



**United Nations Association of Australia**  
WA Division

# UN Matters

Aug/Sept 2015

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Carolynne Gatward

UN Day is almost upon us and we have a wonderful program to celebrate the UN's 70 anniversary at the Government House Ballroom on **Friday 23 October** (see flier pg. 7). Her Excellency, the Hon Kerry Sanderson, Governor of WA will be opening the event and there will be a range of multicultural performances, including folk dances, the tango, opera, jazz and instrumentals (a guzheng solo and a bouzouki performance). Door sales will be available and you are welcome to attend in national or cultural costumes if you wish.

Come along and cheer on the UNAAWA volunteers at the Children's Week FamilyFun Safe day at Whiteman Park on **Sunday 25 October** from 10am-2pm. Loads of terrific activities and free fun will be available. See [here](#) for more information.

Congratulations to our team of Young Professionals who recently organised a fantastic Expansion Event at QV1 in Perth. Well over 100 people were in attendance and the speakers included the Perth Deputy Lord Mayor, Rob Butler and Jessica Salamati (nee Smith), Paralympian and former Young Australian of the Year. For more information about the YPs, email our Vice-President Neesha Seth via [wavyconvenor@unaa.org.au](mailto:wavyconvenor@unaa.org.au).

Please reserve the date of **Wednesday 25 November** at 6pm at the Constitutional Centre, West Perth for the event to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Organised by the UNAAWA Women's Committee, the event aims to raise awareness, provide information and support the prevention of violence against women. An excellent line-up of speakers is being finalised and bookings will open very soon. Light food & beverages will be available from 5.45pm.



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## UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM & AUSTRALIA

At a time when climate change and global warming are on everyone's lips and being seen as both environmentally and socially responsible is almost as important to an organisation as their bottom line, it's not surprising that individuals and companies are finding it hard to decipher and implement the minefield of information and recommendations available. In an attempt to make things a bit simpler, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has built itself into the leading authority in the research, education and promotion of global sustainable development since its inception during the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment. Kenya's capital, Nairobi, is home to UNEP's Secretariat and Australia's permanent mission representatives.

UNEP's Governing Council meets every two years or as needed to discuss and review the current environmental situation, new scientific research, international policies and other environmental programs. Australia has previously contributed to UNEP through funding and participating in the development of various global programs such as clean production, sustainable consumption, marine management and researching the impact of chemicals and other ozone depleting substances.

World Environment Day was held on June 5, and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon took the time to remind us all of the importance of protecting Earth's fragile ecosystems for future generations: *"Humanity continues to consume far more natural resources than the planet can sustainably provide...It is time for us to change. The goal of sustainable development is to increase the quality of life for all people without increasing environmental degradation, and without compromising the resource needs of future generations. We can do this by shifting our consumption patterns towards goods that use less energy, water and other resources, and by wasting less food."* Unfortunately, despite its prior commitments to meet emissions targets and contribute to pollution reduction, recent economic uncertainty has forced the Australian government to drastically scale back its voluntary contributions as a UNEP member state from \$1.2 million to just \$200,000, and vow to cut a further \$4 million over the next four years. UNEP's Executive Director Achim Steiner expressed his dismay about the cuts to ABC News in December, stating that Australia's contributions should be seen as an effective return on investment as the actual benefits we receive by working in concert with others was 500 times more effective than working alone. He hoped that Australia would reconsider their funding position in the future.



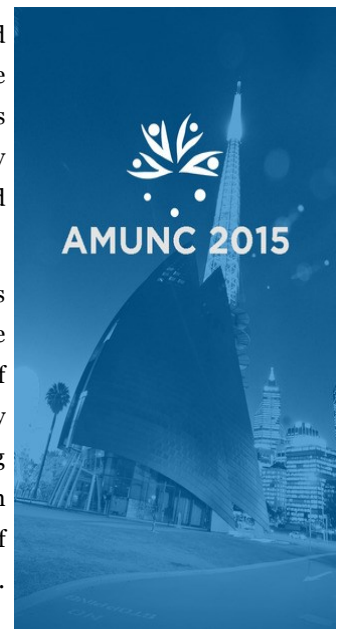
*Susan Manwaring*

## THE FIRST AMUNC IN PERTH

For the first time, the international initiative about the simulation of the United Nation Model was held in Perth. AMUNC 2015, the Asia-Pacific Model United Nations Conference, took place between 29 June and 4 July at the Perth Convention Centre and the Adina Hotel (Perth CBD). This initiative, which was promoted by the International Relations Society of the University of Western Australia, involved many hundreds of students coming from all across Australia and Asia. Local and international students had the opportunity to experience the real procedures adopted by the UN when drafting resolutions.

