



**United Nations  
Association  
of Australia  
WA Division**



**UN Matters** April-May-June 2020



Photos (L to R): Greenbatch solving plastic waste problems in WA; SDG Forum Organising Committee members adjusting to the new normal

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**Chief Editor: Caleb Gorton**

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

# From the President

I hope this message finds you all safe, in good health and good spirits. I know this has been a trying time for all of us in Western Australia, one of the hardest in recent memory, and that the quarantine and lockdown has led to great disruptions in all of our lives.

Here at the UNAAWA we have not been immune. For very good reason, many events were cancelled or postponed to exercise duty of care for our volunteers, members and community supporters. The economic consequences of the pandemic will be with us for the foreseeable future, and we are very aware that the times ahead will be challenging for all.

That being the case, it gives me great pride to know how well our membership has risen to the occasion. Many great ideas have been presented to myself and our committees to ensure that we continue to serve the needs of our community. And as we look towards the future, I am confident that we will be able to forge a stronger and more united UNAAWA.

We have a number of virtual events lined up for you all, where we can 'meet' once again, and learn about the many underlying problems in our society as a result of the pandemic. It will take all of us coming together with solidarity and kindness if we are to overcome this crisis, but also other challenges we face; from inequality and discrimination, to climate change and poverty. We need the Sustainable Development Goals now more than ever, and our road map of events will reflect this.

In our Virtual Panel Series this month on Facebook, we cast an eye over the impact the pandemic has had in the area of human rights and gender equality in WA and Australia more broadly. Under the leadership of our Human Rights and the Gender Equality Committees, experts in law, education, and refugee and asylum seeker rights, examined the human consequences of the pandemic, the responses and what can be done to improve the situations.

There is also an online World Cafe Series that explores the impacts, risks, and opportunities that have been exposed due to the pandemic, hosted by the UN Young Professionals (UNYP). Taking place on June 9th, it examined what the world could look like post COVID-19, and what might be the lasting impacts on career opportunities, the global economy, and income inequality.

Most recently, I was invited to speak at the WALGA statewide webinar on the importance of Implementing SDGs in Local Governments. Over 150 members of

WALGA attended the event, showing that even in times of crisis there is still great interest in sustainability. I was also invited to attend a crisis support meeting hosted by Department JTSI to discuss the plight of the Indian students and migrants, and how we could support them in the current crisis.

As you all unfortunately know, the COVID-19 outbreak has led to a rise in racism and violence against Asian migrants, many of whom are working on the front line to protect us. As such a commentary was submitted upon invitation to contribute to the Human Rights x Human Responsibility project by the Museum of Freedom and Tolerance. I encourage you to learn more about this meaningful project at [www.hrxhr.org](http://www.hrxhr.org).

We have also watched in shock and consternation the protests taking place in the US as a result of the killing of George Floyd. Yet, we know that systemic racism exists in Australia as well, and the demonstrations, which have taken place here, are powerful statements in recognition of this. Black lives matter, indigenous lives matter, and it's past time we confronted this issue head on. We must do better and Australia deserves better. The UN has long stood for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, so we must add all our voices as we stand up against racial prejudice and intolerant attitudes in our society.

More details are available on our social media pages, and I urge you all to subscribe to our accounts to get the latest news on our upcoming events. I also invite you to reach out if you have any ideas for activities to support or organise with our teams at [wapres@unaa.org.au](mailto:wapres@unaa.org.au). Finally, I'd like to welcome our new members who've joined us in the past few months. I might not have been able to meet you all in person, but I can assure you that you have a role to play in advocating for the UN, for the SDGs, and for a better normal as we emerge from this pandemic.

That said, I am more than aware that we are all not out of the woods yet, and that COVID-19 is still waiting for us to let our guards down. So please look after yourselves and each other. Stay safe and be kind. Please remember that the work our organization does is only possible because of your involvement and that of our members, supporters and volunteers. So thank you and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

**Dr Sandy Chong**  
**UNAAWA President**

### UNAAWA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 1946 at that Adult Education Library on King Street in Perth, the Western Australian Division of the United Nations Association of Australia was formed.

The meeting was convened by UNAA Federal Organiser Mr R. P. Greenish. Included in those attending were members of the former League of Nations Union, present UNAA members and members of the Nedlands Wartime Patriotic Fund Committee.

The meeting was advised that membership leaflets and application forms could be obtained from the UNNWA Secretariat at 39 King Street Perth. The membership fee was £1.05 for publications and notices and £0.25 for notices only.

Whilst the UNAAWA was officially formed in November 1946, the organisation had previously made steps to become a public entity.

For example, in June 1946 the association arranged a Victory Day celebration involving 1,500 children and adults, the Nedlands Military Band, the Nedlands Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, the Nedlands Road Board and a number of consulates, including Belgium, Czechoslovakia, China, Denmark, France, Greece, Holland, Italy, Ireland, India, Yugoslavia, Norway and Russia, with some in national costumes. A group of American ex-servicemen also took part. Two thousand children received a UN badge, sweets, soft drinks and fruit. Certificates were presented for patriotic work and also to contestants in the Allied Nations Queen Competition, won by Miss Yugoslavia, Miss K. Martinovich. Mr T. W. F. Kendall presented a cheque for £50 on behalf of the UNAA to the Yugoslav War Orphans Appeal.

September 1946 was a particularly busy month for the association.

In response to a request from the South-West

Pacific Office for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, UNAAWA collected clothing for the Chinese in a house-to-house effort in Nedlands, assisted by the scouts and guides. On a much lighter note, the Women's Committee held its fortnightly card afternoon at the Windsor Theatre.

At the September meeting of the UNAA, the Honorary Secretary Mr S. Verios presented at the Nedlands Road Board Hall. His subject was the religious and wedding customs, and domestic and community life of Greek people.

Again on community matter, a debutante ball was held on 4<sup>th</sup> November on behalf of the Association at the Embassy Ballroom. Proceeds went to the association's 'treasure chest' from which donations were made to local charities.

