



*Les Clefs d'Or members enjoy the hospitality of Hoyts.*

# Les Clefs d'Or

by Peter McBrearty Victorian State Delegate

Melbourne's Les Clefs d'Or members and their associates have been combining their usual adventures with making final arrangements for the arrival of our interstate and New Zealand members for the National AGM to be held in July.

Those amongst us with a predilection for fine cigars in comfortable surroundings were guests of Ra, an exclusive split level bar located in Pink Alley, where fine cigars combine with a wide cocktail selection and a spot of caviar or foie gras ensure most people will find their inner Austin Powers, or if not at least learn to embrace their inner bon vivant.

Once used to such comfortable surroundings, it only seemed right to similarly raise our cinematic standards when Melissa Ocampo and Peter Nikolakakos of Hoyts were kind enough to host us for a special showing of *State of Play* in the Director's Suite at Melbourne Central. Rarely have so many felt so unfeasibly comfortable for so long. More than one concierge was heard commenting that experiencing the Director's Suite had ensured that any future visits to the cinema were going

to have to feature the same Moran leather recliners, private lounge, menu and in-cinema service – which would seem to imply return visits were definitely on the cards.

Glenn Lacey of The Langham, Melbourne arranged another of his popular bar research ventures, which again served to highlight just how many exceptional venues Melbourne has. Of particular note were The Long Room in Collins Street for their very stylish bar and delightful winter banquet which seemed perfect for guests seeking light pre-theatre dining, and also the very individual Madame Brussels in Bourke Street for being so definitively different – after all, how many bars feature astroturf in lieu of carpet?

Meanwhile, planning for the upcoming AGM has continued apace as we look forward to welcoming our interstate and Kiwi brethren to Melbourne. Much credit must be given to the young chef at the Sherlock Holmes in Collins Street who has sustained us with remarkably fine pot pies and other excellent winter fare, and also to Beer Deluxe in Federation Square for their Gorgonzola pizzas as both venues somehow seemed to be where

our planning sessions have all taken place – a good pot pie is hard to find! We all look forward to welcoming our visitors to Melbourne for the AGM and do hope they will enjoy our fair city as much as we and our guests invariably do.

## Les Clefs d'Or International

3RD VICE PRESIDENT *Colin Toomey,*  
*The Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney*

**Australian Chapter**

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