

Red Bull and Google help put Austria on the map

There was an unusual 'coming together' of Australia and Austria in the sports world last month.

Did you notice that Aussie Mark Webber came second in the Chinese Grand Prix? And that a German, Sebastian Vettel, won the race? And did you see in the Austrian media how the victory was all Austria's? Why? Because both drivers were racing in Red Bull cars.



Mark Webber: Photo AFP

It was Mark's best performance ever and so the Aussie media was full of it. I guess you can't blame the Austrian media for 'going for it' also. It was after all paid for by an Austrian company. While it was not easy to find Mark's name in the local coverage, it was an unexpected coming together that contributed to the sporting reputation of both countries.

Speaking of being on the map, do you know if your street has been Googled yet?

A Google camera-car that may be taking photos of city streets has been sighted in Vienna on several occasions recently. The *Austrian Times* says there have been several reports of sightings of a red Opel with a Google sticker and a camera mounted on its roof driving around Vienna

The camera-car may be part of preparations for a Vienna entry in the firm's "Google Street View" feature, which enables computer users to take so-called "virtual" tours of a city's streets.

The project is somewhat controversial, however, since some Austrians consider it to be a violation of their right to privacy and others fear that it could be of assistance to criminals who want to burglarise households and offices.

I saw the Google car cruising slowly down our street on 20 April. Our complex of some 60 houses has had a problem with burglars over recent months, so much so that owners of many of the houses have formed a type of community watch. We had an interesting discussion with an officer of the criminal police at a local gasthaus to hear about ways of making our homes more secure.

I thought that if Google had on its recording of our street a mad man running at the camera shouting abuse it might deter any international burglars. But I was too late and the car had gone before I could reach the front door.

Also in the local news was an item about how local firms are having serious problems because a fifth of all firms in Austria and a third of those in Vienna claim a lack of foreign-language competence among employees.

According to a recent Gallup poll commissioned by the Business Support Institute, the firms said they had suffered needless complaints, higher costs, contact problems, lack of information and loss of contracts.

According to the *Austrian Times*, poll results show a lack of foreign-language competence, particularly English, among firm employees is a more serious problem in Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland than elsewhere.

The point of this is that there is obviously still a need for the teaching of English in the business community, not just in the schools.

OzCon matters

Last month 12 of us had a most enjoyable night watching the indigenous dancers of the Bangarra Dance Theatre at the Festspielhaus at St. Pölten. There is a report on the evening on page 3. And on Friday 24 April some OzCon members attended the joint Australia-New Zealand commemorative Anzac Day service at Karlskirche (report opposite).

This month we will be holding our annual barbecue at a club on the Alte Donau, the same venue where we have held it for the past two years. The date is Saturday 30 May and your Board has agreed that OzCon will pay all fees for entry and use of the club grounds. This is a good outing for both adults and children so we hope you can join us. Details are on page 5.

Finally, the monthly bar night will be at Flanagan's on Friday 15 May.

I hope you have a good month no matter what you plan to do. -- *Brett*



A sign outside a restaurant in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Anzac Day Service at Karlskirche

About 150 people attended this year's Anzac Day commemoration service in the historic Karlskirche.



The Australian and New Zealand Missions hosted the service which drew a high level of representation from allied and partner countries, Australians and New Zealanders from the local community and visitors. The Turkish ambassador said some moving words and laid a wreath. Maxine Montgomery, soprano singer with a great voice sang two solos.



Australian Ambassador Peter Shannon

Photo credits: Australian Embassy/Srecko Rogulja

Dancing in the desert amid the nuclear fallout

In the 1950s a series of atomic explosions were conducted on Maralinga Tjarutja traditional lands in the desert country of northern South Australia. And now the Bangarra Dance Theatre has produced innovative indigenous contemporary dance based on these historical events.

Called "True Stories", the performance explores a landscape assumed vacant and cleared of occupation but which in reality became a contaminated desert which poisoned the people.



Mixing with the dancers

Twelve OzCon members attended the performance at St Pölten's Festspielhaus and joined with Ambassador Peter Shannon, his wife and embassy staff at the party which followed.

The Bangarra Dance Theatre -- Bangarra means 'to make fire' in the Wiradjuri language of New South Wales -- was on a three-country European tour, Hungary, Austria and Germany.

The company was founded in 1989 by Carole Johnson, an African-American dance leader who was a founding director of NAISDA College (National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association). Bangarra's vision is to provide opportunities for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to explore, express and present the identity of Australia's indigenous cultures through dance and theatre performances.

Bangarra's international acclaim began with a 16 city tour to the United States in 2001. In 2002 the company appeared at the Monaco Dance Forum, in 2004 it returned to the US, performing in New York and in Washington by special invitation, in 2005 it toured to Japan and New Zealand and in 2006 to the United Kingdom. In 2008 the company toured to North America with 'Awakenings', a two-part program featuring *Boomerang* and *Brolga*, and

performed *Rites* with the Australian Ballet in Paris and London.

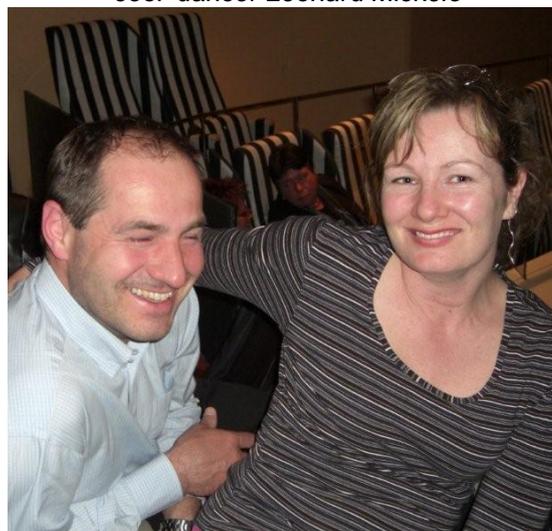


Michael Altenburger, Suzanne Prissmann, George and Meredith Park

In November 2006, another group of OzCon members saw a brilliant performance by the Australian Dance Theatre at the Festspielhaus. Let's hope it's not another three years before another Australian company visits Austria. – *Brett Bayly*



Michael and Rebecca Frank with 'cool' dancer Leonard Mickelo



Reinhard and Orna Loughnane

Travel tip: Medieval Italy

There is a little medieval town in the Marche region of central Italy called Monterubbiano that is picturesque, but without the tourists.



We spent 10 days over Easter there. It is on the Adriatic side, not far from the recent earthquake area, but far enough not to be affected. It seems to be a fruit and wine growing area that is fairly hilly with all the older towns perched on top on the hills.

There must still be money in the area as the towns are all in very good condition though I have to admit that after visiting too many towns to count they all started to look similar with their very narrow streets and the same red/brown brick.

We weren't far from the Adriatic so that made a good change for the kids to have a day at the beach instead of pottering about ancient villages, though almost every town we visited had a playground! The only downside of no tourists was that we often struggled to find a town with a restaurant. Every town, even the tiniest seemed to have a theatre, but food was scarcer! We even discovered that Italians don't eat pizza for lunch.

It was definitely worth the trip, although for Europeans it is quite a drive at almost 1,000kms. But for us it was like the Sydney to Melbourne drive (time wise only!!). This is the website of where we stayed : <http://www.rosascarlatta.it/>

-- Amanda Grant

Travel Tip: When in Venice, get out to the outer islands

When going to Venice try to find time to visit some of the less well-known islands in the Venetian Lagoon, like Torcello and Burano. They are easy to reach on the vaporetto (water bus) and are just beyond the popular glass-factory island of Murano.



Painted houses of Torcello

There was a time, nearly 1,500 years ago, when the small island of Torcello was the largest and most important settlement in the Venetian Lagoon. Those days are long gone: As silt from rivers on the mainland filled up the shallow waters around Torcello, trade became more difficult and malarial mosquitoes bred. The 20,000 or so inhabitants gradually made their way to Venice, and today only a few dozen innkeepers, farmers, and other hardy souls live on the largely abandoned island.

Still, Torcello is worth a visit: A magnificent Byzantine-Italian cathedral dating back to 639 A.D., the Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta, looms over the island with the Bell Tower with the 12th century Church of Santa Fosca alongside. There are also religious buildings around the central piazza which can soak up an hour of your time.

Also on the piazza you will find what looks like an armchair carved from stone. It is claimed to be Attila the Hun's 'throne' from which he administered his style of justice in the 5th century. I can't vouch for its authenticity, but it's a good story and a nice photo opportunity.

It's only a 10 minute ride on the vaporetto to reach nearby Burano. This island has a much different atmosphere from Murano or Venice's historic center, thanks to the *Buranese* custom of painting houses in bright colors--a tradition that may have had its origins in the color schemes of local fishing boats.

Everywhere you look, you'll see houses clad in blue, green, pink, rose, lavender, purple, yellow, and other colors. And because Burano's houses tend to be small, the island has a cheerful coziness.



