

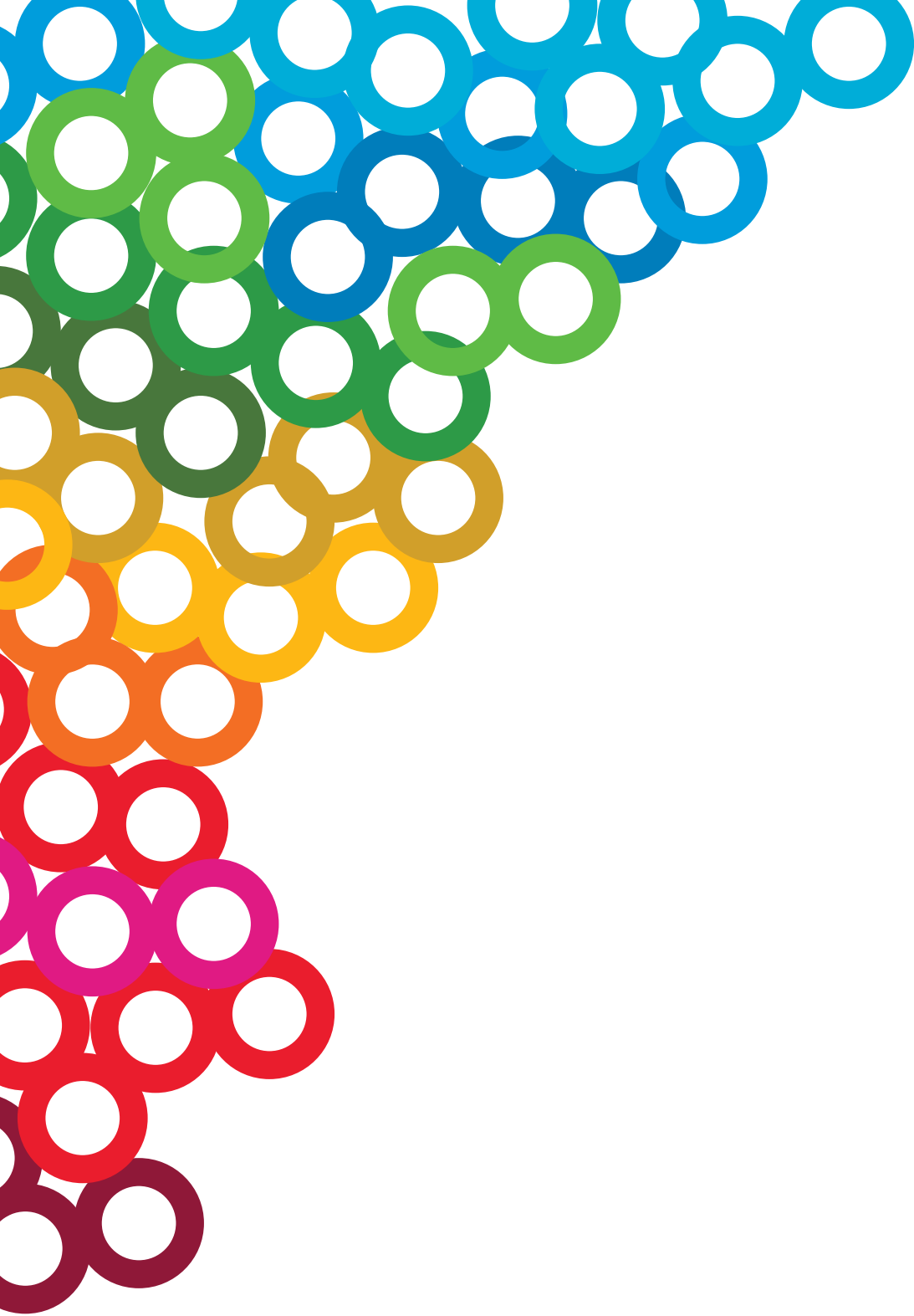


United
Nations
Association
of Australia

ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021





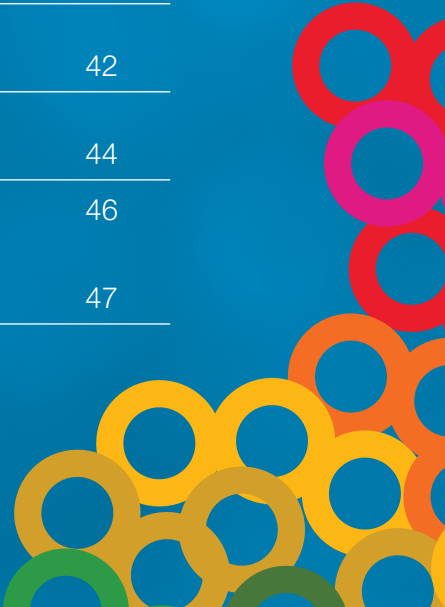
**United
Nations
Association
of Australia**

The UNAA acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country across Australia and pay our respect to them, their culture and Elders past, present and emerging.



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OVERVIEW OF THE UNAA

United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) is the peak body for promoting the United Nations (UN) in Australia. Since its establishment in 1946, the organisation has served as a proud member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA). WFUNA is a global not-for-profit which coordinates the work of national United Nations Associations in over 100 countries.



The UNAA consists of over 200 volunteers across Australia and a small team of staff. Our teams throughout Australia mobilise this strong network of volunteers to organise events and activities in support of the UN.

Cross-sector collaboration is central to our mission. We work closely with government, affiliate UN organisations and businesses to help educate Australian citizens and leaders about the UN's vital work and encourage them to become involved in promoting the UN. We are affiliated with UN Youth Australia, a national youth-led organisation that educates and empowers young Australians on matters concerning the UN and international affairs. We are also an affiliate of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), a national association of non-government organisations working to promote international development and aid. We continue to work closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), while we look forward to further growing our relationship with state governments.



With the support of these organisations and our Patron, His Excellency the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) and Lady Hurley, the UNAA continues to work to create a safer, fairer, more sustainable world.

Now, more than ever, Australia needs the UN and the UN needs Australia.

OUR MISSION

To inform, inspire and engage Australians on the work, goals and values of the United Nations to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable world.

inform

inspire

engage

CONTACT US

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NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

International cooperation needs all of us. I extend my thanks to our dedicated members, volunteers and staff working across Australia. It is always humbling to see the passion, the commitment and vision of so many people from all ages and walks of life committed to making the world a better place.

I admire and take great comfort from the persistence and generosity of each and everyone of you as you contribute to our vision of a safer, fairer, more sustainable world in these very challenging times.

Citizens and global leaders have worked together for global cooperation for 75 years now. Heads of State and Government gathered on 20 September in 2020 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, with a sense of awe and deep respect for the founders. The General Assembly by consensus adopted a declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, saying *There is no other global organization with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact of the United Nations. No other global organization gives hope to so many people for a better world and can deliver the future we want. The urgency for all countries to come together, to fulfil the promise of the nations united, has rarely been greater.* This was an important moment of reflection for the achievements and the challenges and disappointments in the 75 year history. Reflection generated a commitment to reinvigorate and strengthen international cooperation and take action to ensure that no one is left behind and that we are internationally prepared for the challenges we know we face, and those that we do not expect.

I extend my thanks to our Patron, His Excellency Governor General of Australia. The Governor General is a strong advocate for our association and our work, and hosted a special celebration event for the 75th anniversary of the UN and our association in October 2020.

I recognise the continuing work of our Goodwill Ambassadors, Tanya Hosch, General Manager, Inclusion and Social Policy, AFL, UNAA Goodwill Ambassador for Indigenous Issues, Erika Feller, UNAA Goodwill Ambassador for Refugees, and Grace Forrest, Founding Director, Walk Free, UNAA Goodwill Ambassador for Modern Slavery and Lyn Arnold, UNAA Goodwill Ambassador for the Sustainable Development Goals.

I thank Jay Jethwa, our representative on the World Federation of United Nations Associations. Our participation in the World Federation keeps us connected to our peers internationally, builds relationships between the United Nations and civil society and grows the knowledge, skills and connections of young people.

We are a small and vital part of our global community. In January 2021, the UN launched the report of a year long, global initiative to listen to people's priorities and expectations of international cooperation. Through surveys and dialogues, more than 1.5 million people from all walks of life shared their hopes and fears for the future, and discussed how all actors, including the UN, can innovate and work together to better address the global challenges we face. 97% of respondents believe that international cooperation is important for addressing global challenges, and many respondents look to the United Nations to lead in international cooperation to address immediate and longer-term global challenges. Many also want the organisation to innovate, to be more inclusive, engaged, accountable and effective.

Global cooperation is essential as we continue our fight against COVID 19 and its variants, and work to recover from its impact on our Sustainable Development Goals and strive harder to achieve our targets by 2030. We were honoured to host UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J Mohammed at our UN & Australia Sustainable Partnerships Forum in April 2021. She started with a strong and urgent message:

"I am absolutely confident that the UNSDGs provide a pathway to a safer, fairer and more sustainable world. They serve as a roadmap to guide COVID 19 responses, in the immediate response and the recovery... We need to reshape our systems, to work towards our needs and not our wants."

Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Marise Payne recognised that the COVID 19 pandemic has demanded leadership and partnership:

"This Forum provides an invaluable opportunity to reflect on how partnerships are pivotal in ensuring we continue to work towards a more just, fair and sustainable world. Our challenge going forward is to harness this energy (the leadership and partnership demanded by the COVID 19 pandemic) to meet the UNSDGs."



There is no other global organization with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact of the United Nations. No other global organization gives hope to so many people for a better world and can deliver the future we want.

A strong theme across the partnership conversations at the Forum is familiar to us all - the problem is human. The solutions are known and the task is to build the relationships and will to remove barriers. For more information on the Forum see page 11.

I also extend my appreciation to my colleagues on the National Board – the Presidents and representatives of our member divisions in ACT, NSW, QLD, SA, VIC and the NT, the Vice President of the Young Professionals Network, and President of our sister organisation, UN Youth, along with our independent Secretary, Treasurer and Directors.

Working effectively in a federated organisation requires our UN values of integrity, professionalism and respect for diversity. The leaders of our members – the State Divisions and Young Professionals Network, lead their own committees and rich programs which engage thousands of Australians across the country in connecting, learning and promoting the role of the UN, the Sustainable Development Goals and treaties. Over the last two years these leaders are sustaining relationships and programs as we flip from in person to digital and back again. The National Board provides a forum for sharing resources and practice in addition to shaping our national agenda and programs. You can see highlights of their work on pages 17-40.

Our Office Holders and Independent Directors bring focus and skill to our national programs and operations, and play pivotal roles as we reshape our Strategic Plan, to building our capability and capacity in an agile work plan. You can see details of our national programs and operations on pages 10-14.

I also extend our appreciation to Graham Hunter for his leadership of the Climate Change Program over five years, and to Warwick Peel, Emma Lucia, Jessica Christiansen and Melissa Hartmann for picking up the baton in the leadership of our Climate Change Collaboration Network. For details see pages 13-14.

The Australian Government has continued to reaffirm the value it places in a rules-based international order, and its commitment to a strong United Nations and the importance of multilateralism. We will engage with the Australian Government to help deliver on the UN's vision and policies.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude for all the support that the UNAA has received over the last 12 months. As we look forward to 2022, I am confident that together we will continue to build our events, programs and activities across Australia in support of the work, goals and values of the UN in a world that needs the UN now more than ever.

Yours in international citizenship



Mario D'Elia
National President



OUR WORK



THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Their Excellencies, the Governor General and Lady Hurley hosted a reception at Government House on 27 October to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

Due to COVID-19 physical distancing provisions, the number of guests were restricted to 35. Guests included diplomats, DFAT representatives, UN representatives including UNHCR Regional Representative Louise Aubin, UNAA NSW President and UNAA (Divisions) Vice President Dr Patricia Jenkins, UNAA National Secretary Susan McHattie, UNAA Executive Director Lachlan Hunter, outgoing UNAA National Secretary Louisa McMinney, UNAA ACT President Brian Gleeson, and members from the UN Alumni Network and the UNAA ACT Division. Louise Aubin, members of the UNAA Board, Dr Patricia Jenkins and Brian Gleeson met privately with their Excellencies prior to the event, providing an overview of our recent and planned activities.

The Governor-General spoke about the positive role of the UNAA, drew on references from the Strategic Plan, the SDGs and promoted the National Partnership Forum. Lady Hurley sang a song she wrote to celebrate the the anniversary. This was a highlight in the formal proceedings.

Guests appreciated their Excellencies' support of UNAA, the honour of being in Government House, the pleasure of physically attending a COVID safe event and the networking opportunities.



UNITED NATIONS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

*Today we celebrate
United Nations Day*

*Australia's a founding
member, with them
all the way*

*Its Seventy Five years,
since the UN came alive*

*Working with other nations,
for our world to strive*

*They've had a mighty
mission, promote
human dignity*

*Protect Human rights,
respect, international law
you see*

*There are so many issues
in our world today*

*We're living in a pandemic
with care we will be OK*

*Our planet is in danger
there's human suffering*

*United as a world can
we live in harmony*

*Let's all work together with
peace and no wars*

*Uniting with all nations
Happy Anniversary to all*

Lady Hurley

UN & AUSTRALIA SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS FORUM

UNAA convened the *Australia & the UN Sustainable Partnerships Forum* digitally in April 2021. The Forum highlighted the diversity of partnerships occurring in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals in Australia and internationally. Many speakers highlighted work already underway across business, civil society and local and state governments to achieve the goals within Australia. They stressed that these initiatives can be amplified with locally focused national leadership and coordination.

The program attracted expert speakers and 350 participants from around the world. Speakers, including Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, joined us from New York, Oxford, Geneva, Manila, Samoa, Fiji, Exeter and India and from every Australian state and territory. Participants were equally diverse, tuning in from across Australia, the United States, United Kingdom and Asia Pacific.

The Sustainable Development Goals offer significant value to our national domestic policy frameworks. They set out an integrated approach aligned with international efforts to achieve change across the world by 2030 and provide a Blueprint for a Build Back Better approach to COVID 19 recovery.

- The [Forum Communique](#) summarises the key themes emerging from the Forum and highlights contributions from the UN, the Coalition Government, and Australian businesses and civil society.
- The [Forum Report](#) captures in more detail the important, challenging and very high quality conversations held during the Forum. It provides a comprehensive Resources Guide to information relating to Partnerships, the SDGs and the four themes of Gender Equality, Climate and Planet, Poverty and Inequality and Justice and Human Rights.

The Forum is one of the ways that the United Nations Association of Australia fulfils its vision by engaging, educating and inspiring Australians about the role of the UN and our role within it.

This Forum was delivered by the UNAA Victoria team and we extend our appreciation to the Board and the staff for accepting the challenge and delivering a compelling and professional event through the uncertainty of COVID 19.

UN & AUSTRALIA RESEARCH PAPER

THE UN'S IMPORTANCE TO AUSTRALIA AND THE WORLD IN AN ERA OF COVID-19 AND BEYOND

During 2020 intern Senuri Perera worked with the guidance of members of the Academic Network to research and report on Australia's relationship with the United Nations and the value of our participation now and into the future. The paper asks 'How and why is the UN important to the world in the context of COVID-19 and beyond?' and within that larger question:

- 'How and why is the UN important to Australia?
- Why and can Australia engage more with the UN?'

The project included a literature review and qualitative interviews with a former diplomat, a current UN Professional, a UNAA Professional, UNAA Academic Network members and students.

The report recognises that Australia has a complex and nuanced relationship with the UN that is not divided along party political lines. Engagement with the UN is increased when the government of the day places greater emphasis on international rather than bilateral relationships, when national interests are framed in their international context rather than within immediate domestic concerns, when domestic sentiment supports, or is not hostile to international engagement, and the government has a more internationalist outlook.

The paper will be published on the UNAA website in 2021 and will inform ongoing development of our public policy positions.



The UN is a unique, resilient, and imperfect institution, that supports Member States in their development and growth, and assists the world's progression despite the unprecedented challenges it faces.



UNAA CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM

A REVIEW OF THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

Graham Hunter was celebrated for his achievements as the Climate Change Program Coordinator in late 2020. Graham led the program from its inception in 2015, shortly before the UN Paris Climate Agreement at COP21. The national program was designed to

- raise awareness and understanding throughout Australia of the UN climate negotiations.
- focus attention on the involvement of the Australian Government in the negotiations.
- support the engagement by Australians in the negotiations.

OVER FIVE YEARS IN THAT TIME THE PROGRAM ENABLED THE UNAA TO

- prepare submissions on Australia's target for emission reduction and a guide to the negotiations in Paris, draft working papers describing the breadth of activity to address climate change across government, business and civil society and a discussion paper Managing Climate Change in Australia: A Global, Long-Term View and the [UNAA Position on Climate Change](#)
- work with Divisions to coordinate events featuring United Nations climate change specialists
- attend COP meetings within the WFUNA Delegation
- register Net Zero as a business name for use by UNAA
- establish a Climate Change Collaboration Forum in 2017
- advocate to political parties, government, business and civil society for action to achieve Net Zero.

In the culmination of Graham's leadership of the program he authored a chapter [The Courage to Set Ambitious Goals](#) in the book *Climate, Health and Courage* published by the Future Leaders organization in July, 2020.

BUILDING A COLLABORATION NETWORK

In 2020 Leadership of the program transferred to Warwick Peel, an active member of the Program and fellow member of the UNAA Victoria Board. A network of leaders from business, government and civil society joined forces to focus on what might be achieved through collaborative action. With participation from all States and Territories the leaders met online to share aspirations and opportunities within the remit of the UNAA Position on Climate Change. Jessica Christiansen and Melissa Hartmann co-led an inclusive approach, adopting a lean canvas, through which the group proposed a three pillared strategy to CREATE, COLLABORATE, and COMMIT. The approach is based on reframing the narrative to climate opportunity, supporting social and business enterprise, enabling collaboration, and working to build commitments and momentum. Projects are climate-in-action and are being scoped for National Board approval.

The network is led by co-chairs Emma Lucia and Warwick Peel, and continues to engage UNAA members and people who are passionate about climate action to empower our collective intelligence towards these three pillars of our strategy for Australia's future focus towards Net Zero. Emma and Warwick are constantly inspired by our network and we would like to acknowledge all of your contributions, and let us now enact climate-in-action!





create

collaborate

commit

UNAA PROGRAMS



THE UNAA UN DIPLOMA

As part of our overall Education Program, the UNAA UN Diploma, in collaboration with Williams Business College, continues to ensure business leaders, academic staff, other professionals, and interested members of the public learn about the history, structure and operations of UN and are better equipped with the skills necessary to effect positive change, such as achieving the aims of the SDGs.

