



Club Garibaldi News

APRIL 2014

BUONA PASQUA

The Future of the Club

At the annual general meeting last September there was a discussion on the future of the club, bearing in mind the difficulty in finding members willing to serve as president and in other roles, the dwindling numbers attending some of our regular functions, the lack of engagement by the majority of members and related issues. As a result of the discussion a group was established to look at how the club could be rejuvenated.

The group consisted of:

Vito Lo Iacano (chair), Lisa Devitt, Catherine Monastra, Angelo Moreno, Ginette Toscano Page and Roberto Giorgioni. All are or have been members of the club. They had several meetings, undertook a survey of both members and non-members and Vito presented the group's recommendations at the March executive committee meeting.

The issues they considered were:

- Falling attendance at club functions and club days
- Viability issues
- Relevance to future generations
- Not enough volunteers willing to help the club
- Building maintenance issues
- Overall uncertain future

The group was tasked with analysing the status quo, identifying options for growth and provide recommendations.

The group's analysis of the club in words included:

Boring, static, not going anywhere, closed (i.e. exclusive), not known to a new generation of Italian migrants, unknown to non-Italians, random activities.

The club was viewed by people spoken to as being a place for:

Sunday bingo for the elderly; old style social activities; Italians getting together; old fashioned dancing (tarantella); fostering Italian language; keeping the Italian tradition alive; celebrating being Italian.

The group's survey of members and non-members found that:

- The majority of current members are protective of the status quo
- There is a perception that new initiatives will only generate costs without benefits
- Members "expect" activities to take place without their direct involvement
- There is a perception that the club is only for the early immigrants and Island Bay settlers – and specific families – and that there is no space for any other Italian groups/families
- There is a lack of understanding of why the club exists
- The published club's values are considered too generic
- There is a strong "we tried and it didn't work" attitude amongst current members
- Past members are unwilling to rejoin the club.

The group identified a number of relevant projects for the future. These were:

- Job search support for young Italians
- Indoor sports activities
- School holiday programmes
- Speeches/lectures
- Social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter etc).

Following consideration the group's recommendations to the club executive committee were:

- Assess the club's current values and attributes
- Review the membership structure to make it less restrictive
- Review the club's branding
- Identify specific target audiences and develop an effective communication plan, inc. social media
- Effectively partner with the Italian Embassy
- Empower key club members to assess and deliver a selection of projects
- Establish collaboration with other Italian organisations
- Strongly engage with the Wellington City Council

In considering the report the executive committee has decided that the first priority must be to grab the interest of new and recent Italians in Wellington who are not club members. This will begin with an invitation to attend the next club function, the Italian National Day, on Sunday June 1.

National Day Function

We celebrate the day **[2 June 1946]** when Italians in a poll voted for a republican government. Previously the government had been a mix of monarchy and other rule, including Fascist which lasted from 1922 until Benito Mussolini was toppled in 1943.

This year the club will make a special attempt to welcome as our guests Italians who live in Wellington but are not members of the club. The function will be held at the clubrooms on Sunday June 1 starting at 7pm. Drinks and nibbles will be provided and there will be live entertainment in the form of a band. Bring your Italian friends so that we can show them some Garibaldi hospitality. In order to cater for this event we will need to know how many will attend this event. Please advise Maria Colucci 3838 476 or Josephine Vanderdonk 9348 720 whether you are coming by no later than May 26. We will be joined by representatives of Circolo Italiano and the Italian Embassy, possibly the Ambassador.

We need YOU!

1. Do any club members hold a general manager's certificate that is needed to ensure a bar is properly managed? If you do, could you please advise the club secretary, Catherine Monastra. The club has to have a qualified person in this role if it is to continue to serve alcohol at functions and other times.

2. We need members to volunteer to join the executive committee. At the next annual general meeting in August we will need to fill at least five positions – the president, secretary, two executive members and a trustee. The committee meets monthly on the evening of the second Sunday. Please consider giving some time to the management of the club. The organisation cannot continue without help from its members. Give it some positive thought!

Club Carparks – Important Notice

The NZ Transport Agency has purchased land on the Vivian Street frontage of the club's building. The road is to be widened for a left-hand turning lane into Tory Street and road works are to commence soon. Therefore, the car parks numbered 15 to 18 on the building edge of Vivian Street adjacent to the footpath are no longer available for parking. The only car parks to be used by club members (with a current club car park label attached to the car rear window) are in the Vivian Street car park, numbered 1 to 13 only, all day Saturdays and Sundays, and only after 5.30pm Monday to Friday. These car parks and the Tory St car parks are leased to the club's tenants or private clients at other times. The car parks will be more strictly monitored and you run the risk of being **towed away** if you do not comply with this notice.

