



Club Garibaldi News

JANUARY 2009

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As this is the first newsletter for 2009, on behalf of the Executive Committee I would like to wish all club members, their families and loved ones very best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year - may it be a good one for us all!

I do hope you are all enjoying the holiday season, the warmth of the summer sun, relaxing days and long evenings in the company of family and friends.

Our club calendar is already filling up with upcoming events and activities. The Executive Committee has been quietly working in the background organising various events which, hopefully, all members will support. I would like to thank all our 'active' members for their continued support, and once more encourage our out-of-town members to join in.

Please read further for information about our forthcoming annual club picnic, bus trip and Italian festival.

Ciao a presto
Ginette Toscano Page

ANNUAL FESTIVAL ITALIA – 2009

Please put a big circle on your calendar ~ **Sunday, 22 March 2009** ~ the club's annual Festival Day at the Overseas Passenger Terminal. As this is the club's biggest function and fund-raiser, please come and support us, and help make this year's festival as successful as in previous years.

Planning began months ago, and a lot of hard work is going on behind the scenes. Anyone who is willing to lend a helping hand can contact Ginette or Robin, or an executive committee member.

We need lots of help: to set up the club's dolce stand on the Friday evening, 20 March, at 6pm for an hour or so, at the Overseas Terminal; on Saturday morning, 21 March, to help decorate the venue with balloons etc. and on the Sunday, at the end of the festival day. It would also be very much appreciated if all members would bake cakes or biscuits for the club's dolce stall.

Remember that the money made from this stall is used for the benefit of all club members. So please ... make our telephones ring hot!

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

A warm welcome to the following new members: Eloisa Ascoli of Woburn, Lower Hutt, and Pamela and Vernon Parkhill of Miramar, Wellington.

CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE CLASSES

For 13 years Nina Cuccurullo has been doing a brilliant job as co-ordinator of the children's Italian language classes. She has worked wonderfully to ensure the classes are well run and organised, has liaised with teachers and parents and maintained a positive link with the Italian Government through the Embassy. We would like to find a club member to assume the duties of classes co-ordinator and spend the first few months of 2009 learning from Nina.

ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE BOATS

Island Bay - traditionally a fishing stronghold in Wellington - will once again, host the annual Blessing of the Boats during the Island Bay Festival on Sunday, 25 February 2009 at 2.30 pm.

The following is a little history of its origins. The blessing of fishing boats is a tradition in Italy that goes back centuries. In southern Italy, the blessing would be undertaken by the local priest at the start of spring. The boats, many of which were named after saints, were decorated in flags and bunting, would file past to have holy water sprinkled on them while the priest recited prayers and made the sign of the cross. The blessing was part of the religious belief that if the boats received the grace of God, they and the fishermen would be protected from the elements and would also reap the bounty of the sea.

Many of Island Bay's Italian immigrants came from the fishing villages of Massalubrense and Puolo in the Gulf of Naples, and the island of Stromboli, near Sicily. Today all sea craft and vessels are welcome to take part in this special ceremony.

A BIT OF TRIVIA

ANSA: Imperia, December 23, 2008

A 101-year-old Italian man, Giuseppe Rebaudi, a retired surgeon, who married his 98-year-old French sweetheart last summer after more than 50 years together has died after six months of marriage, a Genoa newspaper has reported.

Giuseppe met his future wife, Sylvie Basain, in Marseille in 1952. They were together for 56 years before she persuaded him to become man and wife. Their wedding on the Ligurian Riviera on June 26 attracted a lot of media attention.

Basain, a former employee of the French newspaper Nice Matin, told reporters: "We've only been together for 50 years. Marriage is not a step to be taken lightly".

Rebaudi said: "I'd never thought about tying the knot but Sylvie convinced me, even though it's a bit late".

UPCOMING EVENTS

ITALIAN MASS

The next Italian Mass will be held on Sunday 1 February 2009 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 February 2009 at 1pm. All members and families are very welcome.



Please bring a plate.

TOMBOLA NIGHT

Please note there will be no more tombola this year. Tombola nights will re-commence in February 2009.

LEONARDO DI VINCI EXHIBITION COMES TO WELLINGTON

The Leonardo Da Vinci Machines Exhibition opened to the public on Saturday, 8 November 2008, at The New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts Academy Galleries, 1 Queens Wharf, Wellington, and will run until 15 February 2009.

CIRCOLO SOCIAL EVENTS

Monthly social evenings are held from March to November inclusive. Topics vary from time to time but they all have an Italian flavour. A light supper is served during or after the events. A small charge of \$4 towards the cost of the food/wine usually applies. Garibaldi House is the usual venue but other venues may be selected during the course of the year. Further information on the topics and venues will be made available with the monthly Circolo Newsletter and will also be advised to the Executive committee of Club Garibaldi. Club

Garibaldi members are very welcome to attend all Circolo Italiano social functions.

