



World Citizens Association of Australia

THE BULLETIN

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

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President's Column

It is time for a recommitment to active citizenship. It is time for all thinking people, who are concerned about the future of humanity and the future of our planet, to make their voices heard. The political leaders of the powerful nations along with the wealthy business elites have failed us. They are concerned only for their interests, not those of the majority of the people living on this planet.

It is time to revisit the idea of democratic world government. It is unthinkable that by the 22nd Century, when we are no longer a one-planet species, and have expanded into the solar system, that we would still have the same chaotic situation of a world plagued by geopolitical rivalry, with the great powers still poised to destroy all life on the planet with their nuclear weapons. It is also horrible to contemplate what another century of inaction on climate change would do to the planet.

The solution is to begin on the path to democratic world government by supporting the 'Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly,' popularly known as the UNPA. The campaign for this democratic assembly at the heart of the United Nations system has been underway for a number of years and support has been building steadily.

In September this year, Andreas Bummel, from Democracy Without Borders, is coming to Australia to explain how we can achieve true democracy at the global level through the creation of a UN Parliamentary Assembly. It is hoped that the events featuring Andreas will promote serious discussion moving forward on this important step towards bringing a democratic voice to the people of the world and set us on a sustainable path for our planet and our species.

Daryl Le Cornu

Global News

World Federalist Movement

The World Federalist Movement- Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP) at its four-yearly Congress last year voted for a change of the guard in its top ranks. The long-standing leaders of the movement, who had been responsible for major achievements such as the establishment of the **International Criminal Court** and the doctrine of **Responsibility to Protect**, stepped down in favour of a new generation of leaders. The old guard included:

William R. Pace, Executive Director

James Christie, Congress Chair

Keith Best, Chair Executive Committee



The new guard include
Dr. Tawanda Hondora, Executive Director
Lloyd Axworthy, Fernando Iglesias, Co-Presidents
Florencia Gor, Congress Chair
Fergus Watt, Chair Executive Committee

The US vs. the ICC

A press release from the World Federalist Movement WFM-IGP protested the Trump administration's latest attempts to shut down any investigations by the International Criminal Court of possible war crimes committed during the conflict in Afghanistan. The WFM is responsible for founding the ICC in the first place, and is vehemently opposed to the draconian measures being used by the administration.

The press release began:

“States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) must pressure the US government to stop impeding investigations by the ICC into war crimes committed in Afghanistan, said the World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP).

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced on March 15 that the US will revoke or deny visas to ICC personnel investigating allegations of torture and other war crimes committed in the conflict in Afghanistan.

Pompeo also announced that the US will consider imposing financial sanctions and restrictions on ‘persons who take or have taken action to request or further such [ICC] investigations.’

‘The US government’s policy undermines the rule of law in multilateral relations and sends the signal that might is right’, said Dr Tawanda Hondora, Executive Director of WFM-IGP.”

John Sutter 1926-2019

We recently received news of the death of John Sutter. John was one of two notable World War II warriors for world federalism who have died in the past year, among the last of their generation. John was the founder and guiding spirit for many years of the Democratic World Federalists, and always a strong supporter of the WFM.

The other loss was Joe Schwartzberg who died last year in Minnesota. He was a lifelong campaigner for UN reform, wrote at least one book on the subject, and set up the Workable World Trust to continue his work after his death.

It can truly be said, we will not see their like again.



Local News

Keith Suter's AM

Pera Wells informed us that Keith Suter was awarded an AM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. The citation reads: "Dr Keith Douglas Suter. For significant service to international relations, and to the Uniting Church in Australia".

This is a feather in the cap for our movement! Keith was for many years the leader of the world federalist movement in Australia, author of books such as "*A New International Order*" and "*Reshaping the Global Agenda*". He is a member of the Club of Rome and many other international organizations. He was for many years President of the World Federalists Association of Australia, until it was finally absorbed into our own World Citizens Association.

Congratulations, Keith!

WCAA General Meeting

A general meeting of the WCAA/IGPSG/CWSC was held on Wednesday May 8th in the public lounge of the Castlereagh Hotel, Sydney. Items discussed appear elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Bangladesh Aid Project – Wali Islam

Wali noted the need for extra funding to cater for new projects, including:

- Paying the 200 kids at the existing school as little as \$5 a month would make a great difference to their well-being;
- A training centre for young people to help them find jobs;
- A new library and resource centre. We have already collected a large number of books, and Wali hopes to arrange transport to Bangladesh and the setting up of a centre shortly. This will require about \$3K.

He has recently written to the authorities in Bangladesh stating that we (WCAA) have committed to give \$10K to support the school over 2 years.

He talked briefly about his ambition to establish a High School in the area, to allow young people in the district to go on to higher education.

Education Report – Daryl Le Cornu

'The European Union in the Era of Brexit and Gilets Jaunes,' 15-16 April 2019



Chris Hamer and I participated in a conference for teachers and journalists on the European Union. There were a number of speakers on a range of topics. In my presentation I outlined how various aspects of the EU could be taught in the school curriculum in subjects such as Modern History, Legal Studies, Economics, and Geography. I also explained how the EU Parliament has provided a model for how a UN Parliamentary Assembly could work. Despite the EU's current problems with Brexit and the rise of far-right politics, it has been enormously successful in many areas, and most notably in ending the prospect of war in Europe and in promoting multilateral cooperation, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Junior World Citizens program – *John Hegarty (slightly abridged)*

Once again, I express my thanks for the privilege of being involved in our great endeavours. The achievements of individuals and overall as a group continue to amaze me at this interesting age of 85 as the achievements and the insights I am getting from related research keeps me realistically positive about the future in particular in the movement toward Global Citizenship and Governance. Our task is so important and involves so many factors that my research has been very broad and I am getting insights into some major areas which I did not expect to be so fruitful. I expect to write articles about those related areas to appropriate audiences.

A most significant recent factor in the promotion of WCAA ideas and membership to Junior World Citizens is that one of our newest members, Margaret Webb is visiting schools across Australia in the near future. She is advertising our Association at the same time as she contacts parents about the importance of full inclusion of children and young people with disabilities into schools. She has many hundreds of people already signed up to attend in several areas and is making excellent use of social media. I am learning from her ideas and will try to use some of them. I am thankful for the resources Margaret Webb has introduced me too to add to the wealth of resources I have found and am commending from my own research. I will bring some to the next meeting.

I continue to show the film THE WORLD IS MY COUNTRY to individuals and groups. In case some of you have not seen the film, if you access the website. <https://futurewave.org>. and agree to receive information, there are opportunities to see the film given now and again. I am delighted to be working closely with Arthur Kanegis to raise the \$1.7 million still needed to best launch the film in the ways necessary for it to be the success it deserves. I am not seeking small donations but seeking to get a huge organisation to be a partner in this great undertaking. I consider I have a good chance of getting such an arrangement this year.

I will be visiting one of the schools on the MGP contact list (FORT STREET HIGH) as I am further developing their prize list for GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARDS. As an old boy of the school and somewhat involved I will be able to recommend and support any opportunities you offer to that historic school which in my day and at other times has excelled at debating.



Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance (IGPSG)

Model Global Parliament Program

The 2019 Sydney Model Global Parliament this year has been booked to take place on October 25th in the NSW Legislative Assembly chamber, during the Global Week of Action for a World Parliament. Jamie Parker, Greens MP for Balmain, has kindly agreed to sponsor the event once again.

We have recruited an active committee, comprising Ahmed Khan (co-ordinator), Nayonika Bhattacharia (last year's principal), Margaret Webb, Luiz Bispo, Jialu Meng, Tram Huynh, Dave Kalra, Paul Neeraj (website), Zeny Edwards and Chris Hamer.

Largely driven by Zeny, we have decided to make a bigger effort to recruit senior school students as MPs for this year's MGP after last year's disappointing enrolments. Zeny has prepared a manual and kit to be mailed out to prospective school principals (and university contacts?), to advertise for volunteers as MPs. Nayonika has prepared a Facebook page and Eventbrite page for recruiting purposes, Ahmed has drafted new material for the website, and Paul is in the process of putting it up. Once that is done, we will be ready to publicize the event and start recruiting MPs.

Pera has recently raised the possibility of another MGP in Melbourne this year. More news on this later!

Visit of Andreas Bummel

We have invited Andreas Bummel, global coordinator of the Campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly, to visit Australia in the period Sept 2-12, and promised to fund his visit. We estimate this will cost us around \$10K. We are now busy trying to arrange events during his visit, to promote (primarily) his campaign, but also the need for a world parliament in general, and also our own campaign for a World Security Community.

An informal group is assisting in this enterprise, consisting of Daryl Le Cornu, Chris Hamer, Pera Wells, Zeny Edwards and Keith Suter. More hands welcome! We have been very busy trying to interest other groups to assist us in mounting public talks and discussions, and meetings with parliamentarians, etc, during Andreas' visit. At Keith's suggestion, we have prepared a 'vision statement' for his visit entitled 'Building a More Democratic United Nations', which is reproduced at the end of this Bulletin.

Thanks mainly to Pera's indefatigable efforts, things are beginning to take shape here. In particular, Pera has contacted the Crawford School at ANU, and they have agreed to help organize a 1-day Symposium on the topic *'Building a More Democratic United Nations'*. This promises to be the centrepiece of his visit. We will circulate more details later.



UNAA Canberra have said they cannot offer a public talk, but are happy to help us contact DFAT personnel and UN parliamentary supporters. Lachlan Hunter did provide a transcript of excerpts of the *WFUNA Resolution* supporting a UNPA as follows:

“Calls on

The governments of the United Nations Member States, parliamentarians, civil society representatives and WFUNA member organizations to jointly support steps towards the creation of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly;

Supports the call for an open and inclusive intergovernmental preparatory process under the auspices of the UN General Assembly for an UN 2020 summit that considers comprehensive reform measures, including the creation of a UN Parliamentary Assembly;

The WFUNA Secretary-General to transmit this resolution to the UN Secretary-General and the President of the UN General Assembly.”

‘Vision statement’

Building a More Democratic UN



The international system is in crisis. We are confronted by a number of increasingly urgent and difficult global problems and catastrophic risks. Examples include unchecked global warming, the renewed threat of nuclear weapons, and widespread conflict in regions such as the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia. As a symptom of these problems, there is an unprecedented flight of refugees globally, which is causing its own crisis. The present United Nations is not capable of dealing effectively with these problems.

The importance of global institutions is growing. In this process, it must be ensured that these institutions are responsive and in touch with the needs and concerns of ordinary citizens. Critical developments have reached such proportions that it is not possible to come to sustainable solutions without involving the will, ideas and initiative of the world's citizens. One of the most likely current initiatives on this front is the **Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly**

In the first phase the UNPA could consist of delegates of national and possibly regional parliaments. At some point, partial or complete direct elections could be introduced. From the outset countries should be allowed to opt for direct elections of their delegates. Once established, the UNPA should, over time, be vested with genuine rights of information, participation and oversight throughout the UN system and the Bretton Woods institutions. The eventual goal is to develop the assembly from a mere consultative body into a full co-decision organ which complements the UN General Assembly.



The Campaign for the Establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (CEUNPA) is a network of parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations advocating citizen's representation at the United Nations through a popularly elected chamber. It has supporters in over 150 countries. Among them are more than 1500 parliamentarians, 300 professors, 300 non-governmental organizations and hundreds of distinguished leaders from all walks of life. The Campaign's International Secretariat is led by the Committee for a Democratic UN (KDUN) and based in Berlin. Their website may be found at www.unpacampaign.org.

A UN Parliamentary Assembly "would increase the democratic profile and internal democratic process of the United Nations."

The UNPA proposal is supported across principal party lines on all continents. The European Parliament, the Pan-African Parliament and the Latin American Parliament have adopted supportive resolutions.

The World Citizens Association of Australia has invited Andreas Bummel, the global coordinator of the Campaign, to visit Australia in the period 2-12 September. Our aim is to raise public awareness of the Campaign, generate public support, and ultimately to secure the Australian government's agreement to become a supporter of the Campaign.

For further information, contact C.Hamer@unsw.edu.au



Coalition for a World Security Community

Things have gone somewhat more slowly since the excitement of our attendance at last year's Paris Peace Forum. We have incorporated the CWSC in Washington DC and New South Wales. Didier has set up a bank account and Paypal account in Washington. We still need to apply for an ABN and set up a local bank account in Sydney. for the Coalition.

Website: updates and alterations are under way as we speak (Allen Luke). Once this is done we can start canvassing for support more vigorously. We are building a list of possible or likely supporters of the project within Australia and also overseas, who might be approached for support or funding. For the present, we are concentrating on organizing events for the Bummel visit, where we may be able to also advertise our WSC project.

Chris Hamer

Editor's Corner

As the reader will hopefully have seen, we are making efforts to reinvigorate our world citizens movement locally. Zeny, Ahmed and Nayonika are leading the way towards a bigger Model Global Parliament this year, and we are committing some of our funds to funding Andreas Bummel's visit to Australia, and events associated with it.

