

“We come here for the pavs”, and so it was another sell-out at the end of year bazaar



The group before the rush began!

What a great day, and another success story for OzCon

This year’s bazaar was another sell-out and a big earner for children’s charities around the globe. Despite our trepidations about the new layout, new rules and fees, it worked well and we beat last year’s income.

Final figures will not be available until next month. But the Australian stall handed in €605 compared with €435 last year. There will be a few deductions for expenses, but not many. (Last year’s bazaar raised a total of more than €200,000).

Last year I wrote: “SOLD OUT was the message before the day was over.” By memory, the pavs were gone sometime after 4 pm. This year about 460 pavlovas had been sold shortly after 3 pm and the lamingtons a short time later. There were three visits to the nearest Billa for extra cream.

And again I want to thank everyone who made it possible, and six people in particular:
 Jenny Hanna, our coordinator for a second and, sadly, final year;
 Bindi Mamouney who made about 140 pavlovas and was our on-hand kitchen coordinator and problem solver;
 Jeanette Hannaford who again, despite all threats not to, was our chief pav decorator for the whole day;
 Liz Crawford, the lamington queen (she hates being called that);
 Dr Bertold Salomon who again donated 48 bottles of excellent Australian red wine; and
 Heidi El-Agrebi, the Embassy Chef who baked us 200 pavs.
 I hasten to add, many customers paid compliments to the pav makers.

I also want to express my personal thanks to those who helped me set up the stall on the Friday afternoon, Leon Schupelius. David Smith and Sam Ranger.



Simon Hannaford, David Smith and Michael Potts

As it turned out on the day, we had a good position and were easily spotted from the entry escalator. Our display area was smaller than in past years, but we covered all bases with banners, posters and even a Socceros t-shirt. The 3m long banner we had made especially after last year's bazaar was too big for hanging, but made an excellent table cover.

One of the pleasures of the day behind the counter are the individual expressions of thanks, compliments and experiences. There were more smiling Austrians sighted on that one long day than you might experience in weeks of walking the streets.



Ann Emery espouses the pav

When I arrived at 8.20 there was a guy standing there waiting. "I want three pavs," he said in a strong accent. I explained that we had not prepared any, in fact there was no-one here yet. He said he would come back, and 20 minutes later he did. Still no pavs.

I asked him why he was so anxious and he said there were three of them working security for the Women's Guild and they would be busy very soon and might not be able to get back when the doors opened. He then said, "We only do this job so we can get the pavs."

And then there was another face I recognised from last year. He wasn't interested in pavs, but a bottle of the best Salomon red. I asked him how many were in his group this year, and he said three. I said he would be back, and he was.



The doors are open and David Smith spots a potential customer for his end of the table

Someone told me the bazaar has been going since the late 1960s. I'm not sure how long we have been selling pavlovas, but I do know that many people expect to have their dessert with a sip of wine at the Aussie stand after the main course of Argentinian beef, Chinese noodles, Polish spicy meat or whatever.

And so I guess we will have to do it again next year.
– Brett Bayly



Angie Engl, Ann and Leon Schupelius

Thanks to all our volunteers and helpers

This is what we hope is a comprehensive list of those who supported our stand at this year's bazaar, either in person or by providing goodies. We apologise if anyone has been left out.

Have a Great Christmas

From the President

Well, I must say I am glad the bazaar was early this year. Fun as usual, but it is always a relief to put away the boxes for another year and get on with Christmas.

We can now look forward to the OzCon dinner at the InterContinental on 9 December, the Australian Embassy Christmas reception on 15 December and the Advent markets in between. For me and family, it's then on the plane and off to Adelaide for Christmas by the beach.

I think we can safely say that it has been another good year for OzCon. Our membership is firm, although it is always nice to welcome new faces so if you know someone who may be interested, please tell them about us.

Next month we expect to combine with the Austrian-Australian Society and the Australian Embassy once again to celebrate Australia Day at a heurigen, and get to work on some New Year events. We can say more about that in January.

But in the meantime on behalf of Gabrielle, Susanna, Liz and our new Secretary Sharon and myself, have a lovely Christmas, hopefully with loved ones, and a healthy and happy 2010.

- Brett



The brand is AussieBum and it is summer gear being advertised around Vienna
Visit www.aussiebum.eu.com

More wonderful English from around the word

In a Nairobi restaurant:
**CUSTOMERS WHO FIND OUR
WAITRESSES RUDE OUGHT TO SEE
THE MANAGER.**

In no particular order:
Jenny Hanna (coordinator)
Jeanette, Simon and Henry Hannaford
Ann Emery
Eden Sarelius
Ali Ritchie
Leon Schupelius
David Smith
David and Marianne Watson
Colleen Colgan
Dr Bertold Salomon
Sam Ranger
Jani Boal
Bindi and Simon Mamouney
Liz Crawford and Wolfgang Zimmer
Heidi El-Agrebi (Embassy Chef)
Bethany Oran-Miles
Meredith and George Park
Angie Engl
Jacquie Punzengruber
Susanna Martin
Michelle Kay
Rosalie Toomey

.....more thanks

I would also like to say a couple of words about the Bazaar and would like to express sincere thanks to Brett for all of his efforts in the coordination of the event.

It is easy for those of us who just turn up and help, and make a tonne of Lamingtons and/or Pavlovas (I always say that's it, not again!). Going to the bazaar gives me so much pleasure and to have people buy and enjoy my lamingtons makes me think yes, of course I'll do it again! So Brett I know that you've probably had enough bazaar coordination to last a lifetime. But I for one cross my fingers that you'll come to the party again next year. If you decide to do it again I'll put my hand up to be your chief helper. Let's call it assistant coordinator.

Well done. You should be proud of yourself as it was a huge success and a tremendous effort.

-Liz Crawford



Edén Sarelius on whipping cream duty!

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,
Mattiellistrasse 2-4, 1040 Vienna
Time: 6pm to 8pm
Please RSVP to Lisa Kirchebner by 5 December.
lisa.kirchebner@dfat.gov.au
or phone: 01-5067 4112

Last bar night for the year

Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk. That will teach you to keep your mouth shut. ~Ernest Hemingway

Perhaps this should be hung in the Aussie room at Flanagans as a reminder to the drinkers to volunteer. Volunteer for what? Well anything. Organise the Australian stand at the UN Bazaar, for example! Arrange a Christmas dinner, or tables at the IAEA Ball. It is all in hand for this year, but there is always next year.



Ambassador Michael Potts and Liz Crawford

There was a good turn out yet again for the bar night in November and it was a pleasure to have Michael and Lynda Potts join us. They will be our guests at the OzCon dinner at the InterContinental on 9 December.

There will not be a bar night this month due to other Christmas activities.



Suzanne Prissmann, Nicole Lidis and Ann Emery



Liz Crawford with husband Wolfgang Zimmer



Michael Potts with wife, Lynda, Jenny Hanna and husband, Mike Bugden

Lunch beneath the palms on an autumn day



Lunch began behind the glass on a sunny afternoon and did not end until the sun had dipped behind the trees in the Burggarten.

The first long greenhouse was built on the site in the Hofburg Palace gardens in 1822 incorporating part of the old city wall. It was replaced at the start of the 20th century, restored over 10 years from 1988 and has been described as being “perhaps the most beautiful Jugendstil greenhouse ever built.”

Today The Palmenhaus is one of Vienna’s most popular restaurants and so what better place for a select band of OzCon members to have lunch beneath the palms on one of those somewhat rare sunny days last month?

Perhaps it is something we can do more regularly in the new year.



Meredith Park, Leon Schupelius, George Park, Susanna Martin, Brett Bayly and Michelle Kay



Susanna Martin

Off to the Met in New York via the cinema

A small band of OzCon members is booked to visit New York’s Metropolitan Opera in February – via live cinema here in Vienna.



