



Australian-German Institute Inc.

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

# FEDERKIEL



No: L, March 2012

*Welcome to the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the Federkiel!  
What have we been doing at Das Zentrum?*

Over the holidays in December/January a hard-working team cleaned out some of the old material including some video tapes from the library shelves. Now we can start filling the space with **new items!** We have a new supply of German language learning and teaching materials thanks to the Goethe Institute in Sydney. We are continuing to add to our book and DVD collection.

**Language classes** started for Semester 1, 2012 at four skill levels to suit beginners, continuing and intermediate students. We welcome our new students and wish you all good luck in your German studies for 2012. Thursday night's conversation group has also resumed for 2012.

The committee has been busy behind the scenes working on a **program of events** for 2012 and beyond. For information on events coming up please see the calendar enclosed.

On Wednesday 29 February, Das Zentrum held a **Special General Meeting**. More information on the agenda items and outcome is enclosed.

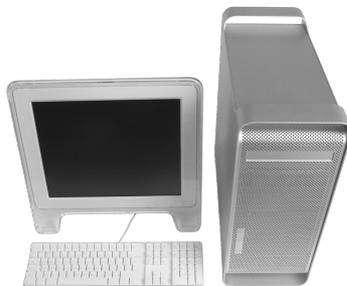
A hard-working crew of volunteers gathered at Das Zentrum's stall at the **National Multicultural Festival** on the weekend of 11-12 February. There we served top quality German beer and sausages with all the accompaniments to the hungry Canberra public. This has become our biggest fund-raising event of the year. Thank you to all the

volunteers, customers, and in particular to Ingrid and Paul who worked tirelessly at the event and in its leadup organising the ongoing supply of food, the stall arrangements, volunteers' roster and more.



By now most members would have received a **survey** from Das Zentrum (delivered by email). Thank you for the responses received to date. We will review the feedback and report on the results – we welcome any ideas from members either via the survey or directly to committee members.

*Rachel Cremer*



## **70 Jahre Z3 – Der erste funktionsfähige Computer der Welt aus Berlin**

Denkt man heute an Computer produzierende Länder, fallen einem schnell die USA und das Silicon Valley oder die südostasiatischen Staaten ein. Umso überraschender ist, dass die Wiege der digitalen Revolution vor 70 Jahren in Deutschland stand. Bereits 1941 entwickelte der Berliner Tüftler Konrad Zuse mit der Z3 die erste funktionsfähige Rechenmaschine der Welt.

Konrad Zuse wurde am 22. Juni 1910 in Berlin geboren. Im Alter von 25 Jahren schloss er sein Maschinenbaustudium an der Technischen Hochschule Berlin-Charlottenburg ab, anschließend nahm er eine Stellung bei den Henschel Flugzeugwerken auf. Ein Jahr später entwickelte er die Vision frei programmierbarer Maschinen, die den Ingenieuren Rechenarbeit abnehmen sollten. Um seine Ideen in die Tat umsetzen zu können, gab Zuse seine Arbeit auf. Im Jahr 1938 stellte er die mechanische Rechenmaschine Z1 fertig, welche jedoch aufgrund der Unzuverlässigkeit ihrer Bauteile nicht

## **70 years since the Z3 – the world’s first functional computer from Berlin**

When people today think of computer producing countries, the USA and Silicon Valley or the South-East Asian countries quickly come to mind. So it is quite surprising to learn that the cradle of the digital revolution stood in Germany 70 years ago. With the Z3 the tenacious Berliner Konrad Zuse had developed, as early as 1941, the world’s first functional calculating machine.

Konrad Zuse was born on 22 June 1910 in Berlin. At age 25 he completed his mechanical engineering studies at the Technical University Berlin-Charlottenberg, then took up a position with the Henschel aeronautical works. A year later he developed the vision of freely programmable machines that would relieve the engineers of the work of calculation. To turn his ideas into reality Zuse gave up his job. In 1938 he finished the mechanical calculating machine Z1 which, however, was unsuitable for continuous use due to the unreliability of its components. The machine worked – and this was a world first – with binary half logarithmic

für den ständigen Gebrauch geeignet war. Die Maschine arbeitete, und dies war eine Weltneuheit, mit binären halblogarithmischen Zahlen, die Programme entsprachen der Booleschen Aussagenlogik.

Ab 1939 verbesserte Zuse seine Maschinen und baute nach einigen technischen Weiterentwicklungen 1941 die Z3, welche Rechenwerk und Speicher als Relais besaß. Die Z3 war die erste frei programmierbare, auf dem binären Zahlensystem basierende Rechenmaschine der Welt und wird heute allgemein als erster funktionsfähiger Computer anerkannt.



