



Australian
Political
Exchange
Council



ANNUAL REPORT

2004-2005

ANNUAL REPORT

2004-2005



© Commonwealth of Australia 2006

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from the Commonwealth. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Commonwealth Copyright Administration, Attorney-General's Department, Robert Garran Offices, National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 or posted at <http://www.ag.gov.au/cca>

Printed by Pirion



The Hon John Howard MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Leader of the Liberal Party of Australia

The Hon Kim Beazley MP
Leader of the Opposition
Leader of the Australian Labor Party

The Hon Mark Vaile MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Leader of The Nationals

In accordance with the terms of reference of the Australian Political Exchange Council, I have pleasure in submitting the report of the Council for 2004–2005. The report will be presented to Parliament by the Special Minister of State.



Margaret Guilfoyle
Chairman

3 February 2006

Contents

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE	1
INTRODUCING THE COUNCIL	3
MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL	4
THE COUNCIL'S PURPOSE	6
Outgoing Australian Delegations	6
Incoming Delegations to Australia	7
OUTGOING AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS	8
Twenty-first Delegation to the United States of America	9
Sixth Delegation to Papua New Guinea	15
Third Delegation to New Zealand	21
Thirteenth Delegation to Japan	28
Twenty-second Delegation to the United States of America	33
Ninth Delegation to Vietnam	39
INCOMING DELEGATIONS TO AUSTRALIA	46
Twenty-first Delegation from the United States of America	47
Seventh Delegation from Papua New Guinea	53
Ninth Delegation from Vietnam	56
OTHER ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY THE COUNCIL	61
Individual Study Tours to the United Kingdom	61
Individual Study Tour to the United States of America	74
REPORTING ON COUNCIL ACTIVITIES	77
CHRONOLOGY FOR 2004–2005	78
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	79
APPENDICES	
Appendix A – Prominent Former Delegates	80
Appendix B – Financial Statements	95
Appendix C – Administrative Overview	97
Appendix D – Contact Information	98



The Hon Dame Margaret Guilfoyle AC DBE, Chairman of the Australian Political Exchange Council with Mr Nong Quoc Tuan, Delegation Leader of the ninth delegation from Vietnam



HE Colin Heseltine, Australian Ambassador to South Korea, the Hon Alan Cadman MP, Council Member, Mr Kim Jae Joon, President of the National Strategy Institute, Mr Gary Gray, Council Member, and Mr Kang Kyong Shik, Chairman of the National Strategy Institute, during the visit to establish an exchange program with South Korea

Chairman's Message

During 2004-2005, the Council was in its twenty-fourth year of operation and continued to experience a growth in its exchange program activities. A highlight of the year was the negotiation of a new reciprocal exchange arrangement with the Republic of Korea, which is aimed at fostering closer political ties with the East Asian nation.

Australia and South Korea have long had close economic and political links and share a strong commitment to parliamentary democracy and a deep interest in promoting peace and prosperity in the Asia Pacific region. The annual exchange program will build personal links, which will strengthen the broader relationship in the years ahead and ensure that Australia and South Korea continue to work together fruitfully.

In addition to sponsoring six outgoing delegations of young Australian political leaders and four individual study tours, the Council was delighted to host three incoming delegations from the United States of America, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam.

The exchange programs and study tours continue to provide significant learning and developmental opportunities for delegates and participants by understanding the political systems and cultures of other countries.

The Council wishes to acknowledge the generous support of Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, the former Special Minister of State, who had portfolio responsibility for the political exchange program during the year of review.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Council for their continuing dedication and commitment to the Council's objectives. I also wish to express my deep appreciation for the contribution of Ms Sam Hudson whose term as the representative of the Australian Democrats ceased at the end of June 2005. The Council is grateful for the support of Ms Hudson during her fifteen years with the Council.

I would also like to extend my warmest appreciation to the Patrons of the Council – the Presiding Officers of the Parliament, the Principals of the Council – the leaders of the Parliamentary parties, representatives of the diplomatic corps, members of the federal and state parliaments, party officials and businesses who have all made such a significant contribution to our exchange programs throughout the year. It is also through the enthusiasm and generous assistance of our former delegates that the Council is able to provide quality programs and experiences for delegations visiting Australia.

I wish to record my appreciation for the dedication and professionalism of the staff of the Council Secretariat and the outgoing Secretary to the Council, Mr John Edge. In his place, I would like to welcome Mrs Kim Baker as the new Secretary to the Council.

Finally, I look forward to building on the Council's continued success and celebrating the Council's 25th anniversary in 2006.



Margaret Guilfoyle AC DBE

3 February 2006



The seventh delegation from Papua New Guinea at lunch in Parliament House, Canberra, with Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, Special Minister of State, Senator for Tasmania; Mr Bob Sercombe MP, Member for Maribyrnong; Mr Michael Johnson MP, Member for Ryan; Mr Paul Neville MP, Council Member, Member for Hinkler; and Mrs Louise Markus MP, Member for Greenway



Introducing the Council

In December 1981, a program for political exchanges was established by the then Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser AC CH, with the support of the leaders of the major Parliamentary political parties, to arrange visits of young political leaders between Australia and other countries. An Interim Committee was established with the leaders of the four federal parliamentary parties as its Principals.

The program had its genesis the previous year when the Hon Sir Robert Cotton KCMG, then Australian Consul-General in New York, and Mr Tony Eggleton CVO, then Federal Director of the Liberal Party, discussed the concept of an Australian young political leaders exchange program with the American Council of Young Political Leaders.

The program of exchange visits was modelled on the system of exchanges between the United States of America and other countries, which was established in 1966 under the management of the American Council of Young Political Leaders.

With the agreement of the Principals, the Interim Committee became the Australian Political Exchange Committee in August 1983 and subsequently the Australian Political Exchange Council in September 1991.

The Council now has exchange programs with the People's Republic of China, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. It also sponsors delegates' participation in a range of overseas individual study tours and international forums.

The activities of the Council are funded through an annual appropriation to the Commonwealth Department of Finance and Administration and from donations in-kind from organisations and individuals. The Special Minister of State has responsibility for the program.

Membership of the Council

During the year in review, the Council comprised a Chairman and six Members nominated by the Principals of the Council. The Principals of the Council were the Parliamentary Leaders of the four major political parties – the Hon John Howard MP, Prime Minister and Leader of the Liberal Party of Australia; the Hon Kim Beazley MP, Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Australian Labor Party; the Hon John Anderson MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of The Nationals; and Senator Lyn Allison, Leader of the Australian Democrats.

The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition each nominate two Council Members and the Leaders of The Nationals and the Australian Democrats each nominate one Member. The Prime Minister also nominates an independent Chairman.

Following the outcome of the 2004 Federal Election, the composition of the Council was reconstituted from 1 July 2005 with representatives of the three major parties - the Liberal Party of Australia, the Australian Labor Party and The Nationals - forming the Council. As the Australian Democrats ceased to have minor parliamentary party status from 1 July 2005, they ceased to be represented on the Council.

Council membership during 2004-2005 was as follows:

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL



The Hon Dame Margaret Guilfoyle AC DBE

Dame Margaret was appointed Chairman in August 1996.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (in order of appointment)



The Hon Alan Cadman MP, Federal Member for Mitchell

Mr Cadman represents the Prime Minister and was appointed in December 1981.



Mr Gary Gray, Former National Secretary of the Australian Labor Party; Principal Strategic Adviser, Woodside Energy Ltd

Mr Gray represents the Leader of the Opposition and was appointed in June 1993.



Mr Paul Neville MP, Federal Member for Hinkler, The Nationals Whip

Mr Neville represents the Leader of The Nationals and was appointed in November 1998.



Mr Brian Loughnane, Federal Director of the Liberal Party of Australia

Mr Loughnane represents the Prime Minister and was appointed in February 2003.



Mr Tim Gartrell, National Secretary of the Australian Labor Party

Mr Gartrell represents the Leader of the Opposition and was appointed in November 2003.

OUTGOING MEMBER



Ms Sam Hudson

Ms Sam Hudson was a member of the Australian Political Exchange Council from June 1990 to June 2005, representing the Australian Democrats. Ms Hudson is a former National Secretary of the Australian Democrats, and is the Executive Director of Australian Associated Brewers.

The Council's Purpose

The Council's purpose is to provide opportunities for young Australians involved in politics to study the political systems of other countries as well as offering a unique insight into the Australian political system to young people from participating exchange countries.

The Terms of Reference governing the Council's operations, and endorsed by the Principals of the Council seek to:

1. arrange *regular exchange visits* for either individuals or groups of young people, drawn from the parties of the Principals, with the potential to make a significant contribution to political life, between Australia and other countries;
2. provide learning experiences through *study tours* of Australia for young political leaders from countries important for trade or strategic reasons;
3. arrange related activities which provide *developmental opportunities* for the rising generation of Australian and other political leaders; and
4. arrange for *regular reporting* on the Council's activities to Parliament, the Principals and sponsors.

OUTGOING AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS

Each year the Council considers delegate nominations put forward by the Federal Directors/National Secretaries of the parties of the Principals. Nominees are young Australians considered by their respective parties to have the potential to make a significant contribution to political life.

To maximise developmental opportunities, delegations comprise a representative, broadly based group of young Australian political leaders. Delegates are selected from a range of political backgrounds including:

- members of federal and state parliaments;
- party organisations, both professional and voluntary;
- industry organisations;
- trade unions;
- members of ministerial and electorate staffs; and
- local government representatives.

Delegates are required to be party members, Australian citizens and between the ages of 25 and 46 (with the exception of the United States exchange where the age limit is 40).

All delegates are expected to continue their involvement in Council activities after their study tours by participating in, or assisting with organising programs for incoming delegations, and by promoting the program among colleagues and in the broader community. Indeed, former delegate participation during incoming exchanges provides a depth and degree of warmth that is invaluable to the success of the programs.

INCOMING DELEGATIONS TO AUSTRALIA

The Council operates on a system of political exchange study tours, and receives delegations from its exchange partners. The Council's aim for visiting delegations is to provide an understanding of Australia and our political system. Each itinerary is developed individually and provides the following three components:

- an overview of the Australian political system incorporating Federal, State/Territory and Local government;
- networking through meeting high-profile Australian political and business leaders, as well as former delegates of the Council's programs; and
- an insight into Australian culture through community and cultural activities.



The twenty-first delegation from the United States in Parliament House, Canberra, with the Hon John Howard MP, Prime Minister of Australia

OUTGOING AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS

At 30 June 2005, the Australian Political Exchange Council had sponsored 590 young Australians' participation in 85 overseas study tour groups. Council alumni include many who are now in prominent political positions, including members of Federal and State Parliaments, and leaders in political and government organisations, trade unions and corporate Australia. A list is available at Appendix A.

In 2004-2005, the Council sponsored 37 young Australian political leaders on overseas delegations to the United States of America, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Japan and Vietnam.

Delegation Reports for the following visits are available on the Council's website.

Outgoing Delegations for 2004-2005

17 to 30 July 2004	Twenty-first Australian Delegation to the United States of America
12 to 19 November 2004	Sixth Australian Delegation to Papua New Guinea
23 February to 4 March 2005	Third Australian Delegation to New Zealand
27 February to 5 March 2005	Thirteenth Australian Delegation to Japan
2 to 15 April 2005	Twenty-second Australian Delegation to the United States of America
14 to 22 April 2005	Ninth Australian Delegation to Vietnam



Twenty-first Australian Delegation to the United States of America

17 to 30 JULY 2004

DELEGATES

- ▶ **Mr Ron Wilson** (Liberal Party of Australia), *Delegation Leader*, Chief of Staff to the Victorian Leader of the Opposition
- ▶ **Ms Catherine Fitzpatrick** (Liberal Party of Australia), Media Adviser to the Federal Minister for Defence and Leader of the Government in the Senate
- ▶ **Ms Rachel Howard** (Liberal Party of Australia), Public Affairs Officer, Association of Independent Schools of Victoria
- ▶ **Mr Graham West MLA** (Australian Labor Party), Member for Campbelltown in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer and Minister for State Development
- ▶ **Mr Simon Finn MLA** (Australian Labor Party), Member for Yerrongpilly in the Queensland Legislative Assembly
- ▶ **Ms Adele Young** (Australian Labor Party), Deputy Chief of Staff and Principal Political Adviser to the Chief Minister for the Northern Territory
- ▶ **Mr Darren Chester** (The Nationals), Executive Officer, Champions of the Bush
- ▶ **Ms Daele Healy** (Australian Democrats), Senior Media Adviser to the Deputy Leader of the Australian Democrats
- ▶ **Mr John Edge**, Secretary, Australian Political Exchange Council

The delegation's visit to the United States commenced in Washington DC, followed by a visit to Salt Lake City in Utah, before returning to the east coast and, specifically, to Boston in Massachusetts. The thirteen-day itinerary was well organised and gave the delegation a valuable insight into the American political system.

Following are excerpts of the delegation report commenting on particular aspects of the program. The complete report is available on the Council's website.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The arrival of the delegation in the United States only days following the passage of the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA) through the United States Senate, provided an exciting backdrop to the Washington segment of the exchange. Following the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), linking Canada, the United States and Mexico in 1987, the AUSFTA is only the fourth Free Trade Agreement in America's history. The significance of such an Agreement was palpable during the visit and gave rise to an understandable degree of animation with those whom the delegation met, particularly in Washington DC.

The overwhelming support for the AUSFTA, particularly within the Congress, was a testament to the close political, social and economic ties between the two countries. During the course of our discussions, there was considerable interest from Americans, at a political and bureaucratic level, regarding passage of the Agreement through the Australian Parliament. The opportunity to meet with senior United States Trade Department officials at the White House Executive Building was of significant advantage and the delegation was pleased to receive a briefing at such a senior level. The delegation wishes to place on record that, on a number of occasions, American officials made specific mention of the outstanding work of the staff of the Australian Embassy in Washington DC to the successful conclusion of the free trade negotiations.

The impact of the AUSFTA on Australia-United States relations and trade will be of interest to members of the delegation into the future.



The twenty-first Australian delegation to the United States with Boston City Councillors during a visit to Boston City Hall

SECURITY

The delegation was very interested to have a briefing at the new United States Department of Homeland Security. This department was created in March 2003, with the coming together of 180,000 personnel from 22 organisations with one objective – to make America more secure. The Department of Homeland Security is a significant part of the Administration’s response to 9/11. The delegation was pleased to have discussions regarding the Patriotic Act, border control and other matters associated with the defence and security of the United States. During discussions, members of the delegation raised concerns regarding the visa process between Australia and the United States and their comments were openly and warmly received by Department of Homeland Security officials.

EDUCATION

The delegation’s meeting with a senior officer of the United States Department of Education was enlightening in terms of assessing the American approach to issues such as providing a structure for national benchmarking and accountability, and also to gain an understanding of the similarities and differences between our two countries in finding solutions to these challenges in a federal system of government.

The United States Department of Education has a budget exceeding US\$54 billion with 4,800 employees, with a stated mission to “establish policies on federal financial aid for education, distributing and monitoring those funds; collecting data on America’s schools and disseminating that research; focusing national attention on the educational issues it prioritises; prohibiting discrimination; and ensuring equal access to education.”

The National Assessments Governing Board determines the mandate for the National Assessment of Educational Progress and provides for the continuous and detailed analysis of the achievements of American students across an array of subject areas. Not limited to the vital and primary areas of literacy and numeracy, this program covers fields such as history, science, geography and the arts. Studies undertaken provide vital information for policy makers at both the state and federal level to track the achievements and progress of the nation’s students, allowing them to be responsive to the needs of students as dependent on a range of important factors.

Building on this comprehensive system of benchmarking and monitoring of student progress, is the Bush Administration’s program, ‘No Child Left Behind’. This federal program seeks to ensure that every high school student graduates and is ready for the workplace, or, if they so choose, college.

Harvard University

The delegation’s visit to the 368-year-old Harvard University was a highlight of the itinerary. Members of the delegation were very interested in the discussion concerning funding formulas and challenges for universities and the university’s relationship with the local Boston community. The difficult issue of an expanding university in a city environment raised similar planning and environmental concerns that are experienced by universities throughout Australia. The discussion regarding the changing composition of Harvard students provided information and an insight of Harvard, which was not previously known by most members of the delegation.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The delegation was delighted to have the brief opportunity to inspect what has been described as America's largest and most ambitious public works projects in history. The Central Artery/Tunnel Project, better known as the 'Big Dig' will replace the six-lane elevated highway in downtown Boston with an eight to ten lane underground expressway. In addition the highway will be extended and a fourteen lane, two bridge crossing constructed. The sheer magnitude of the excavation and construction works the delegation were able to view, was of a scale unlike anything seen in Australia.

Delegates were also fortunate to visit a number of the venues of the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Olympics. Members of the delegation were most impressed with the sporting facilities constructed or redeveloped for the Olympics and noted the ongoing value of the facilities for recreation and the resultant boost to tourism. The delegation noted the similarities between the success of the Salt Lake City Games to the success of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and, hopefully, the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

HEALTH AND SCIENCE RESEARCH AND SERVICES

Stem Cell Research

The delegation was privileged to hold discussions at Harvard University regarding the very contemporary and contentious issue of stem cell research. The possibilities for cell-based therapies for the treatment of disease along with the practical, scientific and ethical implications of such use were thoroughly canvassed. The delegation was interested to hear about the proposed legislative responses in the United States and noted that while the philosophical, theological and scientific issues were similar in both countries, Australia's legislative response was, for the time being at least, concluded by the passage of the Commonwealth's *Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002*, the *Prohibition of Human Cloning Act 2002*, and complementary legislation in the states and territories.

It was with great interest that the delegation observed that the issue of stem cell research was raised at the Democratic Party's convention in Boston by Ronald Reagan Jr., son of the former Republican President, Ronald Reagan. Reagan argued that theological opposition to the funding of embryonic-stem cell research constituted a cruel punishment to sufferers of illnesses who may benefit from stem cell therapies. The Bush Administration implemented restrictions on federal funding for stem cell research in 2001, limiting the number of stem cells able to be used for research. Democratic Candidate, Senator John Kerry, has been vocal in his support of less restricted funding and research suggesting that ethical questions should be resolved using goodwill and good sense.

Cancer Research

In Salt Lake City, the delegation was very interested to visit the Huntsman Cancer Research Centre. The delegation was pleased to learn of the significant advances in the study of human genetics being achieved by researchers at the Huntsman Centre and noted that the research was being conducted in a private hospital in tandem with medical and scientific researchers at the University of Utah. The delegation also noted the very generous private donations received by the Huntsman Centre, reflecting the strong philanthropic tradition in the United States.

POLITICAL OBSERVATIONS

Discussions with members of the National Congress, State legislatures and party operatives were key features of the delegation's itinerary. The fact that the delegation was visiting the United States during a presidential election year only served to heighten the interest in America's political system, personalities and elections.

Whilst in Washington DC, it was of great value to meet with Mr Scott Douglas, Political Director of the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC). Mr Douglas is charged with the responsibility of overseeing the election and re-election of Republican members of the House of Representatives. The delegation noted that in 2002, over 90 per cent of incumbent members (Republican and Democrat) of the House of Representatives were re-elected and both political parties anticipate a similar result in the 2004 elections.

Delegation members of all Australian political parties were interested in the discussions and briefings regarding campaign techniques and trends and no doubt much of the knowledge gained through these meetings will now filter into the practices of Australian parties.



The twenty-first Australian delegation to the United States at Washington DC

Several people with whom the delegation met expressed interest in key aspects of the Australian system including compulsory voting, the combined Executive and Legislature and the differences in policy responsibilities of federal and state governments. Some key aspects of the United States system of interest to the Australian delegation included the importance of ‘Get Out The Vote’ campaigning, donation and financial disclosure legislation and the role of the courts in law making.

The delegation was also privileged to meet with office bearers and professional political operatives of the Utah Republican and Democratic parties. The delegation noted the similarities between Australia and the United States in terms of the relationships, co-operation and tensions between state and national divisions of political parties.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION 2004

For most, if not all, members of the delegation, the highlight of the itinerary was the attendance at the 2004 Democratic Convention in Boston. The Convention was a uniquely American experience for the Australian delegation. Members of the delegation were impressed by the magnitude of the Convention and the level of interest in the proceedings – and not limited to those attending the Convention. Whilst delegation members mixed mainly in political circles, all were impressed by the interest shown by ‘ordinary Americans’ to the happenings in Boston – a phenomenon one would not expect to experience in Australia.

The delegates would like to record their appreciation to the members of the Utah Democratic Party who facilitated their entry to the Convention.

CONCLUSION

The delegation would particularly like to record its appreciation to the American Council of Young Political Leaders for its organisation of the political elements of the itinerary. While in the United States, the delegation visited the White House, Capitol Hill, the Utah and Massachusetts State legislatures as well as meeting with a number of United States senators and congressmen, state governors and legislators and numerous officials of the Republican and Democratic parties. Such opportunities were of immeasurable value to members of the delegation and will hopefully contribute to closer political understanding and ties between Australia and the United States.

The delegation applauds the goals and work of the Australian Political Exchange Council and its counterpart the American Council of Young Political Leaders. The exchange programs sponsored by these organisations give young political leaders in both countries invaluable experiences and insights and will do much to further close political, economic and social ties between Australia the United States.

Sixth Australian Delegation to Papua New Guinea

12 to 19 NOVEMBER 2004

DELEGATES

- ▶ **The Hon Wendy Lovell MLC** (Liberal Party of Australia), *Delegation Leader*, Member for North Eastern Province in the Victorian Legislative Council
- ▶ **Mr Nick Park** (Liberal Party of Australia), National President, Young Liberals; Client Adviser, Enhance Group
- ▶ **Mr Ashley Wells** (Australian Labor Party), Foreign Policy Adviser to the Federal Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Security
- ▶ **Mr Evan Langdon** (Australian Labor Party), Campaign Organising Assistant, ALP National Secretariat
- ▶ **Mr David Wilson**, Representative, Australian Political Exchange Council

The sixth delegation to Papua New Guinea visited Port Moresby and surrounds, as well as the town of Madang in the Madang Province on the north coast of Papua New Guinea. The delegation was accompanied by Ms Ware Guma of the Speaker's Office of the Papua New Guinea National Parliament, and at different times by Mr Jim Taylor and Ms Jo Woodbury from the Australian High Commission.

In Port Moresby, the delegation met with a wide cross-section of elected representatives at each tier of government, political staff, government officials, the Electoral Commission, youth leaders, the registrar of political parties, opposition members and officials, non-government organisations (NGOs), and the editor of the Papua New Guinea Post Courier.

There were also visits to the Bomana Police College for a briefing on the Papua New Guinea police training program and the forthcoming Australian Federal Police deployment under the Enhanced Co-operation Program.

Other activities included a visit to the Bomana War Cemetery (maintained by the Australian War Graves Commission) and the Botanic Gardens.

Whilst in Madang, the delegation met with officials at the Provincial and Local Level Government, as well as receiving warm traditional welcomes at the Waduwin Community School and Sumgilbar Local Level Government meeting hall. The delegation also had an informative meeting and field visit with staff from the Cocoa Coconut Research Institute.

Overall, the program gave the delegates wide exposure to a range of political, social, and economic issues facing Papua New Guinea.

The timing of the delegation's visit coincided with the Papua New Guinea National Budget session and also the implementation of the Enhanced Cooperation Program between Australia and Papua New Guinea. These two events made it an exciting and informative time for the delegation to visit Papua New Guinea.

The following includes excerpts of the delegation report commenting on particular aspects of the program. The complete report is available on the Council's website.

POLITICAL STRUCTURE

Since gaining independence on 16 September 1975, Papua New Guinea has operated as a constitutional monarchy, recognising the Queen of England as head of state. The Queen is represented by a Governor General who is elected by the Parliament, and Papua New Guinea has three levels of government – National, Provincial and Local.

The National Government is a 109-seat unicameral Parliament. The 109 members are elected from the 19 Provinces and the National Capital District of Port Moresby. The 109 seats in the Papua New Guinea National Parliament are made up of 89 single member electorates and 20 regional electorates, known as open electorates. The 20 open electorate members also serve as Governor of the province they represent.

Following an election, the Governor General appoints a Prime Minister; usually the Leader of the Party that has won the most seats, or a Leader who has formed a majority coalition. The Prime Minister then appoints cabinet members from the members of his party or coalition. There are 43 registered political parties in Papua New Guinea. Although a number of these parties are represented in the Parliament, no one party has ever won enough seats to govern in its own right. Therefore, to govern, a coalition of several parties needs to be formed.

Provincial Government has strong links with both the National Parliament and Local Level Government as the members consist of the National Parliament members elected within the province and the Presidents of each Local Level Government or Council.

Local Level Government assists with identifying needs and delivering programs in their local areas. The delegation visited the Sumgilbar Local Level Government and was told of the five-year plan in place for delivery of services in the Sumkar district. The delegation also viewed several projects: a Health Centre; a Women's Centre (under construction); and the Cocoa Coconut Extension Agency.

ENHANCED COOPERATION PROGRAM (ECP)

Although Australia currently contributes close to A\$300 million to Papua New Guinea as tied aid every year through AusAID, the nation's economy and social systems have further declined, placing the country closer to 'failed state' status.

As a result, an aid program designed to 'address the core economic and development challenges facing Papua New Guinea' has been implemented at a cost of around A\$1 billion over five years.

The Enhanced Cooperation Program will encompass policing, law and justice, economic management, public sector management and border and transport security – and will include:

- approximately 230 Australian police officers working with the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary;
- 36 economic and public administration specialists working in the central economic agencies; and
- up to 10 officials to work in border protection and transport security agencies (immigration, customs and civil aviation).

The most common consensus among high-level government representatives in Papua New Guinea that the delegation met with over the course of the trip, is that the Enhanced Cooperation Program represents a positive effort to reform and is a much needed realisation of the country's current difficulties.



The sixth Australian delegation to Papua New Guinea with the Governor, Provincial Administrator and officials of the Madang Government

LAW AND ORDER

The delegation was fortunate enough to meet with and hear first-hand from the Metropolitan Superintendent (National Capital District and Central Command) in Boroko, who outlined the challenges that exist for police officers to carry out their role as a law enforcement agency with any effectiveness. While the Enhanced Co-operation Program is viewed as a proactive and positive step for law enforcement, there is concern that the police service may revert to status quo (reactionary policing) post Enhanced Co-operation Program, unless the country's economic and fiscal management is adequately improved.

From an operational perspective, the issue of cultural awareness and understanding was identified as the biggest challenge that will face Australian law enforcement officers while working in Papua New Guinea.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The delegation's meeting with Sir Moi Avei MP, Minister for Petroleum and Energy, demonstrated Papua New Guinea's continued reliance on the further development of its natural resources, such as the Papua New Guinea Gas Project and proposed Ramu Nickel Mine in Madang Province.

Since the closure of the Bougainville Copper Mine, and the nearing closure of Ok Tedi, Papua New Guinea has not successfully brought any major resource projects to fruition, including the Papua New Guinea Gas Project.

This project now forms the centre of the nation's resource strategy and is being relied upon to deliver the revenue streams to the National Government needed to fund a return from economic depression.

The project, which will see gas piped from the southern highlands (Hides Gas Fields) of Papua New Guinea to Australia via the Torres Strait, has a potential life of around 30-40 years – representing a major economic opportunity for the nation.

To further encourage mining exploration in Papua New Guinea, tax concessions have been increased to provide greater incentives for the development of resources.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Papua New Guinea stands alone as Australia's single largest recipient of development assistance funding. Receiving an estimated total in 2004-05 of A\$435.6 million, a prosperous, stable and secure Papua New Guinea is a central priority for Australia.

Papua New Guinea faces a myriad of development challenges. Over 85 per cent of Papua New Guinea's people live in rural villages and hamlets and are still at least partially dependent on subsistence agriculture, a factor complicated by the country's rugged topography which has limited the available transport infrastructure.

Compounding this, Papua New Guinea is ranked 133rd of 173 countries in the 2002 UNDP Human Development Index. Per capita GDP was around US\$531 in 2002, and economic growth has largely been driven by mineral and petroleum exports (accounting for 60 per cent of overall exports and

around 20 per cent of government revenue). Subsistence farming accounts for the bulk of employment and economic activity.

During the delegation's consultations it became clear that development of existing infrastructure and the development of new infrastructure, such as access roads, paved arterial roads, water and power supply posed a high development priority.

EDUCATION

The provision of education to the Papua New Guinea population is another significant challenge facing the Papua New Guinea Government. Similarly to health issues, due to the large proportion of the Papua New Guinea population living in rural areas, the delivery of education services is a logistical challenge. According to AusAID, it is an area that has had significant improvement in recent times, but one with still a way to go.

The delegation met with the Secretary for Education and officials from the Papua New Guinea Education Department to discuss educational reform, challenges, services, Australian aid and literacy levels.

Delegates were also guests of Waduwin Community School in Madang Province and were able to see first-hand the difference between schooling in Australia and Papua New Guinea.



The sixth Australian delegation to Papua New Guinea at the Waduwin Community School in Madang Province

HEALTH (HIV/AIDS)

A large proportion of the Enhanced Cooperation Program targets at improving health outcomes for the people of Papua New Guinea, in particular the challenge of the HIV/AIDS issue in Papua New Guinea.

In a meeting with the delegation, the National Youth Commission of Papua New Guinea raised the issue of HIV/AIDS as a significant hurdle for the youth of Papua New Guinea to overcome. A serious claim made during this meeting was that if left unchecked, it could claim an entire generation of Papua New Guineans.

The Papua New Guinea Government, in conjunction with AusAID, has set out to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on the population of Papua New Guinea using a number of tools. These include education programs to try to change sexual behaviours, improving medical services and community support services throughout the country as well as monitoring the spread of the disease.

CONCLUSION

The delegation brought together a diverse group from both sides of politics and consisted of a Member of Parliament, a Parliamentary Adviser, a campaign strategist and an organisational leader. As each of them had different interests and perspectives, they were all able to benefit more broadly from the diverse discussions that took place in the meetings.

The exchange gave the delegation a chance to observe first-hand the challenges facing Papua New Guinea and the operation of the Papua New Guinea political system, as well as the opportunity to interact with Ministers, Members of Parliament, Bureaucrats, and Advisers at a senior political level. The delegation met with several very impressive members of the Papua New Guinea Parliament who all shared a vision for a brighter and stronger future for Papua New Guinea and who were able to convey the message that although Papua New Guinea faces many challenges it is not a country without hope.

Third Australian Delegation to New Zealand

23 FEBRUARY to 4 MARCH 2005

DELEGATES

- ▶ **Ms Catherine King MP** (Australian Labor Party), *Delegation Leader*, Federal Member for Ballarat; Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development
- ▶ **Mr Ari Margossian** (Australian Labor Party), Policy Research Officer to the New South Wales Minister for Health; President, Australian Young Labor
- ▶ **Mr Cameron Thompson MP** (Liberal Party of Australia), Federal Member for Blair
- ▶ **Ms Josephine Barfield** (Liberal Party of Australia), Chief of Staff to the Federal Member for Bowman
- ▶ **Mr Brendan Lyon** (Liberal Party of Australia), Office Manager to the Federal Member for Cook
- ▶ **Ms Sara Burnheim** (The Nationals), Secretary of the NSW Young Nationals; Solicitor, Egan Murphy Solicitors
- ▶ **Ms Janeen Bulsey** (Australian Democrats), Central Australian Representative, Australian Democrats Northern Territory; Field Operations Manager, Southern Barkly Aboriginal Corporation
- ▶ **Ms Jody Chapman**, Program Officer, Australian Political Exchange Council

The third Australian delegation to New Zealand was provided with an understanding of the importance of the relationship between our two countries and the many levels at which it operates. The delegation travelled throughout New Zealand, visiting major, political, cultural, tourism and economic centres such as Auckland, the Bay of Islands, Wellington and Christchurch.

The exchange visit, which was hosted by the Speaker of the New Zealand Parliament, provided delegates with an opportunity to discuss and observe first-hand the political, economic, social and cultural life of New Zealand, to develop relationships with their counterparts, and to understand the importance and depth of the trans-Tasman relationship.

Briefings and meetings were conducted with Members of Parliament and Ministers from the Labour Party; Members of Parliament from New Zealand First, United Futures and the National Party; and advisers of business, economic and financial organisations. The highlight of the visit to Parliament

was meetings with the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Helen Clark MP and Dr Don Brash MP, Leader of the New Zealand National Party. Delegates were also provided with the opportunity to discuss issues related to regional development and to experience New Zealand’s culture and history.

Following are excerpts of the delegation report commenting on particular aspects of the program. The complete report is available on the Council’s website.

THE NEW ZEALAND POLITICAL SYSTEM

New Zealand is a Parliamentary democracy in the Westminster tradition. It shares many similar aspects to the Australian political system, but it also differs in a number of ways, for example, while it is compulsory to enrol to vote, it is not compulsory to vote, and the New Zealand Parliament is unicameral, with the abolition of the Legislative Council in 1950. The most profound difference is the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) model used to elect the New Zealand Parliament and determine the government.

Mixed Member Proportional System (MMP)

The introduction of the MMP system in New Zealand was a result of public dissatisfaction with major parties during the 1980s and a subsequent breakdown of public support for the existing voting system. Prior to the MMP, the New Zealand voting system was very similar to Australia’s. Voters were divided into seats on a geographic basis. The party with the most seats formed the Government, though the method of election was first past the post, unlike Australia.



The third Australian delegation to New Zealand with the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Rt Hon Helen Clark MP, in her Parliamentary office in Wellington

The MMP system consists of two elements, the electorate seats and the Party List vote. The New Zealand Parliament comprises 120 seats. Six of the electorate seats are Maori seats. Basically, each eligible voter has two votes; an electorate vote (a choice of which candidate will represent the voter in their local electorate) and a Party vote (a vote for which Party they wish to be in government). Electorate seats are based on geography (as in Australia) and members are elected through first past the post.

The Party List vote is just that – a vote for a list of candidates put forward by each political party. The allocation of seats through the list is determined by the percentage of the party's total vote; for example if Labour won 50 per cent of the Party vote it would be entitled to 60 seats in the Parliament (50 per cent of the 120 seats). For a Party to gain seats through the List vote, they must secure five or more per cent of the total vote or gain at least one electorate seat. All parties that do not meet this threshold are excluded.

The allocation is then worked out using a formula called Sainte-Lague. Looking at it from Australia, the system in New Zealand would be similar to merging the House of Representatives and the Senate, with the Senate vote determining the government.

Minor Political Parties

Delegates had the opportunity to meet with a number of leaders of political parties. Minor parties play a significant role in New Zealand with the MMP system making it unlikely that any one party will be able to govern in its own right. The delegation was able to meet with the leaders of New Zealand First and United Future parties.

New Zealand First was formed in 1993 as a result of problems the now Leader, the Rt Hon Winston Peters MP, had with the Nationals, and a subsequent by-election where Mr Peters ran under the party New Zealand First. Mr Peters is the only elected member to Parliament with twelve list members also elected into Parliament under MMP.

The Hon Peter Dunne MP is the Leader of the United Future Party. Mr Dunne was a former Labour Member, however, decided to form his own party. Mr Dunne holds his own electorate seat and has eight list members in Parliament.

New Zealand Parliament

The Parliament elected in July 2002 is the forty-seventh Parliament. The New Zealand Parliament is made up of the Queen and the House of Representatives. The Queen through her representative, the Governor General, calls Parliament to meet, calls elections and gives Royal Assent to laws that have passed through the House of Representatives. Members of Parliament are elected for a three-year term.

The delegation had the opportunity to spend time with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Right Hon Jonathan Hunt MP ONZ, in the week of his retirement and to observe Question Time.

Delegates were particularly interested in Question Time and were amazed to be handed a copy of the questions to be asked. Twelve questions for Oral Answer are published each sitting day and time allotted for a number of supplementary questions.

In practice, while the Government Minister is alerted to the content or theme of a particular line of questioning, the detail of the question is followed through in supplementary questions. Supplementary questions are also able to be asked on Government's 'Dorothy Dixers', and for Opposition and minor parties to challenge the Government's claims.

Local Government in New Zealand

Unlike Australia, New Zealand does not have three levels of government, rather it operates with National Government and Local Government, although there are also Regional Councils that are elected and charged with responsibility for environmental issues, resource management and public transport across a number of local government areas. Local government includes city (urban) and district (rural) councils that provide a wide variety of services including libraries; sports and leisure facilities; museums and art galleries; and waste and building control. In four parts of New Zealand – Gisborne, Marlborough, Tasman and Nelson City, and in the Chatham Islands, there are unitary authorities which combine regional and local councils into one organisation. The delegation was fortunate to visit both a Regional Council (Auckland Regional Council) and a City Council (North Shore City Council).

THE NEW ZEALAND ECONOMY

During the delegation's visit, New Zealanders from all industry sectors and walks of life were keen to discuss the performance of the local economy, which features strong growth and the lowest unemployment rate in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The itinerary provided a diverse range of informed comments about the performance of the economy, its current trends and prospects for the future. The delegation heard about the subject from government, opposition and other party representatives at the most senior levels, the Reserve Bank, regional and local authorities, the Ombudsman, Maori and small business representatives, as well as from representatives of Lincoln University and the Australian High Commission.

The visit by the delegation came in the wake of meetings between the New Zealand Finance Minister, the Hon Dr Michael Cullen MP, and the Australian Treasurer, the Hon Peter Costello MP, aimed at directing progress from the Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement between Australia and New Zealand toward the establishment of a Single Economic Market based on common regulatory frameworks.

Science, Technology and Innovation

In 2002, the New Zealand government launched its Growth and Innovation Framework. It currently focuses on six key areas: strengthening the innovation system; developing skills and talents; increasing international connection; engaging with sectors; working with regions; assisting business development; and strengthening infrastructure. There are a broad range of programs and activities occurring across each of these areas, with biotechnology a key sector.

The delegation was fortunate to visit a number of businesses and agencies that are at the leading edge of innovation in New Zealand. This fact was highlighted when they visited Virionyx, a biotechnology research company, which is in the second phase of testing for treatments for AIDS and SARS.

Delegates also visited the main laboratory in Auckland of the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR). This facility is the primary facility for examination of forensic evidence and also the overseas food safety and contamination guidelines. The ESR also provides public health and environmental health examinations from algae blooms to disease transference.

In Wellington, the delegation was given the opportunity to see the extensive refurbishment of Parliament House as well as the earthquake proofing of the building, which many have described as ‘an engineering masterpiece’.

The delegation also visited the International Antarctic Centre in Christchurch, which is the base for many international expeditions to the Antarctic. It allowed delegates to experience the feeling of going on an expedition, without the six-month preparation and six-month relocation.

The Waste Water Treatment Plant and Parkhouse Road Recycling Depot were also visited by the delegation while they were in Christchurch. The tour of both places was comprehensive, interesting and informative, and would prove to be very beneficial for any Australian councils that would like to know more on the subject.

Regional Development

Delegates met with the Hon Dover Samuels MP, Associate Minister for Industry and Regional Development. Regional development is central to economic development in New Zealand and is the subject of a number of government initiatives.

Under the New Zealand Trade and Enterprise Regional Partnerships Program, 26 self-selected regions have established partnership steering groups made up of local government and economic development professionals. Economic development strategies have been developed for each region and the government supports the partnerships through funding for strategic planning, capability building, interregional capability building and Major Regional Initiatives. Business clusters are also an important element of regional development and are supported through a Cluster Development Fund which facilitates business clusters with significant growth potential. Major Regional Initiative funding is displayed in the country’s support for the development of a film industry cluster in Wellington.

New Zealand Trade and Industry

New Zealand is actively working to develop significant trade relationships with other countries, allocating NZ\$500 million in last year’s Budget specifically for this purpose, including progressing developments towards a single economic market with Australia and a Free Trade Agreement with China. New Zealand currently has a Free Trade Agreement with Australia and Singapore, and recently announced completion of negotiations with Thailand. New Zealand put forward a case to be part of the Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United States but was not successful.

The delegation had the opportunity to visit a number of New Zealand industries involved in both domestic supply and export.

Wineries

Wine making has become a profitable and growing export industry for New Zealand. Strong domestic wine sales complement and add value to the country's burgeoning tourism industry. New Zealand has ten main wine growing regions, representing a great diversity in climate and terrain.

Delegates visited the Soljans Estate Winery in Kumeu, which covers the range of wine industry activity, including cellar door, export and domestic sales. Owner, Tony Soljan, briefed the delegates on the success of the industry and the challenges it faces, including adapting to climate and the changing regulatory and tax environment.

Fisheries

The delegation had the opportunity to visit Sanford's Fish Market. Sanford's is one of the largest seafood companies in New Zealand with operations in other countries, including Australia. Sanford's have made a multi-million dollar investment in a Fish Market in Auckland, and it is similar in concept to the Fish Market in Darling Harbour in Sydney, and also contains a state of the art auction room.

Tourism

Delegates, as first time visitors to New Zealand, also managed to experience New Zealand from a tourist's perspective. The visit to the Bay of Islands, including the Hole in the Rock, Russel and Kauri Cliffs Lodge, exposed delegates to the diversity of the tourism product in New Zealand. Key tourism markets include Australia, Japan, North America and the United Kingdom.

Health

New Zealand's health system was briefly touched on when the delegation had lunch with the Minister for Health, the Hon Annette King MP, and her Senior Adviser, Mr Lloyd Falk.

New Zealand is in the middle of a five-year program to deliver better health outcomes to high need areas. Under the Primary care plan, not-for-profit providers have been established to reduce costs for primary health care.

THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL AND MAORI CULTURE

One of the highlights of the visit was the Maori welcome and a visit to the Waitangi National Trust Treaty Grounds. Delegates were given a detailed briefing on the history of the Treaty and its practical application. This, combined with a subsequent meeting with the Waitangi Tribunal, afforded delegates the opportunity to appreciate the significant impact the Treaty has had on every aspect of New Zealand law making. At the Treaty Grounds, delegates were given a traditional welcome and a tour of the site by Maori elders. The Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 and has defined the shape of New Zealand's democracy.

CONCLUSION

The Australian Political Exchange Program to New Zealand was a terrific opportunity to grow and develop the relationship between our two countries. Delegates gained an appreciation for the challenges and opportunities facing New Zealand and also made invaluable contacts. The access delegates were afforded to key decision makers within New Zealand was a privilege and gave delegates a sense of how seriously New Zealand treats the exchange relationship.



The third Australian delegation to New Zealand with members of the New Zealand Labour Party and former delegates to Australia, the Hon Chris Carter MP (Aust 2002), Mrs Stephanie Chadwick MP (Aust 2004), Ms Moana Mackey MP (Aust 2004), Ms Jenny Michie (Aust 2002) and Ms Sarah Clark (Aust 2000)

Thirteenth Australian Delegation to Japan

27 FEBRUARY to 5 MARCH 2005

DELEGATES

- **Ms Kate Ellis MP** (Australian Labor Party), *Delegation Leader*, Federal Member for Adelaide
- **Mr Andrew McNamara MLA** (Australian Labor Party), Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for Hervey Bay
- **Mr Steven Ciobo MP** (Liberal Party of Australia), Federal Member for Moncrieff
- **Mr Robert Clancy** (Liberal Party of Australia), Director of Communications & Media, Office of the Victorian Leader of the Opposition
- **Mr Luke Hartsuyker MP** (The Nationals), Federal Member for Cowper
- **Mrs Kim Baker**, Secretary, Australian Political Exchange Council

The Australian delegation's visit to Japan took in Tokyo, Nagoya and Kyoto, and was once again an outstanding program organised by the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE). Mr Tadashi Yamamoto, President and founder of JCIE, participated in many of the meetings in Tokyo and was extremely generous with his time and hospitality. The delegation gained a lot from the opportunity to meet with Mr Yamamoto, as he gave a useful background to the JCIE, his particular role, and the many and varied issues the delegation were likely to face during the week.

Briefings covered a wide range of political, economic, business, social, historical and cultural topics. Throughout the visit delegates were briefed at very senior levels by Members of the Diet, leaders of various parties, local government officials, academics, business leaders and government officials.

The following includes excerpts of the delegation report commenting on particular aspects of the program. The complete report is available on the Council's website.

The delegates received briefings on a wide range of issues which all proved to be interesting and insightful. The major themes encountered were: the war in Iraq – Japan and Australia's role; the potential of the Australia-Japan Free Trade Agreement; moves towards an East Asia community and where Australia fits; the Japanese Economy; the reform agenda of the Japanese Government, in particular the postal system; differing roles of public servants in Japan and Australia; and Australia-Japan co-operation on security in our region. Delegates also experienced traditional food and gained an appreciation of ancient culture in addition to the briefings and meetings that were held.

The delegation enjoyed a varied discussion with members of the New Komeito Party. The Party representatives stressed the importance that they placed on the economic ties between our two nations

and how they were looking forward to Prime Minister Howard's visit. There were also a number of other topics of discussion, such as environmental and social policies, credit and debit card fraud, and the role of the Self Defence Force.

The delegation had the good fortune to spend time discussing the Japanese economy with Mr Takashi Kiuchi. Mr Kiuchi is the Statutory Auditor of the Shinsei Trust and Banking Co Ltd, and is the former Economic Advisor of Shinsei Bank. He is also an occasional adviser to government committees of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Economics Planning Agency, Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications. The delegation all found great interest in Mr Kiuchi's insight and theories.

The first day ended with the delegation dining at the Australian Embassy with the Australian Ambassador, Mr Yamamoto, Members of the Japanese Diet, embassy staff and business leaders.

The delegation began day two by meeting with Mr Yasushi Misawa, Director of the Oceania Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a former First Secretary at the Japanese embassies in Indonesia and Germany. Mr Misawa's briefing covered various issues, such as the characteristics of the Australia-Japan Economic Relationship and how this relationship is changing with the globalisation of the world economy; efforts towards economic development and integration of the East Asia region; the influence of the East Asian integration on the Australia-Japan economic relationship; feasibility of an Australia-Japan Free Trade Agreement; political stability and security in the Asia-Oceania region and Australia-Japan co-operation in politics and security.



The thirteenth Australian delegation to Japan at the Chamber of the House of Councillors, at the National Diet of Japan in Tokyo

In particular, Mr Misawa highlighted trade relations between Japan and Australia, and Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He also stated that Australia's announcement regarding additional troops to Iraq demonstrates a broad relationship between Australia and Japan. Japan, the United States and Australia have a strong three-way strategic relationship.

He believes that in the Solomon Islands revitalising peace is an important co-operative effort between our two countries. More broadly he argues that we both have a very important role in the region and that non-proliferation efforts will be particularly important for both countries to concentrate its efforts on.

A traditional Japanese lunch was shared with Mr Kazuo Kodama, Deputy Director-General of the Economic Co-operation Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Kodama shared with the group his experiences and observations since joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1976. He has since served as Director of the Oceania Division, European Oceania Affairs Bureau, and of the International Press Division, and as Minister at the Japanese Embassies in the United States and India.

The delegation then met with Ms Yoriko Kawaguchi, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs, and former Minister for Foreign Affairs herself. She spoke of her past visit to Australia and enquired as to the different histories of travel in Japan that our delegates had.

Ms Kawaguchi stated that Japan is grateful for Australia's decision to send an additional 450 troops to Iraq to assist the Japanese Self Defence Force and that the Japanese place a very significant level of pride in the strength of the Japan-Australia relationship.

Nippon is the Japan Federation of Economic Organisations and the delegation was fortunate to meet with their Director of the International Economic Affairs Bureau, Mr Kanzukki Kinbara, who had been at the organisation since 1979. He shared a variety of views with the group, such as: Free Trade Agreements; structural reform of Japanese business; social security reform; growth in China and its impact on Japan; the ageing population; immigration; and the education system.

The delegation enjoyed a frank and valuable conversation with members of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), which covered a range of issues. Mr Yukio Hatoyama, Member of the House of Representatives and next Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs outlined to the delegation how his grandfather formed the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan (LDP) 50 years ago – he and his brothers were members, but quit to form the DPJ as a result of their dissatisfaction with the LDP.

Mr Hatoyama's party is opposed to Iraq involvement and while the United States alliance is important, the DPJ believes its focus should be in Asia. A frank discussion on Iraq occurred between members of the delegation and the DPJ representatives, which covered a very wide spectrum of views.

Day three of the program saw the delegation attend a meeting with Mr Koji Watanabe, the Executive Advisor to the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), and Senior Fellow at the JCIE. His briefing to the delegation was most interesting and very valuable. Some of the issues in the briefing included: the population decline and fertility rate in Japan; Japanese diplomacy; the role of the Self Defence Force; and managing Japan/United States/China/Russia relations.

The delegation then met with Mr Taro Kono, Deputy Secretary General of the LDP. Mr Kono was very generous with his time, and the delegates enjoyed his briefing as it was very frank and included an impromptu tour of the LDP Party headquarters.

Mr Koichi Hirata, the Parliamentary Secretary for Economy, Trade and Industry briefed the delegation on a number of different issues, such as: conducting business with China and the impact of the Chinese economy on the rest of Asia; the growth of trade with Australia; and his views on a Free Trade Agreement.

The program also included two roundtable working dinners organised by JCIE, which provided delegates with an excellent opportunity to discuss policy and politics in an open forum. The panel discussion on 2 March was extremely successful and well attended by a number of Diet members (including former delegates), including Mr Ichiro Aisawa and Mr Taro Kono. Panellists found the time to attend even though the reception was held during an important Budget sitting of the Diet.

Day four saw the delegation visit Marunouchi Junior High School in Nagoya City. The delegation met with both the Principal and Deputy Principal and enjoyed a conversation detailing the many different focuses of the school, including welfare lessons, environmental education, international understanding lessons and Japanese cultural lessons.

The delegation then had the opportunity to interact directly with the students by joining their English class and answering the questions of the Year 6 students, joining the students in their dance classes and sharing a traditional Japanese school lunch with the students and staff. The visit to the school was a great opportunity to get a first-hand look at the Japanese education system.



The thirteenth Australian delegation to Japan with Rika Tanaka, Deputy Speaker of the Nagoya City Council

The delegation sat in on a session of the Nagoya City Assembly before receiving a very detailed briefing on issues related to waste disposal in Nagoya. The city faced a serious crisis in 1999/2000 in dealing with the volume of waste, and it became a state of emergency. Their campaign of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' was able to decrease the amount of waste by 20 per cent.

A meeting with Ms Rika Tanaka, Deputy Speaker of the Nagoya City Council of Aichi Prefecture, informed the delegation of how different the roles of local government are in Australia and Japan. She informed the delegation that she is paid 15 million Yen per annum as Deputy Speaker (A\$700 000 p.a.) but has five staff and has to pay for her own office out of this allowance. Ms Tanaka also outlined how huge a task and how much work was involved in hosting the Aichi Expo.

The delegation's final full day before departure was spent gaining a valuable knowledge of some Japanese history and culture through a guided tour of spectacular Kyoto, which included a visit to Kinkaku-ji (Temple of the Golden Pavilion); Ryoan-ji (Temple), which gave the delegation an insight in to the quintessential Zen garden; Kiyomizu-dera (Temple), where the delegation had the opportunity to drink some of the famously clear and pure water before visiting Sanjusangendo (Hall); and lastly, the Kyoto Handicraft Center.

Twenty-second Australian Delegation to the United States of America

2 to 15 APRIL 2005

DELEGATES

- ▶ **Mr Daniel Andrews MLA** (Australian Labor Party), *Delegation Leader*, Parliamentary Secretary to the Victorian Minister for Health; Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Mulgrave
- ▶ **Ms Kirsten Livermore MP** (Australian Labor Party), Federal Member for Capricornia; Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Education
- ▶ **Mr Linus Power** (Australian Labor Party), National Organiser for the Australian Labor Party
- ▶ **Mr Simon Troeth** (Liberal Party of Australia), Chief of Staff to the Federal Minister for Justice and Customs
- ▶ **Mr Julian Leeser** (Liberal Party of Australia), Ministerial Adviser to the Attorney-General
- ▶ **Mr Brad Emery** (Liberal Party of Australia), Media Adviser to the Federal Minister for Workforce Participation
- ▶ **Mr Tim Neve** (Liberal Party of Australia), Research Officer for the Federal Member for Casey
- ▶ **Mr Andrew Hall** (The Nationals), Federal Director of The Nationals
- ▶ **Ms Pandora Livanes**, Executive Officer, Australian Political Exchange Council

The delegation travelled to the United States between 2 April and 15 April as part of the annual Australia-United States political exchange program. The study tour saw the delegation visit Washington DC, Maine and Colorado. The two-week program was informative and enjoyable with delegates benefiting greatly from detailed briefings and opportunities to share information and ideas with United States public officials, policy makers and political professionals.

Following are excerpts of the delegation report commenting on particular aspects of the program. The complete report is available on the Council's website.

THE UNITED STATES-AUSTRALIA RELATIONSHIP

Among the first items on the delegation's official program were a series of meetings at the United States Department of State. These meetings were a great beginning to the study tour and helped to emphasise the nature of the United States-Australia relationship. Discussions with senior staff at the Australia Desk, and others with responsibility for South East Asia and the Asia Pacific region more broadly, covered a number of important issues.

It was immediately clear to the delegation that the strategic relationship with Australia is highly valued by American officials and policy makers. The delegation was able to discuss features of the bilateral relationship and learn more about a number of different initiatives.

STRATEGIC CO-OPERATION

Strong co-operation to tackle common threats – war on terror, trans-national crime and the promotion of democratic values throughout our region – is central to the bilateral relationship.

The dialogue is however not confined to strategic or defence matters. The delegation was briefed on a number of other programs, including joint efforts to protect the environment – for example coral bleaching; the 2004 Free Trade Agreement and its impact on economic co-operation; and the common approach to financial and other aid in our region.

The delegation was briefed on the United States Millennium Corporation and the structured focus of the United States Government on the link between domestic policies, institutions and practices, and foreign aid. The approach of the Corporation complements our own AusAID program and again illustrates the breadth of the relationship.

The series of meetings at the State Department was a highlight of the Washington DC program. All delegates were able to explore the diverse nature of the bilateral relationship and discuss its implications for Australia, the United States and our region.

The strength of the bilateral relationship and its diversity was reinforced by time spent at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC. Ambassador Michael Thawley briefed the delegation on issues relating to the FTA and its implementation, as well as possibilities for further trade reform.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL SYSTEM

The delegation was fortunate to meet with a number of representatives from the organisational wing of the Republican Party, the policy development wing of the Democratic Party, and also politicians and political staff from all three levels of government. These meetings enabled the delegation to explore similarities and differences in electoral systems; campaign techniques; the broader American political system and its institutions; and the public policy challenges faced by Local, State and Federal Governments.

A number of the groups the delegation met with discussed the domestic political landscape at length. These discussions were of great interest to the delegation and helped to improve their understanding of the differences between the United States legislature and executive branch of government, and Australia's parliamentary system.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The delegation received several briefings that touched upon the complex and often confusing regulation of political donations and campaign finance. The system often seems open to abuse by the expenditure of ‘soft money’ and the operations of supposedly independent third parties. The delegation was interested to learn of one approach to campaign finance reform – the operation of the Maine Ethics Commission and the Clean Elections Act 1996.

The issue of campaign finance remains a complex and difficult one. A state like Maine and the United States Congress has each tried to limit and regulate expenditure on elections with limited success. Campaign finance regulation and the all pervading culture of lobbying, together with the high prevalence (by Australian standards) of political donations by both corporations and individual citizens, is both a hallmark of American democracy and one of its greatest challenges. The delegation was interested to learn more about these issues and draw parallels with our own system of public funding and campaign finance disclosure.

CAMPAIGN TECHNIQUES

The delegation had an opportunity to meet with Mr Jonathan Poe of the Republican National Congressional Committee, who has responsibility for co-ordinating the re-election of GOP House members. The delegation received valuable insights into the often negative nature of American political campaigning. The meeting provided an overview of enrolment (registration) and voter turnout techniques, media production facilities and services, elector data collection and database management.



The twenty-second Australian delegation to the United States with the Hon John Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, and State Representative Lisa Marraché

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR KEN SALAZAR

The delegation was pleased to spend time with senior Washington staff of Senator Ken Salazar. Delegates were briefed on the mechanics of representing a state like Colorado, with 150 radio stations, 100 newspapers and 15 television stations.

Senator Salazar's staff briefed the delegation on the operation of the Washington DC office and the seven offices spread across Colorado. The Senator is supported by approximately 50 staff dealing with his Committee assignments, policy and legislative work, as well as attending to the needs of constituents. The combined offices of Senator Salazar receive around 6,000 telephone calls, e-mails and letters per week.

POLICY CHALLENGES

Throughout the study tour, the delegation was briefed on a number of local and national policy challenges. While the approaches taken by different administrations varied from state to state, the delegation was struck by the universal or global nature of the public policy challenges facing our hosts. The examples below are as relevant in the Australian context as they are in the United States. The delegation enjoyed detailed briefings on these and many other policy issues. These briefings were a valuable opportunity to share information and ideas on addressing common problems.

Sustainable Healthcare

The delegation was extensively briefed by senior staff at the Maine General Hospital on the challenges faced in providing adequate healthcare. These included the ageing population; duplication and demarcation between levels of government; and the changing nature of the burden of disease. That is, the shift away from curing or treating 'infectious diseases' and the move towards managing multiple chronic and complex conditions for long periods of time.

Sustainable Water Resources

While in Colorado, the Hon Lionel Rivera, Mayor of Colorado Springs, briefed the delegation on strategies to deal with a chronic water shortage. Colorado Springs has introduced a public awareness campaign to better educate the community on the value of water resources; introduced water restrictions; and also begun work on a 69 kilometre long pipeline at a cost of US\$1 billion, due for completion by 2010.

Alternative Energy

The Colorado leg of the study tour saw the delegation visit the National Renewable Energy Laboratories, to be briefed on a range of technology based solutions to the world's energy needs. The delegation was briefed on advances in renewable energy technology, in particular solar technology; fuel cell development; and changes in design and construction standards.

Economic Development

While in Waterville, Maine, the delegation received a comprehensive briefing on the growth of the biotechnology sector and associated opportunities for economic development. Both local and state

administrations seemed engaged in developing these and other industries, and promoting them as part of a sustainable future, with jobs and the economic growth needed to keep townships like Waterville strong.

Education and Training

In Maine and Colorado the delegation met with a number of young people (college students and recent graduates), educational and civic leaders, all of whom were focused on promoting and pursuing educational opportunities and academic learning.

The challenges facing civic leaders, including local school boards, as they seek to provide a quality secondary education, include constraints on public funding, economic restructuring and changing demographics.

PHILANTHROPY

The delegation found a consistent difference exists between the United States and Australia in the philanthropic attitude each country holds. It was particularly evident when discussing political campaigns, and in discussions with corporate representatives.

At all levels of Government, political campaigns are heavily driven by the amount of money a candidate can raise. With the voluntary voting system in the United States, a large amount of money needs to be spent on 'getting out the vote'. This is a financial burden which has never been part of the Australian electoral system. From the large and well-funded El Pomar Foundation in Colorado, which was originally established with a substantial bequest, right down to local hospital boards, there is a clear and strong bias towards community giving in the United States.

CONCLUSION

The great benefit of the delegation to the United States was the new perspectives it gave delegates. In a concerted sense, the delegation experienced the way a country with many similarities, but a vastly different political culture, confronts some of the same issues that face Australia – education, healthcare, water resources and regional development. In a less tangible sense, it was enlightening to hear American perceptions of the United States-Australia relationship. It is clear that the relationship remains important and strong. The delegation was also provided with a valuable opportunity to get to know people involved in Australian politics, from another political party, in a way that the general political process does not facilitate.

In the 24 years since the Australian Political Exchange Council was established, there have been 22 delegations that have travelled to the United States. The frequency of these visits says something of the enduring relationship between the two countries and that this particular exchange is taken very seriously by delegates and the organisations which nominate them.

The diversity of experiences gained by the delegation – visiting both urban and regional areas in the United States – coupled with the combination of different people they encountered, can only make a positive contribution to the public diplomacy of both countries.



The twenty-second Australian delegation to the United States at the Liberty Bell Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Ninth Australian Delegation to Vietnam

14 to 22 APRIL 2005

DELEGATES

- ▶ **Ms Rachel Nolan MLA** (Australian Labor Party), *Delegation Leader*, Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for Ipswich
- ▶ **Ms Verity Firth** (Australian Labor Party), Councillor, Sydney City Council
- ▶ **The Hon Richard Dalla-Riva MLC** (Liberal Party of Australia), Member of the Victorian Legislative Council for East Yarra Province
- ▶ **Ms Elizabeth McCabe** (Liberal Party of Australia), Personal Assistant to the Federal Treasurer
- ▶ **Ms Angelina Momcilovic** (Liberal Party of Australia), Assistant Adviser to the Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- ▶ **Mr David Wilson**, Representative, Australian Political Exchange Council

The ninth delegation to Vietnam visited Hanoi, Ha Long Bay and Ho Chi Minh City during its nine day schedule. Briefings covered a wide range of political, economic, business, social, historical and cultural topics. Officials from within the Communist Party and across the Government at very senior levels, briefed delegates over a wide range of subject areas, and local government officials, academics, business leaders and former delegates were very generous with their time and hospitality.

The delegation particularly enjoyed those functions and meetings that were hosted by former delegates as discussion was somewhat less structured and delegates were able to talk about shared experiences.

Delegates were also able to gain a valuable insight into the situation in Vietnam from an Australian Government perspective, at an informal dinner with Ms Andrea Faulkner, Deputy Head of Mission, and Ms Sandra Henderson, from the Australian Embassy in Hanoi.

Following are excerpts of the delegation report commenting on particular aspects of the program. The complete report is available on the Council's website.

HO CHI MINH COMMUNIST YOUTH UNION

The delegation's first formal meeting was in Hanoi with the leaders of the host organisation, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union (HCM CYU), and was attended by Mr Doan Van Thai, Secretary for International Affairs, Central Committee of the HCM CYU; Mr Nguyen Phong Doanh, Editor in Chief of the Youth newspaper; and other representatives of the Youth Union and mass media.

