

The Chinese Professional and Business Association

Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the first days of Spring!

We have certainly been a busy group since the last newsletter in June, with an event every month to encourage fellowship and networking amongst ourselves. Sixty people welcomed in Winter with a spectacular 10 course banquet at the Peninsula Hampton, and those of us present were inspired and entertained by Wellington Lee's "Australian Story".

In July, we held the second of our Networking Lunches this year. The lunch was graciously hosted by Thomsons Lawyers at their Boardroom on the 28th floor of the Rialto Towers. Twenty people enjoyed a fantastic view of Melbourne and got to know one another over a friendly cocktail lunch. This event continues to be well-received and is now a regular feature on our calendar.

August saw the second of our Secret Millionaires series, this one entitled "Smart Choices amidst Global Uncertainty". Our timing couldn't have been better as the Aussie dollar dropped 10% in the weeks before, the ASX was down 500 points before recovering, and the outlook on interest rates turned from rate hike to rate cut. Scott Keck and Edmund Lu were guest speakers for the night - as always, Scott was generous with his insights on the Melbourne property market, and Edmund got everybody excited about gold and currencies!



► Continued Page 2

Index of Articles

Message from the President	1
On Leadership	3
Upcoming Events in 2011	4
Countering terrorism in Bangladesh: Formulating a national strategy	5
Bring Mandatory Detention of Asylum-Seekers to an End	9
Insomnia	11
Diversification and Risk Market Commentary	13
Preparing For Financial Calamity	15
How Well Do You Know Your Superannuation?	17
The Next Regional Property Hotspots In Victoria	19
On the Appointment of VMC Commissioners	21
Minister welcomes the new Victorian Multicultural Commissioners	22
Chinese Writers' Festival Opened by Legislative Assembly Speaker	24
World Chinese Economic Forum Headed To Melbourne	25
The Story of Linux 20 years on	26
Welcome to New Members	29
Recent Functions	30

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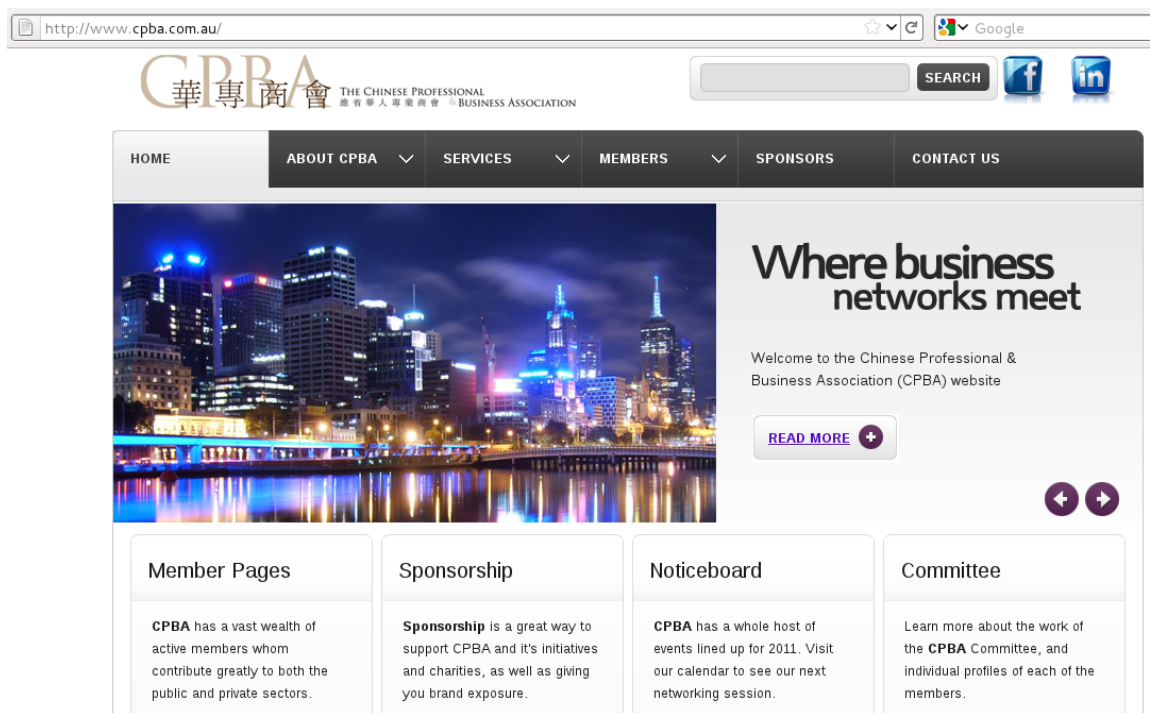
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Disclaimer

Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual writers and do not represent the views and policies of the CPBA.

In September, we conducted an evening networking session, with two guest speakers on "Working in China". This was held in a private function room, organised by Jason Zhu. We appreciate his efforts and time in organising this function.

If you have been to our website recently, you would have noticed that it has been completely revamped and refreshed. Kudos to David Low and Eric Cheung for their excellent work on this. In the upcoming months, we will be adding more information and features to the website - our intention is to expand this platform to facilitate networking and info-sharing amongst members, as well as allow members to promote their businesses and services on our website.



CPBA Web Site: <http://www.cpba.com.au/>

Our AGM will be on November 3. It will mark the end of my term as your President. We will be conducting elections for the entire committee this year, as well as proposing a few important constitutional amendments for members' consideration. Notices will be sent out shortly - if you are interested in becoming part of a progressive team, please feel free to contact me directly. Organisations such as ours thrive on new blood and new ideas - our membership and network is growing from strength to strength, and I would encourage you to be part of this renewal.

Last but not least, mark your calendars for December 11th. We are organising a Dinner Cruise Party to celebrate Christmas and Summer - this is our one and only family event of the year (i.e. kids welcomed), and I encourage everyone to "come aboard"! For details and to reserve your spots, please contact David Chow at 0419 309 168.

See you at an upcoming event!

Felix Wong GAICD
President CPBA

On Leadership

*This is the text of a speech delivered on August 22 2011 by our President **Felix Wong** to the students and faculty of Templestowe College.*



Thank you Matt for the introduction and Good Morning everyone.

I've been asked to say a few quick words on leadership this morning.

Did you know that if you googled the word "leadership", you would get 440 million links? That's a huge body of knowledge and experience available out there, and it's been very well researched and written on. We certainly can't say that we don't know enough about leadership to know what good leadership looks like and how to achieve it.

So why is it that we have so few examples of good leadership in the business world, and in the wider community? I recently came across a survey conducted of middle and senior managers from the Top 50 companies in the Australian Stock Exchange. These top 50 companies represent the best of corporate Australia and have a total market value of \$800

billion. These are companies like Westpac, BHP, Telstra, Woolworths, Coca Cola – some very successful companies and market leaders in their industry.

Well, the survey had some interesting results. 90% of the middle and senior managers said that leadership was vital for success, but only 20% said that their organisations had put programs in place to develop leadership capability. In essence, organisations are leaving it to the individuals to develop leadership skills on their own. More alarmingly, 80% of those managers surveyed say that they do not trust their own leaders. If you consider that good leadership is getting people to trust in your direction and judgement, you could say that there is an 80% failure rate at these corporations. Now that, as they say, is a damning statistic.

So how do you become a good leader? Well, there are no doubt skills that you can learn and put into practice. A quick google search takes only 0.1 of a second, and there is enough stuff to last you a lifetime of reading and practising. I am not going into any of these now, but instead I would like to offer a slightly different but complementary and personal view.

Skills and Knowledge are just one aspect of leadership, Developing Trust and Personal Integrity are just as important, and probably the reason why so many fail at leadership.

In my experience, great leaders have certain personal characteristics that make them successful - I'd like to share some of these with you. Even if you don't aspire to be a leader of many, you can view these as useful ideas to develop your own personal leadership, i.e. take control and leadership of your own life!

First, Get to Know Yourself, because that is the starting point for anyone wishing to develop personal integrity. Great leaders are respected and admired, partly they because they are firstly comfortable in their own skin and come across with confidence. There is a great quote from the movie Dead Poet's Society that goes:

"You must strive to find your own voice because the longer you wait to begin, the less likely you are to find it". You all are still so young, so go and find it while you have plenty of energy and time. If you don't do it for yourself, no one else will do it for you!

Second, *Take a Stand*. As you know, I have two older kids, one who is now 21 and in Melbourne Uni, and the other who has just finished VCE and taking a gap year. One thing that I say to them is that they need to stand for something, whether it be a cause, or certain values, or certain beliefs. Your enemy is "apathy" - banish the words "don't care", "don't know" or "don't give a ____" from your vocabulary. As the saying goes, "if you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything". By taking a stand, you will also learn more about yourself, and what values and ideas are most important to you.

Third, *Develop your Curiosity*. Great leaders are always learning, and are highly curious about how the world works. You can explore new hobbies, sports, friendship groups or social clubs. Later on in life, your curiosity will benefit you by opening you up to unexpected opportunities. I could never imagine reaching this point in my career otherwise.

Four, *See the World through Other Eyes*. If I was only given one skill to master, it would be this. Being able to see the world through another's viewpoint does a few things: it broadens your mind, helps you understand where other people are coming from, and helps you connect with them. Leadership is about the impact that you can have on the attitudes and actions of others, and this empathy allows you

to figure out how you can motivate and inspire others.

Fifth, *Stretch Yourself, Regularly*. Every so often, challenge yourself and do something that gets you out of your comfort zone. How many of you have bungee jumped? Did you regret it? No. In fact, it probably has given you such a high, that you immediately feel that you are ready for bigger things. Find your limits and push them just that little bit. That could mean bungee jumping, speaking in public, or perhaps even speaking to the girl next door.

There is a great quote that goes: "To get something you never had, you have to do something you've never done".

Lastly, *Give, and You Will Receive*. Selfless acts of giving to the community send out positive energy and attract lots of it back in return. Some call it karma. Don't ask me how this works, but it does. I've seen it and have been fortunate to experience it. Ask around, and many others will testify to this too.

