



# United Nations Association of Australia WA Division



## UN Matters

November 2021 – February 2022



*The Universal Declaration of Human Rights Day Event*



*Dr. Sandy Chong, and Prof. David Sadler at the launch of the UNRCE at UWA*



*Information and Planning Session for the WACE Endorsed Program*

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# From the President

Dear UNAABA members and fellow volunteers, I hope that 2022 has gotten off to a good start for you all, and that you've found plenty to be inspired by this year. As we all know, 2021 was another rollercoaster which did not play out as many of us had expected. Nonetheless, if it did achieve one thing - it shows the continued need for solidarity both at home and abroad.

Solidarity was therefore at the heart of what the UNAABA has done over the past few months. Whether it was our commemoration of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights event on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December by our Human Rights Committee under the theme of the importance of non-violence, or the Education Committee's planning session for the WACE Endorsed Program to help students understand the Sustainable Development Goals, solidarity was front and centre.

So why do we need solidarity? It is an issue which has been challenged time and again by the COVID-19 pandemic and the other crises we face here in Australia and abroad. My answer is that solidarity matters because it helps build awareness of our shared interests, strengthens our empathy, and therefore supports the societal ties that bind us together.

The concept of solidarity has defined the work of the United Nations for over seventy years. After all, the UN was founded on the notion that collective peace and security relies upon cooperation to achieve the greater good. It is one of the fundamental values which articulates the ideal that those who suffer the most deserve help from those who suffer the least.

Consequently, as the world seeks to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, solidarity is indispensable to avoid a great divergence between and among countries.

Other examples of our work to promote solidarity can be seen in the many partnerships we are in the process of finalising with local community, and which we hope to announce soon. It can be seen in the amazing efforts by Foodbank WA which is working towards ending hunger in Western Australia, and which we are proud to promote, or the bid for Perth to host the Special Olympics' World Games in 2027, making Australia one of the most inclusive nations worldwide.

In every event I have participated as President of the UNAABA, I have seen solidarity at its best and I thank you all for that, because you have given me hope that we can continue to do better. I therefore want to wish each one of you a 2022 filled with optimism and remain confident that we can achieve wonderful things together. So if you have any suggestions for activities we should be organizing or supporting, do not hesitate to contact me at [wapres@unaa.org.au](mailto:wapres@unaa.org.au)

Finally, no message from me would be complete without thanking all the volunteers and sponsors without which none of what we do would be possible. Thank you once again for all your support. The UNAABA is only as effective as you help us to be, and I am always grateful for your kindness, hard work and dedication.

**Dr Sandy Chong**  
**President of the UNAABA**

# The United Nations Regional Centres of Expertise

On December 2021, UNAAWA President Dr. Sandy Chong was invited to speak at the launch of the United Nations Regional Centres of Expertise (UNRCE) in Perth. The event took place in the University Club of Western Australia.



The purpose of RCEs are to provide and facilitate education for Sustainable Development in local and regional communities. Hosted by the University of Western Australia, it recognises that the education sector has a vital role to play in addressing the critical global sustainable challenges.

Through promoting, supporting and contributing to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, the UWA UNRCE aims to build educational awareness and leadership towards a more prosperous and sustainable future.

Working together with community organisations, industry, and global partnerships, the UNRCE aims to better harness the expertise of our researchers and the energies of our students, alumni and broader UWA community to foster greater capacity building and networking opportunities and to act as a leading advocate and driving force for creating greater sustainable living practices, locally and globally.



**Amorith Tan**  
Chief Editor

# Human Rights Committee: Universal Declaration of Human Rights Day Event

On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021, The UNAAWA Human Rights Committee organised an event to commemorate the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The theme of this event was “The Importance of Non-Violence.” The event was hosted by Borderless Gandhi, which works to spread the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, including non-violence.

The highlight of the event was the keynote speech by Jovan Skekic, from the Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors (ASeTTS). Jovan described his experiences and emotions working with survivors from war situations, and explained how violence affects survivors’ mindsets.

After the keynote speech, a panel of speakers convened. The panel consisted of Jovan Skekic, Merissa van der Linden (CEO of ASeTTS), Claire Faulkner from Law Access and Nilesh Makwana from Borderless Gandhi.

