



**United Nations  
Association  
of Australia  
WA Division**



## UN Matters

July-August 2019



Photos (L to R): Youth Climate Change Leaders (UN Photo # 818810), Dr Sandy Chong recognised as Asia's Top Sustainability Superwoman

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Chief Editor: Caleb Gorton

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# From the President

It is with great honour and humility that I write my first greeting as President of UNAABA. After three years as Vice-President and four years on the Executive Committee of our organisation, I am humbled and grateful for your support in electing me to take us forward at such an exciting time. You represent the values of the UN, of openness, of inclusivity, of integrity, and respect for one another, values that we all uphold. However, I would not have achieved this honour without all the people who have supported me, encouraged me and helped me these past few years. It is a testament to our values that so many women and men of all ages have come together and taken part in our electoral process at the AGM, and I am excited to lead such a diverse group of people.

In assuming this position I would like to take this time to recognise the leadership of Dr Steve Lennon over the past three years, and his contribution to the goals of the UNAABA during his term as President. Countless events and initiatives have taken place during his tenure and his dedication to the organisation is evident. Having worked closely with him throughout this period I know I'm not alone in appreciating all he has done for the UNAABA and I look forward to continuing to work with him in my new position.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our Vice-Presidents Natasha Kusmuk and Katharine McKenzie, our Treasurer Camille Doucet, and our Secretary Thijs Roos. I am excited at the prospect of our senior leadership composed of such outstanding individuals whom I am sure will be a source of strength and inspiration to us all. To all women and men out there reading this, know that there are no barriers we are unable to overcome if we work together, and I hope that when you see our Executive Committee you will see in us a microcosm of a modern Australia we can all be proud of.

Looking forward, the rest of 2019 is going to be a busy year. The world we live in has been going through enormous changes, and now more than ever we need strong multilateral institutions, diplomacy and partnerships. The universal values of peace, justice, human dignity, tolerance and solidarity set out in the United Nations Charter are more critical than ever. We therefore all have a role to play in supporting the UN, so I invite you all to reaffirm your belief in it by joining us at our events and speaking out on behalf of international solidarity and sustainable development.

Of the other challenges we face, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said it best earlier this year that "despite considerable efforts from Governments and many others, the transformative changes demanded by the 2030 Agenda are not yet being made". This year will therefore be a defining moment for stopping runaway climate change, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and building a fair globalisation. We hope to share with you on all those issues in our next UN Matters. Our Committees for Gender Equality, Human Rights, Environment, and Education will be hard at work furthering these objectives and I invite you all to join them and support them with your time and passion.

As ever, if you have any ideas or suggestions for activities or goals that you believe the UNAABA should support, please feel free to reach out to me at [wapres@unaa.org.au](mailto:wapres@unaa.org.au). None of the work our organisation does would be possible without your involvement and that of all our members, supporters and volunteers, so I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for all you have achieved. In that same spirit I invite you all to share our UN Matters newsletters with your family, friends and colleagues, and invite them to become members of the UNAABA.

**Dr Sandy Chong**

**UNAABA President**



Photo (above) (L to R): Newly elected Secretary Thijs Roos, Immediate Past President Dr Steve Lennon, Newly elected President Dr Sandy Chong, Re-elected Vice-President Katharine McKenzie, Newly elected Treasurer Camille Doucet



# The Youth Are Our Last Hope for Real Action on Climate Change

In August 2018, 15-year-old Greta Thunberg skipped school to demonstrate outside Swedish parliament to demand action on climate change. Seven months later, an estimated 1.6 million students in 120 countries took part in school strikes.

Today's politically engaged youth are angry – and rightfully so.

Despite countless conferences, international agreements and pledges from politicians, we have less than 11 years to avoid irreversible climate disruption. Global warming is likely to reach 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels by 2030, according to the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#). Average temperatures will rise, drought will become more likely, the ecology will change, and fisheries and coral reefs will be seriously threatened. Sea level rises will put the entire existence of Pacific Island nations in danger.

