



Club Garibaldi News

AUGUST 2010

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Winter has almost passed. Keep smiling – spring is not too far away!

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. Contact Ginette or alternatively, send to the club post box: Club Garibaldi, PO Box 6451, Wellington 6141.

A friendly reminder that annual membership subscriptions are due now. Thank you to all the members who have made their payments and

updated their records.

Please note: For those members who have not paid their membership subscriptions this will be the last newsletter they will receive.

The Annual General Meeting has been set for Sunday, 10 October 2010.

Ciao a presto
Ginette Toscano Page

ITALIAN FESTIVAL NEW ZEALAND REPORT



You can start counting down the days till this year's festival! Now that we have a larger venue – the Westpac Stadium, let's make this the best of the best, and show ourselves off to New Zealand. You could invite friends and relatives from all over the country including Australia and Italy! They won't be disappointed. Italian products, food, wine and entertainment will make this a day to remember. It is also a chance to meet fellow members and their families too!

The day will start off with the official opening and blessing at 10.00am, and I have no doubt that many will still be there for the closure at 5.00pm. There will be a modest entry charge, and car parking is available at a very good rate, so no driving around for hours looking for a park. There will be special trains from out of town, and remember that Wellington has an excellent bus service. See next month's newsletter for more

details. Spread the word around and invite everyone you see, your workmates and even your boss! Refer them to the special website: www.theitalianfestivalnewzealand.com

We have had a good response from members who have kindly offered their time to help out on the day, and also with setting up the day before. However, more are needed; even a couple of hours is a great help. If you can join our hard working team, please call Ginette or Robin or any member of the club executive committee (see last months newsletter for contact details).

Ginette Toscano Page
President

A BIT OF TRIVIA

Chubby Beauty: DomPost, 3 August 2010

Forget those pencil-thin model types – Italy has chosen a full-figured woman as its new beauty queen, weighing in at a hefty 170kg. Angela Scognamiglio said she was 'very moved' when she was named the new 'Miss Chubby' at the complex-free contest held in the Tuscany village of Forcoli, near the city of Pisa. "I feel as if I've won the lottery", the 33 year old from Naples said. As in all past 20 years of the pageant, there is only one condition for entry: you have to weigh more than 100 kilograms. No big prize for the winner, just a huge cake to share!

BOMBONIERE

Bomboniere (Italian), sugared almonds or confetti are known as 'favours' ~ gifts given out to guests on special occasions such as weddings, First Communion or Confirmation. The tradition of distributing wedding favours is an ancient one. It is believed that the first wedding favour, common amongst European aristocrats, was known as a bonbonniere – a small trinket box made of crystal, porcelain, and/or precious stones. The contents of these precious boxes were generally sugar cubes or delicate confections, which symbolized wealth and royalty. Some centuries later bonbonnières were replaced with almonds which were distributed to wedding guests to signify well wishes on the bridegroom's new life! In the thirteen century, almonds coated with sugar, known as confetti, were introduced. Confetti soon transformed to sugared almonds, which later evolved into the favour for modern day weddings.

Traditionally at weddings, five sugared almonds are presented in a confection box, or wrapped in elegant fabric, which symbolize health, wealth, happiness, fertility and long life, that is part of the life of the new couple. The bitterness of the almond and the sweetness of the coated candy represents the bitter sweetness of a marriage. Tradition calls for the bridal couple to walk amidst the tables at the wedding reception, after the cake has been cut. The groom holds a silver tray with the confetti and the bride offers them to guests – always distributing an odd number.

Sugared almonds come in assorted colours: white for wedding, First Communion or Confirmation, pink or light-blue for the baptism of baby girl or baby boy, and respectively, silver or gold for 25 or 50 wedding anniversaries. A small card printed with the data of the ceremony (names, date etc) is often attached to the bomboniere.

A traditional bomboniere poem

*Five sugared almonds for each guest to eat
To remind us that life is both bitter and sweet.
Five wishes for the new husband and wife –
Health, wealth, happiness, Children and a long life.*



A BIT OF HUMOUR IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL

Big Lorenzo, an Italian fella, is bragging to his friends about his sons:

"I'ma so prouda my oldest son. He maka fifty thousand dollar evra year. Hesa Engineer!"

"I even more prouda ma second son. He maka five hundred thousand dollar a year. Hesa Doctor!"

"But, I'ma da proudest a ma youngest son. He maka five million dollar a year. Hesa Sports Mechanic!" Paolo, his friend asks: "What's a Sports Mechanic?"

