From the President

There is something about Christmas that makes us reflect back on the last 12 months – could perhaps have to do with the fact that it happens to fall at the end of the year.

Jokes aside – this year has brought OzCon a whole number of changes. The Board has had to say bon voyage to Colin Higgins who has moved onto London and a few months later to Peter King who moved to the sunnier shores of Oman. This has allowed new members to step up and bring in their area of interest to our wider community and we welcomed Ric Casagrande, Ralph Haller-Trost and Justin Overton. All three are quite enthusiastic to bring on some great get-togethers.

What has OzCon in store for you in 2016? Our regular pub nights (which at times turn into dinner nights or wine nights) continue to be very popular and there will be museum trips, concerts and bus day trips.

As always OzCon is a reflection of our collective whole and so let’s work collaboratively to make the new year an exciting one. I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and I close with one of my favorite quotes:

“For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice.”

— T.S. Eliot, Four Quartets

Gabrielle Costigan

And a few thoughts from our latest Board member, Ralph Haller-Trost, who is about to celebrate his first Christmas here.

It’s been a full on couple of months. Having arrived in the middle of a summer that would have done Australia proud, I now find that by contrast it’s dark by mid-afternoon and starting to feel very much like …… Christmas!

And yet the more I explore this city, this theme of ‘contrast’ crops up again and again and helps explain the multi-sensory polymorphous experience that is Vienna: fairytale fakers/tourists on Segways; Roman ruins/hipster hangouts; Copa Cagrana (now defunct)/Sabbath at the Karmelitenmarkt; Ringstrassen glory/concrete malls; old money/pierced young punks; fitness addicts/nicotine addicts; the mansions of the 19th/the tents of the Hauptbahnhof!

Perhaps that’s why Vienna resonates so much with Australians – on the one hand it links us to a heritage deeply embedded in our recent history, on the other it reminds us of the rich cultural and socio-economic tapestry of home. And it continues to confront us with one of the most significant ethical questions of today, one whose relevance is unaffected by our personal geography – how do we choose to respond to persecution, migration, integration, diversity. Like I said, it’s been an intense couple of months.

It’s against this backdrop that I stumbled upon OzCon – a melange (to be local!) of Australians that, to varying degrees, call this city home. What struck me was that despite being unashamedly Aussie, this clearly wasn’t your clichéd, insular expat group pining for the great southern land, eschewing the local culture and living off VBs and sangers. No sir! They were energetic, well travelled and perfectly happy to dive right into everything this extraordinary city has to offer. Half a day’s walk to get a glass of local wine – yes please! Hanging out with locals for goose and dumplings – sure! Ugly buildings tour run by unlicensed guide, complete with instructions on what to do if busted by the fun police – totally! Supporting the tireless efforts of volunteers working with migrants – bring it on.

In fact, I liked them so much I joined the Board! And so, as we head into the festive season to gather with our families, friends, neighbours and
It is nice to hear that our efforts are appreciated and benefit can be gained by all Aussies and Kiwis who land on our doorstep, bemused and yet delighted by the wonderful old/new culture that this city has to offer. We can only hope that this will continue. We certainly will do our darndest to see that it does. And so I invite you to our last Lunch Out and Bar Night for the year (details elsewhere) and to keep in mind that our Australia Day celebration is not so far away in the New Year (details later). And enjoy the marvelous Advent markets that surround us at this time of the year.

I have done my sums for another year and count 34 events with around 600 attendees in 2015, with our December lunch and bar night to come. To all our members, new and old, and those who might be moving on next year, let me add my best wishes for the Christmas and holiday season. Merry Christmas. - Brett

P.S. Note the charity Christmas concert that includes our favourite singers. Details page 12

Fun crowd celebrates Christmas at Charlie P’s

OzCon is a fun crowd. We think so. Ambassador David Stuart also thinks so. At our annual Christmas dinner at Charlie P’s on 27 November David paid us the compliment of saying that our group was the best organised group of its kind he had seen in his diplomatic wanderings.

“It is a very active group,” he said, one that organises some terrific events, like during the Eurovision event in Vienna. And he ‘revealed’ that Australia has been invited to compete again next year in Stockholm. We had caught up with that (see article page 10).

