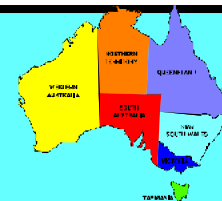


Casa Down Under Newsletter



April 2006

Volume 18
Issue 2



President's Report



Dear Members,

Your Committee continues to be busy with planning for 2006 and working on Casa priorities. Our quest to seek an appropriate location for our head office is still ongoing. Hampered by Council zoning requirements with limited opportunities in the current market to match our needs. With a strong national network, through the support of our Interstate Representatives we have maintained a harmonious existence. Another work in progress currently is to review our website in terms of contents with particular intention of including a 'photo gallery' and addressing ideas on how to make this site more interesting for all our users. If you wish to offer suggestions please do contact us via our website: www.casademacau.org.au mailto: info@casademacau.org.au on this and other matters you may wish to bring to our attention.

It was an honour for me to represent our Casa on the 24th January at the Chinese New Year celebrations hosted by the Chinese Consul General of Sydney at their new premises at Camperdown. This auspicious occasion was well attended by many local businesses and community affiliations, including the Chinese media.



May Easter blessings, joy and peace be with you.



As mentioned in my January's report, the Presidents of the Casas met with Dr. J. Antunes, Director of Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) last November 2005 for a session on future collaborative efforts by networking with all the Casas to assist with the marketing and promotion of Macau. There was agreement that each of the Casas provide information for MGTO to analyse. We recently received a reply for joint cooperation and MGTO's supportive contribution towards our activities. A very positive outcome for future engagements.

Our annual Dia de St. Joao will be held in Sydney on 25th June, 2006. Details of same accompanies this newsletter. Interstate Representatives will be organising the individual State functions to coincide with this significant day and New South Wales event. Socials will be featured in our next newsletter.

Our Casa will be holding a 'Childrens' Christmas in July' social at Luna Park (see accompanying details) for New South Wales. Organised by two of our younger Committee Members, initiated by Jose da Silva and aptly assisted by Antonieta Manolakis. This event will be happening on Sunday 30th July 2006. It's a special day targeted for our junior members. As the emphasis is on the younger members, notice is hereby given that this year's New South Wales Christmas Dinner Function scheduled for Sunday 3rd December 2006 at Marigold Chinese Restaurant, will therefore be restricted for members 18 years and over. Feedback from last November's event highlighted the inappropriateness of a Sunday evening function particularly for young children. Please note also that Casa's 12th Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 16th September, 2006 at Wests Leagues Club, Ashfield at 10am.

Lusitano Club of California & Casa de Macau, California have extended an invitation for our

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**Special Points of
interest:-**

Page 4 - Reminiscing on the Little Flower Club in Kowloon back in the 50's. A lovely photo is reproduced. See if you can recognise anyone.

Page 5 - The story of a young Hong Kong lad who made it big in Dublin in the fashion and interior design.

Page 11 - Itinerary and invitation from Lusitano Club California and Casa de Macau California to join them on a tour of Portugal in October 2006. Check out all the details from pages 11 to 13...

Editor: Jorge Estorninho



Co-Ordinator: Therese Alonço



Casa members to join their planned 'The Best of Portugal' trip, from 4th to 14th October 2006 (14 days/13nights). Please refer to information contained in this newsletter for your interest.

Armando Santos' CD was recently launched with much success in Sao Paulo, Brazil. This CD, is made up of 12 songs, 7 in Patua and 5 in Portuguese, sponsored by Alex Airoso and composed/performed by Armando Santos. Apart from Macau, North America and Portugal this will be made available also in Australia. A copy will be donated to each Casa with copies to be made available for sale with the revenue from this, as recommended by the Sponsors, to go back into our coffers towards social functions and to be played for the enjoyment of our members at these events. I refer you to the following sites for more information.

<http://www.memoriamacaense.org/>
[>www.memoriamacaense.org](http://www.memoriamacaense.org/)

Lembrando Macau In Portuguese

<http://www.diasporamacaense.org/>
[>www.diasporamacaense.org](http://www.diasporamacaense.org/) - Comisaina – Patua

The annual 'Festa das Provincias' will be held at Sydney Portugal Community Club, Frazer Park, 100 Marrickville Rd. Marrickville on Sunday 23rd April, 2006. Casa have been invited to participate and your Committee is hoping to organise a Macanese sweets and cakes stall. This will only be possible if we have sufficient volunteers to help with baking of cakes, or to go on a roster. Of course our members are all welcome to attend this occasion. If you can assist please contact us via our website email: info@casademacau.org.au Subject: Festa das Provincias.

Our members in Melbourne were on a high during last month's 18th Commonwealth Games. The 11 days of events with representation from over 71 countries resulted in a medal tally for Australia of 221 (84 gold, 69 silver & 68 bronze). Bravo and well done to all the athletes and volunteers.

Please remember the community in far north Innisfail in your prayers, as they recover from the recent devastation inflicted by Cyclone Larry.

May Easter blessings, joy and peace be with you.

Kind Regards,

Yvonne Herrera



Congratulations to Fausto (Nonoy) Bayot on his 80th Birthday. Fausto celebrated with 80 family and friends at a party organised by his children on Saturday 25th March. His daughters and grandchildren from Hawaii were also here to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

Photo: Fausto with his wife Cecile

Treasurer's Corner

Investment deposits for Casa's monies, upon maturity, have been continuously reinvested at the best possible rate .

The expenditure for the last quarter 1st January to 31st March was \$17,411.48. The breakdown is as follows:

Bursaries	\$4,970.00
PAYG income tax instalment	\$7,363.00
Other expenses i.e. Victoria Representative travel, storage rental, NSW Christmas party etc.	\$5078.48

It is expected the outgoing for the next quarter will be substantial with payments for Dia de São João celebrations in all States and quarterly tax liability.

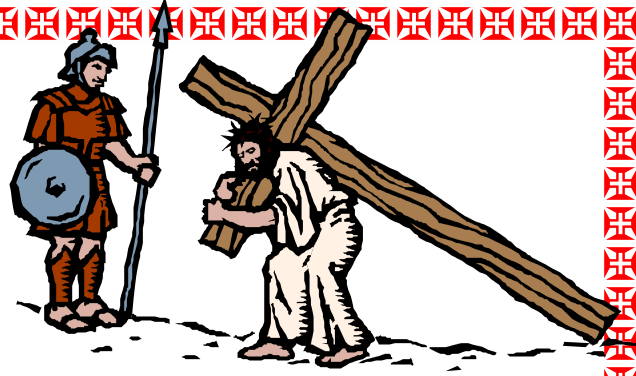
Don't forget
Mother's Day
on 14th May, 2006



Mat 27:33-37 Then they went out to an area known as Golgotha, that is, "Skull Hill", where the soldiers gave him drugged wine to drink; but when he had tasted it, he refused. After the crucifixion, the soldiers threw dice to divide up his clothes among themselves. Then they sat around and watched him as he hung there. And they put a sign above his head, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Mat 27:63-66 and told him, "Sir, that liar once said, 'After three days I will come back to life again.' So we request an order from you sealing the tomb until the third day, to prevent his disciples from coming and stealing his body and then telling everyone he came back to life! If that happens we'll be worse off than we were at first." "Use your own Temple police," Pilate told them. "They can guard it safely enough." So they sealed the stone and posted guards to protect it from intrusion.

Mat 28:2-8 Suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it. His face shone like lightning and his clothing was brilliant white. The guards shook with fear when they saw him and fell into a dead faint. Then the angel spoke to the women, "Don't be frightened!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified, but he isn't here! For he has come back to life again, just as he said he would. Come in and see where his body was lying.....and now go quickly and tell the disciples that he has risen from the dead and that he is going to Galilee to meet them there. That is my message to them. The women ran from the tomb, badly frightened, but also filled with joy and rushed to find the disciples to give them the angel's message. And as they were running, suddenly Jesus was there in front of them!"



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The Living Bible translation



Obituaries

DA SILVA, Alizira (nee Yvanovich) passed away on 27 October 2005 in Calgary, Canada, widow of Edo da Silva. Survived by her children Philip, Michael, Angela, 7 grandchildren and siblings Pam Gosano, Lolita Alves, Philip Yvanovich and Theresa da Luz.

DOS SANTOS, Alberto Joaquim Reis) known to the family as Pappy passed away peacefully on the 13 November 2005 in Melbourne at the age of 82. Preceded in death by his wife Francisca Celeste Badaraco Dos Santo. Survived by his sons Joaquim and Gregorio and daughters Marieta and Vitoria.

REMEDIOS, Leonel Jose (Nell) passed away peacefully on 16 December 2005 in Indianapolis, USA. He is survived by his beloved wife Marie, daughters Caroline Lowenthal, Teresa Bink and son Tom.

RIBEIRO, Aida Maria Pompeia Mendes, formerly of Hong Kong - peacefully at Aotea Hospital, Wellington, New Zealand on 16 January 2006 : aged 78. Beloved wife of the late Francis Anthony Ribeiro. Beloved mother of Marie Ribeiro, Anthony Ribeiro, Ann Ribeiro and Irene Bower. Grand-

*Aida Maria Pompeia
Mendes Ribeiro*



1st October 1927 - 16 January 2006

mother of Chico and Jane Ribeiro, James and Genevieve Foubister and Jacqueline Rodrigues.

BAPTISTA, Carlos - January 30th, 2006 at Sunnybrook Medical Centre, after suffering a stroke. Carlos, much loved and missed by his wife Karen; son Carl, daughter-in-law Beverly; sister Tess and husband

George Elliott of Hong Kong and brother-in-law Alex Banks, his wife Linda and family; also by many cousins and relatives. Carlos generously volunteered at Sunnybrook Medical Centre and the Out of the Cold Program at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.



(Continued on page 10)



THE LADIES OF LITTLE FLOWER CLUB

Rummaging around old photos, Virgie McDougall discovered the photograph on this page. It was taken on the grounds of Little Flower Club in Kowloon. We had a great time identifying all the ladies present. I was quite surprised that I was able to remember the names of 95% of the ladies – quite a few of them were my aunts and cousins or related by marriage to the vast Yvanovich clan, lovingly called “Outsiders” by my Uncle Vicente. I am guessing that the occasion was farewell luncheon for the Menezes sisters, Celeste Menezes Ribeiro and Marie Menezes. They immigrated to Australia sometime in the 1950s.

The Little Flower Club’s founding members were Hedewiges da Silva, Bertha Vaz Barretto, Aurea Baptista and Dona Reça (the lady who taught Portuguese to many of the

Hong Kong came to a standstill during the occupation. There was no way of earning a living in Hong Kong, all assets were frozen or could only be converted to worthless Japanese script. Many left for Macau with their children to wait out the war.

The Macau Government generously provided for all who wished to accept food and lodging. While in Macau, those who had husbands and sons in POW camps received a subsidy from the British Government through the British Consul. Many of the younger men who were not in camp were hired by the British Consul as guards. However, a few of the ladies opted to stay behind in Hong Kong, some because they had homes which could not be abandoned for fear of complete destruction by looters. By selling some of their precious possessions, some were able to hang on and provide their husbands in camp with food parcels. In 1943, the Red Cross opened a shelter for POW families at Rosary Hill and many of the ladies moved up to the Hill. The Club was abandoned and the looters did their work well.



Canossian Institute students). The Club was primarily a Catholic Action Ladies Club. At first, they would meet in a little room in the rectory of the Hong Kong Catholic Cathedral and as they recruited more members, they moved to rented quarters in Jordan Road, Kowloon, and eventually to their permanent location at Kings’ Park, right next door to Club de Recreio. The Macao Catholic Action Ladies were invited to join the Club. Aurea Baptista formed a band called “Lira das Florinhas” and they performed in many of the Macanese functions.

World War II put a stop to all this; the ladies had to take care of their families on their own, as many of their husbands were interned as Prisoners of War. Everything in

When World War II ended and we were allowed to return to Hong Kong and life normalised, all that remained of the Club house were the 4 walls. Bishop Valtorta asked Rita Xavier to help him rebuild the Club. Through her connections in the building trade, Rita was able to bring the Club house back to its pre-war state. Rita was President of the Club for 10 years in those early post war days. I understand Betty Baptista is presently running the Club.

