

## Cleaner air, saving fuel and enjoying summer

### From the President

What's the bet that when you read this it is raining or has turned cold? I say that because at the time of writing it is a beautiful sunny day in the low 20s, buds are popping, blossoms have bloomed...and my allergies are driving me nuts.

But I am not complaining because the warmer weather has been so slow in coming, and the summer is not so far away now.

I must say it was rather nice *not* to see all those vapour trails in the sky every day. I know it is easy to say if you were not travelling in that chaotic week and I wonder how much better the quality of the air actually was at the end of the no-fly week.

But the planes soon returned and the vapour trails criss-crossed the sky in straight lines once again. However, I noticed one guy up there the other day who didn't seem to know just where he wanted to go. I think he must have inhaled some of the volcanic ash.



One of the local media reports in the *Austrian Times* recently claimed Vienna is the worst city in German-speaking Europe when it comes to the time drivers are stuck in traffic jams. A new study by a satellite navigation systems producer ranks the Austrian capital 27th out of 59 European cities. Traffic in the Belgian capital Brussels has the biggest share of jams with 38 per cent, followed by Warsaw, Poland.

This news appealed to me because we just took delivery of a new Golf Plus which has what VW calls BlueMotion technology. Among other things, the engine switches off when the car comes to a standstill in heavy traffic or at traffic lights. A touch of the clutch and it starts again.

It is supposed to cut down on the amount of fuel the engine uses. When you think about the length of time it takes for some traffic lights to go the full circle in Vienna, I expect to save a lot of diesel. But it takes some getting used to when the engine stops and everything goes very quiet.

Once again this year's Anzac commemorative service in Karlskirche was a moving event with Aussie kids taking part in the service and the refrains of the Last Post raising a few goosebumps. The Australian Embassy put on refreshments after the service and the day was capped off with a well-attended bar night at Flanagans.

While speaking of Flanagans, I am looking into the schedule of the World Cup in the hope that we can watch matches in which the Socceroos are playing at Flanagans next month. I will let you know if this is possible.

I look forward to seeing you at a future OzCon event and I hope you enjoy your summer. --Brett

## Tribute to a young Australian



Nineteen year old Saxon Bird was tragically taken from us whilst competing in the Under 19 Ironman event at Kurrawa on the Gold Coast during the Australian Surf Life Saving Titles.

Saxon joined the Queenscliff Surf Club as a nine year old Nipper. He competed in numerous finals for Queenscliff Surf Club at State and Australian level from the very beginning, either winning or placing in at least one event at all State and Australian Titles he contested. He was Australian Surf Swim champion for his age in 2006 and 2008 and 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2009. He placed third in the Ironman in his age in 2006 and 2007. At State level Saxon's results were equally impressive having gained over ten individual bronze, silver or gold medals during his career and was the current NSW Under 19 Ironman champion for 2010.

Saxon is well remembered for lifting his performance to another level when competing in teams. As a member of the Queenscliff Life Saver Relay team he took his team from 7<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> place beating some of the best surf swimmers in the world, he was seventeen at the time.

Saxon was formerly a student of St Patrick's College Strathfield where he gained outstanding academic and sporting results. He was studying Business / Economics at the University of Technology, Sydney and had recently been awarded a University Scholarship from both the Queenscliff Surf Club and the University of

Technology.

Saxon was a proud member of Queenscliff Surf Club and the universal outpouring of grief by Queenscliff and Surf Life Saving members generally indicates the absolute esteem in which he was held as a competitor and as a bloke.

He was an amazing competitor, it was hard for many of you to understand what he was capable of, but he was the best in Australia at what he did.

He was not just a champion lifesaver and competitor, but a champion family man, a champion student, a champion friend and a champion bloke.

Vale our good friend Saxon Bird.

- *Written by his father Phil Bird*

## ANZAC DAY 2010



*The beautiful interior of Karlskirche*

Australian and New Zealand children read the Ode of Remembrance at this year's Anzac Day commemoration in Karlskirche. The children came from the Vienna and Danube international schools.

Children from both schools also laid wreaths among those from Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, Canada, France, the US and the UK.



