

# DeAN-Newsletter

**Deutsch-Australisches Netzwerk e.V.**

- der Alumniverband für Absolventinnen und Absolventen,  
Angehörige und Freunde deutscher und australischer Bildungseinrichtungen



*Edition 2/2003 (June)*

Dear fellow DeAN-members,

The first half year of 2003 has seen an enormous boost in DeAN activities. Aside from several events, details of which can be read in this newsletter, visitors have been flocking both ways, membership has increased and several new scholarship projects are underway. Only in the last few weeks, we have had members from the University of Western Sydney, Macquarie University, Queensland University of Technology and the University of New South Wales travelling through. More than at any one time before, DeAN-Board members have also travelled to Australia. Both Tanja Neumann, DeAN Vice-President, and myself took the opportunity to network for DeAN while on holidays in Australia in March and April this year respectively. Tobias Kalenscher, activities coordinator, has “defected” to do research in New Zealand for some five months, but did remember where his true allegiance lies when stopping over in Sydney on his way to Aotearoa. Frank Paschen, DeAN Newsletter editor and Ulrike Schröter, one of our “freelancers”, are enjoying a research stay in Canberra at the moment and have started to introduce DeAN to the universities and governmental offices there and last but not least Ralf Kohl, long-time newsletter editor and now a “freelancer”, is currently undertaking further studies and research for his PhD thesis in Brisbane and made great use of this opportunity to network jointly with Tanja Neumann.

Institutional support for DeAN is ever increasing with more and more Australian universities joining as institutional members. At the same time, a rising number of universities are showing an interest in granting scholarships through DeAN in an effort to raise the profile of Australian education in Germany. Cooperation with institutional members in Germany is also continuing successfully with DeAN joining in a number of events such as the “Study Down Under” information day, fantastically organised by the Australia Centre in Berlin, and the Welcome and Farewell Party for students at Hochschule für Bankwirtschaft (HfB) in Frankfurt/Main.

Preparations for the next big European Reunion in cooperation with UNSW Study Abroad in Zeche Zollverein, Essen, on Sept. 20/21, 2003 are well under way. Susanne Ratjen and Tobias Kalenscher have put a lot of effort into what will be the biggest “bash” DeAN has organised so far. So watch out for that invitation in the mail pretty shortly!!

September this year will also see some change within the DeAN Board. Elections will be held

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at the general meeting in conjunction with the reunion. Most current members and some of the “freelancers” have agreed to stand again. However, treasurer and founding member, Stefan Thiel, long-time secretary-general, Alexander Holzrichter, deputy secretary-general and founding member, Inga Sitzmann, and myself will step down. Ralf Kohl, former newsletter editor and now freelancer, has also decided not to stand again. So for those of you who have long tossed with the idea of becoming more actively involved, this is your chance!! We need members to take over the jobs of those of us who will not stand again. So, please think about how you can contribute. This is YOUR association, so don't hesitate to get involved and help shape it. Please contact either myself ([president@dean-online.de](mailto:president@dean-online.de)) or any of the other board members to discuss this further.

I look forward to seeing you in September.

Very best regards

Sabine Pittrof

President for the Board of DeAN e.V.

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— — — Message from the Editor — — — — —

Dear DeANies,

it is from a cold Canberran autumn that I send out the newest edition of our DeAN newsletter. Though the temperatures are rather chilly, the overall weather is really fantastic: rain usually comes down during the nights and the days mostly present clear, blue skies and lots of sunshine. I could imagine worse and as for “real” Australian temperatures ... we will get there! Well, I placed myself in front of my laptop, next to the heater, set up my environment with a hot cup of tea and some chocolate (the brand remains a secret) and put together what you are just holding in your hands or – more likely – are seeing on your monitor.

For this edition many thanks go to those who participated in one of the several information events that took place lately and reported on them. Special thanks go to our “defectant” Tobias who contributed a glowing article on “this small country east of Australia” — New Zealand. Surely, so it seems, it is a visit to both Australia’s *and* New Zealand’s scenic beauties and cultural riches that makes your impression of the “world down under” complete.

For the next edition (September 2003) I would like to encourage you to think about contributing yourself to the DeAN newsletter. We frequently publish views of Australia by Germans – and they continue to be very much welcome! – but maybe there are some Australians who would like to share their experiences of life and the world of science in Germany? If so, please contact me ([newsletter@dean-online.de](mailto:newsletter@dean-online.de)) and in three months time your article could be in this newsletter.

Enjoy this edition!



*Publication of Edition 3/2003 will be on September 15th  
Closing date for contributions: September 5th*

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## — — — Articles and Reports — — — — —

We will publish articles and reports from our fellow DeAN-members in every edition of the newsletter. Of course, we are happy to receive *your* contribution! So keep on writing, it does not need to be long, and send your contribution to [newsletter@dean-online.de](mailto:newsletter@dean-online.de).

