



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

2009 — 2010

- **INTERNATIONAL YEAR of YOUTH**
- **INTERNATIONAL YEAR for the RAPPROCHEMENT of CULTURES**
- **INTERNATIONAL YEAR of BIODIVERSITY**

2008—2017	Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
2006—2016	Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions (third decade after the Chernobyl Disaster)
2005—2015	<u>International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”</u>
2005—2014	United Nations Decade for Sustainable Development
2005—2014	<u>Second International Decade of the world’s Indigenous People</u>
2003—2012	United Nations Literacy Decade: Education for All
2001—2010	<u>International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World</u>
2001—2010	Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa
2001—2010	Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

SIXTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION INC.

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

Sister Patricia Pak Poy, Sisters of Mercy

Members of Executive Committee 2009—2010

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 Gray

UNYA Ms Catriona Standfield

CONTACTS	UNAA Status of Women	Dr. Sing Ping Ting, President Mrs. Kath Smith, Vice President Pat Hardy, Secretary
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	Environment Programme	Br Peter Faulkner
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VOLUNTEERS	Pamela Newland	Sathavy Suos
	Ron Hall	Hal Gray
	Peter Faulkner	

UNAA SA VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2009—2010 John Crawford

Circumstances dictate that this report is a break from previous practice. With our President, Heather Southcott in hospital it has become my task to compile the report this year. It does however provide an excellent opportunity to start by recording our thanks to Heather for her untiring service to UNAA over so many years. I joined the Executive Committee in the mid 1980s, and from the start I have been amazed at her commitment to publicising the aims and objectives of the United Nations. She has brought to the role of President a wide knowledge of people and organizations Australia wide, and particularly here in South Australia, where her networking and involvement is so broad. I am sure everyone will join me in expressing our thanks, and wishing her a speedy recovery. Thank you Heather.

We again acknowledge our continued support by the Premier and the South Australian Government through a grant and a rent subsidy which enables us to have our office here in a heritage listed building in the centre of Adelaide.

Further financial support has again been provided through a grant by the Norman Percy Cole bequest. This money is given to us to be used in supporting and helping disadvantaged young people. It has enabled us to again provide \$2,500 in incentive grants to the SA Children's Week Committee. They use this money for small incentive grants to disadvantaged schools and kindergartens in ways whereby each small grant is used to buy materials and necessary items they otherwise could not afford so they can participate in local Children's Week activities. The United Nations Youth Association has also been able to offer small scholarships to a range of participants who could not afford to attend the UNYA State Conference because of distance or family circumstances. Also support has been given for vocational training with notable success.

An important change has been the provision of broadband Internet access in our office by Internode. Ryan Kris, a UNAA(SA), member asked Internode, his employer, whether they would be willing to support our work by providing a broadband service for us. Not only are we reaping the benefits of a fast internet service in time saved and ease of use, but Ryan brought hardware provided by Internode and undertook its installation for us. We thank both Internode and Ryan for their ongoing support, it is very much appreciated.

It was with great concern in October that we heard of the sudden death of Ratt Suos, husband for 27 years of Sathavy Suos our Tuesday office volunteer and organizer of our special UN Year celebrations over recent years. We offer Sathavy our heartfelt sympathy at this time of deep grief.

We do not have any paid staff, all activities being carried out by our volunteers, not just in providing regular presence in the office during core working hours, but also in the work of the Executive Committee in extending knowledge and understanding about the United Nations into the wider community. In our office, we have been greatly appreciative and offer special thanks to Pamela Newland, our Monday person, who recently has been forced to relinquish this task. Also thank you to Sathavy Suos, our Tuesday volunteer, who we hope is only on extended leave of absence. On Wednesday Ron Hall looks after the distribution of UN Information through a number of email lists which ensure members who have requested this information are kept informed. Hallam Gray helps on Thursday, and finally Peter Faulkner completes the week on Friday.

Peter, with some helpers, has continued his good work as editor of our Newsletter. In his absence Rosemary McKay has stepped into the breach, and maintained the high standard Peter has

demonstrated so effectively. I think the newsletter has set a very high standard in offering so much interesting information. It is now being distributed both by post, and also, upon request, by email, saving paper and postage; something that appeals to Peter as our committee specialist in environmental matters.

