



Sa Oghè

The voice of the Sardinian Cultural Association Victoria

**SARDINIAN CULTURAL
ASSOCIATION (Vic) Inc.**
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MELBOURNE MURAL COMPLETED



Work on the mural in Rosanna began in earnest on Thursday 19 March with 8

students from Marcellin College assisting Giorgio Polo with drawing the chalk graphs and some of the design images.

The mural titled 'The Continuing Journey / Il Viaggio Continuo' evokes themes of immigration, the land and new generation. It also includes an Indigenous element recognising the original inhabitants of Australia.

The mural presents a visual journey (left to right) representing the dawn of Creation where we can find a common background, the evolution of the races, the subsequent warring nations, the consciousness raising of being all 'under the same sky' (from a 4year old child's perspective of each person having the universe inside and out), and finally the world where we can all blend in harmony.

Valuable assistance from Banyule Council's Director of Community Services, Sauro Antonelli, made it possible for Council staff, in particular Rebecca Olsen, Shae Coatsworth and Abigail Edwards-Hart to facilitate the process, obtaining permits, liaising with the building owners, Bevel Nominees and the tenants, Australia Post.

The Rosanna Traders Association President, Robyn Dewar-Oldis, Rosanna Centre Manager, Noella Jacobs and all



The Continuing Journey / Il Viaggio Continuo

This mural recognizes the original inhabitants of Australia and explores the themes of immigration, the land and new generations. It includes an indigenous element, designed in collaboration with the Mia Mia Gallery.

Titled 'The Continuing Journey/ Il Viaggio Continuo', the mural is a gift to the community of Banyule from the Sardinian Cultural Association of Victoria which has their clubrooms in Rosanna.

It has been made possible thanks to generous funding by Italy's Autonomous Region of Sardinia and the collaboration between Banyule City Council, the Rosanna Traders Association, the Italian Institute of Culture in Melbourne, and Mia Mia Gallery.

World acclaimed Sardinian muralist, Giorgio Polo, was able to realise this mural with the help of students from Marcellin College and many other volunteers.

Paul Lostia
President
Sardinian Cultural Association

Cr Tom Melican
Mayor
Banyule City Council

6 April 2009

Plaque mounted on wall alongside the mural in Rosanna.

the Rosanna Traders were also extremely supportive and encouraging of the project.

On Monday 6 April with many SCA members, friends and local Traders present, SCA President, Paul Lostia together with Banyule Mayor, Cr Tom Melican unveiled a plaque commemorating the mural.

The mural will be maintained by the Rosanna Traders Association.

Dove Fiorisce il Rosmarino

Successful Seminar, 'Where the Rosemary Flowers' held at the Italian Institute of Culture

A very successful seminar was held at the Italian Institute of Culture on Tuesday 17 March where Giorgio Polo gave us an insight into his love of Murals and how he started on this art form.

At the age of 15 years he exhibited his paintings at a gallery and was an immediate success but he lost his interest in this artform when he was told by the critics what to paint and that he maintain that style as it was marketable. For some time he did not paint but devoted his time to working with 'troubled' young people and he still enjoys working with young people on the murals he paints all around the world.

Giorgio also presented an exhibition of photographs (the exhibition remained open until Friday 3 April) taken by him of children in different parts of the world while there working on murals.

SCA President, Paul Lostia welcomed the many guests and expressed his and the SCA's thanks firstly to the Autonomous Region of Sardinia for making the substantial funding available for this very important project. He also thanked the Coordinator of Sardinian Associations in Australia, Pietro Schirru for his help in getting the Project funding approved.

Paul also acknowledged the great help from Renzo Sabbatini in prepar-



Pictured with Giorgio at the seminar held at the Italian Institute of Culture were the Italian Consul General Dott. Francesco De Conno; Dott. Stefano Fossatti, Director of the Italian Institute of Culture; Cav. Sauro Antonelli, President, COM IT ES; Cr Tom Melican, Mayor of Banyule; Colin McKinnon, Director Mia Mia Gallery; Paul Lostia, SCA President; Mrs Carolyn Easdale, Head of Visual Arts at Marcellin College; Angelo Ledda, SCA and various other members of Banyule Council, Marcellin College and the Italian Institute of Culture.

ing the submission to the 'Region', the staff of Banyule Council, Rosanna Centre Manager, Noella Jacobs and the Rosanna Traders Association.

Marcellin College and the Head of Visual Arts, Carolyn Easdale, were also thanked for their willingness to participate with painting the Mural at such short notice.

The Italian Consul General Dr Francesco De Conno was happy to welcome Giorgio and also showed his keen knowledge of murals and their history, while the Mayor of Banyule, Cr Tom Melican was thankful for the 'gift' of the mural to the City of Banyule and he was also impressed that, unlike other projects that happen in many municipalities, this one did not cost the Council any money.

