15 March Discussion Evening.

Joan began by explaining that pulses are defined as legumes with the



Joan Gibbs speaking about Pulses

specific quality of being able to be stored dry, and therefore do not include fodder stored green.

The list of 9 Latin names covered pulses from Kidney through to Soy Beans. They share similar botanical characteristics of a flower structure which needs an insect for pollination. The fruit forms in a pod.

Pulses are characterised by the presence of root nodules with the

nitrogen fixing rhizome bacteria that provides the nitrogen that makes the plant strong and vigorous.

Joan explained how the bacteria fix the nitrogen which is usually inert, and make organic amino

acids, and hence proteins.

She then explained the ancient origins going back to the time of the dinosaurs (Cretaceous), with the first legume pollen found being from some 60 million years ago.

Both South America and Africa have legumes, but the origin is a little unsure, as they both arose after these continents split from the original Gondwanaland land mass.

In Syria neolithic farmers suffered from poorer nutrition from dependence on grains such as wild rye. Beans were added to diversify the poor diet. There is evidence of the use of pulses from the Nile valley from 9,000 years ago.

Joan's talk concluded with a discussion of pulses' health benefits (with a warning about cooking kidney beans in the correct manner), and highlighting their importance in Australian agriculture.

Thank you Joan. It was a fascinating evening.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS – May to August 2016

MAY

- 3 May World Press Freedom Day
- 8-9 May Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War (A/RES/59/26)
- 9-10 May World Migratory Bird Day [UNEP]
- 15 May International Day of Families (A/RES/47/237)
- 17 May World Telecommunication and Information Society Day [ITU] (A/RES/60/252)
- 20 May "Vesak", the Day of the Full Moon
- 21 May World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (A/RES/57/249)
- 22 May International Day for Biological Diversity (A/RES/55/201)
- 23 May International Day to End Obstetric Fistula (A/RES/67/147)
- 29 May International Day of UN Peacekeepers (A/RES/57/129)
- 31 May World No-Tobacco Day [WHO] (Resolution 42.19 of the 42nd session of WHO)

JUNE

- 1 June Global Day of Parents (A/RES/66/292)
- 4 June International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression (A/RES/ES-7/8)
- 5 June World Environment Day [UNEP] (A/RES/2994 (XXVII))
- 6 June Russian Language Day at the UN (in Russian)
- 8 June World Oceans Day (A/RES/63/111)
- 12 June World Day Against Child Labour
- 13 June International Albinism Awareness Day (A/RES/69/170)
- 14 June World Blood Donor Day [WHO] (WHA58.13)
- 15 June World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (A/RES/66/127)
- 17 June World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (A/RES/49/115)
- 19 June International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (A/RES/69/293)

- 20 June World Refugee Day (A/RES/55/76)
- 21 June International Day of Yoga (A/RES/69/131)
- 23 June United Nations Public Service Day (A/RES/57/277)
- 23 June International Widows' Day (A/RES/65/189)
- 25 June Day of the Seafarer [IMO] (STCW/CONF.2/DC.4)
- 26 June International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (A/RES/42/112)
- 26 June United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (A/RES/62/149)

JULY

- 2 July (first Saturday in July) International Day of Cooperatives (A/RES/47/90)
- 11 July World Population Day (UNDP decision 89/46 15, A/RES/45/216)
- 15 July World Youth Skills Day (A/RES/69/145)
- 18 July Nelson Mandela International Day (A/RES/64/13)
- 28 July World Hepatitis Day [WHO]
- 30 July International Day of Friendship (A/RES/65/275)
- 30 July World Day against Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/68/192)

AUGUST

- 9 August International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/49/214)
- 12 August International Youth Day (A/RES/54/120)
- 19 August World Humanitarian Day (A/RES/63/139)
- 23 August International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition [UNESCO] (Decision 8.2 of the 150th session of the UNESCO Executive Board)
- 29 August International Day against Nuclear Tests (A/RES/64/35)
- 30 August International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances (A/RES/65/209)

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/mnn references refer to the UN resolution establishing the Day etc. The full resolution can be found by an internet search for that number.

POSTSCRIPT

Membership renewal

I would like to thank everyone who has renewed their membership for this coming year. Our UNAA SA year runs from April 1 to March 30.