The panel tackled questions relating to how non-violence, safety and peace allows for the recovery process for persons traumatised by violence, such as refugees, war zone survivors, domestic violence victims. Jovan and Merissa described their experience at ASeTTS in assisting with their clients’ recovery process. Claire described how Law Access often assists persons seeking asylum and refuge in Australia, and how the grant of such visas often help the applicants’ mental recovery. Nilesh Makwana explained how Mahatma Gandhi’s background and early experiences developed into his famous principles of non-violence and universal respect.

At the end of the session, the audience thanked and applauded the panel of speakers, and enjoyed the refreshments provided.

**Randhir Amoganathan**  
Convenor, Human Rights Committee



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# The GameChanger Awards to Promote STEM

As the Ambassador of [The GameChanger Awards](#), President of UNAABA, had the pleasure of supporting the young and brilliant minds of WA with the most ingenious ideas to solve real-life problems using STEM. School kids from Years 3 to 10 have the opportunities to showcase innovative solutions to the world challenges using STEM.



In a world where due to the COVID-19 crisis we need vaccines produced faster and more efficiently than ever. We need clean energy to fight climate change, and more efficient and sustainable ways to feed the world and fight global hunger. All of these real world problems are those which scientists, engineers, researchers and inventors are tackling every single day. Therefore, it is essential to give all children access to a STEM-based curriculum to prepare them to solve the problems of the future as much as the challenges of the present.

Proudly brought to the community by the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, and Rio Tinto, the initiative encourages kids to use project-based learning, STEM skills, organisation, teamwork and presentation. Driven by one of our very own Education Committee Convener, Paul Moro, and many passionate educators, the event was supported by Sue Ellery, Minister for Education and Training, Don Punch, Member for Bunbury and Minister for Disability Services; Fisheries; Innovation and ICT; Seniors and Ageing, Lisa Rodgers, Director General of the Department of Education, Mike Rowe Director General of Department of Communities, Professor Lyn Beazley, Michelle Wong, Michelle Sandford and Kim Flintoff.

**Dr. Sandy Chong**

**UNAABA President**

# Celebrating Diversity on Australia Day

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



**Amorith Tan**  
Chief Editor

## Environment Committee: UN Day Environmental Action Award celebrates standout environmental stewardship across WA

The 2021 UN Day Environmental Action Award shone a light on some of the incredible work happening in our community to drive forward the vision of a more sustainable future. We’d like to take a moment here to thank all our impressive nominees, and in particular our outstanding finalists and winner. It takes an entire community of individuals and organisations to achieve the SDGs, and we commend your commitment to Think Global, Act Local.



### Award Winner – Rotary of Elizabeth Quay

‘Service Above Self’ is what Rotarians embodies also known as ‘People of Action’.

Rotary of Elizabeth Quay’s (REQ) purpose is to inspire and facilitate generosity to create lasting positive change in the community.

REQ uses a variety of digital tools, agile methods with self-governance to deliver community initiatives. They are an emerging force in Rotary networks and champion new ways of making community impact. REQ connects progressive leaders who are passionate about making a difference to their community. They champion authenticity, accountability, and

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vulnerability. Focussing on areas of: Homelessness, International Relief, Mental Health, Domestic Violence, Youth Service and Environmental Service.

The team organises initiatives on a weekly basis to encourage the public to participate in making a difference to their community. REQ provides members and community participants an opportunity to learn about their local service organisations and get connected with grassroots initiatives.

REQ's innovative approach to fundraising and community service has resulted in event series such as the Catwalk for a Cause, Come Cook With Me, Catwalk Opshop Collection, and Migrant Refugee Education.

REQ support a range of not-for-profit organisations including AYL, Dismantle, Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services, HelpingMinds, Homelessness We Care, HD Streetwise, Cat Haven, Norkama, Starick, Treemissions, Ronald McDonald House, Vinnies, and many more.

Award Finalist – Marcus Geisler, Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council



Over the past 30 years, Marcus has built up experience in developing strategies, delivering projects and leading teams in the private as well as the public sector, primarily in waste management and resource recovery.

In the private sector, Marcus was engaged in senior strategic and operational roles for companies including Suez, Thiess, and Coates Hire in Europe, Australia, and Asia.

From 2008 to 2019 Marcus served on the Western Australian State Government Waste Authority. From 2012, in the position of Chairman Marcus was responsible for the development and launch of the 'whole of government' Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Strategy 2030, and in 2019, introduced the Circular Economy and Behaviour Change as guiding concepts.

Marcus joined the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) in 2019 to focus on the implementation of the WARR Strategy 2030 and enabling the 'linear to circular' transition through local government.

Award Finalist – Agnew Hybrid Renewable Project (Gold Fields & EDL)



EDL's Agnew Hybrid Renewable Project at Gold Fields' Agnew Gold Mine is leading the mining sector's transition to clean energy through the innovative integration of five energy technologies to balance sustainability, economics, reliability, and flexibility, powering the mine with over 54 per cent renewable energy with 99.99 per cent reliability.

With 56MW installed capacity, the Project is Australia's largest hybrid renewable microgrid and makes Agnew Gold Mine the first in the country to utilise large-scale wind generation. The microgrid has reduced Gold Fields' carbon footprint by 39,034 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e (at April 2021) since commissioning in May 2020.

The microgrid's demonstrated success in facilitating high renewable energy penetration without compromising reliability or quality, whilst reducing the off-grid mine's exposure to fossil fuel price volatility and the risk of supply interruptions, paves the way for

the Australian and international mining sectors to implement renewable solutions.

The Agnew Hybrid Renewable Project was initiated and sponsored by Gold Fields, while EDL own and operate the microgrid and were responsible for Project development, design, construction, and commissioning. ARENA backed the Project with a recoupable AU\$13.5 million contribution to construction costs.

**Kira Sorensen**  
**Environment Committee Vice Chair**

## Education Committee: WACE Endorsed Program Information and Planning Afternoon

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 1:30pm the Education Committee hosted an Information and Planning Session for the 2022 WACE Endorsed Program. The WACE Endorsed Program positions students to develop an understanding of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). This course can be taken in units by students in Year 10, 11 and 12 and is an accredited program. The 2021 planning event was attended by 13 educators from various high schools in WA.



Guiding the discussion was Rachel Sheffield, Education Committee Co-Convenor and Associate Professor at the Curtin University School of Education. Special guest Michele Watson from Manea Senior College was invited to present the work her students have accomplished through the WACE Endorsed Program from previous years and highlight the pedagogical benefits of the program. An example she presented was a project in which students produced a sustainable plastic made from seaweed that went on to win the 2020 Global Goals Challenge. The floor was then open for questions and discussion. The afternoon concluded with a special acknowledgement of Michele Watson for her outstanding work as an educator.

“We want to make learning meaningful.... Teamwork and compromise is a big thing... Kids have a lot of power.” – Michele Watson, Manea Senior College

“There is a paradigm shift in education in Australia. You guys are leading the way.” - Hannah V Ahlefeld, UNAABA Education committee.

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The WACE Endorsed Program provides students with an invaluable hands-on learning experience that aligns with the UN Sustainable Goals. The Committee would like to thank the attendees as well as Curtin University for hosting the event.



### **2022 WACE Endorsed Program: Call to Enrol**

This year the UNAA WA Education Committee will once again be assisting schools in the running of the WACE Endorsed Program. The WACE Endorsed

Program positions students to develop an understanding of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). This course can be taken in units by students in Year 10, 11 and 12 and is an accredited program that furnishes students with a C grade pass in WACE Year 11 and 12. Students can do 2 or 4 units for either 6 or 2 months. Teachers need to email UNAAWA and register their students as the UNAAWA provides support for participating schools and teachers. There are 4 units that use a Problem based learning approach around a real-life problem that students seek to solve. Students can do one, two, three or all four units depending on their interests and the schools time tabling.

For more information visit our website <http://www.UNAAWAeducation.com/> , Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/469314911148271> , or email us at [gcs@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:gcs@unaa-wa.org.au).

**Amy Harris**  
**Education Committee Executive Officer**

## UNICEF Expansion into WA

The United Nation's children's charity, UNICEF, prides itself on being relentless in its mission to provide a better world for children and young people, no matter what. With teams on the ground in 190 countries, UNICEF is the first to act in emergencies and crises; and because UNICEF vaccinates half the world's children, the World Health Organisation made it lead delivery partner for the global vaccine program, COVAX. UNICEF also has ambitious programs – focused on health, education, and child protection – for tangible and measurable long-term impact.



