

2006 Newsletter



GOODWILL IN ACTION
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Victorian Branch of

The Society for Australian-German Student Exchange

Issue No 10 June 2006

Annual General Meeting 2006

The 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Society for Australian German Student Exchange was held on Wednesday 24 May at the Club Tivoli. President Egon Vetter reported that the Society enjoyed a largely successful year, with 15 scholarship winners from Victoria joined by 17 fellow young Australians and three New Zealanders on their great adventure.

The health of our German sister organisation GDANSA continues to improve, with new sponsors joining the cause, and helping to secure the future of our exchange. The Society's membership continues to rise, and the Society remains in a healthy and secure financial position.

The Society's Annual Report for the year 2005-6 may be made available to members upon request.

Applications for the scholarship were down in 2005, to 38 (27 girls and 11 boys), but the spread between state and independent schools was more even. The meeting heard from Kylie Witt that the drop in applications was, however, short lived, with application numbers pushing back up into the 50s in the coming year. After 2005 saw the most successful annual SAGSE banquet on record (257 guests), the Society will return to the Park Hyatt Melbourne for the showcase event in 2006. The 39th annual banquet and presentation of scholarships will be held on Friday 13 October 2006.

The President thanked the outgoing committee members for their continued dedication, and all our sponsors, supports and friends for their ongoing contribution to the exchange.

Amidst finest Kräuter und Strudel, the Committee for 2006-7 was then duly elected, and the Society's current office bearers are as follows:

President	Egon Vetter
Vice President	Elaine Tarran
Vice President	Kylie Witt
Treasurer	Gail Fruehwirth
Secretary	Kay Wiegell
Selection Committee & Chairwoman	Evelyn Voshege
Legal Advisor	Alexander Garsa
Host Families Liaison & Membership Coordinator	Tania Starziczny
Banquet Coordinator	Roland Vogel
Member Marketing	Manfred Handel Angelika Vetter
MC of the Banquet & Newsletter Editor	Xan Colman
Gass President	Jason Bond
Gass Vice President & Host Families Coordinator	Stewart Morrison

Mr Stewart Leslie was unanimously re-elected as Honorary Auditor for the Financial Year 2006.

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Doncaster BMW - Waeco Pacific

Debriefing 2006

With the Commonwealth Games in town and Scotch College closed for the school holidays, the Annual SAGSE Debriefing was brought forward a week this year to the 8th of March. There was a remarkable turnout with members of the SAGSE and GASS communities, teachers, students, prospective host families and the Consul for the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Peter Brosch, all in attendance.



Having received their topics less than two weeks earlier at their Welcome Home BBQ, the First Years did a remarkable job in producing their informative and entertaining speeches. This year's topics ranged from the age old classics of food, school, camp and free travel to the introduction of new ones like German Weather, German

Drivers and the Autobahn. The First Years shared stories of breath taking scenery, caring host families, white Christmas, majestic castles, German festivities and the consumption of Döners and Rittersport. Of course their experiences would not have been complete without other traditional aspects ... the rain, the cold, the 8am starts at school and the embarrassing language mistakes (No, "Damen" does not mean "the men"). In a repeat of last year, German hospitals received another mention. However, some preferred to remember the more pleasant attributes of them such as the complimentary central heating.

All in all, it appears that our Stipis had a great time in Germany gaining a wealth of experience and even learning some German along the way. We welcome them to our family and look forward to the great times ahead. Oh, and if anyone finds Louis' typical German father with a bushy white moustache, let him know.



Cheers,
Jensen Lai
GASS Secretary



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AUDI AG stands for sporty cars, premium processing and advanced design AUDI AG stands for „Vorsprung durch Technik“.

Thus it is very consistent that Audi is once more the winner of the famous 24 hour race in Le Mans with its Diesel engine as the first car manufacturer worldwide. The new Audi R10 is powered by a completely new developed 5,5 litre twelve cylinder TDI engine with biturbo charging which runs very smoothly and cost-effeciently. The prototype of Le Mans surpasses with its 650 PS performance data most of the recent racing cars of Audi. Hence Audi is one step ahead of its competitors once again.

Great innovation contributes to the success of the company as well. Worldwide Audi has written automobile history with its advanced engine technology such as TDI and TFSI, the permanent four wheel drive „quattro“ or the lightweight technology „Audi Space-Frame“. Our employees, who show great commitment, enthusiasm and great identification with our products, are the basis and driving force of these successes. A total of about 45,000 people are employed at the German sites in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm. Worldwide 53,000 employees are working on setting standards in innovation and quality internationally.

In order for Audi to be able to lead in the field of technological development, technology-enthusiastic junior employees are requested for shaping the future automobile world. Therefore Audi offers attractive starting programmes already for pupils: from electronic technician, to the IT specialist, the tool maker or cook apprenticeships are available in various departments. People who want to combine studies at a university of applied sciences with an apprenticeship, should consider the dual training at the „Berufsakademie“ or our StEP programme that offers studies and practical experience.

For further information concerning starting opportunities at Audi please visit our website at: www.audi.de/karriere

Audi AG, Ingolstadt
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Doncaster BMW

Excite your senses. This is our motto at Doncaster BMW, forever challenging yourself and experiencing the best that life has to offer. In light of this Doncaster BMW is delighted to be a sponsor of The Society for Australian-German Student Exchange (SAGSE) as they align themselves with this approach.

This program opens a whole new world to its participants. Visiting another country, particularly one that is historically and culturally different to one's homeland is a fabulous and humbling learning experience. I myself, make this statement from my own experiences. Migrating to Australia from Germany in 1983 will always be a milestone in my life.

Very few know that I arrived in Australia as a beekeeper! From that I moved into the automotive industry, where there was no question about the company of choice, BMW, which has a rich German history spanning more than 90 years.

Working for a German company in Australia, I have found business dealings in Australia to be considerably different to those in Germany. Life in Australia has highlighted the many similarities, but more interestingly the differences between our two great countries. One in particular stands out for me. On frequent visits back to my homeland I am always aware of the rigid structure and discipline that most Germans conduct their day to day lives with. This is completely unparalleled to the Australian way. The relaxed and carefree, yet determined Aussie lifestyle is what I like.

Hence, I'm still here. With an Australian wife, two Australian children, two BMW dealerships and my German business skills.

This is what students who participate in the SAGSE program have to look forward to and will bring back to their country after completing the life enriching experience of living in a foreign country: a greater understanding between Australia and Germany, widening horizons, enriching the mind through a new language, culture and history and most importantly experiencing everything that Germany and Australia have to offer.

Auf Wiedersehen!

Ingo Reisch
Managing Director
Doncaster BMW



Westbourne Grammar School

Westbourne Grammar School is a Co-educational non-denominational school located in the western suburbs of Melbourne, teaching children from Prep to VCE from a region as widespread as Werribee South, Keilor and Williamstown. Our Languages Other Than English program consists of Japanese and German and we strongly encourage students to get involved with Student Exchange programs.

All Westbourne students at both the Truganina and Williamstown campuses learn Japanese from the Children's Centre up to Grade 6. In the Senior School students may elect to continue with Japanese, some in an Accelerated program which builds on their knowledge from the Primary Program, or to start afresh with a study of the German language. Most Year 7 students take a one term intensive course in each language before making an informed choice as to which language to continue with. Either way students study the language of their choice until Year 9 as a compulsory subject, after which time both languages are available as VCE options.

Director of Languages Mr Warren Pratt was the recipient of a SAGSE scholarship twenty years ago, spending three wonderful months in Regensburg, Bavaria and travelling to other parts of the then divided country. As a result of all these wonderful experiences he studied to become a German teacher on his return and strives to give his students similar opportunities. Westbourne Grammar School senior students are encouraged to apply for scholarships such as the SAGSE one and partial scholarships for travel to our own sister schools in both Germany and Japan over the Christmas holidays between Years 11 and 12. Students have hosted two SAGSE students in recent years and three Westbourne students - Christine Gigas, Zach Meyers and Kate Cahoon, have been on exchange to Germany with SAGSE in the last six years.

We are pleased to support the work of SAGSE in making the world a smaller and more accessible place for today's youth. Having seen the difference in independence and maturity in our students on return from Student Exchange, not to mention their open minds and broadened horizons, it is obvious that the goals of the late Mr von Einem Joosten are still being met by this wonderful organisation.

Warren Pratt
Director of Languages

New Corporate Members 2006

**BMW Motors, Doncaster
Waeco Pacific, QLD**

New Members 2006

**Winfield Family
Camerer Family
Metcalf Family
Strapp Family
Watson Family**

Forthcoming Events 2006

23 August 2006

Farewell Reception German Students
Corporate Networking Reception

13 October 2006

Annual Banquet, Park Hyatt, Melbourne

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

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