

Simul exhibition after an invincible Australian Open

by Elsa Yueh

16/01/2015 - After scoring an extraordinary result of 10.5/11 in 2015 Australian Open Championship and shooting his rating back above 2700 in Sydney, GM Ni Hua's next stop was to the second largest city in Australia, Melbourne. In addition to visiting friends and to celebrate the great victory over the highest prized event in Australian chess, the Olympiad champion gave a simultaneous exhibition in the historic 1888 building at the University of Melbourne. The event was an excellent opportunity for players of all ages to play against an Olympiad champion. No one defeated the super GM but 5 players managed to draw against him and they were: Luke Li, Bill Jiang, Lillian Lu, Mitko Aleksandrov and Ray Yang. They each received a chess set and a memorable prize for their outstanding achievements.



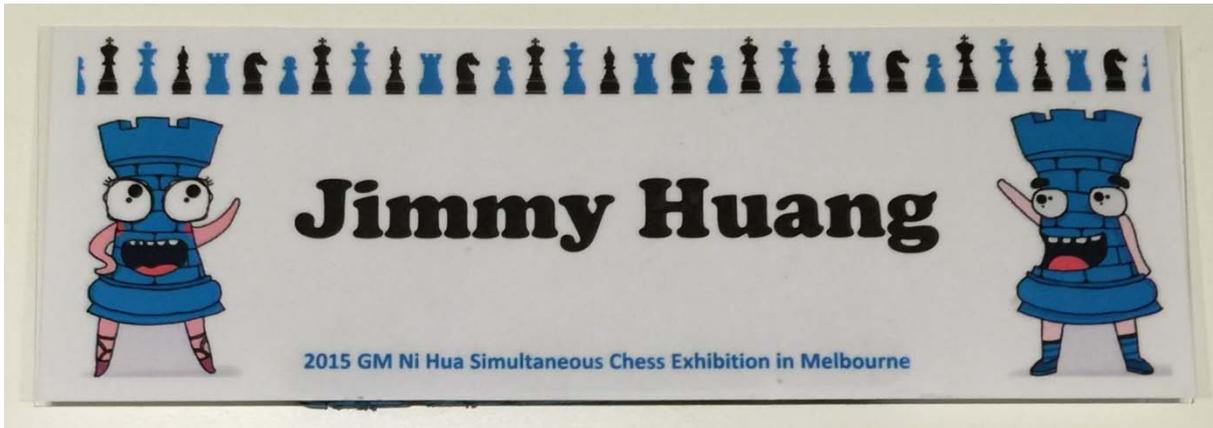
The 1888 Building, also known as the 'Graduate Centre' at the University of Melbourne, is a heritage listed building deemed historically and architecturally important by the National Trust of Australia.



Many junior players participated in their first ever simultaneous exhibition event



A modern room in the heritage building that delivered a pleasant 'chess' atmosphere



Name plate for players to take home after the simul as souvenirs



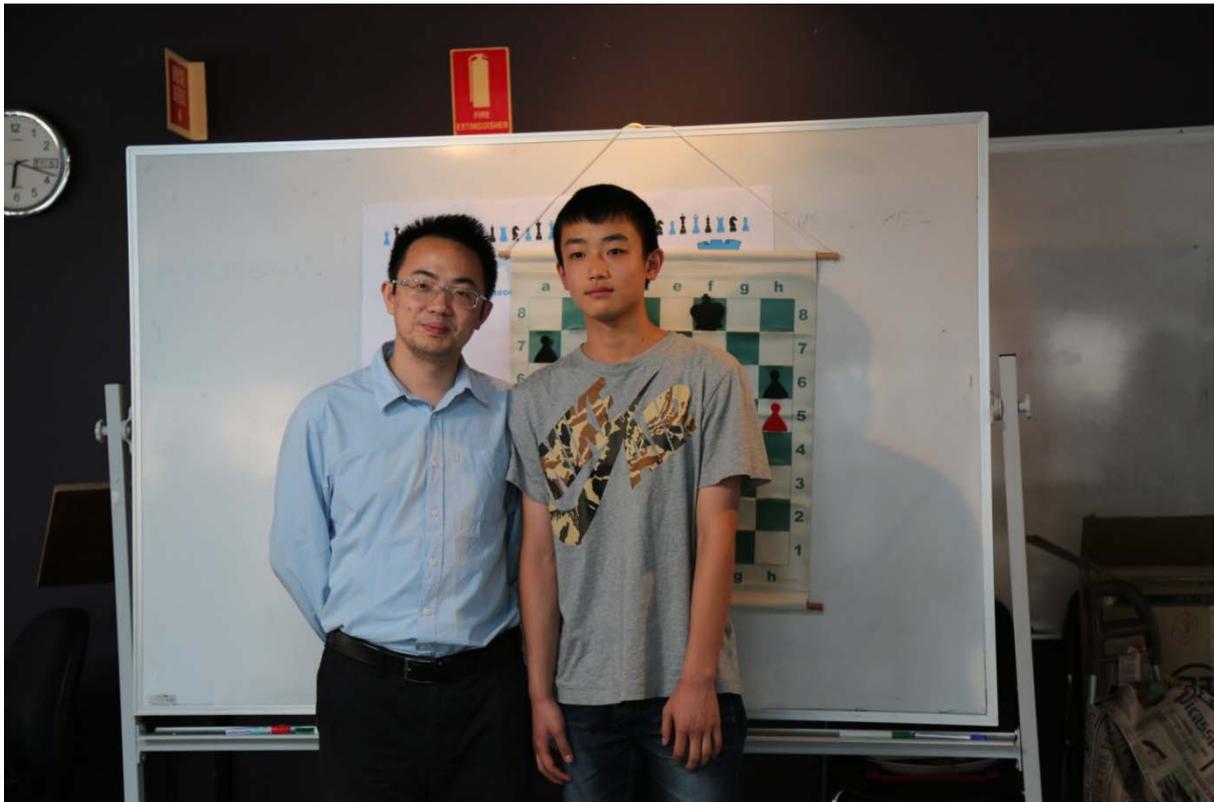
GM Ni Hua giving a moment of thought against junior players



memorable prizes offered for a win or draw in the simul



an enjoyable simul afternoon with pizza, sweets and drinks



GM Ni Hua nominated his game against Bill Jiang as the most noteworthy for the simul and briefly analysed the game for the audience



Ni Hua concludes the simul with an analysis of the game played against Bill Jiang, while interacting with the audience with questions and quizzes

GM Ni Hua's first trip to Australia was definitely a remarkable journey in which he not only conquered the highest prize event in the country by a large margin, but also a valuable one that promoted chess and simul opportunity for junior and adult players alike. When asked if he would be back in Australia again for another tournament, the answer was a definite: 'Yes'.

All pictures by Le Su