



Club Garibaldi News

MAY 2008

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Many thanks and much appreciation to Fr Geoff Broad, parish priest of St Francis de Sales parish, Island Bay, Wellington, for celebrating Holy Mass in Italian for our community this month. As Archbishop Balvo and Monsignor Cao were both unavailable, nor was any other Italian speaking priest for that matter, Fr Geoff stepped in, and saved the day! Although it was a big ask, he did extremely well, and the congregation showed their appreciation by giving him a well deserved round of applause at the end of Mass.

The National Day of Italy celebrations at Club Garibaldi will be held on Monday, 2 June, Queen's Birthday, commencing at 7.30 pm. As in past years, the club will provide supper and wine. Please note that this celebration is open to financial members only. Oh, nearly forgot ... remember to bring your dancing shoes as we are going to have live music!

Ciao a presto

Ginette Toscano Page

BABY CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following on the safe arrival and recent additions to their family:

To Mary and Simon Rayner of Tawa, Wellington, on the birth of their daughter, Maria Clare. A granddaughter for Tony and Eileen Muollo of Island Bay, Wellington.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members: Stefano Francesco Jones and Sara Lesley Wah of Wadestown, Wellington.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ITALIAN MASS

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



Please bring a plate.

ITALIAN FILM

At 7pm on Thursday 22 May (note change of date from our usual arrangement) the film My Brother is an only child (2007) will be shown. Set in a small town in Italy during the 1960's and 70's, the film depicts the relationship between two brothers Accio and Manrico, caught up in the political conflicts of Italy's recent past. From the writers of the Best of Youth the film is a light-hearted Italian hit. Duration 100 minutes.



A \$2 cover charge towards costs will apply.

At 7pm on Thursday 19 June the film will be **Montalbano's Croquettes – Gli Arancini di Montalbano**. Number 8 in the popular Montalbano series!!

CIRCOLO JUNE SOCIAL

At 7.30pm on Thursday 12 June (note change of date from our usual arrangement), Luca Quaglia will talk to us about the life and work of Dante Alighieri.

This will be a good opportunity to learn about Dante Alighieri from an accomplished Italian speaker – Luca Quaglia, who treated us to an outstanding presentation, "The Sun in the Church" last year.

Although the Circolo is also known as the Societa Dante Alighieri, Wellington, to our knowledge no one has ever spoken about Dante Alighieri - one of the most famous and important figures in Italian history. Don't miss this social!!

A \$4 cover charge towards supper will apply.

TOMBOLA NIGHT

Tombola nights are held every 4th Tuesday of the month.

The next night for Tombola will be Tuesday, 27 May, at the usual time of 7.30 pm. Please come along and feel free to bring a friend.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Thursday 22nd May (7pm) - Italian Film
- Tuesday 27th May (7:30pm) - Tombola
- Sunday 1st June (11:30am) - Italian Mass
- Sunday 1st June (1pm) - Shared Lunch
- Monday, 2 June (7.30pm) - Italy's National Day at Club Garibaldi
- Thursday 12th June (7:30pm) - Circolo Social
- Thursday 19th June (7pm) - Italian Film

T-SHIRTS

You may recall some years ago, the club had T-shirts made as a fund-raiser. Recently four white t-shirts were 'found' in a cupboard. They are good quality Hanes, **adult size small** only, with the following logo in green, white and red across the chest, which reads: Italiano? Si' Certamente!

CONDOLENCES

Deepest sympathy go out to all members of the following family:

To Gerardo Fonti-Barsi, Marina, Elia and Lisa and their families of Lower Hutt, on the recent passing of their wife, mother and grandmother, Elsa Fonti-Barsi.

45th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Congratulations to Salvi and Jo Gaeta of Island Bay, Wellington, who celebrated 45 years of marriage on 27 April. Club Garibaldi wish you many more happy and healthy years to come.

THE LONGEST NON-SCIENTIFIC WORD IN THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE!

I bet you haven't seen a word this long before!

"Precipitevolissimevolmente" which means: as fast as possible or very, very fast.

A BIT OF TRIVIA

By Ginette Toscano Page

PINBALL PRIEST TAKES MASS TO ARCADE

ANSA - Avezzano, April 22

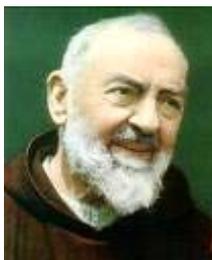
An Italian priest held Mass among the flashing lights of pinball slot machines and video games at an amusement arcade this week, after he became concerned that young people in his parish were failing to turn up in church.

Father Duilio Testa, the 78-year-old parish priest of Trasacco, L'Aquila, went in search of the younger members of his flock on the town's streets after he noticed they were shunning formal services. "It wasn't difficult to get near to the young people. I found them in the games arcades," Testa said. "At the start, they were all a bit surprised," he admitted. "But then they stopped playing and helped to prepare an altar and volunteered to read bits of the Gospel. Everyone paid attention throughout the Holy Mass".

Despite its success, Testa said he had no plans to stage arcade Masses on a regular basis. "Things done on the spur of the moment work better," he explained. The Bishop of Avezzano, Pietro Santoro, gave his blessing to Testa's initiative.

PADRE PIO

By Ginette Toscano Page



ANSA San Giovanni Rotondo, April 24

Nearly 800,000 people have booked to visit the body of stigmata-bearing Italian saint Padre Pio, which went on display in the southern town of San Giovanni Rotondo on last Thursday.

