



United Nations Association of Australia, South Australia Planet 3 Digest

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COMING EVENTS

AGM Sunday 13 July 2 to 4.30 pm. Saint Cyprian's North Adelaide Hall. Speakers: Bev and Ron Hall.
Launch: Govt House UN P&E SA 14 July
Discussion Evening: John Spencer, UN Peace-Keeper. Tuesday 15 July 5.30 pm
Discussion Evening 16 September. 5.30 pm.
UN Day of Peace 21 September 2 pm Pilgrim Church
UN Day Dinner, National Wine Centre. Sun. 9th Nov.

United Nations Association of Australia (South Australia) Annual General Meeting

St Cyprian's Church Hall, 70 - 72 Melbourne Street
Rear access: 43 Sussex Street
NORTH ADELAIDE

Sunday 13th July, 2014
2.00 to 4.30 pm, Shared afternoon tea

First Nations In Canada—Speakers Bev & Ron Hall

While living Canada with their young family in the 1970s, Bev and Ron spent time with First Nations community in a remote settlement in the Northwest Territories. They worked as teachers and community development workers, helping to establish a kindergarten and create employment opportunities for the people and assist with local government. Since then they have returned to maintain friendships and assist in a voluntary capacity.

The community of Pehdzeh Ki (Wrigley) on the De Cho (Mackenzie River) is home to a small Dene band whose language, cultural traditions and lands are under threat. Tourism, the petroleum and mining industries along with road maintenance, construction work and government services afford only a few jobs.

Surrounded by boreal forest and lying just a few degrees south of the Arctic Circle, Pehdzeh Ki experiences long freezing winters and short warm summers with midnight sunsets. Black bears can become troublesome when the wild berries are ripening and temperatures reach 25 degrees Celsius or a little more, and the frozen taiga becomes a vast swamp.

Bev and Ron would like to share with us the insights into Indigenous culture they feel privileged to have gained.

At this AGM we also propose to put a number of changes to our UNAA(SA) constitution. A copy of the proposed changes are available upon request to the office. or to John Crawford. phone 8344 4978 or email pres@unaasa.org.au, or Ron Hall phone 8264 3763 or email sec@unaasa.org.au

United Nations Association of Australia [SA].
Invites you and your family and friends to our
annual Film and Dinner evening.

4pm Sunday 20 July 2014 at the Wallis Theatrette
139 Richmond Road, Richmond \$25/20 concession

Goddess [PG]

Elsbeth Dickens dreams of finding her "voice" despite being stuck in an isolated farmhouse with her twin toddlers. A web-cam becomes her pathway to fame and fortune, but at a price.

Goddess is a 2013 romantic comedy film, directed by Mark Lamprell. The film stars singer Ronan Keating, Laura Michelle Kelly and Magda Szubanski. Duration: 104 mins

The film will begin at 4pm and will be followed by our usual generous raffle prizes, a 2-course buffet supper, wine, tea/coffee and a lucky door prize [save your tickets]!

**Tickets strictly limited and available from Heather Southcott, Tel/fax 8271 4433,
 hjs@internode.on.net or Sing Ping Ting tel.339.5383 singing@bigpond.com**



INTERNATIONAL DAYS JUNE TO AUGUST 2014

JUNE

- 1 June Global Day of Parents A/RES/66/292
- 4 June International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression A/RES/ES-7/8
- 5 June World Environment Day [UNEP] A/RES/2994 (XXVII)
- 8 June World Oceans Day A/RES/63/111
- 12 June World Day Against Child Labour
- 14 June World Blood Donor Day [WHO] WHA58.13
- 15 June World Elder Abuse Awareness Day A/RES/66/127
- 17 June World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought A/RES/49/115
- 20 June World Refugee Day A/RES/55/76
- 23 June United Nations Public Service Day A/RES/57/277
- 23 June International Widows' Day A/RES/65/189
- 25 June Day of the Seafarer [IMO] STCW/CONF.2/DC.4
- 26 June International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking A/RES/42/112
- 26 June United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture A/RES/52/149

JULY

- 5 July (First Saturday in July) International Day of Cooperatives A/RES/47/90
- 11 July World Population Day UNDP decision 89/46
- 18 July Nelson Mandela International Day A/RES/64/13
- 28 July World Hepatitis Day [WHO] —
- 30 July International Day of Friendship A/RES/65/275

AUGUST

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

INTERNATIONAL WEEKS 2014

- 1–7 February (First week of February) World Interfaith Harmony Week A/RES/65/5
- 21–27 March Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination A/RES/34/24

- 23–29 April 2007 UN Global Road Safety Week A/RES/60/5
- 25–31 May Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories A/RES/54/91
- 1–7 August World Breastfeeding Week [WHO]
- 4–10 October World Space Week A/RES/54/68
- 24–30 October Disarmament Week A/RES/S-10/2, p. 102
- 11–17 November International Week of Science and Peace A/RES/43/61 (The week in which 11 November falls)

INTERNATIONAL YEARS 2014

- International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People A/RES/68/12
- International Year of Small Island Developing States A/RES/67/206
- International Year of Crystallography A/RES/66/284
- International Year of Family Farming A/RES/66/222

