



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

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## COMING EVENTS

### DISCUSSION EVENING – ALL WELCOME

**Tuesday 15 September 2015,  
5.30 to 7.30pm**

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

**SPEAKER: PAMELA RAJKOWSKI OAM**

Author of *In the Tracks of the Camelmen*,  
*Linden girl : a story of outlawed lives, and Beltana and beyond*

### UN DAY DINNER - SAVE THE DATE!

**Sunday 1st Nov, 2015,  
6.30pm Sharp, National Wine Centre**

**SPEAKER: THE HON SENATOR PENNY WONG**

## 'Can Enemies Be Friends?'



*Felix Patrikeeff*

At the Annual General Meeting of the UNAA SA Professor Felix Patrikeeff was our guest speaker. His challenging topic was "Can Enemies be Friends?" based on the Colloquium on Reconciliation being conducted at the University of Adelaide. This is certainly an important question for UNAA SA members given the mandate granted the UN to maintain peace and to resolve differences

Norman Porter, who was involved in the peace process in Northern Ireland, has partly been an inspiration for Felix's remarks in looking at a number of examples of attempted reconciliation. In Northern Ireland eventually the "troubles" concluded after activists came out on the streets advocating no more violence. Though few prospects existed for building a civil society there, as Prime Minister, Tony Blair brought both sides together. Paradoxically, Tony Blair also took the United Kingdom into the Gulf Wars.

In the case of Cypress Felix was an advisor to Alexander Downer. In this instance the leaders happened to be on reasonably amicable terms and encouragement was given to work on that factor. However, computer hacking may have compromised the situation in this instance.

The best example suggested was the reconciliation that took place in South Africa when Nelson Mandela said "enough". However, the South African economy is weak and there is still much to be done. Moreover, the truth and reconciliation process in South Africa has not been successfully replicated elsewhere. It is necessary to see what is actually driving hatred and violence. It is important not to dwell on the past but rather look to the future. Unfortunately, history can hold people in the past.

Further examples included Yugoslavia where only limited outcomes have been achieved since 1991, and Korea where the relationship between North and South is complicated by the role of Japan and attempted cultural genocide in the past. This has meant that peaceful coexistence is perhaps the best that can be hoped for. Looking at another situation, after 1917 there was a civil war in Russia until 1920 which brought in the Soviet era but since 1991 there

has been no easy harmonisation of the Russian people. In the case of China and Taiwan there is a shared culture but different world views. In the Middle East the labyrinthine nature of the conflict is daunting, especially between the Sunnis and the Shiites and this begs the question as to when all this started. Today Syria has become destabilised and by contrast Iran has remained stable.

In further discussing the Middle East, Felix acknowledged Ruth Russell's commitment to peace, as she served as a "humanshield" in Baghdad during the Second Gulf War. In Felix's view, the Middle East is the core of our current problems. Wisdom may have suggested we should not buy into such problems, but we did, and got it in spades.

All the factors need to be looked at to consider where a mediator might begin. Often it is too complex to select just one side to support, especially where there is no understanding of how the pieces all fit together.

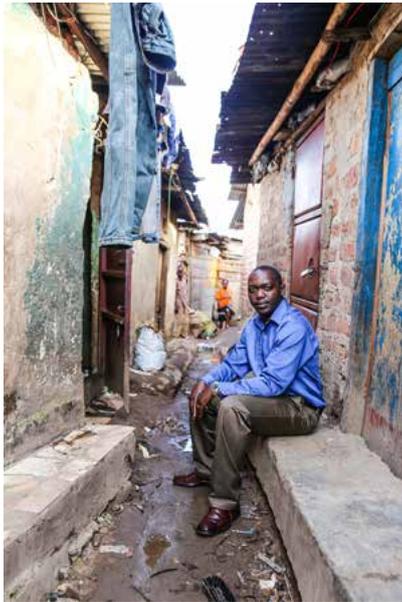
A vote of thanks was given by Rosemary McKay who works with Felix in the AIIA.

*Written By: Ron Hall, UNAA SA*

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## 'One Act Changed My Life'



Richmond in Ngaruru Slum, Photo: Compassion Australia

This is a testimony of great sadness, extreme suffering and exceptional poverty. Yet through it all there was a spark, that started a great fire in one young boy's life. Through one generous act from a fifteen year old girl, Richmond Wandera's life was catapulted into greatness. This is his story.

Richmond shared his testimony with Influencers Church, Paradise Campus on Friday 7th August as part of Compassion Australia's campaign to increase awareness surrounding poverty.

Born into extreme poverty, defined by Richmond as 'a poverty you cannot run from', he spent his childhood in the close confines of Uganda's Ngaruru Slum, second largest in the world behind Kenya's Kibera Slum. Utilising a power-point as a visual aid to assist him with his story, Richmond captioned his message as 'I Am Not Forgotten', something of great meaning to his family.

Richmond's life was originally not in extreme poverty, he was not what most would consider 'well off' yet he was provided for by a hard-working father and dedicated mother. One of five children Richmond remembers vividly the day his life changed forever. When he was three years of age his father was brutally murdered in the streets of Uganda, in front of his mother who collapsed into a panic and was rushed to hospital.

Richmond recalls being told that his father had been murdered and that his killer had escaped justice, whilst his mother was fighting for her life after complications in hospital. By the Grace of God, Richmond recalls his mother recovered and came back to the family where a long road of hardship and turmoil awaited them. Living in Africa without a father is different to anywhere else in the world, as the father is the breadwinner, the person who provides the money and the sole reason for keeping a family alive.

Soon after his father's tragic passing, Richmond's family moved away from their modest

home in the outer suburbs of Uganda to the inner city 'hell on earth' of Ngaruru Slum. Trailing through tin roof after tin roof as far as the eye could see, the slum looked like blocks of Lego piled haphazardly onto one another. As a boy Richmond recalled the extreme smells of sewage that ran freely down the street, trying to avoid them as his family worked their way to their new home. After hours of walking deep into the slum, his mother stopped and declared they had arrived at 'home' which was one room smashed between three other hovels, with a tin roof littered with holes and featuring a 'comfortable' dirt flooring. Richmond recalls the shock of finding there was one communal toilet for twenty homes.

As the years moved on Richmond and his siblings adjusted to life as best they could in their new surroundings. Not being able to afford schooling, the children would amuse themselves throughout the day by playing leap frog games over the rivers of sewerage and loitering by the local market. Yet it was at night that Richmond recalls the most horrifying experiences would occur. The roof the family was living under was littered with a smattering of bullet like holes, where the question always arose 'what happens when it rains?'. They were soon to discover that the rains came, and when it rained it poured.

Richmond's family used to be awoken in the night by the screeches of his mother as the rain would begin hammering the roof. Quick to react the children would run around grabbing buckets and placing them near the various drippings coming from the roof. Richmond then recalls being able to do nothing but pray for the rain to go away and for God to have mercy on them.

