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Highlights of this Edition:

	pg
<i>Global News.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Local News.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Centre for Global Governance and International Peace.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Institute for Global Peace & Sustainable Governance (IGPSG).....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Bangladesh Aid Project.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Model Global Parliament Program.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Education Report.....</i>	<i>12</i>

Regulars:

Editor’s Welcome.....	2
President’s Column.....	2
Treasurer’s Report.....	8

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President's Column:

Slow sailing



Progress in the last six months has been slow but solid. There have been two more **Model Global Parliaments** in the program directed by Pera Wells, one in Canberra and one in Sydney. In each case they have been run by enthusiastic student committees, to the great enjoyment of participants. The prospects for future MGPs look bright, not only in Victoria and New South Wales, but hopefully also in Adelaide and Perth. Possibilities have also been mentioned for overseas venues: Jakarta, Switzerland, Bangladesh, and even Bethlehem! We'll have to wait and see what comes of all this ferment of ideas.

Macquarie University is developing a research cluster on '**Global, Regional and Transnational Issues**', which could form the basis for our long-awaited **Centre for Global Governance and International Peace**, if ever we can obtain funding for it.

Editor's Welcome:-

Happy New Year! I would like to thank Andrea immensely for taking over this role for the last edition for me. It's now time to frame the future by establishing our priorities with a progressive outlook on all fronts. Towards the end of the 3rd quarter of last year, the elections took place and the Coalition took over after a gap of 2 terms. It has taken over at a very crucial time, when business sectors/jobs are threatened, refugees/asylum seekers have continuously been turning up (until recently it seems), we are constantly barraged by talks of global warming and environmental concerns and the concern at nuclear proliferation is gaining momentum. Incentives should still be kept to make businesses invest, and establish deals that are lucrative for all of Australia and all parties concerned.

The processing of asylum seekers/refugees should not take so long, as it is a wastage of taxpayers money and a loss of the victims' time and abilities. Most of them have authentic reasons to come and their being made to suffer further only makes the situation worse. It seems that global warming is not on the agenda anymore, with the government beginning to pull out of actions being taken to improve upon the present climate. As for nuclear proliferation, we must pursue this cause more publicly and actively to make the world a better and safer place to live in.

From the outset, this organisation was established to help promote human rights, prevent nuclear proliferation, provide basic needs for all and protect the environment. We constantly have to fight for fulfilment of the values that this organisation and Australia once stood for. Since when did we stop taking responsibility for our actions, and instead of extending a helping hand, selfishly looked for our own gain? What happened to our spirit of being 'fair dinkum' and giving everybody a 'fair go'?

Best Wishes, Jawaid.



We owe thanks to the interest and support of the Dean, John Simons, the Professor of International Relations, Geoffrey Hawker, and the Head of Partnerships & Development in the Faculty, Andrew McKenna for their support of this concept.

We are working to develop our Institute, the **Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance** (IGPSG), to act as a partner and funding channel for the Centre. It has been registered as a charity, and now we are aiming towards achieving DGR status for the Institute, which would allow tax-deductible donations.

Our **Aid Project** in Bangladesh is moving along quite well, thanks to Wali Islam, Michael de Mol and other helpers. New ventures have been undertaken this year, including a medical clinic, a market, and an occupational training scheme. Michael is working on a scheme for solar cookers to be used in the district. We have applied through the local MP to have the Bangladesh government take over funding of the school, but this is likely to take a couple of years at least to work through the bureaucracy.

Our program to establish a Coalition for a **World Community of Democratic Nations** has been spinning its wheels in fruitless email discussions for the past year, unfortunately. A change of tactics may be required here.

Global news

Global Week of Action for a World Parliament, October 17 – 24.



A Global Week of Action was organized by an online group called Global Democracy for the week of October 17-24. Rallies and events were held in 54 countries around the globe, including our Model Global Parliament in Sydney. The week was bookended by a meeting of the Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly on October 17th, and United Nations Day on October 24th. Another week of action is planned for October 17-26 next year.

During the week of action, panel discussions and workshops on the issue of a world parliament were organized in Barcelona, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Forlì in Italy and in London.

