



Sa Oghe

The voice of the Sardinian Cultural Association Victoria

SARDINIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (Vic) Inc.

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'La Sardegna nel Mondo'

Nuove generazioni a confronto. Meeting giovani discendenti di emigrati sardi 23-26 June 2011

This June, my sister Chiara and I (members of the SCA's Next Generation) were two of a handful of Sardinian Australians chosen to attend the 'La Sardegna nel mondo' Conference.

As we returned to the homeland, we found ourselves surrounded by male and female versions of ourselves; emigrated Sardinians, children of Sardinians, grandchildren of Sardinians, even great grand children of Sardinians. Some had never even been to Sardinia, but regardless of how strong or weak the blood of our ancestors flowed inside of us, whether we spoke Italian or Sardinian or neither, we were all there to discuss the future of Sardinia outside of Sardinia; with our own communities and Associations in mind. But why was such a conference needed? Because generation gaps weaken the 'legame', there is less interest from younger generations to embrace their history and celebrate their origins. Soon the only Associations that will be left standing will be the empty buildings Where we once used to meet. **'There is passivity amongst youth. We need to do something rather than complain there's nothing to do'** – Alessandra Porcu – delegate from Berlin, Germany.



The Conference

The evening of our arrival we mingled with some of the 150 odd delegates just like ourselves hailing from all parts of the world like Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Canada and more. One memory I recall strongly from this moment was the affinity they felt towards Sardinia, wearing bandanas, dressed in the flag colours and Conference t-shirts we'd received in our welcome packs. I thought to myself that if all of us there had our own Association, the future of Sardinians in the world would be in good hands.

On Friday 24 June 'business' officially commenced with official greetings from the Conference organizers, a lecture from a Professor of the University of Sassari as well as Government representatives. Their thoughts, statistics and recommendations gave us food for thought as we commenced an afternoon of workshoping what Sardinia and being Sardinian meant to us.

On the second day we had more talks including a brief greeting from the President of the Commissione Consulare Regionale, a lecture by Sociologist and writer/journalist Salvatore Cubeddu, amongst others. There was more of a focus on emigration, the organisational structure of it and testimonials from today and the past. Our workshops that afternoon delved into questions of what value our 'circoli' had for us, reasons

why we get involved with our Associations, identifying problems and exchanging ideas to help us strengthen them.

The third and final day we discussed the need for communication and information in our lives. We were able to relay and present the innovative ideas we had all suggested to improve our Associations, how to better communicate and network together, as well as bridge the gap back to Sardinia and the concept of creating ways to bring ourselves back to Sardinia.

Outcomes – what next?

Throughout the Conference we learnt about famous Sardinians and the things that have made Sardinia famous: Elisabetta Canalis, Banditi, The Tiscali internet search engine, La Costa Smeralda, authors like Michela Muggia, Flavio Sori and so on. But apart from being proud of this nation's beauty, exciting heritage and many accomplishments the speakers reminded us that we need to re-think the world of emigration. It is up to us to create new content for this world, implement improvement, progression and guarantee ourselves a future in it. **'Introduce the two cultures by doing things in common'** – Greta Coggiotti – delegate from Biela Torino, Italy.

During economic crises like the one we are currently experiencing we see migration, we lose and gain people



Assessore Francesco Manca



La Sardegna nel Mondo

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and we must value and hold onto our identity when this happens.

It is clear that the passion and dedication exists, we have the people globally, armed Sardinian forces burning with ideas and talent, we need to learn from each other.

'Circolo swaps a few times a year to get an insight into how the other circoli are organized and work together on projects and events' – Jan Lai – delegate.

Since the Conference a page of La Sardegna nel mondo has been created on Facebook and every day I receive notifications of ideas, suggestions, invitations, research being conducted. This is one of the most exciting outcomes of the Conference because it is the transparent canvas of a new community that not only ask for help but give it. Right now our youth counterparts in Italy face the gripping reality of 40% unemployment. In Sardinia this figure is even higher, so this Conference is a reminder that our work is beneficial, we are laying the foundation and creating opportunities that can help strengthen our global family. But most importantly by returning back to Sardinia for this conference we have all returned more Sardinian.

'L'indifferenza e' il peso morto della storia'. Antonio Gramsci



By Jennifer Curcio

Please email us your comments and suggestions, or to be added to the SCA Next Generation database please email us at:
next.generation@optusnet.com.au

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From the President...



"Cari Amici / Istimadu Amigus",

Well despite all the 'gloomers & doomers' within family, friends, acquaintances, on TV and many of us, due to the whether our aches and pains and tragic world events (these are referred to later in my report) I will start off my report by stating what a wonderful winter we are having! Yes the dams are almost full due to a cold and wet winter which after all is what winter is supposed to be. Therefore, as the late Louis Armstrong used to sing "What a Wonderful World" and by not becoming "gloomers & doomers" we can keep it that way.

Since my last report our functions have continued to be a success, with particular highlights being the unexpected pleasant surprise of seeing once again Flammi Vaninetti and her husband Aldo and the celebration of the 24th. Anniversary of the SCA. In referring to anniversaries of the vintage kind' I acknowledge the recent 70th. birthday of our long term member and friend Angelo Ledda thanking him for his contribution to the Sardinian community prior and following the formation of the SCA and wishing him and his family the best of health for many years to come.

I also acknowledge that currently a number of our closest of members are visiting Sardinia, namely Toia & Benito Cordedda and Tonina & Giuseppe Nolis, also noting that shortly Sabina Ledda, Fanni Rigo, Goivanni Piu and Michele Sini, some with their partners, will be joining them in the context of the

"Soggiorno in Sardegna per Anziani" as announced at our 2/2011 AGM (Salvatore Masala had also been accepted however he had to withdraw for personal reasons), I wish them all an enjoyable trip and safe return home.

As previously, the Committee has been tirelessly working behind the scenes in order to meet the ever increasing demands from the Region and our many wide ranging Projects. I also inform you that I visited Italy (24/6 to 15/7) in particular Sardinia, in the context of these Projects as well as taking the opportunity to visit personal relations, friends and others outside Sardinia performing similar roles to ours. The principal reason for my visit was as part of a Victorian/Australian delegation comprising, researchers, business people and Victorian Government representatives in the context of the RAS Project titled 'Energia & Ambiente Sostenibile Fase 2'. This Project, 'Phase 1', was launched in 10/2011 in collaboration with the Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Melbourne. Extensive details of this second phase are provided on page 5 of this Newsletter however, I also provide you with the following summary of additional forums I attended during my visit to Italy;

- Participation at the Conference organised by the RAS titled 'Giovani Discendenti di Emigrati Sardi nel Mondo - Nuove Generazioni a Confronto la Sardegna nel Mondo' in Ghia, a specific report of this important Conference is included on page one, also in the July & August edition of the 'Il Messaggero Sardo On Line' and the June edition of the new 'Messaggero Sardo' recently received in print format;
- Presentation at the Seminar organised by Cagliari University's Department of Languages titled 'Sardi in Australia nello Stato del Victoria' in Cagliari, a specific report of this Seminar is included



in this Newsletter and in the August, 2011 edition of the 'Il Messaggero Sardo On Line';

- Convivial meeting with the Vice President of the Federation of Sardinian Associations in Italy, FASI, also Vice President of the Circolo Culturale Sardo – Eleonora D'Arborea and Committee in Padova, during which we discussed common issues, specifically youth, 'Piano Triennale' and the review of the current legislation which governs the many world-wide Sardinian Associations which is taking place in the RAS;
- Coincidental informal meeting whilst in Venice with the delegation which represented the 'Circolo Sardo di La Plata – Antonio Segni' at the previously mentioned Youth Conference;
- Formal meeting in Milan with President and Vice President of FASI to discuss similar issues to those discussed in Padova;

I am pleased to confirm that despite the above busy schedule I found time to research a bit more into my past, which I can tell you about in person. I also returned reassured that all of the Associations which I met are facing the same challenges as we face with our advantage being that we have been for some time addressing, if not fully resolving, these difficult issues to ensure our existence for many years to come.

Returning to local matters we have a number of scheduled activities which we will advise you of through our regular Bulletin however, the one I wish to highlight is our 7th Biannual Planning Day to be held on Saturday 29/10/11, noting that on this occasion an invitation will be extended to members, for those mature enough like me I remind you that the first one was held at Donnybrook Mineral Springs way back in 1995. Therefore, I implore you to keep this date free as your participation is extremely

important. Details will be mailed to you over the next few weeks.