Lorenzo replies: "Wella, he can fixa everytin. He fixa da horseraces, he fixa da boxin matcha.....!"

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members: Anna Serci Taylor and Jim Taylor of Miramar, and Roberto and Julie Bertoni of Kapiti Coast.

MESSAGE FROM TERESE MCLEOD – MATIU SOMES ISLAND BOOK HUNT

By Cav Nina Cuccurullo

A volunteer friend of mine on Matiu/Somes Island is keen to locate a book written about an Italian internee on the island. I am sorry that the details are scant. I understand that the book was written by an Italian who had been in New Zealand for ages, married to a New Zealander and they lived in Christchurch. However, he was interned on Matiu/Somes because he was Italian. He wrote about the seagulls around the island and him watching them as it was the only thing he was allowed to put in letters to his wife: any mention of weather or shipping being prohibited on security grounds. My friend remembers hearing about this book whilst listening to the National Programme in the 1990's - probably after about 1993. We have looked in radio archives to no avail; he has always wanted to track this book down. Any assistance would be deeply appreciated. Please contact Terese Mcleod.

HAPPY 70 YEARS YOUNG!



Happy belated birthday greetings to Antonio (Maverick) Esposito of Island Bay, who has reached the wonderful milestone of 70 years young! Buon compleanno Antonio, Club Garibaldi wish you many more happy and healthy years to come.

I recently spent a very pleasant afternoon with Tony and Carolina and want to share some of the topics Tony and I chatted about. Tony left his home in Massalubrense in late November 1959, arriving in New Zealand on 20 January 1960, at 20 years of age, to avoid doing the compulsory army conscription! Tony said that he did not have one cent in his pocket for the 'beginning of his new life on the other side of the world' and his 40 day sea voyage, so his compare, who accompanied him from Massalubrense to the Port of Naples, gave him

10,000 lira, which Tony said was a lot of money in those days, to tie him over until he got a job!

One vivid memory he has is that a short time after his arrival, Tony, naturally, wanted to sought out fellow Italians, so he took himself to Club Garibaldi, at the old Wakefield Street premises, only to initially be turned away, as he was not a club member: however, a senior relative vouched for him and Tony was allowed entry, then promptly became an active member! Quite a different situation today as Italian visitors from the four corners of the world, are warmly welcomed! See the next article for an example.

Tony said he thoroughly enjoyed the monthly dances and always counted the days to them – in his words 'they were fantastic!' The clubrooms were always full to capacity, everybody mingled and had lots of fun. Tony danced every dance; and it didn't matter to him whether his dancing partner was young or old!

Tony also recalls the great picnics that Florio Zandi, Club President at that time, would hold for Club members every summer on his property in Tawa, where the bucket tree is. Yet another good memory was when he played his first game of bowls at the Club. He played so well that he shocked the older bowlers who did not believe he had not played the game before – obviously he was a natural!

A WARM WELCOME

The following is an example of Italian visitors welcomed to the Club: At a Sunday shared lunch earlier this year, two men came in off the street – said they had seen the Club Garibaldi sign on the outside wall and because they were Italian, thought they would come up and see what was happening as they'd heard voices! I introduced myself and welcomed them in – they said they were back-packing around New Zealand and had not met any Italians! As we were about to have lunch I invited them to join us – they shyly declined, but with a little persuasion they stayed – in their words 'but only for 10 minutes'! They stayed all day! As conversation flowed the men said they were carabinieri from Puglia and Rome, and this was their first visit to New Zealand. *Ginette*

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOSEPH ZINO

Congratulations to Joseph Zino of Island Bay, who recently won the Hutt Valley Champion of Champion Indoor Bowls singles. Joseph now goes on to play in the New Zealand singles final to be played in Ashburton in September. This is the third year in a row that he has gone on to the New Zealand finals. Another Garibaldi Club member who competed against Joseph, Marcus Trlin, made the semi final - well done, Marcus! Indoor bowls is played at the Club every Sunday afternoon, so come along and give it a go – it's a lot of fun!



