



**United
Nations
Association
of Australia**



ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015







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OUR MISSION

Established in 1946, the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) is a national non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting the work and ideals of the United Nations amongst Australians of all walks of life.

We work to ensure that the UN is relevant to the peoples that it exists to serve.



By strengthening the three pillars of the United Nations - security, development and human rights - we can build a more peaceful, more prosperous and more just world for our succeeding generations."

BAN KI-MOON



> NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S *report*

This year we have celebrated the 70th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter marking the founding of the organisation. The occasion has provided an opportunity to reflect on the UN's history and achievements in international peace and security, environmental sustainability and human development amongst other things. It has also been a time to look to the future of the UN to consider how we can improve and adapt current some of its practices and processes to better deal with pressing international issues.



To help celebrate this anniversary, the UN launched the 'UN70' birthday celebrations with an aim to unite Member States, global civil society and the people of the world to rally behind a simple common campaign cause. The purpose was to demonstrate that all countries can collaborate effectively in pursuit of common goals and to challenge the notion that worldwide cooperation is beyond our capacity as global citizens.

Over the past year, the UN's agenda has been busy and challenging. UN peacekeeping forces are currently deployed on 16 operations around the world. Conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen and Burundi have flared. The number of displaced people worldwide has increased to a record high of 60 million people, over half of them children. This seemingly unstoppable and increasingly large figure is a tragedy that creates rising pressure on the international community.

This humanitarian crisis has been a priority of the UN Security Council. Australia helped to play a key part in finding a partial solution during its recent 2-year term as a non-permanent member. Late last year Australia led negotiations alongside Luxembourg and Jordan, which resulted in Resolution 2165. This declaration under international law permitted UN agencies to deliver humanitarian assistance into Syria without the consent of the Syrian government – the first

resolution of its kind. Thanks to Australia, the Council also addressed the use of chemical weapons against civilians by the Syrian regime in the suburbs of Damascus. Agreement was also reached on a plan developed by the United States and the Russian Federation, supported by Australia, to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons under UN supervision, codified in Resolution 2118. At this time over ninety-eight percent of the regime's stockpile had been successfully destroyed.

Australia's Security Council term was also marked by a rapid and effective diplomatic response to the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17. Australia acted quickly and effectively to develop a draft resolution and led negotiations on Resolution 2166 which condemned the downing of the aircraft and called on separatists at the crash site to ensure the bodies of the victims were treated with dignity and respect. The resolution was adopted unanimously leading to the efficient repatriation of civilian remains to their loved ones whilst also forcing a brief respite in the fighting.

Australia was widely praised for its achievements while serving on the Security Council. It developed a reputation for being an active, pragmatic member that pursued effective solutions to difficult and sensitive issues. This reputation will hopefully benefit Australia as a preferred candidate in its bid for a seat on the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) for the period 2018-2020. To improve its HRC bid credentials Australia must demonstrate that it supports the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights and receive the support of the majority vote of the General Assembly.

The UN has also provided aid and assistance in the face of natural disasters around the world such as the Gorkha earthquake in Nepal in early 2015 which killed over 9,000, injured over 23,000 and displaced at least 2.8 million people. The earthquake had enormous repercussions for food security, shelter, education, health and sanitation in Nepal. At this time over \$592 million has been provided to Gorkha disaster appeals. Despite the commendable emergency relief work of UN agencies including the WFP, WHO, UNICEF and OCHA and other international aid organisations, the rebuilding of the country will need to continue for years to come.

2015 also provides an opportunity to look to the future of the UN development agenda as we discuss the successes and shortfalls of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which expire after 15 years. The MDG Final Report details the achievements of this exercise, including that; the number of people living in extreme poverty and proportion of undernourished people in developing regions has declined by more than half since 1990; the primary school enrollment rate in the world's developing regions has reached 91 percent; the under-five year old mortality rate has declined by more than half; the global maternal mortality rate is down 45 percent; and the proportion of the global population using an 'improved' [safe] drinking water source rose from 76 percent to 91 percent.

Despite these positives, however, there is still substantial progress to be made in order to eliminate hunger; achieve gender equality; improve health services in developing regions; and ensure every child has access to education. The UN Members are currently negotiating the details of the new Sustainable Development Goals to replace the MDGs. These will be adopted by Member States in September this year.

Climate change will be a bigger focus in the Sustainable Development Goals compared to the MDG's as it has been recognised that the world's poorest people are heavily reliant on healthy natural ecosystems for their immediate survival and will therefore likely suffer severely from climate change-induced environmental degradation. Climate change will also be the focus of the UNFCCC COP21 Conference in Paris later this year. The objective of this major global conference is to achieve, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, a binding and universal agreement on climate with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C.

As has been the case during each of its 70 years, the United Nations in 2015 has once again demonstrated that the world would be a very different, much less peaceful and prosperous place had its creators not had the vision and foresight to bring it into existence. To be sure there is much that might be done to improve its processes and ensure that it acts with greater efficiency and purpose, but 70 years on we should take some time to celebrate its achievements and accomplishments.



Russell Trood
National President

▶ NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S *report*

As the new National Executive Director I am excited to see the many citizens and leaders across our country who are informed, inspired and engaged regarding the good work of the United Nations.



Late last year I was appointed to this role having supported the organisation and its charitable objectives for over a decade including serving as the UNAA NSW Division Vice President. This is an opportunity rich organization with an extensive history of success that will achieve its goals moving forward on the back of a professional positive team that works together and thinks of the bigger picture.

I'd like to start by acknowledging the excellent work of my predecessor, Elizabeth Shaw. Her efforts have laid the groundwork to set the group on an increasingly modernised and reinvigorated trajectory of success. She leaves to take up the role of Chair of UN Woman Australia and to re-insert herself into corporate life with KPMG. I'd also like to thank our outgoing Division Executive Director in Victoria, Patricia Collett, who after 17 years has chosen to retire.

Over the past twelve months we have engaged in a number of thematic issues in a bid to highlight the diversity of the UN's work. These have included the emergence of the Sustainable Development Goals and the negotiations around climate change that will culminate in a historic attempt to forge a global binding deal between all nations in Paris this December. The UNAA *Climate Change Program* has worked hard to educate all Australian's around this important issue.

