



ESTABLISHED IN 1882

# Club Garibaldi News

APRIL 2011

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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*Buona Pasqua a tutti*

Ciao a presto, Ginette Toscano Page, President

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY ITALIA! THE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATING THE UNIFICATION OF ITALY

*By Ginette Toscano Page*



On the evening of Thursday, 17 March, the Italian Ambassador to New Zealand, H.E. Ambassador Gioacchino Trizzino, and Signora Trizzino, hosted a wonderful reception at their residence in Thorndon, Wellington, to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Unification of Italy. As each invited guest arrived they were warmly greeted at the door by the Ambassador and Signora, before moving into the reception area where waiters offered an array of beverages as they mingled.

Shortly afterwards the Ambassador gave a speech on the Unification of Italy, the enormity of its merger and what Italy means to all of us today, whether we are Italian or non-Italian. Subsequently, much to my surprise, the Ambassador gave me, Ginette, the honour of cutting the huge celebratory chocolate torta made by Signora Trizzino, which depicted the map of Italy, Sicily, Sardinia as well as Isole Eolie (the Aeolian Islands of which Stromboli is one of!) in white icing. This was followed by a toast and all the guests singing 'Happy Birthday Italy' in both English and Italian. A great evening to celebrate a very special and historic event.



*Singing the Italian and New Zealand anthems*

## **GRAZIE MILLE AMBASSADOR AND SIGNORA TRIZZINO**

*By Ginette Toscano Page*

Sincere thanks and much appreciation to Ambassador and Signora Trizzino, from the large group of Club members and their families who accepted their Excellencies' invitation to join them for an informal luncheon on 26 March. Although there was rain earlier in the morning and the grounds were wet, it did not deter the warm atmosphere and welcome given to each person by this gracious and very special couple. As guests entered the reception rooms they were offered an array of vino and non-alcoholic beverages and it was not long before the room was 'buzzing' with the chatter and laughter of the adults and children.

Just prior to lunch being served the Ambassador gave a short speech to officially welcome Club Garibaldi members to the Embassy. It also included a message from the Italian President, Giorgio Napolitano, in regard to the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Unification of Italy. Ida Basile was invited to say grace in Italian before everybody served themselves to the delicious buffet luncheon that had been prepared for them. This was followed by two equally delicious desserts ... as it was too hard to choose which one to have ... most had both! Not long after, the Ambassador and Signora passed around individual chocolate gelato for those who had room left in their tummies! The day was capped off with a relaxing espresso and a nip of Limoncello!

It was great to see so much social interaction happening ... everyone was relaxed and in high spirits. The children, over 20 of them, were so good ... a credit to their parents and nonni who were there with them. They enjoyed the games of 'pass the parcel', along to lively Italian music. When it was time to leave, the children were each given an individual pack of sweets and chocolate to take home.

As far as I am aware, this is the first time that an Italian Ambassador to New Zealand has opened their home exclusively to members of Club Garibaldi for such an occasion. This act of kindheartedness further cements the warm relationship Club Garibaldi enjoys with Ambassador and Signora Trizzino and the Italian Embassy.



## **BABY CONGRATULATIONS**



Congratulations to the following on the recent additions to their families:

- Nino Basile and Gillian of Island Bay, a son, Vincenzo Edwin Basile. A grandson for Anna and Vincenzo Basile also of Island Bay.
- Matthew and Kerry Bale, a daughter, Luisa Bale. A granddaughter for Marilyn (nee Paino) and David Bale of Seatoun, Wellington.

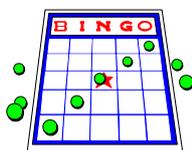
## CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to Trudy, Peter, Dominic and Oliver Amitrano of Kilbirnie, Wellington on the recent passing of their mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, Toni Waite of Hamilton.

## MORE ITALIAN TRIVIA & FUN FACTS

- Pizza is one of the very few words which is understood all over the world.
- Almost 20% of Italy's population is over 65 years old.
- Italy borders Austria, France, Vatican City, San Marino, Slovenia, and Switzerland.
- The average Italian family has 1.27 children.
- The Italian flag is inspired by the French flag introduced during Napoleon's 1797 invasion of the peninsula.
- The thermometer is an Italian invention.
- The name of Electricity measurement Volt comes from Alessandro Volta who invented the first battery in 1779.
- The average life expectancy for an Italian is 79.54 years.
- The piano hails from Italy.
- Italy's contributions to science include the barometer, electric battery, nitroglycerin, and wireless telegraphy.
- Famous Italian explorers include Christopher Columbus, Marco Polo, John Cabot, and Amerigo Vespucci.
- Enrico Fermi, inventor of the nuclear reactor, was an Italian.
- The automobile is one of Italy's greatest products. In addition to the Fiat brand, Fiat owns the Lamborghini, Ferrari, Maserati, Alfa Romeo and Chrysler brands.
- With almost 40 million visitors, Italy is the fourth most visited country in the world
- Cologne came out of Italy.
- The ice cream cone is an Italian invention.
- The majority of Italian-American immigrants came from Naples and southern Italy.
- Mt. Vesuvius last erupted in 1944, destroying a number of neighboring villages and the city of Pompeii.
- Eyeglasses are an Italian invention.
- The espresso machine hails from Italy.
- Italy is the world's seventh largest industrial economy.
- The typewriter is an Italian invention.
- Italy owes much of its prosperity to thousands of small private family enterprises.

## TOMBOLA



The next tombola night will be on **Tuesday, 26 April 2011** at the usual time of 7.30 pm. Please come along and feel free to bring a friend. Contact Maria if you have any questions.

## ITALIAN MASS

On the first Sunday of every month the Mass is celebrated in Italian at the Church of St Francis de Sales, 175 Clyde Street, Island Bay, Wellington. Mass starts at 11.30am. Everyone is welcome. It would be good to see more members and their families attend, as we are very fortunate to have this opportunity in New Zealand. If you can help with a reading or the offertory, please contact Ida Basile. The Mass is celebrated by either His Excellency Archbishop Balvo or Don Marinko Antolovic from the Apostolic Nunciature. **The next Mass will be on 1 May.**

## **GOLDEN WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS!**

On 25 March 1961, Doreen Buller and Paul Cusin were married at the Holy Family Church, Webb Street, Wellington. Their attendants were: Maureen Williams, Marina Cusin, Sante Battiston, and Ezio Cusin.

Congratulations Doreen and Paul on reaching this great milestone. The members of Club Garibaldi wish you many more happy, healthy years together.



## **LUNCH AT THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR'S HOUSE**

*By Dion Laney (aged 10 years) - Son of Carmela Massa and Brent Laney*



On Saturday, 26 March 2011, my sister Francesca, nonni Rosaria and Domenico Massa and I attended lunch at the Italian Ambassador, Gioacchino Trizzino's house. We arrived at 12.00 noon and were greeted by the Embassy staff, Ambassador Trizzino and his wife, Signora Trizzino. We had a two course lunch of main and dessert. For the main course we had pasta e piselli, spaghetti with melanzani, chicken and salad, and for dessert we had chocolate mousse and tiramisu. Between sixty to seventy people attended, and about twenty five of them were children, so it was pretty fun. Three quarters of the way through the day the children played the game 'pass the parcel' in two rounds - one for the older group of kids and one for the younger kids. We had some lollies and a magnum gelato each then we left to go home. I would like to thank Ambassador Trizzino for inviting us to his house.

*Dion & Francesca in Massa Lubrense, September 2010*

## **CLUB BAR PERSON**

We need to find a new person to work behind the Club's bar on Sundays, 3pm to 8 pm, and at Club functions during the year. If anyone is available to do this work, please contact Robin Page. This is a paid position.

## **VIDEOS FOR SALE – LAST CHANCE!**

A club member has donated a supply of used Italian video tapes to the Club. There is a large assortment of titles which include movies and soccer games. The videos are for sale, and are in a box on the table outside the kitchen area with an honesty box beside it – \$2.00 per video.

## ITEM OF INTEREST

*Italian Movies - Cinema Italiano*



Generally it is an unknown fact that motion pictures were invented by an Italian. Inventor Filoteo Alberini was one of the pioneers of cinema. In 1894 he built a machine called Cinetografo, which he used to record, develop and project motion pictures. The Lumiere brothers perfected their invention only one year later, but due to a technical problem with the Italian patent office, Alberini was awarded a patent for his machine only after the French brothers had shown the first motion picture to an audience. Along with his friend Santoni, Alberini co-founded the first Italian film company, and at the same time opened one of the first movie theatres in Florence.

The first Italian movie ever made, 'La Presa di Roma', released on 18 September 1905, was directed by Filoteo Alberini. The movie describes the last moments of Rome in the hands of the Pope, being separated from the rest of Italy, as it was in 1870. In the opening scene, blindfolded General Carchidio is escorted from Ponte Milvio to General Kanzler of the Papal Army. Carchidio issued an ultimatum to surrender to Kanzler but this was refused. After finding a gap in the city walls Rome was stormed by troops (la breccia di Porta Pia).

The film recorded a crucial moment in the country's history: the capture of Rome by the newly-formed Italian army and the selection of the city as Italy's capital. Only about 75 metres of the film remain today - about 4 minutes, which has been touched up and preserved by the National Film Archive. During his career, Alberini produced 134 feature films, 36 documentaries and 57 comedies, including the first Italian movie epic 'Quo Vadis?' in 1913. These were the first steps of Italian movies. From then onwards the industry flourished giving us such immortal movies as 'Roma Città Aperta', the Fellini movies and Italian comedies.

## CIRCOLO ITALIANO MAY SOCIAL

At 7.30pm on **Thursday, 5 May**, Lesleigh Salinger will give a presentation on Modena and beyond. Lesleigh was the recipient of the Circolo's 2008 Charles Bell Memorial Scholarship and in November 2010 she completed a one-month course in the Italian language at Scuola Romanica in Modena. As an Art Historian, Lesleigh will give her presentation from a different perspective to previous speakers. For lovers of Italian art this will be an excellent opportunity to enjoy in-depth descriptions and to see images of spectacular masterpieces by famous artists and sculptors. Don't miss this opportunity - Circolo and Club Garibaldi members and friends are very welcome. A \$4.00 charge towards supper will apply.

## FAMILY NIGHT

The first Family Night for 2011 held on 1 April, was another outstanding success, with over 50 adults and children, enjoying a relaxed family evening together. Once again, special thanks and much appreciation to Alfonso Basile who cooked the delicious meal and dessert ~ as always, it was excellent! A highlight of the evening was when some of the children asked if they could play a song on the piano.

Hopefully next time, more will do the same...after all, it is *'Family Night'*.

We even had a couple of great songs from Armando Gilmoni and Poul Schioler which we all sang along to! The evening's raffles were won by Elsa Gilmoni and the Costa family. Sincere thanks to Matt Amitrano, Anna Quinn, Ginette Toscano Page, Robin Page and Joe and Maryrose Basile, without whose assistance the evening would not have been possible. Thanks also to our young helpers, who at every Family Night sell the dinner and raffle tickets at the door: Sophia and Charlotte Basile, Marco and Vincenzo Costa, and Grace and Rebekah Amitrano.

## FAMILY NIGHT



*Bianca Schioler*



*Mario Basile*



*Rt: Poul Schioler and guest, Giuseppe*



*Anna Maria & Luigi Vaino*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday, 26 April (7.30pm)

Sunday, 1 May (11.30am)

Thursday, 5 May (7.30pm)

Tombola

Italian Mass

Circolo May Social