



Australian-German Institute Inc.

a link between Australia and the German-speaking regions of Europe

FEDERKIEL



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Guten Tag, Bundestag!



Photo by Andrew Gaczol.

As a Research Officer with the Department of the House of Representatives in Parliament House, I undertook a seven week secondment to the German Federal Parliament – the Bundestag – from July to early September 2016.

Als Forschungsbeauftragter in der Abteilung Abgeordnetenhaus (House of Representatives) im australischen Parlament wurde ich vom Juli bis Anfang September 2016 dienstlich zum deutschen Bundestag entsandt.

My Secondment

I was placed in the Bundestag's International Exchange Section for 7 weeks. This section manages the exchange program – the 'IPS' – for international scholarship holders. The program has a budget of approximately A\$10 million. This is a huge program for 120 people from 41 countries who stay in Germany for 5 months to experience first-hand how a successful democratic system works. This includes 3 months during which the scholarship holders work within an MP's office. Many of these countries are developing countries still in the process of establishing their own democratic systems. Two examples are Eastern European countries that were added after the collapse of communism there in 1989 and those in the Middle East who were included after the so-called 'Arab Spring' of 2011. The International Exchange Section also manages a cooperation program with international parliamentary staff. During my time with the section, we had two visiting delegations – one from Pakistan and one from Morocco.

The German Political System – a comparison

There are many similarities, but a number of key differences between the German and Australian Parliaments. The Bundestag is a larger organisation both in terms of MPs and administration. The Australian House of Representatives has 150 Members and the Bundestag currently has 631 Members. The Australian Parliament is supported by approximately 1,200 parliamentary staff, the Bundestag and Bundesrat – the Upper House – by about 3,200 staff.

Meine Entsendung

Für insgesamt 7 Wochen wurde ich dem Referat WI 4 (Internationale Austauschprogramme) zugeteilt. Das Referat verwaltet das Internationale Parlaments-Stipendium (IPS) des Bundestags, das mit etwa 10 Mio. AUD im Jahr ausgestattet ist. Dank dieses Riesenprogramms haben jährlich 120 Menschen aus 41 Ländern die Möglichkeit, 5 Monate in Deutschland zu verbringen, um hautnah zu erleben, wie ein erfolgreiches demokratisches System funktioniert. Für 3 Monate arbeiten die IPS-Stipendiaten in einem Abgeordnetenbüro mit. Viele Stipendiaten kommen aus Entwicklungsländern, die noch dabei sind, eigene demokratische Systeme zu entwickeln. Beispiele sind Osteuropäer, die seit dem Zusammenbruch des Kommunismus 1989 am IPS-Programm teilnehmen dürfen, sowie Menschen aus dem nahen Osten, die seit dem »arabischen Frühling« 2011 teilnahmeberechtigt sind. Ferner verwaltet das Referat WI 4 ein Zusammenarbeitsprogramm für ausländische Mitarbeiter. Während meiner Entsendung empfangen wir Delegationen aus Pakistan und Marokko.

Deutsches und australisches Politiksystem im Vergleich

Zwischen beiden Parlamenten bestehen – neben vielen Ähnlichkeiten – einige entscheidende Unterschiede. Sowohl die Anzahl der Abgeordneten als auch die Größe des Verwaltungsapparates betreffend ist der Bundestag um einiges größer. Der Bundestag hat zur Zeit 631 Abgeordnete, das australische Parlament dagegen nur 150. Bundestag und Bundesrat haben insgesamt ca. 3.200 Mitarbeiter, das australische Parlament nur 1.200.

Committees function differently

Bundestag committees are there primarily for the representatives to inform themselves about legislation and broader issues through experts. The committees of the House of Representatives and joint committee conduct inquiries into matters of public policy including legislation, and receive input directly from members of the public. There is no direct public input to Bundestag committees.

Two very different Upper Houses

The Upper House – the Bundesrat or ‘Federal Council’ – functions very differently to the Australian Senate and is housed in an entirely separate building with separate secretariat staffing. The Bundesrat is a ‘State’s house’ with a total of 69 Members. Each of the 16 Federal States is represented by from 3 to 6 Members, depending on the population of the State. Unlike for the Australian Senate, the Bundesrat members are not directly elected, rather they are appointed by the state governments and consist of the state Premiers and senior ministers (or their agreed proxies). Bundesrat members vote in a block as a state; and if there is a change of State government then the state delegation to the Bundesrat changes. Thus, it is possible for the German Upper House to change its political composition several times during a four year Bundestag parliamentary term.