AMUNC was a great opportunity that not only facilitated students to meet, establish new friendships and get across new cultures but also it has been the confirmation that young people believe in the future and in their action towards helping our world. The conference was really well organized: simulations of committees everyday, special guests as speakers were invited and social events were in place every night. What else? Students had to talk in front of lots of other people supporting their ideas and arguing according to their point view, in a diplomatic and respectful way that contributes to reinforce skills such as public speaking, leadership, initiative and teamwork. AMUNC has been another fantastic example of how young people, driven by passion and dedication, can do and reach whatever they really believe in. Well done!

*Federica Zampieron*



## CO-OPERATIVES - CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The 21<sup>st</sup> UN International Day of Co-operatives was celebrated on 4 July 2015.

Since proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly in 1992, the annual event helps to raise awareness of the synergy between the goals and objectives of the United Nations and the international cooperative movement. Co-operatives are democratic business enterprises owned and controlled by members.

Inclusive, values based and principle driven, they work to meet the needs and aspirations of both members and broader society. Membership is voluntary and they rely on self-help and their own responsibility to meet goals that include economic, social and environmental objectives. These include overcoming poverty, securing productive employment and encouraging social integration.

In the statement issued by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, he noted that this year's theme "Choose co-operative, choose equality" provides an opportunity to highlight the role of co-operatives in helping to achieve justice for all. *"In this crucially important year in which the world will commit itself to an inspiring new development agenda, including a set of sustainable development goals, let us recommit to the cooperative business model and use its many benefits to fulfil our vision of a life of dignity for all"*.

The International Co-operative Alliance reports more than 2.6 million co-operatives worldwide exist with over 1 billion members and that these employ or contribute to the livelihood of around 250 million people. Co-operatives have existed in Australia for over 150 years. There are currently around 1,700 co-operatives spanning trade industries such as agriculture and manufacturing, as well as consumer focused services including education, health and social services.

Through their empowering, inclusive and participatory practices, there remains great potential for co-operatives to continue to contribute to the realisation of sustainable development.

*Melanie Chatfield*



## WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

The scourge of human exploitation has many guises but is most commonly identified as the sexual and/or labour-based slavery of men, women and children. Human trafficking has been defined by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime as the ‘acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them.’ To highlight the estimated 21 million victims of forced labour and trafficking worldwide, the UN General Assembly has officially designated July 30 as the official World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

On July 28 the United States released their 2015 Trafficking in Persons report identifying Australia as being Tier 1, or fully compliant, with global anti-trafficking recommendations underpinned by The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, under the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Despite this, however, Australia still remains one of the primary destination countries for victims typically from East Asia, South East Asia and Eastern Europe. Initially lured by the promise of highly paid jobs they ultimately find themselves trapped and forced to pay off large debts to unscrupulous employers usually by way of prostitution or other forms of illegal labour in homes, farms and factories.

Arranged marriages are also a source of human trafficking, with women and girls being brought into Australia and other countries and held under both sexual and domestic servitude by their husbands. In his statement for the World Day Against Trafficking, UN Secretary Ban Ki -moon labelled human trafficking “an assault on [the] most basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.” He called upon all countries to join together against this global threat by actively pursuing and bringing perpetrators to justice while protecting and supporting their victims.

*Susan Manwaring*

### UNAA Global Citizenship Schools Program - First Member

North Beach Primary School recently became the first member of the UNAA Global Citizenship Schools Program commenced by UNAAWA. On 22 July, to mark this milestone UNAAWA President Carlyne Gatward presented the Membership Kit to Principal Michael Black and student leaders, Oliver Price and Lara Cox (pictured).