UNICEF was established 75 years ago in the aftermath of WW2 and has an incredible reputation globally but what many people don't know is that in the past two years it has introduced Australian programs in areas where great need has been identified, especially in remote Indigenous communities.

Late last year Nicolette Casella, a journalist with 25 years' experience, was appointed Philanthropy

Manager WA - UNICEF's first representative here. She is thrilled to be raising awareness of UNICEF's truly lifesaving work and is seeking to grow its support as UNICEF relies entirely on voluntary contributions.

If you would like to know more about UNICEF's expansion into WA or any of its programs and appeals, please contact Nicolette Casella, UNICEF Philanthropy Manager WA, at [ncasella@unicef.org.au](mailto:ncasella@unicef.org.au) or by phone on 0403 044 138. [www.unicef.org.au](http://www.unicef.org.au).

**Nicolette Casella**  
Philanthropy Manager WA



# Recent Launch of Edition 2.2 of National Restoration Standards



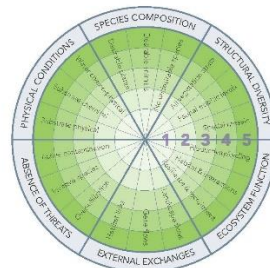
In mid-September, the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia (SERA) launched [Edition 2.2](#) of the *National Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration in Australia* (see launch [video](#)). This document was devised collaboratively with 13 restoration organisation partners. It provides clarity on the distinction between ecological restoration and other forms of environmental repair, as well as on the continuum of restoration approaches. The document also contains a ‘Five-star’ evaluation tool to assist and how to track ecosystem recovery at a site. Organisations can consult the National Restoration Standards to ensure higher levels of compliance with the goals of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) – an initiative devised to raise standards of environmental management as highlighted in the UN

Sustainability Goals. SERA has recently extended their reach to other organisations through the formation of the [Restoration Decade Alliance](#) – a collaboration involving 17 national restoration non-profits committed to collaborate around accelerating restoration during the UN Decade.

To support the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration we encourage all to support SERA (<https://www.seraustralasia.org/>) by becoming an organizational or individual member and by utilizing the *National Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration in Australia* within restoration projects being undertaken by readers.

**Vern Newton**  
**National Property Manager**

National standards for the practice of ecological restoration in Australia



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# Foodbank WA working towards ending hunger in Western Australia by 2030

For those of us living in a state that ranks among the wealthiest places on earth, food poverty can seem like something a whole world away. In fact, hunger is very much at home here in Western Australia, and the true extent of the crisis can be something very hard to swallow.

Food Insecurity is the great unseen epidemic, but at Foodbank WA we see it on our doorstep every day. 66% of people on low incomes are left with less than \$14 a day after rent and mortgage payments. Parents often tell us they skip meals to keep their children fed and nearly half of children in food-insecure families go a whole day without eating at least once a week.



Foodbank WA has been inspired by the UN Sustainability Development Goals and has adopted as our strategy to strive towards zero hunger. Whether the fight against hunger is a global or local one, the impacts are much the same - giving people access to regular nutritious food means they are happier, less prone to disease, less stressed, more focused, and more able to work or learn.

Last financial year, Foodbank WA provided over 6.7 million meals to Western Australians who were struggling to put food on the table. We served more than half a million breakfasts to school kids who were going without, and we sent out over 37,000 emergency food relief hampers, helping West Aussies get through bushfires, floods, and cyclones.

Our reach is state-wide, with food collected and distributed via SIX regional branches, school programs touching the most remote and vulnerable Indigenous communities, and Mobile Foodbank services bringing food relief into the suburbs.

It is an amazing feeling to know that your work is making a positive difference to the lives of Western Australians. Our clients often contact us having emerged from crisis, saying we kept their head above water just long enough for them to get their feet back on solid ground.

The other side of our work is that we know there are many more who do not get the food they so desperately need. We have never seen so many people asking for help. Since the start of the pandemic, we are serving almost 40% more customers and with borders about to open we are bracing for what is to come.

At Foodbank WA our hope is for everyone in Western Australia to have enough safe and nutritious food to thrive. Achieving zero hunger, whether on a global or local scale, is fundamental to building a better future for every one of us.

