Dear AAFICS members,

A Happy New Year to us all!

This Newsletter has been prepared by the NSW group of AAFICS members and as you will see, there are two intertwining themes; memory and the lasting significance of the UN’s work. Christine Moeller writes of her days as a young woman taking up a job at FAO in Rome that has left an enduring trace; Bill Pigott has given us three delightful tales of life and work in Nepal for WHO; Peter Airey reminds us why United Nations Day is commemorated each year and why we are going to miss the wonderful former Governor of NSW, Marie Bashir. Two friends with long and important ties to the United Nations have joined us to make this newsletter rich in content. Melissa Parke, Member of Parliament and former international lawyer with the UN, gives us her thoughtful and thought-provoking views; Peder Kastengren lets you into his family photo album and why the United Nations means something special to him. Mary has news of a case still wending its way through the federal law courts that may, just may, affect our personal income taxation as beneficiaries of a UN pension. Tom Joel, AAFICS Treasurer, presents the accounts. And to lighten our hearts, some wit from Bill Pigott and from one of our oldest members, Ray Milne, director of the department in the mid 70’s where Mary had her first ILO job. Mary was a young person with many opinions. Ray was always courteous. Forty years later, his intellectual liveliness is unabated, but Post Polio Syndrome keeps him mostly at home. Warmest greetings to Ray, and to Ronny Wilson, who just had a Very Big Birthday in Queensland. Ronny received cards from the Queen, the GG, the Queensland G (Penny Wensley, well known in UN circles), the Premier, the local MP, and from many old UN friends from around the world.

To all of you – may we have good health, fond friends and loving family in 2015!

Mary, Peter, Bill, Ray, Stephen and Tom, for the NSW members
Melissa Parke, MP for Fremantle

The Western Australian Hon Melissa Parke was elected as the federal member for Fremantle in November 2007, again in 2010 and for a third term in September 2013 with an increased primary vote.

Melissa has campaigned on the need for strong action on climate change, increased foreign aid, respect for human rights and animal welfare, a ban on gene patents, and for integrity and accountability in Government. She has also chaired the UN Parliamentary Group, UNICEF Parliamentary Association and Parliamentarians for Global Action.

Before entering parliament, Melissa Parke worked as a senior lawyer in the United Nations for 8 years, beginning with the UN peacekeeping mission in Kosovo in 1999, followed by two and a half years working in Gaza for the international legal division of UNRWA, the UN agency that works to assist Palestinian refugees. In June 2004, Melissa was at the UN headquarters in New York in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, responsible for oversight of the internal system of administration of justice, as well for establishing the UN Ethics Office, including instituting programs for whistleblower protection, financial disclosure, ethics training and advice and standards of conduct. In mid-2006, Melissa was at the UN International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIIC) in Beirut, investigating the assassination of the former Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafik Hariri and at the same time, in the post of Deputy Chief of Staff of UNIIIC. Melissa resumed her work in New York before returning to Australia in June 2007. Melissa says, “Working at the UN and in the community legal sector has reinforced my faith in the value of strong advocacy at the level of the individual, and progressive policy at the level of government.” AAFICS keeps Melissa in the picture by sending her our newsletters and information on our major issues such as taxation. We thank Melissa for agreeing to be interviewed for this edition of AAFICS News.

AAFICS: You are a politically committed lawyer from Western Australia, with years of experience in the United Nations in some of the most difficult countries (Kosovo, Gaza, Lebanon, Cyprus). If you were Minister of Foreign Affairs, what would your priorities be?

Melissa: I’m not sure that I would approach this topic by imagining myself as the Minister for Foreign Affairs, but in my view the priorities that should be front of mind for anyone in that role are building the political, economic, and diplomatic capabilities of Australia within a responsible international framework. This would include active engagement with and support of the United Nations. It is important that Australia take a more active role in advancing good governance, stability and sustainable development in the Indo-Pacific region, and in alleviating global poverty more broadly. My position on human rights is well known, and I consider respect for international law, particularly relating to human rights, to be integral in any solutions to address conflict and disadvantage. I would support the formation of a mediation unit within DFAT to try to resolve inter and intra-state disputes before they become major conflicts (similar to the Norwegian model). I would also support much stronger action by Australia and other countries to address the existential challenge...
of global warming. One of the most pressing needs is to stop the current proposed cuts to international development assistance, and to begin the process of restoring the $5.7 billion in cuts that have already occurred. When I was the Minister for International Development within the Labor government Australia had reached its highest level of aid provision in a quarter of a century, and our assistance program was regarded by the OECD as a model for other countries to follow. The dismantling of AusAID and the loss of many dedicated public servants in that department has been a travesty. It is critical that the Australian people have a better understanding of how our aid budget is allocated, and the benefits of the funding in terms of improved health, education, employment, and economic growth – and this is a task for the Minister for Foreign Affairs to lead (at least under the current arrangements in which there is no dedicated Minister for International Development). Involvement in the Middle East should focus on carefully planned long-term humanitarian engagement and constructive support for peace through the auspices of the UN, not knee-jerk military contributions outside the UN process. I strongly support a two state solution to the ongoing Israeli/Palestine conflict. Having lived and worked in Gaza, and seen firsthand the devastating effect of the Israeli occupation, the settlements and the Gaza blockade on the Palestinian people, I hope Australia will soon join the 136 nations that have already recognised the Palestinian state and that we will work to support a negotiated settlement of the final status issues of borders, settlements, Jerusalem, water and refugees.


Melissa: I believe Australia has been active in its time on the Security Council – which proves the worth of the former Labor government’s efforts to achieve that outcome. The action taken by the former government in promoting the adoption of the UN Arms Trade Treaty and this government’s leading of the drafting and adoption by the Security Council of a resolution that aided in the recovery operations related to MH17 have been good work. However, I was very disappointed that the present government did not take up the matter of Iraq at the UN Security Council before agreeing that Australia would join the US-led Coalition.

AAFICS: Has the Coalition Government over-reached in its confrontation with Russia on the missile attack on Malaysian Airlines MH17 which brought about the death of all on board?

Melissa: The Prime Minister’s promise to ‘shirt front’ the Russian President was not his finest moment – and the government has been unnecessarily strident and confrontational before all the facts have been established.