*Children from the international schools with teachers and OzCon members Eden Sarelius and Colleen Colgan*

This year's service commemorated the 95th anniversary of Gallipoli which is marked by Australians and New Zealanders around the world on 25 April.

The New Zealand Ambassador Ms Jennifer Macmillan and the Turkish Ambassador Mr Kadri Eved Tezcan spoke of the Anzac tradition and the tragedy of Gallipoli while the Australian Ambassador Mr Michael Potts delivered the reading from the bible. And once again the haunting sound of the Last Post by Staff Sergeant Trettler filled the church.



*Ambassador Michael Potts with Peter Korcsek*

### **More wonderful use of the English language**

Tokyo hotel rules and regulations:  
**GUESTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SMOKE OR DO OTHER DISGUSTING BEHAVIOURS IN BED.**

## **OzCon Events**

### **My Fair Lady**

Volksoper on Saturday 29 May preceded by a gathering at a restaurant across the road for either a bite to eat and/or a drink.

**Venue:** Volksoper, My Fair Lady (in German)  
**Time:** Saturday, 29th May, begin at 19.00  
**Duration:** 3 hours, 1 intermission

Ticket prices between EUR 70 -80 per person

#### **Description**

With their 1956 Broadway musical "My Fair Lady" Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's melodies "The Rain in Spain " or "I could have danced all night" went round the world. The story tells of phonetician Henry Higgins who turns penniless flower girl Eliza Doolittle into a society lady. The professor stubbornly resists falling in love with his "creation"

The restaurant: Li-Li Asian Restaurant just across the road from the Volksoper, Fuchsthallergasse 14....at 17:15. Has Viennese food as well as Asian.

Being a Saturday performance, we must get in early to get a group booking.  
 If interested please register with Susanna Martin e-mail by Tuesday 4 May and indicate which event(s) you wish to attend. [susanna.martin@chello.at](mailto:susanna.martin@chello.at)

### **May Bar Night**

This month's bar night will be on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May at Flanagan's, Schwarzenbergstr. 1-3, 1010 Vienna from 5.30pm. We hope to see you there!



## OzCon Summer BBQ

Our annual BBQ is planned for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July between 11.30 am and 7pm. At the club area of the Naturfreunde, An der alten unteren Donau 51.

As it is FREE to all OzCon members we urge you to RSVP to Susanna Martin at [susanna.martin@chello.at](mailto:susanna.martin@chello.at) so that we can get an idea of numbers and arrange payment for the group.



*Seen in the foyer of a 4-star hotel in Adelaide. The sign reads: Please refrain from placing your feet on the table. Oh those South Australians are so refined!*

## April Bar Night

There was a good turn out for our April Bar Night. It's always good to see familiar faces and say hi to fellow members.

Some had also attended the Anzac Day service that morning and so it was appropriate to carry on the Anzac tradition and have a few drinks on the day.



*Duncan and Patricia*



*Wolfgang, Gabrielle, Georg and Rod*



*Brett, Rod, Eden and Liz*



*Sam and Edith*

# An Aussie Poem

By Henry Hannaford

Australia was a distant, mystical place  
Surrounded by coasts and empty space  
A land varied and large but with little trees  
First discovered by the Aborigines.

Australia was their one true home  
A country in which they were free to roam  
Their place of stories and history  
A land of their dreamtime and their mystery.

In 1788 however, it all changed  
The convicts moved in and the country  
rearranged  
The intruders were sent from the British Isles  
Most of whom were never given trials.

These Brits had been sent for killing and  
thieving  
While the natives watched on still disbelieving  
The locals were killed without a second  
thought  
From diseases, and being shot once caught.

The new-comers were interested in  
discovering the land  
Looking for water and what else lay in the  
sand  
Burke, Will, Stuart, Sturt  
All travelled for miles through the endless dirt.

Australia grew in wealth from gold  
Its cities enlarged, buildings were bold  
The country quickly matured  
And people looking for riches were lured.

The people pushed for Federation  
And in 1901 it was a nation  
But soon after, in the First World War  
ANZAC men were killed in their corps.

Australia has changed a great deal to become  
what it is today  
It is still a country full of wildlife, faraway  
But now has skyscrapers, opera houses,  
festivals  
Which mix with the nature to form a place of

jewels.

