



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division



UN Matters

May 2022 – June 2022



L to R: Thijs Roos, UNAAWA President Randhir Amoganathan, US Consul General Siriana Nair, UN Youth President Dylan Storer, Young Professionals Committee Convenor Charlotte Moss



111th International Labour Conference 2023, World of Work Summit at Geneva, Switzerland



Dr Sandy Chong (UNAAWA Immediate Past President) and members of the Australian delegation at the Berlin 2023 Special Olympics World Games in Germany

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From the President

On 2nd June, I attended the 77th Italian Republic Day Celebrations, and on 27th June, I attended the United States' 247th Independence Day celebrations. Both events were the equivalent of a national day to commemorate the founding of their respective republics. When attending the events, I was honoured to meet the Italian Consul His Excellency Nicolo Constantini, and the US Consul General for the US Consulate Perth, Her Excellency Siriana Nair. The events were very well run, with great speeches, and had excellent food and refreshments.

The theme in common with both events were their many notable guests, including ministers, consuls from other embassies, representatives from other government departments, representatives from their militaries, from commerce and industry, and from communities.

This interconnectedness and efforts made to build bonds is my view, the most important component. When I met up with the people there and spoke with them, whatever differences we may have had in terms of background, culture, country-of-origin, race, education, jobs, all faded away. What mattered was the mutual interest to build bonds, renew ties, expand our outlook and simply learn more. In other words, everyone sought to build bridges and connect.

The theme of building bridges is one of the core values of the UNAANA, and of the United Nations itself when it was founded. In the aftermath of World War 2, the UN sought to join nations together and work together peacefully for the betterment of all. This essence

remains with the UNAANA, in its core values to Inform, Inspire and Engage.

To inform, inspire and engage younger up-and-coming professionals, the UNAANA is proud to formally launch its Young Professionals Committee on 28 July 2023. A great lineup is planned, with presentations by Katherine Iscoe and Ron Gibson. It is not often that a new committee gets formed and launched, and this is one such occasion. We encourage all members to attend the event, participate, and be a part of this launch! There is much to look forward to.

At the Young Professionals Committee launch on 28 July 2023, we will also be holding a UNAANA Members Networking Event. We welcome new members and anyone who is curious to know more about us and what we do. Additionally, we will be awarding our long-standing members to show our appreciation for their efforts and dedication, which we term as Recognition of Change Makers. Both the Members Networking Event and Young Professionals Committee will be held together.

Through the UNAANA, you can make your influence felt for the betterment of society; hence the term Change Makers. All that is needed is to join us and make your presence felt.

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

Randhir Amoganathan
President of the UNAANA

ANZAC Day Memorial 108th Anniversary 1915-2023



Attendance Joseph Caruso Bunbury RSL Wreath Laying

ANZAC Day Memorial embodies a true commemoration soulmate deeper understanding each year however even not knowing our war heroes that served our country valiantly in true reflection the fallen names inscribed on granite War Memorials piece our heart.

Sacrifice, patriotism and mateship are emotionally embodied in our 108 year anniversary.

The scars of war and conflict are never forgotten after a century past the world is still struggling and plagued with factional territorial conflicts and major sovereign wars as I write the latest horrific Russian -Ukraine and Sudanese devastating humanity wars reach every news editorial headline and our hearts.

On the global front peace time is threatened with nations including Australia commitment to increasing mind blowing defence budgets and procurement state of art weapons in the name of maintaining National Security we question if this is the appropriate solution and dialogue to peace in the World.



Let us all hold proudly the eternal flame of those Anzacs that gave their lives for our freedom and as Ambassador's strive for a world of peace.

“Lest we forget “

Joseph Caruso
International Global Representative

111th International Labour Conference adopts new apprenticeship standard, among other key decisions



It was a privilege to attend the International Labour Conference 2023 at the United Nations in Geneva for two weeks with over 5,000 delegates representing governments, workers and employers from the [International Labour Organization](#)'s (ILO) 187 Member States.

Even more privileged is meeting the Director General of the ILO, Gilbert F. Hounbo (as seen in photo above), who advocated the need for a new social contract driven by

solidarity and fairness. Also amazing is witnessing the Plenary session which adopted a new recommendation on quality apprenticeship and resolutions passed on a just transition.

The discussions among the representatives at the World of Work Summit highlighted the importance of access to education and training for workers, particularly in a rapidly changing labour market due to technological advancement. It is important for policymakers to invest in reskilling its workforce, close the digital divide, enable inclusivity and collaboration among nations.

I am particularly in agreement with what was emphasised by our very own Minister for Skills and Training, the Hon. Brendan O'Connor, that employability and prosperity produce better quality of life, which in turn build peace in our society. Click [here](#) to find out more about the conference visit.

Dr Sandy Chong
Immediate Past President, UNAABA



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Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023



From 17 – 25 June 2023, I had the honour of attending the [Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023](#) last week as part of the Australian delegation with the most amazing athletes and champions for inclusion.

It was one of the most unforgettable experience to witness and be part of a movement that truly brings out the best in humanity - a world full of kindness, compassion and love, zero discrimination and total celebration of diversity.

In the ten days of the Games, people of all ages, nationalities, and cultures come together to serve and dedicate themselves to a cause that is beyond sports and competition. The unifying power of [Special Olympics](#) demonstrates the limitless potential of individuals with intellectual disabilities and the boundless opportunities of social inclusion when governments and communities work together.

It was such a delight to be part of this global family - an expanding one with those who are courageous and resolute in making their dreams and those of others come true.



Big thanks to [Special Olympics Australia](#) for the incredible support and camaraderie to our athletes, families and volunteers. Sincere gratitude to the outstanding group of people from SOI and the Berlin team. Such a privilege to be working alongside and observing these individuals in action.

Look forward to staying inspired in a movement that leaves no one behind:

“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”

Dr Sandy Chong
Past President of the UNAABA

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SPECIAL OLYMPICS
WORLD GAMES
BERLIN 2023

FACTS AND FIGURES

FROM OUR WORLD GAMES IN BERLIN

330,000

WORLD GAMES
SPECTATORS

50,000

OPENING CEREMONY
SPECTATORS

100,000

COMPETITION SPECTATOR
TICKETS SOLD

200

HOST TOWNS
WELCOMING ATHLETES



6,500

ATHLETES &
UNIFIED PARTNERS

48%

FEMALE ATHLETES

26

SPORTS

3,000

COACHES

176

DELEGATIONS

World Games
Record

1,800

MEDIA FROM
90 COUNTRIES

15,000

HEALTHY ATHLETES
SCREENINGS
completed in
7 DISCIPLINES

ATHLETES FROM

98% OF DELEGATIONS
ATTENDED HEALTHY ATHLETES

Over

60

MINISTERS AND
GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS

Over

50

NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL
SPORT FEDERATION
REPRESENTATIVES



Australian delegation of athletes at the opening ceremony

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

US Consulate's 247th Independence Day Celebration

On 27 June 2023, the Consul General of the US Consulate in Perth, Her Excellency Ms. Siriana Nair hosted a reception to celebrate the 247th anniversary of Independence of the United States of America. The event showcased the alliance between Australia and the United States, as well as highlighting the noteworthy collaborations flourishing in Western Australia in the trade, investment, mining and military spheres.

The United States' Ambassador to Australia, Ms. Caroline Kennedy, was scheduled to attend but had other commitments, provided a virtual address at the event, and gave her insights and enthusiasm to the occasion, emphasising the long established and growing bond between the United States and Australia.

Ms Nair's daughter stole the evening by singing both the US and Australian national anthems in a fine voice; certainly a very talented young lady!

It was nice to have met once more with Minister Hon Stephen Dawson MLC at the event. This event also provided an opportunity to engage with the remarkable team from Women in Technology WA Inc. (WiTWA). We were also joined at the event by Dylan Storer, President UN Youth.

Overall, it was a great evening filled with meaningful conversations and connections, and a shared appreciation for the strong bond between our two nations.

Randhir Amoganathan
President of the UNAAWA



L to R: Thijs Roos, Randhir Amoganathan (UNAAWA President), Siriana Nair (Consul General at US Consulate Perth), Dylan Storer (UN Youth President), Charlotte Moss (Convenor, Young Professionals Committee).

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Italian Consulate 77th Republic Day Celebration

On 2 June 2023, the Consul of Italy, Mr Nicolò Costantini, hosted a reception to celebrate Italy's 77th Republic Day celebrations at the Italian Club in Perth.

The event highlighted the contributions made by the Italian migrants to Western Australia, and their struggles with discrimination and racism in the earlier days, and how far they have come since demonstrating the resilience and spirit of the early migrants. There was live music from a band and the Italian national anthem was sung.

