



ESTABLISHED IN 1882

Club Garibaldi News

December/Dicembre 2025

Club Garibaldi
118 Tory Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011
clubgaribaldi1882@gmail.com

Note from the President

Our patron, the Italian Ambassador to New Zealand, hosted the opening night of the Italian Film Festival at the Embassy Theatre on 18 November.

It was good to see many members of our club there. We really enjoyed the opening movie "Gloria", made even better by the music during the film. The sound system at the Embassy is amazing. There was much to discuss about the movie's plot.

The children's Christmas party was held on Sunday 23 November. Zappo the magician is a great entertainer and very funny. But the kids' faces lit up when Santa appeared. A big thank you to the Social Committee and everyone who assisted in making this such a happy time and, of course, a big thank you to Santa.



The Seniors' Lunch is at the Pines on Monday 15 December. We are looking forward to good turnout.

Early in 2026 two special events should be marked in members' calendars. There is the picnic at Days Bay on Sunday 15 February and the annual bus trip to the Wairarapa on Sunday 8 March. Details follow. The Events Co-ordinating Team had their first meeting in November and are arranging some exciting social events next year. We look forward to sharing with you more information in the New Year.

Finally, I wish to thank every one of you on behalf of the Executive Committee for supporting the Club this year and wish you all Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo. If you are travelling to be with family or friends, have a safe journey. Catch up in 2026.

Ciao for now

Frank Basile

Club Picnic

The club picnic will be held on Sunday 15 February 2026 at Area 6, Williams Park, Days Bay, the same place as last year. Start time is 11am.

Meat and fruit are supplied by the club. Bring your salads and refreshments and, of course, a beach umbrella. If you want the beach is just over the road.

Who is looking forward to **the jump off the pier challenge** this year? Who will be leading the charge?!

Bus Trip

The Events Co-ordinating Team has arranged another bus trip. Details:

- Sunday 8 March 2026.
- Lunch at the Runholder restaurant at Te Kairanga Vineyard, Martinborough.
- Cost per member: \$35. This includes the bus trip and lunch.
- All drinks are at your own cost.
- There will be a stop again in Greytown for an hour to refresh prior to departing for the venue.
- We need to confirm numbers by Friday 30 January.
- If you want to come, please call:
 - Josephine tel: 934 8720 or
 - Maria tel: 383 8476.
 - Please also provide your email address and cellphone number so we can easily contact you.
- The bus holds 49 people and your place on the bus will not be confirmed until your deposit is received into the club's **ANZ Account 06-0513-0005579-00 (Club Garibaldi)**.
- When paying by internet banking include the words Bus Trip in the particulars section. Under Reference please write your name.
- Please note current financial members as at the publication of this newsletter will have first preference and non-members will be allowed if there are seats available, but no subsidy will be made. They will need to pay full price for the day of \$70 per person.

Children's Italian Lessons

The Executive has agreed to support the learning of Italian for the children of our members who are **aged between 7 and 16 years old**. This is in association with the Circolo Italiano teacher-led programme.

For the sake of clarity, given possible future changes in the Club's financial circumstances (*e.g. the purchase of alternative premises and associated costs*) or changes to the Club's Executive Committee (*who may have other priorities*) the following has been **agreed** by the Executive:

The Club will meet the Circolo Italiano tuition cost of a child of a Club Garibaldi parent who is a current member of the Club for the 2026 academic year, subject to the following restrictions.

To qualify:

- The relationship between the child and its parent does not extend to a grandparent for the purposes of this concession; and the child must attend at least 50% of the available Italian language classes on offer each term.
- The fee shall be paid in instalments at the end of each term by Club Garibaldi; and this should be regarded as a pilot scheme which will be subject to annual review by the Club before the operating year's end to enable the Circolo to advertise its new classes in good time.

Note: There will be limited spaces available due to the tutor- child ratio.

The Club looks forward to working with Circolo Italiano as a continuation of the good relationship between us in facilitating our cultural objectives. Circolo Italiano advertise their programme for 2026 with term dates etc on the Circolo Italiano website.

Diamond Wedding

Congratulations to members Anna and Vince Basile of Island Bay who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 22 November.

New arrivals

Belated congratulations to Tom and Jessica Kelly on the birth of Noah Te Aroha Kelly, born 15 March 2025 and baptised at St Francis de Sales Church, Island Bay in July. Tom is the grandson of Karen (Saffioti) and Rangi Solomon and a regular player in the Club Garibaldi football team.



