



**PAN PACIFIC AND SOUTH EAST
ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED**

**PPSEAWA is an international women's association
devoted to peace and understanding
in the Asia Pacific Region**

**Volume 14 No 1
September 2010**



2010

**International Year of Biodiversity and for the
Rapprochement of Cultures**

**International Decade for Action 'Water for Life'
2005-2015**

International Day of Older Persons Oct 1

**International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
Oct 13**

United Nations Day Oct 24

International Day for Tolerance Nov 16

**International Day for the Elimination of Violence
Against Women Nov 25**

Editor

Leigh Harley
dlharley@ozemail.com.au
(03) 5750 1941

For further information contact:
PPSEAWA National Office
PO Box 572, Beecroft. NSW 2119
Tel. +61 2 9980 9420
Website: www.ppseawa.org.au
Email: ppseawa@iimetro.com.au

QuickPrint™ and a
Photos-PDF decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

C O N T E N T S

President's Message	Jannette Smith	3
Australian Report for MDG3 Workshop	Coral Fleming	4
Words for Peace	Mary Cabrera	5
PPSEAWA ACT Report	Pam Rhemrev	6
Photographs of AGM,		7
Photographs of International Conference		8
Unity in Diversity, <i>extract of report to PPSEAWA International Conference</i>	Luisa Latukefu	9
NSW Group News	Margaret Groenewegen	11
Girl Guides Centenary Report	Vivienne Stone	12
UN Officer's Report	Pam Rhemrev	15
Civil Society call to Action	GEAR	15
Val Nicholas – In Memoriam	Phoebe Bischoff	16

Australian Committee for 2010-2012

President:

Jannette Smith PO Box 572, Beecroft. NSW, 2119 ppseawa@iimetro.com.au

1st Vice President:

Luisa Latukefu 12 Caroline Street, Queanbeyan NSW 2620 luisa.latukefu@act.gov.au

2nd Vice President and Minute Secretary:

Mary Minns 23 Torokina Avenue, St Ives. NSW, 2075 mminns@bigpond.net.au

Secretary:

Jennifer Bennett 17 Cultowa Road, Pymble NSW 2073 hughandjennifer@hotmail.com

Treasurer:

Heather Sulerzyski 62 Barrie Street, Killara, NSW, 2071

Programme Director:

Vivienne Stone 1 Ken Hall Place, Agnes Banks. NSW 2753 vastobe@bigpond.com

UN Officer:

Pam Rhemrev 4 Moogerah Street, Duffy. ACT 2614 rhemrev@pcug.org.au

Immediate Past President:

Coral Fleming 12 Rymill Place, Mawson ACT 2607 coraljf@grapevine.net.au

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my first report to our members as Australian President. I have previously been President of New South Wales and on the National Committee as Program Director, Vice President and acting Secretary. As appointments in PPSEAWA are for 3 years, this is the year for the change-over.

The new National Committee for Australia is: Jannette Smith, President; Coral Fleming, Immediate Past President; Jennifer Bennett, Secretary; Luisa Latukefu, 1st Vice President; Mary Minns, 2nd Vice President, also Minute Secretary; Heather Sulerzyski, Treasurer; Program Director, Vivienne Stone; United Nations Officer, Pam Rhemrev. Margaret Groenwegan has accepted the position of President of New South Wales Group and Jean Bennett has accepted the position in the ACT Group. A special thank-you to Joan Egan and Pam Rhemrev, the retiring Presidents of these groups. I see my role as one of co-ordinating the Groups when attending International Conferences and when it comes to decision making time for Australia as a whole. I would like to thank Coral Fleming and her committee members in the ACT for looking after the National interests of our organisation for the last 3 years. Coral organised our group of 12 members to attend the Bali Conference in May this year. We all had a wonderful experience and you will find a further report on the Conference in this Newsletter. She was also a very active representative for PPSEAWA at the Australian Womens Coalition. A report about the activities of the Womens Coalition is also in this newsletter.

The triennial conference is also change-over time for the International Committee. Teresa Hintzke from the United States of America was elected President, Ravesi Johnston, Fiji, First Vice President, Dr. Praitwi Sudarmono, Indonesia, second Vice President. Secretary is Taina Woodward from USA, and Treasurer is Ulriki Siddiqi, Hawaii. I wish these office bearers success for their coming term.

Special thanks goes to retiring International President, Papalii Dr Viopapa Annandale from Samoa. Vio was International President for 6 years and had some very difficult situations to cope with. It was our pleasure to welcome Vio to the Australian National Committee meeting in May this year. Australia is almost Vio's second home and I hope we see her again soon.

