

July/August 2008

Food and Wine: an OzCon day in Krems

By car and train they came. About 30 OzCon members and some friends spent the last day of May in the old town of Krems on the Danube.

A 15-minute walk from the Bahnhof took us to the Alte Donau (seit 1500) restaurant in the main street where the heat was kept (mostly) at bay beneath large umbrellas in the attractive courtyard. We were joined by others who chose to drive.



First timers Andrew Demczuk and wife Joey with Sharyn Rieger and Suzanne Prissmann



Most of the group in the winery grounds

After a leisurely lunch we all strode down the street to the Salomon Undhof winery where the children cooled off in a fountain while the grownups tasted some good Austrian whites and Australian reds from the Salomon Estate winery at Finnis River south of Adelaide in South Australia.



Salomon Undhof winery welcomes the Aussies

For those who know their wine, the local whites were Hochterrassen 2007 Grüner Veltliner, a Wieden 2007 Grüner Veltliner, an Undhof Kögl 2007 Riesling and a Gelber Traminer 2006 Reserve. And the excellent reds: Norwood 2004 Shiraz-Cabernet-Merlot, a Finnis River 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon, and a Finnis River 2004 Shiraz.



Host Angelique Emberger pours for Sharyn Rieger, Rosalie Toomey and Suzanne Prissmann

It was a somewhat slower walk back to the Bahnhof, but everyone made it. -Brett Bayly

The City is Ours Again From the President

Hello everyone:

It's OK, you can go back into the city now. They have all gone. So reclaim your city and enjoy your summer.

I must say I was happy to see the Spaniards win. After all, they won all their games, played the better football and it had been 44 years since they were European Champions.

The next highlight for (Aussie) football fans should be watching the Socceroos qualify for the World Cup in South Africa in 2010. Australia is in a group with Bahrain, Japan, Qatar and Uzbekistan for the fourth round of qualifying matches which starts in September and goes right through to June next year! It should be a breeze for the Socceroos.

In the meantime we all have the summer to look forward to. It's school holidays and I am already starting to hear that common refrain "I'm bored." So I have to remind them that in just 27 days (at time of writing) we are all off to Australia for five weeks, most of the time in sunny Queensland including a cruise on the Great Barrier Reef.

Other OzConnors (I just invented a new word) will also be away and so, just as we did last year, we are combining the July and August newsletters. So take note of the bar nights for both months and be aware that we are trying a new venue. The Roo Bar at Hegelgasse 8 in the 1st District – not far from Flanagan's – opened last month. It is owned and operated by an Aussie.

My regular perusal of Australian newspapers came up with interesting bits and pieces during the month. Sometimes I think it is handy to have these facts at your disposal for when talking with people who have little idea of what Australia is about.

For instance, Australia's population is increasing by a million every three years, as record immigration levels combine with a rebounding birthrate to produce the biggest population growth

in the nation's history. Figures from the Bureau of Statistics estimate that the nation's population grew by a record 331,872 last year, a growth rate of 1.6 pc, the highest for almost 20 years.

Or that Australian tourists may be generous and polite but their dress and reluctance to eat local food lets them down, according to a survey of international hoteliers. That's why Australians are ranked only number six by hoteliers asked who they think are the world's best tourists, and who put the Japanese at number one.

Then there are facts that we might not like to talk about: Australians are fatter, drunker and have more sexually transmitted diseases than ever before, but access to doctors is falling. The good news from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) biennial national snapshot is we live longer than any other nation except for Japan. Men who reach 65 can now expect to live to the age of 83 and women to 86 - about six years more.

And if you supplement your income from the stock market like some of us do, you might like to hear this end-of-financial-year statistic. The year 2007-08 is being described as the year the market melted. If you had shares worth \$1million on 1 November last year, they are worth just \$764,000 now.

Not with the big figures? Well how about something that relates to the household budget? A Choice Magazine study in Australia has found that games consoles such as the Sony Playstation3 when switched on *but are not in use* can burn up to five times more energy than a medium sized refrigerator.

Enjoy the summer. – Brett



Amanda Grant and her father Jeremy on the train to Krems

OzCon Welcomes Young Lovers

Vienna is the second best city in the world to live in, according to a recent study. It might well be the first city in the world for the internationalism of its residents.

Consider OzCon's latest members.



Andrew and Joey

Joey Gazetovici (born in Romania) was studying at the Australian National University in Canberra when she met Andrew Demczuk (born in Adelaide). Andrew's grandparents were Polish and came to Australia as refugees after the Second World War. He was working for the Defence Force as a civil servant.

Joey and Andrew needed accommodation and they met at the Canberra Youth Hostel.