Konrad Zuse vor Z 1 (© dpa / picture-alliance)

Die Abteilung Rechentechnik der „Stiftung Deutsches Technikmuseum Berlin“ zeigt anlässlich des 100. Geburtstags Konrad Zuses seit 2010 eine neu konzipierte, interaktive Dauerausstellung. Das Jubiläum – 70 Jahre Z3 – lädt zum Besuch der Ausstellung ein. In sechs Themeninseln werden Leben und Werk des Berliner Erfinders vorgestellt und in die weltweite Technikgeschichte

numbers, the programs corresponding to Boole’s algebra of symbolic logic.

From 1939 Zuse improved his machines and in 1941, after some further technical developments, built the Z3 which used relays for calculation and memory. The Z3 was the world’s first first freely programmable calculating machine based on the binary number system. It is now generally acknowledged to be the first functional computer.

Since 2010, in commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Konrad Zuse’s birth, the Calculation Technology Department of the German Museum of Technology in Berlin has staged a newly conceived, interactive permanent exhibition – 70 Years since Z3. The life and work of the Berlin inventor is presented according to six themes and in the context of world history of technology. The arrangement of the exhibition is as follows:

1. The Z1 – the world’s first computer
2. Computer manufacture in World War II – Zuse and his inventions 1939-1945
3. The Zuse KG (Kommanditgesellschaft = limited partnership company) – story of a West German enterprise
4. The inventor Konrad Zuse – from the first chess program to the helical tower
5. The artist Konrad Zuse
6. Milestones in the history of the computer

Further information is at [www.sdtb.de](http://www.sdtb.de)

eingeorndet. Die Ausstellung ist in folgende Bereiche gegliedert:

1. Die Z1 – der erste Computer der Welt
2. Computerbau im II. Weltkrieg – Zuse und seine Erfindungen 1939 – 1945
3. Die Zuse KG – Eine westdeutsche Unternehmensgeschichte
4. Der Erfinder Konrad Zuse – Vom ersten Schachprogramm bis zum Helixturn
5. Der Kunstler Konrad Zuse
6. Meilensteine der Computergeschichte

Weitere Informationen finden Sie unter:  
[www.sdtb.de](http://www.sdtb.de)

Article courtesy of the German Embassy’s Deutsche Vertretungen in Australien (German Missions in Australia):

<http://www.australien.diplo.de/Vertretung/australien/de/DIA-Themen/70-Jahre-Z3.html>

Translated to English by Gavan Cashman.

Translator’s note: There is a lot about Konrad Zuse and his inventions on the internet. An interesting site is

<http://ei.cs.vt.edu/~history/Zuse.html>

which includes Zuse’s own account of the working out of the mathematical principles on which his calculating machines were based.

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## *Special General Meeting Wednesday 29 February*

Members were invited to attend a Special General Meeting at Das Zentrum on the evening of Wednesday 29 February 2012. Two agenda items were discussed:

**1. Intention to propose an Amendment to Das Zentrum’s Constitution by Special Resolution – Addition of role of Vice-President to the Committee Executive.**

This item was passed at the meeting. We welcome nominations for the new role of Vice-President at our next Annual General Meeting.

**2. Presentation and Approval of Financial Report for 2010/11 Financial Year – amendments to version presented at AGM, following audit.**

During the audit of Das Zentrum’s annual financial records, some minor adjustments/corrections were made to the version of the records which had been presented at the AGM. Therefore under Das Zentrum’s constitution it was necessary for the corrected records to be presented again to members. This occurred at the Special General Meeting and the revised financial report was accepted by those present.

**Vortrag: "Die deutsche Sprache in der Welt"**  
**Professor Dr Ulrich Ammon**

**Donnerstag, den 22. März, 20:00 Uhr**

Das Zentrum invites all members and friends to a lecture on Thursday 22 March at 8:00 PM in our rooms in the Griffin Centre.

Our guest will be Professor Dr Ulrich Ammon, Professor for German Linguistics at the University of Duisburg-Essen. He is currently a Visiting Professor in the ANU's German Studies Program. His main interests are in sociolinguistics, language policy and national varieties of the German language.

Professor Dr Ammon will speak **in German** on the topic "Die deutsche Sprache in der Welt". He will happily take questions afterwards in English.

## *Buchclub*

Lesen Sie gern? Möchten Sie in entspannter Runde Deutsch sprechen?

Dann wäre ein deutscher Buchclub genau das Richtige für Sie.

Wir möchten einen deutschen Buchclub gründen, der sich in regelmäßigen Abständen trifft, um deutsche Bücher zu besprechen. Bitte melden Sie sich beim Zentrum, wenn Sie daran Interesse und vielleicht auch schon einen Vorschlag für das erste Buch haben. Wann würde es Ihnen am besten passen?



## A selection of our new books:



Readers for beginners by Andrea Wagner with audio cassettes including “*Gefahr am Strand*”, “*Abenteuer im Schnee*”, “*Unheimliches im Wald*”.

### Erich Kästner “*Der kleine Grenzverkehr*”

Optimal Lehrbuch and Arbeitsbuch – various levels

More readers at various levels – visit Das Zentrum to see more titles.



## Lecture Invitation:

### English, German and all that: botanising in the linguistic hinterland

Dr Heinrich Stefanik

Thursday 12 April, 8pm  
At Das Zentrum, Griffin Centre

Heinrich studied Germanic languages at the ANU. He tackled ‘the lot’, from Gothic and Old English to obscure Bavarian dialects and all stations in between. Right from the start, the deep and ancient inter-relationships between most languages spoken in the immense arc stretching from India to Iceland intrigued, challenged and absorbed him. He now likes to call himself a linguistic archeologist.

In this introductory talk he invites you to join him in exploring the linguistic hinterland of German and English. He’ll draw your attention to prehistoric echoes still resonating throughout our modern languages.

You’ll be amused discovering that *Saxons*, *Sex and Science* go back to early breakthroughs in human communication technology. Pursuing the seemingly humble words *saying* and *seeing* is in fact quite a saga. And in examining the bizarre ritual of *knock on wood* you soon find yourself thinking of Druids, Generals and Lawyers.

But be warned: if you should get bitten by the etymological bug, there is no known antidote.



## INFORMATION ABOUT US.....

### VISIT US AT:

Griffin Centre  
Level 1, Room 1.03  
20 Genge Street  
Civic

### OPENING HOURS

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

### BY MAIL:

Das Zentrum  
Griffin Centre  
1.03/20 Genge St  
Canberra ACT 2601

### YOUR COMMITTEE

**President:** Paul Gamp, ph: 6281 0486  
**Secretary:** Rachel Cremer, ph: 6259 5205  
**Treasurer:** Bill Maude, ph: 6295 3565  
**Language course enquiries:** Patricia Schiessl,  
bezi@bigpond.net.au

### CONTACT US:

Phone 6230 0441 during opening hours  
Email: [pgamp@orac.net.au](mailto:pgamp@orac.net.au) or [rachelcremer@hotmail.com](mailto:rachelcremer@hotmail.com)  
Or visit: [www.daszentrum.org.au](http://www.daszentrum.org.au)

*Das Zentrum* is a library, resource centre, and meeting place for anyone with an interest in the German speaking regions of Europe.

- Are you a visitor from Germany looking for up-to-date magazines or newspapers?
- Are you a student studying the German language who needs study material or German DVDs to help develop your language skills?
- Are you looking for German-speaking people to help you retain your language skills in an informal environment?

*Das Zentrum* can help with the above and more. Information on our language courses and upcoming events is enclosed. Or if you need more details just drop in or contact us on the numbers above.

★ The publication of this newsletter was made possible by the support of the **ACT Government's Multicultural Grants Program 2011-12.**

★ Contributions, ideas and/or complaints are invited!  
Please contact Rachel at: [rachelcremer@hotmail.com](mailto:rachelcremer@hotmail.com).



# *Calendar of Events*

## *of Das Zentrum*

*Book in to your diaries now...*

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	<b>German language classes</b> – Semester 1 is currently underway.
<b>Mondays 6-8pm</b>	<b>Continuing German 3</b>
<b>Tuesdays 6-8pm</b>	<b>Continuing German 1</b>
<b>Wednesdays 6-8pm</b>	<b>Intermediate German</b>
<b>Thursdays 5.45 – 7.45pm</b>	<b>Beginning German</b>  For any language class queries please contact Patricia on <a href="mailto:bezi@bigpond.net.au">bezi@bigpond.net.au</a> .
<b>Every Thursday 7.45pm until late</b>	<b>German conversation group</b> continues weekly at <i>Das Zentrum</i> . Cost for this popular group is \$30 per six months. Contact Paul for more details on 6281 0486 or <a href="mailto:pgamp@orac.net.au">pgamp@orac.net.au</a> .

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<b>Thurs 22 March 8.00pm</b>	<b>Vortrag/Lecture: "Die deutsche Sprache in der Welt" by Professor Dr Ulrich Ammon.</b> Presentation in German, with questions in German/English. At Das Zentrum, Griffin Centre. See more information within.
<b>Thurs 12 April 8.00pm</b>	<b>Vortrag/Lecture: "English, German and all that: botanising in the linguistic hinterland" by Dr Heinrich Stefanik.</b> Presentation in English/German. At Das Zentrum, Griffin Centre. See more information within.

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<b>1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday evenings of each month</b>	<b>Freitag Filmabend</b> – DVD screening on the <b>first Friday of each month at 6.30 PM</b> at Das Zentrum in the Griffin Centre. Films vary from modern or award-winning classics, television series or documentaries. Please check our website for latest film titles prior to screening. Entry by gold coin donation.  <b>German Classics screenings</b> – due to popularity of monthly screenings, we are adding an additional screening on the <b>third Friday of each month at 7pm</b> of German classic films or television series. The first screening on Friday 20 April will be the 1956 classic <b>"Der Hauptmann von Köpenick"</b> – film is in German <i>without</i> sub-titles.
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