

Casa Down Under Newsletter



December 2009
Volume 21
Issue 4

President's Report

Dear Members,

Did you know that 20 years ago The Steering Committee distributed a draft copy of Casa de Macau Australia Articles of Association, which would later become the genesis of our Association? So, in this our 20th anniversary year, we should reflect proudly on how far we have come as a community group here in Australia.

As the incoming President for 2010, I am glad to report that this year's Committee is made up of a very enthusiastic, committed group with diversified and independent views and ideas, making it an ideal team to face the challenges required to continue to move our Casa forward. Regrettably, Rogério Fernandes has decided to resign from the Committee and we would like to thank him for his contribution to Casa de Macau over the years.

The Committee has been able to recruit a replacement for the vacancy left by Rogério and are happy to announce that Cesar Pereira has agreed to fill this open post.

The focus of the Committee for the year ahead as we see it is to:

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...for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:11-12

We wish all our readers a
Merry Christmas!
and a
Blessed New Year





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- Encourage greater social interaction among our younger members
- Encourage senior members to share their stories and experiences with the young
- Provide partially sponsored Portuguese language lessons and of course,
- Continue to maintain our traditional food events.
- Actively support the existing Bursary Programme.
- Balance expenditure between providing for today's membership and preserving resources for future generations of members.

Last, but not least, to resolve the restrictive conditions imposed by Council on the use of our premises in Sydenham.

As a start, we have established a Youth sub-committee headed by Josefa Coelho and Brendan Basto. Through this sub-committee, we plan to build on the momentum of the Macau Youth Encontro and will invite the representatives to share their ideas and time. We will encourage and support separate activities for our younger members.

On the education front, the bursary programme will continue, while we explore introducing Portuguese language lessons for the young, hopefully with some financial help from Fundação Oriente.

We hope to foster a continuity of our heritage through small discussion groups by inviting senior members to share their experiences and stories with younger members, with a view to developing a strategy for preserving our heritage as well as an archive of our Casa's history for future generations.

Firstly however, we must resolve the operating conditions imposed by the Marrickville Council on the use of our premises in Sydenham as well as make physical modifications to provide disabled access to the building. We are currently restricted by numbers (15 people maximum) as well as the hours (9am to 5pm but no Sundays) during which we can use the building. Although we have been granted eight "exception days" a year, these conditions are constraining most, if not all of our activities at the premises. The Committee is addressing this as our top priority and we hope to have more to report early in the New Year.

In closing, I am glad to inform members that, the Conselho das Comunidades de Macao (CCM) has kindly allowed us to retain the surplus from the RAEM anniversary sponsorship. This money is to be used to provide three free airline tickets to Macau for the next Encontro. One of the tickets will be specifically earmarked for a youth member of our Casa.

Consequently, the Committee will organise a draw which is tentatively planned to be held at the Sydney Dia de S. João function. Details and conditions of the draw will be announced in our next Newsletter.

I trust you will enjoy the rest of the Newsletter and on behalf of all the Committee I would like to wish everyone a blessed and happy Christmas spent with friends, family and loved ones and may 2010, bring you everything you wish for.

Ed Rozario



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EDITOR'S DISCLAIMER

The Editor reserves the right to screen, accept or reject material for publication and takes no responsibility for any errors or omissions as provided by authors and contributors. While items from the Membership are sought and encouraged, the Editor reserves the right to edit articles as considered necessary. Publication of contributions is at the discretion of the Editor, and opinions expressed may not necessarily be those of the Editor nor of the Governing Committee of Casa de Macau Inc. Australia.

The Newsletter is not to be used for any member's own discourse. It is not intended to promote any propaganda nor support any political or religious affiliations. The contents are produced in good faith as a service for the benefit of Casa de Macau Members and as a method of communication within the Macanese community in Australia and abroad.



'A pile of ruins'
**The Burning of St Paul's
 Church, Macau**

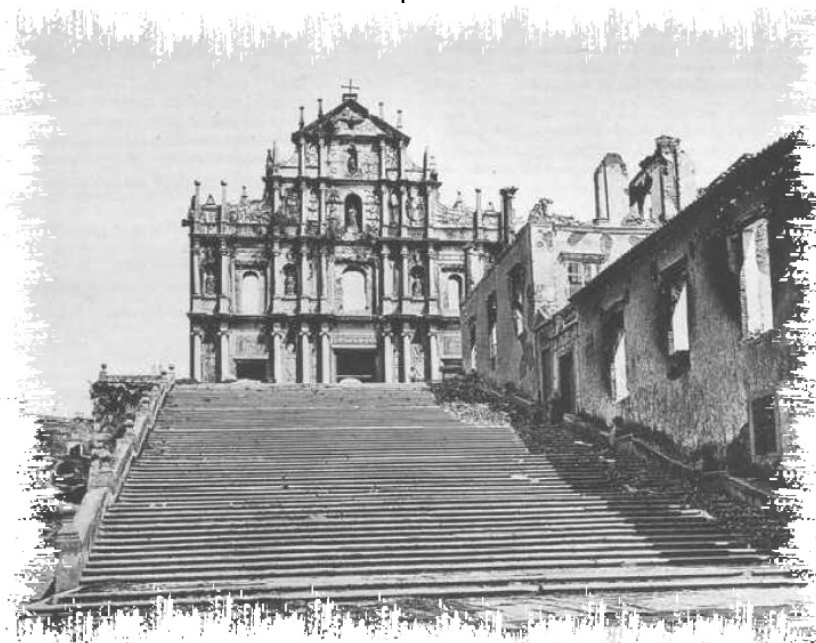
by Stuart Braga

There appears to be only one contemporary account of the fire which destroyed that great landmark, St Paul's Church, still the most recognisable image of Macau. The church had stood high above the city for more than 200 years, but 175 years ago, it came to a sudden and dreadful end in the evening of 26 January 1835.

The story is told in an English language magazine published in Canton, the Chinese Repository. It was published by an American Protestant missionary, E.C. Bridgman, and was the first serious attempt by foreigners to comment on Chinese affairs, including culture and language. It remains an important source for our understanding of the interaction between Europeans and Chinese in the 1830s, just before the Opium War which led to the British acquisition of Hong Kong. Current affairs sometimes appeared too, and the serious fire in Macau was so important that a special article appeared in the issue of February 1835.

The writer does not give his name, but it was probably Bridgman himself. He appears to have been in Macau when the disaster occurred. He was in the crowd which gazed awestruck as the church's great clock, the gift of King Louis XIV of France, struck 8.15 p.m., just as the flames engulfed it. It did not survive to strike the half hour.

The fire began in the adjacent buildings, once occupied by St Paul's College, but which had been used as a military barracks following the expulsion of the Jesuits in 1762. It soon spread to the church.



Let Elijah Bridgman tell the story

At about half past six o'clock P.M., on the 26th ultimo (January), the discharge of cannon from the fort above St Paul's, (Macao), gave the alarm of fire. The signal was quickly answered by guns from the other forts, by ringing of church bells, and the beating of drums. The principal authorities, with the troops and many of the inhabitants of Macao, were soon in motion. But, except for those who were near the church, it was for some moments doubtful what building was on fire – the state of the atmosphere at the time being such that the smoke could not ascend, but driven by a light breeze from the north-west, it enveloped the whole eastern part of the town. It was not long, however, before the flames, bursting through the roofs, left no doubt as to the point

from whence they issued. All the apartments which constituted the left wing of the church, and which were formerly occupied by priests, but latterly by the Portuguese troops, were soon on fire. For a while, some hope was entertained that the main part of the church, the chapel, might be saved. But before

eight o'clock, the fire reached the highest part of the building and also the vestry in the rear of the great altar.

Dense smoke mixed with flames soon burst from the windows on all sides and then rising through the roof presented a sight awfully grand. The flames rose very high, and the whole town and inner harbor were illuminated. Just at that moment the clock, (which was presented to the church by Louis XIV) struck eight and a quarter. Hitherto, efforts had been made to check the progress of the flames; but now, when it was quite evident that they would not extend beyond the buildings of the church, everyone seemed willing to stop and gaze at the scene.

Judging from all that we witnessed on the occasion, Macao is but poorly prepared to resist such an invasion;

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and if fires continue to be as frequent there as they have been during the few last months, some new arrangements will certainly be required for the better security of persons and property. Only three days previous to the burning of St. Paul's church, a house was consumed with one of its inmates, who was, however; supposed to have been intoxicated, and while in that state to have set the house on fire.

As early as 1565 the Jesuits had erected a church in Macao, near the site of the late one. The former was burnt by accident; and the latter was built in its stead. This was named S. Paulo, and has remained to the present time, one of the most noble and magnificent buildings in the east. On the corner stone was the following inscription:

VIRGINI MAGNÆ MATRI
CIVITAS MACAENSIS LIBENS,
POSUIT AN. 1602.

The site of the church was well chosen, and the whole edifice was formed of the best and most durable material, and in beautiful style. You approached the building by a broad and lofty flight of stone steps. The front of it consisted entirely of granite, "where the ingenious artist has contrived to enliven Grecian architecture by devotional objects. In the middle of ten pillars of the Ionian order, are three doors leading into the temple. Above them range ten pillars of the Corinthian order, and constitute five separate niches. In the middle one, directly above the principal door, there is a female figure trampling on a globe, the emblem of human habitation, and underneath it is written Mater Dei. On each side of the queen of heaven are statues of saints. In a superior division, St. Paul is represented; and above him there is a dove, the emblem of the Holy Ghost."

On various parts of the front there were inscriptions, some others in Latin, others in Chinese. The interior of the building was every way equal to its exterior. The whole is now a pile of ruins.

[From a copy of the Chinese Repository, February 1836, in the author's collection]

The walls of the church were then used for burials, niches being cut into the thick old walls. Later, São Miguel Cemetery was opened, and the graves were trans-

ferred there. In the early 20th century, Fr A. J. Gomes made an attempt to raise funds to rebuild the church, but in that era, Macau was impoverished, and nothing came of the plan. As later as the 1930s, the site was eventually cleared of debris, and over the years, as tourism developed, more conservation work was done. Eventually, in 2005, St Paul's became one of the sites included in Macau's listing in the World Heritage Register.

