

Su Nuraghe Biella President visits Melbourne



From left: Martin Sammut, Iole Marino, Raffaele Zanella, Paul Lostia, Don Smarelli, Gemma Leombruni, Battista Saiu, Giovanni Chighine, Aurora Chighine, Giovanna Ruii.

In late August the SCA had the pleasure of hosting Battista Saiu and Raffaele Zanella Maolu, President and Member respectively of Su Nuraghe, Sardinian Culture Club, Biella, representing and bringing with them official greetings on behalf of the On. Virginia Mura, Minister in the Sardinian Government (RAS) of the Department responsible for the funding of the world wide network of Sardinian Associations. These greetings were directed to the approximate 3,800 Sardinians who left for Australia many years ago and new arrivals, in search of a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Biella is a city in the Italian Region of Piedmont who has arguably one of the largest Sardinian communities in the world. As a result 'Su Nuraghe' has around 6,500 Members, is structured along corporate lines and provides wide ranging services to its

Members and the Biella community as a whole.

Battista and Raffaele, who is also a Chef, were on an 'World Tour In 80 Days', which included visits to Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne in the context of the Regional Project - *Foods and Rituals of the New Moon*, with the following major objectives:

- Opening up new frontiers for the RAS in China and Malaysia;
- Possible formal recognition of existing new Sardinian Associations in New Zealand and Japan;
- Meet and identify new Sardinian talents of excellence as future resources for the RAS;
- Research into Sardinian immigration as valuable input into the soon to be opened immigration Museum in Biella.

The Melbourne leg of the tour, which focused on immigration, needs of the aged and standing of the SCA, included Media interviews, meetings with representatives of NOMIT, recently established Consular Office which provides a socio-cultural centre and important services for new arrivals, COMITES, COASIT, Italian Museum and Italian Historical Society.

Particular highlights were the:

- Meeting with the Italian Consul General, Marco Maria Cerbo, at which the Sardinian flag was presented as a gift from the RAS;
- Visit Assisi Centre, Home for the Aged, accompanied by its President, Don Smarelli, Martin Sammut, CEO and SCA Committee Members, during which many of the aged care residents were able to record interviews of their immigration story;
- Visit to the IAI @ La Trobe University to discuss the Research by the SCA into Sardinian immigration in Melbourne which concluded with the release of the book *Ajo' In Australia/Let's Go To Australia*;
- Visit to the site of the Mural painted by Giorgio Polo called *The Continuing Journey/Il Viaggio Continua*, made possible by the RAS Project titled *Dove Fiorisce il Rosmarino*;
- Lunch at the highly successful Sardinian Restaurant, Pomodoro Sardo, opened in 2013 by Chef Stefano Rasso who arrived in Melbourne from Aritzo (NU) in 2008, together with SCA

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The President and Committee of Management of the Sardinian Cultural Association wish all Members, friends and readers of Sa Oghe a very joyous Christmas, a Happy New Year and a safe holiday season.

From Tuscany to Sardinia lunch

Toscana Social Club (TSC) and Sardinian Cultural Association (SCA) joined together to host a lunch on Sunday 18 September 2016 at the Toscana Club Hall.

More than 160 were treated to a wonderful lunch. The first two courses were prepared by TSC and the SCA did the main course and the dessert of seadas. Dance music ensured that many would get their feet tapping and their hearts pumping.

The idea for this lunch came from TSC. On previous occasions they had joined with other Club's to host similar lunches and when the SCA was asked if we would join them we agreed without any hesitation and were very happy to be involved.

The original idea was that the profits from the day were to be shared by TSC and SCA. Since that decision was agreed on, Amatrice, in Italy, experienced a devastating earthquake that left more than 300 dead and it was then decided to donate all the profits including the raffle proceeds to the fundraising



Appeal. The total amount raised was close to \$3000.00.

Such was the success of the day that TSC expressed the wish to include the lunch date on their 2017 calendar and the SCA will do so as well.

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Committee and General Members, during which they also recorded interviews of their immigration story.

The SCA's Clubrooms were also visited, which included a Meeting with Members of the Committee.

SCA President, Paul Lostia thanked Battista and Raffaele for their visit, emphasised the SCA's appreciation of the RAS continued support also underlining that the SCA was at the forefront and ready to meet the challenges ahead. Paul also emphasised that Sardinians in Melbourne are well settled, extremely proud of their

Sardinian origins and at all times seeking opportunities to promote Sardinian traditional and contemporary culture to the community in general.

In turn Battista and Raffaele thanked the SCA for their hospitality and in particular context of their Program. Battista also complimented the SCA for the work undertaken, high standing in the community and how it was going about meeting the challenges being faced by all Associations.

Proceedings were concluded with the exchange of commemorative gifts.

At left, an example of the breads created for rituals such as weddings etc. brought as a gift to the SCA by Battista and Raffaele.





From the President ...

Cari Amici,

It would be remiss of me not to mention the recent Presidential Elections in the US won by ?????. Therefore, without taking any partisan political side, what a great example we saw of what is wrong in the world, society, community and in many cases our families and, dare I state in our democratic and political system, these days.

We had Donald Trump (Let's Make America Great Again) and Hillary Clinton (Wer'e Stronger Together) not so much debate solutions to the challenges that confront the US both locally and internationally, but shout and bark at each other in a manner which would not be accepted in a kindergarten. I can assure that when they were young, if any of my now grown up children behaved anywhere near the manner described above they would have forfeited their treats for the day, week etc. and when they got older they were well and truly grounded.

