



World Citizens Association of Australia

THE BULLETIN

World Citizens Association(Australia)
Coalition for a World Security Community

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

<https://coalitionforawsc.org/>

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President’s Column – Recent developments

This year Zeny Edwards has taken full charge of the reins at our Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance (IGPSG). She has introduced some very active new members, particularly in connection with our revived Model Global Parliament, and channelled donations to a number of community education events. She is also planning to produce a newsletter independent of this one.

The Model Global Parliament took place recently, after a four-year hiatus, due largely to the energetic leadership of Zeny and Mai Ni Pham, the Vice-Principal of Hurlstone Agricultural High School. For the first time, the MPs consisted largely of school students, but their skills of oratory proved well up to the task! We are very grateful for the organizing efforts of Charlene Cai and Sophia Maranan at the training day, and Mai Ni Pham, David Delos Reyes, Duaa Siddiqui, and Abigail Quadros especially at the event itself. For further details, see below.

On the international scene, the war in Ukraine continues. The eventual outcome looks dark and doubtful, especially with the veiled threats from Vladimir Putin to use weapons of mass destruction, even nuclear weapons, if his ‘conquests’ are threatened. We continue to campaign for the world’s democracies to unite in order to meet and deter such threats, through our associated transnational working group, the Coalition for a World Security Community.

Chris Hamer

7th Sydney Model Global Parliament 2022



The 7th Sydney Model Global Parliament took place in the Legislative Assembly chamber of the New South Wales Parliament on September 9th 2022, after a hiatus of four years. Thanks to the chief organizers Zeny Edwards and Mai Ni Pham, the MPs for the event were recruited from school students at Hurlstone Agricultural High School, Unity Grammar School, and Penrose High School.

The topics for this year's parliament were climate change, peace and security, and human rights. The event went very well, with motions covering a wide range of global problems, some lively and vigorous debates, and even some oratorical flourishes from time to time! The students all enjoyed the occasion, and gained some valuable experience in standing up, speaking in public, and discussing some of the vital issues of our times.

Committee:

Chief Organizers:	Zeny Edwards (President, IGPSG) Mai Ni Pham (Vice-Principal, Hurlstone Agricultural High School)
Training day organizers	Sophia Maranan Charlene Chujing Cai
Speaker:	David Delos Reyes
Registrar	Zeny Edwards
Recorder	Duaa Siddiqui
Rapporteur	Abigail Quadros
Facilitator	Chris Hamer
Photographer	Harshitha Srinivasan
Ushers	Wali Islam Megana Kokkarne Munthaha Rana Channary Ung

Copenhagen Democracy Summit, 2022

The Copenhagen Democracy Summit is an annual conference organized by the Alliance of Democracies Foundation. It brings together political and business leaders, including current and former heads of government, from the world's democracies. The goal of the Summit is to be the top international forum for analysis on the security and economic challenges facing the democratic world as well as a forum for analysis on the interplay between technology and democratic norms.

A number of our CWSC members attended the Summit this year – see further comments later in this Bulletin. It was an exciting and inspiring event, with an extraordinary line-up of speakers, given extra urgency by the recent invasion of Ukraine. You can watch all sessions on the Foundation's [YouTube channel](#).



Some of the highlights from the Summit

Day 1, Thursday 9th June

This day was devoted mainly to technology and cyberwar issues, and the fight against misinformation. Apparently Ukraine suffered a cyber-warfare attack the day before the physical attack on 24th February. Memorable talks were from representatives of Microsoft and Google, who helped Ukraine repel those attacks very effectively. We also heard from a number of Democracy Tech Entrepreneur Fellows supported by the Foundation.

Voices of Freedom - Standing up to Music Censorship



A celebrity singer performed at the event, **Kimberley Chan**, a Chinese-Australian from Melbourne, who was there with her family! She sang a couple of songs, which are likely to become anthems for the pro-democracy movement.

