

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
UNAA (SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION) Inc. NEWSLETTER

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**WORK AHEAD !**

The International Atomic Energy Agency was  
Established in 1957 under the aegis of the UN.  
It fosters and guides the Development of peace-  
ful uses of atomic energy and applies safeguards.

**Award for President** Four Adelaide people have been honoured by the United Nations at a special function hosted by Lord Mayor Michael Harbison. Among them were Joy de Leo, well-known to UNAA members for her educational work, and our President, Mrs Heather Southcott OAM, who is "a member of Amnesty, the Coalition for the Bill of Rights, and the International Human Rights Day Committee." Heather is also a strong advocate for social justice and children's rights. UNESCO honoured Mrs Southcott "particularly as Chairperson of the UNAA."

[We are indebted to Candy Gibson of the Adelaiddian for the above]

**Office-Bearers in UNAA (sa) 2007**

<i>President</i>	Heather Southcott
<i>Vice- Presidents</i>	John Crawford ; Ron Hall ; Sheila Hill
<i>Secretary</i>	Sheila Hill
<i>Treasurer</i>	John Crawford

**Corporate Members**

CWL	Tess Donnellan
AAL	Franciscus Ewing
WILPF	Ruth Russell
BAHA'I	Manijeh Shahzadeh



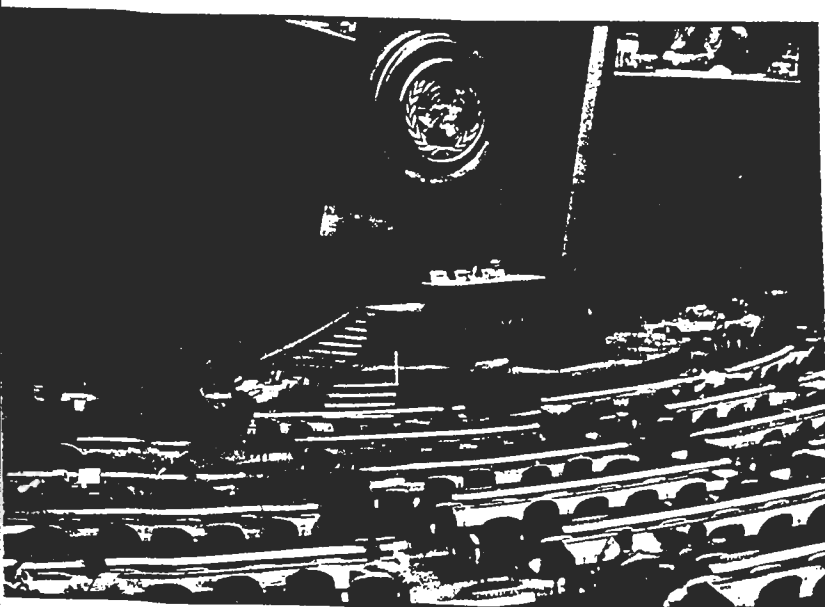
We must respect our  
Mother the Earth, or we  
can never grow as human  
beings, her children.

Phil Lane  
Lakota Elder  
(Amer. India)

**Also in this edition:**

Yalumba  
Housing Failures  
Margaret Chang WHO  
Designated Years, Days .....  
Report Card - Federal Government  
Resolutions for Federal Council Decision '07

[Early in August the Adelaide UNAA Office received a 68p "Report Card" on the Australian Gov't vis-a vis the UN. Here are some excerpts. (We are indebted to our ACT counterparts for the report)]



This Report Card on Australia's performance at the UN in recent years seeks to spread information about our Government's participation in the UN. It brings together several community organisations which monitor Australian Government involvement in the UN. The report was conceived and prepared by the ACT branch of the UN Association of Australia. In choosing authors, UNAA sought to draw on knowledge and expertise within our ranks as well as to involve other community organisations with specialist knowledge on multilateral issues. I am most grateful to all the authors who gave their time in the preparation of their pioneering, fascinating and disturbing contributions. UNAA plans to make this a regular Report and we hope that it will contribute to a more informed public discussion about Australia's participation in the United Nations and to renewed vitality and effectiveness in our engagement.

John Langmore  
UNAA National President

June 2007

**Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas:** As in previous years, the USA, UK and France opposed this resolution, with Australia joining 167 other states in supporting.<sup>30</sup> Due to various Nuclear Weapons Free Zones treaties, the Southern Hemisphere is virtually nuclear weapons free,

## 2007 Report Card on the Australian Government's performance in the United Nations

Subject	Grade	Comment
UN General Assembly	B	Lacks the idealism of many members of the Australian public.
Human Rights	C	Failed to show any desire for improvement.
Millennium Development Goals	C	Has done the minimum and used the term MDG when it suits
Climate Change	D	Fallen far short of the expectations of the people of Australia the business community, and the international community.
Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding	B	A strong supporter of UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding but tainted by its relationship with the US-led intervention in Iraq in defiance of the United Nations.
Disarmament	C+	Could make a stronger contribution to disarmament by ceasing to rely on the protection of a nuclear weapons umbrella.
Global movement of people	D	Continued to violate fundamental human rights in the detention and treatment of asylum seekers/unauthorised arrivals.
Status of Women	B-	Has taken a number of steps to address gender inequity, but further effort is needed.
Sexual and Reproductive Health	B	Could be performing much better in its global engagement towards population health initiatives.
Youth	B+	Has done well in the areas of youth employment and education, but more effort needed to improve education, employment prospects and housing situation for Indigenous youth.



## Silent Threats . . . .

Some twelve years ago, Prof. David Shearman, later to be CCSA Chair, published "Green or Gone", warning on threats to Australia's health security as global warming increased. For World Health Day, April 7 2007, Dr. Margaret Chang, Dir. Gen. of the World Health Organisation, issued a statement marking the day. Dr. Chang, born in China, educated in Canada, was promoted to major positions in Hong Kong where inter alia she led the fight against SARS. Subsequently Dr Chang was offered the Director General's job at WHO. Here are some of her observations and warnings :

"We live in a world where threats to health arise from the speed and volume of air travel; the way we produce and trade food; the way we use and misuse antibiotics and the way we (mis)manage the environment. . . . causing outbreaks of emerging and epidemic-prone diseases.

"All nations are at risk. This universal vulnerability creates a need for collective defences. Outbreaks are a much larger menace than 30 years ago. 39 new pathogens capable of causing human disease were newly identified (ebola, toxic shock, H5N1 bird 'flu, legionnaires' disease, eg) This is an ominous trend.... historically unprecedented."

Immediacy of communication spreads panic just as far as the new diseases and just as fast, so economic and social shocks take their toll. On the flip side Dr Chang notes that our electronic transparency makes it hard for any country to hide an outbreak. WHO is authorised as from this year, to act on media reports to request verification, so can now act pre-emptively.

"Constant evolution is the survival mechanism of the microbial world", says Dr. Chang. Some can replicate a million times a day and take any chance to "adapt, invade and evade."

Population growth has pushed people closer to domestic animals allowing some pathogens to jump the species barrier. Unsanitary urban crowding expedites explosion of well known diseases such as dengue and yellow fever.

Could changing weather patterns mean malarial mosquitoes in Adelaide in the future? Could the use of antibiotics in animals lead to mutations of the bacterium in question?

Dr. Chang touches on a raw nerve for physicians and patients alike : "In humans, our misuse of anti-microbials is causing mainstay drugs to fail much faster than the pace of development of replacement drugs. If this trend continues, we can begin to think of a world where mainstay antibiotic treatments are no longer effective. We must not forget: drug-resistant strains of viruses and bacteria also travel well internationally!"

## UN man condemns Australia for housing failures

By ANNABEL STAFFORD  
CANBERRA

THE United Nations Special Rapporteur on housing has condemned Australia for failing to implement the human right to adequate housing, warning that groups such as indigenous people and women are missing out on safe and affordable accommodation.

During a trip around Australia last year — which took in Aboriginal communities, shelters for domestic violence victims and public housing — Miloon Kothari found "reductions in public housing stock, soaring private rental rates, an

acknowledged housing affordability crisis and no real reduction in the number of homeless".

The report of his visit criticises long waiting times for public housing, the increasingly tough tests to qualify for public housing and discrimination against certain people in the private housing market.

Mr Kothari expresses concern about several policies implemented by the Howard Government, including Welfare to Work, which he says appears to have made it harder for the poor to afford housing.

He also "reminds the Government that retrogressive



Blunt: Miloon Kothari.

measures, such as cuts in expenditure on public housing or homelessness services, are permissible only in 'exceptional circumstances', which is obviously not the case in Australia".

Among his recommendations, Mr Kothari says Canberra should set up a ministry for housing and adopt a co-ordinated housing policy with its state counterparts.

Australian governments also "must urgently address the humanitarian tragedy of the lack of housing and basic services for the indigenous peoples of Australia," the report says.

"To this end, the Special Rapporteur encourages relevant government staff to visit and reside in indigenous communities, in order to better comprehend the reality and the challenges faced by the populations and communities in these locations."

