



World Citizens Association of Australia

THE BULLETIN

World Citizens Association (Australia)
Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Development
Coalition for a World Security Community

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

<http://igpsg.org/>

<https://coalitionforawsc.org/>

Volume 16: Issue 2 Summer 2019-20

ISSN 2651-9453

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President's Column – A More Proactive Stance

We have taken a much more proactive stance in all our three major campaigns over the past two years, which is beginning to bear fruit. There have been significant developments, and even progress !

Coalition for a World Security Community.

Some of us attended the New Shape Forum and Paris Peace Forum in 2018, leading to the establishment of the transnational Coalition for a World Security Community, with help from the Global Challenges Foundation. We have set up a website, and established connections with the *Alliance of Democracies Foundation*, headed by Anders Fogh Rasmussen (former Secretary-General of NATO, and former Prime Minister of Denmark). We have received an invitation to participate in the next *Copenhagen Democracy Summit* in June 2020. On the other side of the Atlantic, we have recently made contact with Ash Jain, a Senior Fellow of the *Atlantic Council*. For further details, see later in this Bulletin.

Campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly

We arranged a visit by Andreas Bummel in 2019 to promote this Campaign. We sent out letters promoting the campaign to all Federal MPs. The response was very small, I'm afraid. One significant response from the Prime Minister's office, said that "*Australia recognises the importance of ensuring parliamentarians can participate in the activities of the UN. We recognise the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) was granted observer status to the UN in 2002..*"

The IPU is a different animal from the proposed UNPA. Its opposition to the UNPA proposal forms a significant roadblock against this campaign, and probably needs to be removed before the UNPA campaign can succeed. We have sent letters to Australia's current IPU delegates concerning this issue.

Campaign for a Pacific Islands Community

This is a long-standing campaign of ours, aiming to promote integration at the regional level between the members of the Pacific Islands Forum, and upgrade the Forum to a *Pacific Islands Community* as the logical next step. The recent fears about rising Chinese influence in the Pacific, and the consequent 'step up' in Australia's relations with the Forum, seemed to offer a new opportunity to promote this concept, and we sent letters to political leaders on both sides of politics about it. Consequently, we received an invitation from the Prime Minister's office to meet with DFAT officials to discuss our ideas.

As a result, Pera Wells and I had a meeting on 28th February with three DFAT officers from the new *Office of the Pacific*, headed by John Williams, Assistant Secretary, Pacific Strategy Division. For further details, see later in this Bulletin.



On other fronts, our Vice-President (Education), Daryl Le Cornu has been heavily involved in the ICAN campaign for the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which is close to coming into force. He also has big plans for online presentations via our IGPSG website. Again, for details see later in this Bulletin.

Our Vice-President (Aid Project), Wali Islam, also has big plans to set up a vocational high school in his flood-affected home district of Bangladesh. He has recently become President of the Bangladesh Australian Disaster Relief Association.

I wish all our members a safe and comfortable passage through these troubled times!

Chris Hamer

Global News

International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

The ICAN campaign in support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is making excellent progress. Over two-thirds of the UN members support the Treaty in one way or another. Some 36 states have already ratified the Treaty, heading rapidly towards the target of 55 ratifications which would see the Treaty enter into force. This is forecast to occur sometime next year. Australia, as an ally of the United States, does not support the Treaty. For some further details, see Daryl's report [here](#).

WCAA General Meeting

An online General Meeting of the WCAA/IGPSG/CWSC was held on via Zoom on Sunday 29 March, 7.30 pm, courtesy of the efforts of our Secretary, Luiz Bispo. We had a record participation rate of ten members! This is likely to be our preferred means of meetings between our rather dispersed membership in the future. Items discussed appear elsewhere in this Bulletin. For the minutes, see [here](#).

Presidents Report – Chris Hamer

See my column above, and items elsewhere in the Bulletin.



Education Report – Daryl Le Cornu



Daryl reported that the ICAN campaign for the new *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* was nearing success, with the Treaty expected to come into force in 2021. There have been 81 signatories and 36 states parties (after signatories ratify the treaty) so far, out of the 55 ratifications required.

The TPNW provides a rallying-point for all of those who believe that we need global cooperation to deal with the “problems without passports” and major global threats (such as nuclear weapons, climate change and pandemics), and to build a robust multilateral architecture to manage these existential threats to humanity. The TPNW is one vital piece of the global architecture that we need in the Post-COVID 19 World.

As a partner organisation to ICAN, the WCAA needs to consider what part it can play in educating the community about the Nuclear Ban Treaty (TPNW) and in lobbying federal politicians to give their support to Australia signing and ratifying the TPNW.

