

**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC**



**Patron His Excellency Dr Ken Michael, AC
Governor of Western Australia**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2008/9
Western Australian Division**

**Presented at the Annual General Meeting
10 August 2009**

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UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA) INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2008/9

CONTENTS

- 1. Management Committee & Office Bearers**
- 2. President's Report**
- 3. Subcommittee Reports**
- 5. Financial Report**



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA WA INC.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2006/2007

OFFICE BEARERS

<i>National Vice President & President WA</i>	Judith A. Parker AM DSJ
<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Dr Jan Ryan
<i>Vice President</i>	Carolyn Gatward
<i>Vice President (Organisations)</i>	Rosie Sitorus President (UNYA)
<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>	Harvey Davies
<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	Vacant

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Neesha Seth
Curtis Clark – Office manager
Joseph Caruso- WA Ambassador
Dr Rob Hewson- chair environment committee
Anne Harris – Minute Taker
Janelle Veitch resigned MARCH 2009

ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERS

National Council of Women- Joan Mann
Community Law Association - Ethel Date resigned April 2009
Futures Assoc. – Anita Kelleher

Auditor

Mr Geoffrey Rackham

United Nations Association of Australia (Western Australia) Organisational Report 2008/09

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past year has been a busy and productive year for the Association.

The Executive Committee, responding to comments at the 2008 Annual General Meeting, has focused on increasing communication to members. Extra events have been arranged by all the subcommittees to provide a variety of experiences and create awareness of the work of UNAA(WA), UNAA and the global work of the United Nations.

A planning day was held early in 2009. During a four hour session the Committee and members discussed past achievements, the current status of the organisation and future aims and objectives. This was a most useful exercise assisting the Committee to decide on our direction and goals for the future. I recommend that this exercise be a feature of the organisation's calendar each year.

Responding to requests for better communication, the Committee proceeded with a monthly update. The update distributed by email and mail on the 15th of each month contains a "potted" account of activities in the last month, notices of events in the next month and International Days for the forthcoming month. I thank Neesha Seth and Carlyne Gatward for their commitment to produce the update. Attempts have been made to produce UN Matters, the Association's newsletter. An adviser on the graphics and layout has been secured however without an editor the newsletter has not been produced. Lack of finance has hampered the work on the newsletter and the printing process.

The Committee received the news that the State Government would no longer continue to support the Association. Previously a grant of \$5,000 per year had been received from the State Government and was used to offset some of the rent and operating costs of the office. The last grant payment was received in 2007. Faced with the prospect of closing the office, the Committee with the support of the events committee, the environment committee, human rights committee, interns and members, arranged a quiz night in early July 2009. This event was a huge task and raised \$5,000. I thank those on the quiz night committee for their time, generosity and expertise. It was a most enjoyable night. The Association is indebted to sponsors who supported the fundraising effort.

During the year, several members have arranged fundraising lunches to raise money. I thank Joan Mann and the Parker family for these contributions. The environment committee also raised a considerable amount of money. A continuous

book sale operates from the office [donations of books are requested] and a raffle was arranged.

All this fundraising has kept the Association "afloat", however it must be realised that while fundraising is in progress the volunteers in the Association cannot concentrate on our intended work. It is unfortunate that the State Government has withdrawn its support.

Subcommittees of the Association have continued to meet regularly and arrange events. Reports of these subcommittees can be found in this document. I particularly thank the chairpeople of these subcommittees for their commitment and their leadership.

Jan Ryan, Past President continued with her vision to have Perth become a human rights city. Jan and I met with the Lord Mayor of Perth, Lisa Scaffidi, to discuss the prospect and the possible involvement of the City of Perth. Whilst Lisa was supportive of the vision, she directed us to the State Minister for Justice. The 2008 State election and change of Minister has interrupted the progress of these discussions, however the topic is still on the agenda.

Jan, with her usual dedicated attention to detailed organisation, arranged in partnership with UNYA the presentation of a model UN Day at Notre Dame University, Fremantle. You will read a report of this informative day in this document. The Australian Federation of University Women WA has donated \$5,000 to sponsor the program for the next 12 months. This will enable three model UN days to be arranged at different universities in the next year. These days will be arranged in partnership with UNYA. I congratulate Jan on this program which has been presented over a number of years.

Joseph Caruso began his role as UNAA(WA) Ambassador this year and has been instrumental in extending the hand of friendship to UN groups as he travels. Recently he had a most useful meeting with the UN group in London. It is most useful to hear what is happening in different parts of the world.

Committee members connected with cultural and human rights groups throughout the year, attending events and forums. I was honoured to be a guest speaker at the photographic exhibition arranged by the Tamil Youth organisation. Through this exhibition, residents of Perth were given a clearer picture of the plight of the Tamil people. Links have been established with the Red Cross Australia WA Division and Amnesty International.

The Human Rights committee has focused on establishing partnerships with likeminded organisations. In October, the committee will partner with the World Early Childhood Association WA for a presentation during International Children's week. In January 2010, the committee will partner with the Jewish Council of WA to arrange a

tour of the Holocaust Museum to mark the International Day for Remembrance of those who suffered during the Holocaust.

In December 2008, working in partnership with Amnesty a dinner was arranged to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. The Amnesty Ambassador, Geoffrey Robertson, presented an informative and entertaining address regarding the history of the establishment of the Declaration, emphasising the significant part Australia played in the composition of the Declaration and the signing. Jan Ryan was UNAA(WA)'s representative on the committee to arrange this event. I thank her for her commitment to the process and arrangements.

On 10 December, a lunch time forum with three speakers was held to mark the signing of the Declaration 60 years ago. Dr Dawn Butterworth spoke on the Rights of the Child. Yolli Frank [a survivor of the Holocaust] was interviewed by Major Laurel Pearce. She talked passionately about the need for young people to understand that the right to practice one's own religion should be a fundamental right. Dr Jan Ryan spoke on the vision of Perth as a Human Rights Centre. Sadly, Yolli Frank died in July this year. Those present at the forum will remember the contribution of this remarkable woman to the dialogue on the day.

The Association has been fortunate to have the services of some very willing volunteers who keep the UNAA(WA) office open five days a week. The running of the office is coordinated by the office manager, Curtis Clark . Curtis is a long term member of UNAAWA and a past President. His knowledge of the association contributes to the smooth running of the office. The contribution of the volunteers to the "shop front "approach provided by this facility is invaluable to the Association. Someone commented to me "When you ring UNAA(WA) you actually have a real person answer your query, rather than an answer machine. It makes one feel good that your enquiry is valued."

The Association has also had the benefit of the volunteer contribution of a number of students over the past 12 months. Sara Fargo developed an approach to members from other cultures and strengthened the communication between members. She also set a Facebook registration for UNAA(WA). Kelly-anne Philips has revamped the membership form and examined ways to gain new members as well as supply further services for existing members. A link has been established with Students Without Borders and at present three students are contributing to the office work and the arrangement of the AGM and the Huelin lecture.

Vice President Carolyne Gatward and Treasurer Harvey Davies have worked tirelessly to present applications for grants during the year. Grant applications are hard work and their dedication to the task has been responsible for the Association receiving grants from the Office of Multicultural Interests and Lotterywest. Harvey contributed a great deal of time purchasing the new IT equipment, setting up the computer system and transferring data from one system to another.

Nationally UNAA has been capably led by John Langmore. John finishes his term in September. The Association has been fortunate to have strong leadership from a President with extraordinary knowledge of the workings of the United Nations and its policies.

UNAA(WA) was represented on the National Committee by Jan Ryan until December 2008 and since then by myself. Bi-monthly teleconferences keep all the State divisions informed. Some decision-making is done by email. The National Conference in 2008 was arranged by Queensland and attended by Jan Ryan. The 2009 Conference will be in Canberra and hosted by the ACT.

The United Nations Association is a people's movement. Without the involvement of members, the Association would not have strength. I urge you to become involved and assist to strengthen this organisation and enable its vital role of education regarding the work of United Nations to be accomplished.

Let us all work together to achieve a more vibrant and dynamic Association in 2009/10.

I thank you for the honour of leading the Association.

Judith A. Parker AM DSJ

Human Rights Committee Report

The committee has planned, hosted or participated in the following events:

- October 24th 2008 United Nations Day.
- December 8th 2008 Declaration dinner - Geoffrey Robertson guest speaker.
- December 10th 2008 Human Rights Day open house and lunchtime forum.
- March 15th 2009 Harmony Week 'Connect World Village'.

The committee has met monthly. New members are always welcome.

Members have reported on events attended:

- The Unspeakable Truth exhibition hosted by the Tamil Youth Association - Judith Parker, speaker.
- Bob Brown speech on the future of sustainability – Curtin University.
- Human Rights Commission hosted by the Federal Government.
- Public meeting hosted by Seeking Asylum and Assets - Documentary Deported to Danger.
- The Vice Chancellor's Human Rights Address and Presentation of the Sir Ronald Wilson Human Rights Awards.
- Red Cross Human Rights seminars.
- Public meetings arranged by indigenous leaders to mark Sorry Day.
- Joan Mann has participated in discussions and forums regarding women in prison.

The committee is planning:

- In partnership with the World Early Childhood Association, an event focusing on in the Rights of the Child. This event will take place during Children's Week.
- The annual Huelin Lecture to be presented on Human Rights Day December 10th, State Library Theatre at 6pm. Guest Speaker: Professor Colleen Hayward. This lecture commemorates the work of the late John Huelin.
- January 25th 2010, in partnership with the Jewish Council of WA, a tour of the Holocaust Museum.
- Jost Wischeropp has facilitated a connection with the group Students without Borders centred at Murdoch University. It is planned that in the future the human rights committee will work in partnership with this group. Information on UNAA(WA) will be available at their office and on the website. This connection has resulted in several students volunteering to work at the office. Kei Sukmadaja and Craig Williams are now volunteering in the office.

The committee has made representation focusing on the right to mobility to the Human Rights Commission.

At present it is focusing on the use of Tazar Guns in WA and monitoring the proposal that Tazar guns be used by other social services such as Transperth guards and mental health nurses.

It is assisting in drafting a letter regarding the rights of children held in detention centres on Christmas Island.

Judith Parker

Kelly-Anne Philp

UNAA(WA) Environment Committee: 2008-2009 Activities

In October 2008 the committee submitted a successful application from the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) to enable the funding of ground preparation and tree and shrub seedlings (\$4150) and complete the tree planting and native revegetation along sections of the Wooroloo Brook in the Upper Swan catchment within the Noble Falls Reserve. Approximately fifty volunteers participated in the tree planting activities on the Sunday, June 7th as part of the 2009 World Environment Day. Two thousand seedlings of trees, shrubs and sedge/grasses were planted within the designated area along the Wooroloo Brook, converting degraded C Class to A Class reserve areas.

On Thursday evening, 26th March 2009, a Public Forum was held at UWA discussing, "*Alternative Energies and Options for Climate Change Mitigation*". Approximately 70 people attended and included some participants from the Greenhouse 2009 Conference held in Perth. WA Chief Scientist, Professor Lyn Beazely, participated as MC, introducing the four speakers and facilitating the following public discussion. Speakers included Simon Middleton, describing WA's Synergy response to Climate Change, David Hilditch (CSIRO) detailing latest research results of CO₂ sequestration trials, Dr Ian Duncan on the pros and cons of Nuclear Technologies, and Dr Frank Horowitz (CSIRO) on the practical benefits of direct geothermal energy application.

Within the period, 2008/09 the environment committee also participated and attended meetings of the WA Conservation Council as an affiliate member. This included seminars including topics as the "Mining industry and sustainable energy"; "Community Climate Change Dialogue".



a)



b)

a) Participants of the Alternative Energy Forum (left to right, Rob Hewson- Environment convenor, Simon Middleton-Synergy, David Hilditch-CSIRO, Judith Parker-UNAA(WA) President, Ian Duncan, Frank Horowitz-CSIRO); b) 7th June 2009 tree planting, Noble Falls Reserve.

MODEL UN

Held at Notre Dame University, Friday 15 May 2009

The United Nations Association of Australia(WA) has held Model UN debates at the University of Western Australia, on Nuclear Proliferation; Edith Cowan University on Terrorism and Curtin University on the Rights of Indigenous People. In May, in partnership with the United Nations Youth Association (WA), we held a Model UN debate at Notre Dame University on Climate Change and Human Rights. In particular there was a focus on Sustainable Energy.

The Model UN debates are a global program that is offered at universities throughout the world. The debates provide the opportunity for university students to attempt to resolve complex global human rights issues diplomatically through simulating the debates and deliberation of the UN General Assembly of Security Council.

