



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division

UN Matters

June/July 2015

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Carolyn Gatward

We are very happy to announce that we have moved into Claisebrook Lotteries House (CLH), 33 Moore St, East Perth. We have access to spacious meeting rooms and high-tech facilities which we share with other community based, not-for-profit organisations. In the past, we were based at CLH for several years and its great to be back. The office phone number is 9221 7020.

Interested in finding out more about what we are doing? Thinking of perhaps volunteering with us or nominating for an Executive position? Nominations are open to all members. Come along to our Volunteer Information Evening on **Wednesday 22 July** at CLH, 6pm for 6.30-7.30pm (details pg 8).

Our AGM is being held at CLH on **Sunday 16 August**, commencing at 2pm. Light refreshments will be available from 1.30pm. Our guest speaker will be Dr Namitasha Goring. Namitasha's experience in human rights includes working at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Qatar.

The UNAA Global Citizenship Schools program is currently being launched across WA. Joining this new network of schools brings a wide range of benefits (see flier pg 6). Please contact the School Programs Coordinator, Rees Barrett, on 9448 3158 or email gcs@unaa-wa.org.au if you have suggestions about potential school members or if you would like to know more about this exciting initiative.

We are pleased to advise we are partnering with our friends at Meerilinga for the 2015 Yolande Frank Art Award, as part of the WA Children's Week Awards (see flier pg 5). This year, our theme is the "Right of the Child to Discover and Share" and the award is open to WA children in **school years 4 to 6 until 7 August**. The winner will receive a prize of \$250 at a special ceremony on 28 October (UNICEF International Children's Day) under the Big Top at Circus Joseph Ashton. For more information, visit our website or see [Children's Week Awards](#).

The UNAA Young Professionals Expansion Event is on **Thursday 30 July** (see flier pg 7) at QV1, Perth. Register now to find out more about their activities and plans for the future and how you can be involved.



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‘THE CLIMATE TALKS’



On 9 June 2015, the United Nations Association of Australia (WA), in partnership with the United Nations Information Centre and the Australian Institute of International Affairs, presented “The Climate Talks” at the University of Western Australia. Three guest speakers presented informative discussions about climate change issues, the need to work together on this issue and form a robust climate change agreement, and the importance of 2015 as the 70th anniversary of the United Nations and a year for global action.

Christopher Woodthorpe is the Director, United Nations Information Centre (Canberra). Christopher introduced the new global climate change agreement being discussed at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties in Paris in December 2015, the new sustainable development goals which are proposed to build on the progress of the existing Millennium Development goals expiring at the end of 2015, and the Third International Financing for Development conference occurring in Ethiopia in July 2015. The need for a robust climate change agreement which works to integrate finance, climate change and sustainable development goals, and the need to strengthen climate resilience, enhance prosperity, equity and environmental protection were discussed. Christopher highlighted the need to build a foundation for a better tomorrow by developing meaningful partnerships and a universal climate change agenda which is practical and can be undertaken at a local level.

Petra Tschakert is a UWA Centenary Winthrop Professor in Rural Development and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) coordinating lead author. Petra presented on the topic “1.5 or 2 degrees C: What is a safe warming threshold and for whom?”. Petra gave an overview of her involvement with authoring the *Livelihoods and Poverty* (Chapter 13) of the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC, Working Group II on Impacts, Vulnerability, and Adaptation, and what it was like to be a member of the core writing team of the Synthesis Report. Petra emphasised that the global warming

target of 2°C compared to pre-industrial times is an average, and that there is disparity in the magnitudes of warming and level of risk, exposure and vulnerability experienced in different countries and within marginalised groups, whether this be social, economic, cultural, political, institutional inequalities or otherwise. Climate change can exacerbate other stresses and amplify risks.

Kevin Petrini is a Regional Climate Change Specialist for the Pacific, United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Kevin discussed climate change in a Pacific context and his international development work related to environment, climate change, disaster risk management and community mobilization. In his current role with the UNDP, he is a member of the Technical Working Group supporting the development of the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) and has recently been working to support the Government of Fiji with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations, a Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review and the development of the Fiji Green Climate Fund Readiness program. Kevin discussed the UN’s work in the Pacific, focussing on climate change, sustainable development and interrelationships between the two. Kevin spoke about empowering local people and giving them the tools to drive change, improve governance and build resilience so that when disaster events occur the risk is minimised and communities are able to recuperate faster and with less damage. Kevin reminded us of what we as individuals can do to be part of solving global warming.

The United Nations Association of Australia (WA) would like to thank the United Nations Information Centre and the Australian Institute of International Affairs for partnering on this event, the three speakers for their time and insights into climate change issues and all guests for being part of the discussion.

[Emily Safe, Executive Member]

‘Most people have heard about global climate change but we need more people thinking about the way we live and consume to actually make a difference.’