I stated at the start of this report that I would make reference to the many recent and current tragic world events, namely the massacre in Norway, the unrest in the Middle East, the famine in Somalia, the recent riots in the UK, the brittle and in some cases collapsing world economies etc.

Obviously all of these are true, not nice and we all hope and pray that they be resolved or not happen again, I am sure many of us feel a sense of desperation feeling that we are helpless and in fact the world is not as wonderful as Louis Armstrong used to sing. Well I strongly believe the opposite, the world is a wonderful place as evidenced by the fact that these occurrences, whilst sad, worrying etc. represent only a minority of what is happening in the world. The vast majority of the world is not in these conditions and us watching the news coverages over and over in the same day, which is what the media wants us to do so it can sell advertising. We, going about our daily routines worrying and with a doomsday attitude do a disservice to what is wonderful about the world and in particular does nothing for the very issue we care about, I have never met anyone who has solved a problem by worrying.

I would recommend to you, not so much to be laughing, smiling all day, not caring or be 'do-gooders' but at least acknowledge that the best we can do to ensure that the world does not become more bad than good is to keep a positive attitude, stop complaining about it being cold and wet in winter, only having aches and pains or illnesses as our main topic of interest, get easily offended often over trivial matters, prejudge others, only care for your immediate family and care nothing for those, and there are many, less fortunate than us etc. I am certainly not a 'life style guru' however, I strongly believe that you and I can influence 'What a Wonderful

World' it truly was, is and hopefully will be for ever more!

I look forward to your continued support.

FORZA Paris, FORZA Melbourne & FORZA the SCA.

Paul Lostia



Paul Lostia with (Back Row) Claudio, Andrea and Carlo and (Front Row) Anna and Giovanna, young members at a convivial 'rinfresco' meeting with Serafina Mascia, Vice President, Federazione Associazioni Sarde in Italia (FASI) and Vice President of the Circolo Culturale Sardo 'Eleonora D'Arborea' of Padova.



Paul with Serafina Mascia and her husband Carlo Perissinotti.

Sardinians in Victoria - the book

An international presentation of the work so far.

The presentation of the research on Sardinian Immigration in Victoria to the Faculty of Languages and Literature at the University of Cagliari was an occasion to reflect on the phenomenon of migration that affected Sardinia in the middle of last century and is continuing.

This informal meeting was a chance to present the work so far and the extensive research involved in undertaking this special project.

The attendees were from the University; the Region – including Pietro Schirru, Consulatore/Coordinator of Sardinian Associations in Australia, Aldo Aledda, former Director of the 'Fondo Sociale' RAS; Melbourne representatives in Cagliari for the Youth Conference; media figures and more.

Paul Lostia, before explaining details of the book paid tribute to the memory of his late father, Bruno who emigrated to Australia in 1960 and died in 2005.

The research and progress of the book commenced an informal debate on new immigration. Is it just a move for intellectuals? We were reminded that previous migrants were more accepting of basic jobs or roles and that newer immigrants may be being too hopeful with jobs in their new-



found homes. The feedback was that Sardinians moving abroad were finding it difficult to find work and returning home. Pietro Schirru explained that the negative experiences could have been avoided had they sought information before leaving home. He explained that in Australia there are strict rules and they are enforced. Should one arrive in Australia with a three month tourist visa at the end of this period that tourist must leave. He also suggested that Sardinians wishing to start a new life in Australia should contact the Associations for information and support.

“The story of Sardinian immigration - said Paul Lostia – is a good story. The Sardi in Australia are well placed, integrated but proud to be Sardinian”

Aldo Aledda recalled that the first time that the Region set foot in Australia was in 1984 at the Conference of Italian Regions and then spoke of

what remains the only fact finding inquiry made on Sardinian immigration.

Also, discussed was the crises of the Sardinian community and the lack of youth interest. Our association desperately needs help to survive and secure its future. Thus, Pietro Schirru also suggested giving youth money to do their own projects and have more freedom with ideas and their vision.

Anna Aloï, another attendee at the meeting is the head of ISMOKA – the International Relations Office Students Mobility Unit at the University of Cagliari. She informed of us of an exciting project for her students at the Universities of Perth and Wollongong where they've successfully organized study exchanges and are keen to create more in cities like Melbourne and Sydney. It is these kind of programs which allow us to reconnect with our origins and create opportunities for its longevity. This is why it is imperative to remember where we come from, if we don't our identities will fade.

The book will be launched later this year.