Obituaries

DAVID REYNALDO BUGO 10/03/41 - 17/10/2009
Sadly missed by wife Olivia and children Robbie and Michelle.



JOÃO NOLASCO da SILVA - passed away peacefully on 25 November 2009 aged 90 at Pittwood Nursing Home in Sydney. A funeral service was held on 4 December 2009 at the Magnolia Chapel of the Macquarie Park Crematorium attended by family and friends



CELESTE MARIA COOMBES 3rd September 1925 to 14th September 2009

Children: Gary, Diane & Tony

Daughters in Law – Sue and Diana

Grandchildren – Daren, Ben, Paloma, Priscila, Chanel & Isabella

Celeste Guterres or Celly Guts as she was better known is probably best remembered for her swimming ability. When Celly won her first cross harbour race in 1940 she was only 15 yrs. Old. Not only won but also broke the record. Celly went on to win again 1941. With the event of the war the next cross harbour race was not held until 1947. Celly won that year as well. The same year she was part of the Relay Team that held the Colony Record for the 3x50 yards medley and 4 x50 yards Free Style Relay





New Websites launched

New Website and Blog have been launched by Rogério P. D. Luz in São Paulo, Brasil. Details of what is available are described below. Many of our readers would be familiar with Rogério's first site "Projecto Memória Macaense". The new sites are well worth a visit and if you want to 'matar saudades' (kill nostalgia) make sure you do log on to [imagensdaluz](http://imagensdaluz.com). Translated from Portuguese by J. Estorninho.

Editor

Friends and compatriots

An invitation for you to visit my macaense websites:

Projecto Memória Macaense –

www.memoriamacaense.org

This site has completed six years in 2009, and is entering its seventh in 2010.

In its Cultural Page, Macau and Macaense, there are Menus to facilitate the navigation to news. There are 41 songs relating to Macau and the Macaenses streamed on line.

Come, take part in the celebrations of ten years since the establishment of the RAEM, with links to more news.

Visit us and see for yourself. The Home Page opens with the emotive song 'Celebração da Paz' which reminds us of Macau during the transition period.

MacaenseBR (BR = Brasil) –

www.macaensebr.viviti.com

This new site is aimed at the Brazilian macaense community and highlights matters relating to Casa de Macau. Launched on 1st September, 2009, its main aim is to split the task of spreading news previously concentrated in Projecto Memória Macaense (PMM).

This new site has a more modern format with better appeal to visitors such as streaming of videos from YouTube directly on the site, or photos in slide show format. This will hopefully stimulate and encourage the production of macaense videos, a project for 2010.

It collaborates with PMM to spread the news of activities during the ten years of RAEM with video or text messages from present and past presidents of Casa de Macau not only from Brasil. It is still in its infancy but will be updated regularly with new messages as they come to hand. Come, visit us, and return periodically.

This is a new way to put together a macaense site which includes a more dynamic way to communicate 'as nossas coisas' (all things macaense).

The video in patuá – o Passaporte – can be viewed in four episodes.

It will cover Casa de Macau party on 5th December, 2009.

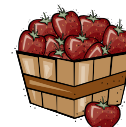
After all this, if you can still spare a few moments come and visit my other site dedicated to photos – **Imagens DaLuz** – www.imagensdaluz.com and my blog **Crónicas Macaense** <http://cronicasmacaenses.blogspot.com>

Thank you in advance for your attention and for visiting my site and blog.

Abraços

Rogério P. D. Luz

Copyright and exclusive owner of the sites and blog.



Dear Friends,

Your kind thoughts and prayers during Manuel's recent illness and hospitalisations are very much appreciated. He is in good spirits and recuperating well. Hence, my inability to attend the Sydney Xmas luncheon on Sunday 29th November, to pass on my sincere 'greetings'.

This note (via the December issue) is an opportunity, at the close of another year, to convey wishes for a - Peaceful & Blessed Christmas & New Year.

Enjoy the festive season. Look forward to seeing you at Casa socials in 2010.

Regards,

Yvonne Herrero

December 2009





Interesting History Tales

A good reminder of origins of some phrases.

Next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide their body odour. Hence, the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

The man of the house had the privilege of having the first go with the fresh, clean water, then all the other sons and men, followed by the women, finally the children; last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

There were no interior ceilings to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up their nice (relatively) clean bed. A bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection from "drop-ins" during the night. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt; only the wealthy had some flooring other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery when wet in the winter, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until, when they opened the door, it would start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence, a "thresh hold."

The English started running out of places to bury their dead, so they would dig up the older coffins and take the bones to a "bone-house" and re-use the grave. When reopening these coffins, one out of 25 were found to have scratch marks on the inside of the lid; and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground, and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer."

And that's the truth ... (and whoever said that History was boring)?

Source unknown.

World Masters Games

Contributed by Yvonne Herrero and Ed Rozario

Northern Exposure DownUnder

Yvonne Herrero

Did you know that Macanese people from two continents competed at the World Masters Games in Sydney from 10th to 18th October?

