



# AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY ROME NEWS

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## AUSTRALIA TODAY – ABORIGINAL ART EXHIBITION

The National Gallery of Florence is presenting an Aboriginal art exhibition in Rome, featuring 127 prominent artists such as **Rover Thomas Joolama**, **Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri**, **Judy Watson Napangardi** and **Nancy Nungurrayi**.

The exhibition, divided into five themes, represents the traditions of some of the more prominent and ancient tribes.

The curators of the exhibition, **Luca Faccenda** and **Marco Parri**, have placed particular emphasis on the cultural roots of the nomadic Australian Aborigines and their conception of an infinite spiritual cycle called the 'dreamtime' (Altjeringa) which is responsible for Creation and governs Aboriginal law.

As Aboriginal culture and heritage is based on oral and visual traditions rather than written texts, the collection is sure to provide great insight into the lives of these ancient tribes.



Judy Watson Napangardi. *Mina Mina Desert, 2008. Yuendumu, NT.*

### REVIEW OF 2009

2009 was a busy year for relations between Australia and Italy, with numerous high level visits, especially connected to the G8.

### Australia at the G8

In July the **Australian Prime Minister**, the **Hon. Kevin Rudd**, and the Minister for Climate Change, **Senator Penny Wong**, took part in the G8 Summit in L'Aquila. Previous months had seen the involvement of the Australian Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the **Hon. Tony Burke**, at both the G8 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Treviso and the G8 Environment Ministers' Meeting in Syracuse; in May the **Hon. Martin Ferguson**, Minister for Resources and Energy, attended

the G8 Energy Ministers' Meeting in Rome; and in June the Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, **Mr Richard Smith**, represented Australia at the G8 Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Afghanistan and Pakistan in Trieste.

During the Environment Ministers' Meeting in Syracuse a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** was signed on Italian involvement in the **Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute (GCCSI)**, an important Australian initiative in the energy sector. Under the MOU Italian energy company **ENEL** is a founding partner in the GCCSI. The official announcement of the GCCSI was made in L'Aquila by Prime Minister Rudd (*see photo on page two*). The GCCSI will collaborate with the International Energy Agency, the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum and other associations to facilitate the G8 goal of realising 20 large scale carbon capture and storage projects by 2020.

### Visits from Italy to Australia

On the Italian side, in late April the Deputy Minister for International Trade, the **Hon. Adolfo Urso**, led a business delegation to Australia and, together with the **Hon. Kim Carr**, the Australian Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, signed a letter of intent for Italian involvement in the **Square Kilometre Array** project. In July, the Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs with responsibility for Oceania, the **Hon. Stefania Craxi**, paid an official visit to Australia and met, among others, the Australian Foreign Minister, the **Hon. Stephen Smith**.

### Australia Today

#### Museo Di Palazzo Incontro

Via dei Prefetti, 22, Rome  
19 January – 7 March 2010

**Extended to 25 April 2010**

Tuesday – Sunday  
(Closed Monday)  
10.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m.

For further information, visit:

<http://www.provincia.roma.it/provinz/eventi/11046>

## Australia strengthens partnership with WFP

2009 also saw important progress in Australia's work with United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), which is based in Rome.

In October, Australian Foreign Minister **Stephen Smith** and the Executive Director of WFP, **Josette Sheeran**, signed a new **AU\$180 million** four-year Strategic Partnership Agreement.

Ms Sheeran described Australia as a "model donor" and expressed the hope other countries would follow Australia's lead on prompt, predictable, multi-year and flexible responses to global hunger. For further details on this innovative agreement please [click here](#).

### Did you know?

In 2009, Australia contributed more than **AU\$90 million** (US\$81 million) to WFP, making it the **seventh largest donor** to the organisation last year.



At the podium, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and US President Barack Obama launch the GCCSI at the G8 in L'Aquila in July 2009, together with (R-L) Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, President of the Korean Republic Lee Myung-bak, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, and Mexican President Felipe Calderón.

## Australia's First Saint

2009 was also an important year for Australia's relations with the Holy See.

While in Italy in July 2009, Prime Minister Rudd met **His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI** and discussed the imminent canonisation of the **Blessed Mary MacKillop**. The end of the year saw the announcement by the Vatican of the recognition of a second miracle by the Blessed Mary MacKillop, and it has

recently been announced that she will be canonised on 17 October 2010, making her **Australia's first saint**.

