

2003 Newsletter



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Victorian Branch of

The Society for Australian-German Student-Exchange

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Annual General Meeting

At this year's 36th AGM on April 30, 2003 we welcomed a number of members and supporters. We were particularly pleased to welcome a representative from one of our sponsors, Karin Penttila from Deutsche Bank.

The various reports documented another successful year of the Society. Highlights included: 11 awarded scholarships, an increasing number of corporate and individual members, a Welcome Reception with a breathtaking view for the German Students at Level 46, 55 Collins Street sponsored by the Office of Manufacturing and an Annual Banquet with new features supporting our sponsors and an increasing number of corporate tables.

Furthermore, our financial situation is sound and viable. Don Sinclair, our Treasurer for eight years, tendered his resignation due to other commitments. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Don for his excellent work and commitment to stabilise our financial situation from an unsustainable level back to "AAA".

The annual election brought some changes in positions and some new faces. Elaine Tarran was elected as Vice President, Greta Haywood as Treasurer, Georgie Fast as Secretary and Alexander Colman as a Committee member. All other Committee members were re-elected to the same positions held in 2002.

Sincere thanks to our sponsors, the Committee Members and all the 'silent' supporters for the tremendous support in 2002 and in particular the outgoing Committee members Evan Symons, immediate past Secretary, and Wolfgang Mueller, Committee Member and former Chairman of the Student Selection Committee.

New Members 2003

Peter Dreher, Madgwicks
Hartmut Hofmann, EW Cox
George Patton, Scholarship Family 2002
Travers Linton, Scholarship Family 2002
Greta Haywood, Kahns & Laywers

Debriefing 2003

Tuesday the 18th of March saw the staging of the GASS/SAGSE Stipi debriefing at Scotch College in Hawthorn. We had already heard inklings of the great times that newly returned scholarship winners (now first years!) had had in Germany, and were looking forward to hearing the official stories of their various adventures and misadventures. And let me just say that we weren't disappointed!

After a welcome from Kylie Witt, representative from SAGSE, GASS president Meg Jackson started introducing the Stipis. We heard from Emily, Laura, Sam, Sarah, Tim, Stewart, James, Susannah, Eleanor and Melissa on a range of topics including Christmas, Host Families, Food, Beau, Winter Camp and Berlin Camp. Unfortunately Travers was unable to attend due to illness, but his prepared speech was given with a masterful touch by Tim.



What was best to see at the debriefing was how much the Stipis had changed over the course of their time in Germany. The first time I met most of them was at the Kaffee und Kuchen way back in October, when they were still hoping to win scholarships. They were a bunch of nervous, anticipating individuals. The debriefing showed us all that they have become a group of confident, charismatic, intelligent, charming people who have the world at their feet. I'm sure that the sponsors who were present realized what an amazing opportunity they had given the Stipis, and will continue to support the scholarship.

Thanks must go to Elaine Tarran from Scotch College for organizing such a wonderful venue for the debriefing.

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We employ 30 people and our company is based in Braeside, a southern suburb of Melbourne.

BASF

The company's head office is located at Noble Park. Manufacturing operations are undertaken in two locations. The Altona plant, part of Australia's largest chemical complex, produces a range of acrylic and styrene butadiene based latexes and process chemicals for various applications such as binders for paints and wood finishes and carpet backing; adhesives and sealants; as well as paper.

Our Noble Park manufacturing complex produces colour master batches. Together with manufactured products, the company also imports and distributes a large range of BASF Group products through the company's sales centres in Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

BASF Australia is a member of the transnational BASF group. The group sells over A\$50 billion worth of plastics, oil and gas, chemicals, fertilisers, fibres, dispersions, costings, printing plates, crop protection products, special colours, pharmaceuticals and other chemical products each year. From this vast pool of products we source a growing proportion of 50% from Asian plants and the balance from Europe and North America.

The success of BASF in Australia has its foundation in a high standard of technical service and the establishment of long-term relationships with our customers where knowledge and technology is shared to the benefit of all concerned.

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

Forthcoming events 2003

August 2003 (day tba)

German Student Farewell Reception

17 October 2003

Annual Banquet, Sheraton Towers, Melbourne

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