



**United Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division**



UN Matters July-August 2020



Photos (L to R): SDG Forum on Accelerating Innovation & SDGs; Partnership with the Perth Rotary Club

Inside This Issue:

From the President	2
Virtual Events	3
STEM Enterprise Workshop	6
SDG Business Forum	7
Environment Committee	9
The Valuing Children Initiative	10
Partnership with Rotary Club Perth	12
Special Editorial	13
Member's Corner	15
Important Announcements	18



Chief Editor: Amorith Tan

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From the President

I hope this month finds all of you feeling better and able to face the second half of this challenging year with more hope and positivity. I know fully well that these past few months have been incredibly hard for all of us, and this has been reflected in the kinds of events and activities we've been able to hold at the UNAAWA.

One of the things that has given me hope during this period is the many interactions I have had with many of you, with our team at the Executive Committee, and with our many partners. Your response to the virtual events we have held and your enthusiasm for more of them has reinforced our belief that it is more important than ever that we continue to learn and practice solidarity and kindness.

With the Black Lives Matters protests having taken on a new and larger impact around the world after the killing of George Floyd in late May, marches have been organized in WA in the months since, and the issue of systemic racism here in Australia is being explored. The interview with Nyoongar Elder Ben Taylor inspired us with his story of overcoming injustices and gaining hope for Indigenous lives in Australia. On the same subject of discrimination due to the rise of anti-Asian sentiment as a result of the pandemic, we secured an interview with the Australian Race Discrimination Commissioner, Mr Chin Tan, to shed light on the issue.

I am also very excited to announce to all of you that we welcome a new and one of the most diverse Human Rights committees in the history of our association. This amazing team is made up of Australians from Indigenous, Nigerian, Malaysian Indian, Singaporean Chinese, Filipino/Czech and French backgrounds, and I can't wait to see what kind of events and actions they have in store for us.

Come join us and say hi at our upcoming "Networking for Change" Sundowner at the Duxton Hotel on the 8th of September. Meet people who are passionate about human rights, international relations, the environment, or gender equality. We would also be raising funds for LifeLine, an

organisation that helps suicide prevention for those who are vulnerable during this time of crisis.

Our UN Day organising team is working hard to bring you the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations Day on the 23rd of October at the Duxton Hotel. Join us in commemorating this significant milestone and giving recognition to our local champions who have made contributions in Human Rights, Environment, Gender Equality, and Education.

I know that here in Australia the pandemic is still ravaging parts of our beautiful country, so I urge you all to look after yourselves and each other, to stay safe and be kind. Thank you for everything you've done for the UNAAWA and for the community, and rest assured that I am in awe of your commitment to our cause, because everything we do is only possible thanks to the tireless work of all our members, supporters and volunteers.

I'd like to end by once again welcoming our newest members who've joined us since our last newsletter. I look forward to meeting you virtually or in person at one of our upcoming events, and assure you that you too have a role to play in advocating for the United Nations, for the SDGs, and for a better world. I invite you to reach out if you have any suggestions for activities we should be organizing or supporting, by contacting me at wapres@unaa.org.au.

Dr Sandy Chong
UNAAWA President



Dr Sandy Chong and the newly formed, proud Human Rights Committee Members and Convener.

Interview with ILO - Impact on Work in COVID-19 Crisis

In June, UNAAWA President Sandy Chong interviewed fellow Australian Sher Verick, head of the Employment Strategies for Youth and Inclusive Transformation unit at the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN Agency for the World of Work. The purpose of the discussion was to understand the current state of the COVID-19 employment crisis around the world, in an effort to put into context some of the recent developments in Australia.

The news was not optimistic. Sher said that the health crisis had developed into an economic crisis which had resulted in catastrophic losses in the labour market. ILO research suggested that working hours around the world had fallen by 10.7% around the world, which was the equivalent of 305 million full-time jobs. Since that interview, working hour losses for the second quarter of 2020 are estimated to have reached 14% worldwide, meaning that some 400 million full-time jobs had been lost, the greatest loss in living memory.