It is with regret that we note the death of Val Nicholas, a past president of PPSEAWA Australia. Val was one of the PPSEAWA delegates to the United Nations Conference in Beijing. Phoebe Bischoff from Canberra City Group has written an In Memoriam tribute in this issue.

The PPSEAWA International Peace Ambassador, Mary Cabrera made many suggestions about how we can support The International Day of Peace, Tuesday, 21st September. Each Group will participate in different activities. New South Wales members will be supporting the Ecumenical Peace Service at St.Davids Uniting Church, Lindfield, when the church bells ring at 12.00 noon, followed by lunch.

We are still collecting fabric and knitted or crocheted squares 30cm x 30cm (finished size) to put together. So far we have nearly enough knitted squares for one rug and enough fabric pieces for one quilt. Please continue your efforts for this project. I am busy completing a crocheted rug which was a ufo (unfinished object) given to us. As we can see from the recent devastating floods in Pakistan, there is always help required somewhere. These quilts will not be ready in time to go to Pakistan, but it is our intention to achieve a small collection to have available when the urgent need arises. Please send your contribution to Mary Cabrera, 5 Boyd St. Turrumurra. 2074 NSW.

The United Nations DPI/NGO Annual Conference being held in Melbourne, 30th August – 2nd September will be attended by 4 PPSEAWA Australia representatives – Pam Rhemrev, our UN officer, Jean Bennett, Kate Morioko and a young woman delegate, Sita Saili, with some sponsorship from PPSEAWA Australia. Australia was asked by the International Committee to assist a young woman to attend this important conference. A report on the conference *Global Health Challenges – achieving The Millennium Development Goals* is included in this Newsletter

The Australian Womens Coalition has continued to be active but is no longer being funded by the Government. There will be changes to this organisation and at the moment we are waiting to see how this affects us.

Our web site www.ppseawa.org.au has been updated. It will have a new look and I encourage members to access it. This is also one way in which members can obtain information about other PPSEAWA countries and how the International Committee is looking after our organisation.

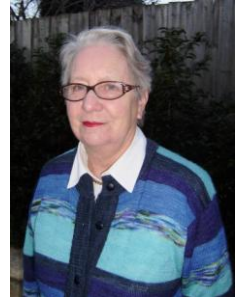
As a money raising effort for the Presidents Fund, I wish to continue the previous initiative of collecting 5c pieces. These small coins mount up and help to cover postage costs. Please support your National Executive by collecting these coins and sending them to the treasurer.

I am writing this report at the end of August. By the time you receive the News letter spring will be here and the cold of winter forgotten. Once again we will appreciate the warmth and beauty of spring.

I would like to thank all the group members for their continued participation in the organisation. Each group has different activities which suit the needs of their members.

To all PPSEAWA members I wish you good health and happiness.

Jannette Smith



AUSTRALIAN REPORT FOR MDG 3 WORKSHOP

The three Australian groups decided that fundraising for and supporting existing NGO programs rather than selecting one MDG3 project was the best way to promote gender equality and empower women. Speakers at meetings informed us about projects and we provided fundraising and support.

NSW group has assisted drought, fire and flood victims through corporate members, distributing finance and goods collected. They have assisted with empowering trafficked women with support for hostel accommodation and legal aid, and by gathering goods. Homeless women have been helped with clothing and toiletries.

All PPSEAWA Australia groups have participated in White Ribbon campaigns, run by UNIFEM, by selling and purchasing white ribbons to help raise awareness of the unacceptability of violence against women and children.

Groups have also given aid to overseas projects such as Mahboba's Promise Foundation, which provides housing for widows and orphans in Kabul as well as training widows for employment.

Our organisation also raised funds for Alola Foundation and UNIFEM projects to improve the lives of women and children in East Timor.

During 2007-08 the national PPSEAWAA executive tried to support a group of Solomon Islands women with a sewing project, but contact was lost in 2009.

A Canberra IWD luncheon raised funds in 2009 to support a group of hill tribe teenagers in Chiengrai at the Baan Ayui hostel.

PPSEAWA Australia also donated \$2000 to the PPSEAWA Young Women's Fund in 2009 to help empower young women in the region.

In Australia in the last 40 years there has been significant progress for women in education, health care, support for survivors of violence, labour force participation, access to child care, availability of family-friendly flexible workplaces, equal pay and human rights. Women now make up 30% of Australian parliamentarians, 58% of a public service of 162,000 employees. Three of seven High Court judges are women. Our Governor General, Deputy Prime Minister and 2 of our State Premiers are women. More women than men graduate from university. Discrimination based on gender and family responsibilities is outlawed, as is domestic violence and sexual assault. But there is still more to be done to obtain true gender equality.

