



Club Garibaldi News

FEBRUARY 2013

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



After almost 8 years as New Zealand's Apostolic Nuncio, H.E. the popular Abp Charles Balvo, who was recently promoted as Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, will end his tour-of-duty in New Zealand and will take up his new posting in Kenya in late March. More in next month's newsletter.

Our club's Festa Italiana, will be held on Sunday, 24 March, at St Patrick's College – please read article below. A reminder too, to return your raffle books please.

Ciao a presto,
Ginette Toscano Page
President

CLUB GARIBALDI FESTA ITALIANA – SUNDAY, 24 MARCH 2013

Last year, 2012, was Club Garibaldi's 130th anniversary and you will remember as part of our celebrations we held a very successful Carnevale at St Patrick's College.

This year we have decided to hold a Festa Italiana, and invite all Wellingtonians to join us, and remind them of our special heritage and culture. We have a lot to be proud of and have chosen the very popular Toscana (Tuscany) region as our theme. We look forward to providing fun, entertainment, culture, dancing, fine food and vino.

Again, we ask members to think about how they can help make this club event special and once again, we have chosen St Patrick's College, Kilbirnie, as the venue.

The date for Festa Italiana is on **Sunday, 24 March 2013**. Please circle this day on your calendar now.

We have decided to do this without the aid of monetary sponsorship, either from members or local businesses, however the Wellington City Council have been most generous in awarding us a special discretionary grant which will help toward our expenses and excellent entertainment. Profits from our raffle will also help us provide extra value to everyone who attends.

However...we do require a big team of volunteers to help on the day, as well as a smaller team to help set-up the day before. Here are some ways you can help:

- Baking a cake or biscuits – torte oppure biscotti, for the club's dolci stall. Simply bring them with you on the day and hand them to the volunteers on the cake stall. Please use disposable containers to save returning these later.
- Helping on the cultural stand, or serving food from the club's stall.
- Setting up, collection of cultural items, taking down and tidying up at the conclusion of the festa.
- Blowing up balloons, hanging up Italian flags, notices and club posters.
- Signing up new members and answering questions about the Club and its history.
- Collecting admission money at the venue entrance.
- Collecting parking money and directing cars to the on-site car park.

Please contact me, or any of the Club's executive committee members for more information on how you can be involved. With a well organised roster system we aim for all volunteers to only spend 2 hours of their time on the day, thus enabling you to spend time with your family and friends enjoying the festivities, food and entertainment.

The Festa organising, contacting group are:

Catherine Monastra: Vic Criscillo: Robin Page:

We may approach you too! This type of event requires a lot of effort and volunteers. We encourage all club members to be involved in our special festa. We have much to be proud of! You can view more details on our club website: www.clubgaribaldi.org.nz

Ginette

FESTA ITALIANA RAFFLE

Our club raffle is proving to be a winner, and we are pleased with the initial sales results. We would like you to make an extra effort to sell a few more, especially if you still have some left from the booklet of 10 tickets that we sent you. Have you offered them to your friends, neighbours and work associates yet? You can even order more books from Catherine, our secretary. Remember to return the butts and money (sold or unsold) in the postage paid envelope provided, or post to the Secretary, Club Garibaldi, PO Box 6451, Wellington 6141. We thank all those who have already returned theirs. The prizes will be drawn on the day of the Festa.

LIFT OUT OF ORDER

The Club's lift has been repaired a number of times over the last twelve months. On-going problems, such as the water supply to the pump being turned off, has resulted in damage to the pump and motor again! The replacement cost is \$2,700. We are waiting for a quote to install a safety cut-off mechanism, before we proceed with the replacement, therefore, the lift may be out of order for a few more weeks.

HUMOUR IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL

Two teenagers were sitting on a park bench. Teresina shyly turns to Mario.

'Oh Mario, you better no kiss-a me, cos my-a mamma, she no like et'.

Mario replies 'Okay den, amore mia, you kiss-a me: cos my-a mamma, she no say anythig!'.

FROM THE CLUB'S ARCHIVES

Italian Red Cross - Evening Post – 23 October 1918

The Wellington Garibaldi Club raised the sum of £249.6s on behalf of the Italian Red Cross, in sums ranging from £12 to 2 shillings.



RAFFAELE ESPOSITO – 80 YEARS YOUNG!

Congratulations to Fifi Esposito of Island Bay who celebrated his 80th Birthday last month on the 9th January. Fifi had a lovely surprise when Antonio asked him to stop in at La Bella Italia to find family and a few close friends there to help him celebrate. Buon compleanno Fifi, Club Garibaldi wish you many more happy healthy years to come.

COMPENDIO GARIBALDINO DI CAPRERA – NATIONAL MUSEUM

By Ginette Toscano Page



Giuseppe Garibaldi

On one of her recent trips to Italy club member, Letizia Columbano Green brought back a very interesting brochure about Giuseppe Garibaldi's home, which is now a National Museum, in Caprera. As our club is named for him I thought I would share the following with you, just as it is written in the brochure. Thank you, Letizia. ☺

The Garden:

Garibaldi was the owner of the entire island of Caprera; he bought the first half in 1855 and ten years later some English friends gave him the second half as a present. He spent the last 27 years of his life there; his main activities were agriculture and animal breeding. At the centre of the court-yard there is a pine tree which Garibaldi planted in 1867 to celebrate the birth of one of his children, Clelia.

Outside:

Outside the house is a windmill where the corn was ground, and a marble bust representing Garibaldi, made in 1883 by Luigi Bistolfi, an Italian sculptor. On the left, behind the juniper tree, is the oven where bread was baked.

The stable:

This is where Garibaldi sheltered his horses and also the place where he worked on his handcrafts; he was skilled as a joiner and a blacksmith; on the walls are his tools. Next to the manger there are two machines; a wheat sifter and a maize sheller, used for separating kernels from the cob. Nearby is a steam engine used to work the harvester or the windmill. At the back of the stable is a bath-tub, kept here because it was the warmest place on the farm. On the right hand side stands the tombstone of his horse, Marsala, who died aged 30, and buried not far from the house.

The house:



The house has been restored. Above the door one can see the year in which the house was built: 1856.

The burial area:

The first tomb on the right is Teresita's tomb; she was one of the children Garibaldi had with Anita. In succession there is Anita, whom he named after his first wife: a child he had with Battistina Ravello, a woman who worked at the house as a maid; the girl died of meningitis at the age of 16. The next tomb is Rosa's who died of gastroenteritis when she was only 18 months. In the centre is Garibaldi's tomb; he wanted to be cremated but at

that time cremation was illegal, so his body was embalmed and buried under a rock of granite. Near Garibaldi, lies his son Manlio, his wife Francesca, and his daughter Clelia.

Boats:

There are two boats. The first is Manlio's competition boat, given to him as a present for his 9th birthday. The second boat was given to Garibaldi by the Sardinian Navy in 1860; he used this boat to sail to La Maddalena as the bridge that nowadays connects Caprera to the main island of the archipelago, was yet to be built.

Inside:

The hallway:

There is a display of Garibaldi's weapons, some photos of his soldiers, an Uruguayan banner, a field chest containing a folding chair and a folding bed which he used during the military campaigns. There is also one of the wheel-chairs Garibaldi had to use during his last year's when he was disabled with crippling arthritis, and a parchment dated from 1892, bearing the signature of a hundred Italian mayors.

Double room:



Garibaldi shared this room with his last wife, Francesca Armosino. Anita, his first and most famous wife, never lived here, dying in 1849, six years before he settled in Caprera. On the walls there are the pictures of his wife Francesca and their children, Clelia and Manlio. Near the bed stands also stands an orthopaedic bed to give Garibaldi comfort during the years of ill health.



*Left: Ana Maria de Jesus Ribeiro
– known as Anita Garibaldi*

Above: Garibaldi with his last wife, Francesca.

Manlio's bedroom



There are pictures of Manlio hanging on the wall and some of his toys on a dresser, as well as his uniform. Manlio was a lieutenant in the Italian Navy who died of tuberculosis when he was only 27.

Clelia's bedroom:

One can admire a picture painted on fabric by Garibaldi's daughter-in-law Constance. On the walls there are photos of Clelia and her family. Clelia died in 1959 at the age of 92.

