



Casa Down Under Newsletter

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Special points of interest:

- Page 1-4 - in 1736 the Portuguese Government banned printing in any of its overseas territories.
- Page 7 - An item by Nina Deacon about games we used to play as kids...
- Page 11 - Remembering Dia de São João

Editor
 Jorge A. Estorninho
Co-Ordinator
 Lizette Viana Akouri

President's Report

Ed Rozario

Dear Members,

All the Dia de São João functions were a huge success, thanks to the efforts of the representatives in every State. I think Brisbane must be the envy of all of us. Not only did Melissa Fox and her volunteers serve up a delicious lunch of Macaense favourites like Empada, Tacho, Minchi, they also managed to find a great venue right on the river.... I'm sure you will enjoy reading about it in this newsletter along with the other accounts from various States.

There is no new information on the Youth En-

contro in Macau to report. I am told, organizers are still working with the sponsors to try and make this happen but have not shared any details to date.

We will be holding our next AGM on Saturday **22 October** at our Cultural Centre in Sydenham. Formal notice and Nomination forms for Committee positions are enclosed with this newsletter. Please reserve this date and try to attend.

At the Dia de São João function in Sydney, we floated the idea of holding a "Cha Gordo and Tea Dance" event sometime

in September. Based on the enthusiastic response, the Committee is actively searching for a venue where we can hold this function. Some members have provided us with a few suggestions and we are following up on them. We will advise more when we have firm details. Some members have already volunteered to help cook but more helpers are needed. If you can contribute, please contact any member of the Committee or email newsletter.cdma@gmail.com

Our dealings with Council on the DA issues continue to move ahead albeit at a

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The Right Man at the Right Time in the Right Place

Stuart Braga

Father Joaquim Affonso Gonçalves

In the long history of Macau, a few people stand out as having made a real difference to the lives of others. Chief among them was a Lazarist priest, Fr Joaquim Affonso Gon-

çalves, who taught at the *Seminário S. José*, (St Joseph's Seminary) in Macau from 1813 until his death in 1841 at the age of 65. These were extraordinary

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President's Report

snail's pace. We obtained an opinion on the fire safety aspect of the premises that would require only the two windows on the north side of the building to be treated. This means we will most likely meet all Council's required modifications within the budgeted sum mentioned in our last newsletter and are push-

ing ahead. In May we submitted an application to Council for the building certificate to proceed with this work, however as we go to print, we have yet to receive Council's reply although we chase them every ten days. I will continue to report as this saga unfolds. Meanwhile, enjoy the rest of the Newsletter.

As always we are grateful to all the contributors for

their articles and to our editor Jorge Estorninho for his efforts in putting it all together. Many thanks.

Ed Rozario
President



Polo Shirts

We have Casa de Macau Polo Shirts Sizes S (limited numbers) M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL and Casa de Macau Badges. The price for these items is a bargain \$7 ea. Which includes postage.

If interested in any of the above items contact Mary Rigby on rigbyfamily@ozemail.com.au or phone 02 47333862

The Right Man at the Right Time in the Right Place

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times, and Fr Gonçalves was an extraordinary teacher. Over a period of fifteen years, he taught

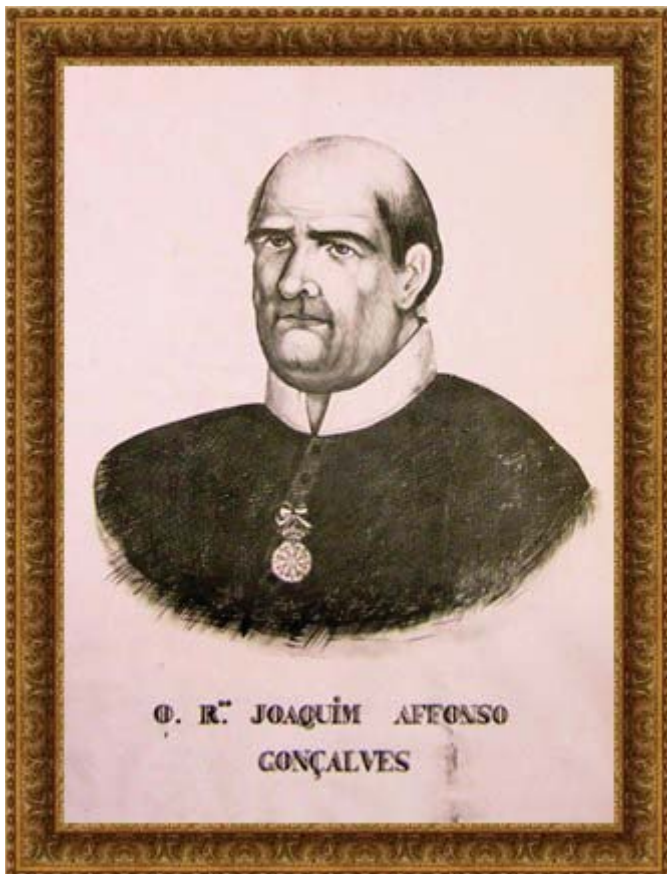
some dozens of boys what he saw as the 'craft' of printing, and gave them life skills that enabled them to succeed in a harshly competitive

world. For the rest of the nineteenth century, as a result of his work, Portuguese printers dominated this essential service industry in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore and Canton. He was in effect the pioneer of technical education in the Far East.

