

December 2007

## **ELECTION 2007 - Labor easily wins government**

### **Australia has a new Labor government and a new Prime Minister**

Kevin Rudd, 50, is the country's 26<sup>th</sup> prime minister and Australia has its first woman Deputy Prime Minister in Julia Gillard.



A new era in Australian politics began on 24 November when more than 11 years of Liberal-National Coalition rule ended.

Mr. Rudd is only the third Labor leader in 60 years to win government from Opposition, and becomes Labor's 11<sup>th</sup> prime minister.

The ALP needed to win 16 seats to return to government. At the time of writing and with counting still not finished, Labor has 80 seats, the Liberals 49, the Nationals 10 and there are two independents. This gives Labor the likely majority of between 14 and 16 seats with nine seats still undecided.

There was a national swing of about 6 pc to Labor, with its two-party preferred vote reaching 53.3 pc compared with the coalition's 46.7 pc. Labor now governs in every Australian State and Territory as well as nationally.

Former Prime Minister John Howard, 68, lost his seat of Bennelong to former ABC journalist Maxine McKew with a swing of 5 pc, the first time the seat has been won by a non-Liberal candidate. Mr. Howard had been in parliament for 33 years.

Prime Minister-elect Rudd named his new ministry on 29 November.

Ms. Gillard will take on both Education and Industrial Relations and the former lead singer of the Australian rock band Midnight Oil, Peter Garrett, is Environment Minister.

The new Leader of the Liberal Party and therefore Leader of the Opposition is Dr. Brendan Nelson.

Former Liberal Treasurer Peter Costello did not stand and has announced his retirement from the National Parliament.

The Leader of the National Party Mark Vaile has resigned as party leader after the Nationals lost further ground and are expected to have 10 members.

The Australian Democrats were wiped out in the election and no longer have any representatives in either House of Parliament.

*--By Brett Bayly*

#### **Sydney Morning Herald Nov 29**

**New Ministry** -- Kevin Rudd has promoted Stephen Smith to Foreign Affairs minister while his deputy, Julia Gillard, will be Minister for both Education and Industrial Relations. The first Rudd cabinet will include former lawyer Robert McClelland as Attorney-General. The former NSW Attorney-General, Bob Debus, will move straight into the ministry and oversee domestic law enforcement as Minister for Home Affairs. Peter Garrett will remain Environment Minister and will take on heritage and the arts, but will hand responsibility for tackling global warming to Penny Wong, who takes on climate change and water and will attend the UN conference in Bali. Antony Albanese, the former spokesman for water, will be Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development. Ms Gillard will now be required to usher in Mr Rudd's so-called education revolution while overseeing the dismantling of the WorkChoices legislation. Former Labor leader Simon Crean has kept responsibility for trade and Nicola Roxon keeps health. Mr Rudd said he had broken with Labor conventions and hand-picked his cabinet without consulting the party's factions.

## Australian Nov 29

**Liberal Leadership** - BRENDAN Nelson has been elected the new Leader of the Opposition by just three votes in Canberra today, with Julie Bishop his deputy. Dr Nelson's 45-42 victory, announced after the meeting by outgoing deputy leader Peter Costello, upset the frontrunner, millionaire businessman Malcolm Turnbull. Former education minister Ms Bishop, a West Australian, defeated South Australian Christopher Pyne and Victorian Andrew Robb on the first ballot. Dr Nelson was once the head of the Australian Medical Association and briefly a member of the Labor Party. The leadership was declared vacant after John Howard appeared to have lost his seat of Bennelong and deputy leader Peter Costello said he would not be seeking the top job. Former health minister Tony Abbott pulled out of the race yesterday but has said he will consider running in the future.

## Age Nov 28

**Unions** -- Despite 11 years of vilification, workers still respect the role of unions. The Liberals' advertising during this election campaign was relentless and alarming. They created a red and black world implying threat and fear, and the most threatening and fearsome inhabitants of this world were trade unions. For six weeks during the election campaign, and the 11 years preceding it, unions and unionists were the most vilified and maligned people in the nation. "Extremists! Fanatics!" the ads shrieked. They'll storm into your dress shop and switch off the lights! They'll hold the country to ransom, preceded by their beer bellies and braces, with that barren redhead Julia Gillard cheering them on! Though it's hard to quantify, it's likely the negative campaign did scare some back into the Liberal camp. But if it was meant to win John Howard the election, it failed.

## Australian Nov 28

**Industrial laws** -- KEVIN Rudd's plan to rewrite the nation's industrial relations laws has split the Liberal Party, with the leadership contenders deeply divided over whether to accept Labor's mandate to reinstate unfair dismissal laws. And Kevin Rudd has savaged the Coalition as arrogant and deaf to public opinion, insisting he will not budge on his plans to scrap the controversial Work Choices industrial relations laws in the wake of Labor's stunning weekend electoral victory. As Mr Rudd continued working on his transition to government in Brisbane yesterday, the Liberals' position on Labor's industrial relations mandate splintered amid intense jockeying between Malcolm Turnbull, Brendan Nelson and Tony Abbott. The trio had widely differing views about whether their party should block the laws, using the Coalition's majority control of the Senate, which will remain in place until senators elected on Saturday take their seats on July 1.

## Advertiser Nov 28

**Nationals** -- The Nationals would be wise to stand alone from the Liberal Party in order to rebuild at federal level, a state Nationals party leader has warned. Nationals SA President John Venus yesterday sent a scathing message to his Liberal colleagues, blaming the Coalition's loss on John Howard and saying the former leader had fragmented the conservative political scene by staying too long. Mr Venus said although the Nationals received a 0.3 per cent swing in its favour in SA, votes were drawn away from it due to its association with the Liberal Party. "It is my personal opinion that the National party would be wise to stand aside and stand on its own two feet in order to rebuild," he said.

## Age Nov 27

**First actions** -- KEVIN Rudd has vowed to act quickly after he is sworn in as prime minister to make a formal apology to Aboriginal Australians on behalf of the nation. More than a decade after a landmark inquiry found that past policies to remove indigenous children from their families amounted to "genocide", Mr Rudd said yesterday he would make a statement of apology "early" in the new Parliament. After his historic election win on Saturday, Mr Rudd has also taken the first steps to launching his so-called education revolution, ordering MPs to visit schools to gain insights on how to implement Labor policies. And he has demanded that the Coalition support the repeal of WorkChoices in the Senate.

**Appointments** - Changes to foreign postings could be in the wind, writes Anne Davies in Washington. Former federal Opposition leader Kim Beazley and former NSW premier Bob Carr have been mooted as candidates to become ambassador to the US as Kevin Rudd seeks a smooth transition in relations with Australia's most important ally. Mr Beazley floated the idea of becoming ambassador with members of the Bush Administration while he was in Washington in April, but indicated he might prefer a domestic position, possibly governor-general. Mr Carr has denied seeking the job, but is considered likely to serve if asked.

## Australian Nov 27

**Budget reform** - Incoming finance minister Lindsay Tanner is planning far-reaching reform of the budget to improve transparency. He will overhaul the Charter of Budget Honesty, introduced by Peter Costello in 1996 to govern budget disclosure and Opposition rights to financial information during elections. Mr Tanner, who held meetings with Finance Department officials yesterday, is expected to take time to implement all of Labor's proposed budget reforms, but there are likely to be some changes before its first budget in May.

Under the proposals, new government programs that could be influenced by demographic shifts will have to be accompanied by five-year forecasts of their costs. The International Monetary Fund was critical of the Howard government's failure to include any long-term assessment of the cost of its decision to make superannuation benefits tax-free for people aged over 60.

#### **Advertiser Nov 27**

**Liberal leadership** -- Leadership jockeying intensified in the Liberal Party yesterday as the extent of the devastating loss to Kevin Rudd and Labor continued to rock the party. Multi-millionaire Sydney MP and former Cabinet minister Malcolm Turnbull remained favourite to take the difficult job of Opposition Leader although a number of other former ministers also covet the position. Another high-profile Sydney-based former minister, Joe Hockey, who had the near impossible task of selling the Howard Government's unpopular WorkChoices laws, has decided against running for a leadership position despite the urgings of some colleagues.

#### **Age Nov 26**

**Kyoto Protocol** -- The Prime Minister-elect, in fine fettle as world leaders telephone him, plans to ratify Kyoto and hand-pick his ministry, writes Misha Schubert. Kevin Rudd is planning official visits to both the United States and Indonesia early next year, and has taken the first steps towards ratifying Kyoto and laying out his agenda for the first 100 days in office. Savouring his thumping election victory, the Prime Minister-elect took congratulatory calls from US President George Bush, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, vowing to work with them all on global projects.

**Howard's seat** -- Maxine McKew has declared that Bennelong is a Labor seat for the first time, in a press conference outside her campaign headquarters at Eastwood at midday. Ms McKew, who is 2500 votes ahead in the seat, declared: "The people of Bennelong have spoken for change." "This is now a Labor seat for the first time," she said.

#### **ABC Nov 26**

**Australian Democrats** -- For the first time in 30 years, the Australian Democrats won't be represented in either house of the Federal Parliament. They are set to lose party status after being wiped out in Saturday's vote, failing to poll 2 per cent of the vote around the country. Such is the state of the Democrats that on the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) website the party is now referred to just as "other". Leader Lyn Allison conceded defeat and resigned yesterday, and her deputy, Andrew Bartlett, has been forced to admit that his career in politics is over.

#### **Courier Mail Nov 25**

**Landslide win** -- It was, quite simply, the night of his life. Surrounded by family, friends and faithful, Kevin Rudd last night claimed his position in history as Australia's 26th Prime Minister after Labor's stunning defeat of the Howard Government. But there was more to celebrate than just winning. Mr Rudd had led his party to one of the most dramatic turnarounds in political history, including the likely ousting of a prime minister from his own seat. Queensland, his home state, was not just a landslide, it was as one supporter quipped, a Kev-alanche. A Coalition bloodbath of extraordinary proportions. The ALP yesterday secured 15 out of 29 seats in Queensland, the biggest majority since 1990, when they held 13 of 24. In New South Wales, John Howard is likely to suffer the humiliation of losing the seat of Bennelong he has represented since 1974, to Brisbane-born Maxine McKew, the former ABC journalist who mid-year became one of the ALP's high-profile celebrity candidates. Only once before has a prime minister lost his seat - in 1929 when Stanley Bruce was tossed out by an electorate upset with his stance on industrial relations.

#### **Herald Sun Nov 25**

**Liberal leadership** -- Former environment minister Malcolm Turnbull has announced that he will contest the leadership of the federal Liberal party at the next party meeting. Earlier today Deputy leader Peter Costello dropped a post-election bombshell - saying he would not seek leadership of the party to replace John Howard, who is likely to lose his own seat after yesterday's Labor victory. "I will be a candidate for the leadership of the Liberal party at the next party meeting," Mr Turnbull said outside his Sydney home.

#### **Advertiser Nov 24**

**New Prime Minister** -- The Labor Party has won the federal election and Kevin Rudd will be the new Prime Minister of Australia. With about 73.8 per cent of the national vote counted, there has been a 5.8 per cent national swing to Labor on first preferences and a 5.6 per cent swing on a two-party preferred basis. On a two-party preferred basis with three-quarters of the vote counted, Labor has received a 5.49 per cent swing to secure 53.2 per cent of the vote to the Liberals' 46.8 per cent. Labor is on track to win more than 80 seats. In his victory speech in Brisbane, Mr Rudd said he would govern for all Australians. "Today the Australian people have decided that we as a nation will move forward," he said.

## From the President



At this time last year I began this report with the words: “What a month! In fact, what a year!”

Well, ditto to that. And what a month December is going to be. There’s the UN charity bazaar next Saturday (it’s not too late to contribute pavlovas and volunteer to help out on the day), the OzCon Christmas dinner on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> and Ambassador Shannon’s reception on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup>.

In fact, because most of us are going to be in Vienna over this Christmas and there are so many activities to report on, we have decided not to follow past practice and combine the December and January issues of this newsletter. We will produce another newsletter at the start of January.

I think it’s been a good year for fun activities, for comradeship and for an increased membership of enthusiastic supporters. So let’s do it again next year.

And there have been some changes to the OzCon Board with the departure of Vice President Robert Clark, his replacement by Gabrielle Costigan and the arrival of our new Secretary Amanda Grant.

And there have been big changes in Australia. It’s because of the election last month that I am deliberately going to keep my words brief so that our newsletter editor Liz Crawford can squeeze in our extensive coverage of the big event.

I also wrote at this time last year: “Your Board had considered raising the annual subscription to €25 per family.....but you will be pleased to hear that we have opted to stay with the €20.” Again, ditto. Renewal notices will be sent to members in early January and our Treasurer Susanna Martin would greatly appreciate your prompt response.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone.

Brett

Oh, and just to end the year with a pun that is so bad, it’s good:

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and, with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him a super calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.



*OzCon November lunch venue  
The beautiful Palmenhaus Café*



*How to ID your car in the snow*



*Shovelling snow in Baden*

## December Events



*Ambassador Peter Shannon  
wishes to invite*

*Members and partners of the Australian  
Connection (OzCon) and the Austrian-Australian  
Society  
for Christmas drinks on Friday 14 December  
from 18.00 – 20.00 hours*

**Venue** *Argentinierstrasse 26/10  
(3<sup>rd</sup> floor)  
A-1040, Vienna* **RSVP**  
*by 10 December 2007  
Ph : 5067 4111  
[vien.austemb@dfat.gov.au](mailto:vien.austemb@dfat.gov.au)*

### ***OzCon Gala Christmas Dinner***

The OzCon Christmas dinner will take place on Wednesday 12th December starting from 6.30 pm. The venue is Restaurant HEBENSTREIT, Rockgasse 1, 1010 Vienna.

Cost per person for a 3-course menu is €30 and that includes a pre-dinner alcoholic/non-alcoholic cocktail drink.

Please RSVP by 6<sup>th</sup> December to:

[gabrielle.costigan@gmx.at](mailto:gabrielle.costigan@gmx.at) as it's first in, first served as spaces are limited! We also have the pleasure to announce that the Ambassador Peter Shannon is going to join us.

### **Inspector Rex Tour**

If you enjoy watching the Austrian TV program Inspector Rex then join us for a unique tour lead by specialist guide Gabriele Buchas. You will see places shown in the series and learn more about the show.

Date: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2008 at 2pm.

Cost: €12 per person.

OzCon member Meredith Park can give you more details and would like to hear from anyone who is interested.

Email Meredith Park at: [doskanale@yahoo.com](mailto:doskanale@yahoo.com)



## It's Bazaar Time

Just days to go, and the bazaar is with us for another year.

The preparations are progressing well despite a number of smaller hiccups. For example, this year the lease of a big fridge was cancelled and we had to find our own.

We managed to find a wine sponsor and wines will be donated by the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation and Schlumberger.

The traditional mix of pavlovas, lamingtons, red and white wine, and beer will be offered and for the first time we will offer Australian champagne.

The pavlova count is lower than last year, but we are still optimistic for a last minute pavlova baking sprint to boost numbers. Small and medium sizes are preferred and pavlovas can be dropped off at the Australian Embassy until 13:00 Friday, 7 December, or on the day at the stall.

Fruit donations are very welcome (berries, cut kiwi and pineapple) but we need to know the quantity and weight of the fruit for planning purposes.

We have ample volunteers and a roster will be sent to each person who has offered to help. But this should not prevent you from coming along on the day and taking a turn behind the table if you wish. Children are welcome. So, thank you in advance.

For pavlovas and any last minute time donations please contact Carolyn Forbes on ph 944 3206 or by email: [carolyn.forbes@chello.at](mailto:carolyn.forbes@chello.at)

Australians are known for their informality and laid-back nature and this is reflected in the liberal use of colourful and amusing slang.

Here are some extracts from *The True Blue Guide to Australian Slang*

*Fair crack of the whip* - Be reasonable, don't go overboard

*Fizzer* - Something that wasn't up to expectations

*Flash as a rat with a gold tooth* - Someone who is ostentatious, overdressed and tasteless.

*Rotgut* - Very cheap alcohol

*Have a go you mug* - Exhortation to someone to try harder

*On the knocker* - That's precisely right

*Rough end of the pineapple* - A bad deal, or poor treatment

## Hello, we speak English only here

There is a club in Vienna where German speakers can improve their English without having to place a foot in a classroom.

It's called Clubhello and has a number of branches across the city. Members meet weekly at different venues to learn and practice conversational English in a relaxed atmosphere where only English is spoken. They have conversations with different themes, such as current events, life in Vienna, travel, business, sports, relationships and holidays.

The club also has occasional guest 'native' speakers and last month it was the turn of our President Brett Bayly. He spoke about global warming and its impact on Australia, particularly the critical water shortage in some areas. Brett said that of the 30 people there, only one had been to Australia and so the topic was new to most members and there was a lively discussion over glasses of red wine after Brett's talk.

Fact: did you know that Vienna's annual rainfall is less than Canberra's? Canberra, which is under strict water restrictions, has an average of 629 mm a year. Vienna, which is so green year round and where access to quality water is taken for granted, has an average 610 mm. If you want further information about Clubhello look at the website [www.clubhello.at](http://www.clubhello.at), email Horst Wagner [hm@clubhello.at](mailto:hm@clubhello.at) or call him on 0664/5008323



*Brett talking to the Clubhello members*

## Christmas shopping online

Here's a reminder for your last minute Christmas shopping, or for any other occasion. One of our websites listed on the backpage is worth a look. It's called Australiana Online and it has an extensive range of quality gifts and homewares from Australia.

Whether it be a gift to say hello, goodbye, love you, thank you, happy birthday, best wishes on your Wedding Day, or Merry Christmas they have gifts for all occasions."

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

## Pre-election drinkers see a change coming

About 15 of us settled into Flanagan's Bar for the Australian election eve discussion on the future of the country, and what might happen in some hours time. There seemed to be a consensus that change was coming, and it certainly did with Labor's big win.

There will not be a bar night in December due to Christmas events, including the UN Bazaar, the OzCon Christmas dinner and the Ambassador's reception for members. And at the time of writing the bar night in January might well be replaced by an Australia Day function towards the end of the month. This has yet to be decided and so watch the events column for the latest details.



*Leon with Rachael and mum Lynda Sarelius*



*Uli and Andreas Kiesswetter*



*David Watson and Gabrielle Costigan*

## Advent

The weeks before Christmas are called Advent and are a time rich in old customs and new commercial habits.

One of the newer customs is the Adventkranz. Nowadays we know it in its simplified version with 4 candles, 3 violet and one pink. It had its origins in 1839 in a protestant church, where a wheel decorated with twigs and 23 candles – 4 large ones for Sundays and 19 little red ones for weekdays, appeared first.

The Adventkalender was mass produced first in Munich in 1903. In the meantime you can find behind the doors pictures and sweets, and modern times have created a virtual one. Go to the website of the Österreichische Volksliedwerk

<http://www.volksliedwerk.at/weihnachtskalender> and each day of December open a door and hear a traditional Austrian folk song. For the music lovers among us the songs can also be purchased on CD.

Saint Barbara, an early Christian martyr is celebrated on December 4th. Cut twigs from cherry or other fruit trees and water them in the warm apartment. If they are blooming at Christmas time it means good fortune for the coming year.

In the Middle Ages several present giving days to children were known as 28.(remove) December (day of the innocent children), 6 December (day for boys) and 13 December (day for girls). Of these only Nikolaus, 6 Dec has survived. Nikolaus appears with his counterpart the Krampus , a furry creature with claws, horns and a long red tongue. Nikolaus gives the well behaved children apples, oranges and nuts whereas the not well behaved ones face the prospect of the Rute from Krampus.

During Advent children notify the Christkind of their wishes by putting up a wish list and a cookie between the windows which at night are picked up.

Unlike in the English speaking countries Christmas is celebrated on the evening of December 24th and it is the Christkind and not Santa Claus who brings the presents through the window (rather than the chimney) which are placed underneath the decorated Christmas tree and not into a stocking.

A traditional Christmas food was and is carp from the Waldviertel. However more important at Christmas time are the sweets, Vanillekipferl und Lebkuchen are the most popular ones.

## Lunch beneath the palms

Seven of our members braved the chilly winds to lunch beneath the palms in Palmenhaus Café behind the Hofburg last month.

New member Eden Sarelius, recently returned from Darwin, had with him a stack of front pages from the Northern Territory News. Why? Well he promised them to an Aussie pub here in Vienna to brighten up the walls. I mean, where else in the world are crocodiles on the front page of the local paper two or three times a week? If not crocodiles, it's cane toads or reports on the drinking habits of the locals.

It was agreed by those present to resume the occasional OzCon lunch, and the next one will be in January. We will advise exact date in the January newsletter, the venue will be The Palmenhaus Café behind the Hofburg in the Burggarten.



*Eden Sarelius displays a front page of the NT News*



*Meredith Park and Amanda Grant lunch among the palms and bamboo*



*Eden Sarelius, Leon Schupelius, George Park, Meredith Park, Amanda Grant and Melanie Willers*

## A Bit of Fun

### **An Aussie Christmas song (sung to the tune of "Jingle Bells")**

Dashing through the bush,  
in a rusty Holden ute,  
kicking up the dust,  
Esky in the boot,  
kelpie by my side,  
singing Christmas songs,  
it's summer time and I am in  
my singlet, shorts and thongs.

**Chorus:** *Oh, Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way,*

*Christmas in Australia on a scorching summers day,  
Hey!*

*Jingle bells, jingle bells, Christmas time is beaut!  
Oh what fun it is to ride in a rusty Holden ute.*

Engine's getting hot,  
we dodge the kangaroos,  
the swaggie climbs aboard,  
he is welcome too.  
All the family's there,  
sitting by the pool,  
Christmas Day the Aussie way,  
by the barbecue.

Chorus

Come the afternoon,  
Grandpa has a doze,  
the kids and Uncle Bruce,  
are swimming in their clothes.  
The time comes 'round to go,  
we take the family snap,  
pack the car and all shoot through,  
before the washing up.

Chorus.



## **Check out the Advent Markets**

With Christmas just around the corner we hope you are enjoying the many Advent or Christkindl markets which are now open across the city. It may be cold out in the evenings but the experience is worthwhile, especially for the children And if you are reinforced with some glühwein it's not so bad for the parents. Have a look at the market at Karlsplatz, the Schrönbrunn or the Rathaus.



*Brett at Schrönbrunn Christmas Market*

## **Expatslinz in Austria**

Expatslinz is for all expats and English speakers in the Linz area (all the way to St Pantaleon, Steyr and Mühlviertle). It acknowledges that there is not much available in terms of networking and making connections in this area.

Although I am the only Australian member at this stage, there are a couple of NZ members. I thought that this could be mentioned for other members who may not live in Vienna or if they know of other English speakers in this area. It could also be useful for people who might be coming to Linz - visiting or long term, as it gives instant access to other members, activities in the area for English speakers, information about great services and where expats can access things. It also has forums such as English, bilingual, multilingual parents, favourite restaurants in Linz, expat food items, etc.

It could also be a forum in which OzCon could link up with and make contact with other Australians (and make OzCon Austria wide rather than Vienna wide). Please visit: <http://www.expatslinz.ning.com/>

Ingrid Folger  
[iweilguny@hotmail.com](mailto:iweilguny@hotmail.com)

## Classifieds

### English books for sale

Lawrie Jenkins has brought lots of paperbacks (Thrillers, Sci-Fi, Crime Stories etc.) from Australia to Vienna in very good condition (only read once). He would like to sell them to English Native Speakers cheaply as English books are very expensive here in Vienna. If someone is interested he could send them a list (excel-file) of the books that he has (Titles, Genres and Authors).

Please contact Lawrie Jenkins:

[ljenkins2000@yahoo.com.au](mailto:ljenkins2000@yahoo.com.au)

### Native English speaker wanted

Do you like to work with kids?

Ages between 18 months and 6 years.

Are you creative and like to work in a team?

Looking for an English native speaker for 30 hours a week in the 21<sup>st</sup> district.

Please contact Monkia on 0676 394 2211

## Aussie News Briefs

### Compiled by Brett Bayly

22 Nov - **SIXTEEN Indonesians** whose boat sank in Australian waters were seeking economic asylum because of Canberra's crackdown on illegal fishing, their family members and neighbours revealed yesterday. And a senior fisherman from the group's village on the eastern island of Roti, off western Timor, warned that the success of Australian efforts to enforce fishing zones meant more could follow. The latest asylum-seekers are understood to have previously been arrested for poaching in the Timor Sea. (Australian)

21 Nov - **EMIRATES has tempered its ambitious expansion plans for the Australian market**, after announcing plans to boost its flights from 49 a week to 70 "by the end of 2009". Despite being granted rights by the Federal Government to fly 70 flights a week by March 2009, yesterday the airline partly blamed the delay in delivery of the Airbus A380 - of which it has ordered 58 - on the delay to its plans to increase flights into Australia. (Sydney Morning Herald)

19 Nov - **FOREIGN Minister Alexander Downer** has ruled out using the Australian military to stop Japan's scientific whaling program, as its fleet today left for waters off Antarctica. Japanese whalers plan to slaughter more than 1000 whales in an expedition that runs until April. For the first time in decades they will include humpbacks. Mr Downer today ordered Australia's Ambassador to Japan, Murray McLean, to register

Australia's protest with the impending "inhumane" harvest under Japan's scientific whaling program. (Age)

18 Nov - **THERE'S something brewing down at the gym.** Beer-lovers can rejoice at the news that downing a brew or two can actually help rehydrate you after exercise. New research from Granada University in Spain is good news for Territorians who love both their beer and their sport. Scientists discovered that drinking a lager as well as water after a game rehydrated athletes more quickly than water alone. (NT News)

