

AUSTRALIA AT HOME IN THE REGION: HOWARD

“We are naturally and comfortably and permanently part of this region and see our future in it.” The Hon John Howard MP, Prime Minister of Australia



Prime Minister John Howard during his keynote address at the Asialink Conversations' formal dinner in Ho Chi Minh City

THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS provided a fitting conclusion to the third Asialink Conversations signalling a new emphasis on Australia's connections with the Asia Pacific region. The Conversations, our most prestigious event in the region, are designed to foster a frank exchange of ideas and to build new networks and friendships for Australia with ASEAN.

“Australia has done a very good job of reaching out to the region... and sharing the hopes and aspirations of the millions of people that comprise the Asia-Pacific region, of which we will be forever a part, and I know a very active and willing participant.” The Hon John Howard MP, Prime Minister of Australia

The Conversations coincided with the APEC Leaders' Meeting in Vietnam and tackled complex and wide-ranging topics such as regionalism, national identity, the economic giants and their effect on the region, leadership building and energy security.

Our partner organisation, the Vietnam Peace and

Development Foundation through Secretary General Tran Dac Loi and his colleagues, gave participants a unique perspective on the transition of Vietnam to a market economy and on its long established socialist moral system, some of which Vietnam wants to retain.

Australian participants were given a real sense of the scale of the task of region building, while the ASEAN participants observed that APEC is likely to be the best equipped structure to advance the economic future of the region.

One regional participant observed that Australia has the potential to play an even greater role in regional education because we provide an “Asia-Pacific focused education” from which students generally return to contribute significantly to their own country.

Participants in the 2006 Asialink Conversations included His Royal Highness Raja Nazrin Shah, Crown Prince of Perak, Dr Ing Kantha Phavi, Cambodia's Minister for Women's Affairs, Dr Djisman Simandjuntak, Chairman of Indonesia's CSIS Foundation and business, government, media and academic leaders from Brunei, Laos, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Conversations were proudly sponsored by BHP Billiton, Singapore Airlines and the University of Melbourne and supported by RMIT International University - Vietnam.



Photo: Grant Hancock

BLUE & WHITE

Pictured above: Robin Best, *In China We Trust*, 2006, seven pieces, unglazed cast porcelain, ceramic pencil, 18 carat gold leaf, 130 x 620mm [detail]. The work is part of the current Asialink touring exhibition *A Secret History of Blue & White* recently shown in Hanoi then in Bangkok and Singapore through 2007. More page 7.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN CAMBODIA: HUN SEN

“Lasting economic development requires a concerted effort by governments, business and the community.” Prime Minister Hun Sen



IN OCTOBER 2006, ASIALINK, in partnership with ANZ and the Phnom Penh Chamber of Commerce, were honoured to host the Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, Samdech Hun Sen.

Prime Minister Hun Sen's visit highlights Cambodia's strengthening relations with Australia and the Cambodian Government's commitment to attracting investment and trade, particularly in agriculture, infrastructure, resources and tourism.



**SID MYER
CHAIRMAN**

The second half of 2006 was an important time for Australia Asia engagement. In

November Prime Minister John Howard made his first visit to Vietnam and we were delighted that he spoke so warmly of the particular regard he has had for Asialink's work since he addressed us first in 1995. He said that: "the emphasis Asialink has placed on our links with Asia has played a very very important role in Australia's understanding that its immediate interests and concerns are tied up with the Asia Pacific region."

In 2006 the Asialink Conversations brought a group of 30 leaders from ASEAN to discuss contemporary issues facing our region. The "Conversations" are an important part of Asialink's growing presence in "second track" initiatives and in 2007 we will present the Coolom Forum and the APEC New Leaders Forum.

The Asialink Board was very pleased to see the Confucius Institute at the University of Melbourne open in November. This important initiative of the Chinese Government will both contribute to teaching Chinese language and culture and history, and develop business and government engagement.

It has been another hectic half year for Asialink. Again, I would like to thank our energetic Board, management and staff for their hard work, and our committed partners and sponsors for their support and encouragement.



**JENNY
MCGREGOR
CEO**

As Australia prepares for hosting APEC 2007 Asialink, supported by

the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, is planning an APEC New Leaders Forum and our education program is preparing APEC curriculum materials for Australian schools.

Asialink's presence internationally expanded significantly this year with Arts securing a 5 year plan for collaboration from our first major forum in Tokyo of leading Australian and Japanese arts managers and curators. Asia Australia Mental Health in partnership with the Chinese Ministry of Health is now seeing positive results from 62 model community mental health projects across China. Asialink's education program was recognised at the US National Consortium on Teaching Asia in the Schools in October as world's best practice.

