



ESTABLISHED IN 1882

# Club Garibaldi News

July 2006

## The President's Report

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You will notice that this month's newsletter is a little later than usual – production was pleasantly interrupted, resulting in the following heading:

**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD!! VIVA ITALIA!**

From 5am until late in the evening, Monday, 10 July, it was full on! A day which will go down in history. After 24 years, Italy brought home the Soccer World Cup!! 200 Italian supporters and members of Club Garibaldi and the Island Bay Soccer Club gathered together to watch the final game on the big screen at Island Bay. One word describes the atmosphere and emotion that emanated ~ 'electrifying'!

Later that evening, the celebrations continued at our clubrooms where 180 people partied on. Filled to capacity, the club's community sang the Italian anthem with so much passion, that it nearly lifted the roof off!! It was great to see people of all ages, from babies to seniors, enjoying the warm camaraderie. At one point, there was barely standing room; voices shrilled with excitement and pride; many watched the victorious game again, re-living every move or kick the Italian team players made!

Of course, functions like this do not just 'happen'. There is always a dedicated team behind the scenes, ensuring that all runs smoothly. Because of the uncertainty of Italy's victory, plans had to be organised 'just in case'. As I was committed to a two day work course, the bulk of the tasks fell onto my husband, Robin Page. I would like to sincerely thank Robin, for drawing up a contingency plan which ran like clockwork, and for doing a hundred and one things! Words cannot describe the generosity of Antonio Cacace. Besides catering for the occasion at cost, four of his staff members from La Bella Italia, were given gratis. Sincere thanks and much appreciation, Antonio. Many, many thanks also to Marie Barnao, Lisa Devitt, Maria Colucci, Jane Di Mattina, John Cao, Jo and Salvi Gaeta, Dominic Massa, Elizabeth Peek and a group of Circolo members, the Mediterranean Trio for playing a bracket of wonderful music, and to Alphonso Basile for baking two delicious cakes decorated with the words 'Italia – Campione del Mondo 2006'. To anybody else who helped in any way, many thanks for helping to make this fantastic evening a resounding success. Please accept this as a personal acknowledgement.

Recently, I was one of many guests who had the pleasure to attend the launching of club member, Marc-Olivier Leclercq's publication ~ a book of poetry titled 'New Zealand Poetic Images' at Whitereia Community College. Unbeknown to him, Marc-Olivier's lovely wife Cettina Agro organised a surprise launching! The look on Marc-Olivier's face, as guests arrived was a sight not to be missed! Formalities started with a powhiri given by Queenie Rikihana Hyland, herself a writer, and a short speech each by the tutor of the journalism class, Bernie Griffin, and Cettina, to which Marc-Olivier replied. This was followed by everybody singing one verse each of four different songs in Maori, Italian, English and French. We then shared a delicious supper and refreshments, which was catered by Cettina. Congratulations and well done, Marc-Olivier ~ the book is very special ~ you have good reason to be proud of it.

Anybody who wishes to purchase a copy of Marc-Olivier's book please contact Cettina on Tel: 04 568 9011. Cettina advises that the answer machine can sometimes take a minute before it starts, so please be patient! Leave your name and phone number, and she will phone you back.

Last week, on a wet, cold winter's night during the school holidays, a group of 20 children enjoyed a 'Kid's Movie Night' at the club. After dinner and ice cream, they all settled down and enjoyed a Disney movie. Many thanks to Lisa Devitt and Maria Colucci for organising this function for our young Garibaldini.

Our appreciation and thanks to new club member Dave DaCol, for volunteering his services to assist in providing and updating material for the club's website. Dave is an expert in this field, and under his guidance, we will have a first class website.

Ciao a presto

Ginette

## 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.

## Important Notice

It has been brought to the attention of the executive committee that on several occasions, more than 3 people at one time, have been seen to be using the moving platform. Once again, it is stressed the importance, not only for safety but also for mechanical reasons, **that only three persons use it at any one time.**

## Important Notice to All Club Members

After the AGM in August, members who are not financial will be taken off the newsletter mailing list. Please also note that people without a 2006/07 car parking sticker on the back windscreen to indicate they are financial members, risk being towed away when they park in the club car park.

