



Presidents' Letter from Lisa and Naomi



Former HCA President Patrick Regan with incoming Co-Presidents Naomi Flutter and Lisa George (to the right of HCA banner)

It's exciting to be writing our first introduction as Co-Presidents of the Harvard Club of Australia.

We are now a few months into the role and, as we mentioned at the AGM, we regularly reflect on how fortunate we are to be following in the footsteps of our immediate past President, Patrick Regan, and the Club's many other past Presidents – all of whom have left the Club in a stronger position than when they inherited it. Our hope over the coming two years is that we continue the trend, helping to position the Club strongly for broader relevance in our community and among Harvard alumni.

We've said it a few times now – at the AGM and our year-end Christmas function – for 2015, our focus will be on both philanthropy and fellowship. The Club's philanthropic endeavours are, when considered together, quite remarkable. Over the course of the last few years, we have added the Roberta Sykes Fellowships for talented indigenous Australians, the

Wolfensohn Scholarships for senior public servants and the HCA Education Scholarships for public school principals. These three scholarships join our stable of longstanding, very successful scholarships and fellowships – specifically the Menzies Scholarship, the Australia-Harvard Fellowship Program and the Non-Profit Fellowship.

With all these great philanthropic programs, it is easy for us to "spend" our monies. More challenging – but absolutely critical if we are to continue to support these great programs – is fundraising. In this regard, Club members have long been great donors to our endowment to support these programs. Our flagship fundraising vehicle is, however, the Leadership Program which last year delivered a surplus of around \$120,000. Our hope is to raise at least as much again with the 2015 Leadership Program.

In this regard, if we have one request as Co-Presidents, it is that you – our members – actively consider whether there are any individuals or organizations in your network, which might benefit from joining the program. Word of mouth is always the key to selling of this program. We can all assist because we all know the value of a Harvard education – exposure to both Harvard academics and the unique Harvard learning dynamic. The good news is that every year, the Leadership Program receives fantastic reviews from attendees – so you can recommend it with confidence.

Shortly, we will also be kicking off our 2015 mentoring program, for newly returned graduates of Harvard. We piloted this program last year and feedback was positive – with the program helping this year's crop of graduates to establish a network. Mentors are critical to this – so watch this space.

As always, our revamped Club website is the go-to place for information on our philanthropy and fellowship. We look forward to staying in touch over the coming two years and welcoming many of you to our Club events.

Naomi Flutter and Lisa George

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News from around Australia

Western Australia

On 30 September 2014, the US Consul General in Perth, Cynthia Griffin, generously and graciously opened her home for Western Australian to nearly 100 alums representing approximately 15 American universities. The most numerous and vocal, of course, were the Harvard alums – representing almost all of our schools. It was an inspiring evening – hearing of the successes of Western Australians – but more importantly continuing to develop the deep bond we have between our nations. Thanks to CG Cynthia Griffin and her team for a delightful evening.

Elizabeth Carr



US Consul General Cynthia Griffin

Then in October we reconvened for a Joint Alumni Night Pub Quiz – Consensus ad idem? As various alumni started to trickle into the dimly lit and rather old fashioned Verandah Bar, the friendly waitress approached me to ask where we were from and this is how the conversation went:

Me: It's a joint alumni night.

Waitress: What universities?

Me: LSE, Harvard, Oxbridge, Yale and Stanford

Waitress: Oh my, so a lot of intellectual snobs!!!

I'm afraid we all lived up to our reputation seeing that a cheer went up when we were asked the one question on Greek mythology, 'Who was the queen of Hades?' Persephone, of course, and in brackets we pencilled in her other aliases 'Cora' and 'Proserpina' - just to show off. Cats, cats and pregnant cats! That was the topic most of the questions at the pub quiz

revolved around. Oh, and the quiz master also informed us that the cure for the common cold was 'honey and lemon tea.' You should have been there to see the look of pure incredulity on the faces of our scientifically inclined ivy-league alumni.

It was a really fun evening mingling with so many like-minded people in a casual setting. The fact that it was just a random quiz that we attended was also why we laughed a great deal, according to all of us the 'right' answer to every question was debatable and reflective of only a certain world view. LSE and Harvard teamed up and we won the third round – although Cambridge won the first two rounds. I confess that, being the organiser, I was a little anxious about whether everyone would enjoy themselves but it turned out to be an absolutely lovely experience and I hope that we shall have many more such gatherings in the future!

