



AUSTRIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY AUSTRIAN CLUB MELBOURNE

NEWSLETTER

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Valentines Day Saturday, 14th February 6:30pm



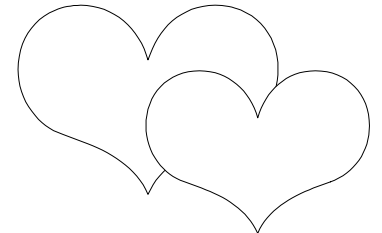
Will you be my
Valentine...?



*You don't know
whom
you will meet at
the
Austrian Club*



*Mum look who
I brought home!*



Children always welcome.... the more the merrier



AUSTRIAN CLUB MELBOURNE

This Newsletter is the
official publication of the
Austrian Cultural Society -
Austrian Club Melbourne Inc.

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January 2009

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A.C.M. Objectives

A very brief & selective summary:

- To make known and promote Austrian culture in Australia with particular emphasis on Austrian fine arts, music and literature.
- To arrange performances of Austrian music in Australia.
- To maintain and develop the Austrian Cultural Centre as a place for providing cultural, social, recreational and sporting facilities from the joint funds of the Club
- To help enable children to participate in social, cultural and artistic activities.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

English & German

Dear Members & Friends of the
Austrian Club Melbourne.

Firstly a hearty thank-you to Dr Siegel who, once again, lent us his glorious Morning Star and who personally came into the Club prior to Christmas to assemble and install this showpiece in all its glory as the focal point on centre-stage. It looks, like every year, absolutely spectacular. Many thanks Dr Siegel. I too was busy in the time leading up to Christmas, carrying out the rest of the Christmas decorations by myself.

December has been a quite busy month all around, starting with the merriment and hurly-burly of our annual Krampus & St Nikolaus celebrations. We were ecstatic for the most pleasing fact that Saturday evening

was very well attended, with significantly more children present than ever before on a Saturday evening for Krampus, each and every one of them deriving a great deal of pleasure and enjoyment from the evening. Sunday afternoon was no different - once again there were more children than ever before, our Club was totally booked out and everybody had a lot of fun. Definitely worthwhile noting: we had, for the first time, four Krampus present - the two familiar experienced scary ones and two young apprentices, who learned their craft quickly and with great enthusiasm! It was indeed a "monstrously" tremendous weekend for the young and more mature persons alike.



Liebe Klub Mitglieder und Freunde des
Österreichischen Klubs Melbourne.

Zuallererst ein herzliches Dankeschön an Dr Siegel, der uns wieder einmal seinen herrlichen Morgenstern lieh. Er kam vor Weihnachten persönlich in den Klub, um dieses Prunkstück zusammenzustellen und sodann in all seiner Pracht als Mittelpunkt der Bühne zu installieren. Es schaut, wie jedes Jahr, einfach wunderbar aus. Vielen Dank Dr Siegel. Auch ich war zu dieser Zeit fleißig und erledigte die ganze restliche Weihnachtsdekoration.

Der Dezember war ein Monat in dem wir alle ganz schön beschäftigt waren. Angefangen hat die Heiterkeit und der Trubel mit dem jährlichen Krampus und St Nikolaus Fest. Wir freuten uns riesig, daß der Samstagabend sehr

gut besucht war und daß bedeutend mehr Kinder wie je zuvor an einem Krampusabend Freude und Spaß hatten. Sonntag war es dann nicht anders, wiederum waren viel mehr Kinder wie gewöhnlich anwesend, der Klub war total ausgebucht und jeder hatte recht viel Vergnügen. Hierbei muß unbedingt bemerkt werden, daß zum ersten Mal vier Krampuse ihr Unwesen trieben. Die zwei erfahrenen Krampuse und zwei Lehrlinge die ihr Handwerk schnell und mit Eifer erlernten! Es war wahrhaftig ein "ungeheuer" tolles Wochenende für jung und alt.

Alle zwei Monate trifft sich die Victorian Branche der Australian Deerhunters Association an einem Donnerstagabend in unserem Klub. Der

President's report continued on page 3

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Every two months the Victorian Branch of the Australian Deerhunters Association meets on a Thursday evening at our Club. This time the date for their bi-monthly meeting fell on the 11th December and we hosted, as always, an evening that was quite good financially for our Club.

Following up the Deerhunters, on Friday evening the 12th December, the Victorian Branch of the Australian Accordion Society held their annual Christmas party at our Club. Soloists, groups and the ASA Victorian Orchestra performed some great music to a very appreciative, near capacity audience, with the highlight (in my eyes) being a medley of songs performed by four very talented children for the music lovers present at the function.

This meant that we had an early start on Saturday morning - to have everything spick & span and ready for a 9:00am start to the German Saturday morning school's Christmas concert. This concert has been held annually at our Club for some years now and it is, again and again, both very interesting and extremely enjoyable to watch very enthusiastic young children perform on stage as best they can. Really great. After our young guests had departed we busied ourselves with another cleaning session, for we needed to have everything prepared, shiny clean and functionally ready for our usual Saturday evening Dinner dance. The night proved to have a happy Christmas feel about it and, very pleasingly, was very well attended. This christmassy atmosphere spilled over to the following Sunday afternoon, for on the 14th December we very much enjoyed hosting Christmas at the Club with our annual traditional Christmas Carols. The Austrian Choir were on stage performing, the sounds of Christmas reverberated around the hall and the audience often were invited to participate, many of them indeed gladly taking up the opportunity to sing along. The concert was enriched by a Nativity playset to one of Poldy Klepp's Christmas poems, performed delightfully by Poldy, Elfriede Senyca and Bruno Schwärzle. This was a fantastic afternoon enjoyed by everyone present - a great close to the official pre-christmas Club program.



The Christmas Dinner Meeting of the Rotary International Rosanna Branch was held on Wednesday evening, the 17th December at our Club. It was, as always, a very enjoyable function. Well attended and cheerfully celebrated by approximately 70 guests, this last Rotary function was a pleasant close to the year for all concerned.

The Club was closed for the weekend 20th & 21st December, yet on Tuesday, 23rd December we hosted a few corporate Christmas Parties. Furthermore, maintenance and repairs were being carried out, as required, right up until New Years Eve.

New Years Eve, the last event of the year, was a great night for our Club in many ways. Full house, great atmosphere and everyone present enjoyed a good "Rutsch" into the New Year 2009. We hope that all those good wishes come true for each of you and that it will be a successful year for the Club.

Termin dieses Mal traf auf den 11. Dezember und es war, wie immer, ein finanziell recht erfolgreicher Abend.

Die Victorian Branche der Australian Accordion Society feierte mit Aufführungen von Soloisten, Gruppen und dem ASA Victorian Orchester am Freitagabend, den 12. Dezember, ihre jährliche Weihnachtsfeier in unserem Klub. Großartige musikalische Darbietungen erfreuten jederman, doch der Höhepunkt war ein Potpourri von Liedern die vier sehr begabte Kinder einem fast ausverkauften Saal von Musikliebhabern boten.

Da wir schon um 9 Uhr früh die Deutschsprachigen Samstagmorgenschüler und Schülerinnen für ihr jährliches Weihnachtskonzert erwarteten, fing der folgende Tag auch für uns sehr früh an, damit vorher alles Tipptopp in Ordnung für diese Feier gebracht werden konnte. Wir richten diese Veranstaltung schon einige Jahre aus und es ist immer wieder interessant und recht erfreulich den Kindern zuzuschauen, wie sie enthusiastisch auf der Bühne ihre Darstellungen ausführen und dabei wirklich ihr Bestes geben. Nachdem die jungen Gäste den Klub verließen machten wir uns ans Säubern, den es mußte natürlich alles wieder blitzblank und funktionsfähig für unseren Samstagabend Tanz sein. Ein hoch erfreulicher Abend, denn er war gut besucht und brachte ein Gefühl von Weihnachten mit sich. Diese nette Weihnachtsstimmung

übertrug sich auf den folgenden Sonntagnachmittag, denn am 14. Dezember feierten wir im Klub Weihnachten mit dem Österreichischen Chor. Weihnachtslieder klangen durch den Saal und oft und gerne stimmten die Gäste mit ein. Bereichert wurde dieses Konzert mit einem Weihnachtsgedicht von Poldy Klepp, daß sie als Krippenspiel mit Elfriede Senyca und Bruno Schwärzle vorführte. Es war ein fabelhafter Nachmittag, den alle Anwesenden recht genossen - der Abschluss des offiziellen vorweihnachtlichen Klubprogrammes.

Die Weihnachtsfeier der Rosanna Rotary International, die am Mittwochabend den 17. Dezember gehalten wurde, war wie immer ein sehr netter Abend. Gut besucht und fröhlich gefeiert, diese letzte Rotary Veranstaltung war für die rund 70 Gäste ein gemütlicher Abschluss des Jahres.

Am folgenden Wochenende, dem 20. und 21. Dezember, war der Klub geschlossen, jedoch private Unternehmen hielten am Dienstag dem 23. Dezember noch ihre Weihnachtsabschlußfeiern im Klub ab. Wartung und Instandhaltung des Klubs erfolgte bedingungsgemäß bis zum Neujahrsabend.

Silvester, die letzte Veranstaltung des Jahres, war in vieler Hinsicht ein voller Erfolg für unseren Klub. Wir hatten eine großartig stimmungsvolle Atmosphäre, waren voll besucht und jeder der Anwesenden genoß einen guten "Rutsch" ins Neue Jahr 2009. Wir hoffen daß alle guten Wünsche für euch in Erfüllung gehen und daß es für den Klub ein erfolgreiches Jahr wird.

On New Years' Day, the 1st January 09, Poldy & Bruno Klepp, Elfriede & Fritz Reiterer, Beverly & I and Carol (our cleaning lady) gathered together around lunchtime - with the task of cleaning the Club. We removed all the tables and chairs into adjoining areas and packed away the Christmas decorations. By mid-afternoon we were finished, for many hands make light work, and having it all under control, were free to go home again to enjoy the rest of the day.

On the next day, 2nd January, Beverly and I were back in the Club, Beverly carried out essential office work and I washed the floor in the main hall very thoroughly (3 times), in readiness to have the floor resurfaced with 3 coats of the best floor surfacing material. On the 4th January the first coat went down and two further coats were applied, one each on the 5th and 6th January. It really looks great now and hopefully will last for quite some time.

On the 11th January Beverly and I, with the help of some of the Committee Members, catered for a get-together of all our Voluntary Helpers who had so supportively assisted us in the Club at various functions throughout the year. It was a comfortable, relaxed, nice afternoon. Thank you to all the Helpers and Committee members.

The Club was in recess for a couple of weeks and reopened on the weekend of the 17th and 18th January. On the Saturday evening Marianne & Mimmo entertained an enthusiastic crowd. Sunday was very busy. Ludwig Sorger, a Club member and also a member of the Austrian Choir, celebrated his 80th birthday with family and friends in the Strauss Stube. Everybody was in fine form singing songs from Steiermark. Edeltraut Kassing celebrated her 74th birthday with her family and friends too. A cheerful party of 22 guests in all, including children. Many Club members and friends came along to the club and everyone was entertained by the sounds of the Dutch Duo. A good start to the official Club Program for 2009.

And still in the spirit of the New Year, I'd like to wish you all a "Prosit" - for the word Prosit means "may it be a success". Let's all enjoy health, luck and success throughout 2009.

With friendly greetings,
Otto Griesmayr



Am Neujahrstag, den 01. Januar 09, versammelten sich Poldy & Bruno Klepp, Elfriede & Fritz Reiterer, Beverly & ich, sowie Carol (unsere Putzfrau) so um die Mittagszeit - mit der Aufgabe den Klub sauber zu machen. Wir räumten Tische & Stühle aus der Halle und entfernten dann auch die ganze Weihnachtsdekoration. Am Nachmittag hatten wir alles fertig und unter Kontrolle, denn viele Hände schaffen es schneller und wir konnten nachhause gehen um den Rest des Tages zu geniessen.

Am nächsten Tag, den 02. Januar, waren Beverly und ich wieder im Klub. Beverly hatte im Büro Notwendiges zu erledigen und ich wusch den Tanzboden äußerst gründlich (ganze 3 Mal) damit er richtig vorbereitet war, denn der Tanzboden wurde am 4. Januar mit der ersten Schicht des besten Tanzbodenbelags versehen. Von 5. bis zum 6. Januar wurde täglich eine weitere Schicht aufgetragen. Es schaut prima aus und hält hoffentlich für eine lange Zeit.