Sher said that this crisis was affecting different sectors and industries differently compared to previous crises, such as the service sectors and tourism which were devastated by lockdown measures. He also mentioned that the crisis is disproportionately affecting women workers, and that the world is at risk of losing some of the gains made in recent decades. For example, the increased burden of unpaid care brought about by lockdown measures have affected women more than men, and that women's employment has been at greater risk than men's, owing to the impact of the downturn on the service sector.

At the same time, ILO and WHO figures showed that women account for a large proportion of workers in front-line occupations, especially in the health and social care sectors, where women make up about 70% of the workers. So at the very least, this shows how critical women workers are in combatting the pandemic.

Another at-risk group are young people, which could lead to the emergence of what the ILO was



calling a “lockdown generation” which could be scarred for decades to come. A total of 178 million young workers around the world were working in hard-hit sectors when the crisis began, and 328 million of the world's young workers were in informal jobs with no benefits or social protections, so job losses had devastated them.

Overall, the discussion was a sobering and eye-opening introduction to the scale of the disaster around the world. But throughout the interview there was nonetheless a sense of hope that there are things that can be done to overcome these challenges. Sher singled out Australia for their support of the UN system, and mentioned multiple times the importance of countries coming together to tackle the crisis. He said that past experiences had shown the kind of good practices which countries can adopt to emerge faster from a crisis, and that the ILO and others were working with countries around the world to provide advice, data, and policy recommendations for how to build back better.



Continued on Page 4

The conversation ended with a reaffirmation that this crisis has nonetheless shown the critical importance of a strong UN and a coherent and coordinated response of the whole multilateral system. Sher was confident that by acting together we stand a better chance of

getting through this, and that groups like the UNAA are important to build support for the UN and its work.

To watch the full interview, visit <https://youtu.be/kaggyoIRHno>.

Interview with Chin Tan: Racial Discrimination in Times of Crises

On the 15th of July, UNAAWA president Dr Sandy Chong interviewed Mr. Chin Tan, the Australian Race Discrimination Officer at the Australian Human Rights Commission, to discuss racial prejudice during the COVID-19 pandemic. Though the pandemic has brought a myriad of discrimination issues to the fore in a very short span of time, it also provides a unique snapshot of underlying issues. Thus, it offers an opportunity for society to learn lessons to reduce racial discrimination in Australia.

Some of the problems that Chin observes happening during this pandemic is the conflation of different social issues – individuals of Asian descent being discriminated against for being carriers of COVID-19 as well as for the deteriorating Australia-China relations due to political and ideological differences. This, he

notes, is an apt demonstration of the pretexts that prejudiced individuals utilize to justify discrimination.

The interview covers the complexities of systemic racism and possible solutions for it. Chin notes that assimilation does not reduce prejudice, nor does diversity automatically imply multiculturalism. In order for the former to transit into the latter, there must be a commitment to understanding the differences between cultures, and bonding rather than merely living with individuals of other cultures.



Continued on Page 5

A promotional banner for an interview. On the left is a video frame of Chin Tan, a man in a blue shirt, with the UNAAWA logo in the top left and his name 'Chin Tan' in the bottom left. The middle section is a blue graphic with the UNAAWA logo and text: 'United Nations Association of Australia WA Division', 'INTERVIEW WITH THE AUSTRALIAN RACE DISCRIMINATION COMMISSIONER', 'PREJUDICE IN TIMES OF COVID-19 CRISIS', and 'WATCH ONLINE: Facebook.com/UNAAWAInc/'. On the right is a profile photo of a man wearing glasses and a blue surgical mask, with a blue circular badge that says '15TH JULY 2020 6.00PM COMPLIMENTARY'.

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Key points to consider in combatting systemic racism:

- Victims of racism must speak out, and moral outrage in communities must be translated into action.
- It is crucial to impress upon people not what we have in common, but what makes us different.
- Any lessons that societies and institutions learn have to be passed on, so that they do not have to be relearned.

- The importance of mental wellbeing and support for victims of racism should not be overlooked.