Condolences

Club Garibaldi expresses sincere condolences to the families of:

Giuseppe (Pepe) Volpicelli, died 28 November 2025 at the age of 67. He was the son of the late Raffaele and Carlotta Volpicelli of Island Bay. A funeral Mass was held at St Francis de Sales Church, Island Bay. He is survived by his sister Gina Owen and brother Salvi Volpicelli.

Paul Kelly, 60, son of Karen (Saffioti) and Rangi Solomon, passed away on 13 November 2025. Loving husband to Steph Archer and devoted father of Gabriella and Emile Archer-Kelly, Paul was buried following a service at St Francis de Sales Church.

Brenda Cancian, loved wife of Lou for 63 years, mother of Marie and Rex, Sylvana and Paul, Paul and Sue, died on 26 November at Shona McFarlane Retirement Village, aged 83. Requiem Mass was held at St Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Lower Hutt on 5 December.

Marco Costa – taekwondo champion

We asked club secretary Marco to write about his sport and his recent international successes.

I began training in Taekwondo in 2007. As a kid, I always wanted to learn a martial art, and my club in Berhampore was the first one my parents took me to—and I've never left since!

I earned my 1st Dan black belt in 2015 and my 2nd Dan in 2021. From the beginning, I've competed in various tournaments, including the Wellington Regionals and the New Zealand Nationals, where I've medalled in events such as sparring, power breaking, and specialty (flying high kicks).

My first international tournament was in 2018, where I won a silver medal at the Oceania Championships for team specialty. I was set to compete at the World Cup in Sydney that same year, but two days before the event, I broke my ankle and leg.

Due to that injury—and later COVID-19—I couldn't return to the international stage until 2024, when I competed at the World Cup in Mar del Plata, Argentina, narrowly missing out on a medal with a 4th place finish in individual male power breaking.



At the start of this year, I successfully trialled for the New Zealand team to compete at the Taekwondo World Championships in Poreč, Croatia from 8-11 October.

Unlike the World Cup, the World Championships have limited spots, and you truly represent your country. Preparing for this meant training seven days a week—four days of Taekwondo and three days at the gym—plus flying to Auckland every second month for team sessions. As Taekwondo is an amateur sport, everything is self-funded, so fundraising was a big part of the journey.



New Zealand sent a team of over 50 competitors, and with coaches and supporters, we were more than 100 strong. The tournament featured 1473 athletes from 57 countries. Historically, New Zealand has performed well at the World Championships, producing many world champions and even ranking as the best overall country in Wellington (2011) and Jesolo, Italy (2015). Powerhouses like Argentina, Poland, Ireland, Romania, and Italy are always strong contenders. Italy, for example, has Silvia Farigu, an 11-time world champion! I even got to meet some of the Italian team and practise my Italian as well as trade shirts with one of them.

I competed in the team male power breaking event, placing 5th, just missing out on a medal playoff. Overall, New Zealand placed 8th as a country.

Looking forward, my next goals are to compete at the World Cup in Spain next year and then at the World Championships in Paraguay in 2027.

New Members

The club welcomes as new members:

Lottie (Charlotte) Borra, originally from Trescore Balneario in the province of Bergamo.

Denis Smith whose grandfather emigrated from Gorno in northern Italy to Fremantle and then Reefton in the South Island.

Newsletter and Social Media

To enable the newsletter to be published in the middle of the month, please send any articles or news you may want to be included in the newsletter to Paul Elenio before the 10th of each month. Email Paul at paulelenio@gmail.com

The newsletter is also published on our website each month. This is where you can read previous newsletters dating back to 2006. These contain some more recent history of the club and some great memories. If you haven't viewed the website just google Club Garibaldi. There are headings on the left hand side of the Home Page. Click on any of these. There is good information about Club Garibaldi and history of the first Italians who immigrated to New Zealand.

We also send out notices, news and reminders about upcoming events on our Facebook and our Instagram sites. Follow us on these as well

Club Parking

The lease for our Clubrooms at 118 Tory Street has been extended to 31 December 2026 on similar terms and conditions to the original lease agreement. Therefore, car stickers are required for next year.

Please email the Club's secretary, Marco Costa, for your new car stickers, 2025-2026, clubgaribaldi1882@gmail.com

Note, the only car parks available are those marked numbers 1 to 13.


Saturdays & Sundays – All Day


Children's Christmas Party





2025


January				February				March				April			
S	M	T	W	S	M	T	W	S	M	T	W	S	M	T	W
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6	7	8	9	10	11			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31					24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
								30	31						
May				June				July				August			
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31	30				28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31
September				October				November				December			
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Nelson Italian Festival

Sunday 1 March 2026