

2004 Newsletter



GOODWILL IN ACTION
Since 1967

Victorian Branch of

The Society for Australian-German Student Exchange

Issue No 6 July 2004

Annual Banquet and Scholarship Presentation at Park Hyatt Melbourne on Friday, 08 October 2004

We welcome our new sponsors in 2004, Schenker Australia and Allens Arthur Robinson



Schenker Australia is proud to be a sponsor of the Australian-German Student Exchange program in 2004. On a regular basis, our company has overseas students (predominantly from Germany) working in the various branches for between 6 to 12 months. Overall, we have found this arrangement to be beneficial and rewarding for both parties.

We look forward to providing the opportunity to an Australian student to visit Germany during 2004/2005. Schenker Australia trusts that the experience and knowledge gained by the Australian student will be of great value to the individual.

premises in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and a subsidiary office in Auckland, New Zealand.

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The Integrated Logistics Group

With annual sales of 6.9 billion euros, 38,000 employees and about 1,100 offices around the world, the Stinnes subsidiary Schenker is one of the world's leading providers of integrated logistics services, offering land transport, air and sea freight as well as comprehensive logistics solutions and global supply chain management.

Our experts provide complete solutions tailor-made for the requirements of industry today and tomorrow. International teams of specialists integrate the Group's individual service modules to create complex added-value global supply chain management that ensures a reliable flow of materials and information - in both the old and the new economies.

Schenker provides its customers with all the main services from a single source - a business principle that has proved its worth ever since the company was founded by Gottfried Schenker in Vienna more than 130 years ago. The Stinnes subsidiary Schenker is a Deutsche Bahn AG company.

Schenker Australia was established in 1962 in Sydney and provides a complete range of international air and sea freight forwarding, and integrated logistics services from its own



Allens Arthur Robinson is one of the largest law firms in the Asia Pacific region, with 200 partners and more than 600 other legal staff. We have offices in Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney and Perth and a network of offices across the Asia-Pacific region.

In Melbourne, we have 68 partners, more than 350 legal staff and more than 350 support staff.

Allens Arthur Robinson is also one of the leading law firms in the Asia Pacific region. AAR has a genuine pan-Asia Pacific presence. We have been advising clients (including for example Society members DaimlerChrysler, Deutsche Bank, Henkell and Siemens) in Australia for more than 180 years and in the Asia Pacific region for the past 30 years.

With 10 offices in six countries, our network includes major Australian capitals, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore, Bangkok, Phnom Penh and Port Moresby. We also practise extensively in Malaysia, the Philippines, Laos and Taiwan, and have secondees with leading law firms based in Korea and Japan.

Sponsors 2004



Supporters 2004



Corporate Members 2004

Machinery Forum - Henkel Australia - Hella - Reservoir Travel - Porsche Cars - Pilz Australia

Allens Arthur Robinson continues

Our relationship with The Society for Australian German Student Exchange is managed by one of the partners in our Melbourne office, Chris Schulz. Chris was born in Germany but has lived in Australia for most of his life. In addition Chris, as a student, worked for the founder of The Society, Mr Fritz von einem Joosten, in his North Melbourne car spare parts business in the 1970's.

Allens Arthur Robinson is proud to be associated with The Society for Australian German Student Exchange.

We welcome back Porsche Australia as our Corporate Member



PORSCHE

PORSCHE IN AUSTRALIA

The history of Porsche in Australia is almost as old and as colourful as that of the Porsche car itself, dating back to the arrival in Melbourne in 1951 of the first two right-hand drive 356 models built.

In those early days, when Porsche was less than 1,000 vehicles old, Australia was not only one of the company's first export markets outside Europe, but also one of its most devoted and enthusiastic.

Porsche AG had such confidence in the Australian market that, when trading conditions were very tough in the early 1990s, it was prepared to invest in the market and purchased the business from the Hamilton family, who were the original importers of Porsche into Australia. As a consequence, Porsche Cars Australia is now a daughter company of Porsche AG.

The Porsche organisation in Australia has grown with the marque and today can proudly claim to be the longest continuous Porsche franchise in the world. Porsche's confidence in the Australian market has been rewarded - while just three Porsches arrived in Australia during the Hamilton's first trading year, a record 1350 Porsches, comprising Boxster, 911 and the new Cayenne SUV, are expected to be sold in our 2004 model year, which ends on July 31. In fact, so coveted is the marque in Australia, it is estimated that 85 percent of the vehicles that have been imported over the past 53 years are still on the road.



Pilz Safe Automation: saving lives at work

The lives of thousands of Australians are protected by German technology from Pilz Safe Automation.

With a proud 55-year tradition in safety, family-owned German safety specialist Pilz is the world's leading supplier of safe automation control systems. While less than 10 years old in Australia, Pilz Safe Automation has already developed a high profile presence here.

The company is well-known for its innovative approach: Pilz invented the now ubiquitous safety relay and other world firsts include a programmable safety system for machinery, an approved safe field bus, the SafetyBUSp and the recently released PNOZmulti, a freely configurable safety relay.

Despite its high-tech products, Pilz Australia's managing director Frank Schrever says the focus of the company is simple.

"At Pilz, we're passionate about doing our jobs well because it can be a matter of life or death," he said.

"All our technology is designed to make dangerous machinery safe while keeping the wheels of industry turning, so it's a very interesting field."

Pilz products are used in an almost limitless range of industries, from airports to power generation plants, and on machinery as diverse as fairground attractions and automated brick stackers.

"Pilz products are everywhere, but you'd never know because they are the ultimate quiet achievers," Frank said.

"They work non-stop, invisibly checking and double checking everything is safe, ready to take control if the system fails. Pilz technology stops accidents before they happen."



