



THE BULLETIN

Of the Australian World Citizens Association

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President's Column: Busy, busy.

It has been a busy time recently for our executive. We are now in the process of establishing, together with Thich Minh Tam and the International Buddhist Organization for Culture Education and Social Development, an *Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance*, as part of a joint project between the WCA and IBO.. Further details are given elsewhere in the Bulletin. The general aim is to help secure agreement on founding a *Centre for Global Governance and International Peace* at a suitable host institution, as mentioned in previous Bulletins. Negotiations on this subject are ongoing, and at this stage we can say no more. But these are exciting developments for our little association.

Globally the focus is still on the Middle East. We wait to see the outcome of the 'Arab spring', and of events in Syria and Iran. At the moment it appears that Russia and China will not support a regime change in Syria, not wanting an intervention like that in Libya. Meanwhile the US, and more particularly Israel, are threatening strikes on Iran to prevent them developing a nuclear weapon. This would surely be disastrous, and only serve to deepen the rift between Islam and the West. Does the US really want to open another front in the 'war on terror'? What about the hypocrisy of the Israelis? And what would Iran do with the bomb if they got it? They are subject to Mutual Assured Destruction just like everyone else ..

I visited Washington before Christmas to attend a Council meeting of the World Federalist Movement, as outlined elsewhere in the Bulletin, and I found it a very educational experience. At long last they are achieving significant concrete results, firstly by lowering their sights towards achievable targets in the near term, and secondly by forming broad Coalitions of non-government organizations

to campaign for change, which can carry considerable political weight. In this way they have scored two notable successes, in their campaigns for an International Criminal Court, and also the Right to Protect declaration at the United Nations. It is notable that Australia is contributing a cool \$400,000 per annum towards the R2P campaign, presumably thanks to the influence of Gareth Evans. Following motions passed at the recent general meeting, I have signed up WCA as a partner in these two Coalitions. I gather the next target of the WFM is the creation of a United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS).

Following this strategy, my personal aim is to see if we can form a Coalition for a World Community of Democratic Nations, which I have argued previously is the natural next step towards democratic global governance. I have already had some discussions on this with the Streit Council and with the Democratic World Federalists in the US, but no definite agreement has yet been reached. I am very grateful to our members who attended the end-of-year meeting, and endorsed the Coalition idea.

Our Bangladesh aid program continues to flourish, under the direction of Wali Islam. He is hoping to launch some new projects during the school festival in February, and we have made a special contribution of \$1000 towards this purpose. We recently made a special appeal to members to make up this money, and it was very pleasing to see the strong response. Thanks everybody. Further details will appear in Wali's report. The only fly in the ointment here is the rejection of our application for DGR status by DFAT, but we plan to apply again around mid-year.

Other items on our New Year's wish list are to get our campaign for the UN Parliamentary Assembly running, and to set up a Fundraising Committee. More about those later.

I would like to thank, as always, our loyal band of officers and members who have made it all possible, including Michelle Cavanagh (Treasurer), Brett Samuel (Editor), Michael de Mol (Secretary), Daryl Le Cornu (Education), Alan Ryan (Website), and all the others who have helped from time to time – we couldn't function without you.

Chris Hamer.

General News

Council Meeting of the World Federalist Movement

I went over to Washington to attend the annual Council meeting of the World Federalist Movement in November. They are a very professional bunch, and have had remarkable success by lowering their sights, and concentrating on initiatives which do not require a change in the UN Charter. They formed a Coalition for the *International Criminal Court*, which apparently has 2500 NGO supporters, whose campaign has come to fruition; and another Coalition for the *Responsibility to Protect*, adopted by the UN at the 2005 summit, which was invoked to a surprising degree in the Libyan conflict. I spoke about my ideas for a World Community of Democratic Nations, but time was very short, and serious consideration was deferred until the Congress next year, which sets policy for the next 4-5 years.

