



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division



UN Matters February-March 2020



Photos (L to R): Finimize Female Financial Dialogue (Cloud9Projects), Youth Engagement Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic (Daniel Sherifi)

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Chief Editor: Caleb Gorton

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

From the President

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the unprecedented times we are living through. Never before has Australia, and indeed the world, witnessed a pandemic with such a global impact upon our health and economies. Here in Perth we are into our seventh week of quarantine. At a personal level, I believe many of us are feeling much anxiety, stress and uncertainty for the future. I am sure we all have stories to share on how we're living through this challenge, worrying about our family, our friends, and the people we care about who may be vulnerable or in danger.

We wake up every morning, read our newspapers, watch the TV, listen to the radio, and browse through the Internet. The numbers of fatalities are still climbing. Very few countries can yet see the light at the end of the tunnel. The likelihood is that we're going to be in this for a while and therefore it is important to know that we are here for one another.

Your well-being matters to us at the UNAAWA, and it doesn't just mean protecting ourselves by staying home or being in isolation. It also means looking out for each other, making sure that we have the support that we need, and exercising responsible consumption. So I invite you to reach out to us, to your communities, to help the most vulnerable people and to act on the values of the United Nations: to create a safer, fairer, more sustainable world, especially during this difficult time.

The COVID-19 virus knows no borders, it needs no passport or visa to enter a country, and so at a time like this the solidarity and response of the entire international system matters more than ever. We, at the UNAAWA, also recognise this, and we take to heart in the daily support given by the UN, by the World Health Organisation, by the G20, and all the other actors of the multilateral system. This pandemic has demonstrated leadership in global coordination by the UN and its sister agencies in order to overcome all the challenges we face - not just this pandemic but

also climate change, global poverty, the future of work, trade and more.

I'd like to take this opportunity to reassure you that we have not forgotten about you, our members. Out of concern for our volunteers and your health, we are in the process of organising virtual events, including the 75th anniversary of the UN in October, so that we can continue coming together as a community to support one another. As with all programmes and events planned, the transition to digital platforms is still a work-in-progress. So I invite you to reach out to us for any ideas or suggestions that you would like to participate or collaborate in.

Finally, I'd like to end by once again welcoming all our new members who've joined us since the start of the year. The existence of our organisation is only possible because of your support. It has been a challenging first quarter of the year, but I believe that we would come out of this stronger, more committed than before as a community in advancing the goals for the UN, for the SDGs, and for our future ahead.

To all of you, stay healthy, stay safe and stay connected.

Dr Sandy Chong
UNAAWA President



SDG Business Forum event in February. (L to R): NexStep Founder Michele Villa, MLA of Swan Hills Jessica Shaw, UNAAWA President Dr Sandy Chong, EY Perth Partner Adam Carrel, Photo: Cloud9Projects

Business as Usual at UNAAWA



Business as Usual: Our UN Day organising committee meeting in early April

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, we are adjusting to the new world order during these unprecedented times. We care about our volunteers' health and safety, so all of our planned activities have been moved to digital format until further notice.

Our team is committed to continue the advocacy work in the community especially during these challenging times. At the UNAAWA, we continue to serve our missions, to step up and to support the community. We continue to be available to you, our members and partners, via email, phone and video conference.

While the situation ahead is unclear, we are determined to do good every day. We've been receiving many interests to volunteer the past weeks and it has been inspiring to see that we are all coming together to help each other.

We thank you for your warm support and look forward to continue engaging you in the upcoming months. Feel free to reach us on any collaborative opportunities that would support the community. Otherwise simply drop us a line and share with us any inspiring stories you've experienced despite these difficult times.



Below are some useful habits and practices to help us stay safe, healthy and productive:

Remain positive and stay connected

Working from or staying at home for a prolonged period can be a difficult, frustrating and lonely experience. During this time, make the effort to check in and connect with family, friends, or colleagues from time to time.

- Always strive to stay calm and positive
- Stick to credible, trusted news outlets for information
- Stay virtually connected to your family and social circle via phone, video conferencing, or social media
- Reconnect with old friends

Stay active, productive, and healthy

Keeping the mind and body active and healthy is essential as our usual day-to-day lifestyle takes a turn for the mundane.

- Make a to-do list to keep procrastination at bay
- Include physical exercise in your daily routine. Explore the various free exercise class options available online.
- Use this opportunity to pick up new hobbies and activities such as cooking, reading, e-learning courses etc.
- Do not neglect work life balance during this period
- Maintain a healthy diet and stay hydrated

Instil good personal hygiene habits

Mitigate the risk of viruses and diseases by continually practicing good personal hygiene.

- Wash your hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds each time
- Carry hand sanitiser for use when soap and water are not readily available
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose with unwashed hands
- Practice cough and sneeze etiquette

Do not hesitate to share the above tips with your friends and family members. For more updates from the World Health Organisation (WHO), please visit: <https://www.who.int/ith/updates/en/>

Please stay safe and connected.

Dr Sandy Chong
UNAAWA President

Now is not the time to politicise COVID-19

The 29th April marked 120 days since the World Health Organisation (WHO) was notified of what is now known as COVID-19. Since the virus was first detected in Wuhan, over 3 million cases have been confirmed in the world. Over 215,000 people have died. The world has changed so much that the pandemic is being compared to the Second World War. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres said, “the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most dangerous challenges this world has faced in our lifetime”.

While COVID-19 is above all a health crisis, its consequences reach every corners of society. We have all felt its social and economic impacts. Suddenly, many of us are facing extreme financial uncertainty as businesses close and jobs are lost. The virus could put half of the global workforce in limbo. The economic strife will be felt for years to come.

Countries experiencing a multitude of crises are particularly vulnerable. Too often, conflict is coupled with low health standards, poor living conditions and poverty. Managing the global pandemic in fragile societies will be extremely difficult.



A New York City advocates for unity and trust in the experts. Credit: UN Photo/Evan Schneider

Despite the dire need for global unity, some leaders have decided to politicise the virus. US President Donald Trump has accused WHO of being too “China-centric” in its dealing with the crisis. China just happens to be Trump’s primarily global rival, while USA has become the world’s epicenter for the virus, with over one million confirmed cases and more than 50,000 deaths.

In mid-April, Trump halted his country’s funding for WHO after accusing the agency of mismanaging and covering up the spread of the virus. USA is the largest funder of WHO.

Now is the worst possible time to cut funding for the agency working to stop the deadliest crisis since WWII. Pointing fingers and blaming others for the spread of the virus helps no one that is facing immediate strife. We must learn from our mistakes, but the priority right now is to stop the virus.

There are several simple reasons why we need WHO to fight this pandemic.

Firstly, WHO is crucial for helping countries prepare and respond to the crisis. It has offices in 150 countries. The agency has issued a Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, which identifies the major actions countries need to take and the public health measures that the international community stands ready to provide.

Amongst an epidemic of false and misleading information on COVID-19, WHO produces a single source of accurate and useful information to help save lives. The agency benefits from its global network of health professionals and scientists, allowing it to provide up-to-date guidance, situational reports, press briefings and live updates on its website.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is vital for the safety of those on the front line: health workers. By early April, WHO had shipped more than two million PPE items and dispatched more than one million diagnostic tests to over 120 countries. Millions more are planning to be sources and distributed.

WHO is aiming to train millions of health workers across the globe. In early April, over a million had signed up to its OpenWHO online platform, which allows life-saving information to be transferred from WHO to frontline workers in real time.

Finally, WHO is central to finding the vaccine we all hope for. In the aim of consolidating the testing done in laboratories around the world, WHO bought together 400 of the world’s leading researchers in February to identify research priorities.

The UN is a global body; we need united global action to stop this virus. Now is not the time for divisive and nationalist actions. Now is the time to fight the virus, together.

Caleb Gorton
UN Matters Chief Editor

Progress At What Price: The True Cost of Your Clothes Could Be a Woman's Freedom

On March 8th, 1908 15,000 female garment workers marched through the streets of New York in what we now regard as the genesis of International Women's Day. The women, mainly immigrants, protested untenable working conditions, including 60-hour work weeks, dangerous work environments and increased rates of child labour. Their protests changed little.

Three years later at a clothing factory in lower Manhattan, 146 women were burned alive in a fire. They were unable to escape as they were locked in, a regulation to prevent unauthorised bathroom breaks. This horrifying fire is still one of the most significant workplace disasters in American history.

It took this devastating tragedy to put change in motion for American women but, over a hundred years later, conditions remain frighteningly similar for many working women globally.



The Rana Plaza tragedy

Fast-forward to a date we're more familiar with - April 24th 2013. A major factory, Rana Plaza, collapsed in Bangladesh killing 1134 people, and severely harming countless others. The collapse was a direct result of the systemic abuse of Bangladeshi apparel workers.

The fashion industry in Bangladesh is well-known for human rights violations, exceptionally poor health and safety regulations, and one of the lowest minimum wages in the world. This is just as much the responsibility of the government, as it is the

multi-national companies that operate there and continue to force prices down at any cost.

Rana Plaza caught the attention of international media due to the factory's links with major fashion outlets around the world. It spawned the birth of Fashion Revolution, a global movement calling for a fairer, safer, cleaner and more transparent fashion industry. Huge international brands signed an accord to ensure safety checks would be regularly carried out in their overseas factories. However, Bangladeshi garment workers are still prohibited from unionising, meaning they are unable to actively seek better conditions and higher wages.

Oxfam report – the abuses continue

This month we are celebrating International Women's Day 2019. We celebrate the progress we have made, and the battles we have won. But how can we truly celebrate when so many of us remain systematically held back?

Only last week, Oxfam Australia released a report on the oppression and abuse of power enabled by companies in the supply chains of some of Australia's biggest retailers.

