

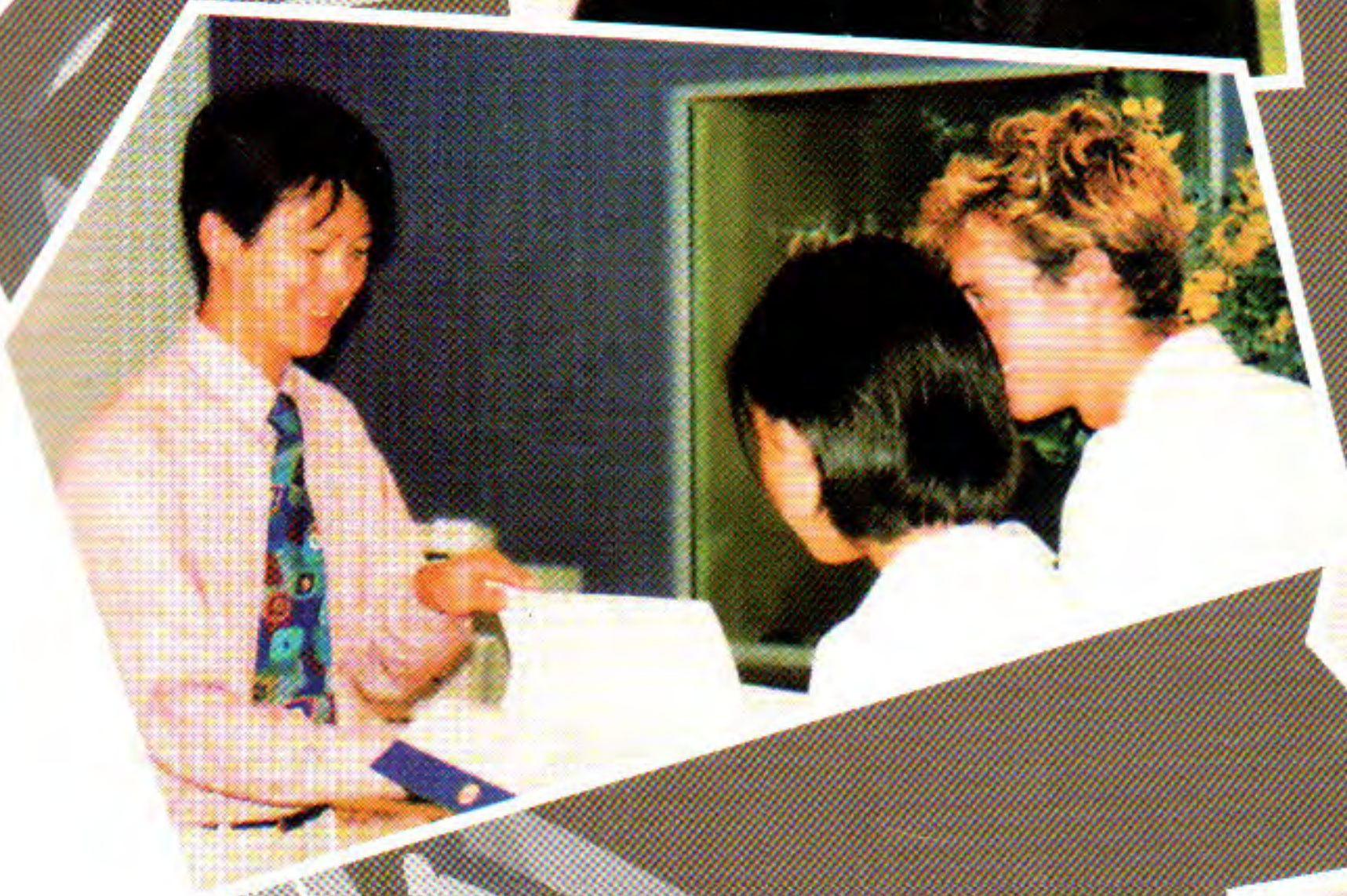
Kookaburra Chatter



The inaugural issue of the bulletin of
Vietnamese graduates from Australia

What is Kookaburra

A kookaburra is a bird and is related to the Kingfisher. It has a small body but powerful beak and neck. More interestingly, it can laugh. Naming our bulletin after this Australian native bird was an initiative of Mr Tom Calma, AEI Counsellor in Vietnam, to symbolize a dynamic, fun and special group. Articles contributed by alumni are particularly welcomed in this quarterly bulletin.



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Issue No. 1, June 2000

Welcome Messages



Dear Alumni,
On behalf of The Vietnam Australia Friendship Association I would like to thank all Australian alumni for the contribution they have made to the work of the Vietnam Australia Friendship Association.

For many years now alumni have played a very active role in the promotion of understanding and the friendly relationship between Australia and Vietnam. You yourselves have brought back a good understanding of the Australia people and Australian culture to the Vietnamese people. You also have made the Australian people understand the culture and the values of life that Vietnamese people pursuit.

At present, the relationship between the two countries has developed to many different areas in both countries such as business, industries, healthcare, education etc. Your role has become even more important.

We highly appreciate the initiative to restructure the alumni organisation in order to meet with the requirement of development. The idea to link your operation closely with Australian Institutions and other alumni associations in order to help with socio-economic development of Vietnam always receives support from the Vietnam Australia Friendship Association.

I am strongly confident that the new improvement of the alumni organisation will help to involve more alumni in the activities of the organisation, making a more active contribution to the development of understanding between the two peoples.

I take this opportunity to wish you every success in this noble endeavour of yours.

Pham Quoc Tuong

President

Vietnam Australia Friendship Association



Dear alumni,
Australia values the goodwill developed between our two countries by people such as yourself who have either studied in Australia or undertaken an Australian course in Vietnam. Your understanding about the country and people of Australia can play a very important role in building friendship and co-operation between Australia and Vietnam, as well as strong long-term commercial, cultural and educational links.

In recognition of the contribution of alumni, the Embassy would like to support the activities of Australian alumni in Vietnam. This year is set to be the year of major events of the alumni, beginning with the inauguration of an alumni web site and bulletin and finally two June Events - the largest gatherings of alumni for the year 2000. I am happy to learn that the web site and bulletin will serve an important communication channel for members irrespective of where you are in Vietnam. It will be also a platform to inform alumni members of the latest news from Australia, social events in Vietnam and an academic forum.

On behalf of the Australian Embassy and Australian Education International in Vietnam, I would like to congratulate The Vietnamese Graduates from Australia Club on this first issue of the bulletin. I wish the alumni every success in further promoting the ties between alumni with each other, with Australian institutions at which you have studied and with Australians generally.

Education is the bridge to strengthen the relations between Vietnam and Australia.

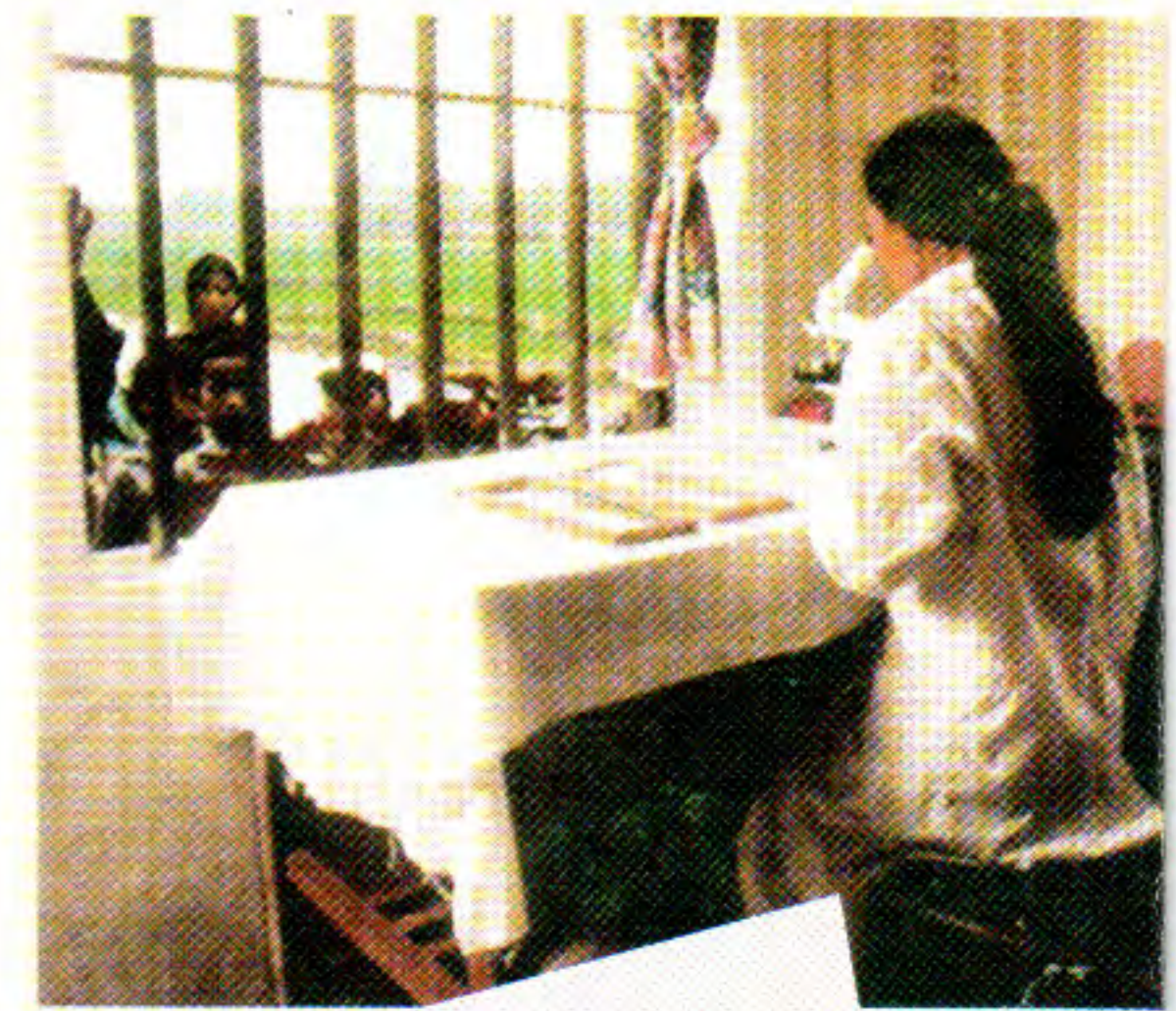
Finally I would like to thank all of our sponsors who have made the publication of the bulletin and the galas possible.

Tom Calma

Counsellor, (Education and Training)

AusAID news

A four-year pledge to Vietnam of A\$236 million was approved by the Australian Government in April 1998, an increase of A\$36 million over the previous four-year period. Including regional programs, NGOs and disaster relief, the total assistance to Vietnam reaches about \$70 million per year. Vietnam receives the third largest amount of Australian Aid, after Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.



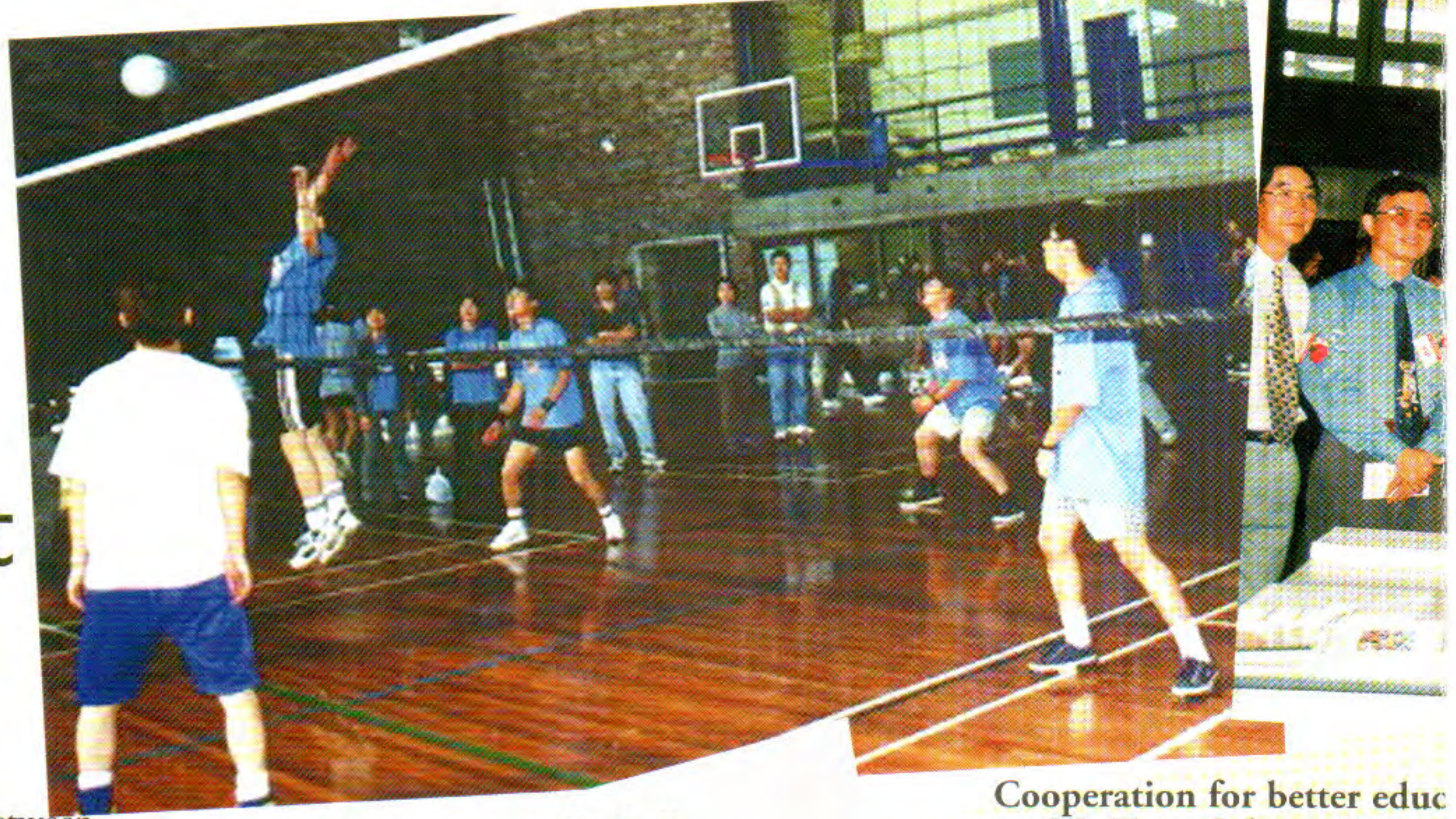
Scholarship News

ADS Scholarship: The Australian Development Scholarship program provides 150 scholarships each year for study at Australian universities and colleges. Scholarships are awarded to an equal number of men and women from the public and private sectors with proportion reserved for students from poor provinces. Health, rural development, governance, science, technology and engineering are the priority areas for study.

For 2001 intake, 14 scholarships are available for vocational teachers, 50 for undergraduate students, 76 for master students (40 public sector, 26 private sector and 14 targeted), and 10 for PhD students.

Up to 500 candidates are short listed in November. All of them must take an English test in December. The test results will be used to determine the appropriate level of English language training for successful candidates.

Australian Education International - contribution to the development of Vietnam



Vietnamese volleyball team in UNSW Gym

Cooperation for better education
Mr Tom Calma, AEI staff
Vietnamese government official
the Australian Education Exhibition

1998 Alumni Meeting in HCMC

Now we have a chance again to review the relationship between Australia and Vietnam. Australia saw the first group of Vietnamese students in 1975 under the Colombo plan. They were the first pathfinders to pave a way for more than 5000 Vietnamese students studying in Australia now. Australian universities and education institutions warmly welcome them and they also appreciate the knowledge given during their time in Australia.

Australian government involvement is an essential component of Australia's education and training relationship with Vietnam and is appreciated by the Vietnamese government. Recognizing a greater demand for skills and skills training and an increase in the desire and expectation of Vietnamese to achieve a high quality overseas or in-country education, the Department of Education, Training & Youth Affairs established Australian Education International headquartered in the Australian Embassy, Hanoi and in Consulate-General, Ho Chi Minh City. With AEI presence, we are now trying to bring more study opportunities, business links in educational & training fields to Vietnam. At least 50 institutions have established formal and informal links with their counterparts in Vietnam These include the opening of RMIT campus in Ho Chi Minh City, twinning

programs between Vietnamese and Australian institutions whereby Australian qualifications can now be undertaken in Vietnam. Not only in the higher education sector that Australia actively takes part, but also in the vocational training sector. The flexible way of recognizing degrees gained in vocational schools is highly appreciated by Vietnamese colleagues during AEI's recent seminar on Vocational Education & Training. Australian institutions are willing to share their expertise with the hope that the education system in Vietnam will be soon developed.

Australia offers students high quality education systems with qualification that are recognized internationally. We would like to see more students studying in Australia and that they would come back and contribute their Australian trained knowledge to the development of Vietnam.