Importantly through our committee, and a wider group of contacts, our voice is heard at a wide range of events and contact organisations. On our Executive Committee we have representative positions from a number of other organisations. Franciscus Ewing represents the Aboriginal Advancement League. Manijeh Shahzadeh joins us from the Baha'i Community. The Catholic women's League is represented by Tess Donellan, and WILPF by Ruth Russell. Their networking, and involvement in the wider community is invaluable. Also on the Committee, Glen Woodward provides expertise in community issues, and represents us at the Peacekeeper's Service on UN Day. Lidia Moretti is instrumental in arrangements for our UN Day Dinner, and in obtaining the most generous sponsorship that makes the Silent Auction such a success. Hal Gray has assisted by auditing the UNYA and Status of Women's Committee accounts.

Also represented on our committee is Melissa Wong from UNYA. Although technically a UNAA(SA) sub-committee, UNYA operates almost fully independently. They offer a superb example of how an effective organisation can be totally run by young people. In quite a number of areas I envy their organisational and publicity skills.

Our central location in Victoria Square has offered various advantages, although the arrival of the Universities (Carnegie Mellon, UCS and Cranfield) has put pressure on the availability of space, with most of the original NGO organisations in the Torrens Building having already moved out, or planning to move in the not too distant future. Parking and after hours access to the building present an increasing problem and are reaching the stage where we might happily accept an offer of new premises as long as our key priority needs were satisfied. In the meantime there is no alternative on offer, even though Heather has been active in culling much of the old papers which are of neither historic nor UN reference material.

The archive we have of printed documents is not accessed often. I believe a lot of it predates material available via the Internet on the UNIC website in Canberra. Material earlier than 1990 is not likely to be found via the Internet, whereas we have a superbly indexed selection. Documents that are easy to find and reference. If we have to move, we fear we will not be able to take this substantial collection with us.

Highlights of the Year include:

Our UN Day Dinner. The Dinner on the 25 October was well attended. Our speaker, Hon Catherine Branson QC, Chair of the Human Rights Commission gave a most interesting talk. This has become our major fund-raiser with our usual support from Mings Palace Restaurant and our generous donors for the silent auction.

Our Annual General Meeting. At our AGM in June we heard from three young people. Michaela Wauchope told us about her experiences at a UN Youth Conference in Genoa. Catriona Standfield updated us on the UNYA activities this past year, and Andrew Antenucci described his experiences at the Terra Madre in Turin, and the Asia Pacific AMUNC in Adelaide.

Our Status of women Committee organised the other major fund raiser with a very successful film afternoon on 26 July.

Our video 'SA—A United State of Mind' continues to appear on SBS and commercial channels. As a free community advertisement it has continued to be used well beyond its originally anticipated life

of two years. We have just been advised of a further Multi-Cultural grant of \$1,000 to make a further community advertisement looking at the next generation of our diverse population, migrant as well as refugee.

We were represented by Lidia Moretti, Glen Woodward, Ruth Russell, and Rosemary McKay at the *Governor's Garden Party* on 23 March.

We offer our congratulations to our member *John von Doussa* QC who was awarded the Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours list. He is currently Chancellor of the University of Adelaide.

We hosted a *briefing by UNHCR* on their work in refugee camps in Chad on the Sudan border. As with the previous year it was an inspiring talk highlighting the camps efforts to build schools, and help people who see education as the key to their future in such difficult circumstances.

Glen Woodward represented UNAA and presented an arrangement of roses at the *Peacekeeper's Service at 11 am UN Day*, 24 October.

Sally Sara spoke at the *Unifem Breakfast* on 5 March. As usual UNAA(SA) members were present.

UNAA Federal Council. SA was represented by Ruth Russell. It is important to us that SA continues to be represented at our national conference.

International year of Natural Fibres. Again we celebrated the UN Year of Natural Fibres with a display and presentations highlighting the wide range of natural fibres that are still used. Sathavy brought together examples of a wide range of fibres, fabrics, supported by an excellent fibre booklet.

Networking: involvement with other organisations.

