



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division



UN Matters

January – March 2025



Mayor of City of Melville Katy Mair and Sam Lim MP at NAARI Event



UNAAWA Members at the UWA Enviro Fest 2025



Chair of SDG Forum Dr Sandy Chong and Former President of WA Legislative Council Hon. Kate Doust MLA and First Nations students at Soroptimist IWD Event

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Chief Editor: Amorith Tan

From the President

The UNAABA started 2025 with much to look forward to. Our Executive committee met in February and continue our plans for events over this year.

It always heartens me to reflect upon the quality of the people whom I serve alongside with, all of whom altruistically set aside their precious time and effort to do good for society.

2025 will see continuance and expansion of the UNAABA's engagement for matters on Human Rights, Environment, Gender Equality, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Young Professionals, with events to be announced as they approach, continuing their efforts to build bonds and foster long-term relationships.

As we follow the news, we see conflict, international tension, deterioration of climate and with human rights being negatively affected. Distressing as these developments are, the UNAABA works to counter these trends by establishing multilateralism, to build bonds and foster long-term bonds based on mutual respect and understanding.

These events go a long way to show that no matter how different we may all be, we share far more in common than what divides us. Respect, understanding and acceptance is universally understood. Though our efforts at these events may seem small, the principles we seek establish are universal, and much larger. It is through such efforts that misunderstanding and causes of conflict may be alleviated.

On 22 February, I attended the 2025 WA Celebration of the first ICH Spring Festival Temple Fair & Gala. The event was jointly organised by the Australian Chinese Women's Federation Inc, Australian Central China Association, Cockburn Chinese Community Association, and the Western Australia Zhejiang Association. with participation and cultural performances by groups from India, Bhutan, Vietnam, and Malaysia. More than 700 people attended this celebration, and I was honoured to present awards at the event.

On 15 March, I attended an event organised by the Bhutanese Chamber of Commerce. The event was presented to support and introduce "The Messenger" i.e. Jamyang Wangchuk, to the Western Australian community. For the past 3 years, Jamyang Wangchuk, a Bhutanese filmmaker, adventurer and an environmental advocate, has been collecting Himalayan glacier ice water from Bhutan, Nepal & India to bring attention to the dying glaciers. Jamyang will be biking from WA to Canberra, and at the Australian Parliament House, he will read out letters written by the

children of Bhutan. I was honoured to meet Jamyang Wangchuk, and to see the Bhutanese cultural performances.

On 25 March, I attended the commemoration of the National Day of Greece, hosted the Consul of Greece in Perth Mrs Eleni Georgopoulou and her husband. In attendance were consuls, Members of Parliament and local government, representatives from government departments and many from the Greek community in WA. The cultural performances were excellent, and I was struck by how enthusiastic many were about the mission of the UN, regardless of their background or profession.

On 28 March, I attend the 15th Anniversary of the Western Australia Zhejiang Association and the 38th Anniversary of the WA-Zhejiang Sister-State Relationship Gala. The theme of this year's celebration was "A Legacy of Friendship and Growth" to highlight the shared achievements and close ties that have strengthened our communities. The Vice-Consul from the Chinese Consulate, Mr Liu Haitao attended along with Geoff Baker, Member for South Perth, amongst others. I was very proud that the President of the WA-Zhejiang Association is Lucia Chen, our UN Day Chair, and I was impressed by her achievements.

On 30 March, I attended the NAARI event organised by the Indian Society of WA to commemorate International Women's Day. The event saw speeches on the contribution of women in the Indian and other communities, and talks by Rebecca Ruiz Prinz on Plastic-Free July, cricketer Bhavi Devchand on women in sport and a presenter on her lived experience on domestic violence. I was heartened how community associations are raising awareness and working together to overcome these issues for the benefit of all, not just their communities. The event organiser was Mansi Zaveri from the UNAABA Environment Committee, and I was impressed her achievements.

All the events I attended saw communities getting together and inviting people from other communities to join them in celebration, and this is what makes all these events so special.