Better engaging the next generation continues to be an important focus of the UNAA. *Our Young Professionals Network* continues to gain momentum, with young professionals events and activities now taking place in most states and territories.

Our *Peace Program* has grown from strength to strength after beginning in NSW last year it has spread across the country taking with it a message in support of peace, unity in diversity and multiculturalism.

UN Youth continues to kick goals with its leadership tours, model UN simulations activities, and Australia's Youth Representative to the United Nations program, all of which draw strong acclaim. This is made amazing by that fact that it is run solely by young volunteers and receives no consistent external funding.

Across the year we have yet again successfully delivered a series of high profile *Awards Competition Programs* including the UNAA World Environment Day Awards, the UNAA Media Peace Awards, the UNAA NSW Lifeworks Awards and the UNAA QLD Community Awards to recognise businesses and individuals that integrate the goals and values of the UN in their daily lives.

After a one year hiatus our *Pacific Project* is again underway. This time helping with parliamentary strengthening and democratic governance building in the small island country of Fiji. Following the new government's wish to eliminate the threat of historically regular *coups d'état* our efforts will help to make this so.

The *UN Parliamentary Group* has held a series of sessions for federal parliamentarians with special guests including UN speakers and subject academics educating them on everything from the UN's counter terrorism activities to a joyous event marking the UN's 70th Birthday. A special thanks should be given to the parliamentarian friends of the UN that convene this group: Sharman Stone MP, Melissa Parke MP and Senator Chris Back.

We have also focused on drawing more young people into our *Academic Network* as a way of building our talent pipeline, and providing support and encouragement to younger academics and researchers in UN-related fields. This has included launching a *UN Ideas Forum* to better engage with student members of UN Societies at universities across the country.

As we continue to build up community support for *Australia's bid for a seat on the UN Human Rights Council* for a 2018 – 2020 term, further activities will be conducted to educate about how the Human Rights Council works, what it has achieved, and Australia's credentials for a seat.

We are delighted to welcome our new *National Patron* to the UNAA – his Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (retd). a distinguished veteran, the Governor General has an impressive and diverse background in peace and security, one of the UN's most visible mandates. Our 2015 National Conference held a reception at his Yaralumla residence to thank him for his support.

Australia performed admirably on the UN Security Council during its two year term that ended late last year. A special commendation must be paid to Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Australia's Permanent Representative to the UN Gary Quinlan who worked to solve a number of tough challenges through this crucial diplomatic organ including securing access to the MH17 crash site and passing a resolution that restricts funds and resources from flowing to ISIS. A celebratory dinner with these leaders and UNAA members was held at the National Press Club to highlight the efforts and success of those involved.

Despite good work on the international stage, at home the Australian Government has continued to deviate away from international treaties, obligations and norms whilst it has also displayed increasingly negative sentiment towards the UN. The UN has expressed specific and growing concerns about this and the Government's position on topics including refugees, human rights, Indigenous Australians and climate change. As a founding member state, Australia has a long and positive history with the United Nations so these deficiencies are seen as being out of character. To highlight an example of this challenge, Australia comes up for self-imposed assessment under the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review in November at which time we can see it is expected to be found that Australia will have implemented fewer than 20% of the human rights improvement recommendations made at the previous assessment three years ago.

With so much happening it is a good time to renew your UNAA individual membership! The UNAA will ensure you are a fully informed global citizen, with a range of events and activities throughout the year, a fortnightly e-newsletter and the latest breaking news via social media.

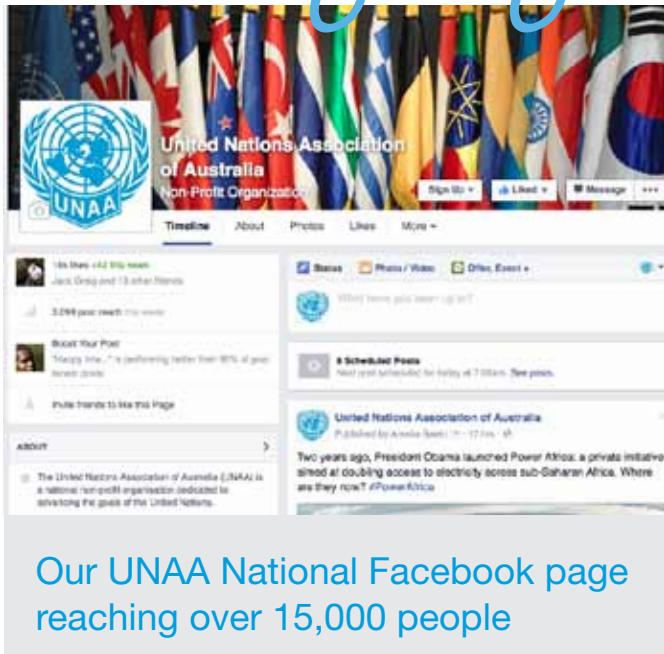
All of this is possible through the work of the UNAA's incredible volunteers and employees who devote their time and energy to engaging the community in efforts to advance the UN's agenda.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to celebrating 70 years of the United Nations with you!



Matthew Kronborg
National Executive Director

> UNAA highlights



Our UNAA National Facebook page reaching over 15,000 people

Over 50 significant events and activities held across the country



We continue to educate and engage the Australian community with the work of the United Nations



Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the UN at Parliament House in the Speaker's Garden with (former) Speaker Bronwyn Bishop MP

Our peace program grew nationally.



Hosting a dinner at the National Press Club with Foreign Minister the Hon Julie Bishop MP



Launching our Young Professionals Network in Western Australia



Celebrating UN Day with events across Australia, highlighting the diversity of the UN's work and accomplishments across the globe



Launching the UNAA WA Women's Committee

Increasing our reach and impact:

↑ membership of our Young Professionals Network,
↑ membership of our Academic Network,
↑ subscribers to our fortnightly e-newsletter UNity





> UN 70TH anniversary

The 26th June 2015 represented the 70th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter. The anniversary provided an opportunity to reflect on the UN's work over the decades and celebrate its achievements. It was also a day to consider how the United Nations and the international community can better address both enduring and new challenges in peace and security, development, and human rights.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE UN CHARTER AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

TEAM: United Nations Federal Parliamentary Group

DATE: 25 June 2015

LOCATION: Parliament House, Canberra

The 70th Anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter was celebrated at the Australian Parliament House on 25 June 2015. Distinguished speakers at the event included the Australian Foreign Affairs Minister the Honourable Julie Bishop MP, Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives, the Honourable Bronwyn Bishop MP, Chair of the Australia-UN Parliamentary Group the Honourable Dr Sharman Stone MP, the Honourable Melissa Parke MP, and Director of UNIC Chistopher Woodthorpe. The theme of discussion was the importance of the United Nations, in particular the UN Charter, in promoting international peace and security in the modern world.