CREATING A LOCAL FOCUS ON OUR ENVIRONMENT— INTERVIEW WITH EMILY SAFE



Emily Safe was recently appointed as the UNAAWA Environment Officer and is looking forward to raising awareness and creating more of a dialogue in relation to issues affecting our environment.

“I am particularly focused on getting those people who may be interested but not currently active more engaged” she says. “Most people have heard about global climate change but we need more people thinking about the way we live and consume to actually make a difference”.

Emily has a Bachelor of Environmental Science majoring in Environmental Management and is currently completing a Graduate Diploma in Mineral Exploration Geoscience. She works with the Department of Mines and Petroleum and plays a key role in assessing industry proposals, compliance and environmental reform.

She enjoys the role as it provides an insight into both sides of the story. “On the one hand, we want to protect everything but we have to acknowledge our society’s need for resources, so we work hard to try and find a balance” she says. “Australia is fortunate to have good regulation and monitoring mechanisms in place that help to maintain good long-term environmental outcomes”.

Emily is particularly passionate about finding a sustainable balance. “We are so lucky here in Perth to be surrounded by beautiful nature and it is important that we protect it and don’t take it for granted.”

She considers one of the greatest challenges in addressing environmental issues such as climate change is getting people motivated to make environmentally conscious choices. “There are a lot of things that individuals can do to reduce their impact but first they need to actually want to”.

“Climate change is very real for the people living in some of the small island states, but it isn’t personal for most Australians yet” she advises. “However people need to understand that not addressing climate change will have a direct impact on things like our food security and vulnerable ecosystems into the future. We really need to act now and do something before it is too late”.

If you are interested in getting involved you can contact Emily at emily.safe@outlook.com.au.

[Melanie Chatfield]

GLOBAL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT– UN ENVIRONMENT DAY



Our planet comprising of land, sea and air is constantly under threat from manmade induced, industrial factors and natural disasters with impacts to the wellbeing and longevity of our greater natural environment, human livelihoods, food production, water and atmosphere quality in which we all share a connection.

The current ongoing international and Australian debate encompassing Environmental Corporate Social Responsibility, challenges solutions of “the protection and safekeeping” to the ecology, biosphere, terrestrial and oceans of the planet, namely, the principles set out in the United Nations global compact form the ethical foundation on global sustainability, to ensuring that future generations enjoy a healthy environment, stable economic and social enduring life living standard. This is all very much in the forefront of modern day headlines.

The United Nations (six) compact principles of universal, environmental and social principles, of sustainability principles generally cover, but are not limited to:

- Supporting environmental strategic management
- Compliance with Human Rights
- Analysing ecological and social impacts
- Implementing sustainable programming and monitoring
- Constant review of programs

How can we assist a more sustainable world?

Irrespective of the NGO corporate and government thinking agenda, the International recognised and accepted Model ISO14001 (Environmental Certification) it comes down to the individual initiative to:

- Increase awareness to the range of sustainability of products, goods and services, he or she purchases.
- Reduce carbon footprint by use of emission free and friendly goods and services and initiatives.
- Education and implementing activities that are responsible to our environment.

Currently in Australia, the debate on Carbon Tax and emissions reduction is alive and complex, although not requested as is the debate of placing the Great Barrier Reef as a Heritage asset of UNESCO (Great Barrier Reef taken off the In Danger List). United World Environment Day 5th June will have a panel of leading climatologists in Sydney and is exhibiting Australia's standing role and responsibility on issues that impact our environment. The UN December 2015 Calendar will host 200 nations in Paris, for climate change discussions that could result in binding agreements to curb carbon emissions. Australia has an important role to play in reducing the global carbon footprint. There is a real opportunity to each of us to make our mark on Australia's Climate “Carbon Footprint” Strategy, by taking into account, social governance and sustainable commitment to the land, sea and oceans which support our human survival and habitation. Protecting our environment is our core and first fundamental principle in moral, ethical and social value.

Your heart will allow you the sentiment, your mindset will allow you to make the decision and your actions will impact on the world that we wish to save for our future generations.

[Joseph Caruso, Executive Member]



Proud convener of Children's Week WA
MeerilingaTM
 promoting positive childhoods



United Nations Association of Australia
 WA Division



Celebrate Children's Week!

Children's Week is an annual event celebrated nationally during the fourth week in October.

2015 marks the 25th anniversary of Australia's signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and focuses the spotlight on the right of all children to an environment which provides a happy, healthy and safe childhood with the opportunity to learn through play and discovery.

Get Creative and WIN!

In 2015, we include the **Yolande Frank Award** as part of WA Children's Week Art Awards. Yolande Frank was a long-time member of United Nations Association of Australia (WA Division) and had a passion for ensuring children understand the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This year's art theme focuses on Article 13 of the United Nations Charter for the Rights of the Child - The 'Right of the Child to Discover and Share'.

Consider the number of child initiated discovery experiences you encounter each and every day!

- Discover your creativity
- Discover your senses
- Discover your environment
- Discover your world
- Discover your potential



Tell us your story of Discovery through art for your chance to **WIN** great prizes and a share of \$10,000!

