

April 2007

From the President

Happy Easter OzCon members.

When you read this I will, hopefully, be enjoying the sunshine of Brisbane or Adelaide....first Brisbane for my son's wedding then on to Adelaide to visit my daughter, other family and friends. So please have the sun back when I return.

How do you feel about smokers and smoking in public? I ask because at long last it is becoming an issue here. I believe that Austria is far behind many other western countries when it comes to laws about smoking. I just hate walking into a restaurant to find it filled with cigarette smoke, despite a tiny space in a corner which is designated 'kein rauchen' or 'rauchen verboten'. I walk out again.

But I am prompted to ask after reading an article in the Australian media about a northern Sydney council which is set to become Australia's first smoke-free municipality. The prohibition was passed unanimously by Mosman Council with residents themselves reported to be willing to help enforce it.

The ban means smoking is now no longer allowed in parks, public squares, bus shelters and council car parks. This is on top of restrictions already in place at beaches, outdoor dining areas, children's playgrounds, public events, playing fields and the grounds of council managed building.

Mosman was also the first local government to ban smoking in outdoor dining areas and on beaches.

Is this going too far? If you want to have your say, write or email us and we can publish your views.

Lastly, I want to use this space to pay a brief tribute to an ex colleague of mine. Liz O'Neill OAM was a bright, upfront and even might I say confronting type of woman who knew what she wanted and would go after it with vigour. When I knew her she was a newcomer to the world of public affairs and diplomacy and worked as a junior public affairs officer at the Australian Embassy in Tokyo. She got what she wanted, to be Counsellor Public Affairs at a big embassy like ours in Jakarta. She loved the job and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her work in helping victims of the Bali and Australian embassy bombings and the 2004 tsunami. Liz was aboard the plane that crashed at Yogyakarta in early March. She and four other Australians were among the 22 who lost their lives. Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer announced the other day that a permanent memorial would be erected for Liz and another Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade officer, Ms Allison Sudradjat.

Enjoy your Easter...and go the Aussies (in the Cricket World Cup in case you were wondering).

-- Brett



This is a safe swimming beach at a popular beach resort just south of Eden on the NSW coast. And it's four days before Christmas 2006. True, the weather wasn't so good. But we had the beach to ourselves for several days with hardly another person in sight.

-- By Brett Bayly

A VISIT TO ST PETERSBURG (or *LOOKING FOR RASPUTIN*)



Catherine II's Palace

We had a chance to zip up to St Petersburg in January – ÖAMTC had a 5 day special ... so off we went.

As there had not been much snow in Vienna, we were assured of seeing some up there! Yes, we were not disappointed as it was -21°C when we hit the airport! Pulkovo Airport is a bit out of town, so we had a 45 minute drive to our hotel, the Hotel Pribaltiyskaya. It is right on the Bay of Finland and would be in a superb position for the beach in summer. However, the bay was frozen solid (cars were doing wheelies and spraying snow everywhere – what a way to go!!) and the sunsets over the snow on the ice were amazing.

Nevsky Prospekt, the main drag of St Petersburg is 5km long– WOW! There are some pretty impressive buildings along the sides. I had to laugh – on the top of one of the older palaces (which I think is now a Department Store) there is a big advertisement for Fosters!

We had three and a half days of checking out the wonderful buildings, museums and palaces. There were a few things that I really wanted to see: the Winter Palace/Hermitage and Catherine II's Palace with the Amber room, the final resting place of the last of the Romanovs (in the St Peter and St Paul cathedral with a very, very tall stunning golden spire. Their remains were finally laid to rest there in July 1998), and ... Rasputin!

These places certainly lived up to what was expected – and more! I have never seen so much gold in my whole life! At least it was gratifying to know that the “treasures” were looked after during Stalin times even though human life was not. As there are masses of tourists coming through at all times now, it is in everyone's interest to keep things nice.

Even though it was real nippy, there was a bright blue cloudless sky every day and that made things even better (except, of course when the pollution from the many smokestacks of the heavy industrial areas on the outskirts of the city started to descend).



The Winter Palace/Hermitage

We were told that St Petersburg was named after the Apostle Peter, and not Peter the Great (not necessarily because he was “good”, but because he was 2.04m tall!). He got serious about building a European city there in 1703. The area was quite flat and marshy, and Peter the Great was taken with Amsterdam, so he wanted heaps of canals. They didn't all work out and so now many are just wide straight roads. All the nobles and Royal hangers-on came to St Petersburg (probably because they had to!) and tried to outdo each other in the palaces and buildings there – hence, so many fantastic and unbelievable buildings.

Needless to say there were some other very, very impressive Cathedrals there – the Kazan Cathedral needs to be seen, as does the St Isaac Cathedral with the 4th largest dome in the world. It could hold up to 14,000 people (the largest in Russia), but is now “just” a museum. The St Alexander Nevsky Cathedral (Nevsky was the hero of the 1240 war with Sweden) has a cemetery with Tchaikovsky, Dostoevsky, Rimsky-Korsakov and heaps (perhaps many!) of others buried there.

So, where was Rasputin? The very last palace we went to was the Yusupov Palace. It seems that the family was of Tartar origin and came into prominence with Ivan the Terrible. Their palace was also fantastic and most of the original goodies were in the Hermitage for safekeeping (along with the rest of the 2.7million bits and pieces!).

We looked here and there ... and, blow me down ... Rasputin was having his last meal in the cellar there! The wax effigy was really life-like.



It seems that the locals (members of the distinguished families!) were a bit jealous that a smelly unkempt Siberian peasant who had worked his way into the close circle of the Royals (he said that he could cure the males of Haemophilia – and I suppose it was their last resort).

So, someone was given the job to poison him with strychnine ... but the sweet cakes made the poison much less effective (so the story goes ... but then again the one designated to set up the poisoning may have got cold feet!). He was then shot twice, but being a pretty tough peasant he survived that too! Eventually he was drowned ... and the rest, as one says ... is history!

We JUST had to go in winter! And, we will go back for another few days in summer because I really want to see the beautiful parks and the green trees and perhaps check out a few more of the places we only saw from the outside as the bus took us from place to place.

-- By Robert Clark

Aussie Humour?



Where else could you find something like this? In a country pub in southern NSW! The weather was hot and it reads: **Do you like the smell of stale piss on a hot day? No, well pull the chain. It doesn't take much! PS WASH YOUR HANDS!**

OzCon Bar Night Friday 13th at Flanagan's

Due to the wonderful response to the last call for a Bar Night at Flannigan's in March, it has been decided to have another one ... this time Friday 13th April again starting at 5:00pm at Flanagan's, Schwarzenbergstrasse 1-3, 1010 Vienna. Did you know that last year there were two Friday 13th "occurrences"? (very rare) This year it is the only one! So, make the most of it!

The added incentive is that Australia will be playing the ODI cricket match against the West Indies in the Super 8 competition (really getting serious now!), and that should be shown on the big screen in the room we had at Flannigan's. After beating Scotland by 203 runs, Netherlands by 229 runs and South Africa by 83 runs, why not come to cheer the Aussies?

Bring along some cricketing stories – if you have them, of course! Even if you don't have any stories, and – horror – even if you don't like cricket ... come along anyway, even if it is just to catch up with friends.

Unfortunately, the excitement of the ODI cricket series has been somewhat dashed by the death of the well known cricketer and coach of the Pakistan team, Bob Woolmer. Perhaps by Friday 13th the police will have been able to uncover more information concerning his untimely death. Similarly, the unfortunate spectre of allegations of "match fixing" has once again reared its ugly head as well.

If we make it to the final (but of course we will) we will hold another Bar Night at Flanagan's on Saturday 28th April to watch and hopefully celebrate Australia's victory! Stay tuned we'll confirm closer to the time.

-- By Robert Clark



Income and Expenditure Statement 2006

Opening Balance 1.1.2006	€1,550.54
Income	€1,941.25
Expenditure	€2,189.03
Closing Balance 31.12.2006	€1,302.76

A Bit of Fun!

