



United  
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Association  
of Australia



*Acknowledge the truth*

# UNity

NOVEMBER 2018



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# UNity

## November 2018

**Welcome.** UNity is the official monthly newsletter of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA). UNity covers a range of news and events at a local, national and international level. This newsletter is a key part of delivering the UNAA's mission to inform, inspire and engage all Australians on the work, goals and values of the United Nations, to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable world.

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CONTRIBUTORS



# Welcome

## from the National Executive Director



I am delighted to introduce the November issue of UNity, the United Nations Association of Australia monthly newsletter. Each issue of UNity will showcase the fantastic initiatives underway across our state and territory teams, the Young Professionals Network, UN Youth and Academic Network, as well as our four National Programs on the SDGs, Climate Change, Human Rights and Peace & Security. The newsletter will also update our readers with international news on global issues and what's happening in the UN from an Australian perspective.

It has been a busy time for the UNAA and in late October I represented Australia and the UNAA at the 42nd WFUNA Plenary Assembly in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. This was a terrific opportunity to meet leaders of other UNAs across the world and with UNAs in the Asia-Pacific region in particular. The UNAA's resolution on the protection of refugees and internally displaced peoples received unanimous endorsement from WFUNA members. The UNAA also led discussion on UNAs encouraging their governments to: develop national sustainable development action plans including a public awareness campaign; and endorse the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative. While away, I also travelled through New York, where I attended several meetings at the UN and meet with Gillian Bird, Australian Ambassador to the UN, her staff at the Mission, as well as several Australians working in the UN System.

Our work continues to be guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we are driven to ensure Australia achieves each Goal and target by 2030. We still have a long way to go, especially since Australia is currently ranked 37th in the world, down from 17th in 2015, when the 2030 Agenda was adopted, according to the SDG Index published in July 2018. Of particular importance is urging the government to adopt a National Plan that coordinates all government agencies' activities towards implementing the SDGs. As part of a Senate Enquiry into the SDGs in August, I also spoke in favour of developing a public awareness campaign for the SDGs.

The past few months have brought many important developments across various UN agencies. The 73rd session of the UN General Assembly ran through September and October and included discussions on financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Action for Peacekeeping and the prevention of non-communicable diseases.

With the release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, we learned about climate change impacts that could be avoided if global warming is successfully limited to 1.5°C compared to 2°C. This Special Report will be important in guiding the Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland in December, when governments review the Paris Agreement to combat climate change. I highly recommend reading the report's Summary for Policymakers. Climate change and work on SDG13 Climate Action will form an important part of the UNAA World Oceans Conference in June 2019. We look forward to updating you on the Conference in issues to come.

I hope you enjoy this month's issue and are inspired by the UNAA's work and the efforts of various UN agencies across the world

**Lachlan Hunter**  
UNAA National Executive Director



# Message

## from the editor

We have made some changes to the UNity newsletter, with a design refresh and new sections. Each month, UNity will deliver the latest news and events at a local, national and international level curated by our communications team. The events section provides a snap-shot of our upcoming events across Australia.



From the 73rd United Nations General Assembly to United Nations Day, the previous few months have seen some significant events. Internationally, the seminal research report on climate change was released by the IPCC, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honorable Marise Payne represented Australia at the UNGA for the first time. August also saw the tragic passing of former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan.

There are also some exciting upcoming events here in Australia and I'd like to highlight two for which the UNAA is a partner. Malala is to many one of the most inspiring figures of our time and the world's youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner. Described as "one of the most inspiring figures of our time" (Tim Cook, Apple CEO), Malala is the world's youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner. The UNAA will also be partnering with the International Organization on Migration, United Nations Information Centre, United Nations Higher Commission on Refugees and the Australian National University in hosting the 2018 Global Migration Film Festival. This year's film is 'The Merger', a moving Australian comedy about the power of sport and community in breaking down barriers and changing the conversation on refugees and migration. Following the film, the Director, Producer and cast will be available for Q&A

Please enjoy reading the first edition of the new-look UNity, and please [subscribe here](#) to be first to receive the December edition!

Candice Woods  
National Communications Manager

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FAIRER

MORE  
SUSTAINABLE

FOR A SAFER,  
FAIRER  
AND MORE  
SUSTAINABLE  
WORLD



# LOCAL NEWS

## > NEW SOUTH WALES



### United Nations Day events in Martin Place, Sydney - 24 October

The sacrifices of the past and hope for the future: these were the two defining elements of United Nations Day for attendees at The Cenotaph in Sydney's Martin Place. United Nations Day takes place annually on 24 October and begins with the wreath-laying ceremony, which commemorates the sacrifices made by fallen UN peacekeepers. For Mr Yasser Abed, Consul General to the Arab Republic of Egypt in Sydney, the day was a reminder of the respect which everyday Australians still have for the values of freedom and peace which underpin the UN.

"All the different representatives of the nations and ethnicities that participated in the event demonstrate

that there is a common value in Australia: the right to live, to live the way you deem appropriate to yourself and to others, and to treat everyone the way you want to be treated," Mr Farghal said. [Read more](#)



## > AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



### Space and the Rules-based Order event with DFAT Secretary Frances Adamson, Canberra

In this Distinguished Public Lecture, co-sponsored by the UNAA and the ANU Centre for International and Public Law, Frances Adamson, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, discussed the need to extend the rules-based international order to Space. Are you based in the ACT and would like more information about becoming a member of the UNAA ACT? Click [here](#) for further information.







## Model UN Conference, Melbourne

On Thursday 11 October, UNAA Victoria, Her Place Women's Museum and the Immigration Museum hosted a Model UN Conference to celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child. Mary Crooks (AO), Executive Director of the Victorian Women's Trust, launched the conference, which had as its theme Achieving Gender Equality: Empowering Women and Girls (SDG 5).

Some 90 secondary students from schools across Victoria came together to represent 21 UN Member States during the full day simulation of the UN General Assembly. Delegates presented their country's position to the meeting before caucusing with other countries to come to a collaborative agreement on a new UN resolution based on SDG 5. One student said afterwards that all delegates "had a voice. We were free to negotiate, question and speak up and that felt amazing".

Model UN Conferences provide a platform for students to deepen their awareness and understanding of both the UN and the issue of gender equality in an innovative and interactive manner, whilst fostering tolerance and respect for diversity and difference of opinion. Students and teachers regularly comment on how participation boosts student confidence in debating and public speaking and improves critical thinking skills.



## UNAA Study Tour, New York

UNAA Study Tour to the UN in New York: From 14-19 October, former UN Ambassador and Staff member, Carlisle Richardson, led UNAA's inaugural tour of UN Headquarters in New York. The nine participants took part in a very busy week of meetings with UN officials and UN agencies and programs, including UNDP, the UN University - Centre for Policy Research, UN Women and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The week started with a visit to the Australian Mission to the UN, where the group were fortunate enough to meet Ambassador Gillian Bird and Mission staff. Later that evening, group members enjoyed meeting Australians working in the UN system in New York over informal drinks. A particular highlight of the week was sitting in on a session of the Security Council while UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in attendance. The 2019 UNAA Tours program will soon be finalised. If you would like to be contacted when we release details of future tours, please email [office@unaavictoria.org.au](mailto:office@unaavictoria.org.au)





## > TASMANIA



### UN Day Luncheon at Parliament House, Hobart

On October 24th, UNAA YPN TAS held a UN Day Luncheon at Parliament House, celebrating 73 years of the entry into force of the United Nations charter. The event was hosted by Elise Archer, Tasmanian Minister for Justice, Corrections, Environment and the Arts.

The Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 are the United Nations' current action plan for people, planet and prosperity. Keynote speaker, Professor Leanne Denby, presented the SDG Index results; how Australia is performing, and what are strategies and policies are in place to help achieve these goals. Leanne has been Director of Sustainability at Macquarie University (NSW) since 2008. Leanne's passion for sustainability and for the University to be more sustainable highlights her strongly aligned ethical values, as she emphasised the need for people to think about the social and environmental impacts of our actions and decisions.



## > SOUTH AUSTRALIA



### SA Young Professionals Launch at the Adelaide Town Hall, Adelaide; International Day of Peace Cultural Night

The Launch of the UNAA SA Young Professionals was held at the Adelaide Town Hall on September 5th, 2018. The Network provides a transition from the United Nations SA Youth Divisions. The keynote speaker for the night was Paul Vasileff, founder and head designer of Paolo Sebastian and international renown atelier based in South Australia. [Read the full article here](#)

On the 21st of September, the second Cultural Night 2018' was held at the Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute. More than \$5,300 in profits were raised from this event, and donated to three charities. The festival attracted more than 380 guests and volunteers who showcased their cultural backgrounds; including traditional clothing, food, music and performances. [Read the full article here](#)



## > NORTHERN TERRITORY



### International Days celebrations, Darwin

A small team of volunteers, the UNAA NT Board have managed to celebrate some of the important international days and SDG's throughout 2018. This was accomplished mostly through partnerships with other local organisations, truly living the ideal of SDG 17.

March 3 – On *International Women's Day*, UNAA NT held a Multicultural Lunch. The event was held at the Portuguese Timorese Social Club. Eighty guests enjoyed a multicultural lunch and performances.



March 10 – The International Women's Day Walk and

Celebration was organised by Katrina Fong Lim, in partnership with City of Darwin and the NTG. Approximately 1,000 people took over the streets of inner Darwin, banners waving. [Read full article here.](#)

## > QUEENSLAND



### Discussions on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in Australia, Brisbane

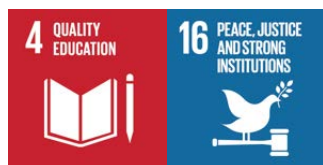
UNAA QLD and the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply has taken a serious look at the impact of decisions made locally, following the evidence at the Joint Inquiry into Modern Slavery and Trafficking in Australia. CIPS was active in the UNAA community education sessions in 2017 and early 2018 in preparation for the Commonwealth Games (Equity Games developed on a Human Rights Framework) at the Gold Coast, and now in preparation for the Invictus Games in Sydney.

Modern Slavery is not just a human rights issue, it is an economic issue especially when it might underpin our export capacity and way of life. It is an industrial issue, because although Australia has always been seen as 'Fair Go' society, this notion is being eroded in many ways.

Australia is not the only jurisdiction addressing this. In fact we are learning from others internationally on how to implement better systems. These steps are to identify what constitutes modern slavery, what can be done about it, and what things can businesses do to ensure there are ethical parameters for purchasing and contracting to avoid unintended consequences.



## > WESTERN AUSTRALIA



### Yolande Frank Art Awards, Panel on Health in the Workplace, Perth

For the past nine years, UNAOWA has conducted art awards in which school students use any art media to convey the meaning of a selected human right. The 2018 awards were extended to include senior secondary students (years 10 to 12) 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. A survivor of the Holocaust, Yolande had a passion to ensure that children understood the fundamental importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 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 Years 4 to 6 students illustrated the child's right to education that fully develops their personalities, talents and respect for others. Years 7 to 9 students illustrated protection of human rights by laws that foster respect and duty to the community. Years 10 to 12 students visually communicated the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration and how it has changed the world. [Read full article here.](#)



Above: Years 10 to 12 Winner:  
*Madison Snelling, Prendiville  
Catholic College*

Article Contributor: **Anne Barrett**



### Good Health and Well-being panel discussion, Perth

On 5 September, more than 70 Western Australians gathered together at the Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) to discuss a cause close to many hearts; good health and wellbeing in the workplace. Hosted by UNAA WA and SBDC, this panel event was the third in the inaugural Business & Sustainability Forum series. The Hon. Alanna Clohesy MLC commenced the event by addressing the relevance of mental health to productivity, and the need for a commitment to normalising discourse surrounding mental health. Speakers at this month's events included David Eaton (Small Business Commissioner of WA), Michael O'Hanlon (Workplace Engagement Manager, Beyond Blue), Scott Montgomery (WellteQ CEO/Co-Founder), and Neesha Seth (Registered Psychologist; Principal [Organisational Services] PeopleSense). Sharing their diverse experiences, insights and expertise, the speakers led a fascinating discussion facilitated by UNAA WA Vice President of Strategy, Dr Sandy Chong.

Subjects discussed included barriers to optimal wellbeing management in the workplace, measures that can be taken in industry to promote mental health, success stories, government and regulatory support.

[Read the full article here.](#)



*UN flags raised in Canberra as part of UN Day celebrations, in partnership with the UN agencies UNIC, UNHCR and IOM.*



# NATIONAL NEWS

## UN DAY MEDIA AWARDS MELBOURNE

The 2018 UN Day Media Awards were presented in Melbourne on 26 October. Journalists were acknowledged across ten categories, all of which were linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Media Awards are designed to acknowledge the efforts of the Australian media to cover issues relating to human rights and global issues. A special Contribution to Humanitarian Journalism Award was presented to the family of the late Michael Gordon to acknowledge his tireless efforts to raise awareness of the plight of Australia's Indigenous peoples and people seeking asylum in Australia.

Congratulations to all of the 2018 Award Winners - [click here](#) for the full list.



## UNAA PARTNERS IN GLOBAL MIGRATION FILM FESTIVAL

The UNAA has partnered with IOM, UNIC, UNHCR and ANU in hosting the Global Migration Film Festival (GMFF) for 2018. This a FREE event - Registrations are essential.

**ABOUT GMFF:** Films have been used to inform, entertain, educate and provoke debate throughout the years. It is in this spirit that IOM, the UN Migration Agency, launched The Global Migration Film Festival in 2016. The Festival showcases worldwide films and documentaries that capture the promise and challenges of migration for those who leave their homes in search of a better life, and the unique contributions migrants make to their new communities. It paves the way for greater discussion around one of the greatest phenomena of our time.



## AUSTRALIAN SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE SDGs 2018

On August 24th, the UNAA attended the Senate Inquiry into the SDGs 2018. The UNAA highlighted Australia is on track to achieve only one of the 17 SDGs by 2030, SDG1 - No Poverty; is last in the world for SDG13 - Climate Action; and ranked 37th overall for performance on the SDGs. Awareness of the SDGs in the community is extremely low and urgent action is required to increase progress. The Australian Government must lead on the SDGs, through a National Sustainable Development Action Plan, including a public awareness campaign on the SDGs. Read the full Senate Inquiry [here](#).







UN Photo/Kim Haughton



UN Photo/Loey Felipe



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## IPCC 1.5 REPORT

A special report on limiting global warming released by a UN scientific panel on 8 October 2018. Read the UN News article about the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 1.5 Report.

"This report by the world's leading climate scientists is an ear-splitting wake-up call to the world. It confirms that climate change is running faster than we are", UN chief Antonio Guterres. Read the UN News article [here](#).



## 73RD UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA73) opened 18 September 2018, with the theme of the general debate, 'Making the United Nations Relevant to All People: Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Peaceful, Equitable and Sustainable Societies.' Did you miss the #UNGA73? Here are six things you might not know about the General Assembly and this year's high-level week. Read the UN News article [here](#).



## MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, H.E. MARISE PAYNE, SPEAKS AT UNGA

At the General Debate of the 73rd session, new Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mrs. Marise Payne, delivered the National Statement for Australia for the first time.

The Senator spoke openly about Australia's commitment to the joint plan of action on Iran Nuclear program, "...as long as Iran abides but its commitments."

"It's in our collective interests that controls on Iran's nuclear program remain in place and for this reason the world watches with anticipation the negotiations between the US and North Korea pursuing complete and verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the peninsula in accordance with UN resolutions." [Read the Minister's full statement here.](#)



UN Photo/Kim Haughton

# WFUNA PLENARY NEWS

## WFUNA 42nd PLENARY ASSEMBLY 17 – 21 OCTOBER 2018 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In October 2018, Lachlan Hunter represented the UNAA at World Federations of United Nations Associations held its 42nd Plenary Assembly in the Dominican Republic. In total, 38 UNAs were represented by one or more delegate, with our delegation including Lachlan as Executive Director and Head of Delegation, and Jay Jethwa, WFUNA Vice-Chair and member of UNAA Victoria.

The event began with a welcome from WFUNA President, Ambassador Park Soo Gil and Secretary-General Bonian Golmohammadi who outlined the procedures for the Plenary and recent work of WFUNA. Following the introductory session, members attended capacity building sessions on topics such as SDGs and Entrepreneurship; and UNA Management.

Many other UNAs, including those in our region are interested in working together and scaling our successes including on priority issues to the UNAA such as oceans, climate, First Peoples, refugees, modern slavery and peace. To facilitate working together, the UNAA helped organise the first regional meeting of the Asia-Pacific including countries such as China, Korea, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and New Zealand. UNAs in the region discussed how we can work together including on re-starting UNAs in Indonesia and Thailand, as well as supporting new UNAs in Pacific smaller island developing states (SIDS).

### Resolutions

Draft resolutions were put forward by UNAs for endorsement by majority yes vote from a yes, abstain, no system. UNAs presented their resolution, before members proposed amendments. Each amendment was voted on and all but one resolution was endorsed. Australia's resolution was the only resolution to be unanimously endorsed and the only resolution for which no amendments were proposed (see photo on page 15). The UNAA also received unanimous endorsement of two important amendments to other resolutions:

- Peacekeeping – UNAs to encourage their governments to endorse the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative; and
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- UNAs to encourage their governments to develop National Sustainability Action Plans, including a public awareness campaign on the Sustainable Development Goals.

In particular, the amendment on the SDGs will assist us as we seek to influence the Australian Government on the importance of a National Sustainable Action Plan and public awareness campaign to implement the SDGs.







## Elections

On day three, elections to the Executive Committee were held and ten new members were elected to the Executive Committee for the next three years. Pleasingly, of the new members there were representatives from several smaller UNAs and members of our region, such as Trinidad and Tobago, New Zealand, South Africa, China, Malaysia, Korea and Tanzania.

The elections also saw the handover of the WFUNA Presidency from Korea's Ambassador Park Soo Gill to incoming President, the Dominican Republic's Leonel Fernandez. Leonel has been elected three times as President of the Dominican Republic, so while Ambassador Park's reputation, standing and connections will be difficult to replace, WFUNA's incoming President is likewise distinguished and with significant standing in international affairs.

## Youth Elections

UN Youth Australia nominated UN Youth President Jessica Herne. I presented to the youth delegates on Jessica's behalf and she was elected as the Regional Representative for Oceania. Congratulations to Jessica on her appointment which is a tremendous achievement. Well done! They were interested in working with Australia, especially as we now have a representative on the WFUNA Youth Advisory Council.

## Global Citizenship education

UNAs of New Zealand, Norway and Uganda presented their ideas on global citizenship. Each talked about their own place in the world and others perception of this. For example being referred to as African more often than Ugandan or Scandinavian rather than from Norway and in the case of New Zealand, often confused with Australia.

New Zealand showcased their new website and the resources available, with a focus on young people. It was highlighted that to work toward peace, it is crucial we invest in, work with and educate young people on how we can create a safer, fairer and more sustainable world; and more specifically, peaceful, just and inclusive societies. UNAs should focus on education, not just through Model UN Conferences, but other types of conferences and also education in classrooms and in different forms to the conferences.

## WFUNA

With Jay Jethwa as the outgoing Vice-Chair and ongoing Executive Committee member of WFUNA and the relationships the UNAA developed with staff, there are significant opportunities to scale some of the programs WFUNA would like to work with us on. There is also a significant opportunity for UNAA and UN Youth to work with WFUNA Youth and other UN Youth Associations and UNAs with an interest in youth programs. WFUNA are interested in working together with UNAs and in particular UNAA to progress the achievable calls to action in the resolutions.

# DECEMBER EVENTS

27TH  
NOV

## ICHRE CONFERENCE SYDNEY, NSW

The international conferences on human rights education (ICHRE) are a series of dialogue on human rights education as a means of promoting democracy, the rule of law, justice, and inter-cultural and social harmony.

**TICKETS** [www.ichre2018.com.au](http://www.ichre2018.com.au)

4TH  
DEC

## GLOBAL MIGRATION FILM FESTIVAL CANBERRA, ACT

Get ready, Australia! The Global Migration Film Festival is back for 2018!

**WHERE:** Canberra, Molonglo Theatre, ANU

**PRICE:** This is a FREE event

**FILM:** "The Merger" (trailer: <https://bit.ly/2OBR3v1> )

**TICKETS** <https://gmffthemerger.eventbrite.com.au>



6TH  
DEC

## HUMAN RIGHTS LECTURE STATE LIBRARY OF NSW

The 2018 Human Rights Lecture presented by the United Nations Association of Australia (NSW) with the support of the Library.

**TIME:** 6 pm (Guests to be seated by 5:50pm)

**CONTACT:** [Alexander.Weilsmann@unaa.org.au](mailto:Alexander.Weilsmann@unaa.org.au)

5-10  
NOV

## 70th ANNIVERSARY - UDHR VARIOUS VENUES, NSW

UNAA NSW is proud to support the Evatt Foundation in presenting a suite of events to celebrate and critically reflect on the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**TICKETS** available [here](#)



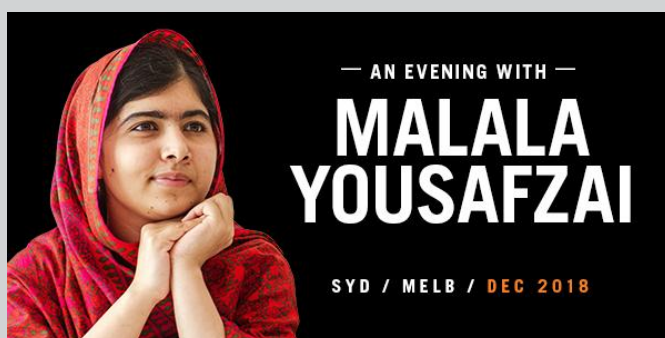
10-11  
DEC

## AN EVENING WITH MALALA SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE

The Growth Faculty and the UNAA is delighted to bring the world's youngest ever Nobel Prize winner, equal rights and education activist, Malala Yousafzai to Sydney and Melbourne this December. Tickets are available now.

- For Sydney tickets, [click here](#)

- For Melbourne tickets, [click here](#)







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