The Bundesrat participates in the passage of every law adopted by the Bundestag. However, depending on the bill in question, the Bundesrat can be overridden by the Bundestag. The Bundesrat may lodge an objection, but this will not prevent the enactment of the new law. This is quite different to Australia where both Houses must pass a bill for it to become law. Other proposed laws must have the Bundesrat’s agreement, and these laws are those that

Ausschüsse haben andere Aufgaben

Die Ausschüsse des Bundestags sind in erster Linie dazu da, die Abgeordneten über Gesetze und allgemeinere Themen zu informieren. Direkte Einflussnahme durch die Bürger findet in Bundestagsausschüssen nicht statt. Die Ausschüsse im australischen Parlament dagegen führen Untersuchungen im Auftrag der Öffentlichkeit durch, wobei sie auch direkt von dieser beeinflusst werden können.

Unterschiedliche „Oberhäuser“

Bundesrat und Bundestag haben z.B. verschiedene Standorte und auch sonst unterscheidet sich die Arbeitsweise vom australischen Senat. Der Bundesrat ist die Vertretung der Bundesländer mit 69 Abgeordneten. Jedes der 16 Bundesländer wird von 3 bis 6 Abgeordneten vertreten – die Anzahl ist abhängig von der Einwohnerzahl des jeweiligen Bundeslands. Der Bundesrat setzt sich aus den Ministerpräsidenten und führenden Ministern der 16 Bundesländer bzw. deren Stellvertretern zusammen. Jedes Land kann seine Stimme nur gemeinsam abgeben, ferner führt ein Regierungswechsel auf Landesebene zur neuen Landesdelegation im Bundesrat. Deshalb kann es durchaus vorkommen, dass sich innerhalb einer vierjährigen Legislaturperiode die Zusammensetzung des Bundesrats mehrmals ändert.

Kein Bundesgesetz kommt zustande, ohne dass der Bundesrat damit befasst war. Bei manchen Gesetzen (den sogenannten Einspruchsgesetzen) kann der Bundestag jedoch den Bundesrat überstimmen. In solchen Fällen darf der Bundesrat zwar Einspruch gegen das Gesetz einlegen, dies verhindert allerdings nicht das Inkrafttreten des neuen Gesetzes. Das alles unterscheidet sich grundsätzlich von Australien, wo ein

substantially affect the direct interests of the States – for example, finances, administration and the like. Disputes between the Bundestag and Bundesrat are resolved through the ‘Mediation Committee’. This is a 32 member committee – each house has 16 members. The Bundesrat delegates comprise one person from each Federal State. The Bundestag delegates reflect the disposition of seats in the chamber amongst the political parties.

The Federal States also have formal representation within Berlin - quite unlike Australia. Each state occupies a building or part thereof. It’s like having an embassy in the Federal capital. So, if you can imagine, for example, a row of buildings on State Circle, or Capital Circle here in Canberra each with a phrase like ‘Permanent Representation of the State of Victoria’ on the front, then that’s what we are talking about.

Nurturing Democracy

I also had the opportunity to learn of the German Parliament’s education and outreach work. Germany has a culture of nurturing the democracy through education. The Bundestag itself conducts extensive education programs, including the Gendarmenmarkt display which is a permanent display of Germany’s democratic development housed in the former German Cathedral that flanks the Opera House on Berlin’s Gendarmenmarkt. There is also a Bundestag ‘Infomobil’ that regularly visits the country’s nether regions and provides information about parliamentary procedures and the work of the Members of the Bundestag. Part of that program includes a Mobile Exhibition which can be set up in school halls

Gesetzentwurf erst in Kraft treten kann, nachdem beide Kammern des Parlaments es zugestimmt haben. Abgesehen von den Einspruchsgesetzen muss jedes Gesetz vom Bundesrat ausdrücklich zugestimmt werden, darunter Gesetze, die erhebliche Auswirkungen auf die Interessen der Bundesländer haben (Finanzen, Verwaltungsverfahren usw.). Meinungsverschiedenheiten werden mithilfe eines Vermittlungsausschusses beigelegt. Vom Bundesrat kommen 16 Vertreter, eins für jedes Bundesland, vom Bundestag ebenfalls 16 Vertreter, die politisch die Verteilung der Sitze im Bundestag widerspiegeln.

Anders als in Australien hat jedes deutsches Bundesland eine ständige Vertretung in Berlin. Die Landesvertretungen sind ähnlich wie Botschaften in der Hauptstadt in separaten Gebäuden untergebracht. Hier in Canberra müsste man sich zum Vergleich eine Reihe von Gebäuden am State Circle oder am Capital Circle vorstellen, wovon jedes Gebäude die Worte »Ständige Vertretung des Landes Victoria beim Bund« o.Ä. an der Vorderseite trägt.

Demokratie pflegen

Während meines Aufenthalts hatte ich auch die Gelegenheit, etwas über die Bildungs- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit des deutschen Bundestags zu erfahren. In Deutschland wird die Demokratie bewusst gepflegt. Der Bundestag selbst bietet umfangreiche Bildungsprogramme an, darunter die parlamentshistorische Ausstellung „Wege – Irrwege – Umwege“ – eine Dauer Ausstellung zur historischen Entwicklung des parlamentarischen Systems in Deutschland – die sich im Deutschen Dom am Berliner Gendarmenmarkt befindet. Ferner besucht das Infomobil des Bundestags regelmäßig verschiedene Gegenden Deutschlands, um Aufgaben und Arbeitsweise des Parlaments

etc, and allows the Members of the Bundestag to provide information in their constituencies about the legislative process. Finally, there is a 30 minute 'Sound and Light' show during the summer months projected behind the Reichstag building showing Germany's democratic development in the context of that building.

zu vermitteln. Das Infomobil verfügt über eine Ausstellung, die z.B. in Aulas aufgebaut werden kann. Auch haben Abgeordneten dadurch die Möglichkeit, in ihren Wahlkreisen über das Gesetzgebungsverfahren zu informieren. Außerdem findet in den Sommermonaten eine 30-minütige Licht- und Tonprojektion hinter dem Reichstagsgebäude statt, die die Geschichte des Parlamentarismus in Deutschland zeigt.

The secondment to the Bundestag was an educational and rewarding experience. It was particularly useful in the sense that much of Australia's interactions with international institutions are limited to English-speaking countries. Seeing how part of the non-English world goes about its parliamentary or government business opens a little used window of knowledge from which Australia can benefit.

Die dienstliche Entsendung zum Bundestag war für mich eine sehr lehrreiche Erfahrung, insbesondere weil Australien in seinen Interaktionen mit internationalen Institutionen sich größtenteils auf englischsprachige Länder beschränkt. Indem man erlebt, wie ein Teil der nicht-englischsprachigen Welt seine parlamentarischen bzw. Regierungsaktivitäten nachgeht, öffnet man gleichsam ein wenig genutztes Fenster zum besseren Verständnis, was für Australien durchaus von Nutzen sein kann.

*Thanks to Andrew Gaczol for this article
German translation: Hilary Howes and Conny Schüritz*

Autoren gesucht

Bist du an deutschsprachiger Kultur, Veranstaltungen, Literatur, Musik oder Menschen interessiert? *Das Zentrum* sucht motivierte Autoren für zukünftige Artikel im *Federkiel*, die sich mit deutschsprachigen Regionen in Europa oder Australien auseinandersetzen. Artikel können auch von persönlichen Erfahrungen während Auslandsaufenthalte in Europa oder Australien handeln. Idealerweise sollten Artikel zweisprachig auf Deutsch und Englisch geschrieben werden, können allerdings auch von Muttersprachlern in die jeweilig fehlende Sprache übersetzt werden. Interesse? – Dann schreibe eine Mail an: das.zentrum@iinet.net.au

Writers wanted

Are you interested in German culture, events, literature, music or people? *Das Zentrum* is looking for motivated writers to contribute to the *Federkiel* on topics relating to the German-speaking regions of Europe, German-language culture in Australia, personal experience of visits to German-speaking regions, or migrating to Australia from a German-speaking region. Articles should ideally be written in both English and German, but can also be submitted in one language for translation by a fluent speaker. Interested? – Contact: das.zentrum@iinet.net.au

Film Reviews

All films were screened at last year's German Film Fest from 15-30 November 2016.

After Spring Comes Fall

review by Chris Ansted

During the recent German film festival in Canberra, my wife and I went to see *After Spring Comes Fall* (original title: *Kafkanistan*). Not having read the blurb carefully, we thought it would be an uplifting story about a Syrian woman who escapes the Arab Spring uprising in Damascus after she is separated from her seriously wounded husband and settles into life in Berlin as a refugee, overcoming the normal, day-to-day difficulties with language and an unfamiliar society. And this is how the first part of the film progresses.



However, the film then takes the viewer into the darker side of escaping a repressive regime, especially when one is an illegal immigrant as opposed to an asylum seeker or refugee. Without formal recognition by the host state, an illegal not only receives no support from the government, but also no protection from the secret services of an oppressive regime from which one has fled. The woman is brutally persuaded to inform on Berlin activists opposing the Syrian regime. She now has a cruel mix of psychological conflicts, which we can only guess at. She has left (abandoned?) her seriously wounded husband; even though she has found work and is sending money back to Syria in the hope of helping him, she doesn't really know what is happening to him. Though I didn't get the impression that she or her husband were activists in the Syrian uprising, it's clear that she only agrees to cooperate with the Syrian regime's agents when they show her how vulnerable her husband is. And all the time her only source of income and shelter is threatened by her erratic attendance at work.

As the storyline on the IMDb website says, "how far can a human be pressured to betray its ideals and at what point does resistance start"? And how does one make amends for the harm one has caused by even brief cooperation with oppressors? All in all, *After Spring Comes Fall* is an unsettling film that shows how flight from oppression can be just the start of a life of fear, brutality and compromised ideals.

* * *

Germany in a Day

review by Nicholas Prindiville

Germany in a Day (released in Germany as *Deutschland. Dein Selbstporträt*) came to Canberra as part of the Goethe Institut German Film Festival last November. It's a mosaic-style film, in which everyone around Germany was invited to film themselves and their daily lives on iPhones, androids and whatever else over a single day, 20 June 2015. There is plenty of optimism – one memorable participant is a guard at a Kassel prison who loves his job, rolls



into his office in his wheelchair and asks us to admire “the finest view in all of Kassel” (though something tells me Kassel’s tourism office won’t be printing it on any postcards). There’s also sometimes the tragic – one woman tearfully shows the warrant for her arrest that has just arrived in her mail. With this kind of film unevenness is a given, and everyone will have their favourites and their least favourites: I for one felt like I’d seen more than enough of the dreadlocked fellow living on a commune who tells us all about his compost toilet. But on the upside, there’s Kerstin Gundt, flame-haired activist and musician, who performs her toe-tapping, barn-burning protest songs “Hartz IV Lied” (Social Assistance Song) and “Grundeinkommen macht glücklich” (A Basic Income Brings

Happiness). There’s probably no film that could portray what a whole country of 80 million people is thinking, feeling and doing on a day with total accuracy, but *Germany in a Day* makes a good go of it.

* * *

Heidi

review by Yushu Soon

Zürich-born director Alain Gsponer has transformed Johanna Spyri’s 1881 children’s classic into a spellbinding and fairytale-like film that captures the hearts of both children and adults. The film’s depiction of the enchanting Swiss Alps, mountain life, and the use of Swiss German has reintroduced the essence of Swiss identity to the world.



Heidi, the twelfth film adaptation of this much-loved novel, retells the famous story of a young and courageous girl who lives with her grandfather, Almöhi, in the Swiss mountains. Heidi’s simple yet joyful life in nature ends as her aunt Dete brings her to a wealthy household in Frankfurt to accompany Klara, a lonely child who cannot walk. Heidi develops a friendship with Klara, but being a pure alpine girl she is finally beaten down by the oppressive rules and homesickness. Klara’s grandmother and the family’s doctor have great sympathy for her and she is sent home to reunite with her grandfather and goatherd friend, Peter.

The contrast between Heidi’s life in a strict upper-class family and the carefree life she used to live is vividly portrayed through the careful selection of filming locations and costumes. The production team has taken the small details seriously – from the table rites and mannerisms in 19th-century Frankfurt to the daily routines of goatherds up on the Alps. The music, composed by award-winning composer Niki Reiser, is the soul of the film. Together, Gsponer and Reiser have produced a heart-stirring film which entralls audiences of all ages.

The 105-minute film won the 2016 Deutscher Filmpreis for Best Children’s Film. It features the excellent performance of ten-year-old Anuk Steffen, chosen among 500 potential Heidis, and fourteen-year-old Quirin Agrippi, who totally brought the character of Geisspeter to life, despite never having much contact with goats before. Moreover, Bruno Ganz’s portrayal of Almöhi guaranteed the film’s success. The prominent actor, who once mastered the role of Hitler in *Downfall*, was outstanding in his interpretation of the reserved, quiet and solitary old man. Despite having little text for his part, Ganz nevertheless leaves the audience with a deep impression of a grandfather who offers unconditional love to his grandchild.

