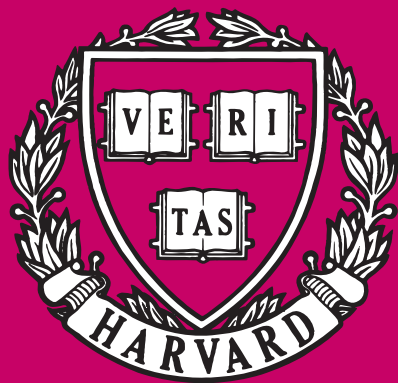


CLUB *news*

G.P.O. BOX 3132, SYDNEY, NSW, 2001



INSIDE



PAGE 2

Club events

Letter from Harvard

PAGE 3

President's letter

PAGE 4

New members

New Editor

Australian Literature

Half-Baked Ideas

PAGE 5

HCA-V Strategy Session

PAGE 6

HPAIR 2002

PAGE 7

Young Alumni Drinks

Belvoir Evening

PAGE 8

Men Behaving Badly

Leaders' Lunch

Revitalized WA Chapter

In a determined effort to reactivate our Western Australia Chapter after some years of inactivity, a Restart Group of eight alumni met in July. Top of the agenda was organising a function that would rekindle interest in the Club's activities among the seventy WA based alumni.

Francis Landels, the Chief Legal Counsel of Wesfarmers Limited, offered to organise a cocktail party to be on the twelfth floor of Wesfarmers House, which houses some six hundred impressive pieces of the Wesfarmers art collection. The cocktail party on 23 September was hosted by CEO of Wesfarmers, Michael Chaney and his wife Rose.

Thanks to the efforts and enthusiasm of all, along with some very valuable liaising and

organising by Lisa Barnes of Wesfarmers, the evening was a great success.

A special highlight of the night was a tour of the art works by Wesfarmers Arts Curator Helen Carroll which covered a fascinating mix of landscapes, contemporary abstract and figurative pieces, indigenous art, still life, and portraits.

A total of fifty-eight alumni, partners and guests attended. Wesfarmers graciously donated the proceeds to the Harvard Club of Australia. Though it will be hard act to follow, the function has encouraged us in the West to press ahead, additionally encouraged by offers from some potential corporate hosts, with our next event in mind for February 2003.

Ian Braslin
PMD '73

HCA Leadership Program

Executive Education discount offer for HCA members

For a limited time, Harvard Club members will get preference when subscribing for next year's HCA Leadership Program. As well, a ten percent discount applies if they book before the 14 February 2003. In announcing these benefits for Club members, Clive Gard, co-ordinator for the Leadership Program, warned that the 2003 course is likely to be fully subscribed. Members should apply for their special places as soon as possible.

HCA's Leadership Program is Australia's most advanced one-week executive education course. It is held annually at the Crowne Plaza Conference Centre in Terrigal NSW and mirrors top management programs at Harvard Business School. Next year's course to be conducted the 6 to 11 July by eminent

HBS professors, Earl Sasser and Chris Bartlett, will focus on managing people for competitive advantage.

Clive Gard reminds you that he is seeking more sponsors for the HCA Leadership Program. The sponsorship package entitles an organisation to one place free of cost in return for its commitment to take five fully-paid places. "Sponsors use the extra place in a variety of ways," says Gard. "Some reward special clients by way of a marketing tool, others use it as an incentive for internal management. Still others will donate it to a non-profit executive." A discount is also available for a company team of five.

Details of the Leadership Program 2003 are available on the Club's website at www.harvard.org.au/edufly.htm

CLUB EVENTS

Note: The following only includes events confirmed at the time this issue of the Club News went to press.

JANUARY

Sydney: Sat. 11 Jan., 11am – 5pm (weather permitting), Young Alumni Sailing Day. Meet at Point Piper, for departure (further details, including specific directions, will be provided) BYO: Drinks, nibbles, hat, sunscreen, ginger tablets. We will stop to buy lunch along the way (probably at the Fish Market). Places are limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible to Joanna Buck on jhbuck@duke-energy.com. Many thanks to Club Member Peter Russell for providing the boat!

