



United
Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division

UN Matters

Oct Nov 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT

My first year as President of the UNAAWA has been one of learning, consolidation and focus to realise our ongoing support for the UN goals and aspirations. Political, social, technological, economic and environmental events over the last 12 months have underscored the importance of the UN and its inclusive and multilateral approach - despite those who seek to undermine it through unilateral decision making on the global stage. The UNAAWA Mission reflects our commitment as we strive to inform, inspire and engage all Australians in creating a safer, fairer and more sustainable world.

A major initiative of 2017 was Western Australia taking the lead on the UNAA National Human Rights Programme. This month saw Australia's success in its bid to secure a seat on the UN Human Rights Council. As such we are focused on maximising the support that both WA and the nation can provide in this important role. We see this responsibility for Australia as potentially heralding a new era of human rights awareness, consciousness and progress in our country.

Our committee structure is the cornerstone of delivery for the Association. And this year we have seen numerous successful events by our Young Professionals, Women's Committee, Human Rights Committee, Education Reference Group and Environment Committee - all themed in support of one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It is exciting to see how the SDGs are starting to inform strategic decision making in WA. While I believe we have a long way to go in putting our State on the path to true sustainability, we have nodes of excellence in academia, local government, professions (eg nursing) and the business sector which act as wonderful role models for others to emulate.



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Our purpose: To connect West Australians with the United Nations in order to promote justice, peace, security and sustainable development for present and future generations.

We continue to strengthen our communications around the SDGs with a view to institutions and individuals owning them as part of the new normal for modern society. Please let me know if we can assist you in raising awareness as to how this may be done.

The past year has been one of positive membership growth and engagement for the Association. It also saw a focus on good governance. To this end, we undertook an organisational review to professionalise the Association and to ensure regulatory alignment. This work was supported by a generous grant from Lotterywest and culminated in the unanimous adoption of a new Constitution at a recent Special General Meeting.

The UNAAWA is a 100% volunteer run organisation – yet it operates with a professionalism and focus which is often absent in organisations employing full time staff. This is due to a dedicated and skilled team of volunteers who are driven by their commitment to seeing a better world and who are united in their passion for the goals and objectives of the UN. I would like to thank all our volunteers and members for their support over the last year. In particular, I would like to highlight the leadership team making up the extended Executive Committee. This is an effective team which works together in a sprint completely aligned with the values of the UN.

I am also particularly proud of the hardworking team who arranged the incredible UN Day gala evening. For the first time we combined the celebration of UN Day with the recognition of West Australians who have made outstanding contributions to the realisation of UN goals and values. In presenting these awards we hope that the excellent work done by so many in our State can be both highlighted and replicated by others. If we all take a small inspiration from these awards and do something different and better as a result, then I am convinced we will be able to “crowd source” the achievement of the SDG by their target date of 2030.

October 2017 saw us holding our AGM which was particularly well attended. The business of the AGM progressed smoothly and included the appointment of your Executive Committee and office bearers for the coming year. I am pleased that we have a great mix of continuity and new blood which will serve the Association well into 2018.

Dr Steve Lennon, UNAAWA President



Members and
Volunteers are
invited to
attend the

**UNAAWA
Networking &
Cocktail Evening
15th December
6.00-8.30pm**

@ Adelphi Bar
Parmelia Hilton Hotel

Free Event. To book:
www.trybooking.com/TBZM

UNITED NATIONS DAY 2017

UNAAWA GALA EVENT & INAUGURAL AWARDS



27 OCTOBER 2017

Government House provided an auspicious setting for this year's UN Day Gala Event and Inaugural Awards ceremony. Guests enjoyed canapes, refreshments and the opportunity to network before being ushered into the ornate ballroom.

Dr Richard Walley OAM provided a moving Welcome to Country which included playing the didgeridoo. "Let the good spirit be with each of you as we gather and connect as we have done for thousands of years" he said. "Respect is our greatest asset. We are all linked under the one sun regardless of our backgrounds".

Two hundred and twenty guests sat beneath the chandeliers and towering domed roof as UNAAWA Patron Her



Photo: Dr Richard Walley and the ballroom Credit: UNAAWA

Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia referenced the grand occasions and ceremonies the building had witnessed in its long history. With a passion for the natural environment, the Governor congratulated all those who continue to show passion and a commitment to improving sustainability.

"We all have a role in stewardship of the protection of our environment, for ourselves and future generations" said the Governor. "My hope is that we can encourage more people to take pride and see themselves as stewards".

