



**Australian Association of Former International Civil Servants
(AAFICS)**

Vol XXV no.2

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013

The Baton Has been Passed

**By Mike Patto, State Coordinator, AAFICS,
Victoria**

In our new tradition of each State/Territory producing a Newsletter, and following on from our Queensland colleagues in the last one, it is now Victoria's turn. What a task Mike Sackett and his Publication Committee have set us to emulate. In Victoria, we also set up a small sub-committee of John Clements, Mark Stirling and Mike Patto mainly because we live close to each other for communication on the Mornington Peninsular (OK, so it's not as sunshine prone as Queensland!). As with our Queensland group we have tried to make this last issue of the year informative, interesting and useful to all members, "old" or "new", all mixed in with a good dose of humour; an important ingredient to longevity that we wish on all our members.

Firstly though, we want to pass on our best wishes and concern to all those affected by the terrible fires in NSW. It seems such a short time ago that we in Victoria were also experiencing the same heartache and tragedy here. I know we all live in a bushfire prone country and I guess we are all guilty of complacency but to those that experience such horrors at close quarters, nothing can prepare us for the shock and reality of such events..... Equally so for our colleagues in Queensland. January 2013 was their catastrophic start to the year where many residents were recovering from catastrophic flooding for the second time in two years.

It seems no-one is immune to these destructive natural events, no matter where you live in the world. Whilst it is agreed that any one event cannot be attributed to global warming, over 97% of our leading climate scientists are predicting increased climate instability with more adverse effects on populations for the future. I guess we are going have to help those who need it wherever and whenever we can, since it seems inevitable that such events will increasingly dominate our lives.

In terms of the development of our two key issues of taxation and the Medicare levy (as it effects those of us already in overseas health funds), not much has happened this year. Following on from Mike Sackett's excellent welcome article and tax summary in the last Newsletter (June 2013), I have approached a top tier tax lawyer in a top law firm in Melbourne to determine if there are any further courses of action we can take to resolve our concerns on taxation of our pensions. We have currently asked for a scope and quote to see whether we can address the legislation issue governing our current ruling. So we intend to re-ignite our efforts as a result of a change in Government, and will keep you updated on any developments.

Further, we also plan to contact our ex-UN lawyer, the Hon Melissa Parkes, member for Fremantle (WA) and now Shadow Assistant Minister for Health, for her advice on how we present our case to the Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

My current feeling is that we need to address the legislation issue first. We have tried all

Representing Retirees of the United Nations in Australia

UN & its Agencies -EPP0-FAO-IAEA-ICGEB-ICCROM-ICAO-ICC-IFAD-ILO-IMO-IOM-IPU-ISA-ITU-ITLOS-
UNDP-UNESCO-UNIDO-UNOPS-WFP-WHO-WIPO-WMO-WTO-WWF



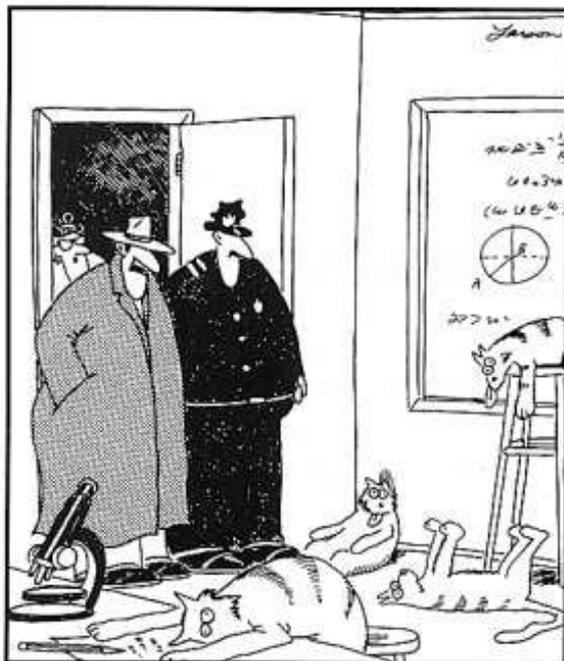
other options in the past but until the current legislation is changed, and it may just need a wording change, we will continue to get the usual, as Mike Sackett so rightly says “standard template Treasury response”. However, we need to know the likelihood of success and costs so we can take it to our pension members to find out whether we can afford to pursue this angle.

