



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division



UN Matters July – August 2021



Discussions at the Young Women's Leadership Workshop



L to R: Prof. Sophia Numphius, Michelle Cowan, Dr. Tony Buti, Dr. Sandy Chong, & Dr. Alex O'Connell at the SDG Forum



BSHS Students learning about sustainability and taking care of our coastlines

Inside This Issue:

From the President	2
Human Rights Committee	3
Gender Equality Committee	3
UNAAWA Networking for Change Sundowner	5
SDG Business Forum	6
Securing WA's Food Future	7
Care and Compassion Following a Crisis	10
Busselton SHS: Protecting Our Oceans	12
Afghanistan Needs to be Rebuilt	14
The World at Crossroads	14
Member's Corner	16
UN Observances	18
Upcoming Events	19



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From the President

At the UNAAWA our aim is to inform, inspire and engage with Western Australians on the work of the United Nations and how to achieve a more sustainable world. As such, it gives me a real sense of hope that in all the discussions here in Australia and around the world regarding re-opening from the COVID-19 pandemic, so much thought has gone into core UN issues such as sustainability, equality and human rights.

In my discussions here in WA, whether with leaders from the public or private sector, one of the subjects that comes up time and time again is the importance of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and how we can do better in reaching them. When we first began our SDG Forum series three years ago it was a tough sell to convince people that this was an issue of relevance to local government and businesses. Recently, more enterprises are coming to us expressing that they want to do more so as to “leave no one behind.”

A great example of this is the historic milestone which we recently achieved through our partnership with the West Coast Eagles, the first of its kind in AFL and sporting organisation in Australia. Starting this season, the West Coast Eagles will sport the UNAAWA logo on their community program jerseys which demonstrated strong commitment to promote the importance of the SDGs to their thousands of fans around the state and country.

It is in no way an understatement to call this a game-changing moment for organised sports in Australia and I am confident that by raising awareness of the Goals we have scored a major success in efforts to promote good health, reduce inequality and build sustainable communities in WA.

At the same time, it was encouraging to hear from such speakers as the Hon. Minister Dr Tony Buti, and such inspiring sportspersons as Michelle Cowan and Nic Naitanui on the important role that sports can play in educating and

empowering children, women and men. Their stories on how sports have promoted so many human values, from respect for others and teamwork, through to the power or tolerance and diversity, gave me a renewed sense of optimism for our future.

The work of all our committees gives us much to be hopeful about. The Young Women’s Leadership Development Program launched its first two-day workshop to empower and encourage young girls to embrace their leadership qualities, and of course our next major event is our annual UN Day Gala on the 22nd of October.

For those of you who have attended our highlight of the year before, we are committed to bringing you yet another cultural feast which embraces all the best that the UN values have to offer. As for those of you who have only joined the UNAAWA in the past year, I promise you that you’ll enjoy the pleasure of meeting likeminded people along with great food and music. Tickets are still on sale, and I urge you to get them for yourself, your friends, and families before they sell out.

Should you wish to know more about the UN Day Gala or any of our other upcoming events, please don’t hesitate to subscribe to our social media accounts for the latest news about the UNAAWA. While if you have any suggestions for activities we could organise, please contact me at wapres@unaa.org.au or approach any of our conveners at our upcoming events.

Finally, I’d like to once again thank all our amazing volunteers and sponsors for your support. Our many successful events and partnerships are only possible because of your hard work and passion, and I am truly grateful for everything you have done for the UNAAWA and our community.

Dr Sandy Chong
President of the UNAAWA

Human Rights Committee

The Human Rights Committee met to highlight persons, groups and organisations that perform or assist with human rights work and activities. Several of the promising leads are being followed up and the plan is to conduct interviews to enable them to highlight their activities, and to bring these to the attention of the wider public in Western Australia.

The UN DAY 2021 Human Rights Award is scheduled for 22 October 2021, and nominations are open until 31 August 2021. We encourage everyone to submit their nominations without delay. The Human Rights Committee is developing plans for an event intended for November, with details to be worked out.

The Human Rights Committee welcomed its newest member, Aritri Dhar. Aritri has a special interest in

human rights centered around basic human rights and helping others co-exist in a society with well-deserved dignity, security and respect, and brings in her enthusiasm and focus into the Committee.

