



Sa Oghe

The voice of the Sardinian Cultural Association Victoria

SARDINIAN CULTURAL
ASSOCIATION (Vic) Inc.
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Pietro Schirru re-elected Consultore/ Co-ordinatore

Following the requirement of the Autonomous Region of Sardinian Regional Law No 7/91, a meeting of President's and delegates was called to formally elect the Consultore / Coordinator of Sardinian Associations in Australia for the duration of the Legislature.

The outgoing Consultore, Pietro Schirru, following consultation with the Presidents of the Associations, called this meeting to be held in Sydney on Sunday 24 May 2009 and to be represented by the President and three delegates from each of the 'recognized' Australian Associations. From Melbourne, Paul Lostia, President and delegates Olga Useli, Angelo Ledda and Giuseppe Nolis participated.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Francesco Giacobbe, President of the Cultural Centre, Italian Forum Limited.

After verifying the presence of the nominated participants Dr Giacobbe opened the meeting and invited nominations for the position of Consultore.

Paul Lostia spoke first and said he was pleased to be with other Associations for this important election particularly "as we Sardi and non Sardi face the same challenges with the ageing of our community, also because, whilst there are and continue to be differences, it is sitting at the table that such differences, unforeseen problems, challenges and future project plans can be resolved and planned".

Paul then formally nominated Pietro Schirru as the SCA's preferred candidate stating that despite his age he found Pietro "extremely energetic, innovative and a person with a proven track record" and "enabling him to get things done by being able to move in the corridors of politics / power both here and in Sardinia" and



Delegates from the 'recognized' Associations at the conclusion of the meeting.

most importantly "we have found him to be a man of extreme honesty, integrity, trustworthy and a man of his word".

"In nominating Pietro we encourage him to continue the good work he has done to date and we also encourage him to work with us as we face the challenges ahead...the reunification of the two Brisbane Associations; support the 'recognition' of the Canberra Association, ably led by Mariangela Milucci; the introduction of scholarships based on the Australian 'work experience model'; formalisation of 'coordinamento' of Sardinian Associations in Australia; reintroduction of annual or bi-annual national



Paul Lostia congratulates Pietro Schirru.

conferences and to continue to encourage and support the presentation and approval of quality, contemporary projects which present Sardinia to Sardi and non Sardi".

Giuseppe Murtas, President of the Associazione Sarda del Queensland Inc. nominated Maurizio Fenu who due to important work commitments was unable to be present.

Leonardo Pintus, Delegate from Associazione Culturale e Sociale Sarda di Sydney Inc. nominated Pietro Schirru and Fausto Zanda from Queensland Sardinian Culture Club Ulisse Usai Inc. nominated Fausto Zanda.

Each of the nominees, prior to the secret ballot were then given the opportunity to express their reason why they should be elected.

After counting of votes Pietro Schirru received 8 votes, Maurizio Fenu received 4 votes and Fausto Zanda received 4 votes.

The Chairman, Dr Francesco Giacobbe congratulated Pietro Schirru on being elected Consultore/ Coordinatore of Sardinian Associations in Australia.

SCA SYDNEY VISIT

Committee and partners visit to Sydney

For 3 days (2 nights) commencing Sunday 24 May, SCA Committee members and partners visited Sydney, primarily for the election of the Consultore, but also for the opportunity to meet with other members of the Sardinian community and for the inauguration of Giorgio Polo's Sydney Mural.

We arrived in Sydney early on Sunday morning and as there were 9 of us we hired a mini bus to allow us to move around freely.

First stop, check in at the Motel and then on to the Italian Forum in Norton Street Leichhardt to view the site of the Mural, catch up with Giorgio and lunch.

Following lunch the four members that were elected as Delegates proceeded to the meeting that was to elect the Consultore while the rest did some window shopping.

Sunday evening we were guests of the Sydney Association at dinner and in a relaxed environment we had the opportunity to talk and discuss many Sardi and non Sardi issues.

