

# Kookaburra Chatter

AUTUMN 2016



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## ACTIVITIES' UPDATES

### HCMC

- 15 May: Vicitoria Connection Reception
- 11 Jun: Networking Breakfast
- 24 Jul: UTS Reunion
- 13 Aug: Retail & Franchise Workshop

### Hanoi

- 17 May: Vicitoria Connection Reception
- 19 Jul: Pronunciation Workshop
- 26 Jul: UTS Reunion
- 23 Aug: Presentation Skills Workshop

### Da Nang

- 16 Aug: Pronunciation Workshop

### Can Tho

- Aug 2016: Alumni Event

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### HCMC

- 30 Oct: CPA Australia – Career Expo
- Nov: 25th Anniversary Celebration
- 23 Nov: Macquarie University Open Day
- 03 Dec: International Friendship Day

### Hanoi

- 9 Sep: Presentation Skills Workshop to students at the University of Science and Technology
- 14 Sep: CVs/ Interviews Workshop
- 30 Oct: CPA Australia – Career Expo
- 25 Nov: Macquarie University Open Day



### New Kookaburra

Our new face

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### Successful Kookaburra

Our achievement

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### Sponsorship

Our new sponsor

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## LETS GET INVOLVED!

Keep our calendar busy! We are welcome all suggestions or cooperations. Please feel free to send your ideas or proposal to [vgac.hcmc@gmail.com](mailto:vgac.hcmc@gmail.com)



### Busy Kookaburra

Our calendar

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## Message from National Chairman

Dear Alumni Fellows,

At the role of VGAC National Chairman handed over from Mr. Huynh Du An, I am honoured to update our club's activities in the last 12 months.

All VGAC's activities are aimed to support members to have potential career opportunities and great business partnership, at the same time promoting Australian education. We organised 2 successful galas last November in Hanoi and HCMC. In May and July this year, we supported the State Government of Victoria and the University of Technology, Sydney to organise 2 Alumni events in Hanoi and HCMC. In the last 2 months, with the support from Dr. Nancy Lane, VGAC Organisational Advisor, we have organised 3 workshops in Hanoi and Da Nang and will continue to organise 4 more workshops in Hanoi. We greatly thank Dr. Nancy Lane for your support and advice during her project in Hanoi.

In the next few months, VGAC will continue to organise or co-host activities/ workshops to mark VGAC's 25th Anniversary (1991-2016).

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank Mr. Huynh Du An for his contribution in the past. On behalf of VGAC, I also would like to send our appreciation to the supports from Australian Government Agencies, sponsors and committee members to the development of VGAC.

I wish you all great health and success. I also look forward to your company to VGAC future activities.

**Lee Chang An**

*VGAC National Chairman*



### ABOUT MR. LEE CHANG AN

Mr. Lee Chang An graduated from University of Western Sydney with Bachelor of Commerce.

1999: joined VGAC

2012-2015: Chairman of VGAC HCMC

2015: elected to be VGAC National Chairman the term 2015-2018.

Mr. An has held various executive positions in the automotive industry at large corporations such as Mercedes-Benz, Toyota Motor Vietnam and General Motors and experiences in project management/ business consultation.

## Welcome, Khoa!

Please join us to welcome Khoa Nguyen to VGAC!

Khoa Nguyen graduated from University of Technology, Sydney with Master of Information & Technology in 2014.

During his time in Sydney, Khoa played an active role as a leader of Vietnamese Dynamic Student in New South Wales.

Since returning to Vietnam, Khoa has been working at SMC Trading Investment JSC.

Khoa has recently been delegated by VGAC National Chairman to be a Committee Member of VGAC HCMC Chapter. Khoa's objective is to engage young and newly return alumni to join the alumni network in Vietnam.



# Thank you for sponsoring!

VGAC has received a Design Sponsorship Package worth of AUD 3,000 from Designer Linh Do.

Linh Do is an alumnus of University of Technology, Sydney and University of New South Wales. He has recently returned to Vietnam and joined VGAC HCMC Chapter.

