

Radio Iris

By Micaela Mecocci

Don't miss Radio Iris' forthcoming broadcasts!

Sunday 14/1/07 in Auckland, at 12.40 pm, on Planet FM 104.6, in Wellington, at 4 pm, on Access Radio 783 AM & online from anywhere on: www.accessradio.org.nz at 4 pm

Mauro Rubino, who is going to go back to Italy soon, talks about his experience in NZ and at the Dante Alighieri Society in Auckland. Alfio Leotta interviews Fred Rousset.

Sunday 21/1/07 in Auckland, at 12.40 pm, on Planet FM 104.6, in Wellington, at 4 pm, on Access Radio 783 AM & online from anywhere on: www.accessradio.org.nz at 4 pm

Cin cin! Wine expert Paolo Frugoni tells us secrets and suggestions about Italian wine.

Sunday 28/1/07 in Auckland, at 12.40 pm, on Planet FM 104.6, in Wellington, at 4 pm, on Access Radio 783 AM & online from anywhere on: www.accessradio.org.nz at 4 pm

Congratulations to Antonio Cacace and "La bella Italia", winner of the Wellington Vibrant Gold Award! Alfio Leotta interviews Campbell, the owner of Verandahs Backpackers in Auckland.



Congratulations to John Mollo (Left) who gained an Excellence award in Economics and Math, also to Luciano Colucci for an Excellence Award in Transition. Well done boys.

Italian Film Festival Scholarship

The application entry period for the 2nd Italian Film festival scholarship closes on the 28th February 2007.

Members and any other possible interested people please ensure that they have registered that interest, as no applications will be considered after this date.

The application form is available on the Cathay Pacific Italian Film festival web site, on the following page:

<http://www.italianfilmfestival.co.nz/scholarship.htm>

The Italian Film festival Scholarship sponsors a New Zealand filmmaker on an experience-laden visit to Italy. The Scholarship includes internship at the Italian film production house of Due A working on a film production, internship at the National Museum of Cinema in Turin plus possible attendance at the Venice, Rome and/or Turin Film festivals, dependant on their period of residence in Italy. Due A is the production company of Pupi and Antonio Avati, and is one of the most prestigious Italian film production companies.

The inaugural scholarship winner was Paolo Rotondo. Paolo travels to Italy in the second half of 2007.

Visitors from Stromboli

By Ginette Toscano Page

Robin and I had the pleasure of meeting and enjoying a wonderful day at our home, with Lorenzo, Salvo and Domenico, three men who are part of a group of qualified volcano mountain guides from Stromboli. After holidaying and camping in New Zealand for 8 weeks, they made contact with us through the Italian Embassy.

Though not Strombolani by birth, the three highly skilled and multi-lingual men, who share a mutual passion for the island and it's volcano, have lived on Stromboli for many years. They left their highly paid professional positions and lives in Milano, Torino and Palermo, to become guides to the thousands of trampers and tourists who descend upon Stromboli every year, wanting to climb the volcano during the main season of March and October.

On their arrival in NZ, the trio bought a Hi-ace Toyota van, and equipped it with everything one would possibly need, including a big pot especially for cooking pasta! They thoroughly enjoyed their time here and thought New Zealand was a paradise with a small but friendly population, wide open spaces, beautiful scenery, fresh air and lush vegetation. However, they were not too impressed with the incessant rainfall they had experienced most of the time they were here, especially in the South Island!! Lorenzo suggested that their bodies were suffering from sun deprivation! I hastily explained that this summer was one of the wettest on record! Laughter was a plenty! After we had eaten, we sat outside, relaxing and chatting a mile a minute, with cool drinks and vino in hand ~ stretched out flat on the lawn, Lorenzo, Salvo and Domenico agreed in unison that 'this indeed, was paradise!'



From left: Salvo, Ginette, Lorenzo & Domenico

Carlo Bergamini

Earlier this month I spent a very pleasant morning with Lois Mathie, great-granddaughter of Carlo Bergamini, and her husband, Taff (Francis) of Christchurch, who were visiting Wellington.

Lois made contact late last year, asking if she might see the club's sculpture of Giuseppe Garibaldi, which her great-grandfather made many years ago.

Below is part of her letter:

'Thank you, so much! You have made me very happy! My great-grandfather Carlo Bergamini died 6 years prior to my birth, so I never met him, but have done lots of family history research about him.



My great-grandfather designed five beautiful Boer War Memorials, which are all in the lower South Island. To date, I have seen four of them. The only other piece of work he sculpted which I have been able to see, is the beautiful small figure of a young boy or girl, currently at Te Papa in the 'Qui Tutto Bene' exhibition. My late father told me about another sculpture Carlo Bergamini did of his son as a baby, which always fascinated my father as a child growing up. Goodness knows what happened to it!

My husband and I have visited Italy twice and stayed three nights in Carrara, home of those beautiful marble mountains and birth-place of my great-grandfather.'

Sincerely, Lois Mathie

Lois (nee Bergamini) Mathie beside the sculpture of Garibaldi at our clubrooms, which her great-grandfather made.

