



# United Nations Association of Australia, South Australia Planet 3 Digest

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## COMING EVENTS

- Discussion Evening: Jennie Hammet, Save the Children. Tuesday 20 May 5.30.
- Launch: Govt House UN E&P SA 14 July
- AGM Sunday 13 July 2 to 4.30 pm. Saint Cyprian's North Adelaide Hall. Speakers: Bev and Ron Hall.
- Discussion Evening 15 July. 5.30 pm.
- Discussion Evening 16 September. 5.30 pm.
- UN Day Dinner, National Wine Centre. Sun. 9th Nov.

## UN YOUTH SA — South Australian Conference 2014 A GLOBAL DEMOCRACY, 14TH – 16TH MARCH NUNYARA CONFERENCE CENTRE

The UN Youth South Australian Conference brought together some of the most enthusiastic, passionate and engaged Year 10-12 students from across the state.

Across a weekend of engaging workshops, worldclass guest speakers, immersive Model UN debate and lots and lots of social activities, students explored some of the globe's biggest issues, developed their leadership skills and met talented, like-minded young people from all over South Australia.

### THEME: 'A GLOBAL DEMOCRACY'

It's December, 2010: a young Tunisian street vendor named Mohamen Bouazizi sets himself on fire in protest against his government's dictatorial rule and inhumane treatment of its citizens. Three years later, we've seen dictators fall and the Middle East exploring a new way to rule its people: democracy.



# UN

youth  
australia

The theme of 2014's South Australian Conference was *A Global Democracy*, which invited students to explore a number of questions, including:

- Why has democracy had such a popular appeal, and how have people fought to achieve it?
- What are some of the challenges facing new democracies, such as Egypt, and why are they struggling?
- What role can young people play in achieving political change?

## 94 STUDENTS FROM 27 SCHOOLS

- Adelaide High School, Blackfriars Priory School,
- Blackwood High School, Booleroo Centre District School,
- Brighton Secondary School, Eastern Fleurieu School,
- Glenunga International High School,
- Golden Grove High School, Immanuel College,
- Mercedes College, Mitcham Girls High School,
- Norwood Morialta High School, Pembroke School,
- Prince Alfred College, Scotch College, Seymour College,
- St Ignatius College, St Johns Grammar School,
- St Peters Girls School, University Senior College,
- Unley High School, Urrbrae Agricultural High School,
- Victor Harbor High School, Westminster School,
- Wilderness School



## Sir Charles Bright Scholarship Presentation at Government House

On Monday 3rd March at Government House, His Excellence Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia presented 13 students, with disabilities, with Sir Charles Bright Scholarships to assist them with their studies.

One of the students was Rishikesh Pandey who has a hearing impairment. Rishikesh is studying at Adelaide University for a PhD and doing research into how ongoing climate change has impacted on the ecological system. He hopes to return to Nepal when he finishes his studies in order to assist farming communities of the Himalayas. Rishikesh received his scholarship from the Lions Club of Edwardstown and the UNAA (SA Division)

UNAA(SA) is delighted to be able to assist in providing a part scholarship to assist Rishikesh in his studies. In this year of the family farm, it is fitting that his goal is to assist family communities in the Himalayas.



Scholarship recipient Rishikesh Pandey, with Kelly Vincent MLC, Lidia Moretti UNAA(SA), and Rosemary Penn O.A.M. Administrator of the Sir Charles Bright Scholarship Trust.

## INTERNATIONAL DAYS APRIL TO JUNE 2014

### APRIL

- 2 April World Autism Awareness Day A/RES/62/139
- 4 April International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action A/RES/60/97
- 6 April International Day of Sport for Development and Peace A/67/L.77 (draft)
- 7 April Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwanda Genocide —
- 7 April World Health Day [WHO] WHA/A.2/Res.35
- 12 April International Day of Human Space Flight A/RES/65/271
- 22 April International Mother Earth Day A/RES/63/278
- 23 April World Book and Copyright Day Resolution 3.18 of the 28th session of the UNESCO General Conference
- 23 April English Language Day —
- 25 April World Malaria Day [WHO] —
- 26 April World Intellectual Property Day [WIPO] —
- 28 April World Day for Safety and Health at Work [ILO] —
- 29 April Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare —
- 30 April International Jazz Day —

### MAY

- 3 May World Press Freedom Day A/DEC/48/432
- 8-9 May Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War A/RES/59/26
- 11-12 May World Migratory Bird Day [UNEP] —
- 15 May International Day of Families A/RES/47/237
- 17 May World Telecommunication and Information Society Day [ITU] A/RES/60/252
- 21 May World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development A/RES/57/249
- 22 May International Day for Biological Diversity A/RES/55/201
- 23 May International Day to End Obstetric Fistula A/RES/67/147
- 24 May "Vesak", the Day of the Full Moon A/RES/54/115
- 29 May International Day of UN Peacekeepers A/RES/57/129
- 31 May World No-Tobacco Day [WHO] Resolution 42.19 of the 42nd session of WHO

### JUNE

- 1 June Global Day of Parents A/RES/66/292
- 4 June International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression A/RES/ES-7/8
- 5 June World Environment Day [UNEP] A/RES/2994 (XXVII)
- 8 June World Oceans Day A/RES/63/111
- 12 June World Day Against Child Labour —
- 14 June World Blood Donor Day [WHO] WHA58.13
- 15 June World Elder Abuse Awareness Day A/RES/66/127
- 17 June World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought A/RES/49/115
- 20 June World Refugee Day A/RES/55/76
- 23 June United Nations Public Service Day A/RES/57/277
- 23 June International Widows' Day A/RES/65/189
- 25 June Day of the Seafarer [IMO] STCW/CONF.2/DC.4
- 26 June International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking A/RES/42/112

- 26 June United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture A/RES/52/149

### INTERNATIONAL WEEKS 2014

- 1-7 February (First week of February) World Interfaith Harmony Week A/RES/65/5
- 21-27 March Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination A/RES/34/24
- 23-29 April 2007 UN Global Road Safety Week A/RES/60/5
- 25-31 May Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories A/RES/54/91
- 1-7 August World Breastfeeding Week [WHO] —
- 4-10 October World Space Week A/RES/54/68
- 24-30 October Disarmament Week A/RES/S-10/2, p. 102
- 11-17 November (The week in which 11 November falls) International Week of Science and Peace A/RES/43/61

### INTERNATIONAL YEARS 2014

- International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People A/RES/68/12
- International Year of Small Island Developing States A/RES/67/206
- International Year of Crystallography A/RES/66/284
- International Year of Family Farming A/RES/66/222

### INTERNATIONAL DECADES

- 2015-2024  
International Decade for People of African Descent A/RES/68/237
- 2014-2024  
United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All A/RES/67/215
- 2011-2020  
Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism A/RES/65/119
- United Nations Decade on Biodiversity A/RES/65/161
- Decade of Action for Road Safety A/RES/64/255
- 2010-2020  
United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification A/RES/62/195
- 2008-2017  
Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty A/RES/62/205
- 2006-2016  
Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions (third decade after the Chernobyl disaster) A/RES/62/9
- 2005-2015  
International Decade for Action, "Water for Life" A/RES/58/217
- 2005-2014  
United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development A/RES/57/254
- Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People A/RES/59/174

From <http://www.un.org/en/events/observances/index.shtml>

Note: The A/RES/nn/nnn references refer to the UN resolution establishing the Day etc. The full resolution can be found by an internet search for that number..



# United Nations Association of Australia (South Australia) Annual General Meeting

St Cyprians Church Hall  
70 - 72 Melbourne Street  
North Adelaide  
Sunday 13th July, 2014  
2.00 to 4.30 pm, Shared afternoon tea.

Dr. Bev Hall and Ron Hall will speak on "First Nations Peoples" describing their close friendship and contact with the indigenous people of Canada.

We give advance notice of proposed changes to our UNAA(SA) constitution. These were put to our 2012 AGM, but there was not a quorum in attendance. If you would like to receive a copy of the proposed changes they are available upon request to the office or to: John Crawford 8344 4978 [pres@unaasa.org.au](mailto:pres@unaasa.org.au) or Ron Hall 8264 3763 [sec@unaasa.org.au](mailto:sec@unaasa.org.au)

## Uruguay Government Exchanges Bikes for Guns

Uruguay, under the current administration, has garnered a reputation for its "thinking outside the box" approach to leadership, and it's gotten results. Now, in a quirky effort to reduce the number of firearms in circulation, the government is again trying something new, offering citizens to turn in their unregistered guns in exchange for something hopefully more useful—a shiny new bike.

Or, as Uruguay's Interior Ministry puts it, the tradeoff is "Weapons for life".

This creative initiative, which launched this week, is in response to the prevalence of illegal firearms and rising rates of homicides. The small South American nation, known for

its quaintness, ranks 9th in number of guns per capita in the world. More than a million firearms are in the hands of the country's 3.3 million residents, and half of those are unregistered.

"These are the same weapons that, sometimes and for various reasons (sale, theft, etc.), can be prevented from entering the market for use by criminals," says the Interior Ministry.

But instead of following the 'gun buyback' model that has been implemented in the United States and Australia as a way of getting guns off the street, Uruguay's "Weapons for life" program is taking a different approach that might improve society even more. Instead of getting cash, residents turning in their unregistered weapons will each receive either a new bicycle or a low-end computer.

So far, the program has received praise for being a win-win, potentially reducing gun crime while improving the lives of those in illegal possession of weapons, as well as the nation as a whole.

"We are delighted that the ministry is finally taking action on the matter and starting a campaign to discourage gun ownership," says Guidobono Gustavo, president of the Association for the Civilian Disarmament "Effecting this change by using computers or bicycles is unprecedented, but it is welcome."

*Stephen Messenger (@smessenger)  
on [www.treehugger.com](http://www.treehugger.com)*



## MERCURY : Time to Act (UNEP Report published 10 January 2014)

Mercury is not often mentioned as a food hazard here in South Australia. However we ought to be aware of these risks. This chart is from a recent UN Report called "MERCURY: Time to Act". It shows "Regional Mercury Emissions" and highlights how East and Southeast Asia are such significant contributors to overall world emissions. Increasing trade and especially the increasing importation of food (particularly fish products) from this region mean that we need to remain vigilant.

It would also be in our own best interest to assist in the implementation of mercury reduction techniques through overseas aid and cooperation in addressing the problem.

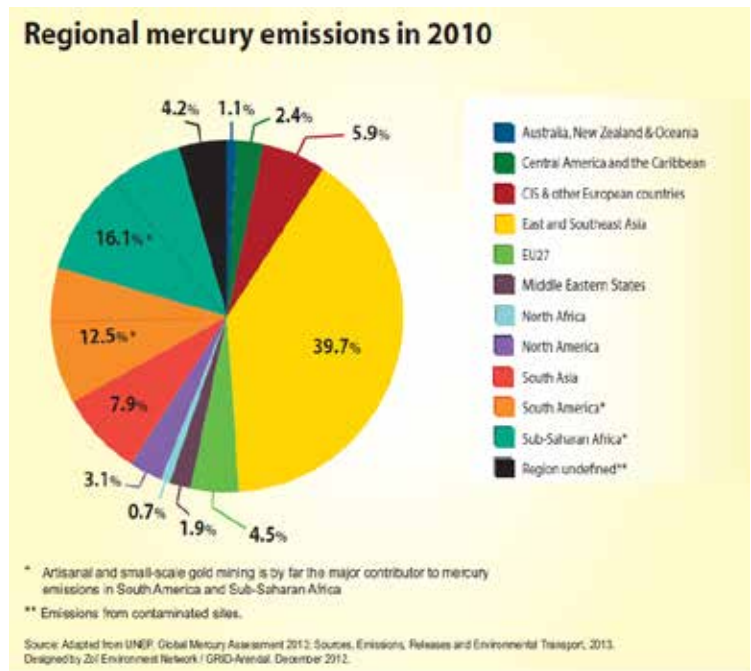
An environmental health fact sheet (NT Govt. No 223) says that "Mercury tends to concentrate as it moves up the food chain, so larger predatory fish that live for longer have higher levels". Hence Food Standards Australia New Zealand offer recommendations on the number of serves fish consumers can safely eat. For example for an adult no more than one serve per week of Shark (Flake), or Billfish, and NO other fish that week.

A new UN Report published in January says that communities in developing countries are facing increasing health and environmental risks linked to exposure to mercury. Produced by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the studies note how parts of Africa, Asia and South America could see increasing emissions of mercury into the environment, due mainly to the use of the toxic element in small-scale gold mining, and through the burning of coal for electricity generation.

"Mercury, which exists in various forms, remains a major global, regional and national challenge in terms of threats to human health and the environment," UNEP's Executive Director, Achim Steiner, said in a news release on the studies.

Mercury – a naturally-occurring, silvery-white metal that is liquid at ordinary temperatures – can be harmful to humans and the environment. When released from industry and other man-made sources, it can circulate in the environment for up to centuries at a time. This, according to UNEP, means that it is likely to be several years or decades before reductions in mercury emissions have a demonstrable effect on mercury levels in nature and the food chain.

One of the UNEP studies, the Global Mercury Assessment 2013 – which provides a comprehensive breakdown of mercury emissions by region and economic sector – reports that emissions of the toxic metal from artisanal gold mining have



doubled since 2005, in part due to new and better information, but also due to rising gold prices that are expected to lead to further increases

Due to rapid industrialization, it further notes, Asia is the largest regional emitter of mercury, and accounts for just under half of all global releases.

The UNEP study also assesses, for the first time at a global level, releases of mercury into rivers and lakes. Much human exposure to mercury is through the consumption of contaminated fish, making aquatic environments the critical link to human health.

In the past 100 years, man-made emissions have caused the amount of mercury in the top 100 metres of the world's oceans to double. Concentrations in deeper waters have increased by up to 25 per cent.

The study highlights significant releases into the environment linked to contaminated sites and deforestation, with an estimated 260 tonnes of mercury – previously held in soils – being released into rivers and lakes.

The UN agency notes this would reduce cases

of neurological and behavioural disorders, and other health problems linked to mercury, as well as the contamination of soils and rivers caused by man-made emissions of the metal.

"Mercury has been known as a toxin and a hazard for centuries – but today we have many of the alternative technologies





# Discussion Evening—All Welcome

20 May, 5.30 to 7.30pm

At the UNAA(SA) Office 57/81 Carrington Street

Speaker: *Jennie Hammet*

Subject: *Global Peace Schools*

Jennie is the Team Leader—Child Rights Education with Save the Children Australia.

The Global Peace School program is run by Save the Children Australia, which works collaboratively with schools and preschools to help children understand their rights and responsibilities by integrating these themes into their curriculum. There are 13 schools in SA recognised as Global Peace Schools.

The Parafield Gardens Children's Centre has been accredited as a Global Peace School—Early Years by Save the Children Australia. (see Page 8). On 4 April Parafield became the first Early Years facility in South Australia to gain accreditation as a Global Peace School.

Pennington Junior Primary School in Adelaide's north-west was South Australia's first Global Peace School on April 1, 2005—an accolade recognising the school's efforts in educating students about the rights of children.

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

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## Mercury: Time to Act continued

and processes needed to reduce the risks for tens of millions of people, including pregnant mothers and their babies," the UNEP chief added. "A good outcome can also assist in a more sustainable future for generations to come."

The UNEP studies state the fact that mercury released from man-made sources can circulate for such a long time reinforces the need for swift action by governments, industry and civil society to strengthen efforts to reduce mercury emissions and releases.

Delays in action, according to the reports, will lead to slower recovery of ecosystems and a greater legacy of pollution.

Amongst other findings in the studies, UNEP highlights the rising levels of mercury present in the Arctic, where an estimated 200 tonnes of mercury are deposited each year, generally far from where it originated. Studies have shown a ten-fold increase in levels of mercury in certain Arctic wild-life species in the past 150 years, due mainly, it is thought, to human activity.

The two UNEP studies state that global emissions of mercury have remained relatively stable in the last 20 years, with 2010 emissions from human activities thought to be just under 2,000 tonnes.

However, despite improved availability of data on mercury, the emissions estimate is still subject to uncertainty, and covers a range of 1,010 to 4,070 tonnes.

Coal burning is responsible for some 475 tonnes of mercury

emissions annually, or around 24 per cent of the global total. UNEP notes that despite increased coal combustion in certain regions, more stringent regulations on pollution in several countries have contributed to reducing overall mercury emissions from coal burning and off-setting part of the emissions arising from increased industrial activity.

Along with coal burning, the use of mercury to separate metal from ore in small-scale gold mining remains the chief source of emissions worldwide, according to UNEP. Annual emissions from small-scale gold mining are estimated at 727 tonnes, or 35 per cent of the global total.

Greater exposure to mercury poses a direct threat to the health of some 10-15 million people who are directly involved in small-scale gold mining, mainly in Africa, Asia and South America. An estimated three million women and children work in the industry.

Mercury-free methods and other low-cost solutions for reducing emissions during gold extraction are available, UNEP notes, but socio-economic conditions, and low awareness of the risks of mercury, are barriers to adopting safer techniques.

*There is a copy of the UN report in the UNAA(SA) office as well as the NT Fact Sheet. They are available on request from [pres@unaasa.org.au](mailto:pres@unaasa.org.au) or the UNAA(SA) office.*

*Also see: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43897&Cr=health&Cr1=#.UvW-SpXMN9B> and [http://www.health.nt.gov.au/library/scripts/objectify/Media.aspx?file=pdf/80/33.pdf&siteID=1&str\\_title=Mercury in Fish.pdf](http://www.health.nt.gov.au/library/scripts/objectify/Media.aspx?file=pdf/80/33.pdf&siteID=1&str_title=Mercury%20in%20Fish.pdf)*

## UN Youth SA Conference 2014 cont.

The UN Youth South Australian Conference was made possible by its being run entirely by volunteers under the age of 25. Financial support from the South Australian community was used to fund scholarships for financially disadvantaged students. Over 30 students received financial support.

### Friday highlights:

#### WORKSHOP: 'WHAT DO YOU CARE ABOUT?'

In the first interactive workshop of the weekend, students were introduced to the idea of youth advocacy. Invited to consider their own passions and interests, each student shared his/her own response to the question, "if I could change one thing in the world, what would it be?"

In small groups, students developed community-based solutions to five of the most popular issues raised: environmental sustainability, poverty reduction, support for the disabled community, government transparency and gender equality.

#### GUEST SPEAKER: KIM FURNISH

The Conference's Opening Speaker was Kim Furnish, the Chief Consul Officer at the US Consulate based in Melbourne, Victoria.

Having previously worked in such diverse locations as Colombia and South Korea, Kim spoke about her own experiences of working in the field of diplomacy. Kim explored the ways in which Western nations such as the US and Australia can promote democracy around the world.

### Saturday highlights:

#### WORKSHOP: DEMOCRACY AROUND THE WORLD

Students worked in groups to explore how democracy works in theory and practice; assess the strengths and weaknesses



of this system; compare case studies of democracies both thriving and weak; and brainstorm how democratic principles can be promoted around the world.

#### Q&A PANEL

SA Conference hosted a panel of some of Australia's leading experts on foreign affairs:

- Alex Brooking – State Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Cate Thompson – International Services, Australian Electoral Commission
- Dr Alex Biro – Lecturer in International Relations, University of South Australia

Our panellists spoke about their own experiences of democracy around the world, and shared their thoughts on the strengths, challenges and future of democracy.







**INTERACTIVE CRISIS SIMULATION**

Always a standout event at any UN Youth Conference, delegates found themselves divided into the cabinets of three political groups struggling to resolve a constantly evolving and escalating international crisis in Egypt.

Individually taking on different personas within their cabinets, students confronted the complexities of international politics through negotiating with (and scheming against) both the other sides and their own fellow ministers to secure the best outcome for their cabinet.

**SOCIAL NIGHT**

The highly-anticipated social night allowed students to relax and have some fun after a day of intense activities!

The theme of “Dress as Your Country” ensured many colourful and creative costumes were on display as the students and facilitators danced the night away!



**Sunday highlights:**

**MODEL UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE**

The final day was spent in a simulation of the United Nations General Assembly. Representing individual UN member nations, students debated a number of pressing international issues from their country’s perspective in the style and format of the real UN in New York. The Question of Espionage – How can nations achieve the correct balance between protecting individual liberties and ensuring national security? Students debated how privacy and government transparency can be best protected in an age of global surveillance. The Question of Democracy – Is it possible to implement a global framework for democracy? Students explored the ways in which the United Nations can peacefully promote the values of democracy without infringing on the rights and sovereignty of member states.





## Congratulations: Parafield Gardens Children’s Centre for Early Childhood Development and Parenting

John Crawford and Ruth Russell represented our UNAA Division to participate in a very moving Recognition Ceremony on Friday, 4th April, at this new purpose-built Early Childhood Centre—encompassing a kindergarten, playgroup and occasional care as well as a full suite of children’s services to support babies, children and families.

We were met with smiles and greetings from mothers, fathers and children dressed in their national costumes as we arrived, handed hand-made peace dove mobiles with children’s messages attached, then made our way through displays of children’s art and work they had produced which focused on Children’s Rights, Social Inclusion, Peace Building and Global Awareness. These were the Save the Children Global Peace School –Early Years topics that they had passed for their accreditation. For example in helping children strengthen their sense of personal identity, each child had their full body profiled in a cardboard cutout, which they then decorated to make “their own.” Mounted along the outside wall they made a stunning display as a backdrop to the Parafield Gardens High School student band. The Children’s Centre is the first early childhood site to be recognised in SA.



School program aims to assist children in understanding their Rights and Responsibilities in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and in the promotion of world peace.



The Ceremony was held outdoors with children singing in many languages, speeches by their local State politician Hon. Zoe Bettison Minister of Communities and Social Inclusion and Minister for Multi-cultural Affairs, Hon. Jennifer Rankine Minister for Education and

This Global Peace

Child Development representing the Premier.



Ruth presented a framed UNAA Certificate to honour this occasion, then John presented a UN flag which was raised at the end of the ceremony together with the Aboriginal and Australian flag. The raising of the three flags in unison had quite a deep emotional impact on many of us, with a silent tear rolling down several cheeks. Guests were then invited to enjoy a wonderful international morning tea.

UNAA is pleased that the Save the Children organisation in South Australia is managing this very worthwhile Global Peace Schools Program and understands that further schools are currently undertaking their accreditation process.



## Hamilton Naki (26 June 1926 – 29 May 2005)

Although it seems unlikely that Hamilton Naki assisted Dr Christiaan Barnard in the first heart transplant, his life is still an amazing tale. Here is his story as told by Wikipedia.

Hamilton Naki (26 June 1926 – 29 May 2005) was a black laboratory assistant to white cardiac surgeon Christiaan Barnard in South Africa under apartheid. He was recognised for his surgical skills and for his being able to teach medical students and physicians such skills despite not having received a formal medical education, and took a leading role in organ transplant research on animals.

A controversy arose after his death in that at least five periodicals and the Associated Press retracted statements in their obituaries of Naki that claimed that he participated in the world's first human-to-human heart transplantation in 1967; the incident has been cited as an example of inadequate fact checking by the news media and delayed corrections of the errors. Such effects remain in place, despite retractions, creating potent but baseless political myths.

### Early life

Naki was born to a poor family in Ngcingane, a village in the Transkei region of the Eastern Cape of South Africa. He received six years of education up to the age of 14, after which he moved to Cape Town. Beginning about 1940, he commuted from Langa, Cape Town to the University of Cape Town to work as a gardener, specifically rolling grass tennis courts.

### Medical career and retirement

In 1954 Robert Goetz of the University's surgical faculty asked Naki to assist him with laboratory animals.[15] Naki's responsibilities progressed from cleaning cages to performing anaesthesia. Most of Naki's work under Goetz involved anaesthetising dogs, but Naki also assisted in operating on a giraffe "to dissect the jugular venous valves to determine why giraffes do not faint when bending to drink."

Several years after Goetz left, Naki started working for Christiaan Barnard in the laboratory as an assistant. Barnard had studied open-heart surgery techniques in the United States and was bringing those techniques to South Africa. Naki first performed anaesthesia on animals for Barnard, but was then "appointed principal surgical assistant of the laboratory because of his remarkable skill and dexterity." Barnard was quoted as saying "If Hamilton had had the opportunity to study, he would probably have become a brilliant surgeon" and that Naki was "one of the great researchers of all time in the field of heart transplants".

In 1968, Barnard's cardiac surgical research team moved out of the surgical laboratory, and Naki helped develop the heterotopic or "piggyback" heart transplantation technique. In the 1970s, Naki left Barnard's team and returned to the surgical laboratory, this time working on liver transplantation. His contributions at this time were described as follows:

Rosemary Hickman, transplantation surgeon whom Naki assisted and taught in the laboratory, and who worked with Naki for nearly 30 years: "Despite his limited conven-

tional education, he had an amazing ability to learn anatomical names and recognize anomalies. His skills ranged from assisting to operating and he frequently prepared the donor animal (sometimes single-handedly) while another team worked on the recipient."

Del Khan, "head of Groote Schuur Hospital's organ transplant unit," whom Naki taught in the laboratory: "A liver transplant on a pig in the U.S. would involve a team of two or three medically qualified surgeons... Hamilton can do this all on his own."

Ralph Kirsch, "head of the Liver Research Centre" at the University of Cape Town: "He was one of those remarkable men who really come around once in a long time. As a man without any education, he mastered surgical techniques at the highest level and passed them on to young doctors."

Barnard: "A liver transplant is much more difficult than a heart transplant... [doctors who work with Naki] tell me that Hamilton can do all the various aspects of liver transplantation, which I can't do. So technically, he is a better surgeon than I am."

He taught many students during his career; although news media accounts placed the number of students in the thousands, Hickman said that that number appears to have been exaggerated. Naki assisted Hickman until his retirement in 1991, after which he received "a gardener's pension: 760 rand, or about \$275, a month."

### Personal life, post-retirement activities and recognition, and death

Naki was reported to be married with four sons and one daughter. He lived in a small one-room house without electricity or running water and sent "most of his pay to his wife and family, left behind in Transkei," but "could pay for only one of his five children to stay to the end of high school." He was active in his church and read the Bible frequently.

After retirement, Naki helped the community of Kentani, where part of his family lived, for example "in the construction of a school and in the provision of a mobile clinic" by soliciting donations from his "medical contacts". He received public recognition of his medical work after his retirement, including: Metropolitan Eastern Cape Award, 2002. The Bronze Order of Mapungubwe, 2002, presented by President Thabo Mbeki. One of the highest South African civil honours, this Order is "awarded to South African citizens for excellence and exceptional achievement." BTWSC Black S/Heroes Award, 2003. An honorary master's degree from the University of Cape Town in 2003, presented by vice chancellor Graça Machel. The honorary degree was described as MMed (Master of Medicine) in some sources and MSc (Master of Science) in others. Inclusion in a "senior civil guard of honour" at the 2004 opening of the Parliament of South Africa. He died in Langa on 29 May 2005, aged 78, of "heart trouble."

## Humanity deserves dark skies and starry nights

*Sr. Joan Chittister, From Where I Stand*

Here's one for you. Who said it?

"Here in the United States we turn our rivers and streams into sewers and dumping-grounds, we pollute the air, we destroy forests, and exterminate fishes, birds and mammals—not to speak of vulgarizing charming landscapes with hideous advertisements. But at last it looks as if our people were awakening."

No, this was not said by some enthusiastic young activist on a foray into the world of contemporary ecology. On the contrary, it was said by Teddy Roosevelt, the great conservation president, in 1901.

The subject clearly is not a new one; however, we have ignored it over the years. Roosevelt, a genuine outdoorsman himself, was in the process of setting aside over 2 million acres of land to preserve the forests and natural value of this country in an era easily as rapacious as ours.

But at the same time, yes, it does at last look as if our people were awakening." Over 100 years later, yes. But still good—if it's not already too late. At least we're at the point where ecology is being taught in our schools. Legislation has turned its attention to preserving the species of the planet. Commercial fishing quotas and methods are now on the radar of the world. Private citizens are devoting their lives to saving spawning places and water. And we're even beginning to understand that what we allow to happen to the habitat of animals will soon affect our own habitats.

And yet, our forests are still endangered. Our seas and rivers are still being overfished. Our groundwater is under attack from drilling methods designed to satisfy our insatiable lust for gas and oil.

Clearly, pollution is something we think we know a good deal about now. But then, out of the blue—literally—comes something many of us have never even thought about before. At least I never did. Until I got to Ireland.

Here in County Kerry, Ireland, where I have come to write for a while, a remote area of over 700 square kilometres on the Iveragh Peninsula has just been designated an International Dark Sky Reserve.

A what?

A Dark Sky Reserve, according to the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), is a populated area of both public and private facilities devoted to the control of light pollution. The Kerry Reserve is one of only eight designated Dark Sky Reserves in the world and the first one in the Northern Hemisphere to receive "gold tier" status.

And that is no small thing.

A Dark Sky Place, according to the IDA, an American-based organization founded in 1988, devotes itself to researching the effects of artificial light pollution on human development. More particularly, it encourages the use of a kind of night lighting that reduces glare, stops light trespass, eliminates sky glow and studies the negative effect of night lighting on human health.

Each of them, the IDA claims, affects the quality of human life in ways most of us never dreamed.

Glare is the effect of bright light on human eyesight. When glare is eliminated, people see better, drive more safely, and

reduce the degree of strain on the human eye.

When lighting trespass is eliminated, the illumination of someone else's property does not intrude on the rights of others to preserve the dark. The spotlight on the top of the garage across the street, for instance, does not shine into my bedroom -- or hotel room window -- and affect the quality of my sleep that night.

Sky glow, the effect of land-based lights on the visibility of a star-filled sky at night, dims the awareness of Earth's place in the cosmos for growing numbers of generations. Children who once were able to trace and name every constellation in the sky can now barely see the stars at all.

Finally, the human being functions on circadian rhythms, the sleep-wake cycle, which if disrupted can endanger human health and the development and welfare of nocturnal animals, as well.

When the natural rhythms of light and dark are maintained, however, according to Dr. Stephen M. Pauley, incidences of hypertension, obesity, attention deficit disorder, diabetes and even cancer in humans are decreased.

Like every other commitment to anti-pollution, it's a win-win situation for humans and for animals alike.

Clearly, the protection of night, the preservation of darkness, is an important, life-giving dimension of human existence, one that, the IDA claims, must be preserved if life itself is to be preserved at its healthiest best.

But most of all, perhaps, darkness returns humanity to humans. It restores the sense of beauty that nourishes the human soul. It encourages the study of astronomy, an area common to the on Earth. In Ireland, for instance, the effects of astronomy in human life can be documented at Newgrange as early as 6,000 years ago, a milestone older than the pyramids of Egypt and Stonehenge in Britain. And it is perhaps never more important than now in an age of space exploration and the penetration of the farthest reaches of the universe.

Here in the Kerry Dark-Sky Reserve, you can see the stars with the naked eye just an arm's reach above your head. The night is as beautiful as the day, and the preservation of the darkness of the night is as rational an endeavor as the work we do at high noon.

But light pollution is its enemy. Our enemy. In fact, pollution, all human desecration of the planet, is our communal suicidal disease.

It seems we ought to be taking Teddy Roosevelt more seriously again. We can't ignore him for another 100 years. We need to remember that he said, "It is also vandalism wantonly to destroy or to permit the destruction of what is beautiful in nature, whether it be a cliff, a forest, or a species of mammal or bird."

It looks like we have gone just about as far as we can go.

From where I stand, it looks like we can't go on insisting how rational we are anymore. As long as we go on driving ourselves like lemmings into the sea of pollutions everywhere, we can't possibly be fully human.

*from the National Catholic Reporter, April 15 2014.  
Benedictine Sr. Joan Chittister, <http://ncronline.org>*



## DEMOCRACY AND DIVERSITY CAN MEND BROKEN FOOD SYSTEMS —final diagnosis from UN right to food expert

[10 March 2014] GENEVA – The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter, today called for the world's food systems to be radically and democratically redesigned to ensure the human right to adequate food and freedom from hunger.

“The eradication of hunger and malnutrition is an achievable goal. However, it will not be enough to refine the logic of our food systems – it must instead be reversed,” he stressed during the presentation of his final report to the UN Human Rights Council after a six-year term as Special Rapporteur.

He warned that the current food systems are efficient only from the point of view of maximizing agribusiness profits. “At the local, national and international levels, the policy environment must urgently accommodate alternative, democratically-mandated visions,” he said

“Objectives such as supplying diverse, culturally-acceptable foods to communities, supporting smallholders, sustaining soil and water resources, and raising food security within particularly vulnerable areas, must not be crowded out by the one-dimensional quest to produce more food.”

“The greatest deficit in the food economy is the democratic one. By harnessing people's knowledge and building their needs and preferences into the design of ambitious food policies at every level, we would arrive at food systems that are built to endure”.

### Local food systems

“Food democracy must start from the bottom-up, at the level of villages, regions, cities, and municipalities,” the rights expert said. “Food security must be built around securing the ability of smallholder farmers to thrive. Respect for their access to productive resources is key in this regard,” he added, calling for priority investments in agroecological and poverty-reducing forms of agriculture.

Mr. De Schutter urged cities to take food security into their own hands. “By 2050 more than 6 billion people – more than two in three – will live in cities. It is vital that these cities identify logistical challenges and pressure points in their food supply chains, and develop a variety of channels to procure their food, in line with the wishes, needs and ideas of their inhabitants.”

“Emerging social innovations in all parts of the world show how urban consumers can be reconnected with local food producers, while at the same time reducing rural poverty and food insecurity,” he said. “Such innovations must be supported.”

### National strategies

The expert warned, however, that these local initiatives can only succeed if they are supported and complemented at the national level.

“Governments have a major role to play in bringing policies into coherence with the right to food, and ensuring that actions are effectively sequenced, but there is no single recipe,” he said.

“In some cases,” Mr. De Schutter noted, “the priority will be to promote short circuits and direct producer-consumer links in order to strengthen local smallholder farming and reduce dependence on imports. In other cases, the prevailing need may

be to strengthen cooperatives in order to sell to large buyers under dependable contracts.”

The key lies in democratic decision-making, he stressed.

“National right to food strategies should be co-designed by relevant stakeholders, in particular the groups most affected by hunger and malnutrition, and they should be supported by independent monitoring.”

### International coherence

“Just as local-level initiatives cannot succeed without support from national strategies, efforts at the domestic level require an international enabling environment to bear fruit,” the Special Rapporteur added.

The Special Rapporteur underscored that attempts by developing countries to improve their food security will only be successful if there are parallel reforms in the global north.

“Wealthy countries must move away from export-driven agricultural policies and leave space instead for small-scale farmers in developing countries to supply local markets,” Mr. De Schutter said. “They must also restrain their expanding claims on global farmland by reining in the demand for animal feed and agrofuels, and by reducing food waste.”

In addition to his report, the expert presented a summary of recommendations issued over the course of his mandate as Special Rapporteur (2008-2014), covering food price volatility, trade and investment in agriculture, regulating agribusiness, agrofuels, food aid and development cooperation, nutrition, social protection, women's rights, Human Rights Impact Assessments, national strategies, agricultural workers, contract farming, small-holder farmers, agroecology, and the reinvestment in agriculture.

## ARE WE CERTAIN ABOUT WHERE OUR FOOD WAS GROWN?

The ONLY Australian manufacturer of frozen Australian grown vegetables (Simplot Australia) is not far from closing because a number of the other well known Australian brands have moved their plants to New Zealand in order to capture the Chinese vegetable market where they market via New Zealand to Australian tables (without the food being labelled specifically as Chinese) and Simplot is finding it hard to compete. This was shown on the program Landline on the ABC (Sunday 15/9).

Should SIMPLOT close, this means that no Australian Grown frozen vegetables will be available at all, and we will be relying on food totally grown outside of Australia.

For a number of reasons this is not a good situation.

1. As most people know, other countries do not necessarily have the strict guidelines for growing their vegetables that Australia has.
2. We would be keeping Australians in jobs.
3. If ever the world became unstable regarding wartime we would not be able to feed ourselves.

It is imperative that we all support these Australian brands selling good Australian vegetable products (via Simplot)—Birdseye and Edgel.

# POSTSCRIPT

## Discussion Evenings.

Our discussion evenings are timed to allow us to give reasonable notice in each newsletter. The next is on 20 May, and Jennie Hammet from Save the Children will come and speak about the Peace Schools project.

With the recent presentation at Parafield Gardens Children's Centre there are now Peace Schools in South Australia at all levels: infant, primary and secondary.

May I commend these evenings to you. They are quite informal, and so far numbers have been small enough to allow good discussion.

The following meeting is planned for July 15th, followed in September 16th. That is the third Tuesday on odd numbered months.

## United Nations Young Entrepreneurs and Professionals South Australia

In recent months we have been planning to launch a UN Young Entrepreneurs and Professionals SA group here in South Australia. The Governor of South Australia, Rear-Admiral Kevin Scarce, has agreed to host the launch at Government House on 14 July. As with all functions at Government House, only those with official invitations will be able to attend. There will be a limited guest list, with invitations being issued by Government House during June.

We look forward to having a group that fills the gap between involvement with UN Youth, and the more mature members of UNAA(SA). Initially UNYEP(SA) will be formed as a Subcommittee of UNAA(SA), although we hopefully look forward to their becoming a strong and independent body in a similar way to the way UN Youth SA is operating.

We wish them well for the future in raising awareness of the United Nations, its agencies and its goals.

## Membership Renewal

Thank you to all who have renewed their membership. We very much appreciate your support. Our financial year begins on 1 April, so we are currently in the process of preparing our annual report, and financial statements for the audit. Hopefully no-one who has already renewed their membership will find another form included with this newsletter.

## Cynthia James

Our long time office volunteer, Cynthia James, is leaving South Australia to be closer to her family in Canberra. Over many years Cynthia was our librarian, keeping in good order our large collection of UN documentation and information. Over these years (starting before the Internet with its document availability in electronic format replacing paper) Cynthia was the custodian of our wide ranging reference material relating to the whole breadth of UN work around the world. We thank her for her superb service over many years, and

wish her a happy "retirement" with her family interstate.

## In Memoriam

We note the passing of Audrie Abbie, a member of UNAA since 1989. May we offer our condolences to her family and friends.

## UN Decades, Years, Weeks and Days.

This newsletter continues listing the UN Days for the coming months. There seem to be so many, all worthy of note. We will continue to include the list following the interest expressed by a number of friends.

## Revised UNAA(SA) Constitution

At our AGM on July 13 we will be presenting a revised Constitution for UNAA(SA). Two years ago we agreed that revision was needed, but failed when the number present at the AGM fell one short of the required quorum. Hopefully on 13 July we will have enough members present.

Most of the changes relate to addressing more stringent conditions that relate to our accounting responsibilities, as well as recognising that our major role is in seeking to inform and educate people in SA about the important role of the UN in our increasingly complex world.

There are also a few small changes which rectify points that are simply out of date, and no longer relevant. Copies of the proposed revised document (comparing it with current version) are available in the office, or via email.

As part of our constitution we are also looking towards our goals as a UN Association, and ensuring they are relevant to what we see as our charter in the local scene.

## Our UNAA Goals

While we may be critical of the UN in addressing some difficult problem issues, especially relating to conflict situations where we wish there was a solution with less harm to those involved, we must also recognise how much good work is carried out by the various agencies in so many areas.

Our goal is to set out to address the three main pillars of the UN of:

- Peace and Security
- Human Rights
- Sustainable Development

In covering these we need to inform, engage and inspire as wide a range of society at large as we can.

We do this through public events, educational forums, and awareness raising activities, as well as through our discussion evenings and our regular newsletter.

*John Crawford (email: [pres@unaasa.org.au](mailto:pres@unaasa.org.au))  
President, April 2014.*