Our sincere thanks to Theresa M. da Luz, San Francisco, California, who wrote the above article for the Lusitano Club of San Francisco some 10 years ago.





John Rocha is a hugely successful designer but he tells Topaz Amore he refuses to follow what is fashionable

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 12 Feb, 2006

As a boy growing up in a rundown area of sweltering Hong Kong, John Rocha would sometimes slip into the Mandarin Oriental hotel just to experience air conditioning. He had to hustle through the lobby lest they threw him out, which you might think defeated the object of the exercise.

But Rocha lived in a 400 sq ft apartment with his parents, grandmother and seven brothers and sisters - "one bedroom for my mother and father, and we were all on the floor", he remembers.

There weren't many treats.

Today, Rocha's fashion and interiors business turns over about €250m (£165m) a year. These days he stays at the Mandarin Oriental when he visits his mother rather than flitting surreptitiously through the lobby.

Rocha's childhood home would fit inside his new office, a first-floor salon stretching the width of the listed Georgian townhouse in Dublin that has just become his headquarters.

"Think of that," Rocha marvels, chuckling at his good fortune. "My home was smaller than my office!"

The floorboards are polished bitter-chocolate; the walls are white. There are tantalising glimpses of work in progress on mannequins - Rocha, 52, will show about 45 womenswear outfits at London Fashion Week, operating from Claridge's. In Dublin he walks to the office and works at a long glass table to the music of Bob Marley, Bob Dylan and Miles Davis. It must be a tense time but the atmosphere is tranquil.

Robbie Williams wore John Rocha for his "Angel" video; other clients include Ireland's music "Murphia", from Bono and Van Morrison to Ronan Keating and Sinéad O'Connor. Anjelica Huston, too, has been drawn to the simplicity of his designs.

But Rocha is not starstruck. "I dress pop stars and I dress my doctor," he says. "It's about attitude. I do what I love and I'm lucky to do it. It's a long way from Hong Kong."

As well as his own label, Rocha has had long relationships creating clothes for

Debenhams and crystal for Waterford Wedgwood. He has expanded into interior design for hotels - including the Morrison in Dublin - and upmarket property developments.

He's not a one-man band - Rocha works with his wife, Odette, and often finds himself designing wedding dresses for other members of the team. However, he is the creative crux.

With a house in Cap Ferrat and an art collection that includes Picasso and Matisse, Rocha can afford to turn down work. He didn't always have that luxury. Rocha left Hong Kong to train as a psychiatric nurse in Surrey, arriving in 1971 with £13 to his name. Though he loved



nursing - his routine is still to start work early - he hated the smell of incontinence and disinfectant. Encouraged by a girlfriend studying fashion, he joined her at college in Croydon.

He was a late developer. "I was useless," says Rocha. "My style was so understated and everyone else was far more talented. When I left college, nobody expected much of me - and nor did I."

Rocha's father was particularly depressed. "He was horrified when I gave up nursing. He was horrified when I left Hong Kong. He wanted me to get a job, any job, and work my way up wherever it was. It worked well for my brother, who ended up working at Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. He's retired now."

Rocha Snr was from a well-off Portuguese family (Rocha's paternal grandfather was a civil servant for the British) but he became estranged from his family, who disapproved of the match, after he fell for Rocha's mother in an ice-cream parlour. "Because of that he never finished his education but he spoke beautiful colonial English," says Rocha.

"When I was young we always went to our posh cousins at Christmas. My dad made sure we had new shoes and clean clothes - he was really proud and that's why I felt different from everyone living around me. We had the first television on the estate, the first fridge.

I thought there must be another way - I didn't want to live on council estates for the rest of my life. I finished school and my father's brother worked for Jardine Matheson. For some reason he liked me, and suggested England."

His father only recognised what his son had achieved many years later, when he saw a photograph of Rocha with the supermodel Naomi Campbell in the South China Morning Post. However, he died shortly before it was announced that Rocha had been awarded a CBE.

Rocha's success can be measured in financial terms as well: last year, profits at Rocha's Three Moon Design company rose by €1.2m to €2.7m. Rocha and Odette, the only shareholders, paid themselves €760,326 and the company spent €551,797 on works of art.

In Rocha's early career, though, his father's pessimism looked well-placed. Although understated clothes in taupe, greige and charcoal couldn't be more fashionable now, initially little went right. Rocha married, moved to Ireland and started a company, but his marriage soon fell apart. "The business fell apart too. It was a very difficult period."

After a year, he began seeing Odette. The pair started working together but these were the power-dressing 1980s and there was little demand for organic fabrics and muted tones. Obstinate, Rocha refused to create big-hair wear, preferring to shut up shop - again. Surely he could have had a go at shoul-

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News from around Australia

Brisbane

Queensland.Casa Christmas Luncheon:-

The luncheon was held on Saturday, 3rd December, 2005 at the Sofitel Hotel, Brisbane, at 12 noon. Our members are always delighted to hold our functions there. The smorgasbord was delicious as usual, and the service was excellent!

Our members had no worries with parking their cars, as it was previously arranged for a flat rate of \$5 per car. A few members, who are Gold Coast residents, conveniently came by train, which stop right under Sofitel Hotel Brisbane.

The attendance was great, even during this Festive Season period. There were 77 members and 3 guests, plus Casa's three new baby members!

Once again our Queensland Casa Social Committee would like to thank all members and guests who supported us during this 2005. There will be more activities and fun to be organized by our Queensland Casa Social Committee for 2006!

Sydney

Gary and Mary Rigby are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Patricia to Alistair Reid son of Judy and Mike (Dunedin NZ). Al and Trish are currently working in London

Brian and Kathy Rigby are the proud parents of a baby boy Lachlan John born on the 30th March Brother to Harley and the 7th Grandchild for Gary and Mary.

Bur\$ary Report



Congratulation to the bur-sary recipients for 2005.

1. **Daniella Sequeira** is doing her Bachelor of Business.

Daniella Maria was born in England on the 1st November 1986; she has a sister Gianna Francesca. Her parents are Manuel Antonio Sequeira who was born in

Hong Kong and Catherine Veronica Menezies. Daniella grandparents where Jorge Vincente Sequeira who was a great civil engineer for the China Light Power Company and Francesca Dolores Ferreria

2. **Gabriel Norronha** is studying for a Bachelor of Mathematics.



Gabriel Ricardo was born at Maitland NSW on the 26th August 1986. The middle child to Alberto Eduardo (Al) Noronha born in Hong Kong and Therese de Jong. Gabriel grandparent where Antonio Eduardo (Eddie) and Mildred Marie Osmund

Gabriel has two brothers Guilherme and Emile.

3. **Kate d'Assumpção** is doing Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice



Kate was born on the 30th May 1980; she is the eldest of 3 daughters to Geraldine & Marcus d'Assumpção. Kate's father was born in Hong Kong, the fifth child of Bernadino de Senna Fernades d'Assumpção (1905-1993) and Alzira Luis d'Assumpção (1912) Both Kate's grandparents were born in Macau.

4. **Jennifer de Silva** is doing her Masters of Catholic Education

5. **Katherine da Silva** is doing a Bachelor of Dentistry.

(Continued on page 14)



(Continued from page 5)

der pads? Rocha's expression is both kindly and pitying. "I will never see myself as a businessman. I'm a designer. I have to be true to what I believe." It was the same at college, when fellow students were churning out 1970s psychedelia. What was he doing? "Woven tweed." It's just as well he didn't have other shareholders.

A despairing Lynne Franks, who was doing his PR, advised Rocha to go to Italy and think again. In Milan, he spent two years working for Martine Sitbon and Dries van Noten, waiting for UK tastes to change. They did, eventually. Rocha was named British designer of the year in 1994 and has never looked back.

Being in control of his destiny was always important. He learned the hard way how to combine this with running a business. Rocha at first believed that he should design and make his clothes, create the fabric and then market and sell the finished article. He opened shops even though retailing wasn't his strength.

"Even after we came back from Italy, in the mid 1990s, we still felt we could do everything ourselves and we were not making any money. We decided to change, do everything under licence. We shut the Sloane Avenue shop. Let others use their retail or manufacturing expertise. My expertise is design and marketing."

Dublin is very much home for Rocha. Life couldn't get much better, he believes: he's his own boss and has time to indulge his passions: fly-fishing all over the world, and art. His collection also includes Francis Bacon, he tells me.

Now there's a tortured artist. Isn't there anything of that in Rocha? Does he ever struggle for inspiration? "Oh yes. I got up at 3am last night, thinking. Sometimes I get up and come into the office. Once I sit down, things just happen." He has a Zen-like outlook.

"They did a documentary on me 10 years ago, when I still did catwalk shows in Paris. The director said to me, 'Where's the drama?' The thing is, there wasn't any. There never is. It's just the way we are."

LUSITANO'S 10-DAY TOUR OF AUSTRALIA MELBOURNE, CAIRNS & SYDNEY.

By MICHAEL MCDUGALL

Saturday, November 12:

Melbourne

Shortly before noon on Saturday, November 12, my wife Dawнна and I were among the members of the Lusitano party who arrived in Melbourne after traveling 7,800 miles on a "red-eye" flight from San Francisco with a stopover in Sydney. Lusitano president Maria Roliz, husband Hunter Choi, Bonnie Braga, and her mother Fabia were also part of the group.

After clearing the Australian immigration and customs, we were met at the airport by Lesley Bryden, our local guide, who welcomed us and led us to a chartered coach to take us to our hotel. As we went on a quick tour through the central part of the city she gave us a lively introduction to Australia and Melbourne.

Bryden passed around a map of Australia superimposed on that of the lower 48 United States at the same scale showing that they were about the same size. But whereas the U.S. has 296 million people distributed over the country, Australia has 20 million, almost all living in cities at its coasts. Its interior, known as the Outback, is mostly desert with very little rainfall.

We checked in at our hotel at the edge of Chinatown, grabbed a quick lunch at one of the Asian restaurants outside the hotel, and resumed our guided tour. Melbourne is also known as the Garden City because of the many public parks, the wide streets lined with shade trees, and the green corridor of the Yarra River that runs through the city.

We visited Fitzroy Gardens to see its Conservatory, and its large mature trees. Here in the Southern Hemisphere, late spring was in evidence with spectacular purple jacarandas, Golden rain (*Koelreuteria elegans*),

and poincianas (known in Hong Kong as "Flame-of-the forest"). A popular attraction here is Captain Cook's cottage which was moved stone by stone to the present location in 1934.

Sunday, November. 13: The Great Ocean Road, Victoria

Early this day we boarded our coach which headed for the coast south of Melbourne towards the Great Ocean Road, which we were told is one of the great coastal roads of the world, some 160 miles long. We were able to see one the main attractions called the Twelve Apostles, the famous monoliths within the Port Campbell National Park. These picturesque freestanding rocks are what remains after steady erosion of the cliffs.

At the end of a long day, we were back at our hotel by 8 PM when Dawнна and I rushed off to a Chinatown restaurant nearby to enjoy a dinner hosted by Bosco and Frank Correa and their wives, Marilyn and Vivienne. I hadn't seen Frank and Bosco since our Hong Kong days. Neither Dawнна nor I had met their wives. Our reunion was all-too-short.

Monday, Nov. 14:

Melbourne – Cairns

We took an early flight for Cairns (population: 93,000) in Northern Queensland, the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef, big game fishing in the Coral Sea, the tropical rainforest, Cape York Peninsula and the outback. We landed in Cairns airport at noon where a chartered bus took us into town for lunch and then took our luggage back to the Lakes resort where we were to stay for the next three days.

During the short drive into town, we noted the difference in the landscape and vegetation compared to the flat terrain and gum trees in the Victorian countryside. Steep, lush mountains, yellow sugar-cane fields, palm trees, ferns, jacarandas, poincianas, and hibiscuses as well as the vivid emerald green, turquoise and indigo waters reminded us of Hawaii.

Lunch was at the Red Ochre Grill



restaurant, which had the reputation for developing part of its menu using Australian native ingredients. Some tried an appetizer dish consisting of emu paté, crocodile wun ton with capsicum (green pepper) jam, smoked kangaroo, smoked Tasmanian sea trout (a mild-tasting salmon), omelette and roast capsicum roll, which they found flavourful. Sorry, nothing tasted like chicken! Nicky Wu tried a grilled kangaroo sirloin with Guandong chili glaze and sweet potato galette, and found it a bit tough as kangaroo meat lean with very little fat. I had a fillet of Barramundi, a delicate white fish, with pineapple and wild lime salsa.

At 6 PM José and Susan Ozorio picked us up and drove us to a vantage point in the surrounding hills and pointed out to us the city's landmarks, its downtown, districts, and Trinity Bay, before we went to have dinner at a restaurant near the Esplanade.

Tuesday, Nov. 15, Great Barrier Reef

Today we were going to the Great Barrier Reef, a network of 2,900 coral reef systems along the Queensland coast from Cape York to Bundaberg, a distance of 1,400 miles. It is a World Heritage marine sanctuary.

An 80 -mile coach ride north from Cairns along the two-lane curving scenic coastal Captain Cook highway brought us to Port Douglas (pop.

4,000) where we boarded a sleek Quicksilver catamaran with other tourists to take us to the Great Barrier Reef.

In the beautiful warm sunny weather and a calm sea, our vessel sped north along the coast past several low-lying rain-forest covered islands, then it turned east towards the Agincourt Reef, a group of small reefs about a mile and a half from the edge of the continental shelf where it drops to a depth of 1,600 feet. Here the clean, clear water from the depths washes over the coral and promotes the growth of marine life – what we came to see.

Some passengers donned snorkelling or scuba gear to go under water to look at the reef life, while others swam in the warm waters. Dawnna and I and about ten others went down below sea level inside a glass-sided submersible, while a marine biologist crew member pointed out the various corals, fishes and other creatures as we cruised slowly by.

At 2:40 PM a blast on the ship's horn signalled it was time to return to the catamaran, this was followed by a passenger count to ensure that everyone was accounted for before the vessel left the platform.

Later on our return trip, Maria Roliz showed us two cakes she had quietly

purchased before leaving Cairns in order to give Dawnna and Hunter a joint surprise birthday party. Dawnna was appreciative and greatly touched by this thoughtful gesture. We returned to Cairns at about 6 PM via Port Douglas.

That evening, Maria Roliz, Hunter Choi, and others hailed a taxi and went out of our complex to buy all the necessities for yet another splendid meal, our colleagues put together a delicious barbecue by the swimming pool and patio near our rooms. My cousin José Ozorio, wife Susan and daughter René were delighted to join us at the pleasant and salubrious poolside patio. Dawnna says that she will never forget her birthday at the Great Barrier Reef, followed by the dinner around the pool with congenial friends and relatives at the Lakes Resort in Cairns.

Wednesday, Nov. 16, Cairns – Kuranda

Our bus took us to the Kuranda historic train terminal in Cairns where we boarded a 19th century train and railway that had been built to transport gold from the Hodgkinson Goldfield to Cairns. The train winds its way on steep and difficult terrain through 15 tunnels, past Barron Gorge and Falls, and Stoney Creek Falls, to reach Kuranda Station.

We were introduced to Aboriginal culture at the Kuranda Village Nature Park, which was filled with visitors, many from the Far East. Four strapping members of the Pamagirri Aborigine troupe performed vigorous native dances accompanied by traditional instruments.

That afternoon we boarded the Skyrail, a system of small glassed-enclosed gondolas suspended from cables over the World Heritage rain-forest canopy. Our Skyrail gondola ferried us, flying carpet style, over the rainforest canopy, giving us an unusual close-up view of the tree tops below, and the distant landscape, to the terminal at the bottom of the mountain where our bus awaited us to take us back to our resort.

(Continued on page 9)





(Continued from page 8)



scenic point in the Botanical Gardens for some post-card views of the harbour and landmarks.

We returned just before noon in time to board a sleek multi-decked vessel run by the Captain Cook Cruise. Our two-hour cruise of Sydney harbour took us from the King Street Wharf east to

Tower which offers stunning 360° views of the metropolis

Sunday, November 20, Sydney

On an overcast day, with no events scheduled until the evening, Dawnna and I visited Darling Harbor and Cockle Bay, west of our hotel. In the 1980s this former industrial and shipping district was successfully redeveloped into a cultural and visitor-oriented area including the Sydney Aquarium, the National Maritime Museum, the Motor Museum and Gallery, the Powerhouse Museum, the Convention and Visitor Center, supporting hotels, the Harbourside Shopping Complex, the Imax movie theater, and the Chinese Garden of Friendship.

In the evening our group were guests at a "Welcome Lusitano Tour" – Christmas banquet hosted by the Casa de Macau at the Marigold Restaurant in Chinatown. Over 250 people filled the large barrel vaulted room. Guests at the head table included the Portuguese Consul General, Chinese Consular officials, and representatives of the Macau Tourist Office .

Yvonne Herrero, president of the Casa de Macau, the National Macanese Association in Australia and other casa representatives welcomed us. Lusitano president Maria Roliz and Yvonne Herrero exchanged gifts on behalf of their clubs.

Our Lusitano group were re-acquainted with old friends and relatives, some of whom they hadn't seen in years. Dawnna and I sat at a table which included Alvaro and Therese Alonço. Carlos Remedios, and his wife Charito.

It was a fitting end to a terrific trip which exposed us to Australia and the Aussies. I admire their great country, their cities, their love of sports, their sense of humor, their can-do attitude, their down-to-earth qualities, their bravery in war.

A bouquet to Bonnie Braga for her meticulous tour arrangements, and for her flexibility in accommodating changes requested by participants.

(Continued on page 14)

In the evening we had dinner at the Ozorio home in Cairns, meeting other members of their family, while the rest of the tour group gathered at the patio around the pool, and finished off Tuesday's leftover barbecued steaks.

Thursday, Nov. 17:

Cairns – Sydney

We caught the noon flight to Sydney, arriving there at 5 PM. During the aircraft's descent we had an aerial view of Sydney's magnificent harbour which, together with those of Hong Kong, Naples, and Rio de Janeiro, are regarded as the world's most beautiful. Sydney is also famous for its Harbour Bridge known to natives as the "coat-hanger," its Opera House, and its surfing beaches.