The Director of the Italian Institute of Culture, Dr Stefano Fossatti thanked the 'Region' and the SCA for realising the Project of the Mural.

Giorgio apologized for speaking English 'like a drunken dog' but nevertheless managed to explain his love of painting murals and the inspiration he gets when working with children.

A DVD of one of his Murals painted at

a school in Belgium was shown and Giorgio explained that this work was carried out during school holidays and with the help of many assistants.

Mia Mia Gallery Director, Colin McKinnon generously donated an indigenous artwork and Giorgio Polo donated two limited edition lithographs of his work for a Silent Auction towards the 'My Room' at the Royal Children's Hospital. The auction and the gold coin donation at entry realised an amount in excess of \$ 800.00.



Director of Mia Mia Gallery, Colin McKinnon presents Giorgio with a Didgeridoo. Pictured also is Nanurra and his daughter.



President of the Rosanna Traders Association, Robyn Dewar-Oldis, with Banyule Mayor, Cr Tom Melican interested listeners to Giorgio Polo.



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Here we are already June '09, Easter has come and gone and so has half of the year, at any rate I trust you and your families enjoyed a "buona, felice e Santa Pasqua" in the best of health.

My thoughts are also with those less fortunate than most of us and whilst not obvious, there are many, be it for personal, financial or health related reasons. I encourage these people to approach the SCA (in confidence if they wish) to see if we can help in any way. I wish them better times ahead and I also commend them for their strength and courage in dealing with their situation, all qualities that those of us in better circumstances can learn from.

As always I thank all those who have attended our most recent functions, the "San Giuseppe" lunch on 15 March, the "Pasquetta Picnic" on 13 April, the "Sa Die de Sa Sardigna" lunch on 26 April and the "Festa della Mamma" 17 May. All these traditional functions were most successful as was the Special Project presented by the world renowned Sardinian Muralist, Giorgio Polo at the Italian Institute of Culture, titled "Dove Fiorisce il Rosmarino - La Pittura Murale Sarda agli Antipodi".

The Project commenced on 17 March and concluded on 6 April with the unveiling of the Mural titled "The Continuing Journey / Il Viaggio Continuo". Whilst the Project, which saw a collaboration with the Italian Institute of Culture, Banyule Council, the Rosanna Trader's Association, Marcellin College and the Mia Mia Aboriginal Art Gallery is extensively covered in this edition I will specifically acknowledge and thank Giorgio for his extremely easy to please personality, strong community values and in particular his tremendous work ethic, all those who worked on the Project in a "hands-on basis" and also Pietro Schirru and his partner Maria Luisa for joining us on site at the inauguration of the Mural. I also thank Angelo Ledda for his invaluable

dedication leading up, during and after the Project which was a major factor in ensuring the coordination of the previously mentioned collaborators in the Project. I also highlight with great pride that once again the SCA was able to present a major unique lasting cultural Project in an extremely professional manner for the benefit of the community as a whole.

I am pleased to confirm that over the next few weeks we will be able to have a long overdue rest from SCA activities and "recharge our batteries" as our next formal function is a "Pranzo Conviviale" on 21 June, however, I ask you all to join me in wishing Marie and Joe Piu all the very best as they have recently relocated to Fremantle in WA to be closer to their son Michael his wife Marisa and daughters Emma and Daniela.

I understand that this big decision has been motivated by strong family values; nevertheless we are sad to see Marie and Joe leave Melbourne from a personal level and from an SCA perspective. We acknowledge, as eloquently stated by Marie in her speech at the "Sa Die de Sa Sardigna" function on 26 April, that they have been active contributors to the Sardinian community prior to the formation of the SCA and even more so since the formation of the SCA in many leadership roles. We wish Marie and Joe the best of health and success in this new venture, reassuring them that whilst they will be missed, they will always be part of the SCA family and ask them to advise us when they visit family and friends in Melbourne so that we can arrange for them to meet their SCA family members.

I look forward to seeing you at our next functions in the meantime as always FORZA Paris & FORZA the SCA.

Paul Iostia

AMAZING GENEROSITY

The amazing generosity of the SCA members and friends during the last two luncheon events has seen large amounts raised for worthy causes.

At the lunch held at the clubrooms on Sunday 15 March \$260 was raised for the devastating bushfires in Victoria and a further \$356 was raised at the lunch on Sunday 26 April for the L'Aquila earthquake appeal.

The monies raised were sent to Il Globo / Rete Italia who organized the appeal and the SCA has received letters of confirmation that the monies were passed on to the relevant authorities.

Well done SCA members and friends!

Un "viaggio continuo" anche per me

E' sempre difficile per me parlare dell'esperienza di un murale. Ho viaggiato molto, ho dipinto in molti luoghi completamente differenti, ed ogni volta che ci penso, non riesco a parlare dell'aspetto artistico senza chiamare in causa l'aspetto umano. Così anche l'esperienza di Melbourne. Una ricchissima esperienza. Di quelle che si conservano con cura nella "valigia" dei bei ricordi. Ma anche di quelle che portano con sé nuove amicizie, conoscenze e legami con nuovi luoghi.

La prima cosa che mi viene in mente è anche forse la più breve e semplice. GRAZIE.

Grazie innanzitutto per la meravigliosa accoglienza, che mi ha fatto sentire come a casa mia pur essendo "agli antipodi". Grazie per avere creduto nel progetto e per averlo dimostrato quotidianamente con quelle attenzioni e quella presenza continua, che rende superabile qualsiasi difficoltà. Mi ha colpito molto positivamente l'organizzazione del lavoro. Non solo ciò che più strettamente riguardava il lavoro del "dipingere". Raramente mi è capitato, infatti, di incontrare un'organizzazione sarda così ben "radicata" e aperta all'esterno nello stesso tempo: in altre parole ho potuto godere della grande capacità locale di lavorare "in rete". Il circolo sardo di Melbourne è riuscito a stabilire preziosi legami di collaborazione con altre organizzazioni, gruppi e istituzioni (l'aborigen art gallery, il comune di Banyule, diverse istituzioni scolastiche, l'associazione dei commercianti, una rete di media...), in modo esemplare, come sempre dovrebbe essere quando un evento riguarda la comunità. Ed è una gioia per me poter constatare che essere sardo non significa sempre "star rinchiuso in un nuraghe", ma può significare essere parte attiva di una società, anche quando questa si trova lontana dalla terra natia.

Un grazie speciale, infine, lo devo a tutti gli amici di Melbourne: quelli che sono venuti a dipingere, che mi hanno aperto le loro case, che mi hanno fatto conoscere luoghi ed usanze (come il football australiano: Forza Carlton!), che hanno condiviso con me piacevolissime chiacchierate e risate.

Perché come dico sempre: quando qualcuno passa e vede un bel murale si ferma e guarda. Ma forse non saprà mai che quel murale contiene anche tutto ciò.

Giorgio Polo



Thank you to all participants

Lisa Foley
 Maria Gavina Manca
 Val Porteous
 Rhonda Symons
 Ruth Freeburn
 Ken Richards
 James Bacash
 Nick Black
 Francis Di Tanno
 Mitchell Kelly
 Tom Lee
 Daniel Monda-Houston
 Cameron Rumph
 Liam Vear
 Julian Battistella
 Tom Burt
 Jon Clonaridis
 Peter Green
 Gerard Logan
 Vince Madafferi
 Pat Millsom
 Callan Stewart
 Sam Trask-Marino
 Chris Walsh
 Marco Blackwood
 Davide Cardamone
 Christian Costanzo
 Luke Dakin
 Luc Williams
 Stefan Delianis
 Francesco Fedele
 Michael George
 Daniel Jarni
 George Kakkasis
 Adam Lunardon
 Sam Philpott
 Sam Williams
 Dylan Breen
 Stefan Chiarelli
 Michael Cocozziello
 Ned Elphinstone
 Paul Failla
 Jack Galea
 Joe De Neeff
 Dean Lorenzi
 Alex Makridis
 Quinn McDonald
 Tom Newton
 Matthew Tantis-Hall
 Alex Traynor

Pat Goodwill
 Sam Rimington
 Luke Vandergriff
 Carolyn Easdale
 John Di Natale
 Anna Dean
 Angela Bottari
 Asta Ho
 Graham Calvary
 Megan Lewis
 Sean Kolednik
 Renzo Sabbatini
 Paul Lostia
 Angelo Ledda
 Robyn Dewar-Oldis
 Noella Jacobs
 Rebecca Olsen
 Shae Coatsworth
 Abigail Edwards-Hart
 Cr Tom Melican



Mural participants, Val Porteous (above) and Ruth Freeburn (below).



Students from Marcellin College begin to paint the 'waves'



Giorgio with mural participants Maria Gavina Manca and Lisa

Giorgio putting the finishing touches to the Mural.



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Supporter of the Sardinian Cultural Association

FAREWELL TO JOE & MARIE PIU

The SCA farewells Joe & Marie Piu in mid May as they 'emigrate' to Fremantle to be with their son Michael, his wife Marisa and their two daughters.

The SCA will miss Joe & Marie.

The President, Committee and members wish them good health and happiness and look forward to seeing them when next they are in 'Town'

COMING EVENTS

June 21

Convivial lunch at Clubrooms.

July 26

Lunch including tasting competition of homemade wines and sausages.

August

Celebration of the 22nd Anniversary of the Incorporation of the SCA.

More information will be sent prior to these events.

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