Special thanks to Mr. Chin Tan for taking the time to participate in the interview and share your thoughts on this most important issue.

Amorith Tan To watch the full interview, visit:
UNAAWA Chief Editor <https://youtu.be/7wjTgPPx8DE>

Interview with Nyoongar Elder Ben Taylor: Discrimination against Indigenous Peoples & the Path Forward for Australia

On the 28th of June it was my honour to interview Ben Cuimermara Taylor AM, a Nyoongar Elder and Co-Chair of WA Deaths in Custody Watch Committee, shortly after the Black Lives Matter rally which took place two days before.

A well know indigenous activist from Western Australia, Uncle Ben does not come across as the 81 year old man that he is, but instead still spoke passionately and with a twinkle in his eye as he recounted the story of his life and his struggles to overcome the deep-rooted discrimination he has experienced.

He shared his sense of hope and optimism that the protests seen around the world might open the eyes of all those in Australia which too often choose to look away from the racism and discrimination which still exists today. He spoke of his childhood and the way in which his parents were treated, shamed and attacked. He spoke of his childhood in Walebing, and the impact white settlement has had on Aboriginal people, robbing them of their sense of identity and their hopes for the future.

Yet what struck me most about him was his boundless kindness. He brought tears to our eyes when he said "We want to walk with you. We have suffered... I have been there, my father had been there. "We've had a hard life." he continued, "White Australia has got a black history. We want you to know our feelings. We



Continued on Page 6

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don't hate you. Stand with us. We love you and come walk with us..."



This interview is available on <https://youtu.be/7Pe0qx7bcgs> and I urge you all to watch it and learn from Uncle Ben Taylor. I learnt a lot from him. Not just about the parts of Australia's history which is not often taught in schools, but also of the wisdom which Aboriginal Elders could share with

us. In difficult times like these, I think we all could do with a little bit of Uncle Ben's generosity and optimism, and I hope you'll find in his words as inspirational and powerful as I did.

To donate or buy the book which Uncle Ben Taylor mentioned in the video, "An Island Solution: Rottnest Reveals Our Colonial Secrets", visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/wadjemupbook>.

Dr Sandy Y L Chong
UNAANA President



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division

STEM Enterprise Workshop for WA Educators

A STEM Enterprise Workshop was held on the 21st and 24th of August at the Optus Stadium, facilitated by Innovation Unit ANZ and funded by the Department of Education together with the Department of Jobs,



Tourism, Science and Innovation. The goal of the event was to support and engage some 60 schools and over 500 educators in WA to use innovative methodologies in teaching Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) to their students, in the hope of better preparing them for the future of work.

UNAANA President Dr. Sandy Chong was invited to give an address on how enriching STEM learning

Continued on Page 7



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programs with lofty goals might contribute to some of the Sustainable Development Goals.

She took the opportunity to place the study of STEM in the context of the present moment, as we simultaneously tackle a global pandemic, rising unemployment, climate change, demographic shifts, increasing inequality, and unravelling democratic norms. She also spoke of hope and how the skills necessary to overcome all these challenges, from critical thinking to problem solving, are inherent to a STEM education.

She quoted the UN when she said that “the SDGs are an ambitious, multidimensional, and interlinked set of goals; they cannot be achieved without the effective, appropriate, and inclusive application of science, technology, and innovation.”

She also shared her own journey as a woman from a minority background studying Information Systems, a field dominated by men, and her strong belief that boosting the number of women and girls entering STEM careers is vital to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, she shared not only an exhaustive list of all the SDGs which a STEM education can contribute to (all of them!) and how they are currently doing so, but praised the tireless work of the educators who supported her and mentored her through her studies.

At the end of her talks she was approached by many of the teachers present who expressed their interests and belief in the importance of the SDGs for the further development of Australia, and of the many ways in which their students can contribute to leaving no one behind.

SDG Business Forum: Accelerating Innovation & SDGs – Post-COVID Recovery for WA

The United Nations Association of Australia WA Division (UNAAWA) held a panel discussion titled *Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure*. It was conducted on 5th August via Zoom.

The Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure explored different sectors of Western Australia’s business community and discussed the innovative techniques being used by businesses to make their way through/out of the crisis during Covid-19. The speakers for the panel discussion included: Cettina Raccuia (Capability Manager for RAC WA); Dr Marcus Tan (Founder, CEO and Medical Director at HealthEngine) and Elizabeth Brennan (Non-executive Director for Wide Open Agriculture).

President of UNAAWA & Chair of SDG Business Forum Series, Dr Sandy Chong, highlighted the purpose of the panel discussion in her introductory statement. Addressing the SDG Goals, she said, "Our aim is to advocate and educate the WA community about what we are doing in terms of promoting sustainable development goals and the ways we can achieve that."



The panel discussion highlighted the impact of the on-going setback in business and discussed as to how it will change or transform the business sector in future.

Continued on Page 8

This also mirrored the interlinked nature of the SDGs and how innovation can bring about a change in particular sectors and industries.

One of the panel speakers, Elizabeth Brennan, spoke about the challenges being faced to put forward innovative ideas into practice in the agricultural sector. "The sector has always followed an inter-generation approach. With the current challenges that we are facing with regards to climate change or global food and security, there is a need to bring a change in our approach. Because we have been following a tradition, it is hard for new ideas to be accepted; but it is also very important.

Another big challenge is the access to basic data service provision. Internet is a very important tool for business and for a lot of regional communities in Australia, it is a data desert. So, to have wonderful things like Telehealth services, they are few and far between. Access to internet is a very big challenge", she said.

Marcus Tan also spoke about the challenges in the field of medical and health care. "Bringing a change in healthcare sector is extremely challenging, largely because of its nature. There are lives at stake and so, it is very challenging to find and convince doctors to take chances, or adapt to innovative ideas because of the fear of repercussions."

While the Covid-19 has had a severe impact globally, the panel also discussed if there have been positive impacts that the panellists observed in the past few months.

Cettina Raccuia pointed out, "The power of people has been very positive. There is a sense of compassion, energy and willingness to try to contribute and help in every way that they can. Even those who don't belong to the role are willing to help in any way they could. This is not just happening at RAC, it is happening on a global level where people or communities want to do everything they can to make this time easier for themselves and for others", she said.

"The agenda for Telehealth was set for a 10-year adoption. So, the response that we were predicting in 10 years, we received in 10 days, which was very surprising. We did lose 60 per cent of our customers overnight but, as a team, we were able to pivot through and helped them get back online. It did mean putting in more hours but, we all believed in our capabilities and the circumstances only made us work better." Marcus Tan added.

To watch the full panel discussion, visit https://youtu.be/USMg_MibwFY.

Anshu Pande



UNAANA Media Assistant



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Environment Committee

Children: Mind, Wellbeing, and Nature

During the COVID-19 lockdown earlier this year, whilst we were stuck in our homes separated from the world outside, many of us may have begun to notice a yearning for nature within ourselves. This yearning stems from a strong desire to, be in, and part of, the natural environment. This deep biological desire, known as [biophilia](#), is built into our DNA, programming us to thrive when we can make a connection to nature. Perhaps, you have noticed your mood lift when you have taken a walk along the beach, or have gone for a bush walk through the dewy undergrowth and towering gumtrees on a winter's day? This is not your imagination- in fact, there is a great deal of evidence that supports the real effects on our mental health and wellbeing. It is known this exposure assists with reducing feelings of [depression](#), improving [concentration](#), and lifting our mood. It appears that being in a green, natural environment can not only alleviate existing depression and other mental health concerns, but has a possible [protective](#) effect. In children, the effects of nature are known to reduce [stress](#) and to develop [resilience](#): so much so, that doctors are now issuing '[prescriptions](#)' for [park visits](#). In times of [adversity](#), such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the

importance of children's connection to nature cannot be underestimated. The effects of this realisation of the importance of the natural environment to the mental health and wellbeing, especially of [children](#), are far reaching, even influencing how schools now [design their playgrounds](#).

On September 12, the UNAAWA Environment Committee, in conjunction with Curtin University School of Education, and Nature Play WA, will be hosting the Children: Mind, Wellbeing and Nature symposium that will look at the importance of exposure to the natural environment on children's and adolescent's mental health and wellbeing. Register your interest in this event by contacting Dr Sonja Kuzich at s.kuzich@curtin.edu.au.

Dr Sonja Kuzich
Lecturer in Education, Curtin University
Deputy Convenor – UNAAWA Environment Committee



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The Valuing Children Initiative

The Valuing Children Initiative (VCI) is a culture and attitude change advocacy project in Western Australia. It strives to ensure that children and young people are valued and are at the forefront of our minds in all aspects of our lives and decision-making. By inviting children to have a voice, to be listened to, and by prioritising their safety and growth, it seeks to raise awareness for valuing all children in our communities and champion a collaborative approach to attitudinal and behaviour change.

Why is VCI Necessary?

A population that reports high levels of child abuse, poverty, obesity, trauma, suicide, youth unemployment and children that are not developmentally ready to start school - is not a population that values children.

Principles of Change

- Participate with a child philosophy
- Understand adult value systems about children (attitudes)
- Consider social ecosystems
- Utilise evidence based approaches
- Reframe communications to include every person

VCI's Latest Campaign

The VCI's latest campaign, "Create an Australia where all children can thrive", seeks to call upon governments and the broader community to:

- Create a minister for children that focuses on children's issues and which have children at the forefront of decision making.



- Create bipartisan support in giving all children in Australia the opportunity to thrive through education, healthcare, culture, housing, community, and financial stability.
- Raise public awareness and inspiring engagement in valuing children across Australia.
- Think positively about children, and work to change the culture to give voice to children and citizens who take part.
- Create an all-inclusive recording of child wellbeing to provide early intervention that seeks to prevent rather than respond to abuses.
- Develop models and evidence based approaches that prioritise children as citizens, meeting multiple needs and positively impacting on future wellbeing.
- Advocate for children in an adult world, informing Government and Parliament on action for children, connect children and the community on needs, issues and successes by providing resources, information and events on valuing children.

To learn more about or join the initiative, visit www.valuingchildreninitiative.com.au

To support the campaign, visit <https://valuingchildreninitiative.com.au/creating-an-australia-where-all-children-can-thrive/> to download the Valuing Children messaging and raise awareness for children.

E-mail: info@valuingchildreninitiative.com.au





VALUING CHILDREN CAMPAIGN

CREATING AN AUSTRALIA WHERE ALL CHILDREN THRIVE

WHY DO WE NEED A CAMPAIGN?

1/6  **girls**
Australian children experience sexual abuse before 15 years old

1/9  **boys**


 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are overrepresented in justice and child protection systems 

Australia has the highest levels of youth unemployment in 40 years 


Children are a low priority **9/10**

 Australian children are overweight

1/6  Australian children live below the poverty line

The pandemic has negatively impacted the wellbeing of Australian children 

Australian children **20%** are not school-ready

In 2018, **21.7%** of children in prep primary were developmentally vulnerable 

65% of women experiencing domestic violence report that their children have seen or heard the violence 

Children have been described as **lazy, spoilt, selfish, fortunate and vulnerable**  

*Data references available on campaign website

Partnership with the Rotary Club of Perth & Talk Delivered by UNAAWA President

An event held at the Westin Hotel on 27th August 2020 marked an important milestone – a partnership between the Rotary Club of Perth and the United Nations Association of Western Australia (UNAAWA). This partnership shall create new opportunities and a stronger network for members of both the Rotary Club and UNAAWA as both organisations celebrate significant milestones of their own in 2020 – the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Rotary Club, and the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, which founding members included Rotarians back in 1945.

Dr. Sandy Chong, the President of UNAAWA received the Honorary Membership on behalf of the UNAAWA from Jill Dawson, President of The Rotary Club of Perth, with an induction speech given by Graham Peden, former District Governor of the Rotary Club in Western Australia. This was followed by an



From left to right: Jill Dawson, President of Perth Rotary Club; Graham Peden, former District Governor of Rotary Club; Dr Sandy Chong, President of UNAAWA; Jurgen Baumhoff, Teresa Garbo Lee, and Thijs Roos, Executive Committee Members of the UNAAWA

introduction by Jurgen Baumhoff, a representative of both organisations, before a talk given by Sandy on “Leading Nonprofits – Adapting to the Post-Pandemic Era.”



Sandy highlighted the challenges that were faced by organisations as well as individuals during the Covid-19. She spoke about concerns over job security and financial constraints and laid emphasis on establishing stability and security for all stakeholders, including members and volunteers. There is a need to take into consideration not just physical and financial wellbeing, but also ensuring the care of our mental health during this challenging time.

Other suggestions included taking a strategic approach towards leadership and focusing on future opportunities. With WA in the recovery stage from COVID-19, she spoke about necessary actions taken to overcome the loss of income which most non-profits are facing. Building a network of teams, empowering others to be a leader, and having the ability to make prompt decision were a few lessons learned over the past few months.

“I have the responsibility of leading the UNAAWA out of this crisis. I connected with other leaders of different organisations to learn and get inspiration on how to keep ours going; to ensure that we stay solvent, seeking opportunities to overcome unprecedented challenges of digital transformation, while continuing to help the community and the disadvantaged to recover from the crisis,” she said.



Continued on Page 13

Sandy shared three steps of overcoming the crisis which were 'resolve, resilience and rebound'. She also emphasized the importance of having a business continuity strategy to safeguard organisations from similar crisis in the future.

"In the last six months we have formed more partnerships than we have in the last two years. This has only been possible through identifying new priorities, adjusting to emerging needs, encouraging trial and error, embracing cognitive diversity, and most importantly, believing in everyone's potential to

be innovative. I believe in the resolution, resourcefulness and innovation of my team members."

The event was attended by more than 50 people and ended on an uplifting note with networking over drinks and nibbles. Members of both organisations are excited about the potential opportunities this partnership brings for volunteering, fundraising and expanding their social impact together in WA.

Anshu Pande
UNAAWA Media Assistant

Special Editorial

How the Global Pandemic Has Widened the Educational Inequality

Education has been hit hard by COVID-19. The UNESCO states that by the end of March 2020, more than 80% of the world's student population across 165 countries had been affected by school closures caused by the global pandemic. If there is one good thing that came out of it, it would be how the issue of educational inequality is being highlighted now more so than ever. This raises the question of how authorities can better assist vulnerable communities to cope with the changes.

Educational inequality, defined as an unequal access to education and mostly present in middle and lower income countries, is a long-standing problem. Due to social distancing measures that were brought about by the pandemic, governments mandated school closures, and many educators had to rely on technology to deliver their classes. Students who have access to appropriate technological devices and reliable bandwidth internet access found it easier to adapt to online learning whereas those who lack the

resources to do so struggled to keep up with their studies.

Furthermore, some schools do not have the necessary infrastructure to pivot to an online delivery of classes.



This is especially so in developing countries like Cambodia and Africa where resources are scarce and technology is hardly incorporated in their education system. Even if schools in these countries were to adapt to a more technological approach, educators may not be well-trained enough to conduct lessons over a learning management system (LMS).

On the other hand, those who live in more developed countries may already be familiar with blended learning which allows students to access digital

Continued on Page 14

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content resources on a web-based portal on top of their physical classes. For example, prior to the pandemic, all public secondary schools in Singapore have been using an LMS for teaching and learning since 2006.

During the pandemic, students around the world face disruptions in their learning. Studies have shown that academic disruptions can lead to decreased morale, heightened pressure to cope with independent learning and a drastic change in daily routine which are linked to a higher dropout rate. This is a cause for concern as education is a crucial aspect in contributing to economic growth, poverty reduction, as well as sustainable production and consumption. With disruptions in learning, students may find themselves experiencing higher stress levels which can cause their mental health to deteriorate.

