



Club Garibaldi News

October 2006

The President's Report

Robin and I have returned to the fold, after nearly 6 weeks away in Italy. As always, when one is enjoying themselves, time past much too quickly, and before we knew it, it was time to board the plane to return home. As well as having a wonderful time, we met lots of people, and had the opportunity to take part in a festival which has been celebrated for centuries. I have written an article on this experience under the heading 'A Glimpse into ~~~ Casalvecchio Siculo', further on in this newsletter.

I would like to encourage everybody to share their holiday experiences, including photos, with their fellow members. We will all be enriched with the knowledge we learn. See under 'Sharing News'.

It was most pleasing to learn that October's shared lunch was attended by nearly 60 people. Hmmm..... word is slowly going around that Club Garibaldi is the 'best restaurant in town'! Remember, everyone is welcome, and the 'more the merrier'.

Just a reminder to put a circle on your calendar – **Saturday, 11 November 2006** – 'Get Together Night'. Maria Colucci and Dianne Trlin have been planning this evening for some time for club members' enjoyment. See article further on in this newsletter.

Ciao a presto.

Ginette

Club Garibaldi Website

Remember to check it regularly. www.clubgaribaldi.org.nz any comments or further ideas will be most welcome.

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.

Welcome to New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members: Bianca Hoddle of Wadestown, and Rafael Ferrer Noel of Wellington.

Baby Congratulations

Joseph and Danette Muollo of Khandallah, on the safe arrival of their daughter, Isabella. A grand daughter for Tony and Eileen Muollo of Island Bay, Wellington.

Joe and Debbie Lupi of Khandallah, on the safe arrival of their daughter, Bianca.

Peter and Barbara Panettieri of Kilbirnie, on the safe arrival of their daughter Alina. A granddaughter for Angela Panettieri of Kilbirnie, Wellington



Bianca Lupi

Wedding Congratulations

Rosina van der Aa, eldest daughter of Maria (nee Moleta) and Jacques van der Aa of Turangi, was married to Rafael Ferrer Noel, youngest son of Josefina Noel Hunt and Ramon Ferrer Telles of Havana - Cuba, on Saturday 19 August in a nuptial mass celebrated by Monsignor Janusz Urbanczyk and witnessed by Nina Cuccurullo and Waltherus van der Aa at Saint Mary of the Angels, Wellington. The mass was followed by a photo session on the rocks in Island Bay and a reception with lots of dancing to Rafael's band at The Pines in Houghton Bay. Auguri and a special welcome to Rafael, who has just become a member of the Club.

Left to Right - Waltherus van der Aa (brother of the bride and witness), Maria van der Aa (mother of the bride), Rosina van der Aa (bride), Rafael Ferrer Noel (groom) and Jacques van der Aa (father of the bride) taken outside Saint Mary's of the Angel after the nuptial mass.

Gli Sposi - Rosina and Rafael



Soccer fundraiser dinner helpers



A woman's work is never finished – Mikaela Devitt



Hard-working dishwashers - Antonella Cuccurullo, Luigi and Anna Cacace

UPCOMING EVENTS

Italian Mass

The next Italian Mass will be held on Sunday 5 November 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 3 December 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 16 November we will show the film **Sacred Heart (Cuore Sacro)** 2005. From the director of "Facing Windows" comes a wonderful warm new drama, centring on a steely-hearted woman who inexplicably finds her redemption.



Duration 114 minutes.

Tombola

The Tombola nights are held every 4th Tuesday of the month. The next evening will be on Tuesday the 28th November at the usual time of 7.30pm. Please come along, and feel free to bring a friend.

A Night at the Garibaldi

3rd & 4th November 2006
Both nights are now sold out.



Garibaldi 'Get Together Night'

On Saturday, 11 November, the club will be holding a **"Get Together Night"** Do you fancy a game of bowls or cards? Perhaps you would prefer just come along for a chat, a drink and have some supper. Friends and non members are most welcome. This would also be a good opportunity for new members to come along and meet the regulars.

There will be a raffle of Italian goodies, so come and make it a fun night to remember. Entry is free - ladies please bring a plate. Doors will open at 6.30pm. Each person will receive a door number, and one lucky person will win a bottle of Italian vino. If you have any other ideas to contribute to the evening please contact either

A Bit of Trivia!

By Ginette

Vespa Celebrates 60th Birthday

By Ginette

The legendary Italian motor scooter Vespa, recently celebrated its 60th birthday with a big party and the unveiling of three new models at Vespa's headquarters. At the same time, a presentation of a project to build a new Vespa Museum was unveiled by well known architect Massimiliano Fuksas. Vespa's actual birthday was on 23 April 1946, and registered in Florence by Piaggio & Company.