Carlyne Gatward explained to the students:

*“UNAAWA is proud to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations with the launch of the Global Citizenship Schools Program. We believe that the UN will continue to be a leading organisation in building a more connected and harmonious world for current and future generations.*

*Our volunteers will support schools in the program by keeping them up to date with global events and related education opportunities. Volunteers have also prepared a bank of resources on global issues, the history and work of the UN and special day observances such as Human Rights Day. These resources align with the new Australian Curriculum. Schools that are interested in joining the program should access our membership page.”*

Michael Black outlined his school’s long involvement in global citizenship activities such as supporting Hoikor School in Laos, tree planting environmental projects, the World Vision 40 Hour Famine and Child Sponsorship and being the Yolande Frank Award winners in both 2013 and 2014. He said "When the opportunity arose to become a part of the UNAA Global Citizenship initiative for schools, we jumped at it! Our staff members are keen to be part of a network of schools that will explore what it means to be a global citizen. This will be an important part of the new Australian Curriculum in Civics and Citizenship.”



There is considerable interest in this UNAAWA initiative. A recent UNAA review of education programs around Australia noted that Divisions have embarked on various strategies for building engagement with schools and students. The WA approach will be evaluated with a view to potentially making it available to other Divisions. The Queensland Division has already expressed interest in the WA approach.

UNAAWA Education Convenor, Rees Barrett, paid tribute to the work of the Education Working Group, comprised of regular members Jan Ryan, Ailsa Allen, Harvey Davies, Curtis Clark and Kay Hallahan.

Rees explained that *“this approach has been developed by the group over the last two years. We have researched approaches taken in other nations and identified the Norwegian model as one worth emulating. Currently, there are about 650 schools throughout Norway that are designated as ‘UN Schools’.”*

Education Working Group members were attracted to the title of Global Citizenship Schools as it reflects schools as organisational members, the UN’s Global Education priority and recent UNESCO conferences and publications on Global Citizenship.

The target is to attract 20 schools to join the program in its first year. A key attraction will be the education resources developed for students and teachers. Twenty-one resources on the work and ideals of the UN and aligned with the Australian Curriculum have been developed so far. Members wishing to access the resources may do so by registering their interest via email to [gcs@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:gcs@unaa-wa.org.au).

*Rees Barrett, UNAAWA School Programs Coordinator*



## WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY 2015

World Humanitarian Day acknowledges and celebrates the hundreds of thousands of people committed to providing aid and assistance to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain and protect human dignity.

Designated by the General Assembly to coincide with the anniversary of the 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, the day recognizes those facing danger and adversity in order to help others affected by natural and man-made crises and disasters.

The Perth event, held at the College of Law on 19 August, featured inspiring accounts of humanitarian work both locally and globally. UNAAWA partnered with Red Cross, the College of Law and the Curtin International Affairs Association for the event which was sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The keynote address was provided by Claire Elias, Assistant Director of the UN and Commonwealth Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Claire provided insight into the scale of humanitarian issues and the challenges in tackling them. She identified the opportunity for better engagement with the private sector to meet the gap in the provision of aid and the role of prevention, noting that "the Government is aware of the economic impact of terrorism and the value of contributing to a stable economy".

Alenka Jeram, State Manager for the Red Cross Migration Support Program assists refugees, asylum seekers and immigration detainees. Alenka reiterated the value in sharing personal stories to help dispel myths associated with the migration of people made vulnerable through conflict, war and disaster.



Agnes Beaton presented a moving account of her work as an international humanitarian healthcare worker. "Public health measures often break down during conflict", she said. A former International Committee of the Red Cross delegate, Agnes has considerable experience in crises situations. "You need to use local people as part of the response to help build capacity for recovery" she added.

Liza Beinart, Save the Children Australia spoke passionately about their work to settle newly arrived migrant and refugee children in Perth. Liza reiterated the importance of substantive equality, "Just because services are open to everyone does not mean they are accessible. It is important to understand that some people require a different approach to have their needs met".