FEBRUARY

Perth: WA Chapter event.
Venue and time, TBA.

MARCH

Melbourne: HCA-V AGM.
Venue and time, TBA.

JULY

Terrigal: Sun. 6 – Fri. 11 July, HCA Leadership Program. Managing People for Competitive Advantage: The Core General Management Challenge. Crowne Plaza Resort Hotel, Terrigal NSW. Conducted by Earl Sasser and Chris Bartlett. Refer to Briefing in this issue of the Club News.

Sydney: Thurs. 31 July. Annual General Meeting of the HCA. Guest Speaker General Peter Cosgrove, Chief of the Defence Force of Australia.

Letter from Harvard

John Asker, who grew up in Sydney, Adelaide, Canberra (and a few other places), is a fourth Year doctoral student at Harvard's Department of Economics. John studied Law and Economics at ANU, but after completing his Economics course, dropped Law to commence doctoral work at Harvard.

I am writing this letter from my desk in my apartment in Leverett House, one of the undergraduate houses that line the Charles River. Through my window the Weeks Footbridge over to Harvard Business School is framed by the red and gold of New England fall. It is ten in the morning, so the undergraduates are just beginning to get their day under way, shuffling off to breakfast or class, sucking on a cup of steaming coffee. The mornings now are crisp, with the promise of colder days to come.

Soon I'll wander over to my office, tucked away behind the Baker Library at Harvard Business School and start the work I need to complete today. A server crashed last night, which resulted in the loss of two days computational time – a real drag. As a result I will need to restart a battery of calculations. I will also have to re-evaluate the algorithms I am implementing in my code and see whether I caused the crash. My research involves a lot of intensive statistical work on large data sets. I love the statistical theory but the computing involved in implementing the methods is currently the bane of my existence. For the time being, I have decided to stay at home and write.

I live in an undergraduate house despite being in the fourth year of graduate study. The reason for this is that I am a resident tutor – as sort of big brother or Dean's assistant. In return for the time I spend advising undergraduates I get an apartment and three square meals a day.

The role of the resident tutor is largely undefined. Apparently I am primarily here as an economics specialist, available to students who are having problems with economics subjects. While it is true that I spend time each week on economics problems, I don't think of this as what makes the job special. It turns out that a large part of the job involves writing letters about students and these letters, in many ways, sum up the job. In that last six months I have written letters of recommendation for Rhodes Scholarships and summer



John Asker
PhD candidate (Economics)

Internships, sent off letters of invitation and thanks to guest speakers and submitted memos to committees reviewing the quality of undergraduate life.

As this list might suggest, being a Resident Tutor is an interesting daily interlude from the primary task at hand – dissertation research. It is pleasant to be able to leave work after bashing your head against obscure problems in economics and listen to a sophomore delight in the fact they got an “A” on a paper that they claim took them three hours to write.

Most of House life is centred on the Dining Hall and a large part of a Tutors' job is to be available at meal times for students to consult. Happily this usually involves having a meal with friends. The most amusing meal I have had recently was with the captain of the Cross-Country Running team and one of the members of the Lightweight Crew team (Rowing). The runner, an understated but confident young man, was waxing lyrical about how hard his team was training. The rower, a less understated individual, commented that runners were wimps. The argument continued through dinner culminating in a formal challenge to race “stadiums” – stadiums involve running up and down every set of steps in the Harvard Football Stadium, a favourite training exercise for rowers.

Occasionally serious things happen to students. Anorexia is a continuing problem, particularly among females and certain types of athletes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

President's letter

Patrick O'Brien, the President of the Harvard Club of Australia-Victoria, discusses the re-emergence of the Club in Victoria and the forging of stronger ties between HCA and HCA-V.

