

Horizons

Issue No 8, April 2011

**IAESTE Australia
Newsletter**



The International Association
for the Exchange of Students
for Technical Experience



I A E S T E

64th ANNUAL CONFERENCE Bangkok, Thailand 21st - 28th January 2011



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and over 4000 traineeships were exchanged worldwide!

On a more local level, I am excited to announce that our revamped website is now live! Many thanks go to Adrian, who has just finished his traineeship with IAESTE Australia and returned to Switzerland.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let the wider community know that all our IAESTE colleagues and trainees in Japan and Brisbane are ok. It has been a big year of natural disasters and my warmest wishes goes out to all those affected.

Wishing for a safe year ahead.



Message from the National Secretary

In January, over 250 participants from 82 countries congregated in Bangkok for the 64th IAESTE annual conference. At this conference each year (hosted in different locations), IAESTE participating countries from around the world meet to exchange traineeships and to share ideas and practices which help in the continual development of IAESTE internationally. Once again it was a successful week

**Rochelle Ades
National Secretary
IAESTE Australia**





Institutional membership

Thank you to all the universities that have shown their support to IAESTE Australia through their institutional membership for 2010-2011:

Curtin University of Technology
 Deakin University
 Monash University
 Queensland University of Technology
 RMIT University
 Swinburne University of Technology
 The University of Adelaide
 The University of Melbourne
 University of South Australia
 University of Technology, Sydney
 University of Wollongong
 Victoria University

Membership with IAESTE Australia provides Australian universities with an opportunity to demonstrate their support and commitment to international education and mobility and be connected with a network of students and employers in over 80 countries.

Memberships for the 2011-2012 year will be from 1st July 2011 until 30th June 2012. Membership packs will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Please note that from 1st July 2011 only students from member universities will be eligible to apply for IAESTE traineeships so register your university now!

Further detail about membership benefits can be found on the website at:
<http://www.swin.edu.au/iaeste>



Tim Binnion talking to students at the Swinburne Abroad Expo

Events



Engineers Australia Engineering Careers Expo 2011

IAESTE Australia participated alongside over 70 other exhibitors on 31st March at Etihad Stadium, Melbourne, to promote employment and internship opportunities for engineering students.

Engineers Australia reported over 8,000 people attending the Expo! Thanks to the help of IAESTE Australia Local Committee members (some pictured below) we gave out almost 500 IAESTE promotional postcards to young, enthusiastic students from around Victoria. We had a fun day and look forward to participating in many more events in future.

University events

March was a busy month for promotion where IAESTE Australia also participated in the Swinburne Abroad Expo and Deakin's Careers for Engineers event. Across the border in South Australia, information sessions were also held at The University of Adelaide and University of South Australia.

It was great to be part of these events and the positive response from students showed a keen interest in the international opportunities available through IAESTE.



From left: David James (Swinburne), Tim Binnion (Swinburne), Adrian Wuthrich (IAESTE intern), Rochelle (National Secretary), Lachlan Harpley (Uni Melb)

If you would like IAESTE to participate at an event at your university or organisation, including information booths and presentations, please contact us.



64th IAESTE annual conference, Bangkok, Thailand

Bangkok, the vibrant city that never rests with its busy markets, enthusiastic tuk-tuk drivers, colourful nightlife and wonderful food, was the perfect place to hold the 64th IAESTE annual conference in late January. We arrived the day before the conference with mixed feelings of excitement and anticipation but were soon welcomed into the land of smiles with a warm “Sawasdee” from IAESTE Thailand.

The annual conference is the most important international IAESTE event in our calendar, with over 250 delegates representing 82 countries taking part. Aside from conducting the core business of exchanging work offers, the schedule was jam packed with workshops, seminars and conference sessions. Whether you were a newbie or already with IAESTE experience under your belt, everyone was encouraged to whole heartedly get involved to make 2011 another successful year.

As student representatives, our task was to give support in the exchange administration process. With Rochelle’s guiding hand, we had the chance to discuss and negotiate job offers with different countries to secure the best opportunities for our Australian students. These meetings were also invaluable for building contacts and getting an insight into how IAESTE is run in other countries.



Exchange session in action

On top of being a professional learning opportunity, the conference was also a cultural eye opener. The social highlight of the week was definitely the international night where all countries came out in full force to display their national pride. The evening was full of exotic food and drinks, dancing – from watching the dynamic Colombians hit the dance floor to trying a hand at Thai dance steps – and a whole lot of fun! It was a great way to celebrate how IAESTE has no cultural boundaries and a place to make long lasting friendships.

