



Club Garibaldi News

May 2007

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Following the last three very busy and exciting months of club activities and events, this month has proved to be a lot quieter!

During April, a large group of club members were given the final official tour of the Italian exhibition which closed on Sunday, 6 May. Te Papa Tongarewa reported that '*Qui Tutto Bene: The Italians in New Zealand*', attracted over one million visitors since opening in November 2004, which is absolutely amazing! The exhibition was an outstanding success!

I am sure I speak for fellow members when I say I feel a tinge of sadness that 'our' time has come to an end. The last 2½ years have been a wonderful journey for us all. Te Papa not only gave us the opportunity to 'tell the world' our families' stories, who we are as a community, our sense of achievement and assimilation into New Zealand, as well as lifting the profile of Italians in general. More further on.

The National Day of Italy celebrations at Club Garibaldi will be held on Saturday, 2 June, commencing at 7.30 pm. There will be representation from the Embassy of Italy. As in past years, the club will provide supper and wine. Please note that this celebration is open to financial Members only.

A warm welcome to Monsignor Francesco Cao from the Embassy of the Holy See in Wellington. More further on in newsletter.

Many thanks to Simona Favatella of Wellington, who translated this month's newsletter.

Ciao a presto
Ginette Toscano Page

WELCOME TO MONSIGNOR FRANCESCO CAO – EMBASSY OF THE HOLY SEE

Monsignor Francesco Cao Minh Dung was born on 1 November 1956, in Hue, Vietnam.

He completed his primary education at Saint Joseph's School in Hue and his secondary education at the Archdiocesan Minor Seminary in Hue. He obtained the National Baccalaureate for secondary education in July 1974.

He completed one year of study of civil law in the National University in Hue (1974-1975). He completed five years of study at the Archdiocesan Major Seminary in Hue: two in philosophy and three in theology (1974-1979).

He was then sent to Rome to complete his studies at the Pontifical Urban University (1980-1985). He obtained a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (1982) and a Master's in Biblical Theology (1984)

He continued his studies at the Pontifical Lateran University (1985-1987) obtaining a Master's in Canon Law. In 1988 he obtained a Doctorate in Biblical Theology.

He completed a master's in philosophy this year (2007).

He was enrolled at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, which prepares priests for the diplomatic service of the Holy See, from 1986 to 1988. At the end of that period of formation he received a Diploma in Diplomatic Studies.

Monsignor Francesco Cao Minh Dung was ordained a priest on 12 June 1983 in Rome, by Pope John Paul II.

Monsignor entered the diplomatic service of the Holy See in July 1988 and has had assignments in Ecuador, Indonesia, India, the United States, Thailand and Madagascar. He was assigned to the Apostolic Nunciature in New Zealand in January 2007 and arrived in Wellington on 14 April 2007."

CLOSING CEREMONY OF 'QUI TUTTO BENE' EXHIBITION AT TE PAPA

By Letizia Columbano Green

'Time to Say Goodbye' ... with this song, sung by Ben Makisi, the 'Qui Tutto Bene: Italians in New Zealand' exhibition closed its doors at Te Papa Tongarewa on Sunday 6 May after more than two and half years.

The closing ceremony started at noon with the blessing of the exhibition space by Father Geoff Broad, parish priest of St Francis de Sales Parish, Island Bay. This was followed by Piri Sciascia's blessing and singing with his whanau, conscious of their Italian fore bearers. It was a very emotional and powerful feeling of belonging to a huge family that embodied wonderful exchanges of two cultures, understanding of family values, and respect for our ancestors...a truly moving experience!

Later at the Marae, the Sciascia family performed different songs...one was about the love between their Italian ancestor, buried on a Hawke Bay island, and his wife, a Maori woman, buried near Levin. They were not able to be buried together, however the lyrical waves between the two islands bring them as close as possible to each other.

An extremely powerful haka took some of us by surprise; strong graphic gestures, fierce eye contact...who would have wanted to challenge them?

The Sciascia family's last song included members of the group who in a few months time will be travelling to Italy and Belgium, to commemorate their ancestors, who perished during the two World Wars.

