

# FRATERNITAS

## INTERNATIONAL HOUSE



INTERNATIONAL HOUSE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

FRATERNITAS 2008

## PROFILE: ALEX WIGUANA



The Weickhardt Academic Achievement Award is presented at the International House Scholars' Dinner each year to the student achieving the best overall results in the previous year.

This year, the recipient of the award was **Alexander Wiguna**, a second year Bachelor of Commerce student from Singapore. Alex plans to complete an honours year in Actuarial Studies, and has also been taking several subjects in pure mathematics offered as electives by the Faculty of Science.

In addition to the awards he has received at International House, Alex was placed on

the Dean's Honours List at the University last year, awarded the A.C. Morley prize by the Faculty of Economics and Commerce for being the top first year student in the faculty, and received the Dixon Scholarship in Applied Mathematics from the Faculty of Science for being the top first year student in applied mathematics.

Apart from Alex's academic achievements and his highly

personable, easy-going nature, he is known to everyone in the House as a guitarist of amazing virtuosity. A regular performer at Café, National Nights, Music Nights and the inter-collegiate Battle of the Bands, Alex and his guitar take audiences on the most extraordinary musical peregrinations with seemingly effortless ease.

**Full interview, page 4.**



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In Brief

# FROM THE HEAD OF COLLEGE

We have had a very successful year in 2008 from the point of view of students' academic results specifically, and in terms of student activity, involvement, and leadership.

2008 is the first year of the new undergraduate curriculum at The University of Melbourne. Six undergraduate degrees with breadth as well as depth have replaced the baroque system of multiple double degrees and enrolment in vocational courses now occurring at the graduate level, by which time students have found their vocational drive.

This is a very exciting new development, which will take a short while to establish given that it is a radical departure from the complex and untidy systems which had been developing in the leading Australian universities over the past two decades.

Our college this year includes 'foundation' students (who are completing degrees commenced in 2007 or before), as well as students taking the new courses. Our students from RMIT, the Monash Pharmacy College and other institutions are also in some cases enrolled in newly developed courses, with all universities constantly renewing their offerings.

We had many questions and some concerns during first semester about adjusting our college academic programs to meet the changing needs of students, but we have been very pleased with results so far and thank our tutors for their excellent work and adaptability. All the colleges have experienced changes, and it is a testament to the excellence of the University of Melbourne college system that we have been able to work together so cooperatively as the circumstances and demands change.

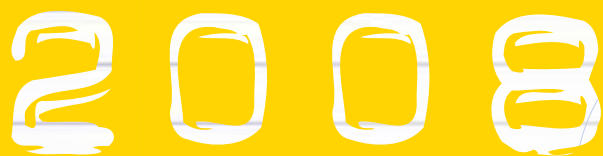


The colleges around Australia hold an annual conference at which we gain much in terms of professional learning and sharing best practice. This year's conference theme was 'equity and diversity'. I was delighted that one speaker singled out International House at the University of Melbourne for its ability to work successfully with a very diverse student population. This is the result of years of commitment and creative thinking on the part of many people associated with our college and we are most fortunate to have this heritage.

One such person is the past Warden Robert M Fels, after whom the apartments – formerly known as 'The Avenue Apartments' – have been named.







# 2008

Warden Fels, known to many as Bob Fels, led International House for 16 years into a period of considerable strength in all aspects of its operations, leaving the House administratively and financially strong, to the extent that we were even able to acquire the apartments.

However, his most enduring legacy is the drive and initiative he showed in establishing our intercultural communication programs as well as enabling the University to embrace multiculturalism, and his contributions to the unique and precious culture of the House.

Diversity in our student population continues to be a key driver of our success. We strive to have an Australian population between 33 and 48% of the student body and in 2008 it was 33%. It would be easy to fill the House with overseas students, and we would have very little need to market the college except to ensure that we were in a position to select good students as appropriate from among these applicants by creating and maintaining good working relationships with agents and schools. However, the role of the Australian students in our college is vitally important. The Australians are still the hosts, and they in turn learn and affirm the importance of global citizenship and experience its reality. The overseas students, in coming to know Australians from their first days at university, have the opportunity to cross the divide between the international and local students in their classes and faculties.

It is always a significant campaign for us to explain to Australian students, parents and school representatives that we have places for Australian students here, and we do put a lot of time and effort into this.

Our relationship with Rotary International is particularly relevant and important here, and in our work through this Rotary District (9800) we are able to reach out to other rural, regional and metropolitan Rotary clubs to seek their involvement with and support of our marketing efforts to Australian students.

The relationship with Rotary is also important not only by reason of the historical relationship that we have had for over 50 years, but also because we share the same ideals. Having 270 undergraduates and 16 academic residential tutors in our population, we have many opportunities for cooperation. The Royce Abbey collection was donated to the House this year by Fellow of International House Royce Abbey, first Australian to be elected President of Rotary International, and it has now been moved to a fine new display in the Hilda Stevenson Building with the expert assistance of Rotarian John Kendall from the Rotary Club of Melbourne.

We have completed the 50th Anniversary celebrations this year with the Garden Party and Market Fair and the official naming of the Founders' Building (formerly known as the New Building) by the Hon Jenny Macklin, Minister for Families, Housing, Community and Indigenous Affairs and International House student from 1972-1975.

We have been saddened by the passing of former Warden John Hopkins (1972-1981) in January 2008, and our Guest and Conference Manager Ludmilla Hackett in June 2008). We appreciate and value the expressions of support and condolence which have been given to the House in each case and we have felt for their families in their losses. These losses remind us of the contributions made by every person who participates in the life of the House. Regardless of the duration or nature of that participation, involvement in International House means a lot to all of us.

Now that the 50th Anniversary has been fully celebrated, we are looking forward to the next 50 years. We will need to buy a new honour board to list the Presidents of the International House Student Club, as all 50 places on the existing one are now full!

We will, starting from 2008, have official alumni representatives from each group of Valedicts, who will commit themselves to keeping in touch with the House for the rest of their lives. We have started a more formal and regular alumni program and are beginning to reconnect with former residents and supporters who had been 'lost'.

We also need to plan for the future physically and financially. We try to keep the annual fees for students within reasonable limits, and need to provide for scholarships to reward merit and offer opportunities to students whose family means are limited. We need to rebuild our facilities

progressively, and hope is to build the new Greycourt development with the next four years. To that end, we are currently undertaking a study into the feasibility of its funding.

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*On a day to day basis, the House is a wonderful place to be and I would like to thank the council of International House for its leadership and support, especially our outgoing Chairman of Council Peter Bobeff, whose chairmanship has been outstanding.*

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Peter has been involved with IH since he was a tutor in 1964, as a member of Council 1971-1987 and Chairman 2000-2008. The House very much appreciates his superb contribution and hopes and believes that IH will always be close to his heart.

It is the students and the tutors and the administrative and support staff who 'make' the House what it is in each year. This has been a great year in which we have celebrated a wonderful past and are building for a bright future.

**Associate Professor  
Jane Munro**  
Head of College

# PROFILE: ALEX WIGUANA

## Continued from page 1.

We thank Alex for taking the time to answer a few questions from 'Fraternitas'.

### What aspects of your course do you find the most interesting?

Since entering university, I've developed a passion for mathematics, so I definitely enjoy the highly mathematical nature of the course. In particular, I find the applications of abstract mathematics to finance and risk very interesting.

### What are your career aspirations?

After finishing my degree, I hope to find a job in Singapore, probably in insurance as this is most relevant to my degree. I may also think about going into banking or consulting, seeing as how the demand for risk management may increase due to the current global financial crisis. While working, I will be studying towards becoming a fully qualified actuary by sitting for the remaining professional exams set by the Institute of Actuaries Australia.

I love challenges, so I see myself perhaps moving between different areas during my career in search of new challenges, or maybe even trying something completely new.

### Is there any place for your musical talents in your future career plans?

Music will most probably just be a hobby; a way to get away from the constant stresses of working life. Although if given the opportunity, it'd be great to become a rock star, tour the world and make millions!

### You play guitar with an almost continuous smile on your face. Is it that much fun?

Absolutely. People say there is a connection between music and mathematics, and if that implies that enjoying one leads to the enjoyment of the other, then it seems true! I love performing on stage and hope to continue doing so even while working, although finding people to listen to me later on may be hard!

### What were the circumstances surrounding your joining IH?

I originally planned to share an apartment in the city with two others a friend introduced me to. However, the plan never materialised. After asking around a bit, I was told that it would be good to stay at a residential college for at least the first year of university, after which Chia Hui Ling (another resident) recommended IH. My father also toured the place when he was visiting Melbourne, and liked it. Running short of time before the start of the semester, I decided to give IH a shot and so here I am, with absolutely no regrets.

### What were your initial impressions of IH?

When I first arrived, I was a little surprised at how small and bare my room was. However, I quickly realised that college was so much more than just a place to stay, and that a lot of time would actually be spent outside of my

room. People were very friendly, and with a relatively large Asian community, it didn't feel as alien as I might have expected, being in a new country. It was great getting to meet so many new people of all nationalities and learning about foreign cultures. O-week was lots of fun!

### What do you see as the advantages of college life?

The biggest advantage would definitely be the company, and the friends you make at college. Not only is it very difficult to ever feel lonely, but it also greatly widens your circle of friends. College also presents many opportunities to get involved and try new things, such as taking part in performances, organising parties or taking on leadership roles. You never know what hidden talents you may discover. It's also very nice to have residential tutors available for consultation, offering valuable feedback and advice on issues not just academic in nature.

### After two years at IH, what do you consider are the most significant features of the House?

The multicultural nature of the House really broadens your horizons and introduces you to cultures you may never even have heard about before. It offers many valuable lessons about friendship and respecting others, and of course it's always handy to know people from around the globe. I think this is what really sets it apart from other colleges.

### What have been some of your most memorable experiences at IH?

There have been many in the past two years, from performing in Cafe in front of the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, to playing silly pranks on floormates, to accidentally breaking into my own room. It was also a great honour to receive academic awards and be recognised by the House. To be perfectly honest, every day living in IH has been an amazing experience that cannot be had anywhere else.





# PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

When I arrived outside of International House, just off a taxi, I felt rather lost. It was 5 am, and I could not (try as I might) get the front door to open. Then I saw a sign saying to call the numbers 731 on the phone situated right next to the door.

I called this number, and sighted Olivia, a tutor, walking towards me. According to Olivia, a little more than 2 years later, I was irritatingly cheery that morning as I lugged my suitcase and two boxes up the Hildas staircase.

Two and a half years later, I am, still (according to most accounts) irritatingly cheery. And I ask all you: WHY NOT? It has been a wonderful three years for me. The carefreeness as a Fresher, the stress from being secretary as a second year, and the added stress as Prez in third year just. IH has certainly been a learning experience.

There are a few things that I will never forget. Firstly, Oweek. The adrenalin is unlike anything I have ever felt. Meeting so many new and fascinating people at the same time, and introducing them to the melting pot culture that is International House is simply exhilarating. I would like to thank all the Oweekers and Freshers (in both 2007 and 2008) for making the two Oweeks I participated in simply the best times of my life. I am sure all who were involved feel the same.

Secondly, Cafes, National Nights, Sports and other random activities that IHers get into. Who could forget that faithful night when the Head and Deputy Head of College danced to Gasolina? Indeed, after the 2006's Café, Associate Professor Jane Munro showed us some of her moves there as well. Furthermore, the screaming of IH supporters at the sidelines has certainly incurred the ire of more than a few referees.

Café Internationale has been a big part of my years in IH. Having performed in two Cafes and been Entertainment Coordinator (along with Adi and Rahul!) in one, Café is a great event which is unique to IH. I find that it is usually at Café where people truly start to mingle outside of their usual groups and start to get to know people who just might be their best friends.

Best friends. Who would think that they would meet friends here? Leaving high school and your old friends at home, perhaps thousands of miles away, was probably one of the hardest things to do. You would have come here expecting to never meet anyone you would be as close to again. And then you do. You just don't know it. They are simply faces in the crowd during Oweek. Suddenly one of them asks you for your name. Months later, you can't imagine life without their support and care.

How could I not mention Meegee. That disgustingly good stuff that clogs your arteries. Did you know they are worth 1924.64 kilojoules or 460 calories! That is almost as much as one Krispy Kreme donut!

I have gone through some tough times as President, and I could not have done it if not for a large bunch of people. Thank you to the International House administration, especially to Dr Jane Munro, Peter Cole and Peter Sorenson for having your door constantly open for me and Frances and for always trying your best to help.

Thank you to Student Club Committee 2007-2008. I am greatly thankful for all



of them. I could not have asked for a better team to support me. Extra love to Frances, Xinyu, Eugenie and Aditi for being there and doing their jobs superbly well.

Thanks to my wonderful apartment mates and those who have supported me along the way (you know who you are), for you guys have been there when the goings got tough. Also to those who did not support me, thank you as well! For I have learnt much from every single person who has contributed to my experiences as President.

A big CONGRATULATIONS to Pam, Aaron and the rest of their team. Look forward to a great year of excitement! I am really pleased to see the members of the 2008-2009 Student Club Committee. They are a great bunch, and they will serve all of the student body well.

IH has taught me to be patient, tolerant, love challenges and best of all, it taught me to be strong. Being mean and trying to intimidate people doesn't solve anything.

IH will always hold a big part of my heart hostage. At this moment, I am giggling irrationally, for I have had the best times of my life.

To Fraternitas.

Signing off,  
**Saw Xiao Rei**  
International House  
Student Club President 2007-2008

2009

## STUDENT CLUB PRESIDENT

This year at International House, there are students from 31 different countries living, studying and having fun together every single day. That thought simply blows me away! Our community truly is a hotbed of intercultural exchange. As the newly elected Student Club president, my goal is simple - to continue the good work of my predecessors in fostering an environment where people from different countries do not merely tolerate each other, but far surpass that to form strong bonds with each other that last beyond their time together at IH.

I came to IH at the start of 2006, and in 2007 had the privilege of being an orientation week leader as well as co-ordinating Café International 2007. Both these experiences showed me first-hand the magic of International House: it is where individuals of varied experience, expertise and backgrounds get together, time and again, to produce stunning results with a marvellous synergy.

In the middle of 2007, I left Melbourne for a year-long exchange programme in the United States and Canada. Having lived in residential colleges at both of my host universities, I have developed a renewed appreciation for how unique and precious the IH community is, both in terms of its cultural diversity and its cohesiveness despite its size (more than 270 students!).

Inspired by this refreshing perspective, and missing the wonderful friends I made in my first year at IH, there was no question of my not returning to IH upon the conclusion of my exchange programme. Filled with new ideas gleaned from my time abroad, I ran for President, hoping to give back to a community that has already given me so much.

I am heartened and honoured by the support that my fellow residents have shown me in electing me to this position, and I pledge to give it all I've got.

Leading the Student Club is a team effort, however, and I am proud to say that this year's Student Club Committee is not only exceedingly skilled and diverse, but is also full of energy, creative ideas, and a passionate affection for IH. At the time of writing - less than 5 weeks into our term - we have already organised a relay race through the city ("Ekiden"), kick-started an inaugural College Day, and obtained the student body's support on proposals to revamp our gym and games room. With such an amazing team working together towards an even better International House, it is with every confidence that I say that we are all looking forward to an incredible 2009!

**Pamela Tham**

IH Student Club President  
2008-2009





# PLAY

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to tonight's performance of 'The Curse of the Werewolf,' for the courtesy of the actors and the audience around you please refrain from flash photography and switch off your mobile phones. Thank you and enjoy the show.

Madames et monseieurs, bienvenue a le pièce 'The Curse of the Werewolf,' nous vous prions de bien vouloir éteindre vos portables et de ne pas prendre de photos afin de ne pas perturber les acteurs.

Bonne soirée et merci d'être venu.  
In Malay: seriously machan! switch off your phone!

In true I.H style, the 2008 play was done in multiple languages and in only four weeks. The cast and crew pulled together a damn good show, and had a damn good time doing it. Some memorable moments include:

- JD flashing his behind to the entire audience during his death scene.
- The bunny's sexy orgy party making Heng Lin's whole piano rock.
- Wolf howls with coughs in the middle
- Some truly inspired improvisation (we were the directors and even we were never sure what would happen next).

An enormous thank you to everyone involved!

To the cast - you guys did such an amazing job and worked so hard! Thank you for learning German, and for showing up for so many rehearsals, but mostly thank you for making the whole process so much fun. You are all superstars!

Thank you to the music directors and musicians (Hey Heng Lin, play Batman!). You are so talented it blows me away!

And to the crew: we couldn't have done it with out you. And thank God no one got injured lugging around that heavy set. Thank you to costumes, makeup, the sensational boys In the bio box and backstage, our stage manager and asm, the set crew, sound and lights AND the bunnies.

(If we missed anyone we apologise.)

**With love from Dani  
and Marissa**

IH Play coordinators, 2008







# IH SPORTS R

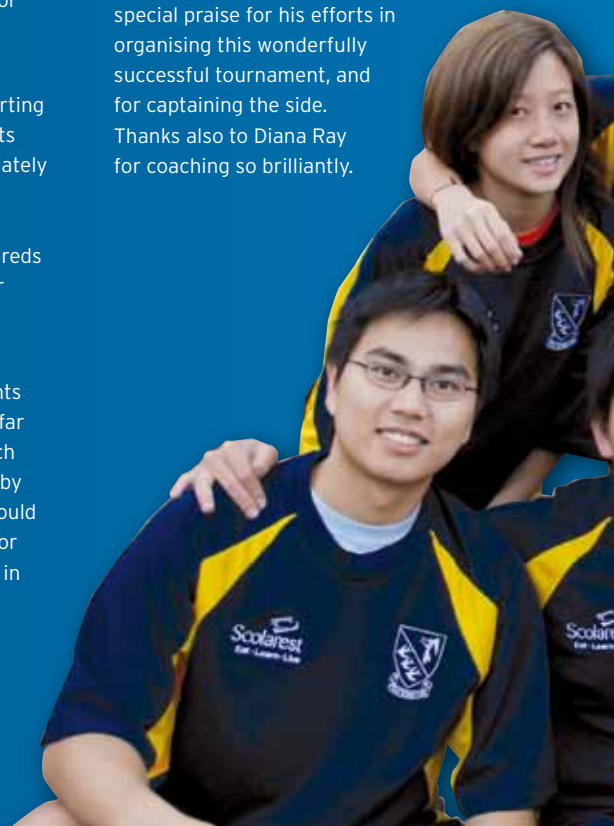
This year was in some respects a particularly challenging one for college sport, with the reduction of funding for the intercollegiate program, scheduling issues involving Melbourne City Council and Melbourne University sports, and a fixture list that arrived late if it arrived at all, and inevitably featured the 7am weekday starts to matches so beloved by undergraduate students.

