



THE  
GRADUATE  
UNION  
of  
The University of  
Melbourne Inc.

# THE MELBOURNE GRADUATE

PERIODICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
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UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE  
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## VALE

### Ralph Slade de la Lande

1923-2006

Born in Melbourne in 1923, Ralph finished his schooling at Melbourne Boys High School in 1939-40 and was always an advocate for the school for which he had great affection. His war service with the RAAF, while confined to the Northern Territory, involved training in the then frontier of RADAR.

Following war service, Ralph attended The University of Melbourne, graduating with Bachelor of Electrical Engineering in November 1949 and gaining Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia in 1980. An outstanding career in technology followed with the Department of Civil Aviation, as a Colombo Plan expert in Indonesia, and later as Coordinating Engineer for the Melbourne Airport Project at Tullamarine. In 1967 he joined the Bureau of Meteorology and from 1979-1982 was acting head of its Facilities Branch. Finally, until retirement he and Lois spent four years in Saudi Arabia, where Ralph was an advisor to their Meteorological and Environmental Agency.

With his participation in many professional and community organizations, it is not surprising that Ralph became involved in the Graduate Union where from 1980 onwards he and his wife Lois were regular attendees at the Monthly Luncheons and numerous other functions, occasionally with other family members.

Ralph was elected to the Graduate Council in 1998, after co-option the previous year, and henceforward made the Graduate Union and Melbourne High School Old Boys his chief concerns, along with the RSL, Probus and editing the local newsletter for Neighbourhood Watch.

When Graduate Council set up a Building Committee in July 1998, both Ralph and Dr John Binns were co-opted, giving invaluable assistance and playing a leading role in deliberations and negotiations with the University, the architects and the builders. Ralph's previous experience in project planning and management was also very useful particularly in the later stages of the construction itself. His contribution was one element which ensured the completion of the new building on time and within the Graduate Union's financial capacity.

Ralph was the only member of the original committee remaining when it was disbanded in 2005 and one of the first donors to have a bedroom named in his honour. After a special dinner to mark the completion of the project, he and Lois stayed the night as the first occupants of the room donated by him. The completion of the project finally fulfilled the aim of designing and building a new multistorey Graduate House extension of which all Members could be proud. The new facilities have enabled expansion of services thereby giving the Graduate Union a new lease of life and a greatly improved financial outlook.

After cheerfully battling a long illness Ralph died early on 27 May, after having enjoyed a good dinner the night before. At his funeral in the Springvale Botanical Cemetery on 2 June, the Graduate Union was represented by the Secretary-Warden Eugene Spanti, former President Frank Lees, Vice President Robert Gibson, and Chairman of Council Neil Taylor, all of whom had come to know Ralph as a good friend. Ralph is survived by his wife Lois, two sons, two daughters and five grandchildren.

*Material provided by family, Dr Ron Davey and Dr Robt Gibson*

#### Office Bearers

President:  
The Honourable John Cain

Vice President:  
Dr Robert Gibson

Chairman:  
Mr Neil Taylor

Vice Chairman:  
Dr David McCredie

Secretary-Warden (CEO)  
Mr Eugene Spanti



**CALENDAR OF GRADUATE HOUSE EVENTS**

6 Sept Mr Andrew Jaspán, Editor-in-Chief, 'The Age'

8 Sept Graduate Singles Cocktail Night

4 Oct Mr Andrew Bolt, Journalist

25 Oct Spring Dinner - Peter Lehmann Wine Tasting

1 Nov Mr Chris Awcock, A Life in Libraries

6 Dec Dr Brian Costello, Cassel Research Centre

15 Dec Members Christmas Party

**Regular Events**

Every Wednesday evening Bridge 7.45pm

1st Wednesday each month Luncheon, 12.30 for 12.50pm

3rd Wednesday each month Women's Forum 10.15am

**DONATIONS**

**Building Appeal:**

\$50 D Francis

\$30 E Ellis

\$25 M Worsnop

**Building Fund:**

\$200 P Boaden, J Balmford

\$50 K Lee, G Hardy

\$10 R Stanhope

**Residents Assistance Fund:**

\$50 A Abbott

\$40 I Rogers

The Melbourne Graduate is normally published four times a year by The Graduate Union of The University of Melbourne Incorporated.

It is edited by Eugene Spanti and Lyn Weston, under the direction of the Graduate Council and its Executive Committee.

The Melbourne Graduate welcomes letters from readers and reserves the right to edit them for publication. Please keep word count to a maximum of 250 and address to The Editor, The Melbourne Graduate.

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**LUNCHEON SPEAKERS**

**APRIL – Frank Lees, Why Japan is Strong**



The former president spoke at the April lunch about Japan - a subject very dear to his heart. His time with the occupation forces resulted in a love for things Japanese and a great respect for the Japanese people following defeat. Their tenacity, perseverance and cheerful character have clearly left a lasting impression. In an appendix to the talk, he noted the historic and ancient capital of Kyoto was never bombed or attacked, its great significance being recognized by the Allies. He also said residents of Osaka, Tokyo, Nagoya and Kure had reason to be thankful to the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, because these cities could have been devastated had the war continued. Frank concluded with a resume of the rise of Japan from devastation to the world position it holds today.

**MAY – Janine Joseph, LIFEGift**



Ambassador for LIFEGift and motivational speaker, Janine Joseph spoke about the importance of organ donation in saving lives and improving quality of life. She shared her personal experience of donating a kidney to her twin sister. She said there had never been a question that it was right and natural to do this although initially her sister had not agreed, believing the gift too great. Only after some years on dialysis and severe deterioration could she be persuaded. Janine is passionate about organ donation, saying in many cases one family's heartbreak can bring hope and life to another family - some good can come from the worst possible tragedy.

**JUNE – Katherine Ellis, Reach Foundation**



General Manager of the Reach Foundation, Katherine Ellis and Paulo, a young Reach Leader in training, spoke of the aim of the Foundation in engaging young people in programs that are fun as well as educational. Katherine said it is not only 'street kids' and drug users who are helped by Reach, young people from all socio-economic groups suffer from depression, poor self esteem and anxiety. Paulo related his own life experiences and how Reach had turned his life around. He is now two years into the program and running programs himself.

**JULY – Jackie Fristacky, Local Government**



Former resident of Graduate House and currently Mayor of the City of Yarra, Jackie Fristacky spoke about the role of Local Government, saying Councils are subject to considerable demands and are highly exposed to community scrutiny by residents and ratepayers. Responsible for eighty percent of roads, other local infrastructure and community services, Councils receive only four percent of revenue raised by governments causing considerable problems in meeting responsibilities. She said the amalgamation in 1993/94 had reduced the number of Councils from 211 to 79 and Councils now work increasingly together to secure outcomes from State and Federal governments. Jackie is a keen bike rider and also an advocate for public transport use. Giving the audience some official statistics, she challenged the "myth" that public transport is heavily subsidised compared with car transport pointing out that the reverse is the case. The audience listened in rapt attention, asking many questions and the general opinion was that Jackie should be invited to return as there was not enough time to cover all the areas of interest or concern.

**FAREWELL GEOFFREY DYE**



H o n o r a r y Librarian and Duty Resident, Geoff Dye left Graduate House in May after four

years service. He has been an integral part of life at The House and his assistance in many areas of operation will be sorely missed. Geoff has moved to a retirement village and will be working part-time in the prison system.

*Due to the retirement of Mr Geoffrey Dye, Graduate House is without an Honorary Librarian.*

*The assistance of a member willing to take on this important role would be greatly appreciated.*

**VALETE**

The Graduate Union was saddened to learn of the death of Professor Malcolm David Hamilton Smith who joined the Graduate Union in 1987 and was a nominee of the Vice-Chancellor on Graduate Council until 1999.

The deaths of the following members have been notified since April. The support of these members has been appreciated and we extend condolences to their families.

Mr Janis Cirksis  
Life Member joined 1979

Mr Alan Craven  
Life Member joined 1952

Mr John Cruickshank  
Life Member joined 1951

Dr David Evans  
Life Member joined 1954

Rev Raymond Gregory  
Life Member joined 1969

Mrs June Margolin  
Life Member joined 1981





## NEW MEMBERS

### HONORARY MEMBER

#### Mr JOHN SO

Lord Mayor of Melbourne



Councillor John So became an Honorary member in April 2006 and at an afternoon tea with the President and members of Graduate Council was presented with his Honorary Member certificate. The Lord Mayor said he was honoured to accept as he has a special interest in education in the City of Melbourne and two of his children are currently studying at The University of Melbourne.

A Melbourne businessman, John So is Melbourne's first popularly-elected Lord Mayor and was re-elected for a second consecutive term in 2004. He is one of Melbourne's longest serving councillors and is Melbourne's longest serving Lord Mayor. In 2005, he was named in the World Mayor Top Ten list.

Born in Hong Kong, he moved to Melbourne at the age of 17. Not long after settling in to Melbourne, he achieved his matriculation at University High School and then went on to complete a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Diploma in Education from The University of Melbourne.

It was during his time as a university student that John first became involved in politics, forming the Overseas and Chinese Students Association and campaigning for the removal of the White Australia Policy. It was an early interest in social equity that would continue to see him represent the community on a broad range of business and social issues. After graduating, he taught science for eight years at a State secondary school before starting his own business.

John is passionate about promoting the City of Melbourne and works to facilitate business opportunities in the city, and to stimulate tourism, culture and investment in Melbourne. His vision for Melbourne includes creating closer links between the city and the water, whether that is the Yarra River or Melbourne's Docklands. He celebrates Melbourne's waterfront opportunities and since first elected to Council has worked to shift part of the city's focus to the water.

Always active in community affairs, John is particularly focused on projects for youth and older sections of the community. He is a Justice of the Peace. His ongoing involvement in various charities includes the Kidney Foundation, Cancer Council, Committee for Melbourne, Rotary, Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund, Shrine of Remembrance Board, Victorian Community Council on Crime and Violence and is a patron of the Melbourne Junior Chamber of Commerce.

A former Victorian Ethnic Affairs Commissioner, John is committed to ethnic community welfare issues. He celebrates Melbourne's links with Asia and endorsed the city's International Relationship program identifying Osaka and Tianjin as priorities within the sister city program. Through the Business Partner City Network, he promotes the development of business opportunities in all the major cities of the region.

### CORPORATE MEMBERS

#### **MEDICAL DEFENCE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA**

The MDAV is situated just around the corner from Graduate House in Pelham Street. At a special afternoon tea, Jill Nowotna was presented with the Association's special Corporate Member certificate by the Secretary-Warden and Vice-Chairman. The MDAV has already hosted several conferences, held a very successful Trivia Night for their social club and are regular lunchtime visitors.

#### **THE WRITING CENTRE, SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**



Mr Simon Clewes from The Writing Centre, School of Graduate Studies accepted their Corporate Member certificate later in May. He thanked the Secretary-Warden, saying he was very impressed with the facilities and service offered by the new building and honoured to be a member of such a prestigious organization.

#### **ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT, HUMAN RESOURCES**



Six members of the Organisational Development Unit team arrived at Graduate House on 27 June to receive their Corporate Member certificate and enjoy morning tea of pastries and coffee. The group was very interested in what

Graduate House had to offer, particularly conferencing and accommodation for their overseas visitors. They were all very charming and we look forward to seeing more of them at Graduate House.

**The following members also joined the Graduate Union in the period April to August 2006. We welcome them and look forward to their participation in our members' programs.**

#### **Life Members**

Assoc Professor Alan Abbott,  
BEng, MBusAdmin  
Mr R Cameron, BArchHons

#### **Associate Members**

Ms J Bensemam, Artistic &  
Creative Education, Faculty of  
Education  
Ms M Burder, Faculty of  
Architecture, Building &  
Planning  
Ms C Filer, School of Dental  
Science  
Ms J Slaviero, Faculty of  
Engineering  
Prof J Wyn, Youth Research  
Centre, Faculty of Education

#### **Ordinary Members**

Ms S Beard, BA(Saskatchewan)  
Mrs S Chapple, BBus, MCom  
(WA), GradCert(NSW)

Ms A Dott, BA,  
DipLegalStud(LaTrobe),  
GradDip(Ballarat)  
Ms E Kahn, BA(Deakin), BSW,  
GradDipEd  
Mr H Kingsley, GradDip(Deakin),  
MEd  
Mr C Malpas, BA  
Dr M de Morton, FRMIT(RMIT),  
PhD(UK), BA  
Mr J O'Carroll, BA  
Mr G Roche, BA, LLB,  
MBA(Deakin), LLM(ANU)  
Ms K Slade, BA, MA(Toronto)  
Prof L Sterling, BScHons, PhD  
Mr P Tsitas, BArch,  
MArch(London)  
Mr J West Lau, BEc(Monash),  
MA(New England)  
Ms S Wilson, BSc(ANU)  
Prof R Zammuto, PhD(Illinois)

*All degrees are from University of Melbourne unless otherwise noted.  
Degrees are stated as presented on members' application forms.*



## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### 2006 HONOUR ROLL OF WOMEN: SISTER MARIE KEHOE - "CREATING A SAFER COMMUNITY"



You might say that it was in Sister Marie Kehoe's nature to help others. Like her mother before her, she has had a passion for encouraging others to have the confidence to form an opinion and speak their minds. Graduate Union Life Member, Sister Marie decided a career in education was one way of helping people understand and

defend their rights. Starting out as a teacher, Sister Marie went on to become the Director at the Australian Catholic University, a position she held for 20 years.

In response to the 1987 shootings in Hoddle and Queen Streets she became a foundation member of the Victorian Community Council Against Violence. She helped develop and implement new violence prevention programs and build community awareness about the social impact of violence. "I believe community attitudes develop as we mature and I wanted to teach people respect for one another and respect for other people's rights in the community."

### NEW GRADUATE COUNCILLORS

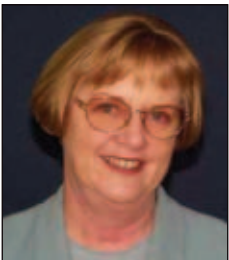
#### ANDREW K ROBERTS



Andrew is currently the Director of Vascular Surgery at the Austin Hospital. Following graduation in the 1960s he spent four years in the UK where he met his wife Jan, then a staff nurse at Guy's Hospital London. Following their return to Australia, Andrew spent some time at the Royal Melbourne Hospital before undertaking specialist surgical training in the USA.

An active undergraduate and postgraduate teacher throughout his career, Andrew loves the multicultural background of today's student population. His early contacts with Italian patients led to a lifelong interest in Italy and he spent some time at the University for Foreigners in Perugia acquiring some Italian language ability. Andrew's many interests outside surgery include golf, travel, food, wine and music.

#### GLEND A FISHER



A graduate of The University of Melbourne in Masters of Education, Glenda has worked in Special Education for 30 years. Prior to joining the Catholic Education Office she held a variety of positions in Victorian schools. She has also worked in transitional testing for tertiary students and

lectured in diagnostic assessment at the University. Currently an Education Officer-Vocational Preparation for Student Services, she assists students with special needs to access effective post compulsory education and training options across the Melbourne Archdiocese. Glenda and husband John live in Woodend. They enjoy travel and live theatre and are passionate AFL supporters of Melbourne and the Sydney Swans.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of The Graduate Union was held on 25 May 2006. The Honourable John Cain, President and Chairman of the meeting, welcomed members and addressed the meeting. He summarised his association with The University of Melbourne and thanked Graduate Council and the membership for inviting him to take up the office of President. He applauded Graduate Council, Secretary-Warden and staff on the achievement of the new building saying it was very important to use these facilities wisely and it was up to Council and the membership to decide this.

The Chairman of The Graduate Union, Mr Neil Taylor, updated his published report reflecting on some of the year's highlights such as the Official Opening by the Governor of Victoria, the visit and subsequent honorary membership of the Lord Mayor of Melbourne and the appointment of the current President, who he said had embraced the office with enthusiasm. Congratulating Members, Council and the staff for their support and contribution he warned against complacency and asked all members to work together for the continued success of The Graduate Union.

The success of the previous year being apparent, the Financial Statements were accepted without discussion and the three Special Resolutions were also passed without issue, the Registrar having requested two of these amendments to the Rules.

After giving an overview of the election process, the Returning Officer announced the results of the election following which the President declared Mr Andre Cleghorn, Dr Andrew Roberts, Mrs Glenda Fisher and Mr Neil Taylor elected, their term of office being until 2009. He congratulated the successful candidates and welcomed the new members to Graduate Council. The meeting also continued the appointment of Mr A Law as Auditor for 2006.

*Draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting are available to members on request*

### AUSTRALIA DAY OAM MR ROBERT (BOB) NEWMAN

A member of the Graduate Union since 1958, Bob Newman was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia this year for his service to Forestry through professional and administrative roles in industry organizations, as an educator and author, and to the community including Rugby Union for over 50 years. He is regarded as one of the leaders in the development of private forestry in Australia from the 1970s to today and also played a significant part over an even longer period in professional and industrial forestry associations.

His involvement in Rugby Union in south-eastern Australian has spanned nearly sixty years. He played a pivotal role in the rejuvenation of the Melbourne University Rugby Football Club, following World War II and whilst studying science for his entry to the Australian Forestry School in Canberra. Said to be one of four top rugby players who played over the years from 1930 to 1990 in Rugby Union with Melbourne University, he shares this distinction with Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop who played for Australia in the 1930s, Peter Hone in the 1950s and Geoff Vaughan who played and toured for Australian Universities in the 1960s. Both Bob Newman and Peter Hone were Wallaby trialists. His commitment to the Club endures to this day. The Graduate Union congratulates him on his award and contribution to Australia.

*Companies offering discounts to Graduate Union Members*

**Australian Unity**

**Geoff Ireland Florist**

**Hertz**

**Pickford Pharmacy**

**DeBortoli Wines**



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Private Room Available

*10% off meals for Graduate Union Members Tuesday to Thursday on presentation of card. (Discount applies to groups of 6 or less)*

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**Tel: 03 9898 5188**

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**MEMBERS ACTIVITIES**



**GRADUATES COCKTAIL PARTY**

Friday evening, 9 June saw the first University Graduates Club function designed to cater for our single members and attracted about 150 members and visitors to Graduate House. Residents, Nela Trifkovic and Sebastian Immaraj entertained guests with a professional mix of piano instrumental music and singing jazz and blues and during breaks in the live music members danced to music videos on the huge screen in the Stillwell Room. A superb range of gourmet finger food was served and, to add style to the evening, a selection of interesting cocktails and 'mocktails' for those driving home. It was good to see everyone mixing so well, residents saying they enjoyed the opportunity to meet members. While some retired to chairs late in the evening, many of the younger visitors and residents kept dancing until the music stopped at 1am.

**INVESTMENT DINNER SERIES 2006**

Series 2006 was a great success with a very good attendance at all three dinners by Graduate Union members and friends and The University of Melbourne Alumni and staff.

Alan Kohler opened Series 2006 sharing his knowledge and expertise about financial planners. Monique Wakelin of Wakelin Property Group followed in March, giving an overview on Property Investment and in April, Chesley Taylor, a Director of E C & L Ballieu, Stockbrokers, allowed his audience to share the benefit of his own extensive experience in stockmarket trading and the type of shares to watch in various market situations.



**THE AUTUMN DINNER  
Mr Anthony Knight, Tallis Foundation**



Mr Anthony Knight's passion for House Beleura was evident throughout his address. He has become obsessed with Beleura and house museums generally, saying they are an example of the taste and expression of the people who lived there. Although Beleura is a Victorian House its interior is genuine 1950s decor which has been completely restored, a very expensive exercise. George Tallis bequeathed House Beleura to the State of Victoria and The Tallis Foundation was set up with sufficient funds for its restoration and maintenance. Anthony talked about the necessity of adding value to restored houses by introducing the people and the times in which they had lived. He gave examples of restored houses with and without a value added component saying Como was a prime example having become a Melbourne icon and the venue of many important events.

The interesting life of George Tallis and his actress wife, his relationship with J C Williamson and Dame Nellie Melba are part of the Beleura experience - a Theatre of the Past and imaginary lives unfolding.

Sir George Tallis endowed the Tallis Wing at Melba Hall and the family's connection with Music and the Arts has continued into the modern era with the Tallis Foundation supporting young people in creative pursuits and the staging of various theatre productions at Beleura.