Australian Education International welcomes inquiries from people who want to know more about the Australian education system as we are here to help you understand how the system works. You can contact us as follows:

AEC Manager
8 Dao Tan, Hanoi
Tel: (84-4) 831 7726
Fax: (84-4) 831 7709
or: Landmark building,
5b Ton Duc Thang, HCMC
Tel: (84-8) 825 6560
Fax: (84-8) 825 6559

Student counselling in AEI Office



Working together: Steering Committee in HCMC

Meeting old friends: University of Sydney Technology Alumni Dinner

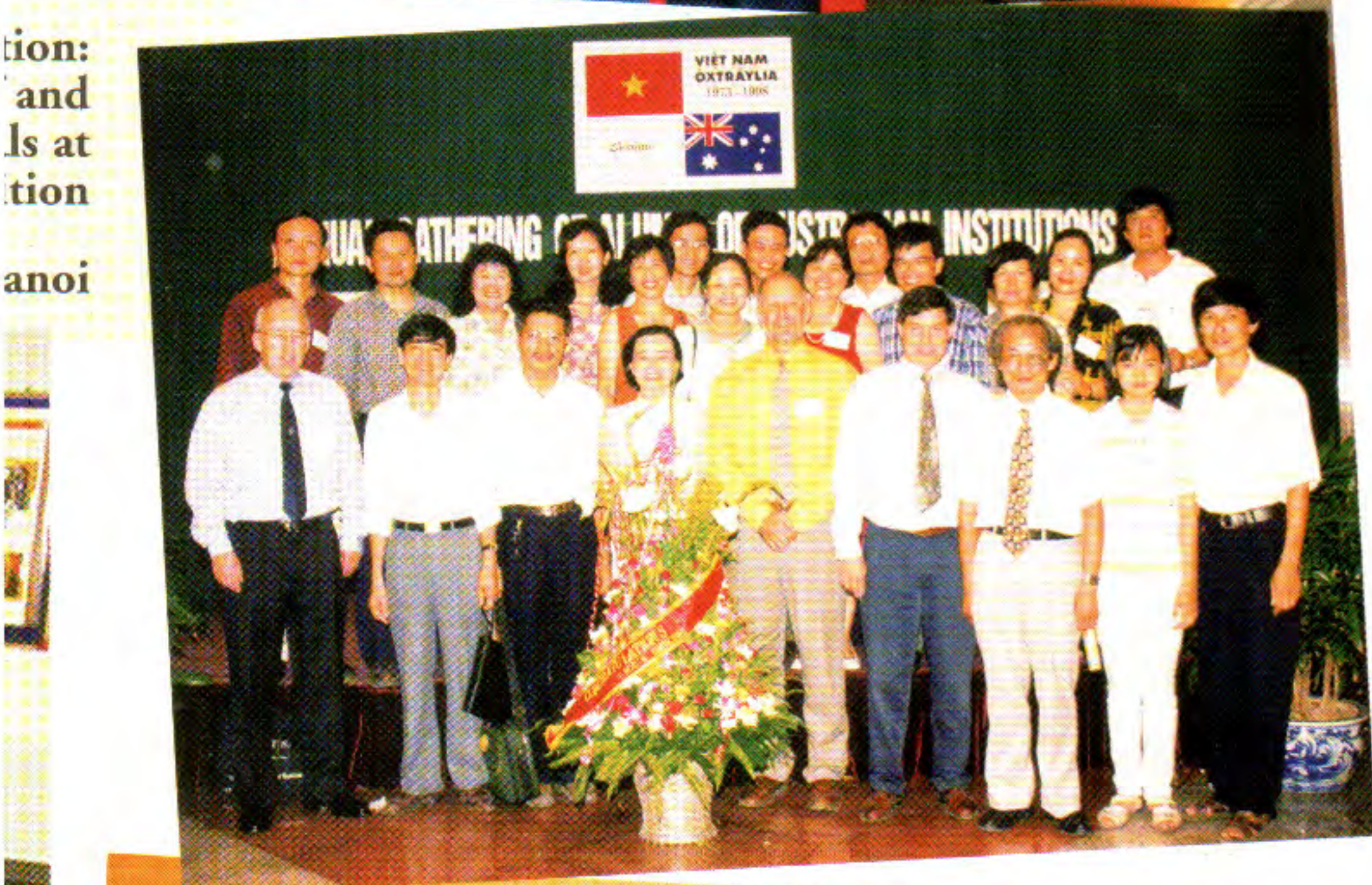


About the Vietnam Australia Friendship Club - the official organisation of Vietnamese Australian Alumni



