

Casa Down Under Newsletter



September 2007

Volume 19
Issue 4

President's Report

Dear Members,

Recently, Macau Youth Symphony Orchestra performers accompanied by officials, including President, Vitor Ng, Fundacao Macao and President of the MYSO Orchestra and delegation, were in Sydney, Hobart and Brisbane as part of the 10th Year Anniversary tour. The concert was held at the Verbrugghen Hall, Conservatorium of Music, Sydney, on Saturday, 11th August. It was a brilliant and polished performance of a very high standard. The organizers were very proud of this troupe and so were all of us who attended.

Our Casa has made a recommendation to the Encontro Organising Committee that the Macau Youth Symphony Orchestra be invited for a concert schedule for either 'Youth Day' or to be included in the programme. Music is a common denominator and a universal language.

Macau Government Tourist Office of Sydney hosted a successful cocktail reception prior to the concert which was attended by the Ambassador of the Peoples Republic of China to Australia; Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; officials;

Inside this issue:-

An unexampled calamity. The HK Plague of 1894 Stuart Braga	3/4
News from Macau	5
Letters	6
Patuá's Corner	7
Casa de Macau - News from Inter-state	8
Immigration Bridge Australia Peter Grills	9
News from Hong Kong	11
Committee members	12

Special Points of interest:-

Page 3 - 'An unexampled calamity'. The HK Plague of 1894 - part 1 of an article by Stuart Braga.

Page 5 - World's largest casino opens in Macau - The Venetian Macao

Page 7 - Patuá's Corner by Rogério Fernandes

Page 10 - Invitation to attend "Macau - A City of Events and Festivals"

Page 11 - News from Hong Kong.



Committee members with Ambassador of P.R. China & Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier on Trade & Investment





(Continued from page 1)

representatives from various organisations and media. Congratulations to Helen Wong, General Manager and her team.

It was a pleasure to meet the talented and well acclaimed pianist David Tong (who is Melbourne based) and main conductor, Veiga Jardim. His many professional achievements included writing

Our Casa has been invited to participate in this year's Macau Government Tourist Office, Sydney event, "**Macau – A City of Events and Festivals**" to be held during the first week of the October school holidays in NSW (i.e. Monday 1st to Friday 5th October). The event will be held in Martin Place (amphitheatre behind fountain in Pitt Street), a main thoroughfare attracting over 100,000 people each day. The objective is to showcase Macau. There will be a colourful and festive atmosphere

with music, dancing, information booth, portraying Macau as a vibrant and exciting city; including TV exposure as well as pre-launch press on various Sydney publications.

It would be a great opportunity for our 'Young Casa Members' to participate and assist in this event by handing out brochures and giveaway items. Each member will receive a complimentary 'Experience Macau' polo shirt and cap and will be provided with beverages during the day. All members, families and friends are



**Vitor Ng, President of Fundação Macau,
Yvonne Herrero & Rogério Fernandes.**

the music score for the movie 'The Bewitching Braid' based on a book written by Henrique de Senna Fernandes. Veiga Jardim has requested assistance from the Macanese community here in Australia and abroad, as he is currently pursuing his Ph.D. studies focusing his research on Macau's history of music. If you can assist please contact Casa.

The forthcoming Encontro 2007 programme can be found on APIM's website: www.apim.org.mo Our Casa has approximately 120 participants to date. Some will travel as a Casa group, whilst others have opted to organise their own flight and accommodation arrangements. It is crucial for **all** participants to complete the Encontro Enrolment Form and return this to Casa (refer to "Encontro Notice"). Along with committee members and interstate representatives, I look forward to represent our Casa with much pride and dignity in Macau.

welcome to join in the festivities. The more, the merrier.

Please rsvp your interest and availability (so that a roster can be organised for that week) to:

- Mary Rigby, Tel: 47333862 or
- Email: rigbyfamily@ozemail.com.au

by COB Friday, 21st September.

Please refer to invitation on Page 10.

