



Club Garibaldi News

DECEMBER 2008

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On Saturday, 29 November the club held its 10th annual senior member's Christmas luncheon. This year eighty eight members attended, as well as Fr Geoff Broad, Parish Priest of St Francis de Sales, Island Bay, and Don Marinko Antolovic, Attache' of the Apostolic Nunciature, representing the Embassy of the Holy See, Wellington and Cav Elizabeth Peek, President of the Circolo Italiano.

The function began with a short speech from Ginette, welcoming the special guests and the members in attendance, and Fr Geoff saying grace before everyone tucked into a sumptuous meal of three roasted meat dishes, a variety of hot vegetables and salads, and followed by pavlova, fresh fruit salad and cream, and Christmas cake, all washed down with copious amounts of red and white wine and juices. As a special treat, dolci made by Jo Gaeta, Ginette Page, Maria Di Leva and Maria Colucci was served with coffee and tea.

Special thanks and appreciation is extended to the following outstanding executive members and their spouses and club members for their assistance in helping make this occasion so special. Without their help the club could not hold such functions. *Friday night set up:* Matt, Linda, Grace and Rebecca Amitrano, Alfonso Basile, Josephine & Martin Van der Donk, Armando and Elsa Gilmoni, Ginette Page, Lucy Esposito, Paul Elenio, Salvi and Jo Gaeta. *Saturday:* Jim and Lynda Marson, Salvi and Jo Gaeta, Maria Colucci, Lucy Esposito, Ginette and Robin Page, Paul and Maria Elenio, Marie Barnao, Ida and Vincenzo Basile., and Armando and Elsa Gilmoni. Thank you also to other members who helped in some way ~ please accept this as a personal acknowledgement.

Special thanks to Paul Muollo for formatting the monthly newsletters and Giovanni Martini for the translations.

As this newsletter is the last one before Christmas, on behalf of the executive committee members I would like to wish you and your loved ones **tanti auguri per un buone feste di natale** filled with many blessings, love, peace and goodwill.

Ciao a presto

Ginette Toscano Page

CLUBROOMS RE-DECORATING – STAGE 2

Stage two of the re-decoration of our clubrooms is nearly complete. The interior walls have been re-painted in Spanish White, and the feature wall by the large window which overlooks the car park, has been painted in Tempo, the shade of a pale aubergine. It looks great! Extra lighting has been installed just outside the kitchen area and a mirror will be fitted on the hallway outside the toilets, to lighten up this area.

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to Salvi and Jo Gaeta and family, Island Bay, on the recent passing of Salvi's brother Antonino Gaeta, in Italy.

NEW MEMBER

A warm welcome to new member, Debbie Di Leva, of Island Bay, Wellington.

UPDATE ON ARTIST VERONICA GREEN

By Letizia Columbano Green

In September Ralph and I went to Foligno (Umbria) to see our daughter Veronica, who had an exhibition at the Rione Pugilli. Foligno is a beautiful medieval town, that has mostly historical buildings and squares. We were there during La Quintana, a sort of competition between the different town's neighbourhoods, similar to the Palio in Siena (Tuscany).

We met up with Veronica again in the city of Venice, where she has been living for nearly a year. Veronica has another solo exhibition at the Melori and Rosenberg Gallery until middle December.

The young Italian-Kiwi artist is doing well and is very pleased to be in Italy. Her experiences so far have been amazing and she is thrilled to have the fortune of different cultures. Her painting ability and also the NZ experience in using the Number 8 wire, has opened many doors!

Veronica will be returning home to Wellington for a short time in early December to relax during the Christmas holidays and to catch up with family and friends.



Veronica with her parents Ralph & Letizia Green in Florence

IMPORTANT REMINDER – CLUB CAR PARKING

Weekdays during the hours of 7.30 am to 5.30 pm, all the car parks in the area on the side of our building, Vivian Street and Tory Street are rented out. However, during the evenings and weekends, members who display the current green/white/red window stickers are permitted to use some of these parks. **The owners of vehicles who do not affix their current window sticker run the risk of being towed away.**

All the car parks on the Tory Street side of the building are rented out 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and are not available to any member at any time. The club will not be responsible for illegally parked cars that are towed away.