There have been the usual wide ranging events at which members of UNAA(SA) have been represented by members of our Committee, and other friends. These include Children's Week events, meeting with the Ambassador to Burma, Baha'i group events, Volunteers Day, a number of conferences, dinners and significant talks.

UNAA Federal Activities

We welcomed the election of Robert Hill as UNAA Federal President. It gives us great pleasure to see such a well qualified and well known South Australian in this role. We look forward to hearing him speak at our Annual Dinner on UN Day on 24 October at Ming's Palace.

The work of the Federal Executive is quite important to us. The planning of the Federal Conference each year and close cooperation with UNYA at a national level are especially significant Federal activities.

Our Office Work Load

Over the years the work seen by our volunteers in the office has changed. At a recent Executive meeting I was asked to try to quantify this, and although feeling that any assessment of irregular and unpredictable contacts would necessarily be subjective, I believe it is still worthwhile to describe the activities in our office, and offer comment.

We no longer have many phone calls or visitors, the significant contacts probably averaging one or two per week. But it is very evident that these are still important. In particular there are the callers, and visitors who seek help with a situation where they do not know where to go next. Examples include questions about the Rights of the Disabled, difficult international situations in Iran, Sudan, or other troubled countries, and trying to help or locate family in these countries. If

we can refer our callers to someone who is in a position to help it shows that our presence in having an office staffed by volunteers is still important.

In our Adelaide White Pages Phone Directory, UNAA(SA) is the only entry with 'United Nations' in its title. It can be a little frustrating when a caller confuses us with the UN itself or one of its agencies, but as a first port of call our referral of the caller to the appropriate source of help may be crucial.

Recent documents we might have previously purchased for our library are now often not published on paper, having been replaced by their being available on the Internet. The reference material provided by the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Canberra offers a wide range of more recent UN documents via the Internet. Having broadband Internet in our office has been a great step forward. But our older documents, only available on paper, are still occasionally most relevant. It has also been pointed out more than once that support in finding information about the UN and its agencies from other libraries in Adelaide can be very difficult. I have concluded that if possible we should try to keep our wall of UN documents and publications for a while longer, together with its superb index. The Internet is still not an adequate substitute.

In addition to the visitors and phone calls we average some 10 letters and 50 emails per week (which include about 20 UN information pages which we distribute further via email, 20 advertising or spam messages). For the phone calls we can go all day without a call, and then suddenly another day offers a spate of calls, say four in an hour. It is still the examples of real need that stand out amongst these calls; they can be so important.

Important office tasks include the upkeep of our membership files, as well as further lists of friends and people who appreciate receiving our information. This is especially the case when Internet distribution has a low cost in adding a name to a list, while paper and postage become a more and more onerous cost.

We have two regular UN updates, UNity and UNWire for which we facilitate their circulation by email. We also receive a lot of information and publicity material from other bodies which can be forwarded via an email list to those who have indicated their interest.

Finally our newsletter needs many hours in collecting the material for inclusion, editing it and laying it out to make an attractive and interesting document. We very much appreciate the compliments we get on its interest and quality, while doing our best to take on board the occasional criticism. This then presents the job of getting it printed, folding, placing in envelopes, addressing and posting, as well as sending out a parallel copy by email. We wish the email file was not so large, but any more compression results in something too difficult to read, and not really printable.

We occasionally receive offers from volunteer or work experience applicants, but without employed support right through the week we have always faced difficulty in supervision and setting out a workable programme. A great pity, and something we regret.

Unfortunately there is also the occasional call for help from a troubled soul who we cannot help at all. People who might say they are being harassed by the police, or have been given an implanted chip and so on. These are a concern to us when our office usually only has a single person on duty who can be vulnerable.

The enquiries from people in need seem to be a core issue, however much we feel we cannot help directly ourselves. But with our wide ranging involvement in our society, and our networking with other organisation which can help, I feel we are fulfilling a very valid role.

STATUS OF WOMEN COMMITTEE REPORT 2009—2010

During the meetings we have been focussing on "awareness" of various issues that affect the status of women and children.