The UN Fair at the University hockey grounds in December 1946 collected £1,865 in aid of local charities. A beauty contest was also conducted at the Fair, which also consisted of 40 stalls representing 15. Folk dancing and the Perth Highland Pipe Band were among many participants on the day.

From was started out as being a Nedlands based organisation, UNAAWA had evolved to represent the entire state, and carried on the work of its predecessor, the League of Nations Union. The Presidency was now in the hands of Mr T.F.W. Kendall.

*\*The above information was provided by The West Australian newspaper. The UNAA [WA Division] records for this period were lost as a result of water damage and no longer exist.*

**Lindsay Dorman**  
UNAAWA Member



**United Nations  
Association  
of Australia  
WA Division**

# We Are All In This Together

*An editorial piece from our President of UNAOWA invited by the Museum of Freedom & Tolerance.*

*The President shared an Asian perspective for the Human Rights x Human Responsibility project, which shed light on our collective responsibility and creative well being during this period of isolation and rebuilding.*

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." In these times of crisis with the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging much of the world, these words resound as strongly as ever.

Our current crisis is not just a health emergency, it is also an economic and social crisis. It is a human crisis that has unfortunately become a human rights crisis. Article 3 reminds us that the "right to life" should be one of the guiding principles as we seek to overcome these multiple crises and ensure no one is left behind.

The words "we are all in this together!" have been repeated countless times by countless people around the world, from political and business leaders, from parents trying to calm their frightened or frustrated children, all the way to the girls and boys who are struggling to understand why they can't go outside.

They have been repeated on the news and directed at the nurses and doctors we have looked up to in these difficult times. In fact, never before has the entire world shared such a need to work together in the common interest of all; in the interest of the right to life.

Today, our dependence on one another has never been so clear. Looking after oneself means looking out for one's neighbour. Flattening the curve, another phrase which has entered our common lexicon, is another reminder of the shared sacrifices we must make to protect each other.

Solidarity matters because our best chance for survival and recovery is to fight the coronavirus together. After all, protecting and preserving life is the primary goal of our current struggle, for without the right to life, it is impossible to exercise all our other rights and responsibilities.

As an Asian-Australian, this ideal of solidarity is one which is part of my social DNA and the way I was brought up. It is an ideal which hearkens back to the origins of Chinese philosophy. In much of Asia, the



basic ethical concept of human social relations was based on the fulfilment of the duty to one's neighbour, rather than the claiming of rights.

This idea of mutual obligation is regarded as the fundamental teaching of Confucianism, as it emphasises the importance of regarding all one's fellow women and men as having the same desires, and therefore the same rights as one would like to enjoy oneself.

By the fulfilment of mutual obligations, the infringement of the rights of the individual would be prevented. In other words, by looking after my community I am contributing to looking after myself, I am contributing to the life, liberty and security of all.

It is unfortunately little known today that one of the central figures behind the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was Peng Chun Chang, a Chinese academic, philosopher, playwright, human rights activist, and diplomat. It was he, as Vice-Chairman of the original UN Commission on Human Rights and delegate of the Republic of China that sent the final draft the General Assembly in 1948. Chang, more than any other representative on the drafting committee, stressed the importance of combining ethics and rights in the Declaration.

Chang believed that far too many people exercise their rights without much moral consideration or concern for others. He argued that the modern world could learn from Chinese philosophers because their ideas had universal validity. Both ancient Greek and Chinese philosophy began with the same assumption that people are basically social beings that thrive only when they develop virtues such as courage, justice and benevolence.

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## We Are All In This Together

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Yet, even more than the Greeks, the Chinese saw the necessity of balancing the "self-regarding" virtues such as courage, patience, and industry, with the "other-regarding" virtues of justice, generosity, and compassion, which are what hold families and society together: a very Confucian way of thinking.

These beliefs still hold true today, and our response to the COVID-19 crisis proves that. Everyone does have the right to life, liberty and security of person, and that means that we truly are all in this together. We all must do our collective part in protecting each other and in supporting each other.

We must all make sacrifices so that others do not have to make the ultimate sacrifice. Sadly, we have all seen how the virus does not discriminate,

but how its impacts do. They have exposed the deep weaknesses and structural inequalities of the world, a world that can and should be a better one.

Fighting for the right to life should motivate all of us. As all healthcare and front-line staff do every day for others all over the world, putting themselves and their loved ones at risk for us. We will overcome this crisis and we will recover. Putting our human rights and responsibilities at the centre of our recovery efforts is the only way to ensure that no one is left behind.

*Every week from 20 April 2020, Human Rights x Human Responsibilities mobilised one of our human rights. Check out the posts on their [website](#) for information, activities and to take part in this important conversation.*

**Dr Sandy Chong**  
UNAAWA President

## Update From the SDG Forum Organising Committee

The SDG Forum Committee virtually congregated on the 5 May to discuss how everyone was handling the challenging times, and how we could best serve our communities in a crisis as well as in a post-COVID world. The team reflected on the key themes that emerged during their lockdown experiences in the context of the SDGs, which formed the basis of our future event brainstorming.

The general consensus was no one felt compelled to revert 'back to normal', but rather to create a 'new normal' which priorities wellbeing, equality and responsible consumption. We also recognised how the crisis has accelerated trends that were already underway, speeding up innovation in a way. We are all excited to bring you an event about this very topic – featuring those at the forefront of innovation in Perth's business sector.

The next event will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> August digitally on "**Accelerating Innovation & SDGs: WA's Post-COVID Recovery**" (see event flyer on page 17).

We are excited about exploring new ways to engage our members online and we look forward to hosting the next SDG Forum. Stay tuned and stay in touch.

**Lily Jovic,**  
SDG Forum Organising Committee Chair



# I Changed My Mind

*This is the first of a two-part series written by UNAAWA member Harvey Davies.*

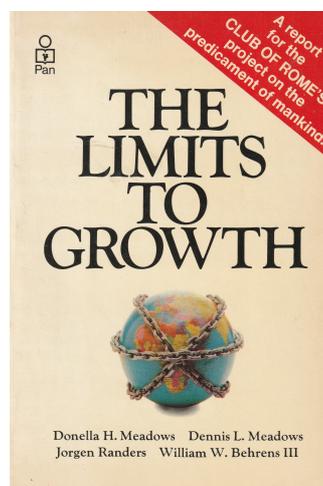
I am a scientist and I try to change my mind in accordance with evidence.

