

What a country - to live, to study and to work

From the President

Now and then I read something that reminds me what a great place Australia is to live, to study and to work. It happened again last month.

First, a great place to live.

The annual United Nations human development index released in Paris ranks 182 countries based on such criteria as life expectancy, literacy, school enrolment and gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. It gave the first three spots to Norway, Australia and Iceland followed by Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, France, Switzerland and Japan. The United States ranked 13th, down one spot from last year.

I can guess what you are saying. There are surveys and more surveys and each comes up with a different result using different criteria. There was one in April this year that rated Vienna as offering the best quality of life of any city in the world. Vienna's political stability and low risk of terror attacks over the last ten years had steadily increased Vienna's ranking in the survey which covered 215 cities.

Do such surveys matter? Probably not to you or me. But I suppose they matter to organizations like the UN Development Program (UNDP) and other bodies, such as relief and refugee agencies, world charities, governments, tourist agencies, employers and even the world's advertising industry. The fact is Australia has consistently scored a high mark in such surveys.

Secondly a place to study. Once again the Times Higher Education (THE) ranking of the world's universities has been released. Despite a hammering in the Asian media over student safety, and fears for the higher education sector's

international reputation, Australia's elite universities have consolidated their place in the global rankings with Australia's group of eight research universities being all placed in the global top 100.

The ranking, a collaboration between THE and higher education consultants Quacquarelli Symonds, is used around the world by consumers - parents and students - as well as academics looking for work and employers seeking recruits. Universities are ranked in six categories, the most important being peer review. Scores are also given by international students.

The Australian National University in Canberra remains the standard bearer for the Group of Eight with an international ranking of 17 - down from the 16th place it enjoyed for the past three years.

The ANU is the first university listed on the league ladder outside Britain and the US, which maintain their joint stranglehold on the top positions. Harvard once again claims the No1 world ranking, while Cambridge leapfrogs Yale to take second place.

Of the Australians, the University of Sydney gains one spot to tie for 36th place with the University of Melbourne, its perennial interstate rival. The University of Queensland also rose in the rankings, from 43 to 41, as did Monash, from 47 to 45, while the University of Adelaide vaulted from a disappointing 106th place last year to regain a position within the top 100 at 81.

The news was not good for Vienna. The University of Vienna ranked 132 out of 200.

And thirdly there is work. But there is no survey to draw on for this category, only a personal indulgence for which you will have to forgive me.

Meet my daughter Simone who has just become the only zoo keeper for giant pandas in the southern hemisphere.



Her appointment as senior keeper was announced in September during a media day at the Adelaide Zoo. A couple of old media friends still in the business emailed me to say they just interviewed Simone. Other friends sent video clips.

The Tiergarten at Schönbrunn has Yang Yang and Long Hui who became parents to baby Fu Long (happy dragon) in August 2007. Simone is about to go to China to meet her two charges Wang Wang and Funi and it is hoped that during their 10-year stay in their \$5 million enclosure at the zoo they too will become parents.

What a country! – *Brett*

Wonderful English from Around the Word

In a Bangkok temple:

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO ENTER A WOMAN, EVEN A FOREIGNER, IF DRESSED AS A MAN.

Cocktail lounge, Norway:

LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE BAR.

Doctors office, Rome:

SPECIALIST IN WOMEN AND OTHER DISEASES.

Dry cleaners, Bangkok:

DROP YOUR TROUSERS HERE FOR THE BEST RESULTS.

Softened by the experience of good food and wine in Krems



In the grounds of the winery

The Indian summer was still in full flight when OzCon revisited the Salomon Undhof winery at Krems last month.

The front page of OzCon's July/August 2008 newsletter said: "By car and train they came. About 30 OzCon members and some friends....." Well, so it was this time.

Most chose to travel by train and then make the 15-minute walk to the Alte Post restaurant (seit 1500) in the main street and enjoy a traditional Austrian lunch in the sun in the ancient courtyard. We were pleased that Ambassador Michael Potts and his wife Lynda could join and meet us.



David Watson, Lynda and Michael Potts and Lisa Kirchebner, enjoy the sunshine in the courtyard of the Alte Post restaurant

Then it was a short stroll down the street to the winery where Dr. Bert Salomon greeted us and espoused the delicacies and intricacies of both his white wine from the Wachau Valley and the reds from his winery at Finnis River in South Australia.

Six whites and four reds were tasted and talked about as Dr Salomon told his Australian audience the family history of wine growing along the rugged terraces of the Wachau and how his love for Australia led him to acquire the winery at Finnis River near McLaren Vale in the mid 90s.



Lucia Kruzic with Edith and Sam Ranger

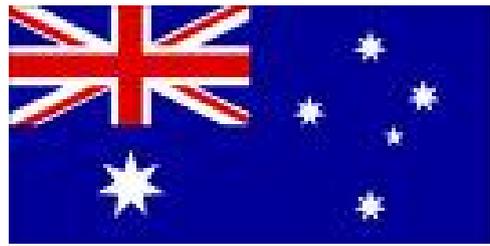
Dr Salomon also offered to sponsor some of his red wines at the Australian stall at the UN Women's Guild annual bazaar at the Austria Centre later this month. It is the second successive year that he has done this and so it was with many expressions of thanks we loaded four cases of red wine into the back of the Ambassador's car.



Carolyn and Andrew Forbes with George and Meredith Park

It was a mellow (= softened by maturity or experience, relaxed and good humoured) group that returned to Vienna by train that afternoon.

Come join the fun and wave the Aussie flag



Everything is on course for another successful Aussie stand at the UN Bazaar on Saturday 28 November.

There has been a steady trickle of volunteers and offers to make pavlovas and lamingtons, but we can always use more and so it is not too late to tell our Coordinator Jenny Hanna what you can offer. Jenny's mail is Jenny.Hanna@dfat.gov.au

The pavlovas need to be small to medium size that can be sold (and eaten on the spot) in one easy piece. Previous years have shown that selling large pavlovas by the slice is messy and not so popular. Pavlovas need to be indented on the top to hold the fruit and cream. A basic recipe was printed in the October newsletter. And, as we said then, it would also assist us to know whether you can provide cut-up fruit which can be placed on the pavlovas on the day. We will supply the cream.

Pavlovas and lamingtons can be dropped off at the Australian Embassy before 1200 on Friday 27 November or at the stall in the Austria Centre on the Saturday.

We encourage our new members to come along and have a look. There is a huge variety of food available (try some Argentinean beef) with plenty to drink. But it's not just all food and drink; there are also many stalls selling anything from second-hand books, CDs/DVDs, to clothes, skiwear, sports equipment, arts and crafts

There is parking but it's best to come by U-Bahn. Get the U1 to the Vienna Centre (UN) and walk over to the Austria Centre.

Smoking ceremony at the National History Museum sends Indigenous Australians home

It was a sight never seen before at Vienna's imposing 16th century Natural History Museum (Naturhistorisches Museum). The room filled with smoke as the audience filed past the remains of 17 Indigenous Australians in seven boxes draped in flags on tables.

The remains, which included three skulls and two complete skeletons, were being repatriated to Australia after having been stored and studied in Vienna for many years.



Indigenous delegation Terry Murray, Jody Coghill and Tom Lawford

Professor Dr Maria Teschler-Nicola, of the museum's Anthropology Department, said the records were incomplete, but documents indicated the first of 16 remains had arrived in 1877, and others in 1900 and 1935. Another individual had been held at the Pathologic-Anatomical Museum.

Agreement to repatriate the remains did not come easily and was met with opposition from elements of Vienna's scientific community.

Professor Teschler-Nicola said it was an historic first for the museum. The issue of repatriation was first raised in 1990 but it was not until 2007 that the Austrian Government agreed to a request from the Australian Government to have them returned.

Ambassador Michael Potts said it was a time to reflect on how some Australians had in the past acted in a deplorable manner towards indigenous

Australians. The Australian Government today placed a lot of importance on the repatriation of indigenous remains to Australia from museums around the world.



Ambassador Michael Potts pays his respects

The handing over of the remains to Terry Murray and Tom Lawford, from the Kimberley region in Western Australia, and Jody Coghill, of Moreton Bay in Queensland was made possible by the Australian Government.

The Australian Minister for Families, Housing, Community Service and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, said in a media release in Canberra that with more than 1000 Indigenous Australian ancestral remains held in museums around the world, there was obviously a long way to go to repatriate them all.