Group pictures with banners and signs in support of the week of action were sent from Buenos Aires (Argentina), Sydney (Australia), Brussels (Belgium), Sao Paulo (Brazil), Vancouver and Winnipeg (Canada), Strasbourg (France), Berlin and Münster (Germany), Rajkot (India), Utrecht (Netherlands), El Ma'asara (Palestine), San Lorenzo (Paraguay), Gothenburg (Sweden), Bangkok (Thailand), Kampala (Uganda) as well as from Washington D.C. and New York (USA).

Italy stood out as the country with by far the most activities. Here people came together in



Daryl Le Cornu is making submissions on the **National Curriculum** for schools, but we will have to wait and see the effects of the new review by the federal government here. See his remarks below.

We are gradually accumulating a dedicated team of executive members: Pera Wells is continuing to develop her brilliant new MGP concept, and here I should also mention Andrea Booth, who did a huge amount of work organizing the Sydney event. Wali Islam works tirelessly to direct the Aid Project, Daryl Le Cornu is now developing education materials, and Michelle Cavanagh maintains the books. Alan Ryan and Jawaid Hussain have been working hard on upgrading the new website for the IGPSG. Many thanks to all, and Happy New Year!

Chris Hamer.

[PS For those who may have inadvertently forgotten to renew their membership this year, a membership renewal form is included herewith ..

Bologna, Chioggia, Florence, Genova, La Spezia, Novara, Pescara, Rome, Salsomaggiore, and Verona to hold banners calling for a "World Parliament Now!"

In Palestine, demonstrators marched through the town of El Ma'asara until they were stopped by police forces. Further activities included information stands in Aachen (Germany) or Gothenburg (Sweden). Individual pictures from around the world were posted on Facebook.

Petter Ölmunger who organized the event in Gothenburg, Sweden, stated, "It felt great to be part of this first ever week of action and to see that around the world, in places like Kampala, São Paulo and Dehli, there are people who, just like me, want to have a world parliament now." According to Vivian Davidson, organizer of the event in Vancouver, Canada, "We came together to raise awareness for the dire need to find solutions to problems which are now global in scope yet haven't been addressed by today's present nation-state system."

Appeal for a global parliamentary assembly presented to UN representative in Brussels

Lawmakers from 100 countries urge the United Nations to establish a parliamentary assembly

More than 1,250 sitting and former lawmakers from over 100 countries and hundreds of renowned personalities from politics, science, cultural life and civil society have signed an international appeal urging the United Nations and its member states "to establish a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations." The appeal and the list of signatories was officially presented to the representative of the United Nations Secretary-General at the European institutions in Brussels, Antonio Vigilante.

The appeal that is also endorsed by around 400 professors from 50 countries states that "to cope with major challenges such as social disparity, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the threat of terrorism or the endangerment of global ecosystems, all human



beings must engage in collaborative efforts."

It says that "people must be more effectively and directly included into the activities of the United Nations and its international organizations" and recommends "a gradual implementation of democratic participation and representation at the global level." The appeal was originally launched in 2007 and is open for endorsement on a continuing basis.

During the presentation, the co-chair of the international campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly and member of the European Parliament, Jo Leinen, pointed out that "the daily lives of the world's citizens are increasingly shaped by economic, social and political forces that transcend national boundaries." A UN Parliamentary Assembly would "enable citizen representatives to be directly involved in global political deliberations, agenda-setting, and decision-making."

The Secretary-General of the campaign, Andreas Bummel, stressed that the UN would benefit from the inclusion of elected representatives as it would bring the world organization closer to the world's citizens. He recalled that the establishment of a UN Parliamentary Assembly has been endorsed by the European Parliament, the Pan-African Parliament, and the Latin-American Parliament, among others.



Jo Leinen, Antonio Vigilante, and Andreas Bummel

Image: CEUNPA

Local news

Peter Cosgrove calls for a Pacific Union



Peter Cosgrove wants Australia to foster an EU style approach in the Pacific. AAP/Alan Porritt

Delivering the Sir Paul Hasluck Oration in Melbourne, Former defence chief Peter Cosgrove has proposed Australia enter an economic union with Pacific countries, saying this would promote stability in the region.

General Cosgrove said that while this perhaps this did not need to be as comprehensive or as close as the European Union, "I would start with the objects in and the operations of the EU in mind."

