

# NEWSLETTER UNAA SA DIVISION

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5/12/09

## WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO SAVE THE PLANET ?

It will take people!

*\*prophet-people who dare to lay bare the fallacies  
that choke and blind us  
even if we cannot hear their words nor dream their dreams;*

*\*parent-people who look with love  
at the work of their creation  
and refuse to leave their children*

*only a heritage of destruction;*

*\*nurture-people who grow plants and feed birds  
and pick up dirt from the earth  
and love what is green, fresh and growing;*

*\*healing-people who call us beyond where we are  
point to the lastingness of life  
the folly of choosing death ever;*

*\*fun-people who lift up and lighten  
and laugh others into fruitfulness  
and courage for the long haul;*

*\*women-people whose role through time has been to nurture  
to empower others*

*to make grow*

*to make clean*

*to make new again;*

*\*soul-people whose eyes are clear and open  
inviting trust and the kind of bonding  
that draws us together;*

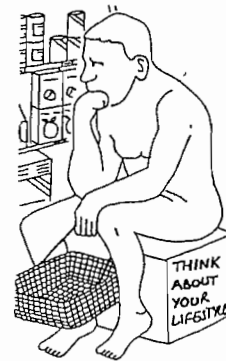
*\*young-people who have nothing to gain  
by destruction and death but death itself;*

*\*justice-people who cry out  
against the oppressors of people  
the destroyers of the earth*

*those who would bomb and burn and obliterate;*

*\*little-people who don't know themselves as special  
but who are in truth the "salt of the earth"*

*feeding and clothing and housing the human family  
from one end of day to the next.*



Jane Blewett

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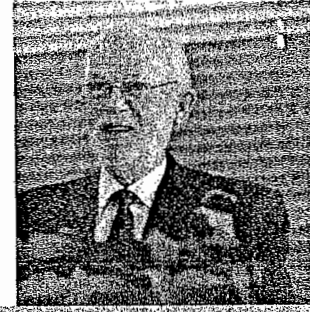
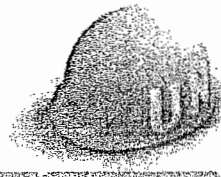
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Australia and the United Nations



## **Outgoing President - John Langmore : *Thank you !***

**In the mid 90s was noted for his tireless work for the World Summit for Social Development. The UN in New York, perceiving his talents, took John from Australia to direct one of its important agencies. On completion of his term and return to Australia, he took up the task of leading the UNAA in 2005 as National President.**

**[We now quote Nat'l Administrator, Julie McKay]**

Under John's leadership the Association has grown significantly including publishing a Report Card of the Australian Government's performance on a variety of issues related to the United Nations, managing a grant to support the growth of UNAs in the Pacific and building strong relationships between UNAA and the campaign to abolish nuclear weapons.

John is currently a Professorial Fellow in the Department of Political Science at the University of Melbourne, and a visiting fellow at the University of New England. Linking his work as an academic and his role with UNAA, John established the Academic Network of the United Nations Association.

During his time as President, John published several books on public and international policy including *Dealing with America: The UN, the US and Australia*.

On behalf of the entire Federal Executive, I would like to thank John Langmore for his enduring commitment to developing civil society and improving awareness about the United Nations in Australia.



## **Incoming President - Robert Hill**

**Robert Hill, a South Australian, served for many years as a Liberal Party Senator in such senior Ministries as Defence, Environment, and Education.**

**On resigning from Parliament, he was immediately offered the position of Australia's representative to the UN, and has only recently completed his four-year term in New York**

**We welcome Ex Senator Hill as our President of Australia's various United Nations Associations.**

## FROM THE WISE : -

When a great ship is in harbour and moored,  
It is safe; there can be no doubt.  
But that is not what great ships are built for

Clarissa Pinkola Estes

We do not inherit the earth from our  
parents: we borrow it from our children  
Native American Saying

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single  
moment before starting to improve the world

Anne Franck (29 - 45)

- We are part of the earth and it is part of us . . .  
The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer,  
The horse, the great eagle, these are brothers.  
The rocky crests, the juices in the meadows, the  
Body heat of the pony....and man - all belong  
To the same family

Chief Seattle 1854

- The universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects

Thomas Berry

- The earth she sick from mad mankind.  
Read the land! Listen to it!  
Only then will you be free.  
Bill Niedeje

Kakadu Man,

Life is an adventure of passion, risk, danger, laughter, beauty, love:  
A burning curiosity to go with the action, to see what it is all about;  
To search for a pattern of meaning, to burn ones bridges . . . . .

Saul Alinsky

The mind that is not baffled is not employed:  
The impeded stream is the one that sings.

IT IS A VERY GREAT POVERTY TO DECIDE THAT A CHILD MUST DIE  
THAT YOU MIGHT LIVE AS YOU WISH

Mother Teresa

Struggle is the gift of new life in disguise.  
There is beauty in the dark valleys of life.  
It is called HOPE

SCIENCE Islands of knowledge in a sea of mystery

Prof. Ian Lowe

A church that doesn't provoke any crises; a story that  
doesn't unsettle; a Word of God that doesn't touch the  
real sin of a society . . . . . What Gospel is that?

Oscar Romero

Whoever can no longer wonder, has his eyes dimmed  
and is as good as dead.

Albert Einstein

Using a "POWERMATE" meter, we obtained these results in some flats :

<u>Power ..... Operating</u>		<u>Power ..... Standby:</u>	
TV, Room 1	64W	TV, DVD etc Unit 1	20 W
TV, Room 2	48W	Radio, Kitchen	2 W
TV, Unit 1	c. 55W	Clock etc., on Microwave	6.5W
Bar Heater	1050/530W	Clothes Dryers Units 1, 2	3.3/2.2
Dryer, clothes	1950W	TV, Room 1	14.5W
Toaster (varies, down)	800W	TV, Room 2	9.8W
Microwave Oven	1770W	Fax Machine	c. 12 W #

The Electric Jug / Kettle wins! 2,400 Watts (2.4 Kw) If that was on for an hour a day (heft!) one kWh or one unit of electrical energy would have been consumed at, maybe, 20c. per Unit (far too cheap ....)



The Electric Iron, thought to be a 'killer', was relatively economical because of the Thermostat. Hint : Iron quickly, turn off the power for the last two handkerchiefs!

Bar Radiator : - eg 2000 Watts, is a "gobbler" and anyway, it's not intended as a space heater. Using one of those for five hours a day for the three winter months equates to about 900kWh costing a lot to the environment and \$180 to the hip pocket.



The big killer is the Refrigerator. (or multiples ... ) This is not surprising perhaps when one considers that fridges/freezers are running all day every day and that the door is frequently opened. If you possess a beer fridge in a (hot) garage, you're wasting a couple of hundred dollars a year with the compressor working overtime. For interest sake, attach the Power-mate for a 24hr. period in mid-summer.

Zappers ('Remotes') are dangerous. Turn all devices off at the power point or the set.

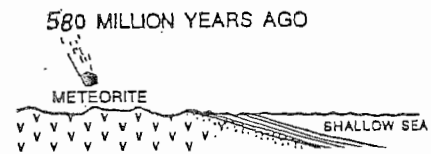
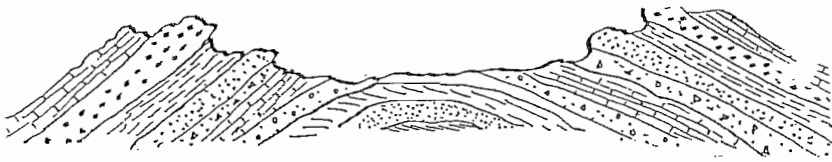


Anything that glows, blinks or is lit up is energy wasting . . . . such as the clock on the microwave oven or a red light on a printer or TV. Unfortunately some electric ovens refuse to operate w/o a clock.

Clothes Dryers : Are they really necessary in the Australian climate? Maybe a few times a year an emergency may occur, necessitating their use. Clothes lines in garages or on verandahs may obviate energy wastage.

A recent (12/1/09) article taken from the Sunday Times claims that two Google searches from a desktop computer generate as much CO2 as boiling a half litre of water.



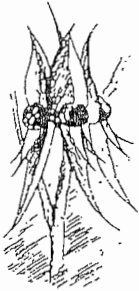
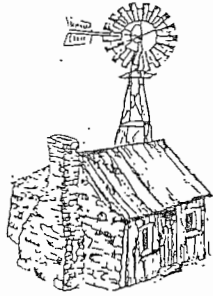


## WONDER . . . on our own SA Doorstep !

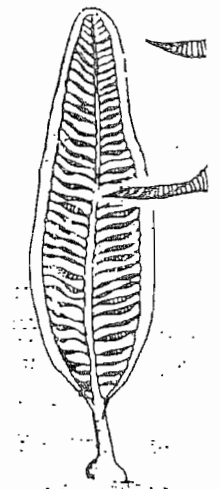
In mid-October a group from 'all-over' explored the Flinders Ranges. Among them was a South African with a PhD in Geology. Here are some of Dr. McDonnell's thoughts on the experience. (Two of UNAA's Executive were in the party)

Some indelible impressions:

- Wockerawirra or Gum Creek (the name also of the Station where we enjoyed the hospitality of Jane and Bill McIntosh) flowing for the first time in the eight years that these retreats have been offered
- coming face to face with the remains of the oldest living things on earth, stromatolites (still going strong in Shark Bay WA) and trying to imagine what it must be like to be 2,600 million years old
- sunrise after climbing Mt Emily in the dark
- the Cosmic Walk, compressing 14 billion years into a single evening
- meeting *Achaeocyatha*, an ancient (Cambrian, 520 million years) extinct coral-like fossil, and a few minutes later the beautifully patterned yellow-footed rock wallaby that lives only in the Flinders and is hopefully being saved from extinction
- standing at the junction of aboriginal trading routes that once served the Adnyamathanha people – one of the main treasures of the Flinders Ranges was yellow ochre, traded for its beauty and its spiritual significance, not for any utilitarian value
- creative, reflective and uplifting prayer sessions prepared by participants
- finding (alone and unaided, almost) the fallout from a giant meteorite that struck Australia some 300 km west of the Flinders about 600 million years ago – it would have caused climate change on a grand scale
- sitting in the bed of Gum Creek (now dry, as usual) meditating on the wonder of our being
- getting a sense of the wonderful variety and beauty of the minerals that make up our earth
- enlarging our image of God
- the ever-changing light and shade, wind and calm, heat and cold, rain and dust – the earth in all its moods



- coming to appreciate the extraordinary story of the earth written in the rocks
- unexpected delights around every corner – canola and Salvation Jane, yellow wattle, the ubiquitous native pine, emus, fruit of the quondong tree, red-capped robin, Sturt's desert pea, stumpy tailed lizards, countless tiny wildflowers, kangaroos, wallabies and echidnas (well, one anyway)
- finding time for reflection on some long walks – through Bunyeroo Gorge, in Wilkawillina Gorge, and along the Heysen Trail in Aroona Valley
- standing with one foot in one geological period and one in another at the 'golden spike', the only such marker in the southern hemisphere, at the base of the newly defined Ediacaran Period, the rocks of which hold rare fossils of soft-bodied creatures that are among our remote ancestors
- pondering together the wisdom of Job and the Psalmist, as well as the 'Greats' of recent times - Teilhard de Chardin, Berry, Swimme and Einstein. . . *inter alia*. . . and marvelling at the insights of modern poets such as Mary Oliver, Denise Levertov and Clarissa Pinkola Estes.
- sharing our life stories
- coming to a new appreciation of the work of pioneer photographer Harold Cazneaux, and painter Hans Heysen as they captured the beauty of the Flinders in different ways; viewing an exhibition of local artists
- memorable meals prepared by the participants, and the conversation that went with them
- the brilliance of the night sky – just how many stars are there?
- animated discussion about the bigger God, how to read the Bible, the nature of theology, faith and atheism, science and religion, the need for a new Christology, stewardship of the earth, and all things great and small



Kevin McDonnell

*It would be sad were any of us who live within striking distance of Brachina and Parachilna Gorges, not to visit some of these world-renowned features at least once.*



# Free The Forgotten Bird Of Paradise

John Pilger

**November 16, 2009 "Information Clearing House" --** When General Suharto, the west's man, seized power in Indonesia in the mid-1960s, he offered "a gleam of light in Asia", rejoiced Time magazine. That he had killed up to a million "communists" was of no account in the acquisition of what Richard Nixon called "the richest hoard of natural resources, the greatest prize in South-east Asia".

In November 1967, the booty was handed out at an extraordinary conference in a lakeside hotel in Geneva. The participants included the most powerful capitalists in the world, the likes of David Rockefeller, and senior executives of the major oil companies and banks, General Motors, British American Tobacco, Imperial Chemical Industries, American Express, Siemens, Goodyear, US Steel. The president of Time Incorporated, James Linen, opened the proceedings with this prophetic description of globalisation: "We are trying to create a new climate in which private enterprise and developing countries work together for the greater profit of the free world. The world of international enterprise is more than governments . . . It is a seamless web, which has been shaping the global environment at revolutionary speed."

Suharto had sent a team of mostly US-groomed economists, known as the "Berkeley Boys". On the first day, salutations were exchanged. On the second day, the Indonesian economy was carved up. This was done in a spectacular way: industry in one room, forests and fisheries in another, banking and finance in another. The ultimate prize was the mineral wealth of West Papua, almost half of a vast and remote island to the north of Australia. A US and European consortium was "awarded" the nickel and gold. The Freeport company of New Orleans got a mountain of copper. Forty-two years later, the gold and copper make more than a million dollars profit every day.

For the Indonesian elite, enrichment was assured. From 1992 to 2004, Freeport

provided \$33bn in direct and indirect "benefits", much of it finding its way to the Indonesian military, the real power in the land, which "protects" foreign investments in the manner of a mafia. The reward for the people of West Papua has been a rate of impoverishment double that of the rest of Indonesia, says a World Bank report. At Bintuni Bay, where BP is exploiting natural gas, 56 per cent of the people live in abject poverty. "More than 90 per cent of villages in Papua do not have basic health facilities," the report noted. In 2005, famine swept the district of Yahukimo, where virgin forests and gas deposits deliver unerring profit. The suffering of West Papuans is seldom reported; the Indonesian government bans foreign journalists and human rights organisations such as Amnesty from the hauntingly beautiful territory known by its indigenous people as "the forgotten bird of paradise".

*When the carve-up of its natural wealth took place, West Papua was not part of but merely claimed by Indonesia, whose former colonial masters, the Dutch, recognised no historical or cultural ties to Jakarta and began to prepare the territory for independence. The Indonesians were having none of it; neither were the Americans, the British and the Australians, who invented a cold-war tale that the Russians were coming. In 1962, the Dutch handed the colony to the United Nations, which promptly gave it "on trust" to Indonesia on condition that the West Papuans would vote on their future.*

In 1969, an "Act of Free Choice" took place. The Indonesians hand-picked 1,026 West Papuan men and ordered them to vote for integration with Jakarta. Guns were pointed at heads, literally. When two West Papuans escaped in a light aircraft, hoping to reach New York and alert the UN general assembly, they were detained by the Australian government after landing at nearby Manus Island, which Australia

administered. West Papuan villages wanting a genuine "act of free choice" were strafed and bombed by Indonesia's US-equipped air force.

West Papua would have slipped into oblivion had it not been for a resistance, the OPM, or Free Papua Movement, whose endurance has defied almost impossible odds. The Indonesians have been unsparing in their oppression, aided by British-made machine guns and Tactica water cannon vehicles. When Suharto was deposed in 1998, the people on the island of Biak celebrated by singing hymns of thanksgiving and raising West Papua's Morning Star flag. For this, 150 of them were murdered by the Indonesian military. In 2004, Filep Karma and Yusak Pakage were sentenced to 15 and ten years respectively for raising the flag, an immeasurable act of bravery in a country effectively controlled by a Gestapo-style force known as Kopassus, which conducted the genocide in East Timor. According to a study by Yale University, the destruction of West Papuan society is also genocide.

The post-Suharto regime in Jakarta likes to regard itself as a respectable democracy and is vulnerable to pressure on West Papua. In Britain, the mining giant Rio Tinto, formerly a shareholder in Freeport, retains a joint-venture interest that has earned fortunes for the company. On the rare occasions that the British Foreign Office is challenged about the behaviour of Jakarta in West Papua, officials drone about "respecting the territorial integrity of Indonesia", echoing decades of Foreign Office mendacious apologies for the slaughter in East Timor. The US State Department's response is the same. And yet East Timor slipped Suharto's leash and is now free, thanks to the resilience of its people and an international network. The people of West Papua deserve nothing less. On 1 December, which West Papuans call their independence day, those exiled in Britain and their supporters will break the silence outside the Indonesian embassy in London. The Free West Papua Campaign website is [www.freewestpapua.org](http://www.freewestpapua.org) To help, email [office@freewestpapua.org](mailto:office@freewestpapua.org)

# “Breaking The Great Australian Silence”

## John Pilger’s Acceptance Speech for the Sydney Peace Prize

Thank you all for coming tonight, and my thanks to the City of Sydney and especially to the Sydney Peace Foundation for awarding me the Peace Prize. It's an honour I cherish, because it comes from where I come from.

I am a seventh generation Australian. My great-great grandfather landed not far from here, on November 8th, 1821. He wore leg irons, each weighing four pounds. His name was Francis McCarty. He was an Irishman, convicted of the crime of insurrection and "uttering unlawful oaths". In October of the same year, an 18 year old girl called Mary Palmer stood in the dock at Middlesex Gaol and was sentenced to be transported to New South Wales for the term of her natural life. Her crime was stealing in order to live. Only the fact that she was pregnant saved her from the gallows. She was my great-great grandmother. She was sent from the ship to the Female Factory at Parramatta, a notorious prison where every third Monday, male convicts were brought for a "courting day" - a rather desperate measure of social engineering. Mary and Francis met that way and were married on October 21st, 1823.

Growing up in Sydney, I knew nothing about this. My mother's eight siblings used the word "stock" a great deal. You either came from "good stock" or "bad stock". It was unmentionable that we came from bad stock - that we had what was called "the stain".

One Christmas Day, with all of her family assembled, my mother broached the subject of our criminal origins, and one of my aunts almost swallowed her teeth. "Leave them dead and buried, Elsie!" she said. And we did - until many years later and my own research in Dublin and London led to a television film that revealed the full horror of our "bad stock". There was outrage. "Your son," my aunt Vera wrote to Elsie, "is no better than a damn communist". She promised never to speak to us again.

The Australian silence has unique features.

Growing up, I would make illicit trips to La Perouse and stand on the sandhills and look at people who were said to have died

off. I would gape at the children of my age, who were said to be dirty, and feckless. At high school, I read a text book by the celebrated historian, Russel Ward, who wrote: "We are civilized today and they are not." "They", of course, were the Aboriginal people.

My real Australian education began at the end of the 1960s when Charlie Perkins and his mother, Hetti, took me to the Aboriginal compound at Jay Creek in the Northern Territory. We had to smash down the gate to get in.

The shock at what I saw is unforgettable. The poverty. The sickness. The despair. The quiet anger. I began to recognise and understand the Australian silence.

*Tonight, I would like to talk about this silence: about how it affects our national life, the way we see the world, and the way we are manipulated by great power which speaks through an invisible government of propaganda that subdues and limits our political imagination and ensures we are always at war - against our own first people and those seeking refuge, or in someone else's country.*

Last July, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said this, and I quote: "It's important for us all to remember here in Australia that Afghanistan has been a training ground for terrorists worldwide, a training ground also for terrorists in South-East-Asia, reminding us of the reasons that we are in the field of combat and reaffirming our resolve to remain committed to that cause."

There is no truth in this statement. It is the equivalent of his predecessor John Howard's lie that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.

Shortly before Kevin Rudd made that statement, American planes bombed a wedding party in Afghanistan. At least sixty people were blown to bits, including the bride and groom and many children. That's the fifth wedding party attacked, in our name.

The prime minister was standing outside a church on a Sunday morning when he made his statement. No reporter challenged him. No one said the war was a fraud: that it began as an American vendetta following 9/11, in which not a single Afghan was involved. No one put it to Kevin Rudd that our perceived enemy in Afghanistan were introverted tribesmen who had no quarrel with Australia and didn't give a damn about south-east Asia

and just wanted the foreign soldiers out of their country. Above all, no one said: "Prime Minister, There is no war on terror. It's a hoax. But there is a war of terror waged by governments, including the Australian government, in our name." That wedding party, Prime Minister, was blown to bits by one the latest smart weapons, such as the Hellfire bomb that sucks the air out of the lungs. In our name. During the first world war, the British prime minister David Lloyd George confided to the editor of the Manchester Guardian: "If people really knew [the truth], the war would be stopped tomorrow. But of course they don't know and they can't know." What has changed? Quite a lot actually. As people have become more aware, propaganda has become more sophisticated.

One of the founders of modern propaganda was Edward Bernays, an American who believed that people in free societies could be lied to and regimented without them realising. He invented a euphemism for propaganda -- "public relations", or PR. "What matters," he said, "is the illusion." Like Kevin Rudd's stage-managed press conferences outside his church, what matters is the illusion. The symbols of Anzac are constantly manipulated in this way. Marches. Medals. Flags. The pain of a fallen soldier's family. Serving in the military, says the prime minister, is Australia's highest calling. The squalor of war, the killing of civilians has no reference. What matters is the illusion.

The aim is to ensure our silent complicity in a war of terror and in a massive increase in Australia's military arsenal. Long range cruise missiles are to be targeted at our neighbours. The Rudd government and the Pentagon have launched a competition to build military robots which, it is said, will do the "army's dirty work" in "urban combat zones". What urban combat zones? What dirty work?

### Silence.

"I confess," wrote Lord Curzon, viceroy of India, over a century ago, "that countries are pieces on a chessboard upon which is being played out a great game for the domination of the world." We Australians have been in the service of the Great Game for a very long time. Do the young people who wrap themselves in the flag at Gallipoli every April understand that only the lies have changed - that sanctifying blood sacrifice in colonial invasions is meant to prepare us for the next one?

*To be continued.....*

## "WILD LAW"

A Conference held in Adelaide 16<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> October 2009. So what's newsworthy about yet another Conference on the Environment?

- (1) *This was Australia's FIRST Conference on Earth Jurisprudence.*
- (2) *Virtually the whole Conference was based on the work of Passionist Priest, THOMAS BERRY (d.2009)*

\* \* \* \*

Earth Jurisprudence calls for a radical shift to our legal system, from a human-only orientation to an earth centred approach. This involves fostering mutually enhancing human-earth relations based on reciprocity, restraining potentially damaging human activities and recognising the rights of nature.

Two examples of this **LAW** in practice include the newly enacted constitution of Ecuador, which states that nature "has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its natural cycles, structure functions and

its processes in evolution" To ensure these rights, the gov't is responsible for "precaution and restriction measures in all the activities that can lead to extinction of species, the destruction of ecosystems, or the permanent alteration of natural cycles."

Further, in Pennsylvania, five municipalities (20,000 people) passed 'rights for nature' ordinances which state that nature has right to exist and flourish, and gives community standing to advocate on behalf of these rights.

**Wild Law (book)** was written by Cormac Cullinan of South Africa, and the title he came up with has been widely used, particularly in G.B. Thomas Berry contributed the foreword.

So where did **BERRY** come into the deliberations?

The ten Principles on *The Origin, Differentiation and Role of Rights* that he first enunciated on 1/1/01, and subsequently published in **Evening Thoughts** (2006) comprised the 'bible' underpinning the Conference. Here's a selection. . . at random. (Actually Nos 1,3,4,10. Computer balked at that order).

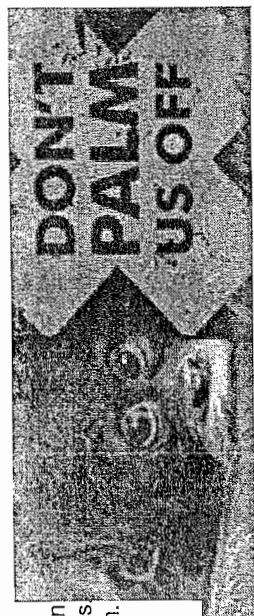
1. Rights originate where existence originates. That which determines existence determines rights. Rights is defined as giving every being its due.
2. The universe is composed of subjects to be communed with, not of objects to be exploited. As subjects, each component of the universe is capable of having rights.
3. The natural world on the Planet Earth gets its rights from the same source that humans get their rights; from the universe that brought them into being
4. In a special manner humans have not only a need for but a right of access to the natural world, to provide not only the physical need of humans, but also the wonder needed by human intelligence, the beauty needed by human imagination, and the intimacy needed by human emotions for personal fulfilment.

Elizabeth Rivers from the UK was the Conference's lead speaker. Dr.(Fr) Paul Babie, Assoc. Dean, School of Law, and Mark Parnell MLC also gave major input . . . the latter citing his experience of pro bono work with the Envir. Defenders Office.

**Peter Burdon**, PhD student of the Univad School of Law, was the Catalyst for the organisation of this most timely Conference, enjoyed by some 55 participants in a suitably rustic situation . . . *Woodhouse via Piccadilly.*

Will the orang-outangs of Borneo be the first beneficiaries of Wild Law winning their case against the Palm Oil Companies whose relentless clear-felling has driven the former to near extinction?

PJF 19/10/09



**Don't Palm Us Off!**  
Zoos Victoria launched their "Don't Palm Us Off" campaign requesting that palm oil be labelled in the list of ingredients. The food we're buying is pushing Orangutans to extinction. Palm oil is found in most food products and its rampant cultivation is destroying the Orangutans habitat at an alarming rate.

**Palm oil labelling**  
INDEPENDENT senator Nick Xenophon has introduced a bill that aims to reduce the impact of widespread deforestation in South-East Asia on the endangered orangutan. The bill calls for accurate labelling of palm oil in food. Palm oil is used in about 40 per cent of food products but instead is listed in many products as vegetable oil. The production of palm oil occurs in Malaysia and Indonesia.



**France finds Monsanto guilty of lying  
November 21 2009**

France's highest court has ruled that US agrochemical giant Monsanto had not told the truth about the safety of its best-selling weedkiller, Roundup. The court confirmed an earlier judgment that Monsanto had falsely advertised its herbicide as 'biodegradable' and claimed it 'left the soil clean'. French environmental groups had brought the case in 2001 on the basis that glyphosate, Roundup's main ingredient, is classed as 'dangerous for the environment' by the European Union.

In the latest ruling, France's Supreme Court upheld two earlier convictions against Monsanto, which already dominates America's food chain with its genetically modified seeds. Now it has targeted milk production. Just as frightening as the corporation's tactics, including ruthless legal battles against small farmers, is its decades-long history of toxic contamination.

Monsanto is a very dark cloud hanging over the future of health and food safety in the United States. This powerful entity has already managed so many reprehensible acts it boggles the mind, including:

- Leading the world into a new age of potentially hazardous genetic modification of seeds;
- Patenting not only their own GMO seeds, but also a huge number of crop seeds, patenting life forms for the first time – without a vote of the people or Congress;
- Not allowing farmers to save their seeds to replant the next year – a practice that has been done for generations. Instead, they aggressively seek out and sue farmers they suspect of doing so;
- Suing farmers who have not been able to prevent the inevitable drift of Monsanto's GE pollen or seed onto their land for patent infringement!
- Producing one of the most toxic substances ever known – dioxin (Agent Orange).

The reality is that glyphosate is the most commonly-reported cause of pesticide illness among landscape maintenance workers in California, and just one of its effects is that it is suspected of causing genetic damage. 'Roundup Ready' crops of soybean, cotton and corn are the world's largest group of GE crops... 'Ready' can be sprayed directly onto fields without harming the crops (author's note; what does this suggest?).

Data from the US Department of Agriculture shows that GE crops have been responsible for an increase of 383 million pounds of herbicide use in the US over the first 13 years of commercial use of GE crops 1996 – 2008.

We're indebted to SAGFIN's Arnold Ward for this information.  
[ S.A.Genetic Food Information Network]

*Pamela Newland*

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**Corporate giants Nestlé, Schweppes and Fosters commit to GE-free ingredients**

**Sydney, Wednesday, 28 October, 2009: Leading brands Nestlé, Foster's, Schweppes and Lindt committed to keeping their food and drink free from genetically engineered (GE) ingredients in the 2010 Greenpeace Truefood Guide' released today.**

Launched by celebrated chefs Martin Boetz and Margaret Fulton, and Clover Moore MP, Lord Mayor of Sydney as part of the Sydney International Food Festival, the Greenpeace Truefood Guide rates over one thousand of Australia's top food and beverage brands for the presence of GE ingredients.

*"The 2010 Truefood Guide is the best guide ever as the Australian food industry answers consumer calls for GE-free food," Greenpeace GE Campaigner Rochelle Porteous said. "It is the only comprehensive shopping guide that empowers Australia to avoid GE ingredients."*

GREENPEACE MEDIA RELEASE

# Copenhagen : Our Last Window of Opportunity

**“If we miss this chance, don’t believe that we’ll get it back! This is our only opportunity. Therefore we should seal the deal this December in Copenhagen”**

[Connie Hedegaard, Minister of Climate and Energy, Denmark]

In the remaining hectic days (i) Write to your Federal Member (ii) Endorse the campaigns run by AVAAZ and GetUp on the net.(iii) Get ammunition for your political letter from Aust Conservation Foundation (ACF) and FoE. Chase up opinions of authorities Amory Lovins, Mark Diesendorf, and Prof Ian Lowe. Try <[www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear/issues/clean-energy](http://www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear/issues/clean-energy)>



Diesendorf, who contributed to the CEEG study, has proposed a more ambitious scenario: "By 2030 it will be technically possible to replace all conventional coal power with the following mixes: wind, bioelectricity and solar thermal each 20 to 30%; solar photovoltaic 10-20%; geothermal 10-20%; and marine (wave, ocean current) 10%. Natural gas too, provided it hasn't all been sold to China,

*Were You There?*

2009 Annual Hawke Lecture  
**Climate Change:  
 The Public Interest  
 and Private Interests  
 in Australian Policy**

To be delivered by Professor Ross Garnaut AO  
 Adelaide Town Hall  
 Wednesday 4 November 2009

In the presence of His Excellency  
 Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR  
 Governor of South Australia and Patron-in-Chief  
 of the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre



## Clean energy solutions

A significant and growing body of scientific literature demonstrates how the systematic deployment of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency policies and technologies can generate major reductions in greenhouse emissions without recourse to nuclear power. (References to many of these papers - including the CEEG study discussed below - are posted at <[www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear/issues/clean-energy](http://www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear/issues/clean-energy)>.)

UN Climate Change Conference 2009  
**COPENHAGEN  
 SEAL THE DEAL!**

**SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE  
 ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

## REMEMBRANCE - PEACEKEEPERS

In a moving ceremony last month at the Cenotaph, UNAA fittingly honoured the brave Services Personnel and Police who risked their lives in the interest of world peace. Our SA Association was represented by Mr. Glen Woodward, seen here laying our floral tribute.



## U.N.Day DINNER

The annual UNAA Dinner held on the 25th October was a most successful event. It was attended by 140 guests, who were treated to a wonderful Chinese Banquet at Ming's Palace, Gouger St. This year in particular, guests were amazed with the quality and quantity of food provided by Chef Ming, who has sponsored us for the last 4 years.

Our thanks go to the Silent Auction Sponsors - Assaggio Restaurant, Ducale Coffee, Mode of North Adelaide, Travel House, The Producers of McLaren Vale, Heather Southcott for their generosity in providing excellent prizes.

Our Speaker The Hon. Catherine Branson Q.C. was both eloquent and engaging, and it was heartening to hear the younger guests ask numerous questions to gain further understanding of Human Rights Issues.

(UNAA L/O Lidia Moretti)

## HON. CATHERINE BRANSON, QC

People wishing to obtain a copy of the information given and important issues raised in our Guest Speaker's oration, can obtain a copy by e-mailing our President at [hjs@internode.on.net](mailto:hjs@internode.on.net)

## UN DINNER - First-time Guests

We of the UNAA Exec were delighted that two Adelaide Uni Students, Felicity Prance and Emma Riggs, who had been making inquiries about the Association's workings, brought along seven other delightful young people. More than half of these were from the Faculty of Law, the drawcard being the Guest Speaker for the night (see elsewhere in the N-L for details).

It was heartening to hear of wider community work in which some have already been engaged . . . . from assisting a Medical team in Ethiopia to forming a local anti Landmines lobby group here in Adelaide. (Ed.)

## UNYA

It has become a happy custom for our parallel Youth Association to have a table at the Dinner. They are always welcome, and visitors are most impressed with them. President, Catriona Standfield visited the Univad table to answer questions about the functioning of UNYA and its activities and achievements.

## ***NOTES / REMINDERS / COMING EVENTS***

*2010 is the UN proclaimed YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY ##*

*UNAA's next, and last Meeting for 2009 will be at 5.30, Tues Dec.8<sup>th</sup>*

*UNIFEM BREAKFAST, Sally Sara Guest Speaker, 5<sup>th</sup> March '10*

*DATES . . . Firm and Tentative*

*AGM : June 27*

*Film Afternoon: July 27*

*World Day of Peace: September 21<sup>st</sup>*

*UN Day Annual Dinner: October 24<sup>th</sup>*

*Human Rights Day : December 10<sup>th</sup>*

*## Additionally, 2010 is the Year of Rapprochement (Establishment or renewal of Cordial Relations ; eg between rival neighbour-states)*

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### **APPRECIATION LETTER**

**Our President, Mrs H. Southcott, on behalf of the Executive Committee, had nominated Mrs Gerri Walker , Principal of Youth Education Centre, Magill, for a major Children's Week Award. Mrs Walker subsequently received the Award at Government House, to her surprise, and wrote a beautiful letter of appreciation to the members of UNAA (SA) saying "what a wonderful gesture : your work is valued and appreciated"**

#### **Judy Nunn- Maralinga**

*'Maralinga...a desolate place where history demands an emerging nation choose between hell and reason.'*

Author Judy Nunn talks about her story of love, heartbreak, and a violent and unforgiving landscape, infected with the unique madness and excitement that only nuclear testing creates. Books will be available for sale and the author will happily sign copies.

In association with ~~The Advertiser~~ Big Book Club.

#### **INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR WEST PAPUA LAUNCHING OF THE PNG CHAPTER 7TH NOVEMBER 2009**

The launching of the PNG Chapter is complementary to the efforts of the International Parliamentarians in Europe and USA in recognizing the right of the West Papuan people to self determination, that has been denied from them through the 1969 Act of Free Choice.

## News from Federal UNAA.....

- Ruth Russell represented South Australia at the Federal Council meeting in Canberra in September
- John Langmore retired as President after a three year term
- The new Federal President is Hon. Robert Hill
- The Annual Report was adopted with reports from President and Treasurer as well as reports from the various divisions, UNYA and Status of Women
- Still pursuing tax deductibility and funding from Australian Government and AusAid
- Report presented on the World Federation of United Nations Associations recently held in South Korea. Australia was well represented. Mr Jay Jethwa (Vic) was appointed to the WFUNA executive for a six year term
- Report from the new Director of United Nations Information Centre in Canberra, Mr Christopher Woodthorpe
- Resolutions were referred to the Federal Executive:
  - Subsequently resolutions were approved on:
    - UN Security Council 1325
    - Peace Education
    - Australia's Relations with countries of the Pacific
    - Climate Change
    - Nuclear Weapons Convention

Other resolutions were deferred for re-wording.

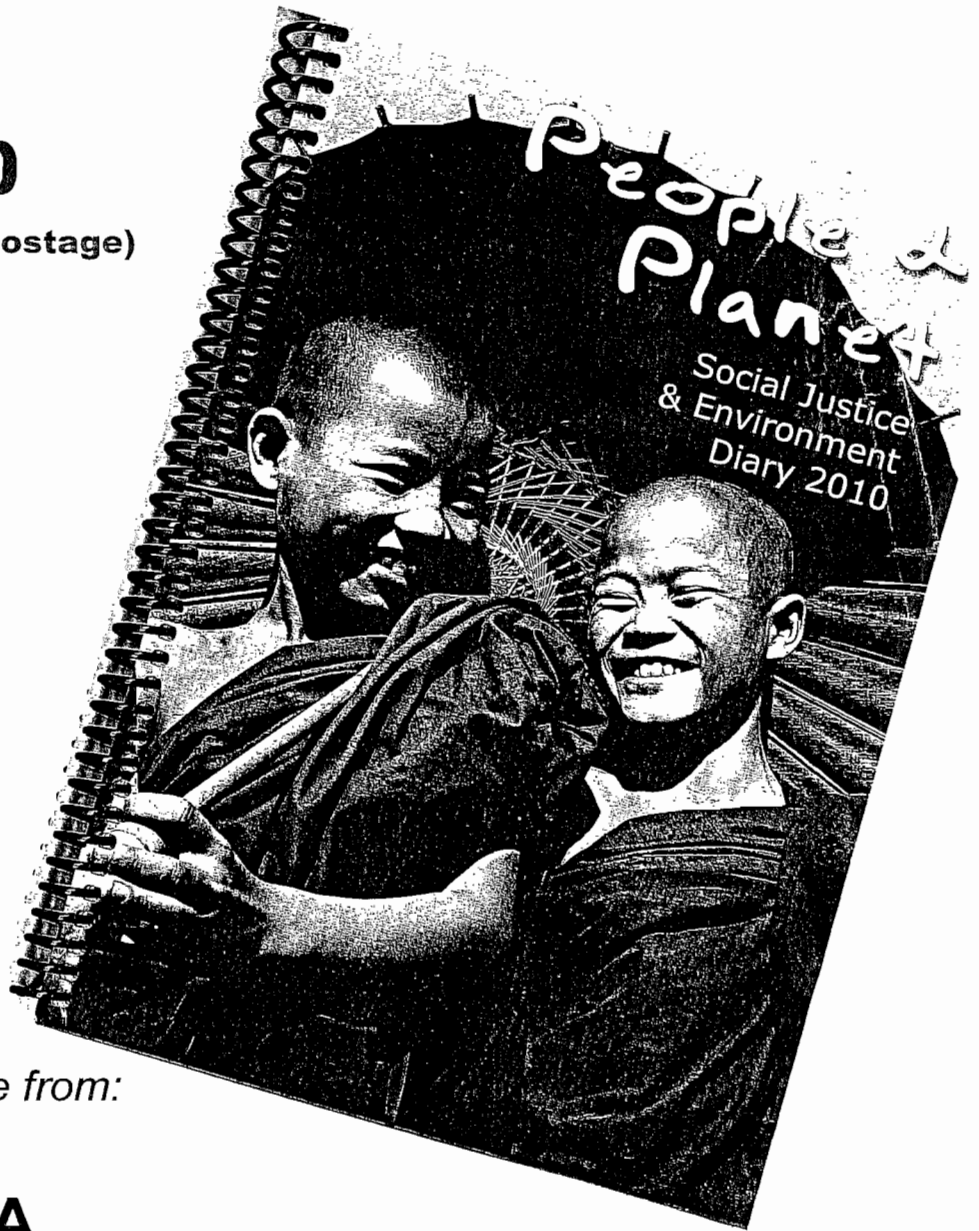
- Federal Conference in 2010 will be held in New South Wales.  
WA will host 2011 event.
- UNAA Peace Awards' recipients were John Langmore and Russell Rollason.
- A UN NGO Conference is being planned for Melbourne in 2010.

Further details can be obtained from Heather Southcott on [hjs@senet.com.au](mailto:hjs@senet.com.au) or from UNITY or UNAA web site

# People & Planet Diary 2010

**\$17.50**

(Allow \$5 for postage)



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