Reminder that Casa's 13th Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 15th September, 10am at Wests Leagues Club, 115 Liverpool Road Ashfield. (as per notice). Members are encouraged to attend to show support for your Casa and committee. The purpose of the AGM is for the presentation and acceptance of:

- Financial Accounts (period 1st July 2006 to

(Continued on page 4)



'An unexampled calamity' The Hong Kong Plague of 1894

Stuart Braga
Part I

'Without exaggeration I may assert that so far as trade and commerce are concerned the plague has assumed the importance of an unexampled calamity.' So stated the dispatch of the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir William Robinson, to the Secretary of State for Colonies in London on 20 June 1894¹. He meant that there was no other example of so great a calamity. The calamity was a serious outbreak of bubonic plague, which brought Hong Kong to its knees. Strangely, although it also devastated Canton, it left Macau largely intact. Sir William might have added that it was a vast human tragedy as well, for several thousand people, mostly poor Chinese, died, and more than 100,000 fled in panic to their home villages.



An officer of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry supervises troops cleaning the streets in Tai Ping Shan

Before the disease reached Hong Kong it appears that it broke out in Canton in January that year, and by June it had accounted for some 80,000 deaths. Rapidly moving down-river, it first appeared in the Tai Ping Shan district in the early months of 1894.

¹Hong Kong Government Gazette, 1 September 1894. At that time, Tai Ping Shan, high above Kennedy Town to the west of Hong Kong's built up area, was a crowded squalid settlement of Chinese workers. There was no water supply or sanitation, and living conditions were utterly filthy.

In Tai Ping Shan there was panic and hysteria, for once contracted the outcome in the great majority of cases was an agonising death after three days of suffering. A graphic description of the symptoms of bubonic plague was given by M. Wilm in his Report of Plague in Hong Kong compiled in 1896. Wilm observed that 'at the outset of the disease the tongue usually became swollen, bright red at the tip and edges and was covered with a greyish white fur. Usually, on the second or third day of the disease, the fur became brownish or black, and dried in a crust. The tongue becomes cracked and fissured ... The lips soon became dry and often fissured, the mucous membrane of the mouth and the pharynx was usually bright red. The appetite disappeared. There was frequently uncontrollable vomiting and great thirst.' He goes on, but the details are too distressing to relate here.

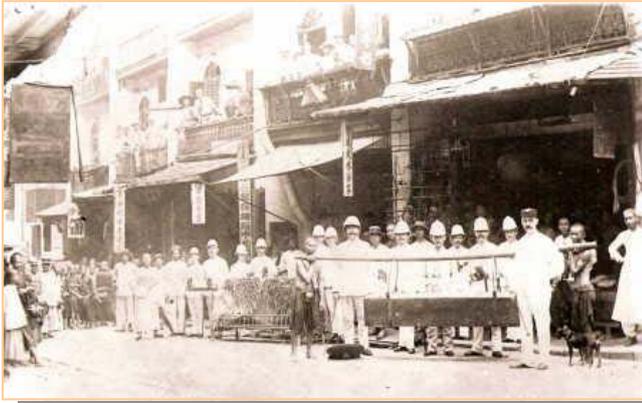
On 10th May 1894 Hong Kong was declared an infected port and within the space of a few weeks the administration was faced with an epidemic of great magnitude. By July there had been 2442 deaths. Hospitals were quickly established on board the naval ship, *Hygeia*, at Kennedy Town Police Station and at the Kennedy Town glass works. The first two were run by European staff whilst the third was manned by Chinese personnel of the Tung Wah hospital. The Governor told his superior in London that 'it was deemed advisable to give the Chinese doctors a free hand at first. In any case, it is difficult to persuade the Chinese to report cases of sickness and their foolish and violent prejudice against Western medical men is quite sufficient to induce them, as they certainly did for the first fortnight or three weeks of the existence of the plague, not only to secrete their sick but often to desert their plague-stricken friends and relations after death.'

The Government's means of dealing with the crisis was severe. No-one then knew how plague was transmitted. The only certain thing was that it



(Continued from page 3)

spread rapidly. Insanitary conditions were thought to be the cause, so 7000 people were evicted from their homes. 350 houses were condemned and



Soldiers of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry supervise the removal of a coffin of a plague victim, carried on a pole by coolies.

sealed off and several boatloads of patients were sent to Canton.

The army was sent in to cleanse and disinfect the fetid slums and to collect the dead. The 1st Battalion of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry was stationed in Hong Kong at the time, and when the plague broke out, volunteers were called for to work on plague relief. About 600 of the 1,000 men did so. The unit history tells us that 'the work was unpleasant in the extreme – searching narrow backstreets and overcrowded houses for plague victims, tending the sick in makeshift isolation hospitals and disinfecting the houses and streets with chloride of lime and whitewash. One of the most unpleasant tasks faced by the volunteers was the location and removal of the dead, searching dark houses and carrying away the bodies to be buried in mass graves. The volunteers of the KSLI lived in quarantine in separate tented camps and were given extra rum rations to help them cope with the work. Remarkably, only one officer and nine men of the regiment fell ill and only two actually died of the plague.'²

To be continued... ...Part 2 of this article will be published in the January issue.

² 'The K.S.L.I. and the Hong Kong Plague, 1894', website: <http://www.discovershropshire.org.uk>. Accessed 10 July 2007.

(Continued from page 2)

30th June 2007)

Election & acceptance of Office Bearers and Committee Members for the 2008 term.

Casa's NSW Christmas Annual event will be a luncheon on Sunday, 18th November at the Sydney Portugal Community Club, Frazer Club (please refer to attached flyer). Thanks to interstate representatives for organising their event to coincide with NSW or at a time convenient for State members.

"Life is a tapestry: We are the warp; angels, the weft; God, the weaver. Only the Weaver sees the whole design". ~Quoted in The Angels' Little Instruction Book by Eileen Elias Freeman, 1994.

Kind regards,
Yvonne

For Sale

CDs by

Armando Santos

"Lembranças de Macau"

Armando, a native of Macau, started singing at a very young age and has performed at several Hotels in Singapore and Macau and on radio.

On this CD he sings in Patuá some old Macanese favourites like 'Mufino', 'Chapa Cherâ Chipi Chuchu', 'Ai Qui Saião' and many more.

Casa de Macau has secured a limited number of these CDs which are for sale at \$10 each plus \$2 postage.

All orders with payment can be sent to

Casa de Macau Inc.

PO Box A908

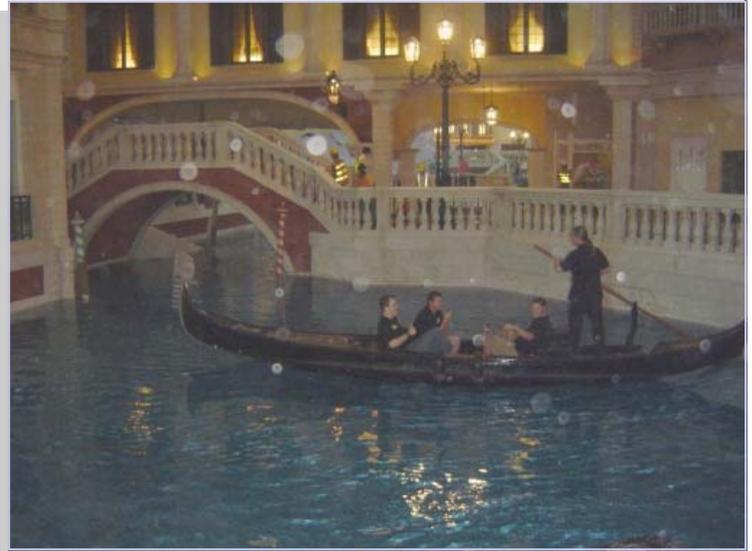
Sydney South, NSW, 1235



News from Macau

A new hotel opens in Macau. The \$2.9 billion Venetian Macao resort was built on a strip of reclaimed land between the islands of Taipa and Coloane called the Cotai Strip.

The Venetian Macao is the world's largest casino-resort and boasts a mixture of 350 shops, Venetian canals, a 3000-room hotel, a 15,000-seat stadium as well as gambling areas. It features 870 gaming tables plus 3400 slot machines, which is anticipated to increase to 6000 on floors as big as three football fields. Its shopping mall is woven between three canals, complete with a fleet of gondolas and fake sky.





Dear Yvonne:

Please accept our congratulations on behalf of Amigu di Macau Club (Toronto). It is indeed exciting news to know that Casa de Macau Inc – Australia has acquired its very own headquarters through years of diligent and careful search for an appropriate place. As one Macanese club to another, we feel especially proud for Casa Down Under and its many great activities and events. Worthy of note is the successful humanitarian appeal for “Gift of Water” for the Laura Vicuna Orphanage in Timor-Leste, as it is a wonderful achievement and testimony to the kindness and generosity of the Macanese community.

Again, “Congratulations”!

Jose Cordeiro

Dear Mary,

Alan and I are full of admiration to you, the committee, and Casa de Macau members who worked so hard to make the luncheon on Sunday such a success. It is not easy to organize such an event, even when it is held at a venue where the catering is included in the tariff, but the task is immense when these services are done by the committee and volunteers.

You had thought of everything, from the major items (like the food) down to the smallest details (like garbage bags to dispose of the rubbish). Not everyone will write to express their thanks, but I am sure that everyone **IS** thankful. Alan and I are

only two of many who are very grateful to you and all the volunteers who worked for many days to ensure that the lunch was so enjoyable.

Congratulations to you all,

Sheila Potter

#



First gift for new Casa premises

Was made recently by former Committee member João da Silva.

The ‘Thank You’ card reads:

Para: Presidente e Membros de Comite “Casa de Macau na Australia”

Estimada Yvonne,

Aproveito esta ocasião de oferecer este quadro de Macau, “Cerca de 1800” como um pequeno gesto da minha apreciação pela dedicação e trabalhos que tem demonstrados de adquirir esta residência para nossa comunidade macaenses na Australia.

Muito obrigado,

João.



(Continued from page 6)

<

WRITE TO US

MAIL: P. O. Box A908, Sydney South, NSW 1235.

E-MAIL: info@casademacau.org.au

Letters should be brief, preferably no more than 200 words. They must be signed and must include name and address for publication if required and telephone number for verification. While letters and articles from readers are sought and encouraged, the Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit them as considered necessary. Letters and articles are published at the discretion of the committee and its decision is final.

«

PATUÁ'S CORNER

By Rogério Fernandes

ENCONTRO 2007

Que azinha, num abri e fecha de olho outravez nós tudo logo encontra na nosso ENCONTRO e nosso antigo camarada na Macau.

Ultimamente mais de mil gente já atende estunga festa, tudo já bufã como diabo que até num podi mais.

Nos tudo sabi que comida di Macau nem sempre tudo gente sabe fazê, logo pegã estunga oportunidade tudo aproveitã em bufã até cai.

Macau sam unga terra que nos todo num podi esquecê. Nasce ali com saudadi. Hoje tudo já virã como sei lá. Eu num podi conhecê nenhum lugar. Tudo canto e recanto sam lugar de jogatina. Qui coitado, tanto de nos que largã milhares de patacas, hoje ficã sem casa e algum até tem de mendigã.

Agora se unga de nos nunca vai para Macau para muito tempo, logo espantã com tudo este mudança. Tudo ui de janota e sam unga lugar bom para turista.

Macau agora parece como Monaco No.2, cheio de casino. Cada vez que entrã tem de reza para não perde porque as vezes podi sai de ali sem calção. Este sam unga pequeno concelho que quere falã. Vai com pretesto de diverti e encontrã amigos de

nosso tempo, ri, chalaça e gozã quanto mais possível porque nossa vida sam muito curto.

Abraços,

Rogério

TRANSLATION

How quickly we are all heading back for a visit to Macau and to meet our old friends in this ENCONTRO 2007.

At the last ENCONTRO there were well over 1000 participants. We all know that the Macanese food is the food we have in our blood. Everyone hopes to make the most out of it as not many remember their old recipes. This is a good opportunity to try all types of food and eat till you drop.

Macau is a place that all Macanese cannot forget. We all have good memories of it. Today is a complete change. Every corner practically is a gambling place. I feel sorry for those who lost great deal of money and sometimes their properties while others turned out to be beggars because of that.

Those who haven't been to Macau for quite a while will find it strange. It's beautiful, very up to date and is a place mostly dedicated to tourist. Macau to some extent is considered as Monaco No.2 because of its numerous casinos everywhere.

Every time that one goes in, will pray not to lose too much as it can be very harmful to their pockets and their future.

This is a small advice I have to say. Go with a view to enjoy yourself, meet old friends from Macau and all over the world. Make most of it that life is too short.

Regards,

Rogério





Casa de Macau Downunder

Adelaide The South Australian members of Casa de Macau attended the Dia de São João dinner on Sunday, 24th June at the Imperial Peking. Twenty three members, one guest and five young children attended and enjoyed a delicious Chinese banquet. During the evening one of our young guests, Bridget, drew the lucky door prizes.



Congratulations to our members who have become parents since our last newsletter.

Christian James Maher. Born 2nd March, 2007, a son to Patrick and Anne (nee d'Assumpção) Maher.

Laila Rose Keenihan . Born 28th May, 2007, a daughter to Paul and Louise (nee d'Assumpção) Keenihan.

Henry Xavier d'Assumpção. Born 4th June, 2007, a son to Marcus and Georgia d'Assumpção.

Mika Marie Donato. Born 8th July, 2007, a daughter to Jerry and Janine (nee Yvanovich) Donato.

Aileen Guterres
S.A. Representative.

Hobart Hobart members together with one guest and one child celebrated Dia de São João on a frosty evening on the 24th June at the Har Wee Yee Restaurant. We extend our thanks to the Casa management committee for once again facilitating this celebration.

Jorge Estorninho
Tasmanian Representative



Sydney Dia de S João 2007

On Sunday 24th June Casa de Macau Inc Australia celebrated Dia de S João nationally. Events were held in six States: ACT, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Perth, Tasmania and in New South Wales, Sydney being the headquarters. All members came together coinciding this event on one weekend, appropriately so due to the geographical nature of this huge country.





In Sydney, over 200 members and several guests enjoyed a delicious Macanese luncheon at Peter-sham Town Hall, catered by Yvonne Husband & Josie Arevalo. Official apologies were received from Dr. J. Perestrello, Portuguese Consul General of Sydney and Mrs. Helen Wong, Macau Government Tourist Office, Sydney.



Entertainment was provided by 'The Rossous' at their inaugural Casa gig with a ½ bracket, followed by Portuguese folk dancing group, Aldeias de Portugal covering a range of traditional dancing from various parts of Portugal and wrapping up the afternoon with some audience participation by forming a conga line.

Thanks to the Committee, Interstate Representatives and helpers for once again ensuring this annual celebration is another success.

Yvonne Herrero

Melbourne



" Casa members excel at Bridge"

In the Australian Bridge Federation newsletter of 1st July, two Casa members, Danny and Linda Osmond of Queensland, were mentioned. Danny was listed No. 34 in the TOP 50 senior improvers and Linda was 6th in the Masterpoint Improvers in 2007.

Quite a distinction in this country-wide competition.

Congratulations to both.

Adrienne Carassellos

Victorian Representative

Immigration Bridge Australia

While some members of the CASA are aware of the Immigration Bridge Australia, others will not be – so it is worth telling its story in this newsletter. A very special pedestrian bridge will soon be built across part of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra – from the National Museum in Acton across to Lennox Park Yarralumla. It will be 400 metres long with handrails on each side. On those handrails are being engraved the names of 200,000 migrants to Australia. The major sponsor is the Bendigo Bank and the National Trust is actively promoting it.

To help fund construction of the bridge, migrants or their descendants are invited to pay a fee of \$110 to have their name or the name(s) of their original migrants included in the handrail. So far the names of migrants from 88 countries are included in the list and they are hoping to increase it to 100 by the end of the year. This includes 3 from Macau, 18 from Hong Kong and 4 from Portugal. [So far there are none from Brazil!]

All migrants past and present who have come to settle permanently in Australia are eligible to have their name, year of arrival and country of origin permanently engraved on the handrail on this national monument.

Many people are taking the opportunity to use the registration as a gift – very appropriate for those difficult parents who have everything you can think of, particularly for those who are proud of where they came from or of being a migrant to this wonderful country.

There are many more aspects of the memorial, with



Invitation to Members

Macau Government Tourist Office will be holding a major event from 01 - 05 October at Martin Place in Sydney. This event is a wonderful opportunity to showcase Macau's strong heritage, culture and to highlight all there is to see and do in Macau. An important part of our event is the focus on Macanese culture and we would like to approach Casa de Macau to provide some teenage volunteers during this event. Casa de Macau's involvement will present a wonderful opportunity for their younger generation to be involved in this cultural event to support Macau Government Tourist Office and the Macanese community's ongoing promotion of Macanese culture.

During the week, the volunteers will assist with handing out information about Macau to visitors, supporting the children's activities (we have a series of plaster painting workshops and puzzle workshops which your volunteers can be involved in) and offering their support to Macau Government Tourist Office. Our requirements are as follows:

Date of event: 01 - 05 October
 Required times: 10:00 pm - 2:30 pm daily
 Number of participants: 2 - 3 per day (parents, grandparents are most welcome)

Each day, Macau Government Tourist Office will provide refreshments and lunch (sandwiches and fruit) for our volunteers. Furthermore, our public liability insurance will cover your volunteers during these times.

Kind regards,
Diane Hofland
Events Manager

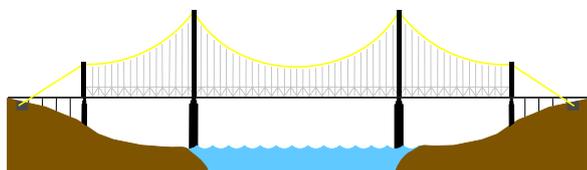
NSW Members are asked to contact Mary Rigby to register.
 Tel: 47333862 Email: rigbyfamily@ozemail.com.au
 RSVP by Friday 21st September 2007

(Continued from page 9) **Immigration Bridge Australia**

special stories being recorded and published in a "Migration Book", also part of the memorial.

For those interested in knowing more there is a very easy to follow website www.immigrationbridge.com.au or just Google Immigration Bridge.

Article submitted by Peter Grills, Canberra



New Members

Artemis Camillers
 Kimberly Cox
 Jade Edward
 Dylan Gully
 Ted Gully
 Anamaria Souza-Leonhardy
 Fritz Leonhardy
 Priya Patel
 Fatima Rosa
 Pia-Maria Trewi
 Jose Xavier



NEWS FROM HONG KONG

The South China Morning Post, Hong Kong PLA invasion aired twice: Lu Ping

Staff Reporter

Jun 23, 2007

Beijing twice considered taking back Hong Kong by force in the decades running up to the handover, according to a retired mainland official formerly in charge of Hong Kong affairs.

In 1967, Huang Yongsheng, the then commander of the Guangzhou military region, had suggested a military invasion to quell rioting in the city, Lu Ping said in an interview with mainland satellite broadcaster Dragon TV that aired yesterday.

"When premier Zhou Enlai learned of it, he gave an instruction late in the evening against [the PLA] proceeding," Mr Lu said.

The second occasion on which the possibility had come up was during the visit of the then British prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, to Beijing in 1982.

Late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping told her that mainland authorities would rethink the timing and means of restoring Chinese sovereignty over Hong Kong if there was major unrest once the July 1, 1997, handover was announced, Mr Lu recalled.

"The [new] 'method' referred to was its requisition by force," said the former director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office.

Mr Lu's interview was part of a Dragon TV series to mark the 10th anniversary of the handover.

The retired official is best remembered in the city

for his trenchant criticism of its last governor, Lord Patten, whom he once called a "sinner for a thousand years" for trying to foster greater democracy in Hong Kong.

Mr Lu is not the only former senior mainland official to have offered insights in the lead-up to the hand-over anniversary into what went on behind the scenes in the diplomatic battles between London and Beijing.

Pro-Beijing newspaper Wen Wei Po published excerpts of a forthcoming book of memoirs by Zhou Nan, Xinhua's former Hong Kong director, in which he was quoted as saying Beijing had considered using "non-peaceful means" to get back Hong Kong when considering its reunification.



JUST REMINISCING...



For those of us who used to work for the "Bank" in years gone by like me, you might have sometimes wondered what happened to the old Bank building in Hong Kong. Well, wonder no more. Thanks to Bosco Correa who sent me the following Web address, I don't have to wonder anymore.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HSBC_Hong_Kong_headquarters_building

After visiting the site and looking at the photos, I was overcome by a funny feeling, not nostalgia, no, not that at all - hard to describe it. So I decided to dig out these two relics from the days when I worked for them.

Anyone remember what they are?

I am grateful that I was able to work for the "Bank" where I gained work experience that has



(Continued on page 12)



(Continued from page 11)

Committee Members

President:

Yvonne Herrero

Vice President:

Marcus Gutierrez

Secretary:

Mary Rigby

Treasurer:

Henrique (Quito) Barros

Asst. Secretary:

Antonieta Manolakis

Committee Members:

Judy Rocha

Rogério Fernandes

Lizette Akouri

Maria Callaghan

Interstate Representatives:

Aileen Guterres (SA)

Natercia Xavier (QLD)

Adrienne Carasallos (VIC)

Margarida Grills (ACT)

Daniel Badaraco (WA)

Jorge Estorninho (TAS)

Contact us

Casa de Macau Inc.

P. O. Box A908

Sydney South, NSW 1235, Australia

E-mail: info@casademacau.org.au

Website: www.casademacau.org.au

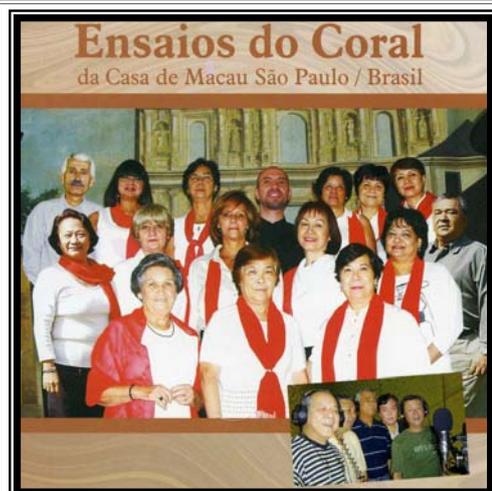
stood me in good stead all my working life.

But something really got up my nose, and that was the segregated toilets - one for the Brits and one for us 'locals'.

Are there any stories you would like to share with our readers? Write to us.

"Casa" Polo shirts

Are you going to Macau for the Encontro? Mary still has lots of Polo shirts and Casa badges. Why not get some and give them as gifts or exchange with members of other Casas!!



We have just a handful of CDs produced by Casa de Macau in São Paulo. The 'Coral da Casa de Macau de São Paulo' is made up of a group of friends with a common passion for music. They sell for \$10 each plus \$2 postage. Contact Mary Rigby for more details.



Casa Down Under Newsletter

Next issue is due out in January, 2008. Anyone, other than the regulars, wishing to contribute articles are requested to submit them no later than 17th December, 2007. All items are subject to the disclaimer printed in Page 7.

Hey kids! Listen to this.

Santa is hard at training,

so be good or

you may miss out!

