



GOODWILL IN ACTION
Since 1967
Founded in Melbourne, Victoria

SAGSE

Scholarships for Australian-German Student Exchange Inc
Patron: The Honourable Alex Chernov, AC, QC, Governor of Victoria

Introducing the Jahrgang of 2013-2014!

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we present to you our Victorian scholarship winners for 2013-2014!

With the generous support of our sponsors, we were fortunate enough to award scholarships to 14 exceptional students in Victoria this year. The scholarships provide an opportunity for young people from any background and any school – government and independent alike – to experience German language and culture first hand.

Over the coming summer, the students will have the learning experience of a lifetime through a ten-week exchange to Germany. They will learn from challenges in language, adapting to a new family and school system and learning from the opportunity to travel independently with new friends.

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For a full list of our scholarship recipients and sponsors, please see page 2.

We look forward to hearing about their experiences at the **SAGSE Debriefing** event in March 2014!



SAGSE Annual Banquet at Park Hyatt

The Society welcomes another Jahrgang of scholarships recipients at the 46th SAGSE Annual Banquet & Scholarship Presentation Night

For most, the Annual Banquet & Scholarship Presentation Night is the highlight of the SAGSE social calendar and this year was no different. 2013 saw the black-tie gala take place once again on Friday 11 October for its 46th year. As per tradition, the event successfully welcomed yet another Jahrgang of excited scholarship recipients and celebrated the ongoing generosity of our sponsors through an enjoyable evening of dining, dancing and networking.

Attended by sponsors, alumni and friends of SAGSE, the event returned to its home at the Park Hyatt Melbourne. Upon arrival at the venue, attendees were treated to aperitifs and a special inspection of

the latest Mercedes Benz CLA. The shiny display was the perfect complement to the marbled Hyatt foyer, and a source of excitement for several young motor enthusiasts – including several without their drivers licence!

As guests were invited take their places the spectacular ballroom, new MC and former SAGSE scholarship recipient Ben Wong formally commenced the event and the festivities for another year. He welcomed our distinguished guests, including Mr. Josef Reichardt, the Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Mr. Michael Pearce SC, a member of our SAGSE Alumni and the Honorary Consul-General of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Right: Ben Wong, Banquet MC

Below (L-R): Egon Vetter, Josef Reichardt, Michael Pearce SC



Our Sponsors 2013



OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2013-14

Kapill Bhargava *Siemens*
Scotch College

Daina Jefimovs *GASS*
Brentwood Secondary College

Harry Tibballs *Continental*
Trinity Grammar School

Andrea Ko *Allianz*
Camberwell Girls Grammar

Sarah Fenn *Mercedes-Benz*
Westbourne Grammar School

Amber Hanson *AGTV*
Oberon High School

Christine Jun *RMIT University*
Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School

Benjamin Stefano *DB Schenker*
Melbourne Grammar School

Stephanie Gotze *Henkell Brothers*
Firbank Grammar School

Phoebe Ding *Allens Linklaters*
MacRobertson Girls High School

Tim Kay *WTS Australia*
Scotch College

Daniel Wang *BASF*
Melbourne High School

Brock Cowburn *SAGSE Alumni*
University High School

Jack Maclean *AGA*
Caulfield Grammar School

Special mention goes to the SAGSE Alumni scholarship (below), which has been kindly endowed for the fourth time by Alumni from over the years. Once again, it was fantastic to see contributions for this scholarship from every decade since SAGSE's inception in 1967!



SAGSE Annual Banquet at Park Hyatt (cont.)

Ben spoke warmly about the beginning of a journey for this year's lucky scholarship recipients. He described a foray into baked goods, *Weihnachtsmärkte*, snow, Deutsche Bahn, more baked goods, German efficiency and most importantly, an immersion in the German language. He then invited SAGSE President Egon Vetter to the podium to give his welcoming address.

In opening, Egon asked whether there was still a role for an organisation such as SAGSE in a significantly changing world. "The answer," he confirmed, "is quite simply, yes". While the organisation has seen some changes since its inception in 1967, its vision has remained consistent – to make the world a better place.



The SAGSE scholarship program is unique because it is more than a school excursion. It is an extended learning experience, which *challenges* students to adapt to a new language, school and culture. Students are also given the opportunity to travel unaccompanied within Germany for five days, an invaluable lesson in independence and responsibility. Upon their return, students are more mature, self-confident and open-minded, ready for their next trip to Germany. Already, some intend to return for work or further study at university, as many have done in the past.

These opportunities make possible the ongoing personal and professional development of our scholarship recipients, past and present. "Tonight," Egon said, "We launch 14 new exceptional careers".