Monday, after some local sightseeing we proceeded down to the Quay to catch a ferry boat to Watsons Bay for

a magnificent fish lunch at the famous Doyles restaurant. We were joined for lunch by Giorgio and Maria Luisa, the wife of Pietro Schirru. Back to the Motel for a quick change and then on to the Forum for the inauguration of the Mural.

The Mural titled 'Dea Madre' was launched by the Hon Angela D'Amore MP with a large number of guests present. As we would expect, the Mural is another example of the excellent skill that Giorgio showed us here in Melbourne with detail, colours and the story that it tells.

The newly elected Consultore, Pietro Schirru congratulated the SCA for the initiative of the Project that saw murals in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney and he also thanked Renzo Sabattini for suggesting to the SCA that this would be a great Project and that Giorgio Polo was the artist to make it happen.

Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and so did this wonderful weekend. Following an early lunch and goodbyes to Giorgio and Sydney we travelled back home to Melbourne.

Story: Elaine Ledda



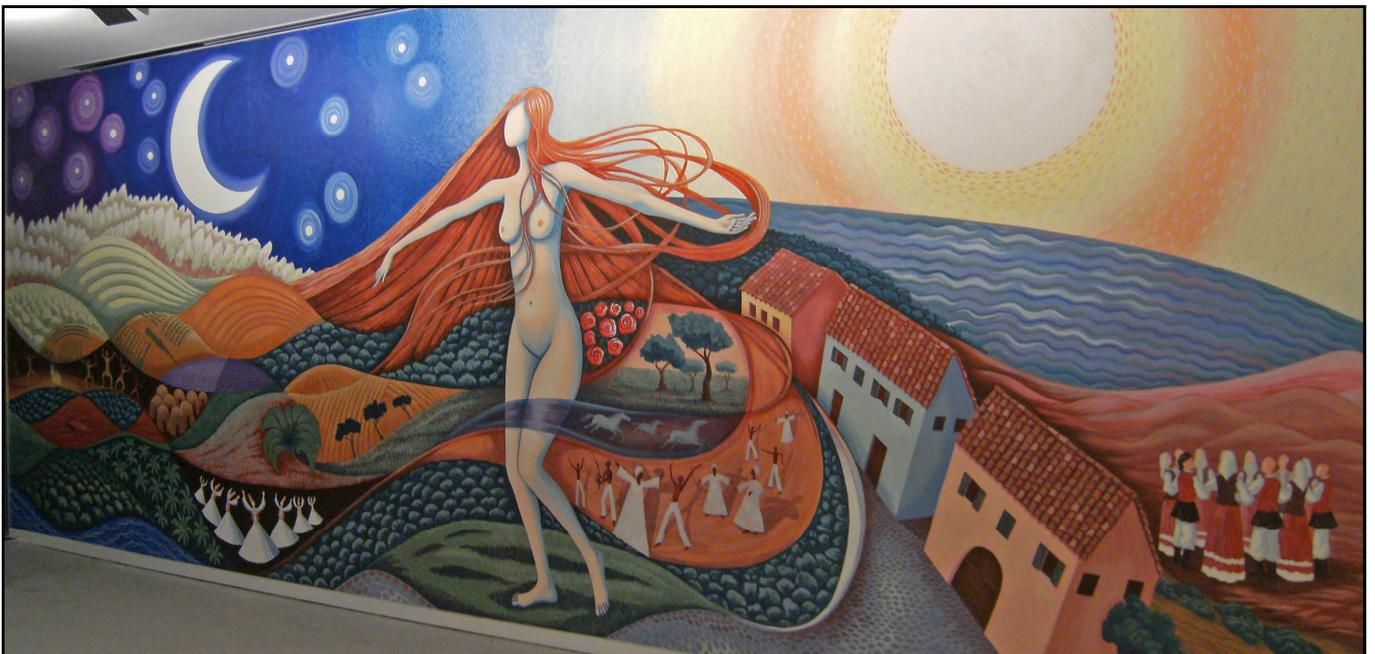
Ausilia and Diego Palmas with Angelo and Elaine Ledda



Angelo Ledda with Renzo Sabattini and Paul Lostia



Pietro Schirru, Dott. Francesco Giacobbe, Giorgio Polo, Hon Angela D'Amore and NSW Consul General, Benedetto Latteri.