If there is one final message that I would like to leave you with this morning is that leadership is a journey, in fact a life-long journey of self-development and self-mastery.

But like many things in life, the more you work at it, the easier it gets, the more fun you will have, and the more rewarding your life will be. You all have an opportunity at this school to practise leadership - seize that opportunity to be house captain or a school leader or any other leadership opportunity that presents itself. Take that step, and start your journey.

Thank you. 

Upcoming Events in 2011

November 3 (Thu) : AGM Dinner.

December 11 (Sun): Christmas dinner cruise on the Yarra (family event).

For details and to make a booking, please contact David Chow (0419 309 168 or david.chow@cpba.com.au).

Special Feature

Countering terrorism in Bangladesh: Formulating a national strategy

Air Cdre (Retd) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury

We express our thanks to Air Commodore (Retd) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, formerly a leader of the Bangladesh Air Force, for this article. It provides a comprehensive picture of the origins of Islamic militancy and a sharp analysis of the causes of violence and terrorism. It offers an informed, in-depth and authoritative view on these matters that is not often seen in the Western media. - Editors.

While the threat of terrorist attacks continues to loom large around the world, there is no evidence to suggest that the terrorists are about to capture power anywhere. More importantly, they are not winning the hearts and minds of the people they claim to fight for. Except in Somalia and in Afghanistan-Pakistan (Af-Pak) border areas, terrorists are on retreat everywhere. Notwithstanding botched attempts by Richard Reid (Shoe bomber), Abdul Muttalab (Underwear bomber) or Faisal Shahzad (SUV bomber), there has been no terror attack in the USA, since 11 September 2001. Indonesia, that suffered repeated terrorist attacks in the past, has rejected religious parties in national elections. In Iraq, although the Al-Qaeda tries to stir up a sectarian conflict, a secular, federal, democratic country is emerging. Even in the Palestine-Israel imbroglio, there is increasing pressure from all sides to seek a peaceful resolution rather than a return to violence and terror. Sri Lanka is enjoying peace after the destruction of LTTE in late 2009. LTTE, a nationalist force fighting for a separate Tamil homeland, sealed its fate when it adopted terror as a means of waging war. In Nepal, Maoist guerillas are now accommodated in the political process, ending their alienation from the state. In India, while insurgencies in the NE and in Kashmir are on the wane, the rise of the Maoist insurgencies in the Central Indian tribal belt is growing with ominous sign of turning into a terrorist movement. In the Indian Kashmir, three-decade-old insurgency is now tapering off, as the logistic support from Pakistan reduces. There has been no cross-border terrorist attack in India since November 2008 when a 10-member terrorist team, recruited and trained by the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) of Pakistan, killed 166 people in Mumbai, India. The attack was a political and media gamble by the LeT, aimed at starting a Hindu-Muslim riot

in India and eventually a war between India and Pakistan. Pakistan, however, continues to remain on a cliffhanger. Numerous terrorist groups of Islamist and sectarian varieties continue their killing spree across the country. A full-scale war is going on in the Af-Pak border zone. Talibans are fighting with Pakistan army inside Pakistan, while on the Afghan side they are fighting with the US-led NATO forces, known as International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

“While the threat of terrorist attacks continues to loom large around the world, there is no evidence to suggest that the terrorists are about to capture power anywhere ... they are not winning the hearts and minds of the people they claim to fight for.”

In Bangladesh, while Islamic militancy is less active now than in the past, militant ideology constantly evolves and continues to attract young people from various strata of society. In the General Election held in December 2008 people of Bangladesh rejected faith-based political parties. Jamaat-e-Islami, the largest Islamist party of the country, won only two seats in the parliament. It secured only 4.6% of popular vote, a 15% decline from 2001 election. Despite these positive developments, law enforcing agencies continue to unearth terrorist cells with weapon caches and propaganda materials, sometimes with links beyond the border. There is a need to draw a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy that must be flexible and adaptable to fight a war that has no frontier, no centre of gravity and no timeline.

What constitutes an act of terror

Terrorism is a weapon of choice for the weak

and the underdog. Ethnic, religious and linguistic discriminations fuel discontent that leads to acts of violence by the victims. IRA, LTTE, PKK are all products of such real or perceived grievances. Prolonged unresolved conflicts such as in Palestine or Kashmir create conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism. Violation of human rights, lack of political space especially for the minorities, use of torture or violence by the state apparatus to silence opposition, socio-economic marginalisation, and lack of good governance are all factors that are responsible for violence in society. What the state sees as terrorism could be the only potent option left for the non-state actors to ventilate their plight. One thing that the world community, however, agrees is that whatever the grievances may be, senseless targeting of innocent non-combatants will not be condoned.

It is significant that the UN adopted a unanimous resolution on 12 September 2001, a day after 9/11, strongly condemning the terrorist attack on the USA. In November 2004, the UN Security Council described terrorism as any act “intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act.”

“Terrorism is a weapon of choice for the weak and the underdog. Ethnic, religious and linguistic discriminations fuel discontent that leads to acts of violence by the victims.”

While the terrorist threat in the 20th Century was dominated by Marxist or nationalist guerilla activities, in the 21st century it stems mainly from the Islamist groups wishing to set up a global Islamic Caliphate. A US survey shows that 75% of all active terrorist organisations are Islamists and all, but the Hezbollah, are from the Sunni branch of Islam. Although the Islamist terrorist organisations claim to be waging a Jihad against the West, most of their victims are ordinary Muslims. A study of the ideological foundation of the terrorists would better prepare us to understand their motivations and plan the countermeasures.

Ideological foundation of Islamic militancy

The ideological network for militant Islamic groups existed for decades, but they exploded in the International scene in the latter half of the 20th century. These hard-liners called for a Jihad (Holy War) against their own government

whom they considered un-Islamic. A pioneer among the militant organisations was the Ikhwanul Muslemin (Islamic Brotherhood), led first by Hasan Al-Banna (1906-49) and later by Sayyid Qutb (1906-66), both from Egypt who called for a return to Sharia and “use of physical power and Jihad for abolishing the organisations and authorities of the Jahili System”. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sayyid_Qutb) Al-Banna was assassinated in 1949, probably by the Egyptian Secret Police, and Sayyid Qutb was sentenced to death in 1966. In the absence of an alternative popular, democratic and representative government, the Brotherhood's call for the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate struck the right chord among the Arab masses. Osama bin Laden and his mentor Aiman-Al-Jawahiri regard Sayyid Qutb as their spiritual guide. However, the Brotherhood remained essentially limited in the Arab world.

Sayyed Abul A'la Maududi, a hard-line Islamist and the founder of the Jaamat-e-Islami has a wide following in South and SE Asia. His ideological and political views closely resembled Sayyid Qutb's. In an address delivered in 1939, he said:

“Islam wishes to destroy all States and Governments anywhere on the face of the earth which are opposed to the ideology and programme of Islam regardless of the country or the Nation which rules it. The purpose of Islam is to set up a State on the basis of its own ideology and programme.” (Jihad in Islam, Sayyed Abul A'la Maududi, Islamic Publications (Pvt) Ltd, Lahore)

Another Islamic ideologue, Tagiuddin al-Nabhani (1909-1977), a Palestinian Qadi (Judge), founded Hizb ut-Tahrir (HuT) in 1953. It is a worldwide Islamic movement that aims to establish a Caliphate, first in the Muslim majority states and eventually over the world. Hizb ut-Tahrir believes that it is now time to spread the message through Dawa (Preaching), but eventually Muslims must fight Jihad to establish the Caliphate. HuT does not believe in democracy, monarchy or dictatorship, but believes that a Khalifah chosen by the Muslim population can bring order and justice to the world. Thousands of Muslim youth of educated and middle-class background are members of HuT. While the Bangladesh Government banned HuT in 2010, its clandestine activities continue.

Most Islamic terrorist groups coalesce around a common platform of Wahhabi (also called Salafi) theology, propounded by Muhammad ibn Abd -al-Wahhab (1703–1792). Wahhabi

doctrine had little appeal beyond the Arabian Peninsula until the late 70s when generous grants from Gulf countries helped propagate Wahhabi doctrine throughout the world. Saudi and Gulf-funded mosques and madrassas gradually replaced or cornered the ones based on liberal Islamic theologies such as Berelvi, Qaderia, Nakshbandia and other Sufi orders. Al-Qaeda, Taliban and other Islamic terrorist groups in South and Southeast Asia represent the Wahhabi brand of Sunni Islam. These groups not only reject modernism, but also condemn other Islamic theology including Shias Islam as deviant or heretic. Closely in line with the Wahhabi theology is the Deobandis from Darul Ulum Madrasa in Deoband, UP, India. While Deobandis in India have issued Fatwa against violent Jihad, Deobandis in Muslim majority countries support Jihad to establish Caliphate. Thousands of Deobandi madrassas, set up in North-West Pakistan during the Anti-Soviet war in the 1980s, became the nursery of Islamic militancy and continue to attract volunteers worldwide for the global Jihad.

Islamic militancy in Bangladesh

Principal threats to internal security of Bangladesh stem from two sources: the leftist insurgency in the rural areas of NE Bangladesh and the Islamic militancy across the country. While the leftist insurgency is limited to the countryside, the Islamic militancy has a nationwide network and international connection. The Islamists have made deep inroads into the bureaucracy, trade and commerce, banks and insurance, academic and educational institutions. The members of organisations such as Harkatul Jihad Al-Islam (HUJI) or Jamaatul Mujahedin Bangladesh (JMB) believe that countries such as Bangladesh are fashioned in western (Christian) model and that a Taliban style government must replace these. Starting from 1999 to 2005, the militants targeted temples, churches, political rallies, cultural functions, cinema halls etc. Although it was clear that the targets were what the extremists view as un-Islamic, the government was in denial mode. The most serious attack took place on the AL rally in Dhaka on 21 August 2004 killing 22 people and injuring the AL Chief Sheikh Hasina. The serious bombing on 17 August 2005 that created international outcry finally forced the government to go into action. We saw a number of suicide attacks on courts and killing of judges by JMB in November that year. In 2006-07, we saw a series of arrests, prosecutions and handing down of sentences. Since then there has been no major terror attack in Bangladesh,

but the terrorist cells are active and constantly evolving.