It was difficult to identify them even when repatriation was possible and some of the remains in Vienna would be taken to the National Museum of Australia in Canberra where further examination would be undertaken to determine their origins.



Eleonore Wildburger of Klagenfurt University

The highlight of the ceremony on 9 October was the smoking ceremony, a traditional method of cleansing for some Aboriginal people. As the fire was lit from wood brought from Australia and placed on the floor between the small wooden 'coffins', the audience, which included many OzCon members, filed individually through the smoke.

Was it a scam? I'll never know

A funny thing happened to me on my way to the National History Museum.

I left home early and got off the U-Bahn at Schwedenplatz to catch a tram around the Ring to the Museum. While waiting for the tram a person got out of a camper van and approached me with a map asking where the Hofburg Palace was. She was Italian and did not understand my English so I offered to guide her because it would be faster than the tram.

So I jumped into the van and was almost pushed into the front passenger seat, and off we went, we being four babbling Italians and me. Heavy slow traffic on the Ring as usual and we were in the lane next to the tram which quickly overtook us.

Suddenly a van pulled in front of us and stopped and a seemingly irate Austrian driver got out and started abusing us. I thought we must have cut him off, but we hadn't moved out of our lane. He pointed to a side mirror and said we had broken it. I looked. The glass was missing but it didn't look damaged otherwise. I had not heard or seen anything, nor had the driver.

And so we had an Italian driver arguing in Italian, an Austrian driver getting all excited in German and a bemused me trying to work out in English what the hell was going on. The Austrian mentioned polizei, the Italian shook his hands as only Italians can and indicated he was willing to pay cash, and I thought it was time to leave.

Then a police car pulled up because we were blocking traffic. It stopped with blue lights flashing in the centre lane, blocking yet another lane. While both drivers were arguing with the male cop I got out and said a polite hello to a female cop, and asked if she spoke English. She did. I said I had nothing to do with this and could I leave? Did you see what happened? she asked. I said no, nor was I

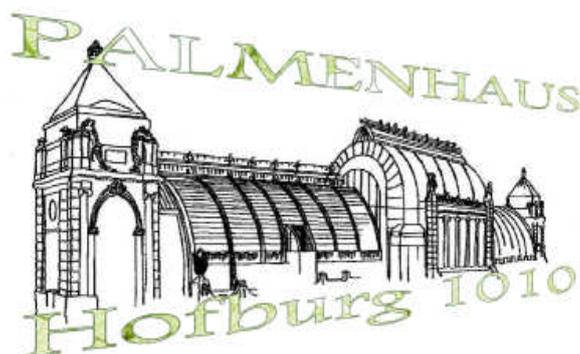
aware of any collision. I was allowed to leave, by which time I was late for the beginning of the museum repatriation ceremony, and still had to catch a tram.

So, after years of driving in Vienna I was involved in my first (very minor) accident.....in an Italian camper van with people I did not know with a mad Austrian van driver who spoke only German. But was I? I had my doubts and think the whole thing was a scam by the Austrian who was very quick to accept cash just as the police arrived.

But I'll never know. – *Brett Bayly*

OzCon Events

Lunch at the Palmenhaus



In 1822 a 128m long greenhouse was erected in the Hofburg gardens incorporating part of the old city wall. After falling into disrepair, it was closed to the public. In 1898 and \$17m later the refurbished building was reopened to the public.

And so let's have lunch in this beautiful building.

12:30 on Thursday 12 November.

Location: in the Burggarten off the Ring

Bar Night

This month's bar night will be on Friday,
20 November 2009 at Flanagan's,
Schwarzenbergstr. 1-3, 1010 Vienna
from 5.30pm.



Christmas Functions



Christmas will be here before we know it! Here are a few dates to mark into your diary for the festive season.

OzCon Christmas Dinner

This year OzCon will be having their Christmas dinner at the InterContinental Hotel. This five star hotel is in the heart of Vienna and easy to get to via public transport. The culinary delights are excellent and the atmosphere is very suave.

When: Wednesday, 9 December 2009
Where: InterContinental Hotel, Johannesgasse 28, 1030 Vienna
Time: 6.30pm for pre-dinner drinks, dinner 7.30pm
Price: 50 Euros per person

The 50 Euros includes a pre-dinner drink, a three course meal with the choice of meat or fish, dessert and coffee. Also half a bottle of wine per person and soft drinks, water, etc.