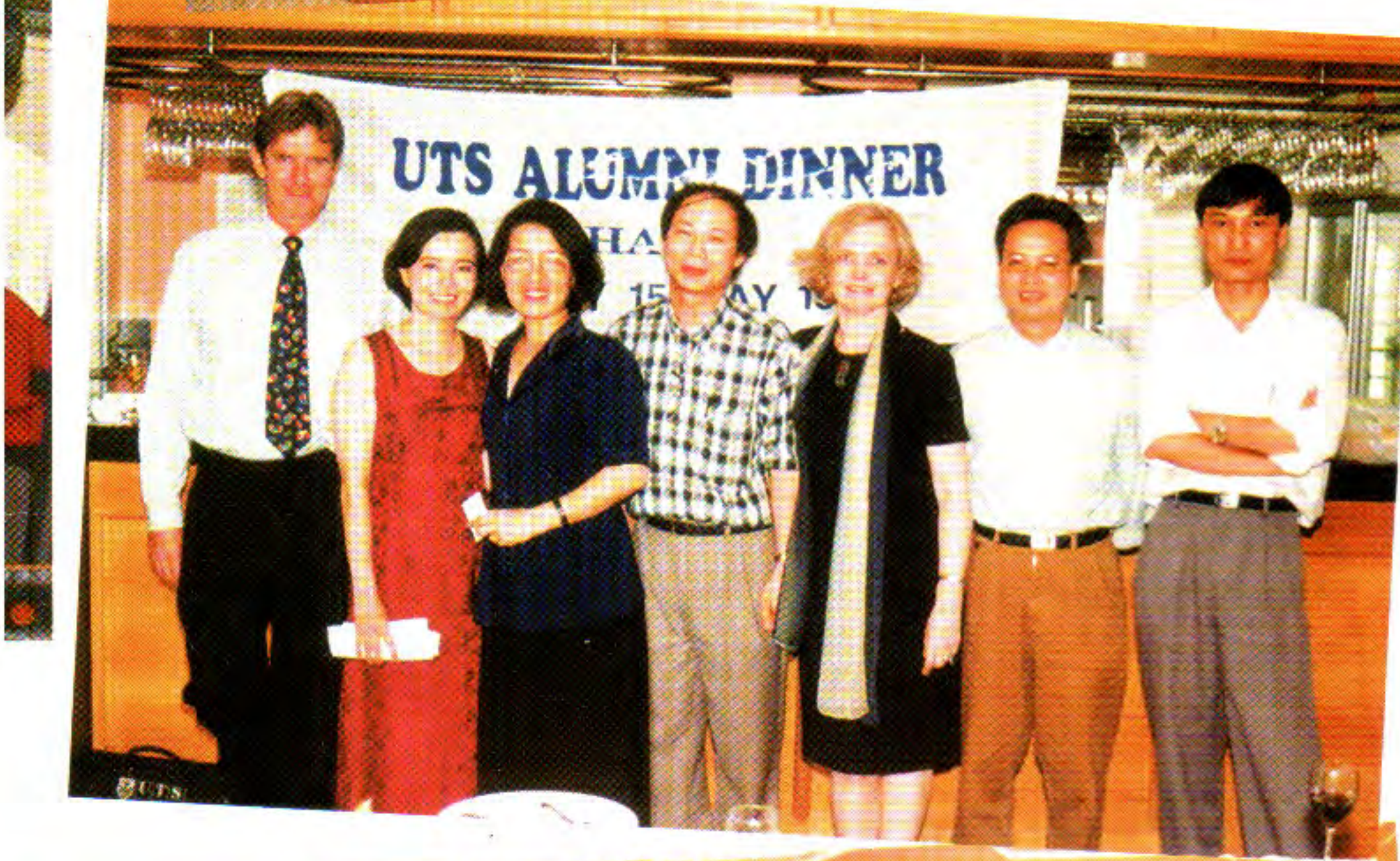
The Vietnam Australia Friendship Club was founded on April 26, 1991 by the Vietnam Australia Friendship Association. The reason for the setting up the club was to provide opportunities for getting together and sharing of information for Vietnamese who had worked or studied in Australia.

Tom Uren, an active activist against the war in Vietnam and a Minister of Australian government. It has also received Rose Mary as a representative of Australia-Vietnam Society and a friend of many Australian Alumni. On other occasions, the club received visitors, businessmen, officials and scholars from Australia during their visit to Vietnam.