While Australia has an ageing population, Vietnam has quite the opposite. Vietnam has 28 million people aged between 15 and 36. People under 16 years of age account for 34 per cent of the population. Young people account for 55 per cent of their labour force.

The Vietnamese Government pays a lot of attention to youth and youth activities. Its two main objectives for youth are education programs and vocational training to assist them to find employment, and mobilising large numbers of volunteers.

CULTURE, EDUCATION, YOUTH AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE

The delegation found its meeting with a representative of the Culture, Education, Youth and Children Committee gave an interesting insight into the legislative process in Vietnam, and the unique nature of Vietnam’s National Assembly.

There are eight Committees of the National Assembly of which the Culture, Education, Youth and Children Committee is one. The Committee’s first duty is “to study and assist the National Assembly in adopting and issuing law in different areas.” The Committee’s second duty is to supervise the execution of the law.



The ninth Australian delegation to Vietnam at the Literature Temple in Ho Chi Minh City

VIETNAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Since the economic reform period, it is clear that Vietnam has experienced rapid urbanisation, infrastructure and business growth that is widely supported by its people. To assist in the massive growth of the country and to guide business and enterprise through the logistics of commercial trade and negotiations, the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) has maintained its strong support for booming industries. The VCCI's First Vice President, Mr Hoang Van Dung, welcomed the delegation with a glowing outline of Vietnam's prosperous economy.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, INVALIDS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Over the past five years, since adopting real economic reform in areas such as trade liberalism, state sector intervention, monetary/fiscal policy and private sector engagement, Vietnam has made significant inroads with regard to social development. This has, to a considerable extent, improved the lives of its citizens.

This period has seen many drastic actions concerning social development, with the Vietnamese Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs setting many goals including the achievement of a variety of progressive objectives.

The government has identified rural social and economic development as a top priority. For people living in these communities, the Government's priorities have resulted in the facilitation of low interest rate loans for particularly disadvantaged sections of the community and the provision of free medical care for the children of poor families. The government has also ensured that free education is provided to the children of poor urban families.

HO CHI MINH MAUSOLEUM

The day the delegation visited the Mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh was also the day that many veterans of the American War were paying their respects. The delegation found this a profoundly moving experience, watching the veterans of the war shuffle past the body of their beloved 'Uncle Ho.' It is very interesting for foreign visitors to encounter the strength of feeling most Vietnamese people have for Ho Chi Minh (1890 – 1969). The Vietnamese see Ho Chi Minh as a nationalist leader who united the Vietnamese people against firstly French colonialists, and then the Americans. The huge queues of people winding their way past his body demonstrate this affection.

THANH XUAN PEACE VILLAGE FOR CHILDREN

The delegation met Ms Nguyen Thi Phuong, Director of the Thanh Xuan District Peace Village, and also the Village's Deputy Director and head of the functional recovery department. A special banner had been made to welcome the delegation to the Peace Village and convey their peace message to the Australian people. Ms Phuong said peace is the passion of the Vietnamese people and they want to recover from their long history of terrible wars.

The Peace Village is a combined school and hospital, which was established in 1991 with the assistance of Germany. Its main purpose is to comprehensively treat and educate disabled children, particularly those with birth defects related to Agent Orange and other dioxins used during the American war.

The Peace Village currently cares for 115 children aged between 2 and 20 who come from the northern and central provinces of Vietnam. Eighty-five per cent of the children have disabilities related to Agent Orange. Less than 10 of the 115 children are orphans. The Peace Village does not charge a fee for children who are affected by Agent Orange.

QUANG NINH PROVINCIAL YOUTH UNION

The delegation very much enjoyed its visit to the Quanh Ninh Provincial Youth Union and the Ha Long Bay area. They met with a group of very dedicated young Youth Union members who explained that much of their Youth Union work was charity based and focused on alleviating the suffering of Vietnam's rural poor.

The Youth Union members described their activities as mainly altruistic and ideological in nature. They listed their duties as: educating young people about the tradition and history of Vietnam and giving them 'lifestyle education'; mobilising young people to take part in social and economic development; strengthening the Youth Union; and taking care of children under five.

The next day, the delegation was taken to see the wonders of Ha Long Bay. As the coal barges made their way slowly across the World Heritage listed bay, questions were placed in the delegates' minds about how the competing goals of economic growth, and the maintenance of a world heritage listed environmental wonder will be dealt with in the coming years.



The ninth Australian delegation to Vietnam with representatives of the International Youth Cooperation Development Center

PEOPLE'S AID COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The delegation met Mr Nguyen Van Kien, Director and Head of the Asia-Pacific desk of the People's Aid Coordinating Committee (PACCOM), which falls under the auspices of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisations. PACCOM was established in 1989 to liaise with the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) that operate in all 64 provinces and cities in Vietnam.

NGOs are also an important tool to promote peace, knowledge and sustainability as well as immediate financial assistance. The aid goes directly to the local people and the focus is at the grass roots level. PACCOM's role includes ensuring NGOs operate on a non-political, non-religious and non-profit basis; encouraging NGOs to work in the remote and poorer areas; and introducing NGOs to their relevant Vietnamese Government counterpart and existing NGOs.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

The Vietnamese Ministry of Justice is responsible for organising legal dissemination. The Ministry is divided into three departments specialising in public law or criminal law, private law and international law. Each department drafts laws for each area and submits them to the government for approval.

The Ministry also conducts research into the enforcement of civil justice. It maintains civil registrations of birth, deaths and marriages and conducts a wide range of enforcements for the country's lawyers. The Ministry also prepares documents to submit to the President to grant or remove citizenship, which is an area that is increasing every year.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Vietnamese Ministry of Health is currently co-ordinating with around 100 countries, including non-government organisations – is attempting to improve the health of Vietnam's people. An important aspect of the Vietnamese health system is the 'Ho Chi Minh principle' – that prevention is better than cure. In this, the government actively promotes physical exercise, including health exercises. To a certain extent, these activities have become a tradition of Asian communities, including Vietnam.

The two key issues of concern for the government are HIV/infectious diseases and traffic injuries/fatalities. The priority of the government is the health of the young generation, and it is seen as the role of the older generations to support and actively contribute towards the establishment of a healthy and prosperous people to develop the country in the future. The government is actively attempting to combat smoking, which is becoming a problem with the nation's youth.

VICE PRESIDENT

As with the eighth delegation, a highlight of the trip was a courtesy call on Her Excellency Ms Truong My Hoa, Vice President of Vietnam. The Vice President was a gracious and stately woman, who had risen from an active role as a war-time guerrilla to her current position as one of the nation's most influential women. The delegation engaged in formal discussions regarding a range of topics, from Vietnamese folklore to Vietnam's bid for admission to the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the role of women in Australian and Vietnamese politics.

The visit was televised on state run television news and widely reported in Vietnamese newspapers to such an extent that when the delegation travelled to Ho Chi Minh City following the visit, they met members of the public who knew their names and purpose, having seen them meet with the Vice President on television.

HO CHI MINH CITY COMMUNIST PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

The delegation also met with Mr Nguyen Thanh Tai, Vice Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City's People Committee. Mr Tai told the delegation that a series of events in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of reunification were scheduled to take place shortly after their departure from Ho Chi Minh City. The celebrations were to thank international supporters for their efforts during the American war, and to enhance relationships by promoting mutual understanding between nations.

The committee is trying to reduce the substantial gap between the rich and the poor, and to raise the average family income from 4 million to 6 million dong per annum, to equate with the international poverty line. Wages and conditions are regulated to minimise exploitation and encourage vocational training. They are carrying out a number of activities to improve educational standards, especially vocational training, and to address poverty reduction and the "social evils". Other priorities are health and administrative reform.

RMIT INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

While many Australian universities educate Vietnamese students at their Australian campuses, RMIT is the first Australian University to establish a campus in Vietnam. The RMIT Ho Chi Minh City campus is already the biggest foreign owned university in Vietnam, and was well advanced with plans for a new purpose-built campus on a green-filled inner-city site. With a strong demand for professionals in the growing Vietnamese economy, RMIT boasted successful employment outcomes among its graduates.

PACIFIC COLD STORAGE

The delegation visited Pacific Cold Storage, a subsidiary of an English multi-national firm. The Australian manager of the business showed the delegation the plant, which had modern cold storage facilities for the export of Vietnamese seafood and fruit. The meeting gave the delegation an interesting Western perspective on conducting business in Vietnam.

TAN TAO INDUSTRIAL PARK CORPORATION

The delegation visited the Tan Tao Industrial Park and met with Mr Nguyen Tu Minh, Director of Business Division. In 1996 an Industrial Park Concept was established as a progressive and structured institution, with the objective of facilitating economic growth via the creation and establishment of local businesses, by the identification of Vietnam as a suitable and desirable place for multi-national corporations to locate. As a result of its efforts in promoting economic development throughout Vietnam it is intended and expected that society, as well as the country, will benefit through the provision of economic opportunity to the poor and disadvantaged.

TUOI TRE YOUTH NEWSPAPER

The delegation met with Mr Huynh Son Phuoc, Deputy Editor in Chief, and representative journalists, of Tuoi Tre (Youth) newspaper. The newspaper is a proponent of the public's right to know; economic reform; education and culture; business; social welfare; health; environmental issues; unemployment; urban development; and lifestyle.

Tuoi Tre was also one of the first newspapers to actively support a market economy. Its circulation has increased proportionately with reformist sentiment. It used to be a weekly publication, but now it produces four publications: a daily newspaper; a weekly magazine; a fortnightly comic; and an online newspaper. The newspaper employs over 90 journalists around Vietnam and in other countries such as USA and Australia where there are significant Vietnamese communities.

CONCLUSION

Vietnamese people from a range of backgrounds were eager to educate the delegation about the nation's history. While our circumstances and cultures are different, the delegation had a very positive view of the Vietnamese people and experience. The delegation were extremely grateful to the Vietnamese and Australian government for the opportunity for personal and professional growth provided by this trip.

Members of the delegation all have a far greater understanding of the Vietnamese people and the importance of that nation's relationship with Australia as a result of their participation. The delegation believes furthermore, that the opportunity to view Australia and Australian policy through more distant eyes has given them new and valuable insights, which will assist their roles in the domestic political process.



INCOMING DELEGATIONS TO AUSTRALIA

In 2004-2005, the Council hosted 19 participants on three delegations from its exchange partners.

The total number of delegates hosted by the Council since its inception in 1981 was 547 as at 30 June 2005.

Incoming Delegations for 2004-2005

8 to 20 August 2004	Twenty-first Delegation from the United States of America
----------------------------	---

13 to 19 February 2005	Seventh Delegation from Papua New Guinea
-------------------------------	--

8 to 17 May 2005	Ninth Delegation from Vietnam
-------------------------	-------------------------------

Twenty-first Delegation from the United States of America

8 to 20 August 2004

DELEGATES

- ▶ **Ms Clare Climaco** (Democrat), Communications and Public Affairs Manager, California Transportation Corridor Agencies
- ▶ **Hon William Davis** (Democrat), Member, Illinois House of Representatives
- ▶ **Hon Michael Ross** (Democrat), Member, Boston City Council
- ▶ **Hon Hansen Clarke** (Democrat), Member, Michigan State Senate
- ▶ **Ms Kimberly Galvin** (Republican), Chief Counsel, Office of the Minority Leader of the New York House of Representatives
- ▶ **Hon Joe Hoppe** (Republican), Member, Minnesota House of Representatives
- ▶ **Hon Hank Zuber** (Republican), Member, Mississippi House of Representatives
- ▶ **Hon Douglas Matayo** (Republican), Member, Arkansas House of Representatives
- ▶ **Ms Beatrice Reaud**, (Independent) Examiner, Office of Management and Budget

The exchange program with the American Council of Young Political Leaders is the Australian Political Exchange Council's oldest exchange, dating back to 1982. The visits that have taken place under the program have enabled a sharing of ideas and created many valuable friendships over the years.

Nine delegates from the American Council of Young Political Leaders visited Australia in August 2004 and were treated to a diverse program which was arranged with the generous assistance of the Australian Political Exchange Council's former delegates. The program included visits to Canberra, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

The delegation was very enthusiastic and keen to obtain the maximum benefit from the program. They participated highly in all meetings and were keen to arrange additional opportunities to meet with former Australian delegates to the United States.

The Council's former delegates to the United States were also pleased to assist with the program and contributed significantly in developing an interesting and diverse program for the group. Opportunities were incorporated into the program to involve as many former delegates to the United States to meet with the group.

The program commenced in Canberra and began with a guided tour of Parliament House, followed by meetings with the Hon Alexander Downer MP (USA 1986), Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Mr Andrew Ethell, Special Adviser to the Hon Mark Vaile MP, Minister for Trade.

This was followed by lunch, hosted by Senator the Hon Eric Abetz (Germany 1991, Vietnam 1996), Special Minister of State, which was attended by Senator Jeannie Ferris, Chairman of the Australia/United States Parliamentary Group; Mr Bob Charles MP, Secretary of the Australia/United States Parliamentary Group; the Hon Arch Bevis MP (Japan 1993), the Hon Bruce Billson MP (UK 1993); the Hon Julie Bishop MP (Germany 1999); the Hon Alan Cadman MP, Council Member; Senator Stephen Conroy (USA 1991); the Hon Teresa Gambaro MP (Vietnam 2002); the Hon Gary Hardgrave MP (USA 1994); Senator Brett Mason (Japan 2000); Senator Santo Santoro (USA 1993, Germany 2003); Mr Patrick Secker MP (China 2000); and Senator Natasha Stott Despoja (UK 1995).

After lunch the delegation attended Question Time in the Senate and House of Representatives, which was followed by meetings with Mr Wayne Swan MP (USA 1990, UK 1995 & 1997), Shadow Minister for Family and Community Services; the Hon Dr Sharman Stone MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment and Heritage; and Ms Julia Gillard MP (China 2000), Shadow Minister for Health. Afterwards, the delegation attended a reception at the Embassy of the United States of America, hosted by Ms Susan R Crystal, Counselor for Public Affairs.



The twenty-first delegation from the United States in Parliament House, Canberra, with the Hon Alexander Downer MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs

The following day saw the delegates meet with Mr Tony Nutt (USA 1989, UK 1995), Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, where they discussed a variety of topics relating to the Prime Minister and the current political environment.

After a meeting with His Excellency Mr J Thomas Schieffer, American Ambassador to Australia, the delegation met with Senator Andrew Bartlett (Germany 1995), Leader of the Australian Democrats, which gave the delegates an opportunity to learn about the role of a minority party in the Australian Senate. This was followed by a meeting with the Hon John Anderson MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of The Nationals, and a luncheon hosted by Senator the Hon Paul Calvert, President of the Senate and Patron of the Council.

The delegates then met with the Australian Customs Service, which was arranged by Mr Brian Pontifex (China 2003), where they were briefed on topics such as the Customs border protection role, and counter-terrorism. This was followed by meetings with Mr Matt Brown, Chief of Staff to Senator the Hon Robert Hill, Minister for Defence; Senator the Hon Kay Patterson; and Mr Kelvin Thomson MP, Shadow Minister for Sustainability, and Environment and Heritage.

A highlight of the program was a courtesy call and photo opportunity with the Hon John Howard MP, Prime Minister, which was arranged by Senator Santo Santoro (USA 1993, Germany 2003).

Day two ended with an enjoyable dinner with former delegates, including Dr Pradeep Philip (USA 2002), Ms Daele Healy (USA 2004) and Mr Michael Danby MP (Japan 2000).



The twenty-first delegation from the United States in Parliament House, Canberra, with the Hon John Anderson MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of The Nationals

The final day in Canberra commenced with meetings with Senator the Hon Chris Ellison, Minister for Justice and Customs, arranged by Mr Brian Pontifex; and Dr Mike Richards, Chief of Staff to Mr Mark Latham MP, Leader of the Opposition. A meeting with Mr Kevin Rudd MP, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, allowed delegates to compare the foreign policies of the two major political parties.

A briefing on the Liberal Party of Australia by Mr Brian Loughnane (USA 1998), Federal Director of the Liberal Party and Council Member, was followed by a luncheon hosted by Mr Paul Neville MP, Council Member and The Nationals Whip.

The afternoon saw the delegation attend briefings on the workings of the Australian Parliament by Mr Cleaver Elliot, Clerk Assistant (Procedure) of the Senate; and the Australian Labor Party by Mr Mike Kaiser (UK 1997), Assistant National Secretary, and Mr Jim Chalmers (UK 2005), Senior Research Officer of the Australian Labor Party.

The Canberra program finished with meetings with Senator the Hon Amanda Vanstone (USA 1989), Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, and Mr Geoff McDonald from the Attorney-General's Department.

The delegates then travelled to Melbourne, which has a sister city program with the city of Boston, where they began with an informative meeting with the Premier of Victoria, the Hon Steve Bracks MP (Canada 1992), which provided an interesting insight into high level state politics. This was followed by a meeting with Mr Chris Walton (USA 2002), Assistant Secretary, Australian Council of Trade Unions.

The Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne, Lord Mayor John So, hosted an enjoyable luncheon for the delegation, which was attended by City of Melbourne Councillors.

The afternoon saw the delegation attend a briefing on the Australian Electoral System, and was followed by a briefing and tour of Spencer Street Station, which was arranged by Ms Melissa Horne (Germany 1999).

The day concluded with a dinner hosted by the Hon Dame Margaret Guilfoyle AC DBE, Council Chairman, and Mr Stan Guilfoyle, and was attended by Mr David T Hopper, US Consul-General, Melbourne; the Hon Michael Beahan (USA 1983 and former Council Chairman); Mr Ron Wilson (USA 2004); Ms Rachel Howard (USA 2004); Mr Michael O'Brien (USA 2002); Mr Darren Disney (USA 2002); Mr Scott Mitchell (USA 2000); and Mr Daryl Wight (former Council Secretary).

There was an early start to the following day's program, with the delegation travelling to the electorate of Melbourne Ports for a tour of the electorate and breakfast with the sitting member, Mr Michael Danby MP (Japan 2000).

A meeting with Mr Julian Sheezel, Victorian State Director of the Liberal Party of Australia, and Mr Darren Disney (USA 2002), Victorian Campaign Manager of the Liberal Party of Australia, was followed by a meeting with the Hon Peter Costello MP (USA 1986), Federal Treasurer.

A tour of Melbourne Health, arranged by the Hon David Davis MLC (USA 2000), Shadow Minister for Health, preceded a working lunch hosted by the Hon Candy Broad MLC, Minister for Local Government and Minister for Housing.

The delegation then toured Kensington Housing Estate, which was followed by a meeting with Mr Erik Locke (USA 2002), Victorian State Secretary of the Australian Labor Party.

A highlight of the visit was the opportunity for the delegation to attend an Australian Rules Football match between Essendon and Collingwood at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, arranged by Mr Stan Guilfoyle.

The following day, being a Saturday, provided the delegation with some sight-seeing opportunities that started with a trip to the Yarra Valley. The delegates were joined by Mr Erik Locke (USA 2002) and Mr Chris Walton (USA 2002) for lunch at Oakridge Estate, and also enjoyed a visit to Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary before departing for Perth.

On Sunday, delegates enjoyed a bus tour of the Swan Valley incorporating lunch at Lamont's Winery, and visits to the Chocolate Factory and Cheese Factory, and were accompanied by Mr Brendon Grylls MLA (Japan 2004).

A dinner was hosted by Mr Gary Gray (Council Member and USA 1989), with guests including the Hon Dr Geoff Gallop MLA (UK 1997), Premier of Western Australia; Ms Sharryn Jackson MP, (Germany 1991, UK 2003); Mr Mark McGowan MLA (Japan 2001); and Mr Michael Quinlivan (Japan 2001).

The Perth program was developed with the assistance of Mr Gary Gray; Mr Brendon Grylls MP (Japan 2004); and Ms Tirzah Bell (PNG 2003), and began with a visit to the Electorate Office of Ms Sharryn Jackson MP, Federal Member for Hasluck.

The delegation then attended a morning tea hosted by the Hon Ljiljana Ravlich MLC (Germany 2001), which was followed by a briefing and working lunch at Woodside Energy with Mr Gary Gray, Principal Strategic Adviser of Woodside Energy.

After lunch, the delegation was briefed by the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia, which was arranged by Mr Mark Cuomo (USA 1999), and then attended an afternoon tea hosted by the Hon John Day MLA (Japan 1996), Shadow Minister for Education and Shadow Minister for Energy.

The day concluded with a meeting with Mr Matt Birney MLA, Shadow Minister for Police, which was arranged by Ms Tirzah Bell (PNG 2003).

The final day in Perth saw the delegates meet with the Hon Monty House MLA (Canada 1987), before attending a luncheon hosted by the Hon John Cowdell MLC (USA 1985), President of the Western Australian Legislative Council.

