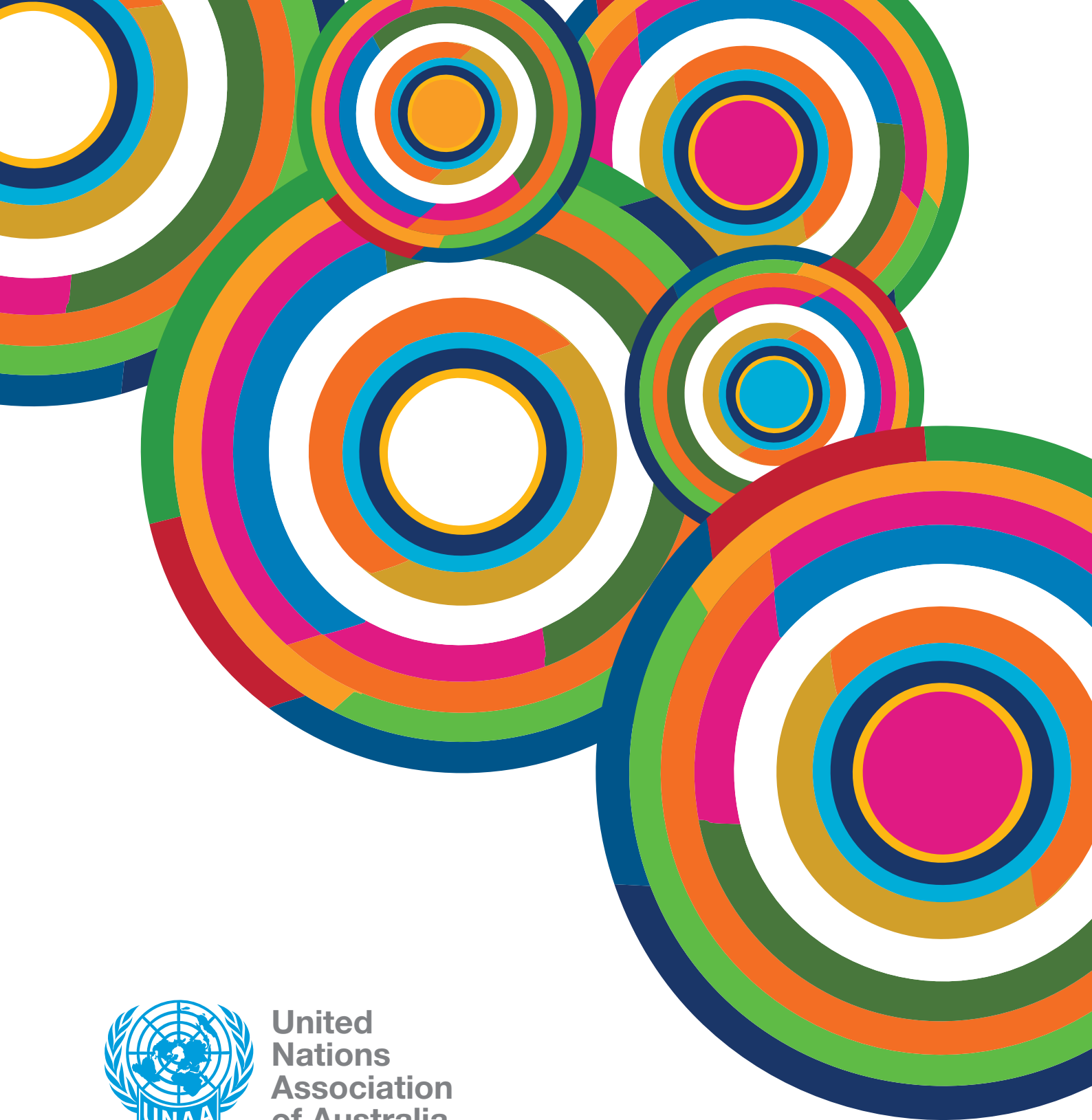




United
Nations
Association
of Australia

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023



**United
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Association
of Australia**

The United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) acknowledges and pays our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the First Peoples of Australia, on whose ancestral lands and waters we live, work and meet. We pay our respect to Elders past and present. We celebrate the histories, languages and cultures of all First Peoples and their continuing connection to land, sea and community for over 70,000 years as the world's oldest living culture. We acknowledge the important contributions and celebrate the achievements of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

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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), working alongside national United Nations Associations in over 100 countries.



Our vision

is a future where the United Nations is more effective because more Australians are engaged global citizens, dedicated to achieving the purpose of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Our mission

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

The UNAA consists of hundreds of volunteers, many more members and thousands of supporters across Australia, organised in state based Divisions, UN Youth, and through networks of Young Professionals, Alumni, Academics, Parliamentarians and Climate Change Collaborators.

Our teams throughout Australia organise events, programs 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.

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.

UNAA has UN Economic and Social Council Consultative Status.

Our Patrons are Their Excellencies Governor General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) and Mrs Hurley

Now, more than ever, we need to focus attention on the role of the UN, and Australia's role within it.



NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings Friends,

I hope you enjoy reading our annual report as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you! It showcases the talent, dedication and vitality of our Association members and the critical work done to engage, inform and inspire our fellow Australians on the work, goals and values of the UN, the role of Australia as an active UN member, and the roles we can all play in promoting and engaging in UN Programs to build a safer, fairer and more sustainable world, leaving no one behind.

During these troubled times, we continue to face a growing number of complex and unprecedented challenges that clearly demonstrate the need for human and multilateral approaches. There are many reasons to despair, but our work is about building and sustaining hope through actions that reflect our UN values – professionalism, integrity and respect for diversity.

The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres continues to sound the alarm, to remind leaders of the importance and potential of working peacefully together, and to create a Common Agenda in which we can strengthen the United Nations and the relationships between nations to meet the growing multitude of challenges we face.



In a splintering world, we need to create mechanisms of dialogue and mediation to heal divides. That is why I outlined elements of a new Agenda for Peace in my report on Our Common Agenda. We are committed to make the most of every diplomatic tool for the pacific settlement of disputes, as set out in the United Nations Charter: negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and judicial settlement... And it means recognizing human rights as pivotal for prevention. My Call to Action on Human Rights highlights the centrality of human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. In all we do, we must recognize that human rights are the path to resolving tensions, ending conflict and forging lasting peace.

...by acting as one, we can nurture fragile shoots of hope. The hope found in climate and peace activists around the world calling out for change and demanding better of their leaders. The hope found in young people, working every day for a better, more peaceful future. The hope found in the women and girls, leading and fighting for those still being denied their basic human rights.

The hope found throughout civil society seeking ways to build more just and equal communities and countries. The hope found in science and academia, racing to stay ahead of deadly diseases and end the COVID-19 pandemic. The hope found in humanitarian heroes rushing to deliver life-saving aid around the world.

The United Nations stands with them all. We know lofty ideals must be made real in people's lives. So let's develop common solutions to common problems — grounded in goodwill, trust, and the rights shared by every human being. Let's work as one, a coalition of the world, as united nations.

Secretary General Antonio Guterres, General Assembly September 2022

When I look across this great nation of ours, I see thriving organisations including a diversity of UNAA divisions, YPN as well as UN Youth, run largely by passionate volunteers engaging, informing and inspiring. You will see common activity across flagship events for UN Day, UN special celebrations/ programs, and in promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year we confirmed our commitment to collaboration to deliver national programs and to support and strengthen our members. We revisited our national role and consolidated our thinking in three themes:



With the support of our Public Policy Committee, members and our national office we have focused on our role in research, policy and advocacy. In this year we have provided advice to the Federal Government on the value of the SDGs in formulating a Wellbeing Framework for the federal budget, and the value of reinforcing UN approaches in the development of our international development policy. Through our Climate Change Collaboration Network we have contributed to the formation of

the Griffith University Climate Readiness Australia initiative that brings civil society peaks together to consider how we might work with communities across Australia to prepare for transition to net zero.

We aspire to see our policy and advocacy role grow, with the input of our Academic Network, Alumni Network and the newly reconvened Parliamentary Friends of the UN. In February we renewed our accreditation to ECOSOC and we look forward to supporting our leaders, members and stakeholders to use this accreditation to tour and engage with UN agencies and programs.

We are sustaining our relationship with the World Federation of United Nations Associations through our representative Mr Jay Jethwa who was recently appointed global Vice President. Significantly, the three yearly Plenary Assembly of UNAs across the world has been repeatedly postponed due to COVID. We look forward to engaging with our global colleagues when the Assembly convenes again in November of 2023.

Last year we welcomed Damien Cardona Onses to the role of Director at the United Nations Information Centre Canberra which is the principle UN agency within Australia with expanded responsibility for relationships with Australia and our Pacific neighbours, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. We enjoy a close working relationship between UNIC and UNAA at the national level. UNIC also interacts directly with our association Members in the pursuit of our common goals and to fulfil official UN representation.

