

NEWSLETTER UNAA(sa)

WINTER 2008

* * * * *

JUNE 29th Annual General Meeting
Foyer, Torrens Building, 220 Vic. Sq.
Time : 4:00 pm (Youth Panel)
5:00 pm (Aftnn Tea)
5:30 pm appr. (AGM Formal)

Guest Panel: a. UN Youth Assoc'n
b. UniSA UNA
c. Academy... Rostrevor

Nominations are called for the following positions

(in writing, to The Secretary, UNAA sa, 220 Vic. Square, Adelaide, by 25/6)

President, 3 x Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Members (Five)

* * * * *

There are some 27 newly registered members of UNAA sa since the last AGM. We the members of the Exec. Committee, would really like to meet all of you and to hear your ideas during the prolonged aftn'n tea.

Can't stay until 6.00 ? No worry! Try to be there to hear of the fine work being done by YOUTH UN groups and Che Cockatoo Collins' Academy.

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Advance Notice : * Annual Dinner, October 19th, 6.30
Mings Palace. \$40, Speaker : Lyn Arnold (former Vice-Pres. UNAA SA)

**** International Day of Peace/ Cty Potato event: 21/9***

**** UNAA Film Nt (2 Films plus Meal \$20/15) 27/7 4pm***
Wallis Theatrette
Tickets: Heather Southcott 8271 4433



60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of
Human Rights
Know Your Rights 2008

Calendar News & Events

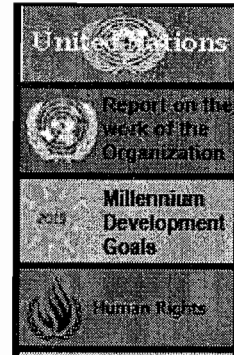
Thu 29 May, 2008
Secretary-General's Message on
International Day of UN
Peacekeepers



I regret the decision of the Government of Myanmar to extend for a sixth consecutive year the detention under house arrest of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the General Secretary of the National League for Democracy (NLD)..

Secretary-General's [press encounter](#) on return from his trip to Thailand, Myanmar and China New York 27 May

[Latest Headlines](#)



Human Rights

■ **The world responds to Suu Kyi detention**

Authorities in Myanmar extended the detention of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi for another year Tuesday, in a move that surprised few observers. The renewed detention order elicited less international condemnation than in previous years as the international community remains focused on providing aid to victims of cyclone Nargis. [The Washington Post](#) (5/28) [E-MAIL THIS STORY](#)

■ **Report: Human rights still widely abused**

Sixty years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, dozens of countries -- including Zimbabwe, Myanmar and Sudan -- still abuse or mistreat their people, according to a new report from Amnesty International. The report singled out the U.S. for fierce criticism of its facility at Guantanamo Bay and the use of extraordinary

DEVELOPMENT
Health & Poverty

■ **FAO: World needs to act on food crisis**

The international community needs to immediately agree on a strategy to ease demand for grains and alleviate high food prices, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization said in a report released Wednesday. World leaders will have a chance to act in concert against hunger at a scheduled June 3 to June 5 food summit in Rome. [The New York Times](#) (5/29) [E-MAIL THIS STORY](#)

■ **Aid groups encounter Myanmar hurdles, disdain**

Aid groups are facing administrative hurdles and unusual economic restrictions in Myanmar as they struggle to get aid to millions of cyclone survivors. As they negotiate with authorities for access, representatives of the ruling junta blasted the foreign efforts to assist, saying the country didn't need "chocolate bar" aid. [The New York Times](#) (5/29) , [AlertNet.org/Reuters](#) (5/29) [E-MAIL THIS STORY](#)

■ **Latin American bank launches program for food costs**

In response to the global food crisis, the Inter-American Development Bank launched a \$500 million program to offset rising food costs. Latin America's largest development institution will fund conditional cash transfer programs, which require poor families to send their children to school to receive aid. Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Brazil and Mexico currently use cash transfer programs. [Financial Times](#) (5/28) [E-MAIL THIS STORY](#)

■ **Japan pledges to double aid to Africa**

Japan's foreign minister pledged to double aid for Africa in a conference held in Yokohama. Japan currently provides \$1.7 billion in aid but plans to increase that amount to \$3.4 billion by 2012. [BBC](#) (5/28) [E-MAIL THIS STORY](#)

U2 frontman **BONO** has long been known for his vocal activism against poverty. But the World Economic Forum in Davos saw him take on a



new angle — climate change. Bono appeared on stage alongside former US vice president and climate campaigner Al Gore to call for solutions that combine the fights against global warming and poverty. "The brunt of this climate crisis is going to be felt in the developing world. All your work... will be undone if you don't focus on this," Bono told the political and business leaders gathered at the meeting.