President Gabrielle Costigan dropped in for a drink, but could not stay for dinner. She thanked the efforts of many for making 2015 the successful year it had been. She paid thanks to former Board members Colin Higgins and Peter King who had departed Vienna and welcomed Ric Casagrande, Justin Overton and Ralph Haller-Trost to the Board. With the ‘new blood’ we looked forward to new and exciting events in 2016.
Twenty four of us fitted nicely into Charlie P’s dining area for our second successive Christmas dinner and we were not let down. Thanks to Rob Reed’s organisational skills, the setting was cozy and the food right up there. The choice of main course was roast turkey roulade with home baked ham, apricot and sage stuffing, cranberry sauce, traditional gravy, mashed potatoes and corn casserole; or roast beef with homemade Yorkshire pudding, roast veggies, minted peas and gravy; or celeriacs and savoy cabbage with mushrooms, crispy buckwheat and raw chestnut.

Remembrance Day 2015

Hungarian hero tended graves of Australians

By Ambassador David Stuart

Our post in Vienna is accredited to six countries, two of which have Commonwealth War Graves where Australian servicemen rest: the cemetery at Klagenfurt in southern Austria and the cemetery at Solymár, a short drive to the north of Budapest in Hungary. There is a third cemetery at Maribor in central Slovenia where many Allied servicemen are buried which has no marked graves for Australians, but a large section with graves of unidentified soldiers.

I attended remembrance ceremonies at Solymár on 8 November, and at Klagenfurt on 11 November. The Embassy was also represented by Deputy Head of Mission David Lewis at the UK Embassy service in Vienna on Remembrance Sunday on 8 November. For many years through our Embassy in Budapest and in the last two years through our post in Vienna, we have had an official presence at the Solymár service, in a beautifully cared for site in a rural valley on the fringe of Budapest. There are 13 Graves of Australian servicemen at Solymár.

I am pictured with Mr Josef Apro, a veteran with service in both the Hungarian and Australian armed forces. Mr Apro who as a pilot and officer in
the Hungarian Air Force took part in the October 1956 uprising against Communist rule, resettled as a refugee in Australia. Over 30 years later, after the end of the Cold War, the first post-communist government invited him to return to Hungary, where he was honoured for his actions in 1956 and promoted to the rank of Major-General. His participation in the 1956 uprising is commemorated in one of the displays in the Military History Museum on the castle hill in Budapest. Mr Apro who attended the service on 8 November with his daughter, Ms Erika Svak, told us how he had visited Solymár when he returned in the early 1990s to find it overgrown, with grass higher than many of the gravestones. He is proud of his role in restoring the site since then.

We have also regularly attended the ceremony held for Remembrance Day at Klagenfurt where 30 Australian servicemen lie in marked graves. The cemetery is kept impeccably. Like the ceremony at Solymár, Remembrance Day is organised by the British Embassy. Most of the Australians buried at Klagenfurt served in the air force, although there are also some graves from those who were prisoners of war at the nearby camp at Wolfsberg.

Many Australian servicemen who were captured following the Battle of Crete in 1946 were imprisoned in camps in southern Austria; some 800 were held in the camp at Wolfsberg and it is possible that there were also some in the related concentration camp in Maribor in Slovenia. The then HOM, Ambassador Michael Potts, attended a service at the Pogrebno podjetje Maribor cemetery on 20 May 2011 together with colleagues from Embassies in Ljubljana and Vienna. The cemetery has been visited in recent months and it was observed that it is well kept. The New Zealand Ambassador in Vienna, HE Deborah Geels, who is accredited in Slovenia, visited the cemetery where two New Zealand soldiers are buried, this year.

New Zealand Ambassador Ms Deborah Geels and Australian Ambassador Mr David Stuart attended the Remembrance Day service at the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Klagenfurt on 11 November. 

After a good gander and chat the goose was just great

Five members of OzCon joined with the Austrian-Australian Society for its annual Martini goose dinner at the Gasthaus Dorfstube on 6 November. They were our two new Board members, Ralph Haller-Trost and Justin Overton and Peter and Alexandra Olsen. Our thanks to Ralph and Justin for the following report:

**Ralph**

first: As I have since learned, the Martini in 'Martinigansl' has nothing at all to do with martinis, nor does it involve the warm sandy beaches St Martin island in the Caribbean. And yet, Viennese everywhere seem determined to spend a large part of their November evenings braving the cold to enjoy a Martinigansl Essen. So, in the name of cross cultural research and hungry for a traditional meal, five OzCon members took up the invitation of our friends at the OeAG (Oesterreichisch-Australische Gesellschaft/ Austrian-Australian Society AAS) to meet up near the Rathaus for a closer look!

It turns out St Martin is the patron saint of children and the poor. Legend has it he was a Roman soldier based in Tours, France in the fourth century AD. One cold winter's night he cut his cloak in half to share with an old beggar. Not only did he save the old man from the snowstorm, but the beggar turned out to be Christ personified and Martin’s life took a new path. Finding his faith incompatible with the life of a soldier, he chose to live as a monk before eventually becoming the Bishop of Tours. Having spent much of his life across Europe, St Martin is often seen as a spiritual bridge for Catholics across the continent and
his shrine in Tours was an important stopping point for pilgrims on the road to Santiago de Compostela in Spain (at least according to Wikipedia).

Coinciding with Remembrance Day on the 11 November, the St Martin's Day feast was also an important medieval harvest festival that is still celebrated across Austria, Germany and France with children's lantern festivals and lots and lots of roast goose.

My own theory that it might have been to make sure you got as many goose down feathers as possible before winter didn't get much support on the night - despite the fact that my version aligned nicely with the 'keeping warm' aspect of the original legend! It seems the goose got the nod because St Martin was so unwilling to be made bishop that he hid in a barn full of geese, but their cackling at his intrusion gave him away!

However, that wasn't all we learned ... Our AAS hosts were a wonderfully friendly and inviting group of Austrians who not only share our love for the Great Southern Land, but also seemed to have explored vast swathes of it - far more than I have anyway! Between them, I think there's hardly a corner they hadn't been to (in fact a map would have been useful on the night) and their passion for Australia stood in stark contrast to the metropolitan lifestyle chosen by some back home.

There were lots of other things we had in common too - shared challenges of wading through bureaucracy, a research project based in Penang (where I grew up) and the experience of driving and camping in the outback. And so, over an excellent meal of roast goose with dumplings and rotkraut and with the help of some local beer to overcome any language barriers, we made new friends, learned a little more about each other, Austria and Australia and had a fabulous night out.

Our next catch up with AAS will be in January for Australia Day. More details on that event closer to the date but by all accounts it should be another excellent event.

**Justin** said he and Jo (who took the photos) had a great time. For my part the cremeganslsuppe was excellent as was the gansl itself. Jo passed on the suppe but indulged in the nachspeise - a maroni "mousse" and kirsche concoction that did look nice and Jo assured me tasted great. We had some great company and some interesting conversations in part English, part German covering a quite few different topics.

...and then there was Lunch Out
Persian style

It reminded Ann Emery of Iran and Brett Bayly of Morocco. Such delicious Persian food which was enjoyed at Pars Iranian restaurant in the 8th district with a very distinctive decor from mosaics to paintings and silk carpets on the walls.

It was time for catch up with people’s happenings. Ann had toured Iran and so couldn’t stay away from the food (she is about to head off to Australia again), Jo and Justin had returned from an extensive visit to Malta and Brett staggered into the restaurant half asleep after travelling from Auckland to Vienna the day before.
And once again we said farewells to George and Meredith Park (although they did attend the Christmas dinner) who are leaving us again for the duration of the winter.

“We leave here 10 December with a short stop in Oman (we will get together with Peter and Christa) and return on 5 May. This is later than we usually return as we are doing a trip to Western Australia, including a small ship cruise from Broome to Darwin,” George said.

Susan and Richard Hill are also about to travel again. They are taking two cruises, one in the Caribbean and then another through the Panama Canal and up the western coast of Central America.

...and a quality gathering for Bar Night

It was a return to 1500 Foodmakers for bar night last month.

Justin Overton says that with one or two regulars out of town it was a small but quality gathering. A varied selection was made from both the drinks and food menus with some people just heading straight to the dessert menu for the chocolate salami - you know who you are!

Other choices ranged from wild boar, steak through to various flavours of pizza and pasta. Drinks were equally diverse with some different beers, white wines, spritzers and for the young or drivers (?) a soft drink or two!

As always the conversations were varied and we all learnt that little bit more about each other. A good night well enjoyed with a number of conversations only being terminated by the need to find different platforms at the U-Bahn to make it home!

Malta – A rocky outcrop with plenty of history

By Justin Overton

We are on a roll – have ticked off another thing on the list of things that should be done. We have returned from what had been a sun-drenched Malta where we were politely informed that until we arrived it hadn’t rained for nine months. I am not convinced that it was really our fault! Despite some very heavy rain at times, we also had some gloriously sunny days just as you would expect in the Med.

Under the Mediterranean sun though there is just a bit too much limestone colour at times in Malta. Don’t like limestone? Then I would not suggest a visit to Malta.
Malta has a chequered history in terms of ownership, firstly inhabited by visitors from nearby Sicily, then Romans and having been passed from hand to hand as a gift in medieval times before being “owned” by the Knights of St John for a couple of hundred years or so. Napoleon had it for a while, then the Brits. Malta has been independent now for just over 50 years. Still there are many things on Malta to show evidence of all these phases of its journey.

Not just human heritage on show either – while there aren’t great tracts of forest left [parts were originally vegetated with oak trees apparently] or much “wilderness,” Malta has some seriously wonderful coastline to show off.

Amusing also was the cultivation of prickly pear – a noxious weed back in Australia. But the Maltese actively cultivate it and make an amazingly good liquor from it, along with fennel and figs and just about anything else that seems to grow there!

On the subject of growing, vineyards are springing up in greater number. We all know about growing vines on limestone - Margaret River and the Limestone Coast of South Australia/Victoria. I suspect Maltese wine will only get better. Jo was impressed with their white stuff; me? I didn’t get past their home brew beer, Cisk, a very pleasant lager-style beer.

Ah, you think, but what about the food. Pests on the menu again! Locally, rabbit is a speciality and very good it is too! Maltese cuisine is a mixture of several other styles really – Italian and in general Mediterranean flavours but also some North African influences. We really enjoyed the local tastes, especially the Maltese sausage and the goat’s cheese.

Seafood of course is on just about every menu – perhaps not at the ubiquitous American fast food outlets though!

One thing we did sample that was amazing in its taste despite its simplicity was Bigilla. This is served with bread and some olive oil and Balsamic vinegar as a starter. Now not everybody likes broad beans – Jo certainly doesn’t but she was very happy to eat this!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bigilla</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broad beans – soaked and boiled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunflower oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garlic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parsley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt and pepper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blend ingredients starting with the beans, one ingredient added at a time, to a smooth paste</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We flew Air Malta and stayed at “The Valletta Sleepover” see [http://www.heartofmalta.com/hotel/malta/mt/valletta/the-valletta-sleepover.aspx](http://www.heartofmalta.com/hotel/malta/mt/valletta/the-valletta-sleepover.aspx)

**Encounters with Aussie nature - parrots fly for first time and possums fall from above**

Aussie nature is such a wonderful thing – so full of life and activity not to mention noise. It’s not difficult to find and experience, even in cities where parks and gardens are full of noisy birdlife. And on the city fringes it is even more prevalent as I found out during a recent visit to Adelaide.

My first encounter was of the pleasant kind. I was staying with cousin Guy Bayly and his wife Angie at their beautiful house at Eden Hills. The house backs on to the Sturt Gorge and just inside the fence is a giant dead tree to which Guy had fixed two bird
boxes years ago. One of them was always occupied at this time, being Spring.

Through the kitchen window one morning I was watching two young Rosella parrots stick their heads out of the nest. Angie said they had seen this over the years. “They will be gone within the week”, she said. But she had never seen them leave the nest. Almost as she spoke, I saw one take the jump and fly up into the branches of another tree where mum and dad sat watching. Angie missed it.

Suddenly two Lorikeets flew down and landed on the box. In they went and we held our breath for the safety of what we thought was the remaining Rosella. We watched and waited. Then out they came and flew off. We watched and waited again, and then to our relief out popped the head of the remaining Rosella. But wait, there were two more heads—four of them this year with one gone.

To cut a long story short(er), the next morning we watched and were lucky enough to see two of the three others take the jump and fly for the first time. By the next day the nest was deserted. I felt privileged.

As we were eating, Simone spotted their resident mother koala in a tree near where we sat. In all the times I had visited, it was the first time I had seen her and so I grabbed the camera.
As I took a photo, there was a loud WHUMP behind me. I thought a branch had fallen and spun around. But no, less than two metres away were two possums lying on the ground, motionless. We thought they were dead, having fallen from a nest high in a gum tree. We watched and waited. They seemed to be alive with their eyes open. Fifteen minutes passed and Simone, being a zoo keeper as well as a mum, instructed us not to approach them.

Slowly one began moving. It wobbled to the base of the tree and began to climb. Then the second did the same and soon both were above us, once more looking down at us.

All was well. I had heard the stories of drop bears, but I think I was the first to nearly be clobbered by drop possums. -- Brett

**October bar night**

Bar night at the Golden Harp on 30 October

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**Travel News**

**Qatar expands services to Australia**

From 2 March next year Qatar will fly to Sydney and the airline has started advertising 'special launch fares'. And in May it will provide a service directly into Adelaide. At present Qatar flies to Perth and Melbourne only.

The airline announced the new service to Adelaide in October. It will use the latest state-of-art aircraft, the new Airbus A350-900 which it took delivery of in January. It will be the first airline to fly the new plane to Australia.

The service to Adelaide will arrive about 4:25pm compared with the present arrival of 11:30pm in Melbourne which requires an overnight stop for passengers travelling to Adelaide.

South Australian Tourism Minister Leon Bignell said the State Government had agreed to contribute to a "joint marketing exercise" with Qatar, but that the flights would lead to an increase in the visitor economy. "We estimate it'll bring $41 million and an extra 228 jobs to South Australia at a time when our economy is diversifying," he said.
Australia invited back to Eurovision contest

Disco balls are spinning with excitement after it was announced Australia will next year compete for a second time in Eurovision, Europe’s leading music extravaganza. Earlier this year Guy Sebastian secured fifth place in the final of the Eurovision Song Contest 2015 with the song *Tonight Again*, after being asked to take part to mark the show’s 60th anniversary.

The move proved so successful that Australia has been invited back. SBS, which will broadcast the competition, made the announcement at its 2016 program launch in Sydney this morning.

“SBS is thrilled to have secured this opportunity for Australia to compete at Stockholm in 2016 and thank the European Broadcasting Union for their invitation,” SBS chief executive Michael Ebeid said in a statement. “The Eurovision Song Contest is a wonderful example of cultural diversity and social inclusion and our continued participation offers a fantastic opportunity to showcase Australian musical talent in a truly international multicultural celebration.”

In a statement, Eurovision said it was yet to be decided if Australia would become a permanent participant in the contest, which is known for its over-the-top costumes and kitsch performances.

Austrian Eurovision winner Conchita Wurst (pictured) has previously thrown her support behind Australia’s permanent inclusion, saying: “I think it's just necessary, basically.” (ABC News. 18 November)

Want to go to Iran?
Then don’t wait too long

In October our intrepid traveller and Lunch Out organizer Ann Emery joined a German tourist group and went to Iran. Here she gives her impressions.

My impressions of Iran are of a very friendly people who will come up to you daily and ask, “Where are you from?” , have a short conversation with you and then say goodbye. I remember one such scene in a bazaar when an elderly lady, dressed in traditional chador, stood next to me and smiled at me and I returned her smile. Minutes later at the spice shop across the passageway a young man came up to me and said “Hello, where are you from?” Shortly after, he leaves telling the elderly lady where I was from. There were young girls wearing tight jeans, head scarves and long bottom-covering jackets, young boys on motorbikes – all saying hello. Some spoke very good English, others not so good, but we were always greeted politely. In all my travels, I’ve never had my picture taken so often by locals. Our guide said these photos would now get pride of place in the lounge room at home as being a distant relative.

**Bazaars:** We visited Shiraz and Isfahan. I always have to be careful with these places as I have no sense of direction and one wrong turn can lead to a total sense of disorientation as to where I am. All bazaars are covered. They are so magical – you have the feeling nothing has changed for centuries. The bazaars we saw usually were divided into arcades all under one roof – each arcade devoted to selling one item either carpets, copper pots and pans, spices, clothes, sweets, leather etc. Sometimes we saw the artisans at work in their shops.

In Isfahan the bazaar surrounds the Maidan-e Imam, a beautiful square originally planned to be a polo field. This bazaar is easy to negotiate and is very difficult to get lost in. We didn’t visit the bazaar in Teheran as our guide said that group members got lost there so often that it had been taken of the visit list.

**Cultural sites:** Iran has so much to offer from a cultural point of view. The country has a history that is over 3000 years old and has at least 20 sites on the UNESCO Cultural Heritage list. Perhaps the most well-known is Persepolis – once residence of the ancient Persian Empire under Darius and his son Xerxes. Persepolis was destroyed by Alexander the Great on his way to India. However, that didn’t stop him marrying Roxana, a Persian princess. The ancient clay city of Bam, which was destroyed by a devastating earthquake in 2003, can now be visited again as UNESCO is restoring it. In Yazd there are also clay buildings in the old city dating back to 13th century, which have to be maintained each year after rains with a mixture of clay and straw. For the lovers
of Islamic ceramic art (as I am), Iran is a dream. It is full of mosques and old buildings. In Isfahan we visited several mosques, the Lotfollah, the Imam and the main mosque. Also famous in Iran are the Persian Gardens that are full of old established trees and plants with channels of water running through the middle of them.

**Accommodation:** Our group stayed at either four or five star hotels. My room was always very comfortable and had all the modern conveniences. Breakfasts were usually large buffets and dinners in the hotels were also buffets with a choice of at least three dishes as a main course. As alcohol is not permitted in Iran, evening drinks were usually water or alcohol free beers.

**Traveler’s tips:** I knew as a western female tourist I had to follow the current dress code of the day – and that meant wearing a head scarf (except in the hotel room), long trousers to the ankles, long sleeved blouses (although I saw a few locals with three quarter sleeves). Another important point is that a woman’s bottom must be fully covered. So into the internet I went and found that men’s shirts would be acceptable provided they would be long enough at the back. Sandals and painted toe nails are acceptable. For men, shorts are not permitted.

**Convenience stops:** Between cities, we usually stopped at mosques to give the drivers a rest and have a pit stop. Most of the mosques have the squat-style toilets, which were often spotlessly clean complete with toilet paper, soap and water.

- If you are planning to travel to Iran in 2016, choose a good travel company as all the four and five hotels are already booked out for next year. Iran is very short of good high class hotels.
- I have a sensitive stomach but had no problem with the food.
- I felt completely safe in Iran.
- I went with the German travel company: Studiosus [www.studiosus.de](http://www.studiosus.de) with headquarters in Munich.
- We flew Turkish Airlines to Shiraz and back from Tehran. Internal travel was by air conditioned bus.
- If you are going to travel on a USA, British or Canadian passport, then contact a travel company in your respective country.

I’m now hearing from several people that Iran is now an up and coming destination. If you are thinking of going there, don’t wait too long.

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**Christmas Markets**

Provided by the Vienna Service Office: 
**Wiener Adventzauber und Christkindlmarkt**
[www.christkindlmarkt.at](http://www.christkindlmarkt.at)

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**Adventmarkt Am Hof**
13.11.-23.12.2015
[www.weihnachtsmarkt-hof.at](http://www.weihnachtsmarkt-hof.at)

**Weihnachtsmarkt am Spittelberg**
13.11.-23.12.2015
[www.spittelberg.at](http://www.spittelberg.at)

**Weihnachtsdorf Altes AKH**
14.11.-23.12.2015
[www.weihnachtsdorf.at](http://www.weihnachtsdorf.at)

**Weihnachtsdorf Maria-Theresien-Platz**
18.11.-26.12.2015
[www.weihnachtsdorf.at](http://www.weihnachtsdorf.at)

**Weihnachtsdorf Schloss Belvedere**
20.11.-23.12.2015
[www.weihnachtsdorf.at](http://www.weihnachtsdorf.at)

**Art Advent - Kunst & Handwerk am Karlsplatz**
20.11.-23.12.2015
[www.artadvent.at](http://www.artadvent.at)

**Altwiener Christkindlmarkt**
20.11.-23.12.2015
[www.altwiener-markt.at](http://www.altwiener-markt.at)

**Kultur- und Weihnachtsmarkt & Neujahrsmarkt Schloss Schönbrunn**
[www.weihnachtsmarkt.co.at](http://www.weihnachtsmarkt.co.at)

**Wintermarkt am Riesenradplatz**
[www.wintermarkt.at/wintermarkt](http://www.wintermarkt.at/wintermarkt)

**Weihnachtsmarkt am Stephansplatz**
[www.weihnachtsmarkt-stephansplatz.at](http://www.weihnachtsmarkt-stephansplatz.at)

**Adventmarkt und Weihnachtsschau Hirschstetten**
19.11. - 20.12.2015
[https://www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/parks/blumengaerten-hirschstetten/veranstaltungen/adventmarkt-weihnachtsschau.html](https://www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/parks/blumengaerten-hirschstetten/veranstaltungen/adventmarkt-weihnachtsschau.html)

**Weihnachtsmarkt im Türkenschanzpark**
13.11.-24.12.2015
[http://www.weihnachtimpark.at/info.htm](http://www.weihnachtimpark.at/info.htm)

**Christmas Markets in Austria**
[http://www.christkindlmaerkte.at/](http://www.christkindlmaerkte.at/)

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**New English magazine in Vienna**

Until recently there was a popular English-language monthly newspaper in Vienna called the Vienna Review. Unfortunately it went bust earlier this year. But a new magazine has been launched in its place. It’s called Metropole and it is billed as: **METROPOLE** is a magazine aimed at expats living in Vienna, Austria. It provides its readers with everything they need to know to make the most of their city.

It can be seen at: [www.metropole.at](http://www.metropole.at)
Let's just say I'm getting my own back on some. They'll know who I mean - Editor

Murphy says to Paddy, "What ya talkin' into an envelope for?"
"I'm sending a voicemail ya fool!"

Paddy says "Mick, I'm thinking of buying a Labrador.
"No way" says Mick, "have you seen how many of their owners go blind?"

19 Irishmen go to the cinema, the ticket lady asks "Why so many of you?"
Mick replies, "The film said 18 or over."

I went to the cemetery yesterday to lay some flowers on a grave. As I was standing there I noticed 4 grave diggers walking about with a coffin, 3 hours later and they're still walking about with it. I thought to myself, they've lost the plot!!

Statistically, 6 out of 7 dwarfs are not Happy.

The wife has been missing a week now. Police said to prepare for the worst.
So I have been to the charity shop to get all her clothes back.

**Coming OzCon Events**

**Bar night**

Once again we will meet at the Advent market in front of the beautiful Belvedere Palace for our last bar night of the year. So rug up and come for some hot drinks and hot company. Enter the gates at the top of Prinz Eugen strasse and look for our group. D tram from The Ring will get you there.
Let’s start around 18:00 and see how long we last.
**On Friday 11 December.**

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**Lunch Out**

This will be our last event of the year so come along if you can. A table has been booked for 12.30pm on **Wednesday 16 December 2015** at:

China Sichuan Restaurant
Donaupark
Arbeiterstrandbadstrasse 122
1220 Vienna

Tel: 01-263371301-2633713

Closest public transport is the U1 - Alte Donau station

In Ann’s absence RSVP to Brett by Monday 14th

[Brett_bayly@yahoo.com.au](mailto:Brett_bayly@yahoo.com.au)

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**Other events**

**Christ Church**

**The Anglican Church in Vienna**

**Charity Christmas Concert!**

Christ Church, Jauresgasse 17-19, A-1030 Wien
18th December at 18:00 - 19:00.

The programme features fabulous Australian singers:

Kate Rafferty, Sonia Anfiloff, Steve Davislim and Ben Connor.

Appearing with **Ensemble Australis**.
Programme includes highlights from Händel’s Messiah and beloved Carols.
Entry by donation and proceeds will go to the refugee work of both Diakonie and Caritas.

*The concert is supported by the Australian Embassy in Austria*
This month’s OzCon flashback

Brett with daughter Simone, Australia Day Jan. 2011

Austrian Landmark

No. 4 of six special Austrian landmarks.

Die Wachauer Nase, St. Lorenz, Lower Austria

The Giant Nose of Wachau is, unsurprisingly, a giant nose on the banks of the Danube. The four metre high art installation sits at the ferry stop of St. Lorenz and is supposed to look as though a giant is lying under the ground with only his nose sticking out. People can walk through its giant nostrils, which fill up with mud when the Danube floods. When planning this project, the art collective gelitin sought local ‘nose models’ upon which to base the finished product. They invited all ‘Wachau noses’ to an event at which they measured, photographed and took casts of the noses of many different locals before settling on a final design.

Aussie News Briefs

27 Nov. - THE deadly Pinery fire - which has been fully contained - destroyed or severely damaged 87 homes that are now considered uninhabitable, Premier Jay Weatherill has announced. Mr Weatherill has held a media conference at Angaston where he said damage assessment teams had examined the 85,000ha fire ground. He said the damage toll was likely to rise further as not The death toll remains at two after the blaze claimed the lives of 69-year-old Allan Tiller and 56-year-old Janet Hughes. Five people remain in a critical condition in hospital. Nearly 400 farm sheds were destroyed, along with 89 pieces of farm machinery and 98 vehicles. (Advertiser)

26 Nov. – UP to 12,000 vocational education students across Australia are in limbo after the collapse of major private college owner Vocation Ltd. The collapse is also a blow to the Victorian government with Vocation’s annual report showing the company owes $8 million to the Victorian Department of Education and Training. (Business Day)

