

# Disaster in Victoria: Five days of fury and despair



**OUR DARKEST DAY**  
A STATE OF MOURNING



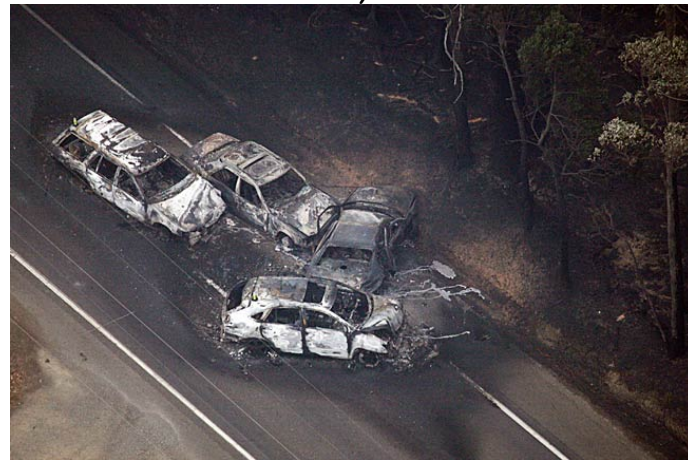
*Despair*



*Fireman: "How much can a koala bare?"*



*Fury*



*Trying to escape*



*Marysville gone*

## *From the President*

### *Australia's worst natural disaster*

What a month it has been in Australia! First there was widespread flooding in Queensland where one of the casualties was a 5-year-old boy who was taken by a crocodile when he entered floodwaters while chasing his pet dog while his 7-year-old brother watched.

And then it got worse, much worse. Australia suffered its worst natural disaster in its short history.

At the time of writing Victoria's bushfire death toll was 209. The fires had burnt more than 400,000ha of land, razed 1834 houses and left more than 7000 people homeless.

It had at first thought to be even worse. But after searching devastated areas police allayed fears that up to 300 had perished. At one time it was feared 100 of the 500 residents of Marysville had lost their lives. That number has been revised down to 45.

Being here in Vienna with the snow wafting down and an icy wind keeping us indoors, it is impossible to imagine the size and ferocity of the fires.

At one stage the BBC reported that the main fire which destroyed two towns was as large as Luxembourg (more than 2500 sq km). In Austrian terms, that is about six times the size of Vienna.

I have heard people ask if the fires could have been stopped with more firefighters and equipment. Apparently not. The fires were unprecedented.

In a personal account printed on the next page, a survivor says "No-one realized that people couldn't possibly fight it. Even if there were 100 fire trucks on my parents' property alone it wouldn't have made a difference."

I found it hard to leave the television and online video and audio coverage for more than a few hours during those five days. And to hear that a volunteer fireman allegedly set one of the killer fires is hardly believable.

Not all stories were sad. Sam the koala (pictured on page 1) who was rescued by a firefighter became an international celebrity. The Herald Sun reported that it had sold 15,000 photos of Sam and his rescuer, raising \$300,000 for firefighters.

Then as the fires came largely under control in Victoria we heard that some areas of NSW, where there had also been fires earlier, had been flooded. Six NSW council

areas were declared natural disaster areas after several centres in the state's north and Hunter region received their annual rainfall in the space of a few days.

But the heat and the fires returned to Victoria and at the time of writing there were still homes being lost.

The response by Australians to tragedy has been overwhelming yet again following the launch of the 2009 Victorian Bushfire Fund to assist individuals and communities affected by the devastating bushfires. The website for donations is: [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)



*No stopping an inferno*

### **Special happenings**

OzCon has a special event for you this month and another in April.

If you are a tea drinker you should join us on a visit to a very historic site in Vienna, the Demmers Teahaus, for a spot of tea tasting. If you don't drink tea, come for the experience of visiting one of Vienna's historical areas anyway.

And, as foreshadowed last month, we plan to go to the Festspielhaus in St Pölten next month to see the indigenous Bangarra Dance Theatre. This will be a good experience for children as well as adults so please join us. You can get there by a shuttle bus from the city or by car.

Details can be found on page 5.

Our newsletter editor Liz Crawford was holidaying in Australia in February and so I cobbled this issue together. I will gladly hand over to her on her return early in the month. – *Brett*

## **"We are alive," says family. "So many died"**

*This personal moving account of surviving the Victorian bushfires was sent to an OzCon member by a friend.*

Date: Tue, 10 Feb 2009

We're all safe. We were incredibly lucky. So many died. It was an unbelievably ferocious fire. Mum and Dad and my brother Eddy lost everything - every single thing they'd accumulated over their lifetimes. We didn't manage to save anything for them - they are without identification. They have nothing but ... they have everything, because all of us are alive and safe.