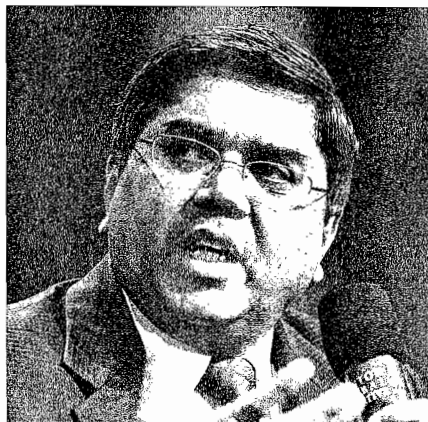
AMY FRAENKEL, the new director of UNEP's Regional Office for North America, has more than 20 years of experience in environmental and maritime law and policy. She has worked



in both the executive and legislative branches of the United States government, inter-governmental organizations, and the private sector. Ms Fraenkel joins UNEP from the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation where she served as Senior Counsel of the Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries

and Coast Guard Subcommittee. Before joining the U.S. Senate, Ms. Fraenkel worked as a senior policy advisor in the Office of International Affairs within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. There she served as coordinator for UNEP, and negotiated agreements in UNEP, the International Maritime Organization, the World Trade Organization and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. She has also served as a consultant to the United Nations and to the OECD.

Wind power entrepreneur **TULSI TANTI** is one of two Indians who made it onto Time magazine's Heroes of the Environment list



(the other one is glaciologist DP Dobhal). Mr. Tanti's first business, a textile factory, suffered from prohibitive energy costs until he bought two wind turbines. He then decided to start up a factory making them. By 2005 Mr. Tanti was on the Forbes list of India's richest people. His company, Suzlon, is now the fourth-largest wind turbine maker in the world, with wind farms across Asia and factories on four continents. "Yes, green business is good business," he says. "But it's not just about making money. It's about being responsible."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has named **ANGELA CROPPER**, from Trinidad and Tobago, as the new UNEP Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General. Ms Cropper, who takes up her post in February, succeeds Shafqat Kakakhel after his nine years of distinguished service in the post. A longtime environmental campaigner and a



former member of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, Ms Cropper brings to UNEP strong experience in environmental policy, analysis and negotiations. Her list of achievements and successes include senior positions held in a wide range of national and international institutions — including the Caribbean Community and Common Market Secretariat (CARICOM) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) — as well as contributions to numerous key and relevant boards, trusts, committees and global assessments. Among her previous high-level positions, Ms Cropper has worked as interim Executive Secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and as Senior Adviser on Environment and Development with the United Nations Development Programme.

Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh **MOHAMMAD BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN** is taking his oil-rich country to the forefront of renewable energy investment. At the World Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi in January, he announced an investment of 15 billion US dollars of new money into alternative energy projects including wind, solar and carbon capture technologies. The



2008 - - - Year of Sanitation

The Global Education Centre has responded to the UN's designated year by the publication of two booklets. The first is called "**Lifting the Lid**", which details the drinking water problems vis a vis lack of sanitation in today's world.

An estimated 2.6 billion people are without adequate sanitation facilities, and one billion do not have access to clean water.

Aimed at Primary Teachers, L t L is an invaluable aid for them to pass on to students the problems afflicting developing countries . . . together with remedies.

W.H.O. estimates that 80% of the sickness in the world is caused by people contaminating their own water resources by unsanitary practices.

This is an area requiring immediate attention in education and capital funding.

H.G.

"**Dying to Go**" is a second publication on the topic, a follow up to the above, and intended for older students, and tackles the problem from a more scientific angle.

We may not find these two booklets exactly "holiday reading", but it is incumbent on us from a privileged corner of the world to make ourselves aware of the difficulties that the Developing World faces in the Water/Health/Sanitation arena.

