



United
Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division

Oct/Nov 2016



UN Matters

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Steve Lennon

It is a great honour to have been nominated and elected as President of UNAAWA. I sincerely appreciate the confidence in me that members have shown by my appointment. In taking on this role, I would like to recognise the contribution Carolyne Gatward has made to the UNAA and the furtherance of the goals of the United Nations during her term as President.

She is the epitome of selflessness and generosity in giving of her time, enthusiasm and leadership. In particular, her ability to motivate and inspire a dedicated team of talented volunteers is commendable and reflected in the incredible achievements of UNAAWA over the last 5 years. Under her leadership and in her last year as President alone, more than 25 events and major initiatives were undertaken – a huge achievement for a small association. Keep an eye on the next edition of UN Matters which will feature just a few of Carolyne’s achievements and reflections.

In looking ahead, I would like to refer to the words of UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon in his message for the 71st United Nations Day, *“Humanity has entered the era of sustainability – with a global commitment to fulfil the great promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this, the Organization’s 71st year, we have 17 goals to propel us towards a better future for all on a healthy planet.*

The world is also moving at long last beyond the mindset which viewed the burning of fossil fuels as the path to prosperity. At a time of record heat, Member States have embraced the Paris Agreement on climate change in record time. This landmark measure will enter force on 4 November. Across that historic threshold lies our best chance for greener, cleaner, low-carbon growth...”

In his message he also refers to the work of the UN to *“empower women, engage youth and uphold human rights for all.”* I believe that we all need to take these messages to heart as we chart the future direction for the UNAAWA.

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In the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, we have a global aspiration which will go a long way to putting this planet on a sustainable footing. Integral to these goals are the imperatives of empowering women, respect for human rights, human capacity development, environmental protection, poverty alleviation and economic empowerment for all. In my short association with the UNAAWA I have come to see a team of amazing people who give of themselves selflessly in the achievement of these laudable goals.

In the coming year, we all look forward to furthering these objectives through our Committees for Human Rights, Women, Environment, Young Professionals and Education. All of which are overseen by a strong Executive Committee and support structure. In particular, I anticipate a lot more emphasis in broadening the stakeholder and support base of UNAAWA. I truly believe we can leverage the vast wealth inherent in our rich multicultural society to achieve sustainable development in both Australia and abroad.

In charting this future direction, each of our Committees are planning an exciting array of activities for 2017. These will be consolidated into a single UNAAWA programme early in the new year. I would also welcome more engagement with all of our Members on whom we rely so strongly for support. If you have any suggestions for activities or areas you would like us to address please drop me a note at wapres@unaa.org.au. Please feel free to also pass this newsletter on to friends and colleagues and encourage them to get involved in UNAAWA through membership and active participation. With a broader membership base we will be able to do even more!

May I also take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers for their tireless work over the last year. I look forward to working with all of you in an exciting and impactful 2017. In conclusion I would like to wish all our supporters, members and prospective members a wonderful Christmas break and a successful and prosperous 2017.

Steve Lennon
President UNAAWA



SCHOOL SPEAKER PROGRAM

**Are you interested in speaking with school students
about the work and ideals of the UN?**

Register your interest:

Email Rees Barrett at: gcs@unaa-wa.org.au

Please indicate your preferred topics, locations and availability.

Find out more:

www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/wa-programs-for-schools/wa-unaa-global-citizenship-schools/wa-school-speaker-program/



Laura Jarriel (Photo: UN Photo)

FOCUS ON FOOD SECURITY MARKS WORLD FOOD DAY

26 OCTOBER

“The climate is changing, food and agriculture must too”

On Wednesday 26 October the UNAAWA Environment Committee held their second event of 2016 at the Rio Tinto theatre. The event showcased two highly regarded guest speakers and was arranged in partnership with World Food Day.

Professor Janet F. Bornman, a Curtin Business school adjunct professor, focused on food security, sustainability and nutrition. She discussed the challenges and solutions that face global food security in all corners of the globe, referring to statistics from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.