Online Education – Perhaps a way forward for the WCAA

Students in school and universities across the nation are now doing their learning online. For the WCAA, this shift to online learning provides an opportunity to guide university lecturers, teachers and students towards material that educates them about the global issues that our organisation is concerned with, such as promoting human rights and democracy, and advocating for a Un Parliamentary Assembly and a democratic world federation

An example of the sort of quality material that we can point students and teachers to is the “World History Project.” This online educational initiative aims to pick up where Big History Project (BHP) left off. I have only just become aware of this and will be exploring the WHP further. I urge everyone to watch the introductory video for the WHP on their homepage. See:<https://whp.oerproject.com>

Perhaps the one thing we can do on our IGPSG website is to provide links to quality online sources that relate to the issues that the WCAA and the IGPSG promote. Also, included in this would be links to other websites that support world federalism.

Another way to promote education on the global issues we promote is via uploading lectures and talks to YouTube. We would need to set up an IGPSG YouTube channel for this purpose. ICAN has been leaning on the Labour Party to support the Treaty. He mentioned support from groups such as the ‘Friends of the Nuclear Treaty’, and ‘Out Nukes’, campaigning for an end to funds supporting investment in nuclear weapons production.



For Daryl's full report, see the minutes [here](#).

Bangladesh Aid Project – Wali Islam

Wali was not at the meeting. He is now the President of the Bangladesh Australia Disaster Relief Committee (BADRC). His supporters have channelled \$4000 through our Aid Project Fund, and he has asked for last year's WCA promise of \$5000 to be transmitted through him: \$2500 has been sent so far. He has big plans to establish a library in Dhaka, and a vocational high school in his home district!

Secretary's Report - Luiz Bispo

Luiz has been managing contacts for the WCA with great efficiency. He had worked hard to promote the Model Global Parliament at Torrens University in Western Sydney, and was disappointed when the event had to be cancelled. He suggests that a change of name next time might help to attract a broader audience.

Treasurer's Report – Radhiga Dey

Radhiga was unable to be present at the meeting.

Editor's Report – Margaret Webb

Margaret still hopes to produce some videos for the WCA, but has been swamped with her own business recently. She strongly supports Luiz's argument that we must reach out to younger people, to attract more members.

Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance

IGPSG Vice President - Michael de Mol

Michael presented a document for consideration, see the minutes attached.

Coalition for a World Security Community

The Coalition was established in 2018 with the help of seed funding from the Global Challenges Foundation (GCF) in Stockholm. We made a joint presentation from the GCF stall at the Paris Peace Forum in November that year. Our working group consists of a diverse group of around two dozen members from Australia, Europe and the United States and includes academics, NGO professionals, communication professionals, and civil servants



Last year, we first set up our website, thanks largely to Allen Luke, and have since begun an outreach program, seeking collaboration and support from other organizations with similar objectives.

Our working group already includes members from the World Citizens Association in Australia, Federal Union in Britain, the World Citizens March in France, the Stimson Institute, Oxfam and the Streit Council in the US, the United European Federalists (UEF) and the Young European Federalists (JEF) in Europe.

We have recently made contact with the *Alliance of Democracies Foundation* in Denmark, headed by Anders Fogh Rasmussen (former Secretary-General of NATO, and former Prime Minister of Denmark), and received an invitation to participate in the next *Copenhagen Democracy Summit* in June 2020. We are hoping to get Mr Rasmussen out to Australia later in the year and organize several public events to publicise these ideas. One of the keynote speakers at the Summit (if it goes ahead) will be Malcolm Turnbull, and he has agreed to meet with me in May to discuss our ideas.

Didier Jacobs, the co-leader of our Coalition who is based in Washington, has recently made contact with Ash Jain, a Senior Fellow of the *Atlantic Council*. He previously worked for the Policy Planning unit at the US State Department, during which time he worked on the US engagement with the Community of Democracies, together with Anne-Marie Slaughter who supported a Concert of Democracies at the time. In a recent paper [*Present at the Re-Creation: A Global Strategy for Revitalizing, Adapting and Defending the Rules-Based International Order*](#), by Matthew Kroenig, Deputy Director of the Scowcroft Center, and Ash Jain, Senior Fellow, he has been advocating an *Alliance of Free Nations* to provide strong political leadership to coordinate foreign policies across all issues (security, economy, environment etc.).

So we have now established contacts with major organizations within the Atlantic movement on both sides of the ocean.