RADIO "A Peace of the Action" from Radio Adelaide 8303 5000 at 12.30 pm on 101.5 FM comes this searching *Peace and Social Justice* program

NAIDOC Week..... 6th to 13th July, alerts us to the application of the FAIR GO principle re the disparity between the living conditions of white Australians and those of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Continued pressure on Gov'ts is called for.

WHY SAY YES TO A BILL OF RIGHTS?

It is 60 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was supported by Australia but the Federal Government has never enshrined these rights in law. The United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and USA have all done so.

It is time for Australia to do this too.

Government legislation regarding refugees, Aboriginal people in Northern Territory and Anti-Terrorism measures shows how urgent this is:



BUT, a caveat or two : It's better to have no Bill of Rights than to have a flawed one. USA has its rights enshrined in the Constitution, resulting in wide scope for the High Court's interpretation. ACT has had a Bill or Charter of Rights since 2004 (Statutory, not Constitutional) and has already had to amend it.

Prof. Frank Brennan on May 22 in delivering the annual Law Oration termed "Getting the Balance Right" gave examples of both the advantages and disadvantages of having such a Bill.

More anon. Ed.

money will be channelled through the new Masdar Initiative, which expects to raise more than 200 billion US dollars for renewables in the next decade. The most notable project tabled by Masdar is a plan to build "the world's first zero-carbon, zero-waste, car-free city" — the car-free city will be designed to run entirely

on renewable energy and should be completed by 2015. The Crown Prince also announced the establishment of the Zayed Future Energy Prize, which will award a total of 2.2 million US dollars annually to "three individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions in the global response to the future of energy".

} from P 3

Chiara Lubich Dies

This UNESCO Peace-Prize winner founded the **FOCOLARE MOVEMENT** in Italy. It's an organisation dedicated to helping the poor, and has over two million supporters in more than 180 countries. It also seeks to spread Christian values by promoting traditional families and inter-religious dialogue.

Born in the northern city of Trento, she felt a call during W.W.2 at the age of 23 to alleviate human suffering.

Chiara won the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education in 1996; the Council of Europe's Human Rights Prize in 1998 and the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion in 1977



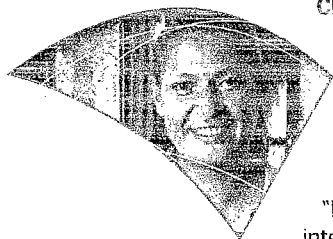
Anne Kajir

CEO of the Environmental Law Centre in Papua New Guinea

In 1997, her first year of practice, Kajir successfully defended precedent setting appeal in the Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea, which forced the logging industry to pay damages to indigenous land owners.

Winner of the Goldman Environmental Prize

"If one person has the heart and the drive for this work, for the best interests of the country and for the traditional landowners, it is Annie. She is a fighter."