Oxfam reported the systemic exploitation of workers in the supply chains of major retail brands, reportedly driven in part by pressure to reduce the cost of production. 100 per cent of the workers interviewed by Oxfam in Bangladesh were not paid a living wage, with nine out of ten confirming they could not afford food for themselves and their families.

In several factories in Vietnam, Oxfam heard buyers required fire extinguishers in the rooms where finished clothing is stored, but did not insist on the same safety measures in rooms where the factory employees work.

It's been 108 years since the factory fire in New York and yet the parallels are eerily similar. These women, working in factories in Australian supply chains, lack the basic rights their American counterparts were granted early last century.

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Progress At What Price: The True Cost of Your Clothes Could Be a Woman's Freedom

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The global economy has enabled Australians and consumers from other developed nations to be removed from the suffering inflicted on millions of people for the production of clothes and other every-day goods. Sadly, this kind of exploitation is not uncommon and, in its most extreme form, has led to slavery being more rife today than any other time in human history.

We can end modern slavery

Modern slavery describes a number of extremely exploitative practices, including forced labour, debt bondage, domestic servitude, human trafficking, organ trafficking, forced marriage and state-imposed forced labour. While these vary massively - they all have one thing in common. They all involve one person having their freedom systematically removed by another, for personal or financial gain.

Over 40 million people are living in modern slavery around the world. Of that figure 71 per cent are women and girls, who are not only overrepresented in forced marriage and human trafficking, but also makeup the majority in debt bondage and forced labor.

On International Women's Day we should see this issue as one of the most pressing issues of our time. Not only because it is holding back millions of women but also because as consumers, we are benefitting from their suffering.

Research conducted by Deloitte Access Economics for Oxfam found Australian companies would only need to increase the sale price of clothing by 1 per cent to ensure textile workers in Asia earned a living wage. Positive change won't cost us much.

Confronting this issue is about individual power, and collective change. The power of the consumer to ask questions, demand transparency, and put money behind brands that support basic human rights.



Grace Forrest, co-founder Walk Free Foundation and United Nations Association of Australia Goodwill Ambassador for Anti-Slavery

At its core, International Women's Day should be about women for women. We must promote the rights of all women, and all people that are systematically held back, to say we progress together or not at all.

If the origins of this day 111 years ago teach us nothing else, it should be that the protests of working women need to be expressed, heard and actioned. There has been more than enough horrifying tragedy for us to wake up and say enough.

Grace Forrest
Walk Free Foundation Co-Founder
UNAA Goodwill Ambassador for Anti-Slavery

Prioritising Children's Wellbeing During and After COVID-19



The novelty of learning from home is wearing off. Australian children (and their adults) are keen to get back to 'normal'. But will our normal ever be the same again? Many suggest not and others are ready to embrace the potential of change in hope for a more positive society. As we make the transition from lockdown to a new normal we must give greater priority to the impact on children.

A 'broader child-rights crisis' due to the pandemic has been predicted by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. As often is the case, the most vulnerable members of our community are at highest risk - the homeless, those living with disability, the elderly, those in poverty, those experiencing violence, abuse and neglect, and children.

The harmful effects will impact some children more than others. The recently published UN Policy Brief speculates on the likely risks for the world's children:

- Up to 66 million children falling into poverty through the forecast global recession precipitated by the economic lockdown.
- Exacerbating the learning crisis through school closures disrupting learning and affecting more than 1.5 billion children and youth.
- Threats to child survival and health through reduced financial resources available for health care and nutrition. In addition, there are risks to child mental health and wellbeing.
- Risks for child safety through lockdown measures combined with household financial stress heightening the chances of children witnessing or suffering violence and abuse.
- Delayed implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals designed by all the world's nations to fight inequality and injustice, protect the planet, and tackle extreme poverty.

Australia is better placed than most nations to minimise these impacts as long as priority is given to mitigation measures including:

- Maintaining an economic safety net and social protection programs, particularly for the most vulnerable households and communities.
- Prioritising the continuity of child-centred services and community-based child protection programs.
- Providing practical advice and support for parents and caregivers focused on their own and their children's mental health.

These measures provide an opportunity to ensure that children are involved in decision-making that will affect their future. As citizens with a right to education, children's voices must be incorporated into the thinking, planning, systems change and new policy required.

As a society we have an unwritten rule to care for children, protect children and develop our future generations. As we navigate these unparalleled times, we rely on politicians, teachers, coaches and parents more than ever to prioritise all children's wellbeing. We hear the phrase "it takes a village to raise a child"- during these challenging times, the wellbeing including safety of children is paramount.

The role of schools and teachers will be particularly crucial. They represent society's front line in monitoring and supporting the wellbeing and learning progress of our children. With school closures early warning mechanisms are missing.

Understandably, priority has been given so far to the provision of learning materials to support student learning in the home environment at the same time as maintaining the school learning environment for students requiring it. This will be extremely challenging for teachers, particularly if it is to be sustained over an extended period.

It is essential that teachers are able to monitor the wellbeing and learning progress of all of their students. Priority also needs to be given to the implementation of digital coaching and monitoring tools for use by students and teachers.