We are most grateful to our Patrons, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Mrs Hurley for their continued support throughout the year and for all their commitment to help build a better world for all.

I would also like to extend my personal appreciation to our former President Mario D'Elia, former Treasurer Sharyn McNeil and to independent directors Melissa King, Justin Howden and Richard Gruppetta for their contributions to our board. I wholeheartedly thank my fellow board directors for their genuine dedication and commitment to achieving our goals and for their confidence in and support of my leadership of the organisation. I recognise and thank the passionate group of national volunteers who help sustain our organisation. Most importantly, I extend my thanks to our members and supporters – you are the lifeblood of our organisation and our positive impact and as I like to put it, in helping build a safer, fairer and more sustainable world for all in the wonderful spirit of humanitarian mateship, the embodiment of UN ideals.

All the best and take care

Patricia



Dr Patricia Jenkins

BA (Hons) PhD (USYD)

Acting President - National

United Nations Association of Australia





NATIONAL PROGRAMS

National programs include the public policy committee, our national networks, UN Day, national communications, and national forum.

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Public Policy Committee met regularly throughout the year to deliver an Advocacy Strategy, advice to the Board on request, and formal public policy positions and submissions.

Public Policy Committee Members, July 2022 - June 2023

Andrew Hewett (Chair)
Sarah Lisle (Coordinator)
Susan McHattie
Dr. Donnell Davis
Kim Gordon
Warwick Peel

Claire Moore
Joel Lindsay
Kevin Anderson
Rukaiya Malik
Bianca Failla

ADVOCACY STRATEGY

Our Advocacy Strategy sets out capacity building objectives and policy objectives.

UNAA CAPACITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

- Provide support for the reconvening of a cross-partisan Parliamentary Group in support of the SDGs and of the UN
- Encourage divisions to develop linkages with members of parliament in their state or territory with a view to the formation or continued development of State/territory SDGs/UN Parliamentary groups
- Build membership and engagement with the UNAA Academics and Alumni networks with programs to inform and promote UNAA policy positions
- Strengthen membership and processes of the Public Policy Committee to fulfil the Terms of Reference and provide sufficient support to the Board
- Work with the Communications Working Group to amplify the voice of the UN and key leaders within the UN using UN materials within Board priorities
- Plan to build a capacity to constructively inform Australians of the arrangements and constraints within which the UN operates, and any plans or opportunities for reform of those arrangements.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

That the Australian government

- Strengthen budgetary, policy and program commitments to the United Nations
- Engage Australian civil society, business and research organisations in increased soft diplomacy across our region
- Take a proactive and positive role in the negotiation and implementation of *Our Common Agenda*
- Operationalise commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

STRATEGY

- Align UNAA networks, activities and communications to focus on Our Common Agenda and operationalising the Sustainable Development Goals
- Continue to engage the board and members in the development and communication of policy positions
- Test/convene/develop a policy advisory board of senior academics and alumni supported by a working party of early career academics and alumni
- Test engagement mechanisms to surface and profile relevant research and field experience, inform policy positions and influence research agendas and implement those that work.

MEASURING WHAT MATTERS BUDGET FRAMEWORK

UNAA prepared a Pre-Budget Submission to the Federal Treasury addressing the proposed Measuring What Matters Budget Framework.

Our submission promoted the following principles:

We believe the commitment and alignment to the UN systems, processes, and frameworks are central to enabling and embedding in the DNA a fairer budget for all. We encourage the Australian government to:

1

Enhance funding of long-term systemic programs to reduce disadvantages and to close the widening economic gaps exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2

Improve longer-term funding solutions for the most vulnerable in our communities, such as but not exclusively, continuing the commitment and governance with First Nations people to close the gap, and working in similar ways with People with a disability, CALD Communities, Migrants/ Skills workers, and Women.

3

Strengthen alignment in policies to enhance maximum return on investment, in order to support the above.

UNAA welcomed the Treasurer's stated attention to assessing the budget's impact on the well-being of the Australian community, to go beyond GDP. Such a framework will enhance the effectiveness of the budget as a public policy process and can be informed by the experiences of various inter-governmental organisations as well as that of various national and sub-national governments.

UNAA specifically recommended that the Australian Government adopt the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the foundation of the framework for the assessment of the wellbeing of the Australian community and for the assessment of the budget's impact on their well-being.





INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

UNAA collaborated with the Melbourne University Initiative for Peacebuilding on a Submission to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding New International Development Policy in November 2022.

Our submission applied the following principles to the Terms of Reference:

- walk our international talk at home
- engage Australian civil society, first nations, business and research organisations, and young Australians in increased soft diplomacy
- apply a feminist foreign policy framework, elevate human rights and integrate First Nations knowledge and ways of relating within international and international development policy
- strengthen Australia's positive leadership within the United Nations
- take a proactive and positive role in the negotiation and implementation of Our Common agenda to ensure the UN 2.0 is fit for purpose in the twenty-first century.

REFERENDUM ON RECOGNITION OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES AS THE FIRST PEOPLES OF AUSTRALIA THROUGH A VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

The Public Policy Committee prepared the following draft public policy position which was subsequently endorsed by the board following consultation with members.

The UNAA

1

recognises and celebrates the rights, knowledge and continuing culture and resilience of First Nations Australians

2

confirms our acceptance of the invitation to walk alongside First Nations Australians to a better future as expressed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the Uluru Statement

3

confirms our support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Declaration

4

recognises the alignment between the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

5

recognises the leadership role of the Federal Government, all State and Territory Governments in promoting a Yes vote in the forthcoming referendum on the Voice to Parliament

6

supports the Yes vote and seeks to promote information and opportunities for our fellow Australians to consider their position.



PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBER

Chair Andrew Hewett would like to thank all those who contributed to the work of the Public Policy Committee throughout the year.



ACADEMIC NETWORK

Members of the Academic Network contributed to the Public Policy Committee during the year.



ALUMNI NETWORK

Members of the Alumni Network contributed to UNAA programs across Australia. The Network convenor circulated newsletters and assisted members to connect and to participate in UNAA and Government programs.



PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS

The UNAA Board engaged with members of Federal Parliament to identify new co-convenors for the Parliamentary Friends.



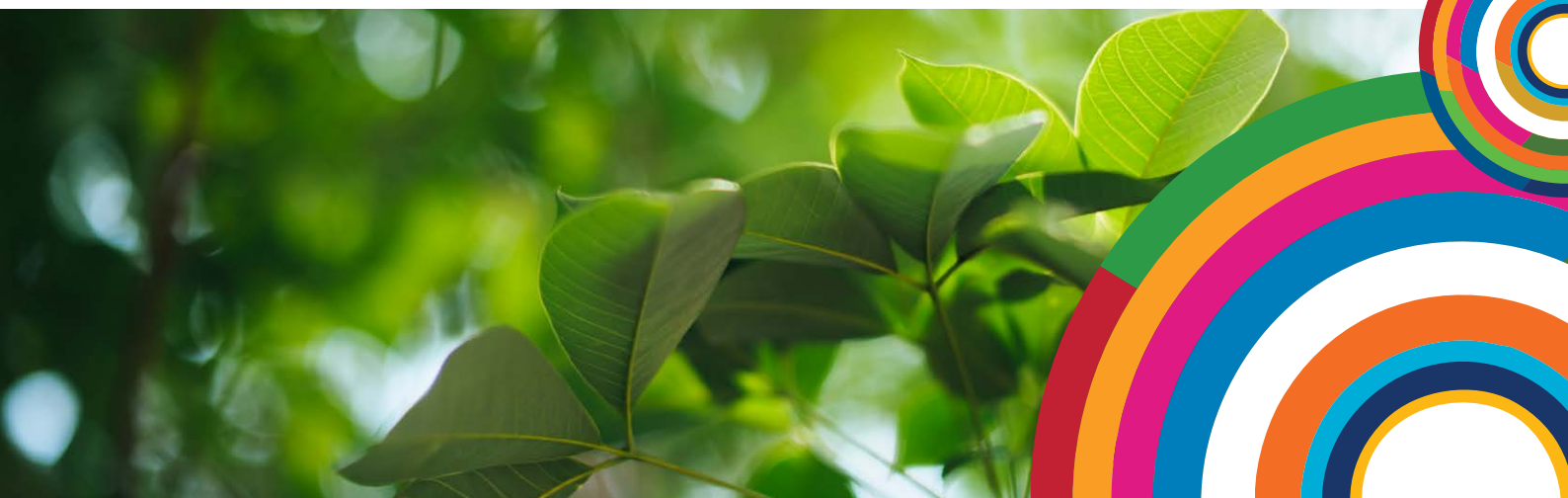
CLIMATE CHANGE COLLABORATION NETWORK

Our UNAA National Climate Committee's major focus for 2022-23 is the continuation of our role as one of the fourteen peak bodies engaged with Griffith University's Climate Ready Australia 2030 initiative.

Over a series of four meetings the CRA2030 generated two core projects

- an Australian emissions reporting data set
- formulating a national climate action policy.

During early 2023, the participating bodies agreed to collaborate on a National Climate Summit, and we are delighted to be involved. The Climate Ready Australia National Summit will focus on sharing knowledge and building capacity for climate action among Australia's peak bodies, across all levels of government, business and NGOs — with an agenda driven by the industry peak bodies collaborating together for a Climate Ready Australia 2030 (CRA2030).





UN DAY

UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being.

There is no other global organisation with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact of the United Nations. Today, the urgency for all countries to come together, to fulfil the promise of the nations united, has rarely been greater.

24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly recommended that the day be observed by Member States as a public holiday. UN Day in 2022 was an opportunity to recognise our national volunteers in a reception with our Patrons, Their excellencies Governor General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) and Mrs Hurley.

A highlight of the event was a passionate presentation from Ms Angelica Ojinnaka, Australia's Youth Representative to the UN in 2022. Ms Ojinnaka consulted with young people across Australia to prepare her address. She asked her peers what Australia looks like when it is responsive to young people's needs, ideas and leadership – *how we might generate intergenerational dialogues with accountability and resources to improve young people's lives today and build a safer, fairer and more sustainable world for tomorrow?* She crystalised their diverse input into a clear message.



Transformative action is to be responsive and accountable, and this goes beyond just having a seat at the table. A seat at the table is only one part. Young people need to feel like they are able to take the table by the edge and shake it when they feel like their words are falling to the side. They need to be able to establish or bring existing tables. They need to be able to speak alongside voices of all generations and have active feedback mechanisms easily accessible to the majority. Let young people build tables not for you, but with you, because these are indeed our tables too.

Angelica Ojinnaka, Australia's Youth Representative to the UN, 2022

The Governor General echoed the words of the Secretary General when he said he is inspired with hope by the work of UNAA and our members across Australia:

Hope inspired by people working together to:

- *address climate change,*
- *build a better, more peaceful future,*
- *fight for human rights,*
- *distribute aid, and*
- *working together for more just and equal communities.*





NATIONAL FORUM PLANNING

The National Forum Steering Committee prepared a business plan and program for a national forum, informed by work prepared by a working party of directors.

1

Themes

– The board considered whether this might focus on the Sustainable Development Goals or the proposal to reform the UN embedded in Our Common Agenda and landed on the Sustainable Development Goals.

2

Sponsors

– the steering committee approached existing valued partners and new potential partners in the development of the business case to fine tune the sponsorship value proposition. Volunteers prepared grant applications.

3

Member value proposition

– the steering committee developed a value proposition around revenue sharing with members.

4

Program

– program design centred on offering leading speakers in combination with collaboration and networking experiences. The working party considered options to hold the central program in the ACT with potential for satellite programs in each division for members who cannot afford or commit to travel.

Further work was placed on hold early in 2023 and will be resumed in 2024.





DIVISION ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



SERVING THE UNITED NATIONS IN FOUR CONTINENTS

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) for Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific 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.

In the spirit of UNAA's goals 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, Damian shared his insights, inspirational experiences, and ideas at this event on 30 August. 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

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 on 15 September 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.



UN DAY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

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 Honourable 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.





UNITED NATIONS WORLD SOIL DAY

The UNAA ACT was joined by distinguished speaker the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC on 5 December 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

The United Nations is under scholastic and popular scrutiny over claims of inefficacy, particularly following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. On 27 March 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.



WORLD REFUGEE DAY. DISPLACED PEOPLE: GLOBAL CHALLENGE, AUSTRALIAN RESPONSE

Professor Peter Shergold AC, chair of Australia for UNCHR and NSW Coordinator General for Settlement, gave a thought-provoking talk on 16 June 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.



GLOBAL CHALLENGES AROUND CONFLICT AND CLIMATE-DRIVEN MOBILITY

Robert Piper, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General, gave a presentation on 16th August to the UNAA ACT division and guests on solutions to the growing number of internally displaced people globally. With the big responsibility of coordinating the SG's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, Mr Piper shared with us how he hopes to strengthen the UN response to this crisis through greater high-level Member State engagement, collaboration with financial institutions, and the development of proactive and accountable internal domestic solutions.



NEW SOUTH WALES



VESAK DAY

Buddhists around the world celebrate Vesak Day in May to commemorate the birth, enlightenment and passing of the Buddha. At the invitation of The Buddhist Federation of Australia, Dr Patricia Jenkins spoke on behalf of the UNAA. She expressed that “UNAA are proud to be associated with this most important day on the Buddhist calendar”. The United Nations General Assembly formally recognised the day of Vesak by a resolution passed in 1999, to acknowledge the contribution that Buddhism has made globally for over two and a half millennia and continues to make, to the spirituality of humanity.” Strengthening partnerships across faith communities is a critical task that the United Nations and its associations continually work towards.



Photo Caption: The Hon. Chris Bowen Minister for Climate Change & Energy of Australia and Dr. Patricia Jenkins, President of UNAA NSW, celebrating Vesak Day 2023



UN DAY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

On UN Day 2022 the UNAA NSW Division again conducted its annual UN Day Commemorative wreath laying Service at Martin Place in Sydney. This Ceremony appropriately recognised all those who have laid down their lives in the service of peace and for the protection of communities in conflict zones all over the world. It was one of the first events the NSW division could hold in person after Covid restrictions had been lifted.

Wreaths were laid by representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, Federal and State Governments, UN agencies, the Australian Defence Forces, Federal and State Police, UN Veterans, and the general community.

It was a blustery October day in Sydney but that did not diminish the enthusiasm and respect shown by those who attended. Nevertheless, we were honoured with the attendance of our Patron the Governor of NSW Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, our distinguished guest speaker Major General (Retired) Brian Dawson AM, CSC, Assistant Director of the Australian War Memorial, and the Director of the United Nations Information Centre, Canberra Mr Damian Cardona Onses.





ONE VOICE, ONE HUMANITY

In February 2023, our Human Rights Pillar hosted One Voice One Humanity in collaboration with the School of Social Justice and Inclusion at the University of Technology Sydney. The event provided a platform for the many voices of Human Rights advocates, those with lived experience and those passionately making a difference. It included 5 minutes Ted-x style presentations, videos, performances, and slam poetry highlighting the need for a shared understanding and application of Sustainable Development Goal target 10.2 – Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion.

The presenters were from a variety of backgrounds, organisations and experiences showing that only through diversity can we attain a greater understanding of our world and the issues that affect us all. Speakers included the Honorary Consul of Ukraine in Australia, Mr Jaroslav Roman Duma OAM, who gave a frank and compelling discussion on the war in Ukraine and the need for global cooperation to end the conflict. These talks were hosted by Omar Dehen, who is a SBS reporter and committed human rights advocate. During the proceedings the charity Mahboba's Promise was given a Human Rights award for their ceaseless efforts helping the people of Afghanistan.

After the presentations, there was time to network and to visit stalls from our sponsors Affinity Intercultural Foundation and Rotary Club of Sydney, together with other Human Rights groups.





UN GALA DINNER

On the 21st of October the UNAA NSW Division hosted its Annual UN Day Gala Dinner at the NSW Parliament. During a festive evening of music, performance and community celebration, UNAA shared the UN Secretary General's 2022 UN Day message video, commemorated the 77th anniversary of the UN Charter, and honoured two outstanding organisations for their efforts to advance science and nature restoration throughout Australia.

2022 was designated as the UN International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development, with the aim of harnessing knowledge and technology to meet major global challenges. To mark this important endeavour, UNAA was delighted to confer the 2022 UN Day Honour upon The Science and Engineering Challenge “for its efforts over 20 years, partnering with local organisers to advance and promote science in the interests of peace and sustainable development.”

Due to COVID lockdowns, the 2021 UN Day Honour was also presented at the event. To acknowledge the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide, the Landcare Australia community was honoured “for its significant contribution towards realising the UN’s vision of a world ‘living in harmony with nature.’”

The awards were presented by Dr Patricia Jenkins to Professor Steve Weller, Director of the Science and Engineering Challenge, and Mr. Doug Humann AM, Chair Landcare Australia. UNAA is extremely proud to acknowledge their efforts and most grateful to all who attended and supported the event, including the NSW Premier’s Department and 2022 UN Day Gala Dinner VIP SDG 4 Sponsor mybrokeronline.





NORTHERN TERRITORY



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WALK

The United Nations Association of Australia - NT Division (UNAA-NT), together with the City of Darwin, Northern Territory Government, Office of Gender Equity and Diversity 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 participants attended the walk on Saturday 4th March 2023. The UNAA-NT First Nations Advisor and Senior Larrakia Elder, Bilawarra Lee opened the Walk with an inspiring Welcome to Country. The Walk then commenced at 9am, and was led by our Patron, His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM, Administrator of the Northern Territory, Ms Ruth Jones, Kate Heelan President UNAA-NT, the Darwin City Brass Band and UNAA-NT Members. Following the walk, His Honour and Ms Jones toured the community stall holders including UNAA-NT, Amnesty International, NGOs, NT Multicultural Association, Timor-Leste Consulate, Indonesian Consulate to name a few.



The walk concluded at Parliament House, where the Hon Lauren Moss, Minister for Equality and Inclusion hosted an incredible morning tea, as we heard from our five amazing Territory women on the UN Theme of, 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality.' Dr Donna Odegaard AM, Stephanie Berlin, Rebecca Forrest and Minister Moss enlightened us with key lessons of their triumphs and challenges from their life journeys and Ayisha Ferozkhan, our youngest speaker at the age of 17 years old inspired us with her perspective and outlook as she embarks on her life journey.

The day was a powerful reminder of SDG's 3 Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4 Quality Education, SDG 5 Gender Equality and SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities.

Attendees included His Honour and Ms Ruth Jones, Hon Natasha Fyles, Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Ministers, 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.



Photo Caption: His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM, Administrator of the Northern Territory and Ms Ruth Jones



"Each year we come together at the UNAA-NT International Women's Day Walk to reinforce our strong network of local and international women - to reflect on our journeys, share our experiences and encourage the next generation of female leaders to join us in celebrating our resilience, commitment, and abilities to make a difference in Australia and globally. I was honoured to be a speaker and in awe of the great work and dedication of the UNAA-NT to give us our voice to enable our vision and to walk together with us as we realise our aspirations and celebrate our achievements. I felt incredibly privileged to be part of this and look forward to many more to come, thank you UNAA-NT".

*Prof. Dr Donna Odegaard AM
Larrakia Elder, Dangalabba, Larrakia Nation
Adjunct Professor, Federation of Australia University Vic,
University of Newcastle NSW, RMIT University Vic.
CEO First Nations Broadcasting Australia, Darwin NT
(First Nations TV, First Nations Radio, First Nations Radio
National, First Nations Digital Radio)*



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCH

UNAA-NT hosted the 3rd IWD Lunch at Il Piatto Restaurant in Darwin at the Mindil Beach and Casino Resort on the 8th March. The spirit of the event focussed on SDG 3 - Good Health and Well Being, SDG 4 - Quality Education, SDG 5 - Gender Equality and SDG - 10 Reduced Inequalities.

Guest speakers included Northern Territory's most prominent women:

- Minister Lauren Moss – Minister for Equality and Inclusion, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Minister for Seniors, Minister for Youth;
- Professor Dianne Stephens OAM – Foundation Dean CDU Menzies School of Medicine;
- Naomi Anstess – Managing Director SaltBlack NT Indigenous Business Network;
- Emcille Wills – President the Filipino-Australian Association of the NT;
- Kia Devine – Moderator;
- Kate Heelan – President UNAA-NT provided welcome remarks and Hon Lauren Moss, Minister for Equality and Inclusion opening remarks.

Each guest speaker came from different age groups, cultural backgrounds, sectors and spoke about their experiences and their life journey. There were tears, laughter, joy and hope hearing from each of our inspirational women.

The guest speakers were followed by a moderated panel discussion with all speakers. It was a robust and enthusiastic Q&A session, with all attendees participating.

The IWD Lunch was a sell-out, attendees included the UNAA-NT Patron, His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM, Administrator of the Northern Territory and Ms Ruth Jones, journalists and media personalities, numerous women community leaders, community supporters of women's rights and gender equality, UNAA-NT members and for the first time year 12 Students from Darwin High School – who attended the Lunch with their Principal, Jill Hazeldine.

The Lunch was a huge success with feedback from speakers and participants describing the occasion as, 'informative, enabling and enriching'. We were delighted to receive numerous emails from our youth attendees after the event who expressed their "honour to be a part of such an important event celebrating the achievements of women' and who found our speakers 'exceptional, captivating and uplifting'. The lunch was also a highlight of the IWD events in Darwin and received excellent media coverage.



Photo Caption: His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM, Administrator of the Northern Territory, Ms Ruth Jones and Kate Heelan President UNAA-NT



It was an absolute privilege to be on the speaking panel for the UNAA-NT International Women's Day Lunch. The event is a truly safe space for sharing NT women's leadership stories including the challenges they have faced to inspire and encourage everyone in the room. There is no doubt the positive impact of this event on participants continues well beyond the day we spend together each year.

*Professor Dianne Stephens OAM
Foundation Dean
CDU Menzies School of Medicine*





INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR SPORT DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

On a sunny afternoon on 29 April 2023 the Darwin Sporting Community came out in large numbers to participate and support the United Nations International Day of Sport for Development and Peace at our multi-sport event held at the Arafura Stadium in Darwin.

The afternoon showcased a range of unique sporting activities, including Sepak Takraw, Tai Chi, Zumba, Dancing, Bocce, Athletics, Long Jump and Air Badminton.

The event was a shining example of how sports can bring people and communities together, whilst highlighting SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being.

Kate Heelan, President UNAA-NT welcomed everyone and with the help of members of the Darwin Deaf Community who attended included some Auslan sign language greetings.

In recognising the power of sports in promoting peace, healthy lifestyles, tolerance, respect and erasing cultural barriers, Keynote Speaker the Hon Kate Worden, Minister for Sport, Minister for Territory Families, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services opened the event and discussed the power of sport in bringing nations together, promoting peace and cultural harmony.

Attendees included the local Multi-Cultural Community leaders and members, Diplomatic Corps Ronaldo Do Rosario, a/g Consul General Timor-Leste; Indonesian Diplomats, Consuls Mr Siuaji Raja and Ms Gina Fadilla; Deaf Community, sporting associations and members of the public.



'Today many low-profile sports, athletes, and ethnic communities, all sharing a love of movement and good will, each with a different application and joy. UNAANT international sport day of development and peace, seamlessly brought all these elements together, the essence for cultural harmony, peace, and lifelong friendship. Congratulations and see you all next year.'

Steven Svensson - Speak Takraw NT Association



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The UNAA-NT was able to reach out to approximately 7,000 Territorians during the first half of 2023 when the association participated in several community festivals and events. These events highlight SDG's particularly, SDG 3 - Good Health and Well Being, SDG 4 - Quality Education, SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 13 - Climate Action.

We joined 3,000 people at the Nepalese Festival and celebrated the Nepalese culture, tradition, and arts at the Darwin Waterfront Precinct.

We gathered with 500 people at the World Music Fusion Festival as part of Refugee week at Jingili Water Gardens. It was a truly global village and a wonderful afternoon with a welcome to country smoking ceremony, music performances from multi-cultural groups and individual stories presented in celebration of refugee week.

We joined our UNAA-NT Patron, His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM, Administrator of the Northern Territory and Ms Ruth Jones at the American Independence Day celebration, with 250 people at Parliament House. It was wonderful to hear from the US Consul General, Kathleen Lively and her team about continued bilateral activities between Australia and the United States.

We participated in the Kindness Festival held at the Darwin Waterfront Precinct with over 4000 Territorians and enjoyed a wide range of performances, music, stalls, multicultural food, games and family activities in celebration of the thriving international student population in the territory.

The UNAA-NT's presence was a great way to showcase and promote the work of the association, the role of the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals. Hundreds of Territorians spoke with members of UNAA-NT on a range of subjects including education, climate change and inclusion. These events are a great way to engage and connect with the community.

Attendees included the Chief Minister, Ministers, Diplomatic Corps, Primary and High School Students and everyone with a warm story to share. The festivals and their food, music, and traditional costumes were an unforgettable experience.

Reflecting on these events, UNAA-NT has been asked by the organisers to return each year as the number of enquiries and feedback about our association was significant.



At Kindness Shake, we are honoured to have the UNAA-NT's presence at our annual Kindness Festival and are deeply inspired by the strides you take daily to build a world where kindness, respect, and love prevail.

Through our collaborative efforts, we not only celebrated kindness, diversity and multiculturalism but also showcased the remarkable possibilities that emerge when the global community comes together for a shared purpose. With the UN's involvement, we hope that our message will resonate at a global scale, reminding us all that kindness knows no borders, and humanity's shared aspirations for peace and understanding are closer within reach than we sometimes believe.

*Ben Poveda-Alfonso
Co-Founder and Chair, Kindness
Shake Inc.*



UNAAQ The SDG champions were from outside the capital city this year. The 5 Ps were awarded to women, men and an organisation that personified people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships.



QUEENSLAND

United Nations Association of Australia, Queensland Division delivered a number of signature events throughout the year, designed to build community and institutional partnerships, and to raise awareness of the UN, particularly through engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals.



SDG CHAMPIONS AWARDS



SDG Champions Awards celebrated local people and community organisations whose work reflects the SDG goals locally. The SDG Champion Awards were nominated from the community and reflected the themes of People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships. This year, with our valued partner, Pureland Learning College, the awards were presented in regional Queensland, in Toowoomba. The importance of local action and the link with the United Nations was reinforced through the experience of people responding to real needs and being acknowledged. During the presentation the pride and joy of the recipients, their commitment to their community and the understanding of the goals were highlighted. The partnership with Pureland continues through our involvement at their Peace seminars, and their celebration of International Day of Peace each year.



UN UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Human Rights Day was celebrated at St John's Cathedral, Brisbane. Guest Speaker, the Queensland Human Rights Commissioner Scott McDougal presented a challenging assessment of government legislation around the rights of young people, particularly in the justice system, relating the key linkages with SDGs 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, 1 No Poverty and 4 Quality Education, as well as the overriding theme of 'leaving no one behind'.

The UNAAQ Peace and Security Team was primarily responsible for 2 key events, as well activities throughout the year and ongoing partnerships with peace organisations.



UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

The UN International Day of Peace in September was celebrated at St John's Cathedral, Brisbane with support from Griffith University, University of Queensland, Just Peace, Rotary Peace Centre (University of Queensland), Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Brisbane Union Choir and Soroptimists. The Guest Speaker was Professor Megan Davis, whose family still live locally, and she brought the original Uluru signed canvas, and spoke passionately about the cry for partnership and real change, with clear links to the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People, as well as the ongoing inequity in our nation.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE BRISBANE



UN PEACEKEEPERS DAY



UN Peacekeepers Day in May, a remembrance event at ANZAC Square in the city, was celebrated with a march and service. This year's guest speaker was Margaret Reynolds, WILPF, National President and former President of UNAA. Her comments around peace, the role of the UN and particularly the UN Peacekeepers are available on our site as well as published extensively. Consular representatives, as well as community groups from Rwanda, Cyprus and the Pacific, where peacekeepers served, are loyal supporters of this event.



UN DOUG EVERINGHAM ANNUAL ORATION

This annual oration acknowledges the contribution of former Central Queensland Labor MP Doug Everingham, who served in the Whitlam Ministry and was also president of UNAAQ after his retirement. The 2022 speaker, Ramesh Thacker, former Assistant Secretary of the UN, and Director of the Centre for Nuclear Non-Proliferation (CNND) in the Crawford School at ANU. His talk focussed on the history of the UN Treaty, on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the impact of the Russia Ukraine war, as well as discussion on reform of the United Nations.

ORGANISED AND SUPPORTED BY:



United Nations
Association
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QLD Division



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA



Griffith
UNIVERSITY
Queensland, Australia



SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



United Nations
Association
of Australia
Young Professionals

UN Young Professionals in partnership with UNAAQ and Urban Design Alliance Queensland (UDAL), developed a series of roundtables focussing on SDG11 Sustainable Cities and Communities discussing how we make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. The Southeast Queensland region is a rapidly developing area with significant population growth and demand for effective responsive planning. The on-line workshops welcomed planners, public servants, and community activists, including young voices and indigenous members and produced the “We the People Declaration 2022” to raise awareness with a call to action. The detailed work is available through UNAAQ, and the team are available to give presentations.



UN INFORMATION CENTRE



UNAAQ members met with Damian Cardono Onses, the new Director for UNIC Canberra, the United Nations Information Centre for Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. Damian visited Brisbane for a conference around the Olympics and our Pacific Region. This informal gathering was particularly valuable as we were able to learn more about his impressive professional background as well as the hopes for our role in the UN network. We hope that there will be further opportunities in 2023/24 to build on this connection.

UNAA Queensland thanks our Queensland team, the Vice Presidents, UN Young Professionals, UN Youth, our partners, supporters, and our members across the state. Your commitment, professionalism and resilience ensure that UNAAQ will educate, promote, and advocate for the United Nations ... **we will just keep doing the good things!**



HARMONY DAY

Member Constanze Voelkel-Hutchison filed this report. When more than twenty years ago my colleague and I were tasked with spreading the word about Harmony Day in SA, I could only have hoped that its symbolism would remain with us for decades. Since 1999, the Department of Home Affairs has led national celebrations for Harmony Week to promote diversity and inclusion activities during the week of 21 March, the date coinciding with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The latter signifies a continued call to action for the global community and we all, in our respective professional roles and private lives, have to continue our efforts towards this so important aim whilst also encouraging simultaneously a genuine celebration of diversity. Australia-bound refugees and special humanitarian program entrants, when learning first about Harmony Day in their pre-departure cultural orientation (AUSCO) classes, have been more than excited about the positive approach taken by their new home country and cannot await participating also in onshore celebrations.



Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values, to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community. Orange was chosen as the colour to represent Harmony Week. Traditionally, it signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

Diversity and gratefulness for each other's uniqueness were certainly on the minds of the thirty participants at the UNAA SA commemorative event on the 18th March. Commencing with a heartfelt acknowledgement of the country by the Hon Robyn Layton, AO QC, and a very warm welcome and beautiful introduction to the event by Lidia Moretti, President of UNAA SA, the scene was set for a fabulous morning at Glenelg beach. The Hon Stephen Patterson, Member for Morphettville provided the SA touch, and Clare Lindop, Deputy Mayor for Holdfast Shores welcomed everyone to their council. It was truly amazing to have the opportunity to learn from all participants about their background, a fascinating kaleidoscope of experience and positive energies, and all shared by a group of people who had come with the aim of taking A Stand for Peace and Harmony.

With many creative souls present amongst the attendees, Surrealist Artist Andrew Bains took the lead in guiding the Live Installation. His words shall remain with us. We all were trying to stand in an ideal pose under the guidance of Amber Baines and after a wonderful 15 min Yoga warm-up by Elaa De Maria. It was notable that our human abilities to stay upright on one leg in the sand over a longer time might not be as perfectly refined as some of us had assumed, and might be as fragile as achieving and maintaining peace on our planet. Importantly, for all present, we will continue to aim for a united approach towards harmony, to form and refresh friendships, appreciate diversity and contribute to and celebrate a more peaceful world.

Worthwhile noting the Chief Justice of South Australia Chris Kourakis, Matt Cowdrey MP, Stephen Pattison MP, Tammy Hubizt from DFAT, Lutheran Care, Vision Australia, UNAASA Advisors Robyn Layton AO KC and Genevieve Thesera Haese attended, as well as Sponsors, Members and Friends of UNAASA





UNAASA DINNER

On the 30th of October UNAA SA was delighted to host a fundraising dinner at the National Wine Centre to celebrate UN Day and the formation, goals and achievements of the UN with the UNAA SA community, partners, donors and special guests.

To begin the night guests were treated to a food tasting supplied by members of the local good industry. Welcome to Country was given by Aboriginal Elder Uncle Moogy who always manages to create a warm and spiritual aura at our events.

MC Pippa Wanganeen warmly welcomed the first speaker, form Premier and now Sustainable Development Goals Ambassador for UNAA SA, the Reverend Dr Lynn Arnold who delivered the UN Day message from UN Secretary General Anotonio Guterres which included the words “As we mark UN Day let us renew our hop and conviction in what humanity can achieve when we work as one, in global solidarity.”

The Governor of SA and UNAA SA Chief Patron, Ms Frances Adamson AC spoke next, recognising there is no other global organisation like the UN.

The heart warming Bamboo Orchestra from West Java gave stirring renditions of ‘I still call Australia home’ and “Waltzing Matilda”.

Guest speaker for the evening was Enrico Palerm, Head of the Australian Space Agency who spoke about the evolving and leading role of South Australia in the Space Sector in Australia. He spoke about how the UN has enacted space treaties whereby space based technology aims to improve life. He went on to say that with more than 100 space related organisations the state is attracting the world’s most ambitious space entrepreneurs. Flavio Tata Nardini, a guest on this evening, is one such person, making a move to South Australia from Rome to set up Fleet Space Technologies.

It was a truly happy evening attended by community leaders and celebrating the colourful works from Refugee Week 2022 on display.



VICTORIA



UN DAY 2022

With the support of the DFAT Victorian State Office, we celebrated UN Day in October with a special discussion around the future of the UN.

Moderated by Thenu Herath, CEO of the Oaktree Foundation and World Economic Forum Global Shaper, the discussion featured the authors of Implications of the UN Common Agenda for Australia: Renewing Multilateralism John Langmore AM and Erika Feller AO and William Smith, International Deputy Co-Prosecutor of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

The vibrant panel discussion centred around how Australia can contribute to the revitalisation of multilateralism, with each of the three panellists bringing their own interactions with the UN system to the discussion.



"Indigenous people, local communities, young people, women and girls, should be leaders of climate action and not victims of climate policies."

Archana Soreng, UN Secretary General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change



GATHERING LOCAL UN ALUMNI TOGETHER

In February, we were very pleased to hold our first event with former UN staff members now based in Victoria.

In the first of planned annual events, we held welcome drinks for people who have worked all over the world, including in such organisations as UN Women, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), UN-Habitat and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).





UNAA VICTORIA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

The UNAA Victoria Young Professionals Network continues to deliver online and in-person events to empower and build the capacity of young professionals to achieve the UNAA's mission of creating a safer, fairer, and more sustainable world.

