

From the President

Have you been to Venice at this time of the year? Isn't it great? We just had a weekend there; beautiful autumn weather with sunny days and cool nights, fabulous food and the occasional sip of vino. It was still crowded, but not like in the summer months.

But beware of the unexpected and unannounced train strike! We got to the station half an hour before our train was due to leave mid Sunday afternoon to hear a solitary announcement in English: "The train to Vienna is cancelled for today." That was it....no explanation. There was nothing on the departures board, not even a cancellation notice. We had heard rumblings of a train strike, but it only affected some trains apparently. So the objective was not to panic, along with some 100 other confused Viennese! There was another train at 20:00, but that was full. So we opted to get a night train and pay for a sleeper. It left at 1.26 am, but not from Venice, from Mestre across the lagoon.

Only 10 hours to kill so we walked and hopped from restaurant to restaurant, more drinks and food, then jumped on a train to Mestre (just one stop). But we got there too early because everything was closing down and it started getting cold....first the "restaurant" (McDonalds) closed, then the warm waiting room, even the toilet was locked! So we had to wait on the platform for hours, sitting on stone benches as the temperature dropped until the train finally arrived. In fact it was the train from Rome to which the Italians kindly attached three more carriages for us stranded foreigners. Oh, but that bed was so nice.

OK, to business. This newsletter marks my first year in the job as President and I want to thank all members for encouraging and supporting myself and the OzCon Board.

I hope we can continue to earn your support. I say yet again, we are always open to suggestions and would like to see our members contribute to this newsletter.

As you know from the last newsletter, our former Vice President Robert Clark has returned to Australia and Gabrielle Costigan has taken over the job. Robert's departure was marked at our monthly bar night (see article page 4). And so we are looking for a new Secretary (see article page 3). It is not an arduous position and we look forward to hearing from masses of people wanting to take it on.

In addition to our usual monthly bar night (on Friday 19 October), we have arranged an evening at Heurigen Wolf this Saturday so we hope you can join us (details page 4).

Until next month,

Brett

MELANIE (age 5) asked her Granny how old she was. Granny replied she was so old she didn't remember any more. Melanie said, "If you don't remember you just look in the back of your pants. Mine say five to six."



The Australian Flag flutters above the Grand Canal in Venice – why? Well who knows but it's nice to see!

Learning another Language

Labor Leader Kevin Rudd was soundly criticised when he addressed the Chinese President, Hu Jintao, in fluent Mandarin during the APEC forum in Sydney recently. Rex Jory, a columnist for The Advertiser in Adelaide, argues that such criticism is "narrow, parochial, blinkered rubbish," a view that many Europeans would agree with.

September 11, 2007 12:00am

THE most distressing element of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum in Sydney was the implied criticism of the Opposition Leader, Kevin Rudd, for addressing the Chinese President, Hu Jintao, in Mandarin.

Too many people, including the Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, said he was disrespectful. That he was showing off. With the sophisticated interpreter services available it was not necessary. And that the conference was staged in Australia, where English is the language of preference, and all discussions should have been conducted in the language of English.

What narrow, parochial, blinkered rubbish. How can it be disrespectful to speak to someone in their native language? Why was Mr. Rudd showing off if he is a competent Mandarin speaker? And why at a conference of 21 international leaders, should Australia insist everyone speaks English?

The criticism of Mr. Rudd was enough to make us all cringe. Australia elected to stage APEC in Sydney to illustrate that it is a sophisticated world economic power. Australian leaders have the status, understanding and influence to walk comfortably with leaders from the Asia-Pacific rim.

But then Mr. Rudd dares to speak to the Chinese President in Mandarin and attracts sniping condemnation. How sophisticated is that? If this minority of narrow minds is any indication, the answer must be: not very.

Because Australia is an island continent, and because it was originally occupied by essentially English-speaking people, English has become the dominant language.

The smattering of Germans who settled in South Australia in the 1800s and 1900s, or the postwar migrants from central and south Europe, could do nothing to change the trend.

They arrived in a monolingual nation. Within their own tight communities they could speak their native tongue. But in the broader community the world was a lonely place for non-English speakers. That trend has never changed. It is narrow and parochial, but an understandable product of geographic isolation. In many countries English is a compulsory subject at schools.

In northern Europe and Scandinavia, most people have conversational English. There is no problem stepping off an aircraft in, let's say, Copenhagen and speaking to the Customs officer in English.

But imagine speaking to a Customs officer at Adelaide's international airport in Spanish, German or Italian. Let alone Moroccan, Thai or Russian. There's little chance the officer would comprehend.

That is nobody's fault. In Switzerland people often speak German, French and Italian because they have common borders. It might be only an hour's drive - from Adelaide to Murray Bridge - to an international border.

European tourist movement is prolific. Being multilingual is important. In Australia, even if a child spends 10 years learning French, Japanese or Mandarin, there are limited opportunities to retain the skill without going overseas.

But Mr. Rudd underlined a very important issue. The broadening of the global economy will make it increasingly important that Australia's political and business leaders no longer rely on English. We cannot be one-dimensional. We must become proficient in other languages.

It was not disrespectful of Mr. Rudd to address President Hu Jintao in Mandarin. It was good manners. It's time Australia realised that the rest of the world is not content to play by our narrow rules.

In June, 1963, American President John F. Kennedy told a rally in Berlin: "Ich bin ein Berliner" (I am a Berliner). The Germans roared their approval. That was not disrespectful. Nor was Mr. Rudd's conversation with President Hu.

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100% The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again." The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

Invite to Join the OzCon Board

OzCon is looking for a new Secretary.

With the departure of Robert Clark for Australia, the position of Vice President is being taken up by OzCon's Secretary Gabrielle Costigan. And so the OzCon Board is looking for someone to join it in the Secretary's position.

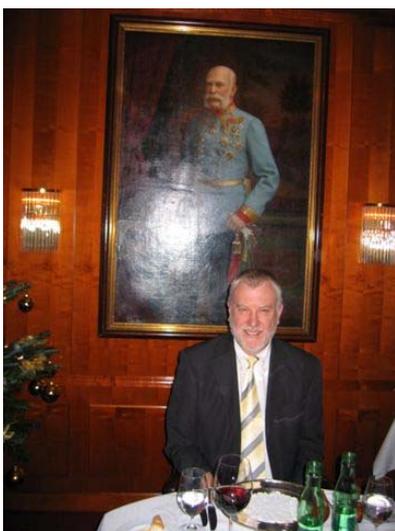
The role of Secretary might be seen by some as a person who takes the minutes of long meetings, who handles the mail or answers the telephone. We do none of these things. The occasional Board meeting does not require minutes, there is no mail to speak of (only email) and there is no phone to answer.

So what does an OzCon Secretary do? Well actually nothing much that is any different to any other Board member. The Board is a small team of people that shares the workload as required.

The OzCon Secretary can be called upon to look into a possible venue for an event, to make a booking, to buy some tickets, or to liaise with organisations or people who might be interested in OzCon, and to suggest ideas of interest to the members.

It is not an arduous job but it is an opportunity to join a small band of people who are out for arranging a good time for ourselves and others. So how about it? If you are interested please contact me.

--- *Brett Bayly*



*Our departing Vice President Robert Clark.
Thanks Robert for all your efforts with OzCon!!!*

Youth Ambassadors Perform in Vienna

If the MLC Choir and Chamber Ensemble perform as they did in Vienna, their European tour is bound to be a great success.

Beautiful Peterskirche in the heart of the city was packed to overflowing, with people standing along the walls and some seated on the floor at the front for their concert on 19 September. At the end of the performance the appreciative audience gave a standing ovation which caught the Sydney school's Director of Music, Karen Carey, completely by surprise as she didn't have something prepared for an encore.

"We were so surprised," she said. "We didn't expect this. Next time we will be better prepared."

The next time was in Budapest, and then it was on to Prague and Chrudim in the Czech Republic, and Paris and Chenonceau in France.

Lead by Mrs Carey, conductor Louise Keller and organist Kurt Ison, the award-winning 40-member choir and 22-member chamber ensemble performed works by renowned Australian composers Ross Edwards, Paul Stanhope, Matthew Hindson, Mark Isaacs and Stephen Leek, as well as choral and chamber classics by Brahms, Corelli, Mendelssohn and Faure.

Music has occupied a pre-eminent place within MLC School in Sydney since it was founded in 1886. While one of the oldest schools in Australia, it was still with awe that the young performers, whose ages ranged from 14 to 17 years, began their European tour in the second-oldest church in Vienna with the city's finest example of Baroque church architecture.

According to its website, St. Peter's Church may stand on Vienna's oldest church site. It is believed that a place of worship has existed here since the second half of the 4th century. According to legend, Charlemagne founded a church here in 792.



MLC Choir and Chamber Ensemble

The present St. Peter's Church was constructed by Gabriel Montani from 1702 to 1708. Hildebrandt, the noted architect of the Belvedere Palace, finished the building in 1732.

In 2003 MLC School was presented with two national awards for embracing innovation and excellence. The Australian Music Centre and APRA National Award was received for the most distinguished contribution to the advancement of Australian music education. The TOAN National Award was received for the best school orchestra program.

The standard of performances by this touring group can only make them all worthy youth ambassadors for their country.



Chello soloist Susan Kim

---Brett Bayly

OzCon Heurigen Evening

We would like to invite members to attend the forthcoming Heurigen evening.

When: Saturday 6th October 2007

Where: Heurigen Wolf, Rathstrasse 44-46 (in Neustift am Walde). Ph: 4402335

Time: Kick off at 4.30 pm

You can get there with bus number 35A.

We hope to see you there!

---OzCon Board

OzCon Bar Night

The September Bar Night was a great success. It was not a big turnout but it didn't stop us from having a good time.



Robert Clark with Simon Hannaford and Leon Schupelius. His last night in Vienna before heading back to Perth. Check out that smile!



Liz Crawford, Wolfgang Zimmer, Suzanne Prissmann with son Michael.



Brett, Suzanne and kids!

Come along and join us again for a drink with OzCon members on Friday 19th October at Flanagan's, Schwarzenbergstr. 1-3, 1010 Vienna from 5pm.



THAT bazaar is coming again So it's time to raise the hands

In the absence of our bazaar coordinator Susanna Martin, I have agreed to kick off this year's appeal for donations of pavlovas and helpers at the Australian stall.

The UN Women's Guild international bazaar will be held in the Austria Centre on Saturday 8 December. While this remains some way off, OzCon needs to start putting things in place to make our contribution to world children's charities successful yet again.

And so we call for people to tell us if they can contribute pavlovas and, if so, how many. We would also like to start gathering the names of helpers who can set up the stall on the Friday evening, be on a roster for serving on the day, prepare food, take on cashier duties, be in charge of selling our wine (previously so ably performed by our departed Vice President Robert Clark) and/or stay back to dismantle the decorations in the evening. Last year we had many young volunteers and they are very welcome again this year.

Susanna, with the assistance this year of Melanie Willers and Carolyn Forbes, will record the names and keep a tally of the pavlovas.

The pavlovas need to be concave on the top so that the fresh cream and fruit can be added at the stall. Once again, Jeanette Hannaford will be our master chef in charge of decoration and is happy to receive pavlovas of all sizes. We found last year that it was easier to sell the small to medium size pavlovas more than the large ones which were sold by the slice.

Another big seller last year was Liz Crawford's lovely lamingtons. Liz and husband Wolfgang recently moved house and have had a new kitchen installed so, lucky for us, Liz is eager to start baking.

Details of how and when this all comes together will be in the November newsletter.

Until I hear otherwise from Susanna, anyone who is interested in either committing themselves to making some pavs and/or helping out can contact Susanna Martin by e-mail: paul.martin@chello.at or phone 944 0353 and leave a message.

-- **Brett Bayly**

OzCon Welcomes a New Member Libby McBride

Maybe I'm crazy having left Australia (and Queensland in particular) just as we're heading into the best part of the year... the long, warm and sunny, summer. I like to think of my relocation as a way of protecting my fair skin and, of course, of living in the same country as my partner who is Austrian.

This is my second attempt at relocating to Austria. I was here for some months last year but wasn't able to secure adequate work to get a visa so decided to return to Australia, save some more money, do more preparation and then try again. So here I am, back again. In Australia, I work as a dietician but my German is still far from "working" standard so I have modified the type of work I do to minimise client contact. I'm currently doing some research and project work with both the Medical University and the Austrian Clinical Nutrition Society and, of course, learning German!

Austria is not the first place that I've relocated to although I'd have to say that, despite living with a native speaker, the language difference has made it the most challenging (I really hope he appreciates this!). I have previously lived in London and San Jose, California. This is my first home that is within driving distance to the ski fields, and mountains over 2000m! Both things that I plan to take full advantage of in the coming months and years.

We hope to eventually move back to Australia but at the moment I am thoroughly enjoying being in the centre of Europe and the many travel opportunities that provides. I've found Vienna both beautiful and busy- it seems to always be in the midst of some sort of festival or celebration. The seasonal changes are (so far) also a novelty to a Queenslander although I'm already planning to break up the winter with a short visit home!



Libby at the recent Bar Night.

A Bit of Fun!



Here's an example of good communication!

These are from a book called Disorder in the American Courts, and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and published by court reporters who had the torment of staying calm while these exchanges were actually taking place.

ATTORNEY: Are you sexually active?

WITNESS: No, I just lie there.

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: Do you know if your daughter has ever been involved in voodoo?

WITNESS: We both do.

ATTORNEY: Voodoo?

WITNESS: We do.

ATTORNEY: You do?

WITNESS: Yes, voodoo.

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

WITNESS: Are you shitt'in me? Your Honor, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

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, Steinbruchgasse 7, 2500 Baden.

As Autumn is here I thought it would be nice to start to include some of those yummie cold weather recipes! One of my favourites is Lamb Shanks. If you find them difficult to obtain I would suggest ordering them from your local butcher. In German they are called "Lammstelze". Or if you have access to a large Merkur you can often find them there. That also goes for New Zealand lamb which, as we know, is delicious!!

Lamb Shanks

80g Butter

1 Onion chopped

2 Lamb Shanks (or more depending on how many people you are feeding)

Flour for dusting

5 Tablespoons of dry white wine

175ml of Meat Stock (home made is best)

1 Carrot chopped

1-2 Leeks chopped

2 Tablespoons of Tomato Puree

Salt and Pepper

For the Gremolata

Thinly pared rind of ½ lemon, finely chopped

1 Fresh flat-leaf Parsley Spring, finely chopped

Melt butter and add onions in a pan, cook for approx. 5 minutes. Dust lamb with flour and add to the pan, over high heat turn till browned all over. Pour in wine and cook until evaporated. Add stock, carrot and leeks and salt & pepper to taste then lower the heat. Simmer for approx. 45-50 minutes, add more stock if necessary. Mix the tomato puree with 1 tablespoon of hot water in a bowl and stir into the pan. Prepare the gremolata by mixing together the lemon rind and parsley add to the lamb and cook for a further 5 minutes.

Mahlzeit!!

- By Liz Crawford

Aussie News Briefs

Compiled by Brett Bayly

27 Sept - **AUSTRALIA has signed a significant security agreement with NATO**, aimed specifically at terrorism. The agreement will allow Australia and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to exchange classified information and assessments on security issues, including international terrorism. It will also improve information exchanges on operational issues relevant to Australian defence personnel in Afghanistan. (Age)

27 Sept - **MINERAL riches at Olympic Dam** in South Australia are 75 per cent bigger than previously thought and promise the state a royalties windfall of \$80 million a year plus more jobs. In what Premier Mike Rann yesterday described as the state's best ever economic news, miner BHP Billiton said it now had the fourth-largest copper resource in the world, the fifth-largest gold mine in the world and the biggest gold mine in Australia. It also has the world's largest known uranium deposit. (Advertiser)

26 Sept - **THE plight of drought-ravaged farmers** has become so dire that the Federal Government will pay the most severely affected \$150,000 each to walk off their land and another \$20,000 for retraining and the cost of moving. The "exit with dignity" and relocation grants will be available to up to 1000 farmers at a cost of \$170 million. (Sydney Morning Herald)

24 Sept - **AUSTRALIA'S 2008 wine grape vintage** could drop by more than half because of drought. The vintage is expected to be between 800,000 tonnes and 1.3 million tonnes, down from around a 1.9 million tonne average, industry groups say. (Advertiser)

24 Sept - **CASEY Stoner**, 21, is young, fearless and, right now, the fastest man on two wheels. Stoner was yesterday crowned world champion at the Motegi circuit outside Tokyo after finishing sixth in the Japan Grand Prix behind Ducati team-mate Loris Capirossi. He becomes only the third Australian behind Wayne Gardner in 1987 and Mick Doohan, who won the first of five straight championships in 1998, to win motorcycling's premier class. (Australian)

21 Sept - **JOHN Howard is considering calling the election** within three weeks amid evidence of a patchy recovery for the Coalition in regional areas, the key state of Queensland and among older voters. Newpoll analysis, prepared exclusively for The Australian, also shows Western Australia remains the redoubt for the Coalition as the only state where the