The main objectives of the club was, first of all, to get together all Vietnamese who have worked or studied in Australia and voluntarily joined the club in order to make a contribution to the development of friendly relationship between Vietnam and Australia. The second objective of the club is to receive and then spread the information about Vietnam for Australian friends and business people who are keen to carry out some business operation in Vietnam.

However, due to its difficulty with the budget for operation and also to the perfunctory structure of the organisation, the club has not been very successful in mobilising the alumnus in the work of the friendship association. It is necessary to reorganise the structure of the club so as to include more and younger alumni so as to make the work of the alumni more attractive to the members and to gain support from Australian institutions and business sectors.



Since its foundation, the club has been very active in the organisation of functions, meetings with Australian friends. Together with the Vietnam Australia Friendship Association it received Mr.

It is believed that the reorganisation of the club will help to involve more alumni and make a more effective contribution to the promotion of understanding and cooperation between Vietnam and Australia.

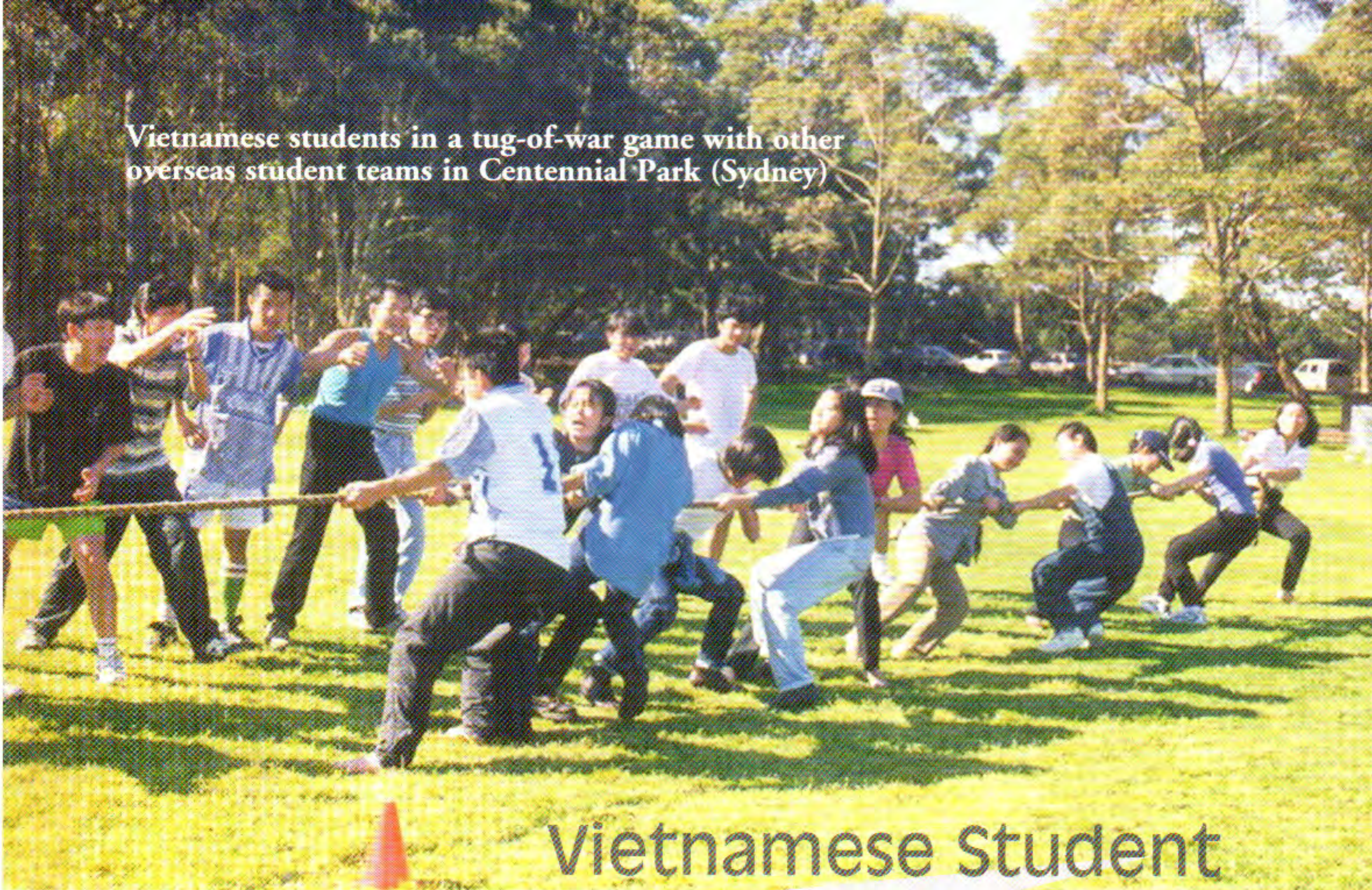
After a meeting at 1 Le Phung Hieu Cafe: Steering Committee in Hanoi



Mr Alexander Downer, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs attending the 1997 Alumni Meeting in Hanoi



Vietnamese students in a tug-of-war game with other overseas student teams in Centennial Park (Sydney)



Vietnamese Student Associations in Australia

Associations have been established in different states across Australia for more than 5000 Vietnamese students who are studying there. Among them the most "powerful" are Vietnamese Dynamic Students in Sydney and Melbourne Overseas Vietnamese Student Association. Actually, they are intimately called VDS and MOVSA.

Since their establishments in 1998, these two associations have been "great rivals" in terms of their successes. In autumn 1998, VDS launched a fantastic website, which later became the virtual meeting point for Vietnamese students not only in Australia but also from around the world. The most exciting page in this site is the VDS Forum, where students can share (almost) everything: from information, discussions and opinions to funny stories.

The VDS website also includes a fascinating photo album, a large member database and a very hot chat-room. Taking advantage of new technology, VDS has brought Vietnamese students from everywhere closer than ever before.

In Melbourne, the cultural capital of Australia, MOVSA is busier with cultural activities. First, due to a great demand, a ball-dance club was organized, which now meets weekly. Second, MOVSA found its own music band. All the band members and dance instructors are Vietnamese students who are doing their courses in a university in Melbourne. In an October night, hundreds of students came from everywhere in Australia to Melbourne to join the MOVSA Full Moon Festival. They sang, played games, danced and shared happy moments, which became unforgettable for

anyone who has been there.

Vietnamese student associations are also very active in sports, winning many prizes in competitions with other student groups from Hong Kong, Malaysia, India etc. VDS organizes a series of academic seminars for students who are in the same professional areas. Last year, VDS and MOVSA have collected more than A\$10000 for flood victims in Central Vietnam. The two associations have been strongly supported by Australian universities, AusAID, AEI and the Vietnamese Embassy.

The Vietnamese students have proved that they are not only high-performing in their studies but also hard-playing and very active in social activities. Having completed their degrees, some of these energetic students have come home to Vietnam to build a strong alumni group.

Australian Universities international alumni convention 2000 on Globalization

AUIAC 2000 is going to be held in Kuching City, Malaysia from August 24-27 in the year 2000. The theme of AUIAC is "Globalisation and a new world order" - a most appropriate focus as globalisation gains momentum all over the world, and societies of different countries prepare themselves to face challenges in the new century.

Convention speakers will share their knowledge and experience in areas of geopolitics, government and governance, economics and business, technologies, education and the environment.



Olympic News

- Olympic stadium, mainly located at Homebush Bay, is the most famous one in Australia. It can accommodate 110,000 people.
- There will be 10,200 athletes and 5,100 officials participating in the World Olympic with 15,000 media instruments in service.
- The combination of swimming, cycling, and jogging and TaeKwonDo will be the first kinds of sports in the first World Olympic at Sydney 2000.
- There will be 3,5 million spectators throughout the world watching in the World Olympic Games. The Games will be held from September 15 (on Friday) to October 1 (on Sunday)
- The venues for competition will be Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, and Adelaide



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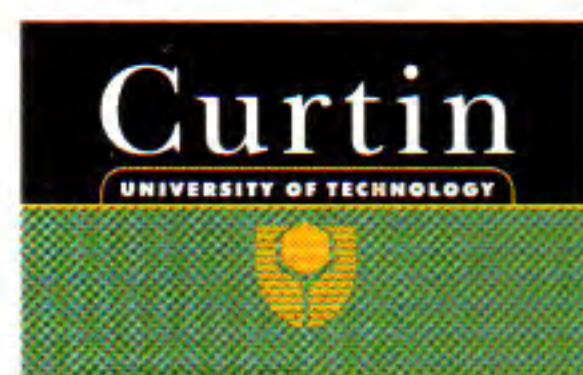
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