It was not the rains however, that were the main problem as a deadly bi-product came in the form of mosquitoes, often carrying the virus malaria. As the wet season hit and the moisture coagulated around the slums, mosquitoes were frequent throughout homes and there would often be many deaths from malaria with bodies littering the streets. Richmond told us that one of the most horrifying times was during the wet season as he would wake up in the morning in a panic, instantly searching his arms and legs to see if mosquito bites were littering him.



Richmond in the church he pastors, Photo: Tearfund

Above all this sadness, hardship and turmoil, by far the worst day of Richmond's life was when his mother said to he and his siblings, 'we have no money left for food'.

Richmond recalls the agonising effects of this lack of food, particularly on his sister one hot summers day when they were walking home through the market. As the sun belted down, suddenly Richmond's sister collapsed with exhaustion and lack of nutrition. Clearly not going to be able to continue, she lay by the tree in the shade possibly on the brink of death. Richmond in a panic ran to the market and recalled one way of getting food, Banana Trucks. The trucks would come down from the mountains with produce and he thought if he could take one or two before they reached the market he could save his sister. As one rounded the corner Richmond sprinted towards it, leaping onto the side and frantically pulling bananas' down. With a handful in his arms, he sprinted back to his sister who was shocked by his actions yet eternally grateful. It was what he had to do to survive.

His mother got increasingly desperate as her children started to starve, so she went hysterically to a friend for help who advised her that



Richmond Gives Hope in Uganda, ©iStockphoto.com

Compassion were on the outskirts of Ngaruru Slum and would sponsor her family. After pleading her cases with Compassion, her five children were up for sponsorship, she was advised to go home and pray. Months passed before one day a Compassion Officer arrived at their house and advised her that Richmond had been sponsored by a fifteen year old girl called Heather. The joy described on that day is indescribable, Richmond stated his mother cried in Joy collapsing and praising God as their lives were about to turn around.

One Week Later, Richmond's Sister was sponsored as well.

Entering the Compassion covering at the age of eleven, Richmond was exposed to schooling, food and other benefits through the project based in his suburb of Uganda. He recalls fondly, the first night sleeping with a mosquito net was the greatest of his life, before a week later they had two nets - which then became the greatest night of his life. Another highlight that to this day humbled Richmond beyond belief was being told on his arrival that 'a medical tent is over there, if you need treatment for ANYTHING at all you go there and you do not have to pay.' Richmond's life was drastically changing.

He recalls in his early time throughout the Compassion Project, Richmond was filled with

a large amount of anger and hatred towards his fathers killer, who walked free amongst society. He took this anger out upon other children in the project, often ending up in vicious fights and arguments. This was until he met Pastor Peter, who to this day he credits with foundationally changing his life. Pastor Peter became Richmond's 'second father', a life mentor he had never had and he recalls many long discussions about how to be a man. Peter remains Richmond's mentor to this day, running a thriving church next to the project in Uganda.

As part of his sponsorship, not only did his family receive an abundance of food and health-care, Richmond received many gifts and letters from his sponsor (all of which he has kept and cherished). He credits being written to as one of his greatest joys in life touting one example as his most memorable. On one of his birthdays he received a letter from Heather, as he opened it up out fell a birthday card which to his surprise began singing to him! Richmond then ran round his local community showing all the children that were his friends the card, and then if he didn't like the other child he would close it back up.

As his journey progressed, Richmond matured into a stunning young man with admirable morals and a leader in his community. Reaching graduation of school was a highlight yet the greatest highlight arrived when he was informed he would be sponsored by a second sponsor to

complete university. Richmond attended University and completed a bachelor of Accounting, graduating with a class of Compassion children who were blessed in receiving extra sponsorship.

It was then that Richmond had a decision to make, feeling called to the Church's ministry he was torn between becoming an Accountant or a Pastor. He chose to do both so he could support his family and began serving originally with his mentor Pastor Peter. It was then that Richmond credits God to accelerating his life and rewarding his faith. Richmond's pastoral career exploded and he began travelling around Africa sharing his testimony. Richmond now is a global speaker, sharing his powerful and moving testimony with churches and people all around the world.

Richmond recalls 'When I graduated from the Leadership Development Program, the then-president of Compassion International commissioned us with words from Isaiah 61 and 58. I remember feeling a sense of calling when he said the reason God rescued us from poverty is not so that we will run away from poverty as fast as possible, but that we will take everything we've learnt back into our communities and make a difference. I want to be the one who is called a restorer of broken walls. This was God's plan all along, that I could go back and be the message.'

In Africa, Richmond now runs the largest Pastoral Training centre, training 3000 people who feel called to the ministry in how to become a pastor. He lives with his wife in Uganda and often wanders through the slum in his spare time from work. Richmond loves nothing more than seeing a child miserable on the street, stopping and ministering into their life - telling them its going to be alright, getting to know their name and seeing if he can help their family.

In an unbelievable irony, Richmond now sponsors his own child through Compassion, stating that one of the most important things a Sponsor Child takes out of being sponsored is to go back into their community and help others. Richmond feels that it is only fair to pass on his blessing and opportunity in life.

Compassion Australia is a Christian holistic child development and child advocacy organisation that works in partnership with local churches to foster the spiritual, economic, social, physical and emotional development of children living in extreme poverty in over 26 countries. Today, Compassion International supports more than one million children through 12 international partner countries that provide the funds, resources and program development assistance that enables Compassion's programs to be implemented around the world.

*Written by Tim Buttery UNAA SA*

## Applaud the collapse of the Trans Pacific Partnership

Last week the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) sank without trace when delegates in Singapore could not reach agreement.

Ordinarily we might lament the failure to reach international agreements. Free trade is a benefit when it serves the common good, especially that of the most vulnerable. But the failure of the TPP is a cause for great joy. It was heralded as an agreement to liberalise trade and as a bulwark against China. In fact it was not about free trade.

Most of the arguments made in Australia against the TPP attacked its economic value. Critics pointed out that previous bilateral trade agreements, diminished trade and resulted in a net economic loss to Australia, particularly by raising the cost of pharmaceuticals.

Sugar producers, especially, complained that the TPP did not offer fair access to the United States market. Others protested that the provisions for pharmaceuticals further protected United States companies. When Australian negotiators could not win concessions on these points, the TPP was doomed in the Australian Senate. So the Australian delegation withdrew.

But this and other trade agreements are not objectionable simply because they bring no gain to Australia. Their deeper defect lies in the process by which they are negotiated. In fact they produce a legislative web that limits the freedom of governments to pursue social and environmental goals in their ordering of society.

Such legislative changes should be dis-

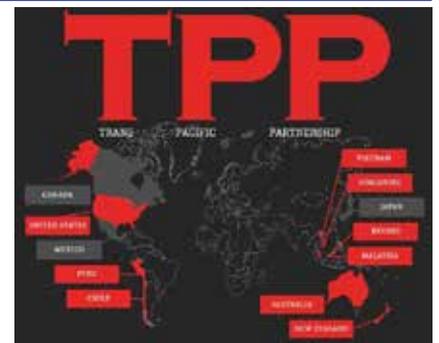
cussed fully in the community by all sectors of society, and also be subject to detailed study and amendment by Parliament. Those representing the nation in international negotiations should be economically literate, but also socially alert.

