



THE BULLETIN

Australian World Citizens Association
 Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Development

<http://www.wcaa.org.au>

<http://igpsg.org/>

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Highlights of this Edition:

Global News.....3
 Local News.....6

Regulars:

President's Column... 2
Daryl Le Cornu
 Editor's Corner.....10
Chris Hamer
 February General Meeting.....6
 Aid Project Report.....7
Wali Islam

Treasurer's Report.....7
Radhiga Dey
 Institute for Global Peace &
 Sustainable Governance (IGPSG)...10

Articles

Submission to the Foreign Policy
 White Paper.....11
Chris Hamer
 Andrew Greig's Odyssey.....12
Andrew Greig

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President's Column:



The global situation today

The global situation today is very concerning. We may be witnessing a real turning point in history: 2017 may see a significant shift with the rise of populist right groups around the world riding on a wave of global sentiment. We are starting to see attacks on every good positive development there has been made since 1945.

Human rights, international humanitarian law, United Nations, the ICC, the rule of law, climate change action, nuclear disarmament mechanisms, and refugee assistance, will all come under strongly increasing attack from now on. The WCAA has been a strong campaigner for 'robust multilateralism', the ultimate expression of which is the

creation of some sort of global parliament. However, today all the momentum is running in the other direction and into a breakdown of world order and international anarchy.

Today we see an upsurge in authoritarian leaders around the world who have no regard for human rights, the UN, humanitarian relief, democracy, or the rule of law. The most significant of these in recent years has been Vladimir Putin who has transformed Russia from a somewhat dysfunctional democracy with oligarchic features into a regime in which the authoritarian state rules supreme. Putin has been bank-rolling far right political groups in Europe, the ultimate aim being to split the European Union apart, and NATO along with it. Putin has now been joined by Trump, who has these same objectives. There are people in the Trump administration, like Steve Bannon, with a vision of revolutionary transformation of the United States and the world with a populist far right ideology. Authoritarian leaders of other nations around the world now feel emboldened by the Trump presidency and now feel that they can get away with anything. Even in Australia we are witnessing the rise of far right groups peddling hate, racism and xenophobia. Many historians believe that we are witnessing a time very similar to the rise of fascism and international anarchy that occurred in the 1930s.

So, where does the WCAA stand amidst these significant developments in the world today? Firstly the WCAA needs to speak out strongly for the ideals that we believe are essential for the survival of human race. We need to help the public understand what is happening today, what is at stake, how the world is travelling in the wrong direction, and we can get back on the right track. We need to remind people about the achievements in history that have created a reasonably stable world since 1945. We need to sound a warning that if the present momentum

HELP WANTED!

We need energetic volunteers, one to act as Secretary of the WCA, and one to take over as Editor of the Bulletin. Anyone able to help, please contact Daryl Le Cornu at djlecornu@hotmail.com



for authoritarianism and renewed militarism is not reversed then there will be a catastrophe. In the 1940s, Fascism and Nazism were tackled head on ideologically as well as militarily. In that time of peril, the United States led by Franklin Roosevelt put up an alternative vision of a world order encapsulated in the Four Freedoms speech and the Atlantic Charter. These formed the foundation for the United Nations. However, first the Axis Powers had to be defeated through military force during the Second World War..

Today, we cannot afford to have a world war to resolve this issue. Any global conflicts that involve the great powers would likely involve the use of nuclear weapons and this would be catastrophic for civilisation and for life on the planet. Also today, unlike the 1940s, there is no strong nation that can champion those positive 'UN values' encapsulated in the foundational UN documents such as the UN Charter, the UDHR, the genocide convention, and the refugee convention, in addition to the international humanitarian law laid down in the Geneva Conventions.

The USA under Trump has joined those negative forces and, along with Vladimir Putin, seems bent on undermining the rule of law both domestically and internationally.

So today we as an organization need to speak out clearly about these issues and to pursue ways of educating people about them. We need some further discussions of how best to do this and how to convert this into a plan of action for 2017.

