

# Annual Report and Journal

of the Australian World Citizens Association

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

Volume 7, Issue 1, Winter 2010

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### President's Column Patience is a Virtue

It often seems that progress towards our goal of democratic global governance is somewhere between glacial and nonexistent. But in fact, in some quarters, rapid progress is being made. For starters, the interconnected global network of Facebook users, who are *de facto* world citizens, has apparently now topped half a billion people!

At the regional level, events have been moving quite rapidly. In Africa, there has been a deliberate effort to copy the European Union, giving rise to the African Union with 53 member states, and a Pan-African Parliament. In South and Central America, a similar movement has resulted in the free-trade community Mercosur, and no less than three separate parliaments, the Mercosur Parliament, the Latin American Parliament, and a proposal for a new Union of South American Nations ('Unasur'), with a South American Parliament.

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## Local News

This has been a busy time the World Citizens Association.

### IPRA Conference

For a small organization, World Citizens members past and present were very well represented at the International Peace Research Association Conference at the University of Sydney, 6-10 July. Talks were presented by:

**Daryl Le Cornu, on "A Just and Lasting Peace: The UDC's quest for a Reformed International Order 1914-1919"**

I wasn't able to attend this, but Daryl tells me the UDC had hundreds of thousands of members at the time.

**Andrew Greig, on "Taming War"**

Discussion of ideas for the adoption of non-lethal weaponry in peacekeeping and battlefield operations.

**Jim Page, on "Star Trek and the Problem of a Culture of Peace: The Moral Equivalent of War Revisited"**

Discussed the essay by William James claiming that the human spirit needs room for exhibitions of daring, endurance and courage, and suggested that instead of war, space travel could be the right arena.

**Chris Hamer, on "The Penrose Voting Scheme for International Councils",**

A discussion of the optimum weighted voting scheme for international councils, which should be adopted in any scheme for global governance;

**And again Chris Hamer, on "How do we Get There from Here? Paths Towards Democratic Global Governance"**

Argued that we need to follow the example of the European Union, and find an evolutionary path to global governance, starting perhaps with a Community of Democratic Nations.

Erik Paul chaired a session on "Peace building in Southeast Asia";

**Jim Page** chaired a session on "Healing, Inner Peace and Self-development Strategies"; and

**Chris Hamer** convened a workshop on "World Governance and Peace".

■ CJH



Perhaps this is too much of a good thing! The Latin Americans, led by farsighted individuals such as Francisco Plancarte, have also been pushing enthusiastically for stronger global governance.

In our own region, the way forward has been less clear. Kevin Rudd's concept of an Asia-Pacific Community has failed to gather support, leaving ASEAN as the premier international association in our area. The Pacific Islands Forum ought to be developing into a Community, but any significant action may have to wait until the situation in Fiji sorts itself out.

At the global level, little progress has been evident. The Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly continues to gather support. We can only wait patiently, and press for action where we can. Don't lose faith! I have argued previously that the best way forward would be formation of a Community of Democratic Nations.

What have we been doing at home? Our members made a significant contribution to the Sydney conference of IPRA, the International Peace Research Association, noted elsewhere. We have been working on a formal application for DGR status (tax deductibility), which is almost complete.

**Continues Page 4** ➔

## Modern History Curriculum

Daryl Le Cornu, our Education Officer, is submitting a report on the proposed new National Curriculum in Modern History. There are major deficiencies in the draft – in fact there is nothing very 'modern' about it. In particular, nothing about the European Union, and little or nothing about the UN, is my impression. Maybe we will have to lobby for changes.

## World News

New NGOs continue to emerge on the global scene campaigning for democratic global governance. Notable examples recently have been

**WATUN**, the World Alliance for Transforming the UN, driven by Francisco Plancarte as Executive Director and Rob Wheeler as Chairman. Their mission is to promote a Review of the UN Charter as a first step in reforming or transforming the United Nations and the system of international organizations; commencing with a UN Parliamentary Assembly and moving towards a World Parliament. They held their first annual Congress and Model UN Charter Review Conference in Mexico City in September last year.

In collaboration with the Democratic World Federalists and the Association of World Citizens in California, they are organizing their next Model UN Charter Review Conference in San Francisco on October 20-24th this year. If any of our members were able to attend the meeting, it would be of great value in establishing contacts with those organizations. The preliminary list of possible speakers includes the former Governor of California, Jerry Brown, Mikhail Gorbachev, Richard Falk, Kofi Annan, Sunni Ramphal (co-chair of the 1990s Commission on Global Governance), and other distinguished names.