INTERNATIONAL DECADES

- 2015–2024
- International Decade for People of African Descent A/RES/68/237
- 2014–2024
- United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All A/RES/67/215
- 2011–2020
- Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism A/RES/65/119
- United Nations Decade on Biodiversity A/RES/65/161
- Decade of Action for Road Safety A/RES/64/255
- 2010–2020
- United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification A/RES/62/195
- 2008–2017
- Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty A/RES/62/205
- 2006–2016
- Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions (third decade after the Chernobyl disaster) A/RES/62/9
- 2005–2015
- International Decade for Action, "Water for Life" A/RES/58/217
- 2005–2014
- United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development A/RES/57/254
- Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People A/RES/59/174

From <http://www.un.org/en/events/observances/index.shtml>

Note: The A/RES/mn/nmn references refer to the UN resolution establishing the Day etc. The full resolution can be found by an internet search for that number..

Discussion Evening—All Welcome

15 July, 5.30 to 7.30pm

At the UNAA(SA) Office 57/81 Carrington Street

Speaker: *John Spencer*

Subject: *United Nations Peacekeeping*

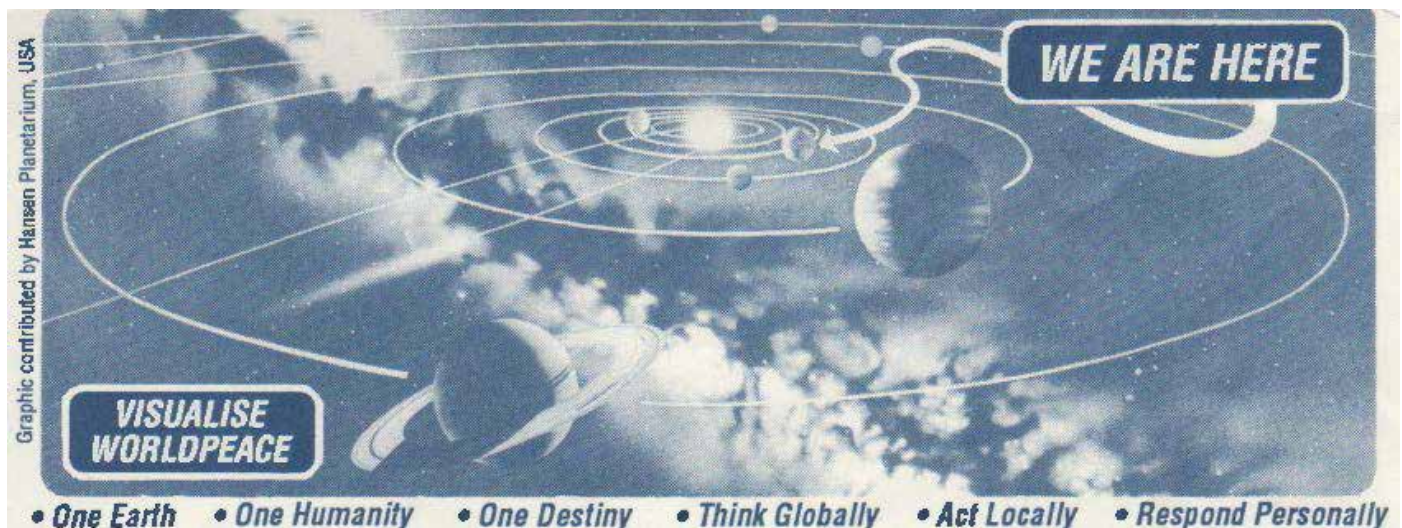
John spoke to us at our AGM a few years ago. He has personal experience of a peacekeeping mission, and has been involved with the South Australian RSL Peacekeeping Association for many years. It is timely that we update our understanding of this most important UN activity.

Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the UN to assist host countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. It has unique strengths, including legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops and police from around the globe, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multidimensional mandates.

UN Peacekeeping is guided by three basic principles:

- Consent of the parties;
- Impartiality;
- Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.

Peacekeeping is flexible and over the past two decades has been deployed in many configurations. There are currently 17 UN peace operations deployed on four continents.



It's time for earthlings to acknowledge our minor league status and collectively grasp the vastness that engulfs us all. While a widespread recognition of Earth's humble station is unlikely to end conflict here, fully comprehending our planet's infinitesimal place in the universe might be a modest step towards diminishing our hubris.

Earth is but a speck, the cosmic equivalent of subatomic particle hovering within an immensity spanning billions of light-years. And we can still savour our cleverness in figuring this out.

Marcia Bartusiak MIT

Global Peace Schools in South Australia

With Jennie Hammet from Save the Children Australia

At our May discussion evening we heard about the Global Peace Schools here in South Australia.

It started following a visit to the US when a Save the Children board member came home to explore what might be done in Australia. It was a school programme launched to involve children working for peace, initially structured for schools in countries at peace.

In 2002 Dr James Fitzpatrick launched Peace School Groups at two high schools in the Perth area. They focussed on three issues:

- Children's Knowledge
- Children's Rights and
- An opportunity to take action.

It was initially closely aligned with the UN. The UN published the book "Marie in the Shadow of the Lion" by Jerry Piasecki and this was a useful source of ideas.