Often, city people wonder why country people don't just leave early. Why stay in the danger zone? Let me tell you. The advice from the CFA was to leave early or implement your fire plan. We implemented our fire plan. We were prepared. We had been preparing for months beforehand, chopping trees, clearing rubbish, cleaning gutters, accumulating fire equipment. We had water, pumps, generator, portable radio, everything for fighting fire. We'd filled baths and tanks with water and done all the recommended things. We had previous experience.

We believed the house was defensible. Nearly all the people I spoke to in Kinglake and Whittlesea had done the same, including the local firefighters. We were all wrong. Nothing could stop that fire.

We nearly all lost homes. So many lost their lives. It happened so fast. There was no warning. Nothing on the radio. Not even a warning siren from the Kinglake CFA. The local firetrucks were off the mountain. Nobody knew. The wind changed suddenly and fire roared up the mountain in a matter of minutes. We could only try to save ourselves. Too many didn't.

Believe me, none of us wanted our 6yr old Jimmy to go through what he did. He is such a brave little boy. We didn't have time to leave the mountain because Whittlesea below was suddenly under ember attack and the Murrindindi fire was on the other side of the mountain. I didn't want to drive Jimmy down through smoke because that's how people often die. So we stayed, thinking the house was defensible until we realized the fire was really big. We still didn't know how big.

Andy drove Jimmy and I to the Kinglake CFA which was 5 minutes away where we took refuge with many others while he drove back through fire to help mum and dad and Eddy. We had no time to collect anything to save. They were still thinking they could defend the

house until they saw flames rising 30 feet above the tree line. So they took refuge in the cellar.

Thank God they had that strong cellar with water and blankets to huddle under. It saved them from the murderous heat until the house caught fire above them. They then had to leave because the smoke in the cellar was so thick they couldn't breathe. They had to run out the back through paddocks that had already burned and they lay in a dam trying to breathe. There were cars crashing and trees exploding near them.

Meanwhile, Jimmy and I and the others at the Kinglake CFA (Country Fire Authority) endured fire roaring on top of us. Luckily there were firefighters there who saved us. Many young volunteers. All scared but brave. The smoke was so thick and the noise was almost overwhelming.

Explosions and terrifying wind and the knowledge that we all had loved ones out there. For many long, horrible hours I thought Jimmy and I were the only ones left of our family. Jimmy never cried or complained despite his burning throat and streaming eyes. We huddled together and I tried to shield him and comfort him as best I could.

People were magnificent. Stoic. All helping each other. Jimmy kept saying "people are so kind mamma" as we were offered water and wet blankets to huddle under. Everyone was being brave in front of the children. Once the main fire had passed over us we were able to go outside close to the shed and breathe slightly better air whilst seeing Kinglake burn all around us.

Distressed people with burns were coming in. No ambulances could get through for so long. Finally, after hours, I was able to get through to my family. They had managed to get to my other brother John's farm which they were able to save because the main fire hadn't gone that way. They worked through the night there under ember attack putting out spot fires. They were exhausted but they were all safe and virtually unharmed. It's unbelievable how lucky they were and how they managed to keep their heads and make some amazingly good decisions.

My parent's neighbours are all probably dead. They didn't have as much cleared land around them and they didn't have a cellar. People up and down that mountain had no chance to get away. The death count is going to rise and rise. I see the authorities are going to review the policy of advising people about how to stay and defend property. I don't blame anyone. No-one has ever seen a fire like that before. It didn't follow any of the old rules. The heat during the day. The incredible wind. The years of drought. Climate change.

No-one realized that people couldn't possibly fight it. Even if there were 100 fire trucks on my parents'

property alone it wouldn't have made a difference. The only way would have been for everyone to evacuate early in the day but to where? And how many? No-one knew where the fires would start. Practically the whole of country Victoria would have had to go somewhere. I don't know what the answer is. I'm just so hugely, completely, deeply grateful that we are all alive.