The delegation then attended Question Time in the Legislative Assembly, which was followed by a tour of Parliament House, and a meeting with the Hon Michelle Roberts MLA (China 1988), Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Community Safety.

An enjoyable dinner with former delegates, Mr Gary Gray, Ms Tirzah Bell (PNG 2003), Mr Bruce Campbell-Fraser (USA 1997), Mr John Cowdell MLC (USA 1985), Mr Mark Cuomo (USA 1999), the Hon Dr Cheryl Davenport (China 1986, PNG 1999), Mr Brendon Grylls MP (Japan 2004), Ms Jaye Radisich MLA (Vietnam 2002), Ms Rita Saffioti (Japan 2002), Dr Sally Talbot (NZ 2003), and Mr Andres Timmermanis (UK 2003), was an ideal way to end the Perth visit.

The Sydney program was developed with the assistance of Mr Graham West MLA (USA 2004), who accompanied the delegation on a morning boat tour of Sydney Harbour, while discussing the challenges of the management of harbour lands and urban renewal with the delegation.

This was followed by an economic briefing by the Westpac Banking Corporation, arranged by Mr Mark Baker (USA 2002), Head of Government Relations, Westpac Banking Corporation, and a tour of New South Wales Parliament House.

A luncheon was co-hosted by the Hon John Aquilina MLA, Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, and the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC (Japan 1992), Deputy President of the Legislative Council, and was attended by the Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MLC (USA 1993); Mr Paul Crittenden MLA (USA 1998); the Hon Michael Gallacher MLC (UK 2003); and Mr Barry O'Farrell MLA (USA 1996).

Following lunch, the delegation met with the Hon Bob Carr MP, Premier of New South Wales, and Mr Allan Gynge and Mr Michael Fullilove from the Lowy Institute, before visiting the Royal Botanic Gardens.

The final event on the program was a dinner at Circular Quay with former delegates, including Mr John Brogden MLA (USA 1994, Indonesia 1995), New South Wales Opposition Leader; Mr Craig Chung (USA 1994); Ms Peta Demery (USA 1996); Ms Jo Fox (NZ 2001); Ms Anna McPhee (USA 1995); Mr Bernie Riordan (USA 1997); Mr Dean Smith (USA 1997); Mr David Wedgwood (USA 1990); and Mr Graham West MLA (USA 2004).



Seventh Delegation from Papua New Guinea

13 to 19 February 2005

DELEGATES

- ▶ **Hon Kuri Kingal MP** (United Resources Party), *Delegation Leader*, Member for Mul-Baiyer Open
- ▶ **Hon Clement Nakmai MP** (United Resources Party), Governor, West New Britain Provincial
- ▶ **Hon Alphonse Willie MP** (National Alliance Party), Member for Kerowagi Open
- ▶ **Mr Robert Ponenge**, Accompanying Officer, Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms, Papua New Guinea National Parliament

A four-member delegation from Papua New Guinea was the Council's first incoming visit for 2005. The delegation visited Sydney, Canberra and Brisbane during the week-long visit, and met with representatives from politics at both federal and state levels, and with Australian business groups.

In Sydney the delegates toured the New South Wales Parliament House and attended a lunch hosted by the Hon John Aquilina MLA, Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, and co-hosted by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC (Japan 1992), Deputy President of the New South Wales Legislative Council, and attended by the Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MLC (USA 1993), Mr Paul Crittenden MLA (USA 1998) and Mr Russell Grove PSM, Clerk of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly.

Delegates also had the opportunity to enjoy sightseeing at some of Sydney's most famous attractions, such as Darling Harbour and the Sydney Aquarium.

A full schedule in Canberra saw the delegates attend meetings with Mr Cleaver Elliot, Clerk Assistant (Procedure) of the Senate; Mr Bob Sercombe MP, Shadow Minister for the Pacific Islands, and Vice-Chairman of the Australia-Papua New Guinea Parliamentary Group; Mr Evan Langdon (PNG 2004), ALP National Secretariat; Senator Lyn Allison, Leader of the Australian Democrats (Principal of the Council); His Excellency Mr Renagi Lohia, High Commissioner for Papua New Guinea; Mr Kevin Rudd MP, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Security; Senator John Hogg, Deputy President of the Senate; representatives of the Australian Electoral Commission; Mr Peter Langhorne, Chief of Staff, and Mr Stuart St Clair, Senior Adviser, to the Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of The Nationals, the Hon John Anderson MP; and Mr Bruce Edwards (Japan 1992) from the Liberal Party of Australia.

The delegates also had the opportunity to dine with Mr Alan Walter, Mr Peter Taylor, Mr Kennedy Simpson and Mr Frank Yourn of the Australia-Papua New Guinea Business Council; former delegates Mr Michael Barrett (Germany 1999) and Ms Rowena Cowan (USA 2000); and attend a lunch hosted by Senator the Hon Eric Abetz (Germany 1991, Vietnam 1996), Special Minister of State, which was

attended by the Hon Alan Cadman MP, Council Member; Mr Michael Johnson MP, Chairman of the Australia-Papua New Guinea Parliamentary Group; Ms Louise Markus MP, Secretary of the Australia-Papua New Guinea Parliamentary Group; Mr Paul Neville MP, Council Member; Mr Bob Sercombe MP, Vice-Chairman of the Australia-Papua New Guinea Parliamentary Group; and Ms Renee Prestt (China 2004), Adviser to the Special Minister of State.

The delegation was also able to make a courtesy call on the Presiding Officers and Patrons of the Australian Political Exchange Council, Senator the Hon Paul Calvert, President of the Senate and the Hon David Hawker MP (USA 1984), Speaker of the House of Representatives. Also in attendance for the meeting were Mr Don Morris, Private Secretary, Office of the President of the Senate; and Mr Chris Paterson, Senior Adviser, Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Canberra visit allowed delegates to take full advantage of a Parliamentary sitting week, attending Question Time in the House of Representatives and the Senate Estimates Committee Meeting on Foreign Affairs. A guided tour of Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial, and a bus tour of Canberra were also included in the visit.



The seventh delegation from Papua New Guinea in Parliament House, Canberra, with Senator the Hon Paul Calvert, President of the Senate; the Hon David Hawker MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives; and His Excellency Mr Renagi Lohia, High Commissioner for Papua New Guinea

The delegation then travelled to Brisbane where the visit primarily focused on education. Thanks to the generous assistance of Ms Cathi Collier (USA 1992), Director, Corporate Communication and Marketing, Queensland Department of Education and the Arts, delegates toured the facilities at the Durack State School, 2004 Showcase for Excellence winner, which proved to be a highlight of the program.

The delegation then attended a briefing by Mr Wayne Chalmers from the Queensland Department of Education and the Arts, followed by lunch with representatives from the Queensland Department of Education.

The visit concluded in Brisbane with the delegates departing for Port Moresby on 19 February 2005.



The seventh delegation from Papua New Guinea in Parliament House, Canberra, with Senator John Hogg, Deputy President of the Senate

Ninth Delegation from Vietnam

8 to 17 May 2005

DELEGATES

- **Mr Nong Quoc Tuan**, *Delegation Leader*, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union; President of the Vietnam Youth Federation
- **Mr Phuong Huu Viet**, Member of the National Assembly; Committee Member for Budget and Economics; Deputy President of the Vietnamese Youth Enterprise Federation
- **Mr Nguyen Quoc Van**, Member of the Standing Committee of the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union; Chief of Police Youth Department
- **Mr Le Van Phong**, Secretary of the Ninh Thuan Provincial Youth Union
- **Mr Vu Thanh Long**, Deputy Secretary of the Quang Ninh provincial Youth Union
- **Mrs Pham Thi Phuong Chi**, Chief Administrative of Youth International Cooperation Development Center

The ninth delegation from the International Youth Cooperation Development Center (CYDECO) in Vietnam travelled to Sydney, Canberra, Shepparton and Melbourne during its ten-day visit.

The official program commenced with a meeting with Dr Simon Longstaff, Executive Director of the St James Ethics Centre, which involved discussing the role ethics and ethical decision-making plays in society and the services provided by the Centre to individuals, professionals, businesses, community groups and governments.

The delegation then met with Ms Iktimal Hage-Ali, Mr Brad Welsh and Mr Tony Wiseheart from the NSW Youth Advisory Council, which was arranged by Ms Kirsten Andrews (China 2002). The delegates received a briefing on the role of the NSW Youth Advisory Council and key youth issues including: road safety; occupational health and safety; childhood obesity; mental and sexual health; and participation in society.

The final meeting of day one was with Mr David Pigott (China 1998), General Manager, Corporate Partnerships, Mission Australia and Ms Kathryn Wightman-Beaven, Manager, PwC Foundation, where discussion focussed on youth leadership programs. The delegation was briefed on the community initiatives that have developed from the partnership between Mission Australia and PwC, including team based volunteering and mentoring projects.

Other activities included a guided tour of Sydney city; a guided tour of the Sydney Fish Markets, which is the world's second largest seafood market in terms of variety outside of Japan; shopping

at Paddy's Markets; and viewing the Land Before Time film presentation at the IMAX Theatre in Darling Harbour.

The delegates then travelled to Canberra where they were first briefed by Mr Neil Bessell, Director, Journals and Notice Papers (Senate) on the Federal Parliament and the Committee System. This was followed by a briefing by Mr Michael Maley PSM, Director, International Services, Australian Electoral Commission, on the role and responsibilities of the Australian Electoral Commission during a federal election.

The following day commenced with the delegates meeting with the Hon Kevin Andrews MP (UK 2001), Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service, which was arranged by Ms Angelina Momcilovic (Vietnam 2005). This included a briefing on current employment conditions in Australia, including the shortage of skilled labour, the promotion of apprenticeships, and the opening of new technical colleges throughout the country.

The delegation was then briefed by Mr Tim Gartrell (USA 2002), Council Member, and National Secretary of the Australian Labor Party, and Mr Linus Power (USA 2005), on the history, structure, campaign strategies, funding and policies of the Australian Labor Party.



The ninth delegation from Vietnam with the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, at Parliament House, Canberra

Day three of the Canberra component of the visit saw the delegation meet with Mr Simon Troeth (USA 2005), Chief of Staff, Office of Senator the Hon Chris Ellison, Minister for Justice and Customs. Delegates were briefed on the Prime Minister of Vietnam's visit to Australia to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Australian Federal Police and the Vietnam Police Department for the Asia Region Law Enforcement Management Program (ARLEMP). ARLEMP will include training on multicultural communication; team building; research and analytical skills; leadership; creative problem solving; project management; regional law enforcement issues; and presentation skills. This is aimed at building the management capacity of law enforcement agencies in Vietnam and in the Asia Region.

The delegation was then briefed by Mr Bruce Edwards (Japan 1992), International Secretary, Liberal Party of Australia Federal Secretariat, on the history, structure, campaign strategies, funding and policies of the Liberal Party of Australia.

Some of the other activities of the delegation's visit to Canberra included attending Question Time in the Senate and the House of Representatives; a guided tour of Parliament House; and morning tea with the Presiding Officers and Patrons of the Australian Political Exchange Council, Senator the Hon Paul Calvert, President of the Senate and the Hon David Hawker MP (USA 1984), Speaker of the House of Representatives.



The ninth delegation from Vietnam at a morning tea hosted by Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, Special Minister of State, Senator for Tasmania, with Senator Brett Mason, Senator Marise Payne, Mr Michael Keenan MP and Ms Kirsten Livermore MP

Senator the Hon Eric Abetz (Vietnam 1996, Germany 1991), Special Minister of State, hosted a morning tea which was attended by the Hon Peter Slipper MP, Chairman of the Australia-Vietnam Parliamentary Group; Mr Michael Keenan MP (Japan 2002); Ms Kirsten Livermore MP (USA 2005, China 1996); Senator Brett Mason (Japan 2000); and Senator Marise Payne (NZ 2001, USSR 1990).

Senator the Hon Paul Calvert also hosted a lunch which was attended by the Hon Peter Slipper MP; the Hon Graham Edwards MP, Vice Chairman of the Australia-Vietnam Parliamentary Group; Senator Jeannie Ferris, Secretary of the Australia-Vietnam Parliamentary Group; Mr Paul Neville MP, Council Member; and Mr Don Morris, Senior Adviser to the President of the Senate.

A dinner with former delegates was also organised and guests included Mr David Wilson (Vietnam 2005, PNG 2004); Ms Gillian Currie (USA 1986); Ms Jane Seaborn (USA 1993); and John Edge, Secretary, Australian Political Exchange Council.

The Shepparton program for Friday 13 May was developed with the assistance of the Hon Wendy Lovell MLC (PNG 2004) and Ms Kristin Favaloro (Vietnam 2004), and began with a breakfast with Ms Lovell to welcome the delegation and introduce them to Shepparton.

The delegation then met with the Northern Victoria Fruit Growers Association (NVFA) and the Varapodio family, and enjoyed an overview of the horticultural industry, as well as tours of the warehouses, orchards and packing sheds.

Continuing with the theme of the morning's visit, the delegation toured the Shepparton Preserving Company (SPC) factory, and was given an overview of the SPC Ardmona corporate structure, foodservice lines and the importance it plays economically as one of the largest employers in the Goulburn Valley region.

After lunch, a visit to the Tatura Milk Industries provided the delegation with an overview of the dairy industry, a tour of the milk factory, and a briefing on Tatura's export market to Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia.

After meeting with Ms Jeanette Powell MLA, Member for Shepparton, the delegation was briefed by Mr Bill O'Kane, CEO, Mr Peter Howard and Mr Russell Pell of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority. Some of the issues discussed included water quality; irrigation; salinity; the Community Board; and government support and funding.

Other activities included a Civic Reception hosted by Councillor Kevin Ryan (Deputy Mayor), Councillor John Gray and Councillor Chris Hazelman; dinner with Ms Kristin Favaloro (Vietnam 2004); a paddle steamer cruise on the Murray River; and a guided tour of the Port of Echuca.

Melbourne was the last city in the group's visit, and the program commenced with a tour of the RMIT campus, which was accompanied by Ms Georgina Douglas, Senior Advisor, International Relations; Mr Ha Nguyen, President, Vietnamese Student Association; and Mr Patrick Griffiths, PhD Student, Applied Communications.

Following the tour was a meeting with representatives of RMIT – Mr Andrew Scown, Vice President, Academic RMIT International University Vietnam; Mr Trevor White, General Manager/CEO, RMIT

Union; Mr Tim Penhall, Manager, Community and Transition Student Services Group; Ms Melissa Lowe, Student Liaison Officer, Chancellery; and Mr Sridaran Vijayakumar, President, RMIT Student Union. Topics for discussion included university fees; the newly announced national entrance test; scholarship programs; voluntary student unionism; and the RMIT Campus in Vietnam.

The afternoon involved a meeting with Mr Noel Clement and Ms Catherine Sheppard from the Australian Red Cross, which was arranged by Mr Michael Kerrisk (USA 1996). Discussion focussed on funding and fundraising activities; the structure of the Australian Red Cross; and the Junior Red Cross. Delegates also learnt about youth initiatives, including volunteering and community challenge projects and the Good Start Breakfast Club program.

The delegation then met with Mr Luke Murphy, Project Manager, Employment, Training and Volunteer Program, Office of Commonwealth Games Co-ordination, who discussed a variety of issues relating to training and employment opportunities generated by the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. These issues included employment opportunities and long-term economic benefit from the Games, including 'ready-event-go' traineeships and careers in events management and construction; volunteer programs and the high level of youth participation; grants given to each local council in Victoria to be involved in the Games festivities; adopting a second team program for each local council, with the aim of developing stronger cultural and economic ties with other countries; and the environmental focus on the Games, including water recycling and collection, and tree planting initiatives.

Dinner was hosted by the Hon Sang Nguyen MLC, Member for Melbourne West in the Victorian Legislative Council, which was also attended by other prominent Vietnamese members of the business community.

The final day of the visit saw the delegation meet again with Mr Nguyen, followed by a tour of Parliament House.

Lunch was hosted by the Hon Monica Gould MLC (USA 1994), President of the Legislative Council, and attended by the Hon Dame Margaret Guilfoyle AC DBE, Chairman of the Australian Political Exchange Council; Mr Daniel Andrews MLA (USA 2005); Mr Ted Baillieu MLA (Japan 1993); Mr Carlo Carli MLA (Japan 1998); the Hon Richard Dalla-Riva MLC (Vietnam 2005); the Hon David Davis MLC (USA 2000); the Hon Phillip Honeywood MLA (Canada 1990); Mr James Merlino MLA (Japan 2004); the Hon Dr Dennis Napthine MLA (Japan 1994); Mr Kim Wells MLA (China 1999); and Mr John Edge, Secretary of the Australian Political Exchange Council.

The delegation's final meeting of the day was with the Hon Richard Dalla-Riva MLC (Vietnam 2005), Member for East Yarra.

Other activities during the Melbourne visit, included attending Question Time in the Legislative Council and a guided tour of the Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary.

Other Activities Sponsored by the Council

Each year, the Council provides developmental opportunities for young Australian political leaders, through individual study tours.

Four young Australians participated in individual study tours to the United Kingdom and the United States of America in 2004–2005, taking the total number of individuals sponsored as at 30 June 2005 to 53.

INDIVIDUAL STUDY TOURS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

- ▶ **Mr Jeff Singleton**, Adviser to the Federal Shadow Minister for Environment and Heritage, and Shadow Minister for Water
- ▶ **Mr Simon Morgan**, Senior Research Assistant, Federal Secretariat of the Liberal Party of Australia
- ▶ **Mr Jim Chalmers**, Media Adviser to the Federal Shadow Treasurer

Excerpts from the participants' reports to the Council are below. Copies of the full reports are available on the Council's website.

Mr Jeff Singleton (29 March to 29 April 2005)

My study tour was well-timed, coinciding with Prime Minister Blair's decision to call a General Election for 5 May. Being present in the United Kingdom during this period gave me the opportunity to not only develop a greater appreciation of the many fundamental institutional similarities between the political system of Australia and that of the United Kingdom, but also to experience first-hand the significant differences, particularly with respect to the administration of the voting system, and the structure and priorities of the election campaign waged by political parties.

During my visit, I met key strategists and decision makers within the Labour Party, Conservative Party and Prime Minister Blair's Office. I also visited a number of key marginal (or battleground) constituencies. Considering the understandable pressures on these individuals as a result of the election campaign, I am most grateful they made the time to meet with me.

Background

Labour went into the 2005 General Election with a House of Commons (lower house) majority of 167 seats, having won large landslides in both the 1997 and 2001 general elections.

The Conservative Party entered the campaign confronting an up-hill battle if it was to win office. Its share of the popular vote had remained anchored in the low 30s for much of the past decade, largely as a consequence of the Party's inability to shake off the public's negative perception about its past performance in office (1979–1997). This task was made even more difficult by the fact that its leader for the 2005 election, Michael Howard, was a senior minister in that previous Conservative government.

The third major political party in the House of Commons, the Liberal Democrats, entered the campaign confidently, with the objective of winning a substantial number of new seats and replacing the Conservatives as the ‘official’ opposition. Hence their campaign slogan: ‘The Real Opposition’.

The focuses of the campaigns waged by the two major political parties, while differing greatly, were nevertheless predictable.

The incumbent Labour Government was keen to campaign on its economic record and program of investment for public services, and to contrast that record with the performance of the previous Conservative government on issues such as interest rates, the National Health Service, and police numbers. This strategy was epitomised by their campaign slogan: ‘Forward Not Back’.

The Conservatives, on the other hand, attempted to rally public support by focussing on a number of ‘emotive’ issues under the slogan: ‘Are you thinking what we’re thinking?’. These issues included gypsies, hospital hygiene, school discipline, council taxes, truth in government, and most controversial of all, levels of immigration. They also attempted to voice public dissatisfaction with the pace of improvements occurring within public services, particularly the National Health Service.

It is worth noting that there was an Australian influence on the Conservative’s election strategy. In October 2004, Lynton Crosby, former director of the Liberal Party of Australia, was appointed the Conservative Party’s campaign director. This appointment attracted significant comment within the British media and many believed that the Conservative’s deliberate focus on a small number of emotive and controversial issues, such as immigration, was masterminded by Crosby following the success he had had with a similar strategy during the 2001 Australian election. As an observer of the campaign, I was struck by the similarities between the language and tactics used by Michael Howard in 2005, and those used by John Howard in 2001.

Both the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats attempted to capitalise on widespread community unease about Prime Minister Blair’s decision to commit Britain to the United States invasion of Iraq. This issue came to dominate the last week of the campaign, following the leaking of the Attorney-General’s pre-war advice, casting some doubt over the legality of any military action against Saddam Hussein’s Iraq. It is worth noting the Liberal Democrats was the only major political party to have consistently opposed the United Kingdom’s involvement in the war.

