



## SCA's BILATERAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM (est. 2019)

As reported in the 9/23 Edition of this Newsletter, the abovementioned 2023/24 6-week Program, successfully launched in 2019, suspended due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, has recommenced.

Paolo Lostia and Giovanna Ruiu from the SCA, Matteo Brazzale (the student who will be travelling to Cagliari) from Marcellin College and his father Eugene were at Tullamarine Airport on 13/7/23 to welcome Francesco Protto, the student arriving from the Convitto Nazionale in Cagliari.



Not surprisingly, after his arrival in Melbourne, Alessandro and Matthew quickly built a strong bond as they had got to know each other via Social Media.

The SCA, Marcellin, and in particular Francesco, were most appreciative that during his stay, the Brazzale family took him on many excursions outside the formal scholastic program.

It was also a pleasure to the SCA that, prior to Francesco's return to Cagliari on 18/8/23 he, Matteo and his father were able to accompany an SCA delegation, made up of Paolo, Giovanna, Giovanni Chighine, Aurora Chighine, Luisa Lostia, Angelo Ledda and Maria Cavallo to visit

the SCA's Clubrooms and the Assisi Aged Care facility.

At the SCA's Clubrooms, surrounded by numerous Sardinian memorabilia and over coffee and biscuits, Paolo provided an overview of the story of the SCA and the fact that the wave of post-war immigrants to Australia had now reached an advanced age and in need of care.

Before moving on to the Assisi Aged care facility, Paolo and Francesco exchanged Cagliari FC and the AFL's Melbourne FC scarves as they both wear the colour blue and red.

Lunch followed at the Assisi Centre during which, in front of Assisi's CEO – Peter Birkett and other Management Staff, the two students had the opportunity to introduce themselves. Peter Birkett then provided an overview of the challenges facing Aged Care in general, and the specific needs of migrants.

Finally to the unveiling of the *Sardinian Lounge*, in recognition of the SCA voluntary cultural and financial contribution towards the Assisi Centre.

Before his return to Cagliari Francesco, in his own words confirmed that his stay from an educative, cultural and social aspect was very rewarding. Shortly after his return the following warm messages were received from his family and school, which follow in written Italian:



*"Carissimo Professore Camarda del Marcellin College,*

*Siamo la famiglia di Francesco Protto. Volevamo ringraziare a lei, e tutti coloro coinvolti con questo scambio studentesco, per la straordinaria accoglienza che Lei, i suoi colleghi, i ragazzi e il Circolo Sardo di Melbourne, avete riservato a Francesco.*

*È rientrato da poche ore ma ha avuto il tempo per parlarci di quanto ha goduto e imparato, a livello accademico e altro, derivante dalla sua grande avventura.*

*Grazie infinite*

*Fam. Protto/Marras – Cagliari*

*19/8/23*

*Buongiorno Professore, Camarda - Marcellin College e Dott. Lostia - Circolo Sardo di Melbourne,*

*Anche se da poco rientrato abbiamo trovato Francesco cresciuto e entusiasta dell'esperienza vissuta. Ha acquistato consapevolezza dell'inadeguatezza del sistema scolastico italiano e ci ha espresso il desiderio di andare a studiare in Australia.*

*Infine ringrazio a lei e il Circolo Sardo per avere fatto questo possibile.*

*Vi Saluto*

*Proff.sa Joanne Woolgar Convitto*

*Nazionale – Cagliari 30/8/23*

Matteo will travel to Cagliari on 25/11/23 returning on 6/1/24, and we wish him a great experience, looking forward to his presentation at the SCA's AGM to be held on 18/2/24.

All associated with the SCA are immensely proud in having established this perpetual Program, promoting Sardinia to the young in this way.

Finally provided overleaf is a photo spread, highlighting Francesco's visit.

**MARCELLIN COLLEGE BULLEEN & CONVITTO NAZIONALE CAGLIARI  
STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM (EST.2019)  
FRANCESCO PROTTO FROM CAGLIARI**