By Jennifer Curcio

Soggiorni Anziani – Sardegna

As was announced at the 24th AGM in February this year, the SCA/RAS Special Project of trips to Sardinia for the 'older' members of SCA are about to become a reality.

The Project funded by RAS for 21 Sardinian migrants from three countries, Australia, Canada and the USA to visit Sardinia for a period of approximately two weeks, all expenses paid, is aimed at the age group 68 to 85 years. Each successful applicant had the opportunity to be accompanied by their husband/wife but at their own cost.

All applications from Members were

duly forwarded to the 'Associazione Fernando Santi', in Cagliari that has been given the responsibility by the RAS of organising the trips and the final selection of successful applicants.

There were five members selected to travel but unfortunately, due to health and personal reasons, Salvatore Masala has decided not to go. The others selected were: Sabina Ledda and she will be accompanied by her husband Francesco; Giovanni Piu will be accompanied by his wife Evelina; Fanny Rigo will be accompanied by her husband Francesco, and Michele Sini.

The projected tour starts with the arrival in Cagliari on 26 September and travelling to Sulcis, Sarrabus, Oristano, Cabras, Bosa, Nuoro, Sassari, Alghero and back to Cagliari for the return to Melbourne. There are some that will take the opportunity to extend their stay and visit relatives.





ALL-ENERGY PROJECT PHASE 2 - CAGLIARI

Phase 2 of the All-Energy Sustainable Energy Project 'Go Back Sardegna' was an outstanding success as evidenced by the letter from Assessore On Francesco Manca on page 6. The conference held in Cagliari from 27 June to 1 July 2011 was organized by the SCA in collaboration with the Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Melbourne (ICCI) with funding from RAS and involved the participation of representatives of the SCA, ICCI, CSIRO, Business organizations, Researchers and Victorian Government and from Italy there were researchers from Cagliari, Torino, Cagliari University, CRS4, Chamber of Commerce Cagliari and Business organizations. Below is the Fase II Report from Paul Lostia prepared in collaboration with Pietro Schirru.

Progetto Regionale: Energia & Ambiente Fase II - 'Go Back Sardegna'

Collaborazione tra il Circolo Sardo di Melbourne - Sardinian Cultural Association (SCA); la Camera di Commercio e Industria Italiana di Melbourne (CCII) e L'Assessorato del Lavoro della Regione Autonoma della Sardegna (RAS).

RELAZIONE DELLA SCA - CIRCOLO SARDO DI MELBOURNE

Come avvenuto in occasione della Fase I del Progetto (Melbourne/Australia ad ottobre 2010), per cui è stata trasmessa una Relazione alla Regione in data 21 novembre 2010, il presente documento fornisce un panorama della Fase II del Progetto generosamente finanziato dall'Assessorato del Lavoro della RAS, ed è stato documentato dal Sig. Paolo Lostia - responsabile del Progetto e Presidente del SCA e dal Sig. Pietro Schirru - componente della delegazione che ha visitato Cagliari /Sardegna e Consultore & Coordinatore dei Circoli Sardi in Australia. Sono state incluse osservazioni anche del Dr. Luca Bottallo, Segretario Generale della CCIE di Melbourne.

Da notare che le considerazioni riportate nascono da un punto di vista non tecnico o istituzionale, in quanto riflettono unicamente la prospettiva della SCA, organizzazione culturale fondata nel 1987 e in seguito ufficialmente riconosciuta e finanziata da RAS dal 1988.

Dal 27 Giugno 2011 al 1 Luglio 2011 a Cagliari, si è svolta la Fase II del Progetto Energia & Ambiente Sostenibile, finanziato dalla RAS. La Fase I di questo innovativo progetto si era svolta a Melbourne lo scorso ottobre con la partecipazione alla Fiera Internazionale All-Energy Australia 2010 di una delegazione proveniente dalla Sardegna guidata dal Dr. Bruno D'Aguanno, Responsabile per Programma sulle Energie Rinnovabili del CRS4, ovvero il Centro di Ricerca, Sviluppo e Studi Superiori in Sardegna.