The bulk of the Islamic militants arrested so far in Bangladesh came from the low-income group and rural or semi-rural background. Many were from the Quomi madrasa background or had no education at all. They were indoctrinated in the informal Dawa sessions organised in mosques or even in private residences. However, we notice three new trends in the religious extremist activities in Bangladesh. First, there is a growing presence of HuT in the urban youth from middle and upper income parentage, educated in mainstream or English medium schools and colleges. This is a more dangerous trend than threat posed by JMB or HUJI, because HuT is targeting the cream of our youth – the nation's future. Second, we see the involvement of British, US or Canadian-born youths of Bangladeshi origin coming home apparently for Dawa, but getting involved with militancy. Many of Sayyid Qutb's or Maududi's

“ Our greatest strength to fight Islamic militancy lies in our people with their liberal religious and cultural traditions that are based on tolerance and pluralism. ”

books and CDs are now coming to Bangladesh from the UK and Canada. These are indeed a worrying sign of the times. The third trend is the increasing evidence of militants from India and Pakistan seeking sanctuary in Bangladesh and operating in disguise, jeopardising relationships between neighbouring countries.

Countering militancy: Our strengths and weaknesses

Our greatest strength to fight Islamic militancy lies in our people with their liberal religious and cultural traditions that are based on tolerance and pluralism. Music, poetry, dance and drama, art and sculpture are part of our culture and traditions; religious belief had never been a bar to those practices. A Taliban-style Islamic state is an unattractive proposition to most Bengali Muslims. Militancy thrives in authoritarian states where democratic pluralism does not exist, for example in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Somalia, Egypt or Pakistan. Our democratic tradition is, therefore, our strength to fight off the militancy. On the other hand, poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment provide a fertile ground for breeding militancy. The growing rich-poor divide in society is a source of discontentment that the militants exploit. External forces exploit our poverty to fund militant ideology; weak and

indecisive governments find it hard to resist external pressure. Bangladesh also faces the threat of militancy from abroad. Our 3000 Km-long border with India and Myanmar and the vast Gangetic delta provide an ideal setting for cross-border militant activities.

Formulating a comprehensive national strategy

Since 2007, a core group drawn from politicians, academics, serving and retired civil and military officers, business people, media persons, religious leaders, madrasa teachers and students has been working on a counterterrorism strategy for Bangladesh. The initiative has been taken under the aegis of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) and Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI), supported by Defense Institution Reform Initiative (DIRI) of USA. The aim is to produce a document that would have the support of all sections of the people and reflect national will.

The strategy paper has already gone through a number of reviews and is in the final stage of formulation. In a series of workshops held for the purpose, the participants agreed that two most important prerequisites to counter terrorism are the political will and good governance. The paper recognises that the Islamic militancy is an ideology that needs to be confronted on an ideological level. It emphasises the need to urgently address the problems of poverty, ignorance, and backwardness. It recognises that while democratisation of society is an insurance against extremist ideology, the extremists too could take advantage of its freedom to carry out their activities. It emphasizes the need to establish the rule of law and provide the poor with access to justice. The paper urges modern education to prepare the youth to face the

challenges of a fast changing world. It calls for an urgent reform of madrasa education. Our education system should produce people with well-rounded knowledge, modern technical skills and high ethical values. They must be able to think rationally rather than depend on rote learning. The strategy calls for strengthening the multi-cultural, multi-religious, non-communal character of our society. It suggests an economic policy that ensures prosperity with social justice and equity. While these reforms should be implemented, security operations against the militants must continue without respite. Our police and intelligence services need to be modernised. The investigation agencies must work without fear or favour, and the judiciary must dispense justice at the earliest. The paper recognises that the militant activities cannot be suppressed without close cooperation and coordination between the security forces of the region. There have been a number of initiatives within the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) to counter the threat of terrorism. We need to do much more. Border monitoring, passport control, anti-money laundering measures, exchange of information on the movement of terror suspects, arrest and deportation of fugitives are some of the areas where SAARC countries could cooperate. Checking of arms smuggling across the porous border is another area where regional cooperation is the answer. The paper stresses that only together can we face the scourge of terror. ■

The writer is the Registrar of BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Commentary

Bring Mandatory Detention of Asylum-Seekers to an End

Neil McLean

Controversy about the handling of asylum seekers has dominated the Australian political scene this year, more than ever. Politicians from both Liberals and Labor have weighed into the brawl, hoping they might be able to achieve some electoral advantage. Despite all the shouting, there doesn't seem to be much difference between the policies of both major parties - use of Australia's South East Asian and South Pacific neighbours to sort out our problems and mandatory detention for asylum seekers who do arrive in Australia. It has not been the finest hour of either the Labor Party or the Liberal and National Parties, to put it mildly.

The decision by the High Court in late August 2011 finding it invalid for Australia to deport an asylum-seeker to a country where their rights and well-being are not protected by an international or domestic law threw a spanner in the works. Neither the Gillard/Bowen "Malaysia solution"

nor the Howard/Abbott "Pacific solution" could any longer stand up. Now both Government and Opposition are exploring Migration Act changes to try to make the invalid, valid.

As attempts to shore up off-shore processing falter, reservations from an unexpected source have been expressed about just how long mandatory detention of asylum seekers can continue in Australia. In mid-August, Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Andrew Metcalfe, called for a reconsideration by Parliament of the policy. He was appearing before a Parliamentary enquiry, initiated by the Greens.

Since 1992 the Australian government has enforced mandatory detention of all unauthorised arrivals in Australia, pending processing of their applications for political

asylum. In effect it means holding people sometimes for years, without charge or trial, in virtual prison camps that are often in remote desert areas. It was started under the Hawke/Keating governments, was further developed by the Howard government and has carried on under the Rudd/Gillard government since 2007.

Mandatory detention was intended to act as a deterrent to those fleeing to Australia by sea from war or persecution's danger. In the past decade it has been connected to Australia's participation in the American-led 'War on Terror', supposedly providing a shield against

terrorists. At the moment there are about 7,000 people in detention behind razor wire. Many of them have fled from wars in which Australia is involved. Some are escaping from the same political elements in those wars that Australia has declared to be its enemies. Roughly 5,000 are in detention on the mainland and about 2,000 on Christmas Island.



Source: ABC Sydney <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-10-01>

At the inquiry Mr Metcalfe, the country's senior immigration official, released a lot of data that showed what life is really like for those in detention on Christmas Island. In the first half of 2011 there had been 507 hospital admissions, 72 psychiatric admissions, 213 episodes of injury from self-harm requiring medical attention and 723 voluntary starvation episodes, requiring medical attention. The picture would probably not be any better in the mainland detention centres.

Mr Metcalfe urged MPs of all Parties in the Parliament "to re-think mandatory detention policy and questioned whether the policy for the past 15 years had actually deterred boat arrivals." He urged the parliamentary committee "to examine the balance between

meeting Australia's obligations to refugees and the need for strong border controls. Can we manage things in a different way?" "For how long is an immigration arrival and assessment process in a detention centre environment required?" he asked.

"There are many questions for you as parliamentarians to consider", he urged.

It is unusual in the Australian government system for a public service chief to take such a clear public stand that could be interpreted as being at odds with the government. The Secretary is to be congratulated.

After the Immigration Secretary's statements, the Minister for Immigration, Chris Bowen, came out quickly to affirm mandatory detention would remain, but it is clear Andrew Metcalfe's comments and questions have become a lasting part of the refugee policy battles in Australia.

**“ There are many questions
for you as parliamentarians
to consider...”**

*Andrew Metcalfe (Secretary of the Department of
Immigration and Citizenship)*

There is little doubt that Mr Metcalfe's intervention has something to do with very poor morale and stress within the Department, as ordinary, often overworked public servants, try to implement the harsh and confused policies of the government. There is also a feeling amongst many Immigration public servants that they are just being cynically used by a government clinging to office, in a similar way to how many RAN and Defence Department people felt they were being used by the Howard government during the Tampa “children overboard” affair ten years ago.

Concerns about the physical and mental health of immigration detainees grow by the month. Many people have fled wars and upheavals, losing loved ones and homes, waiting for years in refugee camps in S.E. Asia, only to be locked up in Australia again. Health profession leaders are increasingly drawing attention to the declining well-being of mandatory detainees.

The majority of asylum seekers coming to Australia at present will go on to become valuable members of Australian society, as millions of refugees, asylum seekers and


migrants to Australia have in the past.

The ugliness of the current mandatory detention policies – the riots, suicides, self-harm, along with miserable political brawling - could be softened if asylum seekers were able to live in the Australian community, while their claims were handled. Australians might even feel better about themselves. It may open up some space for bigger social and economic issues to be tackled. Release into community would require the building of special facilities and provision of support services to protect and improve their well-being. It would probably be less expensive than maintaining detention centres and offshore processing. Versions of this approach operated in the last half of the twentieth century, before mandatory detention started in 1992.

A statement calling for an end to mandatory detention and signed by more than 200 community organisations was published in *The Australian* on 8 September 2011. The statement suggested that:

*Instead of spending substantial
funds deporting people overseas
and building facilities offshore, the
Australian Government should
enable Australia's community sector
to support and resettle people
humanely and effectively, as an
appropriate, sensitive and least
expensive solution to Australia's
humanitarian responsibilities.*

The statement's co-ordination was done by the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) and signed by over 200 community organisations and many more individuals. It can be read in full on the ACOSS website and is still available for signing by organisations and individuals.

The ACOSS statement suggests that there are practical ways available to lessen the misery of detained asylum seekers and lift the depressed mood within Australia's multicultural public, caused by the ugly turmoil. 

**This article is drawn from two recent
commentaries I provided to the *Chinese
from the North* Radio Programme on Plenty
Valley FM 88.6.**

Medical

Insomnia

Insomnia (or **sleeplessness**) is most often defined by an individual's report of sleeping difficulties.



