



Vietnamese Graduates from Australia Club



# NEW BOARD ACTIVITIES





## Welcome Message for Kookaburra Chatter 2010 from Sally Burnard Counsellor (Education)

I am delighted to welcome all VGAC members to the 2010 edition of Kookaburra Chatter.

Since commencing my posting in Vietnam in January 2009, I have been continually impressed by the vibrancy of the VGAC, lucky enough to meet with VGAC members in regional Vietnam, as well as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. I greatly appreciated the warm welcome given to me as incoming Counsellor (Education) by the Executive, the staff and members of the Club.

As I have traveled in Vietnam, I have also been impressed by the variety of important positions now held by VGAC members, in government, business and academic life, and the strong contribution they are making to Vietnam's progress. They are truly ambassadors for the quality of Australian education

Education has long played a very strong part in the close bilateral relationship between Vietnam and Australia. Today, about 18,000 Vietnamese students are studying in Australia, with a similar numbers studying for an Australian qualification in Vietnam. Partnerships with Vietnamese and Australian institutions are growing, both to deliver courses and to undertake research on shared concerns such as climate change and clean energy.

The Australian Awards, a new identity for Australian scholarships that will include the two streams of achievement and for development. Australia is now the leading provider of full scholarships for Vietnam, with 225 Australian Development Scholarships, 13 Leadership Awards and 46 merit-based Endeavour Awards, including 3 prestigious Prime Minister's Awards

As with any organization, members have busy lives and it will be important to give members strong reasons to stay in touch and active within the Club. I commend the VGAC for its willingness to take on new challenges and explore new ways of engaging with its members, with Australian education and the Australian community.

VGAC has an impressive reputation as the largest and most active alumni network in Vietnam. Long may this continue. The past year has been a year of renewal for the VGAC and I am sure that the coming year will present new opportunities, to expand your membership base, broaden your activities and to consolidate your links with Australia.

I have no doubt that the VGAC will continue as a vibrant example of how the linkages created through international education can endure and strengthen over time. I wish the VGAC and all its members good fortune for a productive and fulfilling year ahead.



## Welcome Message for Kookaburra Chatter 2010 from VGAC National Chairman

It is my pleasure to work as the new National Chairman of VGAC with the new team and all members from 2009. With the positive feedback from members, we have kept organising more attractive and interesting events up till now. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members,

and sponsors, especially the Australian Education International Vietnam for their kind support of VGAC's activities.

VGAC has over 5,000 members of five chapters in all regions of Vietnam: Hanoi, Hue, Danang, Hochiminh City and CanTho. By the support of the Australian Ambassador, the Australian General Consul, the Australian Education International, sponsors and other organisations, VGAC has organised effective events / activities, such as:

- 1.The "Australian Alumni Gala 2009", on July 19th, 2009 in Hanoi
- 2.Three Australian Alumni Dinners which took place in

- Hochiminh, Hue and Danang
- 3.VGAC Chapter and National Election
- 4.Five gatherings
- 5.Three "Talk Australia" seminars and two economic seminars
- 6.Four charitable activities
- 7.Online interview with the Australian Ambassador and VGAC National Chairman
- 8.Our website has 203320 visitors, the forum has been built up

**For further development of VGAC, we cordially invite our members to participate in VGAC committee and believe your contribution can help VGAC to become the best Australia alumni club in Vietnam. Please contact VGAC Coordinators by email at [vgac@vnn.vn](mailto:vgac@vnn.vn) or [vgachanoi@vnn.vn](mailto:vgachanoi@vnn.vn) for any queries.**

I wish you happiness and success.

Huynh Du An

VGAC National Chairman

# VGAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## Huynh Du An – VGAC National Chairman

He graduated from the University of Western Sydney with the Master of Applied Finance in 1998; from Trinity University with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1997, and a Diploma in Commerce from Insearh Institute of Commerce in 1996; and joined VGAC in 2003.

