

PLANET THREE DIGEST . . . FEBRUARY 2013

INCORPORATING UNAA (SA) NEWSLETTER No.24



"HARM NOT THE LAND" Rev. 7.3 Dermot Dorgan '96

Harm not the land, nor the sea nor the trees,
For the earth is the mother of all,
And we who abuse her and poison her now,
By abuse and by poison will fall.

Harm not the land, nor the sea, nor the trees,
For water's more precious than gold,
And our sisters the oceans will bring us new life
Till the warmth of the sun grows cold.

Harm not the land, nor the sea, nor the trees,
For the leaves of the forest bring rain
And our brothers the trees are the cradle of life
To destroy them will mark us like Cain.

Harm not the land, nor the sea, nor the trees,
Though fortunes are there to be made,
But a fortune is false if the soul of the land
Is the price that will have to be paid.

Harm not the land, nor the sea, nor the trees,
For they are not yours or mine.
They belong to the children of children unborn,
From now till the end of time.

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Floods, Fires and Politics combine to make this New Year Edition of *PLANET THREE DIGEST* different from the norm with so many issues needing to be touched upon that this February Mag-cum Newsletter of necessity takes on the "bitsy" appearance.

- 1. Central Australian Temperatures "Off The Charts" Previously the Chart was 'capped' at 50°C (122Fahrenheit) Now it goes all the way to 54* with Australia's all-time record standing at 50.7* (1960)**
- 2. Of the 20 hottest days ever recorded in our country, six have been in 2013.**
- 3. We must be careful not to deduce from one event, one statistic, that Global warming is taking place. However, the sheer number of such 'out of the ordinary' events that a substantial TREND is taking place.**
- 4. Applying the Precautionary Principle to the situation, and taking some note of the modelling projections of the Bureau and of independent Scientists, we would be foolish in the extreme were we to pass it off as a mere 'blip on the screen'**
- 5. We are led then to the probable causes of warming . . . Human activity causing a substantial rise in the CO2 content of the atmosphere . . . together of course with the less prevalent but more 'vicious' Methane.**
- 6. Fossil Fuel usage - because it is plentiful and cheap and can be obtained in convenient form as Solid, Liquid or Gas, comes in as the main offender**
- 7. Any diminution in its use whether by pricing or legislation or by the introduction of alternatives will be to the benefit of the world's atmosphere.**

Also in this issue will be found explanatory data on the two UN –designated topics for 2013. Then there is some History. . . Adelaide history, relating to ANTaR and the "Sea of Hands". Another important message for us locally, comes from the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Hon Jennifer Rankine MP, and we're grateful for that. There's an article on WALMART ! Why? See P.8 for our Apologium (not apology) The US AIR Force uses Martin L. King's famous words in a repellent piece of hawkish propaganda on P.11. There's an account of a very new Coalition here in Australia called IPAN. Started 2012. Some of our UNAA members are linked to it. It takes individuals as well as existing groups like WILFP.

We appreciate readers' views on the kinds of articles they appreciate. Ed

(As usual, thanks is due to our President , John Crawford and Secretary Ron Hall for their expertise)



Message from the Minister

Multiculturalism is alive and well in South Australia.

We come from more than 200 different countries and speak more than 200 different languages. We follow more than 100 different faiths and more than 40 per cent of us have at least one parent who was born overseas.

Multiculturalism is one of our finest social achievements, and an important asset that enriches the lives of all South Australians.

The 2013 Multicultural Calendar includes hundreds of events and days of observance relevant to migrant communities in South Australia.

These events give all of us, regardless of our backgrounds, the chance to learn about each other's culture.

This calendar provides insight into the meaning behind some religious observances, the history of some festivals and details of other fascinating aspects of cultural diversity in South Australia.

However, the best way to learn more is to participate, and I hope the calendar encourages you to enjoy some of the riches that our multicultural society has to offer.

Further information and other events, such as feast days, can be found on the Multicultural SA website at www.multicultural.sa.gov.au.

It is a great privilege to be Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I am invited to celebrate many traditional cultural festivals and other important events in the life of our culturally and linguistically diverse communities. I look forward to attending even more of these events in 2013, and hope you do as well.

I wish you all a very happy and successful 2013.

