



# 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, Deakin University and UNAA Victoria presented an inaugural 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 – 27 February 2018

### *Guardians of the Earth* Film screening and panel discussion



#### **SDG 13: Climate Action and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals**

The year of events and activities was launched very successfully with the sold out screening of *Guardians of the Earth*, held in partnership with the Transitions Film Festival and the UNAA Victoria Young Professionals.

This fly on the wall look at the negotiations that led to the historic Paris Climate Agreement was followed by a panel discussion which included Dr Adam Bumpus, Senior Research Fellow, Melbourne University; Deb Hart, Author and Activist; Caroline Lambert, Climate and Environment Counsellor, EU Delegation to Australia and Graham Hunter, Coordinator, UNAA Climate Change program.

#### Event 2 – 20 March 2018

### *Q and A Panel: Affordable and Clean Energy - are these mutually exclusive?*



#### **SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**

Some 40 people took part in this thought-provoking forum led by panellists Dr Adrian Panow, Director, Deakin Energy; Luke Barbagallo, Partnerships and Programs Manager, Pollinate Energy; Mary Sayers, Deputy CEO, Victorian Council of Social Service – VCOS and Donna Luckman, CEO, ATA: Alternative Technology Association. UNAA Climate Change Coordinator Graham Hunter moderated the discussion at the historic Melbourne Athenaeum Library.



#### Event 3 – 18 April 2018

### *Empowerment and Education: Speed Date Mentoring*



#### **SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 5: Gender Equality**

More than 40 young people joined 11 wonderful mentors for an evening of speed date mentoring. Held at Deakin Downtown, mentors included Penelope Lee, Her Place Women's Museum Australia; Professor Hannah Piterman, Deakin University; Tasneem Chopra, Cross Cultural Consultant; Ali Fowler, World Project Partners; Lily-Claire Deenmamode, ACU School of Education; Wayne Hayworth, Mt Alexander College; Kate Mugavin, Centre for Multicultural Youth; Krista Seddon, Domestic Violence Resource Centre; Tharindu Jayadeva, CHASE and Oaktree Foundation and Deborah Zhang, Teach for Australia.

Event 4 – 15 May 2018

## Q and A Panel: Reducing Poverty and Achieving Justice



**SDG 1: No Poverty**

**SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**



This forum quickly became a passionate debate about what we can do in Victoria to assist with the increasingly visible problems of homelessness and poverty. Held at the Melbourne Athenaeum Library, this discussion, moderated by Victorian Young Professionals' Network Co-Convenor Emeline Gillingham, included panel members Mary Sayers, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, VCOSS: Victorian Council of Social Services; Maureen Dawson-Smith, Victorian Community Programs Manager, Red Cross and Oaktree Foundation Timor-Leste Education Partnership Manager, Nathan Vadjal.



Event 5 – 16 June 2018

## Volunteer Day



**SDG 14: Life below Water and Goal 15: Life on Land**

UNAA Victoria Young Professionals hosted a volunteering day to highlight the importance of protecting and conserving our natural heritage.

Working in partnership with the City of Port Phillip and Conservation Volunteers Australia, participants moved 50 cubic metres of mulch and planted around 2000 trees along the Elwood Foreshore. Providing practical support to the City of Port Phillip under the guidance of Conservation Volunteers Australia meant that participants contributed to revegetation efforts to increase habitat biodiversity.

Event 6 – 25 July 2018

## Sustainable Food Dinner



**SDG 2: Zero Hunger**

**SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**

Some 40 people enjoyed a fabulous meal and discussion at Fitzroy social enterprise Charcoal Lane. Fareshare CEO Marcus Godinho, Deakin University Food Charter Project Officer Em Massey, Jane Kou, Founder of app Bring Me Home, and Charcoal Lane Head Chef Greg Hampton led the discussion around what is being done in Victoria to try and reduce hunger and ensure responsible practices in the production and consumption of food.





Image credit: Jason Smith Photography



**Event 7– 20 August 2018**

## Sustainable Cities and Communities Model UN Conference



**SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being**  
**SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**

We were very excited to sell out our first full day simulation of the UN General Assembly centred on *SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities*.

Carlisle Richardson, former St Kitts and Nevis Ambassador to the UN and member of the UN SDGs team, acted as Secretary-General, while Michael Nolan, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Cities Programme addressed the afternoon session.

More than 80 people attended from the Planning Institute Australia, Yarra Valley Water, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Deakin University, City of Melbourne, RMIT and the UN Global Compact Network Australia. Each team represented a UN Member State.

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**Event 8 – 19 September 2018**

## SDGs Collaboration Lab



**SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**  
**SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**



This half-day interactive collaboration workshop – held in partnership with the Future Business Council – provided an opportunity for corporate and community sector leaders to come together with entrepreneurs to innovate together, ignite opportunities and form ongoing strategic partnerships.

Several new partnerships and projects resulted from the workshop.

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Image credit: Jason Smith Photography



**Event 9 – 26 October 2018**

## UN Day Media Awards



**SDGs 1 - 17**

Some 100 media industry professionals, corporate and community leaders and tertiary students attended a spectacular Presentation Dinner on 26 October. Awards were given out to acknowledge the efforts of journalists, photographers, editors and program managers to cover humanitarian and global issues.

Guest Speaker Simon Balderstone AM, Chair of the Australian Himalayan Foundation, spoke passionately about the humanitarian work being done by the Foundation to build sustainable, cohesive communities in the Himalaya. A special *Outstanding Contribution to Humanitarian Journalism Award* was presented to the family of late journalist, Michael Gordon, to acknowledge his work, particularly in relation to Indigenous peoples and Asylum Seekers and Refugees.



# PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE SDGs

Thank you to all the organisations we partnered with to deliver our 2017 program.

- > Deakin University
- > Cbus Super
- > Melbourne Athenaeum Library
- > UNAA Victoria Young Professionals' Network
- > Australian Himalayan Foundation
- > Future Business Council
- > Planning Institute Australia (Victoria and Tasmania)
- > Yarra Valley Water
- > Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- > City of Melbourne
- > RMIT
- > UN Global Compact Network Australia.
- > UN Global Compact Cities Programme
- > Fareshare
- > Bring Me Home
- > Charcoal Lane
- > City of Port Phillip
- > Conservation Volunteers Australia
- > VCOSS: Victorian Council of Social Services
- > Red Cross
- > Oaktree Foundation
- > Transitions Film Festival
- > Melbourne University
- > EU Delegation to Australia
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- > ATA: Alternative Technology Association
- > Her Place Women's Museum Australia
- > World Project Partners
- > ACU School of Education
- > Mt Alexander College
- > Centre for Multicultural Youth
- > Domestic Violence Resource Centre
- > Teach for Australia



## 17 SDGs IN 2019

Planning is now underway for the 2019 year of SDG events. These will include a town-hall style debate; a musical celebration; panel discussions; speed date mentoring and much, much more!



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