In 2004 Save the Children was invited to work with primary schools and the secondary school programme was adapted to suit junior primary.

Save the children

Eglantyne Jebb was described as "a spinster in a brown cardigan" who was born in 1876 and was instrumental in founding Save the Children nearly 100 years ago. She dedicated her life to child welfare. While she called them "little pests" but also said "the future of the world rests with the child". She travelled to the Sarejevo war zone in 1913 returning to become the greatest champion of children after WW1. She was arrested for demonstrating, but her fine was paid by the prosecuting attorney.

On 19 May 1919 Save the Children was launched at a crowded gathering in the Royal Albert Hall, followed in 1920 with the International Save the Children Union being founded in Geneva. The five guiding principles adopted in 1923, and confirmed in 1924 by the League of Nations were:

1. The child must be given the means requisite for its normal development, both materially and spiritually.
2. The child that is hungry must be fed, the child that is sick must be nursed, the child that is backward must be helped, the delinquent child must be reclaimed, and the orphan and the waif must be sheltered and succoured.
3. The child must be the first to receive relief in times of distress.
4. The child must be put in a position to earn a livelihood, and must be protected against every form of exploitation.
5. The child must be brought up in the consciousness

that its talents must be devoted to the service of its fellow men.

These were presented to the UN in 1959, and adopted as the core elements of the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child 30 years later.

Peace Schools in South Australia.

On April 1 2005 Pennington Junior Primary School was accredited as a UN Global Peace School. At the presentation Education Minister Jane Lomax Smith said it was a tremendous achievement and recognised the strength and diversity of the State's public education system. "Pennington Junior Primary School regards itself as a mini United Nations with students from more than 20 different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, including refugees from war-torn countries," she said.

This was followed by Thebarton Senior College in 21 September 2007. The programme was adapted for high schools, and this was the first secondary school in Australia to receive the award.

There are now 14 schools in South Australia which have been awarded the status of Global Peace School.

Parafield Gardens Primary School had already qualified as a Peace School, but the Children's Centre, also on the school grounds, wanted to be part of the programme. It became necessary to change the programme so that children as young as 3 or 4 could be included. It takes 12 to 18 months for a school to gain accreditation, with a memorandum of understanding, and a lot of hard work to keep in contact and ensure the programme is ongoing. They were awarded their accreditation and a UN flag on 4 April this year, 2014.

The Centre's Director, Faye Stasinowsky, said it is a program that helps children, young people and the community realise the importance of understanding and advocating for children's rights and responsibilities. "We are thrilled to be recognised in this way – it highlights all the hard work our centre has done in ensuring our children and wider community understand the concepts set out in the United Nations Charter of Children's Rights. We have adapted our Early Years Learning Framework to reflect this commitment, so we have a strong focus on child rights, social inclusion, peace building and global awareness. Educating our children about these issues also empowers them to have a say on important matters affecting their well being."

Only the first three schools were called UN Global Peace Schools, as the programme ceased to be coordinated by the UN in 2008. We firmly believe that the 14 schools (now called Global Peace Schools) is a fantastic initiative, and are most grateful to Jennie Hammet from Save the Children for coming to tell us about them. Thank you Jennie.

Small Farms Save Energy

It is often assumed the only way to feed the world's rapidly growing human population is with large scale industrial agriculture. But recent scientific research is challenging this assumption. Today one billion people are malnourished and many more are finding it difficult to feed their families.

Large industrial-style farms are energy intensive, using massive amounts of fossil fuels for machinery, processing and transportation. Burning fossil fuels contributes to climate change and the increasing cost of oil is causing food prices to rise and industrial farms require more chemical inputs, such as pesticides and fertilizers.

According to a review of the scientific literature by Michael Chappell and Lilliana Lavallo, published in the journal *Agriculture and Human Values*, agriculture is a major factor in the rapid decline in global biodiversity. In their study *Food Security and Biodiversity: Can We Have Both?* The authors note that agriculture, which takes up about 40 percent of the world's land surface (excluding Antarctica), "represents perhaps the biggest challenge to biodiversity" because of the amount of natural habitat that is either converted or destroyed. Concerns about industrial agriculture as a solution to world hunger are not new.

In the 19th century when farming was shifting from small-scale to large, some agriculturalists argued that "the thinking behind industrial agriculture was based on the mistaken premise that nature is inadequate and needs to be replaced with human systems ..."

Volumes of research clearly show that small scale-farming, especially using "organic" methods, is much better in terms of environmental and biodiversity impact. But is this a practical way to feed seven billion people? Chappell and Lavallo point to research showing that "small farms using alternative agricultural techniques may be two to four times energy efficient than large conventional farms." They also found studies demonstrating that "small farms almost always produce higher output levels per unit area than larger farms." One of the studies they looked at concluded that "alternative methods could produce enough food on a global basis to sustain the current human population and potentially an even larger population, without increasing the agricultural land base."

This is in part because the alleged global food shortage

is a myth. A world where hunger and obesity are in epidemic proportions shows that the problem is more of equity and distribution than shortage. With globalised food markets and large-scale farming, those with the most money get the most food.