1. We discussed the Magill Youth Training Centre and the facilities it offered for the young law offenders. Many of the residents in the centre were unable to read or write and help was needed in the area of literacy.
2. Rosa Colanero spoke to us about "migrant aged care". Due to the difference in culture and language barrier, this group of aged people need special life style co-ordination being it in the home care situation or in residential care.
3. Helen Glandville gave a very inspirational talk on Prison Fellowship.
4. A DVD on the women of Afghanistan was shown. It gave us a run down on the lives of a few women, from the time of Soviet invasion in 1979 to the present.
5. A talk from Ashley Knoote-Parke on the "branding of women"—how women can market themselves and to celebrate their achievements.
6. Mrs. Sheila Hill gave a talk on her involvement with migrants, especially her mentoring and care of some families from Afghanistan.
7. Royal Life Saving—is planning a project to teach swimming to women in prison.

During the year we again held a very successful films-cum-dinner evening. We raised a bit of funding for the every-day running cost the UNAA(SA).

Members of the SOWC were well represented at the UNIFEM breakfast.

Hands-on "Advocacy" and "Actions" were done via the various organisations represented by members of UNAA SOWC.

1. Soroptimist International clubs are involved in "Bone Densitometry Petition" to urge the Federal Government to offer free bone densitometry to all women reaching menopause.
2. Soroptimists supporting "Anangu Bibi"—an early childhood and maternal care programme in Port Augusta.

3. Soroptimists supporting the Domestic Violence Centre in Berri, the only one in the whole Murray Valley.
4. Zonta clubs continuing with the "Birthing Kits" and Breast cushions for women after surgeries for breast cancers.
5. Catholic Women's League to raise fund to support the Rural Ministry Formation for lay people in the country areas. This programme aims to train lay people in parish work.
6. Australian Federation of University Women continues to be involved in The National Council for Single Mothers and their Children. The annual bursary awards continue.
7. Women's International league for Peace & Freedom Australia continues with various campaigns , eg. Problems in the Congo and the mining of coltan.
8. Baha'i Faith held Teachers' Day celebration and Women's Day celebration. We continue to be concerned about the fate of prisoners of Baha'i Faith held in prison in extreme conditions with no legal representation.

The Committee changed the time for the start of meetings to an earlier time slot, 6.30pm instead of 7.30 pm, and this had been found to be more suitable for most members.

For the future I look forward to more direct involvement with the UNAA(SA).

The next film afternoon is planned for Sunday 25th July. The films will be "Young Victoria" and "Bran Nue Dae".

Sing Ping Ting.
President , UNAA SOWC (SA)

United Nations Youth Association of South Australia

President's Note: Catriona Standfield

I stepped into my role as divisional President in July 2009, at a time when UNYA SA is undergoing a period of change. Continuing from last year's divisional building work, we have been focused on 'upskilling' our relatively young and new active membership base by creating as many opportunities as possible for people to gain valuable experience at our conferences and other events. We are also refining the executive and committees to better reflect UNYA SA's activities and to operate more efficiently. Part of these changes has included the creation of a Tertiary Officer portfolio. I strongly believe that increasing the number of experienced people in UNYA and fostering an effective organisational structure will help UNYA SA go from strength to strength in the future.

Thanks to the hard work of last year's Vice President Administration, Talis Evans, UNYA SA's accounts and record keeping were in excellent shape to hand over to Anthony Mysak this year. We have continued Talis' excellent work through increasing financial reporting and accountability for events and activities.

This year in particular has seen an increase in the amount and scope of UNYA SA's work, as well as some key achievements. We have undertaken a wide range of exciting new activities and initiatives that we hope will increase UNYA SA's presence in the community and schools. In particular, we have entered into a partnership with DECS to run an online Model UN conference, we have begun the new School Ambassador Programme and we are planning a Junior Public Speaking Competition for years 7 to 9. Not to be forgotten is our role in lobbying the State Government for the closure of the Magill Youth Training Centre. In summary, it is a very exciting time to be President of UNYA SA and I am very pleased with how far we have come over the year to date.