In 2008 "Gender equality: what matters to Australian women and men" listening tour was conducted by the newly appointed Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick, and a report published on the questions "How far have we come on our journey to gender equality?" and "Where should we focus our efforts in the future?". PPSEAWA participated in the Canberra consultations. The main findings were gender pay

inequity, barriers to women's leadership, inadequate and unequal levels of retirement savings and level of physical and sexual violence.

The Australian Government is making big steps towards gender equality in the fields of superannuation, training and skills development in health, increased funding for legal aid, and paid parental leave.

PPSEAWA's membership of the Australian Women's Coalition (AWC), a government-funded (from 2002 to 2009) national women's alliance has involved a great contribution to policy making and decisions within the Office for Women. Some of the projects for AWC in which PPSEAWA has been involved are: Women in leadership; 2 projects in South Australia to empower Aboriginal women and immigrant women; supported the funding by AWC of a project to promote gender equality in local councils; submissions about paid parental leave and reducing violence against women; a review of equal opportunity for women in the workplace, and many more.

Australia's partnership with UNIFEM is helping to achieve equality between men and women and reduce violence towards women in the developing world.



Abridged from report by:

CORAL FLEMING

For the PPSEAWA International Conference,
May, 2010

WORDS FOR PEACE

What can be written about Peace which has not already been said? It is very difficult to formulate new ideas as people have been writing, painting and talking about Peace for hundreds of years. In contrast to this much has also been spoken, written and painted glorifying war.

It can be very lonely speaking up for Peace and at times we may feel that no one is listening to us. However it is imperative that we continue to do as much as we are able to promote Peace. We pray for Peace, we work for Peace, we walk for Peace, we talk about Peace, we talk to our children about Peace, we send parcels for Peace, we sew, crochet and knit quilts for Peace, we build gardens for Peace, we comment on beautiful views by saying how peaceful the place is and much, much more. I invite PPSEAWA members individually to take time in our busy days to focus on the calm of personal peace. Quietness, stillness, tranquillity, silence, harmony and serenity are just some of the ways with which we may experience personal peace. With personal peace comes the desire for peace throughout the world – the end of war, harmony, amity, freedom from strife, reconciliation. As we watch the television, and see so many scenes of destruction – man made or natural disasters, we must remain diligent in standing up for Peace.

Some years ago it was proposed to the International Council by PPSEAWA members that PPSEAWA, with the association's focus on Peace, should set aside a day each year as the PPSEAWA Day for Peace. Following much discussion the decision was made to support the UN International Day for Peace on 21st September each year.

The International Day for Peace has passed for 2010 and I wonder how you celebrated this day? Earlier this year many suggestions were passed on to PPSEAWA members and I would be interested to hear of activities from members and their friends. It is important that we share with each other what we have done.

Some suggestions listed below may assist with planning activities for the International Day for Peace in 2011.

Observe; celebrate; talk about; ring bells; hold an international lunch or dinner; encourage your local school to hold an event; distribute books and pencils for Peace; plan and plant a Peace garden. Write poetry, paint a picture, hold a photo display, and hold an art exhibition. Create a quilt – Pieced for Friendship. Hold an interfaith Peace meditation in your local community. Plan and hold a

seminar on aspects of Peace, place an article in your local paper. Send or share a treasure with an international PPSEAWA friend. Share a special thought with a friend.

Please don't forget the ongoing PPSEAWA Australia friendship quilt project **PPSEAWA women piecing in friendship for Peace**. Already Jannette and I have received more than forty squares and I look forward to receiving many more. Your 30cms. squares should be sent to: Mary Cabrera, 5 Boyd Street, Turrumurra, NSW 2074.

In closing some thoughts about Peace: (Timeless prayers for Peace – compiled by Geoffrey Duncan - Canterbury Press Norwich)

“The Gift of Peace.

Give Peace to your sister for this is a gift to bring families together.

Give Peace to your neighbour for this is a gift which brings unity in communities.

Give Peace to your enemy for this is a gift which brings nations into agreement.

The gift of Peace is precious like oil poured out in abundance.

This Peace is health and welfare for all.

John Johansen-Berg. England.”



Mary Cabrera – Peace Ambassador PPSEAWA International Council.

PPSEAWA ACT Report

In April 2010, committee member Somsong Milne welcomed members to her home for a demonstration of Thai cookery. The featured dish was the well-known favourite, “Pad Thai”.