It was a year of blink and you'll miss them competitions, of losing a game and making the quarter-finals in some sports and winning two out of three and not making it in others. Organising new jerseys and equipment is always a challenge, particularly when our uniforms are so attractive that they hold much appeal as 'souvenirs' for students! Without the help of my sports reps, Kat Labrum and Charlie Jong, I think I may well have gone crazy, so I cannot thank them enough, particularly Kat, who has worked tirelessly in the role for the last two years.

On the field, we had what may be described as a 'traditional' IH sporting year, excelling at small team sports and competing valiantly but ultimately unsuccessfully in larger team and contact sports. After watching, coaching (and even playing) hundreds of hours of IH sport this year, four team efforts stick in my memory:

- Men's Football. Despite having only 27 Australian male students in the college, we cast the net far and wide and built a team which won two out of three matches by massive margins, and which would have made the quarter finals for the first time in living memory in any other year.

- Mixed Badminton Team: as now seems traditional, IH met Trinity in the InterCollege Grand Final, and we were unlucky to miss out narrowly. Cheered on by a large IH crowd, we went down fighting to finish runners-up.
- IH Men's Basketball. With basketball omitted from the official ICSC program this year, our students were so desperate to play that they organised their own tournament against three other colleges on our court. Randeep Singh deserves special praise for his efforts in organising this wonderfully successful tournament, and for captaining the side. Thanks also to Diana Ray for coaching so brilliantly.





# REPORT 2008

- Women's Volleyball. 'We're all in an IH Tiny Team...' The undisputed highlight of the sporting year, as the girls overcame a lack of size, huge opponents, and the debilitating effect of

having me as a coach to thrash all comers and win the title. Special thanks to Ling, Cam and Liesa (Ling and Cam were backing up from their championship with the men's team in 2007) for captaining, starring and winning.

As in preceding years, I have loved every minute of my involvement in IH sport this year. It has been particularly rewarding to see students participating in sports they have never played (and in some cases never even heard of) before, and enjoying themselves beyond their

wildest expectations. The mornings may be tough (especially in winter), but they are unquestionably worth it.

Special congratulation to Kat Labrum, Esther Borg and Billy Greenham, the Sports Person, Sports Woman and Sports Man of the Year respectively.

**Charlie Parkes**  
Sports Tutor







MR RICHARD CASEY AND DR THEAN PAK KEN

## DR THEAN PAK KEN

In Semester 2 this year we welcomed Adrian Meng Suen Thean into the International House community. Adrian is from Kuala Lumpur and comes to Melbourne after completing his national service to begin a commerce degree, which he hopes will lead to a career in chartered accounting and also perhaps post-graduate studies in law.


Of additional interest to readers of 'Fraternitas' is that Adrian is also the son of the young man in the photograph above shaking the hand of the then Australian Minister for External Affairs, Mr Richard Casey, in 1957. Thean Pak Ken, after graduating from the University of Melbourne at the end of 1958, spent the following year working as a houseman at the Royal Perth Hospital. After Perth, he was a medical officer for a year in a main state hospital in Malaysia before venturing to Glasgow for four years of post-graduate study. Returning to Malaysia in 1964, Dr Thean became the Consultant Clinical Specialist at the General Maternity Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, before going into private practice as a consultant obstetrician and gynecologist at the Chinese Maternity Hospital and the Tung Shin Hospital in Kuala Lumpur until his retirement early this year.

In a recent email to us, Dr Thean tells a wonderful story of his years in Australia, and particularly of his time at International House:

I arrived in Fremantle in 1952 on the cattle boat, Gorgan, and had a fantastic rail journey to Melbourne, which took days. There were a few changes of rail track width on the way, and I remember the train had a long stop in the middle of the Nullarbor on Christmas Day, where beer was the only liquid for drinking!







International House was undoubtedly a luxury in those pioneer days. Compared with the accommodation I had experienced in my first five years in the country, comforts such as floor heating in winter and a room designed for study were marvellous.

In Melbourne, my brother and few of his Malaysian friends lived in a guest house called 'Mayfair', offering B&B, and that was where I went. It was not far from the present-day IH campus in Royal Parade, and thus conveniently near the University of Melbourne.

I attended Northcote High School for my matriculation year and started Medicine at Melbourne in 1953, with a bunch of science subjects which made biology and organic chemistry a real headache.

To save costs, we moved on to rent a room and board with a private Jewish family in Carlton. As usual, we had to cook, take care of laundry and the like. Looking for an easier life, I later boarded with a family in Kew before moving to a flat near Prince Henry's Hospital along St. Kilda Road.

Cost then drove me to stay for free at the Royal Women's Hospital, but finally, in 1957, I moved into

International House. My training hospital was the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and thus I had been on the look-out for accommodation near the hospital and the university.

