



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF AUSTRALIA Inc.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

2005 - 2006

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

International Year of  
Deserts and Desertification

# 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 2002-2003

**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**

Catholic Women's League	Miss Tess Donnellan
Aboriginal Advancement League	Ms Wendy Koolmatrie
Baha'i Community	Mrs Manijeh Shahzadeh
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom	Ms Ruth Russell

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

Ms Rosemary McKay  
Mr Glen Woodward  
Mrs Sathavy Suos  
Dr Ricky Lee  
Br Peter Faulkner

**UNYA REPRESENTATIVES** Ms Lucy Wells

**CONTACTS** UN Status of Women Committee Mrs Pat Hardy Mrs Sheila Hill  
Year of Community Mr Glen Woodward

**OFFICE STAFF (Volunteers)**

Mrs Cynthia James	Mrs Sathavy Suos
Mrs Mabs Tassell	Mr Ron Hall
Br Peter Faulkner	

## **PRESIDENTS'S REPORT 2005-2006 Heather Southcott**

**Last year marked the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations. We certainly celebrated in style.**

**The Lord Mayor, Michael Harbison, hosted a reception on June 23 2005 for about 100 people including many of our members. It was a real party; balloons; a wonderful cake from Vili's complete with sparklers, and we concluded by singing Happy Birthday U.N. Professor Gary Smith spoke of the significance of the United Nations.**

**We continued the celebrations at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary UNAA Dinner on October 23<sup>rd</sup>; yet another Birthday Cake from Vili's The dinner was jointly organised by UNAA SA and the Baha'i Community in South Australia. A great deal of hard work for the organising group and for Manijeh Shahzadeh who was in charge of the catering. Speakers were Prof. John Langmore, Federal President of UNAA, and Ms Katina Jones from the Baha'i community who spoke on the Baha'i presence at the UN Status of Women Committee in N.Y. As well as a memorable evening, we raised some \$1500 for UNAA**

**Also on UN DAY we attended the Annual Peacekeepers Service at the War Memorial in Adelaide. Glen Woodward laid an arrangement of Peace Roses on behalf of UNAA SA and Sheila Hill also laid roses on behalf of the UNAA Status of Women Committee Glen also organised for the UN Flag to be flown by the City Council.**

**As usual, we worked to put the Association on a firmer financial footing. We were grateful to Sheila Hill and the Status of Women committee who organised a successful film night on behalf of UNAA We acknowledge the continued support from the Premier and the State Government for a grant of \$6000 (plus GST) ;and also for their continuing subsidy of our rent. We still have increasing costs to pay**

**Our membership is relatively stable; we lose some and gain some!! We keep membership fees as low as possible but encourage donations from those who are able to donate. Thanks to those members.**

**2005 was also a significant but very busy year for UNYA as S.A. hosted the UNYA Federal Conference. A wonderful conference, ;and Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson Nelson hosted a reception for them at Government House. UNYA most efficiently runs their own programme and now have an active Club at Adelaide University**

**Our executive has renewed energy and each member plays an important role Mrs Josie McGrath represented the Catholic Women's League for a few months during the year.**

**Another major achievement was the completion of a one minute video for free showing on some commercial stations as a Community Announcement . It started on 21 March (Harmony Day ) and is still showing. Fifteen community members from diverse backgrounds each said one sentence on 'I like to live in Adelaide because ' We received a Multicultural Grant of some \$2000 and finished with about a \$20,000 production through the effort and generosity of Sheila Hill and her son Chris (who produced it ) and of some of Chris' colleagues in the industry.**

**We express our thanks to our Patron Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia ,Marjorie Jackson Nelson, who invited representatives from UNAA SA to attend her Garden Party The Premier also invited some of our members to attend a celebration on Volunteers Day and to receive certificates for their service.**

**The speaker at our Annual General Meeting in May 2005 was Ms Tammy Franks who represented the YWCA at the Beijing + 10 Conference at the UN. It was interesting to hear the impressions of Of a NGO representative.**

**We have continued to make representation to the government on behalf of Mr Arnold Cielens on issues affecting the deafblind in Australia**

**Several of our members play an active role in the Coalition for Human Rights which works toward an Australian Bill of Rights and is involved in community education workshops on human rights .**

**We heard from visiting union members from the Philippines of Human Rights abuses.**

**We were represented at the Federal Conference; our main resolution related to the International Criminal Court.**

**We still struggle with finances. Thanks to Government grants, fundraising , membership and donations from members we manage to cover office expenses such as rent plus costs and insurance.**

However we find it hard to replace ageing equipment such as our photocopier.

We promoted the International Year of Microfinance and also the International Year for Sport and Physical Education.

Following another Roundtable on Human Rights Day focussing on Aboriginal Rights when we examined the non-indigenous response to issues raised by indigenous people, a working party is examining how to work together more effectively in our approach to governments.

We were visited by two men from USA who were about to visit contacts across the world in an attempt to have the International Day of Peace on 21 September observed by a twenty-four hour vigil.

We continue to network with other organisations and attend their events. Currently working with Development Action Network ; Torrens Building Tenants Committee ; Human Rights Day committee ; Coalition for Human Rights ; Children's Week Committee; and the UNIFEM Breakfast Committee. 1700 women attended the breakfast to hear Kirsty Sword Gusmao speak on her work with women in Timor Este

We continue to be well served by our loyal office volunteers; Cynthia James; Mabs Tassell ; Sathavy Suos ; Peter Faulkner and Ron Hall who come in one day a week and also some other volunteers who come in for shorter times.

Finally, thanks to members who have supported us, especially with donations ,and all members of Executive and office staff for their work.

Special thanks to our Treasurer John Crawford who also is our IT specialist and specialises in acquitting grants. And to Sheila Hill who writes the grant submissions. And thanks to our Status of Women and UNYA committees for their hard work.

In summary, although we are small in numbers and low in funds and have no paid staff UNAA ( SA) achieves a good deal thanks to good team work , networking and our loyal members.

**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (SA DIV) INC.**  
**REPORT**  
**STATUS OF WOMEN COMMITTEE**  
**May 2005 - April 2006**

We have again had fruitful and enjoyable year as a harmonious network within the field of women's organisations in Adelaide and beyond. Our numbers have not increase physically but we do have a few more names on our mailing list these days which helps when it comes to events and fundraising and our core group is loyal and hardworking.

**Film Night**

As usual our major fund raiser for our parent body is the film night in July which was again a success in raising over \$400 and also increasing the public awareness of UNAA. This year our night will be on 30 July with Three dollars and Very Annie Mary as our film choices. Again our committee will work hard finding raffle prizes and making efforts with the ticket selling. It is to be held earlier in the day this year (4.00 pm - 9.30 pm) as the winter seems to be looming as very cold - and long!!

**Womenspeak**

We have been contributing well to the Womenspeak network and thence to the Commonwealth Office for Women. This year there have been particular concerns with the implementation of the Welfare to Work and the new Industrial Relations legislation. It is clear already that there will be a negative impact on women - particularly single mothers - and the disabled. However, there appears to be a crack developing in the Government armour as some small but important changes have been made. As President SA I represented our National Body at the 2005 Conference in Sydney and will be attending the 2006 meeting in early June in Melbourne. There are four secretariats supported by the Federal Government and this year all four will be meeting together to share ideas and advocacy.

**Northfield Women's Prison**

We are well satisfied that our efforts over the years have resulted in much more recognition of the welfare of prisoners by other women's groups. In past months members of our committee have spoken at many meetings. Our visit this year showed that the present prison general manager has made many changes that have improved conditions as far as is possible in the present old building with its overcrowding. We are awaiting development of our idea of increasing the use of the outdoor recreational area by making it a secure section. Prison authorities are drawing up a sketch plan of what would be needed and we will take it from there.

**International Women's Day.**

Members support this day through the UNIFEM Breakfast, the IWD Lunch and the Ba'hai event in the evening. We don't usually march!

**United Nations Day**

As president I attended the wreath laying service at the cenotaph on 24 October and laid flowers for women who have given their lives for their country. Members of our committee also assisted in many ways with the successful dinner held by our parent body at the Norwood Town Hall Being our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the Mayor of Adelaide held an excellent reception in the Adelaide Town Hall in June which was attended by many of our member

### **Financial**

As our financial reporting and that of UNAA SA do not coincide I would just note that we hold an average balance of \$400 and our only expenses are the costs of renting our meeting premises. Income is from member subscription and donation for specific projects which are forwarded directly to the recipient or project co-ordinator.

### **Meetings and Annual General Meeting**

We tried meeting bi-monthly during the 2004/2005 financial year but decided that too much needed to be shared and discussed in the interim that it was not a good idea. Therefore, following our AGM in August we reverted to monthly meetings with December being a social meeting for brunch and January being "time off". Therefore we meet our mandate conditions of 10 meetings per year. No one complained!

At the AGM I was re-elected as President for another year with Kath Smith continuing as VP. We have a new Treasurer/Minute Secretary in Captain Judith Brown who has recently retired from the Salvation Army and represents Australian Church Women on our Committee. Welcome Judith. Pat Hardy has continued as Correspondence Secretary.

In 2005 we aimed to acquaint ourselves with the issues surrounding the new IR changes and their impact on women and one speaker was Rille Walsh from the Association of Single Mothers and their Children - who really opened our eyes. The beauty of this committee is that it is a network that reaches out to many other organisations through our membership - so the news went out.

### **Representation**

As usual our involvement and representation at many meetings and events keeps the United Nations in the minds of many organisations - Australian Church Women, East Asian Women's Association, Disability Action, Ba'hai communities, Catholic Women's League, Caritas, Human Rights Coalition, Peace Coalition, Uniting Church Women's Adult Fellowship, Women's Electoral Lobby and Breast Cancer Foundation, Women's Information Service, Children's Week, Christmas Bowl Street Appeal, National Council of Women and many others causes supported by individual members.

### **Thank you**

If ever there was a Committee that deserved an award for volunteering it is this one. I take my hat off to the work done by members in so many fields and thank them for their loyal support of my presidency for a few years now.

Sheila Hill AM

President

31 May 2006

