



# Club Garibaldi News

April 2007

## The President's Report

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Besides the usual club functions and activities, the month of March proved to be very busy with two large, and important functions taking place in the same week! The executive and social committees, including groups of club members, were literally 'run off their feet'. However, in true style, we all coped really well under the pressure and everything went off like clock-work!

National Italian American Federation:

The two day visit to Wellington of Dr Kenneth Ciongoli, his wife Barbara and son, Antonio from Washington was extremely successful. The family were full of admiration for Club Garibaldi and all the members who attended the dinner function on the night of Monday, 19 March. In an email received from Dr Kenneth, he complimented club members with the following: 'Your club community is the embodiment of all that is wonderful about our worldwide Italian culture. Thank you for your exceptional hospitality and friendship'.

On behalf of the executive committee, I would like to sincerely thank everybody who helped make this occasion memorable and an outstanding success - from setting up the clubrooms, which looked a million dollars, then cleaning up after the function, and to the attending members who cooked/baked the amazing array of food which graced the buffet table, literally overwhelming the Ciongoli family. Dr Kenneth and Barbara commented more than once, they could not get over that the food was all home made, and the quantity! Dr Kenneth also wished to thank the club for the beautiful gift given to him - an 8 inch tall, blue/green/clear, hand blown glass koru frond (fern) ornament - a traditional symbol of New Zealand. See further in the newsletter for an article written by Paul Elenio.

Our festival:

This year's festival was an overwhelming success, and the biggest to date, drawing a crowd in excess of 15,000. Club Garibaldi would like to acknowledge and thank Angela Vinaccia and Kevin Bull of the Overseas Terminal, for being so accommodating and willing to lend a hand. A surprise visitor who travelled many hundreds of miles to the festa was Giovanni Martini, club member from the West Coast, South Island. He had earlier sent an email wishing us well. My reply to him was that I wished he were in Wellington to enjoy it with us. Little did I know that Giovanni had such plans! As I was going up the escalator, I heard a passing comment directed at me. I turned to see it was Giovanni, going down the other escalator! What a surprise! It was really great to see him, and happy that he was able to spend an enjoyable day with us. Please see article on the festival further on in the newsletter.

As everybody knows, functions such as the annual festival, would not happen without a hard working, dedicated core of club members and helpers. This year was no exception, as each and every one of these people gave of themselves, one hundred and one percent. Special thanks and much appreciation to everybody who helped - you know who you are, and we know who you are. Please accept this as a personal acknowledgement.

Translators: Many thanks to Giovanni Martini of the West Coast for translating the March newsletter and to Federica Vaino of Wellington, for the April issue.

Members will note that the first stage of re-decorating is nearly completed, with only a few minor things still to be done. I am sure you will agree that the sprucing up has really brightened up the entrance/foyer area and has made the area very welcoming.

Ciao a presto  
Ginette Toscano Page

## **Festa Italia 2007**

Once again Wellington was blessed with a fine, sunny day for this year's Festa Italia. It was truly a delight to watch crowds of individuals streaming into the Overseas Terminal, all eager to enjoy some Italian culture, produce and entertainment, as well as tasting delicious foods and beverages.

This was our 13th festa, since its inception in 1994, and with each passing year, becomes more popular. Certainly a Wellington tradition now, that we can be proud of.

Club Garibaldi would like to sincerely thank this year's three principal sponsors for their support: La Bella Italia, Scopa and Caffè L'affare.

Our sincere thanks also to the following supporters: Davis Trading Petone, Salve Barnao Vision Enhancement, Freestyle-Total Print Production, Peroni Nastro Azzurro, Angela Vinaccia and Kevin Bull, Cash Register Doctor, Tory Continental Car Services Ltd, Deep Blue Seafoods, Europe Modes Tailoring, Franco Pol, Wellington Trawling Seamarket Ltd, Zico Cucina and Bar, Bruno Maresca, Fish Fins, Mavericks Pizzeria, Te Papa Tongarewa, Tony and Guy Maresca, Moore Wilson & Co Ltd, Island Bay Butchery, Dymock Booksellers Ltd, Sapori d'Italia.