More than that, he was the leading Portuguese scholar in Chinese in this and any preceding era. He taught his students how to print in order to get his scholarly work published. He did this to such effect that he was the only Portuguese to be admitted to membership of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, later granted the title Royal Asiatic Society. It was the leading body interested in sinological studies. He was honoured in Portugal too. In 1840 he was elected one of

sixty corresponding members of the *Academia Real das Ciências* (the Royal Academy of Sciences) in Lisbon. Towards the end of his life, on 18 November 1840, he was granted the title of *Cavaleiro da Ordem de N. S. da Conceição de Vila Viçosa*, knight of the Order of Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa. In short, he was recognised as a world authority in his field of study. How did this remarkable man achieve all this?

Joaquim Affonso Gonçalves was born in Tojal, Cerva, in the district of Vila Real on 23 March 1781. He took his vows in 1801, and left for China in 1812 to carry out the installation of astronomical equipment at the



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famous Peking Observatory, set up by the Jesuits in the 17th century. However, he was not permitted to enter China, and remained in Macau. Peking's loss was Macau's great gain.

He came to Macau when things were bad and getting worse. Macau had endured many crises, but none was more severe than the steep decline that set in with the rapid growth of British and American trade with China during the second and third decades of the nineteenth century. Increasing numbers of foreign ships had appeared in Far Eastern waters, competing for China's trade. The wealthy trading concerns of Britain, the United States, and other countries had greater resources than the Portuguese, and this had the effect of reducing the number of Portuguese vessels engaged in commerce in the East. There were fewer opportunities at sea for Portuguese youths in Macau. People who had for generations been involved with trade and shipping watched helplessly as opportunities slipped away from themselves and their sons.

What was to be done? Fr Joaquim Leite, the Superior of St Joseph's Seminary, had an idea. With dwindling opportunities available, even to the sons of the elite of Macau, he adopted a new strategy that proved to be highly

In 1736,
the Portuguese government
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a prohibition that
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Portuguese subjects
until 1820.

successful for the boys, and of cardinal importance for the future of the Portuguese community throughout the Far East. This was to acquire a disused printing press in Macau to train his students as printers. The idea that Portuguese people would ever engage in manual work in the Far East was out of the question, but the 'craft' of printing was a different matter. It followed that the practitioners of this craft, under the expert tutelage of an eminent priest, not a tradesman, would strive to ensure that their work was excellent. So it proved.

In Macau's early days, the Jesuits had a printing press

at Macau that produced many works in support of their mission, but it was sold in 1620 and sent to Manila. In 1736, the Portuguese government banned printing in any of its overseas territories, a prohibition that was strictly enforced on Portuguese subjects until 1820. However,

the British brought a printing press to Macau in 1815, so in 1818, Fr Leite sought permission to do the same, to publish works in support of Catholic missions in China. This permission was given, but it was not until 1826 that the seminary was able to secure a printing press. Father Gonçalves then swung into action. Since his arrival more than a decade earlier, he had worked hard on a major project – a Portuguese-Chinese dictionary, as well several linguistic treatises.

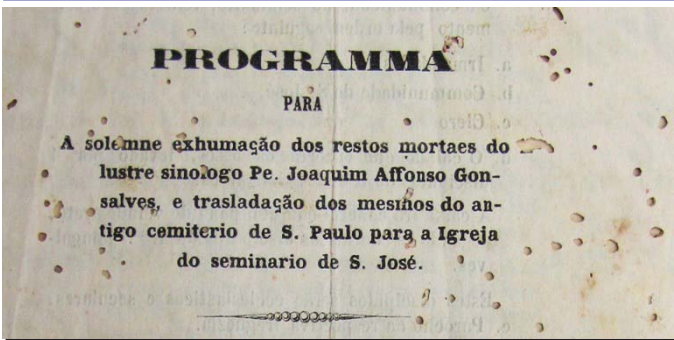
By 1831, the dictionary had been published in both forms: Portuguese to Chinese and Chinese to Portuguese. To achieve this, Gonçalves had moved beyond the hand-carved wooden blocks used earlier to a font of Chinese movable type. Further learned works followed between 1836 and 1841, *Vocabularium Latino-Sinicum*, *Lexicon Manuale Latino-Sinicum* and *Lexicon Magnum Latino-*

Sinicum. Macau's first historian to write in English, C.A. Montalto de Jesus paid tribute to his work: it 'constituted an unprecedented sinological achievement among the Portuguese after well-nigh three centuries in China'.¹ In all he published seven books, and two more major works were almost ready for publication at the time of his death. They were a Chinese-Latin dictionary and a version of the New Testament in Chinese. Unfortunately, they remained unpublished.

