



# The Bulletin

of the Australian World Citizens Association

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

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## President's Column: Hope Springs Eternal

This has been a remarkable year. The "Arab spring" has washed across North Africa and into the Middle East, affecting Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan and now Syria, and perhaps even Iran. The people's uprisings have been partly driven by poverty and unemployment, but these events have shown that young Muslims yearn for democracy just like anyone else, and they hopefully presage a bright new future for the region. This proves those wrong who say that democracy is purely a Western concept, and doesn't apply to 'other civilizations'. The social media such as Facebook seem to have played a major role here also.

There has also been progress at the United Nations. The International Court has been very busy, and has issued warrants for the trial of several prominent individuals, not only in Bosnia and Serbia, but also including Colonel Gaddafi of Libya, the President of Sudan, and others. Also, the idea of the 'Responsibility to Protect' is taking surprising hold, with the authorization by the Security Council of actions to protect civilians in both Libya and Sierra Leone. Both the ICC and the RtP have been very strongly advocated by the World Federalist Movement. Keith Suter tells me that Australia is supporting the WFM to the tune of half a million dollars per year to promote the cause

## Local News

### Bangladesh Fund Raiser

WCAA held a fund raising event in conjunction with the Community of Christ Church in Kingsgrove on the evening of Wednesday the 31st of August 2011. The fund raiser went well with \$600 being raised. Michael de Mol spoke about the problems of climate change in Bangladesh. This was followed by a personal account by Dr Wali Islam showing the devastation of his village of Char Khabulia in Bangladesh from the relentless devouring of land by the river.

Dr Islam showed the work WCAA has been doing to assist in the area, and how solar power would provide educational and medical opportunities as well as provide the opportunity to replant trees. Trees are important for holding the soil together which otherwise would be cut down for cooking fires.

Despite small attendance we had many influential people in attendance including the president of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC), the President of WCAA; the chairman of the Jesh Foundation, a development organization for distressed people based in Sydney and Bangladesh; and Mr Ramatullah, Convener(President) of the Bangladesh Australia Disaster Relief Committee, who is also a television show producer from a Bangladesh Television company and filmed the event, presumably for Bangladesh television.

■ *Michael de Mol*

## Want to get involved?

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 in the near future.

of the Responsibility to Protect.

**On the negative side, the EU is being battered by awful financial problems, which may lead to sovereign defaults by Greece and other members, and popular support for the EU is apparently waning fast.**

**The big news at home is the carbon tax, where Australia has finally taken responsibility for its share of this global problem. I think we should celebrate that. We spent a considerable fraction of our reserves lobbying Parliament on this issue!**

**Also, Bob Brown recently gave a talk at the National Press Club promoting the idea of a global parliament. I have sent a letter inviting him to join our association – no reply as yet. We have formed a little subcommittee, headed by Michael Cornish and Kizzy Gandy, to help push the cause of a UN Parliamentary Assembly.**

**What has the WCA been doing at home? We have submitted our formal application for DGR status (tax deductibility), and have been waiting several months for a response, expected any time now. Our contributions to the Aid Project in Bangladesh continue to provide mainstay support for a free primary school of six teachers and over 200 children of flood victims. A detailed report will appear elsewhere in the Bulletin, but once again, I would like to congratulate**

## **Daryl Appointed Senior Curriculum Officer**

Congratulations to Daryl Le Cornu, our Education Officer, who has just got a new job in the NSW Department of Education's Curriculum office as Senior Curriculum Officer for History - a promotion. He writes:

"It will be a challenge but unlike teaching it hopefully will not take up so much of my daily life. I lose school holidays but will be working a 35 hour week in office hours with no work out of hours. I will have more time to pursue my other interests. Also, I hope to continue my passion of school-NGO partnerships at a statewide level. I will be in charge of supporting the introduction of the national syllabuses in History. I hope to have more time to devote to my interest in educating people about global governance issues both in my spare time and as part of my job."

## **History making speech by Bob Brown**

In a speech at the National Press Club, the leader of the Australian Greens, Senator Bob Brown, voiced support for the creation of a global parliament.



