

September 2007

## From the President

Welcome back everyone, whether you have been away during the summer months or you spent time enjoying the many summer activities that Vienna has to offer. I trust you have had a good break whatever the circumstances.

We at OzCon have a few changes to announce and so my report is being added to by two other Board members this month. Robert Clark has come to the end of his five years here in Vienna and he and his wife Ingrid are returning to their beloved Perth later this month where Robert hopes to do some substitute teaching. Thank you Robert for your support and keen interest in OzCon over the past three years and especially more recently as Vice President. And so that leaves the VP position open, and our Secretary and newly married Gabrielle Costigan has stepped up to the plate to fill the position.

I trust that Gabrielle will back me up by saying her job is not arduous. In fact, both Robert and Gabrielle might say this about both positions. I say this because we are now looking for a new Secretary who will join our Board and play an active role in maintaining OzCon as a relevant organisation for its members. Please let me or any Board member know if you are interested.

While it remains the task of all OzCon Board members to put things together, I remind members that it is up to you to tell us what you would like to do or see happen. The organisation remains only as effective as its members make it.

I'm happy to say that after some concern that we might not be able to mount the Australian stall at this year's UNWG Bazaar, we are back on course to selling hundreds of pavlovas and lamingtons once again. As in past years, we will be calling for volunteers in a couple of months. I have written further about this on page two.

Finally, another word of warning for anyone who has not confirmed their enrolment for the coming Australian federal election. The politicians returned to Parliament on 13 August for what is expected to be the last session before the election. AAP says the calling of an election is "imminent." The moment the Governor General approves the calling of the election, the electoral rolls close.  
*- Brett*

## Hello everyone,

This is your retiring Vice President ... who is going back to Perth in a few weeks. When my Austrian wife said that she had a chance to come back to teach at her old school in Vienna in 2002, I had no hesitation in saying something like "what a great idea – count me in to come over too!"

The last five years here have really flown, and yes ... we have been a bit busy one way or the other. Vienna is most certainly one of the easier places to live – with fantastic public transport, lots of cheap and excellent beer and wine, heaps of tremendous eating places ... it goes on. Vienna has also been a wonderful place to use as a starting point to visit so many places that used to sound quite exotic to me. Even though I have done a lot of travelling before coming here, it was easy to duck over to Uzbekistan, up to Scandinavia, through to Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria and similar places.

Many people have asked me what I will miss ... other than the things already mentioned, I shall also miss the changing of the seasons, the "green" trees, the snow and ice (although I will happily live with out those two!), and I shall also miss the wonderful people we have met here. However, I am looking forward to seeing my old Mum (who was over 80 before she first saw snow here), my family and friends back in Perth, having a BBQ easily, and watching cricket and the Dockers (who SHOULD win a few more games next year!).

In closing, I would also like to give my thanks to the OzCon group who were able to open up my horizons a few years back. To those of you who are staying here, please support the group – yes, I know the argument that we have a chance to be with other local people, but there are also those who, for one reason or another, are not quite so fortunate. Besides, I think it is great to be able to be with, and speak to, people on occasions who have a common background. We don't have to live in each other's pocket, but a little bit of effort and a chance to say "hello" to a fellow OZ every now and then is so very important in our daily life.

So, once again, thank you to all the people who have helped in enriching my life here. If I don't get a chance to say a personal "goodbye" to you, please don't be offended – there seems to be so many, and I am sure I shall miss out on someone.

Regards, and all the very best to everyone,  
**- Robert Clark**

## Summer Holidays

What did you do during your summer holiday? Why not tell other OzCon members where you had a good time? You don't have to write an article, just send a photo or two with a brief description. For example, Opatija in northern Croatia is the former playground of European royalty. Today it's a popular tourist destination with high-ranking hotels, numerous quality seafood restaurants along its shores and clear water to spend casual hours on or in. Opatija is about a six-hour drive from Vienna.



## It's bazaar how time flies by

September already, and that means Autumn! Where has the year gone? It also means our thoughts turn once again towards that big annual event, the UNWG Bazaar that raises money for children's charities around the globe.

For the information of our new members, this is perhaps the biggest event on the OzCon calendar because the Australian stand at this bazaar has gained a big reputation over the years for the unique food it offers and the amount of money it raises. In a huge hall filled with food stands, Australia's stand is the place to be for dessert – pavlovas and lamingtons with Aussie red and white wine, beer and coffee.

Last year our stand, which is a joint OzCon/Australian Embassy effort, raised €3.176,66 after expenses. Out of the 42 restaurant stalls, the Australian stall ranked as the 6<sup>th</sup> most successful thanks to all our volunteers.

This year the bazaar will be held on Saturday 8 December at the Austria Centre.

Members may recall that in early July I circulated an appeal for someone to take on the role of coordinator, or co-coordinator. I'm glad to say that after some concern that we would not have a coordinator, I can report that we are back on track. OzCon members Melanie Willers and Carolyn Forbes have agreed to be co-coordinators working with Susanna Martin, who last year took on the task on her own.

This is indeed good news for OzCon and I am sure it will make this year's bazaar an even bigger success than last year.

The coordinators must have unescorted access to the VIC precincts to attend meetings of the UN Women's Guild and to bring together the many bits and pieces that go towards making the stall possible.

We will be seeking sponsorship of the wine and beer this year and we will launch our annual appeals for pavlovas and volunteers later in the year.  
**– Brett Bayly**



Brett Bayly, Ambassador Peter Shannon, Susanna Martin and Peter King ready for the onslaught at last year's bazaar!

## Desert Dreaming - Australian Aboriginal Art

On a nearly as hot day as in summertime Alice Springs , 19 art enthusiasts from OzCon, The United Nations Womens Guild and the American Womens Association met at the Albertina and had a guided tour through the Desert Dreaming Australian Aboriginal Art exhibition.

About 40 pieces of extraordinary visual impact were shown and the guide took great care to explain the various symbols in the pictures depicting people, animal tracks, bush food, and meeting places. The majority of the paintings were from the late 1980s and collected by Donald Kahn, a generous sponsor of the Albertina and used the dot point style.

After the guided tour people used the opportunity to look through the imperial rooms



Uta Uta Tjangala, Tingari-Reise, 1986



William Sandy, Bush Tucker-Tjukurrpa, 1988



Maggie Napanangka, Wakirlpirri Jukurrpa, 1989

## Gabrielle's Wedding Austr(ian)alian Wedding - Part Two

For those you that read the June Newsletter you will know that I tied the knot on 28th July, 2007.

The wedding with a total guest number of about 145 was also held in Styria and was celebrated in a combination of Austrian and Australian style. The church ceremony, which was held in Stift Rein was done in a ecumenical style with the Catholic priest and Aramaic bishop. It was very interesting for the traditional Austrian guests to be part of a very different wedding ceremony. The main difference was that crowns are placed on the head of the wedding couple which symbolizes the peak of the ceremony and the vows vary in content.

Afterwards, there was a mass convoy of the guests to the Golf Resort in Murhof. It is the first golf course that was set up by the British after the war and thus an institution in its own right. Wedding photos were taken with golf carts and clubs and we had a lot of fun with the props. In the meantime, the guests had the choice of either enjoying the cocktail drinks or having a free mini-golf lesson.

My personal highlight was at the reception after dinner where I was forced to get up and sing (accompanied by the band) 'Waltzing Matilda'. Of course I wouldn't want to do this special performance without my Aussie friends (from Sydney) on stage as well and we sang the song until our hearts were content. My family, who also arrived for the wedding - were spared the ordeal...thank goodness!

The party continued on till 4.30am and at that stage my feet just couldn't cope any more (at times like these I ask myself who invented high heels?!) We said our farewells to the rest of the troopers who were merry enough to continue on till the early morning hours.

- Gabrielle Costigan



The Happy Couple!!

## ***OzCon Bar Night***

**Come along and join us again for a drink with OzCon members on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September at Flanagan's, Schwarzenbergstr. 1-3, 1010 Vienna from 5pm.**

**This will be a special Bar Night as Robert Clark OzCon's current VP is leaving Vienna for Perth. He will be at the Bar Night and it will be an excellent occasion to wish him all the best downunder!**



## **A Bit of Fun!**

- Two Aussies are adrift in a lifeboat. While rummaging through the boat's provisions one of them finds an old lamp. He rubs the lamp and a genie suddenly appears. This genie tells them that he only grants one wish. Without giving much thought to the matter, the lamp finder blurts out, "Turn the entire ocean into VB!" The genie claps his hands with a deafening crash, and immediately the entire sea turns into beer. The genie disappears and only the gentle lapping of beer on the hull breaks the stillness as the two men considered their circumstances. The second Aussie turns to the first and says, "Nice going mate! Now we're going to have to pee in the boat."

- A Texan farmer goes to Australia for a vacation. There he meets an Aussie farmer and gets talking. The Aussie shows off his big wheat field and the Texan says, "Oh! We have wheat fields that are at least twice as large". Then they walk around the ranch a little, and the Aussie shows off his herd of cattle. The Texan immediately says, "We have longhorns that are at least twice as large as your cows". The conversation has, meanwhile, almost died when the Texan sees a herd of kangaroos hopping through the field. He asked, "And what are those"? The Aussie replies with an incredulous look, "Don't you have any grasshoppers in Texas"?

## **Best signs**

**Sign over a Gynecologist's Office:**

"Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

**On a Maternity Room door:**

"Push. Push. Push."

## **MLC Choir and String Group Performance in Vienna**

MLC School, located eleven kilometres from Sydney's CBD, is a Kindergarten to Year 12 Uniting Church school with a current enrolment of 1200 girls. Established in 1886, the School has a strong tradition of excellence.

MLC School's music department is a multi-award winning exemplar of music education in Australia nationally, winning awards from the Australian Music Centre (AMC), the Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA), the Fellowship of Australian Composers, ASME (NSW) and Orchestras of Australia. In 2006 the MLC music program was selected as a model of exemplary practice for the Australian National School Music Review.

A choir and string group from MLC School will be touring Europe in September and October of 2007. Under the direction of Mrs Karen Carey, the Director of Music at MLC School, the ensembles will be performing varied repertoire including works by Australian composers such as Paul Stanhope, Matthew Hindson and Ross Edwards.

MLC School will be performing in the Peterskirche in Vienna on Wednesday, September 19 at 7pm. There is no admission price to this concert and the works performed will include well-known choral and string repertoire as well as Australian music.

Performance has been a major focus at MLC for many years. MLC girls have prepared challenging performances of opera and music theatre, as well as a variety of choral, chamber and symphonic repertoire. The girls perform biennially at the Sydney Opera House, a reflection of their reputation in Australia. MLC has conducted several international music tours all of which have been highly acclaimed for their standard of performance and for the presentation of Australian music in venues including St Mark's Basilica in Venice. Recordings made during the MLC School Music Tour of Scandinavia in 2004 were nominated for a National Award for Performing Excellence.

All are welcome to attend this concert in Vienna to hear this interesting music performed by talented international students.



Christopher Hayles © 2007

## OzCon Welcomes New Members Introducing Andrew & Carolyn Forbes

We are 150% Aussies - Carolyn is 100% and I'm 50%. You see, Carolyn was born in Sydney, but I was born in England. However, early in my youth, I moved to Canada, then the USA, then Australia (1974), where I fell in love with the sun and surf, and incidentally, Carolyn. I started working for CSIRO Marine Research in Cronulla, while Carolyn, who is a professional radiographer, started her career at Sydney Hospital, then moved to private practice. In 1983, still a POM, I was transported to Tasmania for the term of my natural (scientific) life. How could we refuse the opportunity to live in a state that most Australians only get to visit on holiday? After a decade or so there, I got used to beetroot in my burgers and icy cold beer, bought an Akubra and became an Australian citizen. Since then, we have spent twenty years in Hobart raising our two children and exploring every inch of that lovely island state.

Three years ago though, a friend of mine at CTBTO rang us up from Vienna and alerted me to a hydro-acoustics position in the International Monitoring System Division. My previous experience with hydro-acoustics was transmitting signals across the Pacific Ocean to measure global warming, much to the alarm of some environmentalists who thought we might put the whales off their feeding and breeding. As it turned out, after many negative newspaper headlines, the whales (who clearly don't read the papers) either totally ignored us or were attracted to our strange signals. I somehow convinced CTBTO that a marine scientist would feel right at home in Austria, a land-locked country, and could run a hydro-acoustic monitoring program from the banks of the Alte Donau. The only downside of moving to Vienna was that Carolyn had to retire from radiography and become a lady of leisure - poor thing! Here we have been able to indulge in our love of travel and exploration, with many weekend and holiday trips within Austria and to neighbouring countries.

We are also enjoying the challenge of spraching the Deutsch! Despite the best efforts of our respective teachers, we still have a long way to go before being fluent, but practice macht Perfekt!



## Introducing George & Meredith Park

Meredith and I bought an apartment in the 18<sup>th</sup> district of Vienna about three years ago and are fortunate to be able to divide our time between Sydney and Vienna. Actually Meredith is the true Aussie in the family, having been born in Adelaide. I'm a 'new' Aussie, since I was born in the States and only recently became an Australian citizen.

Meredith and I met at the World Bank in Washington D.C. and spent the first 17 years of our married life in the Washington D.C. area, residing in Northern Virginia. My career at the Bank was in operations focused on project and country strategy work. My last assignment for the Bank was in Warsaw, Poland, where we spent four fascinating years from 1995 to 1999. At the end of our Warsaw assignment, and after 25 years with the Bank, I decided it was time to retire.

After not too much debate, we opted to live in Australia and so the whole family, including our daughter Susanna and son Andrew, moved to Sydney towards the end of 1999. Meredith and I love living in Sydney, but having lived in or worked in so many different countries, we also missed the travel and expatriate life style. Hence we decided to see if it was possible to set up a base in Europe.

Having traveled to Austria quite often during our stay in Warsaw, and since we have good Austrian friends, we eventually decided to establish a second residence in Vienna. We continue to enjoy the many attractions Vienna has to offer, such as hiking in the Vienna Woods, evenings at one of the Heurigen and the amazing choice of concerts, operas, and other music and cultural activities which one can attend at almost any time of the year. In addition, there are the Austrian Alps and skiing plus the ease of travelling to so many other places in Europe.

We will ultimately return to Australia full time, but as long as we can we hope to continue to enjoy Vienna and Austria.



## Classifieds

### Executive Apartment for lease

4th District, Favortinestrasse 6-4 (5 minutes walk to the 1st District)

A top floor, unfurnished executive apartment is now available for long term lease. Comprising 2 large bedrooms, a family room, separate dining room, modern kitchen, entrance hall, tiled bathroom and laundry/storage room. A feature of this apartment is the private, roof top terrace providing 360 degree views of Vienna. In addition, the apartment comes with air conditioning, hydronic heating and gas hot water.

Rental fee: 1,624 Euros per month

For further information please contact Trevor on mobile number (0) 664 81 444 72

## Aussie News Briefs

### Compiled by Brett Bayly

18 August - **THE Howard Government** has intensified pressure on the Labor premiers ahead of the federal election, calling for the nation's ports to be managed by a single commonwealth-controlled body. In the latest commonwealth incursion into areas of state responsibility, Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile said last night Canberra could pump billions of dollars into export infrastructure in NSW and Queensland, but insisted the states would have to surrender control of the big coal-loading ports along the nation's east coast. (Australian)

15 August - **FOREIGN Minister Alexander Downer** believes selling uranium to India could make the world safer by strengthening global efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. The federal government is expected to do a policy backflip allowing India to buy Australian uranium although it isn't signed up to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT). Traditionally, being a signatory to the NPT has been a condition of all uranium sales. (AAP)

## Monthly Recipe



We invite OzCon members to share their recipes that will be published in the newsletters. Please email to [Lizziecrawf@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Lizziecrawf@yahoo.co.uk) or send via the mail to Liz Crawford, Steinbruchgasse 7, 2500 Baden.

### Yummy fast Chocolate Cake

Preheat the oven to 160°C

125g butter (soft or melted, both work)

200g castor sugar

Mix

Add 3 eggs

In another container: 50g cocoa powder (sifted, it's usually full of lumps and stir in 125 ml boiling water. Add water carefully and stir like mad to avoid lumps). Set aside to cool a bit.

Add 200g ground walnuts (any nut will do), 60 g plain flour, 1 pkt. Baking powder (15g), 1 pkt. Vanillin sugar (or Vanilla essence if you have it). Add the chocolate mixture to the egg and butter mixture. Stir and then slap mixture into baking paper-lined tin.

Cook in 26cm tin for 30 mins.

Cook in 20cm tin for 45 mins.

Careful: you take it out of the oven when it is JUST cooked – as soon as you smell a strong “chocolaty” smell, it's done.

Let it cool in the pan. Serve with sifted icing sugar dusted on top and Greek yoghurt on the side (let some ordinary yoghurt drain a bit for an hour through a cloth) ... Yummy.

Mahlzeit!!

*- This recipe was received from Jacqueline Montanaro-Punzengruber. Many thanks!*

## Aussie News Briefs Cont'd

15 August - A **NEW global ranking** puts Melbourne fifth and Sydney sixth among the world's top 20 university cities. The inaugural Global University City Index produced by RMIT University is believed to be the world's first index ranking university cities. It rates cities based on their scale and "livability", the number of world-class universities with an internationally diverse population and their investment and performance in education and research. London ranked No.1, followed by Boston, Paris and Tokyo. New York ranked seventh after Sydney, followed by a run of six US cities up to 13th rank. After Tokyo, the next Asian city comes in at No.14: Hong Kong. (Australian)

15 August - **THREE Australians** have been charged with terrorism-related offences in Lebanon over a large weapons cache found by the Lebanese army in June. Australian diplomats were putting pressure on Lebanese authorities about "serious allegations of mistreatment" of the men in detention, Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) said. (Advertiser)

10 August - **THE Australian stock market** posted its biggest one-day fall in six years today following falls on Wall Street still spooked by the rout in the US sub-prime mortgage sector. The largest fall since the September 2001 US terrorist attacks wiped almost \$53 billion from the value of the Australian market, rattling investor confidence and eroding superannuation-linked gains. (West Australian)

9 August - **FRESH jobless data** today showing that unemployment remains low has reinforced the Reserve Bank's decision to raise interest rates. A further 21,800 jobs were added to an already tight labour market in July. But despite this employment rise, the jobless rate held steady at a seasonally adjusted 4.3 per cent in July. The RBA raised interest rates for the first time since November last year yesterday, citing renewed price pressures in the economy. (Australian)

7 August - **AUSTRALIANS are more likely to be overweight**, less likely to marry, and are consuming more goods and services as their income increases, according to a new snapshot of the nation. The new Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) report - Australian Social Trends 2007 - highlights some of the changes in the way we live. The latest figures (2004/05) show that around 7.4 million, or 54 per cent, of Australian adults were overweight or obese. This is an increase from more than two million adults in 1995. And obesity rates are surging, compared with those adults who are overweight.(AAP)

6 August - **THE Liberal Party's trusted pollster has warned John Howard** that voters have lost faith in him. The devastating document also shows the PM's age would be a key factor in an election loss. It said Labor leader Kevin Rudd was a chance for generational change and he was the most important reason voters were leaving the Coalition. The Government had to stop Labor setting the agenda, stress its economic management record and paint Labor as a risk. The secret dossier relays cutting criticism of the Prime Minister as old and dishonest, while Mr Rudd was seen as genuine and accessible. (Herald Sun)

4 August - **THIS year's bumper snowfall** has led to record attendances across NSW's snowfields throughout July. Figures issued by Snowy Hydro show that snow depth at Spencers Creek in Kosciuszko National Park reached 150cm in July, its highest mark since 2002. Combined with improved snow-making capabilities, Thredbo and Perisher Blue resorts enjoyed the thickest snow depth for the June month in 17 seasons. (Canberra Times)

2 August - **THE Australian National University** has cemented its place at the top of the national research league ladder and, along with Melbourne University, in the world's top 100. Seventeen Australian institutions made it into the top 500 for research in the latest world university ranking. They compete with the prestigious US universities of Harvard, California-Berkeley and Princeton, which again dominated the line-up this year. The ranking, which favours research universities, comes as Australian institutions jostle for top billing in the first national audit of their research performance next year. (Australian)