Sincere thanks also to the exhibitors and stand-holders: Club Garibaldi, La Bella Italia, Scopa Restaurant, Caffè L'affare, David Trading Ltd, Keffee Eis, United Travel Kilbirnie, Harrington Meats, The Pesto Company, The Kaweka Food Co Ltd, Pasta Mia Ltd, Mediterranean Food Warehouse, Genoese Foods, Cin Cin Novelties and Gifts, Bookfeast Ltd, Tory Continental Car Services Ltd, Motorad, Medina - Laguna Seca Holdings Ltd, Te Papa Tongarewa, Iconic Publishing Ltd, Meita Gaeta

The day began with the Catholic Archbishop of Wellington, the Very Rev John Dew, blessing the venue, followed by her Excellency, Dr Marolla of the Embassy of Italy cutting the ribbon, marking the official opening of Festa Italia 2007. Wellington Mayor, Kerry Prendergast and her husband Rex Nicholls were in attendance. From thence onwards, it was all go!

The atmosphere was 'buzzing' with activity, and the wonderful food aromas drifting through the air, would tempt anyone's palate! As always, the entertainment programme was full and varied, with many club members participating.

Compare for the day was Tim Gordon who had the task of knitting everything together, whilst Robin Page and Angela Page operated the sound mixing desk. The audience were treated to an array of items: Tony Muollo playing the piano accordion, Salvi Gaeta, singing Neopolitan songs, a pasta eating competition, children's tarantella dancers, Caffè L'affare barrista demonstration, operatic interludes, a singalong to Italian favourites with Caterina Costa, Club Garibaldi tarantella dances, La Bella Italia cooking demo, a group of young children singing and performing under the watchful eye of their tutor Letizia Colombano Green and a La Scala Lip Sync competition.

A tribute was paid to the late Cav Remiro Bresolin, long-term supporter and a principal sponsor of the festa from 1995 until 2006. A large screen, on loan from Salve Barnao of Vision Enhancement, was erected in the entertainment area, and another downstairs, where clips of Remiro's life was shown, from his formative years up to his final journey. Ginette Toscano Page made a speech on behalf of the members of Club Garibaldi, and Antonio Cacace added a personal tribute. Salvi Gaeta sang a song dedicated to the family of Remiro.

Again this year, we were privileged to host a veteran member of the 28th NZ Maori Battalion, Company D, who served in Italy during WW2, and supported by a kapa haka group. After Ginette's speech of welcome, members of the club community sang a song with Maori lyrics to the tune of O Sole Mio. In reply, the kapa haka group sang two songs including "Maori Battalion march to Victory.

A hugely successful day, enjoyed by all who came to experience some Italian culture.

## Club Garibaldi Discussions with Dr Kenneth Ciongoli – NIAF

Following the very successful function for our American visitors and other VIPS club representatives met with Dr Kenneth Ciongoli to discuss how we could foster future links between Club Garibaldi and the National Italian American Foundation.

The two organisations are vastly different - not only in terms of the numbers of people that are members but also because they are tremendously well endowed with funds and strongly promote business and academic links between Italy and the United States.

Briefly, the following were discussed:

- New Zealand representation at a planned Italians of the World conference to be held in New York in 2008
- Ensuring the Qui Tutto Bene exhibition at Te Papa is exhibited in the United States, either at the above conference or at the National Italian Museum in New York and/or New Orleans
- Academic exchanges in which young New Zealand students of Italian extraction could be sponsored to join either the NIAF's scholarship programme to Italy or to spend time at an American university
- Development of business and investment links between New Zealand and the US
- Possibility of linking in with the travel benefits provided to American Italians by the NIAF's travel agency

We have agreed to communicate regularly with our American friends and to explore potential future partnerships.



**National Italian American Foundation chairman Kenneth Ciongoli, second from right, enjoys the hospitality of Club Garibaldi with, from left, Robin Page, Antonio Ciongoli, Barbara Ciongoli and, at right, Ginette Page.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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## Italian Mass

The next Italian Mass will be held on Sunday 6 May 2007 at 11.30am at St Francis de Sales Church, Island Bay.

Mass is held every first Sunday of the month throughout the year.



## Shared Lunch

The next shared lunch will be held at the Club rooms on Sunday 3 June 2007 at 1pm. All members and families are very welcome.

Please bring a plate.



## Italian Film

At 7pm on **Thursday 19 April 2007** the film The Keys to the House (2004) will be shown. Duration 111 minutes.

From Gianni Amelio, the acclaimed director of "Stolen Children", the film is a compassionate, incredibly touching exploration of fatherhood and disability.



A \$2 charge towards costs will apply.

At 7pm on **Thursday 17 May** we will show the film "Ticket" (2005). (In Italian and English). Directed by the Italian Ermanno Olmi, the Iranian Abbas Kiarostami and the Scot Ken Loach, the story is about three groups of people travelling on a train journey from Austria to Rome. This extraordinary story deals with the real life problems in Italy today. (Ken Loach's Scottish part contains some offensive language).

A \$2 charge towards costs will apply.

At 7pm on **Thursday 21 June** the film "The Voice of the Violin" will be shown. Another film in the popular Inspector Montalbano series. To date we have shown three of the 5 films in the set.

## Tombola Evenings

The Tombola nights are held every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. **The next evening is on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April, at the usual time of 7.30 pm.** Please do come along and feel free to bring a friend.

## Circolo May Social

At 7.30pm on Thursday 3 May Stevan Stojanovic will give a presentation. Stevan left NZ at the age of 21 years and for the next 18 years he travelled extensively, living in London and Rome. After completing a course at the Italian Mint school he worked in the Italian Mint for 17 years and he also explored his artistic talents making jewellery in the Etruscan style. Take this opportunity to meet Stevan (and his wife Federica) and hear all about his experiences while living in Rome and other places.

A \$4 cover charge towards supper will apply.

## Circolo June Social

At 7.30pm on Thursday 7 June Barbara Pezzotti will give us a presentation. More details in our May newsletter.

## Special Viewing of Qui Tutto Bene

**A last chance opportunity .... Don't miss it!**

The exhibition of Qui Tutto Bene ends on May 6 2007 so if you want to have another opportunity to view the exhibition with fellow Club Members and be given a private tour by the History Curator, Lynette Townsend, then come along on Thursday 19 April at 7pm.

We can all meet downstairs at the main entrance of Te Papa and then head up to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Please arrive on time. The talk will take about 20-30 minutes followed by refreshments in a private room provided by Te Papa.

## Dates for your Diary

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> April (7pm)   | - Italian Film                      |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> April (7pm)   | - Special Viewing of Qui Tutto Bene |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April (7:30pm) | - Tombola                           |
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May (7:30pm)   | - Circolo Social                    |
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> May (11:30am)    | - Italian Mass                      |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> May (7pm)     | - Italian Film                      |
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June (1:00pm)    | - Shared Lunch                      |
| Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> June (7:30pm)  | - Circolo Social                    |
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> June (7pm)    | - Italian Film                      |

## Ginette's Speech - NIAF

Good evening !

Her Excellency Dr Liana Marolla, our special guests, Dr Kenneth Ciongoli, Barbara and Antonio. Dr David Keegan, Dr Sally Lindfors, Dr Roy Glover, Fr Geoff Broad, Her Worship, the Mayor of Wellington, Kerry Prendegast and Deputy Mayor Alick Shaw, Te Papa's representatives Susan Superville and Lynette Townsend, Dr Sally Hill of Victoria University, Cav Elizabeth Peek of Circolo Italiano.

Welcome, on behalf of the members of Club Garibaldi.

In a few months, Club Garibaldi celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> jubilee, which we are very proud of. The club was established in 1882 by early Italian settlers to the region. They were from a variety of parts of Italy and realized how essential it was that they establish an organization where Italians could meet, support, socialize and share their experiences.

The history of migration from Italy to the Wellington area is very much based on what is known as chain migration - the movement of one or two people from a place, and when they became established in their new homes, invited others from the old country to join them. They came for the same reason, seeking greener pastures and the prospect of Una Buona Fortuna (a good life).

We have much to be thankful for, in that our fore bearers paved the way for future generations to enjoy the fruits of their foresight – a place to come to and feel at home – 'our little bit of Italy'.

Over the years, the club has enjoyed good times as well as bad. The most recent was in the early 70's when social habits changed drastically.

A handful of faithful members, which included my own father, Vincenzo Toscano, Giovanni Strati, Vincenzo Criscillo and Armando Gilmoni worked very hard to keep the club going for our benefit. At one stage the official paid membership only totaled about a dozen people.

Happily we are thriving again, confirming that we have always been proud of our heritage, even before things Italian of recent times, have become most fashionable!

Our presence in NZ is tiny in comparison to the numbers of Italians that emigrated to the United States between 1800 and the 1960s.

