



United Nations
Association
of Australia
NSW Division

UNAA NSW *news*

ISSUE 5 // APRIL 2020



 **DECADE OF >>> ACTION**



President's Message

2020 has begun in a dramatic and devastating way! Australian bushfires, which began late last year, took over 30 lives, destroyed 2000 homes, and a catastrophic number of animals. Our thoughts are with the communities adversely affected as they chart a path to recovery.

Almost immediately afterward we faced severe flooding and now a global health pandemic which, in sheer scope and scale, represents an unprecedented emergency. COVID-19 has dramatically changed the way we live: burdening our medical systems and dedicated front-line workers, straining access to essential supplies, and shutting schools and businesses, resulting in alarming unemployment.

Yet hope and faith continue and prevail, and here at the United Nations Association of Australia NSW Division, we know that as a result of major disruption and upheaval, new and positive ways of thinking, and connecting can emerge, for the good of all.

It is in this spirit that UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, in his recent letter to the G-20 Global Summit, has spoken of the power of the human spirit to overcome every adversity,

"Together, we can ensure that the global economy and the people we serve emerge stronger from this crisis," Secretary General Guterres said.

The United Nations itself emerged from a time of great global upheaval, and the words of our Preamble speak not just of the darkness of our collective human history, but our commitment to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind."

That cooperation and genuine commitment have flourished over the years and brought inspiring advances in social and economic reform, poverty reduction, and environmental conservation.

Your continued support of our unique Association allows us to emerge from challenging times with a renewed commitment to peace, justice, fairness, and sustainable development, for all.

In solidarity,

Dr Patrica Jenkins

**President - New South Wales Division
Vice President - National
United Nations Association of Australia**

THANK YOU

Your support enables the continuation of this work to foster justice and sustainable development at home and abroad! Become a member of the UNAA NSW Division today by visiting unaa.org.au and remember to follow us on social media!

www.unaa.org.au



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> RETHINKING PEACE, CONFLICT AND GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE “PUTTING UNIVERSAL ETHOS ON THE GLOBAL AGENDA”

With planning, the future can be a great chance for new opportunities and improved global partnership. That's why the United Nations Association of Australia NSW Division was so pleased to partner with the University of New England (UNE) for its annual UNE Peace Conference.

The annual conference hosted by the UNE brings together staff, PhD students and graduates of UNE Peace Studies to put some of the biggest issues facing the world today on the table, such as efforts to eradicate nuclear weapons.

The event was held at the UNE Parramatta Campus from the 12th to 14th of February 2020 and was organised by UNAA NSW Program lead for Community Programs Lindsay Mell.

A vibrant panel session on the 'Universal Ethos' theme offered contributions from Dr Keith Suter, Anne Noonan, Thomas Mayor as well as University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Associate Professor, Dr John Buchanan, and UNAA NSW Director Peace and Security and Advisor on Peace-Keeping, Tim Ford AO.

Thomas Mayor, a Torres Strait Islander man born on Larrakia country in Darwin and a strong advocate for an Indigenous voice to Parliament, spoke of the integral and sadly overlooked place of Indigenous Australians in our society and globally, highlighting the importance of SDG 16, 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.'



> UNAA NSW AID FOR RURAL BUSHFIRE CRISIS

Dr Patricia Jenkins, UNAA NSW President and member of the Bondi Surf Bathers' Life Saving Club, helped the distribution of donations for those who have suffered as a consequence of the bushfires in rural NSW.

Ben Woltmann, UNAA NSW Director of Strategic Partnerships, was hands on in helping some of the rural communities of NSW, including those of Cobargo, Qaama, and Bermagui.

"Bondi Surf Bathers' Life Saving Club sent...a large truckload of supplies to Cobargo, including a generator which was delivered to a single mother with three kids who lost her rental house and was staying in a caravan with no onsite power at a friend's property," Ben said.

"I was amazed to see a community come together like this. Despite the crippling trauma this town had just been through, people were showing up to help one another in big and small ways, everywhere you looked, all day long."

