



ESTABLISHED IN 1882

# Club Garibaldi News

March / Marzo – 2026

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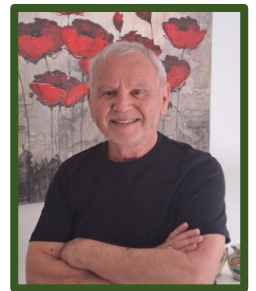
Club Garibaldi 118 Tory Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011  
clubgaribaldi1882@gmail.com

## Note from the President

February started with a splash!

We gathered for the annual picnic at Days Bay where the inaugural Jump off the Pier Challenge took place.

Dion Basile bravely led the way, and after plenty of encouragement from some onlookers I finally put my money where my mouth was and took the plunge myself. The water was chilly - and I'll leave it at that!



A big thank you to Alfonso Basile for organising the day.

The atmosphere was fantastic. Maria Elenio brought her pétanque bowls and the games were competitive. The photos from the day capture just how much fun everyone had.

On 11 February, I attended the opening of the Circolo Italian classes for 2026, joined by His Excellency Cristiano Maggipinto, Ambassador of Italy to New Zealand.

It was a pleasure to meet all the tutors and seeing several members of our executive there as well. This year, the club is proud to offer grants subsidies to support both children of members and adult members attending Circolo lessons.

We had 60 members joining us for our bus trip to Greytown and Martinborough, a great turnout.

Please also take note of the change of date for the Escape Room and our first Sunday Fun Day. See details below.

A presto  
*Frank*

## Escape Room Fun Day at the Club – New Date Sunday 26 April

Due to jubilee celebration at the Pines for the Francis de Sales School and Church on Sunday 19 April, which many of our members will be attending, we have moved our first Sunday Fun Day and the Escape Room outing to **Sunday 26 April**.

How the Escape Room works:

Work together, crack the puzzles, and beat the clock! Three unique rooms await, each with its own story to solve within 60 minutes.

- Suitable for ages 10 and up
- Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult
- Usual price: \$30 per person
- Special Club rate: **\$12 per person (thanks to Steve, the owner)**
- Cost is paid individually on the day

We are booked for 2:30pm. Please meet at the club at 2pm and we'll head down together as a group to the first floor of the club building where the Escape Room is situated.

After your great escape, join us upstairs for coffee at the club if you wish.

If you'd like to take part, please email Frank Basile at [francisb43@gmail.com](mailto:francisb43@gmail.com) so we can get an idea of numbers. It's a fantastic experience and you will really enjoy it. Thanks to those who have already said they would like to attend.

## Bus trip a winner

Sixty members enjoyed another great day out, the popular bus trip over the hill to Greytown and Martinborough, leaving a cool and drizzly Wellington behind and welcomed by sunny and warm autumn weather over the hill.

The Newlands coach picked up a large group at Shorland Park, Island Bay, and then more people at Club Garibaldi, Lower Hutt rail station and Upper Hutt station. The ultimate destination was the Runholder winery and restaurant which set up six long lunch tables and served two courses in their beautiful building.

The grapes looked ready for harvest, wine flowed and everyone had a great time. Thanks to Frank Basile, Maria Elenio, Josephine van der Donk and Linda de Gregorio for the organisation.



## Congratulations

To Alessandra Basile, daughter of Luigi and Zella Marie Basile, who has been awarded a Suzanne Aubert Tertiary Scholarship for university studies in 2026.

Alessandra is studying for a Bachelor of Science (chemistry and psychology). She aims to work in the psychology/neuroscience area and hopes to one day offer low cost mental health support in her community.



And to Tony Di Leva of Island Bay, celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this month. Congratulations.

## Melhop Trust award

Club Garibaldi administers the Melhop Trust which provides financial assistance in memory of a long time member of the club. On behalf of the trust the club invites applications for funding from eligible students. Applicants should be no older than 30 years at the time of application and be engaged, or about to engage, in a formal course of study provided by a recognised educational establishment in one or more of the following fields: language and literature, including the publication of Italian migrant histories, vocal and instrumental music, the graphic arts or architecture and engineering. Applications close on 31 March 2026. Applications citing the course of academic study and demonstrating the applicant's heritage, are to be made in writing and sent to the Secretary, Club Garibaldi, 118 Tory Street, Te Aro, and Wellington 6451 or to [clubgaribaldi1882@gmail.com](mailto:clubgaribaldi1882@gmail.com). The criteria for the award is available on request from the club Secretary, Marco Costa.

## Condolences

✝ To the family of Tony Muollo of Island Bay who recently passed away at the grand age of 91. Our sympathies to his wife, Eileen, and their children and grandchildren. The funeral Mass was held at St Francis de Sales Church where Tony and Eileen have been committed and supportive workers for decades. Tony would sometimes entertain members at the club with his piano accordion. He would also transport a statue of the Blessed Virgin to Italian and other Island Bay homes where the statue would be the focus of the Rosary.

## Historical footnote



More people of Italian descent live outside Italy than inside it, making the Italian diaspora one of the largest in the world. The biggest populations of people with Italian roots live in Brazil (32 million), Argentina (28-30 million), and the United States (19 million).

Other countries where many Italian migrants have found a new home over the last 15 years are Venezuela, Paraguay, Colombia, Peru, Canada, Uruguay, Australia, Germany, Mexico, Switzerland, Chile, Costa Rica and the United Kingdom. The migrants largely came from Sicily, Calabria and the Campania regions.



To Wade Hall who has generously given of his time for years in formatting and presenting our newsletter. We are very grateful for the time and skill he has devoted to the newsletter. The responsibility for this work has been inherited by Frank Basile's better half, Diane. Thanks, Diane!

### Articles for the Newsletter

Please email any articles you would like to be included in our Newsletter to [paulelenio@gmail.com](mailto:paulelenio@gmail.com) before the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### Webpage

Our new updated Webpage is up and running. Just Google Club Garibaldi. Go down memory lane and view all the newsletters from 2006. Special memories are captured there.

### \*\*\* PHOTOGRAPHS FROM PICNIC AND BUS TRIP \*\*\*





## Circolo Italiano di Wellington - Meet Italy

Thursday 26 March 2026, 7.30pm

### Quiz - From the Alps to Lampedusa: Mapping Italy

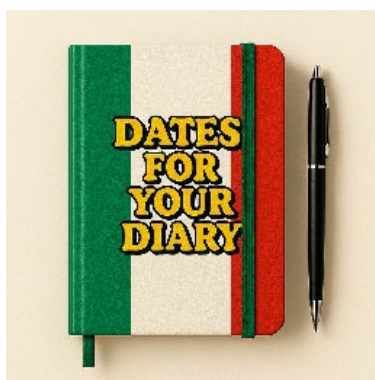
Come and take part in a fun, team quiz.  
Class teams, Circolo & Club Garibaldi members & friends.  
In English with prizes for the winning team of five.



Email to RSVP to [president@circoloitaliano.org.nz](mailto:president@circoloitaliano.org.nz) to register your attendance  
- join a team on the night

Garibaldi House, Top Floor, 118 Tory St / corner Vivian St  
\$5 Circolo & Club Garibaldi members / \$10 guests

Drinks and supper included  
Do join us for an entertaining evening



EVENT	DATE
Circolo Quiz Night	Thursday, 26 March – 7.30pm
Sunday Fun days begin in Clubroom	Sunday 26 April – 2.00pm
Escape Room	Sunday 26 April – 2.30pm