



United Nations Association of Australia, South Australia Planet 3 Digest

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COMING EVENTS

DISCUSSION EVENING – ALL WELCOME

Tuesday 21 July 2015

5.30 to 7.30 pm

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

Speaker: Matthew Kronborg

National Executive Director of the United Nations Association of Australia

UNAA SA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 1 August 2015

2.00 to 5.00 pm

At St. Cyprian's Church Hall, 70 Melbourne Street, Adelaide

Speaker: Assoc. Prof. Felix Patrikeeff

President Australian Institute of International Affairs SA Branch

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

St Cyprian's Church Hall, 70 – 72 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide
Sunday 1st August, 2015
2.00 to 5.00 pm, Shared afternoon tea.

Notice is given of the AGM. At this meeting there will be elections for the Executive Committee. This will include the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary and Treasurer, together with representatives of five organisational representatives, and five individual committee members. Nomination forms for these positions are available from our Returning Officer, John Langton. Completed forms signed by the nominated candidate and a proposer and seconder (who all need to be current members of UNAA SA) to be with John by July 28th.

Contact details: John Langton, CEO GFG, 102-104 Wright Street, ADELAIDE 5000, Tel: 8212 1937, Fax. 8410 6642, Email, john@gfgsa.com.au

Our Speaker at the AGM will be Associate Professor Felix Patrikeeff, President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, SA Branch

Felix Patrikeeff completed his BA in History & Government at the University of Essex, and his D.Phil. in International Relations at St Antony's College, Oxford. Before coming to the University of Adelaide, he taught at the Universities of Warwick, Oxford and Sydney, and from 1993-1994 served as Programme Director, International Studies at Kolej Antarabangsa, Penang, Malaysia. He has researched, supervised & published widely in the areas of Russian/Eurasian & Asian Studies, Geopolitics, Political Economy, Strategic Studies & International Relations. In addition to being the President of the South Australian Branch of the AIIA, he is the Vice-President of The Australasian Association for Communist and Post-Communist Studies and is on the Management Committee of The Australasian Society for Inner Asian Studies

Research Interests:

- Strategic culture, leadership and questions of identity in the International Relations of the Asia-Pacific region
- Hong Kong, China and the political economy of transition and accommodation
- The politics of Russia borderlands, Central and Inner Asia
- Émigré politics (with special reference to Russia)
- The political history of the Russian Far East

He is an Associate Professor at The University of Adelaide Department of Politics and International Studies.

Defence Schools in South Australia.

Initially three schools were announced as piloting the defence schools programme in 2010 by the Federal government. These were Aberfoyle Park (which Raytheon was the main contributor – an aggressive armaments manufacturer), Henley High School and Valley View with St. Patricks Technical school chosen to have a defence focus programme. Raytheon in complicity with the SA government manufactures cluster bombs, Patriot missiles and other weapons of mass destruction. They also contribute to the Ignite programme for gifted students in maths science. In return Raytheon scientists and engineers have access to students who could be 'mentored' into a career in the weapons industry.

The SA Advanced Technology Industry – School Pathways is a programme which is part of the Federal governments 10.9 million National Partnerships Agreement to prepare students to work in the defence industry. The aim is to address skill shortages in the defence area and develop skills needed by the defence industry and military. This funding could have offered real futures in developing environmental sciences and broader skills in more constructive and sustainable development.

In June 2014 The Heights school was made the first specialist school for defence. The programme offered will be defence oriented with courses in maths, engineering and technology offering pathways for students into weapons research and design and military careers. The school will receive \$300,000 for this focus and a defence programme manager will bring in further \$80,000 annually. Students will work with defence industries and the more talented will be assisted by the defence industry to gain university qualifications so leading to pathways in defence. The aim of the school is to cater for the defence industry needs and students will gain work experience within the industry.

The school has established 3 levels of categorizing students. The first level is the Ignite students, the second level who form the bulk of the

school and the third wave is for students with special needs. The focus for students particularly in the Ignite and second level will be defence and associated industries. The courses will be developed with pathways into defence industries either in weapons research, design or the military. The claim is that there is a shortage of 3,000 workers skilled enough to work in defence industries, so students at The Heights will be encouraged and channelled into these careers. The defence industry, government and commercial enterprises in research development and production aim to urge students into industries which support STOs and develop and maintain military capabilities in Australia and overseas.

The programme beginning in year 8 through to years 11 & 12 will involve focusing on defence STEM approaches for the Ignite students while the level 2 students would be steered toward military career pathways. In year 10 science will involve NAMIG projects with an emphasis on drone design and manufacture, SA power networks, air vehicles and SWAT projects. This level will participate in concepts of creation and focus on innovation and design (CAD) plus nanotechnology and rocketry. In years 10 – 12 students will work on manufacturing working scale models and subs no longer than 1m. SAAB work will involve virtual reality and have a national competition with designs involving manufacturing processes. Years 11 & 12 will be immersed in defence industry pathways with research projects involving defence industry mentors and university transition programmes with defence associated studies. Added to this is the STEM SISTA programme will engage female mentors from the defence industry to encourage girls into this field. Other schools with subsections to this Defence oriented course are Brighton HS and St. Peters Girls School.

The secrecy surrounding these developments has implications about the real objectives of the programmes as no public consultation has oc-

curred even involving the school's parents. Due to zoning students have no real choices in what pathways they wish to follow if schools are limiting the opportunities available. Defence pathways lead students into the design and manufacture of cluster bombs, killer drones and other weapons of mass destruction.

By incorporating Life Skills in conjunction with these defence programmes could teach students to not only make decisions, but more importantly to be responsible for their actions. Gearing education programmes toward the manufacturing of weapons for the military industry, it is crucial that the makers understand that usually it is the innocent lives which are lost as a result. An example is the killer drones which kill 28 innocent people for each 'enemy' killed and the operators of these drones are already suffering from stress disorders.

Students should be encouraged to use their knowledge and skills for peaceful and sustainable industries that benefit humanity not for destructive and violent purposes. Public schools should not be recruiting grounds for either military or weapons manufacture. The AEU policy on corporate sponsorship not only opposes sponsorship from armaments industries, but also does not support "any form of business/industry and education link in the areas of curriculum, work or sponsorship involving armaments manufacture or sales".

There is a desperate need for the best scientific students to be encouraged into research and development for sustainable industries which have longer employment prospects and produce renewable technologies which benefit humanity. Alternative pathways should be offered in the humanities, medical or environmental sciences. Defence schools should have compulsory pathways in Peace Education and environmental sciences which are urgently needed for peace negotiation, restructuring and environmental awareness considering humanity is on the brink of self extinction.

Bev Hall

Update on Chernobyl

Plants grown in contaminated soil near the Chernobyl nuclear power station in Ukraine have mutated at a much faster rate than expected say researchers from Switzerland, Britain and Ukraine. The scientific team planted identical crops of wheat in two locations—one on a highly radioactive plot close to Chernobyl, the

other in uncontaminated but otherwise similar soil 30 kilometres away. They then grew further crops from the seeds of each set of wheat.

Though the plants close to Chernobyl were exposed to radiation for only 10 months, the genes of the crop raised from this seed showed a six fold increase in the mutation rate

compared with the normal wheat.

The findings have troubling implications for future generations of plants, animals and humans living in and around the Chernobyl contamination zone, created in 1986 when one of four reactors there exploded.

James Meek, London

DISCUSSION EVENING – ALL WELCOME

Tuesday 21 July 2015,
5.30 to 7.30pm

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

SPEAKER: MATTHEW KRONBORG

National Executive Director of the United Nations Association of Australia



Matthew Kronborg is the national executive director of the United Nations Association of Australia.

Matthew came to UNAA in late 2014 to coordinate and manage our work at the National Level. This will be his first visit to South Australia as National Executive Director, and it will provide an opportunity for us to get to know him, and to hear how his role can help and support our work in the State Division.

He has come to UNAA from Qantas where his responsibilities included analysis of their future carbon

carbon offset strategies. He was active in the Qantas project teams raising money for charities (including OzHarvest and Movember) and was also UNAASA NSW Vice-President.

We look forward to welcoming Matthew to South Australia and hearing about his role in supporting the UNAA board, and interfacing at a National level with Government, the diplomatic corps, and industry to further our UNAA goals.

Our evenings offer a great opportunity to engage our guests in informal discussion, with the small numbers in attendance providing a great opportunity to raise questions and discuss the answers.

Europe rejects the 'Australian Solution'. *Nikolas Feith Tan, Eureka Street, 14 May 2015*

Following the drowning of around 800 people on 19 April, politicians in the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Denmark have suggested that the European Union adopt our hardline asylum policy – the 'Australian Solution'. Europe is desperately searching for a solution to address the massive scale of irregular migration that has emerged as the fallout from war induced lawlessness in Syria, Iraq and Libya. Prime Minister Tony Abbott has advised the EU that 'only way you can stop the deaths is in fact to stop the boats'.

Migration by boat from countries in the Middle East and North Africa is nothing new. Between 1998 and 2013, on average 44,000 people were smuggled into Europe across the Mediterranean. This figure leapt to almost 220,000 in 2014 and stands at around 40,000 thus far in 2015.

With the increase in numbers, comes an increase in deaths. More than 3000 people died crossing the Mediterranean in 2014, making up 65 per cent of migrant deaths at sea globally. The crisis is of such severity that a resolution is being drafted before the United Nations Security Council to address migration on the Mediterranean.

The 'Australian Solution' is being touted in Europe as an effective way to stop irregular migration across the Mediterranean. Australia's asylum policy, Operation Sovereign Borders is

implemented in three ways: boat turn-backs; offshore processing; and offshore resettlement.

On the back of these three pillars Australia has stopped the boats arriving and stopped deaths at sea. In 2013, 20,719 asylum seekers arrived by boat, while in 2014 that number dropped to 164. Between 2008 and 2013, approximately 862 people died trying to reach Australia's mainland to seek asylum between 2008 and 2013. None died at sea in 2014.

Australia has received a barrage of criticism from human rights bodies for its asylum policy. In his maiden speech, High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad al Hussein said Australia's 'policy of off-shore processing for asylum seekers arriving by sea, and interception and turning back of vessels, is leading to a chain of human rights violations, including arbitrary detention and possible torture following return to home countries.' Other United Nations bodies, including UNHCR, UNICEF and Committee Against Torture have raised similar concerns.

Prime Minister Abbott was quick to recommend the Australian Solution to the EU, saying 'Australia was an object lesson in how to do the right thing by everyone'.

Yet, the EU has turned its back on the Australian Solution. Last week, the Union denied it was in talks with Australia,

saying 'the Australian model can never be a model for us.'

There are two primary reasons for this rejection. Firstly, from a legal standpoint, European human rights law provides an extra layer of protection that does not exist in Australia. The European Court of Human Rights has consistently upheld the protection from returning a person to a place where they face a real risk of harm. Previously, Italy was found in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights for pushing back migrants to Libya under a deal with that Muammar Gaddafi.

The second reason is humanitarian. In Europe, three overlapping aims dominate discourse on how to deal with boats on the Mediterranean: saving lives at sea; protecting Europe's borders; and combating people smuggling. While the current crisis has given rise to pressure to adopt a more securitised approach to irregular migration, including through the Australian model, the Union has thus far refused to back away from its international legal and humanitarian obligations.

Europe is at a crossroads on irregular migration, but the EU's rejection of the 'Australian Solution' shows

that even in a crisis, the human rights of asylum seekers matter.