When I was seven, some children at school said, "Father Christmas is not real. Your Mum and Dad put the presents in your stocking." I decided to test this theory by staying awake, but pretending to be asleep, on Christmas Eve. I saw my mother fill my stocking, so I changed my mind about Father Christmas. I announced at Christmas Lunch "I saw Father Christmas last night". My mother got me aside after the meal and I agreed not to tell my three younger siblings.

When I was about eleven, a friend was showing me his birds and how they were having babies because he had a male and a female. This made no sense to me as I had no understanding of the part males played in reproduction. I assumed babies just started growing, without such a cause. He explained. I was so shocked I initially thought he was lying. Then I remembered watching my cousins castrating baby lambs. They had explained that this made the lambs become wethers rather than rams, but I did not understand what this had to do with producing babies. This all made sense if it was true that the testicles produced seed that the father inserted into the mother using his penis. I changed my mind about how babies came into existence.

When I was eighteen, in my second year at university, I was talking with some fellow Christians (and one non-believer) about starting a bible-study group. The non-believer said he would join provided we alternated books, the Bible one week and Bertrand Russel's "Why I'm not a Christian" the next. I thought this was a great suggestion, but it was rejected by all the Christians. I decided to read Russel's book anyway and found it made more sense than the Bible did. I remember my last prayer "God if you really are there, I cannot honestly believe in you without convincing evidence". I changed my mind about God and religion.

I had conservative political views until I was nineteen. Then the draft for the Vietnam War was introduced for 18-year-olds born in 1945 and later. I was born in 1944, but my brother and many others I knew, were called up to fight in what most of us viewed as the immoral invasion of another country. At that time, we could not vote until we were 21. I changed my mind about politics, joined in protests about the war and became a member of the Labor Party.



I also became a greenie. I was obsessed with the apocalyptic predictions, based on computer world-modelling, in the book *Limits to Growth*, published in 1972. Labor, under Whitlam, won the federal election. The new Federal Minister for the Environment visited my branch of the party and I asked him about similar world-modelling being done in Australia. He said the only such work he was aware of was at CSIRO. I decided I would apply for a job with CSIRO and attempt to get involved in this work. I did get a job with the CSIRO Division of Computing Research in Sydney, but not in their simulation group. This group had implemented the Limits to Growth model, although they were not using it for anything. Instead, I got deeply involved in the computer modelling of photo-chemical smog, which was a big problem at that time in many cities such as Sydney.

The Limits to Growth model predicted values, until 2100, of such variables as population, food, resources and pollution. It became increasingly clear, by about 1990, that these predictions were far too pessimistic. This was mainly due to the model underestimating the effect of innovation in technology.

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# I Changed My Mind

*Continued from page 7*

I realised that greenies tended to oppose innovation and downplay its significance in solving world problems. Examples were the green revolution, nuclear energy and fracking. Other problems that had been solved by innovation included:

- Photo-chemical smog, which was solved by installing catalytic converters in all new vehicles. Unleaded petrol was introduced because lead disabled these converters (not because it poisoned people, which it did!)
- Ozone hole, which was solved by changing the chemical used as a refrigerant.

I changed my mind and ceased being a greenie. I was excited when the Labor party won the 1972 election. The Whitlam government introduced major social changes. But it was weak on economic and financial matters, which were allowed to descend into chaos. My own salary was at risk. I changed my political mind and ceased to be a member of the Labor Party.

**Harvey Davies**  
UNAAWA Member

## UNAAWA Global Representative Joseph Caruso recognised in the UK for his years of invaluable charity work

Miracles celebrated its 25 years of service to those in dire need at a Celebration Dinner held at Church House Westminster in London, at which its Founder Theo Ellert was joined by the Trustees of the charity along with celebrated patrons. A particularly warm welcome was extended to Australian Patron Joseph Caruso and his lovely wife Caroline.



Joseph has been a valuable supporter of Miracles over many years, first as a Trustee with special interest in the charity's Bosnia mission. Based in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Miracles' work began in early 1993 at the height of the devastating bombings and landmines that claimed so many lives. Joseph was interested in experiencing this work first hand, which he did on many visits to our



Technologies during the Green Revolution greatly increased global food production. Photo: Charles O'Rear

staff in Mostar and to the Education and Housing Project Miracles established in 2008, which takes the poorest in society into purpose-built housing adjacent to a school. Joseph and his wife sent them a container filled with food, clothing and other home-building necessities.

Most recently his interest has turned to the Centre for Prosthesis and Psychotherapy, which Miracles has established to provide free treatment to the poor in a country plagued with landmines, which still claim many victims.

Miracles is deeply grateful to Joseph for the vital part he has played in the charity's work, which was honoured at the landmark celebrations.

*This is an edited version of a letter written by Miracles Founder Theo Ellert.*

Photo: Joseph Caruso with UNAAWA President Dr Sandy Chong & former UNAAWA Vice-President Maria Bunn.

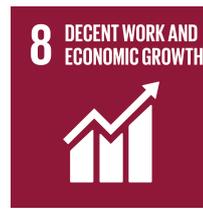
# Environment Committee

We've been extraordinarily busy over the last few months, there's no doubt there. Throughout these challenging times we have been determined to #stayconnected, upholding our commitment to support WA communities as best we can. This has been even more pertinent in the lead up to World Environment Day, where we realised the value of the natural environment and the important role it plays in our everyday lives. Earlier in the year one of our committee members attended Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare's Clean Up Australia Day 2020 Event, cleaning Trigg Beach coastal area alongside many other friendly community members. As more events are moving online, there is an overflow of opportunity to engage and learn within your area of interest from all parts of the globe! We encourage you to keep an eye on the UNAAWA Facebook page for upcoming events and ensure you engage in an online workshop or forum that interests you.

