

## **Lebanese-Australian Lawyer and Board Member of the Australian Arab Business Network Visits LERC**

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011, LERC, NDU

Reported by Shereen Mahshi

Senior Research Assistant Ali Hijazi visited LERC on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011 to introduce his Australian cousin Ms. Tagreed Sayed to LERC.

Ms. Tagreed (Tia) Sayed was born in Sydney, Australia, to Lebanese parents who emigrated during the 1970's. Ms. Tagreed was admitted to the New South Wales Supreme Court as a lawyer in 2004 after completing a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (Grad Dip Law) at the University of Technology in Sydney. She is now employed as a corporate and commercial lawyer with One Group Legal, a suburban law firm specializing in all areas of law and servicing mainly Australian Arab and Lebanese clientele.

Ms. Sayed is also serving her third year as a member of the Board of the Australian Arab Business Network (AABN). The AABN is a non-profit, non-religious, non-political organization aimed at providing a healthy and proactive forum for Australian Arabs to network, support one another and provide a social context in what can be described as a missing link between the Western and the Eastern community and culture abroad.

Ms. Sayed pointed out that: "The two main people who have guided me back to Lebanon and driven my love for Lebanon and hope for a peaceful and prosperous Lebanon are my father, Samih Sayed and my cousin Ali Hijazi. However when I meet people such as you and hear of the work that is being done as in LERC, I am further fuelled and guided."



Ali Hijazi and Tagreed Sayed at Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at NDU

## **Sayed Family Emigration History**

The Sayed family migrated to Australia during the 1970's with a firm intention to return to Lebanon; however, on their return in 1982 and in 1985 they were driven to "safety" in Australia together with the extended family. Ms. Sayed's parents have recently returned to Lebanon but she and her three siblings are finding it difficult to re-establish their professional careers in Lebanon after the long establishment abroad. This is also the same for the extended family who are all abroad in Australia. Nevertheless, said Ms. Sayed, they continue to visit Lebanon and are proud of their culture both in Lebanon and, mainly, when abroad.

Ms. Sayed and Mr. Hijazi met with LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani and discussed ways in which Ms. Sayed could assist LERC in its mission and activities.

Ms. Sayed was then given a presentation of LERC's electronic archives and database and taken on a tour of the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at NDU.