



# Sa Oghe

The voice of the Sardinian Cultural Association Victoria

SARDINIAN CULTURAL  
ASSOCIATION (Vic) Inc.  
Reg. No. A0014186M

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MARCH 2008

## 22nd Annual General Meeting of the SCA

'The Sardinian Cultural Association continues to be at the forefront of many cultural events' said Paul Lostia

Sunday 17 February 2008 the SCA held its 22nd AGM and although the temperature outside reached 34 degrees this did not deter the many members and simpatizanti who were present.

As customary, the President reminded those present that the meeting was being held in the land of the Wurundjeri People.

Present were Dott.ssa Simonetta Magnani, Director of the Italian Institute of Culture, Prof. Piero Genovesi, Director of the Italian Australian Institute, Maria Zeiss, winner of the 2006 SCA/Monash University Travelling Scholarship and Saverio Minutolo, winner of the Australian Sardinian Scholarship.

The President reflected on the events held by the SCA during 2007 and said the 'casalinga' style lunches held in the club-rooms were always a great enjoyment for all participants, Sardi and non Sardi while the higher profile events such as the Iskeliu concert at Federation Square, the weekend trip to the Grampians, the launch of the Australian Sardinian Scholarship and the continued sponsorship of the Assisi Centre have been most successful and appreciated by the community at large.

The President thanked his Committee for their support and hard work during the year and he also acknowledged the work of the S. Ignazio group, the members of the 'Next Generation' group, informally led by Laura Piu, Francesca Carta, Jennifer Curcio, Chiara Curcio and Susanne Hammett and the Regione Sarda for their continued financial support.

The President also highlighted the major projects that were reported at the last AGM and the progress to date:

- 'Dove Fiorisce il Rosmarino - la Pittura Murale Sarda'
- 'La Cultura Sarda attraverso Gastronomie e Tradizioni'

Both of the above have been approved by the Region 2008

- History of Sardinian immigration in Victoria, 'Australian Sardinian Scholarship' launched and research commenced 2008
- 'Next Generation' launched 2006



Dott.ssa Simonetta Magnani with Paul Lostia and Angelo Ledda following the presentation of the 'Certificato di Riconoscimento' to Dott.ssa Magnani.

with activities commenced in 2007 and more expected in 2008.

The President continued 'My message, as covered in the September edition of the newsletter 'Sa Oghe' was that Australia gave us the opportunities to better ourselves, which we did through hard work. But we also enriched Australia with our work and family ethics as well as the diverse cultural background.

Now that we and our children are comfortable we should not forget that there are people who are not, and in fact are looking for the same opportunities which we were looking for and were lucky enough to have open to us.

### 'Australia still the lucky country'

'My hope is that the SCA continues to be an organisation proud of its migrant origins and celebrating /sharing its Sardinian culture in the country it now calls home - Australia, whilst at the same time having compassion for those here and abroad less fortunate than us'.

Dott.ssa Simonetta Magnani spoke of the good work being done by the SCA and has always been happy to collabo-



Angelo Ledda presents the 'Certificato di Riconoscimento' to Paul Lostia.

Photos by Joe Piu

rate with projects involving the SCA.

At the conclusion of her speech the President, Paul Lostia, presented Dott.ssa Magnani with a gift and a 'Certificato di Riconoscimento' in appreciation of the contribution and support that she has given the SCA during her stay in Melbourne.

President Paul Lostia also received an award.

In recognition of his great work, Paul Lostia, was presented with the 'Certificato di Riconoscimento' at the Association's AGM on Sunday 17 February 2008.

Paul joined the SCA in 1994 and has been President since 1997.

Since becoming President, Paul has steered the SCA into being acknowledged as a culturally active Association, willing to be seen and up-front at all levels and has been the driving force of many major projects, some of which generated funds for worthy charities.

Paul also took on the role of Consul-tore, a position he held and carried out with distinction for a period of 4 years.

*Jennifer Curcio speaks to an educator on food and Sardinian Cuisine*

## Pietro Porcu



The countless awards from 'The Age Good Food Guide' are almost a part of the décor at Pietro Porcu's restaurant 'Da Noi' in South Yarra.

With the acquisition of his new restaurant 'Tea Rooms' late 2006 in Yarck, it is hard to believe that Melbourne has been his home for only 13 odd years.

After working and living in Europe from the age of 20, marriage and the birth of his daughter Romey led him to Australia.

From day one, 'Da Noi' was a huge success, welcoming a strong sensation and an amazing reaction from his clients. His strong team at the restaurant, are like family and together they

dedicate the smooth running of both 'Da Noi' and the 'Tea Rooms' out at Yarck.

Four years ago, Pietro purchased a farm several kilometers away from the Yarck township to pursue as a hobby in his spare time. It has progressed greatly since then with the countless animals Pietro has bought, now also calling it home. Even an olive grove has been incepted and with the purchase of a small chapel and hall in the town Pietro has big plans in mind; a B&B, and annual food festival are just a few of the ideas on his agenda.

