



Club Garibaldi News

JANUARY 2008

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is the first newsletter of the New Year! On behalf of the Executive Committee, I wish all members, their families and loved ones all the very best for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2008 - may it be a good one for us all!

Desiderare voi tutti un anno nuovo felice, ha riempito di la salute buona, la pace e molte benedizioni. I hope you are all enjoying the holiday season, the warmth of the summer sun, relaxing days and long evenings in the company of family and friends.

Our Club calendar is already filling up with upcoming events and activities. The Executive Committee has been quietly working in the background organising various events which, hopefully, all members will support. I would like to thank all our 'active' members for their continued support, and once more encourage our passive and out-of-town members to join in.

Please read further for information about our forthcoming annual club picnic, bus trip and Italian festival. In late December, in my capacity as President of Club Garibaldi, representing the club, I attended a farewell reception at the Embassy of Italy for the departing Ambassador, Dr Liana Marolla. During the course of the evening, a small gift was presented to the Ambassador on behalf of the members.

This month, Stromboli will be the final of the monthly articles on 'A Glimpse into...'. Over the last 29 months a different area/region/village has been featured in the newsletters. This is astonishing as all the articles written are the origins of individual club members or their family roots, which goes to show how varied our membership is ... yet we are all of Italian descent! If your area has not been featured, please let me know and I will endeavour to do an article on it.

Ciao a presto

Ginette Toscano Page

ITALIAN STORY-TIME FOR CHILDREN

Newtown and Island Bay libraries are hoping to provide an Italian Story-time providing there is enough interest. This is a great opportunity for our children. Feel free to pass this onto anyone who you think would be interested!

BABY CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following members on the recent, safe arrival of their babies:

Janice and Salve Basile of Island Bay, on the birth of their son Miguel. Grandson for Maddalena Basile also of Island Bay.

Lisa and Sarantos Economou of Mapuia, on the birth their son Luca Antonio. Grandson for Anna Maria and Tony Muollo of Oriental Bay.

Rebecca and Raffaele Maresca of Wellington, on the birth of their son Antonio. Grandson for Maria and Tony Maresca of Island Bay.

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 display 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.

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.

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.

A BIT OF TRIVIA

By Ginette Toscano Page

BREAD AND PASTA SALES PLUMMET IN ITALY
(ANSA) - Rome, December 20

The recent hikes in pasta and bread prices led to a sharp drop in the sale of these products, the Coldiretti farmers' union said on Thursday. Based on the October statistics from national statistics bureau Istat, Coldiretti said there was a 7% drop in the level of bread sales, and the amount of pasta sold was down 3.9% over the same month last year. The farmer's union noticed that the amount of bread sold for domestic use in October, fell under one million tonnes for the first time.

The reason for this, Coldiretti said, was a general change in lifestyles in Italy, as well as price rises. He said the price of pasta in October varied from 1.51 euros a kilogram in Milan to 1.31 euros in Rome, 1.26 euros in Bologna, 1.11 euros in Naples and 1.01 in Palermo. The union also pointed out that the price of wheat had little to do with the prices for bread and pasta, considering the fact that they tumbled 10% in October, over the previous month, yet this did not result in any reduction in prices.

According to Coldiretti, wheat prices have remained relatively unchanged since 1985 "but since then, the gap between the price of wheat and the price of a loaf has increased by 750%". A recent study on durum wheat prices by the consumer rights group Codacons, showed prices hit a low in May of 2005, whereas prices for finished pasta products were unchanged from 2004 through 2006. Codacons also pointed out that the price of one kilo of spaghetti, which had been stable from 2004 to 2006, had jumped 27% this year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ITALIAN MASS

The next Italian Mass will be held on Sunday 3 February 2008 at 11.30am at St Francis de Sales Church, Island Bay.

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



have booked their seats. However, there are still a couple of spaces left. If you would like to come, please telephone me as soon as you can. We assure you of a great trip and lots of fun.

This is the proposed itinerary:

2 nights at the Heritage Rotorua
1 dinner + show
Transport up there and back
1 extra night's dinner

Total cost \$350.00 per person.

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 this year's annual club picnic. A reservation has been made for Sunday, 17 February 2008, from 11am onwards, at Queen

Elizabeth Park, Paekakariki, with the reserve/cancellation date of 24 February. In the event of wet weather, listen to NewstalkZB Cancellation Service.

So put a big circle on your calendars, to remind you of this date. Once again, the club will provide the steaks and sausages for the barbeque. All members and their families are welcome.

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

Please note that there is a change of dates for this year's bus trip. See the following paragraph.

