



Australian Coalition '99 is an IYOP initiative supported by the Commonwealth Government of Australia

Why People Write Plays for Her

Feature Article by **Helen Elliott**

I'm peering through the wire screen door into the dark hallway of an East Melbourne terrace waiting for the famous actress to appear. The famous eighty-two year old actress - a suitable subject for an interview in this newsletter, in this significant Year.

A slender, agile woman comes out of the gloom shaking the keys and laughing about being locked in. She's entirely without makeup, dressed in a blue tracksuit and mucking about with a couple of plastic bags.

This can't be Patricia Kennedy. THE Patricia Kennedy, the actor regarded by most other actors as a benchmark in their profession. Excuse me, but this is no eighty-two year old, is it?

It is. This is the grande dame of Australian theatre - complete with tracksuit and plastic bags. The bags turn out to be part of her packing for her trip back home to Bega in the morning and the tracksuit - well, what should I expect? Should Patricia Kennedy be wearing diamonds and satin at four in the afternoon?

Maybe she does wear diamonds and satin on occasion, but the simplicity and plainness of her dress and demeanour is more authentic. There's something nun-like about Patricia Kennedy and in fact the truth is that she probably is a nun - a theatre nun.

The theatre is her vocation. She's all for entertainment, but a vocation goes beyond this she explains with the subtlety and vitality that are, I am to find, characteristic.

"Theatre is there to show mankind to itself ... I'm a great believer that drama should be taught in schools because it's all about learning to grow. To be tolerant and understanding, to see other viewpoints."



Patricia Kennedy Age: 82

"Life began at seventy I thought. It flowers in the eighties. Work, people, theatre, films - I enjoy them all. God has been good."

Feature films include: My Brilliant Career; The Office Picnic; The Road to Nhill

Photograph printed with the permission of the Australian Film Institute

She never stops working, although, like any actor she cannot just work in theatre. Over the years she's done radio, television and film as well as the stage. Her range is unusual in that she is brilliant at comedy and a natural for great drama. Television viewers will remember her in the famed television series "Return to Eden", others might recall her recently hanging upside down in a car in "The Road to Nhill" ("yes, really!") or have taken home the video of Michael Blakemore's brilliant "Country Life". Melbourne theatre goers have just seen her single handed in "The Rain", a play written specifically for her by

the playwright she regards as possibly the best working here today, Daniel Keene and produced by Ariette Taylor.

Of this production Ariette Taylor says: "I just wanted to shout from the rooftops 'come and see this marvellous marvellous actor.' She is so young in outlook and has that passion for live theatre - we are just so honoured, and I am so grateful to have her."

Patricia Kennedy has been staying in Melbourne for the run of the season, but is about to return to her own country life. The bags piled up in the hallway, plastic included, are ready for the long drive in the morning to the isolated house on 40 hectares on the edge of a state forest near Bega. Ms Kennedy lives here alone and without electricity. Although she has gas - and the telephone.

"I don't mind living alone, although I broke my hip a while ago and ... well, you have to think about the future. I still have a small house in Melbourne, and I'm thinking about what I have to do." She adds that she hasn't felt quite as easy as she used to feel about her isolation. As she says with a certain wistfulness: "The world has changed".

The East Melbourne house belongs to friends and it's where Patricia

Kennedy always stays when she works in Melbourne. It's filled with glamorous things which keep demanding your attention and Patricia Kennedy is delighted to talk about them with knowledge and authority. But talking about things is as far as it goes.

"I'm not interested in 'things' - I never have been. I'm more interested in people and what's happening ... at the moment I keep writing letters in my head to Milosevic in Yugoslavia. I recently did a reading of some writing of Hildegard of Bingen and she said that nothing would change unless women would be more active. And that was how she lived. In the twelfth century! She's a great inspiration and I'd like to emulate her."

It's that word "emulate" which reveals something essential about Patricia Kennedy. Because, contrary to received opinion about actors being all externality with nothing but air on the inside, Ms Kennedy has a profound interior life. She says it has to do with the "mystery" of her

faith. She is a practising Roman Catholic and her faith has never faltered.

"This surprises you? Oh, my faith is only unusual in today's godless world."

She is talking about a faith that is a lived-in and lived-with faith. In fact not something one can talk about so much as to be with..

"I stand in a state of awe and wonder at the mystery of birth and death, God's plan living/suffering/dying... Dying? Well, at my age you know you can't possibly have many more years, but I live each day as it comes along. I offer each day as it comes along to God first thing in the morning. I'm a great fan of the Holy Spirit to reveal to me the plan of my life. ... so I don't fret about dying, I live with hope and I truly believe that man's spirit exists and goes

on." She pauses and her face lights up. "Oh! Peter Porter puts it better than I ever could... I'll try to remember ...' Man's spirit has some future place. Music is a rumour of that better place.' Isn't that marvellous?"

