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**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA) INCORPORATED**

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## **UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.**

**Patron His Excellency Dr Ken Michael, AC  
Governor of Western Australia**

### **ANNUAL REPORT WESTERN AUSTRALIA 2006/7**

**Presented at the Annual General Meeting 6 August 2007.**



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA) INC.**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2006/7**

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## **UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA WA INC.**

### **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2006/2007**

#### **OFFICE BEARERS**

<i><b>National Vice President &amp; President WA</b></i>	Dr Jan Ryan
<i><b>Vice President</b></i>	Joseph Caruso
<i><b>Vice President (Organisations)</b></i>	Ross Broad (UNYA)
<i><b>Honorary Treasurer</b></i>	Caroline Pembroke
<i><b>Hon. Secretary</b></i>	Lisa Hook from Aug 06 to Dec 06. Caroline Pembroke March 07-Aug 07

#### **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

Astrid Chapman  
Neesha Seth  
Caroline Pembroke (to March 07)  
Carolyne Gatward  
Joan Mann  
Curtis Clark

#### **ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERS**

Australian Red Cross: Harpal Ahluwalia (until Nov 2007)  
Land Without Limits: Henk Stappenbelt  
Soroptimist Janette Brown  
Australian Federation of University Women (WA): Dr Lorraine Mclean

## United Nations Association of Australia (Western Australia) Organisational Report 2006-07

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the Annual General Meeting in 2006 we were fortunate to have Dr Nancy Hudson-Rodd as our guest speaker. Nancy has been actively involved in raising global attention to the human rights violations in Burma. She spoke passionately about the poverty and powerlessness of the people of Burma and the continued home detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

A management planning day was held in January 2007 to identify the major focus for the year and the proposed activities for the human rights and environment committees. Our aim was to be as effective as possible within our limited personnel and resources. We aspired to offer workshops, continue our lunchtime speakers and public lectures and broad environment initiatives. We proposed to build on our strengths by combining the traditionally known and successful events such as the Human Rights Day Huelin Lecture, with new initiatives that might stimulate discussion and engagement.

A review of our management and office structure led to significant changes including the appointment of an office manager and a reduction in office opening days in response to the reduced numbers of volunteers. Neesha Seth produced a document detailing the specific roles of the management team to ensure seamless transition when new volunteers adopted these roles.

In response to our restrictive and limiting resources we initiated a small fund raising committee with three young executive members Neesha Seth, Carlyne Gatward and Joanne Armstrong, the latter also taking responsibility for our publication *UN Matters*. The first of their events was a film afternoon featuring *Amazing Grace* on 29 July. This film was an excellent choice as it drew attention to two specific issues. The first was the profit, persecution and inhumanity of the slave trade. The second was that despite all odds, you can make a difference. At these times when one can get a sense of powerlessness it is rather heartening to hear these words. It is also a relevant and timely message that the slave trade, under different guises, still exists today. The profiteering, exploitation and inhumanity of the trafficking of men, women and children remains largely ignored by our governments.

I attend and am actively engaged in a large variety of activities including workshops and I listen to speakers on a spread of human rights issues. I would like to briefly comment on three of these. The first is a Civil Society Dialogue that is bringing together over thirty community, church and union organisations in Western Australia to consider the issues that are impacting on us today. We engage and learn from each other, interact, and look for ways that we might combine to be more effective. The second is our participation in an assessment of the national government by our national body (UNAA). This research has resulted in a publication *Australia and the United Nations: a Report Card* and was launched at Parliament House by Richard Woolcott. I was privileged to be invited to write a chapter on the global movement of people, in particular briefly assessing the governments 2006 performance on issues such as immigration, refugees and asylum

seekers, detention centres and the temporary migrant workers within the context of United Nations conventions and treaties. So much to write about, such a small word limit! There will continue to be an annual report card published and presented to parliament. The third event for noting is the Model UN programs that have now been positioned into WA's university student's activities. This years UN workshop (detailed below) is to be held at Curtin University in conjunction with their Centre for Aboriginal Studies and the Centre for Human Rights Education. We will have close on one hundred Aboriginal University students, from remote and urban areas, participating and debating on issues of women and family health, education, empowerment, and community/national representation. We feel privileged to be working with these young people on this learning experience for all of us.

Thanks must go to the tireless work of Astrid Chapman, Convener of the Human Rights Committee; Caroline Pembroke, Convener of the Environment Committee; the contributions of Curtis Clark, our Office Manager; and our Vice President Joseph Caruso. Ethel Date must be congratulated on her enormous research and work questioning and articulating her concerns on the Mental Health Act. Birthe Warburg continues to write to the government and relevant agencies, questioning human rights violations. Joan Mann is a nominee for the Metropolitan Senior of the Year for her community involvement in Human Rights issues. We also thank Robert Hewson who, after actively working for the environment committee, has now taken over as Convener. There are many people on committees and behind the scene that are passionate about human rights and assist in a variety of appreciated ways. We urge many more of our members to join us in trying to make a difference.

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## **Human Rights :**

The members of the Human Rights Committee continue to contribute to Human Rights as both individuals and together, as a group.

We celebrated UN Day in October by hosting, a well attended Lunchtime Forum titled "One person makes a difference: A West Australian woman and her journey with the United Nations". Judith Parker, the President of the National Council of Women of Western Australia and Vice President of the International Council of Women spoke of her extensive experience in engaging with the United Nations. Judith spoke about women in poverty, the Five-O group of women's organisations in partnership to address human rights issues for women and the UN Millennium Goals.

We again hosted the Huelin Lecture for Human Rights Day, a lecture series that has continued for over twenty years and has attracted outstanding speakers. This year the lecture "Access to Justice – A Human Right in Principle, Policy and Practice in Western Australia" was delivered by the Hon Wayne Martin, Chief Justice of Western Australia. He spoke on access to justice as a human right, discussing the administration of justice and

practical changes to improve the processes, procedures and administration of the Courts in Western Australia as well as exploring access to justice within a global context.

The members of the Human Rights Committee have been very active in a number of areas. Ethel Date continues to advocate for improvement in the delivery of Government services to, and legal protections for, people with mental health issues. Birthe Warburg has been active in educating Governments and the community about Depleted Uranium and Joan Mann, Curtis Clark and Jan Ryan continue their support for various campaigns and the education of the community about Human Rights and the UN.

### **Tertiary Model UN Conferences**

Model UN Conferences (MUN) provides tertiary students with the opportunity to experience what international relations and diplomacy is really like. Students represent a Member Nation of the United Nations and debate and negotiate with other Member Nations of the General Assembly. MUN's are an authentic simulation of the debates and deliberations of UN bodies such as the General Assembly and allows University students the rare opportunity to attempt to resolve complex global issues diplomatically through role-play.

In 2006 the United Nations Association of Australia (WA) with the United Nations Youth Association and the Australian Federation for University Women organised two Model UN Conferences for WA tertiary students. The MUN were day-long conference and students from all five universities participated in this exciting new program. Two Conferences were held one on 'Nuclear Proliferation' and the second on 'Terrorism'. Meetings commenced in December 2006 for the third MUN to be held at Curtin University. This Model UN is expected to bring one hundred Aboriginal university students from regional areas as well as urban students. They will be debating proposed amendments to the global Indigenous peoples covenant.

Acknowledgements must be made to the Australian Federation for University Women (WA), who contribute funding for the events and also participate in a meaningful way. Members of UNYA continue to work with us on this event and Tim Goyder and Nicole Hentrich have been actively engaged in the management of the program.

Astrid Chapman has resigned as Convenor of the Human Rights Committee, a position she has held for 3 years. In writing this report she comments: 'I have really enjoyed getting to know the members of the Committee as well as other UNAA members, the discussions we have had about human rights and other social justice issues and the joys and tribulations of organising community events. Thank you for this opportunity'.

The President, Executive and the UNAA(WA) community extends their appreciation to Astrid who has been an extremely active Convenor of the HRC and an outstanding advocate for human rights in Western Australia.

Thanks also go to the Human Rights Committee for their enormous contribution in their role in human rights education, identifying social injustices and actively engaging in advocating strategies for change.

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## **Environment Committee :**

The Environment Committee has continued to fulfil its role of working to inform the public about a variety of UNEP issues.

In September, 2006 we sponsored an Environmental Section for the 2006 City of Subiaco Photographic awards, attracting some very impressive entries. The winners were Helen Potter and Shaun Ridley. Our thanks to Emily Holt at the City of Subiaco for support and liaison.

Caroline Pembroke spoke to a meeting of Engineers Australia on the many roles which the UN and its agencies play in the provision of fresh water and sewerage to developing countries, October, 2006.

Also in 2006 we held a successful bonfire and fundraising event at the home of Henk Stappenbelt and Caroline Pembroke in Gidgegannup and which raised \$333. This was a family and community event.

Over the past year, our wildlife advocate and committee member, Aleisha-Marie Caruso, represented us at Ningaloo Reef conservation area. In this area there has been a great deal of concern about the depleting whale shark numbers and their condition. Aleisha-Marie continue to raise global awareness to the plight of the panda's in China and she is currently visiting South America to film the release of some Andean bears in Ecuador, bringing us a truly international role.

In March 2007, the Environment Committee hosted an evening on Carbon Trading/ Credits issues and what this means for the general public. Three speakers from research and Western Australian Government organisations spoke on various topics, ranging from the economics of carbon trading to the associated technical issues of the sequestration of carbon within soils and forestry. Joseph Caruso, member of the Environment sub committee, also spoke at the Carbon Trading Seminar on the wider associated issues, including the involvement of the UN and its response to climate change.

The original plan for tree planting on World Environment Day, June 5th 2007, was postponed as the weather was far too dry. However, thanks to Joanne Armstrong, editor of *UN Matters*, we were able to make a contribution of 2 decorated umbrellas to the Perth City Farm Day of Hope, held in honour of WED.

On July 8th 2007 our planting day was held, involving the Environment Committee and friends in the planting of 1000 wetland suitable shrubs and rushes within the Noble Falls Reserve, Gidgegannup, on the northeast outskirts of Perth. Tree/plant stakes and guards were gratefully supplied by the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council of Perth. Bob Huston Chairman of the Wooroloo Brook LCDC joined the team on the day, and spoke to us frankly about the environmental movement and sustainable development in WA. Bob described that such replanting is truly building for the future, at least for 100-150 years hence. However, he also mentioned that there was a need for a

major shift in political will and development planning in order to make the Perth environs sustainable for water consumption within its rapidly expanding urban fringes.

Robyn Danksi has resigned from the Committee, due to moving to Ballarat, Victoria. Dr Surrender Mann from the Carbon Research Council joined our Environment Committee. It is anticipated Dr Mann will give us invaluable support in our future projects, especially regarding the issues related to carbon trading, climate change and alternative energy sources.

Rob Hewson has become the new Environmental Convenor in August 2007 whilst Caroline Pembroke will continue as Secretary, with fundraising promoted and organised by Carolyn Caruso. Aleisha will continue as Wild life Advocate.

Plans for the year ahead within 2007-2008 period include a fundraiser evening event, and also a series of informational public lectures from notable speakers on a range of issues related with greenhouse gas associated climate change, targeting the lay public. In particular, issues to be covered will include and address the relationship between carbon - energy consumption and its costs for everyday activities (e.g. travel, household consumption) and possible alternate energy sources for WA.

To our other wonderful Committee members, Bernie and Leslie Keen, Manita Bescow, Joseph Caruso and Surrender Mann, many thanks for your great support, without which we would never manage to keep head above water.

This report was compiled by Caroline Pembroke and Rob Hewson and our appreciation to the committee for both their hands on community activities and their high profile events to raise awareness to environmental issues.



# United Nations Youth Association (Western Australia) Organisational Report 2006-07

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## Introduction

The United Nations Youth Association (Western Australia) enjoyed a very strong year in 2006-07. Spurred by increased active membership, a talented core of executive workers, and a dramatic improvement in financial and resource management, the association was able to deliver its major events in an emphatic fashion, whilst also finding the time for many other side projects throughout the last twelve months.

State Conference and the Hammarskjöld Trophy Competition remain UNYA (WA)'s two major events, and they were certainly run to a very high standard in 2007. State Conference broke new ground in terms of attendance, schools reached, and general organisational standards, whilst Hammarskjöld continues to attract the support of a diverse range of Western Australian schools and provides a great showcase of the work of UNYA to the wider community. Aside from these two key events, our Year 10 Day Forums have become a very popular platform of our secondary education program, with schools having to be turned away due to demand for places. The above promising developments indicate a division in a great position to grow in the coming years, and cement a position as a key educational provider in the state of Western Australia.

Firstly, note the executive structure for UNYA (WA) for 2006-07 was as follows:

<i>President</i>	Ross Broad
<i>Vice Presidents</i>	Tim Goyder (Hammarskjöld) Bronte McLeod (State Conference)
<i>Secretary</i>	Heather Anderson
<i>Treasurer</i>	Wadzi Katsidzira
<i>Policy Officer</i>	Amy Collins
<i>Public Relations Officer</i>	Nicole Kirchlechner
<i>Secondary Activities Officer</i>	Rosie Sitorus
<i>Social Activities Officer</i>	Nicole Hentrich
<i>Sponsorship Officer</i>	Tom van der Meulen
<i>Tertiary Officer</i>	Justine Garcia de Heer

Co-opted Executive members for 2006-07 were Natalie Garcia de Heer (National Secretary) and Henny Smith (National Treasurer).

This Executive represented a great changing of the guard for UNYA (WA), with many stalwarts of the division over a long period of time departing or moving onto national positions. However, a nice mix of experience and enthusiasm was ultimately put together, and on the whole the executive worked well together, though never in an exclusive fashion. Emphasis was not placed this year on individual portfolio areas, with simpler requirements that all executive members support our key events and provide guidance for other members.

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## State Conference

State Conference 2007 will probably be remembered as one of UNYA (WA)'s best ever. This year saw a dramatic reversal in the steadily declining numbers of participants at the Conference, with a near record breaking number of students attending.

Held from 23-25 February at the Serpentine Camping Centre (approximately 45 minutes south of Perth), approximately 120 students from across the metropolitan area attended the three day, two night live in conference. Sensationally organised by UNYA (WA) Vice President Bronte McLeod, the 2007 Conference saw a record equalling number of attendees achieved, matching the result of the 2001 Conference.

The Conference was officially opened by WA's Minister for Youth, the Hon. Liljanna Ravlich MLC, who showed great enthusiasm both to meet and greet the delegates and also for the work of UNYA in general. The keynote address was delivered by our very own Tim Morris, who then stayed to help out with yet another State Conference. A Speakers Panel on the Conference theme of 'Peacekeeping' then followed, with a variety of speakers from numerous backgrounds.

Delegates participated in an Introduction to the United Nations Workshop (which also focused on the theme of peacekeepers), before participating in a Workshop specific to their Commission or Council. Youth Motion and Resolution Writing were other small group workshops conducted during the Conference, and the reforms to both these processes resulted in much greater efficiency. Youth Motion sessions and all resolutions were written on laptop computers which made it easier for compilation and quick printing. The Youth Motion was compiled by Amy after the Conference and sent to a wide variety of relevant business people, communitarians, and politicians. The responses provided to the Youth Motion were very encouraging, and show that the voice of young people within Western Australia was being at least considered and commented on.

Sunday saw almost 120 nations represented at a model session of the UN General Assembly, and this represented a real challenge for the chairs, CRC, and above all, the notepassers. Positive feedback abounded after the Conference, with many delegates very thankful for the experience and keen to get involved in other UNYA (WA) events, particularly the Hammarskjöld Trophy. Special mention must go to the approximately 30 UNYA (WA) facilitators who gave up their time to facilitate at State Conference 2007.

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### **Hammarskjöld Trophy Competition**

Hammarskjöld in 2007 reflected the overall good standing of UNYA (WA) in the wider Western Australian school community. The event continues to be a fixture on the extra-curricula activities lists of many schools both in Perth and in regional centres. Again, approximately 120 teams participated in the competition, with metropolitan entries slightly down and regional entries slightly up.

Six metropolitan rounds of the Competition were held, at both the Perth City Council Chambers and at the University of Western Australia, with regional rounds held in Geraldton (Queens Park Theatre) and Bunbury (Koombana Bay Holiday Resort). The number of schools participating in the event slightly increased on 2006, with more schools sending less teams each. The regional component of Hammarskjöld continues to feature strongly with rounds in both Geraldton and Bunbury in between the metropolitan rounds.

The Final and Presentation Evening were undoubtedly the highlight of Hammarskjöld 2007 – the Final, held at Parliament House, saw the fifteen finalists able to take in both Chambers of Parliament in a cultural tour which saw debate shifted from the Upper

House to the Lower House over morning tea. Debate was of a consistently high standard, with the judging panel facing a tough decision with many good teams competing for the Evatt positions.

The Presentation Evening, held at the. The keynote speaker was the Hon. Giz Watson MLC (leader of the Greens (WA)), but she was out-trumped by Competition Convenor Tim Goyder who delivered a stirring oration. Efforts were made in 2007 to recognise a greater number of participants in prize giving than in previous years, and these reforms proved successful.

Thanks and praise must go to UNYA(WA) Vice President Tim Goyder, who took on the often thankless and never-ending task of coordinating Hammarskjöld. Stretching over almost three months, eight rounds plus a final, and 25 resolutions, Tim was able to maintain high standards of organisation throughout the event overseeing a team of approximately 30 facilitators who chaired, judged, Subway-ed, and note passed their way through the eight rounds, and their dedications and commitment should also be congratulated.

In conclusion, Hammarskjöld has now become an accepted and appreciated fixture on the extra curricula activities programs of many WA schools. Whilst it remains an organisational nightmare due to its size, complexities, and regional and metro dimensions, it is a credit to the association that such an event can be so successfully carried out year in, year out.

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## **Day Forums**

UNYA (WA) continued its program of Year 10 Day Forums in 2006-07 with great success. Three events were held in all, and all three proved to achieve the aims set out for the particular target demographic. Day Forums have proven to be a great way for the association to reach new schools and students, and also to attract students to the association at an age which will enable them to attend further UNYA events (such as State Conference and Hammarskjöld) in their later years. Further, Day Forums are relatively easy to organise, particularly with the ongoing support UNYA (WA) enjoys from the University of Western Australia and other in-kind supporters. And finally, Day Forums remain a sound source of income for the association, whilst remaining an event of great value for students and schools within the Western Australian community.

### *Wheatbelt Day Forum*

Held in September 2006, UNYA (WA)'s first activity for the year was to head to the Wheatbelt region of our great state for a Day Forum. The event, held at Northam SHS, attracted students from Bruce Rock, Toodyay, and Northam with approximately 40 students attending in total. Speakers travelled from Perth for the day, and a Youth Motion session was held to gauge the issues of interest to young people in the Wheatbelt region. Ably organised by UNYA (WA) Vice President Tim Goyder and Alex Butterworth, the event proved a great way to reach new students in an area UNYA (WA) has not previously engaged in, and also set forth a great model on which to plan future regional engagements.

### *Make Poverty History Day Forum*

Held on Friday 27 October at the University of Western Australia, 109 students from 16 Perth metropolitan schools converged for a day of speakers, presentations and workshops. As part of the national series of forums to coincide with the MPH Policy Campaign, UNYA (WA) was supplied with a set itinerary for the day, as well as the

workshops and suggestions for speakers and other presentations. The UNYA (WA) forum was marketed exclusively for Year 10 students, with students from around the metropolitan area converging on the University of Western Australia for a day of speakers, presentations and workshops.

The day commenced with a four-member Speakers Panel (featuring representatives from Oaktree, Amnesty, Hope for Children, and an Anthropology Honours Student), before National Secretary Natalie Garcia de Heer delivered the UNYA presentation on the Millennium Development Goals. The day finished with two workshops, on the issue of poverty and the MDG's respectively.

#### *Environment Day Forum*

The Environment Day Forum was the most recent in our highly successful series of Day Forums, being held in May 2007. For the first time entrants were turned away from the forum, as 120 student registrations were lodged very early in the registration process. No promotion of the event took place outside the initial mail out and email out, which shows the increasing popularity and recognition of these day forums within the WA school community.

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## **Education**

Education in UNYA (WA) has been somewhat spasmodic in 2006-07, but in no part is that attributable to the sterling efforts of our Secondary Activities Officer Rosie Sitorus. Rosie certainly led the charge on promoting and disseminating the National Ed Pack within the division, conducting two separate mail-outs to register trial schools for the Pack. Numerous faithful UNYA schools have already shown much interest in the Ed Pack, which is certainly promising.

UNYA (WA) has continued to run occasional educational workshops and packages at Western Australian schools on request. At least 4 schools have been visited by UNYA (WA) representatives during the year, but unfortunately with other expanding major events the educational program again was not increased greatly. UNYA (WA) continues to conduct annual educational programs at two schools, and should seek to increase this number in the next year.

The Resources section of the UNYA (WA) website is another key plank in our educational program, hoping to provide teachers and students with a great starting point for assignments, studies, and also when participating in UNYA events. Hopefully when promoting the educational package next year UNYA (WA) will include information about our resources page to increase its use and reputation.

UNYA (WA) has been also busy performing a myriad of other duties, roles and engagements. The organisation has been regularly called upon to visit schools or participate in certain programs, and every opportunity has been taken to get involved in such activities in order to lift the profile of the association and gather support for our major activities. To name but two activities, our Vice President Bronte McLeod was invited by a local school to appear on their radio show to discuss youth and international issues. Further, Vice President Tim Goyder and Secondary Activities Officer Rosie Sitorus attended a youth-focused assembly at a different Perth school to discuss youth involvement within the community and empowerment issues.

Hopefully, an increase in active members will allow UNYA (WA) to embark on a more expansive educational program in the coming years. Ideally, the Secondary Activities Officer could conduct a separate mail-out to schools advertising our services, and would then serve as a point of reference for all educational packages. Ed packs remain a great way to inform students about other UNYA (WA) activities, and thus their expansion would deliver great flow-on benefits our major events.

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## **Regional Engagement**

Regional engagement remained a priority of the association in 2006-07, with some substantive gains made. The key initiative would have to be the Wheatbelt Day Forum (discussed above), which saw the division reach an entirely new area and clear the path for potential future engagement. Hammarskjöld rounds were again held in Bunbury and Geraldton, with positive outcomes from both events, both from a standard and organisational point of view. Hopefully with the next round of FACSIA assistance UNYA (WA) can embark on some great new regional initiatives. Whilst regional engagement within Western Australia ultimately remains very difficult due to distance, population sizes, and youth demographics, it is certainly the view of the association that more can be done in this area.

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## **Evatt Trophy**

UNYA (WA) was able to continue its proud undefeated record at the Evatt Trophy (Australian Schools Model UN Security Council Competition) in 2006. Held in Melbourne, UNYA (WA) was represented by Laura White and Jo-Ann Chan from Methodist Ladies College, and Justin Wong and Harry Midalia from Shenton College. Ably facilitated by Vice-President Bronte McLeod, both teams performed exceptionally well, with Justin and Harry eventually taking out the Trophy. This success saw Shenton College become the first Australian school to win the Evatt Trophy twice, a record that they should be very proud of. In 2007, the Evatt Trophy will be held in Adelaide

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## **UNYA National Youth Conference (UNYC)**

UNYA (WA) continued in 2006-07 to send a strong delegation to UNYA's centrepiece national event, the UNYA National Youth Conference. It has been a credit to the 2006 UNYC delegation that they have become so heavily involved in the association, with 9 out of the 10 participants continuing to have an active interest in the division. Thanks must go to divisional facilitators Tori Macmillan, Natalie Garcia de Heer, and Tim Goyder for this amazing outcome. In 2007, UNYA (WA) selected a further ten individuals from the highly successful State Conference to represent our state at UNYC

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## **National Engagement**

UNYA (WA) continues to be heavily engaged in UNYA's work nationally, being represented by divisional members on the National Executive, and also sending large delegations to each National Council session. In December 2006, UNYA (WA) was represented ably by both our Vice Presidents, as well as Tertiary Activities Officer Justine Garcia de Heer. Further, in July 2007, the President, both Vice-Presidents, Secondary Activities Officer Rosie Sitorus and Tom Antoniazzi made up a star studded WA National Council delegation.

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## **Youth Rep**

UNYA (WA) pulled off its best-ever Youth Representative publicity effort in 2006-07. Applications increased 3100% on the previous year, with 31 Western Australians applying for the position in total. This hard work was further reflected in the shortlisting of three quality candidates from WA for the 2007 Youth Representative position, who were then interviewed by President Ross Broad, Vice-President Tim Goyder, and National Secretary Natalie Garcia de Heer . UNYA (WA) was eventually able to recommend all three WA candidates for the position.

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## **UNAA Relations**

UNYA (WA) relations with UNAA (WA) remain very strong. In 2006-07, UNYA (WA) served as the Organisational Vice President of UNAA (WA), and has been asked to continue in this position for 2007-08. The Divisional President attended almost all UNAA (WA) meetings, and played an active part in the direction and goals of the parent association.

The WATMUN initiative is certainly the key aspect of our UNAA relations, and whilst this project has been on hold for the entirety of the 2006-07 term this is due strictly to structural reasons and the association looks forward to a return to WATMUN in Semester Two, 2007.

UNYA (WA) should certainly remain actively involved in the executive structure of UNAA (WA) in the future, with the President continuing to take the lead in fostering this relationship. UNAA (WA) provides a key meeting venue to UNYA (WA), as well as other important organisational aspects such as incorporation status, and public liability insurance

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## **Website**

One of the key reforms embarked upon by UNYA (WA) in 2006-07 was a much needed revamp of our website. This was mostly completed to great acclaim in late 2006, thanks to the patience and skills of our amazing National Webmaster, Alexander Toop. We believe the new website is an integral part of informing both students and teachers of our events and activities, and the new layout and graphics is both easy to use yet professional.

Online registration has been used for all our major events, including State Conference registration, Hammar skjöld registration, and Day Forum registrations. The jewel in the crown of the new UNYA (WA) website would have to be the resources section, which we hope will prove an invaluable study aid for all secondary Western Australian students.

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## **UNYA Conclusions**

2006-07 has represented one of the most successful years UNYA (WA) has enjoyed in recent times. The association, in addition to delivering events of continued excellence and professionalism, is now armed with a plethora of committed members now experienced enough to take the division to the next level. However, the association must continue to provide greater support for its members, who in turn can then contribute freely to the ongoing success of UNYA (WA).

State Conference and Hammarskjöld, together with three sensational Day Forums, saw UNYA (WA) enhance its reputation as a key deliverer of educational services to the youth of Western Australia. This reputation has certainly grown in stature during 2006-07, as shown through the reaction of community leaders to our events (particularly politicians), greatly increased sponsorship, and the general increasing (to almost capacity) of delegates at all major events. Particularly, the fact that the most recent Environment Day Forum was able to attract over 120 participants.

The skills and talents of the individual members of the United Nations Youth Association of Western Australia are certainly responsible for the above success, and surely no luckier organisation could possibly boast the combined abilities of the UNYA (WA) membership. UNYA(WA) now remains well placed to expand on its core events, and to look to new initiatives and activities to take the association to the next level. The coming years look to be exciting times for the organisation, and as an opportunity to cement a place within WA as a peak youth body.

UNYA (WA) remains the peak division within UNYA, but must continue to strive to improve upon its key events whilst also seeking new initiatives through which to promote the work of the United Nations and knowledge of international affairs to the entirety of young people within our boom state. The association's ongoing viability has never been more secure than at present, with a great range of continuing committed members set to drive the division for a number of future years.