The contemporary remake of *Heidi* reminds us of the values of courage, kindness, and an appreciation of the natural world. As Ganz has pointed out, the story’s timeless nature centres around the search for identity and *Heimat*, a place one recognizes as home and feels secure. The difficulties of integrating into a foreign environment are real, but love and tolerance persist to overcome that fear and doubt. Spyri’s messages remain as relevant as ever.

Jennings Germans: The tradies who stepped into the unknown

by Danielle Nohra, republished with kind permission from CityNews, December 1-7, 2016

Sixty-five years ago the so-called “Jennings Germans” came to town – and Canberra would never be the same.



Remembering the “Jennings Germans”, at the Harmonie German Club, from left, Klaus Scharrer, Patricia Cloos and Walter Hengge. Photo by Danielle Nohra.

The 150 German tradesmen were attracted to Australia by builders AV Jennings to help construct 1850 houses the company had contracted to build in Canberra for the Federal government. Head teacher of building trades at the Canberra Technical College, Alan Jack, and Jennings employee and expat Walter Schauble devised the idea to fill a skills gap by recruiting builders and cabinet makers from Germany. The first 60 tradesmen came to Canberra by plane in 1951 and the rest followed by boat that year and the next.

When Klaus Scharrer arrived he couldn't speak English. Beyond the language, he had also to adjust to the climate. He came during summer and was taken by bus to the Ainslie hostel. "In the hostel we were given five blankets, linen and a pillow case," Klaus says. "Why would I need five blankets? I put on three and then I work up in the night and was freezing like a dog! So I put on my winter coat, too." No one had told him Canberra cools at night – even in summer.

He said he was struck by Australia's empty vastness when he first came and was disappointed to arrive in a place that was, to him, an unknown, undeveloped city. "Work was different. Let's say it this way, we had to work with hard wood," he says. "Nobody on site works with it now, only soft wood. There was no nail guns or power tools. We had to cut every piece of timber by hand. In Germany, you don't even nail up furniture. We had to pay our fare. The money for us to come over by ship was deducted from our pay. That part of the story is not very well known, we were never migrants. We had to pay our way in."

Walter Hengge, who arrived around the same time as Klaus, had learnt English driving Americans as a taxi driver in Germany. But the money was better than at home so he took the chance in a country which had "six million rabbits per billabong". Walter saw the upside saying that on his first day the weather was nice but then it rained and rained. He thought: "This is the place, if it rains everything stops on the worksite." But there didn't seem to be any upside with the different new food they were introduced to. "We went to the butcher and asked for a sausage. The man sold us this beautiful-looking Devon sausage," he says. "We bought a piece, cut it up and it tasted like sawdust!"

Karl Cloos was another "Jennings German". His widow Patricia says he came to Australia when there were "seven million people and 70 million sheep". She says the workers, like Karl, Klaus and Walter, built a reputation as hard workers and also formed historic bonds.

Some of the migrant workers returned to Germany after the two years, but most of them stayed in Australia with 10 of the original 150 recently gathering at the Harmonie German Club, a place they had built during their contracts, to celebrate the 65th anniversary of their arrival.

Redakteure gesucht

Das Zentrum sucht freiwillige Redakteure für den *Federkiel*. Hast du Erfahrung in der Redaktion und Veröffentlichung einer Mitgliederzeitschrift oder möchtest du diese Erfahrung sammeln? Dies ist deine Chance, dein redaktionelles Wissen zu erweitern. Das Beherrschen der deutschen Sprache ist keine Voraussetzung, aber von Vorteil. Redakteure müssen Mitglieder im *Zentrum* sein bzw. werden. Interesse? – Dann schreibe eine Mail an: das.zentrum@iinet.net.au

Editors wanted

Das Zentrum is looking for volunteer editors to support the publication of the next *Federkiel*. Do you have or would you like to gain experience in publishing a club magazine? Then this is your chance to expand your editorial knowledge. You do not need to speak German, but it is advantageous and you should be or become a member of *Das Zentrum*. Interested? – Contact: das.zentrum@iinet.net.au

Wenn ich mich an Berlin erinnere

a poem by Yushu Soon

Wenn ich mich an Berlin erinnere,
laufe ich mit meinen Kommilitonen die Spree entlang,
vom Hauptbahnhof bis zum Reichstagsgebäude.
Die Strahlen der Sonne vergolden den Reichstag,
das Weiß des Schnees spiegelt meinen deutschen Traum.
Ich beuge mich hinunter und
schaufle den Schnee mit bloßen Händen.
Infolge der Schneeballschlacht blüht
eine herzliche Freundschaft.

Wenn ich mich an Berlin erinnere,
sitze ich im Klassenzimmer in der Invalidenstraße 110.
Unser Lehrer tritt ein und stellt seine Tasse Tee auf den Tisch.
Die Zeit beschleunigt sich unbarmherzig
während er uns den Erbkönig vorliest und
Konjunktiv II beibringt.
Voller Hingabe leitet er uns tagein, tagaus in die Welt der
Literatur und deutsche Sprache.
Wir hören zu, wir schreiben auf, wir sprechen aus...
bis ich plötzlich Hunger verspüre—
Ich hätte noch eine Laugenbretzel essen sollen,
denke ich.

Wenn ich mich an Berlin erinnere,
bin ich wieder am Alexanderplatz, um nach den
Fußabdrücken von Franz Biberkopf zu suchen.
An diesem heiteren Sonntag
glänzt der Fernsehturm in aller Bescheidenheit,
und auf der anderen Seite
ruht die Gedenkstätte Berlin-Hohenschönhausen in aller Tapferkeit.
Ich folge dem Zeitzeugen auf Schritt und Tritt, und
höre seinem Schicksal zu.
Es ist eine Geschichte, die zu einem Opfer der Mauer gehört,
die zu allen Deutschen gehört.

Wenn ich mich an Berlin erinnere,
stehe ich auf der Dachterrasse des Reichstagsgebäudes zum letzten Mal.
Still und charmant scheint die Kuppel
unter dem rosa, glühenden Himmel.
Es ist einer der schönsten Sonnenuntergänge und
dürfte ein Abschiedsgeschenk von Berlin sein.
Am Ende verlasse ich das Studentenheim
in Steglitz, dieser ruhige Kiez.
Noch zwei Kugeln Eis müssen wir genießen,
damit es weniger Abschiedslaune gibt.
Warum fahren jetzt die U-Bahn und der Bus schneller zum Flughafen,
frage ich mich.

Calendar of Events of *Das Zentrum*

book in to your diaries now ...

German language classes – Semester 1 started in January. All classes are booked out, but please feel free to contact us to express interest in courses starting in Semester 2 (July 2017).

We also have contacts for native language tutors. For general enquiries relating to tutoring or language courses, please contact das.zentrum@iinet.net.au or pgamp@orac.net.au. For queries relating to a specific course, please contact the relevant teacher.

Mondays, 6-8pm	Continuing German (A1.2) with teacher Renate Wolf, renatewolf81@gmail.com
Tuesdays, 5:45-7:45pm	Beginning German 1 (A1.1) with teacher Renate Wolf
Wednesdays, 6-8pm	Intermediate German with teacher Susanne Gross, gross.susanne@gmail.com
Thursdays, 6-8pm	Continuing German (A2.1) with teacher Renate Wolf
Tuesdays, 8-9:30pm	German conversation group continues weekly at <i>Das Zentrum</i> . The cost for this popular group is \$30 per six months. Contact Paul for more details on 6281 0486 or pgamp@orac.net.au

Freitag Filmabend on the first and third Friday of each month	Join us at <i>Das Zentrum</i> in the Griffin Centre for DVD screenings of modern and classic German films, television series and documentaries. Check our webpage for the latest information.
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Friday 28 April, 7pm	Dr Andrew Gaczol , Senior Research Officer with the House of Representatives, will take us behind the scenes at the German Bundestag (Federal Parliament), sharing the highlights of his recent secondment there. His presentation, around 1 hour in total plus questions, will include a 30-minute promotional film from the Bundestag with English subtitles. All welcome.
COMING SOON	Our bilingual trivia night will be back in Spring. More details to follow ...

INFORMATION ABOUT *DAS ZENTRUM* ...

A library, resource centre, and meeting place for anyone with an interest in the German-speaking regions of Europe:

- visitors from the German-speaking lands looking for up-to-date magazines and newspapers
- students of the German language seeking study material or German DVDs to help develop your language skills
- anyone seeking help with language skills in an informal environment

Das Zentrum can help with all of the above and more. Information on our language courses and upcoming events is enclosed. If you need more details, just drop in during our opening hours or contact us on the numbers below.

VISIT US AT:

Griffin Centre
Level 1, Room 1.03
20 Genge St
Canberra City (Civic) ACT 2601

OPENING HOURS:

Tuesday to Friday: 11:30am to 2:30pm
Friday: 5:30pm to 8:00pm

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Contributions, ideas and/or complaints are invited!

Please contact the editor at: hilaryhowes@gmail.com

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