



THE BULLETIN

World Citizens Association (Australia)
Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Development

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

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Contacts:

President: Daryl Le Cornu, djlecornu@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Radhiga Dey, radhiga.dey@gmail.com
Editor: Chris Hamer, C.Hamer@unsw.edu.au



President's Column:



The Global Situation

The global situation is characterised by many worrying trends such as:

- The rise of nationalism, populism, extremism and racism
- The decline of democracy in many nations and the rise of authoritarian leadership.
- The failure of world leaders to take serious action to address the greatest global threats – climate change and nuclear weapons
- The denial of facts particularly in regard to science and history
- The decline in support for human rights, even by democratic governments
- The failure of the international community to deal with mass atrocity crimes such as are occurring in Syria, Myanmar, and Yemen, to name a few.
- The lack of compassion for the unprecedented large number of refugees and internally displaced peoples (IDPs).
- The disempowerment of the United Nations – lack of funding and support, and lack of attention to its advice and leadership on key global issues.
- The growing seriousness of the geopolitical rivalry involving the USA, Russia and China.
- The attacks on the press globally and the targeting and even killing of journalists.
- The questioning of the viability of the European Union in light of Brexit, Russian meddling and the rise of far-right racist groups.
- The power of fake news and the decline of traditional media. The willingness of people to be lied to by their leaders and not to question what they are told.
- The Trump Administration's dysfunction and increasing danger of a President with few restraints placed on him
- The lack of knowledge and understanding of history and the general public's failure to comprehend the lessons of history, let alone think of positive solutions

These things, and others are outlined recently in an opinion piece by Stan Grant.

See:

'We haven't seen the End of History. We are witnessing its bloody return.'

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-01/stan-grant-2019-the-end-of-history/10675572>

However, there are also signs of hope emerging. Here are a few examples:

- With Democrat control of the House of Representatives in the USA there is the beginnings of what may become a 'democratic spring' in the United States.
- The recent protest by high school students over government inaction on climate change.



- The government in Australia is likely to change early in 2019 which hopefully will end the dysfunctionality and lack of positive action on global issues. The Shadow Foreign Minister, Penny Wong, is pledging to pursue a policy of 'constructive internationalism' if Labor wins government.
- The Labor Party's recent commitment to sign and ratify the Nuclear Ban Treaty. This is dealt with below.

Daryl Le Cornu

Global News

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

The WCAA is one of over 500 civil society organizations supporting ICAN, the International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. Their major achievement has been this new Treaty, the first major new disarmament treaty in 20 years. The Treaty of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was created by 122 nations at the United Nations on 7 July 2017. Since then, the TPNW has been open for signature and ratification. 69 nations have signed the treaty and 19 have ratified it. This compares favourably with other similar international treaties. At this rate we are on track for the treaty to come into force perhaps as early as 2020. Of course, the nine Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) are absolutely opposed to this treaty because they know that the TPNW will play an important role in stigmatizing and delegitimising these WMD.

ICAN Australia is working hard in their efforts to lobby federal members of Parliament to support the Australia government signing the TPNW. The Greens' parliamentarians have all signed this pledge, and 78% of federal Labor parliamentarians support a future Labor government signing the TPNW. ICAN will continue their lobbying efforts in the lead-up to the next Federal Election.

The WCAA supports educating the community about this new UN treaty. This is done by giving talks to teachers in conjunction with supplying copies of the TPNW.

Daryl Le Cornu

Paris Peace Forum

The Paris Peace Forum is a new annual event instigated by President Macron. It is based on a simple idea: international cooperation is key to tackling global challenges and ensuring durable peace. To support collective action, it gathers **all actors of global governance** under one roof for three days – states, international organizations, local governments, NGOs and foundations, companies, experts, journalists, trade unions, religious groups and citizens. Through original formats of debates and the presentation of solutions, it demonstrates there is still a momentum for multilateralism and a better



organization of the planet, both among states from North and South and civil society actors.

Chris Hamer attended the Forum as co-leader of a new project for a World Security Community, supported by the Global Challenges Foundation in Stockholm (see below). Other attendees from Australia were Wali Islam and Afroza Begum. Our group attended the Forum over three days, Sunday 11th to Tuesday 13th December 2018. The event took place in a great industrial exhibition hall on the eastern side of Paris. It was set up like an industrial expo, with 120 stalls set up around the hall, all spruiking their different projects, handing out business cards and pamphlets, ours among them.