One of the most effective and highly-attended events run by the Young Professionals Network (YPN) is the annual international careers mentoring event. Held on 25 May, this event began with a panel discussion before attendees broke into small groups led by a mentor with diverse international career experience. Attendees chat informally to gain advice and ideas about potential careers with the UN and other international organisations before moving as a group to another mentor.

Special thanks to this year's mentors: Rana Ebrahimi (former UNHCR Officer), Lynette Phuong (World Health Organisation), Rosie Dalheim (former consultant at UN Women), Ian Howie (former UN Division of Human Resources, and International Labour Organisation) and Emily Megow (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Program and Partnerships).



"Keeping the promise of the SDGs will help us respond and recover faster and better from the COVID-19 pandemic; together we can ensure the SDGs benefit the planet and reach everyone everywhere."

*Amina J. Mohammed,
UN Deputy
Secretary-General*



MODEL UNS IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

In partnership with the Victorian Department of Education Languages Unit, we began this part of the year by delivering Model UNs in five target languages, German, French, Japanese, Italian and Indonesian.

VCE language students from a wide range of schools across Victoria were stimulated and challenged by another year of participation in our language Model UNs with the opportunity to practice their negotiation and public speaking skills in a second language for the entire day. The students excelled in transferring the language skills learnt in the classroom into a public setting to debate solutions to global issues. We thank the acting Secretaries Generals, teachers, language associations and assistants and the students for making these language immersive events possible.



“The Japanese Language Model United Nations was an amazing experience for our students. They were engaged all day, actively involved in the discussion about the topic. They just kept thinking and talking about it even during the lunch break! I was very impressed by all the participating students with their collaboration, perseverance, and determination. Congratulations to our future Ambassadors!”

(Teacher 2023)



WESTERN AUSTRALIA



COLLABORATION FOR CLIMATE

On March 1, 2023, the UNAAWA and Curtin University Faculty of Business and Law co-hosted the Collaboration for Climate event. It united government, industry, academia, and community representatives to discuss climate change strategies. Notable moments included a Welcome to Country, talks by UNAAWA's President Randhir Amoganathan Hon. Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Environment and Climate Action, and a call to action from Curtin student Harry Bidewell. Session chaired by Dr Sandy Chong, experts on a panel examined collaboration challenges, successful examples, and practical individual steps for climate action. Supported by Carbon Neutral, the event concluded with over 140 participants inspired to foster cross-sector cooperation.



Minister for Environment and Climate Action the Hon. Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Environment and Climate Action, Current & Immediate Past Presidents of UNAAWA, and Vice-Chancellor of Curtin University Professor Harlene Hayne



UN REFUGEE DAY 2023

In celebrating Refugee Week this year, the Committee organised a Refugee Week event in partnership with the Refugee Council of Australia and the Equal Opportunity Commission. The event hosted Assadullah Khurrami, a former refugee from Afghanistan, who delivered a touching and inspiring keynote followed by a Q & A session with the audience. Despite facing multiple challenges including targeted attacks by the Taliban, seeking refuge in Indonesia, the harsh sea conditions on the way to Australia, and the barriers of detention and settlement, Assadulah generously shared his inspiring journey as a former asylum seeker, how he overcame hardships and built a new life here in Western Australia.

Attended by over 80 members of the community, it was a great opportunity to celebrate the resilience and courage of refugees and former refugees like Assadulah, and to learn more about the challenges they face when finding freedom.



Members of the Human Rights Committee and guest speakers at the UN Refugee Day Event.



UN SDG SCHOOL ARTWORK COMPETITION

The UN SDG School Artwork Competition actively engaged Year 5 students at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Pinjarra in understanding and contributing to the UN SDGs. The competition aimed to expand students' global awareness and inspire their actions towards the SDGs. UNAABA provided online resources aligned with the UN SDGs to facilitate teachers in this educational journey. An important facet of this facilitation involved encouraging students to creatively express their thoughts, ideas, and values associated with the SDGs through artwork. These artistic pieces are used to create unique UNAABA merchandise items to sell publicly to fundraise for the UNAABA and promote the SDGs.



2022-2023 YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The flagship program of the GEC is the Young Women's Leadership Development Program (YWLDP) which has been expanded this reporting period to include a regional offering.

A Young Indigenous Women's Leadership Program was held in Albany on 18-20 November 2022 in partnership with the Great Southern Aboriginal Corporation and sponsored by the Hilton Garden Inn hotel. The GEC members travelled down to Albany to deliver the program over a weekend, which included workshops and presentations on the UN, the SDGs, leadership, women's lives and gender equality issues, community advocacy, and career management.

Since the successful delivery of this regional/Indigenous specialised program, the GEC has been in discussions to create a similar offering for Ishar Multicultural Women's Centre, tailored to a new culturally diverse audience.





FUTURE LEADERS DEVELOPMENT - SPORTS FOR CHILDREN & ACHIEVING SDGS

The SDG Forum on 3 August marked the third anniversary of our partnership with West Coast Eagles in the promotion of the SDG goals in our community. The forum explored the role sports can play in achieving positive development of children and achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Good Healthy & Wellbeing, Zero Poverty, Quality Education, and Sustainable Communities. Attendees had fun with the live quizzes and were engaged in interacting with amazing panellists. Speakers include Peter Whittaker, the CFO of the West Coast Eagles, Michael Roberts, CEO of West Australian Football Commission, Tore Nelson, a Naitanui Academy player, Jackson Nelson, Captain of the WAFL Eagles, and Dr Victoria Absalom-Hornby, Partnership Lead of the Valuing Children Initiatives and a UNAOWA community partner. I had the pleasure of chairing the panel session where our speakers shared insights on how sports can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and transform social and educational objectives. Sponsored by BHP, the forum was well-attended by the Mayor of Victoria Park, series sponsor, athletes of Special Olympics, high school students, educators, UNAOWA members and community partners.



77TH ANNIVERSARY OF UN DAY GALA

On the 21st of October 2022, the UNAAWA celebrated the 77th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations at the Pan Pacific Hotel. 'Building back together for peace and prosperity' was the motto of the year. Chaired by Zaung Nau, the event was attended by over 120 guests including the members UNAAWA, dignitaries from the DFAT, Vietnam, Malaysia, India, and Germany consulates, representatives of federal and state ministries, members of the WA Indigenous Tourism Council (WAITOC), members of the Rotary Club of Perth, Presidents of the Chung Wah Association, and our sponsors from both public and private sectors. The event gave recognition of the UN Day Award winners, art auction and the welcome to country was graciously performed by Kerry-Ann Winmar. This was followed by opening remarks which were given by the President of UNAAWA, Randhir Amoganthan, who highlighted the importance of peace, harmony, and community in the recovery of the pandemic.





YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

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 through their careers.

The UNAA YP network is run by and for young professionals, and consists of a national executive that coordinates and supports the activities of State and Territory-based volunteers in NSW, ACT, WA, QLD, VIC, NT, and QLD. In 2022-23 the UNAA YPs began re-engaging volunteers in Tasmania and recruited for the first time in the Northern Territory.

Across the reporting year, the UNAA Board, including the Young Professionals, discussed how best to deliver the mission of engaging all Australians in the work and values of the United Nations. This discussion focused on the roles and responsibilities of UNAA inc., UNAA's State and Territory Divisions, themselves members of UNAA inc., and the UNAA Young Professionals, a national program of UNAA inc.

To reinforce the goals of strengthening the engagement of young professionals and the membership of UNAA Divisions, the UNAA Young Professionals no longer take financial memberships as a method of fundraising. Instead we encourage those who wish to become financial members of UNAA to do so through their local UNAA Division. The UNAA Young Professionals are an impact focused group and look forward to continuing to engage young Australians through events and activities in person and online.

ONLINE REACH

The UNAA Young Professionals deliver events and online advocacy to a network of more than 20,000 social media followers, volunteers, and partners across Australia. This reach allows unique opportunities for engaging and connecting young Australians regardless of location.

MY CLIMATE ACTION

This year, the national events team delivered the second half of the 2022 series, *My Climate Action*. A four-part online series, *My Climate Action* provided young professionals with ideas, actionable resources, and tools to directly contribute towards climate change solutions.

It continued with event two: Mental Resilience and Health, featuring two inspirational researchers and practitioners of mental health from the University of Queensland's Mental Health in Climate Change Transdisciplinary Research Network, Associate Professor Fiona Charlson and Tara Crandon.

THINK GLOBAL ACT LOCAL

The UNAA YPs also launched an online interview series, 'Think Global Act Local'. Speaking to the experts about breaking down global issues into segments we can act on at home! Episode one featured the incredible Trudi Mitchell, CEO of Australia for UNHCR.

IN PERSON EVENTS

The UNAA Young Professionals engage local events teams in States and Territories to bring people together to turn the ideas into actions.

Teams across the country run networking evenings, information panels, mentoring sessions, and unique experiences like our SDG skills workshops. All our events engage young professionals in the work and values of the UN, tailored for local interests, contexts, and impact. These events present an incredible opportunity to partner with like minded organisations, amplify our impact, and meet as many new people as possible.

As a key benefit of being a national network, the UNAA YPs share ideas across the nation and work to replicate successes and share relationships. As always we are deeply appreciative of the time our hard working volunteers and valued partners put into the success of the organisation and its mission, and we look forward to an even bigger and better 2023-24, with new relationships, partnerships, and of course events!



UN YOUTH



EVATT NATIONAL FINALS

In December 2022, UN Youth held its first in-person Evatt National Finals since the COVID-19 pandemic. Thousands of students participated in the Evatt Model United Nations competition across the country, and the top 60 were invited to compete at the National Finals in Adelaide. Throughout the week, students represented a member of the Security Council, and debated pressing issues including piracy, independence movements, tax evasion and media freedom during conflicts.

Students also participated in a range of educational workshops about global politics and heard from many leading experts in international relations, including U.S. Consul General Kathleen Lively.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE

In 2023, 80 students from across the country participated in our National Conference, which was held in Perth. The event explored the promises and challenges of globalisation. Students explored these issues by participating in workshops and interactive problem solving activities, competing in Model UN debates, and hearing from a range of guest speakers. Particular highlights included a recorded opening address from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Penny Wong, and an in-person presentation and Q&A with the Minister for Youth, Anne Aly.



YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM

In September 2022, our Youth Representative to the United Nations Angelica Ojinnaka travelled to New York as part of the Australian delegation to the United Nations. She had the opportunity to represent young Australians' voices in a range of sessions and delivered a statement to the Third Committee of the General Assembly. She included many quotes from the young people she had consulted with in her speech, ensuring that their concerns were heard directly by the international community. Angelica extended her advocacy of young Australians voices, briefing UNAA Patrons and assembled guests at the UNAA

In 2023, we appointed a new Youth Representative, Imogen Kane, who has been participating in youth consultations across the country in preparation for her trip to New York in September 2023.



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 where he holds the role of Vice President, elected in November 2022.

WFUNA GOVERNANCE

The WFUNA Executive Committee met in New York in June 2023 (EC 231) and in Geneva in November 2022 (EC 230).

The 43rd WFUNA Plenary Assembly was split in two (2) parts:

- the elections component of the Plenary Assembly took place on the 7 November in 2022 in Geneva
- all other usual items of the Plenary Assembly are scheduled for 7-10 November 2023 in Tbilisi, Georgia, hosted by UNA Georgia.

Dr Shawn Chen accepted the role of President WFUNA in October 2022. He is an American citizen who holds a BA from Chongqing University, an MBA from Willamette University, and an MA in Education from Linfield College. He also received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of West Los Angeles, the University of the Cordilleras, and the University of Caucasus. Dr. Chen is the Founder and the Chairman of the Board of Sias University, an innovative educational institution through which students, leaders, and scholars from East and West can meet and profit from an exchange of ideas expressed in multiple languages and cultures. Dr. Chen serves as the Treasurer and President-Elect for the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP). He is the co-founder of Plug and Play in Silicon Valley. He is an advocate of lifelong learning.

WFUNA began recruiting a new Secretary-General in 2023.

WFUNA OPERATIONS

During the pandemic, most of the WFUNA work was conducted at the Geneva office. The NYC office was reestablished in 2023.

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

WFUNA received specific funding for the establishment of a WFUNA office in Africa. The establishment of the office is 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. The WFUNA office will be located in the UN Headquarters in Nairobi over the coming months. Activities will include educational programs, capacity-building, and support for UNAs in Africa.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The 9th WFUNA College Leaders at the UN: Korea, run from May to August 2022, brought together 35 student representatives from 18 universities. These college leaders were challenged to find innovative solutions linking outcomes across the three Sustainable Development Goals 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, 13 Climate Action and 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.
- 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 first ever Global Model World Health Organisation (W.H.O.) was held in February 2023. Nearly 200 school and university students from 40 countries took part.
- WFUNA launched the Under Starry Sky: Youth Action for SDGs in partnership with the Norwegian SpareBank.

- The WFUNA program of Civil Society Dialogues with the presidents of the UN Security Council continued, WFUNA has now conducted 49 of these events.
- WFUNA held the 5th UN Security Council Exit Briefing, with the Permanent Representatives of India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, and Norway and the UN Security Council Election Briefing event that included candidates from Sierra Leone, Algeria, Republic of Korea, and Guyana.
- The 7th iteration of Citypreneurs was held in February 2023 in the Republic of Korea to find innovative solutions to solve challenges faced by cities of the world, as defined in the SDGs.
- The first Artificial Intelligence – SDG (AI-SDG) camp was held in the Republic of Korea, the goal being to bridge the digital divide that currently exists, and empower young people with digital capabilities with the common goal of achieving the SDGs.
- WFUNA approached the Permanent Mission of Jamaica in February 2022 to seek their support in sponsoring a resolution to establish a World Model United Nations Day in time to mark the 80th anniversary of the Model UN in March 2023. WFUNA played an important role in campaigning for the UN General Assembly to adopt its first ever resolution on the Model UN, which it did on 1 September 2023.
- The WFUNA 16+ Forum has managed to secure a commitment from the government of Colombia to host the 4th 16+ Forum in 2024.



NATIONAL BOARD

Our Board met in one full day workshop and eight board meetings across the 2022-2023 financial year.

SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP

The Board met in person in a workshop in September 2022, for the first time since COVID-19 sent us into a long period of meeting by zoom. This workshop was a critical moment to reflect on our role and working relationships. Positively we recognised that we are all national when we are working together. National and our member divisions, YPN and UN Youth are interdependent, and each has their uniqueness which needs to be encouraged and supported.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATIONAL AND MEMBER PROGRAMS

The September Workshop deliberated on the relationship between national and member roles and agreed:

National leadership is focused on:

- National relationships – Governor General, Parliament, UNIC, WFUNA, other UNAs, national organisations, partners and sponsors
- Networks – Parliamentary Friends, Alumni, Academics, YPN, Climate Change Collaboration
- Public Policy and Advocacy – Public Policy Committee, Advocacy Strategy and campaigning and guidance for advocacy
- Engaging to formulate strategy, direction, priorities at the national level at least annually to focus our efforts for impact
- Facilitating exchange across the family to build capability, share resources and amplify
- Building tools that can be used nationally and by chapters
- Developing frameworks and sharing resources and opportunities to build capacity
- Recognising and supporting the diversity of members with respect and ensuring equality of treatment

Member leadership is focused on:

- Membership engagement and experience
- Education
- Events
- Local and domain relationships
- Local and domain advocacy within the national frameworks.

Focus for National programs

Discussion of our national leadership role continued in 2023 and will inform our next Strategy. The Board agreed that national leadership is clustered in three areas:



INTEGRATING WELLBEING POLICIES

The Wellbeing Policy Working Group finalised a draft wellbeing policy framework in light of member feedback.

The framework sets out our shared values, our Code of Conduct which captures our promoted behaviours and our Zero Tolerance for Prohibited and Illegal Behaviours. It highlights the work we all do, regardless of our role, to contribute to each other's well-being – psychological, social and physical, and to prevent, intervene early and manage allegations and examples of prohibited and illegal behaviour. The framework includes a WhistleBlower Protection Policy as required by ACNC regulation and a Work, Health and Safety Policy as required by Commonwealth and state legislation.

The next step is for the framework to be reviewed by legal advisors to ensure that it complies with legal frameworks in all jurisdictions, and is fit for purpose given our volunteer nature and federated governance.

UPDATING PRIVACY POLICY TO SECURE MEMBER DATA PRIVACY

In 2023 we reviewed our systems and policies governing engagement with members and national networks and subscribers and drafted a new national privacy policy to clarify how we capture, store and use personal data in compliance with national and international privacy standards.

This draft policy sets out how we collect, use, store, protect and delete personal information with the consent of our members, directors, volunteers, subscribers and donors, and how we review our systems, processes and policies over time. The draft policy is consistent with thirteen Australian Privacy Principles in the Privacy Act 1988 (CTH).

It proposes that:

- UNAA agrees, publishes, upholds and regularly reviews a national privacy policy to ensure our Policy is consistent with legislation, that our handling of personal information is consistent with our policy and consent.
- UNAA sets out the purpose and scope of personal data collection for members, directors, networks, subscribers and donors in compliance with Australian Privacy Provisions in this Policy and at the time of consent for collection.
- UNAA only collects personal information when it is provided proactively by the person agreeing to the terms of our Privacy Policy including the Cookie Policy.
- UNAA enables people to engage with us anonymously and through a pseudonym for the purposes of whistleblowing and general enquiries, and where using anonymity or a pseudonym is not a cover for prohibited or illegal behaviour.
- UNAA uses personal information to achieve the purpose and objectives of our organisation as described in the policy.