"After we went looking together we really hit it off and, after three months of living and traveling within Australia, we fell in love with the country and each other," Andrew writes. "When it was time for Joey to finish her studies in Austria I took unpaid leave, made the hop over with her and we got married within the first month at beautiful Mozart's home town Baden."

Joey is studying for her Masters in Theater Film and Media while Andrew is currently working for the UN in their IT support section. Both love Australia and hope to return after they have seen a bit more of the world.

Joey, who moved to Austria from Romania when she was just eight, did not know the significance of her name in Australia – being likened to a baby kangaroo -- until she travelled there.

Andrew and Joey are looking for an apartment in Vienna and are presently living with Joey's mother Daniella Gazetovici in Ebreichsdorf. They joined the OzCon group that visited Krems on 31 May.

"It was a pleasure to meet some of you at the wine tasting event and we hope to catch up with those we missed on future outings," Andrew said.

The following is taken from The Southern Cross Group's newsletter of 6 June 2008.

When did you submit your Australian citizenship application?

The SCG is presently working with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) to try to improve Australian citizenship application processing times. A number of applicants have been concerned about long delays and we have been taking up individual cases with DIAC.

Help us to help you by letting us know immediately if you have lodged a citizenship application which has not yet been decided. In particular, if you lodged your application via the Australian Embassy in Washington, we would like to hear from you.

An e-mail to anne@southern-cross-group.org with the following details would be appreciated:

- Your full name
- Your address
- Your date and place of birth
- Whether you have applied for resumption, citizenship by descent, or by conferral
- The date you sent your application or lodged it in person
- Where your application was sent to or lodged in person
- Details of any communication you have received from the DIAC or the post at which you lodged the application since it was sent/filed.

We will engage with the Department concerning your application to try to make sure it is decided as quickly as possible. If for any reason an e-mail response is not possible, then please send a short note to Anne MacGregor, 17 Ave C. Gilisquet, 1030 Brussels, Belgium, or phone her on +32 474 950 131.

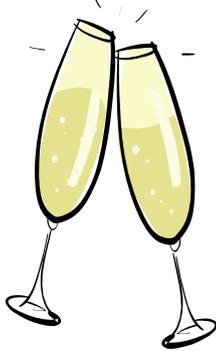
If you have yet to submit your Australian citizenship application, then don't forget we are here to help you. If you feel overwhelmed by the process or are stuck on a particular point, then please get in touch. Hundreds of people are now happy Australian citizens under the new Citizenship Act, and we want you to benefit as well!

If you've already had your citizenship application approved, and haven't let us know, we'd be grateful for an update from you on how it all went.

OzCon Events

Bar Nights

The July and August Bar Nights will take place in Vienna's first ever owned and run Aussie Bar. The Roo Bar, Hegelgasse 8, 1010 Vienna. Come along and join us from 5pm on Friday 18th July and Friday 29th August.



The UNWG Bazaar

It may seem like a long way off, but the UN Women's Guild children's charity bazaar 2008 will be held on Saturday 6 December at the Austria Centre and we need your help *now*.

We need a new team of a Coordinator and an assistant to put the Australian food stall together. While there is little to be done right now, past experience has shown that we need to select our team before everyone disappears for the summer holidays. Fortunately we already have one assistant, Amanda Grant who has volunteered for the position, thanks Amanda.

Before going any further, I want to emphasise that it will not be a 'start from the beginning' exercise. Last year's team will assist and offer guidance all the way through and it will be a case of doing what was done last time.

The number one priority is to find a Bazaar Coordinator. The Coordinator needs to be female (UNWG rules), has a grounds pass to the VIC, is a member of the UNWG (a simple enough process and OzCon refunds the annual UNWG membership fee) and is an organizer.

Role of Coordinator

The coordinator will receive mail from the UNWG, submit stall holder and electrical equipment forms, and purchase wine/food/drinks/serviettes/plates etc from the commissary and other shops.

The job entails picking up and returning hired goods, returning unsold purchases to the commissary the day after the bazaar and submitting a reimbursement

claim with the Guild. This is not as bad as it might sound because it is primarily a job of copying what was done last year and the year before that. There is no need to start from scratch. And you will be helped by our Coordinator for the past two years, Susanna Martin, and by two helpers leading up to the day, and by a big team of people on the day before to set up and on the actual day itself.

Susanna has lists of items that are required and estimates of quantities, so the new coordinator will have a lot of backup from her, other members of the OzCon Board and all the others who were involved last year.

Another helper needed

Last year the two helpers were responsible for chasing up volunteers and drawing up a roster of people working at the stall on the day, keeping track of who was donating our main sale item, the pavlovas and performing any other jobs as requested by the Coordinator. The Coordinator and helpers attended meetings with other Board members as required.

