



United Nations Association of Australia NSW Inc.

## World Environment Day: The UNAA Climate Summit

*Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with care.\**

The Summit is a contribution to World Environment Day; to the UN 70th Anniversary Seminar Series, Climate Change; and to the UNAA Climate Campaign 2015.

The human influence on climate change is clear..... Recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human and natural systems. SPM 1 "Climate Change 2014" Summary for Policy Makers, UN Int Panel for Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report.

ARRANGEMENTS: 8:30 am to 5 pm Fri 5th June; Sydney Mint Macquarie St Sydney

SPEAKERS: The Summit will be opened by the NSW minister for the Environment (tbc) Eminent speakers from Australia and the Pacific Islands have been invited. Professor Leslie Hughes of the Climate Council and Mr Kevin Petrini, UNDP Regional Climate Change Specialist for the Pacific have agreed and other acceptances are pending.

COSTS: \$135 standard; \$95 UNAA members, students, pensioners  
The event is fully catered by the Mint.

BOOKINGS: Triboking <http://www.trybooking.com/131744>

\* UN World Environment Day Theme 2015

### For your Diary

**Saturday: 16 May, 1pm and Sunday 17 May 7:30 pm**

The Sydney Philharmonia Choirs (Guest Conductor Elizabeth Scott) in conjunction with the UNAA is presenting two concerts in the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House dedicated to Peace. Please see the attached flyer.

Tickets are available through [sydneyphilharmonia.com.au](http://sydneyphilharmonia.com.au) (Tel: 9251 3115) or through the Sydney Opera House.

**Friday 5th June World Environment Day (see above):**

*Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care.*

**Saturday 1st Aug. 1 pm: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Please hold this date. Full details, together with nomination forms for those wishing to nominate for office will be circulated shortly.

Inquiries: Valerie Weekes: [nsw@unaa.org.au](mailto:nsw@unaa.org.au); tel 0456 124 965

In association with the United Nations  
Association of Australia, Sydney Philharmonia  
Choirs present Karl Jenkin's



# International Women's Day Celebration

## Special Report Dr Affie Adagio, Convenor

**UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015  
PARTNERSHIP PROJECT of UNAA(NSW) and HUMANIST SOCIETY NSW**

**5<sup>th</sup> YEAR**

**UNIWD 2015 TOPIC: CEDAW**

held in Waratah Room at 2-5pm  
Parliament House SYDNEY  
on Monday March 9

**Sponsored: The Hon Jillian Skinner MP**  
Minister for Health.



**Welcome: Dr. Affie Adagio Convenor/MC** welcomed the Minister and all present introducing Robyn Carroll to carry out the Acknowledgement of Country.

**Acknowledgement to Country:** was carried out by Robyn Carroll, Indigenous speaker, from Walla Mulla Family and Community Support, Woolloomooloo



**Opening: The Hon Jillian Skinner MP** in opening the Seminar spoke of her knowledge of improvements that have taken place with women's issues and she also focused on the need for extreme measures to protect women from violence. The Minister informed the meeting that a Minister for Domestic Violence which is necessary would be appointed if the Baird Government is re-elected.

**Message from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon: Pamela Lemoine** UNAA NSW member read out the message which was most inspiring to hear.



Pamela Lemoine

**History of Women in Australia: Valerie Weekes past President of UNAA(NSW) and Co-Convenor of UNIWD Sydney** gave an extensive report of the history of women in Australia for some decades and this will be available in print for those who request it of Affie. Also we filmed the seminar and it will be on You Tube too. (Valerie Weekes-->)