Deputy Premier, the Hon Roger Cook MLA, Minister for Health and Mental Health is an avid supporter of wellbeing and sustainable tourism. He spoke enthusiastically of the opportunities to learn from our Aboriginal culture and communities, and celebrate the uniqueness of WA through nature play programs and development of regional camping initiatives. He congratulated the



Photo: Dr Sandy Chong, Hon Kerry Sanderson, Ms Vanida Lennon and Dr Steve Lennon. Credit: UNAAWA

UNITED NATIONS DAY 2017

UNAANA GALA EVENT & INAUGURAL AWARDS



“Start local. If you are passionate about something it won’t take long until other people come along with you”

UNAANA Award recipient.

UNAANA and its volunteers for their efforts in progressing so many worthwhile initiatives in WA.

Mr Christopher Woodthorpe, Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Canberra provided an excerpt from this year’s UN Secretary General’s message. In addition, he emphasised the importance and purpose of the SDGs. “We really do need a plan for the planet” he said. “We have to take action and we need strong and inspiring leadership from the top of government to the local community”.

“I have heard of the work that WA students are doing. It is encouraging to hear how they are including the SDGs in policy and at the UN we are grateful for the effort. Your

work exemplifies the strength of working together to respond to challenging issues” said Mr Woodthorpe.

Australia’s recent appointment to the Human Rights Committee was a key feature of UNAANA President Dr Steve Lennon’s address. The National Human Rights Program, led by WA, will be focused on providing support. “I am looking forward to Australia playing a leadership role” he said.

Dr Lennon spoke of the power of collective impact and the impetus to work together for a safer, fairer and more sustainable world. “We are far more powerful if we unite together than if we face challenges in isolation” said Dr Lennon.

With that in mind, Dr Lennon introduced the award categories representing each of the UNAANA committees as well as two President Awards. The premise of the ceremony was to recognise outstanding contributions to global thinking, local action and commitment to the SDGs by individuals and organisations in WA.

Humbled by the fantastic examples of what can be achieved, Dr Lennon encouraged the



Photo: Presenters and Award Recipients Credit: UNAANA



Photo: Gala Musical and Dance Performers Credit: UNAAWA

audience to take a little bit of inspiration home and make a commitment to do something different and better.

“The award winners represent an alumni of role models who demonstrate that positive individual action can make a difference” he said.

The evening was a celebration of diversity and included performances from SATB Choir, Narthanalaya School of Indian Classical Dance, Artur Dance Academy and touching duets by Genevieve Ogilvie and Nathan Stark.

Congratulations to all award nominees and winners. The UNAAWA thanks your for your inspiring and tangible contribution to improving the lives of others and our environment.

***Melanie Chatfield,
UNAAWA Chief Editor***

Acknowledgements

UNAAWA would like to sincerely thank everyone involved for their incredibly hard work.

- All award nominees and recipients
- Artistic performers
- UN Day Committee members and volunteers
- Irek Kucy Ballroom Manager, Government House
- Rene Neumann, McCusker Centre for Citizenship
- Beatrice Belarmino and team, Curtin University
- Kristy Jayadi and multimedia team, University of WA
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- Lotterywest
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Brightsidelive Audio Visual Events
- Le Cordon Bleu Perth
- Curtin Learning and Teaching and the UNESCO Chair of Data Science in Higher Education Learning and Teaching
- Association of Independent Schools of WA

#UNDayPerth



Photo: Guests, Presenters and Award winners Credit: UNAAWA

INAUGURAL UNAAWA AWARD WINNERS

| COMMITTEE | CATEGORY | WINNER |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Human Rights | Promotion of Human Rights | Fran Haintz |
| Women | Excellence in Gender Equality Promotion | Hannah McGlade |
| Young Professionals | Best Young Professionals Platform | Young Professionals Network— Local Government Professionals WA |
| Environment | Excellence in Environmental Action | Western Earth Carer, Waste Education Team, Western Metropolitan Regional Council |
| Education | World Teachers' Day Awards (Primary) | Coolbinia Primary School |
| Education | World Teachers' Day Awards (Secondary) | Elise Gaglio & Tracy Smith Mindarie Senior College |

UNAAWA PRESIDENT AWARD

Lindsay Dorman

UNAAWA PRESIDENT AWARD

Rene Neumann





Debunking Three Australian Foreign Policy Myths

By Tom Switzer

Attitudes towards Australian foreign policy are undermined by a trio of misconceptions, led by the repeated assertion that today's geopolitical unpredictability is unprecedented. History provides some perspective.

There is no end of debates on how to strengthen Australian security in the coming decade. Should we embrace the traditional 'Defence of Australia' doctrine or favour developing a lighter, more expeditionary force for use in international coalitions? How can we balance China's right to an enhanced regional profile with our own interests and commitments? Should we enhance strategic ties with a power led by an erratic and bizarre president who unnerves allies? And so on.

