



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division



UN Matters July – September 2023



Launch of the UNAAWA Young Professional Committee



UNAAWA Members at the SDG Forum



UNAAWA Members at the UN Peace Day

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From the President

As we approach the first AGM of my term as President, I inevitably look back on all the events and the comings and goings of the past year, and the first thing I think of are the people I serve with. I cannot think of a finer group of people to be with, all of whom altruistically set aside their precious time and effort to do good for society. That everyone is a volunteer makes this even more remarkable. This is the reason I approach all that the UNAAWA does with optimism, knowing that whatever happens, our team will come through.

On 28th July, the UNAAWA proudly launched its Young Professionals Committee. The Committee's Convenor, Charlotte Moss, succinctly summarised in her speech the significance of this launch, that it showed commitment and dedication to engage the next generation of leaders in Western Australia.

The same event also saw the UNAAWA handing out Certificates of Appreciation to its sponsors and volunteers, as Recognition of Change Makers. Through the UNAAWA, you can make you influence felt for the betterment of society; hence the term Change Makers. Each and every one of these were well-earned.

The Human Rights Committee hosted a Refugee Week event in June with a former asylum seeker from Afghanistan giving keynote speech on his journey to build a new life here in WA. The Committee earlier took part in a Yarning session with the Uluru Dialogue, and hosted its first international event on Mandela Day, with Professor Bheki Mngomezulu from Nelson Mandela University flying in to provide a keynote speech at the event, which was not only in person and livestreamed to audiences in WA and Southern African countries.

I have also had a meetings with the US Consul General for the US Consulate Perth, Her Excellency Siriana Nair on ways to work together with the UNAAWA, in which

I was joined by Francesca Stewart, the Convenor for the Gender Equality Committee. Similarly, I had a meeting with the WA State Director for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Sally Dawkins, for the same purpose.

In August, the theme of sustainability saw the UNAAWA'S Environment Committee participate at the Enactus ECU Sustainability Festival with a stall at the Lakeside Joondalup Shopping Centre, where our stall received considerable interest from members of the public wanting to know more.

The common factor in all these events is interconnectedness – whether a meeting with a volunteer, a member of the public, government department, foreign consulate, or to livestream a keynote speaker who flew in to Perth from South Africa to southern African countries – leads to building bonds and recognition of the values we share of seeking to do good, of each of us making time and effort to work out how to achieve that goal, and the recognition and gratitude for the work done.

The theme of building bonds is one of the core values of the UNAAWA and of the United Nations, to join nations together and work together peacefully for the betterment of all. This is not an artificially imposed value, but a simple recognition that we all share far more in common than what divides us. This essence remains with the UNAAWA, in its core values to Inform, Inspire and Engage in order to raise awareness of and to reach for these goals.

I give heartfelt thanks to all the Committees for their hard work, and our volunteers and sponsors. Thank you once again for all your support, kindness, hard work and dedication.

Randhir Amoganathan
President of the UNAAWA

Exciting Launch of the United Nations Association of Australia WA Young Professional Committee



In a much-anticipated event, the United Nations Association of Australia (WA) has officially launched its Young Professional committee, a gathering of remarkable individuals driven by a strong desire to make a positive difference in the world. The launch ceremony, filled with eager anticipation and jubilation, proved to be an unforgettable evening where esteemed members were acknowledged and upcoming initiatives were unveiled.

Charlotte Moss, the Young Professionals Convenor, opened the event by expressing the committee's formation as a significant milestone, a testimony to their unwavering dedication in engaging and equipping the next generation of leaders in Western Australia. Emphasizing their clear objective, Moss stated that the committee aims to provide young professionals with a platform to actively contribute to the United Nations' noble mission of promoting peace, sustainable development, and global cooperation.

Their overarching mission is to inform, inspire, and engage.



One of the event's highlights was the presence of Dr. Katherine Iscoe, an esteemed guest renowned for her captivating speeches, notable authorship, prestigious board involvements, and trusted academic mentorship. Dr. Iscoe has left an indelible impact on people worldwide, passionately emphasizing the importance of embracing authenticity, building self-confidence, and nurturing self-respect. Her insightful perspectives challenged societal norms and motivated everyone in attendance to take pride in their unique qualities, empowering the young professionals present.



enjoyable and fulfilling, devoid of the usual pressures. Throughout the event, Ron infused inspiration and laughter, sharing invaluable insights that left a profound impression on everyone present.

Through the Young Professional committee, the objective is to foster talent, facilitate learning and development, and create a supportive network of like-minded professionals who share a common vision for a brighter future. Together, they plan to explore diverse fields and areas of expertise, leveraging their collective knowledge, skills, and experiences in order to make a significant impact and unlock their full potential in creating innovative solutions to the complex challenges of our time.

For more information on the speakers:

Moreover, the committee was honored to welcome Ron Gibson on this extraordinary evening. Gibson, a visionary aiming to revolutionize the art of networking, firmly believes that connection should be



Dr. Katherine Iscoe

<https://www.drkatherine.com/>
[Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



Ron Gibson

www.gonetworking.com.au
[LinkedIn](#)

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

SDG Forum: Future Leaders Development - Sports for Children & Achieving SDGs



The SDG Forum on 3 August marked the third anniversary of our partnership with West Coast Eagles in the promotion of the SDG goals in our community. The forum explored the role sports can play in achieving positive development of children and achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Good Healthy & Wellbeing, Zero Poverty, Quality Education, and Sustainable Communities. Attendees had fun with the live quizzes and were engaged in interacting with amazing panellists. Speakers include Peter Whittaker, the CFO of the West Coast Eagles, Michael Roberts, CEO of West Australian Football Commission, Tore Nelson, a Naitanui Academy player, Jackson Nelson, Captain of the WAFL Eagles, and Dr Victoria Absalom-Hornby, Partnership Lead of the Valuing Children Initiatives

and a UNAAWA community partner. Moderated by the Founding Chair, Dr Sandy Chong, the panellists shared insights on how sports can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and transform social and educational objectives. Sponsored by BHP, the forum was well-attended by the Mayor of Victoria Park, series sponsor, athletes of Special Olympics, high school students, educators, UNAAWA members and community partners, and it concluded with light snacks and drinks.



Alexander Dorrell
SDG Forum Organising Member

UNAAWA Annual General Meeting

The UNAAWA held another successful AGM with some newly elected executives.

A non-profit organisation 100% run by a diverse and passionate group of volunteers, we are proud to serve

alongside one another and contribute to the community.

We are united and strong in our commitment to promote the UN goals. And thanks to our members and supporters, both long standing and new ones, we

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

are able to continue building more meaningful relationships and driving impact in our community.

Visit our website at: <https://www.unaa-wa.org.au> or join our UNAAWA family in the following areas:



- Human Rights
- Environment
- Gender Equality
- Young Professionals
- SDG Forums
- UN Day Celebration



**United Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division**

Human Rights Committee – UN Refugee Day 2023



In celebrating Refugee Week this year, the Human Rights Committee organised a Refugee Week event in partnership with Refugee Council of Australia and the Equal Opportunity Commission. The event hosted Assadullah Khurrami a former refugee from Afghanistan who delivered a touching and inspiring keynote followed by a Q and A with UNAAWA and the community. Assadullah generously shared his inspiring journey as a former asylum seeker who overcame incredible challenges and built a new life here in Perth, Western Australia.

Since the Afghan civil war in the 90s', Assadullah and his family were forcibly displaced multiple times internally, regionally and internationally. In his journey to freedom, Assadullah faced multiple challenges including targeted attacks by the Taliban, seeking refuge in Indonesia, the harsh conditions of the sea to Australia, and the barriers of detention and settlement. Despite the hardships, Assadullah continues to make immense contributions to Australia's working force and community. He achieved his postgraduate qualification and continues to make extensive contribution to the humanitarian settlement sector and the broader refugee community at state and national levels.

The event was a great opportunity to celebrate the resilience and courage of refugees and former refugees like Assadullah, and to learn more about the challenges they face when finding freedom.

Sara Shengeb
Human Rights Committee Convenor

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

Human Rights Committee – UN International Nelson Mandela Day 2023



The Human Rights Committee organised its first international event on Mandela Day held in-person and livestreamed to audience from WA and Southern African countries. In partnership with Curtin University and Nelson Mandela University, the Committee hosted Professor Bheki Mngomezulu from Nelson Mandela University to celebrate UN Mandela Day. Prof. Mngomezulu delivered an insightful

keynote on self-determination of Indigenous Peoples, the legacy of colonisation and impact of racial discrimination.

Uncle Nick Abraham delivered a powerful Welcome to Country connecting us to ourselves and reminding us of the journey ahead to achieving First Nations' self-determination in Australia. Ambassador Justin Mohamed, Australia's inaugural First Nations Peoples' Ambassador also shared words on the importance of championing the rights of

Indigenous peoples to be heard.

An expert panel including Wungening CEO Daniel Morrison, racial justice and human rights advocate Maria Osman and Centre for Human Rights Dr Yirga Woldeyes explored the Australian context of self-determination the importance of the year ahead as Australia prepares for a referendum to recognise Australia's First Nations in its Constitution.