On 13 February 2009, former Deputy Prime Minister **Tim Fischer** was formally welcomed by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI as Australia's first Ambassador to the Holy See who is resident in Rome.

For more information, visit [www.holysee.embassy.gov.au](http://www.holysee.embassy.gov.au).

## AUSTRALIAN DINOSAURS TO DELIGHT ITALIANS

Walking with Dinosaurs

Photography by Joan Marcus - copyright CPC2008



Australia has a certain reputation for its dangerous wildlife (but don't let that put you off visiting!). This time, however, we can guarantee that you will be scared, albeit from the comfort of a theatre seat.

The award-winning show **Walking with Dinosaurs**, based on the BBC programme of the same name, will be in Italy in 2010, with shows in the cities of **Milan (late February)**, and **Bologna and Turin (early March)**. The technology behind the lifesize moving dinosaur models was created in Australia by **The Creature Technology Company**. The company's application of film animatronics to a live show has created what has been described as a triumph of stagecraft. For company history, visit [www.creaturetechnology.com](http://www.creaturetechnology.com), or see [www.dinosaurlive.com](http://www.dinosaurlive.com) for tickets.

## Australians in Italy

Australian expertise is making its own contribution to readjusting Italy's energy landscape.

Australian company **Po Valley Energy** became Italy's newest gas producer with its first flows of gas into the country's energy grid commencing just before Christmas 2009.

The flows from the company's wholly-owned **Castello gas field** east of Milan have already built up to around 1.5 million cubic feet of gas per day and will eventually reach 2.5 million cubic feet per day.

The company's Chief Executive Officer **Michael Masterman** said, "We are proud to be a pioneer in delivering new sources of secure domestic supplies to the Italian gas market, which is largely dependent on imported gas. Po Valley has been supported in this endeavour by the Italian Energy Ministry and, of course, by our patient shareholders".

This is the first gas taken from the Po Valley in over ten years and is an excellent example of the mutually beneficial trade and investment relationship between Italy and Australia.

For further information, please visit [www.povalley.com](http://www.povalley.com).

Po Valley Energy CEO Michael Masterman and Ambassador Amanda Vanstone open the Castello gas field.



Australian singer, actress and model Natalie Imbruglia. Image courtesy of EGG Management

## Italians Down Under - Natalie Imbruglia

The long history of Italian migration to Australia has seen subsequent generations of those early settlers firmly established in all corners of Australian life. This has given Italian culture a central position in the Australian lifestyle and several Italo-Australians have become 'ambassadors' for our country by making an impact around the globe in their chosen professions. To start we have chosen one of the best known – **Natalie Imbruglia**.

The singer, actress and model has a Sicilian father from Lipari and has often expressed her pride in her Italian heritage, although admitting she can't speak Italian. She has enjoyed international success since recording her first album, **Left of the Middle**, in 1997. Her voice is also well-known to thousands of Italian children as she sang the theme song, **All the Magic**, in the film version of the popular cartoon series **Winx**.

Natalie's website includes a link to her Twitter account which reveals she spent last Christmas in Australia with her family, enjoying her mother's pavlova, the classic Australian dessert.

For more information, please visit [www.natalieimbruglia.com](http://www.natalieimbruglia.com).

## What have the Australians ever done for us?

Australia has produced many talented inventors who have had a hand in shaping our world. No Australian innovation has probably had a greater impact on our everyday lives than an event which took place in Melbourne on 26 December 1906. This was the screening of the **Story of the Kelly Gang**, commonly considered the first full-length feature film and duly recognised as such by UNESCO's Memory of the World register in 2007.

The film tells the story of Ned Kelly, Australia's most famous outlaw. The filmmakers displayed an adept command of marketing before it was even fashionable. The controversial nature of the film led to it being banned in some places for glorifying criminals, and of course ensured that everyone wanted to see it.

Sadly most of the original one hour long film is now lost, with only about 17 minutes kept at the **Australian National Film and Sound Archive**. For more information, visit [www.nfsa.gov.au](http://www.nfsa.gov.au).

## Say again?

Australian English has some unique expressions, and Aussies have some unique ways of shortening words and sentences. Lazy? Or just creative?

We'll let you be the judge!

Here are some helpful expressions if you're travelling to Australia...

**G'day!** = Hello!

**No worries** = No problem.

**She'll be right!** =

*Everything will be ok!*

**Barbie** = Barbeque

**Sunnies** = Sunglasses

**Arvo** = Afternoon

## Services for Australians

The Ambassador in Rome is **Amanda Vanstone**, while the Consul-General and Senior Trade Commissioner in Milan is **Tim Gauci**. Diplomatic staff normally serve for three years. The Rome Embassy has recently seen a change in its Deputy Head of Mission with the arrival of **Peter Rayner**.

A very important facet of the work performed by Australian Embassies overseas is the provision of **consular and passports services** to Australian nationals. Every year many Australians find themselves in trouble overseas, often through no fault of their own.

Our ability to assist Australians is largely dependent on our being able to contact people at short notice. This is particularly the case in the event of a natural disaster, accident involving large numbers of casualties, terrorist incident, or simply where we need to advise Australians of incidents affecting their loved ones at home. To assist us in contacting Australian travellers, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade maintains an **Online Register of Australians Overseas**.

The database can be accessed through the internet at: [www.orao.dfat.gov.au](http://www.orao.dfat.gov.au), through the Smartraveller website at: [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au), or through the Embassy website, [www.italy.embassy.gov.au/rome/consular.html](http://www.italy.embassy.gov.au/rome/consular.html), where there is a link to the register. Australians in Italy can also let us register their details by contacting the Embassy at: [consular-rome@dfat.gov.au](mailto:consular-rome@dfat.gov.au).

Please help us to help you. We strongly urge you to register with us so that we can contact you in an emergency.

The personal information you provide is protected by the Australian Privacy Act. Contrary to popular opinion, except in very special circumstances involving your safety or that of other people, the information you provide **cannot** be shared with third parties like the Australian Tax Office, Australian Family Courts, or social welfare organisations, without your informed consent.

### Did you know?

Last year alone the Australian Government, through its network of Embassies and Consulates overseas and the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra, assisted more than **27,500 Australians** in difficulty and performed over **166,000 notarial acts** for Australians in **152 countries**. Australian overseas missions also issued **7,379 Emergency Passports**, while regional passport production centres in London and Washington issued **44,892 full-validity passports** to Australian travellers.

## Australia in the Italian Media

Italy's leading newspaper *Corriere della Sera* recently published an article about Alice Springs, the town in the very heart of Australia. To read the article, please visit [www.italy.embassy.gov.au/rome/CorriereArt.html](http://www.italy.embassy.gov.au/rome/CorriereArt.html).



Alice Springs  
Image - Tourism Australia copyright

## Australia: Dream Destination for Italians

For the second year running, the Italian public has chosen Australia as their dream holiday destination in a survey organised for the BIT Tourism Exhibition in Milan (18-21 February). [Click here for details.](#)

## What's On

Ten students from **L'Aquila** have won **grants to study in Australia during 2010**. The award scheme was set up following the earthquake in April 2009. For further information [click here](#).

**Australian Rules Football:** anyone interested in learning more about, or indeed playing, this typical Australian sport (it's not soccer, it's not rugby), [click here](#) or email [nicola.giampaolo@ng-legal.eu](mailto:nicola.giampaolo@ng-legal.eu) or [mmusella@tonucci.it](mailto:mmusella@tonucci.it).

The Australian Trade Commission together with Assimpredil-ANCE will be presenting "**Green Building Australia ...Let's build today to sustain our tomorrow**" in Milan on Friday, 12 March. Several innovative Australian companies will be present. Contact [sara.covino@austrade.gov.au](mailto:sara.covino@austrade.gov.au).

During 2010 a series of **seminars** will be held to encourage business links between Italy and Australia. Italian enterprises can contact [valeria.bartolini@australiaitalia.it](mailto:valeria.bartolini@australiaitalia.it) or [click here](#).

From 19-21 February Melbourne hosted the **Italo-Australian workshop, Photons for Medicine and Materials Science**, to promote collaboration in the application of synchrotron radiation. Visit: [www.bsr2010.org](http://www.bsr2010.org).

## Australian Embassy to Italy

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## Useful websites

Immigration: [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)  
Business: [www.australiantradecommission.it](http://www.australiantradecommission.it)  
Tourism: [www.australia.com](http://www.australia.com)  
Foreign Affairs and Trade: [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)