But before we set out how to strengthen security, it is important to debunk several myths that shape popular attitudes about our nation's foreign policy.

1. We are living in the most uncertain times in the post-World War II era.

The rise of China, the instability of the Middle East and the spread of Islamic terror, the rapid digitalisation of the global economy, the proliferation of nuclear

weapons, and the re-emergence of populism and nativism across the western world culminating in Brexit and US President Donald Trump's election a year ago—all these incidents have led many politicians, policymakers and pundits to proclaim this is the most volatile era since the 1940s.

But is this really the case?

Is today's emerging strategic terrain more unsettling than the early-to-mid Cold War years when our leaders faced the challenges of decolonisation, communism and Asian nationalism? Or the late 1960s when Britain withdrew its military presence from east of Suez and US President Richard Nixon enunciated the Guam doctrine of US limits to power, which led to a widespread sense of abandonment in Australia?

Or the late 1980s and early 1990s when we were told that the collapse of Soviet communism and the end of the Cold War heralded 'the end of history'. Or the early 2000s when the September 11 and Bali terror attacks apparently meant 'the world had changed'.

Bear all this in mind when you hear people say we are living in the most uncertain era of international relations in living memory.

2. We have no 'independent' foreign policy.

Since Australian nationhood in 1901, the public and our political leadership have sought a close relationship with a major power that shares our values. That was Great Britain in the first half of the 20th century and the US since the onset of the Cold War.

Yet that does not mean Australia has been a lickspittle of what Robert Menzies called "our great and powerful friend".

Just think how Australia expressed its independence within and sometimes without the empire in the first decades of the 20th century. As the distinguished diplomatic historian Neville Meaney FAIA has shown, Australian leaders clashed with their counterparts in Whitehall when

they felt Australia's distinctive Pacific interests were not understood or appreciated in London. And they did this before the formal creation of an external affairs department in the mid-1930s.

Have we forgotten about Menzies' decision to delay sending Australian troops to the Middle East at the outbreak of World War II? Or the Whitlam ministers' strident denunciations of Richard Nixon and his national security adviser Henry Kissinger in 1972-73? Or the Bob Hawke government's withdrawal from participation in MX missile tests in Australia in the mid-1980s?

In recent times, former diplomats Bruce Grant FAIIA and Alison Broinowski FAIIA have charged that, since John Howard's prime ministership, Australian political leaders have been American sycophants.

Never mind that Tony Abbott, despite intense Barack Obama administration lobbying, ultimately supported Canberra's inclusion in the China-led Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank.

Never mind that Malcolm Turnbull, notwithstanding intense Pentagon lobbying, has refrained from supporting our own freedom-of-navigation patrols through the South China Sea.

Bear all this in mind when you hear people say we have no independent foreign policy.

3. We are witnessing the serious decline of the US in Asia in the face of a rising China.

It is true China has emerged as a truly great power in the region as its definition of vital strategic interests grows and as its economic power increases. It is also true that US credibility, influence and, crucially, confidence have waned since the disastrous decision to invade Iraq in 2003.

But across most of Asia, there remains a well-founded conviction that the US will remain the predominant power in defence, education, innovation and energy self-sufficiency.

Crucially, demographic trends work to America's advantage: it has moderately high immigration and fertility levels whereas China will grow old before it grows rich; and, even if Beijing can sort out its long-term demographic problems, other big challenges loom, namely political, ethnic and environmental.

Bear all this in mind when you hear confident predictions that China will displace the US as the pre-eminent power in the region.

None of this, of course, means that Australia is immune to the kind of shifting tectonic plates that former Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Office of National Assessment head Peter Varghese recently observed in the annual Griffith lecture. US strategic dominance in Asia may be narrowing. China is clearly more assertive today than at any time since before the Opium Wars.

That means our policymakers and political leaders will need to navigate this emerging terrain. Indeed, as Owen Harries FAIIA and I have argued for more than a decade, Canberra will need to learn to play a more demanding diplomatic game than ever before, one that on occasion means we need to ride two horses simultaneously.

All true. But to suggest we are living in the most uncertain times in living memory or that Australia lacks an independent foreign policy or that the US regional leadership is in serious decline is no help in understanding how Australia should strengthen its security in 2018 and beyond.

Tom Switzer is incoming executive director of the Centre for Independent Studies and a presenter with ABC Radio National. This is an article based on his address to the 2017 Australian Institute of International Affairs National Conference.

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Event shines spotlight on built environment

27th September

Around 70 guests enjoyed an evening focused on SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Dr. Steve Lennon, UNAANA President, gave an informative introduction to the UN and the SDGs before Professor Joseli Mocedo, Head of the School of Built Environment, Curtin University took the stage.