Because these agreements are presented as about trade, those taking part in the negotiations look solely to economic criteria. Their natural conversation partners in forming their position are representatives of large businesses and orthodox economists. Non-government organisations and the community sector are not involved. So inevitably a restricted view of the national good will emerge.

This restricted voice is narrowed further because the negotiations between nations are conducted in secrecy. As a result when an agreement is shaped, its effects on social, environmental and human policy have not been analysed and discussed. The massive document containing the provisions of the agreement is presented to Parliament, which is free to accept or reject the agreement, but not amend it.

Mercifully the TPP had to make its way through an independent and hostile Senate in both the United States and Australia. Without prospect of doing so, it was aborted. But in other circumstances it may have become law.

The kind of legislation that results when the national interest is made subject to commercial interests can be seen best in the provisions for settling disputes between investors and states.



*Photo: Peter E Hamilton, University of Texas*

These make it possible for overseas investors to sue a government for losses incurred when it regulates an industry in the national interest. The case will be heard in secret proceedings before a panel and decided on commercial grounds in another nation.

By virtue of having signed such an agreement with Hong Kong, Australia is now being sued by Philip Morris for its legislation on the plain packaging of tobacco. So in this case a trade agreement, made without respect for other than economic considerations, can inhibit a government from acting to protect the health of its citizens.

The TPP was praised as a diplomatic and strategic agreement that would neutralise Chinese ambitions. That is another strong reason for applauding its collapse. If we are building a peaceful Pacific rim, how can agreements designed to exclude China foster that goal?

*Andrew Hamilton, Consulting Editor of Eureka Street*

DISCUSSION EVENING – ALL WELCOME

Tuesday 15 September 2015,  
5.30 to 7.30pm

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

**SPEAKER: PAMELA RAJKOWSKI OAM**

*Author of In the Tracks of the Camelmen,  
Linden girl : a story of outlawed lives, and Beltana and beyond*

Pamela Rajkowski is a research author specialising in the history, heritage and contribution of the Australian Afghan Cameleers (1860—1930). Pamela regularly collaborates with Afghan Cameleer descendants across Australia. Although her research is founded on a range of secondary sources ( eg archives, news papers, ), it is enriched by ongoing conversations with descendants.



Pamela's work has been sourced by academics, museums and the media, both nationally and internationally.

Pamela is credited as being one of the first authors to research the history of the Afghan cameleers of Australia and uncovered previously unknown files of stolen generation Aboriginal children of Western Australia ( Linden Girl ) that remained active until the 1970s.

*Our evenings offer a great opportunity to engage our guests in informal discussion, with the small numbers in attendance providing a great opportunity to raise questions and discuss the answers.*



UNITED NATIONS  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
S.A. DIVISION

*United Nations Day Dinner  
Invitation*

*Sunday 1 November 2015*

*National Wine Centre, Cnr North Tce & Hackney Rd  
6.30 Pm Sharp*

*Guest Speaker: Senator The Hon Penny Wong,  
Leader of the Opposition in the Senate*

Tickets \$80 per person  
2 bottles of wine per table  
soft drinks supplied.  
Wine is available for purchase  
**No BYO.**  
**Silent Auction!**

Bookings Essential.  
10 people per table maximum.  
**All tickets to be prepaid**  
payment facilities will not be  
available on the night.

**RSVP by 26 October**

to John Crawford, 3 Church Terrace,  
WALKERVILLE SA 5081  
Ph: 8344 4978 Fax: 8223 4710  
Email: johncraw@internode.on.net



This is a major UNAA(SA) fund raiser, so if you are unable to attend a donation would be most welcome.



What would Steve Jobs have to say? Photo: Vectorportal

A fresh wave of reports unveiling exploitation in the Apple empire are forcing Apple to clean up its act.

'Help wanted: factory worker to install small components into items manufactured by hand – iPhones and iPads. Shifts may average 12 hours per day, six days per week. You may be expected to stand throughout. Some exposure to hazardous chemicals. Base pay: \$42/week. Additional benefits: shared dorm room with five other employees; safety netting at facility to catch attempted suicides. Please note: applications will be checked against blacklist of union sympathizers.'

Not interested in this post? I can't blame you. Think this hypothetical job description exaggerates the real conditions under which Apple

## The Unpalatable Reality of Working for Apple

products are made? Prior to this year, a great many people would have agreed. Today, fewer can claim to be unaware of the truth.

Apple's exploitation of workers in China isn't unique. Other computer companies are likewise drawn like honey bees to the nectar of negligible wages, natural waterways open for dumping, and police forces conveniently watchful for union troublemakers.

But recent events – the death of Apple founder and CEO Steve Jobs, a fresh wave of investigative reports, and protests by Chinese workers themselves – have reopened discussion of a reality we regularly prefer to ignore.

Here in the US, after Barack Obama gave his annual State of the Union address. He celebrated the departed Apple executive: 'The late Steve Jobs – what a fitting name he had – created more of them than all those stimulus dollars the president borrowed and blew.'

Apple employs only around 43,000 people in the US, yet accepting that Jobs was a 'job creator', we can ask: 'What kind of employment did he produce?'

Most Apple jobs are low-wage retail positions in the company's cubed-glass cathedrals. Apple Store employees interviewed by labour journalist Josh Eidelson report being casually informed by managers that working non-union is part of the job. When several in the San Francisco Bay Area expressed concerns about pay, they were

told, 'Money shouldn't be an issue when you're employed at Apple.'

Last year Apple, with its attention to life-enriching experiences, earned \$400,000 in profit per employee.

Beyond direct hires, some 700,000 people work for Apple's suppliers, the majority at places like the Chinese Foxconn plant, where, sadly, making it to age 25 without crippling repetitive stress injury is an accomplishment.

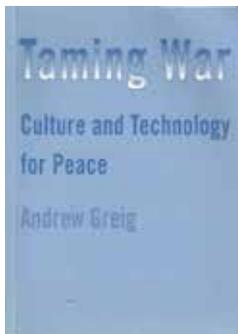
Sweatshop apologists contend that such facilities are legitimate stepping-stones on the path to market prosperity. This presumes that the grimmest workshops of the industrial revolution will never be abolished – that there will always be some hyper-exploitable country in need of 'development', whose young people can be sacrificed to our desires for inexpensive gadgets.

The good news is that most people are not so blasé about human rights. Apple recognizes that demonstrations against oppressive working conditions could slow sales. Feeling the heat, it has agreed to release lists of suppliers and allow outside inspections of plants.

Those pushing for broader changes throughout the industry are not asking for congratulations. They know they have plenty more to do.

Mark Engler, *New Internationalist Magazine*

## Book Review: *Taming War Culture and Technology for Peace*



Published by Peace Power Press in 2007, *Taming War Culture*, examines the origins and nature of war and its horrific effects. At the beginning Andrew Greig states that war is a very poor way to settle differences but that his book promises no golden age. Instead he hopes that some of the extreme horrors can be avoided. His book suggests that not only could we reduce war through cultural change but that we also have technology to assist us. The development of non-lethal weapons could provide us with armies that do not kill.

In fact, Andrew Greig sees the United Nations as setting an example by taking advantage of non-lethal weaponry to equip its peace keeping forces. He believes that "unarmed United Nations personnel and many armed peacekeepers who have not used their weapons have been enormously effective in preserving the peace. Peacekeepers are unhappy to be engaged in killing, their own lives become much more at

risk." He considers multinational rapid response peace keeping forces stationed in key locations around the globe using non-lethal weaponry as an approach that might be a practical answer and led the United Nations real credibility. Ultimately it is world police rather than nations necessarily having their own standing armies in the hope there would be a reduction in violent approaches.

However, the author sees the need for reform in the United Nations to provide more democratic governance to mitigate the influence of the "Great Powers" and for changes to the bureaucracy to make it more "efficient, effective and accountable."

Peace technology becomes a path to follow as technology has been used to overcome problems such as pollution or over-population, why not the problem of war. With regard to cultural values, much in our societies opposes killing other human beings and channelling any drive to do so through sport for example is viewed as possible solution.

Andrew Greig explains what is meant by non-lethal weapons as devices that disable the enemy that do not kill or cause lasting injury. They may include agents that temporarily stun or entangle troops or disable guns, tanks, missiles and other equipment.

It is admitted that with this new technological approach, there needs to be "a whole new culture of non-lethal conflict resolution. Andrew Greig was born in Jerusalem and brought up in

the United Kingdom, he now lives in Sydney, Australia. Amongst his numerous occupations education stands out. His presence in Zaire and Rwanda during the Rwandan refugee crisis as a member of the CARE Australia advance medical team, aroused his interest in peace issues.

### Notable Endorsements

"Full of idealism, common-sense and bright ideas"

Robyn Williams, *Broadcaster*



Author Andrew Greig, Photo: ABC Sunday Nights

Tim Buttery (UNAA SA)

Based on University of Sydney's Book Club

## “UN at 70” Multicultural Event At Joe’s Kiosk



Surrealist Installation Artist Andrew Baines with his masterpiece

On Sunday the 12th of July, UNAA SA took great pleasure in hosting an event in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations at Joe’s Kiosk, Henley Beach.

The theme, “Strong UN. Better World.” Aptly tied in with a celebration of multicultural Australia through the presentation of Surrealist Installation artist Andrew Baines’ latest painting.

The artistic interpretation of multicultural Australia was painted in April of this year when participants braved a crisp Henley Beach morning.

As previously documented, those partaking in the portrait stood in the water in multicultural national costumes ranging from; The Chinese Hanfu to the Scottish Kilt.

Prominent members of society featuring in the painting included Hon Hieu Van Le—Governor of South Australia, Grace Portolesi—Chair Multicultural and Ethnic Commission SA, The Hon.



Participants braving the brisk waters for art

Chris Kourakis— Chief Justice of SA, Hon. Jing Lee-MLC, Angela Kenneally— Mayor of Charles Sturt, Laura Adzanku— representing Africa, Joe Scalzi—President of the Italian Carbenieri Association, Jock Zonfrillo—Native Food Chef and Restaurateur (Orana), Sarika Young—Indian Dancer and Director of a Modelling Academy, and Sonia Feldhoff ABC Afternoon presenter.

Attendees once again braved the gale force winds outside on the crisp Henley Beach afternoon.

Bursting through the doors with hairpieces and pocket squares intact, a warm and welcoming environment developed for the presentation.

Members of the executive committee and guests huddled for warmth as UNAA SA President John Crawford became proxy bartender providing a range of drinks from champagne and sparkling water.

Canapés of varying degree were circulated

by committee members with a highlight being homemade cannelloni.



John Donne Revered English Poet

Guests were provided with a tumultuous view outside however, with rough seas and ominous clouds looming on the horizon.

The mood was not hampered though as conversation in the room was fevered in nature as guests crowded around the painting to get a better view.

After speaking with artist Andrew Baines, I found out the inspiration for the artistic piece was based on John Donne’s poem ‘No Man Is an Island’.

John Donne (22 January 1572 – 31 March 1631) was an English poet and cleric in the Church of England. He is considered the pre-eminent representative of the metaphysical poets, writing a range of styles from sonnet to love letter.

The poem is a poignant reflection of life and its fragility, whereby Donne reflects on the importance of cultural inclusion and acceptance.

Donne continues to describe the significance of a human life through this inclusion, shown in the excerpt below

*No man is an island,  
Entire of itself,  
Every man is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main.  
If a clod be washed away by the sea,  
Europe is the less.  
As well as if a promontory were.  
As well as if a manor of thy friend’s  
Or of thine own were:  
Any man’s death diminishes me,  
Because I am involved in mankind,  
And therefore never send to know for  
whom the bell tolls;  
It tolls for thee.*



Ron and Dylan Hall Enjoying the event

The core concept of the painting not only supports multiculturalism, yet supports the mantra of the United Nations, No person is an island, and no country can exist by itself or alone. UN at 70 is a great anniversary to celebrate in this way.

Baines aptly captures this fragility in his artwork, through the unity depicted by the varying body positions of his participants, whilst the inclusion of the ocean portrays that life is merely a changing of the tides.



Jack Snelling presenting to Sonia Feldhoff ABC

As the late Sunday afternoon swept towards evening, SA Minister for the Arts, Jack Snelling was summoned to speak and then to present prints of Andrew’s painting to the participants who stood in the water dressed in their various national costumes.

Snelling discussed the importance of Multiculturalism in a struggling society, attesting that equality



Andy Clappis and Emmo Grannoio enjoying the event

should be, and is, of paramount importance to the UNAA and the wider United Nations community.

In continuation, Snelling spoke briefly about Donne’s poem before delving into the grittier issues of racism in the wider community.

The importance of the underlying meaning to Multicultural Australia shone through and was supported by the attending patrons, with a majority having cultural heritage outside of Australia.

Grace Portolesi then gave a brief summation about the importance of inclusion tactics, learnt from her previous parliamentary stint and current role as Chair of the Multicultural and Ethnic Commission SA.

Participants then received a framed print of Baine’s painting to the applause of the crowd, as the beauty of the artwork was once again appreciated.

View some of the participants receiving their framed portrait below...



Jack Snelling addressing the patrons

Adding his support to the event with attendance and kind words was Gary Johanson Mayor of Port Adelaide Enfield.

As the afternoon concluded, attendees enjoyed a "cup of joe" as Joe Weber's signature coffees ranging from; cappuccino to the revered short black began circulating the room.

The UNAA would like to thank Joe for his hospitality, enjoyed by popular Adelaideans over the years such as; Big Bob Francis.

### Presentation At Government House

A few days later the original painting was presented by artist Andrew Baines with UNAA SA Vice-President Lidia Moretti, to the Governor of South Australia, Hieu Van Le at Government House.

To Have Andrew's painting hanging at Government House affirms the concept of taking John Donne's great words 'No man is and island..' and widening the concept to celebrate the UN at 70.



