

OzCon BBQ at the Alte Donau

The late afternoon storms which had been prevalent for days stayed away and the weather was perfect for the first of what should be at least an annual OzCon barbecue.

Members and non members made their way to the grassed and well shaded Naturfreunde Club on the Alte Donau on Saturday 16 June. The barbecue area was all ours, with a 'fridge for the drinks and a barbecue for the cooking while others chose to buy their food at the club's kiosk.

There was plenty of space for the children and various games, including cricket, drew some adults away from the conversation at the tables. There was also swimming in the Alte Donau.

People came and went while others stayed for the afternoon. The last of us packed up at 20:00.

And as a result of the day, OzCon welcomes new members Meredith and George Park and Gene Turner.



Sharyn and Michael Rieger with Robert Clark and Ambassador Peter Shannon



Group shot under the flag



There was swimming in the Alte Donau, sun angels Courtney Blacker and Rebecca Frank



All in together!

From the President

June has been a good month for OzCon, and now it is time to take a break as people head off for the summer holidays.

We had our first barbecue for sometime in the pleasant grassed grounds of the Naturfreunde Club on the banks of the Alte Donau followed the next week by our monthly bar night at Flanagan's. I'm glad to say both events were well attended and we gained some new members as a result.

There are two events remaining on the calendar which I should mention. The first is a tour of *Desert Dreaming*, an exhibition of Aboriginal art at the Albertina starting at 17:30 on Wednesday 18 July. This is a combined tour with the UN Womens Guild and registration is necessary with Susanna Martin.

I can vouch for the value in seeing this magnificent exhibition, having done so with experts as part of an Australian Embassy-hosted seminar on 28 June. On display is the Donald Kahn Collection which *The Wall Street Journal* described as one of the top 10 art exhibitions currently on show anywhere in the world. Donald Kahn is a patron of the Albertina and this is one reason why this famous gallery is staging this most unlikely exhibition.

The second event is another bar night on Friday 24 August. While many will be away on holidays, some members asked that there be a bar night for those who are in Vienna.

As a political journalist back in the days of my servitude in the Canberra Press Gallery, I always found the myriad of facts and figures that came out of national census fascinating. It was a break from the regular day-to-day battles and intrigues of Australian politics, some real and others imagined, to read just how Australians actually lived.

The latest data from the 2006 census was released in late June and, among other things, it showed that for every 100 women in Australia, there are 97 men.

Reflecting an ageing population, Australia's median age rose from 34 to 37 years in 2006 and the share of the population aged 65 and over increased from 12.1 per cent to 13.3 per cent. Marriage is still the norm for couples, although married couples now account for a lower share of the population than they did in 1996 - down from 53.3 per cent to 49.6 per cent.

While Christianity remains the dominant religion, growing slightly from 12.6 million followers to 12.7 million, it has fallen as a proportion of the population from 71 per cent to 64 per cent. The number of followers of Hinduism has more than doubled since 1996, now covering 0.7 per cent of the population, and followers of Buddhism also doubled to more than two per cent of the population. Islam accounts for 1.7 per cent and Judaism 0.4 per cent. Almost 19 per cent of Australians said they had no religion.

More school students now attend private schools, 35 per cent, compared to 30 per cent in 1996. And in the words of *The Australian*, Australia's ethnic diversity is staggering, with 40 per cent of our people either born overseas or having a parent born overseas.

I could go on, but space dictates otherwise. So I close with OzCon's wishes for a safe and most enjoyable holiday period whatever you are doing.

There will not be a newsletter in August and we will be back with more activities in September.

--- Cheers, Brett



OzCon Bar Night: sitting outside before the thunderstorm!



OzCon Bar Night: great fish and chips!

Desert Dreaming - Australian Aboriginal Art - July 2007



The dreamtime is the mythical time when the world and all beings were created, according to Aboriginal belief. The dreamtime tells of the journeys and deeds of the creators and their ancestors. Aboriginal paintings use modern painting techniques (circle, lines, wave lines, dot points) to express these stories with extraordinary visual power.

Date: Wednesday, 18th July 2007

Tour starts: 17.30

Duration: 1.5 hours approx.

Meeting time & place: 17.15 at the main entrance of the Albertina, Albertinaplatz 1, 1010 Wien

Minimum 15 people, maximum 25 people

Cost: €12 per person

The tour will introduce Mr. Donald Kahn's collection which is one of the largest of this kind.

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

OzCon Bar Night

Come along and join us again for a drink with OzCon members on Friday 24th August at Flanagan's, Schwarzenbergstr. 1-3, 1010 Vienna from 5pm.



Want to be healthy, then follow the rules

Karlsbad in the Czech Republic is famous for its thermal mineral water and people from all points of the globe have been experiencing its healing powers for generations.

And, as with time comes tradition. In fact, there are Ten Commandments for partaking of the Karlovy Vary Drinking Cure as you will be told if you visit Karlsbad.

1. Karlovy Vary thermal mineral water should be drunk only after consulting a qualified spa physician (*of which there are many in Karlsbad*).
2. To attain the full curative effect, the water should be drunk at the springs.
3. It should be drunk from the traditionally shaped porcelain or glass cups only. (*There are many on sale around Karlsbad*).



4. The cure should not be combined with the consumption of alcohol or smoking of tobacco products; even passive inhalation of tobacco smoke is harmful.
5. The drinking cure includes physical exercise; thus the water should be drunk while walking.
6. The drinking cure should be accompanied by peace of mind and a relaxed pace of life.
7. The drinking cure should be repeated as recommended by your physician.
8. The cure is a kind of ceremony. Please do not disturb other clients.
9. Mineral water cannot be used for watering the nearby plants or poured on the floor in colonnade area.
10. For hygiene reasons, please do not touch the spring stand or outflow pipes when taking water from the spring fountain.

So be warned...and take your wallets.

The italics are my additions – **Brett Bayly**

A Bit of Fun! Weather Forecast

It was April and the Aboriginals in a remote part of Western Australia asked their new elder if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild.

Since he was an elder in a modern community he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the tribe should collect firewood to be prepared.

But being a practical leader, after several days he had an idea. He walked out to the telephone booth on the highway, called the Bureau of Meteorology and asked, "Is the coming winter in this area going to be cold?"

The meteorologist responded, "It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold."

So the elder went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood in order to be prepared.

A week later he called the Bureau of Meteorology again. "Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?"

The meteorologist again replied, "Yes, it's going to be a very cold winter."

The elder again went back to his community and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find.

Two weeks later the elder called the Bureau again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?" he asked. "Absolutely," the man replied. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the elder asked.

The weatherman replied, "There are reports that the Aboriginals are collecting firewood like crazy, and that's always a sure sign".



Two Aussie Icons – A Holden and a BBQ!



The birdlife in Australia is so prevalent to the point of sometimes being annoying. These crimson rosella parrots abound in the Snowy Mountains. They are wild but feed off your hands.

Website Names Gone Wrong

These are legitimate companies that didn't spend quite enough time considering how their online names might appear in print.

Who Represents is where you can find the name of the agent that represents any celebrity. Their Web site is www.whorepresents.com

Experts Exchange is a knowledge base where programmers can exchange advice and views at <http://www.expertsexchange.com>>

There's the Italian Power Generator company, www.powergenitalia.com

The Australian Embassy

The Australian Embassy in Vienna encourages all Australians travelling or residing in Austria to register with them.

The registration information provided by you will help them to find you in an emergency - whether it is a natural disaster, civil disturbance or a family emergency. It may also be used to pass other information to you such as, new travel advisories, notice of elections and information on other matters relevant to travellers and expatriates. For example, the Australian Federal election will be held this year and advice of voting options will be advised by email.

Your information is strictly protected by the [Privacy Act 1988](#). To ensure this information is kept safe during transmission the Department uses Secure Socket Layer (SSL) and Firewall technology.

You can register on-line at www.orao.dfat.gov.au. If you have any difficulties please contact the Australian Embassy in Vienna at austemb@aon.at

CLASSIFIEDS

If anyone is going to the US for a holiday and wants to experience the wilds of Montana in the foothills of the Rockies, here's a suggestion from a friend of our President.

Hi to my Friends Down Under!

I just put my web page on line for my guest lodging facility. As you should know, my door will be open always to you. If you have any friends thinking about visiting the U.S., especially the West, give them my info. Check out- www.tx-ranch.com

Kitchen appliances

New kitchen being installed (in September) so all appliances must go. Refrigerator GORENJE: 3 compartments – freezer, fridge, and drink cooler. 180 x 54 x 57

Freezer ZANKER 6-drawer 160 x 60 x 54

Stove and oven ELIN 3-plate. Dishwasher BOSCH, small, suitable for holiday house. All appliances are in working order. Have a look and make an offer. Located in 22nd.

Call Brett 264.5813 or email brett_bayly@yahoo.com.au

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.

Cottage Pie

Serves 4

1 diced onion
2 carrots, peas, celery, corn
500g LEAN minced meat
Beef & onion cuppa soup
Worcester sauce
Approximately ½ cup red wine
150g tomato paste
Mashed potatoes

Fry the onion, cook the veggies and brown the mince. Add cuppa soup (no water) then add some Worcester sauce, the red wine and tomato paste and cook for a few minutes. Top with mashed potatoes. Bake in a moderate oven for approximately ½ hour.

Optional: Layer grated cheese throughout.

Mahlzeit!!

*- This recipe was received from Suzanne Prissmann.
Many thanks!*

Aussie Names, Phrases & Words

- A standard reply to 'Thank you,' is 'No worries, mate.'
- Instead of 'How are you doing?,' it is 'How are you going?'
- Something 'sketchy' is described as 'dodgy.'
- A 'bloke' is a male, a 'sheila' is a girl.
- A 'Kiwi' is a New Zealander.
- Pharmacies are called 'Chemists' and are stores all on their own.
- A lot of anything is 'heaps' and someone you don't like is a 'wanker.'

Aussie News Briefs

1 July - **PRINCE William** could prove an immensely popular choice as Australia's next governor-general but the future heir to the British throne is never likely to score the job. The reported secret desire of the 25-year-old William to come to Canberra for a stint as governor-general received a thumbs down yesterday from John Howard and Kevin Rudd. The Prime Minister has the power to advise the Queen on who her representative in Australia should be. (Australian)

29 June - **AUSTRALIA'S population** has reached an estimated 21 million. The milestone is thought to have been achieved about 9.32pm on Friday, according to an online clock operated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) that estimates the country's resident population. The estimate calculates an increase of one person every one minute and 45 seconds by averaging one birth every one minute, 56 seconds; one death every three minutes, 59 seconds; and a net gain of one international migrant every three minutes and 15 seconds. Australia's population passed the 20 million mark in December 2003, according to ABS data. (AAP)

27 June - **AUSTRALIANS are earning more money**, Hinduism is growing now covering 0.7 per cent of the population, and women do more chores than men. The latest data from the 2006 census, released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), also confirms we're ageing as a nation. The median household income in Australia last year was \$1,000 - \$1,199 per week, up from the 1996 median of \$600 - \$699. However, Australians are now less likely to own their own home outright and more of them are paying one off. (Herald Sun)

27 June - **JETSTAR has returned fire** in the airfare price war sparked by the entry of Tiger Airways into Australia, undercutting its new rival's launch fares within hours of their release. Singapore's Tiger this afternoon launched its first local routes with a salvo of aggressive pricing, including all-inclusive one-way Melbourne to Darwin flights from \$79.99. The Qantas-owned budget carrier Jetstar swiftly responded to the incursion on its turf, cutting its lowest Melbourne to Darwin fare to \$79 from Tiger's launch date on December 1. (Age)

25 June - **THREE Australians arrested in Lebanon** are alleged to be part of an extremist Muslim group, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said today. The Australian men were arrested in Tripoli in Lebanon's north in the past few days.