Once again we will be seeking a sponsor for the Australian wine.

For the information of our new members the Australian stall has been popular for years primarily because it is one of the few stalls that sells desserts rather than a main meal--- our pavlovas and lamingtons plus good Aussie wine, champagne and beer have become well known to a discerning Austrian clientele. The Australian Ambassador's chef sets the ball rolling by providing 200 small pavs (and we hope that generosity is repeated this year). But these need to be supplemented by donations from our members. In the past it has been found that small rather than large pavlovas are the best sellers.

So please don't feel as though these jobs are beyond you. You will be guided all the way by those who made the stall such a big success last year. We have the backing and support of the embassy, and Ambassador Shannon in particular.

Brett Bayly

Classified advertisements

'Down Sizing' Sale

- Rosenthal 'Classic Rose' white dinner service for 12 settings. Can be split.
 - Cut glass wine glasses and water glasses
 - crystal wine glasses for red and white
 - Dinette Hostess Trolley 220V 460 Watt.
- Offers can be made. Telephone 3696658.

Handyman looking for work

Want a handyman who can do almost anything? Move house; renovate a bathroom; lay timber floors; erect flywire screens for the summer (will measure, purchase and install); painting; plumbing; electrical work; install a new kitchen. Give Ahmad Mohammadzadehi a call on 06991 9526628. He speaks German and some English.

Looking for a bargain – head to America!

I was fortunate enough to take a trip to New York where I spent the vast majority of my time in shopping malls. To say it's inexpensive and fantastic value for money would be an understatement. The fact that the US\$ is at an all time low against the Euro certainly worked to my advantage. I have a very good girlfriend living in New Jersey and I stayed with her in a beautiful town called Hillsborough. Hillsborough is about a 20 minute drive from Princeton, the famous university town that is as picturesque as they come.

Besides shopping I visited New York City which was a totally amazing experience. Seeing Ground Zero really hit home and made me realise just how grave the September 11th attack was. Telling the typical American I come from Australia but live in Austria was also entertaining. Most of the time their eyes would just glaze over and they would say "oh yes how lovely", knowing full well they had no clue that they were actually two different countries!

I went with two empty suitcases and they both came back very FULL!! So if you need to do some shopping and would like a little trip my advice is head to America.

-Liz Crawford



Ground Zero now a huge construction site



Princeton University



One can not go to NYC without a photo of the Empire State Building!

A bit of fun How to speak New Zulander (for bist effect, rid these out aloud)

Milburncapital of Victoria
 Peckto fill a suitcase
 Pissed asidechemical which kills insects
 Pigsfor hanging out washing
 Nin tin doughcomputer game
 Munner stroneysoup
 Mess Karaeye makeup
 Leatherform produced from soap
 Kittle cruspspotato chips
 Inner meenemy
 Fushmarine creatures
 Fitter cheneytype of pasta
 Earmix of nitrogen and oxygen
 Ear roebucksexercise at the gym
 Bug butpopular recording
 Bearda place to sleep
 Sucks Peckhalf a dozen beers

Aussie News Briefs

1 July - **IT was the year the market melted.** Australian investors saw their wealth rise, fall, rise again, then fall, and fall again. It was the worst financial year on the stock market since 1981-82. And it ended with the worst June on the market since 1940. The market index peaked at 6828.7 points on November 1. Over the next eight months, it lost almost a quarter of its value. If your shares were worth \$1 million on 1 November, then on average, they're worth just \$764,000 now, as the market has moved back to where it was two years ago. (Age)

28 June - **UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon** has given an extraordinary endorsement of Kevin Rudd's foreign policy. Mr Ban has praised the commitment to multilateral diplomacy by the Labor Government, replacing the more bilaterally-focused approach of the Howard government. "I welcome the renewed and strengthened activism of the Australian Government to strengthening multilateralism," the UN chief said in an interview with The Weekend Australian

25 June - **AUSTRALIA'S doctor shortage is becoming critical**, with new figures revealing a plunge in the number of GPs. A report to be released today shows the number of practising GPs fell 9 per cent between 1997 and 2005. (Advertiser)

24 June - **AUSTRALIANS are fatter, drunker and have more sexually transmitted diseases** than ever before, but access to doctors is falling. The appalling state of Aboriginal and rural health continues to stain the nation's bill of health, as these groups lag behind their non-indigenous and city counterparts in life expectancy and quality. (AAP)

23 June - **A MAN has been caught riding a motorised wheelchair** while six times over the legal limit. Motorists on the Captain Cook Highway had to swerve to avoid hitting the man who cops said was so drunk he was asleep at the controls. The man was breathalysed by police after they smelt alcohol on his breath. He was later charged with being in charge of a vehicle while under the influence of liquor. (Cairns Post)