The bus trip has been changed to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 12th, 13th, and 14th February 2008. So far, forty three (43) people

"A Night at the Garibaldi" Jade Steele Benefit Concert

Advance notice is given of the next Benefit season to be held in the Clubrooms on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th May 2008. The beneficiary is Jade Steele (presently based in London) who was the female lead in *Beauty and the Beast* in both the Showbiz Wellington and Showbiz Christchurch productions. Ticket price \$30 (includes a light supper).



No door sales. Friday performance pre-sold. Bookings now accepted for the Saturday performance. Phone:

ANNUAL FESTIVAL ITALIA 2008

Please put a big circle on your calendar ~ Sunday, 16 March 2008 ~ the club's annual Festival Day at the Overseas Passenger Terminal. As this is the club's biggest function and fund-raiser, please come and support us, and help make this year's festa, as successful as in previous years.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 3rd February (11:30am) - Italian Mass

Sunday 3rd February (1pm) - Shared Lunch

Tuesday – Thursday 12-14th February - Annual Bus Trip

Sunday 17th February - Club Picnic

Sunday 16th March - Italian Festival

Friday – Saturday 16-17th May - A Night at the Garibaldi

LA BEFANA

By Ginette Toscano Page

Although January 6 has passed, I thought I would write this short article on La Befana for those who do not know about her and hope they enjoy this ancient legend!

La Befana is one of Italy's oldest and most celebrated legends. Each year on January 6, the children of Italy wake in hope that La Befana has made a visit to their house. This is a significant day for Italians as it marks the end of the Christmas season and the day that the three kings (three wise men) arrived at the manger of the Christ child. Over the years the [Epiphany](#) has been a more celebrated holiday for the children of Italy than even Christmas.

As legend has it, three kings were in search of the Christ Child when they decided to stop at a small house to ask for directions. Upon knocking, an old woman holding a broom opened the door to see who was there. Standing on her doorstep were three colourfully dressed men asking for directions how to find the Christ Child.

Since the old woman was unaware of who these men were looking for, she could not help them. As the men left they asked the old woman to join them on their journey. She declined, telling them that she had too much housework to do.

After a while La Befana had a change of heart and decided that she would try and catch up with the men. However, after many hours of searching, she was unable to find them. Feeling very disappointed at the thought of the opportunity she had missed, the old woman stopped every child she saw in the street and gave them a small treat in hope that one of the children was the Christ child. Every year on the eve of the Epiphany she sets out looking for baby Jesus. She stops at each child's house to leave those who were good, candy in their socks, or a lump of coal if they had been naughty ... and being a good housekeeper, she would sweep the floor before she left.

La Befana is usually portrayed as an old lady riding a broomstick through the air, wearing a black shawl, and is covered in soot because she enters the children's houses through the chimney, and carries a bag filled with candy, gifts, or both.

Tradition claims that if a person sees La Befana, he or she will receive a thump from her broomstick, as she doesn't wish to be seen. This part of the tradition may have been designed to keep the children in their beds while the parents are distributing candy (or coal) and sweeping the floor on Epiphany Eve.

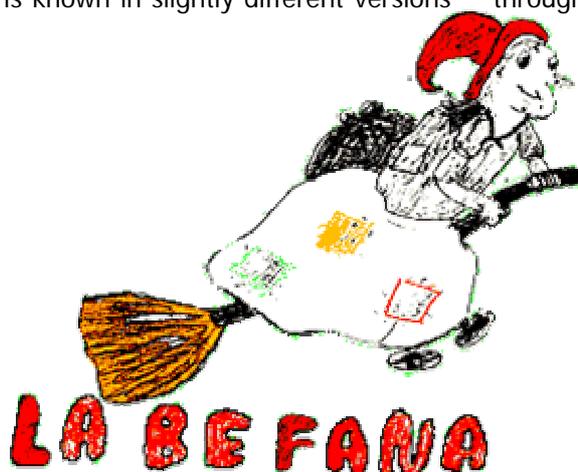
The Feast of La Befana in Rome has been commemorated in four famous sonetti in Roman dialect by the nineteenth century Roman poet Giuseppe Gioacchino Belli.

There is a poem about La Befana, which is known in slightly different versions throughout Italy. This is one of the versions:

La Befana vien di notte
Con le scarpe tutte rotte
Col vestito alla romana
Viva, Viva La Befana!

The English translation is loosely:

La Befana comes by night
With her shoes old and broken
She comes dressed in the Roman way
Long life to the Befana!



CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE CLASSES 2008

Classes are for primary aged children only and are held on Tuesdays during the Primary School terms. Classes will commence on 19 February 2008.

A GLIMPSE INTO ~ ~ ~ STROMBOLI

By Ginette Toscano Page

This month Stromboli is featured, the area where many club members and their fore bearers originated from. As there are far too many names to mention each person individually, this article will be a general one for all.

