



## THE BULLETIN

- World Citizens Association Australia (WCAA) <http://www.wcaa.org.au>
- Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Development (IGPSG) <http://igpsg.org/>
- Coalition for a World Security Community (CWSC) <https://coalitionforawsc.org/>

Volume 17: Issue 1 Winter 2020/ ISSN 2651-9453

### Index

<i>President's Column.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Global News.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>WCAA Annual General Meeting.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Education report.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Young World Federalists.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Election of Officers.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>IGPSG Annual General Meeting.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Coalition for a World Security Community.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Registration form .....</i>	<i>6</i>

### Contacts

*President: Chris Hamer,  
C.Hamer@unsw.edu.au*

*Vice-President(Aid Project): Wali Islam,  
islam.wali6@gmail.com*

*Vice-President (Community Engagement):  
Zeny Edwards, zenyedwards@hotmail.com*

*Secretary: Luiz Bispo,  
luizfbispo03@gmail.com*

*Treasurer: Radhiga Dey,  
radhiga.dey@gmail.com*

*Director of Education: Daryl Le Cornu,  
djlecornu@hotmail.com*



### President's Column – Australia's Contribution

I think we in Australia (and particularly Melbourne!) can be very proud of our collective contribution to the peace and global citizenship movements. First of course there is ICAN, which started in Melbourne, and won the Nobel Peace Prize a couple of years ago, due to the devoted efforts of people such as Tilman Ruff, Sue Wareham, Gem Romuld and many others, including our own Daryl Le Cornu.

Next I might mention Hugh Evans, also from Melbourne, founder of the Global Citizens organization, who turned on a global online pop concert recently that apparently raised \$78 million for the World Health Organization!

Then there is Emma Belcher, originally from Melbourne also, who has risen from anti-nuclear funding director at the Macarthur Foundation to now become the new President of the Ploughshares Fund in the United States.

And just recently Daniel Blewitt in Melbourne has set up a highly successful social media group under the banner of the Young World Federalists, which has already enlisted some 4000 followers on reddit – see later in this Bulletin!

### Campaign news

**Pacific Islands Community.** Pera Wells and I had previously attended a meeting with DFAT officials on this topic. I was invited to make a presentation before the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade inquiry on *Australia's defence relations with Pacific island nations* on Wednesday 16 July. The final report from the inquiry is not expected until December. I don't know that I made much impression, but at least we are being heard on this issue.

**UNPA campaign.** I have written to Gabriela Cuevas Barron, the President of the IPU, arguing that they should drop their opposition to the UNPA campaign, and again received another dead bat reply. Maybe the issue will be discussed at the upcoming *Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament*, due to take place shortly.

### Global News

#### International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

The ICAN campaign in support of the UN *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* (TPNW) is continuing to make excellent progress. Over two-thirds of the UN members support the Treaty in one way or another. Some 44 states have

already ratified the Treaty, heading rapidly towards the target of 50 ratifications which would see the Treaty enter into force. This is forecast to occur sometime next year. Australia, as an ally of the United States, does not support the Treaty.

#### UN75 Global Governance Forum, Sept 16-17. "The Future We Want: The UN We Need"

This Forum was organized by the UN2020 group, one of the leaders being Richard Ponzio of the Stimson Institute, a member of our CWSC working group, who moderated a couple of the sessions. Among the outcomes were a [UN75 Declaration](#) supporting among other things the UNPA and UNWCI campaigns, and an [Eminent Persons Open Letter](#), to be sent to the 75th meeting of the UN General Assembly.

#### WCAA Annual General Meeting

An online General Meeting of the WCAA/IGPSG/CWSC was held via Zoom at 8 pm, Sunday 27th September 2020, courtesy of the efforts of our Secretary, Luiz Bispo. We again had a record participation rate of ten members. Items discussed appear elsewhere in this Bulletin. For the minutes, see email from 3rd October 2020.

#### Presidents Report – Chris Hamer

See his column above, and items elsewhere in the Bulletin.

#### Bangladesh Aid Project – Wali Islam



Wali reported briefly on two items:

### **Community Library**

Wali is planning to send approximately 20,000 books to a container by 20 October to establish a community library and resource centre in Bangladesh. We are still collecting PCs, children's books and toys.

### **Vocational Education Centre**

This is a big new project for the future, which we have promised to assist where possible.

### **Treasurer's Report – Radhiga Dey**

For draft accounts, see the minutes.

### **Director of Education Report – Daryl Le Cornu**



### **Entry into Force (EIF) of the TPNW**

The 'Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons' (TPNW) has progressively been signed and ratified by nation states since its creation by the United Nations in July 2017. The TPNW will 'enter into force' in international law 90 days after its 50th ratification. Educating teachers and students, and the general community, about the significance of the TPNW's EIF is very important.

For us in the WCAA, one of the main reasons for the blossoming of world federation groups after Hiroshima was the belief that only a world government would be able to prevent a global nuclear catastrophe. 'One World or None' was the catch-cry of the movement.

The TPNW represents the desire of the majority of people and the majority of nations for these 1940s weapons of mass destruction to be eliminated.

For us in the WCAA, it is important that we understand the significance of the 'entry into force' of the TPNW as one of the ways that we can work towards the promotion of the rule of law at the global level.

### **The US Elections**

This 2020 US Presidential Election will be the most important since the 1940s. At stake is the future of democracy in the US and the role of the United States as the leader of democratic nations in a time when democracy is under threat from what journalist Nick Bryant describes as 'the axis of authoritarians.' It is therefore important that teachers and students, and the general community, are educated about what is at stake in this election.

However, as journalist Nick Bryant observes: 'The destructive forces that led to the presidency of Donald Trump will outlive his years in office. The earthquake that erupted in 2016 will continue to shake the land beneath our feet.'

I highly recommend Nick Bryant's recently released book, 'When America Stopped Being Great.' It covers the period from 1980 to now and takes in the key political, economic, technological and social changes over that period to help make sense of America today and understand the challenges that await whoever will lead this deeply divided nation in the future.

### **The Christchurch Massacre**

This terrible event in March 2019 will have ramifications for New Zealand, Australia and the world for many years to come. This senseless act of terrorist violence is the result of the hate speech and conspiracy theories, once only

propagated by extremist groups, entering mainstream political discourse. There is now a straight line that can be between the populist politics of leaders like Trump and acts of terrorist violence. Such terrorist acts can be perpetrated anywhere in the world by extremists influenced, not only by fringe ideologies, but also by mainstream leaders.

It is therefore very important that we understand this phenomenon and consider how it can be countered both locally and globally. On this topic, I recommend reading the report by Obama's ambassador to Russia, Michael McFaul, 'Global Populisms and Their Challenges: Threats and Solutions.' In this report populism is defined and explained and its impact of global order assessed.

### **The 75th Anniversary of the United Nations**

With all of the dramatic developments in 2020 the 75th anniversary of the United Nations may be overlooked. Yet, this is a critical time for the world body. Never before have we so needed the United Nations to play a large role in helping the international community to deal effectively with the challenges that we now face such as climate change, the pandemic, global inequality, geopolitical rivalry and the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

Yet, at the time when we need it the most, the United Nations is weak and ineffective due to a lack of leadership by powerful nation states, in particular, the five permanent members of the Security Council. In fact, things are so dire that, what political scientists call the Liberal International Order, for which the UN has supplied a common set of values and a certain degree of the rule of law at the international level, is unravelling.

It is in this context that we need to educate teachers and students, and the general community, about the history of

the United Nations and the important functions it carries out today. But also, how the world body is in desperate need of significant reform. The creation of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly is one area of significant reform that we at the WCAA support. Therefore, we need to keep up our advocacy for Democracy without Borders which is leading these efforts.

As the 75th anniversary approaches we should consider how we can use this to get our message out there in the public domain.



### **Young World Federalists - Daniel Blewitt**

**Videos for Daniel:** "I am making a large video that's supposed to essentially advertise the wider World Federalist movement and the Young World Federalists organisation I co-created. What we're asking for, from members of the World Federalist movement all across the spectrum, is a short 30 second to a minute video talking about why they're world federalists. Essentially hitting on the emotional 'greatest hits'. With these, I'm looking at maybe 20 at this stage, I'm going to stitch them together into one much larger video that will go to elude to just how many are actually out there and supporting this idea. I am aiming to target the rather enormous number of people out there who think this kind of thing but don't realize organisations and groups exist to support it. If you could create a video and then either email it to me or upload it to Youtube where i can download it, that'd be fantastic. I've already got some from YWF members, CGS members and Andreas

Bummel of DWB, so you'll be in good company”

### **The Young World Federalists (YWF)**

The idea of the YWF is to cover the 'what is world federalism' part of our pitch. Much of what we do as a wider movement is try to have a conversation with people about something they have no idea about. This makes our 'top down' approach of going straight to government very difficult, as what we present is not a pressing issue to anyone's constituency. The aim of the YWF is to target the general population, the people who you need arguing on your behalf and posting online defending you. We make videos, content, podcasts and galvanize communities through social media. We believe that the vast majority of people don't want to read too much, don't want to look too hard, interest is often fleeting and it's up to us to put out a strong trap to catch their attention. So Nicholas (USA), Charles (UK), John (UK), Ole (Norway) and a suite of newcomers facilitate these communities together, and they've grown quite well in the year or so of our existence. Our main home is on a platform known as Discord which has almost 300 members. Our reddit community sits around 4000. We figure our academic arguments are terrific already, we're just trying to bring people to table to have these meaningful conversations. If you're curious here's our website - [www.ywf.world](http://www.ywf.world) It's undergoing a large renovation though so you may want to check back in a couple of weeks, as me and Nicholas do the website work ourselves. Also, do check out the podcast that I host with some friends, 'After This: A Unification Podcast'! Lastly; do consider giving to our patreon, which we use to fund our activities, as you can see we're operating on a fragment of a shoestring at the moment -

<https://www.patreon.com/ywf>

### **Election of Officers**

**No other nominations having been received, the following officers were unanimously elected at the meeting:**

**President:** *Chris Hamer*

**Vice-President (Aid Project):** *Wali Islam*

**Vice-President (Community Engagement):** *Zeny Edwards*

**Treasurer:** *Radhiga Dey*

**Secretary:** *Luiz Bispo*

**Director of Education:** *Daryl Le Cornu*

We welcome Zeny Edwards as our new Vice-President for Community Engagement. With her long engagement with the UNAA Peace Program and her many contacts in civil society, she will be a very valuable addition to our team. Daryl will continue in his role in the educational work of the WCAA, with the title of Director of Education.

### **Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance (IGPSG)**

**Chairman's Report – Chris Hamer.** See above

**Treasurers Report, including IGPSG Trust – Wali Islam and C. Hamer.** See Minutes.

### **Model Global Parliament program**

COVID has blocked any possibility of holding a Model Global parliament this year, but we hope to try again in the first half of next year. Zeny Edwards has recruited a volunteer to organize the next MGP, Mona Ayoub, who has had previous experience in running similar events.

## Election of Officers

No other nominations being received, the following committee was declared elected to the official positions.

Chair: *Chris Hamer*

Vice-Chair: *Daryl Le Cornu*

Treasurer: *Wali Islam*

Secretary: *Luiz Bispo*

PS: The meeting expressed heartfelt thanks to Michael De Mol, our outgoing Vice-Chairman, for his long service and unfailing support for our cause. Michael was a founding member of the WCAA, and is now a Life Member.

## Coalition for a World Security Community

We are continuing our efforts to reach out to possible partner organizations for this campaign. We are currently trying to reach out to institutions both here and overseas, aiming particularly to have some input into the **#NATO2030** process, which will set the agenda for NATO for the next decade. We are also contemplating the possibility of organizing an international symposium next year under the title ***“Uniting the Democracies: The Way Forward”***. Watch this space.

*The meeting closed at 9 pm.  
27/9/2020.*

## REGISTRATION FORM

I would like to join/renew my membership in the World Citizens Association (Australia)

Surname:

---

First Name:

---

Occupation:

---

Postal Address:

---



---

Email Address:

---



---

Signature:

---

Date:

---

Subscription Rates:

Full \$40

Juniors, seniors, unwaged \$10

Funds transferred:

Subscription

-----

Donation to World Citizens Aid Project

-----

Total

---

Please complete this form and send together with your cheque made out to 'World Citizens Association (Australia)' to:

Radhiga Dey, Treasurer, World Citizens Association (Australia),

PO Box 2705

N. Parramatta NSW 1750

[treasurerwcaa@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerwcaa@gmail.com)

***Alternative methods of payment:***  
(please still send in the form)

Online via <http://www.wcaa.org.au>, hit the 'Member Login' button at the top of the page, and then either the 'Join Us' or the 'Donate' button (no password necessary).

Or use direct electronic funds transfer to

BSB: 633000, account: 122927916