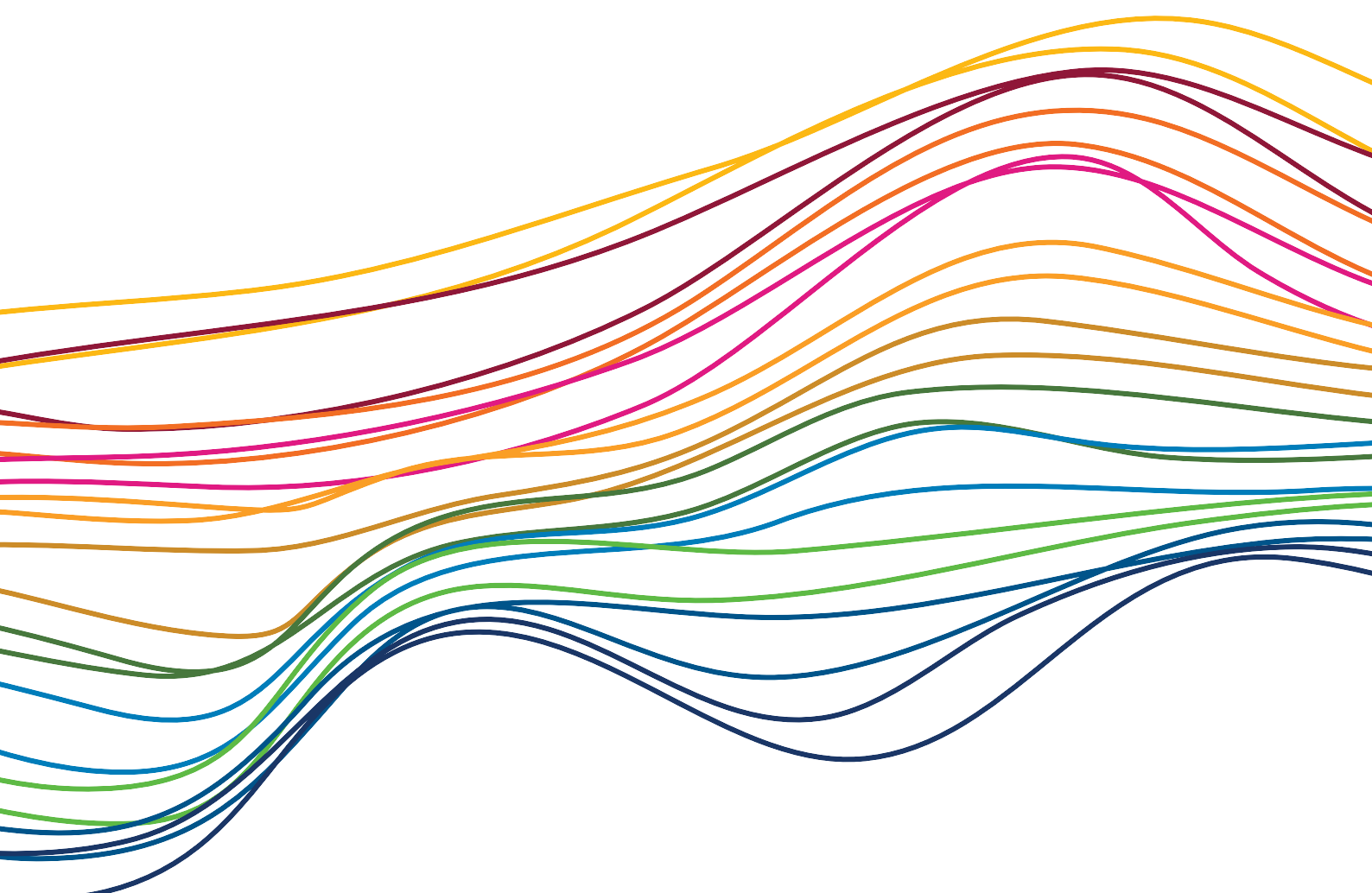


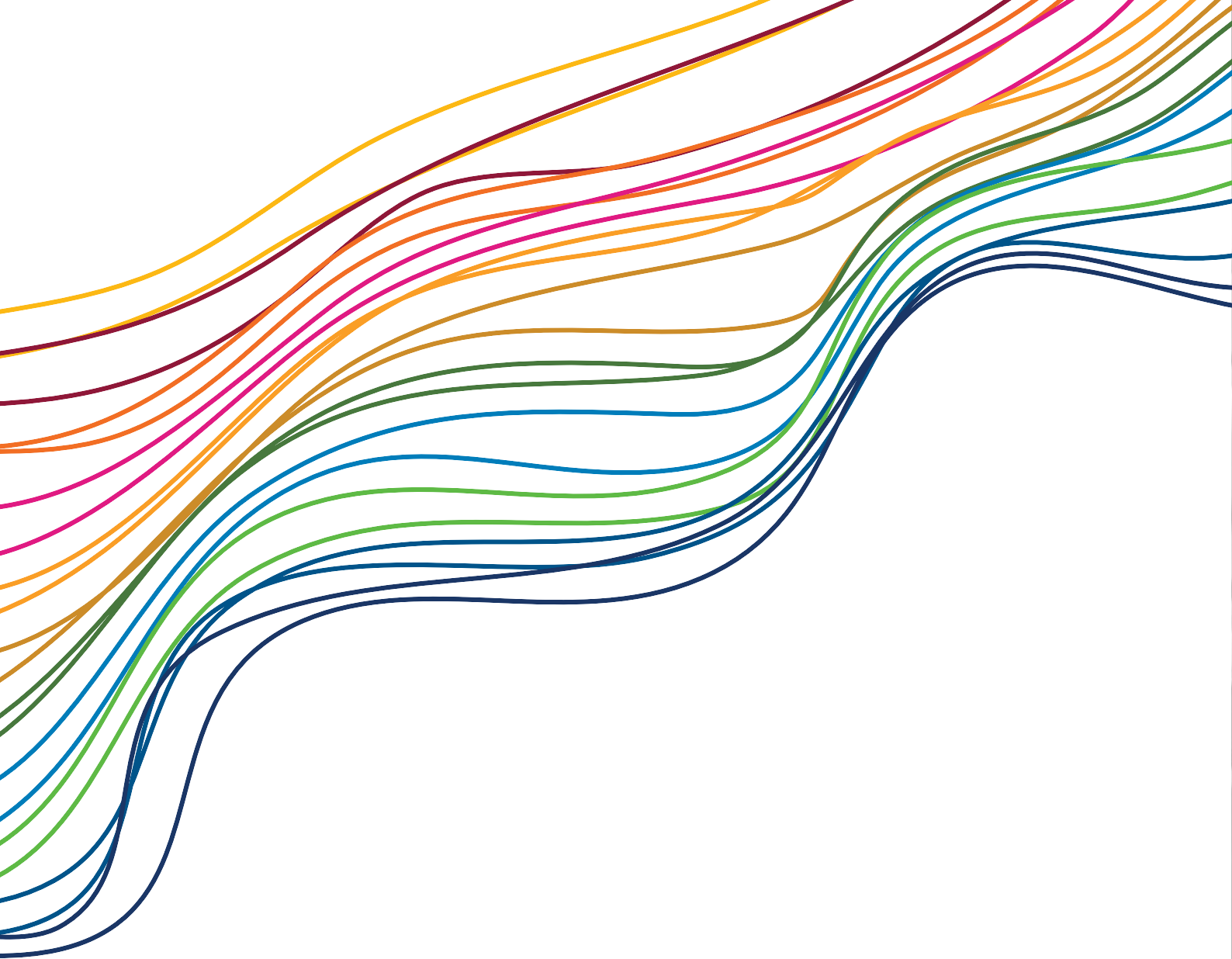


United  
Nations  
Association  
of Australia



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021/2022



**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 UNAA

The United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) was established in 1946 to promote the value and work of the United Nations. We serve as an active 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.

## ABOUT US

The UNAA consists of hundreds of volunteers, many more members and thousands of supporters across Australia. Our teams throughout Australia mobilise these networks to organise events and activities in support of the UN and Australia's role as a member state.

Cross-sector collaboration is central to our mission. We work closely with government, affiliate UN organisations, businesses, universities and research organisations and fellow for purpose organisations to help educate and engage Australian citizens and leaders in the UN's vital work.

UN Youth Australia, a national youth-led organisation that educates and empowers young Australians on matters concerning the UN and international affairs is an affiliated member.

We are 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 work with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and state governments.

With the support of these organisations and our Patrons, 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, we need you to focus attention on the role of the UN, and Australia's role within it.*





inform

inspire

engage



# NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our organisation is a reflection of the diversity and passion of the Australians who join us. Australians who value being connected to, informed about and inspired by the things we can achieve by working together. Working here in Australia and connected with people across the world to make our shared world fairer, safer and more sustainable.

We live in an imperfect, complex and challenging world, now in rolling crises. The crises we face are real and existential and seem to be more challenging every year. The world, and we, are strengthened by the actions we take as global citizens. We are heartened by the efforts of those who take a positive and constructive lead. Our actions and bonds are needed now, more than ever.

The UN we work for is now repeatedly sounding the alarm. It is actively reshaping itself for our times and these challenges. The Secretary General Antonio Guterres is leading a comprehensive change of the multilateral system. This reshaping is engaging with Member States, thought leaders, young people, civil society and the United Nations system and its many partners.

*One message rang through loud and clear: the choices we make, or fail to make, today could result in further breakdown, or a breakthrough to a greener, better, safer future. The choice is ours to make; but we will not have this chance again...*

*Humanity has shown time and time again that it is capable of great achievements when we work together. This common agenda is our road map to recapture this positive spirit and begin rebuilding our world and mending the trust in one another we need so desperately at this moment in history. Now is the time to take the next steps in our journey together, in solidarity with and for all people.*

To demonstrate the strength of engaging young people now in the decisions that affect our future, the UN Envoy for Youth and the United Nations Foundation collaborated to produce *Our Future Agenda – a vision and plan for future generations*, led by young people, with and for young

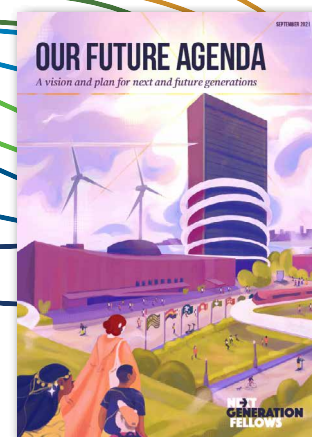
people. It is very easy for us to celebrate the vibrancy of children and young people as future leaders and leaders of our future, it is more critical to encourage and create the space for young leaders to join our decision making tables.

This critical UN work is the context and inspiration for our national programs. UNAA is rebuilding our national capacity, seeking to strengthen our partnerships and our engagement with young people and young professionals.

As I revisit this summary of our activities across 2021 and 2022 I am struck by the diversity and passion. It fills me with confidence for our future that our members make time, relationships and resources available for the work we do together across the country and across generations and cultures.

I extend my congratulations to my colleagues on our National Board who lead these programs and also make time to contribute to our national agenda. Let's celebrate the achievement of these members set out in pages six to nine, thriving in such challenging times.

I also extend my appreciation to my colleagues on the national board who have taken up portfolios in our national program and contributed to our national working parties. This work gives life and vigor to our national organisation and you can see the emerging results of these new ways of working.



Today's young people are forced to confront crises that we did not cause.

It is no wonder that we fear for our futures – and for the futures of our children and grandchildren

But we will not be silenced. We will continue to fight without fear for a more just, resilient, and sustainable world.

It is time for leaders to catch up, or risk being left behind.

The world must act for the next generation – nearly half the world's population who are under the age of 30 – and for future generations – the 1 billion people who are yet to be born this century.

It is time to reimagine the United Nations and its role in the world.

To trust in our energy and innovation.

And to join forces with us as we unleash our future agenda.

Next Generation Fellows. *Our Future Agenda*. Washington DC, United Nations Foundation, 2021. <https://ourfutureagenda.org/report> Next Generation Fellows: Aishwarya Machani (born: 1998), Agnes Cynthia Amoding (1997), Amélie J. Mariage (1991), Aya-Maria Rouhana (2002), Jevanic Henry (1997), Kartik Sawhney (1994), Poonam Ghimire (1995), and Valeria Colunga (2000). Editorial: Belle George (1998) Illustrations: Zaynab Kriouech (2001) Design: Lewis Broadway (1993)



As we move forward I see our focus in our national program clustering in three themes:

1

Engaging Australians in the world we want to live in described in the Sustainable Development Goals

2

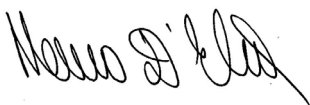
Raising awareness of the UN by promoting Our Common Agenda

3

Promoting the role we can play as global citizens, and the role the Australian Government can play as a leading member state.

I also want to acknowledge our Office Holders and Independent Directors who bring focus and skill to our governance, volunteer office, financial management and communications, contributing across our national programs and to the reshaping of our wellbeing policies.

Whilst we all contribute individually to the work of UNAA in Australia in our distinct roles, it is how we work together as the national board that has the greatest impact. This year was a year of dialogue around the structures we work within, how we show leadership and the need to focus our efforts to increase our capacity and impact. This dialogue will continue, in constructive ways, as we revisit our strategy for 2023 and beyond in the coming year.



**Kind Regards,  
Mario D'Elia**

This report is a celebration and reflection of the diversity and passion of the Australians who join us. Australians who value being connected to, informed about and inspired by the things we can achieve by working together. On behalf of the National Board I extend our appreciation to all our members, partners, sponsors, volunteers and guests who bring our organisation to life. Thank you for the contribution you make.







# OUR WORK – NATIONAL PROGRAMS

## OUR PATRONS

Our Patrons, His Excellency the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) and Lady Hurley continued their valued support for our work this year and on UN Day extended their appreciation of the work of the UN, and the work of the leaders, members and volunteers of the UNAA

*I am pleased to join you in celebrating UN Day. This is the day where we reflect on the achievements and challenges facing us as international citizens, and participants in global governance. It is through our active participation in the UN that Australia joins other nations in building a safer, fairer, more sustainable world.*

*Last year the UN celebrated 75 years of achievement and challenge with an open consultation on what is important to people around the world. In September this year the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres released the result of that consultation. Our Common Agenda seeks to ensure that the United Nations is fit for a new era, by strengthening global governance, focusing on the future and renewing the social contract.*



*Antonio Guterres addressed the most recent General Assembly (22 September) in stark terms. He raised a call to arms for the nations of the world to work together to build peace, address climate change, reduce inequality between rich and poor within countries and between countries, ensure equality for women, eliminate the digital divide and bring young people into a seat at the table.*

*These are themes that I know you are pursuing through your work and interest in the United Nations Association of Australia.*

*I value the opportunities afforded to young people to lead through UN Youth and the Young Professionals Network – we are making decisions today with huge implications for their future and I agree with the Secretary General that we need young people at the table. I see Lucy Stronach has spoken with thousands of young people across Australia in her role as Australia's Youth Representative 2021. I am particularly pleased she had the opportunity to bring these themes to the forefront of your UN & Australia Sustainable Partnership Forum in conversation with UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed.*

*I took great interest in your very successful UN & Australia Sustainable Partnerships Forum in April this year. The Sustainable Development Goals provide an excellent blueprint for Building Back Better and an important frame for our international development work and our policy here at home.*

*I applaud the ambition of your Climate Change Collaboration Program, and look forward to the projects emerging that will enable business, community and government to work together towards net zero.*

*I am impressed by the diversity of events, Model UNs and education opportunities you hold across Australia and encourage people to get involved.*

*I know many of you are involved in governance and volunteer roles to enable this rich program, bringing focus to the importance of our roles as international citizens, and our government's role as a leader within our multilateral frameworks. As the Secretary General reminds us, Interdependence is the logic of the twenty first century and the lodestar of the UN.*

*I commend you for your roles in this work, I encourage you to extend your reach, and I look forward to seeing you in person soon.*



*I applaud the ambition of your Climate Change Collaboration Program, and look forward to the projects emerging that will enable business, community and government to work together towards net zero.*



## DFAT - PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MITCH FIFIELD

Mario D'Elia met with Australia's Ambassador to the UN in New York the Hon Mitchell Fifield in early June. The Ambassador is positive about our role in helping him and the UN to promote the UN's policies. He will send us regular updates to include in future newsletters. The Ambassador join events and meetings to share information about his role and aspirations including his work with colleagues from Pacific Island nations.

## UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRE - WELCOME TO DAMIAN CARDONA ONSSES, DIRECTOR UN INFORMATION CENTRE



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres appointed [Damian Cardona Onses](#) of Spain as Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Canberra, Australia. Mr. Cardona has more than 26 years of experience in strategic communications, crisis communications, outreach and campaigns within the United Nations system. UNIC is the principal UN agency within Australia and provides services to Australia and our Pacific neighbours, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Damian joined the UNAA Board meeting in May in the early days of his appointment, to introduce himself and meet our leaders. Damian is a champion of the role of United Nations Associations across the world. During our discussion, he shared his insights, inspirational experiences, and ideas. He is keen to listen to listen and learn as he meets leaders across Australia and the Pacific.

WE AGREED TO WORK TOGETHER ON THREE PRIORITIES:

1

The next UNAA National Forum

2

A community of practice to support the development and sharing between UNAs in Australia and the Pacific

3

A celebration program to recognise UNIC's 75th anniversary in Australia leading up to November 2023.

We welcome Damian and look forward to a warm and productive relationship.



# PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Director Andrew Hewett is the inaugural chair of our Public Policy Committee established in early 2021. In its first full year of operations the Committee finalised two policy statements, initiated work on a number of others, provided advice to the national board on advocacy approaches and engaged members to promote the Sustainable Development Goals to candidates standing for election to Federal Parliament.

Our statement on Australia's relationship with the United Nations follows the research paper prepared by Senuri Perera in 2020 on the *'UN's importance to Australia and the World in an era of COVID-19.'*

THE STATEMENT URGES ALL AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL PARTIES TO:

1

Engage Australian young people with more UN initiatives and streamline programs for Australians to enter the UN family

2

Practically implement gender obligations and the Women, Peace and Security agenda

3

Undertake a greater leadership role on the international stage, supporting multilateral institutions and processes, facilitating collaborations, and sharing science in the pursuit of a safer, fairer, and more sustainable world

4

Better communicate the benefits Australia stands to gain from increasing UN engagement.

Our research shows that Australia has played an important leadership role within the United Nations including during its foundation.

Australia has engaged more with the UN where Australia's

- International interests were prioritized more than bilateral alliances
- National interests were defined broadly
- Domestic politics supported or were not hostile to furthered engagement with the UN
- Federal Government adopted a more internationalist policy outlook.



OUR STATEMENT ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IS AN UPDATE ON OUR STATEMENT PUBLISHED IN 2019. THE NEW STATEMENTS URGES ALL AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL PARTIES TO:

1

Integrate Sustainable Development Goals and targets within domestic and foreign policy and reporting frameworks.

2

Strengthen transparency, collaboration and communication on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals across all foreign and development policy.

3

Fund a secretariat to coordinate national action on the Sustainable Development Goals and develop a national public awareness campaign to increase understanding, engagement, commitment and partnerships to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Across April and May the UNAA focused attention on the Sustainable Development Goals. We supported our members to promote the goals as a Blueprint for domestic and international policy. We highlighted the SDGs in our social media channels, built a [toolkit](#) with a [webinar](#) for members, and profiled the leading research of Professor Robert Hales of Griffith University. See the opinion piece prepared by Chair of our Public Policy Committee Andrew Hewett [here](#) and a detailed analysis of party policies in our [webinar](#). We are continuing to promote the goals and provide information and support to elected members and senators. Our evaluation of this first year of work will inform recommendations on advocacy strategy for the next three years.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

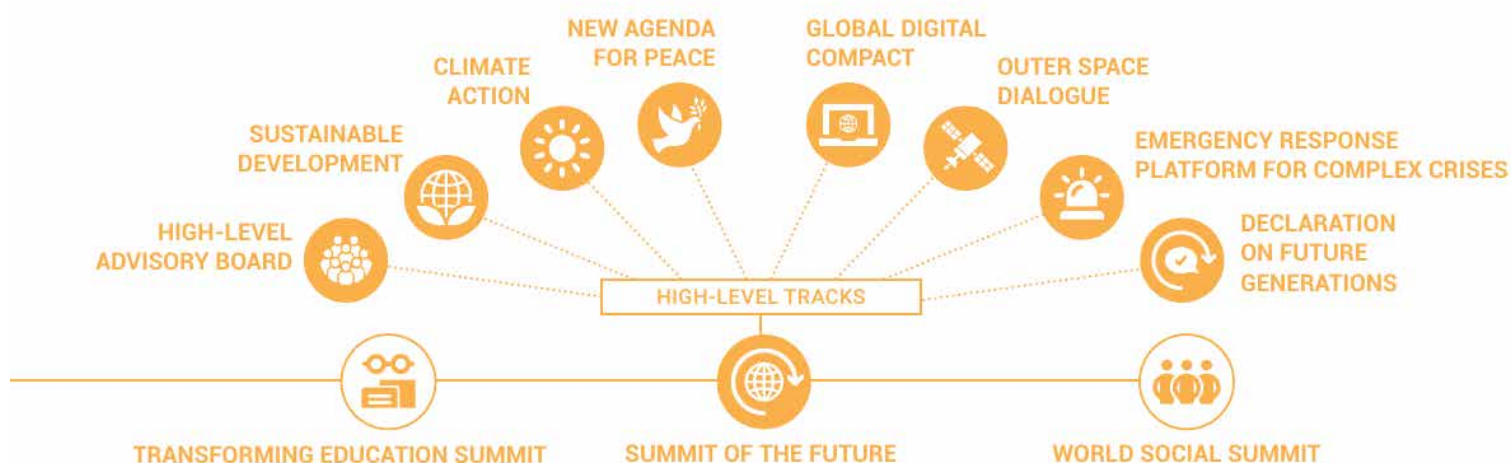




## PROMOTING OUR COMMON AGENDA.

*Our Common Agenda* is the UN Secretary General's report prepared following consultations during the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It looks ahead to the next 25 years and presents his vision on the future of global cooperation and reinvigorating inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism. The Secretary-General tasked a High-Level Advisory Board with reflecting the substantive research into effective multilateralism and global public goods and will developing independent, concrete recommendations for the Secretary-General and Member States. These will be considered at the 2024 Summit of the Future timed to coincide with the General Assembly's high level week in September.

We are working with members, partners and stakeholders to prepare a program of activity to raise awareness of this initiative.





## FEDERAL PARLIAMENT

The National President followed up our successful UN & Australia Partnerships Forum held in April 2021 with correspondence to all Members and Senators in the Australian Parliament in July 2021. He shared the [Forum Communique and Report](#) and subsequently met with policy staff in the offices of Zed Seselja, Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator Christina Keneally and Senator Penny Wong and directly with Zali Stegall MP for Warringah, Senator Janet Rice, Greens spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Senator Mehreen Faruqi to explore the value of the Sustainable Development Goals as a blueprint for recovery internationally and in Australia.

Directors Brian Gleeson and Claire Moore are working together to support the recovering of the Friends of the UN Parliamentary Group in the 47<sup>th</sup> Parliament. We will continue to provide information and support to Members and Senators in their areas of policy focus with support from our Alumni and Academic Networks and Members.





# CLIMATE CHANGE COLLABORATION NETWORK

Our Climate Change Collaboration Program is defining three projects that will enable companies, communities and governments to work together to achieve our net zero targets, and is contributing to an update of our Climate Change Position Statement.

## CLIMATE READY AUSTRALIA 2030

The Climate Change Collaboration Network recommended UNAA join Climate Ready Australia 2030 as a foundation member.

[Climate Ready Australia](#) is social impact initiative of Griffith University is working with society to shape a climate ready future, low carbon and climate resilient. The initiative is engaging peak bodies across Australian business and civil society to set an agenda, empower partnerships, progress transformative actions and champion the capability we need to secure a prosperous and just future. Agenda setting workshops will run in the second half of 2022.

Leaders on the CRI Board include Chair Rosemary Addis AM, John Hewson AM, Professor Brendan Mackey, Ann Sherry AO, Sophia Hamblin Wang, Tony Mcavoy SC, and Sam Mackay.

## ALUMNI NETWORK

Director Brian Gleeson is convening the UN Alumni Network. Alumni are based across the globe and across Australia. The network now has a regular newsletter and a social channel for network communications. Network members expressed their interest in a range of roles – mentor, resource person, speaker or team member on specific assignments. Links are being forged with our member organisations and other networks so that we can engage with, learn from and celebrate the work of Australians in the UN system and inspire other Australians to contribute.

## NATIONAL FORUM

The National Forum Steering Group and Working Party began building the business case for our next National Forum which we hope to hold in person in 2023.



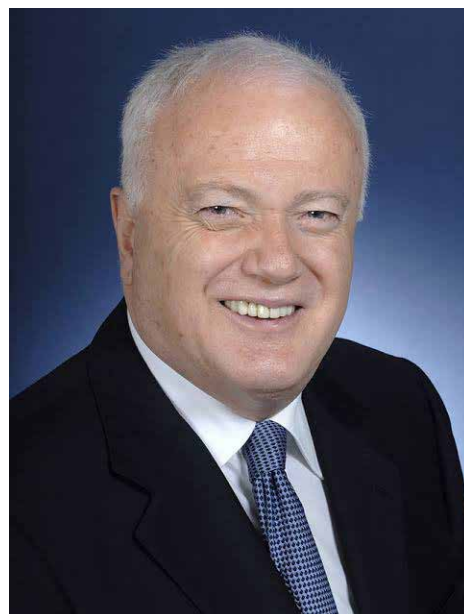
# DIVISION ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



### UN DAY 2021: AUSTRALIA'S WORK IN THE UN, WITH GUEST SPEAKER MR GARY QUINLAN

UNAA strives to inform, inspire and engage all Australians about the critical work, goals, and values of the United Nations to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable world. The ACT Division marked UN Day (25 October, 2021) by engaging with Mr Gary Quinlan, the Australian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York from 2009 until January 2015, and Australian Representative on the United Nations Security Council 2013-2014. He drew from his extensive career in the UN to share reflections on the role of UN multilateralism in the contemporary world. One where relations between states have changed so decisively and where the world order established after WW2 is under fundamental challenge. His challenge to us was to together keep exploring the role of the UN, its reform and the importance of Australia's position in fostering its objectives.





## ORANGE THE WORLD: END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN NOW!

On 25th November 2021, Honorary Associate Professor Sally Moyle spoke with the UNAA ACT Division and our event attendees on the need to build more positive relations of power if we are to eliminate violence, and the role of intersectional gender equality in that endeavour. Sally was the Chief Executive Officer at CARE Australia and had also been the Principal Gender Specialist and Assistant Secretary with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She related to the participants that all of the great global challenges we face are built on systems of dominance — human power over the environment leading to global heating; geopolitical ‘might is right’ delivering armed conflict and endemic poverty; systems of corruption and inequality marginalising whole communities and entrenching privilege. The antidote to these systems of dominance lies in addressing the SDGs starting from intersectional gender equality and seriously addressing violence against women.



## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

On 28th June, 2022, our distinguished speaker Mr Jamie Isbister, Australia's Ambassador for the Environment, discussed the key messages that commemorated the International Day on Environment and the outcomes of this Stockholm Conference. Mr Isbister spoke broadly on climate and environmental issues and drew on important work being done in the Indo-Pacific. Together we explored the theme of the conference: “Stockholm +50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”.

## NEW SOUTH WALES



## UNAA NSW RECONNECTION PICNIC

On 10th April 2022, 150 people attended the UNAA NSW Reconnection Picnic which contributed to SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing.

The event helped people in the Sydney CBD to reconnect in-person following the lock-downs, particularly people who are more vulnerable to misinformation about Covid, and less able to access reliable information, including younger people and older people.

Reverend Bill Crews from the Exodus Foundation highlighted the importance of social cohesion and called on us and governments to do more for people who experience greater impacts on their health and wellbeing due to Covid because of their vulnerability.

Associate Professor Holly Seale, University of Sydney provided us with current NSW Health information about how we and our communities can stay safe.

Dr Sonu Bhasker gave us practical advice about staying healthy and inspired us with his message about what we can achieve when we work collaboratively, "Together, we can!" Special thank you to our partners Multicultural NSW for the grant funding, and the City of Sydney Council for the amazing venue at Martin Place.







## VOLVO OCEAN LOVERS FESTIVAL

On 22-24 April 2022 the UNAA NSW were proud partners of the Volvo Ocean Lovers Festival, an all-ages and all-weekend event that was enjoyed by thousands of people at Sydney's iconic Bondi Beach! The wide range of activities included amazing student artworks inside the Bondi Surf Club, Ocean Lab Workshops and interactive displays, Market Stalls, and a full stage program of Live Music and fascinating talks on stage in Bondi Park, all in support of SDG 14: Life Below Water. The Big Bondi Beach Clean had around 100 enthusiastic participants and we collected 4,128 pieces of rubbish in just an hour! The UNAA NSW were invited to coordinate the volunteers for the festival. We hosted six online Meetups with ocean experts as guest speakers to create strong engagement with volunteers leading up to the festival. We had 30 volunteers attend the festival, and 118 people attended one or more of the Meetups.



## PARTNERSHIP WITH WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

On 31st March 2022, the UNAA NSW proudly launched a new partnership with Western Sydney University (WSU). Professor Simon Barry, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic) showcased the incredible achievement of Western Sydney University being named number one in the world for its social, ecological and economic impact in the Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings.

The University placed 1st overall worldwide and 1st in Australia in the prestigious annual rankings, which assess universities on their commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The rankings are based on universities' teaching, research, outreach and stewardship.

The partnership is supported by an MOU that includes hosting monthly Meetups in-person at WSU campuses, providing WSU students with real-life UNAA NSW projects for their placements, and exploring further partnerships and opportunities to promote the Sustainable Development Goals.



## UNITED NATIONS DAY

On 24th October, to mark the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations the UNAA NT arranged to have the United Nations Flag flying high at Government House, Parliament House and Arafura Stadium. Our sincere appreciation to Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO, Administrator of the Northern Territory and the then Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Minister Ngaree Ah Kit.

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 November in recognition of the 76th Anniversary of the United Nations.

It was a wonderful evening providing UNAA NT members, community leaders and the diplomatic corps in the NT with the opportunity to hear from and meet with Her Honour and Mr O'Halloran.

Our President Ms Kate Heelan gave an inspiring speech about the work of the association, the Sustainable Development Goals and future initiatives and activities for the association. Kate also took the opportunity to thank the UNAA NT Committee members Dr Howard Smith, Mr Aaron Tran, Ms Shahrin Akter, Dr Matt Hall and Ms Lyma Nguyen for their continued support.

Guests included leaders from the Darwin community, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Diplomatic Corps including Mr Ronaldo Do Rosario a/g Consul General Timor-Leste, Mr Gulfan Afero, Consul Indonesia, Mr John Rivas AM, Honorary Consul General Philippines, Mrs Edna Rivas and Mrs Egle Garrick the Honorary Consul Lithuania.







## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

What an incredible afternoon for the UNAA NT on Human Rights Day on 10th December, with special thanks to Mr Mark Thomas, Barrister and Human Rights Advocate who gave an inspirational and informative speech. Mr Thomas spoke about his past involvement in several legal cases that raised real issues around Human Rights. These matters are very close to home as they are local cases here in the Territory.

Mr Thomas spoke of his journey through the legal fraternity and his first employment as a defence lawyer for a period of 8 years at the first Aboriginal Legal Service in Australia, in Redfern in Sydney. Mr Thomas has also acted for asylum seekers in Federal Court and has also sat on the board of the Melaleuca Refugee Centre in the Northern Territory.

Mark'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.

UNAA NT sincerely thanks Reverend Dr Andrew Williams from Darwin Memorial Uniting Church for hosting the venue, and community leaders who attended and supported this event, including: the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO, Administrator of the NT, Consul General Timor-Leste, Mr Ronaldo do Rosario, Mr Suadji Raja representing the Consul, Indonesia, and Honorary Consul General Philippines, Mr John Rivas and Edna Rivas, community leaders and members of the UNAA NT.





## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WALK

On 5th March, the UNAA NT Division, together with the City of Darwin, Northern Territory Government, Office of Gender Equity and Diversity, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly hosted the International Women's Day walk celebrating the outstanding achievements of local women and creating a more collaborative, inclusive, and connected community. Approximately 600-700 participants participated in the walk on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Following a Welcome to country smoking ceremony, the walk commenced at 9am through the CBD led by the Administrator of the Northern Territory Her Honour Vicki O'Halloran and the Darwin City Brass Band. The walk concluded at Parliament House where the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly hosted an incredible morning tea. During the morning tea we heard from two amazing territory women, the then Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Hon Ngaree Ah Kit and Ms Sally Gearin on their career journeys. A powerful reminder of SDG 5 Gender Equality.

Attendees included the Her Honour, The Chief Minister, Ministers, Member for Solomon Mr Luke Gosling and MLAs, Lord Mayor of Darwin, Diplomatic Corps, Community Leaders and members of the Public. Media coverage included ABC and Channel Nine television evening news, NT News, ABC Radio, Mix 104.9 and Larrakia News.



“Each year, it is wonderful to see the community embrace the International Women's Day Walk. I recognise Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO, Administrator of the Northern Territory who gives up her time every year to lead the walk and is an outstanding Patron of the UNAA NT. It was particularly pleasing to see members of all sides of politics come out to celebrate women and their achievements. I am particularly proud of the UNAA-NT for their continued commitment in co-hosting this event.”  
Ms Pompea Sweet  
– Director NT Migration.







## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCH - 8 MARCH 2021

UNAA NT hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> IWD Lunch at Il Piatto Restaurant in Darwin at the Mindil Beach and Casino Resort. The spirit of the event focussed on SDG 5 Gender Equality and SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities. This year UNAA NT was honoured to receive a personalised video message from Rt Hon Helen Clark ONZ SSI PC, former Prime Minister to New Zealand and former Administrator of the United Nations Development Program.

GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDED 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 Laetitia Lemke – SBS World News Australia – NT Correspondent
- Ms Lyma Nguyen – Criminal Barrister and Human Rights lawyer
- Professor Ruth Wallace – Director Charles Darwin University Northern Institute and Dean College of Indigenous Futures, Education and the Arts.
- Ms Nora Bawazier - Moderator

The IWD lunch was a sell-out, with attendees including numerous female community leaders, community supporters of women's rights and gender equality and UNAA members. The lunch was a highlight of the IWD events in Darwin and received excellent media coverage on ABC and Mix104.9.

Each guest speaker came from different age groups, cultural backgrounds, sectors and spoke about their experiences and their life journey. The guest speaker session was followed by a moderated panel session with all speakers, with 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 day and the positive impact the event had on their moral, resilience and confidence. Ms Laetitia Lemke gave a heartfelt speech about the journey of her parents through the pacific islands to their eventual migration to Australia. She spoke of the strength of her Mother and Grandmother supporting family during difficult times.



“The UNAA NT international Women's Day lunch is a critical opportunity to build, recognise and celebrate local, national, and international leadership. It uncovered for me a wealth of talent and support within the Northern Territory. This is a network that has enriched my life personally and professionally, and one that I will continue to rely on. I feel so privileged to have been part of it”  
Laetitia Lemke SBS World News Australia – NT Correspondent

## QUEENSLAND



### THE DR DOUG EVERINGHAM LECTURE

Dr Everingham was a medical doctor who represented the region of Capricornia in Federal Parliament and was Minister For Health in the Whitlam Government. He represented Australia at UN Peace and Security and World Health conferences, and was committed to the Human rights principles. His family gifted UNAA QLD and the State Library his memorabilia, and the lecture was a central event .

The 2021 guest speaker was Leanne Smith, international human rights lawyer with experience in the Human Rights Commission, and now the Chief Executive of the Commission, as an Australian diplomat and in a range of positions in the United Nations, most recently as Chief of Policy and Best Practices for UN Peacekeeping Operations.

This year's lecture was by videoconference, and over 80 people heard Leanne's presentation on Peace, Dignity and Equality on a Healthy Planet; How Australia can contribute to the UN Common Agenda.



### PEACEKEEPERS EVENT

The May 2022 Peacekeepers event in May saw the return of the march from City Hall to Anzac Square after Covid restrictions. This event commemorates the critical role of UN Peacekeepers across war ravaged areas around the world. The Governor of QLD, Jeanette Young addressed over 80 people, including representatives from the military, churches, local government and Honorary Consuls from several nations, as she reinforced the importance of the peacekeepers 'work and sacrifice, as well as the ongoing work of the United Nations . Kristy Miles described her experiences as a peacekeeper, and a parent, reinforcing the need for peace.







## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 21 SEPTEMBER

Our Peace and Security Team coordinates celebration of this day with community partners at St Johns Cathedral .In. in 2021, this included a special event with two UNAA QLD members, Teresa and Augnes Joy, achieving a world record for singing the national anthems of 195 countries over several hours . The sisters 'programme, Salute the Nations is focussed on the need for peace among nations, and received wide publicity locally and internationally.

The International Day of Peace (IDP) lecture was by retired General Chris Barrie, whose theme was the two major threats to the world, nuclear war and climate disaster, demanding the engagement of young people in working for real peace and international cooperation.

Our partners, the Rotary Peace Centre at University of Queensland presented the local Agents of Peace Awards at the event. Annette Brownlie, Vice President of UNAA QLD, received an award, as well as Maggie Pretorias.

This year we shared with Pureland Learning Centre in Toowoomba in a local commemoration of International Day of Peace .We have established a partnership with Pureland in this regional city based on our shared commitment to developing community engagement and understanding of peace. A further partnership has been made with Heartfulness, an international relaxation and meditation organisation with the hope of cooperation in promoting peace and building community links with the UN.

UNAA QLD partnered with local Soroptimists in an IDP event at Windaroo Peace Park. Past President Donnelle Davis, a long term Soroptimist presented to a group, including local councillors from two regional councils and community representatives around the UN Secretary General's message and the importance of the SDG Agenda. UNAA QLD presented a sculpture by George Virine to the local council for public display



## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Again at St Johns Cathedral, with the great support from Dean Peter Catt, we celebrated Human Rights Day on 10th Dewitiation for women and the horrors of family separation. Over \$1400 was raised for Mahboba's Promise, an Australian NGO supporting women and families in Afghanistan.

At this event Life Membership of UNAA QLD was presented to former President, Clem Campbell, whose commitment to Earth Charter and engagement with schools to promote the UN is a real inspiration.



## SDG CHAMPIONS

UNAA QLD has a series of annual events, focussing on the SDG Agenda, and featuring our ongoing commitment to the importance of peace in our community and our world. Our SDG Champions Awards celebrate people in our community who have demonstrated personal commitment to the sustainable development goal agenda. The 17 Goals are grouped under 5 categories People Goals 1-5; Planet Goals 6,12,13,14,15; Prosperity Goals 7-11; Peace and Justice Goal 16, and Partnerships Goal 17.

Nominations reflect personal activity and contributions in the local community. The 2021 Champions inspire and reinforce the values of the SDGs.

**PEACE:** Dean Parkin, Quandamooka man involved in the process around the Uluru Statement From the Heart,

**PLANET:** Lyndon Schneiders former senior campaigner for The Wilderness Society. Prosperity: Professor Susan Harris Rimmer, Director of the Griffith University Policy Innovation Hub.

**PEACE:** Valerie Joy, long term member and activist in Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and Louise Erbacher, educator, Earth Charter activist

**PEOPLE:** Chris Knight Soroptimist, champion for women's rights.





## SOUTH AUSTRALIA



## THE UN DECADE OF RESTORATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The UNAA SA was pleased to participate and sponsor the OzFISH Seeds for Snapper Forum at the Cruising Yacht Club South Australia on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. It was a picturesque setting where attendees enjoyed a hearty barbeque before hearing about all the good work being performed by OzFish to regenerate seagrass, which is so vital to the promotion of marine life.

Associate Professor Jason Tanner, Seagrass Program Manager at SARDI informed the Forum about the research SARDI have been performing along the Adelaide coastline in respect to seagrass restoration. It was fascinating to learn about how we can all contribute to the program through collecting seeds that wash up on our beaches and then delivering them to OzFish where they are able to be kept alive in large tanks. We then heard from Tony Flaherty, Manager of Coasts and Marine, Green Adelaide Landscape Board about how they support the work being done to restore our coastlines. Dr Warwick Noble, Senior Scientific Officer at the EPA, informed us that the regeneration of seagrass along our coastline will benefit the community for future generations to come. Especially with respect to reducing erosion, which if left unchecked, would cause major issues for infrastructure like underwater pipes.

Finally we heard from Dr Michael Sierp, OzFish Managing Director, who discussed using waste like hessian coffee bags to provide a base to enable the seagrass to become established. Once the seagrass is established in those bags, the bags are then placed in the ocean. This method gives the seagrass the best chance of survival. Through using by-products like these bags, OzFish are creating a “360 system” to restore seagrass.

Lidia Moretti, UNAA SA President spoke about the value of this work in relation to Climate Change and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. Several attendees have shown interest in collaborating with our Division with other projects for the UN Decade of Restoration and Climate Change.

We look forward to continuing to promote OzFish’s work in Seagrass restoration and to be involved in OzFish’s future projects, like cleaning up the ocean.

Report by Committee Member Mathew Brittingham and Misha Brittingham (13yrs old)





## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SPACE FLIGHT

In 2011 the General Assembly of United Nations declared April 12th as International Day of Space Flight wanting to “celebrate the beginning of the space era”, reaffirming the important contributions of space science and technology in achieving the Sustainable Development goals and increasing the well-being of States and peoples, as well as ensuring the realization of their aspiration to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes.

The UNAA SA, marked the day by gathering together a group connected with the space industry in Adelaide near the inlet at Henley South where the Artist Andrew Baines arranged an installation.

Taking part in the event were Deputy Premier and Minister for Space Dr Susan Close, Matt Cowdrey MP, DFAT’s Stephen Clark, Nicola Sasanelli, CEO of the Andy Thomas Foundation, Robyn Layton UNAA SA Human Rights Advisor, Michael Cook and Andrew Buttery from the Space Discovery Centre, Dr Sarah Baker from Hamilton Space School, Nicole Russo of Myriota (a space start up company) who is a UNAA SA Committee member and her daughters India and Sierra as well as Isabella McCulloch, recipient of the Andy Thomas Scholarship, UN Youth representative Vasil Samardzhev. and Jenny Badman UNAA SA news reporter.

The event was a reminder of the extraordinary talent that is now assembled in Adelaide connected with the space industry. The Australian Space Agency is an independent central entity aiming to unify and advance space related science, services exploration and travel. As it is based at Lot 14 with associated enterprises, it offers enormous opportunities to Australia and South Australia in particular.

Celebrating this day is a reminder of the marvellous progress which has been made and the important and amazing connection that Adelaide now has to the space sector.

Wonderful that the story was covered by the ABC and featured on the Channel 7 evening news.

Many thanks to UNAA SA Artistic Advisor Andrew Baines for the Photography and support.



## SDGS GUIDE FOR AUSTRALIAN ORGANISATIONS

In late 2021, UNAA Victoria partnered with Spark Strategy to produce ['The UN Sustainable Development Goals = social, environmental, and business value: an Australian handbook with insights, advice, and practical strategies'](#).

More than 350 people registered to attend the November launch of the handbook, which included speakers whose organisations were featured as case studies in the handbook such as the Sydney Opera House, Zoos Victoria, Transurban, the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and Western Sydney University.

The handbook provides information and advice for private and community sector, government and academic organisations, including:

- Organisations unfamiliar with the SDGs and unsure where to start
- Companies which have been aligning to the SDGs but looking to learn more, do things differently and tap into the experiences and insights of others
- SDG leaders who are committed to the Goals and leading the way in how Australian organisations implement them.

The guide provides key background information about the SDGs in the Australian context, the benefits of utilising them, and case studies and practical guidance.



“It’s very important to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals across your whole value chain, including strategy, operations, supply chain, and what customers do with your products and services.”

– John Thwaites, Chair,  
Monash Sustainable  
Development Institute





## INTERNATIONAL SDG INTERNSHIPS



From October to March, UNAAV staff worked with two groups of students from Indian universities taking part in internships as part of the Industry – University partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Four students from Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management, Delhi, researched Nature Based and Human Solutions for Tackling Biodiversity Loss (SDGs 14, 15 and 17), while students from the Centre for Social Sensitivity and Action, Goa Institute of Management, researched A World without Waste: Making the transition to a Circular Economy (SDG 12 and 17).

Students researched their topic from the perspective of an allocated UN Member State and then verbally presented the views of their country in an online, mini-Model UN moderated by UNAA Victoria President Professor Ian Howie as Secretary-General. Goa Institute of Management, Director, Ajit Parulekar congratulated all participants for the presentations as well as the discussion. *“This is an excellent initiative that introduces participants to geo-politics, especially those related to climate change”*. Participant Seya Sarah Geejo said it was a “privilege to represent Australia and to propose the amendments along with my fellow member nations. Circularity and international partnership are truly the only way forward for a sustainable future that leaves no one behind, as rightly stated in the vision for UN SDG goals of Agenda 2030”.



*“All the delegates had a voice. We were free to negotiate, question and speak up and that felt amazing”.*  
– Student



## GLOBAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

UNAA Victoria continued to deliver Model UNs – simulations of the UN General Assembly – online and face to face as schools began to return to more normal operations post the global pandemic. A UNAA Victoria Model UN is a highly interactive full-day simulation of the UN General Assembly during which delegates step into the shoes of UN ambassadors from countries around the world and discuss contentious global issues – with the aim being to find the best possible solution through dialogue, negotiation and multilateral diplomacy. Each Model UN debates a topic related to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and delegates develop a “new” UN resolution addressing the issue. Topics include Asylum Seekers and Refugees: A Global Humanitarian Crisis; Combating Climate Change: Committing to Global Action and Planet Ocean: Protecting the World’s Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources. In addition to Model UNs hosted by schools, UNAA Victoria partners with the Victorian Government to deliver Model UNs in other languages (Japanese, Italian, French, German and Indonesian) and to schools in rural and regional settings.



## UN DAY EVENT

On the 24th of October 2021, UNAA WA celebrated their 76th anniversary at the Boola Bardip, WA Museum of Culture, Perth. The evening also celebrated the winners and finalists of annual UN Day awards.

Over 250 distinguished guests attended with the highest number of guests turnout in the history of UNAA WA. Leaders of WA's business, cultural communities, public and education sectors, and volunteers from at least 50 cultural backgrounds attended the celebration. Consuls General representing Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Italy, India, Malaysia, USA, and Vietnam were there to give their warm support. State Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Former Minister of Environment and Heritage, Members of Parliament and former UN Staffs also attended to demonstrate solidarity in the support for multilateralism and global cooperation.

President of UNAA WA, Dr Sandy Chong, gave opening remarks for the evening where she congratulated the United Nations (UN) across the world for successfully entering its 76th year, emphasising the need to progress human rights, gender equality, environment and social impact. A virtual address given by Guy Ryder, Director-General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) from Geneva highlighted the continuing quest for a kinder and generous world to eradicate hunger, inequality and safety for the young. He concluded by thanking the UNAA WA for their continuing support and active participation.

Keynote addresses were delivered from Sandy Anghie, Deputy Lord Mayor for City of Perth and Parris Laurie, West Coast Eagles AFLW Best Club Person 2021. They've highlighted the importance of diversity, multiculturalism, community collaboration and support to reduce inequality, building a better world for all by 2030.

The formal proceedings ended with sumptuous canapes and engaging exchange between guests and dignitaries about the importance of international peace, multiculturalism, and community solidarity for a strong recovery ahead. We look forward to celebrating this significant milestone in 2022.







## 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

On 10th December 2021, The UNAA WA Human Rights Committee organised an event to commemorate the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The theme of this event was “The Importance of Non-Violence.” The event was hosted by Borderless Gandhi, which works to spread the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, including non-violence. The panel tackled questions relating to how non-violence, safety and peace allows for the recovery process for persons traumatised by violence, such as refugees, war zone survivors, domestic violence victims. The speakers shared their experiences in assisting survivors with the recovery process, assistance available for those seeking asylum and refuge in Australia, and how the granting of certain visas could help the survivors in their mental recovery.



## CELEBRATING DIVERSITY ON AUSTRALIA DAY

On Australia Day this year, UNAA WA President Dr. Sandy Chong who serves as an Ambassador of Auspire for the Australia Day Council, supported the Community Citizen Awards ceremony at the City of Canning. She reflected on what Australia Day means to her – a day to reflect on, respect, and celebrate the ways in which we have shaped Australia’s society, of the efforts of both Aboriginal custodians and migrants to Australia since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. She urged that we commemorate those who made sacrifices to live in Australia and to protect the opportunities that we enjoy here. In ending her message of solidarity, Dr. Chong emphasised that, despite our differences, we are shaped by our country just as we shape it, and that we continue to do our best in ensuring that we keep it united, beautiful, and free.







## EDUCATION COMMITTEE: YOLANDA FRANK ART AWARDS

On Wednesday 4 May 2022, the UNAA WA, in partnership with the WA Museum Boola Bardip, held an awards ceremony to celebrate student artwork on human rights submitted for the Yolande Frank Art Awards 2021. The event was attended by more than 60 staff, students, families, members of the jury, sponsors, and friends from Ukraine. All artworks will be displayed in the foyer at the Museum throughout the month of May 2022 until mid-June.



## UNAA WA SDG FORUM SERIES: “NEVER WASTE A CRISIS: REBIRTH OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA”

The UNAA WA held a panel discussion at Ernst & Young (EY) on the 2nd of June 2022. “Never Waste a Crisis: Rebirth of the Sustainability Agenda” addressed the current world crisis and invited the panellists to share important measures that could help people and communities affected by it. Speakers include Geoff Baker, a member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly for South Perth, Tim Shanahan, Future Battery Industries Cooperative Research Centre, Fiona Argyle, Mayor of the City of Nedlands, and Adam Carrel, a partner at EY.

The panellists urged businesses to make a change by adapting effective and sustainable practices. Nations need to move in the right direction and continued regulations surrounding pollution and greenwashing will go far in the promotion and development of the SDGs. The event was well-attended by 90 guests including UNAA WA members and community partners, and it concluded with light snacks and drinks.



# UNAA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The United Nations Association of Australia Young Professionals (UNAA YP) are a national network of motivated individuals, working together to inform, inspire and engage early to mid-career Australians.

We host online and in-person events, networking, and issues advocacy to ensure young Australians remain engaged in the work and values of the United Nations throughout their careers. The UNAA YP network consists of a national executive and state teams in NSW, WA, ACT, VIC, and QLD.

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Across 2021, UNAA Young Professionals delivered ‘Sustainability in Action’, an online and free event series celebrating the United Nations International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development. Online events were hosted by state teams in conjunction with national support and covered a wide array of themes in sustainability, from protecting the Great Barrier Reef to ethical clothing.



*Graphic design: Nico Penny*

In 2022 the UNAA YPs began delivery of their national online event series, ‘My Climate Action’. My Climate Action is providing young professionals with ideas, actionable resources, and inspiration to get involved in local work and directly contribute towards climate change mitigation.

On Wednesday 27th April, we launched the series with event one: ‘Ecosystem Restoration’ speaking to Jimi Gatland and Jessica Pinder about practical actions we can all take in our homes, communities, and wider environment, ‘getting our hands dirty’ to create positive climate action. Further events on mental health, personal consumption, and climate action focused careers will be delivered later in 2022 and reported on in the following annual report.





## UNAA VICTORIA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

On Wednesday the 29th of June, the Victorian YP team hosted over 60 participants in their International Careers Mentoring Event. The event hosted mentors representing the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Populations Fund, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Oaktree, and PwC Australia.

Participants were given opportunities to network and rotate conversations with individual mentors. Mentors were on hand to provide advice and ideas about international careers in the UN and related international organisations, the private sector and not-for-profits, as well as Government. This night was a success with our panel of mentors providing great insights into different career pathways in international affairs.

The fantastic mentors included:

- Rana Ebrahimi, National Director, Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network, and the former Head of Field Unit Esfahan, UNHCR
- Alex Manahan, DFAT, Business Liaison External Relations Manager in the Victoria State Office
- Thenu Herath, CEO, Oaktree
- Elly Luca, Senior Manager at PwC Australia, and
- Ian Howie, Adjunct Professor International Studies, RMIT University, former UN Division of Human Resources, United Nations Population Fund, and International Labour Organisation

## UNAA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS QUEENSLAND

In 2021-22 the Queensland team designed and hosted a series of events that brought together young professionals from many disciplines to engage in important, action-focused conversations around the SDGs:

- Jul 2021 – Finding Refuge: The refugee crisis, the role of the UN and what more we can do
- Aug 2021 – An Inclusive Future: Designing Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Oct 2021 – Facts and Fiction: Education, Communication and Access to Information
- Nov 2021 – Paris Agreement, COP26 Glasgow... What Next?
- Apr 2022 – Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow (International Women's Day)

Queensland continues its Yoga for Peace series, raising funds to support the Romero Centre's refugee support work. We also held informal networking nights to keep connected with our members and friends.

We collaborated with the UNAA QLD Division for events including Human Rights Day Commemoration in December 2021 and helped deliver the outstanding UN Habitat III + 5 series of six roundtable webinars Feb-July 2022.

We'd like to thank all our event partners throughout the year, and in particular: UNAA QLD Division, Griffith University, King & Wood Mallesons, Urban Design Alliance, Advance Queensland, State Library of Queensland, Yasmeeen Natanya Ananda, St John's Cathedral and Big Light Letters.





# UN YOUTH

UN Youth Australia is a national youth-run organisation affiliated with the UNAA that aims to educate and empower young people on global issues. During the pandemic, it has largely pivoted to running online and hybrid events to ensure that delegates can get as much value as possible out of its events while also staying safe.

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

National Conference is UN Youth Australia's longest running initiative and has been bringing together students from every state and territory since 1963. In 2022, it ran using a hybrid model which allowed students to gather in-person with delegates from their home states while completing a combination of physical and virtual activities. The conference focused on the theme of Rethinking Law and Justice and therefore had a particular focus on SDG 16. The Honourable Michael Kirby delivered the keynote address, and delegates were heard from a range of other legal experts including Trent Wallace, Zoe Robinson, Bernie Shakeshaft, Paul Hayes, Elizabeth Kelso, Estella Pearce and Allen George.



## EVATT NATIONAL FINALS

UN Youth's National Evatt Competition is Australia's largest Model United Nations Competition. Students across Australia are invited to consider a wide range of issues related to international security and development while learning about the functions of the Security Council. The competition is run by every division of UN Youth Australia and in 2021 well over 1000 students participated across the country. The Evatt competition has a particular focus on regional engagement and is run in many regional centres as well as in capital cities. The top teams from each state are invited to compete in the Evatt National Finals, which were held online in 2021 due to border closures.

## VOICE NATIONAL FINALS

Hundreds of students from year 7-10 compete in the Voice competition. They are asked to develop and pitch solutions to pressing global issues, many of which are linked to the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, some of the questions students were asked to consider in 2021 included "how can we ensure that the benefits of globalisation are realised around the world?" and "how can we improve women's healthcare globally?" The best pitches from each state are presented at an online National Finals, from which a junior and senior winner are selected.

## EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

In January 2022, 30 students participated in the online Emerging Leaders Program. This program focused on Australia's role in Asia. A particular focus was placed on Taiwan, Vietnam and Japan, and delegates were able to engage with a range of expert guest speakers from each of these places via zoom.

## YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM

Each year, UN Youth Australia appoints the Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Youth Representative travels around Australia listening to the issues that young people care about, gives a speech on their findings to the United Nations General Assembly and writes a report that is distributed to Australian policymakers and other stakeholders. While the 2021 Listening Tour was unfortunately interrupted by the pandemic, the 2022 Youth Representative Angelica Ojinnaka has begun her consultation and survey process in preparation for her trip to New York in September.



# WORLD FEDERATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS

UNAA is represented at the World Federation of United Nations Associations by Jay Jethwa, who is elected by the general membership of UNAs globally to the WFUNA Executive Committee.

## GOVERNANCE

**The WFUNA Executive Committee** convened its 228<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting on 30 May 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland. This was the first face-to-face meeting of the Executive Committee since 2019 due to the pandemic.

**The Plenary Assembly** was initially scheduled to be held in Tbilisi, Georgia last year (2021). This was re-scheduled to take place in November this year, but the Executive Committee decided that due to the uncertainties surrounding the war in Ukraine, and Tbilisi being in close proximity to the Russian border, the normal business of the Plenary Assembly will be re-arranged in the following manner: it is now split up into 2 parts, the elections component will take place in a hybrid mode, online as well as physical presence, in Geneva on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November; and all other Plenary agenda items will take place in May 2023 in Tbilisi, again, subject the war situation in Ukraine.

After all appropriate due diligence, Dr Shawn Chen has been nominated by the Executive Committee as the next president of WFUNA. This will be voted upon by the Plenary Assembly (both online as well as in-person) at the Geneva meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> of November this year. Dr Chen has made two donations to WFUNA: 1) for the establishment of a WFUNA Office in Nairobi, Kenya, and 2) a donation of 250 computers to an educational institution in the Dominican Republic. This is in addition to donating more than USD\$400,000 to WFUNA for its core funding and operations purposes.



## OPERATIONS

Most of the WFUNA work is now being conducted at our Geneva office, after the UN HQ was closed due to the pandemic. However, we still occupy the space in New York at the UN Plaza. We may hold our future meeting in New York when the pandemic situation has improved.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has adversely affected the WFUNA members, particularly those from developing economies. The Executive Committee is doing what it can to support such members globally, so that they may continue their active participation in the important work of WFUNA.

WFUNA continues to fundraise online for its programs concerning human rights, youth, education, peace and security, and sustainable development. Applications for funding have been submitted to foundations, governments, corporations, and individuals. In addition, WFUNA works with international fundraising consultants in targeting specific markets globally for our programs.

The work of WFUNA is coordinated by a small cohort of staff, consultants, and interns. The New York Office has a total of two staff and two consultants. Further recruitments are in process. In Seoul, there are two staff currently and eight interns. The Geneva office has five staff and two interns. Three full-time consultants are located outside our offices: in UK, Greece, and Italy.

We now have specific funding to establish a WFUNA office in Africa, in accordance with the 2015 adopted resolution 41/8/B18 on “Strengthening the Role of WFUNA in the African Region” proposed by UNA-South Africa. It is hoped that the WFUNA office will be located in the UN Headquarters in Nairobi. The office will focus on educational programs, capacity-building, and support for UNAs across Africa.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WFUNA organized a Peace Talk on Ukraine on March 9<sup>th</sup> for 30+ participants including diplomats, international organization representatives, journalists, and a group of WFUNA Peace Fellows. Another 20 participants from College Leaders at the UN (CLUN) attended virtually. The [WFUNA Statement on Ukraine](#), supported by the Executive Committee and WFUNA Members, including UNA Australia, was read at this meeting.

The panel included the following honoured guests: Counsellor of the Embassy of Ukraine for Seoul, Yana Skybynetska, former ROK Ambassador to Ukraine Lee Yang-goo, former ROK Ambassador to India Shin Bong-kil, senior journalist Mr. Kim Jinho and Dr. Shin Ethan Hee-seok, the legal analyst for the Transitional Justice Working Group.

This year, WFUNA held the 4<sup>th</sup> and largest UN Security Council Exit Briefing, and two CSO Dialogues with the Presidents of the UNSC. This brings the total to 41 CSO Dialogues we have held since its inception.

The 9th WFUNA College Leaders at the UN: Korea brought together 35 student representatives from 18 universities globally from May to August. Student representatives were challenged to find innovative solutions to topics related to SDGs 11, 13, and 16.

The WFUNA Peace Fellows Programme: in February 2022, we engaged with 28 young scholars, activists, and students from 12 different countries for this program. Due to COVID-19, the program was held online, using Virtual Reality (VR) field trip content and exclusive lectures on Peace agendas and SDG 16.

The WFUNA International Model United Nations (WIMUN) conference scheduled in March 2022 was postponed due to health risks and travel restrictions associated with COVID-19. WFUNA held 5 UN Spotlight Programs with around 100 participants, collaborating with two different partners.

In March, Ms. Maisy Bentley of UNA-New Zealand was selected as WFUNA Young Leader of the Year 2021 for her outstanding work overcoming the challenges of COVID-19 in continuing implementing youth programs. This program is open to nominations from all members, and I will work with the UNAA President to enable UNAA to nominate young Australian leaders in the future.

WFUNA hosted a panel discussion to commemorate the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace in partnership with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ Legacy project, Generation Amazing Foundation (GA Foundation), and the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the UN in Geneva.

The third UN Security Council Election Briefing was held in May for all UNSC candidates seeking election for a non-permanent seat on the Council for the 2023-2024 term. 130 participants were present at these briefings.

16+ Forum: The fourth Annual Showcase was scheduled to take place in San José, Costa Rica in March 2022. However, due to complications within the government there, the decision was made in partnership with the Government of Costa Rica to cancel the event. Planning is now underway for the next annual showcase in a different country to take place in the US spring of 2023. In the meantime, the 16+ Forum with its partners has worked to ensure that SDG16+ remains at the forefront of the international agenda.

**JAY JETHWA**

**Australian Representative to WFUNA**



# NATIONAL OFFICE

## NATIONAL BOARD

At our Annual General Meeting on 11 October 2021 we bid farewell and thank you to our outgoing Treasurer Liesel Meinecke. Liesel provided confident leadership of our finances over two and a half years, and has strengthened our arrangements and processes in that time, and we thank her.

THE NATIONAL BOARD WELCOMED TWO NEW DIRECTORS.



**Sharyn McNeill** joined us as National Treasurer.

Sharyn continued the excellent work of Liesel, strengthening our policy frameworks, our tax deductible donations auspicing arrangement with AIIA and contributing to the review of our activity under federal election laws.



**Michael Donaghue-Evans** joined us from UN Youth.

We extend hearty appreciation to Georgina Ryan for her contribution to the board over the last 12 months and wish her well in her future endeavours.

The National board met on 11 occasions throughout the year on a monthly cycle, to manage national relationships, advocacy, networks, programs and operations described in our Annual Report and to review and refresh our policy frameworks.

We consulted with our Members to define a Wellbeing Behaviours Policy, Procedure and Toolkit. This policy framework reiterates our commitment to human rights, and incorporates our UN values – integrity, professionalism and respect for diversity, promotes the wellbeing of all people within our organisation and defines and describes actions and consequences for unwelcome and illegal behaviour. This work will be finalised in 22-23.



## NATIONAL OFFICE

The National Board recognises the invaluable contributions of our volunteer National Office.

- **Esra Akcamci** Governance and Policy Coordinator supported the work of the National Board and the National Secretary, taking minutes, tracking decisions and actions and contributing to policy research.
- **James Puckridge and Visna Hemachandra** Membership and Operations Coordinators are keeping on top of our engagement with Divisions and stakeholders, and contributing to communications and events.
- **Bree Wellington** Academic Coordinator supported the Academic Network Portfolio Director.
- **Mandy Lister** Alumni Network Coordinator is supporting the Alumni Network Portfolio Director.
- **Erin Dickson** Head of Communications reviewed our Communications Strategy and led implementation until her work as a front line paramedic called her away
- **Dominica Williamson** our Communications Coordinator creates our regular newsletter
- **Rachel White** Head of Communications stepped into the organisation as we launched our Federal Election communications and made a massive early contribution.
- **Frederick Guanzon** PMO Lead is working with Portfolio Directors and national office volunteers to manage our work plan.

## DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

	01/07/21	01/08/21	01/09/21	AGM	01/10/21	01/11/22	1/12/21	01/02/22	01/03/22	01/04/22	01/05/22
Mario D'Elia (National President)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y
Dr. Patricia Jenkins (Vice President – Divisions, UNAA NSW President)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Justin Howden (Vice President – Independents)	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y
Susan McHattie (National Secretary)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sharyn McNeill (National Treasurer)						Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y
Brian Gleeson (UNAA ACT President)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Andrew Hewett (UNAA VIC representative)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lidia Moretti (UNAA SA President)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Claire Moore (UNAA QLD President)	A	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Richard Gruppette (Independent Director)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Joel Lindsay (YP Representative)	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	A
Melissa King (Independent Director)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kate Heelan (UNAA NT President)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michael Donaghue-Evans (UN Youth Australia President)			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Dr. Sandy Chong (UNAA WA President)	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Georgina Ryan (former UN Youth Australia President)	Y	A									
Liesel Meinecke (former National Treasurer)	Y	A									
Directors that joined and retired at AGM											
Y = yes, A = Apologies, N = No Blue = not a member											

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements cover the United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated (UNAA Inc) only and for the reporting year of 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. 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.

## UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	FY2022	FY2021
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
CASH ON HAND	\$110,427	\$121,811
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$3,317	\$550
PREPAID EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$0
ACCRUED REVENUE	\$0	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$113,743</b>	<b>\$122,361</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$585</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$113,743</b>	<b>\$122,946</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
TRADE PAYABLES	\$489	\$226
TAX LIABILITIES	\$421	\$624
LEAVE PROVISIONS	\$0	\$3,448
ACCRUED EXPENSES	\$0	\$0
DEFERRED REVENUE	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$910</b>	<b>\$4,298</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$112,833</b>	<b>\$118,648</b>
CURRENT YEAR SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-\$5,815	-\$14,585
RETAINED FUNDS	\$118,648	\$133,233
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</b>	<b>\$112,833</b>	<b>\$118,648</b>

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2022

	FY2022	FY2021
<b>INCOME</b>		
GRANTS RECEIVED	\$0	\$0
PROGRAM INCOME RECEIVED	\$3,406	\$14,881
OTHER INCOME RECEIVED	\$15,066	\$36,534
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$18,472</b>	<b>\$51,415</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
PROGRAM & ACTIVITY EXPENDITURE	\$6,731	\$2,283
EMPLOYMENT EXPENSES	-\$105	\$55,505
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	\$17,505	\$7,900
DEPRECIATION EXPENSES	\$156	\$312
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$24,287</b>	<b>\$65,999</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-\$5,815</b>	<b>-\$14,585</b>





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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, 2022. 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 2022, and income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June, 2022;
- 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  
27 August 2022

**Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation**





**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.*