The kitchen:

There are a lot of elements of modernity: the water pump that sucked up the rain water collected in the cistern, a corkscrew, a spring-loaded roasting-jack in the fireplace and, by the stove, a butter churn.

Manlio Garibaldi

The dining room (relic room):

In here there are many objects which belonged to the hero. In the first cabinet there are two sextants (nautical instruments) and a spyglass. In the second: some military stamps, two spurs, an accessorised belt, and a silver filigree tray. In the third cabinet, a copy of the bullet that hit Garibaldi on the right foot during the battle of Aspromonte, in 1862; and in the last cabinet there are some of his personal belongings.

In cases hanging on the wall are Garibaldi's clothes: the white cloak he used when he met the king of Italy, Vittorio Emanuele II, at the end of the Expedition of the Thousand in 1869, a poncho, and his famous red shirt. In the right corner there is the orthopaedic boot that helped him walk after the injury on his foot. On the chest of drawers is a plastic model made of cork; it represents Solferino, where an important battle took place in 1859.

The living room:

Above the fireplace hangs a portrait of Rosita, Garibaldi and Anita's daughter, who died of scarlet fever when she was 4 years old. Nearby is a leather armchair, a present from Queen Margherita di Savoia; next to the window is a picture of Rosa Raimondo, Garibaldi's mother. On the chest of drawers sits a barrel organ, called Organetto di Barberia, that played with paperboard disks.

The room of death:



The room was built in 1880. During his last days, Garibaldi wanted to sit here so that he could look at the sea. It is where he died on 2 June 1882, at the age of 75; on the wall hangs the original clock that was stopped at the time he died: 6.21pm. In the right hand corner is a medicine cabinet and, on the table near the bed, is a 'cradle' which protected his wounded leg from the weight of the sheets.

ITALIANS IN NEW ZEALAND: INTERVIEWEES NEEDED FOR A EUROPEAN UNION-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECT

You are warmly invited to participate in a European Union-sponsored study of the self-perceptions of Italians in New Zealand as Italians, Europeans and New Zealanders. The study involves interviewing Italians who live in New Zealand of all ages, genders and professions, including those who were born here.

The study is being conducted by Dr Adalgisa Giorgio, who is a Senior Lecturer in Italian Studies at the University of Bath (UK) and is currently visiting Victoria University of Wellington. Adalgisa, who is originally from Pagani (province of Salerno), has lived in England since 1978.

The interviews, which will be recorded using a digital Dictaphone, will last about 1½ hours and will take place either in Adalgisa's office at Victoria University or at a venue which is convenient for the interviewees. The interviews will be treated as confidential and real names will not appear in the publications.

If you are willing to be interviewed, or would like further information on the project, please contact:

Adalgisa or Cav. Nina Cuccurullo.

CIRCOLO ITALIANO MARCH SOCIAL

The first Circolo social for 2013 will be held at 7.30pm on **Thursday, 7 March**, at the Clubrooms. Don McLean from Italian Villa Holidays will talk to us about Independent Travel in Italy. Don is a very experienced speaker and he always gives the Circolo an excellent presentation. Come along and enjoy a pleasant and entertaining evening. Don will take us on an armchair tour of Italy and he will show lots of fantastic photos during his Power Point presentation. A \$5.00 cover charge towards supper will apply.

A BIT OF TRIVIA

The UK Guardian – 17 December 2012

Dumb and dummies: Italian trio held over shop break-in

Rome police hold veteran thieves who pretended to be mannequins during alleged theft of designer clothes! A group of Romans who broke into a designer clothes store have proved themselves to be possibly the world's worst thieves after being caught pretending to be clothes mannequins! The three men, aged 55, 70 and 78, allegedly broke into the Rome store on Piazza Fiume through a rear window at 4am on Sunday and set about loading designer clothes and bags worth around €100,000 into large sacks.