Brett on Attila's 'throne' with friend from Adelaide, Rex Jory

Fishing is one traditional occupation of the *Buranelli*; the other is lacemaking. If you haven't spent your souvenir budget in the glass shops of Murano, you may find it hard to leave Burano without a supply of doilies and table linens or a wedding dress. (But the guide books give a word of caution: true Venetian Point lace is in limited supply, and many items in the shops are imported or machine-made).

There are several restaurants in Burano, but they are expensive. We walked along the foreshore towards Mazzorbo, an even smaller island, where we found a lovely seafood restaurant called Trattoria Maddalena where the prices were reasonable and the fresh grilled fish delicious. And it is right next to a vaporetta station from which you get back to the main islands of Venice.

– Brett Bayly



Trattoria Maddalena

OzCon Events **Annual Summer Barbecue**

OzCon's summer barbecue is planned for **Saturday 30th May** and we urge members to come along for this one opportunity when all ages can enjoy the outdoors together.



Because we have booked a location in the grounds of a private club there is an entry fee and we will need to know how many people are going to attend. In this way we can guarantee a good location with barbecue facilities.

We are pleased to tell you that your OzCon Board has decided to pay for all participating members.

It should be possible to organise some games for the children and even try a game of cricket for those who are interested. And there is swimming if weather permits.



Details are:

Date and time: Saturday 30th May, between 11.30 am and 7pm

Location: Club area of the Naturfreunde, An der alten unteren Donau 51

Entrance fee: FREE to all OzCon members

Beach volleyball facility and access to the water (Alte Donau) available. Bring your own food, drinks and barbecue utensils. For those who do not want to barbecue, food and drinks are on sale at a kiosk.

How to get there: U1 to Alte Donau, then walk across the road bridge and right along An der alten Donau past the Strand Cafe. There is parking in the streets behind. The street that runs to the water is Arminenstrasse and you turn left at the water to reach the club. Parking can usually be found in Promenadestrasse and Florian-Berndlgasse.

Please register with Amanda Grant by the 16th May amandagrants65@gmail.com so that we can get an idea of numbers and arrange payment for the group.



May Bar Night



Come along and join us on Friday 15th May at Flanagan's, Schwarzenbergstr. 1-3, 1010 Vienna from 5.30pm.

**So I went to the dentist.
He said "Say Aaah."
I said "Why?"
He said "My dog's died."**

OzCon Welcomes New Members Cate Martin & Phillip Prideaux

Cate and I moved here from Sydney in early September 2008 and live in Am Heumarkt in Landstrasse, overlooking Stadtpark.



Cate is the Legal Director for a US Pharmaceutical Company and looks after an area that includes Russia, Africa, Asia and the Middle East – so travels a lot. She goes away at least monthly and so far this year has been to Moscow, Geneva, Korea (twice), Prague, Turkey, Thailand and Zambia. She has at least another dozen trips planned for this year. Me? I just pop across the road to Billa every now and again.

Cate joined the company in Australia about four years ago as their Australasian General Counsel and, while we expected to go offshore at some stage, this move was a surprise. It is a new area and a new role and a big challenge for her – which she loves.

I retired early some years ago as the Director of Midland Bank in Australia after having worked for some years for the Banque National de Paris. Since then I have been working in the community sector for organisations such as The Smith Family, Lifeline and Wesley Mission. My last job in Australia was as CEO of Down Syndrome NSW – a job I took on because my granddaughter has Down Syndrome.

Cate and I have been together since 1989 and were married in 1992. I have three children – a daughter and a son who live in Sydney and are both married – and a single daughter who has lived in Paris for five years with her cat Merlin - and whose boyfriend is a fabulous photographer.

Up until fairly recently we had two cats but lost one a couple of months ago. Our cat Muffin is getting on a bit and is lonely so we are looking forward to getting some kittens.

My job is to look after Cate and Muffin (not necessarily in that order) and I now do this with some skill. I am told that my cooking is now very good. My Gulaschsuppe is to die for and people crawl over broken glass to get to my 3 Potato Hotpot in winter!

Other than that I write a Blog for my family and friends <http://phillipprideaux.blogspot.com/>, I am writing a novel and write bits and pieces for online magazines. My latest was a review of Vienna at http://www.askmen.com/specials/2009_top_29/vienna.html

I am immersing myself in photography and am exploring Vienna by bicycle to discover the many thousands of photographic opportunities. I am of course trying to learn German but progress is slow and at the moment I talk like a drunk with a mouth full of marbles.