Nella Fase II il coinvolgimento effettivo dello Stato del Victoria ha permesso di costituire una delegazione qualificata che, coordinata da SCA e CCIE, è stata composta dal Professor John Andrews (Direttore per le ricerche sulle energie sostenibili dell'università RMTI), dal Professor Sarbijt Giddey (Ricercatore esperto in cellule a combustibile e generazione di idrogeno del CSIRO, ente nazionale per la ricerca scientifica), dal Professor Gavin Collis (Ricercatore specializzato nei processi organici fotovoltaici del CSIRO), da Johanna Harvey in rappresentanza dello Stato del Victoria, Responsabile dell'Ufficio Commerciale del Victoria in Europa.

Inoltre hanno partecipato, in rappresentanza dei diversi comparti industriali e delle società di investimento, gli imprenditori australiani Peter Johnstone (Direttore Generale di FCubed Pty Ltd), Daniel Leipnik (Direttore di Specialty Group Pty Ltd), Damian Cessario (Direttore di DLC Capital) e Paul Bitetto (Direttore di The Fintech Group). Infine, sempre dall'Australia ha partecipato ai lavori il Consulore Pietro Schirru.



Il forte interesse dalla Regione verso il progetto si è manifestato nella partecipazione ai lavori da parte dei diversi soggetti istituzionali, di ricerca e commerciali rappresentati

dal corrente Assessore al Lavoro della RAS, Dr. Francesco Manca con il suo staff (Dr. Ignazio Boi, Dr.ssa Francesca Spada e Dr. Gianluca Boy), dalla Dr.ssa Salvatorica Addis, direttore del Servizio delle politiche sociali, cooperazione e sicurezza sociale, dalla Dr.ssa Anna Cau, Responsabile Settore Emigrazione, dai dirigenti del Centro Estero e delle Camere di Commercio IAA di Cagliari, dalla Dr.ssa Corona di Sardegna Ricerche, dal Dr. Bruno D'Aguanno del CRS4 (con i collaboratori Dr.ssa Emanuela Falqui e Dr. Andrea Mamelì).

Nei cinque giorni di programma di lavoro si sono svolte riunioni plenarie e incontri dedicati a specifici aspetti del progetto correlato alle fonti di energia rinnovabili. L'esaurimento graduale e delle energie non rinnovabili (tra cui carbone e quelle fossili come il petrolio) e una certa difficoltà verso quella nucleare, unitamente al danno ecologico che le contraddistingue, hanno stimolato in maniera sempre più incisiva la ricerca sulle fonti energetiche che sono in grado rigenerarsi e non sono quindi esauribili.

Le riunioni hanno avuto il merito di mettere a confronto le esperienze sulle energie rinnovabili della Sardegna e dello Stato del Victoria, con l'obiettivo di valutare sinergie derivanti dai rispettivi studi ed applicazioni e sviluppare un percorso comune di scambi sul piano scientifico e interazioni su quello imprenditoriale.

A latere dei lavori sulla ricerca, è stato anche possibile tracciare le basi per un duplice accordo tra soggetti

sardi e l'azienda australiana FCubed, con quest'ultima interessata ad aprire uno stabilimento produttivo in Sardegna e a distribuire i propri pannelli (per la desalazione di acque reflue e marine) attraverso una società sarda.



Ma la seconda fase ha costituito il momento di analisi concreta sull'avvio di un master in energie rinnovabili, con l'istituzione di circa 25 borse di studio complessive per ricercatori e scienziati italiani ed australiani da svolgersi in Sardegna, presso le Università di Cagliari e Sassari, per cui la Regione ha già avviato le procedure di finanziamento. Il Governo regionale con gli atenei di Melbourne, Cagliari e Sassari, coordinati dal Politecnico di Torino e con l'assistenza del CRS4, firmeranno il protocollo di intesa e definiranno i temi del corso.

In una comunicazione ufficiale, lo stesso Assessore Manca ha voluto sintetizzare i risultati positivi emersi dalla seconda fase del Progetto, sottolineando "l'elevato valore aggiunto dell'iniziativa che conforta e incorag-

gia, nella prosecuzione dell'esperienza, oltre che nel rafforzamento e nel consolidamento delle partnership significativamente avviate e realizzate".

La lettera a firma dell'Assessore prosegue così: "L'impegno profuso con passione, entusiasmo ed alto senso di responsabilità e professionalità da tutti gli attori coinvolti sostengono la mia determinazione nel voler caratterizzare sempre più la progettualità del mondo dell'emigrazione con idee innovative e imprenditoriali, capaci di imprimere un forte impulso al tessuto sociale ed economico dei rispettivi paesi nei quali viviamo ed operiamo. Esprimo pertanto la mia piena soddisfazione per gli esiti dell'iniziativa e, sono certo di una proficua prosecuzione della Fase III del Progetto."