It is. So is Patricia Kennedy. If we're not up to emulating Hildegard perhaps we could try for Patricia - try striking out for that vitality of the spirit which radiates through every precious

cell of her being. Perhaps this is why people write plays for her to star in at an age when most others are thinking about closing down - forever. Early on in the interview she rolled her eyes and remarked how, in this Year of Older Persons she seems to have been "discovered". That's not true, of course, but for an actor Ms Kennedy keeps a fairly low profile. She's too busy working to do the endless publicity required to keep up the "star" biz. But the fact is, it's more than appropriate that she should be "discovered" this special year. I really don't find too many people who still have the vivacity of spirit and the expectation of life continuing with pleasure and excitement in their eighties. I don't find too many people I want to call that embarrassingly overused word, inspirational - but this Queenscliff born and convent bred woman fits the bill pretty well. She's looking forward now to performing Keene's play at The Studio in New York. Lucky New York.

"Early on in the interview she rolled her eyes and remarked how, in this Year of Older Persons she seems to have been discovered"

The Federal Government has recently provided funding to assist a number of national initiatives during the International Year of Older Persons.

Retired and Senior Volunteers Program

During National Volunteers Week Federal Minister for Aged Care, Bronwyn Bishop announced a \$100,000 International Year of Older Persons grant to extend the successful Retired and Senior Volunteers Program (RSVP) nationwide. Mrs Bishop said the grant would help Volunteer Resource Centres to extend RSVP beyond NSW and WA and across Australia providing for training programs as well as the production of resources, including a video, brochure, newsletters and interactive website on the Internet. The very successful RSVP is a group volunteer program through which older people can contribute their skills, experience and wisdom to benefit non-profit community organisations through volunteering for wide range of group-based activities including school reading programs, foster grandfriends, bush regeneration and reviewing books, plays and films.

For more information on RSVP, call Marie Fox on 02 9231 4000.

Learning Circles Project

Many older Australians have said they are keen to engage in further learning in informal surroundings - a \$124,000 IYOP grant will help this wish to become a reality.

The grant to Learning Circles Australia will help them develop a program in each State and Territory offering older Australians the opportunity to take part in small, informal discussion and learning groups on a range of topics with the help of a facilitator experienced in the subject.

Phase one will focus on including frail elderly people in retirement villages and low-care aged care facilities in the learning groups program.

For more information about the Learning Circles Australia program, call Mary Hannan on 02 6251 7935.

St John Ambulance Home Safe Campaign for older people

A Commonwealth IYOP grant of \$65,000 has been made available to the St John Ambulance to help them bring safety and first aid messages to older people in their homes.

The funds will be used to establish and promote a St John Ambulance 1300 Hotline number through television messages and a booklet to be distributed free to older Australians which will include key messages about falls prevention as well as basic first aid for strokes and heart attacks.

For more information on the St John Ambulance Home Safe Campaign, call Jennie Perkins on 02 6295 3777.

Convention on improved workplace opportunities for older Australians

A plan to encourage Australian businesses to review their employment, recruitment and training of older workers has received \$50,000 Commonwealth support through IYOP funds. Jobs East has been funded to organise an Australian Employers Convention in Melbourne later this year at which the Australian business community will be asked to consider best practice guidelines for industry in dealing with older workers.

The Convention aims to bring together leaders of major organisations as well as human resource managers, academics and the media to address the high priority issue of assisting workers over 45 years of age in their bid to gain employment or establish a business.

For more information about the Australian Employers Convention, call Louise Rolland 03 9873 8377.

For more information on these and many other IYOP initiatives of the Commonwealth Government call 1800 020 103 and ask for the Office for Older Australians or access the national IYOP website on www.iyop/health.gov.au

*For more information, please visit the following website:
www.health.gov.au/acc/nsaa*

This is a new section to update partners regarding innovative initiatives within the business sector that benefit older Australians.

Ongoing positive developments highlighting the issues of ageing and older people will be fostered through the corporate sector. AC'99 is facilitating the development of a number of business-community partnerships to monitor the achievements of the Year.

Companies that provide ongoing strategic support and financial assistance as well as play a role in the tactical implementation of a specific age-related initiative will be acknowledged.

AC'99 aims to encourage the corporate sector to demonstrate longer term social responsibility that benefits older people. Internal initiatives that the business sector may choose to undertake are important in contributing to our societal shift towards a more "age friendly Australia".

Companies may choose to conduct an audit on their products and services to determine ways in which they can make themselves more "relevant" in the context of an ageing population.

They may also introduce flexible working arrangements for employees with older dependants.

Australian Coalition '99 has recently established a partnership with Philanthropy Australia to assist in fostering these business-community connections. Peak organisations will be approached to assist in the implementation of key strategies.

We are keen to receive input from you.

- 1 What is your company currently doing that benefits older people?
- 2 Has your non-government organisation plans/already established a partnership with the corporate sector?
- 3 Are you aware of successful business-community partnerships that contribute to positive ageing?

Please send your details to Lisa Ellis by email: lisa.ac99nat@cota.org.au or fax: (03) 9820 4247.

Keeping Company with White Advertising & Beyond

AC'99 is now keeping company with a Melbourne based advertising agency, White Advertising & Beyond, which has agreed to provide pro bono consulting services to AC'99 National to assist in the consolidation of the media program.

White Advertising & Beyond is bringing a fresh approach to creativity. The agency will be working with AC'99 National to leverage current and new relationships within the media and business sectors, as well as develop some campaigns featuring hard-hitting messages to dispel the myths of ageing.