TRADITIONS – THE CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

By Nina Cuccurullo



On the 15th of August each year in the small village of Massalubrense and also in the suburb of Island Bay on the other side of the world, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is celebrated.

Since the early 1940s money has been collected from the Italian community of Island Bay and sent to the Parish Priest of the Church of the Marina della Lobra in Massalubrense to help towards the celebration of the Feast Day. At the same time some of this money is used to purchase flowers for a special altar dedicated to the Blessed Virgin in the church of St Francis de Sales, Island Bay. The photo shows the side altar decorated with flowers, a special light in the shape of an "M" and an altar cloth brought back from Italy by one of the early Italian immigrants.

While celebrated with a special mass and a special meal by the Italians in Island Bay, the villagers and many visitors to Massalubrense celebrate the day with a procession though the tiny lanes down to the small fishing port of Marina della Lobra where the statue is placed on a boat and processed in the small bay closely followed by a procession of small boats filled with people. At the same time scuba divers place a garland on a Madonna submerged in the ocean under the Vervecce island rock.

Below is an extract from a thank you letter written by Giovanni Carusi.

Carissimi devoti a Maria SS. Della Lobra, con infinita riconoscenza che vi invio questa lettera, in quanto il vostro ricordo, e non solo, si rinnova ogni anno in occasione della celebrazioni dell` Assunta.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ITALIAN MASS

The next Italian Mass will be held on Sunday 4 January 2009 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 2 February 2009 at 1pm. All members and families are very welcome.



Please bring a plate.

TOMBOLA NIGHT

Please note there will be no more tombola this year. Tombola nights will re-commence in February 2009.

LEONARDO DI VINCI EXHIBITION COMES TO WELLINGTON

The Leonardo Da Vinci Machines Exhibition opened to the public on Saturday, 8 November 2008, at The New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts Academy Galleries, 1 Queens Wharf, Wellington, and will run until 15 February 2009.

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.

ANNUAL BUS TRIP

Next year's annual bus trip dates have been set for **9, 10 and 11 February 2009** ~ destination Hastings and Napier. This is always a great trip with lots of fun to be had, and is thoroughly enjoyed by all those who go on it. As the bus fills up pretty fast, please do not leave it too late to confirm that you want to go. More details to follow at a later date. Although you do not need to be a club member to come, members will be given priority.

'A NIGHT AT THE GARIBALDI' - NAOMI FERGUSON BENEFIT



A Night at the Garibaldi" Naomi Ferguson Benefit 27th & 28th February 2009
Both Benefit nights are now sold out.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 4th January (11:30am)- Italian Mass

Sunday 2nd February (1pm) - Shared Lunch

Mon - Wed 9-11th February - Bus Trip

Friday 27th February - A Night at the Garibaldi

Saturday 28th February - A Night at the Garibaldi

CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE CLASSES

For 13 years Nina Cuccurullo has been doing a brilliant job as co-ordinator of the children's Italian language classes. She has worked wonderfully to ensure the classes are well run and organised, has liaised with teachers and parents and maintained a positive link with the Italian Government through the Embassy. We would like to find a club member to assume the duties of classes co-ordinator and spend the first few months of 2009 learning from Nina.

CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE CLASSES

By Nina Cuccurullo



On Tuesday 4 November the children of the Italian Language Classes had their end-of-year certificate presentations, concert and party. Prof Palmiro Sportoletti from the Embassy of Italy and Club President Ginette Toscano Page presented the children with certificates. At the classes we farewelled Sibilla Papparatti, the children's teacher for 2008 and welcomed the new teacher Eloisa Ascoli. The classes have been running for 13 years and it is good to see that many of the Club member's children are attending and supporting the learning of the Italian language and culture for future generations of Italo-Kiwis! Please also note we are looking for a new co-ordinator for the classes from June 2009. If you are interested then please contact Nina.

Imilia Ruocco receiving her certificate from Prof Palmiro Sportoletti



Left to right, (front row) Imilia Ruocco, Valentina Bull, Juliana Quinn (middle row) Dottssa Sibilla Papparatti (teacher) Jacob McBride, Caitlin McBride, Mila Ballara, Sophia Basile, Gabriella Quinn, Charlotte Basile, Grace Amitrano, Cav Elizabeth Peek (back row) Ginette Toscano Page, Marco Costa, Connor MacLeod, Daniela Ravera, Vincenzo Costa, Prof Palmiro Sportoletti, Grace Amitrano, Cav Nina Cuccurullo – Class Co-ordinator

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Raffaele and Lucia Esposito of Island Bay, Wellington recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a celebratory dinner and party which was held at the Overseas Terminal. It was a wonderful night filled with singing, dancing and a lot of love, shared by close family and friends. The evening almost felt like it could have come straight out of a scene from the movie 'The Godfather'!



As a wonderful array of DVD photos flashed across a large screen, taking all the guests on a stroll down memory lane, Salvi Gaeta did a great job of serenading the happy couple. It was great to see so many people who had not seen each other for some time all together, pick up their friendships as if they had only seen each other yesterday! Maria, Lisa and their families were honoured to be able to organise the evening for their mum and dad!

Congratulations Fifi and Lucy Esposito on reaching this great milestone. Club Garibaldi wishes you many more happy, healthy years together.



Fifi & Lucy with their family

A BIT OF TRIVIA

ANSA - Como, November 11

A Romanian man ate half a kilo of fiery Italian chilli peppers in half an hour on Lake Como Tuesday to become Italy's latest Mr Peperoncino.

The winner, Christian Szavu, who gobbled down 485 grams, just beat six-time champion Adriano Gatto, who ate 475 grams! Third place-getter was another veteran peperoncino-munching star, Emilio Volponi, who was furious that he could only eat 240 grams!

The contest takes place annually at the Lake Como town of Albese, where contestants are given 30 minutes to eat as many red-hot peperoncini as they can handle, with the help of water, wine, bread and mashed potatoes!

ANNA LEESE

The star of NZ born soprano Anna Leese (who last appeared at a Benefit in the Clubrooms in 2007 and at a Serata Cibo Arte sponsored by Antonio Cacace later that year) is clearly on the rise. Anna sang with Andrea Bocelli at his Auckland concert earlier this year and is due to sing with Jose Carreras at Elephant Hill Estate vineyards in January 2009.

ADULT ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES 2008

In 2009 the Circolo Italiano di Wellington Inc. will offer two class levels for new applicants and there will be 2 Beginners Stage 1 and Stage 2 language classes held on either Monday or Wednesday evenings. The venue for the classes will be Club Garibaldi and the classes commence on 9 and 11 February and finish in October 2009. Check the website: www.circoloitaliano.org.nz for more information.

To ensure a place in your preferred class it is advisable that enrolments be made by post or through the Internet prior to Friday 23 January 2009. **We cannot guarantee you a place if you leave enrolment until the General evening on Monday 26 January (between 5.30 and 7pm)**.

The Classes Opening Ceremony for **ALL** students will be at 6.30pm on Monday 2 February 2009 at Club Garibaldi. It is not necessary for Club Garibaldi members to join the Circolo and course fees are offered at the reduced rate of \$155 for 30 fifty-five minute lessons. The textbook required is: **Buongiorno Italia (new 2005 reprinted version)** for Beginners Stage 1 and 2. The textbook is available from Whitcoulls Bookstore, (Information Counter) 312 Lambton Quay, Wellington. A 10% discount is available on proof of enrolment in a Circolo course. It is essential that each student has a copy of the relevant textbook.

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, as was the face painting. Most of the children had beautiful images painted on their faces, some with glitter ... from butterflies to animal faces and flowers. Lunch was the usual children's fare: pizza, chips, hot dogs and chicken nuggets, juice and lemonade, followed by jelly and ice cream.



As always, the most exciting part of the party was the arrival of Father Christmas, carrying a sack full of presents, raising the noise level even louder! After the children settled down, Father Christmas suggested they sing Jingle Bells. Signora Trizzino, wife of the Italian Ambassador, called into the club to wish everyone a Happy Christmas, and to give the children Christmas candy sticks and chocolates. Signora was assigned the



job of helping Father

Christmas distribute the presents and sweets. It was a joy to watch the children's beautiful little faces, eyes shining with excitement, waiting for their name to be called. All the children went home happy and contented.

Jonathan Trizzino, Father Christmas & Signora Trizzino

Senior Member's Christmas Luncheon



Children's Christmas Party