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Prioritising Children's Wellbeing During and After COVID-19

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Giving students agency in monitoring and communicating their progress potentially has twin benefits. It requires them to take greater responsibility for their learning. Secondly, it has the potential to develop a greater sense of empowerment and wellbeing. Some teachers and schools are well placed to implement such approaches. Others will need significant and effective support.

One way that parents and their children may support each other is to talk about the impact that the COVID-19 shock has had on our society and economy. How do we build a stronger, sustainable future for Australia? In our work with children aged from 8 to 18 years, we've observed a ready engagement with the UN SDGs. These goals represent a common vision for the future based on scientific evidence and business models.



Students frequently comment on the positive impact of working with the Goals and the optimism it generates. Instead of feeling like powerless victims of globalisation they comment how sharing a common vision and working with others empowers them to make a difference.

The concept of the generational bargain is also crucial as we focus on the needs of our children at this time. It is an unwritten social contract whereby working generations support the non-working generations (the young and elderly). As Sonia Arakkal, founder of Think Forward an intergenerational fairness advocacy group, wrote recently:

"As a society we have asked a generation of young, working age people to put their dreams on hold to

slow the progress of a virus that's more likely to seriously affect older Australians. Meanwhile, the sectors hardest hit by the government's shutdown disproportionately affect young people and, unlike the Baby Boomer generation, Millennials do not have the asset base to weather this storm."

The same may be said for children - Generation Z and Generation Alpha. They will be starting their working lives at a time of high public debt incurred during the pandemic crisis. Developing a vision and plan for a sustainable, resilient Australia based on the SDGs has game-changing potential. Some pundits estimate that implementing the SDGs over the next decade will generate globally 380 million jobs and US\$12 trillion economic growth.

German psychologist Hannah Arendt defined wisdom as "a loving concern for the future of the world". When we work with students to design community projects around the SDGs we are struck by their wisdom. Moreover, these students express their optimism when they observe older generations sharing their wisdom.

In managing a unique situation like the pandemic, we encourage you to think forward and estimate the short, medium and long-term effects of COVID-19 for children and families, with a preventative lens. In doing so, we have the opportunity to reduce and prevent instances of risk to children that may affect their wellbeing and learning.

Strong and consistent messaging is crucial to communicate with a wide population, starting with a mental model level of thinking, to help support and encourage positive behaviors with an empathic approach. The inclusion of children's needs and perspectives are essential. As a population we are seeking information and resources to guide us through unknown waters. A clear communication strategy to prioritising children's wellbeing will be the success of how we manage COVID-19 for children and young people.

Rees and Anne Barrett, UNAOWA School Programs

Dr Vicky Absalom-Hornby, Valuing Children Initiative

Remembering Bessie Mabel Rischbieth, an original local advocate for the League of Nations

Researching the history of the Western Australian branch of the League of Nations Union [LNU], it came as no surprise to find a collection of interesting and complex members who brought a sense of spirit, strength and enterprise to the organisation. All of these traits were needed particularly when the storm clouds of war gathered in the late 1930s.

One of these exceptional LNU members was Mrs Bessie Mabel Rischbieth, O.B.E. (awarded in 1938).



Bessie Rischbieth was more your typical LNU member in as much as she was associated with an amazing array of organisations and causes, expressed the prevailed internationalist idealism, and although considered an 'establishment' person was drawn to the outer fringes of the left wing by her enthusiasm for peace and feminism, being a member of the Women's Service Guild and the Australian Federation of Women Voters.

Her feminist principles drew her to support the Republicans in the Spanish Civil War [1936-39]. Although opposed to private manufacture of arms, she was inclined to trust the government, unlike the Western Australia radio broadcaster, feminist and activist Irene Greenwood, who belonged to the Left Book Club.

Rischbieth was an Alternative Delegate to the Session of the Assembly in 1922, being the first Australian women to do so and also was a delegate for the 1935 Session of the Assembly which voted to impose sanctions on Italy. Being full of vigour she toured Australia, lecturing on the League.

In a June 1940 newspaper report titled 'Will the

League of Nations Survive? - A Visit to Geneva' published in *The Dawn*, she opened with another question: "What is the League of Nations doing in these difficult times?" A question that was often posed in what she described as "a spirit of derision by those people who never understood its aims and objectives".



She noted "for twenty years the League has been an enormous focussing machine, throwing light on massed world problems, a lighthouse in a stormy sea". She believed that those who had faith in the League erred on the idealist side. However, Bessie stated that history would justify

the faith for establishing a new relationship of nations. For all its political severance, the world grows daily closer knit, its means of communication more rapid. There is no space; the world has become a neighbourhood. There would be no funeral for the League of Nations. The League idea cannot be extinguished, it persists and it would persist.

She and fellow member Edith Cowan O.B.E. fell out over the issue of clauses in the WA Health Act concerning venereal disease notification. Both were executive members at various times.

Lindsay Dorman
UNAAWA Member

Photos (L to R): Bessie Mabel Rischbieth [1874-1967]. Statue of Bessie Rischbieth at Elizabeth Quay in Perth.



SDG Business Forum Series: Achieving SDGs and Impact on Business Transformation

UNAAWA held its first SDG Business Forum Series for 2020 on 26th February titled 'Achieving SDGs and Impact on Business Transformation', at Ernst & Young Perth.

EY's Climate Change and Sustainability Services Team Consultant Brydie Weston, in her welcome note, spoke about the necessity of using the traditional culture and knowledge of Western Australia's culture to bring about a change in the way of living. She also highlighted the importance of equity and inclusion, reflecting particularly upon Indigenous Australians, and the values that are essential in the development of SDGs.



Speakers (L to R): NexStep Founder Michele Villa, MLA of Swan Hills Jessica Shaw, EY Perth Partner Adam Carrel, UNAAWA President Dr Sandy Chong. Photos: Cloud9Projects

The event discussed the improvements and areas of concern that surfaced after the implementation of the SDGs. MLA member for Swan Hills Jessica Shaw discussed the role of individuals in achieving the SDGs at the grassroots level. By giving her own example, she supports companies that do the right thing "by switching her Superannuation funds to a more ethical fund management firm". She explained that "the aspirational nature of SDGs does, however, make it difficult to apply on a smaller scale to individuals and smaller businesses, but their collective influence on society makes it essential if we want to see progress". The SDG goals,

particularly gender equality, climate action, responsible consumption, and reducing inequality, have improved significantly.

UNAAWA President Dr Sandy Chong led the panel discussion, which include NexStep Founder Michele Villa, MLA of Swan Hills Jessica Shaw and EY Perth Partner Adam Carrel as speakers.

The speakers talked about the necessity of bringing changes into the current ways of doing business and the challenges that they need to overcome. Despite the advanced technology, the speakers pointed out that businesses need more innovative ideas, strong leadership, and enduring risk-taking ability. Businesses could also set great corporate citizenship example by standing up against norms that do more harm than good for the communities and environment one operates in.

Michelle Villa shared that "many directors are worried about the risks involved with transforming their businesses. If we can show them that doing the right thing across the SDGs can drop their risks in companies, then we will overcome this challenge".

The speakers suggested strategies to create sustainable businesses. They pointed out that setting deadlines help in getting work done quicker. As one of the speakers said, "there is a fear of saying something that does not fit with the pack, and until we break away from that mould, new style of leadership will not emerge, and nothing will change".

The discussion concluded by acknowledging the efficient placement of consultants in businesses, which is working in favour of achieving the SDGs and helping to transform business practices. Highlighting the importance of individual contribution towards SDGs, it was suggested that members of the public and business community should speak against the norms that are hindering the growth and progress of achieving SDGs. This could stem from within the business or policies of the government.

Female Financial Dialogue #Finimized

On 11th March, Finimize in partnership with the UNAAWA Gender Equality Committee hosted the 'Female Financial Dialogue' Perth panel forum at WeWork. In recognition of Women's History Month, the theme of the event was to promote female financial literacy and gender equality at the workplace.

Finimize community leader Ati Aziz facilitated the panel discussion, which included Economist and UWA Business School Deputy Dean Professor Alison Preston, Associate Professor Dr Nigar Sultana of Curtin University, UNAAWA President Dr Sandy Chong, and Heels & Yield CEO and founder Angelina Yao.

The event began with a discussion surrounding Australia's position in gender equality and how we as a country stand up in the face of the gender pay gap. The statistics were confronting, revealing that Australia's gender parity ranking in the OECD has lapsed from 15th place in 2006 to 44th in 2020. Together, the panellists examined Australia's apparent backsliding due to traditional value systems. Dr Nigar Sultana shared her findings from her study on the gender gap in publicly listed firms, to which she emphasised the need for more women on boards, but cautioning against 'window dressing' for the sake of it. Dr Sandy Chong gave her perspective in relation to the SDGs, specifically SDG 5: Gender Equality and its subsequent intrinsic relationship to female financial literacy.



Photos: Cloud9Projects

The panel went on to discuss the role of the individual and the state in women's economic security. Both Professor Alison Preston and Dr Nigar Sultana examined the role of the government and the employer in the regulation and inclusion of gender diversity and equality in the workplace. Angelina Yao

and Dr Sandy Chong shared insights from personal perspectives and actions which individuals can do to ensure their financial security in the future. While 30 per cent of men and 50 per cent of women are financially illiterate, the conversation of economic education must be undertaken more openly. With women retiring with almost 50 per cent less than men on average, an issue culminate of independent choices and a calculated gender pay disparity, it is imperative for women to become educated financially for self-sustainability.



(L to R): Finimize Community Leader Ati Aziz, UNAAWA President Dr Sandy Chong, UNAAWA Gender Equality Committee Convenor Hannah Brown.

