



THE BULLETIN

Australian World Citizens Association
 Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Development

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

<http://igpsg.org/>

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President's Column:



The 'TPNW' and 'Democracy Without Borders' – signs of hope in difficult times

There is much gloom in the world today due to the rise of malevolent forces in many countries around the world and what seems like the absolute failure of the world's leaders today to address the enormous challenges that affect everyone on the planet. Many commentators see the root causes as a crisis in globalisation that has been brewing since the Global Financial Crisis of 2007-2008. Everything from the increase in nationalist populism and xenophobia, the rise of far-right political parties and movements, Brexit, and the election of Donald Trump, are seen as symptoms. Thomas Wright in his latest book, *All Measures Short of*

War, argues that we are moving from a period of convergence, that has been characterised by the period since the end of the Cold War, to one of divergence, characterised by aggressive nationalism, less global cooperation, and greater geopolitical arm wrestling between the United States and the revisionist powers of China and Russia. In fact, Wright asserts that the post-World War 2 liberal international order, that has lasted for 72 years, is now under threat. The United States of America is now losing its moral authority in the global order and along with it, its soft power. Its preeminent position in the world is now more reliant just on its military supremacy.

More than ever today, all the old certainties of the past are now being questioned and some even advocate a return to the fascist ideologies and authoritarianism of the 1930s. What is clear is that we seem to be lacking wise statesmen and stateswomen with a global perspective and a capacity to think beyond the narrow interests of their own countries. No wonder that some commentators are calling this the age of anxiety!

However, there is hope. There are signs around the world of a backlash against the current trends. As Lawrence Wittner points out in his recent article, *'World citizenship is more popular than you think,'* there are positive signs around the world such as Macron's convincing win in the recent French elections, the loss of support for the Conservative pro-Brexit party in the UK, and the massive wave of public resistance to

President Trump whose support has sunk to historically low levels. In his article, Wittner reminds us of the substantial amount of public support for the idea of 'One World' espoused by a host of globalist thinkers such as Albert Einstein, and the popularity of the world federalist movements that sprang up around the world at the end of World War Two. Again and again, in surveys around the world there is considerable support

HELP WANTED!

We need energetic volunteers to help reinvigorate our Association!
For details, see the Editor's Corner. Anyone able to help, please contact Daryl Le Cornu at djlecornu@hotmail.com



for the idea of world citizenship and moving towards some sort of world governance that moves beyond the nation-state.

In the end, the world simply needs to work together to deal effectively with the many massive global challenges that confront us. We realise that none of the current crop of aggressive nationalist leaders around have any real answers to the problems that confront us. What the world needs now are leaders and mass movements campaigning for real solutions.

One solution is to have coalitions consisting of likeminded countries, civil society groups and mass movements working towards real solutions. One of these in the spotlight today is the Humanitarian Impact Initiative which since 2011 has worked securing a treaty to outlaw the use of nuclear weapons, which remain the only weapons of mass destruction that have not been banned under international law. This culminated at the United Nations on 17 July 2017 in the 'Treaty for the Prohibition of the Nuclear Weapons' (TPNW 2017) which was passed by the votes of 122 countries. On 20 September 2017, this treaty opened for signature at the United Nations. This represents a clear statement by a majority of the countries of the world and a majority of the people of the world saying to the nine countries that possess nuclear weapons that this is not acceptable, and that they must work free themselves from their addiction to nuclear weapons and commit to a world free from the fear of nuclear catastrophe.

Another longer-term solution is true global democracy, proposed by the 'Democracy Without Borders' organisation. This group advocates a democratically-elected United Nations Parliamentary Assembly, to be added as an extra tier of government to the current structure. Through such a reform we could move towards a global government creating world law and with all people on the planet being world citizens. Such a transformation will take many years, but what is the alternative? – a global dictatorship perhaps, or a planet destroyed by environmental disasters or nuclear war? Forms of government have evolved over thousands of years of human civilisation to deal with the new challenges and circumstances. It is time for the next big transformation in government to occur and for those with foresight to work towards it.

Daryl Le Cornu

News and Events

Global News

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

On 7 July, the United Nations passed the first-ever treaty imposing a total nuclear weapons ban. "This will be a historic moment and it will be the first multilateral nuclear disarmament treaty to be concluded in more than 20 years," U.N. conference president



Elayne Whyte Gomez said. “The world has been waiting for this legal norm for 70 years.”