If we have not yet received your renewal we will include a renewal form with your newsletter.

This Newsletter

I apologise for the lateness of this edition. Our target date is to have it printed by the 20th of the even numbered months. Our past editor (and ongoing contributor) Peter Faulkner used to publish four editions a year to coincide with the autumn and spring equinox and the summer and winter solstices, hence the date. But with a three month gap it proved to be difficult to give adequate notice of coming events, as well as good coverage of recent past ones, hence the change to a bimonthly edition.

The majority of our members and friends receive their newsletter by email. This is very much appreciated, especially with the recent increase in the cost of postage. However it is my strong belief that email is too easily swamped by all of the other messages one seems to receive, and many of us simply do not open many of the attached files we receive in this way. For those of us of a more mature age a paper copy is easier to read, and can also be passed on to a friend.

I hope we can continue to offer members a choice of receiving the newsletter by post or by email. Or both for those who go to the effort of printing their own from the emailed version.

Those who have not renewed their membership recently will notice that we will forward the newsletter to their email address rather than incur the cost of postage.

UNAA SA Annual General Meeting

Please note that our AGM will be held on the 17th of July, 2.00 to 4.20 pm at Saint Cyprian's Church Hall in Melbourne Street North Adelaide.

Our constitution requires that we give adequate notice of the meeting and while we hope our June newsletter will satisfy this requirement, should it run late it is timely to give notice here.

At the AGM we will hear from Nicola Moore who has been the President of UN Youth for the past two years. She has had oversight (with the help of a very active executive team) of a period of development and activity that is very exciting and newsworthy. Hopefully with some of her helpers, she will be able to update us on all the things UN Youth has been doing in South Australia.

As usual the AGM will see the election of our officers and executive: Joan Young will be our returning officer. If anyone wishes to nominate for a position, nominations will need to be received before the AGM so please contact the office (phone 8223 2420, or by email to mail@unaasa.org.au) so we can send you a form.

Coming events:

Discussion Evening 17 May

Held on the third Tuesday of the odd numbered months, our next evening is on 17 May at 5.30 in the office.

We will receive an update on the current situation in East Timor, from long time friend of the East Timorese, Dr Richie Gun.

Breaking the Silence with Benny Wenda

A wide range of organisations, including UNAA SA and AIIA are sponsoring West Papuan Leader Benny Wenda's visit to Adelaide. He has twice been nominated to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, and we will be very privileged that he has been able to include Adelaide in his visit to Australia.

It will be at 6.00pm on Thursday the 19th of May in Room 102, first floor, in the Napier Building at the University of Adelaide.

May I urge you to support this by coming along. UNAA SA has for many years been so very concerned at the ongoing reports of significant

human rights abuses in West Papua, and the lack of recognition that this ongoing sad situation is seemingly ignored.

Recent Events:

Yoga For Harmony and Peace

I would like to thank everyone involved in making the Yoga for Harmony and Peace such a memorable and moving morning. The speakers were great, and the message of the gentle yoga emphasised the words albeit in a different way.

Gill Hicks made a great MC. And the contribution of the group who came from the Yorketown Area School emphasised how a message of peace fits so well with the ideals of Harmony Day (March 21) and the first International Day of Yoga, celebrated on June 21 last year.

Pulses discussion evening with Joan Gibbs

Those who came along again demonstrated how effective a small gathering can be in providing stimulating and educational discussion. They said it was a fascinating talk with Joan leading us from the botanical foundation, through their characteristics, benefits, and history, while still leaving a little time to talk about how they serve in so many ways as a valuable food.

A Day in the Veggie Garden

A most successful day, with a lovely lunch that emphasised the growing and preparation of pulses as a staple nutritious food. We thank Slow Food Australia and the Glenelg Garden for organising it.

22 April International Mother Earth Day

The UN International Mother Earth Day was chosen by the UN as an appropriate time for the representatives of over 170 nations to gather to ratify the UN Climate Agreement

Environment minister Greg Hunt was present to sign on Australia's behalf. As the Sunday Mail pointed out "Mr Hunt said the Paris agreement was a profoundly important milestone."

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