Established over 60 years ago, the scale of IAESTE today is a tribute to the organisation’s success but we feel there is still incredible potential. IAESTE Australia has a lot of opportunities for growth and we encourage students to get involved in supporting the Local Committees and the national office.



Left to right: The IAESTE Australia team: Adrian Wuthrich, Rochelle Ades, Asako Bliet

We want to thank IAESTE Thailand for hosting this unforgettable event and Rochelle for her hard work and dedication to giving students like us the chance to be part of IAESTE’s development. Khob-khun-ka (thank you), as they say in Thai!

Asako Bliet
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering
The University of Melbourne
Trainee to Switzerland, 2010

Adrian Wuthrich
Bachelor of Business Administration
University of Applied Sciences, Zurich,
Switzerland
Trainee at IAESTE Australia, 2011



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IAESTE trainee abroad: My Sweden—big trucks, cold winter and exclusive clubbing



I arrived in Stockholm in September. Coming off two hectic months of travel in the European summer I was ready to settle down. After meeting the five other IAESTE trainees from all over the world we headed to the town we were to call home for the next six months.

Södertälje was a picturesque town situated on a waterway surrounded by beautiful nature. It was also home to Scania, a giant manufacturer of heavy vehicles where I was to work.

I was placed in a production role at Scania in the department manufacturing camshafts (or amaxels as the Swedes say) for use in all Scania's vehicle and industrial engines. My role was to help perform the machining processes required to turn the raw material into a high precision engine component. The role was extremely interesting to me as it allowed me to see and use all the machinery I had only seen in textbooks at university. Working with a culturally diverse team was great and forced me to improve my Swedish skills as many spoke a limited amount of English.



Living in the same apartment complex as the other trainees was fantastic as we were able to socialise easily with each other in addition to our Swedish friends from work. Our spare time was spent in a variety of ways from ice-skating on frozen lakes to clubbing in Stockholm's most exclusive district - Stureplan. Additionally, with Stockholm being very well connected to Europe via its port and low cost airfares I also took the opportunity to do weekend trips to destinations such as Berlin and Tallinn quite frequently.



My IAESTE traineeship was a fantastic experience and one I will look back on throughout my professional career. Whilst the professional experience I gained was very beneficial, the life experience has made me a more well-rounded person and engineer. I also returned to Melbourne with the benefit of being immune to the cold having lived through the minus 30 degrees daytime temperatures of a Swedish winter. My traineeship has now inspired me to vigorously pursue an engineering career in Europe. A big thank you to the Australian IAESTE representative Rochelle and tack så mycket to the Swedish representative Carola for making my experience possible!

Sam Fairbank
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering
Monash University

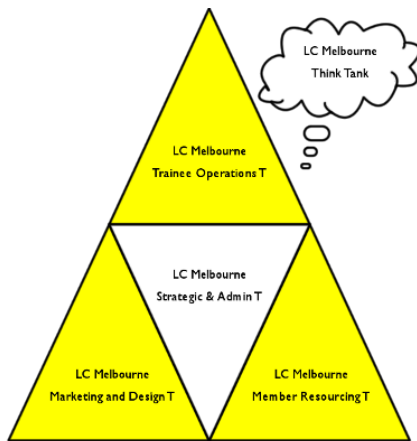


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Local Committee update: Melbourne

IAESTE Local Committee (LC) Melbourne has undergone exciting changes and more have been planned for the future. In 2010 the LC appointed its first President and in 2011 responsibilities were redistributed via the establishment of an organisation structure. This decentralisation has allowed opportunities for LC members to get involved and has fostered greater understanding of what needs to be done.



The IAESTE LC Melbourne Floating Structure

Shown above, our LC's new 'Floating Structure' consists of four departments and a Think Tank. Our four triangles, or "T's", break down work and the Think Tank forms a bubble for collaboration and brainstorming. The following LC members make up our LC's Board:

Timothy Jones Swinburne University	LC President Director of Strategic and Admin T
Lachlan Harpley Melbourne University	Director of Trainee Operations T
Emma Brunton Monash University	Director of Member Resourcing T
Tim Binnion Swinburne University	Director of Marketing and Design T

We are now an officially recognised club of Swinburne University's Student Services and Amenities Association. Our membership has proved useful with access to campus facilities and financial support of the LC's pursuits. An unexpected bonus was rapid growth in the LC, spurred by an influx of new Swinburne LC members.



