



**WORLD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WCAA)**

**NOTICE OF PASSING: DR KEITH SUTER AM**

**(1948 - 2025)**

**A TRIBUTE TO HIS LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

***BY LUIZ BISPO, ON BEHALF OF WCAA***

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Dr Keith Suter AM, a cherished and highly valued member of our World Citizens Association of Australia (WCAA), who passed away on 11 December 2025.



**Photo Credit: presentersforevents**

Keith served as an Advisor and was an integral part of our team for many years. He made significant contributions to our advocacy for world peace, justice and federalism always delivering realistic comments in our discussions, earning the respect and admiration of colleagues and all those who had the privilege of working with him.

Beyond professional accomplishments, Keith will be remembered for being kind, approachable, intelligent, and a friendly soul. He left a lasting impact on our organization and community.

Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences are with his family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time. We ask everyone to keep them in their thoughts.

May Keith Douglas Suter rest in peace.



*Dr Keith Suter (on the right) attending WCAA meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023*

## TESTIMONIALS

**Dr Chris Hamer:** *Keith was a major figure within our Australian arm of the World Federalist Movement over the past forty years. He was President of the World Federalist Association of Australia, the predecessor organization to our present World Citizens Association of Australia, until 2004. In that year I was encouraged by Liliane Metz-Krencker (who was Secretary of the Association of World Citizens in France at the time) to lead the newly renamed organization. A number of our present members transferred with me, including Keith himself, Don Maclurcan, Michelle Cavanagh, Stella Cornelius, Austin Mackell, Michael de Mol, Doug Everingham, Lyndon Storey, Julna Zhao, Wali Islam, Michael Ellis, Hadrian Judge, Jim Page, Richard Mochelle, Sarah Brennan, Alastair Hamer and Andrew Greig, who have been among our most stalwart supporters ever since! Keith Suter was previously Warden of Wesley College in the University of Sydney, and Vice-President of the International Commission of Jurists (NSW). He was awarded the Australian Government's Peace Medal in 1986, the International Year of Peace. He is the author of "A New International Order" (1981), and "Reshaping the Global Agenda" (1986), among other titles. In later years, he became an 'influencer' on social media, with his podcast 'Global Truths' on Spotify. He was always kind and friendly. His thoughtful and wise advice on current issues was very useful. We shall all miss him enormously.*

**Dr Wali Islam:** *Dr. Keith Suter was an exceptional scholar and communicator whose insights profoundly shaped public understanding of global affairs and future studies. We were delighted to have him serve as a long-term advisor on the Board of the World Citizens Association Australia, where I serve as Vice President and Aid Program Director. His ability to explain complex geopolitical and social issues with clarity, integrity, and foresight was invaluable to our work. Dr. Suter's leadership, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to informed global citizenship made him one of Australia's most respected and influential voices.*

**Dr Zeny Edwards:** *Dr Keith Suter was a man among equals. As Vice Chairman of the Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance (IGPSG) he took delight in participating at the Model Global Parliament and was so impressed by the dedication and knowledge of world affairs and history of the student participants. He was very supportive about our activities and clarified our mission to promote education to advocate for human rights, peace and security. Keith was a personal adviser to me; always available to contribute his "2 cents worth" of wisdom on the state of world peace and security. He was a quiet guiding light whenever I was in a quandary about policy matters and was only a phone call away to help me find the best way forward in guiding IGPSG to achieve its goals. Keith was an elegant gentleman, personable and eloquent, articulate in the global language of politics; his ideas are always communicated in a clear and concise manner. We will miss his presence as a valuable mentor of our organisation. Vale Dr Keith Suter AM*

**John Hegarty:** *I have known of Keith Suter for decades. I first came across him as Assistant Minister to Rev. Alan Walker at the Church at the Lyceum Theatre in Pitt Street, Sydney. He is internationally famous yet so friendly that after my meeting him at a small WCAA meeting, I have received a Christmas*

Card each year from him. In addition to his other achievements I appreciated his thesis submitted for his PhD in Religious Studies at the University of Sydney. That thesis was about THE FUTURE OF THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA. At the time he died I had just nearly completed my first Christmas Card of 2025 and it was to him. Because of his worldwide influence I was about to add my appreciation that the UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA is celebrating forty years as a stated MULTICULTURAL CHURCH and add a comment that I looked forward to the time when that church and others became INTERCULTURAL CHURCHES meaning there is mutual respect and learning from one another.

**Dr James Page:** He was a tireless internationalist over many decades. He could communicate well, as is evidenced in his career as a TV commentator in international affairs. He was very insightful. I recall reading an article by Keith on the origins of WW2. He challenged the conventional view that appeasement was central, suggesting rather that it was a failure of disarmament in 1932, which in turn led to the Nazis taking over power and thus to war. More recently, I recall talking to him about the war in Ukraine, and he suggested that we need to be asking why NATO was founded. He was a tireless supporter of the UN. He would often say that if the UN ceased to exist, within 24 hours it would be quickly reinvented. Out of necessity. He had a restless and inquisitive mind. I just look at online opinion, and there is an essay from earlier this year dealing with AI (something everybody is now talking about). I add that he was also deeply committed to the Uniting Church of Australia, both as an ordained minister of that denomination and in his research into future options for the Uniting Church (his most recent PhD). And he had a wry sense of humour. Very wry. Vale Keith Suter.

**Dr Daryl Le Cornu:** I remember meeting him at Legal Studies Association conferences in the 1990s. His sessions on international humanitarian law were a regular feature at many of these conferences. I and many other teachers received their introduction to this topic from him, and in turn passed this knowledge on to their students. He was always very friendly and encouraging in his personal interactions with everyone, and always full of humour. He was always a strong supporter of teacher education, the Red Cross, UNAA, ICAN, and of course to our WCAA. I know he will be missed by all of us in the WCAA, and so many more.

**Nigel Davidson:** I learned about world federalism from my grandfather Mr Joseph Salter when I was growing up in Tasmania (Australia) in the 1980s. Joe, a self-taught intellectual and train driver, and his wife Lorna, a school teacher and creative, were interested in big ideas, and were ahead of their time. Joe made the compelling case that just like Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria and the other Australian States and Territories enjoyed autonomy within the federated Commonwealth of Australia, the nation-states themselves (eg: Australia, Kenya, Canada ... ) might usefully retain their autonomy within a democratically elected world federation. Just like the people of Tasmania, New South Wales and Victoria enjoy peace and security as between themselves, so might it be true for the people of Venezuela, Japan and Papua New Guinea. It made sense to me then and it makes sense to me now. Joe talked about an interesting group of likeminded people called the World Federalists who were committed to keeping this vision alive, and one name kept popping up: Dr Keith Suter. Dr Suter appeared in my world a few years later, through a collaboration with my father Dr John Davidson for the 1992 book "Cooperative Peace Strategies". Dr Suter contributed no less than three chapters to that book, more than any other

contributor, on the topics : “Reducing Armaments and Increasing Security : the Continuing Issues in Preserving Peace”, “The Transformation of the United Nations : the 1955 Baha’i Initiative”, and “United Nations Peacekeeping Operations”. I learned recently of the friendship of Dr Suter with my aunt, Mrs Jennifer O’Brien. In the 1990s, Jennie hosted Dr Suter and others at her home in Wahroonga, (Sydney, Australia) for a “Tea Coop”. This group was from “Action for World Development”, committed to justice for the tea-growers of Sri Lanka. Dr Suter was an erudite, eloquent and tireless champion of world federalism which might also be known as world citizenship or global democracy. His advocacy of this powerful, and eminently sensible, vision of a peaceful and cooperative world had a direct effect on my own pursuits and career, which involved many years service within the United Nations system, and collaboration with World Citizens Australia. He has set an example worthy of emulation, but perhaps impossible to match.