19 June - **SOUTH Australia has introduced legislation to ban lightweight plastic shopping bags.** All thin plastic bags supplied at supermarket checkouts and take-away food outlets will be banned from next May, but heavier bags used by department stores and boutiques will not be affected. Retailers must provide an alternative to the plastic bags from January during a four-month transition period. (Australian)

17 June - **AFTER a month of debuts, injuries and retirements**, Australia's "generation Y" Test team emerged from its first Caribbean examination with reputation largely intact and the Frank Worrell Trophy safely in their keep. The Australians completed an 87-run victory at Kensington Oval this morning - thus sealing a 2-0 series win - but, as ever, the West Indies made them earn it. (Canberra Times)



16 June - **QANTAS** has started selling tickets for its first A380 flight, planned for October. The world's largest passenger plane - Airbus A380 - is capable of carrying about 600 passengers in a full economy layout. Qantas will carry 450 passengers on its first flight from Melbourne to Los Angeles on October 20. The Qantas A380 will be configured with 450 seats, 14 individual first class seats, 72 in business, 32 in premium economy cabin and 332 in economy. (Brisbane Times)



14 June - **IT WAS Kevin Rudd speaking, but John Howard was the one getting the applause** at a rebuilt school in tsunami-devastated Aceh today. Teachers, parents and local officials at the Ulee Lheue Islamic School, rebuilt with Australian aid, applauded when Prime Minister Kevin Rudd publicly thanked his predecessor for committing \$1 billion in aid to Indonesia following the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004. (Herald Sun)

11 June - **A MILLION dollar Sydney drugs trial has been aborted** after it was found jurors were playing the puzzle game sudoku while evidence was being given. Sydney District Court Judge Peter Zahra yesterday aborted the trial of two men facing a possible life sentence on drugs conspiracy charges. He discharged the jury in the trial which had been running for 66 days over the past four months and had cost taxpayers an estimated \$1 million. (Herald Sun)

Aussie News Briefs cont'd



10 June - **KEVIN Rudd** yesterday warned that the 40-year-old Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was fragmenting, as he vowed to create a new international body to champion disarmament and prevent the treaty from dying "the death of a thousand cuts". Former Labor foreign minister Gareth Evans will chair the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, which the Prime Minister wants to forge a global consensus on how to reinvigorate the NPT at a five-yearly review to be held in 2010. Mr Rudd revealed his plan in Kyoto yesterday, just hours after becoming the first serving Australian Prime Minister to visit Hiroshima, the city levelled by an atomic bomb dropped by the US in 1945. (Australian)

6 June - **QANTAS has cut the heart out of the Cairns tourism industry**, axing its twice daily services to Tokyo and abandoning the western Japanese market in a move that will cost the city at least \$125 million a year. The decision, announced yesterday afternoon by Qantas chief executive Geoff Dixon, has stunned tourism officials, politicians and the tourism industry, which had been expecting some cuts as a result of rising oil prices but not the massive axe that Qantas dropped. (Cairns Post)

6 June - **HUNDREDS more people remain under suspicion of child pornography crimes** after 90 Australians were caught in a police net as part of a global crackdown. The Australian Federal Police warned yesterday there could be many more arrests in Operation Centurion, which is linked to a wider Interpol investigation involving 170 countries. In Australia, about 1500 people or individual computers have been identified in the investigation. (Daily Telegraph)

5 June - **THE length of tours of duty for Australian troops** sent on operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere will be increased from six months to eight months. (Age)

1 June - **AUSTRALIAN combat troops have begun withdrawing from Iraq**, fulfilling an election promise by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to bring the soldiers home this year. The soldiers from Overwatch Battle Group (West) 4 had been based at the Tallil air base, 300km south of Baghdad, and were responsible for providing security overwatch for Iraq security forces, as well as reconstruction and aid work. Polls show 80 per cent of Australians oppose the war. (AAP)



While the adults sampled wine, the kids cooled off in the winery fountain

Vegemite in Vienna

Looking for that illusive jar of vegemite in Vienna? There is a place where you can buy it along with some other hard-to-come items like Cadbury's chocolate and mint jelly for the lamb. It's British but we won't hold that against them. Bobby's Foodstore is near the Naschmarkt at Schleifmühlgasse 8 in the 4th District. Have a look at www.bobbys.at

Understanding Engineers - Take One

Two engineering students were walking across campus when one said, "Where did you get such a great bike?" The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday minding my own business when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike. She threw the bike to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, "Take what you want." The second engineer nodded approvingly, "Good choice; the clothes probably wouldn't have fit."

Understanding Engineers - Take Two

To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

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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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