AAFICS: The Coalition Government has a particular view of the application of various United Nations treaties, immigration and refugees among them. Should the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, originally designed for the protection of European refugees after World War II, be revised to make it clearer who are refugees (economic or other types) and what is the role of transit states? Could Australia take the initiative to call an international discussion on the need to revise the Convention?

Melissa: The 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol clearly establish who is a refugee. That is, someone who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reason of
race, religion, nationality, membership of a social group or political opinion, is outside of their country of nationality and is unable, owing to that fear, to avail themselves of the protection of that country. This definition has been incorporated into Australian law under the Migration Act, and a large body of case law has developed regarding the interpretation of the definition. It is not sufficient to be seeking better economic opportunities. Applicants for refugee status must be able to prove that they have been specifically targeted and are at real risk of serious harm or death. This requires credible evidence of harassment, personal attacks, torture or imprisonment. While there may be merit in examining the global framework for refugee protection, this could present a danger that the protection framework, which has been painstakingly achieved over decades, may be watered down. In my view, the more important task is improving international efforts to cooperate, and to develop sustainable and compassionate regional solutions to this issue based on burden sharing, rather than burden-shifting.

**AAFICS:** The Coalition Government’s changes to the counter-terrorism laws have passed with the support of the Labor Party. You were the lone Labor voice against the measures, saying that you did not agree with the premise that freedoms must be constrained in the name of greater security against terrorism, and that existing laws are sufficient. The general public seems to find the security trade-off against privacy rights acceptable. Do you intend taking this issue up again in the future?

**Melissa:** I question the premise of the government’s general approach to this area of policy, which is essentially that freedoms must be constrained in response to terrorism; and that the introduction of greater obscurity and impunity in the exercise of government agency powers that contravene individual freedoms will both produce, and are justified in the name of, greater security. The current peace, stability and confidence that we are fortunate enough to enjoy in Australia exist because of our collective observance of freedoms and human rights, not in spite of them. I think we need to tread very carefully when considering introducing laws that constrain these freedoms. Whilst the terrorist threat is real, we must ensure that our institutions and civil society remain strong enough to withstand it. This means not eroding our own standards and values. I will continue to argue for legislation that strikes a careful and an appropriate balance between freedom and security, and that includes effective safeguards, oversight, and accountability mechanisms.

**AAFICS:** Thank you, Melissa for giving us your time and your insights, and for always showing an interest in our Association.

---

**A taxation case that concerns us**

By Mary Johnson

**Background:**

A case of great interest to members of AAFICS who receive a monthly benefit from the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, is currently going through Australia’s court system. In August 2013 Andrew Macoun, a retiree from the World Bank living in Sydney, lodged an appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal against
the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) decision that his pension from the WB was subject to tax. The Administrative Appeals Tribunal heard the case in January this year and published their decision on 20 March 2014 supporting Mr Macoun’s appeal and setting aside the ATO’s decision. However, the ATO appealed on a point of law related to the decision to the Federal Court of Australia.

Decision:
The appeal was heard at the end of October 2014 in the Federal Court, heard by three judges. Mr Macoun had an eminent barrister on his behalf, and the ATO had its Senior Counsel. I was among the public listening to this second part of the case. The Federal Court decided on 4 December 2014 that the ATO’s appeal of the decision that the World Bank pension be exempt from income tax be allowed, meaning that the Administrative Appeals Tribunal’s decision be set aside. In other words, the Tribunal’s decision was not to prevail. This was a disappointing outcome, as the Tribunal had found that the pension was an emolument arising from employment with the WB and therefore not taxable. The Federal Court agreed that the pension was an emolument. However, the way the International Organizations (Privileges and Immunities) Act (IOPIA) was drafted precluded the exemption from income tax of emoluments received after ceasing to be an officer of the WB (note that if you could receive a lump sum commutation on the final day of service it would be tax exempt). The Federal Court’s full judgment is on www.judgments.fedcourt.gov.au/judgments/fca/full/2014/2014fcafc0162

The Convention and the Act:
The Federal Court had three judges sitting. Justice Perram wrote a separate opinion. He stated that ...as a matter of public international law the Commonwealth is not permitted to levy income tax on Mr Macoun's pension. This implies that IOPIA is in conflict with the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies that Australia signed without condition.

Future action:
Given this opinion that the Act is in conflict with the Convention that Australia signed without condition, and that the appeal to the Federal Court was very narrowly focused (note that Justices Edmonds and Blackmore did not explore the context of IOPIA as Justice Perram did) Andrew Macoun’s legal team has lodged an application for leave to be granted to appeal the Federal Court’s decision to the High Court. This is a two step process. First, the Federal Court would need to grant the right to appeal. If leave is not granted that is the end of the matter. However, if leave is granted, an appeal can than be lodged with the High Court.

Legal costs:
At this time, the final costs of the Federal Court case have not been finalized but are in the order of $100,000. The ATO agreed to meet part (60% or so) of Andrew Macoun’s costs and fellow WB retirees have contributed towards the cost as well. The cost of applying for leave to appeal to the High Court is in the order of $40,000. If leave is granted, the cost of an appeal to the HC would be in the order of a further $120,000. An application has been lodged with the ATO for funding assistance as this is a test case that will affect many hundreds of fellow UN retirees. Andrew Macoun has stated that he cannot go forward with the appeal unless he receives funding assistance.

It will be some months before it is known whether the appeal can go forward. If it does, the AAFICS membership will be asked how we should support the case, as it is very much in our interests to do so. We can make voluntary contributions to the cost of the High Court appeal, it being understood that not all AAFICS members would expect to gain from a positive outcome to the case.

Andrew Macoun has got further in the court
than anyone before and we are riding on his courageous coat tails.

Justice Perram of the Federal Court has acknowledged that according to the UN Convention, Andrew Macoun and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal decision are correct but as a point of law, IOPIA does not allow the tax immunity on pensions to be applied.

At the Federal Court appeal in October I was particularly struck by a closing remark from the ATO Senior Counsel: It is not helpful in tax disputes to make appeals to fairness; it is the applicability of the legislation that counts.