Daryl Le Cornu

News and Events

Global News

Swedish Billionaire Will Award \$5 Million For Reimagining Global Governance

Yes, you read that right. The Global Challenges Foundation, founded by the Swedish billionaire László Szombatfalvy, has launched an international competition in order to find a better system for world governance. As Szombatfalvy writes in a letter published on the Foundation's website:

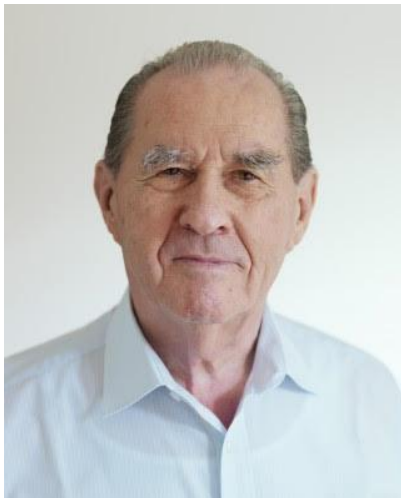
The greatest threats we face today transcend national boundaries; they therefore need to be addressed jointly by all countries based on an increased realization of our mutual dependence. Our current international system – including but not limited to the United Nations - was set up in another era following the Second World War. It is no longer fit for purpose to deal with 21st century risks that can affect people anywhere in the world.



We urgently need fresh new thinking in order to address the scale and gravity of today's global challenges, which have outgrown the present system's ability to handle them.

[The Global Challenges Prize 2017: A New Shape](#) is calling on individuals, groups of individuals, universities, companies or associations from anywhere in the world to submit proposals outlining an alternative world governance model – either by revising the present UN system, or by proposing completely new forms of governance. The new model should be able to effectively address some of the most pressing global problems (like climate change, population growth, extreme poverty) by making it possible for nations to make collectively binding, long-term decisions that take into account the interests of all those affected, including future generations.

After the submission deadline on May 24, 2017, a panel of academic experts and respected global figures will assess each entry according to already specified criteria, which include core values, decision-making capacity, resources and financing, accountability and transparency. A total of US\$5 million will be distributed amongst the shortlisted entries and the Foundation is committed to supporting the winning ideas towards implementation.



László Szombatfalvy was born in 1927 in Budapest. At 29 he fled from Hungary arriving to Sweden as a refugee. Starting with nothing and working odd jobs, he gradually developed an interest in the stock market and developed his own model for the valuation and risk analysis of shares. He became a successful investor (with 30% return per year for 46 years) and eventually became interested in applying his risk assessment method to the challenges currently facing humanity. He started The Global Challenges Foundation in 2012 with the aim to “incite deeper understanding of the most pressing global risks to humanity - and to catalyse new ways of tackling them.”

From Teodora Zareva, on “Big Think”

[Editor's note: This is fantastic news! We could hardly have written the advertisement better ourselves. We will certainly make a submission, and even if we don't win a prize, we will look to form links with the Global Challenges Foundation. Thanks to Pera Wells for spotting this opportunity.]

Building Global Community

Another billionaire, another big idea! In a speech, Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook has declared that Facebook will dedicate itself to building a global community in coming years. Some extracts from his speech:



“Facebook stands for bringing us closer together and building a global community. When we began, this idea was not controversial. Every year, the world got more connected and this was seen as a positive trend. Yet now, across the world there are people left behind by globalization, and movements for withdrawing from global connection. There are questions about whether we can make a global community that works for everyone, and whether the path ahead is to connect more or reverse course.”

“For the past decade, Facebook has focused on connecting friends and families. With that foundation, our next focus will be developing the social infrastructure for community -- for supporting us, for keeping us safe, for informing us, for civic engagement, and for inclusion of all.”

Read more at

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/mark-zuckerberg/building-global-community/10154544292806634>

[Thanks to Colin Fabig for spotting this one. This can only be an enormously positive development also.]