We thank Linh for his generous offer and look forward to lots of exciting projects with him.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Linh Do, please visit [www.linhdo.com](http://www.linhdo.com)



## Congrats!

We extend warm congratulations to **Dr. Tran Thi Huyen Thao – Alumna of Monash University and Sydney University** on the publication of her 1<sup>st</sup> book titled “Chào Con! Ba mẹ đã sẵn sàng!” (*Hello Baby! Mum and Dad are ready!*)

The book was not only written on the scientific foundation of a doctor, but also filled with the love of a mother. This is a must-read book for parents who are expecting a new family member, or is having a new baby. The book will provide very useful information and evidence-based recommendations, making you more confident in the care and bonding with your baby.

Dr. Thao completed her medical training at Monash University with MBBS degree (Hons) in 2004. She worked for 5 years at the Children’s Hospital No. 1 in HCMC and then went on to extend her pediatric training at Monash Medical Centre in 2010. She has attained a Master of Pediatrics from Sydney University in 2014, and has been accredited for her specialisation in Pediatrics and Internal Medicine by the Vietnamese Medical Committee.

Dr. Thao is now working at International SOS in HCMC as Pediatrician.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Title: **Chào Con! Ba mẹ đã sẵn sàng!**

ISBN: 8934974142072

Published date: July 2016

Publication: TRE Publishing House

# University of Technology, Sydney

## VIETNAM ALUMNI REUNIONS 2016

**JULY 2016:** VGAC supported University of Technology, Sydney (“UTS”) to organise Vietnam Alumni Reunions in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi.

Ho Chi Minh City Alumni Reunion was held on Sunday 24 July 2016 at Park Hyatt Saigon. Hanoi Alumni Reunion was followed on Tuesday 26 July 2016 at Sofitel Legend Metropole. These special networking events were hosted by Professor William Purcell, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President, International and Advancement.

At the events, the alumni had the opportunity to engage with a panel of innovative and creative graduates and guests who shared their insights, stories and tips for entrepreneurial success. The guest panellists were:

- Thao Nguyen, Regional Director (Vietnam, Myanmar & Cambodia) of UTS Insearch
- David Do, Managing Director of Vietnam Investment Group,
- Kate Harden, Co-Founder & CEO of International Alumni Job Network
- Lam Minh Chanh, Co-Founder & CEO of Pasoto.com
- Aaron Everhart, Co-Founder & Adviser of HATCH!
- Dao Zuan Hoang, Founder of Monkey Junior



**HCMC Alumni Reunion**  
Group photo at HCMC Alumni Reunion



**Guest panellists in HCMC**  
From left to right: David Do, Lam Minh Chanh, Kate Harden, Thao Nguyen



**Australian Consul-General at HCMC Alumni Reunion**  
From left to right: Ms. Karen Lanyon - Australian Consul-General, Vivian Do – VGAC HCMC Chapter Chairwoman, Trang Lan Anh Thu – VGAC HCMC Chapter Vice-chairwoman



**Australian Deputy Consul-General (Commercial) cum Senior Trade Commissioner at HCMC Alumni Reunion**  
Ms. Yvonne Chan (Right)



**Australian Deputy Head of Mission at HCMC Alumni Reunion**  
Mr. Layton Pike (Middle)



**Hanoi Alumni Reunion**  
Hoang Thu Huong - VGAC Hanoi Chapter Chairwoman (Right)

## UTS Highlight

- ❖ For the second year in a row UTS has been named number one in Australia and 21 in the world in the *Times Higher Education THE 150 Under 50* ranking
- ❖ Australia was the second most-represented country with 19 institutions included and had more universities in the top 100 than any other nation

SOURCE  
UTS Newsroom

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit  
<https://www.alumni.uts.edu.au/events/reunions>

## State Government of Victoria:

### VICTORIAN CONNECTION 2016

**MAY 2016:** The State Government of Victoria hosted Victorian Connection Receptions in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi with the presence of **The Hon Steven Herbert, Minister for training and skills, Victoria, Australia** and Ms. Helen Rowell, Executive Director, South East Asia Business Office. There were the exclusive events for Victorian Alumn (Schools, TAFEs and Universities) and businesses with Victorian partners in Vietnam. VGAC was proud to be a part of the event as the organiser.

