



# Club Garibaldi News

JANUARY 2011

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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**ANNO NUOVA, VITA NUOVA - NEW YEAR, NEW LIFE  
VI AUGURO UN BUON ANNO DI FELICITA' E GIOIA A TUTTI HAPPY  
NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!**

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. May the year of 2011 be a great one for us all! I hope you are all enjoying the holiday season, the warmth of the summer sun, the relaxing days and long evenings in the company of family and friends.

Our club calendar is already filling up with upcoming events and activities. The Executive Committee is always working on these projects in advance. Members' support and suggestions are always welcome, so if you have any ideas, or wish to join in on certain projects, please feel free to contact me. Ginette.

Read further for information about the upcoming bus trip, annual blessing of the boats and the club's annual picnic.

Ciao a presto  
Ginette Toscano Page  
President

## SHARING NEWS

We are looking for Italian items of interest, as well as special occasions to include in future newsletters. Please feel welcome to share them with your fellow members. Contact Ginette or Robin.

## TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

By Katy Corner



1995: Armando Gilmoni and President, Vincenzo Criscillo

*Note: This article is from the now defunct City Voice publication. It featured in 1995, as the article suggests, immediately before the Italian Festival held on 1 March of that year on the Petone foreshore. I think the Club moved the festival to the Overseas Terminal the following year, where we stayed until 2009!*

Italians in Wellington have a lot of celebrating to do this week. An exhibition, a book launch, and an Italian Festival are all on the agenda.

All three events based at the Settlers Museum in Petone offer a rare insight into the origins of one of the capital's larger minorities.

The first distinct migration from Italy to Wellington came first from northern Italy in the early 1880s, followed early this century by people from Stromboli in the south. The Strombolesi now make up a large proportion of the Italians living in Island Bay, and have always been associated with fishing, fish retailing and restaurants.

One of the benefits of 'chain migration' – migrants following an established route over many years – is that new arrivals have a circle of friends and family waiting at the end of the journey. Word of mouth was the chief method of enticing Italians to New Zealand. Those who returned to Italy spread the news about good fishing, and at one point gold (the Garibaldi Diggings in Southland).

Evening Post assistant editor Paul Elenio, author of 'Alla Fine Del Mondo' ('To the end of the Earth'), says that Italians were given no encouragement to come here except by Premier Julius Vogel who sought foreigners to make the country grow.

While many immigrants in official programmes were unsuited to the jobs that awaited them, when left to their own devices they fared much better in fishing and in market gardening. Another successful scheme was the terrazzo industry, building terraces and tiling houses.

During the Second World War, 39 Italians were classified as 'enemy aliens' and held on Somes Island for four years. While their incarceration was not particularly arduous, the families suffered as a result of this wartime paranoia. Fishermen, however, were left to carry on, as they produced an essential commodity; they were transplanted from Eastbourne to Island Bay.

The Garibaldi Club was set up in 1882 as a centre for 'sons of a newly unified Italy'. It is still a place where men, and lately women, of Italian descent can meet, dance, dine, bowl and play cards, not to mention speak Italian. Recently its first female secretary, Nina Cuccurullo, was appointed. The club boasts nearly 300 members.

Paul Elenio finds that, by the third generation of Italian New Zealanders, the youth is Italian in name only. A great interest remains however, in their background, and activities such as dance and language help keep their heritage secure.

It is not uncommon for an Italian man in NZ to return to Italy to take a bride and quickly start a family. Then he would commence a to-ing and fro-ing between the two countries, building up the family until they could all be brought to the new country. This sometimes took 20 years!

An exhibition celebrating the history of the Italian settlers in Wellington and the Hutt Valley opened at the Petone Settlers Museum yesterday (1 March).

The Garibaldi Club, in association with the Settlers Museum and the Hutt City Council, will hold a festival on the Petone foreshore this Sunday (5 March) from 1pm to 4pm), wet or fine. Historic videos will be shown at the museum, the Italian choir and tarantella dance group will perform, and Italian wine and food will be offered. All welcome!

## WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

This month's featured website is a portal for all Italians across the globe. Although this site has featured in an earlier newsletter, it contains the most *up-to-date* comprehensive links to Italian news and current events sites, as well as educational, fashion, music, film, art, sports, travel, and genealogy resources. A true 'one-stop shop' for all things Italian. Check it out at: <http://www.italiamia.com/>

If you know of a website that you think would be of interest to other members, please email the URL to Robin Page and it will be included in the next month's newsletter.

## NEW MEMBER

A warm welcome to the following new member: Maria Agnes Canderle of Levin.

## ITALIAN HAND GESTURES

Italians use body language and hand gestures to punctuate an expression and give it a shading that the word or phrase itself lacks. The Italian hand gestures illustrated here are some of the more common gestures that are recognized in the country. Be aware that, like dialects, certain hand signals can mean different things within different regions — and can have completely different interpretations in other cultures. Practice these gestures on your Italian friends first to be sure you've got the right movement, otherwise a potentially embarrassing situation could develop! More next month!



Andiamo a dormire  
English translation: Let's go to sleep



C'è da fare o no?  
English translation: Yes or no?



Scongiuro.  
English translation: Gesturer wants to ward off bad luck.

## ITALIAN HAND GESTURES – Continued



Un momento!  
English translation: One moment please! Or - May I speak?



Mah!  
English translation: Perplexed. Gesturer is undecided.



Ehi tu, vieni qui! (Ascolta!)  
English translation: Hey! Come here, you! (Listen!)

## CONDOLENCES

Deepest sympathy to the following members and their families:

Raffaele and Amalia Muollo and family of Paraparaumu, on the recent passing of Raffaele's father, Antonio Muollo, in Puolo, Sorrento. Antonio was also the uncle of Maria Rosaria Di Leva, Josephine Gaeta, Maria Esposito, Raffaele Muollo, Carl Muollo and Tony Muollo and their families.

## THE NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST



The Executive Committee and members of Club Garibaldi heartily congratulate Rex Da Vanzo of Wellington, for being awarded The Queen's Services Medal for services to the community in The New Year's Honours List.

## 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 and 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 Reverend Marinko Antolovic from the Apostolic Nunciature. **The next Mass will be on 6 February 2011.**

## TOMBOLA



The next tombola night will be on **Tuesday, 22 February 2011** at the usual time of 7.30pm. Please come along and feel free to bring a friend. Contact Maria if you have any questions.

## PHOTO OF INTEREST

During their recent travels, club members Maria and Paul Elenio of Island Bay, spied this photo on the wall of a hotel in Florence, not far from the railway station and thought they would share it with us. Good one!!



## ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC



A date has been set for 2011 annual Club picnic. A reservation has been made for **Sunday, 20 February 2011**, from 11am onwards, at Queen Elizabeth Park, Paekakariki, with the **reserve/cancellation date of Sunday, 27 February**. In the event of wet weather, listen to NewstalkZB cancellation service. Put a big circle on your calendars, to remind yourself of this date. Once again, the club will provide the steaks, sausages and bread for the barbeque. All members and their families are welcome.

## AN ITEM OF INTEREST

WORLD'S OLDEST CROCODILE SKELETON TURNS UP IN BOLOGNA  
ANSA – Bologna – 10 November 2010

A crocodile fossil in a northern Italian museum has turned out to be the oldest in the world, Italian scientists said. The skull found in a block of rock during motorway construction near Verona in the 1950's, has been in Bologna's University geological museum since the 1960's. It has now been dated to some 165 million years ago, making it the oldest crocodile remains in the world, according to Bologna palaeontologists Federico Fanti and Andrea Cau.

'A few years ago I said to Andrea, why don't we try to find out more about this beast' Fanti said. Crocodiles have not changed a lot from ancient times but the really old guys have wider jaw. The cheekbones on this one were huge which made us think it was a lot older'.

Tests showed that the animal was some 10 million years older than first thought. The animal lived on the coast of what was at that time North Africa, on the northern shores of the vast ancient land mass known as Gondwana, the scientists added.

## SHARED LUNCH



The next shared lunch will be held at the clubrooms on **Sunday, 6 February 2011** at 1pm following Italian Mass. All members and families are very welcome. Please bring a plate.

## CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE CLASSES

By Sira Ballara

If you would like your child to attend the classes in 2011, and your child is not on the waiting list, please contact Sira Ballara as soon as possible – by 25 January 2011. Classes start on **Tuesday, 15 February**.

## ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE BOATS

Island Bay – traditionally a fishing strong-hold in Wellington – will once again, host the annual Blessing of the Boats during the Island Bay Festival on **Sunday, 13 February 2011** at 2.30 to 3.30 pm.

The following is a short history of its origins. The blessing of fishing boats is a tradition in Italy that goes back centuries. In southern Italy, the blessing would be undertaken by the local priest at the start of spring. The boats, many of which were named after saints, were decorated with flags and bunting, would file past to have holy water sprinkled on them while the priest recited prayers and made the sign of the cross. The blessing was part of the religious belief that if the boats received the grace of God, they and the fishermen would be protected from the elements and would also reap the bounty of the sea. Many of Island Bay's Italian immigrants came from the fishing villages of Massalubrense and Puolo in the Gulf of Naples, and the island of Stromboli, near Sicily. Today all sea craft and vessels are welcome to take part in this special ceremony.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE 'SANTINA' CREW MEMBERS

By Annalisa Devitt



*Photo taken at the 2010 Island Bay Blessing of the Boats.*

All are welcome to attend a small ceremony to unveil a memorial seat to commemorate the 'Santina' fishing launch and its crew of four, who were lost at sea in Wellington Harbour on 25 September 1933.

This will take place on **Sunday, 13 February** at approximately 3.30 pm by the old bait shed (now the Marine Education Centre), after the Blessing of the Boats. It would be great to see as many Italian families there as possible, to join the extended families of those who were lost and to honour what they did for the Island Bay and Italian communities.

## ANNUAL BUS TRIP – 2011



There are still some seats available for next year's annual bus trip to Hamilton. The dates have been set for **8th, 9th, 10th** and returning on **11th February 2011**. This is always a great trip and thoroughly enjoyed by all those who go on it. If you are interested in coming contact (evenings) Maria Colucci or Salvi and Josephine Gaeta as soon as possible. Please remember that priority is given to club members after which it will be open to members' friends.

## CAR PARK SURFACE UPGRADE

The Club car park is to be resurfaced one weekend this month and will be unavailable for use while the work is being undertaken. We're not sure which weekend the work will take place, as it depends on the weather. The car park will be cordoned off during this time.

## INES RAFFERTY (NEE MENARA) – 80 YEARS YOUNG!



Congratulations to Ines Rafferty (nee Menara) of Lower Hutt, who recently reached the wonderful milestone of 80 years young! Buon compleanno Ines, Club Garibaldi wishes you many more happy and healthy years to come.

*This photo of her taken on the day with her two grandsons Matthew & Nathan Dicken.*

## CIRCOLO MARCH SOCIAL

The Circolo's 2011 social programme will commence with a presentation by Circolo members Marisa King and Phil Saxby. Marisa was the recipient of the Circolo's 2010 Charles Bell Memorial Scholarship and together with her partner Phil, she studied for one month at Scuola Romanica, Modena. Marisa and Phil will talk about their experiences at the school and they will also give us their impressions on the beautiful city of Modena and many nearby cities. Expect to see some stunning Power Point photos and take the opportunity to enjoy socializing with other Italiophiles!!

**Thursday 3 March, 7.30pm** Venue: **Club Garibaldi**, top floor, Cnr. Vivian and Tory Streets, Wellington. A \$4.00 cover charge towards supper will apply.

## CIRCOLO APRIL SOCIAL

At **7.30pm on Thursday 7 April**, Don McLean, the Director of Italian Villa Holidays will give us a presentation on 'Independent Travel' in Italy. Don is a very accomplished speaker on all aspects of travel within Italy and he has spoken to Circolo members and friends on many occasions. He will give us invaluable practical information and useful hints and we will benefit from his extensive knowledge. The material and visuals will be new and we can look forward to being taken on a virtual armchair tour around Italy!! A \$4.00 cover charge towards supper will apply.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sunday, 6 February (11.30am)	Italian Mass
Sunday, 6 February (1pm)	Shared Lunch
8–11 February 2011	Annual Club Bus Trip (Hamilton)
Sunday, 13 February 2011 (2.30pm)	Annual Blessing of the Boats
Sunday, 13 February 2011 (3.30pm)	Santina Memorial Service
Sunday, 20 February (11am)	Annual Club Picnic
Tuesday, 22 February (7.30pm)	Tombola
Thursday, 3 March (7.30pm)	Circolo March Social
Thursday, 7 April (7.30pm)	Circolo April Social