Dr. Lilia Ilina

Insomnia is having difficulty falling asleep or having difficulty staying asleep. Many people have some experience of insomnia at some time in their life. Research has shown that up to 40% of the population is affected by insomnia, and about 10% of the population has chronic insomnia (that is, lasting longer than three weeks).



Source:
http://www.emedicinehealth.com/insomnia/article_em.htm#

Although individuals vary with regard to how much sleep they need, on average adults require about 7 hours sleep every night. There is a wide range of what is normal, with some people requiring as little as four hours or as much as 10 hours sleep per night.

Insomnia can affect all ages, is more prevalent in women than men, and increases with age. Lack of sleep can result in low energy levels, poor concentration, poor performance, poor memory, increased irritability and intolerance to others, increased motor vehicle accidents, and decreased immunity to diseases. Insomnia has been associated with anxiety and depression.

Causes:

Insomnia is usually just the symptom pointing to something else that is wrong. Causes of insomnia are many, but sometimes no causes can be identified (idiopathic insomnia).

Some common causes for *short-term insomnia* (lasting less than three weeks) include:

- Change of time such as jet lag or shift work;
- Stressful events such as exam study preparations, work deadlines, grief through loss of loved ones, family separation etc;
- Acute medical illness such as coughing, pain, difficulty breathing etc;
- Pregnancy;
- Side effects of some medication can also affect sleep.

Causes of *chronic insomnia* include:

- Stresses in life, anxiety and depression;
- Medical conditions such as anxiety and depression, heart failure, chest pain, asthma, lung disease, chronic muscle or joint pains, obstructive sleep apnoea; restless leg syndrome etc;
- Alcoholism

Treatment

If lack of sleep is interfering with one's daily life or is of greater than three weeks duration, you should go to see your doctor. Treatment is targeted to the underlying cause of the insomnia. In most cases, insomnia will resolve itself once the causes are identified and corrected.

If the initial insomnia remains untreated it may develop into chronic insomnia.

In some cases, there is no identifiable cause, or the cause is difficult to correct such as with physical illness or psychological conditions.

In these case the treatment of insomnia may be classified into : non-pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical treatments.

Non-pharmaceutical treatment

Non-pharmaceutical treatment includes improving sleep hygiene, relaxation therapy, and stress management.

Sleep Hygiene is very important in dealing with insomnia. Some rules to follow before going to bed are:

- Rise at a set time every morning, avoiding sleeping in even on the weekend. This will help with setting up your biological clock (circadian rhythm).
- Avoid physical or mental work, or any other stimulations at least 30 minutes prior going to bed. Do exercise during the day, but not immediately before bed time.
- Include exercise as part of your daily routine.
- Minimise stress by writing down your worries.
- Avoid going to bed straight away after an argument or an emotional upset.
- Avoid coffee, strong tea or other caffeinated drinks towards late afternoon and evening.
- Avoid alcohol and smoking in the late evening.
- Do things to help you relax 30 minutes before going to bed, such as listening to


relaxing music, meditating, or having a warm bath.

- Make sure the bedroom is comfortable, relaxing, not too bright, noisy, and stuffy.
- Make sure your bed is comfortable and not overly warm. Do not watch TV, read or eat in bed. Bed should be only for sleep and making love.
- Avoid forcing yourself to sleep. Worrying about going to sleep will keep you awake longer. If can't sleep after 30 minutes, get up and go to a different room, try relaxation techniques for a while before go back to bed again. Remember, it doesn't matter if you can't sleep properly for one or two nights. You will catch up later.
- Avoid frequent naps or a long nap during the day.
- Avoid eating a large meal before go to bed.

Medications for treating insomnia:

Many medications can be used to treat insomnia. These should be used together with non-pharmaceutical treatments.

Some of the commonly used sleeping tablets are addictive and have side effects. They should only be used on a short term basis (two nights) and in acute settings. Avoid using them long term. Some of the sleeping pills can affect alertness and concentration during the day and result in car accidents and falls.

Please see your doctor for advice on the medications, including over the counter medications and herbal remedies. 

**Scott Keck**

Diversification and Risk Market Commentary

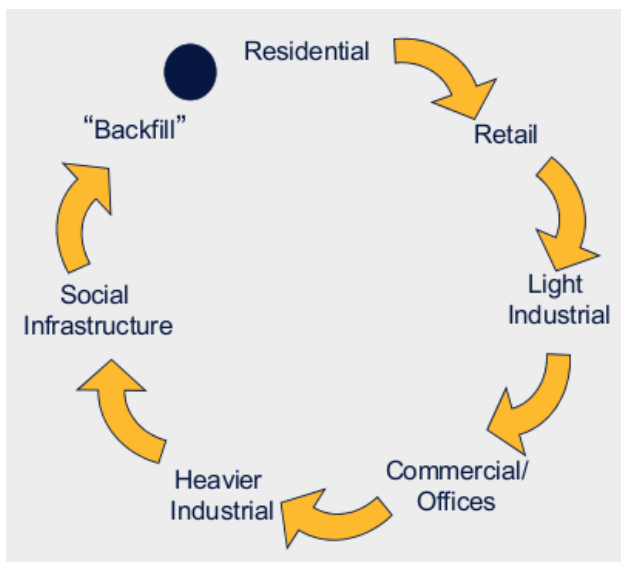
Although property and equities may, over a long period of time produce similar returns, it is important to appreciate that nonetheless, they behave very differently along the way for a variety of reasons. For example, during the GFC and even over the recent period, property in direct ownership with managed debt has performed far better than equities that had too much imbedded debt.

For this reason, direct investment in property can improve the diversification of a portfolio of assets allowing for stronger performing assets to support those assets experiencing weaker conditions. Another good reason for diversification into directly owned real estate is that it involves a long term commitment and is a disciplined investment strategy, not easily changed, and therefore not vulnerable to fluctuating sentiment on a daily basis like equities.

Diversification to include such a long term committed approach, balances what might be short term strategy investments.

Diversification into direct property can therefore reduce risk and smooth returns, but what are the areas of relative risk?

Development Progression / Relative Risk



This chart (below left) demonstrates that development begins and is sustained by a residential nucleus, which as the lowest risk real estate, determines the subsequent sub-markets, which establish in the order of progression demonstrated. As the cycle evolves, each subsequent category relies upon the vibrancy of the preceding markets in consequence of which the risk increases progressively.

It is emphasised that residential real estate is the lowest risk category, being at the lowest price point, very liquid, and required by everybody, not just investors. It is the easiest real estate category within which to invest, borrow, and have some flexibility and it is strongly recommended should form the solid core of any property portfolio. Indeed, several million dollars can sensibly be committed to this classification over the medium to longer term before there need be any thought about moving to other property classes.

When diversification moves in the direction of non-residential, retail is the next least risky category, as it suffers little from obsolescence or locational trends but rather tends to consolidate longer term to become better quality. In contrast, commercial office and particularly industrial real estate is much more affected by locational trends, and building obsolescence. For this reason, shrewd investors realise that with industrial and commercial property the higher risk requires faster amortisation of their investment for which reason property yields in these classes will always be higher than retail yields, which because of lower risk does not require as fast amortisation of the investment capital.

Unlike cash which offers only interest, but no capital growth, real estate, as with equities, offers both income and capital growth, which analysed on an annual basis, is referred to as the "internal rate of return" (IRR). With real estate, the proportion of return from income versus capital growth does vary, and whilst the combination of both don't exactly equate to the

analysed IRR, they can for simplicity, be summarised using the following apportionment, as a guide to differentiation between the four main property classes.

Apportionment of Investment Return (Before Tax)			
	Annual Net Income Return	Annual Capital Growth	IRR
Residential	3 %	6 %	9 %
Retail	5 %	5 %	10 %
Commercial Office	8 %	3 %	11 %
Industrial	9 %	3 %	12 %

The above summary is very simplistic, and only indicative for the purpose of differentiation, highlighting for example that residential investments are more orientated towards capital growth than income return, but that at the other extreme, industrial properties rely more on income return rather than capital growth. This concept of "IRR", is a frequently adopted measure of analysis, and for passive investment properties, as the table indicates, varies in the range 9% - 12%, although for active development investments, such as construction or subdivision, increases commensurately with the higher risk, often up to 18% - 22%. To complete the comparison, the following chart, although again very simplistic, is indicative of the relative overall return, from a broad range of assets.

Simple Comparison of Relative Investment Returns		
	Annual IRR	Comments
Cash	6.5 % p.a	Cash only
Prime Real Estate	9 % - 10 %	Less Income / More Capital Growth
Prime Equities	11 %	Income and Capital Growth
Secondary Real Estate	12%	Higher Income/Less Capital Growth
Active Development Investments (Construction/Subdivision)	18 % - 22 %	All income Returns / No Capital Growth

In Australia, particularly its capitals, and especially Melbourne, the medium to longer term investment prospects are very good. This is due essentially to underpinning domestic economic fundamentals including population growth, which, notwithstanding the diversity of views and government policy from time to time, is assured to remain strong. Returning to the first chart in this article (p.13), strong population

growth not only creates residential housing demand, but drives the subsequent retail, industrial and commercial office markets. Our research has determined that a new dwelling is required for every two new heads of population, and that in the non-residential sector, every new head of population growth generates a need for 1.5 square metres (sq.m.) of retail accommodation, 2.1 sq.m. of office accommodation, and up to 18 - 20 sq.m. of various industrial, warehouse, factory, logistic and high tech accommodation.

Unlike many countries overseas, all of these classifications, due to the lack of construction during the GFC period, are at very low vacancy levels, and so there are excellent prospects within all these categories, subject to careful choice, for strong rental growth and capital performance during the next decade. A broad study of population growth and trends recognising preferred growth areas and the effects of demographic change assists selection of a good investment property and is available through appropriate consultants. ■

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Financial

Preparing For Financial Calamity

A multi-pronged strategy to protect your assets

Text of Edmund Lu's presentation to CPBA members, Aug 17 2011

Part 1

INTRODUCTION

We live in an unprecedented period of upheaval in the global financial system. Over the past four years, the world has watched in disbelief as it moved from one crisis to another:

- The US subprime meltdown
- Failure of major US banks and investment houses
- Upheavals in the Middle East
- Threats of sovereign defaults and bailouts – Iceland, Dubai, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Italy, Spain
- The Euro currency in crisis, uncertain of its future
- Reckless money printing by central banks
- S&P's downgrade of US Treasury debt.