Finally, the panel encouraged the idea of championing women both at home and at the workplace. Not only inspiring the motivation of women socially, but calling for them to speak up for change and fight for their own worth. Dr Sandy Chong shared what the UNAAWA does to support our community and examples of the not-for-profit work the organisation undertakes regarding gender equality. The discussion concluded with open questions, asking what women can do to uplift other women as well as what men can do to support their female counterparts in order to achieve better gender empowerment.

Hannah Brown
UNAAWA Gender Equality Committee Convenor



World Water Day 2020

World Water Day is on 22nd March every year and is about focussing our attention on the importance of Water. This year's theme explored how water and climate change are inextricably linked.

As the global population grows, so does the demand for water, which depletes natural resources and damages the environment in many places. Solutions to this problem include protecting carbon sinks such as ocean and wetlands, adopting climate smart agricultural techniques, and increasing the safe re-use of water.

The World Water Day 2020 campaign explains statements such as ...

- **We cannot afford to wait.** Climate policy makers must put water at the heart of action plans.
- **Water can help fight climate change.** There are sustainable, affordable and scalable water and sanitation solutions
- **Everyone has a role to play in our daily lives.** There are surprisingly easy steps we can all take to address climate change.

ANZAC Day 2020

The legend of the ANZACs is alive and well and the spirit of their souls continues to live on in Australia – even during this time of the horrific pandemic COVID-19, which could be compared and likened to a current global war zone. But still we must, and will, commemorate this sombre contemplative day as we do on 25th April each year.

The solemn date scripts the anniversary of the first major military action fought by the Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War and elevates that fated landing at Gallipoli to attempt the capture of Constantinople now known as Istanbul, in Turkey. Although a military failure in accomplishment, what emerged was the genesis of the ANZAC Spirit, embracing mateship and serving to shape the emerging Australian national identity. The first ANZAC Day was held on 25th April 1919 in London. Even though WWI was still raging, this day was held to commemorate the fallen comrades and to encourage enlistments to continue in the battle theatre.

In Australia, one of the driest countries in the world, we have serious water sustainability and water resources. Water, amongst other things, is tied to scarcity, drought, floods, urbanisation, transboundary issues between states, agriculture, food production, and potable water for increasing human demand. Spare a moment to consider that beyond our ocean boarders almost 1 billion people do not have proper sanitation and almost 1.5 billion people lack potable water.

Over the years I have attended many international water conferences and the problem still exists that quality water cannot be delivered or made available to the poorest in our societies. Water is the saviour of human life and yet can transmit pathogens and fatal diseases to humans. It comes down to keeping our water resources free from industrial and domestic contamination.

We all have a role to play.

Joseph Caruso
UNAANA Global Representative

After the first ANZAC Day Armistice in 1919, the tradition of holding memorial services to honour, remember and pay tribute to those heroic fallen and those who served a century ago in distant battle fields continues. We are honoured that a few still remain to tell their story, recalling their military experiences of humble lives given to our country's supreme service that are forever written into the archives of history.

In over three decades of attending ANZAC Day services I have been privileged to meet and speak with a number of WWI veterans as they reflect on their recollections and horrifying experiences of their time and the action on the war fronts of Gallipoli and Western European battlefields. As the years pass by so few still remain and it is to them and their fallen comrades we shall always remember their gallantry.

Lest We Forget.

Joseph Caruso
UNAANA Global Representative

McGowan Government Launches Energy Roadmap

The McGowan Government's Energy Transformation Taskforce has released a Roadmap to guide the integration of rooftop solar panels, batteries and electric vehicles on Western Australia's main electricity grid.

The Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Roadmap, released this month by Minister for Energy Bill Johnston, outlines 36 actions that will ensure Western Australians can continue to install and enjoy the benefits of rooftop solar and new energy technologies.

Rooftop solar panels, batteries, electric vehicles and microgrids are transforming Western Australia's electricity system. These small-scale devices, known as DER, present challenges and opportunities for the way we produce, manage and consume electricity in our State.

Almost one in three households connected to Western Australia's main power grid have rooftop solar, and this is expected to reach one in two over the next decade. New installations of rooftop solar systems are the equivalent of adding a new large power station every year, and generate enough electricity to power around 70,000 homes.

This clean, inexpensive form of generation, coupled with technological improvements, storage and electric vehicles means WA has the potential to be a leader in sustainable energy.

But the speed and scale of our solar uptake presents serious challenges to the power system. Sunny days when solar generation is high and demand from the grid is low present risks to system stability and technical issues on the distribution network. The Australian Energy Market Operator, the independent operator of the power system, has indicated that if we take no action then the power system's stability could be compromised as early as 2022.

The DER Roadmap outlines the actions that

Western Australia must take over the next five years in order to meet these challenges and harness the potential for cleaner, more affordable energy.

Actions include undertaking pilots to determine the best ways to overcome technical, regulatory and market barriers to integrate DER into our grid; installing additional community batteries for customers to enjoy virtual storage of their excess electricity for a small fee; and identifying new opportunities for households to participate in the energy market, by providing network services through an "aggregator" and receiving a payment in return.