- 1998 – 2007: He held several positions from Marketing managers to General Manager of Mercedes-Benz Vietnam Ltd
- 2006 – 2009: VGAC – HCMC Chapter Vice Chairman

- 2007 - 2009: CEO of Euro Auto, the exclusive distributor of BMW in Vietnam
- 5/2009 – present: VGAC National Chairman
- 2009 – 7/2010: Deputy General Director of Novaland Group
- 7/2010 – present: Chairman and CEO of Compareal, a real estate service company in Vietnam.



## Nguyen Hai Son, HCM Chapter Chairman

Son graduated from Macquarie, Sydney in 2002 with double majors in Finance and Accounting. He returned to Vietnam in 2003 and became VGAC HCM Chapter Chairman in 2009.

- 2002 – 2003: Assistant Presenter, Asia Pacific Research Institute, International Relation Department, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.
- 2003 – 2005: Senior Tax Consultant, Tax & Legal Services, Pricewaterhouse Coopers VN Ltd., Hochiminh City, Vietnam
- 2005-2007: Relationship Manager, Corporate Banking, HSBC Vietnam, Hochiminh City, Vietnam
- 9/2007- 12/2007: Compliance & Control Project Manager, HSBC Vietnam, Hochiminh City, Vietnam
- 1/2008 – 9/2009: Business Process Management Manager, Deputy Head of Purchasing & Administration, HSBC Vietnam, Hochiminh City, Vietnam
- 9/2009 – current: Deputy Director of HANDICO Finance Joint Stock Company
- 10/2009 - current: Strategic Director, Founder - SON HOA Real Estate Co., Ltd. (Sohoreal)



## Dang Thien Anh, HCM Chapter Vice Chairwoman

In 1997, her first trip to Australia was to enroll in an English Course at RMIT in Melbourne, after which she came back to Vietnam & completed the Bachelor of Commerce – Marketing major. She joined VGAC in 2001 and became CM in 2002. Since then, she has been actively involved with events planning for VGAC and is mostly seen in the role of MC for at least 4 annual galas, the latest being the Australian Alumni Award in 2008.

Thien Anh's second trip to Australia was to Sydney, where she was awarded the Macquarie University International Scholarship for Master of International Business in 2006. In Spring 2007, she was given the honour to deliver a graduation speech at the Graduation Ceremony at Macquarie University.

Among the positions handled, Thien Anh was the Executive Secretary to the President of Quang Dung Agricultural Company in 2003-2005, BOD's Special Projects Manager for QD Technology in 2007, Account Manager for Bang Phat Promotion in 2008-2010. She is now the Account Director for Venus Communications, a leading PR agency in Vietnam.



## Le Son Anh Hoang

In 2007, Hoang got his Master in International Business from Curtin University of Technology in Australia.

- 2007 – 2008: Country Research Analyst, Euromonitor International Inc.
- 2008 – current: Research Analyst, Tractus Asia Ltd. Vietnam Rep. Office
- 2009 – current: President, Curtin's Vietnam Alumni Chapter
- 2009 – current: University Associate, Curtin University of Technology



## Nguyen Hong Ha

Ha graduated from UniSA – Adelaide in 1996 with a Bachelor degree in Business Management, ADS Scholarship

- 1997 – 1998: Student Services Manager Bourne Griffiths Australia, based in Vietnam
- 1998 – 2001: Marketing and

Recruitment Manager, IDP Education Australia

- 1999: Certificate of Compliment for Best Practices, CEO Award; participate in VGAC committee

- 2001 – 2003: Deputy Director, Business Development, AEI Vietnam
- 2003 – 2005: Director, Operations and Study Abroad, VUS – ETSC
- 2005 – current: Managing Director, StudyLink International
- 2007 – 2009: HCMC Chapter Chairwoman, VGAC



## Tran Thanh Quynh Nhu



Nhu Tran had lived in Australia for 5 years. Having finished a Bachelor of English Education in Vietnam, she took an International Business Course in Melbourne for two years. After that, she worked in Sydney for another two years and came back to Vietnam in June 2009, and joined VGAC straightaway.

- 2004: Sheraton Sai Gon Hotel and Towers (Sai Gon - Vietnam)
- 2006-2007: Veracious Business Solutions Pty Ltd (Melbourne - Australia)
- 2007-2009: Jade Upholstery Pty Ltd ( Sydney- Australia)
- 2009 - current: Pepsico International Vietnam

## Nguyen Thi Huong Thu

Thu graduated from RMIT University in 2006 and joined VGAC in 2003

- VGAC Coordinator, HCMC Chapter
- Manager, Public Relations Group, VGAC HCMC Chapter
- Vice President of the RMIT Alumni Group in Vietnam
- Regional Manager (Vietnam) - INTO University Partnerships





**Tran Thi To Thanh**  
 2002-2005: Bachelor of Economics, University of NSW  
 2006-2009: CMs of VGAC Hanoi , PR Manager  
 2007: Manager, Research and Consulting Dept., CB Richard Ellis ( Vietnam ) Co., Ltd  
 2008 - current: Senior Manager, Research and Consulting Dept., CB Richard Ellis (Vietnam) Co., Ltd  
 2009: Chairpersons of VGAC, Hanoi Chapter



**Truong Vien, VGAC Hue Chapter Chairman**  
 - Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), University of Canberra  
 - Senoir lecturer of TEFL and Linguistics, College of Foreign Languages, Hue University  
 - [truongviensp@yahoo.com](mailto:truongviensp@yahoo.com)



**Nguyen Van Duyen**  
 - Master of Environmental Law, Faculty of Law, University of Sydney, 2000-2001  
 - Postgraduate Diploma in Metallurgy, Western Australian School of Mines, Curtin University of Technology, 1994 - 1995.  
 - Working over thirteen years in sustainable development, environment, and legal reform issues.  
 - Currently: Freelance consultant on environmental governance, climate change, institutional analysis, capacity building, and management.



**Le Tan Thi, VGAC Danang Chapter Chairman**  
 DOB: September 9th, 1969  
 • 2001: Doctoral Development Program, The University of Queensland  
 • Current: Senior Lecturer, the University of Danang  
 Postal Add: Dr. Le Tan Thi, College of Foreign Languages, The University of Danang 41 Le Duan St., Danang, Vietnam  
 Email: [letanthy@yahoo.com](mailto:letanthy@yahoo.com), [letanthy@ud.edu.vn](mailto:letanthy@ud.edu.vn)  
 Website: [www.udn.vn](http://www.udn.vn)

## VGAC NATIONAL ELECTION 2009 IN HCMC



Meeting between VGAC and AEI HCMC



Meeting between the Australian General Consul, VGAC, and AEI HCMC



From left to right: Ms ySally Burnard, Ms Ha Nguyen, Ms Chantelle Woodford, Mr Graeme Swift, Ms Anh Dang, Ms Huong Tran, Mr Dung Nguyen and Mr An Huynh



Ms Anh Dang - the new HCMC Vice Chairwoman and AEI HCMC



Handover Party



VGAC members at the gathering

## LET'S BE SINGERS, 2009



VGAC members -"Hello! "



Let's cheer & wish VGAC a successful year

## VGAC AT AUSTRADE EDUCATION EXHIBITION



VGAC member and his presentation at the exhibition

# AUSTRALIAN ALUMNI GALA 2009 - "MY AUSTRALIA IS..."

A special Gala was hosted by the Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, Mr. Allaster Cox, and Vietnamese Graduates from Australian Club (VGAC), for Australian alumni in Melia Hotel, Hanoi. The ceremony was attended by senior officers from agencies of the Vietnamese and Australian Governments, representatives of universities and businesses from Vietnam and Australia, and hundred of Australian alumni.

The Gala 'My Australia is...' is a good opportunity for Australian alumni to meet and network with their fellow friends, enjoy Australian atmosphere, and recall the best memories of living and studying in Australia. Best photos of a peaceful Australia and friendly Australian taken by Australian alumni are displayed and sold to raise money for children with cancer in K hospital. Additionally, graceful performances of contemporary dance composed by Ms. Tran Ly Ly, one of the thousand outstanding Australian alumni in attendance made the night more impressive.



