

# THE AUSTRALIA SOCIETY TOKYO



australiasocietytokyo.com

May 2007 – Volume 18



Mark your calendar for these upcoming events & check the web for updates.

## **Annual BBQ**

Saturday, May 19th. 6 – 10 pm  
Australian Embassy Gardens  
7000 yen. 9000 yen for non-members  
Enquires to Cathy Edwards [bbq@australiasocietytokyo.com](mailto:bbq@australiasocietytokyo.com)  
*Casual barbecue dining in the Embassy gardens. All you can eat and drink; live music; door prizes. Adults only, please. Advance payment required; details on our website.*

## **Coffee Morning**

Thursday, June 7th. 10 - noon  
Oakwood Residence Roppongi T-cube. Level 22, 3-1-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku  
*Free for members; 2000 yen for non-members.*  
Enquires and RSVP to Anna Cock-Gibson [annacock@hotmail.com](mailto:annacock@hotmail.com)  
*Enjoy coffee and conversation with Society members. Held monthly on the first Thursday.*

## **Autumn Sausage Sizzle**

Sunday, September 8th. 1 – 4 pm  
Australian Embassy Gardens  
Please check the website for details.  
*Last BBQ of the year? Maybe not, but it's a fun time for the whole family.*

## **Early Membership Contest Winner – BBQ Tickets**

Congratulations to **Jamie McDonald** for winning 2 free tickets to the Annual BBQ to be held on May 19th. Jamie was in the drawer with all other members who renewed their membership early this year.



**I congratulate and thank the Committee members and all the volunteers who have contributed. The Society continues to be in excellent health as a direct result of your efforts.**

*Robert Quinlivan*

## **President's Report Year Ended March 31, 2007**

[Ed. note: This report was presented at the 2007 AGM on April 25]

I have much pleasure in presenting a summary of the Society's activities for the past year.

### ***Committee***

In declaring the year a resounding success, I congratulate and thank the Committee members and all the volunteers who have contributed. The Society continues to be in excellent health as a direct result of your efforts.

2006-7 Committee members: Tom Carrick, Alison Quinlivan, Anna Cock-Gibson, Robert Quinlivan, Andrew Dunlop, Kate Rudolph, Cathy Edwards, Craig Saphin, Michael Marlay, Tony Scimonello, Robert Marshall, David Taylor, Tiffany Maughan (relocated during year), Judy Taylor-Boland, Tracey Northcott, Donna Velliaris (relocated during year).

### ***Australian Embassy***

We have continued to enjoy an excellent relationship with the Ambassador and the Australian Embassy staff. Special thanks to our patron, Ambassador Murray McLean, our Embassy representative, Damien Dunn, and all the staff at the Embassy who have helped throughout the year.

### ***Key events during 2006***

#### **Easter Sausage Sizzle**

Another good turnout of about 150 people attended the Easter party in the Embassy's Recreation room and with a trip out to the garden for the games and Easter egg hunt. The now traditional event included a feast of sausages, cold drinks and visit from the Easter Bunny. *Coordinator: Alison Quinlivan*

#### **2006 AGM**

Our AGM last year was held at Oakwood TCube and after a brief delay while a quorum was established completed the business of the meeting. The meeting itself was followed by snacks and drinks as the crowd enjoyed the pleasant surroundings and good company. We are delighted that Oakwood have again provided us with this magnificent venue for tonight's event. *Coordinator: Robert Marshall*

#### **Wine tasting**

A wine tasting was held at the Embassy with catering provided by Marcus Yip of Hiroo 148 and wines provided by Hardies.

#### **2006-7 Officers and Committee**

President:  
Robert Quinlivan

Vice President:  
Michael Marley

Treasurer:  
Cathy Edwards

Secretary:  
Judy Taylor

Membership:  
Anna Cock

Webmaster:  
Kate Rudolph

Editors:  
Craig Saphin  
David Taylor

Committee:  
Tom Carrick,  
Andrew Dunlop,  
Robert Marshall,  
Tracey Northcott,  
Tony Scimonello  
Alison Quinlivan

## **BBQ**

Despite a damp night, the assembled crowd enjoyed all the elements of a classic Aussie BBQ. We enjoyed sumptuous BBQ food, plenty of drinks and listened to the music provided by the Hitmen. *Coordinators: Tracey Northcott and Robert Quinlivan*