The children's Tarantella group, with their colourful dresses and full of energy, brought youthfulness and smiles among the audience. What wonderful dancers - their teacher should be proud!! The adult Tarantella dancers were not able to be perform as they usually do, due to an injury of one of the members.... but full of resourcefulness, Maria Elenio invited the public to participate and to learn some of the steps of this Italian dance. The timid members of the public could not resist the charm of the beautiful young Italian girls ...we had plenty of new dancers and by George, they danced with so much enthusiasm!!!

After interval, the Marae space was packed with a multitude of operatic fans. Ben Makisi accompanied by Bruce Greenfield, began his repertoire of Italian arias. His choice of songs were superb ...Rigoletto, Donizetti, and Puccini ...then pretending to be on a Venetian gondola, Ben started to sing Neapolitan songs, all very dear to our community...he also sang one of Mario Lanza's songs....some said he was better than Mario! By then, the audience were really enthusiastic, and the air was full of good chemistry. Ben then performed 'Nessun Dorma'...the clapping and the 'Bravo Bravo' screams were loud and clear.... Ben you know how to sing!!!

We then moved to the Icon Room for the formal part of the afternoon. Seddon Bennington of Te Papa, welcomed everybody, first in Maori, then Italian (most impressive!) relaxing once he reached the English part! Seddon welcomed the interchange of cultures which Te Papa promotes, and thanked the Italian Community, for without them this exhibition would not have been possible.

The Charge D'Affaires from the Italian Embassy, Massimo Carnelos spoke of the contribution the Italians in New Zealand, had given to Aotearoa, and also remembering the late Cav Remiro Bresolin as a successful and generous member of the Italian Community, not only in Wellington but in New Zealand.



Piri Sciascia leading the Maori kapa haka group



Pretty tarantella girls performing at Te Papa Tenor Ben Makisi entrhralling the audience at Te Papa



Te Papa staff and members of the Community Advisory Group at the closing ceremony

MASSIMO CARNELOS' SPEECH AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY AT TE PAPA

By the First Secretary of the Embassy of Italy in Wellington

It is a great honour for me to be here today in representing the Ambassador of Italy and the Italian Embassy, at the closing ceremony of the Exhibition "Qui Tutto Bene" on the Italians in New Zealand.

For two and half years the Te Papa Museum kindly show-cased the history of all those Italians who bravely decided to travel the furthest from Italy one can imagine, to find a new home. It is a story of courage, sacrifices, hardships and for many, years of homesickness impossible to fill. It is also a story of the remarkable men and women who worked hard to contribute to the building of a new country, while struggling with temporal and physical distance to preserve their culture, language and heritage.

In International relations, people-to-people contacts are always a win-win situation. It is indeed, the safest and most successful way to build strong bonds of friendship among countries. Italy and New Zealand enjoy very warm bilateral relations. Our two nations are founded on identical values and principles and agree on most international issues. We co-operate extensively on a wide range of areas and have been experiencing vibrant and growing economic exchanges. However, I am not afraid to say that the people-to-people contacts are the driving force behind our increasingly close relations. This is also thanks to the many people who have dedicated their lives to arouse the interest and improve the knowledge of their respective countries. Today, several hundred young Italians and Kiwis decided to spend one year in the other country, working under the 'Working Holiday Scheme'. There is no better tool to foster a future of ever closer and stronger relations between our two countries.

For more than two hundred years, the Italians in New Zealand have been a very integrated and pro-active community. I am not far from the truth by affirming that today, of all foreign communities in New Zealand, Italians are the most loved. I am sure that this feeling is reciprocal. Italy and Italians respect and admire New Zealanders. We have not forgotten the high tribute of blood you shed on the killing fields of Italy in World War II.

The exhibition we are closing has embodied all these aspects.

Let me conclude by praising Te Papa Museum for this excellent initiative, which is part of a programme to celebrate the different ethnic groups that are part of New Zealand. This Museum is itself, a symbol, with its Maori and Pakeha interaction, of a country that strives to become a model of inter-racial co-existence and openness to different cultures.

Special thanks goes to all the people who have been part of these two and half years. Te Papa's CEO, Seddon Bennington and his staff, Susan Superville who because of her dedication should be entitled to Italian citizenship! And of course, all members of the Community Advisory Group for their excellent and passionate work.

Yet, a layer of sadness shadows the final phase of "Qui Tutto Bene". Remiro Bresolin, key member of the CAG is no longer with us. His inaugural speech at the opening in November 2004 was memorable. Without any doubts, he was the most representative of the Italians in New Zealand. You will agree with me that he still is. We all remember him dearly for what he represented and for what he accomplished during his extraordinary life.

A final thank you goes to the Italians of New Zealand. Though not directly involved, they all contributed with their distinctive lives.

After more than two hundred years, since the first Italian on board of James Cook's ship 'Endeavour' landed on these distant shores, we can officially proclaim that down here "Everything is still fine", "Qui ancora tutto bene"!

UPCOMING EVENTS

ITALIAN MASS

The next Italian Mass will be held on Sunday 3 June 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 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.



A \$2 charge towards costs will apply.

At 7pm on Thursday 19 July the film **Manual of Love** (2005) will be shown. Four tales of love and betrayal. Thoroughly entertaining and satisfying, Manual of Love is a showcase of excellent contemporary Italian filmmaking. Duration 115 minutes.

TOMBOLA EVENINGS

The Tombola nights are held every 4th Tuesday of the month. **The next evening is on Tuesday, 22nd May, at the usual time of 7.30 pm.** Please do come along and feel free to bring a friend.

CIRCOLO JUNE SOCIAL

At 7.30pm on Thursday 7 June Barbara Pezzotti will give us a presentation on Milan; the history, arts, literature and cuisine. Barbara will also talk about what you can see and do in Milan but the main focus will be on Milan's place in Italy. A \$4 charge towards supper will apply.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 22 nd May (7:30pm)	- Tombola
Saturday 2 nd June (7:30pm)	- Italian National Day Celebrations
Sunday 3 rd June (11:30am)	- Italian Mass
Sunday 3 rd June (1:00pm)	- Shared Lunch
Thursday 7 th June (7:30pm)	- Circolo Social
Thursday 21 st June (7pm)	- Italian Film
Thursday 19 th July (7pm)	- Italian Film

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

By Lucia Zanmonti

"I met Stuart Edwards 9 years ago in the United Kingdom. I was training at an organic farm before finishing my degree in horticulture and he was on his OE (overseas experience). As Stuart was interested in organic farming he did voluntary work at the same farm while working at a nearby garden centre and saving money to continue travelling around the world on his bike. We became very good friends and 6 months later, he spent a month in Italy.

Shortly after, Stuart returned to New Zealand, however we kept in contact. It was about 2 years ago that I visited New Zealand and that was when we realised we wanted to be together. After trying for a year to find a job and arranging a visa, I finally arrived in Wellington in August 2006, this time for good!

In January my parents Gabriella and Vittorio visited us from Italy, and stayed in New Zealand for 3 months. They have put a lot of effort in trying to learn the English language and Stuart is doing his best to learn Italian! Gabriella and Vittorio have now returned to Vicenza, a small city 50 km from Venice, the place where I was born.

Stuart and I were married on March 31, 2007. It was a "surprise wedding". Only my parents and Stuart's parents knew about the ceremony. Twenty family members and friends were invited to our "house warming party" which in fact, became a wedding once everyone arrived!

We made our marriage vows on the deck of our house, and although the atmosphere was laid-back, it was an emotionally intense occasion. After the ceremony we enjoyed a shared lunch of mainly Italian food which my mum and I had cooked during the days prior to the wedding and had stored in the freezer.

Throughout the afternoon and evening more friends popped in to our "house warming party", making the day really special.

My parents really enjoyed their time in New Zealand and look forward to their next visit. It seems like eternal summer will grace their lives from now on!"

Club Garibaldi congratulate Lucia and her husband Stuart, and wish them all the very best for their future life together.



Lucia and Stuart with Lucia's parents, Gabriella & Vittorio Zanmonti

A GLIMPSE INTO ~ ~ ~ PISTOIA

By Alan Bargiacchi

This month the area of Pistoia is featured, where Cav Lora Bargiacchi was born, and where her husband Raoul's family originated from.

We are from Tuscany, Pistoia being our provincial capital, but our birthplace is in the hills above Pistoia, Lora from Campiglio and Raoul's family from Pupigliana, two villages on the hills facing each other and divided by the Brandeglio river.

The area is known as the Brandegliana and like all the territories of the Pistoian mountains, was the centre of many epic battles since the time of the Roman republic, battles documented in Roman archives. Even now the names of villages, lands, villas and castles of this area are derived from Latin-Roman names, and they clearly testify that they are built by free soldiers of the Romelea Gens (Roman people).

For example the names of Stazzana, Statigliana, Pupigliana, Marciana, Arcigliana go back to Roman family names like Stazia, Statilia, Peplia, Marcia, Scilia etc.

Two kilometres from us, right at the head of the valley is the village of Castello di Cireglio, built by Messer Petrocco, a captain of fortune, pro ghibelline as a shelter, being forced to flee Florence about 1300. In 1890 his decendant – Policarpo Petrocchi – compiled the first complete dictionary of the Italian language, still used as a reference and an excellent example of the Italian language spoken in those times.

The traditions are still felt and celebrated. Even though the villages are quite close to one another, they all have their own special cooking recipes and their own saints to venerate. For example, Pupigliana has it's feast of the Madonna with a procession and banquetting. Campiglio has the feast of Saint Anthony celebrated with a night procession, the main street and alleyways illuminated with candles.

Being hill villages we celebrate the chestnut harvest and the olive gathering. Every valley has its oil mill, it's iron mill where iron is forged for the production of agricultural implements etc. The local people are all artisans of simple origins having had to learn all the trades but education was very important.

The most felt tradition is the drying of the chestnuts in the metato (small stone building) where a low fire is kept burning day and night. The metato was the winter meeting place where the locals told their stories, reading in turn such classics as The Iliad, The Odyssey, Roland and Oliver, The Betrothed, The Divine Comedy etc.

When a child was born the preferred name was taken from these books like Ulysses, Enea, Polidorus, Helen, Dante, Roland etc.

Another passtime was the rhyme, that is singing between a number of opposing groups. Most of the traditions still survive.

We are always very happy to go back.



Raoul & Lora with their grandchildren

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members: Peter and Trudy Amitrano, Evans Bay, Wendy Raper, Johnsonville, Renny and Raewyn Aprea, Auckland, Angela and Keith Crane, Lower Hutt, Marika Luiso, Thorndon, and Michele Timms, Tawa.

HELP NEEDED

Mr Dick Hurn of Marton is seeking information about the business his grandfather, Ambrose Hurn started along with partner, John Beveridge. He is trying to locate the building in which their wine and spirits business, Leary Beverage and Co was located in Wakefield Street in the late 1920's and part of the 1930's.

SPECIAL VIEWING OF 'QUI TUTTO BENE'

By Nina Cuccurullo

On Thursday 19 April, Club members were treated to a private viewing of the Exhibition as well as a talk by the exhibition Curator, Lynette Townsend. The evening was hosted by Susan Superville, the Community Relations Manager and Club Garibaldi. Members and two visitors from Italy, Giovanni and Tiziano were given a guided tour, followed by refreshments. The photo shows the wide range of members who attended and enjoyed this special evening. The exhibition has now closed with over one million visitors visiting *QUI TUTTO BENE: The Italians in New Zealand*.



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2007-2008

By Caterina Costa – Membership Secretary

Current membership subscriptions expire on 30 June 2007. The June newsletter will include a form to be completed and sent in with your subscription. Subscription fees will remain the same as follows:

Single (18 yrs and over): \$30.00 - Couple \$50.00

Full-time student: \$20.00

Country (north of Waikanae and Upper Hutt): \$20.00 per member.

Nelson and the South Island \$20.00 per member.

Your children are covered for free until they reach 18 years of age, after which they are required to join. This fee has not changed for many years, as we are fortunate that the income received from building rents and interest has meant the Club has been able to continue with very little contribution from its members. We can thank our past, and elder members for this.

Members over 70 years of age do not pay a subscription fee if they have been a member continuously for 5 years before they turned 70. People who join when they are already 70, or turn 70 within the five years after they join, will continue to pay until the 5 years elapse.

It has been noticed that a few (very few thankfully) members are not paying for their spouses. This is a shame as their partners are then excluded from the wonderful member-only functions, such as Italian National Day celebrations, the senior Christmas luncheon, etc, where food and drink are provided. Come on people – it is only an extra \$20.00 per year to join them up as well – the price of a couple of glasses of wine! Your membership fee does not even cover the cost of the newsletter and postage for the year, let alone having a car park available to you in the middle of the city after 5.30 pm every night and all weekend, and all the other benefits of membership. Very good value for \$30.00 per year.

A BIT OF TRIVIA

ANCIENT ROMAN SOCIETY CEMETERY FOUND

By Ginette Toscano Page

ANSA - Rome, October 10, 2006

An ancient necropolis (cemetery) showing the burial rites of a wide variety of Roman society is set to open to the public in the bowels of St Peter's. The small pagan burial ground is believed to be the only one of its kind inside Rome's city walls.

Among the highlights of the site, unearthed during work on a supermarket, is the grave of one of Nero's slaves named Alcimus, who worked as a stage director at Theatre of Pompey, where Julius Caesar was slain. There is also a one-year-old boy buried with the symbol of eternity, a marble egg, clutched in his tiny hand; a teenage girl depicted as a Vestal Virgin, and a seventeen year old member of the knightly classes who appears to have been a Christian. This latter grave dates from before the Emperor Constantine made Christianity Rome's state religion in the 4th Century, yet it shows a figure kneeling in prayer - a symbol only used on Christian graves.

The site which dates from the First to the Fourth Century AD contains a wealth of funerary urns, sarcophagi (tombs) and mosaics, but no large monumental tombs, marking it as a cemetery used by all other than the highest social classes.

By walking on an underground walkway, visitors will get an idea of the ancient burial sites on Vatican Hill, and a maze of tunnels will also enable them to reach the so-called Red-wall where the bones of St Peter are believed to be buried.

ANNA LEESE BENEFIT NIGHTS



Lyric soprano Anna Leese

Those fortunate enough to hear Anna Leese's recital at the Clubrooms on 2nd and 3rd March were treated to a rare talent fast making a name on the international stage. Last October, Anna sang the role of Musetta in La Boheme at Covent Garden. A reviewer in The Times of London said of her performance "Leese is one potential star in the making". Another said "Anna Leese lit the fuse on a sparkling cameo that briefly set the evening alight".

Anna, who was accompanied by Ken Ryan for her Garibaldi appearance, sang mainly Puccini arias including her signature tune from La Boheme, Quando m'en vo. Guest supporting artists included English tenor David Webb and Auckland based soprano, Paloma Bruce, who also received a grant from the major sponsor the Don Haliburton Vocal Award Charitable Trust.

Catch Anna at Wellington's Catholic Cathedral on 6 December 2007 for a Christmas recital (including Puccini favourites) and enjoy a sumptuous meal provided by La Bella Italia who are catering for the event. A diva in waiting!

Masterton

7 May 2007

The Directors
Museum of New Zealand
PO Box 467
Wellington

Dear Sirs / Mesdames !,

I wish to pass on my congratulations to Te Papa and the New Zealand Italian Community for the *Qui tutto bene* exhibition.

I have travelled down from the Wairarapa on three occasions to view the exhibition throughout its duration over the past two and a half years.

The stories on film were so interesting and fascinating. I learnt a lot.

Yesterday I attended the closing of the exhibition and thoroughly enjoyed the performances at The Marae of the Tarantella Dancers and the Tenor, Ben Makisi, performing Italian aria. The Tenor and his accompaniest, Bruce Greenfield on piano were superb. Their performance brought tears. It was so powerful and magnificent... and all for free!

Thank you Te Papa. I was and am impressed.

Yours faithfully

Don Bowden
