



Annual Report 2024/25



United
Nations
Association
of Australia



inform

engage

inspire



**United
Nations
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, water 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.

Our strategic themes

The world we want

The UN we need

The Role we play

Our platform for impact



The UNAA comprises 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, Status of Women, 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, 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 accreditation with the UN Economic and Social Council with Consultative Status.

Her Excellency the Governor General the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC serves as our National Patron. Since being sworn in as Australia's 28th Governor-General in July 2024, her support and guidance continue to inspire and strengthen the work of the United Nations Association of Australia.

The Governor General generously accepted our invitation to join us as Patron following her appointment on 1 July 2024.

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

Dear friends,

I am pleased to report an innovative, constructive and productive year. This annual report celebrates our members' dedication and the vital work of advancing the UN's mission for a fairer, safer, and more sustainable world.

Despite global challenges and crises, and amid ongoing turmoil, many UN resolutions and decisions on climate action, human rights, environmental targets, and youth engagement have empowered our work at home and strengthened our role as an active partner in Asia-Pacific. Australia continues to play an active and constructive role within the United Nations system, contributing leadership and innovation in areas such as cyber safety, early intervention for family violence, wellbeing indicators, adolescent rights, and regenerative farming, and advancing global progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a stable middle power, Australia's voice carries influence in promoting peace, security, and climate action. The UNAA works to strengthen partnerships and engage with governments and communities to ensure Australia's ongoing leadership in the UN remains informed, impactful, and aligned with the principles of multilateral cooperation.

UNAA is implementing our Strategy 2030 by strengthening our Partnerships, Policies and Practices. Some achievements were immediate, while others are longer-term investments, reflecting our ambitious efforts to engage Australians in the role we can play in co-creating the future we want, the UN we need, and the role that we play.

THE BOARD DEVELOPED 6 INITIATIVES TO TAKE FORWARD:

1

Dynamic Australians in the UN System, underway with in kind resources

2

Multilateralism for UN80, underway with in kind resources

3

Supporting Australia's bid to join the UN Security Council, in development for funding

4

Model UNs for Australia's wicked problems, to be developed

5

COP31 engagement, to be scoped and developed

6

Renewing our platform to engage, inform, inspire, to be developed and funded through operational budgets and in-kind support.

New initiatives under our 2030 strategy gained strong support from partners, helping to build momentum for future joint action.

Our most major project in this year culminated on Hiroshima Day - 6 August 2024. The UNAA convened over 100 Australians in person and more than 150 online participants for a national dialogue on Peace and Security. The discussions focused on five key themes, including nuclear disarmament, conflict prevention, accountability, and Australia's evolving role in global peacebuilding. Insights gathered from these conversations directly informed Australia's civil society contributions to the United Nations *Summit of the Future*. The project resulted in an 80-page report submitted to the process. This highlight from our past year's work truly demonstrates the power of inclusive dialogue in shaping our country's voice on international peace and security, ultimately grounding our ongoing work toward a safer, more just and sustainable world. As an organisation dedicated to bringing people together and building a better world, this year affirmed a simple truth that when we unite around shared values and common purpose, we discover what's possible through collective action.

We are proud to welcome the Governor General, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn, AC as our supportive new patron. We have continued to strengthen connections through the relaunch of Parliamentary Friends of the UN, as well as ongoing engagement with Alumni, UN Youth and UNAA Young Professionals. We participated in globally significant milestone forums, in UNESCAP in Bangkok and CHOGM 2024 in Samoa, Our WFUNA membership spans 100 countries, while our participation in 76 UNESCAP and 56 Commonwealth countries demonstrates our commitment to multilateral engagement.

This year, 2025, marks the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, and UNAA members across Australia are celebrating in diverse and meaningful ways. Nationally, we are storytelling with insights from Dynamic Australians who engaged in diverse ways in the UN systems – often quiet achievers who work behind the scenes yet deserve recognition. These stories are peer-reviewed and are featured on the website, with a soft launch held in March 2025 at our UN Permanent Mission in New York. Next year, an elegant compendium will be launched with our patron, alongside a suite of children's books to showcase our local UNSung heroes. A series of events, including the UN@80 Conference later in 2025, will reflect on the past while looking to the future, making it an exciting time to imagine new possibilities and contributions for Australians in the UN system.

In particular we are highlighting the UN80 Initiative. This is the United Nations' ambitious system-wide reform effort. It responds to a vital question: 'How can the UN adapt to become more agile, integrated and equipped to respond to today's complex global challenges and tightening resources'. The initiative is identifying efficiencies, reviewing how mandates are implemented and examining potential structural changes and program realignments. It is a significant opportunity to strengthen the UN system and we are pleased the Australian Government is playing an active role in ensuring alignment to a strong vision for the organisation that is inclusive of the three founding pillars.



'Reform is central for implementing the Pact for the Future. It is crucial for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. The needs of the people we serve must remain our guiding star...We must forever uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.'

'We will advance all this work so that our three pillars – peace and security, development and human rights – are mutually reinforced, and the geographical balance of our workforce and our gender and disability strategies will be preserved. And we will be ever mindful of the interests of all Member States – developing countries, in particular.'

'Member states' active engagement and support for the UN80 Initiative is vital to ensure that efforts are inclusive, innovative, and representative of the needs of all Member States. Many members have agreed that this must be the moment to be bold and ambitious. That is what our Organization needs – and that is what our times demand.'

— Secretary General Antonio Guterres, remarks on the UN80 Initiative, May 2025

UNAA survives wholly on volunteer efforts, in-kind support, and partnerships demonstrating the power of the charity sector. Donations help us amplify our impact, and we acknowledge again the Bequest in the name of Raymond Gosford Watt made by his niece Gabrielle Watt. This generous donation is dedicated to specific projects that celebrate Australians in the WFUNA and UN work. Based on the 2030 Strategy, a fundraising committee is mandated to develop options to ensure our financial sustainability.

It is my honour to work with such committed and innovative individuals in our Board, our Executive, our National Office skilled volunteers, Board working groups, our members and our close sharing networks. I especially recognise the efforts of Susan McHattie and Brian Gleeson who hold multiple responsibilities within UNAA. With their good energy and diligence, we have progressed on many fronts simultaneously and organically. Tony Dobson joined us as Treasurer, and working parties advanced logistics for Strategy 2030.

Each of the division representatives on our Board contribute leadership to our national role whilst engaging, informing and inspiring members and stakeholders through their division governance and programs. I thank Brian Gleeson, Dr Patricia Jenkins, Kate Heelan, Dr Susan Harris Rimmer and Claire Moore, Lidia Moretti, Dr Andrew Hewett, Dr Sandy Chong, Joel Lindsay and Dr Joshua Karras, Caleb Henley and Iris Brown for their dedication to the purpose, programs and members of UNAA within the national Board and leading their teams in their divisions.

The National Office's attention to care, flexibility and innovation ensured that we function, as an organisation. James Puckridge's careful persistence in sustaining our operations and supporting our members is a beacon of collaboration. Sarah Lisle's passion for accurately capturing our Dynamic Australian stories continues to be the bridge between past achievements and the hope for the future generations. Frederick Guanzon's leadership in our national office and in support of my work is unparalleled. Zoe Gong's imagination in shaping our social media and engaging our stakeholders speaks for itself as our engagement grows. I thank Carley Russell for her Strategy Communications leadership and welcome Perri Grace Caderamanpulle to the role. Each individual brings strength, wisdom and humanity to our team and our work.

I also extend my thanks to all the active members of our UNAA family across the country, this report is dedicated to you and to your work. I am prouder of these collective efforts more than these simple words can convey.

Please enjoy exploring our annual report.



Dr Donnell Davis

DPSt, MEnvMmt, PG PubPol, ASA CPA, BBus
President - National (from December 2023)
United Nations Association of Australia



Vale Lidia Moretti

UNAA remembers Lidia Moretti as
a very special person and a pocket
rocket for our vision and mission.

The celebration of her life, brought together hundreds of family and friends in person and online. We remembered her grace, dedication to her family, her peerless hospitality and passion for cooking to share, her professional approach and commitment to quality, her courage in standing up for what is right, her capacity to bring people together, and get them working for the vision.

Her impact lives on in the International Womens' Day event celebrated in Adelaide each year, Harmony Day, Celebrations of the Australian Space Program and outstanding and creative events promoting our planet and environment.

Lidia made a strong imprint on our organisation and ourselves and will be missed.

My dear friend, a true force of nature, passionate, unstoppable and deeply connected to the UN, a message from Jay Jethwa.

A year of impact

July 2024

Free and Equal, An Australian conversation on human rights Australian Human Rights Commission

We promoted, supported and attended the conference and joined the campaign for an Australian Human Rights Act

August

Pact for the Future: Peace and Security Roundtable

Convened with the University of Melbourne and the ACT Division of the Australian Institute of Foreign Affairs, discussion papers, panel sessions, social media, video and report with 6 recommendations, 283 participants.

International Day of Peace

Special events convened around Australia by our members

Truth and Justice Commission Bill

UNAA joined many Australian organisations calling for the federal government to stand by its commitment to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full.

October

Civics education, engagement and participation in Australia

Supporting the submission of UN Youth and advocating for investment in civil society and programs that encourage and support Australians to be active citizens.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa

Building connections between UN SDGs and programs and the 56 CHOGM countries meeting in the Pacific for the first time

UNAA Geneva Study Tour

10 participants engaging with Human Rights, UN Food and Agricultural Organisation and international development in Geneva

November

DISINFO Pacific

Partnered with UN Information Centre, WFUNA, our UNA colleagues in the Pacific, Griffith University and the European Union

Parliamentary Friends of the UN hosted by Alicia Payne, MP and Darren Chester MP

Highlighting the work of the International Organisation for Migration, the role of UNRWA, the work of our ambassadors to the UN and the role of UNAA

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Building relationships with ambassadors and allies for the Regional SDG forum, Beijing +30 and CEDAW +50

December

Celebration of UN Day with our Patron

Beginning our partnership with inspiration for the Dynamic Australians in the UN project

March 2025

International Women's Day

Special events convened around Australia by our members – For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment.

Launch of Dynamic Australian Women during the UN Commission for the Status of Women

The first of a series of stories celebrating the Australian women who have made an impact on the UN at the Australian Embassy in New York

Meeting with the Australian Chief De Mission at the UN in New York

Sharing UNAA 2030 Strategy and preparing for Australia's UN Security Council bid

Meeting with Secretary General World Federation of United Nations Associations

WFUNA priorities
Asia Pacific focus

April

UK visit to Commonwealth

Continuing to advance relationships for UN and SDG partnerships

Invitations to join UNAA in a UN and Multilateralism Alliance

Initiating a collaborative partnership

Understanding UN Reforms

Presentation at the UNAA ACT event for members

International Day of Peacekeepers

Special events convened across Australia by our members recognising Australia's proud history and highlighting the future of UN Peacekeeping

May

June

Statement on Israel and Hamas

Recommendations on peacekeeping, protection of humanitarian, medical and media workers and children

World Environment Day and Environment Month

Special events convened across Australia by our members recognising Australia's proud history and highlighting the future of UN Peacekeeping, month of education on plastic pollution in the Pacific

Meeting with our Patron Her Excellency, the Governor General the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC

Priority initiatives in our program for 2025-6

National Programs

UNAA National programs include preparation of our UNAA Strategy 2030, marking the anniversary of the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, our public policy work, communications and engagement and celebration of UN Day.

UNAA Strategy 2030

The Board worked to finalise our UNAA Strategy 2030 through a series of working parties, board deliberations and member consultation. Implementing the Strategy will be an ongoing focus of engagement with partners, members and stakeholders.

UNAA WORKS TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES:

1

ENGAGEMENT

Our Members, Networks and Partners are engaged to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable world

2

AWARENESS

The Australian community has access to clear, timely and accurate information about global issues and the role the UN plays to bring member nations together to solve problems

3

INSPIRATION

Members of the Australian Government and leaders in all sectors are inspired to support the UN, its vital work and ongoing reform

4

EMPOWERMENT

Young Australians are inspired by the work of Australia's UN Alumni to aspire to and achieve a career in the UN system and to take up leadership roles in all systems

5

RECOGNITION

The role of Australians in the UN system is recognised and celebrated.

UNAA Strategy 2030

UNAA is for Australians who want a better world and want to work collaboratively to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, strengthen the United Nations and encourage the Australian Government to continue proactive membership.
Like the UN, our values are integrity, professionalism and respect for diversity.

OUR ROLE

ENGAGE

an open invitation to all Australians

INFORM

with accessible, relevant, timely and true information, evidence based policy positions and alumni informed program advice

INSPIRE

through stories of global citizens, citizenship and collaboration



The world we want

is described through the Sustainable Development Goals, the Declaration of Human Rights, and UN treaties



The UN we need

the foundations of the UN are described in the UN Charter, these are updated in the Pact for the Future, and the Digital Compact and Declaration for Future Generations which aim to address the constraints the UN operates under and make it better fit for purpose

THE THEMES OF OUR WORK



The role we play

refers the Australian Government fulfilling its leadership role as a proactive member nation, influential Australians within the UN system, engaged, informed and inspired Australian citizens and a capable, connected and inclusive UNAA

THE IMPACT WE AIM FOR

1

Our **Members, Networks and Partners** are **engaged** to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable world

2

The **Australian community** has access to clear, timely and accurate information about global issues and the role the UN plays to bring member nations together to **solve problems**

3

Members of **Australian Governments** and **leaders** in all sectors are inspired to support the UN, its vital work and ongoing reform

4

Young Australians are **inspired** by the work of Australia's UN Alumni to aspire to and achieve a career in the UN system and to take up **leadership** roles in all systems

5

The role of Australians in the UN system is **recognised and celebrated**.