## **Autumn Sausage Sizzle**

A big crowd of nearly 200 turned out for the sausage sizzle on a warm September day. The crowd enjoyed some tasty sausages and plenty of cold drinks while Spiderman entertained the kids. *Coordinator: Alison Quinlivan*

## **Footy Grand Finals**

Thanks to the Australian Embassy Social Club for inviting us to watch the Australian Rules and Rugby League grand finals at the Bunker Bar. We had good attendance at both events enjoying the perfect combination of cold drinks, hot pies and footy. *Coordinators: Robert Marshall and Michael Marlay*

## **Melbourne Cup**

A record crowd of 180 joined this year's Melbourne Cup luncheon at the Grand Hyatt to witness Japanese horses finish first and second. Thanks to Bruce Symons for running the book and organizing the Calcutta. Bruce has returned to Australia but is contemplating a return for the 2007 event. *Coordinator: Tiffany Maughan*

## **Christmas Party – Adult's**

Thanks to Oakwood for hosting the adults Christmas party at Oakwood TCube. The crowd enjoyed delicious ham, roast turkey and all the trimmings (with a special mention for the tasty fruit mince pies) prepared by the American Club. *Coordinator: Robert Marshall and Michael Marlay*

## **Christmas Party – Children's**

The Children's party was held at the Bunker Bar and the kids (and parents) enjoyed games, a visit from Santa and some tasty snacks. *Coordinator: Alison Quinlivan*

## **Qantas Australia Day Gala Charity Ball**

As usual this function was sold out with the crowd of over 500 enjoying Australian performers Tripod and the Ricky Loca Band at the spectacular Grand Hyatt Ballroom. This year we raised a record sum for charity – JPY8 million which will be distributed to Saalaa and the Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre. *Co-chairs: Judy Taylor-Boland and Jasmin Kallas*

## **Ski Trip**

A keen band of skiers tackled the mountains in Yuzawa for the first Society ski trip in many years. Judging by the feedback this will be a popular event next winter. *Coordinator: Andrew Dunlop*

## ***Other activities***

### **Eat & Meet**

Several Eat & Meet events were held and visited places like Beacon, Bitsy's Wine Bar and Rainbow Roll Sushi. *Coordinator: Michael Marlay*

### **Coffee Mornings**

Regular coffee mornings have been a great way for several new members to be introduced to the Society and for regulars to get together. *Coordinator: Anna Cock-Gibson*

**Pub nights**

We've organized a few pub nights though attendance has been variable.

**Newsletter**

The newsletter has gotten better and better - it was produced monthly and contained some terrific reading. *Editors: Craig Saphin and David Taylor.*

**Website**

Our website continues to set the standard for design, ease of use and good content. *Webmaster: Kate Rudolph*

**Membership**

Membership is in a healthy position with renewals occurring timely and plenty of new signups. The two year membership has been very popular. *Coordinator: Anna Cock-Gibson*

**Financials**

Our accounts are in excellent shape with better controls than ever. *Treasurer: Cathy Edwards*

**Outlook**

We have a number of events in planning, including the regulars and hopefully a few new events. We are constantly on the lookout for new events and we monitor our existing events to check that they are still relevant. Suggestions for new events and new volunteers are always welcome.

Thanks again to all those who have contributed to the success of the past year and we look forward to another good year ahead.

Cheers,

*Rob*

## 50 Families Enjoy an Easter Party in the Embassy Gardens

*Alison Quinlivan*



Easter Sunday saw a great family afternoon with over 50 families attending the Easter Party at the Australian Embassy. The Goannas Australian Rules football team ([www.tokyogoannas.com](http://www.tokyogoannas.com)) very generously offered their time to come and run a Footy coaching clinic for the children. It was fantastic to spend a sunny Sunday afternoon kicking the footy on real grass followed by a sausage sizzle and drinks with friends. There was even a handball competition for the adults with the prizes of 4th Media link ups provided by Nagakawa-san and the team at ASIST technology ([www.asist.co.jp](http://www.asist.co.jp)). Congratulations to Lorna Swinstead and Shane Rice who can now watch the AFL season via 4th media from the comfort of their own home.

