



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY ROME NEWS

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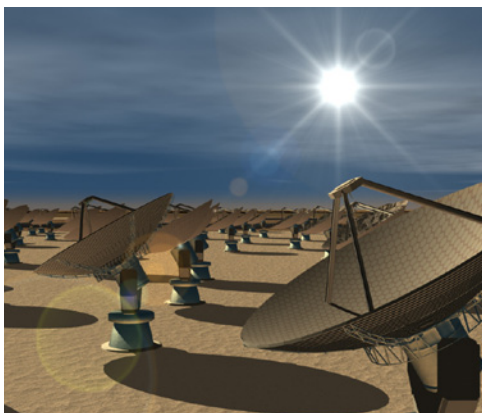
ITALO-AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION ON SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY

In July 2009, Italy and Australia finalised a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** to cooperate in the implementation of a large scale radio telescope, the **Square Kilometre Array (SKA)**.

The SKA will be up to 30 times more sensitive than present day radio telescopes. It should therefore be able to provide some answers to questions about the origins and formation of our universe.

To enhance the cooperation between Italy and Australia, the Australian Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, **Senator Kim Carr**, visited Rome in June and met Italian Deputy Minister for International Trade **Adolfo Urso** to discuss progress so far and future developments.

Minister Carr also visited the headquarters of **INAF** (the Italian Astrophysics Institute) at the Observatory which overlooks Rome. You can also [see the interview with Minister Carr at INAF](#).



Visualisation of SKA dishes.
Image courtesy of the [SKA image gallery](#)

Australia to fund L'Aquila Reconstruction Project

On 6 May the Australian Prime Minister announced that the money raised by the **Australian Abruzzi Earthquake Appeal Fund** would be used to fund an earthquake-proof, multi-purpose theatre in L'Aquila – **Il Nuovo Teatro Stabile d'Abruzzo**.

The appeal fund was established by the Italo-Australian community and the Government agreed to match the community contributions to the Fund up to a level of AUS\$1.5 million.

Taken together, the community's fundraising efforts and the Government's contribution raised more than **AUS\$3.7 million** for L'Aquila.

The theatre will play an important role in helping restore the cultural life of L'Aquila and will stand as a lasting symbol of the Australian community's support for the people of L'Aquila.

For further information, please [click here](#).

Did you know?

The **Square Kilometre Array** will survey the sky at least 10,000 times faster than the best current-day telescopes.

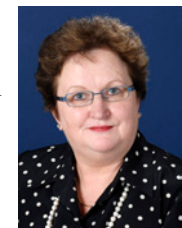
For more information, please visit the [SKA website](#).

Diplomatic Appointment of Ambassador to Italy

On 10 May Foreign Minister Stephen Smith announced the appointment of **Mr David Ritchie AO** as Australia's Ambassador to Italy with concurrent accreditation to San Marino.



Mr Ritchie replaces **Ambassador Amanda Vanstone** who has been Ambassador since July 2007. He takes up his appointment in July 2010.



Mr Ritchie is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and was most recently Deputy Secretary, a position he first took up in 2001. He has served as Senior Adviser (International Relations) to the Prime Minister and has held various positions in the International Division of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. He has previously served overseas as Ambassador to Indonesia and also had earlier postings to Lusaka, Nairobi, Berlin and Bonn. He received his Order of Australia for his contribution to the fight against terrorism in South-East Asia, following the attack on the Australian Embassy in Jakarta in September 2004.

For more information, visit the website of the [Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade](#).

“Grazie Italia” reception



Italo-Australian swimmer Massimiliano Rosolino, Gabriele Del Torchio, CEO of Ducati, and Ambassador Amanda Vanstone, with one of Australian rider Casey Stoner's Ducati motorbikes. Image courtesy of Ducati

On 29 April the Australian Embassy in Rome held a “**Grazie Italia**” function to thank Italy for its contribution to Australia and the Australian way of life. A range of period photographs and other exhibits highlighted the Italian contribution to Australia, while several Italian businesses with investments in Australia also offered presentations of their activities, including **Ansaldo STS, Ducati, Ferrero, Iveco, Parmalat, and Permasteelisa.**

A special performance by the **Fabulous Flag Sisters** brought the evening to life, demonstrating Italy's influence across Australian lifestyle, including in food, fashion, sport, the arts, engineering and much much more.