Background to Carlo Bergamini's Life:



Carlo Giuseppe Bergamini was born in Carrara, Italy on 2 January 1868, son of Oreste Bergamini and his wife, Marie de Raimondo Castopoggi. Carrara was the centre of the Italian marble industry and the family were stonemasons and sculptors. After studying at the Academia in Carrara, as a young man, Carlo arrived in New Zealand on 28 September 1887, as a travelling representative of the family firm, hoping to win orders for cemetery headstones and marble monuments.

In Dunedin, Bergamini met Elizabeth Jane Reid, who had migrated with her parents from County Antrim, Ireland. Despite his Roman Catholic faith, they were married in the Knox Presbyterian Church, Dunedin, on 18 May 1889. Family legend says that on the honeymoon in Melbourne, Carlo spent the money set aside for his return to Italy!

The couple returned to Dunedin where Carlo set up as a marble sculptor and monumental mason, first on his own account, then in 1898 in partnership with James Crawford, followed two years later, in association with his father-in-law, Hugh Reid. Marble angels and crosses were imported in sculpted form from Bergamini's family in Carrara, and Carlo would finish, inscribe and then erect them in the cemeteries of Otago.

The end of the Boer War in 1902 provided new opportunities for Bergamini. Some communities wishing to commemorate both pride in their sons' service to the empire and sorrow for those who had fallen, decided to erect war memorials. Bergamini proved to be a skilled designer, and the communities of Palmerston, Waimate, Oamaru, Riverton and Dunedin, awarded him winning prizes. He also skilfully mended the Invercargill memorial which broke as it was being erected, though he did not design it.

Despite his ability to express British imperial sentiments in stone, Bergamini remained essentially Italian. He drank red wine, made his own ravioli, and eventually took his daughter back to Italy when his father was dying. By then his life had changed, both personally and professionally. The business partnership with Hugh Reid dissolved in 1909, and Bergamini moved to Christchurch, where his marriage with Elizabeth also suffered, and they separated during the First World War. By that time, Carlo had given up work as a stonemason and became of commercial traveller.

Carlo Bergamini, a distinguished looking man with fair hair and blue eyes, died in Christchurch on 16 July 1934, and was survived by his wife, three sons and a daughter; one son had predeceased him. His children's names were William Oreste, Gabriel Hecules, Carlo Junior, Victor Emmanuel and Wilma Margaret.

Glimpse into ~ ~ ~ Pordenone

By Enzo S Viotto

This month Pordenone, city and provincial capital, is featured, North-East Italy, in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region, the area where Enzo Viotto, of Lower Hutt was born.

My father, Arthur Viotto, was married before leaving Italy for New Zealand and arrived in Wellington in 1925 where he found work as a cabinet-maker. Two years later, he briefly returned to Italy to make arrangements for my mother Domenica Viotto, to emigrate to New Zealand. My sister, Elia, was born in 1925, and I was born after my father returned to New Zealand. Sadly, in the winter before we departed Italy, my sister died. She was 5 years old. Naturally, it was a great shock to my parents. My mother and I arrived in Wellington in 1930, when I was less than 2 years old.



Enzo Viotto

Pordenone takes its name from the ancient Roman name for the river Noncello (Portus Naonis) meaning a river port on the Naonis. It was a river crossing and customs post, and barges used to transport goods to and from Venice and Trieste for many years until the advent of the railways and modern motor transport took over.

Today, it is a large modern city which surrounds the small historical centre of Pordenone. This old centre is picturesque and contains Roman Gothic architectural gems such as St Mark's Church and bell town (13th century); Palazzo Ricchieri, now a civic museum, containing amongst other exhibits, paintings by Il Pordenone (Giovanni Antonio de Sacchis, 1484-1539), who is regarded by some as equal to Titian, another great painter. Another historical figure was Blessed Odorico (Matiussi, 1266-1331), who journeyed on foot to China, following in the footsteps of Marco Polo.

Prior to the industrial revolution of the 19th century, Pordenone was home to industries such as textiles and metal working, and later, developed paper mills, pottery and textile industries. After World War 2, Zanussi became a large manufacturer of all types of domestic electrical appliances, electronics, TV, and heavy industrial transformers, exporting worldwide.

Historically, Pordenone has seen invasions and occupation by the lords of Styria, who seized it from the lords of Carinthia, only to hand it over to the Hapsburgs of Austria in 1276. In 1508 it was given up to the Republic of Venice. After the fall of Venice in 1797 it was briefly taken over by Austria, and in 1866, Pordenone became part of the Kingdom of Italy. Today, it is a provincial capital and thriving commercial centre.



Shared Lunch February 2007



From left: Carmela Iaccarino, Ida Basile, Maddalena Basile & Cristina Vinaccia



From left: Chiara Fazi, Italian Embassy & Carmela Iaccarino



From left: Antonio Cuccurullo, Vince Basile & Giuseppe Iaccarino



From left: Tina Dellabarca and Teresa Cuccurullo



From left: Salvi Gaeta, Mons Janusz, Palmiro Sportoletti, Ginette Toscano Page, & Archbishop Balvo



From left: Guiliana, Federica Vaino, and her parents visiting from Italy, Luigi & Anna Maria Vaino