



ESTABLISHED IN 1882

Club Garibaldi News

APRIL 2010

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Although this message is a little late as Easter was early this year, before the April newsletter was posted out, the sentiment is the same: Buona Pasqua a tutti!

As the contents of this month's issue of the newsletter is a little light, I have inserted the article I wrote of my trip to Stromboli last year, as suggested by Ambassador Gioacchino Trizzino, which was published in the Embassy of Italy's Christmas bollettino. I hope you enjoy it!

Please carefully read the article on the Italian Festival 2010 further on in the newsletter.

Ciao a presto
Ginette Toscano Page

HAPPY 70 YEARS YOUNG!

Happy birthday greetings to Domenico Zame of Oriental Terrace, Wellington, who has reached the wonderful milestone of 70 years young! Buon compleanno Domenico, Club Garibaldi wish you many more happy and healthy years to come.

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to Franco, Anna Zanotto and family of Hataitai, Wellington, on the recent passing of their father and grandfather, Fausto Zanotto of Padua, Italy.

SHARING NEWS

We are looking for Italian items of interest, as well as special occasions to include in future newsletters. Please feel welcome to share them with your fellow members. Our contact details are: Ginette, Tel: 383 6300 or email: rpage@xtra.co.nz or alternatively, send to the club post box: Club Garibaldi, PO Box 6451, Wellington 6141.

A BIT OF TRIVIA *By Ginette Toscano Page*

Pompeian Snack Bar 'Re-opens' For Business
Ansa - Pompeii, 18 March 2010

A 2,000 year-old snack bar in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii will open for business once more, with a special one-off event marking its restoration. A limited number of visitors to the archaeological site will be taken on a 45 minute guided tour of thermopilioum (snack-bar) of Vetutius Placidus, which was previously closed to members of the public. Once inside, visitors will also be treated to a typical Roman snack of the type once served to customers. Visitors will be greeted with a typically decorated counter, just as in modern day cafes and bars, where customers stood to enjoy a quick lunch. Cylindrical holes in the bar which once contained glass jars used to hold food. The thermopilioum also had a dining area with couches for those customers who wanted to eat their meal in the reclining Greek style. This room was decorated with a beautiful painting showing the Rape of Europa with Jupiter as a bull. As this is one of the best preserved sites, it has been closed to the public for years in order to protect it from damage.

CIRCOLO ITALIANO – MAY SOCIAL

At 7.30pm on Thursday, 6 May, we will be treated to a special presentation by Annie Brown. Gardening enthusiast Annie Brown will present a pictorial journey through the ancient gardens of Pompeii and she will explain the important role of the garden in Roman life. The content of the Power Point presentation will appeal not only to gardeners but also to those people who love Italian art and to anyone who wants to learn more about the ancient history prior to the violent eruption of Mt Vesuvius on 24 August 79AD.

A \$4.00 cover charge towards supper will apply.

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, Tel: 934 7814. The Mass is celebrated by either His Excellency Archbishop Balvo or Reverend Marinko Antolovic from the Apostolic Nunciature. ***The next Mass will be on 2 May.***

SUNDAY IS CLUB DAY

Winter is on it's way, and that means the cold temperatures! However, you can be assured of a warm reception at the clubrooms every Sunday afternoon from 3pm to 8pm. The heaters are very efficient, so wrap yourselves up and come on down for a cappuccino (or something stronger). If you have never played indoor bowls, this would be a great opportunity to have a go. I am sure our regular players will be more than happy to guide you through a friendly game with them. If you prefer to play cards, or simply would like to chat or watch television, you are all very welcome.

NEW MEMBER

A warm welcome to the following new member: Luigi Mario Trento of Flaxmere, Hastings.

SHARED LUNCH

The next shared lunch will be held at the clubrooms on **Sunday, 2 May**, at 1.00 pm, following Italian Mass. All members and families are very welcome. Please bring a plate.



TOMBOLA

The next tombola night will be on **Tuesday, 27 April** at the usual time of 7.30 pm. Please come along and feel free to bring a friend. Contact Maria Tel: 383 8476 if you have any questions.

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Sixty years ago, on 10 April 1950, Carolina Vettoretti and Jack Watts of Lower Hutt, were married at the Church of Sts Peter and Paul, Lower Hutt.

Carol and Jack were thrilled to receive so many messages of congratulations on this very special occasion, most notably from the Queen, the Prime Minister, the Governor General and their local Member of Parliament.

Congratulations Carol and Jack on reaching this great milestone. Club Garibaldi wishes you many more happy, healthy years together.

Carol & Jack with all their family, celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in 2000.