We will see Verdi’s Simon Boccanegra featuring Plácido Domingo as it happens in New York. The performance is on a full screen at Cineplexx filmed by 10 cameras which puts the audience on stage with the performers. It’s like a movie, but more because it is LIVE.

It is a world-wide program called *The Met Live in HD* that goes to more than 40 countries. Between acts the cameras takes the audience back stage to see the props being changed and interviews with the principle singers.

I thought others might be interested in this form of going to the opera after Suzanne and I saw Puccini's Turandot which is set in China, and was sung in Italian with German sub titles. Different, and much cheaper than going to the Opera House.

Two cinemas at Cineplexx near Reichsbrücke participate in the program and both are usually booked out months in advance. If you like to see what is still on the winter program go to

www.cineplexx-opera.at

- Brett Bayly

A Celtic Christmas

When I want to think of describing an especially Irish Christmas, it is the „Wren's Day“ that comes to mind first and is then followed closely by the very special celebration called „Nollaig na mBan“ or Women's Christmas (and pronounced nollig na mon) on the 6th of January.

Christmas is celebrated in Ireland, just like it is in England and Australia but with a more Celtic twist.

The 24th of December, Christmas Eve, is the day of fasting (ie: spiritual cleansing). The 25th, Christmas Day, is the big celebration where Santa has climbed down the chimney during the night (miraculously it seems as his bottom seems to get bigger every year) to deliver his hoard of wastefully wrapped presents, and the big Turkey and Ham are eaten with Cranberry sauce and stuffing. The crackers are cracked, drink is drunk, people have over eaten and champagned their way into December 26th, called Stephan's day instead of Boxing day, generally being the day to sleep off hangovers, throw away the wrapping paper, count the new socks, eat the box of chocolates and think, if only we would celebrate Christmas in January when the sales are on we could have done this much cheaper!“

Yes and that's about as holy as it gets.

It is a confused, commercial mix-up of the Roman Catholic birthday for Christ, a Scandinavian Reindeer marathon, Saint Nicholas deliveries and a Capitalist dream, our Western and unfortunately Irish, Christmas.

It was however once a very different story altogether.

To be brief, and not to lock you into a history lesson (which I love to do!) during Ireland's Golden Age (A.D.-700) and when it was still a Gaelic speaking country, the traditions practised were pre-Christian and so, purely Celtic.

The year was separated into four sections, Imbolc -1st of February to Bealtine-1st of May to Lughnasa-1st of August to Samhain-October/November. Samhain (pronounced Saun) actually began the turning of the New Year, with November 1st (Hallow e'en or Aller Heiligen) being the time to welcome the souls and spirits departed, back into their old homes to start the New Year Cycle with good luck (no gobbledy-gook at all, at all).

The New Year Celebrations included the Winter Solstice, 21st December, and the birth of the Sun God, 25th December, reflecting the need to celebrate light in the northern winter darkness, with fire (light, warmth) and (holy, cleansing) smoke.

Today, in the south west of Ireland, where my people come from, these traditions are still going strong. And the „Day of the Wren“ or „Wren's Day“ or „Hunting the Wren“, as the 26th of December is known, is a lovely proof of times perhaps not so long gone.....

The Wren was the bird (also a Celtic metaphor for the everlasting soul) that the Celtic Druids, the wise, intellectual people, (not the „ahmming“ white cloaked weirdoes with wands and white beards, unless they were the Druids pertaining to religious ceremonies. Druids were women and men of learning, their training being no less than 20 years!) used to derive predictions about the future by studying its flight. Later, when Pagan practises were intentionally demonised for the benefit of the spread of Christianity, the Wren was associated with treachery and betrayal (making St. Stephen a Martyr for example) and was „hunted“ rather than prized as in the original symbolism.

On the December 26th in my Grandmother's house, people, dressed in country women's clothing, come with brooms to sweep through the kitchen, along with musicians who play and dance and create an atmosphere of curiosity and mystery by not speaking or allowing their identity to be known.

The procedure has an element of devilment and secrecy (a strong trait of the Celts throughout history) and is somewhat ominous.. You never found out who the people were underneath their shawls and scarves and hats. The Wren was never found, as far as I remember, but a great sense of curiosity as to who had been to visit kept people talking (and drinking!) into the early hours of December 26th.

Although Constantine's Church intended to transfer the people's allegiance from worship of the birth of the Sun to worship of the birth of the Son (!) the Celtic traditions were too strong in the minds of the people and so, to the second part of the story of a Celtic Christmas, Nollaig na mBan.

Aussie News Briefs



The new Liberal Leadership team, Tony Abbott and deputy Julie Bishop, at Parliament House in Canberra

1 Dec. – **TONY ABBOTT has promised to dump the emissions trading "tax" and revisit a more hardline workplace relations regime after winning the Liberal Party leadership by one vote.**

In a shock victory that signals a shift to the right for the Liberals, the conservative Catholic from NSW takes control of a divided party after winning a leadership ballot against Malcolm Turnbull by a slim 42 votes to 41.

Joe Hockey, the third leadership contender and presumed frontrunner, lost in the first round of the ballot with 23 votes to Mr Turnbull's 26 and Mr Abbott's 35.

A divisive figure over the years, Mr Abbott promised to be a "consultative and collegial leader". (AAP)

25 Nov. - **THE Northern Territory Government says residents of a remote Central Australian community are too scared to leave their houses** because it has been overrun by thousands of wild camels. Local Government Minister, Rob Knight, says the situation is critical. "The community of Docker River is under siege by 6000 marauding, wild camels," he said. He says in the past few weeks, camels have invaded the town in search of water. (ABC)

24 Nov. - **QANTAS will spend \$4.4 billion over the next two years as it purchases new aircraft** and embarks on a campaign to shore up margins. The company will spend \$1.7bn in the 2010 financial year and \$2.7bn in 2011, an investor day presentation was told yesterday. That includes buying 43 planes of which eight will be Airbus SAS A380s. Funding for aircraft purchases is in place until October next year,

Now it is celebrated on January 6th and the Irish women have taken to having their big day off after a long, hard festive season of cooking for guests and they go out with their daughters and girlfriends for a mad night in the pub. It's origins however are so old that even the last living Celts don't know about it anymore.

Luckily though I can tell you!! It's original date is the 24th of December. The day when the *Mother* of the Sun God was celebrated. And here is a surprise for you, something you mightn't have expected;

Our great, ancient, Irish tradition, of which I am so proud, most probably came directly and firstly from the Mother of Celtic lands, the unassuming, quiet, patient, peaceful and still land with holy, wondrous places to behold (Geis in Irish, pronounced Gas), trickling streams and rushing rivers (Rá – noisy, exciting, pronounced Rohr) and in the dark times of year, tickled gently by snow flakes.....

yes you guessed it.....my Irish Celtic Tradition comes all the way from.....OWSTRIA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In the old native tongue of our little Alpine landl, (Celtic not Deutsch!) Weihnacht, December 24th, was known until the middle ages as „Modra-niht“, „Night of Mothers“.

In Lungau, where my dear husband Reinhard comes from, a little old, gentle woman comes visiting (now on the 26th of December due to Roman meddling), in silence, with her broom and good luck to sweep out the hearth in an act of love, protection and warmth.

Sound familiar? It is called „Perchten“ and comes from Bethe or „Bethen Nacht“, (the 3-part Mother Goddess or Berchten Trinity!). And still today in Celtic/ Gaelic, (the mother tongue of *my* mother) *Nollaig na mBan*, Women's Christmas or Women's Celebration, is to be celebrated under Light, Fertility and Protection, the Holy FEMALE Trinity!

But of course for our macho Roman generals none of that would do. So they plonked three, fat, oriental wise men on the laps of our beautiful life-giving, superior ladies and they were crushed under the weight and put at the end of the Christmas celebration on the 6th of January.

And we, the modern world live forever under the weight of this illusion.