The U.N. recently reopened discussions of a global nuclear ban back in March, after more than 2,500 scientists from 70 countries signed a petition in favour of total nuclear disarmament.

At the conference, 122 member states voted in favour of negotiating “a legally-binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons.” None of the nine nuclear-armed states voted in favour. The U.S., Britain, and France released a joint statement after the treaty was adopted, stating “We do not intend to sign, ratify or ever become party to it.” The three nations explained that “a purported ban on nuclear weapons that does not address the security concerns that continue to make nuclear deterrence necessary cannot result in the elimination of a single nuclear weapon and will not enhance any country’s security, nor international peace and security.”

Nevertheless, the treaty will establish a new international “norm” against the possession of nuclear weapons, and ratchet up the moral pressure on the nuclear-weapon states to fulfill their promise under the NPT to eventually eliminate these frightful weapons.

Global Challenges Foundation Prize Competition, “A New Shape”

As announced in our last Bulletin, the Global Challenges Foundation, set up by Swedish billionaire Laszlo Szombatfalvy, has announced a \$5 million prize competition, ‘A New Shape’, for the best new ideas on global governance to deal with the enormous global challenges and risks facing our global community. We are submitting entries (CJH, Jim Page, Austin Mackell?), coordinated (if possible!) by Michael Clarke. We have formed a link with Ben Rhee, International Relations Analyst and Outreach Director for the Asia-Pacific for the Foundation, and we hope to collaborate with them no matter what the outcome of the prize competition.

This should be a great shot in the arm for the world federalist movement generally. Apparently more than 10,000 entries were foreshadowed in the first week of the prize competition. The competition closed on September 30.

Local News

Nobel Peace Prize for ICAN!

On 7th July 2017 it was announced that the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to ICAN, the International Coalition Against Nuclear Weapons. ICAN was founded right here in Melbourne ten years ago, with Australian Tilman Ruff as its first President. We are among the NGO supporters of ICAN. This is a great feather in the cap, and should give a boost to the whole anti-nuclear movement in Australia. We congratulate our local leaders of ICAN on the award. The announcement from the Nobel Prize Committee can be found [here](#).

The Prize was awarded in recognition of the leading role of ICAN in championing the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the first major nuclear



disarmament Treaty in twenty years. This is a statement from the non-nuclear-weapon states reinforcing their commitment to the abolition of nuclear weapons. Now we need to challenge the Nuclear-weapon-states to respond, and fulfil their promise under Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, namely to “negotiate in good faith” on nuclear disarmament. They should set up a Commission to lay out a credible path to getting rid of their nuclear arsenals and then to implement it, even if it may take a long time. The Nobel Prize Committee refers to this challenge in their announcement.

Bangladesh Aid Project – Special Appeal

As most readers will know, we have been the principal supporters of a school for the children of flood victims in northern Bangladesh, in a district called Char Khabulia near the great river Jamuna (also known as the Brahmaputra in India). The school currently has about 200 children enrolled. See more details about the Aid Project at our website <https://www.wcaa.org.au/bangladesh-aid-project>

Our Aid Project Director, Wali Islam, has recently been on a trip to Bangladesh with his family to inspect the progress of the Project. **Unfortunately he had just returned when news came of the worst river flooding in the district for ten years at least.**



Villagers set off for higher ground on makeshift bamboo rafts. The building in the background (right) is part of our WCA Aid school project.

The whole district of Char Khabulia has been inundated, including the school, and the population is now in desperate need of further aid to recover after the disaster. **We**



appealed to our members and supporters to give what they could towards this worthy cause. Cheques totalling \$10,000 have just been sent off to the Appeal. Our sincere thanks go to all those members who contributed to this very worthy cause!



Villagers set up temporary shelters from the floods at the side of the road

Rehabilitation efforts are being led by our partners on the ground, the Wajifa Noor Ashmatia Foundation (WNAF). Recently, WNAF has given taka 1000.00 (equivalent to \$15.00) to more than 100 families to buy rice and other basic needs. The foundation is committed to raise \$30,000.00 to provide aid to the devastated yet resilient families so that they can restart their lives.