FAMILY NIGHT

The Family Night function held on Friday, 9 April, at the club rooms was once again, an outstanding success, with fifty adults and children, including Archbishop Balvo and Don Marinko from the Apostolic Nunciature, enjoying a very relaxed family evening together. Special thanks and much appreciation to Alfonso Basile who cooked the delicious meal and dessert ~ it was excellent! As always, the ping-pong table was a great source of fun, as was the soccer game table. It was a joy to hear the clubrooms filled with the laughter of children and their excitement! The evening's raffle was won by Vivian Trento of Strathmore. Many thanks also to those who helped in some way, in particular Matt Amitrano, Ginette and Robin Page, Jim Marson, Vince Costa, Penny Amitrano, Ida Basile without whose assistance the evening would not have been possible.

HAPPY 60TH BIRTHDAY TO THE CIRCOLO ITALIANO

Photos of a few Club Garibaldi members who are also members of The Circolo Italiano.



PANETTIERI ~ CINCOTTA WEDDING (1937)



Giuseppe Panettieri and Angela (Lina) Cincotta
were married at the Church of San Bartolomeo, Stromboli, on 4 April 1937.

Angela is Club Garibaldi's most senior member, aged 95½ years young.

STROMBOLI, MY OTHER HOME

By Ginette Toscano Page

Having recently returned from spending a month on Stromboli, I'm often asked why I chose to spend my entire time in Italy on this tiny, quiet, volcanic island in the Tyrrhenian Sea - especially as this was my fourth visit in nine years! My reply, as always, is: I am enamoured with Stromboli! These are my very proud Italian roots!

I am Ginette Toscano Page, a first-generation italo-neozelandese and an Italian through and through. My genealogy research over the past 10 years has helped me trace direct maternal and paternal lines back nearly 400 years!



Ginette with Strombolicchio in background.

Stromboli, known as the Black Pearl of the Mediterranean, is the north-easternmost of the seven islands known as Isole Eolie (the Aeolian Islands). The archipelago sits near the 'toe' of the boot-shaped Italian mainland, and is listed as a site on UNESCO's World Heritage List for its "outstanding record of volcanic island-building and destruction, and on-going volcanic phenomena". The island's name derives from the ancient Greek word 'Strongyle' because of its round shape. In Italian the island is called Stromboli. But in local dialect the name is still linked to the ancient Greek version, and it is known as Struognuli. His inhabitants call themselves Struognulari. The islanders' nickname for the volcano 'Iddu' means 'him' in the local dialect.

I would like to describe and share my sensuous feelings about Stromboli, and hope that it enables you to understand me and to see Stromboli through my eyes.

The journey from my home in Wellington to Stromboli is long and tiring, taking more than 32 hours. Tired but nearing the end of my journey, about 30 minutes from Stromboli nothing beats my first sighting of the perfectly-shaped cone rising up on the distant horizon. My heart pounds with excitement and emotion, and I have tears running down my cheeks. As the aliscafo glides up to the pier at Scari, my eyes cannot take enough in. This rugged, yet stunning, natural island is my other home. I feel secure, with a wonderful sense of wellbeing. I belong here!

Stromboli is at its most magnificent when seen against the night sky, which is very different to our southern night sky. There are millions and millions of stars, and the red glow from the volcano's craters looks spectacular. The awesome sunrises and sunsets are simply breathtaking over the clean, clear, cobalt-blue sea. There are two beautiful old churches: San Vincenzo in Scari and the now closed San Bartolomeo in Piscita, where my antenati were baptized, confirmed, married and laid to rest.

I spent time socializing with friends, young and old, over coffee, wine and dinner. We talk about the days of long ago, parenti, history, traditions and the changes in life today.

I visit the cemetery where my ancestors are resting. On the stroll home, I enjoy the typical Aeolian architecture - sparkling white, cubed houses. The white exterior keeps them cool in the summer and warm during winter. Doors and windows are painted dark blue, many with the 'heart of Stromboli' symbol on walls and gates. Each house has a gisterna (water well) at the front, and usually a distinctive Aeolian hemispherical oven and chimney.

This is certainly the place for eating large. I feast on ripe figs, dripping with honey, and sweet red and orange ficcolini (prickly pears). Every morning, the cry of "pesca fresca!" echoes across the village as the fish merchant carts the day's catch along the narrow streets in his three-wheeled truck.

By midday, the hot Mediterranean sun is shining down from an azure, cloudless sky. The winding lanes, streets and alleys appear formidable. Some are very steep - everything is 'up' in Stromboli. I elect to sit in the shade on the veranda and enjoy a fresh fig from the tree planted by my paternal nonno in the early 1900s. I can see countless yachts, luxury boats and other vessels moored around the island - a favourite holiday spot for Europe's wealthy.