Nikolas Feith Tan is a PhD fellow with the Danish Institute for Human Rights and Aarhus University, and an editor of Asylum.

A Tribute to Barbara (Barry) Whitney

Barbara Whitney, along with her husband ran the UNAA SA office in the 1970s. They made a great team managing the sale of UNICEF cards and providing information to schools. The office at that time was based in the Free Masons Building on North Terrace. Barbara and Fred prepared information kits – large envelopes packed with brochures and booklets mainly from UN sources – for the 600 or so schools throughout South Australia. Quite often these would be delivered by hand on long country drives.

Barbara and Fred had migrated to



Australia from England where Fred, being a Quaker, had been a pacifist and therefore a conscientious objector during the Second World War. To make some sort of contribution to the war effort it seems that Fred had been involved in different forms of survival experiments which could have had a long term effect on his health.

Sadly for Barbara and for many of us in the UNAA, Fred died in 1977, leaving Barbara to run the office with volunteer support, by herself.

Barbara's ever-cheerful personality and outstanding office skills, including record keeping and especially typing, meant the office continued to operate with great efficiency, volunteers helping out like Betty Williams with the education program. The education

Department's courier system enabled the school packs to be distributed more readily, with the minister at the time making a bulk payment for all schools. Barbara retired from the office in the mid-eighties but continued as a member and supporter.

Barbara will be remembered for her commitment to peace and the ideals of the United Nations. Barbara and Fred contributed much to the stable association we have today. It was Barbara who introduced the late Heather Southcott to the UNAA SA committee. Barbara was always very supportive and encouraging of younger people who became active in community affairs, especially matters that related to the UN such as human rights and the rights of the child. All Barbara's friends will miss her effervescent nature and her bright conversations.



Global Reference List of 100 Core Health Indicators.

The world has met the Millennium Development Goal for reducing poverty, but achieving the goals for lowering child malnutrition as well as maternal and child deaths will be difficult, says the World Health Organization in its latest statistical . The MDGs for safe drinking water and reducing malaria, tuberculosis and HIV are expected to be met, says Ties Boerma, director of WHO Health Statistics and Information Systems.

This month, to coincide with the Summit, WHO is launching the Global Reference List of 100 Core Health Indicators.

"This set of 100 core indicators provides concise information on the health situation and trends at the national and global level."

Developed over the past 2 years, this list is an example of work already underway to align and improve health information and measurement across development partners.

This set of 100 core indicators agreed by the global community provides concise information on the health situation and trends at the national and global level.

It covers the full spectrum of health priorities including maternal and child health, infectious diseases and emerging priorities such as non-communicable diseases and universal health coverage.

The list will be a living document to be updated periodically as new priorities emerge and interventions change and will serve as a global standard for health data collection in countries—exactly what is needed to enhance efficiency and availability of data and thereby improve transparency and accountability.

South Africa, the Nation that Gave Up Its Nuclear Weapons

Former South African President F.W. de Klerk wrote an op-ed published in the Los Angeles Times detailing his thinking behind the decision to get rid of South Africa's nuclear weapons in 1989.

De Klerk wrote, "Nuclear weapons had no value in the kind of border wars we were fighting, and the prospect of

using them against neighbouring countries was too appalling to be contemplated."

He continued, "The international community must take concrete steps to control, and finally eliminate, nuclear weapons as a thinkable option. This will require greater support for the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty

and more rapid movement by existing nuclear weapons states toward the reduction and dismantling of their stockpiles. The world should realize that real security does not lie in increasing our power to destroy others; it lies in our ability to live with others on the basis of peace and justice."

F.W. de Klerk, Los Angeles Times,

Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) Centenary



WILPF Business session in the Great Hall of the Difference—The Hague, April 25 to May 1, 1915

In April 2015, WILPF Australian women, including six from Adelaide, joined women from 80 countries to celebrate our centenary in Den Hague where 1300 women met during World War 1 in 1915 to develop their Principles for Permanent Peace, which are now enshrined in the United Nations’ Charter—prevent war, disarmament and resolve conflict through arbitration.



Norm Habel, Ruth Russell, Cynthia James and Barbara O'Dwyer. Speakers at the Kerry Packer Gallery opening

In Adelaide, the local WILPF branch organised a huge exhibition during May 2015, at the Kerry Packer Gallery, Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, UniSA campus on North Terrace with the Allegria Choir and Eric Bogle as guest musicians. Their display covered WILPF peace campaigns over the last hundred years – at the international level getting UN Security Council Resolutions passed on “Women, Peace & Security”, at the Australian level, working with the Australian government

to develop a National Action Plan to implement these UNSC Resolutions and now monitor this action plan.

At the SA Branch level, local women have been involved in many campaigns since organising the first protest march against Australia’s involvement in Vietnam in the 1960s, publishing a booklet on chemical and biological weapons, raising concerns about the Woomera Rocket Range, French nuclear testing in the Pacific, uranium mining. Women were involved in the Pine Gap and Omega protest camps and continue to now raise concerns about the SA government’s Defence Schools program. Ruth Russell, SA branch Coordinator, has given several talks on WILPF’s history which were well received. A podcast is available from a Radio Adelaide “Peace of the Action” program which covered some WILPF history :

<https://radio.adelaide.edu.au/wilpf-centenary-history-2/>

The founding women of WILPF believed that they had a significant part to play in this nation following Federation in 1901, and now 100 years later, WILPF has reclaimed our right to call for peace implementation through arbitration not militarism. .

WILPF’s new Manifesto examines the root causes of

conflict – militarisation of societies, the capitalist economic system involving exploitation of labour and resources, the nation state system involving dominant states, imperialist projects, inter-state rivalry, occupation, contested borders, social systems of racist supremacy, cultural domination and religious hierarchy, and patriarchy,



Eric Bogle sang at the gallery opening

the subordination of women by men.