Priscilla Abishegam



Quiz time in Perth includes HCA members Amanda Boren and Lacy Gow

The ACT

On 3 November, Club members joined HCA ACT convenors Jamie Snashall and Lucinda Glover at the National Press Club for a conversation over lunch with Telstra's Group Executive for Corporate Affairs Dr Tony Warren.

An economist by training with a PhD from the ANU in regulatory economics, Dr Warren has been with Telstra for more than a decade and is currently wearing two hats – chief negotiator on the NBN mark 2, as well as, heading up corporate affairs which includes communications, regulatory, government relations and sustainability [corporate citizenship]. For him,

there is a sense of Groundhog Day around the NBN as he led the Telstra team in negotiations from 2009-11 on the former Government's "fibre to the premises" model for NBN.

There were plenty of perceptive questions and comments from the group as Dr Warren outlined the challenges for Telstra – getting customer service right so that they can be advocates for their customers; navigating a heavily regulated industry; expansion into e-health and to Asia; threats and opportunities that the NBN will bring; the explosion of mobile connectivity and smartphones; and, the decline of the landline.

Victoria

The Harvard Club of Victoria Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held on the 10th of October 2014 at Woodward Conference Centre. The AGM saw the election of Jenny Proimos as President, Bill Lang as Treasurer and Robert Payne as Secretary.

The dinner component of the evening featured a panel with co-director of RECOGNISE, Tanya Hosch; historian Professor Marilyn Lake; and constitutional expert and HCV councillor, Tim Goodwin. The panel discussed the referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Constitution. Issues included the historical context, the RECOGNISE movement, and what happens next. Dr Stefan Gruenert, CEO of Odyssey House and a recipient of the 2014 HCV Non-Profit Fellowship to attend Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management course shared his experience at HBS and that of the other recipients, Michaela Cronin of MacKillop Family Services and Tony Keenan of Hanover. Dr Gruenert discussed how they planned to use their experience to increase the impact of their organisations. A fundraising auction and raffle in support of the HCV Non-Profit Fellowship was held later in the evening. **Mandy Croker**



HCAV Members: Tim Goodwin, Tanya Hosch and Professor Marilyn Lake

New South Wales



HCA Co-President Naomi Flutter, Dr Kerry Schott and HCA Councillor Justin Greiner

The Harvard Club of Australia AGM and Dinner with Guest Speaker Dr Kerry Schott was held Thursday, October 16th at Deutsche Bank. Club history was made with the election of Co-Presidents Naomi Flutter and Lisa George along with the nominated slate of councillors.

Addressed by Dr Schott on the topic of her recently published NSW Commission of Audit Final Report which outlines ways to improve public sector management and service delivery in NSW.

"The AGMs are generally the highlight of the year, and participatory, and we get

to hear how the Club is travelling, and who its leaders are. Sometimes the guest speaker's view aligns with mine, sometimes not. It's fascinating to hear the interesting view espoused by a brilliant speaker!" **Rodney Marks, attendee**

"Top drawer speaker, the king of person the club should be targeting, topical, substantive. Got beyond the TV persona to understand her "framework".

Philip Stern, attendee

"I wanted to hear the speaker, who has been active and more than effective in several public roles. HCA meetings are always good, members present make it worthwhile." **John Doherty, attendee**

Non-Profit Fellowship



David Mackey

Professor David Mackey, Lions Eye Institute (LEI): Valuable Exchange of Ideas and Peer Consultation

Thrilled to be awarded a Harvard

Club Fellowship, David joined international not-for-profit leaders at Harvard Business School (HBS) to hone his leadership and strategic skills which, he said, are areas not well covered in medical school, specialist training or even research training. International students accounted for 38% of the group, with 15 Australians making up the largest international contingent. Through the HBS case-study method, a discussion on Aravind Eye Hospital in India was given which he said parallels issues found at the Lions Eye Institute in Western Australia.

Through study groups, "we recognised the common problems within our organizations," David said. He found that some of the best discussions occurred when students disagreed and was amused when one of the Indian-born professors used a cricket analogy understood by the Aussie contingent but had to be explained to the Americans.