In launching the Roadmap, the Minister for Energy, the Hon Bill Johnston MLA said that "the McGowan Government is looking at how we can improve our power system and continue to make the most of solar energy. The actions in the Roadmap will allow us to keep feeding more renewable energy into the grid for the benefit of all Western Australians."

Stephen Edwell, Chair of the Energy Transformation Taskforce, noted that "a major transformation of Western Australia's electricity sector is underway. Rooftop solar is a great source of power, but changes are needed to ensure that it helps, rather than hinders, the operation of our energy supply system. Households and businesses can help make the most of our abundant solar generation by moving some of their electricity use from the evening to the middle of the day."

Energy Policy WA, Western Power, Horizon Power, Synergy and the Australian Energy Market Operator are working together to implement this Roadmap. For further information visit brighterenergyfuture.wa.gov.au

Jai Thomas
Distributed Energy Resources Roadmap
Project Director

The DER Roadmap



Energy Transformation Taskforce

The Energy Transformation Taskforce's DER Roadmap provides an integrated set of actions designed to deliver a future where DER contributes to a safe, reliable and efficient system where all customers can enjoy the benefits of DER.

2020



Distribution Storage

Western Power PowerBank installations commence, providing opportunities for network and customer benefit whilst adding to power system stability.



Distribution Network Visibility

Distribution network visibility program commences to enhance the understanding of distribution network power flows and constraints.



Inverter Settings & Functionality

SWIS-specific autonomous inverter settings that provide better performance during disturbance events are enabled.



Customer Engagement

Customer engagement program commences on challenges and opportunities of the high-DER future.



Technology Integration

Inverter Standards
Distribution Battery Storage
Grid Response
Power System Operations
Distribution Network Visibility
Planning for EV Integration



Tariffs and Investment Signals

Tariff Pilots
DER for Tenants



DER Participation

Network Investment Process
DER Orchestration Pilot
DSO/DMO Function Set



Customer Protection and Engagement

Data
New Business Models
Customer Engagement

2021



Distribution Storage

Western Power has identified emerging network needs and has access to network storage services from the market.



Grid Response

Investment in grid support technologies (including reactors, storage and voltage control equipment) by Western Power is contributing to maintaining system stability on low demand days.



Tariff Pilots

Pilots for alternative tariff structures have commenced, demonstrating value to consumers who can move electricity use to the middle of the day.



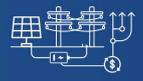
DSO/DMO

Changes to wholesale market arrangements necessary to enable the participation of DER in the WEM via a DER aggregator are introduced.



Customer Engagement

Customer engagement program continues.



Network Investment Process

An amended Access Code is providing increased opportunities for DER innovators to provide services to Western Power and receive revenue for doing so.

2022

DER Roadmap Complete

- DER is being leveraged for value across the supply chain, including to secure the network, and providing value to customers.
- Innovative business models with appropriate licensing are providing value to customers and the system as a whole, and
- The DSO and DMO are reorientating effectively to ensure customers can continue to connect their DER into the future.

2024



Distribution Storage

Distribution storage continues to be deployed under a variety of business models, and can access value across the supply chain.



DSO/DMO

DSO and DMO goes live in the SWIS, with DER able to respond to meet network needs as well as be dispatched into the WEM, and be compensated appropriately.

2023



DER Orchestration Pilot

A comprehensive VPP technology and market participation pilot has tested the incorporation of aggregated DER into the WEM (including market dispatch and settlement arrangements).



Inverter Settings & Functionality

Communications-linked inverter standards are enabled, providing for DER orchestration and the capability to participate in multiple markets.

As a customer I can



Energy Transformation Taskforce



Self consume

I consume what I generate & export excess energy for REB payments.



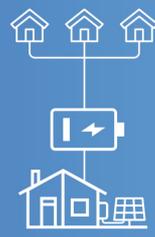
Self consume with own battery

I consume what I generate & store excess energy at home for later use.



Provide network support passively

My inverter settings automatically support the network.



Self consume with grid connected battery

I consume what I generate & export excess energy to a grid connected battery for later use.



Provide services to the network

Through my aggregator, I actively provide network services to the DSO and I am compensated for this.



Participate in the Wholesale Market

Through an aggregator, I participate in energy markets via the market operator.



Provide services to a new Distribution Market

Through local aggregation, I participate in a distribution system market via the market operator.



Share excess with others

I trade my excess energy via the market operator.

THINGS I CAN DO NOW

THINGS THE DER ROADMAP WILL ALLOW ME TO DO

THINGS I CAN DO IN THE FUTURE

Customer DER will participate more actively in the energy chain. In the majority of cases, this will be delivered via an aggregator. Customers will have simple "set and forget" arrangements with their aggregator who in turn orchestrates the DER and monetises the services.

Daniel Sherifi: Youth Engagement Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Edmund Rice Centre WA (ERCWA) has provided sporting activities for young people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) and newly arrived Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) backgrounds since 1999. Our programs use sport and leadership as vehicles for personal and professional development while providing opportunities for youth to develop leadership skills and become active and engaged members of society.

CaLD, Aboriginal and low socioeconomic status youth face many well-documented barriers from entry into mainstream pathways. In the case of sporting development opportunities, these include but are not limited to cost, transport, lack of cultural awareness, and lack of parental and family support. Our sports programs directly address and overcome the barriers these young people face, primarily through the delivery of free, long-term programs that offer participants development opportunities that place them on par with their more affluent peers. Participants are often supported within a program until they are mature enough and financially capable of pursuing their development pathway independently.



As COVID-19 continues to increase globally, younger people are perhaps more immune from its most severe impacts. However, uncertain times have had an unprecedented effect on many aspects of their lives, including schooling and



other extracurricular activities. Amid the current chaos where many people are stuck at home, our young people are also experiencing boredom and unhealthy levels of screen time. Given the struggles of today and the new norm young people are having to adjust to, it is more important than ever before to deliver tailored services and continue engaging with young people proactively.

While the Coronavirus has had a devastating impact and brought enormous levels of global uncertainty, it has also created opportunities for us to be innovative and try out new ideas we never thought were possible. Not only has ERCWA completely transitioned to working from home, we are also dedicated to continuing service delivery and engaging with our cohort from a virtual environment. A component of our Youth Programs, including the Developing Community Leaders Initiative youth mentoring program and our Youth Leadership Development Programs, have already transitioned fully online, and this has proved very effective. Our sports programs are scheduled to transition online in late April and our staff have been proactively preparing for this. While the extent and longevity of the virus are unknown, we are embracing alternative means of service delivery for at least six months.

Daniel Sherifi
Edmund Rice Centre WA Youth Programs Coordinator

Aisha Parker: Passionate UNAANA Volunteer



In 2018, I was fortunate enough to join the UNAANA as a SDG Business Forum member. Since then, I have learnt significantly about event organisation, web-design, community engagement and helping to solve global issues. I'm now fortunate enough to be the current Chief of Communications and the Vice Chair of the SDG Business Forum.

My interest in working with the UNAANA first came from my passion for modern history, international relations, peace and security issues. This passion was fostered throughout both my Undergraduate and Postgraduate studies. My Postgraduate thesis is focused upon energy security in the oil and gas industry as well as its impact on national security. I chose this topic because I was incredibly interested in how globalisation, geopolitics and warfare impacts energy security around the world. Access to energy resources is often taken for granted in many Western countries. However, without it we wouldn't recognise our homeland and our global threat landscape would change considerably.

My third volunteering role involves writing global security articles and compiling statistics for academics as the Regional Advisor for APAC. This has provided me with an opportunity to expand my knowledge and improve my professional writing. Throughout my varied volunteer work over the past four years, I've become incredibly passionate about volunteering. This is because I believe it provides the individual with the opportunity to learn new skills, work collaboratively in a team and network with other organisations. It is also allows us to help and connect with wider communities.

Working with this organisation has helped my personal growth immensely and I'm very grateful for the friendships that I have made. I'm especially grateful to Dr Sandy Chong and the SDG Business Forum for being a wonderful team to be a part of. Learning about the SDGs has shown me that integrating the SDGs can have a significant impact on our collective future. It has also filled me with an incredible hunger to work to improve the current societal and environmental issues of this world.

Aisha Parker
UNAANA Chief of Communications
SDG Business Forum Vice Chair

UN Observances

May

- 2. World Tuna Day
- 3. World Press Freedom Day
- 8-9. Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During WWII
- 9. World Migratory Bird Day
- 15. International Day of Families
- 16. International Day of Living Together in Peace
- 16. International Day of Light
- 17. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
- 20. World Bee Day
- 21. International Tea Day
- 22. International Day for Biological Diversity
- 23. International Day to End Obstetric Fistula
- 29. International Day of UN Peacekeepers

June

- 1. Global Day of Parents
- 3. World Bicycle Day
- 4. International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- 5. World Environment Day
- 5. International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
- 7. World Food Safety Day
- 8. World Oceans Day
- 12. World Day Against Child Labour
- 13. International Albinism Awareness Day
- 14. World Blood Donor Day
- 15. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- 16. International Day of Family Remittances
- 17. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
- 18. Sustainable Gastronomy Day

June

- 19. International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
- 20. World Refugee Day
- 21. International Day of Yoga
- 21. International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice
- 23. UN Public Service Day
- 25. Day of the Seafarer
- 26. International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- 26. UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
- 27. Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day
- 29. International Day of the Tropics
- 30. International Asteroid Day
- 30. International Day of Parliamentarism

Upcoming Events



United Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division

SAVE THE DATE 75TH UN DAY ANNIVERSARY

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

Registration opens 1st September 2020

CONTACT: 9221 7020 or office@unaa-wa.org.au

23TH
OCT 2020

6 - 8.30 PM

Virtual
Event



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