

November 2006

From the President

Hello everyone,

Hey, wasn't the prolonged Indian summer just great? I trust you made the best of it. Apparently average maximum temperatures at this time of the year are supposed to be between 7 and 10 degrees and at the time of writing that is what they had suddenly returned to.

The warm sunny days almost made me feel like I'm back in Australia. At least we don't have a shortage of water as so many parts of Australia do. After seven years of drought, the situation is critical in some parts and this has led to the Australian Government drafting plans for a national referendum to take control of water as it prepares to adopt a major shift in its stance on global warming.

Another month has come and gone so quickly, and the month has seen OZCON gain new strength with some new members and two new board members. Gabrielle Costigan has agreed to take on the job of Secretary and I and other board members welcome her. Gabrielle has been living in Vienna since 2001 but has only just 'discovered' OZCON. As Deputy Department Manager of OMV, Gabrielle has good organisational skills which make her most suitable to the position. She tells you more about herself elsewhere in the newsletter.

I mentioned last month that the board was looking for two ex-officio members to help out when things get tough. Well, I am pleased to announce we have found one such member. Nancy Schupelius has recently arrived in Vienna from Adelaide to take up the position of Head of the Secondary School at Vienna International School. Nancy is a very busy person and agreed to take the position if OZCON would provide *the tiara*. We are still looking Nancy and we welcome you and husband Leon and promise not to make too many demands on your time.

Which leads me to the next subject.....the **2006 UNWG Bazaar on 2 December**. This is my last opportunity to call for volunteers to make pavlovas and/or help run the OZCON stand at the Austria Centre on the day. It will not be an all-day demand on your time as we will draw up a roster of those who put

up their hands. Our bazaar coordinator Susanna Martin and Vice President Robert Clarke give details on page 5.

There are three other events I want to mention. One is the OZCON Christmas dinner with our guest, the Australian Ambassador Mr Peter Shannon. This year it will be held at the Imperial Hotel on the evening of Wednesday 6 December. It is an opportunity to dress up and enjoy a pre-Christmas drink or two, a lovely meal and good company so I hope you will join us. Gabrielle is our organiser and she will tell you how to book.

A little while back I sent out an advisory about two events, both on Saturday 11 November. I would like to remind you of the performance of the Australian Dance Theatre at St Pölten and that there is a bus from Vienna to the theatre and return for those who want to go but not drive the distance. The other event on the same evening is the Austrian-Australian Society's annual goose dinner at Gasthaus Brandauer's Bieriger, Schweglerstraße 37.

Finally, I would like to apologise to those members who were asked to pay extra postage to receive the October newsletter. We were caught out by our own success in producing a 10-page newsletter and not allowing for the extra postage. It was an unfortunate oversight on our part, but it does give me the opportunity to again ask members to receive the newsletter via email rather than through the post.

Stay warm and healthy.

Brett

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OZCON Lunch – 24 Nov. Details pg. 4
Family event on – 18 Nov. Details pg. 4
UNWG Bazaar – 2 Dec. Details pg. 5
OZCON Christmas Dinner – 6 Dec Details pg.5
Ambassador's Reception – 14 Dec. Details pg. 5

Travel Stories

A cycling trip along the Danube

by Ingrid Folger



For the past four years my husband and I have always said that we would like to ride the Donauradweg from Passau to St Pantaleon, where we live. This year we realised that if we didn't actually get on the train with our bikes we would have to wait at least another 12 years until Ruby, our 8 month old daughter, can ride the 140 km stretch herself as Molly, our oldest will soon be too big to fit into a bike seat.

Unlike the cyclists going by with their professional looking panniers, we pack up our daypacks with enough clothes for one night and tie it onto the back of our bikes. Molly has a few books and Ruby has a turkey and telephone to play with. And off we go. The train arrives in Passau just in time to have lunch before starting off for the first leg of the journey. We visit the HUSSEL chocolate shop. The range is exquisite; rose petals in a white chocolate, candied lemon in dark, ginger, red pepper, pineapple and lavender, etc. For those interested, the church in Passau has the largest organ in the world containing 17388 pipes.

For the first hour of riding, we are still in Germany, while taking the South side route means you enter Austria about 20 minutes out of Passau. The first leg of our journey was next to a busy road. Although we were presented with wonderful panoramas, such as a Lidl supermarket and other industrial buildings in between were wonderful mermaid sculptures. At Rosenstein we go over the boarder to Austria. Just past this on the South side is the Monastery of Engelzell. Built in 1293, the 76m tower is considered one of the best examples of Rococo, although my husband assures me that most Austrians will only know about the famous Monastery alcohol produced there (Klosterlikor). A ferry will take you and your bike across the river should you wish to visit this site.

The next part of the ride is through the Schlägener Schlinge' region. It is considered one of the most beautiful parts of the ride. The Danube is surrounded by romantic mountains covered in forest. Small little towns dot the route. Churches and castles can be seen in the distance. Schlögen is where many people will stay overnight, although it can be difficult to get a room here at short notice. We continued on a bit further past the ferry to Schlögen to take the ferry to Grafenau. €3.50 is the best bargain for a half hour Danube ferry trip you will get. A short ride further and we arrive at our hotel in Obermühl after 4 hours of very slow cycling.

The next day we cross with the ferry to the South side to ride in the sun. We continue to be surrounded by mountains, forests and small little towns (and Viking boats competing on the Danube) until we near Feldkirchen an der Donau, when the landscape changes to rural fields and farmhouses (although go around the corner and you may get surprises, like the man that makes beautiful wooden boats (Zillen) in Hofkirchen). Many little towns offer lunch opportunities and are all well provided with bike racks. A little past Ottensheim the route ends up again next to a loud busy road. This leads us into Linz. Although coming out of Linz you see the steel works of Voest, there are so many other wonderful things to see like the Baroque fountain in the Hauptplatz. The path continues along the Danube to Abwinden/Asten here we had the choice to continue on the North side to Mauthausen (a beautiful Baroque town as well as the Mauthausen Concentration Camp) or cross over to the Southside to Enns (the oldest town in Austria, founded by the Romans). Either way leads our way home to St Pantaleon. The South side path continues onto Vienna.

You cannot imagine the satisfaction of completing such a journey, particularly given how unfit we are. The children loved the surprises along the way, such as all the swans and ducks on the Danube. We loved seeing a part of Austria as we have seen more of Europe than the country we now live now in. I extend the offer to anyone attempting this journey to pop in and visit us in St Pantaleon as I miss hearing the Australian accent. We have a beautiful church with an original Roman fort and live directly at the forest next to the Danube. Send an e-mail in advance and I can even arrange for lamingtons. (For more information go to www.donauradweg.at)



Introducing OZCON'S New Secretary Gabrielle Costigan



I have been living in Vienna since 2001 and have had the opportunity recently to dedicate more time to non-work related events, such as Ozcon – but more on that later.

I grew up in Sydney, and studied civil engineering at the University of Sydney with emphasis on environmental engineering.

After my studies, I was convinced that I belonged on the construction sites. I worked as a construction engineer for SOCOG (Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games). In short: construction is a tough industry and so I decided to take a break and backpacked through Europe for six months and fell in love with Austria.

I then changed my career and started with a large consulting company Accenture (previously called Andersen Consulting) specializing in optimization of business processes. This job took me all over the world. I worked for many international companies such as Dairy Farmers, Pacific Dunlop, L'Oreal, Johnson&Johnson, Colgate-Palmolive, Danone, DHL, Deutsche Post, Alcatel and Porsche.

After many years of consulting work where I spent all week abroad in many European cities and in numerous hotels, I decided that having a 'job in the same city' would be a novelty and allow me to live like 'normal' people. So recently I have changed job and now I work for the Austrian Oli+Gas company. This allows me to be in Vienna during the week and dedicate time to my new role at OZCON as secretary.

I look forward to this challenging role as secretary and trust that there will be some interesting and fun times ahead of us.

My contact details are as follows and please feel free to contact me:
gabrielle.costigan@gmx.at

School Head joins OZCON Board



Nancy Schupelius, recently arrived in Vienna and a new OZCON member, has agreed to join the OZCON Board as an ex-officio member. And I am very happy to welcome her.

Nancy has come to Vienna as Head of Secondary School at the Vienna International School. Born in Oregon, USA; she is also an Australian citizen and came here from Adelaide where she worked for the SA Department of Education and Children's Services as a teacher and principal of several schools, including Brighton Secondary School. Her most recent position as Director of the SA Centre for Leaders in Education involved professional development for aspiring and experienced school leaders.

As an ex-officio member of the OZCON Board, Nancy will not be called upon to perform regular duties, but will be someone whom other board members might call on for help in times of need. We continue to look for someone to volunteer as a second ex-officio board member.

Nancy is married to Leon Schupelius, now retired, previously a manager with the National Australia Bank.

Leon is also a new member of OZCON and during a recent exchange of emails with Leon I discovered that he once worked for my father when he was a manager in the Australian National Bank at Glenelg in SA. Oh what a small world it is! Leon, be the way, is a keen golfer.

– Brett Bayly

Recent Events

October has been a quiet month for OZCON with most members getting back into the swing of things after the summer holidays. However, a group met at the Café Museum Friday 27 October for our monthly lunch. We said farewell to Elizabeth and Bin Anderson who are returning to Australia for a few months but will be back later next year. We also welcomed four newcomers, who we hope will become OZCON members and in the meantime have offered to help with the Bazaar.



For those of you who have not been to the Café Museum, here is a little bit of history from the café's website. "In 1899, Adolf Loos (1870-1933), who helped prepare the way for the Classic Modern school of architecture, laid the foundation for a coffee house which would soon become a beloved meeting place for the Viennese populace. In contrast to the ornamental style of the Vienna Secession which was dominant at that time, Loos placed all emphasis on simplicity and left out anything ornamental at all in the interior design. Clarity of form and finest materials were thus emphasised and placed in the foreground. The intentional simplicity of the cafe was considered revolutionary at that time. The interior design was so spartan that Ludwig Hevesi nicknamed the Cafe Museum 'Cafe Nihilism' shortly after its' opening: "somewhat nihilistic; indeed, very nihilistic, but appealing, logical, and practical."

Thirty years later, Loos' biographer Heinrich Kulka was to conclude: "The Cafe Museum is the starting point for all modern interior design." In the early 30's, and within Loos' lifetime, the entire interior was redesigned by Josef Zotti, a student of Josef Hoffman. In 2003, the cafe was reconstructed according to the original designs of Adolf Loos, and newly shines in its' old elegance."

Ambassador's Reception

The Australian Embassy has confirmed that Ambassador Peter Shannon will host a pre-Christmas reception for members of OZCON and the Austrian Australian Society at his Residence on Thursday on Thursday 14 December. The time is not yet known and members will be given further information via email later in the month.

What's on this month

OZCON Family Event on Saturday 18 November – Fasslrutchn in Klosterneuburg

15 November (Leopoldi) is the Feast Day of Saint Leopold, the patron saint of Vienna and Lower Austria. Leopold III, margrave of Austria (1073 – 1136) is the founder of the monastery in Klosterneuburg. It is a public holiday in Lower Austria and celebrated with numerous events and markets. An especially well known custom is the 'Fasslrutchn' at the monastery. It is fun for the young at heart and involves sliding over a huge barrel (it holds 56 000litres) in the monastery wine cellar. This custom dates back to 1704 and the barrel held the wine the monastery received as a tithe.



Meeting point: Final stop of U4 Heiligenstadt on the platform at 13.55. We will catch the S-bahn to Klosterneuburg at 14.10 (different platform). Please take for each member of your family an additional two single tickets (Fahrscheine) for the return journey, as we will leave the Viennese city border. Register with Susanna Martin by mail at paul.martin@chello.at or leave a message at 944 0353.

OZCON Monthly Lunch

GET TOGETHER FOR LUNCH!

Friday 24 November 2006

The Café Museum , Friedrichstr 6,
corner Operngasse and Friedrichsstrasse **from**

11.30. Lunch at 12.30

Why not join us for lunch?



Christmas Gala Dinner



Time has flown again, and even though the weather may not suggest it currently – Christmas is around the corner. OZCON is organising a Gala dinner to help celebrate the closing of yet another year.

Details are as follows:

Date: 6th December

Location: Hotel Imperial

Cost: 65Euro per person

Time: 18:30

The evening will start off with a glass of 'Imperial Cuvee Sekt' followed by a scrumptious three course meal.

Due to space limitations a 'first in, first served' concept will be followed and so you need to be quick in order to secure a sought after place.

We are pleased to also announce that the Australian Ambassador Peter Shannon will join us.

For registrations and payment details, please contact:

Gabrielle Costigan

Email: gabrielle.costigan@gmx.at

Phone: 0664 61 22522



Music Performance

DANIEL LINTON-FRANCE KLAVIER KONZERT

on 20 Nov. 19.00 Uhr at

GESELLSCHAFT für MUSIKTHEATER

Türkenstrasse 19 1090 WIEN

Reservations: phone: 01 317 06 99.

PAVLOVA'S NEEDED for December 2!!!

Here is a special plea to Australians, New Zealanders, friends and families. As you know the big UNWG Bazaar is almost upon us. We are asking your help for two things: firstly, we need heaps and heaps of Pavlovas! They are the big thing, and last year we could have sold lots more, if we had them ... so, if you can spare a bit of time to make a Pavlova (or two or three ...) it would be very gratefully received.

More Pavlova donations for the bazaar are required. The current count is still low and we should not deprive the cake loving Viennese of this Australian treat! Pavlovas can be dropped off at the Embassy on Friday 1st Dec before 13.00 or on 2nd December at the Australian stall in the Austria Centre.

Secondly, it would also be very much appreciated if on the day you could spend a little time at the OZ stall helping decorate the Pavlovas or help with the wine and beer section. It does not have to be all day (or even half a day) – an hour or so is all that is needed to help us.

So, if you can help and are able to bake a Pavlova and/or help us on the day, then please let us know via a brief e-mail to the President Brett at brett_bayly@yahoo.com.au or the Treasurer Susanna (after 5th of November) at paul.martin@chello.at (ph 944 0353) We will email or call to confirm your place in the roster closer to the day.

Thanks again,

Robert Clark and Susanna Martin



More recipes to use up those left over egg yolks

The best dinner after a long day helping on the Ozcon Women's Bazaar Stall is a simple Pasta Carbonara. While boiling water for pasta, (kicking off shoes, opening wine and checking what is on the television...)

Fry bacon pieces (würfel) and drain on kitchen paper. Beat one or two egg yolks per person with about 50 mls cream per person in a jug and add lots of black pepper. Quickly drain pasta when cooked, leaving a little cooking water on it and stir through egg/cream mixture. Add the bacon, a good handful of chopped parsley & a generous grating of parmesan. Serve with a simple green salad. *By Jeanette Hannaford*

29 October - **AUSTRALIAN consumers are paying more** because the drop in fuel prices is not being passed on. A jump in the price of anything from eggs to airline tickets was blamed on the world cost of oil. But, while petrol prices have fallen by at least 40 cents a litre, consumers are still paying a premium for many goods and services. And economists believe the grab for bigger profits will more than likely lead to a rise in interest rates when the Reserve Bank meets on November 7. (Sydney Morning Herald)