**Valerie Weekes & Patricia Jenkins:** Dr Keith Douglas Suter AM has had a remarkable career as an international intellectual, holding prominent positions in several prestigious organizations, both international and local. He was highly regarded, while always maintaining a cheerful and genial demeanour to all. In post-war England at the age of 15 (1963) Keith began work at the British War Office, which helped develop his early interest in world affairs. Eventually he undertook an Arts degree before relocating to Australia where he obtained multiple doctorate degrees. Keith Suter was a much valued member of the United Nations Association of Australia, holding senior positions early on in Western Australia, but mainly in New South Wales, as well as nationally. He was President of UNAA(NSW) for years, then UNAA National President, as well as being awarded Life Membership for his outstanding contribution. He readily gave of his time to speak at UNAA(NSW) functions. He chaired the International Humanitarian Committee for the International Red Cross as well as helping to organize studies at the Australian Branch of the International Law Association. Keith not only could perceive the basic issues in any complex international scenario, but he was a great communicator who could convey these issues clearly to his audience. Keith was the Foreign Affairs Editor for Chanel 7’s “Sunrise”, regularly appearing on radio and television. As an author, Dr Suter produced numerous books simplifying international affairs for the average reader. Dr Suter led in international thought, belonging from 1993 to the Club of Rome, an international specialized global think-tank, and in 2003 becoming its President. His work entailed frequent trips overseas as well as interstate. There were other organizations. He was very active in the Uniting Church of Australia, while at the same time supporting other religious faiths. Keith has the record, right up to his passing, of being the only male member of the International Women’s League for Peace and Freedom! In the Queen’s 2019 Birthday Honours Keith was made a Member of the Order of Australia for service to international relations and community service. Dr Keith Douglas Suter AM was a great intellectual, a force for world peace, who will be sorely missed.

**June Lambert:** Dr Keith Suter AM was a prolific scholar, writer and commentator on world order, peace, the arms race, disarmament, and much more besides. He served as president of the Australian chapter of the Club of Rome, president of the UN association in Australia, and led many organisations of international standing. Over the course of his distinguished career, he received numerous honours and awards, in his tireless work for peace and global co-operation. For well over half a century, Keith and I

*shared a simple valued friendship. He also sent me most of his books, and iconic Christmas cards. We met often in Australia, where I had been a district officer and J.P., and when I became registrar of the United Nations University programme and Systems Development programme at Trinity college Dublin, we met also at the UN and the World Federation of UN Associations (WFUNA) Assemblies described as the peoples' voice of the UN, where I was a vice-president. Erskine Childers was secretary-general. These WFUNA Assemblies were at the UN Geneva, New York, and regions. At the end of meetings, WFUNA presented findings on issues of concern, recommendations and draft resolutions to the UN. Keith also participated in that. In addition, we gave informed views on UN systems and procedural reforms required. A strong, supported, not undermined, UN, was designed to maintain peace, prevent and end war, through diplomacy, goodwill, equality of all nations. UN peacekeeping, the blue berets, are an integral and valued part of that. As a committed world federalist, Keith promoted the strengthening of enforcement of international laws, the advancement of international criminal justice, curbing of the arms race, and meaningful UN reform.*

*Keith recalled Albert Einstein's words to the UN General Assembly in 1947; "However strong national armaments are, they do not create military security for any nation, nor do they guarantee the maintenance of peace". This conviction animated his life's work. Keith saw the arms race as an obstacle to global evolution. Keith had a rare gift for opening minds, so that the world, it's citizens and leaders, can build a future, a world order, based on the fundamental principles and values set out in the UN Charter and UN Declaration of Human rights.*

**Luiz Bispo:** *Keith has always been one of my greatest inspirations. I have known him since I first joined the World Citizens Association of Australia, in 2018. In every meeting, I looked forward to hearing his insights - his remarkable intelligence and his exceptional grasp of international affairs consistently elevated our discussions. His presence was not only respected but genuinely appreciated. Keith carried himself with a classic, diplomatic sense of style that reflected his professionalism and character. He was always friendly, approachable, and willing to share his knowledge with generosity and warmth. His contributions, his kindness, and his unwavering positivity have left a lasting imprint on all of us. I will remember him forever. His podcast "[Global Truths](#)" (available on the internet) was very interesting. May he rest in peace.*