Late in 1998 a group of Victorian based alumni, encouraged by a number of HCA Council Members, decided that it was about time Australia's other Harvard Club woke from its hibernation and resumed operations.

With Bill Cowan, Rob Trenberth and Alice Hill taking the lead, from a standing "restart" HCA-V has gathered tremendous momentum. Over the last two years alone fifteen events have been organised and three Nonprofit Fellowships awarded. Further, member participation has continued to grow substantially: In 2002 the Club has attracted "sell-out" attendances to Professor Chris Bartlett's Case Study on Jack Welch at GE, the AGM at Raheen, the Inaugural Black Tie Ball and the Corporate Governance Panel Discussion with Linda Nicholls, Colin Carter and Terry McCrann.

The continuing hard work of the HCA-V Council over the past four years, with great support from Clive Gard and the Sydney team, has seen the Club deliver well against its broad objectives of:

- Providing members with educational/networking opportunities through functions and events;
- Facilitating the flow of Harvard-related news, information and services; and
- Leveraging our Harvard connections to contribute to the broader community

Our challenge now is to achieve more widespread member involvement by converting:

- Alumni into members;
- Inactive members into regular participants in Club activities; and
- Active members into organisers of Club activities about which they feel passionate.

Like Melinda Muth, I believe we need to achieve greater member involvement in current Club activities and in generating new initiatives, and that the creation of "pods" is a great way to facilitate this. Many members are time poor but ideas/contacts rich. The formation of pods around key events and initiatives such as the Nonprofit Fellowship not only enables a focused involvement by those whose other obligations do not permit a wider commitment to the Club, it also allows for much more efficient Council interactions. At our recent strategy session, HCA-V Council noted that pods had been particularly effective in getting the Nonprofit Fellowship initiative off the ground in 2001 and in organising the Club's Inaugural Black Tie Ball this year. Our Council therefore decided to extend the concept by forming further pods to take responsibility for other activities such as member recruitment and communications, leaders lunches, the AGM, other special events, etc.

Of course there will always be those specialised administrative functions that only the truly dedicated will be prepared to take on! HCA-V has been particularly fortunate in recent

times to have been assisted by Bob Larkin locally, and the redoubtable Clive from afar. These two powerhouses have ensured that all the Club's legal and other administrative responsibilities are met. Clive's role with HCA-V is the result of a very sensible decision back in 1999 to seek to minimise the administrative overlap between HCA-V and HCA. This arrangement and the efforts of Clive, Bill Cowan, Stephen McLeish, Ted Blamey, David Pumphrey and Phil Stern in particular, have led to the forging of very strong ties between the two Clubs. While there had long been overlapping memberships and a commonality of purpose, for various reasons there appears to have been relatively little in the way of ongoing co-operation between HCA-V and HCA pre-1998. Regular readers of the *Club News* would agree this has changed dramatically over the last four years.

However, notwithstanding the best efforts of all concerned, the current two club structure is not ideal. From recent discussions with Melinda and Clive, it is clear that we all believe that the needs and interests of alumni in Australia can be more effectively and efficiently served through a more streamlined approach. Accordingly, we have agreed to spend some of our summer break focusing on the ways in which we might achieve this. I look forward to reporting on our progress in the next edition of *Club News* early in 2003.

In the meantime, best wishes to all for a happy and safe Christmas period and a fruitful 2003.

Patrick O'Brien
MBA '94

New members

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Charmian Barton LLM '98

Miranda Biven LLM '99

Timothy Humphry AMP '98

Deborah Kiers MPA '93

Errol Levitt MBA '77

Amanda Spector AB '98

Pike Talbert MBA '80

Lloyd Thomas OPM '01

Huy Truong MBA '98

New Editor

Lauren McLaughlin (AB '01) moved to Sydney last January and has since become an active member in the HCA as a Council member and as the Editor of the Club News. Lauren graduated from Harvard College (Leverett House) with a degree in Economics in June 2001. After spending a semester studying at University of Melbourne, she refocused her studies to Economic Development in East Asia and Chinese language, which led her to study and receive academic credit for another semester abroad at City University in Hong Kong. Lauren currently works as Business Analyst at Mainsheet Corporate, an Australian based boutique strategy consulting and corporate advisory firm.