"They've been arrested as a result of fighting between the Lebanese army and Islamic extremists and they certainly weren't in the Lebanese army," Mr Downer told reporters in Canberra. (Australian)

25 June - **IN a bold bid to cut speeding deaths** on our roads, authorities have designed a campaign to shame men into driving slower. Built around the slogan "Speeding. No one thinks big of you", the campaign implies that men who drive fast are only doing so to compensate for having small appendages. The RTA campaign, launched yesterday by glamour girl Imogen Bailey, is the latest shock ad aimed at altering the behaviour of young people. (Courier Mail)

23 June - **SMOKING will be banned** in the grounds of all ACT public schools from January 1. Education Minister Andrew Barr announced the ban yesterday, saying smoking at school was not a good look. Smoking is already banned at public primary and high schools in the ACT, but most colleges have smokers' corners in car parks or on ovals. These areas will be scrapped next year and anyone wishing to smoke - student, teacher or visitor - will have to leave the school's grounds. (Canberra Times)

22 June - **THE Prime Minister** has cited a "national emergency" to justify a radical takeover of indigenous affairs that will give the Federal Government control over almost every aspect of Aboriginal life in the Northern Territory. The unprecedented seizure of federal control will involve draconian measures - including bans on alcohol sales and cuts to welfare payments - to tackle an epidemic of child sexual abuse in the territory. The scale of the problem was revealed in a report released last week, and John Howard challenged the states yesterday to follow his sweeping changes to tackle the crisis. (Sydney Morning Herald)

20 June - **FEDERAL Cabinet** has approved a \$10 billion contract to build five warships - including three air-warfare destroyers - of Spanish design. Prime Minister John Howard and Defence Minister Brendan Nelson are expected to make the announcement today. Australia's biggest-ever naval ship-building contract will also include two 27,000 tonne amphibious ships at a cost of at least \$2 billion. (Daily Telegraph)

18 June - **GEOGRAPHY will be elevated** to one of the nation's priority school subjects with the announcement by the federal Government of a study into the decline and teaching of the discipline. The study, to be completed by early August, will investigate the reasons for the slide in the quality and rigour of geography taught in schools and determine the fundamental knowledge all students should have by the end of Year 10. The announcement by Education Minister Julie Bishop puts geography alongside English, maths, science and Australian history in the development of core content for a national curriculum. (Australian)

Aussie News Briefs Cont'd

17 June - **AT last the rains have fallen** in the right places and Sydney's dam catchment area has had its best drenching in years. Heavy rains poured on Sydney's suburbs and the South Coast was pounded by strong winds and heavy rains, with 112 millimetres falling in the heart of the Warragamba Dam catchment area. Dam levels are predicted to rise by up to 5 per cent, pushing drinking water storage levels to 45 per cent, the highest in three years. (Sydney Morning Herald)

17 June - **THE High Court** upheld a decision 6-1 this week that a review of a Sydney restaurant was defamatory and an attack on the restaurant's capabilities as a business. The real loser in this case, notwithstanding the newspaper, which may be forced to fork out heavy compensation, is the public. (Canberra Times)

15 June - **THE average Australian** is working less time to pay for essential groceries today than they did almost 30 years ago, research shows. The Australian National Retailers Association study showed Australians today have to work 229.5 minutes to pay for a typical basket of groceries, compared with 250 minutes in 1978. (Age)

14 June - **A GREAT escape** by thousands of big Atlantic salmon from a fish farm has fuelled a mid-winter boom in a seaside Tasmanian town. The fish were about to be harvested two weeks ago when their pen ripped while being towed across Macquarie Harbour on the west coast of the island state and they swam to freedom. As the news that 9000 salmon weighing around 5kg were on the loose, recreational fishermen descended on the local town of Strahan - to the delight of Mayor Darryl Gerrity. "This is usually a quiet time of year, but the place has been wall-to-wall with fishermen, four-wheel-drives and dinghies." (Australian)

14 June - **POLICE have lost a set of road spikes** in the force's latest embarrassing gaffe. Still reeling from the theft last month of confidential documents that were then given to the Finks motorcycle gang, senior officers are hoping the spikes will simply be handed in after they were left at the scene of an arrest on Tuesday. (Advertiser)

14 June - **THE acute shortage of doctors** in country Australia has forced one regional surgery to offer GPs \$500,000 simply for signing on. The huge sum - which will come on top of the doctor's \$200,000-plus annual earnings - is believed to be the highest cash lure offered by under-doctored rural towns, some of which have been engaging in a price war in an effort to tempt doctors out of the big cities.

The \$500,000 will be paid by the Victoria Street Surgery in Temora, in western NSW, after the successful candidate completes a three-month trial period. (Australian)

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

A wedding on a mountain and in church

The summer months are here and OzCon has a wedding to celebrate. OzCon Secretary Gabrielle Costigan and her partner Georg Rappold are about to walk down the aisle.

The couple have found that customs are a little different between Australia and Austria and so planning the wedding has been quite a learning experience for them both.

An additional complexity is that it is 'a country side' wedding to be held near Gratz (Bundesland Styria) on 28 July. Those of you who have that lived in Austria a while longer will appreciate the fact that a 'country side' wedding has a load more customs than a Viennese style city wedding.

The main difference that the pair has decided to have the church wedding on a separate day to a private civil ceremony with witnesses which will be held on 7 July.

Gabrielle and Georg have decided to hold the civil ceremony on top of the mountain in the area called RAMSAU and this will be celebrated in real Austrian style of hiking up the mountain wearing Lederhosen, Dirndl and Rucksack.

After some serious hiking, the evening will be spent eating a hearty meal of Austrian food with lots of Schnapps and finally putting the head down in the most "comfortable" mountain cabins. Hmmmmmmmm, for those that know Gabrielle (who is a typical Sydney gal.....) that's what we would call REAL love.

This is going to be interesting and so we will read more in the September newsletter and hopefully see some photos.



Performances with Australian Artists

From the Australian Events Calendar as at 3rd July 2007, Australian Embassy Vienna

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>15 June to 29 August Monday to Sunday 10am – 6pm</p> | <p>Desert Dreaming: Australian Aboriginal Art</p> | <p>Albertina Albertinaplatz 1 1010 Vienna Ph: 01 534830 www.albertina.at</p> | <p>Exhibition of the Western Desert collection of well-known arts patron Donald Kahn. Set to be the biggest Aboriginal art exhibition in Vienna.</p> |
| <p>11 July 7.30 pm</p> | <p>Mal Webb at the Festival Comedy</p> | <p>Theater am Spittelberg Spittelberggasse 10 1970 Vienna Ph: 01 526 1385 Email: tickets@theateramspittelberg.at www.theateramspittelberg.at</p> | <p>Vocal adventurer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist from Melbourne, Mal Webb. His comedy program knows no boundaries and ranges from self-composed mini operas to comic vocal performances.</p> |
| <p>12 July 8.00pm</p> | <p>Beasts of Bourbon live in Concert</p> | <p>Szene Wien Hauffgasse 26 1110 Vienna Ph: 01 749 3341 www.textperkins.net</p> | <p>Swamp Rock at its best. Tex Perkins and Band will be presenting their new album "Little Animals" live at the Szene Wien.</p> |
| <p>1 September 8.00pm</p> | <p>Bourne live in Concert</p> | <p>Zum Goldenen Löwen Hauptstrasse 10 3034 Maria-Anzbach Ph: 02772 52472 Email: office@zumgoldenenloewen.at www.zumgoldenenloewen.at</p> | <p>Australian Bourne with their Electro-Acoustic-Rock will be performing live in Maria-Anzbach.</p> |
| <p>Until 31 August Monday-Friday 10am – 6pm Saturday 10am-5pm</p> | <p>Aboriginal Art Now – Contemporary Australian Art</p> | <p>Galerie Wolfrum Augustinerstrasse 10 1010 Vienna Ph: 01 512 53 98 0 Email: wolfrum@wolfrum.at www.wolfrum.at</p> | <p>The Galerie Wolfrum in co-operaton with Sonja Endt from "aboriginal fine art" and Theresa Fischer from art station "Kollmitzberg" will be showing contemporary Aboriginal Art in Vienna's 1st district.</p> |
| <p>Until 9 September Friday, Saturday, Sunday 2pm-6pm</p> | <p>"Begegnungen"</p> | <p>Galerie Judith Walker Schloss Ebenau 9162 Feistritz im Rosental Ph: 04228 2110 Email: office@galerie-walker.at www.galerie-walker.at</p> | <p>Aboriginal art on exhibition at the Galerie Judith Walker in Carinthia.</p> |

Unless otherwise specified, all telephone numbers are in Vienna

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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.expatsconsulting.com

www.homesick.com.au

www.viennababiesclub.com

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

www.australianaonline.com.au

www.news.com.au

www.expatriates.com

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