This is a crucial issue that deserves more study, but it seems hard to disagree with Chappell and Lavallo's conclusion: "If it is ... possible for alternative agriculture to provide sufficient yields, maintain a higher level of biodiversity, and avoid pressure to expand the agricultural land base, it would indicate that the best solution to both food security and biodiversity problems would be widespread conversion to alternative practices."

This article is presented in the context of the International Year of the Family Farm

Food needs to be grown in ways that make feeding people a bigger priority than generating profits from large agribusinesses .

This article is slightly adapted from an article in the Canadian magazine Common Ground July 2011 entitled "Small farms - smart energy" written with contributions from the David Suzuki Foundation. More information may be found at: www.david.suzuki.org



The Paech family of the Beerenberg Family Farm.

The Paech family of the Beerenberg Family Farm. Beerenberg Farm is an Australian producer of jams, condiments, sauces and dressings, located in Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills of South Australia. The company premises are a tourist attraction on the state's food-and-wine trail, and has gained an international reputation due to the use of its portion-sized products in Australian and international airlines and hotels.

Br. Steve Rocha visit—NINEISMINE update (June 2014)

In 2012 we first met Steve Rocha who was instrumental in the establishment of the **NINEISMINE** campaign, a children's participatory initiative to train children in the art of advocacy on issues of justice and inclusion. Steve spoke at our 2012 annual general meeting and explained the program was inspired by the United Nations Millennium Development Goal to end poverty.

This month Steve was back in Adelaide, and we were privileged to have him update our Executive on progress. He spoke about the progress made in persuading political parties to include child issues in their manifestos, especially in relation to the eight Millennium Development Goals.

Now the focus is the post-MDG discussion. **NINEISMINE** had asked children what they would like their goals to be. These they had passed on to Ms Amina Mohammed the special secretary to the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon for the Post 2015 Dialogue. 120,000 children across the nation filled the 'My World Survey cards' towards influencing the New Development Agenda. This survey was conducted in various Indian languages as well as in Braille. Education, health and livelihood were the main issues along with safety. It was noted that public spending on education was stagnating and so goals emphasising public spending become very important. In fact, Steve suggested that there should be a right to claim human rights and a right to keep governments and corporate leaders accountable to welfare and human rights. The new goals being framed include 'Sustainable Development Goals', with a clear focus on the environment. With children being at the heart of the dialogue, there is more hope that children would press for their achievement. The message is that child rights equate to human rights.

Advocacy at the UN General Assembly

A group of 10 children were taken from India to the Unit-

"We cannot go on living in islands of abundance, surrounded by a sea of suffering"

Pope John Paul II

ed Nations in New York. They tried to represent all children, and the 10 were selected to represent as wide a group of backgrounds as possible, including disabled, religious minority, language, a Dalit and ethnic young people. They interacted with world leaders in closed door conferences and in the corridors of the UN.

Advocacy against Child Labour

The ILO Conventions on Child Labour are important issues as India has yet to sign these conventions. About 12 million children are affected in a population where 70% are poor. The children raise a very wide range of basic issues: child labour, the rights of domestic workers, forced marriage, begging. Vijay, now a young adult in his late teens has himself designed this tool kit with some young school students and will himself conduct the workshop tool across the country. They are getting children to ask in school if they are aware of how many children are poor (70% live below the poverty line). They wish to use the school platform to get India to sign the ILO convention of Domestic worker thereby training children in the art of advocacy and the plight of 90% of India's workers that are employed in the informal sector without any job contracts or security.



Br. Steve Rocha

Hunger Summit

The highest rate of child death can be found in India, a third of this due to malnutrition. Steve stressed that children want a world free of malnutrition. **NINEISMINE** called for action with the help of Save the Children. Most infant deaths in India arise through malnutrition. Food is the basic necessity, and this has become one focus. For example a "flash" mob of 500 attended a gathering in Edmund Rice Hall in New Delhi. They practised their dance upstairs, and held serious discussions downstairs. There was a special slogan—"No Child is Born to Die", with "Food is for Everyone!" as the theme on their poster. With the

help of Save the Children this event gained international publicity timed to coincide with a conference on malnutrition in London, asking that India be the focus of the conversation at the conference. Although this 'Flash Mob' was in the city centre of India's capital and only a few meters away from Parliament the Children pressed the G8 leaders to fine tune their dialogue on hunger to focus on the right to nutrition. The Impact of this act lies in the fact that India passed its food Security bill within months of this advocacy moment.

Justice Residency at Seymour

Steve is a guest of Seymour College in Adelaide for his visit. Seymour students have visited India and surprised their Indian counterparts by showing a more intimate knowledge of the Indian situation, for example the level of poverty in the nation. The Indian students they visited were surprised to be asked about education for the poor and underprivileged. The Indian students who hosted the visitors had little personal experience or awareness of the problem. Steve explained how children want a world fit for all. UNICEF requested **NINEISMINE** to help. Some of the children have developed a card game that involves children in evaluating children rights in India during this silver jubilee year of the existence of this convention.

