



ESTABLISHED IN 1882

Club Garibaldi News

April / Aprile – 2026

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Note from the President

Hello everyone - I hope you all enjoyed a very Happy Easter. We were very fortunate with the beautiful weather.

We have three great events coming up in April and May, and we'd love to see as many of you there as possible.

Fun Days at the Club start this month with the first of them on Sunday 26 April and will be held on the third Sunday of the month through until September. For the first day members can play games and socialise in the clubrooms and/or participate in our **Escape Room** fun. See details below.



A Mother's Day Lunch will be held on **Sunday, 10 May - 12.30pm** – see details below.

Recently, a team from Club Garibaldi attended the Circolo Quiz Night. It was a very enjoyable evening, and we managed a great third place in a close contest. Thank you to Circolo for organising such a fun night.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of the Club.

A presto
Frank

Escape Room & Fun Day at the Club –Sunday 26 April

Fancy something a bit different? Come along and try the **Escape Room Challenge!**

How It Works

Work together, solve puzzles, and beat the clock. There are **three different rooms**, each with its own story, and you have **60 minutes** to escape.

Good to know

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

We're booked for **2.30pm**. Please meet at the Club at **2pm**, and we'll head down together to the first floor of the club building, where the Escape Room is located.

Afterwards, feel free to join us back upstairs for a coffee at the Club.

To take part, please email Frank Basile - francisb43@gmail.com



Mother's Day Lunch at the Club - Sunday, 10 May – 12.30pm

Join us at the Club for a relaxed and enjoyable Mother's Day Lunch, celebrating mothers, families, and friends together.

Enjoy a delicious lunch featuring:

- A main meal served with salad
- Dessert
- Tea and coffee to finish

We're pleased to have Alfonso Basile as our chef so you can expect a wonderful meal.

Drinks

The bar will be open with wine, beer, and juice available. Please note, this will be a **cash-only bar**.

Cost – Members

- Adults: \$15
- Children: \$5

Cost - Non-members

- Adults: \$20
- Children: \$10

Bookings: Please confirm your attendance by 30 April. You can book by contacting **Josephine van der Donk** – (04) 9348720 or **Maria Colucci** – (04) 3838476.

Payment: Please credit the Club's ANZ Account: 06-0513-0005579-00

- **Reference:** Your name
- **Code:** Number attending

Migrant History

A new Italian migrant history is about to be released.

The Other Side of the Sunset is researched and written by Antonella Sarti Evans, who some members of the club will recognise as a teacher and former staff member at Victoria University's Italian language department.

The book will be launched at Unity Books, 57 Willis Street, on Thursday 16 April from 6-7pm. Club Garibaldi members, particularly those who migrated from Italy, are invited to attend. The Italian Ambassador will be in attendance. Refreshments will be served.

The book explores cultural connections between New Zealand and Italy through Italian migration from the 1950s until the present time. Antonella interviewed a wide range of people for the book. It features chapters or part chapters on the Island Bay Italian community, Italian war brides, the Sciascia family of Horowhenua, the rise of Weta Workshop and the Italians who work there, the men who built the Tongariro power station and much more. The book project has been made possible through a grant from the Ministry of Culture and Heritage.

The 313-page book will be available for sale at Unity at a cost of \$45.



A Kiwi writes from the city of love

Sophia Basile responded enthusiastically when it was suggested she write about her experience living and working in Rome. She is eldest daughter of club Vice President Alfonso and Penny Basile and a former Club Garibaldi executive member.

Ciao a tutti, I am Sophia, I am now living and teaching in Rome and would like to share my experiences with you all. For me weekends in Rome consist of biking along the Tiber River, trying but failing, to capture the surrounding beauty through the tiny screen of my phone to send back home to share the incredible experience. No longer battling the Wellington wind, but now battling the urge to flood Dad's WhatsApp with 78 photos of the river, bridges and historical buildings, as I battle with the sun and heat of a Roman summer. Dad is also lucky they haven't figured out how to send the incredible aromas of food through a phone yet, or else I'm sure he would've figured out how to block me by now! Just a twenty-minute bike ride along the river from my home and I am now at the home of the Pope, Vatican City!



Mornings throughout the week aren't quite as tranquil for me as life and work take over. Never a dull moment in the life of a teacher. My teaching friends and I feel we have earned our rewards at the end of a big day. How this looks in Rome... our current favourites: pasta e piselli, amatriciana, bufalina pizza, and a gelato with a scoop of Nutella and a scoop of strawberry, con panna of course! Being surrounded by so many delicious delicacies means that at the first sign of any slight inconvenience, you will find us seated somewhere that serves food. When in Rome.....

When our mouths aren't busy chewing chocolate-filled cornetti and other treats, you will find our jaws on the floor, in awe of all the history and beauty that is Rome. Casually passing St. Peter's Basilica on an evening stroll, taking part in runs that go around the Colosseum, or simply passing by the breathtaking beauty of the Trevi Fountain during a morning shop will never get old for me. The beauty of the Vatican alone is proof enough of a higher power and, well, the Trevi always makes me feel like I am in a movie. One of the most special memories from my time here so far has been going to the Vatican's first-ever concert. It was titled "Grace For The World" and was to celebrate the Jubilee year. Artists from all over the world performed in front of the basilica, and we managed to get very near the front of a 253,000-person crowd. We were very lucky to be able to watch Andrea Bocelli perform that night.



However, Andrea Bocelli is not who comes to mind when I think of the soundtrack of Rome... as I am sure most of you are aware, the real soundtrack is the symphony of sirens screeching down the street and the chorus of car horns from impatient Italians who cannot understand why you don't reverse into a fountain or perform a three-point turn into oncoming traffic just to let them pass. Let's not forget the unspoken noises of Rome - the stares from locals when you dare to dress for the weather rather than the season, and the silent standoffs on the footpath, where groups of 12 Italians form a human wall and look at you as if you are the problem for being in their walking lane. And I could get into the bureaucracy, but I don't want to take up your entire Sunday!



Sundays are for soccer! Stadio Olimpico is just a 25-minute walk from my house, and I am very lucky to have been to a couple of games - to experience the boom of the smoke bombs, the roar of the Roma ultra fans, and the talented players on the pitch. Nothing compared to the annual Island Bay vs Nelson football match but I will make do! Sundays should also be for having lunch with Nonna, and that is something I truly miss. Hi Nonna if you are reading this...

As the days go by, I miss my family, especially my Nonna, more and more, but I also fall more in love with this city and the beauty of everyday life. Although I am yet to adjust to the 10pm dinner times, I love life in Rome and cannot wait to find out what else the eternal city has in store for me as I continue to eat my way through the city and connect with my heritage.

Ciao for now !

Sophia Basile

Sport 1: Italy mourns

Italy is in a state of deep mourning and national anger after the Azzurri failed to qualify for the 2026 World Cup, marking an unprecedented third consecutive absence from football's biggest tournament.

Italy lost in a penalty shootout to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the qualifying playoffs, after the teams were locked at 1-1 at the end of extra time.

Italian sports newspapers described the failure as a "third apocalypse" and "The World Cup curse," highlighting that no former winner has ever missed three straight tournaments. Italy's sports minister, Andrea Abodi, demanded that president Gabriele Gravina resign. Head coach Gennaro Gattuso resigned on April 3, after only nine months in charge.

Analysts point to a decline in the national team's talent development, lack of investment in modern stadium infrastructure, and tactical struggles, as Italy failed to qualify following earlier losses to Sweden (2018) and North Macedonia (2022).

The loss ensures Italy will have gone at least 16 years without playing a World Cup finals match (since winning in 2006). – Facebook

Sport 2: A winner – at 19

Kimi Antonelli, born and raised in Bologna, is an Italian racing driver who competes in Formula One for Mercedes. In 2025 he was signed for Mercedes and replaced Lewis Hamilton.

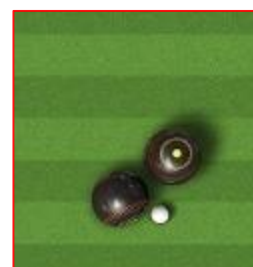
He has won the Chinese and Japanese Grands Prix in 2026, becoming the youngest ever polesitter at the former and the youngest World Drivers' Championship leader. He is 19.

A fantastic young sportsman and is flying the Italian Flag high in the motorsport world.

Sport 3: Bowling them Over

Did you know that Club Garibaldi was once a stronghold of indoor bowls in the Wellington region?

On 13 July 1965 The Evening Post reported that a team from Hutt RSA won the Hutt Valley fours championship by only just beating the Garibaldi Club team 19-18 in a closely fought final.



The Garibaldi team was made up of G Benvenuti (skip) D Cancian, R Volpe and J A Zino. In those days newspapers used initials rather than first names.

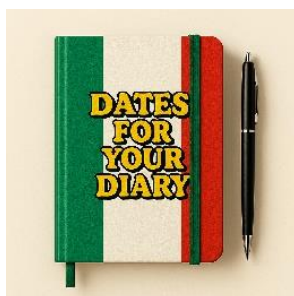
On the 15th end Taita led 19-15 after Garibaldi killed the end. Garibaldi subsequently closed the gap but were unable to snatch the win on the 18th end.

Articles for the Newsletter

Please email any articles you would like to be included in our Newsletter to paulelenio@gmail.com before the 10th of each month.

Webpage

Follow us on Facebook and view our Webpage. Just google Club Garibaldi



| EVENT | DATE |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Fun Day and Escape Room event, | Sunday 26 April – 2.00pm |
| Mother's Day lunch at club | Sunday 10 May - 12.30pm |
| National Day celebration at Club | May 31 - <i>Further details in next newsletter</i> |