Reference:
Federal Court of Australia
Commissioner of Taxation v. Macoun (2014)
FCAFC 162
File Number NSD401 of 2014-12-21
Judges Edmonds, Perram and Nicholas JJ

Register Now! Changes in the United Nations Pension Fund administrative systems are coming

For quite some years now, the United Nations Pension Fund has been developing a new system designed to improve the level of service to its participants (serving officials) and beneficiaries (us, the retirees). Work on the introduction of the integrated pension administration system (IPAS) is proceeding apace. IPAS is scheduled to go on stream in May 2015. Fifty per cent of staff time is already being spent on testing the new system to ensure its efficiency when it goes live. The realignment of the system is a major challenge that involves merging three systems into one: electronic filing, financial accounting and pension calculations.

From the time it goes into action the new system will treat participants and beneficiaries alike – we will all be known as “members”. Particular importance is being attached to ensuring the security of the system, especially the security of the benefit payroll system. Certificates of entitlement would still remain a physical process, posted out in October each year to the beneficiaries. It is clear that when IPAS starts operating, each of us will be expected to use the Pension Fund’s interactive website and to seek answers to our queries directly from the website – what the Pension Fund is calling “expanded self-service options”. It will not be any easier to make personal contact.

Do you know you can register yourself on the UNJSPF website and gain access to your own personal and confidential information? You are all encouraged to register now, under the current system. That way, you are already in the system before IPAS comes on line, and because you will know your way around the website, it should ease transition to the new scheme once it becomes operational. Registering at a later date might prove more challenging.

The Pension Fund says that provision will be made for those people who do not have access to computers or who have no wish to have digital access.

How to register: On the UNJSPF website, seek “beneficiaries” and see on the left hand side of the page a column headed My Pension. There are two buttons “Login” and “Register”. If you have never registered before, click on “Register” and fill in the form. Submit the form by clicking on the submit button only once. A word of advice, choose a password with meaning for you, and be sure that it is kept with your papers, so that if you become incapacitated your pension payments and CE can still be tracked for you.
Whenever you want to, and with your pension number and your password to hand, you will be able to look at your “pay slip”, called variously “Quarterly Statement” or “Cost of Living Notification”. You will also be able to see whether your Certificate of Entitlement has been received.

Do this now, please, dear AAFICS members!

Despatches from the field

by Bill Pigott

For ‘Former International Civil Servants’ assignments in the field are a wonderful source of stories and memories, especially when one works in a country such as Nepal, where I had two such assignments totalling 10 years. From the second of these, 4 years as WHO Representative, here are three such stories.

1. A Meeting Where Road and River Cross

It was just after Easter 1996. Two of our boys are in Nepal with us for Easter holidays from their respective boarding schools in England. Michael, 19, is studying for three to five hours each day for his A level exams while Peter, 17, is out trekking with a group from his school. I need to go to Pokhara for a workshop on Primary Health Care, which is 200 km by road to the west of Kathmandu. I decide to drive there and take Leslie and Michael with me for the two days.

We set off soon after 7 a.m., an hour or so later than planned. I was sure I had set the alarm for 5 am in order to leave at 6, beat the traffic and be in Pokhara in good time for the 2 p.m. inauguration of the meeting. However the alarm was not on, and we left later than we had intended. We knew that Peter was somewhere in Nepal with his school group, all 34 of them, and would spend some of that day on a river somewhere, rafting, having completed their 12 day trek in the Annapurna area. Leslie is sure they would be rafting on some other river than the one we would drive by on our journey.

The road to Pokhara does run alongside the Trisuli River for about 30 kms. On this stretch we often see rafting groups. A particularly good place from which to watch them from the road is just before the town of Mugling, midway between Kathmandu and Pokhara, where the road crosses a bridge and leaves the Trisuli River behind. As we approached Mugling, from the road, high above the river we do see a group of rafts on the river. Michael asks me to pull over. We stop to look down on them as they flow down a calm stretch. Some are paddling. Two people are in the water swimming and others are throwing buckets of water on another raft. Michael does a quick count and says the numbers are right. “It could be the Bryanston group”. He thinks he recognises one. As one of the swimmers hauls himself back into his raft, it could be our Peter, but we are too far away to be sure.

We drive on through Mugling, which perches above the river at a point where it makes a sharp turn through some rapids as it is joined by another river, to flow south under the Mugling bridge. We cross the bridge and stop again just in time to see the first raft come through the rapids and put ashore on the small beach just across the river from where we are stopped. Michael climbs down closer to the river and from a splendid rock, watches the other rafts come through. By this time the first group of rafters are now out of their life jackets and helmets, and indeed it is the Bryanston School group. We recognise each other as Peters raft negotiates the rapids. As they all come ashore, we recross the bridge and go down the steep path to meet them. Clearly the rest stop was not for our benefit, and we learn that they had started earlier than
planned in order to reach the Chitwan National Park, their destination for that day, a little earlier. They all look great -tanned, relaxed, happy and at peace. They had a great trek, and the rafting so far had been excellent.

For us, what a wonderful coincidence. What an auspicious crossing of paths. One party starts later than intended and the other starts earlier, so that we meet, in that few moments of a window of opportunity. How wonderful. How extraordinary, and in true Nepali style, how auspicious, that unplanned and unforeseen meeting where road and river cross.

2. A Three Buddha Farewell

One aspect of our departure from Nepal at the end of my second WHO assignment there is what I describe as the 'Three Buddha Farewell'. Three seated statues of Buddha, between 20 and 27 cms high, one copper, one gold painted and the other bronze, had been presented with affection and good wishes; one from the members of the WHO-Nepal staff team; one from the Ministry of Health; one from fellow heads of UN agencies. At the time the three Buddhas symbolised for me the three levels of our WHO work at country level: being members of a WHO team, being in partnership with the people of Nepal and being a member of the UN team and the wider world of international support. Those three Buddhas reminded me also of three things I have taken with me from living amongst Buddhists in Nepal; the benefits of letting go; the need to be centred and live in the present moment; and the value of compassion. I anticipated that the three Buddhas would give me symbolic energy, serenity and equanimity, and these three precious things at many levels, as I moved on to the next phase of my life in Cambodia. And they did.