Human Rights

The UPR (Universal Periodic Review) was also raised by Steve where a human rights evaluation is made of each Member State by other States. Support of the UN was sought for advocacy on behalf of domestic workers whose conditions are often appalling. Steve referred to Nelson Mandela Day as an opportunity to promote human rights.

General Elections

Their goal is clear. 6% of GDP to be devoted to education, plus 5% for health as a minimum standard. At the recent election they were able to ensure all parties had

included children as a specific goal into their pre election manifestos.

Another slogan is "A World fit for all". They will approach embassies with their Circus art performances or ask these Senior Diplomats to attend their celebration on Nelson Mandela's birthday. It might be noisy as: they plan to all bring their drums and bang them for an hour and seven minutes. Another meaning entirely different to what we might expect from their wish to be heard!

He mentioned that there were still 500 days to the culmination of the Millennium Development Goals and that there should be a final push towards their achievement. He requested Australians to invite our government to ensure that the new Sustainable Development Goals include 6% on education and 5% on health (GDP public



Steve speaking to the UNAA(SA) Executive Meeting

spending) as indicators of the new goals. Children could send postcards to our politicians and to UN representatives to persuade them to support such measures. Training in children's parliament could be another possibility. Heather Southcott reminded us of Children's Week and the International Year of the Family Farm and the significance there of children's rights.

NINEISMINE is certainly inspiring.

We thank Steve and Lynne Moten, Seymour College, for coming and updating and inspiring us.

United Nations Assists Indigenous Australians

Based on a paper by Dr Valerie Cooms, "There is still distinct disadvantage in Australia," printed in *Australian Options* Autumn 2014.



Dr Valerie Cooms is a full-time member of the Tribunal. She was appointed on 4 February 2013 for a five year term.

Dr Cooms belongs to the Nunukul people of North Stradbroke Island. She has extensive experience leading Indigenous affairs organisations in the community and government sectors.

Dr Cooms has a doctorate in political history from the Australian National University, and was a visiting research fellow in the Native Title Research Unit at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) from 2009 to 2012.

Covenants of the United Nations have played an instrumental role in assisting Indigenous peoples establish their rights and protect their culture. The landmark UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007, an outcome of the International Year of Indigenous People, along with the pronouncement of two subsequent decades for Indigenous people, must represent a good example.

In a recent article entitled *There is still distinct disadvantage in Australia*, Dr Valerie Cooms, who works in the area of native title, points to some of the international influences bearing down on the local Indigenous scene, with reference to the United Nations' expectations and surveillance as well as the global anti-racist movement that has developed since the 1950s. In 1966 Australian ratification of the Convention on Civil and Political Rights depended on the removal of all racist legislation from Australian statutes, especially in Queensland. In this period international support for the rights of Aboriginal people came not only from the United Nations, but also from Amnesty International, the London Anti-Slavery Society, and US Black Panther Party along with local groups such as the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders.

The referendum result in 1967, when 90% of Australians gave the Commonwealth Government the power to legislate for Aboriginal people, meant that action had to be taken to accord Aboriginal people their human rights in order to be able to ratify UN conventions. In addition, the UN demanded that Australia enact anti-discrimination legislation. Two acts were passed in 1975, the Racial Discrimination Act and notably the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (Queensland Discriminatory Laws) Act. For some time Queensland laws had allowed the confiscation of earnings and property of Aboriginal people. In 1973, the Federal Government established the National Aboriginal Consultative Congress, but according to Dr Cooms it was probably there to "quieten the growing Aboriginal activism which was in constant contact with not only the UN but other international resistance organisations."

In the view of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, the Declaration is "the most comprehensive tool we have available to advance the rights of Indigenous peoples. The Australian Human Rights Commission in its Community Guide to the Declaration states that the preamble makes a key point about the UN.

The UN and international law have an important role in protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples. Governments cannot avoid international scrutiny for the mistreatment of their Indigenous peoples.

In 2010 Professor James Anaya, the UN Special Rapporteur, reported on the Situation of Indigenous peoples in Australia. In particular, a detailed account was given of the Northern Territory Intervention, urging removal of its racially discriminatory character and to conform to relevant international standards, heeding the voices of the affected Indigenous people. Criticism was also directed at the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing as it overlooked traditional Indigenous land tenure, threatening Indigenous peoples' cultural integrity and way of life.

Self-determination, rights to ownership and control, cultural integrity and to free prior and informed consent are some of the recurring themes of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has a mandate to discuss economic and social development, culture, the environment, education health and human rights.

The United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples will be held in New York in September 2014. The themes are:

- Rights of self-determination and permanent sovereignty over lands, territories, resources, air, ice, oceans and waters, mountains and forests;
- UN system action for the implementation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Indigenous peoples' priorities for the development with free, prior and informed consent.

More details regarding Dr Cooms' paper are available at www.australian-options.org.au

UN Arms Trade Treaty update

Australia ratified the Arms Trade Treaty 3 June 2014

In a Press Release, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has announced that Australia ratified the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on the 3rd of June.

The Arms Trade Treaty will be the first legally binding instrument ever negotiated in the United Nations to establish common standards for the international transfer of conventional arms.

Illegally traded conventional weapons are one of the world's biggest killers, claiming more than half a million victims every year.

