

Is all this cheap Aussie wine in our supermarkets the genuine thing? Shop around and get a bargain

From The President

An inspector with the IAEA retired recently and for his farewell drinks he asked a secretary to find some low cost wine because he expected a large number of his friends would want to bid him farewell.

The secretary returned with some wine, including an Australian chardonnay and a shiraz. It did not come from the tax-free UN Commissary in the same building, but from a local supermarket. The chardonnay cost €2.19 a bottle and the shiraz €1.49. They were on special, but only at a 20 pc reduction and that works out in Australian prices at \$3.06 for the chardonnay and \$2.08 for the shiraz.

Ok, so it is probably not the wine you might serve to friends who come over for dinner. But those who were there said it was good quality and enjoyable. So I went to a local branch of this supermarket and bought some.



I am often surprised when I see the prices of wines in local supermarkets. How do they do it? I realize that the non-entity label wine is shipped in bulk and bottled locally. But is it genuine when compared with local, meaning European, wine? The same supermarket had a 2008 Italian blanc for €1.79 and a variety of Austrian wine for €2 to €4.

But there in the Neue Welt shelves were the wines from South America, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the US....a 2009 South African cab sav and a chenin blanc, and a Californian cabernet all for €1.99.

This was one of the cheaper supermarkets so I decided to have a look at the more up-market Merkur. There were plenty of Italian, French and Spanish wines for around the €4-5 mark. But on the New World shelf were bottles of Lindemans 2009 cab sav and a 2008 Bin 50 shiraz on special for €4.99 (\$6.98) and a nice NZ Orca Bay sav blanc for €5.99. A normal priced 2007 McWilliams chardonnay cost only €4.99. There were also some Wolf Blass reds for between €9.99 and €11.99 which I would expect to pay more than \$20 for in an Australian bottle shop.

Some former OzCon regulars at our bar nights who have returned to Australia have complained about the price of beer back home. I suspect that my complaint will be the price of wine.

Speaking of wine, we hope to have our regular bar night next month at a wine bar that one of our members has discovered in the 4th District. It is owned by an Australian woman and her Austrian husband. In the meantime, we will have our usual bar night later this month.

This newsletter also has the first call to action for this year's UN Women's Guild charity bazaar and, being at the end of the summer holiday period, a number of reports from travelers.

You are no doubt pleased to see that Australian politics have not got a mention this month...other than to say, yes, we still have a government!

First call for support for the new 2010 bazaar team

It's only October and the bazaar is not until December!!

True, but the organising that guarantees success does not happen in the few weeks before the event and so it is never too early to alert all you grand cooks and volunteers that it is time to give some thought about what you can do this year.

It is the guild's one big charity event of the year and once again we plan to do our bit and raise thousands of euros for children's charities around the world. But it can only happen with your active support.



Last year, waiting for the rush!

For the information of our new members, this event attracts some 20 -30,000 people on the day and Australia's stand is different in that we offer desserts in the form of rich pavlovas and chocolate and coconut lamingtons washed down with Aussie beer and wine. Last year we sold some 460 pavlovas and masses of lamingtons, raising €2815 which was €400 more than the previous year. So let us see if we can beat that this year.

The UNWG Bazaar will be held at the Austria Centre on Saturday 4 December and this year we have a new team running the show. **Our all-important coordinator is Krishna (Bindi) Mamouney and I have relinquished the manager's role to Pdraig (Paddy) Lysaght: fenix@gmx.at**

For the third successive year Dr Bert Salomon, of Salomon Undhof, will donate 48 bottles of excellent Australian red wine (despite our non-appearance at his winery last month) and Heidi El-Agrebi, the Australian Embassy's Chef, will

bake us 150 pavlovas. The embassy also helps out by allowing people to leave the pavs and lamingtons at the embassy and then delivers them to us at the Austria Centre along with some decorations for the stall

So how does all this come together? I realize it is difficult to make a commitment so far in advance, and it does not have to be a firm commitment. But we need to know that a) we are going to have the product to sell and b) that we are going to have people to do the selling. *It can be a lot of fun* and it can be for just an hour or two, or longer. So if you can offer some pavs or lamingtons and/or your time please let Bindi know at Krishnasnow@hotmail.com so that she can draw up a roster.

