



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY ROME NEWS

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Governor-General of Australia visits Italy

The **Governor-General of Australia, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, and Mr Michael Bryce AM AE**, made an **official visit to Italy** from 31 May to 5 June, visiting **Rome, Sicily, Reggio Emilia, Venice and Piedmont**.

In **Rome**, in recognition of the **150th Anniversary of Italian Unification**, the Governor-General joined world leaders at a military parade on **2 June, Italian Republic Day**, and also called on the **President of the Italian Republic, Mr Giorgio Napolitano**, at the Presidential Palace, the Quirinale.

In **Vatican City**, the Governor-General had an audience with **His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI** who she thanked for the Holy See's generous support for the Queensland flood victims. She also visited the **'Rituals of Life'** exhibition in the Vatican Museums.

In **Rome**, the Governor-General viewed the new pilgrim centre, **Domus Australia**, established by Australian Dioceses to serve Australian and other

visitors to the Vatican.

In **Sicily**, the Governor-General visited the final resting place of 25 RAAF personnel involved in the Allied Forces' campaign in Sicily during World War II and laid a wreath at the **Catania War Cemetery**.

She also met **local representatives and officials** who have links to Australia at an event in **Taormina**. (Article continues on page 2.)

Did you know?

The **Governor-General** is the Queen's representative in Australia, and is also **Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Defence Force**. The Governor-General receives the credentials of **foreign Ambassadors** to accredit them to represent their countries in Australia.

European Training Centre opened in Varese

The **Australian Sports Commission's European Training Centre (ETC)** was officially opened by the **Minister for Sport, Mark Arbib**, on 3 March in Italy.

Senator Arbib and **Australian Olympic Committee President John Coates** were joined by hundreds of Australian and Italian dignitaries and athletes at the opening of the new facility on the shores of picturesque **Lake Varese in Gavirate**. Senator Arbib said the ETC would give some of Australia's key sports a competitive edge. **Olympic cyclist Mick Rogers and Oz Rollers wheelchair basketball captain Brad Ness** were on hand to show their support.

The Australian Government contributed **AUS\$12.5 million** to establish the ETC and the facility is managed and operated by the **Australian Sports Commission**. The facility is available to all elite Australian athletes training or competing in Europe.



Left: The Governor-General meeting President of the Italian Republic Mr Giorgio Napolitano. Centre: Laying a wreath at the Catania War Cemetery. Right: At the reception in Taormina with local Mayors (L-R) Nunzio Li Rosi (Licodia Eubea), Claudio Scavera (Castiglione di Sicilia), Mariano Bruno (Lipari) and Mauro Passalacqua (Taormina).

Governor-General of Australia visits Italy (continued)



Left: Mayor of Reggio Emilia Graziano Delrio presents the Governor-General with the original Tricolore flag. Centre: The Governor-General and Ms Kathy Keele, CEO of the Australia Council, open the Australian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale. Right: Meeting local children in Conzano.

In **Reggio Emilia**, the Governor-General visited the **Tricolore Museum**, which depicts the history and evolution of the Italian flag, and was received by local officials in the **Tricolore Hall**, before visiting **Reggio Children - International Centre for the defence and promotion of the rights and potential of all children**.

In **Venice**, the Governor-General attended a function to thank Italians who assisted with the recent **flood relief effort** in Queensland in particular and officially opened the **Australian Pavilion** at the **Venice Biennale**.

For their final stop in Italy the Governor-General and Mr Michael Bryce celebrated links between **Ingham, Queensland** and the north-west Italian village of **Conzano** in the **Piedmont Region**. Ms Bryce and Mr Bryce were greeted by community celebrations in the village's **Piazza Australia**. Emigrants from the village have travelled to Australia since 1891, with large numbers arriving between World Wars I and II to work in the sugarcane industry.

(Images courtesy of [Government House](#).)

Did you know?

More than **850,000** Australians claim **Italian ancestry**.

A number of Italian cities have sister cities in Australia, such as **Florence** and **Sydney**, **Milan** and **Melbourne**, and **Vasto (Abruzzo)** and **Perth**.

From the Vatican to Orvieto: St Mary MacKillop honoured on the Caritas Express

On 21 May, the historic **Caritas Express**, headed by a vintage steam engine, departed the **Vatican Railway station** for a day trip to **Orvieto**. The event raised awareness of the work of **Caritas Internationalis** and funds for emergency relief around the world.

The heritage **railway carriage dedicated to St Mary MacKillop** performed splendidly as Carriage No 2, attached to the Parlour Car, which itself carried **H.Em. Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga, President of Caritas Internationalis**. **H.Em. Cardinal Lajolo, President of the Governorship**

of the Vatican City State, was on hand to farewell travellers and to celebrate this auspicious event.

“It was the **first steam locomotive** departure from the Vatican **this century** and the largest passenger train ever to use this historic, tiny station that opened in the 1930s,” said HE Tim Fischer, AC, Australian Ambassador to the Holy See. “The MacKillop carriage looked gracious at the platform and the train drew a lot of attention, including **BBC World TV News** coverage.” Ambassador Fischer also said that the Caritas Express project had exceeded expectations as it steamed out of the Pope’s platform at the Vatican on time at 10.00 am. On board were numerous Vatican officials and diplomats,

including Australian Ambassador to Italy, HE David Ritchie, all paying passengers whose ticket monies were **donated to Caritas**. Both Embassies particularly commend the huge efforts made by **Caritas Internationalis** and **Ferrovie dello Stato** in organising this momentous event.



(L-R) H.Em. Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga, H.Em. Cardinal Lajolo and Ambassador Fischer at the Caritas Express.

SA's University City Project

South Australia, as part of its **University City Project**, has given a number of **Italian students** the chance to undertake **research projects** in **Adelaide**, leading to the publication of a series of recent reports, including Sara Benetti and Silvia De Carli's "*Potentialities for Collaboration: An overview of the Research and Development system in South Australia*" and Francesca Spinosi's "*The Australian and South Australian Energy Sector: a particular focus on the Mining Industry and Renewable Energy Sector*". For further information on these and other reports, please write to:

Sasanelli.Nicola@dpc.sa.gov.au.

Cultural Heritage

In March **Sydney** played host to the **Italian-Australian Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Workshop**. Experts debated the use of the latest technologies, especially nuclear-based techniques, in the fields of archaeology, palaeo-anthropology and cultural heritage.

Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei & AAH agreement

Seminars, debates, meetings, joint scientific research and cultural missions, information exchange and grants for students: the agreement signed on 8 June in Rome between the **Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei** and the **Australian Academy of the Humanities (AAH)** is content-rich. The project, which will start in 2012 and last for three years, aims to **enhance the study of humanities**, and the two organisations have agreed to provide study grants so as to enhance cooperation between Italian and Australian researchers.



Representatives of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, AAH and the Australian Embassy Rome, at the signing of the agreement.

Dance, dance, dance!

As sole representatives of Australia, **Emma Sandall** and **Cass Mortimer Eipper** from Perth presented their solo works in the recent **Premio Roma Danza Concorso Internazionale di Coreografia**, both winning prizes for their solos. **Emma** received overall **third prize** in the competition, winning €4,000 and an engagement with the **Fondazione Arena di Verona**, and **Cass** was awarded the special **Fausto Maria Franchi prize for best performance**. Emma and Cass have their own dance company called **Ludwig** which they created in 2009. Their work is recognized for its unique contemporary style which draws on a strong technical foundation and engaging artistry.



Cass Mortimer Eipper performing at the Premio. Photo courtesy of Marco Mancini.

Meanwhile, the first **cultural exchange** between students from **Le Marche** and **Australia** is taking place from **6 to 17 July**, with 59 Australians (including 23 ballet students) spending 10 days in Ascoli Piceno. The students are performing in Ascoli Piceno, San Benedetto del Tronto, Amandola and Comunanza, and are attending daily workshops as part of the international dance festival "**DANZAscoli**".

ANZAC Day 2011

On 25 April, the annual **ANZAC Day commemorative service** was held at the **Rome War Cemetery**. Despite the inclement weather, a considerable crowd of Australian, New Zealand and international citizens was in attendance, together with Ambassadors and Military Attaches from countries that participated in the Gallipoli campaign.

MORQ

In September 2010 the **Italian architectural practice MORQ** won an **international competition** to design the **concourse of the University of Canberra**. MORQ has been active in Australia, with a base in Perth, since 2003 and is currently working on several projects there. MORQ was one of the Italian studios chosen to participate in the "**Architecture Talks**" as part of the **Young Architects Program** run jointly by the **Museum of Modern Art** in **New York** and the **MAXXI Museum** in **Rome**.

Puglia study grants

The **Region of Puglia** has issued an open call for **nine scholarships** (€54,000 each) for **students from Puglia** interested in academic or research experience in **South Australia**. The call is open from 27 May and does not have a deadline, the only condition is that the master program has to be completed within December 2013. [Click here](#) for further information.

Australian Film Week

Australian Film Week, held at the end of March and presented by the **Australian Embassy in Rome** and the **Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia – Scuola Nazionale di Cinema**, in collaboration with the **Nuovo Cinema Aquila**, was a great success. The Film Week's program included presentations by special guests from the film **Bran Nue Dae**, **producer Robyn Kershaw** and **actor Rocky McKenzie**, who travelled from Australia for the event.



Robyn Kershaw and Rocky McKenzie at the opening of Australian Film Week.



The Governor-General with descendants of the Cantamessa family and locals at the unveiling of the plaque to Giuseppe 'Joe' Cantamessa.

Italians in Australia

During the Governor-General's visit to Conzano on 5 June, Ms Bryce unveiled a plaque in honour of **Giuseppe "Joe" Cantamessa**, who migrated from **Conzano** to **Ingham** in far north Queensland in 1907. Cantamessa took up sugar-farming and contributed to its modernisation, thus also helping to reduce deaths among cane cutters. He was a prominent and respected leader, and was often a key contact in the Italian community for the Australian Government. An avenue in **Canberra** is also named after him.

Say again?

Strewth (goodness), it's summer in Italy again! **You little ripper!** (Fantastic!) Happy holidays to all!

David Andersen joins Italian basketball club

David Andersen, one of Australia's leading basketball players and member of the national team, has joined the Siena-based club, **Mens Sana Basket**, on a three-year contract. The club last year won its fourth consecutive Italian championship.

Australians in Italy

Although he was born in Naples, champion swimmer **Massimiliano Rosolino** also has Australian citizenship – his mum Carolyn is Australian, and he lived in Australia when he was a child and also spent time there later in his swimming career. The most successful athlete in the history of Italian swimming, Rosolino won **gold, silver and bronze** at the **Sydney Olympics in 2000**, has been **European champion 14 times**, and boasts an overall count of **60 international medals**.



Italian swimming champion Massimiliano Rosolino. Image from www.massimilianorosolino.com.

Consular Information

All Australians overseas are encouraged to **register with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**. The registration information provided by you will help us to find you in an emergency and to pass other information to you such as new travel advisories, notice of elections and information on other matters relevant to travellers and expatriates. **If you have previously registered, please email the Australian Embassy directly to confirm your registration is still current or to provide any updated contact details (consular-rome@dfat.gov.au).** You can register your presence in Italy or anywhere overseas [here](#) or [here](#).



What's On

14 July - 9 September: **Monash University Prato** in collaboration with **Artegiro** presents "**Portraits in Sculpture - Making Identities between Australia and Italy**" by Artist-in-Residence **Jane Creenaune**.

21 July to 7 August: **Melbourne International Film Festival** – this year celebrating its **60th anniversary**.

Until 28 August: A major **Australian Aboriginal Art Exhibition** is showing in Nuoro (Sardinia).

August: a **workshop on nanophotonics** will be held in **Adelaide** involving experts from **Australia, Italy & France**.

9 September: The **Rugby World Cup** starts in New Zealand. **Italy & Australia** play in **Auckland** on **11 Sep**.

21 September: A presentation on **study courses in Australia** will be held at the **Australian Consulate-General in Milan**. Sign up for the **Study in Australia Newsletter**.

Until 27 November: Australia is represented by **Mr Hany Armanious** at the **54th Edition of the Biennale International Art Exhibition** in Venice.

31 Jan to 5 Feb 2012: The famous Australian performing group **Tap Dogs** will be in Rome. Ph: 06 3265991 or visit www.teatroolimpico.it.

31 January to 4 February 2012: The **8th International Cool Climate Wine Symposium** will be held in **Tasmania**.



Located approximately 220 kilometres south of Cairns, Ingham, the sister city of Conzano, is in the heart of the tropics. Image copyright Tourism Australia

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Useful websites

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