Photo: Keynote speakers Martin Spencer, Dr. Josh Byrne and Professor Joseli Mocedo. Credit: UNAANA

Professor Mocedo discussed whether SDG 11 will lead us to create sustainable communities for the future.

Martin Spencer, Senior Strategic Planner for the City of Melville, provided case studies of sustainable development within the City of Melville and how engaging local community members for their thoughts on

...engaging local community members for their thoughts on the future of their city is an important step to create local change...



the future of their city is an important step to create local change.

Dr. Josh Byrne finished off the night with a detailed case study of his project - *Josh's House* - and how the average household can affordably create a sustainable living environment.

Valentina Petrone, UNAANA Portfolio Lead for Sustainable Built Environments said she received positive feedback from many attendees and was very pleased with the event.

Georgia Braund
UNAANA Environment Committee

Special thanks to the keynote speakers : Anna Bombardieri and Megan Devenish for photography; and Monica Fitz for use of the Conservation Council of WA venue. Thanks also to Pavi from Bakers Delight Floreat Forum for the donation of bread used for nibbles provided on the night.



Photo: Attendees listening to Martin Spencer present on case studies of sustainable development within the City of Melville. Credit: UNAANA

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Curtin University celebrates diversity with multicultural event

20th October

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



Curtin University has the largest population of overseas learning students with almost twenty thousand in attendance each year.

The annual Pasar Malam multicultural event is hosted by the International Students' Committee (ISC), Curtin Student Guild. This year's festivities included VIP campus tours, food stalls, entertainment, traditional activities and performances representing cultures from around the world.

Curtin is celebrating its 50 year anniversary as WA's second established university (formerly the Western Australian Institute of Technology) and is named after Wartime Prime Minister Hon John Curtin.

UNAAWA Executive Member Joseph Caruso attended the event and spoke briefly on multiculturalism and Australia's rich cultural heritage.

"In recent years the migratory wave has lessened from European origins and we have strengthened recipients from Asian, Indian Sub-continent and Chinese homelands to Australia," he said.

"It's heartening to see and feel the assimilation of these young people being



Photo: ISC President Ahmed Ademoglu, Vice-President Aditya Bhatnagar, UNNAAWA Executive Member Joseph Caruso and Event Coordinator. Credit: Joseph Caruso

groomed to fulfil the leadership roles in the private and public life of tomorrow," said Mr Caruso.

The University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deborah Terry provided an opening speech for the event.

The UNAAWA congratulates Curtin University on diverse multiculturalism and academic advancement.

*Joseph Caruso
UNAAWA Executive Member*

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the UN give nation members a clear direction to work towards for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, addressing the needs of people in both developed and developing countries and a shared vision that no one will be left behind. Our mission as UNAA reflects this as we inform, inspire and engage all Australians about the critical work, goals and values of the United Nations to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable world.



FAMILY FUN DAY: WALKING THE GLOBAL GOALS

Our Senior Citizens led the Walk the Global Goals path at Children's Week Family Fun Day, Whiteman Park Sunday 22nd October.

Over 300 youngsters were enticed to take 17 paces along the Walk. Their motivation - to send the Global Goals Rocket flying.



Another 80 children displayed artistic talents, colouring in member nations on a blow-up globe (Colour Your World) or shading hands (Hands Up 4 A Better World).

Meanwhile, parents and friends willingly submitted to a bit of 'preaching' from UNAANA representatives Kay Hallahan, Harvey Davies, Anne and Rees Barrett. "Never heard of you lot before," was the common refrain from participants.

It was a terrific experience. Our intrepid foursome, sipping a recovery drink at day's end, were heard to say: "Next year we recruit some youthful members' energy to share in the fun."



NEW SHAPES: UNAANA ENTERS GLOBAL CONVERSATION

UNAANA is part of the global conversation on *New Shapes for Global Governance* run by the Global Challenges Foundation in Stockholm.

Our entry, *The Integral Global Governance System*, written by Rees Barrett, beat the 30 September deadline for the New Shape Prize by several days. The assessment process involves ten review panels around the world, assessing in six languages, selecting 100 semi-finalists in December 2017 and 20 finalists in March 2018.

Regardless of the competition outcome, it is the start of our own ongoing conversation. Opportunities to learn more and debate ideas are planned for 2018. Members may register their interest by emailing Rees gcs@unaa-wa.org.au.