Boys and Girls Club



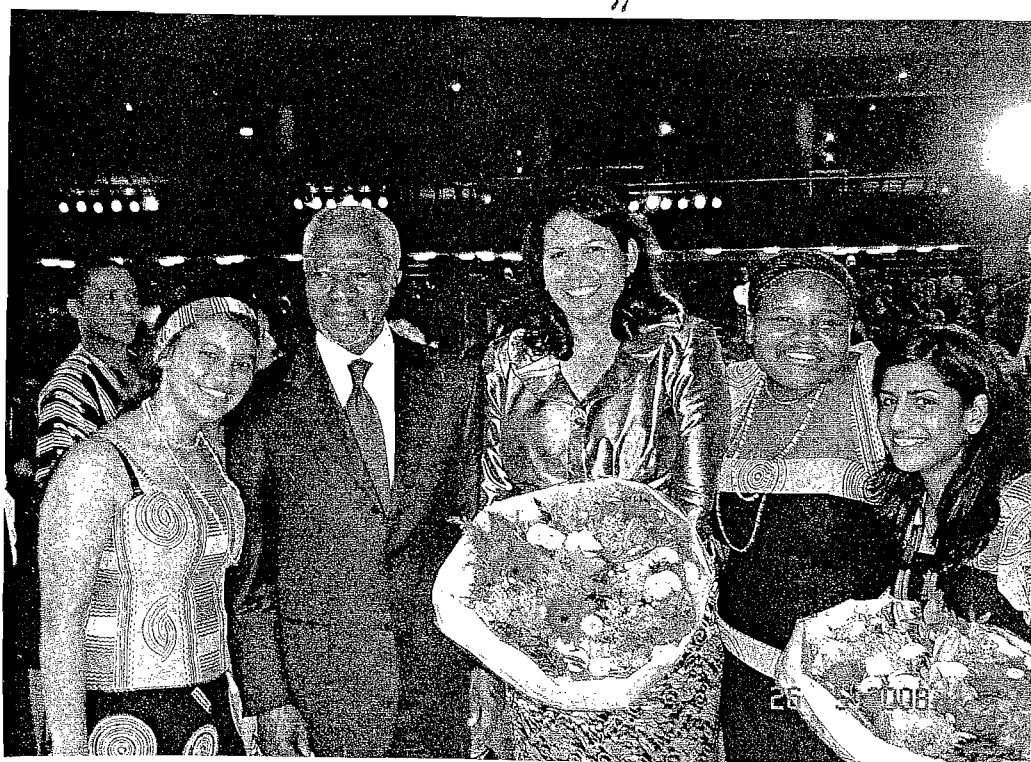
State Theatre

40 Market St, Sydney (between Pitt & George St.)

Click here for directions

July 18, 8:00pm

WYD08
SYD08
world youth day sydney 2008



Our own Leanne Liddle
in select company



TOP STORY

Countries agree to ban cluster bombs

Representatives of 111 countries agreed Wednesday to ban the use of cluster bombs, which have been criticized by human rights groups and others for often maiming civilians, including many children, who pick up unexploded bombs scattered over a large area. The agreement in Dublin was reached after U.K. Prime Minister Gordon Brown intervened personally, but the primary makers or users of this weapon -- the U.S., Russia, China, Israel, India and Pakistan -- did not join the treaty. [The Washington Post](#) (5/29)

Quote of the day

“The fact that these 100-plus countries have been able to come together and develop a convention text signifies that the rest of the world is ready to move forward with international agreements that are pro-humanity. In the end, the victims of cluster munitions have won.”

Rachel Stohl, senior analyst at the Center for Defense Information in Washington, D.C.

■ Laos battles legacy of cluster munitions use

More than 30 years after U.S. forces conducted an aerial bombing campaign during the Vietnam war, 84 million unexploded cluster munition bomblets are spread across the Laos countryside. The explosive devices are preventing farmers from accessing arable land and are impeding the country's overall development. [IRINNews.org](#) (5/29) [E-MAIL THIS STORY](#)

UN Foundation & Better World Campaign

■ BWC Launches George Clooney PSA In Support of UN Peacekeepers

In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of UN peacekeeping, on the occasion of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, the Better World Campaign today released a public service announcement featuring actor George Clooney entitled "Peace is Hard." The PSA, hosted at www.youtube.com/unbluehelmets, reminds citizens around the world that more than 110,000 UN peacekeepers are currently deployed in some of the world's most dangerous places to protect millions of conflict-affected victims, demobilize militants and facilitate peace treaties that end conflict and foster reconciliation and reconstruction. [Click here](#) to read the full release from the Better World Campaign.

■ Why UN is good for America

Opinion The U.S.' influence worldwide is set to diminish in coming decades, making the country more dependent on a global institution that can help stabilize the world and promote democracy, this commentary says. "As for the UN, it is difficult to see how any other genuinely global body could offer the U.S. more influence than the one it helped to create," writes author and Columbia University history teacher Mark Mazower. "If Americans want their values to prevail in the years ahead, they should work around the institutional framework they developed after 1945, not hasten its demise." [Financial Times](#) (5/28) [E-MAIL THIS STORY](#)

DEVELOPMENT

Energy & Environment

■ Five countries reach Arctic deal

Five countries bordering the Arctic Ocean agreed on Wednesday at a meeting in Greenland to use the United Nations' Law of the Sea Treaty and other international protocols to resolve any future disputes over the potentially oil- and gas-rich region. The U.S., Canada, Russia, Denmark and Norway also agreed to try to protect the Arctic from environmental damage as global warming melts the ice and opens up the area to shipping and energy exploration. [BBC](#) (5/29), [The New York Times](#) (5/29) [E-MAIL THIS STORY](#)