Nuclear Weapons Ban

United Nations member states have voted overwhelmingly to start negotiations on a treaty to ban nuclear weapons, despite strong opposition from nuclear-armed nations and their allies. In the vote in the UN disarmament and international security committee, 123 nations were in favour of the resolution, 38 opposed and 16 abstained. The resolution aims to hold a conference in March 2017 to negotiate a “legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

Nuclear powers the United States, Russia, Israel, France and the United Kingdom were among those that opposed the measure. Australia, as a long-time dependant on the US’s extended nuclear deterrence, also voted no.

During months of negotiations, Australia has lobbied other countries, pressing the case for what it describes as a “building blocks” approach of engaging with nuclear powers to reduce the global stockpile of 15,000 weapons. Australia has consistently maintained that as long as nuclear weapons exist, it must rely on the protection of the deterrent effect of the US’s nuclear arsenal, the second largest in the world.

When he appeared before the Senate estimates committee, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s assistant secretary, Richard Sadleir, forecast Australia’s rejection of the vote: “Consistent with the position to that we took to the open-ended working group (into nuclear disarmament) report, we will be voting no with respect to that resolution.”

(extracted from a piece by Ben Doherty, The Guardian)



Local News

Foreign Policy Submission

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has called for submissions regarding the new White Paper, to set directions for Australian Foreign Policy for the next five or ten years. Chris has put in a submission with 9 recommendations on behalf of WCA, and one more on his own behalf regarding the future of NATO (which did not enjoy universal support). A summary of the recommendations is given at the end of the Bulletin.

Model Global Parliament

Pera Wells, Kelly Wu and Chris Hamer met before Christmas, to discuss the future of the Model Global Parliament program. It was agreed that permanent standing committees should be set up to run the MGP events, at both national and state levels. Kelly has agreed to be national chair, and has drawn up a list of positions to be filled, with desirable attributes. Pera and Chris are to draw up an advertisement outlining the MGP aims and mission, and then we will advertise for volunteers to join the committees.

Centre for Peace with Justice

The former Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at Sydney University has now been reconstituted as the Council for Peace with Justice. It will collaborate with the new Department of Peace and Conflict Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. It will continue to campaign especially on issues particularly to do with human rights, such as the West Papua and Israel;-Palestine issues, as well as supporting the Department both morally and financially where it can.

Centre for Global Studies

A Centre for Global Studies was set up in New Zealand in 2012, headed by Kennedy Graham, a former diplomat and member of the NZ Parliament. It is located on Waiheke Island, near Auckland. It deals with many of the issues that concern us, and in particular it is promoting the idea of *'global citizenship'*.

February General Meeting

The General Meeting was held on Sunday February 26th at Radhiga Dey's house, 9 Weaver Place in Minchinbury. Minutes have been circulated, and many news items are given elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Secretary Position

Ranny Rustam has submitted her resignation as Secretary, due to pressure of commitments with work, and a new baby due shortly. Chris Hamer will fill in as Acting Secretary. The meeting expressed their thanks and appreciation to Ranny for her



support and dedication, and for the excellent set of minutes she produced for the AGM last year.

Aid Project Report

- Wali has just returned from an extended visit to Bangladesh. He noted that the school has only one classroom, and there has been a petition for a separate toilet from the girls.
- A big celebration was held
- A benefactor has donated land that could be used for a library Resource Centre opposite the Parliament building in Dhaka. Wali has been accumulating large numbers of second-hand and donated books for a resource centre.
- Wali will provide a fuller report on the aid project and the school, for use in fund-raising activities.