If you have any ideas for articles, or hear of an interesting and Australian related event at Harvard, please email her at editor@harvard.org.au.

Australian Literature in Cambridge, Mass.

Christopher Wallace-Crabbe is the outgoing Chair of the Australian Nominating Committee for the Harvard Chair on Australian Studies.

For the year 2002, the Harvard University Committee on Australian Studies decided to vary its regular offering. Instead of filling the Chair for one academic year it chose, with the support of the Australian Nominating Committee, to offer two shorter elements, both of which seemed extremely important.

In the first half of the year Paul Kelly, Foreign Editor of *The Australian*, was invited to give a series of public lectures on Australia and its international relations. (Paul's US experiences became the basis of his 2002 Australia Address delivered to this year's HCA Annual General Meeting in Sydney – Ed.) The other imperative, it was felt, was to foreground Australian literature and literary scholars, only two of whom have held the Chair in its twenty-six years of existence. Accordingly, Professor Judith Ryan, Professor of German and Comparative Literature at Harvard, and I set about planning such an event. Held in the beginning of November, it was entitled *Imagining Australia: Literature and Culture in the New New World*.

We chose to bring in critics and literary historians of as many flavours as possible. They came from five Australian states, Hong Kong, and a number of American universities and colleges. There were young scholars, like Gail Jones, Susan

Martin and Andrew Zawacki from Chicago, and more senior presences like Lucy Frost from Hobart and Ihab Hassan from Milwaukee. All in all, it was a generously mixed bag.

Several papers dealt with Aboriginal issues, one reached into "action" movies. Some were historical while others dipped deep into contemporary cultural theory. The chorus was harmonious, but the voices extremely diverse. Certainly no one school of thought dominated.

The only "purely creative" writers were David Malouf and visiting from the Australian Studies Centre in Texas, Frank Moorhouse. Malouf's deeply moving story about the intersection of two contrasted Australia's stirred the large audience at our opening session, while Moorhouse told great tales about a novelist's research and its *trouvailles*.

Harvard was, as ever, warmly hospitable. The conferees were most comfortably housed in The Inn at Harvard: that most soothing example of what David Riesman called the Howard Johnson Academic style of architecture. And a final dinner was done in style at Loeb House. Outside, a mild autumn had guaranteed that the trees were flying their finest colours.

Christopher Wallace-Crabbe

The Aussie Half-Baked Ideas Seminar

Legend has it that during the 1980s, the Harvard Government Department established what it called its Half Baked Ideas seminar. The forum provided a chance for academics and doctoral students to get feedback on particularly complex research topics that they were struggling to get their heads around. You didn't have to have a written paper – just an interesting idea.

Taking the kernel of that notion, a group of us at Harvard and MIT have decided to establish what we've called the *Aussie Half-Baked* Ideas seminar, a bi-weekly meeting at which we discuss a new policy proposal. The only requirement is that it has to be Australian, and must be an active policy proposal, rather than a talk "about" a topic.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

HCA-V 2003 Strategy Session

Drought of the century notwithstanding, the vines of the Yarra Valley were in full leaf on a brilliant Spring day recently, and driving through the Valley to the Domaine Chandon winery was a fitting prelude to the HCA-V Council's last meeting for 2002. Part of the Moët et Chandon organisation, producer of fine sparkling and still wines in Australia and on three other continents, Domaine Chandon had generously offered to provide its conference facilities for the Council's strategy session for 2003: Needless to say little "think time" was required!