Over the course of 2020/2021, the UNAA NSW held two online sessions. To date we have inspired and engaged over 150 individuals across Australia, giving them the opportunity to become UNAA (NSW) Liaison Officers.

The next course is commencing in February 2022. To enrol in the UNAA UN Diploma course, or for more information, visit www.williams.edu.au/unaadiploma.



THE UNAA SCHOOL PROGRAM

The UNAA (NSW) has built its inaugural 'United Nations Day ~ Peace People Planet' initiative to promote awareness in schools of the work of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to gain support for the UN mission.

Educational institutions can get involved on multiple levels by incorporating various events and activities such as wearing blue to raise awareness on United Nations Day, running 'Creativity for the Sustainable Development Goals' art competitions, holding a United Nations Day section in school assembly, and by integrating our UN resources into the classroom.

To enrol in the UNAA (NSW) School Program or for more information, please visit www.unaa.org.au/about/stateteams/new-south-wales/un-day-school-program/.

DIVISION ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



THE 65TH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 29 March 2021

To coincide with the 65th session of the UN Women's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the UNAA ACT Division hosted Claire Moore for a virtual presentation on the progress of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Members and guests joined online to discuss the presentation theme of "Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls." Claire Moore is the President of the Queensland Division of UNAA, a Director on the National Board of the UNAA a former Senator for Queensland and Shadow Minister for a number of portfolios including Women.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS CELEBRATION 19 April 2021

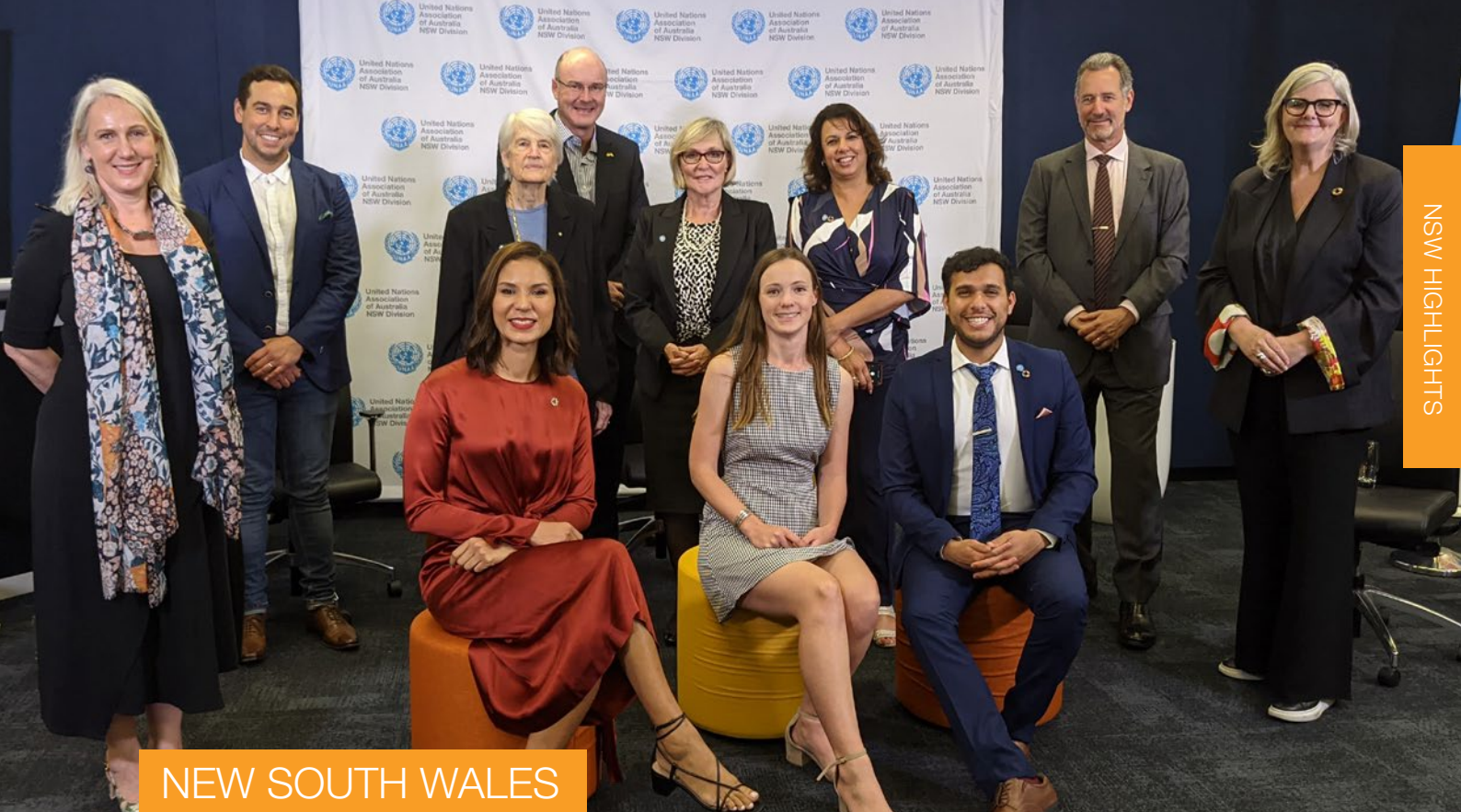
Following the devastating Black Summer bushfires in Australia, effective management and mitigation of the impacts of fire on our forests became an area of increased interest and concern. The UNAA ACT Division organised a virtual discussion with ANU Professor David Lindenmayer, a world-leading expert in forest ecology and resource management on the importance of managing the impacts of fire. The event was organised to raise awareness of Sustainable Development Goal 15, Life on Land, highlighting the critical importance of the sustainable management of our terrestrial ecosystems.



AUSTRALIA, THE UN AND THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS 20 June 2021

Does the new Global Compact help address the systemic political problem regarding support for refugees - where developed countries “outsource” the problem to developing countries located nearer the countries of origin? This was the topic of a virtual discussion with Erika Feller as part of a virtual event organised by the UNAA ACT Division to mark the World Refugee Day. The conversation focused on the most urgent issues that need to be addressed to remedy the current situation where many developing countries lack the legal and logistical resources to cope with the flood of refugees and other migrants. Erika Feller is the Vice Chancellor’s Fellow at The University of Melbourne and a former UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner.





75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN

23 October 2020

UNAA NSW commenced their UN 75th anniversary celebrations with their annual UN Day Commemorative Wreath Laying Ceremony. Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC, Patron of UNAA NSW and Governor of New South Wales, gave a special address. Dr Patricia Jenkins, President of UNAA NSW, delivered the UN Secretary General's UN Day message. Other special guests included Mr Warren Mundine AO and Senator Major General Andrew James Molan AO DSC. The UN Commemorative Wreath Laying Ceremony was a reminder of those who have laid down their lives for the protection of communities in conflict zones all over the world. The event was once again led by esteemed UNAA NSW Life Member Mr Geoffrey Little.

UNAA NSW continued to honour the 75 years of Australia's involvement in the UN by hosting a live online event in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Multicultural NSW. During the broadcast, the UNAA NSW President Dr Patricia Jenkins welcomed and awarded the 2020 UN Day Honour to Sam Mostyn. The Master of Ceremonies, Janice Petersen, facilitated the high-level panel discussion with guest speakers Joseph La Posta, CEO of Multicultural NSW, The Hon Elizabeth Evatt AC, Adam McCarthy, Assistant Secretary International Organisations Branch of DFAT, and David Hirsch, Chair of Rotary Club of Sydney Peacebuilding Group.

This event also marked the launch of the virtual UN 75 Exhibition in collaboration with Google Arts and Culture. The exhibition highlights the untold story of Australia's continuous involvement in the United Nations since 1945. You can find more information on the exhibition [here](#).



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

8 March 2021

The UNAA NSW, its members, and volunteers showed their support for International Women’s Day in a number of ways, including participating in the online campaign #WomenInLeadership, posting photos of members and volunteers online with the #SDG5 and #GenderEquality hashtags, and expressing what changes they would like to see for an equal future.

The UNAA NSW, in partnership with Affinity Intercultural Foundation and the Journalists and Writers Foundation, hosted an online event to discuss ‘Walking Together: Australian Indigenous Women’s Perspectives and Insights in their Journey of Leadership’.

The event was held in partnership and broadcast globally with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York (NGO CSW/ NY). UNAA NSW President Dr Patricia Jenkins gave the introductory address with the aim of the forum to share the unique challenges, resilience, and vision experienced by indigenous female leaders shaped by their community, culture, and history.