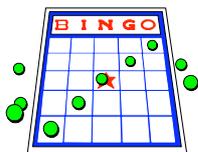
CIRCOLO ITALIANO – SEPTEMBER SOCIAL

At 7.30pm on Thursday 2 September, Robert Carew will talk to us about his experiences in Grado, Italy. Robert was the recipient of the Circolo 2009 Charles Bell Memorial Scholarship and in June/July 2010 he studied at Scuola Insieme for 6 weeks. The resort of Grado, in the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, like Venice, is situated on a group of low islands in the middle of the Adriatic lagoon, attached to the mainland by a long narrow causeway. Robert's Power Point presentation will contain many beautiful images and his descriptions will enlighten us! 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. 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, 5 September.***

TOMBOLA EVENING



The next tombola night will be on **Tuesday, 24 August**, at the usual time of 7.30pm. Please come along and feel free to bring a friend. Contact Maria if you have any questions.

SHARED LUNCH



The next shared lunch will be held at the clubrooms on **Sunday, 5 September** at 1.15 pm. All members and families are very welcome. Please bring a plate.

CIRCOLO ITALIANO - OCTOBER SOCIAL

At 7.30pm on **Thursday, 7 October**, Kate Ford will talk to us about her experiences at the Centro Studi Italiani school in Urbania. This school has become very popular with Circolo students and to date twelve of our members have studied there. Each person comes back to New Zealand with different points of view and we will look forward to Kate's presentation. Kate will also show us some photos of Urbania and the surrounding region. A \$4.00 cover charge towards supper will apply.

UPDATE ON PHOTO: REMEMBER THIS? DO YOU KNOW WHO THESE FISHERMEN ARE?

Since the last newsletter we now have the name of another fisherman, thanks to Carolina Esposito of Island Bay. The fisherman wearing a striped jumper at the front of the dingy is Gennaro Amitrano. There is only one person yet to be named – the person sitting at the end of the dingy! The men in the photo are now: ? *Santo Saffioti*, *Guy Famularo* (with a hand to his face), behind Guy, the man with an oar, *Gustavo Durante* ((known as *Albert Durante*), the man beside the one wearing the striped jumper is *Gaetano Tesoriero*, and *Gennaro Amitrano*. If you know who the un-named fisherman is please contact Ginette. The photo and any other relevant information will be stored in the club's archives.

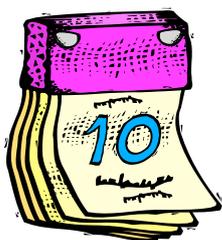


NEW BAR PERSON

A warm welcome to our new bar person Sophia Cooper.

Sophia joined us a couple of weeks ago and her first duty was to man the bar on the last Family Night. She did a great job! Here she is – standing besides the bust of Giuseppe Garibaldi in our foyer! If you have not already met Sophia, do introduce yourself to her.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Every Sunday (3.00pm to 8.00pm) Club Day

Tuesday 24 August (7:30pm) – Tombola

Thursday 2 September (7.30pm) – Circolo Italiano September Social

Sunday 5 September (11.30am) – Italian Mass

Sunday 5 September (1.15pm) – Shared Lunch

Thursday 7 October (7.30pm) – Circolo Italiano October Social

FAMILY NIGHT

Once again, the Family Night function on Friday, 30 July, at the club rooms was an outstanding success, with eighty adults and children, enjoying a very relaxed family evening together. Once again, 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 is always a joy to hear the clubrooms filled with the laughter and noise of the children. The evening's raffles were won by Ida Basile, and the syndicate of three members - Robin Page, Salve Natoli and Lib Mollo. Many thanks to Matt Amitrano, John Cao, Ginette and Robin Page, and Ana Quinn, without whose assistance the evening would not have been possible. Thank you also to the members who gave a helping hand - it was great to see everybody working as a team.



Some of our young Garibaldini at Family Night

ALDO CUCCURULLO MEMORIAL TROPHY FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

One of the biggest social events of the year is the annual game of football against Club Italia, Nelson, will be held on Saturday, 23 October, the first day of Labour Weekend. This year it is Club Garibaldi's turn, holders of the Aldo Cuccurullo Memorial Trophy for the last 5 years, to host the game which will be played at Te Whaea Park Artificial Turf, Hutchison Road, just above the old Winter Show Buildings, Newtown, at 3.00 pm. Come along and support the team.

The Club will also host Club Italia's team and supporters on the Saturday night at a shared dinner to be held at the clubrooms from 6.30pm. This is always a great night so don't miss it. Club members are asked to bring *two dishes* of their fine food to share with our visitors. On the Sunday club members and Nelson visitors are encouraged to get together for more social interaction over a meal. We are looking at having a lunch from 1pm at a yet to be confirmed venue.

FAMILY NIGHT – JULY 2010



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