"The Howard government backed George W Bush's invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan in the cause of democracy", Senator Brown said, "so why shouldn't we now join vigorous moves in Europe and at the United Nations for a global people's assembly based on one person, one vote, one value?" Such a global parliament, according to Senator Brown, "could be right here in Australia", "would tackle international questions like nuclear proliferation, currency speculation, marine ecosystem destruction and those billions of people who could be fed and literate if only a tenth of global military spending was sent to their assistance."

Replying to a journalist's question, Senator Brown remarked that the issue was "conceptual" at the moment. Global governance based on a representative global parliament will not occur in his lifetime, Senator Brown commented. He argued, however, "why should Australia not be at the centre of what is inevitably going to be a global parliamentary governance down the line - if we human beings are going to

our Aid Project Director, Wali Islam, for bringing it all about. Michael de Mol and Brett Samuel are also working on ideas which might be useful in Bangladesh.

The most exciting development has been the tentative promise of some very substantial donations to help our work. It is too early to go into details here, but some ideas for an Initiative at UNSW are outlined elsewhere in the Bulletin.

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.*

live with each other on this marvellous planet of ours as we go on our joy ride of the future? Of course we are going to have make consensus decisions."

## World News

### UNPA

At a plenary session, the European Parliament has passed recommendations to the Council of the European Union regarding the upcoming 66th United Nations General Assembly. The Parliament calls on the EU's foreign ministers to promote the establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA). According to the European Parliament, the new global body would serve "to increase the democratic character, the democratic accountability and the transparency of global governance and to allow for better citizen participation in the activities of the UN."

### Tribute to Doug Mattern

Doug Mattern, President of the Association of World Citizens in California, has passed away. He was a very prominent campaigner for world government and the abolition of nuclear weapons. More detailed obituaries will no doubt appear shortly. From the AWC website, the AWC invites visitors:

"Join in the worldwide movement to create a Global Community for the 21st century that is free from war and weapons of mass destruction; where disputes between nations and peoples are settled through the framework of world law, and where policy and resources are directed to human needs and securing a healthy and sustainable environment for present and future generations."

Shariar Sharei writes:

"I have been saddened by the news of Doug Mattern passing away. The memories I have from Doug go back 25 years ago, where as a youth World Citizen in San Francisco, he would lead us to his powerful world peace speeches at different gatherings, usually organized by Lucile Green and himself. I also recall several of his writings on nuclear disarmament. We will greatly miss him, both as peace activist and as our office neighbor."

■ *Chris Hamer*

## Tribute to Dr. Robert Muller

Remarks at a Memorial Service for Robert Muller by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon:

“Robert Muller was a justifiably renowned figure. His creativity and influence were instrumental in the conception of scores of multilateral bodies, including the UN Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the UN Population Fund, and the World Youth Assembly -- some of the key endeavours that define the United Nations and our global work. He knew that these could not be impersonal institutional structures but, rather, had to be alive with vision, compassion and a powerful sense of human unity. Dr. Muller brought precisely that spirit to whatever task he undertook. For him, the entire human family was his family. He also helped orchestrate the first-ever UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, and was deeply involved in many other global gatherings. His career spanned the decades, the issues, and even almost all the professional ranks of the Secretariat – starting from the P1 level and rising steadily to Assistant-Secretary-General. He also had a tremendous imprint on global education, including through the University of Peace, and richly earned the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education in 1989.

We will miss our “optimist-in-residence”, as some called him. But he remains a source of inspiration, and his example and his teachings will continue to guide us in our global mission of peace, development and human rights. On this day that would have been his 88th birthday, let us celebrate just the same – the life of a remarkable man who brought hope and good works to the world.