The European Commission announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather than German, which was the other possibility.

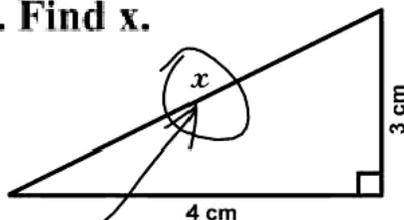
As part of the negotiations, the British conceded that English spelling has room for improvement and accepted a 5-year phase-in plan for "Euro-English".

- In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy.
- The hard "c" will be dropped in favor of "k". This should klear up konfusion, and keyboards kan have one less letter.
- There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome "ph" is replaced with "f". This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter.
- In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible.
- Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling.
- Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the languag is disgrasful and it should go away.
- By the 4th yer people wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v".
- During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensibl riten styl.
- Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech oza. Ze drem of a United Urop vil finali kum tru.
- Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil al be speking German like zey vunted in ze forst plas.

Frustrated with Exams?

How not to submit an exam paper

3. Find x.



Here it is

The United Nations Womens Guild cordially invites OzCon members to join the tour of the Stephansdom



Date: Friday 13th April 2007

Tour Starts at 9.30am

Duration approximately 1½ hours

Location: We meet in front of the main entrance of the church at 9.20am (U1, U3 Stephansplatz)

Minimum: 20 participants

Cost: €12 per adult and €6 per child up to the age of 15

This year St. Stephen's Cathedral is celebrating its 700th anniversary. With its 137m high spire it is the landmark of Vienna. We will hear about legends connected with the dome, view the artwork, discover the different architectural styles and find out why the church has only one complete spire. The highlight will be a visit to the attic with a view over Vienna. Do not forget to take your camera with you. Children are welcome.

Please Note: Take wind resistant clothing with you and wear comfortable footwear.

For further information and to register your participation please contact Susanna Martin on (01)944 0353 or by email: susanna.martin@chello.at

Hommage to Queen



A group of ten attended the show which was an exciting mixture of dance and effects to the music of Queen. The show opened to a huge crowd with the British National Anthem introducing the band. The entertainment continued in the tradition of Queen with unexpected scene decor, video projections, some of which showed original footage of their stage shows, and dry ice effects.

The ensemble easily moved from rock n roll ballades to lyrically touching moments and humorous scenes. The highlight was the second half when most of their hit songs were performed. The song "Bicycle" saw a lot of bicycles on stage and a video projection of Viennese cyclists along the Donaukanal. Freddie Mercury's illness and death were movingly represented.

The famous song "We are the Champions" was the encore with all the dancers, including the junior troupe performed. Everyone enjoyed themselves and there was a standing ovation for the dancers.

-- by *Susanna Martin*



OzCon Welcomes a New Member



Hello, My name is Rosie Maughan, I have been living in Vienna for the last 2 years. I have lived in various places around the world, but grew up in little old Adelaide. Then, deciding it was time to see some of the world, I spent the next 2 years living in Scotland, while taking the time to travel around Europe.

Having moved back to Perth for a short duration (another 2 years), I decided to try Europe again, and moved here to Vienna. While my family and friends are spread out across the southern hemisphere (from Perth to Fiji), I am one of very few living north of the equator.

My back ground is Geology, although I am currently working in the challenging field of Occupational Health and Safety. Living and working in Vienna is both exciting and complex at the same time. Having learnt very limited French at school (not particularly useful here), the Austrian and Viennese dialect has proved tricky, but aside from that, I enjoy the lifestyle that Vienna has to offer. I like being able to head to the mountains and enjoy the snowy winters (although this year hasn't had too much to offer).

I enjoy the atmosphere of downtown, the architecture, the bars and restaurants. To try and capture 'My Vienna' I have recently purchased a new camera and am exploring side streets trying to discover all the hidden secrets the city has to offer.

Spot the Aussie Flag Contest



A reminder that we are holding our "Spot the Aussie Flag" contest. Take a photo and email it to OzCon at ozcon_board@yahoo.com (email ozcon_board, underscore) or you can post a print to our Secretary Gabrielle Costigan at Belvederegasse 3/21, 1040 Vienna. The photos will be published in our newsletter, with the name of the photographer, and the OzCon board will pick the most original photos as the winners.

OzCon Monthly Lunch

Monthly lunches suspended

Due to the small number of people attending recent monthly lunches we have decided to suspend future lunches for the time being. If you wish to resume the lunches, or have other suggestions, please let your board know.

CLASSIFIEDS

Teachers Wanted

An Austrian Bilingual Grammar School located in the 17th district is looking for English teachers across the curriculum. Sciences in particular, TEFEL qualifications are necessary. If you or anyone you know are interested please contact:

Gottfried Oehl-Reynolds

Ph: 0676 501 3748

Gottfried.oehl@gmail.com

Teacher Position Available

As a "native speaker" of English, have you ever thought of teaching in the English/German bi-lingual program in Klosterneuburg, just out of Vienna, Austria? There will be a vacancy for someone to teach Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and English who has appropriate teaching qualifications and experience, from September 2007. Having knowledge of German language is an advantage, but not a real necessity.

Please contact the Director (Dr. Koch) at 324016@noeschule.at Ph: 02243 32155 or Robert Clark at rcclark@utanet.at Ph: 02243 31985 if you, or someone you know is interested.

FOR SALE

MEDION NAVIGATOR

Car navigation system that has hardly been used ... (Reason: my German is not good enough, and it is not improving!)

IT COST me €350 but you can have it for €250.

Contact: Robert Clark for details or phone

02243/31985 e-mail: rcclark@utanet.at

FANCY A LAMINTGON?

Yummie Lamingtons made to order. Please contact Liz Crawford. Ph: 0699 1268 1023 or email: Lizziecrawf@yahoo.co.uk

Monthly Recipe



We invite OzCon members to share their recipes that will be published in the newsletters. Please email to Lizziecrawf@yahoo.co.uk or send via the mail to Liz Crawford, Gürtelstrasse 49, 2514 Traiskirchen.

Veal Cutlets with Herbed Parmesan Crumbs

Many people find pan frying crumbed cutlets tricky as often the crumbs stick to the pan. With this oven technique, perfection is guaranteed every time.

Serves 4

4 Veal Cutlets

2 Beaten Eggs

2 Cups of Fresh Breadcrumbs

½ Cup of Flat Leaf Parsley, chopped

½ Cup of Grated Parmesan Cheese

Grated Rind of One Lemon

2 Tablespoons Olive Oil

Salt and Pepper to Taste

Place the flour on a sheet of grease-proof paper, place the lightly beaten eggs in a shallow bowl and season well. For the flavoured crumbs, combine the crumbs, parsley, lemon rind and parmesan and place this onto a sheet of paper. To crumb the cutlets lightly coat them with flour, shaking off any excess. Dip them into the egg then firmly press a good coating of crumbs onto each side. Place the cutlets onto a baking tray lined with baking paper. Drizzle over the olive oil. Bake in a 225C oven. When the crumbs are brown your cutlets are cooked.

Baking Tip

If you have been looking for Self Raising Flour it does not exist in Europe! All you need to do is mix 200 grams of plain flour (Weizenmehl Universal) with 1 teaspoon of baking powder (Backpulver) and that gives you Self Raising Flour.

Mahlzeit!!

