

# **Club Garibaldi News**

## Gennaio / January 2023

Club Garibaldi 118 Tory Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011 clubgaribaldi1882@gmail.com

#### Note from the President

Buon Anno a Tutti and welcome to Club Garibaldi's first newsletter of 2023.

There are quite a few events coming up shortly, and all are advised in this newsletter. We would love to see as many members at some of, or all the events.

Please note, we are bringing back our Children's Italian Classes – these are being brought to our members in conjunction with Circolo Italiano. If you wish your children or grandchildren to learn the Italian language, please see details below and register your interest with Laura Binnie. Thanks, Laura, for taking on this task for us.

Also, I would like to note the error in our last newsletter regarding our picnic. The date should be Sunday 5 March 2023. More on this in the newsletter below.



In early 2020 the club organised a visit to Somes Island in Wellington Harbour to mark 25 years since the blessing of a plaque installed on the island by the club. The event recalled the incarceration of 50 Italian men on the island by the authorities during the Second World War. Unfortunately, the trip did not occur, cancelled as one of the many casualties of the outbreak and spread of Covid 19 and the restrictions imposed on movements of people. Some 60 people had signed up for the trip and, with that interest in mind, the club is rescheduling the visit for Sunday 26 March. See details in this newsletter.

Ciao for now

Linda De Gregorio

## Club Picnic – 2023 – Sunday 5 March – Days Bay

As usual the Club will provide meats/sausages and fruit and of course games and prizes – All you need to bring are your families, and any other food you wish to consume. The venue is our popular Williams Park in Days Bay starting at 11.30am. Drive into park and veer right – we are the first park after the duck pond.

### Trip to Somes (Matiu) Island – Sunday 26 March

The club is again organising a group visit to the island in Wellington Harbour on Sunday 26 March 2023. The trip is to remember those men who were held on the island during the Second World War.

The plan is to board the East By West Ferry which departs at 11.15am from Queen's Wharf (off Customhouse Quay, by the Portofino restaurant) and returns from Somes Island leaving at 2.25pm.

The following information should be noted:

#### Bookings

- Everyone needs to register for the trip by contacting Frank Basile by email Francisb43@gmail.com or



texting Frank Basile 027-9140253. You need to provide your phone number and the number and names of people who want to travel to Somes Island. This needs to be done by Friday 10 March. We need this information to advise East By West.

- Places are limited depending on other bookings.

- The ferry trip costs \$25 per person payable at the ticket office near the boat departure point
- Club members (65+) who have a valid Gold Card travel free of charge.

- All travellers including Gold Card holders must get a ticket to travel and will need to show their Gold Card to ferry staff at the ticket office.

- All travellers need to book tickets at least half an hour before the ferry's departure – ie. by 10.45am Important information

- There are no food or drink amenities on the island. Members are invited to bring their own food for lunch and drinks to consume. Please make sure you take your rubbish back with you.

- There are public toilets and an information centre on the island

- The walk uphill to where the club's plaque is located takes about 15 minutes. It is not suitable for wheelchairs

- The ferry trip to the island takes 25 minutes.

- Should bad weather/sea conditions be unsuitable the trip will be cancelled and travellers advised by email and text on the Saturday afternoon prior to the scheduled departure.

#### **Relevant history**

Most club members will know the significance of this small island that is on the northern side of Wellington Harbour.

Fifty Italian New Zealanders were incarcerated on the island for a number of years during the Second World War. These were men identified by the Police and other authorities as being in category 1 of risk as "enemy aliens".

The story of the men features in the club's historical publication, Alla Fine Del Mondo (To the Ends of the Earth). Copies of the book are available by contacting the secretary of Club Garibaldi, Marco Costa, via the

email address above. Costs are \$40 per copy plus postage/handling.

On 12 March 1995 the club recognised the detention of these men by installing a memorial seat at one of the highest points on Somes Island. The memorial seat, built with the skills of club members, was blessed by Cardinal Tom Williams and a large number of members attended the ceremony.

The following is more information about the island from the Department of Conservation:

During World War I (1914-1918) the human guarantine barracks were used



to hold enemy aliens who were considered a risk to New Zealand's security. Around 300 prisoners were held on the island, most of whom were German nationals. Some of those held were born in New Zealand and had families, businesses and established lives here.

In World War II (1939-45) the island once again became an internment camp. While the prisoners were primarily German, there were a large number of Italian and Japanese nationals. They were moved to Pahiatua at the start of 1943 during the short period when the anti-aircraft artillery battery was operational but returned to the island in September 1944 when the guns were removed.

The internees were required to do road-building, gardening and fishing. For this they were paid a small daily allowance. They also had the opportunity to earn additional money by making small items such as wooden toys and päua jewellery. Some internees tried to escape the island by swimming or stealing a boat but there are no successful escape tales from Matiu/Somes.

## Happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

The Club sends Happy Birthday wishes to long-time member Fifi Esposito. Fifi turned 90 years young on 9 January and celebrated a lunch with family and friends at La Bella Italia Restaurant. Auguri Fifi per cento anni!



## Children's Italian Classes – School Term 1 2023

Club Garibaldi in association with the Circolo Italiano are asking for expressions of interest from anyone who would like their child, grandchild, or others, to attend children's Italian language classes in 2023. These would be held at Club Garibaldi Level 2, cnr Tory and Vivian Streets. The classes would be for 7- to 10-year-olds during Term 1, February to April 2023.

We are fortunate to have had recommended a very creative and well qualified teacher who would be pleased to run these lessons for us. Please see Antonietta's résumé below:



My name is Antonietta Demurtas. Since 2021 I have been teaching Italian worldwide through the online learning platform Preply. Lessons were designed to adapt to the different needs of each student. I also have over 15 years' experience working as a journalist, producer, advisor and communications officer in different institutions and mass media internationally.

I have degrees in Philosophy (University of Cagliari) and Journalism (University of Turin) and a secondary school diploma in Classical studies (Liceo Ginnasio G. Asproni, Nuoro) which requires proficiency in Classical Languages, Latin and Greek. I look forward to teaching Italian to your children!

#### Cost

Club Garibaldi and Circolo Italiano members \$10 per one hour lesson (\$90 for all 9 lessons)

Non-members \$12 per one hour lesson (\$108 for all 9 lessons)

Fees for the full term to be paid in advance and are non-refundable other than in exceptional circumstances.

Car parks 1-13 available for class family members only for the duration of the lessons.

If you would like your child to enrol, please choose which option you would prefer. We will go with the majority choice. We intend continuing classes in Term 2.

#### TERM ONE 2023 FEB-APRIL 7-10 year olds

Please choose one option only

*Either* Saturdays 2-3pm with nine lessons Sat 4 February 2023 to Sat 1 April inclusive

Or Sundays 11-12 noon with nine lessons from Sun 5 February 2023 to Sun 2 April inclusive

Please respond with your choice by 20 January 2023 at the latest, by contacting:

Laura Binnie laurajbinnie@gmail.com 021 262 6530

## Can you help find Vincenzo?

We have had a request from Kim trying to locate Vincenzo Pinto – if anyone can help please contact Kim direct – details below:

"I am researching my Italian Great-grandfather's history. His name was Vincenzo Pinto aka Victor Pinto. He was born in Genoa, Italy, naturalized in NZ at Island Bay on 3/11/1902 at age 25. Arrived NZ c.1897. Occupation: Fisherman. He moved up and down the North Island working on boats between Port Ahuriri (Napier) and Wellington. Lived at Island Bay, Old Pilot's station Lyall Bay, Makara, and on board the SS Phantom in Napier. PapersPast articles show donations: Italian earthquake fund Feb 1915 (Napier), Widows & Orphans of Soldiers Fund (Club Garibaldi Wellington) Aug 1915. Could anyone knowing of Vincenzo (Victor) Pinto during his time in NZ (it appears he left NZ after 1915), please contact me – Kim, email: kpsurfersfan@gmail.com. Thank you".

#### Condolences

The Club sends condolences to Cataldo & Shareen Iaccarino and family of Newlands on the recent death of their Mother/Mother-in-Law, Carmela Iaccarnio. Carmela and her late husband Giuseppe were long-time members of this Club and the Island Bay Italian community. RIP Carmela.

#### Adult Italian Lesson Classes – would you like to brush up on your Italian?

Location: Club Garibaldi, cnr Tory and Vivian Sts, level 2.

30 lessons of 55 minutes each, on Monday or Wednesday nights. Fees \$300 (compulsory membership fee for financial members of Club Garibaldi is waived). Beginners to Advanced classes.

Opening ceremony for enrolled students on Wed 8 Feb 2023. First classes start on Mon 13 Feb and Wed 15 Feb 2023.

We have three tutors, Rosaria Guadalupi, Antonella Sarti and Virginia Listanti and would love to have some more Club members along as students.

Please see the Circolo website <u>Circolo Italiano di Wellington</u> Or contact <u>inquiries@circoloitaliano.org.nz</u>

Dates for your diary	Sunday 5 March 2023	Club Picnic	
2023	Sunday 26 March 2023	Trip to Somes Island	
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