Si nota con piacere che, nonostante la recente ridefinizione delle responsabilità della Giunta Regionale, che ha visto la nomina del Dr. Antonio Liori al ruolo di Assessore competente per il settore, le prime indicazioni di



interesse verso il Progetto confermano l'impegno preso ed evidenziano il passaggio della sua titolarità direttamente all'ufficio della Presidenza della RAS.

Colgo quindi quest'occasione per confermare l'impegno della SCA a rendere ancora più di successo il Progetto, e a sottolineare quanto il Circolo sia in effetti molto orgoglioso di essere forse uno dei pochi, se non l'unico, in tutto il mondo delle Associazioni Sarde ad avere avuto il coraggio di affrontare una simile iniziativa. In questo riguardo la SCA è sicura che con il continuo sostegno della RAS e la stretta collaborazione con la CCIE sarà in grado di assicurare il raggiungimento degli obiettivi individuati per la Fase III del Progetto.

Tale Fase III, come avvenuto per la precedente, comporterà molto lavoro per tutte le parti interessate, al fine di raggiungere risultati significativi come quelli che hanno caratterizzato le Fasi I e II.

Forza Paris

*Paolo (Paul) Lostia
a nome del Direttivo del SCA di
Melbourne / Australia*

REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA
ASSESSORATO DEL LAVORO, FORMAZIONE PROFESSIONALE,
COOPERAZIONE E SICUREZZA SOCIALE



L'Assessore

Cagliari 6 luglio 2011

**A: PAUL LOSTIA, Presidente
Sardinian Cultural Association**

Oggetto: Progetto Energia & Ambiente Sostenibile fase II – Cagliari, 27.06 – 01.07.2011

Egredi Signori,
desidero rinnovare ed esprimere personalmente a ciascuno di voi il mio più vivo apprezzamento per l'alta qualità dei risultati ottenuti con l'esperienza vissuta a Cagliari nell'ambito del Progetto "Energia&Ambiente Sostenibile" dal 27 giugno al 1 luglio u.s.. Nei diversi ambiti – istituzionale, scientifico, commerciale, culturale e ambientale – l'elevato valore aggiunto conferito all'iniziativa conforta e incoraggia nella prosecuzione dell'esperienza, oltre che nel rafforzamento e nel consolidamento delle partnership significativamente avviate e realizzate. L'impegno profuso con passione, entusiasmo e alto senso di responsabilità e professionalità da tutti gli attori coinvolti sostengono la mia determinazione nel voler caratterizzare sempre più la progettualità del mondo dell'emigrazione con idee innovative e imprenditive, capaci di imprimere un forte impulso al tessuto sociale ed economico dei rispettivi paesi nei quali viviamo ed operiamo. Esempi come questi rappresentano il nuovo e autentico modello di cooperazione con i nostri coregionali all'estero, soprattutto nei confronti delle nuove generazioni.

Esprimo pertanto la mia piena soddisfazione per gli esiti dell'iniziativa e, certo di una proficua prosecuzione del Progetto, mi auguro di potervi presto salutare di persona in Australia.

Cordialmente.

Francesco Manca



An afternoon with Giovanni Marras

Giovanni Marras was born in 1928 in Sorradile (Oristano) and by the time he reached his late teens he already had a desire to travel. It did not take him long to realise his goal as at the age of 22 years he set off to find work, firstly in England then Belgium then to Switzerland where he also met a young lady from Friuli, Elda Gruer, and they married in 1955. While still in Switzerland, their son, Giancarlo was born. Eventually they decided to try their luck in Australia and they arrived in 1961 and straight to Ingham in North Queensland and the tobacco farms.

At Ingham they met a number of Sardinians who helped them with food and also loaned them money and this gave them the start they needed to open a restaurant which was well frequented particularly by Sardinians but also from other Italians as well as Australians once the word got around where the food was good.

This experience in North Queensland was not always an enjoyable time, there was the humidity to contend with especially coming straight from cold Switzerland but there are some highlights that remain in their memory such as when the floods came to North Queensland in 1966 and Gio-



Giovanni, at left, with 3 of his apprentices .

vanni and Elda restaurant being one of the few buildings on high ground opened their doors and provided free food to all that were in need.