Mr Constantini highlighted the relations between Italy and Western Australia in the trade and investment, which has been strong and are growing, giving an enthusiasm to the event. Mr Constantini spoke that he was due to leave Perth for another posting, and that a new Consul would come in this year.

It was nice to have met with the Consul General for the US Consulate in Perth, Her Excellency Ms Siriana Nair, as the WA State President for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ms Sally Dawkins amongst the dignitaries attending. Joseph Caruso from the UNAABA also was in attendance.

The evening ended with live music, and with great Italian food, meaningful connections, and a shared appreciation for the strong bond between Italy and

Western Australia, and the vibrant Italian migrant community.



L to R: Luca Bologna and his wife (UNAABA Members), Sal Vallelonga (President Italian Club), and UNAABA President Randhir Amoganathan

Randhir Amoganathan
President of the UNAABA



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\$95,000 for community projects through Project Robin Hood

- The City of Melville is proud to announce the six community-driven projects that will receive a share of more than \$95,000 as part of its Project Robin Hood 6 program.
- A Dad's Disco, mobile community seed library and a specialised wheelchair-accessible bike are among the projects that have received funding.
- Project Robin Hood is a participatory funding program where the community decides which projects are funded.

The community has decided the six projects that will share in a pool of \$95,000 of funding as part of the City of Melville's Project Robin Hood program.

The projects include a Dad's Disco where fathers and their kids can dance and enjoy free entertainment as a way of encouraging a more connected and involved network of dads and kids.

Cycling Without Age has received funding for a new wheelchair accessible trishaw, which will enable more people to enjoy the fun, friendship and freedom experienced on their rides.

Mobile community seed library 10,000 Tomatoes has also received funding, which will see an electric cargo bike deliver seeds around the City in pop-up locations.

Established in 2013, Project Robin Hood has seen more than \$550,000 of funds given out.

During round six of the program more than 1,400 community members went online to Melville Talks on the City's website to review the 9 projects up for consideration and cast more than 7,000 votes for those they wanted to see happen.

For more information, visit www.melvillecity.com.au/prh6

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

City of Melville Mayor the Hon. George Gear JP congratulated the successful recipients and thanked everyone who took part, whether they were a part of a project team or by voting.

"Project Robin Hood highlights how lucky we are to have so many creative, passionate and dedicated individuals and groups who are leading great community ideas and building better neighbourhoods," said Mayor Gear.

"I look forward to following their progress and seeing how they contribute to making the City of Melville an even better place to live, work and play."

Funded projects

Ardross Play Zone (\$18,500)

Park seating to enhance social gatherings and nature-based play elements at Ardross Primary School.

Rides 4 All (\$19,800)

Specialised wheelchair-accessible bike to enable those who are wheelchair reliant to also be able to enjoy the fun, friendship and freedom experienced on Cycling Without Age's rides.

10,000 Tomatoes (\$8,809)

A mobile community seed library which aims to inspire and connect people in the community to grow their own food. Bringing free seeds to people on the back

of a bright, iconic electric cargo bike, 10,000 Tomatoes will pop up in locations around the City.

Willagee Connect (\$20,000)

Four family friendly community days for everyone, all are invited. The events might be a community soccer game, petting zoo, or a fun science-based activity.

Dad's Disco (\$8,868)

A fulfilled afternoon of dancing and entertainment for dads and kids. Free activities for kids including bouncy castles, fairy floss, petting zoo, rides and a sausage sizzle along with cool tunes from local DJs.

Midsummer Night's Dream (\$19,820)

This project will include free 8 'Shakespeare Shenanigans' workshops, which will be creative and fun.

Image: The Midsummer Night's Dream project received Project Robin Hood funding.

Image: Willagee Connect will bring people together for family-friendly community days.

Media contact: Aaron Corlett | 9364 0198



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

Josh MacKenzie: New Deputy Convenor of the UNAAWA Environment Committee



Josh MacKenzie (he/him) is a dedicated advocate for environmental preservation, sustainability and community. Josh was born in Perth, where he currently works, but has

spent time in the Kimberly and Pilbara, when living in Broome and Pannawonica, respectively.

Josh began his career in resource recovery six years ago in the retail sector, working to improve landfill diversion by finding solutions for damaged and unwanted materials beyond recycling. At the same time, he began a Master's degree at Curtin University in Environment and Climate Emergency, which allowed him to transfer his skills into consulting, where he now works as a Senior Consultant for Circular Economy. Josh is motivated by solving problems using unique solutions and enabling people to rethink the value of their materials and assets. He is passionate about sharing the UN SDGs to help communities tackle sustainability problems, and he is excited to achieve that through the UNAA-WA.

Silvia Lozeva: Partnership Coordinator of the UNAAWA Environment Committee

Dr Silvia Lozeva is an academic, born in Bulgaria and living in Western Australia, with a background in sustainable development, international relations, political science, anthropology and human geography. She has research interest in migration studies, applied in the field of Ecological Citizenship, exploring the notion of political outcomes through civic and environmental engagement of recent migrants. Silvia's most recent lived experience is in the field of remaking the state through political activism of the diaspora and the soft borders of citizenship in the context of transnational mobility, social networks and social technologies.

Silvia has worked extensively in academia, community organisation and Government and is excited to join the UNAA Environmental Committee to empower community and raise awareness of the SDGs.

Currently, Silvia is working on a manuscript: Eco-Citizenship: Migration, Globalisation and Multiculturalism Western Australia.



Dickson Kinga: New volunteer of the UNAAWA Environment Committee



Dickson Kinga is a Homelessness Case Worker with UnitingWA. He is a Kenyan citizen who came to Perth seven years ago to pursue higher education. He holds a Master's in Business

Administration and has a wealth of experience in human resources, administration, and case management.

Aside from his professional experience, he is a passionate environmentalist who believes in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the mitigation of environmental degradation. He firmly believes that small individual changes can make a significant difference in achieving global environmental goals in the spirit of (Ubuntu) an ancient African Philosophy meaning 'humanity to others and togetherness'.

In his current role as a Homelessness Case Worker, Dickson has made a remarkable impact with his strong interpersonal skills and can-do attitude. He is a charismatic individual who is dedicated to making a positive impact in the lives of those he serves.

Jacque Bicanic: New volunteer of the UNAAWA Environment Committee

Jacque (she/they) is completing her commerce degree in property development and valuation. They discovered a passion for sustainability during Curtin University's inaugural Sustainability Challenge which changed the trajectory of her career aspirations.

Since the Sustainability Challenge, she has gone on to join the student Guild Council at Curtin, leading the effort in creating the role of "Vice President of Sustainability and Welfare" at the Guild, and is campaigning for a thrift store and 10c recycling collection point on campus and is in the process of creating a sustainability club for students set to start

next semester. They also recently completed the Carbon Literacy Program (University of Queensland).

Jacque is thrilled to volunteer with the Environment Committee, and is excited to begin working with them on helping WA become a more sustainable state.



Barry Ladbrook: New volunteer of the UNAAWA Environment Committee

I have held a long interest in the environment and have worked on energy and climate change for over 15 years. I studied sociology and economics at university and have been working and advising on commercial, strategic, policy and regulatory issues in industry, Government, and consulting. I am currently with Fortescue Future Industries commercialising innovative low carbon solutions for applications in mining and elsewhere.

I am originally from Perth but spent many years elsewhere: my childhood in the United States, finishing high school in Perth before moving to Melbourne for university. I went to the UK for two to three years only to return 14 years later with a wife and two kids and found myself back in Perth three decades after leaving.

I joined the UNAAWA Environment Committee to help raise the profile and awareness of environmental issues and work with groups of people who have similar interests but a different background, skills and experiences.



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

UN Observances

July

- 3: International Day of Cooperatives
- 7: World Kiswahili Language Day
- 11: World Population Day
- 12: International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms
- 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: 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



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Upcoming Events



United Nations
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RECOGNITION OF CHANGE MAKERS & LAUNCH OF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

Click [here](#) to register

FRI 28TH
JULY 2023

6.00-8.00PM

HILLVIEW INTERCULTURAL
COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

Upcoming Events



United Nations
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FUTURE LEADERS DEVELOPMENT: SPORTS FOR CHILDREN & ACHIEVING SDGS

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

VENUE: Mineral Resources Park,
42 Bishopsgate St, Lathlain

TICKETS:

Click [here](#) to purchase

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



3RD
AUG 2023

6.00-7.30PM

MINERAL
RESOURCES
PARK



BHP



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

Upcoming Events



United Nations
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78TH UN DAY ANNIVERSARY

Come and join us for
an evening of celebration!

Registration opens 1st August

Click [here](#) to register

FRI 20TH
OCT 2023

6.00-9.30PM

DUXTON HOTEL
PERTH



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



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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