WE FOSTER THE INNER DEVELOPMENT GOALS SO WE ARE ABLE TO COLLABORATE TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

BEING

Cultivating Our Inner Life

THINKING

Understanding Our Complex World

RELATING

Caring For Others And The World

COLLABORATING

Building Trust And Working Together

ACTING

Leading And Enabling Change



Our Platform For Impact

The United Nations Association of Australia works to enable Australians to build the world we want, the UN we need, and the role we play – both directly as global citizens and through proactive national membership of the UN via our government. Our association as a platform for impact addresses our governance, capacity and capability and describes how our members and partners can collaborate for impact.

UNAA AND OUR MEMBERS WILL WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE:

- ✓ stronger governance benchmarked to ACNC governance principles
- ✓ increased capacity at the national level, and through cooperation with our members and networks, across our organisation
- ✓ introducing and promoting the Inner Development Goals.

In 2024-5 the UNAA Board worked to complete our Strategy, consider our models of partnership with our members, and develop a financial strategy to support our future, *see our Governance section*.



The World We Want

The world we want is described in the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNAA AND ITS MEMBERS WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE:

- ✓ a refreshed drive to shift the dial on SDG targets and measures in Australia in National, State and Local Governments, the private sector and civil society
- ✓ support for a program of implementation of the UN Treaties within Australia
- ✓ pathways for Australians to support the achievement of SDG targets and measures in the Asia Pacific
- ✓ continued collaboration to achieve the Paris Climate Agreement.

In 2024-25, our members worked tirelessly to engage their communities through events that informed, engaged, and inspired action towards achieving the goals. At the national level, UNAA promotes the UN's goals, declarations, and treaties through our social media, advocacy, initiatives, and policy work, *see the reports of our Divisions' Programs*.



The UN We Need

The UN we need is described in the outcomes of the Summit for the Future, the Pact for the Future, the Digital Compact and the Declaration for Future Generations.

UNAA AND OUR MEMBERS WILL WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE

- ✓ provision and amplification of factual information about the role and successes of the UN
- ✓ increased awareness of and support for the outcomes of the Summit for the Future
- ✓ support for Australia taking a proactive role in the reform and strengthening of the UN.

In 2024-5 UNAA and our members put a focus on the Summit for the Future the Pact for the Future and the related Digital Compact and Declaration for Future Generations through events, advocacy initiatives, social media and policy work, *see our National Programs*.



The Role We Play

THE ROLE WE PLAY GIVES SCOPE TO OUR ROLE AS UNAA:
ENGAGING, INFORMING AND INSPIRING



Australians on the role of Australia as a member of the UN



Australians' understanding and support for that role, and



pathways for Australians to work for the UN.

UNAA AND OUR MEMBERS WILL WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE

- ✓ recognition and engagement of Australia's UN Alumni, past and present, amplifying the role we play in the UN system
- ✓ professional development for people aspiring to begin or progress careers within the UN system
- ✓ an authoritative channel for UN information, alumni experience and academic research, trusted by Australian parliamentarians, policy makers and Government ministers, and Australians working in other countries
- ✓ engagement with the Federal Parliament to increase support for our leadership in the UN system.

In 2024-5 we continued our convening work across our networks, and our advocacy work with Government, opposition parties and with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *see our Networks Reports*.

Marking the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations

When the world chose unity over division 80 years ago, it set in motion a global project unlike any other: the United Nations. As we mark this milestone, we celebrate not only the UN's enduring mission but also Australia's proud place in its story, from founding advocate to modern-day leader for a fairer, more sustainable world.

Launched by Secretary-General António Guterres in March 2025, the UN80 initiative marks a bold new chapter in the organisation's evolution. UN80 represents a pivotal moment in the United Nations' journey and presents an opportunity to reimagine global cooperation for a new era. Through this ambitious reform agenda, the UN aims to strengthen its effectiveness, accountability, and inclusivity, ensuring it remains fit for purpose in addressing the defining issues of our time, an effort that Australia proudly supports through its enduring commitment to global cooperation and reform.

The Enduring Importance of Multinationalism

As the United Nations marks its 80th anniversary in 2025, the UNAA reaffirms the enduring importance of multilateralism in promoting peace, human rights, and sustainable development. Despite global challenges—including ongoing conflicts and calls for reform—the UN remains the world's leading forum for dialogue, cooperation, and collective action.

Australia has long benefited from and contributed to this system, from H.V. "Doc" Evatt's early advocacy for small nations to contemporary leadership on climate action, human rights, and Security Council reform. Through the *Pact for the Future* adopted at the 2024 Summit, renewed momentum is building to strengthen the UN's relevance and responsiveness.

With Australia's active pursuit of a Security Council seat and its bid to co-host COP31 with Pacific partners, the UNAA continues to champion the value of a strong, inclusive, and accountable multilateral order—one that serves both national interests and global wellbeing.

Looking Forward: Strengthening Multilateral Alliances

Building on the momentum of the UN's 80th anniversary and Australia's growing leadership on the global stage, the UNAA is deepening its commitment to advancing multilateral cooperation and advocacy.

In early 2025, the UNAA advanced engagement to convene a strategic alliance focused on the UN and Multilateralism, working with UN agencies and UN aligned associations. We set out to explore coordinated approaches to amplify our voices and Australia's voice in promoting multilateralism and the United Nations to shape a fairer, more sustainable international order.

Looking ahead to 2026, the UNAA's own 80th anniversary, the Association will continue to expand our alliances, elevate public engagement, and champion multilateralism as the foundation for global peace, human rights, and climate action.



“Together with our allies, the UNAA will continue to amplify Australia’s voice in shaping a more just, inclusive, and sustainable world.”

Dynamic Australians Contributing to the UN System

In 2025, we launched *Dynamic Australian Women Contributing to the UN System* to mark International Women’s Day at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York, for the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, 50 years of CEDAW, and 30 years since the Beijing Declaration.

The series celebrates Australian women whose leadership has shaped the UN and the League of Nations, from Jessie Street’s pivotal advocacy for gender equality in the UN Charter to the global impact of Ronnie Wilson and Narelle Townsend in peacekeeping and sustainable urban development.

Following its success, the initiative will continue through 2026 as part of the UNAA’s 80th anniversary celebrations, expanding to honour *Dynamic Australians*, both women and men, whose dedication and service strengthen Australia’s contribution to the UN and inspire future generations.



“Celebrating the Australians whose courage, conviction, and compassion continue to shape the United Nations—and the world.”

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
CELEBRATES

Building Our Future Together

Dynamic Australian Women contributing to the UN system

JESSIE STREET
NARELLE TOWNSEND
JENNIFER ASHTON
LEANNE SMITH
PENNY WENSLEY
RONNIE DAVIS
MEGAN DAVIS
GILLAN BIRD

Our Patron Her Excellency The Governor General Sam Mostyn AC

United Nations Association of Australia

BEIJING 30

CSW 69

Human Rights

UNAA and UNAA NSW supported and promoted the Australian Human Rights Commission conference Free and Equal, a conversation about Human Rights in Australia. The Free+Equal Conference featured a diverse line-up of more than 60 eminent experts, thought leaders, social justice advocates and community heroes and attracted 1300 people from across Australia. Key leaders, experts and advocates gathered to help pave the way for a much-needed overhaul of Australia's human rights framework, including the introduction of an National Human Rights Act. We joined and promoted the campaign for an Australian Human Rights Framework referencing the parliamentary report recommending a National Human Rights Act resulting from the tireless work of AHRC.

Free + Equal Human Rights Conference 2024

More than 1300 people from across Australia and around the world participated live and online in this landmark event for advancing human rights in Australia.

Leaders, experts and advocates gathered to help pave the way for a much-needed overhaul of Australia's human rights framework, including the introduction of an Australian Human Rights Act.

The conference featured a diverse line-up of more than 60 eminent experts, thought leaders, social justice advocates and community heroes over 12 engaging sessions and events.

The Free + Equal Human Rights Conference was held over 6 and 7 June 2024 at the Hyatt Regency in Sydney and was part of the 2024 Vivid Sydney festival.



Public Policy

The Public Policy Committee met regularly throughout the year to advise the Board on areas for policy development, prepare formal public policy positions and submissions, and coordinate a national alliance to promote multilateralism with activities in recognition of UN80. Our work this year focused on support for Free and Equal, and the campaign for an Australian Human Rights Framework, Peace and Security, the conflict between Hamas and Israel and Democracy and social cohesion at home.



Peace and Security

Summit of the Future Roundtable

In August 2024, UNAA proudly convened the [Summit of the Future Roundtable](#) in Canberra, bringing together over 250 participants in-person and online including academics, peace practitioners, UN negotiators and DFAT representatives in a day of ambition. We collaborated with the Initiative for Peacebuilding of Melbourne University and the ACT Chapter of the AIIA to deliver the Roundtable, a Communique, six briefing papers, a video recording of the event, slides and participant reflections which are a tremendous resource for researchers, advocates and policy writers working in peace and security. The work contributed to the Australian Government position in the final negotiations of the Peace and Security Chapter of the Pact for the Future.

This gathering was a space for dialogue and for shaping tangible contributions to global negotiations at the Summit of the Future held in New York in September 2024. In preparation for the Summit, six [background briefs](#) were prepared to stimulate discussion on issues ranging from nuclear disarmament and accountability to Security Council reform and Australia's future role.

- ✓ **Impunity, Accountability and Respect for Human Rights** and the Rule of Law by Prof Erika Feller AO FAIIA
- ✓ **Luck Is Not a Strategy:** It's Time to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons by Gem Romuld, A/Prof Tilman Ruff AO and Melissa Parke
- ✓ **Rising to the Challenge:** how Australia can Help Strengthen the UN Peacebuilding Commission by Russell Rollason AM, Adrian Morrice, Simon Richards and Jacob Berah
- ✓ **Transform or Die:** The Case for Reforming the UN Security Council by Prof John Langmore AM and Prof Ramesh Thakur
- ✓ **Strengthening Australian Diplomacy** by Prof John Langmore AM, Dr Tania Miletic and Dr David Richardson
- ✓ **Autonomous Weapons** Must Be Controlled Urgently by Matilda Byrne

How do we restore international peace and security?



Facilitator
Professor
Matthew Neuhaus
College of Law
ANU

Special guest
Adrian Morrice
UN Alumni
Peacekeeping and
Political Affairs

Join us to discuss the future of peace and security at the Summit of the Future Roundtable 9-5 Tuesday 6 August 2024
Join this session between 10 and 11.15am
[INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION AT EVENTBRITE](#)

How do we rein in the monster? Disarming nuclear and autonomous systems



Dr Sue Wareham
OAM Medical
Association for the
Prevention of War

Matilda Byrne,
Stop Killer
Robots
Campaign

Associate Professor
Tilman Ruff AO,
International Campaign
to Abolish Nuclear
Weapons

Join us to discuss the future of peace and security at the Summit of the Future Roundtable 9-5 Tuesday 6 August 2024
Join this session between 11:45am and 12:45pm
[INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION AT EVENTBRITE](#)

Following a day of ambition we are determined to strengthen peacebuilding and disarmament through international cooperation

WE ASKED, LISTENED AND RESPONDED:

1

'How do we restore international peace and security?'

- ✓ Start with prevention
- ✓ Don't bomb schools and hospitals
- ✓ Invest more funds for diplomacy & peacebuilding, less for armaments
- ✓ Ensure the meaningful participation of women
- ✓ Ensure all nations heed the rulings of the International Court of Justice

2

'What role will the Peacebuilding Commission play in the future of peace and security?'

- ✓ When Australia sits on the Peacebuilding Commission in 2025 we can make the case for integrated peacebuilding strategy and strengthen links between conflict prevention and development with the SDGs

3

'How do we rein in the monster?'

- ✓ Disarming nuclear and autonomous systems
- ✓ Sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of
- ✓ Nuclear Weapons
- ✓ Recognise that this is our generation's 'Oppenheimer moment' and support a legally binding treaty prohibiting autonomous weapons

4

'How can we strengthen the rule of law, international humanitarian law and human rights?'

- ✓ Multilateralism exists to improve governance with constructive internationalism
- ✓ A more effective UN will eliminate impunity and implement accountability, linking prevention and response





Challenges and Lessons

We recognise that translating thoughtful recommendations into lasting UN commitments is never simple. The international negotiation process can be long and complex, often slowed by competing national interests. For UNAA, limited staff and volunteer capacity also presents a challenge in sustaining expert engagement across such a broad agenda. At the same time, the global landscape continues to shift rapidly, with conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza and across the Indo-Pacific demanding constant agility to ensure our work remains relevant. Perhaps most importantly, ensuring that diverse voices, particularly women, youth, and First Nations peoples, are meaningfully included in these processes remains an area where progress is urgently needed. By being open about these challenges, we not only strengthen our accountability but also highlight where new partnerships and support are essential.





UNAA Peace & Security - Looking Ahead

The coming years provide a unique opportunity for Australia, and for UNAA, to shape global agreements that advance peace, justice and human dignity. We will work to hold the outcomes of the Roundtable and the outcomes in the Pact for the Future, ensuring they are carried into future work. As Australia prepares to join the UN Peacebuilding Commission, we will continue to advocate for a more prevention-focused approach to peacebuilding that draws on lessons from our region. We are also committed to pressing for meaningful reforms, including a more representative Security Council and a stronger, more effective Peacebuilding Commission. Looking ahead, UNAA will expand platforms to ensure that First Nations leaders, civil society, and young Australians are at the forefront of these conversations. By growing our partnerships and building capacity, we can respond more effectively to emerging risks, from autonomous weapons and cyber threats to climate-driven conflict, and ensure Australia plays its part in building a safer, fairer, and more inclusive international order.