Policy: Vice-President (Policy): Stephen Szuster

In July 2009 UNYA SA adopted Juvenile Detention, Homelessness, Poverty as its 12 month Policy Campaign. All of these policy initiatives have incorporated advocacy for Australia's compliance with United Nations treaties and covenants. With the help of Chris Varney, the 2009 Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations, the campaign established a partnership with the Close Magill Campaign and the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia. On August 10 Chris Varney and Steve were able to visit the Cavan and Magill Training Centres - the two juvenile detention centres for young offenders in South Australia. Following this visit, UNYA SA became increasingly involved in the Close Magill Campaign. This campaign aimed to secure a change in South Australian Labor government policy and thus commit to closing the Magill Training Centre and build a new rehabilitation centre for juvenile offenders. This aim was ultimately achieved as on September 23 2009 the government announced that it would close Magill Training Centre and complete the construction of a new centre by 2011. In the six weeks UNYA SA was involved in the Close Magill Campaign it engaged with the media on numerous occasions, advocating for the closure of the centre and informing the public about the issue, and we secured meetings with a number of State and Federal Members of Parliament. Moreover, on September 23 the UNYA SA Policy Committee hosted a Q & A (with Channel Nine political reporter Tom Richardson as moderator) with:

- Stephen Wade, Shadow Minister for Families and Communities
- Leigh Garret, CEO Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Service
- Andrew Paterson, Chairman of the Australian Crime Prevention Council (SA)
- John Webb, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
- Pam Simmons, Guardian for Children and Young People
- Sarah Hanson-Young, Federal Senator for South Australia

This event was also the impetus for further engagement with the media.

Following our involvement with the Close Magill Campaign, UNYA SA turned its attention towards establishing partnerships with other organisations that work in field of Juvenile Justice, Homelessness and Poverty. To this end, UNYA SA has been involved with the Australian Crime Prevention Council Youth Justice Working Group, the South Australian Council of Social Service and the Service to Youth Council.

Moreover, UNYA SA was invited to make a submission to the Council for the Care of Children Annual Report - which was subsequently tabled in parliament. Recently, Chris Varney and UNYA SA's policy team have been organising a report, on the subject of juvenile justice, based on the consultations Chris had with young people who have been in youth detention centres. This report will take the place of the normal blue paper and will be published in late 2010.

Education: Education Officer: David Wright

A key part of the Education Portfolio is school partnerships. In 2010, a new approach to school partnerships was devised called the UNYA SA School Ambassadors Program (SAP), where we recruit high school students to act as Ambassadors for UNYA SA at their school. The SAP aims to:

- Increase UNYA SA's presence in the school community,
- Provide an easier 'entry point' into UNYA SA for new, school-aged members,
- Widen the network of young people involved in UNYA SA,
- Promote awareness of the UN in schools, and
- Provide more opportunities for the education, empowerment and leadership of young people.

A group of enthusiastic delegates from our State Conference applied to be the first School Ambassadors. During the rest of the school year the Ambassadors will attend training sessions and help to educate their peers about the United Nations and international affairs.

In 2009/10 UNYA SA ran a range of school workshops covering issues such as: the United Nations and its role in international affairs, children's rights, minority rights, peaceful Negotiation, conflict resolution and human rights. These workshops were targeted at high school students from years 10-12, and were well received by all those who participated.

In August 2009 UNYA SA was approached by Jenny Rossiter, an online teacher with the Department of Education and Children's Services, who was interested in the possibility of organising an online Model UN conference for year 7 students across South Australia. The MUN is currently being held (Term 2 of the school year), with eight schools participating. The students will debate two resolutions that cover issues such as the environment and refugees. Educating primary school students is a first for UNYA SA and this program shows UNYA's willingness to diversify our programs to meet the needs of a range of age-groups.

Regional Engagement: Regional Officer: Priya Pavri

Port Augusta Road Trip

Priya conducted the 2009/10 Regional Road Trip to Port Augusta. Members of UNYA SA were able to engage with secondary students from both the local private and public school. We ran conflict resolution workshops and a youth declaration session with each group. The youth declaration was then compiled and presented to the Mayor of Port Augusta by representatives of the school along with UNYA SA. Students were able to have a round table discussion with the Mayor of Port Augusta, her deputy and the manager of youth affairs of their local council, which was facilitated by UNYA SA members. This enabled young people to ask questions about local issues that concerned them. These issues included: further education funding and scholarships, relocating to metropolitan locations, sporting facilities and the local environment with a strong focus on the local power plant.