Sunday 11th, Armistice Day, was for group leaders only, and saw the opening of the Forum, with speeches by President Macron of France, Chancellor Merkel of Germany, and Secretary-general Guterres from the UN. They said all the right things about the need for more multilateral cooperation and better governance to deal with the critical problems which confront us all as global citizens.

The Forum proper took place on the Monday and Tuesday. There were 120 stalls exhibiting their wares, of which the Global Challenges Foundation had one. We were one of five projects being sponsored by the GCF, and manned the stall for two hours on each day. Otherwise, our group members wandered around the other stalls, exchanging business cards and brochures, and making some useful contacts which we hope to follow up later. I gave a 15 minute pitch outlining our proposal for a World Security Community on the Tuesday, followed by ten minutes of questions and feedback, which was very useful.

For more information about the GCF projects, see [here](#)

Chris Hamer

[UN Parliamentary Assembly Campaign](#)

The Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly is aimed at creating an assembly of parliamentarians as a subsidiary of the General Assembly, as a nucleus for an eventual elected global parliament. It is perhaps the most lively campaign for UN reform at the present time, driven by Andreas Bummel, Jo Leinen (MEP) and the NGO Democracy Without Borders in Germany. World Federalist associations in Switzerland and Sweden have decided to change their names also to Democracy Without Borders. We have donated A\$4000 to this campaign this year, and hope to make it a regular donation as long as funds permit.

Their achievements in the past year include the formation of a *Parliamentary Group for a UNPA*, with five MPs were elected as co-chairs: Fernando Iglesias, Member of Argentina's Chamber of Deputies; Daniel Jositsch, Member of the Swiss Council of States (i.e. the Senate); Jo Leinen, Member of the European Parliament from Germany;



Naveed Qamar, Member of Pakistan's National Assembly; and Ivone Soares, Member of Mozambique's National Assembly and Pan-African Parliament. In a *resolution* adopted in July, the *European Parliament* called on the governments of the EU to support the establishment of a UNPA and a UN Reform Summit in 2020 "to discuss comprehensive reform measures for the renewal and strengthening of the United Nations". Finally, 2018 saw the publication in English of the book by Jo Leinen and Andreas Bummel entitled "*A World Parliament: Governance and Democracy in the 21st Century*".

To learn more, look at their annual report [here](#).

[New Shape Process](#)

The Global Challenges Foundation, set up by Swedish billionaire Laszlo Szombatfalvy, recently held a \$5 million prize competition, '*A New Shape*', for the best new ideas on global governance to deal with the enormous global challenges and risks confronting us all. It received 2700 entries. We submitted two entries, advocating a *World Security Community* of democratic nations, but were knocked out in the first round.

In the aftermath, however, the GCF encouraged participants in the New Shape Prize competition to form working groups to prepare entries for the major new international meeting, the *Paris Peace Forum* in November. It was apparently initiated by President Macron himself, and is aiming to become the 'Davos' of the peace movement.

In the event, we formed a strong working group, which consists now of some 20+ members, including Didier Jacobs from Oxfam as co-leader. We were one of five groups selected to go on to Paris with support from the Global Challenges Foundation. It is a challenging and exciting time. Watch this space!

Chris Hamer

Local News

[Coalition for a World Security Community](#)

As part of this project for a World Security Community of democratic nations which was mentioned above, we are in the process of setting up a *Coalition for a World Security Community*, to try and generate civil support for the project. Branches have been established in NSW and New York, with officers myself as President, Didier Jacobs as Vice-President, Rada as Treasurer and Brian Hyouk Son as Secretary. Our working group in support of the Coalition includes Australian members myself, Rada, Pera, Michelle, John, Austin, Brett and Brian. Daryl, Wali, Zeny Edwards and Camilla Schippa have been enlisted later. Many thanks to Austin and Brett for helping to set up a website for this group.

What is the actual project? See a summary at the end of this Bulletin, and a full description [here](#).

Chris Hamer.



ICAN & The Labor Party Conference - *Daryl Le Cornu*

Recently, I attended the Labor Party National Conference in Adelaide as part of the ICAN team that was there to lobby delegates to commit a future Labor government to sign and ratify the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

ICAN Australia has been working extremely hard to get the Australian Labor Party to commit to sign and ratify the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The treaty was created by the UN General Assembly, on 7 July 2017. Gem Romuld, Director of ICAN Australia, has coordinated a comprehensive campaign to this end. The most significant aspect of this campaign has been the pledge, now signed by 78% of Labor parliamentarians, that they would support a future Labor government signing a ratifying the TPNW. This has involved members of the ICAN team meeting individually with each Labor member to explain the TPNW and its role in achieving nuclear disarmament. However, there was some significant opposition to the TPNW within the Labor Party.

Meanwhile, the Coalition government has been notable for its outright opposition to the TPNW. Foreign Minister Julie Bishop had sought to derail the momentum for the treaty when it was being formulated in a series of international conferences between 2013 and 2014. Only two Coalition MPs have signed the pledge.

In contrast, the Greens totally support the TPNW and their MPs have given speeches in the Senate on it. They had a session at their national conference in Katoomba in November at which I spoke.

As well as this strategy of reaching out to Labor parliamentarians, Gem Romuld organized the Nobel Peace Ride, which was a 3-week bike ride from Melbourne (where ICAN originated) to Parliament House in Canberra. They took the Nobel Peace Prize medal with them and gave talks and lectures in the various towns on the way where they were warmly received and received positive reports in the press. On arrival in Canberra, the ICAN bike riders sought to take the medal with them for a meeting with the Coalition ministers but were unsuccessful. However, a number of prominent Labor parliamentarians, including Anthony Albanese, greeted the bike riders with enthusiasm. Furthermore, in the lead up to the National Conference in Adelaide, held between 16-18 December, Gem worked with a small group of Labor members to reach out to the remaining parliamentarians who had not signed the pledge, as well as to the 400 delegates to the conference, and to every person of influence within the wider party. The latter included former Labor members who were in, or had been in, leadership positions in the party. Also ICAN reached out to a number of unions, particularly as these could hold some influence at the conference, as well as to other people of influence in Labor outside of Parliament.

Over the three days of the Labor Party National Conference, ICAN's team of 8 used every opportunity to talk to delegates and other people attending the conference and to



maintain a visible presence. ICAN's fringe event was chaired by Robert Tickner and had two Labor speakers, Karina Lester and Tim Wright. On the floor of the conference, straight after the fringe event, Anthony Albanese gave an impassioned speech in favour of a resolution committing a future Labor government to sign and ratify the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This resolution was seconded by Richard Marles and supported by the delegates to the conference.

The Resolution:

Labor in government will sign and ratify the Treaty [on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons], after taking account of the need to:

- ***Ensure an effective verification and enforcement architecture;***
- ***Ensure the interaction of the Ban Treaty with the longstanding Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;***
- ***Work to achieve universal support for the Ban Treaty.***

This represents a significant step in the global campaign to bring the TPNW into force by 2020. The current rate of signatures and ratifications makes this a distinct possibility. As of this time, 69 countries have signed the treaty and 19 have ratified it. The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons marks a significant step in filling the legal gap of these weapons of mass destruction.

The link to Albanese's speech can be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsILvuwgHOk&t=4s>

Some articles after the conference by ICAN members, Gem Romuld and Tilman Ruff:

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/labor-sets-the-right-course-onnuclear-disarmament-20181224-p50o22.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/>

Model Global Parliament program

The 2018 Sydney MGP took place in the Legislative Assembly on Friday September 28. Attendances were very low, only about a dozen MPs showed up on the day. We will have to do much better at recruiting next year.

Nevertheless, I believe all our participants thoroughly enjoyed their day. Our invited speakers were excellent. We heard about two major Australian initiatives in the field of global peacebuilding. Darren Lewis talked about the Global Peace Index, which was compiled by the Institute for Economics and Peace, founded right here in Sydney by Steve Killelea; and Gem Romuld talked about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, pioneered by ICAN, which won the Nobel Peace Prize for its work last year, and was founded in Melbourne some years ago. Our MPs were thrilled to have their pictures taken with the Nobel Prize medal on the day. Other speakers included Pera



Wells, founder of the program, who talked about the need for a global parliament, and the possibility it could be established right here in Australia! Zeny Edwards talked about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, while I gave an overview of our project on a World Security Community of democratic nations.

It struck me that Australians are making a real impact on the movement for peace worldwide, which we can be enormously proud of. First of all, obviously, is the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to ICAN for its amazing efforts towards nuclear disarmament; and secondly, the creation of the Global Peace Index by Steve Killelea and his team, which I see quoted everywhere in the peace literature these days.