Whilst some would point the finger at Trump, who I am certainly no fan of, Clinton is certainly no Saint, both reflecting why many here and abroad are disenchanted with politicians and the Top End Of Town most come from. If the US, our ally, land of the free, leader of the free world can present us with such normally unacceptable behaviour, what hope is there for the rest of the world? One thing is for sure, whilst many laugh at Italy's politics our own politicians on all sides of the spectrum have been very good learners from Italy and the US. It's 'all about me and the Party', under the guise of the rhetoric that it is for the people. We have a Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition who will not stand for their own well-known values for fear of being dumped by the 'party machine' and lose their status of power, or perhaps in fear that if they do get dumped they will need to go on the dole? For me I would rather be dumped than sell my values.

Having got the above out of my chest, you won't be surprised when I state that, whilst being proud of my

Veneto & Sardinian heritage, I am also extremely pleased that my adoptive parents chose to migrate to Australia, whilst not perfect, in many ways still the 'lucky country'. Acknowledging that Aboriginal people were it's original custodians and the many that from day one from all parts of the world have made Australia their home, has made possible the successful multicultural society which we have been living in for many years and which is envy to the world.

As you know our multicultural values respect country of birth, race, religion etc. and Australia has no state religion. Our Constitution prohibits imposing any religious observance allowing free exercise of any religion. Recent statistics show that 61% of us are Christian, by the way 22% declare no Religion and only 2.2% are Muslims. Therefore, soon many of us will celebrate Christmas as the birth of Jesus Christ. For this reason a very special time of the year and hopefully to a second degree a time for exchanging gifts with our loved ones and friends.

Therefore, with the above in mind, me being one of the 61%, my contemplation on this occasion is the following extract of current Pope Francis's recent 'Short Guide to Christmas':



"It is easy to forget the true meaning of Christmas these days however, every Christian family can welcome Jesus just like Mary and Joseph did, not only with parties, lunches and dinners. They can listen to Him, talk to Him, protect Him, grow with Him, and in doing so make the world a better place. Let's make room in our hearts and

in our day, to welcome Jesus, Christian should rejoice and share their joy with family and others, but don't let Christmas become a celebration of consumerism".

In closing I look forward to seeing you in 2017, if not before.

BONU NADALE e BON ANNU

Paolo Lostia

SCA welcomes new births



Emanuel Cugia was born on Thursday 29 September 2016 to Federico and Natalie Cugia. Baby and parents doing well!



Marco Frau Lopez was born on Tuesday 3 May 2016. Proud parents Marco and Macarena brought their son to the S. Ignazio lunch on Sunday 16 October to meet their friends.

The SCA congratulates the Cugia and Frau families and wishes them all good health and long life.

Silvia Careddu in Melbourne for concerts



Recently named first flute of the Austrian orchestra Weiner Symphoniker, Silvia Careddu visited Melbourne after performing at a series of concerts around Australia, named 'A voice for the Silenced' part of the worldwide revival of masterpieces by composers whose lives were destroyed by the Holocaust at the Nazi Concentration Camps. The Concerts were performed by Australian National Academy of Music musicians and Silvia was a special guest.

Silvia, was born in Cagliari and at age nineteen, after graduating from the conservatory 'Pierluigi da Palestrina' in Cagliari, completed a specialised course with Raymond Guinot Academy of Italian flute. With her dream of becoming a renowned musician she had to leave her beloved family and Sardinia/Italy for further studies. At age twenty four she was awarded the first prize of the jury at the 56th International Competition Music of Geneva.

Now at age forty, of which twenty years have been away from Sardinia, Silvia says the joy and satisfaction she gained three decades ago at age nine when her parents convinced her to study the flute and as encouragement they would allow her to holiday the summer at La Maddalena (her mother's birthplace).

When in Melbourne, Silvia was introduced to SCA President Paul Lostia by Stefano Rasso of Pomodoro Sardo. Some Committee members, Silvia's partner and Il Globo journalist - Riccardo Schirru, who conducted an interview, were hosted to a 'Welcome to Melbourne' lunch.

Some SCA Committee Members were able to attend Silvia's concerts.

UN 'RE' E' NATO PER NOI

Non c'erano molte possibilita' di alloggio a Betlemme quel giorno. I posti erano gia' stati occupati da altri pellegrini venuti per il Censimento. Anche Giuseppe e Maria avevano intrapreso il lungo viaggio da Nazareth, avevano persorso circa 140 km per compiere il loro dovere come discendenti di Davide. Il viaggio era stato molto piu' duro per Maria che era incinta da circa nove mesi.

Si alloggiarono' in una piccola grotta, una delle tante grotte scavate dal tempo nella roccia soffice. L'evangelista Luca ci racconta che li' naque Gesu, il 'Re' di Israele, il Messia promesso da tanti anni. Naque nell'oscurita' di un paese qualunque, distante da parenti e amici.

La nascita di un futuro re viene solitamente proclamata e festeggiata, la sua vita viene programmata da coloro che ne hanno il compito e l'interesse. Non per Gesu'. Egli perefere' nascere povero, un re per i poveri, per gli abbandonati, gli emarginati dalla societa', per i senza voce, per gli impotenti/i privi di potere. Il suo compito sarebbe stato quello di assistere, di dar voce, di dare dignita' e speranza, di seminare pace e perdono, e per assicurarli, con parole e opere che il Padre li amava, li amava tanto da mandare il proprio Figlio a condividere con loro la loro esistenza e le loro difficolta'.

E' cio che il Cristianesimo festeggia ogni anno, la nascita del Figlio di Dio tra noi, che "augura la pace a tutti i popoli di buona volonta'. E cosi' che anch'io prego e vi auguro oggi "che questa pace sia con tutti voi e con i vostri cari."

Padre Michele Ledda



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