Money will be spent helping to:

- Rebuild houses for families who have lost homes because of river erosion
- Feed poor families who are devastated by the flood
- Install tube-wells for safe drinking water
- Construct some latrines particularly for women
- Establish satellite clinics and supply basic medicines including oral salines
- Supplement babies' and children's nutrition



United Nations Parliamentary Assembly campaign

Andreas Bummel, co-ordinator of the campaign, has recruited Daryl and Chris to make another push for support from the Australian and New Zealand governments. We have sent a letter and background papers to the foreign ministers Julie Bishop and Marion McCully.

Coalition for a World Community of Democratic Nations

Chris has continued trying to push his ideas on this topic to global think-tanks such as the Brookings Institution, the Hague Institute and the Stimson Institute, with very little success so far. He has submitted his paper on this to the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*.

Model Global Parliament program

At a meeting around Christmas between Pera Wells, Chris Hamer and Kelly Wu, it was decided to set up permanent committees to run the MGP program, a national committee and state committees in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra. After advertising for volunteers on Facebook, Kelly convened a meeting on July 22nd, at which the following interim committee(s) were appointed:

National Committee

Chair	Kelly Wu	kellywu95@hotmail.com
Secretary	Grace Strous	grace_strous@hotmail.com

Sydney Committee

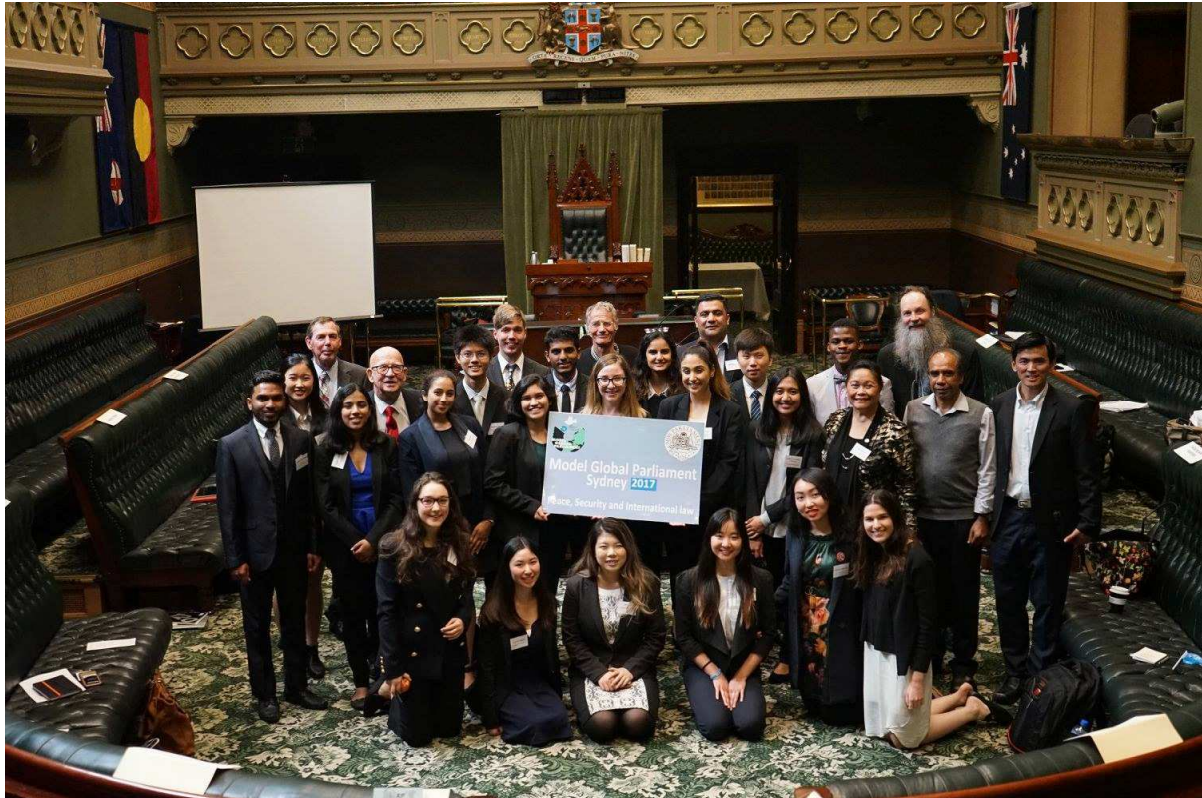
Chair	Isobel Healey	isobelveronicahealey@gmail.com
Member Relations	Mia Herrman	mia.herrman@gmail.com
Research	Anne Hu	anneehuu7@gmail.com
Logistics	Vivienne Davies	viviennex29@gmail.com

Committees in Canberra and Melbourne remain to be recruited.

