Dear Parents,

**Meet the Teachers Evening**

Overwhelming - is the exuberant word that comes to mind with how Tuesday night went. Scores of parents were able to join us on the night, making use of the child-minding provided. The teachers are delighted that they were able to meet with so many of you. Feedback from the parents present about the teachers was tremendous - "They're just so excited about our children and working with them. It's infectious - it makes me so excited I want to go back to school" said one of our dads!

Parents also report their enthusiasm about the Skoolbag app, the Facebook site, the playgroup site and the school website as fantastic methods of communication and involvement tools.

**Shade Structure Update**

Following the meeting last evening, a large group of parents met with me to go over some initial thinking and planning around our much-needed shade structure. We will be meeting again on Tuesday 18 March at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall to develop a plan for how we move ahead on this project. All parents are of course invited to attend and be part of the discussion - especially if you have ideas and contacts who would be able to help us construct an exciting and imaginative structure for our students. We will be sending you an alert on Skoolbag so please include that meeting in your calendars.

**ST. MATTHEW’S SCHOOL FOCUS FOR WEEKS 3**

“Hands off keeps us safe”

Dear Parents,

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**Website News**

We will soon be updating the presentation of our website to reflect our new student population and uniforms. We hope you will like it. Thanks to Mrs. Roberts for her skillful work in photography and web design.

**Bush Dance**

We look forward to our community coming together for our annual Bush Dance. Thank you to all those who are assisting with the preparations. Remember to invite all those prospective parents and children from the preschools that your children attend. There are raffle tickets being sent home as a fundraiser organized by our parent helpers, which we also ask you to support.

**School Security**

I have been meeting with Windsor police, our security and installation companies regarding plans I have to increase our security. We were of course broken into twice at the end of last year. This is quite distressing for our community and it impairs our students' access to appropriate resources. There will be a range of measures taken around prevention and apprehension. Installations will be taking place - some of which will be visible and some of which will not. Current technologies enable surveillance and response to be of a very high level. These changes will be extremely necessary for our school community.

**Teaching and Learning**

Involving parents in the school life of their children is showing globally to be a significant factor in improving student learning outcomes. Especially, as well if the involvement is not only communal but educational. The “Paws for Reading Challenge” announced this week is a further opportunity to be involved in your child’s learning. Do you read with your child each day - for enjoyment?

Our start to the year has been fabulous - thanks to our students, families and teachers!

With my deep appreciation of your ongoing support,

**Stephen Dowd**
Greetings everyone!
Peace with you!

It has been a great start to the year with Prayer Bags going home and Religion units are in full swing. We hope Fr. Arthur has a very enjoyable Birthday party on Friday night with the Parish and a wonderful day on the 18th of next week.

We are having a Mufti day next Tuesday, the 18th of February to celebrate Father's Birthday and thank him for everything he does for St. Matthew's School. We ask you kindly for a $2 coin donation to contribute to Fr. Arthur’s gift. It will be a gift from the students. Thank you for your generosity.

This afternoon at 2.15 pm and then on a fortnightly basis (Thursday's), we are having a Reflection and discussion get together. All are invited. Come along and enjoy a very relaxed gathering in faith.

We pray for all in our community who are in need of our prayers. We ask our Mother Mary for her love and protection.

Reminders

* Ash Wednesday Parish Mass on the 5th of March at 9.15 am.

* Infants will have a Liturgy in the Hall at 10.00 am.

   All are welcome to join us in prayer.

* Holy Communion Parent Information Meetings on Tuesday, 25th of February at 7.30 pm in the Church.
* At Chisholm Primary School, Wednesday, the 26th of February, at 7.30 pm.

This Sunday, the 16th of February, is the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Matthew 5: 17-20.

Jesus points out the continuity of God's work and action. We are blessed to have the traditions and teachings that we draw on to continue our journey of faith.

We thank God for all the people in our lives that have taught us pray and helped us to understand God's ways.

When you receive the Gospel for Sunday to share with your family, reflect on what these Gospel words are saying to your life, here and now.
## Student of the Week

| Kinder          |  |  |  |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Allison Rose    | Ashton Vista     | Hannah Kent      |
| Ashton Vista    | Hannah Kent      | Andrew Xia       |

**Friday 14th February**
- For consistently showing the 5Ls in class.
- For great estimating and counting in maths.
- For her constant enthusiasm and participation in class discussions.
- For showing kindness to his peers and displaying confidence in his learning.

**Monday 17th February**
- Marina Caldwell
- Samantha Naylor

**Wednesday 19th February**
- Laraine Selmes
- Lyn Howard

**Friday 21st February**
- Lisa Bugeja
- Carissa Finch

**Monday 24th February**
- Natalie Wells
- Sandra Mitchell

**Wednesday 26th February**
- Melissa Keddie
- Josephine Muscat

**Friday 28th February**
- Alicia Edwart
- Josephine Muscat

**Monday 3rd March**
- Holly Crowe
- Yvonne Barnes

**Wednesday 5th March**
- Laraine Selmes

### Year 1

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<tr>
<td>Sean Miskelly</td>
<td>Brianna Mahlis</td>
<td>Gabriel Birdsey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brianna Mahlis</td>
<td>Gabriel Birdsey</td>
<td>Holly McKay</td>
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**Friday 14th February**
- Brilliant punctuation in Journal Writing.
- Settling well into her new school.
- Being a STAR student.
- A great start to Year 1.

**Monday 17th February**
- Myra McDonald
- Natalie Wells

**Wednesday 19th February**
- Laraine Selmes
- Sandra Mitchell

**Friday 21st February**
- Melissa Keddie
- Josephine Muscat

**Monday 24th February**
- Yvonne Barnes

### Year 2

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<td>Stephanie Dimech</td>
<td>Amy Galea</td>
<td>Liam Henson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Galea</td>
<td>Liam Henson</td>
<td>Joel Seget</td>
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**Friday 14th February**
- Listening attentively in class.
- For her beautifully reverent behaviour in church.
- For excellent work with his whole number.
- Settling into Year 2 well.

**Monday 17th February**
- No student of the week this fortnight. They will be announced at assembly on 21st February.

### Year 3

**No student of the week this fortnight. They will be announced at assembly on 21st February.**

### Year 4

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kyle Henson</td>
<td>Bronagh Miskelly</td>
<td>Phu Sansahachok</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Touma</td>
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**Friday 14th February**
- Excellent work in the classroom and writing an excellent Exposition.
- Working diligently in class and helping other people.
- Speaking confidently and clearly in class.
- Producing excellent work in class and working hard on her personal learning goal.

### Year 5

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bradley Keddie</td>
<td>Chloe Tyrrell</td>
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**Friday 14th February**
- For an excellent start to the year.
- For her enthusiasm for their team at the swimming carnival.

### Year 6

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacob El Hendy</td>
<td>Caitlyn Millar</td>
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**Friday 14th February**
- A positive and enthusiastic start to 2014
- A fabulous effort in all Key Learning Areas - especially in her mathematics bookwork.

### ST. MATTHEW’S SCHOOL CANTEEN ROSTER

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<tr>
<th>Friday 14th February</th>
<th>Monday 17th February</th>
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<tr>
<td>Josephine Muscat</td>
<td>Marina Caldwell</td>
<td>Laraine Selmes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laraine Selmes</td>
<td>Samantha Naylor</td>
<td>Lyn Howard</td>
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<th>Friday 21st February</th>
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<td>Lisa Bugeja</td>
<td>Carissa Finch</td>
<td>Myra McDonald</td>
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<td>Laraine Selmes</td>
<td>Natalie Wells</td>
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<td>Melissa Keddie</td>
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<th>Friday 28th February</th>
<th>Monday 3rd March</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alicia Edwart</td>
<td>Holly Crowe</td>
<td>Louise Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carissa Finch</td>
<td>Josephine Muscat</td>
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<td>Laraine Selmes</td>
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To access the web portal go to www.carebookings.com.au/book, using the event code:WNJK5. If you would like to volunteer for canteen please login and add your name to the date as per the calendar.

