

Australian Embassy Rome Newsletter



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Staff changes

There are a number of important staff changes both in Rome and in Milan. Ambassador Mike Rann will finish his service in Italy in early January, leaving the diplomatic service and moving on to London from where we expect that he and his wife Sasha will remain frequent visitors to Italy.



Deputy Ambassador Marco Salvio has recently left the Embassy after a short temporary posting to Rome and we wish him well on his return to Canberra.

Replacing Marco is

Jo Tarnawsky (*see photo left*), who arrived at the Embassy in Rome in December 2015. She will be Chargé d'Affaires from early January 2016 until a new Ambassador is appointed. Jo has previously served as Chief of Staff to the Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, directed Australia's Consular Operations for the Asia-Pacific region, and has worked in Iraq, India, Vietnam, Trinidad & Tobago, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Ethiopia.

Consul General and Senior Trade Commissioner Simone Desmarchelier has also finished her posting in Milan and moved to Australia. Simone will be temporarily replaced by Austrade manager Anna Fedeles (*above*) while a permanent replacement is recruited.



Embassy tweets

If you wish to receive the latest news on Australia, the Italy-Australia relationship and the work of the Embassy, become a follower of our new Twitter account [@AusAmbRome](https://twitter.com/AusAmbRome).

PM Malcolm Turnbull

Malcolm Turnbull was sworn in as the 29th Prime Minister of Australia on 15 September after successfully challenging previous Prime Minister Tony Abbott for the leadership of the Liberal Party. Mr Turnbull was Minister for Communications in the Abbott Government. He has visited Italy and has a special link with Venice where his wife, Lucy Turnbull, was Australian Architecture Biennale Commissioner for 2008.



Australia at the 2017 Venice Biennale

In December the [Australia Council for the Arts](http://www.austriacouncil.com.au) announced that Tracey Moffatt has been selected to represent Australia at the 57th International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale 2017. Tracey will be the sole artist exhibiting at the Australian Pavilion in the Giardini, with the exhibition to be curated by Natalie King. She will be the first Australian Indigenous artist to present a solo exhibition at the Venice Biennale.

Tracey Moffatt is one of Australia's most successful artists, both nationally and internationally. Highly regarded for her formal and stylistic experimentation in film, photography and video, her work draws on the history of cinema, art and photography as well as popular culture and her own childhood memories and fantasies.

Australia Council Chair Rupert Myer AO said the Council was extremely pleased to have one of Australia's most prominent contemporary artists exhibiting at the pavilion. He also noted that at this year's Biennale a record 287,690 people had visited the new Australian Pavilion to see Fiona Hall's installation.

Macquarie buys stake in hydroelectric company

On 13 November Macquarie European Infrastructure Fund 4, managed by Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets (MIRA), signed an [agreement for the sale of the entire stake](#) held by Enel Produzione in Hydro Dolomiti Enel S.r.l. equal to 49% of the share capital, for a consideration of about 335 million euros. The closing of the sale is conditional on Dolomiti Energia S.p.A. (which holds the remaining 51% of HDE) waiving or not exercising its right of pre-emption and on the buyer receiving clearance from the EU antitrust authority.

Should the purchase be confirmed it will be MIRA's second major investment in Italy following its purchase of Sorgenia Green in 2014.

Azimut makes fast progress in its Australian investments

[Azimut](#) is Italy's leading independent asset manager and offers financial advisory services to investors primarily via its advisor networks. The Group has recently entered the Australian market and is making rapid progress.

It made its first investment in Australia in November 2014 and the latest in December 2015, its seventh in Australia. The company wants to reach 5 billion euro of managed savings in Australia over the next 12 years.

Vatican Honour

Professor Greg Craven has been appointed to the papal Order of St Gregory the Great, receiving the [Knight Grand Cross](#), the highest of the four awards in the Order and which only 6 other Australians have ever received, including the current Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC.

The award was made at a ceremony on 6 December in Australia and presented by Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher. It coincided with the opening of the [Australian Catholic University's](#) new campus in Rome and also with the 25th anniversary of the ACU.

Right: Professor Greg Crave.
Photo courtesy of ACU



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Australian CEO at Alitalia



Alitalia announced that it has appointed [Cramer Ball](#) (left) to its board of directors and designated him to take

over as the airline's CEO from March 2016. Ball, 48, comes to Alitalia from Indian airline Jet Airways, where he is currently CEO. He has also served as CEO for Air Seychelles and has overseen major transformation in both companies, the statement from Alitalia said. Bell replaces Silvano Cassano, who resigned as CEO in September. Alitalia chairman Luca Cordero di Montezemolo has received the authority to exercise his powers in the interim.

Australian to head Italian radioastronomy

Co-Director of the Curtin Institute of Radio Astronomy [Professor Steven Tingay](#) has been selected as the founding director of the new Osservatorio di Radio Astronomia (Radio Astronomy Observatory) for the Italian National Institute of Astrophysics (INAF), on a three-year tenure. Professor Tingay will lead Italy's contribution to the landmark billion-dollar Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project, to be constructed in Western Australia and South Africa.

INAF President Professor Giovanni Bignami said Professor Tingay's appointment was a coup for Italian radio astronomy. The Embassy is also looking forward to working with Professor Tingay to promote bilateral scientific ties and collaboration between Italy and Australia.



Above: Steven Tingay.
Photo courtesy of Steven Tingay

Festival of Diplomacy

On 29 October at the official residence Ambassador Rann hosted a business event targeted at SMEs from Lazio as part of the week long [Festival of Diplomacy](#). The event offered a chance for guests to learn more about Australia as a trade and investment destination. Representatives of Italian companies which have already invested in Australia spoke at the event, including Mario Magaldi (Magaldi Power), Michael Lenton (Selex ES), Paolo Bertani (Birra del Borgo) and Vincenza Altieri (Studio Legale Delfino e Associati), while Giorgio Bartolomucci from Festival della Diplomazia provided an overview of the week's events William Peasland from Austrade also spoke about the various forms of assistance available to companies looking to invest in Australia.



Left: Giorgio Bartolomucci
Photo courtesy of Festival della Diplomazia

Jessica Pratt

To celebrate the signing of the Australia-Italy Cultural Cooperation Protocol Ambassador Rann hosted a private performance by internationally acclaimed Australian soprano Jessica Pratt on 28 September. Jessica, accompanied by pianist Eugenio Krizanovski, sang pieces by Gioacchino Rossini, Vincenzo Bellini and from Lucia di Lammermoor by Gaetano Donizetti. As a surprise for the Ambassador's guests, Jessica performed her

last piece with the tenor Carlos Barcenas from Melbourne.



Left: Jessica Pratt and Carlos Barcenas singing

Trade missions to Milan

The bilateral trade and investment relationship was boosted during 2015 by two important business missions to Milan. In July 2015 a delegation from the European Australian Business Council visited Milan led by Minister for Finance Mathias Cormann. The delegation had a mix of business and institutional calls, ranging from Italy's leading banks, Prime Minister Renzi's chief economic advisor, Foreign Affairs Under-secretary Benedetto della Vedova (who then subsequently visited Australia), the President of the Westfield Corporation, and the peak industry association for the Lombardy Region. In October 2015 Trade Minister Robb was set to lead a major delegation to Milan. The Minister had to pull out at the last minute, but the visit went ahead reinforcing ties in well-established sectors such as wool, other textiles and agrifood.

Right: Minister Cormann giving a speech at Bank of Italy in Milan. Photo courtesy of Austrade



Direct Aid Program

The Australian Embassy is pleased to announce funding for 6 Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects in Albania for 2015-16, for a total of AUD 95,000.

Funding has been provided to:

- **Mary Ward Loreto**, to support 30 young unemployed people to undertake training in their respective vocational fields;
- **For the Gender Integration Association**, to work closely with women from 15 farming families, developing beekeeping capabilities in order to produce natural honey;
- **Roma Woman Rights Centre**, to carry out a part-time adult education program for 50 Roma/Egyptian adults aged 16-35;
- **Center Children Today**, to carry out capacity-building training for children, teachers, school psychologists and child protection professionals on child sex abuse;
- **OSAAB**, to conduct a follow-up study that tracks over 700 abandoned babies that have been cared for by OSAAB over the last 20 years and to fund baby formula for the babies in the nursery of the maternity hospital;
- **Fondazioni KALO ART**, to support artists with disabilities and young artists, to show their visual artworks to the Albanian community, organising two different visual art exhibitions and production of art catalogues.

Benetton Rugby Treviso to 'wear' Aussie technology

Benetton Rugby club, one of Italy's leading teams, has signed an agreement to use Australian "wearable" technology to monitor the performance of its players. The technology being deployed was previously developed in collaboration with the Australian Institute of Sports and is now marketed by [Catapult](#) across a number of sports around the globe with leading professional teams. This is the first use of the equipment in Italy. Benetton has a long-standing connection with Australia and over the years many Australians have played for the club.



Above: Ambassador Rann with players from the Benetton Rugby Treviso

Italian Made Tractor Crosses Australia

In November the first X tractor Around the World – Australian Edition came to a successful conclusion. In 45 days, four Italian-built McCormick tractors covered over 8,500 kilometers across Australia, with half of the route being off-road. The journey began in Melbourne and ended at Uluru, passing through the states of Victoria, New South Wales, the Northern Territories and Queensland.

Argo Tractors, an Italian leader in technologies for agriculture, has created a [website](#) for people to learn all about the expedition.

Answers: 1-f, 2-a, 3-g, 4-b, 5-h, 6-c, 7-d, 8-e

Christmas quiz

Over the history of the newsletter we have tried to introduce readers to the variety and colour of Australian slang. Here's a quick test to see how closely you've been following us. Match the slang word on the left with the definition on the right. Answers at the bottom of the page.

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|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. mate | a. remote place |
| 2. woop woop | b. a long time |
| 3. rellos | c. soldier |
| 4. yonks | d. fool |
| 5. noggin | e. dangerous driver |
| 6. digger | f. friend |
| 7. galah | g. family relatives |
| 8. hoon | h. brain |

Australian passports

The Australian Passports office has recently introduced a number of important policy changes that will come into effect on 1st January 2016. Most noteworthy is the abolition of an additional fee which previously had to be paid when replacing a passport which had been lost or stolen. Another significant change is that minors who are 16 or 17 years of age will now receive a 10-year passport, just like adult applicants, although the application will still be processed in accordance with guidelines set out for minors.

The [Passports website](#) has recently been redesigned and provides all the information required for an Australian citizen to apply for a passport.

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