Please RSVP to Gabrielle Costigan by 1 December as seats are limited and will be delegated on a first come first serve basis. gabrielle.gostigan@gmx.at

Among questions that were supposedly posted on an Australian Tourism website with the actual responses by the website staff, who obviously have a good sense of humour, was this one:

Q: *Can you send me the Vienna Boys' Choir schedule? (USA)*

A: Aus-tri-a is that quaint little country bordering Ger-man-y, which is....Oh forget it. Sure, the Vienna Boys Choir plays every Tuesday night in Kings Cross, straight after the hippo races. Come naked.

Australian Embassy Christmas Drinks

Ambassador Michael Potts and embassy staff wish to invite OzCon members to their Christmas Drinks.

When: Tuesday, 15 December 2009
Where: Australian Embassy, Mattiellstrasse 2-4, 1040, Vienna
Time: Will be announced in December newsletter

Christ Church Advent Bazaar

When: Saturday, 21 November 2009
10am to 4.30pm
Where: Bundesamtsgebäude Radetzkystrasse 2, 1030 Vienna

Books at very reasonable prices, clothes, traditional British jams, chutneys, Christmas Cakes and Puddings, Mince pies, marmalades, Christmas Crackers, jewellery, ornaments, paintings, children's books and toys. They can sample Scottish Whisky, buy drinks at an English Pub, and watch a Scottish Country Dancing group. They can also listen to a Scottish Piper and to Christmas Carols sung by the Church Choir while the children can visit Santa Claus in his Grotto to make their Christmas wishes and have their photograph taken with him. The African, Asian and European restaurants and the Coffee Shop, serving home-made cakes, feed hundreds of hungry visitors during the day.

There is also both a Tombola where every ticket wins a prize and a Raffle where only 100 or so tickets, out of 2500 sold, win prizes ranging from Restaurant Vouchers to the Star Prize which this year is a Laptop computer worth over 800 Euros.

There is something for every age group, every interest and every pocket and we welcome everyone to come and see what is on offer!"

Grüss Gott!

(Sharon Tiainen is our new Secretary)

My name is Sharon Tiainen and like quite a few other OzCon members I originally hail from Adelaide. This will be my second stint in Austria. I was fortunate enough to live in Vienna from late 2007 to mid 2009 with my husband, Chris, and our good fortune sees us returning to Austria albeit in a staggered formation this time.

Chris has already arrived and is ensconced in Autumnal Leoben where he has taken a position with a local company. We are both geologists and are looking forward to living in and exploring the historic mining district that surrounds the town.

Leoben is about two hours by train southeast from Vienna. When I eventually arrive - I'm currently working with my company in Perth, WA - I'm anticipating snow, the wonderful Christmas markets and the excitement of returning to Austria. In my spare time I enjoy travelling and cooking and I have a bit of a gardening habit if I have some ground. I'm also an avid reader, am known to enjoy a wine or three and sometimes get stuck on the same Sudoku for days. For fitness I enjoy walking, a game of squash and a row if the opportunity arises.

Chris and I are really looking forward to picking up where we left off and continuing our Austrian adventure.



Bar night at Flanagans

There was another good turn out at Flanagans for bar night on 30 October. There were the regulars and a couple of new faces.



Vice President Gabrielle Costigan with our bazaar coordinator Jenny Hanna



It wasn't that funny Gabrielle!



George Park with Catherine Martin

Aussie News Briefs

30 Oct - **QUEENSLAND has banned smoking in cars carrying children under the age of 16.** Deputy Premier and Health Minister Paul Lucas said the new laws would start from January next year and apply on all public roads. "These new laws are about reducing the exposure children have to tobacco smoke," Mr Lucas said. The legislation was passed in Queensland Parliament overnight as part of measures contained in the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2009. (Courier Mail)

28 Oct. - **BRAIN cancer surgeon Charlie Teo has urged people to put mobile phones on loudspeaker,** move clock radios to the foot of the bed and wait until microwaves have finished beeping before opening them. The controversial Sydney specialist told a Melbourne fundraiser that although the jury was still out on mobile phones and other forms of electromagnetic radiation, people should not take risks. (Courier Mail)

22 Oct - **AN UNPRECEDENTED investigation of Victoria's bird life** has found it is collapsing, with two out of three woodland species in significant decline. The 12-year research into native species found that generations of land clearing and more than a decade of drought linked to climate change has reduced numbers for more than 80 species. Those affected include the laughing kookaburra and species of honeyeaters, thornbills and lorikeets. (Age)



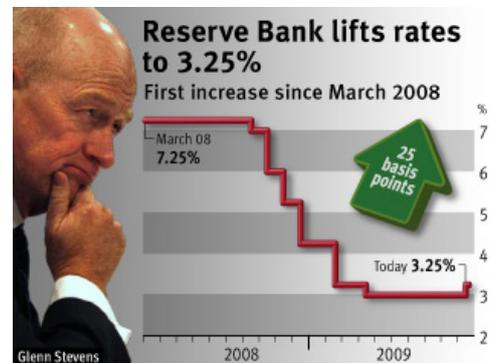
18 Oct - **TEENAGER adventurer Jessica Watson has finally set sail on her quest to make history.** Well-wishers thronged The Spit in Sydney's Middle Harbour as the 16-year-old cast off around 9am (AEDT) in her yacht Ella's Pink Lady. The Queensland teenager wants to become the youngest person to sail single-handedly around the world. (Sydney Morning Herald)

17 Oct. - **THE Sydney men found guilty yesterday of terrorism offences** had been plotting murder on a massive scale, having stockpiled 30,000 rounds of ammunition, bomb-making equipment and explosive chemicals with the intention of exacting revenge on Australia for its military presence in Iraq and

Afghanistan. After one of the longest and most expensive trials in Australian history - the combined cost of the NSW police investigation and the taxpayer-funded Legal Aid defence of the five accused was almost \$30million - the terrorist quintet were convicted of conspiracy to do acts in preparation for a terrorist act or acts. The men are now facing the possibility of life in prison. (Australian)

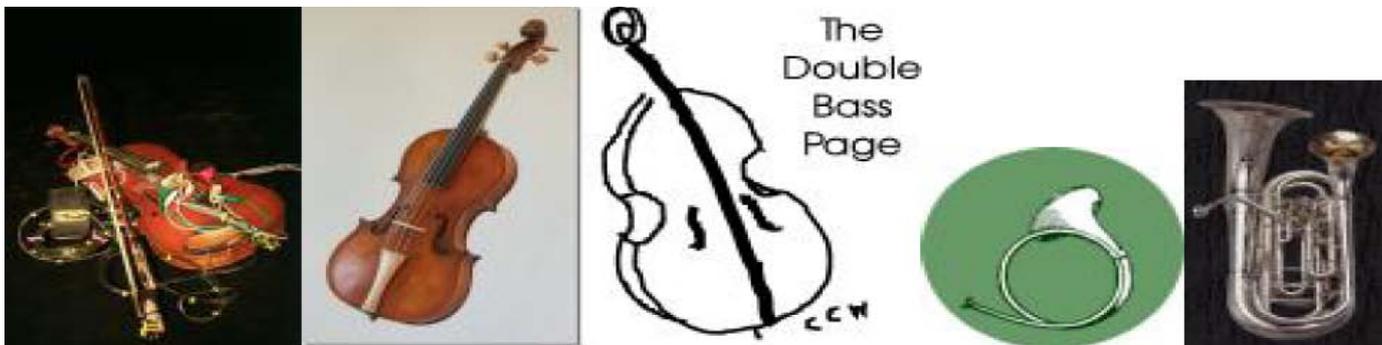
15 Oct. - **THE federal Treasurer, Wayne Swan, has called on banks to abolish much-hated monthly account keeping charges.** He made the call yesterday after National Australia Bank became the first big bank in almost 10 years to offer a fee-free account. NAB's move, which the consumer lobby group Choice welcomed, has put pressure on the bank's rivals to follow suit.. NAB said it would abolish its current \$4 and \$5 monthly account service fees on its Classic and e-Banking personal transaction accounts from January. (Brisbane Times)

8 Oct. - **THE Liberal Party is moving towards replacing Malcolm Turnbull with Joe Hockey** as Leader of the Opposition as the Coalition falls further into chaos over its leadership, policy on the emissions trading scheme and by-election tests in Sydney and Melbourne. After months of refusing to agree to take on the job as Liberal leader, the opposition's Treasury spokesman has told Liberal MPs he is prepared to stand as Liberal leader if Mr Turnbull's leadership fails, but he will not challenge Mr Turnbull. (Australian)



6 Oct. - **THE Reserve Bank said today's rise in interest rates was the start of a gradual tightening in monetary policy.** The board of the RBA announced that it will lift the official cash rate by 25 basis points to 3.25 per cent - the first rate increase in Australia since March 2008 and the first of the G20 central banks to raise rates in the wake of the global financial crisis. (Australian)

5 Oct. - **A 30-YEAR-OLD woman has been confirmed as the fifth Australian to die in the tsunami in Samoa last week.** She was a dual Samoan-Australian citizen. Local officials said 176 people had died and 12 remained missing across Samoa, Tonga and American Samoa.



Performances with Australian Artists and other events

From the Australian Events Calendar, Australian Embassy Vienna

30 October till year end	Kunst Investment Aboriginal Art	Bank Austria – Regionaldirektion Oberösterreich Hauptplatz 27 4020 Linz	Contemporary Aboriginal art and paintings are exhibited at the newly renovated Bank Austria building in Linz. Austrian Aboriginal art collector Sonja Endt has put together the exhibition.
5,6, 12 & 14 November	Alexandra Bourne live	Various venues visit: www.alexandrabourne.com	Australian singer/songwriter will be performing her alternative/rock songs at various locations in Austria.
14 November 11am to 4pm	Education Fair: Australian – New Zealand University Day in Vienna	Centre International Universitaire Schottengasse 1 1010 Vienna Email: wien@ranke-heinemann.at	Representatives of more than 30 Universities from Australia and New Zealand will be presenting their institutions and programs at an education fair organized by the Institute Ranke-Heinemann.
21 November 8.30pm	The Living End in Concert	Szene Wien Hauffgasse 1110 Vienna www.szenewien.com	Pop, Punk and Rock: hailed as an “instant Oz Rock classic”, the Living End will be presenting their new album “White Noise”.
26 November 7pm	ART & WINE Travelling Downunder	Leo Fuhrmannsaal Kirchenplatz 8, close to the church 2514 Traiskirchen – Tribuswinkel	Enjoy paintings of the Indigenous People of Australia and wine from the Schaflerhof winery.

Unless otherwise specified, all telephone numbers are in Vienna

Australian Connection (OzCon)

Website: www.ozcon.at

Email: ozcon_board@yahoo.com

President: **Brett Bayly**

Tel: 06991 264 5813

Home: 264 5813

brett_bayly@yahoo.com.au

Vice President: **Gabrielle Costigan**

Phone: 0664 61 22522

gabrielle.costigan@gmx.at

Secretary: **Sharon Tiainen**

Phone number to be advised

sharonchris@westnet.com.au

Treasurer and Membership Coordinator

Susanna Martin-Murtinger

Tel: H: 944 0353

paul.martin@chello.at

Newsletter Editor: **Liz Crawford**

Mobile: 0699 1268 1023

Home: 02252 252 638

Lizziecrawf@yahoo.co.uk

Bank Account Details:

Susanna Martin-Murtinger

OZCON Account

Raiffeisenlandesbank Niederosterreich – Wien

BLZ 32000

Kontonummer (Account Number): 12.097.176

Membership Fee: €20

Australian Embassy

Mattiellistrasse 2-4, 1040 Vienna

Tel: 506740

www.australian-embassy.at

Helpful Tips Living in Vienna

Published by the AWA

Contact AWA for stockists

Handbook Vienna (FREE!)

Published by Austria Today

handbook@austriatoday.at

Useful Websites:

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.expats-consulting.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

www.austrain.vc

www.vienna-expats.at

Austrian media in English:

Austrian Times, daily English news

www.austriantimes.at

The Vienna Review, monthly produced by Webster University www.viennareview.net

Ether magazine, monthly www.ethermagazine.at

Worldwide media guide www.mondotimes.com

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

wcnvienna@yahoo.com

www.wcnvienna.com