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*Gabrielle, a shy Georg and Sharon*

## **Impressions of a Ball in Vienna**

*Vienna is the only place in the world where real balls, in a world of true elegance and distinguished manners in a long fairly-tale night of dancing, still rule the social life of winter. And so what is it like to attend one's first Ball in Vienna? New OzCon member Sharon Tiainen writes about her impressions when she and husband Chris Cubitt were invited by OzCon Vice President Gabrielle Costigan and husband Georg Rappold to a Ball at the Hofburg Palace.*

When Gabrielle and Georg suggested we join them at the Kaffesiedler Ball, Chris and I jumped at the invitation. Of course we have been to balls before but not like this. The venue is unrivalled, a ball should be held in a space such as this. From the humbling grand scale of the entire palace complex to the deliberate inclusions of small elaborate detailing, the palace is a delight to the eye. And that was just our first impressions.

Upon entering you can feel you have stepped into another time, a place where time has slowed a little and where elegance prevails and manners matter. Passing through corridors and saloons steeped in history, places that have hosted hundreds of thousands of guests from across the centuries and from all walks of life and corners of the globe was very special.

The built setting is perfectly complemented by the talented musicians. Their music pervades the saloons creating atmospheres catering to tastes as diverse as classical, funk, jazz and big band and then there is the dancing.

Being skilled only in the hardly fine art of dancing around a handbag at an Australian nightclub, I loved watching the dancing. That was until I was whisked onto the floor for a waltz and what, if you had your eyes half closed and had sipped a few too many schnapps, may have resembled a rumba. Wow, what fun and a big thanks to Georg for introducing a suburban girl from Adelaide to the finer points of Viennese life.

The evening shifts gear effortlessly, seemingly changing personality at a whim. It begins upon the arrival of the beautifully dressed guests and the anticipation builds from there, moving through the formality and restrained elegance of the presentation of the debutantes, to the convivial relaxed atmosphere of the saloons and finally to the funky party atmosphere of the roof.

From the soaring majesty of the Baroque inspired grand hall to the contemporary roof space with a view across the beautiful coppered dome, a ball at the Hofburg has it all and it is an experience I would highly recommend.

When the architects of imperial Europe set about their business of designing the palaces for the ruling elite, I am sure at least part of their intent was to provide an environment to marvel the senses and the Hofburg does this with ease. And whilst I am not sure if the Hapsburgs would have approved of a commoner Antipodean being able to spend an evening in their palace I felt incredibly welcome.

Such is the irony of the ball in its current guise and it is a characteristic I find endearing, much like the city of Vienna and by extension the Austrians themselves. The Austrians are justifiably proud of a centuries old tradition that thrives today, and by my reckoning is destined to thrive into the future.

Oh, and to cap off a fantastic evening, join the crowd at a wurstel stand or café for a late night snack. As tradition dictates you certainly won't be the only one there in black tie!

*A report on the OzCon night out at the IAEA Ball at the Hofburg on 28 Feb. will appear in the next newsletter.*

## OzCon Events

### Demmers tea

Demmers Teahouse has offered OzCon members an exclusive session in tea tasting at their wonderful location in the 1st district in the M $\ddot{o}$ lker Bastei, one of the hot spots of Vienna. A street with very imposing houses was erected in the former Bastion in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The residents have included Emperor Franz Joseph I and Beethoven. Demmers have erected their tea house in this historic strip.

Date: Thursday **19 March**

Location: Tearoom in DEMMERS TEEHAUS M $\ddot{o}$ lker Bastei.

Address: WIEN M $\ddot{O}$ LKER BASTEI 5, 1010, Vienna

Time: 18.30 – 20.00

Cost per participator €15. (incl. €10. shop voucher) for tea and nibbles.

There are limited places and so it will be on a first in - first served basis. So if you would like to attend please confirm via email to [gabrielle.costigan@gmx.at](mailto:gabrielle.costigan@gmx.at) by **Monday 16 March**.

### Bar night

Friday 27 March at Flanagan's, Schwarzenbergerstr. 1-3, 1010 Vienna from 17:30.

### Bangarra Dance Theatre

OzCon will arrange tickets for members who want to see the truly innovative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander **Bangarra Dance Theatre** perform in the Festspielhaus at St P $\ddot{o}$ lten on **Friday 17 April**. Supported by the Australian Embassy, there is a party after the performance. There is a range of ticket prices and we have chosen mid-range tickets at €25 each. OzCon will subsidise each ticket by €5.

There is a shuttle bus that leaves from Operngasse outside Elite Tours in the city. However, if you chose to take the bus you will not be able to attend the party after the performance.