It is a country known for sports  
For cuisine, beaches and resorts  
However the country is not rid of worry  
The environment, immigration and the mighty  
Murray.

Australia is a place in which I used to live  
A land in which I would like to relive  
It will always have a very large part  
No matter where I am, in my heart.

Australia is my country, my home and  
birthplace  
A country I try to embrace  
But lately, it has started to be  
Merely the country on the passport which I  
rarely see

*The poem was written for a project sponsored by the Vienna International School and others that aims to give children between ages 10 and 18 a chance to discover what it means to be from where ever they come.*

## Aussie News Briefs

28 April – **AUSTRALIA'S government has urged young people not to join the "sexting" craze**, warning that sending provocative images by mobile phone could have "very bad long-term consequences". Minister for the Status of Women Tanya Plibersek expressed concerns over a rising "raunch culture phenomenon", adding it was a part of youth culture that "completely passes adults by". (AFP)



Melbourne skyline

27 April - **SYDNEY is poised to lose its position as the nation's leading city**, with a lack of housing driving migrants south to Melbourne. The exodus will see Melbourne overtake Sydney's global city status in population, migration and economic growth by 2037, a

BIS Shrapnel report has forecast. Within five years, life in Sydney would also be tough, with all rental stock occupied and housing affordability pushed beyond critical. (Daily Telegraph)

27 April - **KEVIN Rudd has delayed he government's carbon pollution reduction scheme until the end of 2012**, backing away from his biggest election promise. The Prime Minister said that by 2012, when the current Kyoto deal expires, governments around the world would need to make clear their new carbon reduction commitments. (Courier Mail)

24 April - **PRIME Minister Kevin Rudd is doubling Australia's civilian commitment in Afghanistan** to assist with diplomacy, aid and policing efforts. He will send an extra 50 people, which is about double the number already there. Mr Rudd made the announcement at Canberra's Australian National University, where he spoke about the importance of Australia's efforts in Afghanistan. (Herald Sun)

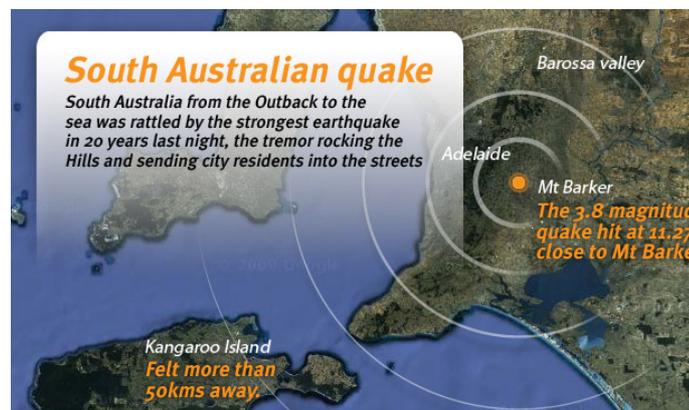
23 April - **NRL chief executive David Gallop says the league had little choice but to exclude Melbourne from this year's premiership.** Gallop said the disgraced club would continue rorting the salary cap for the remainder of the 2010 season and as such was ineligible to fight for the title. Critics argued the NRL went too far in giving the Storm no hope for the future, with the club unable to accrue any competition points in the current campaign. That was on top of the club being stripped of the premierships and minor premierships they achieved while making illegal payments to players. The scandal has raised fears over Melbourne's survival, with two major sponsors having already abandoned the club. There is also the prospect of a fan backlash, both over their disgust at the club's management and at the fact the Storm will have nothing to play for but pride in 2010. (Australian)

21 April - **KEVIN RUDD has used political bribery and brute force to wrest from the states a new Commonwealth power over hospitals.** Sounding as if he were already electioneering, Rudd immediately wielded it as an "historic agreement for better health and better hospitals for the working families of Australia". The agreement is incomplete - Western Australia has so far refused to sign up - but it gives Rudd a critical credential. (Sydney Morning Herald)

20 April - **AUSTRALIA has been rated equal-first as the safest country in which to invest** while the economies of other countries continue to deteriorate. Sixteen countries, including Japan, Spain and Greece have had their ratings downgraded since the beginning of this year, amid a big shift in debt from the private sector to the public sector during the global financial crisis. Dun & Bradstreet's latest economic and risk

outlook report said Australia is in equal-first position with Canada, Norway and Switzerland as the safest country in which to invest. (Australian)

18 APRIL - **AN unprecedented cancellation of all Europe-bound flights from Australia** has been extended two more days as ash from an Icelandic volcano continues to play havoc with air travel. Qantas confirmed on Sunday that all its flights to European destinations will be cancelled until at least Tuesday afternoon - extending the massive travel disruption into its fifth consecutive day. "And we're still not optimistic of being able to resume them from Tuesday onwards," said Qantas group executive David Epstein. The vast ash cloud has grounded flights across the continent in the biggest air travel shutdown since World War II. (AAP)



18 April - **A SEISMIC expert says Friday night's earthquake is a portent of things to come** and that another "1954-style earthquake" is certain to hit the city. People were jolted from their sleep when a magnitude 3.8 quake - the state's strongest in more than 20 years - struck just south of Mt Barker at 11.27pm. Its shockwaves were felt across the state. It was the largest of four tremors that had struck close to Adelaide in the past 19 days, with three recorded near Kuitpo, including a 1.9 magnitude tremor on April 2. (Advertiser)

15 April - **AUSTRALIA'S foreign aid spending will lag behind that of other developed countries** even with a planned dramatic increase, the Rudd government conceded yesterday. Figures released overnight by the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development show Australia spent \$US2.76 billion on aid in 2009, equivalent to 0.29 per cent of our gross national income. This ranked Australia 16 out of 23 countries in the index, and well below the average spend of 0.48 per cent. The fall in Australia's aid was dwarfed by that of other countries, however. Austria's aid spend plunged 31.2 per cent in a year, with Italy giving 31.1 per cent less than in 2008. (Age)

13 April - **THE US ambassador to Australia Jeff Bleich has criticised the Rudd government's plan to filter the internet**, saying the same goals can be achieved without censorship. The federal government's

\$128.8 million Cyber Safety policy includes forcing ISPs to block access to certain websites and blacklist offensive material. Legislation to enable the scheme is set to be introduced this year. On ABC's Q&A program last night, Mr Bleich said the "internet has to be free" and that there were other means of combating nasty content such as child pornography. (Sydney Morning Herald)

9 April - **AUSTRALIA has suspended the processing of all immigration claims from Sri Lanka and Afghan asylum seekers.** "The decision has been made in the light of changing circumstances in both Afghanistan and Sri Lanka," Immigration Minister Chris Evans said. "The likelihood of people being refused visas and being returned safely to their homelands will increase." New measures to combat the financing of people smuggling will also be introduced. (Advertiser)

4 April - **THE federal government will consider slashing Australia's annual migration intake** to help tackle concerns about traffic congestion, housing, hospitals, water and the environment. Just months after declaring himself in favour of a "big Australia", Prime Minister Kevin Rudd yesterday warned of "legitimate concerns" with population growth and appointed Agriculture Minister Tony Burke as Australia's first Population Minister. (Age).

## Classifieds



Young boy's bike 20in. Euro65



Wardrobe for child's room. H140 cm B50 W70. Euro45



4 metal frame chairs. Euro10 each



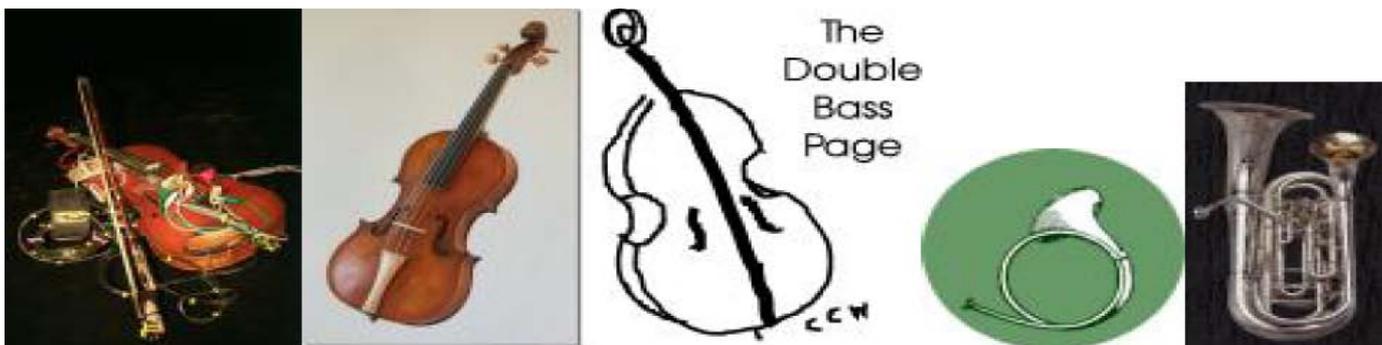
Chest of drawers for child's room H80 cm B44 W70. Euro35



Siemens fridge/freezer  
H125 cm B60 W55. Euro70 ono

*All items have been replaced and must go as they are taking up valuable space*

Contact Brett on 264.5813 or 06991 264 5813.



## Performances with Australian Artists and other events

From the Australian Events Calendar, Australian Embassy Vienna

<p><b>3 May, 7pm</b>  <b>Opening Exhibition</b>  <b>running from 3 May to 2 June</b>  <b>Tues to Fri 14-19 and Sat 10-14 , closed on holidays</b></p>	<p><b>Exhibition –</b>  <b>Natascha Stellmach</b></p>	<p><b>Venue:</b>          Fotogalerie Wien          Währinger Straße 59/WUK          1090 Vienna  <b>Venue:</b>          VIENNAFAIR          Messeplatz 1          1021 Wien          For more information, please refer to following websites  <a href="http://www.bookofback.com">www.bookofback.com</a> or  <a href="http://www.fotogalerie-wien.at">www.fotogalerie-wien.at</a></p>	<p>Australian artist Natascha Stellmach presents new and selected photographs, video and mixed media work from her book <i>The Book of Back</i>, a dark family story set between Germany and Australia, informed somewhat by the artist’s own biography.</p> <p>In addition, Natascha Stellmach will sign her new publication <i>It is Black in Here</i> at VIENNAFAIR on Friday 7 May 2010 5 pm at the Wagner+Partner stand, Booth A 2005</p>
<p><b>12 May - 13 Sept</b>  <b>Opening hours 10-18, except Tuesday (closed)</b></p>	<p><b>James Cook and the Discovery of the Pacific</b></p>	<p><b>Venue:</b>          Museum für Völkerkunde          Heldenplatz          1010 Vienna          For more information, please refer to <a href="http://www.ethnomuseum.ac.at">www.ethnomuseum.ac.at</a></p>	<p>The Austrian Museum of Ethnology will be exhibiting one of the largest exhibitions on English explorer James Cook.</p>
<p><b>12 to 20 May</b></p>	<p><b>6th International KinoDynamique</b></p>	<p>For further information and registration, please refer to <a href="http://www.kino5.net">www.kino5.net</a></p>	<p>Australian Samuel Hilton will be participating at this year’s 6th KinoDynamique (internationally known as KinoKabaret). At KinoDynamique short films are produced within 60 hours and screened in Viennese cinemas immediately after.</p>

Unless otherwise specified, all telephone numbers are in Vienna

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

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

Published by the AWA

Contact AWA for stockists

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

Published by Austria Today

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

### **Useful Websites:**

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

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

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

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

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

[www.kids-days.com/Wien/index\\_wien.html](http://www.kids-days.com/Wien/index_wien.html)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[www.austrain.vc](http://www.austrain.vc)

[www.vienna-expats.at](http://www.vienna-expats.at)

### **Austrian media in English:**

Austrian Times, daily English news

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

The Vienna Review, monthly produced by Webster University [www.viennareview.net](http://www.viennareview.net)

Ether magazine, monthly [www.ethermagazine.at](http://www.ethermagazine.at)

Worldwide media guide [www.mondotimes.com](http://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](http://www.viennawalks.at)

The Old City of Vienna

The Third Man

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

### ***Other Associations***

*Austrian-Australian Society (OAG)*

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