



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA Inc.**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

2007 - 2008

- **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE POTATO**
- **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH**
- **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SANITATION**
- **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF LANGUAGES**

FIFTY – EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION INC.

PATRON His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR
Governor of South Australia

Members of Executive Committee 2007 - 08

PRESIDENT Mrs Heather Southcott AM

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

SECRETARY Mrs Sheila Hill

TREASURER Mr John Crawford

CORPORATE MEMBERS Aboriginal Advancement League
Baha'i Community
Catholic Women's League
Women's International League For Peace & Freedom
Mr Franciscus Ewing
Mrs Manijeh Shahzadeh
Miss Tess Donnellan,
Ms Ruth Russell,

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

UNYA Mr Joe Rafalowicz

CONTACTS UNAA Status of Women Ms Pat Hardy,
Mrs Kath Smith
Environment Programme Br Peter Faulkner
Community Programme Mr Glen Woodward

VOLUNTEERS Mabs Tassell Mrs Cynthia James
Sathavy Suos Ron Hall
Peter Faulkner

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007- 2008 ; HEATHER SOUTHCOTT

We farewelled our Patron , Mrs Marjorie Jackson -Nelson who had been most supportive of our association.

We welcomed our new Patron , Governor Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce and our Lieutenant Governor Mr Hieu Van Le.

We were represented at the Garden Party at Government House for organisations of which the Governor is Patron

We acknowledge the continuing support given to us by the Premier and State Government in the form of a small grant and also a subsidy for our rent.

We received a grant from the Norman Percy Cole Foundation to be applied to disadvantaged children which has enabled us to provide \$2000 to the Children's Week Committee to assist disadvantaged children to take part in events during Children's Week in October .

This has again been a busy year; it has been achieved through the involvement of all members of committee and office volunteers John Crawford has been a great support to me during the year especially with updating our office equipment. We have a new photocopier; a refurbished computer , now linked to the photocopier ,a new domain name and are moving towards our own website.

Peter Faulkner has accepted responsibility for our bi-monthly newsletter which has been well received. We are working towards distribution by e-mail where possible with the rest sent by mail.

Cynthia James was unable to continue as librarian, office volunteer, staffing of information tables, and fount of knowledge. We thank her for her many years of service; we miss her; but at least she can still advise us by telephone.

We have a new volunteer; Mr Hal Gray who staffs the office on a Thursday and we hope will be involved on our executive committee.

Mabs Tassell is our longest volunteer; we appreciate her willingness to continue despite some health problems.

Sathavy Suos,. Our Tuesday volunteer supports me in the office ,particularly as we attempt to reduce the collection of accumulated papers over many years. We may need in the future to look to occupying a small office.

Cynthia James is exploring for us whether there is any interest in archiving our more valuable collection of books and publications. A great deal of information on the United Nations is available on the website., so information can be retrieved when needed.

Ron Hall ,our Wednesday volunteer , maintains our e-mail connection with our members providing them with copies of information received from the United Nations and the UNAA Newsletter '*Unity*'

The highlights of the year included

* our Annual General meeting when we focussed on Updating our knowledge of Landmines , Cluster Munitions and Mine Detention.

* Our fundraising film evening arranged by our Status of Women Committee . We thank Blackwell Funerals for their donation

* Sheila Hill and her son Chris produced a wonderful UN DAY poster using photographs taken during the production of our community video supported by a Multicultural SA grant, *South Australia – A United State of Mind** These were distributed throughout the community. Our video is still being screened free by commercial TV station

*our Annual UN DAY dinner , organised by Lidia Moretti and Rosemary McKay when our UN Day was officially launched by Mr Hieu Van Le, chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission . Consul, Mr Tommaso Coniglio ,Consul of Italy in South Australia also spoke to us of the role of Italy on the Security Council and in human rights in EU . We augmented our funds through an on-line auction which was most successful, thanks to the generosity of the donors of the prizes

* in December we were honoured by a visit from the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Canberra, Mr Abdullah Mbamba His visit to the University of South Australia was facilitated by Rosemary McKay and in the afternoon our members and members of non-government organisations were invited to meet him. The State Government hosted a luncheon for the Director at Parliament House. Lidia Moretti escorted him during his visit. The Director returned to Adelaide in May 2008 to launch the International Year of the Potato at a lunch hosted by Hon Rory McEwen at Parliament House

Working with UNAA at Federal level Unfortunately UNAA does not receive any government funding. So a levy of \$5 has been set for all members. We thank members who have contributed, otherwise it comes out of our funds. Unfortunately we did not have a representative at the last Federal Council meeting but we submitted resolutions on Cluster Munitions and Deafblind.