If you wish to take part in this special night out, please notify Amanda Grant at [amandagrants65@gmail.com](mailto:amandagrants65@gmail.com) or tel. 2711027 by **Friday 20 March**. Amanda will need payment by that date to purchase tickets. For information: [www.festspielhaus.at/content-english/programme/dance](http://www.festspielhaus.at/content-english/programme/dance)

## New Banners

OzCon has had two new banners made for use at both indoor and outdoor events.

The 'Australia' banner replaces the somewhat battered and worn paper banner that has been used at the UNWG Bazaar for a number of years. It measures 3 metres by 1.5 metres.

The OzCon banner is new and can be used as a focal point for future outdoor events, such as barbecues, or indoors where appropriate. It measures 2 metres by 1 metre.



### A bit of fun

**Answers by children in a science exam:**

**Q: Name the four seasons.**

**A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.**

**Q: Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.**

**A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.**

**Q: How is dew formed?**

**A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.**

**Q: How can you delay milk turning sour?**

**A: Keep it in the cow.**

## *A contrast: an Austrian winter*



*A winter smile*

## **Ice Skating**



*Julia and Annika Altenburger support Isabella Toomey Stevens with Michelle Toomey and Isabella Altenburger behind*

An OzCon outing on the ice at Wiener Eislaufverein near Stadtpark was followed by the mandatory Viennese coffee and cake.



*The Alte Donau*

## *A ski weekend at Lackenhof*



*A mountain of snow: half a metre per day*



*Clearing snow off the buses*



*A buried village*

## Travel Tip

### Kangaroo Island - a short trip to the wild side of nature

No wonder all my friends who have been to Kangaroo Island call 'KI' 'one of earth's last unspoilt refuges'. It's Australia's third largest island - after Tasmania and Melville Island - and is 112 km southwest of Adelaide.

Here is an island seven times the size of Singapore, literally crawling with wildlife. The koalas aren't being cuddled - they're relaxing at home in native trees. The seals aren't performing - they're lazing beside you and posing for the camera. You can however smell these natural beasts from a kilometre away.



There are so many wallabies and kangaroos that driving can be seriously fatal for our native animals at dusk.

The island thrives from tourism, but amazingly having spent four days there, we hardly bumped into any people and it seemed that we had some of the hot spots all for ourselves.

Some amazing sights include the Admirals Arch and the Penguin Pageantry, which was a great night walk where we used infra red lights to observe these little animals in the natural habitat.

Half the native bush land on Kangaroo Island remains just as it was when British navigator Matthew Flinders put a name to this untamed wilderness in 1802. And more than one-third of the Island is National or Conservation Park.

The few days away from mainland Australia was very enjoyable and I would recommend that if anyone has a few days to spare you take the ferry across from Cape Jervis on Fleurieu Peninsula south of Adelaide

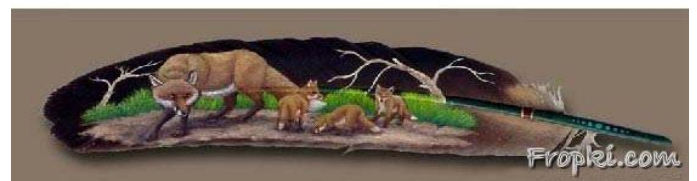
—Gabrielle Costigan

## Guineapigs anyone?

Over the end of semester school break Heidi and Anna Punzengruber took care of the classroom's guineapigs.....



...which sort of coincided with an exhibition at the MUMOK Museum of Modern Art marking Austrian contemporary artist Maria Lassnig's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, including 'a self portrait with guineapig.'



While speaking of art, how's this for something different? Painted feathers.



*It's been pretty hot in Adelaide recently*

## Things Adelaide has learnt from the heat wave 2009:

- >The best parking space is determined by shade instead of distance.
- >Hot water comes out of both taps.
- >You learn that a seat belt buckle makes a pretty good branding iron.
- >The temperature drops below 32C and you feel a little chilly.
- >You discover that in February it only takes two fingers to steer your car.
- >You discover that you can get sunburnt through your car window.
- >You develop a fear of metal car door handles.
- >You break a sweat the instant you step outside at 7:00am.
- >Your biggest bicycle wreck fear is, "What if I get knocked out and end up lying on the pavement and get cooked to death?"
- >You realise that asphalt has a liquid state.
- >Farmers are feeding their chickens crushed ice to prevent them from laying hard-boiled eggs.
- >The trees are whistling for the dogs.

\*\*\*\*\*

**TEACHER:** Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

**WINNIE:** Me!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Aussie News Briefs

24 Feb.- **QUEENSLAND Premier Anna Bligh** and Liberal National Party (LNP) Leader Lawrence Springborg will hit the hustings today for the first full day of campaigning for the March 21 election. Ms Bligh called the election yesterday, asking voters to re-elect Labor to provide a stable government to see Queensland through the economic crisis. (Courier Mail)

23 Feb. - **VICTORIANS' courage, compassion and steely determination** in the face of the Black Saturday bushfires will be marked with an annual day of mourning every February 7 with flags at half-mast and a minute's silence. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd yesterday told the National Day of Mourning service the "worst of nature yet the best of humanity" was showcased in the bushfires that took more than 200 lives and gutted communities across Victoria. In an emotional roll call of the fire-ravaged towns from Marysville to Churchill, Mr Rudd pledged to rebuild every house, town hall, church and school. (Herald Sun)

19 Feb. - **LARGE areas of NSW have been declared natural disaster zones** after heavy rain and extensive flooding in Bourke and the Mid- North Coast, including Coffs Harbour, Bellingen and Kempsey. (Sydney Morning Herald)

15 Feb. - **MOTORISTS in flood-bound north Queensland** continue to ignore warnings not to risk their lives crossing swollen rivers and creeks. Emergency services have been called out for two rescue operations in the same creek within 24 hours. The Gulf communities of Karumba and Normanton are still cut off by flood waters that ravaged the area in the first weeks of January. (Courier Mail)

13 Feb. - **A MAN has been charged over the Churchill fires in Victoria's east** that killed 21 people and destroyed scores of houses. The 39-year-old appeared briefly before court and was charged with arson causing death, intentionally causing a bushfire and possession of child pornography. (Australian)

13 Feb. - **THE Rudd government has pushed its \$42 billion economic stimulus package** through the parliament after striking compromise deals with seven crossbench senators. Labor secured the crucial vote of independent Nick Xenophon to pass the legislation in the Senate after agreeing to a package of compromise measures to help rescue the parched Murray-Darling Basin. The coalition, which opposed the stimulus package, painted the passage of the bills as a tragedy for the Australian economy. (Courier Mail)



11 Feb. - **VICTORIA Police Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon** says some bushfire victims are so badly burned they may never be identified. Ms Nixon, who will head a new body to direct the rebuilding process across the state, said although the final death toll from the devastating bushfires was not yet known, the Coroner's office had made provisions for 300 people. "We have confirmed 181 deaths. As we gain access to locations we then are discovering more bodies," Ms Nixon said. (Herald Sun)



*Photo The Australian*

9 Feb. - **THE Black Saturday firestorm that swept across Victoria on its hottest day on record is feared to have claimed more than 100 lives, making it the nation's worst bushfire disaster.** And the crisis was far from over last night, with the Country Fire Authority advising that 12 major fires were still burning. The official death toll was last night climbing almost hourly as more bodies were recovered from homes and cars in 22 devastated towns to the west, north and east of Melbourne. Victoria Police had confirmed 96 people dead, including four children in one house, by 8pm yesterday while the CFA said more than 100 people were still unaccounted for. Up to 700 homes and 340,000ha of land were destroyed. More than 3730 people had registered with the Red Cross as having left their properties and the total homeless figure is expected to be much higher. (Australian)



*Photo The Australian*

8 Feb. - **EIGHT-FOUR people are confirmed dead in Victoria's bushfires,** far surpassing the state's toll of 47 in the 1983 Ash Wednesday blazes. The number of dead is likely to rise even further as blazes continue to ravage the state with almost 312,000 hectares affected. At least 700 homes have been destroyed - 550 of those in Kinglake and surrounding areas. The Kinglake complex fires north-east of Melbourne are now at least

80 kilometres wide and 220,000 hectares in size, after several fires merged. The fire stretches from Broadford all the way to Taggerty. (Age)

4 Feb. - **AUSTRALIA'S Suzy Walsham has won her third Empire State Building Run-Up,** in which more than 300 people raced up New York City's famous landmark on Tuesday. The competitors, who came from all over the world, ran up 1576 steps from the lobby to the observation deck on the 86th floor of the city's tallest skyscraper. (Age)