Sara Shengeb
Human Rights Committee Convenor

Human Rights Committee – NAIDOC Week 2023

The Human Rights Committee had the opportunity to take part in a Yarning session with the Uluru Dialogue. The Uluru Dialogue is the cultural authority of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and leads community dialogues and education on the Indigenous Rights reforms of Voice, Treaty and Truth the Statement calls for.

The Yarning session was a unique opportunity to hear from Co-Chairs Pat Dodson AO, Professor Megan Davis facilitated by Lucy Davis. With the week's theme, For Our Elders, the Yarning session paid tribute to the Elders who played a significant role in the lives of the presenters. Pat Dodson shared stories of her mother Molly who was taken from her family as a child but despite the hardship of the challenges she faced she was a leader in her community. Like many mothers in

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her community, came together to raise their children and communities as a collective.

The session also provided an overview of the regional dialogues that led to the largest consensus of Australian First Nations on the invitation for substantive recognition, the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The Statement is an invitation that asks

Australians to walk together with First Nations in building a better future, one that establishes a First Nations Voice to Parliament and the Makaratha Commission to lead national truth-telling and treaty making.

Sara Shengeb
Human Rights Committee Convenor

START A YARN

Learn more about a First Nations Voice - start a yarn with us.



Business & Human Rights Roundtable

In support of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Global Business School Network (GBSN) initiative on human rights in business, a roundtable was organised by the SDG Forum team and hosted by Chevron on 1 August to explore opportunities in which the education institutions could play a critical role in the economic, social and environmental future of our planet and societies.

As the GBSN cluster lead for 'Leadership & Governance in the Extractives', the Chair led a discussion which included stakeholders from

education, government and extractives sectors. Representatives from nationwide universities, corporations, industry council, NGO, state and federal governments attended the session. The session helped identify challenges, opportunities and value propositions for all stakeholders to mainstream human rights in business education. More importantly, business leaders emphasised the need for collaboration, skill-building, and a comprehensive understanding of human rights in different organisational roles. By taking a proactive approach, future business professionals are not only equipped

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with the necessary expertise but also possess the right mindset to advocate for and safeguard human rights.

Findings from the roundtable will be reported at the UN Business and Human Rights Forum side event later this year in Geneva amongst other GBSN clusters. Special thanks to volunteers - Charlotte Moss and Shannon Blott for their kind support on the day of the roundtable.

For more information about the roundtable and its report, contact sandy.chong@unaa.org.au.

Dr Sandy Chong
Founding Chair - SDG Business Forum



UN Peace Day 2023



Handmade flags by UNAAWA Member Sally H

The 2023 United Nations Peace Day marked the 78th year of the establishment of the United Nations, an institution born from the ashes of World War II as a resolute response to the failures that led to the global conflict. Its vision was to foster a worldwide institution promoting multilateralism, dialogue, and mutual understanding among diverse nations and communities, with a central aim of cultivating peace.

Melanye Wawrik, Secretary of the UNAAWA, opened the event by touching upon the meaning of peace. She noted that the world today is one where the odds of us perishing in a war are significantly lower than those faced by our parents or grandparents, but we must still not take peace for granted. In 2022, we witnessed the unfolding tragedy of the conflict in Ukraine. This is just one of several conflicts currently ravaging our world, underscoring the profound significance of peace and the catastrophic consequences when it eludes us, giving way to war.

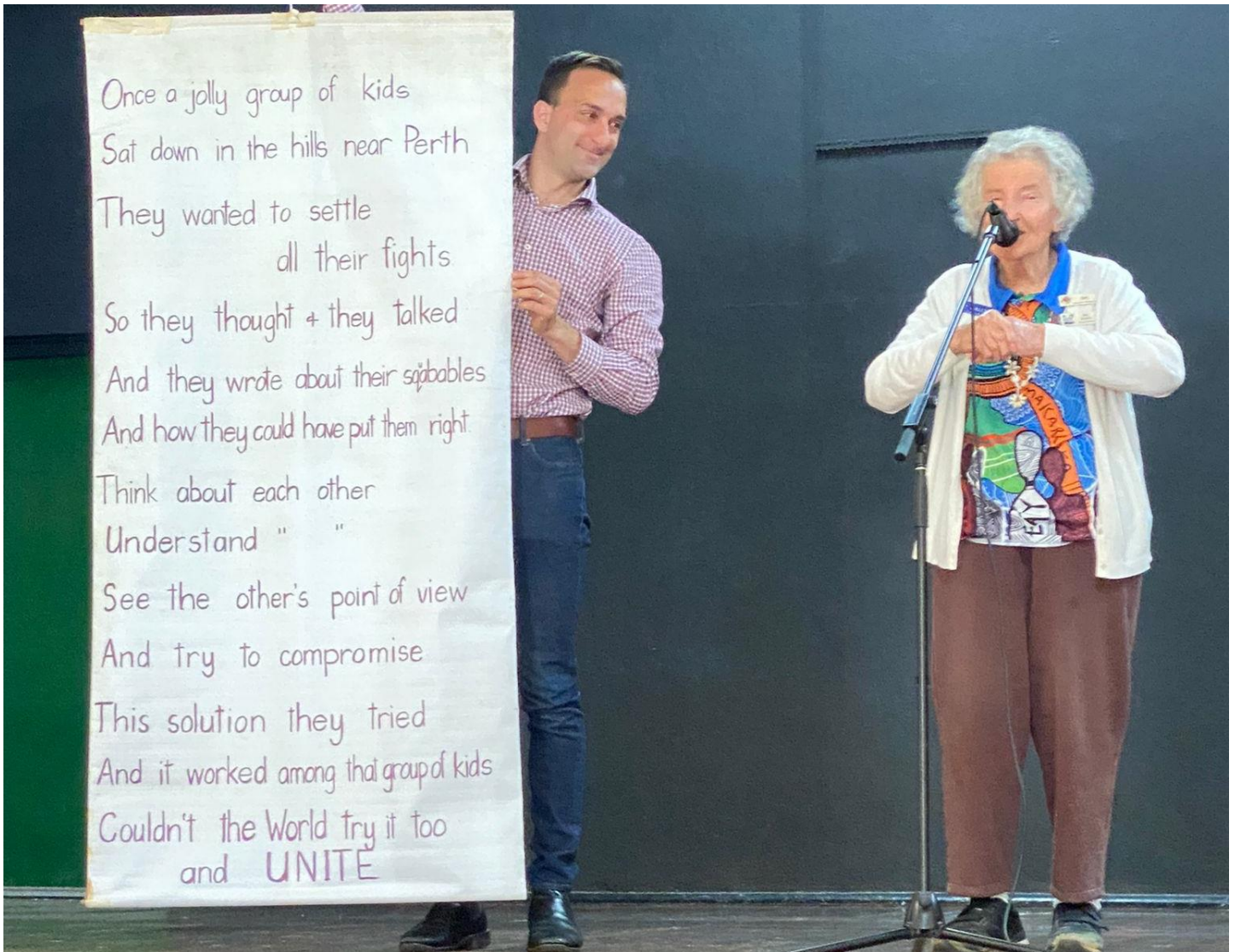
Melanye noted that, while for many, peace is merely the absence of war in which all individuals feel secure and welcomed within their communities, we should not forget the importance of kindness, acceptance, and the celebration of diversity and our shared commonalities and humanity.

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Peace is a collective endeavour and a product of our individual actions, no matter how small they may seem, and it is important for us to be conscious of our deeds and words, recognizing the far-reaching consequences they may have. Peace is achieved not as

part of a grand plan but incrementally and through the efforts of every person on the planet.

Melanye Warwick
Secretary of the UNAAWA



Driving Social Impact through Football

In a dynamic display of harnessing the power of football for social impact, August was a month of remarkable achievements for UNAAWA member - Football Futures Foundation. Committed to advancing the United Nations Global Goals, we embarked on impactful initiatives that showcased the transformative potential of the beautiful game.

Young WA leaders take on Festival 23

Football Futures Foundation proudly supported three exceptional young leaders from Western Australia to represent our state and mission at Festival23, an 8-day festival of Football for Good in Sydney/Gadigal during the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023. Our delegates joined forces with 70 young leaders from 40 countries to celebrate the spirit of women's football and collaborate to advance four United Nations Global Goals; gender equality, climate action, youth employability, and diversity and inclusion. [Read more.](#)

lifetime trip to experience the FIFA Women's World Cup in Brisbane/Meaanjin. In collaboration with St Mary's College Broome, this experience provided opportunities that inspire and empower these girls, fostering their transformation into community changemakers. [Read more.](#)



WA Paras squad announced for the National Para Football Championships 2023

Football Futures Foundation is thrilled to announce the official WA Paras squad for the upcoming National Para Football Championships 2023. This competition is set to make its historic debut in Perth at brand new WA State Football Centre from 3-8 October. Football Futures Foundation is proud to support the WA Para Football Program through our Football for All initiative, a commitment to build stronger and inclusive football communities for people with disability. [Read more.](#)



Empowering First Nations girls on their World Cup journey

Football Futures Foundation proudly supported 10 First Nations girls from Broome on an once-in-a-



Football Futures Foundation is keen to work with community partners to leverage football as a catalyst for positive change aligned with the Global Goals. If you would like to support our work or get involved with our projects, we encourage you to get in touch at hello@footballfutures.org.au. To learn more about our initiatives, visit www.footballfutures.org.au or follow us on social media [@footballfuturesfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/footballfuturesfoundation)

Brent Hedley
Executive Officer, Football Futures Foundation

Major Milestone for Climate Action in City of Melville

- The City of Melville's first Corporate Climate Action Plan was endorsed at the July Ordinary Meeting of Council on Tuesday, 18 July 2023.
- The plan outlines the next steps the City will take to address climate change and achieve its ambitious organisational target of carbon neutrality by 2030.
- This month, the City also launched Waste Wise Melville, an initiative to reduce single-use plastic in the workplace.

In an important milestone for climate action in the City of Melville, Council unanimously endorsed the City's first Corporate Climate Action Plan at the July Ordinary Meeting of Council on Tuesday, 18 July 2023.

The Corporate Climate Action Plan is a comprehensive strategy to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint and achieve its ambitious target of carbon neutrality by 2030.

The plan sets out climate mitigation and adaptation actions, as well as a carbon budget for each service area in the organisation to provide a clear target for reducing emissions and a tool for tracking the City's progress towards carbon neutrality.

An organisational carbon budget was first introduced in 2022-2023 and the City was successful in reducing carbon emissions by a total of 1,385 tonnes of CO₂e for that financial year, approximately 17% of annual emissions, exceeding their annual target of 800 tCO₂e.

In 2023-2024, the City is committed to further reducing carbon emissions by 786 tonnes of CO₂e.

This month the City also launched Plastic Oceans Australasia's EPIC Business Program to reduce single-use plastic in the workplace.

Over a series of months, City staff will audit plastic use, and then develop and implement solutions and behaviour change to reduce single-use plastic across the organisation.

The City will also develop and initiate a Community Climate Action Plan in 2024, to support achieving net zero carbon emissions across the City's geographical area by December 2050.

The Community Climate Action Plan will be developed in collaboration with community members in the City's Climate Action Reference Group (CARG), who are working to support local communities and

businesses to increase their climate resilience and promote innovative ideas to address climate change.

More information about the City's climate action initiatives is available at melvillecity.com.au/carbonneutral

For more information about Plastic Oceans Australasia's programs, visit plasticoceans.org.au/programs

Comments attributed to City of Melville Mayor the Hon. George Gear JP:

City of Melville Mayor the Hon. George Gear JP said the City's actions were contributing towards global efforts to combat climate change and were in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

"The Corporate Climate Action Plan for the City of Melville recognises the urgency of addressing climate change and the critical role that local governments play in mitigating its impacts," said Mayor Gear.

"Following on from Council's climate emergency declaration in June 2021, the Corporate Climate Action plan is a roadmap for the City of Melville to transition to a low-carbon future while improving the

quality of life for our residents and promoting sustainable development.

"The Waste Wise Melville initiative is another example of our commitment to reducing our environmental impact and building a sustainable future for our community."



City of Melville Waste Education Officer Leah Adams, Sustainability Program Officer Joanne Lim and Sustainability and Engagement Officer Jessica Breadsell sort through plastic bottle lids to recycle at Bottle Top Hill

Aaron Corlett
Media contact
9364 0198

Save The Children & Carbon Neutral

Since its inception over two decades ago, Carbon Neutral has remained committed to ensuring equitable treatment for Indigenous peoples and local communities within the context of carbon markets and the carbon farming endeavours pursued by the organisation. The company acknowledges its role as stewards of the land on which they have planted over 30,000,000 trees, plants, and shrubs. It recognises that Indigenous Australians as the traditional custodians of this land, and their cultural wisdom and insight are

pivotal for achieving fairness and adhering to best practices.

Over the last two years, Carbon Neutral has broadened its scope of operations to optimise the positive effects it can facilitate in addressing the global climate crisis alongside its partners and collaborators.

We are thrilled to announce a substantial partnership between Carbon Neutral and the globally renowned charity, Save the Children. In recent years, Save the

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Children has collaborated with specialists from Natural Carbon to develop an initial carbon fairness standard. This newly established partnership will see Carbon Neutral and Save the Children continuing to implement the standard for carbon projects initiated by their associated communities, as well as those initiated by others.

Initially over a period of five years, Carbon Neutral will be providing a range of new services to Save The Children including carbon footprint measurement and carbon project development. The alliance between Carbon Neutral and Save the Children will extend the carbon fairness standard to projects cultivated with Indigenous communities. The partnership will also take on the responsibilities of Natural Carbon in assisting their global partner communities in accessing carbon markets.

Carbon Neutral CEO, Dr Phil Ireland said,

“Being an impact-driven organisation, Carbon Neutral couldn’t be more excited about this

partnership. This is an exceptional opportunity with significant potential to enhance our operations and contribute even further to a positive impact on both climate change and Indigenous communities. This endeavour will enable Carbon Neutral to collaborate closely with Indigenous carbon project partners, ensuring robust support from a provider aligned with shared values throughout and beyond this transitional phase”.

Carbon Neutral wishes to express gratitude to Natural Carbon for establishing a model that acts as a launchpad for magnifying positive effects in the forthcoming years. The organisation eagerly anticipates accomplishing even more positive outcomes for the planet, Indigenous communities, and global biodiversity over the next five years and beyond.

[Click here](#) to download a Media Release.

**Peter Taliangis, Carbon Neutral
UNAANA Member**



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division

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The Vietnam War – The Battle of Long Tan, August 1966

The solemn anniversary of the Vietnam War in the mid-60s must never be forgotten.

The valour and tenacity of our young men then, 18 to 21 year olds, continued battle with the same spirit as their ANZAC forefathers had before them.

On this remembrance occasion we commemorate and honour our once very young Australian heroes, now aged in their mid-70s, those passed and those still suffering from the trauma of war. I vividly recall best mates that served in this war; several never made it home. Vietnam was a conflict that no one could clearly understand.

The Battle of Long Tan

The Battle of Long Tan was one of the largest and most costly battles fought by Australians during the Vietnam War. On 18 August 1966, Delta ('D') Company, 6 Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR), comprising of 108 men, including 3 New Zealanders from 161 Battery, Royal New Zealand Artillery, fought an 'encounter' battle for almost 4 hours against soldiers of the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army.

During the early hours of 17 August, the 1st Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat was bombarded by enemy mortar and recoilless rifle fire. The attack which lasted just over 20 minutes left 24 Australian soldiers wounded and raised concerns of a full-scale enemy attack on the base.

When dawn arrived on 18 August, rifle companies of 6th Battalion were sent out to search for the enemy responsible for the bombardment. 'B' Company located the mortar base plate positions and followed

"A single costly battle late one afternoon on 18 August 1996 not only commemorates the Battle of Long Tan but also Vietnam Veteran's Day. This day now commemorates all Australians who took part in that long and diverse conflict that was the Vietnam War."

The following summary of the Battle of Long Tan, one of many in the Vietnam War, is presented by Mr Steve Butler of the Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch (RSLWA) Greenbushes.

Joseph Caruso

International Global Representative

several enemy tracks, but they did not encounter any enemy.

Later that morning 'D' Company was ordered out and relieved 'B' Company at about 1pm at the edge of the Long Tan rubber plantation. 'D' Company entered the rubber plantation at about 3 pm to continue the search.

At around 3.40 pm the platoons had their first fleeting contacts with scattered groups of enemy. The enemy uniforms, equipment and weapons, should have warned the Australians the enemy were not local guerrillas. It was soon obvious 'D' Company were facing a large enemy that was looking for a fight. The enemy were not avoiding contact, and were massing for attack, with large volumes of fire.

11 Platoon was almost surrounded and pinned down from an estimated company strength force. The monsoon broke and the battle continued through a torrential downpour. Within 20 minutes, 11 platoon's

commander and one-third of the platoon of 28 men were killed or wounded. The survivors were forced to pull back and rejoin the other 2 platoons who were also fighting off heavy attacks.

Major Smith ('D' Company Commander) managed to draw his platoons together into a defensive perimeter around company headquarters. Any movement by the Australians drew a furious hail of fire from the enemy.

'D' Company fought off numerous successive waves of assaults, with the mainstay of their defence being the accurate artillery fire from 24 guns of the 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery and 'A' Battery, US 2/35th Artillery Battalion at Nui Dat five kilometres away. At times, all 24 guns of the artillery units were required to breakup enemy attacks. Fighter-bombers also attempted to provide air support but this became impossible due to low cloud cover and the thunderstorm. In total 3,198 rounds of 105 mm ammunition were fired by the Australian and New Zealand field guns and 242 rounds of 155 mm high explosive by the Americans.

One soldier recalled: *A solid line of them—it looked like hundreds—would suddenly rush us. The artillery would burst right in the middle of them and there would be dead bodies all over the place.*

With soldiers almost out of ammunition, the artillery briefly halted fire while RAAF helicopter crews flew a daring resupply mission dropping boxes of ammunition to the soldiers whilst hovering at tree-top level, despite the heavy downpour and the risks from enemy ground fire.

The enemy continued to press their attack and soldiers began to wonder if the relief force would arrive in time. For over three hours they had been

fighting a ferocious battle and were now virtually surrounded by a determined enemy estimated at over 2,000 men. As daylight was fading, annihilation seemed imminent. Then, just before 7 pm, as the enemy were forming up for a final assault, 'A' Company, mounted in armoured personnel carriers of 1st APC Squadron's No. 3 Troop, broke through the enemy lines and drove them off.

The Australians had inflicted heavy losses on Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces; counting the enemy bodies was eventually halted at a total of 245. There were signs that many more had been removed by the enemy as they withdrew during the night. However, the cost was high: 18 Australian soldiers were killed and 24 were wounded. The battle left one third of 'D' Company dead or wounded, making Long Tan the army's most costly single engagement in Vietnam. 11 of the dead were National Servicemen with an average age of 21 years. Brigadier Jackson, commander of the 1st Australian Task Force, judged the outcome "a very close thing indeed".

The bravery and tenacity of Australian and New Zealand soldiers during the battle had contributed to a legendary victory against odds of at least ten to one. 'D' Company 6RAR was awarded a US Presidential Unit Citation and fifteen Commonwealth decorations were awarded to individual soldiers for their actions during the battle.

A single costly battle, late one afternoon on 18 August 1966, not only commemorates the Battle of Long Tan, but also Vietnam Veterans' Day. This date now commemorates all Australians who took part in that long and divisive conflict that was the Vietnam War.

Steve Butler

Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch (RSLWA)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART40758

An Australian War Memorial painting depicting a scene from the battle.

India and the United Nations Security Council

India looks to secure a place on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Recently, two events made India the headline maker. India has now the world's largest population, outstripping China. Equally, an Indian space shot landed a rover style vehicle on the polar side of the moon, a world first.

These two events will not in themselves promote India's push for such a prestigious position, even its friends, Brazil, Russia, South Africa and China [BRICS] are unlikely to have much sway. Two of BRICS members already have seats at the big table.

India's non-alignment position in respect to international relations has seen it trying to steer a difficult path over many decades. Its relationship with the old Soviet Union balanced against China remains intact with Russia taking the place of the now defunct former superpower. It must be made clear, like so much of the world, China remains its biggest market.

However, the India-Russia relationship has cooled slightly, although it remains a customer for Russia's oil. Russia's warmer relations with China have made India look to the west for partnerships including Australia and the U.S. and Japan in the Quad Security Dialogue.

In order to gain a greater sweep of influential friends in its UNSC quest, perhaps it should look to the European Union in order to balance its current best friends. There has been a growing military engagement with both France and Germany, the latter wishing to deliver submarines to India.

The UNSC permanent five (US, UK, France, Russia and China), have had the levers of power for a long time and are not likely to share it any time soon. It will take something of miracle or a world catastrophe to see the status quo altered. I'm not holding my breath.

Lindsay Dorman
UNAAWA Member

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UNAAWA Young Professionals Welcomes Events Manager!

Holly Escott – Young Professionals Partnerships Manager



Since having career aspirations, Holly has always had sustainability and the environment at heart. Combined with a need for practical solutions satisfying environmental, social, and financial outcomes Holly believes in thinking globally and acting locally. Holly has worked across multiple industries and in volunteer roles contributing to sustainable community initiatives, including driving the UN development goals.

Holly's formal qualifications include a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management and Sustainability and an International General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety (NEBOSH). To continue to expand her knowledge, backed by over 14 years' experience in OHS, environment and business improvement, Holly has

returned to university to study a Masters in Renewable and Sustainable Energy Engineering.

In recent years, Holly has moved into business development roles, using problem-solving and relationship-building to deliver optimal outcomes for clients. Through relationships and awareness Holly hopes to contribute to increased depth and breadth of awareness for young professionals on all the subjects that matter to them most.

Glenda Oh – Young Professionals Events Manager



Growing up, Glenda has always been passionate about sustainability, which is why it encouraged her decision to pivot away from research and towards a career where she can assist her clients on their sustainability journey. Glenda's qualifications include a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Western Australia. Even as she pivots away from research, learning does not stop for her, and she has continued to grow her knowledge in the ESG and climate space.

With this role, Glenda is excited to combine her passion for event management and sustainability to spark more awareness and conversations about contributing to a more sustainable world for all.

Ciana Martinus – Human Rights Convenor

Ciana Martinus is a cybersecurity consultant at KPMG. Prior to her consultancy role, she worked in the policy and strategy team of the Office of Digital Department of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. These experiences, coupled with her involvement in working closely with vulnerable and community outreach groups in the city of Fremantle, have deepened her passion for cyber international law and the protection of individuals' digital rights and equity.

Ciana's background is diverse. During her formative years, she attended the Japanese School of Perth, where she learned how to speak, read and write Japanese fluently. Her German and, separately, Singaporean grandparents immigrated to Australia,

allowing her to witness Western Australia's embrace of multiculturalism, Ciana is a firm believer in the potential to enhance and celebrate diversity and equity. She believes that different perspectives and platforms, if used

in the right way can contribute to the betterment of localities and individuals. "



Amanda Cumberbatch – Treasurer



Amanda Cumberbatch is a member of the Certified Practising Accountants of Australia and deputy chair of the CPA Gender and Career Progression Committee. As an experienced CFO and dedicated executive leader, Amanda is

passionate about driving financial excellence and strategic growth within the not-for-profit sector and an avid advocate for making a meaningful impact in the community. Amanda has sat on the advisory committee for Our Lady of Grace Primary School and the executive committee for BioAutism Ltd.

Coming from a European background, Amanda has spent considerable time working in the corporate sector in the United Kingdom, taking the opportunity to visit Spain to visit family and participating in flamenco classes. Returning to Australia, it became apparent that Amanda's values aligned with working in the community sector. From there, a passion emerged for driving financial excellence and strategic growth in the not-for-profit industry, helping organisations deliver their mission in the community.

Currently completing her MBA, Amanda enjoys spending time with the family, watching movies, reading and learning to play the piano.

Jennifer Dickson – Environment Committee Convenor

Jennifer (she/her) is a sustainability professional with over a decade of experience in Environmental Management, Sustainability and Social Value within the resource sector in Australia and Globally. Originally from Newcastle UK, Jen holds a Bachelor of Zoology from the University of Aberdeen and moved to Perth twelve years ago to further a career in industry.

Jen is a passionate advocate for the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In her career and volunteering, she is focused on collaboration and thought leadership to drive better economic, environmental, and social development outcomes.

Jen brings her passion for sustainability and leadership experience to the Environment Committee where she

can drive awareness and inspire change for environmental issues affecting Western Australia.

Outside work, Jen's desire to contribute positively to a holistic approach to circular economy, human rights and climate change influenced her decision to become an amateur dressmaker, creating sustainable, low-impact pieces at home.



Mansi Zaveri - Environment Committee



Mansi has over 20 years' experience working across Oil & Gas, Mining and Financial Services sectors based in the UK, Australia. She currently works full-time as Manager, HR & Contracts with a Mining company. Her background is in Contracts & Procurement and

Human Resources - specifically in International HR policy development with international labour law interpretations for Europe & APAC region. She holds a

MA in Human Resources Management and is an Engineering undergraduate. She is a qualified Company Director, graduate from AICD.

Mansi was born and raised in India and moved to London after her marriage. In India, she had the privilege to work for the United Nations (UNICEF, WFP) as member of staff in their Disaster Relief programmes, for several years. And during this time, she believes the seeds of sustainability were sown.

She is a graduate from the UNSSC's 'Circular economy & the SDGs' program. She is the founder of a start-up, Circular Fibres, which aims to make the Textile industry more circular. She is a passionate community projects volunteer and an active member of ISWA. She aims to bring her commercial and circular economy experience to the Environment committee projects and support and add value to all UNAAWA initiatives.

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

UN Observances

September

- 5: International Day of Charity
- 7: International Day of Police Cooperation
- 7: International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies
- 8: International Literacy Day
- 9: International Day to Protect Education from Attack
- 12: United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation
- 15: International Day of Democracy
- 16: International Day for Interventional Cardiology
- 16: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- 17: World Patient Safety Day
- 18: International Equal Pay Day
- 21: International Day of Peace
- 23: International Day of Sign Languages
- 26: International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
- 27: World Tourism Day
- 28: World Maritime Day
- 28: International Day for Universal Access to Information
- 29: International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste
- 30: International Translation Day

October

- 1: International Day of Older Persons
- 2: World Habitat Day
- 2: International Day of Non-Violence
- 4: World Space Week, 4-10 October
- 5: World Teachers' Day
- 7: World Cotton Day
- 9: World Post Day
- 10: World Mental Health Day
- 11: International Day of the Girl Child
- 13: International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction
- 14: World Migratory Bird Day
- 15: International Day of Rural Women
- 16: World Food Day
- 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- 24: United Nations Day
- 24: World Development Information Day
- 24-30: Disarmament Week
- 24-31: Global Media and Information Literacy Week
- 27: World Day for Audiovisual Heritage
- 29: International Day of Care and Support
- 31: World Cities Day



**United Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division**

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

Upcoming Events



United Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division

78TH UN DAY ANNIVERSARY

Come and join us for
an evening of celebration!

Registration opens 1st August

Click [here](#) to register

FRI 20TH
OCT 2023

6.00-9.30PM

DUXTON HOTEL
PERTH



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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