5th Sydney Model Global Parliament

The new committee successfully organized the 5th Sydney MGP on Monday October 9th in the NSW Legislative Assembly chamber. The themes this time were *Human Enhancement, the Prison System, and Modern Slavery*, all in the field of human rights. The numbers were again low, amounting to about 30 participants all told, but this allowed all the MPs to have multiple speeches, and they really got into the spirit of things. By the end, the meeting was almost as rowdy as Question Time in Canberra! Congratulations and thanks go to the committee for all their hard work.





Model Global Parliament in the NSW Legislative Assembly chamber

Annual General Meeting

The WCA Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 31st July at Radhiga Dey's house, 9 Weaver Place in Minchinbury. Minutes have been circulated, and many news items are given elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Election of Officers

No other nominations having been received, the previous committee was declared elected:

President:	Daryl Le Cornu
Vice-President:	Wali Islam
Treasurer:	Radhiga Dey
Secretary:	Chris Hamer

Wild Apricot

Boyd Attewell has proposed that we employ Wild Apricot to upgrade our procedures and social media sites, to improve our professionalism and expand our membership.



They act for many NGOs, at very reasonable rates. Endorsed by Rada, approved by the meeting. (Chris and Rada to implement)

Treasurer's Report

Rada reported that we have \$41502.24 in the general account and \$930.22 in the Aid Fund account. We presently have 18 fully paid-up members and 3 'would-be' members.

Our Paypal remittance account(s) need to be reorganized

We are due to transmit \$2200 to the Aid Project, two quarters at \$900 per quarter, and \$400 for a girl's toilet at the school.

Radhiga Dey

Education Report

Daryl's course on "War and Peace" will include a Peacemaker Assignment, where students go out and interview selected activists on their ideas.

Chris reported he is presently running his General Education course at UNSW on "Nuclear Arms, Peace and Global Governance", which was fully enrolled for the second year at 60 students.

Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance (IGPSG)

Chairman's Report

No major activities to report, apart from the Model Global Parliament program, see above. Funds have been invested, which will bring in a regular income which we can use as we see fit, e.g. to support the Model Global Parliament program

Chris Hamer

Election of Officers

No other nominations being received, the previous committee was declared elected:

Chairman:	Chris Hamer
Vice-Chairmen:	Thich Minh Tam, Michael de Mol
Secretary:	Daryl Le Cornu
Treasurer:	Wali Islam



Thich Minh Tam

We have been unable to determine the current state or whereabouts of our friend and benefactor Thich Minh Tam. When last heard of, he was in intensive care in Myanmar, and due to be removed to the USA. We will continue attempts to discover his fate

Editor's Corner – Help Wanted

As noted in the advertisement on page 2, we urgently need some energetic younger volunteers to reinvigorate our Association. Our Treasurer, Radhiga Dey, is fully occupied caring for her chronically ill daughter, and desperately needs some help or relief. Also, I have been filling in as Secretary on a temporary basis, and would welcome any volunteer as replacement. Any member or supporter who has the time and expertise to help in these capacities should please get in touch with our President, Daryl Le Cornu, at djlecornu@hotmail.com

Chris Hamer

Articles

THANK YOU to PIONEERS OF WCAA - PARADIGMS ARE CHANGING

John Hegarty

Throughout the recent history of man, worldviews have generally been about conflict with winners and losers. I see a clear move towards much more talk of peace, the necessity of global cooperation and a more representative UN model. As a relatively new member of WCAA, I wish to pass on some developments about which I am excited. Our efforts aim for a more peaceful and just world.

Two years ago, I asked the Australian War Memorial (i.e. AWM) whether they would consider changing the name to Australian War Memorial Toward Peace or similar. They explained why they did not think it appropriate but offered to research an article on the peace movement in Australia. The present situation is, that given the availability of a suitable historian, Anne Bennie (Assistant Director Public Programs-AWM) expects to publish an article about peace in their prestigious WARTIME monthly magazine at an appropriate time such as Remembrance Day 2018 to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. If we spread this recognition of peace, perhaps historians will offer to write articles towards a more peaceful and just world relating to their area of special expertise.

