



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA Inc.**

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

2006 - 2007

FIFTY - SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INC.**

**PATRON Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson AC . CVO. MBE
Governor of South Australia**

Members of Executive Committee 2006 – 2007

PRESIDENT Mrs. Heather Southcott A.M.

**VICE-PRESIDENTS Mr John Crawford
Mrs. Sheila Hill A.M.
Mr Ron Hall**

SECRETARY Mrs Sheila Hill A.M.

TREASURER Mr John Crawford

**CORPORATE MEMBERS Catholic Women's League Miss Tess Donnellan
Aboriginal Advancement League
Baha'i Community Mrs Manijeh Shahzadeh
Women's Int. League For Ms Ruth Russell
Peace and Freedom**

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS Ms Rosemary McKay
Mr Glen Woodward
Mrs. Lidia Moretti
Mrs Sathavy Suos
Br. Peter Faulkner
Mrs. Maria Barredo**

UNYA Mr Alex Douglas

**Contacts UNAA Status of Women Committee Mrs Pat Hardy
Mrs Kath Smith
Environment programme Br Peter Faulkner
Community programme Mr Glen Woodward**

**Office Staff (Volunteers) Mrs Cynthia James Mrs Sathavy Suos
Mrs Mabs Tassell Br Peter Faulkner
Mr Ron Hall**

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INC.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2006 – 2007 Heather Southcott

Patron We express our thanks to our Patron, Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia Marjorie Jackson Nelson for her support for our association and also for the United Nations Youth Association during her term of office . We wish her well and good health in her retirement

Executive We welcomed two new members ;Mrs Lidia Moretti and Ms Maria Barredo. Our Vice-President and secretary Mrs Sheila Hill has taken 12 months off from meetings due to health reasons. We look forward to her return. We held a planning day in January and discussed sharing responsibility ; greater involvement of and better communication to our members. As we have no paid staff we depend on our members. John Crawford has updated our computers and we are planning to send our newsletters by e-mail where possible.

We congratulated our Vice-President and Treasurer John Crawford on receiving the Amnesty Distinguished Service Award.

Arnold Cielens who has advocated for the special needs of the DeafBlind received a Citizen of the Year Award from the Tea Tree Gully Council.

We recorded with sadness the death of Miss Barbara Godson , one of our early volunteers and loyal supporter

We have an active Status of Women Committee and United Nations Youth Association ; their reports make interesting reading

Br Peter Faulkner researches and monitors environmental . social justice and sustainability issues and reports to the executive ; on topics such as Planet Earth, sources of energy, international fuel sources Palm Sunday Rally; International .Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

We met with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Affordable housing and also with union representatives from the Philippines who spoke on the human rights abuses there. We submitted a resolution on this to UNAA Jodie Matire from Peace Brigades International informed us of human rights issues in Columbia.

On International Human Rights Day in December a Roundtable discussed issues of Grandparenting and Sustainability from both indigenous and non-indigenous points of view.

Our WILPF representative Ruth Russell was involved in starting an Adelaide Chorus if Women and in setting up the Peace of the Action programme on Radio Adelaide.

We thank our new auditor Chris Shaw for his services.

At our Annual General Meeting in June , the Baha'li representative on our Executive , Manijeh Shahzadeh spoke on Human Rights of Baha'is in Iran.

We received a grant from Norman Percy Cole trust (first for some time) which enabled us to give \$2000 to SA Children's Week committee for Encouragement grants to schools to assist children to take part in Children's Week activities

On United Nations Day October 24 Glen Woodward laid peace roses on our behalf on the steps of the War Memorial during the UN Peacekeepers Annual Service. Glen also arranged for the Adelaide City Council to fly the UN flag on North Terrace / King William Street corner.

The UN Annual Dinner in October was well attended (thanks to the efforts of Lidia Moretti) Guests were most appreciative of the address by Mr John von Doussa President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission The dinner also raised a welcome \$ 1710 for UNAASA coffers

Highlights of the Year were

* The production and Launch of our special 20 second Community Announcement video " SA ; A United Way of Life" . Our gratitude to Sheila Hill and her son Chris and their friends for the production of the Video And also to Multicultural SA for a \$2000 grant towards it; and to the members of different communities living in Adelaide who were the ACTORS and STARS of the video. The video has been shown widely (free of charge to us) on several commercial TV networks .Copies of the CD and Video are available at a modest cost. Video is still showing.

* We coordinated a series of week long events to mark the International Day of Peace on 21 September. A number of community and churches groups schools and individuals took part This was part of an international project to mark the day with a 24 hour Peace Vigil.

Grants We acknowledge the continuing support of the Premier and State Government. We receive a \$6000 grant and also some assistance towards the rent of our office in Torrens Building.

United Nations Association of Australia As our Federal body does not receive any government support, all members of UNAA have been asked to pay a levy of \$5 to allow it to continue to function

Other Activities We are able to maintain our profile and effectiveness through representation on other committees and through networking with other organizations

Finally I want to express my thanks to all of our volunteers and members

Report to United Nations Association of Australia (SA Division) Inc. Status of Women Committee April 2006 – March 2007

The UNAA Status of Women Committee acted in 2006/2007 as a forum for the discussion of issues that impact on the quality of women's lives in South Australia. Issues are referred to and from member organizations. Meetings are held monthly at NCW House on South Terrace.

Member organisations include:

Australian Church Women (Judith Brown)
Australian Democrats (Ruth Russell and Heather Southcott)
Australian Federation of University Women (Alison Gent and Fliss Lord)
Catholic Women's League (Kath Smith)
Independent members: Heather Beckmann, Alleyne Womersley, Zetta Karay
Margaret Flint
Sorooptimists (Pat Hardy and Sing Ping Ting)
Uniting Church Adult Fellowships (Marj Crawford)
United Nations Of Australia (SA Div.) Heather Southcott and Sheila Hill
Women's Electoral Lobby (Marilyn Rolls)
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Ruth Russell)
Zonta Club of Adelaide (Christine Campbell)

In May, 2006, our speaker was Anna Leukowitz, a member of YWCA who was a non-government member of the Federal Government delegation to the UN Commission for the Status of Women meeting in New York in March, 2006.

In June, Sheila Hill attended the Women Speak Network Meetings held at the Cato Conference Centre, Melbourne. Conference attendance was good with around 40 participants. It was pleasing that there was some continuity of delegates as most knew what it was all about and many knew each other already which facilitated discussion. Sadly we only had one indigenous participant but she was an excellent delegate and really pulled us out of our comfort zone. Other cultural groups were better represented because of W/S's commitment to the as-yet- unfunded NIRWA. For the Cross- Secretariat meeting on the Saturday there were almost a hundred in attendance from the four funded secretariats and from Office for Women.

July is the month of the UNAA Status of Women Film night where two films and a curry and spaghetti supper were enjoyed by all. Proceeds donated to UNAA (SA) Div.

August was a general business meeting and the AGM was held in September. Officers elected for 2007 were: President: Sheila Hill, Vice President: Kath Smith, Minutes Secretary: Judith Brown, Secretary: Pat Hardy, Treasurer: Judith Brown

Sheila Hill resigned in November for health reasons. We thank her for her loyal and consistent efforts over many years towards UNAA Status of Women Committees in SA; ACT and at Federal level.

October and November were general business meetings with December being a breakup breakfast. January was a holiday month and business resumed in February.

The Women's Prison continues to be a focus for the Committee and it has been resolved to invite Peter Severin, CEO of Prisons to speak at the May meeting. A mentoring program to assist prisoners pending and after release was still seeking suitable mentors.

The UNAA Status of Women film night for 2007 will be held on the 22nd of July and feature *Hanny Feet and Lindahyne*

DIVISIONAL REPORT – ALEX DOUGLAS

2006 - 2007

UNYC

The Delegation to UNYC 2006 was facilitated by Alex Douglas, Lucy Wells and Georgia Goldsworthy. The South Australian delegation throughout the course of the conference remained a relatively 'easy' delegation to handle for both the SA facilitators and the other facilitators. However there are a number of things that future SA Delegation Heads can do to further improve the South Australian delegation to UNYC. These include:

- Having a stronger focus on the administrative actions which must be performed prior to the trip to UNYC. Primarily this involves both registration and payment for the conference. It must be impressed on facilitators that these responsibilities start long before UNYC
- The delegates should receive more training and familiarisation prior to arrival.
- Those choosing the delegates to the conference must include in their judging criteria some scope to decide whether delegates will function well within the delegation as well as with delegates from other states.
- A push for more regional delegates.

South Australia continued to use an interview method to determine delegates to the UNYC and still believes this is the best method for South Australia to pick delegates which are both competent and enthusiastic.

Boutros Ghali Shield

The 2006 Boutros Ghali Shield, South Australia's State Security Council Competition, was convened by Ogy Simic and Alex Douglas.