I also visited Tiziana Stella, Executive Director of the Streit Council. She and the Council are certainly very much in tune with my ideas, and we are considering setting up a '**Coalition for a World Community of Democratic Nations**', on the WFM model.

Chris Hamer

UNPA

The European Parliament has passed a resolution in support of the campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA). I talked in Washington to Andreas Bummel, who runs the campaign on a shoestring, currently about 10,000 euros per year, apparently.

Chris Hamer

Launch of the Global Interdependence Movement in Melbourne

I attended the Melbourne launch of the **Global Interdependence Movement** in Australia, held at Ormond College on September 12, 2011. It was an enjoyable event, attended by about 200 students, with some preliminary addresses (including yours truly, 2 minutes), followed by a number of smaller working groups, then a round-up, and finishing with a symbolic launching of balloons. I was the 'expert' on a table discussing 'the meaning of global citizenship', and discussed our ideas about UN reform and the need for democratic global governance. The event was organized by Pera Wells, formerly Secretary-General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations, and I hope we can maintain a mutually beneficial relationship here. We have picked up at least one helpful supporter in Grace White Feather, who has proposed a partnership between her local primary school in Victoria, and our project school in Bangladesh.

At our end-of-year meeting, a formal motion was passed to express WCA support for the Global Interdependence Movement.

Chris Hamer

Global Citizens Forum

A Global Citizens Forum will be held in London in March, hosted by the British Council

News from WCA

General Meeting

A general meeting of the WCA was held at 3/141 Oberon St on 26th November, 2011. Minutes were circulated by email, and most of the items are covered elsewhere in this Bulletin. A number of motions were passed at the meeting, for WCA to join various NGO Coalitions with objectives compatible with ours

1. That the WCA should support the Coalition for the International Criminal Court – [unanimously supported](#).
2. That the WCA should support the Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect. [Unanimous support](#).
3. That the WCA should support the Campaign to Establish a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly. [Unanimous support](#).
4. That the WCA should support the Coalition for a World Community of Democratic Nations. [Motion was carried *nem con*](#)
5. That the WCA should support the Global Interdependence Movement. [CH to find out what they are trying to achieve](#).

The meeting was followed by a BBQ

Pera Wells to Join Advisory Board

Subsequent to the GIM meeting outlined above, Pera Wells was invited to join our Advisory Board, and has accepted. We welcome Pera to our team.



Pera is a former Australian diplomat, and former Secretary-General of the World Federation of the United Nations Associations. She is the current Australian representative on the Global Steering Committee for the Global Interdependence Movement.

DGR application

We have finally received a ruling from AusAID on our application for *Deductible Gift Recipient* (DGR) status for our Aid Project. Unfortunately the result was negative, but the door seemed slightly ajar for a resubmittal. We were found to have satisfied four out of 7 criteria, but failed on three, namely:

3. It is a community-based organization accountable to its membership.
 5. Its activities are based on development and/or relief covering at least one and preferably two years
 - 7 It and its overseas partners are both effective in conducting their activities
- There may be ways we can satisfy these criteria. We need:
- A clause inserted in our Constitution about **conflict resolution**;
 - Regular **accounts** showing our contributions from the school
 - A **letter** from a local MP attesting that the Bangladesh government will take over funding the school in the future
 - A formal and professional **proposal** and **evaluation** of the solar cooker project, and/or other projects which are clearly developmental in nature.

Our aim is to assemble these items and resubmit our application by mid-year.

Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance (IGPSG)

On January 12, 2012, a meeting was convened to establish an *Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance*. It is a joint venture between the WCA and Thich Minh Tam and the International Buddhist Organization for Culture Education and Social Development. The aim is to help establish a *Centre for Global Governance and International Peace*, as outlined in previous Bulletins. According to the Constitution adopted at the meeting, the aims of the Institute are as follows.