President Patrick O'Brien (MBA '94) led the review of what is considered to have been a very successful year for the Victorian Club. An array of activities that included the Leaders' Lunches, lectures and panel discussions, the Inaugural Black-tie Ball, and a knockout AGM were all well attended and well regarded. These events contributed substantially to the funds raised for HCA-V's Nonprofit Fellowship Fund, now established as a tax-deductible fund under the Charities Aid Foundation.

Several Club members also made substantial donations, and there were many sponsors for the auction held at the Ball, including a wonderful gift of a luxury cruise from Silverseas Cruises. The Ball also led to the commencement of our relationship with Domaine Chandon when they kindly donated all

of the wine consumed on the night. This combined effort enabled the Club to send two fellows to the HBS course *Strategic Perspectives on Nonprofit Management* in 2002, an achievement that we hope to match in 2003.

The Council's other focus for 2003 will be a renewed effort to leverage the success of our events program and the Nonprofit Fellowship to drive increased involvement of members in Club activities, and to recruit new members, both for the Club and for the Council. A series of subcommittees have been formed to address specific areas of planning and implementation of the Club's objectives. A schedule of activities for 2003 has been mapped out and planning for them is under way.

Following the strategy session, our host, David Ridley, National Marketing Manager for Domaine Chandon, gave Council members and their families and friends a guided tour of the winery, which combines state-of-the-art with traditional techniques. This was followed by a structured tasting of the different sparkling styles produced by Domaine Chandon. A particularly interesting feature was tasting individual components and the final blend of their premier sparkling wine. This was followed by lunch in the homestead dining room during which the Council expressed its appreciation of the generosity and hospitality extended by Domaine Chandon.

**Robert Utter
AB '72**



**Bob Larkin (AMP '89), Robert Utter (AB '72),
Adam Watterson.**



**Mary Wooldridge (MBA '94),
Bill Cowan (MBA '72), Louise Foletta.**



**Patrick O'Brien (MBA '94), David Ridley,
Igor Lavrin (MMSc '00).**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

In all, this semester has seen seven half-baked ideas presented. Michael Fullilove, (Nuffield College, Oxford) advocated a more independent foreign policy for Australia, or as he put it, "handing in the Deputy Sheriff's badge." James Vickery (MIT Economics) gave a presentation on rising inequality, and suggested the adoption of a tax credit scheme to redistribute income. Dani Botsman (Harvard History) argued that Australia should create a liberal arts college. John Asker (Harvard Economics) put forward his case for rethinking competition policy. John Russell and Peter Tynan (both HBS) spoke respectively on corporate governance and industry clusters. And we finished the year with Michael Hiscox (Harvard

Government) discussing the disadvantages of an Australia-US free trade agreement, and other trade topics.

From a personal perspective, the *Half-Baked Ideas* seminar has been one of those things that makes you think: "Why didn't we start this years ago?" Arguing with twenty to thirty bright Aussies about a difficult policy problem every second Friday is a terrific way to keep your mind focused on what's happening in the country we all care most about. And of course, the discussion doesn't stop at the end – it just shifts to the nearest pub.

The *Half-Baked Ideas* seminar was also important in the wake of the Bali bombing, when we brought the group together to share ideas and feelings about

the events. Led by David Madden (KSG), whose research has focused on violence in Indonesia, we met on the Friday following the tragedy. Afterwards, the group went out to JFK Park, overlooking the Charles River, and planted some wattle seeds in a pot of earth.

Any Harvard alumni passing through Boston on a Friday are more than welcome to attend the *Half-Baked Ideas* seminar. The schedule is available from my website (www.ksg.harvard.edu/students/leighan), and we'd love to have you join in the discussion. Who knows what *Half-Baked Idea* will be on the table?

**Andrew Leigh
PhD candidate (Public Policy)**

Similarly, there is a surprisingly high (at least surprising to an initially naïve grad student) incidence of depression, drug abuse and related illness. Other students are faced with having to withdraw from Harvard due to financial hardship and it does happen that students get messed up in the criminal system.