International House was undoubtedly a luxury in those pioneer days. Compared with the accommodation I had experienced in my first five years in the country, comforts such as floor heating in winter and a room designed for study were marvellous. The business of buying and cooking meals was no longer a problem, and I was able to concentrate on my final year work. There were, however, a number of dinners where IH students cooked for invited guests, so I ended up cooking a fair bit. I can still remember my specialty was "Rare Bits in Gold", which was actually curried rabbit!

There was the church down the road which allowed me and friends to play tennis on the weekends, and it was easy to get into town for meals. Working during the holidays allowed me to purchase an old car, which I parked under my room in the Ian Clunies-Ross wing, like in a motel. At the time, Clunies was the only wing in the House and underneath were spaces for a small number of cars. I could go down by the back stairs and reach my transport in a jiffy.

I loved putting on my gown for dinner every day and interacting with fellow students after meals. I got to know lots of Aussies, got a feeling for their slang and their carefree ways, and also got to know a number of sons of immigrants from the Continent. The rules were strict—there were no female students—but we had a ball!

# CAFÉ INTERNATIONAL

## The Haunting Café

There's a saying: 'Once a Café Co-ordinator, always a Café Co-ordinator'. This means that Café is a dream and a nightmare simultaneously, an unrequited love story as well as an epic tale of adventure and humanity. It also means that Café IS my life—before, during and after—even to the point where four months later I started crying when I watched the Olympic opening ceremony because their budget was so much larger than our Café and they could afford wires and ropes and cool lightning. But I'll soon forget the Beijing ceremony when the next Café comes along, and the next, and the one after that...but if a lawyer can have a heart, then Café 2008 rests in a special place in mine.

## The 60's

If there's one thing that hasn't changed through the ages, it's our love of parties. The 60's rocked it up, and we still do today, though the dining hall was showered with a bright rain of paper from the spectacular flower peace sign to the massive airplane backdrop. And while we donated our profits to Interplast, another good deed was to allow those slightly more senior than us to relive the days when they could still do those awesome moves from Hairspray. It was heartbreaking to see the beautiful artwork come down after one short night, but their impact was well worth all the 3am shifts.

## Flying High

The legend is around the world in 80 days, but IH blew that record out of the water; travelling to Africa, America, Asia and Europe in a whirlwind. But after repeating that over 200 times to prospective guests over the phone, through e-mails and at Rotary meetings, the entertainment on the night was a whole lot more. Because the way we do it at IH is to have non-Africans stomping an African boot dance, white males as Malaysian girls, pretty girls as vampires, and everyone being American in Hairspray. (At least Audrey Hepburn was acted by a small girl...) It may sound random, but we made it spectacular.

## I'm leaving on a jet plane

And soon enough, it all came back: the reality of assignments, work and the imminent approach of exams. The painting decorations put up a brave fight as a physical reminder of Café, but like all good things, sooner or later, Café really was over.

## But it never really ends...

I think that we all had huge Café withdrawal symptoms: no more painting or cheerful Hairspray music or a mad stressful Nae. It's probably bad to hang onto Café for too long, but I was greeting the guests on Café and remember that on one table there was a group of alumni from 20 years ago. Somehow, in an age devoid of Facebook and mass e-mails, they still managed to keep in touch. I think that this is my one last Café duty: to make sure that 20 years from now, I'm on a table with all of you at Café, remembering our good old days. Believe it or not, it'll happen to us too.







## Café Fraternitas

On Saturday 9th May 2009 'The Wonders of the World' will take you on both a cultural and historical adventure around the world without you having to leave your seats. In the same night you will explore such countries as China, Brazil, India, Australia and many many more, receiving a glimpse into each country's rich history and of course a sampling of the modern culture that's been developed in each. Looking into the cultural diversity that has arisen around the world as well as in our own backyard, 'The Wonders of the World' will be a visualization of the International House community; the molding of cultural diversity and to produce something that is interesting, intriguing and unique.

Keep your eyes peeled as it won't be long until tickets come on sale; book yourself in for a night of exploration and adventure. See not only the wonders of the world but also the wonders which International House has to offer. For more information on ticket bookings or anything else regarding International Café feel free to e-mail or call the current Café Coordinator Zach Davis on zachdavis@gmail.com or call on 0417311963.



# AUSTRALIA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD: A Business Perspective

*Abridged Speech to International House, Winter Dinner, 14 August 2008*

We live and work and communicate and relate in a globalised and globalising world. Globalisation is a process and not an end, creating a world economy and system of communications that develops and evolves quite independently.<sup>1</sup> However, globalisation has paradoxically called forth an opposite force asserting local difference in small scale nationalism, religious revivals and other expressions of identity and particularity. Look for example at the complexity of the rise of micro nationalism and new states and the current situation in the Caucasus - in Georgia, Ossetia, Abkhazia, and Russia: partly historical, linguistic, topographical, political, economic, cultural and all together frightening.