Government leads Labor. As parliament yesterday finished its two-week sitting with a rowdy session, Peter Costello declared it would be the last question time of the fourth Howard Government. (Australian)

20 Sept - **NORDIC countries take the greatest care of their environment and their people**, according to a ranking published by Reader's Digest in Paris on Thursday. Finland comes top of the 141-nation list, followed by Iceland, Norway and Sweden, and then Austria, Switzerland, Ireland and Australia. (AFP)

19 Sept - **THE Australian sharemarket** is within touching distance of its record high after the US Federal Reserve cut interest rates by half a per cent. The benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index jumped 163.6 points, or 2.6 per cent, to 6356.1 points. It is about 80 points away from July's all-time high of 6436.7 points. (Age)

17 Sept - **TERRITORY trawlers are predicting a bumper season** for tasty tiger prawns after it was revealed stocks were at their highest. This is five years after widespread fears two commercial tiger prawn species - grooved and brown - were depleted in northern waters. Newfishing Australia Darwin manager Steven Valentine: "There are two things that indicate a bumper season - firstly, science has proven the stocks are there, and secondly we have 32 boats less than last year," he said. (Territorian)

14 Sept - **A MASSIVE failure of the winter grain crop** and rocketing worldwide wheat prices will hit Australian household budgets hard, with the price of chicken, eggs, pork, dairy and beef due to rise. The national wheat crop is estimated to be between 14 and 19million tonnes, down from a June estimate of 22.5 million. Managing director of Australian Crop Forecasters Ron Storey said the agriculture sector was on a knife-edge: "Springtime is always the season that makes or breaks the crop." (Australian)

13 Sept - **FOR the first time**, Queensland's two highest posts are occupied by women - Premier Anna Bligh and Governor Quentin Bryce. As the governor formally swore in Ms Bligh at Government House in Brisbane shortly after 11am (AEST) today, she acknowledged the historic importance of the occasion. (Australian)

7 Sept - **PRIME Minister John Howard and President Vladimir Putin** have signed a deal for Australia to sell uranium to Russia. The two leaders signed the deal after talks in Mr Howard's Sydney office this morning, ahead of a joint press conference. Mr Putin, the first Russian leader to visit Australia, flew in to Sydney earlier this morning to attend the APEC summit of world leaders. (Australian)



Performances with Australian Artists

From the Australian Events Calendar as at 1 October 2007, Australian Embassy Vienna

<p>25 September to 16 October</p>	<p>Exhibition – “the 12 apostles”</p>	<p>Art4room Mattiellistrasse 3 1040 Vienna www.twelve-apostles.com www.andreas-buisman.com</p>	<p>Austrian sculptor Andreas Buisman has spent most of the last four years in Australia. Art4room will present his 12 Australian travelling sculptures together with the best photo's documented on his journey.</p>
<p>21 September to 20 October</p>	<p>Exhibition – “Guundie Kuchling”</p>	<p>Galerie Pacific Arts & Crafts St. Ulrichsplatz 6 Neustiftgasse 31 1070 Vienna Ph: 0664 1021483 Email: Martin.Zwieger@PacificArtAndCrafts.com</p>	<p>Australian Guundie Kuchling artist from Perth will be exhibiting her oil and water colour paintings.</p>
<p>13 October at 8pm 20&24 October at 9pm</p>	<p>Alexandra Bourne in Concert</p>	<p>Down Under – Aussie Pub Magdalenenstrasse 32 1060 Vienna Ph: 585 7330 www.downunder.at</p>	<p>Australian singer/songwriter will be performing her alternative/rock songs at the Down Under Pub in Vienna's 6th district.</p>
<p>18 October 7.30pm</p>	<p>OUT & BACK One year with your family in Australia</p>	<p>Please visit www.AufundDavon.at Ph: 02243 33633 Email: info@aufunddavon.at</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>18 October 7pm</p>	<p>Aboriginal Art Exhibition</p>	<p>Gruen-Raum auf der Wieden, Favoritenstrasse 22, 1040 Vienna E-mail: heine69at@yahoo.de</p>	<p>Dreamtimesands and Bilby Hoerbuecher are organising an aboriginal art exhibition at the "Gruen-Raum" in Vienna's 4th district. With a live performance of didgeridoo music.</p>

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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

Other Associations

Austrian-Australian Society (OAG)

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