Pilz Australia hosts German university students, like Matthias, in its safety business each year.

For more information contact:
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Annual General Meeting

The 2004 SAGSE Annual General Meeting was held at Club Tivoli on Tuesday, 27 April. We were particularly pleased to welcome representative from our sponsors, Tanya Puhl from Bosch, and Wilm Liebenstein from Fibrisol Service Australia. We also welcomed Renate Elsaesser representing the Goethe Institut (Renate arrived in Australia just a couple of weeks prior to our AGM).

The Society had another successful year, highlights included 13 awarded scholarships and increasing number of sponsors, corporate and individual members.

President Egon Vetter reported on the good health of the Society's finances on behalf of Treasurer Greta Haywood. The Society remains in a firm financial position, while continuing to develop new profile-building initiatives. Vice-President (Selection) Kylie Witt reported that, despite application numbers being down in 2003, applicants came from a good spread of schools and were of a high standard.

The Committee fare-welled Greta Haywood and Georgie Fast, with thanks for their committed contributions to the Society, and welcomed Sandra Shilke and Kay Wiegel as its newly elected treasurer and secretary, respectively. The Society also welcomed Roland Vogel as banquet organiser, and thanked Chris Schulz for his hard work in this role. The Society is delighted that Chris remains as a general member on the Committee. The remainder of the Committee was reelected, and looks forward to another successful year.

Sincere thanks to our sponsors, the committee members and our 'silent' supporters for the tremendous support in 2003.

Debriefing 2004

The ever hospitable Scotch College once again hosted the SAGSE Debriefing in March this year. Sponsors, SAGSE Members, GASSIES, prospective scholars and families were treated to a wonderful evening of classic Germany anecdotes.

Some of the recently returned Stipis (graduated now to the class of GASSie!) had put together a powerpoint slide show with images of the group enjoying their time together. Along with the tales of Christmas celebrations came pictures of beautifully decorated trees, candles glowing in every corner. The sixty people "all in" snow ball fight outside the computer museum in Paderborn and a couple of shots of the final night party (themed - cringe - "Bad Taste") were the chosen depictions for Winter Camp. And the familiar picture of GASSies standing on the steps of Neuschwanstein illustrated the pilgrimage that most chose to make on their Independent Travel.

As well as stories of all the GASS events that take place in Germany - regional days in Münster, Lübeck and Karlsruhe,

Winter Camp in Paderborn and the Berlin Camp at the end of the exchange - our 13 talented Victorian scholars entertained us with stories of their language ups and downs, perceptions of the differences between Australian and German culture, experiences at school and unforgettable German culinary moments.

Once again all supporters of the Society can feel proud of what we have together achieved. The stories, excitement and enthusiasm of this fine group of young adults are testimony to the success of our cultural exchange.

Our group leader experience 2004

In true GASSie tradition, I have this little book, really a bundle of black pieces of paper, tied together with a KaDeWe ribbon, in which my kids all wrote as we flew home exhausted after 10 weeks in Deutschland. It's quite humbling, this collection of memories and thanks, but really it should be the other way around. My kids taught me so much - they are amazing, talented, hilarious, intelligent, funky young adults.

The Society can feel affirmed in the work that it does and rightly proud that it has given another 28 Australians and New Zealanders the once in a lifetime experience that has the capacity to change lives.

Back in November I stood directing traffic at the check-in desk at Melbourne airport. One of the kids was naturally running late and I was doing my best at assuring a group of slightly nervous parents that I would bring back their children in one piece. But for whatever reason I had a sense of calm - this was all very familiar and even though my own exchange was now seven years hence (sounds old for a GASSie!) I felt that I was going home.

The ten weeks that followed were simply outstanding. In the early weeks of the exchange I visited Stipis across the country as I attended the three regional days. Stand out moments included the Weihnachtsmarkt in Münster, "Ice-World" (a huge display of ice carvings depicting biblical scenes) in Lübeck and a round of "Links GASSie, GASSie" on the steps of the Schloss in Karlsruhe. An unforgettable week was spent in Paderborn for the traditional Winter GASS camp.

GASS Germany had organised a wonderful program which included a reception with the Mayor, a trip to the computer museum, an innovative Stadtrally, a Weinprobe and plenty of quality time to hang out. The following week most of the scholars headed off on their independent travel, which from all accounts yet again proved to be an exchange highlight, tales of getting lost on the way to youth hostels aside!

Group leader experience continues

The final week of the exchange we all came together again for five days in Berlin. Some might say it is a test of nerves being in charge of 28 sixteen and seventeen year olds in a nation's capital (and you'd be right!) but Berlin was a very special time where as a group we experienced a slice of German history.

All of us left with a better understanding of what it means to be German and with a clearer definition of our own relationship with the people and country.

Being a GASSie has its perks. I had somewhere to stay every night of my ten weeks in Germany. Thank you to the GASSies far and wide who welcomed me into their homes. I was also lucky enough to spend time with Familie Meier (my GASS host family) in Freckenfeld for Christmas and a substantial amount of time with my host-sister Gabriele in Freiburg. And I finally got to meet my brother Travis' GASS host family from 1999 - Familie Hake in Flensburg.

Being Group Leader was an amazing chance to lead, mentor, take care of and hang out with the twenty-eight 2003-2004 Stipis. Thank you for that privilege.

Meg Jackson

New Members 2004

Bicknell Family, Scholarship Family 2003
Prof. Kaye Family, Scholarship Family 2003
Ambrosy Family, Scholarship Family 2002
Michael Pearce
Jenny Fisher
Tania Starzicany
Wolfgang & Monika Jacobs
Jane Ward
Alexandra Katzer

The Society would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors, supporters, corporate members, individual members and teachers for their support and for the hours of voluntary work they contribute.

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