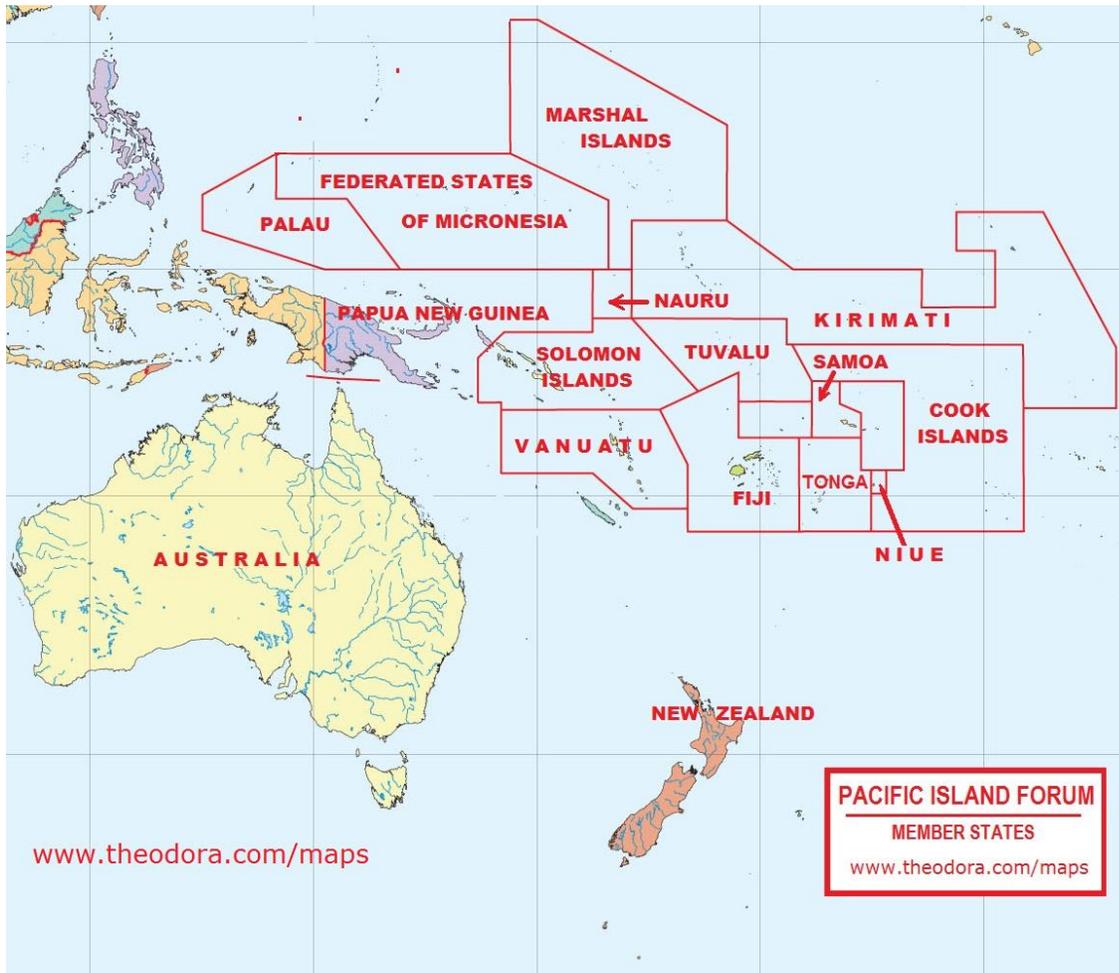
Campaign for a Pacific Islands Community



This is a long-standing campaign of ours, aiming to promote integration at the regional level between the members of the Pacific Islands Forum, and upgrade the Forum to a *Pacific Islands Community* as the logical next step. We have made several submissions on this subject in recent years. The recent fears about rising Chinese influence in the Pacific, and the consequent 'step up' in Australia's relations with the Forum, seemed to offer a new opportunity to promote this concept, and we sent letters to political leaders on both sides of politics about it. Consequently, we received an invitation from the Prime Minister's office to meet with DFAT officials to discuss our ideas.



As a result, Pera Wells and I had a meeting on 28th February with three DFAT officers from the new *Office of the Pacific*, headed by John Williams, Assistant Secretary, Pacific Strategy Division. We were delighted to learn that our previous submissions had been noted, and some of our ideas may be slowly filtering through the system – at least they haven’t vanished into the void without trace!. A new ‘Blue Pacific’ strategy is under development within the Forum over the next two years, and we plan to follow up where we can.



The parliamentary *Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade* has been calling for submissions to inquiries they are holding on aspects of the ‘step up’ program. Pera and I have made new submissions to two of these inquiries, the first one on ‘Australia’s Defence relationships with Pacific Island nations’, and the second on ‘Strengthening Australia’s relationships with countries in the Pacific region.’ We are also planning to submit our case for a Pacific Islands Community to Joel Nilon, Pacific Regionalism Adviser, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, as recommended to us by Alex Knox of DFAT

Chris Hamer