This reinforces the main reason for SAGSE's success: the organisation's focus on the developing its students, and its vision of providing opportunities without commercial gain. For this reason, it has awarded over 500 scholarships to students in Victoria. It seeks to give talented students the opportunity to flourish, regardless of background. Such is only made possible through the ongoing commitment of its volunteers, friends and sponsors.

(Continued)

CORPORATE MEMBERS 2013

Bosch Australia – CHT Australia – Handel & Sons – HWL Ebsworth Lawyers – Machinery Forum – RSM Bird Cameron
Porsche Cars



Australian German Association

The Australian German Association Inc. (AGA) is a key forum for business information exchange. It was formed in 1974 by a group of senior Australian business people who recognised the growing economic significance of the Federal Republic of Germany to Australia. In particular, they noticed its importance in the areas of trade and investment.

By operating on an informal basis, the AGA has become a vehicle through which these objectives can be achieved, and this applies equally to German business people keen to learn something more about their Australian counterparts.

Since its formation, the AGA has been active in providing a suitable forum for visitors from either country to meet with nationals of the host country, often over a dinner or luncheon. The AGA has played host to a large number of visitors from Germany, occupying positions of responsibility and influence in areas of government, industry, commerce, banking, trade unions and culture.

For more information, please visit www.aga.org.au.

The AGA-SAGSE Alumni Network will be launched shortly and will be open to all past SAGSE scholarship and AGA fellowship winners. The network will engage the group in German business and culture in Australia, with the view to establish the organisation as a strong pillar of the Australian-German business and cultural community.

Egon also recognised the support of the Australian German Association (AGA) as a new sponsor of a scholarship in 2013. For 20 years, the AGA has been awarding its own annual fellowship, the winners of which are invariably successful individuals in business, politics or the arts. The support of AGA therefore marks the beginning of a new opportunity - to establish a business and cultural network of alumni from both AGA and SAGSE.

Following the speeches, the very talented soprano Anna Voshege performed *Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit*, the national anthem of Germany, and *Advance Australia Fair*. To their delight, attendees were also treated to several pieces from Anna's operatic repertoire. Anna, who was named 2013 Opera Scholar of the Year by Opera Scholars Australia, captivated us with her performance – most certainly among the highlights of the evening.



SCHOOL MEMBERS 2013

Billanook College – Box Hill High – Carey Baptist Grammar School – CLC Catholic Ladies College – Deutsche Schule Melbourne – Dimboola Memorial SC College – Korowa Anglican Girls' School – The MacRobertson Girls' High School – Melbourne Grammar School – Mentone Girls' Grammar School – Oberon High School – Presbyterian Ladies' College – Scotch College – Star of the Sea College – Trinity Grammar School – Viewbank College - Westbourne Grammar School

UPCOMING EVENTS



MARCH 2014
SAGSE Debriefing (Returned
Scholarship Recipients)

MAY 2014
Annual General Meeting

JUNE 2014
Welcome Reception for
German Scholarship
Recipients

10 OCTOBER 2014
47th Annual Banquet &
Scholarship Presentation

Such took us to the important presentation of the scholarships. The nervous albeit excited students each took to the stage with their sponsors and teachers to collect their scholarship certificates. Presented by the Head of the Mission, Josef Reichardt, Egon Vetter and the Honorary Consul-General, Michael Pearce SC, each student enjoyed a big round of applause as were congratulated on their achievement.

As the tradition goes, the drawing of the highly anticipated annual raffle then followed. Raffle ticket holders waited eagerly for Banquet Master of Ceremonies Ben Wong to announce the lucky winners. Among the many generously donated by our sponsors, the evening's major prize was again one week on a catamaran boat in the Whitsundays, proudly sponsored by Mark and Jenny Fisher.

Concluding the evening was a performance by live band Moondance and the opportunity for attendees to dance into the evening. From the Jackson 5 to ABBA, the band played old and new songs alike. With a little something for everybody, this ensured most could not escape from the ballroom parquetry!

The 46th Annual SAGSE and Banquet Scholarship Presentation Evening was again, an excellent way to welcome our young scholarship winners and wish them bon voyage or more appropriately, *gute reise* for their travels ahead.

SAGSE would like again to thank its sponsors for their ongoing support and commitment over the years. SAGSE would also like to extend a special thanks to Egon and Angelika Vetter, and to Banquet coordinator Emily Cox for their tireless commitment to the event. We hope to see you again in the coming year for the 47th Annual Banquet and Scholarship Presentation!



Want to get in touch?

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The SAGSE Committee would like to wish all our members and friends a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