The UNAABA seeks to do a greater good for society, and for this purpose, we each volunteer our time and effort and work to achieve those goals. This is the spirit the UNAABA seeks to develop and build - to Inform, Inspire and Engage, for the betterment of all.

Randhir Amoganathan
President of the UNAABA

UNAAWA at the UWA Enviro Fest 2025

On the 11th of March 2025, the UNAAWA Young Professionals Committee participated in the Enviro Fest at the University of Western Australia's Crawley Campus. Hosted by the Environment Department of the UWA Student Guild, the festival aimed to promote environmental initiatives and raise awareness about pressing ecological issues. The event gathered multiple organisations advocating for causes such as wildlife conservation, ocean safety and sustainable waste management.



The festival featured engaging discussions that saw the protection of endangered species like the orangutans, the rehabilitation of wildlife and the significance of sustainability as the focal point. The United Nations Young Professionals team took the opportunity to engage with students, highlighting

the United Nations' commitment to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and encouraging youth participation in global sustainability efforts.

It was inspiring to witness the enthusiasm and dedication of students and organisations working together, striving for a better future. The United Nations Association of Western Australia extends gratitude to the UWA Student Guild's Enviro Department for organising such an impactful initiative. We look forward to future events that continue fostering dialogue and action towards a sustainable world.



Garima Chopra
Young Professionals Communications Lead



UNAAWA Human Rights Convenor Attends Operation Goldilocks Screening: A Call to Action against Child Trafficking

On March 5, 2025, Charlotte Moss, the Human Rights Convenor for the United Nations Association of Australia, Western Australia (UNAA WA), attended a private screening of "Operation Goldilocks," hosted by the non-profit organization Destiny Rescue. The event aimed to raise awareness about the pressing issue of child trafficking, particularly in Southeast Asia, where countless children are exploited for labor and sexual purposes. This screening served not only as a platform to showcase the film but also as a rallying point for advocates, policymakers, and the general public to engage with this critical humanitarian crisis.



Child trafficking is a rampant issue that transcends borders and threatens the future of vulnerable populations, especially in impoverished regions. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, records a 25 per cent increase in the number of trafficking victims detected globally in 2022 compared to 2019 pre-pandemic figures. This shocking statistic underscores the need for immediate and concerted action to combat such a grave violation of human rights. "Operation Goldilocks" seeks to shed light on these harsh realities through a fictional narrative that poignantly

portrays the experiences of child victims and the challenges faced by those working to rescue and rehabilitate them.

Charlotte Moss's presence at the screening highlights the significance of this issue. As a human rights advocate, Moss understands that awareness is the first step toward action. She remarked, "Events like these are crucial for educating the public and rallying support for initiatives that combat trafficking. It is a collective responsibility to ensure that every child is protected and given a chance at a life free from exploitation." Moss' insights emphasize the importance of uniting various sectors—government, NGOs, and local communities—to create a multifaceted approach in addressing human trafficking.

While raising awareness is vital, it is equally important to translate that awareness into meaningful action. The film and the discussions that followed the screening sparked vital conversations about the ways both individuals and organizations can support Destiny Rescue in their efforts. In 2024 alone, Destiny Rescue has successfully rescued 1,876 children worldwide from the horrors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Many survivors, once rescued, dedicate their lives to helping others and inspiring positive change within their communities. Furthermore, these rescue operations have led to the apprehension of 288 perpetrators involved in trafficking and abuse, underscoring the significant impact of collective action in the fight against these heinous crimes.

In conclusion, Charlotte Moss's attendance at the private screening of "Operation Goldilocks" by Destiny Rescue is a critical reminder of the ongoing fight

against child trafficking. While the film serves to raise awareness, it is essential that we move beyond discussions to implement proactive measures. By fostering collaboration among all sectors of society and focusing on prevention strategies, we can create a future where children are safe from exploitation. Every effort

counts in this fight for human rights, and we must all play our part in ensuring that our collective voice leads to meaningful change.

Charlotte Moss
Human Rights Convenor

Gender Equality Committee: Applications and Updates

Young Women Leadership Program 2025 – Applications Open!

Over the past two months, the Gender Equality Committee has been preparing for our flagship event, the **2025 Young Women Leadership Program**, which will take place on **May 10th and 11th**. This initiative empowers young women in Years 10–12 through leadership development, career pathways, sustainability, and, for the first time this year, STEM exposure.

Applications are now open! If you're interested in participating or know someone who would benefit, please reach out to us at gender.equality@unaa-wa.org.au.

Committee Updates & Sponsorship Opportunities

We're excited to announce that the UNAOWA Gender Equality Committee website has been updated! For those interested in our activities or potential sponsorship opportunities, we welcome you to connect with us on **LinkedIn**. Your support helps us continue our mission of advancing gender equality.

A Heartfelt Thank You

On behalf of the Gender Equality Committee, we extend our sincere gratitude to our speakers and sponsors for their ongoing support in empowering young women and girls. We look forward to hosting the 2025 Young Women Leadership Program and sharing its most inspiring moments in the next newsletter. Stay tuned!

Dr Shuang Li
Gender Equality Convenor

UNAOWA's Week at the First Perth Space Conference – Highlighting Our Achievements in Advancing Space and Sustainability

At the end of November, I had the incredible opportunity to attend and speak at the first-ever space conference in Perth, hosted by APRSAF & IPSEC at Crown

Towers. This milestone event brought together leaders, innovators, and enthusiasts from across the globe to explore the possibilities of space and sustainability.

On Monday, I joined the international delegate meeting hosted by Invest & Trade Western Australia – a

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

fantastic kickoff to a week full of learning and networking. The discussion panel with, James Yuen, Rebecca Brown and Gary Hale, from JTSI and NRAS at Curtin University was a way to start the week giving us perspectives of WA and the space industry.

On Tuesday, I was honoured to be invited as a speaker, representing UNAAWA to discuss the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Space 2030 Agenda. I also touched on my dissertation topic, exploring the Jurisdictional Gaps of Suborbital Space and their link to the SDGs.

In addition meeting and learning from inspiring astronauts Katherine Bennell-Pegg and Shawna Pandya was truly a highlight – what an absolute honour!



Wednesday brought more memorable moments: a beautiful Thanksgiving dinner with AmCham featuring

insights from NASA speakers, while some of our volunteers enjoyed a stunning stargazing evening at the Perth Observatory.

On Thursday, the conference wrapped up with a spectacular closing celebration. Inspiring speeches, including those by Hon Stephen Dawson and Enrico Palermo, Head of the Australian Space Agency, and awe-inspiring performances made for an unforgettable evening.

I am incredibly grateful to Amorith, Ben, Bradley, and Gaby for their support, dedication, and expertise throughout the conference. The UNAAWA volunteers played an essential role – helping at the booth, supporting my presentation, and engaging in valuable networking across their areas of expertise.

Thank you to IPSEC for this amazing opportunity to collaborate and to be invited as a speaker. It was fantastic to connect with so many passionate professionals in the space sector – locally, nationally, and internationally.

The future of space is bright, and I'm excited to see how we can continue advancing the SDGs through initiatives like the **Space 2030 Agenda**.

Our Key Highlights:

Building International Connections

The week began with the International Delegate Meeting, hosted by Invest & Trade Western Australia, where discussions with key figures like James Yuen, Rebecca Brown, and Gary Hale from JTSI and NRAS at Curtin University showcased Western Australia's growing role in the space industry. This set the stage for valuable collaborations and insights for our members.

UNAAWA on the Global Stage

On Tuesday, UNAAWA Vice President for Membership, Melanye, represented the association as an in-

vited speaker, presenting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Space 2030 Agenda. Her presentation also introduced her master's research on Jurisdictional Gaps in Suborbital Space and their connection to the SDGs.