"We love a challenge and look forward to working towards a society for all ages in an unsterotypical way," said John Warburton, Creative Strategic Director of White Advertising & Beyond.

White Advertising & Beyond has been established for over two years and represents clients of different interests including Carola, Anzac Biscuits, Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre, Building Control Commission, Bank of New Zealand Australia, and Vic Roads.

Recently the agency won a Golden Stylus Radio Award for its Building Control Commission campaign which promotes the compulsory use of smoke alarms with the slogan, "Victoria wakes up to smoke alarms".

For further information regarding the services of White Advertising & Beyond, call (03) 9686 5799.

Retired Staff Offer a Unique Perspective on Banking

New AC'99 National partner, the Commonwealth Bank officers, has enlisted retired Commonwealth Bank officers for two important projects.

Retired officers will participate in the first project which aims to deliver the Bank's long-running information and education programme which offers older persons' groups the opportunity to feel more comfortable with self service banking by having the opportunity to

have direct "hands on" experience of self service banking.

"Research found that our older clients are more comfortable when hearing from their peer group", said Jill Lester, from the Commonwealth Bank. "Our retired officers are now trained and out in the field. They bring enthusiasm, experience and knowledge of banking issues; qualities which our clients will appreciate."

The second project is to explain to clients the implications of changes to Centrelink pension payment arrangements which take effect from 1 July this year. The retired officers will be in branches in the lead-up to and during the changes to assist clients organise their banking to minimise inconvenience.

If your group would like to organise a Commonwealth Bank speaker, contact Anne-marie Van Duinen on (02) 937 83193.

Hotel Group Demonstrates Age-friendly Attitude

To mark IYOP, Ibis Hotels around Australia have launched the new "Ageless" accommodation range. Available at the five Ibis hotels in Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Melbourne, the packages offer a significant discount for the 60+ age group. Price is calculated on the hotel's published rate minus the guest's age.

"As an ageing population that is expecting to double in size to 6 million in the 65 and above bracket by the year 2051, this is just one project undertaken by Accor to cater to the seniors' market", commented Michael Issenberg, Accor's Managing Director Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific.

Hotel Ibis is managed by hotel and tourism group ACCOR which is one of the world's leading hotel and tourism and service groups, with 2,800 hotels globally. Other brands managed by Accor include Sofitel, Novotel, Mercure and Formule 1.

To be eligible for the discount, the guest must present a Senior's card on arrival at the hotel. The "Ageless" package is valid until the end of 1999 and is subject to room availability.

For further information, please call the ACCOR Reservation Service on Free Call 1300 65 65 65.

AC'99 is currently speaking with Accor about working on collaborative initiatives later this year. Stay tuned to "Update" for further developments.



Federal Minister for Aged Care, Bronwyn Bishop, presents a cheque to Geoff Stocks from Volunteering New South Wales, after announcing a \$100,000 International Year Of Older Persons grant to extend the NSW Retired and Senior Volunteers Program nationwide.

NATIONAL

IYOP competition

Time of Your Life and The Australian Women's Weekly

Watch out for the next edition of "Update" when we will reveal the details of an exciting national children's competition to commemorate IYOP. Partners in the project include IBM, Collins Booksellers, The Body Shop and Schoolsnet.



Collins Booksellers

The competition will be launched in the September edition of The Australian Women's Weekly.

CALENDAR OF NATIONAL AND

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
25-26 June	Diversity in Ageing: Exploring the Frontiers Conference	Alice Springs
27 June-1 July	International Council of Nurses	London
27 June - 30 June	3rd Int. Conference: Ageing Societies in a New Millennium Int. Assoc. of Homes and Services for the Ageing	Hawaii
27 June -30 June	3rd Australasian Menopause Society Congress	Queensland
28 June- 4 July	Images of Our Elders Photographic Exhibition	Townsville, Qld
5 July - 7 July	Women's Health - The Nation's Gain	Singapore
7 July- 11 July	IV European Congress of Gerontology	Berlin, Germany
9 July -11 July	International Conference on Lifelong Learning: Policy, Practice and Possibility	Worcester, UK
13 July - 16 July	4th International Conference on Communication, Ageing & Health	Gold Coast, Qld
19 July - 25 July	Images of Our Elders Photographic Exhibition	Westfield, Indooroopilly, Qld
21 July - 23 July	50th Anniversary of Australian Citizenship	Melbourne
21 July - 24 July	Education, Health & Quality of Life	Minnesota, USA
23 July - 29 July	11th Biennial International Foster Care Organisation Conference	Melbourne, Vic
31 July	Community Transport Conference/Exhibition	Gold Coast, Qld
31 July	National Ethnic Disability Alliance	Wendy Skitch, AC99 (QLD)

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS 1999

ORGANISERS	FOR MORE INFORMATION
AAG (SA/NT)	Conference Secretariat, Ph: 08 8201 7552, Email: Vivienne.Wookey@flinders.edu.au Email: mia.nilsson@rcn.org.uk
IAHSA Registration Manager	Ph (202) 508 9452, Fax: (202) 783 2255
Australasian Menopause Society	Ph: 07 3369 0477, Email: meno99@im.com.au
The Hammond Care Group	Ph: 02 9248 0444, Email: hcarter@hammond.com.au
Ken-Air Destination Management	Ph: (65) 336 8855, Email: dmc@kenair.com.sg
Geber & Reusch	Scientific Secretariat, Ph: (49-451) 500 2400, Fax: (49-451) 500 6518
School of Education, University College	Hazel Alley, Ph: (44-1905) 855 065, Fax: (44-1905) 855 132
Acclaim Special Events & Meeting Management	Ph: 07 3254 0522, Fax: 07 3254 0406
The Hammond Care Group	Ph: 02 9248 0444, Email: hcarter@hammond.com.au
National Curriculum Services	Conference Secretariat, Ph: 03 9415 1299, Email: registration@vcta.asn.au
Third Age Learning Int. Studies	Genieve de Gonior, Ph: (1-320) 255 7245, Fax: (1-320) 255 9050
Family Services Australia	Ph: 02 6281 1788, Email: fsa@dynamite.com.au
	Ph: 07 3368 2644, Email: carillon@ozemail.com.au
	Ph: 07 3256 6766, Email: cotaq@cotaq.org.au

Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission

AC'99 is delighted to welcome the Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission as a new National Partner. The role of the Commission is to administer federal legislation in the area of human rights, anti-discrimination, social justice and privacy. This includes complaint-handling, public inquiries, policy development and education and training.

The Commission has recently published "Age Matters? A discussion paper on age discrimination" which:

- Identifies and describes some of the gaps in discrimination legislation;
- Invites you to provide information about your experiences of age discrimination;
- Invites you to suggest ways of dealing with age discrimination;
- Canvasses the need for a federal Age Discrimination Act.

The following is an extract of the Preface of this paper, written by Mr Chris Sidoti, Human Rights Commissioner and reproduced with the kind permission of HREOC.

Because we all age over time, age discrimination is perhaps the only form of discrimination that can affect everyone. Some age distinctions are justified such as where they aim to protect certain age groups which may be vulnerable to exploitation or abuse or to extend concessions to an age groups which is particularly disadvantaged in some way. Distinctions of these kinds may be lawful and acceptable to the community as fair and reasonable.

Other distinctions are based on unjustified assumptions about the qualities and skills of people in particular age groups. Not only does this deny individuals their basic human right to be treated equally but it makes poor business sense. It means that experienced people are not considered for employment and young people are not given a chance to demonstrate and develop their skills. It also means that people can be denied goods and services essential for full participation in society based solely on

their age. These distinctions are discriminatory.

Age discrimination is unlawful to all States and Territories of Australia, subject to various exemptions.

I hope that the paper will inspire greater efforts to create a society where we are all appreciated for our abilities, not condemned for our age.

As Human Rights Commissioner, I have dealt with a number of complaints of age discrimination affecting both younger and older people. I have examined some of these complaints in three reports to the Attorney-General. They dealt with age discrimination in redundancy arrangements and trade union membership rules and in the form of compulsory retirement. They recommended significant reforms in these areas.

Chris Sidoti

Human Rights Commissioner

The Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission seeks comments from the community on the areas in which action is needed and on what that action should be.

To receive a copy of the discussion paper, please contact Susan Newell on:

(02) 9284 9851 or by

email: susannewell@hreoc.gov.au

or refer to

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/news_info/n1_11.html

Family Heritage Project & National Seniors Association Convention

The National Seniors Association is encouraging all Australians to remember and record their family heritage with their project to commemorate IYOP. This is the "Australia's Family Heritage" which will put your family into the picture.

For further information or assistance contact National Seniors Association Ltd., Level 3, 50 Market Street, Melbourne, 3000. Tel: 03 9620 1311 Fax: 03 9620 1399 Website: http://www.vicnet.net.au/~family

The National Seniors Association Convention will be held on 14 -15 October 1999 in Canberra, and will focus on the lifestyles and issues facing the expanding group of older people in the next

century. The conference will be opened by the Prime Minister, and the leader for the Opposition will chair an interactive forum - Interaction between the Ages.

For further information or assistance contact National Seniors Association Ltd., GPO Box 1450, Brisbane, Qld, 4001, Tel.Freecall: 1800 801 181 and fax: (07) 3229 0356

International Education Forum Australia

International Education Forum Australia (IEF) actively promotes the IYOP "towards a society for all ages" theme on a daily basis.

As a student exchange organisation, IEF arranges for secondary school students to visit a different country to continue her/his schooling. During the study holiday, students live with host families and often establish a relationship which lasts for the rest of their lives. For the student, the new family relationship includes all members of the wider family. This means that a student who is an only child in her small, natural family may have a large host family with brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles and grandparents. As the student adjusts to a new culture, on a daily basis they also adjust to a group of people of varying ages thereby learning to value the contribution of all family members.

