



# MEGAA'zette

MIDDLE EAST & GULF AUSTRALIAN ALUMNI NETWORK

EDITION: FEBRUARY 2007

MEGAA - UAE Chapter, Issue: 3

Ph: +971 4 508 7183 Fax: +971 4 355 1547 Email: [nada.salha@aei.gov.au](mailto:nada.salha@aei.gov.au)

## CALENDAR DATES

### 3 February 2007: Picnic

**M**EGAA members, including partners and family are invited to attend the MEGAA picnic on Saturday 3rd of February 2007 at the Creek Park in Dubai. Kick off from 11am. Enter at Gate 4.

Come along and join in on the fun and games including sporting as well as networking with other Alumni members. Representatives from the Australian Embassy, Australian Consulate and other Australian Government offices will be participating in the event.

All members that attend will be given a free MEGAA t-shirt. Please bring your own food and drinks.

A car pool is being organised from Abu Dhabi, for those that need a lift please contact Brigitta.

Just post a note on the Blog.

Come along with family and be prepared to play some sports.

For bookings and other information please contact Nada.

## LINKS

### MEGAA Blog

[www.megaanetwork.com](http://www.megaanetwork.com)

### Australian Education International

[www.aei.gov.au](http://www.aei.gov.au)

## CONTACT DETAILS

### Events, Membership & General Information:

Nada Salha

Email: [nada.salha@aei.gov.au](mailto:nada.salha@aei.gov.au)

Tel: +971 (0) 4 315 9513

### Website:

Jo Clarke

Email: [admin@megaanetwork.com](mailto:admin@megaanetwork.com)

### Newsletter Layout:

Brigitta Norton

## THIS MONTH'S NEWS

### Student delegation from QUT to the UAE as great success

**D**URING SEPTEMBER 2006, a group of final year students from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT; [www.qut.edu.au](http://www.qut.edu.au)) visited the UAE.

The study tour included 20 final year QUT students studying Engineering, Town Planning, Architecture, Quantity Surveying and Construction Management and two senior professors from the university who co-ordinated and led the tour.

The tour was conducted as part of the subject "International Construction" and the purpose of this trip was to expose students to international construction, methods, processes and cultural issues. As Dubai is the pinnacle of construction and development in the world at the moment - it seemed like the best place for these students to visit. Don't you think so?

AEI Middle East assisted in the organisation of this tour by providing briefings, contacts and meetings with construction departments. One MEGAA member who works for Dubai Festival City (DFC) arranged for the study group to visit the construction site at DFC. This was one highlight of the group's visit. Another highlight was standing on the 74th floor of Burj Dubai!



## MEGAA Photo Library

**We need YOU!  
Well at least photos  
of yourselves!**

Remember docking your cap and proudly wearing the famous black cloak on your graduation day at University?

Family and friends taking pictures of you as you proudly posed for the camera?

Well, we would love to see these photos and include them on the MEGAA website. Portrait, landscape, individual or group photos are welcome.

Please send them through to [admin@megaanetwork.com](mailto:admin@megaanetwork.com).

## MEGAA Website

**T**HE MEGAA website is up and running at [www.Megaanetwork.com](http://www.Megaanetwork.com). Most of the content is now in place.

- Official launch of MEGAA website is 13 January 2007
- Sections include: News, Galleries, Blog, Jobs, Links, Contact, MEGAA Registration Form and more.
- Content will be dynamic, i.e. there will be regular monthly (or more frequently) updates on the home, news, jobs and other pages.
- MEGAA Registration Form can be accessed through the site at [www.megaanetwork.com/megaarego.html](http://www.megaanetwork.com/megaarego.html)

## MEGAA Sponsorship

**T**O INCREASE exposure of the MEGAA network we need to get the word out. If your organisation produces a monthly newsletter please let us know if we could contribute a small article about MEGAA. Perhaps your company may be interested in a sponsorship deal with MEGAA?

The sponsoring company will be featured on the MEGAA website and will also be invited to attend MEGAA events. If you work for a company that may be interested in being a sponsor of the MEGAA network do let us know. MEGAA is currently seeking applications for Premier, Major and Support sponsors. Please let Nada know if you can help with this!

## MEGAA Newsletter

...for us and by us!

**I**F ANYONE would like to add any notifications, news stories, articles, etc. to the next newsletter you are most welcome to. Please feel free to drop Nada an email at anytime with further suggestions, questions or ideas to Nada.

## BLOGS: Building Networks

Are you BLOGGING? What is a blog? Why are we hearing more and more about blogs?

- 'Blogs' is a shortened form of 'web logs', and are like web diaries but with reverse chronological order, that is the latest posts are on top.
- The beauty of blogs is their immediacy and interactivity that enhances communication, so that you and all members can join in with up-to-the-minute news and chat.
- Blogs are invaluable tools to build and strengthen social networks
- 50 million blogs on the web, and there has been an amazing 3,700 unique visits to our MEGAA blog in just 4 months.
- Specific Interest Groups (SIG) will be set up, with lists of names of members interested in that field (opt in) such as 'Banking', 'IT', 'Quality Management'
- Log-in problems? Your username has been included in emails sent by MEGAA. If you forget your password you can change it (link is on blog page). Remember to have cookies enabled.

## New Consul for Education is appointed

**M**R STEVE Garret is the new Consul for Education, Science and Training. He now leads the AEI Middle East team at the Australian Consulate in Dubai.



Mr Garrett has extensive experience in education, first as an academic, then holding leadership positions including Head of Department, Principal and Co-ordinator of Programmes in Indigenous education in Queensland, Australia and in International Schools in Papua New Guinea.

Mr Garrett has worked across the Australian States and Territories in both public and independent education sectors, with peak Aboriginal consultative groups and within the university sector. He has published a range of educational articles in educational leadership, constructivist learning, science teaching strategies for Indigenous learners and school principalship. Mr Garrett has held positions as a secondary school Principal in both Australian and international schools with experience in a range of Australian and international curricula.

In 2003 he became Director (Schools) for the International Education Agency of Papua New Guinea (IEA) before taking the position of Director (Projects and Development) which involved project management of international donor funded development activities.

Steve Garrett holds undergraduate degrees in Science Education (chemistry), with a science honours degree in human biochemistry, diplomas in business and medical technology and masters degrees in School Management and International Development.

Steve Garrett is an interesting person (with a great sense of humour) that you should meet! Come along to the MEGAA picnic to meet Steve and his family.

## Minister Truss opens new Australian Consulate office in Dubai

**O**N THE 19th of November the new Australian consulate offices were officially opened by Australia's Government Minister for Trade; The Honourable Warren Truss.



While opening the Consulate General Minister Truss said: "These new premises reflect the Australian Government's commitment to ensuring access to consular services for Australians visiting or living in the UAE, to creating international opportunities, and to strengthening our commercial and cultural ties with this region."

As well as the Australian Embassy in Abu Dhabi, the Australian Government has operated a presence in Dubai since 1987.

The expanded Consulate General will enhance the delivery of services from seven Australian Government agencies: Austrade, Department of Immigration & Multicultural Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, Department of Education, Science & Training, Invest Australia, Airservices Australia & the Australian Federal Police.

Consul General and Austrade Senior Trade Commissioner, Peter Linford, said Australian firms were well represented in many sectors in Dubai, including energy, infrastructure, hospitality, healthcare, food & beverage, and financial services.

"You can see Australian business names on cranes and building sites across the city, see a film in an Australian cinema chain, or purchase a range of Australian gourmet foods in one of the many shopping malls," Mr Linford said.

"There is extraordinary economic activity going on here. Dubai provides an important commercial hub for the region and Australian businesses are very much part of this story. The number of Australian firms registered in the UAE has risen from 100 in 2002 to 300 today, with many of these firms using Dubai as their regional base."