



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA Inc.**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

2008 - 2009

- **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF NATURAL FIBRE**
- **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY**
- **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RECONCILIATION**

FIFTY – NINTH 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 2008 - 09

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

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS Ms Rosemary McKay
Mr Glen Woodward
Mrs Sathavy Suos
Br. Peter Faulkner
Mrs Lidia Moretti
Mr Hal Grey
UNYA Ms Melissa Wong

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

VOLUNTEERS Mabs Tassell Cynthia James
Sathavy Suos Ron Hall
Peter Faulkner Hal Grey
Pamela Newland

UNAA SA PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008- 2009 Heather Southcott

We acknowledge the continued support by the Premier and the South Australian Government in the form of a modest grant and a rent subsidy.

We were represented at a Garden Party hosted by His Excellency the Governor Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, who is Patron of our Association.

Our grant from the Norman Percy Cole Trust enabled us to once again provide \$2500 to the SA Children's Week Committee, to enable them to give small encouragement grants to disadvantaged schools to allow their students to take part in Children's Week events. Also to enable United Nations Youth Association subsidise attendance of their members at conferences.

Although we do not have any paid staff, our dedicated office volunteers and executive committee members have enabled us to achieve a great deal. We would welcome more involvement of our members and also new members. John Crawford not only is Treasurer and Vice-President but he oversees our computer and copier. He supports Peter Faulkner, who with his team, produces a most interesting Newsletter which is greatly appreciated by our members. Peter was awarded a UNAA Award at the 2008 Federal Council meeting.

We are still facing the possibility of having to move our office, so we are very busy reducing our many papers and books, accumulated over many years. The quantity and quality of information provided on the UNIC website has resulted in less consultation of our printed documents and books.

Office Volunteers

Mabs Tassell is now on our reserve list; Pamela Newland works on Mondays. Sathavy Suos staffs office on Tuesdays as well as organising our very successful community lunches, celebrating in 2008 the International Year of the Potato. Ron Hall maintains our e-mail connection with our members providing them with copies of UNITY and other information from United Nations Information Centre. Hal Gray looks after the office on Thursday and has also audited the books of our Status of Women Committee and UNYA SA. On Friday Peter Faulkner deals with key environmental issues; he also represents us at many events. Cynthia James and Sathavy Suos promote UNAA at community events.

***Highlights of the Year* include**

- ***Our UN Day Dinner* . Our guest speaker, Dr Lynn Arnold was unable to read his address which was read by our Patron Sister Patricia Pak Poy; luckily Lynn had enough voice left to answer questions. Thanks to generous donors, we raised \$2,500 from our on-line auction and raffle.**
- **Our annual general meeting featured a youth panel from UNYA and tertiary UN focussed groups. We also heard from Che Cockatoo-Collins about the Rostrevor College Indigenous Sports Academy.**
- **Our Status of Women Committee organised a successful fundraising Film event.**

- Our video '*SA – A United State of Mind*' continues to be shown free in community advertisements on commercial television and we are still distributing our UN DAY Poster.
- We hosted a briefing by UNHCR staff on their current work in Uganda and Thailand.
- We also arranged the visit of H. E. Abdulla Mbamba, director of United Nations Information in Canberra when he launched the International Year of the Potato at Parliament House in Adelaide. The Hon Rory McEwen, Minister of Agriculture, represented the State Government. Students from Tabor College displayed their potato paintings; one of which, "Potatoes in Love", won the UN Art Competition in Australia.
- Glen Woodward laid Peace Roses at the Peacekeepers' service on UN Day; he also arranged the flying of the UN flag in the city.
- The UNIFEM breakfast committee (Heather Southcott and Lidia Moretti represent UNAA SA) raised \$40,000 for UNIFEM; 1900 women attended.
- S.A. was represented at the UNAA Federal Council meeting in Brisbane by Sheila Hill, Rosemary McKay and Lidia Moretti
- We promoted the Primary Resource book on the International Year of the Potato.
- We have supported and worked closely with UNYA SA; they have had a most successful year. We congratulate them on their achievements.
- A Civic Reception was given by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Networking plays a very important part in our work in S.A. We attended:

- Volunteers Day events
- Save the Children Fund Global Peace Schools events
- Aboriginal Advancement League conference
- Graham F. Smith Peace Dinner
- East Timor Dinner
- DFAT roundtable to meet Ambassador to Burma
- Switch to Green Expo in Canberra
- UNYA State Conference
- Asia Pacific AMUN
- International Human Rights Day events
- Baha'i Group events

Working with UNAA at Federal Level

It has been a busy year for UNAA at Federal level and in other divisions.

