



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division

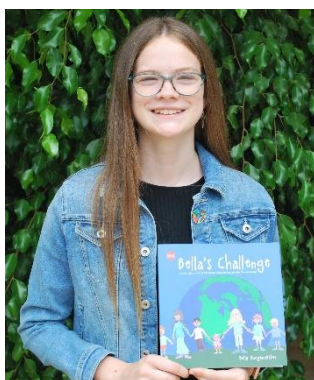


UN Matters

September-October
2020



L to R: Teresa Garbo Lee, Chair of UN Day Organising Committee, Minister Peter Tinley AM MLA, President of UNAOWA, Dr Sandy Chong



Bella Burgemeister



Aoife McCarthy, Jane Sutherland, Sonja Kuzich

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Chief Editor: Amorith Tan

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

From the President

Dear UNAABA members, colleagues and friends, I am writing to you during a month that has both reaffirmed my belief in the goodness of people, but which has also shown why the United Nations and its values are so important for the world. By the time you read this, you will have all witnessed the outcome of an election in the United States that pit hope and healing against division and discord. At the same time, you will have seen a second wave of the pandemic hit many countries around the world, with devastating consequences for people and communities.

At times like these, seeing people come together to choose hope over fear has given me strength. Witnessing so many people choose science and facts, and show intergenerational and interracial support for one another, has made me more optimistic as we head into the closing months of 2020. There is still a lot that needs to be done to overcome the many challenges the world faces, but I am sure that with the same community spirit I have witnessed within the UNAABA, we can get there.

To begin with, I would like to thank every one of you who attended and supported our UN Day event on the 23rd of October. It was a real pleasure to see so many of you in person again, and to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. 'The future we want, the UN we need' could not have been a more appropriate theme in such a tumultuous year, as was noted by many of the attendees, including the guest of honour Peter Tinley AM MLA, who called for a renewed effort at localizing the contributions of the United Nations in achieving practical outcomes for Western Australians.

Other notable guests included Grace Forrest, dignitaries from the Italian, Vietnamese, Indonesian, British and Slovakian consulates, as well as representatives from federal and state ministries, members of many civil society organizations active in Western Australia, and our many sponsors.

The past two months have been extremely busy for our team of volunteers, and you'll see throughout this newsletter that the UNAABA has been active in many

ways. Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was a great success this year and I am grateful to everyone who voted and took part in choosing the leadership of our organization. It is a real honour to continue as your President and I know I speak on behalf of everyone in our Executive Committee that we will do our best to make you proud of the work we do at the UNAABA and in our community.

From our first Networking for Change event since the lift of the Covid-19 lockdown, which raised funds to support suicide prevention, through to our many virtual events, we will continue to advocate on behalf of the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals. So, whether you are passionate about gender equality, climate change, good health and wellbeing, or human rights, there is something for all of you at the UNAABA.

Again, what is exciting is that a lot of the events we did this year are digital which means one could access them from different regions of the country and the world. In case you missed them the first time around, you can always watch them online. Also, if you haven't subscribed to our social media accounts, I urge you to do so, as you will get the latest news on our upcoming activities. While if you have any suggestions for activities we should be organizing or supporting, do not hesitate to contact me at wapres@unaa.org.au

Finally, I'd like to end by once again welcoming our newest members. I look forward to meeting you at one of our upcoming events and assure you that you have a role to play in advocating on behalf of the United Nations and a better world which leaves no one behind. As for all the volunteers and sponsors who have stayed with us throughout the year, without you none of our initiatives would have been possible. Thank you again for your belief in us. We are only as strong as your support, and I am incredibly grateful for your generosity, dedication and commitment.

Dr Sandy Chong
UNAABA President

UNAAWA Network for Change Sundowner

The United Nations Associations of Australia Western Australia (UNAAWA) Networking for Change event took place at The Duxton Hotel on Tuesday, 8th September. This was the first networking event in 2020 that took place since the Covid-19 lockdown. In addition to give our members and volunteers of UNAAWA an opportunity to bond and connect, the event also aimed to help raise fund and support for Lifeline WA – an organization that supports suicide prevention.



The event was chaired by Vice President of UNAAWA, Katharine McKenzie. She spoke about the importance of checking in with friends and family on a regular basis and asking, “Are you okay?”, especially during this challenging time. She also introduced Lifeline and its role in raising awareness in suicide prevention in WA. Community partners from the Rotary Club of Perth and UNAAWA members were present to show their support for the cause.

Attended by over 60 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.



Anshu Pande
UNAAWA Media Assistant

Gender Equality Committee



It has been a busy few months for the Gender Equality Committee and the community as a whole. For the month of August, the Gender Equality Committee hosted the Gender Equality Leadership Series online event. Made up of three parts across as many weeks,

the Gender Equality Leadership Series featured individual panels that discussed prominent issues surrounding strengthening leadership in young girls, women in early career, and leading gender equality in the workplace. The Gender Equality Leadership Series

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had an outstanding response, and we can't wait to bring you all more fresh and exciting events like this one, even during these uncertain times. The good news is if you're still interested in watching the Gender Equality Leadership series, all you have to do is follow the link below and purchase your tickets – the events were pre-recorded and are available indefinitely! <https://events.humanitix.com/gender-equality-leadership-series>.

In more recent news, the committee announced the 2020 excellence in Gender Equality Promotion Award winner, Kylah Morrison, Director and Leadership Consultant at the Maverick Effect. Kylah Morrison has been an enduring champion of gender equality activism, specifically in her roles as the Karratha & Districts Chamber of Commerce & Industry CEO and



Pilbarra Universities Centre Founding Chairperson. In 2019, Kylah won the Telstra Business Women's Award - For Purpose and Social Enterprise for Western Australia. From advocating for parents (predominantly

Kylah Morrison – Gender Equality Promotion Award Winner. Image taken from Kylah Morrison on LinkedIn)

mothers) who often had no immediate family and support in the Pilbara, to building confidence and

presentation skills in women looking to have more confidence speaking up in the workplace (or people where English was their second language), to organising events including a Careers Expo that profiled over 100 women working in Woodside across a diverse range of roles – Kylah has demonstrated her passion and commitment time and time again. For these reasons, and so many more, she is our very well deserving winner for this year's UNAOWA Gender Equality Promotion Award and we look forward to seeing more wonderful work from Kylah.

In the wider world of gender equality, we have lost several champions of gender justice. Ruth Bader Ginsburg, former Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, passed away after a battle with pancreatic cancer on September 18th 2020. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a stalwart champion of human rights, and especially a protector of gender equality. Within her role in the Supreme Court of the United States, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a paragon of righteous dedication and an idol to women and girls everywhere who believed in equality and the sanctity of human rights. Helen Reddy, another champion of gender equality, passed away on September 29th 2020. Reddy, a performing artist, was a trailblazer and an international icon for second-wave feminism. These women both fractured the glass ceiling in their own ways, and their impact and lasting influence on gender equality activism will endure long past their time.

Tahlia Hudson-Campbell
Gender Equality Communications Officer



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Environment Committee: Children - Mind, Wellbeing, and Nature

On Saturday, 12 September, 65 participants came together for a fully online mini conference hosted by the Curtin School of Education, in conjunction with the Environment Committee of the United Nations Association of WA, and Nature Play WA. This unique event focussed on the connection between the natural environment and the mental health and wellbeing of 6-18 year olds.



Dr. Sonja Kuzich, organiser and UNAAWA Environment Committee Vice President, led an invigorating discussion and workshop involving 'breakout rooms' with all participants. The virtual mini-conference involved three terrific guest speakers: Jacqueline Reid, Educational Psychologist and Trauma Informed Education Specialist; Griffin Longley, CEO of Nature Play WA; and Beth Welden, Manager of Forest Learning, participating remotely from Queensland! Denise Ansingh, Nature Play WA, also assisted in the workshop. Questions were collated

for the duration of the event and put forward to the prestigious panel of guest speakers for deliberation.



Aoife McCarthy, Jane Sutherland, Sonja Kuzich

Sustainable Infrastructure and the SDGs

On Thursday the 8th of October the UNAAWA Environment Committee hosted a timely panel discussion on Sustainable Infrastructure and the Sustainable Development Goals in Perth, WA. The event was sponsored by sustainability consultants Perspektiv, who were joined by esteemed experts in the infrastructure and sustainability field.



Griffin Longley and Denise Ansingh



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Jacqueline Reid and Sonja Kuzich

Joining event organiser Patrick Illott, UNAABA Environment Committee member and Director of Perspektiv, was Peter Newman, Professor of Sustainability at Curtin University; Ainsley Simpson, CEO of the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia; Nicole Lockwood, Deputy Chair of Infrastructure WA; and Louis Bettini, Principle Advisor

of Sustainability for Main Roads WA. This wealth of knowledge made for a night filled with lively discussion on topics ranging from social inclusion on projects – to electric vehicles. This important discussion comes at a critical time for infrastructure in Australia with the announcement of a 1.5 billion dollar infrastructure stimulus package in June.

Patrick's company and this event hopes to draw attention to the importance of the SDG's within the infrastructure industry, especially with an apparent infrastructure-led recovery from COVID-19 in Australia. Patrick explained that "we must keep the conversation going, infrastructure has the power to improve all of our lives". Hopefully, this event will be one of many that bring people together to stimulate vital conversation in the infrastructure sustainability arena. For more information on Perspektiv, go to: <https://perspektiv.com.au/>

Amanda Elizabeth
Convenor of the Environment Committee



Human Rights Committee: New Members, UN Day Human Rights Award



L to R: Cosmas Onaneye, Dharshana Sivapatham, Kaisha Champion, Giri Sitham, Dr Sandy Chong (UNAOWA President), Randhir Amoganathan.

The new Human Rights Committee members are Randhir Amoganathan (Chair), Dharshana Sivapatham, Adrien LaBelle, Charlotte Solomon, Cosmas Onaneye, Giri Sitham, Kaisha Champion.

- The members of the Human Rights Committee are all newly appointed and commenced their responsibilities in September 2020.
- The Committee members are the most diverse, with broadly equal numbers of men and women, and with members from countries including Malaysia, France, Nigeria, Philippines, Singapore, and Indigenous Australian.

The Committee's work for the UN Day Human Rights Award included as follows:

- The Committee very quickly dove deeply into its responsibilities to raise awareness of the importance of Human Rights. In a short time, the

Committee members nominated and selected judges for the UN Day Human Rights Award.

- Simultaneously, the Committee members sent out feelers into its networks for potential nominees for the Human Rights Award, made a selection and forwarded the nominees to the judges.
- The judges made their decision as to the Human Rights award, and the winner was featured in a video presentation. The award was presented to the winner at the UN Day 75th Anniversary event on 23 October 2020.
- The Committee plans on an ongoing basis to continue to highlight and raise the profile of persons doing human rights work, by identifying such persons and making video presentations about the person and their work.

The Committee will continue to work together with the Museum of Freedom & Tolerance and the US Consulate to celebrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) Day in December 2020.

Moving into 2021, the Committee plans to support the Reconciliation Action Working Group to launch an event at the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous People in 2021. The objective is to promote Australia's commitment to improving the lives of our Indigenous peoples here in WA.

If you wish to recommend or nominate a person whom you know is performing work contributing towards human rights in Western Australia, or for any queries or further information, or please contact Randhir Amoganathan at human.rights@unaa-wa.org.au.

Randhir Amoganathan
Convenor of the Human Rights Committee

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

NBN & Perth Youth Professionals: Future of Work



Perth Youth Professionals in partnership with NBN held a panel discussion titled 'The Future of Work' on the 22nd of October at the FLUX City of Perth. The panel explored post-COVID challenges in workplace and discussed trends and disruptions to skills, sectors, industries and the future of professional development.

Chaired by the President of the UNAAWA, Dr Sandy Chong, the speakers of the evening were: Andy Lamb, Founder of Innovation Studios; Dr. Carolyn Williams, CEO of CERl - Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation; Rachael McIntyre, Corporate Affairs at NBN; and Professor Sharon Parker, Director of the Centre for Transformative Work Design at Curtin University.

Dr Chong opened the discussion by shedding light on the ongoing economic and labour situations in different parts of the world. She acknowledged that "we are extremely fortunate here in Western Australia to be having in-person events while the whole world is still affected by the pandemic". While cities like Geneva has gone back to mandatory remote working since Monday that week, The US is going through the

third spike in the spread of epidemic. She expressed thankfulness that the people of the WA are safe and could contribute to those who are less advantaged locally and internationally.

One of the panellists, Rachael McIntyre, spoke about the ways in which people are using technology and connectivity to advance their businesses and careers. "The pandemic has been a spotlight on the need for fast and reliable broadband with access for all. The businesses pivoted online, education and health services went virtual and we, as an organisation of 5000 people, moved completely online within 24 hours". Rachael mentioned that we are in a unique and exciting position. We could change both the Australian markets and the global markets by putting entrepreneurs and small businesses at the heart of it as opposed to just relying on the resources sector. "It is a shift that we should be taking full advantage of it," she said.



Andy Lamb discussed how growing entrepreneurs can get through the stress. He said, "Technology is making things too easy for us, everything is just at the touch of our finger. We are not struggling too much. COVID-

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19 has proven to us that we are more resilient than we think we are. We need to take a moment and reflect that we can't plan everything. We need to go out and do things and be as resilient as possible."

Professor Sharon Parker cautioned that this pandemic has caused much mental and emotional stresses to individuals and teams due to remote working and uncertainty with global economic conditions. Dr Sandy Chong added that unless we support those who are vulnerable, we risk leaving more people behind due to job loss, unemployment, and closure of small businesses. These challenges may threaten our aim to achieve the SDG Goals by 2030.

Dr. Carolyn Williams shared ideas that will help in surviving businesses and industries in the time of pandemic. "If you really want to make the best out of the problems around you, build a start-up. Entrepreneurs and early stage businesses are the engine to the economy. Opportunities are always there; you just need to surround yourself with people who believe in you. Share your vision with them and dream big," she said.

The event ended with Q&A from the audience and networking over drinks and canapes.

Anshu Pande
UNAABA Media Assistant

UNAABA AGM at Duxton Hotel



The United Nations Associations of Australia Western Australia (UNAABA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the Duxton Hotel on Friday, 25th September. The AGM was attended by the members of the UNAABA.

President of UNAABA, Dr. Sandy Chong, chaired the meeting. She shed light on the challenges that were faced by UNAABA during the Covid-19 lockdown, the

biggest challenge being digital transformation – holding internal meetings remotely, shifting to online events, halting of all in-person events, coping with fundraising and membership drive challenge, extending help to primary service providers, supporting volunteers who are facing economic, emotional, and mental pressures, and keeping members engaged during the lockdown. She laid emphasis on keeping the organisation financially solvent, empowering team leaders and putting in place business continuity plan for crisis situation. She later



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commenced with her presentation on the Annual Report of 2020.

Vice-president of the UNAAWA, Katharine McKenzie, began by extending appreciation of the resilience, hard work, and support shown by the volunteers and members. She spoke of the need to support the community and raising awareness on mental health. The focus of which was to bring members of different committees through collaboration. One such event was the Networking for Change event held on the 8th of September 2020, which was also the first face-to-face event post since the Covid-19 lockdown. It garnered positive responses from current members and attracted interests from new ones.

This was followed by the presentation on the financial report given by the Treasurer, Camille Doucet. Despite the initial concern of declining revenue during the 6

months lockdown, there has been an improvement with the financial health given the stop-loss mechanism put in place as well as being successful at earning grants and funding from sponsors such as Lotterywest.

After which, the Secretary, Chair of the UN Day and each Convener of the sub-committees presented to the members the activities and impact made the past 12 months and their visions for the organisation in the next year. The election of the nominated Executive Committee members remained unopposed and was supported by all who was present. The meeting was attended by over 30 members and volunteers of the UNAAWA and ended with drinks session at the Duxton bar.

Anshu Pande
UNAAWA Media Assistant

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UNAA International Day of Peace Event

The first of what we hope will be an annual event in the hills, was held outside Darlington Hall on 20th September. Led by retired educator, Sally Herzfeld, and UNAAWA Peace Representative, Manita Beskow, school children and adults performed choir, read passages or led meditation at this event, which include the President of the UNAAWA, Dr Sandy Chong, delivering a speech that highlights the importance of solidarity, understanding and dialogue so that division and hate must not come between people which was witnessed over the past months since the pandemic.

To complete the celebration, a large colourful circle was formed with people displaying banners in support of peace and harmony. Then attendees took part in an Elm Dance and planted a tree. Primary schools, local groups, religious organisations, actors, and singers of all ages, representing a wide range of people took part in this very moving event which spread the message of peace within one's self, the family, community and the world. A book compiled of local children's drawings and writings about peace was also launched.

We would like to acknowledge the following partners for supporting this event:

United Nations Association of WA, Alternatives to Violence Project, Helena College, Treetops Montessori School, Quakers, Swan Harmony Singers, Darlington Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Baha'I children's and adults groups, Mayors for Peace, Anglican Church,



Universal Great Brotherhood, Darlington Review, Parky Pictures, Darlington Community Garden, and the Darlington Tennis club.

Sally Herzfeld
Darlington WA





Harayana Society of Western Australia & Yuvsatta

The event was held on 26 September 2020 and organised by the Haryana Society of Western Australia Inc. and Yuvsatta, an NGO based in India, based on the UN's 2020 theme: "Shaping Peace Together". Our main aim was to create public awareness on issues related to peace. We celebrated the day by spreading compassion, kindness and hope in the face of the pandemic. We stood together with the UN against attempts to use the virus to promote discrimination or hatred.

The event was attended by around 70 people, including women, youth, and seniors. Appreciative messages related to peace were delivered by the following eminent members of society:

- **Dr. Shashi Sharma:** A professor of and Chair in Biosecurity and Food Security, and Centre

Director of the Australia–China Centre for Abiotic and Biotic Stress Management in Agriculture at Murdoch University

- **Dr. Manisha Doohan:** Gynaecologist at King Edward Memorial Hospital
- **Colonel Mool Bhargava:** Ex Indian Army Officer.
- **Dr. Rewant Desai:** Psychiatrist at Bibra Lake Specialist Centre
- **Anthony Spagnolo:** Liberal for Riverton, Perth, Western Australia
- **Devanshi Dalal:** Year 9 student representing youth



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Key points from our speakers:

- Inner peace is very important as we can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves, and that can be obtained through self-meditation
- There are various powerful mantras given by great saints and one of the mantra is for peace in the world. We call it Shanti Mantra, or Peace Mantra, and it is recited to calm the mind of the reciter and the environment around him.
- World peace starts from a smile.
- A quote from Mahatma Gandhi – “If we want to reach real peace in this world, we should start educating children.”
- Children of the world are calling for a better future. They need a peaceful world.
- Youth are the pillars of peace in the world. Youth must be encouraged to appeal to the world leaders to create peaceful and sustainable world.

Tejinder Dalal, CA, CPA, Founder Member of the Yuvsatta NGO (India), hosted the event and gave a brief history of the organisation. Around 30 years ago, some Panjab University students, himself included, founded an NGO and named it Yuvsatta – power of youth. Under that banner, Yuvsatta organised various social and cultural activities.

Parmod Sharma, president of Yuvsatta, finished his Masters of Philosophy from the Department of Gandhian and Peace studies. Under his leadership, Yuvsatta has so far proudly organised 14 Global Youth Peace Festivals (GYPF) and opened over 100 Peace Clubs in schools and colleges. Every year a number of youth from different countries participate in the Peace Festival. Yuvsatta’s 15th Global Youth Peace Fest will be organised in September 2021. On behalf of Yuvsatta, he invited all attendees to join Yuvsatta’s 15th GYPF at Chandigarh, India next year.

Sudhir Chowdhary, Chairman of the Haryana Society, expressed his gratitude to the attendees and

speakers. He highlighted Haryana Society’s role in supporting the community during pandemics. He mentioned two successful blood donation camps organized by HSWA for the benefits of the society during COVID 19. Haryana Society also successfully organised one Teej Indian Multicultural Festival on 25th July 2020 with the aim of strengthening wellbeing and encouraging reconnection after a period of distancing and isolation.

We have long known that loneliness and social isolation cause people significant emotional pain and can have a negative impact on health and wellbeing. Now, due to COVID-19, we are being told to socially distance. The risks presented by the pandemic make the problems associated with loneliness worse. It is important that we focus on keeping up social connections even while physically distancing – it is perhaps our greatest resource and underpins social capital, social cohesion, good health, and happiness.

Following this, the Haryana Society is organising an **Annual Multicultural Festival on 25th of October 2020** at the Serbian Community Centre, Kenwick, WA, with the aim of re-connecting people after isolation. The event will be attended by around 500 people from a diverse community.

While having tea at the event, most of the attendees signed –

MY PEACE ON EARTH PLEDGE:

“WORLD PEACE SEEMS UNIMMAGINABLE. BUT I’M PREPARED TO TRY I’M TAKEING THE PEACE ON EARTH PLEDGE BECAUSE I MUST DO SOMETHING TO MAKE THE WORLD A SAFER PLACE FOR ME, MY FAMILY, AND EVERYONE ELSE”

Sudhir Chowdhary

Chairman of the Haryana Society of Western Australia

+61 410 541 629

UN Day Event 2020



UNAABA Volunteers



*L to R: The Hon. Minister Peter Tinley,
Dr Sandy Chong, UNAABA Goodwill
Ambassador Grace Forrest*



Winners of the 2020 UN Day awards



On the 23rd of October 2020, the UNAABA celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. 'The future we want, the UN we need' was the motto of the year. The event was attended by the members UNAABA, dignitaries from the Italian, Vietnamese, Indonesian, British and Slovakian consulates, representatives of federal and state ministries, members of the WA Indigenous Tourism Council (WAITOC), members of the Rotary Club of Perth, Presidents of the Chung Wah Association, the Royal Aeronautical Society, and Zonta, and our sponsors from both public and private sectors. The event gave recognition of the UN Day Award winners, art auction and introduction to Indigenous bush food canapes showcased by last year's winner of the UN

Day Gender Equality Award – Marissa Verma of the Bindi Bindi Dreaming.

The welcome to country was graciously performed by Walter McGuire. This was followed by opening remarks which were given by the President of UNAABA, Dr. Sandy Chong who highlighted the importance of health, family, and community in her reflection of the COVID crisis during the past months. She also spoke about how the United Nations, multilateralism and compassion are needed more than ever. "Global challenges require global solutions and there is no better way to achieve this but through

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an organization that has dedicated the past 75 years to bring people together,” she said.

The Hon. Peter Tinley AM MLA, representing the Premier of Western Australia, gave an address that acknowledged the contribution the UNAAWA make to the United Nations in advocating for peace and security. He also shared his experience as a member of the Australian troops and an observer in a peace keeping mission in South Lebanon back in 1996. The displacement of 400,000 people in 48 hours during the mission is one that exposed him to the great effort of the United Nations and the longitudinal effort it has around maintaining peace. He said, “whist this is a global organisation, we take serious the responsibilities we have locally. It is a very important contribution to make because we can have the ideals of United Nations, we can talk about the United Nations and its ambitions but, if we don’t have practical outcomes then we are not living the practical values of the organisation.”

A virtual address was given Michael Møller, the 12th Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). He highlighted the impact of Covid-19 on countries and emphasized how that effects the everyday life of people and community. He cautioned that unless we step up our efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the aftermath of the crisis will leave more people behind

Grace Forrest, the Ambassador of United Nations Association of Australia, spoke about the eradication of bonded slavery. Presenting the latest reports on Modern Slavery by the Walk Free Foundation, she said, “we found that one in every 130 women and girls on earth are living in bonded slavery. It is without a doubt concerning and needs to be taken in account. Especially during the pandemic, serious attention should be given to the vulnerable population around the world.”

The Chung Wah Association Chinese Orchestra performed a beautiful mix of traditional and Australian music, showcasing the diversity and integration between East and West cultures in this occasion. This was followed by the congratulating the UN Day winners in the Human Rights, Gender Equality, Environmental Action, Young Professionals, and the World Teachers’ Day Awards. The closing remarks were given by the President of the UNAAWA and this was followed by a live auction of the artwork ‘Isolation’, by Barbara Baumhoff, a UNAAWA member and a local artist, who has showcased her work internationally. The event was attended by over 170 guests and the evening was concluded with sumptuous spread and drinks.

Anshu Pande
UNAAWA Media Assistant



Ripples of Change

We got talking with 14-year-old Bella Burgemeister from WA, who wrote and published a book about climate change at just 10 years old.

With our world so wide, sometimes it can feel as though we are tiny drops in the ocean, too small to make a difference. But cast your mind back to the tales you may have been told when you were younger; The Princess and the Pea, The Lord of the Rings, The Lion and the Mouse. All these stories spread the message that even the smallest thing – a pea, a hobbit, a mouse – can have a profound impact. And you can too.

If anyone knows the power of small ripples having a huge influence, it's the incredible Bella Burgemeister. Hailing from the coastal suburb of Dalyellup in Western Australia, at just 10 years of age Bella set out to spread awareness around climate change and to explain the United Nation's (UN) Global Goals to young people just like herself.

Chasing Changes

These goals are a plan for a more sustainable future, and address the challenges we face all over the globe, including issues around inequality and the environment. As Bella says, "Now more than ever, young people need to be aware of the changes happening on the planet – like species loss, rising sea levels, water and food shortages and increasing temperatures above safe levels – so that we can be a part of the solutions."

Bella says that it's important for us to think about what we want our world to look like, in 50 years, in 100 years, and even 150 years. While it may seem difficult to imagine that far in the future, it is the everyday actions we undertake in our time – today, tomorrow, this year, and so on – that can make a difference. 'From Malala [Yousafzai] standing up for gender equality, to Greta [Thunberg] standing up climate

action, youth are not just future leaders, but leaders right now,' says Bella.

Bella's Challenge

She explains that while advocating for change or spreading awareness can seem daunting, thinking about the impact it can have is inspiring and reassuring. And this is how she came to write and publish her book, *Bella's Challenge*, which explores the UN's Global Goals in a way that is accessible for young people. "I never thought what will happen to the planet if I fail with my book; I always thought what good will happen to the planet when I succeed," says Bella. "I wanted to speak to as many kids about the Global Goals and let them know that the smallest actions can bring about the biggest changes. That we have the power to make [our] communities and the planet a better place."

Pursue Your Passion

What advice does Bella have for budding eco-warriors who aren't quite sure where to start? 'Find something that you are passionate about.' Bella joined Millennium Kids, a not-for-profit organisation in WA all about encouraging young people to be aware and active in their local community. Bella explains, 'We are a youth-lead group, so our projects are our own but empowered by the adult board and mentors. Our motto is – have fun, eat chocolate and care for the environment!'

Community and connection are some of the key messages Bella gives to young people looking to make their mark, express themselves, and drive change for a sustainable future. 'We are connected from all corners of the globe and we are using many mediums to get our message for change out there. Every voice

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is needed. If you feel passionate enough to step up and make your mark, then we will stand right behind you.'

Send Ripples

While she has no plans to write another book just yet, Bella wants to continue to give youth a voice around decisions being made now that will ultimately impact our future. "I do not feel finished with Bella's Challenge just yet," she says. "I want to continue to spread the UN Global Goals and continue my presentations at schools, to speak with students about how they can all bring about positive changes for their communities and the planet."

"I also plan to travel and experience life from many different cultures around the world before I decide on my next steps. I know I will continue to advocate for youth and the planet, but I am not sure in what role that will be. I still have a lot to learn."

Ultimately, Bella wants young people to know that they have the power to shape the future. "If you feel you are not enough as one person to make a difference, then just remember people like Gandhi or Greta who started movements built on peace that are more powerful than ever today," she says. "One person can send ripples across the world and bring about the greatest change. You could be that person."

Interview by Erin McDonald

Bella's Top Tips for Creatives

- **Find a mentor:** "I really had no idea about how to write and publish a book, so I asked for help. I found a mentor who has years of experience. Kate Heaslip runs a program called The Book Incubator, and I asked if she would help me write and illustrate my book."
- **Good things take time:** "While my friends hung out at the beach or shopping, I would work with Kate from 9am to 5pm each Sunday to make sure the book got finished."
- **Embrace new skills:** "You can learn so many other skills along the way to writing a book – art, graphics, coding, researching, print processes, budgeting, creative compromise, public speaking."
- **Love what you do:** "If you are passionate and know that your work could make positive change then do not give up. I am not the best speller or writer, but with help and determination anything is possible"



Bella's Challenge: A Kid's Take on the 17 Un Global Goals for Sustainable Development

- by **Bella Paige Burgemeister, UNAOWA Member,** and Kate Heaslip, published by Book Incubator

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

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Part I: Regression of the Non-Proliferation Regime

On 6 August 1945, three B-29s took off from Tinian. One was a photography plane, the second carried instrumentation; the third, the *Enola Gay*, carried a new, destructive payload – a “Little Boy” atomic bomb. At 8:15am, *Enola Gay* released the bomb; forty-four seconds later, the detonation devastated the city of Hiroshima in a 1.6km radius. Firestorms spread through timber and paper homes, further destroying an area in a radius of two kilometers. Three days later, the *Bockscar* dropped the Fat Man bomb over its secondary objective of Nagasaki.

Twenty-five years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, another significant event in the history of nuclear weapons took place – the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)* came into effect. The treaty represents the only binding commitment to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear weapon states in a multilateral regime. A total of 191 states have joined the treaty, including the five nuclear-weapons states – countries possessing nuclear weapons at the time of the treaty’s ratification. Designed to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, further the goals of nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament, and to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, more countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement.

Seventy-five years from Hiroshima and fifty years from the NPT taking effect, the non-proliferation regime appears to have been reasonably successful. In the 1960s before the NPT, twenty-five to thirty nuclear-armed states were predicted by the 1990s. Today,



there are only nine such states, testament to the success of the NPT in slowing proliferation. Among its successes are South Africa’s dismantling of its nuclear weapons and joining of the NPT, Libya’s decision to renounce nuclear weapons, and Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine, all of which had nuclear weapons on their territories after the dissolution of the USSR, ratifying the treaty. This overall success was brought about by a number of key factors, including the political commitment by most states to honour their non-proliferation obligations, the limited availability of fissile materials and the means to produce them to most states, and, until the 1990s, the stability of the Cold War period.

And yet, the international community has regressed on these issues. There have been movement towards a lessening of commitment to non-proliferation, displayed in non-compliance cases by Iraq, Romania, Libya, Iran, the DPRK (North Korea), and Syria, and political ambivalence by governments that do not

Continued on page 19

always recognize the benefits of non-proliferation. The spread of sensitive nuclear technologies have also proven a significant challenge, particularly through an active black market, through which relevant technical expertise could be acquired, from the processing of fissile materials to nuclear weapons designs. Then there are practical limits to verification capability; detecting undeclared nuclear programs presents a significant challenge.

Even more specifically, the five states that signed as nuclear weapon states have yet to give up their nuclear arsenal. And while the number of nuclear weapons have declined from sixty thousand nuclear warheads to less than fifteen thousand, this decline can no longer be extrapolated. The U.S. is embarking upon a [thirty-year plan](#) to rebuild its nuclear arsenal to its full capacity, [expanding](#) the circumstances under which it is able to use nuclear weapons; it plans to build “more useable” types of nuclear weapons, including submarine-launched ballistic missile and cruise missile options, while drawing away from arms control agreements. Russia is also [expanding](#) its nuclear arsenal, including nuclear torpedoes and nuclear-powered cruise missiles, and has both

planned for the use of tactical nuclear weapons and expanded the [circumstances](#) under which it could use such weapons. China has plans to [double](#) its nuclear warhead stockpile in the next decade, including those designed to be used on ballistic missiles that could reach the U.S. It has developed a nuclear air-launched ballistic missile and revealed its first nuclear capable bomber that could be refueled mid-air, and is moving towards a more launch-on-warning posture.

Furthermore, other states have developed nuclear weapons since the NPT was adopted. Pakistan and India are expanding their nuclear arsenals in both size and complexity, and Israel’s and Iran’s programs are respectively shrouded in secrecy and controversy. North Korea possesses [ten to twenty](#) assembled nuclear warheads, and shows no indication of dismantling them. Existing treaties that seek to end nuclear proliferation have come under threat, most notably being the [compliance dispute](#) between the U.S. and Russia over the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty.

Amorith Tan
UNAABA Chief Editor



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UN Observances

November

2. International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists
5. World Tsunami Awareness Day
6. International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
10. World Science Day for Peace and Development
14. World Diabetes Day
15. World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims
16. International Day for Tolerance
19. World Toilet Day
19. World Philosophy Day
20. Africa Industrialisation Day
20. World Children's Day
21. World Television Day
25. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
29. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
30. Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare

December

1. World AIDS Day
2. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
3. International Day of Persons with Disabilities
4. International Day of Banks
5. International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
5. World Soil Day
7. International Civil Aviation Day
9. International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime
9. International Anti-Corruption Day
10. Human Rights Day
11. International Mountain Day
12. International Day of Neutrality
12. International Universal Health Coverage Day
18. International Migrants Day
18. Arabic Language Day
20. International Human Solidarity Day



Important Announcements



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NAIDOC WEEK

*United Nations
Declaration of the
Rights of indigenous
People & Sustainable
Development Goals 2030*

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

**15TH
NOV 2020**
12 - 1.00 PM
**Virtual
Event**



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

Important Announcements

PERTH, WA

GLOBAL GOALS JAM

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th Nov, 2020 10am - 5pm

Venue: Murdoch x Spacecubed CBD Space
Level 9, 32 St. George Terrace, Perth



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