### “Study Down Under” Information Event in Berlin

On May 15th, 2003, the Australia Centre Ltd, Berlin, one of DeAN’s institutional members, organised a very successful information day on studies in Australia. Six Australian universities as well as DAAD, DIMA and a number of other Australian related institutions presented themselves at the Australian Embassy in Berlin. About 350 students made use of the ample opportunities to get acquainted with everything they needed to know about life as a student in Australia. DeAN was also represented by some of its members and encountered a lot of interest among the institutions present. Congratulations to Heidi Plucknett for organising a very successful event which calls to be repeated in Berlin as well as other Germany cities!

(Sabine Pittrof)

### Info-Veranstaltung am 22. Mai an der Fachhochschule Frankfurt a.M.

Mit über 60 Studenten war die vom Akademischen Auslandsamt der Fachhochschule Frankfurt in Kooperation mit DeAN organisierte Informationsveranstaltung gut besucht. Das Motto „Studium und Praktikum in Australien“ lockte so manchen Interessenten trotz paralleler Vorlesungen und auch Teilnehmer von außerhalb wurden gesichtet. Das von Frau Schöfisch organisierte Programm war vielseitig und der zweisprachige Ablauf sorgte für eine lockere Atmosphäre.

Als erster Vortragender führte Kieran O’Brian von der Queensland University of Technology, einer der Partnerhochschulen der FH Frankfurt, mit einer Präsentation über die Studienmöglichkeiten in Brisbane in das Thema ein.

Herr Kleinkauf vom Akademischen Auslandsamt folgte und berichtete über den Stand der geplanten Kooperation zwischen dem Bundesland Hessen und dem Staat Queensland. Dem Vorbild Baden-Württemberg und Südaustralien folgend, soll es vielleicht schon ab dem nächsten Jahr einen Studentenaustausch zwischen Hessen und Queensland im Rahmen eines Kooperationsvertrages geben.

Über allgemeine Studieninformationen und das Visumverfahren, die Voraussetzungen und den Ablauf, informierte Frau Gauri Nandedkar vom Australischen Generalkonsulat Frankfurt.

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Besonderes Interesse, fanden die Möglichkeit, das Visum vor Ort um eine Arbeitserlaubnis zu erweitern, die Onlinebewerbung und die Regelungen zur medizinischen Untersuchung.

Das Deutsch-Australische Netzwerk e.V. wurde von Sabine Pittrof vorgestellt, die in ihrer Mittagspause schnell vorbei kommen konnte. Neben der Vorstellung von Sinn und Zweck der Alumni-Vereinigung wurde die Gelegenheit genutzt, auf das DeAN-Qantas-Reisestipendium als Finanzierungsmöglichkeit aufmerksam zu machen.

Der zweite Teil wurde von Tobias Foster von GOstralia übernommen. Nach einer kurzen Einleitung stellten Joanne Derksen (University of Western Sydney), Randa Chebbou (La Trobe University) die Studienmöglichkeiten an den folgenden Universitäten vor: Bond University (Gold Coast), La Trobe University (Melbourne), Macquarie University (Sydney), Murdoch University (Perth), University of South Australia (Adelaide) und University of Western Sydney.

Tobias Foster rundete die gelungene Veranstaltung mit einem allgemeinen Teil, gespickt mit vielen Tipps und eigenen Erfahrungen, über den Aufenthalt in Australien ab.

(Silke Schlüter)

### **Info-Veranstaltung an der Hochschule für Bankwirtschaft, Frankfurt a.M.**

Am Abend des 04.06. fand an der Hochschule für Bankwirtschaft (HfB) eine Informationsveranstaltung über das Studieren in Australien statt. Das Wetter spielte mit und erinnerte mit über 30 °C durchaus an australische Verhältnisse. Nach einer Begrüßung durch Frau Gebhart (Auslandsamt der HfB) berichtete Dr. Sabine Pittrof über die Aktivitäten und Ziele von DeAN und meine Wenigkeit über meine Erlebnisse in Sydney.

Sehr interessant waren auch die Beiträge von einigen – kürzlich aus Australien zurückgekehrten – HfB-Studenten; u.a. eine kurze Filmvorführung. Ein weiterer Sprecher war Sascha Folz, einer der beiden ersten Stipendiaten des DeAN-Qantas-Reisestipendiums. Er verbrachte ein Semester an der UNSW in Sydney und hatte sehr schöne Bilder mitgebracht, die die Anwesenden in Urlaubslaune versetzten. Natürlich hatte die HfB auch für das leibliche Wohl der Gäste gesorgt. Mit Chili Con Carne und Fosters Bier (gestellt vom australischen Generalkonsulat in Frankfurt) ließ sich die Hitze auch gleich viel besser ertragen.

Nach dem offiziellen Teil sammelte man sich noch in kleinen Gruppen um Erfahrungen auszutauschen, Fragen zu stellen und – last but not least – Mitglied bei DeAN zu werden.

(Peter Werno)

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## New Zealand: 5 months in Australia's neighbouring country

So you went to Australia and you think you've been to the other side of the world? Well, obviously you haven't been to New Zealand. This small country east of Australia, and in particular its South Island, is the real down under. Some of the Kiwi islands are called 'antipodes islands', and for a good reason: They get their name from the fact that, at latitude 180°, they are opposite latitude 0° at Greenwich, England. You've certainly discussed the 'drill-a-hole-into-the-earth-issue' with some of your friends while you stayed in Australia, but in New Zealand it's true: If you vertically drilled a hole into the earth, you would eventually end up in central/northern Europe. This place really is as far as you can go on the planet.

So what's the true other side of the world like? After having spent 5 long years in the northern hemisphere, I finally got the chance of going back down under for a couple of months as part of my PhD studies. After a short stopover in Sydney, I continued my flight to Dunedin in the south-east of the South Island of New Zealand.

Although I was tremendously happy going back down under, my expectations were rather moderate due to my Australian-influenced ignorance about this small sister of Oz. I was expecting a cold and rather Europe-like country with a couple of mountains and a sea that is too chilly to swim in. Well, New Zealand does indeed have mountains and cold sea, but the stunning splendour of this country struck me immediately after my arrival. The landscape's incredible beauty is the result of its great contrasts. New Zealand has huge mountain ranges that are up to almost 4,000 meters high, interspersed by active volcanoes, huge glaciers and hot springs. The mountain walls basically drop right into the sea, thus at their base you'll find the turquoise pacific ocean with long, deserted beaches and no one but playing dolphins and yellow-eyed penguins in the water. The only thing you need to do to get there is to walk through thousands of years old rain forest and deal with the keas that constantly try to pick your food. Once you've had enough of mountains and rainforests, you can always take a boat trip on one of the fiords in the south-west where you'll probably be accompanied by dolphins and penguins again. And if you are more into outdoor sports or adrenaline kicks, go to Queenstown for a bit of heli-skiing, a bungee jump (NZ is the home of the bungee jump with some of the highest and most spectacular jumps in the world), a bit of whitewater rafting or some very odd stuff like rolling down a mountain in a gigantic, transparent elastic ball or the like. In addition to all that, New Zealand is paradise for hikers and bird watchers with some of the best multi-day walking tracks in the world. Moreover, it has a rich pre-European history and fascinating Maori art and culture. Thus, if you ever get bored by the Australian Outback or you have seen too many kangaroos in your life, why not try a bit of Kiwi-spotting for a change?

Like Australia, New Zealand has an excellent reputation in tertiary education. It is a much smaller country than Australia and therefore has less universities. But tuition fees are rather

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low, the universities are equipped with excellent facilities and are generally relatively small and friendly and the staff is always approachable and helpful. Due to its great education system, its beautiful country and its friendly people, New Zealand is becoming increasingly attractive for international students. If you have any questions about studying or travelling in New Zealand, send me an email ([aktivitaeten@dean-online.de](mailto:aktivitaeten@dean-online.de)) or talk to any of the international student placement agencies that are listed on our website (<http://www.dean-online.de>).

Kia ora!

(Tobias Kalenscher)

## — — — Profiles from our Institutional Members — — — — — — — — —

All our institutional members are invited to present themselves to our readers (newsletter and website) in more detail. All who choose to do so will be presented in our newsletter in random order. Please note that this a cross-reference to our website, where you can already find these profiles and/or links of all our institutional members at any time.

### University of Western Sydney

#### *Introduction*

The University of Western Sydney (UWS) is one of the largest universities in Australia with over 35,000 students but being a multi-site university, each campus has a relatively small population. That makes for a friendly and caring environment it also makes learning and succeeding a lot easier.

You'll find that all our staff are just as keen for you to succeed as you are. They are friendly, approachable and want to ensure that you get the very best out of yourself and out of your chosen Bachelor, Master or Study Abroad program.

For an education that works, join thousands of students from Sydney, Australia and the world — @ UWS.

#### *History and Special Features*

The university was founded in 1989 with the clear and fundamental purpose of providing high quality and accessible higher education and research to the people of Greater Western Sydney.

UWS has a reputation for academic excellence. The lecturers are innovative and highly qualified. The University encourages staff to respond to changing technological and theoretical trends and to apply the knowledge gained in their teaching programs.

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UWS takes pride in the performance of its students, and believes the ultimate measure of its success is the quality of its graduates.

#### *Location*

UWS campuses are all conveniently located between 30 to 60 minutes from the Sydney central business district. All campuses are easily accessible from the city's extensive road and rail networks and are adjacent to large suburban retail and commercial centres.

Western Sydney is a region with a young, ethnically diverse population, making it an ideal choice for international students. The ethnically diverse nature of the student body provides a multicultural and international environment for study, and reflects the university's international perspective.

#### *Student numbers and Staff*

With over 35,000 students, UWS is the eighth largest university in Australia. Of the total student population there are 4,000 international students, 2,800 of whom study on-campus and 1,200 off-shore. There are also more than 1,000 academic staff.

#### *Faculties/Fields of Study*

UWS has four colleges:

- College of Arts, Education and Social Sciences;
- College of Law and Business;
- College of Science, Technology and Environment; and the
- College of Social and Health Science.

UWS offers a range of internationally recognised degrees in more than 100 course areas. Study areas include: agriculture and horticulture; arts and humanities; aviation; business; communication, media and design; engineering, construction and design; environment; food sciences; health sciences and nursing information technology and computing; international studies; languages; law; policing and criminology; psychology; sciences; social sciences; sport studies; teaching/education; tourism and hospitality; visual and performing arts.

#### *Student Support Services and Facilities*

The University provides a variety of support services to students including counselling, learning assistance, chaplaincy, student tutoring and academic mentoring. In addition to these services a range of specific services is provided to international students to enable them to

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maximise their chances of academic success. The University provides a number of International Student Advisors who provide advice, support, referral and information to students in areas such as visa extensions, family support and academic support. Other services include: the provision of pre-departure information, an accommodation service, an airport reception program, and a mentor program on arrival in Australia.

#### *Accommodation Costs*

The University offers international students a range of accommodation options. These vary from campus to campus. On-campus accommodation is offered on our Blacktown, Campbelltown, Hawkesbury and Penrith campuses. Alternatively, the University can assist students with off-campus accommodation requirements.

Depending on your 'style' of accommodation the cost per week can range between A\$ 90 – A\$ 160.

#### *Contact Details*

##### **Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programs**

UWS International Admissions  
University of Western Sydney  
Locked Bag 1797

Penrith South DC NSW 1797  
eMail: [international@uws.edu.au](mailto:international@uws.edu.au)

##### **Study Abroad Programs**

##### **Study Abroad Officer**

UWS International – Penrith Campus  
University of Western Sydney  
Locked Bag 1797

Penrith South DC NSW 1797  
eMail: [studyabroad@uws.edu.au](mailto:studyabroad@uws.edu.au)

Read more at the university's website: <http://sites.uws.edu.au/international/>

## — — — Activities of DeAN — — — — —

For constantly updated information on upcoming events please take a look at our DeAN-Website: <http://www.dean-online.de>!

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **July 10, 2003 in Hamburg (Germany): Summerschool-Party**

Please watch out for eMails for updates on this as well as checking our website.

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**September 20/21, 2003 in Essen (Germany): Great European Reunion, in cooperation with UNSW Study Abroad**

Preparations for the Great European Reunion in cooperation with UNSW Study Abroad in Zeche Zollverein, Essen, on Sept. 20/21, 2003 are well under way. So watch out for that invitation in the mail pretty shortly!!

**New Members**

We want to welcome warmly our new members who joined DeAN since March 2003:

Ms Nina Behring (Frankfurt a.M.), Mr Sascha Folz (Wökstadt), Prof Jonathan Howard (Dresden), Mr Carl Isenbeck, Ms Kim Kane (Gouth Yawa, Australia), Ms Anne-Christin Koschate (Trier), Dr Michelle Meredyth-Stewart (Dresden), Mr Christoph Schröer (Berlin), Ms Dorothee Sippel (Berlin), Ms Shellee Smith (Merang, Australia), Dr Dirk Stellfeldt (Uetze), Mr Jens Tiede (Bad Nauheim), and Mr Nikolaus Zacher (Hamburg).

Last but not least we warmly welcome one new institutional member: University of the Sunshine Coast, Prof Robert Elliot.

**— — — DeAN — Contact — — — — —**

Secretary General: DeAN e.V.  
 c/o Alexander Holzrichter  
 Königsteiner Str. 61 A  
 65929 Frankfurt a.M.  
 Germany  
 eMail: [secretarygeneral@dean-online.de](mailto:secretarygeneral@dean-online.de)

DeAN online: <http://www.dean-online.de>

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