Melanye shared, "It was an honour to represent UNAABA and contribute to the global dialogue on how space exploration can advance the SDGs. Meeting astronauts like Katherine Bennell-Pegg and Shawna Pandya was truly inspiring!"

Engaging Community Volunteers

UNAABA volunteers, including Amorith, Ben, Bradley, and Gaby, played a vital role throughout the week. From managing our booth and supporting presentations to networking with industry professionals, they demonstrated the incredible value our members bring to such events.

Memorable Experiences

Thanksgiving Dinner with AmCham: Members had the opportunity to hear from NASA speakers, gaining new perspectives on international space exploration efforts.

Stargazing at Perth Observatory: A magical evening for our volunteers, exploring the night skies and connecting with astronomy enthusiasts.

Closing Celebration: The week concluded with inspiring speeches from figures like Hon Stephen Dawson and Enrico Palermo, along with outstanding performances celebrating the achievements of the space sector.

Forging New Partnerships

This conference also marked the beginning of an exciting partnership between UNAABA and IPSEC, initiated by Melanye. This collaboration opens doors for future initiatives in space and sustainability, aligning

with our commitment to advancing the UN SDGs and contributing to the Space 2030 Agenda.

Melanye expressed her gratitude, stating, "This partnership reflects the collective dedication of UNAABA's members to making a global impact. It's thrilling to see how our efforts resonate both locally and internationally."



Thank You to Our Members

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this event. Your passion and commitment to UNAABA's mission continue to inspire and propel us forward.

As we reflect on this incredible week, we're reminded of the power of collaboration and the boundless possibilities of the space sector. Together, we're paving the way for a brighter, sustainable future.

Stay Connected

Keep an eye on upcoming events and opportunities to engage in 2024 as we continue to lead initiatives in space, sustainability, and the SDGs.

Menalye Wawrik
UNAABA Vice President

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

UNAAWA at WA 2025 Spring Festival Celebrating the Lunar New Year

On February 22, 2025, UNAAWA members gathered at the WA 2025 Spring Festival in Booragoon to celebrate the Lunar New Year in a vibrant and festive atmosphere. The event, which welcomed the community with cultural performances, traditional foods, and family-friendly activities, was a wonderful opportunity to engage with and support local multicultural celebrations.

UNAAWA President Randhir, past president Dr. Sandy Chong, and Vice President for Strategy Lucia Chen were among the attendees, supporting the cultural event and the community, and promoting diversity and inclusion in Western Australia. Their participation underscored the importance of cultural exchange and mutual respect in fostering a stronger, united community.

The Spring Festival was a fantastic start to the year, marking a celebration of tradition and community spirit that aligns with UNAAWA's values of social harmony and global citizenship.

Amorith Tan
UNAAWA Chief Editor



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

Celebrating International Women's Day with Soroptimist International in WA

Over the past week, Chair of the UNAOWA SDG Forum, Dr Sandy Chong, had the opportunity to speak at multiple International Women's Day events, each highlighting the role of women in shaping the future of technology, trade, and innovation. From Sydney with the Tech Council of Australia, to Women in STEMM at CERI, and, most notably, Soroptimist International, the conversations were thought-provoking, insightful, and deeply necessary.



As AI and digital transformation reshape industries, it's important that women are engaged in these conversations—not just as participants, but as leaders, creators, and decision-makers. Whether in AI governance, trade, or STEMM entrepreneurship, diverse perspectives bring fresh ideas and ensure technology serves society in meaningful ways.

Well-attended by 120 guests including members of Soroptimist International and young girls from local high schools, some of the key themes highlighted by Dr Chong include:

- Women are instrumental in driving innovation – When diverse voices shape technology, solutions that reflect the needs of a broader society can then be created
- Digital transformation is an evolving journey – AI and emerging technologies are changing how we work and live. Ensuring they reflect real-world diversity is a shared responsibility.
- Empowerment leads to meaningful impact – When women have access to opportunities and resources, their contributions ripple across industries, economies, and communities.