28 October - **THE drought** is expected to wipe more than \$6.2 billion from farm production this financial year as wheat growers face their smallest harvest in more than 10 years. As Prime Minister John Howard toured drought-affected areas in regional NSW, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics predicted wheat growers would face their smallest crop since 1994-95 as their harvest falls to 9.5 million tonnes this financial year. (Courier Mail)

27 October - **JOHN Howard's new hand-picked tribunal** chosen to keep a lid on Australia's minimum wage has defied a government warning of up to 240,000 job losses by granting low-income earners a \$27-a-week pay rise. Bitterly disappointed employers yesterday described the first decision handed down by the Government's Australian Fair Pay Commission to 1.2 million workers as "excessive". The increase is the biggest ever in dollar terms and will take the nation's minimum wage above \$500 a week for the first time. (Australian)

26 October - **NO timetable has been set for withdrawal of Australian troops from Iraq** despite comments by the army chief in Baghdad saying it could happen in 12-18 months, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said. Mr Downer said Australian commander Brigadier Mick Moon was making the point that Iraqi security forces should be able to control all of Iraq within a certain timeframe. "We don't put a time period on it," Mr Downer told ABC radio. (Mercury)

25 October - **A PROPOSED \$400 million solar plant** that could deliver 154 megawatts of power will be the cornerstone of the Howard Government's fight against climate change. In a political shift that steals an approach trumpeted by federal Labor, the federal and Victorian governments will contribute \$125 million towards the plant, to be built in northern Victoria using technology developed by Melbourne firm Solar Systems. The announcement today, part of a \$230 million package, is the first in a series that will see an eventual \$2 billion invested in new technology aimed at cutting greenhouse emissions. (Australian)

23 October - **Australia could lose almost half of its vineyards** over the next 40 years, with climate change making inland regions like Coonawarra and Sunraysia too hot and dry to produce high quality wine, according to new research. A joint study by the University of Melbourne and CSIRO climate experts says hotter temperatures and acute water shortages will dramatically alter the growing seasons, wine regions and wine varieties produced by Australia's \$5.8 billion wine industry. (Canberra Times)

23 October - **FORMER Democrats leader Natasha Stott Despoja** will not contest next year's election, effectively sealing the demise of the Democrats, three decades after they were founded by the late Don Chipp. Senator Stott Despoja, with a strong personal following in South Australia, was the party's only senator with any real chance of re-election. Of the other three Democrat senators, Andrew Murray (Western Australia) is not recontesting, while leader Lyn Allison (Victoria) and Andrew Bartlett (Queensland) are standing again. (Age)

21 October - **THE Federal Government is drafting plans for a national referendum** to take control of water as it prepares to adopt a major shift in its stance on global warming. The Government has sought legal advice on Section 100 of the Australian Constitution - which gives states and farmers control of water trade and allocation - as it prepares to roll out a multi-billion-dollar drought and climate change package in the next fortnight. (Canberra Times)

19 October - **THE war in Iraq has been a "catastrophic blunder"** that has substantially increased the terrorist threat to Australia, one of the nation's most distinguished former diplomats said today. Richard Woolcott, a retired foreign affairs chief who advised eight prime ministers, launched a sweeping attack on the federal government, saying that Australian democracy was not functioning as it should. Mr Woolcott made the comments during a speech at the University of Newcastle's annual Human Rights and Social Justice lecture this afternoon. He branded the Iraq war a "disaster", saying the Prime Minister seemed unable to admit the obvious. (Age)

Laws of the Natural Universe

**Law of Biomechanics:
The severity of the itch is inversely
proportional to the reach.**

Aussie News in Brief *cont.*

18 October – **THREE-QUARTERS of the Army's next deployment of troops to the Solomon Islands** will be volunteers from the part-time Territorial Force. The ratio is much higher than normal. Minister of Defence Phil Goff yesterday said the Territorial Force would provide the majority of personnel deploying to peacekeeping roles in the Solomon Islands in the next 12 months. The Territorials come from a wide range of professions as well as students. They commit a minimum of 21 days a year to training, and their deployment overseas is likely to put pressure on employers. (New Zealand Herald)

17 October - **IT may be the baby bonus**, but Australian women are giving birth at record rates. Latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show the national fertility rate stands at its highest level since 1995. A total of 259,800 new babies were registered in 2005, an increase of 5,500 over 2004. The actual fertility rate stands at 1.81 babies per woman, up from 1.77 in 2004 and close to the 1995 rate of 1.82. (West Australian)

15 October - **Prime Minister John Howard** has given his strongest support yet to the use of nuclear power in Australia, backing the local development of the "clean" energy industry. An expert taskforce is due to release a draft report next month on the merits of nuclear power and whether Australia should be thinking of value-adding options, such as enrichment, for its vast uranium stores. But before the experts have even had their say, Mr Howard has indicated he believes nuclear power is an industry Australia should be developing. "I'm in favour of Australia developing nuclear power for peaceful purposes," he told the Nine Network. (Sydney Morning Herald)

15 October - **THE nation's obesity crisis** is costing the country \$11 billion a year in health-care costs and absenteeism. Australia is the world's second fattest country after the United States, with about 7 million adults and one in five children overweight or obese. (Age)

14 October - **THE states have condemned the federal Government** for stalling key water projects as they face growing pressure to buy water from farmers to top up city supplies. Amid rising tensions over what has been labelled one of the worst droughts in the nation's history, state leaders lashed out at suggestions in the commonwealth's first national water audit that they had "failed" in key areas of water reform. (Weekend Australian)

Procrastinate Now!

Classifieds

Furniture for Sale

3 old sofa beds, 3 cabinets, child's desk and one quality IKEA children's bed which adjusts to three levels. Location 22nd District. Call Brett on 264.5813 or email brett_bayly@yahoo.com.au

Row house for sale: Am Krautgarten, Wien 22
Genossenschaft house - 22nd district, 10 minutes from Vienna International Center and to the Vienna International School

Very desirable living compound especially to VIC community and convenient public transport
The house has: 5 bedrooms, one living room with terrace, another living area heated in basement
2 bathrooms, 3 toilets (WCs), small garden, 2 balconies, fully equipped kitchen, wooden floors, all in excellent condition

Interested pls call: 0699 11247385 or call Mr Salim Chahin 26030 6233

* * *

WANTED: Apartment for rent or to house-sit

Seeking small fully furnished apartment, central location.

Rent: €450 - 550 per month

Contact: Tara Laan (tara.laan@yahoo.com.au) or Tom Westcott (cataract99@hotmail.com)

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL MUSIKSCHULE under direction of MICHELLE LINTON-FRANCE has newly opened and some vacancies still exist for PIANO, VIOLIN and CELLO and CHAMBER MUSIC for intermediate level and Adults.

Address THURNGASSE 15/3 1090 (near University on the Ring) Enquiries 0699 1 226 0 446 or michelle.linton-france@chello.at

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<http://members.aon.at/cottage/index.html>

or contact Joanna Reutter on 0664 5432 869

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BLZ 32000

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Membership Fee 2006: Euro 20

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Mattiellstrasse 2-4, 1040 Vienna

Tel: 506740

Useful Websites:

www.virtualvienna.net

www.australian-embassy.at

www.ninemsn.com.au

www.kids-days.com/Wien/index_wien.html

www.expatsconsulting.com

www.homesick.com.au

www.viennababiesclub.com

<http://www.abc.net.au/vod/news/>

www.australianaonline.com.au

www.news.com.au

Other Associations

Austrian-Australian Society (ÖAG)

Hubert Heine, General Secretary

Tel: 0676 5003058; 9847328

Heine69at@yahoo.de

www.australia-austria.at

American Women's Association (AWA)

Tel: 9662925; awa@xpoint.at

www.awavienna.com

Women's Career Network (WCN)

Tel: 9662925; wcnvienna@yahoo.com

www.wcnvienna.com

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