

# UNAAWA Women's Committee

August 2018 Update

## Conveners Welcome

We are in the second half of 2018 already, how quickly the time flies. We here at the United Nations Association of Australia (WA) Women's Committee have been very busy in the last few months and are looking forward to finishing off 2018 with even more community events, outreach and activism for achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Our Women's Empowerment Series with the University of Western Australia's Women in Business is in full swing, with sold out sessions on leadership and financial literacy already accomplished. If you would like to join us for the last two sessions, please secure your place as soon as possible to avoid missing out. Our next session is on 11th September at 12:00pm, and the final session is 3rd October at 6pm. Ticket links are on our website and Facebook.

We have also been busy working with our partners to promote the great work being done in our community. Earlier last month the Women's Committee was involved with Breaking Barriers, a Museum of Freedom and Tolerance WA co-creation design challenge to share and preserve difficult and untold stories of racial and religious experiences and use them as a catalyst for change.

We also participated in a panel event with the author of the carbon market of the Kyoto Protocol, Graciela Chichilnisky, along with Mr Guy Chalkley (CEO, Western Power) and Mr Jeff Dimery (Managing Director & CEO, Alinta Energy). What a discussion that was!

Don't forget about our UN Day Gala on the 26<sup>th</sup> October, and the UN Day awards which close this week. We want to acknowledge and support the hard work going on at the local level to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, so if you know a

deserving individual or organization in the categories of Human Rights, Gender Equity, Environment, Education or Young Professionals, please nominate them or ask them to self-nominate. Award nomination forms can be found on our website or get in touch with us on the details listed on the last page of this newsletter.

We welcome you to attend one of our committee meetings or get in touch. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 33 Moore St, East Perth, 6-7 pm sharp. We hope to see you soon.

Aleisha Godenzie  
Women's Committee Chair



## SCREW Week at UWA

SCREW Week was a series of free, informative and thought-provoking events on the themes of Sex, Consent, Respect, Education and Wellbeing. It is a UWA calendar event in which there is a heavy focus on issues of sexual assault and harassment. One of the crucial aspects of week was the free screening of The Hunting Ground – a documentary on sexual abuse in U.S colleges and the failure of university administrations to properly address it – being shown



in universities across the country as part of a nationwide project.

The University of Western Australia partnered with other universities in a new national campaign entitled 'Respect. Now. Always'. The campaign focused on ensuring that students and staff are safe from sexual assault and sexual harassment. We were very



SCREW week was a hit at UWA

fortunate to receive products from local sexual empowerment company 'Smile Makers' to provide to the students. Thank you again to Smile Makers for all of your support.

The women's committee was invited to take part in this initiative by the UWA Student Guild Women's Department. We gratefully attended and answered questions about some of the work we do, and about the state of consent and respect across the globe. This initiative interlinked with the Sustainable Development Goals #5 which is about achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls.

### The Future of Energy

Our community partners, Women in Energy and Young Energy Professionals recently hosted author of the carbon market for the Kyoto Protocol, Professor Graciela Chichilnisky (Professor of Economics and Statistics, Director CCRM, Columbia University), along with Mr Guy Chalkley (CEO, Western Power) and Mr Jeff Dimery (Managing Director & CEO, Alinta Energy) on a stellar panel during their 2018 Energy in WA Conference.

The panel was moderated by our very own Aleisha Godenzie and saw the panelists reflect on their career journeys, on all the joys and challenges faced along the

way, and advice they would give their younger selves. They also discussed how they are making a difference in their organization and in the broader industry to promote diversity and support young women and men to build their careers.

A key takeaway from the discussion was the need for humility and compassion in leadership, at every stage of our careers.



### Interns Shine at UNAAWA

In semester one this year the Women's Committee at UNNAWA has had 2 interns on board from UWA. Here's a bit about them.

#### Thomas Manley

Thomas 'Tom' Manley is in his graduating semester of International Relations and Political Science. Tom aims to start his masters next year in International Law with a particular interest in the Middle East. Tom also enjoys DJing in his spare time.



Tom (left) and Shamsa (right) with Aleisha (middle)

Interning at UNAAWA, Tom has been heavily focused on researching and drafting documents which are in circulation now and representing the UNAA at multiple events. Tom has also been working behind the

scenes on the UNAAWA website to raise brand name awareness.

His biggest highlight easily is being a part of the IDAHOBIT day which is the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. The opportunity to meet and have conversations with influential WA politicians is an experience which he will not forget.

Tom greatly appreciates how much effort and work that goes into making a not-for-profit organization successful. It's more than just speaking about what you want to do but how actively dedicated you are to create wonderful events.

### Shamsa Fowski

Shamsa has just finished her final semester studying Professional Economics. She's passionate about eliminating education disparities between girls and boys in 3rd world countries. Making a difference and contributing to the community has always been something she's wanted to.



Shamsa and some of the girls from the #GirlsCanLead Project

During her stint with UNAAWA, Shamsa has been working on a data migration project, creating newsletters like this one and various fact sheets. Shamsa said attending events and being able to mingle with some of the industry's greatest like Hon. Cheryl Edwardes who is WA's first female Attorney-General was an unbelievable experience.

Her biggest highlight throughout this journey was mentoring at the #GirlsCanLead Project. Being surrounded by incredible, smart and fascinating

teenage girls who we're not going to let the world dictate what they can and can't do was heart-warming.

Shamsa said the greatest lesson she learnt from interning at UNAAWA is the importance of collaboration and giving everyone the opportunity to add their input. When collaborating, only then do your ideas fully bloom and you reap the substantial rewards.

### Women in Technology WA



We love to bring you information about local initiatives that support the Sustainable Development Goals. The Women in Technology WA (WiTWA) group are celebrating 20 years since their founding and they want to celebrate with you!

Join WiTWA for a very special cocktail event with plenty of food, drinks and entertainment throughout the evening. They'll be awarding 20 women who've made a significant contribution to STEM and Innovation in WA - please scroll down to nominate yourself or a worthy woman you know for an award.

Tickets for the Gala and award nomination information can be found online at [www.witwa.org.au/20in20awards](http://www.witwa.org.au/20in20awards) with award entries closing 11.59pm AWST on 11 September 2018, so be quick.

### Museum of Freedom and Tolerance

Earlier last month the Women's Committee was involved with Breaking Barriers, a Museum of Freedom and Tolerance WA co-creation design challenge to share and preserve difficult and untold stories of racial and religious experiences and use them as a catalyst for change.

The weekend long event was held at UWA Innovation Quarter and in partnership with DrawHistory. The event saw teams create and present new and tangible

ideas to harness the stories of people facing prejudice and discrimination to promote positive social change, through which they joined the journey to dismantle discrimination through powerful stories. The winning idea was to place a code at historical sites, which passers by could scan with their smartphone and then hear a story about the site from history.



Panellists and winners of the breaking barriers design challenge

We thank the Museum for inviting us to be a part of such an amazing event, and look forward to what will come next.

### Women's Empowerment Series

Our Women's Empowerment Series with the University of Western Australia's Women in Business is in full swing, with sold out sessions on leadership and financial literacy already accomplished.

Do you know that the available superannuation for women at retirement age can be nearly half of that for men? A number of factors contribute to this, and increasing our financial literacy is one thing we can all do today to ensure a safe and prosperous tomorrow. Our thanks to Professor Paul Gerran of UWA and Gina Abuda of UniSuper for their stellar presentations on the night.

We also explored leadership, with Dianne McWilliam of McKinsey during the second workshop. The role of women in leadership is crucial. More diverse decision-making bodies mean better decisions and therefore, better outcomes, for all of us. Be empowered with the best leadership we can, so that we can empower others.



### SELF-DEFENCE AND MINDFULNESS

If you would like to join us for the last two sessions, please secure your place as soon as possible to avoid missing out. Our next session is on 11th September at 12:00pm, and the final session is 3rd October at 6pm. Tickets links on our website and Facebook.



### PERSONAL BRANDING

#### New Members and Getting Involved

A number of new members have joined us throughout 2018, and it has been heartening to hear from many members who are interested in becoming more involved with the UNAAWA.



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division

Participation usually falls into one of three categories. If you are interested in increasing your level of involvement with the UNAAWA, please contact

Aleisha Godenzie (for the women's committee), or Dr Steve Lennon (for general involvement).

**Membership** is a great place to start, members receive updates from the committees and are often the first to hear about events.

**Volunteers** are members who want to be a bit more involved, often donating their time or expertise in order to achieve a certain goal or help out at an event.

**Committee membership** is also available to members, when a position arises on one of the committees; dependent on skills and availability of members.

#### Stay in touch

Just a reminder that our meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at Claisebrook Lotteries House from 6-7 pm sharp. New and prospective members and volunteers are welcome to join.

Please ensure your details are correct on our distribution list, we would hate for you to miss out on hearing about our latest events and information about women's empowerment and equality. Please visit our web page at UNAAWA or click [here](#).

The UNAAWA is a membership-based organization, and the work we do in promoting a more peaceful and just world would not be possible without a strong membership. If you haven't already done so, please sign up today and be a part of this local movement that seeks to tackle important global issues.

If you have any queries or would like more information than you see online, please email the Women's Committee at [women@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:women@unaa-wa.org.au).