-- by Liz Crawford

Aussie News Briefs

26 March - **QANTAS** suitor Airline Partners Australia made a last-ditch attempt yesterday to pull its \$11.1 billion bid back from the brink of failure. The unusual step by major Qantas shareholder Balanced Equity Management on Friday to formally reject the offer forced consortium members, including Macquarie Bank, Allco Finance and Texas Pacific Group, into a series of crisis meetings over the weekend. (Age)

24 March – **NSW Premier Morris Iemma** has scored a stunning victory in tonight's state election, preserving Labor's majority virtually intact. With well over half the votes counted, it appears Labor will lose no seats to the Liberals, but will shed Tweed, on the far north coast, to the Nationals, and one or two Hunter Valley seats to independents. While Labor's margins -- inflated after several Bob Carr landslides -- have been shaved across the state, the Coalition will have a big job to win government in 2011. (Australian)

23 March - **THE uranium industry's peak body** expects exports to eclipse \$1 billion within the next decade as mining companies push to fill the gaps between world uranium supply and demand. "Australia cannot isolate itself from the search for additional energy sources," Australian Uranium Association executive director, Michael Angwin told a conference in Adelaide today. "Significantly, middle Australia has shifted ground considerably and positively on uranium exploration and mining and there is now a much larger groundswell of support for an expansion of this potential," Mr Angwin said. (Australian)

22 March - **LABOR** has unveiled a \$4.7 billion plan to provide high-speed internet communications across Australia, as part of an expensive nation-building program that will underpin Kevin Rudd's election campaign. Determined to shift Labor policy towards the Centre, the Opposition Leader yesterday called on the party to overcome its historical resistance to selling off Telstra. (Australian)

21 March - **VIRGIN Blue** is to buy six new long-haul Boeing jets as it prepares to launch a new international service on the Pacific route. The new airline, as yet unnamed, will pay \$2.2 billion for six Boeing 777-300ER jets with an option for a seventh, bringing the possible total to \$2.6 billion. Virgin Blue chief executive Brett Godfrey hoped US officials would approve up to 10 services a week for what will be the fourth airline flying directly to the United States alongside Qantas, Hawaiian Airlines and US carrier United. (Advertiser).

17 March - **A northern Sydney council** is set to become the country's first smoke-free municipality. The prohibition was passed unanimously by Mosman Council last week, News Ltd newspapers report, with residents themselves willing to help enforce it. The ban means smoking is now no longer allowed in parks, public squares, bus shelters and council car parks. This is on top of restrictions already in place at beaches, outdoor dining areas, children's playgrounds, public events, playing fields and the grounds of council managed building. (AAP)

16 March - **THE federal government** will push ahead with its proposed health and welfare smartcard, despite a Senate inquiry raising major concerns it could become a de facto identity card. The government wants the access card to replace the Medicare card and other benefits cards, and has explicitly ruled out its use as a national identity card. (AAP)

16 March - **Australian diplomat Elizabeth O'Neill**, killed in last week's Indonesian plane crash, has been remembered as a compassionate woman whose lust for life inspired everyone around her. Mourners this morning packed the Catholic Church of St Canice, in Sydney's harbourside suburb of Elizabeth Bay, to bid an emotional farewell to the 37-year-old mother of one. Ms O'Neill, the spokeswoman for the Australian embassy in Jakarta, was among 21 people and five Australians who died when a Garuda airlines Boeing 737 overshot the runway at Indonesia's Yogyakarta airport last Wednesday. (West Australian)

14 March - **AUSTRALIAN and Japanese military forces** will exercise and train together as the result of a groundbreaking security co-operation declaration signed last night by John Howard and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The two countries have agreed also to co-operate in efforts to curb North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Referring to opposition in Australia to the declaration arising from memories of wartime Japanese atrocities and the subjugation of "comfort women", Mr Howard said: "Whilst we move on, we don't forget the past." (Australian)

11 March - **Cyclone George** today claimed a third victim when a 42-year-old man died of head injuries in Perth's Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Craig Allan Raabe, 42, of Gympie, in Queensland, was hurt when George's 275km/h winds tore through a railway construction camp south of Port Hedland in the Pilbara region in the state's north-west. (Age)

An actual call centre conversation
Caller: "I deleted a file from my PC last week and I have just realised that I need it. If I turn my system clock back two weeks will I have my file back again?"



Performances with Australian Artists

From the Australian Events Calendar as at 4th April 2007, Australian Embassy Vienna

<p>12 April 7.30pm</p>	<p>Fairy Tales of Indigenous People of Australia</p>	<p>Schubert Theatre Waehringner Strasse 46 1090 Vienna Ph: 0650-303 4129 schuberttheater@gmx.at www.maerchenfuermenschen.at</p>	<p>Austrian Christa Schmollgruber and musician Bernhard Mikuskovics will be reciting fairy tales, music and myths of a time when “humans were still animals and animals human”.</p>
<p>13 April 8pm</p>	<p>The Church in Concert</p>	<p>Szene Wien, Hauffgasse 26 1110 Vienna Ph: 01 749 3341 www.szenewien.com www.thechurchband.com</p>	<p>Famous Australian art-rock band <i>The Church</i> will play in Austria for the first time. <i>The Church</i> will be promoting their critically acclaimed album “Uninvited, like the Clouds”.</p>
<p>28 April 6pm</p>	<p>Ulrichsberger Kaleidophon 2007</p>	<p>Jazzatelier Ulrichsberg Badergasse 2 4161 Ulrichsberg Ph: 07 288 6301 afischer@jazzatelier.at www.jazzatelier.at</p>	<p>The Allstar-Ensemble EFZEG with musicians from Australia will perform live in concert at the Ulrichsberg jazz festival in Upper Austria.</p>
<p>4 May 9pm</p>	<p>Matt Burke & Acoustic Friends</p>	<p>Rockhouse Salzburg Schallmooser Hauptstrasse 46 5020 Salzburg Ph: 0662 884 915 Service@rockhouse.at www.rockhouse.at</p>	<p>Australian singer/songwriter Matt Burke releases his second album “LIVE the ROCKHOUSE” on 4 May. “Matt’s acoustic folk-rock music what you could expect if Jack Johnson and Sting were kidnapped and made to write songs together to save their lives.”</p>
<p>7 – 13 May 7pm</p>	<p>Exhibition by Teresa-Lucja Tonar</p>	<p>Lerchenfelder Str. 13 Im Durchhaus, 1070 Wien Ph: 01 969 4001 kandinsky@gmx.net www.kandinsky.at</p>	<p>Teresa Tonar will exhibit her paintings inspired by her travels to Australia.</p>

Unless otherwise specified, all telephone numbers are in Vienna

Australian Connection (OZCON)

email: ozcon_board@yahoo.com

President: **Brett Bayly**

Tel 06991 264 5813; H 264 5813
brett_bayly@yahoo.com.au

Vice President: **Robert Clark**

Tel/fax 02243/31985
rcclark@utanet.at

Secretary: **Gabrielle Costigan**

Phone: 0664 61 22522
gabrielle.costigan@gmx.at

Treasurer and Membership Coordinator

Susanna Martin-Murtinger
Tel H: 944 0353
paul.martin@chello.at

Newsletter Editor: **Liz Crawford**

Mobile: 0699 1268 1023
Home: 02252 252 638
Lizziecrawf@yahoo.co.uk

Ex-officio board member: **Nancy Schupelius**

Tel: 236 0564
elons@silverserver.at

Bank Account Details:

Susanna Martin-Murtinger
OZCON Account
Raiffeisenlandesbank Niederösterreich – Wien
BLZ 32000
Kontonummer (Account Number): 12.097.176
Membership Fee: Euro 20

Australian Embassy

Mattiellstrasse 2-4, 1040 Vienna
Tel: 506740

Useful Websites:

www.ethermagazine.at
www.nucolorvue.com.au
www.australien-lifestyle.de
www.virtualvienna.net
www.australian-embassy.at
www.ninemsn.com.au
www.kids-days.com/Wien/index_wien.html
www.expat-consulting.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 (OAG)

Hubert Heine, General Secretary
Tel: 0676 5003058; 9847328

Heine69at@yahoo.de
www.australia-austria.at

American Women's Association (AWA)

Tel: 9662925

awa@awavienna.com
www.awavienna.com

Women's Career Network (WCN)

Tel: 9662925

wcnvienna@yahoo.com
www.wcnvienna.com

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