Note: Can you please ensure that your State Coordinator has your up-to-date contact address (Email,Postal,Tel.Nos.) or we cannot find you.

In this final Newsletter for 2013, so your AAFICS Office Bearers want to wish you all

**A Very Merry Christmas with
Best Wishes for 2014**

**Mary, Tom, Lorraine, Margaret, Christine
Monina, Stephen & Mike x 2.**



"Notice all the computations, theoretical scribbles, and lab equipment, Norm. ...
Yes, curiosity killed these cats."

Personal Income Taxation and United Nations Retirees

There may be some of our retirees that are still unaware that although the Australian Government taxes our pensions as foreign income, they do allow a tax deduction for the Undeducted Purchase Price. To explain this further, the following was prepared by our AAFICS President from *an AAFICS Note/Updated March 2009*.

The situation of beneficiaries of the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund who retire in Australia is quite different from Australians who retire under Australian superannuation and pension systems. On taking up residence in Australia you will become eligible for personal income tax on your “foreign pension”. However, recipients of UNJSPF benefits are not entitled to apply the tax exemptions and offsets resulting from the superannuation reforms which became available on 1 July 2007.

According to the definitions and rulings of the Australian Taxation Office, UN retirees receive a benefit from a retirement fund established and managed outside Australia, under an international tax agreement that provides the UN pension is taxable in Australia as a foreign income. However, the ATO, recognizing that the UN employee contributed to the purchase of the pension, allows a deductible amount each income year. This is called the Undeducted Purchase Price (UPP).

In order to include this deduction in your tax return, it is necessary to establish your UPP amount. If you do not already know how much you personally contributed to the UN Pension Fund in the course of your career, you can write to the Chief of the Accounts Unit of the UNJSPF in New York or in Geneva and ask for the summary of all your contributions to the pension fund. For the ATO, these contributions can only be calculated from 1 July 1983, when the UPP ruling was introduced by the ATO.

The other characteristic of your UN pension which the ATO recognizes as contributing to the deduction are that the UN benefit is payable for life and is a reversionary pension (i.e. your widow/widower will receive a survivor's benefit). The residual capital value of the pension is nil.

The Undeducted Purchase Price of the pension is defined in subsection 27A(1) of the ITAA 1936. The annual deductible amount of the UPP is ascertained in accordance with the formula found in subsection 27H(2). This formula will give a US dollar figure which may be translated to Australian dollars at the annual average exchange rate for the year, available from the ATO website at www.ato.gov.au or by ringing the Superannuation infoline on 13 10 20.

If you have any doubts about how the formula may work in your case and as long as you know how much your personal contributions to purchasing your UN pension amounted to, you or your tax agent can ring or write to the ATO and ask for further information about the UPP and the annual deductible amount of your "foreign pension".

The UPP is not indexed to CPI increases and therefore constitutes a shrinking percentage of the UN pension, which is indexed.

Church Ladies With Typewriters

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow..

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered..

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in

the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

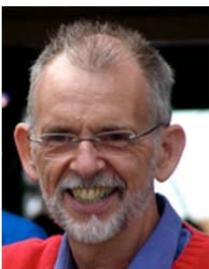
Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

The Gift of Time **John Clements**



While I am not exactly idle in my first years of retirement, I have found something very precious – time. I have time to spare, time to give. Time I did not have before. I still take occasional consultancies and am involved in various

community activities; but I still have time to spare. I recently volunteered to be trained in pastoral care at my local hospital, and now I give one morning a week (not very much really) that I spend going round an acute surgical ward – listening. It sounds easy, even rather passive. Far from it. I usually come back quite tired and emotionally challenged.