Our committee this year included Daryl, myself, Rada, Pera, Zeny Edwards, Paul Neeraj and four young people, Henry Chen, Joyce Chen, Luiz Bispo, Nayonika Bhattacharya, and Perkins Lui. Unfortunately neither Nayonika nor Joyce could be present at the event itself, so were a bit short-handed. Our 'permanent' committee from last year vanished from this year's event.

Zeny Edwards has volunteered to act as Director for the 2019 Sydney MGP, and promises to reinvigorate the event entirely! We wish her all good luck in that enterprise.

Chris Hamer

[Junior World Citizens](#)

As has been reported in recent meetings, the key aim of the Junior World Citizens Project has been taken over by every teacher in Australia because of the Curriculum Document published in 2008. Copies are available at.

https://www.globaleducation.edu.au/verve/_resources/GPS_web.pdf. Some teachers are not yet fully aware as there are so many curriculum documents.

Some schools including Fort Street High School have elevated the principle to their key aim and I quote from their website. Their FORTIAN CODE page starts with this paragraph:

** Students at Fort Street are encouraged to become effective global citizens and leaders of the rapidly changing 21st century. As well as developing their own gifts, Fortians are expected to recognise their responsibility to the wider community, and commit to a strong sense of social justice, fairness and equity. They are encouraged to build emotional resilience, self-reliance and leadership potential.**

As usual I will attend the coming SPEECH DAY of that famous school on Friday 22 February 2019 in the Sydney Town Hall, and for the first time there will be at least two prizes for GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP. One has been inaugurated by WCAA and my brother and I funded a second. Subject to further agreement I will seek funding from other bodies so that there is a prize for GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP at each year level. I will work toward each school in Australia giving recognition in various ways to those students who show special promise in that area. A key role of the JWC PROJECT is now to



encourage schools to implement that key document using the extensive available resources. I intend visiting schools when opportunities arise to encourage teachers and school communities to implement the ideas put forward. I hasten to add that, because of my long-term and moderately successful career as teacher, Principal and School Psychologist/Counsellor, I believe some success will be achieved.

Now that the WCAA membership document includes a Junior (School Age) category, my role includes cooperating with WCAA in the follow-up of those who join in that category. That has been achieved in part by the webpage www.juniorworldcitizen.com and I expect as cooperation develops that that page will close down once basic follow up is being achieved through the WCAA website i.e. recognition of membership and regular communication.

The informal support group for WCAA based at Henry Kendal Gardens has agreed to look into the development of a separate supportive Incorporated body entitled something like Fun&Goodwill4PEACE Inc. This name and suitable website names are available and expect to be tied up this year.

My life experience has always sought to simplify matters and fortunately I have experienced small but significant successes. Having been inspired by numerous life experiences I expect that within the next twelve months a GLOBAL GATHERING regular meeting will be an activity of the support group at HKG.

I am cooperating in small ways with the project to finalise the launch into mainstream theatres of MY COUNTRY IS THE WORLD which will be a great factor in developing further support for WCAA and associated groups.

I am eternally thankful for the opportunity to be kept in the loop of WCAA. It has brought endless opportunities and excitement and brought an additional sense of meaning to my life. The financial support approved at an earlier meeting is a significant factor in my ability to proceed. It is not only possible but expected that efforts like we are involved with can gain outside support as it is what everyone wants but sadly so many do not consider possible. I certainly am confident that continuous small improvements will continue to be made towards a more peaceful world.





Advertising is a key factor in any endeavour in this modern world. I have included a couple of photos of our car with the 4PEACE custom numberplate and associated magnetic signs which attract further attention and publicise www.worldcitizens.org.au. Peace and goodwill is a basic aim of all ways of life and dressing as an angel added fun and impact to the recent Christmas Gosford Parade in front of thousands. I suggest investigating further professional website assistance to maximise the support of our quite extraordinarily successful small group.

John Hegarty

‘The World is My Country’

‘The World is My Country’ is a new film by Arthur Kanegis which tells the remarkable story of Garry Davis, the ‘First World Citizen’. He renounced his US citizenship in 1948, declared himself a citizen of the world, and lived for a while in a tent on international territory at the UN, which was meeting in Paris at the time. He started a popular movement, offering World Passports which have been taken out by something like 4 million people in the years since. We have donated \$1000 towards the commercial release of this film.

WCAA Annual General Meeting

The WCA Annual General Meeting was held on 21st October at Rada Dey’s house in Minchinbury. Minutes have been circulated, and many news items are given elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Treasurer’s Report – *Radhiga Dey*
TBA

Secretary’s Report – *Chris Hamer*

Items appear elsewhere in the Bulletin.



Aid Project Report – Wali Islam

Wali talked briefly about his ambition to establish a High School in the area, to allow young people in the district to go on to higher education.

Education Report – Daryl Le Cornu

It has been a privilege to teach history curriculum to pre-service teachers at two universities. A sound historical knowledge of developments in the 20th and 21st centuries is essential for helping students to ‘make sense of the world around them’ and to be ‘active and informed citizens.’ Teaching the history teachers of the future is important in ensuring that the citizens of tomorrow will have the understanding and skills to deal the issues and challenges of the future. One of these is the promotion of democracy and human rights globally. The textbook that I have contributed to emphasises the values of democracy, human rights and global citizenship.

We in the WCAA need to look at creative ways to connect with the school curriculum, particularly with Civics and Citizenship curriculum, human rights and global education. In 2019 we could consider connecting the Model Global Parliament into these aspects of the school curriculum and to open up the MGP to school students. We could also look at linking an essay-writing competition on global citizenship. These could also be linked with the Junior World Citizen membership.

Election of Officers

No other nominations having been received, the previous committee was declared elected:

President:	Daryl Le Cornu
Vice-President:	Wali Islam
Treasurer:	Radhiga Dey
Secretary:	Chris Hamer

Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance (IGPSG)

Chairman’s Report

No major activities to report, apart from the Model Global Parliament program, see above. We have also contributed \$2500 towards the cost of John Hegarty’s Junior World Citizens program.

Election of Officers

We previously had two Vice-Chairmen for the IGPSG, but as reported previously, Thich Minh Tam is presumed deceased, and Michael de Mol has moved to the North Coast,



which makes it difficult for him to attend meetings. We thank Michael for his many years of devoted service to the group!

Zeny Edwards having declared her willingness to serve in the position, she was unanimously elected as the new Vice-Chair in absentia.

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

Chairman: Chris Hamer
Vice-Chair: Zeny Edwards
Secretary: Daryl Le Cornu
Treasurer: Wali Islam

Financial Accounts

The accounts for the financial year to 30 June 2018 were presented, and approved by the meeting. See Appendix 3 (online only).

Editor's Corner – Chris Hamer

The good news is that our association has felt a new wind in its sails recently, after being in the doldrums for the past few years. Our President Daryl Le Cornu has been very busy in support of the ICAN campaign for the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and I have been extremely busy with our new project for a World Security Community of democratic nations, which is explained more fully below, and has been referred to earlier in this Bulletin.

We have been involved in two new international forums as part of this process, the New Shape Prize Forum in Stockholm and the Paris Peace Forum, which in themselves are evidence of a renewed worldwide concern about the global challenges we all face in common, and the need for stronger and more effective global governance to deal with them. We have managed to attract some strong new members to our international working group, and a number of local members have given enthusiastic support, including Afroza Begum, Luis Cabrera, Radhiga Dey, Michelle Cavanagh, John Hegarty, Wali Islam, Daryl Le Cornu, Austin Mackell, Brett Samuel, Brian Hyouk Son and Pera Wells (see earlier report). Zeny Edwards and Camilla Schippa have been enlisted later, and we are looking for them to provide a new impetus to our work.

Finally, we should mention John Hegarty's outstanding efforts to promote the WCAA, and to establish the new Junior World Citizens program – see earlier report, again!

Happy New Year to all!

Articles

A World Security Community of democratic nations.



Abstract.

How might we realistically develop an effective global governance model to cope with the global catastrophic risks of political violence? Following the successful strategy which led to the establishment of the European Union, we propose as a first step the establishment of a World Security Community (WSC). The WSC would be a global defense alliance opened to any nation in the world committed to democracy, human rights and international law. Any nation meeting a set of agreed criteria as a democracy could qualify to join the Community as a member. Acting strictly in conjunction with the Security Council, the new Community would form a powerful new force for peace and security in the world, first to protect its members, then to support the United Nations' peacebuilding missions. Working alongside the OECD, which should also deepen collaboration among democracies on global economic, social and environmental policies, WSC will lay the foundations for our ultimate vision of a democratic world federation able to deal with all global catastrophic risks.

For a full description of the proposal, please click [here](#)