The day continued in the festive spirit with delicious vanilla ice cream for all kindly donated by NEW ZEE.

**“the fluffy pink Easter Bunny.. led all the children on an Easter egg hunt”**

The final surprise of the day was a visit by the fluffy pink Easter Bunny who led all the children on an Easter egg hunt. They were able to collect the Easter eggs and some other lollies in the Easter baskets they made during the afternoon.

Kerry Raftis of Key Shots was on hand to capture the many great moments. These photos can be viewed at <http://keyshots.smugmug.com/gallery/2681689>

Thank you to everyone who helped with the set up and BBQing on the day. We hope to see you in September for the Family Sausage Sizzle.

Alison Quinlivan  
[www.asist.co.jp](http://www.asist.co.jp)



## 2007 Easter Party in the Embassy Gardens



Children flocked to the Easter bunny (Tracey Northcott, pictured off-duty at left) for an Easter egg hunt and fun playing in the Embassy gardens.

## Design Festa: Creative Arts Festival

May 26 & 27, 11 am – 7 pm. Tokyo Big Sight (Odaiba)  
1000 yen (kids under 12 free)

Interested in contemporary craft and offbeat art? You'll be overwhelmed (in a good way) by the explosive creativity of the 6000 Japanese and international artists exhibiting their work at Design Festa. Bands play indoors and out; there are fashion shows, short films, and performances scattered amongst 2600 booths offering clothing, jewelry and fine arts and cool crafts. You might even stop by my exhibit in Hall C, booth 202. There's lots to see and do, so plan to spend a whole day. But my tip: don't bring more money than you can afford to spend – trust me, you'll want to buy everything you see! -- *Kristen McQuillin*



## Super Chance – Now or Never

June 7, 7 pm. Australian Embassy  
hosted by ANZCCJ <http://www.anzccj.jp>

Save on taxes while saving for your future by taking advantage of a one-time offer from the Australian government. Before June 30th, you may transfer capital up to 1 million AUD per person into an Australian superannuation fund. John Marcarian of CST TaxAdvisors leads the programme to give you the details. Payment for the event must be made in advance; RSVP by June 1 to [manager@anzccj.jp](mailto:manager@anzccj.jp)

## Gareth Edwards 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Gala Dinner

June 8, 7 pm. Westin, Tokyo  
Featured charity Tyler Foundation [www.tylershineon.org](http://www.tylershineon.org)

Come and join An Audience with Gareth Edwards former Wales Captain and British Lions Player with Ian Robertson and hosted by Martin Bayfield former England and British Lions Player.

Rugby speaking dinners are always fun filled evenings with players' anecdotes and stories from their experiences playing in both professional and amateur games all over the world. With the rugby world cup in October there will be discussion about who is the strongest team and what the finals may have in store. Throughout the evening there will also be chances to win sports memorabilia and prizes through raffles as well as a silent auction from the worlds of sports, music and film. For full details please visit [http://www.tylershineon.org/index.php/events/gala\\_dinner](http://www.tylershineon.org/index.php/events/gala_dinner)



We'll fire up the grill and uncork the wine.  
We even have new tents!

Where the  
**BLOODY HELL**  
are you gonna be?

Annual Australia Society BBQ  
Saturday, May 19, 2007. 6 - 10 pm  
Australian Embassy Garden

7,000 yen. Non-members: 9,000 yen

For details on tickets, including online purchase, visit  
<http://www.australiasocietytokyo.com>

Enquiries to Cathy Edwards: 03-3440-4164 • [bbq@australiasocietytokyo.com](mailto:bbq@australiasocietytokyo.com)

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Rain or Shine:  
No parking. No kids.  
Tickets are non-refundable.  
All tickets must be paid in  
advance by credit card or  
bank transfer; cash is not  
accepted at the door.



*Enjoy making friends and greeting new arrivals to Tokyo.*

## Coffee Morning

1st Thursday of most months, 10 am - noon  
Oakwood Residence Roppongi T-Cube, level 22  
**FREE** to members!  
RSVP to Anna Cock Gibson  
[annacock@hotmail.com](mailto:annacock@hotmail.com)



Namboku line, Roppongi Itchome  
station. T-Cube is above the  
station. Enter on 1st floor and  
take elevator to level 22.





# Postcard from Adelaide

*Donna Velliaris*

G'Day All!



Well, returning to Adelaide was/continues to be a difficult reverse culture-shock experience. The best thing though, is having a specific purpose for my return and not hitting myself against a brick wall for making a terrible backwards mistake. I am thinking of this change as a new chapter to my book of life and not the final one. I am however, desperate to return to my previous internationally mobile cross-cultural lifestyle....hmmmm....Indeed, one day.

**“returning to Adelaide was to be a difficult reverse culture-shock experience.”**

So back in Adelaide I was accepted into a PhD (Education) at the University of Adelaide and I am the only Australian candidate. All my fellow colleagues are international students from Malaysia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Norway. There are only about eight (three in first year) in total. I was surprised by this, but at the same time it is really an interesting thing to be able to compare educational systems and views from varying locales around the globe. And I have the best principal supervisor in the world for Educational Sociology.

As a poor university student, I decided to apply for a tutoring position and was successful in getting a place in the post-graduate subject Culture, Education and Society. This is a teacher training program (combination of Graduate Diploma in Education, Bachelor of Teaching 4th Year, and Bachelor of Music Teaching 4th Year). I was interviewed by a panel of three lecturers in the School of Education and initially thought I would be given 1-2 tutorials per week, but soon discovered that I was allocated a whopping five tutes!

I also discovered that many of the Grad.Dip.Ed students this year are mature-age and older than me. Not only that, many are PhDs, Doctors, Masters qualified, Lawyers, Engineers, and Psychologists et al all wanting a teaching qualification. So I had to quickly learn all the readings for this subject (enormous pile!!) and dive into the role. I was anticipating mind-blowing questions and “attitude” but after three weeks, I am loving every minute. Everyone who knows thinks I am crazy for completing three Masters, but I have never felt so good for having the essential tools for the job.

Then, the main lecturer for this subject fell ill and last week I needed to take eight tutorials. And she

continues to be unwell so this week I have had to take ten tutorials and get ready for it..... my FIRST lecture!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Following the week after a truly amazing guest presenter – Professor Roger Thomas – was not my idea of funny. I delivered my very first lecture EVER to a crowd of 250 students. It was in the law school lecture theatre which is tiered with a stage.

I could not comprehend how I had managed to go from student to tutor to lecturer in one week. I did not sleep the four days before, from the time I learned I had to take over. The day before I decided to book the entire theatre for one hour to myself and rehearse. Yep, CLOSED THE DOORS, connected my Power Point up, put on my lapel microphone and tested the multi-media touch screen control system. I inserted a video clip into my presentation, turned off all the lights and absorbed the surround sound.

So this week I have presented ten tutorials (Indigenous Enculturation, Nationalism, Self-Identification, Humanistic Sociological Observation, Religion vs. Philosophy, Panopticon, Gender Normativity etc) and one lecture (Inclusive Teaching) and feel very brain dead. I think this is a bigger load than anyone in the School of Education and I feel a great sense of confusion and happiness. Why me?

**“I delivered my very first lecture EVER to a crowd of 250 students.”**



I am not particularly happy about being back in Adelaide, but I realize I need to take a few steps back before I can leap forward. And this really has been the experience I was craving for. I happened to be in the right place at the right time. I now know that I am more suited to Adult Education and deeper academic challenge. Drowning in a pool of knowledge is not a frightening thing, but rather fascinating. There is so much I know I don't know.... which is OK.

And teacher training is great. I feel I can make a difference in changing teachers' attitudes at the grass-roots level. My thesis is coming along nicely, but may need some proofreaders in the near future. Anyone??

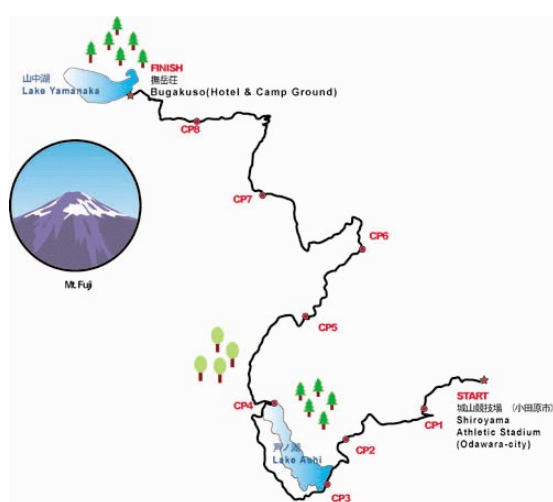
Carpe Diem!  
Donna

# 100 km on foot in 48 hours: Oxfam Sponsorship Walk

Leanne Stone

Many of you may have already heard about the upcoming Oxfam 100km walk. Australia Society Tokyo members Michelle Quin, Jodie Riley and Leanne Stone are part of a 4 person team (also including Kiwi Toni Sherlock) participating in this ultra-endurance event. Their team name is the Antipodean Avengers due to the fact that there are two Aussies & two Kiwis in the team. They have been training hard doing 6-7 hour walks together every weekend in preparation for the BIG walk. Many have called them CRAZY! They think of themselves as dedicated.

## Oxfam TRAILWALKER is the world's greatest team challenge!



And it's also one of the toughest. The challenge is to complete 100 kilometers of a demanding trail across the mountains near Mt Fuji in southern Japan in 48 hours as a team of four. The walk begins at 9am on Friday 18th May and the teams must finish the 100km course by 9am on Sunday 20th May.

Teams must start together, stick together and finish together. And it's not just physically demanding - Oxfam TRAILWALKER is also a fundraising challenge. Teams commit to raising at least 120,000 JPY (US\$1000) to help some of the world's poorest people. This is where the Antipodean Avengers really need your help!

## Help the Antipodean Avengers reach their target

If you would like to help the Antipodean Avengers reach their target please visit: <https://donate.oxfamamerica.org/02/trailwalker> to make a donation. When filling in the form please enter our

TEAM NAME: Antipodean Avengers

TEAM NUMBER: 102

It would be great if you could email Leanne Stone, [konstas\\_stone@hotmail.com](mailto:konstas_stone@hotmail.com) after you've made a donation so that we can add that amount to the team total.

A BIG thank you to all of you who have already sponsored the Antipodean Avengers!

*Michelle Quin, Jodie Riley, Toni Sherlock & Leanne Stone*

# Annual General Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 25, 2007, Oakwood Shinjuku

## Opening

The meeting was called to order at 20:04 by President Robert Quinlivan. Agenda was circulated and reviewed and the Oakwood was thanked for their hospitality.

## President's Report

Was circulated and reviewed by Robert

- Thank you to the Embassy and Ambassador for their ongoing support
- A lot of success during the year, Robert thanked all involved with both small and large events all successful, plus the website thanks to Kate Rudolph.
- Special thanks was given to Cathy Edwards for bring order to our accounts

## Financial Report

Was circulated and reviewed by Cathy

- Surplus slightly on the books thanks mainly to a big uptake on the two year memberships
- Wine tasting was a loss as was the BBQ due to the weather and date last year. Cathy noted that this year we are ok and tickets are now on sale
- Special mention was given to Alison Quinlivan for the kids events all at a profit
- Melbourne Cup was also profitable
- Cathy highlighted the need to pay for our insurance via the membership fees

## Election

Committee members were nominated and the following elected to the committee for 2007-2008:

1. Anna Cock
2. Andrew Dunlop
3. Alison Quinlivan
4. Craig Saphin
5. David Taylor
6. Kristen McQuillin (new)
7. Jodie Riley (new)
8. Judy Taylor
9. Keren Miers (new)
10. Rob M. (special position as signatory)
11. Tony Scimonello
12. Tracey Northcott

Robert Quinlivan was reelected as President for another term given his outstanding efforts last year. Michael Marley was reelected Vice-President; Cathy Edwards was unquestionably Treasurer again and Judy Taylor to be confirmed as Secretary as she was absent. A suitable candidate will be approached to serve as Auditor. Kate Rudolph stepped down and was given special thanks for her outstanding efforts with the web site. Tom Carrick also stepped down.

## Next Meeting

May 14<sup>th</sup> is our next meeting and all committee members were asked to make themselves available.

*Meeting was closed at 20:21.*

# Our Sponsors

The Australia Society Tokyo relies on the support of its members and sponsors to run successful events. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our sponsors:

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