



Club Garibaldi News

September 2006

The President's Annual Report

Time certainly does fly! It is hard to believe that already a year has passed since my election as the first woman president of Club Garibaldi in 123 years. During this time I have found the position both challenging and rewarding, and sometimes, like a roller coaster! However, with each passing month, as my confidence grows, I am ready to face whatever challenge awaits me.

Many people have supported me through this journey, and I would like to use this public arena to thank them. Club Garibaldi is moving from strength to strength, and once again, 2006 has proved to be very successful. This year's festival was the biggest to date, as well as financially. The club also has a moving platform/lift enabling all members easy access to the clubrooms, and the number of members who have frequented club events and functions has risen. As at end of our financial year in June 2006, membership stood at its highest, with 363 members! With success, there is always a strong team, whom I would like to sincerely thank.

First and foremost, my sincere thanks and much appreciation to my husband Robin, who not only holds the full-on position of club treasurer, he has been totally supported me in absolutely every facet of my position. Without him my tasks would be that much harder - he is my rock!

My sincere thanks to the outstanding members of the executive committee - Antonio Cacace, Marie Barnao, Lisa Devitt, Maria Colucci, John Cao, Martin van der Donk and Joe Lupi, as well as trustees - Paul Elenio and Armando Gilmoni, and legal adviser, Rex Da Vanzo. It has been a pleasure working with them all and their support and help has been invaluable - they are certainly a great team.

Special thanks and much appreciation to Salvi Gaeta, who has been great in every way. Not only has he taken on the task of Building Manager, which he does extremely well, he has continued to help and support me in making the transition from being secretary to president with ease.

Special thanks also to Paul Muollo, for formatting the monthly newsletters which we all enjoy reading, and to Luca Quaglia for his fantastic Italian translations. Nothing is ever too much for Paul and Luca - and always with a smile on their faces!

Many thanks also to the members of the social committee, the membership officer, Caterina Costa, Nina Cuccurullo for the huge undertaking in organising the children's Italian language classes, Elizabeth Peek for her great support, and to everybody who has assisted in any way to help with the smooth running of our wonderful club.

To our team of entertainers - the Mediterranean Trio, the Tarantella Dancers and Il Coro Choir - special thanks for not only carrying Club Garibaldi's banner high outside of our club, but for also sharing your talents with your fellow members at club functions.

Finally, my thanks and appreciation to each of you - the membership - for your continued support of me over the last year. Our wonderful club has gone from strength to strength, and I promise to continue to do my very best in every way for Club Garibaldi, of whom I am very proud to be the president.

Ciao a presto.
Ginette

Club Garibaldi Website

Website address: www.clubgaribaldi.org.nz

Francesca Costa

Club member Francesca Maria Costa, daughter of the late Bartolo Costa and Maria Luisa Costa (nee Panettieri), has completed a Masters Thesis on the experiences of second-generation Strombolani women living in New Zealand. 'Le Strombolane' traces the lives of several women whose parent/s originated from the island of Stromboli, Southern Italy. This research focuses on their Catholic schooling during the 1950s – 1970s and the impact of two cultures on their learning process. It depicts the disadvantage of Italian and other ethnic children, during this period, due to language and other differences, and highlights the influence of teachers and parental attitudes on their education outcomes. The formation of identity in Italian descendants is also a feature of this study, which emphasises that, while each woman in the study describes themselves as New Zealanders, they also claim a strong loyalty to their Italian heritage.

Francesca draws comparisons with Australian studies on Southern Italian women, which emphasise a resurgence of cultural identity for many second-generation descendants, who adopt the role of 'cultural guardians' of their traditional values and practices for future generations. This study relates a similar role for Strombolani descendants, in their concern that the stories of 'home', related by their parents and grandparents and their Strombolani dialect may eventually become lost.

A copy of 'Le Strombolane', will be presented to the Club Garibaldi later this year. It will also be available through the Victoria University library.

Welcome to New Members

A warm welcome to the following new member: Jane Loughnan of Mt Cook, Wellington and Rhonda Da Via, Lower Hutt.

Baby Congratulations

Best wishes to Niamh and Rob Zande in Ireland, on the safe arrival of their daughter, Aoife Alice. A granddaughter for Marcella and Liberale Zande of Lower Hutt.

Best wishes to Nicole and Geoff Zame, on the safe arrival of their daughter Eva Loren. A granddaughter for Dom and Carole Zame of Karori, Wellington



Annual General Meeting

The annual meeting was held at the clubrooms in August with a reasonable attendance by club members. There was a special guest in the form of the club's patron, the Italian Ambassador to New Zealand.

Mattio Amitrano of Island Bay was elected to the vacancy on the executive committee.

The members passed a resolution that changes the qualification for senior membership of the club. Previously members who were 70 years of age had to be a financial member of the club for at least two consecutive years prior to being granted free membership. The annual meeting agreed that the qualification should be five consecutive years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

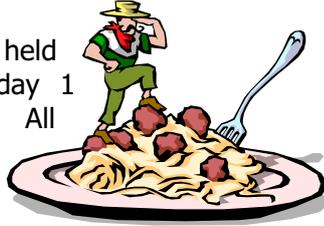
Italian Mass

The next Italian Mass will be held on Sunday 1 October 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 1 October 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.

As the Italian Film Festival is scheduled between 18 October - 1 November, there will be no Italian Film night at the Club during October.



Tombola

The Tombola nights are held every 4th Tuesday of the month. The next evening will be on Tuesday the 26th September at the usual time of 7.30pm. Please come along, and feel free to bring a friend.

Circolo October Social

At 7.30pm on Thursday 5 October the Circolo will celebrate the last social of the year with a Grand Extravaganza concert. There will be items by the Italian Language students and other entertainment.

A \$4 cover charge towards supper will apply.

A Night at the Garibaldi

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



Garibaldi 'Get Together Night'

On Saturday November 11th from 7:30pm the club will be holding a **"Get Together Night"** Do you fancy a game of bowls, or perhaps you would prefer a game of cards, or just come along for a chat and have some supper?

There will be a raffle for some lucky person to win. So come on and make it a night to remember. Entry free - Ladies please bring a plate.

Social Event Dates

Please pencil into your diaries and calendars the dates for upcoming social functions:

- Senior luncheon, Wednesday December 6
- Children's Christmas Party, December 10 at 12 noon

Soccer Challenge – Viva Garibaldi!

One of our biggest social events of the year is the annual soccer game against Club Italia which will be held on Saturday August 21, the first day of Labour weekend. This year it is Club Garibaldi, holders of the Aldo Cuccurullo Memorial Trophy, to host the game which will be played at Petone Memorial Park at 2.30pm. All club members are asked to be at the game to support your team – come along and make some noise! We also hope to schedule a curtain raiser children's game involving the children of our members.

The Garibaldi team will be coached by Paul Muollo and training will be held at Wakefield Park, Island Bay, on Sunday mornings at 10am.

We will then host our Nelson visitors at the usual Saturday night shared dinner to be held at the clubrooms from 6.30pm. This is always a great night when the trophy is presented to the winning captain and we get to tell each other why our club's team was the best one. Club members are asked to bring at least two dishes of their fine food to share with our visitors.

As usual on the Sunday our members and our visitors are encouraged to get together for more social interaction over a meal. This year we have booked Antonio to provide his fine establishment in Petone, La Bella Italia, for dinner on the Sunday. We will sit down for dinner at 6pm. Cost will be \$35 for adults and \$15 for children aged under 10 years.

Soccer Fundraiser

Just over 60 people enjoyed a wonderful four-course meal with Italian wine and beer and each other's company in a special dinner to raise funds for our soccer team's annual game against Club Italia of Nelson for the Aldo Cuccurullo Memorial Trophy. Master of ceremonies and executive chief was our own Vice-President Antonio Cacace. Many thanks to Antonio for his generosity in providing the meal at a very low price, allowing about \$1400 to be raised from the night. It would have been an even more successful night had more club members supported the dinner – maybe next time? Thanks also to our dish washers on the night – the wonderfully talented and hard-working young team of Anna and Luigi Cacace, Antonella Cuccurullo and Mikaela Devitt.

Invitation to Attend a Forum

By Carolina Izzo

You are invited to a Special Introduction About The Landmark Forum Led by an Introduction Leader

Date: Thursday October 05th 7.00 pm - 10.30 pm. An extraordinary Opportunity to hear about The Landmark Forum and discover what is possible for your life.

Where: Landmark Education, Level one Delloite House 10, Brandon Street –

Next Available Landmark Forum: October 20, 21, 22 & 24

This Introduction will last approximately three hours. In the first part, you will have an opportunity to invent a new possibility in an area of life which is important to you.

There will be a break halfway through the Introduction which will give you an opportunity to ask questions, and to talk with your friends and others who have participated in The Landmark Forum.

In the second half of the session, the leader will continue the discussion to give you a deeper sense of the value you get from The Landmark Forum. Graduates will speak about their experiences and the difference the programme has made in their lives. Some people attending the Introduction will engage with the leader in a conversation, others will sit and listen. You do not need to say anything. You will have the opportunity to consider results you want to produce for yourself and whether you want to participate.

Club Italia Nelson – 75TH Jubilee

By Ginette

When our sister club, Club Italia in Nelson, recently celebrated their 75th jubilee, Robin and I, as Club Garibaldi's representatives, had the pleasure of attending a great day of friendship and celebration. The following is a brief history of the club.

On 11 December 1931, a group of Italian immigrants sat on the church steps in Nelson and had their photograph taken. Mostly farmers and fishermen, they represented their wives and young families and formed the backbone of a newly established local Italian community. On this day, they celebrated the grand opening of Club Italia Nelson. Today, only one foundation member survives - Jim Romano. Over the years the club has operated from three different premises, and in 1957, a property was purchased in Trafalgar Road.

The day of celebrations commenced at the clubrooms with the group 'Italian Singers Nelson' and the Italian community singing the Italian national anthem, before a Mass Celebration by Father Patrick Bridgeman, who is the club's patron. Nelson's Mayor, Paul Matheson, was also in attendance. Following Mass, lively conversation was shared in between delicious nibbles and drinks until it was time for a full lunch at the Trailways Hotel.

It was really pleasing to see the hotel venue filled to capacity, with nearly 200 guests, including children. Once seated, we were welcomed by the MC, Fred Persico – and so, a wonderful afternoon was shared. Following the official formalities we were again, entertained by the Italian Singers Nelson, with popular Italian songs, and Dominic Esposito of Melbourne, playing the violin. This was followed by awards given to two hard working, long standing members, Jim Romano and Francie Di Leva, and the cutting of a beautifully decorated celebratory cake.



Fr Patrick Bridgeman celebrating Mass



Mayor Paul Matheson, Francie Di Leva, Ginette Toscano Page, David Clinton & Ali



Left: Raffaele & Rosanna Buonocore, Ginette Toscano Page



Right: Josephine Persico & David Clinton cutting the cake

Profile of Mario Leonti

Mariano Giovanni Mario Leonti



Born in Mondovi' (CN) 25 06 1948

Fluent in Italian, English, French and Spanish

Came to New Zealand in 1975, permanent resident since 1979, now dual nationality.

Classical education, salesman, silver and leather importer, restaurateur, IT consultant.

In the early 80s Mario started working and programming computers specializing on the Macintosh platform. He became a software developer, for example working with professors at Massey University to produce programmes for paediatricians and vets. A computer consultant and trouble-shooter but he increasingly concentrates on recording music, filming and non linear video editing.

In 2004 Mario co-organized the first Movie Fest short film nationwide competition at Te Papa.

Married to Patricia for nearly 30 years he spends most of his time in her company on their lifestyle block in the hills above Waikanae. They have a lovely daughter Mirina a music composer out of Victoria University and a graduate of the Actor Centre school of drama in Sydney who secured a small part on Home and Away shortly after graduation.

