

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

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United Nations  
Association  
of Australia  
ACT Division



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## BRIAN GLEESON

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On behalf of the ACT Division, I have the pleasure of presenting the UNAA ACT Annual Report for the 2022-23 year.

On balance, the Division has maintained a variety of quality activities during the course of the Year that has attempted to respond to the diverse set of interests from our members. It was encouraging that the Division was able to host a range of hybrid style events that provided an opportunity for face-to-face engagement/networking and online participation of our members, partners and guests. The level of registrations was maintained at a consistent level, which reflected the quality of speakers and the topical issues covered by speakers.

At the National level, as ACT President, I represented the Division as a Director at all National Board meetings conducted during the year and actively contributed to a number of initiatives, governance and policy matters. On behalf of the Division, I have continued to be the lead focal point on the National Board for the UN Alumni Network and the Parliamentary Friends of the UN. Progress has been made on both of these National Programs and it is hoped that the Co-Convenors of the Parliamentary Friends will be able to rejuvenate interest from the Parliament in UN issues and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through their roles. It is regrettable that the National Board continues to experience some governance challenges and this, in part, has led to the resignations of the President, the Treasurer and three Independent Directors. The Board is currently operating under temporary leadership (NSW President) and it is hoped that the planned Annual General Meeting of the National Board in November will lead to a greater stability in the overall operations of the UNAA. I have provided a proactive role with some other Divisions in an attempt to broker improved relationships, building on the established Principles of Governance and Wellbeing Policy Framework Documents.



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT, CONTINUED...

At the Divisional level, I continued to represent the Division in a number of activities, diplomatic and community events, university forums and special interest groups to promote the values of the UN, to advocate stronger action on the implementation of the SDGs, to promote career opportunities in the UN and to build partnerships with organisations that share the same values as UNAA. I am hopeful that increased opportunities will be identified to partner and support the growth of the Young Professional Network and UN Youth. In the ACT. Building of priority efforts last year, partnership opportunities with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) have been enhanced. Of particular importance has been the cooperation around the conduct of UN Day and Peacekeeping and Peacekeeper Days. I have personally enjoyed presenting and participating in events with students through the International Relations Society at the ANU around the pursuit of sharing experiences on careers in the UN.

The Annual Report highlights the success of the Division's conduct of a number of high profile events with high profile speakers covering a range of topics – Serving the United Nations Through Four Continents; UN Day; Eliminating Nuclear Weapons; Australia's Response; United Nations World Soil Day; the Relevance of the United Nations Today; World Refugee Day, Global Challenges. Displaced People Australia's Response; Global Challenges around Conflict and Climate Driven Mobility. In addition, I attend the annual UN Peacekeepers Day event and arranged the laying of a wreath by the previous National President of UNAA.

As evidenced in the Financial Statements, the financial position of the Division is solid and maintains a sustainable outlook as Divisional activities have been maintained at a healthy level. The Division has continued to focus on membership services through increased communications; the issue of the monthly newsletters, the social media network and the website, especially through the sharing of information on global issues .

Overall, the ACT Division has had a positive year, through the support of our membership and with the active contributions of the ACT Division Committee members, who continued to provide their volunteer support. energy and commitment to the conduct of the activities undertaken. I look forward to working with the next Committee which will be elected at the Annual General Meeting on 17 October.

On behalf of the ACT Division Committee, I wish you continued good health, safety and success.

**Brian**

## WITH THANKS TO

### **Executive Committee Members**

**President:** Brian Gleeson

### **Vice Presidents:**

Harold Wilkinson | Frances Stanton | Angela Harrison

**Secretary:** Roslyn Dundas

**Treasurer:** Christine Vincent

### **Committee Members**


Mandy Lister | John Tilemann | Kit Barrow | Nimalan Karthikeyan |  
Michele Smith | Charlotte Corkin

**Immediate Past President** —Jonathan Curtis (2018-2019)





# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2022-23



**LES ELLIS + associates pty.**  
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## Independent Audit Report to The Members Of United Nations Association of Australia (ACT Division) Incorporated

We have audited the special purpose financial statements of United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated for the period ended 30 June 2023. 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 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 in a manner 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. The Association has prepared a Statement of receipts and payments and a statement of accumulated funds rather than a formal Profit and Loss and balance sheet. These items give a true and fair view of the associations' financial position.

