

Time to get out and enjoy our summer activities

From the President

Among the goodies I had to go through when cleaning out a holiday house in Australia some weeks back were some 14 boxes of books.

I had to sell most of them because I no longer had anywhere to store them during my long absence. But I kept some, including an old book of quotations that I once used during my writing days on *The Advertiser*. An old trick of writing columns was that when you got stuck for an opening line, use a quote.

So here's one. *Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.* Does that mean I'm stuck? Well no, I just want to comment on the extremes of weather Australia has been experiencing while we here in Vienna come out of a long, cold winter into lovely spring sunshine.

Perth has had its hottest summer on record with virtually no rain. Liz Crawford was there some of the time and wrote: "In Perth we had 40 C like there was no tomorrow; not that nice either as when you venture outside it feels like a hairdryer is blowing."

Large parts of Queensland were flooded and now waters are flowing over the parched desert in Central Australia, and Melbourne was hit by a severe hailstorm which damaged 140,000 cars to the extent that most were written off. And then Perth, feeling left out, had its own hailstorm and flooding rain. Liz has written an article about the extreme weather conditions on page 4.

But at least it seems the 10-year plus drought has finally broken and rivers are flowing again.

Locally, I read the other day that Germany may be

a cloudy country - but it has 50 times as much solar power as sunny Australia. Can you believe that? An international study on clean energy conducted by the Pew Center has found Australia is far from leading the way.

Australia is considered a good fit for solar panels because it is sunny, has long daylight hours and plenty of space for panels. But it ranks 15th on the world solar scale, with fewer solar panels than countries such as Germany, South Korea, Mexico and South Africa.

While we do better with wind power and other clean energy investments, experts blame a lack of government incentives for Australia's solar slump of the past 15 years. I find that embarrassing and shameful. We can't do anything about the weather, but as a rich country we can do better when it comes to producing our energy.

But back to the present. I trust you survived the winter and are about to enjoy a warm spring and even warmer summer. Time to get out and about again and so we are filling in some dates for summer activities.

This month you are invited to the annual Anzac Day service at Karlskirche to be followed on the same day (Friday 23rd) with the usual bar night at Flanagans. Further down the track on Saturday 19 June some of us will go on the mid summer night-time cruise on the Danube through the Wachau Valley to watch the lighting of bonfires in the vineyards and spectacular fireworks in the hills and along the river shore. With some 30 ships taking part this popular event dates back to medieval times and bookings have to be made months in advance.

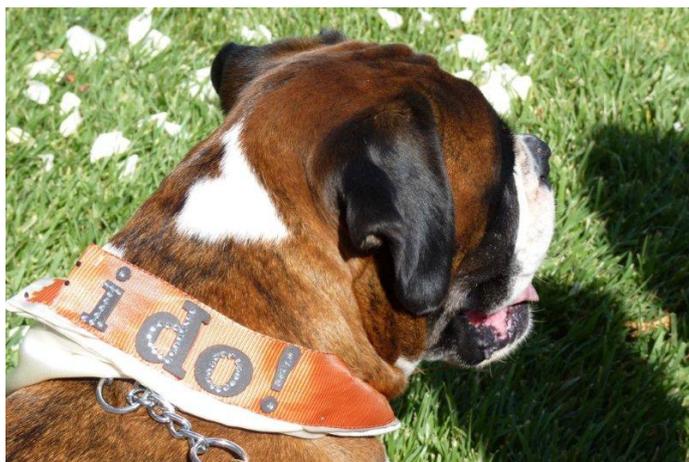
Due to a double booking at the Naturfreunde Club on the Alte Donau we have moved the date of the

annual summer BBQ back to Sunday 18 July so you might like to take a note of the change. Details are on page 3.

We are looking at other events, including a return to Krems by train for lunch and a wine tasting, and are always open to your suggestions. – *Brett Bayly*

Dogs at the wedding and honeymoon in a jungle tree house in Laos

The Viennese like to take their dogs to restaurants, something that Australians often find a little difficult to understand or tolerate. But then again, not many would take their dogs to their own wedding. My daughter did. They were part of the ceremony, and one of them, big Quinton, actually pinched the best man's role by being keeper of the rings.



Quinton was bearer of the rings

I suppose this is to be expected for a zoo keeper who spends her working hours amid animals and no-one seemed at all surprised. But there was someone who was not invited to the wedding on a lovely end of summer day at a vineyard in the Adelaide Hills.

Best man Ben was reading some telegrams as best men do at weddings. But the last one had people wondering.....it started out expressing nice wishes, but grew a little hostile in tone expressing resentment at not being invited.

Eyebrows were raised. And then Ben announced that despite not being invited, they had come anyway. And two life-sized pandas pranced into the

room. Wang Wang and Funi were there.



Wang Wang and Funi were not invited, but came anyway



Simone and Will were married at a vineyard in the Adelaide Hills

A few days later Simone and husband Will were off for the honeymoon. Where to? The jungles of South-East Asia, of course.

Simone wrote on her blog: “Of course I am getting my animal fix and am going orangutan trekking in Borneo, elephant meeting in Thailand and of course going to see the pandas in Chiang Mai!” They also managed three nights in a tree house in the jungles of Laos so they could listen to the gibbons wake in the morning.

It was Will's birthday and he wrote (somehow) on Facebook: “4am start to trek through the jungle for

2 hours and then zip along a very scary zip line into a treehouse to sit and and watch the Gibbons wake up...different type of birthday!“

And Simone, who has a fear of heights, wrote: “It was a birthday that Will won't experience again. Saw gibbons in the wild, spent 3 days on zip lines and sleeping in tree houses 60m above ground...I kid you not...crazy....my fear of heights has been somewhat dulled.“

– Brett Bayly

ANZAC DAY 2010 COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE



The Embassy of Australia and The Permanent Mission of New Zealand

Invite your attendance at an ANZAC Day Commemorative Service at **Karlskirche** Karlsplatz, 1040 Vienna at **11:00** am on Friday **23 April 2010**.

Morning tea will be served at the conclusion of the commemoration. Could you please notify the embassy in advance if you wish to attend.

RSVP: (01) 5067 4111
vien.austemb@dfat.gov.au
by Wednesday 21 April



OzCon Events

Annual Summer Barbecue

OzCon's summer barbecue is planned for **Sunday 18th July** and we urge members to come along for this one opportunity when all ages can enjoy the outdoors together.



Last years BBQ group

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 once again 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: Sunday 18th July, 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 Susanna Martin at susanna.martin@chello.at by mid June so that we can get an idea of numbers and arrange payment for the group.

April Bar Night

This month's bar night will be on Friday 23rd April at Flanagan's, Schwarzenbergstr. 1-3, 1010 Vienna from 5.30pm. We hope to see you there!



Brett in Australia. He seems to like this one

What's going on with the weather?

I was fortunate to spend the month of February in Australia. Initial stop was Perth where it was boiling hot, in fact the weather people said it was the hottest summer in I don't know how long. I welcomed the heat after enduring a long cold winter in Austria but most of the locals were well and truly over it! As an Aussie girl I love the sun and heat but when it's +40oC outside it's not fun. You go outside and it feels like a giant hairdryer is blowing on you. Thankfully the heat in Perth is dry so it's not too difficult to cope with but thank god for air conditioning is all that I can say.

Not only heat in Perth but dry, very dry! Perth experienced one of their driest summers on record. Perth Metro had 78 days without measurable rainfall until 7 February 2010, when 0.2 mm was recorded, which was Perth Metro's second longest dry spell on record. The longest dry spell at Perth Metro was 83 days between 15 December 1974 and 7 March 1975.

So while Perth was hot and dry parts of the East coast of Australia were experiencing severe floods. Queensland and NSW were the worst hit with many towns evacuated and damage running into the millions of dollars. Thousands of people were stranded by some of the worst flooding eastern Australia has seen in 30 years.



The Logan River breaks its banks at Rathdowney Queensland

I went over to Melbourne, my home town, for a week and was fortunate to experience beautiful weather. Melbourne can be unpredictable and that's

putting it mildly, so I felt very lucky to have gorgeous sunshine and temperatures ranging from about 25oC to 35oC.

Low and behold just after I left there was a freak storm that did enormous damage. The massive thunderstorms cut a swathe of destruction from Flemington to Ferntree Gully over a long weekend in early March. Friends told me there was hail the size of golf balls. Sadly my Aunt's house in Scoresby was damaged literally beyond repair. God only knows how long it will take to fix things.



Flinders Street in Melbourne's CBD awash, with water as deep as 30cm

Now I'm back home in Baden and there was a freak storm in Perth. Enormous damage once again occurred with the State Premier declaring it a natural disaster. Again hail the size of golf balls and many of our friends have had horrendous damage to their houses. One friend told us his car is so damaged it will be a right off. I mean Perth really did need the rain but not with that scale of destruction.



How is this for a brewing storm? Scarborough Beach, just outside Perth CBD, WA

- Liz Crawford

Australian stall ranked 8th in takings

Official figures from the UN Women's Guild confirm how well our stall did at last year's charity bazaar.

Our takings of €2,837.17 placed us 8th out of 41 food stalls.

It comes as no surprise that Argentina topped the poll (oh, those delicious beef steak rolls!) with €1,095.51.

Others to rank highly were Brazil €10,716.14, Japan €4,001.20, Greece €3,870.69, Spain €3,602.00, Republic of Korea €3,079.26 and Turkey €3,050.00.

Total income to the guild from the food stalls was €8,650.25.

Thirty National stalls earned €4,681.18 and Guild stalls €5,278.67 which included admissions €14,593.71 and the Tombola €14,011.59.

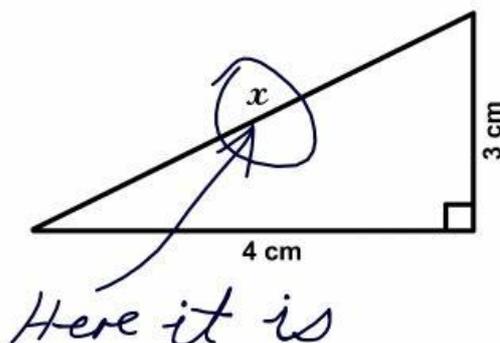
Total expenses were €147,220.01.

The bottom line was a gross income of €249,640.33 and a net income for world children's charities after expenses of €147,220.01.

And I'm happy to say we will be there again this year. Many thanks to Eden Sarelius for putting his hand up to take over the role of manager/overseer this year.

- Brett Bayly

3. Find x.



Aussie News Briefs

29 March - **FORMER Liberal prime minister Malcolm Fraser** has urged Kevin Rudd to expel Israeli diplomats after four Australian passports were used in the assassination of a Hamas leader in Dubai. The move puts Mr Fraser at odds with current Liberal leader Tony Abbott who has urged the Rudd government to ignore the precedent set by Gordon Brown's government in London, which expelled an Israeli diplomat as punishment for the use of British passports in the Dubai killing. The Rudd government is considering how it will handle a report by the Australian Federal Police after an AFP group was sent to Israel to investigate whether Mossad was involved in the misuse of Australian passports. (Australian)



27 March - **BOOM and bust, bust and boom: the relentless cycle of the inland has swung again.** After years of drought came the rains and now, stretching its brown, muddy hand across a huge swathe of north-western NSW, a slow, creeping flood. Seeping rather than surging, the big dump of rain that flooded Charleville and Roma in central Queensland at the beginning of the month is spreading its way across a series of enormous flood plains stretching virtually from the western edge of the Great Dividing Range right across to central Australia, bringing with it the promise of regeneration and renewal. After almost a decade of drought, more water is on the move than at any time since the big floods of 1974 and 1976. (Sydney Morning Herald),

25 March - **WOULD-BE premier Jay Weatherill** and another of his Left colleagues, Paul Caica, are the big winners in the new "rejuvenated" Labor front bench. Mr Weatherill gets the high-profile Education role while Mr Caica shifts from Agriculture and Industrial Relations to become River Murray, Water and Environment Minister with total control over all water matters in the state. Premier Mike Rann said Mr Caica would become the state's "water tsar". (Advertiser)

24 March - **GLOBAL internet giants Google and Yahoo!** have slammed as "heavy handed" Rudd Government plans to block access to hard-core porn and other offensive material. The online moguls warn the plan for mandatory internet filtering will restrict YouTube and other popular sites - causing a potential backlash by users. Google - currently involved in a brawl with China over internet censorship - also said the Government "cyber-safety" plan could restrict material with a "strong social, political and education value". (Advertiser)

22 March - **LABOR'S loss in Tasmania and its drubbing in South Australia**, suffering large swings in both states, are being seen as the end of the ALP's decade of national dominance and a warning to Kevin Rudd to concentrate on policy. The Prime Minister's immediate reaction to the expected ALP loss in Tasmania and the likely close win in South Australia, where Labor ministers lost their seats and leadership divisions broke out, was to pledge to work with all premiers to provide "better services". As doubt surrounds the final outcomes in both states, Mr Rudd has put off his meeting with all state and territory leaders for negotiations over his health reforms until April 19 to ensure he can deal with certain leaders. (Australian)

21 March - **PREMIER Mike Rann says it would be presumptuous to claim victory** in a State election he described as a "kick in the pants" for his Labor Party. Mr Rann is positioned to retain power for a third term but said today a final result was too close to call. Labor suffered about an eight per cent swing against it in yesterday's poll and appears set to form government with a reduced majority. (Advertiser)

20 March - **TASMANIA has been left in limbo after a nail-biting election** yesterday failed to deliver a clear majority victory to one political party. Liberal leader Will Hodgman looks most likely to become Tasmania's 54th incoming premier, in charge of a Liberal minority government. With 23 seats decided in last night's counting in the 25 member Lower House of parliament, the Labor Party have won 10 seats, the Liberals 9 and the Greens 4. (Mercury)