## A Second Tribute to Dr. Robert Muller

When Robert was in charge of the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the UN in 1985, I interviewed him. Robert said: “What we need in the United Nations is to look to the future, to focus on our beautiful planet and the very precious human species. We ought to put our hearts and minds into everything possible in order to enter the 21st century with more hope, security and development for all.” Life went on -- I suppose what we call “normal life,” with all its missed opportunities for building a world with true human security -- and soon it was time to prepare for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN. By this time, in 1995, Robert was living in Costa Rica, beside his beloved University for Peace. I went to Costa Rica and stayed with him for a week while we conducted a dialogue for a book, *Safe Passage into the Twenty-First Century*, which explored the four themes set out for the 50th anniversary: the UN’s quest for peace, equality, justice and development. Robert was in his element, plunging into the intellectual stratosphere with idea after idea for a global system to abolish war, a democratic United Nations, a global justice system, a global human development system, and, most of all, new global education priorities. Ideas sprang from Robert like a gushing fountain. I felt I was in the presence of man in communion with the universe. I truly believe there has never been a more dedicated believer and supporter of the United Nations than Robert Muller.



For many who step into the cauldrons of world reform, daily life is a grim business. But not for Robert. Joy was his leitmotif and, as we all know, playing Ode to Joy on his travelling harmonica became his signature statement. When he played Ode to Joy, he would lift audiences out of their seats.

■ *Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C.*

## Education Report

17<sup>th</sup> July 2011

An area of great interest for our organisation is the national syllabi for K-10 History and Years 11-12 Modern History. The NSW Board of Studies has written its own draft syllabus for K-10 History which is based on the national syllabus. This NSW K-10 draft is now available to teachers and the public and a consultation period will commence at the beginning of Term 3 and continue through August.

In the **K-10 History syllabus** the following topics may be of interest to us (though each would involve only a few lessons work):

- Locate major UN peacekeeping operations
- Explain why Australians were involved in ONE UN peacekeeping operation
- The origins and development of the United Nations
- The origins of the Universal Declaration of Human rights

However, it is the **national Modern History syllabus** that we are really waiting for.

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# We Want You!

Would you like to be the recruitment officer for our association? Our membership has been almost stagnant for the past year or two, and we need to make more efforts to recruit new members. This is a difficult but a rewarding and important task, and we would be very grateful for help here. Any volunteers, please contact the president Chris Hamer, at [C.Hamer@unsw.edu.au](mailto:C.Hamer@unsw.edu.au)

## Global Governance for International Peace Initiative

For some time, we have been discussing with A/Prof Shirley Scott of the School of Social Sciences and International Studies at UNSW the possibility of establishing a Centre to study issues of global governance and international law at the university. Now all of a sudden the possibility of substantial funding for such a centre has arisen, courtesy of Wali Islam and a friend of his, Thich Minh Tam, representing an international Buddhist organization. Nothing is certain yet, but we have been busily preparing a formal proposal to be put to the University. The rules for a Centre are looking too hard to satisfy right away, so we will start with an 'Initiative'. The Initiative comprises two major strands:

Academic research. We aim to build up a world-class centre for academic research on issues of global governance, international law, and their role in dealing

with global problems, for example climate change and the elimination of nuclear weapons. We hope to be able to recruit perhaps two visiting academics and two postdoctoral staff, plus bringing a number of the present university staff on board as members of the initiative. Shirley Scott has offered to act as Director.

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## World Citizens Aid Project in Bangladesh

### Primary School in Char Khabulia

The primary school for children of flood victims in Char Khabulia is thriving, supported by WCA funds to the tune of \$600 per quarter. The enrolment is now up to 250 children, who otherwise would have no access to education. A two-story school building has been erected on land donated by our Vice-President, Wali Islam, who is Director of the Aid Project. We have made a commitment at our Annual General Meeting to lift out quarterly contributions by 50%, which would allow the teachers' salaries to be raised to \$60 per month: still only about equal to the UN's poverty level.

Some government and public representatives of the subdistrict Sonatola recently visited the school, on the occasion of the Annual Sports and Cultural Day for 2011. They have made a commitment that the school will be registered as a government supported school, and start to get funding for the salaries of the teachers and day to day running expenses in 2-3 years time, from the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Now it is a big challenge for WCAA to extend their support for the school until it is taken over by the Government Department.

Continues page 8 ▶

## Education Report Continued

We are hoping that when the revised draft comes out that they will have included the United Nations efforts to maintain international peace and security since 1945.

Of course we must not forget that we have a new NSW Legal Studies syllabus for Years 11-12 that has a considerable amount of content in it related to human rights, global issues and international governance.