**Australia's voting record on key nuclear  
disarmament resolutions in 2006**

**Fourth Special Session on Disarmament:** Australia joined 175 other states in supporting the call for another special session of the General Assembly focused on disarmament.<sup>27</sup> The resulting document of the 1978 First Special Session continues to be viewed as a breakthrough moment of clarity and resolve that included the nuclear weapon states reaffirming the goal of general and complete disarmament.

**Nuclear testing:** The Australian government has an international reputation for supporting efforts to end nuclear testing. In 1996, Australia took the initiative to attach the text of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to a General Assembly resolution, thus allowing the treaty to be opened for signing. This unprecedented move overcame the barriers set by the Indian government, which was blocking a consensus for the text to be formally sent by the Conference on Disarmament where the treaty was negotiated. Australia was one of the lead sponsors of the resolution which won 175 affirmative votes, with 2 against (USA and North Korea) and 4 abstaining (Syria, Mauritius, India and Colombia).<sup>29</sup> Since then Australia has been a champion of the treaty, and it is virtually on this point alone that Australia departs from US instructions.

The current Australian government has fallen into line by significantly enhancing its rhetoric on non-proliferation without an equivalent emphasis on disarmament.

Nuclear weapons proliferation will become a reality unless there is stronger leadership on nuclear disarmament. Repeatedly, high-level reports, including most recently the report "Weapons of Terror" from the UN Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission chaired by Hans Blix, have affirmed the inextricable links between non-proliferation and disarmament. Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and former senior US officials Robert McNamara, George Schultz, William Perry, Henry Kissinger and Sam Nunn have all recognised that it is only when nuclear weapons are seen to have reduced security utility and symbolic power that others will not seek them.



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

*Invites you to attend a dinner with*

**Dr Hans Blix**

*Special Introduction: Gareth Evans, UNAA Vice-Patron &  
President, International Crisis Group*

Monday 27 August, 2007

Mayfair Ballroom, Grand Hyatt Melbourne  
123 Collins Street, Melbourne

**2007 Youth Representative**

Ben Groom is a 23 year old Law/Econ. Student from Tasmania. He has been chosen as the Australian rep. to the United Nations for 2007. This position is a joint initiative between UNYA and DFAT (Foreign Affairs) to allow a 15 to 24 yr.old To travel around Aust. For a few months to consult With youth, and then to spend 2 months in New York as an official member of the Aust'n delegator To the UN. His duties include meeting the Secretary-General and speaking to the General Assembly. We congratulate Ben.

**THE I.A.E.A. BULLETIN**

The International Atomic Energy Agency is this Year *fifty* years old, and the IAEA Bulletin of 3/07 Is a particularly informative one. Included is an Article by Mohamed El Baradei reviewing the Major challenges and opportunities he foresees. Articles also on nuclear power, safeguards and The Stern review . . . inter alia. An informative Insert, "The IAEA in Time" gives selective high-Lights from the 50s to the present

**RECOGNISE ?**



UNICEF/United Nations Children's Fund, voluntarily financed, helps developing countries to improve the quality of life of their children, through low-cost community-based services in maternal and child health, nutrition, sanitation and education,

**The Federal Council of UNAA meets in Melbourne on August 26, 27. Below are some of the many recommendations from States that the Conference will be considering**

**RESOLUTIONS FOR FEDERAL COUNCIL 2007**

Government Intervention in Aboriginal Communities in NT

UNAA recommends that the Federal Government, and those carrying out the emergency programme of intervention in NT Aboriginal communities, should protect the rights of the Aboriginal communities under the provision of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, to which the Federal Government is a signatory.

Climate Change Refugees

UNAA believes that the competence of the High Commissioner for Refugees should be broadened so as to extend to any person who owing to the effects of climate change can no longer safely reside in the country of his or her nationality.

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

UNAA asks that the Australian Government respect the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which has been approved by the Geneva based Human Rights Council, and show their support for the rights of their own Aboriginal people by voting in favour of the Declaration at the September Session of the General Assembly.

Cluster Munitions

UNAA (a) expresses its grave concerns to the Australian Government at the possible acquisition by the Australian Defence Forces of cluster munitions or sub-munitions based weapon systems, as recommended in the recent report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade; (b) it also expresses its concern that at the recent Lima Conference on Cluster Munitions, Australia did not support the call for a ban on cluster munitions

UNAA commends the Australian Government on upholding to date of the Geneva Convention and Additional Protocol One with reference to the use of cluster bombs in the current campaign in Iraq., and urges the Australian Government to support a ban on the production use and transfer of cluster munitions.

Darfur, Sudan

UNAA asks the Australian Government to (a) offer to contribute peacekeeping forces for the UN presence in Darfur, following the recent Security Council resolution; and (b) continue and increase its humanitarian assistance to Darfur and Southern Sudan.