The next **Campaign for the Establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly** (CEUNPA) meeting will take place on 4 October 2010 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. From 5-8 October the annual Council Meeting of the World Federalist Movement will take place in Buenos Aires so that both events can be conveniently attended.

Finally, there is the e-Parliament website, [www.e-parl.net](http://www.e-parl.net) This is an interesting experiment, dreamt up by two people: Nicholas Dunlop, a former Secretary-General of the legislators' network Parliamentarians for Global Action; and William Ury, co-author of the world's bestselling book on negotiation, "Getting to Yes", and Director of the Global Negotiation Project at Harvard University. The idea involves linking up into a global forum the Members of Parliament and Congress that we have



On the ground in Bangladesh, our donations have now amounted to almost \$5000, and have been a mainstay support for a free primary school of six teachers and over 200 children of flood victims.

What a remarkable achievement that is, when you consider that such a sum would hardly support one student in Australia! I think we can feel proud of ourselves for a hugely beneficial and cost-effective aid project, and we should congratulate especially our Aid Project Director, Wali Islam, for bringing it all about.

I would also like to thank, as always, our loyal band of officers and members who have made it all possible, including Michelle Cavanagh (treasurer), Brett Samuel (editor), Michael de Mol (secretary), Daryl Le Cornu (education) and Alan Ryan (website), and all the others who have helped from time to time – we couldn't function without you.

All the best, from

Chris Hamer.



already elected, creating an online "voting" system and a loose committee structure through which they could meet face-to-face and work on issues of shared interest, thus creating a kind of virtual, informal world parliament -- an e-Parliament. They have a very professional website and online voting system, and have recently been concentrating on the climate change issue.

### Aid Project Report "Creating Hope"

The project aims for the education and community development of a highly disadvantaged group of people devastated by natural calamities: river erosion and regular floods. Currently the project is run in the northern region of Bangladesh under the districts Bogra and Gaibandha, close to the mighty river Jamuna. Erosion of the river bank is causing complete destruction of homes and farm lands, leaving thousands of families displaced, rootless and in severe poverty with minimal means for survival.

The World Citizens Association (WCA) Australia has undertaken community development projects for the victims of river erosion in Bangladesh. In close collaboration with an NGO 'Faith and Hope Welfare Association' and "Wajifa Noor Ashmatia Foundation" in Bangladesh WCA has established a free primary school in the village Char Khabulia ('char' refers to a new area of flood plain left behind after the river retreats) in 2007. Currently there are 210 enrolled students attending the school. They are studying under the supervision of 6 teachers. Although more than 100 other children are waiting for enrolment. Except this school there is no other education facility for the children in the area.



Picture 1: A school is destroyed by erosion

■ Wali Islam



## Treasurer Report

Listed below are the reports prepared by Michelle Cavanagh as at 30/06/2010.

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities as 30/06/2010

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Brought forward 1/7/2009	\$539.40
Cash at bank	\$2621.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3160.40</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$2204.97</b>
<b>NET ASSETS as at 30/06/2010</b>	<b>\$955.43</b>

### Statement of Income & Expenditure as at 30/06/2010

<b>INCOME</b>	
Membership fees	440.00
Donations	1054.00
Transfer from Aid Project a/c	1127.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2621.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Post Box fees	\$79.50
Printing Expenses	\$831.40
Dept of Fair Trading	\$75.00
World Federalist Movement	\$175.07
Aid Project Funds transfer	\$1044.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$2204.97</b>

## Aid Project Fund

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities as 30/06/2010

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Brought forward 1/07/2009	\$2537.52
Cash at bank	\$4174.48
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$6712.00</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$4842.00</b>
<b>NET ASSETS as at 30/06/2010</b>	<b>\$1870.00</b>

### Statement of Income & Expenditure as at 30/06/2010

<b>INCOME</b>	
Donations	4174.48
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$4174.48</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Transfer to working account	\$1127.00
Monies paid for Bangladesh school	\$3715.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$4842.00</b>

## Education Report

Daryl Le Cornu recently submitted a letter to ACARA arguing that the United Nations should be offered as an option on the national Modern History syllabus.

There is little chance that ACARA will listen to one or two voices and make this change. Therefore, Mr Le Cornu appealed to his colleagues to consider putting in a word for the United Nations in the online surveys made available by ACARA and the NSW HTA.

In particular Mr Le Cornu appealed to consideration of the United Nations.

Action steps you can take include completing the following:

### 1. HTA survey:



In this survey you may wish to type comments in the following questions:

Q10 – International Tensions and Conflicts

Q13 – General Comments

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/nationalmodernhistorydraft](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/nationalmodernhistorydraft)

## 2. ACARA online survey and email

The draft Modern History syllabus can be found here if you have not already read it (you may be an ancient historian):

[www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/documents](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/documents)

The online survey can be found at:

[www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Home](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Home)

**3. More detailed written feedback can be sent via email to:** [consultation@acara.edu.au](mailto:consultation@acara.edu.au)

Feedback provided directly to this e-mail address will be forwarded on to ACARA's analysts with the data received via the website for full consideration at the end of the consultation period.

■ Daryl Le Cornu – substantial editing.

## Vacant Positions (Voluntary)

### Seminar Organizer

Are there any volunteers to help organize occasional seminars for the Association? The position would suit a student at CPACS, for example, which should be willing to host our talks now and then; but we need to consider other outlets as well.

### Liaison Officer

Would anyone like to volunteer to act as our liaison officer with similar organizations overseas? There are many likeminded NGOs overseas, including the World Federalist Movement, the Peoples' Congress, the Association of World Citizens and the Democratic World Federalists in California, and WATUN (see this issue), and we should try to maintain some sort of contact with all of them. Any volunteers, please contact the president Chris Hamer, at [C.Hamer@unsw.edu.au](mailto:C.Hamer@unsw.edu.au)



## Aid Project Volunteers

We need volunteers to help with the aid project in Bangladesh, and other possible projects in the future. Activities would include helping to raise funds and possible trips to the project site for those who might have useful skills, e.g. medical knowledge. We hope to begin establishing a medical aid post, or posts, in these remote rural areas.

■ Chris Hamer

## Invitation: Buenos Aires on the Campaign for UNPA

The Secretariat of the Campaign for the Establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (CEUNPA) and the Campaign's partner organization in Argentina, Democracia Global (DG), are pleased to invite you to participate in the 2010 International CEUNPA Meeting that will take place on 4 October in Buenos Aires.

The 2010 Council Meeting of the World Federalist Movement – Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP) will convene from 5 to 8 October in Buenos Aires as well.



■ [en.unpacampaign.org/register/buenosaires/](http://en.unpacampaign.org/register/buenosaires/)



## Introduction to Papers

### A Just and Lasting Peace: The UDC's Quest for a Reformed International Order 1914-1919

#### Communicating Peace Through the School Curriculum

This paper is about the Union of Democratic Control and the wider peace movement in the First World War and how the integration of peace education in the mainstream high school curriculum is important for the education of the citizens and leaders of tomorrow. The argument that follows is that peace groups, like those in the First World War, have timeless relevance for those interested in pursuing peaceful resolutions to conflict. Also, the moral courage displayed by many of the members of these peace groups is an inspiration for students today. It is important for all students to understand that the study of history is not all about the study of wars and revolutions but that it can also include those seeking peaceful resolutions to conflict very often at great personal cost. Finally, this paper wishes to make the case for the importance of fighting to include peace education into the mainstream syllabuses of Modern History and Legal Studies in Australia.

**Dr Daryl Le Cornu**

#### Conditions of an Unforced Consensus on Human Rights

##### A Critical Analysis of Taylor's Argument

Taylor's argument (in Bauer and Bell, *East Asian Challenge for Human Rights*, pp. 124-44) has two premises. First, that sound arguments for human rights can be extended to a more general application of justice and the political institutions' foundations. Second, that widespread agreement on human rights' norms can be reached by divorcing prescribed norms from their original philosophical apologies and legal implementations. In linking the two halves together, Taylor aims to vitalize Rawls' overlapping consensus of justice, without necessarily adopting its liberal ancestry. This paper accepts that Taylor has validly link his premises together, but partially rejects his second premise. Specifically, it is accept were possible to

separate the norms of human rights from their related laws and apologies then they could be used to create a widely adopted conception of justice. However, this is rejected because Taylor fails to show how human rights' norms can meaningfully survive the separation process.

This essay begins with an analysis into the consequences of divorcing human rights' norms from their philosophical apologies. It then considers the consequences of divorcing human rights from their legal implementation. Having done so the essay briefly outlines the reasons for agreement with Taylor's undefended claim, that acceptance of human rights can be generalised to legal and political systems beyond the human rights realm. The essay concludes with a possible implementation for the implementation of unforced human rights.

**Brett Samuel**

*To get a full copy of these papers please email the editor at: [Brett.Samuel@gmail.com](mailto:Brett.Samuel@gmail.com).*

■ **D. Le Cornu and B. Samuel respectively**

#### Hiroshima Day Rally

On Friday the 6th of August a rally and candle-lit procession was held at Belmore Park in recognition of Hiroshima Day.

The rally included talks by:

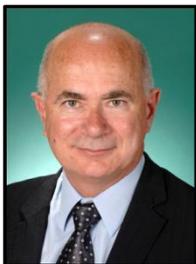
- Kate Dewes, Vice-President, International Peace Bureau
- Professor Richard Broinowski, USYD
- Dennis Doherty, Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition
- Radhika Raju, CFMEU.



In addition to this a video was started by a group of schoolchildren from Hiroshima, Japan, addressing the 9 countries still in possession of nuclear weapons. They asked people from all over the globe to upload a 2 second video clip of themselves saying the word "please". The "pleases" will then be edited into a long virtual chain letter, which will act as a petition to abolish nuclear weapons, worldwide.

■ [www.hiroshimacommittee.org](http://www.hiroshimacommittee.org)

## Duncan Kerr MP calls for global government



At a conference in Canberra organized by the Australian National University, experts have suggested the establishment of a world parliament on global climate policy. The new body, initially composed of around 550

delegates from national parliaments, could be set up as a consultative body to the Conference of State Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC.

Climate change is one of the most important issues of this century and an effective global response is urgent. We are convinced that a global parliamentary assembly could help to reinvigorate the negotiation process, said Duncan Kerr, Australian Member of Parliament and one of the proposals three co-authors.

The paper presented in Canberra argues that a parliamentary assembly could help to improve the significantly flawed decision-making process of the UNFCCC. According to Duncan Kerr and his co-authors, the Argentinean Member of Parliament Fernando Iglesias and Andreas Bummel, chairman of the Committee for a Democratic U.N. in Germany, an agreement approved by a global parliamentary assembly would have unprecedented legitimacy. They state that this legitimacy would exert moral pressure to join any post-Kyoto protocol and to secure compliance.

Mr. Kerr explained in Canberra that one of the parliament's purposes would be to act as a formal

platform to facilitate and organize public deliberation and to gather input from experts, civil society and from the grass-roots level. By contrast to top diplomats who represent governments and report back to them, delegates of a parliamentary assembly would be ultimately accountable to their constituents. Their task would be to establish links to relevant groups and civil-society organizations on the spot and to interact with them, said Mr. Kerr.

The chairman of the European Parliaments Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, Jo Leinen from Germany, welcomed the proposal. A global parliamentary assembly would represent the common interest of humanity in finding an effective response to climate change. This perspective is urgently necessary to counterweight the bargaining of national governments, said Mr. Leinen. Just as the European Parliament originally started off as a consultative assembly of the European Community on Coal and Steel in the 1950s, a world parliament may start as an advisory body on climate policy, Mr. Leinen added.

The director of the Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Development in the United Kingdom, Halina Ward, commented that the proposal for a World Parliament on Climate Change tackles important issues about how to improve representation of the world's people in global climate governance.

This is a carefully crafted proposal that deserves serious consideration.

The conference on Democratizing Climate Governance in Canberra was held on 15-16 July.

■ Press Release: Duncan Kerr



Picture 2: More from our aid project



## Join the World Citizens of Australia



*World Citizens Association*  
(Australia)  
Incorporation No. INC9882127  
<http://www.worldcitizens.org.au>

### REGISTRATION FORM

I would like to join/renew my membership in the World Citizens Association (Australia)

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscription Rates: Full	\$30
Students, seniors, unwaged	\$6

Please complete this form and send together with your cheque made out to 'World Citizens Association (Australia)' to:

Michelle Cavanagh  
Treasurer, World Citizens Association (Australia),  
14 Alderson Ave.,  
NORTH ROCKS NSW 2151