All in all Pietro is a food lover who loves life. He doesn't view himself as



a chef but humbly regards himself as an educator on food and the simple, ancient and pure traditions transmitted in Sardinian cuisine.

### Da Noi

95 Toorak Rd,  
South Yarra  
9866 5975

### Tea Rooms of Yarck

6585 Maroondah Hwy,  
Yarck VIC  
(03) 5773 4233



Story and photos by Jennifer Curcio

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I trust you and your families enjoyed a happy and safe festive season.

I thank all those who attended our recent AGM and have supported the SCA over a long period of time, as well as welcoming our "new arrivals".

The successes of 2007 and plans for 2008 were extensively reported at the AGM and in the feature article of this edition of our newsletter, therefore, I will not be repetitive.

I also thank the continued support from our sponsors, local media, Italian & Australian authorities and the Region, as well as acknowledging the excellent work and support of our Consulatore Pietro Schirru.

As I embark on my 12<sup>th</sup> year as your President, with honor and respect, I must

acknowledge the newly elected committee, including past committee members who have and continue to serve diligently over a long period of time. I thank you for the support and show of confidence shown towards them, acknowledging that by making themselves available to continue to serve our community through the SCA they ensure that we remain, as acknowledged by many, one of the most culturally vibrant and relevant community focused Associations in Australia.

As you may recall my closing comments in the December, 2007 edition of this newsletter included a Christmas message. Therefore, as we tackle the challenges of 2008 I present to you a New Year's resolution, which I acquired at a dear friend's funeral a few years back, it goes like this:

***"For a long time it seemed to me that life was about to begin real life But there was always some obstacle in the way, something to get through first, some unfinished business, 'quality' time to be found a bill to be paid At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life This perspective has helped me to see there is no magical or special way to happiness.***

***Happiness is the way and all time is of utmost 'quality'***

***So treasure every moment you have and remember that time waits for no one."***

As always

FORZA PARIS & FORZA the SCA  
**Paul Lostia**



## From the Consultore...

E' con grande piacere che accolgo l'invito del vostro Circolo di partecipare con una mia nota al testo del vostro bello ed interessante periodico.

Ho appena partecipato (17 febbraio u.s.) ad una riunione tenutasi a Milano dell'ufficio di presidenza della Consulta, dei presidenti di Federazioni e dei coordinatori e consultori di Australia, Canada e Brasile.

La riunione aveva lo scopo di completare le procedure organizzative della Conferenza Internazionale dei Sardi nel Mondo che si svolgera' a Cagliari nei giorni 25-26-27 Aprile di quest'anno. Ma della Conferenza parlero' piu' diffusamente nei prossimi giorni con un comunicato per tutti i Circoli Sardi d'Australia.

Per ora voglio ricordare il successo ottenuto quest'anno a causa dell'accoglienza positiva da parte degli organismi regionali di due dei tre progetti presentati da me per vostro conto nel 2006. Ed e' con particolare soddisfazione che sottolineo come sia stato accolto (con uno stanziamento di 40.000 Euro) quello relativo alla proposta di far venire in Australia un muralista sardo che dovra' dipingere tre murali a Sydney, Brisbane e Melbourne.

E' mio dovere ricordare che questo ambizioso progetto e' stato iniziato proprio dal vostro Circolo con la straordinaria partecipazione dell'allora addetto culturale del Consolato Generale di Melbourne Dr. Renzo Sabatini.

Ed e' per questo che anche a nome degli altri Circoli mi congratulo con il presidente Paolo Lostia, il suo Comitato e tutti i soci per aver sostenuto un progetto che ci pareva allora ambizioso e del quale tutti noi dobbiamo sentirci orgogliosi e partecipare.

E' importante anche citare il pensiero espresso dall'assessore, dott.ssa Romana Congera e dalla direttrice del Servizio Emigrazione dott.ssa Addis, che progetti come quello del Muralista sono proprio i progetti che la Regione desidera sostenere.

A tutti un forte e caloroso saluto.

**Pietro Schirru**  
Consultore/Coordinatore

## 'Gita' to the Grampians and the Great Western Region

Beautiful weather, wonderful scenery, fascinating local history and a fun group of "young at heart" travellers were the key ingredients in the success of the annual excursion of the S.C.A, which in 2007 focused on the Grampians and the Central West region of Victoria.

It was a real challenge to try and explore in only three days the beauty of what nature has created for us to admire. A mixture of rugged mountains, the Grampians were originally called Gariwerd by the Djab Warrung and Jardwadjali peoples that shared this region for over 5000 years. They were renamed the Grampians by Sir Thomas Mitchell, the first white man to discover the region in the 1830's. A major feature of the Grampians are the spectacular blue and grey rocks that have been sculpted by the wind and rain over 400 million years, along with the gorges, fern valleys, lakes, springs, wild flowers, waterfalls, aboriginal rock art, fauna, and so on. The spectacular look-outs over the rich farming valleys are breath-taking.