The boys at St. Joseph's who assisted Fr Gonçalves were obviously trained to a very high level of proficiency, working on books in which absolute accuracy was essential. It is not hard to see this fine scholar with his precise linguistic standards as a very demanding task-master who would expect the same standards from his pupils that he set for himself. They could hardly have had a better preparation for high expectations in the commercial work on which some of them would be engaged for the next half-century and even longer. Fr Gonçalves died in 1841, and was buried in the *ruínas S. Paolo*, the ruins of St Paul's, which had been destroyed by fire six years before. In the 1870s, a new cemetery, *S. Miguel* (St Michael's), was opened, and many graves

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¹ C.A. Montalto de Jesus, *Historic Macao*, p. 282



This is the heading of the printed order of proceedings for Fr Gonçalves' re-burial.

Programme for the solemn exhumation of the mortal remains of the illustrious sinologue Fr Joaquim Affonso Gonsalves, and the translation of the same from the old cemetery of St Paul's to the church of St Joseph's seminary.

Many old documents in Macau were eaten by worms. This was rescued by J.M. Braga before they destroyed it completely.

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were transferred there from St Paul's. However, Fr Gonçalves was re-interred in the chapel of the seminary he had served with such distinction.

On 3 October 1872, the 31st anniversary of his death, a solemn procession wended its way from St Paul's, through the streets of Macau, past S. Domingo (St. Dominic's), through the *Largo do Senado* (the Senate Square, the very heart of Macau) to the chapel of St Joseph's adjoining the *Largo S. Agostinho* (St Augustine's Square). Every dignitary in the territory was present, including the diplomatic corps, the councillors of the *Leal Senado* and many more.

Fr Gonçalves well merited the generous Latin epitaph

inscribed on the black marble stone then placed in the chapel of St. Joseph's. It reads, in English, 'Here lies the Reverend D. Joaquim Alfonso Gonçalves, Portuguese priest of the Congregation of Missions in the Royal College of St Joseph of Macao, a distinguished teacher of the Royal Asiatic Society, the only foreigner concerned for Chinese missions. Moved by godly prayers, he composed learned works in his native Portuguese and in Latin. Of the gentlest disposition, of excellent learning, and of blameless life, he rested in the Lord, full of days, beyond his sixty-fifth year, on the third of October in the year 1841. In memory of so great a man, his friends and lovers of learning have dedicated this monument.'

A still greater monument was in the lives of those

who were given a career and a livelihood in the burgeoning printing industry throughout the Far East as western influence rapidly increased during the next half century. The *Government Gazette* of Hong Kong and of the Straits Settlements (the nineteenth century name for what became the colony of Singapore), most newspapers, many books and a vast array of commercial printed matter throughout the Far East were set up by Portuguese compositors, many of whom were employed by Portuguese proprietors. For half a century they dominated the printing industry. Apart from printing, that first generation of emigrants from Macau in the 1840s had few employment options other than poorly-paid clerical work. However, in later generations, greater opportunities would open up for their descendants.

All this was the direct result of the genius of one outstanding man – Joaquim Alfonso Gonçalves. He deserves to be remembered with gratitude by the whole worldwide Macanese community.

The illustrations in this article and much of the information are from the J.M. Braga collection, National Library of Australia. I am indebted also to Prof Henrique d'Assumpção AO and

Alberto Guterres for their assistance.

Stuart Braga



Fable of the porcupine

It was the coldest winter ever. Many animals died because of the cold.

The porcupines, realizing the situation, decided to group together to keep warm. This way they covered and protected themselves; but the quills of each one wounded their closest companions. After awhile, they decided to distance themselves one from the other and they began to die, alone and frozen. So they had to make a choice: either accept the quills of their companions or disappear from the Earth. Wisely, they decided to go back to being together. They learned to live with the little wounds caused by the close relationship with their companions in order to receive the warmth that came from the others. This way they were able to survive.

Moral of the story: The best relationship is not the one that brings together perfect people, but when each individual learns to live with the imperfections of others and can admire the other person's good qualities.

² They were carefully listed by J.M. Braga in his 'Bio-bibliographical index' now in the National Library of Australia, MS 4300, series 7.2. The list was then published in 1942 by Fr Manuel Teixeira in his small book on Pedro Nolasco da Silva.

³ The inscription is set out in Latin by J.D. Ball, *Macao the Holy City, the Gem of the Orient Earth*, p. 22.

Around Australia

VICTORIA

The Victorian members of Casa celebrated our Dia de St Joao at the Mesh Restaurant, Crown Promenade Hotel, with an international lunch buffet and jazz, which was enjoyed by 31 members.

Thank you again to the Committee for continuing to subsidise this popular event.

Adrienne Carassellos
Victorian Representative

TASMANIA

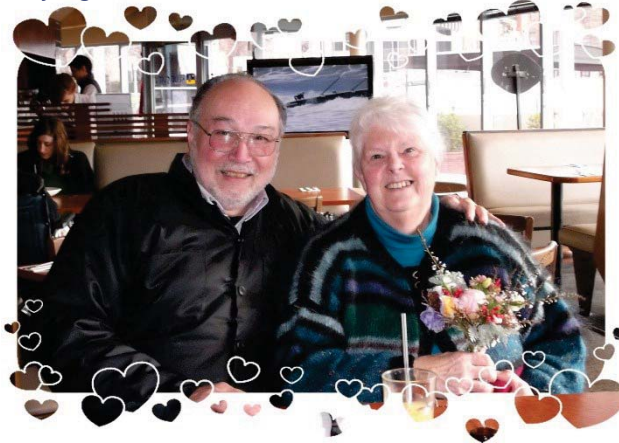
Wedding Anniversary

FORTY YEARS ON!

12th June, 1971, dawned as a very foggy day which later turned into glorious sunshine by 11.00 a.m. when Jorge and Pamela were united in marriage at the Hobart Baptist Church, with the Reverend Peter Stockman officiating.

Forty years on, on 12th June, 2011, a bright and sunny Sunday morning, they celebrated their 40th anniversary event with a family gathering at the Blue Skies Restaurant on

Jorge and Pam below at the Blue Skies Restaurant



the Hobart waterfront. Guests were John and Teresa Estorninho, Manuel, Darrie-Lee and Oliver Estorninho and Marlene Cowen, Darrie-Lee's mother. Oriol was given the choice to come but instead chose to attend a friend's birthday party. Naturally, that was to be the expected outcome. Who would want to give up a party with young people for a gathering of adults? The other apologies were from Robert who was in Thailand and Michael... .. was nursing something or other which shall remain unnamed(?!).

Forty years on, Jorge and Pamela's marriage boat has weathered a few storms and difficulties but it has never sunk. So, Jorge and Pamela now look forward to the years ahead, however many the Lord God will grant them, with love, friendship and companionship.

Dia de São João celebrations in Hobart was celebrated on Sunday 26th June at the Har Wee Yee Restaurant in North

Hobart. Thanks again to Casa de Macau for their generous subsidy of this function.

Birthdays - Darrie-Lee Estorninho celebrated her birthday on the 2nd July at a quiet party amongst family and friends. Pam Estorninho will be celebrate hers on 30th July, soon followed by Jorge on the 15th August.

We'll have to watch our waistlines after so many celebrations!

I think a period of abstinence will in order for the next few months.

Jorge Estorninho

Tasmanian Representative.

NSW

Dia de São João Lunch in Sydney

Around noon, Sunday June 26, CASA members gathered at the Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club to celebrate DIA DE SAO JOAO (Macau Day!). 2011

was a turning point for our event. Previous years had talented members contribute their time and skill concocting fabulous Macanese fare to share but tragedy loomed this year as many of those talented volunteers were unable to contribute; unavailable to cook or even attend. The committee came up with a daring plan to engage the Ryde Eastwood Club's chef in a Macanese culinary adventure for our celebration. Committee members formed a posse (Lizette, Judy & Nina) who liaised with said chef offering recipes (sworn to secrecy!), tips and amusing feedback. After a test meal, we felt the plan had potential and, fingers crossed, we rolled with it. Members and guests were presented a delightfully themed banquet of the following: garden, prawn & avocado plus Caesar's salads as well as vegetable au gratin and steamed baby Bok Choy; crispy fried Spring Rolls, Samosas and tasty Peking Pork Ribs aside a steaming turnip cake (Loh Pak Ko), with steamed rice accompanying the rich Portuguese Chicken and Chinese style Curried Beef Brisket plus a good attempt at Porco Bafassa. OK, so it wasn't exactly the traditional family fare we love but it still warmed more than a few hearts with many returned to the buffet for a little more of this or that. Desert that followed was a spread of fruit salad, creme brulee, pavlova,

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cupcakes and chocolate mouse as well as little cups of mango pudding or red and green jellies - Portuguese colours - a fun touch. As tea and coffee was made available and our group broke apart to clustered banter, the general feel was that the fare was enjoyed by nearly all with a great response to give it all another go, next time 'round. Two beautiful 'traditional' Dia De Sao Joao fruits baskets were raffled, the kids were entertained by John Paul (& Kermit) and many members volunteered as contributors to a September Cha Gordo (high tea), as CASA photographers or members of a working group to help organise our library but the highlight of the day was the flow of sated participants, staggering home amid smiles."

Brendan Basto

Queensland

Queensland Dia de Sao Joao luncheon 2011

Almost sixty members and friends of Casa de Macau gathered on Sunday 19th June at the South Brisbane Sailing Club, to celebrate Dia de Sao Joao.

Overlooking the Brisbane River, families enjoyed an array of home-cooked

traditional Macanese dishes including impada, minchi, tacho, vaca estufado and feijoada as well as delicious desserts such as Portuguese tarts, mango pudding Macau style and fruit platters.

Thank you to the wonderful army of hard working volunteers who cooked for the day: Lydia O'Kane, Paul O'Kane, Frances Xavier, Melinda Xavier, Fernanda Da Silva, Yvonne Doong, Joe & Lisa Vieira, Rosanna Webb, Natercia Xavier, Juana Bernardo, Rosie Godwin and Michella.

The Macau Government Tourist Office in Sydney kindly lent us some stunning banners to decorate the hall. They also gave us some merchandise to give away, as did Mary Rigby from the Casa.

Elsa Richards and Yvonne Doong entertained the crowd with their beautiful renditions of traditional songs and poetry. Younger members enjoyed learning to play mahjong.

We welcomed the Casa's newest member, 9 day old Oscar, son of Angie Walton-Godwin and Scott Walton. Four generations of his family attended our event, including his grandmother Rosie Godwin and great-grandmother Sue Soares.

Grateful thanks go to Michella Xavier for her assistance in organising the day, as well as her sons' Alex, Daniel & To-

bi's assistance throughout. Many thanks go to all of the cooks for their culinary talents and to all members for their help on the day especially Frances and Paul Xavier, Joe Vieira, his children Lisa, Jon and Steven and my husband Paul O'Kane. Thank you also to Mary Rigby and Ed Rozario for all their support towards the day.

Melissa Fox

*Editor's Note -
Please turn to page
8 for a selection of
photos of the
occasion.*

Announcements



Henrique d'Assumpção

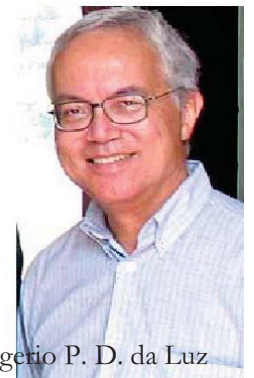
We are happy to announce that "Macanese Families" and "Projecto Memoria Macaense", both electronic sites, set up and maintained respectively by Em. prof. Henrique "Quito" D'Assumpcao and Rogerio da Luz, were declared ex aequo recipients of this year's IIM Identity Award.

For details please consult our homepage at www.iimacau.org.mo/

Congratulations Emeritus Professor Henrique d'Assumpção.

The International Institute of Macau (IIM) has awarded its Identity Award for 2011 to the website "Macanese Families". This site is the brainchild of Emeritus Prof. Henry d'Assumpção in Adelaide, South Australia, and is continually being enhanced. Since the presentations in Macau and Sydney there have been numerous additions and refinements. We encourage you to visit "Macanese Families if you have not done so recently. The link is www.macaneseamilies.com

"Macanese Families is a huge contribution to our history



Rogerio P. D. da Luz

and a wonderful gift to our community worldwide.

We also congratulate Rogerio da Luz in Brazil on receiving the same award for his website "Projecto Memoria Macaense". The link to this site is www.memoriamaense.org/index.html

a bit of nostalgia



Games we Played

As anyone who met me along the way in Macau will know I had a great time at the Encontro; dancing, eating but most importantly catching up with loved ones from around the world. Excitement and sadness was also a part of our time in Macau as we noted the progress being made, sometimes at the expense of the places and buildings of my memory.

On one particular day we visited Taipa and as I walked a back street we came across a group of school age children. They were playing games that I played when I was their age, the memory of those good times came flooding back as I gazed upon these children playing "Cinco Sacos – 5 bags". I remember we played this game everywhere; at home, at school anywhere really.

Cinco Sacos is a great game that can be played alone or with any number of friends. Part of its magic for us as

children was the making of the SACO's themselves; a neat little pocket of material filled with rice grains and then the opening sewn over and you are ready to play.



How did we play Cinco Sacos:

To Start – someone throws the sacks in front of the player

Game 1 – the player takes one sack, throws it in the air and grabs another sack, continuing until the other four sacks have been gathered up and put aside.

Game 2 – the player tosses one sack in the air and grabs two (2) sacks and puts them aside.

Game 3 – the player tosses one sack in the air and grabs three (3) and puts them aside and then tosses again and grabs the remaining sack.

Game 4 – the player tosses one sack in the air and tries to grab the remaining four (4)

Game 5 – Put all the sacks on the back of your hand piled up like a pyramid, turn your hand and grab the lot.