Disability

UNAA (a) congratulates the Australian Government for being one of the first nations to sign the new Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and asks the Government to move speedily to ratify the Convention and the Optional Protocol; and (b) asks the Government to use its influence to encourage other member States of the United Nations to do so.

# UPCOMING OBSERVANCES AND EVENTS

**UN Day Dinner . . . Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Oct.**

## **2008 - The Year of the Potato**

The potato originated in the Andes about 3500m above sea-level in what is now Peru. It has been eaten for at least 8000 years and is the world's 4<sup>th</sup> most important food source after wheat, corn and rice. The tubers come in multiple colours, including yellow, red, blue and purple, and the shapes are as varied - spiralled, round, oblong or like walking canes, hooked!

The villagers of Aymara gathered an incredible 2000 different types from a one-hectare field during their annual harvest festival this year. Research scientists from the Lima-based International Potato Centre were there too to replenish their gene bank. The purpose : to improve production and dissemination in developing nations , and ,of course, to maintain biodiversity.

Information Source: Monte Hayes, Peru

## **U.N. Designated Days**

23 August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition – <a href="http://www.unhchr.ch">www.unhchr.ch</a> & <a href="http://www.unesco.org">www.unesco.org</a>
8 September	International Literacy Day – <a href="http://www.unesco.org">www.unesco.org</a>
16 September	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer <a href="http://www.unep.ch/ozone">http://www.unep.ch/ozone</a>
21 September	International Day of Peace <a href="http://www.un.org/peace">www.un.org/peace</a>
Last Week of September	World Maritime Day – <a href="http://www.imo.org">www.imo.org</a>
1st October	International Day of Older Persons – <a href="http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing">www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing</a>
1st Monday in October	World Habitat Day <a href="http://www.unhcs.org">www.unhcs.org</a>
4 – 10 October	World Space Week <a href="http://www.oosa.un.or.at">www.oosa.un.or.at</a>
5 October	World Teachers' Day <a href="http://www.unesco.org">www.unesco.org</a>
9 October	World Post Day – <a href="http://www.ibis.ib.upu.org">www.ibis.ib.upu.org</a>
10 October	World Mental Health Day – <a href="http://www.who.int">www.who.int</a>
24 October	United Nations Day

## NEWS ITEMS

### **Yalumba Winery's Unique Award**

.....

**This family winery at Angaston is the first winery in the world to be recognised by the U.S. Environment Protection Agency for its ground breaking work in several categories. Messrs Smith (Manager), Walsh (Winemaker) and Dr Cecil Camilleri (Environmental Manager) worked co-operatively over several years to achieve their objective**