Experience in Australia's neighbourhood, such as Bougainville in the 1980s and the Solomon Islands in the 1990s shows how destabilising the introduction of even small numbers of illicit weapons can be.

Australia was the 40th nation to ratify the treaty which was overwhelmingly adopted by the UN 12 months ago.

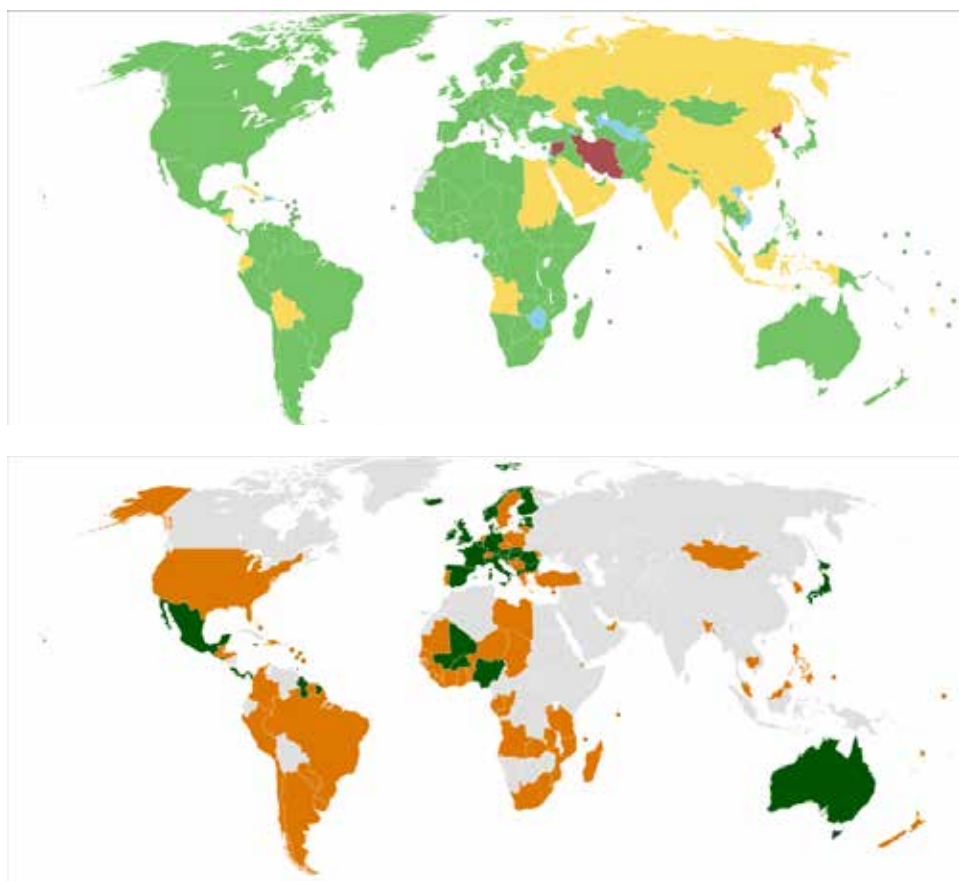
UNODA update: Towards entry into force

The treaty will come into force 90 days after 50 countries have ratified the treaty.

On 16 June - Sweden deposited its instrument of ratification to the Arms Trade Treaty

- 118 States have signed the treaty
- 41 How many States have ratified the treaty
- 154-3-23 General Assembly vote to adopt the treaty:

On 2 April 2013, the General Assembly adopted the landmark Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), regulating the international trade in conventional arms, from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships. The treaty will foster peace and security by thwarting uncontrolled destabilizing arms flows to conflict regions. It will prevent human rights abusers and violators of the law of war from being supplied with arms. And it will help keep warlords, pirates, and gangs from acquiring these deadly tools.



General Assembly vote in 2013

- In Favour
- Against
- Abstentions
- Absent
- Non Member

Signed and ratified by June 2014

- Signed
- Ratified

The ATT is part of a larger global effort begun in 1997 by Costa Rican President and 1987 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Óscar Arias. In that year, Arias led a group of Nobel Peace Prize laureates in a meeting in New York to offer the world a code of conduct for the trade in arms. This group included Elie Wiesel, Betty Williams, the Dalai Lama, José Ramos-Horta, representatives of International Physicians

for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Amnesty International, and the American Friends Service Committee. The original idea was to establish ethical standards for the arms trade that would eventually be adopted by the international community. Over the following 16 years, the Arias Foundation for Peace & Human Progress has played an instrumental role in achieving approval of the treaty.

N.E.E.N. ? NEVER HEARD OF IT !

Neither had I until three weeks ago ... National Energy Efficiency Network

NEEN is a national initiative to achieve energy savings—supporting not-for-profit community organisations in meeting the challenge of a low Carbon Sustainable Future.

Essentially it's a partnership between the Commonwealth Government and a coalition of citizens led by the Churches. Catholic Earthcare Australia, whose Director is Ms Jacqui Remond of Sydney, is the main organising arm.