It's important that our society maintains solidarity in difficult times and that authorities recognise the challenges that underprivileged communities are exposed to during this period of harsh conditions. Although there are no hard and fast rules, more needs to be done to ensure that these communities are not left behind. For one, mental health support and financial assistance should be made available for lower-income households. Perhaps wealthier countries can start developing ways to redistribute their resources to their more vulnerable counterparts. *After all, solidarity is not an act of charity, but mutual aid between forces fighting for the same objective.*

Jessica Nathania
UNAAWA Member



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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

Randhir Amoganathan - Convener of Human Rights Committee

"I was in London on 7 July 2005 when the terrorist attacks happened, and was only a short distance away then from the place where it occurred. I witnessed first-hand then how people pulled together to defy the divisiveness and wanton violence of what terrorism stood for, the English 'Blitz' spirit. I also saw how in other countries, similar attacks resulted in mob violence, with crowds calling for death and killings, often attacking innocent persons of the attacker's ethnicity or religion, who happen to be nearby. This planted the seed of awareness of human rights, and its

importance to protect persons. I developed a strong interest in the natural justice concepts of human rights, and its importance in the evolution of society towards becoming a better place for all. After moving to Perth, I was introduced to the UNAAWA by like-minded individuals. I am excited to have the opportunity to serve the UNAAWA and to be able to share my ideas with like-minded team-members who have the same passion to improve society, and to raise awareness of human rights in our society. I look forward to be part of the initiatives and efforts made to increase awareness and recognition of the importance of human rights in Western Australia, and indeed, all of Australia, and to make it a better place to live for everyone."

Randhir completed his Law degree in 1992 in the United Kingdom, with an MBA in 1993 at Keele University and an MSC (Econs) from the London School of Economics in 1994. He specialised in software contracts management in the UK and was an In-House Legal Counsel in Singapore. Migrating to Australia in 2008, he was admitted to the Supreme Court of Western Australia, the High Court of Australia and the High Court of New Zealand. In 2018, he founded Obvia Legal to further provide legal services in commercial and contracts, wills & estates, as well as migration & citizenship. A contract specialist since 2012, Randhir has represented clients at the Magistrates and District Court in Perth and Bunbury, and Federal Magistrates Court and Administrative Appeals Tribunal in Perth. He is currently a member of the Business Network International (BNI), a Board member of the College of Law (WA) Alumni Association, and the Secretary of the WA-Singapore Business Connect Inc. (WASBC). He is most passionate about migrant and refugees issues. In his spare time, he likes to read, especially on Greece and Rome, catch up on foreign films, and spend time with his family.



Maria Then: Agriculture Co-Lead, Environment Committee

From the time when I can remember my first thoughts, I have always been inquisitive and curious about the works of the natural environment. “Where

does food go when I swallow it?” or “Why are we recycling plastics” turned into (in the span of 20-ish years), “How do greenhouse gases affect the climate?” and “What can I personally do to make a positive change and reduce my carbon footprint on the planet?” This is exactly why I decided to study science at University, from being a lover of the outdoors ever since I can remember.



I began my studies at The University of Adelaide in 2012 completing a BSc (Honours in Geology), where my honours thesis focussed on constraining the origin of early high-heat producing (U-Th enriched) granitic magmatism in central Australia. After completing my studies, I moved to Perth to work as a Geologist in mining and exploration in consulting and owner-operated roles for 3 years.

As a strong advocate for climate change adaptation strategies, sustainable energy and environmental action, I am now undertaking a Master of Renewable Energy at Murdoch University. I am particularly interested in managing natural resources to create a more sustainable agricultural future with science-based solutions to balance industry and community needs. My long-term goal is to utilise my skills in science to help businesses, citizens and the government in making decisions that are better for the planet. I am excited to work with other like-minded individuals on the UNAAWA Environment Committee and engage with communities to create a positive public and environmental impact.

Amorith Tan: UNAAWA Chief Editor

Created in times of war to carry on a war and officially established in times of peace to keep the peace, the United Nations is, for me, an apt representation of the complexities and fragilities of diplomacy and international politics. The UN, in all its successes and failures, reflects the successes and failures of the international community in any political issue – food and water, energy, climate and the environment, inequalities – all SDG goals, and all of which could invariably linked to the interests of states and how countries act and interact with other countries. It is this link that has held great interest for me ever since I was introduced to the subject of international relations. The interactions between the implications of SDG goals and the social, cultural, political, and economic norms and demands within and between countries determine how countries will act in

addressing these goals, just as much as countries' actions determine the successes of the international community in fulfilling the SDG goals.

Consequently, understanding how the interests of countries, and various parties within countries, act in advocating for SDG goals is crucial being able to achieve SDG goals.

And so, when I was introduced to the UNAAWA, I was without qualms in joining. I am grateful to the UNAAWA for the opportunity to share my ideas on international relations.



UN Observances

September

- 5. International Day of Charity
- 7. International Day of Clear Air for Blue Skies
- 8. International Literacy Day
- 12. United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation
- 15. International Day of Democracy
- 16. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- 18. International Equal Pay Day
- 21. International Day of Peace
- 23. International Day of Sign Languages
- 24. World Maritime Day
- 26. International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
- 27. World Tourism Day
- 30. International Translation Day

October

- 1. International Day of Older Persons
- 2. International Day of Non-Violence
- 5. World Teachers' Day
- 5. World Habitat Day
- 9. World Post Day
- 10. World Mental Health Day
- 10. World Migratory Bird Day
- 11. International Day of the Girl Child
- 13. International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction
- 15. International Day of Rural Women
- 16. World Food Day
- 17. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- 20. World Statistics Day
- 24. United Nations Day
- 27. World Day for Audiovisual Heritage
- 31. World Cities Day

Important Announcements

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/children-mind-well-being-and-nature-tickets-116071156955> to register | 12 September 2020

Children: Mind, Well-being and Nature

Join us for a free online workshop for educators and industry professionals on the importance of student engagement with the natural environment and how to ease the effects of lockdown on young students.

Presented by: Dr Sonja Kuzich and guest speakers Griffin Longley, CEO of Nature Play WA, Jacqueline Reid, Chartered Development and Educational Psychologist (BPS, HCPC UK); Registered General Psychologist (APS, AHPRA) and Beth Welden, Manager of ForestLearning, an initiative of Forest and Wood Products Australia.



Make tomorrow better.

curtin.edu/pl-hub

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division

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Important Announcements



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NETWORKING FOR CHANGE

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A POSITIVE AND
MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD?

Join us for an evening of great conversation
with a network of passionate and engaged
people interested in international relations,
human rights, equality and diversity, climate
change and much more.

Tickets available at: tinyurl.com/yyz58ko4

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



8TH
SEPT 2020

5.30 - 7.30 PM

DUXTON HOTEL



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Important Announcements



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SAVE THE DATE 75TH UN DAY ANNIVERSARY

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

Registration opens 1st August 2020
<https://tinyurl.com/ycontl8r>

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

23RD
OCT 2020

6 - 8.30 PM

Duxton
Hotel

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycontl8r> to register.



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Important Announcements



Organisations Involved:

*UN Association of Australia
(WA)*

*Treetops Montessori School
Helena College*

Darlington Primary School

*The Universal Great
Brotherhood Australia
Bahai of Mundaring*

Darlington Review

Swan Harmony Singers

*St Cuthberts Anglican
Church*

Quakers

*Alternatives to Violence
Project*

*Drone kindly supplied by
Parky Pictures*

Further information: Sally Herzfeld: sallyherzfeld@ozemail.com.au Manita Beskow: mani1@inet.net.au

Websites: Peace One Day: <https://www.peaceday2020.com/events/peace-one-day/>

International Day of Peace: <https://internationaldayofpeace.org/>



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GOALS



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Important Announcements



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DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

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

WATCH ONLINE:
[Facebook.com/UNAAWAInc/](https://www.facebook.com/UNAAWAInc/)

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

**13TH
SEPT 2020**

6 - 6.30 PM

**Virtual
Event**



Watch at:

<https://www.facebook.com/UNAAWAInc/>



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