‘The central goal of the Institute is to support academic study, research and advocacy on the subject of democratic global governance, as a necessary prerequisite for long-term peace, prosperity and sustainable development in our global village. It will also support community education and advocacy on these issues. Specific aims are:

- To support academic study and research into issues of global governance, including:
 - The global issues that demand improved global governance;
 - The present system of global governance, analyzing in particular its problems and deficiencies;
 - Ways in which our system of global governance might be improved.
- To support community education and outreach on issues of peace, democracy and global governance, including
 - Curriculum development and teaching materials for schools;
 - Seminars and conferences involving NGOs concerned with issues of peace and governance, both secular and religion-based.

- To support advocacy by NGOs seeking to promote democratic global governance.

In pursuit of these aims, one purpose of the Institute is to secure and administer funding for a high-profile Centre (or Centres) for Global Governance and International Peace.’ In particular, the Institute will help to organize and manage the community outreach and advocacy aspects of the project.

The officers of the Institute elected at the meeting were:

Management Committee:

Chairman: A/Prof C. J. Hamer
Vice-Chairmen (2): Thich Minh Tam,
Michael de Mol
Secretary General: Dr Daryl Le Cornu
Treasurer: Dr Abul (Wali) Islam

Asset Custodial Committee

Head: Robert Chong
Deputy Head: Michelle Cavanagh
Secretary: (TBA)

Website

I am looking to start an update to the website in March as the current version of the software that drives the site is going end of life soon. This means it's a good chance to have things changed and updated but I need your help! Is there anything you think should be there? Should there be an extra section about ... ? Or the layout, anything that you can think of that helps me create a site that is the main gateway to what any potential member thinks and sees of our association. Even if you can help out testing the site while its in development let me know, email me at alan.ryan@yahoo.com.au.

Thanks Alan Ryan

Bangladesh Aid Project

The School leaders in Bangladesh and the students parents are very happy with the School, and we have been promised that the Bangladesh Government may be able to take over running of the School. If this happens we could move to start a High School Also we need to start a market, as the nearest market is 7 to 8 km away for buying and selling, and the locals have to walk this distance to and from the markets and carry everything on their heads and shoulders.

UNSW Medical (student) Society is interested in supporting a medical clinic but don't wish to do it on their own but can give it support once it is functional. We have land set aside in the same area but need \$2,000 to get started.

Wali Islam

Treasurer's Report

To date we have \$974.84 in our working account with no outstanding bills due, and we have \$1983.56 in the Aid Project account.

A cheque for \$900 – payment for three months for the Bangladesh school - has yet to be debited to our account

Monies paid to our WCA Aid Project Fund for this financial year to date have amounted to \$2524 received from the following:

Chris Hamer
Michelle Cavanagh
Lady April Hamer
Joe Wolfe
Glenda Sladen
Sue Scerri
Lilianne Metz-Krencher

Michelle Cavanagh
Treasurer

Education Report

1. National Curriculum Update

The move to a national curriculum continues with Queensland being the first state off the mark in January 2012 starting with English, Maths and Science from Years K-10. See

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/long-road-to-one-curriculum/story-fn6ck2c6-1226250737963>

History will be next in 2013. NSW will not be starting its implementation until 2014 though planning is well underway for implementation.

As an organisation dedicated to educating young people about global issues, particular those that concern governance, we have a special interest in the draft Modern History curriculum which is currently being developed by ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority). One positive development in recent consultations has been the commitment to studying the 1945 to 2010 period in the last semester of the year 12 course. It is hoped that this will include significant material on United Nations history as well as post-Cold War issues to the current time. Also, we are hopeful that there will also be a topic on the history of internationalism. However, it remains to be seen whether the new national curriculum for Modern History will educate our students about the history of the global issues that confront the world in the 21st Century.