So my Irish Christmas Story actually originates in Austria – old, ancient, echt and true!
And with that I wish you all a happy, female, warm, bright and protected holiday season.

Orna Loughnane

chief financial officer Colin Storrie said. (Australian)

24 Nov. - **AUSTRALIA will become one of the first nations in the world to establish a fully functioning emissions trading scheme**, with support from the Opposition after a marathon meeting. This allows Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to head to Copenhagen next month with the legislation in place. The Opposition has ended a marathon meeting in Canberra with leader Malcolm Turnbull declaring majority support for his recommendation to accept a deal from the Government. (Advertiser)



23 Nov. - **A NAVY patrol boat has intercepted a vessel** carrying 56 suspected asylum seekers and two crew off Australia's northwest coast. The vessel was stopped by HMAS Bathurst about 3.35pm, about 100 nautical miles northwest of Derby. It is the 46th asylum seeker boat intercepted in Australian waters this year and the second in as many days. Those on board will be transferred to Christmas Island, where they will undergo security, identity and health checks. (Herald Sun)



20 Nov. - **TEMPERATURES peaked** at a sweltering 47C in Ceduna yesterday as Adelaide recorded its hottest November day in history (43). (Advertiser)

17 Nov. - **A BREAKTHROUGH in breeding southern bluefin tuna in captivity** has been named the world's second best invention of 2009 by Time magazine. Clean Seas Tuna, the company that successfully spawned a tankful of southern bluefin tuna in Port Lincoln in March, said it was beaten only by NASA's Ares 1 rocket. *Time* described the breeding breakthrough as possibly securing the future of an aquaculture industry for the endangered species. (Mercury)

17 Nov. - **KEVIN Rudd and Malcolm Turnbull yesterday offered a historic apology to "forgotten Australians"** and former child migrants who suffered

abuse, exploitation and neglect in institutions and foster homes. In emotional scenes in Parliament House's Great Hall as the Prime Minister said sorry to those children whose childhoods were snatched away, some survivors sobbed while others stood and cheered. A few angrily demanded compensation. (Australian)

14 Nov. - **AUSTRALIA'S most unpopular animal has been given a new lease on life as a luxury fashion item.** Melbourne shoe designer Karine Emanouel has created a women's fashion shoe from cane toad leather. The stiletto pumps with four-inch heels come in black and beige, featuring the cane toad skin on the toes. They retail for \$540. (Courier Mail)

12 Nov. - **QANTAS hopes to cut airport check-in times in half** by overhauling its boarding systems with a new hi-tech frequent-flyer card. The new system, which is aimed at making the nation's airports more user-friendly, will involve the introduction of computerised swipe cards where passengers will need only to pass them through a scanner to check their bags and move on to an aircraft. (Advertiser)

7 Nov. - **AUSTRALIANS are leaving the country as never before.** The soaring Aussie dollar and low international air fares pushed the number of Australians taking holidays overseas above 600,000 in September with the number leaving in the past year hitting a record 6 million. In its quarterly assessment of the economy released yesterday and prepared ahead of the latest tourism numbers, the Reserve Bank said overseas departures had jumped 17 per cent since January. The trend in departures is now further ahead of arrivals than it has ever been, with little sign of the Aussie dollar flagging. (Sydney Morning Herald)

5 Nov. - **BUILDING 12 "future submarines" capable of launching cruise missiles and deploying special forces will be one of the greatest challenges Australia has faced.** In a landmark speech to the Sydney Institute, Acting Defence Minister Greg Combet declared the plan bigger than the Snowy River Scheme and one that would push boundaries in science and industry. (Advertiser)

Australian pensions have changed

Australian pensions changed from 20 September 2009. If you, or someone you know, is receiving the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Wife Pension, Widow B Pension, Carer Payment, Service Pension or Income Support Supplement, these changes may affect you. www.fahcsia.gov.au --An extract from the Southern Cross Group's newsletter of 10 November.

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 Niederösterreich – 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.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