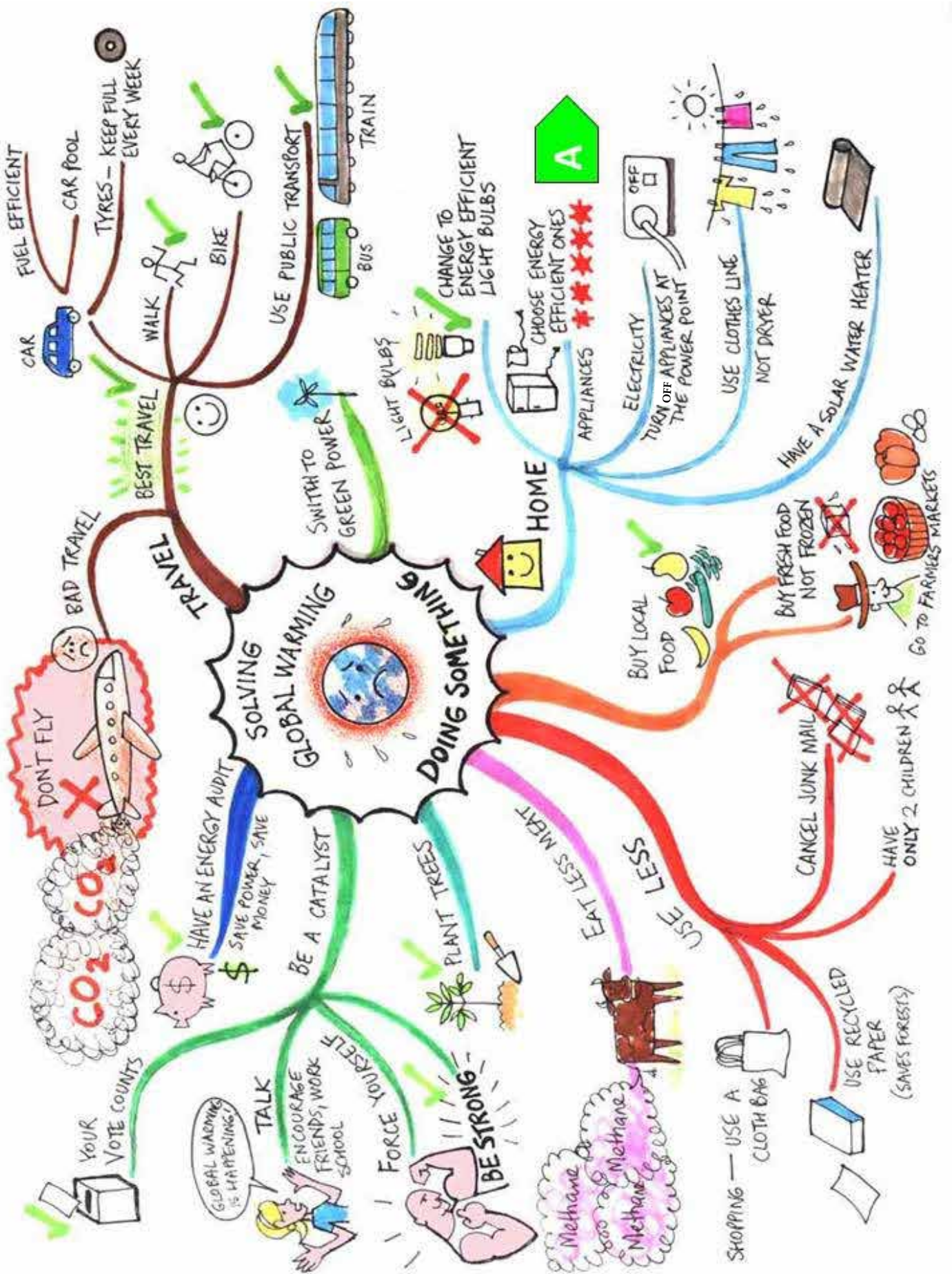
We believe that violence is not inevitable – it is a choice. WILPF chooses non-violence, as means and as an end. We will liberate the strength of women



and, in partnership with like minded men, bring to birth a just and harmonious world. This is our task with our new motto Women’s Power to Stop War. WILPF women invite you to join us in this huge undertaking.



Heather Southcott and Cynthia James on the stall at Hiroshima Day, August 1, 2003



Kevin Petrini's map of what we might be able to do as individuals in support of the environment and offsetting global warming.

Climate Change in the Pacific: A UNDP perspective, June 2015, Australia

Kevin Petrini, UNDP Regional Climate Change Specialist

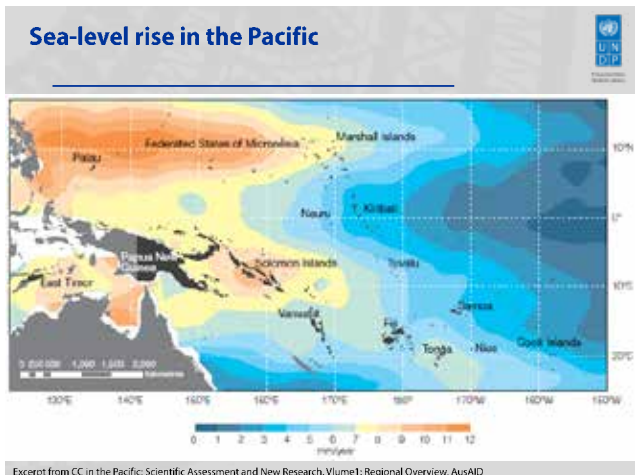
Even though it was a public holiday, on June 8th we were privileged to host a presentation on Climate Change by Kevin Petrini, and the Director of the United Nations Information Centre, Canberra, Chris Woodthorpe.

For the last slide in his presentation Kevin asked us "What can You do?", and presented the map on the opposite page of what we might do as individuals to help address this issue. At question time this was the focus of a lot of interest, with a number of those present asking whether they might be able to get a copy of Kevin's graphic diagram.

Starting with the 1896 paper by Svante Arrhenius from Sweden who calculated the effect of a doubling atmospheric carbon dioxide to be an increase in surface temperatures of 5-6 degrees Celsius, Kevin moved on to highlight the current situation in the Pacific.



With an atoll not having any land higher than 2 metres above sea level, he showed that as the ocean heats up, the water is less dense, and therefore the average sea level rises. See the map below. A rise of 10 cm or more per annum, against a maximum height on the



island of 2 metres, suggests it is a very important issue for the Governments of the island nations to study and address.

Kevin went on to detail some of the work of the UN Development Program in the Pacific. "Genuine and Durable Partnerships" seek to measure the costs, and draw together the necessary actions required to mitigate the problems.

The UNDP Vision is one of "A future where people can manage disaster and climate change risks in the pursuit of opportunities for prosperity."

For example in the Cook Islands, in an area destroyed in 2005 they are developing a stronger and safer harbour that can withstand current and future climate-related threats together with an integrated coastal management policy and plan for Mangaia.

The positive and non political approach that Kevin described, seeking a disaster resilient approach to development in the Pacific made it a positive and significant message.

Introducing Kevin, Chris Woodthorpe, as the representative of the UN Secretary General in Australia, spoke explaining that the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations offered an opportunity to reflect on how the UN is working for peace.

How we need to address the emergencies that might crop up around the world, and turn them into opportunities. During the rest of 2015 an important task is to address the new challenge of the Millennium Development Goals which are being readdressed this year. International meetings through the remainder of 2015 will see us addressing 17 ground breaking goals affecting all countries. They move past the MDG goals to seek to engage in involvement and leadership with all member states. Extending the original MDG goals there will be an emphasis on human rights, with a particular focus on gender inequalities and violent behaviour.



Kevin Petrini

We would like to thank Kevin and Chris for including Adelaide in their Australia tour, highlighting Climate Change and the UN at 70. We hope there will be more visits of this kind.



Felix Patrikeeff and Chris Woodthorpe

Ethical battle hovers over use of drone technology

Will the ethics of war become collateral damage as America's use of drone technology takes off? writes Joseph Camilleri.

In an important speech president Barack Obama has defended the use of drones by invoking the just war doctrine.

This much awaited justification rests on two fallacies: that the United States is formally at war; and that it can be just to kill someone for a crime in the absence of a fair trial.

Why did the US president feel compelled to offer this lengthy but belated explanation of America's drone policy? Put simply, because the use of drones is now increasingly contentious as it becomes the favoured response of the US military and intelligence establishment to the terrorist threat – from Afghanistan to Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia and beyond.

A number of terrorists have no doubt been killed, but so have many others, including civilians. One estimate puts the death toll since 2004 at between 1,963 and 3,293. Republican Senator Lindsey Graham estimates the number to be 4,700.

The great attraction of the drone is that the killing appears risk free. The need to deploy US troops on distant and dangerous terrain is greatly reduced while those who direct the drone are safely ensconced thousands of miles away at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

The CIA has been flying unarmed drones over Afghanistan since 2000. Drones were actually used during the air war against the Taliban in late 2001, but it was not until February 2002 that the CIA first used a drone for a pure CIA 'kill operation'.

Since then covert unmanned target killing has become common place.

The defence of drone strikes offered by Obama boils down to three key propositions:

- terrorism is a serious and ongoing threat, therefore the US remains 'at war';
- when detention and prosecution of terrorists is not possible, target killing becomes legitimate;
- assassination by drones is the lesser of two evils, reducing the likely number of military and civilian casualties;

This line of argument is deeply flawed.



US Predator unmanned drone armed with a missile
(Massoud Hossaini: AFP)

Countries and communities are subject to all kinds of threat, including serious loss of life and property – whether it is at the hands of deranged individuals or criminal groups of various kinds. The narcotics trade and human trafficking are just two examples.

But a country is not at war with such groups except in a symbolic or metaphorical sense. In these instances countries are not strictly speaking engaged in war. They are not taking military action against the military threat posed by another state – action which is clearly subject to the laws of armed conflict.

Obama's predecessor, George W Bush, launched the 'war on terror' precisely because it offered the United States a way of dealing with suspected terrorists outside the confines of the rule of law.

As a consequence, enhanced interrogation techniques (generally classified as torture), 'extraordinary rendition' and indefinite detention at Guantanamo became integral to the 'war on terror'.

Now in the fifth year of his presidency, Obama is still trying to distance himself from the Guantanamo fiasco, only to find himself ensnared in another can of worms – covert targeted assassinations also conducted in the name of the 'war on terror'.

But is targeted killing 'war' and, if so, is it in accord with the laws of war?

What is clear is that targeted killing does not engage the enemy in battle, since drone attacks occur in times and places where there is no armed conflict.

How, then, can we be confident that those designated for death pose an imminent, dangerous and violent threat? Who is authorised to make these decisions? And, what if the designation proves to be mistaken – something which is known to have happened more than once? Who then bears responsibility? And what are the processes by which those responsible for those mistakes can be brought to account?

It is difficult to see how surreptitious and riskless killing can be in any way regarded as war in a conventional sense, and how it can be subjected to the most basic rules of armed conflict, including hors de combat immunity and the possibility of individual surrender.

But this is just the beginning of the dilemma.

Who are these suspected terrorists? They do not represent an enemy state. They have no fixed address, and often have no clear organisational links.

While some may be thought to have prominent leadership roles in Al Qaeda, the majority do not. Some may be members of state-sponsored networks, but most are likely to be members of



Joseph Camilleri

autonomous shadowy cells and extremist groups.

How can such a disparate and elusive group be engaged in anything approaching what we normally regard as 'war'?

All of which has another far-reaching implication. By virtue of their mobility and effective statelessness, these suspects can move rapidly from one country to another. What happens when a particular country is opposed to the use of American drones over its territory? Will the US accept that judgment? Or will it pursue its targeting regardless, in defiance of that state's sovereignty?

The US president cannot but be aware of these pitfalls. This is why he has attempted to limit the hostile fallout by stipulating that: there must be near-certainty that no civilian casualties will result. He has also called for a review leading to additional oversight of drone attacks.

But key questions remain unanswered: Who is authorised to make these decisions? Will the decision process be transparent? Who is to bear responsibility in the event of mistaken decisions? In what sense, if any, will US actions be subject to the international rule of law?

Beyond this, the United States needs to consider the political and strategic fallout of drone attacks. The use of the drone has already created enormous ill will towards the United States in both Pakistan and Afghanistan.

This is hardly surprising when a drone supposedly targeting a terrorist ends up killing members of a wedding party.

And if the United States wishes to argue that targeted killings are a legitimate instrument against enemies of the American state, what is to prevent, Russia, China, Iran, Syria or any number of other countries from using precisely the same argument in years to come.

Does president Obama intend a drone arms race to become part of his legacy?

Professor Joseph A Camilleri OAM is Professor Emeritus at La Trobe University.



Elnaz Tavanche fled persecution in Iran and spent four days on a small fishing boat, fearing she would die, before arriving on Christmas Island. She's found refuge in Melbourne and now the talented 22-year-old is off to university.

I was born in Mashhad, a city in the northeast of Iran, close to Afghanistan. My parents are originally from Afghanistan but they moved to Iran when they were young. They met through a family they both knew.

Many families like mine left Afghanistan. We are Hazaras—an ethnic minority there who are mostly Shia Muslims. The Taliban are Sunni Muslims and they harassed and threatened Hazara families, which is why my parents left.

I was born in Iran and went to school there but life wasn't easy. During the Iran-Iraq war my father was at the front fighting for Iran for eight years. During that time Mum raised my five older siblings and me.

She was a tailor and worked very hard to pay off our small house.

When the war ended the Iranian government helped returning soldiers but they wouldn't help my dad or give him a pension because he was Hazara. Chemical weapons damaged his lungs and he was in hospital for months while Mum worked to pay the bills.

Once he left hospital, Dad got a construction job 200km away - it was all he could find. We stayed in Mashhad and he returned home when he could. But gradually he got sicker. I remember him coughing and blood coming out. I was four when he died.

Mum continued to raise her family and I finished school and began studying agricultural science at university. But things changed in Iran. There had always been some racism against Hazaras and it became worse. We had to carry fake ID cards, pretending we were Iranian to be able to go to school, but children would say things about me, knowing I was Hazara.

I was a good student but one day a teacher asked me to stand in front of the class and work out something on

Elnaz' Story – from Persia to Paradise

the board. When I said I didn't know how, she hit me but she never did that to other students.

In late 2012 someone reported my family to the government and told them we were using fake ID cards. We knew what would happen next.

At some point the government would put us on a bus and take us to the Afghanistan border. My dad's cousin was sent back the year before and while he was travelling from Kabul the Taliban stopped him, took his money and cut off his fingers.

We knew it wasn't safe to return to Afghanistan and we knew we had to leave Iran. We flew to Indonesia because a cousin told us we could go to the UN there and ask for help.

On our first or second night in Indonesia, Mum asked me to go to a nearby shop. There was a lot of prostitution in the area and as I walked home some guys on a bike chased me. I ran and screamed but they kept following me.

When I made it home I was shaking and Mum knew we couldn't stay in Indonesia any longer.

So she paid \$10000 - all she had from selling our home in Iran - to put us on a fishing boat heading to Australia. I thought I would die on that trip. It took four days and three nights and there were 55 people on a tiny boat - it was narrow and maybe 20m long.

There was no shelter and nothing but ocean. The boat shook, crashing up and down in the water. I could hear the wood creaking and cracking and thought it would break into pieces. We had no life vests and no radio to call for help.

On the second day the engine broke down. It was dark and raining and everyone started crying. One man shouted, "God I don't want to die here, I don't want the fish to eat me." My mother and I were too sick and weak to even cry. Luckily, after four hours, someone fixed the engine and we kept going.

The last night was the worst. The ocean was so rough and I was almost unconscious after vomiting so much. But then somebody shouted. They could see a light and on March 12, 2013, my 21st birthday, we arrived at Christmas Island.

Mum and I were there for a month before going to a detention centre in Melbourne. We were there for two months before AMES, an organisation that helps migrants settle in Melbourne, found us a home. Now my mother and I rent a house in northern suburbs.

The early days in Australia were

tough and it felt very strange. I spoke English but my self-confidence was less than zero. But things changed when I met Caterina Mezzatesta, who runs a welcome centre for asylum seekers.

She's also a kinder teacher and asked me if I'd like to volunteer there. Because I'm on a bridging visa I am not allowed to work, and I can't continue my education either, so I was happy to help with the children and to keep busy.

Caterina also introduced me to the Christian Brothers who support Parade College, a Catholic boys school in Melbourne with 1800 students. Through them, in August 2013, I met Brother Mark O'Loughlin, who is a Marine Biologist in Melbourne Museum.

When Mark realised I'd studied agriculture he asked me to volunteer with him in the marine biology lab at Melbourne Museum. Mark identifies new species and I help him dissect things and make slides.

I've spent a few hundred hours at the museum and I enjoy learning.

Mark also talked to the principal of Parade College who invited me to study year 12. So last year I became the first girl to attend Parade. I was scared on the first day - the boys were so much taller than me. But they welcomed me and treated me like an older sister.

One friend I made at Parade said his parents were a little racist before they met me. But now they aren't anti-refugees anymore because they know my story. I hope more people change their attitude about refugees after meeting me.

Every day I went to school at 7:30am so I could have extra time to study. It took me a little longer to find the right word in English when I did my exams but I got an ATAR of 88.80 and the highest score for Persian in the state.

I always wanted to study science or biomedical science at university but because of the bridging visa I'm not supported to study. So I am so happy and grateful to have been offered a scholarship to study biomedical technology at La Trobe University this year. It is an exciting time in my life.

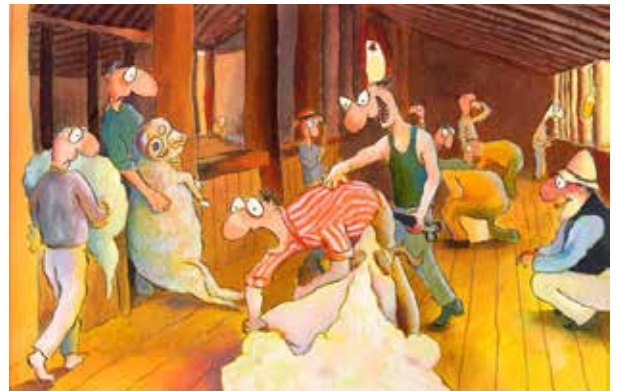
I still go to the museum and I spend time with my friends too. Last year two of my sisters arrived in Melbourne but we miss my brothers and sister still in Iran. Every week, Hazaras are taken to the border of Afghanistan and left to their fate. But in Melbourne I feel very welcome. This city in paradise.

As told to Sarah Marinos of The Herald Sun.

MOVE OVER DOROTHEA MACKELLAR

When the shearing sheds are silent and the stock camps fallen quiet
 When the gidgee coals no longer glow across the outback night
 And the bush is forced to hang a sign, 'gone broke and won't be back'
 And spirits fear to find a way beyond the beaten track
 When harvesters stand derelict upon the windswept plains
 And brave hearts pin their hopes no more on chance of loving rains
 When a hundred outback settlements are ghost towns overnight
 When we've lost the drive and heart we had to once more see us right
 When 'Pioneer' means a stereo and 'Digger' some backhoe
 And the 'Outback' is behind the house, there's nowhere else to go
 And 'ANZAC' is a biscuit brand and probably foreign owned
 And education really means brainwashed and neatly cloned
 When you have to bake a loaf of bread to make a decent crust
 And our heritage once enshrined in gold is crumbling to dust
 And old folk pay their camping fees on land for which they fought
 And fishing is a great escape; this is until you're caught
 When you see our kids with Yankee caps and resentment in their eyes
 And soaring crime and hopeless hearts are no longer a surprise
 When the name of RM Williams is a yuppie clothing brand
 Not a product of our heritage that grew off the land
 When offering a hand makes people think you'll amputate
 And two dogs meeting in the street is what you call a 'Mate'
 When 'Political Correctness' has replaced all common sense,
 When you're forced to see it their way, there's no sitting on the fence
 Yes one day you might find yourself an outcast in this land
 Perhaps your heart will tell you then, I should have made a stand'
 Just go and ask the farmers that should remove all doubt
 Then join the swelling ranks who say, ' don't sell Australia out'

Author unknown



Ramming the Shears, Michael Leunig

THE BARBECUE STOPPER...

SO, YOU TOLD THEM THE ONE ABOUT GIVING PRINCE PHILLIP A KNIGHTHOOD...



Ex-AUS6

Book Review: I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

Every child has the right to education according to UN covenants such as the Rights of the Child and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but there are groups such as the Taliban who deny girls of any age having the right to education. The world was shocked when a young Pashtun teenager, an advocate for educating girls, was shot by a Taliban assassin. The incident is vividly described in the book, tells how she came very close to losing her life and then finally going on to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013. Her home in the beautiful Swat Valley, a great Pakistani tourist attraction, was taken over by the Taliban in 2010. As a consequence dozens of schools where girls attended were blown up by the Taliban.

Her father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, was a dedicated and progressive educator who was committed to providing education for girls as well as boys. The thirst for education and friendly

rivalry in examinations shown by Malala and her classmates are as captivating as they are endearing.

In my view, the amazing feature of this book, given that the author is only a teenager, is the insights it offers into Pakistani politics, the legacy of the British Raj and the survival of the Taliban. The important part played by patriarchy is palpable. When greetings from Malala were brought to the recent Peace Conference in The Hague sponsored by WILPF (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom), spontaneous applause erupted from the audience filling the main auditorium at the conference centre.

Wonderful snippets of family life bring a strong sense of normality to the story of a truly heroic life. In fact Malala's father also comes through as a heroic figure while being very human at the same time. The father-daughter relationship that Malala has is one of the most charming features of the book. The latest edition of the book includes a transcript of an interview Malala gave to her US editor.

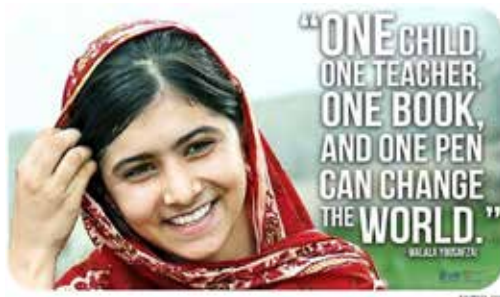
After her recovery, on her sixteenth birthday on 12th July 2013, Malala was granted the opportunity to speak to the

General Assembly of the United Nations where she called for free education for all children.