**Human Rights** – an 8-week unit in Year 12 that all 8,500 students study at HSC level each year. Included in this unit is the study of:

- the role of the UN in protecting human rights
- international courts – the ICC, European Court and the ad hoc tribunals
- the role of NGOs in protecting human rights
- genocide
- child soldiers
- human trafficking

**World Order** – a 9-week unit in Year 12 studies by about 2000 students each year. Included in this unit is the study of:

- the United Nations
- international organisations
- the 'responsibility to protect'
- regional and global situations that threaten peace and security
- the success of global cooperation in achieving world order
- rules regarding the conduct of hostilities (ie. International Humanitarian Law)



Also, in the current **NSW syllabus for Modern History** there is a 9-week unit called 'The United Nations as Peacekeeper'. Though it is an excellent unit, only a small number study this option as they have another 6 excellent options to choose from.

It may be time to examine ways in which the WCAA can bring the expertise of its members to reach out to schools by supporting areas in the curriculum in which it have an interest.

■ *Daryl Le Cornu, Education Officer*

### Global Governance for International Peace Initiative Continued

#### Community outreach.

We aim to involve community peace organization of all stripes, first by a regular series of lectures or seminars open to the public, and secondly by an annual peace conference or festival, where members of every group could meet to discuss matters of common interest. This could be mounted in collaboration with the Sydney Peace Foundation and the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney, and be held in conjunction with the award of the Sydney Peace Prize.

Secondly, we aim to mount a program of outreach to schools. Daryl Le Cornu has been formulating some ideas on this. Students could be invited to attend the

seminars and/or conference; and also study notes could be prepared under the initiative for use in certain related units of HSC study.

These are exciting developments, but it remains to be seen what will actually become of them. The Initiative is likely to involve a number of WCA members, and will hopefully provide a useful base for our activities.

■ *Chris Hamer*



Figure 1

We plan to replace toilets like those above with more secure and hygienic models.

### World Citizens Aid Project in Bangladesh Continued

#### Other initiatives under the project

As previously reported in this Bulletin, a local committee, the Wajifa Noor Ashmatia Foundation, has been set up to oversee the operations of this community project, Local mosques have been rebuilt, and an orphanage for children in the area has been established, largely supported by the Islamic Culture and Propagation Centre (ICPC), Sydney.

#### A new sanitation program

Traditional sanitation methods (e.g. below) lead to unacceptable contamination of groundwater, the river, and drinking water.

#### Future Plans

Future plans for the community, assuming we can raise funds for them, include the following.



### **A medical clinic**

At present, people in the area have to walk up to 10 kilometres to seek medical treatment. The medical student society of the University of the New South Wales (UNSW) is interested in supporting the clinic initiative.

### **Drinking water project**

WCAA has a strong commitment to creating a safe water system in the area.

### **Solar power project**

Bangladeshi communities are in desperate need of solar power. The remote areas have no electricity supply, and there may not be any possibility of power supply in these areas for decades. WCAA is taking positive steps to establish a solar power system in the area. Michael de Mol is exploring opportunities in Bangladesh, Australia and America in this regard..

### **Sustainability projects**

We are developing sustainability projects in agriculture and cottage industries. The key target is to establish income generating projects for families.

### **Establishment of a market in the area**

It has been very difficult for people to buy and sell the articles for their daily needs. They have to go far away to buy basic items such as salt and rice. During the rainy season and floods it becomes even much harder. People have to carry things in extreme difficulties. So WCAA supports a project to establish a local market. This will help people to trade and generate money.

### **High School**

If and when funds permit, or the government takes over the primary school, we will look to establish a high school to further the education and employment skills of children in the area.

### **Conclusion**

It can be seen that a thriving community scene has been established in Char Khabulia, with the help of funds from the WCAA and enormous efforts from our Aid Project Director, Wali Islam, and his helpers. We can be very proud of these efforts.

### **Democracy in China**

I went to China in April 2011, and I met Professor Robert Sheppard in Beijing.