IEF has many heartwarming stories of students welcoming new baby brothers or sisters, or of being hosted by parents of same age as their natural grandparents. For example, Danielle, who came to Australia from Germany, loved living with older parents. She often rang from her Australian home in Tasmania to tell us how much she enjoyed having an older "mother" who was home when she returned from school each day. Danielle also liked the fact her "father" was



Larissa Coll from Germany with her Australian grandparents. Val Serong (left) and Jean and Len Maunder.

retired and had plenty of time to talk with her. As well a host family, the student has a local coordinator, an adult who has volunteered to help the student adjust to her new lifestyle by providing support and information. Many coordinators are older and really appreciate the contact with interesting young people. In all, the theme for IEF could well be "towards a society for all ages and cultures".

For more information on IEF programs, contact Carleen Wheeler 03 9598 5111

Deafness Forum Ageing & Sensory Loss Conference

The Deafness Forum Ageing & Sensory Loss Conference will be held on 18 -19 October 1999 at the Rydges Canberra Hotel. The primary purpose of the conference is to provide delegates with information to assist them in their provision of services, when their ageing clients happen to have a sensory loss.

Delegates are anyone and everyone involved with providing services to older people including aged care accommodation providers, hospitals, medical practitioners, hotel employees, carers of older persons, and so on.

For further information regarding the conference please call Brigitte Gunn or Tegan Fish at Conference Solutions, PO Box 238, Deakin West, 2600, Tel: 02 6285 3000. Fax: 02 6285 3001, E-mail: office@con-sol.com

Older Australians and Mental Illness

SANE Australia promoted the IYOP theme during Schizophrenia Awareness Week this year (23 - 29 May).

As well as campaigning for early intervention to help young people, SANE is focusing on the needs of Australians living with a mental illness as they grow older. A new SANE Guide to Planning Ahead helps families to prepare support for those they care for when they grow older themselves.

SANE has also commissioned a report on to present a snapshot of services for older Australians with a mental illness - with a State by State comparison of policy and practice around the country.

In SANE Australia's current newsletter, a special feature addresses the range of issues which affect older people living with mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, and depression - which is especially prevalent among older persons.

For a copy of the article that appeared in SANE News (issue 11), please refer to the AC'99 National website at:
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~ac99/partners/details/40.html>

For more information, contact SANE Australia on tel: (03) 9682 5933 and fax; (03) 9682 5944. Email: sane@sane.org website: www.sane.org

Skin & Cancer Foundation and Older People

The Skin & Cancer Foundation, Australia, is a private not-for-profit benevolent organisation. Its charter is to provide service delivery in dermatological areas as well as training of new dermatologists, teaching of doctors and students, research and education of the public particularly in relation to skin diseases.

There are many older people who access the services of the Skin & Cancer Foundation.

Although general dermatological problems are diagnosed and treated, there is a very large concentration of service provision related to the treatment of skin cancer both melanoma and non-melanoma. Treatment of skin cancer consumes a substantial portion of the Australian health budget and given that these conditions are largely preventable with appropriate protective measures instituted at an early age, the Skin & Cancer Foundation believes that much more needs to be done to educate the population about the dangers of sun exposure.

In New South Wales there is a campus of the Skin & Cancer Foundation located at Darlinghurst and another at Westmead. Both these campuses are linked with the teaching, training, service and research aspects of the associated teaching hospitals at Westmead and Darlinghurst. There is also a Skin & Cancer Foundation in Victoria and another in Queensland, all with similar aims of service provision, teaching, training and research.

For more information refer to the Skin & Cancer Foundation's Website: www.scfa.edu.au, or tel: 02 9360 4480.

Australian Service Nurses' National Memorial

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the first group of Australian service nurses who enlisted for service in the Boer War, providing much needed care and compassion to our soldiers.

Since then, more than 10,000 Australian service nurses have cared for the wounded in battlefields and conflicts from the trenches of World War I to the killing fields of Vietnam and Korea to the horror of the more recent Gulf War and Rwandan crisis.

For many years there has been a strong feeling in Australia that service nurses have not been recognised or honored in the same way as the men with whom they served. Many consider them "Australia's forgotten heroes" and for a number of years unsuccessful attempts were made to ensure that they were rightfully recognised.

In 1996 Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA) was instrumental in spearheading a submission to and gaining approval from the Federal Government for the erection of the Australian Service Nurses' National Memorial. The site, on Anzac Parade Canberra was dedicated in a moving ceremony in February 1997.

In August 1998 the Prime Minister announced the winner of the design competition for the Memorial: Sydney based sculptor, Robin Moorhouse.

Ms Moorhouse described her design as "glass with no hard edges and strong with the illusion of softness. This represents all the qualities essential to service nurses."

The Australian Service Nurses' Memorial Fund Committee was established towards the end of 1997. The Committee which is chaired by prominent Australian, Ita Buttrose AO OBE has been working tirelessly to raise the \$2 million

needed for the Memorial in time for the Memorial to be constructed and opened in October 1999. The target has still not been met and the Committee is continuing to seek donations.

An injection of \$500,000 to the Trust Fund from the Federal Government has meant that construction on the Memorial has begun and the opening and dedication ceremony is to take place on Saturday 2 October this year at 10.00 a.m. The Memorial will be dedicated by the Governor General of Australia, Sir William Deane. An ecumenical church service is being planned for the following day, at the ANZAC Memorial Chapel, Duntroon, at 11 a.m.

Donations are still urgently needed and can be sent to the National Nurses' Memorial Trust, c/- Royal College of Nursing, Australia at Reply Paid 139, PO Box 219, Deakin West ACT 2600 or by phoning: Free call 1800 241 170.

SPECIAL IYOP

Commemorative Projects

Timelines: a celebration of Australian musicians 14-75

A number of Australia's finest musicians and singers from the contemporary, jazz, cabaret, country and classical music genres have joined forces to record "Timelines". Artists taking part include: Archie Roach, Dave Graney, Don Burrows, Peter Sculthorpe, Deborah Conway and George Dreyfus, The Shawnuff Swing Band and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

Timelines is an initiative of The Hammond Care Group and this exciting project brings together musicians of all ages to perform songs together, with the core of each song featuring at least one artist over the age of 60 years.

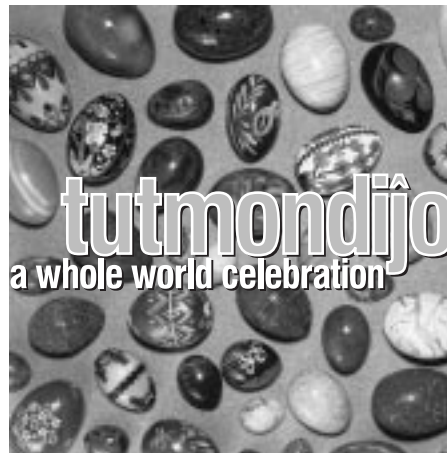
All artists are donating their talents to the project and for many it is an opportunity to work with their heroes or those that influenced or inspired them. Mental as Anything play with cabaret queen Maria Venuti, Sydney hard rock outfit Front End Loader with Barry Crocker, and Midnight Oil's Rob Hirst performs with the legendary Catfish Purser, Johnny O'Keefe's drummer.

Deborah Conway co-wrote a song especially for Timelines called, "When I Get Younger". She described the experience of working with George Dreyfus as "frenzied, but a great opportunity to work with a man who has such vast experience and a wonderful chance to sing with such a well respected orchestra as the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra".

Equally, Barry Crocker whose superb rendition of Queen's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" was recorded with Front End Loader, had a ball, saying "it was a joy to get in with a bunch of young guys and record the song in a way that's a great mixture of today and yesterday."

The first tracks of Timelines collaborations, a single by Archie Roach and Carole Fraser, and Barry Crocker and Front End Loader will be released in July, with the album out in September. The CD will be released on Festival Records through the FUDO label.

Tutmondijô: a whole world celebration



Similar to Timelines, Tutmondijô celebrates a society for all ages. However, this CD brings to you glorious music from all over the world.

Tutmondijô, meaning "whole world" in Esperanto, is the all-embracing theme of the eclectic new world music CD produced by Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria, SBS Radio and AC'99 National.

Most of the tracks are traditional or original in composition, and are performed by artists from diverse and culturally rich backgrounds with many years of musical experience. The CD

carries the listener on an emotional journey: it is both, uplifting and poignant, and demonstrates the diversity of the talents of performers.

The CD features 17 tracks from diversely talented (and mostly older) musicians including: Leo Rosner, Petrunka Bulgarian Women's Choir, Gruppo Corale Adriatico, Jimmy Little, Rita Mills, Florinian Choir, Garry Ghattas, Chao Feng Chinese Orchestra, Vladimir Kocibelli, Victoria Welsh Male Voice Choir, Stamatia and The Russians.

World renowned singer Kamahl and popular female vocalist group, Tiddas, have recorded a unique rendition of Frank Sinatra's "You Make Me Feel So Young". Kamahl's son, Rajan, produced the arrangement for this track. AC'99 is seeking airplay of this single on radio networks across Australia to increase awareness and dialogue about the Year.

The launch of the CD will be held at the Melbourne Town Hall on the 2nd July along with the presentation of the inaugural SBS Older Listener Awards.

The CD will be available from 2nd July through the specialist CD distributor, Niche Records. Visit the website at www.nicherecords.com or tel. Freecall: 1300 655 966.

SPECIAL

Feature

What's in a logo?

Written by Delys Sargeant,
Chair of AC'99 National Coordinating Committee

The United Nations logo for IYOP 99 was circulated in early 1998 and although there has been much discussion about the guidelines for entitlements to its use (for which in Australia, the Commonwealth Government has the ultimate responsibility to the UN), there has been little consideration given to the symbolism of the logo design.

When the meaning of the logo is described to different groups of people, there is a much higher motivation to be actively engaged in the IYOP.

Most people would recognise the UN logo with the olive branches surrounding the stylised map of the globe. The same olive branches make up one component of the IYOP logo hence communicating "peace" to most. However, the symbolism of the rest of the visual needs explanation. Over time, different sets of meanings attach themselves to different symbols - just think of Nike, Mercedes Benz and McDonald's.



"Towards a Society for All Ages" is the positioning statement or slogan which implies that the issues of older ageing need to be integrated within the whole of society, that ageing is always related to the time and social context in which it occurs and that no group is age-isolated. When older people are age-isolated or younger people are limited in their access to older people, then society is equally jeopardised. This theme is expected to underlie all thinking in this UN Year: that the outcomes of 1999 will bring about greater acceptance of the special contributions people at different ages will make to the betterment of people and societies, and of the need for inclusivity of older people in all communities.

The open ended circles symbolise progression and growth, which in turn indicates that ageing is always occurring in a new time, in a "new age". Being of an age is a dynamic and changing state. The beliefs about ageing which each one of us has and which we acquired earlier in our lives need to be reviewed as we get older or we may also apply negative ageist stereotypes to ourselves.

The first of the concentric rings or "petals" symbolises VITALITY - in Mind, Spirit and Body. Depression, stress, perceived unworthiness, unwellness and inadequate nutrition, inappropriate medication and drug abuse can all adversely affect cognitive and spiritual vitality. Ageist attitudes and practices have a strongly negative impact on one's own perceptions of

health and wellbeing. Such “self owned” attitudes towards older age can bring about depression in the older person, particularly if that person experiences ageism in his/her own community. Spirituality in older age may be supported by religious observance, but this is not essential to achieving meaning of life and an inner source of energy and personal vitality. It is less well understood and attended than is the vitality of Body in Aged Care.

The issue of policies and guidelines on how Vitality of mind, spirit and body can be enhanced and promoted in practices and services, is an important consideration - particularly in the area of older dependents and carers. Vitality of mind, body and spirit is equally as important at any age.

The second ring of “petals” symbolises DIVERSITY, particularly important for this year, given the preference for some sectors to “clump” people by age and universalise the experiences of ageing... the “elderly”, the “aged” ... the “frail aged”... “the over 60’s and the over 80’s” ...! How people experience being “of an age” is individually unique. Perhaps it is only too convenient to “homogenise” ageing experiences by chronological age (e.g. “the over 70’s”), which substantially discounts the many ways older people can and do contribute to society, and reduces the need to include older people in decision making, planning and production of services.

Cultural diversity can reveal the different language used for older ageing and the different meanings and roles for older people, according to cultural mores. The wealth of our societies will be enhanced by the acknowledgement of the value and the diversity of the experience of ageing.

INDEPENDENCE is often limited conceptually to income and housing but independence of mind and spirit is just as important, though more complex. There is a tendency to medicalise and focus on physical deficits of older people, particularly when older individuals become dependent on care services.

The contributions older people make to younger generations as well as beneficial interactions across generations underlies INTERDEPENDENCE.

Individuals tend to view independence or interdependence depending on that individual's experiences and values. These last two concepts are symbolised by the third concentric circle. Independence and interdependence support the organising theme of “towards a society for all ages”.

Hopefully, the symbolism of this logo for IYOP will be useful beyond 1999 in promoting an AGE FRIENDLY SOCIETY. Let's continue to promote and wear it with pride!



Many exciting things celebrating the International Year of Older Persons are happening all around the world.

- In the USA, AARP has produced a video, “No Limits: The New Image of Ageing”. Narrated by Award Winning actress Elizabeth Ashley, the 28 minute program tells the story of 4 individuals between the ages of 72 and 100 who continue to make significant contributions to their communities.
- Canada, like Australia, has produced an IYOP coin.
- Eurolink Age reports that European Commission intends to publish a communication called “Towards a European society for all ages - promoting prosperity and inter-generational solidarity.”
- The United Kingdom has hundreds of activities planned including a photographic project; regional Listening Events with public lectures aimed at widening the dialogue between older people and the government; a media audit evaluating the ways the media represent older people and related issues and an audit to obtain details of educational, vocational and cultural opportunities for older people. This audit will then be used to evaluate the service provision and the actual learning needs and desires of older people in that particular location.

Australian Council of National Trusts

Contact: Ms Fiona Yule,
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Website: www.austnattrust.com.au

Australian Local Government Association

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Email: alga@alga.com.au
Website: www.alga.com.au

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Contact: Ms. Jill Lester,
Head of Group Corporate Relations
Tel: 02 9378 2675 Fax: 02 9378 2395
Email: lesterj@cba.com.au
Website: commbank.com.au

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

Contact: Ms. Susan Newell, Policy Officer
Tel: 02 9284 9851 Fax: 02 9284 9849
Email: susannewell@hreoc.gov.au Website: <http://www.hreoc.gov.au>

Ibis Hotels

Contact: Ms. Shirley Lin,
Director of Sales and Marketing
Tel: 03 9639 2399 Fax: 03 9639 1988
Email: ibismelb@micronica.com.au

War Widows Guild of Australia

Contact: Mrs June Healy,
National President
Tel/fax: 02 6247 6580



Mrs Elsie Cromarty, (2nd left) of Wingham, NSW, receives a Premier's Award citation for her voluntary service to the residents of Wingham Court Hostel. Pictured (from L to R), Mr Bill MacPherson, Chairman of Management Committee, Wingham Court; Mr Rob Oakshott, MP for Port Macquarie; Wingham Court Sister of Nursing, Mrs Barbara Watters.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Congratulations to all concerned for another great issue of Update. Just enough information, great contact details, good nationwide roundup... and I always enjoy Helen Elliott's insightful pieces. Perfect! Many thanks.

Ana Vrantzis, Project Officer IYOP
City of Darebin

We appreciate your positive feedback.
- Editor

Dear Editor,

I wish to bring to your attention the issue of digital mobile phones and interference with hearing aids and cochlear implants. We have corresponded with the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator The Hon. Richard Alston, in April of this year. We received an answer which, essentially, suggested the matter was one for the telecommunications carriers. However, a positive development is that the Minister's Department now is organising a meeting on 23 June at which representatives of consumers will meet with representatives of telecommunications carriers, mobile phone manufacturers, hearing aid and cochlear implant manufacturers, relevant government agencies, and the Minister's office. That meeting will consider what further steps could be taken by government and industry to address the issue.

If you are one of the many Australians who would be unable to use a mobile phone after the analogue mobile phone network is closed down, please let me know what you believe we should ask for at the 23 June meeting. What do you want if the analogue network can not remain in place? We believe it will help if as many people as possible become involved in seeking a satisfactory solution before the analogue mobile phone network is closed. Therefore, we invite you to do all of the following:

- write to Senator Alston about it if you have not already done so,
 - write or speak to your local Federal Member of Parliament about it,
 - write to a newspaper about it, and
- In addition, if you would be interested in joining

a possible delegation to meet Senator Alston, please contact Peter Kerley at deaftech@sia.net.au.

Brian Rope, CEO, Deafness Forum of Australia
Tel: 02 6281 3934, Fax: 02 6281 4309,
TTY :02 6281 3156
E-mail: dfa1@ozemail.com.au

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed reading your April issue of "Update" magazine in the waiting room of the Skin Cancer Foundation, 3 June 1999. Just a comment on page 5 where-in you said older Australians "are probably also the types who will happily take a package" (redundancy). There are a multitude of reasons to leave work, viz:

- 1 Government plans to put back access to super to 60;
- 2 Government plans to deny lump sums from 1/7/2000;
- 3 To remain meant taking on more work;
- 4 Morale declining as your mates leave;
- 5 If you're re-deployed, it could be to a lesser paying job, which would affect the extent of your pension in a direct benefit work super scheme; also once re-deployed, you don't get a second bite at a package if you are later made redundant, depending on the conditions;
- 6 Enterprise bargaining was in fact breaking down award structures so you were trading off conditions and safety and put on term work contracts which made your job insecure anyhow;
- 7 The power of unions to fight for award retention was broken down by the 1997 Democrat supported I.R. legislation and union membership was in decline as female workers in the main and some ethnic groups will not join unions;
- 8 If you are skilled, there was the opportunity to tender for work outsourced by your former employer or to do casual work in retirement;
- 9 The "Americanisation" of the workplace with contract work, outsourcing, casual work, etc, made you just a unit of cost on a spreadsheet so you no longer felt loyalty to a company anyhow - so why stay!

R. Highfield, Forest Lodge, NSW

In "Update" 8 on page 5, Vic Nicholson stated "... the stereotypes of 'no fire in the belly', 'old wood', 'high tech luddites' and 'can't teach an

old do new tricks' do exist. But they are probably also the types who will happily take the package..." He did not generalise to all older Australians being happy to do so. We are interested in the experience of other people in the outcomes to them of "taking the package".. - Editor

INTERCOM

from the secretariat

Wear an IYOP badge



We have produced IYOP badges for you or your organisation to play a role in raising awareness of the Year. The badges have been manufactured in an elegant gold finish with the logo produced in the correct UN colours.

Take the time to read the article in this "Update" which refreshes your memory on the meaning of the IYOP logo. You will also find an order form on the back page of this edition for you to submit orders for ten and more badges.

Some partners have already purchased quantities for their own organisations, particularly to thank those people who have made a valuable contribution to the Year.

Send your IYOP E-Card

The State Government of NSW has launched an innovative feature on its website: a new facility that enables you to send an electronic "card" over the Internet. One card features a teenager who is morphed to look like an older man over several seconds. This is a good fun site, interesting, interactive, with great information and teacher resources.

Visit the NSW IYOP site at www.iyop.nsw.gov.au and send a friend or colleague an IYOP E-card!

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 Website:
www.add.nsw.gov.au/iyop/htm

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 Email: yscotant@downunder.net.au

IYOP Badge Order Form

I would like to buy..... (quantity) of the
 IYOP lapel badge @ \$2.00 each.

Plus postage calculated at :

10-100 badges: \$8.35

101-250 badges: \$10.70

Total: \$.....

PLEASE NOTE: Only minimum orders of 10
 badges will be accepted.

Name:.....

Address:.....

STATE.....

POSTCODE:.....

Contact phone no:.....

Email address:.....

Payment Details

My cheque/money order payable to:

AUSTRALIAN COALITION '99

is enclosed OR Please charge my

Bankcard

Visa

Mastercard

Amex

Diners

Card no:.....

Amount:.....

Expiry Date:.....

Cardholder's name: Signature:.....

REPLY PAID 1999

Council on the Ageing (Australia)

Level 2, 3 Bowen Crescent

MELBOURNE VIC 3004

Council on the Ageing (Australia) is the auspicing
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