



ESTABLISHED IN 1882

Club Garibaldi News

DECEMBER 2009

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



On Saturday, 28 November, the club held its very successful 10th annual senior member's Christmas luncheon. This year ninety six members attended, including Fr Geoff Broad, Cav Elizabeth Peek, President of the Circolo Italiano, and Anna Cacace, mother of Antonio Cacace, visiting from Massalubrense, Italy. The function began with a short speech from the club's President, Ginette Toscano Page, welcoming those in attendance, followed by Tony Muollo of Island Bay, saying grace before everyone tucked into a sumptuous feast made by Alfonso Basile which was fit for a king!

The mouth-watering menu consisted of: canapes of Italian sausage, anchovy stuffed olives & provolone cheese; meat filled cannelloni; huge platters of fruta de mare, Italian garden salads, Mediterranean grilled vegetables with bocconcini sprinkled on top, Genoese scotch fillet of beef and vegetables, chicken braised in wine, rosemary and garlic, and finishing with individual dessert plates of slices of torte Caprese and raspberry sauce, strawberry halves, vanilla panna cotta and sfinchi filled with crema, all washed down with copious amounts of red and white wine, juices and coffee. After the meal the Mediterranean Trio consisting of Salvi Gaeta, Armando Gilmoni and Robin Page entertained everyone by playing well-loved, old Italian favourite music and songs. It was a joy to see everybody joining in with the singing! Many thanks Salvi, Armando and Robin, you were great!

Special thanks and appreciation is extended to Alfonso and to the following outstanding members of the executive and social committees 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: Ginette Toscano Page, Alfonso Basile, Nina Cuccurullo, John Cao, Paul Elenio, Jim & Lynda Marson, Matt Amitrano, Rex & Avril Amitrano, Mikey Musso, Salvi & Jo Gaeta, Josephine Van der Donk, Lucia Esposito, Jane Di Mattina. Saturday: Ginette Toscano Page, Nina Cuccurullo, Paul Elenio, Matt Amitrano, John Cao, Maria Colucci, Jim & Lynda Marson, Rex, Martin Van der Donk, Salvi & Jo Gaeta, Jane Di Mattina, Sophia & Charlotte Basile. Thank you also to those members who helped in some way ~ please accept this as a personal acknowledgement. Thank you to those members who have conveyed their enjoyment in reading the newsletters. To receive such positive feedback is encouraging as it takes me many, many hours to research and write items before sending it to Melanie Federico for formatting.

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 buon natale e ricco di molte benedizioni, amore, pace e di buona volonta'.**

Ciao a presto
Ginette Toscano Page
President

ARTICLE OF INTEREST

By Ginette Toscano Page

ANSA - Bologna, November 11 2009

Oldest Italian dies aged 113 years old

Italy lost its oldest citizen with the death of a 113 year-old woman in Bologna. Born on 4 October 1896, Ida Frabboni was the second oldest woman in Europe, the 13th oldest person in the world, and the fourth longest living Italian on record. Frabboni was well known among geriatric studies researchers who interviewed her and took DNA samples in an attempt to discover the secret of her longevity. Taking Ida's place as Italy's most senior citizen is Venera Pizzinato of Verona who celebrated her 113th birthday on 23 November. According to the Gerontology Research Group in Los Angeles, there are 75 people in the world today over 110 years old, only 30 of them men.

'A DAY IN POMPEII' EXHIBITION AT TE PAPA

From 19 December 2009 until 25 April 2010. Admission charges apply.

Enclosed in this month's newsletter is a booklet for the exhibition a Day In Pompeii. There is a full events programme organised with lecture series, talks, music and kids events so lots to choose from and we hope as many of our members can attend.

Discover what life was like in Pompeii before rock and ash from Mt Vesuvius engulfed the bustling Roman city. *A Day in Pompeii* features more than 250 priceless artefacts. Don't miss this opportunity to step back in time to ancient Pompeii.

Please see the webpage for further details www.tepapa.govt.nz/pompeii

AN INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR STORY OF POMPEII 1944



An invitation to those of you from the Naples area to contribute your story of what happened to you and your family in the 1944 eruption of Pompeii. Ash fell as far as Massalubrense on the Sorrentine Peninsula.

Please contact Nina Cuccurullo in the evenings. We will share the stories in our next newsletter. I look forward to hearing from you.

WORDS AND SOUNDS TO REMEMBER POMPEII

by Nina Cuccurullo

On Thursday, 26 November, Ginette and myself along with other members attended an evening where poets Marco Sonzogni and Vincent O'Sullivan joined musician Lorenzo Buhne for an evening of music and words to remember Pompeii. We listened to the traditional melodies and harmonies of southern Italian villages and also heard the poets recite their work, and got a glimpse of Roman life through the eyes of Pliny with readings of excerpts from his letters. The event was held to introduce the breathtaking *A Day in Pompeii* which opens on 19 December 2010 (see enclosed pamphlet)

Below are two poems which were written especially for the exhibition and given permission to reproduce in our newsletter.

Sister Cities (Vincent O'Sullivan)

There was a bulge apparently on the flank
of the mountain, like a swelling say on
a man's calf— it couldn't be good. But as
a Wellingtonian on a bus might think

two thousand years later, you take a fault-
line to heart, you'd never get out of bed.
As that woman did, suddenly panicked,
picking up her gold bangles, *in*

flagrante, I suppose they said that,
when — tell us another! — the earth actually
moved. And like that man on the bus
who might well be me on any morning

I think of the baker's pretty wife
on the postcard, who wouldn't stop by
for a morning crust? Or the chrysolite bowl
a slave lifted so carefully you'd

think holding it steady was what
the Fates decreed. There is a father
and his daughter crossing a small yard
to feed a calf, there is a boy

bored rotten with swotting Virgil.
There's a woman with her hands beneath
a child's armpits, about to lift
it into warm water, its shoulder

she leans to kiss when the moment comes -
and a dog, a dog that would like
attention, but has been on his back now
for such an age, for such ages,

no one's waiting round to scratch it,
though you hear it yelp, surely,
surely you hear it, close your eyes
on the Wellington bus, the man in his tunic

beside you, the baker's wife,
the schoolboy's late maths, the mother
never more content, a thin bangled arm.
Only the dog uneasy.

Mother and Child Pompeii, 2009 (Marco Sonzogni)



*Since everyone's anguish is our own,
we live ours over again, thin child,
clutching your mother convulsively
as though, when the noon sky turned black,
you wanted to re-enter her.*

—Primo Levi, 'The Girl-Child at Pompeii'

*Time has transfigured them into
Untruth. The stone fidelity
They hardly meant has come to be
Their final blazon, and to prove
Our almost-instinct almost true:
What will survive of us is love.*

—Philip Larkin, 'An Arundel Tomb'

Mother and Child Pompeii, 2009 (Marco Sonzogni) - Continued

See them? Mother and child. As it was is now
and will be always. So why are we here then?

What happens next is stench of burning plastic;
clouds of thickened dust; and spikes of rising flames.

Fire brigade, police, TV crews, visitors:
all at the show of uncollected rubbish.

The stars are shy tonight and the steps are slow.
No intercession can ease this noisy camp.

Think of lives shunted to an untimely end,
not granted the durability of stone.

We will not be here when the noon sky turns black
another time: first, we must survive ourselves.

To our almost-true almost-instinct, we turn
to look closer at that terminal embrace:

a mother and a child sealed in surviving love
with a skerrick of the earth's boiling blood.

PROFILE OF PAUL ELENIO, CLUB TRUSTEE



I have been a member of Club Garibaldi since I was 20, more than 30-mumble years.

I have been involved in many ways – I guess I can't help myself. In the first few years I was a member of the committee that organised the annual ball. I also audited the club's stock and assets for some years.

I have been vice-president – two terms totalling about seven years – and have been a trustee for about the last eight years. The trustees' role is to monitor and safeguard the club's finances, governance and wellbeing.

I have been involved in the annual festival since its inception in 1995, as an organiser, putting together the printed programme, organising advertising and publicity.

We started the festival to help celebrate the launch of the exhibition *Alle Fine Del Mondo* (To The Ends of the Earth) at the Petone Settlers Museum and the book of the same name, tracing the history of the Italian migrants who came to the Wellington region. I was the author of the book and part of the small committee that organised the exhibition and publication.

The book was one of the many proud highlights of my involvement with Club Garibaldi. Others included the changing of the constitution to allow women members, the renovation and opening of the new clubrooms in Vivian Street, the installation of a memorial to Italian men held on Somes Island during the Second World War and the more recent celebration of the club's 125th anniversary.