David's fellowship enabled him to visit organizations comparable to the LEI in the US including the Moran Eye Center in Salt Lake City. "That was highly informative and provided many ideas for renovating our clinics in Western Australia," he said. David enthuses that attending HBS was one of his best professional development experiences. He returned to Perth with a renewed passion "to achieve excellence in scientific research and clinical practice to prevent blindness."

What's On

Check out the Club's
website

www.harvardclub.org.au

for more information
about:

- **Sydney**
Monday 2 March
Monday Club Lunch, Michael Reid,
the Australian Art Market
- **Canberra**
Tuesday 10 March
In Conversation with Dr Ian Watt AO
- **Brisbane**
Monday 30 March
Lunch with Bob Gee, Assistant
Commissioner, Queensland Police
Service
- **Sydney**
Wednesday 1 April
Senior Leaders Lunch with The Hon
Nick Greiner AC, post State election
hear 'What (should be) next for NSW'
- **Sydney**
Tuesday 23 June
HCA Non-Profit Fellowship Awards
Lunch, Macquarie Bank, Martin Place
- **Melbourne**
Sunday 26 - Friday 31 July
HCA Leadership Program 2015
'Leading in Turbulent Times' with
Professors Joshua D Margolis &
Ryan W Buell
- **Sydney**
Monday 3 - Wednesday 5 August
HCA Non-Profit Leadership Program
2015 'Leading in Turbulent Times'
with Professor Joshua D Margolis



Dr Paul McGillick addresses the Monday Club

Monday Club Luncheons

"I have been attending since they started and always find them stimulating and interesting. It is a great concept."

Fred Chilton, attendee

"Speakers at Monday Club are usually quite special and very knowledgeable on their topics – we've had some amazing discussions!"

Philip Hartog, attendee

After a mid-year break, regular Harvard Monday Club luncheons resumed in **August 2014** with a presentation by the New South Wales Minister of Health, Jillian Skinner. She addressed the general public health situation in the state, tending, as serving Ministers do, to gild the lily. She made light of congestion and long waits at public hospitals, and avoided answering some questions, for example, whether NSW would follow the example of the ACT in neighbouring Queanbeyan in demolishing houses infected with asbestos dust.

Ms Skinner was followed, at our luncheon in **September**, by the NSW Minister for Planning and Minister for Women, Pru Goward, who focused on enumerating improvements in women's health and welfare in the State. Again, a closely argued but not altogether frank discussion, emphasising the high points of her policies.

Our speaker in **October** was Professor Paul McGillick, a prominent NSW architect who described some outstanding urban planning concepts in Singapore, and whether they might be applied in Sydney.

Most could not be, because of the completely different civil structures and political systems of the two states. Singapore being better able to push projects through since it was uninhibited by democratic constraints.

"I am familiar with Singapore so the speaker's take on his area of specialisation was interesting. Small numbers of participants allow meaningful interaction amongst speaker and usually informed participants."

Rosita Holenbergh, attendee

"I am writing a report on sustainable/garden cities for Coops UK."

Shann Turnbull, attendee

Emeritus Professor Gillian Triggs, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, was our speaker in **November**. Professor Triggs spoke relatively freely about her job and her responsibilities in reminding the government of the day about Australia's treaty obligations on human rights and the need to honour them.



Professor Gillian Triggs addresses the Monday Club

"Controversial subjects can be covered in some depth when Chatham House rules apply the speakers can give their views freely. Since the Professor Triggs meeting she has been in the news a lot and having heard her speak has given me a better understanding of her views and the difficulties of her position." **John Rawson, attendee**

"I have been a regular attendee at the lunches since they first started. In fact years ago I hosted them at my office. Recently Gillian Triggs was excellent as were Andres and Renata Kaldor." **Michael Braham, attendee**

Our last speakers for the year were Andrew and Renata Kaldor, who spoke about the Centre for Refugee Studies they had established at the University of NSW. Sixty years have passed since Australia signed the Refugee Convention, and in that time our response to refugees has ranged from generosity and understanding to deterrence and intolerance. Current policies were unfortunately marked by the latter characteristics.