Peacekeepers Service on UN Day was attended by several members. We thank Glen Woodward for providing a floral tribute

UNIFEM breakfast; on International Women's Day was attended by 1900 women

We have promoted the sale of Resource books for schools prepared by *Global Education* They have produced a book for Primary schools to mark the International Year of the Potato and two books on the International Year of Sanitation (one each for Primary and Secondary Schools) Copies available

We continued to network with other groups and we are represented on many coordinating committees

A good year but we could do better with more members especially active members and some sponsorship. Can you help?

Annual Report of Status of Women Committee UNAA (SA Div)

Our Committee is more of a network than a committee and all our members are involved in meetings of various member organisations, so we are well informed of what is happening in our city, by giving monthly reports.

For our final meeting in 2007 we met at Junos, on Glen Osmond Rd., for a quick meeting and lunch that was enjoyed by all.

Last April we sold tickets for a Film Morning 'Jane Austin Bookclub' that was held at the Capri Theatre Goodwood, our share was \$148-23 for UNAA

In 2008 we felt we could invite speakers to our meetings to help us to become more informed, so in April Dyane Mathews gave us an enthusiastic and informative talk on the Women's Mentoring Program, a 'Bridge to a new life' designed to assist women Prisoners as they prepare to re-enter society by offering them a variety of assistance during the transition period.

In June Mellissa Castle will inform us on her work with the Hindmarsh Sobering Centre, then in July Janine Evans will tell us her story, of the Life of Muslims and their families, in Australia.

A double featured Film Evening is being planned for July 27th at the Wallis Theatre Richmond Rd., with a home made meal donated by members..

I must say thank you to the Committee for supporting me as your President for 2008.

Kath Smith



The United Nations Youth Association of Australia South Australian Division

Patron: Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, AC, CVO, MBE – Governor of South Australia

July 2008 South Australian Divisional Report

Introduction

July brings to a close my presidency of UNYA SA. The year has been a challenging one for our division, yet it has yielded fertile opportunities for the future. The most difficult constraint on our operation has been a lack of experienced members who have the time to contribute to UNYA. If one was to conceptualise volunteering for UNYA as limited to a fixed amount (say 150 hours over the year), events such as the Evatt Trophy consumed a great deal of that potential manpower – and with the same individuals involved in all events in the state, the result has been a deprivation of the divisions' core functions.

In my nomination in July 2007 I wrote: *“As UNYA nationally branches out in to new and exciting areas, the SA division is struggling to provide the resources to cope. My vision for UNYA SA is a consolidation and reinforcement of existing activities and structures to achieve a strong division.”*

I have pursued that goal over the year. Efforts from Talis Evans as vice-president in particular have really laid the ground work for organizational efficiency – there is more detail on those initiatives in the relevant section of this report.

For my presidency the most important events on the calendar were the Boutros Ghali Shield and State Conference. It is an unfortunate reality that in terms of value to UNYA SA's mission, these events were far more important than YouthSpeak or even youth representative consultations. The rationale being that the constraints on available resources meant that for every hour an executive member of UNYA invested in a project, I wanted that hour to be paid back with new members and new funds – the more peripheral national projects siphoned energy from those two aims.

I am proud of the state conference that I convened in March 2008, it produced a crop of fantastic delegates and was an example of many of the great things about UNYA. It is unfortunate that no body else on the executive felt able to volunteer for the position because it meant that valuable skill-transfer opportunities were lost. Despite this, many of the executive team contributed to various stages, in particular Hannah Irving and Mel Wong who shouldered the recruitment task. However convening a national event and a state event within 2 months of each other was difficult for me.

The lost opportunities of this year included Ali Well's comprehensive failure as a treasurer (and my inability to manage that fact), a lack of contribution to YouthSpeak. Our achievements can be seen in the skills and knowledge that the

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executive has acquired over the course of Boutros Ghali Shield 07 and State Conference 2008. It is immensely rewarding to watch the executive coming into their own and meeting the challenges of running UNYA events independently. There have also been various reforms, plans and sponsorship initiatives – the goal all being the construction of a solid launching pad for the division's future. I would like to thank all the people I have worked with, from South Australia and interstate, for what has been a challenging and rewarding year.

Joe Rafalowicz
Hobart
2008

State Security Council Competition 2007

The Boutros Ghali Shield for 2007 was convened by Talis Evans.

Participation

Consistently the most difficult, time consuming and frankly scary part of convening BGS in SA is attracting teams. Talis sent letters and faxes to up to 100 teachers, phone trees were used to contact many more, and still we struggled with attendance. It is so hard for both convener and president when we reach the end of mammoth recruitment effort, and there is this feeling of 'what more could we have done?'

Online, or mail, registration was used. Talis must be congratulated on his use of resources, and his initiative in working with Alec Webley of UNYA VIC, to put together some excellent materials for the registration of participants.

In the event, we did end up with around 15 teams, however a few were not able to have both team members attend on both days of the competition – rendering them ineligible for Evatt. In analyzing how each of the teams heard of the competition and then registered, over 80% was via word of mouth. That is, current UNYA members informing friends, school assemblies, siblings etc. The conclusion I have come to is that teachers are useless at singing up students in SA. I speculate that this is because of i) UNYA SA's low profile in the state ii) the lack of teachers with a relationship to UNYA SA. Taking these lessons on board for the state conference, UNYA SA will concentrate its resources on speaking directly to students to encourage sign up. Our regional plan incorporates this element.

The education plan for UNYA SA also seeks to create a core group of teachers with a relationship with UNYA, future conveners can use those teachers to either access students directly, or encourage student sign up.

Venue

The Adelaide City Council Chambers were the hosts of the competition. Talis used his networks to attain the chambers, and helped forge an excellent relationship. This has allowed UNYA to use the chambers for Evatt. The fact that



the Mayor was hosting the event did provide some protocol issues. The fact that there were less than the full quota of 15 teams in attendance was a source of potential embarrassment, however we cunningly used facilitators to disguise this.

Parliament House was more problematic, security issues and the use of an office as 'negotiation room' presented difficulties. In all, Parliament is an often overrated venue for debate, but one that continues to be used for prestige purposes.

Costs

- Unfortunately the outlay involved in contacting so many teachers proved significant considering its low rate of return
- The use of 'formal' venues (ie. Not schools) meant that lunch options were restricted, and were saddled with a lunch that was too expensive for our budget at the Adelaide City council
- Our profit from the competition was not as large as has been the case in previous years, but that can be put down to the differences in the style of the competition

First Time Voters' Guide Launch

The event was led by the 'most experienced divisional policy officer in UNYA', Ogy Simic. It was a partnership with the 'Adopt a Politician Campaign' and Vgen. The partnership approach allowed us to conduct an event that was innovative, cool and fairly high profile.

The forum style worked well, with high profile guests such as Liberal Senator Simon Birmingham, lead Greens Senate Candidate Sarah Hanson Young delivering heart-felt addresses. However the inclusion of a last-minute 'random democrat' did hamper the momentum of the speeches, as well as the inability for a politician to stick to a speaking time. The bands made for a nice contribution to the atmosphere of the day. The questions asked were excellent, but we ran out of time to flesh them out.

Publicity was fairly good, as the combined networks of the 3 NGOs were able to cover a lot of ground. I appeared on Fresh Fm (a dance radio channel aimed at young people) to spruik it, and we made use of facebook to spread the word. I also used 'Bulk SMS' facilities to reach ex-BGS participants. I bet nobody is reading this report; I dress up in women's underwear. However attendance was disappointing, with many of the young people being members of the organizing NGOs, and not many high school age people present.

The guide itself was not widely distributed at the event because of low turn out, however individual UNYA executive members distributed them at schools and universities.



Youth Rep 2008 Consultations

As I write this report, the youth representatives have yet to visit Adelaide. The timing is exceptionally bad, with Elizabeth arriving on Monday the 30th June, and 3 days later the most experienced and active people in the division flying to national council. As such, Ogy Simic is valiantly dieing on the altar of exams to set up an itinerary. At this stage it includes the Australian Refugee Association, Mission Australia, local youth NGOs (Oaktree etc), Insight – a medical students development forum and an UNYA SA dinner.

The regional limb of the tour is overshadowed by financial uncertainty; with UNYA SA contributed our share of regional funds to the NT road trip, so it is our sincere hope that the youth reps will be able to fund the modest cost of fuel for their trip. They will be visiting Murray Bridge and Mt. Gambier.

Regional Summit

In April 2008 3 members of the UNYA executive (me, Ogy, Mel) traveled to Murray Bridge an ran a forum for young people. It was organised locally by a member of the National Youth Roundtable (or something) and was attended by local high school students.

Numbers were slightly lower than optimal, with around 20 students in attendance.

A youth declaration was created and we ran several workshops. It was a small, but significant contribution. In particular it was good to teach Mel the basics of running a forum with a group like that.

State Conference 2008

Participation

Recruitment drew on core schools and personal contacts. Phoning, followed by emails proved the most effective. One really helpful asset was the assistance the Oaktree Foundation supplied by emailing their past Zero7 ambassadors and personally inviting them to apply: it was a way of marketing to already interested students. Thirty seven students attended state conference.

Unfortunately only 4 facilitators were able to be at the event for the full 3 days, the rest came and went as it suited their previous commitments.

Venue

The Nunyara Conference centre was our host. The proximity to the city meant that kids could get lifts from parents or catch public transport. It was a great venue and I hope to set it up as the constant UNYA venue so that we have certainty about dates and numbers.

Itinerary

The speakers program was expanded, with some really high profile names. The IPS and the speakers were the most successful events. The Youth Dec. was fine, but we managed to lose several of the sheets of responses and so it was



never compiled. I am yet to receive a complaint about that, which just shows it is the journey that is important no the destination!

Costs

- One student pulled out before paying, but after the venue numbers had been confirmed, this lead to a loss of \$120: **From now on we are including a disclaimer that cancellations after a certain date will not able to be refunded and registrations will not be accepted without payment**
- Stationary costs were high, but some of our purchases can be used in the future

Sponsorship

Continuing our reputation as the 'corporate division' UNYA SA has secured \$1000 in core funding from a local company called SRB systems. Our contract includes the requirement of acknowledging them through our website and letter head.

Education/ UNYA Schools Program

Our education officer resigned mid-way through the year and no replacement was forthcoming.

My plan to create a teachers network is well under way. Unfortunately I missed the opportunity of contracting all state conference teachers post-event with a newsletter style report on the event, but I have plans to do a similar thing post UNYC.

I hope that the following year the education officer can continue to send regular monthly update to the core UNYA schools (around 20 in total) and eventually be on first name basis with all the relevant teachers. I am seriously excited about generating some proper connections!

The primary purpose will be regular attendance at our events, but can easily evolve into selling 'UN in the Classroom' type activities.

Youth Speak

The NGO Inspirational Cinema delivered the survey to hundreds of school students, but I was not able to follow up how many were actually completed.

The Oaktree foundation's "Global Night Shift" event was an excellent opportunity, and Ogy Simic did a fine job of delivering the survey.

As I mentioned earlier, YouthSpeak was not a priority for the division.



Organisational

- UNYA SA has moved to a 'File Maker Pro' database to ease access to information. I am happy to discuss this in depth with interested divisions.
- We utilize 'bulk-sms' software to send reminders and updates to: executive members, state conference participants and the UNYC delegation
- After considering using MYOB accounting software, we have elected to continue a spreadsheet system
- We use an 'I-disk' to provide a large intranet space which contains all essential UNYA SA files. Talis Evans provided this. Interested divisions - I can explain more.

Financial

In a fairly massive blow, UNYA SA has not had a functioning accounting system for over a year. This is because as each treasurer reneges on their duties, it increases the size of the job, and makes it more likely that their successor will follow suit. Ali Wells failed this year.

Talis Evans (who I have had to massively battle with not to move us to a MYOB system!) is undertaking the book keeping from the new financial year. Our strategy is to not even try and 'fix' the last few years of non-existent accounting, and just hope we never get audited. Ever.

UNAA

On a positive note, relations with the UNAA are excellent. Although our lack of book-keeping has stretched their accommodation to near breaking point, they are very understanding.

It is my observation that attending to the little things – such as contributing to fundraising efforts, attending meetings (which can be improved: perhaps with a rotating executive member), attending dinners etc.– pay huge dividends in terms of opportunities for them to help us and organizational good will.

In particular Lidia Moretia has been very helpful in organizing speakers and communicating relevant information and opportunities in relation to both the State Conference and Evatt.

Tertiary/ AMUNC

There are plans to run a tertiary event soon (completing the holy trinity of State Conference, BGS and Kofi). It may not be a model UN depending on demand and available opportunities.

There are now UN societies at every university except Flinders, and we are exploring opportunities for to work together.