Friday, November 18:

Sydney Tour

Today's itinerary consisted of an all-day tour of Sydney including its famous Opera House, a harbour cruise luncheon, and a drive through the city's most interesting districts.

Our bus dropped us off at the Opera House's vast forecourt from where the Harbour Bridge can be seen to the left. The Opera House's sail-like roofs loom over its monumental stairs where spontaneous outdoor performances have taken place. The bridge and Opera House combine to form arresting and indelible image.

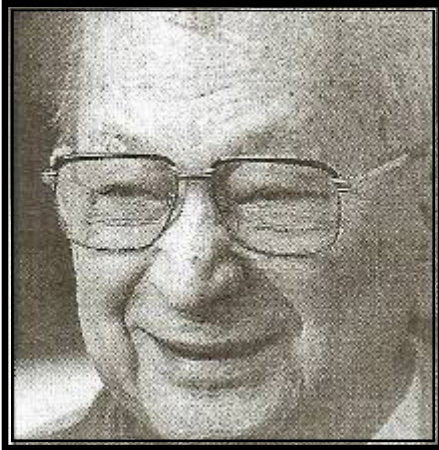
Before going on a cruise of Sydney harbour our bus stopped briefly at the historical Mrs. Macquarie's Chair, a

the harbour opening to the Tasman Sea, and back in a wide loop giving us great views of the downtown skyline, all city major landmarks, the surrounding areas, the upmarket houses on the many inlets, peninsulas, and islands. As our vessel left the dock, we were treated to a buffet spread which included the small Bluepoint oysters, prized at Hong Kong eateries in the old days.

The rest of the afternoon consisted of a bus tour of Sydney's most interesting residential districts. As the tour schedule gave us a free evening, most of the group went out on their own while Bonnie and Fabia Braga, Orlanda da Costa, Dawnna and I were guests for dinner at Therese and Alvaro Alonço's home in the suburbs, about 40 minutes from our hotel. The evening was enjoyable with news and gossip of relatives and mutual friends, and reminisces of old times. Though we ate well throughout the tour, the excellent feijoada and capella Therese prepared was just the Macanese comfort food we craved.

Saturday, November 19, Sydney

In the morning, half of our group went to Featherdale Wildlife Park in Doonside, some 40 minutes away from the city center, to see some of the 2,000 native animals such as kangaroos, koalas, emus, wombats, reptiles and birds in bush settings. The rest of us wandered around the city center, the waterfront or went to the beach. Some went to the 1,000 ft. high Sydney



A DOCTOR, LAWMAKER AND COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNER

SIR ALBERT RODRIGUES

When Albert Rodrigues was a boy in Happy Valley, he saw a hapless cripple lying in the street, arms and legs covered with open, weeping sores. He vowed to become a doctor.

He never knew his mother, who died shortly after he was born. So when a rare scholarship gained him entry to the University of Hong Kong, he opted to specialise in obstetrics and gynaecology. "I wanted to look after other mothers," he reflected at the age of 94. "I didn't want them to die like my mother."

But his contribution to Hong Kong was not confined to medicine. Voted onto the Urban Council in 1940, he spent more than three decades as an active lawmaker and valued adviser to governors, sitting on the legislative and executive councils. He was pro-chancellor of his alma mater for 26 years, helped found the Anti-Tuberculosis Society and became the first Portuguese to be knighted in Hong Kong, recognising his life-long drive to combat narcotics.

As a young doctor, he saw active duty with a Royal Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Force ambulance unit during savage fighting in Wan Chai Gap in the second world war. When other officers were interned in a separate camp, Rodrigues opted to remain with the enlisted men at their prisoner-of-war camp at Shamshuipo. During the occupation, he treated the ill and dying with patient devotion.

Rodrigues' long life was rich and rewarding, but began with tragedy. His mother's death

occurred a week after he was born, and his father died when he was aged nine. The boy was brought up by an uncle, one member of an extensive family. His grandfather, a mariner in the long tradition of Portuguese seafarers, had arrived in Chinese waters in the 19th century.

He did well at school, starting at a convent run by Italian nuns and then at St. Joseph's College. He got his high-school matriculation at 14 and had to wait two years before he could enter university. He was able to study at what was then an elite preserve for the wealthy because of generous financial help from a Chinese benefactor. That same aid allowed him to continue his studies in London.

Rodrigues began his practice in Hong Kong in 1937, specialising in obstetrics. By 1940, aged just 29, he had entered the Urban Council. He was also a lieutenant in the volunteer force, which led to his inevitable imprisonment during the war. His faithful attendance to his fellow prisoners of war saved the lives of many who endured hard toil on a meagre diet. It also led to the award of a military MBE when liberation came in 1945. He was later awarded a civil MBE, and was knighted in 1966 while senior unofficial member of the Executive Council.

He was a devoted father to a daughter and two sons. "It's funny how life moves along," he said last February, looking at family pictures dating back to the 1870s. "If I had not got that scholarship I couldn't have gone to university. I don't know what I would have done for a living." He chuckled as he looked at a 1941 photograph of himself and other young doctors in uniform. "During the fighting for Hong Kong Island, I was resting on the steps of an ambulance and a Japanese bomb landed a metre away," he said. "It didn't explode."

He brushed over the grim years as a prisoner of war, mentioning only the constant preoccupation with "rice, rice, rice", and how he encouraged prisoners to plant tomatoes over the camp grounds. "Japanese didn't like eating tomatoes," he explained dryly.

A walking skeleton when freedom came in 1945, Rodrigues went straight to work on the gigantic task of rebuilding the devastated, depopulated and shattered city. A keen sportsman in his youth, he captained the Hong Kong hockey side and played cricket

for the University of Hong Kong.

The man he most admired was Sir David Trench, the last of the colonial civil servants who served as governor of Hong Kong. He said Sir David was a conscientious, hard-working and effective servant of the people who had never been given the recognition he deserved. The same could be said of Rodrigues.

Kevin Sinclair

(Continued from page 3)

RODRIGUES, Sir ALBERT M
OBE, CBE, MBE (Mil), ED, Chev. Legd'
Hon, KtGC (St.Sye), OOrdChrist,
LLD, JP 1911-2006

Sir Albert M Rodrigues passed away peacefully at St. Paul's Hospital on 5th February, 2006. He is survived by his son Albert (Tito), daughters Ann and Mari; daughter-in-law Mary, son-in-law Paul Litsky; grandchildren Steven, Bryan, Gavin Alison and Elisa; grand daughters-in-law Kelly and Anna; and great grandchildren Lola and Vasco.

HIGGS Diane (nee D'Almada) wife of Dick, mother of Linda and Richard, grandmother of Andrew, Penny and Stephanie, and sister of Estelle Ozorio (Melbourne), Gerald (L.A.) and Peter (Auckland, New Zealand) passed away peacefully on Sunday 12 February 2006 in Brisbane, Australia.

Roza, Helena Maria passed away in Maple Ridge, B.C. on February 19, 2006. Nan, as she was affectionately known, was the daughter of Julio and Aurea Ribeiro and the youngest sister of the late Julio Ribeiro, Regina (Nina) Noronha, Elsa Fonseca and Olga Silva. She was married to the late Gerry Roza of Shanghai and they left HongKong for Canada in the early 50's. She is survived by her sons Marc and Paul, daughter-in-law Dierdre and granddaughter Kristen.

ELARTE, Minnie, passed away peacefully in Toronto, Canada on 29 March 2006. Survived by children Tony, Kathleen, Geraldine (Deedum), John & Jimmy. A life well lived and she was a woman of great faith. Now she has gone home to her heavenly Father.



AN INVITATION TO JOIN LUSITANO CLUB OF CALIFORNIA AND CASA DE MACAU CALIFORNIA ON A TRIP TO PORTUGAL.

Casa de Macau Australia members have been invited to join our American Sister Clubs on a trip to visit our "motherland" PORTUGAL. The itinerary is for the land portion ONLY and the tour commences from PORTO. Interested parties and any enquiries please direct it to info@casademacau.org.au with your contact number. A Committee Member will be in contact with you.

NB: At the time of going to print, we have been advised by Braga Travel Consulting there will be changes to the itinerary. Barcelona and Lourdes will be included into the itinerary. As details have not come to hand, please keep a watchful eye on the Casa de Macau's website for further information with regards to the changes and cost.

THE BEST OF PORTUGAL - 4th to 16th October 2006 (14 days/13 nights)

Day 1 – 4th October – PORTO

Arrive Porto transfer to hotel. Check in.

Afternoon tour of "Discovering Porto". Return to hotel. Dinner at hotel.



Day 2 – 5th Oct. – PORTO

After breakfast, full day to visit the city of Porto. Visit the Roman Cathedral of the XIIth Century and the Tower of the Clergy, ex-libris of the city. The port wine caves are on the other side of the river. We will visit one and have the opportunity to taste some wine.

FREE time for lunch on your own.

After lunch, boat ride by the Douro River (Approx. one hour).

Return to hotel. Dinner at hotel.

Day 3 – 6th Oct. PORT/BRAGA/GUIMARÃES

After breakfast, depart for BRAGA. During the 12th century, the city became the Archdiocese of Portugal. Climb the Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Continue with a visit to GUIMARÃES, considered the birth of the Portuguese nation. Visit the castle and the centre of town.

Arrive at the hotel – dinner and overnight.

Day 4 – 7th Oct. – GUIMARÃES/BUCACO/COIMBRA

After breakfast, depart the hotel to visit SERRO DO BUÇACO, one of the nicest of Portugal where we will find the famous Hotel do Busaco.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Continue towards COIMBRA, the city of the students. Visit the Library, an absolute jewel of baroque art, visit the Roman Cathedral of the XIIth Century.

Arrive hotel – dinner and overnight.



Day 5 – 8th Oct. COILMBRA/FÁTMA/BATALHA/ÓBIDOS/LISBOA

After breakfast – depart towards Lisbon, on the way visit:

FÁTIMA – world peregrination centre of the Catholic faith.

BATALHA – visit the Mosteiro de Santa Maria da Vitória, founded by D. João I.

NAZARÉ – one of the most famous ports of Portugal, in the past the fisherman would take his boats to the sea with the help of the ox. Possibility of climbing to the top of the 'SITTIO' by cable car, from where there is a beautiful panorama view.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

ÓBIDOS – one of the most picturesque villages of Portugal, with its castle and medieval forts, its churches and palaces are the witness of



a very rich past.

Arrive by the end of the day in Lisbon.

Dinner at hotel and overnight.

Day 6 – 9th Oct. – LISBOA

After breakfast, start our visit to Lisbon, passing by the PRAÇA DO COMÉRCIO, followed by a visit on foot to BAIRRO DE ALFAMA then climb the CASTELO DE S. JORGE. Continue the visit by bus towards the BAIRRO DE BELÉM and the famous MOSTEIRO DOS JERÓNIMOS.

FREE for lunch at your own.

Arrive back at the hotel approx. 6.00pm. Dinner at hotel.

Day 7 – 10th Oct. LISBOA

After breakfast, depart to visit the PARQUE DAS NAÇÕES, considered the most modern area of Lisbon by the river. Possibility of visiting the “Oceanário” the biggest of Europe.

FREE for the rest of the day. Lunch on your own.

You can visit the location of the Expo and several other places such as the o Pavilhão do Conhecimento, Torre Vasco da Gama, Teleférico de Lisboa, and Shopping Centre Vasco da Gama.

EVENING – dinner at a typical Fado and Portuguese Folklore restaurant.

Return to hotel. Overnight.

Day 8 – 11th Oct. LISBOA

After breakfast, depart for SINTRA, the preferred summer residence of the kings during the discovery times. SINTRA is part of the World Heritage by UNESCO. Visit the PALÁCIO NACIONAL built during the 13th & 14th century’s residence of the Avis Dynasty.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Visit to the balneary stations of CASCAIS AND ESTORIL.

Return to Lisbon – dinner at hotel.