In May, Vice-President Jen Lynch represented the group at the National Council of Women's annual President's Luncheon.

The International Triennial Conference in Bali was a highlight of the year for those who were delegates. Five members of PPSEAWA ACT were part of the Australian delegation. In June 2010 at the Member's Meeting, four delegates reported on their attendance at the Conference, followed by general discussion.

In July 2010 at Jen Lynch's home, Jen demonstrated the making of *Singapore Dumplings*, after which members had the opportunity to try their own hand at making them.

In Canberra, the Canberra Southern Cross Club annually offers Community Support Grants to not-for-profit organizations. On 1 August, Ianon Yusoff (Secretary) and Somsong Milne (Committee member) represented the group to accept a grant of \$600.00 to assist PPSEAWA with the production of the newsletter.

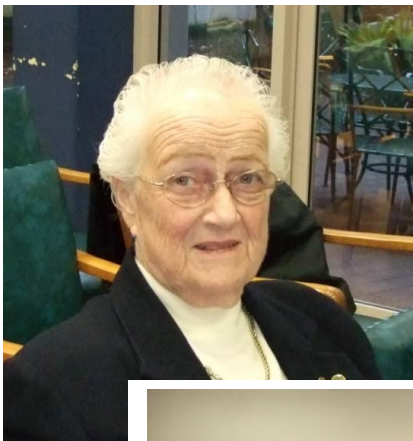
The bringing together of members of the ACT and the Canberra City groups has proceeded during the year. Members of both groups participated in the PPSEAWA (ACT) group AGM on 28 August 2010.

This AGM elected a new committee, with Jean Bennett as President.

Pam Rhemrev
Immediate Past President
PPSEAWA ACT



Images from PPSEAWA Australia AGM
2010



PPSEAWA INTERNATIONAL
TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE
BALI, 2010



Photos courtesy of
Kim Cooper

UNITED IN DIVERSITY as a Social Policy.

The Australian Story in a Snapshot.....

Extract of presentation to PPSEAWA International Conference

Background

Australia's demographic profile

Australia is a land of many faiths, many languages and many cultures. Today, Australia's 22 million residents come from 230 countries, speak more than 190 languages and follow more than 100 religious faiths. All Australians, except for the Indigenous Australians, can trace their roots to somewhere else. Since World War II Australia has become one of the most successful culturally diverse nations.

According to the 2006 census, 24 % of the Australian population was born overseas, 40% have one or both parents born overseas and over 60 % have at least two different ethnic origins. This diversity is reflected in the variety of religious beliefs and practices represented in Australia. About 70% of the population follow Christianity, the eastern religions have also increased such as Buddhism. The non-Christian religions include Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam.

How does Australia as a nation build unity from diversity?

Multiculturalism revisited.....

In the 1960s and 70s Australia saw an increased migration from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern European countries due to factors such as population growth, greater mobility, trade policies and declining economies. Academics were lobbying for positive changes to the Australian immigration, welfare and education policies. When the Australian Labour Party was elected in December 1972, it created the defining moment in the acceptance of true multiculturalism into Australian society. In May 2003 the Howard Government released the last published iteration of Australian multicultural policy, *Multicultural Australia: United in Diversity* which was an update of the policy: *A New Agenda for Multi-cultural Australia* that was released in December 1999.

The Australian Government demonstrated their commitment to diversity by developing the national multicultural policy. The multicultural policy provides the framework for strengthening community harmony and promoting the economic, cultural and social benefits of Australia's cultural diversity for all Australians. It embraces the Indigenous Australians' heritage, our Australian customs and traditions and experiences of new migrants to Australia. It also promotes mutual respect and equality in order to enhance social cohesion and strengthen Australia's capacity to withstand any external and local tensions. The multicultural policies also affirm that all Australians have the opportunity to be active and equal participants in Australian Society as well as having the freedom to maintain religious and cultural traditions but within the Australian law.

Under Australia's federal system the Commonwealth shares responsibilities for cultural diversity policies and programs with the States and Territories. All State and Territory governments have adopted multicultural policies and each has established a multicultural body that deals with multicultural and ethnic issues, which are consistent with the principles set out in the National Agenda.