Andrew Baines with the Governor and Lady Van Le

This event has shown a wide level of support from the government and well known Adelaide personalities, to highlight the UN achievements over 70 years, and to emphasise our multicultural South Australian Heritage.



Andrew Baines with Governor Hue Van Le

Written By: Tim Buttery, UNAA SA

## Genetically Modified Food Research

A genetically modified organism (GMO), is an organism that has its DNA altered or modified in some way through genetic engineering. In most cases, GMOs have been altered with DNA from another organism, be it a bacterium, plant, virus or animal; these organisms are sometimes referred to as "transgenic" organisms.

In Australia, the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) oversees the development and environmental release of GM organisms under the Gene Technology Act 2000. Most dealings with GM organisms must be licensed, of which a requirement is to satisfy the OGTR that any risks posed can be managed in such a way as to protect the health and safety of people and to protect the environment.

Judy Carman, is a research scientist at Flinders University and has been carrying out a study to determine if GM modified crops are safe to eat or cause problems for the environment. One of many difficulties she has encountered is access to seeds, both GM seeds and the parent stock.

In her study she found toxic effects in pigs who had been fed Genetically Modified food. Scottish researchers found toxic effects in rats fed GM potatoes. This research was subjected to a campaign of vilification by pro-GMO organ-

isations in attempt to discredit the scientists. The researchers subsequently lost their jobs, funding and research team, in addition to being served gagging orders preventing them from speaking about the research.

A French scientist in a two year study found liver and kidney damage in rats fed with GM maize. He was ultimately forced to retract his study after being pressured in a similar.

Unfortunately members of editorial boards and food safety authorities have uncovered conflicts of interest in adjudicating matters related to GM research. Judy Carman has experienced similar treatment. After several personal attacks by pro-GM scientists, she was forced out of two university postings.

An Italian scientist has been subjected to the same discrimination after finding in another long term study GM soy disturbed the functioning of the liver, pancreas and testes in mice.

According to a London-based molecular geneticist, GM lobby groups attempt to discredit the study and scientists who conduct research.

Part of the explanation could lie in the fact that many universities rely heavily on industry funding, including the GMO industry which may have representatives on university boards who provide the funding for such research. This seems to be particularly so in the United States. President Clinton is reported to have called Tony Blair at one stage about the Scottish findings mentioned above.

The biotech industry's safety tests have been accepted by the key US regulatory bodies: the Department of Agriculture (USDP), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). However, most of the tests conducted or commissioned have been carried out by the industry itself.



Judy Carman, Photo: The Conversation

One recent study has tracked the expansion of the GM industry since 1996, discovering that the accompanying use of glyphosate based pesticides sees dramatic increase in celiac disease, gluten intolerance, autism, Alzheimer's, ADHD, and other disorders. People who live in areas of intensive soy cultivation in Argentina are twice as likely to die of cancer. Brazilian soy growers suffer from DNA disruption and liver and kidney damage.

The two most-repeated claims made for benefit of GM agriculture are; bigger yields and less use of pesticides. Neither has proved true. With some crops – soy, for example – yields have actually been lower, whereas traditional breeding has been spectacularly successful. In fact, hunger in the world is caused by political issues such as unequal access to food, distribution problems and wastage. In reality, the world already produces more than enough food to feed the 9 billion of us expected by 2050. On the question of less pesticides, there has been instead a far larger increase in weed-killer.

By comparison with the US, in Europe farmers have dramatically reduced pesticide use while increasing yields, using non-GM methods.

Based on New International Magazine  
Tim Buttery (UNAA SA)



Genetic Modification - Good Or Bad? Photo: Fotolia

## Hiroshima Atrocities, Seventy Years into The Future - An Open Letter



*An Atomic Blast, Photo: David Kreiger*

On the 6th of August at 8.15am, 1945, The United States dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, Raising it to the ground. The bomb instantly killed eighty thousand people with an explosion of temperature at roughly three-thousand degrees Celsius. Three days later, a secondary B-29 Flying Fortress of the United States dropped another atom bomb on the Japanese city of Nagasaki, killing another forty-thousand instantly. The immediate result of these bombs elicited Japan's unconditional surrender from World War Two.

This is an open letter to the United States (and anyone else reading), to ask for an apology for the mass genocide of human life those seventy years ago in Japan.

The build-up to the atom bombs featured a prideful Japan, deep rooted in cultural tradition refusing to surrender, whilst an aggressive United States demanded an end. It was US president Harry Truman and Japan's Militarist Government led by Emperor Showa that were incumbent at the time. Germany collapsed a few months before, under the allied Trinities advances upon Berlin, yet Japan remained headstrong in their approach refusing to 'ever surrender.'

The time arose for the first bomb "Little Boy" to be released as Hiroshima, a manufacturing centre of some 350,000 people located about 500 miles from Tokyo, was selected as the first target. After arriving at the U.S. base on the Pacific island of Tinian, the more than 9,000-pound uranium-235 bomb was loaded aboard a modified B-29 bomber christened Enola Gay (after the mother of its pilot, Colonel Paul Tibbets). The plane dropped the bomb by parachute, and it exploded 2,000 feet above Hiroshima in a blast equal to 12-15,000 tons of TNT, destroying five square miles of the city.

In continuation, August 9th saw Major Charles Sweeney fly another B-29 bomber, Bockscar, from Tinian. Thick clouds over the primary target, the city of Kokura, drove Sweeney to a secondary target, Nagasaki, where the plutonium bomb "Fat Man" was dropped at 11:02 that morning. More powerful than the one used at Hiroshima, the bomb weighed nearly 10,000 pounds and was built to produce a 22-kiloton blast. The topography of Nagasaki, which was nestled in narrow valleys between mountains, reduced the bomb's effect,

limiting the destruction to 2.6 square miles.

The war concluded with unconditional surrender from the Japanese. The Emperor conducted an official broadcast known as the Imperial transcript on the Termination of the War ("Jewel Voice Broadcast"). The emperor's most compounding statement was "Moreover, the enemy has begun to employ a new and most cruel bomb, the power of which to do damage is, indeed, incalculable, taking the toll of many innocent lives. Should We continue to fight, not only would it result in an ultimate collapse and obliteration of the Japanese nation, but also it would lead to the total extinction of human civilization."

Victory over Japan Day or 'V-J-Day' for short being celebrated amongst the allies. It was the aftermath of this wanton destruction of life however that truly rocks any hardened person to the core. An interview conducted with two surviving women of Hiroshima by a group of Japanese schoolgirls portrays the harrowing aftermath.

The girls are from Jogakuin High School in downtown Hiroshima, led by 16-year-old Momoka Namikawa. The girls began these

the dead bodies there. It was hell." To relive the trauma is hard for the survivors, and not just because it is painful. Many also keep their stories secret because they suffered discrimination. Japanese society saw the survivors as contaminated and contagious, and they were often rejected for marriage and employment.

Yet through all these seasons, generations and years, there has never been any form of reconciliatory movement created by the United States. The United States, is not enamoured with Japan after their hostilities, yet it could be argued a case of two wrongs (one arguably larger than the other). It is easy to be an arm-chair critique in this case, lathering pressure on the US as an 'arrogant dictator', yet also requires a cool head to appreciate the other point of view.

Japan in some instances invited an enormous American response through their refusal to surrender and mass atrocities in P.O.W. camps



*Grave of the fireflies, Photo: Ghibli*

through-out the War. The fundamental argument is however, whether the use of Nuclear Weapons is EVER justified? Did it end a war and save more lives is arguable: who can ever be the judge?

Japan has created shrines in Hiroshima and Nagasaki to honour the dead. Whilst Studio Ghibli (a prominent Japanese animator) created a harrowing tale entitled 'Grave of The Fireflies'. Originally for a children's audience, its subtle insinuations and artistic nuance provide a horrifying account of the direct impact of the bomb on Hiroshima from a child's perspective. Released in English, it was both popular and widely criticised in the United States.

On the 70th anniversary of the use of nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is past time for the U.S. to change course. Rather than pursue current plans to spend \$1 trillion on modernizing its nuclear arsenal.

In a recent conference I attended in Canberra, prominent speaker and former deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Ramesh Thakur, spoke about the proliferation of nuclear weapons. One harrowing statistic he presented was that Japan in WW2 had already accepted defeat in the war after the Soviet Union had entered. The subsequent Nuclear Weapons just hastened their decision of surrender, yet if the Soviets had not entered the war then it would have taken five nuclear blasts to achieve the same result.

*Written by Tim Buttery UNAA SA,*

*Interview Credit: ABC Matthew Carney*



*The Harrowing Hiroshima Shrine, Photo: Matt Blog*

interviews as a high school project, but it has since gathered a more personal meaning. "It's important to leave survivors' testimonies to fulfil our wishes that the atomic bombing should never happen again," Namikawa said.

Their most recent interview was with sisters, 90-year-old Teruko Niwaki and 88-year-old Setsumi Takabayashi. It is the first interview the women have done and they only agreed to it because their great-granddaughter and niece, Momoka, was asking the questions.

"I saw a plane come from the mountains pass and then, bang!! It blasted and it was terrible," Teruko said.

"I couldn't see anything because of the blinding light. I fell down." At the time, the sisters were working at a factory 4.5 kilometres from the epicentre, selflessly rushing in to help any survivors. "They cried help," Teruko said, "They were burnt and had blisters, their skin was falling off. People were dying. We made a crematorium in the school-yard and we burnt

## Australian UN Youth Representative Heads to Big Apple

The UN Youth Representative to the United Nations is an annually appointed role by United Nations Youth Australia, in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Running since 1999, this role provides a young Australian between the age of 18-25 an opportunity to make a difference to the Youth of Australia. This program delivers an extensive nationwide consultation tour to engage with and discover issues that are most important to the Youth of Australia. The Representative compiles a report which they present to the United Nations office in New York City as part of the Australian Mission in September/October each year.



Shea mapping his trip, Photo: UN Youth

This year's representative, Shea Spierings, is from Rockhampton in Queensland. Shea grew up with a hard-working single mother and father in prison. At the age of 18 Shea moved to Brisbane to pursue work as a trades-person. In 2010, he studied at TAFE before commencing a degree at University of Queensland in 2012. Shea worked as a national presenter for the AIME program before securing a cadet-ship with The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. There were over 200 applicants for the 2015 position.

He sat down with UN Youth Australia's Emily Chantler for an interview.

### **Firstly, would you mind sharing a bit of your background with us?**

After attending Caloundra High School North of Brisbane, I worked as a labourer in construction, before moving on to work in security. At this point I began studying a Certificate IV in Adult



Shea Spierings at Uluru as part of his journey round Australia: Credit, Twitter



Shea Spierings, Photo: UN Youth Australia

Tertiary Preparation, which allowed me to enter university. I graduated from TAFE in late 2010 before commencing studying in 2012. I studied International Relations with Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland. I was also involved in mentoring indigenous youth, as well as working in NAIDOC events that raise awareness of indigenous issues. Before I commenced studying I was a volunteer in such things as; secondhand stores and cattle farms (farmers' needed help following the 2011 floods in Queensland). I choose to volunteer because helping others provided fulfilling experiences.

### **Why do you think it's so important to have a UN Youth Rep and what were your reasons for applying to be the rep for this year?**

I think it's important that many Australian's have a voice, and the policy makers hear it. It appears Australia's youth feel somewhat disconnected from the greater Australian political narrative as they find it hard to relate to today's politicians. Applying for this role helped me become a voice for Australia's youth, especially those who are disadvantaged.

### **What do you think are the most pertinent issues facing young people today?**

The youth of today appear to face issues that are previously unseen, facing a standard of living that is likely to be lower than their parents. Also, a lack of clear and distinct representation in Australia's highest levels of Government is not reassuring. Then there are the usual suspects – education, employment and access to opportunities to

further our own individual capacities in the manner we so choose. Ultimately there needs to be recognition that the youth of today face different challenges. In order to effectively address the issues created by these challenges policy makers need to avoid prescriptive policy-making and engage in more consultation and collaboration.

### **What are your passions?**

In the context of youth, I'm passionate about creating more effective and permanent support networks. I'm also passionate about local community engagement in the sense that I believe in supporting the place where I live, however if I



Shea Speaking at Native Title Conference, Photo: Twitter

have the opportunity to offer support on broader scale (like I do now) then that is beyond exciting. Additionally, I find reading, thinking critically and asking questions important. I personally think that critical thinking skills need to be encouraged more in our education system. On a personal note, I enjoy boxing, photography, videography and reading!

### **What are you most looking forward to in the year ahead?**

I am excited to meet as many of Australia's young people as possible. It's always interesting to see what people are involved in through their local community and what projects they are working on to enhance change. However, I also appreciate the opportunity to engage with local communities who fail to enact change due to increasing disadvantages. Witnessing how people cope with adversity is an inspiring, yet humbling, experience. I'm excited about New York, in addition to seeing more of Australia.

### **What are your personal goals for the upcoming year and have you got a game plan to tackle them?**

I wish to become more engaged in communities than my predecessors. It is not a competitive goal, but rather a goal to ensure that my final report and recommendations represent interests of Australian youth. I wish to ensure, I engage youth from a variety of backgrounds.

Based on Emily Chantler, UN Youth Australia  
Tim Buttery (UNAA SA)

## The limits to Private Ownership of Property



Photo: RW Foto / Alamy

The concept of ownership is at the heart of any property regime. 18th century English jurist William Blackstone described ownership as 'that sole and despotic dominion which one man claims and exercises over the external things of the world.'

Australians share this individualistic understanding of ownership. If I own property, then it is my right to decide how that property is used and by whom.

Recently the House of the French National Assembly passed laws under which supermarkets must donate to charity, food that would otherwise be discarded. As reported in the London Telegraph in August last year, the law requires 'supermarkets with 1000 square metres of floor space to give their "unsold but still consumable food products to at least one food charity".'

Is a law that compels food donation by supermarkets consistent with our understanding of property 'ownership'? Does it go too far in infringing the ownership rights of supermarket retailers? To answer this question, we must consider what it is that our property law system seeks to achieve.

One goal of property law is to protect individual rights to property. This concern is reflected in the views of Australian courts, in reference to compulsory acquisition. Take for instance the presumption applied by courts that parliament does not intend to interfere with private property rights.

The Australian High Court expounded this rule recently in *R & R Fazzolari Pty Ltd v Parramatta City Council* [2009]. The courts' view was that a statute be interpreted so as to authorise 'the

least interference with private property rights'.

Private property rights are one of the few rights expressly protected under the Australian Constitution. Readers may be familiar with the movie *The Castle* which looked at section 51(xxxi) of the Constitution and the prohibition there on the acquisition of property on other than 'just terms'.

Underpinning this, is respect for the individuals' right to own property and to control how that property is used. Defining this in law helps to create an ordered society in relation to our material world.

Returning to mandatory food donation laws, Requiring a property owner (here a supermarket retailer) to 'give away' its property seems at first glance at odds with the property law system. But at the heart of Australian property law, there are multiple interests to be served.

Broader societal interests have to be balanced alongside the need to protect individual property rights. Ask any property lawyer, and they will tell you that in legal systems, including Australia's, limits have always been placed on ownership rights to achieve this balance.

English land law has also recognised limits to private ownership [Crown Law Courts require separate treatment]. Adverse possession law is a good example. It recognises that a person who possesses land for a relevant period of time and satisfies certain requirements may become the owner of that land. In this way, an existing owner's rights may be defeated by a possessor of land (i.e. a squatter). The rationale of adverse possession is to ensure land is used, rather than left unused for significant periods of time. Adverse possession is alive and well in Australian property law.

Planning regimes also restrict owners on how they develop and use their land. This is to ensure certain objectives are achieved such as protection of natural resources, or the sustainable use of land.

We may conclude then that property law has always recognised broader societal interests. These may necessitate limits on individual rights of ownership.

In any debate about ownership, we should be considering the fundamental question: what is it that we want our system of property law to achieve?

Mandatory food donation laws recognise a broader societal interest. Namely, that there are people in wealthy countries who still do not have enough to eat. Foodbank Australia, the largest hunger relief organisation in this country, states that: 'charities report, every month they are turning away almost 60,000 Australians seeking food relief due to lack of food and resources.'

Recognising when such interests justify limits on private property ownership is the matter for debate here. As Weeramantry states in *An Invitation to the Law*, 'property is an important area where major refashioning of legal concepts will be needed to match the social and economic demands of the future'. The French have led the way in recognising this and enacting the appropriate legislation.

On a final note regarding Private Ownership in Australia, it is necessary to cite a current issue facing Australian farmers known as Hydraulic Fracturing. "Fracking" as it is colloquially referred to, is a technique used by Privatised Gas Companies to stimulate and accelerate the flow of underground gas deposits to a well or bore. The process involves high-pressure injection of sand, water and some hazardous chemicals into gas-bearing rock.

Seemingly resourceful in nature, Fracking is far from helpful to the environment, as one Fracking Mine uses 5.7 Million litres of water per annum. Not only this, Queensland and Western Australia have recently passed legislation allowing these companies to plant their mines on private farming property. Farmers have been affected as livestock' drinking water becomes contaminated, in addition to hazardous chemicals affecting their work environment. This is viewed by many as a violation of Private Property law, in conflict with the aforementioned constitutional quotation of 'Just Terms'. It is worth consideration what impact Fracking will have on Private Ownership of Farming Land.

Based on Samuel Tyrer, Eureka Street  
Tim Buttery (UNAA SA)



David Krieger, Photo: Phil Channing

The first explosion of a nuclear device took place at Alamogordo, New Mexico on July 16, 1945. Just three weeks later, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima and three days after that on the

Japanese city of Nagasaki. The new weapons had devastating power, killing approximately 100,000 people immediately in the two cities and another 100,000 people by the end of 1945.

Since these bombings brought the world into the Nuclear Age, the human future and that of other forms of life have been at risk. Never before did humankind have the power to destroy itself, but that completely changed in the Nuclear Age. By our own scientific and technological cleverness, we humans had created the means of our own demise. Our technological capacity for destruction had exceeded our spiritual capacity to work together and cooperate to end the threat that these weapons posed to our common future.

After the bombings of the two Japanese cities, the United States almost immediately entered into a nuclear arms race with itself. In 1946, when the US was the only nuclear-armed country in the world, it began atmospheric nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands, then a United Nations Trust Territory that the US had agreed to administer. The US broke the bond of trust by testing 67 nuclear weapons in the Marshall Islands, with an explosive power equivalent to detonating 1.6 Hiroshima bombs daily for 12 years.

In the decades that followed, other countries would develop nuclear arsenals. These included: the USSR (now Russia), UK, France, China,

Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea. On numerous occasions the nuclear-armed countries came close to using nuclear weapons by accident, miscalculation or design. The most serious of these near disasters was the Cuban Missile Crisis, which went on for 13 days in 1962, while the world stood on the brink of nuclear war.

At the height of the nuclear arms race in 1986, there were more than 70,000 nuclear weapons in the world. There were more nuclear weapons than there were targets for them. With the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s, the number of nuclear weapons began to fall and since then the world, primarily the US and Russia, has shed over 50,000 nuclear weapons.

Today there are approximately 16,000 nuclear weapons in the world, with over 90 percent in the arsenals of the US and Russia. Some 1,800 of these remain on hair-trigger alert, ready to be fired within moments. These are still insane numbers, with species-ending potential. Yet, strangely, most people on the planet do not think much about nuclear dangers.

One group of people, though, the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, still think a lot about these dangers. These survivors, or hibakusha (as they are known in Japan), have witnessed the horrors of nuclear weapons at close hand. They have seen the death and destruction caused by the relatively small nuclear weapons used at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They speak

out with the moral certainty that they do not want their past to become anyone else's future.

All nine nuclear-armed countries are engaged in modernizing their nuclear arsenals. Together they are spending \$100 billion annually on them. The US alone is planning to spend \$1 trillion over the next three decades on modernizing its nuclear arsenal. It is a waste of precious resources that should be reallocated to meeting human needs for food, water, shelter, healthcare, education, a clean environment and repaired infrastructure.



Russia During the Cold War, Photo: The Australian

The grand bargain of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is that the non-nuclear-armed states agreed not to acquire nuclear weapons, and the nuclear-armed states agreed to negotiate in good faith for the elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The goal is a level playing field,

with no countries possessing nuclear weapons. The problem with the bargain is that the nuclear-armed countries are not holding up their end.

Lawsuits against all nuclear-armed nations To set this right, the Republic of the Marshall Islands has brought lawsuits against the nine nuclear-armed countries, calling on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to declare them in breach of their obligations and order them to commence the promised negotiations. Because the US is such an important player and does not accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ, a separate lawsuit was brought against it in US federal court.