VGAC National chairman, Mr. Huynh Du An, made the opening speech for the Gala



Contemporary dance composed by Ms. Tran Ly Ly, an outstanding alumnus



Warm talk and joyful faces in the Gala



Photos of Australia are auctioned to raise money for children with cancer in K hospital



Short interview of Ms Thanh Tran, VGAC Hanoi Chapter Chairwoman



The Ambassador won an auctioned photo



Warm talk and joyful faces in the Gala



StudyAdelaide promotes Adelaide as a learning city and highlights the many advantages for international students who choose to live, study and work in Adelaide. The organisation is funded by the South Australian Government, Adelaide City Council, the city's three public universities and more than 40 private education providers. Besides offering high quality of education, Adelaide has fast earned a reputation as Australia's friendliest city for overseas students. StudyAdelaide is the only government organisation of its kind in Australia with a key goal to ensure that international students are made to feel welcome and valued during their stay in Adelaide. If you have any further inquiries, please email: [studyAdelaide@studyadelaide.com](mailto:studyAdelaide@studyadelaide.com) or visit [www.studyadelaide.com](http://www.studyadelaide.com)

## FRIESLANDCAMPINA VIETNAM

FrieslandCampina is the leading dairy company in the market with more than 130 years experience in dairy technology. The company has been very successful in Vietnam during the last 15 years with its famous brands such as: DUTCH LADY, FRISO, YOMOST, FRISTI, COMPLETA...



Members of FrieslandCampina are professional throughout the dairy chain, from farming, processing, producing, and distributing to the consumers. We highly value cooperation among the members, and the spirit of togetherness and partnership. They are a global company with a strong local focus, working closely with people and communities where they operate. They take ownership of their actions, building a culture of trust, integrity and inspiration for all of our members.

As an employer, FrieslandCampina highly appreciate VGAC roles in building networks and helping Australian alumni to socialize and learn by sponsoring events and workshops. Many members of their team in Vietnam have graduated from overseas. Some of them are also VGAC members. We wish FrieslandCampina and VGAC will have more chances to co-operate in the future.

# THE AUSTRALIAN ALUMNI DINNER, 2009 IN HUE

The Australian Alumni Dinner 2009 in Hue was a cosy and lovely memory to mention. It was held at the Residence Hotel by the Huong River with the attendance of more than 60 members. His Excellency Mr. Allaster Cox, the Australian Ambassador welcomed all the participants with a very warm and friendly speech. He treasured the participation and enthusiasm of Hue Chapter alumni in having so far contributed to making VGAC activities meaningful and effective. Mr. Nguyen Thanh Binh, ex-Hue Chapter chairman, reviewed the past events and contributions of Hue Chapter alumni, and dealt with the action plan in the coming years.



*The Australian Ambassador's speech at the Dinner*



*VGAC Danang Members*

Mr. Huynh Du An, National Chairman, was also invited to attend the gathering. He said he was happy to be present at the gathering and that he appreciated the contributions of Hue alumni over the past few years to the development and strengthening of VGAC. The new steering committee of Hue VGAS Chapter was then announced, and Mr. Truong Vien, lecturer of Hue College of Foreign Languages was appointed chairman. Music was then started for the participants to enjoy the buffet,



*VGAC Danang Members*

## BRAND BUILDING IN VIETNAM AND INTERNATIONAL MARKET. 2009



The Commonwealth Bank is Australia's largest and most reputable financial institution. We have more than 95 years of experience in financial services and are a strong and trusted foreign bank with an international AA credit rating.

We opened our first full branch of Commonwealth Bank in Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City in August 2008. The Bank provides a wide range of products and services including personal and business accounts, foreign currency exchange, 24hour x 7 days a week ATMs, remittances, loans, international trade, and wholesale foreign exchange and money market services, to both personal and business customers. With our experienced and friendly team, Commonwealth Bank offers the great service you would expect from a leading foreign bank including bi-lingual customer service specialists.



Unilever is a multinational business operating in over 100 countries and territories. We are committed to raising the quality of life for people everywhere, through the provision of branded products and services. With our mission "To add vitality to life", we strive to meet everyday needs of nutrition, health and hygiene that help people to feel good, look good and get more out of life.