The principles of this draft policy reflect the diversity of our members, some who offer national communications as part of membership, and some who do not. The next step is for it to be reviewed by legal advisors to ensure that it complies with legal frameworks in all jurisdictions, and is fit for purpose.



NATIONAL OFFICE

National Office volunteers met in person for the first time in October 2022, in a workshop that coincided with the UN Day reception with our Patrons. The workshop was a great opportunity for volunteers to work together on ways of working, and particularly to shift from single responsibilities to a greater team approach to programs. The workshop initiated some processes for policy development and consideration, incorporated in the new draft Board Operations Policy, and an operating manual for our networks. The draft Network Operating Manual will be completed in 2023-24.

Our National Office made significant individual and team contributions across our membership, operations, software and systems review, preparation of new wellbeing and privacy policies, communication strategy and execution, public policy development, national forum business case and program development, work plan reporting and ongoing engagement with stakeholders and networks.

In 2022-23 our National Office comprised:

- James Puckridge, Membership and Operations
- Esra Sporton (nee Akcamci), Governance and Policy
- Rachel White, Strategic Communications
- Katherine Raines, Social Media
- Rebecca Grant, Networks
- Frederick Guanzon, PMO
- Paul Askar, Digital
- Sarah Lisle, Policy, and Networks
- Visna Hemachandra, National Forum



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements cover the United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated (UNAA Inc) only and for the reporting year of 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. The UNAA Inc is the National body of the Federated UNAA group. The UNAA Inc operates as a registered Australian charity promoting the work of the United Nations in Australia. The UNAA does not receive financial support and operates independently from the United Nations and the Australian Government.

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2023

	FY2023	FY2022
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	\$99,530.27	\$110,426.57
Accounts Receivable	\$1,884.00	\$3,316.50
Prepayments	\$ -	\$-
Accrued Revenue	\$ 1,835.00	\$-
Total Current Assets	\$103,249.27	\$113,743.07
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Office & Computer Equipment	\$-	\$ -
Less Accumulated Depreciation	\$-	\$ -
Total Non-Current Assets	\$-	\$-
Total Assets	\$103,249.27	\$113,743.07
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$247.50	\$488.75
Accrued Expenses	\$ -	\$-
Tax Liabilities	\$269.27	\$420.87
Leave Provisions	\$-	\$-
Unearned Revenue	\$-	\$-
Total Current Liabilities	\$516.77	\$909.62
Total Liabilities	\$516.77	\$909.62
Net Assets:	\$102,732.50	\$112,833.45
EQUITY		
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)	-\$10,100.95	-\$5,814.74
Retained Funds	\$112,833.45	\$118,648.19
Total Member Funds	\$102,732.50	\$112,833.45

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2023

	FY2023	FY2022
ORDINARY INCOME		
Program & Events Income	\$1,911.43	\$3,406.00
Grants Received	\$-	\$-
Membership Levies	\$5,900.45	\$5,510.45
Donations	\$129.04	\$966.33
Other Income	\$4,976.28	\$5,142.22
Total Income	\$12,917.20	\$15,025.00
COST OF INCOME		
Cost of Programs & Events	\$1,482.41	\$6,731.00
Total Cost of Income	\$1,482.41	\$6,731.00
Gross Contribution Surplus/(Deficit)	\$11,434.79	\$8,294.00
OVERHEAD EXPENSES		
Accounting & Bookkeeping	\$ 2,042.48	\$1,772.00
Audit Fees	\$-	\$350.00
Bank Fees	\$66.10	\$127.00
Board Meeting Expense	\$6,579.15	\$-
Computer & IT	\$ 691.84	\$2,088.60
Depreciation Expense	\$-	\$156.00
Governance/Board Costs	\$950.00	\$980.00
Insurance General	\$4,053.00	\$4,557.00
Insurance Travel	\$1,100.00	\$-
Insurance Workers Compensation	\$-	-\$105.00
Memberships & Subscriptions	\$160.92	\$-
Travel & Accommodation Domestic	\$1,991.49	\$-
Loss on disposal of assets	\$-	\$429.00
WFUNA Levies	\$3,900.76	\$7,202.00
Total Expenses	\$21,535.74	\$17,556.60
Surplus/(Deficit)	-\$10,100.95	-\$9,262.60

Responsible Persons' Declaration

In the opinion of the responsible persons of United Nations Association of Australia Inc:

1. The financial statements and notes of the organisation are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:
 - (i) Giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013; and
2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the organisation will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of the United Nations Association of Australia Inc.

A/President: Patricia Jenkins
Patricia Jenkins

Date: 7/11/2023

A/Treasurer: Thanh (Aaron) Tran
Thanh (Aaron) Tran

Date: 06/11/2023

These financial statements are audited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report and notes which form part of these financial statements.



LES ELLIS + associates pty.
registered tax agent + public accountants

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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 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 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.

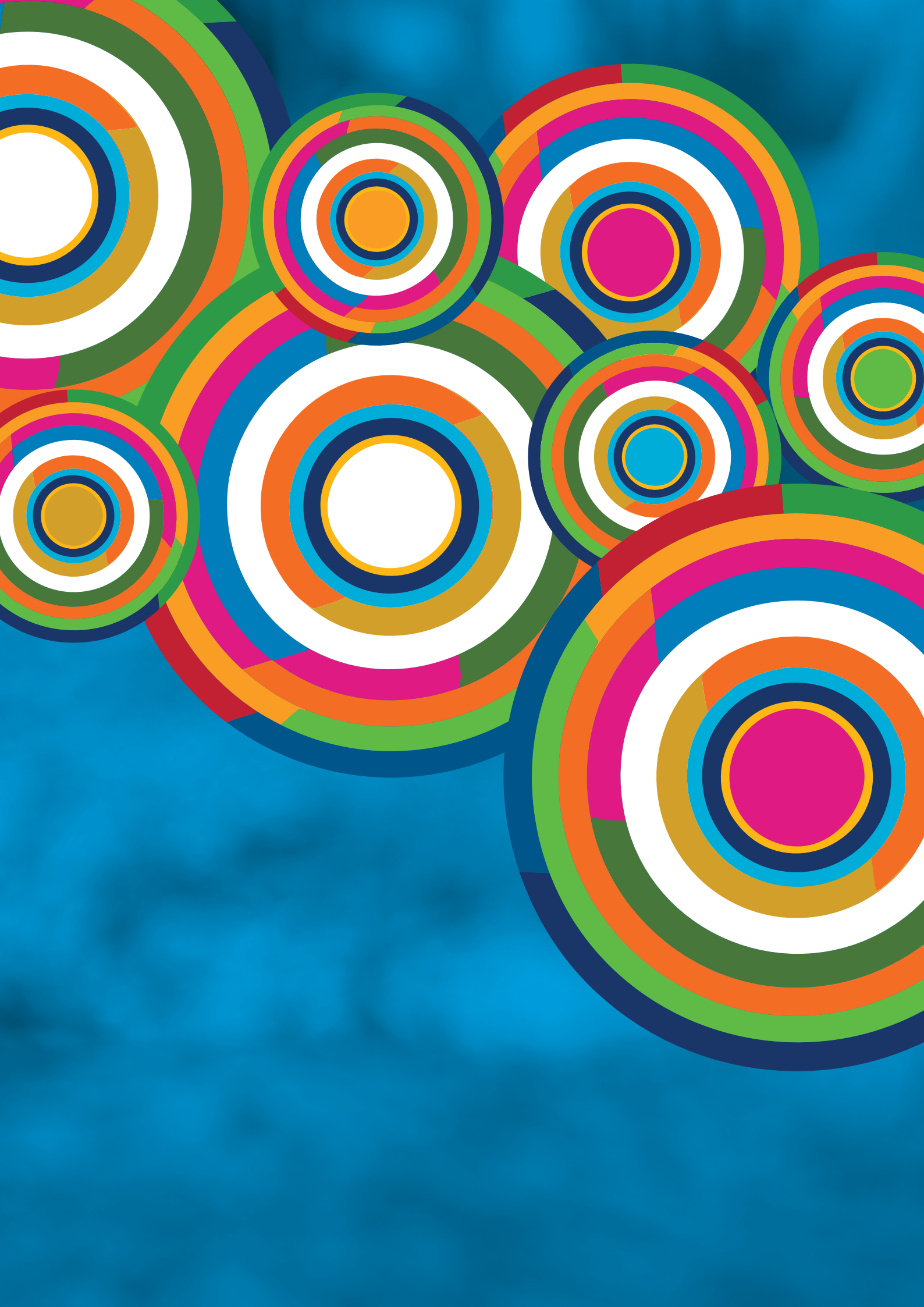
Audit Opinion

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 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.
- III. is compliant with Division 60 of the Act.

Les Ellis & Associates Pty

Les Ellis FIPA
17 October 2023





**United
Nations
Association
of Australia**

UNAA National Office

admin@unaa.org.au | www.unaa.org.au

Support and donate at

www.unaa.org.au/get-involved/donate/



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17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD