



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF AUSTRALIA Inc.**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION Inc.**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2001 - 2002**

**FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT**

**International Year of Eco-Tourism**

**United Nations Year of Mountains**

# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION Inc.

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

## MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2001-2002

**PRESIDENT :** Mrs Heather Southcott AM

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

**SECRETARY** Mrs Sheila Hill AM

**TREASURER** Mr John Crawford

**CORPORATE MEMBERS**

Baha'i Community	Mr Geoff Dibden,
Aboriginal Advancement League	Ms Betty Sumner,
Catholic Women's League	Miss Tess Donnellan

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

Ms Merry Wickes  
Mr Ivo Elts  
Ms Rosemary McKay  
Mr Glen Woodward  
Mrs Sathavy Suos  
Mr Ricky Lee

**UNYA Representative** Ms Emily Hunt

**COMMITTEES**

UN Status of Women	Mrs Sheila Hill
United Nations Youth Association	Ms Emily Hunt
International Year of Community Project	Mr Glen Woodward

**OFFICE STAFF (Volunteers)**

Mrs Mabs Tassell  
Mrs Sathavy Suos  
Ms Angie Stojsavljevic  
Mrs Cynthia James Librarian  
Mr Ron Hall

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

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2001-2002 by HEATHER SOUTHCOTT**

**Overview**

A very challenging and busy year which started with activities relating to the International Year of Volunteers. Then we began planning to host the Federal Conference in September 2002 : the first Federal Conference in SA since 1983. Special thanks to our conference committee –Ricky Lee : Sheila Hill , Rosemary McKay; and Heather Southcott. Our theme related to the International Years of Eco-Tourism and of the Mountains

**Patron**

We thanked our retiring Governor ,Sir Eric Neal, for his support during his term of office and we welcomed our new Governor ,Mrs.Marjory Jackson-Nelson as our new Patron.

**Executive Committee**

At our A.G.M. in May, our office-bearers and committee members were re-elected. We welcomed back Ricky Lee following his return from Canberra. We recognise the voluntary contribution of members of our executive and our subcommittees.

**Office Staffing**

We are indebted to our loyal volunteers ;Mabs Tassell, Sathavy Suos ; Ron Hall, Cynthia James and Angie Stojavljevic.

**Community Presence**

We maintain a high profile through representation on committees including Children's Week Committee ,Torrens Building Tenants' Committee, UNIFEM Breakfast Committee and Human Rights Day Committee

**Vale**

We record with sadness the deaths of two longstanding and active members. Mrs Margaret Forte and Mrs Kath Fuller. Kath was our librarian in early days; donations in her memory (\$265) purchased books for the library.

## **International Year of Volunteers**

- our special event recognised the voluntary work of International Volunteers , including those from Red Cross, Caritas, Plan, AusAid, Australian Volunteers International .Their displays were visited by many students during the day.
- our office staff were recognised by presentation of badges and certificates

## **Observances**

- **Human Rights Day** We joined with other groups to observe the day
- **United Nations Day** We joined with United Nations Peacekeepers in a special service at the Cross of Sacrifice .We provided peace roses as our tribute

**Annual General Meeting** The speaker in May 2001 was Ms Merry Wickes, one of our members, who told us of the UN Operations with the Kurds in Northern Iraq.

**Federal Conference** in Canberra in June 2001 was attended by Heather Southcott, Sheila Hill and Rosemary McKay. We submitted resolutions on children in detention and West Papua.

**Interns** Two students from University of Adelaide were supervised on their chosen topics by Merry Wickes

**Refugees** Members have been involved with refugees and refugee organizations especially with those on Temporary Protection Visas and with women and children from Afghanistan

## **International Year of Community** (report by Glen Woodward)

There have been occasional communications with notable personalities and groups who have expressed an interest in the Community. It is hoped that by making them aware of the concept of IYOC we can gain support. The NSW group has continued to promote IYOC by a series of public meetings .Slow and steady we proceed. Any support from NGOs is welcome

## **Events attended**

Multicultural Forum : UNIFEM breakfast ;Harmony Day; Refugee Week ; UNESCO Asia and Pacific Network of International Education and Values Education; Multifaith; WIZO; Bahai events ; HREOC consultation re World

Conference on Racism ; Amnesty Women's Group ;Aboriginal Advancement League ;Austcare Refugee Week ; Graham Smith Peace Trust Cambodia/ Landmine Dinner ; DFAT Round Table discussions with Australian representatives in Cambodia and Vietnam

### **Talks given to following groups**

Rotary Clubs of Edwardstown, Adelaide West and Hindmarsh

Many secondary and tertiary students

Several Baha'i Local Communities

Theosophical Society National Conference

On Radio 5 RPH during RSL session before UN Day

### **Financial Situation**

Despite a small increase in our government grant, and donations from members our resources are stretched to meet our rising expenses.

### **We acknowledge the following support**

- \$ 5,500 from S.A.Government (an increase of \$1500)
- Subsidy from State Government towards our rent
- \$3000 from the Blythe bequest for peace activities
- Small equipment grant from Federal Government to be used to benefit volunteers We bought two ergonomiic chairs and some computer equipment

\*Norman Percy Cole Foundation tied grant for disadvantaged children.

### **Challenges Ahead**

- to increase our membership and increase their involvement
- to look for new funding sources
- to resolve insurance problems
- to look for more 'gifts in kind'
- to work more closely with State and Federal Members of Parliament and members of the Diplomatic Corps
- to plan a regular programme to involve members and friends
- to find a way to keep contact with UNYA members after they leave UNYA )because of their age)
- to explore forming a group for the 25s - 35s
- \* to work moire closely with UNYA

### **Conclusion**

I wish to thank our active workers; especially those on Executive, on the Status of Women Committee; on the UNYA Committee; the IYOC and the conference planning committee

**United Nations Association (S.A. Division) Inc.**  
**Status of Women Committee**  
**Annual Report April 2001 - March 2002**

**Preamble**

I would like to thank all the members of this committee for their steadfast support over the past year and in particular to Heather Beckmann who has generously acted as President during my absence and to Pat Hardy who has taken over as a most efficient and congenial secretary.

**Activities**

Following the guest speakers on Mental Health earlier in the year we followed with a changed meeting format - quick business meeting over coffee and then visits to the Northfield Women's Prison and Marjory Black House.

At the prison we continued our investigation of mental health in discussion with the Prison doctor. Although we found the medical facilities more than adequate for normal events, we were concerned that there was no provision for the care and treatment of women with severe mental disturbance - other than to send them across to Yatala. Letters were written to the Department of Correctional Services, Health and Status of Women expressing our concern. All three assured us that a new prison was still on the drawing board and this was being taken into consideration. Since then we have noted that a new wing is to be built to ease the obvious overcrowding, but no mention of improved medical facilities as noted by us. We are keeping a watching brief and will continue to lobby in this regard.

In June we visited Marjory Black House to hear first hand its history and its present situation. This magnificent old house is home to over 30 people with differing kinds of mental disability and we were warmly welcomed by them and joined them for morning tea. It was obvious that they were sorely in need of volunteer help particularly with regard to the book shop and library and their very well stocked clothing department as well as the need for additional "visitors" willing to interact with those who find such a welcoming atmosphere at the house.

Our final look at Mental Health was a presentation by an officer of Human Services Department on Mental Health and women of Increasing Age.

We continue to keep in contact with Taryn House through the involvement of Marilyn Rolls but have not been called upon for assistance this year as the management has been taken over by Centacare and the clients are now housed in different locations.

In June as secretary of the United Nations Association (SA Div.) Inc., I coordinated an expo incorporating the work of all the "international" organisations as part of the International Year of Volunteers celebration. I thank all those loyal members of this committee who supported me on that day.

In October we participated in the "Look at us Now" - celebrations of the progress of women through the last hundred years. Our stand was effective with logos of all the member organisations suspended on a mock "spider's web". Although we had many discussions with the few passers-by on a cold and windy day, we did not attract any new member organisations. I spoke on the work of our community during the lunch period.

Members also participated in the Run for Life - Drop the Debt campaign, International Women's Day activities and Human Rights Day and showed the flag at events organised by the Baha'i community, WILPF, Australian Refugee Association and many others.

## **Membership**

During the year one member organisation closed and no new members joined us. Our numbers have diminished alarmingly over the past few years and we are about to undertake a mail out to appropriate women's organisations to let them know of the potential they would have by joining us. At present we cannot really say we have a voice for women - only some women. It is also disappointing that so many of our financial members are never seen at our meetings and, indeed, I have never met more than half our members on the minutes mailing list. This is a priority for 2002.

## **2002 Focus**

We are following up on the data presented late last year on Poverty and Social Disadvantage in South Australia. We are also preparing a resolution to be sent to our parent body in preparation for the Federal Conference of the United Nations Association of Australia to be held in Adelaide in September this year.

## **General**

It has been over a year since I undertook to mentor two Afghan families on temporary protection visas. This group has now grown to five families and a few extras and I again thank my committee for their support and, in particular, to Heather Southcott and Merry Wicks for their efforts in this respect - and for their understanding the need for this work of mentoring. Other organisations represented on our committee have now taken up the cudgels on behalf of people in this sad situation. However, I am happy to report that my particular families have blossomed over the past year. All children are doing well at school, we had three babies born following reunions of husbands and wives after many years (or new marriages) and the adults are well settled and so much happier although the lack of English is hampering the men from obtaining work and this a concern for them.

As we were unable to find a member to attend the Women Speak Conference held in Canberra, Zeta Karay who was attending for the National Council of Women, also represented us and met delegates from the Victorian UNAA Status of Women Committee. It was a conference of diverse topics and presenters but little has been heard of outcomes and there was a general assumption that all women had access to computers. Indigenous women were not well represented.

## **Congratulations**

I would like to note the awarding of the Australia Medal (OAM) to our former Secretary Alleyne Womersley for her work with community organisations over many years. Well deserved.

Finally, my thanks again to our members. It is one of the most pleasant groups I have worked with over many years and I look forward to continuing our relationships both in and out of committee work.

Sheila Hill.  
3 April 2002



## **UNYA SA April 2001 – April 2002**

During the period between April 2001 and April 2002, UNYA SA has held a state conference, a regional conference, a civics education program, a mock general assembly at Seymour College and the annual Boutros-Ghali Security Council competition. During this time we have also finished our website, which has been linked to the national UNYA website. South Australia also sent a delegation to the national United Nations Youth Conference. As president, I attended the UNYA National Council in Melbourne in January. The South Australian division of UNYA also organised a consultation between Kirsten Hagon, 2001 youth representative to the General Assembly and members of the South Australian Youth community.

### **Boutros-Ghali Shield Competition**

In May 2001, thirteen school teams participated in our mock Security Council competition. Teams attended a preparation weekend prior to the two days of debate. The event was held at Adelaide University. Unley High School was awarded the Boutros-Ghali shield for 2001. The 2002 competition is currently being organised and will be held at Adelaide University on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of May.

### **United Nations Youth Conference 2001**

Ten South Australian delegates as well as Julian Egan, David Gilbert and I attended the 2001 UNYC in Sydney in July. The theme was “2020 Vision” and speakers included Margaret Reynolds, Justice Michael Kirby and Leah Purcell. Once again, the event was extremely enjoyable and our delegates even tolerated the 23 hour bus trip to get there and back.

### **UNYA SA AGM**

The UNYA SA AGM was held in early August. An executive, consisting primarily of people who had never been on the executive before was elected.

### **Regional Conference**

A conference, held shortly after the UNYA AGM was held over two days at Mercedes College. The conference, less than a fortnight after the collapse of the twin towers addressed terrorism as well as looking at the Israel-Palestine conflict. Amy Johnson received the award for best delegate, which earned her an invitation to attend the 2002 UNYC.

### **Seymour College Mock SA**

At the invitation of Seymour College’s year 12 Social Sciences teacher, UNYA SA’s education committee ran a mock General Assembly at Seymour College. The event, which was part of the assessment for the class was extremely well received and the students and teachers all seemed to find it enjoyable. The project led to the collation of a pack that can be used to run similar programs in other schools. While there are not



enough active members to run this program on a regular basis in addition to our other events, we do hope that in the future we will be able to increase our school-based events.

### **Website**

Finally, the UNYA SA website has been finished and can be found at [www.unya.asn.au/sa](http://www.unya.asn.au/sa). It has already been used to advertise our events, and interested delegates can download conference, competition and membership registration forms.

### **State Conference**

The annual state conference was held at Woodhouse on the 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> of April. Two speakers discussing refugee issues (one of whom was a former Woomera detainee) generated much discussion among the delegates. The group was an extremely enthusiastic one. Lucy Wells was awarded the prize for best delegate, and received an invitation to attend UNYC 2002. The remaining 8 delegation members have now also been selected. The group will attend the conference in Brisbane with David Gilbert, Brendan Lim and myself.

### **Future Directions**

This year has been a challenging one in terms of running our usual events, as well as pioneering a few new ideas without the experienced members that made up the executive in previous years. However, the executive, is enthusiastic and I am confident that they and the new members who attended our most recent conferences will work together to bring the youth of South Australia some fantastic events in the next year.

## **CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

**We, the peoples of the United Nations determined**

- to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and
- to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and
- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom...

**And to these ends**

- to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and
- to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and
- to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and
- to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples

