



United Nations Association of Australia NSW Inc.

Patron: His Excellency the Governor of NSW

UN Day 2105

The celebration of the founding of UN Day is one of the highlights of the Association's calendar. In accordance with our traditions we will be marking the day with a wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph and a luncheon at Parliament House.

Both events will be held on Friday 23 October and will mark the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the UN.

Cenotaph Ceremony

TIME: 10:30 to 12 noon, Friday 23rd October

PLACE: Cenotaph, Martin Place

The Distinguished Guest will be Major General (ret'd) Tim Ford AO, Chair Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project. His outstanding 40 year career included Head of the UN Truce Supervising Organisation in the Middle East. The colourful ceremony will include the Cenotaph Oration, a Catafalque party, the *Song of all Nations* by Magna Neeld and the laying of the wreaths honouring Australian Peacekeepers.

UN Day Luncheon

TIME: 12:15 for 12:45 pm following the Cenotaph Ceremony.

PLACE: Parliament House, Macquarie St

The Guest of Honour is the distinguished jurist Justice Elizabeth Evatt AC. She will be accepting a Life Membership of the UNAA(NSW) for her lifelong advocacy for the rights of all peoples.

The Special Guest is Ms Annmaree O'Keefe, Chair of the National Committee for UNESCO which is celebrating its 70th Anniversary.

The booking details are on page 4.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held in the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts on Saturday 1st August 2015.

The speaker was Dr Adam Kamradt-Scott, Senior Lecturer at the Centre for International Security Studies, Sydney University who had recently returned from Africa and Geneva and spoke on *The International Response to the 2014 Ebola Outbreak*.



Dr Adam Kamradt-Scott

The Ebola virus was first detected in 1976 near the Ebola River. Ironically, the rapid spread of the virus was due in part to people's compassion for the sick and the dying.

Such was the urgency that MSF (Medicines sans Frontiers) president Joanne Liu called for the deployment of military as well as civil response teams. The blurred line between military and humanitarian response was recognised.

In September 2014, The UN Security Council declared Ebola a global security threat and established the Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER). Readers are referred to Adam's book: *Managing Global Health Security: the World Health Organisation and Disease Outbreak*.

Congratulations are due to Mr Kel Gleeson who was re-elected President and to the Committee who are listed on page 2.

The Returning Officer Cameron Ritchard and Valerie Weekes who organised the event deserve special thanks.

2015 Committee

President: Mr Kel Gleeson
Vice Presidents: Dr Patricia Jenkins
Mr Alexander Maron
Vice President Emeritus: Kenneth Weekes Esq
Immediate Past President: Mrs Valerie Weekes
Treasurer: Mr Paul Malliate
Secretary: Rev Geoffrey Usher
Committee (alphabetical):
Dr Peter Airey
Miss Martina Bowen
(Hunter Branch)
Ms Amber Ferguson
Dr Daryl Le Cornu
Ms Carmen Leung
Mr Geoffrey Little JP
Mrs Audrey McDonald
(Central Coast Branch)
Ms Judy MacGregor
Mr Lindsay Mell
Dr Peter Nadin
Mr Hugo Rojas
Mrs Dianne Sackelariou OAM
Mr Franklin Scarf
(Blue Mountains Branch)
Ms Antoinette Smith
Ven Dr Thich Minh Tam
Public Officer: Valerie Weekes
Auditor 2014-15 Accounts: Trood Pratt Audit
and Assurance Services;
D A Trood, Partner

Financial Members

Copies of the Annual Report including the audited financial statements are available through the Secretary UNAA(NSW) at nsw@unaa.org.au The documents will be published on the website.

UN Int. Year of Light

2015 was designated the International Year of Light and Light Based Technologies (IYL) by the General Assembly. Readers are particularly referred to <http://www.light2015.org/Home.html>

Without the light from the sun, there would be no life on earth. The year 2015 marks the 1000th anniversary of the appearance of a seven volume treatise (Kitab al Manazir) by the Arab scientist Ibn al-Haytham regarded by many scholars as the father of modern optics. <http://www.ibnalhaytham.com>



In the 17th century, Sir Isaac Newton demonstrated that sunlight should be split into its spectral colours (colours of the rainbow) and laid the basis for many scientific advances. Through the work of James Clerk-Maxwell in the 19th century, we know that light is a high frequency form of electro magnetic radiation.

Precise measurements by Michelson and Morley in 1887 had demonstrated that light was not transmitted in an ether but that its velocity was an absolute constant of nature. This insight was fundamental to Einstein's Relativity Theory. In 1901, Max Planck concluded from careful studies of glowing furnaces at different temperatures that the light from black bodies was emitted, not as a continuum but in discreet energy levels or quanta. Relativity theory and quantum theory together underpinned the *new physics* which has changed the world forever.

The applications of light are everywhere. Illumination accounts for almost 20% of global electricity usage. Photonics underpins technologies from smart phones to laptops to the internet and medical instruments. The 21st century may depend as much on photonics as the 20th century depended on electronics.

Sydney is marking the IYL with an exhibition of *Winning Sky Photographs* at the Sydney Observatory. www.sydneyobservatory.com.au

Peter Airey

World Development

WFUNA & UNDP FORMS HISTORIC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP -IMPACTING ON AUSTRALIA

Dr Patricia Jenkins
Vice President UNAA(NSW)

The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) is the global nonprofit organisation representing and coordinating its membership of over 100 national UN Associations including in Australia. Last July, WFUNA formed a unique strategic partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The aim is to more vigorously develop their contribution to the post 2015 post development agenda achievements and promote the outcomes of their respective development efforts.



Helen Clark UNDP and Bonian Golmohammadi WFUNA sign the strategic partnership

Bonian Golmohammadi Secretary - General of WFUNA and Helen Clark Administrator of the UNDP were both present at the signing of this innovative partnership, which represents a reinvigoration of civil society's involvement in UN-related conversations and the UNDP's projects.

"Our two organisations have a long standing history of working in collaboration with one another at a local level, therefore it is natural that we expand our efforts to make an impact in the global arena," Mr Golmohammadi said. "Civil society's role within the United Nations is an ever growing one, thus WFUNA looks forward to weaving the voice of WFUNA's constituents into the UNDP's innovative development solutions."

This initiative is most important for Australia as the partnership is a unique opportunity for us to more readily have input into UN global development.

From the President

Dear friends

Let me take this opportunity to welcome the new Executive Committee. Many challenges lay ahead of us but I know that they will meet the task. On behalf of the Committee, may I bring two matters



to your attention. *Firstly*, we are embarking on a Volunteer & New Member Briefing night in which we explain who and what the UN and the UNAA are. It will also include the 2016 activities and which particular projects they could assist us with. It's a chance for all us to share in the appreciation of the UN values and vision. You are all most cordially invited. Details will be announced shortly. *Secondly*, remember that our most important day is coming. On the 23 October 2015 we will commemorate UN Day at the Martin Plaza Cenotaph and conclude the day with lunch at the State Parliament House. It's a wonderful day and I encourage you all to attend.

Kel Gleeson
President

UNAA National Conference

SHAPING THE FUTURE

Dr Patricia Jenkins
Vice President UNAA(NSW)

The Conference was hosted by the ACT Division at ANU University House from 20th to 22nd August 2015 under the expert guidance of Mr Brian Gleeson. It looked at the history of the UN achievements and imagined its future. The perspectives considered were those currently high on the UN Agenda including international



peace and security, sustainable development and human rights and justice.

Undoubtedly, it was well worth attending this Conference with other NSW Members and mixing with many like-minded folk where a wealth of knowledge was shared by the impressive speakers and soaked up by the many dedicated delegates.

A few of the many highlights included the "Academic Network 2015 Practice and Theory" Roundtable led by Dr Peter Nadin from NSW, where we discussed how to make the UN a more productive institution with Brian Gleeson Conference Convenor providing some valuable input. Another Roundtable 'Status of Women' focused on the Convention of the Rights of the Child and the role it plays in shaping policy in relation to children of Australia.

Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC shared some of his many UN experiences and discussed UN challenges. H.E. Ma Zhaoxu Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Australia made a rare public appearance and spoke of his country's support of UN principles.

Gary Quinlan, former Permanent Representative of Australia to the UN and President of the UN Security Council warmly reflected upon his time with the Organisation. Sir James McLay KNZM QSO spoke of the

opportunities offered by multilateral diplomacy to small countries like New Zealand.

Australian former Foreign Minister Professor the Hon Bob Carr told delegates that to be a good global citizen, there are several critical issues that Australia must address such as we must continue to explore the abolition of nuclear weapons. Associate Professor Susan Harris-Rimmer spoke about Women in Peace and Security.

At a session on Human Rights and Justice, Assistant Secretary and Head of the International Organisations Branch at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Michael Bliss spoke about Humanitarian Law and the challenges it is facing in the international system.

Christopher Woodthorpe, Director of the UN Information Centre in Canberra outlined the process leading to the adoption of the most important Sustainable Development Goals in the UN General Assembly in September next. Natasha Smith, First Assistant Secretary DFAT shared the Australian Government's perspective on the post 2015 development agenda.

The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia the Hon Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) and Lady Cosgrove kindly hosted a Reception at Government House for delegates. Their hospitality and the warm atmosphere was enjoyed by all.

UN Day Luncheon: Booking (Please refer to page 1 for details.)

TIME: 12:15 for 12:45 Friday 23rd October (following the Cenotaph Ceremony)

PLACE: Strangers Dining Room, Parliament House, Macquarie St Sydney

COST: \$95 per person (\$85 per person for students and accompanying teachers).
Costs include all food and beverage.

RSVP: Monday 19th October

PAYMENT: Trybooking: www.trybooking.com/156501

Direct Bank Transfer: Account name: United Nations Assoc Aust (NSW)

Bank: Commonwealth: Branch 48 Martin Place Sydney 2000

BSB: 062 734 Account number: 2812 2520 (please indicate your name)

Credit card: Please email or post the following details (Visa or MasterCard only please):
Card number; Card expiry date; Name on card; Amount (\$)

Cheque: Please make cheques payable to the UNAA(NSW)

Kindly indicate the name of guests for the name tag.

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