Democracy activists roundtable, evening 9th June



Leopoldo Lopez, National Coordinator for Voluntad Popular, was one of the stars of the day. He is a pro-democracy activist from Venezuela, who spent several years in prison, two of them in solitary confinement, sustained only by his beliefs. This was a discussion between democracy activists from Venezuela, Cuba, Belarus, Myanmar, and other autocratic states. They all had remarkable stories to tell, and suggestions for common action. Leopoldo's main idea was to

establish a network for mutual support including pro-democracy activist organizations from all countries under challenge from autocracy. Such a network could speak with much more authority than a single group acting alone, and would be much more likely to gather support from outside. They would be able to give solid support to each other through this network, which I think he named ALLIED.

Day 2, 10th June

This day was devoted largely to the fight in Ukraine, and ways in which we might support the heroic resistance to Russian aggression being put up by the people of Ukraine. It was an exciting and inspiring day.



Defending Ukraine: View from Kyiv



Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine spoke by video from Ukraine, in particular asking for recognition of Ukraine as a candidate for membership of the EU. He was given a rapturous reception, with refugees from Ukraine waving flags and stamping feet, and the audience standing to applaud him for several minutes. **Glory to Ukraine!**

"Democracy is always about respectful words, but they only work when they are backed by action. Where is this frontline? Of course, it's democracy, it's Europe, and above all it's in the mind of leaders who must act and not just speak."

Defending Ukraine :View from NATO



Mircea Geoană, NATO Deputy Secretary General, told us about NATO's response to the invasion of Ukraine. Russia has broken dozens of international treaties and conventions by its attack, and NATO is not bound by any previous agreements with them. NATO has beefed up their forces in the East, in the Baltic states, Poland, Romania etc. by something of the order of 8 new battle groups, to guard against any attack against NATO members. They are doing everything they can to expedite the accession of new members Sweden and Finland, and assuage Turkey's qualms. In a NATO Summit meeting at the end of June, they will be discussing their new 10-year strategy out to 2030.

Standing up to Authoritarianism – View from Lithuania



Ingrida Šimonytė, Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, appearing via videolink. This speech was the highlight of the day. Simonyte gave a slashing speech, every word of which resonated with the audience. She noted that Ukraine's struggle was our struggle, and noted various attempts by Russia and Belarus, and also China, to bully Lithuania itself. If you try to appease a schoolyard bully, it only encourages him to be more aggressive in the future. We must resist and repel Russia's attack, and not rest until we force him out of Ukraine entirely (a big ask, perhaps!)

"We must show that democracies are capable and are efficient in defending themselves and in helping each other. Today the choice is binary. Either we save Putin's face or we save Ukrainian lives?"



Taiwan: An Integral Partner of the Global Democratic Alliance



Tsai Ing-wen, President of the Republic of China (Taiwan), gave a measured and effective account of China's threat to freedom in Taiwan. She called for more recognition and support of Taiwan by free nations around the world.

"Neither threats nor coercion will shake our resolve to engage the world. Taiwan and its people stand ready to strengthen cooperation with democracies in Europe and across the world in any area where we share mutual interests. Our embrace of democracy is at the heart of who we are. Imperfect though it may be, democracy has become a non-negotiable part of our identity."

WCAA Annual General Meeting

A joint Annual General Meeting of the World Citizens Association of Australia (WCAA) and the Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance (IGPSG) was held on 30 September 2022 at 6 pm at the Women's Club, 179 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, courtesy of Zeny Edwards. We again had a record participation rate of eleven members (two via Zoom). Items discussed appear elsewhere in this Bulletin.



Presidents Report– *Chris Hamer*

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

Vice-President (Community Engagement) Report – *Dr Zeny Edwards OAM*

Last year was disrupted by the Covid restrictions that forced organisations and the WCAA Community Engagement Committee to hold events on-line due to lockdowns and to postpone a few of its community events. It was a challenge to engage with the community on a face-to-face level because of this. However, the Community Engagement Team managed to participate in the following:

Attendance in seminars, webinars and conferences with the Human Rights Commission, the Lowy Institute and Rotary Sydney to commemorate UN Observance Days i.e. International Day of Peace and Human Rights Day.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AUSTRALIA



New campaign seeks to reduce abuse of older Australians
<https://youtu.be/DeK2kagpITl>





New Racism. It stops with me campaign

Racism. It Stops With Me is a national campaign that provides tools and resources to help people and organisations learn about racism and take action to create change. The Australian Human Rights Commission has launched a plan to develop a National Anti-Racism Framework, a long-term, central reference point to guide actions on anti-racism by government, NGOs, business, educators, health professionals, police, other justice authorities, civil society, and the community and take action and to create change.