This year the Masters Games was hosted by the City of Sydney. The 7th World Masters Games was the world's largest multi-sport event. Held every four years, originally hosted by Toronto, Canada in 1985. In October over 28,000 competitors from 95 countries took part and competed in the 28 different sports held at 72 Sydney venues, awarding more than 23,000 medals with 8,500 being gold. The IMGA flag was handed over officially to the city of Turin for the next Games in August 2013. For your interest and future updates please log on to: www.torino2013.org



Vancouver sister Casa members, Gus & Kathryn Ribeiro were in town, for the *Sydney 2009 World Masters Games (10th to 18th October)*. Gus took part in the golf tournaments and enjoyed teeing off in the best courses around Sydney and along his travels. After the Games, they covered much ground on the rest of their Aussie adventure which included Northern Territory, Aires Rock, Cairns, Whitsunday, Melbourne and Canberra. Catching up with relatives; Aunty Betty Cruz, cousins Patricia & Antonio

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Dos Santos, Yvonne & Manuel Herrero, their families and many friends. Accompanied by Manuel Herrero, Gus added more fairways in Western Sydney and the South Coast. After six weeks of enjoying a warmer climate they headed back with fond memories, to a much cooler northern hemisphere and exciting lead up to the XXI *Olympic Winter Games*, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (February 12-28, 2010).

Gloria's Adventures at the World Masters Games – Sydney 2009

Ed Rozario

Gloria Collaco DeZwart, of Whittlesea, Victoria, at the tender age of 71 took up Karate and within 2 years had achieved top 5 placements in both State and National championships for her age group. This year, aged 73, with only 10 months' training and preparation, she competed in the Sydney Masters Games, not in Karate but in Athletics, the 100 metre dash no less!



Despite carrying a hamstring injury sustained two weeks earlier, Gloria was unbelievably excited when I met her and her daughter, Eddie Raphael, for the first time at their hotel the day of competition. Gloria had an adventure packed day with ups and downs and lots of stories to recount. High hopes of winning her age group and beating her PB, were dashed when she tore a muscle during the race but bravely continued on to finish 9th out of the 12 finalists.

Read a full account of Gloria's build up to the Games and the race itself written by her daughter, Eddie Raphael on our Casa website along with photos,

www.casademacau.org.au



Eddie Raphael and Gloria Collaco DeZwart

The Masters Games were truly inspiring to watch and to have a member of our own community participate was fantastic. Sunti and I and my son David, joined Gloria's daughter, Eddie at Olympic Park to cheer Gloria on and we had a wonderful day.

Well done Gloria, Casa de Macau is proud to have sponsored you for the Games! Viva Macaenses!



Yeet Hei & Leung Char

By

Doreen Remedios

Besides summer beverages of barley water, cordials and grenadines, we must not forget our Chinese favourite 'leung char' (cooling drink) which amah used to make and we were forced to drink to alleviate 'yeet hei'. In the summer months in Hong Kong, our amah would yell, 'aiya, yeet hei', followed by 'yum leung char'. Aunties would cry out 'tem yeet hei ya, beber mais leung char'. Both statements encourage the benefits of drinking this beverage. Amongst 'nossa gente' (our people), leung char is a big part of our Sino-Filhomac summer tradition.

Not so sure of the English equivalent to 'yeet hei' and 'leung char'. Also I could not come up with any Western similarity to this Chinese ritual.

What is 'yeet hei'. Chinese would say 'yeet hei' and Auntie-Aunties would say 'calor or heaty'. The literal translation for 'yeet hei' is hot breath and 'leung char' is cooling tea. It is the ying and yang in our body tempera-

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ture that needs to be restored to a healthy balance.

For example, some foods are considered 'heaty or spicy hot', especially if we eat too much curry, hot peppers, fatty, oily and fried foods or drink too much alcohol in the summer months. Some oily and fried FM dishes are also considered 'yeet hei' e.g. Chilicote and Pao Re-chedardo. It is almost like your blood vessels become 'ho dook' (toxic with too many rich foods).

Maybe it's the climate and hot and humid weather that brings out all the summer ailments of itchiness, prickly heat rash, boils, pimples, mouth sores, inflammation, skin irritation, etc. Remember 'carbuncles'? They were like extreme boils and the Chinese version is 'chong' big and red with yellow pus in the middle. Yuk!

To balance our body it is helpful to eat cooling foods, e.g. watermelon, barley water, light meals and lots of salad, fruits and leafy green vegetables. The most effective method is to follow our Sino-Filhomac tradition of drinking 'leung char' which plays an important role in our overall health.

What is 'leung char'? Although the literal translation would be 'cooling tea', the more appropriate version would be 'cleansing tea'. These are the medicinal herbs that are boiled for hours and strained and usually results in a bitter black tea. Parents and amahs would join forces to threaten us to drink this black, bitter and murky beverage. Of course, we would balk and our parents would usually add brown sugar or rock sugar to sweeten the taste.

'Leung char' is usually drank once a week in the summer months. Either it is home brewed or there are lots of varieties in the 'leung char po' (shop) in Hong Kong. The beverage comes in those big silver urns and small drinking glasses. Even in Toronto's many Chinatowns, you can get a cup of 'leung char' any time. My favourite is the refreshing sugar cane water.

Although seldom, but to this day I still do boil 'har foo cho' (bitter grass). It resembles dried flowers and I would wash and boil it for several hours. Add brown sugar to disguise the taste and drink it hot or cold. Also another family favorite is 'ching po leung'. This is a mixture of barley, lotus seeds, red dates, and a few unrecognizable ingredients. Some people would add pork bones and make a meal out of it.

Just remember:

Yeet Hei throws our bodies out of whack.

Leung Char cleanses and brings it back.

Like it, hate it, you don't have a say.

Leung char is definitely here to stay.

Whatever your ailment, choose your favourite 'leung char' and 'yum sing' (bottoms up).

Casa de Macau Notices & Announcements

Don't Be Late Membership Renewal – 2010

Renewal of Membership for 2010 is due and forms are enclosed with this Newsletter. Members are requested to kindly return their completed forms and renewal fees to the Treasurer, Therese Alonco on or before 31 January 2010. Thank you.

Sunday Lunches



We will be reintroducing Sunday Lunches at the Cultural Centre in Sydenham, starting Sunday 17th January 2010 at 11AM.

A \$10 per head charge is applicable and due to the limitation on numbers, these functions are for members only. Members wishing to attend should register with Lizette Akouri at Ph – 9809-6509 or email lizettecdma@gmail.com.

The menu for the 17th January is:

- Caldo Verde,
- Baked Pork Chop and rice and
- Doce de Bolachas e Natas for dessert

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Details of future lunch events will be posted on the website closer to the actual dates. We encourage members to visit our website for Casa news and information between our quarterly Newsletters.



T-Shirt Sale

Casa de Macau Polo shirts are on sale at the special price of \$10 each, plus postage. Kindly contact Mary Rigby (Ph – (02) 4733-3862) or email - rigbyfamily@ozemail.com.au if interested.



Queensland Representative

Natercia Xavier, the State representative for more than eleven years has decided to resign effective January 2010. We would like to thank Natti for her dedication and contribution in organising the Queensland activities of Casa de Macau for so many years. In the meantime, the committee is working on finding a replacement to fill the big shoes left by Natti.



Dear Mary

Audrey and I make our apologies for not being able to attend to AGM on the 19th but we would like this following tribute to Yvonne to be read out at the meeting, if that is convenient to the Committee.

I am taking this opportunity of conveying my sincere thanks and appreciation to Yvonne for the outstanding work she has accomplished during her tenure in CdeM in Australia. Yvonne has always extended herself in her voluntary capacity, way beyond the call of duty, often sacrificing time and family for the benefit of CdeM in Australia. She has never been self-promoting and has

always had the aim of doing her best for the Macaense community in Australia.

However, sadly Yvonne has been the butt of slander, calumny and insults from unknown sources; it has always been the coward's guise to cover their identities with anonymity. However, Yvonne has courageously endured these and carried on with her work to improve CdeM in Australia with goodwill and peace. It is sad, though, to imagine that malice and spite can be used as an instrument in endeavouring to destroy a person's altruism and whose only motive is to improve the status and well-being of the Macaense community in Australia. It is difficult to understand that charity and love are sadly lacking in many of us.

Yvonne has established world-wide connections with other Casas throughout the world and has united the Interstate Committees in Australia with diplomacy and understanding.

Let us hope that the incoming President will possess the altruism and dedication of Yvonne.

I wish Yvonne, Manuel and their family the choicest Blessings and peace and love in their lives and Audrey joins me in these wishes.

Audrey and Vasco Rodrigues

P.S. With friends like these, who needs enemies?

WRITE TO US

MAIL: P. O. Box A908,
Sydney South,
NSW 1235.

E-MAIL:

info@casademacau.org.au

Letters should be brief, preferably no more than 200 words. They must be signed and must include name and address for publication if required and telephone number for verification. While letters and articles from readers are sought and encouraged, the Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit them as considered necessary. Letters and articles are published at the discretion of the committee and its decision is final. R R





News from Around Australia

Casa de Macau Christmas Parties

NSW 29th November 2009

The Club Central venue at Hurstville proved to be a nice change, with the 160 plus attending giving it their stamp of approval, voting the Club as a likely venue for future functions. The buffet was quite delicious and the occasion was an overall success. Congratulations Brendan and Josefa and their helpers, for doing such a great job of organising the activities and entertainment for the children. There was endless praise from parents (and grandparents) -- the kids were entertained and had a lot of fun and of course Santa was a big hit as always.



good quality of service, food and facilities. All recommendations are most welcome together with feedback on ways to improve our functions.

Merry Christmas everyone!
Ed Rozario



QUEENSLAND 29th November 2009



A big vote of thanks goes to Mary for handling the RSVP's and table seating plus sharing the task of collecting the contributions on the day.

The Committee is constantly seeking venues which would suit the

greatest majority of members, while still providing a

The Queensland Christmas Party was held as in every year at the Hilton Hotel Atrium Room.

The turn out was good, as the Queensland Casa members realized that this was my last function as their State Representative, and so they put extra effort to turn up. The Christmas theme was wonderful. The smorgasbord was as usual fantastic, and dear Santa made an

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appearance. He introduced himself to all the members, especially the children. Santa was so kind, he asked each child about their gift wishes and had photos taken with each individually.

