



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division



UN Matters

May 2022 – July 2022



UNICEF's Samantha Mort Visiting Australia



Members Networking Sundowner



The Sustainable Development Goals Forum

Inside This Issue:

From the President	2
SDG Forum	3
Networking for Change Sundowner	5
Environment Committee: World Environment Day	5
Human Rights Committee: Refugee Week	7
UNICEF Samantha Mort Visits Australia	7
Reflection on the 110 th International Labour Conference	8
EY: A Review of Corporate Sustainability	12
Tackling Climate: Businesses Must Act Now	13
The United Nations Ocean Debate	15
Members' Corner	16
UN Observances	17
Upcoming Events	18



From the President

Dear members and fellow volunteers, thank you for joining us as we look back on the past two months and the many events which have taken place both here at the UNAAWA, but also around the world.

We are still living through difficult times filled with distrust in international relations, with war, rising inflation and supply chain disruptions, the devastating effects of climate change being seen through forest fires and floods around the world, and an ongoing pandemic which is still claiming lives in too many places.

As the tally of misfortune keeps rising, it nonetheless gives me hope to see so many of you coming together to celebrate what is best in humanity. To see women and men, young and old, from so many backgrounds and all with so much passion put their hopes and aspirations to work organising events and discussing solutions.

One such inspiring moment was our SDG Forum panel discussion at Ernst & Young (EY) in early June, entitled “Never waste a crisis: rebirth of the sustainability agenda” which addressed the current world crises on access to finance, food, and fuel. Many high-level panellists took part to share important measures that could help the people and communities affected by these challenges, and I invite you to read the report launched by EY “Enough” to gain some insight on what we must all do now before it is too. I learned a lot that evening and I hope you will too by recognising that for every problem there is a solution, and that even in crises there are opportunities for positive change.

Later in June we celebrated the World Environment Day with our partners at the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ). The Environment Committee did a great job putting together this event looking at ecosystem conservation and restoration in WA today, and what the future might look like to not only better involve First Nation’s people in this process, but also the role of ecosystem restoration in achieving net zero carbon emissions.

Then in July we held our latest Networking for Change sundowner, where both long-time members as well as new ones joined us over drinks and nibbles. It is at events such as this one that I always enjoy being re-energised by the passion to peace and social justice embodied by our members and local changemakers. So to all of you who came, thank you for sharing your time with us, and to all those of you who have yet to attend one of these events, I cordially invite you to join us soon. It’s not to be missed!

For my part, I was honoured to be able to attend the second half of the ILO’s 110th International Labour Conference in Geneva in late May and early June. This year, occupational safety and health, apprenticeships, as well as the social and solidarity economy were among the items on the agenda of the Conference. But the truly historic moment was when the delegates adopted a resolution to add the principle of a safe and healthy working environment to the ILO’s Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

This achievement has so much significance since more than 6000 people die every day due to accidents or diseases at work, and now all 187 ILO Member States, regardless of their level of economic development, must now commit to respect and promote the fundamental right to a safe and healthy working environment. I have written a more in-depth report on my visit later in this newsletter and I hope you find it as inspiring as I did to see how positive change is still possible in our world.

If you have found reading about these events of interest, then I invite you to join us at one of them. Our next SDG Forum will be held on the 18th of August in collaboration with the West Coast Eagles, and will highlight the power of inclusion in sports and it can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. I encourage as many of you as possible to attend, and you can find more information by following us on our social media pages or website.

As always, if you have any ideas for further activities to continue support or give back to our community, feel free to contact me at wapres@unaa.org.au. And if you’d like to do more within the UNAAWA, we have several positions open and are always on the lookout for good volunteers to join our passionate team. Check out the end of this newsletter to see how you can join our movement.

Finally, all these exciting and engaging events are only possible because of the incredible support of our many partners and volunteers. I therefore want to thank you all; our members, volunteers, and sponsors for being the reason why what we do is possible. And I can assure you that the entire executive committee of the UNAAWA recognizes your kindness, hard work and dedication.

Dr Sandy Chong
President of the UNAAWA

SDG Forum: Never waste a crisis - Rebirth of the sustainability agenda

The United Nations Association of Western Australia (UNAAWA) held a panel discussion at Ernst & Young (EY) on the 2nd of June 2022. Never waste a crisis: rebirth of the sustainability agenda addressed the current world crisis and invited the panellists to share important measures that could help people and communities affected by it.