Hon Jennifer Rankine MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Main sources of migrants

Countries

- England – 102,681
- Italy – 20,707
- India – 18,740
- China (excludes SAR's and Taiwan) – 15,932
- Scotland – 13,901
- New Zealand – 12,848
- Vietnam – 12,025
- Germany – 11,409
- Greece – 9,757

Source: 2011 Census

Main languages other than English spoken at home

Languages

- Italian – 33,295
- Greek – 25,250
- Mandarin – 16,497
- Vietnamese – 15,969
- Cantonese – 9,000
- Arabic – 7,467
- German – 7,460
- Polish – 6,242
- Spanish – 4,908
- Punjabi – 4,426
- Hindi – 4,419

The largest religions

- Christian
- Buddhism
- Islam
- Hinduism
- Sikhism
- Baha'i
- Australian Aborigine
- Judaism

RYMILL PARK 1997 . . . Remember ?

One of the most inspiring events to hit Adelaide was this display of the Sea of Hands. The inspiration and creativity of that and similar events was borne out YESTERDAY in Canberra - the 5th Anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations.

In a rare act of cross-partisanship, our politicians stood united in their commitment to recognising the unique and special place of our First Peoples' cultures to our nation.

The **Act of Recognition** passed through parliament today with resounding support to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our founding document.

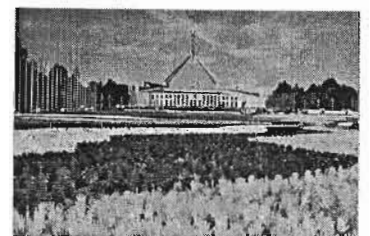
It is a moment to celebrate and congratulate our parliamentarians for their **political leadership**.

It is clear from debates on the floor to reactions in the public gallery that Constitutional Recognition of our First Peoples is the 'right thing to do'.

This is a significant step along the road to Constitutional Recognition. It's worth celebrating as we keep the end goal in site.

Only a vote by the people in a referendum can update our nation's founding document. Our next step is to win the hearts and minds of all Australians so that when the time to vote comes, we will do so with an informed mind and an open heart - because it's the **right thing to do**.

It's time that our founding document **truly reflects who we are as a nation**, one that acknowledges our First Peoples, reconciles our past, reflects our sense of fairness and looks with hope to a brighter future.



20 years ago the great anthropologist Margaret Mead wrote

**"NEVER DOUBT THAT A CONCERNED
GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL,
CONCERNED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE
THE WORLD: INDEED IT'S THE ONLY
THING THAT EVER HAS."**

Revelations on Syria

In an article entitled "Foreign Interference in Syria", Dr Fiona Hill suggests that Syrians see themselves as pawns in a much wider game. This is a summary of her comments along with UN sourced information.*

The Syrian conflict is a proxy war in the contest between the Western powers (who are utilising the financial and ideological clout of Saudi Arabia and Qatar) and Russia and China because Syria and Iran are the tipping points in the balance of power in the colonial Middle East.

In addition, Syria remains committed to Pan-Arabism and Palestinian autonomy and to its strong relations with Russia and Iran. Despite economic reforms along IMF lines introduced by the President Bashar Al Assad, and despite the fact that the Syrian Government includes Christian as well as Shia and Sunni Muslim ministers, Syria has become a paria. There seems to be no end to the conflict. The armed opposition rejected not only the mediation process, but also Kofi Annan's six point peace plan. (Moreover, several of the reforms proposed in March 2011 were in agreement with what the rebels were insisting.) In February 2012 a referendum was held on a new constitution that included the introduction of the principle of multi-party politics and the abolition of the principle of Ba'ath Party rule, yet the Free Syrian Army physically prevented Syrians from voting. In looking at the continuing bloodshed, although the Syrian Government has been blamed for most of the massacres that have occurred, the evidence for this is largely inconclusive.

UN Wire described the scale of suffering in Syria as a result of the "civil war" with the following statistics: more than 60 000 dead; a 20% decline in the economy; a 40% increase in inflation; 210 000 people in Homs province in dire need of aid according to UNICEF; and four million have had their lives shattered, half of them children, according to UNICEF.

The claim of foreign intervention is reinforced by the observations of one of the co-founders of Medecins Sans Frontières, Jacques Beres, who worked in Aleppo briefly in 2012. He reported that 60% of those he had treated were rebel fighters and that at least half were not Syrian. He commented that the rebels seemed less concerned about the fall of Bashar Al Assad and more interested in taking power afterwards and setting up an Islamic state with Sharia law in order to become part of "the world emirate."