We love Vienna – and being in the Centre of Europe. We travel together as much as we can and indulge our hobbies of cycling, walking and photography (and drinking fine wine). We have trips planned this year to Tuscany, Denmark, Paris, Washington, Australia, the Somme, some different places in Austria - and St. Petersburg at Christmas.

We have (of course) hordes of visitors from Australia and are almost fully booked from August to December this year. We also try to Scuba Dive at least once each year – usually in the Pacific – and always these days do it off a Dive Boat with air conditioning! We have dived in recent years in Fiji, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Niue and Palau (twice), Our trip last year was to Palau which is one of the world's great dive spots and we hope later this year to go to Wakatobi in Indonesia.

I was pointed to the OzCon site by Virtual Vienna Net – and am looking forward to getting involved and contributing to the Newsletter.

It will also be nice to talk to an Aussie – something I haven't done (except with Cate and Muffin) since we arrived. – *Phillip Prideaux*

So I was getting into my car and this bloke says to me, "Can you give me a lift?" I said "Sure - you look great, the world's your oyster, go for it."

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

ENGLISH NATIVE SPEAKERS NEEDED

Are you an English Native Speaker or do you have qualifications to teach English to kids and teens or/and adults in individual and/or group sessions? If the answer is yes, then we may have the job for you!

iBiku is a Language Institute looking for enthusiastic Native Speakers to join our pool of Trainers to train English to kids from pre-school age, to kids at primary and high schools and to adults with a need for learning as either a personal development and/or for work purposes.

We are based in St Pölten, but provide our services all over Austria. If this type of work appeals to you, please contact **iBiku** at office@biku.at or by phone on 02742 77561.

Aussie News Briefs

29 April - **AUSTRALIA'S troop commitment to the conflict in Afghanistan will increase** from 1,100 to 1,550, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has announced. But there will be no additional combat troops. The extra troops will be used to train the Afghan National Army and provide security for elections scheduled for August. (AAP)

29 April - **THE Federal Government will conduct a review of superannuation** that opens the way for a ban on commissions, slashing fees and boosting the retirement nest egg of millions of Australians. It will also seek to improve disclosure and transparency rules and examine the role of financial advisers. (Brisbane Times)

28 April - **EIGHTY-eight Australians are feared to have contracted swine flu**, with the search on for another 22 who were on the same flight as three New Zealand students now confirmed as being infected. Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon has called on Governor-General Quentin Bryce to ensure chief medical officer Jim Bishop can enact Australia's quarantine powers, if required, for suspected swine flu cases. This means authorities will have the power to detain people suspected of having the potentially deadly virus. (Advertiser)

22 April - **ANOTHER boatload of asylum seekers has been intercepted in Australian waters.** Home Affairs Minister Bob Debus said the boat was intercepted about 47 nautical miles south-west of Barrow Island off the West Australian coast. It is the fifth boat to arrive in just over a fortnight, the seventh this year and the 14th since Labor made policy changes in September last year. (Canberra Times)

20 April - **JOHN Brumby has rejected criticisms of the Royal Commission's decision to not hear bushfire victims.** Victims today failed to persuade the Royal Commission into Black Saturday to let their voices be heard at public hearings. The Royal Commission has refused to allow many of the victims to appear at the official hearings, which are expected to focus on the effectiveness of the emergency services responses and the government's stay-or-go policy rather than the causes of the fire. (Herald Sun)



The asylum seekers' boat

17 April - **THE Prime Minister Kevin Rudd** has hit back at criticisms of his Government's approach to asylum seekers, saying people smugglers were "the vilest form of human life". "They should rot in jail and, in my view, rot in hell," he told reporters in Sydney. But he said it was too early to say what caused the explosion on the asylum seekers' boat, which exploded and sank yesterday, killing three people and causing many serious injuries. (Sydney Morning Herald)

15 April - **A DRAMATIC collapse in international travel has driven Qantas into the red** for only the second time since it was floated 15 years ago, forcing the airline to axe up to 1750 jobs, cut back on flights, ground 10 planes and delay the delivery of its next generation of jets. With the recession shattering the tourism industry, Qantas pilots and cabin crew will be among the prime targets of the airline's job shedding that will see up to 1250 workers and 500 managers cut from its 34,000-strong workforce. Australian domestic routes will be the worst hit, along with routes to the US,

Britain and South Africa. The airline, which will defer delivery of four Airbus superjumbo A380s, will also reduce freight capacity on domestic and international routes. (Australian)