If the people of the Marshall Islands can demonstrate such boldness and courage, so can the rest of us. It is time for action to demand a nuclear weapons-free world. It is time to challenge hubris with wisdom, and complacency with compassion. Nuclear weapons are powerful, but the human heart is more powerful. As Pope Francis said, we need a "conversion of hearts."

It is time to join with the hibakusha in demanding a world free of nuclear weapons. The world has waited for 70 years to end the nuclear weapons era. The next decades may not be so kind to humanity. We must act now, while we still can, to end the nuclear weapons threat to humanity and all life.

David Krieger, Sunflower Newsletter

## INTERNATIONAL DAYS — August to November, 2015

### 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 (9A/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)
- 26 September International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (A/RES/68/32)
- 27 September World Tourism Day

### 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] (UNESCO-PRESSE, vol.4, no.17, p.9)
- 5 October (first Monday in October) World Habitat Day (A/RES/40/202 A)
- 9 October World Post Day (JPU/Tokyo Congress 1969/Res.C.11)

- 10 October World Mental Health Day [WHO]
- 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)
- 20 October World Statistics Day (A/RES/69/282, draft A/69/L.72)
- 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]
- 31 October World Cities Day (A/RES/68/238)

### NOVEMBER

- 2 November International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (A/RES/68/163)
- 6 November International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict (A/RES/56/4)
- 10 November World Science Day for Peace and Development
- 14 November World Diabetes Day (A/RES/61/225)
- 15 November (third Sunday in November) World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (A/RES/60/5)
- 16 November International Day for Tolerance (Resolution 5.61 of the 28th session of the UNESCO General Conference) (A/RES/51/95)
- 19 November World Toilet Day (A/67/L.75) (draft)
- 19 November (third Thursday in November) World Philosophy Day
- 20 November Africa Industrialization Day (A/RES/44/237)
- 20 November Universal Children's Day
- 21 November World Television Day (A/RES/51/205)
- 25 November International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (A/RES/54/134)

- 29 November International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (A/RES/32/40B)

### INTERNATIONAL WEEKS 2015

- 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

#### 2015

- International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies A/RES/68/221
- International Year of Soils [FAO] A/RES/68/232

#### 2016

- International Year of Pulses (A/RES/68/231)
- International Year of Camelids (draft A/C.2/69/L.41)

### 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
- 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.

## UN at 70 and our Year Celebrating Multiculturalism

We have again used our own commemorative envelope celebrating the UN at 70 with a multicultural theme for all those receiving a posted newsletter. As we explained in our last newsletter, Andrew chose John Donne's poem "No man is an island..."

The painting by surrealist artist Andrew Baines was presented to the Governor of South Australia, Hieu Van Le AO during this past month. The celebratory art installation at Henley Beach where the Governor and a group of nine other celebrities were photographed in multicultural dress standing in the water.

We also had the opportunity to thank the participants, and our sponsors who participated in the event at Henley Beach by gathering at Joe's Kiosk on the foreshore. Photos are included elsewhere in the newsletter. We presented the participants with a framed print of the painting.

Andrew's painting is reproduced on the envelope and if anyone would like a few envelopes please contact the UNAASA office, or call or email me and I can arrange to let you have some.

We will have a print of the painting on show at the UN Day Dinner on 1 November.

### Our Newsletter this Month

As from the beginning of July we have welcomed into our office Tim Buttery who sought an intern position to undertake training with us for the second half of the year. He is a student of journalism and international studies at UniSA.

How could we resist the opportunity to have a young person to join us to help with the newsletter? His contribution to this newsletter has been substantial, with the usual input of ideas from Ron Hall and Peter Faulkner.

We thank Tim, Ron and Peter.

We also welcome Kathy Romeo, who like Tim understands web pages and social media,

### July Discussion Evening

These evenings are held at 5.30pm on the third Tuesday of the odd numbered months in our Carrington Street office.

At our July meeting our UNAA National Executive Director, Matthew Kronborg joined us to tell us about

## POSTSCRIPT

the role of the UNAA at the National level, and to give us an opportunity to ask questions about how UNAA interfaces with the Federal Government and Parliament. It offered a great opportunity not only to hear all about the relationship between UNAA and government at the national level, but also for us to at last meet Matthew.

### September Discussion Evening

September 15th, 5.30 pm at the UNAA SA Office at 57/81 Carrington Street. Everyone is invited.

Pamela Rajkowski will tell us about her book "In the Tracks of the Camelmen" Seaview Press. It will be a most interesting evening learning about this important aspect of South Australian history.

### AGM 2015

Our AGM was held on 1 August.

Professor Felix Patrikeeff was our speaker. See the report on his most interesting talk elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have a few membership changes on our executive committee. Rosemary McKay has stood down as one of two Vice Presidents, although she is continuing as an individual member. We welcome John Langton as a Vice President.

After more than 10 years as a member of our committee, and also as our environmental officer Peter Faulkner has decided it is rime to stand down as an individual member: fortunately he remains as busy as ever as an office volunteer, as our Monday and Friday person in the office (with other occasional days as well). Thank you Peter for all your efforts, especially for reminding us of the ongoing importance of environmental issues.

As members who joined UNAA SA recently, Kathy Romeo and Tim Buttery were also co-opted onto the committee at the meeting the week after the AGM. We welcome Kathy and Tim. Their youth and enthusiasm for the Internet and social media opportunities fill an important gap.

### UN Day Dinner

Please not only make a note in your diary for the 1st November at the National Wine Centre. An ~~and~~ **important** form to reserve your seat is included with this newsletter. Note

that all seats must be paid in advance.

Penny Wong, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, will be our speaker.

Last year attendance was over 200, and we are hoping we can equal this this year. Certainly it is promising to be an enjoyable and exciting evening.

This is our one major fundraising event for the year, and we depend on wide support to keep UNAA SA afloat financially. I look forward to your support again this year.

The Dinner is definitely on Sunday November 1, and I apologise for my confusion in suggesting in our last newsletter that it was to be on the following night. I thank the eagle eyed member who noticed my error and asked if it really was to be on a Monday night.

### Membership

May we welcome our new members who have joined us recently.

I hope they will find their involvement with UNAA rewarding and enlightening.

### UNAA SA Annual Report

Our financial year begins on the first of April, and with a little leeway to include overlapping activities in March/April, our report reminds us how busy we have been. It highlights how important we believe the UN is to the well-being of the world.

Our UNAA SA Annual Report was tabled at the AGM and copies are available from the office. If you would like a posted or email copy please call in, phone or email.

You will see from the annual report how much we achieved in the past year. It also shows how much we need to thank everyone whose efforts made these events such a success.

First of all our committee.

Then those who have helped by sponsorship and support both by numerous generous gifts, including time, effort and financial support.

Also our speakers, who offered their insight, experience and wisdom.

And finally thank you to our members, whose support and feedback keep us on track. It confirms the path we are taking in telling how important we feel the UN contribution has been over the past 70 years.

May I thank you all.

August 2015, John Crawford, President  
phone: 8344 4978 email: pres@unaasa.org.au.