Professor Janet F Bornman. (Photo: Ian Jones)

On the rising issue of food waste, she discussed how minimising the presence of high quality food in landfills and utilizing food more effectively will greatly assist in addressing food scarcity. The way forward she emphasized, is to incorporate innovation in accessing nutritional food, improving waste management and ultimately adapting to a changing climate.

The second guest speaker was Professor Graeme Martin, professor of Animal Science and leader in UWA Future Farm. Professor Martin discussed the agricultural sector and outlined how climate change and over population contribute to food scarcity.

Main discussion points included the challenges faced by current livestock and how to transition towards sustainability. He explored the relationship between livestock health and welfare and the impacts on environment in regards to food scarcity. Professor Martin left a shocking statistic with the audience, highlighting that every year 1 billion tonnes of grain is fed to livestock, enough for the projected 3.5 billion increase in global population by 2050.

Professor Martin focused on six challenges of sustainable livestock, with the relationship between animal health, adaptability to the environment and human nutrition being the most pressing. He followed by finding potential solutions, consisting of genetically modified (GM) research and effective growth areas to enhance the production of agriculture.

Both speakers discussed strategies to combat food security issues facing the planet in light of the increasing population. Both highlighted the continual research needed to establish GM species, a potential solution towards sustainable agriculture. Minimising waste and reducing consumption both stood out as the pivotal factors to addressing the food scarcity epidemic.

Minimising waste and reducing consumption both stood out as the pivotal factors to addressing the food scarcity epidemic.

The event was a huge success with a majority of the demographic being working professionals. The interest and enthusiasm was evident during the Q&A at the end of the seminar with some diverse and forward thinking questions posed to both speakers. We thank the speakers and attendees for their contribution towards an optimistic and interesting discussion.

Siobhan Jennings
UNAAWA Environment Committee Chair



Professor Graeme Martin. (Photo: Ian Jones)



VISIT WITH UNA CHINA

The UNAAWA Women's Committee Convener was privileged to meet with UNA China Programme Officer Li Xueyao, whilst on a recent visit to Beijing with Curtin University. She learnt about UNA China's focus on peace and security, their trilateral agreement with Japan and South Korea, as well as their strong engagement with the Chinese government and universities.

Katryna Douglas
UNAAWA Women's Committee Chair

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK TO HUMAN RIGHTS CHAIR FADZI WHANDI

Fadzi Whandi is one of five finalists for the Australian Human Rights 'Racism it Stops with Me' award. The winner will be announced at the award ceremony in Sydney on 9 December

Further information www.humanrights.gov.au/news/stories/final-five-announced-racism-it-stops-me-award

FUTURE LEADERS GO GLOBAL

3 NOVEMBER

On 3 November 2016, forty-one students from ten Perth schools took over the Legislative Assembly for a day. Their task was to apply lessons on great leadership to plan global citizen projects for their school in 2017.

The seven Education Departments and three independent schools are all founding members of the UNAA Global Citizenship School's Network. The students, identified by their schools as potential leaders, ranged from year 5 to year 11.

According to conference organiser Rees Barrett, "the mix of schools and student ages was unique for this kind of event and proved to be a real strength. The primary students, for example, described the support received from their older colleagues as empowering".

Preparation for the conference involved the students researching the MLA whose seat they occupied, qualities of effective leaders and realistic school projects that will contribute towards one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

Students appreciated the opportunity to tour Parliament House under the guidance of education staff. "They reflected on the links between being a responsible citizen - locally and globally. Engagement and participation are the keys - whatever the level," said conference host Anne Barrett.

Five speakers, all UNAA members across three generations, talked with the students about leadership qualities and being active global citizens.

Kay Hallahan (AO) shared her experiences as a member of both the WA Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly and as a Minister in several portfolios. David Hollands, member of the HP global education team and National Education Lead for HP South Pacific, talked about his passion for education and technology transforming lives.

*Engagement and participation
are the keys - whatever the level'*

Fadzi Whande, recently awarded the International Racial Equity Leadership Award in Texas, provided insights from her work as a global diversity and inclusion strategist. Cormac Power, UWA student and Education Director for UN Youth in WA, highlighted the importance of building and maintaining productive relationships. Fellow UWA student Sasha Johnson summarised ten features of effective leaders gleaned from her social justice work and experience as Youth Ambassador.



Global Citizen Participants

'The conference reinforces for students that regardless of their background or age, each responsible action in the local community can have a global impact.'

The program concluded with representatives from each school outlining the project planned for 2017. Teachers and organisers alike commented on the impressive presentation and range of projects. All contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals and demonstrated the slogan of Acting Local, Thinking Global.

"Particularly heartening was the way in which students used their networking opportunities – even inviting each other to visit next year and observe their projects in action," said Mr Barrett.

"Students of today know that technology has made us more interdependent than ever before."

"They understand the way technology has compressed time and space. They know we have to hone the skills and attitudes that enable us to live together peacefully. The conference reinforces for students that, regardless of their background or age, each responsible action in the local community can have a global impact. Positive feedback from students, teachers and Parliament House staff, has convinced us to make this an annual event."

RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN

Sharbat Gula, "the green eyed Afghan girl" has recently been deported back to Afghanistan by the Pakistan authorities¹.

Gula symbolises the plight of thousands of Afghans who have fled to Pakistan, Iran, Europe and Australia over many years. Her story is emblematic of the decades of conflict that has tortured Afghanistan. There are generations of Afghans who know nothing of peace. It's a word that has little or no meaning to them, a foreign concept that beckons at times, then disappears when a roadside bomb takes out more innocent lives or a mortar whistles in from a nearby hill and slams into a village wreaking havoc.

For decades Pakistan, a country of 204.1 million people², has been a sanctuary for Afghans who have fled the war between the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), alongside its Soviet allies, and the US backed mujahedeen (1979-89). Of course the relationship between Pakistan (formerly part of British India until 1947) goes back centuries, and is not always one of amity. The porous border that separates them (Durand Line) remains principally disputed by the Pashtun Afghans.

An estimated 2.5 million Afghans living in Pakistan are coming under increasing pressure from authorities to be deported back to Afghanistan where the Taliban and more recently the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) continue to battle the Afghan army¹.

Pakistan has plans to deport this number of Afghans, many of whom like Gula have been accused of having false documents. This will place enormous pressure on the Kabul government. So far the UNHCR have reported that 250,000 have returned and that another 450,000 are to be return by the end of 2016³.

During the first nine months of this year, more than 5,000 Afghans have voluntarily returned from Europe. In addition, the agreement signed by the European Union and Afghanistan in October 2016 allows for deportation of those not granted refugee status, increasing the influx to a country already struggling to cope. Bilateral agreements were also established between Afghanistan and France (2002), UK (2002), Netherlands (2002), Denmark (2004), Switzerland (2005), Norway (2005), and Sweden (2006)⁴.

With the conflict's end seemingly a dream, it must be expected that thousands of Afghans will seek asylum outside their own country, whatever barriers are placed in their way. Agreements, like porous borders will not alleviate this problem.

Lindsay Dorman
UNAAWA Volunteer Coordinator

¹ aljazeera.com/news/9/11/16

² livepopulation.com

³ dw.com/Pakistan/9/11/16

⁴ [Afghanistan Analysts Network, 31/10/16](http://AfghanistanAnalystsNetwork.org)

MULTICULTURAL EVENT CELEBRATES UN ANNIVERSARY

21 OCTOBER

Government House Ballroom was full of smiles and goodwill as over 100 people gathered to celebrate UN Day. Each year, events are held across the world to highlight the humanitarian achievements and efforts by the UN.

This year's theme honoured multiculturalism and featured traditional Russian and Chinese dances, an Aboriginal choir, a Greek instrumentalist, as well as a soprano and pianist performance.

