



United Nations
Association
of Australia
NSW Division

UNAA NSW *news*

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Season's Greetings

At Christmas time, and as the year draws to a close, this is a special time when we reflect on the way that we are all connected, with our families and communities, with the city in which we live, as well as with natural landscape that we inhabit.

In New South Wales, as in every society, we largely depend, for our health and happiness, on the natural environment; our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of natural disasters at this time, for whom an early and severe bushfire season has taken lives as well as damaged or entirely destroyed homes.

A deep consciousness of the way that all things are connected has inspired the work of the United Nations Association of Australia NSW Division this year. Our World Humanitarian Day event in August, for example, was a great success, highlighting the real threats to journalists, activists and minority groups, who, living on the edges of their societies, continue the fight for social justice and human dignity.

Similarly, our UNAA Scholarship with the University of Wollongong and UN Diploma Program both inaugurated this year, have strengthened and empowered the understanding of human rights and the work of the UN in the Academic sphere.

Finally, our UN Day Gala Dinner, held at NSW Parliament House, and traditional Wreath Laying Ceremony, brought into fresh relief, the ultimate sacrifice paid by UN peacekeepers in conflict zones all over the world for the defence of human dignity and for peace.

Your support enables this focus on social justice initiatives and the promotion of the work of the United Nations to the Australian public. Hand-in-hand, we will keep fighting to bring an end to extreme poverty, to act on climate change and environmental sustainability, improve access to quality health and education and to promote peace, prosperity and security for all members of our global family in the wonderful spirit of humanitarian mateship.

May the Christmas Season bring you Peace and Good Tidings.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Jenkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Patricia Jenkins

**President, UNAA NSW Division
Vice President, UNAA National**

THANK YOU

A huge thank you for your ongoing support of the United Nations Associations NSW Division. Your investment in our work is helping us to build a more just and sustainable world, together. Follow us on online on:

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> SIGNING OF THE UNAA NSW SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARSHIP

Education for sustainable development is a cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations and a key foundation for a sustainable future. In partnership with the University of Wollongong (UOW), from 2020 the NSW Division of the UNAA has launched an inaugural undergraduate student scholarship with a special focus on the environmental SDGs.

Present at the signing ceremony were Her Excellency Gillian Bird PSM, Ambassador and Former Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations; Her Excellency Jane Duke, Ambassador to the ASEAN; Dr Patricia Jenkins, President of UNAA NSW; Prof Jennifer Martin AC, Acting Vice-Chancellor, UOW; Ms. Monique Harper-Richardson, Director of Advancement, UOW; Mr Kel Gleeson, Immediate Past President

of UNAA NSW and Diploma Course Coordinator of UNAA NSW; Mr Ryan Neelam, Deputy Director, NSW State Office at Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Mr Joshua Karras, Executive Manager of UNAA NSW. The signing of the document was completed by Dr Patricia Jenkins and Prof Jennifer Martin, acting as representatives of their respective Organisations.

The UNAA NSW Scholarship will be offered to a student committed to one or more of the United Nations SDGs. The 17 SDGs cover economic, societal, and environmental issues including ending poverty and hunger, reducing inequalities, providing quality education and sanitation, preserving ecosystems, and acting on climate change.



> WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY 2019

With talks from Professor in Orthopaedic Surgery, Author and Human Rights activist, Dr. Munjed Al Muderis, and Program Manager of the Cambodian Mine Action Program, Michael Heiman, World Humanitarian Day, held on Monday August 19th, paid tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in Humanitarian service.

Over 130 million people throughout the world are currently in crises, either through war or natural disasters and need humanitarian aid. More and more people are seriously

motivated by a desire to give back to the world by seeking out ways that allow them to participate in community service activities.

As organisations worldwide honour this day, UNAA NSW would like to recognise the compassion and bravery of people who unselfishly attempt to save lives and provide relief to those most in need by employing technology in the service of humanitarian work.

> UNAA NSW DIPLOMA



This year UNAA NSW Division was proud to launch its UN Diploma Program in collaboration with Williams Business College in Sydney. The Diploma is one of the ways that UNAA NSW Division is achieving its goal of promoting and celebrating the work of the UN, and equipping business leaders, Academic staff and other professionals, as well as interested members of the public, to be better equipped with the skills necessary to effect positive change that helps achieve initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

Twenty-three students have already successfully graduated from the Program.

Misha Williamson, a 2019 UN Graduate noted that “This program far exceeded my expectations. It helped me to better understand the work of the United Nations and also greatly improved my own personal and professional development skills.”

> UN DAY CELEBRATIONS



UNAA NSW kicked off their October UN Day celebrations with their annual UN Gala dinner, a social evening of fun and entertainment for a good cause. Led by VP programs Ms Andrea Spencer-Cooke, the Gala Dinner was held at the NSW Parliament House with this year's Honour being awarded to Reconciliation Australia in recognition of their commitment to promoting and facilitating respect, trust and positive relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

With an address from Mr Nick Kaldas APM, the Senior Fellow to the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Head of International Security Firm Stratum Global, former Deputy Police Commissioner and former Director of Internal Oversight Services in the United Nations Relief Works Agency (UNRWA), the UN Day Wreath laying ceremony was a sombre reminder of the precious lives lost and sacrifices made for the protection of communities in conflict zones all over the world. Many thanks to Event Lead Mr Geffory Little, Life Member, who has assumed the position for 26 years.