21 Nov. – AUSTRALIA’s intake of 12,000 Syrian refugees will include people from all affected communities, the federal government has said. The Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Anthony Fisher, has expressed concern that the bulk would be Muslims and not from persecuted minorities like Christians, Yazidis, Zoroastrians and Jews. But the Liberal frontbencher Scott Ryan says the government’s focus was on those who have no prospect of returning home and “will be from all communities in the region”. (AAP)

20 Nov. - A CHEEKY family portrait has been given the thumbs up by a national photography competition. Former police auxiliary officer Lea Atherton, who now works full time as a photographer, won the Editor’s Choice award in the “Everyday Australia” photography competition run by global photography agency Getty Images. The Evolution of the Bum features seven naked blokes from the ages of 2 to 84. “I had to beg and borrow to get to Sydney, but winning the award made it an awesome weekend,” she said. (NT News)

19 Nov. - THE sale of Australia’s largest private livestock landholder Kidman & Co has been blocked by Federal Treasurer Scott Morrison. The last stage of the transaction of the Adelaide-based company required state and federal approval. However, Morrison said the sale would be contrary to the national interest. Kidman managing director Greg Campbell told InDaily last week the sale was in the last stage of negotiations and all that was needed was
federal and state approval. In rejecting the sale, Morrison said Kidman held about 1.3 per cent of Australia’s total land area and 2.5 per cent of Australia’s agricultural land. (InDaily.com.au with AAP)

6 Nov. - A LEADING expert on intellectual property has warned that Australian governments could be sued for billions of dollars by foreign companies under a controversial clause in a huge multilateral trade deal. The text of the long-awaited Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) - a historic 12-country trade agreement between Pacific region nations, including Australia and the United States - was **finally released overnight**. It is the first time voters have had a chance to see what the Australian government has been negotiating on their behalf for more than five years. (Canberra Times)

5 Nov. - **MUSLIM Australians experience discrimination and abuse on a daily or regular basis, according to a new report by the Australian Human Rights Commission.** But even though communities say the discrimination has been particularly noticeable since the Lindt Cafe siege last year, the research finds the Racial Discrimination Act has only a "limited" ability to protect Muslim Australians, because "religious identity" is not covered under the act. **Freedom from Discrimination**, released on Thursday, also finds that many other Australians also experience racial discrimination as a "constant feature" in the workplace, on the street and in the media. (Sydney Morning Herald)

3 Nov. - **HEALTH practitioners have been ordered to pay back $4.18m of taxpayers’ money as the number of referrals for allegations of misuse of public money has jumped 40%, a new report said.** The professional services review (PSR) is an independent body that investigates how medical professionals comply with the rules of Medicare. It tabled its **2014-15 annual report** to parliament on Monday. The number of cases referred to the PSR by the Department of Human Services, which oversees Medicare, jumped from 44 in the last financial year, to 62 in this one. A total of $4.18m in suspected misuse of Medicare claims has been recouped. (Guardian)

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28 Nov. - **New Year’s Eve in Vienna without music and dancing? No way!** Whether Musikverein, Konzerthaus, Theater an der Wien or Kammeroper: Musical delights will be everywhere guaranteed. **Rathausplatz**

In Vienna, Johann Strauss' operetta "Die Fledermaus" belongs to New Year's Eve like the New Year's Concert of the Philharmonic belongs to the first day of the year. Other musical events at the change of year can be enjoyed at the Musikverein, Konzerthaus, Theater an der Wien and the Kammeroper. (more at [www.friedlnews.com](http://www.friedlnews.com))

25 Nov. - Austrian Airlines (AUA), a unit of Germany's Lufthansa, will sell its 21 Fokker airplanes to an Australian charter flier, Alliance Aviation Services Limited, for USD 15 million (EUR 14 million) by end 2017, AUA said after the signing of the deal. (FriedlNews)

20 Nov. - **Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz has announced a new integration plan for asylum seekers, in which German-language learning is rewarded and radicalism is punished.** There are 50 points in the new plan, which is intended to help asylum seekers become part of the community, and to be better prepared for joining the labour market. As well as taking language lessons, migrants wishing to stay in Austria will have to undergo at least eight hours of compulsory training in basic European values. If they refuse to participate in the language and values courses they will face penalties, including cuts of up to 50% of the social security benefits they receive during the integration period. (Voice of Vienna)
Spring time in the Adelaide Hills

Redwood forest at Rotorua

Photos Brett Bayly
Unless otherwise specified, all telephone numbers are in Vienna

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Annual single membership costs €20 and family membership €30. New membership paid after 1 October will run through to end of the following year.

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**Useful Websites:**
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