> WORLD HUMANITARIAN *day*

UNAA SA HUMANITARIAN DAY LUNCHEON

TEAM: UNAA SA

DATE: 29 August 2014

LOCATION: Regency Park School of Catering, Adelaide

The UNAA SA proudly hosted the UN Humanitarian Day luncheon for their guests from Tutti using the food donated by sponsors, and the students and staff of Regency assisted by notable chef Tze Khaw. Tutti, means “everyone”, and it is a multi arts organization with the vision of taking the work of artists with a disability to the world. Tutti works across all art forms to support the professional development of artists with a disability. Rosemary Penn acted as master of ceremonies with Lynn Arnold as the guest speaker. As a further part of our recognition of Humanitarian Day, UNAASA was again pleased to present a UNAA Scholarship to a student.

“

On World Humanitarian Day, we renew our commitment to life-saving relief efforts -- and we remember all those who died serving this noble cause.”

BAN KI-MOON



“

On United Nations Day, I call on Governments and individuals to work in common cause for the common good.”

BAN KI-MOON

> UN DAY 2014

UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. The 24th of October has been celebrated as UN Day since 1948. In 2014 the UNAA hosted a number of activities and events across Australia to celebrate this special anniversary and engage the community in all ways that celebrate the ways that Australia contributes to the work of the UN.

UN DAY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TALK IN CANBERRA

TEAM: UNAA Young Professionals ACT

DATE: 21 October 2014

LOCATION: BentSpoke Brewing Co., Canberra

The UN Young Professionals Committee celebrated UN Day with a sold-out event at BentSpoke. Over 100 young professionals heard Mr Jon Merrill, Assistant Secretary UN Security Council Task Force at DFAT and Michael Clayton from UNHCR give us an insight into the working realities of the international UN system. Jon talked about the practicalities of Australia's time on the UN Security Council and Michael reflected on how international refugee resettlement agreements are made and the people caught up in this system.



UNAA WA UN DAY CELEBRATION

TEAM: UNAA WA

DATE: 23 October 2014

LOCATION: Constitutional Centre, West Perth

A very entertaining and informative event. Speakers included Hon Professor Jan Ryan, US Consul General, Cynthia Griffin, Nigarish Hyder student of Penrhos College, Greg Glossop of the UN & Overseas Policing Association of Australia, and UNAA WA President, Carolyne Gatward. Student Nigarish Hyder emphasised the inherent power of young people, and encouraged us to listen to their voices. In celebrating the UN it is important to recognise that if it offers an opportunity for youth to speak and allows them to explore the world in which we live; the UN will also channel young peoples' passion to instigate change.

Hon Professor Jan Ryan gave an in-depth account of the history of the UN, calling special attention to the little-known fact of Australia's contribution to setting up the General Assembly. The keynote speaker for this event was US Consul General Cynthia Griffin. Ms. Griffin highlighted the goals and objectives of the United States for the 69th United Nations General Assembly.



Photo (L to R): Nigarish Hyder, Dr Jan Ryan, US Consul General Cynthia Griffin, UNAAWA President Carolyne Gatward, Paula Parore-Petera, WA Multicultural Association President Maria Bunn.



UNAA SA UN DAY DINNER

TEAM: UNAA SA

DATE: 9 November 2014

LOCATION: National Wine Centre, Adelaide

The South Australian UNAA branch held a dinner for UN Day with over 200 people. The event involved joint speakers, the recently retired Governor of South Australia, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce and his wife, Liz Scarce. They spoke of the opportunities they found to interact and learn about people in South Australia, and in particular how they found it a privilege to work with groups of the younger generation. With the Family Farming theme, Costa Georgiadis (of the ABC gardening programme fame) was the MC, and the dinner guests were honoured by having the Australian Farmer of the Year, Robert Green joined from Lenswood.

ANNUAL UN DAY LUNCHEON

TEAM: UNAA NSW

DATE: 24 October 2014

LOCATION: NSW Parliament House, Sydney

The annual UN Day Luncheon was hosted by Mr Mark Coure MP on Friday 24th October 2014. The Guest of Honour was Professor Ramesh Thakur who made a thought provoking presentation on *The United Nations and the Elusive Quest for Peace*. The Association was delighted that Professor Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO former NSW Governor accepted a life membership of the NSW Division at the Luncheon. It was fascinating to learn that she is related to the late Dr Charles Malik, a scientist and philosopher who, as a delegate from the Lebanon played a seminal role in the drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights together with Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt.

Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO accepts a Life Membership from Kel Gleeson President UNAA(NSW)- Photo Faye Combe





The Annual Sydney Wreath Laying Ceremony: UN Day 2014

ANNUAL SYDNEY UN WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

BRANCH: UNAA NSW

DATE: 24 October 2014

LOCATION: Cenotaph Martin Place, Sydney

The ceremony which traditionally precedes the Luncheon commenced with the arrival of the Distinguished Guest of Honour L/General John Sanderson AC and the pealing of the bells at Martin Place. Following the invocation by the Convenor, Mr Geoffrey Little JP, a message from Prime Minister Tony Abbott MP was read by Mr David Coleman MP. On this occasion, the Cypriot Community contributed a special cultural item in the presence of Her Excellency Ms Ionna Mallioti High Commissioner of Cyprus. This marked the 50th anniversary of the commencement of the UN Peacekeeping mission in Cyprus to which Australia continues to contribute.

BREAKFAST WITH GARY QUINLAN

TEAM: United Nations Federal Parliamentary Group

DATE: 17 July 2015

LOCATION: Parliament House, Canberra

Melissa Park MP and Senator Chris Back, on behalf of the Australia - United Nations Federal Parliamentary Group, hosted a breakfast with Members, Senators and Gary Quinlan, Australia's Ambassador to the United Nations and Australia's representative on the UN Security Council in New York.