3 Feb. - **TREASURER Wayne Swan has unveiled a \$42 billion Nation Building and Jobs Plan** to cushion the effects of the global economic crisis ahead of a 1 per cent cut in interest rates announced this afternoon. The plan forms a double-pronged, electorally friendly strategy designed to shore up employment in the short term and complement long-term infrastructure development. But the package cannot prevent a more than \$40 billion turnaround in the budget, with a budget deficit of \$22.5 billion forecast for this financial year. Unemployment will also climb from the 4.3 forecast in the budget last year to 5.5 per cent by June this year. The Government says the initiatives in the package will boost economic growth by around 0.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product this financial year and between 0.75 and 1 per cent in 2009-10. (Australian)

### **OzCon membership for 2009: final reminder**

Thanks to those who have renewed their membership for 2009. We like to keep an accurate record of our members, and the fees help pay the bills and organise events in the coming year.

For those who have not renewed yet we ask you to do so or to let us know if you don't intend to. The names of those who have not renewed by the end of this month will be removed from the email and membership lists.

Payment of the €20 can be made by online banking or bank transfer. Bank details are as follows.

#### **Bank Account Details:**

Susanna Martin-Murtinger

OZCON Account

Raiffeisenlandesbank Niederösterreich – Wien

BLZ 32000

Kontonummer (Account Number): 12.097.176

Please be sure to mark your name in full so we know who has paid.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### SEARCHING FOR A NEW HOME

For assistance with renting or buying a property in Vienna contact our member DIANA BOAL, who works as a real estate agent.

mobile: 0699 1 747 4114

e-mail: [dboal.real@yahoo.com](mailto:dboal.real@yahoo.com)

### Apartment for Rent

100 sqm apartment for rent in 9<sup>th</sup> district. Consists of one large living room, two good sized bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and separate WC. Has high ceilings and beautiful parquet flooring. Can be rented furnished or unfurnished. It is well situated with open views on to a green area with excellent access to public transport and 10 mins drive to the VIC.

Rent Euro 1,090 incl. BK (maintenance costs). If interested in viewing, please call Ellen Fraser on 2600 ext. 21703 or 0664 395 1924. Apartment is available immediately.

### The Pie Guy

[www.thepieguy.co.uk](http://www.thepieguy.co.uk)

#### Homemade pastries

I specialise in small orders with free delivery to VIS. Meat and Vegetarian Pies, Quiche and Sausage Rolls.

1. Traditional Meat Pie €2.70
2. Chunky Meat Pie or with a pepper gravy. €3.00
3. Chicken, bacon and vegetable Pie €3.00
4. Vegetarian Pie €2.70
5. Quiche-The Australian Breakfast with a crust €2.80
6. 6 inch Sausage Roll: A great snack or make it a meal €2.70

All pies and quiches are available in family sizes, please see order form on my website for prices.

#### Delivering Mon, Wed and Friday.

All orders to be made 24 hours in advance of delivery. Please specify name, room no., time and mobile number. Your order will be confirmed with payment in cash is required on delivery and allow fifteen minutes around delivery time.

Please see my website for all details and to order [www.thepieguy.co.uk](http://www.thepieguy.co.uk)

--Eden Sarelius

We announced in the December newsletter that the British Bookshop in the 1<sup>st</sup> District had gone out of business. Well, we are happy to say they are back in business.



Dear Customer,

The British Bookshop is delighted to announce that new stock is in the shop. Over the next weeks we will further build our stock, offering you a wide selection of reading and audio-visual material across a broad range of subjects, from learning materials to best-selling fiction, from politics and history to cookery, humour and children's books.

Our initial stock offers you a choice of over 2000 general reading titles, consisting mainly of classic and modern bestselling paperbacks, priced at an average of €10.00 each.

You are now able to order millions of titles from the UK and USA. Any orders that you place now, will probably take between 2 and 4 weeks to arrive. We will keep you informed as we open new accounts with our suppliers and improve the delivery times.

It is the intention of the shop's owner and the staff to restore the British Bookshop to one of the great bookshops in Europe. We will retain the features that made us an institution in Vienna and endeavour to add to that reputation by offering lower prices and a better service than we ever have before.

We greatly look forward to welcoming you back!

The British Bookshop team.

### Non-smoking restaurants and cafes

It is a big issue in Vienna right now. The resistance to non-smoking restaurants and cafes remains strong and the new laws are somewhat confusing.

So where are the completely non-smoking eating places?