It would be tempting to think that the worst is behind us, but in fact many experts believe that another global financial crisis is now inevitable. This time however, it may not just be a crisis, but a global CALAMITY. If these experts are right, or even partially right, then we all have to ask ourselves the following questions:

- What are we doing to prepare for this very real possibility?
- What if a calamity never happens – would our preparations simply be wasted?
- How can I structure my finances to prepare for the widest possible range of scenarios?

We ought to be very concerned about the future and have a multi-pronged strategy to prepare for troubled times ahead.

*As of Aug 4, 2011, Total US Public Debt Outstanding = US \$14.34 trillion
98% of 2010 GDP*

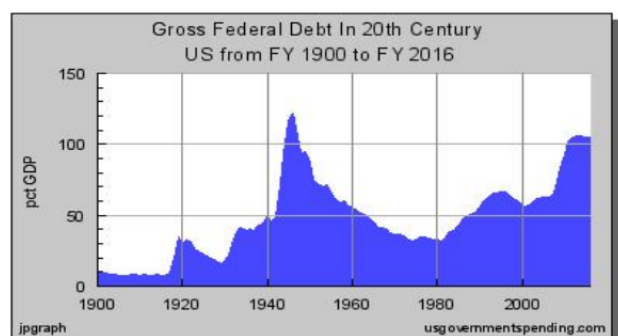
US SPENDING FREE



Source: *The Globe and Mail, Canada, July 2011*

It's a well-known saying within financial circles that when the US sneezes, the rest of the world catches a cold. Nowhere is this better illustrated than in the current climate, where the US economy is under siege. The US has been living beyond its means for many years and it is now finally catching up to them. One sees evidence of this spending spree everywhere. For example:

- In 2010, the US government borrowed 37.4 cents for every dollar it spent. By mid 2011, this constantly accumulating debt had reached the government's self-imposed limit of \$14.3 trillion
- Total US public debt is now 98% of 2010 GDP and rapidly catching up to the debts of Greece (143%) and Italy (119%), and comparable to the debts of Ireland (96%) and Portugal (93%)

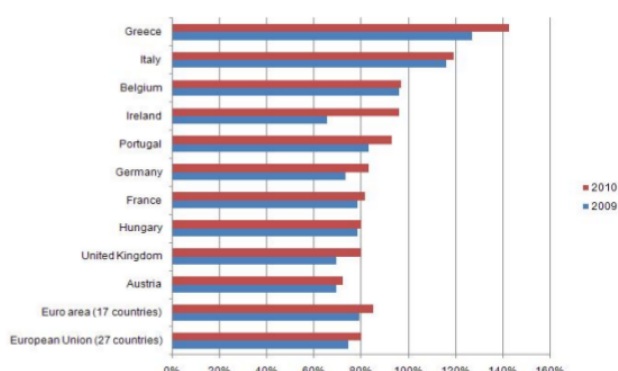


Source: *US Dept of Treasury*

- The US Treasury must either repay or refinance more than \$1 trillion in existing debt *per year*, for the next 4 years.

The truth is, the US has been on life-support for many years. The global financial crisis only escalated the situation. In fact, for most of this year, the US Federal Reserve has been purchasing 70% of all the debt issued by the US Treasury. That's why the Federal Reserve's balance sheet has more than tripled in four years, from \$869 billion in Aug 2007 to \$2.86 trillion today. Most of this money was created out of thin air.

Debt-to-GDP US vs EU



Source: Eurostat

It gets worse – there are multiple headwinds that the US must continue to negotiate in coming years:

- Some creditor nations like China and Russia, for example, are publicly calling for a reduction in their holdings of US Treasuries (bonds) in favour of other assets.
- When (not if) the debt ceiling is next reached, the US Congress may reach an impasse, or at least have another nail-biting debate
- Other ratings agencies may follow S&P's precedent in downgrading US debt
- Many experts already believe that the US dollar will eventually lose its status as the world's reserve currency.

How much longer can these headwinds be allowed to continue? Surely at some stage, confidence in US Treasuries would be dented, causing borrowing costs to rise and demand for Treasuries to decline. What happens if the US

is unable or unwilling to find the cash to stay current on interest payments and cannot roll over debt as it matures? Newsweek put it best in an article in March 2010:

"That would trigger a huge decline in the value of Treasuries and mortgage-backed securities. The balance sheet of every US financial institution – JPMorgan, Goldman, Citi, your neighborhood bank, the Federal Reserve, money-market funds – would be decimated. There wouldn't be a single solvent bank, insurer, or company in the United States.

"The large multinational banks, which have significant US operations and plenty of this stuff on their books, would likewise be wiped out. Oh, and foreign holders of US debt... would be toast, too."

(Source: Newsweek, March 2010)

Indeed, there are many reasons to be not just afraid, but VERY afraid. And we haven't even touched on Europe's problems yet.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Given the increasing risks in the global economy, what can we do to protect ourselves and our families from a potential financial calamity? Most people have not even begun to ask themselves this question, yet with each passing week, this question is becoming increasingly important to every breadwinner, business owner, retiree, or anyone who has money invested in the sharemarket.

It would be a mistake to think that we are powerless to take control of our finances. ■

In our next newsletter, Edmund will expand on the strategies he has personally used to prepare for financial calamity.

About Edmund Lu

Edmund Lu is a senior executive who used to manage large firms in Asia and Australia. He has done consultation work for over 70 organizations across many industries. Some years ago, he decided to step back temporarily from corporate life and challenged himself to put a lifelong interest in investing to serious use. He has since built a portfolio of secure investments and income, using the methodologies he shared in his talk. He may be contacted on ELMCONSPTYLTD@yahoo.co.uk.

Super

How Well Do You Know Your Superannuation?

Norman Yap

If you are a resident working in Australia, chances are you have at least one super (superannuation) account. By law, if you are working in Australia, you may be entitled to mandated employer super contributions based on either the employer super guarantee (SG) obligations or an industrial award. If it is based on SG obligations, you must be less than 70 years of age and earning \$450 or more per calendar month. You should be entitled to super contributions based on mandatory 9% of your income in that particular month. There are due dates by which your employer must pay your SG into your super account(s), otherwise the employer risk late payment charges from the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

Generally speaking, a resident working in Australia should only have one super account, unless the separate super accounts were created for different purposes. For instance, one super is for salary sacrifice contributions and another is for direct share investments.

For starters, you should at least know your super account number, website and telephone number. You also need to ask yourself when was the last time you read your annual super statement and the latest annual super statement should be 30th June 2011. Basically, there are three (3) leading questions that you should ask about your super. They are (1) performance, (2) fees and (3) life insurance covers.

Below please find the ten largest super funds, based on membership size. You can go to the individual website of super funds and download their Product Disclosure Statements (PDS) or if you have a member's online access, you could also download your latest annual super statement.

This article does not promote any of the super funds above mentioned; REST

Super and Australia Super are discussed for education purposes only. Self-Managed Superannuation Funds (SMSF) are not included in this article.

(1) Performance – How has your super performed lately compared to other super?

Before you ask about the performance of your super fund, you need to find out what your super balance amount is invested in. For example, if your employer's default fund is REST Super and default option is chosen, then your super is invested in Core Strategy. Based on its website, the financial year-to-date (FYTD) return to 23rd Aug 2011 was -5.13%.

Meanwhile, the Australian Super's balanced fund FYTD return to 28th Aug 2011 was -4.36%. However, please note that past performance is not an indication of future performance.

Although most super funds have their default option set at the balanced option, you can personally switch your fund option based on your preference, age profile or investment knowledge. Some super funds websites have investor risk profile questionnaires that you can use. If it is based on age and you are under 30, you might wish to consider 'High Growth' or 'Aggressive' option. Some super funds do not charge switching fee, while some do. For instance, REST Super states on page 5 of its PDS that 'the first four switches per financial year are free, then \$20 per switch thereafter'.

(2) Fees – What are the fees charged by your super compared to other super?

No	Fund Name	Market Segment	Membership
1	REST Super	Industry Fund	1,783,888
2	Australian Super	Industry Fund	1,500,000
3	Sunsuper	Industry Fund	1,050,064
4	HOST-PLUS	Industry Fund	979,276
5	AMP Flexible Lifetime Super	Personal Master Trust	886,928
6	HESTA Super Fund	Industry Fund	687,125
7	CBUS	Industry Fund	661,623
8	QSuper	Government Fund	616,952
9	First State Super Scheme	Industry Fund	555,373
10	UniSuper	Industry Fund	450,714

Source: www.selectingsuper.com.au this table was last updated in Aug 2011.

The main types of fees the super fund can charge are ongoing administration fees, member fees, investment management fees, adviser service fees and insurance premiums. There are also secondary fees, such as investment switching fees, contribution splitting fees and expense recovery fees (see www.moneysmart.gov.au).

Although there are so many main types of super fund fees, the best way of comparing the fees charged by super funds is to go straight to the mandatory ASIC fee template in the individual PDS.

For example, REST Super states in page 7 of its PDS on a balance of \$50,000 with total contributions of \$5,000 during the year for its Core Strategy option, it will cost the super account holder **\$442.00** per year. This comes from administration and contribution fee of \$1 per week (\$52), asset based fee 0.1% per annum on \$50,000 (\$50) and indirectly deducted investment fees of 0.68% per annum on the \$50,000 (\$340).

Another example, Australian Super for its Balanced option in page 9 of its PDS on balance of \$50,000 with total contributions of \$5,000 during the year, it will cost the super account holder **\$403.00** yearly. This constitutes management fee of \$1.50 per week (\$78) and indirectly deducted investment management fees of 0.65% per annum on the \$50,000 (\$325).

(3) Life insurance covers – Do you have enough life insurance covers in your super?