12 April - **A STATE ban on plastic bags** will introduce hefty fines for anyone caught distributing them. South Australia will be the first state in the nation to ban plastic shopping bags when they disappear from supermarkets in three weeks. The environmentally-friendly plan, starting on May 4, is backed up by steep penalties for businesses caught distributing the wrong type of plastic bag. (Advertiser)

10 April - **AUSTRALIA has condemned the end of democracy and the rule of law in Fiji**, and warned its citizens to be cautious when visiting the country. President Ratu Josefa Iloilo appointed himself head of state and repealed Fiji's constitution on Friday. He also sacked the country's judges, following Thursday's Court of Appeal ruling that Fiji's military regime was illegal. (AAP)

10 April - **UNEMPLOYMENT has surged at a rate not seen since the 1990s recession**, with teenagers bearing the brunt of the pain. Australia's jobless rate rose from 3.9 per cent to 5.7 per cent in just over a year. The news was dramatically worse for 15 to 19-year-olds, the jobless rate climbing from 12 to 16 per cent. Access Economics is this morning predicting an unemployment queue of 1 million by the end of next year. The queue swelled by 50,000 to 650,000 in the past month, and has jumped by 200,000 in the past year. (Age)

8 April - **THE global recession** has forced Kevin Rudd to scrap plans for a high-speed national broadband network funded by the private sector and wager at least \$21.9 billion of taxpayers' money to fund his election pledge to bring internet speeds into the 21st century. And the Prime Minister, desperate not to allow the credit crunch to kill his promises, has flagged a fundamental regulatory shake-up to prevent Telstra from standing in the way of the plan, even if it means forcing the telecommunications giant to hand over its existing cable networks. (Australian)

7 April - **POLICE have smashed an alleged drug ring** linked to two outlaw bikie gangs after simultaneous raids on eight NSW properties, including a clubhouse. Six people have been arrested, including two men at gunpoint at a McDonald's restaurant in Sydney, after a four-month police investigation into the sale of speed and cocaine. (AAP)



Kevin Rudd and Barack Obama joke at the G-20 Summit

3 April - **CHINESE spies have directly targeted Kevin Rudd**, repeatedly attempting to infiltrate prime ministerial email and mobile phone communications. The Australian understands Mr Rudd and his travelling party were under constant cyber attack during his latest trip to China, in August last year, with authorities trying to access the laptop computers and mobile phones used by the Australians. The blatant nature of Beijing's electronic espionage is understood to have alarmed the Rudd Government and led to a further tightening of communications security procedures for senior government figures travelling to China. (Australian)

Election Wishes....

Prime Minister Rudd , Deputy Prime Minister Gillard and Treasurer Swan are flying on the Executive Airbus to a gathering in Canberra when Rudd turns to Gillard and says, chuckling:

'You know, I could throw a \$1000 bill out the window right now and make someone very happy.'

Gillard shrugs and replies, 'Well, I could throw ten \$100 bills out the window and make ten people happy.'

Not to be outdone, Swan says, 'Well I could throw a hundred \$10 bills out the window and make a hundred people happy.'

The pilot rolls his eyes and says to his co-pilot, 'Such arrogant jerks back there. Heck, I could throw all three of them out the window and make 21 million people happy.'

Travel Tips

If you are looking for a good, cheap holiday (these days who isn't?) check out the following link kindly supplied by OzCon member Sean Falli.

http://www.flyniki-binoli.com/web/pauschal/hotelGalerie.php5?destStatu s=B&areacode=PMI&teaserDuration=4&et_cid=4&et lid=9&et_sub=klein_ro

Aussie Humour

A Texan farmer goes to Australia for a vacation. There he meets an Aussie farmer and gets talking. The Aussie shows off his big wheat field and the Texan says, "Oh! We have wheat fields that are at least twice as large".