Asialink Corporate and Public Programs delivered 90 events in 2006 in Sydney, Melbourne and in Vietnam. A broad range of speakers included Cambodian PM Hun Sen, Australian Treasurer Peter Costello and Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz. The Confucius Institute at the University of Melbourne held its first business networking event in November. Asialink will continue to work closely with the Institute throughout 2007.



"Asialink Leaders Program provides first-hand insight

and knowledge into how government works in relation to foreign policy, trade and relations." Lindley Edwards, CEO, The Venture Group, Asialink Board



"Two big challenges for Australia are: increasing dramatically

the number of Australians who speak Mandarin and enhancing our understanding of the diverse cultures of Asia. Asialink's work is central to both." Philip Flood AO, Deputy Chair, Asialink Board

Asialink Board, Partners & Sponsors

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<p>AXA Asia Pacific Department of Industry, Innovation & Regional Development (VIC) Westpac Banking Corporation Foster's International Trinity College</p>	



INDIACONNECT

The future is India



Pictured above: Indian High Commissioner HE P.P. Shukla and Farah Farouque, Journalist, *The Age*

INDIA HAS CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION of the world. To understand the complexity and opportunities presented through this new economic giant, Asialink convened IndiaConnect — a conference which brought together over 150 members of the Indian community, business leaders and graduates, all considering doing business in and with India.

The conference commenced with a keynote address from Indian High Commissioner HE P.P. Shukla, who presented a detailed overview of why India should now be an important element of any business' international plans.

The conference was delivered with the support of the Indian High Commission, the University of Melbourne, *The Age* and Indian community newspaper, *Bharat Times*. It enabled sectoral leaders such as BHP Billiton, Austrade, Infosys, AEI, SMEC Engineering and Intrepid Travel to outline growth areas in the Indian economy.

In addition to the out-sourcing service industry of India, panels covered science and technology, infrastructure and resources. Luxury brand consultant and Melbourne Business School Associate Professor of Marketing, Dr Mark Ritson, made a compelling case for India as a destination for investors in retail.

Selected transcripts available at www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/cpp/indiaconnect

ECONOMIC GROWTH A 'POVERTY BUSTER'

Peter Costello, Federal Treasurer of Australia, on G20 at an Asialink Business Briefing

IN A SPEECH ABOUT GLOBAL ECONOMICS, given in the lead-up to November's G20 meeting, the Hon Peter Costello MP (pictured right) said that economic growth is the greatest 'poverty-buster' ever invented. He said that it is estimated that in Asia around 580 million people have been lifted out of extreme poverty (US\$1 per day) in the 20 years since 1981, "which is principally China and to a lesser degree in India."

Mr Costello said that "trade is more important than aid in economic growth," and that "Australia has a lot of credibility on international economic issues because of our record of reform and success."

The G20 meeting, chaired by the Treasurer, represented two-thirds of the world's population and 85 per cent of global GDP.

Finance Ministers from significant industrial and



emerging market economies including China, India, Indonesia and Japan discussed energy, security, ageing societies and reform of the IMF. Mr Costello said G20 provided an opportunity to "forge stronger relationships both globally and within our region."

To read a transcript of the speech visit www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/cpp/transcripts/

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

Confucius Institute holds inaugural business networking function supported by Asialink, the Australia China Business Council and the Victorian Government



THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE AT MELBOURNE opened in November 2006 with experienced Australian Trade Commissioner Barbara Hilder appointed Director Corporate Engagement. The Institute also has Co-Directors Academic, Professor David Holm from the University of Melbourne and a soon to be appointed Professor from Nanjing University, the Melbourne Confucius Institute's partner University.

Confucius Institutes are a high priority of the Government of the People's Republic of China. Around 100 Institutes are currently being set up around the world and are already in the UK, USA, Europe and Korea. Letters of Intent have been signed with India, Pakistan and New Zealand, with further negotiations currently underway.

The Confucius Institute will spearhead the teaching of Chinese language and culture worldwide, and act as a vehicle to strengthen economic and business ties.

The Institute, located at 172 Bouverie Street, Carlton, will offer introductory and advanced Mandarin Chinese courses. Executive courses on business in China will be tailored to suit the requirements of individuals and companies. From January 2007 the Confucius Institute will be conducting Chinese language courses for the business community.

