

Gary Lee

Gary Lee came to Australia as an international student and has committed his student and professional life to empowering international students, spanning over almost over two decades. Dynamic, creative and forward thinking; he specialises in the areas of high level strategic planning, policy development and advice, design and delivery of complex projects (including festivals and arts programming) and student wellbeing initiatives.

He has been instrumental in helping Melbourne become one of leading destinations for international students through ground-breaking programs, including:

- Played a pivotal role in the development of the City of Melbourne's 'A Great Place to Study – International Student Strategy 2013-17'
- Facilitated 17 Lord Mayor's Student Welcome (LMSW) events since 2006 – this program received the IEAA 'Best Practice' Award in 2009 and has been emulated in other states
- Implemented the City of Melbourne 'Student Welcome Program' to welcome, support and empower international students
- Managed the Student Welcome Desk at Melbourne Airport program in 2017 - 2018
- Developed the EDGE International Student Leaders' program that enhances international student leadership skills and career development. This Program has since evolved into the Melbourne International Student Conference (partnership with Meld Community) and has run for the last 6 years involving over 1000 students and staff from various institutions
- Implemented Act of Translation, a theatre project and documentary (awarded the Victorian Multicultural Commission 'Innovation Award' in 2017)
- Helped establish the Essendon Football Club GLoBALL Program that has been operating since 2008 – engaging international students through the Australian Football League
- Championed the establishment of The Salvation Army 614 – The Couch (2008 - 2016) which welcomed 80-100 international students every night to a safe space in the city

Gary plays a leadership role in the sector through his participation in various steering committees:

- PD Coordinator, ISANA Vic/Tas Branch
- Executive Board Member, VicWISE
- Member, Study Melbourne Student Experience Network
- Member, Victorian Multicultural Commission Regional Advisory Committee
- Member – ISANA Conference Local Organising Committee 2019
- Deputy Municipal Recovery Manager, City of Melbourne
- Alumni - Asialink Leaders Program

In addition to Gary's professional role, he also contributes in a voluntary capacity as well. Gary holds ambassadorial roles with:

- Welcoming Australia
- Bully Zero Australia Foundation
- AFL Multicultural Community Program
- Melbourne Victory

As an authority and thought leader on international education, cultural diversity and social inclusion, Gary has been invited to speak on numerous events, including panels with the former Prime Minister Julia Gillard and the Honorable Bill Shorten (former Leader of the Opposition).

He uses creative ways to engage international students through dance, sports and volunteering. He still runs the dance crews he established when he was a student at RMIT – PoisE'n and PoisE'n Bollywood, which has won accolades as platforms that promote social cohesion in Victoria.

In 2016, Gary was recognised by the Australia Day Council as the 'New Australian of the Year 2016.'



© Seddon's Gary Lee is the New Australian of the Year for 2016. Picture: David Smith

LEADER

New Australian of the Year winner uses sport to break down barriers

Bridie Byrne, Maribyrnong Leader
January 26, 2016 1:32pm



© Gary Lee has been selected as an AFL Multicultural Community Ambassador. Picture: Adam Elwood

AFL NEWS

The AFL will target world's biggest populations in China and India to help grow game



Gary Lee Welcome to Australia Ambassador Photo by Wiser! Tadjostawojo

From that point on, Gary has taken a keen and energetic approach to his advocacy work with the City of Melbourne as the International Student & Youth Officer. But the full scope of Gary's work supersedes his title—Gary is involved with various community integration projects such as Welcome Dinner Project, The Couch, and Poise'n Bollypop—on top of numerous other commitments that have grown out of the New Australian of the Year award. It becomes clear that work and personal are intertwined, and these inform one another for Gary.



Meet Gary Lee – 2016 New Australian of the Year!

Study Melbourne | 04 Mar '16

Inspiring International Students: Gary Lee



A former international student from Malaysia, Gary Lee is an exceptional leader who has a natural ability to engage with people from all walks of life. His work with international students spans over 15 years.

How to Make The Most Out of Volunteering



This article was provided by Gary Lee, follow Gary on Instagram & Twitter: @garyleeicus

We all live demanding lives, including students. You have to juggle studies, work and social commitments, so it's understandable that it may be difficult to find time to volunteer. However, many students do not realise how beneficial volunteering can be. The right volunteering experience can help you make new connections, reduce stress, learn new skills, create a sense of belonging in your new adopted home in Australia and possibly even help advance your career.



Volunteering provides essential help to people in need but the benefits can be even greater for you as a volunteer. I have reaped so much fulfillment from my time volunteering. Besides meeting some extraordinary people I would have never met otherwise, I also got a string of work through connections I made through volunteering as a student.

Embracing diversity: Interview with New Australian of the Year, Gary Lee

Trinh Le | May 25, 2016 | 0 comments

NEW Australian of the Year, Gary Lee, has long supported international students in his line of work and continues to advocate for their welfare. Trinh Le caught up with Lee to talk about his recent award, his past voluntary experiences and his love of Australia's diversity.



Gary Lee was awarded New Australian of the Year 2016 by Trinh Le

Sports

Melbourne Victory to share its love of football with international students

Trinh Le | November 24, 2015 | 0 comments

THANKS to A-League football club Melbourne Victory, international students will have plenty of opportunities to join in the shared appreciation of the beautiful game. Trinh Le has more.



From left: Community Football Coordinator – Gulcan Koca, Community Ambassador – Gary Lee, Community Football Manager – Jamie Monteith, Community Ambassador – Ajit Chauhan, General Manager, Community – Stella Smith & Marketing Manager – Arthur Gillon. Photo supplied.

City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Robert Doyle with EDGE International Student Leadership Program students

Published on January 20, 2012 in Cutting EDGE leadership program for international students Full resolution (606 x 330)

Previous



Twenty of Melbourne's best and brightest international students with Lord Mayor Robert Doyle. Photo: City of Melbourne



A MAN FOR ALL STUDENTS

1 Mo 2011

AUSTRALIA'S LEADING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWS WEBSITE

Home News Lifestyle Entertainment Events Community Discussion

Hip-hop meets Bollywood: Poise'n Bollypop

Zes Rang | January 17, 2012 | 2 comments

THIS award-winning group of students have come together for the love of dance, and they're looking for new members to join the fun.





Gary Lee - New Australian of the Year

<https://peril.com.au/back-editions/gary-lee/>

New Australian of the Year winner uses sport to break down barriers

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/new-australian-of-the-year-winner-uses-sport-to-break-down-barriers/news-story/c11dd34e08b5645da5288d29a044a2f6>

Leaders alumna named New Australian of the Year

<https://asialinkbusiness.com.au/news-media/leaders-alumna-named-new-australian>

Inspiring International Students: Gary Lee

<https://insiderguides.com.au/inspiring-international-students-gary-lee/>

Embracing diversity: Interview with New Australian of the Year, Gary Lee

<https://www.meldmagazine.com.au/2016/05/gary-lee-interview-2016/>

Meet Gary Lee – 2016 New Australian of the Year!

uatblog.studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/meet-gary-lee-2016-new-australian-of-the-year/

National Multicultural Ambassador of the Year program 2016

www.aflcommunityclub.com.au/index.php?id=1949

A Man for All Students

<https://www.studygoldcoast.org.au/news/a-man-for-all-students/>

A Distinguished Contribution to International Education

<https://www.studygoldcoast.org.au/news/a-distinguished-contribution-to-international-education/>

Melbourne Victory to share its love of football with international students

<https://www.meldmagazine.com.au/2015/11/melbourne-victory-community-ambassador-program/>

Hip-hop meets Bollywood: PoisE'n Bollypop <https://www.meldmagazine.com.au/2012/01/hiphop-meets-bollywood-poisen-bollypop/>

Gary Lee - VicWISE

<https://www.vicwise.org/executive-board/gary-lee>

Ex-international student is New Australian of Year

<https://thepienews.com/news/new-australian-of-the-year-rewarded-for-engagement-work/>