## Keep Changing the Norm #ForNature

With the unfolding events of COVID-19, these last few months have been unlike anything many of us have ever experienced. The nature of this pandemic has challenged many of our constructs and forced us to adapt to unprecedented demands to keep each other safe. Through difficult times we have shown that we can work together and change our behaviours for the better – so with World Environment Day 2020 last month in June, can we utilise this paradigm shift to challenge what is considered 'the norm' and adopt sustainable everyday practices?

In response to the pandemic and the Australian Bushfires earlier in the year, Australians have responded commendably by supporting local businesses and communities. Through its challenges, the pandemic has highlighted a number of critical areas for improvement within our ordinary procedures and industries, including sourcing locally and the necessary development of circular economies. We have witnessed more people wanting to support their neighbours and adapting their purchasing behaviours to live with less and make do with what they have.



This transition is an opportunity for us to realise SDG11: Sustainable Cities & Communities, SDG12: Sustainable Consumption & Production and SDG8: Decent Work & Economic Growth.

Australia is fortunate to be home to globally distinct ecosystems rich in biodiversity, and we are slowly learning that the importance of biodiversity and ecological structures are potentially more vital to human existence than we initially understood. Many may have heard about dolphins returning to clear canals in Venice, habitat returning to urban areas or the record low carbon emissions around the world. The shutdown of everyday facilities and changes to our routines has identified that we can have an almost instant positive impact on our natural environment. Now is the time for us to recognise how we can continue these positive impacts, and adjust what "going back to normal" means for each and every one of us. Social media has demonstrated that people want to be a part of a positive change and have already begun to challenge what is in fact normal. This experience has allowed us to recognise that we have the power to change what we put our minds to, as long as we believe in the cause.

We came together to understand and combat this pandemic, and we have worked in unity across the globe before to tackle climate change within The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Witnessing how communities have responded and maintained strength in unity, there is no doubt that we can work together and continue down a more resilient and sustainable path for our future. Before you fall back into your usual routine, ask yourself what choices you can make as an individual or company, to mitigate the irreversible impacts of climate change, now and into the future.

**Melissa Arias**  
**Environment Committee Communication Lead**

## Virtual Panel Series Part One: COVID-19 & Human Rights



UNAAWA's Part One of its Virtual Panel Series explored the impact of COVID-19 on Australia, with a focus on Human Rights. The virtual event was held on the UNAAWA Facebook page on Saturday 30 May at 6pm. The event featured Law Society of WA President Nicholas Van Hattem as Moderator, and UWA Economics Professor Anu Rammohan, Human Rights Expert and UWA Law School Director of Higher Degrees Dr Fiona McGaughey and Murdoch

University Associate Professor of Law Mary Anne Kenny as panellists.

Some of the great quotes from the panel included:

- "We have to consider **developing countries** for the security of our economy"
- "Australia's silver-lining from the **bushfire season**"
- "We are all **interconnected** ... we have to protect vulnerable groups in our community"
- "Now is an **opportunity** to protect **Human Rights**"

Thank you to all our special guests for taking the time to participate and share some of your opinions on what has been an interesting 2020 globally!

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/665752607323425/> to watch the panel event.

## Virtual Panel Series Part Two: COVID-19 & Gender Rights

On 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the Gender Equality Committee participated in Part Two of the UNAAWA's Series on COVID-19's Impact in Australia. Part 2: Gender Rights was a virtual panel discussion attended by UNAAWA Vice President and Edmund Rice Centre WA CEO Natasha Kusmuk, Curtin University BHP Alliance Manager Muza Gondwe, Corporate Psychologist and UNAAWA Gender Equality Committee Event Manager Sephy Pariente. Gender Equality Committee Chair Hannah Brown facilitated the event, which explored the ways COVID-19 has affected gender equality, both individually and on a larger, systemic scale. Split into three categories, we spoke of COVID-19's positive impacts on gender equality, the issues highlighted because of the health crisis, and the path forward to what gender equality and advocacy will look like in an uncertain world. Each panellist provided a diverse and insightful perspective informed by their own experience, which culminated in a discerning forum for discussion and debate on the impact of COVID-19 to Australian gender equality.

Special thanks again to Natasha, Muza, Sephy and Hannah for their contribution and dialogue. Be sure to watch it for free [here](#) or on the UNAAWA Facebook page for a deeper understanding of our virtual panel.



### What else has the Gender Equality Committee been doing?

June saw many of us come together in celebration of Pride Month. Although celebrations looked a little different this year with COVID-19, our team took the opportunity to be creative and utilise virtual platforms to show our support for diversity and inclusion. See the photo of us above at our June committee meeting.

What is next for the gender equality team? We will be hosting a leadership webinar series, which will premier August 2020. The series will welcome diverse insights from a range of panellists exploring gender equality and leadership. For more information please see the UNAAWA Facebook page.

**Hannah Brown**  
Gender Equality Committee Chair

# World Environment Day 2020

*This is an edited version of text published by Etkha Chaudhary on themightearth.com:*

World Environment Day 2020 was celebrated on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June. World Environment Day 2020 was focused around 'Biodiversity'. UN Environment Programme (UNEP) announced that Colombia would be hosting World Environment Day 2020 in partnership with Germany. The main focus of World Environment Day 2020 was Biodiversity.

World Environment day 2020 is widely celebrated in more than 143 countries. It is popularly being called 'People's Day' to show their care and support for the Earth and their environment. Knowing ways to protect the environment is really important, let us look in details about the objectives, themes and history of World Environment Day.

## World Environment Day 2020



### Objectives and History

World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 5 June. It is the UN's prime vehicle for encouraging awareness and action to protect our environment. World Environment Day has become a global platform for public outreach, with more than 143 countries participating annually. First organised in 1974, it has been a major campaign for environmental issues ranging from marine pollution, human overgrowth, and raising awareness about global warming, sustainable consumption, and wildlife crime.