'Dea Madre' the oldest divinity in Sardinia, symbol of Earth and Fertility.



From the President

Given that September is the month in which we celebrate "Fathers Day" I will start this edition's report wishing all males, fathers or not, a happy men's day and the best of health.

As we know in the recent past often the role of women in the home and at work had been undervalued and it is great and long overdue that in these days in our society the principles of "mutual respect & equal opportunity" apply. However, let's also not forget the equally important traditional or contemporary role that men occupy in society, be it working long hours, carrying out the maintenance in the family home and garden and, where there are families with children, the extremely important life long "role model" and responsibilities that males have towards these children.

I trust this latest report of mine finds you and your families in good health or on the road to recovery. As always my thoughts are with those less fortunate than most of us, and whilst not obvious these people do exist, be it for personal, financial or health related reasons.

I thank all those who have attended our most recent functions and for the first time the "Celebrazione 22mo. Anniversario dell'Incorporazione" of the SCA" lunch on 30/8. All these functions were most successful and your support during the cold winter season, particularly those who have done so for many years, those who continue to bring gifts for the raffle and all new arrivals, is most appreciated.

For me the celebration of the SCA's 22nd anniversary was the highlight of the past three months and as stated on the day, whilst recognizing the generous contribution of many of you, some no longer with us, who were involved with the Sardinia Club and the Sardinia Social Club entities which preceded and made possible the founding of the SCA on 17/8/1987. You, as I am, should be extremely proud that despite past and at times present differences of

opinion the SCA is a well respected, financially sound voluntary organization with strong community and social values which celebrates and presents traditional and contemporary Sardinian culture to Sardinians and non Sardinians in the community. As our recently re-elected "Consultore/ Coordinatore Circoli Sardi in Australia" Pietro Schirru said at our AGM in February 2009, of the many Sardinian Associations world wide we are a role model of how a Sardinian Association should be structured and administered therefore, I close on this point with a well done to you all!

As reported in the feature article of this newsletter a delegation from our committee visited Sydney for a couple of days in late May, '09 principally, as requested by the Region, to join representatives of the other Australian Sardinian recognised Associations to elect our new Consultore following the recent Sardinian general elections. I take this opportunity to congratulate Pietro Schirru for his re-election for the next 5 years noting that Pietro was our nominee and his re-election was made possible due to our strong support for him on the day that the voting took place. By way of a summary, despite Pietro and I contesting the last election for this role in 2004 since his then election he has performed his role admirably, has been a great supporter of the SCA, has visited us on many occasions and has been a man of his word, I also take the liberty to confirm that he and his partner Maria Luisa have also become good trusted friends of the SCA.

Whilst in Sydney we took the opportunity to meet members of the Sydney Association with the highlight being present at the inauguration of the Sydney Mural which gave us the opportunity to renew acquaintances with the muralist Giorgio Polo, who at short notice was also about to visit Canberra to paint a mural there before returning home to Sardinia. Whilst on this point I thank the Sydney Association for their hospitality and congratulate the President of the

yet to be officially recognized Sardinian Association in Canberra Mariangela Millucci and Pietro Schirru for having made this unscheduled initiative possible.

I encourage you to attend our upcoming activities as advised and highlighting that on 24/10/09 the Committee will be holding its now traditional bi-annual Planning Meeting. As on past occasions, the major objective of this meeting is to review the current standing and general direction of our Association, taking particular consideration to the ageing of the community and the need to do everything possible to ensure that the SCA remains relevant to those of a mature age and the "Next Generation", as we move through the new millennium, at all times complying with the Region's legislation which governs our funding entitlement.

Whilst a summary of the outcomes of the Planning Meeting will be reported to you in the 12/09 edition of this newsletter, given that the term of the current Committee expires on the 31/12/09, the comprehensive list of outcomes of this Planning Meeting will be reported at the 21/2/10 AGM and it will be the responsibility of the new Committee to take appropriate action on all recommendations made.