DEVELOPMENT

Energy & Environment

■ Environmental leaders frustrated with G8

The Group of 8 environment ministers met yesterday to set targets on greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, but the action frustrated environmental groups by failing to set specific midterm goals by 2020. At the three-day summit in Japan, leaders from the U.S., Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Canada, Italy and Russia gathered to discuss the effects of climate change. [The Independent \(London\)/Associated Press](#) (5/27) [E-MAIL THIS STORY](#)



Cluster bombs release a quantity of bomblets which disperse over a wide area. Cluster munitions can be dropped from aircraft, but can also be delivered by rocket or artillery projectile. The resulting ground area spread with bomblets (designed injury zone) is up to 200 metres X 400 metres, though may be up to 1 square km in extent. The size of the injury zone is influenced by the height of the release from the aircraft, the setting of the mechanical timer which releases the bomblets, the spinning rate of the bomb, and other factors such as wind, speed, angle and terrain.

Cluster bomblets pose a particular danger to civilians compared to other weapon systems because of the broad area of effect they have, lack of accuracy and the number of explosive 'duds' left behind. Many of the bomblets do not explode on impact and then can lie around until they explode when touched, killing and maiming for years after a conflict ends. They are just as dangerous, insidious and lethal as anti-personnel landmines.

Some half-good News

In the last week of May, 2008, an historic intergovernmental meeting in Ireland saw agreement among the reps of more than 100 countries to ban

Cluster Bombs.

(See UN Wire elsewhere in this Newsletter)

THE MURRAY DARLING - a different slant

In the late 50s, we Geography teachers were excited by an **Ernestine Hill** book, titled "**Water into Gold**", lauding the work of the American Chaffey brothers, whose engineering skills "transfigured the Continent by irrigation science"

As we all now know, over-allocation of the scarce resource has caused serious problems and the rising (saline) water table is a real threat.

Margaret Simons author of **The Content Makers**, has this to say :

" The irony is immense. Just as our grasp on this foreign land seemed firmest, we find the water turning upon us, and the agriculture and economics that bind us to the land thrown into disarray ...

It may be that this semi-desert country should never have been settled, as some radical conservationists now suggest, yet it would be wrong to say that the people do not belong here ... There are stories of struggle, of carrying on in spite of fruit that didn't sell or couldn't be transported, of grandmothers and women in labor being rescued from floods, and of the days when a trip to Adelaide took a week over a dirt road delineated with pot holes.

Hard to say these people don't belong, and too easy from the city to be self-righteous and simplistic about the heritage of the engineers, when we all rely on the food basket they have brought forth.

We cannot retreat. Our ties to the land may be recent, expressed in terms of dollars and engineering and full of crime and paradox, but nevertheless we are bonded. And so we stand under this blue sky, within our green circles, struggling with the rising tide."

Transport impact, from bikes to planes

Means of transport	Fuel efficiency (km per litre)	CO₂ emissions per km
BICYCLE	n/a	0
BUS (WELL-USED SERVICE)	28-50 kpl per passenger	80-45g
RAIL (NORMAL SUBURBAN)	18-52 kpl per passenger	130-45g
FUEL-EFFICIENT CAR	18-23 kpl	130-100g
RAIL (HIGH SPEED, FEW STOPS)	14-28 kpl per passenger	165-80g
AVERAGE CAR	10-16 kpl	260-145g
AIR (LONG HAUL)	8-12 kpl per passenger	330-210g
LARGE CARS, SUVs ETC	5-9 kpl	400-250g
AIR (SHORT HAUL)	4-8 kpl per passenger*	460-300g

verbatim



© AFP/Getty Images

"In a process led by the United Nations, we must create a successor to the Kyoto agreement which ends in 2012. Some additional initiatives from other countries could be useful. But it is important that they flow from the United Nations. For me, that is non-negotiable."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel

"Existing energy technologies alone will not meet the growing global demand for energy, while also reducing emissions to necessary levels. Ultimately, we must develop and bring to market new energy technologies that transcend the current system of fossil fuels, carbon emissions, and economic activity. Put simply, the world needs a technological revolution."

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

"The consequences of global climate change are so pressing that it doesn't matter who was responsible for the past; what matters is who is responsible for the future — and that means all of us. The rich nations and the poor nations have different responsibilities. But one responsibility we all have, and that is action... action, action, action! It is time to come together in a new international agreement that can embrace rich and poor nations alike."