World Environment Day can be celebrated in many ways; activities such as campaign clarification, sensitizing the locals about growing environmental conditions and suggesting ways to prevent them, organising plays, quizzes, tree plantation, lectures and kids poster competitions are all quiet popular.



*Joseph Caruso writes on 26 May 2020*

We are custodians of planet earth in which living terrestrial creatures, humans and natural habitat, environments of land, sea, air and water are ours to protect. UNEP is mandated to frame areas of focus and set risk frameworks that continue to protect and enhance the natural environments for following generations. The preceding narrative from Etkha Chaudhary advances global awareness in common simplistic language.

This weekend I will be visiting our Myalup lake side farming property adjoining Lake Preston which is blessed with a number of ecological zones, biodiversity, elevated forests, low and open paddocks, bush lands, and wetlands adorning the Yalgorup National Park and Leschanault estuaries. The Peel- Yalgorup System of ten lakes is classified as Ramsar - a UNESCO World Heritage Site, of which 65 are located throughout Australia with only eight in WA. The estuaries are further south and have an abundance of shoreline bird life and are in fact a migratory home to transiting Siberian Waders, Sea Eagles and Ospreys. I highly recommend a visit to this unique place of nature and refer to my dear friend and committed colleague Mr Tony France, a founding member of Myalup Bird Observers (MBO) on [www.myalupbirdwatches.com.au](http://www.myalupbirdwatches.com.au).

Visit Yalgorup National Park

[www.parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/yalgorup](http://www.parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/yalgorup) or [www.ramsar.org/wetlands/australia](http://www.ramsar.org/wetlands/australia). If you would like a guided tour, Tony will oblige. The Caruso Family are supporters in maintaining the unique heritage value of the Ramsar Wetlands close to our city.

Otherwise wherever you may be enjoy the presence and beauty of nature.

**Joseph Caruso**

**UNAAWA Global Representative**

## The New Normal Part One: Questions to Answer

*The is the first of a two-part series exploring life after COVID-19 written by former Football West employee Gordan Duus.*

The new normal constitutes a great time to notice the trivial, reconnect with basic pleasures, and reset. While reset appears inevitable, it will bring opportunities and dangers we need to be aware of.

Recently, enjoying a park bench midway through exercise, I discovered unprecedented appreciation of the hum from children's laughter, playful dogs with families, whistles and encouragement within team training, all warming and familiar to me in my line of work. Being completely devoid of these, the park experience struck me as somber, empty and possibly akin to wartime.

Once novel metamorphoses into the new normal social settings, many important questions will arise, including some borne out of seemingly secondary but potentially crucial considerations. There may be only small and few windows for us to recognise and address such areas of immense risk.

My work before recent advents focused on the margins of society being engaged in a team environment through accessible and tailored sport and community engagement initiatives. Among those heavily affected by isolation are many hundreds of youths in low socio-economic areas accessing stepping stone and safety net programs with peer youth mentors, friendly police and sport professionals, families and individuals affected by a disability and older people using sport to fulfil friendship and fitness goals.

When the doors and institutions reopen and elated people dance in the streets (one at a time in an orderly manner and at proscribed social distance) there will be voids, some of which may take time to play out.

Youths today are presented with civilisation's inability to collectively act to prevent pollution, unregulated change to atmospheric chemistry and biosphere heat, and ingrained inequality across borders and class divides. Add to this a financial depression and changing workforce, which many will be unequipped to ease into, plus an unprecedented scale of youths encountering actual or perceived deprecation, hopelessness and limits on opportunities and you have a volatile demographic.

There will be leaders, blamers and scapegoats exhibited en masse in the COVID-19 aftermath. Some will find themselves shifted between these three categories while others purposefully will try, probably cynically and unsuccessfully, to shift themselves.

For this case 'blamers' as a term conveniently lumps together those likely to stir prejudice, scapegoat others, dog-whistle and practice large-scale NIMBYism. I distinguish them from populist leaders as these have to a vast extent relied on promised action, rather than a platform based predominantly on externalized blame. This would cement a trend moving away from democratic systems or quiet and stable autocracies, to populism, to simply tapping outrage. An interesting question is whether the trend follows the decline of denominational religion in many parts of the world. Is the fundamental shift filling an unrecognised appetite in civilisation or collective human predisposition to follow a mighty leader?

What happens in the wake of someone becoming blamer and leader and how much a stretch would it be for a populist leader to simply become a blamer?

Blamer-leaders exist with great effectiveness; see older ideologues displaying binary textbook attitudes, preachers of fear and violence, and populist politicians. Although blamer-leaders' business model has developed for decades relatively innocuously, the twenties are now poised as a dangerous abyss.

Is leadership in Australia strong enough to combat blame? A youth tuning into new announcements of restrictions on life and freedoms will find an unrepresentative concentration of privileged older Anglo men announcing how strong they are as leaders and what *you* now must do. Do they act and sound like they are looking out for you or simply working hard to protect their values?

Assuming a large number of economic indicators pointing to a new global economic depression continue, is post-depression to war a linear progression or can we work to blunt the potential of blamer-leaders decisively? How do we counter distrust, resentment and outright anger? What messages and mode of delivery will resonate?

**Gordan Duus**

*Read Part Two in the next edition of UN Matters*

## Sustainable Investment with Your Super

We're told our super can create a more sustainable world. But how does that work in reality?

*This information does not take into account your personal objectives, financial situation or needs. You should consider if the relevant investment is appropriate having regard to your own objectives, financial situation and needs.*

### Investing in shares

Direct investment through equity securities (e.g. purchase of ordinary shares in a company) is essentially part ownership of an asset; usually a business.

This means that through your investment, you own part of the company, and a proportionate share of the profits the company may distribute.

It's fundamental to understand ownership does not happen in a vacuum, or in the ether of the stock exchange. Ownership equals real responsibility for the impact a company's goods or services are having on society and the environment.

*When you invest in a company, you are not only funding their operations, you're also enabling them to continue producing the goods and services which can have a positive or negative impact on our world.*

Let's consider a solar energy producer vs. a cigarette manufacturer for impact on society.

If you're invested in a profitable solar energy company, you're benefiting financially while the company sells a product creating a greener world.

If you're invested in a profitable cigarette company, you're potentially making money at the expense of someone buying a known cancer-causing product. Which company would you support?

Interestingly, share ownership entitles the shareholder to a say in the affairs of the company.

This is where voting becomes important. Investment managers must pay attention to key votes and governance issues impacting the companies in their portfolio.

### Impact Investing

The rise of impact investing is a very exciting development in global finance, whereby the financial markets provide capital to address the world's most pressing challenges in sectors such as sustainable

agriculture, renewable energy, conservation and microfinance.

So, what is it?

Impact investments are those made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return.

An example of an impact investment is [Social Ventures Australia's \(SVA\) Resolve Social Benefit Bond](#), which is expected to improve the mental health and wellbeing of participants while generating significant savings for the NSW Government through a reduction in participants' utilisation of health and other services. In particular, by reducing the number of days spent in the hospital.

These savings will be shared to fund the delivery of the program, as well as with investors to provide a financial return on their capital.

This type of investment is distinct from philanthropy, as not-for-profit and charitable organisations are rarely concerned with a financial return.

That is not to say an impact investment guarantees a financial return, nor does it guarantee an 'impact' — environmental, social or other.

How impact investments measure their 'impact' is of vital importance to the success of such investments; choosing what and how to measure it is not a straightforward task.

Our friends at the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) have listed the following as [best practices for impact measurement](#):

- Establishing and stating social and environmental objectives to relevant stakeholders
- Setting performance metrics/targets related to these objectives using standardised metrics wherever possible
- Monitoring and managing the performance of investees against these targets
- Reporting on social and environmental performance to relevant stakeholders

There is no doubt about the [exciting potential of impact investing](#). Bringing impact investing further into the mainstream will provide new firepower in the push to achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

*Continued on page 13*

## Sustainable Investment with Your Super *Continued from page 12*

### Green Bonds

Green bonds, also known as climate bonds, are debt investments (or loans) intended to encourage sustainability and support climate-related or other types of special environmental projects.

More specifically, [green bonds](#) finance projects aimed at:

- energy efficiency
- pollution prevention
- sustainable agriculture
- fishery and forestry
- the protection of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems
- clean transportation
- sustainable water management
- cultivation of environmentally friendly technologies.

Green bonds have been growing increasingly popular, and currently, there is an estimated US\$62.8 billion financed by green bonds.

There are also [different types](#) of green bonds.

The [World Bank](#) issues green bonds to finance projects around the world, such as India's Rampur Hydropower Project, which aims to provide low-carbon hydroelectric power to northern India's electricity grid.

Be it through green bonds, impact investing or direct investment, the more money invested in companies producing goods and services that impact positively on society, the more we can help achieve the SDGs.

Through our [super](#), collectively we have the investing

power to help drive this positive impact beyond our voting and consumer power.

For more articles about super, plus how COVID-19 has impacted the system, check out [sustainability.elevatesuper.com.au/blog](https://sustainability.elevatesuper.com.au/blog).

**Victoria Kent**

**Elevate Super Senior Investment Specialist**

**elevate.super**

*Elevate Super is a sponsor of UNAAWA Business Forum Series*

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## The Plastic Problem in WA and What Is Being Done About It



By 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean. Excuse the theatrics but it's true. WA does not have a waste plastic reprocessing plant. We do have three material recovery facilities but that's not the full equation. In a material recovery facility, the contents of our recycling bin is sorted and pressed in 'cubes' called bales and sent by the shipping container load to the highest bidder.

Plastic deservedly or undeservedly gets a bad rap. However plastic is a versatile material, lightweight,

easy to shape, recyclable, cheap and durable. The issue is not with the plastic itself but the irresponsible disposal and the lack of plastic waste management processes and technologies.

The problem lies in the difficulty of automated sorting. There are seven different types of plastic and each of them have to be separated by type and colour. The easier way will be sorting at the source, however this requires discipline and multiple bins and may not be a realistic target as it highly depends on people doing the right thing every time. So where do our plastics go? In most cases, landfill. Greenbatch is a social enterprise founded by Darren Lomman setting up WA's first local waste plastic reprocessing plant to solve this problem.

*Continued on page 14*

## The Plastic Problem in WA and What Is Being Done About It

*Continued from page 13*

Greenbatch Foundation is a volunteer based not-for-profit arm of the social enterprise. Pre-COVID, the public were invited to drop off their waste plastic, glass and aluminium cans on the first Saturday of every month. The following was growing exponentially and the last drop off garnered a crowd of over 600 families.

At the drop off days Greenbatch volunteers would have the chance to learn how to sort plastic and also



Greenbatch's Event Trailer educating people about plastic identification, purchasing and disposal. Source: Greenbatch

were shown simulated processes of how plastics were recycled. At this point Greenbatch accepts only PET (1) & HDPE (2). Besides the drop off days, Greenbatch also have rolled out their purple bins to over 100 schools in WA and that number is growing as word spreads. The aim is to get to 300 schools in WA.

Besides the public facing activities, Greenbatch is also working with UWA to develop a process to make 3D printing filament out of plastic bottles. This is a project I have worked on myself guiding the students towards their goal. The process of trial and error is time consuming and tedious. After months of persevering late last year we were able to produce small batches of 3D printing filament. However in order to make it to a production grade product we still have some way to go. Being a non-profit organisation the challenge is to get volunteers on a long term and consistent basis.

Later last year Greenbatch had a student, Jonah Meggs who single handedly built a plastic bottle lid sorter. The lids needed to be sorted by colour to be recycled. Despite having almost no budget Jonah displayed what can be achieved by perseverance, out of the box thinking and a helping hand from generous volunteers. The lid sorter required a host of engineering and computing technologies to be put together and work in unison. Jonah's achievement is nothing short of miraculous for someone who had no budget and also no working experience in an automation company. Watch the video [here](#).