There is much more to such Buddha statues than meets the eye. They represent different aspects of the Buddha simply by the position of their hands. I had accepted the gratitude and friendship they represented as gifts from people who had mattered so much to me. I had added symbolic meaning, but had not even thought about, or I am ashamed to say, even noticed the position of their hands. Then Pam Putney, an old friend from our first time in Nepal was here briefly in Phnom Penh. I showed her the three Buddhas, now placed side by side together on a rather fine old Cambodian side table in our living room. She was delighted with my story. Then she gently said "How wonderful, they are all in the service position, their right hands touching the ground, making connections". In an instant, here was new information. In an instant, whole new meaning. In a moment, more meaning in these three gifts than I had ever imagined. In a moment, new meaning at many levels in what they say to me, what they say about those who gave them, what they say about us all and where we are; and for me, not just meaning, but a message for this and subsequent phases of my life.

That 'aha' moment and its consequences also remind me that we do not see things all at once, nor do we need to, and perhaps should not try to; that we cannot know it all now, nor might we need to, and therefore maybe we should not strive to have all the loose ends so neatly tied. Perhaps we should rather celebrate uncertainty and incompleteness and focus on the connectedness, unfolding-ness and preciousness of being a human being.
3. Blessing of the Fleet: The Dashain Puja for UN Vehicles

In late September and early October each year the Nepalese people celebrate Dashain. The fifteen day celebration is the longest and the most auspicious of the Nepalese Festivals. Dashain commemorates a great victory of gods over wicked demons. Ceremonies come to a peak on the ninth day with official military ritual sacrifices buffaloes are held in one of the former royal palaces, and the Temples of the Goddess Durga are filled with people from dawn till dusk. Also on this day Vishwakarma, the God of creativity is worshiped. Artisans, craftsmen, traders, and mechanics worship and offer animal and fowl blood to their tools, equipment, and vehicles. Sacrifices are made to bless things associated with making a living, including all moving machinery, cars, aeroplanes, buses, trucks, even lawnmowers. The idea is to “get the blessing from Goddess Durga for protection for vehicles and their occupants against accidents during the year”. On this day, at the UN Compound, where the UN Common Premises were located, all UN Agency vehicles are cleaned and decorated. Each vehicle in turn is anointed with the blood of a sacrificed goat. My drivers insisted that my private Landrover Discovery should be done alongside the official flag car. I receive a Tikka on my forehead from the Senior driver and the Landrover is suitably blessed. The goats are then turned into a curry and the day turns into a great feast for the drivers. The pictures show vehicles outside the building where most of the UN Agencies working in Nepal have their offices, a goat being sacrificed to the WHO Flag car and my Landrover being prepared. At the end of this assignment I had the Landover shipped back to Australia for later use on my retirement. Mine must be the only vehicle in Australia that has a Dashain puja performed 3 times. Maybe that’s why it still runs so well 18 years later.

These are three extracts from Journals kept while Bill Pigott was working for the World Health Organisation

DAG HAMMARKJÖLD – There is a close relative in Australia!

By Peder Kastengren

Dag Hjalmar Agne Carl Hammarskjöld was a Swedish diplomat, economist and author. The second Secretary-General of the United Nations, he served from April 1953 until his death in a plane crash in September 1961. The Nobel Prize website biography of Hammarskjold gives us this quotation: “From generations of soldiers and government officials on my father’s side I inherited a belief that no life was more satisfactory than one of selfless service to your country - or humanity. This service required a sacrifice of all personal interests, but likewise the courage to stand up unflinchingly for your convictions. From scholars and clergymen on my mother’s side, I inherited a belief that, in the very radical sense of the Gospels, all men were equals as children of God, and should be met and treated by us as our masters in God.”

It was with great pleasure that I accepted the invitation from Mary to put together a few words about my great uncle Dag Hammarskjöld, my mother’s father’s brother.

As Dag didn’t have any children, the closest relatives to him are the descendants of his three
brothers. And after my emigration from Sweden to Australia in 1989, I happen to be the closest relative to Dag in the Southern Hemisphere.

I met Dag only once, and it was during the time he was Secretary General of the United Nations. I was very young at the time, my memory of this encounter is a bit vague, but I do still remember that meeting Dag was very special! I didn’t know or understand at the time that one of the reasons he had been nominated Secretary General of the United Nations was that he was considered to be “the most neutral man in the most neutral country in the world.”

Dag was born in 1905. The Hammarskjöld family was already a very well established respected academic and aristocratic family in Sweden at the time. His father Hjalmar, my great grandfather, an extremely dedicated and senior public servant all throughout his career, was not present at the birth of Dag, as he was away from home busily working out the final logistics regarding the very sensitive split-up of the Norwegian and Swedish Union. Hjalmar later was the Prime Minister of Sweden from 1914 to 1917.

Prior to the birth of Dag in 1905, Agnes and Hjalmar had three other sons: Bo – my grandfather, as well as Åke and Sten. (photo of the four brothers, probably taken in 1920.)

The first Hammarskjöld, Peder (from where I got my name – a Scandinavian version of Peter) was dubbed by the Swedish King in 1610. Peder (Michilsson) took the name Hammarskjöld and was given Tuna Gård in Småland (some 4 hours’ drive from Stockholm) which is still owned by the Hammarskjöld Family. I had the pleasure of visiting Tuna in 2008 with my family, where we were hosted by Åke Hammarskjöld - the current head of the Hammarskjöld Family Association. The 400th Anniversary Celebrations of the Hammarskjöld Family were held at Tuna in 2010. I was unfortunately unable to attend, but my parents did. (photo from Tuna Gård and the Hammarskjöld Family members who attended.)

I have only been to the UN once, but I learnt then that Dag’s spirit is, and I understand, still is, very much alive in the UN today. I have heard that even today, there is a saying within the UN, when challenging issues are discussed “…wonder what Hammarskjöld would have done with this problem…”

My grandfather Bo was also a prominent Swede. Apart from managing the important rationing system during the Second World War, he was also chairman of many associations, such as the Swedish Social Care Association, Swedish Road Association, Swedish Fire Brigade Association, etc. He was the Landshövding (Premier) of Sörmlands Län (a county Southwest of Stockholm) for 23 years. He was also Chairman of several of Sweden’s biggest companies. He was at the time called “Sweden’s biggest chairman”. His wife Signe, my grandmother, also held many important roles in Swedish Society, such as Chairman of the Swedish Red Cross, Swedish Blind Society.

Dag’s second oldest brother, Åke, was also a very successful Public Servant, becoming the Chairman of the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Dag’s third brother became a journalist at the New York Times, which was frowned upon by father Hjalmar, who couldn’t understand why he also wouldn’t become a prominent public servant.