## WELCOME DUTY RESIDENTS CHRISTIAN O'CONNOR AND ERWIN WONG

*Erwin Wong and Christian O'Connor were engaged as Duty Residents following the departure of Geoffrey Dye. Both are very enthusiastic about their new roles.*



**Christian** has been at Graduate House since early March and is in his second year completing a Master of Laws (Postgraduate Diploma Legal Practice) at Monash University, City Chambers (Bourke St). He is studying part-time while also working part-time and believes as a Duty Resident he will have the opportunity of getting to know other residents on a closer level. Presently half way through his course, he hopes eventually to be admitted as a solicitor/barrister working in the area of juvenile crime and justice. Christian says adequate education, welfare and support for children is imperative. As the adults of tomorrow, he believes the process of granting fair and just representations for children is crucial, especially for those who have become victims of circumstance.



**Erwin**, also known as AJ, has been living in Graduate House since June 2005. He is in his second year of medical school at The University of Melbourne. He has degrees in Biochemistry and Medical Technology from The University of Arizona where he spent much of his free time implementing cultural programs, teaching English and learning Spanish. Erwin is also an avid basketball fan but is quickly learning to appreciate the nuisances of AFL, rugby and cricket since his move to Australia.

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## TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT



### RESIDENTS CHALLENGE THE SECRETARY-WARDEN

Graduate House was abuzz in May with the Doubles and Singles Table Tennis championships being played amongst the residents. The prize - a week free rent - kindly offered by the Secretary-Warden and CEO, Eugene Spanti. After much talk and speculation around the college, the day finally came. Five teams entered the doubles tournament which was eventually won by Sebastian Immaraj and Mario Alvarez (pictured). They shared the prize. A few days later the singles tournament was held and eight players competed including the Secretary-Warden who was undefeated before sustaining an injury when making an aggressive backhand slam against Sebastian Immaraj. The tournament nearly took another sharp turn with a fighting game between Sebastian and Aloysius in the semi-final. The eventual winner was Nicholas Cutler (pictured with finalist Sebastian, and the Secretary-Warden.



## RESIDENTS TOUR OF THE YARRA VALLEY WINERIES

Living at the Graduate House provides those in the postgraduate community an opportunity for rich social experiences in addition to their academic pursuits. Recently the residents organized a day long wine tour of the Yarra Valley. The excursion was a chance to see some of Australia's beautiful scenery outside of Melbourne, as well as to explore different aspects of Victoria's culture. During the excursion they visited numerous vineyards including Green Point and Badger's Brook wineries. Each vineyard visited offered a vast array of local wines for sampling and lunch was enjoyed overlooking the unique landscape of the area. The day was filled with light-hearted conversation and laughter. Many of the residents could be heard bantering with each other on the bus throughout the day's journey. The tour was a great chance to renew friendships, as well as build new ones. Activities such as this allow residents to relax and gain a much needed respite from the demands of their intensive research and study.



## MARLENE HALIM



Marlene is from Indonesia and has been in Melbourne since January this year studying for her MBA. She feels very at home at Graduate House and loves Melbourne. She hopes to stay in Australia after completing her program, ideally finding a position in Marketing. Her favorites places include St. Kilda beach, Federation Square and Brunetti's in Lygon Street. She says as much as she loves Australia and wants to settle in Melbourne, she especially misses her family and Indonesian fried rice.

## DOMINIC CAROLINE



Graduating from Woolongong University with two degrees in Mechanical Engineering, Dominic is now undertaking his PhD in the same field. Since graduating Dominic has worked internationally in New Zealand and Vietnam where he was engaged with commissioning engineering in steel works. Since arriving at Graduate House he has enjoyed many of the benefits which Carlton and the multicultural environment of Graduate House has to offer. He enjoys the closeness to the University and parklands and has become a fan of the football culture and 'Aussie Rules'. As Dominic's studies in steel works is a specialised field, he hopes to continue travelling around the world in pursuit of his work.

## FAREWELL SHINTARO KOBAYASHI



Residents organised a very enjoyable gathering when Shintaro Kobayashi departed Graduate House in June. Shintaro, who has completed his course in Landscape Architecture at The University of Melbourne, thanked everyone for making his sojourn in Melbourne so enjoyable. He said he would treasure memories of his time at Graduate House and the friends he had made.