On behalf of Club Garibaldi the Circolo will show an Italian film (with English subtitles) at 7pm every 3rd Thursday of each month. A \$2 charge towards costs will apply.

ITALIAN FILM

At 7pm on Thursday 19 February the film **My Best Enemy** (2006) will be shown. The Italian smash hit is a delightful comedy that reunites actor-director Carlo Verdone with his "Manuel of love" co-star Silvio Muccino in a hilarious tale of two nemeses coming together for the love of a girl; one of them her boyfriend, the other her father. Duration 108 minutes

A \$2 cover charge towards costs will apply.

ANNUAL BUS TRIP

Next year's annual bus trip dates have been set for **9, 10 and 11 February 2009** ~ destination Hastings and Napier. This is always a great trip with lots of fun to be had, and is thoroughly enjoyed by all those who go on it. As the bus fills up pretty fast, please do not leave it too late to confirm that you want to go. More details to follow at a later date. Although you do not need to be a club member to come, members will be given priority.

ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC

A date has been set for this year's annual club picnic. A reservation has been made for **Sunday, 22 February 2009**, from 11am onwards, at Queen Elizabeth Park, Paekakariki. There will be no cancellation date. Remember to put a big circle on your calendars, to remind you of this date. Once again, the club will provide the steaks and sausages for the barbeque. All members and their families are welcome.

'A NIGHT AT THE GARIBALDI' - NAOMI FERGUSON BENEFIT



A Night at the Garibaldi" Naomi Ferguson Benefit 27th & 28th February 2009
Both Benefit nights are now sold out.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 1st February (11:30am) - Italian Mass

Sunday 1st February (1pm) - Shared Lunch

Mon - Wed 9-11th February - Bus Trip

Thursday 19th February (7pm) - Italian Film

Sunday 22nd February (11am) - Club Picnic

Friday 27th February - A Night at the Garibaldi

Saturday 28th February - A Night at the Garibaldi

Sunday 22nd March - Italian Festival

LEONARDO DA VINCI MACHINES EXHIBITION – TOUR IN ITALIAN LANGUAGE

By Letizia Columbano

An Italian language tour took place at the Leonardo da Vinci Machines Exhibition on the 13th of December, at the New Zealand Fine Arts Academy in Wellington.

The organisers, Letizia Columbano and Luca Quaglia lead tour participants into Italian culture of the life and time of this great genius.

Members and students from the Circolo Italiano, Club Garibaldi, the Circolo Sardo Domus De Janas and Italian students from Victoria University joined the tour.

The machines exhibition is divided into four themes: flight, mechanics, war and hydraulics.

The interactive models - crafted by Florentine artisans (Tecknoart Group) to scale - follow the material used during Leonardo's time: wood, cotton, brass, iron and chords. They are true replica models taken from the Leonardo's code pages.

The organizers selected several machines to focus on: *Aerial Screw*, *Crossbow car*, *Locking system*, *Arched bridge*, *Armoured Tank* and *Archimedes Screw*.

Luca Quaglia explained in fine details the use of these machines (some of them invented by Leonardo but never applied in practical way). These are simple but great ideas that we take for granted in our every day life.

The tour has dedicated attention to not only the machines but also to the historical, political and artistic picture during the time in which Leonardo lived (1452-1519).

Letizia Columbano gave a 'taste' of the political situation in Tuscany and the rest of the Italian peninsula. She outlined the huge influences in Leonardo's life, including his experiences under Master Verrocchio's studio (the intellectual centre in Florence), working at the Sforza Court in Milan, the period in Venice, the time working in Rome and the eternal rivalry with Michelangelo.

Letizia noted Leonardo's acute observations of nature, the everlasting curiosity for everything and on everything. The perfection and dedication toward each discipline: from painting to poetry, from engineering to medicine, from music to cuisine have made Leonardo the *Universal Genius* by excellence.

The tour ended with a mix of questions and happy discussions over afternoon tea at Club Garibaldi with Panettone (homage to the Sforza Court in Milan), Panforte (homage to Tuscany) and a cup of coffee.

A very warm thank you to Luca and to all those who participated and helped to make this special event a success.



Luca & Letizia present to tour in Italian



Enjoying panettone, panforte and coffee at the club

DO YOU REMEMBER THIS SPECIAL OCCASION?

Club Garibaldi's centenary celebration – July 1982



Left: Fifi Esposito, Lola, Lucy Esposito, Maria Luisa Marshall, Eleanor Mitchell, Maria Colucci



Left: Armando Gilmoni, Fifi Esposito, Silvio Famularo, Italian Ambassador, Frank O'Flynn MP, Vincenzo Criscillo