### Audit Opinion

Subject to the foregoing reservations, in our opinion, the financial statements of United Nations Association of Australia (ACT Division) 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 2023, and income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2023;
- II. to satisfy the requirements of subsection 72(2) of the Associations Incorporation Act to be dealt with in financial statements.

**Les Ellis & Associates Pty**

*[Signature]*

Les Ellis FIPA  
20 September 2023

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## United Nations Association of Australia (ACT Division) Incorporated

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

	FY 2022-23 \$ Actual	FY 2021-22 \$ Actual	FY 2020-21 \$ Actual
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>3,930</b>	<b>3,341</b>	<b>6,166</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>4,868</b>
<b>CASH SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>	<b>2,510</b>	<b>2,297</b>	<b>1,298</b>
<b>CASH AT BANK - 30 June 2023</b>			
Operating account: Westpac	14,090	11,579	9,283
Special account: Westpac	2,770	2,770	2,770
Interest Bearing Deposit	10,548	10,498	10,479
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,407</b>	<b>24,847</b>	<b>22,531</b>

# 2022-23 EVENTS



## Serving the United Nations in four continents (30 August 2022)

Damian Cardona Onses is a champion of the role of United Nations Associations across the world. He has recently been appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General as the Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Canberra and was warmly welcomed to his post by the UNAA ACT Division. He is keen to listen and learn as he meets leaders across Australia and the Pacific.

At the event, Damian shared his insights, inspirational experiences, and ideas at this event. His 26 years of experience in strategic communications, outreach, and campaigns within the UN system continues on as he leads the preparations for the UNIC's 75th anniversary in Australia in November 2023.

## Eliminating Nuclear Weapons: Australia's Role (15 September 2022)



Australia has played a prominent role in nuclear disarmament over the last 50 years. The UNAA's Ambassador for Arms Control and Counter-Proliferation, Ian Biggs, shared his insights on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and Australia's role during the 10th Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. He reiterated at the event that foundational treaties such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty have been intimately facilitated by Australian diplomats, but these achievements must be incentive for further work towards non-proliferation as opposed to a reason to ease our pursuits.



# EVENTS 2022-23, CONTINUED...

## United Nations World Soil Day (5 December 2022)

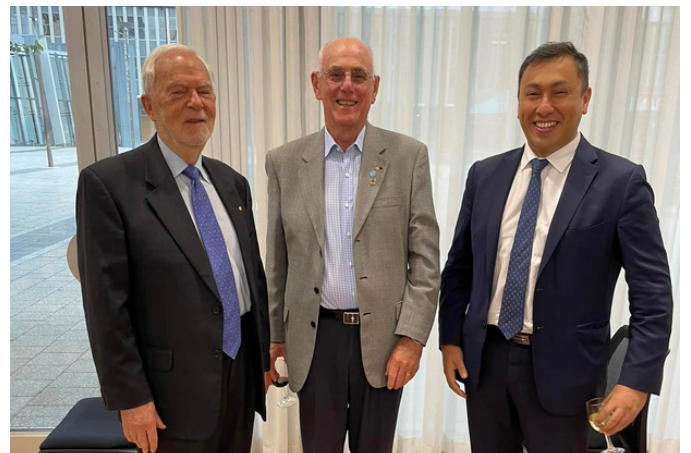
The UNAA ACT was joined by distinguished speaker the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC to discuss the critical role of soil in addressing global challenges and delivering the Sustainable Development Goals. World Soil Day 2022 (#WorldSoilDay) and its campaign "Soils: Where food begins" aimed to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being. This task has been tackled by addressing the growing challenges in soil management, increasing soil awareness, and encouraging societies to implement sustainable measures to improve soil health.



## The Relevance of the United Nations Today (27 March 2023)

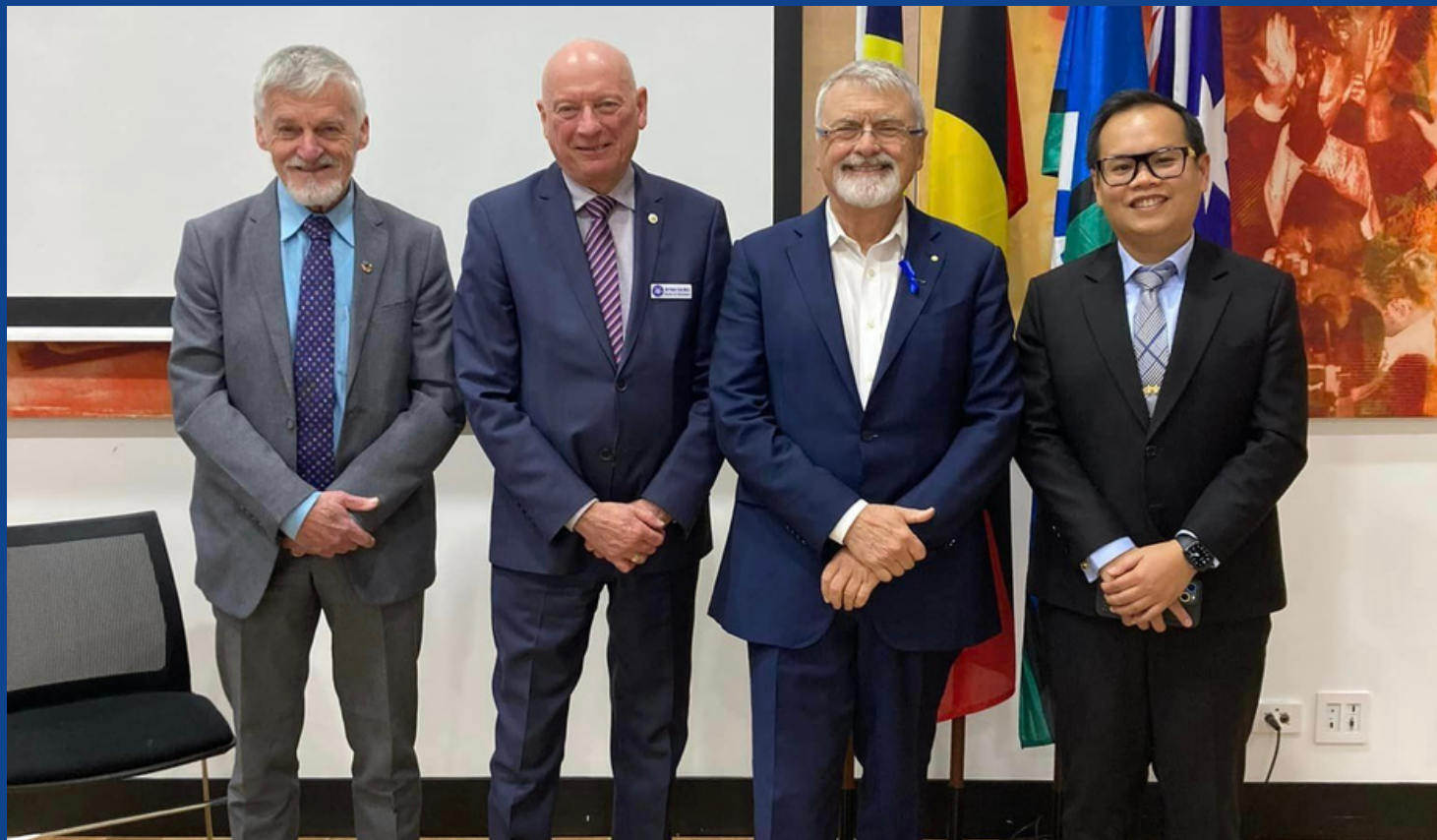
The United Nations is under scholastic and popular scrutiny over claims of inefficacy, particularly following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. At the event held at the ACT Legislative Assembly, John Langmore, a Professorial Fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne, spoke of major aspects of Australia's highly uneven multilateral engagement since 1996.

He followed this with insights on what can be done in order to improve Australia's contribution towards effective UN-led outcomes. A dialogue within Australia would be a useful start, which could lead to identification of organisational changes which would increase the Council's effectiveness, and which Australia could then advocate.



# EVENTS 2022-23, CONTINUED...

## World Refugee Day. Displaced People: Global Challenge, Australian Response (16 June 2023)



Professor Peter Shergold AC, chair of Australia for UNCHR and NSW Coordinator General for Settlement, gave a thought-provoking talk on the pressing issue of displaced peoples worldwide and shed light on Australia's approach to this global challenge. He led an engaging discussion at the UNAA ACT Event exploring the complexities surrounding forced migration, the impact on affected communities, and the Australian response and policy.



**RETHINKING  
HOW WE RESPOND  
TO TODAY'S  
71 MILLION  
INTERNALLY  
DISPLACED PERSONS.**



# UN DAY WITH THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND HER EXCELLENCY



Representatives of UN Agencies in the ACT, Members of the UNAA National Board, UN Alumni members, members of the UNAA ACT Executive Committee and invited guests had the immense privilege of celebrating UN Day in the distinguished presence of our UNAA Patrons, His Excellency General, the Honorable David Hurley AC DSC and Her Excellency, Mrs. Linda Hurley at Government House.

The Governor General graced us with an inspiring address, highlighting the significance of international cooperation and the United Nations' role in addressing global challenges.

As we reflect on the 75 years of the United Nations, we are reminded of the power of international cooperation and the need for global unity. Together, we can create a better world for all.





# UNAA ACT – IN THE COMMUNITY

The UNAA ACT division has been active and engaged in the community over the past year, raising awareness for key issues and proliferating UN ideals; from talks about the SDGs at local primary schools, to UN Day at the Governor General's House. Here is a short summary of the events we organized and facilitated in the past year:

## Multicultural Festival (19 February 2023)

The UNAA hosted a popular tent at the Multicultural Festival in February 2023. There is no better home for the UN than at Canberra's iconic annual celebration of cultural diversity.

The UNAA's presence at the Multicultural Festival was a great opportunity to interact with the Canberra community and raise awareness about the UNAA ACT divisions work.



## International Day of UN Peacekeepers (29 May 2023)

For 75 years, UN Peacekeeping has helped to end conflict, protect civilians, advance political solutions, and secure sustainable peace.

The first so-called blue helmets were deployed as military observers to the Middle East in 1948 and since then more than two million uniformed and civilian personnel have served in 71 peacekeeping operations around the world. The President represented the Division at this commemorate event.

# EVENTS 2022-23, CONTINUED...

## The Future Generation

UNAA promoted the work of the UN with the community through engaging young learners in Bonython Primary School.

This year's sessions included an introduction to SDGs and the role of consensus in democracy by conducting a mini Model United Nations Assembly. The children enthusiastically embraced learning more about how they can become active global citizens.



## President's Address to the ANU International Relations Society (29 March 2023)

President Brian Gleeson gave a presentation to students at the ANU International Relations Society last week.

His talk and involvement in a panel session focused on pursuing employment in the United Nations and providing guidance and lessons learnt in achieving a successful and rewarding career in the international sector.







# Membership

JOIN TODAY



Established in 1946, the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) is a non-profit, non-government organisation, which works to advance the goals of the United Nations in Australia and around the world. UNAA members come from all areas and walks of life— age, education levels, and employment histories aren't important. What brings them together is a shared interest in the work of the United Nations, and in trying to make the world a better place.

## We invite you to join UNAA ACT Division through our membership program.

- **Learn.** Receive invitations to regular meetings, seminars, and discussions on current and important global issues.
- **Meet.** Attend networking opportunities with recognised leaders from government, community and the United Nations.
- **Share.** Obtain an opportunity to share your views with like-minded individuals in a safe and respectful environment.
- **Get informed.** Glean regular UN news updates and materials on national and international affairs.
- **Respect.** Gain membership of an esteemed international organisation founded in 1946.
- **Help** make the world a better place.

## As a UNAA ACT member you will receive:

- Subscription to UNAA News – the UNAA's regular newsletter containing all the latest UN and UNAA news
- Invitations and discounted entry to UNAA ACT events
- The right to nominate for office and vote at the UNAA ACT Division AGM
- The opportunity to participate in the UNAA National Conference

# JOIN NOW