**CEDAW HISTORY & UPDATE: Sue Conde** was to speak on this topic and was unable to due to having to attend a funeral so Affie was able to print her 5 page fascinating talk onto a double sided page and hand it out as Affie was talking to it including her segment which was about



how she attended the UN Conference/Forum in Copenhagen in 1980 when Australia signed CEDAW. Affie was one of 22 women community representatives together with an equal number of women government representatives who the Minister for Home and Women Affairs the Hon Bob Ellicott had chosen to attend this historic event. Nevertheless Affie said that looking at Australia and our situation with Women, Freedom, and Peace we cannot say that we need not worry! Domestic Violence is a huge problem and women are still not equal in pay with men. How can we be so complacent? She added "I have had in the last month one

woman and one man, both supposedly educated, ask me why do we need to have an UNIWD Seminar??!! As I said at the Seminar that left me speechless and anyone who knows me would find that amazing. There are two main reasons I have been passionate about convening the UNIWDAY Seminar 1. to Disseminate information about women's issues in order to raise awareness 2. To remind the community that Parliament House Sydney is available to the public to use gratis for respectful community members."

The printed talks are available for anyone who requests them - [affie@affie.com.au](mailto:affie@affie.com.au) or 0421101163 or 02 9690 1431

**Indigenous Women Progress: Robyn Carroll, Indigenous Community Worker Walla Mulla Family and Community Support Woolloomooloo,** recently

awarded **Woman of the Year for Sydney 2015** in the **NSW WOMEN OF THE YEAR 2015 AWARDS. Congratulations Robyn** (here with Affie) who spoke on her life experience as an Indigenous woman and how she survived through the worst to reach where she is today in a centre which was begun by nuns and is run by women for women and families.



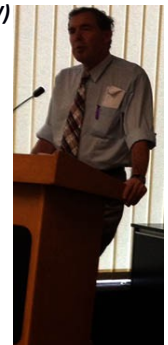
**AFRICAN GREAT LAKES WOMEN:**

**Margaret Conway GLAPD (Great Lakes Agency for Peace and Development) Spoke about Women Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo** sharing what trauma some of these women experienced to achieve what many of us would be horrified to live through. Again copies of this talk can be obtained if required.



Margaret Conway

**Women and Peace: Prof Chris Hamer (UNSW)** was invited to speak by Buddhist Ven Dr Tham from UNAA(NSW) Committee and he shared his good wishes with our future plans and some of the progress of the work he has been involved with to do with women, peace, and sustainability.



Prof Chris Hamer

**Thanks to Speakers**

**Mina Batra AM** is responsible for UNAANSW Interfaith Portfolio and she thanked the speakers while Valerie Weekes presented bouquets of flowers or boxes of chocolates. The lovely roses in the vase were presented to Affie because she organised the UNIWDAY and because it takes place on her birthday.



**36 present, Waratah Room can seat 40**



**Roses for Affie**  
(flowers or chocs for all speakers)



# The Inaugural UNAA Lifework Awards

The UNAA United Nations Peace Program was pleased to honour South Cares and Mr Roger Metry with the Inaugural UNAA Lifework Awards in the Community and Individual Categories at a very uplifting Gala Dinner on 21st March.

Mr Kel Gleeson, President UNAA(NSW) was the Master of Ceremonies and the awards were presented by Mr Michael Miller RFD Official Secretary on behalf of the Governor of NSW.

In his address, Mr Miller congratulated the UNAA for establishing the Lifework Awards which are designed to reward ordinary citizens and community groups who do extra-ordinary



Mr Indy Singh, Head of Vision Beyond Aus auctions a Rabbitohs jumper signed by all team members which is modelled by Mr Carlos Barroeta, an avid Souths fan.



From left, Nathan and Roger Metry (with the individual award), Mr Michael Miller, Official Secretary, NSW Governor, Mr Christopher Woodthorpe, Director UN Information Centre and Mr Nick Pappas, Chairman of the "Rabbitohs" Board, with the 'South Cares' award,)

things for the communities in which they live and work. He noted that it was fitting that the Awards be presented on the UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which was proclaimed in 1966 and observed "Both Mr Metry in his iconic Redfern Shoe Repairs shop and South Cares, in its education, training employment and health programs for young Indigenous people are highly engaged in [their communities]". Full details are available on the 'past events' page of the website: <http://www.dayofpeaceaustralia.com>

The auctioning of the Rabbitohs' jumper by Indy Singh was a lot of fun and together with a raffle and a silent auction helped to make the

event a great financial success for the UNAA United Nations Peace Program.

The UNAA Peace Program wishes to acknowledge the generous support of the NSW Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Rotary Club of Sydney as well as the staff of the Union, University and Schools Club.



Dr Zeny Edwards, Director UNAA UN Peace Program (L) receiving a generous donation from Mrs Richards, President Rotary Club of Sydney.

*In partnership with the Ku-ring-gai Council the UNAA UN Peace Program celebrated the International Day of Forests and the Tree on 21st March. There will be a full report in the next News&Notes.*

## Capacity Building Through Collaborative Partnerships

### The 'Learning Journey' of the United Nations Association of Australia – NSW Community Project: Part 2

**Seminar Paper Brief by LINDSAY MELL for the International Association of Volunteer Effort (IAVE) 23<sup>rd</sup> World Volunteer Conference, 17-20 September 2014 Capacity Building Through Collaboration**



Part 1 of this series appeared in Vol 26 of News&Notes

Those within the volunteering sector can readily appreciate how the qualities of **Affinity** ☒ **Affection** [hence Intimacy] ☒ **Affiliation** ☒ **Appreciation** (see Part 1) are relevant to the challenges of the real world we all encounter as 'Learning Journey' participants.

Such an insight was acutely expressed by the legendary conflict resolution theorist, **John Paul Lederach**:

'We must envision our work as a creative act, more akin to the artistic endeavour than the technical process. This never negates skill and technique. But it does suggest that the wellspring ... lies in our moral imagination, which I will define as the capacity to imagine something rooted in the challenges of the real world yet capable of giving birth to that which does not yet exist'. The vibrant element of **moral imagination** conveys a profound concept.

Correspondingly, pioneer psychoanalyst/theorist, **Carl Jung**, advanced a concept he called '**active imagination**':

'... when you concentrate on a mental picture, it begins to stir, the image becomes enriched by details, it moves and develops. Each time naturally you mistrust it and have the idea you just made it up ... But you have to overcome th[is, as] it is not true'.

Ultimately, awareness and realisation cannot remain fixed in imagination if they are to resonate throughout our everyday experience, and be thoroughly appreciated and contribute to the 'Learning Journey'.

So we are thus back with the original thesis of **George Santayana**, who encouraged each one of us to intrepidly explore our destiny, personally and collectively:

The perennial facets of Affinity ☒ Affection ☒ Affiliation ☒ Appreciation are the primary elements of the continuous **Deep Friendship tribute studies** which inform much of our Community Project research. We can attest to a genuine realisation of '**equity**' through the experiential process of this work.

Equity can be construed as a shorter version of '**equanimity**'. Consequently, we of the UNAA (NSW) Community Project group many years ago dubbed our quest '**Equanimity Mate !**' This is the home tag line of our **forthcoming website**, announced here today [19 September 2014].

In fond celebration of the modest greatness of George Santayana, we are also today [19/9/2014] launching a '**Santayana Society**' Dialogue Initiative.

Santayana reflected that the lessons of history, taught that our lives are inevitably situated in the **aesthetic dimension of experience**, and would otherwise be impoverished in sustenance, coherence and continuity. 'The dependence of the degrees of beauty upon our nature is perceived, while the dependence of its essence upon our nature is still ignored,' he declared. Santayana maintained the personal dimension mattered in the most 'essential' sense.

'While we think we can change the drama of history, and of our own lives, we are not awed by our destiny', he declared.

#### **Primary Reference:**

Santayana, George 1896: *The Sense of Beauty – Being the outline of aesthetic theory*, Dover Publications, New York, USA. 1955 Edition