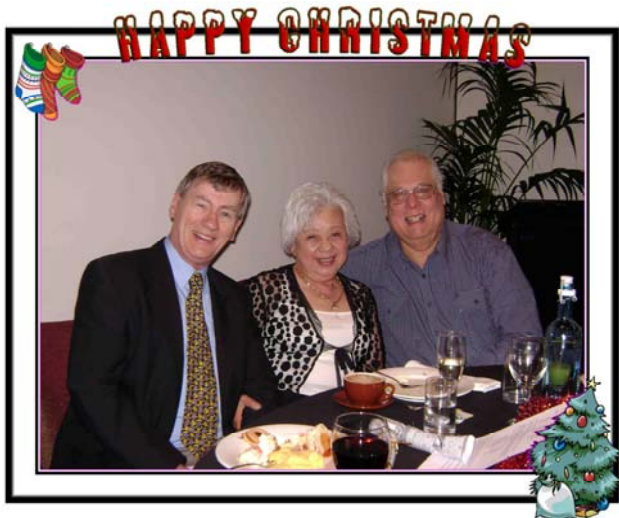
Sincere thanks to Hilton Hotel for having accommodated and serviced us through out these years, and with such excellence.

Queensland Casa members thanked me and asked me to remain as Casa Interstate Representative, but I declined saying; " it is time for me to retire".

Every member wished Merry Christmas to one another and said their farewells.

Natercia Xavier

VICTORIA 6th December 2009



The Victorian members celebrated our Christmas function with a delicious festive buffet on Sunday 6 December 2009 in a private function room at the Radisson on Flagstaff Hotel in Melbourne for 47 of our members, which was a great success.



Our special guest Santa dropped in after lunch and distributed presents to the children. We all had a most enjoyable day and would like to thank the Committee for its continued support of this event.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to the Committee and all members of Casa de Macau.

Adrienne Carasselos

ADELAIDE 29th November 2009

There were 38 members who attended the Casa's Christmas function on Sunday, 29 November 2009.

This took the form of a buffet dinner held at the



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Intercontinental Hotel on North Terrace.

The wide array of choices satisfied all tastes and we all managed to leave room for the tempting desserts.



In between courses we had an informative report from Katherine Da Silva on her attendance at the Youth Encontro in Macau and we gained an insight into attempts to engage our young members. Our best wishes go to them on their endeavours.

We wish all interstate members of Casa De Macau a very Happy Christmas and hope that 2010 will be a fulfilling year.

Carmen O'Brien

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Congratulations to Lourdes de Menezes Bayot who celebrated her 80th birthday on the 25th of October. Lourdes's family organised a luncheon at the Chinese Restaurant in Huskisson where 120 close family and friends help to mark this special occasion. It was a day to remember and a great time was had by all. Parabens and many more to come.



João Estorninho from Hobart celebrated his 61st birthday on the 11th December 2009. Parabens e felicidades.

Yvanovich 60th Anniversary Celebrations

Philippe and Margaret Yvanovich celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 1 October 2009 with a lovely lunch on Saturday 3 Oct. Guests from as far as San Francisco came to Canberra to celebrate this wonderful achievement. Proudly on display were a Papal Blessing from His Holiness the Pope and congratulatory messages from the Queen, the Governor-General, the Prime Minister, the ACT Chief Minister and their local MP.



Philip and Margie cutting cake

The bridesmaid from 60 years ago, Terese da Luz, Phil's sister and Margie's St Mary's School classmate, travelled from San Francisco for the event. Phil's sisters Pam Gosano from Sydney and Lolly Alves from Wellington, NZ,

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(L-R) Lolita Alves, Pam Gosano, Philip and Margie Yvanovich and Teresa da Luz

with her son Andre, added to the celebrations. Also present were their sons, Bruno and Gerard, their wives Jill and Denisse, Bruce Leaver, husband of their late daughter Marina, and all their eight grandchildren.

Notable guests were Fernando and Fernanda Ribeiro, Lew Osmond (Sydney), Wilfrid (Jnr.) and Margaret Lawrence, Robert Pereira (son of Molly), Jeannie Parry and Carol Kidd (daughters of Alvaro 'Aco' Rocha) and their respective husbands Richard and Chris.

Congratulatory messages were read from some who were unable to attend including one from Carmen (Yvanovich) O'Brien in Adelaide, who was preparing to travel to the Encontro.

The cake was cut using the traditional Yvanovich wedding knife, which was also used sixty years ago and has been used in Yvanovich family weddings since 1872. Phil and Margie have since inaugurated a new knife as there is no more space on the old one to engrave new names!

It was a wonderful occasion with the bride and groom basking in the love and affection of all present.

Salut!



WEDDINGS

Jennifer da Silva (daughter of Alberto and Winnie da Silva) married David Balaza on 17th October 2009. David, although born in Wagga Wagga, is of Hungarian decent. Currently Jennifer is working at St Joseph's Primary as a kindergarten teacher whilst David works for the local council with ambitions to enter politics. The wedding was held at St Augustine's Chapel, Salisbury, followed by lunch reception at Festival Function Centre, Findon, the menu included Caldo Verde and a mixture of both portuguese and hungarian sweets. A 10 course Chinese Banquet Dinner was held later that evening at Imperial Peking Restaurant, St Peters. The wedding was attended by over 100 close family and friends.