17 Nov - **AFTER 32 years of secrecy**, the killing of the Balibo Five newsmen has been branded a war crime, and Australia may launch prosecutions against the Indonesian soldiers involved. The explosive findings yesterday by the Deputy State Coroner Dorelle Pinch - that the five were deliberately killed by special force soldiers after surrendering - will be referred to federal lawyers and police for war crime prosecutions. The Australian Government could then find itself obliged to seek the extradition of at least two former Indonesian soldiers - including the retired army general and information minister Mohammad Yunus Yosfiah - for wilful killing of civilians, contrary to the Geneva Conventions. (Sydney Morning Herald)

17 Nov. - **CHIEF Commissioner Christine Nixon** has banned Police Association secretary Paul Mullett from entering any police building in Victoria as the police crisis reaches flashpoint. Mr Mullett is banned from attending any of Victoria's 540 police premises, including 321 operational stations. "He is not allowed in any police station and as a consequence I cannot deal with him," Ms Nixon said. And former chief commissioner Neil Comrie called on police to show loyalty to Ms Nixon, saying the force was facing "one of its greatest crises in more than 150 years". (Age)

15 Nov - **NUCLEAR power** will eventually win favour in Australia and become our cleanest, most efficient power source, says Australian Nuclear and Science Technology Organisation chairman Ziggy Switkowski. Addressing a business forum tonight, Dr Switkowski said he was happy nuclear energy was not an election issue because the debate was still young. But he said nuclear power stations had a place in Australia and there was no doubt they would become part of our energy landscape. (Australian)

**The original point and click tool was a Smith and Wesson.**



## Performances with Australian Artists

From the Australian Events Calendar as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007, Australian Embassy Vienna

<p><b>5 &amp; 6 December</b></p>	<p><b>Alexandra Bourne in Concert</b></p>	<p>5 December at Cafe Jetzt 6 December at Johnny's For further information please refer to: <a href="http://www.alexandrabourne.com">www.alexandrabourne.com</a> Contact: <a href="mailto:info@alexandrabourne.com">info@alexandrabourne.com</a></p>	<p>Australian Alexandra Bourne will be playing acoustic pop and alternative cover versions from Kylie Minogue, Natalie Imbruglia, Gwen Stefani and many more.</p>
<p><b>8 December</b> 5 pm –Opening exhibition running until 30 January</p>	<p><b>“Verknuepfungen” Exhibition</b></p>	<p>Galerie am Lieglweg Lieglweg 23 3040 Neulengbach Ph: 02772 56363 Email: <a href="mailto:ursula.fisher@utanet.at">ursula.fisher@utanet.at</a></p>	<p>Austrian artist Elisabeth Weissensteiner, resident in Australia, will show wall mounted, photo-based work and sculptures that compare close-ups from Australian natural features with body parts and abstract sculptures.</p>
<p><b>11 December</b> 6pm</p>	<p><b>Australian Nicole Brady in Concert</b></p>	<p>Habig-Foyer Graf Starhemberg-gasse 14 Alte Fabrik 1040 Vienna Please contact Mr. Weiss Ph: 01 504 6651 Email: <a href="mailto:a.lange@aon.at">a.lange@aon.at</a> If you wish to attend.</p>	<p>Pianist Nicole Brady will be performing works by Antonio Solder, Claude Debussy and Wolfgang Korngold.</p>
<p><b>13 December</b> 7pm</p>	<p><b>Louise Hudson in Verdi’s “Macbeth“</b></p>	<p>Pribinova 17 SK-815 86 Bratislava Ph: +421 2 57782 110 Email: <a href="mailto:snd@snd.sk">snd@snd.sk</a></p>	<p>Australian Louise Hudson will be singing the role of Lady Macbeth in Verdi’s first adoption of a libretto based on one of Shakespeare’s works.</p>

Unless otherwise specified, all telephone numbers are in Vienna

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER**

As 2008 is just around the corner we kindly ask you all to renew your membership to OzCon. You will receive a bank payment slip, Erlagschein in January, which we kindly ask you to fill out and arrange payment. It is imperative that you clearly mark your name and address on the red section of the payment slip or internet transfer to save confusion and for us to keep track of paid members. We are proud to inform you that the fee has remained the same, €20 per family.

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***Other Associations***

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