Youth Representative consultation in Port Pirie

Chris Varney, the 2009/10 Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations, spent a day in Port Pirie as a part of his consultation in South Australia. He ran consultation sessions at two secondary schools in which students had an opportunity to write letters to PM Kevin Rudd. He then spent time in a youth housing facility speaking with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. The response from the youth housing facility was heartwarming. Many of the young people had never had the opportunity to tell their stories of hardship openly with genuine listeners on the other end.

State Conference Participants

With the help of the UNAA scholarship for transport assistance, this year saw a major increase in the number of regional students attending the 2010 State Conference. Two students from Port Augusta attended, as did 4 students from Victor Harbor. It was great to see a significant increase in the number

of regional students attending UNYA SA events and this could not have been done without the funding available to assist regional students with transportation costs, the largest hurdle they face.

Tertiary Engagement: Tertiary Officer: Raffaele Piccolo

The Tertiary Officer role at UNYA SA is a new position. In the past UNYA SA has been focussed on educating high school students as to the role and importance of the United Nations. In combination with a lack of resources this has made engagement with tertiary students in South Australia somewhat difficult. However the creation of this position reflects an acknowledgement within the organisation that we have to better engage with tertiary students so as to ensure that high school students are able to maintain their connections with the wider UN movement in their later years.

The year has been spent trying to engage with students across the universities. From the outset we have sought to reassure the respective UN societies at the University of Adelaide and UniSA that we do not seek to take away from their activities, but rather to engage with them. In fact UNYA SA played a somewhat small role in the foundation of the University of Adelaide UN Society and even managed to be officially recognised in its constitution.

To date engagement with these organisations has begun to work after a somewhat reluctant start. There is movement towards more formal recognition of the respective roles of the organisation with the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Adelaide University UN Society as hosts of the 2010 SA Model UN Conference and UNYA. Hopefully another MOU between the respective organisations themselves will soon follow.

In terms of activities UNYA SA has attempted to both engage with other university clubs/activities and establish its own activities across the universities. To date we were involved in the SA Model UN Conference in 2009 and we have hosted a UN Seminar at the University of Adelaide in October 2009 to mark UN Day. The guest speaker for the event was Professor Ivan Shearer, former vice chair of the UN Human Rights Committee. UNYA SA also participated in the Australian Youth Climate Coalition campaign to collect the signatures of university students in the lead up to the Copenhagen Conference in 2009. At the moment UNYA SA is running an essay competition for tertiary students, which is co-sponsored by the Don Dunstan Foundation and New Internationalist Magazine. Finally, as previously mentioned, UNYA SA will be taking part in the 2010 SA Model UN Conference.

Social Events and Activities: Social Officer: Idris Martin

This year for UNYA SA, the aim has been to bring UNYA SA as a division closer together not just as colleagues but also as friends. As such, we have worked hard to make sure the social aspect of UNYA SA is ever present in the lives of UNYAns. This, we plan to continue our successful netball team aptly named The Onions. Additionally, we have held one social event per month, ranging from beach days and picnics to Fun MUNs and a Bollywood movie night. This year, we also saw the creation of the first UNYA SA Scavenger Hunt. This was so successful that we plan to hold an Annual Scavenger Hunt.

UNYA SA held its first Annual Dinner in July 2009. At the Annual Dinner, we celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and invite all of our stakeholders and associates of UNYA SA to celebrate with us. This was a modest success, raising approximately \$300 and it was attended by about 50 guests. Planning for the 2010 Dinner is underway and it is shaping up well. We hope that this year's dinner, to be held in July, will be even more successful than last year.

As a whole, the Social Committee of UNYA SA has been very effective in the one goal of bringing UNYA SA together. In an effort to continue this sentiment through to the next year of UNYA SA, a "Past and Present Exec" gathering will occur, where members of the new and old Executive will be able to get to know each other in a social environment and hand over organisational knowledge.