Launch : Suitably, June 5th, World Environment Day, was selected as the Launch Day of NEEN here in South Australia. The venue—again suitably in the CBD of our energy-hungry city—was the Cathedral Hall in Wakefield St. Attending were some 80 people, was a mix of Energy experts, Environmentalists, Scientists, Church men, and good solid inquiring South Australian citizens. At the Launch the Director of the SA / NT sector, Ms Philippa Rowlands was introduced. Philippa will be based at 39 Wakefield St. where the general phone number is 8210 8210. She is currently away, launching NEEN in SA's Provincial cities and in Darwin and Alice Springs.

Profile Jacqui Remond



Jacqui Remond is a mother of two children under 6. with over fourteen years experience as an environmental educator and advocate. She is National Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia, the ecological agency of the Catholic Church in Australia, and now lives in Manly, NSW.

Having graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Education in Science in 1997, Jacqui taught Science and Earth and Environmental Science at schools in Melbourne, Sydney and in the Kimberley. Jacqui lectured on Environmental Science at Notre Dame University in the following areas—Global Principles of Environmental Science, Natural Resource Management and Australian Ecology.

Catholic Earthcare Australia is mandated, through the activities of research, education, advocacy and outreach to give leadership in responding to Pope John Paul's call for an 'ecological conversion' of the world's Catholics.

[Philippa's profile can be seen in the next Edition . . . when N. Territory returns her!]

UNAA (SA) at the Launch—President John, with new Members, Edward and Sanaz, Businessman Rob and Enviro-man Peter were the interested reps at this historic meeting. Sanaz interviewed a couple of the key people including Uncle Lewis O'Brien; Edward gave a very fine summation of our table's discussion and Rob Bussey was "Mr Practical".

Stop Press : It has come to mind that while putting her learnings in the Kimberley into practice Ms Remond was instrumental in getting a change in culture in one of the nation's male strongholds Those of you who have travelled from the Alice to Derby/Broome will be familiar with the Tanami Track. A short distance off the Track are situated two gold mines—"The Granites" and the "Tanami". How a youngish woman could gain entry and succeed in reforming the entrenched less-than-perfect practices of one of these mines is a matter for wonder.

Jacqui introducing herself, asked "what energizes us?". She mentioned a Yiddish proverb "God made people because God loves stories". There were some fascinating stories from the NEEN speakers during the morning. In launching NEEN in South Australia, Archbishop Philip Wilson asked "What is energy efficiency?", going on to suggest that in the past it has been driven by cost: now it is not just money—it has become part of a worldwide need to share, and that being energy efficient is about the way we go about our lives.

NEEN Launch, continued from page 10

Starting by suggesting “the cheapest and greenest energy the energy we don’t use”, Gareth Johnson, National Director of NEEN, said the solutions lie with ourselves, not with governments, and not with others.

The NEEN network encompasses a wide range of organisations with a substantial budget. By working together, the not for profit bodies can share ideas, and work together to find more energy efficient ways to go about their day-to-day activities.

Across Australia NEEN is working in a number of pilot sites. For example a child Care centre has introduced an Earth Hour each day. For one hour they turn everything off, and found not only was there zero energy use for that hour each day, but it also offered a time for everyone (and especially the children) to calm down, and face the rest of the day with less stress and strain.

The pilot site at the Kintore Elder’s Village in the NT assessed the fortnightly deliveries to the local store: all

food arriving in one delivery, and has to be stored in five refrigerated containers until it is needed in the shop. At the end of each fortnight the containers were empty, but were still using expensive diesel powered electricity. A simple saving (obvious in retrospect) was to turn off the excess storage capacity as the food was sold, with an average saving of nearly half the refrigeration cost.,

In nursing homes and age care facilities the need for heating and cooling is being examined. The number of days we we don’t really need extra heating or cooling add up, and with judicious expenditure we can use natural means such as shading etc, and make substantial savings. Light emitting diode lights offer great potential for cost saving, not only by reduced consumption, and also much lower maintenance and replacement costs.

It becomes even more important as these bodies face similar challenges at their various sites around Adelaide find an opportunity to talk to each other through NEEN, and to share ideas and success stories.

Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom

WILPF SA Branch Coordinator, Ruth Russell, gave a talk for SA History Month on the inspiring WILPF peace-women in Australia. Women suffragists who founded WILPF in 1915 sparked a women’s peace movement that continues to this day. WILPF will celebrate our centenary next year. Meanwhile, here is a snippet....

In Melbourne, on 25 March 1915, against a background of opposition to government legislation for compulsory military training for schoolboys and involvement of Australia in WWI - a European conflict, 30 women met at the Australian Church in Melbourne and formed the Sisterhood of International Peace. Soon afterwards the Women’s Peace Army with Vida Goldstein as its driving force also formed.

Australia was already involved in WW1. A month later, on 25th April 1915, ANZAC troops landed at Gallipoli with disastrous loss of life. For Mrs Warren Kerr, Vice-President of the Sisterhood, it was a personal tragedy. Her son was one of the first of the 10,000 ANZAC soldiers killed in that battle. Her grief made her more determined to work for peace. She declared herself thankful that at least her son had died before he had time to kill another mother’s son and she published at her own expense, the following plea urging young women to question war :

She starts with a quote from Winston Churchill :

“No operation in history is worthier of being pushed on with the utmost vigour, and an utter disregard for life,

than at Gallipoli. I regarded it as a legitimate war gamble for a prize of inestimable value”.