According to Italian press reports, the trio are veterans of scores of shop break-ins stretching back decades and are well known to police. They were equipped with a blow torch, crow bar and skeleton keys...but their noisy entrance to the store woke a neighbour who alerted police. A patrol quickly surrounded the store and entered to find the half filled sacks inside but no thieves. A careful search turned up the two older suspects – named as Tommaso Bonardi, 78, and Vittorio Laudani, 70 – standing stock still in a display, trying to pass themselves off as shop dummies! Dressed in jacket and tie, the two men were almost elegant enough to pass for the mannequins they stood alongside, but their trembling gave them away to officers who promptly arrested them. The third suspect, Luciano Liquori, 55, was found elsewhere in the store.

BLESSING OF THE SHRINE FOR MARIA SS DELLA LOBRA

By Salve Basile

My wife Janice, our children and I spent 6 months in Italy with family last year. It was nice to stay with family and experience life there. Many of the Italians in Island Bay including my parents, Maddalena and Francesco Basile, came from Massa Lubrense, a seaside village about 20 minutes drive south of Sorrento. The picture of the Madonna, which we brought home and had blessed, is 'Maria SS Della Lobra', the name of the church that stands next to my family's home. My Uncle Mimi asked what we would like to take home as a reminder of our time in Italy I decided, this was it!



In Massa Lubrense and throughout Italy, much of the lifestyle revolves around the Church and Mary's special feast days. Each year on 15th August the Madonna is carried from the church by the locals for a procession along the streets before being loaded onto a boat and taken out to sea, to a specific rock in the bay where a submerged statue of Mary stands, then eventually returned to the Church. I felt very fortunate to be asked to help carry Mary in the procession and out to sea...an event I shall always remember.

Left: Salve & Janice Basile with Fr Ron Bennett and Fr Mateo Kivalu

Uzi Mimi, told us the following legend: One day a huge storm rose and destroyed the walls of the church. At that time the church was situated at the bottom of the marina, right next to the sea. When the locals went down to the marina the following day they found all that remained of the church was a piece of concrete with the picture of Mary and the infant Jesus. A decision was made to move the picture up the hill to the Massa Lubrense village and church. However, as they were carrying the Madonna up, she became heavier and heavier! When they arrived at the site of the current Church of La Lobra she was a dead weight and could not be lifted or moved any further! After several attempts it was decided that Mary wanted to stay there and subsequently, a church was built around her. Uzi Mimi suggested I return in 2028 to take part in the festivities as the locals will be celebrating 500 years of this beautiful Madonna and her church on the current site.

In recognition and fond memories of our time in Massa Lubrense, we arranged a special blessing for the shrine which has been constructed in our front garden on Monday, 11th February. We were joined by 40 family and friends, along with Fr Mateo, parish priest of St Francis de Sales church, and Fr Ron Bennett, a former parish priest of Island Bay. The children wrote and read the Prayers of the Faithful. Following the blessing, light nibbles and homemade Italian cheese was shared among those who attended – it was a lovely evening.

Many thanks to Tony De Gregorio who volunteered his services and expertise in tiling the image of the Madonna. Mary is here for everyone you are welcome to come anytime to have a look or sit in the front garden and contemplate.

BLESSING OF THE BOATS, ISLAND BAY 2013

A centuries old Italian tradition – the annual blessing of the boats – to ensure safety at sea and good hauls of fish and shellfish from the ocean. This year a procession of 30 commercial, fishing and recreational boats, including the sea rescue and police launches were blessed.



Joe Greco and first mate 'breezing' past!



Abp Charles Balvo gives a blessing to the San Antonio

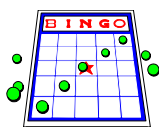


The first prayers on board the San Antonino



The pastoral team sharing a joke with MP Annette King before the Blessing

TOMBOLA



The first tombola night for 2013 will be on **Tuesday, 26 February**, at the usual time of 7.30pm. 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, 173 Clyde Street, Island Bay. 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 Abp Charles Balvo or Mons Jean Sylvain Emien from the Apostolic Nunciature.

The next Mass will be on **Sunday, 3 March 2013**.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday, 26 February (7.30pm)

Sunday, 3 March (11.30am)

Thursday, 7 March (7.30pm)

Sunday, 24 March 2013

Tombola

Italian Mass

Circolo Italiano Social

Festa Italiana