



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY ROME NEWS

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Italian business success in Australia

Italian companies have won a number of important contracts in Australia in recent months.

Prysmian Cables & Systems

won a €223 million (AUS\$300 million) contract from the Australian Government in January 2011 for the supply of fibre optic cables for the new national broadband network. Prysmian will be helping the Australian Government achieve its vision of a next generation broadband network in the **largest infrastructure project in Australia's history**.

In September 2010 Italian construction company **Ghella** was part of an international consortium which won a AUS\$1.7 billion tender for the construction of the Northern Link tunnel project in **Brisbane, Queensland**. Ghella's success followed the company's involvement in a mission organised by the Italian Construction Contractors' Association, **ANCE**, with the support

of the Australian trade and investment agency, **Austrade**.

In August 2010 **Lottomatica**, Italy's leading commercial lottery operator, won the tender to supply tickets for the **Western Australia lottery**. Lottomatica will provide the services for the next five years and envisages sales worth several million euros.

Australia Day

*Australians everywhere celebrate **Australia Day**, our official national day, on **26 January**. The day commemorates the arrival of the **First Fleet** at Sydney Cove in 1788. More information on **Australia Day** and more details of the many events which will be taking place to mark **Australia Day** can be found [here](#). Recipients of awards in the **Order of Australia** are traditionally announced on 26 January (and again in mid-year), and the **Australian of the Year Awards** are announced on **Australia Day** eve. This year, **Clelia March-Doeve**, the Australian Embassy in Rome's **Cultural Officer**, was awarded a **Medal of the Order of Australia** for service to international relations through the promotion of Australian culture in Italy.*

Australian Flood Disaster

Australia has a long history of being beset by natural disasters. Each year communities across the country brace themselves for cyclones, floods and bush fires. This year, although less than a month old, has been no exception, with the extraordinary amount of rainfall and consequent **flooding** particularly in the state of **Queensland**, where roughly three-quarters of the state was declared a disaster area. Many will have no doubt seen terrible images of the flooding, which affected an area greater than France, Germany and Italy combined and also reached the capital city of **Brisbane**.

Dramatic flooding has also affected the state of **New South Wales**, and severe flooding continues elsewhere, especially in **Victoria**. Tragically, more than 30 lives have been lost across Australia's east coast in the floods, a number of people are still missing, and hundreds of thousands have been affected.

The Queensland Government has set up a **flood relief appeal** and donors are encouraged to contribute. Information about the appeal and how to donate can be found [here](#). The Australian Embassy in Rome is also accepting donations on behalf of anyone who wishes to contribute and is unable to send money to Australia. [Click here](#) for more information.

The impact of the floods in Queensland was keenly felt in Italy, also given the large Italo-Australian community that resides in the State. **President Giorgio Napolitano** sent a letter to **Governor-General Quentin Bryce** expressing his sorrow at the loss of life and looking forward to a return to normality for the families and businesses affected.



Ghella's Maldonado construction site Buenos Aires (Argentina).

Image courtesy of Ghella.

Canonisation of Mary MacKillop, Australia's First Saint



Mary MacKillop, an Australian nun who lived from 1842 to 1909, was **canonised on 17 October 2010** during a ceremony in St Peter's Square at the Vatican presided over by **Pope**

Benedict XVI. This made her the **first Australian** to be recognised by the Roman Catholic Church as a saint.

The canonisation ceremony saw five other saints canonised from other countries and was attended by several thousand pilgrims, including some **8,000 Australians**. There were also several events organised in Australia. The Australian Government was represented at the canonisation by a parliamentary group headed by the **Foreign Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP**, and the **Shadow Foreign Minister, the Hon Julie Bishop MP**. Details on Mary MacKillop's life can be found [here](#).

Rituals of Life Exhibition

At the same time as the canonisation a new exhibition space was opened at the **Vatican Museums** dedicated to **Aboriginal cultures** and includes a

special exhibition, known as the **"Rituals of Life"**, focussing on Australian Aboriginal culture. **The exhibition will be on display throughout 2011.**

In preparing the exhibition, **Fr. Nicola Mapelli, Director of the Ethnological Collections** of the Vatican Museums, together with **Katherine Aigner, a representative of the National Museum of Australia**, travelled

extensively to Aboriginal communities, mainly in Western Australia and the Tiwi Islands, to reconnect with the descendants of the Aboriginal people who sent their works to the Vatican almost one century ago as a gift to Pope Pius XI.