My late father, Pietro, a fisherman at Eastbourne initially, emigrated from Massalubrense in the Bay of Naples in 1937 and returned home in 1950 to marry Teresa Cuccurullo and they moved to Island Bay the following year.

I am a journalist by profession and worked for many years at The Evening Post. I was Deputy Editor until 1998 when I moved to the commercial side of the newspaper business.

I am General Manager of The Dominion Post and the Fairfax Central Region, responsible for three daily newspapers and 18 community titles in the bottom half of the North Island.

I am fortunate to have the wonderful support of my wife Maria, whose parents still live in Nelson. She was the leader of the adult tarantella dance group and also teaches the club's group of girls who dance.

Both our children, Peter and Teresa, were in the first children's tarantella group in the early 1990s and they are members of the club. Peter plays in the annual football game against Club Italia Nelson.

BABY CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mary (nee Muollo) and Simon Rayner of Tawa, on the safe arrival of their son, Richard Samuel. A grandson for Tony and Eileen Muollo of Island Bay.



NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members: Fabio Caratori Tontini and Silvia Canessa of Lower Hutt, Maddalena Mersi of Lyall Bay, and Nino Basile and Jillian Talbot of Island Bay.

A NIGHT AT THE GARIBALDI – JULIA BOOTH BENEFIT CONCERT



Capacity audiences at the Clubrooms on 6th and 7th November enjoyed a quality performance from Hamilton soprano and NZ Aria winner, Julia Booth, in a Puccini based programme.

Julia, who was accompanied by Bruce Greenfield, was supported by (among others) Dame Malvina Major Emerging Artist, Barbara Graham, singers from the Marshall Stack collective, and the most recent Garibaldi Beneficiary, Naomi Ferguson, who flew in from Christchurch. This was the 34th Benefit Concert in a Series which commenced in 1992.

ITALIAN MASS



On the first Sunday of every month the Mass is celebrated in Italian at the Church of St Francis de Sales, 175 Clyde Street, Island Bay, Wellington. Mass starts at 11.30 am. Everyone is welcome and it would be good to see more members and their families attend as we are very fortunate to have this opportunity in New Zealand. If you can help with a reading or the offertory, please contact Ida Basile. The Mass is celebrated by either His Excellency Archbishop Balvo or Reverend Marinko Antolovic from the Apostolic Nunciature. The next Mass will be on **Sunday, 3 January 2010.**

ANNUAL BUS TRIP



A note from the Social Committee with regard to the bus trip to Tauranga on 8, 9, 10 and 11 February 2010

Please note that the bus will be leaving from The Parade, Island Bay, and will pick up passengers along the way at the following places: Wellington Railway Station, Johnsonville, Paraparaumu and Waikanae. The same route will be in place for the trip home with the final stop being The Parade, Island Bay. For any further queries please contact Salvi Gaeta or Maria Colucci.

CHILDREN'S ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES



On Tuesday, 24 November, the children of the Italian Language classes had their end-of-year certificate presentation, concert and party. Donato Scioscioli, First Secretary/ Deputy Head of Mission, representing the Embassy of Italy, presented the children with their certificates. The classes have been running for 14 years, and it is great to see club member's children learning the Italian language. If you would like your child to attend classes in 2010, and your child's name is not already on the waiting list, please contact Sira Ballara.

A BIT MORE HUMOUR ~ AS ITS SOUL!

By Ginette Toscano Page

You know you are an italo-neozelandese when...

Your relatives talk louder than everybody else on the train or bus.
You can bench press 160 kilograms, shave twice a day and still cry when your mother yells at you.
You carry your lunch in a plastic bag because you can't fit two cappicola sandwiches, 4 oranges, 2 bananas and pizzelles into a regular lunch bag.
Your mechanic, plumber, electrician and builder are all your cousins.
Your grandfather makes grappa.
You have at least 6 cousins named after your grandfather or grandmother.
If someone in your family grows beyond 5' 9", it is presumed his mother had an affair.
There were more than 28 people in your bridal party.
Your grandfather has a fig tree.
Your mother's meatballs are the best.
You've been hit with a wooden spoon or had a shoe thrown at you.
You know how to pronounce "mozzarella."
You've called someone a "mammalucca".



GOOD FOR THE

TOMBOLA NIGHT

The first Tombola night for 2010 will be Tuesday, 23 February at the usual time of 7.30 pm. Please come along and feel free to bring a friend. Contact Maria if you have any questions.

LOST UMBRELLA

At the conclusion of the recent Senior Member's Luncheon, somebody accidentally picked up Armando Gilmoni's large blue and white golfing umbrella. If you have it in your possession would you please return it to the club rooms or telephone Armando.

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to the Anna Basile and Tony Esposito and families of Island Bay on the recent passing of their sister Elisabetta Buonacore of Nelson.

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.

MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT – ALFONSO BASILE

As another year draws to a close, I would like to give a 'big thank you' to the person who always says thank you to everybody else, Club Garibaldi's President, Ginette Toscano Page! Ginette, on behalf of us all, we would like to thank you for the many things you do for our club including helping to organise the Italian festival, the monthly newsletter and attending functions on behalf of Club Garibaldi members. Ginette, may you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. *Alfonso*

ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC

A date has been set for 2010 annual club picnic. A reservation has been made for Sunday, 21 February 2010, from 11am onwards, at Queen Elizabeth Park, Paekakariki, with the reserve/cancellation date of Sunday, 28 February. In the event of wet weather, listen to NewstalkZB cancellation service. So put a big circle on your calendars, to remind yourself of this date. Once again, the club will provide the steaks and sausages for the barbeque. All members and their families are welcome.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year the clubrooms were filled with the noise and laughter of 42 children of members, who came to the Christmas party. As noisy as it can be, this event is most pleasurable, as these young 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 dog, 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 two sacks full of presents, raising the noise level even louder! After the children settled down, Father Christmas asked a few questions about Christmas and then suggested they should all sing Jingle Bells before he gave out the presents.

As always, 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.

Many thanks and appreciation to the following people who helped on the day: Maria Colucci, Lisa Devitt, Jo Gaeta, John Cao, Robin Page, Ginette Toscano Page, Armando Guglielmoni, Paris Enrica Guglielmoni, Cristine and Gareth Wilson and to all those people who helped in some way.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY PHOTOS



SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS DINNER PHOTOS

Message from Nina Cuccurullo

As you know I took a lot of photos at the Senior Citizen's Lunch. If you would like a copy then please email me with your details, as I will send you the photos by email. If you do not have email then please let your children know and they can email me and I will print off copies for you. I have placed a book at the club with all the photos taken.



CIRCOLO ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES 2010

In 2010 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 8 and 10 February and finish in October 2010. Check the website: www.circoloitaliano.org.nz for more information.

Before completing an enrolment form please contact President Elizabeth Peek by email: president@circoloitaliano.org.nz. If there is a place in your preferred class you can then post your application and cheque to Circolo Italiano di Wellington, PO Box 9706, Wellington 6141. To ensure a place in your preferred class it is advisable that enrolments be made by post or through the Internet prior to Friday 22 January 2010.

We cannot guarantee you a place if you leave enrolment until the General evening on Wednesday 27 January (between 5.30 and 7pm).

The Classes Opening Ceremony for **ALL** students will be at 6.30pm on Wednesday 3 February 2010 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 (2005)** 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.

CIRCOLO 2010 COURSES ENROLMENT FORM

Full name (Mr,Mrs,Miss,Ms) _____

Postal address and email _____

Telephone No. (home) _____ (work) _____

Subscription to Circolo Italiano:

Single: Couple Student under 18/Superannuitant/Member Club Garibaldi

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Classes enrolment: (tick) | Beginners Stage 1 | Monday | 5.30 – 6.25pm |
| | | Wednesday | 5.30 – 6.25pm |
| | Beginners Stage 2 | Monday | 6.30 – 7.25pm |
| | | Wednesday | 6.30 – 7.25pm |

Have you studied Italian before? Yes No

For what reason are you studying the Italian language _____

I enclose cash/cheque for \$ _____ to confirm my enrolment in the course selected.

I understand that my course fee(s) cannot be refunded.

Signature _____

Date _____

COSTA ~ BASILE WEDDING



Left to right standing: Angelina Di Mattina (Barnao), Bartolo Costa, Giuseppe Mollo, Vincenzo Costa, Maria Basile (Costa), Giovanni Barnao, Marianno Basile, Luisa Basile (Ruocco). Sitting left: Giuseppina Basile (Mollo) and Gloria Monopoli

Vincenzo Costa and Maria Basile were married at the old Church of St Francis de Sales Church, The Parade, Island Bay, Wellington, on 6 September 1947.