As the late afternoon sun becomes less intense, I walk to the houses where my bis-nonni lived, dodging the Vespas and electric cars whizzing past - testament to the island's awakening from its siesta. Whitewashed fences overflow with huge, magnificent bushes of every imaginable colour. There are bougainvillea, gardenia, ginestra and dozens of other colourful wild flowers. Caper bushes and olive trees grow wild along the roadsides.

As the sun sets, I head to the beach at Ficogrande, with its jet-black boulders, rocks and sand. There are no streetlights, so the moon is my guide. Anchored just offshore, I can see the water-boat from Napoli off-loading fresh drinking water into the island's tanks. It makes the same trip every day; quenching the thirst of the huge number of tourists that arrive each summer.

Tonight is the festival of San Bartolomeo, patron saint of Isole Eolie. In the piazza outside the church, I eat sweet watermelon. As it drips down my chin, geckos scurry across the path and up the stone walls. In the distance, three plumes of smoke rise above the glow of the volcano. Beneath the glow, I can see a line of torches snaking its way down the mountainside - the climbers that departed in the early evening are making their return journey. I sit back with a glass of vino and enjoy the sweet fragrance of gelsomina and ginestra that permeates the night air.

Early the next morning, I head to the beach. Even at 7.00am, the sand is already too hot to walk on without shoes. Beautifully painted fishing boats line the port area of Scari. To the north-east, two kilometres out from the island, lies Strombolicchio - a lone rock formation that is the remnant of an even older volcano. By mid-morning, hundreds of tourists are enjoying the beach, sunning themselves or swimming. Others are hiking, taking boat rides around the island or simply browsing in the small souvenir stores.

I take a different route back to my guesthouse, stopping to admire each alcove that houses a holy image or statue decorated with flowers. With the sun now quite intense, I am offered a ride by two blue-clad carabinieri cruising the streets in their electric car. I gratefully accept. That night brings an electrical storm and thunder like I've never experienced before. The daily earthquakes - some big but most of them small - and the blasts and explosions coming from the volcano, are all part of living on the island. But this storm is something else. I feel an eerie sensation as I watch it approach from the sea. Standing on the veranda, I can see and hear it, but it's still very hot and there's not a drop of rain. Within half an hour, it is directly overhead. I wait till the last minute then head inside just as the heavens open and the clouds let loose.

The following morning, the ground is again hot and dry. It was as if there had been no storm at all. I hike up to the viewing platform for the Sciara del Fuoco (stream of fire) on the north-western side of the volcano. From here, I watch the rocks and lava roll down the slope and into the sea; splashes and columns of steam rising up from the collisions.

I spend my last day on Stromboli strolling the streets and beaches. Each time I pass Piazza di San Vincenzo, I see another friend and stop for a fresh lemon granita at the corner cafe. The church bells peal, bringing good or not so good news to the island's inhabitants.

For my last evening on Stromboli, I take a final cooling dip in the sea at 10.00pm. From the pizzeria in one of the beach bars, I can see the twinkling glow of mainland Italy. The last evening is always sad, as I don't know when I will return. Tomorrow morning I will cry again as I watch Stromboli slowly disappear beneath the horizon.

Thank you for allowing me to share a little of Stromboli with you.

(October 2009)

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE ITALIAN FESTIVAL 2010

Ginette Toscano Page

As members would have seen from the press release in last month's newsletter, the festival has outgrown its traditional home at the Overseas Terminal. The 2010 Italian festival will be held at Westpac Stadium, Wellington, on Sunday, 26 September.

This year's festival will be promoted, organised and sponsored by La Bella Italia in conjunction with Club Garibaldi. Cav. Antonio Cacace of La Bella Italia, has been actively involved in the development of the past seven festivals, both as a club member and also a major sponsor. Antonio has taken total contractual and financial responsibility for the Westpac Stadium festival site.

As President of Club Garibaldi, I wish to encourage our members to join me in full support of the 2010 festival. Your support is a vital ingredient to its success. The festival brings together our Italian community with the greater Wellington population (and across the country) and gives us a chance to promote and display our culture, food and entertainment.

The Club Garibaldi Executive Committee has formed two special festival sub-committees who are already working on ideas for this exciting new concept. We will keep you informed with a special report in each monthly newsletter, leading up to the festival in September.

Remember Festival Italia 2009?



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- Tuesday 27 April (7:30pm) – Tombola
- Sunday 2 May (11.30am) – Italian Mass
- Sunday 2 May (1pm) – Shared Lunch
- Thursday 6 May (7.30pm) – Circolo Italiano May Social
- Every Sunday (3.00pm to 8.00pm) Club Day