Many of us in this room have family who left on ships for New York, and have spread right through the United States. Between 1890 and the 1920's both of my grandfathers lived and worked in New York, returning to family in Italy, every 2 or 3 years. My maternal grandfather was educated in New York from the age of 11 to 22. Even after 50 years in New Zealand he still spoke with a ***Nu Yorka accenta Italiano***

In my case, my father left the island of Stromboli as a 16 year old boy in 1922 and migrated to Sydney, Australia with friends. My mother came to New Zealand as a 10 year old girl, in 1924, with her mother and young brother, to join her father who was already here.

The club operates to foster and maintain our unique Italian identity. We do this in small ways, but one of the biggest is the Italian Festa this coming Sunday. This is in its 13<sup>th</sup> year and draws more than 13,000 people who eat, drink and experience Italy for a day on our waterfront. It is unfortunate that our new American friends' visit did not coincide with this event.

Dr Ciongoli represents an organisation that has major influence through members who are congressmen, judges, Fortune 500 company chief executives and even Hollywood actors and entertainers. In January one of your members, Nancy Piloni, became the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The organisation has impressive offices in Washington and we can see from their web site, a budget that is to be envied. The annual gala dinner they hold has a glittering affair with entertainment from the likes of Patrizio Buanne, who I see, is performing in Wellington in a few weeks -regrettably not at Club Garibaldi – however, I will certainly be there!

By comparison our small executive committee has humble origins and we watch over our funds very carefully. We own this building and collect rent for two thirds of the property, which represents a large amount of our income.

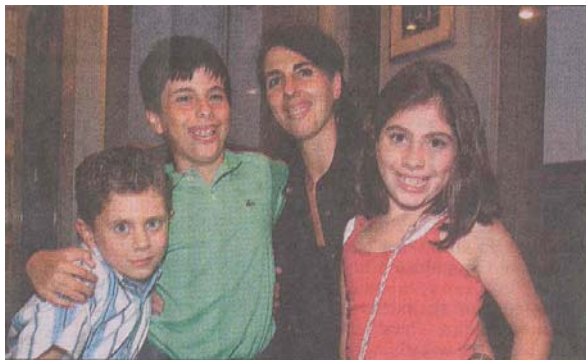


We are planning a function to celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> jubilee later this year. We enjoy our social interaction with an annual picnic, a pre Christmas dinner function for senior members, as well as another for our young ones. An annual bus trip out of town, and a soccer tournament with our sister Club Italia in Nelson. We attend a monthly Italian Mass, followed by shared lunches and every year we faithfully celebrate Italy's National Day on June 2nd.

Club Garibaldi extend their hand in friendship and love, and we would like to foster the connection that this visit by Dr Ciongoli brings between our Italian communities. We look forward to further communication, correspondence, and perhaps meeting again in the near future.

On behalf of the members of Club Garibaldi, please accept this small gift with our very best wishes, and we hope that whenever you look at it, you will be reminded of your paesani in Wellington, New Zealand.

### Dominion Post Photos



Luisa Cacace with children, from left, Liberato, 6, Luigi, 10 and Anna 8, enjoy the occasion.



Sue Superville and Lynette Townsend, from Te Papa, enjoy a wine at Club Garibaldi.

### Welcome to New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members: Ron & Lea Menchi, Lower Hutt, Chiara Magagna, Seatoun, Palmiro Sportoletti, Wellington, Renee Olsen, Wellington, Murray Olsen, Mt Victoria, David & Sofia Norman, Stokes Valley, Cynthia Greep, Roseneath, Alessandra Zuccheri, Lower Hutt, Oriano Brazzale, Wainuiomata, Josephine Findlay, Newlands, Vince & Sonja Cabrera, Avalon, Simona & Charles Avery, Petone.

### Baby Congratulations

Best wishes to David & Fiona Da Vanzo on the safe arrival of their son Tom Francis Alfredo Winiata Da Vanzo. A grandson for Rex & Avril Da Vanzo

Also best wishes to Michael and Amanda Criscillo on the safe arrival of their daughter Emma. A granddaughter for Vic and Merlyn Criscillo.

# QUI Tutto Bene

By Shalesh Vasan of Te Papa

This is a reminder note to let you know that *Qui Tutto Bene - The Italians in New Zealand* closes at Te Papa on **Sunday. 6 May.**

This exhibition has been a fantastic success and provided many a visitor with a unique insight into the lives and stories of the Italian community in New Zealand.

To celebrate the closing, we have a number of exciting events planned for the day at Te Papa such as a Vespa display, Tarantella dancers and tenor, Ben Makisi performing Italian arias. I'm sure this will be very popular.



13 November 2004 – 6 May 2007

An exhibition telling the fascinating stories of Italians in New Zealand,  
developed by Te Papa in association with New Zealand's Italian community.

[www.tepapa.govt.nz](http://www.tepapa.govt.nz)  
Tel. (04) 381 7000

FREE ENTRY



## **Glimpse into ~ ~ ~ Laghi, Province of Vicenza**

By Jim Menara

This month the area of Laghi is featured, where Jim Menara was born, son of Primo and Virginia Menara.

The town of Laghi sits high in the hills, in the Province of Vicenza. Today, Laghi has only 131 inhabitants, who are spread over twenty districts and 22.22 square kilometres, and is the smallest of the Veneto Region Town Councils.



**Jim Menara**

In days gone by, the town's population boosted over a thousand inhabitants. However, because of the lack of work hundreds of inhabitants left, and in the more recent wave of migration twenty years ago, more moved away from the hills of Laghi in favour of flat land elsewhere.

As a third of the population is older than seventy years, the current Mayor, Giovanni Oliviero, classifies Laghi as 'special'. He recently stated that the town's two councillors undertake responsibility for social services, dealing with any problems the citizens may have. In other words, the citizens are treated similar to extended family. The councillors make house calls, to ascertain the needs and health of its senior citizens. Since the community is very small, energy is expensive, so the Mayor has requested that an old hydro-electric power station closed during the 1960's, be re-opened.

Amazingly, there have been no accidents in the last 12 years, yet the road traffic is high, due to 400 daily crossing by trucks travelling to a quarry in a neighbouring township.

The citizens of Laghi organise themselves well and are a feisty lot. They successfully defended closure of their local post office, and now, a single worker, mans the postal counter until noon, after which he delivers the mail to the country areas. The out-patients clinic and pharmacy are open twice weekly and many services, from policemen to computer services, to civil defence are shared with other town councils. Even the parish priest is part-time, and in terms of religious services, there are no problems of over-crowding in the two churches of the town.

The three council service employees are certainly multi-tasked workers, who cover services ranging from births, deaths and marriages, to accounts, from secretarial to technical services. Another worker, who divides his time between roads and lighting, is also the cemetery attendant, school bus driver and garbage collector!

The Mayor has a dream, and that is for inhabitants to return to Laghi, and for tourists to enjoy the many environmental and historical attractions, not to mention some archaeological digs and industrial work on offer to recover at least four old industrial plants, an old lime works mine, a cheese factory, a flour mill and a saw mill.

The E5 European road connecting the Lake of Costanza to the Adriatic still runs by Laghi, and there are still the remains of First World War manufactured items and fortifications, as well as the being the temple of the local culinary dish 'potato gnocchi'.

## **A Bit of Trivia**

### **Italian Men are Warming to Housework!**

By Ginette Toscano Page

Lifestyle Magazine, Italy, September 2006

Italian men, for years accused of shunning household chores, may be on the way to shouldering some of the burden of washing, cleaning and cooking.

Then again, they may not!

In a recent survey, it was found that in the industrial north-west area of Italy, the majority of men whole-heartedly agreed with the idea of sharing the floor-scrubbing and pasta preparation with their partners.

Half of the male interviewees claimed to be 'competent' at housework, and a staggering 66% went so far as to describe themselves as 'thorough and careful'. Unfortunately, many of their spouses and girlfriends gave somewhat different answers, with 45% saying their men were willing but essentially hopeless with a mop and duster!



## Festa Italia 2007



**Nina Cuccurullo, Ginette Toscano Page & Giovanni Martini**



**Nina Cuccurullo & Francois Cuccurullo**



**Left Jo Gaeta & Ida Basile selling dolci**



**John Cao, Iona, Martin Van der Donk, Paul Elenio and helper on bar duties**



**Pretty junior tarantella dancers**  
 Left back: Grace Amitrano, Michaela Morrison, Sophia Basile  
 Left front: Charlotte Basile, Gabriella Quinn, Rebekah Amitrano



**Special guests – 28<sup>th</sup> Maori Battalion Veteran John Thomas, his wife Maureen with support group**