



# RAISING AWARENESS IN THE VICTORIAN COMMUNITY

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN DEAKIN UNIVERSITY  
AND THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
VICTORIAN DIVISION (UNAA VICTORIA)



United Nations  
Association  
of Australia  
Victorian Division



The UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a “universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity”.

The SDGs – and their related targets – are, by their nature, based on a global agenda so are they relevant to Victoria? If so, what is being done or planned? Can we set and achieve local targets?

In 2018 and 2019, Deakin University and UNAA Victoria partnered to deliver an annual calendar of events to discuss the SDGs in a local context. These varied events – each focussed on two related SDGs - were designed to increase awareness of the UN's 2030 agenda and include Victorian organisations and individuals in conversations about how this agenda can be implemented in Victoria.



# PARTNERS

**The United Nations Association of Australia (Victorian Division) or UNAA Victoria** is a non-profit, non-government, membership based organisation which works to:

- Raise awareness of the UN and its programs and
- Engage local communities in key UN issues such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This is done through Model UN Conferences; UN Study Tours and events and activities.

**Deakin University** is a proud signatory to the University Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. Universities, including Deakin, are in the privileged position of equipping the next generation of leaders, innovators and thinkers to understand the global challenges facing the world and the role they can play in rising to meet these challenges.

Through their research and training of research leaders, universities are at the forefront of finding sustainable social, economic, environmental and technical solutions to global problems. In addition to this through their own operations universities can pioneer innovation and set an example to other sectors and businesses.



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**Event 1: 13 February 2019**

## Global Climate Forum – COP 24 and the year ahead



EY Australia hosted a very well-attended discussion about the implications of the 2018 UN Climate Change Conference in Poland. Speakers included Patrick Suckling, Australian Ambassador for the Environment; Professor Brett Bryan, Professor of Global Change, Deakin University; Brad Kerin, General Manager, Carbon Market Institute; Kate Dooley, Researcher, Australian-German Climate and Energy College; Mark Deff, Special Adviser, Climate Change, DELWP (who stepped in when Kath Rowley, Executive Director, became unavailable) and moderator, Megan Brayne, Director, Comhar Group.

**Event 2: 26 February 2019**

## Youth Unstoppable Film premiere and panel discussion



UNAA Victoria Young Professionals Network, in conjunction with the Transitions Film Festival, presented the Australian premiere of *Youth Unstoppable* - the inspiring result of filmmaker Slater Jewell-Kemer's eight-year documenting of the global youth climate movement.

This was then followed by a discussion involving *Graham Hunter*, National Co-ordinator, UNAA Climate Change Program; *Linh Do*, Climate Reality Project, Australia and Pacific; *Ed Krutsch*, Australian Youth Climate Council (AYCC) and moderator, *Alice Greenhill*, Sustainability Manager, Yarra Valley Water and UNAABV Board Member.



**Event 3: 14 March**

## Towards a new Australian Refugee Policy – does the UN Global Compact provide a way forward?



Some 90 people took part in a thoughtful and positive discussion at the Immigration Museum on the possible improvements that the 2018 UN Global Compact on Refugees could bring to Australia's refugees system.

Led by Erika Feller, former UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner and now UNAA Goodwill Ambassador on Refugees, this discussion also featured contributions from Dr Sonja Hood, CEO, Community Hubs Australia; Paris Aristotle AO, Chair of the Settlement Services Advisory Council and Fiona Patten MP, Leader of Reason Australia, and moderator, Jan Molloy, Programs Coordinator, Immigration Museum.



#### Event 4: 16 April

### #CASHISBEST – humanitarian aid panel discussion



High Heels, handbags, woollen knitwear and hundreds of tins of expired food were sent to Vanuatu in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015 – very little of which could be used by a country desperately needing international assistance. Natasha Freeman, Head of International Operational Support, Australian Red Cross; Jess Lees, Leader, Humanitarian Advisory Group and Gerard Finnegan, IKEA Foundation Humanitarian Leadership Scholar, Deakin University took part in this far-reaching discussion, moderated by Shruti Verma, Postgraduate Student, Deakin University.