The Reception in Ho Chi Minh City was held on Sunday 11 May 2016 at Intercontinental Asiana Saigon Hotel. The Reception in Hanoi was followed on Tuesday 13 May 2016 at Intercontinental Westlake Hanoi Hotel..

At the events, the alumni had the opportunity to meet new and old friends, to reminisce about Melbourne, Victoria and to have a great time with lucky draws!

## TRADE & INVESTMENT: Why Melbourne?

- ❖ Proven track record
- ❖ Top companies call Melbourne home
- ❖ Sizable market
- ❖ Strong economy
- ❖ Great people
- ❖ World-class infrastructure
- ❖ Access Asia Pacific
- ❖ Low risk and transparent
- ❖ World's most livable city
- ❖ Lowest cost on eastern seaboard

SOURCE  
<http://www.invest.vic.gov.au/>



**Reception in HCMC**  
 Event Hall in HCMC



**Reception in Hanoi**  
 Event Hall in Hanoi



**Australian Deputy Head of Mission and Victorian Minister for Training and Skills in Hanoi**

The Hon Steven Herbert, Minister for training and skills, Victoria, Australia (Left); Mr. Layton Pike – Australia Deputy Head of Mission (Right)



**Australian Counsellor (Education & Science) in Hanoi**  
 Ms. Kim Cleary (Right)



**Victorian Minister for Training and Skills in HCMC**

The Hon Steven Herbert, Minister for training and skills, Victoria, Australia (Left); Ms. Elina Mai Duong – Victorian Alumna (Right)



**President of HUFO at Reception in HCMC**

From right to left: Mr. Trent Davies – Senior Business Development Manager, Austrade HCMC; Trang Lan Anh Thu – VGAC HCMC Chapter Vice-chairwoman; Mr. Le Hung Quoc – President, HCMC Unions of Friendship Organizations HUFO; Lee Chang An – VGAC National Chairperson; Vivian Do – VGAC HCMC Chapter Chairwoman



**Victorian Alumni in Hanoi**  
 Group photo of Victorian Alumni at Reception in Hanoi

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit  
<https://www.alumni.uts.edu.au/events/reunions>

# VGAC Networking & Workshops

## 11 Jun: Networking breakfast in HCMC

It was great to catch up with VGAC HCMC Chapter committee, members and members-to-be on a beautiful Saturday morning at Loft cafe managed by **Master Chef Vietnam Season 1 Ngo Thanh Hoa – Alumnus of University of Western Sydney**. We had a nice brekkie with some good chats and a lot of idea generation.

Chairman of Can Tho Chapter, Representative from CPA Australia and MasterChef Vietnam Ngo Thanh Hoa also joined us this morning session. Thank Mr. Dao Phong Lam for your enthusiasm and all the way you travelled from Can Tho to HCMC for today. It is highly appreciated.

Thanks to 14 participants for this networking today. We'd love to see you again next months and other events organised by VGAC.



Master Chef Vietnam Season 1 Ngo Thanh Hoa – Alumnus of University of Western Sydney (2<sup>nd</sup> left)

## 19 Jul: Pronunciation workshop in Hanoi

In the evening of July 19th 2016, VGAC members and their friends and children had enjoyable time when joining the Pronunciation workshop presented by **Dr Nancy Lane - VGAC Organizational Advisor and supported by three Australian volunteers**.

Dr Nancy identified common problems of Vietnamese when pronouncing English and helped the participants practice pronouncing some difficult sounds (sh, th, oo...).

Participants also had chances to talk in groups and spend time with native speakers to correct pronunciation mistakes.

Thank you RMIT International University for sponsoring the venue.



## 26 Jul: Australian Alumni in Vietnam - Strategy workshop in HCMC

The Australian Government is working with alumni and other stakeholders on a five year strategy to strengthen engagement with our over 50,000 alumni in Vietnam.

