



Club Garibaldi News

DECEMBER 2007

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be nearly Christmas ... so not many more sleeps to go! I was recently browsing through the club's website www.clubgaribaldi.org.nz and it reminded me of the many functions, events and celebrations that our club has hosted, or been actively involved in throughout 2007. Our membership numbers are increasing every month, and once again, I extend a warm welcome to those who joined, or re-joined us this year.

Sincere thanks to everybody who helped in any way, whether it be big or small, Without your support, the club would not survive! For those who have been passive members, I encourage you to come forward in 2008, and join those who help to run the club for our enjoyment. It is a lot of fun, and the friendships made are life long ... moreover, as the old proverb states 'Many hands make light work'. The essence of being an Italian is essentially: family, love, friendship, and food. the future looks 'rosy' for Club Garibaldi.
On behalf of the Executive Committee ...

Tanti auguri per un buone feste di natale

Wishing you and your loved ones many blessings, love, peace and goodwill over the festive season.

Ciao a presto
Ginette Toscano Page

CLUB BAR PERSON

Our wonderful bar person Naomi, is unfortunately leaving us to take up a nursing career. We are grateful for Naomi's reliability and efficiency. We need to find a new person to work behind the club's bar on Sundays, 3pm to 8 pm, and at club functions during the year.

CONDOLENCES

Deepest sympathy to Mattia and Emma Amitrano and family of Island Bay, on the recent passing of Mattia's sister Rosalia Persico, also of Island Bay.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members: Craig and Shelley Crestani of Wellington.

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2007

Due to the lack of support in the past, there will be **no** New Year's Eve function at the clubrooms this year.

ANTONIO CACACE

Congratulations to the newly appointed Cavaliere, Antonio Cacace, who was awarded The Order of Merit by the departing Italian Ambassador, Dr Liana Marolla. Well done, Antonio!



Maria Elenio, Antonio Cacace & Ginette Toscano Page in the gardens of the Embassy of Italy, Wellington

SENIOR LUNCHEON

On Tuesday, 4 December, the club held its 9th annual senior Christmas luncheon. This year eighty four members attended, as well as the Italian Ambassador, Her Excellency, Liana Marolla, Francesco Simonetti from the Italian Embassy and Archbishop Balvo from the Holy See.

The function began with a short speech from Ginette, welcoming the dignitaries and the members in attendance. This was followed by a speech from the Italian Ambassador, who explained that as her tour of duty as Italy's Ambassador to New Zealand has come to an end, this was the final time she would be visiting Club Garibaldi, in her capacity as Ambassador. She wished us well for the future, and said she was very happy to see the club flourishing and the Italian culture preserved.

This year it was decided to have the function catered for, using the Spit Roast Company, who catered for the club's 125th anniversary celebration. There were four choices of meats: pork, chicken, beef and ham off the bone, a big selection of salads, peas, carrots, baked potatoes and bread. This was followed by pavlova, fruit salad and Christmas pudding and custard. Sincere thanks to the small group of ladies who made the dolci which was served with coffee.

At the luncheon, three of the club's most senior members were awarded Life Membership. They are: Angela Panettieri, 93 years of age, and Stella Criscillo and Vincenzo Di Mattina, both 92 years of age. Sincere congratulations to you all.



Members at the buffet table



Teresa Cuccurullo, Teresa Elenio, Armando Gilmoni & Antonio Cuccurullo



Camillo Amitrano, Fifi Esposito, Rosalia Amitrano & Carlotta Volpicelli



Lina Volpicelli, Mattia Iovine & Tina Dellabarca



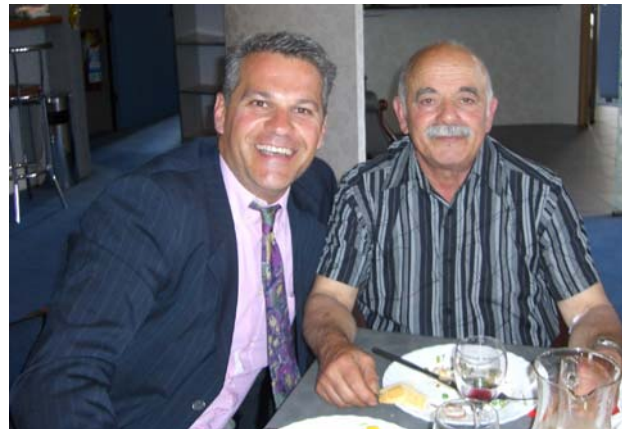
Dolores Di Leva, Ainsley Maresca, Maria Luisa Marshall, Fifi & Lucy Esposito



Felice & Shirley Benvenuti



Maria D'Esposito & Jo Gaeta



Annibali & Fifi

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

The very first wedding ceremony to be held at Club Garibaldi!