For further information contact Barbara Hilder at b.hilder@unimelb.edu.au or visit www.confuciusinstitute.unimelb.edu.au



ONLINE Go to www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/cpp/events for information on upcoming Asialink's public lectures and events

ASIALINK EVENTS

Public polling, citizen reporters and the Crown Prince



Pictured left: Henry Tang, Financial Secretary for Hong Kong and Geoff Roberts, Group Chief Financial Officer, AXA Asia Pacific Holdings
Pictured right: HRH Raja Muda Perak Dr Raja Nazrin Shah speaks with University of Melbourne students

ASIALINK'S FREE PUBLIC LECTURES and special events provide a platform for a diverse range of expert global opinion on current issues impacting our region.

HRH Raja Muda Perak Dr Raja Nazrin Shah led a delegation including Chief Minister **Dato' Seri Di Raja Tajol Rosli** who outlined trade and economic opportunities in Perak to a capacity audience in the Sidney Myer Asia Centre. The Crown Prince graciously met with Malaysian students before the event.

The 2006 Lowy Institute Poll Forum, presented by Lowy Executive Director **Allan Gyngell** and a panel of US Consul General **Earl Irving**, *The Age* Opinion Editor **Ray Cassin** and **Prof Tim Lindsey**, Melbourne Asian Law Centre Director, reflected on the poll results on attitudes towards China, Indonesia and the US and issues such as global warming and Iraq.

Nik Gowing, the highly acclaimed BBC news anchor, discussed how the prevalence of new technologies like mobile phone cameras were empowering citizens to participate in the delivery of news. He outlined the dangers for news organisations in balancing the pressure of reporting news immediately whilst also

confirming its accuracy. Executive Editor of Bangkok's *The Nation*, **Kavi Chongkittavorn**, continued the focus on the media with his analysis of Thai politics, foreshadowing the coup and discussing the relationship between the media and government under then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

In the political sphere feature events have included **Henry Tang**, Financial Secretary for Hong Kong, **HE Thanh Tan Nguyen**, Vietnam's Ambassador to Australia, **Dr Dino Patti Djalal**, Presidential Spokesperson and Special Staff of the President of Indonesia and **HE John McCarthy**, Australia's Ambassador to India.



In early December, Asialink, in partnership with The Myer Foundation, hosted a private luncheon with the National Secretary of the Australian Workers Union, **Bill**

Shorten (pictured above). Bill provided an insight into the changing nature of the workforce and the Australian Labor Party's Asia credentials.

Listen to live recordings of many of our public lectures at www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/cpp

TRADE MATTERS:

The future of the Malaysian economy

THE STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION of Malaysia's economy over the last 40 years has been spectacular. Today, Malaysia offers the world the Petronas Twin Towers, the Multimedia Super Corridor and an average annual growth rate topping 5%, plus one of the world's longest serving Trade Ministers **Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz** (pictured right).

Nineteen years into the job and on one of her regular trips to Australia, Minister Aziz addressed a select group of business people on the current state of play in Malaysia and what the future holds for one of the region's most dynamic economies.

With Malaysia being Australia's third largest



trading partner in ASEAN and eleventh largest worldwide, Minister Aziz highlighted the sound nature of the current relationship. With free trade talks well advanced and continued growth in trade, the future of the Australia-Malaysia relationship looks bright.

SOUL OF ISLAM LECTURE SERIES

"All the flags and faces of the world are on display: the blue-eyed, blonde-haired Russians... the Afghans with their weathered faces... the Indian women have shiny nose jewellery... the Moroccan women have decorative tattoos on their faces... the Americans speak with that uniquely American confidence." *Waleed Aly on the Hajj*



Photo courtesy StockXpert

THIS YEAR ASIALINK, with the Asia Education Foundation and the Islamic Council of Victoria, ran a popular series of free public lectures on modern Islamic issues.

The Soul of Islam lectures discuss Islam in personal, national and regional contexts. Learned members of the local Islamic community presented seven lectures.

Rachel Woodlock explored Muslim feminism in Australia's modern context, recounting her 'mosque audit' that assessed Melbourne's mosques' capacity to accommodate the needs of female worshippers.

Suparto looked at Indonesia's pesantren (Islamic boarding schools) and gave a detailed analysis of the daily lives of their young scholars, and Saara Sabbagh spoke about motherhood within the Islamic context.

These lectures are part of Asialink's free public lecture program.