With appreciation

This project is a major initiative for a volunteer run association we extend our deep appreciation to our tireless working party Professor John Langmore, Russell Rollason AM, Dr Andrew Hewett, Dr Donnell Davis, Brian Gleeson, Susan McHattie and Sarah Lisle and our cohosts and contributors.'

Cohosts

- ✓ Professor Matthew Neuhaus, College of Law ANU
- ✓ Adrian Morrice, UN Alumni peacekeeping and political affairs,
- ✓ Professor John Langmore AM Initiative for Peacebuilding
- ✓ Dr Donnell Davis, President UNAA
- ✓ Beth Eggleston, Humanitarian Advisory Group

And contributors

- ✓ Simon Richards Life & Peace Institute, Dr Ludmilla Kwitko, Women, Peace and Security Coalition,
- ✓ Professor John Langmore AM
- ✓ Dr Sue Wareham OAM, Medical Association for the Prevention of War, Matilda Byrne, Stop the Killer Robots Campaign, Associate Professor Tillman Ruff, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
- ✓ Dr Sarah McCosker Lexbridge Lawyers, Professor Erika Feller AO University of Melbourne, Dr Adam Day UN University Centre for Policy Research Geneva

Through this work, UNAA has deepened its credibility and influence, aligning with Australia's upcoming membership of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (2025–26) and its future bid for a Security Council seat in 2028.



The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas

On 7 October 2023, Palestinian armed groups launched thousands of rockets toward Israel and breached through the perimeter fence of Gaza at multiple locations, entering into Israeli towns and killing and capturing Israeli forces and civilians. The Israeli military declared “a state of war alert,” and began striking targets in the Gaza Strip, including residential buildings and health care facilities. This conflict has continued to the horror of people around the world.

The Public Policy Committee and Board of UNAA recognised this situation is complex, fluid and ongoing. UNAA made [occasional statements](#), made representations to the Australian Government and shared references to help Australians access current, accurate information.

For updates on UN actions please refer to the UN General Assembly [Newsroom](#), [What's In Blue](#), the newsletter of the UN Security Council and [reports](#) from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the near east. For media releases, transcripts, speeches and opinion from our Foreign Minister please refer to the [official website](#).

We particularly focused on the impact of the crisis as it is felt in Australian communities – as families, friends, neighbours and colleagues process the personal and human cost of conflict and express their frustration at the capacity of our national and multilateral organisations to create safety and security. We extended our empathy to our fellow Australians who are distant from their family, friends and colleagues at this time of crisis and frustrated by our seeming incapacity to respond. We expressed our concern for the rising incidences of antisemitism and Islamophobia which undermine the Australian community's confidence in diversity and acceptance. We joined the Foreign Minister Senator the Hon Penelope Wong in rejecting hate, and condemning prejudice and discrimination in all its forms. Our member divisions convened meetings and events to bring Australians together and to share the perspectives and stories of people working in the UN system, working on the ground in Israel and Gaza and working here in Australia.

We supported the deployment of a United Nations Peacekeeping Force. The role of a Peacekeeping Force is to keep peace and ensure the timely and orderly distribution of humanitarian assistance - food, water, medical supplies and fuel. We acknowledged the efforts of the Australian government in working with international partners to contribute to the conditions for peace, and for the establishment of the two state solution.





Truth and Justice Commission Bill

On 4 July 2024 the Senate referred the Truth and Justice Commission Bill 2024 to the Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs for inquiry and report by 11 February 2025.

The Bill is intended to establish a Commission to inquire into and make recommendations to Parliament on particular matters relating to historic and ongoing injustices against First Peoples in Australia and the impacts of these injustices on First Peoples.

UNAA set out our support for establishing a national Truth and Justice Commission as an important step in Australia's implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

We thank Sister Wendy Flannery for her work to champion this issue and draft the submission. We note this inquiry lapsed at the dissolution of the House of Representatives on 28 March 2025.



Democracy and social cohesion in Australia

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters adopted an [Inquiry into civics education, engagement, and participation in Australia](#) on 27 March 2024, following a referral from the Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Don Farrell. The Public Policy Committee prepared and the UNAA Board endorsed a submission to the Inquiry in October 2024.



"Civic space is shrinking. Dissent is being silenced. Misinformation is driving wedges between people."

— UN Secretary-General António Guterres

The UNAA Submission supported an excellent submission prepared by UN Youth, which the UNAA Board endorsed.

OUR SUBMISSION MADE THE FOLLOWING KEY POINTS:

- ✓ The UNAA affirms that democracy and civic participation are not static achievements but living systems that require continual renewal. Informed and engaged citizens are the foundation of strong institutions and social cohesion.
- ✓ Democracy is not self-sustaining; it flourishes only when citizens are informed, included, and inspired to participate.

- ✓ An informed and engaged citizenry is Australia's greatest safeguard — and its most powerful contribution to a just, peaceful world.
- ✓ Australia's standing as a "full democracy" (ranked 14 globally) reflects strength, yet challenges persist in participation, civic trust, and information literacy.
- ✓ By strengthening participation and trust, Australia reaffirms its role as a constructive global citizen committed to democracy, human rights, and sustainable development.
- ✓ Investment in civic capability for all ages and backgrounds is essential to sustain confidence in democratic systems.
- ✓ The UNAA stands ready to collaborate with government, educators, and civil-society partners to embed civics education as a lifelong practice.

UNAA MADE FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 Work with and resource civil society to co-design and deliver systemic programs for citizens of all ages to increase knowledge, understanding, engagement, participation and inclusion in Australia's electoral and political systems.
- 2 Build the capacity of trusted, civil society partners to extend the effectiveness and broaden the reach of communication campaigns as a matter of routine practice to ensure all Australians are better informed, better connected and more able to apply critical thinking to the platforms and information streaming at us.
- 3 Establish and use mechanisms to effectively engage and resource civil society as trusted communication designers and channels during times of crisis, when getting timely, factual and culturally specific information to people is critical.
- 4 Review the work of the UN High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence for application of the principles and institutional capabilities within the Australian systems of governance.
- 5 Invest in innovation and innovative programs to build bridges across our cultural diversity to strengthen ties, understanding, deliberation of complex issues and decision making.

We thank Sarah Lisle, our Public Policy and Networks Lead for championing this work and drafting our submission with input from the Public Policy Committee. The Australian Government has not yet responded to this Inquiry.



DISINFO PACIFIC

UNAA partnered with the UN information Centre to deliver a regional conference on information integrity for Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific in Brisbane on 11-12 November 2024.

Sessions covered electoral integrity, environmental misinformation, infodemic management, health and ethical technology standards and community education. Stakeholders consistently highlighted the need for education, digital literacy, robust public information systems and regulatory reform as part of a coordinated approach to tackling information threats.

Keynote addresses from the United Nations, European Union and UNESCO emphasised the urgent need for global, multi-stakeholder collaboration and digital platform accountability. The conference also marked the regional amplification of the UN's Global Principles for Information Integrity and called for a stronger Pacific voice in digital governance.

The [Disinfo Pacific Conference](#) convened leading experts, policymakers, academics, and civil society representatives from across Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific to address the escalating threat of disinformation.

THE OUTCOMES ARE SUMMARISED IN FIVE STATEMENTS:

- 1 Information integrity is essential to trust in democracy, climate action and public health.
- 2 Disinformation is increasingly strategic, cross-sectoral, and transnational.
- 3 Pacific nations face unique challenges but offer rich knowledge, traditions and solutions.
- 4 Policy, regulation and education must evolve faster to meet AI-fueled threats.
- 5 Restoring public trust requires multi-sectoral collaboration and accountability.



“The concept of information integrity offers a vision for a more humane and safer information ecosystem, one where people can access a range of views and express themselves freely without fear of attack, and where harmful misinformation, disinformation and hate speech are no longer incentivised.”

- Melissa Fleming, Under Secretary General for Global Communications

Dr Donnell Davis, President UNAA worked with Emmanuel Peni, Coordinator of Project Sepik in Papua New Guinea to facilitate the Pacific Open Dialogue on Climate. Using a world-café format, these discussions captured grassroots insights. Themes included trust-based messaging, storytelling as strategy and calls for more youth and women voices in combating disinformation.

THE CONFERENCE GENERATED A PACIFIC AGENDA FOR INFORMATION INTEGRITY AND MADE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STAKEHOLDERS:

Policy and Regulation

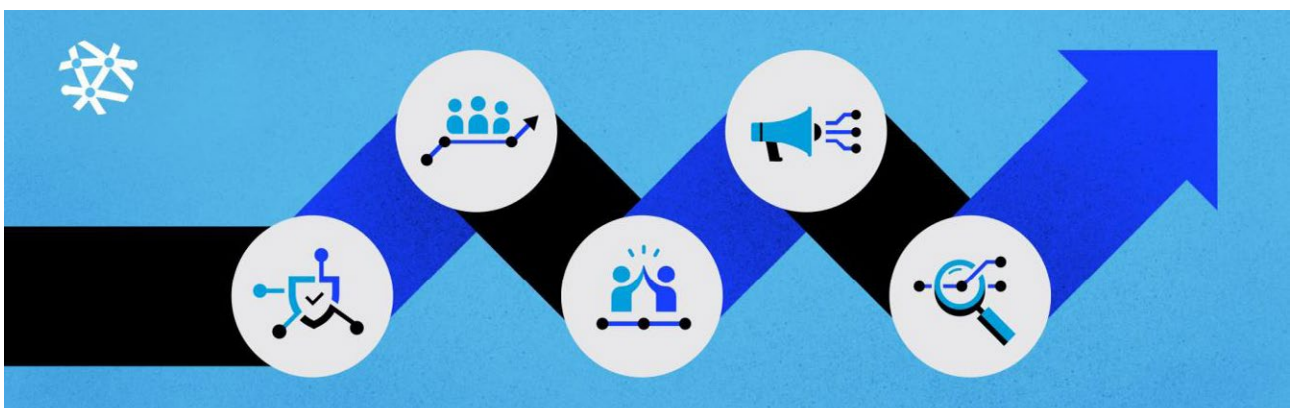
- ✓ Align national laws with the UN Global Principles for Information Integrity.
- ✓ Enhance electoral and environmental legislation to address hybrid and AI threats.
- ✓ Require truth in sustainability reporting and counter greenwashing.

Education and Digital Literacy

- ✓ Embed media literacy in school and community education systems.
- ✓ Support adult-targeted campaigns, especially in digital gap regions.
- ✓ Promote critical thinking as a national education priority.

Strategic Partnerships

- ✓ Facilitate regional knowledge-sharing and best-practice exchanges.
- ✓ Foster collaboration across election bodies, NGOs, journalists, and platforms.
- ✓ Elevate indigenous knowledge systems as trusted and legitimate information sources.





UN and Multilateralism

To support our activities to mark the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations the public Policy Committee commissioned a short paper on the UN and Multilateralism. The preparation of this paper was led by John Fowler, whilst he was working to complete his PHD. The paper addresses why multilateralism matters, what it is, how the United Nations is constituted, and its importance to Australia.

'The UN system remains the most developed platform for negotiations between states to reach an agreement and provides a platform for smaller states that may not have the capacity to facilitate complex and numerous bilateral negotiations. As an actor itself it can continue advocating for the lives and rights of the world's most vulnerable. In a similar vein, the UN also remains a coordinating mechanism for civil- society groups across the world.'

'During periods of stagnation in the Security Council, middle powers such as Australia are well positioned to have significant positive influence and support the UN system from which Australia benefits. Through leadership and tools of statecraft, Australia can be a source of stability within the UN that will serve the Australian people and create a more just and fairer world. The current government has demonstrated strong commitment to multilateralism through the UN and other forums, with proactive leadership from the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister.'



Communications and Engagement

The UNAA continues to actively engage with members and the wider community through LinkedIn and Instagram. Our most engaging content across both platforms highlights events and International Days recognised by the UN. On LinkedIn, standout posts included coverage of NAIDOC Week, the Kep Enderby Memorial Lecture, and UNAA membership opportunities. On Instagram, top-performing posts celebrated International Women's Day, World Environment Day, and NAIDOC Week.

Looking ahead, the UNAA will continue to promote national and divisional events, develop visually engaging infographics to convey key messages, and introduce short-form video content to further strengthen engagement with the Australian community.



UN Day Celebrations

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

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.

First observed in 1948, United Nations Day was later recognised by the General Assembly in 1971, which recommended it be observed by Member States as a public holiday.

The United Nations remains the only global organisation with the legitimacy, convening power, and moral authority to bring nations together in addressing humanity's shared challenges — from human rights and peace to the environment and sustainable development.

In 2025, we proudly celebrated United Nations Day with our new Patron, Her Excellency the Governor-General, the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC.



Our Patron and guests on the steps of Government House

National Networks

UNAA uses our platform to convene subject and cohort specific networks of member's members and allies in collaborations that pursue our vision and mission.



Climate Change Collaboration Network

UNAA joined the Climate Ready Initiative at the Climate Beacon of Griffith University in 2022 at the initiative of our Climate Change Collaboration Network. As an association member we join with alliance partners Climate Action Network Australia, National Landcare Network, Australian Sustainable Finance Institute, Engineers Australia, Planning Institute Australia, Australian Youth Affairs Coalition, Infrastructure Sustainability Council, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, Indigenous Carbon Industry Network, Ecotourism Australia, and Business Council for Sustainable Development Australia. Warwick Peel and Emma Lucia our Climate Change Collaboration Network Co-Convenors represent us at the Initiative.

The UNAA Board endorsed a proposal that Climate Ready Australia partner with the Net Zero Mission of CSIRO for the next tranche of strategy and work. The partnership will find pathways to accelerate climate action to advance net zero and climate-resilient Australian sectors and communities. It will operate as a hub connecting research institutions and practitioners with the wider community and industry, fostering regional, national and international coalitions to develop and share best practices and policies to facilitate effective and just climate action.

THE PARTNERSHIP HAS THREE PILLARS:



**DISCOURSE AND
DISCOVERY**



**PILOTING ACTIVATORS -
PATHWAYS TO ACTION**



**KNOWLEDGE EVALUATION
AND SHARING**

We also explored potential for young professionals led initiatives under the Climate Ready Australia umbrella, engaging young professionals from across the association membership of the initiative.



Parliamentary Friends of the UN

The Hon. Alicia Payne MP and The Hon. Darren Chester MP took up the role of Co-Convenors of the Parliamentary Friends of the United Nations in the 47th Parliament. This role involves engaging, informing and convening their colleagues through provision of information and events focusing on the role of the UN, its ongoing reform and current priorities with a focus on the role of Australia as a member state and the benefits to Australians.

In November 2024 the Co-Convenors hosted an inspiring evening at Parliament House. The event brought together United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) members and distinguished guests from across the country and Parliamentarians engaged in the role of the UN. The event featured insights from leaders across the UN and UNAA.

Dr Donnell Davis, National President of UNAA spoke about the role and work of our Association, and the opportunities for Australians to engage, inform and inspire. Mr. David Knight, Chief of Mission for Australia and Coordinator for New Zealand, IOM - UN Migration spoke about the critical contribution of migrants and the role of migration and migration frameworks in managing the challenges for peoples across the globe emerging from conflict and climate. Former Australian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Mr. Gary Quinlan AO, provided a thought-provoking update on the UN system, its reform and global diplomatic efforts. Mr. Roger Hearn, Director of Relief and Social Services at UNRWA shared moving accounts of his humanitarian work on the ground. Brian Gleeson, President of United Nations Association of Australia ACT, underscored the critical role of the United Nations and its partners in tackling the world's most pressing challenges.

The event was a powerful reminder of the collective commitment needed to drive global change and foster peace, security, and human dignity echoing words from Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, to the UN General Assembly in September.

We thank The Hon. Alicia Payne MP and The Hon. Darren Chester MP, Brian Gleeson and the ACT Division for the ongoing work to convene this network.





Status Of Women Network

Our Status of Women Network (SOWN), chaired by Shirley Reynolds, meets monthly online to share contemporary legislation, policy and regulations across states to stimulate critical thinking, discuss implementation options, and debate ideas for action. Together or separately the women's groups Australia-wide advocate for reforms based on lessons shared internationally and domestically.

TOPICS EXPLORED BY THE NETWORK IN THE PAST YEAR INCLUDED:

- ✓ Human Rights – labour and sexual exploitation
- ✓ Human trafficking and modern slavery
- ✓ Home and workplace respect – violence against women
- ✓ Economic impacts on women- homelessness
- ✓ Gender Equality and Equity
- ✓ AI and its impact on our lives- safety issues
- ✓ Special Guest UNICEF visiting advisor – kids in conflict, maternal health.

Across these discussions throughout the year, the UNAA drafted and submitted several letters to National and State Government departments to advocate on key issues aligned with the UN's values and Australia's commitment:

- ✓ **University Employment Equity:** A letter addressing the need to redress the current imbalance in university employment and its impact on casual and continuing appointments.
- ✓ **Child Protection and Exploitation:** A submission highlighting concerns regarding the sale and exploitation of children and the gaps in Australia's protective frameworks.
- ✓ **Online Safety and Digital Wellbeing:** A letter of support to the eSafety Commissioner commending the delivery of the 2025 Basic Online Safety Expectations (BOSE) Report and reinforcing the importance of safeguarding children online.

The network also supports research and advocacy on key priorities such as gender equality and other issues central to the United Nations agenda, while monitoring Australia's progress in these areas. The network aims to strengthen collaboration between government, researchers, and member-based organisations, including civil society and NGOs with ECOSOC status, to promote informed dialogue and coordinated action on shared global goals.

In March 2025, SOWN hosted the debriefing from the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) hosted by UNAA Victoria in Melbourne. Representatives from diverse groups joined with young people, students and young professionals, and board members. Discussions delved into the implications of the resolutions resulting from 14 days of negotiations.

UNAA Young Professionals Network

In September of 2024, the UNAA General Meeting approved the incorporation of the Young Professionals Network as UNAA Young Professionals. Established in 2011, the Young Professionals Network has operated as a national program under the UNAA. Its incorporation as 'UNAA Young Professionals Limited' marks a significant milestone of an independent, national company and registered charity, run by and for young professionals.

UNAA is proud to secure this leadership vehicle for young professionals, consistent with our commitment to the leadership of younger generations and for future generations. For other members of the UNAA, this change strengthens the opportunities to partner with a growing, motivated and skilled volunteer group. This is an exciting time for the UNAA family, with UNAA National, State and Territory Divisions, Young Professionals, and UN Youth all working to inform, inspire and engage Australians in the work and values of the United Nations.

UNAA Young Professionals are now exclusive custodians of the UNAA Young Professionals emblem and business name, carrying forward the legacy, funds and assets of the Network. The UNAA Young Professionals will continue as active members of the UNAA, subject to the privileges and responsibilities of all members of our association.

Australians can now engage with the UNAA through a clear pathway: beginning with UN Youth Australia, progressing to UNAA Young Professionals, and continuing through UNAA State and Territory Divisions as members and leaders.

UNAA is proud to secure this leadership vehicle for young professionals, consistent with our commitment to the leadership of younger generations and for future generations. For other members of the UNAA, this change strengthens the opportunities to partner with a growing, motivated and skilled volunteer group. This is an exciting time for the UNAA family, with UNAA National, State and Territory Divisions, Young Professionals, and UN Youth all working to inform, inspire and engage Australians in the work and values of the United Nations.





UN Alumni Network

UNAA ACT leads the UN Alumni Network (UNAN) on behalf of UNAA. The Network engages with Australians who have previously been, or are currently working within the UN framework. It provides an avenue for knowledge sharing and advocacy about the work of the UN that is mutually beneficial for network members, the UNAA and our Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Members can access opportunities for consultancy, mentorship, and social networking, and share their related expertise and experiences in the UN system.

Connections are created through a newsletter and occasional social network events. Members of the Network are called upon by UNAA and our divisions to talk at events, provide mentorship to young people and inform program design and development.

The member base is a tool for DFAT to source potential consultants for various projects.

This initiative highlights and promotes the important work of the United Nations, and the involvement of Australians in that to foster cooperation, discussion, connection and meaningful relationships amongst people who are passionate about creating a fairer and safer world. And to highlight the value of diplomatic and other UN experience to employers seeking talent.



UNITED NATIONS ALUMNI NETWORK



PURPOSE

Connect Australians who have worked or are working within the UN framework



BENEFITS

Stay connected to the UN system, interact socially, share knowledge and assist UNAA or DFAT



DETAILS

Free to join platform for consultancy, mentorship, social networking and knowledge sharing



WHY JOIN

Foster cooperation, highlight UN work and connect with like-minded people

National Governance

UNAA Board

Our Board met in eight board meetings across the 2024-5 financial year, holding meetings in July, August with a dedicated meeting to discuss the Young Professionals Network, October and December in 2024, and again in February, April and June in 2025. Board meeting agendas created opportunities for members to share their programs and events. Throughout the year, the Board oversaw the completion of the new strategic plan, supporting the work of the Public Policy Committee, including member engagement in policy development, coordinated participation in the WFUNA, managed the incorporation of the Young Professionals Network, and advanced internal communications, governance policies, financial oversight, and compliance activities.

To strengthen governance and communication practices, the Board introduced standing orders and worked with Board Mentor Rob Newman to enhance our overall effectiveness.

The Executive, established by the Board in February 2024, met regularly to execute the decisions of the Board, prepare Board agendas, and manage issues, programs and partnerships. The Executive comprises the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

National Office

National Office volunteers meet regularly online and occasionally in person. Our national office volunteers make significant individual and team contributions across our membership, operations, software, systems and policies, communications, ongoing engagement with stakeholders and networks, public policy development and board operations.

IN 2024-25 OUR NATIONAL OFFICE COMPRISED:

- ✓ **James Puckridge**, Membership and Operations
- ✓ **Sarah Lisle**, Policy and Networks
- ✓ **Frederick Guanzon**, People, Partnerships and PMO
- ✓ **Carley Russell**, Strategic Communications
- ✓ **Perri Grace Caderamanpulle**, Strategic Communications joined us in 2025-26 and was pivotal in the preparation of this annual report
- ✓ **Zoe Gong**, Social Media.

Financial Strategy

The Treasurer, Secretary, and UNAA's representative to WFUNA collaborated to develop a financial strategy to support the implementation of UNAA Strategy 2030. This work builds on previous national frameworks for fundraising and partnerships, integrates new initiatives outlined in the strategy, and aligns with contemporary best practices in financial sustainability and resource development.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STRATEGY IS TO:

- ✓ **set out a total revenue target** that increases over time in order to deliver on the UNAA Strategy 2030, and generate an operating reserve
- ✓ **enable collaboration between UNAA and members** in the generation of revenues and delivery of the strategy
- ✓ **target diverse funding sources** across government, philanthropy, sponsorship and program revenue generation.






Wellbeing Policy

Throughout the year, Mills Oakley continued their pro bono review of our framework of wellbeing policies in light of legislative changes and 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 wellbeing – psychological, social and physical, and to prevent, intervene early and manage allegations and examples of prohibited and illegal behaviour. The framework includes a Whistle Blower Protection Policy as required by ACNC regulation and a Work, Health and Safety policy as required by Commonwealth and state legislation.

The updated policy is expected to be finalised following consultation with the Board.



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|--|--|--|--|--|
|  Being Cultivating Our Inner Life |  Thinking Understanding Our Complex World |  Relating Caring for Others and the World |  Collaborating Building Trust and Working Together |  Acting Leading and Enabling Change |
| Inner Compass | Critical Thinking | Appreciation | Relationship-Building Skills | Courage |
| Integrity & Authenticity | Perspective Skills | Connectedness | Inclusive Mindset & Intercultural Competence | Hope & Optimism |
| Openness & Learning Mindset | Systems Thinking | Humility | Co-creation Skills | Conscious Use of Resources |
| Self-Awareness | Long-term Orientation & Visioning | Empathy & Compassion | Communication Skills | Proactivity |
| Presence | Creativity | Forgiveness | Mobilization Skills | Resilience |

The Inner Development Goals

The Inner Development Goals, updated in September 2025

The Inner Development Goals (IDGs) initiative promotes inner growth as a foundation for building sustainable futures. This non-profit, open-source international project—independent of the United Nations—researches and shares science-based skills and qualities that enable people to work together more effectively toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UNAA Board has adopted the IDGs as a framework for strengthening self-awareness, empathy, and collaborative leadership across our organisation. By cultivating these inner capacities, we aim to enhance cooperation, deepen impact, and foster a culture of reflective, values-driven action.

Our approach includes promoting awareness, sharing training and resources, and integrating the IDGs within our programs and partnerships. We encourage our volunteers, members, and partners to explore the practical actions within each goal as pathways to personal growth and systemic change.

Privacy Policy

In 2025, Zen Information finalised a review of our privacy and information policies, completing member consultations to ensure the policies reflect our purpose, the diversity of our members, comply with legal frameworks in all jurisdictions, and are fit for purpose. Sonya Sherman recorded a video introducing the policy and informing directors of our national board and member committees of their responsibilities under current legislative and policy frameworks.

Division Highlights

Australian Capital Territory

Based in Canberra, UNAA ACT leverages its proximity to national leadership to host high-profile events, strengthen partnerships, and promote dialogue on Australia's contribution to multilateral solutions.



The Future for UN Peacekeeping

In June 2025, UNAA ACT hosted a timely and thought-provoking discussion on the future of United Nations peacekeeping, one of the most visible and enduring tools for maintaining international peace and security. The conversation explored how peace operations must evolve to meet today's complex realities, including shifting mandates, geopolitical tensions, and resource constraints.

Lisa Sharland delivered a compelling presentation examining these challenges while highlighting opportunities for innovation and adaptation in modern peacekeeping missions. Her insights reflected the enduring importance of UN peacekeeping as a mechanism for protecting civilians, supporting political solutions, and building stability in fragile contexts.

The discussion was enriched by contributions from Major General (Ret) Mike Smith AO, former UNAA National President, Ambassador Gary Quinlan AO, former Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, and Dr Donnell Davis, current National President of UNAA. Their perspectives reinforced the significance of Australia's ongoing engagement in UN peace operations and the vital role of multilateral cooperation in addressing global security challenges.

This event highlighted the continued relevance of UN peacekeeping in a rapidly changing world and offered members and guests a deeper understanding of its role in advancing global peace and stability.



Celebrating Decades of Global Unity

Each year, United Nations Day provides an opportunity to reflect on the founding of the UN in 1945 and to recognise its enduring role in promoting peace, human rights, and international cooperation. It is a cornerstone event in the UNAA calendar, drawing together government leaders, civil society, and community members to reaffirm their shared commitment to the UN Charter and the principles it upholds.