It is only possible to limit global warming if urgent, collective and unprecedented action is taken.

The student activists know there is no time to waste. After all, they will be the ones who will have to live with the consequences. Most are unable to vote, so they are making their voices heard in other ways.

Writing for [The Guardian](#), Greta Thunberg and other student leaders said it simply – they are striking “because politicians have failed us”. Uniting behind the science, the students are demanding action when so many politicians either ignore the problem or simply do not believe in overwhelmingly undisputed evidence.

Locally in Western Australia, 13-year-old Bella Burgemeister has helped organise the School Strike for Climate events, which saw almost 200,000 young people march for climate action across Australia.

“We have so little time to turn around this human made disaster,” she [wrote](#) in *The Sydney Morning Herald* in May. “I want to stop worrying about my future and I want my childhood back.”

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres shares the students' sense of urgency. “These schoolchildren have grasped something that seems



Thunberg and young climate activists in a Fridays for Future protest in front of UN Headquarters in August. UN Photo # 818825

to elude many of their elders: we are in a race for our lives, and we are losing,” he said. “My generation has failed to respond properly to the dramatic challenge of climate change. This is deeply felt by young people. No wonder they are angry.”

September 2019 is a critical month for climate action. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, another round of school strikes are planned around the world. The following day, the Youth Climate Summit will take place at UN Headquarters in New York, where youth leaders will bring their solutions to the UN and engage with global decision-makers. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Guterres has invited all world leaders to come to New York for the UN Climate Action Summit.

This time around, let us allow the youth to have a major role in determining the course of action. Greta Thunberg, after all, will be present, having arrived in the Big Apple on a zero-carbon sailing boat.

From the Greensboro sit-ins, where four black Americans refused to leave a racially segregated Woolworths in 1960, to the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, students have successfully been the sparks for rapid change throughout history. For the sake of our future, let the youth lead the way again.

As António Guterres said, “I know young people can and do change the world.”

**Caleb Gorton**  
**UN Matters Chief Editor**

## UNAAWA President Dr Sandy Chong recognised as one of Asia's Top Sustainability Superwomen

On 4th September 2019 at the Asia Sustainability Reporting Summit in Singapore, our newly elected President Dr Sandy Chong was inducted to Asia's Top Sustainability Superwomen 2019 List of Honour. The annual listing of exceptional female sustainability leaders in the region selected 27 outstanding women leaders from 11 countries. They were chosen out of 126 nominations from 20 countries across Asia.

Appraised by an international jury, Sandy was recognized for her work leading change through sustainability strategies and social impact initiatives in the business sector. She was also awarded for her tireless efforts to further the cause of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals internationally.

Receiving the award at the summit, Sandy dedicated her success to the growing awareness that "Business as

usual is no longer enough, the private sector has a pivotal role to play in achieving the SDGs. We can all work together to ensure a sustainable future with peace and prosperity for people and our planet".



Dr Sandy Chong and fellow winners of the Asia's Top Sustainability Superwomen 2019 List of Honour

### Environment Committee



Our Environment Committee is looking to the future with a more positive and driven outlook than ever, led by the newly appointed Chair Marianne Dahle, who was also just voted into the Executive Committee last month. We are celebrating our diversity, inclusivity of expertise within the areas of biodiversity, education, sustainability, energy, oceans and more. The Committee is pleased to also welcome our newest

member, Patrick Illott, who is a sustainability expert within Infrastructure Sustainability.

We're busy presiding for our next event focusing on sustainable fashion, set for the end of November. This event will run as a clothing-swap and bring together community members that are passionate about reducing waste and taking action against fast fashion. Watch this space for more information!

**Melissa Arias**  
**Environment Committee Communications Lead**

### Gender Equality Committee



It has been a month full of gender equality news. In the Gender Equality Committee corner, we participated alongside Rees and Ann Barrett of the Education Reference Group at the Lynwood Senior High School Sustainability Expo on 16<sup>th</sup> August. With a showcase of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, students pooled together to vote on those most important to them. SDG 5, Gender Equality, took seventh place, with 5.8% of students voting it within their top three. It was heartening to see the up and coming youth of our community so engaged with sustainability, and we all have high

hopes to what they are going to bring to the table in the coming years.

In other exciting news closer to home, the UNAAWA Gender Equality Committee and the Curtin Women in Business Club are teaming up for a panel event at Curtin University on 17<sup>th</sup> October with the theme of 'The Future of Work: Better Together'. In this time where job prospects exist in an uncertain, competitive realm, it is now more than ever that we must educate ourselves on the importance of equity and unity in regard to opportunity.

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

## Gender Equality Committee

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Students, UNAAWA members and any other interested parties are heartily encouraged to attend. Follow this link for ticket info <http://gender.equality@unaa-wa.org.au>.

Leaving our own shores, the global professional auditing network KMPG, alongside the Diversity Council Australia, released a report on the current state of the gender pay gap on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. The third iteration of *She's Price(d)less* reveals that the gender pay gap in Australia remains as much of an issue as ever. *She's Price(d)less* examines the factors surrounding gender pay inequality and the socioeconomic issues behind the inequity itself. Accompanied with some startling statistics, *She's Price(d)less* dives into facets beyond simple pie charts and percentages. To discover this for yourself, you can read the report [here](#).

Similarly, 24-26<sup>th</sup> August 2019 saw the arrival of the international G7 conference. This year's focus was on gender equality. The Gender Equality Advisory Council (GEAC) presented the G7 with 79 mission-specific recommendations on how to deal with gender inequality around the globe. The recommendations

have four clear sections - ending gender-based violence; ensuring inclusive, equitable, and quality education and health; promoting the economic empowerment of women; and combating discrimination. Read the full report, including all recommendations made, [here](#).

**Tahlia Hudson-Campbell**  
**Gender Equality Committee Communications Coordinator**



Gender Equality Committee Convener Hannah Brown with attendees at the Lynwood Senior High School Sustainability Expo

## Education Programme

### Lynwood Senior High School Sustainability Expo

Another buzz representing UNAAWA at the Lynwood SHS Sustainability Expo. We witnessed first-hand the spirit of the community that won the Education Department's best Secondary School award in 2018.

Students grasped the opportunity to give their view of the future in our **Spectrum** activity. On a five-point spectrum - 1 Strongly Disagree to 5 Strongly Agree - they were asked to rate their response to the statement:

*I am optimistic about the future environmental and social sustainability of the world.*

Not one of the 21 participants disagreed with the statement, with an average response of 3.7. Some of the comments revealed that student

optimism was based on:

- Greater access to information through social media
- Increasing use of recycling and renewable energy sources
- Benefits of education for sustainability
- Moving steadily towards a sustainable future
- "Every country is connected to protect earth together".

Dried broad bean seeds were used by 218 students and a few teachers to vote for their top three priorities of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, with some interesting results, as shown in the table on page 6.

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## Education Programme

### Lynwood Senior High School Sustainability Expo

*Continued from page 5*

Sustainable Development Goals	2019	2018
	%	%
1. No Poverty	11.6	14.7
2. Zero Hunger	9.8	11.3
3. Good Health & Well-Being	9.9	18.9
4. Quality Education	5.7	4.5
5. Gender Equality	5.8	9.4
6. Clean Water & Sanitation	13.8	7.2
7. Affordable & Clean Energy	3.1	1.5
8. Decent Work & Economic Growth	1.2	1.5
9. Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	0.4	1.1
10.Reduced Inequalities	0.9	2.2
11.Sustainable Cities and Communities	1.8	1.9
12.Responsible Consumption & Production	1.7	1.1
13.Climate Action	9.6	3.0
14.Life Below Water	5.0	5.7
15.Life On Land	6.4	2.2
16.Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	5.5	4.2
17.Partnerships for the Goals	1.2	0.4
18.All Of The Goals Are Equally Important	6.4	9.1

Overall, the 2019 results were similar to those recorded in 2018, with the biggest increases being for Climate Action (SDG 13), Life on Land (SDG 15) and Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6).