UN DAY DINNER WITH THE HON MICHAEL KIRBY

TEAM: UNAA ACT

DATE: 28 October 2014

LOCATION: Rydges Capital Hill

At the inaugural UN Day Dinner, the Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG spoke about his experiences as a member of the UN investigation into human rights in North Korea, which produced a ground breaking and influential report. Mr Kirby was introduced by UNAA National President, Dr Russell Trood, with a vote of thanks given by deputy convenor of the UN Parliamentary Group, Senator Chris Back.



> UN HUMAN RIGHTS *day*

UNAA YOUNG PROFESSIONAL'S HUMAN RIGHT DAY CELEBRATION

TEAM: UNAA Young Professionals ACT

DATE: December 2014

LOCATION: Hopscotch Bar, Canberra

The UNAA Young Professionals ACT celebrated UN Human Rights day with a chain of awareness-raising e-mails in the lead-up to a networking event at Hopscotch Bar.

“

I call on States to honour their obligation to protect human rights every day of the year. I call on people to hold their governments to account.”

BAN KI-MOON



UNAA SA HUMAN RIGHTS DAY LECTURE

TEAM: UNAA SA

DATE: 10 December 2014

LOCATION: Kathleen Lumley College, Adelaide

Emeritus Professor Ivan Shearer AM, RFD, FAAL, spoke at Kathleen Lumley College about his experience as an elected member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee from March 2001. In March 2007 he was elected Vice-President of the Committee for a term of two years. His fascinating talk told about the operation of the Committee, and how it was contributing to the improvement of the human rights record around the world.

A DEBATE ON AUSTRALIA'S SEAT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

TEAM: UNAA Young Professionals NSW

DATE: September 2014

LOCATION: Salvation Army

The UN Young Professionals in NSW hosted a panel discussion to explore the opportunities and challenges associated with obtaining a seat on the Human Rights Council. The lively discussion was hosted by Jeanette Francis from SBS and panel members included Elaine Pearson from Human Rights Watch, Luke Geary from the legal team at Salvation Army, Megan Mitchell the National Childrens Commissioner and Graeme Innes the former national disability discrimination commissioner.



UN HUMAN RIGHTS DAY EVENT

TEAM: UNAA ACT

DATE: 25 September 2014

LOCATION: ACT Legislative Assembly, Canberra

Professor Hilary Charlesworth, Director of the Centre for International Governance and Justice, Professor & ARC Laureate Fellow at the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, spoke about Australia and the Human Rights Council as well as other contemporary international challenges in the area of human rights. She was joined by Skype by Professor Philip Alston, the John Norton Pomeroy Professor of Law at the New York University School of Law.

> UN education



Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family."

KOFI ANNAN



MODEL UN CONFERENCE PROGRAM

TEAM: UNAA VIC

DATE: Various

LOCATION: Victorian schools and universities

The UNAA Victoria's Model UN Conference Program gives students the opportunity to debate complex global issues the spirit of cooperation that characterises the ideals of the UN Charter. This year many hundreds of students participated in 14 conferences held in universities and secondary schools across regional and metropolitan Victoria, from all school sectors (public, private and Catholic schools). Most were multi-school conferences involving a mix of students from diverse backgrounds, with some students traveling significant distances to be involved. Popular conference topics were *Refugees: Rights and Risks*, *Climate Change and Development* and *The Responsibility to Protect: Towards an End to Mass Atrocity Crimes?*



GERMAN MODEL UN CONFERENCE

TEAM: UNAA VIC

DATE: 2 June 2015

LOCATION: Australian-German College of Climate and Energy Transitions, University of Melbourne

This year the UNAA Victoria held its first German-language Model UN Conference, on the topic of Climate Change. Following the success of last year's French conference, the German Model UN challenged VCE students to think laterally about the science of climate change, international relations, as well as conducting the conference proceedings in German. Language-based Model UNs add yet another international dimension to this popular educational format for learning about the UN system. The German conference was sponsored by the Victorian Department of Education and Training, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Australia, and supported by the Association of German Teachers in Victoria.



Let us pledge
to do more,
wherever we are
in whatever way
we can, to make
every day a day
of peace.”

BAN KI-MOON

> PEACE AND *security*



2015 WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

TEAM: UNAA Young Professionals NSW

DATE: 29 April 2015

LOCATION: DLA Piper, Sydney

The NSW Young Professionals partnered with DLA Piper to hold an event in support of World Press Freedom Day. Invited speakers included: Iman Muldoon – Producer, Channel 7 Weekend Sunrise, Yaara Bou Melhem – Independent Broadcast Journalist (VIA SKYPE), Brian Thomson – SBS International Editor, Kabir Dhanji – Freelance Photojournalist and the ABC's Kirsten Drysdale.

The excellent panel gave the audience much food for thought through their diversity of views and experiences. Together they explored hot button topics that pervade the 24-news cycle we are living in today. Issues discussed ranged from the concern that some media may be increasingly lacking depth, context and quality of analysis in the digital age, to the topic of gender in the journalism field and what the implications are there right through to the very real personal and political dangers journalists have experienced in the past and are likely to face in the future.



UNAA MEDIA PEACE AWARDS

TEAM: UNAA VIC

DATE: 24 October 2014

LOCATION: Hilton on the Park, Melbourne

Australia's treatment of refugees was a re-occurring subject in the winning stories of this year's Media Awards. Australian journalists were celebrated for their reporting on both global and national human rights and social justice issues. Hosted by Zoe Daniel, Journalist, Presenter and former ABC Southeast Asia and Africa correspondent, the Media Awards Presentation Dinner celebrated the courage and determination of Australian journalists, producers and editors who cover difficult, controversial and sometimes dangerous topics.

