

## *G'Day from Australia and welcome to our first edition of The Kangaroo Gazette*

*We hope the year 2011 has started well for all of you with continued health and prosperity.*

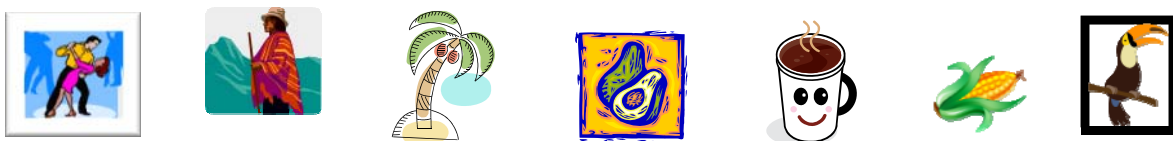
*Did you know there are 21 countries in the world whose official language is Spanish? Yes, 21!!! And they are all over the planet, in the Americas, the Caribbean, and even Africa where Equatorial Guinea, according to Wikipedia, is "the smallest and most prosperous country" of the African continent.*

*Add to this the millions of Spanish speaking people living in other countries and you will find many reasons to learn this beautiful language. Of course, Australia is no exception and the Spanish speaking population is quite large.*



*According to the 2006 Census, we speak no less than 200 languages in Australia, 50 of them being Indigenous and the rest from all over the world. Spanish is among the top ten languages spoken at home in most states, with the exception of NT, WA and SA.*

*Based on the latest census data, CELAS (Spanish Latin American Welfare Centre Inc.) prepared a report for 2007-2011 about the Spanish speaking community in Australia revealing that approximately 96,000 people of Spanish origin live in Australia and they come from around 20 different countries in the Americas, the Caribbean and also from Mexico and Spain. The largest Spanish speaking population in Australia is from Chile, with around 24,000 people.*



*Even though the Spanish language is the common factor among so many countries, there are noticeable historical and cultural differences that make each Spanish country unique. Music, folklore, food and life styles add variety and bring to Australia a fascinating mixture that originated from the Spanish, African and indigenous people that conquered, populated and developed the Spanish speaking world we know today.*

*We invite you to visit [www.celas.org.au](http://www.celas.org.au) and [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) for more information.*

*Keep an eye on the next Kangaroo Bulletin around mid-June for some interesting trivia about our different Spanish speaking backgrounds! **Hasta la vista!!!!***