Please remember that the responsibility is now on the volunteers to swap with another volunteer if you are unable to attend.
SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The St Matthew's swimming carnival was another success this year due to the outstanding student participation in many of the swimming events. House spirit was high as students celebrated and cheered the success of others throughout the day.

This year Green was the triumphant house, followed closely by Red, Gold and Blue. Well done to all students who competed and participated in the swimming carnival.

The Hills Zone Swimming Carnival is on the 25th February at Hawkesbury Oasis pool. Students will be notified on Friday as to who be will attending.

Volunteers don't just do the work ~ they make it work.

Uniform Shop Hours

Friday 8.30 am - 12 noon

Uniform orders can be placed at the front office or the form can be downloaded from the website.

Any uniform sales or enquiries, Ruby will be able to assist you on Fridays only between the hours of 8.30 am & 12 noon.
TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO CELEBRATE THEIR BIRTHDAY DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindy</th>
<th>Nicholas Lupi</th>
<th>Abby Caldwell</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Gabriel Birdsey</td>
<td>Jasmin Crinnion</td>
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<td>Darcy Buckingham</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Madison Rowley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Olivia Ryman</td>
<td>Alyssa Kirk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Touma</td>
<td>Jacinta Palminha</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>No birthdays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Harrison Rose</td>
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**WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW FAMILIES**

**BUSH DANCE**
Friday 21st February

6.30 pm - 8.30 pm

- Bring a blanket & chairs
- Fancy Dress
- Prizes for Best Dressed Boy & Girl
- Lucky dip & Lucky door prize
- Sausages on a roll, drinks, slushies & mini donuts for sale
- Raffle tickets for sale on the right

**MUFTI DAY** Tuesday 18th February

to celebrate Father’s Birthday and thank him for everything he does for St. Matthew’s School.

We ask you kindly for a $2 coin donation to contribute to Fr. Arthur’s gift.
It will be a gift from the students.
Thank you for your generosity.

**SCHOOL FEES 2014**

School fee accounts for Term 1 have now been posted and payment is due on the 7 March 2014.

Families have the option to take up the Flexible Payment Plan offered and the information regarding this has been sent with the school fee account. Fees can also be paid by Cash, Cheque, Bpay and Eftpos.

For those families who had setup a payment arrangement in 2013 you will now need to renegotiate a new payment plan for 2014 school fees.

Please contact Stacey Roberts on 4577 3463 should you have any queries or need to setup a payment plan.
Don’t forget that **Monday is School Banking day** and students should bring in their weekly deposit. For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. The first token will be received upon the first deposit at school. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can then be redeemed for a range of great, exclusive reward items in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.

To kick the year off we are running a ‘STAY COOL AT SCHOOL’ promotion in Term 1 which is exclusive to Penrith Area schools. Our school has the chance of winning a 3m x 3m marquee.

There are also (2) $50 prizes for 2 lucky bankers to be deposited into their Youthsaver account. To be part of this competition you must make 3 deposits into your Youthsaver account through School Banking between 28/01/2014 and 11/4/2014 and you will be automatically entered into the draw.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at St Matthews.

---

**MEALS NEEDED**

We currently have a family that requires assistance.

One way that we are able to help them, is by cooking a meal that can be left at the front office to be put in the freezer. Please label the meal as suggested below. Thank you for your assistance.

Name of meal:
Number of serves:
Ingredients:
Date:

---

**Register of enrolments**

When a student under 17 years of age leaves school with an unknown destination the school has a responsibility to inform the local DET School Education Area of the name and last known contact details for the student concerned.
Catholic Education Office

Bishops Office

Diocesan Positions

**Administration Assistant:** Holy Spirit Seminary. Closes 9 February.

**Parish Secretary:** St Joseph’s Parish, Kingswood. Closes 9 February.

**CCD Regional Coordinator:** Holroyd/Parramatta Region. Closes 14 February.

**Youth Minister:** St Bernadette’s Parish, Castle Hill. Closes 28 February at 5pm.

Full details of these roles and position descriptions are available in the **Employment** section of the Diocese of Parramatta’s website: [www.parra.catholic.org.au](http://www.parra.catholic.org.au)

Fr Wim Hoekstra Pilgrimages Information Afternoon: 9 February

Fr Wim Hoekstra, Parish Priest of St Finbar’s Parish, Glenbrook, is organising two pilgrimages in 2014: 7-23 July taking in France and Italy (Paris, Lisieux, Lourdes, Rome, Assisi, Siena, Florence) and 19 September – 4 October (September school holidays) for Israel and Jordan. Information afternoon on Sunday 9 February at St Finbar’s Parish Hall, 46 Levy St, Glenbrook: 2.15-3.30pm for the France & Italy pilgrimage; 3.45-5pm for the Holy Land Pilgrimage.

Limited places available. For flyers and booking forms, click on **News and Events** at [www.stfinbars.org.au](http://www.stfinbars.org.au) or contact Fr Wim tel (02) 4739 8928, wim@stfinbars.org.au

Volunteers needed for Chisholm Cottage, Westmead

Chisholm Cottage provides ‘a home away from home’ for country families attending hospitals and clinics in Westmead. This low-cost, short-term accommodation is managed by Sisters of Charity Outreach and owned by the Catholic Women’s League (Aust), Diocese of Parramatta Inc. The Cottage needs volunteers who assist with house duties, answer the phone and provide a welcoming presence to residents. For more information, please contact Maria McNuff, Volunteer Coordinator & Educator, tel (02) 8382 6437, 0404 861 523, mmcnuff@stvincents.com.au

The Francis Effect: Living the Joy of the Gospel

The inspiring insights in this publication put forward by 12 prominent Australian Catholics follow the release of Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*. Published by Catholic Mission and Catholic Religious Australia, *The Francis Effect: Living the Joy of the Gospel* is available free online and in book form.

Contributors to the *The Francis Effect* include: Fr Noel Connolly SSC, Head of Mission Studies at the Columban Mission Institute; Fr Tim Norton SDV, Australian Provincial of the Society of the Divine Word Missionaries; Julie Edwards, CEO of Jesuit Social Services; and Joe Moloney, Research Officer with the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office.


To order a print copy call 1800 257 296 or visit [www.catholicmission.org.au](http://www.catholicmission.org.au)
Holy Spirit Mission: 14-16 February

‘Have Faith in God’ (Mk 11:22) presented by Br Lalith Perera, international speaker and founder of the Community of the Risen Lord. Catholic Charismatic Renewal Diocese of Parramatta is hosting a program that includes Br Lalith speaking on: Receiving powerful faith is a gift from God (Fri); Sickness and problems can be overcome by truths revealed by faith (Sat); Faith and the Holy Spirit bring the Kingdom of God into the here and now (Sun). There will be Sunday Mass, Reconciliation, Prayer Ministry, Children’s Ministry. Times: Fri. 7.30-9.30pm; Sat. 9am-4pm; Sun. 11am-5pm. Free entry, donation appreciated, coffee & tea provided, BYO lunch, package meals for purchase. Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills. Details: Gerard 0404 093 118, Anelsea 0400 280 886, Charles 0425 840 362.

Christian Meditation: 16 February

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction & Renewal Day at St Benedict’s Monastery at Arcadia. Program includes presentations, Introduction to Christian Meditation, two periods of meditation, Eucharistic Celebration and information exchange. Arrive 10am for 10.30am. Concludes about 3pm. BYO picnic lunch. Tea & coffee provided. Books & CDs for sale. Monastery is at 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia, tel (02) 9653 1159. Self-catering accommodation may be available in the monastery guest house. Contact Br Terry 0438 282 318. Inquiries: Ann Bergman (02) 9498 2625, anniebergman@hotmail.com or Ann Lomas (02) 9456 4775, atlomas@bigpond.com

Beliefs and Practices of Australian Catholics – what we know and why it matters: 19-22 February

This conference is an initiative of the Pastoral Research Office of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC). It will be an outstanding learning opportunity for clergy, diocesan personnel, parish leaders, parish staff and others in the Catholic community. Presenters include: His Excellency Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Apostolic Nuncio to Australia; Dr Mary Gautier, senior research associate at the Centre for Applied Research in the Apostolate in the US; Dr Bob Dixon, Director of the ACBC Pastoral Research Office. Bob has a PhD in sociology from Monash University as well as degrees in science, theology and education. Venue: Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne. Program and registration: http://www.pro.catholic.org.au/node/56. For more information: tel (03) 9953 3457, office@pro.catholic.org.au

Holy Hour for Vocations: 20 February

Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations at 7pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time. Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Patrick’s Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta. To find out more about priesthood in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta contact Fr Warren Edwards – Vocations Director: tel 0409 172 700, vocations@parra.catholic.org.au

LENT 4 REAL: Join the Journey! 28 Feb-2 March

Inviting young men and women (18-35) to a Lenten retreat at Mount Schoenstatt. This weekend aims to help young adults make the most of their Lent. Begins 7pm Friday 28 February; concludes 4pm Sunday 2 March. Venue: Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. For further details or to register, contact Sr M Julie Brcar 0408 738 334, juliebrcar@gmail.com

Tour of Elizabeth Bay House: 4 March

Enjoy a day out with the social group from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. Built for the Colonial Secretary, Elizabeth Bay House is a superb example of colonial architecture and is elegantly furnished with the interiors representing 19th Century life. Cost: $35 includes entry and morning tea. Lunch at Doyle’s at Watsons Bay (own expense). Bus departs 8.45am at 20 Virgil St and 8.50am opposite OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes.

Book early to avoid disappointment – deposit of $20 required. Marie (02) 9896 7046, 0414 782 358 or Frances (02) 9636 5548, 0421 027 119, francesgrima@optusnet.com.au

Sisterhood Conference: 7-9 March

Sisterhood is a national Catholic women’s movement that seeks to support women from all walks and stages of life. Sisterhood operates under the banner of the St Benedict’s Eucharist Centre in Canberra and Fr Ken Barker MGL is the spiritual director. The conference draws together women of all ages for a weekend of prayer, reflection, formation and fellowship. The program includes keynote speakers, workshops, the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, adoration and prayer.

Speakers: Sr Mary Rachel OP, Katie Kobler, Anna Krohn, Patrick Langrell, Karen Doyle, Fr Steve Fletcher MGL, Francine Pirola, Trish McCarthy, Venue: The Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops. Cost: $225 includes meals & accommodation. BYO sheets, towels, toiletries, etc. Further information and registrations: Felicity Pollard tel 0420 541 772, info@sisterhood.org.au
Australian Catholic Historical Society Colloquium: 16 March

God in the Lodge: The religious beliefs of Australia’s Prime Ministers. Speaker: Roy Williams, lawyer and author of the international best-seller *God, Actually*. Starts 2.30pm, admission free, no membership required. Crypt Hall of St Patrick’s at Church Hill, Grosvenor St, The Rocks.

Inquiries: Dr John Carmody, President ACHS, (02) 9417 2082, john.carmody@sydney.edu.au

Central Coast tour with pelican feeding: 1 April

Enjoy a day out on the Central Coast with the social group from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes.

Cost: $30 includes morning tea and pelican feeding. Lunch at Digger’s at The Entrance (own expense). Bus departs 8.30am at 20 Virgil St and 8.35am opposite OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes.

Book early to avoid disappointment – deposit of $20 required. Marie (02) 9896 7046, 0414 782 358 or Frances (02) 9636 5548, 0421 027 119, francesgrima@optusnet.com.au

Batemans Bay Tour: 4-6 April

Enjoy this three-day tour to Batemans Bay with the social group from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes.

Travel via Wollongong and Ulladulla, visit Mogo Zoo and Mogo Goldrush Village, St Bernard’s Church for Sunday Mass, enjoy a three-hour scenic cruise.

Inclusions:

* Two nights’ accommodation at the Bay Waters Holiday Resort;
* Dinner on Friday and Saturday night;
* Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday morning;
* Morning tea on Friday, Saturday and Sunday; and
* All entry fees and cruise fees.

Cost: $395 per person twin share (+$80 single supplement). **Deposit: $100 payable by 4 March.** For more information contact Marie (02) 9896 7046, 0414 782 358 or Frances (02) 9636 5548, 0421 027 119, francesgrima@optusnet.com.au