Day 9 – 12th Oct. LISBOA/SETUBAL/ÉVORA

After breakfast depart hotel crossing the bridge over the Tejo River towards SETÚBAL, famous fish centre.

Continue to ÉVORA known as Cidade Museu.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Roman itinerary departing for the south through the largest cork region of the world, in an exciting voyage to the past. In ÉVORA capital of the Province of Alentejo, visit the ruins of the Templo Romano, the Roman-Gothic “Sé” (Cathedral), the chapel of bones and the University. A walk along the streets will give you a sense of appreciation of this typical city, World Heritage by UNESCO.

Arrive at hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 10 – 13th Oct. ÉVORA/BEJA/ALBUFEIRA

After breakfast, depart hotel towards the Beja, capital of Baixo Alentejo. Continue towards Albufeira.

Lunch at local restaurant

Arrive hotel for dinner and overnight.



Day 11 – 14th Oct. – ALBUFEIRA

After breakfast, depart for half day tour to Loulé to visit the traditional Market of Loulé – fruits, vegetables, fish, arts and crafts.

Lunch at local restaurant

Return to hotel.

FREE afternoon.

Dinner and overnight at hotel.

**Day 12 – 15th – ALBUFEIRA**

FREE day

Dinner at hotel

Day 13 – 16th Oct. – ALBURFEIRA/LISBOA

Breakfast at hotel

Afternoon transfer to Lisbon.

Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 14 – 17th LISBON

After breakfast transfer to Lisbon airport for return flight.

PACKAGE

14 Days/13 nights. 4* HOTELS

7 Lunches at local restaurants, 12 dinners at hotels with no drinks in either lunch or dinner PLUS 1 dinner at a typical restaurant in Lisbon with drinks.

Private bus and English speaking guide and entrance fees to sites mentioned.

Boat ride on the Rio Douro

Baggage handling at Airport/ Hotel/Airport except when delivered by porter to room.

HOTELS CONFIRMED

Hotel Vila Galé Porto	- www.vilagale.pt	(Oct.4-6)
Hotel De Guimarães	- www.hotel-guimaraes.com	(Oct.6-7)
Hotel Tivoli Coimbra	- www.tivolihotels.com	(Oct.7-8)
Hotel Fénix Lisboa	- www.hoteisfenix.com	(Oct.8-12) & (Oct.16-17)
Hotel Cartuxa, Evora	- www.hoteldacartux.com	(Oct..12-13)
Hotel Vila Galé Atlantico	- www.vilagale.pt	(Oct.13-16)

PRICE PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IN EUROS DOLLARS

BASE MIN. 40-50 persons

Price PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IN EUROS 1,350.00

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN EUROS 445.00

PAYMENT: US\$200.00 per person as deposit and full payment 30 days prior to commencing of the trip.

Please note, payment is expected in **US\$** by remitting the amount through i.e. "Western Union" (Available at any Post Office) or through your Bank **OR** alternatively payment can be made through - Visa, MasterCard or Amex, which will incur an additional 4% charge.

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE: Tips to guide and driver recommend USD5.00 per person per day and tips to porter when delivering luggage to the room recommend USD1.00 per person per day.

TOUR operated by **BRAGA TRAVEL CONSULTING,**
6500 Kendale Lakes Dr. 107, Miami, FL.33183





(Continued from page 6)

Committee Members

President:

Yvonne Herrero

Vice President:

Therese Alonço

Secretary:

Mary Rigby

Treasurer:

Maria Callaghan

Asst. Secretary:

Antonieta Manolakis

Committee Members:

José Carlos da Silva
Henrique (Quito) Barros
Marcus Gutierrez
Rogerio Fernandes

Interstate Representatives:

Aileen Guterres (SA)
Natercia Xavier (QLD)
Adrienne Carasallos (VIC)
Margarida Grills (ACT)
Daniel Badaraco (WA)
Jorge Estorninho (TAS)



Katherine and Jennifer are pictured here with their family

Jennifer Cheryl and Katherine Winnie are the daughters of Alberto (Albert) Alexandre da Silva and Winnie. Their grandparents were Mariano Maria da Silva and Celeste (Chelly) Osmund

6. **Vanessa Badaraco** is studying for a Bachelor of Law/ Bachelor of Commerce

Vanessa was born on the 15th February 1985 to Daniel and Caroline Seng (born in Shanghai). She has a sister Raquel. Vanessa grandparents were Serafirm Badaraco and Cecelia

7. **Alexander Gordon** is studying for his Diploma of Screen

Alexander Anthony Xavier is the son of Michella Maria and James Gordon. Alexander has two brothers Daniel Thomas Anthony Xavier and Tobias Patrick Anthony. Alexander grandparents are Albert and Natercia Xavier.

Most of the recipients provided a much more comprehensive history than space would allow. It was great to see the young people finding out about the family histories and I learnt more of how members are related

Mary Rigby



Alexander Gordon

(Continued from page 9)

We saw marvellous places, stayed in excellent hotels, ate fine food, and had reliable transportation. We also thank her for the use of her photos in this account. We are grateful to Maria Roliz for initiating the tour, coordinating with Bonnie, and for their many kindnesses to us during the tour. END

Editor's Note: We are grateful to Michael McDougall for submitting this article. Unfortunately due to space constraints we were not able to print it in full and therefore had to condense it. Should any of our readers be interested in reading the full version of this very descriptive article, please do not hesitate to contact me via the Casa's website or email and I shall make an electronic PDF version available.



NEW MEMBERS

NSW – Patrick Condon, Olga Jacinto, Antonia Olaes, Robert Olaes, Aaron De Sousa, Denis Mock

VIC – Melina Carassellos, Pauline Alvarez, Joseph Alvarez, Elizabeth Dannenberg, Genevieve Dannenberg, Eleanor Dannenberg.

HELP ME!

My name is Gertrude de Souza and I live in Montreal Canada. I am looking for a long lost friend from the old days in Hong Kong. Her name is Cynthia Durwand (nee Franco).

I believe that she came to Australia after her marriage to Graham G. Durwand. Should any of your readers know of her whereabouts would you please contact me by e-mail at jatodee@securenet.net
Many thanks and best regards.

the end