"In an economic sense, at present we are the major supermarket and also in some areas the wholesale distribution warehouse."

This made for a supplicant or take-it-or-leave-it relationship. Instead, "we should contemplate some kind of closer of interdependent economic relationship with the countries of the Pacific Forum," he said.

Australia could not make a greater real contribution to the strong and peaceful development and viability of the region than such an initiative. "It would not only flow into commercial arrangements but into labour markets, and thus into social and cultural issues."

"If we do embark in something positive, significant and transformational with our friends in our closer neighbourhood, then we really will have contributed greatly to peace and security in the region"

From Alan Porritt

Note: Our World Citizens Association supports greater integration in the Pacific region, perhaps in the form of a Pacific Community rather than a Union at this stage – see our website. We will hope to arrange a talk from Peter Cosgrove, possibly at the next Model Global Parliament. He is being mentioned as a likely candidate for our next Governor-General.

UNAA Conference

UNAA (NSW) is planning to host a conference on the theme "*Preventing War – Building Peace*" on July 25-26, venue TBA. The chief organizer is our very own Daryl Le Cornu, currently Vice-President of UNAA (NSW). There will be plenary sessions and workshops on various issues related to the theme, and WCAA will certainly be involved.

Bob Brown talk

The Harvard Club of Australia and the Australian Institute of International Affairs jointly sponsored a talk on Tuesday October 22nd by Bob Brown, former leader of the Australian Greens, with the title '*Syria, Antarctica, Australia and an elected World Assembly*'. He argued that the present United Nations has been powerless to find a solution to the increasing sectarian violence in Syria, or to head off possible commercial exploitation in the Antarctic, highlighting the need for a more effective global parliament to deal with problems such as these. He also suggested it could be based in Australia – why not?!



Centre for Global Governance and International Peace

Macquarie University is developing a research cluster on 'Global, Regional and Transnational Issues', which could form the basis for a Centre within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, if we could attract some funding. A new proposal for funding was put together towards the end of last year, involving both Macquarie and the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at Sydney, but was apparently not successful.

■ *Chris Hamer - President*

Aid Project in Bangladesh

A free primary school has been established, which is currently staffed by six teachers, and has 250 children attending who would not otherwise be receiving any education. The project has been led by our Vice-President, Dr Wali Islam. We have so far contributed a total of about \$11000 over five years to the construction and running costs of the school.

A revised application for DGR status for our Aid Project has been prepared, and submitted to AusAID. Hopefully we will succeed this time.

Michael de Mol has identified a supplier of solar cookers in India. We aim to purchase two different models for a pilot project to see how useful they will be in Bangladesh. The immediate problem is to find a way to transport the cookers at a reasonable cost.

■ *Wali Islam - Aid Project Director*
■ *Michael de Mol - Secretary*

Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance (IGPSG)

We are continuing to work on upgrading the IGPSG, as a possible funding channel for the Centre. We now have an ABN and TFN number, and tax exempt status. The next stage is to work on DGR status (tax deductible donations), which may be a little more difficult. The only category available under the rules seems to be as a Public Ancillary Fund, under which a Trust Fund needs to be set up, which supports only institutions which already have DGR status. I will start work on a Trust Fund.

Alan Ryan, Jawaid Hussain and Brett Samuel have been working hard on a new and improved website for the Institute (www.igpsg.org), which is now looking very good, but with yet more to be done. We plan to make this the permanent home for the MGP website also.

■ *Chris Hamer - President*



Interim Treasurer's Report

We have 17 subscriptions this year so far, with \$1650.35 in the General account, and \$253.71 in the Aid Project account.

■ *Michelle Cavanagh - Treasurer*

Model Global Parliament Program

Two more Model Global Parliaments have been held with great success, one in the Old Parliament building in Canberra, and one in the NSW Parliament building. More details are given below.

Next year, we have been called upon to convene an MGP to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the ACT Charter of Human Rights. This will take place on 1 July in the Old Parliament House.

Pera Wells has constructed a brilliant template here. The student participants have generally enjoyed themselves greatly, and been very enthusiastic and anxious to do it again. Many thanks especially to Andrea Booth, who was a tower of strength in organizing the Sydney event.