Thank you for the opportunity Lynwood SHS.

**Hannah Brown, Rees and Anne Barrett**  
**UNAAWA Education Programme**



Lynwood Senior High School Sustainability Expo

### Paul Faix: Passionate Advocate for Gender Equality & Entrepreneurship



Have you ever thought what is really stopping you from reaching your potential? Is it your accent, your height, your gender, the colour of your skin, your ideas, your upbringing, your education, your look or something else? Whatever it is - you have the power to change your thinking to overcome any obstacle. Unfortunately, many people don't have this option as their lives are locked in the bondage of preconceived ideas, history, traditions or religions. Their world is restricted by someone who is seeking to use their power to manipulate and control.

Just recently I was asked to talk at the very first Women Economic Forum conference held in Australia. I've joined delegates from over 20 countries for a conference dedicated to empowering women.

My research into this movement began at LinkedIn where I saw the post from Melinda Gates, wife of Microsoft founder Bill Gates. Melinda was opening the box full of books. It was the book that she wrote - *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World*. I got the book and it was a great start to learn about the issues and struggles that women are facing around the world.

It was a read that opened my mind on how big and widespread this problem really is. I learnt about the struggles of women in developing countries, of lack of resources, of being expected to work long hours, look after men and families, source and cook food, get water and many other daily strife.

We've designed the system that measures economic activity by how much we spend on drugs and hospitals and we don't value healthy people. Our system measures how much we earn at work but motherhood and social work at home are worth nothing. We measure how much we dig out from the ground, but healthy forests and pure nature is not worth anything.

I put forward the idea that our problem is, in fact, the problem of measurement. One of the best thought after leaders of our generation Clayton Christensen in his book *How Will You Measure Your Life?* describes how people adjust their behaviours to deliver the measures they are using. If you are measuring the profit you will do everything you can to get it. It would

not matter the customer experience, happiness or the fact that you are lying, as long as you get the numbers.

Another visionary Marilyn Waring in her book *If Women Counted* describes the economic system completely ignoring the value of women and their work at home. I guess that her groundbreaking work was one of the inspirations for New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who recently introduced the Wellbeing Budget, as New Zealand begins the journey of wellbeing measures for their citizens.

If you want to change the world, change the measures. The UN, in their System of National Accounts, excludes women's activity at home. The reality of the day is that women's work is worth nothing.

Change the measures and you will change the world.

So where really is the inequality? In my opinion, it is in the freedom of choice that many women have been denied. Women are not always free. In many cases, they are locked in the economic system and establishment that doesn't allow them to have a choice.

We can all just accept that it is what it is, or we can do something about it. For the sake of my children, I've decided to join this movement to make a difference. My hope is that you will do the same so together we can change the world for the better.



#### About Paul Faix

Paul is the founder and CEO of Fortix®, an award-winning technology company. Paul is also a diplomat, currently serving in the role of Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic in Western Australia. In 2015 Paul set up a sporting event that was dedicated to raising money and awareness for children's cancer in Western Australia. Working closely with Volleyball Western Australia the campaign attracted many of Perth's businesses and raised over \$10,000 for children's charities. Paul was recently recognised as 'Male Champions for Change' at the 2019 Women Economic Forum for his support for female entrepreneurs. The UNAOWA has the honour of having Paul serving on the judging panel at our upcoming [UN Day event's](#) Gender Equality Award. For more information about Paul, visit his LinkedIn profile on <https://www.linkedin.com/in/paulfaix/>

## Overfishing the Biggest Threat to Our Oceans and the Livelihood of All



According to esteemed broadcaster, writer and naturalist David Attenborough in his recent Netflix production “Our Planet”, the world’s largest ecosystem faces its greater threat at the hands of overfishing, not plastic pollution as mass media might have you believe.

Australia’s fish stocks have already been overexploited by 15.2 per cent. The UN states that 17 per cent of fish stocks worldwide are overexploited, 52 per cent are fully exploited and 7 per cent are depleted. Approximately 38.5 million tonnes of produce is caught through by-catch alone every year, while illegal fishing practices account for an astounding 11 to 26 million tonnes.



Local fisheries in developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of overfishing. Photo: UN Photo # 256287

Overfishing has a catastrophic effect on the population levels of all marine animals, but especially large predators at the top of the food chain. Such predators are integral to the health of the whole ecosystem and an imbalance in their population could result in the disintegration of the entire food chain. The ocean ecosystem provides a main source of clean oxygen, removal of carbon dioxide, temperature and weather regulation, a



Photo: UN Photo # 455874

key source of water distribution, and an important food source for many populations. Furthermore, fish is a main source of protein for most of the global population, but could soon be lost if overfishing continues at its current rate.

In order to tackle this global environmental problem, there must be further implementation of protected marine park zones. Only 2 per cent of the ocean is currently defined as a protected marine park. No-fishing zones are integral so that ocean ecosystems can regenerate fish stocks that have been removed through fishing practices. Catch-shares are another method that governments can implement to encourage sustainable fishing practices. Trawling, a method that produces significant waste through by-catch, also needs to be heavily restricted if not entirely banned. Individuals wishing to help reduce the impacts of overfishing might wish to practice sustainable shopping practices, become educated about sustainable seafood choices, check market guides for companies that source seafood sustainably, and support organizations and policies fighting for oceanic protection.

**Anita Lynch**  
**UNAOWA Intern**



## The Danger in Losing Indigenous Languages

Approximately one Indigenous language is lost every two weeks and experts estimate that by 2100 more than 50 per cent of the world's languages will be lost completely. 2019 was proclaimed the International Year of Indigenous Languages by the UN General Assembly in the hope that this would draw attention to the rapid rate at which Indigenous languages are currently being lost worldwide and the imminent threat this poses to the very existence of Indigenous identities and cultures.



A participant from Canada attends the launch of the International Year of Indigenous Languages. Photo: UN Photo # 796638

Colonisation throughout the world has eroded Indigenous languages through the practices of assimilation, discrimination, dispossession of land and genocide resulting in the loss of large portions of Indigenous populations.

Prior to colonisation, approximately 250-300 individual Indigenous languages existed within Australia alone. According to the Director of the Indigenous Languages Education at the University of Sydney, Susan Poetsch, if you include dialects this equates to approximately 600-800 languages in total. As of 2019, there are only 13 traditional Indigenous languages that classify as both actively acquired by the younger generation and which are spoken by all generations of that individual community. Poetsch states that many of the other Indigenous languages throughout Australia are

either critically endangered and at risk of extinguishing with the passing of the next elder generation, or are in the process of revitalization through historical and archival processes.

The survival of Indigenous languages is pivotal in maintaining the cultural identity of Indigenous groups and communities. Many national and international legislations recognise and claim to protect the rights Indigenous people hold to promote, use, practice and transmit their Indigenous language and associated language practices, including but not limited to; the International Labour Organization's Indigenous and Tribal People's Convention, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Australia needs to take inspiration from the language-preservation efforts of countries such as New Zealand, wherein a target was set in 2018 for all primary schools to teach the Indigenous Maori Language of Te Reo, and Canada where the Indigenous Languages Act aimed at maintaining, reclaiming and revitalizing Indigenous language in Canada was approved in 2019. Such action would be a much-needed and crucial way in which Australia could truly be seen to be asserting its commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Australian peoples and the protection of their rights.

**Anita Lynch**  
**UNAABA Intern**



Source: Australian Government Dept. of Communications and the Arts

## Event Report

### SDG Forum Series: Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Energy



More than 80 participants attended the “Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Energy” forum hosted by the UNAOWA and Synergy on 30 July at The Flux, Perth.

The event under the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Forum Series, which took off in 2018, highlighted the role of sustainable energy in transforming lives and economies whilst safeguarding the planet.

Discussing the importance of sustainable energy and its challenges, the panel of speakers included Fremantle Mayor Dr Brad Pettitt, Energetics WA Manager Zaneta Mascarenhas, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Carbon Farming Manager Tristy Fairfield and Synergy New Energy Delivery Manager James Giblin.



(L to R): Dr Sandy Chong, Zaneta Mascarenhas, Dr Brad Pettitt, James Giblin, Tristy Fairfield. Photo: Cloud9Projects

Jessica Shaw, member of Swan Hills in the WA Legislative Assembly and Chair of the Parliament's multi-party Economics and Industry Standing Committee, presented the opening address with UNAOWA Immediate Past President Dr Steve Lennon and SDG Forum Series Chair Dr Sandy Chong.

Jessica Shaw spoke about a parliamentary enquiry conducted over the past 18 months, which looks into

Microgrids, and said that more is required in the energy industry in particular to transitioning WA from a centralised fossil fuel dependent energy sector to a more sustainable economic model. It was pointed out that energy production and its use is the biggest contributor to global warming. Having reliable, clean and affordable energy for everyone is therefore crucial, not only to mitigate the effects of climate change, but also to create jobs.



Happy attendees at the SDG Forum Photo: Cloud9Projects

Some of the topics discussed during the forum included: long-term benefits of renewable energy sector and the challenges it faces, drivers for scaling up sustainable energy projects, sustainable energy examples from other countries and economies, and the impact of the UN SDGs on sustainable energy and innovation.

The event ended with closing remarks by Environment Committee Convenor Dr Marianne Dahle, who affirmed that effective change management and behavioural change are required in order to gain buy-in from the public and businesses with renewable energy sources.

The Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Energy Forum was sponsored by Synergy.

**Alka Katwal Chetri**  
SDG Forum Organising Committee Member





## Event Report

### Human Rights Short Film Showcase

On Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> August, UNAABA's Human Rights Committee hosted a short film showcase at MosArts Camelot, screening the winners of our short film competition.

Guest speaker Jane Lyndon, who highlighted the power of photography and images in raising awareness for human rights issues and their unique ability to provoke strong emotional responses from audiences, opened the night. Winners of the short film competition were then screened. The categories for the short film competition included celebrating Indigenous culture, multiculturalism, equality and the environment.

Congratulations to our winners:

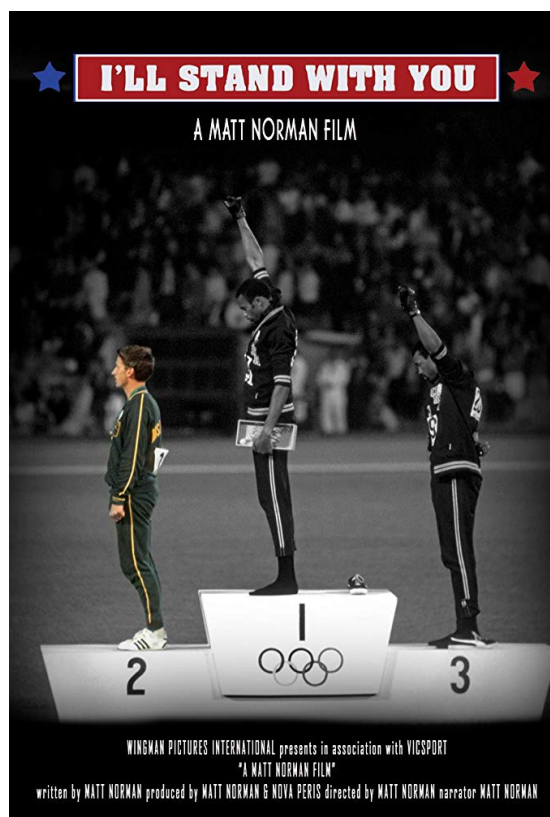
- **Magali McDuffie** with 'Bookarrarra Liyan Mardoowarra Booro', produced by Madjulla Inc and directed by Dr Anne Poelina for the Indigenous Culture category
- **Joe Moniodis** with 'ERCWA Multicultural AFL Programs' for the Multiculturalism category
- **Matt Norman** with 'I'll Stand With You' for the Equality category
- **William Pacquiao** with 'Zero Waste Singapore', directed by Adrienne Cobbs for the Environmental category

Thank you to our panel of judges for their attendance on the night and their careful consideration in recognising the winners of our competition.

Our highly regarded judges included:

- **Marian Bartsch:** Award winning documentary maker and founder of Mago Films
- **Ian Hale:** Former State Manager of WA/SA/NT for Paramount Pictures, Universal pictures and Dreamworks Animation
- **Paloma Bartsch:** Writer & producer for Mago Films
- **Sam Field:** Shooting factual director

The night was closed with a screening of 'The Final Quarter', a documentary centred on the final three years of Adam Goodes' AFL career, which discussed



Equality category winner 'I'll Stand With You. Source: IMDB

the constant booing of the Australian of the Year award winner and the controversies surrounding his exit from the game. The documentary provided a powerful insight into the presence of casual racism that exists in Australian society, and its impacts on a highly celebrated and successful AFL player.

A special thank you must be given to MosArts for providing an amazing venue, food and drinks on the night. The Human Rights Committee will be hosting its next event, a Human Rights exhibition entitled *The Art of Storytelling* at the Shipwreck Museum in Fremantle, beginning on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December and continuing until the 29<sup>th</sup> of February. The exhibition will present art, workshops and other events and activities that address key Human Rights issues in Australia.

**Campbell Shaw**  
**Human Rights Committee Intern**



### Anita Lynch: Orange Sky Volunteer

Whilst studying my double major of International Aid and Development and Community Development at Murdoch University in 2018, I found myself searching for a way to help my community in a more immediate and visible way than through the theory I was learning in class. I stumbled across the charity organisation Orange Sky Australia, a mobile laundry service for the homeless and disadvantaged. I was astounded at the creative and ingenious way two young 20-year-olds Lucas Patchett and Nic Marchesi had come up with such an idea and started it on their own in 2014.



According to the 2016 Census, there are approximately 116,000 homeless individuals on any one night in Australia. These people are often disconnected from the rest of society, and experience stigma largely due to a lack of education and awareness surrounding the realities of homelessness and the varying circumstances that can contribute to it.

Orange Sky Australia provides a washing, drying and showering service for anyone that needs it, for free. They also assist with disaster relief, and have a 'social impact washing' program, which provides employment opportunities for friends of the service. But it's so much more than that, as can be seen by the organisation's motto of "helping to positively connect our friends in need through free laundry, showers and conversation". It is the conversation part that really makes what Orange Sky does so



incredible. Orange Sky volunteers are encouraged to understand the users of the laundry

service as friends and to invite them into conversation in whatever way and to whatever extent they feel comfortable. This is what the six orange chairs that sit outside the Orange Sky van at all times represent - an openness to human connection through conversation.

In many conversations with friends I have had the pleasure to meet whilst on shift, there has been an acknowledgment of how special this aspect of Orange Sky is. As much as the practical service of laundering assists our friends, the social aspect involved is the real reason we do what we do. Orange Sky is part of a movement which seeks to de-stigmatise homelessness, and to reduce the gap between those on either side of the service.



Photos Credit: Orange Sky Australia

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with Orange Sky, and I'm planning to continue volunteering with them for as long as possible! If this sounds like something that might interest you, and you have a few hours a week/fortnight that you can commit to a worthy cause, please look up <https://orangesky.org.au/> and start your Orange Sky journey today. Orange Sky is currently operating throughout Australia and has more recently started services in New Zealand with plans to expand internationally at some point in the future.

## Important Dates



United Nations  
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# SUSTAINABLE INVESTING & ACHIEVING SDGS

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) will create a world that is more sustainable and prosperous. In order to get there however, investors must take on strategies to deliver not only financial results, but also positive social and environmental outcomes. This forum will explore, together with industry and government leaders in Western Australia, what it would take to get there and the many opportunities ahead for businesses.

DATE: 2 October 2019

TIME: 6 - 8pm (Registration starts at 5:30pm)

VENUE: WeWork, 152 St Georges Terrace Perth

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



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## UN Observances

### September

- 5. International Day of Charity
- 8. International Literacy Day
- 10. World Suicide Prevention Day
- 12. United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation
- 15. International Day of Democracy
- 16. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- 21. International Day of Peace
- 23. International Day of Sign Languages
- 26. International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
- 26. World Maritime Day
- 27. World Tourism Day
- 28. International Day for Universal Access to Information
- 30. International Translation Day

### October

- 1. International Day of Older Persons
- 2. International Day of Non-Violence
- 5. World Teachers' Day
- 7. World Habitat Day
- 9. World Post Day
- 10. World Mental Health Day
- 11. International Day of the Girl Child
- 12. World Migratory Bird Day
- 13. International Day for Disaster 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
- 31. World Cities Day

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

## Important Dates

### Minister Paul Papalia to Honour UN Day Gala Evening

The UNAABA is excited to celebrate its annual UN Day Gala evening on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October at the Duxton Hotel in Perth.

The evening will commemorate the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Centenary. Which, dating back to 1919, has seen 100 years of devotion by the organisation to promote social justice and internationally recognise human and labour rights. Pursuing its founding mission that social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace.

Joined by **Minister Paul Papalia**, distinguished state government officials, event partners, UNAABA members, and the general public.

Guests will honour the winners of the prestigious *UN Day Awards* whilst enjoying live entertainment by 'Australia's Wunderkind Organist', **Alessandro Pittorino**, inspiring speeches by the likes of AFL Women's captain, **Dana Hooker**, drinks, canapés, and a number of generous door prizes.

Recognising the local achievements of the community that work hard to create a safer, more just, and sustainable world for all, individuals, organisations and schools from across the state have been nominated for the UN Day Awards in the following categories:

- Human Rights
- Education
- Young Professionals

- Environment
- Gender Equality

UNAABA President, **Dr. Sandy Chong**, said "the ILO Centenary will be an opportunity to celebrate the International Labour Organization's achievements and reaffirm its message in advancing social justice and promoting decent work.

"This is reinforced by our ongoing commitment to promoting the Sustainable Development Goals, such as through our UN Day Awards, which celebrate the people, organisations, and schools which have taken real action towards achieving them at our local level."

Reflecting UNAABA's mission to engage Australians about the critical work, goals and values of the United Nations, with special thanks to a recent Lotterywest grant, 80 complimentary tickets (from the 300 tickets allocated) will be distributed to the local community.

And we encourage all others to purchase their tickets for this stand-out evening here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/un-day-gala-evening-2019-tickets-62454550241>

**For more information, or to organise an interview, please contact:** Vicky Sofield, Chief of Communications (UNAABA) on mobile, 0401 969 894.



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



## Important Dates



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

UNAAWA celebrates the anniversary of United Nations Day recognising local champions who are making impact in the areas of Human Rights, Environment, Gender Equality, Education and Young Professionals. The theme of this year being 100th Anniversary of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) – Advancing Social Justice and Promoting Decent Work.

### > DETAILS

**DATE:** Friday 25th October 2019

**TIME:** 6pm - 9.00pm

**VENUE:** Duxton Hotel

**FORMAT:** Inclusive of Drink Reception, Canapes throughout the evening, Entertainment and Door Prizes. Cash Bar available.

**TICKETS:** Concession A\$50, Member A\$85, Non-Member A\$95

**DRESS:** Smart or Traditional Attire

**REGISTRATION:** Registration opens 1st September 2019

**ENQUIRIES:** Teresa Garbo Lee, Chair UN Day Committee,  
unday@unaa-wa.org.au or 08 9221 7020



**TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE >**


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