The distressing current situation in Afghanistan highlights the fragility of human rights in societies, and that despite efforts and initiatives made for 20 years, much of the progress so painstakingly gained can be placed at risk within weeks. Everyone has inalienable rights to safety, security and dignity, and we become acutely aware of these rights when they are at risk of being lost.

Randhir Amoganathan
Convener of the Human Rights Committee

Gender Equality Committee: Young Women's Leadership Development Program

On July 31st and August 7th, the UNAAWA Gender Equality Committee facilitated our inaugural two-day Young Women's Leadership Development Program. A key goal of the Program was to create an environment where the participants were surrounded by inspiring women in the local community, to create those meaningful bonds between mentors and mentees.

Day One - "I am a Leader"

We began with a panel discussion on leadership led by our own Gender Equality Committee Convener, Nirri Shah, and included UNAAWA Committee members Hannah Brown, Sephy Pariente, and Neesha Seth.



Skill building

“I am a Leader” focussed on building some of the core skills needed for success as a leader – confident communication, understanding yourself, and understanding others. Our young leaders were also tasked with problem solving activities, encouraged by mentors who were blown away by their application, initiative, ambition, and ability in tackling some real-world examples of social causes.

Highlight

The highlight of the day was the special appearance of UNAAWA President Dr Sandy Chong, who delivered a speech to our young leaders about her own story surrounding gender rights, gender justice, and her path to leadership.



Day Two - “I am a Changemaker”

We saw the zeal from Day One renewed and doubled, with Day Two’s focus being on social advocacy, gender equality, and the ability of a single person to make change.

Social advocacy

Dr Siddier Chambers addressed the room with a glimpse into her social advocacy story and the challenges she faces as a changemaker who is also a woman of colour.

The future is now

After discussions about the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and what they meant on a global and local stage, the young women were frenetic with the notions of possibility and the practical applications of their potential in shaping the world into a future they want to see.



The Gender Equality Committee was touched by the commitment and energy our young gender equality champions brought to the Program. Not only did they engage with concepts and issues that affected them, but they also showed a resolve to make change and better their communities on a scale far beyond what we had anticipated. We would also like to thank every speaker, facilitator, and volunteer who participated in this event, it was them that made this program possible.

Watch this space, and see you next time!





For more information about the UNAAWA Young Women's Leadership program, contact our Gender Equality Convener, Nirri Shah at gender.equality@unaa-wa.org.au.

Tahlia Hudson-Campbell
Gender Equality Communications Officer

UNAAWA Networking for Change Sundowner

The United Nations Association of Australia Western Australia (UNAAWA) Networking for Change event took place this year at The Public House in Perth on 28 July. It provided an opportunity for individuals who are passionate about making a positive difference in the world to meet and network.

The event was hosted by both Vice Presidents of the UNAAWA, Hannah Brown and Katharine McKenzie, and opened by the President, Dr Sandy Chong. She spoke about the importance of SDGs and the upcoming UN Day event.

Attended by over 40 members of the public and UNAAWA, it concluded with networking over nibbles and drinks and we would like to extend our biggest



thanks to the Duxton Hotel for their warm support.

Amorith Tan
UNAAWA Chief Editor



SDG Business Forum: Sports and Achieving SDGs Forum

The United Nations Association of Western Australia (UNAAWA) hosted the second SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Forum at West Coast Eagles Mineral Resource Park on the 24 August 2021. The event marks a significant milestone in the partnership between the UNAAWA and an AFL club, West Coast Eagles, which is the first of its kind in Australia.

The evening commenced with keynote speeches delivered by the President of UNAAWA, Dr Sandy Chong, followed by the Hon. Minister Dr. Tony Buti who spoke about the importance of sports to the development of youth. Plans have been undertaken to make sports as inclusive as possible for women, individuals with disabilities, and other marginalised groups. West Coast Eagles' Chairman Russell Gibbs noted that the club would like to be known, not only as an AFL organisation, but also for the part it plays in the community. SDGs are therefore an important aspiration for the club.

After the speeches, the event was followed by an interactive game session to help raise awareness about sports and the SDGs. After the introduction of the Naitanui Academy, it was followed by a panel discussion that featured four speakers: Michelle Cowan, Professor Sophia Numphius, Dr. Alec O'Connell, and Nic Naitanui.

The forum highlighted the impact sports made in achieving SDGs, in particular good health and wellbeing, gender and racial equality. It was emphasised that sports cultivate discipline, teamwork, diversity, and respect for rules and resilience. As pointed out by the panelists, sports nurtures empathy and provides opportunity for economic empowerment for individuals and the community; it connects with different communities and provides a sense of belonging to people of diverse backgrounds.

Sports in Australia, in particular football, have made significant progress towards SDGs. All 18 AFL clubs now have a women's team, and female coach academies have been established to provide pathways for women to improve their coaching skills and to coach at the highest



UNAAWA President Dr. Sandy Chong and Minister of Sports Dr. Tony Buti

level of the sport. By providing more opportunities for women to participate in all high-level fields, the gender gap could thus be bridged. Nic Naitanui also noted that progress has been made in reducing racism in AFL, altering perceptions of race by educating younger kids is essential at the local level.

The speakers urged the need of SDGs to inform policy and decision-making. Dr O'Connell gave the example of Year 9 boys train on high-quality surfaces while the first girls' team from its sister school plays on grass in footy. This disparity presents a challenge for nurturing professional female players in the future. The panel also shared ideas on how the SDGs could be made more visible among fans and the wider community by featuring the logo of SDGs in visible locations associated with the clubs. This provides conversation starters which could be educational.



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Sophia Numphius pointed out that the wider education system usually has policy and regulatory impacts upon sports. This would need to be taken into consideration when it comes to promoting SDG awareness. Ultimately, the forum highlights the ways in which we could all work as a society to move constructively with the SDGs. Whether it is sports, education or business sector, aligning our

activities with SDGs would surely create positive impacts in the communities, leaving no one behind.

The event was attended by over 100 guests, UNAANA members and community partners and it concluded with networking session.

Amorith Tan
UNAANA Chief Editor



Securing WA's Food Future: Are We Ready for 2030?

The United Nations Association of Australia WA Division (UNAANA), together with Sustain: The Australian Food Network, held Western Australia's only Independent Summit Dialogue for the 2021 UN Food System Summit titled "*Securing WA's Food Future: Are we Ready for 2030?*" at Murdoch CBD Space in Perth.



Josh McGuire delivered a powerful Welcome to Country, treating the audience to beautiful song as well as highlighting the role of Traditional Knowledge in healing Country and securing our food future. President of UNAANA Dr Sandy Chong followed with a motivating address highlighting the interconnectedness of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and how food systems are inextricably linked to each and every SDG.

Alan Beattie, CEO of Noongar Land Enterprise Group (NLE), delivered an insightful keynote regarding the state of Australia's native produce industry – including both local and national perspectives. The report was commissioned by Food Innovation Australia (FIAL), this event marked the first public preview of the findings. Alan spoke to the growing bush food market, "valued at \$20-50 million per annum", and the need to grow First Nations representation – which currently

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sits at only “1-2% participation rate by value”. Greater protections are required to safeguard Traditional Knowledge and avoid further exploitation and appropriation occurring in the food system sectors.

“Until IP laws are strengthened to protect Cultural and Sacred Knowledge, it is imperative that Aboriginal communities are supported to protect and retain knowledge and provided with more information to fully understand what IP tools and legal framework are available to them...”

One such legal framework is the *Nagoya Protocol* – Australia has signed but not ratified. One of the key recommendations from the report was:

“The Commonwealth Government ratify the Nagoya Protocol so that rights of Australia's First Nations people are protected. The Commonwealth Government develop comprehensive legislation so that one set of rules apply Australia wide so that the rights of Australia's First Nations people are protected.”



Themes from the keynote trickled into the panel discussion, with speakers discussing how elevating First Nations voices, different agricultural methods, and educating our young people can help transform our food system by 2030.

The panel discussion was led by Chair of UNAAWA SDG Forum Lily Jovic and the speakers included: Professor Stephen van Leeuwen (Indigenous Chair of Biodiversity and Environmental Science at Curtin University), Marissa Verma (Managing Director of Bindi Bindi Dreaming), Meena Srinivasan (Year 8 student at Perth Modern School) and Jeff Pow (Regenerative Farmer at Southampton Homestead).



While the panel discussion was happening, four breakout discussion groups were gathered around the four pillars of food security – availability, accessibility, utilisation, stability. The multi-stakeholder groups were made up of 10 people from all corners of the local food system.

A full report will be released in the coming weeks, detailing the key outcomes from these facilitated discussions.

Graphic recording by [Will Bessen of Tuna Blue](#) (see below).

All proceeds raised at this event are donated to The Aboriginal Biodiversity Conservation Foundation (<https://abcau.com.au/>).

UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT WA INDEPENDENT DIALOGUE

PANEL

CULTURAL EDUCATION
& FOOD GOES TOGETHER



BRINGING PEOPLE
UP TO SPEED WITH
ABORIGINAL CULTURE &
SUSTAINABILITY



BUSH TUCKER IN
SCHOOLS &
COMMUNITY GARDENS

MARISSA VERMA,
BINDI BINDI DREAMING

INDIGENOUS VOICES
INTO BUSINESS, FOOD & LAND
DECISIONS



HEALING COUNTRY

FOODS THAT
SUSTAINED PEOPLE
& COUNTRY FOR 65,000 YEARS

HEAL MONOCULTURES & SALINITY



REGENERATE
COUNTRY
THROUGH

STEPHEN VAN LEEUWEN,
CURTIN UNIVERSITY

REGENERATIVE
FARMING HAS COME
A LONG WAY

FEEDING
OURSELVES
RESTORING
ENVIRONMENTS



MARKET ACCESS
IS IMPORTANT THOUGH



FARM TO PLATE

MORE APPROPRIATELY
SCALED FOOD BUSINESSES
PEOPLE
ON COUNTRY

MICRO
ABBATOIRS

JEFF POW,
SOUTHAMPTON HOMESTEAD

YOUNG
PEOPLE ARE
PASSIONATE ABOUT
FOOD & THE EARTH



PEOPLE ARE
LIVING IN
HUNGER



EDUCATING
PEOPLE ON

OUR
FARMING
SYSTEMS
IS CRITICAL

MANY YOUNG
PEOPLE AREN'T
AWARE

MEENA SRINIVASAN,
YEAR 8 STUDENT



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

GOALS

Care and Compassion Following a Crisis

Earlier this year, Tropical Cyclone Seroja tore through the State's Mid-West, and many in affected towns and communities faced the daunting and immediate task of restoring their homes and finding ways to re-establish their communities.

Ben Will, Principal of St Mary's Catholic School in Northampton, was shocked with what he witnessed following the cyclone.

"When I saw our town after the impact of Cyclone Seroja, it was devastating," he said.

"Our school and community were a mess. Roofs had been ripped off houses, trees had been stripped of branches, insulation from homes blanketed the town. The vastness of the damage was overwhelming, and it was hard to tell where to start. Father Larry, our Parish Priest's house, was destroyed and his roof sheeting, timbers and insulation littered the school grounds. A huge pepper tree had also fallen right into our playground," he said.

There was a shared sense that having schools operating as normal would be an enormous support to the small communities who were coming to terms with widespread devastation and loss.

"Our Catholic school community in Northampton is built on a foundation of helping and supporting those in need. So, when I could see that so many students, staff, parents and wider community members would be impacted, it was hard to digest" said Principal Wills.

A dedicated Critical Assessment Team set up by Catholic Education Western Australia arrived in the region as soon as it was deemed safe and working

alongside school principals and the regional officer, clean up and repair work got underway.

In Northampton, the Australian Defence Force were on hand to support the school clean-up operation, swiftly clearing debris and cleaning up the school grounds, while the local Shire provided a generator and helped get St Mary's School ready to re-open.



Members of the school community lent support to one another, even creating a community support website to help families access uniforms and to arrange lunches for students and members of the community.

Mental health and wellbeing support for staff and families was also on hand for all communities affected by Cyclone Seroja, and resources were developed for teachers and parents to support children as the reality of rebuilding their lives takes hold.

Witnessing the compassion and care that was evident in the aftermath of Cyclone Seroja may not be uncommon as millions of people around the world suffer at the hands of the COVID-19 pandemic. But,

for small communities in the Mid-West, the pastoral care and support offered brought hope and courage.

“I feel a great deal of pride and admiration for our school and wider community. Through all of the hardship faced, our community has displayed a great depth of resilience. Disasters have huge impacts on small regional communities. This disaster has brought out the very best that Northampton has to offer. There is plenty of work to go, but I can say with great confidence that St Mary’s and Northampton will get through this and be stronger as a result”, said Principal Wills.

While most family homes that were in the path of Cyclone Seroja have now been restored to a sense of normality, there are still several homes in the mid-west region that have not fared as well.

St Mary’s School Northampton parent, Trinita Suckling, and her team of volunteer parents, have been assisting displaced families and those with homes still damaged and covered with tarpaulins, by cooking meals and making school lunches to help get families back on their feet.



“The dinners started with my cousin being displaced and my consideration of what could be done to help. Our school principal, Ben Will, and his wife Amy

spearheaded a volunteer group that has had a huge impact in the community,” said Trinita.

“Our Town still doesn’t look like our town and it’s not changing in a hurry. We knew people were struggling and in a country town, where things like sports, PNF’s and Daycare need hands-on commitment or nothing gets done, this kind of parent support is so important,” she said.

With rosters arranged to meet the needs of displaced and struggling families, meal and school lunch deliveries will continue until mid-June, when it is expected that all families will be re-homed.

St Mary’s Catholic School Northampton Principal, Ben Will, said “The selfless efforts by so many in the School is an inspiration for all. It is actions like these that truly represent what all Catholic schools work so hard to be in the communities they serve. There is an understanding that schools are engaged communities with a spirit of service and desire to support others in times of need.”

“I am always impressed by the incredible dedication shown by parents, particularly during times such as these. Parents act as first educators, but they also continue to step up and work tirelessly behind the scenes, when it’s often needed the most,” Mr Will said.

Jayne Beament
Communications and Content Producer



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Act Local: Busselton SHS Students Protecting Our Oceans

On 29 June, around fifty Year 9 students from Busselton SHS experienced Education for Sustainability firsthand when they conducted a Tangaroa Blue clean-up along a 4km stretch of the Ngari Capes Marine Park at Meelup from Point Piquet to Castle Bay before assessing the deposition of microplastics on Meelup's main beach.

The day's activities were the culmination of classroom-based investigations into the impacts of debris on the marine environment and associated ecosystems. Students had learned that almost 13m of the 400m tonnes of plastic generated annually are not recycled, buried or burned and end up in our oceans where they take many years to break into smaller fragments of macro and microplastics before forming a toxic soup in huge ocean gyres thousands of miles from their points of entry. As they go the plastics attract chemicals, toxins and castaway organisms with

much entering the food chain having been mistaken for plankton and other foods consumed by creatures great and small. Sadly, there is now one item of microplastic in our oceans for ever two of plankton, with devastating impacts on the food chain and the health of our ocean's micro-organisms' ability to generate oxygen.

With these global problems very much in mind, the students volunteered their time and effort to clean up the coastline. Undalup custodian, Gwen Gray shared insights about the cultural significance of Meelup to the Wardandi people of the Southwest whilst organising teacher, Geoff Holt, explained its conservation value and unique biodiversity. After this the students rugged up, grabbed gloves, sacks, data sheets and set about the laborious task of recovering debris from the beaches and rocky outcrops along the coastline.

The students reassembled at Meelup after scouring a 4km stretch of coastline and emptied out their sacks. The sheer quantity of waste was shocking with over 60kg in weight amassed. Among the many items recovered were fishing tackle including lures, ropes, bait bags and tangled lines, but the most prevalent debris were beverage bottles, cans and containers. In keeping with many studies, these items accounted for over 1/3 of the total debris recovered. Other items included sanitary items, cigarette butts, lighters, thongs, clothing and lots of foam and polystyrene which had already begun to break down into tiny parts and float off into the bay. They most novel finds included a pair of knickers and wellington boots!

The students recovered what items they could for recycling and reuse and disposed of the remainder appropriately. Simultaneously, several students were undertaking the Australian Microplastics Program (AUSMAP) assessment of microplastic deposition at the high-water mark along Meelup's hugely popular main beach, sampling several small quadrants. They recovered many items of microplastic less than 5mm in diameter and some less than 2mm in diameter from just a few square metres, indicating the presence of many thousands of tiny microplastics blending in with the sand and shells along then beach.



These items are what becomes of the many macroplastics the other students had recovered from the coastline and served to underline the interconnection and cycle of waste.

The impact of the day's on the students can be summed by the following observations:

"I honestly love the ocean, what we saw today was shocking and sad; we all need to stop using these plastic items and make the effort to live sustainable lives." Zoe Silver

"You can read books and watch documentaries in class but to get out there and recover this much waste with our bare hands is really powerful and I feel good to have played a small part in protecting the bay and the life it supports." Theo Hoyes

"We need more opportunities like this to get out and make a difference to protect our oceans and planet." Sophie Graham

"I undertook the microplastics assessment and found it fascinating. It made me understand what happens to the plastic waste which ends up polluting our oceans." Caitlyn Butler

"After this, I am much more aware that the choices we make about what we consume and

how we dispose of our waste has a real impact on our environment. We must all play our part in protecting our precious oceans."

Anne Harper

Geoffrey Holt
Head of Year 9 and 10
Sustainability Coordinator
Busselton SHS



Afghanistan Needs to be Rebuilt

The 42 years of conflict and instability in Afghanistan culminating in the 20 year war instigated by the US and many of its allies has devastated the country. There have been an estimated 71,000 civilian casualties resulting from this war, and many more from previous conflicts. Essential services have been neglected, and are almost non-existent. Most Afghans live on only \$2 a day. Afghanistan needs to be rebuilt using a coherent approach by the G7, Russia and China, putting aside their differences to come together with the UN to do so.



I implore countries to trade with the Taliban, who will form the government of Afghanistan. Trade is essential for a healthy economy, much needed to

ameliorate the great poverty in Afghanistan. Please also reopen your embassies as a gesture of goodwill towards the people of Afghanistan. A Taliban spokesman said security would be provided to safeguard them.

Maintaining a diplomatic presence in the country, as well as trading with the Taliban, would provide an invaluable opportunity to encourage the Taliban to govern more humanely this time, and to remind them that women need freedom to thrive. The devastation of war is over. It is time for peace, goodwill and solidarity to work their magic in rebuilding Afghanistan, governed by a wiser Taliban.

Beverley Dight
UNAAWA Member

The World at Crossroads

Global media and news editorials are constantly delivering first-hand and breaking news headlines to 60% of Earth's population. Decades-old social issues have once again become today's news that impact the lives of humble, innocent citizens in every distant corner of the earth, including, crucially, issues that present governments fail or have failed to address.

Amongst many sovereign narratives, both complex and seemingly simplistic, we see headlines reporting of the Covid pandemic; Australia's surrounding security concerns; nuclear arsenal threats from rogue nations; climate change; slavery; poverty; humanitarian, refugee, and migration crises; discrimination; the lack of potable water and sanitation in the third world; illiteracy; gender

equality; conflict; devastating Acts of God; wars that continue to have no end, such as the recent Afghanistan conflicts involving almost two decades of American, English, and Australian special combat forces with nothing achieved except undeliverable heartbreak.

The agony of such conflicts resulting in no tangible outcomes must raise serious questions of whether peace could ever be reached in today's world.

I can vividly recall the Vietnam War that ended with similar results to Afghanistan with troop withdrawals, where I lost several of my best college mates. Their letters were horrific. In the final analysis, nothing was really achieved save for a fractured

political agenda; those who came home were left traumatised and forgotten, lives ruined and their history painted in despair.

Our world is changing rapidly. The Covid pandemic has, over the last 1.5 years, changed the way we live, travel, communicate, and work. We have had to learn the “Covid way of life”, with rapid isolation and national border shutdowns becoming everyday practised principles, while praying for some policy of normality being reached by our leaders in allowing greater freedoms for fellow individuals in our nation.

The issue of China has also come into the headlines. Trade has deteriorated between Australia and its largest northern trading partner except in energy and minerals, and frosty diplomatic relationships continue. Security issues in the South China Sea and concerns with Korea and Taiwan remain global flashpoints. Military build-up in the region is a further concern to Australian, American, and European administrations. The China-Australia roadmap ahead requires careful navigating and a spirit of trust.

At home, the Covid pandemic and the delta strain have caused much social-work life havoc, disruption, and disorder, as well as dire corporate and individual financial strain in an uncertain economic future. In the education sector, Australian universities are struggling financially due to low intakes from overseas students coupled with constrained government funding, which has led to teacher redundancies and serious cash drain in tertiary education.



The new world order of clean and green energy that is replacing carbon fossil fuels, including coal and liquid petroleum, has gained global momentum. Transformations in the energy sector has seen shifts into renewable energy agendas. In 2019, I had the privilege of visiting a Tesla electric car plant. The future is indeed electric; in my mining business, the switch to electric is slowly taking place. Institutional superannuation and banking corporations are focusing on non-carbon, clean energy infrastructure investments.

Earlier in 2021, I recall reading the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres stating that coal must be phased out from producing electricity and that we must meet a 1.5C global warming goal. This shift will represent a significant societal transformation rivalling the industrial revolution of the previous centuries. It will be interesting to see the results of the UN environment conference in Scotland in November, where the direction of renewable energy such as hydrogen, wind, solar, nuclear, and wave power and electric battery energy storage will be headed.