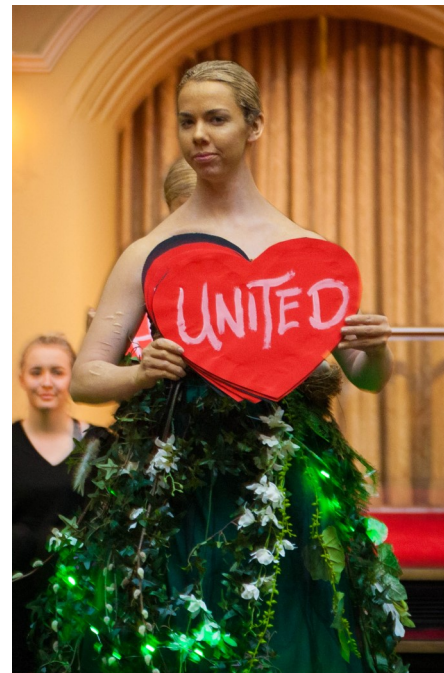
The Welcome to Country by Marie Taylor set the tone for the evening and was followed by the UN Day Message by UNAAWA President Steve Lennon. Guests were treated to key note speeches from Ms Andrea Gleason, Director WA State Office Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Dr Nonja Peters, Director of History of Migration, Curtin University.

A diverse mix of community and multicultural representatives attended including Ding Shao Ping, President of Chung Wah Association Inc, Rebecca Ball Executive Director of the Office of Multicultural Interests, and Uni Mook, Director Hojumadang Group Korean Culture and Language Exchange Group.

The event was well supported by members from a range of organisations including the City of Perth, Curtin University and Graduate School of Business, National Australia Bank and Harvard Club Australia.



Madjitil Moorna Choir



United Continents Dance, Young Ladies from the Ester Foundation



Keith Yong (Councillor for City of Perth), Dr Steve Lennon (President of UNAAWA), Dr Sandy Chong (Vice-President UNAAWA), Ding Shao Ping (President of Chung Wah Association).

Congratulations to Anastasios Karamintzas, announced as the 2016 Winner of the Multicultural Youth Talent Quest as part of the evening's proceedings.



Guests include: Keith Yong, Irek Kucy, Dr Sandy Chong, Ding Shao Ping, Dr Steve Lennon, Carolyne Gatward, Kay Hallam, Parissa Jalali, Maria Bunn, Fadzi Whanda, Neesha Seth, Anastasios Karamintzas.



Magda Lisek Soprano Vocal & Tommy Sean, Pianist of the Classical Voice, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts

The UNAAWA would like to sincerely thank each of the speakers, performers, organisers, guests and volunteers for contributing to a successful event. Special thanks to our event partners the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian Institute of International Affairs, and the Western Australian Multicultural Association, as well as event supporters the Government House Foundation and Lucioi.

Sandy Chong
UNAAWA UN Day Organising Committee Chair

Melanie Chatfield
UNAAWA Chief Editor

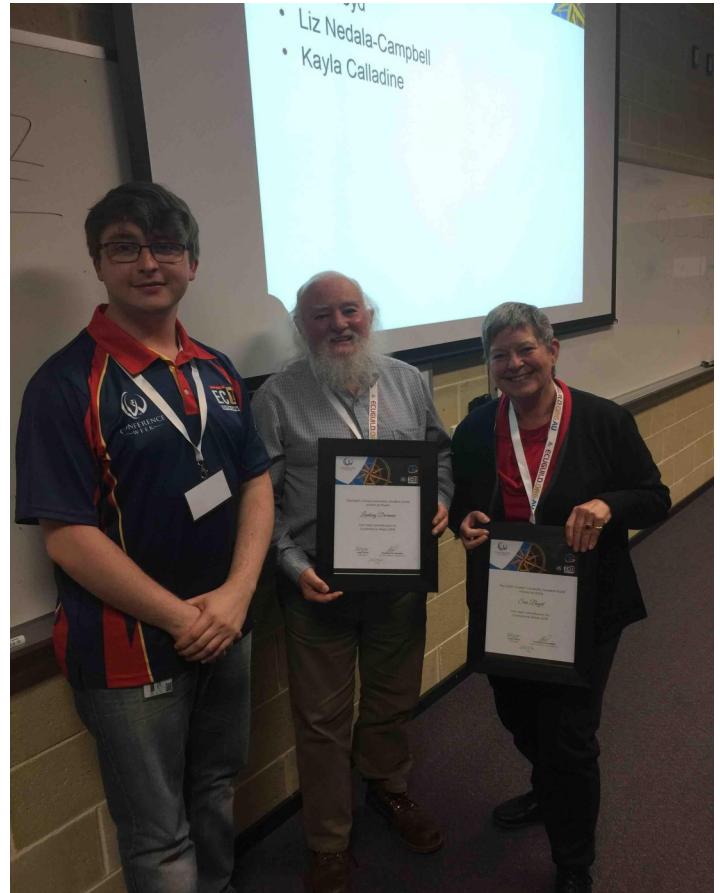
EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE WEEK