I found the visit to the Seppelts Vineyards was very interesting. The underground cellars, an array of tunnels that were dug out in the 1860's, are home

to hundreds of thousands of bottles of sparkling wine that lie dormant, some for up to 10 or 15 years, covered with a blanket of dust and waiting to be released and consumed.

The barbecue offered by the SCA. was a great success. Held in the magnificent motel grounds that are set on well manicured lawns, with native and cultured flowers making it look more like a botanic garden than motel grounds, in a quiet valley and surrounded by the kangaroos and wallabies that graze freely in the grounds amongst the shrubs. After a few drinks and good food prepared by our dedicated ladies and the meat barbecued to perfection by Giuseppe Nolis, the ladies in particular began to entertain us with a few songs, accompanied by Audrey Cooke's guitar. Eventually a few of the boys joined in and a competition began to try and recall the songs of their past youth.

In the morning before we left, the hotel manager was anxious to say a few words to the group. He began by saying that we were the noisiest group that had ever stayed in the motel, but also the best behaved and if we ever decided to go back he would give us a ten per cent discount!

**Story and photos by Joe Piu**



Above, the happy group of travellers at the Seppelts Great Western Winery while below some of the ladies enjoying their sing-song ably accompanied on guitar by Audrey Cook.





## From the Consulatore...

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### AUSTRALIAN SARDINIAN SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED



Saverio Minutolo

John Gatt-Rutter, Vaccari Professor in Italian Studies at La Trobe University and Chair of the Selection Panel announced on 20 November 2007 that the successful applicant for the Australian Sardinian Scholarship was Saverio Minutolo.

Professor Gatt-Rutter in his report said that 'Mr Minutolo presented very well, expanding in detail on his written submission...'

The scholarship is to research Sardinian migration in Victoria and is a project jointly sponsored by the SCA and the Italian Australian Institute.

Saverio was born in Anzio (Rome) in 1964 and when in his 20's studied at the University of Bologna. He worked in Milan until he moved to Australia in 2001. He first came to Australia as a tourist in 1998 and on his second trip met and married Cristina Marras (Cristina interviewed Saverio on Rete Italia about a project on Bonegilla that he was working on at the time). Saverio and Cristina have a young son Romeo.

Saverio studied theatrical and communication sciences at the University of Bologna and for 15 years worked as a freelance writer for theatre companies, childrens' theatre companies and comedians. He has also worked for SBS Radio and has written TV programs for Mediaset.

The SCA wishes Saverio every success with his research and encourages full co-operation from the Sardinian community with this very important research.



ENOTECA VINO BAR

920 Lygon Street North Carlton (Cnr Richardson Street) Telephone: 9389 7000

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### NEW ARRIVALS

There have been two additions to the families of long serving SCA members.

#### Stephanie Marie Hammett

was born on 25 August 2007 to Shane and Susanne (Piu). Stephanie weighed 3.16kg and was 51cm in length.

Susanne with her sister Laura was one of the organising working group for the highly successful 'Un Incontru' evening held in November 2006.

Congratulations to the parents and grandparents Giovanni and Evelina Piu



#### Aamon Micah Uselioates

was born on 3 October 2007 to Damian and Deborah.

Aamon weighed 2.69kg and is doing very well.

Proud father, Damian was in his younger days, very involved with the SCA, particularly the dance group.

Damian is the eldest son of Salvatore and Olga Useli,

Sam and Olga are naturally delighted with their first grandchild.



#### Did you know...

The Cancer Council has information. in Italian, on the following topics:

- Finding Bowel Cancer early,
- Prostate Problems,
- Pap Smear,
- Hysterectomy,
- What is Cancer? Cancer Treatment
- Breast Awareness for women.

If you want further information on any of the above, you can call the Helpline 13 11 20

Email: [enquiries@cancervic.org.au](mailto:enquiries@cancervic.org.au)

Internet: [www.cancervic.org.au](http://www.cancervic.org.au)

#### Victims of Crime Helpline:

1800 819 817

#### WEB SITES OF INTEREST

##### Region:

[www.regione.sardegna.it](http://www.regione.sardegna.it)

##### Messaggero Sardo:

[www.ilmessaggerosardo.com](http://www.ilmessaggerosardo.com)

##### L'Unione Sarda:

[www.unionesarda.it](http://www.unionesarda.it)

##### Cagliari Calcio:

[www.cagliaricalcio.net](http://www.cagliaricalcio.net)

##### Sardegna

<http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/sardegna>



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#### COMING EVENTS

##### March 11 -

Lecture on Eleonora D'Arborea

##### March 16 -

Lunch—San Giuseppe (at the Club)

##### March 24 -

Easter picnic at Birrarung Park

##### April 27 -

Lunch 'Sa Die De Sa Sardigna'

##### May 18 -

Lunch for Mothers Day (at the Club)

More information will be sent prior to these events.

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