



ESTABLISHED IN 1882

Club Garibaldi News

February / Febbraio 2026

Club Garibaldi
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Note from the President

Ciao everyone,

Somehow it's already February and 2026 is well under way. Since our last newsletter we held our Seniors Christmas Lunch at the Pines — 68 members came along, the food was great, the company even better and Cook Strait was the stunning backdrop. A warm welcome was extended to the new members who joined us.

Our next get-together is the annual Club Picnic at Williams Park, Days Bay (Field 6), starting at 11am on Sunday 15 February. A big grazie to vice-president Alf Basile for organising everything. The meat is sorted — just bring whatever else you'd like to eat or drink.

This year we're introducing something new: the inaugural jump off the Pier Challenge. Yes, I've been told I have to lead by example... and yes, someone asked if I was worried about having a heart attack. So am I. Come along, bring the family, and enjoy a relaxed day out.

Our Martinborough Bus Trip to Runholder Estate on 8 March is all locked in, with 57 members joining us. This outing is becoming one of the most popular events on our calendar. Closer to the date, we'll send out the full itinerary. A big thank you to Josephine van der Donk, Linda De Gregorio, and Maria Colucci for organising this year's trip.

Our fun days at the club start again on the 3rd Sunday of each month, starting on 19 April. See my note below about the first event at the Escape Room as part of the opening day.

Our refreshed Club Garibaldi website went live at the start of February. After more than 20 years it was time for an update to bring it into 2026. A huge thank you to Rosina van der Aa, who has spent the last two months working closely with the website team to get everything up and running.



You'll find her summary below.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events. Let's make 2026 a great year for our club.

A presto

Frank Basile

Escape Room Adventure

Frank Basile relates his experience of the Escape Room:

On the first floor of our club building — just to the left as you come up the stairs — you'll find the Escape Room, and it's an experience you won't want to miss.

I recently went with my wife and granddaughter, and we had a great time. If you haven't tried one before, an escape room is a real-life adventure where you and your family/friends are "locked" in a themed room and must crack clues, solve puzzles, and unravel riddles before the hour runs out.

There are four themed rooms, each with its own storyline. We tackled the one where a villain planned to blow up the Beehive, so we had to sneak into his spy hideout and uncover his secret plan. At one point we were completely stumped — until a mysterious voice chimed in with a hint and got us moving again. It's clever, fast-paced, and full of laughs.

Perfect for families, groups of friends, or anyone who loves a challenge.

- Suitable for ages 10 and up
- Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult
- Normally \$30 per person, but Steve (the owner) is giving our club a special rate of just \$12 per person. This is at your own cost on the day.

We're booked for **2:30pm on our Opening Fun Day, Sunday 19 April**. After your great escape head upstairs for coffee at the club.

If you're interested in attending, please email Frank Basile at francisb43@gmail.com so that we can get an idea of numbers.

Club Website relaunched

We are very pleased to announce that the club's new website is now live. Same content, more or less, and location www.clubgaribaldi.co.nz as before, but with a fresh, modern "look and feel" and enhanced user and mobile friendly features like the new on-line forms to apply for membership, order books and to correspond with us via the contact form.

Our old website was originally built over 20 years ago, then rehomed and rebuilt in 2011. No software upgrades had been done on it since then, which meant it had very limited functionality and was not so easy to update.

To top that off, the original software went out of support and the webserver became redundant in November last year. This is what they call a "compelling event" something you can't ignore and need to take action on or risk losing all your website content.

The calendar still needs to be updated past March; the photo gallery has yet to be populated and the newsletters still need to be sorted from newest to oldest.

For the love of Matthew



Some members will be aware of the launch of a wonderful new book written by member Maria Di Leva about the life and times of her youngest son, Matthew, his journey growing up and which has taken him to high performance and achievement, meeting the challenge of autism head on.

Maria decided to write the book to support and encourage other families who have autistic children and she has demonstrated that, through patience, love, perseverance and hard work anything is possible.

The club has previously toasted Matthew's successes as a Special

Olympian athlete, winning medals on the world stage, and in January he celebrated his 30th birthday with a lunch for family and friends at the Pines where the book was revealed.

The club congratulates both Maria and Matthew for the inspirational tale which is available for purchase from the White Room Gallery in Island Bay and via the following website. Cost is \$20. Lovemathew.weebly.com. Proceeds from the book will go to Special Olympics.

Pictured: Maria di Leva (left) signing copies of her book at the Island Bay Festival with her publisher Rosina van der Aa.

New members

The club extends a warm welcome to the following people who have joined the club as members:

Tony Basile (son of Frank) and Helen (his partner)

Angela Maresca (daughter of Tony and Maria Maresca)

Francesco Vacca and his partner **Dave Wilson**. (Francesco was born in Nuoro, Italia)

Julian Casalis who was born in Argentina but is of Italian heritage and holds Italian citizenship.

Condolences

Club Garibaldi extends its sympathy to member Rosaria Massa who recently lost her brother Vincenzo Ruocco, aged 78, in Italy.

The club also offers condolences to the family of Maria Virginia Della Barca (née Famularo) who died on Friday 30 January at Wellington Hospital.

She was 94 and was married to the late Antonio Della Barca. A private family service was held.

Congratulations

To members Dean and Josephine Beavis who are celebrating their diamond (60th) anniversary of marriage. Dean and Josephine (Barnao) were married on 5 February 1966 at St Francis de Sales Church, Island Bay.

They have been active members of the club's social committee and its events.

Pictured: Dean and Josephine Beavis



Italian Language Classes

The Circolo Italiano is excited to announce the continuation of our Italian language classes for schoolchildren on Saturdays at a slightly earlier time:

7-11 years 1:30 to 2:25 12-16 years 2:30 to 3:25

Parking is available for the duration of the lesson only with a parking card from the tutor (parks 1 to 13 only) on Saturdays only.

Club Garibaldi is also offering a grant to cover the fees for its first 10 schoolchildren of paid up members to enrol. This has been very popular indeed with just a few spaces left! So do enrol early.

Dr Marcella Zanetti, who also teaches some of our adult evening classes, will be your new tutor. Schoolchildren's lessons begin Saturday 14 February. Learning a language from a young age is a gift for life! Club Garibaldi is also offering a \$50 subsidy for all adult Club Garibaldi paid up members enrolling for the 2026 year. Adult lessons begin evenings of Monday 16 or Wednesday 18 February 2026.

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. The times available are: Mondays to Fridays - AFTER 6.00pm. Saturdays & Sundays – All Day

The car parks are monitored by Smart Compliance Management cameras for the building owner. If you ignore the above car park rules you will receive a Parking Breach Notice of \$65. The club takes no responsibility for any notices issued and should not be contacted with regard to any infringement.

Dates for your diary

2026

January	February	March
SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
April	May	June
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July	August	September
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October	November	December
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Club Picnic, Days Bay

Sunday, 15 February 2026 at 11am

Italian Festival run by Club Italia, Nelson

Sunday, 1 March 2026, 10am-4pm

Bus trip to Martinborough including lunch at Runholder Estate

Sunday, 8 March 2026 **SOLD OUT**

Monthly fun Sundays resume (The Escape Room)

Sunday, 19 April at 2:30pm