Then it was time to move south and having found a buyer for their restaurant - another Sardinian from Tonara – Giovanni and Elda arrived in Melbourne in 1970.



For the first 6 months they rented at a house owned by Salvatore Carboni before moving into their own home in Coburg.

Giovanni began working in the kitchen at a Motel in Tullamarine where his career as a cook in a large establishment gained him the experi-

ence needed to move to other restaurants such as the Churchill Restaurant at the Alexander Motor Inn, the Blossom Restaurant in Spencer Street where he was asked to help with the design of the dining room. From there Giovanni moved to the Melbourne University Student Union restaurant as head cook where he also taught apprentices. During his 6 year stay he cooked for many dignitaries but one person in particular gave him great pleasure to cook for, and later meet, was the President of the Italian Republic, Francesco Cossiga, himself a Sardinian.

In the early 1990s Giovanni was elected to the SCA committee and was a great asset on many occasions in preparing many lunches / dinners at the SCA clubrooms, sometimes for in excess of 100 persons. He was also instrumental in starting the Sardinian dancing lessons to the young and not so young.

Giovanni is not enjoying the best of health at the moment as on a shopping trip to the local supermarket in 2010 he felt some chest pains, he made it home but was immediately transferred to the John Fawkner Hospital where it was confirmed that he had suffered a stroke. He was again transferred to the Royal Melbourne Hospital and kept in for one month before becoming an outpatient at the Austin Hospital. Sadly, Elda recently had a fall and broke her arm in 2 places but despite all of these unfortunate health problems both Giovanni and Elda continue to smile and welcome friends to visit and reminisce over a cup of coffee and a biscuit.



Birthday Greetings

The Committee, present and past members of the SCA, congratulate Angelo Ledda on celebrating his 70th birthday at the beginning of August. We hope that now he will begin to relax and act his age!

Also celebrating a special birthday with her family was Antonia Salaris who reached the great age of 90.

A chent'annos!



Francesca and Simon marry



We congratulate the beautiful newlyweds, Simon and Francesca Valallo (nee Curcio.)

Blessed with one of the sunniest, rain free days this March; they exchanged their vows in a private ceremony at the Gardens House in the Botanic Gardens, South Yarra.

The festivities continued on in a wonderful reception at Alto in the Bourke St, GPO.

Simon and Francesca are expecting their first child later this year. Our best wishes to them both, and the Curcio and Valallo families.

Competition Winners



At the recently held Club lunch featuring home-made wine and sausage competition the successful winners were Tony Deriu (left) and Ignazio Vargiu.

The judging panel comprising Frank Ortu, Olga Useli and Francesco Deiana had a difficult task judging the different styles of wine and sausages with the points totals being very close. Following the judging everyone had a chance to sample all the wines and sausages.

HEAVEN & HELL

Heaven is where:

The Police are British,
The chefs are Italian,
The mechanics are German,
The lovers are French and
it is all organized by the Swiss.

Hell is where:

The Police are German,
The chefs are British,
The mechanics are French,
The lovers are Swiss and
it is all organized by the Italians.

VALE



Francesca Fiore (mitt. Arca) 06.02.1919 - 01.03.2011

We praise the life of Francesca Fiore. Mother of Antonia Curcio (mitt.Fiore) and Grandmother of Francesca Valallo (mitt. Curcio), Jennifer Curcio and Chiara Curcio.

Another 'Lussurgese' native, who spent the final 8 years of her life in Rome with her two daughters, Rita and Pietrina and their families; she was a well loved and respected member of her community.

She was an avid writer and reader, often reciting prose, poetry and fables by heart. She enjoyed the outdoors, tending to her fruit and chestnut orchards and mastering crochet – the works of which she bestowed to her many friends and family members.

Francesca had an incredibly gentle, pure and childlike nature, easily entertained – always laughing and smiling. She was caring, thoughtful and generous – never forgetting a friend or loved ones Birthday.

She is sorely missed by the family she leaves behind in Melbourne, Rome and Sardinia but will always be remembered.

COMING EVENTS

October 9 - Lunch in honour of San Ignazio - at the Clubrooms

October 16 - Mass in honour of San Ignazio at St Anthony's, Hawthorn

October 29 - SCA Planning Day

November 11,12,13 - Weekend trip to Sydney

Specific details for all events will be mailed prior to events.

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