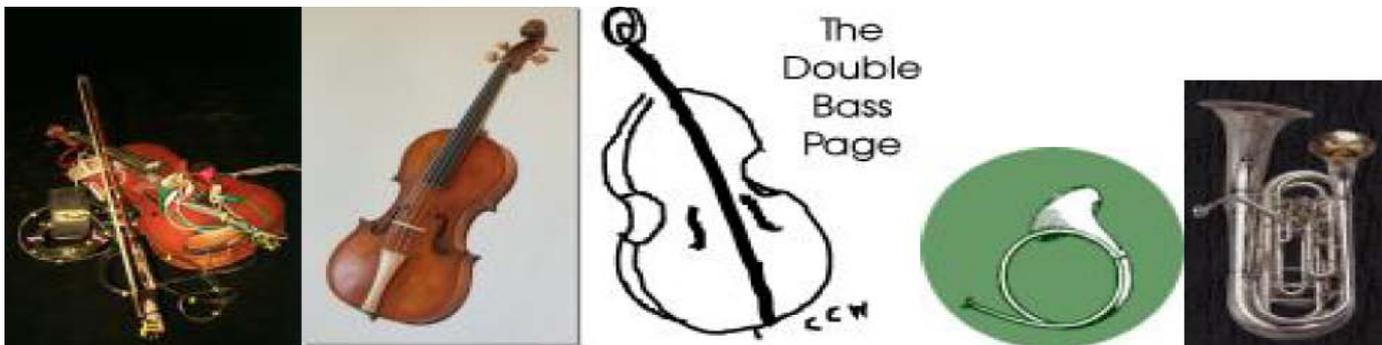
Then they walk around the ranch a little, and the Aussie shows off his herd of cattle. The Texan immediately says, " We have longhorns that are at least twice as large as your cows".

The conversation has, meanwhile, almost died when the Texan sees a herd of kangaroos hopping through the field. He asked, "And what are those"?

The Aussie replies with an incredulous look, "Don't you have any grasshoppers in Texas"?



Brett Bayly's daughter and zookeeper, Simone, recently visited an old friend at the Canberra zoo where she worked a few years ago. Gonzo recognized her immediately!



Performances with Australian Artists and other events

From the Australian Events Calendar, Australian Embassy Vienna

22 February to 10 May	Jenny Watson - Exhibition	Factory/Kunsthalle Krems Kunstmeile Krems Steiner Landstrasse 3 3500 Krems Ph: 027329080 Info: http://factory.kunsthalle.at	Melbourne-born Jenny Watson is one of Australia's most renowned artists. Some of the works on display will be created by the artist right on the spot in Krems.
28 March to 1 November	"Benedictina nocturna"	Melk Abbey/Stift Melk Abt-Berthold-Dietmayr.-Str. 1 3390 Melk www.stiftmelk.at www.loxpix.com	Australian artist and photographer Lachlan Blair will exhibit his unique photo's of Melk Abbey in Lower Austria. Lachlan uses a very specific technique which conveys a magical, dream-like and immaterial sensation.
Exhibition running to 30 May	Conversations with the mob exhibition	WestLicht, Westbahnstrasse 40, 1070 Wien www.westlicht.com Ph +43 1 5226636-0	Australian photojournalist Megan Lewis photos of indigenous Martu people with whom she lived 5 years.
Opening 8 May at 7pm running from 9 to 22 May	"Around the corner and underground"	Grundsteingasse 8/2/40 1160 Wien Ph: 01 923 0722 or 0699 1923 0722	Australians Scott Chaseling, Claudia Chaseling, and Lucio Auri will be participating at the exhibition. Further details please visit: office@basement.or.at
Opening 28 May at 7pm running from 29 May to 12 June	Art in process – International Project Series 2009	Platform Media Arts Experimental Technology Josef-Preis-Allee 16 5020 Salzburg Email: eitelberger@artinprocess.at www.artinprocess.com	Australian Bello Benischauer and Elizabeth Eitelberger's project is the first of the artist's project series, dealing with questions about people in relation to their environment, urban settings and socio-political context.

Unless otherwise specified, all telephone numbers are in Vienna

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www.viennareview.net

www.nucolorvue.com.au

www.australien-lifestyle.de

www.australien-info.de

www.virtualvienna.net

www.ninemsn.com.au

www.kids-days.com/Wien/index_wien.html

www.expatsconsulting.com

www.homesick.com.au

www.viennababiesclub.com

www.abc.net.au/vod/news/

www.australianaonline.com.au

www.news.com.au

www.expatriates.com

www.australia.gov.au

www.amadeus.net/home/dialing_codes/en/top.htm

Guided Walks

Places of Human Rights, Shadow of the Past
Schonberg and Freud

Roman Findings in Carnuntum and the National Park

More information visit: www.viennawalks.at

The Old City of Vienna

The Third Man

More information visit: www.wienguide.at

Other Associations

Austrian-Australian Society (OAG)

Hubert Heine, General Secretary

Tel: 0676 5003058; 9847328

Heine69at@yahoo.de

www.australia-austria.at

Women's Career Network (WCN)

Tel: 9662925

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www.wcnvienna.com