Dag studied at Uppsala University, as I did, some 50 years after him. As his father Hjalmar was County Governor of Uppsala at the time (late 1920’s), Dag’s residence was the Uppsala Castle, located on a hill in the centre of the town. As he was an extremely dedicated university student, he studied day and night, and apparently did not participate in many of the University festivities. I have heard that when students wandered home after late, or even very late parties, they could see the light in one of the rooms in the Castle, and people knew that it was Dag up there studying hard. I very often thought of this when I was wandering home myself after festivities at the “Stockholme Nation” looking up to the Castle on the hill.

My personal favourite document that Dag wrote
was "Castle Hill" - "Slottsbacken", published for the first time in 1962, after his death, which in just some 15 pages describes one year in Uppsala, centered around where he lived, at the Castle; the significant change of the four seasons, and the change of life in the small town, so heavily influenced by the arrival and departure of university students with start and finish of the semesters of the University during the year.

Apart from, like Dag, appreciating the life in Uppsala, I also enjoyed spending time in the very Northern part of the country, as he had. I did my compulsory military service some 1,000 km north of Stockholm and on many weekends I travelled even further north, to Riksgränsen (north of the Arctic Circle, on the border to Norway) which is next door to Abisko, where Dag frequently went to find peace and quiet. (photo by Dag of what I believe is the Torneträsk Lake at Abisko.)

As a Corporal in the Swedish Army (still during the Cold War era), I was in charge of a group of 10 men, whose role it was to set up and maintain radio and telephone contact within the Northern Engineering Brigade. My experience with telecommunications in the Swedish Army was probably one reason I managed to land a job at Ericsson Australia, after I had I emigrated to Australia with my Australian fiancée Diana, in 1989. I have stayed in different sales roles within the telecommunications industry roles in Sydney ever since.

My grandfather on my father's side, Martin (after whom we named our first born son), was also a very prominent Public Servant. Martin Kastengren also studied at Uppsala University, a Law Degree with Honours, and after further studies in Stockholm, and a few years working as a lawyer in Stockholm, became a diplomat. He was the Swedish Consul General in Calcutta and in New York, envoy in Lima, Peru, and his last posting was Canberra (1951 to 1957), where he was the first Swedish Minister. After USA and United Kingdom had been granted first choice of land for their embassies in the leafy Yarralulma area, my grandfather was third in line, and he chose a sizeable and suitable piece of land where a beautiful, yet practical residence was built. He organised Swedish birch trees to be imported, and I am happy to confirm from my visit to the Embassy last year, that there are several very tall birch trees still growing in the compound of the Embassy. Martin told me during his retirement in Stockholm that his favourite years as a Diplomat were during his time in Canberra. I was born during this time, and ever since, I was very keen on going to Australia, which I did for the first time in 1985, when I met my wife Diana.

During his time as Minister, he inaugurated Toorak House in Melbourne in December 1956 as the Swedish Church (the former residence of five Governors of Victoria) at the time of the Melbourne Summer Olympics, which allowed many visiting Swedish people to attend the impressive inauguration ceremony of the Swedish Church (photo at the end of the newsletter).

It is quite fascinating that at the time I was born in 1956, my great uncle Dag held his position as the UN Secretary General in New York and my grandfather on my father's side was the official Swedish representative in Australia, where I now live.

I am happy that my three children are very interested in my family history and as I have told them about my interesting ancestors and also kept a lot of documents and photographs from both sides of my family, they will be able to pass on the legacy one day.
CHAPTER 1 - DECEMBER 1966

I’M ON MY WAY TO BECOMING AN INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT

In 1966 I was a bright and eager blonde Austrian lass of 23 years, about to embark on her career. I had already been aware of the significant work of the United Nations. My mother spoke English, French and of course German fluently and Russian and Czech reasonably well. She had worked for UNICEF in Vienna after World War II. During my high school years at the Lyçée Français de Bruxelles, I had organised an exhibition about UNESCO’s involvement in Africa through that organisation’s youth program. Later, as a library science student I did 6 months practical training with the technologically advanced library at the ILO in Geneva.

In September 1966 a job offer was posted on one of the bulletin boards requiring a library graduate to become part of a newly created documentation centre at FAO in Rome. I immediately applied and was called for an interview. My heart was doing leaps and bounds as I arrived at Headquarters and was shown into an interview office where three people were sitting, ready to grill me: my future boss, Mr. Dubois, his future boss, Mr. Raymond Aubrac (the famed French resistance fighter who passed away in 2012 at the age of 97), and the then head of the Library. One of the requirements was for one other official UN language than English to be spoken. I had done years of English at the primary and secondary levels in the American schools of Vienna and Wiesbaden and later at university level at Harvard. Most of my studies in French had been done firstly in Brussels, then in Paris and lastly in Geneva. I therefore filled that criteria and was soon spoken to in both languages. Suddenly Mr. Aubrac turned, went to the phone and rang the then Assistant Director General, a British member, Mr. Mansfield. He joked with Mr. Mansfield saying, “So you think you’re the only one that can speak French without one of those horrendous English accents? Wait till you see this young lass!” “I will be the judge of that,” said Mr. Mansfield. So I went to his office and was asked to sit down and he immediately went from English to French and back without a moment’s hesitation and with perfect diction and use of a number of tongue twisters. When he asked a question in English, I answered in English. When in French, I answered just as quickly in French. It took about 5 minutes before he got up, went to the phone, and rang a number. “Raymond! Parbleu! She must come to work with us! She is the first person I have interviewed since coming to FAO who can jump from English to French and back as quickly as I can and without the slightest accent in either!” I was offered the job, but at the grade of a General Services grade, G6, not yet as a professional P1 since I hadn’t finished my university degree. (That would come within the following year).

And so this young exuberantly fervent admirer of the United Nations began work at FAO on 10 December 1966. The fact that I was to be stationed in Rome just added to my excitement. The Personnel Office (as it was then called) booked me into the Hotel Domus Avenida, just around the corner from FAO Head Office. It was nestled into the delightful park-like surroundings on one of Rome’s Seven Hills, the Aventino. Working hours
went from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Being so close to your place of work can be misleading, because you think you can spare another 5 minutes in the shower and in front of the mirror and still get to work on time. Wrong! There were many times over the next few weeks that I’d have to scramble out the door, running an almost Olympic record to get into the office on time!).