The name 'Stromboli' derives from the ancient Greek word (Stroggyle) because of its round shape. The ancient Roman writer Plinius writes of it as 'Strongyle'. In Italian, the island is called Stromboli, but in dialect (vernacular) the name is still linked to the ancient Greek version – it is known as Struognuli and his inhabitants call themselves Struognulari.



Aerial view of Stromboli

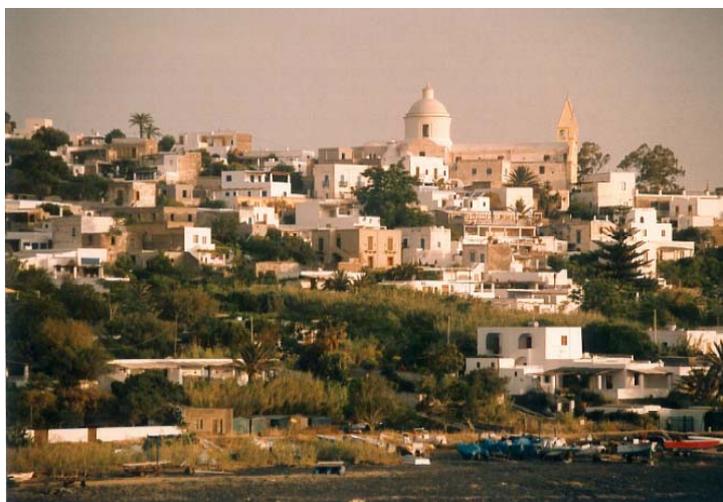
A small, active volcanic island, Stromboli is one of the seven Aeolian Islands (named after the Greek god of the winds, Aeolus) in the Tyrrhenian Sea - just north of Sicily. The volcano was thrust from the sea by earthquakes some 40,000 years ago.

Stromboli is one of the few volcanoes in the world that constantly erupts, continuing without pause now for at least 2,000 years. Normally, these are channelled safely away from the island's villages, Stromboli and Ginostra, by a steep, wide gully called Sciara del Fuocco (Trail of Fire). Bigger eruptions, however, can shower debris all over the island, sometimes with devastating effects on the residents.

Stromboli, affectionately called Iddu (dialect for 'him'), is 12.6 square kilometres and, while he stands 926 metres above sea level, he actually rises 2,000 metres above the ocean floor. San Bartolomeo is the island's patron saint and his feast day is celebrated every year on 24 August.

Stromboli has been known since Roman times as the 'Lighthouse of the Mediterranean' or the 'Black Pearl of the Mediterranean'. People have lived in Stromboli's shadow for more than 4,000 years, but the relationship between man and mountain has always been one of love-hate. Islanders throughout the centuries have braved the eruptions in return for fertile soils and a glorious climate.

The Strombolani speak a dialect unique to the Aeolians that varies slightly from island to island. The many cultures to have invaded the islands each left their mark, with many words and phrases introduced by the Greeks, Carthaginians, Spanish, Romans, Arabs, Saracens, Vandals and Turks.



Scari, looking towards San Vincenzo

When Duke Luigi Salvatore of Austria visited the islands in the late 1800s, he was so impressed by the fertility of the land, and the islanders' skills in agriculture, sailing and fishing, that he wrote eight books about them.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, Stromboli thrived and the permanent population numbered between 3,000 and 5,000 inhabitants. The mountainside was cultivated to just below the summit with crops of hardy olives, grapes, apricots, figs, fennel, capers and vegetables. On lower levels, goats were grazed for milk, and pigs and sheep were kept as well.

Two of Stromboli's most important commodities were malvasia vino and olive oil. It was an important merchant shipping port, and the main stopover on the coastal route between Naples and Sicily. However,

the spread of the Italian rail network eventually spelled the decline of coastal shipping, along with the island's economy. This, and a series of devastating eruptions and earthquakes between 1900 and 1930, sparked the mass emigration of the population to the United States, South America, Australia and New Zealand.

Today, Stromboli has only 500-600 permanent residents, but is boosted to tens of thousands during the tourist season. The island's charms have proven irresistible to tourists, including many rich and famous people. From this, a new generation of islanders has emerged: small tourist operators, 'life-stylers' and environmentalists.

A night climb to the craters and its glowing lava can be an unforgettable experience, as is a boat trip to see the streams of molten rock meeting the sea. The clear, clean sea around the island is a magnet for scuba divers and spear fishermen, and the black, sandy pebble beaches and lush gardens are a sun lover's dream.



Scari Marina

Stromboli is very picturesque and the architecture is Greek - cubed white villas nestled amongst lush greenery. Flowering shrubs, such as bougainvillea, blooming in the magnificent colours of the rainbow, grow prolifically around the island, as do gardenias. All this, against a background of black volcanic rock surrounded by sparkling, crystal-blue water (and a sky to match), is simply breath-taking!

An added bonus is that there is literally no crime to speak of, and the five Carabinieri who are stationed on the island each summer have a pretty cushy job, as do the three Carabinieri stationed during the off season!

Stromboli is one of those rare places where it is hard to know whether to be more fascinated by the myth or the reality! Writers, artists and film-makers have long been drawn to the island in search of both. Most learn that the two are almost inseparable. The mere sight of this stark, sheer-sided volcano, with civilisation clinging at its skirts, is enough to stir the imagination. But for his inhabitants, the island's dangerous beauty commands a more worldly respect - one that comes from living under one of the world's most active craters.

Today, Stromboli is relatively safe as the island is closely monitored by the Italian Navy which, in conjunction with the Civil Defence, has installed a network of electronic equipment to monitor the volcano's rumblings. This feeds data to the San Vincenzo Observatory, which is nestled about half-way up the mountain. Most days, it is not unusual to see an Italian Navy ship anchored near the Sciara, not far from the island, observing the volcano. Or are perhaps they're simply enjoying the beautiful, panoramic view...

ITALIAN YOUTH CONFERENCE – SEPTEMBER 2008 IN QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

From: Sandra Pitronaci

Sent: Sunday, 16 December 2007 12:51 a.m.

To: rpage

Cc: Michael Donato - Adelaide 2; Isabella Restifa - Sydney

Subject: Italian youth conference

Dear Sir,

I was given your email by Anna Domaneschi, as she suggested you were a contact for Italian youth in New Zealand.

A national committee of Italo-Australian youth, including myself, (Sandra Pitronaci - Melbourne) and the two publicity officers Ccd above, Michael Donato (Adelaide) and Isabella Restifa (Sydney) is organising a youth conference for Italo-Australian youth in Queensland, September 2008.

We would be very keen to have Italian youth in New Zealand join us for the event, and invite association representatives to contact us at the above email addresses.

I have attached our press release.

Many thanks, and please do not hesitate to contact me for further information,
Sandra Pitronaci

PER DIFFUSIONE IMMEDIATA

“i giovani alla guida”

Lanciata la prossima Conferenza Nazionale dei giovani italiani in Australia

Sabato scorso, 8 dicembre e domenica 9 dicembre 2007, i giovani esperti delle varie circoscrizioni presenti in Australia si sono riuniti presso l'Italo-Australian Club di Canberra su invito del Consiglio Generale degli Italiani all'Estero e i vari Com.It.Es d'Australia.

I lavori aperti dal Consigliere del CGIE Franco Papandrea, Coordinatore Riunione Giovani Australia, hanno visto la partecipazione di ben 14 intrepidi rappresentanti provenienti dal Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Australian Capital Territory, South Australia e Western Australia assieme a il Consigliere Roberto Mengoni Capo della Cancelleria Consolare presso l'Ambasciata d'Italia, il Consigliere CGIE Luigi Casagrande e ai presidenti dei Com.It.Es.

Tre documenti sono stati elaborati durante l'incontro: un documento propositivo per la conferenza internazionale dei giovani italiani, che si terrà in Italia nel 2008; una mappatura per la prossima conferenza nazionale dei giovani italiani in Australia; e delle proposte per la maggior integrazione dei giovani nel tessuto istituzionale italiano esistente in Australia.

Il documento propositivo ribadisce il contenuto del documento presentato all'Assemblea Plenaria del CGIE del 6-9 novembre u.s. con alcune integrazioni pertinenti alla realtà australiana.

Il secondo documento pianifica un'iniziativa dei giovani per la realizzazione di una loro conferenza nazionale in Australia con l'obiettivo di dar spazio alle tante voci ed esigenze delle nuove generazioni. Questa conferenza è prevista per il 5-7 settembre 2008 sulla Gold Coast, Queensland.

La riunione ha inoltre dato l'opportunità ai giovani di presentare delle proposte ai rispettivi Presidenti dei Com.It.Es, per lo sviluppo di strategie per una maggiore rappresentanza e coinvolgimento dei giovani. Tra le proposte, la creazione di commissioni giovanili, utilizzando risorse giovanili al di fuori dei comitati, in ogni Com.It.Es e l'utilizzo degli strumenti mediatici dei Com.It.Es per la distribuzione di informazioni dirette ai giovani.

Il tema principale emerso durante l'incontro e' il bisogno basilare di costruire un network per poter comunicare con la realtà giovanile in Australia nel contesto locale, nazionale ed internazionale.