I was surprised and delighted that the recent (15-16 September 2017) National UNAA conference that was held in the AWM seemed to be all about PEACE. Key speakers, including The Hon Brendan Nelson (Director of AWM since 2012) gave inspiring addresses about peace with some specific recognitions of peace. He spoke of the



launch of a major AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPERS MEMORIAL on Anzac Parade near the AWM that occurred on the day prior to the conference. Further he announced that a major extension of the AWM will be operational in about two years, and it is all about Peacekeepers.

My recognition of a paradigm changing experience at the UNAA Conference was probably a crucial factor in me developing a proposed motion for discussion at the next meeting of WCAA to suggest a new membership category, JUNIOR WORLD CITIZEN. The concept is already validated, as one family with two children aged 5 and 7 is quite happy to add formal recognition to their acceptance of the concept. This was not a simple decision as the parents are very conscious of the need to preserve freedom of action for their children. A suggested AFFIRMATION defining the concept can be as simple as:

I am a JUNIOR WORLD CITIZEN and I want to be friendly to all people and help to make the world the best possible place to live.

As a member of the WCAA Advisory Board and active member of WCAA I would be prepared to manage all aspects of such a project to complement other projects such as the Model Global Parliament, Bangladesh Aid Project and others. One of the newest members of WCAA is Colleen Hegarty. She had experience conducting the Naming Ceremonies of the Wayside Chapel in the 1990s and would be prepared if appropriate to develop and conduct a formal induction event for Junior World Citizens. A proposed motion is in near final form to be distributed to members for discussion at the next WCAA meeting. Such a membership category over time could lead to greater involvement of young people. It is envisaged that a very nominal fee for school age members of \$5 per year would be set and given even a simple education program arranged by me, could be another paradigm change in our association. I have just been given permission to occasionally make use of one of the rooms in one of the four community centres in my retirement village to give WCAA and JUNIOR WORLD CITIZEN projects a small presence. Little by little things develop.

As to whether or how long it would take for further significant developments in our aims that everyone wants but few work on, as it seems impossible to get the whole world to cooperate, I echo Martin Luther King by saying " HOW LONG? NOT LONG" perhaps. It depends if we can get everyone motivated to do something no matter how small his or her contribution would be.

Submissions to the Global Challenges Foundation 'A New Shape' Prize Competition.

Several of our members were contemplating entries to this Prize competition, outlined in the Global News section: Chris Hamer (2), Austin Mackell and Jim Page. We give the abstract of one entry here.



Towards a Global Parliament: Principles and Pathways

Chris Hamer

Abstract

To deal effectively with the urgent global challenges which confront us, we need a more effective system of global governance, i.e. some form of global parliament. This has been the aim of the world federalist movement (WFM-IGP) ever since World War II. The goal is hardly going to be reached overnight, and will require a stage-by-stage evolutionary process, following the European example. Hence we prefer to discuss the basic principles which should underpin the global parliament, rather than the specific form it might take.

Next we discuss the possible routes to a global parliament. The world federalist movement has always concentrated on reform of the United Nations, only to be stymied by the rigidity of the UN Charter. The most lively initiative in this direction at present is the Campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly.

Recommendation 1. The Global Challenges Foundation should support the Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly.

The Commission on Global Security, Justice and Governance has called for a World Conference on Global Institutions in 2020.

Recommendation 2. The Global Challenges Foundation should partner with WFM-IGP, and support the World Conference on Global Institutions in 2020.

We believe that the easiest and most likely route towards a global parliament is actually that of uniting the democracies, emphasizing the principle of democracy over that of universality. A detailed discussion of a possible first step along this route, consisting of a World Security Community of Democratic Nations, is given in an accompanying paper. Attempting to promote this idea, we have formed a Coalition for a World Community of Democratic Nations.

Recommendation 3. We recommend that the Global Challenges Foundation should partner with and support the Coalition for a World Community of Democratic Nations.

In order to promote this idea more widely, we envisage a high-level international conference, organized in collaboration with other influential organizations and think-tanks.

Recommendation 4. We recommend that the Global Challenges Foundation should support a high-level international conference on the idea of a world community of democratic nations.