On my first day, all the particulars were checked and a nice lady took me to where I was to sit for the next few years, an office in the newly created FAO Documentation Centre overlooking the Circo Massimo! The main building had run out of space and so this house that must have been a very nice home once was rented in order to house us and the Codex Alimentarius crowd. This was all Christmases at once! The Documentation Centre was to stay there for about three years before it could be housed, next to the Library in the Annex Complex of FAO.

I need to back peddle for a moment. I had studied library science in Geneva and part of those studies required a one year’s practical experience component. As I mentioned, I did 6 months of that at the ILO in Geneva, where the latest computerised techniques were being used – a punched card and paper trail system where the abstracts of documents produced by ILO had first to be written by hand on special forms. These were then sent off to the IBM computer section that worked with reels the size of a small ferris wheel. All this would be of great benefit to me when I began work in Rome.

CHAPTER 2-MY FIRST YEARS AT FAO
1966-1968

The study of library science was as boring as it can get, but the work I was asked to undertake was absolutely fascinating. My first job was to create a list of keywords to be used when abstracting documents. These keywords were to represent the terms mostly used in the activities of FAO and by which a document could be retrieved. In a hierarchical mode, these terms would be organised from a general concept such as “plant production” to the names of plant groups such as “cereals” to the names of specific plants, down to the specific varieties within one plant variety. All the names of the member countries had to be included as well as the various geographic regions and climatic zones. A first edition of a dictionary of about 500 keywords was created which would also included referrals such as ‘corn’ --- use “maize”.

The next activity forming part of the Documentation Centre’s Terms of Reference involved collecting all of FAO’s publications including reports from the various scientific meetings and papers submitted from field staff and then abstracting them by creating sentences with these keywords. Special forms were used and the abstracts and relevant keywords (in general about 5-10 per article according to its length and complexity) had to be entered into boxes, making sure that the handwriting was precise and legible, for the forms then had to be sent to an Italian IBM Centre where staff entered manually what was written on those forms. As most of the centre’s staff didn’t speak English, that little detail became quite important, as they were copying what they saw. The same applies these days. One has to type in a website address absolutely correctly in order to retrieve it. Thinking back to those times as I’m writing this, isn’t it amazing how technology has absolutely whirled us into a new era of information processing.

A monthly bibliography would then be published in which the keywords would be appear in alphabetical order as they appeared in the sentences of a given abstract. This was called keywords in context. For example, if an
expert was looking for material on beef cattle production in the Congo, he or she would look up under “A”: “animal production” and then go down to find the terms “beef cattle” along with “Congo” (as it was then called). There could be ten entries under Congo, but because the sentence would read, “article on beef cattle production in the eastern regions of the Congo”, the said expert could then immediately note the reference number and order the entire article (or a copy thereof) from the documentation centre.

One of the functions of the Documentation Centre was also to offer retrieval services to experts and other users. We would then formulate a set of Boolean Queries, (a method still used by Google today in its advanced search window) and send them to the Italian IBM Centre for processing. A bibliographic printout of the results would then be compiled. Quite a lengthy process which on occasion led to field personnel being frustrated since they often came to Head Office for only a few days before returning to their foreign posts. Postal communications between Rome and the Congo for example could take weeks and even up to a month before a field expert stationed there received all of the information in hard copy.

When I arrived in Rome I did not speak a word of Italian except “si” and “no”. I didn’t know anyone in that beautiful city either. My life for the first 6 months centred around my work at FAO. This was the first time in a long time that I ended up in a country that spoke only their native language, Italian, and where I didn’t understand a word of what was being said. It was like being a bird in a cage. I enrolled in the Dante Alighieri School and set about firstly learning the grammar and then some of the weird pronunciations. It took me a good two weeks to get my tongue around the word for favourable: “favorevole”. The accent in English is on the first syllable. In Italian it’s on the third. Try it! You’ll see what I mean. Unlike English, Italian is a phonetic language. So a, e, i, o, u are all to be pronounced in their original phonetics. Fa-v-oh-ray-v-oh-lay.

Within six months I was on my way to mastering Italian grammar, pronunciation and even some Roman idioms in the local dialect.

CHAPTER 3-FROM G6 TO P1
& FROM DISILLUSIONMENT TO BELIEF IN THE CAUSE OF THE UN

The political to and fro I witnessed during my first 2 years at FAO distressed me immensely. The international political scene seemed to be an enlargement ten times over of what the national scene of my native Austria could be.

Meanwhile meetings were being called at FAO involving the Directors of the US National Agricultural Library, the Commonwealth Bureau of Agriculture, the French, Chechoslovakian and lo and behold even the Russian agricultural counterpart. All the major agricultural libraries around the globe were all abstracting and analysing much of the same material in their respective languages. These meetings were intended to nut out a system whereby duplication of these activities could be eliminated. Russia was not a member of FAO since its agricultural system was too different from the other member countries. The fact, however, that the UN could provide an umbrella under which countries which did not have bilateral relations with Russia could still sit together was very inspiring indeed and I thought that if for no other reason, the UN’s agenda of sharing information was reason enough for its existence. It is indeed one of its primary and most successful and enduring functions to this day!

I needed a topic to finish my library degree. I was also eager to get that degree in order to have a chance of advancing to a P1 grade. FAO had a large number of agricultural
research reports from a variety of countries. They were in no specific order and spread around in the offices of various experts who dealt with a given topic. I set out to do my degree on analysing, abstracting, and creating a bibliography along the same lines as was being done for FAO documents. I sifted through the reports in the various offices and chose to index projects in an agro-eco-climatic 4000km belt situated north and south of the equator. There were about 300 reports to analyse. This was printed by FAO in early 1968. What came to light was that there was substantial duplication of research around the world. Centres in India were conducting the same research as in the similar agro-eco-climatic belt of South America. What emerged was an international information system for research projects in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries and other related fields. Today there are 137 national and 19 international centres participating in CARIS. These centres have submitted information on approximately 30,000 currently active projects.

I graduated with this in 1968. Shortly afterwards I was able to apply for the P1 position in the Documentation Centre and was successful in obtaining it. As mentioned, meetings were being held in view of creating a similar computerised information system for published documents in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries and other related fields. It was to be a cooperative system to serve both developed and developing countries. This required a dictionary of keywords far greater than the one we had started with in 1966. It also required a multilingual dictionary to be created in order to allow centres in countries with one of FAO’s official languages at the time (i.e. English, French, Spanish) to be able to index their material using keywords that could then be retrieved along with other documents in another language. One of my tasks was to create a trilingual dictionary of keywords in the fields mentioned above. Furthermore, references as to which term to use had to be included. South American centres use different terms than their Spanish-speaking European counterparts. I therefore underwent an intensive course in Spanish. These were my primary tasks for the next 6 years as the International System for Agricultural Science and Technology, known as AGRIS was formally created.

The first printed bibliography along with a computerised version thereof was scheduled to appear in December 1974. That could only be done at the IAEA in Vienna, as its library had the latest computer technology for this purpose. It mustn’t be forgotten that nuclear energy was very much at the forefront of worldwide politics at the time. A Coordinating Centre was created to be housed within the IAEA and the head of that Centre would be a grade P2 for which I applied immediately. Being Austrian was surely an advantage of being successful in obtaining that position and grade.

I visited Australia in August 1974 and met an old flame there whom I had known and fallen in love with back in Rome. We were married almost a day after meeting up again. However, I had to return to Europe as it was stipulated in my contract that I had to give three months’ notice. Furthermore I had to set up the AGRIS Coordinating Centre to Vienna. In order to meet the target of a first edition by December 1974, it was decided to gather the documentation from 5 countries: Germany, France, the UK, the USA and what was then Czechoslovakia. These countries had all participated in the meetings over the years and had put methods in place back home. There were a few teething problems but the first edition appeared in early December 1974.
Today, the global public domain database of AGRIS currently has more than 7.5 million bibliographic records in the fields mentioned above. More than 150 organisations from 65 countries participate in capturing their documentation and pooling it for worldwide access. The database continues to be maintained by the FAO in Rome.

On 15 December 1974 I boarded the plane for Sydney.

CHAPTER 4-Australia and Austria

I stepped off the plane on 17 December and spent the festive season with my husband in Bendemeer, north of Tamworth. He had obtained a teaching job at the CAE in Newcastle. We moved there in January 1975. Meanwhile I became interested in following up to what extent Australia was capturing its own documentation and contributing it in a computer readable format to the pool in Vienna. Mr. Aubrac had given me a letter of introduction to use in Australia should I wish to use it. I learned that an arm of the CSIRO in Melbourne had been given the task to carry out this task. I contacted them and was asked to act as a consultant in training the personnel there in the rules to be applied. Furthermore, I obtained a list of Australian journals in the relevant fields that needed to be analysed and submitted. I was given the task of monitoring a certain number of them which I could do in the Library of the University of Newcastle. We moved back to Sydney in 1977 and there I was able to make contact with the librarian of the agricultural library at Sydney University who allowed me to work in her offices. As all this was still done by typing everything onto paper for it to be processed in the computer centre of CSIRO in Melbourne, I would send batches there every second week.

This involvement with the Australian input into AGRIS continued till 1978 when I returned to Vienna with my two young children. There I was to learn that two institutions were arguing about who would be responsible for preparing and entering the relevant information, the faculty office at the BOKU, the University of Agriculture in Vienna or a specially created office within the federal ministry. The to and fro in these debates meant that absolutely nothing had been done since 1974/1975. I visited the Coordinating Centre and spoke with old colleagues of how disappointed I was. Long story short, I was given the task of preparing a 6 month sample input of Austrian journals in the field. However, my qualifications needed to be examined before a wage could be agreed upon. None of my education outside of Austria was accepted as being recognised, except the results of my Baccalaureat. I therefore was paid as a high school graduate, not a penny more. I had to swallow that but was proud of being the one that ultimately got Austria onto a regular input train, with the faculty office at the BOKU taking charge.

I returned to Australia in 1980. By then CSIRO in Melbourne was in full swing. From that point on I became involved in other areas.

UN Day Celebrations in Sydney

By Peter Airey, Past NSW President UNAA

Each 24 October, the Cenotaph Ceremony in Martin Place in Sydney honours Australian uniformed personnel who have served the UN and other multi-lateral organisations in peacekeeping roles around the world over the past 67 years.

This year, the Ceremony commenced with the arrival of the Distinguished Guest of Honour L/General John Sanderson AC and the pealing of the bells at Martin Place. Following the welcome and invocation by Mr Geoffrey Little
Representing Retirees of the United Nations in Australia

JP Convenor of the Ceremony, Mr David Coleman Federal Member for Banks presented the message from Prime Minister Tony Abbott MP. As in previous years, arrangements were made for the UN Flag to fly on the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

On this occasion, the Cypriot community contributed a special cultural item in the presence of Her Excellency Ms Ionna Malliotis, High Commissioner of Cyprus. This marked the 50th anniversary of the commencement of the UN Peacekeeping mission in Cyprus to which Australia continues to contribute.

The Cenotaph Oration, delivered by the Distinguished Guest of Honour focussed on the special contribution of Australia to peacekeeping over the past 67 years. Thereafter about 65 wreaths were laid by representatives of government, the City of Sydney, the armed services, the police, members of the diplomatic corps, the UN family including AAFICS as well as civil society.

Unfortunately, the school cadet band was unable to attend due to the general security situation. With virtually no warning the audio visual contractor, Fishers Audio was able to provide pre-recorded music. The ceremony concluded with the sounding of the Last Post and other traditional calls, the observance of One Minute’s Silence and the National Anthem.

There was a security exercise in some of the buildings in Martin Place, and so our Ceremony was witnessed by an unprecedented number of office workers.

We are very grateful to the City of Sydney for a grant supporting the Wreath Laying Ceremony.

United Nations Day Luncheon:

Our traditional United Nations Day Luncheon was hosted by Mr Mark Coure MP, Member for Oatley who welcomed guests to Parliament House. The Guest of Honour was Professor Ramesh Thakur, Director, Centre for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament ANU and a former Assistant UN Secretary General.

The UNAA(NSW) was delighted that Professor Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, former Governor of NSW agreed to accept a Life Membership at the Luncheon. In her acceptance speech, Dame Marie spoke of her long term support for the UN in its work towards freedom, dignity and equality for all people. It was fascinating to learn that she is related to the late Dr Charles Malik, a scientist and philosopher who as the delegate from the Lebanon played a seminal role in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, together with Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt.

In his very thoughtful UN Day Luncheon address, Professor Ramesh discussed The United Nations and the Elusive Quest for Peace. He argued that progress towards the elusive quest is being made in the midst of widespread skepticism and cynicism about the UN. Sustained progress will only occur if the Secretary General skilfully plays a political role complementary to but never in competition with the Security Council, particularly when major powers and groups are bitterly divided. Professor Ramesh argued that
“the General Assembly should reclaim an active, not merely a reactive, role in the selection of the SG. If we had a Hammarskjold today and his or her qualities were known in advance, these are the attributes (1) that would be most required but (2) would guarantee non-selection. That is the tragedy of the world’s only office that embodies, represents, and speaks for the international community as a whole.”

However, Professor Ramesh noted that optimism “is part of the job description for a UN official” and provided a number of examples from recent history to justify his personal sense of optimism. A copy of Professor Ramesh’s address is available by contacting the undersigned at pairey@optusnet.com.au.

The Luncheon was attended by over 100 people from many walks of life including students from about five schools.

Concluding comment:

Those seeking more information in the work of the United Nations Association of Australia, or considering joining their local Division are invited to peruse the website:

www.unaa.org.au

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE NUMBER 7?

An idea thought about by Raymond Milne

Why is it that the number seven seems to have pre-eminence in our minds over all other numbers?

Why is it that: if in any classification there are more than seven classes it is very highly likely that the number of classes above seven are subsidiary to the dominant seven.

It is not just that we have seven days in the week. We also have seven occurring in a wide variety of natural and man-made situations.

Here are the natural situations:

- the seven continents: Europe, North America, South America, Africa, Asia, Australia, Antarctica.
- the seven oceans / the seven seas: North Pacific, South Pacific, North Atlantic, South Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, Antarctic.
- the seven colours of the rainbow: violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange, red. (Remember it by: virgins in bed give you odd reactions).
- the seven pitches per octave of the most popular musical – the heptatonic – scale.
- the seven major biological classifications: kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species.
- the seven essential nutrients for the sustenance of human life: water, carbohydrates, protein, fibre, fat, vitamins, minerals.
- the seven groups in the Periodic Table of Elements: hydrogen,
lithium, sodium, potassium, rubidium, caesium, francium.

And here are human created situations:

- God made the world in seven days and then he rested;
- the seven days of the week;
- the seven classes of noun: person, place, thing, event, substance, quality, quantity;
- the seven deadly sins: vanity, envy, gluttony, lust, greed, sloth, hatred.
- the seven heavenly virtues: humility, contentment, moderation, continence, generosity, activity, love.
- the seven kinds of jokes: narratives, retorts, reminders, one-liners, wordplays, mispronunciations, comic verses.
- the seven-sized short-term memory chunks for data such as lists of words, tasks, facts;
- the cognitive load theory that reinforces the need to keep teaching and instructional presentations to chunks of seven;
- seven sounds better than any other numbers: eg Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs sounds better than Eight, Five or Three Dwarfs. Seven rolls off the tongue.
- the seventh heaven;
- the seven wonders of the Ancient World: Colossus of Rhodes; Lighthouse at Alexandria; Mausoleum at Halicarnassus; Temple of Artemis; Statue of Zeus; Hanging Gardens of Babylon; Great Pyramid of Giza.

So I’m still puzzled. What is it about the number 7?

Something special. So I’ll stay with it as a lucky number.

This piece is contributed by Bill Pigott

An Englishman, an American, a Frenchman, a German and a man from UNDP all took part in a competition to see who could write the best book about elephants. The Englishman wrote a book called "Hunting the Elephant in India". The American wrote one called "Raising Bigger and Better Elephants". The Frenchman wrote one called "La Vie Amoureuse des Elephants". The German wrote one called "Versuch einer Einführung in das Studium des Elefanten mit vollständiger Bibliografie" (Attempt at an introduction to the study of the elephants, with a complete bibliography).

The title of the book written by the man from UNDP was as follows: "Proposal to establish an expert group to examine the feasibility of setting up a committee to draw up elephant-sensitive guidelines and suggest methodologies, mechanisms, modalities and forward-looking strategies to promote sustainable elephant development and ensure full elephant participation in the development process through, inter alia, the strengthening of elephant institutions and the promotion of networking activities between such institutions on a regional, interregional and global basis, in full conformity with UNDP Governing Council decision number 92/XYZ, paragraph 2, section 4 (see appendix A attached)".
Distribution: The newsletter is sent to most members by email. If you don’t have an email address you will receive a copy by post. If you haven’t given AAFICS your email or have changed it recently, please let us know.
This newsletter is prepared by the AAFICS Committee of office bearers and is intended for AAFICS membership only.
AAFICS, 5/4 New McLean Street, Edgecliff NSW 2027.
Life-long membership in AAFICS is $140 Payable to the Treasurer.

For all enquiries:
AAFICS President Mary Johnson Mary1945@ozemail.com.au Tel: 02-9362 5212
Treasurer Tom Joel
Thomas.joel@live.com.au

ACT Coordinators:
Lorraine Corner lorraine@helkorn.com
Margaret O’Callaghan Margaret@ocallaghan.id.au

QLD Coordinator Mike Sackett msktt@yahoo.com

NSW Coordinator Stephen Hill stephen.hill@exemail.com.au

SA Coordinator Christine Elstob christineelstob@hotmail.com

VIC Coordinator Mike Patto paul.matto@bigpond.com

WA Coordinator Monina Magallanes Msmag19@bigpond.com
Dag Hammarskjöld had a serious interest in photography. Many of his photos focus on the beauty of nature. This picture was taken during one of his many visits to the northern Swedish mountains.

Uppsala Castle

Peder Kastengren's family album. Where Dag lived in the 1920s.
Representing Retirees of the United Nations in Australia

Martin Kastengren and wife Gunny at the Swedish Embassy, Canberra 1957.
Peder's grandfather in Melbourne inaugurating the Swedish Church, 1956.

Dag Hammarskjöld with his three brothers. From the left Bo, Dag, Åke and Sten. Bo also pursued a civil service career, Åke was a high official of the International Court of Justice and Sten was a writer.
Representing Retirees of the United Nations in Australia