Most industry super funds have either unit of cover or fixed cover for death as well as total and permanent disablement (TPD), and / or income protection (IP). Income Protection in super is also known as Temporary Salary Continuance (TSC). For unitised cover, the cost for each unit does not change, but the cover reduces as you get older. These covers are usually limited to age 70 for death or TPD and age 65 for IP. The question you may wish to ask yourself is whether the life insurance in your super is sufficient to cover your lifestyle and liabilities in the event of claim.

REST Super's insurance provider is AIA Australia. Its minimum covers are five (5) units of Basic Death, TPD and IP while the maximum covers are \$5 million, \$2 million (\$1 million if 65 or over) and \$20,000 per month respectively.

The five-unit covers however peak at \$220,500 between ages 37 and 40 for death and \$52,500 between ages 18 and 59 for TPD; and then gradually drop to the lowest amount of \$10,500 between ages 62 and 69 for both Death and TPD.


In the case of Australian Super, its insurance provider is Tower Australia Ltd and the minimum covers are three (3) units of Basic Death and TPD for ages over 20. Units for IP vary. The maximum covers are \$1.5 million (cover above \$600,000 is capped at \$1.5 million or 10 times the annual salary, whichever is lower) for death and TPD and \$20,000 per month for IP. For death and TPD, the three-unit covers peak at \$166,800 between ages 25 and 30 and gradually drop to the lowest level of \$17,100 between ages 59 and 69.

Fixed cover means the cover is fixed and does not take CPI increase into consideration. Conversely, most retail super funds that are backed by insurance companies have life insurance covers in super, except trauma or critical illness, which can mirror those outside super.

Conclusion

The above three leading questions should not be considered exhaustive. Nevertheless, they are crucial questions for you to start deciding whether your current super fund(s) are appropriate to your own personal objectives, financial situations or needs.

There are also additional questions that you may find equally or more important than those highlighted in this article. Other questions could include government co-contributions, binding nominations, lost super, super rollover and accessing funds from your super account.

This is a general information article only. Accordingly you should consider how appropriate the information is to your objectives, financial situation and needs before acting on the information. 

Norman Yap specialises in Financial Planning at Jedlo Accountants based in Camberwell.

The Next Regional Property Hotspots In Victoria

David Chow

Property Investment

Real estate investment is not exactly rocket science. You don't need to have an economic degree or an MBA or be on a high income to be successful. Quite the contrary, most successful investors are ordinary people from all social strata. The high-fliers are simply too busy with their extravagant luxurious lifestyle to worry about a petty little \$250,000 house. Getting their hands dirty is not exactly the right kind of image.

As with any investment, one needs to pay due diligence to real estate market research and gradually become a smart investor. Finding great investment properties simply requires being motivated with lots of patience, persistence, passion as well as being a bit of a handyman.

The following are my selection of the next regional property hotspots in Victoria based on affordability, accessibility, population growth, infrastructure improvements, employment, rental yield and capital growth potential.

Ballarat

Ballarat is one of Australia's fastest growing inland cities with a population close to 100,000. It is about 110 km from Melbourne. One can travel there in about an hour by using the Very Fast Train (VFT train or by driving up the recently completed four-lane Western Highway. Ballarat is well known for its cultural heritage, grand buildings of yesteryear, tree-lined boulevards and the excellent public and private hospitals, schools and universities.

Ballarat has recorded sustained growth in population as well in residential property values. The current median house value is \$250,000 with an average rental return of 7%. Ballarat University in Mt Helen has created an enormous pressure on the student accommodation rental market. This university has attracted many international students particularly, from China, Hong Kong and Korea. The suburbs showing strong rental demand and return are Mt Helen and Mt Clear which are in

the vicinity of Ballarat University.

The key advantages of Ballarat is its housing affordability, good road and rail infrastructure, proximity to Melbourne, pro-active City Council, and expansive information and communication technologies, universities, agribusiness and tourism. With all these going, it is only logical Ballarat will boom similar to Melbourne and its house prices will increase substantially from the current low base.

Bendigo

Bendigo is a city built on gold. There are buildings of grandeur and style everywhere in the city. It has a long history of Chinese involvement and had the biggest Chinese population during the Gold Rush more than one hundred years ago. The recently expanded Golden Dragon Museum and the adjacent garden in the Chinese precinct have become major tourist destinations for domestic and international visitors.

Bendigo is Victoria's second largest provincial city with a population just over 100,000. Located 130 km north of Melbourne, it is about one and half hours drive from Melbourne or by the VFT. Greater Bendigo has a diverse and robust economy comprising mining, agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, education, health and finance and banking. The Bendigo Bank is known throughout Australia.

The biggest infrastructure project in Bendigo is the building of the new Bendigo Hospital which has a total investment of \$630 million. It will deliver a world class hospital, providing 21st century facilities and quality health care to the city and its region.

The current median house value is \$270,000 and the rental yield is between 6% - 7%, making it a low risk place for property investments. It has maintained a healthy 10% average annual growth rate over the past decade. North Bendigo which is in the vicinity of the new Bendigo Hospital and the suburbs

adjacent to Latrobe University are considered to be ideal locations for property investment.

Churchill

You would probably ask “Where is Churchill”? I asked the same question six years ago after reading an advertisement in the *Trading Post* for a Churchill brick home on sale for \$90,000. Churchill is one of the main centres in the Latrobe Valley, along with Morwell, Yallourn, Moe, Traralgon and Warragul. The Latrobe Valley is about 160 km from Melbourne and is the electricity-generating centre of the State. The Valley supplies up to 80% of Melbourne's power needs.

Churchill is the town servicing Monash University, Gippsland Campus. Monash Gippsland has been voted consistently as the best regional university in Australia. The Latrobe Valley is powering towards a new economy for industry, business and community, based on low carbon emissions. There are

many new and clean energy companies and research establishments attached to Monash Gippsland. As the coal fired power stations are replaced, there will be jobs lost but there will be much new employment generated.

Churchill's median house value is very affordable at \$165,000 and rental return is generally above 8%. There is a real demand for rental housing to accommodate the thousands of students, as well as the large work force in the power and the up-and-coming clean industries. Churchill real estate is probably the best secret for investors.

Not any more!



To be continued next issue

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Opinion

On the Appointment of VMC Commissioners

Richard Wong

The Victorian Government has recently announced the appointment of twelve Commissioners to the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC). It is heartening to know that amongst them, are two Commissioners of ethnic Chinese background. Mr. Chin Tan and Ms Marion Lau are both members of CPBA. Mr. Tan is a past President of our organisation and the new Victorian government has appointed him the VMC Chairperson. Marion Lau has been actively involved in the Victorian Ethnic Communities Council in different capacities for many years.

In recent years, there have been VMC commissioners of ethnic Chinese background but this is the first time that a Chinese has been appointed VMC Chair. It shows that a number of our people are actively involved in mainstream multicultural activities. Both Chin and Marion have done a lot of political, social and community work for many years. Their efforts are finally recognised.

They carry a heavy responsibility. We are confident they will make an important contribution to developing multiculturalism and promoting racial harmony in Victoria. As Chairperson, Chin has especially been provided with an opportunity to play a leading role. The

twelve Commissioners come from a wide range of people and they bring with them **much** knowledge and experience. We look forward to seeing the new team of Commissioners working well together to help further develop Victoria as a vibrant and a colourful, multicultural and harmonious society.

This will offer optimism and inspiration for strengthening all the diverse cultures in the State - their languages, learning, arts, religions, festivals and traditions. It will encourage the building of mutual respect between each others' cultures, with a willingness to appreciate and learn. It will help with the integration of the whole society in which we all live. At a time when multiculturalism is under attack in some other Western countries, it is important that the real achievements of multiculturalism are consistently shown and celebrated.

We take this opportunity to congratulate Chin Tan, Marion Lau and the other ten important personalities appointed as the Commissioners of the VMC. We are sure they will work very hard to implement the multicultural policies successfully. All community leaders share a similar responsibility to as a whole help realise the ideal of multiculturalism in Victoria and in Australia. ■



Media release



The Hon Nicholas Kotsiras MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship

Thursday 25 August 2011

Minister welcomes the new Victorian Multicultural Commissioners

The Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Nicholas Kotsiras today announced the appointment of new Commissioners to the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC).

The Multicultural Victoria Act 2011 (MVA), which will come into operation on 1 September 2011, provides that the Commission consists of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, a Youth Commissioner, a representative of a community organisation and eight other members.

The 12 appointments were made following a recruitment and selection process conducted by a panel, which considered over 200 exceptional expressions of interest.

The Victorian Government carefully considered the composition of the Commission, taking into account the panel's recommendations including community and professional experience.

"The new appointees, together with two re-appointees will collectively serve multicultural Victoria very well; with expertise in areas such as community service, legal, health, management, finance, education, aged care, youth affairs, media, science and public service," Mr Kotsiras said.

"The new Commissioners bring a broad range of skills and understanding of the issues, the challenges and opportunities facing our incredibly diverse society and will be ably led by the newly appointed Chairperson, Mr Chin Tan; who brings valuable legal, community and leadership skills, as well as prior experience with the Commission."

Mr Kotsiras also recognised the work of the previous Commissioners.

"On behalf of the Victorian Government, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the substantive work of the previous Commissioners – Ms Elleni Bereded-Samuel, Mr Joseph Caputo, Dr Stanley Chiang, Dr Linda Sydor-Petkovic, Ms Marcia Pinski, Ms Jenny Taing, Mrs Madhu Bhatia, Mr John Sipek and Mr Hakan Akyol," Mr Kotsiras said.

"The Victorian community appreciates their commitment to the multicultural and multifaith community, and for their substantive contribution to the state."

The Commissioners to serve for the next term (up to four years) of the VMC are:

Chairperson – Mr Chin Tan has broad experience and involvement in the legal profession, business and community service. Mr Tan is committed to active involvement in the area of multiculturalism having held various community and government board positions. Mr Tan brings to his role at the Commission valuable legal, community and leadership skills, as well as prior experience with the Commission.

Deputy Chairperson – Mr Spiro Alatsas has almost 30 years experience in business; with specialist expertise in multicultural media including 3XY Greek radio, TA Nea Newspapers and TV Hellas – C31.

Youth Commissioner – Ms Yasmin Hassen is actively involved and committed to promoting multiculturalism in the community, particularly with youth. Ms Hassen is a member of the Victorian Multicultural Commission's Multicultural Multifaith Youth Network and has worked at various multicultural community agencies. Born in Ethiopia and having initially arrived in Victoria as a refugee, Ms Hassen is a member of the Oromo community and brings experience working in the youth and interfaith sectors.

Commissioners:

Mr Phillip Bain – Mr Phillip Bain works within the health sector, as well as having previously held a number of senior roles within the academic and government sectors. Mr Bain brings expertise in the areas of health, including community health and education.

Dr Teresa De Fazio – Dr Teresa De Fazio has been actively involved in the educational sector and carries over 10 years' experience in the area of international projects and English and Italian language studies. Dr De Fazio is widely published and is currently the associate editor of the Higher Education and Development (HERD) Journal.

Ms Elizabeth Drozd (re-appointed) – Ms Elizabeth Drozd has considerable experience in local government, showing dedication to issues affecting multicultural communities, particularly in the area of access and equity. Ms Drozd is currently the CEO of Australian Multicultural Community Services.

Mr Graham Leonard – Mr Graham Leonard has been actively involved with Victoria's diverse faith communities for more than 15 years and held a number of executive or board positions within a number of peak bodies, including the role of Chairperson of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission. He also has experience in interpreting and translating, as a board member of the Victorian Interpreting and Translating Service (VITS). He is a lawyer and holds a Bachelor of Arts and Law degree.

Mr Huseyin Mustafa – Mr Huseyin Mustafa is presently the President of the Australian Turkish Business Council as well as being an active supporter of community based initiatives in Australia. Mr Mustafa is a Fellow of the National Institute of Accountants, and holds a number of business diplomas as well as a Masters of Management.

Mr Yasser Soliman (re-appointed) – As a former President of the Islamic Council of Victoria, Mr Soliman has worked closely with the Islamic community and state and local governments to strengthen partnerships across the community. He has actively worked in partnership with Victorian Police, local councils and Islamic youth to forge understanding and cooperation.

Ms Jenny Matic – Ms Jenny Matic is highly regarded in the multicultural sector and known for her work with culturally and linguistically diverse communities. She has extensive experience working within government as well as serving on boards both in the public health sector and the community.

Mr Chidambaram Srinivasan – Mr Chidambaram Srinivasan has worked in Australia, the United States, and India for over 30 years. Mr Srinivasan brings to the Commission a variety of skills in the areas of science, community and business (including small business) as well as experience in volunteering. Mr Srinivasan is proficient in English, Tamil, Hindi, Sanskrit, Bengali and Japanese.

Community Representative Commissioner – Ms Marion Lau was nominated by the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) to the VMC and has demonstrated strong advocacy skills to support the strengthening of Victoria's culturally diverse community generally. She has professional experience working for government in the area of health and ageing and is currently the Deputy Chairperson of the ECCV.

News

Chinese Writers' Festival Opened by Legislative Assembly Speaker

September 3 2011

Richard Wong

The 2011 Chinese Writers Festival "would encourage a greater appreciation of Chinese literature and celebrate its particular ties to Melbourne" said Ken Smith, Speaker of the State Parliament's Legislative Assembly, as he took part in opening the Festival in Melbourne on September 3. Mr Smith was representing the Victorian Premier Ted Baillieu at the event. The Chinese Consul-General in Victorian, Mr. Wei Qiang Shi, joined with Mr Smith for the launch.

Hosts for the occasion were Ms May Hu, Secretary of the Chinese Writers' Festival and Mr Chap Bow, the English Secretary of the Festival. They welcomed Mr Smith and Mr Wei and the delegation of distinguished

writers visiting Melbourne for the Festival. The writers were led by Mr Hongbo Gao, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Writers Association, based in Beijing. Among the prominent writers were Zhang Wei, Mo Yan, Zhao Mei, Hu Ping, Li Er, Sheng Ke Yi, Xu Biao Bin, Zaxidawau (Tibetan), Shang Zhen and Zhuang Wei Jie.

The hosts extended their welcome to Mr Hong Lim MP, and Chinese community leaders Mr Wah Yeo, Chairman of the Chinese Arts Festival, Dr Jiang Tian Lin, former VMC commissioner, and Ms. Marian Lau, newly appointed VMC commissioner. They welcomed overseas, interstate and local writers and friends.

In his address, Ken Smith commented that "there's no better place to celebrate this festival than in Melbourne, a city renowned for its strong arts and and festival culture." The Chinese Writers' Festival coincided this year with the Melbourne Writers' Festival.

The Legislative Assembly Speaker applauded the coalition of Chinese writers'

associations in Melbourne who had worked hard to organise this year's Festival. "You have devised a great program of talks and presentations", he said. He thanked the Consul-General "for the role he had played, not only within the Chinese community, but also in supporting multiculturalism in Victoria."

In his address, Mr Smith noted that Victoria is Australia's most culturally diverse State. It's five million people come from over 200

countries, speak more than 200 languages and dialects and follow more than 120 faiths. He acknowledged the contribution of Chinese people to Victorian life, dating back to the 1850s.

To this day Chinese

participation continues "across all fields of social, cultural and corporate endeavours...the Chinese community plays an important part in creating the vibrant, multicultural society of which we are so proud."

Over 100 people took part in the opening which was followed by seminars where writers discussed their work with participants at the Festival.

The Melbourne Chinese Writers' Festival was organised by three local organisations - the Australian Chinese Writers' Association, the Melbourne Writers' Association and the Chinese Poets and Authors Society of Victoria. The Melbourne Chinese Writers' Festival has been held annually since 2008. ■

Richard Wong, CPBA Newsletter Features Editor, was invited by the Chinese Writers' Festival to attend the launch.



PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, 4 August 2011

World Chinese Economic Forum Headed To Melbourne

One of Asia's most influential business events, the World Chinese Economic Forum (WCEF), will be held in Melbourne in November 2012.

Announcing the win today, Sandra Chipchase, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Melbourne Convention + Visitors Bureau (MCVB), said the two-day event would draw 500 delegates from around the world, generate an economic impact for the state of more than AUD \$1 million and also provide significant trade and investment benefits for Australia.

"The Forum will attract entrepreneurs, investors, academic scholars and political leaders from China, Malaysia, the United States, Europe, Australia and beyond," Ms Chipchase said.

"Victorian Premier Ted Baillieu will open the 2012 Forum in Melbourne while the Governor of Victoria, The Hon. Alex Chernov AO QC, who has shown tremendous support of the event, will attend this year's Forum in Kuala Lumpur in November.

"This Forum has never been held outside of Kuala Lumpur and is certain to garner significant local and international press, presenting us with an excellent opportunity to showcase Melbourne and regional Victoria to the world."

Visiting Melbourne this week to officially announce the successful bid, Dato' Dr Michael O.K. Yeoh, CEO/Director of the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute, said the purpose of the Forum was to better understand the key forces driving China's economic growth and the nexus with the Chinese Diaspora worldwide.

"The Forum will also discuss China's increasingly significant role in the global economy, together with the integral part it continues to play in driving regional and global economic recovery," Dato' Yeoh said.

Local host, William Lye, said the Forum would provide a unique perspective on the emergence of China as a global economic power.

"The World Chinese Economic Forum's point of difference is that it covers broader and macro issues, rather than having a purely entrepreneurial focus," Mr Lye said.

"It also brings together participants from governments, business and industry, who will be able to generate relationships and promote economic exchanges."

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Technology

The Story of Linux 20 years on

1 October 2011 Wen Lin

In August this year, the legendary Steve Jobs resigned as CEO of Apple, so he could focus on battling his longstanding cancer illness. The news, while not totally unexpected, still sent shock wave through the global market. Apple Inc. (AAPL) shares dropped 5%, hours after the announcement.¹

(Regrettably, before this magazine went to press, came the news that Steve Jobs died on 5 Oct 2011. He was 56). In mainstream media around the world as well as blogosphere in general, there was a flurry of reporting, commentaries, blogs, tweets, tributes, and even eulogies on the end of an era...

All these reactions no doubt are a reflection of a man who, through his decades of leadership and inspiration in Apple, has given the world the Mac, iPod, iPhone and iPad, among many other cool gadgets. No one would argue that Steve Jobs is among the giants who had virtually shaped the Information Technology world we see today.

Just as we see a legend passing into history, we see another reaching a milestone. August 2011 also marks 20 years since another computer operating system was born – The Linux kernel. What is Linux? And what's the fuss about a piece of computer software, you might ask. Well, it's a big deal because today Linux is one of the 3 most widely used major computer operating systems (OSs) in the world, the other two being Microsoft Windows and Apple Mac OSX. It's a big deal because to many, the Linux OS represents more than just a piece of software. It has also ushered in a new approach of programming software – free and open source software development; and a new business model – giving away software for free, and make a living out of providing services to people who use your software. I will discuss this point later.



Linus Torvalds in 2002

Source:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linus_Torvalds

From the Beginning...

It was August 1991. a 20-year-old young man from Finland by the name of Linus Torvalds was still a computer science student at the University of Helsinki. Several months before, in his own free time, Torvalds was hard at work crafting the core (or kernel) of a Unix-like operating system. Unix is a multitasking, multi-user computer operating system widely used in academic, government and corporate sectors back then (and still in many places today). For those who want to know what is an operating system, here's a basic definition from Wikipedia:

An operating system (OS) is a set of programs that manages computer hardware resources, and provides common services for application software running on top of it.²

Then on 25 August 1991, Torvalds posted on a computer newsgroup (an online bulletin board – remember, this is a time well before Facebook or Twitter) a now-famous message:

“Hello everybody out there ...

I am doing a (free) operating system (just a hobby, won't be big and professional...) for 386(486) AT clones. This has been brewing since April, and is starting to get ready. I'd like any feedback on things people like/dislike... Any suggestions are welcome, but I won't promise I'll implement them :-)

Linus (torvalds@kruuna.helsinki.fi)³

With this modest, and somewhat amateurish message, Linus basically announced to the world the birth of Linux. Response to this posting was immediate (apparently the first one was less than 4 hours later!). Soon, inquiries,

1 "AAPL: Summary for Apple Inc.- Yahoo! Finance". Finance.yahoo.com. January 2, 2007. Retrieved August 25, 2011.

2 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operating_system

3 Glyn Moody, "REBEL CODE", London, Penguin Group, 2001, p.42.

comments and expressions of interest started to pour in from around the world. Over time, this had led to one of the largest collaborative, open source software development in the world. Now think back, Torvalds' Revolution might not have caught on, had it not taken place right at the dawn of the Internet era! You see, Tim Berners-Lee, a British physicist working at CERN (The European Organization for Nuclear Research) at the time, posted a short summary of the World Wide Web project on the alt.hypertext newsgroup on 6 August 1991, a date which also marked the debut of the Web as a publicly available service on the Internet.⁴ (Another 20-year birthday for the WWW!)

A side note: Initially Torvalds wanted to call the kernel he developed *Freax* (a combination of "free", "freak", and the letter X to indicate that it is a Unix-like system), but one of his friends who administered the FTP server where the kernel was first hosted for downloading, named Torvalds' directory *linux*.⁵ This catchy name



Tux, as originally drawn by Larry Ewing

went on to be adopted by everyone else later on. Torvalds also adopted a penguin character (affectionately called *Tux*) as the mascot for the Linux kernel, said to be inspired by his love of Fairy Penguins he saw during a trip to Australia!

In hindsight, things could have gone a totally different path. Torvalds could have kept his Linux OS under wrap, launched a software company, hired some programmers, and then licensed his proprietary software product to some big computer manufacturers, and perhaps become a Billionaire later on... But then, without opening up the source code he had developed to the world, Torvalds would not have got thousands and thousands of people around the world volunteering their time and effort to help improving the software, picking out programming bugs, adding more and more features, writing documentation, converting to many languages, or porting the Linux OS from the ancient 386 Intel clones to other hardware platforms, and so on.

FOSS

That's why you can see, the significance of these two decades of Linux OS is not really the software itself, but rather the employment of

this "Free and Open Source" philosophy. While most of the time free and open source software (FOSS) are generally free of charge, the word 'free' here actually means 'freedom'. In simple terms, it generally means freedom to use the software, studied, and modified without restriction, and which can be copied and redistributed in modified or unmodified form either without restriction, or with restrictions that only ensure that further recipients can also do these things. The term 'open source' generally represents a pragmatic methodology that allows the source code of a piece of software to be opened up for all to see, whereby enabling a very efficient way to develop software collaboratively. Nowadays, most software are getting more and more sophisticated and complex, so efforts to develop them can either be close-source and managed by very large corporations (the likes of Microsoft, Apple and Oracle), or be open-source and managed by big and small companies and individuals, usually via a foundation or consortium. Examples of some reputable, international and reasonably large foundations looking after some of the world's most popular software in use today are:

- Linux Foundation – looking after the Linux kernel,
- Free Software Foundation – a collection of free software packages under the GNU Project,
- Mozilla Foundation – Firefox web browser, Thunderbird mail client software,
- The Document Foundation – LibreOffice Office Suit,
- Apache Foundation – numerous open source Java-based software and platforms,

just to name a few.

To protect the freedom stated above, as well as the fruit of collective efforts by many people, most free and open source software (including the Linux kernel) are governed and distributed under licenses such as the GNU General Public License (GPL). In very simple terms, these types of licenses try to ensure that no one can simply take a piece of free software, modify and enhance it without telling everyone else how it was done, and then re-sell the package as proprietary software. That's why in FOSS, you can charge people a fee to use a piece of free software anyway you like, but you cannot deny them the freedom as mentioned before, as protected by the GNU GPL. Although Linux is

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_wide_web

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux_Torvalds

nowadays referred to as an operating system, strictly speaking it's just a kernel. To make up a true operating system, you need a stack of system libraries, utility tools, compilers, text editors, etc. The collection of system software that wraps around the Linux kernel comes from the GNU Project of the Free Software Foundation. So some people prefer to call the operating system – GNU/Linux.

Typically Linux is packaged in a format known as a *Linux distribution* (commonly called *Distro*) for desktop and server use. A Linux Distro is basically the GNU/Linux operating system bundled with some windowing systems and a large amount of free application software, packaged together so it can fit in the form of a download image file, a CD, DVD or even USB stick. Today there are many distros around. Some popular mainstream Linux distros you might have heard of: Ubuntu, Fedora, Debian, openSUSE, etc. The vastness of free application software that can run on Linux means that people can pick and choose the application software they see fit to package a distro anyway they like, or even derive it from an existing Linux distro.

Linux everywhere...

In 20 years, Linux has come a long way. From a humble, hobbyist beginning, Linux is now a mature system that you can find in many walks of life. Most of the time, in fact, we are practically using Linux without even realising it. Don't believe me? Well, let's have a quick run through, shall we?

Red Hat, a prolific Linux contributors since the early years, is now a billion-dollar company, selling enterprise-level software support subscriptions to big corporations and small businesses around the world. IBM, nowadays more of a gigantic software and outsourcing service provider than a hardware manufacturer, has seen so much potential in Linux that it invested a billion dollars into it, and made Linux a part of its key strategic assets. The Linux Foundation, the non-profit technology consortium that has been the custodian for the Linux kernel (in which Linus Torvalds now works), now has more than 100 corporate members (among them the giants in the IT industry – IBM, Oracle, Intel, HP, Cisco, Google, DreamWorks Animation, Toyota, just to name a few). Linux runs a majority of the world's super computers (last count, close to 95%), as do a variety of ATMs, set-top boxes, car navigation systems, in-flight entertainment systems, public transit displays and other critical devices. According to the PCWorld


Magazine, 75% of stock exchanges worldwide now run Linux.

Search the web with Google lately? Well, all the Google's servers around the world powering this search engine are in turn powered by, you guess it – Linux. The same with most of the servers powering Amazon, Facebook, Twitter, Wikipedia and eBay, to name just a few. Read an ebook on a Kindle, well, it's Linux-inside. You heard of the **One Laptop per Child (OLPC)** Project that sets out to create an affordable educational device for use in the developing world? The XO laptops they distribute to many school children in developing countries all run on Linux. Then there is the Android. Notice recently the smartphones or tablets many of your friends are using sporting the little green robot mascot? Well, it's Linux at its core too! While in the Desktop Computer market, Linux is still a minor player, one distro called Ubuntu that specialises in the area of Linux for the desktop, is making quite a presence lately.

You know all those stunning special effects that we have seen in many of the movies lately? Many of the top blockbusters of all time were created with the help of Linux software or render farms running Linux. Among them: Avatar (2009), Lord of the Rings, the 2005 King Kong remake, Shrek the Third (2007), The Matrix (1999), Titanic (1997).

Linux – The Australian Connection

Australia may be a continent far from the centres of activities for Linux (i.e. USA & Europe), but it does have quite a connection with Linux. Apart from the Tux mascot that was inspired by the Fairy Penguins Down Under, there are many well-known contributors to the Linux system residing in Australia (several of them in Melbourne). Linux.conf.au (often abbreviated as LCA), is one of three major, international, grass-roots Linux and open-source conferences world wide. An annual event, LCA is a roaming conference, held in a different city in Australia or New Zealand every year, coordinated by Linux Australia and organised by local volunteers.

Well, Linux in the last 20 years had been quite a ride. Can't wait to see the next 20 unfold! 

Wen Lin is an IT Professional with an interest in the various Information Technology issues that impact on people and society.

Membership

Welcome to New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members over the past 1 year. We look forward to seeing them at our networking events and functions.

- Ethan Wang, Software support engineer at Spatial Info Pty Ltd (www.spatialinfo.com/)
- Ivan Yiauw, Director of ILY Investment Pty Ltd (<http://www.linkedin.com/in/ivanyiauw>)
- Dorise Chen, Financial Advisor at Jedlo Financial Services (<http://jedlofp.hillross.com.au/>)
- ST Chung, former Senior Executive with Orica and currently a management consultant from China
- Eric Cheung, Director of Ascend Real Estate (www.ascendrealestate.com.au/)
- Alec Ngo, Credit Analyst with Bank of Queensland (www.boq.com.au/)
- Geoffrey Chow, Academic with Swinburne University (www.swinburne.edu.au/)
- Jason Zhu, Director and finance consultant with Janz Financial (www.janz.com.au/)
- Paul Tay, Principal with Paul Tay & Co (<http://www.accountantlist.com.au/669-Paul-Tay--Co.aspx>)
- Vincent Khoo, Training & Education with Oxford Aviation (www.oaa.com/)
- Jin Rin Yau, Director with Asia Finance Pty Ltd
- Lisa Shen, Business Banking Manager with Bank West (www.bankwest.com.au/)
- Keith Kong, Business Development with Ztrade Global Pty Ltd (<http://ztrade.com.au/>)
- Erik Budiman, Associate with Kennedy Needham Corporate Advisors (www.kennedynneedham.com)
- Jane Garrington, Sales & Marketing Manager with Amora Hotel Riverwalk (www.melbourne.amorahotels.com)
- Cheng Yeoh, Fund Analyst with APN Property Group (www.apngroup.com.au/)
- Lawrence Choong, Director of Australian Brushware Corporation(<http://www.austbrush.com.au/>)
- Josh Wilson, Partner with Vic Bar (www.vicbar.com.au/)
- Peter Wu, former investment banker and currently an investor
- Edmund Lu, Investor and Director of Elm Consulting Pty Ltd

Those whose memberships have expired should take advantage of our special 3 years membership renewal promotion. It is only \$120 for 3 years membership, a discount of \$30. So, hurry up and renew! Please contact David Low on 0434 919 163 regarding renewals or email membership@cpba.com.au.

David Low

Membership Secretary

Recent Functions



CPBA Winter Banquet
(1 June 2011)



**Secret Millionaires 2
Investment Seminar**
(17 August 2011)



For more photos of CPBA activities,
please go to CPBA web site:
<http://cpba.com.au/about-cpba/gallery>