We need volunteers to:

- Help set up the stall on the Friday afternoon (3 Dec). It takes just an hour or two.
- Staff the stall during the day working
- Behind the scenes decorating the pavs with fruit and cream
- Serve and engage the customers while selling the beer and wine (and sampling if you wish)
- Help clean up and put things away at the end of the day, usually around 17.00

-- Brett Bayly

Another year, another visit to Italy (or, Tre cappuccini e un caffe americano, per favore)

During the sunny month of July the Hannaford family visited Italy. Not for the first time – we are definitely into the double figures now – but there is always one more city to visit, one more meal to savour, one more painting to contemplate.

This year we stayed in a lovely house with beautiful views in the Le Marche region. (I am happy to pass on contact details for this house. A really charming owner.) If you can imagine the bucolic landscapes which form the background of a Raphael painting, this was the view from our terrace. So our first trip, not surprisingly was to Urbino. This UNESCO world heritage site is a well-preserved Renaissance city with a magnificent palace, and was the birthplace of Raphael. It is possible to visit Raphael's birth home but his paintings are mostly held in the Vatican. (However, the Vienna Kunsthistorisches Museum is caretaker of the beautiful Madonna above.)



View from Le Marche House

The house was also a short distance from Fellini's birthplace, the beach resort Rimini, which we visited on two days, one day sightseeing and enjoying a long lunch, the other lazing on the beach. Rimini is one of Europe's largest beach resorts, and there were hordes of people on the day we returned to swim, but it was quite a magical beach all the same with gently sloping sand for miles.

One of the nicest things about our week was the local beach at Cattolica, about a 20 minute drive away. The owner of the house directed us to the little track where the locals went, so we started each morning early with a swim, followed by fabulous coffee and croissants standing at the bar, on the beach in our wet bathers. If only everyday could begin like this.



Rimini Beach

We were able to add another country to our list by visiting Europe's oldest republic, San Marco, which we could also see from our terrace. The city comprises three castles located on three adjoining hilltops and Alice, our 11 yr old dog, found the steep, cobbled streets hard work. There was a wonderful Sunday afternoon carnival atmosphere when we were there, and many gorgeously dressed officials posturing.

In our second week we moved to a quaint cottage (with a quaint owner – each spoon was counted) in the Euganean Hills, a clump of 81 hills of volcanic origin

in the Veneto, now home to pretty rural wineries and cheese-makers, and glamorous spa towns. Our accommodation was next door to a grand villa with famed Renaissance gardens, including a large pond housing a rabbit island, an excellent solution for growing meat and vegetables together which Farmer Brown needed to be advised of. Driving around the hills sampling wines and cheeses was a pleasant way to spend afternoons and we enjoyed one early morning hike up a hill to the remains of a monastery.

Twenty kilometres away was Padua, a city of saints' body parts and pilgrims. We saw a lot of big, pretty churches and nuns with cameras. St Antonio was particularly interesting and we were lucky to make the queue for the reliquary to view His Blessed Tongue before the guardians closed it for lunch. Keeping with this topic (tongues and food) - the astronomically chocolately chocolate ice-cream, Chocolate Noir, from Groom in the main piazza was amazing – so rich you are recommended to share a cone with someone you love.

On another day we visited Vincenza, a longer drive but worth the journey. This city is graced with the majestic porticoed villas of Palladio, but also had that great feel of a modern, wealthy Northern Italian town. As usual we returned to Vienna with a car laden with jars of char-grilled artichokes, always so much better and cheaper in Italy, and great trepidation about what the scales would say when we climbed on them.

Jeanette Hannaford



The Hannaford family

Stop for a laugh

A man went to church one day and after the service he stopped to shake the preacher's hand. He said, 'Preacher, I'll tell you, that was a damned fine sermon. Damned good!'

The preacher said, 'Thank you sir, but I'd rather you didn't use profanity.'

The man said, 'I was so damned impressed with that sermon I put five thousand dollars in the offering plate!'

The preacher said, 'No shit?'

OzCon lunch

Join us for lunch at the Kunst Haus Wien at Weißgerberlände 14, 1030 Vienna, at 1 pm on **Friday 1 October** and then, if anyone is interested, visit the special exhibition

TINA MODOTTI - Photographer and Revolutionary

(Admission: € 9,-, Concession € 7,-)

RSVP. jeanettehannaford@yahoo.co.uk

This lunch could be followed by another on Friday 12 November at Cafe Central, Herrengasse 14 followed by a visit to a Frida Kahlo exhibition at Bank Austria Kunstforum, Freyung. More details will be in the November newsletter.

Feeling of déjà vu at bar night

There was a feeling of déjà vu at bar night last month. In August it was election-eve and people were talking about the likely outcome. Everyone expected a result. As we all know, there was none.

Last month for those who follow Aussie sport there was talk about who would win the Australian Rules Football final the next day. Some were even going to get up to be at the Roo Bar at 6 am to watch the game. Everyone expected a result. There was none. It was a draw – only the third in AFL history. No extra time in AFL so it will be played again on 2 October.



The bar night crowd

It is good to see fairly new arrivals who have come to Vienna to work for OMV at our bar nights. These include Colin and Gail Higgins and Jan and Frank Barker. Another Aussie, James Wallace, who was here on a short term contract, joined us.

Colin was one of those who went to the Roo Bar. “It

was packed – good, but I can't imagine going through it again next week,” he said.



Jan and Gail



Meredith and George

Next Bar Night

Friday 22 October at Flanagans

The Maribor music festival, just across the border

Living in Europe has so many advantages. One is that great Australian artists' travel to Europe to perform and being music fans Chris and I are always keen to take the opportunity to see and listen to Aussie performers. In the last few weeks we have seen a Mick Thomas (of Weddings Parties Anything fame) gig in Hamburg as well as the sublime Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO) led by violin virtuoso Richard Tognetti in Maribor. We are continuing the music theme through to October and will be off to see Cat Empire in Munich in a few weekends time.

Living in Leoben means Maribor is very close, around two hours by train, so when we heard the Australian Chamber Orchestra was performing we simply had to buy a few tickets and head across the border to Slovenia. Maribor is a charming city and well worth a visit but with the added bonus of great music it provided an opportunity too good to miss. We booked tickets to see the ACO for the opening concert on Friday as well as for another performance on Saturday. I cannot say enough about the ACO. It was the first time I ever saw them perform and from the solo opening for violin by Sculthorpe through to Dvorak's 8th symphony I was hooked.

The musical gathering started small, with Richard taking centre stage for the violin solo. He was progressively joined by more and more musicians for works by Petterssons, Shostakovich and Bach and eventually by a full orchestra that included leading Slovenian musicians. The symphony was a joyous performance and an appropriately warm welcome and opening to the festival.



Richard Tognetti and the Australian Chamber Orchestra

The second performance on Saturday culminated with Mozart's 41st symphony. If you have never seen the ACO then you would not know that they perform standing and with Tognetti conducting whilst playing first violin. I cannot explain what this brings to their performance.

Their interpretation of the Jupiter symphony was blistering and I was reduced to tears at the conclusion. Needless to say I was one of many who gave a standing ovation.

We saw a third concert too, an accordion player of world renown, Richard Galliano who won us over with his mastery of this instrument. His unaccompanied performance was an unexpected treat and a highlight of our visit.

In addition to the great music, the theatres of Maribor provide wonderful acoustics and their restaurants choice

places to wine and dine. If music is not your only thing then walking in the Pohorje, the lungs of the city, is a great contrast. We would recommend the Maribor festival to folk who enjoy the combination of music, a relaxed city atmosphere and the proximity of nature. In 2012 Maribor is the European city of culture and the ACO will be returning. Mark your calendars as I have no doubt that their performances will be yet another musical triumph. – *Sharon Tiainen*



The beautiful forests of Pohorje, near Maribor

A trip to Hungary with the Austrian-Australian Society

When Wolfgang Dobias from the Australian Embassy mentioned at the August Bar Night that a coach trip to Heviz and Lake Balaton was being organised by the Austrian - Australian Society, and that children were welcome, I leapt at the chance to go.