*Rees Barrett,
UNAANA Chair Education Reference Group*

THE UN COMES TO PERTH



Photo: UNIC's Chris Woodthorpe (front) and Rees Barrett (UNAAWA School Programs Coordinator) with Kent Street students and teachers Credit: UNAAWA

COOLBINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL

"What does the UN do if countries don't observe the rules?" asks the curious 12-year-old Coolbinia Primary School student. UNIC Director Chris Woodthorpe thinks quickly and points to the chart on the classroom wall. "The UN follows the same steps as your classroom behaviour management plan. Talk it through first. If that doesn't work, go to the naughty corner and think about it."

Such are the interactions during his visit to two Perth schools leading the way in integrating the SDGs into the school curriculum. Chris, the UN Secretary General's representative in Australia, was visiting Perth for the first time in five years to join the UN Day celebrations.

At Kent Street Senior High School, teacher Suzy Urbaniak's *Plan for the Planet* class

(run by ANU and Questacon) interacts with Chris for over an hour. Student observations on challenges for the Perth and Kimberley/Pilbara eco-zones are catalysts for a stimulating conversation.

One of the students concludes: "We loved this project. It provided an opportunity to apply our learning to real-world problems. And adults listened to our ideas for the future! That means a lot to us. We're used to hearing that teenagers only want to party."

CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Next stop is a meeting with David Gibson and Kim Flintoff of the Curtin University Learning Futures team. Chris takes pages of notes as David and Kim outline their innovative work integrating the SDGs, challenge-based learning and digital evidence-collection systems.

"We loved this project. It provided an opportunity to apply our learning to real-world problems. And adults listened to our ideas for the future! That means a lot to us. We're used to hearing that teenagers only want to party."

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Meetings with Perth City Council Sustainability Officers and WA Local Government Authority planners also confirm that the SDGs are making an impact in thinking for WA's future. There are even suggestions for UNIC and UNAANA to act quickly to gain prominence for the SDGs in the review of the Local Government Act and public service restructuring.

Chris concluded, "It was quite inspiring listening to students, educators and planners talking about what they are doing to act on the Goals. It was a pleasure to talk with them about the UN. Thanks UNAANA for a great experience."

Thanks for crossing the Nullabor Chris. We hope to see you back here soon.

*Rees Barrett,
UNAANA Chair Education Reference Group*



Photo: Joanne Woodbridge (EMRC Environment and Sustainability Coordinator), Chris Woodthorpe and Mark Batty (WALGA Executive Manager Environment and Waste) Credit: UNAANA

2017 YOLANDE FRANK ART AWARDS



Primary Winner *Invading Privacy* by Charlotte Hoy, Karrinyup Primary School

For the past eight years, UNAANA has conducted art awards in which primary school students from years 4 to 6 use any art media to convey the meaning of a selected human right.

The 2017 awards were extended to include secondary school students (years 7 to 9) for the first time. The awards are named in honour of an outstanding long-time member of the Association, Yolande Frank, who died in 2009.



Secondary Highly Commended by Nicola Grobbelaar of Prendiville Catholic College

Since 2015, the Awards have also been based on the related document, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Australia in 1990.

This year primary students illustrated the child's right to privacy. Secondary students illustrated the right to belong to a country. Schools selected up to four finalists. A total of 19 entries were submitted from five schools.

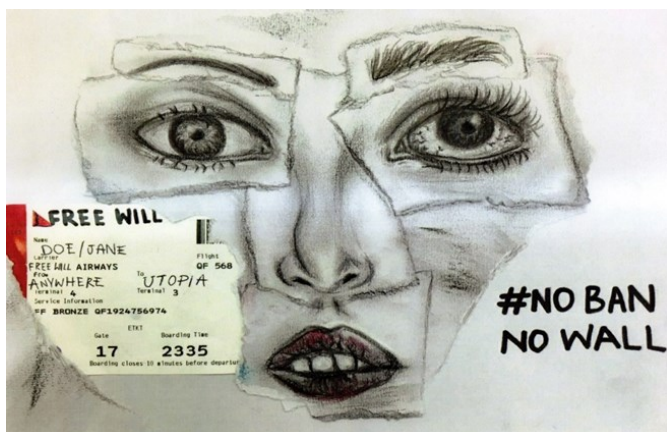
Diana Warnock (Australian Humanist of the Year 1999), Jill Green (National Jewish Women's Association) and Mike Nicholas (commercial artist, *Run, Mouse, Run*) kindly agreed to form the judging panel.

They looked for originality and effectiveness in communicating the importance of the selected human right using any visual arts media.