<https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/race-discrimination#:~:text=itstopswithme.humanrights.gov.au>

LIGHT A CANDLE FOR PEACE COMMEMORATION

Light a Candle for Peace commemoration to mark the International Day of Peace in 2021.



Lighting a candle for peace shows that we are united as a global family against acts of violence and hate online and offline, and as a sign of compassion, kindness, and hope in the face of the pandemic, and as we recover from this crisis.

ANZAC DAY CENTENARY COMMEMORATION

On my heritage tours during Heritage Week, May 2021, I included the special commemoration of Anzac Day by distributing and placing memorial poppies on war memorials on my tour (photo is the War Memorial in Wahroonga) to celebrate the ANZAC Centenary.



THAILAND TRIP

My visit to Thailand early this year enabled me to learn its many customs and traditions and gave me some ideas about how to adapt these ideas to our UN Observance Day events.



SONGKRAN

Observance of Songkran, April 13 was particularly meaningful to me. Songkran is the traditional new year Thai festival and comes from a phrase in the Sanskrit language that means to move or step forward. Water plays a major role in the festival. It is a celebration that embraces goodwill, love, compassion and thankfulness, using water as the means of expression and symbolizes washing away the previous year so people can get ready for the next one for a year of purification, prosperity and peace.

Other observations that impressed me and provided opportunities for application:

1. The respectful way of addressing people with the use of honorifics as a mark of respect.
2. The love and respect for nature and flowers which they (men and women alike) often placed in their hair and behind their ears. The yayas did this frequently with my 6-month-old granddaughter Isabel.
3. Their respectful way of dressing shows a profound respect for their religious places and cultural events.

With best wishes,

Dr Zeny Edwards OAM

WCAA Vice-president and Director for Community Engagement

Director of Education Report – Daryl Le Cornu

I continue to explore creative ways that schoolteachers can teach topics related to the movement for democratic world governance within history and legal studies courses. I am continuing to update textbooks provide professional development for teachers in this area. Also, I am continuing to lecture on UN history, nuclear disarmament, and world governance, in the UNAA NSW's United Nations Diploma course.

Bangladesh Aid Project – Wali Islam

No report.

Acting Treasurer's Report – Chris Hamer

For accounts, see the end of this Bulletin.

Secretary's Report- Luiz Bispo



World Federalist Movement/Institute for Global Policy (WFM/IGP)

The global umbrella organisation of our work, WFM/IGP, is regularly discussing the ideology "*Theory of Change*" aiming to establish a clear vision and analysis of prospective short-term and long-term goals as well as the ultimate goal.



WFM/IGP will be representing at COP27 in Egypt. It will be an opportunity to meet like-minded individuals that believe that global problems, such as our climate and environment, need to be solved through a global system of governance through the rule of law/international law.

Election of Officers

No other nominations having been received, the following officers were unanimously elected at the meeting:

President and Acting Treasurer: Chris Hamer
Vice President (Asia Pacific Relations): Zeny Edwards
Vice President (Aid Project): Wali Islam
Director of Education: Daryl Le Cornu
Secretary: Luiz Bispo

Coalition for a World Security Community

Copenhagen Democracy Summit 2022 – Report

A report on events at the Summit appears earlier in this Bulletin. Members of our group hoping to attend this event were myself, Rick Wicks, Peter Davidse, and new members Jake Sanders, Paul Manning and Nils Brander. Peter Davidse was taken ill, and couldn't attend – we wish him a speedy recovery! – and Nils in the end had to stay away and look after a sick daughter. Paul Manning could only attend the first day, but Jake introduced an interesting new member to our group: Serey Sam, the Prime Minister in exile of Cambodia, who now lives in Denmark. He told us that China has now partnered with the Hun Sen autocratic regime in Cambodia, installing a number of generals in the Cambodian army, and constructing a Chinese naval base in the country. Serey's brother was killed by the regime some years ago.

I would like to thank our members present for their company and assistance at the event, particularly Rick and Jake. Jake Sanders, a Kiwi journalist now based in the Phillipines, acted very effectively as a 'spotter', and introduced me to a number of important 'targets', for which I give him much thanks! He has agreed to act as a media adviser to our group, which could be a great addition.

General Strategy

The strategic environment is perilously fraught right now, with imminent threats from the autocracies in Russia and China against the democracies in Ukraine and Taiwan, respectively. Russia has recently launched an actual invasion of Ukraine. There



is an obvious and very urgent need for the democracies around the globe to form a united front, some sort of global alliance. The objective must be to construct a credible deterrent against any further aggression by the autocracies.

What can be done in the near term to help bring this about? Following the successful strategy of Jean Monnet and collaborators at the beginning of the European Union, the best plan would be to start with a small core group of democracies, such as the 'D10' group advocated by Ash Jain of the Atlantic Council, consisting of the present G7 grouping plus the members of the new Quadrilateral Security Dialogue in the Indo-Pacific. This group could agree quite soon to form such a core group of members of an Alliance or Security Community of democracies, and set up a Commission to draft a new Treaty to that effect.

To help bring this about, we would recommend the formation of a new **Coalition to Unite the Democracies**, embracing all the major civil society organizations actively campaigning on these issues. Leaders could be the Atlantic Council in the US, and the Alliance of Democracies Foundation in Europe, if they were willing. Speaking with a unified voice, the Coalition should wield great influence in geopolitical councils around the world.

It occurs to me that the next event on our part could be a visit to Australia by Anders Fogh Rasmussen, President of the Alliance of Democracies Foundation, and a former Prime Minister of Denmark and Secretary-General of NATO. The visit could take place in the first half of next year, to publicize our mutual idea of a global Alliance of Democracies. We could sponsor his visit up to a sum of around \$A10,000. Such a visit could be of great importance in the campaign: my reasoning is outlined below.

We have been planning to approach the new Australian government in the near future anyway. Australia could play a pivotal role on this issue, as a key member of the Quad alliance in the Indo-Pacific, a partner in NATO, and recently a partner in the AUKUS agreement on nuclear submarines. We would like to see the formation of a 'D10' grouping consisting of the G7 plus Japan, Australia and South Korea, as advocated by Ash Jain of the Atlantic Council. This grouping could then set up a Commission to draft a Treaty to establish the core of our hoped-for Alliance.

Chris Hamer

The meeting closed at 8.25pm 30/09/2022.



Financial Reports

WCAA Account

Statement of Income and expenditure for financial year ending 30 June 2022

	2020-2021	2021-2022
Funds carried from previous year	33,476.87	40,575.35
Income		
Membership fees and donations	3,340.12	671.10
Capital gains +distributions	10,158.29	[2205.15]
Sundries		
Luiz support donations		2100.00
Total	13,498.41	565.95
Expenditure		
Luiz support	2400.00	3900.00
Bangladesh library project	3500.00	
Donations to Aid Project		
Postal expenses	163.7	
Transfer to aid fund		
PO Box	325.00	
Total	6,388.7	3900.00
Surplus(Deficit) for the year	7,109.71	[3334.05]

Balance Sheet for the year ended 30 June 2022

	2020-2021	2021-2022
Assets		
Cash at Bank	1895.34	766.44
Perpetual Wholesale Fund	38680.01	36474.86
PayPal	0	
Total	40,575.35	37241.30
Liabilities		
	0	
Net Assets	40,575.35	37241.30
Funds carried forward	40,575.35	37241.30



WCAA Aid Project Account
Statement of Income and expenditure for financial year ending 30 June 2022

	2020-2021	2021-2022
Funds carried from previous year	24650.00	26900.00
Income		
Donations	11,750	13,140.00
Total	11,750	
Expenditure		
Library project	2,500	7,500
Aid project support	7000	19,640.00
Miscellaneous		
Total	9500	27,140.00
Surplus(Deficit) for the year	2250	[14,000]

Balance Sheet for the year ended 30 June 2022

	2020-2021	2021-2022
Assets		
Cash at Bank	26900.00	12900.00
Total	26900.00	12900.00
Liabilities		
Net Assets	26900.00	12900.00
Funds carried forward	26900.00	12900.00