So what have I learned? I was pleasantly surprised how thorough the pastoral care training was. We were taught “active listening” – a skill that involves encouraging the other party to continue talking by such devices as smiles, nods and even the occasional “Mmm”. We learned how to reflect back to the other what he or she had just said – “You said your husband ignored you?”. And we learned to empathize – “That must really have been painful for you”.

The pastoral carer does not counsel. He or she is a listening ear, one who simply comes along side and journeys with the other for a brief moment. Sometimes we sit in silence and wait for the other to speak if he wants to. Being comfortable with silence is an essential component of pastoral care. Not being frightened by the silence so that you feel you have to fill it with your own anxious words.

Pastoral care is not about chatting. Chatting is usually a two way street with an exchange of views on both sides of the conversation. I have learned to take the initiative to start the conversation with something simple such as “How are you today?” But then comes the tricky bit, the waiting quietly for the answer. Waiting in a quiet place for the other to join you if they choose. While I am a Christian, this work is not about being a Christian, about being a particular denomination or even about being religious. We do not proselytize, and respect all persons and all religious persuasions. It is about one human being validating another. Everyone needs that validation at some time or other.

Why am I writing this? I am not recruiting for volunteers for pastoral care! (It is not for the faint-hearted). But I want to share with you that my training in pastoral care has equipped me to better live in my family, to live in my community. I have time to sit and listen to others – a precious, rare commodity. As young parents, we were always so busy just getting through the day. I now have time to listen to my son, my granddaughter for as long as they want to talk. They are generally not looking for advice, but need a quiet place

for another human being to hear them and validate them. “That sounds exciting”. “Wow you have done well at school this week”. “You must have felt sad when your friend left school and moved away”.

I am so thankful I have that wonderful gift of time.

(Dr John Clements served in the World Health Organization's Geneva office from 1985 to 2002. He was a medical officer with the Expanded Programme on Immunization. From Geneva he visited dozens of developing countries on mission during that time. He is now retired in Melbourne).



Interesting Comments from Germany on UN Reform

‘The UN must reflect the world as it is, not as it used to be’.

Guido Westerwelle, the German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs said in his address to the UN General Assembly, that the Organization must be strengthened so it can play the vital role intended for it and reflect the realities of today's world.

“The authority of the United Nations depends on its being representative,” Guido Westerwelle told the high-level debate at UN Headquarters.

“A Security Council without permanent seats for Africa and Latin America does not reflect the realities of today's world. A Security Council in which Asia, that emerging and highly populated region, is represented with only one single permanent seat does not reflect the realities of today's world.”

Mr. Westerwelle said [Germany](#), with its partners Japan, India and Brazil, is prepared to assume greater responsibility.

“We are seeking reform of the United Nations so that its power to build consensus, establish global rules and act effectively in response to crises and conflicts is demonstrably strengthened,” he stated.

“This is a call not only to the United Nations itself, but also to each and every individual Member State. Only if we are prepared to compromise and willing to act together will we be able to make the United Nations strong,” he said. “Germany remains committed to the United Nations. A strong United Nations is in Germany's interest.”

Mr. Westerwelle pointed out that the General Assembly is meeting this year in a different chamber owing to ongoing refurbishments at the UN Headquarters complex.

“The renovation of the United Nations must not be restricted merely to the buildings,” he stated. The United Nations must reflect the world as it is, not as it used to be. Only then will it be fit for the challenges of our age.”

Echoing that sentiment, Aurelia Frick, Minister for Foreign Affairs of [Liechtenstein](#), said: “Our inability to respond to the crisis in Syria demonstrates a crucial weakness in the system: the use of the veto, or its threat, in a manner incompatible with the purposes of the United Nations. This can make the Security

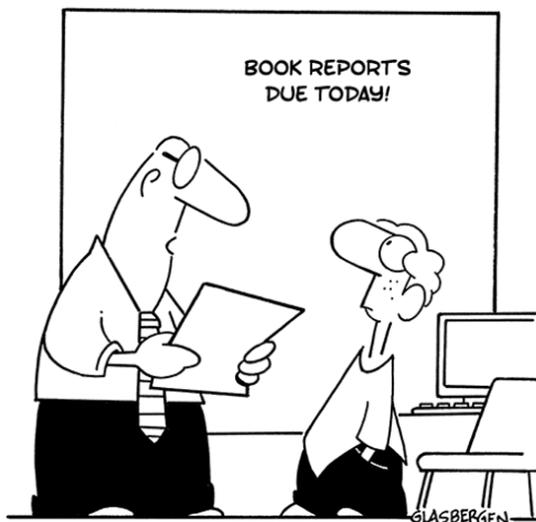
Council irrelevant at times when it is most urgently needed.”

She said that earlier in the General Debate, France suggested a “common code of conduct” for permanent members of the Council. “We strongly agree with this proposal. All five permanent members should be able to give the world one public commitment: that they will not use their veto to block action aimed at ending or preventing atrocity crimes. This would be crucial to enhance the Council's effectiveness - and its credibility,” she said

“Unfortunately, however, we have not yet reached the point where we are able to bring the composition of the Security Council in line with the geopolitical realities of the twenty-first century,” Ms. Frick said, pointing out that the Council is also struggling to adjust its working methods to new challenges and to better include the perspective of non-members in its decisions - which is a crucial ingredient for effective leadership.

“We will therefore continue our efforts to promote accountability and transparency in the Council's operations,” she said

© Randy Glasbergen
glasbergen.com



“A Farewell To Arms was not written by Venus deMilo.”

Water is Good For You Mike Patto

I received this email from a friend so I cannot verify the claims but it sounds OK to me.

‘How many folks do you know who say they don't want to drink anything before going to bed because they'll have to get up during the night!! However, the following is very interesting:

I asked my Doctor why do people need to urinate so much at night time? Answer from my Cardiac Doctor –

Gravity holds water in the lower part of your body when you are upright (legs swell). When you lie down and the lower body (legs and etc) seeks level with the kidneys, it is then that the kidneys remove the water because it is easier.

This then ties in with the last statement! I knew you need your minimum water to help flush the toxins out of your body, but this was news to me. So, what is the correct time to drink water? Very Important. From a Cardiac Specialist!

Drinking water at a certain time maximizes its effectiveness on the body:

2 glasses of water after waking up – helps activate internal organs.

1 glass of water 30 minutes before a meal - helps digestion.

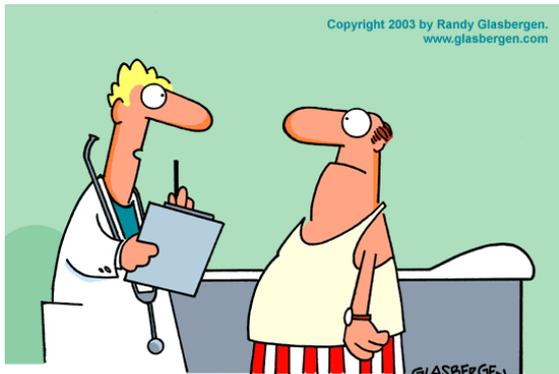
1 glass of water before going to bed – helps avoid stroke or heart attack.

*I can also add to this. My physician told me that water at bed time will also help prevent night time leg cramps. Your leg muscles are seeking hydration when they cramp and wake you up with a Charlie Horse (A **charley horse** is a popular North American colloquial term for painful spasms or cramps in the leg muscles, typically lasting anywhere from a few seconds to about a day – ed)*

Australian Association of Former International Civil Servants (AAFICS)

The cardiologist stated that if each person after receiving this e-mail, sends it to 10 people, probably one life could be saved'.

Note : Sadly, I guess this rules out water flavoured with malted barley from Bonnie Scotland or with that other favoured beverage – water flavoured with malt and hops. – (ed).



"What fits your busy schedule better, exercising one hour a day or being dead 24 hours a day?"

The Annual AAFICS Victoria Get-together. **Mike Patto**



The annual gathering of the AAFICS members in Victoria was held on 19th October at the Café Vic in the Melbourne Arts Centre.

What an enjoyable event it was with all 19 of us catching up with the news from each other, whilst enjoying a light lunch and reminiscing on our UN experiences, missing the ayahs,

cooks, dhobi wallahs, drivers, sweepers, gardeners, guards and the Uncle Tom Cobble crew all in our overseas income redistribution process; all those staff that made our life easier and feel part of the countries we served in, but also troublesome on occasions!

Since our annual group get-togethers vary in numbers and group compositions we started a 'round the table' brief introduction of name, UN organization worked for, type of work and where. What transpired was a fascinating collection of experiences from all different countries where people had served during their UN life and made me feel proud and privileged to have been part of such an organisation.

The weather was perfect, which for Melbourne was a special event in itself. Those of us who also visited the Geoffrey Rush exhibition at the Centre had an additional treat. I have always thought that Geoffrey Rush was a great actor but was surprised at the extent and variety of his characters. If the exhibition moves to your state capital, I urge you to seek it out and learn more about one of our first class international icons.

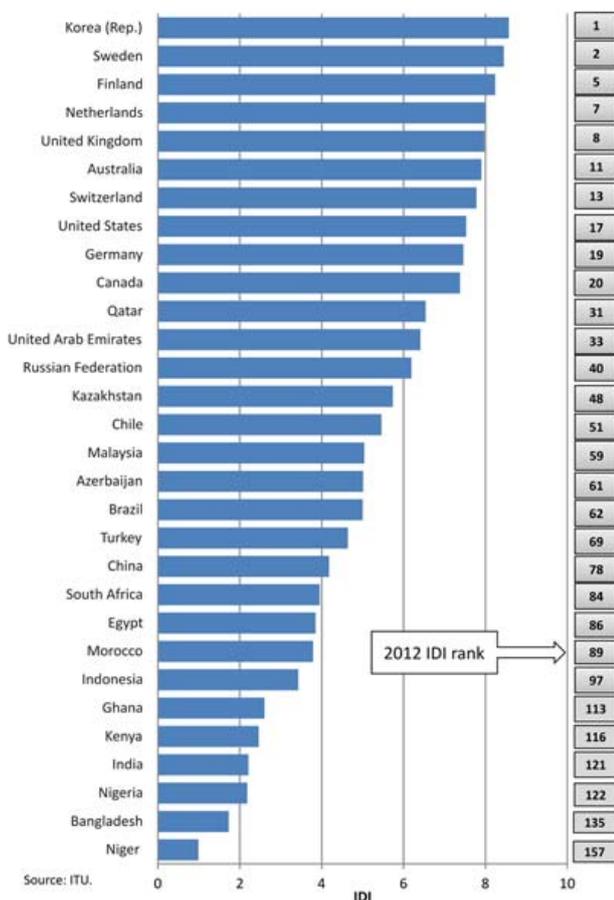
UN says 2.7bn People will be Online Soon

Around 2.7 billion people - 40 per cent of the world's population - will be connected to the internet by the end of 2013, the United Nations says. Another 250 million people came online in 2012, but 4.4 billion people remained unconnected, said the UN's International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Ninety per cent of those not online live in developing countries. The ITU also said there would be 6.8 billion mobile-cellular subscriptions - almost as many as there are people on the planet - by the end of the year.

Australian Association of Former International Civil Servants (AAFICS)

The ITU's annual ICT Development Index ranks 157 countries according to their level of ICT access, use and skills and shows that Australia is lying in 11th place South Korea leads the world in information and communication technology (ICT) development for the third consecutive year, followed closely by Sweden, Iceland, Denmark, Finland and Norway, the ITU says in its annual report. The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg and Hong Kong (China) also rank high, while Britain nudged into the top 10 from 11th position last



year, the report said.

The report also noted that "mobile broadband is now more affordable than fixed broadband".

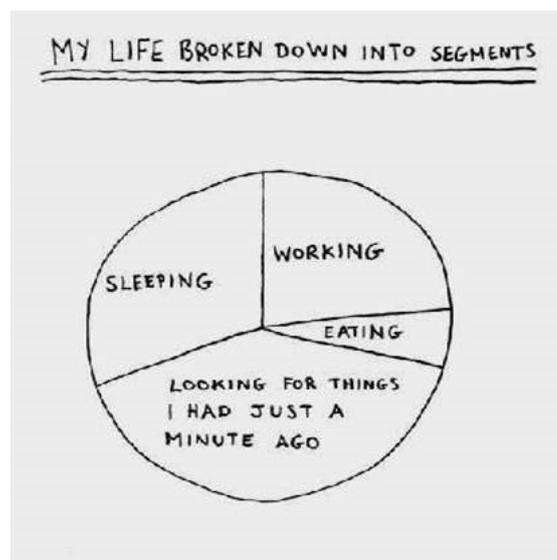
Skynews Updated: 07:17, Tuesday October 8, 2013

Have You got a Copy of the AAFICS Handbook for Members?

In 2009, AAFICS produced a handbook for its members in three parts to ensure your affairs are left in good order for those that are left behind or become responsible for your welfare in later life.

If you have not completed this yet we urge you to do this now and keep in a safe place where your spouse, your partner, your next of kin, or a person who enjoys your trust can easily locate it when the time comes.

Our AAFICS president together with Kelvin Widdows (our AAFICS Legal Adviser who prepared the text) did a great job. If you do not know of this Handbook, or have misplaced it, just contact your AAFICS State Coordinator (contact addresses are given at the end of this Newsletter) and they will be happy to get one to you either directly by email or by post.



**A Reminder to Return Your Signed
Copy of the Certificate of
Entitlement from UNJSPF**

All Certificates of Entitlement were posted out by UNJSPF to pension members on 30th October this year. We hope you have all received these by now.

It is critical that you sign and return these as soon as possible otherwise, being an annual requirement, the UN will not continue to send your pension.

For those who have not received their CE yet, you can either go online to UNJSPF for instructions on what to do at:
http://www.unjspf.org/UNJSPF_Web/page.jsp?page=benCE
or contact their AAFICS State Coordinator for help.

**Downloading Your Monthly Pension
Statements**



© 1998 Randy Glasbergen, E-mail: randy@glasbergen.com
www.glasbergen.com



"I'm going to order a broiled skinless chicken breast,
but I want you to bring me lasagna and
garlic bread by mistake."

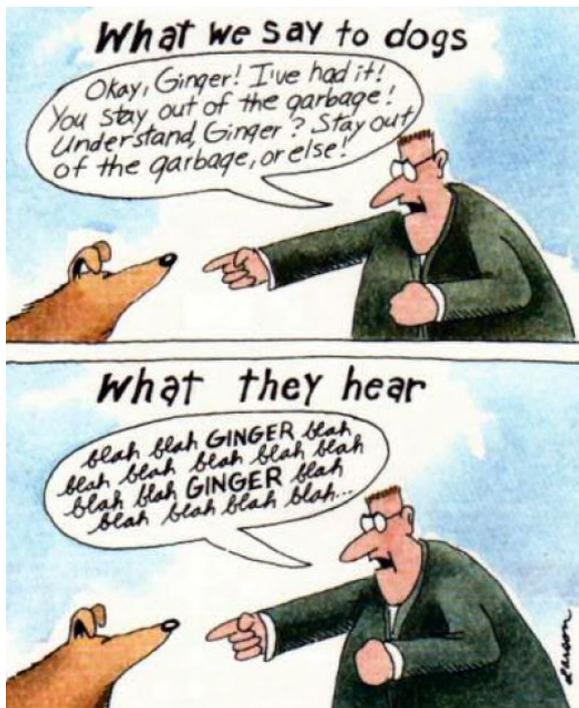
It appears that due to the flooding of the UN building in New York from Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 we have all been affected by not receiving our usually posted quarterly pension statements. Among the hard-hit areas were the UN receiving office, mail and supply rooms, where staffers said perhaps hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of equipment, paper and supplies were damaged. As a result, the UN recommended that we download our own statements online. For those not familiar with the internet, this represents a bit of a daunting task but if you can get hold of someone with these skills and follow the instructions below and learn how to do it, I can fully recommend it as a preferred method anyway.

Before you can get to the correct part to download the quarterly statement, you will need to go onto the UNJSPF website as a new member and register for a beneficiary password (PIN). For this you will need your first and last name and your retirement number, along with your email address. The password will be sent to your email address and once logged on you can then change this to anything to suit you. So, if you take the following steps they will lead you to your quarterly pension statement:

1. Go into your browser website.
2. In the web address at the top, replace the browser address with <https://www.unjspf.org>
3. Click on 'Welcome'
4. Click on 'Beneficiary'
5. Click on 'Cost of Living Notification'
6. Click on the left hand box labeled 'New User?' and the 'Beneficiaries' if you want to obtain your specific registration PIN number, or if you already have this
7. Complete details on right hand box to log in.
8. This leads you directly to UNJSPF secure site with all of your quarterly pension statements and

allows you to change 'My account info' if you want to change your password.

If you have any problems with this just contact your State Coordinator.



Are UN Expats Still Marginalised Here in Australia?

Mike Sackett's comments in the last Newsletter was spot on – 'I have been frustrated and disappointed by the perception of the UN system. In general, the Australian public is profoundly ignorant about the UN and, in the main, what opinions they do have are negative'. I guess this is reflected in our standing on submissions made to various federal governments. One day we may find a politician who is prepared to listen, acknowledge and be proud of the real role played by our representatives and their families as unofficial ambassadors in promoting our Australian values overseas. Further, as a group, we have a vast body of UN International experience that remains largely untapped.

Reports have been written in Australia, relevant to but not specifically to our UN representatives, encouraging the Australian Government to recognize and embrace the fact that Australian expats are an important part of the Australian community whose needs and concerns need to be addressed as ambassadors of our nation.

Perhaps the most interesting report was commissioned by the Senate and referred to the Legal and Constitutional References Committee in October 2003. Their subsequent report in March 2005 'They Still Call Australia Home: Inquiry into Australian Expatriates' makes very interesting reading and addresses many of the points we have been making in our submissions to government. The report refers extensively to the Lowy Institute for International Policy paper by Dr Michael Fullilove and Dr Cloe Flutter 'Diaspora: the world wide web of Australians' (November 2004).

Even though (as always seems to be the case with these government commissioned reports undertaken at considerable costs to taxpayers) nothing seems to happen afterwards -

remember the Henry Review of Australia's Tax System – whatever happened to that?

You may want to read the Senate report yourselves but to whet your appetite here is its' foreword. The full report can be downloaded from:

http://www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal_and_Constitutional_Affairs/Completed_inquiries/2004-07/expats03/report/index

FOREWORD

According to current estimates, at least three-quarters of a million Australians are living overseas permanently or long-term. This is a considerable proportion of the Australian population, and reflects the increasingly mobile and globalised world in which we live. Some of the key factors influencing this phenomenon include the rise of a global labour market; more accessible and economical international transport; and increasingly sophisticated communication technologies.

Many of these expatriate Australians are young, well-educated, highly skilled, and keen to see the world and to make the most of the opportunities presented to them. This has led many to fear that Australia is experiencing a 'brain drain' of its best and brightest workers, with damaging consequences for Australia's economy and society. In fact, the Committee learnt during its inquiry that Australia actually experiences a net 'brain gain' of skilled workers.

It is important, then, to move away from any negative perceptions and realize that, even though these Australians may be physically located outside Australia's borders, they nevertheless feel strong cultural links with their homeland. In the same way that most expatriate Australians still embrace Australia as their home, we should embrace our expatriate community as part of the Australian nation, and recognize that our expatriates are an important part of Australian society.

The Committee found during its inquiry that Australian expatriates present many potential benefits opportunities and new considerations for Australian policymakers. Most importantly, the Australian Government needs to make greater efforts to connect with and engage our expatriate community. The Committee heard that many of the needs and concerns of expatriate Australians are not being adequately dealt with, and that Australian expatriates could be better recognized and included in the Australian democratic system. Further, expatriate Australians represent an underutilised resource: not only are they an asset in terms of promoting Australia and its social, economic and cultural interests; they are also ambassadors for our nation, which is otherwise disadvantaged by our geographic remoteness and small population.

The Committee has made a series of recommendations with a view to ensuring that this important part of the Australian community is recognized and embraced, its needs and concerns are addressed, and that we make the most of the opportunities presented by our global community of Australians.

Uniting the UN Family in Australia

At the present time, most of us only know of those members within their own State. However, we would like to improve awareness of all our members, about each other as a special UN group in Australia. That is, we want to make you aware of who is a member, who they worked for and what state they are in. The idea is that by doing this you may find that some UN work colleagues you knew in past times have now retired back in Australia and would like to reestablish contact. At present we are all very State centric and we feel we need to try and find better ways to unite the whole 'family'.

It is recognized that for whatever reason you may want to preserve your anonymity and not

Australian Association of Former International Civil Servants (AAFICS)

want to be contacted or have your details or location, other than State, made known. For this reason, anyone wishing to make interstate contact with another should first contact their State Coordinator who will then forward the request to their interstate counterpart for contact approval.

To start the ball rolling, we have prepared the list for each State/Territory/Country. See below the example for Western Australia. Because of limited space in this Newsletter, if members want the others, can they please contact Mike Patto by email at paul.mpatto@bigpond.com and he will transfer them to you electronically.

Member	Given names and Partner/Spouse/Relative	UN Family	State
D'Silva	Sheila & Wilfred	UNICEF	WA
Dogra	Rani	UN-ICTR	WA
Kean	Bill (Bernard)	WHO	WA
Lang	M.William	UNESCO	WA
Magallanes	Monina & Bill Buchanan	UNDP	WA
Marshall	Ronald	FAO/UNEP/ UNHCR	WA
Moores	David & Susan	ICAO	WA
Pin Suan	Phang & Lim Po Choo		WA
Salobir	Stane & Cecilia Leong-Salobir	UNHCR	WA
Sunderam	T. Siva & Luckshmi	ITU	WA
Taylor	James & Irene	IAEA	WA
Watt	Michael	FAO	WA

Proposed Setup of Newsletter Forum

Without an interactive website we want to suggest the setting up of a section solely dedicated to succinct views, comments and concerns of our members. This would make the Newsletter more interactive. We therefore suggest that initially, members send in, questions or suggestions to their own State Coordinators. The State Coordinators would then send these, with answers if they have them, to the State Coordinator who is responsible for producing the next Newsletter for action and inclusion.

Since we currently only have two Newsletters a year, these issues could not be ones that need urgent answers but ones that we could debate or seek answers to over time. Maybe the next Newsletter would include your

responses to our suggestion for setting up this Forum and include any issues you would like to raise as an AAFICS member. For example, these issues could be: better ways of improving the Newsletter or communication between us all; ideas for raising funds for AAFICS activities important in advancing our cause and service to members. We are totally open to your suggestions, so start writing, but keep them to short statements or questions if you can!

AAFICS Contacts

This newsletter is restricted to the membership of the Australian Association of Former International Civil Servants and its content is the responsibility of the office bearers of AAFICS. Life 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

and 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.mpatto@bigpond.com

WA Coordinator Monina Magallanes

msmag19@bigpond.com