The effective management of all these crises involves the Tutors, usually for no other reason than the tutor will be among those people that know the student experiencing problems best. These can be hard issues to deal with; they take time and are hard to balance against academic commitments. That said, it does teach you how to manage people and issues in ways that academics rarely get exposed to. It also gives you an opportunity to smile quietly when a student, who was once at considerable risk, stands up to receive their degree from Harvard.

At many stages of the PhD, notably after courses are completed and research is in progress, it is easy to feel disassociated from the University. Being a Tutor in an undergraduate house at Harvard while fun, also helps ground me while I continue my research. Like teaching, it serves as a way to remain connected and, as such, enriches the experience of being at Harvard. Now, back to those statistics...

John Asker
PhD candidate (Economics)

HPAIR 2002: One Visiting Student's Perspective

For almost all of the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) staff from Harvard, the conference held in Sydney was our first experience in Australia. Charmed by exquisite natural beauty, a healthier pace of life in comparison to the Boston rat-race mentality and what we found to be a more thoughtful and less consumerist culture than America, Australia couldn't have been more welcoming. Most of all, there was no parallel to the experience of working with and getting to know our Macquarie University counterparts.

The week we had could have easily been taken up simply with getting acquainted with our surroundings and the Macquarie staff. Instead, we were in Australia to organize and execute Asia's largest student conference. I led a workshop entitled "A Critical Perspective on Development and Modernization in Asia." My job was to take forty or so undergraduate and graduate students and connect them with speakers, panels and each other in the interest of enriching their knowledge of the subject area.

The highlight of the workshop was a trip to the Sydney Museum of Contemporary Art to see an exhibition of John Pilger's photographs taken in developing countries throughout Asia and the world. By confronting delegates with gripping images of contemporary people and events, the exhibition, more than any other portion of the conference, put delegates in touch with the injustice, exploitation and violence that continues to plague many developing countries. In doing so, the exhibition reinforced the reasons for our meeting and the importance of the work that HPAIR as a whole was trying to accomplish.

Running a conference of this magnitude with a fairly small staff is a test of endurance. I still remember sitting in the lounge of the Hilton at four a.m. the night before the first day of the conference, watching fellow staff members rush to and fro preparing for the day's activities. If you combine this with the drive to see as much of Sydney as possible, sleep is no

longer an option. However, the HPAIR experience leaves one with more than just sleep deprivation.

Although the staff doesn't actually get to experience the conference for themselves, we do get the satisfaction of watching happy delegates depart on the last day. Most leave with a deep resolve to take the knowledge and connections they've gained from the conference to better their home country. Some depart in tears at the prospect of leaving those who they've connected with so quickly. And if the delegates have bonded, the staff have done doubly so. Before the inevitable collapse from exhaustion, there is a moment of collective pride and amazement that, once again, an HPAIR conference has succeeded. That amazement is only matched by dismay as we also depart from our new Australian friends, who only five days previously we had just met.

After the conference, I decided to spend three days in Melbourne. On the return trip to Sydney, I mistakenly took the wrong bus and what was to be a fifteen hours trip, stretched on for twenty-four hours. I managed to both see much of the Australian coast and miss my flight home, unintentionally prolonging my stay in Australia. Those last few days were precious. I was finally able to roam Darling Harbour, relax on Manly Beach, and just partake of the pleasant atmosphere I encountered while walking around Sydney.

As the time neared for me to depart for the airport, it was only the pull of finishing my last two semesters at Harvard that kept me from once again "missing" my flight. At the Gala Dinner, a dining companion had explained to me that Australia was "the world's best kept secret." For me, and my fellow HPAIR conference planners, the secret is most definitely out. We extend our deepest thanks to the Host Country Organizing Committee, Macquarie University and the Harvard Club of Australia for making this year's HPAIR such a resounding success.

Michael Lopez
AB candidate '03

Young Alumni Drinks

On 17 October the “Young Alumni” of HCA gathered for drinks at the Wentworth Hotel in Sydney. Approximately twenty people turned out for the event, including some Club members who count themselves among the “young at heart!!” Those who attended were pleased to meet Harvard alums of similar vintage that are living and working in Sydney. A great time was had by all, and a number of the group carried on after drinks for dinner at Hugo’s Lounge in Kings Cross. More “Young Alumni” events are planned for 2003.

If you are interested in attending, or have an idea for a function, please email: joannabuck@yahoo.com.au.

Joanna Buck
JD '96

Ted Blamey and the Exploding Bed

Most people know Ted, long-standing HCA Council member – works mostly in Florida, lives in Sydney, secretly prefers Melbourne. When he’s here, he keeps busy organising HCA’s Non-Profit Fellowship program. He’s well connected in the arts world, so if you want someone to arrange a good night of drama, Ted’s your man – which brings us to the exploding bed.

Actually the exploding bed was more – how to put it – the icing on the cake, or better, the meat in the sandwich; it was preceded and succeeded by two leavening experiences, dinner & talks pre- and drinks & more talks post-. The occasion? HCA Sydney’s night at the theatre with Belvoir Company B on 14 November 2002.

The performance? Svetlana in Slingbacks, an autobiographical work by new writer Valentina Levkovicz, a comedic portrait of the strangeness of childhood amid the struggles faced by recent migrants. Why was it special? We were honoured at a private dinner by talks from Belvoir’s GM, Rachel Healy, and Valentina the playwright, and again later from the author at a post-play function in support of the very worthy charity Youth Off the Streets.

In summary, a splendid night out was enjoyed by twenty-eight Harvard Club members and their guests. Oh, the exploding bed? Well, you’ll just have to go see the play for yourself, won’t you!

John Turner
AMP '86

National contacts

New South Wales

			Tel	Fax	email
Melinda	MUTH	President	02 9322 7642	02 9322 7027	president.hca@harvard.org.au

Council members: Judith Garb (Vice President), Sarah Strasser (Secretary), Ross Love (Treasurer), Ted Blamey, Joanna Buck, Clive Gard, Neil Martin, Lauren McLaughlin, Stephen Mills, Phil Stern, John Turner, Michael Vitale.

Victoria

Patrick	O'BRIEN	President	03 9635 8132	03 9635 8001	president.hcav@harvard.org.au
---------	---------	-----------	--------------	--------------	-------------------------------

Council members: Roberth Trenberth (Vice President), Dana Rowan (Secretary), Robert Larkin (Treasurer), James Carnegie, Bill Cowan, Geoff Croker, Igor Lavrin, Brigitte Smith, Robert Utter, Mary Wooldridge.

State Convenors

Ian	BRASLIN	Western Australia	08 9383 2662	08 9384 8474	ianbraslin@iinet.net.au
Peter	HAMBURGER	ACT	02 6271 5329	02 6271 5759	peter.hamburger@pmc.gov.au
Harley	HOOPER	South Australia	04 1882 4272	08 8552 8100	harleyh@chariot.net.au
David	HENDERSON	Queensland	07 3365 3933	07 3365 4433	d.henderson@uniquet.com.au

Administration

Clive	GARD	Administrator	02 9449 5239	02 9144 6699	administrator@harvard.org.au
Lauren	McLAUGHLIN	Editor	02 9322 4852	02 9322 4301	editor@harvard.org.au
Margaret	WARD	Functions (NSW)		02 9818 4868	functions.hca@harvard.org.au
Rebecca	STEVENS	Functions (Victoria)	03 9635 9140	03 9635 8183	functions.hcav@harvard.org.au

Details about the Harvard Club of Australia can be found at our website, located at <http://www.harvard.org.au>.

Men Behaving Badly

On Friday 1 November, HCA-V hosted a panel discussion on corporate governance, provocatively titled *Men Behaving Badly: Corporate Boards in the 21st Century*. The lunch at Macquarie Bank in Melbourne, provided Club members and their guests an opportunity to listen to and debate a panel consisting of distinguished Club members and public company directors, Colin Carter and Linda Nichols, as well as leading business commentator, Terry McCrann, each of whom proffered their views on the role, structure and operation of Australian and international boards.