She then writes, “I think it was then that the iron entered my soul and I finally decided what my life’s work should be. Was it my loved one’s life they gambled with? Was his one of the lives to be “utterly disregarded”? How do I, his mother—how do all the mothers—live through it all? What a horrible injustice! What a degradation of motherhood! What a subjection of womanhood! Have you no hearts? Who can utterly disregard this? Dear girls, do you want to count as a great power in the nation’s life? Ignorance and indifference have made wars possible in the past. Make it now your life’s aim to help in the world-wide women’s movement to abolish war”.



Sisterhood of Peace Committee

POSTSCRIPT

UNAA(SA) AGM 13 July

Our speakers will be Bev and Ron Hall. Ron was our President during the early 1980s before Heather Southcott. He has served on our committee ever since, and is currently UNAA(SA) secretary. Over the years we have been well aware that he and Bev have been wont to disappear for brief visits to northern Canada, but they only indicated to us that it was essential to maintain contact with their northern friends. However, business at UNAA(SA) came first, and we never seemed to have time to ask Ron (or Bev) to tell us something about their contact with their first nations friends in Canada. This coming AGM meeting will give us an opportunity to rectify this.

The notice of the AGM on page 1 says a little about their work in the land of the midnight sun. I hope our members and friends will feel they can make time to join us on the afternoon of July 13th.

At our AGM we will not only have the usual business meeting (hopefully brief) involving reports and elections, but we will also present a revised Constitution for UNAA(SA). Two years ago we agreed that revision was needed, but failed when the number present at the AGM fell one short of the required quorum. I hope we will have enough members present to make the changes needed (see the contact details below if you would like to receive a copy of the proposed changes).

United Nations Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs Association, South Australia 14 July

The launch will be held at Government House on 14 July with invited guests.

We have a core group of young professional committee members who are most enthusiastic, and are planning to establish UNYP&ESA as an inspiring and active local body helping us by raising awareness of the United Nations, its agencies and its goals.

Discussion Evening 15 July

For our next discussion evenings John Spencer will come and tell us about UN Peacekeepers. He has personal experience of working overseas in a UN Peacekeeping mission, and since his return has been very much involved in local activities such as the annual UN Peacekeepers Service at the National War Memorial on North Terrace planned for 14 September.

Our following meeting is planned September 16th. That is the third Tuesday on odd numbered months.

I would like to say "thank you" to Jennie Hammet from Save the Children Australia for coming and telling us about the Global Peace Schools in South Australia on May 20th.

UN International Peace Day

Last year to celebrate Peace Day WILPF and other like minded bodies were invited to a meeting at the Grandparents for Grandchildren meeting room to update each other on our activities. It proved to be a most enlightening afternoon, the

various groups finding we tend to be so very busy following the different areas where we focus our attention, we are not really aware of the differing priorities we have in seeking a more peaceful and happier world.

We will meet on Sunday afternoon, 21st Sept - 2pm - 4.30pm and hope that this year we can have a good attendance at Pilgrim Church. UNAA(SA) is delighted to support WILPF (and the other organizations) in this initiative.

Humanitarian Day

The 19th August is World Humanitarian Day. Planning is in hand for us to celebrate it once again with a luncheon at the Tiros Restaurant at the TAFE SA Regency Campus on Friday 29th August, where invited guests will enjoy a gourmet meal while hearing about the UN and celebrating Humanitarian Day in style.

UN Day Dinner

Planning is well in hand for our UN Day Dinner. Please note Sunday 9th November at the National Wine Centre in your diary. Our speaker Alexander Downer spoke so well about the UN and his experience as UN Envoy to Cyprus that while it might seem to be a hard act to follow (especially with the help of well known local chefs helping with our celebration of the UN Year of Quinoa), our current plans are indicating it will be an even better evening.

This year is the year of the Family Farm—a further excuse to focus on the food.

UN Employment

We are the only entry in the Adelaide telephone book under *United Nations*. Hence we often receive calls, visitors, and emails, requesting help in finding UN employment. We strive to help these people as much as we can, even though the UNAA is not directly part of the UN or its agencies. Our connection is through our membership of WFUNA, the *World Federation of United Nations Associations*.

UN employment is not easy to find. There is considerable competition for positions. But one has to admire and encourage those whose ambition it is to find such a rewarding position.

In Australia the UN is represented by the *United Nations Information Centre* (UNIC) in Canberra (www.un.org.au) On their web site there is a comprehensive Careers page that outlines both the opportunities across the broad range of UN agencies, and also some of the qualifications that are needed. All we can do here in UNAA(SA) is to recommend our applicants look at the UNIC information.

We do also suggest that they become a UNAA(SA) member, and by participating in our activities they gain a wider understanding of the UN. Similarly we can recommend UN Youth, the UN Professionals and Entrepreneurs Association, as well as UNAA Academic Network. They all provide a better understanding of how the UN works, demonstrating to any potential employer that the applicant has done some homework.

John Crawford, President, June 2014, (email: pres@unaasa.org.au).