I wish to record the thanks of UNAA SA to John Langmore for his leadership over the past few years. He completes his term as President at the Federal Conference in Canberra in September. One of his major achievements is the formation of a UN group in Federal Parliament.

STATUS OF WOMEN COMMITTEE REPORT Kath Smith

Our committee is more of a network than a committee; it meets monthly
All of our members are very involved in meetings of their various organisations.
eg United Nations Association of Australia (S.A.Division); Australian Democrats SA; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Soroptomist Clubs; Catholic Women's League; Australian Federation of University Women; Australian Church Women; Zonta; Uniting Church Fellowship; Bahai Council; and other independent members.
They keep us well informed of status of women events in Adelaide.

Our committee was represented at the Human Rights consultations held in Adelaide.

Five of us from our committee visited the Women's Prison at Northfield. The capacity of this prison has increased to 148; it was originally built to house 113 people, Mothers and babies can't be catered for out there any more. Babies are brought into the prison once a week to bond with their mothers.

Our project for 2009 is to support Jane Minear with the Swimming programme for women prisoners. It includes:

- a. Keep watch (child safety and first aid).
- b. Senior First Aid/swimming lessons which gives the women an Austswim teachers award. The certificates that the participants will receive after completing the programme will not only provide them with new skills but will also broaden their prospects for future employment.
For this programme to go ahead they need goggles, kickboards, and they also need women's bathers (preloved).

Guest speakers for 2008-2009 included:

- Jane Minear from Royal Life Saving Association (SA) who spoke of her work in the women's prison
- Helen Glanville, Executive Director of Prison Fellowship of SA who spoke of their Angel Tree project which supports children and families of women in prison
- Rosa Colanero from Migrant Aged Care spoke on needs of people from diverse cultural background.

The committee is organising a fundraising film evening on Sunday 26 July at the Wallis Theatre; two films with a hot supper.

I would like to thank all the committee for their support.

UNYA SA REPORT

MELISSA WONG

INTRODUCTION

Summary of Key Achievements:

- Regional Road Show
- State Conference
- UNYC
- 'Drop Da Bomb' – Policy campaign
- School Workshops
- School Partnerships Plan
- Annual Dinner
- 'the Onions' - Social Netball
- Youth Rep
- BGS 09
- Unley HS mini-mun
- SAMUNC

The new-year saw UNYA SA tilt towards a slightly different direction. We ingrained into all events two founding aspirations:

1. To engage more young people, notably those without previous UNYA experience, in our organisation.
- And,
2. To expand and propel UNYA further into the community, creating further awareness of UNYA's functions and events.

The past 6 months have truly been an amazing experience for all involved in SA. We travelled over 900km to Port Pirie and back, running a series of nuclear weapons awareness workshops along the way. We ran a State Conference with scholarships awarded to migrant students who were in financial need.

We began a legendary netball team called 'the Onions'.

It has been a wonderful journey for all involved and our success in satisfactorily fulfilling those two aspirations is a tribute to the hard work of all members I have had the pleasure of working alongside.

This report is a (very extensive!) combined effort of UNYA SA.

PRIYA PAVRI, Regional Officer & MELISSA WONG, President

Regional Road Show

The Yorke-Mid North Regional Road Trip ran from the 23rd of February to the 27th of February. Melissa Wong, Catriona Standfield, Libby Keady, Anthony Mysak and Priya Pavri visited Snowtown Area School, Gladstone High School, John Pirie Secondary School, Jamestown Community School, Port Broughton Area School and Mid North Christian College. Originally, we had intended on driving further north to the indigenous town, Marree. Unfortunately due to a change in principals quite close to the trip period and miscommunication within the school, they were unable to accommodate us.

Workshops

We ran workshops on Nuclear Non Proliferation and Disarmament in line with our Policy Campaign. A Youth Declaration Session was also held at each school, which allowed the students to share and discuss their opinions on the environment, education, indigenous and multicultural affairs and human rights. Emphasis was placed on student suggestions on what could be improved on a local level. Their feedback was collated and a final youth dec document was presented to the Mayor of Port Pirie and distributed to local councils and schools. A mock debate also took place at Mid North Christian College as we had extra time and some fantastic points were taken up by both sides on whether 'Australia should have nuclear weapons'. We informed students about UNYA SA and how they can get involved. State Conference was also promoted.