Italian Mass



On the first Sunday of every month Mass is celebrated in the Italian language at St Francis de Sales Church, 173 Clyde Street, Island Bay. Everyone is welcome to attend and members are encouraged to spread the word to others, including non-members, so they have the opportunity to hear Mass in the native tongue. If you can help with a reading or would like to bring up the Offertory gifts at the Mass please call Ida Basile. We are grateful that Mass continues to be celebrated by either the Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand, Archbishop Martin Krebs or his Secretary, Monsignor Jean Sylvain.

The next Mass will be celebrated at 11.30am on Sunday May 4.

Tombola

Tombola has been cancelled until further notice.

ANOTHER BIG MONTH FOR CONGRATULATIONS!

Happy birthday!

1. Congratulations to long time club member Tony Muollo of Island Bay who celebrated 80 years young with a special birthday gathering at La Bella Italia, Petone, on March 9. Tony was joined by his wife Eileen, children and growing brood of grandchildren for the celebration. Congratulations, Tony!

Photos: Colleen Famularo



Tony and Eileen with their children and grandchildren.



Tony with Silvio Famularo and one of the birthday boy's grandchildren.

2. The year 1964 must have been a special one as so many of our older members had children that year and in recent weeks some have celebrated their 50th birthdays. There must have been something in the water. Of course you wouldn't know they are ageing – not a grey hair to be seen! Congratulations – there have been some good get togethers lately!



At Maria Colucci's 50th birthday were (from left): Michael Gaeta, Luisa Cacace, Linda De Gregorio, Maria Colucci, Maria De Gregorio, Antonella Aspell, Shane Devitt, all born in 1964.

Births!

1. Congratulations to Carlo Petagna and his wife Gina on the birth of their first child, a daughter, Sofia Rosa. A grandson for Josephine and Martin Van Der Donk.
2. Congratulations to Tony Gaeta and his wife Meta on the birth of their son, Apollo. A grandson for Cav Salvi and Josephine Gaeta.
3. Congratulations to Michael and Amore Di Leva on the birth of their daughter Ella. A grand-daughter for Joe and Maria Di Leva. Michael and Amore married in April – a photo in the next newsletter.
4. Congratulations to Salve and Janice Basile on the birth of their second son, Domenico. A grandson for Maddalena Basile.

Married!

2. Vito Lo Iacano married Jo MacDonald in a ceremony at a venue in south Wairarapa on March 21. Vito, originally from Sicily, is a marketing consultant. Vito chaired our Future of the Club group recently.



Circolo May Social

At 7.30pm on **Thursday May 1** we will welcome back Phyllis Mossman who will give us another one of her fantastic presentations. Phyllis teaches Renaissance art history at Victoria University. She will give a presentation on Eleonora of Todedo, wife of Duke Cosimo I de' Medici, as an art patron in cinquecento Firenze. Club Garibaldi members very welcome to attend. A \$5 charge towards supper will apply.

Cartolina Radio



On May 7 and 21 - **Nidi d'Arac** is a music group from Salento, the south most part of Apulia. They present century-old folk songs, based on the tradition of the "tarantate", women bitten by the tarantula, in a modern, almost acoustic style. Their haunting, hypnotic rhythms are unforgettable. The group featured in the last Womad festival.

As usual all programmes are available via internet live or in podcast from <http://plainsfm.org.nz>

"A Night at the Garibaldi" – Lydia McDonnell Benefit

On March 7 and 8 those present at the clubrooms enjoyed the singing talent of local soprano Lydia McDonnell along with a number of supporting acts. A feature of the evenings was the strong representation of Phantom of the Opera leads from around the country, including Chris Crowe (Wellington and New Plymouth), Barbara Graham (Wellington), Julia Booth (Hamilton) and Lydia McDonnell who has been offered the lead role of Christine in the Palmerston Production.

Congratulations to Rex Davanzo and his team on another highly successful concert series.



Julia Booth performs for the crowd.



Lydia McDonnell sings at Club Garibaldi.

On March 19 Lydia provided the sole entertainment at the Wellington Club for its annual Italian Night, catered by Wellington Club Head Chef Alfonso Basile and his team in the presence of the Italian Ambassador, His Excellency, Alessandro Levi Sandro. This was the 40th benefit season held at the clubrooms since 1992 and continues to attract quality performers and capacity audiences.

Newsletter

If you would prefer to have the monthly club newsletter sent to you by email please let Caterina Costa know. If you have items for the newsletter please contact Paul Elenio.



Dates for your Diary

Thursday, 1 May (7.30pm)

Sunday, 4 May (11.30am)

Circolo May Social

Italian Mass (St Francis de Sales)