



# 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](mailto:djlecornu@hotmail.com)  
 Treasurer: Radhiga Dey, [radhiga.dey@gmail.com](mailto:radhiga.dey@gmail.com)  
 Editor: Chris Hamer, [C.Hamer@unsw.edu.au](mailto:C.Hamer@unsw.edu.au)



## President's Column:



### Supporting ICAN in working for compliance to the TPNW

The WCAA is a partner organisation to ICAN, which achieved the amazing feat of securing a treaty banning nuclear weapons at the United Nations. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, or TPNW 2017, was passed by 122 votes at the United Nations. This treaty making process is similar to that which was followed with the Ottawa Convention (1997) which banned landmines, and the Statute of Rome (1998), which created the International Criminal Court.

As far as nuclear weapons go, there is now a clear choice between two pathways into the future. One pathway is to continue the modernisation of nuclear weapons which will lead to further proliferation, with a high likelihood of a nuclear catastrophe at some point in the future. The Doomsday Clock is now 'Two Minutes to Midnight' which is closer than at any time during the Cold War. The other pathway involves international law, using the TPNW to delegitimise nuclear weapons and change the conversation about these, the most destructive of the weapons of mass destruction.

ICAN achieved the TPNW after a 10 year campaign. ICAN was started in Melbourne in 2007 by three people – Tilman Ruff, Bill Williams and Dimity Hawkins. Bill sadly passed away in 2016. In October 2016 ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts in getting the TPNW. With its 468 partners (and the WCAA is one of these partners) in 101 countries ICAN's main aim over the next few years is to get the overwhelming major of nations to sign the TPNW and then to ratify it. After 50 ratifications the treaty will come into force. The nuclear weapons states will most likely be the last nations to sign the treaty. Hopefully, world public opinion in the end will exert pressure on the nuclear weapons states to sign the TPNW and commit to a nuclear -free world. In fact it will be absolutely essential that the campaign for compliance to the TPNW will involve the mobilisation of world public opinion. In achieving this aim, ICAN will have contributed to a significant strengthening of international law and a reduction in the threat from these most horrific of the weapons of mass destruction.

The prospect of a future global nuclear catastrophe was the main motivating factor for the flowering of world federation movements after the US nuclear attacks on Japan in 1945. Effective world government is seen as a prerequisite for removing the nuclear threat permanently. Achieving the final elimination of nuclear weapons will involve cooperation between the nuclear weapons states and the creation on international structures to ensure compliance with the TPNW. The aim of world federalist groups such as ours should be to ensure that such international structures will be complimented by structures of democratic governance, and that these will promote and



protect human rights, democracy and the international rule of law. The campaign for compliance to the TPNW should contribute to a change in the global conversation about the necessity of multilateral cooperation to deal with global problems and the need for global democratic structures.

Bearing all of the above in mind, it is quite fitting that the WCAA support the TPNW and the campaign to bring this treat into force and to achieve its stated aim of the elimination of nuclear weapons.

### What are the main concerns in the world today?

We have to be realistic and recognise that these are not good times for promoting global cooperation or global democracy. The hope that had emerged at the end of the Cold War of increasing cooperation to deal with world problems that rode on a wave of globalisation has largely evaporated. Since the end of the Cold War the world has been characterised by convergence, meaning greater integration economically, politically and culturally. However, a number of commentators have argued that since the Global Financial Crisis of 2008 that the world has been drifting in the other direction. Divergence is now the term that is used to explain the current state of the world. Borders are being emphasised, nations are turning inwards and there is less enthusiasm or commitment to multilateral cooperation to solve global problems. The world today is characterised by the following worrying trends:

- Rising economic insecurity and increasing inequality
- Democracy is struggling and authoritarianism is on the rise
- Information is being constantly weaponised, fake news is ubiquitous, conspiracy theories spread like wildfire, and reliable media networks are struggling to survive
- Populism, nationalism, nativism, racism and extremism are on the rise
- The threat of a nuclear catastrophe is closer than it ever has been
- Climate change is beginning to have severe impacts and we may soon reach some tipping points beyond which no remedial action can be taken
- Geopolitical rivalry has dramatically increased as the revisionist powers, China and Russia seek to exert a greater influence in their regions
- The European Union is under threat as Russia stokes far-right dissent and there is a backlash against refugees
- The Syrian Civil War has dragged on since 2012 with no end in sight and the world public opinion has hardened towards the immense suffering inflicted on individuals every day.
- The Permanent Five members of the UN Security Council are failing to fulfil their role which is the maintenance of international peace and security. These members possess nuclear weapons, are the biggest arms dealers and are more concerned with geopolitical considerations than with fulfilling their duties.

#### **HELP WANTED!**

We need energetic volunteers to help reinvigorate our Association!  
For details, see the Editor's Corner. Anyone able to help, please contact Daryl Le Cornu at [djlecornu@hotmail.com](mailto:djlecornu@hotmail.com)



- The United Nations is deliberately kept weak and starved of funds and is obviously not 'fit for purpose' to deal with the threats and challenges today and in the future.
- There is a lack of moral leadership from world leaders and a lack of political will to genuinely address world problems.