UNAA WA AUSTRALIA AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL FORUM

TEAM: UNAA WA

DATE: 25 September 2014

LOCATION: Conference Room, St Catherine's College, UWA, Crawley, Perth

In partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) UNAA WA hosted a forum to discuss what the HRC does, its structure, how it works and its effectiveness, how the HRC

holds countries accountable for their human rights obligations and to discuss Australia's bid for election to the Human Rights Council for 2018-2020. Speakers at the event included Director of Centre for Muslim States and Societies UWA, Professor Samina Yasmeen, Associate Professor of Political Science & International Relations UWA, Roderic Pitty, Curtin University Research Fellow Dr Anne Aly, Director of DFAT (WA) Mr Michael Wood, UNAOWA President Carolyn Gatward, UNAA Executive Director & UN Women President Elect Elizabeth Shaw and Greg Stitt of Amnesty International Australia (WA). The event concluded with a Q&A session with the audience. Feedback from the event was very positive.



Photo below: Dr Aly, Mr Wood, Assoc Professor Pitty, Elizabeth Shaw, Professor Yasmeen.

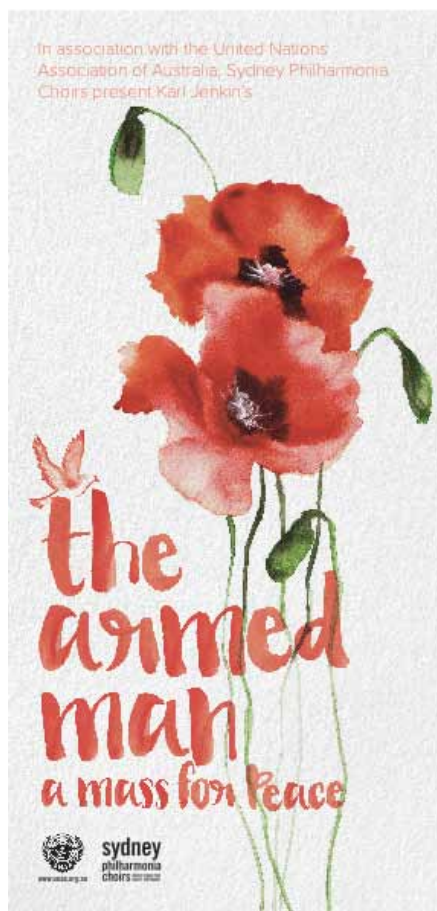
UNAA QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY AWARDS CEREMONY

TEAM: UNAA QLD

DATE: 2 December 2014

LOCATION: QLD Government House, Brisbane

A very successful UNAAQ Queensland Community Awards ceremony was hosted at Government House by His Excellency Paul De Jersey Governor of Queensland to celebrate United Nations Human Rights Day in December.



A CONCERT FOR PEACE

TEAM: UNAA NSW

DATE: 16 and 17 May 2015

LOCATION: Sydney Opera House

On the 16th and 17th May 2015, the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs (Conductor: Elizabeth Scott) in association with the UNAA(NSW) presented a very moving Concert for Peace at the Sydney Opera House. The principal work was Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man: a Mass for Peace*. Prior to the first performance doves were released from the Sydney Opera House forecourt while the choir performed the Festival Alleluia by Australian composer Lyn Williams. Readings prior to the interval at the first concert were presented by Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP. The Guest of Honour at the second event was our Patron, the Governor of NSW.

UNAA QLD BRISBANE PEACE LECTURE

BRANCH: UNAAQ

DATE: 21 September 2014

LOCATION: St John's Cathedral, Brisbane

The third Brisbane Peace Lecture held at St John's Cathedral to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace on the 21 September. Guest speaker was Professor Larissa Behrendt an aboriginal woman Barrister, author and NSW Australian of the Year in 2011. Displays were provided by Just Peace, university and community groups, Griffith University, WILPF, and Earth Charter Australia. Special thanks to the community of St John's Cathedral for providing the beautiful cathedral to conduct the event and financial support provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Photo: Brisbane Peacekeepers March

UNAA QLD UN PEACEKEEPERS SERVICE AND MARCH

BRANCH: UNAAQ

DATE: 30 May 2015

LOCATION: Anzac Square, Brisbane

The UN Peacekeepers Service and March from King George Square to Anzac park was again held in May to acknowledge and commemorate the Australian Armed Forces and Police Service members who have served as UN Peacekeepers in regions of conflict around the world. A major initiative was the invitation to community groups to participate in the March. 15 community groups representing overseas countries in which Australian Peacekeepers have served participated and provided a youth dance group performance.

INAUGURAL UNAA LIFEWORK AWARDS GALA DINNER

TEAM: UNAA NSW / Peace Program

DATE: 21 March 2015

LOCATION: Union University and Schools Club, Sydney

The UNAA United Nations Peace Program was pleased to honour South Cares and Mr Roger Metry with the Inaugural UNAA Lifework Awards in the Community and Individual Categories at a very uplifting Gala Dinner on 21st March 2015. Mr Kel Gleeson, President UNAA(NSW) was the Master of Ceremonies and the awards were presented by Mr Michael Miller RFD Official Secretary on behalf of the Governor of NSW.

In his address, Mr Miller congratulated the UNAA for establishing the Lifework Awards which are designed to reward ordinary citizens and community groups who do extra-ordinary things for the communities in which they live and work. He noted that it was fitting that the Awards be presented on the UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which was proclaimed in 1966 and observed “Both Mr Metry in his iconic Redfern Shoe Repairs shop and South Cares, in its education, training employment and health programs for young Indigenous people are highly engaged in [their communities]”.

The auctioning of the Rabbitohs’ jumper by Indy Singh was a lot of fun and together with a raffle and a silent auction helped to make the event a great financial success for the UNAA United Nations Peace Program.

The UNAA Peace Program wishes to acknowledge the generous support of the NSW Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Rotary Club of Sydney as well as the staff of the Union, University and Schools Club.



Dr Zeny Edwards, Director UNAA UN Peace Program (L) receiving a generous donation from Mrs Richards, President Rotary Club of Sydney.



From left, Nathan and Roger Metry (with the individual award), Mr Michael Miller, Official Secretary, NSW Governor, Mr Christopher Woodthorpe, Director UN Information Centre and Mr Nick Pappas, Chairman of the "Rabbitohs" Board, with the 'South Cares' award.



Mr Indy Singh, Head of Vision Beyond Aus auctions a Rabbitohs jumper signed by all team members which is modelled by Mr Carlos Barroeta, an avid Souths fan.

LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX

TEAM: United Nations Federal Parliamentary Group

DATE: 11 February 2015

LOCATION: Parliament House, Canberra

The Global Terrorism Index (GTI), produced by Institute for Economics & Peace, ranks 162 countries according to the impact of terrorist activities. The research includes an analysis of the socio-economic factors that are associated with terrorism; it identifies both the environments that foster terrorism, as well as the most effective strategies for countering it. Guest speaker, Steve Killelea, Executive Chairman of the Institute for Economics and Peace, shared key findings from the Global Terrorism Index and discussed changes and patterns in terrorism over the last decade. Respondents discussed the findings and their implications for Australian policy.



BRIEFING ON GROWTH & MOVEMENT OF TERRORIST AND OTHER CRIME GROUPS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

TEAM: United Nations Federal Parliamentary Group

DATE: 17 March 2015

LOCATION: Parliament House, Canberra

Regional Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Jeremy Douglas, briefed the UN Parliamentary group on the growth and movement of terrorist and other crime groups in South-East Asia. Jeremy currently oversees and manages UNODC strategy and operations from Myanmar to the Pacific.

THE GAZA CONFLICT DISCUSSION

TEAM: UNAA ACT

DATE: September 2014

LOCATION: Canberra

Amin Saikal, Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Director of the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (The Middle East and Central Asia) at the Australian National University spoke on the topic 'The Gaza Conflict: is there any likely solution?' He described some of the background to the Gaza conflict and discussed some of the reasons why the institutions of the United Nations, with its Charter, the Security Council, peacekeepers and the international laws of human rights, seem unable to bring about a lasting peace.

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS: WWI PEACE EVENT

TEAM: UNAA ACT

DATE: November 2014

LOCATION: Canberra

In partnership with the Medical Association for the Prevention of War (MAPW), the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) et al, this event aimed to provide an alternative view of the legacy of the First World War, with a number of high profile speakers, and concluding with a performance by the Chorus of Women.



NATIONAL PRESS CLUB DINNER WITH THE HON JULIE BISHOP MP

TEAM: UNAA ACT

DATE: 25 March 2015

LOCATION: National Press Club, Canberra

The Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, spoke to a large dinner crowd at the National Press Club about Australia's time as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. This was made particularly interesting given the very personal role that Minister Bishop played in these events, soon after she became minister.

INTERNET GOVERNANCE EVENT

TEAM: UNAA Young Professionals NSW

DATE: August 2014

LOCATION: Allens Law Firm

Hosted with the support of DFAT, the UNAA young professionals held a facilitated panel discussion at Allens law firm in Sydney. The panel debated the topic *"Freedom of the Internet as a 21st century human right: what does it mean and what good can it do?"*. Eighty young professionals from diverse backgrounds attended to listen to the esteemed panel: Dan Ilic - A Rational Fear, Gavin Smith - Allens, Alexander Vulkanovski - Electronic Frontiers Australia, Murray Bunton - Agency, Rangan - One laptop one child, Darren Smith - Thoughtworks Australia.





UN Photo/Lamphay Inthakoun



Climate change does not respect border; it does not respect who you are - rich and poor, small and big. Therefore, this is what we call 'global challenges,' which require global solidarity."

BAN KI-MOON

> ENVIRONMENT & *sustainability*

UNAA TAS CLIMATE SEMINAR

TEAM: UNAA TAS

DATE: 6 June 2015

LOCATION: Aurora Lecture Theatre, IMAS Waterfront Building, Castray Esplanade, Hobart

To mark UN World Environment Day, join two expert speakers to discuss the challenges facing Pacific nations as a result of climate change.



UN 70TH ANNIVERSARY CLIMATE CHANGE SEMINAR

TEAM: UNAA VIC

DATE: 6 June 2015

LOCATION: RACV City Club, Melbourne

Climate change in the Pacific was on the agenda at the member's seminar held on June 6 2015, in celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations and in conjunction with World Environment Day. Held in partnership with the United Nations Information Centre, the seminar was facilitated by Graham Hunter, Climate Change Program Coordinator UNAA. Attendees heard from Kevin Petrini, UN Development Programme Climate Change Specialist for the Pacific, and Christopher Woodthorpe, Director UNIC. The seminar provided attendees with an overview of the work of the UNDP in the Pacific and offered advice on what each individual can do to address the issue on climate change.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY AWARDS

TEAM: UNAA VIC

DATE: 5 June 2015

LOCATION: Park Hyatt, Melbourne

The outstanding work of individuals and community groups to protect the environment was highlighted at this year's World Environment Day Awards. Held in Melbourne, the Presentation Dinner was attended by environmental leaders from businesses, local councils, schools, community groups and those whose work serves to protect manage or restore our environment. The gala event was hosted by Rob Gell, Chairman of UNESCO Western Port Biosphere. Other presenters included The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Industry and for Energy and Resources, Professor Linda Kristjanson, Vice-Chancellor Swinburne University, Dr Gordon de Brouwer, Secretary for the Department of the Environment and Kevin Petrini, UNDP Climate Change Specialist for the Pacific.

Impact Investment Seminar



Energy Future Seminar



SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP SERIES

TEAM: UNAA VIC

DATE: Various

LOCATION: Victoria

UNAA VIC's Sustainability Leadership Series focuses on key sustainability issues and initiatives on the UN agenda. The series seeks to build momentum for collective action by government, business and civil society and highlight the key role Australian business can play through responsible and sustainable business practices to advance sustainable development and human rights. In the past year the series focused on a variety of topics, including:

- Securing Australia's Energy Future: The Challenge
- Impact Investment Seminar: Revolutionising Capital Markets for Greater Societal Gains
- Demographic Transition Seminar – Addressing the Economic and Social Impacts of an Ageing Population: Is there a Silver Lining?

'CHASING ICE' FILM SCREENING CANBERRA

TEAM: UNAA Young Professionals ACT

DATE: 18 June 2015

LOCATION: Palace Electric Cinema, Canberra

The UNAA Young Professionals ACT held a screening of the award winning documentary Chasing Ice on 18 June in celebration of World Environment Day and in anticipation of the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference. Prior to the screening, we heard from Dr Ian Fry, Ambassador for Climate Change and Environment for the Government of Tuvalu and Pacific Regional Representative to the United Nations for the International Council on Environmental Law, about the negotiations in the lead up to the Paris Conference and the unique climate challenges facing small island states like Tuvalu.