Visit www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/cpp/events

MINISTER SUPPORTS ASIA EDUCATION

“For our nation to prosper, we must enhance our links with the world. We do that by improving our cultural understanding, our language skills.” The Hon Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Education, Science and Training



Pictured from left: Charles Goode AC, Chairman, ANZ Banking Group, John Calvert-Jones AM, Chairman, Seafirst Australia, Minister Julie Bishop and Asialink Chairman, Sid Myer

FEDERAL MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING, The Hon Julie Bishop MP, was recently congratulated by Asialink on the Government's long-term support of the Asia Education Foundation (AEF).

Asialink Chairman, Sid Myer, with his wife Fiona Myer, hosted a private dinner for the Minister to meet Melbourne's community leaders and members of the Asialink and AEF Boards.

Guests were impressed by the Minister's strong understanding of the power of Australia's education and science engagement with the Asian region especially with China, which she visited soon after taking up her portfolio.

At the dinner Former President of the Business Council of Australia, Hugh Morgan AC, spoke of the importance of teaching cultural knowledge in schools to build the sort of skills required to

engage with Asia. He said Asialink's AEF is acknowledged by the US as world's best practice in this area.

Dean of Education at the University of Melbourne, Professor Field Rickards, said that the single most important task facing Australia is teacher education. Professor Rickards said that teachers have had minimal study of Asia themselves and so it is a real challenge to teach in this area.

Charles Goode AC, Chairman of ANZ Banking Group, thanked the Minister for gaining State and Territory Education Ministers' agreement to the *National Statement for Engaging Young Australians with Asia in Australian Schools* and requested that adequate funding be allocated by the government to ensure the uptake of the Statement in schools.

LANGUAGES EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS

“If our kids are not really fluent in another language, they are denied opportunities to thrive in an increasingly multi-lingual world.” The Hon Senator Amanda Vanstone MP, Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

CANBERRA, OCTOBER 30-31, played host to 140 leading languages educators from across Australia who attended the inaugural National Seminar on Languages Education in Australian Schools managed by the Asia Education Foundation on behalf of the Australian Government.

Attendees heard a strong endorsement of their work from Minister Julie Bishop who opened the forum, telling participants that monolingualism will not serve Australia well in a world driven by the forces of globalisation.

Her endorsement was strongly supported by The Hon Senator Amanda Vanstone MP, Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (pictured below). Commending delegates on their commitment to languages education, Senator Vanstone reflected on her own efforts to gain instruction in Chinese. This was not only to understand the words, but more how her Chinese counterparts were thinking and therefore how best to communicate her ideas to them.



Senator Amanda Vanstone at the Languages Education Forum

PARENTS' SURVEY SUPPORTS ASIA KNOWLEDGE

82% of parents believe that Australians need to understand China as well as the US and UK

IN A LANDMARK STUDY, conducted for the AEF in conjunction with the Australian Council of State School Organisations and the Australian Parents Council, the following was revealed:

- 88% of parents surveyed believed that government should have a long-term strategic plan to engage young Australians with Asia
- 91% thought that an ability to communicate across cultures is important
- 80% wanted all students to have the opportunity to learn an Asian language
- 80% of parents considered Asians to have played a significant role in shaping modern Australia.

Visit www.asiaeducation.edu.au for the full report.



Pictured from left: Ian Dalton, Australian Parents Council and Judith Bundy, Australian Council of State School Organisations at the AEF National Forum, 2006

CHINA

Asia-Australia Mental Health partners China in the "686" project, an innovative mental health strategy targetting 62 communities across China



Co-Director of Asia-Australia Mental Health, Assoc Prof Dr Chee Ng (far right) setting out with Beijing colleagues around Chaoyang Park, as part of 2006 World Mental Health Day celebrations

ASIA-AUSTRALIA MENTAL HEALTH, Asialink's program supporting community mental health service delivery in the region, were delighted to be part of a team monitoring the progress of two demonstration sites in China's innovative "686" project.

Associate Professor Chee Ng, Margaret Goding from St Vincent's Health, Julia Fraser and Yue Li from Asialink visited Taizhou in Wenzhou and the Hongkou district of Shanghai, which are part of a network of 62 sites in China participating in the "686" project delivering locally appropriate community mental health programs.

Over the past two years, Asia-Australia Mental Health has delivered training in Melbourne to regional directors covering all "686" sites in China and worked closely with colleagues from the China Centre for Disease Control and Ministry of Health to assist in program evaluation and broadening the reach and deepening the impact of the initiative.