Boutros Ghali Shield 2009: Convenor: Stephen Szuster

BGS, held from the 22nd to the 23rd of August 2009, was convened by Stephen Szuster and it definitely counted as a success for the division. In past years, we have had great trouble attracting delegates to each of our two rounds. This was identified from the outset as a main challenge to overcome. However through a concerted drive of emailing and calling schools, and most importantly, by getting UNYC 2009 delegates to promote BGS at their schools, we were able to fill both rounds with delegates from a variety of private and public schools. Having more delegates definitely showed in the quality and pace of the debate, both of which were very good. This year, we were also able to take advantage of our

excellent relations with the UniSA UN Society to secure a venue and AV equipment free of charge. Having the venue free of charge, as well as minimising other costs such as providing lunch (we went to a cafe as a group to buy lunch), resulted in us making a very healthy profit of over \$700 from the event. This has certainly helped to keep the division financially sound.

In regards to upskilling, we used BGS as an opportunity to train newer and less experienced members in facilitation skills and fulfilling the roles of Secretary and President. The composition of our Evatt selection committee also included those with previous experience and those new to selecting the winning delegates. The quality of facilitation at the event was quite good and the UNYC 2009 delegates who were there as facilitators showed a very high level of professionalism.

Overall, the event was highly successful and a credit to Steve, who did an excellent job as Convenor. We hope to build on the successes of this year's BGS to make next year's even better and possibly bigger.

State Conference 2010: Convenor: Madeleine Piochaud

This year, UNYA SA's State Conference was themed around "Human Rights" with special interest paid to children's rights, minority rights, immigration rights, indigenous rights and environmental refugee rights. The broad theme enabled facilitators to expand and cover areas that were of particular interest to them and ensured that there was a high level of facilitation particularly from the new facilitators. Overall, the turn out of 42 delegates from an original 46 (4 pulled out in the lead up) and a hoped for 50 was tremendous and the extensive promotions in the week leading up to the conference really helped. It was surprising (yet still exciting) to discover that over the weekend delegates from across the state have become great if not best friends. We even had a previously less sociable delegate become enthused and inspired by the conference and now has taken it upon themselves to attend and be rigorously involved in UNYA and other social activities within their community.

Our Social Officer, Idris Martin, organised Friday social activities as well as the Social Night (a Grease themed disco) on Saturday night. This environment really encouraged all delegates to become friends with each other. On the more serious side, the Saturday activities really benefited delegates and many commented that they now felt even more 'inspired' to volunteer and make a difference within their community. Our education officer David Wright and our conference welfare officer Ali Smith delivered a hard hitting workshop about children rights. Idris also presented his minority rights workshop which was heavily anticipated by facilitators especially.

We were also honoured to have speakers such as Neil Gillespe, the CEO of the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement and Bosco Opi from the Migrant Resource Centre. Both were truly inspiring, with the Question and Answer time with the speakers really providing an opportunity for delegates to bring up controversial issues and discuss the finer points and details of the speeches. The Youth Change activity was also trialled instead of the usual Youth Dec Activities, and it was a real success. In regards to debate, it got off to a slow start, but by the 3rd resolution the delegates seemed to be in the swing of things.

In regards to the spread of delegates, unlike previous years where the majority of delegates were from more privileged private and public schools, this year there were numerous delegates from rural areas as far out as Port Augusta, and students from the Migrant Resource Centre who had recently migrated from overseas. The spread of students and their backgrounds was varied resulting in a variety of opinions and values expressed that really added another dimension to discussion sessions and debate. A total of 13 UNAA Supported Places were awarded to 13 delegates to enable them to attend the conference, with the financial support focused at helping rural students, disadvantaged students and those of non-English speaking backgrounds. We sincerely thank the UNAA Association of SA for contributing to SC2010 in the form of the NPC grants. In terms of gender equality, we were somewhat inundated with female delegates – in fact there were a total of 7 male delegates so in hindsight promotions are to be intensified and targeted at some more boys schools.

In conclusion, State Conference was a fantastic conference that went amazingly well with many students (beyond those selected for UNYC) eagerly attending meetings and social activities since SC has finished.

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