Of course, whilst Covid lockdowns, human rights and climate change issues, and many other life-threatening considerations persist, the world has still much to offer its citizens. What keeps us together are not so much the encompassing pedestals and narratives of global treaties written in history archives - such as the 70-year old collective security ANZUS Treaty – but rather the common mindset and willingness between peoples and nations to live together peacefully. Our UN SDGs are the foundation through which to commence the journey towards such a mindset and the oft-espoused statement, “we are all in this together”.

Joseph Caruso
UNAAWA Global Representative

Manisha Bhudia CPA ACGMA - Treasurer

I am a self-sufficient, proud single mum of two beautiful children and two felines; I am a nature freak, cosmos gazer and a food nerd. I am a Financial Adviser by profession, and it is what I love to do because I get to create a conscious positive impact, one life at a time, daily. I was born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya. I decided to educate myself enough to be able to move to a country that would provide my future children an opportunity to thrive and have every access to equal opportunities in life. To fulfill this aspiration, I decided to enrol with Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (UK) and self-taught the course on a correspondence basis. I obtained my CIMA certification in 2006 and immigrated to Australia in 2007. Shortly after arriving in Australia, I obtained CPA designation and worked for various corporate organisations. In 2012, I decided to sidestep and pursue a career in financial planning as my acquired skills and experience complimented my passion for wanting to financially empower people and educate on the importance of mindset towards money. I believe **Education** equates to **Economic Empowerment** which leads to **Freedom** to make informed choices. Because I am a knowledge seeker, I am enthusiastic about learning and gaining new skills so that I can create a positive impact and empower people to achieve their financial aspirations. I am a current Member of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (UK), Certified Public

Accountant (Australia), Financial Planning Association Australia, SMSF Association of Australia and Tax Financial Adviser. I have also completed Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning.



Ashinka Weeratunge – UN Day Chair

In 2017 I started my volunteering journey at the UNAA WA supporting with the organisational design and internal communications project. I've always had a strong passion for social justice and equality, which is what initially drew me to dedicate time towards the UNAA WA. Since then I've met the amazing people that volunteer at the UNAA and know that we are all on a journey towards making this world a sustainable difference.

My background is in Human Resources and Psychology, however I have been privileged to be afforded opportunities to work in organisational

safety, project management and business strategy in my career.

I re-joined the UNAA WA family in 2021 and have since started supporting with the UN Day program. In my spare time I mentor through the Women in Mining and Resources WA (WIMWA) program, I love to read, hike and spend time with my family.



Melanye Wawrik - Secretary

Hi there. My name is Melanye Wawrik. I am a Masters of International Law student and also received a Juris Doctorate from UWA. I am academically inclined but recently found myself more politically active. I joined the UNAAWA because I want to help advocate for a more sustainable future, and hope to serve to the best of my abilities as the Executive Secretary. I come from a long lineage of immigrants from Europe, Argentina, US, and Australian; it is these worldly experiences that forge a passion to see our global community come together. As a global citizen, it is vital to raise awareness of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This local government election, I have decided to run for Council in the Shire of Mundaring to support local initiatives to assist in reaching vital sustainable targets. I strongly encourage anyone considering running to stand up and run to take action in your community!



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UN Observances

September

- 5: International Day of Charity
- 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 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: International Day for Universal Access to Information
- 29: International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste
- 30: World Maritime Day
- 30: International Translation Day

October

- 1: International Day of Older Persons
- 2: World Statistics Day
- 2: International Day of Non-Violence
- 4: World Habitat Day
- 4-10: World Space Week
- 5: World Teachers' Day
- 9: World Migratory Bird Day
- 9: World Post Day
- 10: World Mental Health Day
- 11: International Day of the Girl Child
- 13: International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction
- 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
- 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

SAVE THE DATE UN GALA EVENING 2021

*Come and join
us for an evening
of celebration!*

Registration opens 1st September 2021

TICKETS: <https://bit.ly/3zxeKMB>

CONTACT: 08 9467 4050 or office@unaa-wa.org.au

**FRIDAY
22ND
OCT 2021**

6 - 8.30 PM



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

GOALS

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

Upcoming Events



Sustainability Festival 2021

Date: Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 September 2021

Time: 11am – 3pm

Location: Hillarys Boat Harbour

Contact: enactus@ecu.edu.au



**United Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division**

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