The 79th anniversary of the United Nations, celebrated in 2024, was marked with a distinguished event hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia and National Patron of the UNAA. The afternoon brought together leaders, members, and friends of the UNAA to honour the UN's mission to advance peace, cooperation, and shared responsibility.

The program featured an address by UNIC Director Damian Cardona Onses, Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), who conveyed an inspiring message from UN Secretary-General António Guterres, reaffirming the international community's collective responsibility to champion unity, sustainability, and human dignity. Dr. Donnell Davis, UNAA National President, highlighted Australia's leadership role in supporting the UN's goals, particularly in advancing multilateralism and sustainable development.





Parliamentary Friends of the United Nations Network Event

The Hon. Alicia Payne MP and The Hon. Darren Chester MP, Co-Convenors of the Parliamentary Friends of the United Nations Network, hosted an inspiring gathering at Parliament House, uniting UNAA members and distinguished guests from across Australia and abroad.

The event featured thoughtful contributions from Dr. Donnell Davis, National President of UNAA, and Mr. David Knight, Chief of Mission for Australia and Coordinator for New Zealand at the International Organization for Migration. Former Australian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Mr. Gary Quinlan AO, delivered an exceptional keynote address, while Mr. Roger Hearn, Director of Relief and Social Services at UNRWA, shared powerful insights from his humanitarian work.

Among the guests were Dr. Patricia Jenkins, President of the UNAA NSW Division, Susan McHattie, UNAA National Secretary, as well as other UNAA Executive members and supporters. The evening was made possible with the support of Brian Gleeson, Deputy President of UNAA and President of UNAA ACT, whose leadership helped ensure the success of the occasion.

The gathering reinforced the importance of dialogue, collaboration, and shared commitment to the UN's mission in addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges.





Gaza, Keeping Humanitarian Aid Alive

On 31 October 2024, the UNAA ACT hosted an online panel discussion titled “Gaza, Keeping Humanitarian Aid Alive” in response to the escalating conflict in Gaza. The session underscored the pressing need for humanitarian aid amidst a backdrop of ongoing violence, failed peace negotiations, and political stalemates.

THE PANEL FEATURED THREE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS:

- 1 Naomi Brooks, from the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) emphasised the critical messages around mobilizing humanitarian support for Palestinians. She highlighted the immense challenges aid organizations face in accessing conflict zones and the essential role international support plays in alleviating suffering.
- 2 Professor Matthew Neuhaus, Honorary Professor at ANU, provided insights into Israel's obligations under international law. He discussed the significance of the International Court of Justice in advocating for humanitarian access and ensuring compliance with international humanitarian standards.
- 3 Brian Gleeson, former Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Amman and current President of UNAA ACT, shared his experience with UNRWA's operational role in Gaza. He highlighted the organization's contributing efforts to provide vital assistance despite the severe challenges posed by the conflict.

The discussion offered a platform to amplify the voices of those working tirelessly on the ground and called for a unified international response to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches those in desperate need. Attendees left with a deeper understanding of the complexities in delivering aid and the critical importance of upholding humanitarian principles amidst the ongoing crisis.



New South Wales

UNAA NSW continues to engage communities across the state through education, advocacy, and events that promote the values and goals of the United Nations. This year, members have inspired dialogue on global issues while strengthening local connections.



UNAA NSW continues to strengthen public engagement through a multitude of events that inspire dialogue and action on global challenges. During Refugee Week in June 2025, we hosted community activities that amplified refugee voices and highlighted the critical role of the United Nations in protecting displaced populations. These events attracted strong participation and fostered meaningful connections between refugee communities, youth leaders, and civil society organisations.

In June, we also hosted a Women in Peace and Security event, examining Australia's contribution to the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda. Featuring perspectives from the military, academic, and civil society, the event highlighted both the progress achieved and the ongoing challenges in promoting women's leadership in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Our partnership with the annual Ocean Lovers Festival entered its fifth year, celebrating ideas, art, music and actions that showcase the latest innovations, science, technology and ideas dedicated to protecting our oceans.

UNAA NSW plays a role in coordinating and supporting the volunteers across the festival activities, contributing to SDG 14: Life Below Water.

A highlight of our partnerships this year was our collaboration with Taronga Conservation Society, which deepened engagement on biodiversity and climate action. This partnership built awareness around conservation initiatives while reinforcing the UN's 2030 Agenda goals on environmental sustainability.



The United Nations We Need

The 2024–25 year was one of preparation and strategic alignment for our most ambitious undertaking to date: the UN at 80: Shaping Our Future Together Conference. Significant work has gone into developing this flagship event, which will mark the UN's 80th anniversary, with a world-class program featuring global diplomats, Australian leaders, and academic experts. Key sponsorships were secured with SBS, Bendigo Bank, DFAT, and the Institute for Economics and Peace, alongside outreach to universities, law firms, other UN-aligned entities and corporate partners.

The conference embodies the UN we need: inclusive, forward-looking, and committed to solving today's most pressing global challenges, from peacebuilding to global health, human rights to sustainability. It will also serve as a platform to showcase how Australia – and NSW in particular – can lead in convening diverse voices for multilateral solutions.



The Role We Play

This year, UNAA-NSW prioritised expanding our reach and broadening our impact. Improvements in membership reporting allowed us to track growth in regional participation, while marketing and communications initiatives —including the launch of a new website in March 2025 and a revitalised social media strategy, resulting in a 60% increase in web traffic and over 1,000 new LinkedIn followers. Video-based storytelling further enhanced engagement with our audiences

A major milestone during this period was the launch of our 2025–2028 Strategy, which was developed with contributions from all Directors and coordinated by the Vice President of Operations. This strategy provides a clear framework for our priorities across peace and security, human rights, sustainable development, and global citizenship, guiding our programs and partnerships throughout the year. By aligning our activities with this roadmap, we have strengthened governance, clarified our focus, and set ambitious yet achievable targets for impact over the next three years.

The UNAA NSW Schools Program continued to empower young Australians to engage with the Sustainable Development Goals through competitions and workshops, fostering global citizenship and practical awareness of the UN's mission, and inspiring the next generation of leaders.

We also strengthened partnerships with government, academia, and community organisations. Notably, UNAA NSW President Dr Patricia Jenkins, together with Director of Public Affairs Mr Laurie Patton, worked closely with NSW parliamentarians to establish the NSW Parliamentary Friends of the United Nations, a cross-party group dedicated to promoting greater engagement with the UN's mission. This initiative, alongside our expanded partnerships, has enhanced our capacity to build influence and mobilise support for multilateral action. Looking ahead, our challenge will be to sustain this momentum and convert it into long-term engagement, ensuring that UNAA NSW continues to lead in advancing the United Nations' mission across the community.



UN Day Commemorative Wreath Laying Ceremony 24 October 2024

Held at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney and led by Major General (Retd) Tim Ford AO, this solemn and traditional ceremony honoured Australians past and present who have contributed to UN peacekeeping and humanitarian operations. Distinguished guests included UNAA-NSW Patron, Her Excellency the Hon Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales, and General Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, CVO, MC, former Governor-General of Australia, who delivered the Oration. Musical contributions were provided by the NSW Police Band and Ms Belinda Parsons while civic leaders, including the Deputy Lord Mayor of Sydney and Members of Parliament, also attended. This ceremony reaffirmed respect for the UN's values of peace, justice, and collective responsibility, directly supporting SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.





Remembrance Service for the ANZAC Battle of Crete, 1941

At a moving Remembrance Service for the ANZAC Battle of Crete (1941), held at The Cenotaph, Dr Patricia Jenkins, UNAA NSW laid a wreath on behalf of the United Nations Association of Australia NSW.

This service was shared with over 400 guests, including the NSW Governor, diplomats, politicians and religious leaders, creating a solemn and memorable occasion.



Mr Felix Schwarz, Consul General of Germany in NSW; Dr Patricia Jenkins, President UNAA NSW; Mr James Munro, Consul General of New Zealand in NSW.]



UN Day Gala Dinner 13 November

Our Gala Dinner at NSW Parliament House was a huge success, bringing together over 250 community and academic leaders, parliamentarians, business representatives, and supporters. The evening included the presentation of the 2024 UN Day Honour Award to the Institute for Economic & Peace, internationally renowned think tank with experts in peace, conflict and risk and led by internationally renowned Founder Steve Killelea AM, continuing a proud tradition of recognising outstanding contributions to advancing UN values. With the theme of *Peace and Security*, the dinner also raised critical funds for our programs and showcased the strength of our partnerships, volunteers, and dedicated supporters.



Student Program

The UNAA NSW Student Program was launched in 2023 in partnership with Western Sydney University. This program and partnership has grown strongly, now supporting over 30 university and high school students locally and internationally each year to learn about their unique strengths for thinking globally and acting locally, gain real-world experience in their industry and develop their networks. For more information, see the [UNAA NSW Student Program Impact Report 2025](#).





Northern Territory



International Day of Peace

On 21 September 2024, UNAA Northern Territory hosted a beautiful evening in celebration of International Day of Peace at the Darwin Memorial Uniting Church. Pastor Lurn Merrit presented an inspiring and informative presentation on the Fujita Display, a remarkable story of post-war reconciliation. It was wonderful to see the students from Ludmilla Primary School (Years 5 and 6) attend the event, bringing along their handmade peace doves, which were placed along the path to the Church's Peace Garden.

When the Japanese bombed Darwin in 1942, few could have imagined they would return 17 years later, to help rebuild. In an extraordinary act of post-war reconciliation, a Japanese firm, the Fujita Salvage Company, arrived in 1959 to remove the many shipwrecks that littered the harbour.

Led by marine salvage specialist Ryugo Fujita, 120 Japanese men worked over two years to recover and process the wrecks. Despite lingering anti-Japanese sentiment at the time, the project became a story of friendship and forgiveness. Although anti-Japanese sentiment was strong throughout Darwin in the 1950s, it would eventually wash away. Locals gathered by the beach to watch divers at work, and some were even invited aboard the MV British Motorist—the salvors' living quarters—to share Japanese beer and sushi, a rarity in Australia then.

Ryugo Fujita considered this work in Darwin Harbour to be his life's greatest achievement. The salvage operations coincided with the building of the Darwin Memorial Uniting Church on Smith Street. His company also commissioned 77 bronze crosses for the Darwin Memorial Uniting Church, crafted from salvaged metal from the MV Zealandia, and founded the Peace Gardens, which the Fujita family continues to support to this day. Although Ryugo Fujita has now passed away, his Grandson is continuing his legacy and powerful story of peace, shared humanity and reconciliation.



“Our students were delighted to participate in the celebrations for the UN International Day of Peace and were very excited to make and colour their own peace doves for the garden. The students had not realised the story of the Fujita Display and really appreciated the opportunity to listen and participate in the celebration. It was a wonderful evening, well done UNAA-NT.” – Danielle Ford, Assistant Principal Ludmilla Primary School



International Women's Day Walk – 8 March 2025

The United Nations Association of Australia – NT Division (UNAA-NT), in partnership with the City of Darwin and the Office of Gender Equity and Diversity, Northern Territory Government, proudly hosted the International Women's Day Walk in Darwin. Held on Saturday, 8 March 2025, the walk drew approximately 600–700 participants, celebrating the achievements of women and promoting an inclusive, connected community.

The day opened with a Welcome to Country and a Smoking Ceremony, setting a respectful and culturally grounded tone. The walk commenced at 9:00 am, accompanied by the uplifting sounds of the Darwin City Brass Band. Rain, Hail or shine, the Northern Territory community consistently embraces this annual event with enthusiasm and unity. The UN flag was proudly carried at the front of the procession, symbolising solidarity with women across the world.

This year, the walk was led by Kate Heelan, President of UNAA-NT; Professor Dr. Donna Odegaard AM, a respected Larrakia Nation Elder; and Hon. Robyn Cahill OAM, Minister for Children and Families, Child Protection, and the Prevention of Domestic Violence. After the walk, Civic Green came alive with information stalls hosted by a range of organisations, including UNAA-NT, Amnesty International, various NGOs, the NT Multicultural Association, and the Consulates of Timor-Leste and Indonesia. Attendees enjoyed a delicious sausage sizzle, face painting, a children's fun corner, and entertainment from talented local musicians and dancers.

The event served as a powerful reminder of the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—specifically: SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Distinguished guests included NT Ministers, MLAs, the Lord Mayor of Darwin, councillors, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and community leaders. Media coverage was excellent, featuring on ABC, Channel Nine, and First Nations TV.





International Women's Day Lunch – 8 March 2025

On 8 March 2025, the United Nations Association of Australia – NT Division (UNAA-NT) hosted its annual International Women's Day (IWD) Lunch at Il Piatto Restaurant, located at the beautiful Mindil Beach Casino Resort in Darwin.

In the spirit of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—particularly SDGs 3, 4, 5 and 10—the lunch celebrated the rights, resilience, and achievements of women across the Northern Territory.

UNAA-NT extends heartfelt thanks to Katie Woolf OAM, broadcaster of Mix 104.9's 360 and national political commentator for Sky News, for her continued support of the IWD Lunch. Katie hosted an engaging interview with UNAA-NT President Kate Heelan, highlighting the important work of the organisation and the significance of commemorating international days of recognition.

Each year, Mix 104.9 generously promotes the IWD Lunch and runs a community competition where Territorians can nominate a deserving woman to receive two double passes to attend this special lunch event.

The lunch began with a warm welcome from Kate Heelan, President of UNAA-NT, followed by a powerful Welcome to Country delivered by Professor Dr Donna Odegaard AM, Larrakia Elder, Larrakia Nation.

The event featured opening remarks from Hon. Marie-Claire Boothby MLA, Attorney-General, representing the Chief Minister, and Hon. Jinson Charls, Minister for Youth, Seniors, and Equality. Minister Boothby spoke passionately to this year's theme: "For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality, and the need to ensure every woman and girl is given the opportunity to thrive in every aspect of life."

Hon Jinson Charls, Minister for Youth, Seniors and Equality, spoke of the work currently being undertaken in the NT on equality.





The lunch featured a panel of remarkable women from across the Northern Territory, each representing diverse backgrounds, professions, and lived experiences:

- Professor Maneka Jayasinghe – Dean of Business and Accounting, Charles Darwin University
- Alison (Ali) Reidy – Stroke survivor, para-athlete, and advocate
- Kristine McConnell – Founder of Power Panties and member of Dawn House
- Laetitia Lemke – ABC News Journalist and MC and panel moderator

Each shared deeply personal and inspiring reflections on leadership, resilience, and hope.

Professor Maneka Jayasinghe shared her journey through academia and the barriers she had to break to rise as a leader in her field, shining a light on the persistence and determination required to push through the “glass ceiling.”

Alison Reidy delivered a powerful and deeply personal account of experiencing a stroke in her late 30s after several misdiagnoses. She spoke about determination, resilience and ultimately a recovery journey that transformed her life. Today, Alison is a decorated para-athlete and a vocal advocate for stroke awareness. Her message was clear:

“Know your body. If something doesn’t feel right, keep seeking answers.”

Kristine McConnell offered personal reflections and meaningful anecdotes, illustrating life lessons that shaped her path. She also shared the story behind the creation of Power Panties, an initiative that allows women to buy a pair of underwear and donate another to a woman in need—supporting dignity through small but powerful acts of kindness.

Following the speakers, Laetitia Lemke led an engaging and inclusive Q&A session. The diversity of questions reflected the broad range of experiences in the room, resulting in a conversation that was lively, thoughtful, and filled with both wisdom and humour.

The lunch was a resounding success, completely sold-out and drawing an enthusiastic audience that included Ministers, MLAs, community leaders, UNAA-NT members, members of the Diplomatic Corps, academics, health professionals, businesswomen, and Year 12 students from Darwin High School.

Feedback from speakers and participants describing the occasion as, ‘inspirational, enabling and enriching’.



79th Anniversary Of The UN - Reception At Government House

UNAA-NT Patron, His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM, Administrator of the Northern Territory, and Ms Ruth Jones hosted a reception at Government House in recognition of the 79th anniversary of the United Nations.



This evening offered UNAA NT members and members of the diplomatic corps an opportunity to reflect on the work of the UN and connect with one another. UNAA NT President Kate Heelan expressed sincere thanks to his Honour and Ms Jones for their unwavering support. She spoke of the establishment of the UNAA Young Professionals NT, the success of Model UN sessions delivered by UN Youth, upcoming initiatives in the Territory and took the opportunity to sincerely thank the UNAA-NT committee members, Dr Howard Smith, Frieda Evans, Aaron Tran, Kia Devine and Steven Svensson for their invaluable support throughout the year.

His Honour, as Patron, commended the association for its meaningful work, advancing the UN's mission and values in the Northern Territory.



Anzac Day 2025

Attending and laying a wreath at the Darwin Cenotaph for the Bombing of Darwin Remembrance and Anzac Days.



Community Events

At the Indonesian Festival at Darwin Waterfront, UNAA-NT engaged with over 5,000 attendees. The event celebrated cultural diversity through food, music, dance, and art. This event served as a powerful acknowledgement of the long-standing people-to-people and trade relationships between Indonesia and Australia's First Nations Peoples, fostering greater cultural understanding and regional connection.





Kindness Festival 2024

Held at the same scenic location, the Kindness Festival welcomed more than 4,000 Territorians. The event featured a vibrant array of multicultural performances, live music, food stalls, interactive games, and family-friendly activities.

It celebrated the strength and contribution of the international student community in the Northern Territory and promoted values of inclusion, empathy, and cross-cultural understanding. UNAA-NT's presence at the festival supported community connection while aligning closely with the values of the SDGs.



Community Engagement and Participation

Throughout the year, UNAA-NT successfully engaged with approximately 7,000 Territorians through a range of events—both hosted by UNAA-NT and through our active involvement in various community festivals and initiatives. These activities reflected key Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).



Palmerston Markets

UNAA-NT continues to attend community events, including the Palmerston night markets, Diplomatic Receptions, Human Rights events, art exhibitions, and the celebrations of UN International Days. This ongoing engagement enables the association to reach a wide range of communities, including women, students, First Nations peoples, and new migrants—ensuring that the UN's mission remains visible, relevant, and accessible to all. High-profile events, such as the UN Day Reception and International Women's Day celebrations, have further strengthened UNAA-NT's role as a leading community organisation aligned with the values and principles of the United Nations. Reflecting on these activities, organisers have warmly invited UNAA-NT to return each year, recognising the strong interest, positive feedback, and growing community connection inspired by its work.





Pipes and Drums from the National Servicemen Memorial Band provided the music for our UN Peacekeepers event

Queensland

UNAA Queensland has fostered collaboration across schools, universities, and civil society, raising awareness of the UN's work and encouraging active participation in international initiatives. The signature events each year are supported by teams inside Vice President programs - Safer Futures (P&S), Fairer Futures (Human Rights) and Sustainable Futures (Development with Ethical Economy).



"We want the world our children inherit to be defined by the values enshrined in the UN Charter — peace, justice, respect, human rights, tolerance, and solidarity," — Antonio Gutierrez, UN Secretary General.

Similarly, UNAA Queensland is dedicated to informing, inspiring, and engaging our community in support of these UN values.

This report showcases some activities focused on SDG 16: Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies, and naturally, SDG 17: Partnerships, the important base for our plan. Our Peace and Security team has led key events under this programme. We work closely with the Young Professionals and UN Youth, sharing a strong commitment to a peaceful world.



UN Peacekeeper Event, May

Our UN Peacekeepers event in May recognised the critical work of UN peacekeepers around the world. In partnership with Griffith University, the team welcomed the representative of the Governor, State Parliamentarians, members of the Consular community —including from countries where Peacekeepers had served —musical performers from the Pacific, and community members to hear from Leanne Smith, Chief Executive, Australian Human Rights Commissioner, former peacekeeper, and long-time supporter of the UNAA, and Rod Henderson from the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association.

Once again, our community partners, including the Country Women's Association and the Pipes and Drums from the National Servicemen Memorial Band, provided vital support the event for the event



The International Day of Peace, September

The International Day of Peace in September promoted the theme 'Uniting for a Just Peace'. Key speakers Nasser Mashni, President of the Australian Palestine Advocacy Network, and Louise Adler, Advisory Committee of the Jewish Council of Australia, shared their personal experiences, highlighting the real challenges of speaking out against injustice and the critical need to stop the ongoing violence in a land deeply loved. Over 300 people gathered in St John's Cathedral, with 1,400 participating online. The ABC recorded the event for RN Big Ideas, where the podcast continues to be popular. Ongoing partnerships with the St John's community, the Soroptimist, and the Union Choir reinforced community engagement.



Faith community leaders unite at the International Day of Peace commemorations at St John's Anglican Cathedral in Brisbane on 21 September 2024, with (L-R) The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt (Anglican Dean of Brisbane)



Community Peace Conference, November

UNAAQ has developed a valuable partnership with the Pure Land Learning College in Toowoomba. Over recent years, we have supported the annual Community Peace Conference with the Multifaith Multicultural Committee, contributing ongoing work of building a strong culture of peace in this regional area. This relationship fosters understanding of the UN SDG agenda, with a particular focus on engagement across faith communities.



Human Rights Day, December

On 11 December, the Human Rights Day event was held online. Professor Susan Harris Rimmer, then President of UNAAQ, and 2 members of her review team, Professor Elena Marchetti and Professor Janet Ransley, presented a seminar on the 5-year Independent Review of the Queensland Human Rights Act in our annual Human Rights Day event. The seminar remains on YouTube for public viewing.

The review involved regional consultations across the state as well as written submissions. The Report was presented shortly before the 2024 election and tabled in the new Parliament in March 2025. Presentations highlighted personal experiences of injustice and exclusion, lack of awareness of the legislation, and challenges in accessing support. The review, titled “Placing People at the Heart of Policy”, included 70 recommendations, reinforcing SDG 16 and the need for effective, accountable and inclusive human rights legislation and institutions. Griffith University was a key partner for this event.



The UNAAQ team surrounding Rod Welford (third from the left)

Loss and Gratitude

This year, UNAAQ lost a wonderful friend, astute international businessman, politician and activist, Rod Welford. Rod was an enthusiastic member of our team, whose knowledge, generosity, energy, and commitment will always be deeply valued. He consistently brought a warm-hearted dedication to practical solutions for complex challenges, generously contributing his time and supporting numerous community organisations. Rod will be greatly missed as a valued member of UNAA and a friend.

South Australia

UNAA South Australia has celebrated the UN's mission through thought-provoking events and partnerships, creating spaces for discussion, learning, and community impact across the state.



Harmony Day 2025 — The Power of Belonging

On 29 March 2025, we gathered at the historic Kingston House in Kingston Park for a truly inspiring Harmony Day event, set against the breathtaking coastal backdrop of Kaurana Country. With over 45 attendees, including many first-time participants at United Nations Association events, it was wonderful to see new faces engaging in this vital conversation. Harmony Day was a powerful gathering of voices, stories, and shared experiences. This year's theme, Belonging, invited reflection on how we can further explore ways to create connection, reflection, understanding, unity and action within our communities.

We were delighted to hear from four extraordinary guest speakers, who shared personal insights on how belonging can transform lives and strengthen communities. Together, we will reflect on the role each of us plays in creating a more harmonious and just world.

- Fida Hussain: Advocate for intercultural dialogue and community empowerment
- Behishta Anwar: Champion for refugee and migrant inclusion
- Brad Chilcott AM: Founder of Welcoming Australia and leader in social justice
- Elena Gasparyan: President of the Armenian Community of South Australia

Their reflections offered shared, powerful perspectives on unity, inclusion, and the ongoing work needed to build a more harmonious society. We also extend a heartfelt thank you to Member for Black, Alex Dighton, for attending and supporting the event. Guests enjoyed a beautiful spread of fresh fruit, thoughtfully prepared by Olga Larizza, adding a delicious touch to the day.

A special highlight was the creation of a communal Peace Mandala, where guests contributed small natural objects—flowers, leaves, stones, or seeds. Mandalas, long used across cultures as symbols of wholeness and balance, became representations of our commitment to peace and inclusion.

Harmony Day is fundamentally about the elimination of racial discrimination, a cause at the heart of the United Nations' global mission. This gathering reaffirmed our collective commitment to advancing racial equity and fostering communities where everyone belongs. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to such a meaningful and thought-provoking discussion—we look forward to continuing this important work together.





Volunteer Award Ceremony at Government House

A very special event hosted by Her Excellency Frances Adamson AO, Patron of the United Nations Association South Australia was held at Government House on Wednesday evening 7 August 2024 to acknowledge the work of UNAASA in South Australia and especially that of the Association's long-term advisors.

The Governor welcomed around 126 invited guests which included advisors, donors, supporters and members of the Association outlining the work of UNAASA and how important community engagement is to achieving the UN Goals in key areas and are a call for action by all countries to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.

Lidia Moretti, President of UNAASA, provided a vote of thanks for the work of the advisors, donors and sponsors without whom the association would not be able to hold the wide variety of events it holds each year supporting the UN goals and the local community.

The Governor presented life membership certificates to :

- The Honourable Robert Hill AC (Politician, Australian Representative at the UN New York and past National UNAA President)
- The Honourable Reverend Dr. Lynn Arnold AO (Sustainable Development Goals Ambassador)
- The Honourable Robyn Layton AO KC (Human Rights Advisor)
- Genevieve Theseira Haese (Community Engagement Advisor)
- Gavin Adrian Wanganeen (Indigenous Affairs Advisor)
- Pippa Wanganeen (Indigenous Affairs Advisor)
- Andrew Robert Baines (Artistic Advisor)

The hospitality of the Governor and her staff at this event was warmly appreciated by the UNAASA.







Victoria

UNAA Victoria has delivered innovative programs and events, empowering students, young professionals, and community members to engage with global challenges and contribute to a more sustainable world.

The 2024/25 financial year marked another successful year of impactful events, fulfilling our mission to engage the Victorian community in the work and values of the United Nations. UNAA Victoria focuses on three main programs: the Global Education program, which delivers full-day, large-scale Model UNs, the Study Tours program, and the SDGs Events program, a series of public events for members and the broader community, centered on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Global Education Program

Our Global Education program continued its strong momentum, exceeding the reach of previous years. All Model UNs were fully booked, with more than 5,200 student registrations. We delivered 47 in-person events, including 43 full-day Model UNs across regional and metropolitan secondary schools, and three workshops on AI and Human Rights, Modern Slavery, and an introduction to the SDGs. In total, we engaged 4,739 students from 234 schools across Victoria.

The Global Education program also delivered a five-week University International Virtual Internship on the circular economy in partnership with Monash University, which included students from Warwick University UK, Monash in Malaysia and Melbourne.



Model UN Highlights

Language Immersion

In partnership with the Victorian Department of Education - Languages Unit, we delivered nine language-immersive Model UNs in six target languages: two in French, German and Japanese, and one each in Chinese, Italian and Indonesian. In total, 837 VCE language students from 94 schools across the state participated, practising their negotiation and public speaking skills in a second language for the entire day. We were honoured to welcome the Consuls-General of Italy, China, Indonesia, Germany and Japan to launch their respective events. Students excelled in transferring classroom language skills into a public setting to debate solutions to pressing global issues.

Regional expansion

With sponsorship from the Victorian Department of Education – Strategic Partnerships Program, UNAA Victoria expanded Model UNs into regional areas, reaching students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate. This support ensures that our events, which build skills for future leaders, remain accessible across all sectors of the Victorian student community.



“Enjoy the Model UN, this will probably be the most important thing you will do all year, in fact, in your entire school career” — Host school Principal opening address, 2024



“I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have been part of this experience. While there are many challenges facing the world today, I left feeling deeply inspired by the impactful work being done. This has only strengthened my resolve to pursue my career aspirations in this field and contribute to making a meaningful difference,”
— Geneva Study Tour participant, 2024



World Food Forum 2024, Rome

Following the 2023 Geneva Study Tour, where participants visited the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the FAO invited UNAA Victoria to facilitate a youth delegation to the 2024 [World Food Forum \(WFF\)](#). In response, UNAA Victoria partnered with [Global Voices](#) to take the first Australian youth delegation to the WFF in Rome in October 2024, led by Carlisle Richardson.

Since returning and inspired by their experience in Rome, the 2024 WFF delegates have worked tirelessly to bring people together across Australia and the Pacific. They are establishing the Australian Youth Chapter of the World Food Forum, creating a dynamic platform for young people to shape agri-food system transformation in Australia.



Study Tour to the UN in Geneva

The 2024 UNAA Study Tour to the UN in Geneva, led by Carlisle Richardson (former Ambassador to St Kitts and Nevis at the UN and Economic Affairs Officer at UNHQ), provided participants with unique access to the UN and a diverse range of UN organisations, specialised agencies and NGOs. Briefings included Secretary-General Aziel Philippos Goulandris (World Federation of United Nations Associations), Ambassador Amanda Gorely (Australian Mission to the UN in Geneva) and Assistant UNHCR High Commissioner for Protection, Ms Ruvendrini Menikdiwela.



SDGs Events Program

UNAA Victoria organised and participated in a series of events designed to foster intergenerational dialogue and raise awareness of the SDGs.



Right to Privacy Visit

We were honoured to support the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy, Ana Brian Nougères, during her mission in Australia, hosting the government briefing and press conference in our Melbourne office, where she delivered her preliminary statement.



International Women's Day event.

Our UNAA Victoria President, Sophie Arnold, was the guest speaker at 'Resilient Women, Empowered Communities' in celebration of Buloke Shire local communities 2025



Meet the 2024 WFF Delegation

Global Voices Policy Fellows presented policy briefs on climate mitigation, technology and regenerative agricultural practices for soil, plant and human health, showcasing how young people intend to impact agri-food systems in Australia.



Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Report back

In partnership with Global Voices and the Status of Women Committee (Vic), we hosted a post-CSW69/Beijing+30 briefing. The panel featured women who had all attended the CSW69, Dr Donnell Davis (UNAA National President), Sarah Barnbrook (Soroptimists International), Jordyn Gary and Maggie Khan (Global Voices).



May 29 UN Peacekeepers Day event

Together with the UNAUV Young Professional Network, we hosted a panel discussion featuring Adrian Morrice, a former UN officer who has served in six UN peacekeeping operations and political missions across Africa and Asia.





UNAA Victoria Young Professionals

In this period, Che Mudunna and Chloe Luu were appointed Co-Convenors of the UNAA Victoria Young Professionals (YPs) network, establishing a cohesive and active committee that delivered an impressive suite of events, including a regular “YP Mingles” networking series. Other highlights included:



Sustainable Fashion Swap & Meet

Promoting sustainable approaches to fashion consumption at both individual and industry levels, with guest speakers Riley Aiken(Upparel) and Dr Saniyat Islam(RMIT University). The event concluded with a preloved clothing exchange.



Young Professionals Welcome to 2025 and Reunion event

A fireside chat with Tony Luo, Schwarzman Scholar and former UNAA Victoria YP co-convenor.



International Careers Speed Mentoring

An opportunity for YPs to explore pathways to purposeful international careers, featuring mentors Susan Mizrahi (Melbourne Climate Futures & UNGCNA Board Director), Kate Dundas (CEO UNGCNA), Carlisle Richardson (Former Ambassador to the UN), Scott Bradford (Acting Director, DFAT Victoria) and Adrian Morrice (UN Peacebuilding consultant).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

UNAA Western Australia has focused on building strong networks and programs that bring the UN's values to life, highlighting local leadership and global citizenship.



Gross National Happiness & the Future of Sustainable Development

Over 100 changemakers, students, public servants, and professionals gathered at EY Perth on 6 June 2024 for the UNAAWA SDG Forum, sponsored by EY Perth. Chaired by Dr Sandy Chong, Founding Chair of the Forum series, the event explored alternatives to traditional economic measures, showcasing Bhutan's Gross National Happiness (GNH) Index as a model of progress centred on well-being, sustainability, and community.

The evening opened with Bhutanese filmmaker and environmental advocate Jamyang Jamtsho Wangchuk, who shared his "Messenger – Ride for Action" campaign, carrying Himalayan glacial meltwater across Bhutan, Nepal, and India to highlight the urgent realities of climate change. Guests participated in an interactive quiz on SDG Goals and were moved by a heartfelt letter from 12-year-old Bhutanese students imploring world leaders to act on climate change.

A distinguished panel featuring Professor Fiona Stanley AC, Richard McKenzie Head of WA Treasury Corporation, Bill Scanlan of EY Perth, and Dr Deki Choden of Curtin University, discussed Indigenous knowledge, ESG in finance, values-driven leadership, and embedding sustainability into economic frameworks.





UNA Women's Young Women Leadership Program

The UNA Women's Gender Equality Committee proudly hosted the Young Women Leadership Program over two inspiring days in Perth. As the first program convened under the newly appointed Committee leadership, it brought together young women, mentors, and supporters to explore values-driven leadership, resilience, and empowerment.

The program opened with remarkable women leaders sharing lessons that resonated deeply with participants:

- Lorna Clarke MLA encouraged young women to aim high, even when faced with doubt.
- Dr Sandy Chong, inductee of the 2024 WA Women's Hall of Fame, spoke on standing firm in one's values as a compass for leadership and building resilience in times of disruption.
- Janie Plant highlighted that leadership is defined by impact, not titles.
- Tanya Hallett emphasised the quiet power of active listening.
- Myriam Baghnaoui focused on resilience and mental strength.
- Lien Duong underlined the importance of financial literacy for women's independence.
- Kate Kirwin, 2024 Young Western Australian of the Year, encouraged participants to embrace technology and experimentation.

This initiative was made possible through the generous support of the Department of Communities WA, St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls, Curtin Faculty of Business and Law, and Curtin Photography Club., as well as the dedication of UNA Women's Executive members and the Gender Equality Committee.



Stronger Together: Connecting & Belonging through Sports

On 20 August 2025, in partnership with the West Coast Eagles, UNAAWA hosted its annual SDG Forum at Mineral Resources Park. The forum explored intergenerational support and how it can reduce loneliness, foster inclusion, and advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Describing loneliness as a “quiet crisis”, the forum highlighted sport’s role in transforming isolation into connection. Moderated by the Founding Chair, Dr Sandy Chong, the panel featured Mel Toia (West Coast Eagles), Hayden Marchetto (WA All Abilities Foundation), Elsie Blay (Ruah Community Services), and Chris Twomey (WA Council of Social Services), who shared perspectives on building community through sport, dignity, and inclusion.. The evening also featured the West Coast Eagles’ Connecting Generations Program, an interactive SDG quiz, and networking opportunities to inspire cross-sector collaboration. Now in its fifth year, the partnership demonstrates how sport can unite communities and drive local action on global goals.



Pathways to Global Impact: Inspiring Careers in the UN and Public Sector

As part of Curtin University’s Jobs and Employability Week, UNAAWA’s Young Professionals Committee, in collaboration with Recruit Curtin, hosted *Pathways to Global Impact: Careers in the UN and Public Sector*. The event brought together 120 students and early-career professionals to explore international and national career opportunities.

Distinguished speakers included Christine Tonkin, former UNDP civil servant and WA Parliamentarian, and Sally Dawkins, State Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT), who shared candid insights into their global and government careers, highlighting both rewards and challenges of public service. Tonkin stressed the importance of education in breaking cycles of poverty, while Dawkins shared the inspiring story of Dr Barry Kirby AO, whose work delivering maternal health care in Papua New Guinea demonstrates individual impact.

The speakers also offered **practical advice**: follow your passion, invest in relationships, stay open to opportunities, and **strengthen critical thinking skills in an AI-driven world**. Both reaffirmed the UN’s role as **the central forum for addressing urgent global challenges**.



Youth Fireside Chat on Education, Careers, and the UN SDGs

Held at the University of Western Australia (UWA), the event gathered young professionals, students, and educators to explore how youth can shape a sustainable, inclusive future through innovation and cross-sector collaboration.

The panel unpacked the growing need for partnerships between academia, industry, and youth organisations to address education and employment challenges. Speakers stressed that “profit and purpose can co-exist,” urging businesses—particularly SMEs—to integrate SDGs through innovation, incentives, and long-term impact thinking.

The discussion emphasised soft skills such as adaptability, empathy, and critical thinking as essential for preparing youth for an uncertain job market. One speaker noted, “We need to empower students not just with degrees, but with the mindset to lead change.” The forum’s call to action was to localise global goals and create inclusive spaces for diverse youth voices in leadership.



Young Professionals Network

It has been a pivotal year for the UNAA Young Professionals Network, marked by a significant milestone: the official incorporation of the organisation as an independent entity. Under the leadership of National President Dr Joshua Karras JP, this transition has strengthened internal processes, governance structures, and the ability to deliver impactful programming nationwide.

Special acknowledgement is extended to former President, Mr Joel Lindsay, for his exceptional leadership in guiding the legal, administrative, and operational transition, and for his continuing commitment to our organisation's values and vision. The UNAA Executive and Board also provided their steadfast support throughout the incorporation journey. The network further extends its gratitude to the team at King & Wood Mallesons, whose generous pro bono legal assistance ensured the transition was completed in full compliance with regulatory requirements. Their expertise and commitment were instrumental in bringing this vision to life.

Throughout the year, national and state teams worked cohesively and collaboratively to adapt to this new chapter. This period saw the renewal of friendships and strengthened collaboration with UNAA and UN Youth, alongside the formation of new partnerships across various sectors. As the world faces ongoing challenges in social justice and environmental sustainability, our network remains optimistic. We believe that through unity and purpose, young Australians can challenge the status quo and contribute meaningfully to the global goals.

Key Highlights

Leadership Retreat (Brisbane, June 2025): The National Executive held its 25/26 strategy workshop, bringing together lead volunteers from across Australia to connect, strategically align, and lay strong collaborative foundations for the year ahead.

Highlights included an inspiring opening address from Ms Andrea Spencer-Cooke and a collaborative discussion on aligning strategy and values to create impact, led by Nicola Gibbs from Pluri. Her thoughtful approach created a space for open and purposeful dialogue, and we extend our sincere thanks to both speakers



UNAA YP Peace Cup 2025 – Darwin

The UNAA YPs hosted the Peace Cup at Darwin Stadium to mark the International Day of Peace. This vibrant event brought communities together through the universal language of football, promoting inclusion, respect, and the UN's values. We thank our event partners Football Australia, Football NT, No More, and Justine Davis (Member for Johnston).



Corporate Responsibility in Action – Griffith University

In September 2024, we hosted a panel exploring fast fashion, corporate social responsibility, and sustainability. The event featured Prof. Susan Harris Rimmer, Meriel Chamberlin, and Clothing Library co-founders Louise Hauser and Sophie Nakamura. This innovative initiative highlighted student-led solutions for accessible and ethical fashion.





Networking Events

Every two months, the UNAA Young Professionals host networking events designed to bring together members and friends in a relaxed and welcoming setting. These gatherings provide a platform for young professionals to forge meaningful connections, exchange ideas, and explore opportunities to engage with the values and work of the United Nations. The consistent rhythm of these events has helped strengthen our community and foster collaboration across diverse sectors.



Corporate Social Responsibility Event

The UNAA Young Professionals hosted a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) event focused on the Circular Economy, exploring how businesses can drive sustainable growth by rethinking production and consumption cycles. Guest speakers from industry and academia shared insights on innovative approaches to waste reduction, resource efficiency, and the role of policy in supporting circular practices. The event fostered dialogue between professionals, students, and community members, encouraging practical steps toward building more resilient and sustainable economies.



Pride and Diversity Online Event

In line with our commitment to inclusivity, UNAA Young Professionals hosted an online event on Pride and Diversity in the Workplace. The discussion featured leaders and advocates from across sectors, sharing personal stories and practical strategies to foster safe and inclusive spaces for LGBTQ+ colleagues. The event highlighted both challenges and progress in workplace equality, sparking thoughtful dialogue on how young professionals can be active allies and champions of diversity.



Looking Ahead — A note from UNAA Young Professionals President

“The world continues to navigate intersecting crises, from climate insecurity and inequality to threats to democratic governance. Yet, in the face of these global challenges, we remain committed to leading with integrity, ambition, and compassion. The Young Professionals network stands ready to continue supporting the SDGs, empowering emerging leaders, and delivering tangible, local impact.

It has been an honour to serve as National President. The engagement of young professionals is not only vital to the UN’s mission but to the shaping of our shared future. These are the individuals driving change today in business, government, education, and community, and their leadership, vision, and courage will define the kind of world we build for generations to come.

We are proud of the hope, creativity, and solidarity shown by our network throughout 2024–2025. Looking ahead, we do so with optimism and purpose, confident that our collective efforts, grounded in unity and shared values, affirm that when the day is done, it was the people who strove to be better: to ourselves, to humankind, and to our world.”

— Dr Joshua Karras JP
National President
UNAA Young Professionals



UN Youth

World we Want

UN Youth Australia's mission is to empower young Australians to become stronger global, national, and local advocates. We envision a world where young people are better informed, engaged in constructive intergenerational dialogue and recognised as essential partners in shaping society. We believe in a world where leaders in both the formal political sphere and civil society not only listen to young voices but also actively include them in decision-making and participatory processes.

UN we Need

The UN we need is one that is more receptive to young people's participation in its processes. Today, many barriers remain, including financial constraints and limited knowledge of how to navigate the UN system. UN Youth Australia is proud to deliver the Australian Youth Representative program, but we also believe more can be done to increase meaningful youth participation at all levels of the UN system.

Role we Play

UN Youth Australia facilitates youth education, consultation, and skills development, empowering young people to engage in politics and advocate for the issues that matter to them. Our Youth Representative program to the UN, delivered in partnership with DFAT, enables young Australians' voices to be heard at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Importantly, it collates their perspectives into a report that civil society and members of Parliament can use to understand and amplify the youth voice. We also collaborate with UNICEF and AYFICE to run LCOY consultations—climate-specific youth consultations that contribute directly to the Conference of Parties (COP). Through our numerous educational programs, including the National Conference and Evatt National Finals, we equip young Australians with key skills in diplomacy, negotiation, teamwork, public speaking, and communication.





National Events July 2024 - June 2025



National Conference 2024

The National Conference brought over 80 high school students from across Australia and New Zealand. Participants engaged in educational workshops, Model United Nations, and a Youth Representative consultation, building skills in diplomacy, negotiation and global citizenship.



Evatt National Finals 2024

Evatt National Finals is UN Youth Australia's flagship end-of-year national Model United Nations competition. In 2024, it was held in Melbourne, with thirty teams competing, culminating in a Victorian team taking out the top prize.



Young Diplomats Tour 2024-2025

The Young Diplomats Tour is a five-week international study program for 16 Australian high-school students (Years 10-12). In 2024, the tour explored diplomacy and modern European history, with the itinerary that included visits to Auschwitz, The Hague, and Versailles, and multiple international consultations.



WFUNA Report

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.

A Look At The Past Year

Key Note Addresses

In October 2024, I was honoured to deliver a Keynote Address at the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP) a global higher education organisation representing over 900 universities worldwide. The IAUP serves as a platform for academic leaders to exchange knowledge and foster peace and international understanding through education. My keynote focused on *“AI Innovations in Healthcare: A Pathway to Advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.”*

Transparency and Accountability

WFUNA continues to facilitate United Nations Security Council Election Debates and Briefings for Member States running for a non-permanent seat on the UNSC, as well as UN Security Council Exit Briefings for departing members, to strengthen transparency around all UNSC processes.

On Wednesday, 21 May 21, 2025, WFUNA held a UN Security Council Election Briefing featuring all UN Security Council candidates seeking election for a non-permanent seat on the Council for the 2026-2027 term. This event featured the uncontested candidates currently running unopposed, including Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Latvia, and Liberia.

WFUNA conducted monthly Civil Society Dialogues with the rotating Presidents of the UNSC. These monthly dialogues allow for the Presidents of the UNSC to brief civil society organisations (CSOs) on their monthly Programme of Work, key priorities and challenges ahead, as well as interact with CSOs on shared areas of interest.

WFUNA held the following Civil Society Dialogues with the Presidents of the UN Security Council over the past 1 year, conducted at the UN headquarters. All the dialogues were broadcast live globally on UN Web TV and promoted on social media with the hashtag #MeetUNSCPres to allow for a participation from a global audience and wider stakeholder engagement.

DIALOGUES WERE CONDUCTED WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESIDENTS OF THE UNSC:

| Date: | President of the UNSC | Country |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| September 4, 2024 | Samuel Žbogar | Slovenia |
| October 2024 | Pascale Baeriswyl | Switzerland |
| November 2024 | Barbara Woodward | UK |
| December 2024 | Linda Thomas-Greenfield | USA |
| January 2025 | Amar Bendjama | Algeria |
| February 2025 | Fu Cong | China |
| March 2025 | Christina Markus Lassen | Denmark |
| April 2025 | Jérôme Bonnafont | France |
| May 2025 | Evangelos C. Sekeris | Greece |
| June 2025 | Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett | Guyana |
| July 2025 | Asim Iftikhar Ahmad | Pakistan |
| August 2025 | Eloy Alfaro de Alba | Panama |
| September 5, 2025 | Sangjin Kim | Republic of Korea |

Working with young people

WFUNA hosted 16 Youth Training Programs this year, welcoming over 500 high school and university students from multiple countries at the UN Headquarters in Geneva and Vienna. These week-long programs offered youth an in-depth introduction to the UN system and the global challenges it addresses, including climate change, human rights, and gender equality. Through interactive exercises such as Model UN simulations, negotiation workshops, and debates, participants developed critical thinking, diplomacy, leadership, and public speaking skills. Visits to major international organizations provided firsthand exposure to international cooperation in action, while networking events, including an exclusive dinner with professionals from across the UN.

Looking ahead

WFUNA worked to prepare the inaugural WIMUN Singapore, the first WFUNA International Model United Nations conference in Southeast Asia, scheduled for July 2025.

I began preparations to join the UNAA South Australia Division and the Environment Institute at the University of Adelaide to deliver a Keynote Address on the theme “*Biodiversity Matters*” in September 2025. My presentation highlighted the critical role of Artificial Intelligence and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in advancing biodiversity. Following my address, a panel discussion was held featuring the Deputy Premier of South Australia and the Director of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (SA). I also prepared to join the *International Association of University Presidents* to give a Keynote address on the topic of AI, Neurotechnology & Brain-Computer Interfaces in Higher Education in October 2025. This will also touch on SDGs, particularly SDG 4 - a commitment to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Jay Jethwa

Vice-President

Australian Representative to the World Federation of the United Nations Association



Financial Report

United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated
ABN 47 836 436 168
For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Prepared by Tony Dobson



Contents

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Financial Statements

These financial statements cover the United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated (UNAA Inc) only and for the reporting year of 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. 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.

Committee's Report

United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

Committee's Report

Your committee members submit the financial report of United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

Meetings of Committee Members

During the financial year, a number of committee meetings were held. Attendances by each of committee member during the year were as follows:

| Committee Members Name | Number Eligible to Attend | Number Attended |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Dr Donnell Davis | 8 | 8 |
| Patricia Jenkins | 8 | 8 |
| Brian Gleeson | 8 | 7 |
| Susan McHattie | 8 | 7 |
| Aaron Tran | 3 | 3 |
| Tony Dobson | 5 | 5 |
| Kate Heelan | 8 | 8 |
| Susan Harris Rimmer | 6 | 6 |
| Claire Moore | 2 | 2 |
| Andrew Hewett | 8 | 7 |
| Dr Sandy Chong | 8 | 7 |
| Lidia Moretti | 8 | 7 |
| Dr Joshua Karrass | 4 | 4 |
| Joel Lindsay | 4 | 3 |
| Caleb Henly | 4 | 2 |
| Iris Brown | 3 | 3 |

Principal Activities

The organisation is the official non-profit, non-government, membership-based, organisation in Australia working on behalf of the United Nations core body to promote its overall aims and ideals, and equally seeking to build support for the UN's programs, activities, and agencies.

Significant Changes

There has not been any significant changes in the association during the year.

Operating Result

The deficit for the financial year was \$26,956.

Going Concern

This financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis which contemplates continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business. The ability of the association to continue to operate as a going concern is dependent upon the ability of the association to generate sufficient cashflows from operations to meet its liabilities. The members of the association believe that the going concern assumption is appropriate.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on:

Donnell Davis

Donnell Davis (President) 21/10/2025

Date:

Anthony J Dobson

Tony Dobson (Treasurer)

Date: 21/10/2025



Income and Expenditure Statement

United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2025

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| Income | | |
| Donations Received | 20 | 76,497 |
| Events & Fundraising | 894 | 1,382 |
| Levies Received | 365 | 3,848 |
| Interest Income | 3,345 | 2,691 |
| Total Income | 4,624 | 84,419 |
| Gross Surplus | 4,624 | 84,419 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Accounting & Bookkeeping | 1,185 | 2,453 |
| Audit Fees | 350 | 350 |
| Bank Fees | - | 9 |
| Board Meeting Expenses | - | 675 |
| Computer/IT Expenses | 3,920 | 1,746 |
| Insurances | 691 | 1,576 |
| Printing & Stationery | 2,580 | 650 |
| Travel and Accommodation | 2,346 | - |
| WFUNA Fees | - | 3,774 |
| Young Professionals Network | 20,509 | 3,244 |
| Total Expenditure | 31,580 | 14,477 |
| Current Year Surplus/ (Deficit) | (26,956) | 69,942 |

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Assets and Liabilities Statement

United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated
As at 30 June 2025

| | NOTES | 30 JUNE 2025 | 30 JUNE 2024 |
|----------------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | 2 | 74,572 | 52,824 |
| Trade and Other Receivables | 3 | 402 | 1,623 |
| GST Receivable | | 338 | - |
| Other Current Assets | 4 | 80,000 | 122,754 |
| Total Current Assets | | 155,312 | 177,201 |
| Total Assets | | 155,312 | 177,201 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Trade and Other Payables | 5 | 9,593 | 4,401 |
| GST Payable | | - | 126 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 9,593 | 4,526 |
| Total Liabilities | | 9,593 | 4,526 |
| Net Assets | | 145,719 | 172,675 |
| Member's Funds | | | |
| Capital Reserve | | 145,719 | 172,675 |
| Total Member's Funds | | 145,719 | 172,675 |

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Movements in Member's Funds

United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2025

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Member's Funds | | |
| Opening Balance | 172,675 | 102,733 |
| Increases | | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period | (26,956) | 69,942 |
| Total Increases | (26,956) | 69,942 |
| Total Member's Funds | 145,719 | 172,675 |



Notes to the Financial Statements

United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission regulations. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

Income Tax

The association is exempt from Income Tax under current Australian tax legislation.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| 2. Cash and cash equivalents | | |
| Cash at Bank: United Nations Association of Australia Inc | 74,572 | 32,600 |
| Cash at Bank: Young Professionals Network | - | 20,224 |
| Total Cash and cash equivalents | 74,572 | 52,824 |
| | 2025 | 2024 |
| 3. Trade and Other Receivables | | |
| Trade Receivables | | |
| Accounts Receivable | 402 | 1,623 |
| Total Trade Receivables | 402 | 1,623 |
| Total Trade and Other Receivables | 402 | 1,623 |
| | 2025 | 2024 |
| 4. Other Current Assets | | |
| Term Deposit: Westpac Banking Corporation | 80,000 | 120,000 |
| Accrued Income | - | 2,007 |
| Sundry Debtors | - | 747 |
| Total Other Current Assets | 80,000 | 122,754 |
| | 2025 | 2024 |
| 5. Trade and Other Payables | | |
| Trade Payables | | |
| Accounts Payable | 9,593 | 4,401 |
| Total Trade Payables | 9,593 | 4,401 |
| Total Trade and Other Payables | 9,593 | 4,401 |

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Statement of Cash Flows

United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2025

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Operating Activities | | |
| Receipts from Donors | 20 | 76,497 |
| Receipts from other operating activities | 3,263 | 7,744 |
| Payments from other operating activities | (26,888) | (11,632) |
| Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities | (23,605) | 72,610 |
| Investing Activities | | |
| Term Deposit Funds | 40,000 | (120,000) |
| Bank Interest Received | 5,352 | 684 |
| Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities | 45,352 | (119,316) |
| Net Cash Flows | 21,747 | (46,706) |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | 52,824 | 99,530 |
| Net change in cash for period | 21,747 | (46,706) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | 74,572 | 52,824 |

True and Fair Position

United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

Annual Statements Give True and Fair View of Financial Position and Performance of the Association

We, Donnell Davis, President and Anthony James Dobson, Treasurer, being members of the committee of United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated, certify that –

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2025.

Signed: 

Dated: 21/10/2025

Signed: 

Dated: 21/10/2025

Compilation Report

United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

Compilation report to United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated.

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated, which comprise the asset and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2025, income and expenditure statement, the statement of cash flows, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is set out in Note 1.

The Responsibility of the Committee Member's

The committee of United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated are solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information and for the determination that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that financial statements were prepared.

Our Responsibility

On the basis of information provided by the partners we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in Note 1 to the financial statements and APES 315 *Compilation of Financial Information*.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the financial statements. We have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.

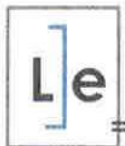


Anthony James Dobson

Dated:

21/10/2025

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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 2025. 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 2025, and income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June, 2025;
- 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
15 October 2025

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



Ode to Mother

*Look after the land - she is our mother
Honour each person as sister and brother
Honour the Elders, share with each other
and rain will come the land to cover.*

*The UNAA Anthem, gifted to our
members by Aunty Ruby Sims, and
sung by the Rachel Hoare Choir.*





**United
Nations
Association
of Australia**

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

Support and donate at
www.unaa.org.au/get-involved/donate/



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD