



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division



UN Matters

October 2022 – December 2022



UNAAWA President Randhir Amoganatha and speakers at the UN Day Anniversary



UNAAWA Members at the Young Indigenous Women's Leadership Workshop



Panelists at the UNAAWA SDG Forum on Sustainable Financing

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From the President

Dear UNAANA members and fellow volunteers, 2022 is coming to an end. As Christmas approaches, regardless of our cultural background, Australian communities emphasises the spirit of giving and compassion.

Over the course of 2022, we have seen the outbreak of war in Europe between Ukraine and Russia, a continent most had thought would not see a shooting war due to the close bonds of trade and diplomacy established since the Second World War.

2022 has also seen the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, whose lifetime of selfless service and dedication is exemplary. Her Majesty was a beacon of service and reliability in an ever-shifting world, and in many ways was looked upon as a stabilising figure. We take comfort that she is in a better place now, but she has gone from us and our society.

In Australia, we have had recently much attention and focus on lockdowns at the Banksia Detention Centre. This Centre hold many minors in detention, and has frequent lockdowns. There has been focus by many community organisations on the conditions there, the age of those held there, and its effect on their mental health.

Individually, these events are distressing and unsettling. However, with every dark cloud, there is a silver lining. We can see how communities and societies have risen up to the challenge of these times.

In Europe, not just governments have acted to accommodate the refugees fleeing war in Ukraine but individuals have opened up their houses to them as well.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II selfless service has received widespread recognition. Her resilience has been widely admired and acknowledged. In many ways, her dedication to service has become a yardstick others leaders would be measured by in the future.

At Banksia Detention Centre, attention has been drawn to the harsh conditions and age of those held within, and action is being advocated to remove minors to other locations with gentler conditions. Widespread attention is also being focused on their mental health.

These outcomes show that communities recognise the continued need for actions in the service of others both at

home and abroad. This selfless service is what the UNAANA is all about and strives to achieve. Whether it was our commemoration of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights event on 1st December by our Human Rights Committee under the theme of Access to Mental Health Services as a Human Right, or the SDG Forum raising the profile of Sustainable Financing, Or the Gender Equality Committee's Young Women Leadership Program, the Environment Committee's events in climate change, and Education Committee's planning session for the WACE Endorsed Program to help students understand the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNAANA is run by volunteers. Volunteering helps build awareness of our shared interests, strengthens our empathy, and therefore supports our communities and our larger society that bind us together.

This dedication to service to society is the heart of the United Nations. The holistic approach taken, involving multilateralism and collective action, relies on the dedication to service. Service starts with each of us. One individual can make a difference to society. The UNAANA aims to provides that platform to enable such individuals to give effect to their aspirations to make society a better place, whether it is for Human Rights, Gender Equality, Education, Environment or Sustainable Development.

I just started as President of the UNAANA, but I have long been impressed by the dedication to service I have seen from everyone. Whatever may happen in this uncertain world, just having individuals such as your good selves gives me comfort and hope that there is much selflessness and goodness out there.

I wish each one of you a 2023 filled with goodness and happiness. 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 give heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors without which none of what we do would be possible. Thank you once again for all your support. The UNAANA is only as effective as you help us to be, and I am always grateful for your kindness, hard work and dedication.

Randhir Amoganathan
President of the UNAANA

77th Anniversary of the UN Day



The 77th UN Day event Gala was held by the UN Association of WA (UNAAWA) on 21 October 2022 at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Perth. Event registration began from 5:30 pm, and the gala itself began just after 6:00pm. There were over 150 attendees at the event.

The gala started with Aunty Kerri-Ann Winmar presenting the Welcome to Country. She sang a traditional song, and informed everyone her ancestors were the first astronomers, the first farmers and the first scientists. Her message was clear, that the First Nations culture is rich in tradition and science that has endured over 70,000 years.

Dr Sandy Chong presented her speech. She has just completed her three-year term as President of the UNAAWA. Under her leadership, Dr Chong initiated several important developments:

- The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Forum that has since seen the West Coast Eagles coming on board as the first Australian elite sporting club that included the UN SDGs as their benchmark in sporting standards.
- The local council in the City of Nedlands signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the UNAAWA, to become a signatory to the UN Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs), with the aim to develop and establish a sustainable living footprint for the City's residents. The City of Nedlands' Mayor Fiona Argyle signed the MOU on 28 September 2022. The UNAAWA aims to sign more such MOUs with local government councils in the future, for the benefit of the councils and the communities they serve.

Newly elected President of UNAAWA, Randhir Amoganathan stated that he will continue to support the 'flame' that Dr Chong has passed on to him and keep it burning bright. He focused his speech on the "butterfly effect" where small actions taken by individuals can lead to big changes, and referred to people such as Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr and Malala Yousafzai who stood up to discriminatory policies and led to changes that made for a better society for all. This is an example of service to the community, which the UNAAWA encourages.



The guest speaker was Sally Dawkins, the State Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. In her speech, she focused on Australia's commitment to the United Nations. Ms Dawkins had served overseas in Geneva representing Australia at the United Nations Human Rights Council and General Assembly. Ms Dawkins had worked in

many roles, including as an Adviser to the Minister for International Development and the Pacific. In her speech, she spoke of the effort Australia makes to support the UN efforts, including First Nations Peoples' rights and to encourage multilateralism, and that an invasion of one country by another cannot be normalised and must act as a wake-up call.

The second guest speaker was Craig Challen OAM. In July 2018 he participated in the Tham Luang cave rescue in northern Thailand where 13 boys were rescued after 17 days trapped over two kilometres inside a cave by flood waters. For this, he was awarded the Star of Courage (SC) and Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) by the Governor-General of Australia and the King of Thailand appointed him as a Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Admirable Order. He and his dive partner, Richard Harris, were jointly named 2019 Australians of the Year.



Mr Challen said that the rescue efforts were supported by 30 nations. He stated that rather than the rescuers, the boys were the heroes and that *"the miracle is all the 13 boys survived"*. Mr Challen went on to say the differences of humans are artificially constructed. He said he often gets asked if the Thai boys would have behaved differently from Australian boys, and replied *"the Thai boys came from a different background.... but people are exactly the same. They get on with their lives, to feed the family and get an education. These children were prepared to do everything to survive. We can learn from them"*.

Following the presentations from the guest speakers, the winners for the Human Rights, Gender Equality and Environment and Sustainable Development Goals were announced, and invited on stage to receive a Certificate and speak briefly. Winners of United Nations Day Awards in the following categories were:

- Human Rights Award Winner - John Acieck
- Gender Equality Award Winner - Tanya Langford
- Environment and Sustainable Development Goals Award Winner - WA Forrest Alliance
- Education Award Winner - Hashini Perera and Tiasha Muller

After the presentations, attendees were treated to musical performances. A classical Chinese concert performance was expertly played by the Western Australia Guzheng Ensemble playing Jasmine Flower with their Qin, followed by an Indian fusion dance and a traditional Burmese dance. When the presentations ended, the attendees mingled and enjoyed refreshments provided by the Pan Pacific Hotel.

A big thanks goes to the UN Day organiser, Dr Zhang Nau and her team, Alexander Circosta and Jamiela Sungkar for volunteering and co-hosting the event, Teresa Garbo Lee for providing bottles of wine, the West Coast Eagles for sponsoring the auction items, and the UN Day members and volunteers for organising and coordinating the event so well.

Next stop - UN Day 2023!

Randhir Amoganathan
UNAAWA President



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SDG Forum: Roadmap to Decarbonization & Achieving the SDGs

The UNAAWA held an SDG forum at KPMG on the 8 November 2022. The topic of the forum was “*Sustainable Financing: Roadmap to Decarbonisation & Achieving the SDGs*” which highlighted the importance of sustainable finance and the role it plays in achieving our state’s ambition of decarbonisation and the UN SDGs.

Sustainable finance means that an investment decision takes into account the environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors of an economic activity or project.

Dr. Sandy Chong – Chair of SDG Forum welcomed guests of the forum and set the tone of the evening’s topic by highlighting that with \$3 trillion of funding needed every year, sustainable finance is a key enabler to achieve net zero by 2050 and the SDGs. The introduction was followed by an open address by Trevor Heart – WA Chairman of KPMG, stating that Western Australia has the capability to play a major role in the global goal of achieving net zero by 2050 by leveraging its natural advantages, innovative technologies and stable geopolitical landscape.

Per the forum’s tradition, guests were invited to participate in the Kahoot! Game and quizzed to test their SDG related topics knowledge, with Ian – crowned the winner of the night.

The panel hosted four guests comprising of Tanya Kerkvliet – Director of KPMG ESG, Climate Change and Sustainability, Caroline Chan – Non-Executive Director of Stanmore Resources Ltd and former Head of Westpac, Richard McKenzie – Head of Strategy at Western Australian Treasury Corporation (WATC), and Jennifer Kirk – Director at Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science & Innovation (JTSI).

Sustainable finance trends

Tanya introduced the topic and explained how sustainable finance is becoming a commercial imperative which is being demonstrated by current trends in the finance market whereby ESG funds are performing better than the general market; sustainable debt has grown by over 500% in the last 5 years; and new sustainable financing products being offered have increased rapidly in a short time span.

Risk & Opportunities

Historically, the focus for businesses was purely on profit regardless of negative environmental and social impacts. Caroline talked about how sustainable finance is shifting businesses’ mindsets of taking into consideration ESG factors to achieve specific targets - or face the risk of being penalised. Tanya added that seeking financing may also become harder if entities are facing potential risks and do not have mitigation plans in place resulting in investors’ unwillingness to provide funding.

Whilst not considering ESG in investment decisions presents risks, it sets those apart that are. Companies that are undertaking sustainable projects, signal to the market a credible plan to achieve decarbonisation and as Jennifer pointed out, having strong ESG credentials is a competitive edge and key factor in investors’ decision making.

The role of the Government

As the market is expanding, higher level of regulation and reporting requirements are being developed to monitor companies which aid in driving discipline and meaningful change but also exposing companies that are not doing the right thing. Richard discussed how important it is for companies to act genuinely or risk

being caught out – this was recently demonstrated with ASIC issuing its first greenwashing fine in October 2022. The importance of providing flexibility to businesses was also pointed out as being important. Rather than over-regulating and merely seeking companies to comply, allowing the market to lead changes through developing innovative and effective strategies of their own would bring greater benefits overall. Jennifer mentioned that one of the Government’s roles is to support industries to decarbonise with investment in new technologies and ensuring small businesses are not left behind.

Summary

Overall, the panel shared the view that the sustainable finance trend is not slowing down and is certainly not a fad, especially in Australia where the market is yet to

reach similar maturity as compared to the European market. Sustainable finance is viewed as a key enabler to the global goal of achieving net zero and the SDGs by driving positive changes and good behaviour. Tanya confirmed this point by explaining that sustainable projects that were considered poor business cases ten years ago are now being brought back to life when reviewed through an ESG lens.

The event was attended by 80 guests including UNAAWA members, community partners, broad range of industries professionals and concluded with light snacks and drinks.

Dr Coko Tang
SDG Forum Organising Committee Member



Gender Equality Committee: 2022 Young Indigenous Women’s Leadership Program

The Young Indigenous Women’s Leadership Program (YIWLP) was held on Saturday, 19th November 2022, and Sunday, 20th November 2022 in partnership with Southern Aboriginal Corporation (SAC) at the Hilton Garden Inn, Albany for a cohort of participants from across the region.

The corporate sponsors included the Hilton Garden Inn Albany, the Great Southern Development Commission, The University of Western Australia (UWA), and Rebecca Stephens MLA.

Participants were aged between 11 and 17 years and came from diverse Indigenous backgrounds. Over the

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two days, participants were guided through career development, self-leadership, gender equality and women’s empowerment, advocacy, and community leadership. The leadership training was designed to work together in an enriching program to develop self-awareness, growth, and aspirations.

A session on “Active Community Citizenship and Advocacy” highlighted options for various forms of leadership within communities and demonstrated the capacity and opportunity for young people to participate in decision-making in their community.



Program participant Nikita Armstrong said the program “*was an awesome opportunity and gave me more knowledge on my passion and career pathway. I also understood the inner game of leadership is what determines success.*”

The United Nations Association of Western Australia has the vision to deliver further regional programs in 2023 and to strengthen partnerships with local community organisations such as SAC.