"Renata and Andy were outstanding speakers. They are so knowledgeable about the refugee/asylum seeker issues and are able to describe a complex situation very simply. I just wish more people could hear them speak. I do agree with their position on the importance of treating people fairly and in accordance with our international law commitments. That said, as they say, the solution is not clear." **Diane Grady, attendee**

Richard Broinowski, Convenor, Harvard Monday Club

Australia Harvard Fellowship

Dr Roger Fulton's Visit to Harvard Medical School 2014

This fellowship was an extraordinary experience for me. The goal of the fellowship visit was to extend a research collaboration with Dr Georges (George) El Fakhri on motion tracking and motion correction methods for hybrid medical imaging (PET/CT and PET/MR).



A-H Fellowship recipient Dr Roger Fulton

I had never before seen Massachusetts General Hospital nor the Harvard Campus. The facilities, and breadth and quality of the scientific endeavour undertaken by the faculty members and students of the Centre for Advanced Medical Imaging Sciences, under the extraordinary leadership of Dr El Fakhri, were truly impressive. It was a privilege to be a part of the group, even though it was only for a short time. I would like to thank Dr El Fakhri for his wonderful hospitality during

my stay in Boston. I will miss our games of tennis and outdoor barbecues with lobster on the menu.

While in Boston, I endeavoured to maximize the tangible and intangible outcomes of my fellowship and I feel proud of what we were able to achieve. This was in no small part due to Dr El Fakhri's unqualified support and enthusiasm for collaboration with the University of Sydney. The MoU and his appointment to the Sydney faculty will place our collaboration on a sound footing. We have expanded our collaboration to include new areas and new players, and developed plans for exciting joint research into the future. I will be eternally grateful to the Harvard Club of Australia Foundation for making this fellowship possible. It was an unforgettable experience. My special thanks go to Mr John Turner.

Roger Fulton

Membership Renewal 2015

Thank you to members who have paid promptly. It's not too late for 2015. See the Club's website for more information.

www.harvardclub.org.au

A request of you . . .

The 2015 Leadership Program, 'Leading in Turbulent Times' presented by Joshua Margolis?

Are there any individuals or organizations in your network, who might benefit from joining the program? Word of mouth is always the key to selling this outstanding program.



NSW Public Education Foundation Award to School Principals

What I Did On My Holiday

From the first morning when I walked along the elegant streets of Cambridge to the main campus, I had a sense that this would be a week to savour. And so it was. Joe Blatt, Senior Lecturer in Education and Faculty Director of the Technology, Innovation, and Education Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) insightfully threaded the individual learning sessions together.



Malcolm McFarlane with other recipients John Goh (Merrylands East PS), Jennifer Green (Boorowa CS), and Kaylene Rigas (Cambridge Park HS)

The overwhelming atmosphere was one of collaboration. My new friends seemed as keen to hear about a relatively small K-12 school on the mid-north coast of NSW as I was to hear of their stories. A pre-program activity included submitting photographs that captured our image of educational leadership. Each morning during the program, our instructor would put up four or five of these images and whoever had submitted them was asked to explain their photo to the group. My picture of the Bowraville Central School Community Garden was suddenly on display in Longfellow Hall, Harvard. It was with much satisfaction

that I explained the garden project and how it was an example for me of 'leader as an enabler'; ensuring that the significant talent around us may flourish.

No one-week professional learning experience can encapsulate all there is to ponder about educational leadership. However, I do indeed feel very privileged to have had the exposure to some great minds and honest hearts from various parts of the globe thanks to this quite breathtaking Harvard experience. It was a place and a gathering of people of exceptionally high quality, and I would recommend it to anyone involved in school leadership.

Malcolm McFarlane,
Principal's Scholarship recipient

HARVARD
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



2015 Harvard Asia-Pacific Clubs, Contacts & Sigs Leaders Meeting Beijing, China – March 13 to 15, 2015

Announcing the much anticipated program for the Harvard Asia-Pacific Clubs, Contacts & SIGs Leaders Meeting.

Everyone from the HCA is invited! As in past years, the HBS, HKS and HLS alumni networks are invited to join, too. The purpose of this meeting is for the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) to convene a group of Harvard Club and Contact leaders from the region to converse and learn from one another while sharing insights into alumni activities, recent success stories, and particular challenges. The 2015 Asia-Pacific Clubs, Contacts & SIGs Leaders Meeting is scheduled to coincide with the Your Harvard: China event in Beijing.

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