**VGAC is proud to be one of the key stakeholders of Australian Government's Global Alumni strategy.**

VGAC's representatives joined the workshop at the Australian General Office in HCMC on 26 July to discuss the best way forward. The new strategy will be launched later this year. Stay tuned for updates!

Please visit the Embassy Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/AustralianEmbassyVietnam/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=1366191726729008](https://www.facebook.com/AustralianEmbassyVietnam/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1366191726729008) for more details and photos of the workshop.



Australian Ambassador- Mr Craig Chittick (in white shirt) at the Strategy workshop



# VGAC Networking & Workshops

## 13 Aug: Retail & Franchise workshop in HCMC

It was a great opportunity to organise this workshop with our professional member, **Ms. Phi Van Nguyen, Australian alumna**. The workshop has drawn a lot of attention from VGAC members and public who are interested in the topic.

Special thanks to Ms. Phi Van Nguyen for being our presenter. Thank Nest by AIA for sponsoring us the venue.

The workshop also has the media presence from FNBC and Zing.

Ms. Phi Van Nguyen holds an MBA from Australia majoring in marketing communication. Her experience spans over 20 years as a senior executive in brand, retail, and franchise development across global emerging markets in Asia, Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe. Her past positions include International Marketing Manager covering 3 international regions, General Manager of Asia Pacific, and Head of Global Development.

Currently, Phi Van is Founder of Retail & Franchise Asia and World Franchise Associates SEA, representing more than 1000 international brands looking to enter Asia, and helping Asian brands expanding internationally.

Phi Van is Board Advisor at the Chief Marketing Officer Council (CMO) in Asia Pacific, and 2015 award winner of Retail Leadership presented by Asia Retail Congress. She is the author of three books "Quảng cáo ở Việt Nam - Một góc nhìn của người trong cuộc" published in 2008, "Nhượng quyền khởi nghiệp - Con đường ngắn để bước ra thế giới" published in 2015, and "Quản gánh bằng đồng ra thế giới" published in 2016.



Mr. An Lee – VGAC National Chairperson with Committee members of VGAC HCMC Chapter at Retail & Franchise workshop

## 16 Aug: Pronunciation workshop in Da Nang

After the success in Hanoi in July, **Dr. Nancy Lane** together with VGAC brought the Pronunciation workshop to Da Nang.

The workshop was co-hosted between VGAC and Da Nang Center of Foreign Languages with the attendance of 50 people and more than 700 people watched FB live-broadcast.



## 23 Aug: Presentation Skills workshop in Hanoi

Presentation Skills workshop on Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> was co-hosted between VGAC Hanoi Chapter and CPA Australia.

The workshop, presented by **Dr Nancy Lane - VGAC Organizational Advisor**, drew lots of attention from Australian Alumni, CPA members and the public.

There were nearly 90 people participated in the workshop. Participants had chances to learn different tactics to deliver a successful presentation and found that extremely helpful.

Thank CPA Australia for the cooperation and the wonderful venue.

Thank ACET for sponsoring the lucky draw prizes.



# About VGAC



The **Vietnamese Graduates from Australia Club ("VGAC")** is a non-profit organisation founded in 1991 by the Vietnam-Australia Friendship Association ("VAFA"). VGAC is open to all Australian alumni in Vietnam. With 25 years of establishment and strong support from the Australian Government, Australian institutions, and companies in Vietnam, VGAC has built a network of more than 6000 members in **five chapters - Hanoi, Hue, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City and Can Tho.**

VGAC members are working as government officials, business people, academics and professionals throughout the country, playing their parts in contributing to the development of both Vietnam and Australia and to collaboration between the two countries.

## Our Mission

VGAC aims to create excellent networking opportunities for our members, as well as to contribute to the promotion of friendship, education, collaborative relations and mutual understanding between Vietnam and Australia.

## Our contact

Email: [vgac.hcmc@gmail.com](mailto:vgac.hcmc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.vgac.net](http://www.vgac.net)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VGAC.AustralianAlumniInVietnam/>