Shelley Dalton and Craig Crestani met at a very unglamorous place – a Wellington running club! Although neither were looking their best, they both scrubbed up well for their wedding on 24 November 2007. They chose Club Garibaldi as the venue for the wedding and reception, in honour of Craig's father – Bruno Crestani. The Crestani family migrated to New Zealand from Conco, a small town a one hour drive from Venice, just before World War 2. The Crestani family settled on the West Coast of the South Island and were all employed as miners in the local Strongman Mine near Runanga.

Craig has a strong interest in his Italian roots and has visited his relatives in Conco. The newlyweds plan to have their honeymoon in Italy – when they've paid off their wedding!

Congratulations Craig and Shelley, Club Garibaldi wish you a lifetime of love and happiness.

CIRCOLO SOCIAL EVENTS

Monthly social evenings are held from March to November inclusive. Topics vary from time to time but they all have an Italian flavour. A light supper is served during or after the events. A small charge of \$4 towards the cost of the food/wine usually applies. Garibaldi House is the usual venue but other venues may be selected during the course of the year. Further information on the topics and venues will be made available with the monthly Circolo Newsletter and will also be advised to the Executive committee of Club Garibaldi. Club Garibaldi members are very welcome to attend all Circolo Italiano social functions.

On behalf of Club Garibaldi the Circolo will show an Italian film (with English subtitles) at 7pm every 3rd Thursday of each month. A \$2 charge towards costs will apply.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year the clubrooms were filled with the 'noise and laughter' of 40 children of members, who came to the Christmas party. As noisy as it can be, this event is most pleasurable, as these Garibaldini are the future of our club. Once again, the air castle was a big hit, although at times it was a little tricky to monitor how many kids could jump on it at any one time, and remembering there were a lot of littlies, who also wanted to be in on the fun. As face/body painting was also a big hit last year, it was decided to do it again. Most of the kids sported beautiful images on their faces and arms ... from butterflies to soccer balls, to animal faces and flowers. Lunch was the usual children's fare: pizza, chips, hot dogs and sausages, juice and bottled water to drink, followed by jelly and ice cream.

Of course, the most exciting part of the party was the arrival of Father Christmas, carrying a sack full of presents, raising the noise level a few more decibels! When they had settled down quietly, Father Christmas suggested they sing Jingle Bells, after which he distributed the presents. It is always a joy to watch their beautiful little faces, eyeing shining and excitement, waiting for their name to be called. All the children went home happy and contented, each carrying a small bag of goodies in their hands.



Smiles, hats & food = good fun!



Pat Vinaccia and girls



5 pretty girls and one handsome lad



Having a wee rest!



Santa with a pretty young girl



Santa with another pretty young girl



Santa and Benedict



All together now ... Smile!

UPCOMING EVENTS

ITALIAN MASS

The next Italian Mass will be held on Sunday 6 January 2008 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 February 2008 at 1pm. All members and families are very welcome.

Please bring a plate.



ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC



A date has been set for next year's annual club picnic. A reservation has been made for Sunday, 17 February 2008, at Queen Elizabeth Park, Paekakariki, with the reserve/cancellation date of 24 February. So put a big circle on your calendars, to remind you of this date.

ANNUAL BUS TRIP



A great time was had by all who travelled to New Plymouth on last year's annual bus trip. You will have seen the photos, and read the report in the March 07 newsletter. Check our website, www.clubgaribaldi.org.nz

This year's annual bus trip will be on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, February 19, 20, and 21st to Rotorua and Taupo.

At this stage, the price has not been finalised, however the bus we wish to secure has seating for 40 people, and if filled would certainly keep costs down.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 6 th January (11:30am)	- Italian Mass
Sunday 3 rd February (1pm)	- Shared Lunch
Sunday 17 th February	- Club Picnic
Tuesday – Thursday 19-21 st February	- Annual Bus Trip

A BIT OF TRIVIA

By Ginette Toscano Page

(ANSA) - Turin, November 19 - The new Fiat 500 city car has officially been named 2008 Car of the Year, a statement from Fiat Group Automobiles (FGA). News that the car had won the prestigious prize was leaked to media, last Thursday.

The car was chosen by a panel of 58 leading European motoring journalists representing 22 countries. The Fiat 500 was reported to have been a hands-down winner over its six rivals, thanks to its look, safety features, the quality of the interior and the variety of models and engines. The runner-up was Mazda 2 with the Ford Mondeo, placed third. Points were awarded for design, comfort, safety, economy, handling, performance, functionality, respect for the environment and price.

The Car of the Year award was created in 1964 and this is the 12th time that the Fiat group has won. During this time the Fiat group has won nine awards with a Fiat Marque car.