1 August - **AUSTRALIA has pledged medical assistance** but no troops for an international peacekeeping force for Sudan's troubled Darfur region. Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Australia could offer only a "very limited" role in a United Nations peacekeeping force, given the military's existing commitments in Iraq, Afghanistan, Solomon Islands and elsewhere. "We are looking at providing some ... civilian doctors and nurses to assist the UN with this peacekeeping force," Mr Downer said. (AAP)

25 July - **QANTAS has launched a new class for economy passengers** travelling on long-haul flights and revealed a new version of its iconic flying kangaroo logo. The airline's new premium economy class will be offered on international flights of its Boeing 747-400 and new Airbus A380 aircraft. Qantas executive general manager John Borghetti said premium economy would appeal to economy travellers seeking more space and a higher level of service. "The seats offer extra width and recline, more legroom, and an in-arm digital widescreen television monitor, as well as laptop power connection," he said. (Canberra Times)



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### Performances with Australian Artists

From the Australian Events Calendar as at 22 August 2007, Australian Embassy Vienna

<b>5 – 11 September</b>	<b>ARS Electronica 2007</b>	Ars Electronica Hauptstrasse 2 4040 Linz Ph: 0732 7272 0 Email: <a href="mailto:info@aec.at">info@aec.at</a>	Australian Oron Catts' "SymbioticA" (Hybrid Art) is one of this year's winners of a "Golden Nica Award". The theme of this year's Festival is "Goodbye Privacy – Welcome to the Brave New World!"
<b>17 September</b> 7.30pm	<b>Austria meets Australia</b>	Imperial-Saal Akademisches Gymnasium Wien Beethovenplatz 1 1010 Vienna <a href="http://www.chorneubau.at">www.chorneubau.at</a>	The Austrian Choir in Canberra and the Chorvereinigung Wien-Neubau and Bushband will be giving a joint concert in the Imperial Saal. Free admission, donations welcome.
<b>19 September</b> 7.00pm	<b>MLC School Live in Concert</b>	Peterskirche Petersplatz 1010 Wien	The MLC School will be performing live in the Peterskirche in Vienna. Admission is free and the works performed will include well-known choral and string music as well as Australian music.
<b>18 October</b> 7.30pm	<b>OUT &amp; BACK One year with your family in Australia</b>	Please visit <a href="http://www.AufundDavon.at">www.AufundDavon.at</a> Ph: 02243 33633 Email: <a href="mailto:info@aufunddavon.at">info@aufunddavon.at</a>	50,000 km in one year with two children: Peter Giovannini's slide show on how to travel with your family for one year in Australia.
<b>20 October</b>	<b>JOHN DEER on Tour</b>	Please visit <a href="http://www.silverbullet.at">www.silverbullet.at</a> <a href="http://www.johndeer.at">www.johndeer.at</a> <a href="http://www.myspace.com/johndeerb">www.myspace.com/johndeerb</a> and	JOHN DEER's new album "Gone Country" has just been released. John Deer is a modern country band with Austrian musicians and Australian Brett Reid on vocals.

Unless otherwise specified, all telephone numbers are in Vienna

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**Useful Websites:**

[www.ethermagazine.at](http://www.ethermagazine.at)

[www.nucolorvue.com.au](http://www.nucolorvue.com.au)

[www.australien-lifestyle.de](http://www.australien-lifestyle.de)

[www.virtualvienna.net](http://www.virtualvienna.net)

[www.australian-embassy.at](http://www.australian-embassy.at)

[www.ninemsn.com.au](http://www.ninemsn.com.au)

[www.kids-days.com/Wien/index\\_wien.html](http://www.kids-days.com/Wien/index_wien.html)

[www.expatsconsulting.com](http://www.expatsconsulting.com)

[www.homesick.com.au](http://www.homesick.com.au)

[www.viennababiesclub.com](http://www.viennababiesclub.com)

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

[www.australianaonline.com.au](http://www.australianaonline.com.au)

[www.news.com.au](http://www.news.com.au)

[www.expatriates.com](http://www.expatriates.com)

***Other Associations***

*Austrian-Australian Society (OAG)*

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