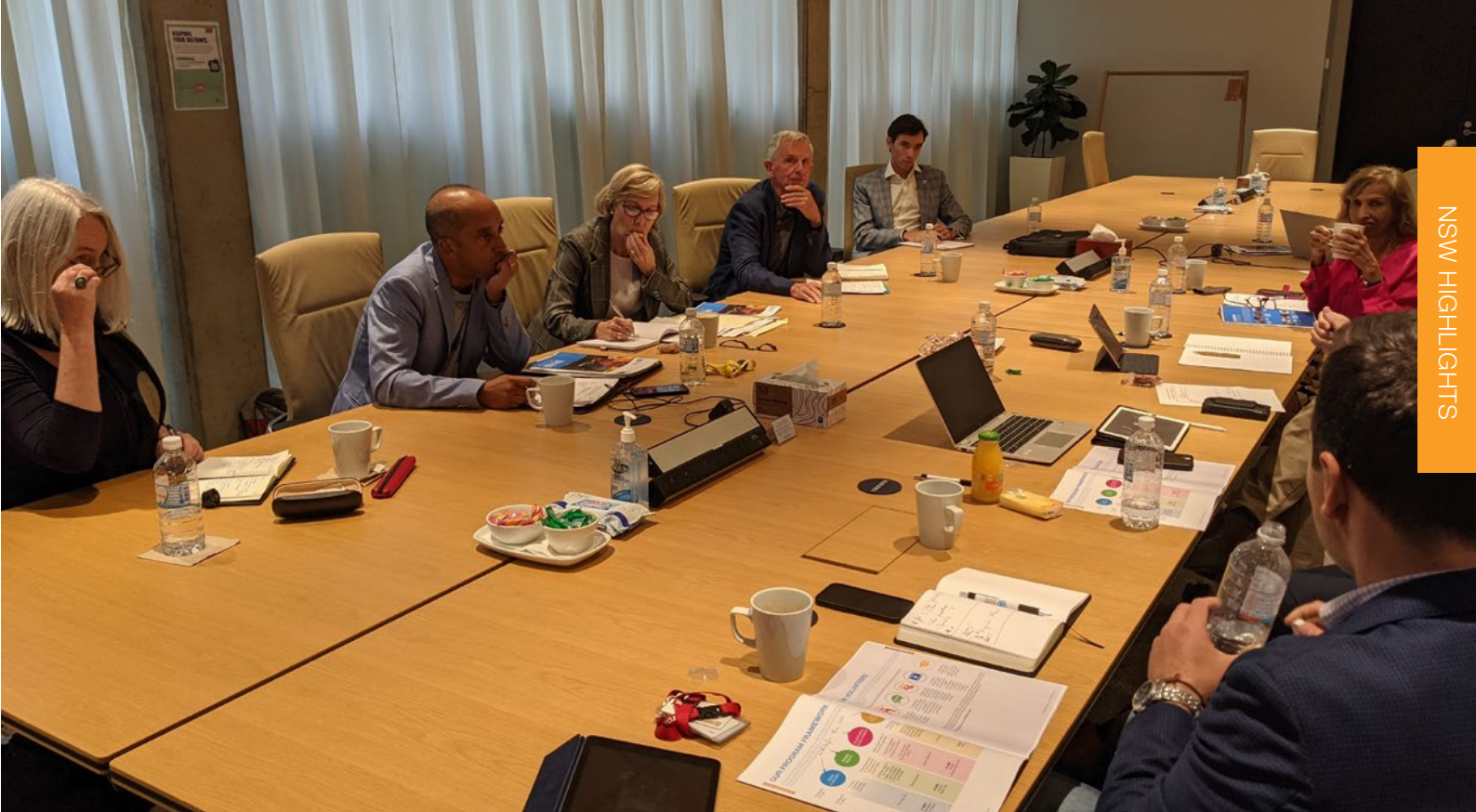


INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE

16 May 2021

The UNAA NSW Vice President (Ops) and former Military Adviser of UN Peacekeeping Tim Ford AO connected with the citizens of Wagga Wagga to commemorate the International Day of Living Together in Peace. They were joined by the Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga and key individuals of the region to conduct a successful panel discussion.

Key participants included Geraldine Rurenga, incoming Rotary District Governor for some 90 clubs in the region, Yapa Bandara, Chair of the Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga, and Jan Roberts, women’s rights activist and founder of the Wagga Women’s Health Centre.



ADVISORY BOARD

The UNAA NSW is very pleased to announce the creation of its new Advisory Board, which held its first meeting on 24 March 2021. The Board brings to the Association extensive experience and will provide invaluable strategic advice on how the UNAA NSW can best inform, inspire, and engage the NSW community about the United Nations.

THE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ARE:

- David Jacobs (Chair) - Former Regional Chairman, Baker McKenzie
- Joseph La Posta - CEO, Multicultural NSW
- Barbara Ward - CEO, Impact One
- Thierry Lotrian - Partner, Deloitte
- Lucy Stronach - Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations



“We are delighted that the Board reflects such a broad diversity of views/experience, and that we all share a very strong commitment to helping build a safer, fairer, and more sustainable world.” - David Jacobs, Advisory Board Chair.

NORTHERN TERRITORY



HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

10 December 2020

The event commenced with UNAA NT President Kate Heelan presenting on the history of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. This was followed by a speech from UNAA NT Committee Member Ms Lyma Nguyen, which focused on her *pro bono* work of over a decade, as International Civil Party Counsel at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Cambodia where she represented the rights and interests of hundreds of victims of serious, mass and historical, crimes, committed in the 1970s by the Senior Leaders of the Democratic Kampuchea. This led to her accreditation in 2018 as Counsel at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Lyma's speech took the audience through her journey from paddling out to the floating homes of minority ethnic Vietnamese survivors of Pol Pot's genocide on the Tonle Sap River, to her representation of civil parties at the trial before the hybrid-international tribunal in Phnom Penh. This journey uncovered the generational impact of historical atrocity crimes upon a minority group in contemporary times, with many of these victims continuing to live on the margins of Cambodian society to this day.

Lyma's speech highlighted the importance of SDG 16, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and SGD 10 Reduced Inequalities, in celebrating the human rights movement around the world: "Article 1 of the Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that human rights is a fundamental part of being *alive*, of *being human*. It is something so *close* to us we don't always see it – like a shadow that is a part of us everywhere that there is light."





INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WALK

6 March 2021

Over 700 participants formed a sea of purple and converged in the Darwin CBD to join the 2021 International Women's Day Walk and Celebrations. UNAA NT, the City of Darwin and the Northern Territory Government Office of Gender Equity and Diversity hosted the International Women's Day event celebrating the outstanding achievements of local women and creating a more collaborative, inclusive and connected community.

Following a Welcome to Country Smoking Ceremony, the walk commenced through the CBD and Smith St Mall led by the Darwin City Brass Band and the Administrator of the Northern Territory Her Honour Vicki O'Halloran. Attendees included the Speaker of the Northern Territory Parliament, Numerous Ministers and MLAs, Lord Mayor of Darwin, Mayor of Palmerston, Diplomatic Corps, Community Leaders and members of the Public.

"The UN's Generation Equality campaign calls for women's access to decision making in all areas of life. Small actions can make big impacts to make this vision a reality", Ms Heelan said, in calling for action to promote gender equality.



"The UN's Generation Equality campaign calls for women's access to decision making in all areas of life. Small actions can make big impacts to make this vision a reality"





INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCH

8 March 2021

UNAA NT hosted the International Women's Day Lunch at Il Piatto Restaurant in Darwin at the Mindil Beach and Casino Resort. The spirit of the event focused on SDG 5 Gender Equality and SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities.

Guest speakers included three of the Northern Territory's most prominent women: Minister Lauren Moss – Minister for Women, Minister for Education, Minister for Children, Minister for Youth and Minister for Seniors, Ms Katie Woolf OAM – Journalist and Broadcaster Mix 104.9, and Ms Sally Gearin – Barrister and Human Rights Advisor – the first female lawyer to be admitted to the NT Bar Association.

Each guest speaker came from different age groups, cultural backgrounds, sectors and spoke about their experiences in their specific field of work and obstacles with gender inequality and how they overcame some of these difficulties. The guest speaker sessions was followed by a moderated panel session with all speakers and a robust and enthusiastic Q&A participation from attendees.

The lunch was a huge success with feedback from speakers and participants, describing the inspiration drawn from the speakers and the positive impact the event had on their morale, resilience and confidence.

Sally Gearin, the first woman admitted to the NT Bar and human rights lawyer, said "It was an exceptional experience for me to speak and participate in this event. The history of women and human rights is one proudly espoused by the United Nations and it was a pleasure to tell how some of those barriers have been broken down in my life journey."

"Credible, non-political and well organised forums such as this provide a time for reflection and bring us all together to celebrate how far we have come and how far our granddaughters still have to go as we pass the baton to them. Well done UNAA NT...Well done UNAA NT."





UN INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR SPORT DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

6 April 2021

The Darwin Community came out in force to participate in the inaugural UNAA NT celebration for United Nations International Day of Sport for Development and Peace at Arafura Stadium in Darwin. The afternoon showcased a range of unique sporting activities, including Sepak Takraw, Tai Chi, Zumba dancing, Bocce, High Jump, Shot Put, Long Jump and air Badminton, as new sport featuring a novel innovative aerodynamically designed shuttlecock for outside play.

The Karen community provided a strong presence, dressed in colourful traditional clothing, and supporting family and friends who were exhibiting Speak Takraw. The event was a shining example of sports bringing people and communities together, whilst highlighting SDG 3, good health and well-being.

In recognising the power of sports in promoting peace, healthy lifestyles, tolerance, respect and erasing cultural barriers, keynote speaker, Mr Charlie King OAM (ABC Sports Broadcaster and founder of the NO MORE campaign to stop violence in sport) gave an inspirational speech about respect for women, ending with participants engaging in powerful symbolic linking of arms as a gesture of commitment to stopping family violence. The event was attended by new Indonesian Diplomats, Consuls Mr Siuaji Raja and Mr Yulius Mada Kaka.

Mrs Leanne Chin, Chief Executive Officer, Athletics Northern Territory said, “it was a pleasure to host the inaugural UNAA NT event in recognition of the United Nations International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. The Darwin Sporting Community fully supported this initiative, and it provided an opportunity for some of our small sports to gain exposure to each other and the wider community. The event captured and recognised the power of sport in promoting peace and erasing cultural barriers”.



75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UN
29 October 2020

As patron of the UNAA NT, Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O’Halloran AO, Administrator of the Northern Territory, hosted a reception at Government House in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. It was a wonderful evening providing UNAA NT members and the diplomatic corps in the NT with the opportunity to hear from and meet with Her Honour.

UNAA NT President Ms Kate Heelan gave an inspiring speech about the work of the association, the UNAA Strategic Plan, the Sustainable Development Goals and future initiatives and activities for the association. Kate also took the opportunity to introduce the new UNAA NT Committee Members: Dr Howard Smith, Mr Aaron Tran, Ms Shahrin Akter, Dr Matt Hall and Ms Lyma Nguyen.



Guests included leaders from the Darwin community, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Diplomatic Corps including Mr Celio Moniz, Consul-General Timor-Leste, and Mr Ronaldo Do Rosario Consul Timor-Leste, Mr Gulfan Afreo, Consul Indonesia, Mr and Mrs Mohammad Hanifa Indonesian Consulate, Mr John Rivas AM, Consul General Philippines and Mrs Edna Rivas and Mrs Egle Garrick the Honorary Consul Lithuania.



QUEENSLAND



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE – 9TH ANNUAL PEACE LECTURE 21 September 2020

The 9th Annual Peace Lecture at St John's Cathedral, Brisbane, was a joint event with the Peace and Security team of UNNA QLD as part of a community organising group with the St John's Cathedral community. The theme of the 2020 International Day of Peace was 'Shaping Peace Together'. This was reflected in the words of the UN Secretary General: "In this time of physical distancing, we may not be able to stand next to each other, but we must stand together for peace".

While COVID-19 impacted the event, there were 75 people in attendance and the lecture was live streamed from the Cathedral. Professor Gillian Triggs presented her speech from Geneva, where she is working as the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection in the Office of the High Commission for Refugees. She highlighted the importance of providing support during the COVID pandemic to the millions of people already displaced from their homes as a result of war, persecution, and climate change.

The University of Queensland School of Political Science and International Studies and the Rotary Peace Centre presented two Celebrating Queensland Agents of Peace Awards. The first award went to Sr Wendy Flannery, Vice President UNAA QLD, for her work as a strong activist for climate justice, women's education and human rights. The second award went to the Queensland Programme of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASST) for their provision of services to refugees, including those who survived torture or war related trauma.

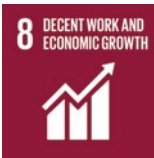


75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN

24 October 2020

UNAA QLD celebrated the 75th anniversary of the UN with the Annual Doug Everingham Lecture with Kevin Rudd AM. The annual lecture honours the contributions of Doug Everingham, former Labor Member for Capricornia and Minister for Health in the Whitlam Government and long-term supporter of the United Nations.

Over 100 participants joined via Zoom to hear from Kevin Rudd AM; the theme of his lecture was a celebration of the United Nations’ 75th anniversary. Mr Rudd discussed the history of the United Nations, formed out of conflict, with an international commitment for peace, freedom and hope. He highlighted the complex and extensive work of the United Nations, through disaster response, support for refugees, and peacekeepers across the globe. Mr Rudd also discussed the ongoing development of responsive policy to the ever changing demands to maintain The Charter of the United Nations. He noted the important contributions of Australia to the United Nations from its inception with Doc Evatt and Jessie Street, through to the large number of Australians working around the globe. Mr Rudd asked the direct question “where would the world be without the United Nations?”.



MODERN SLAVERY VIRTUAL ROUND TABLES

July – November 2020

Dr Donnell Davis, past-president, UNAA QLD, coordinated a series of five virtual workshops in a joint project with UNAA QLD, Hidden No More, and Soroptimist International Moreton North to focus on SDG 8.7: take immediate and effective measures to end human trafficking and modern slavery.

These workshops included eight international speakers with a combined attendance of over 250 participants from across the world, with the aim of sharing their experiences, research and analysis to educate and challenge responses to the scourge of modern slavery. This series continued work commenced in 2017 and engaged parliamentarians, academics, lawyers, NGOs, as well as members of UNAA QLD and Soroptimist International.

The final report focused on seven policy areas with a series of recommendations for action: Human Rights, Economy, Industrial Relations, Ethical Labour, Ethical Goods, International Systems, End Modern Slavery. The full report was presented at SOWN and CSW 65.



PEACEKEEPERS CEREMONY

29 May 2021

The UN blue helmet is a symbol of hope and peace to millions of people. Australia boasts a proud history of serving in peace operations, with more than 65,000 personnel serving in over 30 countries.

On 29 May 2021, UNAA QLD hosted the annual Peacekeepers Ceremony to honour the personnel who have served and sacrificed their lives in the global effort to build and restore peace. Claire Moore, President of UNAA QLD, welcomed over 70 guests including representatives from local government including the Brisbane Lord Mayor and Members of Parliament from State and Federal Government. Together, dignitaries, the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association and members of local community groups expressed their appreciation and thanked peacekeepers for their work to liberate countries from places of conflict.

Veronica Henderson, President of the Brisbane Bougainville Community Group, reflected on the history of Bougainville and their call for peace during a time of conflict. In 1994 an Australian-led peacekeeping force was established during the Bougainville Civil War, to resolve the conflict between the Papua New Guinea government and the Bougainville Revolutionary Army.

More than 3,900 UN peacekeepers have lost their lives while serving under the UN flag, including 102 last year. We are forever in debt to the service of these individuals, and it is vital we recognise the work of peacekeepers who risk their lives each day in the pursuit of peace. UNAA QLD thanks all attendees who participated in the 2021 Brisbane Peacekeepers Ceremony. Together we appreciate and remember the forgotten frontline soldiers who put their lives on the line for those who are denied the most basic human rights





SOUTH AUSTRALIA



**75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UN**
October 2020

Reflections from Louise Aubin **UNHCR Representative in Australia and the Pacific**

Great things happen when we work together.

There could not have been a better illustration of what modern and inclusive multilateralism looks like and can achieve than the networked communities I was privileged to visit in Adelaide, South Australia in early November.

At the center, a dynamic UNAA SA led by the unique drive of the formidable Lidia Moretti, President UNAA SA and an impressive list of prominent UNAA SA's Advisors, promotes Sustainable Development Goals by acting as catalyst for a number of diverse community initiatives.

As a demonstration of the UNAA's ingenuity, the United Nations' 75th anniversary could not have been more appropriately celebrated: an array of guests representing business, aboriginal communities, political and diplomatic spheres, cultural and gastronomical advocates, all shared a generously hosted Sunday lunch in an ambience of friendship.

Each guest was able to speak to efforts in philanthropy, community-based work, innovative and inclusive businesses and employment, or simply in supporting the values and mission of the UN. If a city could demonstrate what global leadership can look like, Adelaide shows the way, simply and impressively, by doing things well at home. As an official Refugee Welcome Zone, the city proudly celebrates the diversity of its communities and the social, cultural and economic contributions that migrants and refugees make.



The morning I spent discussing with refugee leaders and staff at the Australian Migrant Resource Centre was inspiring: the determination of newly arrived migrants joined with committed professionals form the basis for successful integration. The warm welcome I received from Lord Mayor Sandy Verschoor was in keeping with South Australia's tradition of welcome.

However short, my visit to South Australia will have had a lasting impression on what I believe makes the United Nations: individuals and communities, helped by caring leadership, doing extraordinary things in support of one another.



UNAA SA celebrated Harmony Day on the sands of the Adelaide Sailing Club, West Beach. Guests dressed in their national costume and were all invited to join in artist Andrew Baines' surrealist installation, where he envisaged the crowd holding up an inflatable balloon of Mother Earth together. Guests were spectacularly costumed: a colourful and varied spectrum from the rococo finery of Italian Carabinieri, the elaborate pleated silks and headdresses of Indian Odissi dancers, the Aussie beach t-shirted girls and blokes, smartly dressed couples in suits, colourful and flowing African outfits and so much more.

Guests and visiting officials were welcomed by President of the UNAA SA Lidia Moretti and the City of West Torrens Mayor Mr Michael Coxon, resplendent in Mayoral finery with a traditional blessing and Welcome to Country by much-loved Kaurna Elder Uncle Moogy. Guests posed for photos as they linked elbows to encircle the Earth. People all joined in to dance corroboree-style around the Globe, led by Minister for Cultural Affairs Hon. Jing Lee MLC. It was a splendid community experience and brought attention to the work of the UNAA SA in building strong ties between nations and a vision of world harmony to the city of Adelaide.





