



Club Garibaldi News

JUNE 2008

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Italy's National Day function at the club on Monday, 2 June, was very well attended with over 90 members sharing in the warm atmosphere of the occasion. It was a pleasure to have Italy's ambassador to New Zealand, His Excellency, Gioacchino Trizzino, join us in the celebration of this special occasion.

The formal part of the evening commenced with the President, Ginette Toscano Page, welcoming everybody to the club and delivering a short speech (see below), marking the 62nd anniversary of the birth of the Republic of Italy. This was followed by the members standing to sing the Italian National Anthem, Fratelli D'Italia, with much reverence. In reply, His Excellency gave a wonderful speech to which he was given a loud applause, followed by Luca Quaglia, who spoke on behalf of the Circolo Italiano di Wellington.

Following a delicious supper and dessert, members enjoyed a rousing sing-a-long of old Italian favourites, where a few budding tenors and sopranos could be heard! Many thanks to Salvi Gaeta who lead the singing, making sure we were singing in tune! For some reason, Italians worldwide, all share in the same love of old Italian songs ~ perhaps it is because they first heard their parents and grandparents sing these songs as children, and are nostalgically reminded of their childhood.

Those who attended the function were also treated to two special torte! This year the committee decided to have a special cake made to mark the occasion. Thank you to Alfonso Basile who baked a fantastic torta and iced the top with the words 'Viva Italia'. Our second treat was made by Signora Trizzino, wife of the Italian Ambassador, who also baked an equally fantastic torta. Thank you, Signora. Both of these tortes were huge!

Sincere thanks and much appreciation to all the hard-working executive committee and members who helped to prepare the supper, set up the clubrooms in preparation for the National Day function, and cleaning up afterwards. You all helped to make the occasion very special ... you know who you are, and we know who you are! Without your assistance, occasions like this would not happen.

Please note: Annual membership subscription fees are due for the year beginning 1 July 2008. Current subscriptions expire on 30 June 2008. A membership form can be found in this newsletter.

A date for the Annual General Meeting has been set for Sunday, 31 August 2008. See further information in this newsletter.

Ciao a presto
Ginette Toscano Page

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to Monsignor Francesco Cao Minh Dung of the Embassy of the Holy See, Lyall Bay, Wellington, on the recent passing of his father in Vietnam.

THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL DAY SPEECH

Buonasera and benvenuto a tutti. A very warm welcome to His Excellency, Ambassador Gioacchino Trizzino, and an equally warm welcome to the members of The Circolo Italiano di Wellington.

Until 1946, Italy was officially a monarchy, ruled by the House of Savoy. Today, Italy's National Day (Festa della Repubblica) marks the 62nd anniversary of the birth of the Italian Republic. On that extraordinary day, June 2, 1946, following the results of a popular referendum ~ a 'new' Italy' was born out of the ashes and turmoil of World War II, and into the vibrant, free and democratic nation that it is today.

Although Italy is a young republic, it is an ancient land, rich in culture and great traditions. We have much to be proud of.

Club Garibaldi, with other Italian communities worldwide, salutes Italy as we celebrate our special day.

Please stand and sing our National Anthem with pride.

Viva l' Italia!!

QUI TUTTO BENE – THE ITALIANS IN NEW ZEALAND – WAIKATO MUSEUM

By Nina Cuccurullo

On 17 May 2008, I had the pleasure of visiting the Waikato Museum in Hamilton, to view the exhibition 'Qui Tutto Bene –The Italians in New Zealand'. The exhibition closed the next day so I made it just in time!!

It was great to once again, see the exhibition but on a smaller scale in this wonderful new location. The Waikato Museum staff did an excellent job of curating the exhibition. Alongside was an exhibition entitled 'Il Sapore Locale –The Local Flavour' and this captured the local stories of Italians in the Waikato region, with the strong focus on family and community. I also watched a small film made about the community. Club Garibaldi will soon receive a booklet with some of the history of the Waikato Italians, which will be placed in the Club Archives. To complement the exhibition there were also sculptures by the Italian New Zealand artist, Chiara Corbelletto. You may remember her stunning work called 'Orangina' at Te Papa. Thank you to all those members who once again, loaned items for the Waikato Museum Exhibition. The photo below shows the entrance to the exhibition.



MATARIKI DAWN CEREMONY – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

By Nina Cuccurullo

Ginette Toscano Page, along with club members, Letizia and Ralph Columbano-Green and Nina Cuccurullo were guests of Te Papa and Susan Superville (Community Relations Manager) for the Matariki Celebration held on Thursday, 5 June 08. We were also joined by two Embassy of Italy staff members, Palmiro Sportoletti and Camilla Pepe.

The day got off to an early start at 5.30am on the Te Papa Marae with prayers followed by a presentation on the Titi (Muttonbird). We were then treated to a delicious breakfast, followed by speeches and entertainment.

Matariki signals the start of the Maori New Year. It is the Maori name for the group of stars often known as Pleiades, The Seven Sisters and Subaru (check out the sign on a Subaru car!). The timing of Matariki's rising and setting is associated with significant events such as a change of season, or resurrection and renewal. It is also an important occasion for family to gather and reflect on the past. Indeed, it is an important time for us all, as we reflect upon our own ancestors from Italy who would have looked up at the same night sky when they arrived in New Zealand.



WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS



Gianna Esposito, daughter of Antonio and Carolina Esposito of Island Bay, Wellington, and Anthony Yelcich, son of Srecko and Maria Yelcich, were married on 5 April 2008, at the Church of St Francis de Sales, Island Bay, Wellington.

Following a lovely wedding ceremony, family and friends celebrated the happy occasion at a reception dinner which was held at The Bolton Hotel, Wellington. Gianna and Anthony thoroughly enjoyed their wonderful wedding day!

Congratulations Gianna and Anthony, Club Garibaldi wish you a lifetime of love and happiness.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ITALIAN MASS

The next Italian Mass will be held on Sunday 6 July 2008 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 August 2008 at 1pm. All members and families are very welcome.



Please bring a plate.

ITALIAN FILM

At 7pm on Thursday 19 June the film will be **Montalbano's Croquettes – Gli Arancini di Montalbano** will be shown. This is



A BIT OF TRIVIA

By Ginette Toscano Page

(ANSA) - Florence, May 16

Italy's greatest clown, Carlo Colombaioni, has died in France at the age of 75. The last of a generation of traditional clowns, the Ancona-born performer worked as an actor and an advisor in circus scenes for Italian director Fellini, contributing to the films *La Strada*, *I Clown*, *Amarcord*, *Roma* and *Casanova*. He also worked with Nobel prize-winning writer Dario Fo.

Colombaioni came from a 'clowning' family and learnt the art from his father. He used his talents as a clown, acrobat, juggler, mime and trapeze artist at the circus before taking his act to the theatre.

He later moved to France, but in recent years performed at the Jack and Joe Theatre in Cerbaia Val di Pesa, outside Florence, where he was due to start a new season at the end of this month.

Colombaioni continued teaching 'clowning' to the new generations throughout his life, and can be seen on YouTube. He gave his final master class in Cannes in 2007. His funeral will be held at Ostia Antica outside Rome on May 20.

number 8 in the popular Montalbano series!!

A \$2.00 cover charge towards costs will apply.

TOMBOLA NIGHT

Tombola nights are held every 4th Tuesday of the month.

The next night for Tombola will be Tuesday, 24 June, at the usual time of 7.30 pm. Please come along and feel free to bring a friend.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Thursday 19th June (7pm) - Italian Film
- Tuesday 24th June (7:30pm) - Tombola
- Sunday 6th July (11:30am) - Italian Mass
- Sunday 3rd August (1pm) - Shared Lunch
- Sunday 31st August (7pm) - AGM

GUGLIELMO AND ENRICHETTA MELHOP TRUST AWARD

Club Garibaldi, the Wellington social and cultural organisation for New Zealanders of Italian descent, is calling for applications for funding from the Melhop Trust. The trust, established by a long-time club member, offers funding for young people of Italian descent for educational purposes involving formal study in a wide variety of fields and endeavours. Applications close on July 31, 2008 with any successful applicant(s) to be advised in September. Applications, citing the academic study and demonstrating the applicant's Italian heritage, are to be sent in writing to: The Secretary, Club Garibaldi, P O Box 6451, Wellington. A list of the criteria for the annual award is also available from the Secretary.

Previous successful applicants for assistance from the trust were:

2006: Chris Di Leva, son of Maria and Giuseppe Di Leva of Island Bay, Wellington

2007: John Mollo, son of Teresa and Liberato Mollo of Island Bay, Wellington

THE SICILIAN CART (or Carretto Siciliano in Italian, and Carrettu Sicilianu in Sicilian)

By Ginette Toscano Page

Probably on any day, somewhere in Italy, there's a festival; and while most festivals honour saints, anything ~ art, history, folklore, food, wine ~ is cause for celebration. As with the other regions in Italy, Sicily has its fair share of festivals; However, Sicily has something that no other region has ~ il Carretto.

Steeped in history, the carts are brought out for the numerous festivals throughout Sicily. Some sources claim the cart's origin began during ancient Greek rule, but according to 'History on the Road: The Painted Carts of Sicily', the cart dates back only several centuries.

They developed as a means to carry goods from farms to cities, and along the way, became highly decorated with paintings depicting scenes from current events, history, folklore, and art. Some say that the paintings were a form of communication for those who could not read, but other sources state that the paintings were the artistic development of the cart, first linked to the church as an ex-voto (an offering given in gratitude). Those who filled the carts and brought their harvest to market, may have been thanking their patron saint for the bounty.

By the early 1900s, the carts became exquisite works of art requiring a team of craftsmen ~ the cartwright (who built the cart), sculptor (carved designs into the panels and spokes of the wheels), metal worker, and painter. Divided into work carts, transporting goods, and show carts, used for special occasions, and hired out by its owner ~ il carrettiere ~ the cart was an important part of Sicilian culture.

After World War II, motor vehicles began to replace the carts, and a shortage of artisans decreased production. Today, the carts are available by special order and are part of many Sicilian festivals, with several that include competitions devoted entirely to il Carretto Siciliano.



'Viva Italia'



The celebration torta



Rex Da Vanzo, Tamara Budec & Alfonso Basile



Lucia Quaglia speaking on behalf of Circolo Italiano



Ambassador Trizzino giving his speech



Ginette Toscano Page & Ambassador Trizzino

Happy diners at Restaurant Garibaldi