Environment Committee: 2022 UN Environmental Action Awards

The UN Day Environmental Action Award recognises outstanding achievements by individuals, community members, and organisations in WA that have contributed to the protection and restoration of the environment, and to the awareness of environmental issues to further the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Join us in congratulating our finalists for this year’s award, Indigenous Desert Alliance, Bill Hare, and Environs Kimberley, and of course, the winner of the 2022 UN Environmental Action Award – WA Forest Alliance. These organisations and individuals demonstrated outstanding environmental stewardship and we whole-heartedly thank and

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congratulate them for their hard work and enduring commitment to progressing the UN SDGs.

WA Forest Alliance – WINNER

WA Forest Alliance was formed in 1990 to represent forest conservation groups in WA and advocate for forest conservation at a state-wide and national level. WA Forest Alliance are a registered charity, providing public education and advocacy towards the protection of WA's native forests. The WA Forest Alliance's mission is to see WA's native forests fully and securely protected and managed to maintain and restore their ecological values, and to empower the next generation to successfully defend them against future threats.

Indigenous Desert Alliance

The Indigenous Desert Alliance (IDA) is an Indigenous-controlled, member-based organisation that plays a vital role in 'Keeping the Desert Connected' and building resilience for desert ranger programs. IDA work with eighteen members and a number of conservation partners to ensure that Indigenous people are enabled to collaboratively manage Australia's desert country and through this, to realise their social, cultural, environmental and economic aspirations. IDA's members include Land Councils and Indigenous land management organisations working in the desert regions of Australia, many of whom run multiple ranger teams.

Bill Hare

A physicist and climate scientist by training, Bill Hare has over 30 years of experience studying impacts and policy responses to climate change and stratospheric ozone depletion. He has used this background to

support the world's most vulnerable countries in UNFCCC negotiations, hold non-state entities accountable to their net-zero promises, advance climate pathway modelling to push for meaningful climate action from leaders in Australia and beyond, and lead cutting-edge research as the CEO of Climate Analytics.

Bill Hare has actively contributed to the most important climate negotiations in history, including the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement in 2015. He advises and supports Ministers and Heads of Government from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and develops new scientific tools to help SIDS and LDCs respond to the impacts of climate change through the IMPACT Project.

Environs Kimberley

Environs Kimberley has been working to protect the globally renowned Kimberley region of Western Australia for 26 years. Set up by local people in Broome to support First Nations people who were defending the Martuwarra Fitzroy River from three dams, Environs Kimberley expanded its conservation work across the region over the following years. Their broadened scope of work, in collaboration with First Nations people and conservation organisations, has focussed on marine protection, conservation on land, climate change, social enterprise support and environmental rehabilitation. Environs Kimberley are the only non-government organisation working in the Kimberley on both advocacy and on-ground cultural and natural resource management.

‘Meet the Committees’ Networking Sundowner

Blessed with fine weather, the UNAAWA ‘Meet the Committees’ Networking Sundowner on Friday 25th November 2022 was a hit. Hosted at Lot 20 in Perth, the outdoor venue was the perfect setting to enjoy relaxed afterwork drinks and nibbles with some familiar faces and many new friends of the UNAAWA. The jovial and welcoming atmosphere was enjoyed by many as we celebrated another successful year informing, inspiring, and engaging the WA community on the United Nations sustainable development agenda.

As always, it was an absolute pleasure to enjoy the company of such a diverse group of people, to swap stories of why we do what we do, and to share in the passion for bettering this world for the next generation. I look forward to our next member networking event!

Kira Sorensen
Environment Committee Convenor



Remembrance Day Service

The Remembrance Day Service was held on Friday 11 November 2022. The event was organised by the Returned & Services League of Australia, WA Branch (RSLWA), and took place at the Flame of Remembrance at Kings Park.

Remembrance Day marks the Armistice that ended World War 1 in 1918, on 11th November at 11:00am. The event has since evolved to commemorate Australia’s involvement in past wars and those who

served in them. This year’s ceremony will mark 104 years since the end of World War 1.

The UNAAWA participates in the commemoration of the Remembrance Day Service in recognition of the importance of service, and to honour those who served their nation. The purpose of the event is not to glorify war, but rather to ensure that we never forget the tragic price in human lives that has been paid, and that society is reminded of this before placing more

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lives into harm's way. The UNAAWA was represented at the event by its President, Randhir Amoganathan.



Attendees registered and gathered at 10:10am, and were ushered by volunteers to their allocated seating. The attendees included the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson APM, Basil Zempilas, Lord Mayor City of Perth and a number of Ministers and community organisations. Representatives from the branches of the Armed Services and the Police Force were also present, including many veterans of Australia's involvement in past conflicts.

The proceedings started at 10.30am with the arrival of Catafalque Party. A Prayer of Remembrance was held

for all those who served. A speaker recited the poem "Flanders Field" composed by John McCrae, and a musical performance was played.

The Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson APM, gave a Remembrance Day Address. This was followed by a Wreath Laying Ceremony, in which Randhir Amoganathan laid a wreath at the Flame of Remembrance on behalf of the UNAAWA. The Ode was read by RSLWA State President:

*They shall grow not old; as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them*

At 11:00am, the Last Post was played, sounded by a bugler, followed by a minute's silence. The minute's silence is to remember those that had fallen. After the minute's silence, the flags are raised from half-mast to masthead and the Rouse was sounded. The RAAF performed a Fly Past over the event coinciding with this timing. The National Anthem was played. The Catafalque Party dismounted and the event ended.

A moving tribute of thousands of knitted poppies around the Flame of Remembrance has been organised by the RSLWA in the lead-up to Remembrance Day. An incredible 50,000 poppies have been installed as a reminder of and in honour of West Australians fallen in war. *Lest We Forget.*

11th United Nations Business and Human Rights Forum

In late November, I had the pleasure of attending the 11th United Nations Business & Human Rights Forum at UNHQ in Geneva.

It is the world's largest annual gathering on business and human rights with more than 2,000 participants from government, private sector, civil society, international organisations, trade unions, academia and media.

Over three days, multistakeholders discussed trends, challenges and progress of key human rights issues in business as well as the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs) as due diligence to 'protect, respect, and provide remedy'.

Notable takeaways include:

- Active engagement with societal stakeholders is critical to avoid irreparable damage to the environment and community. Institutionalising social dialogue can be beneficial in the long run for all.
- Digital empowerment must go alongside with governance to protect users and those whose rights have been violated.
- Accountability is how corporate behaviours are influenced and how companies respond. This includes having the courage to acknowledge both the good and bad impacts of business operations, and how it is willing to be challenged.



Following the attendance of the Forum, I was invited to attend the signing of the first MOU between the International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva School of Economics and Management - UNIGE, and the Global Business School Network (GBSN)



This groundbreaking initiative was presided by the Manuela Tomei, ILO Assistant Director General for Governance, Rights and Dialogue; Professor Michael Posner, former Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor on the Obama Administration; Professor Dorothee Baumann-Pauly of the University of Geneva, and Dan LeClair, CEO of GBSN.

By bringing together the UN agency for the world of work with a global network of business schools, it represents a long awaited opportunity to transform business education in including responsible practice for our future leaders. Today's business schools are shaping the leaders of tomorrow, and their executive education courses are constantly making an impact in how business executives are addressing the challenges they face. To relegate respect for human rights and corporate accountability to lawyers and due diligence assessors alone, perpetuates a culture where the social and environmental impacts of

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business decisions are secondary to profit maximization. Worse still, it furthers the impression that fines for corporate misconduct are simply the cost of doing business and not the responsibility of senior management.

Investors and consumers are increasingly demanding better environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance from businesses around the world, which requires corporate leaders to understand the human and labour rights implications of their decisions. So, by mainstreaming responsible business conduct across business school curricula we can help transform management skills for the better in the 21st century.

It was also professionally enriching to work with a team of highly-esteemed peers, and combine my academic and consulting experience in the private sector for the development of the first teaching material that accompanied the MOU.

The private sector has a critical role to play in creating a more sustainable economic system that leaves no one behind. Closing the gap between the worlds of academia and normal business practice will help equip

students to become the responsible business leaders and decision makers the world needs them to be. I therefore hope more business schools will sign up to this groundbreaking initiative and encourage those interested in doing so to reach out to me at sandy.chong@unaa.org.au.

Dr Sandy Chong
Immediate Past President of the UNAAWA



L to R: Dan LeClair, CEO of Global Business School Network (GSBN); Professor Michael Posner, former Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labour on the Obama Administration; Professor Dorothée Baumann-Pauly of the University of Geneva



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Enactus ECU: Sustainability Festival



Enactus ECU held its second Sustainability Festival on 15 October 2022 at Hillary’s Boat Harbour Amphitheatre.

Enactus ECU consists of domestic and international, undergraduate and postgraduate students from Edith Cowan University in Perth, Western Australia who have developed community-based projects that consider relevant economic, social, and environmental factors while implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sustainability Festival was held on the pleasant amphitheatre, overlooking Hillary’s swimming beach on a warm sunny Saturday. Stalls were set up by organisations involved in promotion of sustainable development/ The UN Association of Australia (WA) was a proud participant for the second year running.

Stalls included Bunnings, The Water Corporation, Protect Ningaloo, Bread Tags for Wheelchairs, The WA Forest Alliance, Sustainable Engineering Society (SENG), AIESEC Australia Ltd, Future Female Leaders Program, CARAD - Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and Detainees, FISH - Foundation for Indigenous Sustainable Health and Extinction Rebellion amongst others. The UNAAWA stall was represented by Zaina Debouch (Convenor, Education Committee) and Randhir Amoganathan (President).

The event started at about 10am, and at about 11am, we had the Welcome to Country, and a speech by the

organiser. Being a Saturday, many people visited the stalls. The UNAAWA stall saw much traffic, with many visitors enquiring about the activities of the UNAAWA in supporting the SDG goals, and also what the organisation did in general. Many SDG pins and UN Association of Australia pins were sold to enthusiastic visitors keen to make clear their support and awareness of the SDG Goals. Visitor traffic continued strong until 4pm when the festival came to an end.



Amongst the visitors to the UNAAWA stall were Deputy Mayor Christine Hamilton-Prime of the City of Joondalup, and Jordan Wright, a Councillor at the City of Waneroo.

Many connections were made by interested persons and organisations with interests in similar fields, and email addresses, LinkedIn connections and business cards were exchanged. All new connections will be followed up on, to broaden opportunities to work together to promote and spread awareness of the SDG goals for the benefit of their communities.

Randhir Amoganathan

UNAAWA President

Francesca Stewart – Gender Equality Convenor

Francesca Stewart is a consultant with a special interest in Gender & Leadership. As a global citizen, she is a graduate of the Common Purpose program – a program centred on the UN SDGs, which aims to develop leaders who cross boundaries so they can solve complex problems in work and in society. Francesca is passionately dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goal of achieving gender equality by ending all forms of discrimination, violence and any harmful practices against women and girls.

An experienced HR & Leadership professional, Francesca has had vast industry experience across Consulting, Financial Services, Property, Oil & Gas, Water and Public Sector, in Australia and overseas. Her prior experience includes several years as a HR Specialist at General Electric, in which she primarily focused on leadership development programs, and more recently at Tower Human Capital, where she supports women in leadership, through programs designed to address gender inequity in advancing the careers of women.

Holding a Bachelor of Arts and currently undertaking a Post-Graduate Certificate in Business Psychology at The University of Western Australia, Francesca is interested in building leadership capability in women and in enhancing equity and diversity in organisations.



Francesca is a purpose driven leader, dedicated to personal and collective growth. She believes strongly in an equal future for women and seeks opportunities to develop and inspire others towards that vision. Through her work in UNAA WA, Francesca aims to strengthen community partnerships, exploring womanhood and its intersections across the state, and to seek opportunities to champion change.

Jennifer Lord – Environment Committee Secretary



We are excited to welcome Jennifer Lord to the role of Environment Committee Secretary.

Jennifer has been a lawyer for over 25 years and has worked in public and private spheres across different

market sectors, most recently in engineering and mining. She brings her corporate, commercial, and regulatory experience to the Environment Committee, together with her passion for human rights and the environment. She maintains a strong interest in the effective and practical implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, drawing on her studies and early experience in international law.

Jennifer is motivated by the pace of innovation and the potential to unlock solutions to environmental challenges by working together. She is a firm supporter of the UNAAWA's goals of informing, inspiring and engaging to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable world. Her focus is on raising awareness and creating opportunities to engage with all stakeholders to inspire positive environmental and social impacts, prevent harm and make the world an even better place, now and for the future.

Welcome Jennifer!



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UN Observances

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
- 27: International Day of Epidemic Preparedness

January

- 4: World Braille Day
- 24: International Day of Education
- 27: International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

February

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



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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