According to Paddy Cullen, Campaigns Coordinator (WA), Oxfam Australia, "The humanitarian system is under strain. Now, more than ever, Australia needs to show strong support for the provision of humanitarian aid". He urged everyone to become involved and add their voice to this message to Government.

*Melanie Chatfield*



United Nations Association of Australia

23 OCT 2015

# UNITED NATIONS DAY 2015 CELEBRATE WITH US

Join us in the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations.



**VENUE:** Government House Ballroom, St Georges Tce, Perth  
**DAY:** Friday 23 October  
**TIME:** 6.30pm-8.30pm  
**TICKETS:** \$40 (standard), \$30 (concessions & members of UNAA, AIIA & WAMA)  
 Book via [www.trybooking.com/JDSF](http://www.trybooking.com/JDSF)  
**CONTACT:** 9221 7020 or [un.day@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:un.day@unaa-wa.org.au)

### THE EVENT WILL INCLUDE:

- > The Hon. Kerry Sanderson AO, Governor of WA – Opening Address
- > Ms Andrea Gleason, Director Western Australia State Office, Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade - Keynote Address
- > Carolyne Gatward, President UNAAWA – UN Day Message
- > Jayda D’Agostino, Singer – Winner of the Multicultural Youth Talent Quest WAMA
- > Twinkle Stars, Dance Group – Russian Folk Dance Kadril
- > Magda Lisek, Soprano – Classical Voice, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts
- > Matthew Manahan - Musical Theatre, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts

*You are very welcome to attend in cultural or national costume if you wish.*

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*Promoting understanding of international issues*



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## NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

### Aussie Backyard Bird Count 24-25 Oct

Please consider joining in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count: all you need is 20 minutes, your 'green patch' of choice, and keen eyesight or binoculars! And it doesn't matter if you're a novice or an expert – see <http://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>.

### Barefoot Bowling for Cambodia

To be held on Sunday 22 November from 3pm until late at the North Fremantle Bowling Club. Presale tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids. Funds will go to the Samaky Foundation which provides education and training programs in Cambodia. For more information, see the Foundation's website or view <http://samakyfoundation.org/events/b4c2015>.

### Health Care in Danger—Issues in International Humanitarian Law course

The Australian Red Cross IHL Issues Course introduces participants to some of the major issues currently facing international humanitarian law. In 'Health Care in Danger', course participants will learn from practitioners about the challenges of healthcare provision in conflict, the incidence and nature of attacks on health care workers and facilities, the consequences of insecurity of health care in the field and tensions and harmonies between military practices and healthcare imperatives.

*When:* 9.30am—3.30pm from Thursday 5 November 2015

*Venue:* Curtin University, Building 400, Room 303

*Price:* \$80 standard, \$40 students/Red Cross members

To register, go to <http://www.trybooking.com/JDFO>.

### Fremantle Festival—Fair Go for Asylum Seekers Appeal

The Fair Go For Asylum Seekers Appeal is proud to present comedian & writer Sami Shah. Sami has been profiled in the New York Times and ABC's Australian Story and has appeared on BBC Radio 4, TEDx, The Project and QI with Stephen Fry. All funds raised will go toward ongoing costs of running a free legal clinic run by the Humanitarian Group for asylum seekers.

*When:* 8pm-10pm on Tuesday 27 October 2015

*Venue:* Fremantle Town Hall, 8 William St, Fremantle

*Price:* Tickets \$30.00. *Ages:* 18+

For more information, see <http://www.fremantlestory.com.au>.

## UN OBSERVANCES

### OCTOBER 2015

#### 1 October

International Day of Older Persons

#### 2 October

International Day of Non-Violence

#### 5 October

World Teachers' Day

#### 5 October (first Monday in October)

World Habitat Day

#### 9 October

World Post Day

#### 10 October

World Mental Health Day

#### 11 October

International Day of the Girl Child

#### 13 October

International Day for Disaster Reduction

#### 15 October

International Day of Rural Women

#### 16 October

World Food Day

#### 17 October

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

#### 20 October

World Statistics Day

#### 24 October

United Nations Day

#### 24 October

World Development Information Day

#### 27 October

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage

#### 31 October

World Cities Day



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