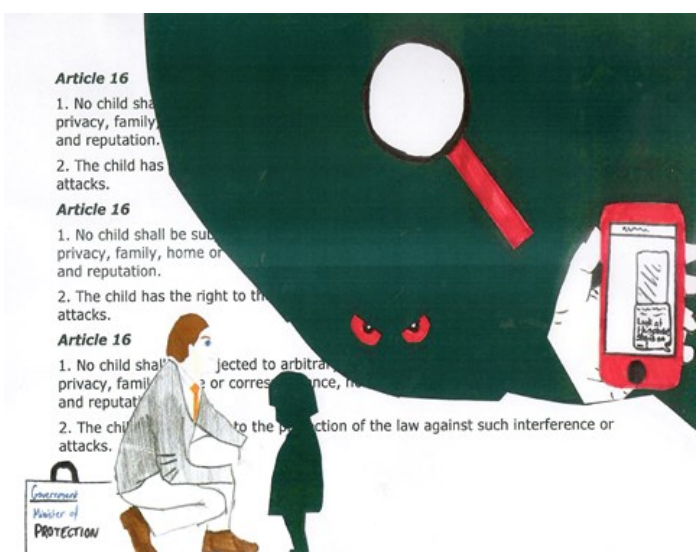
Human rights education is a vital part of Global Citizenship Education, a UNESCO strategic priority. Teaching for human rights contributes to building student self-esteem and confidence – the foundation of protective behaviours instruction, which is now mandatory in all WA schools. Teaching about human rights is part of the new *Civics and Citizenship* syllabus currently being implemented in WA schools.



Photo: 2017 Yolande Frank Art Awards judges Diana Warnock, Mike Nicholas and Jill Green at work. Credit: UNAAWA



Secondary Winner Madison Snelling, Prendiville Catholic College



Primary Highly Commended, Isabella Jorge, Chrysalis Montessori School

ANNOUNCEMENT :

2018 Yolande Frank Art Awards

Also added to the website, are advice notes for children and teachers with a recommended approach to researching and visually communicating human rights. "These are based on the Australian Curriculum General Capability of *Creative and Critical Thinking* – so important in our rapidly changing world," Rees said.

The 2018 Yolande Frank Arts Awards for Primary Schools (Years 4 to 6) and Secondary Schools (Years 7 to 9) will ask students to visually communicate Article 29 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:

Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, their cultures and other cultures.

UNAAWA Education Committee Chair, Rees Barrett, urges all members who have a friend or relative in years 4 to 9 to promote the Awards. The Awards promotion flyer will be available on the UNAAWA website from March along with details for schools on how to enter.

"Schools select their leading four entries and submit them electronically to UNAAWA by 25 August – so there is a good lead-time for schools to involve their students," Rees said.

The advice will also be helpful for any UNAAWA member keen to encourage a school-aged friend or relative to get involved as a home-based project if the school is not able to include it in its curriculum.

All entries in the Art Awards are through the child's school and must be verified by the Principal as the student's own work. There are some important steps to follow if you use this approach and these are outlined below.

"Above all, it is vital for the ongoing integrity of the Awards that we carefully maintain the boundary between motivating/supporting the child's learning journey (through questioning and discussion) and ensuring the child determines and implements the creative process," said Rees.

Gaining School Support for Yolande Frank Awards Participation: Important Steps to Follow

- ◆ Ask the child's school/teacher if they are interested in participating in the Awards. If they are, tell them about the information available through the UNAAWA website.
- ◆ If the school is not able to include Award participation in its crowded curriculum but your child is keen, ask the teacher if he/she would be prepared to verify and submit the child's entry completed at home. If so:
- ◆ Negotiate with the teacher the evidence required for verification – we recommend a dated journal and/or visual diary, in the child's hand, showing the development process. The teacher will also need to verify by comparing the standard of the finished product with similar work usually completed in class by the child.



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



Three charts on: job prospects for refugees in Australia

*By: Pilar Rioseco Senior Research Officer, Australian Institute of Family Studies
John De Maio Research Fellow, Australian Institute of Family Studies*

While refugees will always face major challenges in making the transition to employment, new research indicates their job prospects improve the longer they are in Australia. But for those who do find work, it's not always in their chosen profession. Most are in low-skilled occupations.

The Building a New Life in Australia study is longitudinal, following the journey of almost 2,400 humanitarian migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, from their arrival in Australia or when granted a permanent visa. The participants come from 35 countries and speak close to 50 languages.

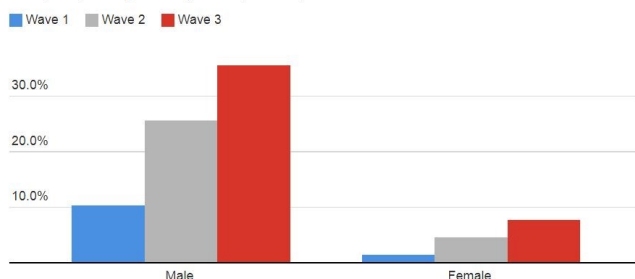
Some 89% have experienced significant trauma such as war and persecution. Most have arrived in Australia with little or no English, and many had their schooling interrupted.

The challenge of finding work

At the first interview for the study (three to six months after arrival for most), 6% of participants aged 18-64 were in paid employment. This had risen to 16%

Percentage of refugees in paid work, by gender

BNLA participants aged 18-64 years old, Australia, 2013-16.



The first wave of interviews were conducted from October 2013 to March 2014, the second from October 2014 to February 2015, and the third from October 2015 to February 2016

Source: Department of Social Services – BNLA

around one year later (during wave 2) and 23% two years later (wave 3). This is a four-fold increase between the first and third interviews.

Employment rates for men were higher than for women, with 36% of men in paid work at wave three compared to 8% of women. Many women take on family and caring obligations in the early years of settlement, which partly explains their lower rates of employment.

We found searching for a job can be challenging and time-consuming for many humanitarian migrants. Most participants had been in Australia for only a few months at the first interview. Over 80% of those job seekers found it hard to get a job. Consistent with previous research, humanitarian migrants' employment is expected to gradually increase as they spend more time in Australia.

Importantly, humanitarian migrants in Australia seem to be entrepreneurs, showing higher-than-average engagement in small and medium-sized business.

One of the most challenging factors associated with employment is English proficiency. Not surprisingly, participants with good understanding of spoken English were much more likely to be employed. However, there are other barriers to employment. These include lack of Australian experience and ongoing discrimination against certain ethnic groups in the labour market. For example, research has shown that African and Middle Eastern refugees had poorer employment outcomes than ex-Yugoslavs despite having similar levels of

knowledge, skills and qualifications. So educating employers on the skills of humanitarian migrants may be worthwhile.

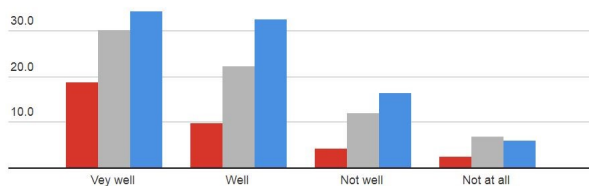
What jobs can refugees get?

Even though more humanitarian migrants are finding jobs, certain areas remain a challenge. Our analysis shows some evidence of what is known as “occupational skidding”.

Percentage of refugees in paid work by understanding of spoken English

BNLA participants aged 18-64, Australia, 2013-16.

■ Wave 1 ■ Wave 2 ■ Wave 3



The first wave of interviews were conducted from October 2013 to March 2014, the second from October 2014 to February 2015, and the third from October 2015 to February 2016

Source: Department of Social Services - BNLA

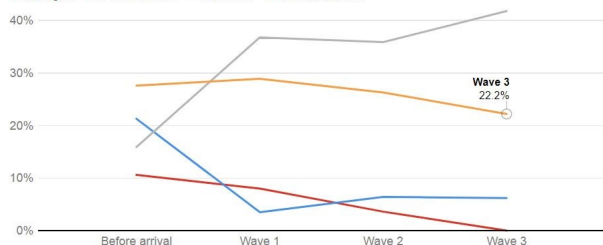
That is when humanitarian migrants cannot obtain jobs in line with their skills and qualifications. Think of the stereotypical surgeon who ends up working as a taxi driver in their new country.

The following chart shows a decline in the proportion of 18-64-year-olds working as managers and professionals, after arriving in Australia.

Percentage of refugees in differing types of occupations

BNLA participants aged 18-64, Australia, 2013-16.

■ Managers ■ Professionals ■ Labourers ■ Technical/trades



The first wave of interviews were conducted from October 2013 to March 2014, the second from October 2014 to February 2015, and the third from October 2015 to February 2016

Source: Department of Social Services - BNLA

As you can see from the data, the most common occupations among humanitarian migrants were labouring (37% at wave 1, 36% at wave 2, and 42% at wave 3)

followed by technicians/trades (29%, 26% and 22%).

This contrasts starkly with pre-migration occupations, where sizeable percentages were working in professional occupations (21%) and technicians/trades were most common (28%). Examples of professional occupations include engineers, teachers, doctors and lawyers.

There were almost as many managers as there were labourers prior to migration (11% and 16%). By the time of the third interview, no participants reported working in managerial positions.

Previous Australian research shows there are niches (cleaning, aged care, meat processing, taxi driving, security and building) where humanitarian migrants tend to find employment and that the process for recognising skills can be difficult in Australia.

Employment prospects improve over time

The longer humanitarian migrants spend in Australia, the more likely they are to find employment. Despite some improvements, many still struggle to obtain work in Australia commensurate with their previous skills and qualifications. This is also a problem in other resettlement countries such as Canada and Sweden.

The Australian government is piloting the Careers Pathways Pilot for Humanitarian Entrants and has recently launched a new Humanitarian Settlement Program. We expect these programs will improve outcomes as employment helps to create new social and professional networks, improve English skills and can lead to financial independence.

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Source: www.theconversation.com/three-charts-on-job-prospects-for-refugees-in-australia

UN OBSERVANCES

December

- December 1 World AIDS Day
- December 2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- December 3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- December 4 International Cheetah Day
- December 5 World Soil Day
- December 5 International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
- December 7 International Civil Aviation Day
- December 9 International Anti-Corruption Day
- December 10 Human Rights Day
- December 11 International Mountain Day
- December 18 International Migrants Day
- December 19 UN Day for South South Cooperation
- December 20 International Human Solidarity Day

January

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

UPCOMING EVENT

Think Globally! Plan Nationally! Act Locally! StandUp4HumanRights

*12 December 2017
5.30pm – 8.30pm @ UWA*

UNAA Human Rights Committee and Young Professionals Network are hosting a **Human Rights Day** event to kick-start the journey to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the launch of our 2018 National Human Rights Program which is aligned with the five pillars that Australia's membership to the Human Rights Council is built on.

Speakers include:

Anna Johnson Board Member, Australian National Committee for UN Women

Steve Lennon President, UNAAWA

David Castelanelli WA Youth Ambassador 2018

Dr Richard Walley Founder, Aboriginal Productions

Alicia Curtis Chairperson, 100Women

Venue: University of Western Australia, Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre Building 453 (Corner of Fairway and Fairway Entrance, 64 Fairway Crawley, WA 6009

Free event. To register: <https://www.trybooking.com/TEMB>

Australia's Opportunity on the UN Human Rights Council

The Hon Lisa Singh

With its election to the UN Human Rights Council, Australia has the opportunity to do good at the UN, in the region and at home.

At the 2017 AIIA National Conference Senator Lisa Singh spoke about the United Nations following from her experience being seconded to the UN General Assembly in New York as a delegate from the Australian parliament.

She noted that as part of Australia's bid it put forward five pillars which now need to be implemented. There is the opportunity to respond to events in Myanmar.

And Australia should use the opportunity to put its own house in order. By participating within the United Nations, Australia is well placed to define the rules, norms and standards of the international community.

Learn more: www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/australia-un-unhrc/



Foreign Policy in an Uncertain World

The Hon Julie Bishop MP

The forthcoming Foreign Policy White Paper will articulate the priorities, interests and values for Australian foreign policy for the next decade and beyond so that Australia can navigate the uncertain seas ahead.

The international rules-based order, the web of treaties and alliances and institutions that has been built up since World War II is under strain, even fraying, as some nations seek to bend or break rules in pursuit of short-term gain.

It is partly in response to these and other challenges that the Turnbull government will be releasing its Foreign Policy White Paper later this year—the first since 2003.

The White Paper will chart a course for our engagement with the world over the next decade including how to best deploy our resources in pursuing our interests and promoting our values—even though it is impossible to predict how the world will change over this time.

The White Paper will also reflect on the underlying and ongoing conditions for continued peace, stability and prosperity in the region and across the globe—and how best to position Australia in this fluid environment.

Learn more: www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/foreign-policy-uncertain-world/



UN #orangetheworld Campaign

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign which takes place each year and runs from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day.

It was originated by activists at the first Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and is coordinated each year by the Center for Women's Global Leadership. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

In support of this civil society initiative, each year, the United Nations Secretary-General's campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women (UNiTE) calls for global action to increase worldwide awareness and create opportunities for discussion about challenges and solutions. In recent years, the UNiTE campaign has utilized the colour orange as a unifying theme running through all of its global activities. Orange is one of the official colours of the UNiTE campaign and in the context of its global advocacy, is used as a symbol of a brighter future, free from violence against women and girls.

This year's global campaign theme "Leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls", reinforces the UNiTE Campaign's commitment to a world free from violence for all women and girls around the world, while reaching the most underserved and marginalized, including refugees, migrants, minorities, indigenous peoples, and populations affected by conflict and natural disasters, amongst others, first. As in previous years, the colour **orange** will be a key theme unifying all activities, and buildings and landmarks will be lit and decorated in orange to bring global attention to the issue of violence against women and girls.

Stay connected. Follow us. Get involved. Contact us!



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