Professor Sheppard teaches law in Dongbei University in Beijing, and works on the student exchange program between the US and China. He is a writer as well, and here is his blog link:

<https://robertalexandersheppard.wordpress.com/>

At present, Prof Sheppard is leading the United Nations Parliament Assembly (UNPA) campaign in China. We have discussed various topics concerning democracy in China. I have translated and modified the UNPA campaign Q&A document and the presentation document into Chinese. After that, I talked to a group of people about how to promote the UNPA proposal to the government.

At present, there is a “cold peace” international peace dialogue forum in the Asia-Pacific region. The Chinese government has banned the word “civil society” in any newspaper and public talk. Therefore, I will discuss the top-down and bottom-up approaches to democracy in China.

In June 2011, Chinese Prime Minister Mr. Wen Jiabao visited Europe to develop the relationship between China and the EU.



He said that for sure one day China will become a democratic country. I believe this is a new voice from the communist party, and it is very good for the majority of the Chinese people. The Chinese government is becoming better and better now.

That is good news, but the democracy and world peace campaign still has a long way to go in China. There are several reasons:

### 1) [China has no democratic soil](#)

The democracy transformation model of China should be different from a western country, because China has no democratic soil. In history, China had no slavery system at all. China progressed from a farming system to a feudal system, and till now, China is still running a feudal (undemocratic) system. However, many western countries progressed from slavery to feudal, then transferred to the democratic politic system. Because China hasn't experienced the slavery system, the human rights and democratic soil in Chinese people's minds is very weak.

### 2) [China needs cultural restructuring](#)

China has had a great culture in history, but the virtue system has been damaged. There is much corruption, poisonous food and immoral business behaviour in China. Even if someone replaced the present communist party with another new party, these problems will still remain the same or worse. Therefore, people should ask -- is the Chinese immoral behaviour caused by today's political system, or does it

comes from the Chinese culture? Is there any more advanced civilization and culture that should be practiced or introduced to China?

### 3) [Individual people need to be woken up](#)

In China, many people are brainwashed by the words "socialism" and "capitalism". Actually, there is no such socialist or capitalist political system in any country. Socialism or capitalism are "economic systems" only, not "political systems". There are only democratic and undemocratic political systems. So China is still a feudal country, not a so-called socialist country. Nowadays, we are entering into a new era of the "individual people wake up" time. People should be more aware about universal values — progressing towards an "independent personality, and spirit of freedom".

In conclusion, there is still a long way to go to promote world peace and democracy in China. But it is our world citizen's responsibility to promote the great gift of democracy, to unify our consciousness, and transform to a society of universal brotherhood.

■ *Lighton King*

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## Treasurer's Report

### Working Account

#### Statement of Assets and Liabilities as 30/06/2011

##### CURRENT ASSETS

Brought forward 1/7/2010	\$955.43
Cash at bank	\$2865.76
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3821.19</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$3218.35</b>
<b>NET ASSETS as at 30/06/2011</b>	<b>\$602.84</b>

#### Statement of Income & Expenditure as at 30/06/2011

##### INCOME

Membership fees	\$478.76
Donations	\$1067.00
Transfer from Aid Project a/c	\$1320.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2865.76</b>

##### EXPENDITURE

Administration expenses	\$112.40
Postage Expenses	\$419.88
Printing Expenses	\$647.07
Post Office Box	\$86.00
Aid Project Funds outward telegraphic transfer to Bangladesh school	\$1320.00
Transfer to Aid Project Account	\$633.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$3218.35</b>

### Aid Project Fund

#### Statement of Assets and Liabilities as 30/06/2011

##### CURRENT ASSETS

Brought forward 1/07/2010	\$1870.00
Cash at bank	\$ 2300.36
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$4170.36</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$3336.30</b>
<b>NET ASSETS as at 30/06/2011</b>	<b>\$834.06</b>

#### Statement of Income & Expenditure as at 30/06/2011



**INCOME**

Donations \$2300.36

**TOTAL INCOME \$2300.36**

**EXPENDITURE**

Printing, postage & envelopes \$316.30

3 months Bangladesh school + \$100 for function \$700.00

Monies paid to Oxfam Australia \$500.00

Monies paid to Médecins Sans Frontières \$500.00

Transfer to working account \$1320.00

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE \$3336.30**