A particular highlight of this Planning Meeting will be that the event is being organized in collaboration with the members of our "Next Generation" initiative, Laura Piu, Jennifer Curcio and Francesca Carta and will include a number of special prominent guest speakers of all ages and from a wide section of the community.

I take the opportunity to sincerely thank all participants, and our guests for making themselves available for what has become a most important bi-annual event, acknowledging that being held on a Saturday encroaches on everybody's personal time.

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

Paul Lostia

This month we talk to Rete Italia on-air announcer and journalist

Riccardo Schirru



From Rome to Milano and from Sydney to Melbourne, Riccardo Schirru's story to date is a rich and eventful one.

Italy

Born in Rome in 1958, Riccardo's parents although 'romani', hailed from Sardinia (father) and Tuscany/Sicily, on his mother's side.

Riccardo's real life began in Milano where he grew up until the age of 18. His memories of childhood and his

teens are strong *"I loved Milano, I was studying art, I worked part time in a 'sartoria teatrale' that had contracts with the major opera house in Italy. I met very interesting people"*.

"...the thought of going back to Milano with the fog, the rain, the snow..."

Sydney

At age 18 he arrived in Sydney *"...at the start of summer, some friends showed me around the beaches and the thought of going back to Milano with the fog, the rain, the snow..."*

Riccardo's parents separated early on and his father was in Sydney with his new partner and his half brother and sister, so he decided to stay. Working in travel as a messenger boy for Via Tour Travel, he used to go to the Consulate's immigration department to collect documents and visas. *"At Immigration I used to ask for the certificate of residence of various clients and of course, mine. The clerks used to give me all the documents and mine was never returned, until one day, one of them stopped me and said: 'You always ask for the certificate for Schirru, hold on...' That day I actually walked out of the Immigration Department with my own certificate of residence"*.

After living with his family for a few years, Riccardo married when he was 21. Both too young, the marriage didn't last and *"with separation and a new relationship, I left that (travel) sector and for a while I worked in restaurants, waiting tables, doing a bit of kitchen work. While working at the Chifley, a grand hotel in the CBD, in room service, I was offered to come and work for a Freight Company, but in Melbourne."*

Melbourne & SBS

Riccardo moved to Melbourne in 1981. After a brief experience as a

young executive, he worked in education for some years and again in restaurants, until he completed his first exam for SBS Radio.

In the meantime, he was offered a job as a cook at the Bob Hawke Community Centre, a centre for the elderly in Coburg.

Newly married and expecting his first child, Alessia, with Adele, Riccardo worked as a cook for a short time, *"but SBS called and they asked me to sit for the second exam and eventually offered me the job of Senior Journalist for the Italian program."*

Both in Sydney and Melbourne, Riccardo had had experience working as a junior journalist for La Fiamma and La Voce, as well as Nuovo Paese and Radici.

He went on to work at SBS radio for 8 years, then moved to radio station 3AK. That went on to become 3BM and about 14 years ago he made the move to Rete Italia.

Rete Italia ... 14 years on

As an on-air announcer and journalist, Riccardo has been at the news desk for years. His job involves hosting programs on topics like Australian current affairs, with lots of interviews, some specials, like on election nights, as well as series, like on the Italian 'cantatori', Italian ethnic music and Fabrizio De Andre. *"I love what I am doing. When I am at the news desk I always think how great it is to know everything that's happening around the world and then tell every one, but I also like doing special projects like the series of documentaries on the history of Italian clubs in Australia."*

Hobbies

When he's not working Riccardo enjoys reading (especially Psychological thrillers with serial killers), cooking and Italian soccer.

COMING EVENTS

September 13

Visit Pompeii exhibition and lunch.

October 4

Mass for S Ignazio da Laconi at St Anthony's Shrine Hawthorn.

October 11

Lunch for S Ignazio at Clubrooms

October 24

SCA Committee Planning Day

More information will be sent prior to these events.



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