UNAA QLD CLIMATE CHANGE SEMINAR

TEAM: UNAA QLD

DATE: 4 June 2015

Location: Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, Brisbane

In partnership with UNIC Canberra and the UNAA national office a Climate Change seminar was held in June at the Queensland College of Art, Griffith University Southbank campus with the main presenter, Kevin Petrini, UN specialist policy advisor on Climate Change in the Pacific Region with Ian Lowe and Professor Charles Sampford being support presenters. Approximately 40 members of the public attended a very informative seminar on climate change.

THE UNAA NSW CLIMATE SUMMIT

TEAM: UNAA NSW

DATE: 5 June 2015

LOCATION: The Mint, Sydney

The Climate Summit was convened by Amber Ferguson on World Environment Day, Friday 5th June. The aim of the event which was arranged within the framework of the UN 70th Anniversary Seminar Series and the UNAA Climate Campaign was to influence Australia's input to the forthcoming Paris Summit. Distinguished speakers included Clover Moore, Lord Mayor of Sydney, Bruce Motley-Smith MP, Christopher Woodthorpe, Director UNIC, Kevin Petrini, UNDP Regional Climate Specialist, Hugo Llorens, US Consul General, Geoffrey Cousins AM, President Australian Conservation Foundation, Professor Leslie Hughes, Counsellor, Climate Council, Miles George, Chair Clean Energy Council, Simao Bradshaw, OXFAM and Brad Grey of Planet Ark.

One of the highlights of the day was the presentation by the very talented Holley Somerville-Knott, a young (11 year old) environmental activist and singer. The UNAA(NSW) is grateful to UNIC for financial support and for facilitating Mr Petrini's participation.



UNAA Climate Summit: Presentation by Holley Somerville-Knott young environmental activist



UNAA Climate Summit: Opening by Clover Moore, Lord Mayor of Sydney

BREAKFAST BRIEFING ON GLOBAL WATER PRACTICE

TEAM: Australia – United Nations Parliamentary Group

DATE: 2 December 2015

LOCATION: Parliament House, Canberra

Dr Junaid Ahmad, the World Bank's Senior Director of the Global Water Practice briefed members of the UN Parliamentary group. Recognising that reform in the water sector can rarely be addressed in isolation, Dr Junaid Ahmad discussed championing the cause of the sector through local governments, communities and the private sector.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY EVENT

TEAM: UNAA ACT

DATE: February 2015

LOCATION:

In partnership with The Australia Institute, this 'politics in the pub' event attracted a packed audience to hear Dr Julian Cribb, a science communicator, journalist and author, speak about the threats to global food supplies associated with the loss of arable soils, destruction of farm lands, and water scarcity.



UN Photo/Bernadino Soares

GENDER equality



Achieving gender equality requires the engagement of women and men, girls and boys. It is everyone's responsibility."

BAN KI-MOON

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY TALK CANBERRA

TEAM: UNAA Young Professionals ACT

DATE: 24 February 2015

LOCATION: PwC Office, Canberra

The UNAA Young Professionals' landmark event for the year was the celebration of International Women's Day on 24 February 2015, sponsored by PwC Australia. This was a sell-out event for our Committee with 120 people hearing from the all-star panel of: Julie McKay, Executive Director of UN Women; former Chief of Army Lieutenant General David Morrison AO; and Karen Fryar AM, ACT Magistrates Court. The panel was facilitated by our own Committee member Sophie Green who garnered some excellent reflections from the panel on the 20 years since the 1995 World Conference on Women and the current challenges to gender equality.



Photo: Julie McKay, Lieutenant General David Morrison, Karen Fryar

UNAA WA WOMEN'S COMMITTEE LAUNCH

TEAM: UNAA WA

DATE: 16 April 2015

LOCATION: Constitutional Centre of WA, West Perth

On Thursday 16th April we successfully launched the UNAAWA Women's Committee with an evening of inspiring presentations and networking around women's rights and empowerment. We were overwhelmed with the amazing response and support we received for the sold out event.

Margaret Lobo from Soroptimist International spoke on women in poverty, Lord Mayor of the City of Perth Lisa Scaffidi spoke on leadership and women in decision making positions, and Elizabeth Shaw from UN Women Australia spoke on how the Beijing +20 and Commission on the Status of Women are assisting the progress of women's rights.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

TEAM: UNAA NSW

DATE: 9 March 2015

LOCATION: NSW Parliament House, Sydney

The UNAA(NSW) celebrated International Women's Day at an event at Parliament House on Monday 9th March organised by Dr Affie Adagio and hosted by The Hon Jillian Skinner, Minister for Health. A number of perspectives around the ongoing Campaign for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) were presented including those of indigenous Australian women and women from the African Great Lakes.



“

Since I became Secretary-General...I have seen youth participate at the United Nations as never before.”

BAN KI-MOON

> YOUNG people

UNAA SA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AND ENTREPRENEURS LAUNCH

TEAM: UNAA SA

DATE: 14 July 2014

LOCATION: Government House, Adelaide

The Governor of South Australia, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR hosted the UNAASA launch of UN Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs at a reception in Government House on 14 July 2014.

BRIEFING WITH THE AUSTRALIAN YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

TEAM: United Nations Federal Parliamentary Group

DATE: 16 July 2015

LOCATION: Parliament House, Canberra

Melissa Parke MP and Senator Chris Back, on behalf of the Australia - United Nations Parliamentary Group, organised a briefing with Laura John, Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations. Laura was on a consultation tour around the country and had been gathering information about the issues young Australians care about, prior to attending the UN General Assembly in New York. Senator Chris Back also provided some remarks about his time representing Australia at the UN.



> INTERNATIONAL engagement

BRIEFING ON FIJI AND THE UN

TEAM: United Nations Federal Parliamentary Group

DATE: 16 March 2015

LOCATION: Parliament House, Canberra

Senator Chris Back and Melissa Parke MP, on behalf of the Australia - United Nations Parliamentary Group, organised a briefing regarding the current situation in Fiji and the work being undertaken by the UN in the region. The guest speaker for the evening was Osnat Lubrani, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Representative - Fiji Multi-Country Office.

“

Global actions require local and national participation. International cooperation and action requires community perspectives and legitimacy if it is to be effective.”

IAN GOLDIN





> 2014 NSW conference

The 2014 UNAA NSW Conference brought together the national executive, the six state and two territory UNAA divisions, UNAA members, experts and the public.

In 2014 the NSW Conference 'To End All Wars' was held on 25-26 July 2014 at the iconic Customs House building at Circular Quay in Sydney. This Conference was timed for the centenary of outbreak of World War I and focused on the lessons learnt from that war and at the efforts to prevent war and build peace over the last 100 years. 25 speakers gave presentations on topics such as the origin of the League of Nations, UN peace operations, Australia in the Security Council, countering global terrorism, war in space, the economic and social foundations of peace, education for peace, nuclear disarmament, and the UN's continuing quest for global peace and security. Over 120 people attended each day and many new relationships were created with students, teachers, academics, other NGOs and members of the general community. Discussions of the issues raised have continued on a Facebook page with over 850 new followers.





> NATIONAL FINANCES



LES ELLIS + associates pty.
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Independent Audit Report to The Members Of United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated

We have audited the financial statements of United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated for the year ended 30 June, 2015. The association's directors are responsible for the financial statements. We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the association.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other Mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the association's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualification

It is not practical to establish control over cash receipts until their initial entry into the accounting records. Our audit was therefore restricted to the amounts received.

Audit Opinion

Subject to the foregoing reservations, in our opinion, the financial statements of United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated are properly drawn up:

- I. so as to give a true and fair view of:
 - A. the association's financial position as at 30 June 2015, and income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June, 2015;
- II. to satisfy the requirements of subsection 72(2) of the Associations Incorporation Act to be dealt with in financial statements.

Les Ellis & Associates Pty

Les Ellis FIPA
Friday, August 14, 2015

> BALANCE SHEET As of June 2015

	2014-2015	2013-2014
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash On Hand	\$226,991.24	\$164,526.20
Pledges Receivable	\$848.00	\$0.00
Total Current Assets	\$227,839.24	\$164,526.20
Property & Equipment		
Furniture & Fixtures	\$219.43	\$983.15
Total Property & Equipment	\$219.43	\$983.15
Total Assets	\$228,058.67	\$165,509.35
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Credit Cards	-\$2,560.32	\$83.07
Trade Creditors	\$983.99	\$599.31
GST Liabilities	\$10,259.66	\$4,348.89
Payroll Liabilities	\$4,662.00	\$7,773.84
Grants in Advance	\$175,688.70	\$66,236.29
Accrued Expenses	\$0.00	\$4,264.00
Leave Accruals	\$4,519.19	-\$377.28
Total Current Liabilities	\$193,553.22	\$82,928.12
Total Liabilities	\$193,553.22	\$82,928.12
Net Assets	\$34,505.45	\$82,581.23
EQUITY		
Prior Year's Surplus/Deficit	\$57,985.91	\$57,985.91
Retained Earnings	\$24,595.32	-\$14,510.91
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	-\$48,075.78	\$39,106.23
Total Equity	\$34,505.45	\$82,581.23

> PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

	2014-2015	2013-2014
INCOME		
UNAA Federal Levy	\$5,090.00	\$6,457.27
Events	\$296.36	\$32,976.64
Project Income	\$65,450.79	\$211,145.09
Prior year grant funds	\$13,099.18	\$0.00
Bank Interest	\$1,681.23	\$5,398.41
Total Income	\$85,617.56	\$255,977.41
EXPENSES		
Administration	\$31,198.04	\$9,548.01
Governance	\$1,228.18	\$0.00
Employment Expenses	\$60,846.18	\$88,851.47
Engagement	\$0.00	\$26,037.58
Activities	\$28,414.24	\$48,422.13
National Materials	\$111.17	\$0.00
Executive Director	\$2,389.53	\$0.00
UN Academic Network	\$1,781.41	\$0.00
World Humanitarian Day	\$0.00	\$21,477.66
UNity	\$175.16	\$1,558.46
UN Day	\$0.00	\$16,427.13
General Programs	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Governance	\$1,785.71	\$0.00
WFUNA	\$0.00	\$4,548.74
Depreciation	\$763.72	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$133,693.34	\$216,871.18
Operating Profit	-\$48,075.78	\$39,106.23
OTHER EXPENSES		
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	-\$48,075.78	\$39,106.23

OUR PEOPLE

NATIONAL BOARD

Dr Russell Trood
President

Michael Henry AM
Vice President – Divisions

Dr Kathleen Turner
*Vice President –
Independent Directors*

Matthew Kronborg
Executive Director

Tim Matthews
Secretary

Harold Wilkinson
Treasurer

The Hon Robert Hill AC –
Immediate Past President

Kel Gleeson
NSW

Lidia Moretti
SA

Clem Campbell OAM
QLD

Carolyn Gatward
WA

Chris Sargent
TAS

Ron Mitchell
NT

Jonathan Curtis
ACT

Brian Gleeson
Independent

Brad McManus
Independent

Matthew Traeger
UN Youth

NATIONAL OFFICE

Matthew Kronborg
Executive Director

Amelia Seeto
Communications Advisor

Kelly Butler
Project Officer

Sophie Taylor
Intern

Cameron Wickham
Intern

PROGRAM LEADS

Amelia Seeto
Unity Chief Editor

Zeny Edwards
Peace Program Director

Graham Hunter
Climate Program Director

Sheila Byard
*Convenor Status of Women
Network*

**Assistant Professor Mark
Dinnen**
Co-Convenor Academic Network

Professor Alex Bellamy
Co-Convenor Academic Network

Alan Wu
*National Convenor,
UNAA Young Professionals*

Neesha Seth
*Convenor UNAA Young
Professional WA*

Felicity O'Neil
*Convenor UNAA Young
Professionals ACT*

Brooke Silvers
*Convenor UNAA Young
Professionals NSW*

Janine Chatterjee Hancock
*NSW Co-Convenor, Young
Professionals Network*





United Nations Association of Australia

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CORE PARTNER



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade