



AUSTRIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY AUSTRIAN CLUB MELBOURNE

NEWSLETTER

VOL. VI / No.3 - MARCH 2010

Autumn Festival Sunday, 14th March



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The Autumn Festival
is an Olympic Start
to this year
- are you ready?

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Then lets go and have fun with family and friends!

AUSTRIAN CLUB MELBOURNE

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

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Mar 2010

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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

I hope everyone is well and you all coped with the extreme heat and humidity of the last few weeks.

As we went to print for the last Newsletter in mid-January, we could not cover the last two weeks of the month.

Consequently we're now bringing you up to date with the news and information from back then. As already reported, the Christmas Tree and Morning Star were already dismantled and packed away early in the year. I, myself, picked up patron Dr. Siegel from his home for the dismantling. The "Star", which Dr Siegel always kindly loans us, is a great attraction at Christmas and we are extremely grateful for the loan. With regards to functions, the scarce bookings in the Club diary threatened a quite quiet opening weekend for the Club. Yet things worked out quite positive, with Marianne and Mimmo entertaining on the Saturday night and Silver Echoes on the Sunday. But now to the news. On the following weekend we welcomed "Scorpio Duo" back to the Club after a longer absence. John and Vito really brought with them a dynamic and vibrant atmosphere. We're looking forward to their next appearance on 7th March. The last weekend of the month was a mixed bag with respect to attendance.

Saturday 30th January was very quiet but to make up for it Sunday was rather pleasant.

On the first Saturday night in February we had a brand spanking new band, "I. C. Rock", playing for us. The lead singer

President's report continued on page 3

Liebe Klub Mitglieder und Freunde des Österreichischen Klubs Melbourne.

Ich hoffe daß es jedem gut geht und daß Ihr alle mit der extremen Temperatur und hohen Luftfeuchtigkeit der vergangenen Wochen gut zurecht gekommen seid.

Da unser letzter Newsletter schon Mitte Januar in Druck gegangen ist, konnten wir die Informationen und Berichte über die letzten zwei Wochen Januars nicht mit einschließen. Deshalb bringen wir sie ihnen jetzt. Wie schon berichtet wurden Weihnachtsbaum und Morgenstern schon früh im Jahr zerlegt und verpackt. Ich selbst spielte Chauffeur für unseren Gönner als wir den Morgenstern abbauten - der Stern, den uns Dr Siegel immer freundlicherweise leiht, ist eine große Attraktion und wir sind für die Leihgabe extrem dankbar. In Bezug auf Veranstaltungen drohte das erste öffentliche Klubwochenende im Terminkalender zwar recht ruhig zu werden, war aber dann, mit Marianne und Mimmo am Samstagabend und mit Silver Echoes am Sonntag, doch recht positiv. Nun aber die Neuigkeiten. Am folgenden Wochenende hießen wir, nach langer



Zeit, das "Scorpio Duo" wieder in unserem Klub willkommen. John und Vito brachten eine dynamische und volltönende Atmosphäre mit sich. Wir freuen uns auf ihr nächstes Auftreten am 7. März. Am letzten Wochenende des Monats war die Anzahl der Gäste sehr variabel. Samstag 30. Januar verlief äußerst ruhig. Dafür war aber der Sonntag recht angenehm.

Am Samstagabend des ersten Februarwochenendes spielte eine brand-nagelneue Band, "I. C. Rock", für uns auf. Der Leadsänger überraschte alle mit seinem musikalisch glatten Übergang von Tom Jones zu Elvis Presley zu Roy Orbison und den Liedern

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surprised us all - musically he can switch from Tom Jones to Elvis Presley to Roy Orbison and the songs of other famous singers so smoothly... Truly a "magnificently smooth voice" And if you were not looking, you could be forgiven for believing the original singers were actually up there on the stage! The music pleased everybody who was present on this well attended evening. (Totally recommendable, I. C. Rock will be back in the Club on Saturday, 8th May. Speedy bookings are advisable.) On the following day, the first Sunday in February, Rene also made certain that the musical program was lively and alive.



On the following Saturday, the 13th February, "Silverbeat" were absolutely enthralled that so many attendees obviously enjoyed their music. Naturally, we were excited as well! On Sunday, 14th February - Valentines Day - Silver Echoes kept everyone in the mood or the groove as they say.

The following weekend Marianne & Mimmo were on stage Saturday night and Silver Echoes the day after. On this Sunday we were also hosts for a Work Shop conducted by the Australian Deer Hunters (Vic. Branch). As the Work Shop ran from 9:00am - 5:00pm in our Sports Pavilion, where the Deer Hunters felt rather at home, there were also (unusual for us) quite a few 4-wheel drive vehicles in the car park. Lamb Shanks on the Menu were perfectly appropriate for our Deer Hunter guests too!

With regards to the Menu - now to the Bistro News.

Unfortunately we have been without a Chef since the end of December. Thankfully our friend Rena manages the kitchen exceptionally well with me, as helper, taking on the organisation of various preparations for the meals. Waseem, Muhtu and Sudha work extremely well under Rena's guidance and we thank Rena and the Bistro Team wholeheartedly. But weekends are not the only time that good meals are wanted, demand is also there during the week. On Wednesday evenings Sudha now works with me to present the meals to the members of the Rotary Club of Rosanna. And on Thursday and Friday we again cover the lunches, which can be ordered between the hours of 11:30am and 2:00pm. We occasionally had to call in Carol, to keep up with the dish-washing and pots. On Thursday 12th February we passed one of the biggest challenges to our capacity to offer a seamless delivery of service at the Austrian Club Bistro. It concerned the Deer Hunters Meeting and the challenge to successfully cook steaks for these guys in all the different variations that their taste-buds desired. We had all good feed-back and positive comments. Thank you very much to all my helpers, your efforts were greatly appreciated. Recently, we thought we had finally found a new Chef! We set the ball rolling to do everything according to correct legal process, filled in the necessary documents and went through the legitimate process of Nominating and Sponsoring a person, only to be advised by our nominated candidate that he had returned to Europe. I must say that the exercise of application for Nomination and Sponsorship of an applicant has been quite an exercise, but at least we now know what is involved. Hence the Austrian Club is still seeking a Chef or a very good Cook. Ideally the applicant would be Austrian, or with a Middle European background. Please pass this information along to potential candidates.

I would like to thank our Committee Members and all our very helpful Voluntary Helpers for the time and effort they selflessly give to the Club.

With friendly greetings,
Otto Griesmayr

*New Volunteers would be
very much appreciated.*

anderer bekannter Sänger... Tatsächlich eine "wahre geölte Stimme". Und wenn man es nicht besser wüßte, hätte man glauben können die originellen Sänger stünden wirklich auf der Bühne! Die Musik war für jederman der am gut besuchten Abend dabei war, recht erfreulich. (Absolut zum weiterempfehlen, I. C. Rock wird am Samstag den 8. Mai wieder im Klub erscheinen. Schnelle Buchungen sind ratsam.) Am folgenden Tag, der erste Sonntag im Februar, versicherte auch Rene ein lebhaft und lebendiges Programm.

Silverbeat waren am folgenden Samstag, den 13. Februar, außer sich vor Freude daß so viele Gäste mit augenfälliger Begeisterung ihre Musik schätzten. Natürlich teilten wir ihre Begeisterung genauso! Am Sonntag den 14. Februar - Valentines Day - sorgten die Silver Echoes für prima Stimmung und machten sicher daß die Gäste so richtig in Fahrt kamen.

Am folgenden Wochenende unterhielten uns Marianne & Mimmo am Samstagabend und Silver Echoes am Tag darauf. Am Sonntag waren wir außerdem Gastgeber für den Workshop der Australian Deer Hunters (Vic. Branch), die sich in unserem Sports Pavilion bequem machten. Da der Workshop von 9 Uhr früh bis 17 Uhr abends lief, hatten wir ungewöhnlicherweise mehrere vier-räderige Fahrzeuge im Parkplatz. Lamm-Hax'n waren als Menu für unsere Deer-Hunter Gäste auch perfekt angebracht!

Apropos Menu - nun zu den Bistro Neuigkeiten.

Leider haben wir seit Ende Dezember noch immer keinen Chef. Glücklicherweise leitet unsere Freundin Rena die Küche ausgezeichnet während ich, als Gehilfe, die Organisation der verschiedenen Vorbereitungsarbeiten in der Küche übernahm. Waseem, Muhtu und Sudha arbeiten extrem gut unter Rena's Leitung und wir danken Rena und dem Bistro Team herzlichst. Aber es gibt nicht nur am Wochenende einen Bedarf nach guten Speisen, sondern auch durch die Woche. Mittwochabends arbeitet Sudha nun mit mir um den Mitgliedern des Rotary Club of Rosanna ihr Essen zu servieren. Und am Donnerstag und Freitag mittag kümmern wir uns wiederum um das Mittagessen, daß zwischen 11:30 und 14:00 zu bestellen ist. Ab und zu benötigten wir sogar die extra Hilfe Carols, damit wir mit dem Abwaschen der Teller und Töpfe nicht zu sehr in Rückstand geraten. Am Donnerstag 12. Februar überstanden wir eine der größten Herausforderungen unserer Fähigkeiten - nämlich den Service des Österreichischen Klub Bistros weiterhin nahtlos anbieten zu können. Es drehte sich darum, für das Treffen der Deer Hunters schmackhafte Steaks in jeder Variation und jeder Geschmacksrichtung erfolgreich zu braten. Nur gutes Feed-back und positive Bemerkungen waren zu hören. Besten Dank an alle meine Gehilfen - eure Bemühungen schätze ich mir sehr. Vor kurzem dachten wir, wir hätten nun einen neuen Chef gefunden! Wir leiteten alles in den richtigen Gesetzesweg ein, füllten die nötigen Formulare aus und beschäftigten uns mit dem rechtmäßigen Verfahren der Nominierung und der Bürgschaft, nur um zu erfahren daß unser nominierter Kandidat wieder nach Europa zurückgekehrt sei. Die ganze Geschichte des Antrags für die Nominierung und Bürgschaft eines Kandidaten ist ziemlich komplex und umständlich, aber wenigstens wissen wir jetzt was bei so einer Sache erforderlich ist. Darum sucht der Österreichische Klub weiterhin nach einem Chef oder einem sehr guten Koch. Wünschenswert wäre ein Österreicher, aber auch Leute aus Mitteleuropa sind für diese Position im Idealfall erwünscht. Bitte leiten sie diese Information an mögliche Interessenten weiter.

Ich möchte unseren Komiteemitgliedern und all unseren sehr hilfreichen Freiwilligen Helfern danken, für ihre Zeit und die Bemühungen die sie selbstlos für den Klub spenden.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,
Otto Griesmayr

*Neue Freiwillige Helfer sehen wir
mit Dank entgegen*

HELLO!

Hello! from the Paparazzi Team.

Another cracker month comes to a close for Paparazzi. What has he been up to? Well, as many of you know, 2009 was a busy work year at Paparazzi's regular job. Consequently there was a "little backlog" of photos from the Austrian Club, waiting for Paparazzi to have time off so they could be taken care of. Here is a summary of some Paparazzi trivia:

- 152 days on-site at the Austrian Club, where Paparazzi made a special appearance to take pictures
- Approximately 27,000 photos were taken (whether posed, snapped, or sneaked)

Post-event professional tasks then needed to be attended to, including stints in professions such as;

- Editor (sorting which photos make the cut)
- Ghostbusting (red-eye reduction)
- Dentistry, major and minor
- Cosmetic surgery, perhaps a little Hairdressing (i.e. editing and air-brushing where required)
- And finally Photographer, with the core tasks of photo sharpening (or photo blurring for a soft-focus), cropping, colour-correction and and...

Once the pictures are finalised, Paparazzi puts on a technical hat for the IT manipulation tasks of creating, verifying and uploading event pages to the web, which fills in many nights and weekends. The hours required are truly mind-boggling!!! Finally, after this extensive correction and elimination process:

- 22,000 photos made it onto the web (to date)
- i.e. 12 Gigabytes of website space devoted to Paparazzi's pictures of you

You were there? You "Joined In"? Then "Remember the Good Times" and check out your photos on the web. We hope you enjoy!

But wait, there's more... Last month we let you in on a little secret; namely that each of our issues has a theme that binds the Newsletter together and makes it special. We left you pondering "What are some of the themes we have had?" And, as we thought you might ask that, we promised to reveal all in this issue. So here is a list of the themes we have run over the last two years in the Austrian Club Melbourne

Newsletter: Feb 08 Newsletter

- New Ideas From A New Paparazzi Team

Mar 08 Newsletter

- Griesmayr
- Welcome & Community

Apr 08 Newsletter

- Bajzek
- Music & Culture

May 08 Newsletter

- Hirschauer
- Clubhouse & Mothers Day

Jun 08 Newsletter

- Ruf
- Treasury & Economics

Jul 08 Newsletter

- Reiterer
- Bar & Alcohol

Aug 08 Newsletter

- Klein & Foeger
- Volunteering

Sep 08 Newsletter

- Schellander
- Festivals & Fathers Day

Oct 08 Newsletter

- Klepp
- Media & Austrian National Day

Nov 08 Newsletter

- Krampus & St Nikolaus
- Fun Events

Dec 08 Newsletter

- You - Members & Guests
- Christmas

Feb 09 Newsletter

- Friedrich
- Helping Out

Mar 09 Newsletter

- Winkler
- Being There For One Another

Apr 09 Newsletter

- 65th Anniversary

May 09 Newsletter

- 65th Anniversary Reflections

Jun 09 Newsletter

- Subgroup Austrian Choir & Honey

Jul 09 Newsletter

- Subgroup Dance Groups Part 1 & Almrausch

Aug 09 Newsletter

- Subgroup Dance Groups Part 2 & ESVM

Sep 09 Newsletter

- AGM

Oct 09 Newsletter

- Tschepek
- Life Is For Living

Nov 09 Newsletter

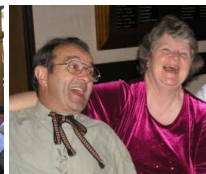
- Schiesser
- Spring

Dec 09 Newsletter

- Christmas

Jan/Feb 10 Newsletter

- Irene Bengough & Ernie Von Einem
- Remembering the Good Times and Joining In



From this list you've probably worked out that most of the time the Newsletter themes normally have two parts, an "In the Spotlight" focus and a general theme. For a few special editions the "Spotlight" was, so-to-speak, on the general theme, as was the case for those fantastic special issues highlighting our 65th Anniversary and the history of some of our Club's Subgroups.

This month Fred Csar is "In the Spotlight" as we continue on the general theme of "Remembering the Good Times & Joining In". As a special angle, we will investigate the history and meaning behind the song Auld Lang Syne, mentioned ever so briefly in our last Hello!, to discover how this song fits not just to New Year, but to many occasions throughout the year also. And how therefore, this old Scottish text is perfect for a Newsletter issue that is all about greeting and toasting each other and joining in, looking forward to the future together.

We hope you enjoy looking back at the themes of the past two years, delight with us in this month's theme and look forward to those themes to come...

Paparazzi Team

ODE TO AULD LANG SYNE

An ode is a poem that is intended to be sung. And this is exactly the fate that befell that classic poem "Auld Lang Syne", penned by Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1788, and set to the tune of a traditional Scottish folk song (Roud#6294).

History reports that Robert Burns sent a copy of the original song to the Scots Musical Museum with the remark, "The following song, an old song, of the olden times ... has never been in print, nor even in manuscript until I took it down from an old man". And so it may have been, for some of the lyrics seem to be indeed "collected" rather than composed by the poet. For instance, the phrase "Auld Lang Syne" is also used in similar poems by Robert Ayton (1570/1638) and by Allan Ramsay (1686/1757). Perhaps most notably though, Burns' song also bears both musical resemblance to the ballad "Old Long Syne" (printed in 1711 by James Watson), and furthermore, Watson's and Burns' lyrics show considerable similarity to each other. Thus, whilst it is unlikely to be direct plagiarism on the behalf of Burns (the dissemination of and access to information in those days was very limited), the two poets' works are possibly both derived from the same "old folk song". It is likely that each man, inspired by the ancient musical lore, adapted the same old song by contributing his own artistic, poetic and musical flair. Thus it was that Robert Burns created the ode that we know and love today.

The song begins by posing the question

whether it is right that old times be forgotten, and is generally interpreted as a call to remember long-standing friendships. From there the song investigates some of the good times that were shared and concludes with a final verse that is all about greeting and

Auld Lang Syne. . .

Robert Burns (1788)

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?*

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and auld lang syne?*

Chorus:

*For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.*

*And surely you'll buy your pint cup!
and surely I'll buy mine!*

*And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.*

Chorus

*We two have run about the slopes,
and picked the daisies fine;
But we've wandered many a weary foot,
since auld lang syne.*

Chorus

*We two have paddled in the stream,
from morning sun till dine;
But seas between us broad have roared
since auld lang syne.*

Chorus

*And there's a hand my trusty friend!
And give us a hand o' thine!
And we'll take a right good-will draught,
for auld lang syne.*

Chorus

toasting friends and continuing to join in creating shared future memories together.

Today the most common use of the song involves only the first verse and the chorus. The last lines of both of these are often sung with the extra words; "For the sake of" or "And days of", rather than Burns' simpler lines. Moreover, most cheery vocal participants are not aware that the words "Auld Lang Syne" idiomatically approximate to mean "long long ago", knowledge that gives the ode even more depth and meaning. Perhaps this translatory

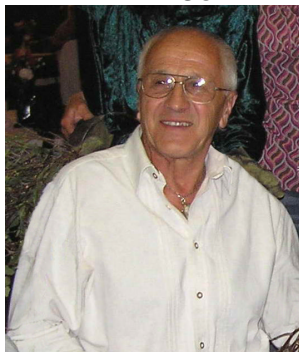
omission is the result of the fact that there was no simple, meaningful, direct translation for the old Scottish words into commonplace English. Yet, whatever the reason, singing the song at the conclusion of a gathering and, in particular, on Hogmanay or New Year's Eve, very quickly became a Scottish custom that soon also spread to other parts of the British Isles. And as Scots (and other Britons) emigrated around the world, they took the song with them - until it was popular all around the globe.

Interestingly, whilst the custom of singing "Auld Lang Syne" to usher in and celebrate the start of the New Year at the stroke of midnight has now become a tradition in many countries around the world, few outside of the British Isles know of the other customary Scottish tradition that accompanies this song in its homeland. In this accompanying Scottish tradition it is common practice that everyone joins hands with the person next to them, to form a great circle around the dance floor. At the beginning of the last verse of Auld Lang Syne everyone crosses their arms across their breast, so that the right hand reaches out to the neighbour on the left and vice versa. When the tune ends, everyone rushes to the middle, while still holding hands. When the circle is re-established, everyone turns under the arms to end up facing outwards with hands still joined. This simple synchronous tradition echoes the great meaning captured in Auld Lang Syne and signifies looking inwards and remembering the past with auld acquaintances, and then turning to also look outwards, to the future, with those self-same auld acquaintances by one's side. A very pretty custom that should be honoured in its own right...

As well as celebrating the New Year, Auld Lang Syne, by extension, is now also very widely used to symbolise other "endings/new beginnings" - including farewells, funerals, graduations, the end of a (non-New Year) party or a Boy Scout gathering, and even the closing of a retail store. We would expect no less than such a pervasive popularity. For the commonality of Auld Lang Syne's use is due, no doubt, to the meaning it conveys about endings to these other occasions and about the concept of remembering "long long ago", "days of long ago" and the "olden days" or for celebrating the future "for old times' sake". Modern-day expressions such as "to the (good) old days" and "to days (or times) gone by", in common use as toasts, and the accompanying raising and clinking of glasses to drink to one another's health are fitting celebratory tributes that capture the spirit of "for auld lang syne". And so, as we reflect on the history of Auld Lang Syne, let us remember all those times we have heard and participated in singing this song. And then mentally turn, to look to the future and make a pledge to join in, to be involved and to create memories with auld acquaintances and new. So that when next we hear this song, we can raise our glasses, and our voices, and have new and wonderful memories to think about! May it be a good year...

IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

FRED CSAR

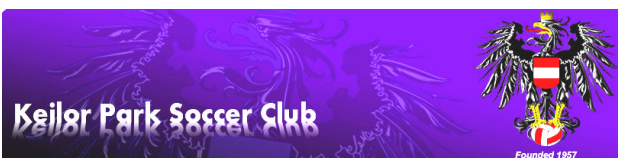


Many a person from our Austrian Community looks back to the early days of our Club; the committed, oft difficult building up and the insistent tenacity of the many who, back then over the years and also today, devotedly give their all for the Austrian Club and its welfare. The mutually gained achievement serves to mirror the joy of success, of having realised the dream of creating a little piece of "back home" right here in Australia. It is the lovely moments, the celebrations with family and friends, cheerful evenings, a girl or a boy to fall in love with, cheeky pranks, or pure and simply our much-famed "Gemütlichkeit" and our cohesive team-spirit which remain indelibly in our memories. Such a lovely moment from long, long ago is still vividly alive in Fred Csar's memory. He celebrated his first New Years' Eve in Australia with friends from back home. It was 1961, in the early years of our Club history, and took place in Prahran. Although the occasion was not as lively as it would be in later years, with music and dances, it was nonetheless the experience of community that was very pleasant and formed the way for the future.

Earlier that year Fred had left his home village of Bocksdorf in the south of Burgenland, to find his luck in Australia. After an initial time in Bonegilla he took up residence in Melbourne. To his great joy he found the Elwood-Austria Soccer Club there and immediately became an active member, for the enthusiastic soccer fan from Austria had missed his beloved soccer greatly. Life in a strange land suddenly became much nicer and more meaningful. It was here in the soccer league that Fred also found his wife, who was just as enthused by the sport as he himself was. She was a German, displaced from Warsaw during the war and who, in the end, found her life path here in Australia. Two daughters enriched their married life. Later one of their daughters danced in Ignaz Martinu's Edelweiss Dance Group for 5 - 6 years and Fred was happy that the interest in the Club and the Austrian culture was propagated. Fred's hobby, his love for soccer, stayed a major part of his life. Fred loved the years spent in the Elwood-Austria Soccer

Club, which then changed into the Keilor-Austria Soccer Club and lastly morphed into the Keilor Park Soccer Club. Not only was he President for seven

years, he also spent further years as secretary of the soccer league, worked together with Mr Zambelli to build up the Club and is proud that the Club can boast 28 teams today. Though Austria is no longer reflected in the title, the Austrian influence is still very clearly evident. For a logo can underline the meaning of a name, or point to the origin of an enterprise and in the case of the Soccer Club the logo - the Austrian eagle as emblem with a soccer ball in its claws (rather than a scythe) - emphasises a particularly marked connection to Austria. It is used on the printed letterhead, which itself is boldly Austrian-allied, and the players still wear the colours of the Viennese Soccer Team, violet and



Manch einer aus unserer Österreichischen Gemeinschaft blickt zurück in das frühe Beginnen unseres Klubs; dem engagierten, oft harten Aufbau und der beharrlichen Ausdauer vieler die damals, über die Jahre hinweg, sowie auch heute hingebungsvoll ihre ganze Kraft für den Österreichischen Klub und dessen Wohlergehen geben. Diese gemeinsamen erfolgreichen Aufgaben spiegeln aber auch die Freude des Gelingens wieder, ein kleines Stückchen Österreichische Heimat in Australien zu verwirklichen. Schöne Momente,

Feiern mit Familie und Freunden, lustige Abende, ein Mädels oder ein fiescher Bua zum Verlieben, freche Streiche oder ganz einfach unsere vielberühmte Gemütlichkeit und unser Zusammenhalten, bleiben unauslöschbar in der Erinnerung. Solch ein schöner Moment vor langer Zeit ist noch immer recht lebendig in Fred Csar's Erinnerung. Er feierte seinen ersten Neujahrs Abend in Australien mit Freunden aus der Heimat. Es war 1961, in den frühen Jahren unserer Klubgeschichte, und fand in Prahran statt. Es war zwar nicht so lebhaft wie es zu späterer Zeit mit Musik und Tanz wurde, aber das Erlebnis der Gemeinschaft war sehr schön und bildete den Weg für die Zukunft.

In 1961 verließ Fred sein Heimatstädtchen Bocksdorf im süden Burgenlandes, um in Australien sein Glück zu finden. Nach anfänglicher Zeit in Bonegilla ließ er sich dann in Melbourne nieder. Zu seiner großen Freude fand er hier den Elwood-Austria Soccer Club. Er wurde sofort ein aktives Mitglied, denn daß Fußballspiel fehlte dem begeisterten Fußballfan aus Österreich sehr. Das Leben im fremden Land war plötzlich bedeutend schöner und sinnvoller geworden. Hier im Fußballverein fand Fred auch seine Frau, die vom Fußballsport ebenso begeistert war wie er selbst. Sie war Deutsche, in den Kriegszeiten heimatvertrieben aus Warschau, und fand letztlich ihren Lebensweg hier in Australien. Zwei Mädchen bereicherten ihre Ehe. Zu späterer Zeit tanzte eine Tochter 5 - 6 Jahre lang in Ignaz Martinu's Edelweiss Tanzgruppe und Fred freute sich daß die Interesse am Klub und an der Österreichischen Kultur sich fortsetzte. Fred's Hobby, seine Begeisterung für Fußball, blieb ein großer Teil seines Lebens. Fred liebte die Jahre im Elwood-Austria Soccer Club, der sich dann in den Keilor-Austria Soccer

Club und letztlich in den Keilor Park Soccer Club wandelte. Er war nicht nur für sieben Jahre Präsident, sondern weitere Jahre Sekretär des Fußballvereins, arbeitete zusammen

mit Herrn Zambelli am Aufbau des Klubs und ist stolz daß der Klub heute 28 Teams verzeichnen kann. Obwohl Austria heute nicht mehr im Titel steht, ist der Österreichische Einfluß immer noch deutlich vorhanden. Denn ein Logo kann die Bedeutung des Namens unterstreichen oder auf die Herkunft des Unternehmens hinweisen und im Falle des Soccer Klubs hebt das Logo - der Österreichische Adler als Emblem mit Fußball in der Krallen (statt Sichel) - die Verbindung zu Österreich besonders hervor. Es wird am gedruckten Briefkopf verwendet, der gedruckte Briefkopf selbst ist auffallend Österreich-verbündet, und die Spieler tragen noch heute die Wiener Fußball Mannschaftsfarben, violett und weiss, mit Adler Logo am Hemd. Kein Wunder daß der junge

IN THE SPOTLIGHT continued on page 7

white, with the eagle logo on their shirts. No wonder then that the young, enthusiastic soccer player of those days is, after all those years, justifiably pleased with today's success. He managed to forge a homely identity with success and is totally proud of it.

It was during training at the Soccer Club, in that early year of 1961 that Fred made the acquaintance of Ignaz Martinu, who enthusiastically told him about the Austrian Club. And thus it was that Fred then experienced that aforesaid first New Years' eve in the circle of new friends from back home, followed later by many happy evenings in the Brunswick St Fitzroy Club and in our current Clubhouse in Heidelberg. To this day Fred is thankful for the friendship that Ignaz Martinu, Ted Erlenwein, Karl Wirth and other friends extended to him in the early years here in Melbourne. They all helped him to acclimatise, to settle in and to feel at home in this land. Fred reciprocated, always maintaining the camaraderie and connection to the Austrian Club. Just as his great sports love was

afforded to soccer, so the Austrian Club was the total centre of his social life. And in this sense Fred was willing, through all those years, to give up his spare time at any time for the good of the Austrian Club and was, from the start, an active member of the Club, as well as a Foundation and Life member thereof.

There was always something there for him to do. For many years Fred helped at the Melbourne Oktoberfest. A consistent presence at the Showgrounds, he was always there for 4 - 5 days at a time, to help with the setting up of the Hall, the festival itself and then afterwards with the cleaning and dismantling. Today we also often see Fred in the Club. He loves the personal contact with people and likes to work on the door, greeting his countrymen and visitors and escorting them to their places. He works in the Hall, clearing glasses and dishes. Yet Fred is consistently helpful behind the scenes too. Many a work waits for his assistance - whether that be the decoration of the hall, preparing tables for Festivals or some other "hole to fill". Mention "Can you help us today?" and Fred is always there.

Last year his home village, Bocksdorf, celebrated 600 years of existence and Fred made the voyage back home. He felt it was a particular privilege to be present. Fred could trace the history and ancestry of the Csar family name back 150 years. He still remembers his great grandfather, who was 102 years old. Above the doorway of the house in which Fred was born one can still make out the word "Csar" written in Hungarian lettering. It was very touching and a wonderful trip down memory lane. In connection with Hungary Fred thinks often,



Mein Klub
 Meine Loyalität
 Meine Heimat

begeisterte Fußballer von damals sich, nach all den Jahren, über den Erfolg von heute freut. Er hat eine heimatliche Identität erfolgreich gefördert und ist total stolz darauf.

Im Fußballverein lernte Fred schon 1961 Ignaz Martinu kennen, der ihm enthusiastisch vom Österreichischen Klub erzählte. Und so erlebte Fred dann die bewußte erste Silvesternacht im Kreis neuer Freunde aus der Heimat, sowie später viele fröhliche Abende im Brunswick St Fitzroy Klub und unserem jetzigen Klubgebäude in Heidelberg. Noch heute ist Fred dankbar für die Freundschaft, die Ignaz Martinu, Ted Erlenwein, Karl Wirth und andere Freunde ihm, in den frühen Jahren hier in Melbourne, zeigten. Sie alle halfen ihm sich hier einzubürgern, einzugewöhnen und sich in diesem Land wohl zu fühlen. Fred revanchierte sich indem er die Kameradschaft und Bindung zum Österreichischen Klub immer aufrecht erhielt. Genau wie seine große sportliche Liebe dem Soccer Club gewährte, so war der Österreichische Klub der totale Mittelpunkt seines gesellschaftlichen

Lebens. Und in diesem Sinne war Fred, all die Jahre, jederzeit bereit seine Freizeit für das Wohl des Österreichischen Klubs zu geben und war vom Anfang an ein aktives Mitglied des Klubs, sowohl auch Foundation und Life Member.

Es war immer eine Beschäftigung für ihn da. Viele Jahre half Fred beim Melbournen Oktoberfest. Beständig war er 4 - 5 Tage nacheinander im Showground und half beim Aufbauen, beim Fest, der anschließenden Säuberung und dem Abbau. Auch heute sehen wir Fred oft im Klub. Er liebt den persönlichen Kontakt mit Leuten und ist gern an der Tür, begrüßt Landsleute und Besucher und bringt sie zu ihren Plätzen, oder er arbeitet in der Halle und räumt Gläser und Geschirr ab. Jedoch ist Fred auch hinter den Kulissen stets hilfsbereit. Manch eine Arbeit wartet auf seine Hilfe - ob daß nun die Dekoration der Halle ist, Tische für Feste bereitzustellen oder sonst irgend eine "Lücke zu stopfen"... Dem Wunsch "Kannst Du uns heute helfen?" kommt er jederzeit gerne nach.

Letztes Jahr feierte sein Heimatdorf, Bocksdorf, sein 600 jähriges Bestehen und Fred machte sich auf die Reise in seine Heimat. Er fand es als eine besondere Ehre mit dabei zu sein. Fred konnte die Csar Familiengeschichte 150 Jahre zurückverfolgen und kann sich noch an seinen Urgroßvater erinnern, der 102 Jahre alt wurde. Über dem Eingang von Fred's Geburtshaus konnte man noch die Buchstaben "Csar" in Ungarisch sehen. Es war recht ergreifend, und eine wunderschöne Reise in die Vergangenheit. Im Zusammenhang mit Ungarn denkt Fred gerne und mit höchstem Respekt an den früheren Präsidenten Zoltan Tuz. Zoltan Tuz war ebenfalls





Remembering: Krampus Saturday Eve



These pics kept warm for you - from last issue...

and with the highest respect, about past President Zoltan Tuz. Zoltan Tuz was similarly of Hungarian descent and generously shared his brilliant wisdom with everybody. Today Fred looks back on the many years of Club history and shares our common consent that the younger generation needs to take up the reins soon, to continue to maintain the Club. Fred's grandchildren have made a good start and are involved in preserving a super traditional show. Have a guess who the two new Krampuses might be, who are not afraid of the long trip to the Club...

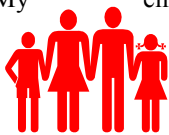
Fred's wish for the Club is that it shall "exist for a long, long time" and he modestly adds "I love the Club now, just as I did in 1961. It is the centre of my social life. The Austrian style, the ambience of our Club is fantastic, there's nowhere else like it. Every moment in our Club is a joy and a pleasure. I speak anywhere for the Club and happily and wholeheartedly devote myself to it. My Club - My Loyalty - My Home."

Ungarischer Abstammung und teilte großzügig sein geniales Wissen mit jedermann. Heute blickt Fred auf viele Jahre der Klubgeschichte zurück und er ist mit uns allen der Meinung, daß die junge Generation bald zusteuern sollte um den Klub weiterhin zu erhalten. Fred's Enkelkinder machen einen guten Anfang und sind dabei eine prima traditionelle Show zu bewahren. Ratet mal wer die zwei neuen Krampuse sind, die den langen Weg zum Klub nicht scheuen...

Fred's Wunsch für den Klub ist "daß er weiterhin noch lange, lange existiert" und er sagt bescheiden "Ich liebe den Klub jetzt, genau wie damals in 1961. Er ist der Mittelpunkt meines gesellschaftlichen Lebens. Der Österreichische Stil sowie die Gemütlichkeit ist hier im Klub fantastisch und ist woanders einfach nicht zu finden. Jeder Moment in unserem Klub ist ein Vergnügen und eine wahre Freude. Ich laß dies fortwährend jedem wissen und setze mich gerne und überall für den Klub ein. Mein Klub - Meine Loyalität - Meine Heimat."

Without Prejudice

Look forward to next month's SPOTLIGHT



Without Prejudice

Freut Euch auf das SPOTLIGHT im nächsten Monat

Joining In Your Club

"In the Club, With the Club and For the Club - My Loyalty was always there..."

SWISS festival

Swiss Festival 2010

Austrian Club, 76-90 Sheehan Road

Heidelberg West, Victoria

Sunday 21st March 2010 11am - 4pm



We celebrate Swiss culture and folklore at its best with modern and traditional music, dance and yodelling. The ever popular Trachtengruppe Schwyzerguess and Yodel Choir Matterhorn will perform as well as many other attractions. Swiss delights, beverages and a range of products will be available for sale from all regions across Switzerland. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the activities and entertainment offered on the day. Children can enjoy a jumping castle and a mini farm with a milking cow. For adults demonstrations of typical Swiss skills and customs will be on show. For more information visit www.swissfestival.com.au



Swiss Festival Committee — Swiss Club of Victoria — 89 Flinders Lane — Melbourne VIC 3000 — ABN 80 004 315 324

"LAWNMOWER BANDIT" RIDES SOUTH!

Our well-known and much loved "Lawnmower Bandit", Arthur Loughridge, has recently retired from his position as the Austrian Club Melbourne's "Keeper of the Greens" and one of his first escapades as a free man was his Austrian Club To Antarctica adventure. Here we find out a little more about the man and the marvellous ride south.

Arthur and Pat Loughridge first became aware of the Austrian Club Melbourne in the mid eighties, when the newly erected Clubhouse building in Heidelberg stood proudly on a still sparsely vegetated block of land. The trees were small slips that struggled to prove themselves in the dry parched earth, but what did thrive were the grasses and weeds a veritable jungle!

The friendliness and approachability of the members and guests immediately enticed Pat and Arthur to become members of our Club. And some time later the then Vice-President Sigi Hojer, on becoming aware that Arthur had recently retired from the workforce, seized the opportunity and bade Arthur to look after our lawns and grounds. That was nearly twenty years ago. Arthur recalls with a laugh that at that time there was a fence which ran behind the Stockshooters shed, and how surprised he personally was at how much land was hidden behind the weeds growing up and along this fence.

History goes on to tell that whilst Arthur remained true to his vocation as Keeper of our Greens, and diligently mowed our lawns month in and month out, other commitments interfered with the time and possibility he and his wife had to attend the Club and so, at some stage, their membership lapsed. Life sometimes goes that way. It's natural for things to come up and we must make decisions as to what road to take.

Yet what remained fixed was Arthur's unswaying commitment to be part of this community and to help out in his way by taking care of our lawns. And for this we sincerely thank him. In fact, it was our appreciation that meant so much to Arthur. The fact that everybody had a kind word to say. And whilst Arthur stresses that he was not out for praise, he does go on to say that recognition gives you a warm fuzzy feeling it makes you feel good when people notice and compliment you on your efforts. I'm sure we can all identify with this sentiment...

2010 marked the beginning of a new era for Arthur in many ways. It was now time for him to savour his time in the sun and to pass the ball to the next generation of Austrian Club Melbourne Greenkeeper. Personally, 2010 also marked the living of a marvellous Austrian Club to Antarctica adventure for Arthur and Pat, who were among one of the first people on the planet to witness the dawn of 2010 - for daylight breaks first in Antarctica.

This experience-of-a-lifetime had its beginnings much earlier than New Years Eve though, actually as far back as February 2009. The family had decided to spoil Arthur with a New Years Eve flight to Antarctica for his 80th birthday and, in this early stage of the year, quickly purchased the rare and highly sought after only-one-flight-a-



year tickets, before the high demand caused them to be sold out. The tickets were duly presented to Arthur at his 80th birthday celebrations in the Austrian Club later that year. A new digital camera at Christmas time heightened the anticipation and, at 5pm on New Years' Eve 2009, Arthur and Pat finally boarded the "A380" machine with 450 people on board.

Although officially deemed a domestic flight, the A380 and its 450 passengers had to leave from the international terminal as a result of this metal bird's large size. A jazz band, bar service, full meals, and twenty four hours of daylight expected the excited participants. They were not disappointed. The sheer magnitude of Antarctica, its pristine beauty and

sparkling brilliance was breathtaking. And as the experienced pilot (it was his 14th flight to Antarctica) looped across the expanse of blue and white ice, sometimes dropping as low as 6000 feet for a closer look, Arthur took in the mountains, peaks and troughs, and the sheer cliff-face drops of the Antarctic Shelf from above and pondered upon how he (at school) had not even known the Antarctic Shelf was there and how now there were so many nations interested in it!

Not just nations, but media and university professors too. And so, apart from the usual bevy of TV and newspaper reporters keen to take footage (as expected) of the first dawn in 2010, Arthur was enthralled to discover that among the passengers there was a glaciologist who had been to Antarctica 40 times or more. This learned one had worked in the region for years, studying the glaciers, and was investigating glacial melt. A little known fact discerned from this glaciologist centres around the size of Antarctica in summer it is the sum of the size of Australia and an additional state of Western Australia, and in winter Antarctica's size doubles. That's quite a sizeable chunk of ice regardless of what time of the year we are speaking about! "But what about melt?" you might be thinking. Quite right. Commentary about the glacial melt confirmed this phenomena is happening, but that its rate is much less than the media generally emphasises. In other words it is melting slowly, so slowly that complete dissolution of the Shelf will not happen in our lifetime. But it is melting. And thus we should contemplate measures to try to slow or even avoid such a catastrophe. It would be a shame to lose such an attractive wilderness.

And so, at 6am on New Years Day, Pat and Arthur returned to Australia, tired but also awed at what they had seen. An evolving, most amazingly beautiful, pure landscape where, in the words of the glaciologist, "there's always something new to see no matter how many times you've been here before". The privileged pair are currently diligently sorting through photos, to share with us in future. We look forward to seeing those magnificent happy snaps of the Lawnmowing Bandit's ride south!!!

Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement Arthur and thanks once again for your contributions to our Club over the years...



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NEWS & NOTICES

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

We warmly welcome two new members to the Austrian Club:

- Mr Phil Watkins
- Mrs Julie Watkins
- Dean Fleischer

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND GET WELL WISHES

Congratulations to Club Members celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries. Our best wishes also, to all persons who are recovering from operations or who are struggling with health problems.

ADMISSION CHARGE CHANGES

Commencing January 2010, an entry charge of \$5 applies for non-members attending regular Saturday Night Functions marked as "Standard Entry". There will be no charge for Members (remember to bring your Membership Cards) or for children 12 years and under, who will also be admitted free of charge. This is the same as for Sunday Functions marked as "Standard Entry", which has been applicable since 1st July 2009. Please note that "Special Function" prices apply as usual.

BISTRO CHANGE OF HOURS

On Saturday the kitchen closes at 9:30pm. Main Meals are served from 6:30 - 9:00pm. If Frankfurts are required, they may be ordered until 9:00pm. This enables Bistro staff to accommodate your requests before 9:30pm, when everything is turned off and Bistro staff leave for the evening. On Sunday the kitchen will serve Main Meals from 11:30 - 3:30pm. Light snacks such as Frankfurts, Goulasch Soup or Filled Rolls can be ordered from 3:30 - 5:00pm. Please communicate this information to your fellow members and guests.

CREDIT CARD SURCHARGE

Purchases made with credit cards attract a surcharge of 3%, with the exception of Diners Cards which attract a surcharge of 4.5%. This information is displayed in several places within the Club. It is also displayed on the menu.

Beverly Griesmayr
Hon. Club Secretary & Membership Secretary

CLUB RULES

Please note:

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

Bitte beachten Sie:

Speisen und Getränke können nicht mit in den Klub gebracht werden.

NACHRUF - VALE



It is with regret that we advise the death of Mrs. Maria Pillwein on Sunday 21st February 2010. Maria came out from Austria with Mira Schellander and the two were like sisters. Maria worked in the Club quite a lot. In her last working years she worked at the front desk or on the kitchen till. She will be missed.



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ENTERTAINMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY RETROSPECTIVE

There were two main highlights entertainment-wise at the Austrian Club since the beginning of the year:

The first performance of "I. C. Rock" (and yes, I. C. Rock, you see rock, we all saw I. C. Rock and loved it they were something different and totally toe-tappingly catchy!)

The return of "Scorpio Duo" the twosome with a wonderful zing (not sting!) to their melodies

FORWARD REVIEW

Here are some important dates to pencil into your diaries:

- Autumn Festival - Sunday 14th March.
- Swiss Festival - Sunday 21st March.
- Easter - Sunday 4th April.
- Austrian Club 66th Anniversary - Saturday 10th April
- Hungarian Night - Saturday 15th May
- Please refer to our Program on the back page for other functions in March and April 2010

And some long-range super special important dates where European Bands will perform in our Club:

- "Köhne Quartet" - Friday 18th June.
- Slovenian Group "Vagabunds" - Sunday 24th October
- "Die Schmalzler vom Bayrischen Wald" - Saturday 13th November

AUTUMN FESTIVAL - HERBSTFEST

The Autumn Festival (Herbstfest) will be held on Sunday 14th March, commencing at 11:00am. We were very fortunate to receive a small grant from the Victorian Multicultural Commission towards the expenses associated with the organisation of the festival. The fact that the event falls within "Cultural Diversity Week" gives us the advantage of advertising by the VMC and some additional promotional material. Applying for VMC grants is time consuming, but we now see that it is rewarding also. Volunteers for the Autumn Festival are warmly welcomed. Each year, due to age or illness, we seem to be down a little more on numbers.

If you can help, please let me know (Beverly Griesmayr - Ph: 9459 8686).

SWISS FESTIVAL

The week after our Autumn Festival, the Swiss Club will hold their own festival in our garden area. We hope both events have good weather conditions.

WOW EUROPEAN BANDS!

- what a super year coming up! We have secured three groups from Europe to perform in the Club during 2010. More definite details will be advised at a later date. In the meantime insert these dates into your calendar:

KÖHNE QUARTET

Playing at our Club on **Friday evening, 18th June 2010**, the Köhne Quartett's exact musical offering is yet to be finalised. However we can expect the format to basically encompass three styles - classical; Viennese waltzes and polkas and then a more contemporary Austrian repertoire to close. This group will also perform at the Woodend Winter Arts Festival. Visit their website: www.koehnequartet.com to find out more about this distinguished foursome!

VAGABUNDS

The Slovenian Group Vagabunds, or Vagabundi Slovenija as they are affectionately known in their home tongue, will be visiting our Club on **Sunday, 24th October 2010**. This group has been on the Slovenian music stage for 15 years. During that time they have played for the Vienna Government; performed at a consular ball in the U.S; and were probably the first band in history to make the Great Wall of China reverberate with the famous polka "Na Golici" by Slavko Avsenik. Music styles vary tremendously, with everything from folk, dixi and rock to the likes of country, James Last and Glen Miller...

DIE SCHMALZLER VOM BAYERISCHEN WALD

A' volkstümlicher Volltreffer! On **Saturday, 13th November 2010**, Die Schmalzler from the Bavarian Forest will be in the Club and we can hardly wait, we're that excited. With performances in the Grand Prix Sieger with Marc Pircher; with Marianne u. Michael in Krakau; with Andy Borg in the Grand Prix der Volksmusik in Rust; the 20th Kastelruther Spatzen Fest; and with many more high-profile gigs to their name that they could boast about, the Schmalzler are guaranteed to be spectacular. We are thrilled to host them in our Club and thank Sepp Schauer who, on behalf of the Austrian Associations of Australia, arranged their visit. For a small taste of Schmalzler-mania, check out their website: www.schmalzler.de

We can only recommend one thing for our European star nights:

Book early, to ensure you don't miss out!



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Hours

10:00am – 3:00pm Wednesday to Friday
5:00pm – 8:00pm Saturday
11:00am – 6:00pm Sunday

Bistro Open - Lunch / Dinner

11:30am – 2:00pm Thursday & Friday (Lunch)
6:30pm – 9:00pm Saturday (Dinner – Main Meals)
6:30pm – 9:00pm Saturday (Dinner – Snacks)
after 9:30pm Kitchen closed Saturday
11:30am – 3:30pm Sunday (Lunch – Main Meals)
11:30am – 5:00pm Sunday (Lunch - Snacks)
after 5:00pm Kitchen closed Sunday

SATURDAYS AT THE CLUB

Saturdays at the Club are our most flexible function nights and offer everything from a party atmosphere to a gala ball, or that quiet night out for a lovely dinner. In fact, Saturday is the only day of the week that the Club offers a full Evening Dinner session, with Main meals served from 6:30pm 9:00pm. Frankfurts may be ordered right up until 9:00pm, and will be served before the Bistro fully closes for the evening at 9:30pm. For entertainment CD background music is played from 6:30pm, with the live band kicking off at 7:30pm and playing through until midnight or, for special occasions, occasionally till 1:00am. Due to the large variety of functions held on Saturday nights, it is advisable to make enquiries beforehand and secure a reservation. Table reservations made for the Main Hall for Saturday night will under no circumstances remain reserved after 7:30pm. If for some reason you are delayed, please telephone the Club on 9459-8686. On regular Saturdays Members are admitted free upon showing their valid Membership Card, for Guests there is a \$5 cover charge. Children 12 years and under will be admitted free of charge. Please refer to the Entertainment Program on the back page of this Newsletter, and to our website, for specific details.

SUNDAYS AT THE CLUB

Sundays at the Club offer a great afternoon for the whole family, with live musicians providing entertainment for your enjoyment. The Club and its facilities are open from 11:30am, with entertainment commencing at 1:00pm. On regular Sundays Members are admitted free upon showing their valid Membership Card, for Guests there is a \$5 cover charge. Children 12 years and under will be admitted free of charge. Please refer to the Entertainment Program on the back page of this Newsletter, and to our website, for specific details. On Sunday afternoon table reservations will only be acknowledged until 1:00pm.

PLANNING A PARTY?

Admission fee discounts may apply for Non-member guests when planning a party with more than 20 persons and where the persons in this party will all enjoy meals, coffee and cake etc. For more information speak with Beverly Griesmayr, or the Committee Member on Duty.



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

Österreichische Stunde

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| Montag | 15 - 16 Uhr |
| Donnerstag | 12 - 13 Uhr |
| Freitag | 19 - 20 Uhr |

ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

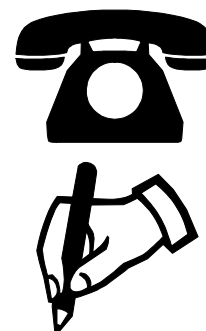
Why not visit the Club and experience Austrian "Gemütlichkeit".

For all Enquiries & Bookings:
Telephone 9459-8686 during the above office hours

Or find out more information and details about future entertainment on our web site:

www.austrianclubmelbourne.com.au

*Hon. Entertainment Co-ordinators
Otto & Beverly Griesmayr*



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WORDS OF WISDOM

"Choices"

A tale about team spirit, joining in and being involved

Here's a little something to think about. Put yourselves in the shoes of the characters of this tale. What would you do? You make the choice! The question is: "Would you have made the same choice?"

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves learning disabled children, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question: "When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?"

The audience was stilled by the query. The father continued. "I believe that when a child like Shay, physically and mentally handicapped, comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes in the way other people treat that child." Then he told the following story:

Shay and his father had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they'll let me play?" Shay's father knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but the father also understood that if his son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by others in spite of his handicaps.

Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked if Shay could play, not expecting much. The boy looked around for guidance and a few boys nodded approval, why not? So the boy took matters into his own hands and said, "We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning." Shay struggled over to the team's bench, put on a team shirt with a broad smile, and his Father had a small tear in his eye and warmth in his heart. The boys saw the father's joy at his son being accepted.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs, but was still behind by three.

In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the right field. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat. At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game?

Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible 'cause Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball. However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing the other team putting winning aside for this moment in Shay's life, moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least be able to make contact. The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay - as the pitch came in Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher. The game would now be over...

The pitcher picked up the soft grounder. Although he could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman, he knew this meant that Shay would have been out, and that would have been the end of the game. Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right over the head of the first baseman, out of reach of all team mates. Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling, "Shay, run to first! Run to first!" Never in his life had Shay ever ran that far but he made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled. Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second!" Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran towards second, gleaming and struggling to make it to second base.

By the time Shay rounded towards second base, the right fielder had the ball, the smallest guy on their team, who had a chance to be the hero for his team for the first time. He could have thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions and he too intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head. Shay ran toward third base deliriously, as the runners ahead of him circled the bases toward home. All were screaming, "Shay, Shay, Shay, all the way Shay"...

Shay reached third base, the opposing shortstop ran to help him and turned him in the direction of third base, shouting, "Run to third! Shay, run to third." As Shay rounded third, the boys from both

teams and those watching were on their feet were screaming, "Shay, run home!" Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the "grand slam" and won the game for his team. "That day," said the father softly, with tears now rolling down his face "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world."

Shay didn't make it to another summer and died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero, making his Father so happy and coming home and seeing his Mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day.

Now back to the questions we posed before this tale was told. What would you have done? Would you have made the same choice? When you really stop to think about it, so many seemingly trivial interactions between two people present us with a choice that has a large ripple effect on our family, our friends, our community and all those around us. Do we pass along a little spark of love and humanity? Or do we pass up that opportunity to brighten the day of those with us, who are the least able, and leave the world a little bit colder in the process?

It's simple really. It's the fact that we all can make a difference. Not just where the physically and mentally handicapped are concerned, but in all spheres of life. We all have thousands of opportunities every single day to help realize the "natural order of things." It's really just a life choice. To chose decency and compassion. To share what you have an abundance of. To join in and be involved with others. And to foster a team spirit. Something we can all do, in our own special way.

We hope that this story inspires you to pass on the spark of humanity, to share your talents and skills, your time and your friendship with all around you. Perhaps just by sharing a smile with a stranger. Perhaps by listening when somebody needs you to lend an understanding ear. Or perhaps you are able to contribute a little more and can spare the time to volunteer for your community and your Club. Join in, get involved and let the team spirit make your days sunny and bright, today & always!

Thanks Irene Bengough for your email contribution



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GREAT MOMENTS IN A TAXI

I arrived at the address where someone had requested a taxi. I honked but no one came out. I honked again, nothing. So I walked to the door and knocked. "Just a minute", answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 90's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knick-knacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware. "Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said.

I took the suitcase to the cab, and then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness. "It's nothing", I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated". "Oh, you're such a good boy", she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address, and then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?" "It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly. "Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice".

I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left," she continued. "The doctor says I don't have very long." I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?" I asked. For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighbourhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing. As the first hint of sun was creasing the

horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair. "How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse. "Nothing," I said. "You have to make a living," she answered. "There are other passengers," I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you."

I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life. I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away? On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life.

We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware - beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one. I guess the message is small and simple, that: "People may not remember exactly what you did, or what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel."

Wishing you many great "beautiful small" moments in the month ahead.

Ruth Decker



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Web: www.austrianclubmelbourne.com.au

Email: ausclub@bigpond.net.au

March 2010

Saturday 6th **Rene** *** Standard Entry ***
Bua vom Ottakring **Music & Dance**

Sunday 7th **Scorpio Duo** *** Standard Entry ***
Italian Surprise **Music & Dance**

Saturday 13rd **Marianne & Mimmo** *** Standard Entry ***
Our favourite M&M **Music & Dance**

Sunday 14th **Autumn Festival**
Silver Echoes - in Main Hall - music & dance
Rene & David - on Garden Stage - music & dance

Entertainment: **Oberbayern Dance Group**
Huge Entertainment program for the whole family.
Hot food stalls, cold drinks, coffee & cake, craft stalls and entertainment for the children in the garden.



'Ruccis' Circus
Kartoffel Puffers Schreck Jumping Castle
Würstl (Sausages) in Rolls Fairy Floss Machine
Leberkäse Ice-cream
Potato Salad Children's Free Face Painting
Coffee & Cake Innovative Balloons

Admission: \$3 - Children under 12 are free

Saturday 20th **Silver Echoes** *** Standard Entry ***
Musical Love is in the Air **Music & Dance**

Sunday 21st **Swiss Festival** *** FREE Entry ***
Silver Echoes - in Main Hall - music & dance
Swiss Band - in Garden - music & dance

Swiss Traditional Folk Music at its best:
with music, dance and Yodel

Entertainment and displays in Garden
Traditional Swiss delights
Beverages from all four Jumping Castle
linguistic corners of Mini Farm with cows
Switzerland Demonstrations of Swiss skills

Saturday 27th **John Wanner Swing Orchestra** **Music & Dance**

Fabulous and powerful 18 piece orchestra and vocalists.
Big Band Swing Orchestra

Admission Cost: Members \$12
Guests \$17

Bookings are strongly encouraged

Sunday 28th **Continental Trio** *** Standard Entry ***
Slovenia, Germany and Austria together **Music & Dance**

April 2010

Saturday 3rd **Rene** *** Standard Entry ***
Bua vom Ottakring **Music & Dance**

Sunday 4th **Easter Sunday** *** Standard Entry ***
with Scorpio Duo **Music & Dance**
Italian Surprise
Easter Egg hunt for the children.

Saturday 10th **Austrian Club 66th Anniversary**
with Alpine Cocktail

Special Floorshow - Ballroom Dancers
Admission Cost: Members - \$ Standard Entry
Guests \$10

Sunday 11th **Robert Stolz Society** Artists
Bookings only through the R.S. Society
Bookings are essential - (Telephone: 9457 6449)

Saturday 17th **Silver Echoes** *** Standard Entry ***
Musical Love is in the Air **Music & Dance**

Sunday 18th **Marianne & Mimmo** *** Standard Entry ***
Our favourite M&M **Music & Dance**

Saturday 24th **Silver Echoes** *** Standard Entry ***
Musical Love is in the Air **Music & Dance**

Sunday 25th **Scorpio Duo** *** Standard Entry ***
Popular and Precise **Music & Dance**

März 2010

Samstag 6. **Rene** ** Standard Eintritt**
Bua vom Ottakring **Musik & Tanz**

Sonntag 7. **Scorpio Duo** ** Standard Eintritt**
Italian Surprise **Musik & Tanz**

Samstag 13. **Marianne & Mimmo** ** Standard Eintritt**
Our favourite M&M **Musik & Tanz**

Sonntag 14. **Herbstfest**
Silver Echoes - in der Haupt Halle - Musik & Tanz
Rene & David - im Garten - Musik & Tanz

Unterhaltung: **Oberbayern Schuhplattler**
Großes Unterhaltungsprogramm für die ganze Familie.
Markt & Imbißstände, Bar, Kaffee & Kuchen im Garten. Besondere Unterhaltung für Kinder im Garten.



'Ruccis' Zirkus
Kartoffel Puffer Schreck Jumping Castle
Würstl mit Semmel Zuckerwatte
Leberkäse Eis
Kartoffel Salat Freie Gesichtsmalerei für Kinder
Kaffee & Kuchen Innovative Balloons

Eintritt: \$3 - Kinder unter 12 sind frei

Samstag 20. **Silver Echoes** ** Standard Eintritt**
Musical Love is in the Air **Musik & Tanz**

Sonntag 21. **Schweizer Fest** ** Eintritt FREI **
Silver Echoes - in der Haupt Halle - Musik & Tanz
Swiss Band - im Garten - Musik & Tanz

Schweizer Traditionelle Musik:
mit Musik, Tanz und Jodeln
Unterhaltung und Vorführungen im Garten

Traditionelle Schweizer Delikatessen
Getränke aus allen vier Jumping Castle
Linguistischen Gebieten der Mini Farm mit Kühen
Schweiz Traditionelle Schweizer Kunst

Samstag 27. **John Wanner Swing Orchestra** **Music & Tanz**

Das schwingende fabelhafte und leistungsfähige
Orchester mit 18 Musikanten und Sängern.

Eintritt: Mitglieder \$12
Gäste \$17

Anmeldungen sind sehr empfehlenswert

Sonntag 28. **Continental Trio** ** Standard Eintritt**
Slovenien, Deutschland und Österreich vereint **Musik & Tanz**

April 2010

Samstag 3. **Rene** ** Standard Eintritt**
Bua vom Ottakring **Musik & Tanz**

Sonntag 4. **Oster Sonntag** ** Standard Eintritt**
mit Scorpio Duo **Musik & Tanz**
Italienische Überraschung
Ostereier Suche für alle Kinder.

Samstag 10. **66. Jubiläum d. Österreichischen Klubs**
mit Alpine Cocktail

Besondere Vorführung - Gesellschafts Tänzer
Eintritt: Mitglieder - \$ Standard Eintritt
Gäste \$10

Sonntag 11. **Robert Stolz Society** Artisten
Buchungen nur durch R.S. Society -
(Telefon: 9457 6449)

Samstag 17. **Silver Echoes** ** Standard Eintritt**
Musical Love is in the Air **Musik & Tanz**

Sonntag 18. **Marianne & Mimmo** ** Standard Eintritt**
Our favourite M&M **Musik & Tanz**

Samstag 24. **Silver Echoes** ** Standard Eintritt**
Musical Love is in the Air **Musik & Tanz**

Sonntag 25. **Scorpio Duo** ** Standard Eintritt**
Popular and Precise **Musik & Tanz**