29 SEPTEMBER

I was delighted to be invited by Edith Cowan University Student Guild to be an international relations panellist at their ECU Conference Week on Thursday 29th September.

I joined fellow panel member Dr Sue Boyd, former Australian diplomat and immediate past President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, as well as Liz Nedala-Campbell, Political Advisor at the U.S. Consulate. Lewis Price, Student Guild President and International Relations student moderated the session.

A large body of students from many disciplines attended to hear of our international relations journey and discover how to get to their own destinations. Topical issues were put to the panel with questions including “What was the most significant international development in 2016?” and “Are the expectations of Australia’s international influence unrealistic?” The session was only 45 minutes and the considerable participation in the general Q&A indicated the deep interest in international relations which is very encouraging. It would not be surprising to see future interest in the UNAA from ECU students as a result of the event.



ECU Student Guild President Lewis Price with panel members Mr Lindsay Dorman and Dr Sue Boyd.

Lindsay Dorman
UNAANA Volunteer Coordinator

UNAANA VOLUNTEER EVENING

30 OCTOBER

Another well attended volunteer evening was held on 30 October at the UNAANA office. The regular events provide the opportunity for people with an interest in the UN to learn more about the role and operation of the UNAANA and local activities.

Participants are encouraged to register their interest in joining one of the Committees or to sign up to help out with one of the many events.

If you, or someone you know are interested in getting involved and joining our team of volunteers, contact Lindsay Dorman, Volunteer Coordinator. Email: volunteering@unaa-wa.org.au.

UPCOMING EVENT: "Refugees - Our Experience"

Celebrating Human Rights Day Thursday 8 December 2016

Human Rights Day is celebrated every year on the 10th of December to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights set out the fundamental human rights to be protected for all peoples and all nations. Article 14 of the Declaration describes the right to seek and enjoy asylum in other countries as one of those inalienable and universal human rights.

This year, **you are invited to join us for our Human Rights Day** event on Thursday 8 December 2016, the theme of which is "Refugees - Our Experience". The free event will be hosted by King & Wood Mallesons. There will be a fantastic panel of speakers chaired by UNAAWA Human Rights Chair and International Racial Equity Leadership Award (2016) recipient Fadzi Whande. Speakers will include the Executive Director of Office of Multicultural Interests, Rebecca Ball; Consular Chief of US Consulate Perth, Joshua Finch; and Stephen Lennon, President UNAAWA.

WHEN: 5.30pm for 6.00pm – 8.00pm, Thursday 8 December 2016.

WHERE: King & Wood Mallesons, Level 30, QV1 Building,
250 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

Public parking available close to the QV1 Building.

COST: Free. Please register at <https://www.trybooking.com/NSMQ>.

Complimentary refreshments will be provided.

MORE INFORMATION:

Email: human.rights@unaa-wa.org.au

Phone: 9221 7020.

ALL WELCOME

UN OBSERVANCES

DECEMBER

- 1 December World AIDS Day
- 2 December International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 3 December International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 5 December International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
- 5 December World Soil Day
- 7 December International Civil Aviation Day
- 9 December International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime
- 9 December International Anti-Corruption Day
- 10 December Human Rights Day
- 11 December International Mountain Day
- 18 December International Migrants Day
- 20 December International Human Solidarity Day

JANUARY

- 27 January International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

FEBRUARY

- 4 February World Cancer Day
- 6 February International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
- 11 February International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- 13 February World Radio Day
- 20 February World Day of Social Justice
- 21 February International Mother Language Day

Do you have a story idea?

UN Matters is looking for contributors.

To register your interest

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