



United Nations Association of Australia, South Australia Planet 3 Digest



UN Year of Family Farming

2014 UN YEARS - see Page 3

UN Year of Crystallography



UN Year of Small Island Developing States

Johannesburg, South Africa, 10 December 2013 - Remarks at Nelson Mandela's memorial ceremony by UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon

I am deeply honoured to attend on behalf of the United Nations, this state memorial service for the late former President Nelson Mandela.

We join together in sorrow for a mighty loss and in celebration of a mighty life.

What a wondrous display of this rainbow nation.

In nature, a rainbow emerges from the rain and the sun. It is that blending of the symbols of grief and gratitude that I feel today.

Through the rain of sadness and the sun of celebration, a rainbow fills our hearts.

I offer my deepest condolences to Mme Graça Machel and the Mandela family, to Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and to Madiba's larger family -- the people of South Africa, this great continent and indeed the world.

This stadium holds many tens of thousands.



UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon speaking at the Memorial Ceremony UN Photo/Josiane Ambiehl



Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress (ANC), casting the ballot in his country's first all-race elections, at Ohlange High School near Durban. 01 April 1994 Near Durban, South Africa UN Photo/Chris Sattlberger

But even an arena as big as Africa could not contain our pain. South Africa has lost a father. The world has lost a beloved friend and mentor.

Nelson Mandela was more than one of the greatest leaders of our time. He was one of the greatest teachers. And he taught by example.

He sacrificed so much and was willing to give up everything -- for freedom and equality, for democracy and justice.

His compassion stands out most.

He was angry at injustice, not at individuals.

He hated hatred, not the people caught in its grip.

He showed the awesome power of forgiveness -- and of connecting people with each other and with the true meaning of peace.

That was his unique gift -- and that was the lesson he shared with all humankind.

He has done it again.

Look around this stadium and this stage.

We see leaders representing many points of view, and people from all walks of life.

All here, all united.

This grandest of all baobab trees left deep roots that reach across the planet.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

South Africa's democratic transformation was a victory by and for South Africans.

But it was also a triumph for the ideals of the United Nations -- and for anyone, anywhere, who has ever faced the poison of prejudice.

The United Nations stood side by side with Nelson Mandela and the people of South Africa in the fight against apartheid.



Secretary-General Kofi Annan (right) with Nelson Mandela at the Sandton Conference Center during the World Summit on Sustainable Development. 03 September 2002
Johannesburg, South Africa UN Photo/Evan Schneider

We used every tool we had: sanctions, an arms embargo, a sports boycott, diplomatic isolation.

We spoke up loud and clear across the world.

Apartheid was vanquished.

But as he would be the first to say, our struggle continues -- against inequality and intolerance, and for prosperity and peace.

Nelson Mandela showed us the way with a heart larger than this stadium and an infectious smile that could easily power its lights.

In fact, it lit up the world.

Nelson Mandela is now at rest, his long walk complete.

Let us now be guided and inspired by the spirit he awakened in all of us -- the flame of human rights -- the beacon of hope.

This boxer fought throughout his life for each and every one of us.

It is the duty of all of us who loved him to keep his memory alive in our hearts, and to embody his example in our lives.

May he rest in peace and eternity.

Lala Ngoxolo. [Xhosa for "Rest in peace"]

Tutwini. [Xhosa for "I present my condolences"]

Ndiyabulela (N'diya bu-léla) [Xhosa for "thank you"]. Thank you.



Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress, addresses the General Assembly as it continued its debate on Apartheid Policies of South Africa.
03 December 1999 United Nations, New York UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

2014 is the International Year of Family Farming, the International Year of Crystallography, and the International Year of Small Island Developing States

Family Farming

The United Nations recently declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF). This the first United Nations year that is the result of a campaign by civil society--the World Rural Forum (WRF) campaigned heavily for the year and it was backed by more than 360 civil and farmers' organizations in five continents. According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Year of Family Farming honours over 400 million family farms in both developed and developing countries, defined as farms that rely primarily on family members for labour and management. Such farms produce the food that feeds billions of people. In many developing countries family farms make up on average up to 80 percent of all farm holdings. But small and medium-size family farms are suffering across the world. One bad harvest, a rejected bank loan, or too much or too little rain can drive farms out of business.

Crystallography

The birth of modern crystallography took place almost 100 years ago, when Max von Laue carried out the experiment that showed that X-rays were diffracted by crystals, and the Braggs (father and son) shortly after in 1913 showed that the diffraction of X-rays can be used to determine accurately the positions of atoms within a crystal and unravel its three-dimensional structure. The significance of these experiments was realized immediately. Max von Laue received the Nobel Prize in 1914, and the Braggs the year after. Since its birth 100 years ago, modern crystallography has developed

in close collaboration with other scientific disciplines. As crystals also diffract neutrons and electrons, the scientific focus of crystallography has enlarged to cover all aspects of structural science involving X-rays, neutrons and electrons, and encompasses studies of both crystalline and non-crystalline materials.

The main purpose of crystallography is to provide information on the structure at the atomic or molecular level, and since structure is intimately linked to the properties and functions of materials and molecules of all dimensions, the impact of crystallography is everywhere in our daily world.

Modern drug development, nano- and biotechnology are all based on crystallographic results. Crystallographic experiments form the underpinning for the development of all new materials from toothpaste to aeroplane components, illustrating the strong ties between crystallography and industry. Indeed, crystallography permeates all structural science at the molecular level, including physics, biology, chemistry, mineralogy, geosciences and cultural heritage. Crystallography is thus an excellent example of the universality of science. Furthermore, the new sources for intense X-rays (synchrotrons) and neutrons that have been constructed during the last 20 years have revolutionized crystallographic science, and crystallography is the underlying science for all the experiments carried out at these large research infrastructure.

Small Island Developing States

Aim:

The International Year of Small Island Developing States aims to raise recognition of environmental problems that small island states are facing.

About the year

According to the UN Herald, the Pacific region is endangered by environmental influences and that is why Pacific island states need support and assistance. Countries like Australia, France and United States aimed to promote the prevention of forced migration on the basis of environmental impact.

Events and activities that promote the year are dedicated to work towards securing small island states and preventing forced emigration from them.



Along a shore in Belize, a small islanddeveloping state. ©iStockphoto.com/samchad

Water holds key to sustainable development, UN chief tells Budapest summit



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (at lectern and on screens) addresses the 2013 Water Summit in Budapest, Hungary. UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

8 October 2013 – Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today stressed the vital role of water in sustainable development, highlighting in particular its importance with regard to food security, climate change and sanitation.

“Water holds the key to sustainable development. We need it for health, food security and economic progress,” Mr. Ban said in his opening remarks at the Budapest Water Summit. “Yet, each year brings new pressures.”

He noted that by 2030, nearly half the global population could be facing water scarcity and demand could outstrip supply by 40 per cent.

“We must address unsustainable use... We must use what we have more equitably and wisely. We cannot expect governments to do this alone. Guaranteeing a water secure world will require the full engagement of all actors, not least the world of business.”

Mr. Ban noted that agriculture is by far the largest user of freshwater, and there is growing urgency to reconcile its demands with the needs of domestic and industrial uses, especially energy production.

“Small farmers and industrial giants alike must learn to get more crop per drop,” he said. This means improved irrigation technologies, and less water-intensive and more climate-resilient crops. Climate change, he continued, poses the risk of

diminished water supplies in much of the world.

“We must make sure that water remains a catalyst for cooperation not conflict among communities and countries,” Mr. Ban said.

The UN stands ready to assist in this area, he added, noting for example the UN Development Programme’s (UNDP) Shared Waters Partnership that is supporting political agreement on common resources, such as in the Nile Basin. He recalled that last month, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that climate change is affecting the global water cycle, noting that ‘extreme precipitation events’ will very likely become more intense and more frequent by the end of this century, as global surface temperatures increase.

“In layman’s terms, this means more floods,” said Mr. Ban. “We will also see more droughts. That is why we must do everything we can to keep global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. To do that, we need to finalize a robust legal agreement on climate change in 2015.”

He added that water and sanitation feature large in the anti-poverty targets known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), whose deadline is 2015. While the MDG target for providing access to improved water sources has been reached, 780 million people lack this basic necessity.

“Roughly 80 per cent of global wastewater from human settlements or industrial sources is discharged untreated. Water quality in at least parts of most major river systems still fails to meet basic World Health Organization standards. Close to one-third of people drink water that endangers health. Even more people lack adequate sanitation.”

“Some 2.5 billion people lack the dignity and health offered by access to a safe, decent toilet and protection from untreated waste,” he continued. “One billion people practice open defecation. Diarrhoea is the second biggest killer of children under five in the world after pneumonia...”

“It is plain that investment in sanitation is a down-payment on a sustainable future,” said Mr. Ban. “Economists estimate that every dollar spent can bring a five-fold return.”

The Secretary-General said water and sanitation are obviously central to efforts to achieve the MDGs and must figure prominently in the post-2015 development agenda. “Beyond 2015, our aim is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and to create an equitable world of opportunity for all.

“Our societies cannot prosper without clean, plentiful freshwater. People cannot thrive without adequate sanitation.”

Speaking at a joint press encounter with Hungarian President János Áder, Mr. Ban said he was impressed by the turnout of many leaders from all around the world for the summit. “More and more countries recognize that water should be a source of common cause – not of conflict or not of concern,” he noted.

People & Planet

Social Justice & Environment

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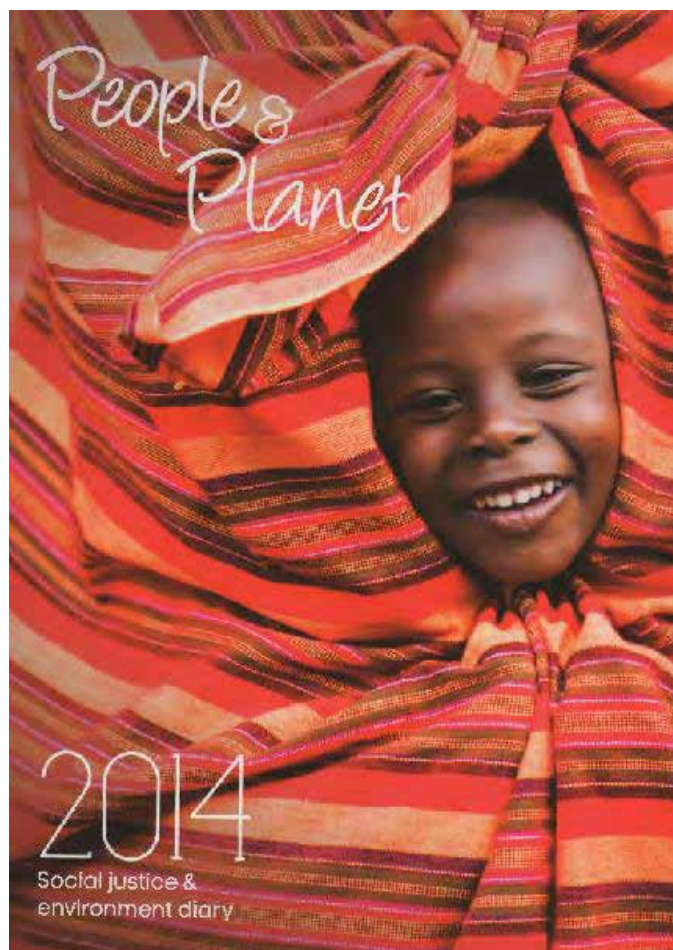
He also highlighted Hungary’s important international role in this effort, noting that it is a leader in the UN Group of Friends of Water, which is promoting wider understanding and cooperation on water issues.

“I also count on Hungary’s leadership on other long-term challenges. Poverty, environmental degradation and climate change will all define humanity’s fate in the future. That is why our campaign for sustainable development is so important.”

In addition to a working lunch with Mr. Áder, the Secretary-General also met separately with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán; Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, Chairman of the UN Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation; and Lamberto Zannier, Secretary-General of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Mr. Ban also delivered a lecture at Budapesti Corvinus University, where he received an honorary doctorate on behalf of the UN. He told students and faculty that they must do two things.

“First, spare no effort to reach the MDGs by the 2015 deadline. Second, define a new set of goals for the new set of challenges facing our world,” he said. “Now more than ever, sustainable development – integrating economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability – must be our global guiding principle.”



Environment Report

A Message from Premier Jay Weatherill



As Premier of South Australia, my views on climate change remain informed by the best information available.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released the Fifth Assessment Report of its working group on the science of climate change on 27 September 2013. The release of this report should once and for all resolve the debate on whether climate change is occurring, enabling us to focus our attention on action. Key findings of this report include that:

- each of the last three decades has been successively warmer at the Earth's surface than any preceding decade since 1850
- heatwaves are likely to occur more frequently and last longer
- the global mean sea level will continue to rise, and at a faster rate than we have experienced over the past 40 years.

Expert science – such as this report provides – must inform public policy.

South Australia has a history of strong action on climate change. Our emissions are now nine per cent lower than they were in 1990 – and despite this reduction, we have increased our GSP by 65 per cent over that period. South Australia also leads the nation in the uptake of wind energy and roof-top solar. In 2012-13, 27 per cent of the total electricity generated in the state was sourced from wind and four per cent from solar.

But we know this is not enough. That is why I outlined a number of new climate change initiatives at the opening of the highly acclaimed CSIRO Greenhouse 2013 conference on 8 October 2013. In order to support a renewed economic development focus, and to further support South Australia's ongoing push for increased renewable energy generation, we are establishing a new target for low carbon investment of \$10 billion by 2025.

We are also working on the development of a Building Upgrade Finance mechanism for South Australia. This is a loan scheme designed to help overcome a number of market barriers to investment in improving the energy and water efficiency of existing commercial buildings.

We know that there are unavoidable impacts of climate change already, and that we must prepare for them. Our award winning Climate Change Adaptation Framework is being implemented through regional plans in partnership with the South Australian community.

I am delighted that the first of such plans for the Yorke and Mid North region was released during the Greenhouse 2013 conference. Given the changes now occurring in our national climate change policy, I have asked the Premier's Climate Change Council to lead a significant review of our state's climate change policies and to provide me with advice for the next chapter in South Australia's action on climate change. I have asked the Council to help create a compelling vision for a state which is moving to a low carbon economy – prospering while achieving reduced emissions. This will inform the next phase of the State Government's climate change agenda.

I look forward to working together with the broader South Australian community to address this most urgent challenge – because there can be no doubt that the best results will be achieved through collaboration and partnership. More information about South Australia's leading climate change programs can be found at www.sa.gov.au/climatechange

Jay Weatherill (Premier)

2014 International Year of Quinoa – Kilkenny Primary School

We have been very fortunate this year to work with Lidia Moretti as part of the International Year of Quinoa. Lidia together with our chef Mel Gush worked together with the students during their kitchen lessons to learn about Quinoa and its beneficial uses both in the kitchen and for our health.

In term 2 we were able to enjoy working with Danyse Crotti who specialises in the use of Quinoa. Danyse worked with seven of our students. In June four of our students, our gardener Kelly and myself were chosen to attend the official launch of the International Year celebrations at Government House and were lucky enough to meet the Tasmanian farmers who have been successful in growing Quinoa. As a result we now have Quinoa growing in our own garden and the students are hopeful of harvesting this next year.

During term three Andre Ursini from Andre's Polenta Bar visited and cooked with a group in the kitchen. Chef Simon Bryant was our guest on 4 September and cooked a Quinoa

recipe with the students. Later in September Simon came back along with Leader of the Opposition in SA, Steven Marshall as guest chefs in our kitchen and worked with our students producing five fabulously different dishes all using Quinoa. This was highly successful and led to Lidia inviting renown Chef Cheong Liew and Lieutenant Governor Hieu Van Le to come to Kilkenny and work with our students bringing an Asian influence to the cooking process.

During each of these wonderful experiences the students have learnt something new and exciting about the value of Quinoa and how to work with the seeds to maximise their potential for use in cooking. The students have made a variety of Quinoa dishes including Quinoa salads, Quinoa Sushi, Vegetable and Quinoa Soup and warm Quinoa Honey cake.

*Anne Cannizzaro, Principal
Kilkenny Primary School
December 2013*

Letter from Jeff Kong, Musical Director of Brighton High School

The BSS Choir gave 3 concerts in Shanghai. The concerts were very well received.

In Berlin we only gave a soloist concert at Berlin Metropolitan High School. The audience were young primary students.

We gave a very successful concert at Jessen, Germany. It was a huge house for our students. The Germans were great audience and we had ovation after ovation.

The performance at St Thomas Choir School was a good learning experience. We sang 2 songs for the school (800 years old) and they sang for us for 50 minutes. This choir is very much the best in the world, they enjoy the reputation similar to Vienna Boys Choir.

The concert at Praha was also a great success excepting the weather was frightfully cold for us Australians. We could hardly keep warm until the very end of the concert.

We are heading to Pesaro, the Rossini home town and the great home of all Italian singers. It will be my second visit to this amazing city and we will give a concert at Santa Maria Assunta.

Pier Giorgio will greet me tomorrow at Orvieto and we will then go to Roma for our last 3 concerts.

Tommaso Coniglio and his wife will probably attend the last concert at the Pantheon on Monday 9th December.

Have a great end of 2013.

Jeff

(Note that Tommaso Coniglio was recently the Italian Consul in South Australia, and a friend of UNAA(SA).)

Real-life killer robots

*Should robots be allowed to take a human life, without direct supervision or command?
Science fiction met reality at the United Nations in Geneva where this question was debated at a meeting of the Human Rights Council*



BAE's Taranis is a prototype unmanned combat aircraft, with a stealthy profile that (with a human operator) can hit targets at long range. Some see it as a precursor to truly autonomous killer robots. Picture: BAE Systems

UN special rapporteur Christof Heyns told the council that countries are developing armed robots that can kill without the need for human choice or intervention, and they need to call a halt before it's too late.

"The possible introduction of LARs (lethal autonomous robots) raises far-reaching concerns about the protection of life during war and peace," Mr Heyns said. "If this is done, machines and not humans, will take the decision on who is alive or dies."

Mr Heyns presented a report on his research and called for a worldwide moratorium on the production and deployment of such machines, while nations figured out the knotty legal and ethical issues.

"War without reflection is mechanical slaughter," he said. "In the same way that the taking of any human life deserves - as a minimum - some deliberation, a decision to allow machines to be deployed to kill human beings deserves a collective pause worldwide."

Mr Heyns warned that if humans are taken "out of the loop" then it could make war more likely. It was also unclear how these killer robots could be programmed to distinguish the enemy from innocent civilians.

And because they lacked the ability to act "out of compassion or grace" and understand the bigger picture, a robot would never decide that some specific situations required greater leniency, even in wartime.

In his report, Mr Heyns said robots will be "the next major revolution in military affairs, on par with the introduction of gunpowder and nuclear bombs"

Officially, governments who are capable of producing Lethal Autonomous Robots are not currently planning to use them.

Some argue that, "as a matter of principle, robots should not be granted the power to decide who should live and die," the report said – though others say that, used well, they could "even make armed conflict more humane and save lives on all sides".

Mr Heyns acknowledged that future generations of robots could be able to employ less lethal force, causing fewer unnecessary deaths, with their greater ability to immobilise or disarm a target.

"LARs will not be susceptible to some of the human shortcomings that may undermine the protection of life," his report said. "Typically they would not act out of revenge, panic, anger, spite, prejudice or fear.

"Robots also do not rape."

During the debate Pakistan's council delegate Mariam Aftab – speaking on behalf of 56 Islamic states – said the international community should consider a complete ban, not just national moratoria.

Lethal autonomous robots would fundamentally change the nature of war, she said.

Pakistan has been the focus for anti-terrorism drone strikes. "The experience with drones shows that once such weapons are in use, it is impossible to stop them," said Ms Aftab.

Most of the delegates said they found the report interesting and worthy of further debate, though several said it would be better negotiated outside of a human rights forum.

The European Union delegate said the question would be more appropriately dealt with by arms control negotiations between states. Germany supported the idea of an international register for all unmanned systems.

Argentina warned at a potential killer robot arms race, and possible use by terrorists.

The US delegate pointed out that some systems, such as the Aegis and Patriot surface-to-air missile defence systems, already have an "autonomous mode" that acts when a split-second response is needed.

Last November the USA Department of Defence issued a policy directive for autonomous weapon systems, highlighting technical dangers such as “unintended engagements” (ie, killing the wrong person) and “loss of control of the system to unauthorised parties” (ie, enemies hacking your robots and turning them against you).

France said the “role of humans in the decision to fire must be retained.” However, the UK said existing law and treaties were sufficient to govern lethal autonomous robotics. Russia said such machines could “undermine legal order” but did not comment on the report’s recommendations.

No ‘killer robots’ as such are yet known to exist, but precursor technology is already used in the US, UK, Israel and South Korea – and possibly in Russia and China.

Unmanned drones have their weapon systems controlled remotely by humans.

As the potential for autonomous weapons has grown, several organisations have started arguing for a ban or moratorium.

Last year Human Rights Watch issued a report on “Losing Humanity: the case against killer robots”.

HRW employee Mary Wareham is co-ordinating the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. She said this was a “day of firsts”, including the first time governments have publicly discussed the issue.

“People have been concerned about this for quite a while now and it’s come to fruition ... and it’s had a really excellent response,” she said. “One of our fears was that they would say ‘why are we discussing this, is it really a problem’.

But nobody said that. Many were asking how are we taking this forward, who’s going to take this forward.”

HRW will now campaign for governments including Australia, New Zealand and Canada, who did not take part in the debate, to make their position clear.

“There is a debate going on between the technology people and the more traditional warriors, and it reflects an unease with the trend towards autonomy in warfare,” Ms Wareham said. “There are quite a few military who are not happy about this.”

Some country needed to “champion” the issue on the world stage, to move towards an international treaty, she said.

**Cheko, a Kurdish refugee was prompted to write this poem.
Cheko is a student at Thebarton Senior College, the first Australian secondary school to become a United Nations Global Peace school**

Trust

*I know a kind river, which runs from a humane source.
Everyone can drink and take pleasure from it.
The river can speak many different languages, understand the melody of birds and can read the dream clouds.*

*This river looks like a rainbow and everyone loves it.
This friendly river in a stormy night is orange and in the calm of day it is blue.
Believe me it is not a fable; it is real.
This river is not far from you but if you want to have some lovely water for your garden and if you tend to see laughter on flowers, don't look to the sky. You can find it there.
Just go to Thebarton Senior College and ask the teachers.*

UN Global Peace Schools

SA's First UN Peace School



The award being presented to Anne-Marie Shin (centre), Principal of Pennington Junior Primary School



Pennington Junior Primary children with the United Nations Peace School flag.

Pennington Junior Primary School was presented a United Nations Peace Flag and certificate at a special assembly on 1st April 2005, following months of work to qualify for status as a Global Peace School.

Education Minister Jane Lomax Smith said it was tremendous achievement and recognised the strength and diversity of the State's public education system.

"Pennington Junior Primary School regards itself as a mini United Nations with students from more than 20 different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, including refugees from war-torn countries," she said.

Pennington Junior Primary School counsellor Deb Levett-Olson said the school's Student Representative Council voted early last year (2004) to pursue the idea of becoming a UN Global Peace School after listening to a story about a young refugee.

The program and texts were designed for middle and secondary school students so Pennington JP staff set about developing a program for junior primary students. Save The Children - SA, which has the local rights to the UN Global Peace School program and textbooks, worked with PJPS on the pilot program in 2004.

The accolade is particularly meaningful because of the schools diverse student population, with more than 50% from non-English speaking backgrounds and a significant number who have come to Australia through humanitarian programs.

Classes completed activities about children's rights, with a focus on the right to feel safe from violence. New Arrivals Program classes worked with mainstream classes, resulting in wider knowledge of names and greetings, and strengthening of a feeling of school community.

Text and photos reproduced with permission from an article by Adam Joyce printed in the April 14th Issue of Xpress.

UN School for Global Peace

Thebarton Senior College

On 21st September 2007 Thebarton Senior College was recognised by the United Nations and became the first Australian secondary school to become a United Nations Global Peace school.

Becoming a Global Peace School is in keeping with the college's core values of Innovation, Excellence, Sustainability and Respect. Moreover, this achievement complements the College's commitment to relationship building through the practice of restorative justice.

Over the past six years the commitment to using restorative practices to resolve conflict and the inclusion of peace building within the curriculum has resulted in the College creating its own special "village".

Events such as Harmony Day, International Women's Day, World Refugee Day, World Environment Day and International Day of Peace enable students and staff in the College to celebrate together in a way that teaches about our cultural diversity and the values of the College commitment to harmony.

Restorative practices, peace building and human rights are ongoing and are particularly important to the College community as many students have not experienced fairness in the past and do not necessarily have a strong understanding of human rights.



Thebarton Senior College

The list of schools includes:
Birdwood Primary; Hackham West R – 7;
Mount Torrens Primary; Northfield Primary;
Norton Summit Primary; Parafield Gardens R – 7;
Seaford Rise Primary; Pennington Junior Primary;
Seaton High; Thebarton Senior College;
Virginia Primary; West Lakes Shore School
Woodville High. There now 11 United Nations Global Peace Schools in Adelaide and several others are working towards accreditation.

This "Save the Children" program now reaches nearly 8,000 students and staff throughout South Australia.

9,000 Fallen Soldiers Etched into the Sand on Normandy Beach to Commemorate Peace Day on September 25, 2013



On a recent weekend British artists Jamie Wardley and Andy Moss accompanied by numerous volunteers, took to the beaches of Normandy with rakes and stencils in hand to etch 9,000 silhouettes representing fallen people into the sand. Titled *The Fallen 9000*, the piece is meant as a stark visual reminder of the civilians,



Germans and allied forces who died during the D-Day beach landings at Arromanches on June 6th, 1944 during WWII. The original team consisted of 60 volunteers, but as word spread nearly 500 additional local residents arrived to help with the temporary installation that lasted only a few hours before being washed away by the tide.

POSTSCRIPT

NELSON MANDELA

It is fitting that my final page note should begin by acknowledging the life of Nelson Mandela. There is little I can add, other than to say that he has been one of those amazing personalities whose ideas have shaped our world so significantly. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said at the memorial service in Johannesburg this week, there is “sorrow for a mighty loss, and celebration of a mighty life”.

2013 THE UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF QUINOA

It has been a busy year this year, and a lot of our activity has centred around Quinoa. Many people have asked why such a little known choice? Generally I reply by saying that to some people it is simply a staple food, one with some unique characteristics, and one which highlights the idea of diversity and the risk involved in so much of our food being focussed on just one or two basic crops.

In addition I have to admit it has proved to be something enjoyable to eat; something that has challenged our local chefs to introduce us to new ideas and approaches.

In this newsletter you can see how Kilkenny Primary School have embraced it and provided a focus that has fascinated visitors who have learned how to cook it. I look forward to hear how their plants progress through to the anticipated harvest in the new year.

Quinoa would appear to have established a small, but interesting position on the menu of a good number of our kitchens during the year. This was demonstrated on Human Rights Day (10 December) with our final celebration of the UN Year of Quinoa. At our small informal luncheon with Slow Food we were served quinoa cooked by chef Adam Swanson at Zucca Restaurant at Glenelg.

Starting with the Australian launch at Government House on 28 June, interest has grown over the year, as has been demonstrated by so many Quinoa recipes published over the year.

ELIZABETH HO RETIRES FROM THE HAWKE CENTRE

I would like to express our appreciation for the efforts from Elizabeth Ho in her superb management of the Hawke Centre. The Hawke Centre has been so very much involved in stimulating discussion and new ideas in Adelaide through their great series of lectures over these years.

Eventually there comes a time to meet new challenges and to move on, we wish Elizabeth well for the future, and while she has expressed a wish to have a well earned rest, we are sure we will hear more from her in the future.

Thank you so very much Elizabeth.

2014 INTERNATIONAL YEARS

Next year we have three themes the UN has adopted as our focus over the 12 months.

First the *UN International Year of the Family Farm*. A subject that will resonate with us as we look to food sustainability. While it may not directly relate to the majority of us who

are city dwellers, when we think of where our food comes from, and how diversity and security will be so important in the future we can acknowledge its importance.

The *UN International Year of Crystallography* is the second. This appeals to those of us with a more scientific bent, even if it is one of the basic fields of technical endeavour where credit is rarely given for its fundamental place in science. It is also one where South Australia has a special place in its history. I hope we will recognise the role played by Sir William Bragg (Professor of Physics at Adelaide University at the start of the 20th Century) and his son, William Lawrence Bragg who was born in North Adelaide. Aged 5 William Lawrence fell from his tricycle and broke his arm, resulting in his father becoming interested in X-rays. William Lawrence (St. Peter's College and Adelaide University) graduated in 1908. That very same year the family moved to the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge. In 1915 William and William Lawrence were joint winners of the Nobel Prize for Physics for their work with X-ray Crystallography. William Lawrence was aged 25, and is still the youngest ever winner of a Nobel Prize.

The third is the *UN International Year of Small Island Developing States*. This is something that is also relevant to Australia, seeing we have a close relationship with a number of these small states in both the Pacific and the Indian Oceans. I hope we can have some interesting material to include in our newsletter during the coming year.

THANKS TO OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OUR VOLUNTEERS

I would like to record my thanks to everyone who has contributed to our activities this year. In particular I want to thank our committee members and volunteers.

Of special note (and thanks for everyone involved) was our UN Day Dinner in the new venue. It was a great success.

I would also like to thank our speakers at our bimonthly discussion evenings. Although attendance was small, proving the point that in this busy world our members are often unable to attend evening (or afternoon) meetings, it has given us an opportunity to hear about issues of particular interest.

To be able to have someone talk to us, and follow on with a small informal discussion has been invaluable, a real success, and something I hope we can continue in the coming year.

To be updated on the situation in West Papua, the Red Cross, the growing work of Grandparents for Grandchildren, as well as the International Criminal Court all proved to be most rewarding evenings.

Finally I wish to thank our Newsletter editors, Peter Faulkner in the first part of the year, and now Ron Hall, and all their other contributors. Printing in colour courtesy of GFG has added to its appeal, and I hope we can keep up the high standard in the coming year.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Finally may I wish all our members and friends a restful and happy end to 2013, the compliments of the season, and a fruitful and rewarding 2014.

John Crawford, President