Mid last year, Greenbatch were awarded a government grant to commission a 500kg-an-hour plastic reprocessing line. This line has a label removal, lid ring removal, shredding, washing and drying capabilities, upping our current capacity ten fold. This processing line is currently being commissioned. The public will be invited to visit the facilities for a site visit once the open days resume post-COVID.

I believe in individual action and am advocating for minimising your consumption to what is absolutely necessary. Companies make what people buy. If we live by the 6R (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle & Rot) mantra we will reduce the problem in an impactful way and that is without any 3rd party intervention. Market forces will pressure companies to be innovative with packaging. So it is in your hands. As the great Mahatma Gandhi once said, "be the change you want to see in the world".

To find out more about Greenbatch, or to enquire about volunteering or setting up your company community group or school as a collection hub, visit them on [Facebook](#).

**Giri Sithambarnathan**  
UNAAWA Member



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

### Natalie Muhl: Focus On What You Can Do



I had a keen interest in the environment and a strong love for wildlife from an early age. My bookshelves were stacked high with field guides and books about horses, African wildlife and sea creatures. I spent hours flicking through them, learning and becoming mesmerised

by the animals that we share this earth with. Every opportunity to watch the TV, I had it turned to Animal Planet, watching my favorite shows, Meerkat Manor, Big Cat Diaries and, of course, David Attenborough.

On family holidays, I experienced many encounters with wildlife. Just some of these memories is driving down the Nullarbor Plain with a camel running alongside our car, herds of emu rushing about in the bush, kangaroo right outside our tent entrance at night and dingo enjoying a snack if any food that was left out by accident. These memories flood my mind when thinking of animals and the environment, when I'm recognised for my passion in the environment and when I think about what impact I want to have on the environment. My love for the environment comes from experiencing it, from learning about it and teaching others about it. If I want to have an impact, I must focus on what I can do.

Volunteering within environmental management was a commitment that held zero hesitation. I wanted to conserve the natural habitats of Perth, to restore the land that the wildlife roamed within and to improve the health of the environment. My impact was never questioned, it was never disregarded. My mind was focused on what I could do, not what I wish I could do. My first volunteer position was on the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC), under the Jane Goodall



Institute of Australia. Within my time on the NYLC, I founded and acted as president for the first university-level Roots & Shoots club in Australia. Murdoch Roots & Shoots (MURS) was a group of students that met together, shared an interest in the environment and conservation and dedicated our time on environmental management projects within the community. Focus on what you can do.

Within my time as president of MURS, I connected with a Landcare group called Wirambi Landcare and began providing volunteers, including myself, to assist in weeding and planting days in local wetlands in the Melville area. As I built this connection, I was taken on as a board member of Wirambi Landcare, working on conservation projects for the Western Ringtail Possum and Native Bat Research and taking on community liaison responsibilities. Focus on what you can do.

My most recent volunteer opportunity has brought me to where I am now, the Youth Representative on the Environmental Committee of UNAAWA. In addition to this, I am on the UN Day planning committee and loving every moment of this experience. I am passionate in working with youth on sustainability projects, with the focus towards sustainable development so that we can improve the health of the environment and the restoration of natural areas. Focus on what you can do.

**Natalie Muhl**  
**UNAAWA Environment Committee Youth Representative**

### Januka Gunasena: A millennial dreaming of a greener world



Witnessing the impacts of climate change on my home country of Sri Lanka year after year, I developed a strong interest to be part of a movement working towards tackling climate

change. In pursuit of my interest, I was able to secure a job at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka as a researcher for the SDGs. I was fortunate to be part of a larger team entrusted with the task of mobilizing private capital & resources to achieve the 2030 Agenda, with the team I was on focusing particularly on responsible investing, social entrepreneurship and social impact bonds.

After moving to Perth last November, I joined UNAAWA in April this year to network with like-minded individuals and organizations who are working towards creating a greener, more

equitable world. I am excited to meet the fellow members of the Association and to get to know more about the work being carried out not only in WA but also across the whole country, to meet the SDGs by 2030. I am also looking forward to be part of any initiatives focusing on tackling climate change AND developing communities, to share the experience AND lessons I've learnt working for the UNDP in Sri Lanka.



#### UN Observances

##### August

- 9. International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 12. International Youth Day
- 19. World Humanitarian Day
- 21. International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism
- 22. International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
- 23. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition
- 29. International Day against Nuclear Tests
- 30. International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

##### 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



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

# Important Announcements



United Nations  
Association  
of Australia  
WA Division

## ACCELERATING INNOVATION & SDGS: WA'S POST-COVID RECOVERY

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

CONTACT: 9221 7020 or [office@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:office@unaa-wa.org.au)

18TH  
AUG 2020

6.00PM

COMPLIMENTARY



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

## Important Announcements



United Nations  
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# SAVE THE DATE 75TH UN DAY ANNIVERSARY

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

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

CONTACT: 9221 7020 or [office@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:office@unaa-wa.org.au)

23TH  
OCT 2020

6 - 8.30 PM

Duxton  
Hotel



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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WA Division



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

## Important Announcements

# 2020 YOLANDE FRANK ART AWARDS

*Celebrating 75 Years of the UN Working for Peace through Human Rights*

### A PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT PROMOTING THE IDEALS OF THE UN THROUGH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

UNAAWA conducts the Art Awards in memory of long-time member and survivor of the Holocaust, Yolande Frank, who had a passion to ensure that children understood the importance of human rights to global peace and sustainability.

**School students are invited to use any visual art media to communicate a message for selected articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) and Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).**

#### YEARS 4 TO 6:

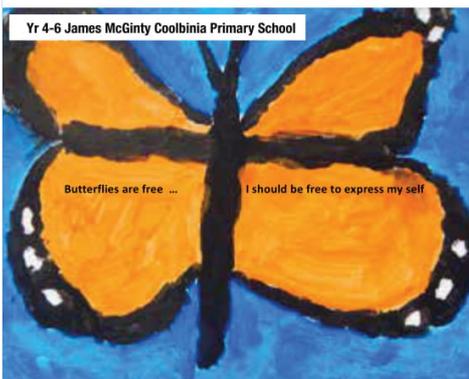
Children have the right to good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy. (UN CRC Article 24)

#### YEARS 7 TO 9:

Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. (UDHR Article 27)

#### YEARS 10 TO 12:

Changing the World – 75 Years of the UN working for peace and security



2019 WINNING ENTRIES VISUALLY COMMUNICATED CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HEARD (YEARS 4 TO 6) PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO VOTE FOR THEIR GOVERNMENT (YEARS 7 TO 9) 30 YEARS OF THE UN CRC (YEARS 10 TO 12)

### HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION - RELEVANT AND ENGAGING

Building student self-esteem and confidence // Developing tolerance and awareness of unity in diversity

#### > 2020 AWARDS REQUIREMENTS

- > Schools select their leading entries (to a maximum of four) for electronic submission with an entry form including a declaration that it is the student's own work, signed by the Principal.
- > Artworks completed as extracurricular activities are eligible for submission if verified by the teacher as the student's own work (based on process evidence).
- > Entries must be submitted to [gcs@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:gcs@unaa-wa.org.au) no later than 5pm Monday 31 August 2020.
- > Entries judged according to originality + effectiveness in visually conveying a message about the selected human right/theme. Judge's decision final.
- > Student Prizes in each of the three categories:
  - Winner \$200 | Highly Commended \$100Senior Secondary entries will also be eligible for the Medical Association for the Prevention of War (MAPW) Prize of \$200
- > Certificates presented to all finalists and prize-winners.
- > Finalist artworks and comments published in the 2021 UNAANA Calendar raising funds to sustain the awards.

**FURTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING LINKS TO DIVERSE DIGITAL RESOURCES, AVAILABLE THROUGH THE UNAANA WEBSITE:**  
<https://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/wa-programs-for-schools/wa-yolande-frank-art-award/>

THE YOLANDE FRANK ART AWARDS - A UNAANA GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAM.  
ADVANCING AUSTRALIA'S ACHIEVEMENT OF SDG 4 (TARGET 4.7) + SDG 16.



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UNAANA [www.unaa-wa.org.au](http://www.unaa-wa.org.au)

FACEBOOK UNAANAInc/

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4 QUALITY  
EDUCATION



16 PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



## Important Announcements



## 2020 STUDENTS' GLOBAL GOALS CHALLENGE

### School students are invited to enter the 2020 UNAAWA Global Goals Challenge

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, 193 world leaders (including Australia) committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (or Global Goals) to make the world safer, fairer and more secure for everyone. There are 17 Global Goals with 169 specific targets, and indicators which aim to achieve three things by 2030 – tackle extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, protect the planet.

**THINK GLOBAL-ACT LOCAL.** Health experts say – “for individual and social well-being take positive action for the change we want to be part of, no matter how small”.

#### > ENTRY

##### ELIGIBILITY:

- > Primary **school projects** engaging students in understanding the Global Goals, planning and implementing an activity making a difference to at least one of the Goals.
- > Secondary **student challenges** engaging students in developing their own solutions and making a difference to Australia's implementation of the Goals.

##### CRITERIA:

- > *Innovation* (a new idea or initiative in your school context: DESIGN THINKING)
- > *Implementation* (student initiative in making plans happen at any stage: PROJECT MANAGEMENT)
- > *Impact* (evidence of influencing others in the school community and/or how it makes a difference REFLECTION)

##### TIMELINE:

- > Entries close Monday 31 August
- > Awards presented Peace Day Event

##### JUDGING PANEL:

Experienced judges from education business and industry will assess student work.



2019 Winner COOLBINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL Time to Take Action; Every Drop, Every Tonne Helps



2019 Winner SHENTON COLLEGE Aleena Flack, Olivia Donati, Harry Brauhart for LIFELINE

##### FURTHER INFORMATION:

UNAAWA website [www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/wa-programs-for-schools/wa-sustainabilitychallenge/](http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/wa-programs-for-schools/wa-sustainabilitychallenge/)

##### CONTACT US:

For inquiries and entry submission –email: [gcs@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:gcs@unaa-wa.org.au)

The Global Goals Challenge promotes “student agency through transformational competencies (General Capabilities) – preparing students for a dynamic world”. [OECD 2030 Learning Framework]

A people's movement promoting the aims and ideals of the United Nations through education and awareness.

The Students' Global Goals Challenge is a UNAAWA Global Citizenship Schools program – adding value to school curricula and contributing to Australia's achievement of Target 4.7.



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## Important Announcements



# 2020 WORLD TEACHERS' DAY AWARDS

## Showcasing outstanding contributions to Global Citizenship Education (GCEd).

Do you know a teacher who inspires students to make the world a better place? Does their program include the Global Goals and empower student action on any of the following global issues?

### > ENTRY

#### ELIGIBILITY:

- > Primary teachers
- > Secondary teachers

#### CRITERIA:

- > **Innovation:** How does the pedagogy, program or activity contribute to advancing GCEd in the school or broader community through one or more of the Global Goals?
- > **Implementation:** When and how was the innovation implemented?
- > **Impact:** What was the impact on students and others?

#### TIMELINE:

- > Entries close 12 September
- > Awards presented UN Day Celebrations 25 October

#### HOW TO ENTER:

Nomination and Entry Forms available at:

<https://www.unaa.org.au/about/state-teams/western-australia/wa-programs-for-schools/wa-world-teachers-day-awards/>

Email entries to [gcs@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:gcs@unaa-wa.org.au)

Entries close 5pm  
Monday 31 August 2020

*sustainable lifestyles*  
inclusive multicultural societies  
**GENDER EQUALITY**  
poverty and inequality **peace**  
biodiversity health and renewable energy  
well being human waste and  
food and water security rights resource  
*climate change and disaster resilience*



A people's movement promoting the aims and ideals of the United Nations through education and awareness



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4 QUALITY  
EDUCATION

