



ESTABLISHED IN 1882

Club Garibaldi News

JULY 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Buon compleanno Club Garibaldi! Happy 129th Birthday Club Garibaldi!



At a meeting of Italians on Sunday, 3 July 1882, at which an Italian Working Men's Club was formed, a letter was written and forwarded to the Italian press through Cav. Luigi Castellazzo, Garibaldi's greatest friend. Among those present at the meeting, Messrs Grazzini, Nigiotti, Buti, Rondanina, Tani and Creber, who had fought in the General's ranks during the campaigns of 1860, 1866, 1867 and 1870, spoke briefly of their admiration of Garibaldi's character, and of the loss sustained by his death. It was resolved that the club was to take its name from the late General in honour of his memory.

Please note that the AGM is on Sunday, 11 September 2011. Many thanks to those members who have sent in their completed membership form and payment. This note is a friendly reminder to those members who have not renewed their membership yet.

Ciao a presto,
Ginette Toscano Page

ITALIAN FILM EVENINGS



Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances, the Italian film evenings organised by the Embassy of Italy in conjunction with Club Garibaldi, as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Unification of Italy, which were scheduled for August, have been postponed. However, the film screenings planned for September will still go ahead. An update of information will be printed in the August newsletter.

ARCHBISHOP CHARLES BALVO – 60 YEARS YOUNG!

Congratulations to Apb. Charles, Apostolic Nuncio, who recently reached great milestone of 60 years young. Buon compleanno - Club Garibaldi wish you many more happy and healthy years to come.

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On Sunday, 3 July 2011, at the shared lunch, we recalled the 129th birthday, or anniversary, of the Club Garibaldi. A few days before, I celebrated an important personal milestone – my 60th birthday – as well as the sixth anniversary of my ordination.



I was born on 29 June 1951 in Brooklyn, New York, the oldest of five children of Jerome and Helen (Fitzgerald) Balvo. My Italian roots go back to my great grandfather, Giuseppe Giambalvo, who was born in Sambuca di Sicilia, in the Province of Agrigento, in 1873. In 1885, he emigrated to the United States and arrived in New York, with his mother and siblings (about whom unfortunately, I have very little knowledge). The family settled in the Williamsburgh section of Brooklyn which, at the time, was an Italian neighbourhood. Some time in the early 1900's, with his wife (who was not Italian) and son, Calogero Giambalvo, he moved to a mixed neighbourhood in the section of Brooklyn known as Sheepshead Bay. It was there that he changed his name to Joseph Balvo and his son's to Charles Balvo (there is no English equivalent for Calogero).

Until I was 8 years old I lived in the house bought by my great-grandfather, and in 1959, like many other families in the 50's, we left the city and moved to a suburb, Suffern, New York, which is about 50 kilometres northwest of New York City (NYC). I did my primary education in Catholic parochial schools in Brooklyn and Suffern. In 1964, I entered the minor seminary and began my formation in seminaries in Manhattan and Queens. I was given the opportunity to finish my theological studies and the programme of formation in Rome. From 1972 until 1976, I lived at the North American College, the seminary of the United States in the Eternal City, just a short distance from the Vatican, and I studied at the Pontifical Gregorian University, run by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). I was ordained to the priesthood on 6 June 1976, in the College chapel.

From 1976 until 1981, I was assigned to Sacred Heart Parish in Newburgh, New York, which is located on the Hudson River, about 100 kilometres north of NYC. It is an Italian national parish and the Parish Priest was Monsignor Salvatore Cantatore, from Ruvo di Puglia. The earliest Mass every Sunday was and still is celebrated in Italian and, occasionally, I administered other sacraments in the language of Dante. I had a second parish assignment, but for only a year, before being sent to the Catholic University of America for two years, for further studies. As I was finishing these studies, I was asked to join the diplomatic service of the Holy See, which I accepted. In October 1984, I returned to Rome and, in February 1987, I finished my studies and obtained a doctorate in Canon Law.

I then served in the Apostolic Nunciature in the following countries: Ghana, with Togo and Benin (1987-1990); Ecuador (1990-1993); Chile (1993-1996); the Czech Republic (1996-1999); Jordan (1999-2002); and the Baltic States: Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia (2002-2005).

On 1 April 2005, the late Pope John Paul II appointed me as Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand and to the countries and territories that make up the Episcopal Conference of the Pacific. On 29 June 2005, I was ordained as an Archbishop in Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan and, on 29 July 2005, I arrived for the first time in Wellington.

In completing nearly six years of service in this region, I am grateful for the experience and above all for all the people whom I have met. It has been a privilege for us at the Apostolic Nunciature to celebrate the Italian Mass every month and to enjoy the warm welcome that we receive in the homes of the members of the Italian community, at the Embassy of Italy, especially the residence of the Ambassador, and at the Club Garibaldi.

Che Dio vi benedica tutti !!!

Archbishop Charles D. Balvo
Apostolic Nuncio

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to Lorna (Johnsonville, Wellington) and Rhonda Comis and family on the recent passing of their husband, father and grandfather, Italo Comis.

FAMILY NIGHT

The Family Night held on Friday, 8 July, was once again very popular with 65 adults and children, enjoying a relaxed family evening together. Special thanks and much appreciation to Alfonso Basile who as always, cooked the delicious meal. To hear the clubrooms filled with the laughter and noise of children is always pleasing, as these Garibaldini are our club's future. The evening's raffles were won by Giuseppe Basile and Silvia Canessa. Sincere thanks to Matt Amitrano, Giuseppe and Maryrose Basile, Jim and Lyn Marson, Rex Da Vanzo, Robin Page, Anna Quinn, Ginette Toscano Page and John Cao without whose assistance the evening would not have been possible. Thanks also to our young helpers who at every Family Night sell the dinner tickets at the door and raffle tickets: Sophia and Charlotte Basile, Marco and Vincenzo Costa, Grace and Rebekah Amitrano.

HUMOUR IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL

Giovanni and Isabella were having their usual battle of the sexes. "Italian men are all stupid," screamed Isabella. "Oh, yeah?" yelled her husband - "I'll have you know it was an Italian man who invented the toilet seat!" "And I'll have you know," said his wife, "it was an Italian woman who thought of putting a hole in it!"

BABY CONGRATULATIONS



To Jennifer Wilde and Raymond Illston, Palmerston North, a daughter, Amelia Mae. A granddaughter for Susan and Kevin Wilde of Upper Hutt and a great-granddaughter for Colleen and Sante Battiston of Lower Hutt.

To Joey and Amanda Basile of Tauranga, a son, Antonio. A grandson for Maddalena Basile of Island Bay, Wellington.

NEW MEMBER

A warm welcome to the following new member: Italo Rubbo, Greymouth, South Island.

PROFILE OF DAVID MONASTRA, BUILDING COMMITTEE MEMBER



David is the youngest son of Salve & Lola Monastra (Miramar) and grandson of Salvatore & Eleanora Monastra, who immigrated from Stromboli to Wellington in 1922. He is married to his lovely wife Robyn and they have two wonderful children, Catherine (23) and Michael (17) that he is very proud of.

Born in Wellington in 1960, David studied at St Patrick's College and Wellington Polytech and qualified as a Quantity Surveyor in 1981. He is the director of a consulting firm in Wellington, Monastra QS Consultants Ltd.

David is leader of the Wellington branch of Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship, a member of the Holy Cross Parish finance committee, the St Patrick's College Building Development Committee, the St Gerard's Building Upgrade Technical Committee and of course is a member of Club Garibaldi's Building Committee.

Like all good Italians, David's main interests are his family and his friends. He also enjoys taking the family Labrador for long walks, reading up on things of interest and watching the odd bit of motor-sport.

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 7 August 2011.**

GREAT BOWLING SUCCESSES!

Three members of Club Garibaldi, Joseph Zino, John Zino & Marcus Trlin were runners up in Nationals 4's Indoor Bowls which was a close and very exciting encounter. Congratulations guys!

Congratulations also to Marcus Trlin who won the Catholic New Zealand Singles title for the second time.

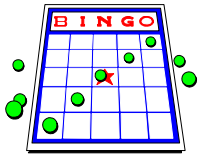
Over the years Club Garibaldi has produced many fine competitors in the sport of Indoor Bowls.

SHARED LUNCH



The next shared lunch will be held at the clubrooms on **Sunday, 4 September 2011**, at 1.15 pm, following Italian Mass. All members and families are very welcome. Please bring a plate.

TOMBOLA



The next tombola night will be on **Tuesday, 26 July 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.

CIRCOLO ITALIANO - AUGUST SOCIAL

At 7.30pm on **Thursday, 4 August**, Carolina Izzo will give us a presentation. Carolina, the Managing Director of 'Studio Carolina Izzo' is an internationally renowned art conservator. She will talk to us about her conservation work in Italy and New Zealand. She will focus mainly on two sites: Villa San Michele in Anacapri, Capri where she looked after the Museum's collection for 12 years and La Certosa di Padula, a large Carthusian monastery which is located in the town of Padula near Salerno. Originally trained in Florence, Italy, Carolina has a wealth of experience as a Conservator and you will be fascinated by her vivid descriptions and stunning visuals. A \$4.00 cover charge towards supper will apply.

NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL – 2011

2011 is a special year as it is the 40th year celebration of the screening of International Film Festivals in Wellington. In this year's festival there are four Italian films screening – see below. The festival runs from 29 July to 14 August.

- The Salt of Life (Comedy). In Italian with English subtitles
- Le Quattro Volte (Drama). In Italian with English subtitles
- The Solitude of Prime Numbers (Drama). In Italian with English subtitles
- Passione (Musical) In English with English/Italian subtitles

Visit www.nzff.co.nz or look up the Dominion Post for information on screening dates, venues and ticket purchases.

ITEM OF INTEREST

(ANSA) - Florence, 27 May 2011 – Mona Lisa? A skeleton found in the former convent in Florence where archaeologists are searching for the remains of Leonardo's Mona Lisa may have belonged to a woman, experts say. "Based on preliminary analyses of the cranium and the pelvis, we're tending towards the hypothesis that this was a female," said Bologna University anthropologist, Giorgio Gruppioni.

He said that the skeleton was whole and connected, but had partially collapsed under the weight of the earth. Archaeologists have been searching for the remains of Lisa Gherardini Del Giocondo, who died in Florence in 1542, and is believed to have modelled for Leonardo's celebrated portrait, now hanging in the Louvre. The skeleton's bones have become fragile due to the humidity of the earth. They emerged slowly as archaeologists removed surrounding dirt with brushes and a small vacuum cleaner. Only a battery of scientific tests will prove whether or not the skeleton belonged to a woman who was a contemporary of Mona Lisa, said art historian Silvano Vinceti, who is overseeing the project for the National Committee for the Enhancement of Historic, Cultural and Environmental Assets.

These include a carbon-14 test to determine the skeleton's historical period, a histological exam to determine its age, and a test to compare its DNA with that of two of Mona Lisa's children, buried in Florence's Santissima Annunziata church. The objective of the dig is to find Mona Lisa's remains, then reconstruct her face and compare it to Leonardo's painting.

Leonardo sleuth Giuseppe Pallanti has argued that the former Ursuline convent "must be" the last resting place of La Gioconda. Most modern scholars have now agreed with Pallanti that the Mona Lisa sitter was Lisa Gherardini, whose married surname, Del Giocondo, led to the Italian name for the painting, 'La Gioconda'.

According to the Italian researcher, she became a nun after her husband's death and died in the convent on 15 July 1542, aged 63. The couple were married in 1495 when the bride was 16 and the groom 35. It has frequently been suggested that Del Giocondo commissioned Leonardo's portrait to mark his wife's pregnancy, or the recent birth of their second child in December 1502. Archaeologists were led to the site of the dig in the sprawling three-story Saint Ursula building dating back to 1309, by references in historical documents and by georadar scans.

WANTED...TOYS FOR THE CLUB'S TOY BOX



Our toy box at the club is looking rather tired and some of them are broken! If your children have out grown and no longer play with certain toys, how about donating them to the Club so that our young Garibaldini have some 'new' toys to play with when they come to the clubrooms. The toys must be clean and in good condition – no broken ones please. If you have pre-loved toys to donate, contact one of the Executive Committee members, or bring them to the club on a Sunday afternoon, a family night, or a shared lunch.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES ARE DUE FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING 1 JULY 2011

Current subscriptions expired on 30 June 2011

We would appreciate you sending the completed form, together with your payment, as soon as possible. This year we have supplied an addressed envelope to make this easier for you. The form is on a separate page enclosed in this newsletter. Please ensure that you fill out the form (rather than just send the payment) as some members have the same name, and it is difficult to tell which member has sent the payment.

Do not forget to also join up your spouse as there are several club functions, which are for financial members only. Also, if your child has reached the age of 18, they are required to pay a membership fee to become a member. If they are still students, their membership will be \$20. We can send you a membership form for them.

If you have just turned 70 and have been a member continuously for 5 years, please notify Caterina Costa or post in the form. we look forward to your continued membership and support.

Friendly reminder: Members who do not display the new 2011-12 stickers on their vehicles which are parked in the club car park after 30 June 2011, risk being towed away!

SHARED LUNCH AT THE BEST RESTAURANT IN WELLINGTON – JULY



GUGLIELMO AND ENRICHETTA MELHOP TRUST AWARD

Club Garibaldi, the Wellington social and cultural organisation for New Zealanders of Italian descent, is calling for applications for funding from the Melhop Trust. The trust, established by a long-time club member, offers funding for young people of Italian descent for educational purposes involving formal study in a wide variety of fields and endeavours. Applications close on July 31, 2011 with any successful applicant(s) to be advised in September. Applications, citing the academic study and demonstrating the applicant's Italian heritage, are to be sent in writing to: The Secretary, Club Garibaldi, P O Box 6451, Wellington 6141. A list of the criteria for the annual award is also available from the Secretary.

Previous successful applicants for assistance from the trust were:

- 2006: Chris Di Leva, son of Maria and Giuseppe Di Leva of Island Bay, Wellington.
- 2007: John Mollo, son of Teresa and Liberato Mollo of Island Bay, Wellington.
- 2008: Claire Wilde, daughter of Susan Wilde (nee Battiston) of Upper Hutt.
- 2009: Hannah Timms, daughter of Michele Timms (nee Wholey) of Wellington.
- 2010: Giancarlo Cuccurullo, son of Gino and Caterina Cuccurullo of Island Bay, Wellington.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday, 26 July (7.30pm)	Tombola
Thursday, 4 August (7.30pm)	Circolo August Social
Sunday, 7 August (11.30am)	Italian Mass
Sunday, 4 September (11.30am)	Italian Mass
Sunday, 4 September (1.15pm)	Shared Lunch