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California

"Climate change policies cannot be the frosting on the cake of development; they must be baked into the recipe of growth and social development."

Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank

"If the world is moving towards a low carbon future then those companies that are going to be ahead of the others at arriving at low-carbon solutions will really benefit most."

Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the International Panel on Climate Change

"For Australians, climate change is no longer a distant threat. Our rivers are dying, bushfires are more ferocious and more frequent and our natural wonders — the Great Barrier Reef, Kakadu, our rainforests, are now at risk."

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd

numbers

100 billion

worldwide investment in renewable energy in US\$. This makes up 18 percent of new investments in the power sector — *report by UNEP's SEFI*

40

percentage increase in air miles flown between 1990 and 2003 — *GE04 report*

70

percentage of available water taken up by irrigation. GE0-4 says meeting the Millennium Development Goal on hunger will mean doubling food production by 2050 — *GE04 report*

50,000

number of years during which some greenhouse gases may persist in the atmosphere — *GE04 report*

20

percentage cut in CO₂ emissions proposed by the European Commission in its new climate change package — *European Commission*

34

percentage by which deforestation in the Amazon increased in 2007 compared to 2006 — *Brazilian government*

40

percentage of global energy used in the building sector, which is also responsible for one third of GHG emissions — *UNEP report*

40

percentage of the world's population which could be affected by the melting of snow and glaciers in Asia — *UN report*

D.F.A.T. Invitation

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) invited representatives from select NGOs to welcome - and farewell - the new Ambassador to Myanmar (Burma). UNAA was represented by Vice President, John Crawford.

At this particular time in history there would be very few postings more difficult than Myanmar, but Ms Michelle Su-Wen CHAN is eminently well prepared for this tough assignment as the following excerpt from her cv attests.

Michelle Su-Wen CHAN

Ms Michell Chan is a senior career diplomat

Ms Chan joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1993 and was most recently Assistant Secretary, South-East Asia (South) and regional issues Branch (2006-07). Earlier roles in Canberra include Director of the East Timor Section and other positions in the South-East Asia Division and the International Organisations and Legal Division.

She has served overseas as counsellor, later Minister-Counsellor in Jakarta (2002-05), Second Secretary in Hanoi (1998) and Second Secretary in Phnom Penh (1996-98)

Ms Chan holds a Bachelor of Arts (Jurisprudence) and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Adelaide, and a Master of Arts and a Master of Laws (International Law) from the Australian National University. She is married with two children.

HONOUR :

One of our members, Leanne Liddle, is currently in Brussels representing the S.A. Government [See Photo elsewhere]

- She is attending the International Globe TV Gala Awards . The Energy Globe TV gala and awards is an international event that focusesd on sustainability and the careful use of resources. These awards are the most prestigious environment awards, presented annually in the categories of earth, fire, water, air and youth. On the 27 May Leanne will present at the European Parliament. She is to present a gift of an Aboriginal painting from Watarru Kuka Kanyini artists to the President of the European Parliament Mr Hans-Gert Pottering.

A.M.U.N.C.

The Asia and Pacific Model UN Conference was held at Adelaide University in May 2008 with a crowd of 600 attending.

Launch . . . Year of the Potato , by UNIC Director

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In the elegant surroundings of the Balcony Room, State Parliament, The Director of the United Nations Information Centre, Mr Abdullah Mbamba took great pleasure in Launching the International Year of the Potato on the 8 May, 2008.

The event was hosted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, the Hon Rory McEwen MP on behalf of the Premier, the Hon Mike Rann MP.

Approximately seventy invited guests (including His Excellency Mr Hieu Van Le, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia and Chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission; Mr Lynn Arnold former Premier SA; Director World Vision Int and incoming CEO Anglicare SA; politicians, academics, representatives from industry; community groups, United Nations Association of Australia, SA; UNYA and United Nations Society of the University of South Australia) were on hand to watch the very special presentation of paintings made by students of Tabor College. This was arranged through Ms Lidia Moretti a member of UNAASA. One was presented to the Director of UNIC; one to Mr McEwen and one was reserved for the Peruvian Ambassador.

Rosemary McKay

UNAA thanks Tabor College, its gifted Students and Ms Carol Harry, their teacher.