Fiat developed the platform for the 500 with Ford Motor Company of the United States and was named after its original engine size, followed the example of the new Volkswagen 'Beetle' and the BMW 'Mini'. Well done Fiat!!!

CHILDREN'S PIANO RECITAL

On Saturday, December 1st, nine students of club member and music teacher, Lucia Persico, held an end of year recital at the clubrooms. Forty parents, grandparents and friends came to hear the children play their favourite piano pieces. For most, it was their first time in front of an audience, which can be daunting for anybody at the best of times ... they all did really, really well ... so a big pat on the back to all the budding pianists. The families of the children and Lucia should feel very proud of them! Seven of the nine students were children of club members. We were also given a lovely, short solo on the violin by the sister of one of the students. This was followed by a nice afternoon tea.

Lucia was wonderful with the children, always encouraging, with her gentle, caring manner. It is heartening to see Italian children participating in the arts.



Lucia Persico and her students

FROM THE LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: *More Sweet Lemons*

Co-editors Delia De Santis and Venera Fazio are accepting submissions for a sequel to the anthology *Sweet Lemons: Writings with a Sicilian Accent* (2004). This second anthology (collection), to be published by Legas, will also celebrate Sicilian culture, writers and immigrant experiences. Manuscripts may include poetry, short stories, book chapters, essays, memoirs, brief dramas, folklore, and English translations of writings by Sicilian writers. Both unpublished and previously published material will be considered.

Submissions, in English only, may be e-mailed or sent by regular mail. If emailed, file attachment must be in Microsoft Word. By mail, send single-spaced, hard copy. Please include a SASE for a response. Manuscripts will not be returned unless requested and sufficient postage provided. Include a cover letter with the following information: name, mailing address, phone number or email address. Word Count: Maximum of five poems and/or up to 5000 words for fiction/non-fiction/dramas/translations.

Writers of Sicilian origin need not necessarily write about their heritage. Non-Sicilian authors may submit if the content of their work pertains to the objective of the anthology. **We are also interested in submissions by writers from South America, Australia, New Zealand, England and Ireland.** We recommend contributors to the first book query one of the editors before submitting **Deadline: March 30, 2008** More information and submissions: Venera Fazio 2377 Schafer Court, Bright's Grove, ON Canada N0N 1C0 vfazio@hotmail.com, vfazio5@cogeco.ca Delia De Santis 2961 Delia Cres. Bright's Grove, ON Canada N0N 1C0 deliadesantis@yahoo.com

Sweet Lemons: Writings with a Sicilian Accent is included on the *Best of Sicily* book site: <http://www.bestofsicily.com/books.htm> and was chosen as a best pick for summer 2007 reading by the magazine, *Italian America*.

A GLIMPSE INTO ~ ~ ~ MASSA LUBRENSE

This month Massa Lubrense is featured, the area where many club members from Island Bay and it's surrounds, originated from. As there are far too many names to mention each person individually, this article will be a general one for all.

Massa Lubrense is a [comune](#) (municipality) in the [Province of Naples](#) in the region of [Campania](#), located about 25 km south-east of [Naples](#). It is situated at the end of the Sorrento Peninsula and is divided into approximately thirty hamlets (frazioni) which include Marciano, Marina di Lobra, Marina di Puolo, Monticchio, Sant'Agata sui Due Golfi, and Termini.. Its views are the best in the whole of the peninsula, and if you like walking through ancient villages, past age-old farmhouses, through olive and lemon groves, then you should look no further for your ideal holiday. For this mythical land where Ulysses is said to have visited (and founded the temple of Athena) is where tradition, art and culture meet up.

During the 10th century Massa belonged to the Sorrento Duchy, and only became independent from Sorrento in 1470. Largo Vescovado is at the heart of this small historical town from where you can admire the stunning 16th century Santa Maria delle Grazie church, and from where you can absorb the breathtaking views.

From the centre of Massa you can take the road to a seafaring suburb called Marina della Lobra which has very pretty houses built right on the shore and around the harbour. On the site of an old Christian church, Santa Maria della Lobra was built in 1528. It is extremely attractive with a beautiful 18th century majolica pavement and lacuna ceiling. Close by is a Franciscan convent, which houses some Greek and Roman archaeological remains in it's cloister.

There are many bars, cafés and restaurants to choose from. Massa Lubrense produces its own olive oil which is delicious. There is a wide range of accommodation. Wandering around on foot is best, but there are buses and taxis available to take to you to neighbouring villages.

Massa Lubrense is an ideal place for a great holiday, more than 100 km of marked trails in the country side, country landscape, famous for its cuisine (7 restaurants in the top 20 of Campania, one of the best 3 in Italy), a coast line almost 20 miles long in the middle of the protected marine area of Punta Campanella. The shores of Massa Lubrense are the closest to Capri (only 3 miles away) and you can reach Positano (13 miles), Amalfi (25 miles), Pompeii (21 miles), Ercolano (28 miles), Vesuvius (30 miles) and obviously Sorrento (3 miles) in less than one hour.

It has natural assets, age-old olive groves, a gentle climate and the intense azure sea have been fascinating travellers from all over the world for centuries. Wooded hills rise all around, crossed by ancient paths, and inlets, bays and coves, both gentle and wild.

The weather is temperate practically all year round: a characteristic that makes this area ideal for vacations in any season. During the year there are numerous fairs centred on typical gastronomical products and many religious events, evidence of a folk culture with very ancient roots.

The population of Massa Lubrense is approximately 13,000, and its local inhabitants are called Massesi. Their patron saint is San Cataldo.



Massa Lubrense

THE RECENT VISIT OF STUDENTS FROM THE ACCADEMIA DI BELLE ARTI DI BRERA, MILAN

Early on Sunday evening, 25 November, two bus loads of young Italian arts students, their tutors and hosts in New Zealand were welcomed by over 40 members to our club. In all, near 100 persons attended the function. A group of happy students commented that 'This evening is one of the highlights of our NZ tour ... to be warmly welcomed to Club Garibaldi, by fellow Italians' ~ what a wonderful accolade!

Other dignitaries present were: Dr Massimo Carnelos and Palmiro Sportoletti from the Italian Embassy, the Deputy Mayor of Wellington, Mr Ian McKinnon and his wife Jenny, City Councillor, Ray Ahipene Mercer, Michael Fleck, the organiser of the tour group, David Hyams, the Wellington representative of the tour group and his wife, Christine.

The function commenced with students and members mingling and introducing themselves to one another. With a glass of wine or juice in hand, in no time, they were chatting away as though they had known each other for years!

The short formal part of the evening began with Ginette, as Club President, welcoming the visitors, with a short speech in both English and Italian. This was followed by Dr Carnelos, who began his speech by saying he would do the opposite to Ginette ... his speech first in Italian, then in English! Lots of laughter! The Deputy Mayor then spoke through an Italian interpreter who was travelling with the group, on the multiculturalism of Wellington city, and the huge part Italian community play in it. He also explained that NZ had three official languages: English, Maori and NZ sign language, before introducing Ray Ahipene Mercer to say a few words in Maori, the second official language.

Then much to everybody's surprise, Ginette stepped forward and used the third NZ official language – NZ Sign Language, to welcome the visitors. As she spoke, she also signed her words, explaining that she was a sign language student some years ago; that only a deaf person could give a hearing person a sign name, after the student had proved his/her genuine sincerity, and was a trusted and accepted member of the deaf community. Ginette was given a sign name!

With formalities over, it was time to partake in the wonderful finger food, laden on the tables. After everybody had eaten, our visitors decided to have a short sing-a-long ... so a sing-a-long we had! This was followed by a group photograph ... it was a tight squeeze trying to fit a hundred people in, but we did it.

Special thanks to Alfonso Basile for preparing the delicious and beautifully presented food, also to the small band of helpers, who under his guidance, put it all together: Matt Amitrano, Nina Cuccurullo, Marie Barnao, Ginette, Elsa Gilmoni, Shirley Benvenuti and Rosa Furlani.

Thanks also to the jack-of-all trades, Robin Page, Josephine & Martin Van der Donk, for fielding the acceptance calls, and to all the members, especially the 'Sunday' members who lent a helping hand, clearing up and the tidying the rooms after the group's departure.. it was a tremendous help. To everyone who helped in some way, our thanks and appreciation.

Another wonderfully successful function at Club Garibaldi!



A group of our visitors



Three beauties smile for the camera



There were some guys as well!



Robin looking after the girls!



Robin's comment: Well someone had to do it!

Qui Tutto Bene in Hamilton

Waikato Museum

Qui tutto bene

THE ITALIANS IN NEW ZEALAND

Developed with the support of Te Papa and the Italian community

Qui Tutto Bene - The Italians in New Zealand

Come and explore the stories and history of the Italians in New Zealand! Immerse yourself in tales of migration, food, art and history, and learn about one of New Zealand's vibrant communities.

Enjoy the beautiful Venetian masks and oral histories, as well as a gallery of stunning sculptures by the Italian New Zealand artist, Chiara Corbelleto.

To experience even more Italian culture, come along to

one of our special Italian events. With food, films and lots of fun, it will be fantastico! Check the museum website for details.

Exhibition on from 24 November 2007 until 18 May 2008



Waikato Museum
1 Grantham Street, Hamilton
07 838 6606
www.waikatomuseum.co.nz