> THE UNAA NSW AGM

Held on Saturday 26th October 2019, the AGM is an essential way of ensuring best practice in the NGO and not-for-profit sectors.

Organised by the Public Officer Mrs Valerie Weekes, the AGM saw a mix of remaining and incoming Executive Committee Members who are ready to advance positive growth within their communities and are committed to the work of UNAA NSW.



> UNAA DELOITTE NATIONAL IMPACT DAY WORKSHOP

On Friday 22nd of November and as part of its work to remain a leading and respected NGO in the development and humanitarian spheres, UNAA NSW benefited greatly from its pro-bono partnership with Deloitte Australia. The team at Deloitte lent their time to help equip UNAA NSW staff with best practice training in accreditation, not-for-profit governance & risk management. All of us here at UNAA Australia are grateful for this ongoing collaboration.



> UNAA NEWSPACE SUMMIT

With the formation of the Australian Space Agency, a message was sent to the world: Australia has finally taken a step into the final frontier. UNAA is proud of its NewSpace summit, held on November 14th at Lendlease, Barangaroo, to collaboratively create momentum and pursue excellence from all regions of business and academia.

Australia is now in a prime position to lead an expansion into space. The United Nations Association of Australia looks forward to assisting in this ambitious and rewarding endeavour. Key addresses from this year's Summit included, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, James Larsen, Chief Legal Officer and Steven Freeland, Professor of International Law, Western Sydney University. Many thanks to Lendlease for their provision of such a prestigious event location, as well as the dedication of UNAA NSW volunteers.

> HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



The 71st Anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights saw UNAA NSW staff and volunteers, including President Dr Patricia Jenkins, distributing Declaration Booklets in the Barangaroo Precinct. It was a wonderfully impacting time of discourse, exposure and promotion for this landmark document. Many thanks to Lendlease for helping make this happen and for turning the Barangaroo Buildings blue in acknowledgment of this special day.



> UPCOMING; 2020 UN AUSTRALIA SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS FORUM

On 15 and 16 April, 2020, the UN Association of Australia will bring together civil society, governments, business and the UN under the theme of building sustainable partnerships, to be held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

This will be an outcome-oriented gathering guided by Sustainable Development Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals but designed to encompass all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Forum is ideally timed as it aligns with the beginning of the second trimester of the UN's 15-year agenda to transform the world through the SDGs.

Do yourself or your organisation an Christmas favour and access the forum early bird rate!

For more information, please visit <https://unaspf2020.unaavictoria.org.au/>

THE FORUM WILL:



SUPPORT THE CREATION OF NEW PARTNERSHIPS to progress achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



BRING TOGETHER THE UN, GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY, PHILANTHROPIC ORGANISATIONS AND ACADEMIA.



INVOLVE UN AGENCIES AND AUSTRALIAN ORGANISATIONS and individuals across business, civil society, academia and government who are leading in building and supporting sustainable partnerships.



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UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

UNAA NSW SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARSHIP

The UNAA was founded in 1946 to champion the critical work of the United Nations. It is a proud supporter of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Education for sustainable development is a cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda and a key foundation for a sustainable future. In partnership with the University of Wollongong (UOW), from 2020 the NSW Division of the UNAA is launching an inaugural undergraduate student scholarship with special focus on the environmental SDGs.

THE SCHOLARSHIP WILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING GOALS:



UNAA NSW is currently seeking individual and corporate funding partners to facilitate implementation of the SDG scholarship through Tax-Deductible Donations

100% of the proceeds raised will contribute to the scholarship

**BECOME AN
INAUGURAL
UNAA NSW SDG
SCHOLARSHIP
SUPPORTER
FOR STUDY
FROM 2020**

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT JOSHUA KARRAS: JOSHUA.KARRAS@UNAA.ORG.AU



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4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA DIPLOMA

The UN Diploma aims to train individuals in the history, structure and operations of the United Nations. Inclusive in this are several competency-based subjects that give the student recognisable skills that can be used in either UN-related initiatives or in the enhancement of their own career development.

> STUDENTS WILL LEARN HOW TO:

Communicate and instruct the basic knowledge of the United Nations, its agencies, and how it works.

Develop awareness of the aims, objectives and ideals of the United Nations.

Encourage people to participate in UN and UNAA activities that promote the UN.

Promote communication and education of the aims and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations.

Stimulate the interest of youth in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

UNAA NSW is currently seeking individual and corporate funding partners to sponsor the attendance of one or more students in the UN Diploma Program (Currently priced at \$1750 per student).



This program far exceeded my expectations. It helped me to better understand the work of the United Nations and also greatly improved my own personal and professional development skills”. – Misha Williamson, 2019 UN Graduate

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT JOSHUA KARRAS: JOSHUA.KARRAS@UNAA.ORG.AU

There are many ways that you can support the work of the United Nations Association of Australia this year, you can donate via our website or in person at one of our events and follow our work through FB, Insta, Twitter or YouTube.



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www.unaa.org.au/divisions/new-south-wales

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SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD