



Club Garibaldi News

OCTOBER 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



"Spring is when life's alive in everything." ----

Christina Rossetti

It has certainly has been a long, cold winter, however daylight saving has begun and we can look forward to warmer weather from now on.

As there is a lot going on at the club during the next few months leading up to Christmas, I suggest you mark off these dates on your calendars.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the annual Aldo Cuccurullo Memorial Trophy challenge football game which was scheduled to be played in Nelson at Labour weekend this year, has been cancelled. Club Garibaldi's team will be travelling to Nelson next year.

Ciao a presto
Ginette Toscano Page

OFFICE BEARER – SECRETARY 2011-2012

The position of Secretary of Club Garibaldi has been filled by Catherine Monastra of Strathmore, Wellington. The executive committee warmly welcome Catherine to the team.

SHARED LUNCH – CANCELLED

Please note that the shared lunch scheduled for Sunday, 6 November 2011, has been cancelled to due to it being on the same day as the New Zealand Italian Festival.

SALVATORE CIMMINO

Amputee swims Cook Strait - All Blacks great inspires swimmer

Stuff – Monday, 10 October 2011



An amputee swimmer has successfully completed a daring crossing of Cook Strait. Italian distance swimmer Salvatore Cimmino left Wellington's Makara coast at 8.45am today and made land at Perano Head near Tory Channel just after 5.00 pm.

The one-legged swimmer completed the 26km journey in just under eight hours and 20 minutes. Today's crossing means Salvatore is the first amputee to swim the Strait. He is also the first to complete an October crossing when conditions are notoriously rough, and cold water and air temperatures increase the risk of hypothermia. "He's pretty buggered," supporter and eight times Cook Strait conqueror Philip Rush said. "He's pretty cold."

Poised to go: Swimmer Salvatore Cimmino, of Italy, poses on the shores of Cook Strait

Earlier in the swim support staff described Cimmino as being in high spirits and still communicating in Italian, "which is a good sign, although we, on the boat have no idea what he is saying". The Cook Strait crossing is part of Cimmino's tour 'Swimming in the Seas of the Globe', to promote disability awareness. Cimmino decided to take on the infamous Cook Strait at the urging of his friend, former All Black and Italy rugby coach John Kirwan.

Rush said Cimmino had stopped every 20 minutes for high carbohydrate hot drinks to keep energy levels up. His swim was aided by light variable winds and a light swell. Salvatore had his right leg amputated at the age of 15 due to cancer and began swimming later in life for therapeutic reasons before turning it into a passion for raising disability awareness.

In his quest to promote disability awareness, the 47-year-old has already swum the English Channel as well as completing swims in Israel, Italy, Mexico and Canada. The Cook Strait crossing is part of his Swim the Seas of the Globe campaign to promote disability awareness.

Despite today's successful crossing, Cimmino cannot be considered for the record books because he wore a special wetsuit to keep him warm. The wetsuit increased his buoyancy and speed. Cimmino was accompanied on his swim by two support vessels and four support staff who monitored tides, winds and water temperatures, which hovered around 12 degrees Celsius.

Note: The morning after Salvatore arrived in Wellington, a press conference was held at Club Garibaldi. An official dinner hosted by The Embassy of Italy in Salvatore's honour, was also held at the Club later that night. A great time was had by all! - Ginette

HAPPY 97TH BIRTHDAY ANGELA PANETTIERI

Club Garibaldi's most senior and much loved and respected member, Angela (Lina) Panettieri of Kilbirnie, Wellington, celebrated her 97th birthday on 4 October. Happy Birthday dear Lina, we all wish you many more happy, healthy years to come.



THE NEW ZEALAND ITALIAN FESTIVAL



The New Zealand Italian Festival is on again this year at the Westpac Stadium on Sunday, 6 November. Club Garibaldi support the festival, however we are not directly involved this time. We wish La Bella Italia and the festival sponsors another successful day following the recent festival held in Nelson in September.

At this year's festival La Bella Italia will host a group of Italian Sbandieratori (Flag Wavers) from the city of Faenza, in the Emilia Romagna region. The group proudly boast a long flag waving tradition and have won 30 Italian Tournaments in the last 45 years.

There will be festival information in the Dominion Post, and you can visit the website: www.theitalianfestivalnewzealand.com for all the latest updates.

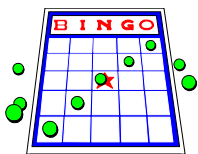
CHRISTMAS SENIOR LUNCHEON

This year's Christmas senior luncheon date has been set for **Saturday, 26 November**, with the meal to be served between 12.15 and 12.30 pm. It would be appreciated if everybody were at the clubrooms and seated by around 11.45am. This invitation is extended to all members aged 60 years or over. If you are a couple, both people must be members. For those who plan to come, it is important you confirm your attendance by **Monday, 21 November**. Please telephone Maria Colucci.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

This will be held on **Saturday, 10 December**, at the clubrooms, and will be from 11.30am until 2.30 pm. Once again, Father Christmas will be visiting ~ please ensure that your child/children have a wrapped gift with their name on it, for Santa's bag. The value of the gift should be no more than \$15.00 each. This function is for members' children only. Please confirm attendance by **Tuesday, 5 December**, to Maria Colucci.

TOMBOLA



The next tombola night will be on **Tuesday, 25 October 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.

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to the Di Mattina family of Lower Hutt, on the recent passing of their son, father and brother, Domenico Di Mattina, late of Karori, Wellington.

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, including those that are visiting from overseas, or other parts of the country. It would be good to see more club 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 the Apostolic Nunciature. **The next Mass will be on 6 November 2011.**

ALLA FINE DEL MONDO

There are plans to publish a second edition of our great Italian history book *Alla Fine Del Mondo* (To the Ends of the Earth) in time for the celebration of the club's 130th year. The edition will include two chapters that will concentrate on the economic and social conditions of the migrants, first in Italy and then in New Zealand, and additional material for the chapters on the fishermen and on Club Garibaldi. Author Paul Elenio has interviewed a number of migrants and is still seeking photographs that include major functions such as weddings and funerals of the early migrants. If members believe they have valuable material please contact Paul by **31 October 2011**. The book has been reprinted twice since it was first launched in 1995 and there are only a handful of copies left.

CLUB MEMORABILIA

Did you know that the Club has a collection of materials that we have over the years, put aside to be part of our Archives? In 1991 Nina Cuccurullo started the collection with materials that were in boxes that came from the old Wakefield Street Club premises. Unfortunately, there was not a lot of historical material prior to 1991 when we moved to the present clubrooms so we are now asking members if you have at home any items of interest to the Club. We are happy to make copies or you may like to donate items eg, photos of club events, articles etc. Please be assured we would take very good care of anything you would give us. You can contact either myself Ginette, or Nina. We look forward to hearing from you.

A BIT OF TRIVIA

ANSA – ROME, 19 September 2011

Italy has over 16,000 Centenarians!

Italy has 16,145 people aged 100 or over, national statistics agency ISTAT said on Monday, adding that the vast majority of the nation's centenarians are women. ISTAT said there were 13,040 women centenarians in Italy, compared to 3,105 men! Italy has some of the highest life-expectancy rates in the world. ISTAT stated that the average life span for men was 79.1 years in 2010, up 0.3% from 2009, while women's average lifespan was up 0.2% to 84.4 years.

CHILDREN'S ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES 2012

By Carmela Massa, Children's Language Class Co-ordinator for 2012

Have you tried to learn another language as an adult? It can be a challenge!! Just as well children are very receptive and can absorb a new language much easier! I am thankful to Club Garibaldi for providing my children with the opportunity to learn the Italian language and to help maintain the Italian culture within my family.

If you would like your child to attend Italian language classes in 2012, and your child's name is not on the waiting list, please contact me, Carmela Massa. The classes are held on Tuesdays during the New Zealand primary school terms.

A big thank you to Sira Ballara for organising the classes over the past two years. Sira will be stepping down at the end of this year.

MARZABOTTO

By John Knowles



This poignant précis was written by Club Garibaldi member John Knowles for the RCA, who wanted to share it with us. As one of this year's films in the Italian Film Festival titled 'The Man Who Will Come' makes reference to Marzabotto, where John fought in 1944.

As we, in the NZ Division, sat facing the Senio River in the Autumn of 1944, if we looked to the north west about 60 kms away, we could see the peak of Monte Sole almost indistinguishable amongst the other heights on the spine of the Italian Peninsula, and still in German hands! Over the weeks that followed we had little time to think about anything other than our own problems, but slowly vague and shocking stories began to surface. These were clarified later the war neared its end, some dastardly deeds had been committed at a place called Marzabotto in the Fifth Army sector, so dastardly that Allied soldiers throughout the theatre who learned of them were now being accused of taking no prisoners in the aftermath. Where was, why, and what happened near this place called Marzabotto on Monte Sole?

Marzabotto township is situated 27 kms south of Bologna in a prominent position on the plain of Misano in the Valle dei Reno. It is internationally recognised for its Etruscan ruins at the north end of the Parco Storico di Monte Sole. Historically, towards the end of the sixth century BC, Etruscan expansion in the Po Valley settled a large portion of the Plains of Padana, where it established a confederation of larger cities, with its centre at Felsina (now Bologna). The area was populated by Etruscans from the Po Valley and from Tyrrhenian Etruria. Agricultural production appears to have been ruled out by the lack of suitable space and it became an industrial and commercial centre with many homes and shops equipped with smelting furnaces. There was little to attract invaders over the years and the people became in-bred and insular, being particularly identified by a stature shorter than their neighbours, a light skin, green-blue eyes and straw coloured hair. There were a few with a more swarthy complexion, said to have descended from the odd Roman who had opted to share their precarious lifestyle. In language too, they differed, and although they could be said to use the dialetto Bolognese, they did so with an accent than was older than Italian!