MEDIA!!!!

One of our key achievements of our Regional Road Show this year was the amount of media attention it had. We had articles in three local newspapers (one was a front page headline!) a story on the local TV channel Southern Cross news, as well as an 11 minute interview and the local ABC radio station . The range of media we had meant that we were able to reach out to an estimated audience of over 50, 000 people.

Outline of media:

- Gladstone High School workshop – Flinders News (newspaper, front page)
- Port Broughton – The Yorke Peninsula Country Times (newspaper, student interview)
- John Pirie workshop – Southern Cross news (TV story)
- Final media day – ABC (radio interview) and The Recorder (newspaper)

Transportation and Accommodation & Venues

5 members of UNYA SA travelled in a UNYA SA member's car from town to town. This was the quickest and most cost effective way to travel. We were able to base ourselves at Priya's which saved us a significant amount of accommodation costs. Through the Port Pirie Regional Council, the mayoral chambers were booked for the presentation of the Youth Declaration on the final day of the Road Trip. Elected members and the Minister for Youth were invited to this presentation along with school students and teachers who participated in the event.

Initial difficulties were encountered when attempting to raise funds to run the Regional Road show. Service clubs were unable to assist us. However with the help of UNYA National, the UNAA and local YAC's were able to successfully raise the funds to run the Road Show and surprisingly covered all costs of the trip.

Conclusion/Recommendations

The Regional Road Show 2009 ran smoothly and promoted UNYA SA in Regional South Australia. We were able to involve students who would normally be unable to attend UNYA events in Adelaide.

We had one student travel to Adelaide for our State Conference and think this is a positive outcome in involving regional students.

If an event like this was to run again it would be good to reach students in more rural areas and further west past Port Pirie.

Running debating workshops which teach students about mock GA debating would be another beneficial programme to run with regional students as it was found that many were unfamiliar with debating resolutions which made them reconsider attending large UNYA SA events and competitions such as BGS and State Conference.



ANNA FICEK, EMWOP

State Conference

Overall, I believe that the conference went very well. Of the 40 delegates registered, 37 attended the conference. Facilitating was at a high standard considering that, being a young division, there were few full-time facilitators who had facilitated at a residential conference before. Despite the few hiccups during the first morning with regards to facilitation style and leading discussion groups, all facilitators were able to quickly and productively take on board the constructive criticism and advice given by myself and Mel Wong, as we have both had more experience facilitating at residential conferences.

In regards to content, I believe that the conference was cohesive yet varied enough to be interesting. The two speakers that presented on the first morning of the conference, Sandy Biar and Professor Felix Patrikeef, hit the two main goals of UNYA SA in the 2008-2009 term; youth empowerment, a constant value behind all of UNYA's work, and Nuclear Non Proliferation and Disarmament, the policy campaign for the current term. Although the theme for the 2009 State Conference was around Non Proliferation and Disarmament, we still held workshops on Human Rights, and debated issues surrounding national security and sovereignty as well as a variety of pertinent concerns in the Youth Declaration, run by Mel Wong. Also, the fact that we had workshops that were more practical and varied in their approaches, like the IPS (written by Michael Wilson) and the Disarmament workshop (written by Cat Standfield) as well as the UNYA National 'Lets Talk about Rights' Workshop, really livened up the atmosphere and created better friendships between delegates, who were then more comfortable working together. I would also like to stress the importance of having input from UNYA National in the content of the conference, giving delegates an understanding of the size and work of UNYA as a whole organisation.

A quick mention must also be given to the social aspect of the conference. Libby Keady did a great job organising this often-overlooked part of the conference. A well organised and varied social calendar lets delegates casually and informally get to know each other and build friendships which then leads to a less hesitant atmosphere during debate and workshops, elevating the quality of the conference.

A new aspect of the conference in 2009, and one I strongly urge future convenors to follow, is to provide regional and disadvantaged grants and scholarships for a variety of students. I would further like to underline the importance of moving away from the traditional UNYA State Conference Delegation, which is made up of primarily metropolitan private and privileged public schools. Although these schools had a very strong presence at the conference, with large delegations from Walford and Norwood Morialta High School, we had a more diverse delegation with a regional student, whose travel expenses and part of her registration was covered by the Norman Percy Cole grant. Another delegate's registration fee was partially covered by the NPC grant, this delegate had just recently moved to Australia from the UK.