Dr Sandy Chong delivered the opening speech for the evening. She highlighted the three Fs from the ongoing crisis – famine, food, and fuel. She discussed how the overlapping challenges are revealing the fault line in the socio-economic sector. “We are moving on from pandemic into the climate crisis, something that the world is experiencing head-on. The rise in food costs in the least developed countries, possible famine and an increase in energy prices have also put pressure on the financial firepower needed to deal with this.” She also discussed how the current businesses are undergoing a wave of change, which is why it is important to focus on the effective

implementation of SDGs, engage in social justice, and monitor the use of resources.

Geoff Baker, a member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly for South Perth delivered an introductory speech before the panel discussion. He talked about the development of green energy and green technology and discussed how the government is still behind in the implementation of an effective climate change policy. However, he acknowledged the efforts of the mining industry in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, where they adapted and implemented greener technologies into their supply chains. The two reasons for that were access to green markets (requiring certification) and the cost-saving benefits of installing green energy on-site.

After the speeches, the event was followed by an interactive game session to help raise awareness about United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

The panel hosted three guests; Tim Shanahan, director of RAC WA Holdings Company, Fiona Argyle, Mayor of the City of Nedlands, and Adam Carrel, a partner at EY. When asked about their passion for sustainability, Fiona highlighted that climate change is the world’s greatest action problem and it is imperative to work towards it. Tim added that it is an existential threat to the world and companies must come up with smarter and more effective ways of dealing with the issue.

Fiona shared the challenges in achieving sustainability for the constituency. “There are three critical issues in achieving sustainability; the first is funding; without appropriate funding and support from both the

people and the government, no one can achieve sustainability. The second is powerful dissenting voices, people with significant influence in local, state, and federal levels of government working against sustainability. The third is inconsistencies within the state government with the government, with the state government paying lip service and greenwashing (with Fiona giving the example of the removal of class A zoning, zoning designed for future generations).”

When asked about the issues that state and federal governments facing, Adam discussed how people are more concerned about their personal exposure to climate change than embarrassed to do anything about it as people. “People are no longer culpable for the state of the world, and we need to rediscover this culpability to build our momentum for change to the current global order,” he added.

In Dr Sandy’s opening note, she shared the fear of experts that the UN may not be able to achieve the SDGs by 2030. When asked the panellists about their opinion on this, Tim said, “We are not going to achieve these goals at this pace with the Covid pandemic, the

war between Russia and Ukraine and Inflation having a significant effect on the international community’s response. However, nations are moving in the right direction and continued regulations surrounding pollution and greenwashing will go far in the promotion and development of the UNSDGs.” “There is not enough action by the local and international community to effectively promote and implement actions to save humanity,” Fiona added. Adam summarized the discussion by saying, “unless we make a practical and significant commitment to the implementation of actions that promote and enforce sustainability, we will be unable to work through the issues.”

Closing remarks were delivered by all the three panellists, urging businesses to make a change by adapting effective and sustainable practices.

The event was attended by 90 guests, UNAAWA members and community partners and concluded with light snacks and drinks.

Anshu Pande



Networking for Change Sundowner



On 7 July, the UNAAWA held its Networking for Change sundowner, welcoming new and long-time members over drinks and nibbles.

It is always inspiring to listen from those who are passionate and want to make a difference in the world. These sessions are never short of interesting dialogues and meaningful connections.

We look forward to connecting with more change-makers at our upcoming events. Join us in our mission in promoting peace and global citizenship, human

rights, climate action, and gender equality, so that no one is left behind.



Environment Committee: Celebrating Ecosystem Restoration on World Environment Day

This year's World Environment Day campaign #OnlyOneEarth calls for collective, transformative action on a global scale to celebrate, protect and restore our planet. On Thursday the 30th of June, the Environment Committee and event partner the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) celebrated World Environment Day and the critical UN Decade Ecosystem Restoration.

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world, for the benefit of people and nature. It aims to halt the degradation of ecosystems, and restore them to enhance people's livelihoods, counteract climate change, and stop the collapse of biodiversity. The UN Decade runs from 2021 through 2030, which is also the deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals and the timeline scientists

have identified as the last chance to prevent catastrophic climate change.



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Did you know:

- Ecosystem degradation affects the well-being of an estimated 3.2 billion people, or 40 per cent of the world's population.
- Restoring 15 per cent of converted lands while stopping further conversion of natural ecosystems can prevent 60 per cent of expected species extinctions.
- Every year, we lose ecosystem services worth more than 10 per cent of our global economic output.

The UN Decade is building a strong, broad-based global movement to ramp up restoration and put the world on track for a sustainable future. That's why we chose this Decade as the focus for the 2022 World Environment Day event: to bring this critical topic and its benefits for people and planet to the forefront of our community; discuss the importance of urgent action to prevent further degradation, and raise the platform for ecosystem restoration in Western Australia.

It was a great pleasure hosting this event with Melissa Harrison from EIANZ, introducing the incredible presenters who shared their passion and critical work being undertaken in Western Australia contributing to Ecosystem Restoration. Following these presentations, attendees enjoyed a panel discussion on the key risks to ecosystem conservation and restoration in WA today, what steps need to be taken for First Nation's people to be more actively involved in restoration, the role of future ecosystem restoration in achieving net zero, and what industry and government can do to support conservation and restoration. Thank you to our presenters and panellists:

- Keynote Speaker, Richard Newman, Director Industry Regulation for the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), discussing the Native Vegetation Policy for WA and the State Government's Role.

- Dr Blair Parsons, General Manager Science and Design at Greening Australia, presenting on Enabling Ecosystem Restoration At Scale in Australia.
- Suzanne Brown, Manager Drainage and Liveable Communities, Water Corporation, discussing the Drainage for Liveability Program.
- Christian Miller-Sabbioni, Research Assistant, Curtin University, on Two-Way Science to Heal Country – New Ways of Working.

Special thanks to our event sponsors Georgiou Group and Integrate Sustainability, whose support allowed us to make the event possible. Georgiou Group is a national civil engineering and building construction company with a team of 900 delivering complex and challenging projects across WA, Queensland and New South Wales. Integrate Sustainability is a specialist environmental, heritage, native title and safety consultancy based in Perth, that works with clients to create sustainable businesses.

I encourage you to learn more about the principles of Ecosystem Restoration. Ecosystems Restoration is fundamental to the prevention of climate change, species extinction, and ensuring a sustainable future for all. We can all help by becoming advocates of this Decade and actively seeking ways to prevent further degradation and contribute to future restoration.

Melissa Arias
Convenor
Environment Committee



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030

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Refugee Week: Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors

On 23 June 2022, during Refugee Week, the Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors (ASeTTS) celebrated 30 years of service to humanitarian and refugee migrants who had experienced torture or trauma. At this event, ASeTTS launched its new book titled “30 Years, 30 Stories” to share their client’s stories and about the vital work ASeTTS does to support them.



ASeTTS kindly invited the UNAAWA Human Rights Committee to join in this 30th anniversary celebration. Adrien Lebel, Aritri Dhar and Randhir Amoganathan attended the event.



The event consisted of speeches by former refugees who had been assisted by ASeTTS, a dinner with sustainable plates and utensils, and lovely music performances from an Afghan and an Iranian music group.

The work ASeTTS performed clearly highlighted how the recognition of the human rights makes a great change in the lives of the people assisted. The Human Rights Committee will work further with ASeTTS as part of the ongoing efforts highlight work done to uplift human rights in the community.

Randhir Amoganathan
Convenor, Human Rights Committee

UNICEF’s Samantha Mort Visits Australia

Marking one year since Afghanistan’s government was overturned, UNICEF’s Samantha Mort travelled to Australia to share her harrowing insights of what life is like in the war-ravaged country.

As UNICEF Chief of Communication, Advocacy and Civic Engagement, Ms Mort is one of only a few Western women left in Kabul, working directly with

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the de facto authorities to get better outcomes for children and families.



The highly engaging speaker captivated audiences in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth with her candid account of the unprecedented humanitarian crisis where 97 per cent of the population are on the brink of poverty and chronic malnutrition affects 13 million children.

But Ms Mort provided glimmers of hope with mobile health and nutrition teams and community-based education classes as examples of how UNICEF is providing vital and in-demand services.

You can donate to UNICEF's Afghanistan Emergency Appeal here: [Help Children in Afghanistan | UNICEF Australia Emergency Appeal](#).

If you would like to learn more, UNICEF's Perth-based Philanthropy Manager Nicolette Casella can be reached at ncasella@unicef.org.au.

Nicolette Casella
Philanthropy Manager



Reflection on the 110th International Labour Conference, June 2022, Geneva, Switzerland



For over a century, representatives of governments, worker's and employer's organisations have gathered at the International Labour Conference to debate and act on the major challenges and opportunities facing the world of work.

The Conference, the largest international gathering dedicated to the world of work and sometimes called the World Parliament of Labour, has only been delayed on two occasions since 1919: in 1940 due to the outbreak of World War Two and in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since last year's conference was a virtual event, this 110th ILC marked the first time since 2019 that some

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4000 delegates from the 187 member states of the International Labour Organization could come together, and this was palpable as I witnessed countless representatives with great enthusiasm after being away for a long time.

Many of the speakers spoke of the challenges they are facing in recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and how the triple crisis of rising food prices, energy prices and ballooning debt are placing their economies and livelihoods under stress. Representatives from countries as diverse as Poland or Uzbekistan told stories of deprivation and disaster, and how women and youth have been disproportionately affected by the crises they face.

In addition, many worker delegates spoke of intimidation and fear in their efforts to stand up for worker's rights, especially after so many countries rolled back such rights when dealing with the impacts of the pandemic. Violations of workers' rights are at a nine-year high and trade unionists were killed in thirteen countries. In Colombia alone, thirteen trade unionists were assassinated in the past year, making it once again the world's deadliest country for unions.

So, if ever there was a need for a reminder of how important the debates were, or the context in which they took place, one only had to listen to the delegates' speeches and the many discussions taking place behind-the-scenes. After all, workers' rights are our rights, as are our rights to create enterprises and compete in the labour market while free of violence and intimidation.

This year, occupational safety and health, apprenticeships, as well as the social and solidarity economy were among the items on the agenda of the Conference, and all these subjects the ILO made history.

Headlines were made on Friday the 10th of June, when after long days of productive negotiation, the delegates adopted a resolution to add the principle of

a safe and healthy working environment to the ILO's Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

Until now there have been four categories, as set out in ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work adopted in 1998:

- Freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.
- The elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour.
- The effective abolition of child labour.
- The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.



The decision by the Conference means that all 187 ILO Member States, regardless of their level of economic development, now commit to respect and promote the fundamental right to a safe and healthy working environment, whether or not they have ratified the relevant Conventions.

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This achievement has so much significance since the ILO estimates that over 2.3 million women and men around the world die every year due to work-related accidents or diseases. This corresponds to over 6000 deaths every single day. As such, workplace-related deaths exceed the average annual deaths from road accidents, war, and HIV/AIDS.

In addition, there are around 340 million occupational accidents and 160 million victims of work-related illnesses worldwide, an appalling number that this decision aims to help reduce.



UNAAWA President with Director-General of ILO, Guy Redder

The ILO's Director-General Guy Ryder, speaking for the last time at the Conference as his mandate ends in October, said that the achievements were made possible by "a sense of our collective responsibility. A responsibility to find agreed solutions in the face of

the quite dramatic challenges facing the world of work."

In a world where collective responsibility seems to be increasingly ignored by many politicians and businesspeople, seeing so many employers, workers and government representatives come together in a spirit of dialogue and compromise was a source of hope for many, including myself.

On the issue of apprenticeships, delegates voted to develop a new ILO Recommendation on Quality Apprenticeships, which will be negotiated at next year's conference. This will aim to help countries ensure that as many young people, adults and communities can take part in apprenticeship programs and contribute to their skills and future employment in a safe work environment.

A visibly emotional David Mier, one of the worker representatives from Australia, made a moving statement at the session which brought many delegates to tears, when he addressed the stigma that many people hold against apprenticeships as being a lesser path towards a successful career. He mentioned that amongst the Ministers, business owners, and other successful representatives from Member States, were several people who negotiated as their equals and who started their careers as apprentices. *"Including me, who started as a sixteen-year-old apprentice electrician on the waterfront in Melbourne, Australia, and now is addressing you here. This is not a lesser path!"*

In my time working as an advisor for SMEs and multinational firms around the world, I have seen how apprenticeship programs have helped empower young women and men from disadvantaged groups and given them access to decent jobs and better futures. With all the crises facing the world, we need to create more opportunities like these.

Another exciting development was the first ever high-level debate within the United Nations system on the

Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). The SSE refers to enterprises and organisations that are based on principles of solidarity and participation, and that produce goods and services that serve both social and economic aims. They are not just the quest for profit, they also include cooperatives, associations, mutual societies, foundations, social enterprises, or self-help groups in the formal and the informal economies.

With recent global economic and political instability underlining the shortcomings of our current development system, SSE aims to be a way to re-balance economic, social, and environmental objectives towards a more sustainable future for all. That the ILC therefore adopted the first ever official definition of the SSE and provided guidance on how to promote decent work and economic growth, is a significant achievement for all those who believe in a fairer and more sustainable economic system.

Finally, it was heart-warming to see so many delegates expressing their kind words for Guy Ryder and thanking him for his work over the past decade as Director-General of the ILO. It was an honour to meet

and thank him in person for his inspiring words in the video he sent last year for our UNAAWA's UN Day Gala.

Many delegates also congratulated the incoming Director-General-elect, Gilbert F. Houngbo, who will become the first African head of the ILO when he takes office in October.

There was of course much more that was covered during the two weeks of the conference, much of which will have real life impacts on the billions of working people around the world. But with the voices of all those who make up the world of work being represented here, from workers and employers, through to governments and civil society groups, I remain hopeful that a better world is possible when we leave no one behind.

Dr. Sandy Chong
President of the UNAAWA



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EY: A Review of Corporate Sustainability

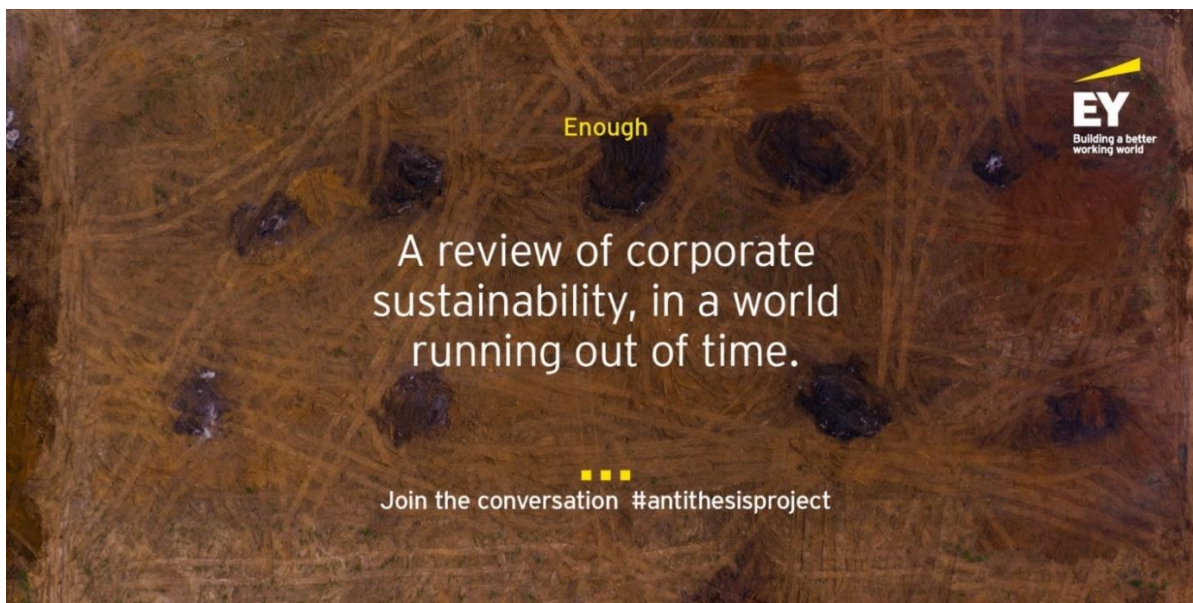
We are really excited to share with you EY's latest report, ['Enough: A review of corporate sustainability in a world running out of time'](#). This report has been prepared by members of EY's Climate Change and Sustainability Services team, as the first publication from our newly established Antithesis Project – which seeks to generate provocative and unconventional perspectives on Sustainable Development.

The release of the report comes at a point where society is increasingly calling for corporations to demonstrate how they are delivering outcomes that benefit humanity and nature, at a time where ESG has become 'mainstream' but where year-on-year, science indicates that our actions are not delivering on our promises. In this report, we explore the missing links through a review of corporate sustainability – where it has come from, where it is now, and where we believe it may need to go.

The intent behind this report is not to simply float an idea, but to spark reflection and debate to collectively explore unanswered questions regarding the future of corporate sustainability, and what we mean by sustainability altogether. This has been prepared for anyone and everyone who has an interest in corporate sustainability and the state of our planet, and those who wish to participate in a dialogue around what corporate sustainability needs to look like for it to effectively deliver the outcomes we need in the crucial decade ahead.

I encourage you all to read this, to share it with your networks and importantly, to share your thoughts and feedback with us, particularly on the questions that we are keen to explore in more detail. You can write to EY's team at antithesisproject@au.ey.com.

Rachel Parker
Perth Executive Assistant Team Leader, Assurance & SaT, Ernst & Young



Tackling Climate: Businesses Must Act Now

On 21st of June 2022, BDO hosted a Sustainability Network Forum - **“The Decarbonisation Challenge, and why it has become a business imperative now”** - to discuss how businesses must rethink the way they operate in order to safeguard the environment and remain competitive. So, what pressures do business face and how can they transition towards a future low-carbon economy?



The Increasing Pressures on Businesses

The scientific community has long established that global warming has reached emergency levels and it is critical that business change how they operate. In response to this, Australia has in May 2022 formalised its commitment to cut carbon emissions by 43% from 2005 levels by 2030, joining the international community in tackling the climate emergency.

What this means for Australian businesses is that there is immediate pressure to adapt to meet the government’s commitments. Being part of the global economy in some form or another, inherently means that international investors, consumers and businesses within supply chains are demanding higher standards and greater transparency on environmental impacts and risks. Businesses must therefore be ready for a future where environmental impacts can no longer be ignored, else they may face the risk of being penalised and not remaining economically viable.

The current challenge of understanding companies’ climate risk is the lack of consistent and comparative data as well as the need for clearer connection

between the ambitions outlined in the annual report and the financial statements i.e how a company’s commitment to net-zero translates into the financial statements. Ideally, businesses that are committed to net-zero will adapt and implement new technologies to reduce emissions in the most efficient way, which often translate into increased CAPEX or R&D. However, it could be tempting for some to not change and position themselves as a sustainable business simply by purchasing offsets to net their emissions. It is therefore important that companies are transparent about their impact risks and mitigating activities. Standards and Frameworks such as the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures ([TCFD](#)) are being established to allow for greater transparency and ensure material information are disclosed in a consistent manner.

Carbon Investment – Bonus or Malus

New accounting standards will translate a business’ climate position into dollars making a company’s position on climate change increasingly obvious. A low-carbon-economy doesn’t automatically mean a reduction in profitability and instead presents opportunities for new businesses to emerge or established business to reinvent themselves.

Some first-movers have long embraced sustainable business practices and embraced new opportunities without harming profitability. One of these examples is WA-based [Austral Fisheries](#) - the world’s first carbon-neutral commercial fishing company - where consumers are willing to pay a premium to eat a “guilt-free meal” according to its CEO David Carter. On the other hand, late movers or those that are unwilling to adapt may get heavily penalised and not survive. The reasons for this could be government sanctions, restricted access to capital due to increased ESG profiling by investors, looming import taxes (the EU’s

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[CBAM](#) coming into effect in 2026), unaffordable insurance premiums and unwillingness by consumers to buy an unsustainable good or service, resulting in a liability.

Conclusion

As investors and other key stakeholders demand greater transparency on climate risk and new frameworks and regulations will come into effect, it is now crucial for businesses to identify risks, articulate strategies to reduce emissions, take leadership and set new standards in order to not be left behind. As Michelle from [Decarbonology](#) mentioned, sustainable operations will be the 'modern day license to operate'.

It will be critical for businesses to act now and be part of the solution so to contribute and influence the discussions about what future operating models in a net-zero environment will look like.

The Forum was led by Catherine Bell – Principal, Sustainability at BDO, guest speakers were David Carter - CEO at Austral Fisheries, and Michelle Rhodes & Dr Chris Lunder – founders of Decarbonology.



Dr Tang Coko
UNAANA Member



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division

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The United Nations Ocean Decade

World Ocean Day

In light of the recent global celebrations on the 8th June for World Ocean Day, it is a time to reflect on the current state of the Oceans, the issues we are facing in the next decades and the concerns that have been identified and highlighted since the [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea](#) (UNCLOS). Though many of us have celebrated the world's oceans on this date, it may be hard not to feel conflicted about the issues affecting currently our oceans or the predictions from the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) on the potential scenarios that our blue planet will be facing in the next decades. Even the vocabulary used by experts in this matter has changed in the last decades. For example, when talking about climate change, scientists have started using the term "adaptation" rather than "prevention".

Though this may seem discouraging there are many entities making an enormous effort to recover and/or maintain healthy oceans by 2030, and many efforts are to be celebrated, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its core. At present there are 3501 events; 1322 publications and 6287 actions linked with the SDGs, and some of these are oceans-focused (e.g., including but not limited to the SDG 14). These are shared goals that have been tackled by different initiatives all around the world are encouraging numbers. Though it can also be overwhelming and make it hard to engage as there is such a diverse range of initiatives and engagement projects linked to SDG 14 being developed locally and regionally all over the globe.

The Ocean Decade

One way forward is to focus on the initiatives on a local level. The [United Nations Ocean Science for Sustainable Development](#) (also called the UN Ocean Decade) is one of these hubs for all ideas and initiatives that aim to understand the oceans and support sustainability initiatives to enhance their current state. In Australia, we have the [Ocean Decade Australia](#), which aims to connect Australian stakeholders working towards achieving the "oceans we want". Working together will enable us to have a better understanding of ocean ecosystems and the role of food, biodiversity, climate and value, and support the exchange of key information required for creating solution-oriented approaches to tackle the challenges we are currently facing.

What to do?

While it is important to be aware of the global issues, and celebrate together World Oceans Day, it is often most powerful if we engage with something close to our heart, and act locally. As we sit here, reflecting on this month's celebration of World Oceans Day, I encourage everyone to go to the [Oceans Decade website](#) and / or the [UNAA \(WA division\) Environment Committee website](#) to find local initiatives that are being undertaken in your area, or an event held close by home.

Dr Clara Obregón
UNAAWA Member
Environmental and Conservation Studies
Centre for Sustainable Aquatic Ecosystems
Murdoch University

Positions Open

Despite the widespread of COVID cases in our community and affecting some of our executives, the UNAAWA team is still going strong from our meeting last evening.

We are blessed with a diverse team of passionate leaders and multidisciplinary contributors, all committed to the mission of promoting the UN goals.

From our award-winning education program, human rights and environmental advocacy work, to having meaningful dialogues about inclusion, sustainable development for businesses, and global citizenship, we are dedicated in making a difference.

Join our movement by volunteering with us so that no one is left behind.

Positions currently open include:

- Social media coordinator
- Assistant to Secretary
- Assistant Editor
- Event Organiser
- Secretary for Environment committee
- Secretary for Education committee
- Deputy for Human Rights committee

Email us your interest with a cover letter, resume and the role in the subject heading to: office@unaa-wa.org.au

To find out more about what we do, visit: <https://www.unaa-wa.org.au/>



UN Observances

July

- 2: International Day of Cooperatives
- 7: World Kiswahili Language Day
- 11: World Population Day
- 15: World Youth Skills Day
- 18: Nelson Mandela International Day
- 20: International Moon Day
- 20: World Chess Day
- 25: World Drowning Prevention Day
- 28: World Hepatitis Day
- 30: International Day of Friendship
- 30: World Day against Trafficking in Persons

August

- 1-7: World Breastfeeding Week
- 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 12: International Youth Day
- 19: World Humanitarian Day
- 21: International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism
- 22: International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
- 23: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
- 29: International Day against Nuclear Tests
- 30: International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances
- 31: International Day for People of African Descent



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division

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Upcoming Events



United Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division

INCLUSION IN SPORTS & ACHIEVING SDGs

TIME: 6:00 - 7:30pm
(5:30pm registration)

VENUE: Mineral Resources Park,
42 Bishopsgate St, Lathlain

TICKETS:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc877632>

CONTACT: (08) 9461 4050 or office@unaa-wa.org.au



18
AUG 2022

6.00-7.30PM

MINERAL
RESOURCES
PARK



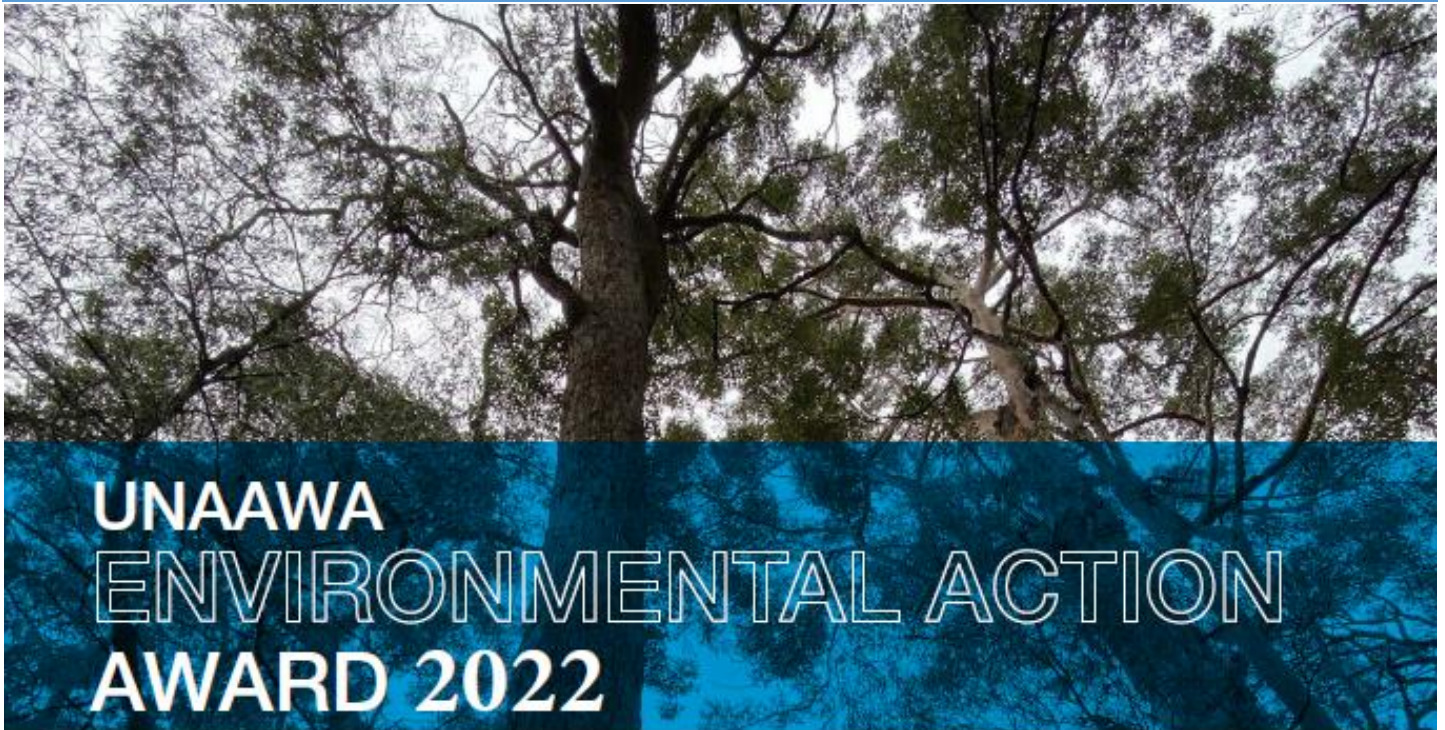
BHP



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

GOALS

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



Recognising individuals, organisations and businesses that have made an outstanding contribution to the protection, advocacy and restoration of the natural environment. The Environmental Action Award acknowledges excellence in raising awareness or impact towards the environmental UN SDGs.

> WE ARE SEEKING NOMINATIONS WITHIN THE BELOW CATEGORIES:

- > Life Below Water
- > Life on Land
- > Circular Economy
- > Sustainable Agriculture
- > Renewable Energy
- > Climate Change
- > Sustainable Urban Development
- > Ecosystem Restoration

Direct all enquiries to environment@unaa-wa.org.au

Further information on UNAAWA UN Day Awards is available at:

<https://www.unaa-wa.org.au/un-day>

Upcoming Events



Registration is now open for the 2022 Young Women's Leadership Development Program!

Are you a young woman in high school who wants to strengthen your leadership skills, understand and challenge how social inequalities can influence your future and be coached by some extraordinary female leaders?

The UNAOWA Gender Equality Committee is facilitating a two-day leadership development program that invites young women from around Perth to learn from dedicated mentors who will help them to reach their potential as future leaders. This program will run from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 3rd September, with the 'I am a Leader' session, and then from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 10th September, with the 'I am a Changemaker' session. Topics will focus on leadership confidence, communication skills, goal setting, mentoring, career exploration, and strengthening community involvement and advocacy. These topics will be taught by distinguished community leaders.

Participation in the program is free of charge but spaces are limited.

To secure your place, email us at: gender.equality@unaa-wa.org.au briefly outlining your interest in the program and the details of one professional referee (e.g. teacher) by Sunday 14 August 2022.

Students can self-nominate or be nominated by someone.

DATE & TIME: Saturday 3rd and 10th September 2022, 10:00am – 4:00pm

VENUE: TBC

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

Upcoming Events



United Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division

77TH UN DAY ANNIVERSARY

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

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

FRIDAY
21ST
OCT 2022
6 - 8.30 PM



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



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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