Then came WW11 and some of them joined up with the local irregular Army, the CLN (Comitato di Liberazione Nazionale), although even then any action was remote from their home area.



John Knowles

Unfortunately for them all CLN units were encouraged by Allied Command to increase operations to assist in the forth-coming battle for Bologna. The original Red Star Brigade, which consisted of former Fascists who had become disillusioned with their party, and a strong group of former Carabinieri, were operating in the area and ambushed a high-level German Command vehicle. After disposing of its German occupants, they completely buried the vehicle. Since it disappeared in the Monte Sole area, German orders were issued to the SS that the entire region should be eliminated. The SS were thorough. First, they encircled Monte Sole to ensure that none escaped the net, and then they proceeded to massacre the inhabitants, consisting mainly of women and children, before destroying all livestock, blowing up buildings and burning everything that could be burned. Their methods were brutal in the extreme.

Later, some soldiers seeking to save their consciences gave evidence after the war at the military court which convicted General Kesselring, who commanded the German Forces in Italy, and had given the order for the rastrellamento (massacre) to be carried out. The details recorded one of the

worst excesses of Nazi brutality. One thousand eight hundred and thirty were confirmed dead, but a later census indicated that the total was more likely in excess of two thousand.

Today, if you drive through the Apennines, up the Autostrada del Sole from Rome, the picturesque countryside is interspersed with villages and prosperous looking farms extending to the mountains. However, take the exit marked Rioveggio and a subtle change comes over the land from the west. There are still farm houses, but unkempt and roofless with no sign of occupants. This lifeless, greyish brown land persists until the exit marked Marzabotto, when once again, green greets the eye and civilisation resumes. After the war, unbelievable stories circulated, but at that time the authorities were too busy with post-war survival. Then too, there had been no end of other stories of Nazi atrocities, and the world had become inured to such happenings.

But, what should have made this particular one stand out was that it marked the end of a culture, even older than the Romans. Apart from a small handful of survivors who have already been assimilated into the wider Italian community, it marked the final end of those mysterious people, the Etruscans. A whole civilisation was wiped out!

In 1951 there was an outcry against the mildness of the sentence meted out to Kesselring and Major Walter Reder, his henchman on the ground, but this was unavoidable since the courts martial were held in Italy, and Italy no longer had a death sentence. Tell that to the ghosts of the villages of San Martino, Cerpiano, Capara, Le Scope, Vallego, Cadotto, Casetta, Poggio and Casaglia, which once populated the area. Tell them also, that their losses were mild compared with those of other former Nazi atrocities. They might have replied that it was ironic that such bestiality towards them was not carried out by some primitive people from the wilds of Africa, but by members of a so-called enlightened society in an age which has seen the discovery of penicillin and the ability to place mankind on the moon, and by that particular section of society which could be reduced to tears by the music of Wagner and Mozart. These people survived the ravages of the Romans and the Barbarians only to perish in our supposedly enlightened century. Can the world atone for this? Regrettably, it is too late. In the Etruscan dialect "Nient' a Faire" – nothing to do. But what we can do is ensure that it cannot happen again.

HUMOUR IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL!

Mrs. Deluca comes to visit her son, Antonio, for dinner. He lives with a female roommate, Maria. During the course of the meal, his mother couldn't help but notice how pretty Antonio's roommate is. Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact, she started to wonder if there was more between Antonio and his roommate than met the eye. Reading his mother's thoughts, Antonio volunteered, "I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, Maria and I are just roommates." About a week later, Maria came to Antonio saying, "Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the silver sugar bowl. You don't suppose she took it, do you?" "Well, I doubt it, but I'll email her, just to be sure." So he sat down and wrote an email:

Dear Mama, I'm not saying that you "did" take the sugar bowl from my house; I'm not saying that you "did not" take it. But the fact remains that it has been missing ever since you were here for dinner. Love, Antonio

Several days later, Antonio received a response email from his Mama which read:

Dear son, I'm not saying that you "do" sleep with Maria, and I'm not saying that you "do not" sleep with her. But the fact remains that if she was sleeping in her OWN bed, she would have found the sugar bowl by now. Love, Mama

Moral of the story: Never lie to your Mama!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday, 25 October (7.30pm)

Tombola

Sunday, 6 November (11.30am)

Italian Mass

Saturday, 26 November (Seated by 11.45am)

Christmas Senior Luncheon

Saturday, 10 December (11.30am)

Children's Christmas Party

OFFICIAL DINNER FOR SALVATORE CIMMINO



Miriam Vender translates for Salvatore

Ginette, Guest, Salvatore, Paula Tesoriero & Donato Scioscioli



Most of the guests at the official dinner