Photo: Neve Condon

#### Event 5: 14 May

### Speed Date Mentoring: Working Internationally



As with 2018, we again had to close registrations for this event. Some 50 participants moved around tables to meet with mentors. Special thanks to all the mentors who gave up their time and were so generous with their advice and ideas: Susan Coles, Sally Richardson and Ian Howie, UN and Diplomatic Careers; Fariha Sarawat, Deloitte Consulting, Corporate Careers; Ali Fowler, World Partner Projects, Entrepreneurs/Passion Projects; Billi McCarthy-Price, Global Voices, International volunteering; Laura Hughes, Consulate-General of Japan, Consulate Careers and Alastair Roff and Ingrid Valladares, Australian Institute of International Affairs (Victoria), Networking/ Internships.

#### Event 6: 26 June

### Building Sustainable Partnerships - young professionals networking event



UNAAV Board Member and former UN Ambassador and staff member Carlisle Richardson (pictured above with UNAAV Young Professional Committee members) provided much appreciated advice and information at a combined UNAAV and Australian Institute of International Affairs Victoria Young Professionals networking event on 26 June.



This event - based around SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals - will be the first of regular events to be co-hosted by the combined Young Professional Networks.



**Event 7: 16 July**

## SDGs and Students: making sure the future is in good hands



Matthew Brennan, Head of Sustainability, Transurban; Biheng Zhang, Director of Philanthropy, Pollinate Energy and Di Fleming, Executive Director, Ducere Foundation led this event for Deakin University students interested in finding out more about how the SDGs are being integrated into not-for-profit; international and corporate organisations. The event was kicked off with a great presentation by students Olivia D'Souza and Christine Coxhill about Deakin's on campus SDG activities.



**Event 8: 19 August**

## Sustainable Cities and Communities Model UN



Planners, tertiary students and government representatives joined in our second, successful simulation of a General Assembly debate around Sustainable Cities and Communities. Overseen by Secretary-General Carlisle Richardson, teams represented UN Member states in a full day-event at Deakin Downtown.



**Event 9: 24 September**

## Are we living in a culture that is tolerant towards violence against women?



UNAA Victoria's Young Professionals Network hosted this important and challenging panel discussion, hosted by Queen Victoria Women's Centre CEO Jo Porter. Panel members included Dr Lata Satyen, Senior Lecturer and Psychologist, Deakin University; Joanna Brislane, Our Watch Manager, Practice Systems and Jessica Maxwell, Counsellor/ Advocate and Primary Prevention Worker, CASA House.



**Event 10: 24 October**

## 2019 UN Day Breakfast

Some 90 people joined us at PwC Australia to hear Amber Roberts outline PwC Indigenous Consulting's work to assess corporates against the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Dr Megan Kelly speak about the work Deakin University is doing to implement Indigenous Design Charters in Australia and internationally.

In his UN Day message, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said at "this time of turbo-charged change, the United Nations remains focused on the real problems of real people. We are working for a fair globalization and bold climate action. We are pushing for human rights and gender equality -- and saying "no" to hatred of any kind. And we are striving to maintain peace -- while bringing life-saving aid to millions caught up in armed conflict."



# PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE SDGs

Special thanks to all the organisations we partnered with to deliver our 2019 program.

- > Deakin University
- > Melbourne Athenaeum Library
- > UNAA Victoria Young Professionals' Network
- > Red Cross
- > Australian Transitions Film Festival
- > World Partners Pty Ltd
- > Carbon Market Institute
- > Australian-German Climate and Energy College, University of Melbourne
- > Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- > Comhar Group
- > Immigration Museum
- > Climate Reality Project, Australia and Pacific
- > Australian Youth Climate Council (AYCC)
- > Yarra Valley Water
- > Community Hubs Australia
- > Settlement Services Advisory Council
- > Reason Australia
- > Humanitarian Advisory Group
- > DFAT Victoria
- > Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Victoria
- > Global Voices
- > Consulate-General of Japan
- > Australian Institute of International Affairs (Victoria)
- > Pollinate Group
- > Ducere Foundation
- > Transurban
- > Queen Victoria Women's Centre
- > Our Watch
- > CASA House
- > PwC Australia



## 17 SDGs IN 2020

The UN Association of Australia will host the UN & Australia Sustainable Partnerships Forum in April 2020 – please visit <https://unaspf2020.unaavictoria.org.au/> for all the details.



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