According to Dr Chong, one of the most powerful take-aways from these engagements was the reminder that "we don't need to have all the answers to make an impact. Innovation is an evolving journey, and embracing imperfection is part of growth".

As we reflect on this year's International Women's Day, it is hopeful that more women will be empowered to explore, experiment, and take part in shaping the digital future so that no one is left behind.

Dea Effendi
SDG Forum Comms Coordinator

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

Community Partners

City of Melville

City of Melville's engineering team has won a highly commended in the prestigious Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) WA Awards for its clever 'giant bladder' system, diverting storm water that would previously have been wasted to practical use throughout the City.

The Evershed Sump Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Project is one of two of the City's projects to reach the finals of the awards. It won highly commended in the Excellence in Water Projects Category.

The annual IPWEA awards showcase outstanding projects in the public works and local government sectors.

City of Melville's Manager Engineering, Kimberly Brosztl, explains the Evershed Sump project aligns with the City's sustainability goals because it reduces the City's reliance on groundwater and higher quality mains drinking and instead uses the recycled water for services like tree watering, road construction, and drain cleaning.

It also reduces the amount of stormwater entering the Swan River which reduces the risk of detrimental nutrient flow into the waterway.

The water at the Evershed Sump site on Marmion Street in Myaree is collected in a giant synthetic 'bladder' with 140,000 litres storage capacity. It's treated and tested and kept in the 'bladder' until needed, in a way that's cost effective and visually unobtrusive.

Trucks can pull up and fill up water tanks quickly and efficiently, thanks to a state-of-the-art pumping system.

Local community consultation was undertaken before the sump site's transformation and beautiful murals were incorporated into the final design of the fencing enclosing the sump basin.

Comments attributed to City of Melville Mayor Katy Mair:

"This project has delivered significant community benefits and we are extremely proud to have it recognised in this way," said Mayor Mair.

"It fits perfectly into our long-term goals which emphasise sustainable use of resources, adoption of a circular economy approach optimising waste reduction and resource recovery.

"It provides an alternative water supply for various activities, reducing the strain on potable water resources.

"It enhances the local community with attractive artwork along the extensive sump fenceline depicting its many environmental benefits.

"It engaged local residents and schools in the project, promoting environmental awareness and education."



Kerry Faulkner
City of Melville Media Contact

Young Professionals Committee – Garima Chopra

Garima took her first step beyond borders when she turned fifteen, traveling to Germany on an exchange program that opened her eyes to the beauty of cultural diversity and multilateralism. That experience ignited a lifelong passion for global engagement and humanitarianism, leading her to explore fifteen countries, each shaping her understanding of people, diplomacy and the power of communication. She holds a Bachelor's in Political Science from University of Delhi and a Master's in Strategic Communications from the University of Western Australia. Garima's work is driven by a profound belief in making a difference. She has volunteered with global organisations in Poland

on the Sustainable Development Goals and has mentored underprivileged children in India. Armed with expertise in digital marketing, public relations and advocacy, she aspires to contribute to international organisations to help drive meaningful change on a global scale.



Young Professionals Committee – Syafiq Azman

Syafiq has always been passionate about building connections and fostering community growth. During his university years, he took on various leadership roles and actively contributed to student-led and not-for-profit organisations, driven by his desire to make a positive impact.



Since graduating, Syafiq has continued to grow personally and professionally. He now

works as a Business Analyst with expertise in customer experience, business performance, operations, and commercial functions. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Economics and Marketing and has further enhanced his skills by completing a Master of Business Analytics.

Having grown up in a developing country, specifically underdeveloped communities, Syafiq is deeply committed to giving back to the community and advocating for equality. He is now a strong believer in and advocate of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aligning with his vision of ensuring equality in essential areas such as education, housing, food, and other basic needs to create a fair and inclusive future for all.

Young Professionals Committee – Jingyi Chen

Jingyi Chen is an optometrist, lecturer and PhD candidate at the University of Australia. Jingyi is passionate about equitable health care, gender equality and education. She currently works at a UWA and Lions Eye Institute collaborative clinic that provides eye care services to refugees, asylum seekers, and First Nations Peoples. Her research interests are centred around education, improving access to healthcare, and developing sustainable healthcare models. Her Doctor of Philosophy project has a focus on rural and remote eye care, including the provision of culturally safe eye care for First Nations Peoples.

As a volunteer committee of management member for Equal Health, Jingyi works with community agencies partners and healthcare clinicians to organise overseas aid trips to provide healthcare free of charge to communities in need. Jingyi is committed to contributing towards efforts to realise the SDGs through her personal, professional and volunteer activities.



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Upcoming Events



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Path to 2030: Youth Fireside Chat on Education, Careers and SDGs

5:30 pm 9th April

UWA EZONE Central 105

Catering provided

Click [here](#) to register



Upcoming Events



The United Nations Association of Australia, WA Division (UNAAWA) Gender Equality Committee presents the 2025 Young Women's Leadership Development Program, a transformative two-day experience designed to equip young women (Years 10-12) with the confidence, knowledge, and skills to become future leaders.

WHY ATTEND?

This immersive program blends leadership development with cutting-edge topics such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Sustainability, and Net Zero. Participants will engage with inspiring mentors, academic and industry experts, and community leaders in workshops, discussions, and hands-on activities that will shape their future leadership journey.

WHAT YOU WILL GAIN FROM THIS PROGRAM?

- ✓ Leadership & communication workshops to build confidence and resilience
- ✓ AI & STEM panel discussions: How technology shapes the future
- ✓ Sustainability & Net Zero: The role of youth in driving change
- ✓ Career exploration & networking with leading professionals
- ✓ Hands-on learning experiences in advocacy, finance, and personal growth

LEAD THE FUTURE IN A CHANGING WORLD

As global challenges evolve, young leaders must be prepared to navigate and drive solutions in areas like AI and sustainability. This program helps participants develop a growth mindset, problem-solving abilities, and a passion for innovation and change.

TRANSFORM YOUR FUTURE:

83.3% of past participants were highly satisfied with the program.

75% gained key insights into leadership, resilience & personal growth.

80% found the activities and discussions highly engaging and inspiring.

DATES: Saturday, 10th May & Sunday, 11th May 2025

VENUE: TBA

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!

Participation in the program is free of charge but spaces are limited. To secure your place, email us at: gender.equality@unaa-wa.org.au briefly outlining your interest in the program by Sunday 6th April 2025. Students can self-nominate or be nominated by a teacher, parent, friend, or other contact. Parental consent required for participation.

UN Observances

April

2: World Autism Awareness Day
4: International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
5: International Day of Conscience
6: International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
7: International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda
7: World Health Day
12: International Day of Human Space Flight
14: World Chagas Disease Day
20: Chinese Language Day
21: World Creativity and Innovation Day
22: International Mother Earth Day
23: World Book and Copyright Day
23: English Language Day
23: Spanish Language Day
24: International Girls in ICT Day
24-30: World Immunization Week
24: International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace
25: World Malaria Day
25: International Delegate's Day
26: International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day
26: World Intellectual Property Day
28: World Day for Safety and Health at Work
30: International Jazz Day

May

2: World Tuna Day
3: World Press Freedom Day
5: World Portuguese Language Day
8: Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War
10: International Day of Argania
10: World Migratory Bird Day
12: International Day of Plant Health
12: Vesak, the Day of the Full Moon
15: International Day of Families
15: UN Global Road Safety Week
16: International Day of Living Together in Peace
16: International Day of Light
17: World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
19: World Fair Play Day
20: World Bee Day
21: International Tea Day
21: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
22: International Day for Biological Diversity
23: International Day to End Obstetric Fistula
24: International Day of the Markhor
25: World Football Day
25-31: Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories
29: International Day of UN Peacekeepers
30: International Day of Potato
31: World No-Tobacco Day



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