



# United Nations Association of Australia, South Australia Planet 3 Digest

Launch of UN year of Quinoa



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Sir Charles Bright Scholarship

My name is Bethany Miller and I received a Charles Bright Scholarship this year - sponsored by you. I am a second year media student at the University of Adelaide, and I am profoundly deaf with one Cochlear implant. I have been deaf since birth, and started primary school with a language age of 2yrs, 11months. It wasn't until I learned to read that I caught up quickly. The books I read and loved were mostly American, making me keen to visit States like you. Thanks to your generous

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Humanitarian Day Lunch



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## Governor Launches IYQ In Australia

The Governor of South Australia Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce launched the International Year of Quinoa for Australia at Government House in Adelaide on 28th June this year. The Director of the United Nations Information Centre, Canberra, Mr Christopher Woodthorpe, the official United Nations representative in Australia gave the main address.

Present also at the ceremony were the Ambassador for the Republic of Ecuador, His Excellency, Mr Raul Gangotena. UNAA SA President, Mr John Crawford, National Vice President, Ms Lidia Moretti, and the Immediate Past President of UNAA SA, Mrs Heather Southcott OAM.

The sole producers of quinoa in Australia, Kindred Organics, were represented by Laura and Henrietta Daman. Mr Stephen Marshall, Leader of the State Opposition, the Hon Jing Lee, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs, Mrs Gladys Arboleda, Honorary Consul for Ecuador, Ms Heidi

van Gerwen, Honorary Consul for Belgium, were also present. Students from Kilkenny Primary school were made welcome by both the Governor and Mr Woodthorpe.

Art students from the University of South Australia were present with their entries in a competition on the theme of the International Year of the Quinoa. A selection from these works will be submitted to Australia Post for a commemorative postage stamp.



The SA Governor, Kevin Scarce, with UNIC Director Christopher Woodthorpe (left) opening the Launch.



The Ecuador Ambassador Raul Gangotena (above), and (below) President John Crawford with UNAA member, John Stock.



# Christopher Woodthorpe, Director UNIC, Quinoa Launch Address

## **Introduction:**

Before I proceed, I would like to first acknowledge the Kaurna people, the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we meet today. I also pay my respects to their elders past and present.

I would like to start by expressing my sincere thanks to His Excellency, Governor of South Australia for his generous hospitality and continued support of the United Nations and its ideals, and for hosting today's Australian launch of the International Year of Quinoa. As he has noted in his opening comments this is the most fitting place to be holding the launch here in this beautiful city of Adelaide.

## **Why quinoa?**

The United Nations International Year of Quinoa aims to focus the world attention on the remarkable properties of quinoa and its adaptability to grow in different environments around the world, all in the context of eradicating world poverty and contributing to food security. As many of you will probably know, the Andes in South America is where most quinoa is grown. For this reason I am particularly grateful that today with us we have a representative from that region, the Ambassador of the Republic of Ecuador joining us in Adelaide today.

## **Benefits of quinoa**

Quinoa has been a cultural anchor and a staple in the diet of millions of people throughout the Andes for thousands of years. The Incas held this crop sacred and referred to it as the 'mother of all grains'. Unfortunately, during the times of the European conquest of South America, the crop's cultivation

was suppressed for religious and political reasons resulting in quinoa's remarkable properties remaining largely forgotten by the rest of the world. It was not until 1996 that quinoa was listed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization as one of humanity's most promising crops. And once you learn about its remarkable characteristics it is easy to see why.

First of all, there is quinoa's broad genetic variability. Its gene pool is extremely strategic for developing superior varieties.

Second, is its adaptability to adverse climate and soil conditions. Varieties of quinoa grow at sea level just as effectively as they do at 4000 meters above, even in areas where no other common crop can grow. Third characteristic is quinoa's unique nutritional quality, represented by its essential amino acid composition in both quality and quantity, making it a functional and ideal food for the body. Indeed in a recent presentation by Australia's Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation, quinoa was referred to as a superfood for its gluten-free, high protein, antioxidant, mineral, omega-3, calcium, and fibre composition. Lastly quinoa is remarkable for its diversity of methods of use and its low production cost because the crop, once established, requires little in the way of inputs and labour.

## **What the Year is about?**

So with all of that in mind, in December of 2011, the government of Bolivia, with support from Australia, Ecuador and a number of other countries, proposed 2013 to be designated as the International Year of Quinoa. The primary aim of the Year is to focus world

attention on the outstanding yet underused qualities of quinoa and to recognize the indigenous Andean people who despite all the hardships have preserved this exceptional crop as food for present and future generations, thanks to their traditional knowledge and practices of living in harmony with nature. The International Year of Quinoa is expected to be a catalyst for increased production and consumption of quinoa by focusing world attention on the role of quinoa's biodiversity and nutritional value in food security and poverty eradication, in support of the Millennium Development Goals. It is most pertinent that the Year falls at a time when the international community is developing a new agenda that will reach beyond the current Millennium Development Goals and at a time when it is acknowledged that we are consuming more from the planet's resources than is available to us. A situation that is obviously unsustainable. The specific objectives of the Year are to increase awareness of the crop's potential to contribute to food security around the world, to appreciate the contribution of Andean indigenous people as custodians of quinoa as a food source for present and future generations, and to enhance lasting international partnership and cooperation among public, non-governmental and private stakeholders in the quinoa crop.

I think that today's event truly encompasses all three of those objectives, especially the emphasis on lasting partnerships and cooperation. Indeed the impressive, and really unmatched, range of events on offer in South Australia and

Adelaide are a testament to the strong community spirit and the wonderful support of local community organizations, businesses and educational institutions. With that in mind I would like to thank:

All of our distinguished guests for their support and participation. The Chefs at Government House for experimenting and presenting quinoa today.

UNAA(South Australia) for taking on this project with such dedication and drive.

The Staff and Students of the University of South Australia who provided the marvelous Paintings. David Sly for the great Article in "SA Life".

Di Mattson from the Advertiser for participating so willingly in cooking classes and the fabulous

article about "the Queen of Quinoa",

Danyse Crotti who shared her home and skills to teach so willingly how to use Quinoa in diverse ways.

The Staff and students of TAFE Regency Park International Hospitality School for a number of events taking place throughout the year.

The Staff and Students of the Kilkenny Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (and so happy you could attend today) - the Chefs of the future..

And to the Iconic Chefs of South Australia (too many to mention at this time) who will work with us throughout the year.

I understand there are members of the Food Industry who we will thank later for their contribution

And finally Henrietta and Luran Daman from Kindred Organics the only growers of Quinoa in Australia who have come from north west Tasmania to be with us today

In no small part have all of your efforts contributed to bringing us that one step closer to creating a better world for all of us, a world we all want, so thank you.

It is now my pleasure to invite His Excellency the Governor of South Australia to present the certificates to the participants of the International Year of Quinoa art initiative. *The following art students from the University of South Australia, Winson Wang, Linda Clarke, Annette Rodhe, Prerna Ashok, Johanna Kuhne, Amy Oanh Le, Lilian Choo, were presented with their awards.*

## *People & Planet Social Justice and Environment Gift Cards*

These are available from our office at:

57/81 Carrington Street  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Phone: 8223 2420

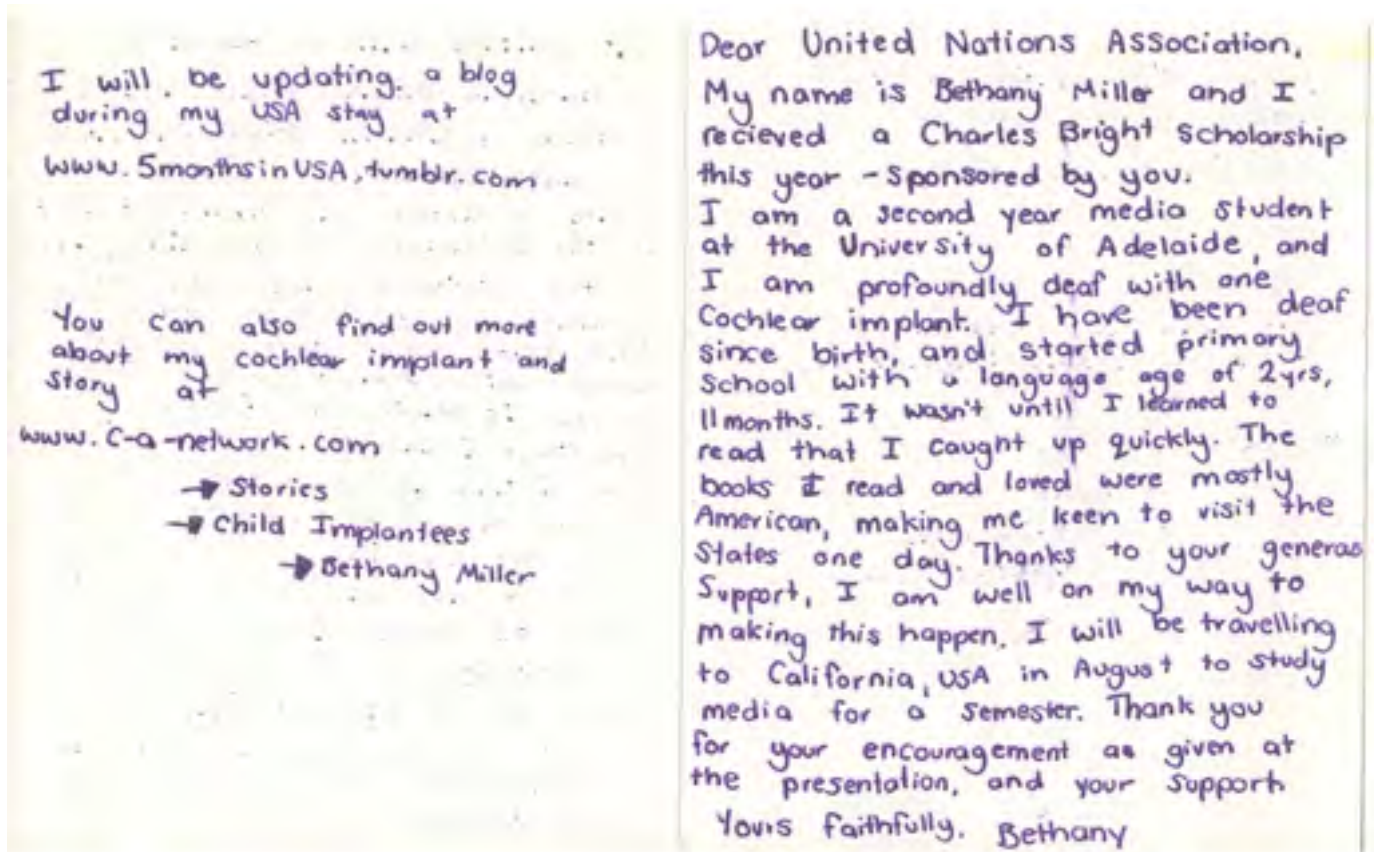
Or email [office@unaasa.org.au](mailto:office@unaasa.org.au)

Five Cards, Blank Inside,  
RRP 12.95 (\$10 for members).



**ALSO WE WILL SOON HAVE 2014 PEOPLE & PLANET DIARIES FOR SALE.**

## Sir Charles Bright Scholarship – Card from Bethany



Bethany Miller was awarded a Sir Charles Bright Scholarship at Parliament House in March. The scholarships were established in 1985 in the memory of Sir Charles Bright, a former judge of the Supreme Court, Chancellor of Flinders University and Chairman of the Committee into the rights of the disabled. They are awarded to disabled persons undertaking post secondary education, at University, TAFE or other recognized educational institutions.

The Sir Charles Bright Scholarship is administered by a Board of Trustees. To date the Trustees have granted over 230 scholarships to applicants with various disabilities, including - hearing impaired, vision impaired and paraplegics. Priority is given to applicants who have not previously received support from this fund. Applicants must

be residents of South Australia.

Bethany was presented with her scholarship on 13th March. Her United Nations Scholarship was provided by UNAA South Australia as a memorial from funding received as a bequest from our much loved past members, the late Reverend Alan and Ruth Gray, together with support from the Norman Percy Cole Bequest which we use in support of disadvantaged young people.

Born profoundly deaf, Bethany had her first cochlear implant at four years of age at the Women and Children's Hospital in Adelaide. She started kindy

at Hahndorf Primary School and began reception with the language skills of a two year old but was still able to pass to Grade One the next year. In 2010 Bethany became one of the finalists in the Girlfriend of the Year Competition and in 2012 won the Cochlear Hero Award.



# International Committee of the Red Cross

Petra Ball from the International Humanitarian Law team of Red Cross SA spoke to us at our discussion evening on August 6th. Points from this fascinating discussion included:

Civilians are frequently victims of war. Red Cross as a neutral and independent body can often help with emergency supplies, food and shelter, and treats people without discrimination, soldier or civilian. Often in war when families are separated ICRC helps find missing relatives and bring about family reunification. Families have the right to know the fate of family members. This is international law. Red Cross can check on detainees to see that they are not subjected

to inhumane treatment, to ensure that there are no infectious diseases in prisons where they can spread very rapidly. After conflict Red Cross can help with rebuilding communities – construction of homes, the installation of water and sanitation plants, medical care and provide the means for communities to help themselves.

In Iraq for example, many people were left without incomes. However, in such situations even small assistance can make a big difference. Encouragement of sporting events for example, engender confidence and purpose in life. Red Cross can provide instruction to soldiers on international humanitarian law, especially on such

issues as the use of land mines and cluster weapons.

## **Volunteers**

Red Cross is largely a volunteer organization and national societies do most of the work. In Australia there are 500 paid staff but there are 1300 volunteers.

## **International Humanitarian Law**

This is a body of rules that apply in times of armed conflict that protects those who are not or no longer involved in hostilities. It also limits the means and methods of war. It aims to protect humanitarian workers, journalists, military medics and military pastors, rabbis and imams. Rape has now become a war crime.

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## Discussion Evening *With Dr Grant Niemann*

Focusing on— International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Justice

**7.30 pm Tuesday 1st October, 2013**

UNAA SA Office

81 Carrington Street, Adelaide



Grant Niemann joined the Flinders Law School in February 2000. Initially Grant worked as a solicitor in NSW before moving to Darwin where he was the Principal Legal Advisor to the Northern Land Council, involved in land claims litigation and general legal work on behalf of the Aboriginal people. Following this Grant was appointed Deputy Director of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions Office in South Australia.

In 1994 Grant moved to The Hague, The Netherlands, in order to take up the position of Senior Trial Attorney for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Grant's areas of interest include criminal law (national and international); advocacy; criminal procedure and practice; and international humanitarian law. Currently, Dr Grant Niemann is Chair of the International Humanitarian Law Committee of Australian Red Cross in South Australia.



## South Australian Peacekeepers Sub-Branch of the RSL SA

cordially invites all  
Veterans of Peacekeeping Operations, their partners  
and guests to the

# *Peacekeepers' Day*

## PEACEKEEPING COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

at the National War Memorial  
corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide  
on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2013  
at 1100 hrs



*Afterwards at the Combined Services Mess  
1st Floor ANZAC House  
Parking Available*

RSVP secretary [a.summers@psanda.com.au](mailto:a.summers@psanda.com.au)

# Environment Report

## **Coal-Seam Gas**

Australia's multi-billion dollar coal-seam gas industry lacks public trust and poses considerable challenges for government and the companies involved. And a sweeping report by the New South Wales chief scientist and engineer Mary O'Kane recommends tougher regulation, increased penalties for breaches and thorough investigation of a raft of environmental and health effects.

Professor O'Kane said that unanswered concerns remain over landholders' legal rights, land access and use; human

health; the environment, particularly relating to the effect on water; engineering and operational processes; and industry regulation and compliance.

The 174-page report, commissioned by the premier of New South Wales in February, made five recommendations, including the establishment of a "world class" regime for extraction of coal-seam gas. It called for a data repository for all state environmental data including water management, gas extraction, mining, manufacturing and chemical processing activities.



Professor Mary O'Kane

The report recommended a major, whole-of-state study into land subsidence, mandatory training and certification for all gas industry personnel and further research on underground models. The report said the health impacts of CSG remained major community concerns but there was "a significant lack of peer-reviewed publications on health and CSG".

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association industry body said "the report raises complex issues regarding our industry's development". Anti-CSG groups welcomed the findings and called for a national two year moratorium on exploration while studies recommended in the report were carried out. But major CSG industry player, Santos, said the report did not call for a halt to operations across NSW while further studies were performed.

Professor O'Kane said the extensive monitoring system recommended in the report could be established in time to allow a CSG industry to develop before NSW suffered gas shortages and prices rose as contracts begin to expire late next year.

In Australia approximately 20% of natural gas being used comes from coal seam gas. Last month Santos abandoned plans to drill 550 mines in the Pilliga State Forest in central NSW.

Sources: Sydney Morning Herald, Santos website, Getup

# World Humanitarian Day Lunch at Regency Park



Hon Grace Portolesi (Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills) Lidia Moretti (Vice President of UNAA SA) Amanda Blair (MC for the afternoon)



Hospitality Students of Tafe SA Regency Campus



Guests at the luncheon.



Hospitality Students of Tafe SA Regency Campus



Guests at the luncheon.



Archbishop Philip Wilson and Justin McCarthy



## TAFE chefs prepare lunch for disadvantaged South Australians as part of UN Humanitarian Day



LUNCH FOR DISADVANTAGED: Tony Gibbons, 63, and Jan Kuma, 69, say thanks for the support at a celebration of UN Humanitarian Day at Regency Park TAFE restaurant, Tiros. Picture: Tait Schmaal. Source: The Advertiser

AN assorted crew including dozens of Adelaide's homeless people, gathered for lunch in Regency Park's Tiros restaurant today, to celebrate World Humanitarian Day .

About 80 homeless, disadvantaged and vulnerable people hopped a bus from support centres in the city this morning to dine on a sumptuous spread organized by Regency chef Steven Cooling, with the help of the school's team and Adelaide Convention Centre executive chef Tze Khaw.

They lunched with the likes of Adelaide Archbishop Philip Wilson, Science Minister Grace Portolesi, media identity Amanda Blair, and there was even a cross to a special guest video link with superstar Beyonce , interviewed by recent YouTube sensation Kid President . Jan Kuma, 69, who has been connected to the Vincentian centre

in Whitmore Square since being hospitalized with depression and related illnesses said it was great to be involved after being touched by the humanitarian gift of support groups in Adelaide.

"They have made such a big difference to my life," said Netherlands-born Jan who has no family in Adelaide. He now has people helping him return his life to normal, including a place to live. He said it was a lovely lunch today, but also wanted people to see the gathering as a way to build awareness of UN workers around the world.

United Nations SA president John Crawford related Kid President's weekly catch cries in a speech to encourage the disadvantaged diners, naming his favorite as: "treat everyone like it's their birthday". Mike Wockel, who cares for disadvantaged men through St Vinnies

in Whitmore Square agreed the day was a celebration of UN people around the world "working in conditions we can't imagine".

The food focus included another UN theme for the year, quinoa, as well as locally grown mushrooms and Nunga produce.

In the Beyoncé and Kid President video, also featured regularly this week on the big screen in Rundle Mall, the song star paid tribute to the support of her mother recognizing that so many people did not have that privilege. She said "the world needs more strength". As thanks for Regency's regular contribution to Humanitarian Day in August each year the United Nations Association of Australia (SA) will offer a scholarship to a disadvantaged young student, to be presented at the school's graduation ceremony at the end of the year.

The Advertiser, Di Mattson



UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon giving his Humanitarian Day message on the big screen in Rundle Mall



### **The Human Rights Wall at Barker Gardens, Prospect Road.**

The Human Rights Wall was sculpted in 1993 by Helen E Doubell for Amnesty International.

October 2013 is the 20th anniversary of its installation.

## 2013 UNAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE, Canberra.

### *“Inform, Engage, Inspire”*

Two stimulating pre-conference sessions were held prior to the National Conference.

The UN-Status of Women meeting offered opportunities to hear from the Australian Government about the new forced marriage legislation which can protect women better and from agencies which support those vulnerable women.

The Main Hall of the ANU University House was full of eager delegates who appreciated being informed about the extensive programs of work handled by UN agencies. The speakers were all experts in their particular field who spoke frankly of the challenges the UN faces. There were sessions on modern peacekeeping in Cambodia and Libya and the Australian Army's role. Christopher Woodthorpe outlined plans for the establishment of sustainable development goals when the Millennium Development Goals expire in 2015.

There was considerable focus on human rights and justice. Professor Hilary Charlesworth outlined her role as Judge-ad hoc for the International Court of Justice; Prof Gillian Triggs spoke about the Australian Human Rights Commission, along with others eminent speakers.

There was a stimulating panel session on Australia's role on the Security Council. We were given excellent background information and quite surprisingly, an insightful report from Mike Smith, who leads the UN Counter Terrorism

Section. When Australia has the presidency of the Security Council, the theme will be on women in leadership which is part of the UNSCR1325 Women, Peace & Security agenda which many women's organizations have been actively promoting.

Highlights were hearing about the rise of India from the High Commissioner of India, and the session Protecting Rights through UN processes with Brian Gleeson telling us how he supports Remote Indigenous Services; Prof Megan Davis on her work at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples and Richard Towle UNHCR Regional Representative talking about human rights in Australia NZ, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific.



However, the sweetest moment was to hear Catriona Standfield, former SA UNYA President,

speaking on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons with such conviction and concern for a better world.

This conference really did live up to its promotion to Inform, Engage, Inspire.

-Ruth Russell

### *“What's next for the UN?”*

The UN Association of Australia's Academic Network held a workshop as part of the UNAA National Conference.

The workshop's theme was the UN's Future Agenda. It aimed to discuss the issues they believe should appear on the agenda as the world organization prepares for its 68th session of the General Assembly-“What's Next for the UN?” was the theme to guide discussion.

Mention of Kofi Anan's statement that the world should focus on 'Problems without Passports', and the promotion of 'Partnerships on the World Stage through Education' in order to have impact, was of paramount importance.

Members were invited to join a discussion as to the direction of the UN Academic Network moving forward. Future initiatives for on-line forums and face to face Skype were to be considered.

A presentation by a member of NSW Catholic Education regarding an Education Program introduced in the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Education Sectors gave an insight into its progress. I have requested details of the programs to be circulated as a valuable model for our future reference.

-Lidia Moretti

# POSTSCRIPT

## WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

This week the 19 August was World Humanitarian Day. This has been celebrated right across Australia by UNAA. Here in South Australia we held a luncheon for a group of people coming through the auspices of Saint Vincent de Paul. We have again demonstrated the basic idea of humanitarian actions by having about 80 guests to join us for a gourmet lunch featuring Quinoa. It is the UN Year of Quinoa. Amanda Blair was our MC, Catholic Archbishop Philip Wilson gave the grace, and Grace Portolesi MP, Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills, Science and Information Economy was our speaker. We enjoyed seeing Kid President's interview with Beyoncé.

The food has been donated, and was prepared by the students of the Regency International Centre assisted by chef Tse Khaw from the Adelaide Convention Centre. We thank the staff and students of Regency again for all their help. A real humanitarian action.

Once again the BIG SCREEN in Rundle Mall has shown the UN Video commemorating the Day, again with Beyoncé, assisted by Kid President and the UN Secretary General.

## Discussion Evening: Petra Ball from Red Cross

Our August discussion evening was a great update on the Red Cross and International Humanitarian Law. Since 1859 coming

out of the concerns of Henry Dunant following the Battle of Solferino in northern Italy, action has been taken leading to the establishment of the ICRC, the Geneva Convention and its subsequent protocols. See the report on Petra's talk elsewhere in this newsletter.

For our next meeting on October 1st at our office at 57/81 Carrington Street, Adelaide, at 7.30 pm. Dr. Grant Niemann of Flinders Law School, will discuss International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Justice. See the notice elsewhere in this newsletter.

I have been concerned that we might easily fail to fit in our office, so far there has always been far too much room. I hope people will feel that our chosen speakers are worth hearing, especially in an informal setting where questions and discussion can lead on to particularly interesting issues.

## The UN Year of Quinoa

The Government House Reception and Launch was a great success. Quinoa has caused considerable interest amongst South Australian chefs, and was included on the menu at the reception on 28 June. It was also present on the menu at the Humanitarian Day Luncheon at Regency International Centre for our guests from Saint Vincent de Paul. The UN Day Dinner will also feature Quinoa on the menu.

## AGM

There was good attendance at the AGM. Matthew Traeger, Presi-

dent of UN Youth SA, and also now a Vice President of UNAA(-SA) spoke about the work of UN Youth during the past year. An inspirational talk. Thank you Matt. Copies of the Annual Report are available from the office. Please call, write or email to ask for a copy, or download it from our web site [www.unaasa.org.au](http://www.unaasa.org.au).

## Our Newsletter

Thanks again to Ron Hall our editor. We welcome comments, and suggestions to ensure its relevance and interest.

## UN Day Dinner

Our Annual dinner will be held at the National Wine Centre on Sunday October 20th with Alexander Downer as the guest speaker. The focus of the menu will be Quinoa, and we have four chefs setting out to demonstrate their skills in presenting their version of "Cooking with Quinoa". There is an invitation included with this newsletter.

## The Human Rights Wall at Barker Gardens, Prospect Road.

The Human Rights Wall was sculpted in 1993 by Helen E Doubell for Amnesty International. October will see the 20th anniversary of its installation. It is a graphic display highlighting prisoners of conscience, and extra judicial human rights abuses using terracotta bricks making up a wall of Peace, with most bricks containing sculpted figures highlighting human rights abuses.

John Crawford, President