In a particularly moving session at a local community health centre in Shanghai, patients and their families spoke enthusiastically to Asia-Australia Mental Health staff about the important ways in which their lives had been improved through participating in the project. One young man described the enormous joy of becoming well enough to enrol at University to become an interpreter, and another young woman now leads an active local choir and is well on the way to return to her nursing career.

The "686" project is a significant milestone in mental health development for China. Asia-Australia Mental Health has been honoured to be invited to play a significant role in its development and to witness the positive changes the program is making to peoples' lives.

Visit the Asialink website for more information about Asia-Australia Mental Health at www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/cpp/myer

SKILLING ASIA PACIFIC LEADERS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

"The Asialink Leaders Program opened my eyes to what will influence tomorrow's decisions and introduced me to a group of dynamic Australians shaping a common future." Dean Smith, General Manager, Government Affairs, Optus

A RECENT ASIALINK BOARD MEETING reviewed the Asialink Leaders' Program and approved a 3-5 year strategy of expansion for the program.

Ten years ago when the Leaders' Program commenced, many Australian organisations were only beginning to think about an Asia strategy. Today dealing with Asia on all levels is no longer an exotic option for Australian companies and organisations as more and more become global operations.

To respond to this changed context and provide increased flexibility, a new model for the Leaders' Program has been developed in consultation with key Australian leaders and program alumni.

Participants can now opt to select one or more stand-alone modules or take up the opportunity to subscribe to the entire Asialink Leaders' Program.

The 2007 Asialink Leaders' Program will continue to draw on the expertise of Australia's leading Asia institutions and centres at the Australian National University, the University of Melbourne and University of Technology Sydney and will include high level speakers from government, business, media and the not for profit sector.

Highlights of the Program include: a five day retreat at ANU exploring the current challenges facing the Australian government in its bi-lateral and regional relationships and a practical cross-cultural skill-building module that prepares participants to lead and manage globally.

www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/cpp/leadership



Leadership Program 2006 Fellow Margaret Bounader (Austrade) with Atufa Ali and Sara Faraj, students of Australian International Academy, who hosted the program's Islam day

ONLINE For more information about applying for the 2007 Asialink Leaders Program visit www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/cpp/leadership

NEON RISING

“This project has allowed me to reflect on the importance of cross-cultural collaboration in my work. To ask why we do and see things differently; to respect the infinite complexities in communicating; to use travelling as a means to look closer at yourself and the space around you in the hope of creating a piece of art that can speak universally and with relevance.” Sue Healey, Choreographer

RENOWNED CHOREOGRAPHER SUE HEALEY sums up the sustaining relationships that have been generated through the Neon Rising dance program which teamed choreographers making new works in Australia and Japan over the last two years.

These works are now enjoyed by audiences in both countries: Kate Denborough’s extraordinary physical theatre piece *Ink* in Osaka and Tokyo, and Leigh Warren’s presentation of *Wanderlust* at two of Tokyo’s premier theatres, while Sydney audiences experienced the dynamism of Tess de Quincey’s *Impro-Lab* at the Sydney Opera House, and Sue Healey’s *Will Time Tell?* at the Drill with a multitalented cast of Japanese artists.

CERAMICS, NOT SO BLACK AND WHITE...

A Secret History of Blue and White revealed in Hanoi



Audience viewing *A Secret History of Blue & White*

THE VIETNAM FINE ARTS MUSEUM in Hanoi provided the launching pad for Asialink’s newest touring exhibition, *A Secret History of Blue & White*.

The exhibition highlights the diversity and strength of Australian ceramics and positions it within European and Asian ceramic histories. The reputation of Australian craft has grown steadily in Europe and North America. Now Asialink is acknowledging the importance of sharing these developments in our region.

JamFactory Managing Director and exhibition curator, Stephen Bowers selected works by five

prominent contemporary artists: Stephen Benwell, Robin Best, Bronwyn Kemp, Vipoo Srivilasa and Gerry Wedd.

The exhibition was launched in Vietnam, a country renowned for its strong ceramic tradition. Bowers gave a public lecture providing visitors with a personal insight into the work.

The exhibition is supported by the Australia Council and Images of Australia Branch (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), as well as the Australian Embassy in Hanoi. It continues to Bangkok and Singapore in 2007.



POSTCARD FROM PAKISTAN

“Peshawar has always been renowned for its folktales. There is even a street called

Qissa Khwani, the storytellers’ bazaar, where stories used to be exchanged. Now many people watch TV instead, and Asha Ahmad who recently compiled a book called *Pashtun Tales* found it very difficult to find a storyteller. She finally found Saeed Khan Baba and he brought ‘the room alive with princes and princesses, jinn and fairies and

far-off mountains, fabulous lands where birds and beasts talk and possess more wisdom than wise men’.

A recent Pukhtoon folktale I read called ‘Sweeter than Salt’ has the same plot as *King Lear*. Who did the borrowing? They say here that Shakespeare did.”

Rosanne Hawke (pictured left) is the author of 14 books for young people and is currently in Pakistan on an Asialink Literature Residency, supported by Arts SA.

FROM AN ISLAND SOUTH

Pictured right: Richard Wastell *Last night I dreamt an island gentle* 2004, acrylic, oil, marble dust on canvas, 120 x 360 cm, is part of the *From an Island South* Asialink / Devonport Regional Gallery touring exhibition, travelling to Lahore, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok.



Corporate & Public Programs

Education

Arts



2006 Dunlop Fellow Olivia Lavis working with children at Timor-Leste with NGO Leeuwin Care

WEARY DUNLOP AWARDS

The annual Dunlop Asia Awards Program supports long-term commitment to improving Asia-Australia relations. Sister Mary Theodore AO will be awarded the Dunlop Medal for her work for children with mental and physical disabilities in Chennai, India. She established the Mithra Foundation 30 years ago. The 2007 Fellows are lawyer Ben Saul who will work with Cambodia's Royal University of Law and Economics; Thailand's Community Architects for Shelter and Environment will host architect Hugo Moline and Public Health Specialist, Jonathon Ehsani is to work with Thailand's "The Alliance for Safe Children".

NEW ASIALINK WEBSITE

A new look Asialink website will be launched early in 2007. A *News* and *What's On* section will provide a dynamic portal to Asialink programs and events. The website is an extensive research resource. Visit www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au



APEC FUTURE LEADERS FORUM

Asialink, with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, is bringing together new leaders from the 21 APEC economies in the lead up to the APEC Leaders Meeting in September 2007. Participants from business, government, academia and media will share views on business facilitation and human security.

IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

In Our Own Backyard is a magazine for Australian primary and high school students which presents contemporary regional issues around three themes: 'Getting Connected', 'Shifting Identities' and 'Being Good Neighbours'. The magazine and related web resources focus on significant events and changes that rise out of globalisation and have a major impact on Australia and its neighbours. This magazine, the latest in the Asia Education Foundation's award winning Access Asia series, can be ordered at www.asiaeducation.edu.au



Image: Anne Zahalka, *Strangers in A Strange Land*, 2004
Courtesy of the artist and Roslyn Oxley9 gallery. Cover image: *In our own backyard*

A PASSAGE TO INDIA FOR AUSTRALIAN TEACHERS

Linking Latitudes, the AEF's fourth international conference and fieldtrip program for educators, will take place in India in October 2007. The five-day conference for 300 delegates will begin in Delhi and finish in Agra. Ten conference fieldwork choices include the Holy City of Varanasi, cosmopolitan Mumbai, the hilltop retreat of Dharamasala and ICT hub, Bangalore. Linking Latitudes develops Australian educators' knowledge about India to enrich teaching programs in schools. The AEF will build on its partnerships with Indian educators developed through the long running Australia India Teacher Exchange Program. Find out more about the 30 September to 4 October 2007 conference by emailing linkinglatitudes@asialink.unimelb.edu.au or visit www.asiaeducation.edu.au



NEW ARTS PUBLICATIONS

Three years ago Asialink Arts celebrated the Residency Program's 35,000 days in Asia with a special publication. It is time to update this much-valued resource, now titled *45,000 days in Asia*. It will be complemented by another publication to celebrate in-bound traffic: *jalan-jalan: The Indonesia Australia Arts Management Program*. This recognises the achievements and outcomes of the program's 8 years which have seen 17 Indonesian arts managers undertake internships with Australian arts organisations.

AUSTRALIA CENTRE STAGE IN KOLKATA



Literature is one of the key components of the Australian Government's AusArts India program with Australia taking centre stage as 'Focus Country' at the 2007 Kolkata (Calcutta) Book Fair.

Held over 10 days, the annual fair attracts over 1.5 million visitors. Australia's presence, organised by Asialink, will see numerous author and publishing presentations, readings and workshops, led by renowned Australian author Thomas Keneally (pictured above), as well as a large display of Australian books at a specially-themed pavilion.