Mario enjoyed flying single engine airplanes and loves aerobatics.

He gets lots of pleasure from music and recording, trained in classical guitar but composes mostly on the piano and keyboards.

Very fond of his cat Micina and his German Sheppard, Ruby Mario, spends a good deal of quality time with them walking on beaches and the ranges above Waikanae.

His other passion is travelling. Mario spent 12 years on the road in the 60s and continues exploring new countries as often as his commitments allow him.

Mario joined the Council of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand 4 years ago and has been president for the last 2 years.

A Bit of Trivia!

By Ginette

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS CAME FROM PIEDMONT!

Turin - 14 June 2006

Historians are claiming that Christopher Columbus came from a tiny Piedmont village and not the bustling port of Genoa.

Turin is holding a conference soon, which numerous descendants of Columbus will attend, to explore the Piedmontese origin of the great explorer on the basis of recent Italian and international discoveries.

The organisers of the conference say that Columbus was born in Cuccaro Monferrato, south-east of Turin - a village which today, has just 370 inhabitants.

Giorgio Casartelli, head of the village's Columbus Centre, claims he has proof of Columbus' origins. He quoted 'In an inheritance case in 1608, a decision was handed down by the Spanish Colonial Council of the Indies, said that Columbus belong to the family of Colombos of Curraro'. Christopher Columbus in Italian is Cristoforo Colombo.

Casartelli said there is also further proof. A Seville University lecturer, Angelica Valentinetti has manuscripts which she discovered in the Spanish State Archives in Madrid, and another Italian researcher will present unpublished documents from Turin's State Archives, relating to the explorer's exploits as a young man.

The generally accepted view that Columbus was the son of a Genoese wool trader, Domenico Colombo, has been challenged over the years. Several Spanish scholars have contended he was of noble Spanish or Catalan origin, and an Italian historian, Renato Biagioli claims he was the illegitimate son of a Roman noblewoman and a Pope, who fathered him as a teenager, before he entered the Church.

It will be most interesting to see what conclusion the conference reaches.

Glimpse into ~~~ Ferrara

By Ginette Toscano Page

This month Ferrara is featured, the area where Felice Benvenuti was born and raised. Giorgio Benvenuti of Lower Hutt, although born in Tivoli, was also raised in Ferrara.

Ferrara is in the Emilia-Romagna region and capital city of the province of Ferrara, situated along the Po River, south of Venice and Padua, and north north-east of Bologna.



Felice & Shirley Benvenuti

Although the origin of Ferrara is vague, it was probably settled by the inhabitants of the Lagoons at the mouth of the River Po, and dates back around 1300 years when it was a Byzantine military fortified city. In 1115, the city became a free commune and in 1135, the Romanesque Cathedral was built.

The Este family ruled Ferrara from 1208 to 1598, constructing many of the wonderful monuments we enjoy today. Under the Estes, Ferrara became a centre for the arts. Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Titian and Petrarch, among others, spent time under their patronage. As the Estes did not have a male heir, the Pope claimed Ferrara and it became part of the Papal States. A fortress called Castel Tedaldo, constructed by Pope Paul VI, was occupied by an Austrian garrison from 1832 until 1859, until it became part of the Kingdom of Italy.

The city is surrounded by more than 9 kilometres of ancient walls, built between 1493 and 1505, with walking paths on top, and the most prominent building is the square Castello Estense - a brick building surrounded by a moat, with four towers, built in 1385.

Ferrara has many early Renaissance palaces, and one of the finest is Palazzo dei Diamanti, so named for the diamond points into which the facade's stone block are cut. It houses the National Picture Gallery which first came to prominence in the second half of the 15th century.

Some noted masters of the 16th century School of Ferrara (Painting) include Dosso Dossi, Girolamo da Carpi and Benvenuto Tisio (il Garofalo).

The Palium of St George is a typical medieval feast held every year on the last Sunday of May, and the Buskers Festival is a parade of the best street musicians in the world. In terms of tradition, it is the most important festival of its kind.



Giorgio Benvenuti