**GUEST SPEAKER  
MELB. CONF'CE**

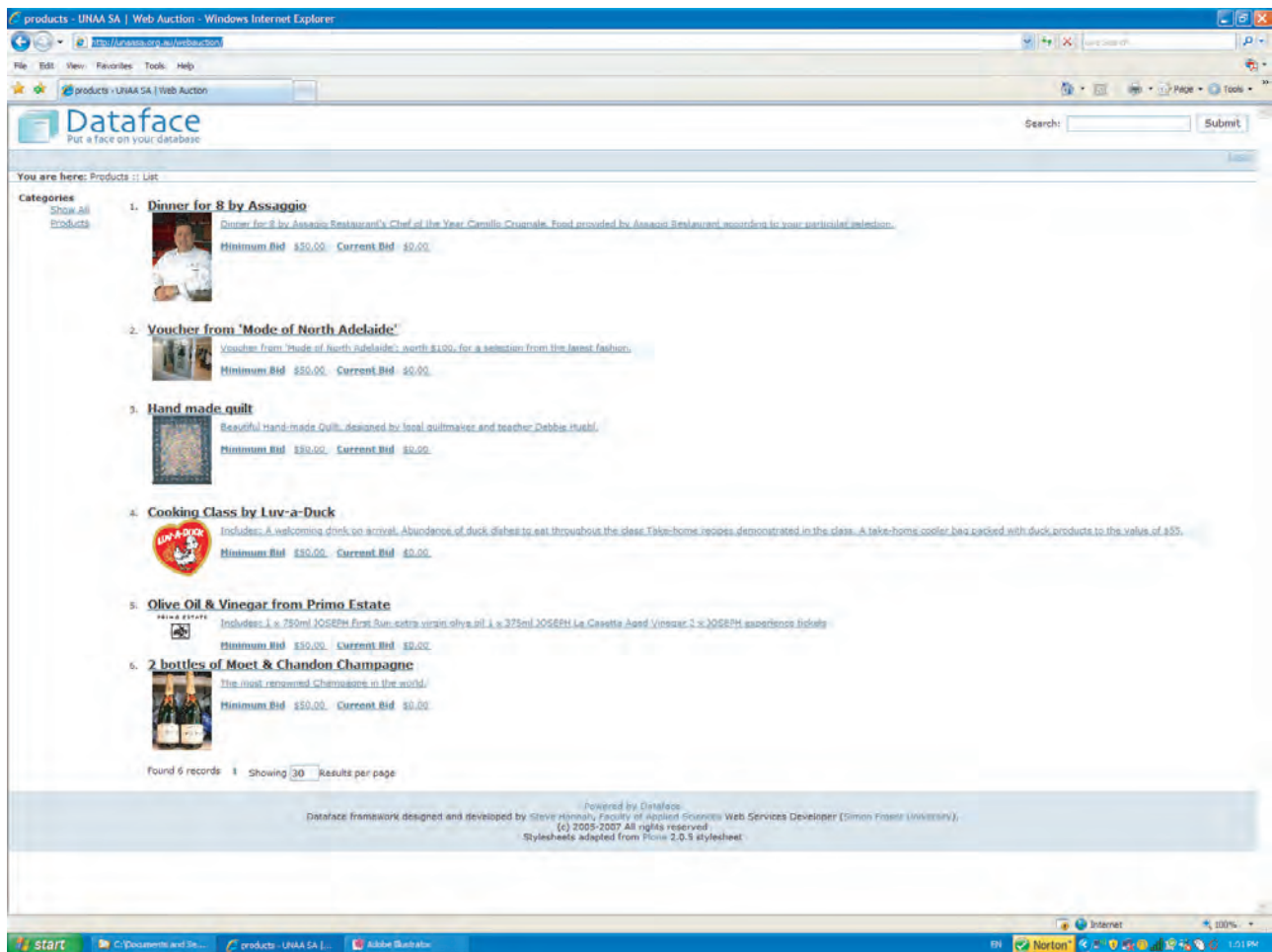
*Dr Blix is best known for his role as the UN Chief Weapons Inspector in the lead-up to the war in Iraq. As is widely known he could not find the WMDs whose alleged existence was one of the main reasons for invading Iraq.*



# UNAA (SA) SILENT WEB AUCTION

<http://unaasa.org.au/webauction/> - September to midnight October 26

Until October 26th we have the opportunity to bid for the items listed below through a web auction. Also silent auction bids will be accepted up to the closing time at the United Nations Day Dinner on October 28th at Ming's Palace Restaurant, 157-159 Gouger Street, Adelaide.



To look at the list of items on the web go to <http://unaasa.org.au/webauction/>

To make a bid you first need to click on 'login', see the '←' next the login point on the right of the list above. This will take you to the login page. Before you can log in you need to register: just below the box asking for your user name and password there is a '\* register' button. Click on this button.

This will take you to a page asking for a name ( the user name you will use if you return to the auction later), contact details, and your chosen password. Remember these for future visits to the auction page. You have an option box asking to be informed by email if any of your bids have been exceeded by a later bid by another person.

Once logged in, when you return to the auction page you can click on any of the six items for a larger display, and an opportunity to place your bid.

Phone: 8226 4141

Email: [mail@unaasa.org.au](mailto:mail@unaasa.org.au)

Web: <http://unaasa.org.au>

United Nations Association of Australia (SA Division) Inc.  
First Floor, Torrens Building  
220 Victoria Square  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

UNITED NATIONS ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA (S.A.DIV) INC.

Invitation

Sunday, 28th October 2007

# United Nations Day Dinner

Guest Speaker:

**Hieu Van Le**

Chairman

South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission  
To launch the U.N. Multicultural Poster



6:30pm for 7pm

Ming's Palace 157 Gouger St, Adelaide

This is the major UNAA Fundraiser for 2007 -  
so if you are unable to attend  
a donation would be most welcome

RSVP: Monday 22nd October 2007

All tickets to be pre-paid

Bookings Essential - Ticket: \$35 per person (banquet)  
drinks extra or BYO (\$5 corkage)



## Ticket Reservation for United Nations Day Dinner

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the Dinner

Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay by cash or cheque made out to UNAA (SA)

Total amount enclosed

Send to: Mrs Heather Southcott  
2 Taylors Rd, Mitcham, 5062  
Ph/Fax: 8271 4433  
Email: hjs@senet.com.au

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

UNAA (SA Division) is a member of the World Federation of the United Nations Associations which has consultative status on the U.N.  
It supports the objectives of the UN and provides the community with information about the UN and its agencies.