Our commitment to empowering those affected by disaster and misfortune at every level of our society isn't just a nice idea, but underpins the work and the spirit of our Association.

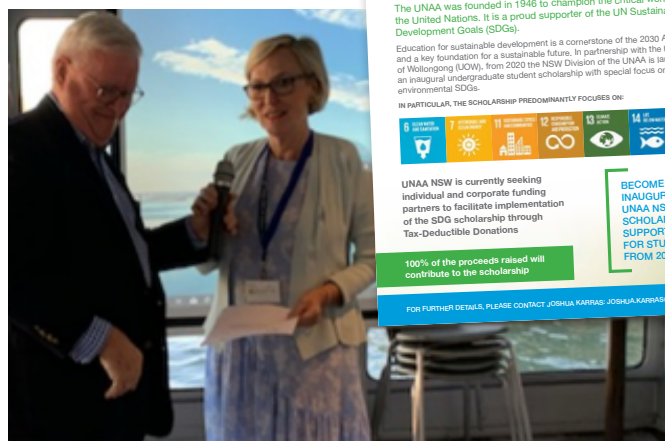
Thank you, Dr Jenkins and Ben Woltmann, for leading by example. As the recovery efforts continue, we welcome your ongoing support to us to advocate for climate change mitigation strategies that prevent widespread and unprecedented natural disasters.

> ROTARY CLUB OF SYDNEY COVE SIGNING UOW SCHOLARSHIP

Professional and philanthropic partnerships enables us to offer its peace building and development programs to wider audiences.

Through generous funding from the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove, which was formally signed into action on February 28th 2020, UNAA NSW's Sustainability Scholarship, which is taught at the University of Wollongong, is able to continue to educate and empower students with the skills and tools they need to pursue and advocate for sustainability nationally and globally.

Thank you, Rotary Club of Sydney Cove, for supporting this important work!



> LAUNCH OF THE UNAA NSW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS MEETUP

We are only as effective as the investment of our members. That's why regular membership meetings are such an essential way to stay in touch with our community and to offer more exciting, more relevant, and more effective opportunities for you, our valued members.

Two events this year have showcased the excellence and commitment of our Director of Memberships Kevin Spence. The first was the inaugural UNAA NSW Division Volunteers mixer which was held at the Shakespeare Hotel in Surry Hills on February 27th.

For Kevin, the first UNAA NSW mixer was a reflection, not just of his own interests but of the ability of the UN to bring people together. "Last year I really started to look at ways to get involved with advancing the goals of the United Nations including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)," Kevin said.

"Sitting in a pub, talking about the future of humanity may not be something new for me, but the microphone was certainly a new addition."

Kevin and UNAA NSW Director of Volunteering Brett Martin, kicked off the night and then welcomed our President who spoke about the structure of UNAA NSW and the work that we do.

The second was an online Zoom meeting held on Thursday

March 26th. It outlined the UN response to COVID-19 and the UN Climate Action initiative and how this is intrinsic to the success of the SDGs.

The Guest Speaker was Lizzie Welborn, a 21 year old, Ocean Lovers Festival organiser and advocate for preventing plastic pollution. Lizzie spoke about her passion for the environment and her work to protect it.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details of future UNAA NSW member and volunteer mixers!

www.unaa.org.au/event/unaa-nsw-online-meetup/



> INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Held annually on the 8th of March, International Women's Day (IWD) is an opportunity to take stock of the contribution of many strong female social justice advocates who have paved the way for the opportunities enjoyed by many women today.

Three venues across Sydney played host to the women of UNAA NSW, including the Western Sydney Community Forum, Waverley Council, and the Non-Resident Nepali Association.

Our President, Dr Patricia Jenkins spoke during the Living Library Session of the Western Sydney Community Forum's Event held at Western Sydney University.

UNAA NSW team members Vice-President Programs Andrea Spencer-Cooke and Director of Programs Sahera Sumar attended UN Women's IWD Event alongside SBS Australia World News presenter Janice Petersen and social justice network, 'Sisterworks' Founder and CEO Luz Restrepo.

Additionally, Sahera Sumar, attended an IWD luncheon with the Non Resident Nepali Association. In attendance was also the Representative of the Embassy of Nepal in Australia, the Hon Julia Finn MP, Cllr. Lisa Lake Councillor of Cumberland City

Council, and representatives of the Police and Crime Prevention force.

Finally, in the Eastern Suburbs, UNAA NSW President Dr Patricia Jenkins spoke alongside some of Sydney's strongest and inspirational women at Waverley Council's IWD event! Mayor of Waverley, Paula Masselos, Director of Waverley, Emily Scott Director and Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Jeanette Kearny.





FREE

UNAA NSW MOVEMENT MONDAY

In response to global developments concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, this year the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace will focus on the health benefits of participating in sporting and physical activity, especially in this time of uncertainty and social distancing.

To inspire movement and its positive effects on wellbeing, UNAA NSW is excited to host 4 weeks of **#MovementMonday** to share 4 ways of taking care of our physical and mental health while staying at home.

Join us on Facebook Live on April 13th, 20th, 27th, and May 4th for our morning, lunchtime, and evening Yoga, High-intensity training, Meditation, and Wellbeing sessions!

WHAT'S ON

	MON 13 APRIL	MON 20 APRIL	MON 27 APRIL	MON 4 MAY
7:00am – 8:00am	YOGA with Adam Saines	YOGA with Miranda Cheng	YOGA with Adam Saines	YOGA with Nikki Briscoe
8:30am – 9:15am	F45 WORKOUT with Nicole Egan	HIGH INTENSITY FITNESS WORKOUT with Katia Chel	F45 WORKOUT with Nicole Egan	HIGH INTENSITY FITNESS WORKOUT with Katia Chel
12:00pm – 12:45pm	CARDIO DANCE with Kat Shields	STRETCH SESSION /CHALLENGE with Henry Browne	MOTIVATION TALK with Justin Jones <i>Resilience in Isolation</i>	CARDIO DANCE with Kat Shields
6:30pm – 7:00pm	MEDITATION with Miranda Cheng	MEDITATION with Nikki Briscoe	MEDITATION with Mark Lang	MEDITATION with Mark Lang

www.facebook.com/nswunaa



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PLEASE NOTE: Participants join these events at their own risk. Neither UNAA NSW nor the instructors accept responsibility or liability for loss/injury/damage resulting from participants' involvement.





FREE

SPECIAL UN PEACEKEEPING EDITION UNAA NSW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS MEETUP

Hosted online, every 4th Thursday of the month, UNAA NSW is excited to invite you to our Members and Volunteers Meetup!

This is an opportunity for our Members, Volunteers and the General public to connect, share and learn more about the United Nations (UN) and how to make a personal impact in New South Wales.

To commemorate the UN International Day of UN Peacekeepers on 29th May, join us for a Members and Volunteers Meetup special UN Peacekeeping Edition with Guest Speaker Major General Tim Ford AO (Retired).

WHAT WE'LL DO

- > Introduction, agenda and event hosted by UNAA NSW Director of Memberships Kevin Spence
- > Guest Speaker discussion of monthly hot topic: Next month is UN Peacekeeping
- > Passion Pitches from NSW individuals about their SDG and Humanitarian aligned work
- > UN themed Quiz
- > Volunteer updates with UNAA NSW Director of Volunteering Brett Martin

> DETAILS

GET TICKETS

TIME: 6pm to 8pm AEST

VENUE: Online event - Zoom (Log in details will be shared with all attendees 30 minutes prior to the event)

TICKETS: The event is free and everyone is most welcome but registration via Meetup is required.

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.meetup.com/en-AU/United-Nations-Association-Australia-NSW-Meetup-Group/events/fstvmrybchblc/>



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ENQUIRIES
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4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



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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**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD