



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF AUSTRALIA Inc.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

2000 - 2001

FIFTY - FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

International Year of Volunteers

United Nations Year of Dialogue  
Among Civilizations

International Year of Mobilisation  
against Racism, Racial Discrimination,  
Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION Inc.

PATRON His Excellency Sir Eric Neal , AC , CVO  
Governor of South Australia

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2000 - 2001

PRESIDENT Mrs Heather Southcott A.M.

VICE-PRESIDENTS Mr John Crawford  
Mr Ron Hall  
Mrs Sheila Hill

SECRETARY Mrs Sheila Hill

TREASURER Mr John Crawford

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS Mr Ivo Elts  
Mrs Sathavy Sucs  
Ms Rosemary McKay  
Mr Glen Woodward  
Ms Beth Warwick (part) Ms Merry Wickes (part)

CORPORATE MEMBERS Baha'i Community ; Mr Geoff Dibden  
Catholic Women's League ;Mrs Sheila Hill  
Aboriginal Advancement League ;  
Mrs Betty Sumner

UNYA Representative Mr Julian Egan

COMMITTEES UNAA Status of Women  
Mrs Marilyn Rolls (part) Mrs Sheila Hill (part)  
United Nations Youth Association  
Mr Julian Egan  
Int. Year of Community Project  
Mr Glen Woodward

OFFICE STAFF (Volunteers) Mrs Cynthia James (Librarian)  
Mrs Mabs Tassell  
Mrs Sathavy Sucs  
Mr Ron Hall  
Mrs Carol Trout  
Ms Fotini Lesses

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION (INC.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2000 - 2001 by Heather Southcott

Overview

A challenging year as we continue to depend on volunteers to staff the office and contribute to our committees work. I'm sure the UN was thinking of us when they declared a special year for volunteers.

All our volunteers are important, but I wish to record our special thanks to Cynthia James, our librarian, who is a source of knowledge. We have welcomed Fotini Lesses as our Friday office volunteer who joins with the office team of Mabs, Sathavy, Carol, Cynthia, Ron and Heather

UN National Youth Conference (UNYC) was held in Adelaide in July 2000. It was run by a special conference committee chaired by Julian Egan; a credit to them and to UNAA. Congratulations

Community Presence

We maintain our high profile through representation on committees and by networking with other organisations

Yale We record the death of Dr Winifred Wall (aged 100); a long time member and supporter of our association

Vice-Patron We are delighted that Sister Patricia Pak Poy has accepted our invitation to become a vice-patron. We honour her for her untiring efforts to ban the use of landmines world wide.

Focus Since the last report, we continued to observe the International Year for a Culture of Peace. We are now observing the International Year of Volunteers and the International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

We are planning an event on July 4th to honour international volunteers (and their organisations that support them).

We are also working with National Council of Women of S.A. on a seminar on Sept. 15th on International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

We are planning to strengthen our observance of UN Day on Wednesday October 24th which is also Universal Childrens Day and falls within Childrens Week in S.A. We are working with the RSL, defence forces, UN peacekeepers, Baha'i groups

diplomatic corps in S.A., Multifaith Assoc. and Childrens Week c/tee

We will be hosting the Federal Conference and Council in 2002 on a theme of Eco-Tourism, as 2002 is Int. Year of Eco-Tourism.

We continue to work with students from the Politics Department of the University of Adelaide, the topic chosen in 2000 was Sovereignty v. Intervention to protect Human Rights. One 2001 project was on 'International Community Sanctions imposed in South Africa, Iraq and Afghanistan'; what other options were available to protect human rights.

#### Executive Committee

We have missed Ricky Lee during his time in ACT, we look forward to his return in 2001.

Geoff Dibdin rejoined the c/tee to represent the Baha'i groups.

We coopted Merry Wickes to our committee

Sheila Hill was elected as a vice-president following Malcolm McArthur's retirement and absence overseas.

Specific responsibilities include

Volunteer showcase; Sheila Hill

Finances; John Crawford; GST; auditor; working with UNYA

Int Year of Community Project; Glen Woodward

Int Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations; Heather Southcott

UNIFEM Breakfast committee Heather Southcott

Children's Week of SA committee; Heather Southcott

Status of Women committee; Sheila Hill

UNYA; Julian Egan

Aboriginal issues; Ron Hall and Betty Sumner

Updating IT equipment; John Crawford

Human Rights; Heather Southcott

Federal Vice-President Heather Southcott

Office manager; Heather Southcott

nts We thank the State Government for their ongoing support

We receive a \$3500 grant, together with continued rent subsidy

We also received \$2500 from the Norman Percy Cole which is to be used for encouragement grants to disadvantaged children during Childrens WSeek and also to support our schools programme

ce Lease has been extended. Despite the subsidy it is becoming very expensive due to extra charges for cleaning, power, and security. Following a break in to the building (not our office) conditions of use have been tightened up, including the requirement to have a \$10 M public liability cover

## Events

- \* Annual General Meeting in June; Speaker was our Federal President Professor Margaret Reynolds who was in Adelaide to take part in the World Environment Day programme. We thank Sheila Hill who coordinated Margaret's visit
- \* World Peace Prayer Ceremony (Invoking the Global Soul); Cynthia James and Emily Hunt spoke on behalf of UNAA
- \* UNESCO Values Education events ;PEACE-Learn it ; Be it ;Teach it
- \* Federal Conference and Council Meeting in Hobart in July 2000 S.A. was represented by Heather Southcott and Rosemary McKay . Our resolutions covered Deaf/Blind Dual disabilities issues and Bi-Lingual education ( relating to aboriginal language inclusion)
- \* UNIFEM Breakfast and International Women's Day Lunch
- \* Garden Party at Government House for representatives of associations of which the Governor is Patron
- \* Australian Red Cross Seminar on Women and War
- \* Launch of the Reconciliation Public Arts project
- \* Picnic to welcome Refugee families
- \* Unity in Diversity event at Education Centre
- \* Many events organised by the Multicultural Forum
- \* Hungarian Millenium celebration
- \* Brahma Kumaris Int. Year of Culture of Peace manifesto signing
- \* Public Hearing of government enquiry into Australian Relations with the UN in the post cold war period
- \* special Baha'i Dinner for Int Year of Culture of Peace and also several local Baha'i communities events
- \* events during Children's Week

Conclusion My thanks again for the continued support from members ; we work well as a supportive team.



## United Nations Youth Association of South Australia

*Report to the 2001 Annual General Meeting of United Nations Association of South Australia*

This report details the activities of the South Australian Division of the United Nations Youth Association in the period May 2000 - May 2001.

May began with the running of the annual Boutros Ghali Shield Competition (mock Security Council). The competition proceeded well with Pembroke taking out the honours.

Of course the major event for 2000 was the United Nations Youth Conference (UNYC) which was staged in Adelaide from July 2 to 9 under the theme '*Pathways to a better future*'. The 2000 UNYC provided the setting for a number of new initiatives. Such developments included the first ever UNYC launch, the development of information packs for sponsorship and promotional purposes, the introduction of seminars, a delegate address and a time capsule. Amongst other achievements the UNYC secured some fantastic venues, notably Edmund Wright House for the General Assembly, and succeeded in securing substantial sponsorship.

It was noted by many conference participants that we had an extremely high level of debate in the UNYC's mock sessions. The delegates also heard from a range of high calibre speakers including the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Despoja, Tim Flannery and Angelique Doueichi.

Overall, UNYA SA received an extremely positive response from all involved in the conference. Delegates, observers and National Councillors agreed that South Australia set the new benchmark for future conferences.

Following the UNYC was the UNYA SA Annual General Meeting. While it ushered in a number of new faces the AGM also saw the departure of Scott Ma after a number of years at the helm of the organisation. Scott was thanked for his commitment and dedication to the work of UNYA over the years.

The new Executive defined a number of objectives for its term in office including:

- The development of existing events such as the Southern Youth Programme and BGS
- A focus on developing administrative and service tools for members
- The commencement of building a greater profile for the organisation; and
- Continued consolidation of policy administration, of relations with National Council and external bodies such as the Youth Environment Council and schools.

The Education Committee was the first to make its mark in the new term, coordinating a successful schools programme at Marryatville High School. Notably, the session was worked into the assessable curriculum of the course for 2000.

In terms of social activities a fundraiser was staged in August in support of Brendan Lim who was selected at the UNYC as the South Australian representative in the Australian Delegation to the Hague International Model United Nations.

During September the Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed members at Torrens Building. Geared to complement the Division's national policy responsibilities, the event offered a unique opportunity for members and executives alike to explore Australia's relations with the region.

The President represented UNYA SA at the January session of the UNYA National Council in Melbourne.

Following on from promotional work throughout December 2000 - January 2001, interviews for the 2001 Youth Representative to the Permanent Australian Delegation to the United Nations were conducted. The interviews were conducted by the President, Vice President and Immediate Past President. An important foundation has been laid in terms of the promotion of the position, the development of methods of interviewing and the creation of an appropriate set of questions for the future.

The first event of the New Year was the Southern Youth Programme. As part of the divisions ongoing commitment to extending UNYAs services to all socio-economic brackets UNYA SA coordinated its second access programme in the Southern Vales with eight different schools in attendance. The Education committee placed an emphasis on human rights, examining issues such as what human rights are, where they exist in Australian society, and how to exercise them. The SYP developed basic concepts of government and rights before moving onto the more complex issues of international human rights. Supported by Mission SA and the City of Onkaparinga UNYA SA received positive feedback from all involved. Rowan was thanked for his exceptional work in bringing the programme together.

In March the Annual State Conference was staged at the Rymil Conference Centre at Woodhouse in the Adelaide hills. With a smaller number of delegates the conference had a more intimate feel and also offered an excellent level of discussion in workshops and within the mock General Assembly.

March also saw the introduction of the UNYA t-shirt. The shirt was designed and printed by the President and Immediate Past President by the President. We hope that they will provide a source of income for UNYA in the future.

Since the end of 2000 the coordinators of the Boutros Ghali Shield had been working to develop the competition. A successful promotional campaign meant that this year's council has a full complement of member states. After the success of the introductory weekend we look forward to the competition which will be staged in the Adelaide University Council Room next weekend.

Other activities during this period have included the development of a state web page, participation of Executives in the National Youth Development Conference, Peace Conference and Youth Environment Council and the selection of the South Australian Delegation to the 2001 Sydney United Nations Youth Conference. The State executive also undertook a number of administrative reforms including the development of a procedure for the selection of UNYC observers, the creation of a new logo and a restructuring of the State Executive.

Finally, UNYA SA would like to thank the UNAA for their support over this period and in particular during the UNYC. The State Executive looks forward to continued good relations with UNAA SA.

The Annual General Meeting of UNYA SA is scheduled to take place after the return of the SA UNYC delegation in late July.

STATE EXECUTIVE JULY 2000 - JULY 2001

**Julian Egan**

*President*

**Emily Hunt**

*Vice President*

**Rose Linh Le**

*Secretary*

**Chloe Ey**

*Treasurer*

**Rowan Nicholson**

*Education Coordinator*

**Matt Redmond**

*Conferences Coordinator*

**Patrick Khoo**

*Social Activities Coordinator*

**Tim Clark**

*Information Officer*

**Scott Ma**

*Immediate Past President*

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF COMMUNITY PROJECT

Since my presentation at the Samoan Peoples' Assembly last year our efforts have been mainly in distributing our literature to key people and organisations such as

Dr Keith Suter

History Trust of S.A. (their Conference theme is 'Community')

Peoples Assembly in Los Angeles

Our objective at this stage is to gain acceptance of the concept and at a later stage to cooperate with a similar group in UNAA (NSW) to seek UN endorsement.

Glen Woodward (convener)



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (S.A. DIVISION) INC  
STATUS OF WOMEN COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT April 2000 - August 2000

The UNAA Status of Women Committee can justifiably take satisfaction in our activities and achievements to August 2000. We focussed on three major issues, whose outcomes confirm the relevance and value of our Committee's networking and support role. The first of these, the Taryn House project, developed from just "an idea" into a supported accommodation service for former women prisoners that has now been firmly placed on the State and Federal Governments' agenda. Member organisations offered practical help and support, which was vital in persuading Government to give the project a chance to prove its worth, even though this extremely needy group of homeless women ex-prisoners is relatively small. Government funding for a 12 month pilot project from March 2000 until February 2001, and another generous grant from the Good Shepherd Sisters in Victoria has enabled the service to continue. Centacare has now taken over day to day management of the service. Hopefully the Taryn House project will be accepted for on-going Government funding, now that outreach services have been expanded to include women living independently with their families under longer term tenancies.

The second issue was a campaign to retain the Women's Studies Resource Centre, which faced de-funding. This library, which was established by women of South Australia some 25 years ago, has a large and unique collection of books, journals and videos. It provides a valuable service to gender studies students, particularly those attending TAFE colleges, the three Universities, and to some secondary students as well. Lobbying by many individual women and women's organisations eventually led to a Memorandum of Understanding being signed in which the State Government agreed to pay a fixed amount for Operating Expenses and rental, as well as the salary of a Library Technician, until June 2002. In turn, the Centre was required to secure additional funds from each of the Universities. Women's Health Statewide has recently agreed to extend the Centre's current lease, and the Opposition has agreed to support funding of the Centre should it achieve Government at the next State election. The Centre is surviving!

The third issue was the World March of Women campaign, officially launched in over 50 countries around the world on March 8, 2000. This marked the beginning of a massive signature campaign aimed at raising awareness and mobilising action against poverty and all forms of violence against women. During the ensuing 7 months, 6000 non-governmental organisations from 161 countries and territories collected 5,084,546 signatures on postcards and petitions which were delivered to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York on October 17, 2000 - The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Delegates from the World March of Women also addressed the General Assembly. An international delegation of the World March of Women met with the Presidents of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. These global political and economic decision-makers were confronted by a world wide grass roots movement demanding that they make radical policy changes.

### Other Activities

In April, the Australian Federation of University Women held its triennial national conference in Adelaide, and held a Capacity Building Workshop for non-government organisations. Our Committee was well represented, as several of our member organisations provided facilitators for the workshops.

In May, we invited Elspeth McInnes, Executive Officer of the National Council of Single Mothers and their Children to speak to us about their "Sole Parent Proud" campaign, aimed at countering negative stereotypes about single parents and their children. We learned about income legal and housing support available to sole parents, the effects of budgetary cut backs to Legal Aid, how financial support for non-resident parents affected Child Support packages, the 1999 Welfare Review, and Mutual Obligation policy in relation to Job Training schemes. We attended meetings to hear reports by three SA women who attended the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women held in New York in March. This consisted of a review of progress (frustratingly slow) since the World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, and preparation for the Beijing Plus Five Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held in June. A Women and War Conference organised by Red Cross focussed on the displacement and health impacts of war. We received correspondence regarding the 4 Bills proposed for Prostitution Law Reform. Of these, our committee agreed in principle support for Prostitution Law reform and that our preferred option was the licensing Bill aimed at decriminalisation and regulation. We wrote to certain members of Parliament along those lines.

In June, the Bahai brought out Layli Miller Bashir, an attorney practising in international law, who gave several seminars about female genital mutilation. Layli's successful Appeal for Asylum set a precedent in USA Immigration Law. After several years' lack of progress, we were pleased to learn that just before the end of her term as Lord Mayor, Dr. Jane Lomax-Smith had obtained approval of the Adelaide City Councillors to incorporate the facade of the former South Adelaide Creche (built in 1896) into a pocket park with a garden adjacent to an existing child care centre.

Our July meeting was cancelled to allow members to attend a public lecture by Dr. Keith Suter a distinguished speaker and former president of the UNAA. His topic was "Globalisation: Is Free Trade Fair Trade?" As we have continued to support and follow with interest the international ban on landmines campaign, we were pleased to learn that by end of July 2000 there were 137 signatory countries and 100 countries that had ratified the Ottawa Treaty.

In early August, members of our committee again visited the women's prison, and the group appreciated the generous time given by the General Manager and 2 other officers. Discussion focussed on trends in prison management and the consequences of Departmental funding cuts. We were pleased to note that staff attitudes were encouraging rehabilitation of prisoners rather than punishment, and we saw considerable improvements in the educational, dining and kitchen facilities. The major prison accommodation problem is the predominance of remand prisoners with no separate facilities from convicted inmates, so it was disappointing to learn that plans to build a new women's prison had been abandoned.

At the end of my term as President, I would like to again record my appreciation of the support, interest and cooperation of all members of this Committee. In particular, I acknowledge our Minutes Secretary, Mrs. Alleyne Womersley, who has been unfailing supportive in many ways, our Treasurer, Mrs. Mavis Ellis, who has accurately kept records of our finances, and Mrs. Heather Southcott, who has been a constant source of back-up and encouragement. Finally, I wish our new president, Mrs. Sheila Hill, every success as she leads the committee in its work.

**Marilyn Rolls**

**Annual Report August 2000 - March 2001**  
**United Nations Association (S.A.Division) Inc**  
**Status of Women Committee**

**Preamble**

I would first like to thank Marilyn Rolls, President of this committee for some years for handing on to me a genial and cooperative group last August and for continuing to back me with Adelaide knowledge which, for me as a recent resident, is still sparse. Marilyn will report on the first part of 2000.

Throughout the year members have been reliable and supportive and I also thank my Vice President, Heather Beckman for standing in for me at the meeting in October when I was out of action and for undertaking to represent us at various events in my stead.

Apart from handling the distribution of minutes, I was really not able to "take on" this committee until December - broken hips are inclined to take one out of circulation. However, the committee carried on with its work and our December meeting was a planning night for 2001 and Christmas supper. Almost all members attended and some good ideas were put forward. More on that later.

**Activities**

The November meeting was cancelled in order to allow members to attend the public meeting on Restorative Justice and during that month, members also attended the AGM of the Australian Church Women.

Gloria Hunt, a committee member and active participant in the Para Hills West Adult Campus had explained the worth of this unit in the depressed area north of Adelaide. We visited the campus in November and learned first hand of the great work being done. They were also in difficulties with transport and we offered our advocacy skills when they had their application ready. This is being done in 2001 and we will be advised.

January and February were quiet as most organisations were in recess but the opportunity was taken to contact all those on our mailing list to invite them back to meetings and to remind them of the subscription due by them or their organisation. The letter elicited a good financial response but, to date, no new members have joined us. February also saw members participate in the Caritas Picnic day in Rymill Park to offer support to refugees and asylum seekers. A great day

March was quite active with celebrations for International Women's Day and the Unifem Breakfast attended by a good representation of members. As thanks to our Auditor, Jenny was taken to the lunch The World Day of Prayer, the SA Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission's launch of the Year of Peace between Cultures, a morning tea hosted by the Office of the Status of Women (SA) to hear British sociologist/feminist Bea Campbell speak were also attended. Rosemary Calder, current head of the Federal Office of the Status of Women also visited Adelaide in March and we tendered two points - our concern at the plight of women and children being held in detention centres, and the non-acceptance of the CEDAW protocol by the Federal Government.

At the December planning meeting the committee decided to have a "focus" for 2001 and, after discussion, clinical depression as it affects women was chosen. Rather than purely business meetings for the first three months of 2001 it was also decided to use these months to gather information by inviting specialized speakers.

February saw Mark Boyce, Chaplain to the North West Regional Mental Health Service attend our meeting - very enlightening. In March a panel of three speakers told their stories of how depression had and was still affecting their lives. Even more enlightening. The April meeting is to hear Dr. Danielle Costa from Women's Health Statewide, speak on her research into clinical depression.

May, June and July will be a different format in that a brief business meeting will be held early on a Friday morning - over coffee etc. to be followed by a visit to a facility to further understand the effects of clinical depression. May will be our usual to the Northfield Women's Prison, but with the added segment of a discussion with the attending doctor on the plight of women in prison who succumb to depression..

August will be our AGM to be followed by September, October and November to be the usual business meeting at which we will evaluate what we have learned and decide on any advocacy needed in the community. December seems like a good time to have supper together and decide on 2002.

In the midst of this we are also taking part in the "Look at us Now" celebration of women in the past 100 years since Federation. Many of our organisations have grown, prospered and, in some cases taken new directions over the years. It is our plan to showcase all the organisations with which we have contact to show our committee as a Network rather than a committee that works in isolation.

As I said at the beginning, I thank the members of this Committee for their geniality and co-operation but my special thanks go to Alleyne Walmsley our Minute Secretary whose work ensures that anyone not at the meeting knows exactly what went on. Also to Mavis Ellis who has faithfully carried out the duties of Treasurer for many years but is going to have a well earned rest after our AGM. As the that event is not until August I hope that members are considering taking an office this year - in addition to a Treasurer, there are other vacancies coming up.

Finally I would commend this committee to other organisations and wish they would again send a representative. We learn a great deal - for ourselves and to take back to our groups - and would be very pleased to welcome new individuals or organisational representatives.

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