Italy's gold-winning Olympic swimmer, **Massimiliano Rosolino**, was guest of honour alongside his Italian father and Australian mother. Massimiliano is a perfect example of Italo-Australian sporting links, having



The Fabulous Flag Sisters performing at the “Grazie Italia” reception.

trained for several years in Australia before winning gold for Italy at the Sydney Olympics in 2000. Continuing the sporting theme there was also a video message from Ducati's Australian rider **Casey Stoner**. Have a look at our [brochure](#) to learn about some well-known Italo-Australians and how they have influenced modern Australia.

Did you know?

The **Fabulous Flag Sisters** were founded by Renzo Arbore in 1978. The original line up was an Italian, an Australian, and a Mexican. They now comprise two Australians and an Italian.

Bran Nue Dae for Indigenous culture in Australian Cinema

Aboriginal culture is increasingly finding an international audience. Following the success of the recent Indigenous art exhibition in Rome, **Australia Today**, the latest

example of Aboriginal culture to find its way to Italy is the film musical, **Bran Nue Dae**.

film centred around Aboriginal actors, **Samson and Delilah**. For further information visit the [Bran Nue Dae website](#).



The cast of Bran Nue Dae singing “Nothing I'd Rather Be” Image courtesy of [Bran Nue Dae media gallery](#)

The film, released at the start of 2010, won the Audience Award for Best Film at the Melbourne International Film Festival and has been one of the most successful Australian films of all time.

The film was shown at the recent **Tekfestival** for independent cinema in Rome. The event also featured another

Do you want a happy heart?

If you want a happy heart, click here for the [Chooky Dancers' performance](#) at the **Melbourne Comedy Festival**.

This young Indigenous dance group performs **traditional dance** with a uniquely **comedic twist**.

They chose to reinvent the well-known tune Zorba the Greek as a tribute to a Greek carer who had been active in their community - further evidence of the multicultural nature of Australia.

An apple a day

A new variety of Australian apple, called **Crimson Snow**, is now available in Italy. Originating from the apple orchards of the McLean Bros in Harcourt Valley, Central Victoria, the Crimson Snow apple was a surprise and welcome discovery by owner Allan McLean. [Click here](#) for more information.



Crimson Snow apples
Image courtesy of the [Kiku website](#)

Italo-Australian research shows saffron may prevent vision loss in elderly

Saffron may hold the key to preventing the loss of sight in the elderly, a world first trial by researchers at the **University of Sydney** and in Italy has found. **Professor Silvia Bisti**, a visiting Italian scholar based at **The Vision Centre** at the University of Sydney, described the results as a breakthrough.

Professor Bisti began studying the effects of **saffron** at **L'Aquila**, in Italy's mountainous Abruzzo region, because it was a widely-grown local crop which has been used in traditional medicine as a treatment for conditions such as cancerous tumours and depression.

Her work builds on many years of collaboration with **Professor Jonathan Stone** at the University of Sydney. Professor Bisti's laboratory in **L'Aquila University** was severely damaged in last year's earthquake and her experiments disrupted.

The Vision Centre has supported two of her research staff to continue their work at the University of Sydney.

Visit the [University of Sydney website](#) for more information.

Australia & San Marino sign tax agreement

In March the **Australian Assistant Treasurer, Senator Nick Sherry**, announced the signing of a **Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA)** between Australia and San Marino that will allow the two countries to exchange taxpayer information.

"This agreement with San Marino meets the requirements of tax information exchange standards developed by the OECD and endorsed by the G-20 and the United Nations," the Assistant Treasurer said. The TIEA will enter into force after Australia and San Marino have completed their respective domestic requirements. For further information, [click here](#).



Ambassador Amanda Vanstone and San Marino's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Antonella Mularoni, at the signing of the Tax Agreement.

What have the Australians ever done for us?

[Cochlear Italia](#) (Bologna) is Italy's national headquarters for Sydney-based, Australian company, **Cochlear Ltd**. Cochlear implants are medical devices suitable for both children and adults who suffer from a severe or total loss of hearing. The electronic devices work by bypassing damaged hearing cells in the inner ear, also called the cochlear, and stimulating the auditory nerve directly.

Starting operations in 2005 in Bologna, thanks to **Alberto Golinelli**, Cochlear Italia fitted 400 devices in its first year alone, representing 65 per cent of the market. The company has since grown from just 6 employees to 28, with its turnover in four years doubling to 13 million euro (June 2009).

ANZAC Day 2010

On 25 April, an **ANZAC Day** commemorative service was held at the Rome War Cemetery in Via Nicola Zabaglia. **His Eminence Cardinal George Pell, the Very Reverend David Richardson** (the Archbishop of Canterbury's representative to the Holy See) and **Father David Kennelly** (a New Zealand Marist Brother visiting Rome) officiated at the service.

The ceremony was attended by approximately 200 people including Ambassadors and Military Attaches from countries that participated in the Gallipoli campaign. **Major General Nicola Gelao** led a sizeable delegation of Italian military. A large crowd of Australian, New Zealand and international citizens was also in attendance, including Australians on leave from military service in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

Responsibility for coordinating ANZAC Day services in Rome alternates annually between the Australian and New Zealand Embassies, with the Australian Ambassador hosting this year's service and a small reception afterwards.



His Eminence Cardinal George Pell, Ambassador Amanda Vanstone and the Very Reverend David Richardson at the 2010 ANZAC Day service.

World Cup 2010 and Australia's bid to host 2022

The major sporting event at the moment is of course the **World Cup in South Africa**, which saw both Italy and Australia involved. The make-up of the Australian team reveals the country's multicultural nature, and several players with dual nationality have opted to play for Australia.



Italo-Australian Soccereroo
Mark Bresciano
Image courtesy of Football Australia

The nationalities include Italian, Ukrainian, German, Croatian, British, Spanish, Swiss, Samoan, and Irish. There are **four Italo-Australians** in the Soccerroos World Cup squad: **Mark Bresciano, Adam Federici, Carlo Valeri, and Vince Grella**. On the eve of the tournament Australia also decided to withdraw its bid to host the tournament in 2018 and to focus on 2022. Click here for [full details about Australia's bid](#).

Synchrotron workshop

In February, a bilateral workshop was held in Melbourne called "**Photons for Medicine and Materials Science**", the fourth in a series on synchrotron radiation. (Synchrotrons are sources of highly intense light, routinely used for research and industrial purposes.) More than 30 leading scientists from the Australian and Italian synchrotrons and their national user communities participated in the event.

Say again?

It's finally summer in Italy, bringing days that are **fair dinkum** (truly) **scorchers** (very hot days). Traditionally in the summer in Australia, Aussies like to **chuck on** (put on) their **cozzies** (swimming costume) and **thongs** (flip flops), and head to the beach with their **rellos** (relatives) or their **mates** (friends).

For lunch, you might have a **snag sanger** (sausage sandwich) smothered in tomato sauce, and for dessert, **lamingtons** or **pavlova**!

Canonisation of Mary MacKillop

The canonisation of **Mary MacKillop** will take place in Rome at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday 17 October in St Peter's Square, Vatican City. Other events will be organised by the Sisters of St Joseph for Saturday 16 October and Monday 18 October in celebration of the canonisation. For further information, including how to obtain tickets to the canonisation and other events (all of which are free), please consult the following websites:

www.holysee.embassy.gov.au
www.sosj.org.au
www.marymackillop.org.au
www.vatican.va

Did you know?

Whilst in **Rome**, Mary MacKillop often prayed at the Churches of Sant' Ignazio in Piazza Sant' Ignazio, and the Gesù nearby. As a thirty-one year old, she arrived in Rome having travelled in part overland, including from Brindisi to Rome.

What's On

July – [Sweethearts](#), an Aussie group reworking of soul and Motown, perform in Rome on 8 July (06 8713 1590 for tickets) and other dates in Italy.

9-11 July – in CastelBrando (Treviso) the "[Talking Continents](#)" event dedicated to Australia.

22 August – The **Sydney Symphony Orchestra** will play the opening concert at the [Stresa Festival 2010](#).

September-October - Australia participates in the [Men's Volleyball World Championship](#) to be held in Italy.

20 November – [Italy hosts the Wallabies](#), Australia's rugby team.

[Australian Rules Football](#) – for details on forthcoming AFL games in Italy.

Plus...

Two weeks in Australia – who says it's not enough? Let [Tourism Australia](#) be your guide. Or try the [Australian winter](#).

Want to **plan your own trip** to Australia? [Australia Travel Inspiration](#) is a portal offering advice and resources to plan and organise independent travel.

Want to **study in Australia**? [Click here for information](#). Applications are also open for the [Endeavour Awards 2011](#) which offer Australian Government grants to high achieving international students, researchers and professionals.



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Useful websites

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