Let us know if you have found them and we will run a list in the next newsletter.



## Performances with Australian Artists and other events

From the Australian Events Calendar, Australian Embassy Vienna

2 March at 7.30 pm	<b>Slava Grigoryan, Wolfgang Muthspiel and Ralph Towner live in concert</b>	Wiener Konzerthaus, Lothringstrasse 20, 1030 Wien <a href="http://www.konzerthaus.at">www.konzerthaus.at</a>	Renowned classical and jazz guitarists combine
10 March at 7 pm	<b>John Mateer – Public reading and book launch</b>	Alte Schiede, Schönlaterngasse 9, 1010 Wien <a href="http://www.alte.schmiede.at">www.alte.schmiede.at</a>	Australian poet and author will launch his first German language book “Einmal Weiss/Ex White.”.
12 – 15 March	<b>International IATEFL Slovenia Conference 2009</b>	Terme Topolsica. See <a href="http://www.iatefl.si">www.iatefl.si</a> email: <a href="mailto:info@iatefi.edus.si">info@iatefi.edus.si</a>	Australian Shelie Nielsen will lecture and hold workshops on “theatre and drama in the classroom” at the English language teachers’ conference
19 March opening 22 March 10 am to 3 pm open house	<b>“Out of Europe” Exhibition</b>	Trierenberg Holding AG, Johann Roithnerstrasse 131, 4050 Traun <a href="http://www.ab-original.at">www.ab-original.at</a> info:: <a href="mailto:jutta.grum@tanngroup.com">jutta.grum@tanngroup.com</a>	50 Aboriginal artworks with indigenous artist Simon Hogan presenting his own works
26 March 3 pm	<b>Spinifex art lecture and presentation</b>	Australian Embassy Mattiellistrasse 2-4, 1040 Vienna Registration required: austemb@aon.at	By Simon Hogan, indigenous painter, and Peter Twigg, of the Ilkurlka Aboriginal Corporation WA
28 March 7 pm opening. Running to 1 November	<b>Benedictina nocturna</b>	Melk Abbey, Abt-Berthold-Dietmayr Strasse 1, 3390 Melk For times see <a href="http://www.stiffmelk.at">www.stiffmelk.at</a> Or phn +43 (0) 2752 555-0	Exhibition of unique photos of Melk Abbey by Australian artist and photographer Lachlan Blai
30 March 7 pm opening. Running to 30 May	<b>Conversations with the mob exhibition</b>	WestLicht, Westbahnstrasse 40, 1070 Wien <a href="http://www.westlicht.com">www.westlicht.com</a> Ph +43 1 5226636-0	Australian photojournalist Megan Lewis photos of indigenous Martu people with whom she lived 5 years
17-18 April 7.30 pm	<b>True Stories. Bangarra Dance Theatre</b>	Festspielhaus St Pölten, Kulturbezirk 2, 3109 St Pölten <a href="http://www.festspielhaus.at">www.festspielhaus.at</a>	A unique and specifically Australian dance idiom that combines the history and culture of the aborigines and the Torres Strait Islanders with contemporary dance.

Unless otherwise specified, all telephone numbers are in Vienna

### **Australian Connection (OzCon)**

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Mattiellstrasse 2-4, 1040 Vienna

Tel: 506740

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

### ***Helpful Tips Living in Vienna***

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### ***Handbook Vienna (FREE!)***

Published by Austria Today

[handbook@austriatoday.at](mailto:handbook@austriatoday.at)

### **Useful Websites:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

[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.expat-consulting.com](http://www.expat-consulting.com)

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

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

[www.abc.net.au/vod/news/](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)

[www.australia.gov.au](http://www.australia.gov.au)

[www.amadeus.net/home/dialing\\_codes/en/top.htm](http://www.amadeus.net/home/dialing_codes/en/top.htm)

### ***Guided Walks***

Places of Human Rights, Shadow of the Past  
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Roman Findings in Carnuntum and the National Park

More information visit: [www.viennawalks.at](http://www.viennawalks.at)

The Old City of Vienna

The Third Man

More information visit: [www.wienguide.at](http://www.wienguide.at)

### ***Other Associations***

*Austrian-Australian Society (OAG)*

Hubert Heine, General Secretary

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[www.australia-austria.at](http://www.australia-austria.at)

Women's Career Network (WCN)

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[wcnvienna@yahoo.com](mailto:wcnvienna@yahoo.com)

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