2. Presentation at ACUNS

In June I will be attending a three-day conference run by ACUNS (Academic Council of the United Nations) in New York. I will be presenting a paper on 'Teaching United Nations history to high school students'. I believe that it is absolutely essential to educate students about the history of international responses to global

issues. Students will find it very difficult to make sense of global issues and events unless they are given some solid teaching on global matters while at school. Unfortunately, our media organisations pay scant attention to issues of global concern and when they do it is often of poor quality or blatantly biased. In the coming months I aim to develop my thinking and research on this issue of educating the youth of the world about global issues. In doing this I am reminded of the peace activists in at the turn of the last century who viewed the education of youth as critical for marshalling the forces for international peace. I think this peace activist, quoted below, sums it up nicely:

“Teachers should lead students to understand the historical causes of the war, to look upon this spectacle of human suffering and devastation with horror, to contrast a world at war with a world at peace, to comprehend the principles which should govern the terms of peace, to realise that every boy and girl has an interest in the movement which shall bring about the reign of law in place of the reign of the sword.”

Dr Fannie Fern Andrews

‘The War: What should be said about it in the Schools?’

January 1915.

The abstract for the paper I will present in June in New York is below. Let me know if you have any ideas on this issue.

Abstract for ACUNS conference:

Since 1987 one of ACUNS’ core activities has been to promote teaching about the United Nations. It is an opportune time to re-think post-1945 global history. In the aftermath of World War 2 the global community rejected the international anarchy that characterised the period from 1914 to 1945 and embraced multilateral cooperation, collective security and human

rights. These post-war hopes were soon dashed by the Cold War but the end of the Cold War and the onset of globalisation saw the re-emergence of multilateral cooperation. Despite the problems that have beset the world in the first decade of the 21st Century the need for the UN has increased to meet common global threats. The UN can now be viewed in the context of this post-1945 struggle between a vision of a world governed by the international rule of law and a world dominated by great-power geopolitical struggles. It is time to create an international curriculum on the history of the United Nations for high school students that draws on the most up-to-date academic research. This paper will examine what a history of the United Nations for high school students could look like and discuss how it could be delivered.

3. Facebook Page

In my current job as *Senior Curriculum Officer HSIE* I have set up a Facebook page for school teachers informing them about latest developments in HSIE subjects. The Facebook page also creates links with any websites or organisations that have any relevance to any one of the subjects under the umbrella of HSIE. There are many organisations listed there which would be of interest to WCAA members. If you wish to have a look, the link is:

http://www.facebook.com/hsie.at.clic?ref=tn_tnmn#!/hsie.at.clic?sk=wall

We have a Facebook page for the WCAA website but it is not used. This lack of use gives the impression that not much is going on with our organisation. As an organisation we need to get active with this. The first thing would be to link it with like-minded organisations, as I have done with the HSIE Facebook page, and keep it updated with news items. Maybe not too many of our membership are social media savvy, however, if we are intending on

broadening our membership then we need to use all the communication tools that we can, especially free ones such as Facebook and Twitter. I would be interested to know what members thought of this idea.

Daryl Le Cornu
Education Officer

Solar Cooker Project

I am waiting on a long promised set of plans for the Solar Cooker from the Respect International representative, and hopes to have them by early 2012. On obtaining these plans he intends to ask his Workshop to make one as a pilot project and test it out.

Michael de Mol

Non-Lethal Weapons and Peace

Andrew Greig

A major aim of the World Citizens Association is to prevent war. As one nation of the world, we will have no need to go to war against each other.

But if we cannot stop war, then sooner or later, some person or organisation – a terrorist, a rogue nation or even a legitimate state - is going to explode a nuclear bomb. Just one of those horrific devices would cause huge immediate destruction, not to mention long-term harm from radioactivity. A full-scale nuclear war could result in immense damage and even the complete extinction of the human race.

World peace is therefore very important indeed. A world parliament will provide a lasting solution but in the meantime there are other initiatives we can take to help achieve peace on this planet.

The peace movement is already making an enormous contribution, lobbying for arms control, human rights,

reconciliation and many other initiatives. The approach that I am supporting is a technological one. It is to transform military technology from being generally designed to kill people (in other words 'lethal') to being still effective, but **non-lethal**. The devices employed for this purpose are called 'Non-Lethal Weapons' (NLWs).

It's been remarked to me more than once that a 'non-lethal weapon' is a contradiction in terms. True in a way – and there has been a good deal of debate about some other issues. For example, so-called NLWs, if used incorrectly, can be lethal. Despite this, the term 'non-lethal weapon' is still the most widely recognised and is likely to persist for the moment.

What exactly is a non-lethal weapon? It's a device that can protect people from armed aggressors and/or can repel or constrain them, but does not cause death or major injury. A good example of a NLW is the stun gun or Taser, used by police. Other examples used in the civilian arena are tear-gas and rubber bullets. Military NLWs are at an early stage of development, but include devices that employ sound, microwaves and flashing lights. The military have made particular advances with what you might call defensive technologies, such as 'entanglers' which halt vehicles.

What is the advantage of using NLWs rather than lethal weapons? First of all, if we do not kill other people we avoid immense grief and suffering. That alone is probably enough reason. More than that, by avoiding such damage we greatly increase the chances of long-term peace. A non-lethal war might result in deprivation and imprisonment, but this can be much more readily forgiven than death and major injury. There is also a further benefit. Operating non-lethally reduces the climate of violence. This is likely to be true in the civilian context as well. If our police officers do not carry lethal weapons (guns) they set the tone for a less confrontational society. By promoting a culture of non-violence we

are more likely to move towards peace on the international front.

Most importantly, if our military can transform their operations to non-lethal technology, the most lethal technology of all – nuclear weaponry – becomes obsolete.

So what is the outlook for NLWs? A non-lethal approach to war has been around in some guises for a long time (you can think of defensive technologies such as armour and castle walls – or of taking prisoners rather than killing). The modern NLW movement dates from about the 1970s when such ideas as ‘a war without blood’ were proposed. As often happens, the movement gained substantial momentum in the USA and this was the time that the US Marine Corps set up its non-lethal weapons unit. As also often happens with new approaches, after the initial burst of enthusiasm for NLWs, some doubts set in.

NLWs are not without their problems. So far, they have been limited in their effectiveness. Sometimes they turn out to belie their name and cause death and severe injury. NLWs such as stun guns have been used inappropriately and even for torture. The fentanyl based gas employed as a hopefully non-lethal agent to neutralise Chechen terrorists at the Dubrovka Theatre in Moscow in 2002 killed 129 hostages (although over 700 survived). NLW centres in universities (such as the NLW unit at Bradford University’s Peace and Conflict Centre) have in recent years focused on the problems of NLWs rather than their advantages.

In the last few years, however, I believe that the pendulum has begun to swing back. The military debacles in Iraq and Afghanistan have shown the huge damage and cost of conventional warfare coupled with its overall ineffectiveness in resolving conflicts. The US military appears to be increasing its investment in its Non-Lethal Weapons Program. A European NLW Symposium has been convened

every two years since 2001. The 6th Symposium which took place in Germany last year (2011) was well attended by some 120 NLW practitioners from around the world, with dozens of presentations.

My own contribution at present is to coordinate the Non-Lethal Weapons for Peace Campaign. You can find more information about this at www.nonlethalweaponscampaign.com.

Although these are still early days, I’m very optimistic that a technological approach to peace could be both attractive and effective. Some of the most major advances in, for example, agriculture and health have been achieved through new technologies. (We humans love our gadgets!)

Long lasting world peace will be accomplished when we become world citizens. Non-lethal weapons can help us along the same path.

WCA and NLW can work together.



Andrew Greig is coordinator of the Non-Lethal Weapons for Peace Campaign and the author of *Taming War – Culture and Technology for Peace*.

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