At any stage the player drops a sack their turn is over and it moves onto the next person, if by yourself then start again from the beginning.

Later as we strolled along the streets, another great memory came back to me

as we noticed a group of boys playing Chiquia (Tek In). So what is Chiquia, it is the name given to both the game and the toy – the toy being similar to the shuttlecock used in Badminton.

The basic exception is that the base is usually made of old bits of paper cut into circles and bound together with four (4) chicken feathers attached. The more colourful the feathers the better and the base needs to be quite thick preferably with an old bit of leather on the top and bottom of the paper pile. A simple game, where the idea is to kick the

Chiquia with the inside of one foot in the air and repeat, no hands allowed. The game is over and it's someone else's turn when the Chiquia drops on the ground.

I'm sure the two games above were unique to us as kids in Macau, however we did share with children around the world "TAPA" – hop-scotch, "SALTA CORDA" – skipping and "BOLA VENENOSA" – softball where the wrist is the bat and the ball is a Tennis ball.

Who wants to play at the next function, I have two (2) spare Chiquia's and will make some SACOS, maybe we could have the committee give a demonstration



and then compete with the members.

Nina (Pequenina) Deacon

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.

Brisbane Dia de São João luncheon



Obituaries



Alfredo Maria

Dos Santos passed away on July 5th 2011 after a short battle with thyroid cancer. He was 80 years old.

He was strong and well up to a couple of weeks before he entered hospital, and was a devoted carer of his wife Teresa.

Alfredo's last moments were peaceful and he passed away in the presence of his beloved daughters Beatriz and Maria.

He will be greatly missed by us all.



Eulogy for Leonard Vincent Osmund

5/4/1024 to 29/5/2011

Uncle Leo was born on the 5th April 1924 and passed away aged 87 on the 29th May 2011.

A citizen of the United States; a resident of Sydney, Australia; a proud filho de Macau, born in the then British colony of Hong Kong of Sarita Brito Osmund and Georgie Osmund, brother of Mildred Marie Osmund Noronha and brother in law of Antonio Eduardo (Eddie) Noronha.

My earliest memories of Uncle Leo are of living in Austin Road in Kowloon. I shared a room with Uncle Leo until he migrated to the United States, as did so many of our people looking for the streets paved with gold; Cum San - as the Chinese described San Francisco. When he arrived there he worked for Wells Fargo Bank, and travelled everywhere seeing friends and family. He struggled financially, as he did most of his life, but that didn't stop him helping others.

Uncle Leo was an upright man, straight in character, honest with warm personalities, very giving by nature and brave to a fault. He was one of those people to whom the word 'NO' was not included in his vocabulary, he always said Yes, even to his detriment. Nothing was too much or too hard; he would put himself out for anyone and everyone.

However, despite all this, he was no saint. He had Avó Sarita's wicked sense of humour, and he was a bit of a klutz (a clumsy dolt). I never forget his mistaking Wasabi sauce for avocado dip at a Japanese dinner, to his chagrin he swallowed a lot, then broke out in a cold sweat. He ended up having to drink so much water to cool his innards

that it was enough to fill Sydney Harbour! Another time he swallowed a white decorative pebble thinking it was a 'Minty'. These thoughts bring tears to my eyes, but also reminds me of my sense of schadenfreude (delight in another person's misfortune).

He was a refugee in Macau during the last War with Mom and my grandparents Avó Sarita and Avô Georgie. Avô Georgie passed away there during the War, and when Uncle Leo last went back to Macau he looked for Avô's grave, only to be told it had been moved without notification. Then the Osmund determination and stubbornness really came to the fore and he found the relocated remains.

He served in The Hong Kong Regiment, and I last saw him on Anzac Day 2011, he was one of the Last four members marching in respect to the many past veterans.

In his younger days in Hong Kong he worked in Hong Kong for the Standard Chartered Bank until his emigration to the land of the free and home of the brave, of which he was very proud and grateful citizen. Uncle Leo never married, and not having any family in America he decided to move to Aus-

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tralia to be with his sister and her family. He lived with Mum and Dad until they passed away and it was then that he was a great comfort to us all, leading the prayers with saying of the rosary, to which he was very faithful each day. He was educated in La Salle College where he played soccer. He also played the mandolin and sang, and he was like all the Osmunds, a good eater and very musical.

After Mum's passing, I had asked him come to live with us in Maitland a city of some 200 Kilometres north from Sydney, but he declined as he wanted to be independent, he felt he didn't want to impose on any of my sisters or myself.

He had this encyclopaedic knowledge of our community. We spent hours going through the two volumes of 'The Portuguese in Hong Kong, where he knew of almost everyone pictured therein; who was related to whom, where they lived and where they worked, in a sense he was our version of Wikipedia. We have lost a real historical connection to our past and I only wish I exploited his knowledge more as it was a lot of fun especially

when he told us stories of our forbears and our past.