## Italian Radio Programme Comes to New Zealand

Dear Radio Iris listeners,

This is our monthly newsletter, which you can subscribe to by emailing the following address:

[radioiris@mail.com](mailto:radioiris@mail.com)

We also have a website that you can visit, and from which you can download some of the audio files that have been broadcast by Radio Iris.

Here is the link: <http://www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/departments/index.cfm?P=9920>

Thank you for all the lovely feedback about the broadcasts. We are always happy to get your comments and suggestions.

**Note: Please refer to the June newsletter for the programmes.**

Ciao a tutti

Micaela Mecocci

## Welcome to New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members: Giampietro Fren of Hamilton, David Da Col of Island Bay and Stephen Zino of Island Bay.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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## Italian Mass

The next Italian Mass will be held on Sunday 6 August 2006 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 6 August 2006 at 1pm. All members and families are very welcome. Please bring a plate.



## Italian Films

Italian films which have English sub-titles are shown on the third Thursday of every month. They are held at Club Garibaldi at 7 pm. A \$2 donation will be appreciated.



At 7pm on Thursday 17 August we will show the film **The Cruellest day (Il piu crudele dei giorni)** 2003. On 20 March 1994, Rai TV news reporter Ilaria Alpi and her cameraman Miran Hrovatin were murdered in an ambush in Mogadishu. "The cruelest day" traces what happened to the two through a maze of plot twists that contain all the rhythm and gripping tension of the best spy stories. Duration 96 minutes.

## Tombola

The Tombola nights are held every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. The next evening will be on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> July at the usual time of 7.30pm. Please come along, and feel free to bring a friend.

## Circolo August Social

At 7.30pm on Thursday 3 August, Carolina Izzo, who is an Art Conservator, will give us a presentation on her recent trip to Italy. Carolina lead a tour and the group visited many of the restoration sites where she worked before coming to New Zealand. Carolina did a presentation for the Circolo 2 years ago and it was extremely well-received by a very appreciative audience. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Carolina - it will be a Power Point presentation so you will also see some fantastic photos and images of her work.

A cover charge of \$4 towards supper will apply.

## Family Shared Lunch

Come join us! Bring your family to a shared lunch at the club on **Sunday, July 23**, at 12 noon. Please bring a plate. Enjoy an afternoon of togetherness, which will include some fun and games for the children.

## Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at the clubrooms on 7.00 pm on Sunday, 20 August 2006. Details about the submission of motions and nominations for the executive committee can be found later in this newsletter. Remember that only paid-up members are eligible to vote at the AGM or serve as a member of the executive committee.



## A Night at the Garibaldi

**Advance notice is given of the next show nights in the GC Benefit Series to be held at the Clubrooms on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th November 2006.**

Bookings now accepted.

Ticket price \$25 (includes light supper). There will be no door sales.

## World Cup Celebrations



Left: Teresa Mollo, Linda De Gregorio, Maria Colucci  
Front: Lisa Devitt



Victory cake baked by Alphonso Basile



Vera Serci and Tony Muollo



Angela Gaeta Loibl and son Wade



Jo Gaeta and Cristina Vinaccia



Armando Gilmoni & Giorgio Benvenuti



Three little princesses enjoying their supper



Ginette Toscano Page, Antonio Cacace with Pat  
Vinaccia, raffle winner

## Silvio Famularo – 70 Years Young!

Congratulations to Silvio Famularo who recently reached the milestone of 70 years young. Buon compleanno Silvio. Club Garibaldi wish you many more happy and healthy years to come.

## Baby Congratulations

Best wishes to Luigi and Alexandra Muollo on the safe arrival of their son Antonio Demetrios. A grandson for Tony and Anna Maria Muollo of Oriental Bay.



## Condolences

Our deepest sympathy to Ines Rafferty and family of Lower Hutt, on the recent passing of their husband, father and grandfather, John Joseph Rafferty.

## The Late Father Mate Kolich

The club offers it's condolences to the Kolich family of Island Bay, on the recent passing away in Croatia of Father Mate Kolich. Fr Kolich served for many years in parishes in Wellington and was a friend and pastor to so many of the Italian community. He retired home to Croatia, a few years ago. R.I.P.

## A Bit of Trivia!

### Florence:

A huge Roman villa has been unveiled at Montelupo, just outside Florence - one of the biggest Roman farms ever discovered.

'Villas like these were fully fledged factories for the production of wine, olive oil, meat, corn and other products', said archaeologist Fausto Berti. 'We've found big animal pens, warehouses and a workshop for making ceramic vases'. Berti said the villa and farm must have had its own teams of craftsmen and a small army of slaves.

The well-preserved 500 metre square villa, which shows high architectural standards, has large, elegant rooms, spacious gardens and a long entrance way. It also has fully equipped baths which could produce levels of heat, warm water and steam, as well as a facility to turn down the temperature. There is also a heated water pool, a hot room, a cooling-off room, and a well preserved sauna.

## Telecom 2006 International Film Festival

The club recently received the following notification from Sibilla Papparatti, Publicity Assistant, for the Telecom 2006 International Film Festival.

There is a variety of films of interest to the Italian community that will be featured in the festival. Auckland: July 13 to 30, Wellington: July 21 to August 6, and Hamilton: August 17 to September 3. Most of the films will have English sub-titles. See your daily papers for venue details, dates and sessions.

## Profile of Luca Quaglia

Honesty Boxes  
By Luca Quaglia

Whenever I make acquaintance with someone new, the first question I am always asked is "Where are you from?". My reply of "I come from Italy" usually generates comments like "Oh! What a wonderful country! What nice food! Oh! The sunshine..." Often the second question is "How have you ended up in New Zealand?" I usually answer by telling a true anecdote that perfectly shows how, very often, behind the circumstances of life, there is a thin line which makes sense but which usually starts with some random events.

As a teenager (I cannot remember the year) I was enjoying the long, school summer holidays in my native village, Fagnano Olona. Fagnano Olona is in the province of Varese between the Lake Maggiore and Lake Como, close to the border with Switzerland and not too far away from Milan.

I woke up very early one morning (although I'm not usually an "early bird") and while I was eating breakfast, I switched on the television. Randomly zapping, I stopped on a documentary about New Zealand. At the time, all I knew that it was an island off the coast of Australia (luckily not under Australian control!). The documentary showed a journalist travelling around the South Island and North Island, describing the local amenities and beauties. I was immediately amazed by this green and wild country, by the alpine peaks, by the long beaches completely deserted (who has spent holidays in Italy will know how "deserted" can Italian beaches be in summertime...), by the geysers... But the two best memories of that documentary were the yellow-eyed penguins near Dunedin, and above all, the unattended sheds with the "honesty boxes" on the West Coast! I thought "What a bizarre country!!! In Italy after half an hour not only the money, the fruit and vegetables would have gone but probably also the whole shed!!!"

From that day I started reading articles and books about Aotearoa and the desire to come here never left me. For a long time that desire was just "sitting in a drawer". I attended a University for Engineers in Milan, then spent 7 years in France studying and working. In 2004 I returned to Fagnano Olona and found a temporary job at the Politecnico of Milan. But Italy is "un paese di santi, poeti e navigatori" (a country of saints, poets and sailors) and the impulse to be a citizen of the world grew stronger and stronger. And the idea of coming to New Zealand came out from the drawer. After obtaining a one-year visa, on Christmas Eve I purchased an airline ticket, and at the end of January 2005 I arrived in Christchurch. From the start, the main idea was to find a job and to settle down.

Initially, I knew no one, and had only planned where I would spend my first two weeks. During that time I worked as a wwoof (willing worker on organic farm) in a home-stay in Christchurch. Although Christchurch is a nice city, I wasn't sure it was where I wanted to stay, so decided to come to Wellington in order to wwoof in another home-stay. When I arrived Wellington, it was one of the most beautiful days of summer; the ones when the sky is so blue! I was really charmed by Wellington, and that charm is still with me: the hills, the sea, a magnificent harbour, friendly people. After a year and a half, I'm still here and happy. This all started years ago, with the honesty boxes.....

## Kids Movie Night



A happy group of children at the Kids Movie Night, with Jo, Maria, Lisa and Ginette

## The Rubbo Family of the South Island's West Coast

By Giovanni Martini

A person recently asked if Italians lived only in the North Island. This amazed me as there are many Italians living in the South Island. The following family is an example of a good, hard working Italian family who have resided on the South Island's West Coast since 1927!

Giovanni Rubbo's father emigrated from Conco (Vicenza) in 1927, and worked hard in the coal mines for many years. After World War 2 he set up his own business, which was eventually taken over by his son Giovanni (Johnny), who ran it until retiring a couple of years ago.

Johnny is a treasure for us. He makes unbeatable Italian salami and pancetta, as well as great wine, which is made from grapes and not powder, and superb Italian Grappa.

Johnny is well-known for his generosity and big heart – **Johnny Rubbo in one of the secret chambers..!** after visiting Johnny's home you can be sure to always go home with a bottle of wine and salami!



**Front row =Jenny Rubbo(Brown)- George Rubbo -Max Rubbo(twins)- Harvey Rubbo  
Back row =Sean Brown- Robbie Brown -GIOVANNI RUBBO(Johnny)and wife Pat Rubbo- Leonie Rubbo-  
Geoff Rubbo.**

## Glimpse into ~ ~ ~ Racalmuto

By Ginette Toscano Page

This month Racalmuto, Sicily, is featured, the area where Cettina Agro Le Clerc was born.

Racalmuto is an ancient Sicilian town in a hilly agricultural area, 447 metres above sea-level, in the province of Agrigento, 183 kilometres from Catania, and 279 Kilometres from Messina, and was founded by the Arabs before the year 1000. The name Racalmuto derives from the Arab term Rahal-mut, which means 'il casale dei morti' (farmhouse of the dead) as many cemeteries have been discovered in the area. The town has 10,419 inhabitants and the locals



**Cettina Agro & Marc-Olivier Le Clerc**

are called 'Roccalutesi'. Over the centuries it has been known as an international crossroad, and has some of the best Greek ruins and artefacts outside of Greece.

The town is a large agricultural and mining centre, and harvests huge crops of the 'Italia' variety of grapes, cereals, olives and almonds as well as mining rock salt. Their patron saint is Our Lady of Racalmuto.

There are many archaeological sites throughout the area, the most outstanding is Contrada Sacchitello, home of many pre-historical caves.

The first suburb was founded around a fortified castle erected during the thirteenth century by Lord Federico Chairamonte. Later, the town became the domain of the noble Del Carretto family until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1576 Lord Girolamo Del Carretto was appointed the title of the first Count of Racalmuto.

Racalmuto has many outstanding, historical monuments such as, Castello dei Chiaramonte, the Chiesa Madre, dedicated to the Annunziata, which houses five marvellous paintings dated circa 1500, and the Chiesa di San Giuseppe, dated 1600.

Of remarkable interest is the ex Monastero di Santa Chiesa, reconstructed in 1872, which today hosts the Palazzo del Municipio (Town Hall building).

Racalmuto's most famous son is the defiant author, Leonardo Sciascia, 1921 – 1989, has been described by many, as one of the greatest modern writers. In the 1950s, he made a name for himself in Italy and abroad as a novelist and essayist, and also as a controversial commentator on political affairs.

## Surprise article written by Robin Page

Dear members. The heading 'surprise' is because Ginette has no idea that I am putting this article into the newsletter. She will only find out about it when she actually reads the final production, when it arrives in the mail. I have had to be a bit 'sneaky' here and arranged for Paul and Luca to do the editing and translating separately. The reason for this is that she would never agree for it to go to print, believe me – I should know, as I have known her for almost 40 years now. We got married in 1969.

I have been a club member for most of that time and became actively involved on the executive committee in 1975. During that time I have spent 10 years as club treasurer, and still hold that position today.

During that time span, there have been 7 club presidents. Each one has given **HIS** time, personal talents and expertise to the benefit of our club. Today the president is a **HER!** Certainly a milestone seen as only a few years ago women were not even entitled to be active members.

During the last 10 months as club president, Ginette has had to face, and overcome many challenges. She has also learnt much and benefited from this new and most satisfying position. She spends a great deal of time preparing the monthly newsletters, and in turn has received good feedback from members. You will note that she always thanks those who help with the many chores necessary to run our club.

I wish to take this opportunity to **thank her for doing a great job.** I acknowledge her as the president with a warm heart, and a talent to smooth out a situation quickly, should one arise. I am sure that her natural and cheerful presence is appreciated by all our members. **Viva nostro presidente, Ginetta.**