IAESTE LC Melbourne at the Australian F1 Grand Prix

In the last few months, our 62 LC members and IAESTE trainees have enjoyed an active social calendar. This has included the F1 Grand Prix, Melbourne Comedy Festival and the footy. We hold fortnightly barbeques and we're hitting the surf mid-April. Every trainee has been involved or at minimum informed of all our activities and events.

In the near future, Trainee Operations is the LC's focus as we'd all like to improve consistency and feedback in our event and buddy systems (each overseas trainee is allocated a LC buddy). Additionally, we will be developing an in-house new LC member application system and will produce a professional event banner. Aside from these local goals we would like to foster growth of other LCs on both a national and international level.

It's 'hard yakka' as an LC Melbourne member but we are excited to see results at the end of 2011 and know this effort will assist our organisation to mature in time for 2012 and onward.

Brendan Spackman-Williams
Swinburne University of Technology
Liaison Manager
Local Committee Melbourne



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Employer profile



The Mawson Institute (MI) is an exciting initiative established in 2007 by the University of South Australia and the South Australian State Government to fund research and development of innovative science and technologies to transform the Australian manufacturing sector. Having undergone rapid growth in the past four years, by the end of 2010, the MI had successfully won in excess of AUD \$17 million of new research income, spread across a broad range of grants schemes.

Rapid advances and convergence in areas such as materials science, nano-biotechnology, biomaterials and tissue engineering, sensor technology and advanced computing, leading to new products and production processes will radically change the scope of manufacturing in Australia. With an ever growing cohort of PhD students and visiting international students, the MI is a hub for the development of first class, innovative science and technology.



IAESTE intern Paul Ruschitzka at work with Dr Sameer Al-Bataineh in the Mawson Institute laboratory

The MI has worked with IAESTE Australia for a number of years and during that time has provided traineeships for periods of six to 12 months to international students from a range of countries. The students gain practical experience in the MI's state-of-the-art laboratories and have access to quality facilities and equipment. Students always provide positive feedback about the opportunity to work alongside internationally recognised researchers. They also enjoy the supportive community culture that is embraced by all staff and students associated with the MI.

To find out more about the MI please visit <http://www.unisa.edu.au/mawsoninstitute/>

Vanessa Eley
Senior Academic Services Officer
The Mawson Institute

Information for Australian employers

If you are an Australian employer and would like to host trainees like The Mawson Institute, we are always seeking new employers to participate in the program.

IAESTE Australia helps local businesses and universities source overseas students for technical training for up to 12 months.

Candidates are available from over 80 countries in a wide range of disciplines with a majority from technical backgrounds including engineering, science, IT as well as agriculture and architecture.

Please contact us if you would like further information or visit the employer section of the [website](#).



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Trainee impressions of Australia



At the Mawson Institute (MI) I have been integrated into a highly intellectually stimulating environment, with research targets that are interesting and up to date. It also has a variety of life science experts working together to create a motivating work atmosphere.

My experience at MI has contributed to my enhanced confidence in lab practices in the fields of chemistry, biology and nanotechnology as well as providing me with a general understanding of the enormous potential behind utilizing plasma for surface treatment.

Plasma usually is associated with blood but the research at Mawson Institute is affiliated with plasma as a separate or fourth state of matter in addition to the solid, liquid and the gas state. Basically, plasma is produced by applying a sufficient amount of energy to a gas which causes it to ionize. The resulting reactive mixture is known as plasma. It is a fascinating and not yet completely understood topic where a lot of research still has to be carried out. This makes it especially attractive for interns because even small results, achievable in a short period of time, may be of high value. Beside that Australia offers a variety of beautiful landscapes, a high quality of life, and a boost for your English.

From my part I am glad that I was granted this opportunity through an IAESTE traineeship and hope it sounds inspiring to others!

Paul Ruschitzka
Biotechnology, Austria
IAESTE trainee at The Mawson Institute



Alumni Network

The IAESTE Alumni Network was launched in January 2011 to improve the existing network and to create a unique community where current and former IAESTE members and associates from around the world can network both professionally and socially.

Our Alumni Network is growing fast, reaching more than 1500 members in just two months including trainees going as far back as the 1960's!

So whether you are advertising a job in your company or reminiscing about your traineeship, sign up now!

To become a member of the IAESTE Alumni Network please go to alumni.iaeste.org You can also be part of the IAESTE Alumni Network on other social networks:



<http://www.facebook.com/iaeste.alumnimanager>



<http://twitter.com/iaestealumni>



<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=134077>

Contact

For more information on any of the items in Horizons or for general enquiries, please visit the IAESTE Australia website or contact:

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