



## WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY 19th AUGUST

We will celebrate it at Tiros at Regency TAFE with Tutti on 29 August

World Humanitarian day has two main themes. First is that World Humanitarian Day is a time to recognize those who face danger and adversity in order to help others. The day was designated by the General Assembly to coincide with the anniversary of the 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq.

World Humanitarian Day is also an opportunity to celebrate the spirit that inspires humanitarian work around the globe. This year the UN and its humanitarian partners continue their ground-breaking campaign called The world needs more... which is the first-of-its-kind project that turns words into aid.

We are again underlining the humanitarian theme of helping others by inviting Tutti to a gourmet lunch at the Regency TAFE School of Hospitality,

who will support us in their Tiros Restaurant.

'TUTTI' means everyone

Based in Adelaide, Tutti is an inclusive multi arts organisation creating opportunities for artists with disabilities to make Extraordinary Art. The collaborative relationship between participants, professional artists and the wider community supports the development of talent across a range of creative disciplines including film and new media.

Tutti is dedicated to bringing people together through the arts, without letting disability or disadvantage get in the way.

Tutti offers aspiring and emerging artists with a disability ongoing professional training across a range of artistic

disciplines and works to create pathways into the arts industry so that artists can earn income from their work.

We thank the donors of the food, as well as Regency for their superb support again this year.



## INTERNATIONAL DAYS AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2014

### AUGUST

9 August International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples A/RES/49/214  
12 August International Youth Day A/RES/54/120  
19 August World Humanitarian Day A/RES/63/139  
23 August International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition [UNESCO] Decision 8.2 of the 150th session of the UNESCO Executive Board  
29 August International Day against Nuclear Tests A/RES/64/35  
30 August International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances A/RES/65/209

### SEPTEMBER

5 September International Day of Charity A/RES/67/105 draft A/67/L.45  
8 September International Literacy Day [UNESCO] Resolution 1.141 of the 14th session of the UNESCO General Conference  
12 September United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation A/RES/58/220  
15 September International Day of Democracy A/RES/62/7  
16 September International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer A/RES/49/114  
21 September International Day of Peace A/RES/36/67 A/RES/55/282  
25 September (Last week of September) World Maritime Day [IMO] IMCO/C XXXVIII/21  
27 September World Tourism Day [UNWTO]

### OCTOBER

1 October International Day of Older Persons A/RES/45/106  
2 October International Day of Non-Violence A/RES/61/271  
5 October World Teachers' Day [UNESCO] UNES-SCOPRESSE, vol.4, no.17, p.9  
6 October (First Monday in October) World Habitat Day A/RES/40/202 A

9 October World Post Day UPU/Tokyo Congress 1969/Res.C.11  
11 October International Day of the Girl Child A/RES/66/170  
13 October International Day for Disaster Reduction A/RES/44/236 A/RES/64/200  
15 October International Day of Rural Women A/RES/62/136  
16 October World Food Day [FAO] A/RES/35/70  
17 October International Day for the Eradication of Poverty A/RES/47/196  
24 October United Nations Day A/RES/168 (II) A/RES/2782 (XXVI)  
24 October World Development Information Day A/RES/3038 (XXVII)  
27 October World Day for Audiovisual Heritage [UNESCO]

### 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 International Week of Science and Peace A/RES/43/61 (The week in which 11 November falls)

### 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.

## DISCUSSION EVENING – ALL WELCOME

16 September,  
5.30 to 7.30pm

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

**SPEAKER: DR. BARRY FITZGERALD**

**SUBJECT: BANGLADESH**

The experiences of an Australian doctor working in a Muslim community. Barry worked in Bangladesh as a doctor, and has considerable insight about what it is like working in the medical field in a Muslim country. We are told he is a speaker well worth hearing.

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**Diary Date: 18 November, Discussion Evening.**

We have asked Felicity Prance to join us to talk about her experiences on the Pacific Island Nation of Kiribati.

*Our evenings run from 5.30 to 7.30 and offer a great opportunity to engage our guests in informal discussion, with small numbers in attendance, it provides a great opportunity to raise questions and discuss the answers.*



## South Australian Peacekeepers Sub-Branch of the RSL SA

cordially invites all  
Veterans of Peacekeeping Operations, their partners and guests to the

# Peacekeepers' Day

PEACEKEEPING COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE  
at the National War Memorial  
corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide  
on Sunday, 14th September 2014 at 1100 hrs



Afterwards at the Combined Services Mess, 1st Floor ANZAC House  
Parking Available

RSVP secretary [graham.goodwin@defence.gov.au](mailto:graham.goodwin@defence.gov.au)

*Book this event in your diary now*

## **Celebrating the UN International Day of Peace**

Sunday, 21st September 2014

2pm — 4pm

Scots Church

Cnr Pulteney St & North Terrace

Adelaide

### *“Communities for Peace”*

UNAASA is pleased to be working with twenty other local peace groups to put on this special event to highlight all the interesting peace campaigns that are happening here. There will be three launches of new campaigns, musicians, opportunities to wander around our peace stalls, afternoon tea and free entry.

United Nations Association of Australia, South Australia

Australian Institute of International Affairs SA Inc

United Nations Youth SA

Amnesty International SA

present

*The United Nations Human Rights Day Public Lecture*

*Emeritus Professor Ivan Shearer, AM, RFD, FAAL*

drawing mainly on his experience of eight years as a member of  
The United Nations Human Rights Committee,  
working in Geneva and New York

*“International Protection of Human Rights by UN Bodies:  
Is it Effective”?*

**6.30 pm, Wednesday 10 December, 2014**

**Kathleen Lumley College, 51 Finnis Street North Adelaide 5006**



Professor Ivan Shearer is Emeritus Professor of Law at the University of Sydney, having retired from the Challis Chair of International Law of that University in 2003. Professor Shearer recently became an Adjunct Professor in the School of Law, University of South Australia. He previously taught at the University of New South Wales (1975-1993) and the University of Adelaide (1965-1972). He has held visiting positions at the Australian National University, the University of Melbourne, Indiana University, Bloomington, the United States Naval War College, Newport, and All Souls College, Oxford.

Professor Shearer is a member of the Bars of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, and has appeared in

cases before the higher Australian courts including the High Court of Australia. He served as a Senior Member of the Australian Administrative Appeals Tribunal from 2004 to 2008. He is a member of the Panel of Arbitrators of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague. He has served in two recent international arbitrations and in two cases before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Hamburg.

Since 2001 Professor Shearer has served as an elected member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee. In March 2007 he was elected Vice-President of the Committee for a term of two years.

In 1995 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

Enquiries: Telephone: (08) 8223 2420

## UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS UPDATE

*John Spencer spoke at our July Discussion evening.*

John started by saying one should "Know your enemy", and felt it would be appropriate for those present to introduce themselves before he told us about his experiences as a UN Peacekeeper in Namibia, New York, and Cambodia.

His service career started with national service in the 1960s, and went on to CMF duty in the intelligence corps. After service in Vietnam in the force finance unit he was one of the last to leave Saigon before returning to a career in finance at Keswick Barracks.

In 1975 he was part of a survey team in Sumatra (Indonesia), and in Butterworth (Malaysia) from 1978 to 82. Then he encountered the UN.

He then joined a UN peacekeeping force in Ismalia, responding to problems between Israel and Egypt. He faced a new language and a new chain of power, where the UN Representative was above the force commander.

To understand this he needed to explain the difference situations between various possible aspects of a peacekeeping mission. The concept of peace keeping needs more analysis to understand the more subtle aspects of the job.

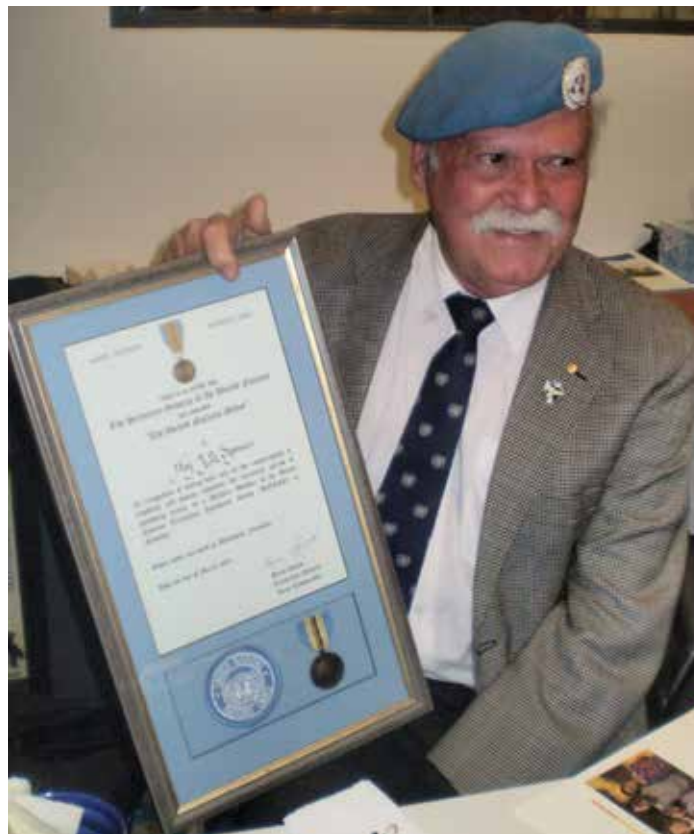
There is a difference between

- Peace keeping
- Peace supervising or
- Peace enforcing/making.

The first of these is a neutral role. While peace keepers are a neutral force, John has seen the whole gamut where it may begin as a peaceful role, but then escalate into warlike activity.

It is very difficult to gauge what might be more difficult. Enforcement is probably the easiest where highly trained people just use force. It is hard to remain neutral in a conflict situation.

John was part of the UN peacekeeping presence in Namibia in 1988. Starting with a presence in Indonesia in 1947 with 15 people, many of the peacekeeping contingents were small. For example there was 1 representative in the Balkans. Namibia involved the



**John Spencer with his blue beret and Secretary General's certificate**

biggest UN force since Korea. There were 300 Australians in John's group. With agreement of the conflicting forces in Angola, with a South African and Cuban presence the UN force was to keep the peace.

Australia sent a full engineer force to Angola. As Cuba and South Africa prepared to vacate, the role of this force was to monitor the cease fire as well as troop movements and arms, together with the civilian position. It was not about conflict.

Handwritten instructions indicated that infiltrators were present, and there was going to be a fight. The local paper headline said "War Erupts", and the peacekeeping force went into a war situation. On the border there were 70 Australians facing 3000 invading forces. The Australians handled it well. They fulfilled a key role. John went to Namibia with the first group and left with the last.

The following year 97% of Namibians turned out for the election—it is still the same government, and still peaceful.

His next posting was the Cambodia

desk in New York. He left with 24 hours notice, including the provision of a diplomatic passport because his current official one had run out.

The New York posting was hard work—with a real mix of nationalities. Working through the night so he could call the Department of Foreign Affairs around midnight to report back. His job was to work out how to put a force together to go to Cambodia, getting across the Thai border with trucks, hire drivers, traverse mired roads, with Pol Pot still a menace, and with Prince Sihanouk in China, and Hun Sen in Control.

John flew into the airport with one other team member as the advance cease fire observer. The language was a problem, but he managed with a phrase book and then hired a youngster with some English from school.

He established a headquarters, purchased vehicles with gold chain he took in with him (American dollars were wasted and no use), and hired bodyguards. There were only 4 telephone land lines connecting all of Cambodia with the outside world: but the Cambodian lady who became the Force Commander's secretary, managed to get messages out.

John says the NGO involvement in these countries is inspiring. And suggests that anyone wishing to find UN employment would be well advised to get experience on the ground with an NGO and actually work alongside UN people.

Here in South Australia the Peacekeeper group arose from a request to the RSL that such a group be formed. It has now been active for 20 years. There are about 40 members, a creditable contribution to peacekeeping from South Australia. They support each other, talk about common experiences, firmly believing it is a lot easier to wage peace than to wage war.

The annual Service is to commemorate those who have paid the supreme sacrifice while on UN service.

## Working with First Nations in Canada

Summary of the talk given at the Annual General Meeting by Bev and Ron Hall.

*Ron is our UNAASA Secretary, and while we knew he had lived in the northern area of Canada on the edge of the Arctic Circle, we have never asked him to tell us about it, until now.*

While living in Canada with their young family in the 1970's, Bev and Ron spent time with a Dene First Nations community in a remote settlement in the Northwest Territories just south of the Arctic Circle. Their work involved education and community development. Since then they have maintained contact with their Dene friends and other First Nations communities in Canada.

The tiny settlement of Pehdzeh Ki (Wrigley) of about 175 people on the De Cho (Mackenzie River) is home to a small Dene band whose language, cultural traditions and lands are seriously under threat, which is also the case of many other indigenous communities across Canada. The threats come from the activities of the petroleum, mining and logging industries and have led to more enforced assimilation policies by government. The fragile ecology of the north is experiencing devastating environmental changes which these policies have caused. This has become obvious over the last 40 years, particularly with the clear felling of the Rockies and the



Remote wilderness surrounding Pehdzeh Ki (Wrigley) on the De Cho (Mackenzie River).

pipelines built along the Mackenzie River valley and now the proposed tar sands pipeline. Water cannot be drunk from the river anymore and areas along pipelines are constantly being contaminated by leaks.

In the 70's and 80's the Canadian government encouraged greater local control by First Nations bands and gave support for language and cultural programmes in communities. Since the early 90's Australia on the other hand has reverted to an enforced assimilation direction. Canada also had a policy of forcing Aboriginal children into residential schools for 11 months of the year but they could return to their par-

ents for at least one month during summer break. Australia was even crueler with the Stolen Generation and children were not allowed to know who their families or people were. Both policies led to the devastation of generations of children.

Canadian First Nations have a wide variety of traditional cultures, housing and clothing and each group not only has different languages but different cultural practices similarly to the variety of countries in Europe. In Eastern Canada the Iroquois lived in log Long Houses and grew corn, in the Woodlands the various communities generally lived in wigwams. The Plains peoples lived in Tepees as they followed the buffalo and the West Coast people lived in communal log houses and were the peoples who had Totem Poles. Dress varied according to the region as did lifestyles. However, some values were held in common. For example the drum represents the heart beat of Mother Earth and the Eagle Feather is considered sacred and used in ceremonies. The drum style varies from hand held to large types for several drummers depending on the local region. The four sacred medicines are tobacco which is given to Mother Earth in thanks, sweet grass, cedar and sage. The Circle is regarded as sacred as it has no beginning and no end so all are equal. The Four Directions cover also the four seasons and the four periods of life. Ceremonies which are deeply sacred such as the Sun Dance and the Sweat Lodge are by invitation and un-



Pehdzeh Ki winter 1971 showing the school and community hall (log building).

til about 1976 were banned and people could be jailed for practicing their culture and children punished for speaking their language at school. Over the thousands of years communities had developed their own self-governance and own judiciary which in the 90's was brought back through the findings of a Royal Commission.

Finally a film was shown to illustrate the struggle that First Nations communities have in preserving their culture in the face of mining and pipeline threats with the potential devastating impact on the environment. Tourism is much more sustainable and a longer term employer than mining and logging for example. Bev and Ron felt they were fortunate to have seen and worked in Canada in a period when the Rockies were still in a relatively pristine state and wild animals could be found outside National Parks.



Dene craft work – hide preparation, moccasins with beadwork and an example of tufting done on moose hide.

## Pacific presidents speak out against Australia's stand on climate change

On June 13, 2014 Pacific leaders from vulnerable low-lying countries have criticised Australia's regressive moves on climate change.

During the Prime Minister's visit to the United States, where climate and energy issues were expected to be high on the agenda, and on the heels of an effort by Australia to build an international coalition against putting a price on carbon, the President of Kiribati, Anote Tong, said climate change is an issue of survival for Pacific Island states, not just economics. "We're not talking about the growth GDP, we're not talking about what it means in terms of profit and losses of the large corporations, we're talking about our survival," he told Radio Australia's Pacific Beat.

Mr Tong added that the new approach to climate change throws previous regional agreements to which Australia was a signatory into doubt.

"What will happen in terms of greenhouse gas emissions levels agreed to internationally will not affect us, because our future is already here... we will be under water," he said.

The President of Marshall Islands, Christopher Loeak, was equally critical of Mr Abbott's approach on climate. "I'm very concerned that the Prime Minister is setting the wrong tone in what needs to be a very determined effort to tackle climate change," Mr Loeak said. "Prime Minister Abbott's comments on Monday with Canadian

Prime Minister Stephen Harper are a further indication that Australia is isolating itself on this issue."

"We believe that there are still opportunities to curb this problem and we look forward to working with the world community to talk about it, and to do anything we can to help them to do something about climate change."

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) is a coalition of small island and low-lying coastal countries that share similar development challenges and concerns about the environment, especially their vulnerability to the adverse effects of global climate change. It functions primarily as an ad hoc lobby and negotiating voice for small island developing States (SIDS) within the United Nations system.

AOSIS has a membership of 44 States and observers, drawn from all oceans and regions of the world: Africa, Caribbean, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, Pa-

cific and South China Sea. Thirty-seven are members of the United Nations, close to 28 percent of developing countries, and 20 percent of the UN's total membership. Together, Small Island Developing States communities constitute some five percent of the global population.

Member States of AOSIS work together primarily through their New York diplomatic Missions to the United Nations. AOSIS functions on the basis of consultation and consensus. Major policy decisions are taken at ambassadorial-level plenary sessions. The Alliance does not have a formal charter. There is no regular budget, nor a secretariat. With the Permanent Representative of Nauru as its current chairman, AOSIS operates, as it did under previous chairmanships, out of the chairman's Mission to the United Nations.

AOSIS's first chairman was Ambassador Robert Van Lierop of Vanuatu (1991-1994), followed by Ambassador Annette des Iles of Trinidad and Tobago (1994-1997), Ambassador Tuiloma Neroni Slade of Samoa (1997-2002), Ambassador Jagdish Koonjul of Mauritius (2002-2005), Ambassador Eneke Sopoaga of Tuvalu (acting chairman 2005-2006), Ambassador Julian R. Hunte of Saint Lucia (2006), Ambassador Angus Friday of Grenada (2006 – 2009), Ambassador Dessima Williams of Grenada (2009-2011), and the present chairperson, Ambassador Marlene Moses of Nauru.



Sea rise – a fight for survival

## Universal Primary Education - A Millenium Development Goal

This graph was presented at a recent Bahai meeting on the topic of universal primary education. It illustrates the degree of success achieved about half way through the target period.

One speaker, a doctor, quoted UN sources to illustrate the extent of the education of women and girls. The result was not only healthier women and families, but also more prosperous families and lower birth rates.

Another speaker with an information technology background referred to surveys which indicated that what many parents mainly sought for their children through education was happiness.

Another speaker who had experience in the New York school system had brought back to Australia the notion of "mindfulness" in developing an educational program. This involved fostering awareness and respect.

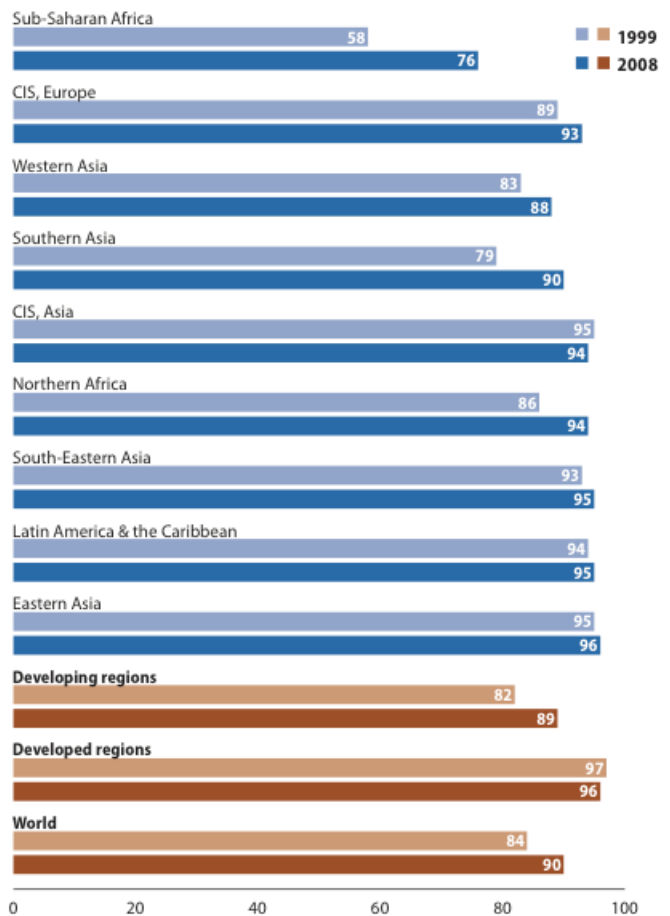
The point was made that education is much more than simply knowledge. Respect for the cultural background of children was stressed, especially in the case of Indigenous children, with consideration being given to initial learning in the mother tongue.

The point was also made about the earliest years of a child's life being the most critical educationally.

\* Defined as the number of pupils of the theoretical school age for primary education enrolled in either primary or secondary school, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group.

Note: Data for Oceania are not available.

**Adjusted net enrolment ratio in primary education,\* 1998/1999 and 2007/2008 (Percentage)**



### Profile of Ms. Philippa Rowland, NEEN Director, SA/NT

*And the first Practical Meeting of the much discussed NEEN Program. (The National Energy Efficiency Network)*

In an earlier newsletter we promised to include a profile on Philippa Rowland, the SA/NT NEEN Director who is based here in Adelaide.

She has been a leader at both Community and Policy level; was Snr Scientist at the Bureau of Resource Sciences and was for ten years in the Agricultural Science Dept of the Federal Public Service. For many years Philippa worked as a Community Volunteer working cooperatively on how to respond to the enormity of the Climate Change challenges.

"I remain hopeful about our capacity to make wise choices and transform ourselves and our societies" she said. A good omen: Philippa while in country NSW, managed a group called "Clean Energy for Eternity!"

In August (21st) the first meeting of the local NEEN group was held at Tabor College. Much of the Meeting was led by Ms. Rowland, who is eminently qualified and experienced in this area of Energy.

The Commonwealth Department of Energy has established an "Energy Efficiency

Information Grants Scheme". Extending from Broome, through Perth, Kintore (remote community in the NT), a Melbourne Art centre, a Sydney Hindu Temple and up to Brisbane. The pilot projects are working well. It was explained that the essence is in the learning, and it is through learning communities that energy efficiency can be achieved. There is an urgent need to respond to climate change.

Some twenty people covering a wide range of skills, backgrounds and interests attended. It was interesting that there were theologians there who are seeking to develop a theological viewpoint looking at respecting the worlds natural resources.

NEEN have available on their website an opportunity calculator designed to look at energy consumption in a facility run by one of the member organisations (For example a nursing home, or a remote community), and to show how much of its energy was directed towards specific goals such as lighting, cooking, refrigeration or air conditioning. By highlighting these specific areas it is easier to focus in on the large consumers of power, rather than making changes to

smaller contributors to cost, where a large percentage saving still does not make a significant financial contribution. Although in saying that, every little bit helps, and the most efficient light is the unused light that is not switched on.

We were shown a Queensland Hotel which offers via the Internet a live display of the power consumption split into the major energy usage areas minute by minute. It shows the influence balancing of the air conditioning, with opening and closing doors, and the demand for cooling and heating and so on over the full 24 hour cycle, can highlight areas where savings might be gained. Live monitoring is a key tool.

The final presentation showed some of the approaches Tabor College are using to seek new solutions in lighting, solar power to lower costs, and at the same time respect the beautiful heritage buildings. Looking at samples of a new CFL lamp that belies its acronym—it could never be described as compact—was enlightening. Likewise a 50 Watt LED lamp. Both of these present challenges in fitting them into existing fixtures, but still a challenge worth solving.





President Anote Tong (left) leads UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon to a mangrove-seedling planting event to aid coastal protection during the Secretary General's Sept 2011 visit to Kiribati.

"At the launch of the International Year of Small Island Developing States, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon stated:

*In 2011, I travelled to Kiribati, where I met a boy who told me he fears being flooded by seawater when he falls asleep at night. Climate change represents a grave threat to the survival and viability of a number of low-lying nations. These countries... have responded with strong leadership and decisive action. I have brought their call for global environmental stewardship to officials at the United Nations and in capitals around the world. I will continue to do so. We need action and ambition to address the climate challenge.*

## 2014 is the UN Designated International Year of Small Island Developing States

*Kiribati President Anote Tong has been recommended as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize.*

"Ban Ki Moon's words are timely as the international campaign to promote the candidacy of Kiribati's President, Anote Tong, for the Nobel Peace Prize gains momentum," said Phil Glendenning, director of the Edmund Rice Centre in Sydney, Australia.

"The UN's New York launch of the International Year for Small Island Developing States again highlights the strong leadership and decisive action taken by President Tong in calling to world attention the threat climate change poses to international peace and security".

Mr Glendenning is spokesperson for the committee of prominent individuals from the international community formed to promote this Pacific leader's climate message.

He said, "The Nobel nomination campaign challenges world opinion to consider the human rights of those people with most at risk from climate change.

"As leader of Kiribati—one of the most vulnerable island nations—President Tong has long been calling for the world to take positive action to deal collectively and cooperatively with the threat and impact of climate change. Through this campaign, our Committee's aim is to call the international community to listen to the peoples of the Pacific in their pleas for urgent and

major global action on climate change.

"For the people of Kiribati and other low-lying small island states, climate change threatens not only their health, homes and livelihood, but the very existence of their culture.

"President Tong has helped to carry the voice of Small Island Developing States into the international debate on action to address climate change. He is a consistent and convincing advocate on the threat that climate change poses to the national security not just like Kiribati, but all low-lying small island developing states and other nations whose coast lines are threatened by climate change.

"President Tong's voice is compelling in bringing the world to address climate change as the most urgent challenge to human security. President Tong's voice resonates with conviction and force in making plain that climate justice is central to the 21st century global quest for peace and security"

In conclusion Mr Glendenning said, "President Tong has persevered in his calling the world to decisive action to address impact of climate change on vulnerable peoples. In the lead-up to what are hoped to be decisive UN Climate Treaty negotiations in 2014 and 2015 his vision, call to action and leadership provide clear evidence that his candidacy is timely and significant".

*We of UNAA SA have two friends who have made a study of Kiribati*

*Ms. Felicity Prance whose first expedition we helped sponsor*

*Mr. Phil Glendenning of Edmund Rice International, Sydney*

## Former UNAA SA President Comments on Asylum Seekers

*The former premier of South Australia and director of Anglicare, Dr Lynn Arnold, prior to these appointments, was a president of UNAA South Australia Division in the 1970s. Dr Arnold is reported to have said the current asylum debate has become tawdry. In fact, the former premier has called on South Australians to shift the way they think about asylum seekers and reject the current "toxic rhetoric". Dr Arnold said he was concerned by the approach of the two major political parties to refugees.*

Just last year Dr Arnold began studies at St Barnabas' Theological College to be ordained as a deacon with the Anglican Church. After his ordination in November he will become involved in community work. He hopes to use his new role to contribute to "the public

narrative on refugees get into a much better place than what it's been". Dr Arnold has expressed his concern about "a toxic rhetoric that can so easily be fanned" and he has indicated a "need to avoid fuelling that".

In a humanitarian sense, Dr Arnold is clearly worried about the Federal Government's plans to cut the foreign aid budget when up to one million people each year were seeking asylum around the world. Dr Arnold admitted that governments on behalf of their people do have a right to control who comes into the country, but to quote Dr Arnold, "... if anybody thinks that that situation is going to continue and be able to be contained beyond our borders then they are living in a very ungenerous fool's paradise. Our response is not simply to try and deter-

mine whether we are to block them at the door but to work out what does a country of the wellbeing of Australia do to arrest the sorts of problems that are causing political refugees and economic refugees."

Recently Dr Arnold was featured in The Advertiser as being involved in a downsizing exercise, referring to his personal weight loss program. After being challenged to do the Mt Lofty summit walk and finding what an ordeal it was for him, he resolved to recover his fitness. This ultimately led to traversing the Kokoda Trail earlier this year. He is quite enthusiastic about the physical, mental and spiritual benefits he has gained from his renewed active approach to life – at the same time setting a fine example to all of us to follow.

Based on an article by Lauren Novak, political reporter for the Sunday Mail.

## “THE FAT OF THE LAND” and WAYGU and ‘Marbling’

The Weekend Papers are chock-full of articles on health and taste leading to types of FAT and types of Cattle with much direct and indirect advertising of the ‘flavour of the month’ Wagyu steaks. Much print was devoted to Hips

and Heart. Let’s go wider: Country and Climate. Is the Cattle Industry good for the land, the soil? Is it an economical use of space? Collectively, is it good long-term for the soil? The chorus sings “Manure”. No mention of soil

compaction - a No.1 enemy where hard hooved animals congregate in limited space. Think hobby-farms. Think feed-lots. From a huge research project in USA covering 10 years the following sobering conclusions have been reached::



### BEEF’S ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS HIGH

WASHINGTON (AFP)— Beef is by far the most costly protein when it comes to the environmental damage wreaked by feeding and raising cattle, according to a new study.

Beef requires 28 times more land than the average total needed to produce either dairy, eggs, poultry or pork, said the research in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Raising beef also requires 11 times more irrigation water than other proteins, according to researchers at Bard College in New York, Yale University in Connecticut and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel.

Beef spews far more pollution into the environment, producing five times as many greenhouse gas emissions and six times the reactive nitrogen from fertiliser compared to the other proteins, the study found.

"Beef is consistently the least resource-efficient of the five animal categories," said the study, which said on average beef was about 10 times as costly as other proteins.

To "most effectively" cut back on these environmental costs, the authors recommended "minimising beef consumption".

Raising livestock for food is a practice that contributes to one fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions—and also pollutes water and interferes with biodiversity, according to the study authors.

The study was based on a decade's worth of data on land, irrigation water and fertiliser from the US Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior and the Department of Energy.

Representatives of the US beef industry questioned the methodology of the study and said environmental improvements have been made in recent years.

"The PNAS study represents a gross over-simplification of the complex systems that make up the beef value chain," said Kim Stack-house, National Cattlemen's Beef Association director of sustainability research.

"The fact is the US beef industry produces beef with lower greenhouse gas emissions than any other country."

According to Amy Dickie, who led a study in April on agricultural strategies for cutting back on global warming, the findings are in line with recent research that has shown, the high greenhouse gases involved in beef production.

"I am glad to see that the author also considered water, nutrient and land use, which are all important resources and are intensively used by beef and dairy cattle," said M Dickie, who works for the consulting firm California Environmental Associates.



## GM Update in China

The Food Safety & Sustainable Agriculture Forum 2014 held in China's capital on July 25-26 included genetic researchers, university professors, medical doctors, veterinarians, livestock farmers, arable farmers, agricultural consultants, mothers, NGO founders and leaders and social activists from China, Taiwan, U.S.A; Russia, U.K., France, Denmark, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Brazil and Peru.

Sustainable Pulse Director, Henry Rowlands, who attended the event stated; "The size of the event and the media interest in China surrounding it shows that the issue of GMOs and glyphosate-based herbicides is now being taken very seriously at all levels of

Chinese society."

"China is the top manufacturer of glyphosate-based herbicides and also the main importer of GM soy in the World. Any change in policy by the Chinese government on this issue would have a huge Global impact and we all hope this will happen in the not too distant future."

The timing of the event also coincided with yet another scandal regarding GMOs in China; CCTV, China's state broadcaster discovered genetically modified rice being sold in two southern provinces, the second such allegation it has made in two years at a time when Chinese public opinion seems to have hardened against the technology.

The commercial cultivation of GM rice is illegal in China.

The investigative report stated that GM rice was found in the market in southern Hubei and Hunan province, where rice remains the staple food. The allegation by the television network has been substantiated by the Beijing Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau after samples taken from the two provinces tested positive for GM traces.

Meanwhile, earlier this year, the Chinese army ordered all military supply stations to only allow the purchase of non-GMO grain and food oil due to health safety concerns over GMOs.

## China Is Rejecting GMO Corn and That Isn't Good for American Farmers — Report Wed Aug 13 2014

The industrial agribusiness has embraced GMOs in the United States, but it's having a serious effect on farmers. Most recently, China began rejecting a variety of genetically modified US corn, and the rejection is reportedly costing American farmers upwards of \$3 billion, according to the National Feed and Grain Association.

The genetically engineered corn in question is one invented by the seed company Syngenta. The new gene has yet to be approved in China — in fact, it has been waiting for approval for four years. Since November, China has rejected more than 1.45 million tons. The corn was diverted to other buyers, but as the NFGA stated, it "almost assuredly would have negotiated a discount," which means fewer dollars for American farmers.

A rejection of US grain in China has serious consequences here on home turf, as the country is one of the top importers of US corn, and its demand is projected to grow. But not if GMOs are involved.

GMOs have become an increasing concern in China. This spring, the Chinese Army banned all GMO grains and oil from its military supply stations. As the Wall Street Journal reports, "because of public concern over health risks and high-level discomfort with China becoming overly reliant on GMO strains developed by foreign companies, China has stopped short of allowing commercial distribution of GMO grains."

China isn't the only one. Russia has now announced that it won't import GMO products, and the United States is having a hard time reaching a trade deal with the European Union because of GMOs.

Who should the farmers blame? The governments that don't want the grain or the companies making them? They're unsure.

According to NPR: A few days ago, the US Grains Council wrote a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, urging his "immediate, direct, and personal intervention" with Chinese officials "to halt this current regulatory sabotage of the DDGS trade with China."

The NGFA and the North American Export Grain Association on the other hand, have called on Syngenta to stop selling the offending corn varieties until those varieties can be sold in major export markets.

They're being a bad actor here," says Max Fisher of NGFA, referring to Syngenta. "They're making \$40 million" selling the new corn varieties, "but it's costing U.S. farmers \$1 billion."

While companies will certainly find other channels for their grain, there's no denying that the economic blow to farmers may fuel the conversation on GMOs moving forward.

Sue A Carter (Secretary  
SA genetics Food information Network).



A postcard published by Eastern European Human Rights organisations highlighting HR issues.

## POSTSCRIPT

We are facing a very busy time for the rest of 2014. We have some very exciting things planned, and are hoping our members and friends will be able to join us where they can.

Please forgive me if this report has become a listing of the busy schedule of events planned for the rest of the year.

It will be a time that we hope will present a good mix of interesting and entertaining things to do. Some educational content will be balanced by other activities that will just be good fun with a UN message as well.

I hope our members and friends can find time to join us.

### Humanitarian Day

The 19th August was World Humanitarian Day. For our luncheon at Tiros Restaurant at the TAFE SA Regency Campus on Friday 29th August our guests will be from Tutti—an organisation dedicated to bringing people together through the arts, without letting disability or disadvantage get in the way.

### The New SA Governor

On 1 September Hieu Van Le will be sworn in as Governor of South Australia. We are delighted to welcome him. In his role as Lieutenant Governor, and also as Chairman of Multicultural SA we have been honoured to have him as a patron of UNAA(SA). We hope in his new role he will agree that he is willing to continue as one of our UNAA(SA) patrons.

We also wish to offer the retiring Governor, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, our thanks for his service to South Australia over recent years, for his support of UNAA(SA) not only as a patron, but also for all the other ways he has supported us.

### UN Peacekeepers Day

14 September is Peacekeepers Day, and we are again very happy to accept an invitation to join with the Peacekeepers Sub Branch of the RSL at the National War Memorial on North Terrace to recognise the sacrifice of those who have lost their lives while serving the UN in this important role.

### Discussion Evenings

On 15 September Dr Barry Fitzgerald will join us in the UNAA(SA) office at 5.30 to tell us about his experiences

as a doctor working in Bangladesh.

We have been told he is a compelling and informative speaker. We are very much looking forward to hearing from him in our friendly and informal group.

I feel that while the numbers of members and friends attending our evenings remains small, it has still been a really great initiative. I hope that for 2015 we will receive suggestions for speakers to join us for our small informal discussions in the early evening of the odd numbered months of the year.

At our July evening John Spencer told us what it is like to be a member of a UN Peacekeeping Mission on the ground in a couple of the world's trouble spots. It was a fascinating insight into the challenges, as well as the dangers our UN Peacekeepers face.

The final discussion evening for the year will be on 18 November. We have asked Felicity Prance to tell us about her experiences in working on the Pacific Island State of Kiribati. She observed that the island population has no access to optometry, nobody wore glasses. She decided to do something about it. A fascinating and most encouraging story.

### World Peace Day

21 September. Following the very successful gathering on World Peace Day last year, we have again asked a wide range of organisations to join us. It will be at 2pm–4pm at Scots Church, Cnr Pulteney St & North Terrace where 20 organisations will gather to update each other on their work to promote peace.

### Family Farming Event

Most people in Adelaide have heard of artist Andrew Baines and his art installation events (for example people or cows in the sea at Semaphore). At 11 am on 8 October we will celebrate the UN Year of Family Farming with an art installation involving a number of notable Adelaide personalities in Victoria Square. Observers are welcome.

### UN Day Dinner

9 November, 6.30 for 7 pm at the National Wine Centre. With an emphasis on the year of Family Farming it will be a great food experience. The speakers will be the retired Governor of South Australia Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, and Mrs Liz Scarce. Our Master

of Ceremonies is TV personality, Costa-Georgiadis.

### Human Rights Day Lecture

On 10 December Professor Ivan Shearer will speak about his experiences of eight years as a member of The United Nations Human Rights Committee, working in Geneva and New York. 6 pm Kathleen Lumley College North Adelaide.

### Events since the last Newsletter

#### UNAA(SA) AGM 13 July

Our speakers were Bev and Ron Hall. They talked about their visits to northern Canada over many years. We thank them both for a fascinating talk.

Apart from our usual AGM business and the election of our new Executive Committee, we have made some amendments to our UNAA(SA) constitution.

I would like to welcome our new Committee and express the hope that we all find working through UNAA towards a better world to be an interesting and rewarding job.

This past year has seen such a wide range of activity on behalf of UNAA-SA. We could not have done it without the help and support of all our committee. I give my thanks to everyone on the committee who has contributed so much.

### UNAASA Young Professionals Launch

The UNAASA YP group was launched at a reception at Government House on 14 July. We thank the Governor and Mrs Scarce for hosting this event, and hope these younger people whose age falls between the membership of UN Youth, and our UNAASA members (who tend to be somewhat more mature at least in years) every success in the activities they are now busy starting to plan.

### In Conclusion

May I thank those who have commented and offered suggestions about the newsletter. I welcome any feedback that would assist in making it more interesting and relevant.

John Crawford, President, August 2014,  
(email: pres@unaasa.org.au).