We hope to see this program continue. Pera would like to do MGPs in Adelaide and Perth; we will probably do another one in Sydney next year; and ideas have been floated for MGPs in overseas locations such as Jakarta, Pakistan, Swizerland and even Bethlehem!

3rd Model Global Parliament, Convened at the House of Representatives in Old Parliament House, ACT, Saturday 27 July 2013



Communiqué (abbreviated)

The third session of the Model Global Parliament was convened in the House of Representatives of Old Parliament House on Saturday 27 July, 2013. It was co-sponsored by the Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, the Museum of Australian Democracy and the World Citizens' Association (Australia).

University students from the Australian National University, Canberra University and Monash University, coming from over 30 countries around the world, participated in two training sessions held at the Crawford School, ANU and then engaged each other in debate at the Model Global Parliament on the three agenda items that the students had chosen to give priority to when they registered to participate: Education, Environment, Human Rights.

Wonderful people contributed to the students' training program: David Miles Connolly on how to use parliamentary procedures for decision-making; Peter Wilkins on how to perform as a parliamentarian; Dr Dominique De Stoop on cross-cultural negotiating skills on human rights issues; Professor Bob Carter on environmental issues; Mr Steve Killelea on the Global Peace Index.

At the opening of the Model Global Parliament Ms Nighat Kurshid, President of the Crawford Student Society Association introduced Ms Daryl Karp, Director of the Museum of Australian Democracy who spoke about the historic significance of the House of Representatives.

Ms Kurshid then introduced Prof Tom Kompas, Director of the Crawford School who spoke about his research interests and then read out a message from the Chancellor of the ANU, The Hon Gareth Evans which said:

“The world’s political system is manifestly not coping very well with the speed of change, the complexity of interconnections between events, and the ever-growing need for effective collective action.

The inspiration to set up a Model Global Parliament to enable university students to define, debate and reach conclusions about the action needed on global issues is timely and has my full support. I have read the digest of reasons students participating in this event have given for why they believe there is a need for a Model Global Parliament. I am impressed by your visions and values and intrigued in particular at the thought of such Parliament framing a code of global ethics.

I am delighted to congratulate all of you who are participating in this Model Global Parliament. I encourage you to generate evidence-based data, develop rigorous analytical skills, be prepared to tackle complex problems from multiple angles, and try to produce constructive solutions that have some realistic chance of being implemented. Enjoy a lively debate, and I look forward to receiving your communiqué.”

Prof Kompas introduced The Hon Bob Brown who spoke about environmental issues and Professor Bruce Chapman who called attention to the ethical implications of students receiving their education in developing countries, who then took their skills and experience to developed countries. Then Mr Steve Killelea spoke about the Global Peace Index.

Following the formal opening of the Model Global Parliament by the speaker, Mr Ifti Rashid, Ms Gaby McFarlane Smith reported on the outcomes of the second session at the Legislative Assembly in the Victorian Parliament, Melbourne on 23 May. This



session called for the MGP to set up a Sub Committee to consider the Global Peace Index and she hoped that this could be done in Canberra.

A debate then took place on the need for a Model Global Parliament, which was addressed by Prof Chris Hamer, author of the book “A Global Parliament”. The Model Global Parliament (MGP) then concentrated on three thematic agenda items.

Agenda 1: Environment

The Hon Bob Brown introduced this item, giving an overview of his concerns about the deterioration of global environmental resources and the need for urgent remedial action. After debate, the MGP adopted motions on a global emissions trading scheme and environmental preservation.

Agenda 2: Human Rights

Professor Charles Samford introduced this item, and presented an inspiring account of how the evolution of democratic forms of government during the course of human history had led to advances in the understanding and protection of human rights. The MGP adopted motions on land rights, human trafficking, genocide, the rights of minorities and global refugees.