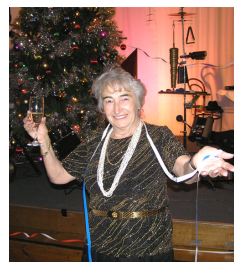
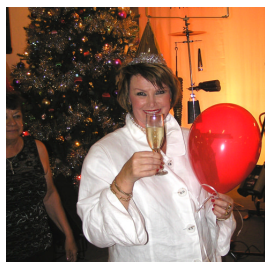


Am 11. Januar sorgten Beverly und ich, in Gemeinschaft mit einigen Komiteemitgliedern, für ein Festessen und luden dazu alle Freiwilligen Helfer ein, die uns im vorigen Jahr so gut beistanden. Es war ein gelungener, schöner Nachmittag. Herzlichen Dank an alle Helfer und Komiteemitglieder.

Die ersten paar Wochen des Neuen Jahres waren für den Klub und uns eine kleine Verschnaufpause. Am Wochenende des 17. und 18. Januars eröffneten Marianne und Mimmo das Program mit ihrem Repertoire zu einem enthusiastischen Publikum. Am Sonntag feierte Ludwig Sorger, ein Klubmitglied aber auch Chormitglied, seinen 80. Geburtstag im Kreise seiner Familie und Freunde in der Strauss Stube. Jeder war in bester Stimmung und Lieder von der Steiermark wurden begeistert mitgesungen. Im Kreise ihrer Familie und Freunden hielt Edeltraut Kassing ihren 74. Geburtstag ab. Eine fröhliche Feier mit 22 Gästen, inklusiv Kindern. Viele Mitglieder und Freunde kamen in den Klub und jeder wurde von den Klängen des Dutch Duos gut unterhalten. Ein guter Anfang für's offizielle Klubprogram 2009.

Und noch im Sinne des Neuen Jahres möchte ich euch alle ein "Prosit Neujahr" wünschen, denn Prosit bedeutet "möge es gelingen". Lasst uns gemeinsam Gesundheit, Glück und Erfolg im Jahr 2009 genießen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,
Otto Griesmayr



HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY 3ZZZ AUSTRIAN RADIO GROUP

A cause for celebration - the Austrian Radio Group at 3ZZZ Melbourne. Perseverance led to success and success went on to underline and define our Austrian Radio Program. But it wasn't always easy...

After applying for air-time in 1988 our founder, the late Bruno Hirschauer, was categorically told to join the German Group, since "Austrian" would just be another subsection of the "German" Language Group. A major set-back! However Bruno was not daunted by this initial rejection and went on to argue that although we speak the same language as our big neighbour and share a lot of culture, Austria has over many centuries developed its own unique culture and folklore. And this is often quite different to that of Germany. Not to mention, the unique historical development of Austria as a separate country.

The President of 3ZZZ at the time took a very sympathetic view of this argument, and decided that we should have our own two hours of air-time, subject to the prevailing rules and conditions of the station. A very wise decision indeed because, 20 years on, there are now two successful Groups on air instead of only one.

All through the remainder of 1988 we struggled to establish the Group with the required 80 members. In the meantime, having numerous "dry runs" with the aid of cassette recorders often produced hilarious results. Finally, by mid 1989, we had 76 members. Giving the President of 3ZZZ the sincere promise, with tongue in cheek, to reach the 80 member target very quickly, Bruno Hirschauer broadcast his first programme. Marie Louise Schelling and Bruno Klepp assisted, with numerous mistakes and raw nerves all round. Personally, my first programme went to air on 7 July 1989, with another 577 to follow, all of them live.

The Group achieved the membership target very soon after the first programme and has gone from strength to strength - becoming the strongest broadcasting group at 3ZZZ, with 275 members at one stage! Averaging between 230 and 250 members annually, over the last 6 years, means we are still one of the largest. We were granted another 2 hours of air-time, one of which we reluctantly surrendered after more than eight years, due unfortunately to the escalating petrol prices that made it too costly for broadcasters to travel to the station so often.

Not only did we achieve and retain high membership numbers, our Radiothon figures also are terrific year after year. Effort that regularly gave rise to figures which were more than double the required amount of \$1000.00 per broadcasting hour. All in all, during the 20 years of broadcasting the Austrians went to air a staggering 2,922 hours to date. Almost all of them live, with not one single hour missed. A proud record indeed. At this point I would like to pay a special tribute to all Broadcasters, present and past. Thank you very much for a magnificent voluntary effort, for your service to the Austrian Community.

Over the years we were very fortunate to have received tremendous support from the Austrian National Broadcaster, ORF, in the form of cassettes and CDs. Their generous donation helped us to preserve our meagre cash reserves. Our thanks, of course, include ORF's benevolent permission to broadcast news and other items from the ORF website.

Finally, I would like to appeal to all our friends to become members of and to support the Austrian Radio Group. Membership is cheap, "a song" for only \$10.00 per person (\$15.00 if you are not a Pensioner). If you are already a member, thank you for your support. We hope you will continue to enjoy our programme and continue to support us.

Member or not, come along to the 20th Anniversary Celebration on the 7th March in the Austrian Club.

Sincerely yours, until then...
Bruno Klepp (Convenor)



*Der Heimat näher kommen
durch Radio.....*

Österreichische Stunde

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Donnerstag	12 - 13 Uhr
Freitag	19 - 20 Uhr



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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Hans & Monika Friedrich

Every house and garden inevitably keeps its owners busy - small problems, bigger repairs or replacements - a constant stream of odd jobs begging for completion to ensure functional, trouble-free, comfortable living. Our Club, with its beautiful surrounding grounds, is no different. Much labour, persistence and good will is necessary to keep our Club maintained and in good working order. Ensuring that everything is practical, effective, purposeful and in good condition for everyone's benefit is a ceaseless job and our Presidential couple, Otto and Beverly, are constantly, conscientiously and attentively observant, with due care and consideration for our Club. They ensure that all the necessary maintenance and repair jobs are planned, prioritised according to need or budget and then continuously undertaken, thus sorting out immediate crises and avoiding future problems. Otto and Beverly are themselves always on the go to keep everything up-to-scratch and fortunately they have a super Team of helpers who so brilliantly lend aid and support.

One couple who spring immediately to mind with regards to this helpful Team is Monika and Hans. A couple who is always ready to take up their respective post and independently of one another, each in their own particular ways and means, give their very best for the Club. Monika left her hometown Berlin in 1966 to emigrate to Australia. Hans, on the other hand, had already left Lower Austria in 1957 to settle down in

Australia. Upon meeting in 1975, Monika and Hans set about building their lives together. Hans displayed versatility and skilfulness from his early youth onwards, becoming first a fitter and turner and then specialising as an auto mechanic. This all-round nature and his ability to tackle almost any job quickly, confidently and successfully now is of tremendous benefit for our Club. Otto asks Hans for help and Hans appears in a flash, sees what needs to be done and takes care of it all to the best of his ability.

Furthermore Hans has a talent for cheerfulness and being in a good mood, and couples his lively disposition with his productivity as a handyman. The entry gate had subsided and Hans re-aligned it, the piano needed new castors, the logo in the roundabout needed painting, the flagpoles needed foundations, the stairs needed carpeting, arrangements that provided every outside stall with flowing water were facilitated, and so on... Jovial Hans says "Actually there isn't a room I can think of where I haven't repaired or fixed something!" As Hans is not just adept practically but also has a generous dose of creativity, he also invented a type of winch with which one person alone can erect the Maypole. A similar winch makes it possible to easily change the lightbulbs in the carpark, by lowering the lightpoles to ground and then erecting them again once the bulbs have been changed over.

Hans and his son Martin also invented a numbering system with which the outside dance floor could be laid down quickly and

Jedes Haus und Garten hält seinen Besitzer zwangsläufig auf Trab, denn kleine aber auch große Probleme müssen gerichtet oder erneuert werden, um funktionstüchtiges, problemloses und angenehmes Wohnen zu versichern. Nicht anders ist es mit unserem Klubgebäude und dem schönen umliegenden Grundstück. Es erfordert sehr viel Arbeitskraft, Ausdauer, sowie guten Willen um unseren Klub richtig instand zu halten und damit zu gewährleisten, daß alles praktisch, effektiv und zweckmäßig und in gutem Zustand für alle ist. Unser Präsidentenpaar Otto und Beverly sind kontinuierlich, gewissenhaft, aufmerksam und mit Vorbedacht auf der Hut. Sie machen sicher daß alle notwendigen Reparaturen sowie Instandhaltung fortwährend geplant, ganz nach Dringlichkeit in Betracht auf Notwendigkeit und verfügbare geldliche Mittel eingestuft, und dann erfolgreich ins richtige Geleise gelenkt werden, um damit Krisen so schnell wie möglich zu überwinden und um weitere Probleme zu vermeiden. Otto und Beverly arbeiten selbst ununterbrochen mit um alles am Laufenden zu halten und haben glücklicherweise ein prima Team daß sie so fabelhaft unterstützt.



Ein Ehepaar dieses hilfreichen Teams ist Monika und Hans, die jederzeit auf dem Posten sind und unabhängig voneinander, auf ihre eigene Art und Weise, ihr Bestes geben um den Klub beizustehen. 1966 verließ Monika ihre Heimatstadt Berlin und wanderte nach Australien aus, während Hans

schon im Jahre 1957 Niederösterreich verließ um in Australien Fuß zu fassen. Erst 1975 trafen sich Hans und Monika und bauten sodann ihr Leben zusammen auf. Hans zeigte schon in früher Jugend daß er vielseitig und gewandt war. Er lernte Schlosser und Dreher und spezialisierte sich später auf den Beruf als Automechaniker. Seine Vielseitigkeit und sein Können fast jeden Job schnell und zuversichtlich in den Griff zu bekommen kommt glücklicherweise nun auch unserem Klub zugute. Otto bittet Hans um Hilfe und er kommt im Nu, sieht und erledigt alles was gerade nötig ist und soweit es in seinen Kräften steht.

Zudem hat Hans auch ein Talent für gute Laune und Frohsinn und er koppelt dies fröhlich mit seiner Schaffenskraft als Handyman. Das Eingangstor hatte sich gesenkt und Hans verbesserte es, das Klavier brauchte neue Gleiter, das Logo im Rondell mußte gestrichen werden, die Flaggen brauchten ein Fundament, die Treppe wurde mit Teppich belegt, jede Festbude bekam frisches Wasser und so vieles mehr... Lustig sagt Hans "Eigentlich ist da wohl kein Zimmer, wo ich nicht irgend etwas gerichtet oder ausgebessert habe!" Da Hans nicht nur praktisch sondern auch kreativ veranlagt ist, erfand er auch eine Art Winde mit der eine Person alleine den Maibaum aufstellen kann. Eine ähnliche Winde ermöglicht es auch die Glühbirnen im Carpark auszuwechseln, indem man die Posten zu sich heranzieht.

Hans und Sohn Martin sorgten auch für ein Nummernsystem

IN THE SPOTLIGHT continued on page 7

without difficulties. It is little wonder that Martin was inspired by Club life from a very early age. As a ten year old he joined the Club's "Happy Savers", with the wish to save enough pocket money to become a Life Member of the Club. Martin actually did become the youngest Life Member at this point in time. Daughter Susie, her husband Manfred and their four young boys also enjoy coming to the Club's various functions. Manfred is currently the President of the Stockshooters, a position of honour that his father-in-law Hans held for many years beforehand, for Stockshooting is Hans' hobby.

Monika also took on Presidency of the Stockshooters for a few years, for she is happy to stand by Hans in word and deed and support him, as she does our Club. Monika's aid takes a different form to Hans' and is coloured with the benefit of her early career experience, having learned the profession of trained retail salesman in Berlin. Monika integrates this specialised knowledge with an awareness that the maintenance and care of the Club and its grounds not only requires capable, industrious, hard-working people and skilled hands, but also the necessary

money to realise such repairs. In this, Monika and Hans complement each other beautifully. Hans fixes and renews, whilst Monika fundraises with her Raffles. Multifarious facets comprise the organisation of a successful raffle including setting a date; buying and storing goods; displaying the prizes attractively and then selling lots of raffle tickets to consequently bring about a financially fruitful draw for the benefit of our Club. To make the Raffle interesting and desirable and to beget such a successful conclusion, Monika invented a unique new system for the prize distribution - winners can choose their own prize from the goods remaining on the table when their ticket is drawn. A good percentage of these treasures are designated for children and many a Nan or Pop has proudly taken home a giant Teddy Bear for their respective Bub. Ladies always find something attractive, welcome or even useful. And men certainly don't draw the short end of the stick - a case of beer and some tasty delicacies will most definitely always comprise a part of the Raffle's share of goodies. It goes without saying then, that Club guests undoubtedly derive a lot of enjoyment from the Raffle and that Monika hereby does a fantastic job facilitating those necessary monetary contributions for the Club in the form of her fundraising through the Raffle. Additionally, Monika is an active Committee member and takes both an interest in and is a dynamic part of Club happenings.

One can truly say that Monika and Hans put themselves forward for the good of the Club and befittingly Hans quotes: "Austria is definitely worth a trip, yet if you can't get over there, then a visit to our Austrian Club Melbourne is similarly worth the journey".

Many thanks to our versatile and helpful couple Monika and Hans.

Without Prejudice

Look forward to next month's SPOTLIGHT

Without Prejudice

Freut Euch auf das SPOTLIGHT im nächsten Monat

damit der Tanzboden im Freien schnell und problemlos zusammengebaut werden kann. Es ist nicht verwunderlich, daß Martin schon als kleiner Bub für's Klubleben inspiriert wurde. Als Zehnjähriger schloß er sich den "Lustigen Sparern" an, mit dem Wunsch genügend Taschengeld zu sammeln um "Life Member" im Klub zu werden. Martin wurde dann auch tatsächlich der jüngste Life Member zu dieser Zeit. Gerne kommt auch Tochter Susie mit Gatte Manfred und ihren vier Jungen zu Veranstaltungen in den Klub. Manfred ist zur Zeit Präsident der Stockschiesser, ein Ehrenposten den sein

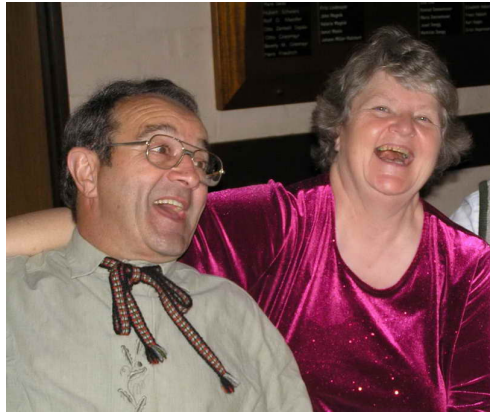
Schwiegervater Hans für viele Jahre innehielt, den Stockschiessen ist Hans' Hobby.

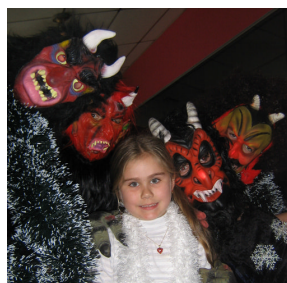
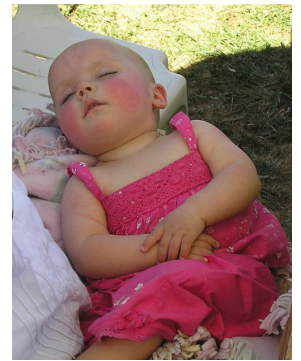
Auch Monika war für ein paar Jahre Präsidentin, denn sie steht Hans gerne mit Rat und Tat zur Seite und unterstützt Hans sowie unseren Klub. Diese Unterstützung leistet Monika in einem anderen Bereich mit ihrer Erfahrung aus jungen Jahren. Monika lernte in Berlin den Beruf des Einzelhandelskaufmannes. Dieses Fachwissen verbindet Monika mit dem Bewußtsein daß man zur

Instandhaltung und Pflege des Klubs und Grundstücks nicht nur fähige, fleißige, hilfreiche Personen und geschickte Hände braucht, sondern auch das nötige Geld um manch eine Reparatur zu verwirklichen. Monika und Hans ergänzen sich in diesem Punkt bestens. Hans richtet und erneuert jederzeit und Monika sorgt für Spenden indem sie Tombolas organisiert, die nötige Ware einkauft, lagert, zur Schau stellt und Lose verkauft um dann eine erfolgreiche Verlosung zugunsten unseres Klubs zu verwirklichen. Um die Tombola interessant, wünschenswert und erfolgreich zu vollziehen hat Monika ein prima System entwickelt. Die Gewinner können sich die attraktiven Preise selbst aussuchen. Ein guter Prozentsatz ist vorwiegend für Kinder bestimmt und so manch ein Opa oder Oma trägt stolz einen Riesentedybär zu seinem Enkerl' heim. Frauen finden immer etwas anziehendes, erfreuliches oder gar notwendiges. Und Männer kommen ebenfalls nicht zu kurz ein Kasten Bier und ein Gaumenschmaus ist auf alle Fälle mit drin. Die Klubgäste haben jedenfalls recht viel Spaß und Monika leistet eine vortreffliche Arbeit, erforderliche geldliche Hilfsmittel für den Klub in Form der Tombola zuzusteuern. Zusätzlich wirkt Monika als Komiteemitglied mit und nimmt somit weiteres Anteil am Klubgeschehen.

Man kann mit Recht sagen, daß sich Monika und Hans für das Wohl des Klubs einsetzen und genau treffend zitiert Hans: "Österreich ist eine Reise wert, doch kannst Du nicht dorthin, dann ist unser Österreichischer Klub Melbourne genauso jede Reise wert."

Vielen Dank unserem vielseitigen und hilfreichen Ehepaar Monika und Hans.







POWER PROBLEMS!

We had an eventful end to the Christmas activities in the Club. Most Members would believe that our Christmas Concert on Sunday 14th December was the end of events for the Club until New Year. But that was not the case. On the following Wednesday, the Rotary Club of Rosanna held their Christmas Party, with approximately 70 attendees, at the Club and this was followed by lunches on Thursday and Friday. Whilst the Club was then closed for the weekend of 20th and 21st December, it was business as usual on Tuesday, 23rd December, catering for the various Corporate Christmas Parties that had been organised. But to simply tell you about these various functions that were held would not give you the true indication of just how eventful these last few pre-Christmas days actually were...

Monday, 22nd December, on arriving at the Club at 9.00 a.m. it was discovered that there was no power! With food in the fridges and freezers, and functions to cater for, this was, as you all would be aware, akin to a disaster. AGL service technicians were immediately called in and thankfully found a blown fuse on an electricity pole outside the Club grounds. This fuse was fixed without further ado. But celebrations were too early. For as soon as the Club was re-connected to the power grid, it instantly blew the fuse yet again. Resultantly AGL told us the power problem was our fault and that we should organise an electrician for ourselves.

Our electrician Greg Koller sent over John, one of his colleagues, who went through all the usual steps of identifying the problem. John did not like what he suspected, Greg was called over and the worst was confirmed. It was a fault underground, between the Club building and pole on the nature strip. But at least we now knew what the problem was.

We now had to think of goods in the deep freeze and the parties scheduled for the following day. A diesel generator rated 350 KVA (kilowatts) was organised to come in. Fully self-contained, this generator that we were provided with came in its own on-site shipping container, provided electricity quietly and had enough fuel to run for two weeks. By the time we all went home at 8:00pm Monday night, the generator has been hooked up and everything tested to ensure a "trouble free" Tuesday.

Tuesday dawned, bright and hot. While our guests enjoyed the warmth and Christmas spirit inside, our god-sent electrical contractors were busy with their trusty

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detector, hunting down the exact location of the fault. In the beginning nobody was sure of exactly where the fault was; under the Club building, under the car park or (hopefully) out on the road. Logically, the first step was to determine the physical, geographic position of the cable as it runs between the Club building and the pole on the nature strip and then to pinpoint whereabouts on that cable the problem was. We were exceptionally lucky in our misfortune. It is not easy to find a technician who specialises in detecting and locating the route of the cables underground, let alone to be able to call on one of these guys at such short notice as we did (what's more, in holiday time!) and have him so speedily at hand.

The testing involved a signal source connected at the fuse box and then measuring various readings. Once the guys knew whereabouts the cable was running out under the car park to the road, they used a TDR (Time Domain Reflectometer) to work out the exact distance along the power cable to this fault. The TDR sends a single electrical pulse down the cable and by listening for the pulse's echo bouncing back from the fault, one can detect where the fault is located. It is possible to tell the echo from the pulse because the echo is seen as a signal in reverse for a closed short (where the voltage of the echo is an inverse of the original pulse voltage) or an amplification of the pulse signal for an open short. Thus the TDR shows where the fault is located, by measuring the time in nanoseconds until the echo is heard, where the exact location is calibrated to 250mm per nanosecond. In order to get an accurate result in detecting the distance along the cable to the fault, this meant testing and measuring the echo again and again.

It actually took half a day to finally identify where the fault was. And fortunately, it was outside near the pole that the offending cables were found. As the offending cables were near powerlines out on the road, AGL (Jemena) were called back to fix the problem. To their credit, AGL staff worked until 11:00pm to rectify the cable issue and our only reminder of the saga is that we now have red painted spots in the car park leading to this pole on the nature strip.

On Wednesday morning the electrical contractors disconnected the cables from the generator and AGL came back to reconnect us to the power grid. Everything was tested and found to be in order. The generator was *POWER PROBLEMS continued on page 11*

collected early afternoon, putting a close to the eventful pre-Christmas drama, and we all went home to get ready for Christmas Eve celebrations and a well-deserved rest.

One final note bears mentioning. We were very lucky this time. The loss of power was discovered early. The service persons were extremely efficient, fast and went out of their way to help the Club at Christmas when everyone was on holidays. And the generator carried us over, by providing the ever-so-necessary power to maintain business as usual for our planned Christmas functions, as well as powering fridges and freezers to preserve the food in cold storage. It thus goes without saying that the acquisition, in time, of a generator for protection against power failure is a vital need, especially given the increased rate of power failures in the local area over recent months. A ratified need, which the situation at hand now really had brought home to us. A need which, according to the electrician, could be satisfied by a smaller generator than the one we had to hire for this escapade - a rating of at least 250 KVA would be a good starting point and should be considered soon, especially as protection against power failure during functions. And so, thankful for the help and advice and the fortunate conclusion of our power problems this time, we will consider and act on a generator for the future as soon as our budget and cashflow deem it prudent to do so.

In closing, on behalf of the Club, its Members and guests, a special thanks to Greg Koller and his super team. If any electrical work is required for personal jobs we can highly recommend them. Great job guys...

Otto Griesmayr and Stephen Hatton.

ZUM SCHMUNZELN

Lawyers should never ask a witness a question if they aren't prepared for the answer.

In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know me?"

She responded, "Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a young boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realise you never will amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you."

The lawyer was stunned! Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know the defence attorney?"

She again replied, "Why, yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him."

The defence attorney almost died.

The judge asked both counsellors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said, "If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll jail you for contempt."

Thanks to Karl Mitterlehner

WHAT DOES YOUR CLUB DO FOR YOU?

To maintain the Club premises takes a lot of man and woman power. Of course you have your Committee members, who each have their own respective duties. But these same people, along with a trusty band of dedicated and loyal Voluntary Helpers, also take care of many other things. Things like maintenance of the Clubhouse, the overall property, mowing lawns and basic garden maintenance. And if something breaks down (like we all sometimes do), especially when it gets old, then someone on the Committee has to organise the repairs. Sometimes they need to call in professionals or, if we are lucky enough, one of the Committee members or Volunteers may be adept at such repairs - a real money-saver if we can get it.

Take a moment and think of just some of the things that need doing on a very regular basis. There's the Bar to run, a kitchen to be kept going, clearing tables once the meals and drinks have been enjoyed. Not to forget, washing dishes and putting them away. A Schatzkammer shop to stock and to run. Delicious coffee and cake to prepare and serve you. Booking musicians and entertainment. The paperwork, mail, banking and office jobs beg for attention. Hours of work creating gorgeous items for a handcraft stall, or sorting and preparing for a white elephant stall. Organising a Raffle. Welcoming guests at reception and answering the phones. Cleaning the amenities and taking care of the linen and other deliveries. Really, there is a mountain of jobs that always need to be done to keep the Club running. So who does all this? You guessed it. For the most part it is the Committee members and a few faithful volunteers.

Sure, you might say, we know about these jobs. But that's not all that our loyal mob do. There are many other behind-the-scenes jobs that you may not think about. Amongst these other responsibilities are jobs as varied as the upkeep of the Club; someone being at the Club when it needs to be opened; a "Nachtgeist" here to close up after the last soul has happily trundled home; someone to make sure that everything is in order and tidy; even down to making sure the rubbish is put out - just like at home... And they do it all voluntarily and without complaint because they believe in their Club, your Club, and want to keep it in good order for you - the members.

Of course, the social aspect of helping out can be quite a bonus in itself, as all the happy faces at our recent Volunteers Party will testify. So if there are any of you kind members who have some spare time and don't mind helping when the Club has a "working bee" or a special need, or if you'd like to get involved on a regular basis, let the Committee know of your desire. Needing volunteers is an ongoing occurrence and common to many Clubs and anybody in the Committee will be only too happy to take you up on your word and contact you when things need to be done. Come along and join us. It's fun.

Thanks to the Austrian Club of WA and the Austrian Club Wodonga, who experience the same problems, for their inspiration respectively for the bulk of this article.

OLAV SCHAPPACHER : TRIBUTE TO A CLUB STALWART



As some club members will know, Olav died suddenly and quite unexpectedly on 7 December 2008, presumably from a heart attack. I for one was totally unaware and unprepared that his life would be terminated in such a manner. He had no

long-term illness and apparently was free of pain so that can be regarded as somewhat of a comfort.

As is well known in the Austrian community, and particularly in the Austrian Club, Olav was a member of the Vienna Mozart Boys Choir which, while on a worldwide concert tour during 1938-9, was stranded in Perth at the outbreak of war in September 1939. On being asked for help, the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne brought the boys back to Melbourne to form the nucleus of a newly created cathedral choir. The diocese found accommodation for the boys with private families and paid for their education.

Olav was throughout his working life employed in the insurance industry and eventually achieved the distinction of becoming CEO of his firm.



On his retirement he became an active, selfless and conscientious contributor to the Austrian Club. At the commencement of activities at the Heidelberg premises he became a member of the

Committee on which he served for quite a few years. His portfolio was Program Organiser and he always ensured that the programs were varied and interesting as well as ensuring that they were well attended.

He never forgot his musical background and founded a Revue Group (the Pratersterne) which performed regularly at the Club, generally with a full house, as well as at other German-speaking clubs. At the same time he formed a genuine Viennese Schrammel Quartet in which he himself played guitar. This high quality group had unfortunately to be abandoned when one of the violinists had to drop out for personal reasons.

Olav was a brilliant performer, a genuine gifted cabaretist



with a fertile and imaginative mind. An abiding memory of him was his inimitable humour and natural wit. The sketches performed by the Pratersterne were for the greater part his own creation. Some were sometimes outrageous but were invariably hilarious.

It is perhaps pertinent to say something about the Mozart Choir. Whichever way you care to look at it, we were a select group as we were a one-off, ie. we had no predecessors and no successors. Because fate dealt us an out-of-the-ordinary hand, we became a close-knit brotherhood as, at the time we were stranded in Australia, we were the only family we had. We therefore formed an indissoluble bond, which was never broken or threatened and survives to this day. We felt it deeply whenever one of us was taken from us, as is the case now with Olav, and a small part of each of us always died with him. This may sound maudlin but it is nonetheless true. Thus we eight surviving members of the original twenty choir boys felt deep distress and sadness when we heard of Olav's unexpected death.



Olav was a good, true and loyal friend to all of us. So farewell dear old friend and rest in peace. We will never forget you.

Walter Hauser.

The role of personality in history is a quest for shared self-improvement in communication and life.

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Conrad Linden
2008-11-30

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AND GET WELL WISHES**

Congratulations to Club Members celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries. Best wishes to all persons who are recovering from operations and others who are struggling with health problems.

NACHRUF - VALE

Regretfully we advise the passing of two Life Members. Mrs. Mary Dennemoser passed away on the 21st November and Mr. Olav Schappacher passed away on the 7th December, 2008. Deepest sympathy is extended to both families. They will be missed.

KLUB REGELN - CLUB RULES

Please Note:

Food and drinks are not allowed to be brought onto the Club premises.

Bitte beachten Sie:

Speisen und Getränke dürfen nicht in den Klub mitgebracht werden.

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INVITATION TO LUNCH WITH THE LADIES GROUP...

Would you like an invitation to lunch with the Ladies Group? Then read on... The Ladies Group are beginning their fortnightly meetings on Wednesday, 4th March at 10:00am. Any ladies with handcraft skills or gardening abilities are welcome. A hot lunch is provided by our Chef.

The Ladies Group wish to thank the Committee for the lovely Sunday afternoon at the Club for the Helpers Party. The meals and the music made it a very enjoyable day.

Margaret Hirschauer

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YOUR SAY

LOBBRIEF - CONGRATULATIONS

Sirs, Madams: We are writing to you regarding your wonderful entertainment at your Club in Heidelberg, in particular the Spring Festival today. Where else would one get such wonderful floorshows etc for \$2.00? Nowhere! Unsere Besucher aus Stuttgart waren sprachlos, was bei euch geboten wird. "Das gibt es bei uns nicht" sagten sie. Wir sind dankbar, daß im Austrian Club ein Stück Heimat ist und auch ein Stück Heimat ist für viele Nationen & Kulturen, welche uns viel Freude bringen. Wir sind sicher, sie haben schon viele Lobbriefe erhalten - we make this one a special congratulations.

WK & RL Voss

Editors Comments: We truly are fortunate to be continually treated to such spectacular entertainment - the Club offers us musicians, dancers and some very unique performances - floorshows that are always varied, interesting and of the highest calibre. Thank you to you both for recognising the value we receive at the Austrian Club, our wonderful entertainment and the preservation of our "Stück Heimat" alike, and for sharing with us your congratulations of our successes.

WAITING, WAITING, WAITING

Why have we been waiting, waiting, waiting for our photos? The Paparazzi Team would like to extend their sincerest apologies to everyone who has experienced delay in recent months. Here are a few short statistics to explain the reasons why: The number of events photographed by our lovable Mr Paparazzi in the last few years? Over 110 days or nights of Club-life have been recorded pictorially. The number of photos taken at the Austrian Club and uploaded for you to browse? Approximately 8 Gigabytes - that's about 15,000 photos. That's about the same as taking 417 rolls of 36 exposure film or 625 rolls of 24 exposure film - more if you include those photos that weren't good enough to make it to the web! The hours of editing and manipulating involved in preparation for publishing to the web? Countless!!! Red eye removal, cropping, exposure adjustment, renaming files and so on... And all of this is done prior to you even seeing a photo. Naturally such diligence takes time. And as the Paparazzi Team do what they do for "free" in their "spare time" (they do not charge for their work and as they are not retired yet they work on your photos after returning home from work of an evening) there is consequently a lag between the event

and when photos are finally ready for you to see. We apologise for the delay but hope that with these facts you now have a better understanding of why you've been waiting, waiting, waiting...

The Paparazzi Team

Editors Comments: The smiles on the faces in the photos say it all. People come to the Club for a good time. They enjoy themselves. And where else are we able to access photos of ourselves taken by a cheerful photographer for free! We wish Mr Paparazzi a fantastic "well-deserved" holiday and look forward to seeing him back again in February...

LOGIC RULES IN THE CLUB

Thanks to Mr Verpeleti for encouraging a bit of clear thinking with his mathematical solution for the problem of assigning cost to the cork in the wine bottle. Here is an alternative simple logical reasoning for a fast appraisal of cost: For a bottle of wine to remain \$1.00 dearer than the cork, the difference in price of 10 cents must be split equally between the cork and bottle, otherwise the bottle wouldn't be \$1.00 dearer. The cork's cost is therefore 5 cents (half of 10 cents) and the bottle's cost is \$1.05. This gives us the required \$1.00 difference between the two items. To clarify, let's look at a similar problem where the apparent difference in relation to another bottle of wine and another cork is now 5 cents. The total cost has not changed and is again \$1.10, however the bottle this time is stated as costing \$1.05 cents more than the cork. In this new example, the five cents difference would have to be split equally between the cork and bottle making the cost of the cork 2.5 cents and the cost of the bottle \$1.075. The catch in all this is that the cost of one is quoted as being "dearer than" or "more than" the other, not as an absolute cost! A nice bit of mathematical logic.

Michael Wilczner

Editors Comments: It is wonderful to see that our members are enjoying each others' contributions in our Newsletter. The Club is a meeting point of the minds, as well as a lovely place for dinner or a Kaffee und Kuchen on a Sunday afternoon. And we encourage all our members to treat our Newsletter similarly - as an extension of our Club a forum to meet and share with each other interesting articles, insights and wisdoms to entertain, delight and stretch all our minds. Thank you to all of our contributors to date...

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January 2009

Saturday 31st Silver Echoes *****Free Admission***
Music & Dance**

February 2009

Sunday 1st Rene *****Free Admission***
Music & Dance**

Saturday 7th Silver Beat *****Free Admission***
Music & Dance**

Sunday 8th Heinz *****Free Admission***
Music & Dance**

Saturday 14th **Valentine's Day**
with Silver Echoes *****Free Admission***
Music & Dance**

Sunday 15th Dutch Duo *****Free Admission***
Music & Dance**

Saturday 21st Marianne & Mimmo *****Free Admission***
Music & Dance**

Sunday 22nd Silver Echoes *****Free Admission***
Music & Dance**

Saturday 28th Marianne & Mimmo *****Free Admission***
Music & Dance**

March 2009

Sunday 1st Julia & Dieter *****Free Admission***
Music & Dance**

Saturday 7th **Radio 3ZZZ** **Music**
20th Anniversary Celebration
with Alpine Cocktail
Admission Cost: Members \$15
Guests \$20

Sunday 8th Rene *****Free Admission***
Music & Dance**

Saturday 14th Silverbeat *****Free Admission***
Music & Dance**

Sunday 15th **Autumn Festival**
Admission Cost: \$2 - Children Free

Saturday 21st Julia & Dieter *****Free Admission***
Music & Dance**

Sunday 22nd **Swiss Festival**
with Heinz in Club

Saturday 28th Marianne & Mimmo *****Free Admission***
Music & Dance**

Sunday 29th Silver Echoes *****Free Admission***
Music & Dance**

Januar 2009

Samstag 31. Silver Echoes *****Eintritt frei***
Musik & Tanz**

Februar 2009

Sonntag 1. Rene *****Eintritt frei***
Musik & Tanz**

Samstag 7. Silver Beat *****Eintritt frei***
Musik & Tanz**

Sonntag 8. Heinz *****Eintritt frei***
Musik & Tanz**

Samstag 14. **Valentine's Day**
mit Silver Echoes *****Eintritt frei***
Musik & Tanz**

Sonntag 15. Dutch Duo *****Eintritt frei***
Musik & Tanz**

Samstag 21. Marianne & Mimmo *****Eintritt frei***
Musik & Tanz**

Sonntag 22. Silver Echoes *****Eintritt frei***
Musik & Tanz**

Samstag 28. Marianne & Mimmo *****Eintritt frei***
Musik & Tanz**

Marz 2009

Sonntag 1. Julia & Dieter *****Eintritt frei***
Musik & Tanz**

Samstag 7. **Radio 3ZZZ** **Music**
20th Anniversary Celebration
mit Alpine Cocktail
Eintritt: Mitglieder \$15
Gäste \$20

Sonntag 8. Rene *****Eintritt frei***
Musik & Tanz**

Samstag 14. Silverbeat *****Eintritt frei***
Musik & Tanz**

Sonntag 15. **Herbstfest**
Eintritt: \$2 - Kinder Frei

Samstag 21. Julia & Dieter *****Eintritt frei***
Musik & Tanz**

Sonntag 22. **Schweizerfest**
mit Heinz im Club

Samstag 28. Marianne & Mimmo *****Eintritt frei***
Musik & Tanz**

Sonntag 29. Silver Echoes *****Eintritt frei***
Musik & Tanz**