We also had students attending who had been referred to the conference by Bosco from the Migrant Resource Centre. These students' registration fees were fully subsidised by the NPC grant. I believe that it was a great opportunity for the migrant and regional delegates, one of which was chosen as part of the SA 2009 UNYC delegation as well as a way to diversify the demographic of the traditional SA State Conference. The delegates had a lot to offer in discussion and debate during the weekend. The idea of sponsored spaces for certain students is a great idea and one that needs to be addressed in the future, giving students who otherwise would not have this great experience, an amazing opportunity and bringing UNYA SA's work closer to that of the UN, and making conferences less exclusionary.

CATRIONA STANDFIELD, VP - Policy

'Drop Da Bomb' - Policy campaign

Since the last National Council in December, UNYA SA's policy efforts have been focused on the second half of the Drop Da Bomb campaign. This has included the following:

- Blue Paper
- Regional Road Trip Workshops
- JSCT Submission
- State Conference
- School Workshops
- Battle of the Bands Concert with Burnside YAC

Constructing the Blue Paper has been quite a challenging task, but at the same time it has been great to create something lasting from the policy campaign. The use of the wikispace has helped greatly in providing the opportunities for people to easily collaborate on the paper. Although the task of writing the document devolved to one person, great effort has been put into making it a representative view.

The Blue Paper fed directly into the drafting of a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties' inquiry. The submission was drafted jointly by SA and WA and submitted on behalf of UNYA Australia.

We were fortunate this year that our State Conference theme, 'Bin the Bomb', tied in directly with our policy theme. We ran a policy workshop at the conference on nuclear weapons, which aimed to give the delegates some basic knowledge. We then gave them an exercise where they had to discuss the 13 Practical Steps for Nuclear Disarmament, but from the view of politician from a nuclear weapon state. We thought that this gave the delegates a good picture of some of the difficulties in non-proliferation and disarmament.



The last main event of the policy calendar is Burnside City Council YAC's Battle of the Band concert. We have been involved in the event in several ways, such as promotion and providing volunteers at the event. The main focus of the partnership is for UNYA SA to broadcast its policy message to a large group of young

people, at the same time promoting youth in the community. We hope to put our message across by having a stall at the event, multimedia displays and speaking briefly to the crowd. It has also been a way for some UNYC delegates to get involved in the division, by acting as volunteers at the event.

DAVID WRIGHT, Education Officer

Schools Partnership Plan:

The key project for the education committee in 2008/09 was the Schools Partnership Plan (SPP). The purpose of the SPP was to identify select schools that UNYA SA will develop a closer network with over the coming years. The SPP outlines the concept of an UNYA / Schools partnership and provides both what UNYA SA is able to offer as well as what we are hoping to gain from a closer working partnership.

After weak responses from the initial mail-out of the SPP, a second pack was sent out at the beginning of June. This mail out targeted the 19 South Australian schools that UNYA has had the most support from in the past. A more in-depth cover-letter was included as well as a document that outlined UNYA SA's upcoming events in 2009. The letter also proposes meetings with coordinating teachers at the schools as a way of following up on the SPP.

The SPP will hopefully allow UNYA SA to hold more MUN's and workshops at our partner schools as well as attract more students to our State Conferences and Security Council Competitions.

School Workshops:

In June/July UNYA SA will be running school workshops under our policy campaign. The workshops are comprised of two one hour sections: *Peaceful Negotiation and Conflict Resolution*, and *Conflict and Human Rights*, written by Catriona Standfield. The workshops will be targeted at a year 10 and above level. A core group of about half a dozen schools have been approached to host the workshops. Members of UNYA SA are presenting the workshops at the high schools that they have attended in the past. So far workshops have been held at Norwood Morialta High School and Unley High School and were highly successful.

MELISSA WONG & LIBBY KEADY - Social Officer

Annual Dinner

The 2009 annual dinner is a celebration of the achievements of UNYA SA throughout the 2008/2009 term. It is also a chance to showcase what UNYA stands for and what it can offer to potential supporters and schools. The dinner is set to be held on the 17th of July at the Robin Hood Hotel. The guest speaker will be former UNYA SA President Penny Wells. During the organisational process there were a number of complications, specifically with the location of an appropriate guest speaker, which caused the postponing of the dinner twice.

