



Club Garibaldi News

March 2007

The President's Report

It was a beautiful warm summer's afternoon on Sunday, 11 February, that the stage was set for the annual blessing of the fishing fleet and sea craft at Island Bay. Starting with a procession from St Francis de Sales Church to the beach, the blessing was administered by the Archbishop of Wellington, John Dew, Father Geoff Broad and Canon Jim Pether. Here is a little history of it's origins.

The blessing of fishing boats is a tradition in Italy, that goes back centuries. In southern Italy, the blessing would be undertaken by the local priest at the start of spring. The boats would be decorated in flags and bunting, and would file past to have holy water sprinkled on them while the priest recited prayers and made the sign of the cross. The blessing was part of the religious belief that if the boats received the grace of God, they and the fishermen would be protected from the elements and would also reap the bounty of the sea.

Island Bay's Italian immigrants came from the fishing villages off Massalubrense and Puolo in the Gulf of Naples, and also the island of Stromboli, near Sicily. Many of their boats were named after saints, such as San Antonio, San Constanzo and San Liberatore.

The first ceremony in 1933 was not a blessing of the then thriving fleet anchored in the bay, but a commemoration service undertaken by the parish priest Father Maloney. This followed the loss of the fishing launch Santina during a storm at Baring Head, and it's four occupants, three of whom were Italian.

In later years, the blessing of the fleet was undertaken by Archbishop McKeffrey, Bishop Snedden and the Papal State's representative in New Zealand, Archbishop Magnoni.

Further on in the newsletter, read about the group of members, who spent a very enjoyable overnight stay in New Plymouth, as part of the annual bus trip. They have all put their names on the list, in ready for next year's trip!

Stage one of the club rooms refurbishment is progressing well. The ceiling has been painted and re-decoration of the foyer is near completion. Under no circumstance, are posters or signs to be erected/pinned/tacked on the new wallpaper.

Important:

A reminder of the special notice you would have received about the forthcoming visit of the National Italian American Foundation President, Dr Kenneth Ciongoli, his wife Barbara and their 22 year old son, Antonio. This is an important occasion for our club and the shared dinner will be attended by a number of officials including the Italian Ambassador, Dott Liana Marolla, three representatives and their partners from the United States Embassy, as well as the Mayor of Wellington, Kerry Prendergast and the Deputy Mayor, Mr Alick Shaw. There will also be representatives from Te Papa Tongawera Museum and Victoria University.

As previously mentioned, it is a members' only function, this coming Monday, March 19, from 6.30 pm. Free wine and juice will be provided by the club, however the bulk of the food would be supplied and shared with all those attending the dinner. Please bring a generous plate for this special Club Garibaldi occasion. May our visitors experience the meaning of true Italian hospitality.

This will be a busy time for me, and I will be taking two days off work, to escort our guests to meetings and local sightseeing on Tuesday, 20 March. A very special thank you to Paul Elenio who has been the club's contact person and negotiator for Dr Kenneth's visit to New Zealand.

Ciao a presto
Ginette Toscano Page

Reminder – Festa Italia 2007

Festa Italia 2007 will be held on Sunday, 25 March, at the Overseas Passenger Terminal, Oriental Bay, from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. The official opening by the Italian Ambassador, Dott Liana Marolla and the blessing of the venue and it's occupancy, by the Archbishop of Wellington, John Dew, will take place at the bottom front entrance, at 9.45 am. See enclosed flier. Please come and support your club and your fellow club members who have been planning and working very hard behind the scene for months, to ensure that everybody who visits the festa, will have a truly enjoyable Italian experience.

This is the club's major fundraiser of the year and everybody could help by donating home baked dolci, which will be sold by a group of women members at the club's very popular dolci stand.

Any offers of help on the day would also be very much appreciated, as many hands may light work!

Cav Remiro Bresolin

Cav Remiro Bresolin – the face of the upmarket restaurant, Il Casino, in Tory Street, Wellington City, next door to Club Garibaldi, recently passed away.

From the inception of Club Garibaldi's annual festa at Petone in 1995 until 2006, Remiro, under the name of Il Casino, gave tremendous support to the club as one of it's main sponsors. He was also a sponsor of our book 'Alla Fine Del Mondo'.

Remiro's sons will continue this tradition under the name of their restaurant Scopa, one of the three main sponsors of this year's festa.

Club Garibaldi will miss Remiro's flamboyancy, energy and personality. Our deepest sympathy to the Bresolin family.

Club Newsletter Translators Required

Sincere thanks to Giovanni Martini, Federica Vaino, and Lucia Zanmonti who came forward, offering their services to do the translation for our monthly newsletters. However, to make it easier on them, we still require at least one or two people who could take turns. If you could help, by doing a couple per year, we would love to hear from you.

Welcome to New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members: Giuliana Earsman, Island Bay, Antoinetta and Eyal Aharoni - Evans Bay, Sira Ballara, Seatoun, and Lois and Francis Mathie, Christchurch

Farewell Function for Monsignor Urbanczyk

Archbishop Charles Balvo of the Embassy of the Holy See, Wellington, recently hosted a reception to bid farewell to the hugely popular and respected Monsignor Janusz Urbanczyk, before his departure, to take up a new posting in Nairobi, Kenya. The reception room was filled to capacity, made up of members from the diplomatic corp, religious and different ethnic communities. We look forward to welcoming Monsignor's replacement sometime in April. A friendly reminder to all members ~ Holy Mass is celebrated in Italian, on the first Sunday of every month, at St Francis de Sales Church, Island Bay.

Well Done! Joseph Esposito

Congratulations to Joseph Esposito, son of club members Salvi and Susan Esposito of Island Bay, who was selected to represent and captain the Wellington Under 12s Softball team at the Softball Association Triangular Tournament held on February 25 as well as at the Junior Softball "Futures" Tournament on March 4.

The team also played against the Manawatu Softball Association at Palmerston North, on January 14.



Engagement Congratulations

Best wishes to Pip Zame and Alexander Daniels, on their recent engagement. Pip is the younger daughter of Carole and Dom Zame of Karori, Wellington.

Baby Congratulations

Best wishes to Salve and Michelle Iovine, on the safe arrival of their daughter, Rosa Lucia. A grand-daughter for Mattia and Rosa Iovine of Island Bay, Wellington.

Condolences

Deepest sympathy to the following members who recently lost family members:

Carlotta Volpicelli and family of Island Bay, Wellington, on the passing of their husband, father and grandfather, Raffaele (Ruffy) Volpicelli.

Liliane Bonafede, Natalie and Patrick of Island Bay, Wellington, on the passing of their father and grandfather, Micheangelo Bonafede, in South Africa.

Anna and Franco Zanotto and family of Hataitai, Wellington, on the passing of their brother and uncle, Remiro Bresolin.

Liberale Zandegiacomo and family of Lower Hutt, on the passing of his cousin Duilio Zandegiacomo of Wellington. Liberale and the late Duilio are nephews of a former club president, Florio Zandegiacomo, who served on the executive committee from 1960-72.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Italian Mass

The next Italian Mass will be held on Sunday 1 April 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 1 April 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.



Circolo April Social

At 7.30pm on Thursday 5 April, Mattie Geary Nichol will give a presentation on Sardegna. Mattie spent a year as an AFS student - June 2005 to June 2006.

She stayed with an Italian family, went to school and was totally immersed in the day-to-day Italian life. This will be a Power Point presentation so we will be treated to lots of visual material.

A \$4 charge towards supper will apply.

Tombola Evenings

The Tombola nights are held every 4th Tuesday of the month. **The next evening is on Tuesday, 27th March, at the usual time of 7.30 pm.** Please do come along and feel free to bring a friend.

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 4th 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

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| Monday 19 th March (6.30pm) | - Italian Delegation Dinner |
| Sunday 25 th March | - Italian Festival |
| Tuesday 27 th March (7:30pm) | - Tombola |
| Sunday 1 st April (11:30am) | - Italian Mass |
| Sunday 1 st April (1:00pm) | - Shared Lunch |
| Thursday 5 th April (7:30pm) | - Circolo Social |
| Thursday 19 th April (7pm) | - Italian Film |
| Thursday 19 th April (7pm) | - Special Viewing of Qui Tutto Bene |

A Bit of Trivia

100 YEAR OLD MAN RENEWS HIS DRIVER'S LICENCE

By Ginette Toscano Page

Ansa - Rome, January 2007

An Italian man, who turned 100 this month, is determined to show that his advancing years are no reason to take his aging Fiat 500 off the road! Giovanni Viglione, who lives in the Northern Italian town of Rovereto, has recently renewed his drivers licence and is ready to travel the country-side again, in his metallic green motor car.

Viglione, a free spirit who still lives alone, passed the medical and eyesight tests required for licence renewals without any problem.

A former technical designer, the veteran motorist keeps busy 40 years after his retirement by taking painting and water colour courses at a local university!

Annual Bus Trip

By Josephine & Martin Van der Donk

This year, a group of twenty five people (a mix of older and some younger members) went on an overnight stay, bus trip to New Plymouth. We left Wellington on Tuesday, 13 February ~ a bright and sunny morning. Most of the group gathered at Island Bay for our departure at 7.00am, collecting others along the way from Wellington railway station and Lower Hutt. Everyone were bright and enthusiastic, and looking forward to the trip. We had barely left Wellington when the first tin of cakes was passed around! It seemed as though we were going to eat our way up to New Plymouth!

Our friendly driver, Tama, had an in-depth knowledge of Maori place names and their meanings, and gave us a bit of history of some of the towns and areas we drove through, which was very interesting. We had a brief stop at Levin for some fresh air and to stretch our legs, and at the same time, were able to talk to Tama on a more personal basis. Some of the ladies made a quick visit to the Bendon lingerie factory. From Levin, we drove to Wanganui, arriving late morning, just in time for a coffee break and a bite to eat. We left Wanganui in the early afternoon and arrived at our hotel in New Plymouth around 3.00pm. After checking into our nicely appointed rooms and a quick tour of our hotel, we made our way down town to spend a few leisurely hours exploring the city.

After returning to our hotel some of the group enjoyed a relaxing swim in the heated pool or lazed in the lovely spa, while others enjoyed pre-dinner drinks. We all dined together in the hotel restaurant, enjoying a specially prepared three course meal, which gave us all the opportunity to socialise with each other.

Later that evening we visited Pukekura Park, which is well known for its beautiful gardens and bush settings. Also, in the evenings, the park illuminated with coloured lights, giving it a unique atmosphere. This was well worth the visit and enjoyed by all. After returning to our hotel we had a sing-along together, to the accompaniment of our guitar picker, Salvi, and our accordion player, Armando. A few of us then gathered in the bar for a quick night cap before retiring for the evening.

After breakfast the following morning, the group met in the reception area of the hotel. The staff asked if we would sing them a song before we left, which we did with pleasure, and was very much appreciated by them. Tama then drove us through the city to a look-out point where we could see the city from above and the surrounding coastline. This was followed by a visit to a local Marae and Arts Centre. We had hoped to travel part of the way up Mount Taranaki but unfortunately, the mountain was all clouded in. We departed New Plymouth and returned to Wellington via the coastline, stopping at Wanganui for lunch and a visit to Virginia Lake and gardens.

During the trip home we thanked Tama for his great company and friendship, and for making our trip so pleasant. Tama returned the compliment by saying how much he had enjoyed being with us, and how similar we were to Maori culture in regards to the importance of family and our support of one another.

We arrived back in Wellington at 7.30pm, Wednesday evening and by all accounts everyone had a most enjoyable and fun time. A special big thank you to all those who planned and organised the trip ~ we look forward to our trip next year!

Bus Trip Photos



The Happy Wanderers



Eleanor, Marie, Maria & Lucy



The Girls.....!



The Boys.....!



Colleen, Martin & Josephine



Jo, Lina & Anna



Cristina, Maria & Salvi



Cristina, Salvi & Jo

Glimpse into ~ ~ ~Genova

By Cav. Elizabeth Peek

This month Genova is featured, the city where my great-grandfather, Giuseppe Giovanni Agostino Perano was born in 1850.

Great-grandfather Agostino arrived in Port Chalmers, New Zealand in 1868 and he worked as a fisherman. At the age of 23 he married Susan Williams (from Cornwall) and after a few years the family moved to live in Picton. They raised 9 children who in one way or another had associations with the sea. Two of Agostino's sons became whalers and consequently many of the men in the family also worked in the whaling business. In due course the Perano Whaling Company in Tory Channel was established and existed until 1964 when operations ceased.



Elizabeth Peek

Genova is a city and the principal seaport of Italy and the capital of the region of Liguria. Genova has a long history as a seafaring power, achieving greatness first as a trading post with Greece and Phoenicia and later, as the capital of a small commercial empire that at one stage even eclipsed Venice.

The great sea admiral Andrea Doria came from Genova, as did the 15th century explorer Christopher Columbus. Native son Giuseppe Mazzini joined with Giuseppe Garibaldi in a struggle for a unified Italy under a liberalized Savoy monarchy and in 1860 Garibaldi set out from Genoa with over 1000 volunteers to begin the campaign.

Today Genova is a large and fascinating city with a population of 706,000. An estimated 95.3% of the population is of Italian origin but in recent times there has been a sharp increase of immigrants mostly from South America.

Genova is still noted for its maritime tradition with shipbuilding being its major industry. The city is also a commercial and industrial centre with manufacturers of iron and steel, chemicals, petroleum, aeroplanes, locomotives, motor vehicles and textiles.

Among Genova's notable buildings are the Cathedral of San Lorenzo, the Palazzo Ducale (once the seat of the Doges of Genova), the richly decorated churches of the Annunciation and of San Ambrose, the medieval church of San Donato, many Renaissance palaces and the Carlo Felice opera house.

The city is surrounded by old walls and forts and the steep and narrow streets of the harbour section are very picturesque. The 16th century Lanterna lighthouse is one of the vestiges of Genova's medieval glory. In the old days fires would be lit at the top of the Lanterna to guide ships into port. La Lanterna is the oldest working lighthouse in the world and it is Genova's landmark.

In 1992 EXPO left the Genovese waterfront with some lasting attractions and the area known as the Porto Antico continues to develop. The Aquarium of Genova was the largest in Europe at the time it was built.

Verse/Poesia

Rosaria Massa of Island Bay, Wellington, has always had a love of the written word, and it was only a few years ago, that discovered she had a talent to write meaningful verse. Below is a sample of her writing.

Rosaria Massa di Island Bay, Wellington, ha sempre avuto una grande passione per scrivere, alcuni anni fa, ha scoperto di avere un talento per scrivere delle belle poesie. Sotto e` un esempio dei suoi versi.

Shadow

By Rosaria Massa

The years have been many
The lives of our ancestors plenty
The land of plenty

The norm to emigrate far and beyond
With new energy and a fresh start
We thank ye, land of plenty

The years and decades of many dreams
Our culture, our lives, our stories
You have grabbed me, land of plenty

We brought, we shared, gave me shelter
The joy of many lonely souls like me
Striving by working and knowledge gave me plenty

Mother earth, God sky, you're the one I can't deny
God told me brilliance must shine
From my ancestors far and wide, background the Italian way

Thank thee, brothers of mine
Our culture your land has shared and blessed we understand
You have touched our hearts, our families

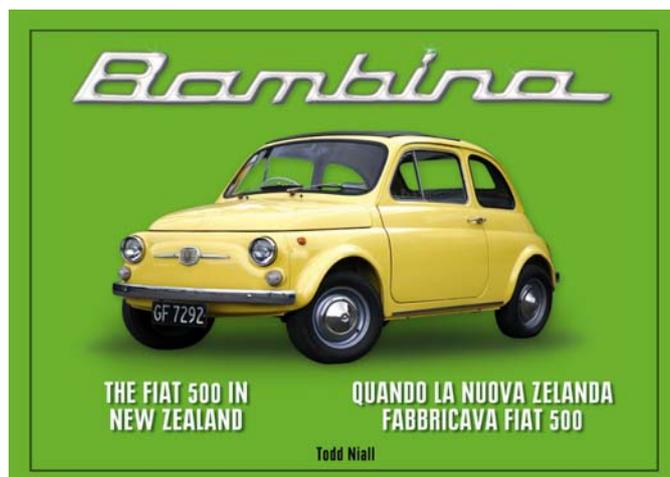
Begin a new era of friendship, joy and success
Brothers of ours, love has no barriers
As one big wonderful family, this is success

Mingle, accept and appreciate each other
Work, play and laugh under one sky
God did it with us, brothers of ours

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Fiat 500 with the story of the New Zealand life of this Italian motoring icon - 5,000 of which were built in Auckland.

"Bambina - The Fiat 500 in New Zealand / Quando La Nuova Zelanda Fabbricava Fiat 500" tells the story in both English and Italian, and with pictures, of 1960's life of the car New Zealand christened "Bambina".

"Bambina" by broadcaster Todd Niall is available for \$39.99 from good book stores. Visit the book's website www.nzfiat500.com



Picnic Photos



The chefs! Alfonse & Vince



Cristina Vinaccia & family



Famiglia Monastra



The Petagna boys



Letizia, Laura & Viola



Mons Janusz & the girls



Smile for the camera!



We love watermelon!