The political opposition in Syria comprises intellectuals, professionals and advocates of social justice who want to establish their own political parties. Last year the elections involved 7 195 candidates including 710 women. Syria is a secular state with women participating at many levels. Although the constitution requires the president to be Muslim, there is no official state religion and only limited enthusiasm for an Islamic state. From the president down, it seems that many Syrians agree they are gaining nothing from the current fighting with 60 000 dead, as reported, many more injured and so much destruction. A ceasefire at the very least would be the first step towards a political solution that benefits Syrians generally and maintains Syria's sovereignty.

As one of the leaders of the Syrian community in South Australia laments, "My country is being destroyed."

Dr Fiona Hill's article first appeared in the *Journal of Pax Christi Australia*, 'Disarming Times,' September 2012. Also see *Adelaide Voices* DEC '12 - Feb '13

With the increasing number of Syrian refugees fleeing to the Bekaa villages since the outbreak of violence in Syria two years ago, most of whom are women and children, UNICEF accelerated its emergency response education program to ensure a favourable learning environment for vulnerable Syrian and Lebanese girls and boys.

Donations can be made to the UNICEF Syria Crisis Appeal through their Australian website: www.unicef.org.au



In December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2013 as the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation ([Resolution A/RES/65/154](#)). In reflection of this declaration, the 2013 World Water Day, which will take place on 22 March 2013, also will be dedicated to water cooperation. Therefore, UN-Water has called upon UNESCO to lead the 2013 United Nations International Year on Water Cooperation, in particular because of the Organization's



unique multidisciplinary approach which blends the natural and social sciences, education, culture and communication. Given the intrinsic nature of water as a transversal and universal element, the United Nations International Year on Water Cooperation naturally would embrace and touch upon all these aspects.

The objective of this International Year is to raise awareness, both on the potential for increased cooperation, and on the challenges facing water management in light of the increase in demand for water access, allocation and services. The Year will highlight the history of successful water cooperation initiatives, as well as identify burning issues on water education, water diplomacy, transboundary water management, financing cooperation, national/international legal frameworks, and the linkages with the Millennium Development Goals. It also will provide an opportunity to capitalize on the momentum created at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and to support the formulation of new objectives that will contribute towards developing water resources that are truly sustainable.



Celebrations throughout the Year will include featured events at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, as well as many other events organized by various stakeholders around the world. Such events will seek to promote actions at all levels in relevant areas including education, culture, gender, the sciences, conflict prevention and resolution, as well as ethics, among others.

To know more about the 2013 UN International Year of Water Cooperation please contact Lucilla Minelli at: <mailto:l.minelli@unesco.org>.

International World Water Day 2013

Held on the 22nd March each year, World Water Day focuses on the importance of freshwater and advocating for sustainable management of freshwater resources. An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended in the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22nd March 1993 as the first World Water Day.

Each year World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. For 2013, marking the 20th anniversary of World Water Day, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organisation) has been chosen to lead the International Year of Water Cooperation.

International Year of the Quinoa 2013

IYQ gives recognition the Indigenous people of the Andes and the value of the “golden grain of the Incas.” The Incas held the crop as sacred. Because quinoa was used in religious ceremonies the Spanish cultivation was forbidden and wheat was forced on the local population. With support from Argentina, Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Georgia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, along with the Food and Agriculture Organisation, IYQ was approved by the General Assembly of the United Nation in 2011.

Quinoa is noted for its high nutritional content with protein at 14% (by mass) and as a good source of dietary fibre, phosphorus, magnesium and iron. From an allergy point of view, it is also gluten free. The seeds when harvested have a coating of bitter tasting saponins, but these can be removed by processing. Actually, the bitterness has beneficial effects during cultivation, making the plant unpopular with birds so that it requires minimal protection. Often this has already been done in packaged quinoa. Cooking quinoa is similar to rice. It is not technically a cereal as is not a grass. It is member of the amaranth family of plants.

It is grown in coastal regions as well as in mountainous areas. It is little affected by frosts and has a preference for sandy well-drained soils. Currently it is quite expensive to purchase and sell at about 10 times the price of wheat which is about \$350 a tonne as opposed to quinoa which \$3000 or more per tonne.

The saponins, which contain glycoside, in the quinoa husks are useful in the manufacture of laundry detergent. The leaves contain oxalic acid which can be poisonous, and should not be eaten to excess.



Quinoa leaves contain oxalic acid.

The grain is about 2 mm in size.

Quinoa just before flowering.

Preparation

Quinoa has a light fluffy texture when cooked and a light, slightly nutty flavour. It can be cooked the same way as rice, bringing two cups of water to the boil with one cup of grain, allowing it to simmer until the germ separates from the seed. Vegetables seasoning and meat can be added and chicken or vegetable stock used instead of water. Alternatively a rice cooker may be used. Quinoa can be added to nuts, sultanas and other cereals to make a muesli type breakfast food to increase the protein content. Sprouts may be produced from the seeds to boost its nutritional value as germination will activate its natural enzymes which will increase its vitamin content and in this way is good to add to salads.

In Australia, the only state where quinoa is grown is Tasmania. As quinoa is an adaptable somewhat hardy plant, its potential for an environment such as South Australia's seems unlimited.

With its exceptional nutritional value and adaptability as a crop, its potential in the fight against hunger and malnutrition is becoming more widely recognised, especially in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

WALMART What's that got to do with UNAA sa ?

ANSWER : Anything to do with **JUSTICE** is UNAA's business and we replied to an employee survey regarding wages, conditions.

FACTS : - > **\$400Billion annual revenue exceeding GDPs of over 170 countries ; 100 million customers/week; 2.1 billion workers with average wage \$11.75/ hour. Conditions 'slavish'**

The UNTHINKABLE ; the Employees went on strike on "BLACK FRIDAY" - biggest shopping day of the year
(like our Boxing Day)

Look up Your Google for Black Friday and "Thanksgiving" preceding it . . .

HOME > BUSINESS DAILY

NLRB still investigating Wal-Mart dispute over Black Friday walk-outs by workers

NOVEMBER 22, 2012 @ 12:05AM | ANNE D'INNOCENZIO ~ ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Federal labor officials said Tuesday they don't expect to decide before Thursday on whether to seek an injunction on behalf of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. to stop a union-backed group from encouraging worker walk-outs that are expected to culminate Friday. That's the traditional start of the holiday shopping season.

Dear Peter:

We did something incredible - together. This Friday, Walmart workers around the world will join our fight.

Thanks to you and the courage of over 500 Walmart workers who went on strike across the country on Black Friday, the world heard the stories of workers rather than news about the price of a flat screen TV.

When workers decided to strike on the busiest shopping day of the year, we wondered if more than a handful of committed activists would be there to support them.

Instead, something beautiful happened. Supporters around the country stood with the strikers.



IPAN

Independent & Peaceful Australia Network

Our Aims:

- Promote an independent Australian foreign policy that builds peace and nonviolent resolutions of conflict in our region;
- Oppose the establishment of foreign military bases and the deployment of foreign troops and military in Australia and the Asia-Pacific;
- Provide information, analysis and opportunities for NGOs, unions, churches and community groups to participate in decision-making on Australia's peace and security options
- Build links with peoples and organisations in the Asia-Pacific campaigning for peace and against military bases and troops in the region.



www.justpeaceqld.org

- Is Australian involvement in the ANZUS Agreement really in the interests of Australian peoples, and likely to contribute to peaceful relations within the Asia-Pacific region?
- Will the increasing proliferation of smaller and more "useable" nuclear weapons make our region safer?
- How will the Trans Pacific Partnership reduce Australian government regulation of our foreign investment, our financial system and our health system?
- Do we want an Australian Government defence policy based on defence of Australia or on an offensive involvement in foreign wars?

The **Independent and Peaceful Australia Network** is a way for us to work collectively to address these concerns, as well as working with peoples of the Asia-Pacific countries to assist their struggles for policies independent of foreign control.

P.9

The organisations who have come together in IPAN have a range of concerns regarding an independent foreign and defence policy for Australia, for example:

- Do Australians really want US aircraft carriers based in Perth, drones and surveillance aircraft operating from our territory in the Cocos Islands, US marines deployed in Darwin and US nuclear armed ships docking regularly in Brisbane?
- Will the basing of US troops in Darwin for 6 months of each year compromise Australian sovereignty and our relationships with other Asian countries?
- Will the major communications and spying facilities operated by US forces in Australia, such as Pine Gap, Geraldton and North West Cape draw Australia inevitably into any conflicts in which the United States engages?.

There is a growing concern amongst many Australians that decisions to base US troops in Australia and increase military use of Australian facilities were made too hastily to allow proper consultation with affected communities and are not in Australia's best security, economic or environmental interests.

Responding to that concern, members of organisations in each State have established a new network to campaign around this issue.

The **Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)** has been launched in each Australian State in September 2012.

The network welcomes all organisations and state groups that agree to the aims, and we will be working to broaden the involvement of as many organisations as possible.

The participating groups are encouraged to continue local activities and issue statements under their own name(s), and we will also establish regular gatherings of all of the organisations in the network in each region to build collective activity.

Regular telephone hook ups and occasional face to face meetings will serve to identify strategic opportunities to coordinate national events, joint statements, or actions.

We have planned an initial activity for IPAN, and we encourage you to participate in this:

- A public statement signed by each organisation, as well as by prominent Australians, to be sent to the Defence Minister outlining proposals for Australia's independent and peaceful defence and foreign policy.

Former Liberal prime minister Malcolm Fraser says the new American marine "base" near Darwin is a mistake:

"We seem to believe that our security can be best assured if we do what we can to win brownie points with the US. This is a mistaken assumption."

MANIFESTO

PEOPLES SUSTAINABILITY MANIFESTO

For Action Beyond RIO+20, June 2012

Sign the Manifesto

DECLARATION

Humankind faces multiple and daunting crises that are more than likely to confront and impact billions of people in the decades to come. In addition, research is showing us that our actions are very likely going to cause us to transgress multiple planetary thresholds and boundaries. Despite this, governments at Rio+20 are missing yet another opportunity to formulate an effective response to these crises. Indeed, since 1992, there has been a retrogression in the consensus that was reached at the Earth Summit—and reflected in such principles as burden sharing, articulation of rights, mobilization of support, and protection of the vulnerable. Repeated attempts to revive this consensus—at Johannesburg in 2002, Bali in 2007, Copenhagen in 2009, and now Rio de Janeiro in 2012—have come up empty handed, thus thwarting efforts to build upon it. Despite unprecedented growth in the global economy since 1992, governments are trapped in making insatiable demands for still more unsustainable growth and rising inequity to remedy problems that economic globalization itself has caused.

We, the signatories to this Manifesto, refuse to sit idly by in the face of another failure of governments to provide hope for a sustainable future for all. We announce our responsibility for undertaking actions, inviting and encourage similar actions and commitments by other rightsholders and stakeholders, communicating a vision for healthy communities, sustainable and equitable human well-being and its associated strategies. These would come together in the form of a global citizen's movement to shepherd the transition to a sustainable, equitable, and democratic future, one in which ethics is both a right and a responsibility—at the level of the individual, the community and the planet.

We pledge ourselves to:

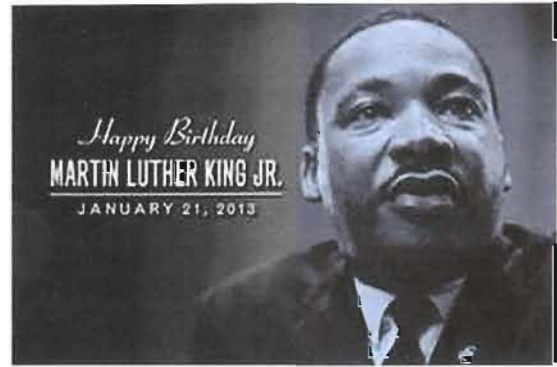
Equity is the overarching demand from the civil society world, and must be the foundation of the collective global response. We call for equity within generations, equity across generations, and equity between humans and nature. For this we need to revert back to making individual and societal decisions based on equity and ecological factors and not merely on monetary factors. A different sort of economics, a new approach to learning-education as a process, a revised understanding of ethics and of spirituality then become the ways in which we can work toward a more Equitable society; one that recognizes our integral relationship with the natural world.

Localizing our systems of economies, decentralizing governance, and advancing sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods becomes the new social order of sustainable societies. Localism is the theme emerging across the board which is linked to the principles of devolution, of decentralization and of subsidiarity, turning localism into a world-wide movement becomes the key to unpacking many of the complexities we face, whether in the case of sustainable consumption and production or in the case of radical ecological democracy. Protecting the rights of Mother Earth and of humans, transforming our governance systems through radical ecological democracy, respecting cultural diversity, and strengthening sustainable economies is the way towards sustainable futures for all. It is thus essential that we create a more effective, responsible and democratic system of global governance

Acknowledgement:

ACTS Inc (Australian Campuses Towards Sustainability)

Dr. King's Dream for the Global Strike Team !



(U.S.

Air Force Global Strike Command Programming Division
Air Force graphic/Sylvia Saab)

1/21/2013 - **BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La.** -- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 83rd birthday was Jan. 15. . . His courageous crusade for equality was first nationally recognized on Jan. 20, 1986, when President Reagan established the third Monday in January as an official federal government holiday.

Our country, our Air Force and Air Force Global Strike Command can learn much from Dr. King's drive for America to be a nation of equals. . . During his "I Have a Dream" speech given at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Aug. 28, 1963, King told a gathering of more than 200,000 Americans, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the meaning of its creed, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.'"

Dr. King completed his moving presentation with an emphasis on the freedom that equality brings, "...from every mountainside, let freedom ring. . . And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men, white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty we are free at last!"

The Department of Defense is a leader in equal opportunity for all patriots seeking to serve this great nation. . . The vigilant warriors in AFGSC understand they are all equal and unified in purpose to provide a safe, secure and effective deterrent force for the United States. . .

Dr. King would be proud to see our Global Strike team - comprised of Airmen, civilians and contractors from every race, creed, background and religion - standing side-by-side ensuring the most powerful weapons in the U.S. arsenal remain the credible bedrock of our national defense. . . Our team must overlook our differences to ensure perfection as we maintain and operate our weapon systems. . . Maintaining our commitment to our Global Strike team, our families and our nation is a fitting tribute to Dr. King as we celebrate his legacy.

*(The headline for this article was later toned down to read: **Dr. King Legacy of Equality, Diversity Strengthens Command**)*

Source from Air Force Global Strike Command: <http://www.afgsc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123333051>

US military says Martin Luther King would be proud of its weapons

A repellent piece of propaganda appropriates the words and images of this nonviolence advocate to glorify US militarism

POSTSCRIPT February 2013

Last year was very busy for UNAA in South Australia. We need to thank all those who helped to make it such a success.

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS COMING YEAR were discussed at our Planning Day early this month, and during the year you will hear about what we have planned. It will be interesting to see what we all might learn during 2013 about the UN International Year of Quinoa, and the UN International Year of Water Cooperation.

UNAA SA MEMBERSHIP falls due at the end of March and a membership form is included with this newsletter. Our numbers have fallen considerably over recent years, and although I am happy we still have a core of supporters to help us in our work to support the United Nations and its amazingly wide range of achievements, I feel we need to look towards recruitment of new and hopefully younger people willing to join us.

Financially we are managing, although losing the annual Government grant after 2011 has meant we have had to look carefully at our expenses. At the same time it is only with the ongoing State Government rent support that subsidises our rent here at 57/81 Carrington Street that we are managing so well. There has also been a significant saving in cleaning costs (we now do this ourselves on a volunteer basis) and electricity gas and security with our move, a saving that offsets a large part of the lost grant.

Although our new office is air conditioned, it also has separate remote controls for each room, something that has proved to be so rarely needed that our carbon footprint is easily kept to a minimum.

Membership fees have remained the same. Increasing them would give the Australian Tax Office a larger income via the GST. While it is my strong wish that we keep them as low as we can. In addition our task is to tell people as widely as we can about our interests in supporting and educating people about the UN and its agencies. Limiting this just to our loyal members is to me the wrong approach when our newsletter and other information should be widely circulated to everyone who might be interested. As a result we become more dependent on donations, which are GST free, to help us keep going.

OFFICE MEETINGS. Often new members have asked if we have many meetings. For some time I have had to say "no". In the distant past we had invited speakers, but attendance fell away and we limited such activities to the UN Day Dinner, the AGM, and one or two other occasions. Of course we also support events run with other like-minded organisations.

A change in the layout of our office over New Year has meant we could host a small gathering of up to 15 or 20 people. So as an experiment in the months between newsletters we plan to try to find a topic that might interest people and hold an evening get together to discuss and educate ourselves a little.

We will meet at the office at **67/81 Carrington Street at 7pm on Monday 25 March**. We will talk about the ongoing abuses of human rights in **West Papua. Franciscus Eweng**, who comes from West Papua is a member of our Executive Committee, and we hope he will be able to tell us something about the present situation. To RSVP or if you want more information call the office on 8223 2420, our Secretary, Ron Hall on 8264 3763, or John Crawford on 8344 4978 or email us at office@unaasa.org.au, sec@unaasa.org.au or pres@unaasaorg.au.

John Crawford, President UNAA(SA) pres@unaasa.org.au