A “capacity crowd” of around sixty was treated to an interesting array of insights on issues such as succession planning for boards, potential sources of new talent, performance assessment for directors,

and the importance of board rotations in dealing with unproductive directors. The discussion was kept moving by Patrick O’Brien, who acted as both host and MC, and provided the audience with some comfort that, whilst there were no easy answers in this area, the Australian business community was no more confused about what constituted world’s best practice than most other parts of the world.

Perhaps the only constituency under-represented in the discussion was the large or institutional shareholders. The discussion suggested that many of the ideas about best practice came to Chairpersons from other directors or from CEOs rather than from institutional shareholders, who were perceived as being so short term in their

focus as to be almost irrelevant to the corporate governance debate.

Whilst some were suggesting that the recent spate of “misbehaviour” may signal the end of corporate structure as we know it, most attendees appeared to believe that it merely signalled a bout of new, and likely unproductive, regulation. However, and perhaps most importantly, almost all attendees left with a couple of ideas about how to improve the performance of the boards in which they are involved.

HCA-V would like to reiterate its gratitude to Macquarie Bank for donating the venue and catering for this event, as well as numerous Council meetings over the year.

James Carnegie
MBA '99

Leaders’ Lunch with Professor Don Akenson

We were delighted and extremely honoured to have Professor Donald Akenson (MEd '63 and PhD, '67), lead a lunchtime discussion on 11th September as part of the HCA-V Leaders’ Lunches Program.

Professor Akenson, who teaches history at Queens University in Canada and was in Melbourne briefly to teach at Melbourne University, is a world-renowned historian of religion, with a focus on Ireland and the Irish people. The author of over 18 books, he has received a long list of prestigious international honours, prizes, medals and awards and is a highly sought-after public speaker. Professor Akenson is a Molson Laureate, Canada’s highest award, given for his lifetime contribution to Canadian culture. He proved to be an entertaining and provocative speaker, with a wry sense of humour.

In 1993 Professor Akenson published *God’s Peoples: Covenant and Land in South Africa, Israel and Ulster*. This book investigated the impact of the Scriptures on these three modern cultures, all with troubled histories.

God’s Peoples won the most important international literary prize for non-fiction: the Grawemeyer Award.

Professor Akenson intrigued us with his insights into these three cultures, each heavily influenced by the Old Testament, and the approach of each to tackling the issues confronting them. He also challenged us to consider, based on the framework he provided, how they might move forward.

Professor Akenson tackled a wide range of challenging questions and stayed for over an hour afterwards to continue discussions with some of the audience. Proceeds from the event went to support HCA-V Nonprofit Fellowship Program, and the Club is very grateful to Blake Dawson Waldron for their support of the Fellowship in providing not only the venue, their Boardroom which afforded our members and guests superb views over Melbourne’s gardens and sporting precinct, but also a delicious lunch. Our thanks to Cam Johnston (AMP '01) for making the arrangements.

Bill Cowan
MBA '72

The Big Game

On 23 November, Harvard was victorious (20-13) in the 119th meeting against its rival, Yale. Harvard Stadium was sold out to 30,323 shouting and cheering alumni of all ages, students, and Yalies who braved the freezing cold and the gusty thirty-five mile an hour wind. During the third quarter, the Crimson erupted for three touch downs in a 6:48 minute time span. Yale scored in the fourth quarter and got the ball back deep in their own territory in the final minute, but a brilliant interception at midfield guaranteed victory for the Crimson.

While Yale still leads the all-time series 64-47-8, in formal League play (since 1956) the rivalry now is deadlocked at 23-23-1. Harvard finishes the 2002 season in second place at 7-3 overall and 6-1 in the Ivy League.