After World War 2, Enrico Piaggio, and Corradino D'Ascanio, an aircraft designer by trade, came up with the idea of producing a cheap, small-engine bike with its gear shift on the handle bar and the motor over the back wheel. This was then covered in a steel cowling which gave the scooter its distinctive shape that made it look like a wasp, which in Italian is vespa.

The scooter was an immediate success, acting as the proto-type for all scooters to follow. By 1949, over 35,000 scooters were produced and by the mid-50's Piaggio was producing the Vespa in Britain, Germany, France, Belgium, Spain, Indonesia and India. In Britain the Vespa became a cultural icon and in the early 1960's it was the preferred transportation for the young people who called themselves 'Mods', compared to the 'Rockers' who rode motor cycles.

The Vespa was used in the 1953 film 'Roman Holiday', in which Gregory Peck portrays journalist who gives princess-in-disguise Audrey Hepburn, a tour of the Italian capital on the back of his Vespa.

After losing ground to Japanese competitors, the Vespa has made a major come-back over the last five years, thanks to the introduction of new models which are easier to drive and more environmentally friendly. This re-opened the door to the lucrative United States market, where they had been banned since the 1980's because of the poor emissions ratings.

Over 120 different Vespa models have been produced since 1946 and more than 16 million scooters have been sold.

Glimpse into ~~~ Casalvecchio Siculo, Messina

By Ginette Toscano Page

This month Casalvecchio Siculo is featured, the area where my paternal grandfather, Antonino Toscano was born.



A side view of Casalvecchio Siculo

to several family names of the area.

I would like to share with you a little about the time I spent in Casalvecchio which sits high up in the mountains, a short distance from the city of Messina. This visit was very emotional for me. The village is of Greek Byzantine origin, circa 1351, and has fantastic panoramic views. Robin and I were made to feel most welcome, especially when word spread (very quickly) that I was a descendent with links

Today, there are approximately 1,200 inhabitants, compared to nearly 5,000 around 80 years ago. Their devotion to Sant'Onofrio Anacoreta, patron saint of the area, is very strong! We were able to participate in the festival celebrations in his honour and witnessed centuries old traditions. Once a year, for one week only, the silver statue of Sant'Onofrio, who protected the local population from the plague in Sicily in 1347, and made in 1745 by Giuseppe Arico from Messina, is displayed on the side of the high altar in

the Baroque style 17th century church. Hundreds of people of all ages from neighbouring villages came to join the locals, to pay homage ...

It was incredible watching everybody, including teenagers and young adults, kissing their hands, then placing them on Sant'Onofrio's feet, as he was mounted on a high pedestal. This motion was always repeated three times in succession.

Another wonderful experience was the arrival of 'u camiddu', which means a camel. It is actually a giant frame in the shape of a camel, its body draped in red cloth, except for the long neck and face, and manipulated by two young men, lead by an older man in traditional Sicilian dress. The camel trotted up and down, through the village streets, 'snapping' its huge mouth at the bystanders in jest... their excitement was infectious! As a sign of respect for elderly townsfolk, especially to those sitting on benches, u camiddu would kneel briefly on its two front legs, allowing the people to stroke his neck, before standing to chase the youngsters around! This enactment symbolises the villagers' liberation from tyranny under the House of Savoca, which began in early 1700.



'U camiddu' – the Camel

The next evening, just prior to carnival time, a full procession took place along the main village street, from one end to the other. Eight men, carried the statue of Sant'Onofrio on a platform, on their shoulders, which was decorated with flowers and candles, while the on lookers sang hymns and psalms.

At midnight, thousands crowd the streets waiting for the Sciccareddu – which means 'the donkey' to appear!

First, six young men cleared a pathway by spraying a gushing shower of sparkling fireworks at the bystanders who quickly jumped out of their way! Then a man appeared, wearing an iron frame in the shape of a huge donkey with firecrackers attached every few inches. With a flick of a switch fireworks commenced – green, white and red tracers, attached to wheels turned and spun with the pressure of the crackers! U sciccareddu chased anyone in his path, crowds screamed to get out of the way of flinging fireworks and rockets which fired up into the dark skies.



U Camiddu lead by a man in traditional Sicilian dress

The finale came when u sciccareddu bowed down at the feet of the statue of Sant'Onofrio on the church steps....a spectacular sight! Sant'Onofrio was then carried back into the Church followed by hundreds of people singing and paying their last respects, before he was gently encased and stored away for another year.

Dates for your Diary

- Friday 3rd November
- Saturday 4th November
- Sunday 5th November (11:30am)
- Saturday 11th November (7:30pm)
- Thursday 16th November (7:00pm)
- Tuesday 28th November (7:30pm)
- Sunday 3rd December (1:00pm)
- Wednesday 6th December
- Sunday 10th December (12:00pm)
- A Night at the Garibaldi
- A Night at the Garibaldi
- Italian Mass
- Get Together Night Club Garibaldi
- Italian Film
- Tombola
- Shared Lunch
- Senior Luncheon
- Children's Christmas Party