**Moira Aynsley**  
Marketing and Communications Manager

# Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs Inc. Announces Scholarship Awardee

In December 2021 Zonta District 23 Governor – Sandra Burns – announced that Tayla Ayling was the recipient of the District’s Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship for 2021.

Earlier in the year Tayla was the winner of Area 3’s Award. Tayla is shown here with Sandra receiving that award in August.



*Coordinator of this scholarship for Area 3 is Club member Bev McNamara. Bev took on this role soon after joining Zonta and has done a wonderful job promoting and sourcing candidates.”*



Tayla has worked very hard and is to be congratulated on receiving these well-deserved awards. Following her undergraduate degree in Commerce completed at The University of Western Australia, Tayla enrolled in a Master of Commerce, majoring in Supply Chain Management, which she is currently studying at Curtin University.

Because Zonta International believes in gender equality, the Jane M. Klausman (JMK) Women in Business Scholarship program helps women pursue undergraduate and master's degrees in business management and overcome gender barriers from the classroom to the boardroom. The program was established in 1998 from a generous bequest by Jane M. Klausman, a member of the Zonta Club of Syracuse, New York, USA, and the 1990-1995 Zonta International Parliamentarian.

The program operates at the Zonta club, district/region and international levels. Zonta annually awards up to 32 scholarships of US\$2,000 each at the district/region level and six international scholarships in the amount of US\$8,000 each. Since the program's

Linda Tinning, Chair of the PR & Communications Committee at the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs Inc, reported—

*“Over the past three years our Club has been front and centre when it comes to this Scholarship as we have ‘produced’, on behalf of the Area, four winners of the District Award: Kerran Olson (2018); Eloise Ireland (2019); Marina Sarkoski (2020); and now Tayla Ayling.*

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inception, Zonta has awarded 640 scholarships, totaling more than US\$1.5 million, to 492 women representing 58 countries.

Women of any age, pursuing a business program with major field of specialization in accounting, economics, finance, business management, marketing, operations management, human resources management, international business, or entrepreneurship at an accredited university/ college/ institute, who demonstrate outstanding potential in the field and are living or studying in a Zonta district/region, are eligible. Online students are also eligible to apply if enrolled at an accredited university/college/institute.

Students must be enrolled in at least the second year of an undergraduate program through the final year of a Master's program at the time the application is submitted to the local Zonta club. Applicants must be in school at the time the scholarship funds are disbursed and must not graduate before December. More information can be found here - [Women in Business Scholarship \(zonta.org\)](http://www.zonta.org/Women_in_Business_Scholarship).

Further information can be sought through the Zonta International website – [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org), our Club's site – [www.zontaperthns.org.au](http://www.zontaperthns.org.au) or enquiring through [secretary@zontaperthns.org.au](mailto:secretary@zontaperthns.org.au).

**Dawn Newman**  
**PR & Communications Committee**



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

# From CSR to strategic value: the evolution of corporate sustainability

There is little debate that sustainability as a business focus has undergone a transformation over recent years. With sustainability recently described by the World Economic Forum as ‘**the next digital revolution**’, we are at the beginning of a major paradigm shift that will transform our societies, economies, and yes – the way we do business.

However, this is not where it started. This evolution of sustainability's role and level of importance within businesses has been propelled by growing awareness of the **scale and urgency** of issues like climate change, biodiversity loss, and social inequalities – and demand for the private sector to help address them.

The good news is this evolution can serve as a catalyst for increasing profitability and maturity of organisations. In a world that is reorganising around sustainability, those at the forefront are looking to capitalise on the shift by generating the trust, loyalty, and resilience necessary to thrive in the long-term.

Firstly, it is important to define what we mean by sustainability. Often mistaken for [ESG](#), sustainability in a business context refers to activities undertaken by a business to manage its environmental, social, and economic impacts and create long-term value. The world's largest companies are making ambitious sustainability pledges (think Apple, Microsoft, Amazon) and it is widely acknowledged that it is now a Board and C-level concern.

## Early drivers of the business case for sustainability

While there are organisations that have been pursuing sustainability for decades, it has traditionally been viewed as a peripheral activity, with a focus on **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**. Unlike sustainability, CSR tends to look backwards and focus on reputational activities such as volunteering and donation, rather than being embedded into the strategic heart of a business.

From this early focus on CSR, grew an awareness of the cost savings opportunities from prioritising sustainability. Instead of just improving the reputation of the firm, evidence began to mount for the business case of increasing efficiency and reducing resource consumption (i.e. energy, water, waste, etc.). No doubt, this cost-related business case will continue to strengthen as ‘externalities’ like carbon and nature become priced into markets and operations.

## New drivers of the business case for sustainability

In recent years, significant pressure has been mounting from external stakeholders like customers, policymakers, and investors, with a steep rise in activism and capital flows to businesses taking clear action on sustainability issues. **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)** frameworks have emerged as a way for investors to evaluate and compare how companies are addressing their impacts, and make investment decisions accordingly. It also helps organisations to benchmark their performance against peers, and ultimately manage their sustainability risk.

Beyond cost savings, investment, and risk management, there is growing awareness that prioritising sustainability can lead to **top-line growth**. More mature organisations view sustainability as more than a compliance requirement; instead, they see it as a source of long-term business performance. They understand the growth opportunities from tapping into growing consumer sentiment around sustainability, and being an attractive provider for businesses looking to partner with sustainable companies, as many of the world's largest corporates are. They are also aware of the enormous opportunity for sustainability programs to attract and retain talent.

This is where we saw the concept of ‘[shared value](#)’ emerge, as one way to think about creating and capturing value through sustainability. Shared value refers to addressing societal needs and challenges by embedding them within a

business model, focusing on the connections between societal and economic progress. As companies are increasingly under pressure to shift toward a model of **stakeholder capitalism** (i.e. focusing on meeting the needs of wider stakeholders such as customers, employees, communities, and the environment - instead of just shareholders), shared value offers a way to deliver broader societal and stakeholder value through a business's very products and services.

The next evolutionary and maturity stage

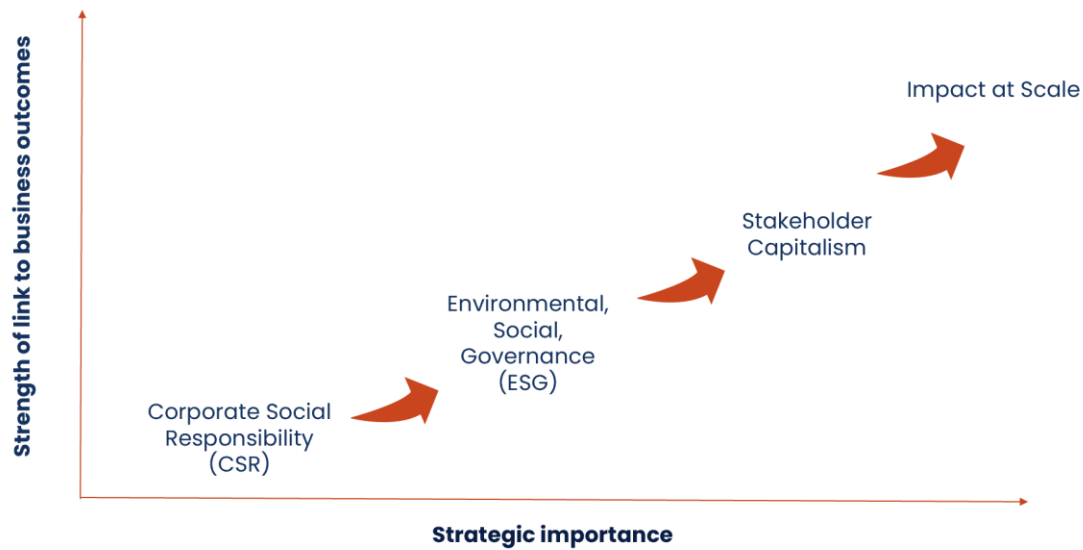
Going even further still, are the organisations seeking to have a 'net positive' impact on the world. These organisations seek to drive **impact at scale**, placing sustainability at the heart of their company's purpose and operations. They are often driving systems change and use a holistic, proactive engagement approach to create both

societal value and competitive advantage. In doing so, they are not only reaping rewards in the hearts and minds of stakeholders, but they are also positioning themselves to stay ahead of an evolving regulatory landscape.

In conclusion, sustainability continues to evolve in its level of importance and strategic value for businesses. It is moved from a focus on compliance and CSR, to reducing costs and risk, to a source of value creation, competitive advantage, and impact at scale. The growing demand for business ambition, investment, and transparency around sustainability is, and will continue, to accelerate this, encouraging more organisations to integrate sustainability into their core strategy.

**Katelyn Prendiville**  
**UNAAWA Member**

## The evolution of sustainability and its strategic value



*Note: this assumes that compliance and regulatory obligations are being fulfilled.*





# Kira Sorensen: UNAAWA Environment Committee Vice Chair

In November 2021, the UNAAWA Environment Committee celebrated the appointment of their new Vice Chair, Kira Sorensen.

Kira is an environmental and sustainability professional with ten years' experience in the resources industry within WA and internationally (Guinea), working across various mining and construction operations in bauxite and iron ore, in the policy and advocacy space, and currently in the ESG / sustainability consulting space.

Kira is a passionate sustainability advocate and supporter of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Believing we all have unique skills and the responsibility to use those skills to drive towards a more sustainable future, Kira is keen to share her skills, knowledge, and expertise to make a positive difference and encourage others across community,

industry, and government to see the benefit in doing the same.

Welcome to [Kira!](#)



## The Multicultural Drama Dance from Ellenbrook

As we embark into 2022, most of us have broken or amended some New Year resolutions, but there is one that we at Ellenbrook always stick to and continue creating – the Multicultural Drama Dance Ellenbrook (MDD). Our performances are an avenue for multicultural residents to showcase rich cultural heritage, one of which is the promotion of the voice of equality raised to display different country's traditions when they dance, celebrating inclusively. The cultural drama and dance steps in and outside our local community has been a mental and wellness therapy for both members and the audience. We rehearse our creative drama with themes according to cultural events along with our heavy family responsibilities

that make us a unique group for the sustainability of our identity.





MDD has been involved in the local community and beyond since October 2020.

The above pictures are our outings leading young mums to invite and support the Parent and Child Centre open day in Ellenbrook, and promote our local migrant women community group, a sister project in collaboration with Ellenbrook Arts Gallery. We capture moments that are culturally wealthy and informing connections. We display actual features of equality in traditional values. Our Jambo African 2021 Drama and Dance embodies a way of life about how we tell stories on when we cook, clean, and play as a family.



MDD's commitment to equality, diversity and mental wellness has taken us to various stages where little or no donations happen, but a few recognitions have been achieved. Our most recent acknowledgement was the certificate of appreciation from Ellenbrook Multicultural

Community 2021 championed by our local MP Ms. Jessica Jane Shaw MLA, Gosnells Fusion Festival 2021, Jambo Africa 2021 participation and Ellenbrook 2020 and 2021, among numerous community group performances.



As the Multicultural Drama Dance leader, I, Susan Nkechi Anopueme, a Nigerian Australian, have played vital roles in my community. My being immensely involved as a planning committee member in the Ellenbrook Multicultural Celebration 2021, availed me the opportunity and honour to decorate the Multicultural Minister and the Mayor's representative with cultural fabrics of far-reaching multicultural significance. I sit in the Committee for Children with Swan Alliance as the community partner representing CaLD mums in Ellenbrook WA. MDD is the voice to one passion we wish to give back for unity and communal heritage in WA.

**Susan Nkechi Anopueme**  
**Multicultural Drama Dance**  
**Creative Organiser**



# Gender Equality Committee: International Women's Day

International Women's Day 2022, traditionally celebrated on March 8<sup>th</sup>, has become a month-long affair for our Gender Equality Committee. Pledging to spread, awareness, engagement, education, and passion for social advocacy as far and wide as we can, the UNAAWA Gender Equality Committee has ambitiously decided to headline our very own International Women's Day Event on Thursday March 17<sup>th</sup> in partnership with the Curtin University's Gender Research Network and Southern Aboriginal Corporation.

Our International Women's Day Event, held from 5:30 to 7:30PM at Hillview Intercultural Community Centre will be a showcase of gender parity and social equality via a panel of exceptional guest speakers. Our panel, speaking within the framework of the International Women's Day theme **Changing Climates: Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow**, will discuss a range of topics including; challenges for the gender equality during Covid-19 pandemic, the impact of gender social advocacy in education, safety and justice, and social development.

Tickets at \$15.00 can be purchased through Humanitix, all profits will go towards the UNAAWA Gender Equality Committee's 2022 Young Women's

Leadership Development Program. In addition to the panel discussion, tickets will also provide a light refreshment (subject to current COVID-19 guidelines). Please make sure to indicate any dietary restrictions when booking your ticket.

Come along, bring a friend or family member and network at to our International Women's Day Celebration!

Check out our Facebook page for more information. We look forward to celebrating with you!

For more information, send the Gender Equality Committee a message through Facebook, or email us at [gender.equality@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:gender.equality@unaa-wa.org.au)

**Tahlia Hudson-Campbell**  
Communications Officer, Gender Equality Committee



## United Nations Association of Australia WA Division

<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

## UN Observances

### February

- 1-7: World Interfaith Harmony Week
- 2: World Wetlands Day
- 4: International Day of Human Fraternity
- 6: International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
- 10: World Pulses Day
- 11: International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- 13: World Radio Day
- 20: World Day of Social Justice
- 21: International Mother Language Day

### March

- 1: Zero Discrimination Day
- 3: World Wildlife Day
- 8: International Women's Day
- 10: International Day of Women Judges
- 20: International Day of Happiness
- 20: French Language Day
- 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 21: World Poetry Day [UNESCO]
- 21: International Day of Nowruz
- 21: World Down Syndrome Day
- 21: International Day of Forests
- 22: World Water Day
- 23: World Meteorological Day
- 24: World Tuberculosis Day
- 24: International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
- 25: International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
- 25: International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members



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## Upcoming Events



United Nations  
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WA Division

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

The UNAAWA Gender Equality Committee, in partnership with the Curtin University's Gender Research Network and Southern Aboriginal Corporation, presents an International Women's Day celebration.

On Thursday March 17th from 5:30 – 7:30PM, we will host a panel discussion featuring some esteemed guest speakers who will inspire us as they share their stories and successes under the theme: Changing Climates: Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow. The panel discussion will be followed by a light refreshment and networking opportunities.

All proceeds from this event will go toward funding the UNAAWA Gender Equality Committee's initiative: The Young Women's Leadership Development Program.

Proof of double vaccination will be required at registration.

Book your ticket for our International Women's Day Celebration:  
[www.eventbrite.com.au/e/international-womens-day-tickets-275378483457](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/international-womens-day-tickets-275378483457)

For more information, send the Gender Equality Committee a message through Facebook, or email us at [gender.equality@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:gender.equality@unaa-wa.org.au)

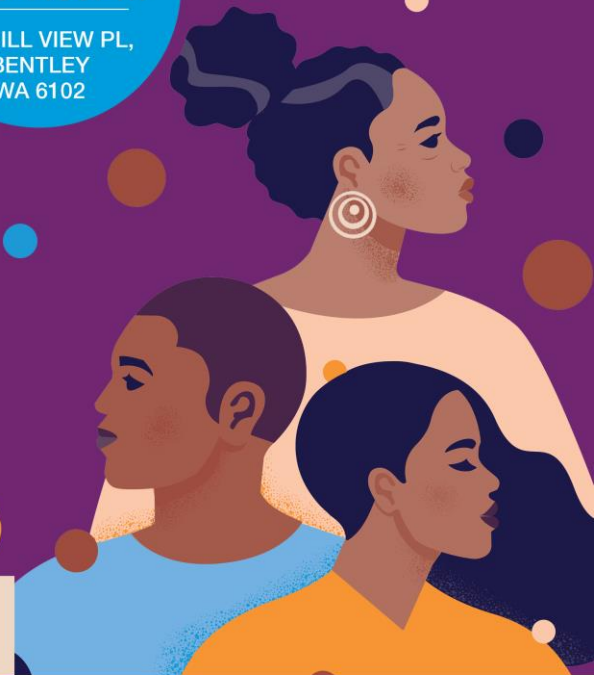
## CHANGING CLIMATES

Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow

17TH  
MAR 2022

5.30-7.30PM

1-3 HILL VIEW PL,  
BENTLEY  
WA 6102



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>