Wali Islam

Treasurer's Report

- Rada has now submitted reports to NSW Fair Trading and the ACNC for the 2015-2016 financial year. Accounts for the year are given below.
- We will need to renew our charitable fundraising registration soon.
- Receipts for donations will go out very shortly.
- She hopes to be able to help with corporate fundraising shortly, e.g. with Aldi.
- We currently have 20 financial members
- There is a Bangladeshi festival in April where we may be able to raise some funds
- We are paid up for the Aid Project up to 1st quarter 2017

Rada Dey



World Citizen's Association (Australia) Incorporated
ABN 89 236 706 622

WCAA Account

Statement of Income and expenditure for financial year ending 30 June 2016

	2015-2016	2014-2015
Funds carried from previous year	\$351.74	\$390.83
Income		
Membership fees	\$1446.62	\$562.00
Donations	\$40000.00	\$330.00
Transfers from WCA Aid project	\$0.00	\$0
Paypal	\$23.61	\$0
Total	\$41821.97	\$1282.83
Expenditure		
Administration and Government fees	\$87.00	\$260.60
PayPal fees	\$6.99	\$4.24
Bank fees and charges	\$20.00	\$0
Postal expenses	\$108.47	\$197.05
Printing and stationary	\$180.44	\$299.20
World Federalist Movement	\$80.00	\$0
Transfers to Aid Project	\$0.00	\$170.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0
Total	482.90	\$931.09
Surplus(Deficit) for the year	41339.07	\$351.74

Balance Sheet for the year ended 30 June 2016

	2015-2016	2014-2015
Assets		
Cash at Bank	\$41339.07	\$339.74
PayPal	\$0.00	\$12.00
Total	\$41579.06	\$351.74
Liabilities		
Bills payable	\$0.00	\$0
Net Assets	\$41339.07	\$351.74
Funds carried forward	\$41339.07	\$351.74



WCAA Aid Project Account

Statement of Income and expenditure for financial year ending 30 June 2016

	2015-2016	2014-2015
Funds carried from previous year	\$1831.71	\$1351.01
Income		
Donations	\$0	\$5675.00
Wheelchair appeal	\$0	\$0
Transfers from WCAA account	\$0	\$170.00
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1831.71	\$7196.01
Expenditure		
Administration and Government fees	\$0	\$
Support for Wajifa Noor Ashmatia Foundation	\$0	\$1800.00
PayPal fees	\$	\$54.30
Bank fees and charges	\$0	\$0
Postal expenses	\$0	\$0
Printing and stationary	\$0	\$0
Wheelchair appeal	\$0	\$3000.00
Cyclone Pam Appeal	\$0	\$250.00
Nepal Relief Appeal	\$0	\$250.00
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$10.00
Total		\$5364.30
Surplus(Deficit) for the year	\$0.00	\$1831.71

Balance Sheet for the year ended 30 June 2016

	2015-2016	2014-2015
Assets		
Cash at Bank	\$1831.71	\$1831.71
Cash with VicePresident	\$3000.00	\$0
PayPal	\$0.00	\$0
Total	\$4831.71	\$1831.71
Liabilities		
Support for WajifaFoundation	\$3600.00	\$0
Net Assets	\$1231.71	\$1831.71
Funds carried forward	\$1231.71	\$1831.71



Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance (IGPSG)

Chairman's Report

We have invested previously donated funds as follows: \$40K into hybrid bank shares, for a steady income; \$40K into a managed fund for capital gain. We aim to do something similar for WCA funds.

We have not been successful in finding a wealthy philanthropist to fund our activities. The Ford Foundation, which used to be a generous benefactor to the World Federalist movement in times past, has not contributed for some years, and has closed its mentoring program. The Atlantic Foundation has closed its donations list. We will keep trying, nevertheless.

Chris Hamer

Financial statements

IGPSG Trust Statement of Income and Expenditure For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2016

	2015	2016
INCOME		
Donations	\$ 3197.69	5000.00
Interest	\$ 0.55	0.11
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 3198.24	5000.11
EXPENDITURE		
Project support	\$4247.69	5000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 4247.69	5000.00
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(\$1049.45)	0.11
Accumulated Funds at the Start of the Year	\$ 1150.94	101.49
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	\$ 101.49	101.60

The sole activity during the year was a donation of \$5000 to the scholarship program at the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney.

Editor's Corner

In his President's column, Daryl has highlighted the current trend towards authoritarianism and anti-globalisation movements around the globe. But in opposition to this are initiatives such as those of Mark Zuckerberg and the Global Challenges Foundation outlined in the global news section, promoting respectively global community and global governance. We must try to tap into these initiatives if we can.

Chris Hamer



Articles

Submissions to the Foreign Policy White Paper

Responding to a call from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for submissions to the 2017 White Paper on Australia's foreign policy, a submission was made on behalf of our World Citizens Association of Australia. A summary of the recommendations follows:

- 1. The general objectives of Australian foreign policy should include:*
 - Australia should aim not only to support and preserve the rules-based international order, but to strengthen and extend it;*
 - Australia should aim to support existing multilateral institutions, and help to build new ones;*
 - Australia should promote co-operation and integration between nations at both regional and global levels;*
 - As a long-term objective, Australia should work with other like-minded members of the democratic community of nations to build a binding system of international law, and an effective system of democratic global governance, or global parliament.*
- 2. Climate change: Australia should monitor our compliance with the Paris agreement;*
- 3. Australia should support the initiative for a World Conference on Global Institutions in 2020.*
- 4. DFAT should prepare an in-depth discussion paper on the proposal for an United Nations Parliamentary Network/Assembly, for the information of federal MPs.*
- 5. Australia should continue to promote the political development of the Pacific Islands Forum into a Pacific Islands Community, as the primary focus of co-operation and development in the region.*
- 6. The figure of 0.5% of GDP should be re-established as the target for our overseas development assistance program, even if there is little prospect of that target being met at present.*
- 7. Australia should play a constructive role in the negotiations at the United Nations for a new nuclear weapons convention, and help to construct a treaty that the nuclear-weapon states should be able to accept.*
- 8. Australia should consider the establishment of a Pacific Islands Security Force, including a Pacific Islands Maritime Patrol and perhaps a Pacific Islands Regiment, in conjunction with other members of the Pacific Islands Forum.*
- 9. DFAT should arrange regular discussions/seminars on matters of foreign policy at DFAT in Canberra to which appropriate NGOs are invited, and the World Citizens Association would be keen to take part in any such discussions.*

For the full submission, [Read more](#)



A further submission was made by Chris Hamer individually, since it did not meet with universal approval from members:

The White Paper should include a review of the concept of a 'global NATO' and the possibility of NATO evolving into a world security community of democratic nations. If a new treaty to that effect was drawn up, Australia should be among the first to consider applying to join as a full member of the new organization.

For the full submission, [Read more](#)

Andrew Greig's Odyssey



Andrew Greig recently completed a journey, largely by bicycle, from Shetland to Scilly in Britain. Purpose of the trip was to promote his campaign for Non-lethal Warfare. With the loyal support of his wife Libby, he spent two full months traversing the length of the British isles, with various stops and meetings along the way. It was hard work, and at times he thought of giving up, but he got there in the end.

He had hoped to do some walking (and even kayaking!) "but the only walking I could fit in was up hills pushing the bike (which I did quite frequently). I travelled through the Scottish Highlands, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Newcastle. I then travelled through Yorkshire and Derbyshire and then across to Stamford, before heading south west past Oxford and Bath, through Somerset, Devon and Cornwall to finish at Penzance. One great benefit was that I was able to build up an extensive list of stakeholders - peace activists, military, journalists etc.

The idea of the Journey the length of Britain - *Shetland to Scilly – New Technologies for Peace* - was to promote the message that using lethal weaponry, like generating energy from fossil fuel, is crude, damaging and outdated. Just as we must change from fossil fuel technology to stop global warming, so - if we are to avoid a future nuclear holocaust - must we cease using lethal weapons in conflicts between nations. Using nonlethal technologies rather than bullets and bombs, we can maintain international security without killing people and move closer to world peace. To underline these parallels, he planned to travel as much as possible without fossil fuel - by human power "on foot, by bicycle and even by kayak".

Andrew Greig

For the full account, [Read more.](#)