The forum is multidisciplinary and the students at Notre Dame were from a wide variety of disciplines. Approximately 50 students attended the day event, commencing with a welcome by the Vice Chancellor Professor Celia Hammond and followed by an excellent address by international scholar Professor Larry Davis from the College of St Benedict, St Johns, Minnesota. In the morning, the students broke into small groups to discuss resolutions to offer the General Assembly in the afternoon.

The students represent different countries, encouraging them to take a position of another political, legal and culturally different country on the issues under investigation. They learn about multilateral diplomacy, and the difficulties at arriving at compromises on human rights issues. They also learn about the procedures of the United Nations and the human rights issues debated. The students at Notre Dame gained confidence as the day progressed and there were some excellent contested debates during the afternoon. Certificates were presented by Professor Neil Drew to the students to conclude the event.

Dr Jan Ryan

Co-ordinator of the Model United Nations Association of Australia Model United Nations program.

(Jointly coordinated by Rosie Sitorus, President, United Nations Youth Association of Australia (WA)).

Lotterywest Grant – Computing Equipment

Early in 2009, UNAA(WA) applied to Lotterywest for a grant to update and expand our information technology equipment. In May, the Premier approved the recommendation by Lotterywest for a grant of \$4,160 for new IT computing equipment for UNAA(WA).

The grant provides for both a desktop and laptop computer and associated software. It also funds a projector and screen to assist speakers with presentations. This equipment will be particularly helpful when members are conducting workshops, educational forums, liaising with other organisations and promoting UNAA(WA) activities. It will also be useful for fundraising activities such as Quiz Nights.

UNAA(WA) gratefully acknowledges Lotterywest for the IT grant that enabled the purchase of the new equipment.



Lotterywest Grant - Organisational Development

The preparation of a grant proposal for the development of a organisational strategic plan is well advanced and is expected to be presented to the newly elected UNAA(WA) Executive in August 2009 for their consideration. It is intended that the strategic plan will assist in providing a more targeted focus for organisational priorities and goals and consolidating areas of strength while raising opportunities for potential growth.

Events Committee Report

**United Nations Day 2008
24th October 2008**

This social and educational event was held at the Subiaco Hotel. Entertainment was provided by upcoming vocalist and guitarist Danni Steffanetti. President Judith Parker spoke about the role and activities of the United Nations and UNAA(WA). It was a great opportunity for our members and the community to network and discuss common issues in a friendly environment.



**Launch of Harmony Week – ‘Connect World Village’
15th March 2009**

On Sunday 15 March 2009, UNAA(WA) hosted a stall on the Burswood Park Foreshore along with over 30 other community organisations at the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI)'s 'Connect World Village'. The Citizenship and Multicultural Interests Minister, the Hon. John Castrilli MLA, officially launched Harmony Week 2009 at this event.

Harmony Week celebrates our State's rich multicultural diversity while acknowledging that racism and discrimination create harmful barriers within the community.

At the 'Connect World Village', the main entertainment stage hosted cultural performances and the stalls showcased a diverse range of multicultural products and activities to the public. UNAA(WA) acknowledges the OMI for the provision of a grant to assist with holding the stall, in particular for the printing of our calendars/bookmarks that were given to stall visitors.



International Year of Astronomy Quiz Night 2009
7th July 2009

The Quiz Night was held at the Belmont Sports and Recreation Club and attracted over 200 guests. The event marked the UN International Year of Astronomy and raised \$5,000 to ensure the continued operation of the UNAA(WA) to educate and promote important UN-related issues within the WA community

Neesha Seth
Events Committee Convenor

**FROM THE DESK
OF
UNAA(WA) AMBASSADOR**

July 2009

Dear Members

It is with pleasure that I report in the capacity of my first anniversary as UNAA(WA) Ambassador having previously served four terms as Vice President and Acting President for one term.

The past year has seen the UNAA(WA) achieve ensuring viability and positive, outreaching progress in the promotion of Humanitarian Rights, Environmental responsibility, sustainability, awareness programmes and aligned community cores to upholding, promoting and protecting the United Nations Millennium Goals (MDG's) objectives.

Whilst we are a relatively small organisation in Western Australia, our Executive Committees have borne a fruitful and active positive continuing engagement with promoting the core essential UN values in our community.

My Ambassadorial roles are to enhance, strengthen and raise awareness of the links of our Western Australian Division with National and International UN Associations in keeping with this office and I have had the opportunity to meet recently with our London UN – UK Association with a view, to share sustainable common interests in strengthening our relationships between our two organisations.

On a personal perspective and from my corporate international work involvement, I have been invited to join the Miracles Charity organisation in London, which has been conceived to provide prosthetic care and assistance for the landmine survivors and disabled citizens in Bosnia – Herzegovina and I will be visiting later in the year.

In May 2009, I attended the International Global Water Conference in Zurich, which addressed the world's needs of water in a changing climate, followed by meetings in London with "Water Aid" an organisation that provides water to the poorest of people in developing countries. Both conferences made reference to the United Nations Millennium Goals (MDG's).


As we live in a world of sometimes "conflicting of purpose" there is never as before a greater need for the role of UN and one could not appreciate a world without the UN presence.

May I convey to the outgoing Executive Members, my appreciation for the dedicated and committed voluntary work and further congratulate the incoming Executive on their election to office and the task, to expand the mission message of UNAA(WA) in campaigning for a strong, credible and effective United Nations.

For my part, it has been indeed a privilege to serve and continue with such a dedicated team of volunteers.

May I convey every success to the UNAA(WA) new office bearers.

Yours sincerely


JOSEPH A. CARUSO
UNAA(WA) Ambassador

Annex: UNAAWA Annual Financial Report

United Nations Association of Australia (WA Division)
Statement of Income & Expenditure for the year ending 30th June 2009

Income			
bank interest			\$0.76
donations			\$195.00
sales			
	books	\$27.00	
	badges	\$45.00	
		<u>\$72.00</u>	\$72.00
membership			
	ordinary	\$1,150.00	
	concession	\$800.00	
	family	\$200.00	
	organisation	\$565.00	
		<u>\$2,715.00</u>	\$2,715.00
events			
	UN Day	\$750.00	
	Harmony week grant	\$400.00	
	quiz night	\$25.00	
	other	\$704.00	
		<u>\$1,879.00</u>	\$1,879.00
	Environment grant for tree planting		\$4,150.00
	Grant for new computing equipment		\$4,160.00
	Refund on printer		\$50.00
			<u><u>\$13,221.76</u></u>
Expenditure			
bank charges			\$4.50
auditor			\$286.00
federal UNAA levy			\$880.00
office			
	rent	\$3,397.60	
	supplies, photocopying	\$1,088.64	
	phone	\$1,123.04	
	computing non-capital expenses	\$506.90	
	other	\$201.41	
		<u>\$6,317.59</u>	\$6,317.59
new computing equipment			\$4,421.17
environment			
	tree planting	\$3,693.53	
	donation to woylies	\$3,500.00	
	other	\$798.61	
		<u>\$7,992.14</u>	\$7,992.14
events			
	UN Day	\$780.00	
	Harmony Week	\$350.00	
		<u>\$1,130.00</u>	\$1,130.00
donation to UNYA			\$200.00
			<u><u>\$21,231.40</u></u>
Surplus/Deficit			<u><u>-\$8,009.64</u></u>

United Nations Association of Australia (WA Division)
Balance Sheet for the year ending 30th June 2009

	30-June-2009	30-June-2008
Assets		
Current Assets		
BankWest account	\$3,973.76	\$12,195.40
Total Current Assets	<u>\$3,973.76</u>	<u>\$12,195.40</u>
Non-current Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Assets	<u>\$3,973.76</u>	<u>\$12,195.40</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Unpresented cheques #531	\$55.70	#461 \$267.70
Total Liabilities	<u>\$55.70</u>	<u>\$267.70</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$3,918.06</u>	<u>\$11,927.70</u>
Members' Funds		
Opening Balance	\$11,927.70	\$9,819.07
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	-\$8,009.64	\$2,108.63
Total Members' Funds	<u>\$3,918.06</u>	<u>\$11,927.70</u>

AUDIT OPINION

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA) INCORPORATED

In my opinion, the attached:

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009
truly reflect the financial activity and the financial year end status of the Association
in 2008/2009

G E RACKHAM
A S A (CPA - AUST)
23-Jul-09