Pictured Left to Right

Irene Ruiz nee Osmond, Ramon Ruiz, Les da Silva, Rosita da Silva, David Balaza, Jennifer Balaza nee da Silva, Winnie da Silva, Alberto da Silva, Katherine da Silva.

Bur\$ary Report

Casa de Macau Bursaries

In the next newsletter we will be profiling the 2009 bursary recipients. Are you going to University or TAFE next year? The Casa offers bursaries to eligible students.

For an application pack contact Mary Rigby rigbyfamily@ozemail.com.au
Phone/Fax 02-47333862.

Application close 1st April 2010.



RAEM 10th Anniversary Celebration



SYDNEY RAEM Function



President and Vice President and their spouses with VIP guests and Founding President Mr Vasco Rodrigues

Casa de Macau Australia held successful functions to mark the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Macau SAR. Members in each State were invited to be guests of the Conselhos das Comunidades Macaenses, to mark the occasion. Lunches were held in Brisbane, Adelaide, Hobart and Canberra, while in Melbourne and Sydney dinners were the preference. Perth will hold their function in December. In total 358 members attended the various functions.

In Sydney, the Chinese dinner was attended by 170 of our members. The Consul General of Portugal and his wife, Dr and Mrs Simeao Pinto de Mesquita, Ms Zhao Xuefang, the Deputy Consul General of the People Republic of China, Mr Peng Douyi, Vice Consul of the PRC, were among the VIP guests. Unfortunately, Mrs Helen Wong of Macau Tourism Office in Australia, took ill on the night and was unable to attend, sending her apologies. The event was appropriately timed as it was also the 20th anniversary of the founding of Casa de Macau in Australia and we were able to acknowledge our founding president Mr Vasco Rodrigues who was present with many of his family members.

Short speeches were delivered at the start of the eve-

ning and toasts to the future of Macau were proposed and enthusiastically acknowledged. Our president Edward Rozario, Dr Simeão Pinto de Mesquita and Ms Zhao Xuefang, all spoke.

It was a nice opportunity for members to reconnect socially while enjoying some very good food and drink. All the VIP guests were presented with a bottle of specially labeled Australian red wine on their departure.

We were able to operate within the budget and ended with a surplus which the CCM has generously agreed to allow us to use to provide **three free** airline tickets to Macau for the Encontro to be held in November 2010. A lucky draw will be held to choose the winners, one of whom will be from our youth membership. Only paid up adult members as at 29 November 2009 will be eligible for the draw.

We thank the members of CCM for generously providing the funds for the anniversary events and their continued support of our Casa in Australia.

Here are some photos taken at the events



Pictured left are Pam Gosano and Maria Fernanda de Carvalho

Pictured below are Yvonne Herrero and Leo Osmund





VICTORIAN RAEM FUNCTION

We had a very good response from our Victorian members to mark this occasion, with a get together for a delicious yum cha at Tai Pan Restaurant in Templestowe on Saturday 7 November 2009 for over 50 people.

We all had a wonderful meal and would like to thank the Conselho das Comunidades Macaense and the Committee for making this event possible.

Members will recall that earlier in the year we were represented at the Youth Encontro in Macau by, Katherine da Silva, Carla de Menezes Ribeiro and Patricia Reid who were also joined by Sylvie Narciso, making up the Australian contingent. The following is a short account of their impressions and experiences during that week in Macau. Katherine da Silva, also submitted a complete write up of the Youth Encontro, along with photographs, which can be read or downloaded from our Casa website at www.casademacau.org.au

We are very proud to have been represented by such an enthusiastic, talented and interested group of individuals. Well done ladies and thank you.

Youth Encontro 2009 held in Macau 19 - 25 July

“Upon our return to Australia we have since been asked multiple times how our overseas trip to Macau and China went. We tended to respond with the briefest account of our journey possible - it was incredible!”

Initially, being selected to represent Australia was a pleasure and a great experience, however it was the experiences and knowledge gained throughout our trip which has proved most beneficial and memorable. The Casa committee had organised an exceptionally full schedule whereby we had the opportunity to mingle with Macanese youth from around the world, and more importantly from Macau itself. Young professionals who were prominent within the business sector were an inspiration that Macau provided a great deal of opportunity for youths such as ourselves to continue to foster the Macanese heritage. Furthermore, the schedule entailed plenary sessions that allowed the Casa representatives to highlight concerns, voice opinions and debate topics that were crucial to the continuing development of the culture and also the economic future of Macau.

Perhaps the most exciting part of our full schedule was the social events organised on our behalf. Dinners, ceremonies, lunches and trips to important heritage areas of Macau and China allowed the representatives and participants the chance to relax, have some fun and take in some much needed 34 degrees and 95% humidity. These trips also proved educa-

tional when learning about the history, culture and important times and landmarks of the areas. A great first-hand account, of our family backgrounds and sometimes even the original houses they lived in and restaurants that they dined in.

We must admit however, the photo account that we have of the Encontro is probably biased towards the over-the-top range and abundance of food we were so lucky to have consumed! Buffets tended to be the preferred choice of the Encontro organisers and it was the traditional Macanese buffet that excited the Casa representatives most. In particular, it was the Minchi with cubed potatoes that attracted the most photographs and the most excitement!

If we are to highlight the Casa officials and the general Casa committee who ran the Encontro, to say they did a fantastic job is a gross understatement. The entire 10 day event was carefully monitored, thoughtfully planned and it ensured we were able to experience and learn, as much possible in the limited time frame available. Senior officials such as Dr Jose Luis de Sales Marques were welcoming and approachable. They were more than happy to personally discuss any questions we had about the Encontro and the Macau region and exhibited great interest in our lives back home. Our educational and work backgrounds, the culture and lifestyles we lead and of course the activities that our individual Casa undertakes. Furthermore, it was the junior officials and assistants who ensured the day to day running of the events were executed without a hitch. To organise and keep track of a group of around 40 people is a feat in itself and the Casa de Macau Australia representatives would like to thank them for their contribution and time. We have since made friendships that will continue to foster when we visit each other again in our respective countries!

The Casa de Macau committee of Australia did an exceptionally good job of briefing us three representatives right up to the moment before our departure. Yvonne Herrero in particular ensured that we had enough information to fully participate in the Encontro's activities. Information was provided on the officials, the other countries Casa's and their selected representatives and articles which discussed important current events and prominent Macanese youth. Something which helped our time in Macau and China be as beneficial and rewarding as possible.

Upon our return, Kat, Trish, Sylvie and myself have had numerous discussions as to what we individually obtained from the July event and whether the Encontro could be deemed a success or otherwise. Personally, the experiences I have obtained are countless. Being able to see first-hand what the Macanese culture and way of life is about is the only way to truly understand why I am a part of Casa de Macau Australia. An informative and well rounded exhibition. The plenary sessions seemed to be designed so that the worldwide Macanese youths would perhaps one day bring their individual skills and talents to Macau in order to help foster the Macanese culture and be a part of Macau's future. For some, this may be a relevant and exciting prospect, I do worry however that for a lot of us we may not see it as a viable option with the career path

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Committee Members

President:

Edward Rozario

Vice President:

Lizette Viana Akouri

Secretary:

Mary Basto Rigby

Treasurer:

Therese Alonco

Deputy Secretary:

Brendan Basto

Committee Members:

Josefa Coelho

Cesar Pereira

Judy Rocha

Alvaro Xavier

Interstate Representatives:

Carmen O'Brien (SA)

Natercia Xavier (QLD)

Adrienne Ozorio Carasallos (VIC)

Margarida Grills (ACT)

Daniel Badaraco (WA)

Jorge Estorninho (TAS)

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Casa Down
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Newsletter



NEXT ISSUE

is due out in **March, 2010**. Anyone wishing to contribute articles are requested to submit them no later than **Friday, 19th February, 2010** to jestor38@gmail.com

we have chosen. However, the Encontro opened up new doors, networks and opportunities that if any representatives are interested in furthering a career or lifestyle in Macau then it is more than feasible. All youth representatives will however be a part of Macau's future in one way or another. And for the most part, we can rest assured that this recent trip will not be our last and that we will continue to be an active member of our Casa back in Australia.

In summation, the success of the 2009 Encontro can be gauged by the copious amounts of inspiration that the four Australian members have since received. Our experiences and newly found knowledge of Macau has become an integral part of our approach to many things and in particular a proper understanding of our cultural heritage and family. On behalf of the youth representatives and participants from Casa de Macau Australia, we would like to thank all who were involved in making the 2009 Encontro, in our eyes, a great success. We recognise the importance we play in promoting Macanese tradition and in furthering its future development, and, we will continue to strive in fulfilling that role."

Written by Carla de Menezes Ribeiro in conjunction with; Katherine da Silva, Sylvie Narciso and Patricia Reid

28 October 2009

PORTUGAL 2009

At last, after almost a year in planning and with a lot of help from our Sister Casa Lusitano, we finally met up in Porto on the 16th of October in anticipation of the start of our tour the following day. The first night was to recover after the long flight and it was also a chance to meet up with old friends and relatives from California.



After a good rest, the next morning we went on our way to enjoy the sights of Porto, the start of a great and most enjoyable trip. A total of 13 members from Sydney, Melbourne and SA plus 18 from Lusitano made it a nice group. Casa de Macau in Lisbon put on a delicious Cha Gordo for us which included cheese toast, chilicote, samosas, noodles and beautiful delicious desserts. After two weeks or so of hotel and restaurant food which even though good, we were all hanging out for some "home cooked food" and I can safely say we all pigged out on it. For all those who are thinking of making a trip to Portugal in the future all I can say is: **DO IT**, it's well worth it and with the right crowd it can only make it that little bit more special.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Maria Roliz for looking after the group and a special thanks to Casa de Macau, Lisboa for the hospitality shown to us during our visit.

Marcus Gutierrez