In 2013 she was also nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize but that year it was won by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. In October 2014, Yousafzai received the Nobel Peace Prize, along with Indian children's rights activist Kailash Satyarthi. At age 17, she became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. In congratulating her, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said: "She is (the) pride of Pakistan, she has made her countrymen proud. Her achievement is unparalleled and unequalled. Girls and boys of the world should take a lead from her struggle and commitment." U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon described her as "a brave and gentle advocate of peace who through the simple act of going to school became a global teacher."

It is easy to see why the original edition won an award for the best non-fiction book in 2013.



INTERNATIONAL DAYS — June to September, 2015

JUNE

- 1 June Global Day of Parents (A/RES/66/292)
- 1 June "Vesak", the Day of the Full Moon
- 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))
- 6 June Russian Language Day at the UN (in Russian)
- 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)
- 21 June International Day of Yoga (A/RES/69/131) (A/69/L.17) (draft)
- 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)
- 26 June International Albinism Awareness Day

JULY

- 4 July (first Saturday in July) International Day of Cooperatives (A/RES/47/90)
- 11 July World Population Day (UNDP decision 89/46 15)
- 15 July World Youth Skills Day (draft A/C.3/69/L.13/Rev.1)
- 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)
- 30 July World Day against Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/68/192)

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)

SEPTEMBER

- 5 September International Day of Charity (A/RES/67/105) draft (9A/67/L.45)
- 8 September International Literacy Day [UNESCO] (Resolution 1.141 of the 14th session of the UNESCO General Conference)
- 12 September United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation (A/RES/58/220)
- 15 September International Day of Democracy (A/RES/62/7)
- 16 September International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (A/RES/49/114)
- 21 September International Day of Peace (A/RES/36/67) (A/RES/55/282)
- 25 September (last week of September) World Maritime Day [IMO] (IMCO/C XXXVIII/21)
- 26 September International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (A/RES/68/32)
- 27 September World Tourism Day

INTERNATIONAL WEEKS 2015

- 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

2015

- International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies A/RES/68/221
- International Year of Soils [FAO] A/RES/68/232

2016

- International Year of Pulses (A/RES/68/231)
- International Year of Camelids (draft A/C.2/69/L.41)

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

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

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

POSTSCRIPT

UN at 70

Everyone who receives their newsletter by post will hopefully notice we have used our own commemorative envelope to celebrate the UN at 70.

Artist Andrew Baines has made a painting of the occasion of his celebratory art installation at Henley Beach where the Governor of South Australia with a group of celebrities were photographed in multicultural dress standing in the water.

It was a little cold and windy that morning, but luckily no-one came to harm. In a couple of weeks we will present each of the participants with a framed print of the painting to thank them for their participation.

Andrew's painting is reproduced on the envelope.

If anyone would like a few envelopes please contact the office, or call or email me and I can arrange to let you have some.

Membership Renewal

If you have not already become a member of UNAA SA, or renewed your membership for this year may I remind you that it fell due on 1 April.

While our goal is to distribute our newsletter as widely as possible, and to tell people about the UN and its work, we also need to look at costs, and look for the most cost effective way to undertake our work.

After the next newsletter we will need to look at the increased cost of postage. While I believe we need it to be made available to everyone interested enough to read it, we will look carefully at how many we need to post.

Having said that however, I feel very strongly that we should continue to post it out to everyone who wishes to receive a paper copy. It is a false economy for someone to receive it by email, and then to print it: colour printing can greatly exceed the cost of postage, even though email distribution is cost free. Similarly members have told me that they scan the printed copy to provide an archive file for future reference. As there is no cost to send them the email copy as well I hate to think we waste their time unnecessarily when it is so easy to send both.

The priority is for people to actually read it, and hopefully find the content interesting.



Our UN at 70 envelope

July Discussion Evening

These evenings are held at 5.30pm on the third Tuesday of the odd numbered months in our Carrington Street office.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21 July in our office at 57/81 Carrington Street. Matthew Kronborg is our UNAA National Executive Director, and he will join us to tell us about the role of the UNAA at the National level, and give us an opportunity to ask questions about the interface with the Federal Government and Parliament,

Everyone is welcome.

May Discussion Evening

Ruth Russell joined us on May 19 to tell us the WILPF story. It was quite a challenge to fit 100 years into an hour's presentation. You can see a summary of the story on Page 5.

Ruth had just returned from the centenary celebration of WILPF in The Hague, and was able to tell us about the celebrations, and show the proud history of all these women who worked so tirelessly for peace over the past century.

Thank you Ruth.

Our Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 1 August 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. I am very happy that Felix Patrikeeff has agreed to speak. As president of the Australian Institute of International Affairs SA Branch, he has been a valuable member of our Executive Committee.

UN Day Dinner

Please make a note in your diary for the 2nd November.

We will again dine at the National Wine Centre, and plans are well in hand.

Penny Wong, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate will speak.

Adelaide visit: Kevin Petrini

I was very happy to welcome our good friend, the UN Representative in Australia, Christopher Woodthorpe from UNIC Canberra to visit Adelaide with Kevin Petrini.

Kevin is the UN Regional Climate Change Specialist. Chris and Kevin arranged a tour of the State Capitals to tell us about the UN efforts in the Pacific to address the issues of climate change in a constructive manner. With formal qualifications in chemical engineering, his development experience started with two years of service as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer working in a rural village in Samoa where he became fluent in the Samoan language and learned local customs.

His current role involves economic analysis currently addressing a Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review and development of the Fiji Green Climate Fund Readiness programme.

I would like to thank Felix Patrikeeff and the Kathleen Lumley College for hosting the meeting, it made it a warm and comfortable venue.

Hopefully the success of this will set the stage for further instructive tours of Australia from UNIC. Thank you to both Kevin and Chris for coming and speaking to us. Also thanks to Matthew Kronborg for helping with the organisation.

June 2015

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