The "Rituals of Life" exhibition was also supported by the **Australian Embassy to the Holy See, Qantas Airways** and **Tourism Australia**.

L-R: Shadow Foreign Minister the Hon Julie Bishop MP, Foreign Minister the Hon Kevin Rudd MP and Australian Ambassador to the Holy See the Hon Tim Fischer at the inauguration of the "Rituals of Life" exhibition.



Australian Film Retrospective

The **Australian Embassy** together with the **Scuola Nazionale di Cinema** and the **Nuovo Cinema Aquila** will be hosting a **festival of Australian films** from **28 March to 1 April** in **Rome**.

The week-long festival will feature a rich retrospective of around ten Australian films spanning three decades of Australian cinema, with a focus on films released since 2000. Films and screening times will be announced shortly.

Keep an eye on the [Events](#) section of the Australian Embassy website for details.

One of the films to be featured will be ***Romulus, My Father***, a 2007 production based on Raimond Gaita's critically acclaimed memoir.

The film celebrates the unbreakable bond between father and son, telling the story of Romulus, his wife Christina, and the adversity they face bringing up their son, Raimond.

Featuring **Eric Bana** and the young **Kodi Smit-McPhee**, this is one film not to be missed at the festival.



Scene from *Romulus, My Father*.
Image from Dendy/Footprint Films.

Sporting Links

A range of sports provide important links between Italy and Australia. Here are just a few:

Cycling – one of the most popular participation sports in both Australia and Italy, cycling sees increasingly close ties between the two countries. Several Australians ride for Italian teams, while Australian cyclists regularly train at the **Australian Institute of Sport's European Training Centre in Varese**, Lombardy. In fact Varese will be the European home to a new Australian cycling team called **GreenEDGE Cycling** and it is expected that around three-quarters of the team's riders will be Australian. For further details [click here](#).

The **UCI Road World Championships** were held in **Melbourne** in October 2010 and saw success for both countries, with Italian **Giorgia Bronzini** taking gold in the Women's Elite Road Race and Australian **Michael Matthew** winning the Men's Under 23 Road Race. It was also announced in Melbourne that **Florence** will host the 2013 Championships.



Brad Ness playing for Lottomatica Elecom.
Image courtesy of Elecomsport.

Basketball - Two Australian wheelchair athletes were instrumental in Rome-based **Lottomatica Elecom** winning the **Italian wheelchair basketball Supercoppa** for the first time in December 2010.

The match against Santa Lucia held in Verona finished 72-47 with key contributions from Australians **Michael Hartnett** and **Brad Ness**.

Rugby – Italy and Australia are in the same group for this year's **Rugby World Cup** to be held in New Zealand and will meet in Christchurch on 11 September. A taste of what is to come was provided at the Stadio Franchi in Florence in November last year when the **Wallabies** beat the **Azzurri** 32-14 during their European tour. We'd like to think that Italy's chances have been improved by their selection of a number of **Italo-Australian players** for their recent test and Six Nation matches, including **Luke McLean**, **Craig Gower** and **Kristopher Burton**.



The Wallabies vs the Azzurri in Florence.
Image from Australian Rugby.

14 Italian students win 2011 Endeavour Awards

14 Italian students have won the Australian Government's "**Endeavour Awards 2011**" **Scholarships** – meaning almost one in five of the scholarships awarded to European students has been won by an Italian.

"Endeavour Awards" is a **merit-based Australian Government scholarship** program open to students from all over the world, giving them the opportunity to continue their studies in Australia. Italian students can apply for the following Endeavour Scholarships: Endeavour VET Awards, Endeavour Executive Awards, Endeavour Research Fellowships and Endeavour Europe Awards. Applications for **Endeavour Awards 2012** open in April 2011 and close in July 2011. For further information [click here](#). For general information about studying in Australia, [click here](#).



Rino, Luigi and Bruno Grollo.
Image courtesy of the Grollo Group.

Italians in Australia

Many Italian migrant families brought with them a wealth of construction and engineering knowledge which was vital to the development of Australia. One of the best-known is the **Grollo Group**. The Grollo Group Construction company was founded by Luigi Grollo in 1948, twenty years after he emigrated from **Treviso**.

The Group is known particularly for its construction of Melbourne's **Rialto Towers**, built by Grollo Australia which is owned by Rino and Diana and managed by their son, Lorenzo. The Rialto was the city's main tourist attraction and tallest building until 2006 when the construction of the **Eureka Tower** was completed by Grocon, which is owned by Bruno Grollo and managed by his sons, Adam and Daniel. The Group has constructed many iconic buildings in Melbourne and Sydney.

Did you know?



As Italy celebrates its **150th Anniversary of Unification** one of the key figures in that event, **Giuseppe Garibaldi**, found time to briefly visit Australia in **1853**, stopping in Victoria and Tasmania on his way to Peru. His son, Ricciotti Garibaldi, spent time in Australia and his grandson, Giuseppe Garibaldi II, was born in Melbourne in 1879.

Staff Appointments

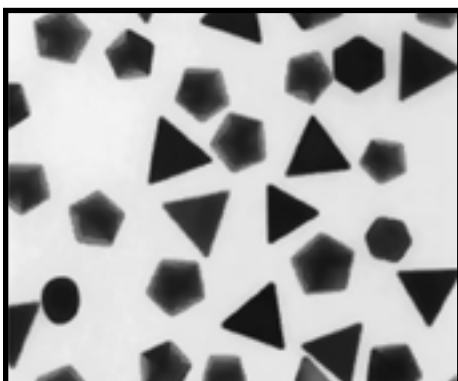


Simone Desmarchelier is the new **Australian Consul-General in Milan** and **Trade Commissioner for Austrade**.

She has a background as both a commercial lawyer at leading Australian law firms and as an investment adviser in major international banks in London, with experience in continental Europe and Australia. She is bilingual in English and Italian.

From Roman nanocrystals to new gold catalysts

Two thousand years ago **Roman glass blowers** used gold nanocrystals to create vases with brilliant colours ranging from red to purple. Today, gold nanocrystals are being used as **catalysts in chemical reactions** and may even become high-density data storage devices. A team led by **Professor Paul Mulvaney** at the **University of Melbourne** is using gold nanocrystals as a colour-coded catalyst.



Electron micrograph of different forms of gold nanocrystals.

“The ability to watch a single nanocrystal as it catalyses a chemical reaction is unprecedented. We can now

compare different sizes and shapes of nanocrystals,” says Professor Mulvaney. “Eventually, we may be able to study chemical reactions taking place one molecule at a time.” Extending the idea, post-doctoral researcher Dr Alison Funston is undertaking research using colour change to store high-density data in binary code - the language of computers. [Click here](#) for more information.

Article and image from [Science in Public](#).



A galah is a common bird in Australia, and is also a slang term for a 'silly person' (see 'Say Again' below). Image from [anra.gov.au](#).

Say again?

Are you always scratching your **noggin** (head) and looking like a **stunned mullet** (look of confusion) when you have a **squiz** (read) at this section of the Embassy **rag** (newsletter)?

C'mon (come on), don't **chuck a wobbly** (get very angry)! Give it a **burl** (a try) yourself when you're **Down Under** (in Australia) and you wanna sound **dinky-di** (genuine). And if you make a **blue** (a mistake), no worries! **She'll be apples** (it will be fine)! Worst comes to worst some **galah** (silly person) will tell you to mind your own **bizzo** (business)!

What's On

Australian soprano **Suzanne Shakespeare**, Youth Music Foundation Scholar, will be performing at the [British School at Rome](#) on **Friday 28 January** at 6:00 p.m.

A major [Australian Aboriginal art exhibition](#) will be held in Nuoro (Sardegna) from **11 February to 28 August**.

The **Bangarra Dance Theatre**, Australia's premier **Indigenous performing arts company**, will begin their European tour in **Trento** on **18 February** and **Vicenza** on **19 February**. See [Trento Cultura](#), [Teatro Comunale Città di Vicenza](#) and [Bangarra](#).

The Australian Publishers Association (APA), together with 11 other Australian publishers, will be participating in the [Bologna Children's Book Fair](#) from **28-31 March**.

Australia will be represented by **Mr Hany Armanious** at the [54th Edition of the Biennale International Art Exhibition](#) in Venice, which will be open to the public from **4 June to 27 November**.

Did you know?

Australia supports the **world fashion industry** through its **wool and leather exports** and the creativity of its numerous **designers**, but it also, back in 1957, made another important contribution with the invention of a method for making **permanent creases** in woollen garments. The body responsible for this discovery was the [CSIRO](#), Australia's national science and industrial research agency.

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Useful websites

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Foreign Affairs and Trade: www.dfat.gov.au