Within the Australian wider communities, cultural diversity is often celebrated through community based multicultural festivals and similar activities. Diversity in the cultural aspects of people's lives including food, arts, social interactions, languages and religion are showcased in these multicultural festivals. Cultural Diversity is now a mainstream issue and social cohesion is about diversity within a common structure. Social Cohesion acknowledges that we are all bound by community standards and that we each have a part to play in the maintenance of these standards. It is not about uniformity but *unity in diversity*

PPSEAWA Australia

The development of social cohesion requires both structured systems and actions. Potential solutions to the development and strengthening of social cohesion lie in forming stronger communities through stronger-based policies. The membership of Australia's National PPSEAWA in the Australian Women's Coalition in the past 7 years not only raised the national profile of PPSEAWA but gave us the opportunity to participate and have a voice in the dialogue and important decision making regarding women's common issues and concerns at the federal level.

The Australian Women's Coalition has a membership of 18 which consists of a diverse range of women's cultural and religious organisations. It is potentially a key organisational structure for deepening the intercultural engagement between women and for representing their voices at a government level for the benefit of the whole Australian community.

As member of the AWC we found that 'interfaith' bridge-building forums can have very limited membership and tend to draw a particular but not a very representative group of participants. As a member we are in a good position to move intercultural and interfaith bridge-building into an integrated approach involving both religious and non religious groups due to the diversity of member organisations.

PPSEAWA

Despite the slowly decreasing memberships of PPSEAWA in Australia, our small groups are still able to celebrate important dates on our calendar like International Women's Day, Harmony Day and United Nation's Day of Peace. Each year interfaith peace services have been supported or organised by PPSEAWA members in both Sydney and the Australian National Capital to celebrate UN International Day of Peace on 21 September.

PPSEAWA, both in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory in relation to their relatively small numbers, have been busy with ongoing support and in partnership with other organisation's projects. They maintain ongoing networking and learning about other groups and non government organisations, awareness raised through invited guest speakers. The need to foster self-awareness and understanding of ourselves, others and the world around us is essential to create harmony and peaceful interchange.

By working together, sharing our knowledge, cultures and values, we have the potential to complement each other in problem-solving especially complex issues that often challenge us and our communities. *The unity in and through diversity model remains the most effective path to peace.*

The Challenges

1. Events framed in terms of interfaith may make non religious people feel out of place. While interfaith dialogues may expand the participants' awareness about religions, they can have some limitation when it comes to community integration and cohesion. Some interfaith dialogue ignores the fact that much conflict revolves around cultural and social tensions (personal experience).
2. The Harmony approach does not examine questions of inequality and power but rather may consolidate existing inequalities.
3. The Social Inclusion approach does not recognize culture as an important contribution to social inclusion.
4. The limited access to media advocacy. Media coverage was seen as essential part of promoting and extending the benefits of intercultural activities. Reliance on small scale community-based activities is not always enough to effectively reach the wider non-engaged members of society. The AWC funded Advocacy Training workshops in the capital cities of Australia.

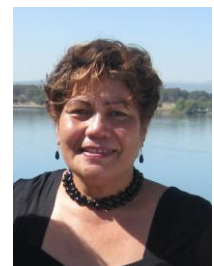
Where to from now for PPSEAWA

We must constantly remind government that multiculturalism is linked to other pressing social, cultural, economic and environmental issues.

That the principles that inform multiculturalism and reconciliation should set the climate for decency, equity, respect and participation for all members of culturally diverse communities including Indigenous people

That the consequences of globalisation are that, in this changing world with an increased risk of violence, the framework of human rights when applied to multicultural policy and Indigenous reconciliation, continues to offer the world's communities the most promising civil path to *peace*.

Luisa Latukefu



NSW GROUP NEWS

Following the International Conference in Bali and our National Annual Meeting in May last we have been making a push for new members, particularly in the younger age group. We are pleased to report that we are having success and hope to be able soon to have in place a system which will not only interest younger members but will bring a new spark to our Association.

Our monthly meetings continue to be well patronised by members and in May we welcomed June Young, a local Rotary Club President who gave us information on the work being done towards the eradication of malaria, the cause of the deaths of many children and pregnant women. A group of Rotarians will visit the Philippines this year to help with education, arrangements for clean water wells and eradication of stagnant pools where mosquitos breed. With this group will be a number of “schoolies” who saved their money for a party but wish to do something useful with it – NSW Group will purchase ‘bed nets’ for them to use in this process.

July we had a luncheon with guests from other women’s groups. The speaker was Sualan Yin-Low, Diversity Health Co-ordinator of Royal Hospital for Women who spoke on the history of the Hospital and her project, which encouraged all “to keep an open mind with willingness to improve your health”. A very friendly meeting with opportunities for members and guests to exchange ideas in a pleasant atmosphere.

In August Tracy DeGeere, President for World Federation for World Peace, was our speaker. She is concerned with promoting a broader definition of wellness in society.

National Council of Women’s luncheons to celebrate the work of Jean Arnot and to honour women attaining their 90th year, plus Foundation Day were well attended by members as were events arranged by other organisations to which our members were invited.

Our Group has eight Corporate Members who send delegates to meetings and each month one of these groups gives us an up-date into what they are doing for women and children, inviting our members to co-operate – this allows for a good exchange of ideas.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Members and interested friends are invited to PPSEAWA meetings commencing with morning tea at 10.30 am, level 2, Piccadilly Court, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney. To an ordinary meeting just come along – for a luncheon, please ring the Secretary 9734 0925 to book.

September 21st International Day of Peace – Service at St David’s Uniting Church Hall, 454 Pacific Highway, Lindfield when all faiths unite to pray for peace. Adults and children welcome to participate, with Peace Bell rung at 12 noon.

September 22nd Ordinary meeting – Speaker Carla McGrath – Australian Indigenous Mentor. AIME provides a six year mentoring program for indigenous students to access while undertaking high school studies Years 7-12, also partners university students.

October 27th LUNCHEON – Speaker.

November 24th End of year meeting. All to share thoughts on Seasonal Celebration they have attended or in which they usually participate.

Margaret Groenewegen

President



GIRL GUIDES – LEADING THE WAY FOR AUSTRALIAN GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

In 2010 Girl Guides Australia is celebrating ‘100 years of changing lives’. One hundred years of enabling girls and young women to grow into confident, self respecting, responsible community members.

In recognition of the Girl Guide’s positive contribution to Australian society, in September 2009 the Prime Minister and the Minister for the Status for Women, announced that 2010 will be the Australian Year of the Girl Guide, in association with the organisation’s centenary.

The WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) has girls worldwide saying “together we can change our world”. As the Centenary of Guiding is celebrated worldwide it is recognised that Guiding has changed the lives of millions of girls and young women and their communities for 100 years.

In 2010, this global force of 10 million girls and women in 145 countries is still doing its best, from tackling issues of poverty and literacy in developing nations to helping out at the local animal shelter and handing out water to our Diggers on Anzac Day. In Australia, over one million Australians have been or are Girl Guides.

Young Women's Forum 2009 "Taking the Lead through Advocacy" Fifty Australian Guides aged 14-30 years participated at this event held in 2009 in Sydney, hosted by Girl Guides Australia to develop girls and young women’s advocacy skills. The training centred on the 2009 WAGGGS messages which have been aligned to the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals (MDG):

- girls worldwide say “together we can end extreme poverty and hunger”
- girls worldwide say “education opens doors for all girls and boys”
- girls worldwide say “empowering girls will change our world”
- girls worldwide say “together we can save children’s lives”
- girls worldwide say “every mother’s life and health is precious”
- girls worldwide say “we can stop the spread of AIDS, malaria and other diseases”
- girls worldwide say “we can save our planet”
- girls worldwide say “we can create peace through partnerships”

International advocacy and Guiding: Girl Guides Australia is dedicated to advocating on the issues identified as important to our members and to providing the skills and the opportunities for them to speak out on these issues - whether they are matters of concern at a global level, in their communities or something that affects them in Guiding. Four young Australian women represented the country and Guiding at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit (COP 15) in Denmark in December 2009, joining 19 young women from around the world at COP15 to form the WAGGGS youth delegation in support of environmental protection. Also in Denmark was another young Guide Leader, who joined the Australian Koala Foundation’s delegation on behalf of Girl Guides Australia. She promoted the plight of the koala and the effects of climate change on the much-loved native Australian animal. These young women who were selected by Girl Guides Australia for their passion for the environment as well as their leadership skills and service to the community, spoke on behalf of Guiding on the importance of preventing climate change and global warming. They advocated that ‘girls should be at the centre of efforts to combat climate change’. In October 2009 a young Guide Leader participated in the Asia Pacific Beijing +15 forum in Manila, Philippines, at which women’s Non-government organisation representatives from the Asia Pacific discussed the progress that has been made towards achieving the Beijing Declaration and platform for action, in preparation for the UN Commission on the Status for Women Conference held in New York in March 2010. In March 2010, another young Guide Leader attended the New York conference as part of the WAGGGS delegation.

WAGGGS Young Women's World Forum 2010 This forum being hosted by Girl Guiding UK in London, England, will focus on the UN Millennium Development Goals. Two Guide Leaders have been selected to represent Australia at the inaugural Young Women's World Forum in October 2010. At this forum they will share experiences and develop a declaration outlining what WAGGGS and its members, national governments and other parts of civil society should be doing to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Particular activities in the Centenary Year include: The theme for the Centenary of Guiding world wide - "Girls worldwide say...100 years of changing lives" - communicates Guiding as a movement that has remained relevant and viable from the Victorian era to the one enjoyed today. The Australian Girl Guides centenary commenced in September 2009 and will conclude in February 2011. The centenary theme is celebrating the past, living the present and powering into the future.

Girls Celebrate Centenary Launch The Girl Guides Australia Centenary was launched in Brisbane September 2009 at Girls Celebrate - a festival of fun and activities to celebrate the 1910 Crystal Palace Rally and promote advocacy - with nearly 3,000 Guides attending.

International Service Challenge Guides can change the lives of others by being part of the Girls 'Unite to Read and Write' challenge in partnership with UNICEF to support and promote girls education in Western Highland province, in Papua New Guinea. Guides, using specially created education and activity packs, will explore the issue of equal access to education for children and young people worldwide (MDG 2). The Australian Guides are raising funds and awareness for girls' education in Papua New Guinea, while raising awareness in the community of the importance of girls' education, which aims to achieve primary education for all children by 2015, as well as address gender equality in schools and communities.

The partnership between UNICEF and Girl Guides will aim to raise at least \$2 per Girl Guide in support of this UNICEF project. By supporting UNICEF, Girl Guides in Australia can make a big difference for girls in PNG.

A young Leader and the CEO of Clean Up Australia, launched a mobile phone recycling partnership. Girl Guides Australia will receive \$1.50 for every mobile phone recycled and will be helping lead the way to bring about environmental change (MDG 7).

Centenary Challenge A special Centenary badge, the Centenary Challenge, provides Guides across Australia with the opportunity to develop their skills in a variety of areas from self awareness to global responsibility through a series of personal challenges. A Gold Centenary Challenge is available for those wanting an extra challenge.

Australian Service Challenge Members will participate in a series of activities to increase their understanding of people with disabilities and provide service to disability organisations.

Girl Guides Centenary Coin

In 2010 the Royal Australia Mint will produce a \$1 coin to commemorate Guiding and its Centenary.

Centenary Stamps Australia Post will issue three stamps, one domestic and two international, in 2010 to commemorate the Centenary of Guiding.



ACE - Australian Centenary Event In January 2010, 2500 Guides aged 10-17 and volunteer Leaders participated in an International Centenary Camp at Geelong, Victoria.

Leadership for Life This book tells the stories of 100 women from across Australia from all walks of life and professions who have contributed to Guiding or who attribute their personal success in life in some small way to Guiding.

Power Up Also in January 2010, 100 18-30 year old members participated in a learning and development program focusing on event management, public relations and media skills. At the conclusion of the workshop they identified an issue they care about and developed a plan of action to advocate on this issue to the broader community. They also learnt about decision making and governance so that they can take up active roles in committees and governance bodies across Girl Guides Australia.

Be the change In April 2010, 25 young Guides aged 14 to 30 helped the United Nations in their efforts to eliminate poverty by 2015 by participating in an AusAID funded National MDG and advocacy workshop. This will be followed by a series of state based workshops which will be organised by these young women in August 2010. Around 30 people will attend each state based workshop to increase awareness of the MDGs within Guiding and across the broader community. State workshop participants will then take action on one or more of the MDGs and raise awareness of the MDGs in their local community.

Australian Guides Say Strengthening Girl Guides Australia's position as the leader of insight in the Australian female market, a new Guides Say survey in August 2010 will determine key issues impacting Australian females in the 7-30 year old age group.

There are many more fun and interesting activities and events for Guides this year, including World Thinking Day on 22nd February, a new uniform released in February, participation in International Women's Day breakfasts and Clean up Australia Day.

Other activities are Centenary Celebration Day on the 100th day of the year; participation in Anzac Day remembrances; a program of activities based on the arts; distributing Guide Biscuits in special centenary packaging; participation in a Chain of Campfires; activities to work out their Global Footprint on World Environment Day; and planting trees of National Tree Planting Day.

Forty-seven Australian Guides will take part in a UK Centenary Camp in Leeds; every member across Australia will renew her promise at 10 am on 10/10/10 while the World Flag will be flown from every possible location across the country; Guide Unites in tropical areas will plant trees and shrubs on Tropical Tree Planting Day; and Units will undertake a program of activities that encourages positive self-esteem and healthy lifestyle

Looking forward - Powering into the future The WAGGGS Centenary celebrations will continue until 2012 when Girl Scouts USA celebrates its centenary of Guiding. In 2011 and 2012 Australian Guides will continue to participate in global centenary events, including World Thinking Day in 2011 ('empowering girls will change our world') and in 2012 ('we can save our planet').

Australian Girl Guides will remain relevant to today's girls. Empowering girls and young women has always been the focus. Guides will be increasingly challenged by a program that extends beyond badges and will continue to get involved in anything from girl led community projects to volunteering in developing countries.

The hope is that more and more girls from urban and rural communities, reflecting the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of our society and all socio-economic groups, can become active Girl Guide members.

Compiled for the PPSEAWA Australia Newsletter October 2010, based on available information,
by

Vivienne Stone
Girl Guides NSW&ACT Representative

UN Officer's Report

DPI/NGO Conference

The 63rd Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, titled “*Advance Global Health – Achieve the MDGs*” was held from 30 August, to 1 September, 2010 and took place at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Its purpose was to highlight effective ways in which civil society, in partnership with other actors, can contribute to fostering global health: not just managing disease.

It was the largest UN event to occur in Australia, attracting about 1,600 delegates representing over 350 Non-Governmental Organizations from more than 70 countries. PPSEAWA was represented by four delegates: Jean Bennett, Kate Morioka and Sitarih Muaulu Saili (as a Youth delegate) and Pam Rhemrev.

The conference offered numerous choices of workshops, morning and afternoon, (we each attended different ones). The delegates met in general session in the Round Tables, during which panel members responded to questions put by the moderator and subsequently answered questions from the floor.

The conference's consensus was expressed as a Declaration, in which the delegates called upon “*all governments, agencies, corporations and individuals to deliver on their human rights obligations to over a billion people living in poverty, by committing the finances and political will necessary to achieve the MDGs*”. It concluded “*it is unacceptable that so many children and adults in low income countries continue to suffer preventable illness, disability and premature deaths each year. The world knows how to prevent and treat most of the causes and has shown that well-focused efforts can significantly reduce levels of suffering. The MDGs can be, indeed must be, achieved by 2015.*”

This Declaration will be presented to the UN General Assembly at its September meeting on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; it will also be presented to the Australian Government.

UN Women/ONU Femmes

A new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to be known as UN Women/ONU Femmes was established from 2 July. It will be led by an Under Secretary-General.

Four existing units [UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), and the Office of the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI)] will combine to form the basis of the new entity. The new name will come into use from 1 January 2011.

United Nations Association of Australia

So far this year I have attended three committee meetings of the ACT UNAA.

The UNAA committee, which includes a representative from the United Nations Youth Association, has a focus on increasing the involvement of youth. UNAA is currently planning activities for the International Day of Peace and United Nations Day.

Pam Rhemrev
UN officer



CIVIL SOCIETY CALL TO ACTION

Created on July 2, 2010, UN Women is the result of years of advocacy by civil society. The new entity combines the mandates of the four existing UN structures for women into one new, higher level UN organization with both policy and operational functions. The GEAR Campaign, a network of over 300 women's, human rights and social justice groups, is now engaged in working to ensure that UN Women will be a coordinated, strong, and strategic organization that further advances the UN's work on gender equality and women's empowerment. Some organisations are already engaged with the UN transition process at the national and regional levels, and the GEAR campaign encourages more actors in civil society to get involved in helping UN Women realise its potential as a powerful vehicle for

women's rights on the ground. The campaign recommends the following next steps for civil society engagement:

1. Establish meaningful, systematic and diverse civil society participation;
2. Demand a dynamic and relevant agenda for UN women;
3. Pressure donors to aim for \$1 billion in funding and meet their commitment to “core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable” contributions;
4. Seek powerful, capable and effective leadership at every level.

To read more see: <http://www.gearcampaign.org>

VALE

VAL NICHOLAS



VALMA FRANCES NICHOLAS 1931-2010

Val Nicholas was secretary of the ACT Group of PPSEAWA 1975-76 and served as President of this Group from 1984-86.

Val attended the PPSEAWA International Conference held at Burgmann College, ANU in 1988. She arranged a Bridal Parade with members of PPSEAWA and their daughters in traditional wedding gowns. This was a very popular event.

Val was Inaugural President of Canberra City Group from 1996.

A long time member of the Canberra Blind Society, Val arranged many fund raising functions for the Society in the ACT.

Val joined the Country Women's Association, Canberra Branch where she arranged fashion parades and was involved in the cultural program.

Her assistance to and recognition of women in other countries and in Australia was a prime focus in her life. She is survived by her husband, two children and grandchildren.

Phoebe Bischoff