Not having a car in Austria is not as big a disadvantage as in Australia but there are certain places it is hard to get to and Lake Balaton is one of these. Plus travelling with two children and one Englishman who doesn't like to run for train connections gets a little tiring at times. So the opportunity to go on a child-friendly, very reasonably priced tour organised by someone else was not to be sneezed at.

Our first stop in Hungary was Suemeg Castle. There we enjoyed spectacular views, an interesting tour and the younger members of the party tried out the attractions in the courtyard.

We all enjoyed a hearty lunch at the local Czarda, a Hungarian inn where we ate Goulash soup from large "kettles". Then just as it started to rain we headed for Heviz and the very comfortable Europa Spa Hotel. I spent the afternoon in the pool with the kids where the sulphur pool was a highlight.

Others in the group took advantage of the spa treatments available or visited Heviz.

After an extravagant dinner a group of us visited a wine cellar for an informative wine tasting. Fortunately for me Scott had a cold and offered to “babysit” so I was able to join in too. Just in case we were feeling peckish after our walk up a steep hill we were offered platters of cheese and fruit to accompany the wine.

Next morning, after a lavish buffet breakfast we departed for Keszthely where we had a fascinating tour of Festetics castle. As we had to squeeze in a morning coffee trip to the Marzipan museum and a local ceramics shop, most of us didn't have time to tour the beautiful park. Instead we hopped back in the bus and drove along the north-west shore of Lake Balaton to Tihany on the northern peninsula of the lake.

There we could eat again and do some serious shopping while making our way along the famous “promenade walk” up to the twin-spired abbey overlooking Lake Balaton.

Then it was back to Vienna where we arrived fatter and on schedule thanks to our canny coach driver who made a detour to avoid the Sunday night traffic jam stretching past the airport.

Thanks to Wolfgang for putting so much effort into researching and planning the trip which ran like clockwork. I for one will be encouraging him to organise more! -- *Rosalie Toomey*

New Agreement on Australian Wines

A new [Agreement Between Australia and the European Community on Trade In Wine](#) came into force on 1 September 2010. It replaces the [1994 Agreement between Australia and the European Community on Trade in Wine](#).

If you are into buying Australian wines while you are overseas, you will find a wealth of information on the website of the Australian Government's Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation.

Be sure to look at the descriptive information on wine styles under the "About Australian Wine" heading on the Home page. – source *Southern Cross Group Occasional Newsletter No. 7*

Belly dancing at poolside

At the Magic Life Club at Bodrum in Turkey there is a penalty if your team comes last in a pool game.

To blaring music and in front of the dozens of people lounging around the pool, you are obliged to show your skills, or lack of them, belly dancing. I had the belly but not the technique to swirl it around like some of the locals. But it was fun and created a good laugh.



Michael and Brett do the belly dance

There was better luck at fishing. While the rest of the family slept, I crept down to the wharf at 6 am and joined others for six hours of fishing off a nearby island. During the trip I sprained a muscle right on top of the ribs that slowed me down for a few days. I tell friends that I did it while hauling in the biggest fish. Well, half the story is true. Biggest fish yes, but sprained the muscle while helping to haul up the anchor.

This all-inclusive resort was well worth the effort, especially for the kids who quickly joined supervised teams and left us alone for much of the time, even at meals. They had the choice of sail boarding, banana boat, canoes, water skiing, archery, beach volleyball, football and various pool games including water polo.



Rebecca and friends on the banana boat

And every night there was another form of entertainment. If you want somewhere to take kids, these clubs are the shot. There was even a “quiet” pool that banned anyone under 16. There is no need to leave the club premises although there are organised tours, so don’t expect to see the country apart from the bus ride to and from the airport. But one week was enough. – **Brett Bayly**



They said it was a parrot fish

A twelve day adventure in Eastern Turkey

A 12,000 year old stone age temple; a 10th century Armenian Orthodox Church on Akdamar Island in the crystal clear, but alkaline waters of Lake Van; Mount Ararat, the snow topped mountain where Noah’s Ark is said to be hidden; the extensive ruins of Ani, the 10th century Armenian capital; and the ruins of a Greek Orthodox Monastery clinging precariously to a rock face in the hills near the Black Sea Coast.

These are just a few of the highlights of a 12 day bus trip through the south east, east and north east of Turkey, skirting the borders with Syria, Iran, Armenia and Georgia. There were ten of us on the trip plus the driver and a Turkish university student to help out with arrangements. For five of us it was a reunion trip, since we had all taught English in Turkey for two years beginning in 1962 as American Peace Corps volunteers.

After a two-hour flight from Istanbul, we started the journey in Gaziantep, a large city close to the Syrian border, known for its pistachios. In addition to this Turkish

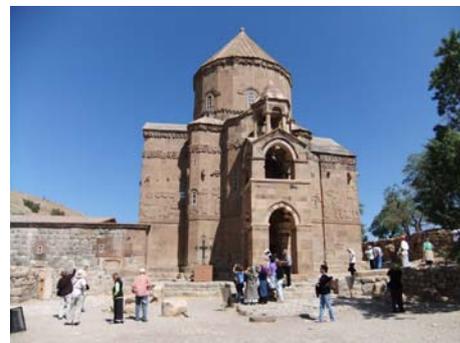


Turkish sweet, a quite different kind of treat was our visit to the Archaeological Museum, with its very large collection of Roman mosaic floors which were rescued from the Roman site of Belkis-Zeugma before it was flooded by the Birecik Dam on the Euphrates. One of the best known mosaics is called the Gypsy Girl, although some speculate that it is actually a picture of Alexander the Great. From Gaziantep the tour continued on to Şanlıurfa and then Mardin, both towns steeped in ancient history. In Urfa we stayed in an old Ottoman Guest House built in the 1890s and in Mardin an 800 year old Inn or Kerevensaray—both modernized to meet the needs of present day travelers.

Şanlıurfa is a centuries old pilgrimage site because of the stories linking it to the ancient prophets Abraham and Job. The old city of Urfa spreads out from the base of a hill on top of which are the impressive walls of the citadel. An ancient citadel also overlooks the old city of Mardin in which the narrow streets of the old covered market are so steep that donkeys are still used for transport in and out of the market.

However, in my opinion, the most remarkable archaeological site in the southeast region is Göbekli Tepe—about four of five km outside of Urfa. Here a German archeologist has uncovered massive carved stones about 11,000 to 12,000 years old that were crafted and arranged by prehistoric people who had yet to develop metal tools or pottery. About four rings of pillars have been excavated over the past 15 years, some with elaborately carved foxes, lions, scorpions and vultures. Radar and geomagnetic surveys show another 16 or more megalith rings buried across the area, thus requiring many more decades of excavation. Exploration to date indicates that no people lived here which tends to confirm the view that these were temples or places of stone age worship.

From Mardin we travel north east towards Tatvan and Van on Lake Van. In addition to the lake itself, the major attraction here is the Armenian Church on Akdamar Island. The church is in excellent condition and boasts a remarkable series of relief carvings on its outside walls illustrating stories from the Bible. Interestingly, about four or five days after our visit, the first Armenian Orthodox service in 94 years was held in the Church, with some 4 to 5,000 Armenians participating, mainly coming from Turkey, but also from other countries as well.



Aussie News Briefs

Our next stop was the frontier town of Doğubayazıt—about 40 km from the Iranian border. From here one gets a panoramic view of Mount Ararat, which at over 5,000 meters is Turkey's highest mountain. The tour continued north towards Kars which gives the appearance of a town which has been a bit neglected.

Yet it boasts some unexpected gems. First of all we stayed in a small boutique hotel in a remodelled Russian building dating back to the period of Russian occupation in the late 19th Century. Both the restaurant and the accommodation were first class. Then two doors down from the hotel we found a café run by a women's cooperative, with delicious and virtually home cooked Turkish meals.

The principal attraction and indeed the main reason for a visit to Kars is Ani, the ancient Armenian capital located right on the border with Armenia about 45 km east of Kars. The city was in its heyday in the 10th and 11th centuries, but then was subsequently overrun by the Byzantines, the Seljuk Turks and the Mongols before being substantially destroyed by an earthquake in 1319. Although many of the buildings that survive are in a rather precarious condition, the site is impressive, especially the main cathedral.

After Kars we left the high dry plateau of far eastern Anatolia and headed down towards the Black Sea Coast. Here the climate changed dramatically and we were soon driving through green, tree covered hills and mountains and as we got closer to the coast we came across our first tea plantations.

We stayed the night in a mountain lodge in the forests about 40 km from the coast. It is not Switzerland, but as close as one can get in Turkey. Our last night was in Trabzon, a major town and fishing port on the Black Sea.

Before settling into our hotel, we visited the Greek Orthodox Monastery of Sumela in the mountains outside the city. Built in Byzantine times, the monastery is placed high up on a rock face on the side of a steep mountain gorge. It is hard to imagine a more difficult place for building anything, let alone a monastery.

From Trabzon we flew back to Istanbul for a few days and then back home to Vienna, but not before enjoying one more meal in a fish restaurant on the Bosphorus.

-- *George Park*

29 September - **TONY ABBOTT has warned his angry charges not to drive Peter Slipper out of the Liberal Party** after the renegade Queensland MP cut a secret deal with Labor to become the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives. In a loss of face for the Opposition Leader and an important strategic victory for the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, Mr Slipper secured the job by 78 votes to 71 after at least five of the six crossbenchers, including Bob Katter, voted with the government. (Sydney Morning Herald)

27 September – **MARK Webber extended his world drivers championship lead** with third place in a Singapore Grand Prix dominated by Ferrari's Fernando Alonso on Sunday night. The Spaniard climbed one place to second in the championship after winning the street race from Webber's Red Bull team-mate Sebastian Vettel. (Sydney Morning Herald)

24 September - **ABC veteran Kerry O'Brien has announced his decision to stand down from the 7.30 Report** after 15 years at the helm of the program. O'Brien will finish up on the program in December after "15 very rewarding years as the program's editor and presenter," he said in a statement released today. (Australian)

23 September - **INDEPENDENT Tony Windsor says he feels vindicated in siding with Labor** after Opposition Leader Tony Abbott refused to honour an agreement on changes to the role of Speaker. Mr Windsor says a decision by Mr Abbott to reject proposed arrangements for the pairing of the Speaker, agreed to on September 6, has again brought his integrity into question. The opposition leader on Thursday said the coalition would not accept proposed arrangements for the pairing of the Speaker on the grounds they were constitutionally unsound. (AAP)

20 September - **CHINA'S biggest airline says it is punting its future on a boom in Chinese tourists to Australia**, starting with a fourfold increase in direct flights. The ambitions of China Southern Airlines president Tan Wangeng reflect the rapid growth of China's middle class and confidence in the stability of Australia-China relations under the Gillard government. Last year 366,000 Chinese tourists visited Australia and spent \$2.8 billion. This year China overtook Japan to become Australia's fourth-largest source of tourists, behind New Zealand, Britain and the US. (Age)



Kevin Rudd meets US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Washington. Source: The Australian

18 September - **BARACK Obama has met Kevin Rudd** during a top level meeting at the White House after Hillary Clinton said she would visit Australia in November. The US President dropped in for greetings and a personal catchup with Mr Rudd, Australia's new foreign minister, during hour-long talks he held with Mr Obama's national security adviser James Jones. (Australian)

18 September - **KEY government promises made before the election no longer necessarily apply** because of the "new environment" created by the hung parliament, Julia Gillard says. In an exclusive interview with the *Herald*, Ms Gillard said: "It's not business as usual for measures that require substantial legislation." (Sydney Morning Herald)

17 September - **THE locust plague feared to be Victoria's worst in 75 years has officially begun.** As Premier John Brumby declared war on the ravenous insects, landowners were bracing for swarms of the pests that could devastate crops. Even the Melbourne Cup was said to be at risk, as Victoria's first hatchings were confirmed in the far northwest. (Herald Sun)

14 September - **MALCOLM Turnbull will be in charge of the Coalition's broadband offensive** in the new front bench selected by Opposition Leader Tony Abbott. He will replace Victorian Tony Smith and is expected to strongly challenge Labor's proposed National Broadband Network company. (Daily Telegraph)

11 September - **PRIME Minister Julia Gillard says her new ministry delivers on a promise to establish a portfolio dedicated to regional Australia.** It will be headed by Simon Crean, previously responsible for education and workplace relations. The announcement today comes four days after Labor secured the support of two country independents to form minority government in the first hung federal parliament in 70 years. Ms Gillard earlier in the day announced former prime minister Kevin Rudd had been appointed foreign

minister, replacing Stephen Smith, who moves to defence. (Courier Mail)

10 September - **AUSTRALIA is a nation of givers,** tying equal first with New Zealand as the countries whose citizens are most willing to donate their time and money to charity. A report by the British-based Charities Aid Foundation found 70 per cent of Australians had given money to a charity, and 38 per cent had donated their time, in the month before they were surveyed. Almost two-thirds had given assistance to a stranger. The report ranked 153 countries accounting for 95 per cent of the world's population, China was listed close to the bottom, barely higher than last-placed Madagascar. (Canberra Times)

10 September - **SOUTH Australia's rural sector is heading towards record production worth close to \$6 billion this year** as a surge of optimism spreads throughout the country. A record SA grain crop worth up to \$2.5 billion is possible if the good conditions continue and prices remain high. With spirits soaring throughout the country, farmers and townspeople alike have been buoyed by the rapidly improving outlook, which follows abundant rain, a surge in prices and the revival of the River Murray system. (Advertiser)

7 September - **LABOR has won the support of the two remaining independent MPs to form a minority government.** The independents, Rob Oakeshott and Tony Windsor, dramatically announced their decisions separately, with Mr Oakeshott being the last to signal his position to back Julia Gillard as prime minister. But he warned: "This is not a mandate for any government. This Parliament is going to be different." The decision came after 17 days of protracted negotiation between the independents and the two leaders - and an agonising prologue from Mr Oakeshott. (Sydney Morning Herald)



Thumbs up for Labor ... Rob Oakeshott and Tony Windsor give their support to Julia Gillard

7 September - **INDEPENDENT MPs have flexed their political muscle to force Labor and the Coalition to**

accept parliamentary reforms as a pre-condition to their verdict on who will form the nation's next government. The new deal will greatly pare back the role of the executive in parliamentary sittings, banning long and boring ministerial speeches and restoring to MPs greater opportunities to speak about matters in their own electorates. While the previous parliament was dominated by the raw political combat of question time, in future ministers will face strict time limits and a partial prohibition on relying on notes when answering questions. (Australian)

6 September - **A WEEKEND of wild weather could leave the nation with an emergency clean-up bill of more than \$50 million** after thousands were left reeling from ferocious winds and rain. Queensland's iconic Birdsville races have been cancelled due to wet weather for the first time in its 128-year history, parts of Victoria suffered their worst floods in more than a decade, while Sydney, Canberra and South Australia were hit with gale-force winds. (Courier Mail)

A few old sayings

Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself, 'Lillian, you should have remained a virgin.'

- *Lillian Carter (mother of Jimmy Carter)*

I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: - 'No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.'

- *Eleanor Roosevelt*

Last week, I stated this woman was the ugliest woman I had ever seen. I have since been visited by her sister, and now wish to withdraw that statement..

- *Mark Twain*

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible

- *George Burns*

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year.

- *Victor Borge*

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

- *Socrates*

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.

- *Groucho Marx*

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe.

- *Jimmy Durante*

I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back.

- *Zsa Zsa Gabor*

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat.

- *Alex Levine*

Money can't buy you happiness but it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery

- *Spike Milligan*

Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was SHUT UP .

- *Joe Namath*

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap.

- *Bob Hope*

I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it.

- *W. C. Fields*

Due to the timing we were unable to update the *Performances* page this month. However, coming events for October and November can be found on the embassy's website at www.austria.embassy.gov.au

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Mattiellistrasse 2-4, 1040 Vienna

Tel: 506740

www.austria.embassy.gov.au

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.wien.gv.at

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.expat-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)

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