Since 1995, Unilever Vietnam has successfully grown to become a leading fast-moving consumer goods company in Vietnam. We take great pride in being a life partner of the Vietnamese people not only through our products but also through our keen interest for the community and the environment. Further details can be found at [www.unilever.com.vn](http://www.unilever.com.vn)



# AUSTRALIAN ALUMNI DINNER IN HCMC, 2009



MCs of the Dinner



A prize of Lucky Draw, given by Ms Ha Nguyen - StudyLink



Children area at the Dinner



A prize of Lucky Draw, given by Ms Ha Do - Commonwealth Bank



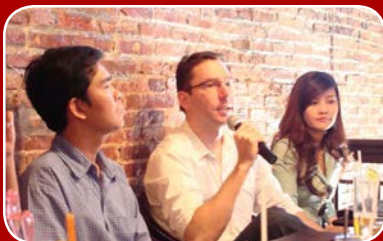
The Australian General Consul, Mr Graeme Swift's speech

VGAC members at the Dinner



## REAL ESTATE GATHERING 2009

## CONTACT SINGAPORE



Contact Singapore aims to attract global talent to work, invest and live in Singapore. We are a one-stop centre for those who wish to pursue a rewarding career in Singapore. We actively link Singapore-based employers with global talent and provide updates on career opportunities and industry developments in Singapore. For more information, please visit [www.contactsingapore.sg](http://www.contactsingapore.sg)



## CAREER FAIR 2009





The Hope School for Hearing Impaired Children Binh Thanh was founded in 1986 by the parents of deaf children. Since its establishment, more and more children have been sent to study in this school. Each teacher of the school is responsible for teaching as well as bringing up students since their parents live too far from the school. Although the tuition fees are very low, many students cannot afford to pay. In the evening of Friday, 2nd October, 2009; VGAC - Hochiminh Chapter held a small party with VND 5,550,000 funded by members and friends for the disadvantaged students in the Hope School for Hearing Impaired Children Binh Thanh, 25 Nguyen Van Lac, Binh Thanh Dist., HCMC.



**CHARITY BEFORE LUNAR NEW YEAR 2010 FOR THE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE AT DISTRICT 1, HCMC**



**CHRISTMAS COUPLES 2009**



**GALA DANANG - 2010**



Mr. Graham Alliband - ASDiV Team Leader, the major sponsor for the Gala cooperated by ASDiV & VGAC-Danang Chapter with Australian Alumni from Danang, Hue & Laos.



Mr. Graham Alliband - ASDiV Team Leader, the major sponsor for the Gala cooperated by ASDiV & VGAC-Danang Chapter gave the gifts to Hue & Danang alumni

Le Quy Duong is a leading company in arts & cultural events management in Vietnam. Our remarkable success has been achieved that is organizer of many festivals & events in Vietnam & overseas, such as: "Imperial Night", "Nha Trang Sea festival", "Binh Dinh festival",... Also, Le Quy Duong company received 3 records of Vietnam Records Book center: biggest system of festival drums, biggest number of classic drama masks, biggest scale of cultural & art festival on river – Festival Hue 2008. Besides that, Le Quy Duong company has a training center for performing arts.



# CLEAN-UP THE WORLD WITH THE AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE GENERAL



## MID - AUTUMN FESTIVAL FOR ORPHANS AT LINH SON TEMPLE, 2010



Sister Hang and lovely children



Mr Son Nguyen, HCMC Chairman and one-year-old orphan



Kids with their friend



Donation of VGAC



Waiting to play games

## Seminar: "What's involved in a master's and PHD degree"



Mr An Huynh, Prof. Leigh Sullivan and Mr Richard Martin



Prof. Leigh Sullivan



VGAC members at the seminar

## FULL MOON FESTIVAL IN HANOI, 2010



On the occasion of full moon festival 2010, VGAC and Just Kids School gave a meaningful cashdonation to 12 children with cancer in K Hospital. The donation is a special blessing from Australian alumni to those cancer suffering kids in their festival.

## TENNIS TOURNAMENT IN HANOI, 2010



At the tennis tournament



The Australian Ambassador and VGAC members



The University of South Australia (UniSA), is a progressive, international institution with a 150 year history. Its dedication to academic excellence through coursework, postgraduate research and practical based learning are evidenced by the quality of its graduates who have the experience, personal and practical skills to make an immediate impact in their chosen professions.

At UniSA, a strong emphasis is placed upon practical learning. We take pride in providing you with opportunities to put into practice what you've learnt, and gain experience. UniSA embraces engagement with the wider world and we work with industry, professions, governments and communities around the globe to find innovative solutions to research problems. This research becomes a part of what students learn.

## SEMINAR: "SETTING UP A SYLLABUS FOR TEACHING SKILLS IN ORIENTATION OF TOEIC"



The Seminar entitled "Setting up a Syllabus for Teaching English Skills in orientation of TOEIC" cooperated by ESP Department, Danang College of Foreign Languages & VGAC-Danang Chapter on May 16th 2010.



Discussion in the Seminar entitled "Setting up a Syllabus for Teaching English Skills in orientation of TOEIC" sponsored by Danang College of Foreign Languages & VGAC-Danang Chapter.

I was pleasantly surprised by the number of international students at Deakin. I considered this an asset, as I learned a great deal about other cultures, which is an education in itself.

I came to feel as a part of the Deakin community and that made a world of difference for my confidence. What I liked about Deakin is that although being a large university, the people working within it went to great lengths to make me feel a sense of belonging. Everyone from the librarians, IT staff, the career advisors and the postgraduate administration team are all of a high calibre. The feeling reminded me of my days as an undergraduate student in Canada, where I recall the campus being half the size of Deakin's which I believe is a testament to what sets Deakin apart.

I also like the fact that my lecturers were so easily accessible via the online environment, by appointment, or even a chance encounter at the on-campus café! Their dedication and commitment to my education inspired me to work hard, and I came to regard them as partners in my learning experience.

Marcel Dupupet

Master of Business Administration  
Canada



RMIT Vietnam is the Asian hub of RMIT University, headquartered in Melbourne, Australia. RMIT Vietnam is increasingly developing more diverse academic programs <[http://www.rmit.edu.vn/663\\_ENG\\_HTML.htm](http://www.rmit.edu.vn/663_ENG_HTML.htm)>, regionally based research projects, new business and government partnerships.

An RMIT Vietnam alumni group has been set up and maintains a database with over 2,467 graduates of RMIT Vietnam to date, to maintain the network and continuous communication with the University community. Members of the group are automatically part of a world-wide network of more than 200,000 graduates of RMIT and its associated institutions.





Vietnamese Graduates from Australia Club - VGAC, the most popular non-profit Australian Alumni Club, cordially invite you to join our special programme

## “ THANKS, AUSTRALIA!”

- Online submit the VGAC Membership Registration Form & your photo at [http://vgac.net/member/member\\_add.php](http://vgac.net/member/member_add.php)
- Introduce “Thanks, Australia!” to your friends – Vietnamese graduates from Australia or Australian institutions in Vietnam, or Australian citizens currently living / working in Vietnam.
- Attend & enjoy our

**GALA 2010 in Hochiminh City  
NOV 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

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+ Ms Trang Tuyet Vu: [vgachanoi@hn.vnn.vn](mailto:vgachanoi@hn.vnn.vn)





**Australian Government**

**Australian Education International**

## Thank you, Sponsors!

Support comes to us in so many ways, all of which are very important. We would not be able to achieve as much as we have over the events without our sponsors.

VGAC will continue to build our strong nationwide - network of Vietnamese alumni from Australian Universities and colleges through wide range of activities including annual Galas, workshops, social gatherings, and charity programmes.

Thank you very much to all our sponsors! Your sponsorship is greatly appreciated.



[www.lequyduong.com](http://www.lequyduong.com)

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C/o Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) - Vietnam  
Australian Consulate General  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Landmark Building  
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