19 March - **BOWING to political pressure at home, President Barack Obama on Thursday scrapped his trip to Indonesia and Australia next week** to stay in Washington for a final push for a US healthcare overhaul. The rare cancellation of a presidential trip abroad underscored how Obama's political challenges at home have begun complicating his life overseas, stirring debate on whether he may have to scale back some of his foreign policy goals. (West Australian)

18 March - **THE federal government has accelerated**

its push for a more open system of government by introducing the first federal law protecting public servants who reveal maladministration. It plans to reverse decades of government secrecy by protecting public servants who reveal serious wrongdoing to the media. The new scheme is intended to encourage whistleblowers in the federal public service by giving them the nation's most extensive system of legal protection and support. (Australian)

17 March - **AUSTRALIA faces a housing affordability "time bomb"** - primed by a dysfunctional planning system, a chronic undersupply of homes, and unrealistic expectations from buyers, according to the chief of one of the nation's largest homebuilders. Stockland managing director Matthew Quinn, in a speech in Sydney, said Australia's current shortage of 200,000 homes and an annual shortfall of 60,000, would balloon to 800,000 by 2020, if no reforms were undertaken. (Canberra Times)

16 March - **THE identities of some of the 250 Australian and British soldiers** discovered in an unmarked World War I mass grave at Fromelles in France have been confirmed. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd today appeared to back media reports that said 75 of the 250 have had their identities confirmed some 90 years later thanks to DNA testing. The move capped a two-year search and recovery mission to identify the WWI soldiers' names and find them an appropriate resting place. (HeraldSun)

11 March - **SHARKS and manta rays are using a "car wash" to spend hours being cleaned by smaller fish on the Great Barrier Reef** . Scientists have discovered reef and hammerhead sharks gathering in large numbers at certain spots at Osprey Reef, in the Coral Sea off Cairns, stopping all movement of their fins while cleaner fish swim towards the predators and start cleaning them of parasites, dead tissue and scales. In the case of sharks, they would swim almost vertically in order to receive a regular "clean, wax and polish". (Cairns Post)



*Wombats have no respect for the dead
– photo Brett Bayly*

Airline humour from Qantas

After every flight, Qantas pilots fill out a form, called a "gripe sheet," which tells mechanics about problems with the aircraft.

The mechanics correct the problems; document their repairs on the form, and then pilots review the gripe sheets before the next flight. Never let it be said that ground crews lack a sense of humor.

Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by Qantas' pilots (marked with a P) and the solutions recorded (marked with an S) by maintenance engineers.

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.

S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.

S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.

S: Live bugs on back-order.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.

S: Evidence removed.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

S: That's what they're for.

P: Suspected crack in windshield.

S: Suspect you're right.

P: Number 3 engine missing.

S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

P: Aircraft handles funny.

S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

P: Mouse in cockpit.

S: Cat installed.

And the best one for last...

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.

S: Took hammer away from midget



Performances with Australian Artists and other events

From the Australian Events Calendar, Australian Embassy Vienna

<p>12 Mar, Opening of Exhibition</p>	<p>Exhibition - Tom Venning</p>	<p>Venue: Fortuna Gallery Berggasse 21/2 1090 Vienna Ph: +43 - 1 5866 854-22 E-mail: info@fortuna- media.com www.fortuna-media.com</p>	<p>Australian Tom Venning will be exhibiting his works inspired by the principles of Zen Calligraphy at the Fortuna Gallery in Vienna's 9th district. For further information, please refer to www.tomvenning.com</p>
<p>Permanent exhibition</p>	<p>"Begegnungen" - Art from Australia at the Galerie Judith Walker</p>	<p>Venue: Galerie Judith Walker Schloss Ebenau 9162 Feistritz im Rosental Ph: 04228 2110 Email: office@galerie- walker.at www.galerie-walker.at</p>	<p>Aboriginal Art at the Galerie Judith Walker in Carinthia. Open every Fri, Sat, Sun from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.</p>
<p>Show running until 10 April 2010</p>	<p>"Schrapnell aus dem Märchenland" by Australian born New York artist Ian Burns</p>	<p>Venue: Hilger contemporary Dorotheergasse 5 1010 Vienna Ph: 01-512 53 15 -17 Email: contemporary@hilger.at</p>	<p>The show flips between the real arctic and the imagined - reality versus artificiality. We all think we know the Arctic well - or at least know something. Ian Burns' works deal with that issue and translate an actual arctic experience.</p>

Unless otherwise specified, all telephone numbers are in Vienna

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

www.expats-consulting.com

www.homesick.com.au

www.viennababiesclub.com

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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

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