Padre Pio will remain in his glass-sided coffin until September 2009 to give pilgrims a chance to see and venerate his remains for the first time since he died 40 years ago.

Padre Pio's body was exhumed by Capuchin friars in March in "surprisingly good condition" with the saint's beard, nails, knees and hands clearly visible. As he went on show today, the body was mainly hidden from view under a monk's habit and a life-like silicon mask of the saint's face.

The body will be returned next year to the crypt of the Santa Maria delle Grazie Church in San Giovanni Rotondo, next to the friary where Padre Pio lived for most of his life.

The saint, whose real name was Francesco Forgione, was born in 1887 and died in 1968. His devotees believe he bore the wounds of the crucified Christ on his hands, feet and side for at least 50 years.

At the time of his death, he was credited by his fellow friars with having performed more than a thousand miraculous cures and other miracles - one of them for Pope John Paul II. His shrine near Foggia draws close to one million pilgrims a year.

ANZAC DAY SERVICE

A few weeks prior to ANZAC day I received a telephone call from the Embassy of Italy, who had been approached by a Ngati Toa spokesperson, asking for Italian representation to be present at the ANZAC day service at the Takapuwahia Marae, Ngati Toa, Porirua.

After this was briefly discussed at the April executive meeting, the committee were still unsure as to what to do. I telephoned the organiser to enquire what it actually entailed, and after our discussion, I felt it was too important not to attend. Alfonso Basile, vice president, agreed to come with me, also his wife Penny and their children.

Principal representatives were from Italy, Malaysia and Korea, where most of the servicemen and women from this particular Marae had served in various wars over the years, along with the Mayor of Porirua, city councillors, and many local dignitaries.

The service began at 9.30 am when we were formally welcomed onto the Marae, after which the ANZAC service took place. The service commenced with a welcome to the hundreds in attendance, followed by prayers, hymns, readings and a bugler sounding 'The Last Post' as wreaths were placed by dignitaries and veteran service people and their families on the memorial stone, below the flag pole. Next, each person in attendance were asked to place their poppies on the same stone, as the New Zealand flag was lowered. The atmosphere was very sombre, as everybody remembered those who had fallen. After more singing and prayers, followed a wonderful tribute to 'Our Women of Honour'. These were the mothers, wives, grandmothers, sisters and aunts of the servicemen and women, who fought or nursed overseas, and had kept the home fires burning.

The official party then moved inside to the whareniui (the meeting house) for the medal presentation. After being ushered to front row seats, the three persons representing their specific countries, of which I was one, were then asked to stand, as beautiful cloaks were placed on our shoulders by recently widowed women dressed in black; this part of the ceremony was very moving.

It was both a surprise and an honour to be asked to present military medals to the loved ones of the late Edison Te Kanae Wineera and Madison Wineera, both returned servicemen, who had served in Italy during World War II, in an emotional medal presentation ceremony. A soldier attired in military uniform, respectfully handed me the medals, and I, in turn, pinned them onto the recipients.

Formalities over, the official party were then personally escorted into the whare, where a lovely meal awaited. After grace and some singing, the choir then burst into song with the much loved song Maori soldiers used to sing to their Italian sweethearts during the war ~ 'Buona notte mi amore'. A fitting end to a wonderful experience!

ANZAC SERVICE AT NGATI TOA, PORIRUA



Ginette is draped with a cloak



Ginette with wife of late returned soldier, recipient of his medals



After medals ceremony; Alfonso Basile in front row, Ginette in centre row



Alfonso & Penny Basile & family & Ginette after the service

VERONICA GREEN ~ ARTISTE

Veronica is the talented daughter of club members Letizia Columbano Green and Ralph Green of Wellington. Veronica, who recently held a very successful exhibition at the gallery Spiazzi, in Venice, is now painting for another two galleries in Venice, who are interested in her work. One of these galleries is: Melori & Rosenberg Gallery. Check out their website: www.melori-rosenberg.com

Club Garibaldi wishes Veronica all the very best for the future.

Il Gazzettino – 8 April 2008

Venice and the pigeons:

Venezia- For a long time the polemic has been raging in Venice about the pigeons: Saints or Sinners? The City Council has made a practical decision for the welfare of the monuments and good health, by stopping the sale of bird seed from April 30. The traditional seeds sellers who sell the bird food to tourists will disappear from St Mark's Square.

However, while waiting for the "zero" hour to come at the end of April, an exhibition of a young New Zealand artist has been running at the Cultural Association Spiazzi in support of the pigeons of Venice and pigeons worldwide!

It is entitled "Colombi: santi o peccatori?" (Pigeons: saints or sinners?). The works of art of Veronica Green, who holds a degree and a thesis on birds, is in Venice "where the architecture and the landscape make this city a mystical place", to study the theme of pigeons well known all over the world, their history and their relationship with people.

Veronica Green's art show pigeons in different significant roles. For example, the Holy Spirit's dove of peace and Noah's dove, but in particular, l'opera "Casa Nostra" which represents pigeons in their historical place, at least in Venice, and therefore their sitting room of Saint Mark's Square!

Supporters from Animal Associations were present at the exhibition with a petition of signatures, asking the City Council administrators to stop the continuous capture and killing of the birds, in favour of alternative ways such as birth control to keep the numbers down. The exhibition will be open till the 20th of April. For more information www.spiazzi.info

VERONICA GREEN'S ART EXHIBITION IN VENICE



This photo of Veronica's painting, entitled 'Casa Nostra' which is 2 metres long, sold immediately



Veronica Green at work



Veronica Green – artiste