Despite unease over the Iraq war, questions concerning the trustworthiness of the Prime Minister and dissatisfaction with the scale of improvements in public services, the Labour Government was returned with a comfortable majority of 67 seats, down by 47. For the Conservatives, the much hoped for recovery in their electoral fortunes failed to materialise. The Party only managed to increase their share of the vote by 0.6 per cent to 32.3 per cent and win an additional 33 seats in the Commons. While the Liberal Democrats recorded their best share of the vote (22 per cent, up 3.7 per cent) since its Liberal predecessor won 59 seats in 1929, they fell far short of achieving their stated objective of becoming the official opposition.

In my view, as was the case in the 2004 Australian election, the single most important factor in the outcome of the 2005 British election was economic management – a policy area where the Labour Government enjoyed a 17 point advantage in the polls. The 2005 British election was a further

demonstration of the electoral strength of an incumbent government that is presiding over strong economic growth, relatively low interest rates and historically low rates of unemployment.

Anyone interested in campaign strategy, like myself, cannot afford to ignore the simple reality: the state of the economy is the key determinant of public mood and any political party that seeks to govern must first and foremost articulate an economic program in which the electorate has confidence.

The Australian and British Political Systems

As well as an appreciation of the priorities of the British electorate, my study tour gave me the opportunity to develop a better understanding of the British electoral system and the campaign techniques employed by the political party machines.

While there are many institutional similarities between the political systems of Australia and the United Kingdom, both being constitutional monarchies with Westminster-style parliamentary systems, what I found most interesting were the differences, particularly with respect to the administration of the voting system, and the structure and priorities of the campaign waged by political parties. These differences provide lessons, both positive and negative, for students of democratic politics.

The voting and electoral systems

Simply majority voting versus preferential voting

Members of the House of Commons are elected by a first-past-the-post voting system. Under this system, also known as Simply Majority voting, voters place a cross on their ballot paper against the name of the candidate they most want as their local representative. The candidate who secures the largest number of votes is elected. There is no requirement to secure an absolute majority, merely a simple majority.

Having now had the opportunity to observe first-past-the-post in practice, my support for preferential voting has only strengthened. The system Australia has adopted ensures that only a candidate with the support of an absolute majority of the electorate can win, eliminating the possibility of minority winners. Even more importantly, preferential voting systems allow voters to support minor parties and independent candidates, comfortable in the knowledge that their preferences may be used to decide the winner. Under first-past-the-post, support for minor parties or independents is largely a wasted vote.

Restricted versus unrestricted television advertising

During British general elections political parties are not allowed to advertise on free-to-air television. Instead during the course of the campaign they are given approximately five 5-minute spots, also known as Party Political Broadcasts, to promote themselves and/or attack their opponents. All free-to-air TV stations (both public and commercial) are required to televise these political broadcasts.

Billboard posters and newspaper advertisements are also widely used by United Kingdom political parties to communicate their political messages to the widest possible cross-section of the electorate.

While Australia currently does not have similar limitations on the use of free-to-air TV, I nonetheless believe there is strong merit for considering the United Kingdom approach. Given the escalating cost

of buying television airtime, the use of this mass-medium to convey a political message is largely limited to the major political parties. A United Kingdom-style restriction on television advertising would help remove this disadvantage against minor parties, allowing political debate to take place on a more level playing field.

Compulsory versus optional voting

Finally, unlike Australia, voting in British elections is not compulsory. In light of the voluntary nature of voting in the United Kingdom, many media commentators and political leaders were expressing concerns throughout the 2005 General Election regarding likely voter turnout. This apprehension was not without foundation. As I mentioned earlier, only 59 per cent of the British electorate bothered to vote in the 2001 General Election – 12 percentage points below the 1997 figure and the lowest participation rate since 1918.

By the time polling booths closed on 5 May, 61.3 per cent of the electorate had voted – up 2.1 percentage points since the 2001 General Election.

Furthermore, considering the Labour Party secured a majority in the House of Commons with the support of less than 1 in 4 voters (22 per cent), it is debatable whether the government it has subsequently formed truly reflects the will of the British people. In other words, with the support of such a small minority of the electorate, does Blair's Labour Government have the legitimacy to govern?

My visit to the United Kingdom has only strengthened my support for compulsory voting as practised in Australia. Compulsory voting not only has an educational effect within the electorate, but more importantly, if democracy is government by the people, then I believe it is every citizen's responsibility to participate in the process of electing their representatives.

The campaign of the political parties

As well as developing a much more complete understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of Britain's electoral system, my study tour gave me an opportunity to closely observe the campaigning techniques employed by the political parties and meet key party officials and strategists.

Many of the communication techniques and tools employed by Britain's political parties are already used by their Australian counterparts, including direct mail; focus groups and opinion polling; text messaging; telephone canvassing; and professional media management.

Nonetheless, during the 2005 General Election, new communication techniques, largely imported from the United States, were being extensively used. Such techniques, I have no doubt, will become an essential part of campaigning in Australia over coming years.

These techniques, which make use of the ever increasing coverage of the internet as well as information technology developed by the mass marketing industry, aim to improve the capacity of the political parties to more effectively identify their supporters, as well as tailor the message they send to potential supporters.

Essentially, these new techniques are viewed by the political parties as new opportunities to talk directly to voters without their message being filtered by the traditional mass media.

Equally, United Kingdom political parties have embraced these new communication techniques as part of their efforts to identify the swinging voters in key marginal electorates, who largely determine election outcomes. Party officials I spoke with believe this group of voters totalled just 800,000 – less than 2 per cent of the United Kingdom electorate.



Simon Morgan (12 April to 12 May 2005)

My trip provided me with a tremendous opportunity to gain a deeper knowledge of the British political system and electoral processes, as well as the chance to witness first-hand campaigning techniques that could be adapted to the Australian context in the future.

While Australia draws on Britain's Westminster traditions, I was struck not by similarities, but rather by the enormous difference between the two countries in terms of the approach taken to election campaigns – by political parties, by the media and by voters.

For much of my visit, I was based at the Conservative Party's Campaign Headquarters in central London. I was fortunate to be able to meet at length with Conservative Party personnel who had responsibility for various aspects of the campaign, including media monitoring; communications; fundraising; political research; candidate liaison; and issues management.

In particular, the media appeared to be captivated by the Conservative Party's focus on running a large number of carefully targeted campaigns in key marginal electorates. While this has been normal campaign practice in Australia for many years, it appeared to be the first time the approach had been applied in a co-ordinated way in Britain.

Background to the Campaign

Tony Blair's Labour Government went into the 2005 General Election with a commanding majority of 167 seats in the House of Commons. This was generally seen by most commentators as too large for the Conservatives to overcome in a single election, and it was assumed by most that Labour would win the election. The main focus of speculation during the campaign was over how large Blair's majority would be, rather than if he would have one. There was also considerable speculation over the impact Tony Blair's decision to support the Iraq War would have on Labour's vote. There was a widespread view that a large number of traditional Labour supporters would either support the Liberal Democrats, or simply choose not to vote at all.

Since suffering its second successive defeat in the 2001 General Election, the Conservative Party had been through a very difficult period. The man chosen to lead the Party following 2001, Iain Duncan-Smith, had been forced to resign as Leader, following a collapse in support. Michael Howard, a man with significant Ministerial experience in the Thatcher and Major Governments, was chosen to take over in the latter part of 2003. Although he had only had 18 months in the job at the time of the election, Michael Howard was credited in most quarters with having rescued the fortunes of the Conservative Party – putting an end to the Party's infighting and focusing on the issues that mattered to the public. While the Conservatives continued to lag behind Labour in almost all of the opinion polls, the general view was that Labour would at least have a fight on their hands – something that had been lacking during the previous two General Elections.

The Liberal Democrats believed it had an opportunity to make significant gains at the 2005 General Election. The Party had become strongly identified with opposition to the Iraq War over the preceding years, and it believed that it could draw support from both anti-war Labour supporters who were disillusioned with Tony Blair's support for the Iraq action, as well as Conservative Party supporters who were disillusioned with their Party's performance in Opposition.

The Issues

The election campaign was dominated by four main issues: health (with a particular focus on waiting lists and the cleanliness of hospitals), immigration (with a consensus among all parties that there was a need for tighter control, but disagreement over the best way to go about it), crime (again, a consensus on a need to do more, but disputes about what was appropriate), and the issue of ‘trust’ (this issue grew out of controversy over Britain’s role in the Iraq war). The other issues which dominated the campaign were, law and order, and, to a lesser degree, education.

In the second half of the campaign, education issues appeared to take on a larger profile, due largely to Labour’s decision to spend almost a week of its campaign focusing heavily on that one issue. Labour Ministers talked extensively about improvements in education during their period in office, and sought to contrast their record with a perceived lack of education funding and other problems that had emerged during the previous Government’s term in office. The Conservatives launched a strong counter-attack, highlighting a lack of discipline in schools and the need to improve literacy standards among students.

The ‘Iraq factor’ was ever-present during the campaign, and was used by both the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats to paint Prime Minister Blair as untrustworthy. Iraq dominated the middle stage of the campaign, when the legal advice prepared for the Government over the legality of the Iraq invasion was ‘leaked’ to various media outlets. While this meant Iraq consumed the front pages of newspapers for several consecutive days at a crucial point in the campaign, it did not appear to make any sustained difference in support levels for any of the parties in the various opinion polls.

Approach to Campaigning

There was much similarity between the organisation of the Conservative Party’s central campaign and the organisation of central campaigns in Australia. No doubt this was due to the Conservatives having Lynton Crosby, an experienced Australian campaign director managing their campaign. From my discussions with those who had worked in Conservative Central Office during previous campaigns, I gathered that campaigns in the past had operated in a radically different and less efficient manner.

The Conservatives ran carefully targeted campaigns in key marginal seats, focusing on local issues and promoting local candidates. In contrast, it appeared that Labour and the Liberal Democrats ran more of a broad-brush national campaign. As a result, the Conservatives were able to win seats from Labour that many had thought were out of their reach.

In the final week of the campaign, Tony Blair made a number of impassioned pleas to Labour voters in marginal seats to vote for him, imploring people to ignore the opinion polls that showed his Party well ahead. According to media reports, Labour was worried that the Conservatives’ decision to run more focused local campaigns was paying dividends – and the results in several seats proved that this fear was well founded. The Conservatives’ success means all three parties are likely to adopt this approach to campaigns in the future.

I also had an opportunity to spend several days travelling with a number of Shadow Ministers and with the Leader of the Conservatives, which allowed me to get a feel for the campaign outside central London. The highlight of these trips was my visit to Birmingham, where I attended a forum on the

MRSA hospital ‘superbug’, at which Michael Howard met with victims and discussed the difficulties they faced as they struggled to recover from their illnesses.

During my stay in Britain, I visited metropolitan, regional and rural electorates. I found the approach to campaigning among the local teams was remarkably similar in all three electorate types. There was a heavy emphasis on canvassing (or door-knocking) voters to ascertain their voting preference. This is due to Britain’s non-compulsory voting system, and the need to identify supporters in the constituency.

Non-Compulsory Voting

This was the first occasion on which I had experienced an election with non-compulsory voting. I was particularly interested in observing how this impacted on the type of campaign the political parties ran and whether the general public would be less engaged in the campaign given that they aren’t compelled to take part in the electoral process.

Indeed, during the last week of the campaign, the leaders of all three major parties travelled up and down Britain urging their supporters to vote. There was comparatively little media discussion about the merits of individual policies in the final week, as the focus turned to speculation about what percentage of the electorate would turn out to vote and what impact turnout levels would have on the final result.

Prior to visiting the United Kingdom, I did not have a particularly strong view one way or the other on compulsory voting. However my experience in Britain has made me a much stronger supporter of Australia’s system of compulsory voting.

If candidates and their campaign teams are compelled to spend their time convincing people to participate in the election, it means there is less time to actually discuss the issues and debate the merits of policies. I believe the Australian system, where the campaign is a mechanism of persuasion, is far preferable to a system where public debate about issues and policies is subordinate to discussion over whether or not it is worth participating in the process at all.

The Media

With three 24-hour news television channels and a large number of national daily newspapers (on top of many more regional and local newspapers), the British people are spoiled for choice in terms of election coverage.

I was fascinated by the partisan approach taken to the reporting of election issues by British newspapers. While Australian newspapers generally advise their readers in terms of which Party they feel is the best choice, this is generally done in an editorial one or two days ahead of the election.

In contrast, I found British newspapers openly stated their preferences at frequent intervals. While some newspapers are well known for their longstanding support of one of the major parties, others attempted to keep the electorate in suspense for at least part of the campaign. The Sun tabloid came up with a novel way to declare its support for Labour. Capitalising on the publicity surrounding the recent papal election, the newspaper erected a temporary chimney stack on the roof of their offices and had red smoke billow from it.

Conclusion

Ultimately, the 2005 General Election resulted in a third term for Tony Blair – making him the first Labour Prime Minister to win three consecutive terms in office. However, Labour’s House of Commons majority was sharply reduced, down from 167 to 66 seats. The Conservative Party won an additional 33 seats, while the Liberal Democrats won an additional 11 seats in the House of Commons.

In the immediate aftermath of the election, two major issues arose that I found significant:

- Discussion about the Labour Party leadership. Although Tony Blair won a third term, there were loud calls from within his Party for his resignation almost immediately. There was a perception that Blair had “failed” because Labour’s majority had been slashed, and Blair was compared unfavourably in some quarters with the Conservative leader Michael Howard who, in the wake of his Party’s defeat, had immediately announced his intention to resign.
- Debate about the United Kingdom electoral system. In the wake of the election, several media outlets began to highlight aspects of the electoral system which appear to heavily favour the Labour Party and artificially “inflate” the number of seats Labour win relative to their share of the national vote. This discussion is on-going, with calls for an independent inquiry of some description to be held which could make recommendations for reform.

It was fascinating to observe first-hand an election that used a different voting system to the one I am used to working with, and particularly interesting to note the more overtly partisan nature of newspaper coverage of the election issues.

Jim Chalmers (26 June to 26 July 2005)

During the study tour I met with senior advisers to Prime Minister Blair; Members of the House of Commons; New Labour officials; journalists; private sector consultants; Australian expatriate former advisers; a Queensland trade representative; a senior academic from the London School of Economics; and the Chaplain of a major London food and shelter service for the homeless.

London Bombings and Other Events

The terrorist incidents of 7 and 21 July dominated discussions with officials and journalists. Other significant events also took place that month, including the G8 summit in Scotland; the Live 8 concert in Hyde Park; the successful British bid to host the 2012 Olympics; the Tory leadership campaign; and the debate over the possible introduction of ID cards. These were the contemporary issues and events most discussed during my trip.

The 2005 British Election Campaign

The campaign to re-elect Labour and Prime Minister Blair only months before my visit also dominated conversations with Party staff and advisers. Campaign techniques and strategies were discussed, as was the Conservative Party's performance and the role of the Australian consultant, Lynton Crosby. Comparisons with Australia and lessons for the ALP were also discussed at length.

Fraser Kemp is a senior British MP, a former Whip, and the Deputy Director of the successful 2005 New Labour campaign. My discussions with Fraser at the House of Commons concentrated on marginal seat campaign tactics; a detailed debrief on the 2005 British election campaign; entitlements issues in the United Kingdom and the public funding of elections; relations at the top of the Government; and other analysis of New Labour and its future in Britain.

The Economy and the Economic Debate

Central to the success of the British Labour Party has been its dominance of the economic debate, and the strength of the British economy. The trip provided the opportunity to look closely at the economic debate in Britain, and at the economic pitches of the major parties at a time of prosperity. Useful lessons for Australia and the ALP were gleaned.

Ed Miliband is one of the Blair Government's rising stars. A former adviser to Gordon Brown and chair of the Council of Economic Advisors, he is now the MP for Doncaster North and one of the most-talked about backbenchers. In my discussions with Ed, we talked about the economic debate in Britain; how New Labour went about restoring its economic credibility in Opposition; emerging issues in the world economy; and various other issues.

The New Labour 'Project'

The New Labour project is entering an interesting phase after more than a decade of Blair's leadership. A debate continues between the traditionalists in the Party, spurred on by the Prime Minister's decision to go to war in Iraq, and the modernisers. The future is unclear – while the Third Way appears to have lost its gloss, there has not been a set of alternative principles to take its place. The traditionalists in the Party look to Gordon Brown as their saviour, but he's unlikely to betray the modernisation themes he's pursued as fervently as Blair.

Luke Bruce is New Labour's Assistant General Secretary, responsible for policy co-ordination and the political development unit at Party headquarters. I discussed with Luke his recent trip to the United States to observe the Democratic Party; the various policy processes of British Labour, including the Policy Forum and committee structures; preparation for the annual conference in Brighton; and sought his impressions on the recent campaign.

Jo Murray is a New Labour staffer working in the media unit at headquarters, and an expert on gender-specific communications and new technologies. I discussed with her many campaign-related issues, including gender and ethnic targeting; internet media; gender-specific media; the upcoming annual conference; and the London bombings.

Blair and Brown

Ever-present in the political media is this likely handover of the prime ministership from Blair to his Chancellor Gordon Brown. This overlays all considerations of politics and policy, and is a key discussion point for all Party staff and advisers to the Government. The tension at the very top of the Government seems to do little to harm Labour's electoral prospects, and the eventual handover may even secure an unprecedented fourth term in Government.

Professor George Jones is a very distinguished semi-retired academic whose area of expertise is prime ministers and executive government. His work informs much of the current literature on prime ministerial power and leaders' relations with cabinet and the bureaucracy. I discussed with Professor Jones the contrasting styles of Prime Minister Blair and Chancellor Brown; recent academic literature on prime ministers and structures of advice; and sought his views on what a Brown Prime Ministership would look like.

The Prime Minister's Office and Structures of Advice

The mechanical aspects of the British political system, including the advisory structures relied on by the Prime Minister, were another common theme for discussion.

Michael Stephenson runs the London office of the Australian consultancy firm, Hawker Britton. Prior to that he was a political adviser to Prime Minister Blair, and Chief of Staff to Queensland Premier Wayne Goss. As a result he has an intimate knowledge of both political systems, and many political contacts in both countries. My discussions with Michael covered a wide range of topics, including the future of the British Labour Party; the structure of the ministry; prime ministerial advisory structures; and Australian politics.

Matthew Taylor is a very senior and trusted adviser to Prime Minister Blair, and one of only a handful of those to enjoy daily contact with the Prime Minister. He also has a comprehensive knowledge of Australian politics. During our first meeting we discussed a number of issues, including the 2005

election campaign; media management and communications undertaken by the Prime Minister's office; preparations for the upcoming G8 meeting in Scotland; the structure of Number Ten and the Prime Minister's advisory structures; information technology policy; and the ID card debate. At the conclusion of our meeting I was introduced to key political staff in Number Ten – Ruth Taylor and John McTernan.

John McTernan is the senior staffer in Tony Blair's office responsible for oversight of all political functions, including liaison with a large backbench. At the briefing I attended, he spoke at length about, and took questions on, the following issues: the G8 summit; Olympic bid; Presidency of the European Commission; protests against education reform; legal aid issues; National Health Service and dental health; and an upcoming National Policy forum to be attended by the Prime Minister. He also pointed to assistance for backbench MPs provided by New Labour's campaigning unit in the House of Commons.

Nick Rowley currently advises Prime Minister Blair on climate change and associated issues, after spending many years as an adviser to former NSW Premier Bob Carr. I discussed with Nick the G8 summit; climate change; the London bombings; and the structure of the Prime Minister's office compared with what he was used to in Premier Carr's office. He was also able to give me a brief tour of Number Ten.

John Watts is a senior adviser in Number Ten, responsible for advancing the Prime Minister's trips and overseeing major events such as Labour's annual conference. He has significant links with the ALP in Australia, having assisted with the 2001 election campaign and preparations for the 2004 national conference in Sydney. In the time I spent with John and Luke Foley, he was able to give us a detailed run down on the recent G8 summit in Scotland and, in the process, describe some of the world's most powerful figures, including United States President Bush.

The British Media

The British media is markedly different from Australia's, largely because of the overtly partisan nature of their print media. This was of interest to me, and I included meetings with journalists on my itinerary to get a better insight into this difference.

Annabel Crabb is an Australian Fairfax journalist currently on assignment in the United Kingdom, and I discussed with her such things as her new book; her work in London; and general comparisons between the two political systems and media cultures.

Rosy Bennett is a senior and highly regarded political correspondent for The Times newspaper, a successful conservative broadsheet. I discussed a number of topics with her, including the Tory leadership ballot; Australian party politics; the operations and culture of the press gallery in the Commons; New Labour; and the London bombings.

Tania Branigan writes for the left-wing paper The Guardian, and has completed a short work exchange with The Australian newspaper in Sydney. Her round includes race issues and policies to combat anti-social behaviour. In the course of our meeting we discussed at some length the operations and orientations of her paper; race issues; the London bombings; and the 'respect' agenda promoted by the Blair Government.

Poverty

I was able to observe close up the activities of a major soup kitchen and hostel based in Westminster, and run by the Catholic Church. Father John Concannon is the resident Pastor at a large hostel and drop-in centre for the homeless in London. He offers counselling and other services, and celebrates Catholic mass daily in the centre's small chapel. Father John gave me a tour of The Passage, introduced me to some of the 40 staff, and also discussed with me homelessness in Britain and Australia (where he has also worked).

British–Australian Comparisons

In addition to the specific issues listed above, the trip also provided a useful opportunity to make general comparisons between political systems, media organisations, and political personnel.

INDIVIDUAL STUDY TOUR TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

► **Karl Bitar**, Assistant General Secretary, Australian Labor Party (New South Wales Branch)

Excerpts from Karl Bitar's report are below. The full report is available on the Council's website.

Karl Bitar (15 June to 15 July 2005)

It is an off year in the United States election cycle, which gave me an excellent opportunity to meet at length with many strategists who played a major role in last year's United States Presidential Campaign.

The tour allowed me to examine many aspects of United States political campaigning. Of particular interest was the ongoing revolution in information technology, and the effect this is having on society and the political system in the United States. These changes are extremely important for Australia, as we tend to follow the United States by a year or two in the uptake of new technologies.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Campaigns and Elections Seminar in Washington DC. This provided me with an insight into the international political environment, and how political parties around the world are adapting to changes in people's attitudes and expectations.

This report provides an overview of the most significant issues I found of relevance to the Australian political system.

Changing political loyalties

In the United States, as in Australia, there has been a clear shift in the issues and values which move people's votes. In the past, blue collar workers, African Americans and Hispanics, would overwhelmingly support Democratic Party candidates, while people on higher incomes tended to vote Republican.

Results from the 2004 Presidential election show that many of these traditional voting patterns are rapidly changing and in many instances have actually been reversed.

Analysis shows that while people used to vote on economic grounds, they are now more likely to be influenced by values. People on higher incomes have become more socially progressive, and people on lower incomes are more socially conservative.

Campaigns and Elections Seminar

The three-day Campaigns and Elections Seminar in Washington DC brought together some of the best Democratic and Republican strategists and advisers from around the United States.

Attended by over 300 people, this annual event shows what a large and professional industry Political Lobbying and Campaign Consulting is in the United States.

The major issues covered at the Seminar included quantitative/qualitative research; campaign strategy and message; fundraising techniques; the use of IT – websites and e-mail; pamphlets and campaign literature; and TV/radio advertising.

Many of the Seminar presenters discussed the continuing decline in party loyalties and the consequent increase in people who are swinging voters. These swinging voters are also highly cynical of politicians and political institutions, making it harder for political leaders to attract their vote.

The impact of information technology was also a challenge facing the main political parties, as they explore new ways to communicate their message with a busier and increasingly time poor electorate.

The Christian Right

While much has been made of the strong vote of support for George W Bush from Christian Right groups, many strategists argue that the impact of these groups spreads well beyond people who attend church services on a regular basis.

Many smaller and outer suburban communities now rely on Christian organisations to support local community services such as childcare centres, aged care homes, and sporting facilities. So these Christian groups are now not only involved in the local church, but in many of the essential services in their community.

By winning the support of these Christian Groups, George W Bush was also able to capture the vote of many of the communities they supported.

The Impact of Information Technology

Information technology changes in the United States are about a year or two ahead of Australia, as it is much more profitable for firms to do business where there is a greater and more condensed population. So it was interesting to observe changes in information technology in the United States and explore how they might impact on Australia.

Better informed electorate

Widespread access to information technology, such as cable television and the internet, has made the average American voter feel much better informed about politics and current affairs.

Many United States strategists argue that while the electorate might be better informed, it is not more educated, because talk-back radio programs and 24 hour news channels are more about entertainment than they are about news.

Personal Video Recorders (PVRs) and their impact on advertising

There is a great debate in the United States at the moment about the growth in Personal Video Recorders (PVRs), and the impact they could have on political television advertising at future elections.

PVRs are tapeless devices that allow users to tape a week of television and play any program from that week at a later stage. One of the most popular features of PVRs is that they allow the skipping of advertisements.

According to a recent C Cubed survey of United States households with personal video recorders (PVRs), over 22 per cent say they never watch live television.

As the Yankee Group study estimates, 80 per cent of the most popular prime-time programs are most often recorded by PVR households, and 65 to 70 per cent of advertising is fast-forwarded during that programming.

Although 3.8 million, or less than 2 per cent, of United States homes now own a PVR, a new Yankee Group study predicts that figure will climb to 19.1 million by 2007. That is the result of satellite and cable operators integrating the technology into set-top boxes and other devices.

Given this enormous projected growth of 3,780 per cent over the next two years, political parties and their advertising agencies are considering the impact this will have on their strategies.

Online communities

I had the opportunity to meet with a team of consultants from EchoDitto, who managed Howard Dean's website for the United States Presidential Primaries in 2004.

They provided me with an excellent insight into how successful they have been at getting people active through online campaigns based around current issues.

Internet research

Internet research/polling is being advocated by many traditional pollsters as the way of the future. With internet penetration in the United States at close to 70 per cent, many pollsters are advocating this as the way to gauge public opinion in the future.

They argue that more and more people are disconnecting their home phone line in favour of using their mobile phone, and this is making phone polling less reliable.

While online polling is still skewed towards people who have access to the Internet, researchers such as John Zogby argue that by weighting the polling results to account for any discrepancies, provides a result as accurate as any phone poll.

Reporting on the Council's Activities

The Council reports on its programs through its Annual Report, the Council's website and a newsletter for former delegates.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Council's Annual Report provides a means for regular reporting on Council activities for each financial year to the Principals of the Council. The report is also forwarded to the Minister responsible for the political exchange program, the Special Minister of State, for tabling in the Parliament. It is also sent to Council alumni, counterpart organisations and friends of the Council.

WEBSITE

The Council's website provides information on the Council's activities, delegation reports and information about former delegates.

The website address is www.polexchange.org.au

NEWSLETTER

A newsletter for former delegates is produced on a regular basis providing current news, drawing attention to forthcoming activities and delegations, and recognising the achievements of members of the Council alumni.

Chronology for 2004–2005

- 17 to 30 July 2004 **Twenty-first Australian Delegation to the United States of America**
Led by Mr Ron Wilson (Liberal Party of Australia), Chief of Staff to the Victorian Leader of the Opposition.
- 8 to 20 August 2004 **Twenty-first Delegation from the United States of America**
Leadership shared between delegation members.
- 12 to 19 November 2004 **Sixth Australian Delegation to Papua New Guinea**
Led by the Hon Wendy Lovell MLC (Liberal Party of Australia), Member for North Eastern Province in the Victorian Legislative Council.
- 13 to 19 February 2005 **Seventh Delegation from Papua New Guinea**
Led by the Hon Kuri Kingal MP (United Resources Party), Member for Mul-Baiyer Open.
- 23 February to 4 March 2005 **Third Australian Delegation to New Zealand**
Led by Ms Catherine King MP (Australian Labor Party), Federal Member for Ballarat, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development.
- 27 February to 5 March 2005 **Thirteenth Australian Delegation to Japan**
Led by Ms Kate Ellis MP (Australian Labor Party), Federal Member for Adelaide.
- 2 to 15 April 2005 **Twenty-second Australian Delegation to the United States of America**
Led by Mr Daniel Andrews MP (Australian Labor Party), Parliamentary Secretary to the Victorian Minister for Health; Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Mulgrave
- 14 to 22 April 2005 **Ninth Australian Delegation to Vietnam**
Led by Ms Rachel Nolan MLA (Australian Labor Party), Member for Ipswich in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.
- 8 to 17 May 2005 **Ninth Delegation from Vietnam**
Led by Mr Nong Quoc Tuan, Secretary, Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union; President, Vietnam Youth Federation.

Acknowledgements

The Council is able to offer developmental opportunities to young political leaders from Australia and overseas with the assistance and support of a number of individuals and organisations. In particular, Council alumni and supporting organisations have assisted through being involved in, helping to organise, and/or sponsoring activities for the Council's exchange programs.

FORMER DELEGATES

The Council wishes to thank all our former delegates whose ongoing support contributes in a very positive and significant way to the experience of delegations visiting Australia. Former delegates' assistance in arranging appointments and briefings and sharing their knowledge and experience with incoming delegations continues to enrich the program.

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

A number of activities are made possible through the support of private sector and other organisations.

The Council would like to thank the Presiding Officers of the Federal and State Parliaments, and participating embassy and consular officials around Australia for their continued enthusiastic support of the Council's programs. The generous support of all state and territory governments continues to enhance the program.



Appendix A – Prominent Former Delegates

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT – FEDERAL

Senator the Hon Eric Abetz (Germany 1991, Vietnam 1996), Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation; Senator for Tasmania

The Hon John Anderson MP (USA 1985), Member for Gwydir

The Hon Kevin Andrews MP (UK 2001), Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations; Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service; Member for Menzies

Senator Andrew Bartlett (Germany 1995), Deputy Leader of the Australian Democrats; Australian Democrats Whip; Senator for Queensland

The Hon Arch Bevis MP (Japan 1993), Shadow Minister for Homeland Security; Shadow Minister for Aviation and Transport Security; Member for Brisbane

The Hon Bruce Billson MP (UK 1999), Minister for Veterans' Affairs; Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence; Member for Dunkley

The Hon Julie Bishop MP (Germany 1999), Minister for Education, Science and Training; Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women's Issues; Member for Curtin

Senator Carol Brown (USA 1995), Senator for Tasmania

Senator Grant Chapman (Japan 1992), Senator for South Australia

Mr Steven Ciobo MP (Japan 2005), Member for Moncrieff

Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck (Japan 1994), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration; Senator for Tasmania

Senator Stephen Conroy (USA 1991), Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate; Shadow Minister for Communications and Information Technology; Senator for Victoria

The Hon Peter Costello MP (USA 1986), Treasurer; Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party of Australia; Member for Higgins

Mr Michael Danby MP (Japan 2000), Deputy Opposition Whip; Member for Melbourne Ports

The Hon Alexander Downer MP (USA 1986), Minister for Foreign Affairs; Member for Mayo

Ms Kate Ellis MP (Japan 2005), Member for Adelaide

Dr Craig Emerson MP (UK 1999), Member for Rankin

Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells (Vietnam 1994), Senator for New South Wales

The Hon Teresa Gambaro MP (Vietnam 2002), Parliamentary Secretary (Foreign Affairs); Member for Petrie

Ms Julia Gillard MP (China 2000), Shadow Minister for Health; Manager of Opposition Business in the House of Representatives; Member for Lalor

The Hon Gary Hardgrave MP (USA 1994), Minister for Vocational and Technical Education; Minister Assisting the Prime Minister; Member for Moreton

Mr Luke Hartsuyker MP (Japan 2005), Member for Cowper

The Hon David Hawker MP (USA 1984), Speaker of the House of Representatives; Member for Wannon

Senator the Hon Robert Hill (Canada 1987), Senator for South Australia

Senator Gary Humphries (Japan 1992), Senator for the Australian Capital Territory

Mr Michael Keenan MP (Japan 2002), Member for Stirling

Ms Catherine King MP (Japan 2002, NZ 2005), Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Treasury; Member for Ballarat

The Hon Sussan Ley MP (Japan 2004), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Member for Farrer

Ms Kirsten Livermore MP (China 1996, USA 2005), Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Education; Member for Capricornia

Senator Joe Ludwig (USA 1994), Shadow Minister for Justice and Customs; Manager of Opposition Business in the Senate; Senator for Queensland

Senator Kate Lundy (Japan 1997), Shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation; Senator for the Australian Capital Territory

The Hon Ian Macfarlane MP (China 1999), Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources; Member for Groom

Senator Brett Mason (Japan 2000), Senator for Queensland

Senator Julian McGauran (Japan 1993), The Nationals Whip; Senator for Victoria

Senator Jan McLucas (USA 1994), Shadow Minister for Ageing, Disabilities and Carers; Senator for Queensland

Senator the Hon Nick Minchin (USA 1990), Minister for Finance and Administration; Leader of the Government in the Senate; Senator for South Australia

The Hon Judi Moylan MP (China 1999), Member for Pearce

The Hon Dr Brendan Nelson MP (UK 1997), Minister for Defence; Member for Bradfield

Senator Marise Payne (USSR 1990, NZ 2001), Senator for New South Wales

The Hon Chris Pearce MP (Japan 2002), Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer; Member for Aston

Senator Helen Polley (China 1994), Senator for Tasmania

The Hon Christopher Pyne MP (PNG 1993, Japan 2001), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing; Member for Sturt

Mr Andrew Robb AO MP (Japan 1993, AAI 1993), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs; Member for Goldstein

Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson (USA 1991), Senator for Victoria

Ms Nicola Roxon MP (Japan 1999), Shadow Attorney-General; Member for Gellibrand

Senator Santo Santoro (USA 1993, Germany 2003), Minister for Ageing; Senator for Queensland

Mr Patrick Secker MP (China 2000), Member for Barker

Senator the Hon Nick Sherry (Canada 1992), Shadow Minister for Superannuation and Intergenerational Finance; Shadow Minister for Banking and Financial Services; Senator for Tasmania

Dr Andrew Southcott MP (Japan 1996), Member for Boothby

Senator Natasha Stott Despoja (UK 1995), Senator for South Australia

Mr Wayne Swan MP (USA 1990, UK 1995 & 1997), Shadow Treasurer; Member for Lilley

Mr Cameron Thompson MP (NZ 2005), Member for Blair

The Hon Mark Vaile MP (UK 1995), Leader of The Nationals; Deputy Prime Minister; Minister for Trade; Member for Lyne

Senator the Hon Amanda Vanstone (USA 1989), Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs; Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Indigenous Affairs; Senator for South Australia

Senator Ruth Webber (Japan 1994), Opposition Deputy Whip; Senator for Western Australia

Mr Kim Wilkie MP (China 2003), Member for Swan

Senator Penny Wong (China 1994), Shadow Minister for Employment and Workforce Participation; Shadow Minister for Corporate Governance and Responsibility; Senator for South Australia

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT – STATE

The Hon Pam Allan MLA (Japan 1993), Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Wentworthville

Mr Daniel Andrews MLA (USA 2005), Parliamentary Secretary to the Victorian Minister for Health; Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Mulgrave

The Hon Louise Asher MLA (USA 1995), Victorian Shadow Minister for Industry and Employment; Shadow Minister for Major Projects; Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Brighton

Mr Ted Baillieu MLA (Japan 1993), Victorian Shadow Minister for Planning; Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Hawthorn

The Hon Peter Batchelor MLA (USA 1993), Victorian Minister for Transport; Manager, Government Business in the Legislative Assembly; Member of the Legislative Assembly for Thomastown

Ms Gladys Berejiklian MLA (USA 2000), New South Wales Shadow Minister for Mental Health; Shadow Minister for Cancer and Medical Research; Shadow Minister for Youth Affairs; Shadow Minister Assisting the Opposition Leader on Ethnic Affairs; Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Willoughby

The Hon Steve Bracks MLA (Canada 1992), Premier of Victoria; Minister for Multicultural Affairs; Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Williamstown

The Hon Terry Cameron MLC (USA 1992, Philippines AAI 1994), Member of the South Australian Legislative Council

Mr Carlo Carli MLA (Japan 1999), Victorian Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Infrastructure; Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Brunswick

Ms Vickie Chapman MHA (Germany 1995), South Australian Shadow Minister for Education and Children's Services; Shadow Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education; Shadow Minister for Population; Member of the South Australian House of Assembly for Bragg

The Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MLC (USA 1993), Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council

Dr Lesley Clark MLA (Canada 1990), Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for Barron River

Mr Robert Clark MLA (Japan 1995), Victorian Shadow Treasurer; Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Box Hill

Mr Andrew Constance MLA (Vietnam 2004), Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Bega

Mr Stuart Copeland MLA (USA 1997), Queensland Shadow Cabinet Secretary; Shadow Minister for Education; Shadow Minister for the Arts; Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for Cunningham

Mr Simon Corbell MLA (China 2001), Australian Capital Territory Minister for Planning; Minister for Health; Member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly for Molonglo

Mr Paul Crittenden MLA (USA 1998), Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Wyong

The Hon Richard Dalla-Riva MLC (Vietnam 2005), Victorian Opposition Spokesperson for Corrections; Opposition Spokesperson for Manufacturing and Export; Member of the Victorian Legislative Council

Ms Liliana D'Ambrosio MLA (USA 1991), Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Mill Park

The Hon David Davis MLC (USA 2000), Victorian Shadow Minister for Environment; Member of the Victorian Legislative Council

The Hon Philip Davis MLC (Germany 1997), Victorian Shadow Minister for State Development; Shadow Minister for Country Victoria; Shadow Minister for Energy and Resources; Opposition Leader in the Legislative Council; Member of the Victorian Legislative Council

The Hon John Dawkins MLC (China 1993), South Australian Opposition Whip in the Legislative Council; Member of the South Australian Legislative Council

The Hon John Day MLA (Japan 1996), Western Australian Shadow Minister for Transport; Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly for Darling Range

Mr Robert Doyle MLA (Japan 1996), Victorian Leader of the Opposition; Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Malvern

The Hon Iain Evans MHA (China 1996), Member of the South Australian House of Assembly for Davenport

The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC (Japan 1992), New South Wales Chairman of Committees; Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council

Mr Gary Fenlon MLA (PNG 1993), Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for Greenslopes

Mr Simon Finn MLA (USA 2004), Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for Yeerongpilly

The Hon Kevin Foley MHA (Japan 1995), South Australian Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister Assisting the Premier in Economic Development; Minister for Police; Minister for Federal/State Relations; Member of the South Australian House of Assembly for Port Adelaide

The Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC (Canada 1987), Temporary Chair of Committees; Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council

The Hon Michael Gallacher MLC (UK 2003), Leader of the Opposition in the New South Wales Legislative Council; Shadow Minister for Police; Shadow Minister for the Hunter; Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council

The Hon Sherryl Garbutt MLA (Japan 1994), Victorian Minister for Community Services; Minister for Children; Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Bundoora

The Hon Jennifer Gardiner MLC (USA 1984), Temporary Chair of Committees; Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council

The Hon Monica Gould MLC (USA 1994), President of the Victorian Legislative Council; Member of the Victorian Legislative Council

The Hon Bryan Green MHA (UK 2001), Tasmanian Minister for Infrastructure, Energy and Resources; Member of the Tasmanian House of Assembly for Braddon

Mr Brendon Grylls MLA (Japan 2004), Leader of the National Party in Western Australia; Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly for Merredin

The Hon Paul Henderson MLA (Indonesia 1995), Northern Territory Minister for Business and Economic Development; Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services; Minister for Regional Development; Minister for Defence Support; Minister for Essential Services; Member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly for Wanguri

The Hon John Hill MHA (USA 1991, Japan 1996), South Australian Minister for Health; Minister for Environment and Conservation; Minister for the Southern Suburbs; Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts; Member of the South Australian House of Assembly for Kaurna

The Hon Phillip Honeywood MLA (Canada 1990), Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Victoria; Victorian Opposition Spokesperson for Scrutiny of Government; Opposition Spokesperson for Policy Co-ordination; Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Warrandyte

The Hon Barry House MLC (USA 1992), Western Australian Shadow Minister for Education and Training; Member of the Western Australian Legislative Council

The Hon Rob Hulls MLA (USA 1992), Victorian Attorney-General; Minister for Industrial Relations; Minister for Planning; Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Niddrie

Mr Andrew Humpherson MLA (USA 1997), New South Wales Shadow Minister for Justice; Shadow Minister for Emergency Services; Shadow Minister for Community Services; Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Davidson

The Hon Sandra Kanck MLC (Vietnam 1994), South Australian Parliamentary Leader of the Australian Democrats; Member of the South Australian Legislative Council

The Hon Margaret Keech MLA (Japan 2001), Queensland Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development; Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for Albert

The Hon Anthony Kelly MLC (USA 1987), New South Wales Minister for Justice; Minister for Juvenile Justice; Minister for Emergency Services; Minister for Lands; Minister for Rural Affairs; Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council

Dr John-Paul Langbroek MLA (Japan 2002), Secretary of the Parliamentary Liberal Party in Queensland; Queensland Shadow Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing; Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for Surfers Paradise

The Hon Delia Lawrie MLA (China 2004), Northern Territory Minister for Family and Community Services; Minister for Sport and Recreation; Member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly for Karama

The Hon John Lenders MLC (NZ 2001), Victorian Minister for Finance; Minister for Major Projects; Minister for Workcover and the TAC; Leader of Government Business in the Legislative Council; Member of the Victorian Legislative Council

The Hon Michelle Lensink MLC (Vietnam 2001), Member of the South Australian Legislative Council

The Hon Francis Logan MLA (Korea 1995), Western Australian Minister for Housing and Works; Minister for Heritage; Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure; Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly for Cockburn

The Hon Wendy Lovell MLC (PNG 2004), Victorian Shadow Spokesperson for Women's Affairs; Shadow Spokesperson for Aboriginal Affairs; Shadow Spokesperson for Consumer Affairs; Member of the Victorian Legislative Council

The Hon Rob Lucas MLC (USA 1987), South Australian Shadow Treasurer; Shadow Minister for Industry and Trade; Shadow Minister for Economic Development, Science and Information Economy; Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council; Member of the South Australian Legislative Council

The Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLA (Germany 1993), Western Australian Minister for Planning and Infrastructure; Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly for Armadale

Mr Daryl Maguire MLA (China 2002), New South Wales Opposition Whip; Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Wagga Wagga

The Hon Mark McGowan MLA (Japan 2001), Western Australian Minister for Tourism; Minister for Racing and Gaming; Minister for Youth; Minister for Peel and the South West; Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly for Rockingham

Mr Andrew McNamara MLA (Japan 2005), Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for Hervey Bay

Mr James Merlino MLA (Japan 2004), Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Monbulk

The Hon Dr Denis Napthine MLA (Japan 1994), Victorian Shadow Minister for Agriculture; Shadow Minister for Water; Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for the South-West Coast

Mr Neville Newell MLA (Japan 1994), Parliamentary Secretary to the New South Wales Minister for Justice, Juvenile Justice, Emergency Services, Lands, and Rural Affairs; Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Tweed

Ms Rachel Nolan MLA (Vietnam 2005), Deputy Government Whip; Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for Ipswich

The Hon Simon O'Brien MLC (Japan 1999), Western Australian Shadow Minister for Commerce and Trade; Shadow Minister for Disability Services; Shadow Minister for Works and Services; Shadow Minister for Asian Economic Development; Member of the Western Australian Legislative Council

Mr Barry O'Farrell MLA (USA 1996), Deputy Leader of the New South Wales Opposition; Shadow Minister for Transport; Shadow Minister for Ports and Waterways; Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Ku-ring-gai

The Hon Melinda Pavey MLC (China 2000), Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council

Ms Liz Penfold MHA (Japan 2000), Member of the South Australian House of Assembly for Flinders

Ms Jaye Radisich MLA (Vietnam 2002), Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly for Swan Hills

Mr John Rau MHA (USA 1992), Member of the South Australian House of Assembly for Enfield

The Hon Ljiljana Ravlich MLC (Germany 2001), Western Australian Minister for Education and Training; Member of the Western Australian Legislative Council

The Hon Michelle Roberts MLA (China 1988), Western Australian Minister for Police and Emergency Services; Minister for Community Safety; Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly for Midland

Mr Anthony Roberts MLA (China 2004), Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Lane Cove

Mr Jeremy Rockliff MHA (NZ 2003), Tasmanian Shadow Minister for Primary Industries, Water and the Environment; Shadow Minister for the Arts; Opposition Whip, Member of the Tasmanian House of Assembly for Braddon

The Hon Eric Roozendaal MLC (USA 2004), New South Wales Minister for Ports and Waterways; Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council

Ms Marianne Saliba MLA (Japan 1997), Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Illawarra

Ms Peta Seaton MLA (USA 1999), New South Wales Shadow Minister for the Reform of Government; Assistant Shadow Treasurer; Shadow Minister for the Illawarra; Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for the Southern Highlands

Mr Lawrence Springborg MLA (Japan 1995), Leader of the Queensland Opposition; Leader of the Queensland Nationals; Shadow Minister for Trade; Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for Southern Downs

The Hon Dr Sally Talbot MLC (NZ 2003), Member of the Western Australian Legislative Council

The Hon Donna Taylor MLC (Germany 2001), Western Australian Shadow Spokesperson for Youth; Member of the Western Australian Legislative Council

Dr Steven Thomas MLA (Philippines 1996), Western Australian Opposition Spokesperson for Emergency Services; Opposition Spokesperson for Indigenous Affairs; Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly for Capel

The Hon Marsha Thomson MLC (USA 1997), Victorian Minister for Information and Communication Technology; Minister for Consumer Affairs; Member of the Victorian Legislative Council

Mr Kim Wells MLA (China 1999), Victorian Shadow Minister for Police and Emergency Services; Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Scoresby

Mr Graham West MLA (USA 2004), Parliamentary Secretary to the New South Wales Treasurer and Minister for Finance; Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Campbelltown

Mr Brett Whiteley MHA (UK 2001), Tasmanian Shadow Treasurer; Shadow Minister for Infrastructure; Shadow Minister for Local Government; Member of the Tasmanian House of Assembly for Braddon



OTHER PROMINENT FORMER DELEGATES

Mr Brer Adams (Japan 2002), Chief of Staff to the South Australian Minister for the Environment; President, Adelaide Electoral Council

Ms Koula Alexiadis (USA 1995), Adviser to Senator the Hon Robert Ray, Senator for Victoria

Mr Graham Allan (USA 1982), President, Yum Restaurants International, Dallas

Ms Gemma Allman (Vietnam 2000), Chief of Staff to the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Mr Duncan Anderson (USSR 1992), Managing Director, IPC Global Ltd, United States

Mr Julian Anderson (China 1986), President, Rider Hunt Levett & Bailey Limited, North America; private sector member of the American Legislative Exchange Council

Mr Peter Anderson (Japan 1995), Director, Workplace Policy, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mr Kent Andrew (Indonesia 1995), Vice Chairman, Citrus Growers Australia; Director, Board of Australian Citrus Growers Inc

Ms Kirsten Andrews (China 2002), Senior Media Adviser to the New South Wales Minister for Community Services and Minister for Youth

Mr Larry Anthony (Japan 1994), Director, ABC Learning Centres

Mr Paris Aristotle AM (Vietnam 1994), Director, The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture Inc; Member, Immigration Detention Advisory Group; Member, Refugee Resettlement Advisory Council

Mr Mark Baker (USA 2002), Head of Government Relations, Westpac Bank

Mr David Barbagallo (Germany 1993), Chairman, Microgenx

Mr Chris Barrett (Germany 1999), Director, Resources and Infrastructure Branch, Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet

Mr Jim Barron (USA 1996), Chief Executive Officer, Group Training Australia

Mr Liam Bathgate (USA 1994), Manager, Public Affairs, Tenix Pty Ltd

Mr Simon Berger (USA 2002), Senior Adviser to the Federal Minister for Finance and Administration

Mr Andrew Bibb (Japan 2002), Adviser to the Queensland Opposition Leader

Mr Kym Bills (Germany 1991), Executive Director, Australian Transport Safety Bureau

Mr Karl Bitar (Vietnam 1998, USA 2005), Assistant General Secretary of the Australian Labor Party (New South Wales Branch)

Mr Charles Blunt (USA 1982), National Director, United States Chamber of Commerce, Australia

Mr Matthew Boland (UK 1999), General Counsel/Company Secretary, Anglo Coal Australia

Ms Katie Brassil (China 1998), Chief Executive Officer, Hunter Economic Development Corporation

Ms Allison Brown (China 2000), Head of Communications, Make a Wish Foundation

Mr Laurie Brown (Vietnam 1994), Director, Polmark Marketing and Consulting

Mr David Bushby (NZ 2001), Director, Beyond PR; Partner, Argyle Law

Mr Bruce Campbell-Fraser (USA 1997), Strategic Management Adviser to the Premier of Western Australia

Mrs Kate Carnell AO (USA 1994), Chief Executive Officer, Australian Division of General Practice Limited

Mr Ian Carson (China 1996), National Chairman and Partner, PPB Chartered Accountants and Business Reconstruction

The Hon Virginia Chadwick AO (USA 1986), Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Ms Creina Chapman (USA 1997), Director, Regulatory and Corporate Affairs, Publishing and Broadcasting Limited

Mr John Cherry (Hong Kong 1999), Executive Director, Queensland Farmers' Federation

Mr Darren Chester (USA 2004), Chief of Staff to the Leader of The Nationals, Victoria

Ms Cathi Collier (USA 1992), Director, Corporate Communication and Marketing, Queensland Department of Education and the Arts

The Hon Justice Terry Connolly (USA 1993), Judge, Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court

Mr Michael Cooney (China 2003), Director of Policy to the Federal Leader of the Opposition

Ms Rowena Cowan (USA 2000), Adviser to the Federal Minister for Finance and Administration

Mr Lynton Crosby AO (China 1986, USA 1994), Managing Director, Crosby Textor Research Strategies Results Pty Ltd

Mr Lawrie Daly (USA 1989), Policy Adviser to the New South Wales Special Minister of State and Minister for Industrial Relations

Mr Darren Disney (USA 2002), State Campaign Manager, Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Branch)

Mr John Donovan (China 1998), Managing Director, Australian Wholesale Funds Marketing Ltd

Mr Mick Doyle (China 1993), Commissioner, South Australian Industrial Relations Commission

Mr Stuart Eaton (Vietnam 2002), Adviser to the Federal Minister for Small Business and Tourism

Mr Bruce Edwards (Japan 1992), International Secretary, Liberal Party of Australia Federal Secretariat

Mr Brad Emery (USA 2005), Media Adviser to the Federal Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer

Mr David Epstein (USA 1994), Director, Government Relations Australia

Mr Mario Falchoni (Indonesia 1995), Corporate Relations Manager, GrainCorp

Mr Geoff Fary (USA 1984), Executive Director of Industrial Relations, Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia

Mr Martin Foley (Vietnam 2004), Chief of Staff to the Victorian Minister for Agriculture

Mr Stephen Forshaw (Indonesia 1995), Vice President, Public Affairs, Singapore Airlines

Mr David Fraser (USA 1988), Adviser to the Federal Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Mr David Fredericks (USA 2000), Chief of Staff to the Federal Leader of the Opposition

Ms Elizabeth Fricker (Canada 1992), Managing Director, Agserv Industries, South Australia

Mr Tim Gartrell (USA 2002), National Secretary, Australian Labor Party; Member, Australian Political Exchange Council

Mr Wesley Glanville (Germany 1991), Company Secretary and Managing Counsel, Santos Limited

Mr Gary Gray (USA 1989), Principal Strategic Adviser, Woodside Energy Limited; Member, Australian Political Exchange Council

Mr Andrew Hall (USA 2005), Federal Director, The Nationals

Mr Wesley Head (PNG 1995), Junior Vice President, The Nationals (Victorian Branch)

Mr Daryl Hockey (USA 1995), Manager, International Market Development, Australian Wheatboard Limited

Ms Melissa Horne (Germany 1999), Director, Corporate Public Affairs, Victorian Department of Infrastructure

Ms Linda Hornsey (USA 1993), Secretary, Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet

Ms Sam Hudson (USA 1998, 1999), Executive Director, Australian Associated Brewers

Mr Graham Jaeschke (USA 1996, NZ 2002), State Director, Liberal Party of Australia (New South Wales Division)

Mr Mike Kaiser (UK 1997), Chief of Staff to the Premier of New South Wales

Mr Michael Kerrisk (USA 1996), National Project Manager, Red Cross Calling

Mr Keith Kessell (USA 1988), Executive General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Wesfarmers Limited

Ms Deborah Klika (Japan 1994), Convenor, Australian Broadcasting Corporation Advisory Council

Mr Michael Kroger (Germany 1991), Chairman, JT Campbell and Co Pty Ltd

Ms Helen Kroger (USA 1999), State President, Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division)

Professor the Hon Michael Lavarch (USSR 1990), Dean and Professor of Law, Queensland University of Technology

Commissioner John Lewin (Canada 1987), Commissioner, Australian Industrial Relations Commission

Mr Stephen Loosley (USA 1984), Member, Australian Strategic Policy Institute Council; Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers Legal

Mr Brian Loughnane (USA 1998), Federal Director, Liberal Party of Australia; Member, Australian Political Exchange Council

Mr Gregory Mackay (Germany 1993), Executive Director, Macquarie Bank Limited

The Hon Dr Stephen Martin (Canada 1985), Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Victoria University

Mr Andrew McKenzie (USA 1996), Senior Adviser to the Victorian Minister for Aged Care and Aboriginal Affairs

Mr John McLaren (China 1994, AAI 1996), President, Australian Democrats, South Australian Division

Ms Anna McPhee (USA 1995), Director, Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency

The Hon Christopher Miles (USA 1988), Member, Australian Foreign Investment Review Board

Ms Charis Mullen (Vietnam 2004), Senior Policy Adviser and Chief of Staff to the Queensland Minister for Local Government, Planning and Women

Mr Gary Neat (USA 1984), National President, Australian Institute of Management

Mr Nathan Niven (China 1999), Assistant Secretary, Victorian Trades Hall Council

Mr Tony Nutt (USA 1989, UK 1995), Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister of Australia

The Hon John Olsen FNIA (Canada 1990), Australian Consul-General in Los Angeles

Ms Liz Oss-Emer (UK 2003), Queensland President, Australian Democrats

Mr Andrew Park (Vietnam 2003), Adviser to the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Noel Paul (Vietnam 1996), Vice President, Australian Labor Party (South Australian Branch); South Australian and Northern Territory State Secretary, Postal and Telecommunications Branch of the Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union of Australia

Mr Bill Phillips-Turner (Germany 1993), Chairman, Mossman Central Mill Co. Limited

Mr David Pigott (China 1998), General Manager, Corporate Partnerships, Mission Australia

Cr Darren Power (PNG 2003), Full-time Councillor, Logan City Council

Ms Renee Prestt (China 2004), Adviser to the Special Minister of State, Senator for Tasmania

Mr David Quilty (UK 1997), Senior Adviser, Cabinet Policy Unit

Cr Graham Quirk (USA 1989), Councillor for Wishart; Chairman of Transport and Major Projects; Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, Brisbane City Council, Queensland

Mr Chris Raper (Germany 1991), Assistant Director General, Public Employment Office, New South Wales Premier's Department

Mr Jim Reeves (USA 1990), Divisional Manager, Brisbane Water; Director, Brisbane Powerhouse

Mr Robert Reid (USA 2000), Chief Executive Officer, Aged Care Association Australia (Western Australian Branch)

Mr Tony Reidy (USA 1988), Executive Director, Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation

Ms Linda Reynolds (USA 2002), Deputy Director, Liberal Party of Australia

Mr Bernie Riordan (USA 1997), Senior Vice President, Australian Labor Party (New South Wales Branch); Secretary, Electrical Trades Union of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Mr Ian Robertson (Germany 1995), Chairman, AusFILM; Managing Partner, Holding Redlich Lawyers

Ms Jenny Russell (USA 1989), Chairman, Telstra Country Wide Advisory Board

Mr Antony Sachs (NZ 2003), Senior Adviser to the Federal Shadow Minister for Environment and Heritage and Shadow Minister for Water

Ms Rita Saffioti (Japan 2002), Strategic Management Adviser to the Premier of Western Australia

Mr Brian Scullin (USA 1985), Chairman, Deutsche Asset Management

Mr Bill Shorten (Japan 1995), National Secretary, Australian Workers' Union; Victorian Branch Secretary, Australian Workers' Union

Mr Arthur Sinodinos (Philippines 1996), Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister of Australia

Ms Jarka Sipka (Japan 1994), Company Director, Shared Web Services Pty Ltd

The Hon Warwick Smith (China 1986), Executive Director, Central Executive Group and Head of Corporate Communications, Macquarie Bank Limited

Mr Dean Smith (USA 1997), General Manager, Government Affairs, OPTUS

Ms Stephanie Smith (USA 1987), Chief Executive Officer, Research Directions Pty Ltd

Ms Megan Stoyles (USA 1982), Consultant, Aged and Community Services Australia

Mr Matthew Strassberg (Russia 1992), Chief of Staff to the New South Wales Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Industrial Relations, Ageing, Disability Services, and Assistant Treasurer

Mr Mark Textor (USA 1992), Managing Director, Crosby Textor Research Strategies Results Pty Ltd

Mr Simon Troeth (USA 2005), Senior Adviser to the Federal Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

Ms Leesa Vlahos (NZ 2003), Assistant State Secretary, Australian Labor Party (South Australian Branch)

Mr Brett Walker (PNG 2003), State Secretary, Australian Labor Party (Northern Territory Branch)

Mr Chris Walton (USA 2002), Assistant Secretary, Australian Council of Trade Unions

Mr Gerard Wheeler (USA 1993), Director, Strategic Relations, Raytheon Australia

Mr Robert Whiddon (Canada 1985), Chief of Staff to the Premier of Queensland

Mr John Whitelaw (Germany 1995), Principal Projects Officer to the Premier of Western Australia

Mr David Williams (Japan 2000), Chief of Staff to the Federal Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Mr Ron Wilson (USA 2004), Chief of Staff to the Victorian Leader of the Opposition

Mr Russell Wortley (China 1984), Sub-branch Secretary, Gas Industry, Transport Workers' Union (South Australia)

Ms Adele Young (USA 2004), Chief of Staff to the Northern Territory Chief Minister

Mr Peter Zangari (Vietnam 2003), Media Adviser to the New South Wales Minister for Roads

Appendix B – Financial Statements

YEAR 2004-2005

Income	\$
Commonwealth Appropriation	784 000
Expenditure	
Australia to United States – July 2004	46 475
United States to Australia – August 2004	53 600
Japan to Australia – August 2004 (visit did not proceed)	350
United Kingdom to Australia – September 2004 (visit did not proceed)	350
Germany to Australia – November 2004 (visit did not proceed)	350
Australia to Papua New Guinea – November 2004	27 304
Papua New Guinea to Australia – February 2005	22 282
Exploratory visit to South Korea – February 2005	19 364
Australia to New Zealand – February/March 2005	18 529
Australia to Japan – February/March 2005	8 468
Australia to United States – April 2005	46 005
Australia to Vietnam – April 2005	24 256
Vietnam to Australia – May 2005	43 360
New Zealand to Australia – June 2005 (visit did not proceed)	173
Individual study programs	69 536
Carryover expenditure from 2003-2004 exchanges	25 441
Carryover expenditure from 2002-2003 exchanges	14
Carryover expenditure from 2001-2002 exchanges	125
Council Communications	11 873
Administration	10 149
<hr/> TOTAL	<hr/> 428 004
Budget not utilised	355 996

Note – unexpended funds in 2004-2005

The funds set aside for this financial year were under-utilised due to unforeseen circumstances, including the deferral of delegation visits and study tours until 2005-2006.

YEAR 2003-2004

The following Financial Statement, for the financial year 2003-2004, has been updated to incorporate expenditure that was not reported in the 2003-2004 Annual Report.

Income	\$
Commonwealth Appropriation	784 000
Expenditure	
Australia to Vietnam – July 2003	17 112
Australia to New Zealand – July 2003	20 970
Exploratory Visit to South Korea – July 2003	3 970
Australia to China – August 2003	21 176
United States to Australia – August 2003	57 032
South Korea to Australia – August 2003 (visit did not proceed)	3 491
China to Australia – November 2003	35 463
Australia to Germany – December 2003	41 627
Australia to Japan – February 2004	11 964
New Zealand to Australia – March 2004	41 742
Australia to Vietnam – April 2004	19 633
Australia to China – April 2004	24 735
Vietnam to Australia – May 2004	45 418
China to Australia – June 2004	28 651
Study Tours	14 692
Expenditure for 2004-2005 exchanges	1 840
Carryover expenditure from 2002-2003 exchanges	4 677
Council Communications	12 595
Administration	8 190
TOTAL	414 978
Budget not utilised	369 022

Note – unexpended funds in 2003-2004

The funds set aside for this financial year were under-utilised due to unforeseen circumstances, including the deferral of delegation visits and study tours until 2004-2005.

APPENDIX C – Administrative Overview

CHAIRMAN'S REMUNERATION

The Chairman receives a sitting fee when the Council meets and when she is engaged in business on behalf of the Council, in accordance with the determinations made by the Remuneration Tribunal. Members of the Council do not receive any remuneration.

MEETINGS

The Council met formally on 1 December 2004 and 1 June 2005. In addition, certain Council business was progressed out of session.

STAFFING

The Council Secretariat function is performed by staff of the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Group of the Department of Finance and Administration. Mr John Edge was Secretary to the Council until 1 June 2005 and Mrs Kim Baker was appointed to the position from 1 June 2005. Ms Pandora Livanis commenced in the role of Executive Officer in October 2004. The Program Officer function was performed by Ms Jody Chapman.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The financial affairs of the Council are examined by the Australian National Audit Office as part of its annual audit of the financial statements of the Department of Finance and Administration.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

No applications were received by the Council under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* in 2004–2005.

APPENDIX D – Contact Information

The Australian Political Exchange Council may be contacted through its Secretariat by contacting the Executive Officer.

Address: Australian Political Exchange Council
PO Box 4860
KINGSTON ACT 2604
Australia

Telephone: (02) 6215 3248 or (02) 6215 3469

Facsimile: (02) 6267 3375

E-mail: auspol.exchange@finance.gov.au