VICTORIA



INDIGENOUS AND ABORIGINAL PEOPLES RIGHTS FILM AND PANEL DISCUSSION

This event focused on the inequalities experienced by First Nations communities across Australia. Through a panel discussion, the event aimed to highlight the inequalities experienced by Aboriginal communities in Australia and to provide a safe platform for Aboriginal Australian peoples to voice their opinions and perspectives.

The panel discussion centred on the documentary “In My Blood It Runs”. Facilitated by a Young Professionals member with two panelists, the panelists reflected on their, as well as the larger communities’, experiences with inequality in Australia.

The discussion concluded with positive ways for allies and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to move forward together. This event was timely, as it was hosted after the Black Lives Matter march in Australia and the United States of America.



VIRTUAL DIPLOMACY AT THE US EMBASSY

An exclusive virtual tabletop simulation was run by the Young Professionals and co-hosted with the United States Consulate General Melbourne. The event offered participants the opportunity to experience what it would be like working in a consulate office, including insight into the various types of issues that would emerge. Participants were assigned real roles and responsibilities inside the US embassy and participants were tasked to find resolutions with problems they were given.



COVID-19 AND ITS IMPACT ON NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR

Co-hosted by the Young Professionals and 180 Degrees Consulting, a panel discussion “the future of not-for-profits: surviving and thriving in a post coronavirus (COVID-19) world” discussed how the not-for-profit sector had been impacted by COVID-19 and how not-for-profit organisations have had to adapt their strategies and workspace due to the pandemic.

The event aimed to strengthen awareness and collaboration with the not-for-profit sector, to highlight how different not-for-profit organisations align with the Sustainable Development Goals. The event also brought to light to the challenges that not-for-profit organisations have had to face, including persisting with efforts to deliver socially beneficial work while adapting their methods to continue their efforts. Panelists consisted of representatives who worked in mental health, youth, homelessness sectors, as well as brain cancer research and advocacy.



INTERNATIONAL CAREERS WEBINAR

A virtually run webinar, the interactive international careers forum focused on connecting Young Professionals with professionals and experts working in the international space. Mentors working in government, the not-for-profit sector, the United Nations and the private sector were invited to mentor participants and offer career advice and insights into pursuing humanitarian careers. The event offered an opportunity for participants interested in an international career to learn more about career pathways and engage with professionals in the field.

A highlight for mentees was that the mentors had experience not only in different sectors but in different countries. With the benefit of having zoom breakout rooms, participants were able to virtually enter a mentor’s room if they wanted to speak to them and learn more of their area of interest.

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS WEBINAR

11 May 2021
6PM AEST

United Nations Association of Australia Young Professionals

Sofia Cardona Huerta
UN High Commissioner for Refugees
Senior Protection Assistant

Alec Wagner
Purple Mai'a Foundation
Director of Operations

Dr Louise Olliff
Refugee Council of Australia
Senior Policy Advisor

Kumi Milliken
Humanitarian Affairs Asia
UN Peace Ambassador

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



INTERVIEW WITH AUSTRALIAN RACE DISCRIMINATION COMMISSIONER, MR CHIN TAN

15 July 2020

UNAA WA President Dr Sandy Chong interviewed the Race Discrimination Commissioner of the Australian Human Rights Commission, to discuss racial prejudice during the COVID-19 pandemic. The interview covers the complexities of systemic racism and possible solutions for it. Chin notes that assimilation does not reduce prejudice, nor does diversity automatically imply multiculturalism. In order for the former to transit into the latter, there must be a commitment to understanding the differences between cultures and bonding rather than merely living with individuals of other cultures.



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ROTARY CLUB OF PERTH

27 August 2020

27 August 2020 marked an important milestone for two long-standing non-profit organisations in Western Australia – the establishment of partnership between the Rotary Club of Perth and the UNAA WA. This partnership aims to create new opportunities and a stronger network for members of both the Rotary Club and UNAA WA as both organisations celebrate significant milestones of their own in 2020 – the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Rotary Club, and the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, which founding members included Rotarians back in 1945. President of UNAA WA, Dr Sandy Chong, received the Honorary Membership on behalf of the UNAA WA from Jill Dawson, President of The Rotary Club of Perth, with an induction speech given by Graham Peden, former District Governor of the Rotary Club in Western Australia.





The UNAA WA celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations; ‘the future we want, the UN we need’ was the motto of the year.

The event was attended by over 170 guests including Minister of Trade, Hon. Peter Tinley AM MLA, Grace Forrest, Goodwill Ambassador of the UNAA, dignitaries from over seven consulates, sponsors, community partners, and members of the WA division. The event also gave recognition to the UN Day Award winners in Human Rights, Environment, Gender Equality, Education and Young Professionals.

A virtual address was also given by Michael Møller, the 12th Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) who highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on countries and the need to step up our efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so that no one is left behind.

The event presented a beautiful mix of traditional Chinese and Australian music, showcasing the diversity and integration between East and West cultures in the occasion, highlighting the importance of multilateralism, solidarity and friendship in the community.





UNAA WA RECEIVES STATE GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

21 January 2021

The UNAA WA was presented a Certificate of Recognition from the Hon. Paul Papalia, Minister for Multicultural Interests at the Constitution Centre. The event was attended by over 60 leaders of the multicultural and small business communities with Minister extending his appreciation to the community leaders for the dedication and hard work in ensuring safety and helping the state to a steady recovery.



“This pandemic has disrupted lives and as Western Australians, we have been fortunate to be able to give back actively to those who have less,” said UNAA WA President Dr Sandy Chong. “This recognition is dedicated to our volunteers and partners who have been most selfless and committed to our cause in building an inclusive and resilient society. We aim to continue the work we do in 2021 so that no one is left behind.”



SDG BUSINESS FORUM at EY: ‘A NEW GLOBALISM & ACHIEVING THE SDGs’

3 June 2021



The UNAA WA hosted a panel discussion at Ernst & Young (EY) titled “A New Globalism & Achieving the SDGs”. The forum highlighted the definition of globalism and its role in the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

“Globalism isn’t meant to be about pushing power upward toward a central ideology/doctrine but pushing it downwards to the individual level where we can all agree on something like the SDGs,” said Adam Carrel, Partner of EY. Adam Carrel, Partner of EY. Both Professors of Sustainability and Sociology, Peter Newman and Anu Rammohan firmly believed that the responsibility of achieving the SDGs should not only lie on the shoulders of one or two countries; it is incumbent on all member states to work in synergy towards the goals. The event was attended by over 90 guests and concluded with a passionate and engaging networking session after.





UNAA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

The UNAA Young Professionals Network (YPN) is a national network of young volunteers, working together to inform, inspire and engage the next generation of Australia's leaders supporting the work and values of the UNAA and the United Nations. In 2021, the YPN is celebrating its 10th anniversary, having launched in Sydney on UN Day, 24 October 2011.

In 2020/21 the YPN worked across state borders to support teams in lockdown as in-person events suffered from rolling COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions on gatherings. To do this, the YPN launched the 'Sustainability in Action' online event series, celebrating 2021 as the United Nations International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development. Its first national online program, the joint national-state Sustainability in Action series was launched in May 2021, and is followed by each active state and territory hosting its own unique sustainability-related event online for viewers across the country. The series launched in May 2021, with Queensland delivering its installment in June, and Western Australia, Victoria, Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales delivering theirs across the following months.



SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION: UNAA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NATIONAL EVENT SERIES LAUNCH

12 May 2021 (online)

Professor Veena Sahajwalla, internationally recognised materials scientist, engineer, and recycling revolutionary, kicked off the national Sustainability in Action series, sharing her incredible story and passion for all things sustainability and innovation!

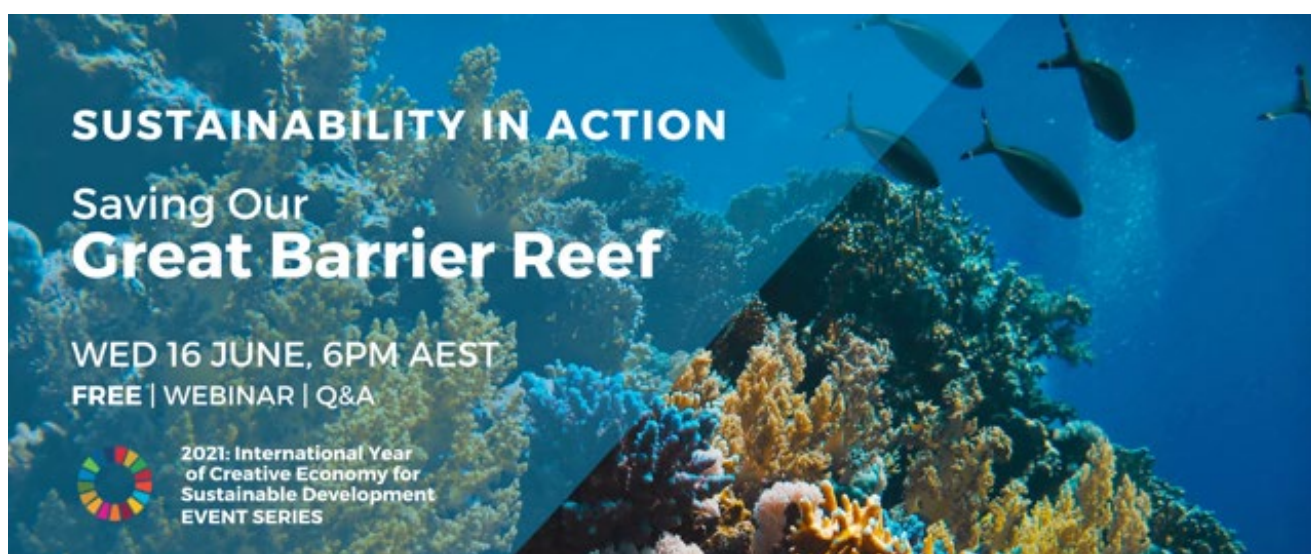


SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION: SAVING OUR GREAT BARRIER REEF, UNAA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS QUEENSLAND

16 June 2021 (online)

On Wednesday 16 June 2021, Queensland hosted their event as part of the Sustainability in Action series. Focused on saving our Great Barrier Reef, our four expert panelists brought the very best of their experience and knowledge to the (online) table.

Professor Peter Mumby, the University of Queensland, Jen McWhorter, PhD candidate at the Universities of Queensland and Exeter, Gavin Singleton, Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation and Yirrganydji Land and Sea Ranger Program, and Hulton King, the Program Executive/Research Manager at Reef and Rainforest Research Centre discussed the critical issues facing the Great Barrier Reef, ways we can all help, and even their favourite types of coral!



United Nations
Association
of Australia
Young Professionals





‘SOCIAL THURSDAYS’, UNAA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WESTERN AUSTRALIA Monthly

Social Thursdays is a monthly networking event hosted by UNAA Young Professionals WA and runs on the second Thursday of every month. It’s an opportunity for young professionals from all industries to casually network over an after-work drink. The April 2021 event was hosted at Bobeche Cocktail bar in the CBD. We had another great turnout of both new and regular faces.



INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, UNAA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS QUEENSLAND 23 April 2021

UNAA Young Professionals Qld had a great turnout on World Creativity and Innovation Day, Wednesday 21 April for our first speaker event of 2021, held at The Precinct in Fortitude Valley – home of Advance Queensland. Our three expert panelists delivered informative presentations and shared in a dynamic Q&A around their work in start-ups, discussing the tech industry’s biggest leaps forward in achieving the SDG’s – whilst not shying away from calling out its biggest challenges!

Leanne Kemp, Founder and CEO of Everledger, Craig O’Kane MBE, the Director of the Office of the Queensland Chief Entrepreneur, and Camille Socquet-Clerc, founder of Bloom Impact Investing shared their passion for sustainability, gave critical insight into topics including blockchain, impact investing, greenwashing, and leadership for sustainability.



YOGA FOR PEACE, UNAA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS QUEENSLAND Monthly

Every month, UNAA Young Professionals QLD proudly partners with St John’s Cathedral in Brisbane to present the Yoga for Peace event series. Beginners, intermediates, and Yoga experts of all ages gather to celebrate peace, do some yoga, and raise funds for the Romero Centre, a local charity that connects asylum seekers living in Brisbane with practical support (like food and shelter), legal connections, English classes, medical care, trauma counselling, community events and more. The classes continue to be popular under the expert guidance of Sivananda trained Yoga professional, Yasmeen Natanya Ananda.





UNAA YOUTH

UN Youth Australia is a national youth-led organisation affiliated with the UNAA that aims to educate and empower young Australians on global issues. UN Youth Australia has been actively adapting to a world shaped by the pandemic, focusing on running its major activities online and innovatively using technology like Zoom to ensure that these activities provide as much value to delegates as they possibly can.

EVATT NATIONAL FINALS

UN Youth's National Evatt Competition is Australia's largest debating and diplomacy competition. The Evatt Competition gives students hands-on insight into the operation of United Nations Security Council and exposure to some of the most important questions facing the international community. Throughout 2020, Evatt Competition rounds were held across the country in every division of UN Youth. Volunteers in Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland developed innovative ways to adapt the traditional Evatt Competition format into an online Zoom based competition. Almost 1400 students participated across the country, tackling some of the most pressing issues of our times. The Evatt National Finals were held online from the 1-5 December 2020. The winners were Patrick and Rowan from Victoria.

VOICE NATIONAL FINALS

Voice is a public speaking and problem solving competition where students in years 7-10 are given a significant problem in the form of a question and tasked with solving it. They then present that solution in a short pitch to the judges, and answer impromptu questions defending their solutions. Throughout 2020, Voice Competition rounds were held in almost every division with over 500 students competing across the country. The 2021 Voice National Finals were held online via Zoom in a hybrid model (wherein delegates gathered together in person in their division's capital) from the 15-17 April 2021. Examples of questions posed at the 2021 Voice National Finals include "How can we hold major polluters to account?" and "What can we do to decrease the disproportionate level of indigenous incarceration in Australia?" The junior division winner was Aiva from Western Australia and the senior division winner was Eujiny from New South Wales.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

National Conference is UN Youth Australia's oldest ongoing initiative. Divisions have been holding state and territory conferences for decades, and the first National Conference was hosted in 1963. After not holding a National Conference in 2020 due to the pandemic, National Conference 2021 was held in a hybrid online format from 4-6 July. Delegates participated in a series of workshops, model UN debates and Interactive Problem Solving activities themed around environmental sustainability and justice, and listened to speaker panels from climate change experts and young climate activists.

YOUNG DIPLOMATS TOUR

With the inability to easily travel internationally throughout 2021 and for the foreseeable future, UN Youth Australia is adapting its traditional international activities (tours) into online programs. The first of these was the Young Diplomats Tour. In May 2021, over the span of three weekends, 24 delegates engaged with the complex realities of diplomacy in the 21st century with a focus on the development of democracy in Europe. The delegates completed workshops and interactive activities and had the opportunity to engage with international experts in order to learn more about the history of diplomacy and democracy in a European context.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Lucy Stronach is the Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations for 2021. The Youth Representative program is run by UN Youth Australia in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Over the year, Lucy endeavoured to consult with young people across the country in her Listening Tour to ask them "What would Australia look like if young people were the key drivers of decision making?". A particular highlight of the Listening Tour was the extensive engagement with regional communities in the Northern Territory and Northern Western Australia. Although the 2021 Listening Tour had to be prematurely concluded prior to visiting New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania due to extended lockdowns, Lucy was still able to represent the voices and concerns of young Australians at numerous online events.



WFUNA REPORT

Jay Jethwa

Australian representative to WFUNA

Ex-Vice Chair and current Executive Committee Member WFUNA

Although the adjustment to COVID-19 has been a challenge, WFUNA remains strong in our mission to support the goals of the United Nations and make the world a better place.

The following are some of the activities of WFUNA during 2020 and 2021:

1. CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUES WITH THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)

To uphold transparency and accountability at the UNSC amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Civil Society Dialogues are held online. The events are broadcast live on UN Web TV and are promoted on social media to allow for greater access to the work of the Security Council and to promote openness and transparency within the UN system. Each month, UNSC Presidents discuss their Programme of Work, priorities for the month, challenges ahead, and key considerations for their presidency. Civil society organizations are invited to inquire about specific issues as related to the UNSC, and, in particular, that month's Programme of Work.

I took part in the Dialogues, which included dialogues with the following Presidents during 2020 and part of 2021:

Amb. Jerry Matthews Matjila of South Africa

Amb. Tarek Ladeb of Tunisia

Amb. Richard Mills of USA

Amb. Dinh Quy Dang of Vietnam

Amb. Inga Rhonda King from St. Vincent and
Grenadines

Amb. Nicolas de Rivi re of France

Amb. Abdou Abarry of Niger

Amb. Zhang Jun of China

Amb. Jos  Singer of the Dominican Republic

Amb. Sven J rgensen of Estonia

Amb. Marc Pecsteen de Buytsverve of Belgium

2. SDG16+

The 16+ Forum co-hosted an unofficial side event and Learning Lab on 14 July during the 2020 High-level Political Forum. The event, entitled Accelerating SDG 16+ Action to Restore Human Wellbeing & Build Back Better, explored the ways in which Sustainable Development Goal 16+ can and should form the basis of pandemic response and recovery efforts, effectively helping us all build back better. The event also served as the launch of the global [SDG 16+ Community's Joint Statement and Call to Action](#) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The statement reinforces the need to focus on the implementation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda during this crisis and outlines concrete steps that can be taken to help further the movement for peaceful, just and inclusive societies for all. The 16+ Forum is preparing for the next Annual Showcase, which is scheduled to take place in San Jos , Costa Rica from 6-9 December this year.

3. MISSION POSSIBLE:

Mission Possible Online keeps expanding. Since we launched in April 2020, students from more than 30 schools on five continents have signed up to our “Kick-start Your Action” and “Youth Connect” programs to develop personal action plans and international collaborations to address one of the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. GLOBAL UN SPOTLIGHT TRAINING PROGRAM

The Global UN Spotlight Training Program is created with the goal of promoting effective engagement of youth in the UN’s work through interactive on-line courses. It provides students with hands-on training and practical knowledge on how to effectively participate in the UN System. This program is highly successful with more than 250 students participating.

5. WFUNA ONLINE PROGRAMS:

Many schools and borders remain closed during COVID-19, but WFUNA’s online programs had been made accessible to everyone. We currently have a range of programs for high school and university students.

6. CITYPRENEURS

This is WFUNA’s flagship innovation initiative. Young innovators with great ideas to solve city based problems with solutions linked to the Sustainable Development Goals are connected to a global network, access to decision makers and support to start up their solution. WFUNA partnered with Techstars for their first ever Sustainability Challenge series, and the second competition is underway.

7. WFUNA INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS (WIMUN)

In the first ever WIMUN online conference, WIMUN online 2020, was awarded the Best Medium Conference Worldwide 2020.

8. CHINA ASSOCIATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

I was invited by the China Association of Higher Education to its 2020 Annual International Forum on Higher Education held in Zhengzhou, China. There were 1,200 attendees from 27 countries. The topic of my video presentation was “*Higher Education Governance Structure Post Covid-19 – Time to incorporate the UN’s SDGs*”. There were over 1.55 million online viewers and 8.6 million “likes” by the end of the forum. I have been invited again to present at the 2021 Forum taking place in Beijing in November this year.

9. POSTPONEMENT OF THE 43RD PLENARY ASSEMBLY

The 43rd WFUNA Plenary Assembly due to be held in Tbilisi, Georgia in November in 2021 is postponed to 7-11 November 2022. The challenges associated with the Covid-19 situation and the lack the availability of Covid-19 vaccine in many parts of the world make it difficult to plan and hold the Plenary Assembly this year.



NATIONAL OFFICE

The Board extends their thanks to Lachlan Hunter, our Executive Director, for his work leading the National Office. Lachlan's contract concluded in September 2020. In his time in the role Lachlan supported the Board to modernise the organisation, building a contemporary policy framework, reaching out to partners and building new relationships.

We also extend our appreciation to Samantha O'Shaughnessy, who spent six months with us as Head of Administration working to establish our volunteer National Office. Through the leadership of Samantha O'Shaughnessy, Head of Administration we inducted a team of volunteers who are now working with us to staff our National Office and activate our national networks.

- Esra Akcamci, Governance and Policy Coordinator supports the work of the National Board working with Susan McHattie and Mario D'Elia
- James Puckridge and Visna Hemachandra, Membership and Operations Coordinators are keeping on top of our engagement with Divisions and stakeholders working with Susan McHattie.
- Bree Wellington, Academic Coordinator supports the Academic Network membership and program working with Justin Howden.
- Phoebe Ashton, Alumni Network Coordinator supports the Alumni Network and program working with Brian Gleeson.
- Erin Dickson, Head of Communications reviewed our Communications Strategy and implementation, working with Dominica Williamson our Communications Coordinator who coordinated our regular newsletter, working with Melissa King, Joel Lindsay and Dr Sandy Chong.
- The Parliamentary Friends of the UNAA is in recess until the next Parliament.

In the course of this year the Board prepared and began implementation of a Work Plan, focused on a subset of the strategies in our Strategic Plan 2018-23. The Board is taking a practical approach, recognising that we are working where passion meets capacity to:

- focus our work on partnerships and resources on the UN & Australia Sustainable Partnership Forum
- support our members interests in promoting the UN and programs through renewal of our public policy statements guided by a Public Policy Committee and expertise from the Academic Network
- reactivate our national networks, the Alumni Network, the Academic Network and prepare for reactivation of the Parliamentary Friends Network in the next Federal Parliament.
- continue to support the work of our Young Professionals Network
- convene the Climate Change Collaboration Network
- strengthen our communication, governance and operational capacity.

The Board took an active role in the UN & Sustainable Partnerships Forum in April. Working parties contributed to the development of Partnership relationships, framed our key messages for the Forum and drafted the Communique which was published on our website, promoted on our socials, and distributed to speakers, participants, members, through this newsletter and to Australian Members of Parliament and Senators.

DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

	Meetings attended	Total meetings	Total %
Mario D'Elia National President	10	10	100%
Dr Patricia Jenkins President UNAA NSW Vice President, Divisions	10	10	100%
Justin Howden Vice President, Independents	8	10	80%
Louisa Minney National Secretary to September '20	3	3	100%
Susan McHattie National Secretary from October '20	7	7	100%
Liesel Meinecke National Treasurer	6	10	60%
Brian Gleeson President UNAA ACT	10	10	100%
Rama Jayaraj President UNAA NT to September '20	4	5	80%
Kate Heelan President UNAA NT from October '20	6	7	85%
Claire Moore President UNAA QLD	10	10	100%
Lidia Moretti President UNAA SA	10	10	100%
Andrew Hewett Representative UNAA VIC	9	10	90%
Dr Sandy Chong President UNAA WA	6	10	60%
Grace Cliffe Observer YPN to September '20	4	4	100%
Joel Lindsay Representative YPN from October '20	6	6	100%
Cassady Swinbourne President UN Youth to October '20	4	4	100%
Georgina Ryan President UN Youth from November '20	6	6	100%
Richard Gruppetta Independent	8	10	80%
Melissa King Independent	9	10	90%



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements cover the United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated (UNAA Inc) only and for the reporting year of 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. The UNAA Inc is the National body of the Federated UNAA group. The UNAA Inc operates as a registered Australian charity promoting the work of the United Nations in Australia. The UNAA does not receive financial support and operates independently from the United Nations and the Australian Government.

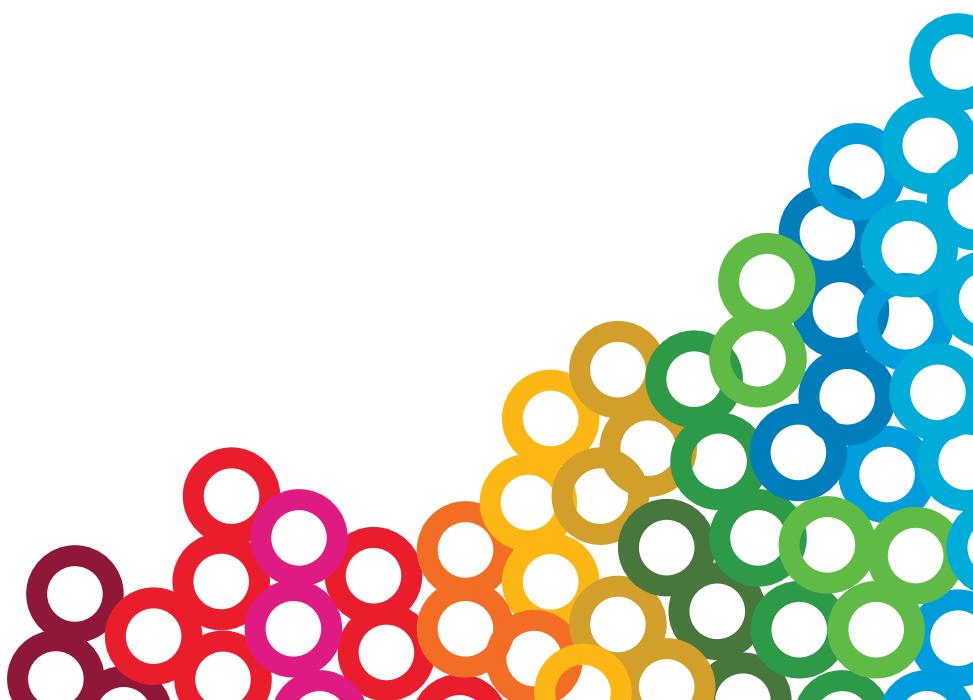
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	FY2021	FY2020
CURRENT ASSETS		
CASH ON HAND	\$121,811	\$142,111
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$550	\$2,792
PREPAID EXPENSES	\$0	\$1,748
ACCRUED REVENUE		\$0
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$122,361	\$146,652
FIXED ASSETS	\$585	\$897
TOTAL ASSETS	\$122,946	\$147,549
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
TRADE PAYABLES	\$226	\$473
TAX LIABILITIES	\$624	\$3,578
LEAVE PROVISIONS	\$3,448	\$10,265
ACCRUED EXPENSES	\$0	\$0
DEFERRED REVENUE	\$0	\$0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$4,298	\$14,316
NET ASSETS	\$118,648	\$133,233
CURRENT YEAR SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-\$14,585	-\$83,524
RETAINED FUNDS	\$133,233	\$216,757
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS	\$118,648	\$133,233

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021

	FY2021	FY2020
INCOME		
GRANTS RECEIVED	\$0	\$12,500
PROGRAM INCOME RECEIVED	\$14,881	\$27,667
OTHER INCOME RECEIVED	\$36,534	\$37,647
TOTAL INCOME	\$51,415	\$77,814
EXPENDITURE		
PROGRAM & ACTIVITY EXPENDITURE	\$2,283	\$15,435
EMPLOYMENT EXPENSES	\$55,505	\$128,296
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	\$7,900	\$17,296
DEPRECIATION EXPENSES	\$312	\$312
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$65,999	\$161,338
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-\$14,585	-\$83,524





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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, 2021. 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 2021, and income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June, 2021;
- II. to satisfy the requirements of subsection 72(2) of the Associations Incorporation Act to be dealt with in financial statements.
- III. is compliant with Division 60 of the Act.

Les Ellis & Associates Pty

Les Ellis FIPA
23 September 2021





**United
Nations
Association
of Australia**

UNAA National Office

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**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

*The UNAA acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country across Australia
and pay our respect to them, their culture and Elders past, present and emerging.*