Venues

The event was held over two sessions with the first being held on the 27th of August at the Annesley Girls School. The second session was held on the 10th of September in the Campbelltown City Council Chambers. If any divisions contemplating holding their competitions at council chambers UNYA SA would recommend it particularly if members hold personal relations with council members or staff.

Attendance

Attendance remains the Achilles-heel of almost all South Australian events. Although there was a concerted effort on behalf of both convenors and the rest of the executive to increase the number of rounds we did not have the necessary number of competitors. The biggest problem we faced was that the teachers which we were contacting were not passing any of the information we left them with to the Students themselves. As such it is likely that the primary aim of next year's competition will be to increase the number of rounds we hold. We plan to be able to achieve this by building better relationships with school and attending more school Assemblies where we can address the students directly. By doing so we can try and avoid the problem

we have been having with Teachers not passing on information to students for various reasons.

Standard

The standard of the debate was higher than last years however remains significantly lower than what we aim to have it at. South Australia remains at a significant disadvantage as debating remains an 'underground' activity with many major schools not entering teams. This leaves us with fewer talented debaters, than some other states might have. An increase in publicity for the event as well as the increase targeting of particularly talented individuals will be necessary for us to be competitive at Evatt.

Delegates to Evatt

I have never seen such a heatedly debated UNYA judging decision however after hours... and hours.... and hours of debate amongst the judges Walford Girls School and Unley High School were announced winners of the competition.

Youth=Change Forum

Australia's largest regional event in organisational memory 'Youth = Change' was held in Mount Gambier and was chiefly organised by Lucy Wells. This event was a collaboration between UNYA SA, the local Youth Advisory Committee and the Mt Gambier Council.

Twelve UNYA SA members made the 5 hour drive to Mount Gambier from Adelaide to be put up in motel rooms financed by the council. We then went to the Mount Gambier Town Hall where Ogy Simic (Young South Australian of the Year) spoke about refugees and young people's rights. After playing a few get to know you games we broke into Youth Declaration groups in which we discussed issues ranging from transport in rural areas to youth suicide and the United Nations. A youth declaration was composed, accepted by the group and presented to the Mayor.

This was initially to be an event which would be conducted by UNYA SA and UNYA Vic however the Victorian division pulled out at a very late stage. The council organiser believed that there would be up to 120 students at the event and it should be noted that if there were those types of numbers UNYA SA would have been extremely understaffed. While we were disappointed at the time with the late notice from the Victorian division it may have been fortuitous as only 90 students arrived with SA having more than enough facilitators to cover them.

This event was covered by an extensive news article on the event on the regional TV channel. While Lucy was slightly ambivalent about the event I count it as an absolute success and it is a perfect display of how UNYA can expand its events into rural areas without spending ridiculous amounts of work if it uses existing organisation to be their "person on the ground." Similarly rural councils can often completely or partly fund the event and accommodation.

Sudan Speakers Night

On Tuesday March 13 a Sudan Speakers night was held at the union Building at Adelaide University. Three speakers spoke; a Sudanese academic who has worked extensively with the Sudanese community here in Australia talked about Sudan's history, the treaty in the Christian/ Muslim war and the current crisis in Dafur. A Flinders university lecturer currently teaching in international law discussed the legal and political obstacles and implications to resolving the problems in Sudan. Finally a 20 year old Sudanese refugee talked of experience in fleeing Sudan and his residency in Australia.

There most pleasing part of the this event was its turnout. With about 75 attendees it vindicated our saturation advertising campaign which included text messages, multiple emails, and professional looking posters.

State Conference

For the first time in 5 years UNYA held a residential state conference at the Victor Harbour Conference Centre. Convened by Georgia Goldsworthy and Kit Richards over the 23rd to the 25th of April 35 students attended. Speakers included former premier Dean Brown and former Vision Generation Chairman and Youth Activist Skye Riggs. A brief summary of the itinerary is

Friday Night

Delegates arrive and bus leaves from Adelaide university

Arrive at Conference Centre Victor Harbour

Get to know you games

Saturday

Official Opening by Dean Brown

Environment Speaker

Environment discussion and YD session

Lunch

Poverty Speaker – Skye Riggs

Poverty Discussion and YD sessions

Human Rights Hotspots

Dinner

Casino Royal Social Night

Sunday

General Assembly opening

Resolutions included Palestine, Iran Nuclear weapons.

Close and Travel Back

Delegates feedback overwhelmingly positive and it is clear that the introduction of a residential conference has educational benefits but also that those who attend residential conference are more likely to continue to be involved in UNYA. While it remains uncertain whether it is possible run a residential conferences in the future due to financial considerations I believe it is the best way to excite students about UNYA and international issues.

Youth Representative

Every year one young person is sent to the live in Australia's mission to the UN as Australia's youth ambassador. DFAT has delegated the selection and promotion of the youth representative position to UNYA. This is then delegated to each division to

promote the position and conduct interviews of the applicants. After this which national executive in consultation with DFAT selects the eventual winner.

In South Australia we had 10 applications, an increase of 6 from last year. There were a number of strong applicants however the position eventually went to Tasmania's Ben Brown.

Kofi Trophy

For the first time in UNYA's organisational memory we conducted a tertiary security council competition on Friday May 11. The eventual winner was Marlon Dance-Hooi, a Flinders University law student. This was a small event run however there is a large opportunity for the growth in this area, and it is my hope this will become an annual event.

Finances

UNYA SA's finance remain a significant worry. And in the coming term we will need to address a lack of professionalism, hopefully lead by a more professional and dedicated treasurer. We appreciate UNAA's patience in this area.

Evatt Preparations

Every year each UNYA division runs a security council competition for high school students. The top two teams of each divisional competition compete in the Evatt trophy which is effectively a national titles.

In December UNYA South Australia will host the Evatt Trophy. Joe Rafalowicz and Ogy Simic be co-convening this event which is a huge job. The competitors and facilitators will be accommodated in St Marks residential college and debate will take place in Adelaide University. While it is yet to be confirmed there is a high likelihood of securing funding from the Insurance Australia Group to make the competition carbon neutral as well a provide funding for the competition more generally. This would be a huge leap forward for the competition significantly dropping the price of competing.

Other News

There have been many other notable happenings from down south

- Ogy Simic delivered the annual Hawke lecture youth oratory to an audience of several hundred of Adelaide's most influential people.
- Kit Richard's organised a successful social event with an UNYA bowling challenge. The most positive aspect of this night was that there were several attendees who had never been to an MDA; a factor which UNYA has struggled with in the past.
- Alex Douglas attended a state Amnesty International conference to investigate how they run their conferences. Despite some personality clashes with the conference organiser it was an overwhelmingly educational experience. We hope to provide reciprocal invites to a senior member of Amnesty Youth to our state conference.
- Talis Evans, our media savvy publicity officer arranged for Ogy Simic and Kit Richards to be interviewed on Fresh FM on United Nations Day. This was a great coup because Fresh FM is **not** an underground or community radio station but rather one that which reaches a large proportion of the youth market.

- Every Year UNYA Nationally sends about 15 delegates to The Hague International Model United Nations Conference in the Netherlands. This year the delegation was lead by UNYA South Australia's former presidents Lucy Wells and Alex Raflowitz.
- UNYA was again this year present at the annual peace festival. It allowed us to have the opportunity to promotote UNYA and to sign up people to our mailing list including several teachers.
- Constitutional Changes has mean that the number of executive members has vastly increased with many of the Executive Members Without a Portfolio (EWOPs) replaced with more accountable positions including education, social and membership, policy, regional, and media. This has so far worked quite well.
- Kit Richards and Ogy Simic presented a number of interesting workshops and ran a mock GA at Trinity College with the Year 11 and 12 Legal Studies students.
- UNYA SA has developed a myspace. (www.myspace.com/unyasa) we already have 63 friends and growing.
- We had a stall at the Adelaide University O'Week where we managed to secure the names of 154 people interested in getting involved in UNYA.
- Georgia and Alex contributed to the UniSA UN Society's SAMUNC conference by running a mock assembly on dafur. Alex also attended their AGM. We hope to facilitate a mutually beneficial relationship in the coming years.

Looking forward

As Evatt approaches more and more of UNYA SA's energy will be go into organising Evatt however in the coming months will hopefully include;

- .The Boutros Ghali Shield; the winners of which will compete in Evatt and will hopefully utilise our home ground advantage!.
- A display in Rundle Mall to mark World Environment Day aiming to draw attention to the risk of climate change.
- An activity in Mt Gambier aiming to raise awareness of global issues in rural and regional areas.
- Ogy Simic will lead a delegation of South Australian students to the Annual United Nations Youth Conference which this year will be held in chilly Canberra.
- A forum focusing on Education reform so as to provide a voice for youth in the ongoing debate about education.

We would like to thank UNAA for its ongoing support (and patience) for us. But for UNAA none of these events would have been possible and we hope to maintain a good relationship in years to come.

Faithfully
Alex Douglas

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