I am confident as Uncle Leo was such a good man, he is in the presence of Our Lord. As my mother use to nag him something terrible, I hope Our Lord was correct when he said there were many rooms in his house, maybe Uncle Leo will not have to be in the same room, but sharing such with other friends.

Alberto (Al) Noronha



NUMBERS

(contributed by Yvonne Herrero)

No - this piece is not about the NUM3ERS TV series. In the April issue (page 4): By God's Grace - 'Four Scores & 17" on my Mum, Betty Cruz 97th Birthday, there was a footnote on the significance of No. 17 (dezesete) in our family and hence I am sharing a brief revelation.

According to Wikipedia, "Numerology is any study of the purported mystical relationship between a

count or measurement and life. It has many systems and traditions and beliefs, some documented, some esoteric". We know that a number is a mathematical object used to count and measure - great for basic arithmetic or advanced science calculations. With reserved fascination, I must confess I'm no expert in numerology and never had the time to dig further. Be as it may, we are surrounded by 'numericals' from our birth date until we

Have you ever considered or asked when is 'numbers' more than coincidence, fate or of a higher order. Here is a snap shot of my family's historical relationship with the number 17. Interestingly, as new settlers, our ship from HK to Sydney departed on the 17th July (delayed a day due to dock strike), also both my birth year and that of my husband Manuel is 1952, when added = 17. Add 1 + 7 = 8 which according to Chinese tradition is a very lucky number. Here are a few celebrative 17th dates (birthdays and anniversaries) listed in Calendar month:

- March - Mum's birthday
- June - Son's birthday
- August - Nephew in law birthday
- September - Nephew birthday
- October - Dad's birthday
- December- Cousin birthday

- =====
- February - my wedding
 - July - Parents wedding

Our whole life is structured by numbers from calendar dates to the hands on the clocks; whilst waiting for your number to be called at the bank; deli; RTA or takeaway. In sports a decimal of a second can mean a new record or a defeat.

leave this world when our time is up. Dates are important e.g. birthdays, Christenings, weddings, anniversaries and death We all record and celebrate important dates e.g. accounting the various stages in life, from child to adulthood, including senior years; our children's birth, their 1st - steps, words, day care, kindie, school, high school, uni, then moving out, moving back in, drivers license, they become adults or parents too, or they move overseas and so it goes....!!

We cannot underestimate the importance of numbers and how it rules our daily lives. Be it used on bets, lot-to or personal pin number for easier recall when using ATMs. Whichever way numbers manifest in your life it's still something that can't be ignored. Do you have a favourite number? This page is numbered and so I end.

Every good and perfect gift comes from above.

James 1:17

Yvonne



Dia de São João, its significance and what it means to us, Filhos de Macau.

Our President Ed Rozario was going through his email archives and found the following article written by our friend Bosco Correa some time ago. As we have all just finished celebrating the Dia de São João in June I thought it would be appropriate to remind our readers why we actually celebrate this particular day. Our sincere thanks to Bosco. Enjoy.
Editor

"Dia de São João" 24 June 1622

To break the Portuguese influence in their lucrative trade with China and Japan through



Macau the Dutch decided to attack and occupy the Portuguese Colony in 1622. They sent a large invasion fleet of thirteen warships with 1,300 men under the command of Admiral Cornelius Reijersen.

Facing this mighty assault force was some hundred Portuguese regular soldiers and a similar amount of Macaenses volunteers, in total no more than 300 men led by Captain-Major Lopo Sarmiento de Carvalho.

The Dutch made their landing at dawn on June 24th the Feast Day of Saint John the Baptist (São João) at Calcilhas beach. Opposing a landing force of 800 Dutch troops there was a group of Portuguese musketeers commanded by Antonio Rodriguez Cavalinho.

In the ensuing skirmish a Portuguese musket shot hit Admiral Reijersen in the stomach compelling him to retire to his flagship. His command was taken over by Captain Hans Ruffijn. Although taking casualties the Dutch pressed on with their attack forcing Cavalinho and

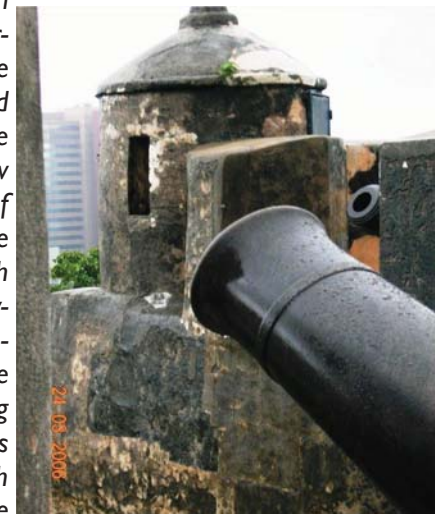
his musketeers to fall back to a position within artillery range of the city.

The invaders then came under fire from a heavy cannon manned by the Jesuit soldier-priests on the half-finished fortress of Sao Paulo de Monte. A well placed shot by Jesuit Padre Jeronimo Rho blew up a wagonload of gunpowder in the midst of the Dutch formation with devastating results. Other guns from Monte opened fire causing further casualties amongst the Dutch and demoralising the invaders.

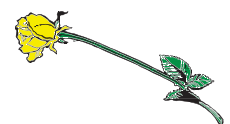
Commander Sarmiento de Carvalho seizing the opportunity gave the order for a counter attack and shouting the Portuguese battle-cry "Sao Tiago" (Saint James) led his eager men who hurled themselves at the Dutch. They were soon joined by Macaenses citizens, their African slaves and armed Jesuits and Friars.

The Dutch on seeing their commander Captain Ruffijn killed by a musket ball and terrified by the furious onslaught of the defenders turned and bolted. The Dutch sailors manning the longboats took fright and put to sea leaving the troops either to the cold steel of the Portuguese and their African slaves or to a watery grave.

It was a total victory for the Portuguese and this was attributed to the intervention of "São João" who's Feast Day it was. "Dia de São João" the 24th of June has since been celebrated in Macau with a special Mass at Sé Cathedral.



In the past we celebrated this feast day by partaking of our Macanese desserts and sweets and all varieties of tropical fruits. This was one night in the year according to folklore that we need not be concerned about getting a bad case of stomach upset – as the legend goes that São. João was looking after us, as he did on that fateful day back in 1622.



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.

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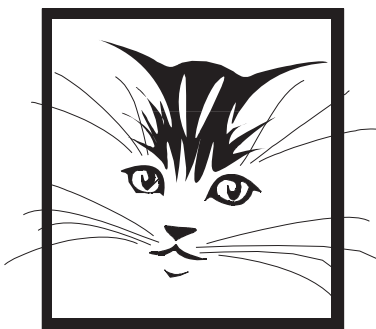


*Macau Cultural Center
244 Unwins Bridge Road
Sydenham*

A bit of humour

Give me a sense of humor,
Lord, Give me the grace to
see a joke, To get some
humor out of life, and pass it
on to other folk!

The story of Catus & Micus



A cat died and went to
heaven. God met her at
the golden gate and
said, "You have been a
good cat all these years.

Anything you want is
yours for the asking."

The cat thought a
minute and then said,
"All my life I lived on a
farm and slept on hard
wooden floors. I would
like a real fluffy pillow
to sleep on."

God said, "Say no
more." Instantly the cat
had a huge fluffy pillow.

A few days later, six
mice were killed in an
accident and they all
went to heaven at the
same time.

God met the mice at
the gates of heaven
with the same offer that
he made the cat.

The mice said, "Well,
we have had to run all
of our lives, from cats,
dogs, and even people
with brooms. If we
could just have some
little roller skates we
would never have to
run again."

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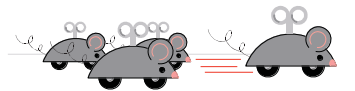
God answered, "It is
done." All the mice had
beautiful little roller-
skates.

About a week later
God decided to check
on

the cat. He found her
sound asleep on her
fluffy pillow.

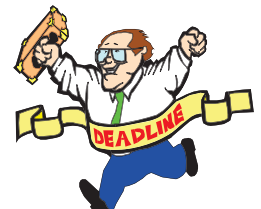
God gently awakened
the cat and asked, "Is
everything OK? How
have you been doing?
Are you happy?"

The cat replied, "Oh, it is
wonderful. I have never
been so happy in my life.
My pillow is so fluffy, and
those little meals on
wheels you have been
sending over are deli-
cious"



Casa Down Under Newsletter

NEXT ISSUE



is due out **end October, 2011**. Anyone wishing
to contribute articles are requested to submit
them no later than **Friday, 14th October, 2011**
to jestor1938@bigpond.com

Ooops! Omissions with apologies.....

Greetings from Adelaide:

Our Casa celebrated Dia de Sao Joao by having a Chinese banquet on Sunday, 19 June 2011.

Those who came to the lunch enjoyed the variety of food commencing with Peking Duck.

We congratulated Henry d'Assumpcao on his receiving the 2011 Identity Award from the IIM in Macau. This was awarded for his contribution and hard work in establishing the website *Macanese Families*.

We also congratulated Zachary Kockan (Guterres) who had just returned from America where he had been selected to play soccer for Australia in the Under 13's competition.

Carmen O'Brien
SA Representative
#

FOR SALE

The Portuguese Community in Hong Kong Volume II

If you are interested in purchasing this book by Antonio (Toneco) da Silva, the Casa still has some copies available at \$50 per book inclusive of postage. Contact Mary Rigby at 02 47333862 or email rigbyfamily@ozemail.com.au