But I want to talk about not where we are in the continuum of history but where we are located and what that means for the role we might play as Australians. To do this I would like to address three related issues:

The first is a big question for all of us interested in international politics: how can a country like Australia contribute to good relations between the global powers of the 21st century?

The second is: why is trade and economic integration important to us and what role do we play?

Finally, let us consider the human dimensions—the importance of people-to-people links in building effective relationships between nations and the role that non-government organisations and individual Australians can play in that process.

These issues will affect whether we can achieve a peaceful future and have the opportunity to lead engaged and rewarding lives. I think we - and I refer equally to everyone here - can increasingly play a role. Let's now turn to the first two issues I have outlined.

China's economic rise is very much in evidence at the moment with the Beijing Olympics underway. Its progression will largely be determined by the direction of its relationships with other great powers, particularly the United States. Willingness to look outside of China for ideas has been one of the greatest elements of China's economic achievement in recent history.

In 1978, Deng Xiaoping saw first-hand how Singapore had transformed itself into a prosperous economy from virtually nothing. He met with Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, and this meeting helped shape his "open-door - learning from others" policy.

Shortly after, former Singaporean Finance Minister Dr Goh Keng Swee, was appointed to oversee the development of China's first four special economic zones. This realised a new approach to foreign investment modelled on Singapore's. The current President of China, Hu Jintao, continues to implement the approach of Deng Xiaoping.

China has emerged as Australia's largest single trading partner. Australians were impressed when President Hu visited a sheep farm in New South Wales last year. He watched some shearing, showed great interest, and asked many questions. This event was significant for Australia because



China buys about 60 percent of Australia's wool, and was investing the detailed focus of a Chinese leader.

This demonstrates to Australia and the United States that we must be willing to reciprocate.

We must learn from China and from other nations in Asia, particularly India, if we want to build deep, beneficial and lasting relationships. The very idea of a return to the policy of "containment" should be consigned to the trash bin of history. Our aim should be to fully engage China in international and regional institutions that underpin security and economic relations. It should also involve China assuming increased responsibilities as a leading stakeholder in global affairs.

But we cannot achieve these aims unless we too are prepared to "learn from others", including China herself.

## Economic Integration

There are clear economic and social benefits to all countries from greater levels of global economic integration. Trade and investment is not a new concept. The urge to exchange goods is a fundamental part of human development that underpins and explains much of our history - and the more freely we can do it, the better off we tend to be. The first part of this is pretty much unarguable. But the case for free trade is not straightforward.

<sup>1</sup> Ian Adams, *Political Idiocy Today*. Manchester Unity Press 2001





Trade and investment are always accompanied by feats of adventure, enterprise and conquest, all of which established global networks of commerce long before anyone coined the terms 'free trade' or 'globalisation'. Many features remain constant today – the preponderance of sea routes as the main arteries of global commerce, the importance of key "choke points" such as the Bosphorus and the Straits of Hormuz, and, of course, the struggle over access to markets.

So while we should acknowledge that "a significant minority of citizens are unavoidably harmed" in the process of free trade. I don't believe we should yield to the anti-globalisation camp. Australia instead should argue in Asia that we should look to post-war Europe's peaceful common market, because trade deepens mutual understanding and spreads material benefits".

We as Australia have to continue to press other governments to open up their

economies to allow free and equitable competition. Secondly, businesses and other organisations – including you and your university – should drive economic integration by competing and using innovation to improve products, services and the way they do business.

Continuing global integration requires new thinking and new methods, but cooperative economic integration between India and China and the rest of Asia would certainly provide the basis for a peaceful Asian century. Over time, experience tells us that businesses overcome the challenges.

To its great credit, the Australian Government is acutely aware of the importance of economic integration. I see a role for us to remind other governments to focus on economic progress.

There is now a real role for business and for driven individuals like you to provide our perspective on and input into foreign policy. Given this the opportunity we, as non-

government organizations and individuals, have a responsibility to provide greater foreign policy input.

There are educational, economic and strategic imperatives for us to prioritize enhancing Australia's performance in global engagement. Australia needs to improve this performance to develop 'soft power'—particularly in Asia and the Asia-Pacific—through a broad-based approach to foreign policy in which you each, either as Australians or as enduring friends of Australia, have a role.

When it comes to the building of effective people-to-people links, International House and the University of Melbourne have provided a tremendous example. I would like to congratulate both institutions on the vital contributions they have made to furthering international education and enabling friendships between the people of different nationalities.

The experiences and the relationships that have been formed by the thousands of students who have stayed here have proved invaluable in contributing to mutual understanding and cooperation between nations.

An international education experience should involve much more than a course of study. It is an opportunity to meet and make friends with people from different countries and to learn about and understand their respective cultures and histories.

As a nation, we should look to International House as a model for the experience of a greater number of international students who come to Australia.

The future benefits would be considerable.

Thank you.

**John W.H. Denton**

Chair of the Business Council of Australia's Global Engagement Task Force and Partner and CEO, Corrs Chambers Westgarth



# GARDEN PARTY





# & MARKET FAIR

24 MAY 2008





# ROYCE ABBEY

Rotary has continued to be important for International House at the University of Melbourne. Over the years, the relationship has developed and during the time of Bob Fels (Robert M Fels, Warden, 1982-1996) the collection of Royce Abbey AO DSM (Worldwide President 1998 to 1989) was housed here.

Today, clubs from District 9800 meet regularly in the meeting rooms here, and the Royce Abbey Collection is now housed in a new location in the Hilda Stevenson Building.

We have celebrated our 50th birthday with John So, Lord Mayor of Melbourne and an IH alumnus in May 2007, with the Governor of Victoria Professor David de Kretser AC at an alumni dinner in August 2007, and the naming of the Founders' Building on 24 May 2008 by the Hon Jenny Macklin, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Service and Indigenous Affairs and alumna of International House (1972-1975).

To cap our celebrations we have launched the new

Royce Abbey Room. We are very grateful to the District Governors of Rotary District 9800 and especially to DG John Davis (2007-2008) and to Rotarian John Kendall who have made possible the new display of the collection and the celebration of the work of Rotary International.

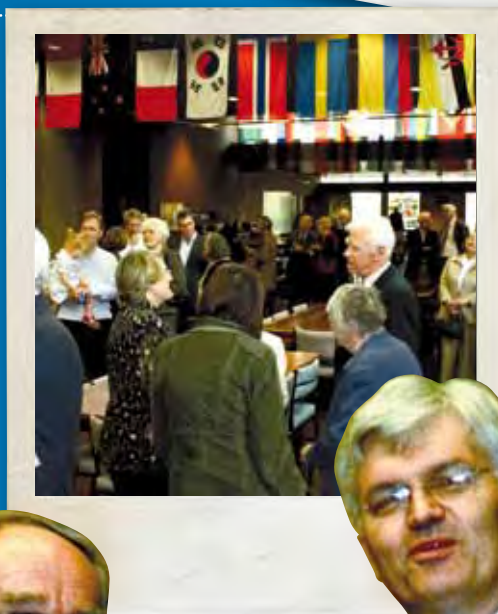
We are planning for a strong future for our International House and a continuing strong relationship with Rotary.





# ROBERT M FELS APARTMENTS

International House officially named the building formerly known as the Avenue Apartments the 'Robert M. Fels Apartments' on Sunday 28th September 2008. The event recognised the wonderful personal contribution the former Warden of 16 years has made to IH.



BOB FELS (LEFT) WITH VICE CHANCELLOR,  
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, PROFESSOR  
GLYN DAVIS



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Vale

**Mr John Hopkins**, Former Warden International House, 1972–1981.

**Mr George Richard Tibbits**, resident at IH in 1957 and 1958.

**Ms Ludmilla Hackett**, Guest and Conference Manager, 2000–2008.

## Change of positions

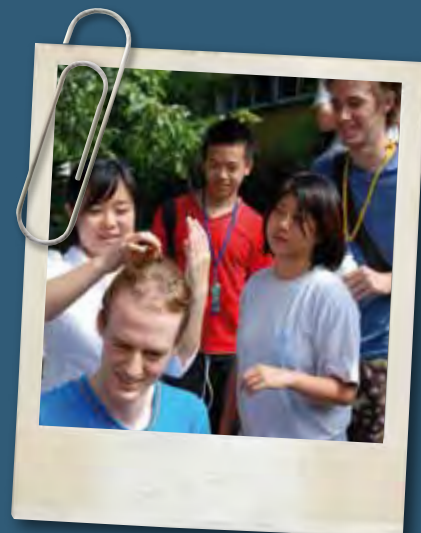
**Leigh Clifford**, AO, has resigned as Chief Executive Officer, Rio Tinto Worldwide to take on a new challenge as Chairman of Qantas Airlines. Leigh lived at IH in 1965 while studying Engineering at University of Melbourne.

## Births

**Ms Megan Iemma**, nee Smith, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Sophia. Megan lived at IH in 1998–2000.

## We were wrong

Last year's *Fraternitas* informed readers that the inaugural Café International was held in 1962. The year was in fact, 1958.



Please send your contributions to:

### By mail:

Tamra Keating  
International House  
241 Royal Parade  
Parkville  
Victoria 3052  
P: (03) 9345 7558  
F: (03) 9349 1761

### By email:

[tkeating@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:tkeating@unimelb.edu.au)

### International House website:

[www.ihouse.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.ihouse.unimelb.edu.au)