### What does the WCAA see as the path forward?

In a time when the world has by and large turned its back on global issues what can we as an organisation do? Here are some possibilities:

- Keep ourselves informed about the current situation in the world today. See above points.
- Educate people about the historic milestones that are part of the tradition of global progress in democracy and human rights such as:
  - The Four Freedoms (1941)
  - The Atlantic Charter (1941)
  - The United Nations Charter (1945)
  - The Montreux Declaration (1947)
  - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
  - Genocide Convention (1948)
  - Garry Davis – declaration of world citizens (1948)
  - Geneva Conventions (1949)
  - Refugee Convention (1951)
- Educate others about the challenges that exist today and the possible solutions that exist. The solutions that we promote are those relating to structures of world governance. Other groups emphasise their own avenues for progress.
- Network with other people and groups that with whom our concerns overlap.
- Highlight the three most current initiatives:
  - The International Criminal Court (founded 2002)
  - The Responsibility to Protect doctrine – R2P (2005)
  - The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2017)
- Educate people about initiatives that need to be turned into viable political projects such as:
  - The campaign for United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) which is being promoted by Democracy Without Borders
  - A community of democracies
  - Other possibilities

In moving forward the WCAA needs to develop a public education program to promote a world federalist perspective to contemporary world situation.

*Daryl Le Cornu*



## Global News

### High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament

It was very disappointing that Australia declined to support the motion when on 7 July 2017, 122 nations voted in the United Nations General Assembly to approve the new *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*. A major plank of Australia's argument was that without the agreement of all the nuclear-armed states any agreement will be largely symbolic, but it will certainly add to the moral pressure on the nuclear-weapon states to do something more on nuclear disarmament.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in November giving a mandate for the first ever *UN High-Level conference on nuclear disarmament*, which will take place from May 14-16, 2018. The aim is to enhance progress toward the achievement of a nuclear weapons convention – a global treaty to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons.

Similar UN High Level Conferences held over the past few years have been very successful, including the conference on Sustainable Development (2015) which achieved agreement on 17 Sustainable Development Goals; Climate Change (2015) which achieved the Paris Agreement; and Refugees and Migrants (2016) which achieved the New York Declaration.

We strongly urge that Australia should participate in the High-Level Conference, and play a constructive role in the discussions.

### Global Challenges Foundation Prize Competition, “A New Shape”

The Global Challenges Foundation, set up by Swedish billionaire Laszlo Szombatfalvy, has announced 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 facing our global community. At the closing date there were 2700 entries for the prizes on offer, of which Chris Hamer submitted two, making his argument that the most likely way forward was through a global Community of Democracies. Unfortunately they did not make the shortlist. He has been invited to attend the New Shape Forum to discuss the winning entries in Stockholm.

We have formed a link with Ben Rhee, International Relations Analyst and Outreach Director for the Asia-Pacific for the Foundation, and we hope to collaborate with them no matter what the outcome of the prize competition.

### UN Parliamentary Assembly Campaign

**March 20, 2018.** Last week, the UN's first Independent *Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order*, Alfred de Zayas, presented his seventh and final report to the Human Rights Council of the UN. Relative to a reform of the United Nations the expert suggested an expansion of the membership of the Security Council and a limitation of the veto power of the permanent five members. “The use of



the veto power to shield States from criticism or sanctions is illegitimate,” the document says. Another proposal which was raised again in the final report is the creation of a World Parliamentary Assembly. “The idea is to address democracy deficits by giving expression to global public opinion and including citizens in global decision-making through elected officials,” the report explains. “In a time where we see less connection between the will of peoples and the policies put forward in their name, the world’s citizens need representation on the global stage. Democratic initiatives, including the proposal to create a World Parliamentary Assembly, would include all citizens in global decision-making and give voice to currently neglected global public opinion”.

- (extracted from *UNPACampaign.org*)

## Local News

### ‘The World is My Country’

John Hegarty has held a Mini Film Festival at his retirement village Henry Kendall Gardens, including three films.

*‘The Man Who Saved the World’* is about Colonel Stanislav Petrov, who disobeyed orders to push the nuclear button and start World War 3 in 1983, when the Soviet early-warning system mistakenly signalled incoming missiles from the US.. True Story. If he had obeyed orders in 1980s we may not be here today!

*‘Prosecutor’* is about the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, which is probably the crowning achievement of the world federalist movement to date. The film offers front row seats to the historic events that will determine whether the ICC is a groundbreaking weapon for global justice or just an idealistic, powerless dream.

*‘The World is My Country’* is a new film by Arthur Kanegis which tells the remarkable story of Garry Davis, the ‘1<sup>st</sup> 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 hope to arrange a screening in Sydney, perhaps in association with the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney.

## Social Justice Film Festival

**Newcastle, February.** Three films were shown on successive weekends at a Social Justice Film Festival in Newcastle organized by Niko Leka of the Hunter Asylum Seeker Advocacy group. The first two were the same as those shown by John Hegarty, ‘The World is My Country’, and ‘Prosecutor’.

## Newkind Festival

**Hobart, 22 March.** Nigel Davidson gave a talk entitled ‘One Planet, One People’. He talked about his time involved in the Rwanda Genocide Tribunal, and concluded that to prevent such genocides in the future, it is time we came together in a more perfect union.



## UN Youth NSW State Conference, 'Power, Diplomacy and Influence'

Sydney, 24-25 March. Chris Hamer was invited to give a talk by Chan Rhee on the theme of 'Towards a Global Parliament'.

## Coming Events

### Global

- **Supranational Democracy Dialogue** (Lecce, Italy, April 26-27). This is a 3-day academic meeting on a theme of interest to us.
- **World Federalist Movement Congress** (The Hague, July 9-12)  
A date has been announced for this 4-yearly meeting, but no details as yet.

### Local

- 1-day meeting on "**Expanding Worldviews: Astrobiology, Big History, and the Socio-Political Benefits of the Cosmic Perspective**" (ANU, 19 July). To be organized by Ian Crawford, a contributor to the World Government Research Network.
- **9th International Conference on Human Rights Education** (Sydney, November)  
Daryl is thinking of trying to arrange for a session on human rights and global governance at this meeting. Luis Cabrera would be an obvious candidate as a speaker here.

## Model Global Parliament program

Our new standing committees for the Model Global Parliament is unfortunately showing signs of breaking up. Kelly Wu, its President, is going to be overseas on exchange in the second half of the year, and Vivienne Davies and Grace Strous have resigned for this year, at least. I have expressed our grateful thanks to them for all the hard work they put in to make the event a success last year. We will have to consider what to do about a Sydney MGP this year.

On the bright side, Peter Mousaferiadis, patron of the MGP, travelled to Pakistan to chair the 2nd Lahore International Conference on Culture 2017, and has reached agreement with them that they will hold an MGP in conjunction with their event in Pakistan this year. Thank Long Le, a pro-democracy campaigner in Vietnam, hopes to run an MGP in Vietnam next year. Rada has been contacted by Louisa McKay, YMCA Youth, who might get involved in the event this year, given sufficient warning.

There is possible interest in this program from the UN Youth program, see item above. How should we involve school students? Daryl noted the impact of an event in Parliament House, and suggested we invite teams from schools to participate in the (next?) MGP in Macquarie Street.



## Junior World Citizens Program

John Hegarty reported that the first Junior World Citizen has been enrolled, and a website has been set up. See

<http://www.juniorworldcitizen.com/>

He has many plans in train for this program, including various school contacts. The IGPSG has paid \$500 towards his expenses for this project so far. For his full report, see appendix 1 (online only).

## WCAA General Meeting

The WCA General Meeting was held on Friday 9th March at Chris Hamer's townhouse in Coogee. Minutes have been circulated, and many news items are given elsewhere in this Bulletin.

## Wild Apricot

Boyd Attewell has proposed that we employ Wild Apricot to upgrade our procedures and social media sites, to improve our professionalism and expand our membership. They act for many NGOs, at very reasonable rates. Boyd has now implemented Wild Apricot on our website, on a trial basis. For which, many thanks.

## Treasurer's Report

- We currently have 24 financial members
- Cash balances held in accounts as at 08 March 2018:
  - Aid fund account: \$2,769.96
  - General account: \$11,754.24
  - PayPal account: \$69.16
- We have paid \$2000 to the Aid Project account for Wali to employ on his current visit to Bangladesh, which satisfies our commitments up until the June quarter this year.

For the full report, see Appendix 2 (online only).

*Radhiga Dey*

## Secretary's Report

### UNPA Campaign

We have donated \$4000 from our capital fund to the Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly, which is probably the most lively initiative at the moment aiming towards a global parliament. We hope to make a yearly donation of this amount, as long as our funds last.

### Google

Crawford Yorke has proposed that we invest a small amount with Google to make our website more visible to online searches. We will try to follow up on this.



Other items appear elsewhere in the minutes.

*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 contributed \$500 towards the cost of John Hegarty's Junior World Citizens program.

### **Election of Officers**

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

Chairman:	Chris Hamer
Vice-Chairmen:	Thich Minh Tam, Michael de Mol
Secretary:	Daryl Le Cornu
Treasurer:	Wali Islam

### **Financial Accounts**

The accounts for the financial year 2017 were presented, and approved by the meeting. See Appendix 3 (online only).

Highlights:

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b> Dividends & Capital Appreciation	5449.09
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Donation to IGPSG Trust	1000.00
Donation to WCA Aid Project	500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	1515.00
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	84971.88

We need to consider how best to employ these funds.

*Chris Hamer*



## Editor's Corner – Help Wanted

As noted in the advertisement on page 2, we urgently need some energetic younger volunteers to reinvigorate our Association. Our Treasurer, Radhiga Dey, is fully occupied caring for her chronically ill daughter, and needs some help or relief. Also, I have been filling in as Secretary on a temporary basis, and would welcome any volunteer as replacement. Any member or supporter who has the time and expertise to help in these capacities should please get in touch with our President, Daryl Le Cornu, at [djlecornu@hotmail.com](mailto:djlecornu@hotmail.com)

*Chris Hamer*