For great ideas to get you started, to enter visit www.childrensweekwa.org.au

For more information about Yolande Frank visit www.unaa-wa.org.au



*For WA Children's Week Awards terms and conditions and prizes amounts please visit www.childrensweekwa.org.au



UNAA GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP SCHOOLS

IS YOUR SCHOOL SEEKING TO DEVELOP GLOBAL CITIZENS?

Joining the Global Citizenship Schools network offers many advantages:

- A Membership Kit including the United Nations (UN) flag and student-friendly versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Access to electronic teaching resources such as PowerPoint presentations on the history, ideals and work of the UN and Teacher Notes on WA curriculum links.
- Advice on UN related projects and competitions (e.g. about the environment, community development projects and art competitions).
- Regular newsletters sharing information on the work of the UN and current global affairs.
- Invitations to participate in events such as UN Day, the International Day of Peace and Human Rights Day.
- Access to our Speaker Program.
- Links with like-minded schools with opportunities to share ideas on global citizenship education.
- Through our membership in WFUNA (World Federation of United Nations Associations), be part of a global network of people in over 100 member states seeking to promote and strengthen the work of the UN.

The network will support WA primary and secondary schools implementing the curriculum – particularly in Civics and Citizenship, Geography and History.



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



**United Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
WEB: www.unaa-wa.org.au/
EMAIL: office@unaa-wa.org.au
PHONE: (08) 9221 7020**



Are you ready to #BeTheFuture?

The United Nations Association of Australia Young Professionals network is expanding in Western Australia!

Join us to learn more about major global issues, and how you could be involved with the Young Professionals network in Australia.

Drinks and nibbles included. Be quick, tickets are limited!

WHERE: QV1 Ground Floor Foyer, 250 St George's Terrace.

TIME: Doors open 6.00pm.

COST: \$20, includes refreshments.

REGISTRATION: www.trybooking.com/133060

Email waypevents@unaa.org.au for more information.



United Nations
Association
of Australia
Young Professionals



Spend an evening with the United Nations Association of Australia.

Learn more about what we do and how you could contribute.

Find out about the opportunities for volunteers, including being on our Executive team or working in a broad range of areas such as human rights, education, the environment and women's issues.

Enjoy wine and cheese and mingle with likeminded individuals from all walks of life.

WHERE: Claisebrook Lotteries House, 33 Moore St, East Perth.

TIME: 6pm for 6.30-7.30pm.

ENQUIRIES: Kerrie 0407 245 251

WEB: www.unaa-wa.org.au/

EMAIL: office@unaa-wa.org.au



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UN OBSERVANCES

JULY 2015

4 July

International Day of Cooperatives

11 July

World Population Day

15 July

World Youth Skills Day

18 July

Nelson Mandela International Day

28 July

World Hepatitis Day

30 July

International Day of Friendship

30 July

World Day against Trafficking in
Persons

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

‘Experiences of a UN Lawyer’

Melissa Parke, Federal Member for Fremantle, is giving a presentation about the ‘Experiences of a UN lawyer’. From 2000-2007, Melissa worked as a senior lawyer in the United Nations, including postings in Kosovo, Gaza, Lebanon and New York. Prior to joining the UN, Melissa was a lecturer in the law school at Murdoch University and before that, the solicitor in charge at the Bunbury Community Legal Centre. Melissa is the Co-Chair of the UN Parliamentary Group, the UNICEF Parliamentary Association and the Parliamentary Friends of the ABC.

Date : Tuesday 4 August , 6-7 pm (Refreshments to follow).

Venue: Notre Dame University, Michael Keating Room (ND42), cnr Cliff and High Streets, Fremantle.

RSVP: Pam Meehan on 9433 0741 or email pam.meehan@nd.edu.au.

‘Protecting the Human Rights of Australians through Anti Terrorism Laws & Their Enforcement’

Sir Ronald Wilson Lecture 2015

Stephen Smith, Professor of International Law at UWA and former Minister for Defence, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Trade, will present the 2015 Sir Ronald Wilson lecture on the protection of human rights through anti-terrorism laws.

Date: Wednesday 5 August 2015, 5.30-7pm

Venue: Central Park Building Theatrette, Podium Level, 152-158 St Georges Tce Perth

RSVP: Phone 9324 8686 or email schools@lawsocietywa.asn.au.

The lecture will address elements of the Year 12 Politics and Law syllabus. All are welcome to attend.

Helping Hands—Fundraising Dinner Dance

Enjoy dinner and entertainment organised by the Collaborative Communities Network. Proceeds will support the rehabilitation of Nepalese earthquake victims. Semi-formal dress, music & DJ, door prizes, silent auction, raffle, games.

Date: Saturday 1 August 2015, 6pm

Venue: Macedonian Community Centre, 51 Albert St, North Perth.

Tickets: \$40 (excluding drinks), ph: Anita 0420 920 525.



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