The night will entail addresses by Melissa Wong, Penny Wells as well as Catriona Sandfield and I. This will be a chance to show case what UNYA has achieved. Mel will be speaking on UNYA SA, followed by Penny who will talk about the importance of youth empowerment. Catriona and I will give a short presentation on the current policy campaign 'drop da bomb' as well as other events such as our ongoing netball competitions and Regional Road Show. Mel will also be the MC for the night. We have invited 170 guests including the Governor (also our Patron), Minister for Youth and Shadow Minister for Youth, various other MP's, Channel 7 newsreader Jane Reilly, school representatives, schools from the regional road trip and the Mayor of Port Pirie and other persons of importance.

Tickets are selling for \$50 and this includes a 3-course sit down dinner, plus \$10 donation to UNYA towards our work for next year.

In regards to decorations, I am planning on having the rough youth declarations (butchers paper) scattered over the wall as well as pictures of this year's achievements and different activities. It was also suggested at

the most recent social committee meeting that a copy of both the state and national youth declarations be printed and displayed in a formal format. During the night, a slide show of both state and national UNYA pictures will be displayed on an over head projector. Other fundraisers, such as a raffle, will be held on the night, with prizes donated by various in kind sponsors.

CATRIONA STANDFIELD & DAVID WRIGHT

Youth Representative

UNYA SA has taken quite a proactive approach to the Youth Representative programme this year. We have promoted it strongly amongst our networks. We are hoping to provide Chris with a diverse range of youth to consult with, as well as access to local media, politicians and youth-related organisations.

UNYA SA got an early start to the Youth Representative Itinerary. It was felt that South Australia deserved more than the fairly minimal visit that has occurred in previous years. To our disappointment, the SA itinerary may be cut short to the 11th of August dependent upon Chris's plans for International Youth Day.

The 2009 tour of SA will include regional consultations. The YR will be heading north of Adelaide to Port Pirie. Interest has also been expressed from youth groups in Maitland (on the Yorke Peninsula), the Riverland, and the southern Fleurieu Peninsula. A full day of meetings with VIP's is planned. There will also be a focus on media; covering at least newspapers and radio, but television may also be a possibility. This will hopefully also incorporate interviews with youth radio shows and magazines. Two days of the itinerary will be metropolitan schools consultations. The target will be to cover North-Eastern Schools one day and South-Western schools the other. Schools have been approached to host a half day or full day forum in their region. As the 9th of August is The International Day for World Indigenous People the thought was to spend some part of this day meeting with Indigenous youth groups. Other consultations will be aimed at a diverse range of youth groups and organisations. Some of these include: young adults in recreation, religious networks (visiting places of worship), ethnic communities, music groups as well as homeless youth.

STEPHEN STZUSTER, EMWOP

Boutros-Ghali Shield 09

The Boutros Ghali Shield, the second of UNYA SA's annual events, is currently being organised. The following stages of the organisation process have been completed:

- Venue Organisation and dates

University of South Australia City West Campus on the 22nd and 23rd of August

- Secretariat (Organising Committee)

The Secretariat for BGS 09 has been established with numerous expressions of interest from across UNYA SA's membership. The group will make up the people that spearhead the recruitment process and run the event in August

There are but two more steps in the organisation process until the conference itself. They are:

- Administration

The cost of participation for the delegates is to be finalised and an overall budget established. Moreover, all documents (stored on UNYA SA's iDisk) must be updated for this year's event

- Recruitment

Recruitment will include school presentations, mail outs and phone and email contact with schools. The aim is to recruit 60 secondary school participants

With the help of UNYA SA's executive and active members this event will, without a doubt, be one to remember!

MELISSA WONG, Captain of 'the Onions' - social netball team

In April this year UNYA SA started its own social netball team. On Sunday's the team plays at MARS Sporting Complex in their Mixed Social Netball Competition. The team comprises of 12 members from across the organisational membership and ranges in age from 16 to 21. Through participation in this team, all members have a chance to socialize outside of UNYA's usual undertakings - allowing friendships to prosper and others to be made!



MELISSA WONG SAMUNC 2009

This year we have had the opportunity to work alongside the University of SA's UN Society in running SAMUNC, a state version of AMUNC.

UNYA provided facilitators, one director to the Human Rights Commission, welfare officers and delegates for the events, as well as organizational memory. This turned out to be quite a success.

SAMUNC has proven to be a huge learning curve for all. Members of UNYA were able to participate at any level at a MUN quite different to those held by UNYA. The UniSA UN society were also able to collaborate with us and vital information sharing occurred on both fronts. We will definitely be spearheading further involvement during the next couple of years.