Agenda 3: Education

Professor Glenn Withers gave an inspiring talk about the future of higher education being a catalyst for positive forms of globalization. He talked about the need for change pertaining to ‘brain drain’ from developing to developed countries and discussion about the ‘brain exchange’. The MGP adopted a motion on free and compulsory education for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

4th Model Global Parliament, Convened in the Legislative Assembly in the Parliament of NSW, Sydney, Australia. Friday 25 October 2013



Communiqué (abbreviated)

Students studying at Australian universities, from Australia, Bangladesh, Britain, Canada, China, Denmark, Hong Kong, Lebanon, Indonesia, India, Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Palestine, Nepal, Nicaragua, Taiwan (Republic of China), USA participated in the Model Global Parliament that was convened in the NSW Parliament House on Friday 25 October 2013.

Prior to the formal opening of the session, Mr Bruce Notley-Smith, MP, welcomed the students to Parliament House, A/Prof Chris Hamer, President of the World Citizens Association, expressed his appreciation and gratitude to everyone who had made the event possible. Inspirational statements were given by Prof Geoffrey Hawker, Macquarie University, Dr Devorah Wainer, Sydney University, and Prof. John Keane, Sydney University. Geoffrey Hawker discussed the increasing importance of global civil society, Devorah Wainer emphasized the importance of compassion and fellow-feeling for the ‘other’, and John Keane commented briefly on the history of democracy.

A group photo was taken on the steps of Parliament House – see above. Then the students engaged in an interactive discussion about the value and purpose of a global parliament.

The formal session opened with a roll call and adoption of the draft agenda. The first agenda item focused on the theme of Peace. Mr Steve Killelea, AM, Founder and Chairman of the Institute for Economics and Peace, gave an introductory comment about his invention of the Global Peace Index and stayed for the debate, offering further comments after the successful adoption of all the motions. After a lunch break, the Model Global Parliament resumed in The Legislative Assembly, where two further agenda items were considered - on Security and on International Law.

It was noticeable that the members found it difficult to wear two hats at once. They were keen to approve motions calling for action on behalf of the Model Global Parliament itself. They were a little more reticent or timid about assuming the role of an actual Global Parliament, and passing major decrees on its behalf.

Nevertheless, the members had a very enjoyable and sometimes amusing session with each other, and generally ended up asking for more. Special thanks go to the student Steering Committee, Kayla Nesbitt, Megan Sofanya, Soyoun Park, Tala Abdulhadi and Yuanyue Sun, our Speaker Sophie Houston and most especially our principal organizer, Andrea Booth. We find this concept is embraced with enthusiasm by the young people, especially by international students, and we look forward to it being taken up by universities in other parts of the world in the future.

■ *Pera Wells – MGP Program Director*



Education Report

1. New NSW History K-10 syllabus implementing the Australian Curriculum has been released

- There is an interesting option for the last unit in Year 10 for teachers to develop units on topics that could include the UN, human rights and recent geopolitics.
- The WCAA could encourage topics related to our interests by writing programs and resources for topics related to global governance.
- A copy of the syllabus can be downloaded from this site:
<http://syllabus.bos.nsw.edu.au/download/>

2. HSC Online: The United Nations as Peacemaker 1945-2001

- In the last weeks of my job as Senior Curriculum Officer with the *NSW Department of Education* I put up on the *HSC Online* website some material that I have developed on the United Nations topic in the current Modern History syllabus.
http://hsc.csu.edu.au/modern_history/international_studies/united/4371/un_index.htm
- It is hoped that United Nations will be offered as a stronger option in the new national Modern History curriculum.

3. National Modern History curriculum in final stages of development

- The final touches are being put on the national Modern History curriculum. It will be signed off by the Federal Minister for Education in December.
- In the last draft there was one topic presented as an option in Semester 2 in Year 12 which includes areas of interest for to our organisation.

4. The Choices Program continues to produce high quality material for high school students

- The Choices Program based at Brown University continues to produce quality materials on current affairs and history for high school student. Many of the topics they cover are of interest to our organisation.
- We may wish to use some of their ideas in our outreach program to high schools in Australia.
- See: <http://www.choices.edu/>

5. 50th Anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis

- On the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the *Nuclear Threat Initiative* has produced some excellent online material highlighting the continuing dangers from nuclear weapons. See: <http://cubanmissilecrisisat50.org/>
- Also of interest is the Armageddon Letters website created by Jim Blight at the Balsilie Institute of International Affairs. See: <http://www.armageddonletters.com/>

■ *Daryl Le Cornu – Education Officer*

