SARDINIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (Vic) Inc.

SCA NEWS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1
SEPTEMBER 2006

Bonegilla Weekend Experience

The weekend 11-13 August the Sardinian Cultural Association embarked on a trip to visit the old migrant reception centre at Bonegilla.

This eagerly awaited trip was made by 37 members and friends of the SCA leaving the club rooms in Rosanna at 4pm on Friday 11 August. Everyone was excited by the prospect of visiting, some for the first time, while others returning to their first experience on Australian soil after disembarking at Port Melbourne.

The first stop along the road was at Euroa for a refreshment break and also a chance to stretch their legs before continuing the journey to Albury arriving at

8-30pm at the Crystal Fountain Motel. A quick check-in and then off to the Booma Hotel for dinner. After dinner most left their 'donation' to the god 'pokies'.

After breakfast on Saturday morning the party set off on the short bus trip to the Heritage Park at Bonegilla and, as was expected, it was an awakening of emotions particularly for those who had been 'guests' at the centre, Tony Deriu, Giuseppe Fancellu, Salvatore Masala and Gabriele Gaspari. Also Sebastiana Canu and Nina Serra whose husbands (all deceased) also spent time at the Centre.

The Migrant Centre was originally constructed as an Army camp during the second world war and in 1947 welcomed the first of more than 320,000 migrants from over 30 countries. At this time there were 24 accommodation blocks that was home for up to 7,000 persons.

It ceased to be a migrant centre in 1971.

Today only one block remains, Block 19, which is a stark reminder of the conditions that existed at that time, no air conditioning in the hot summers and not very effective heating in the cold winter months. The large kitchen with some of the equipment still there, huge mixing bowl, sinks, dish washing machine etc. The dining room and sleeping quarters, just 4 external walls of corrugated iron while some others of fibro cement and all with corrugated iron roof.

Giuseppe Fancellu recalled the quality of food served was not particularly good or appetising, 'coming from Italy we were not used to this food, it was all mush, not much flavour in anything, no crusty bread and no pasta' he also recalls the time that he together with some other Italians asked the cooks for a pasta meal but the cooks had no idea how to cook it so, Giuseppe recalls that he, together with his friends were given permission to cook pasta. The question was how do you cook pasta for so many people without a pot that's big enough.

The result of their effort was not very good, recalls Giuseppe, 'it was overcooked and we could have used what came out of the pot to paste on the back of posters and stuck them to the wall'.

While they all said that they were treated reasonably well

Continued on page 2

BENENNIDOS… BENVENUTI… WELCOME…

Yes, welcome to the first issue of the new, indeed the first, newsletter of the Sardinian Cultural Association.
It has been a long time in coming but due to lack of time and expertise on the part of those that had the vision of this newsletter it has not been possible until now.
Of course the success of this newsletter is largely dependent on you the reader. It will rely on you for information, ideas and most importantly on your feedback.
What would you like to see,
*more photos?
*Read news of Sardinia?,
Do you like regular features such as recipes? Perhaps you want to share your special recipe.
Send your ideas by mail or email to the Editor.
See page 4 for address details.
Also see page 4 for details of competition for a name of this newsletter.

The audio visual memorial

Frank Ortu points to one of the large mixing bowls while Tony Deriu, Benito Cordedda, Cornelia Deriu, Paul Lostia, Rocco Sfara and Maria Cavallo look on.

Bonegilla Weekend Experience *continued from p1*

Tony Deriu, one of the 'guests' of Bonegilla.

they all felt the loneliness away from their families left behind.

The Centre was well maintained but because it was so far from anywhere the feeling was like being in the middle of the desert.

The fact that the authorities spoke very little to no Italian at all and the frustration experienced by those who were unable to find work quickly added to some discontent and occasionally caused a strike against the authorities. .

A walk around the rest of Block 19 and also to see the audio visual display and it was time for lunch at the Lavington Club.

A visit to the Albury Regional Museum followed where the Bonegilla collection is housed.

The collection is a peoples history of the Bonegilla Migrant Centre and it includes photos, documents, oral histories and written experiences.

A short rest back at the motel was followed by a BBQ of steak and home made sausages, salad, bread rolls and cheese.

There was also a chance to taste the homemade wines, play charades and sing songs. The singing was ably led by the resident SCA tenor,Giuseppe Nolis, ably assisted by his wife Tonina (particularly when he forgot the words) and the SCA President Paul Lostia. The Corale Canepa now has some serious competition.

Free Sunday morning then off to the Booma Hotel once again for lunch before getting back on the bus for the short trip to Glenrowan, the home of Ned Kelly. Some visited the museum, some the souvenir shop, others strolled around the town while others tasted the scones, jam & cream at the local café.

The return trip to Rosanna was an opportunity for some story telling, one of how the Jews got to have the 10 Commandments and some were about St Peter and his job at the pearly gates.

Arriving back at 8pm everyone was keen to get their bags in their cars and get home.

This weekend trip was one that was very much enjoyed by all. Not only from the point of view of the members who had been there as 'guests' in those early days but also from the viewpoint of some of the others who had not been there but had heard and read stories of this place.

It also gave everyone the opportunity to socialise for more than just a few hours as is the usual case at other events.

For the President and his Committee it was very gratifying to see so much support for such an event and it follows the objective and direction that is established for the SCA, that is the importance of informative events, cultural activities as well as social events that appeal not only to Sardi but also to non Sardi.

A great weekend experience!

Happy visitors.

Members and friends in front of one of the huts of Block 19

SCA NEWS

From the Consultore…

E' con grande piacere che raccolgo l'invito del vostro circolo per un saluto del Consultore.
Mi congratulo vivamente di questa innovativa iniziativa che costituisce un salto di qualita' da imitare per tutti i Circoli Sardi in Australia.
Offrire un servizio di communiacazione e informazione come il vostro significa un altro passo avanti nel rapporto di trasparenza e di democraticita' tra il Direttivo e tutti i soci, in linea, inoltre, con quanto
espresso recentemente dalla Regione.
Sara' mia cura relazionare gli organi Regionali e la Consulta sulla vostra iniziativa che sicuramente verra' accolta con soddisfazione, anche perche' per il prossimo futuro potra' accogliere tutte le notizie relative ai lavori della Consulta.
Ancora congratulazione e buon lavoro.

Pietro Schirru
Consultore per l'Australia

From the President…

Dear Members, 'simpatizzanti' and friends of the SCA, it gives me extreme pleasure to contribute with this message in our first , tentatively named, 'SCA NEWS'.
Whilst I take this opportunity to extend my condolences to all those who have lost loved ones in the recent past, I must also state at the outset, borrowing a theme from somebody more famous than any of us 'what a year it has been to date for the SCA!'
We all deserve to be proud of the continued success of all our functions. I have found the atmosphere at our 'casalinga' style lunches held at the clubrooms a great enjoyment with all participants mixing and welcoming Sardi and non Sardi alike. The higher profile events such as 'Sa die de sa Sardigna', exhibition of Sardinian artists and the recent trip to Bonegilla have also been most enjoyable and, together with our long-standing scholarships with the Assisi Centre and Monash University, have been noted and appreciated by the community at large. What is also most important is that we have been able to achieve this success retaining a climate of trust and friendship, maintaining the respect of the Italian community and continuing to work closely with the other Sardinian Associations, the Consultore and the Region as well as strengthening the financial position of our Association.
It is important not to rest on our success to date and continue to strive for improvement, therefore, we look forward to your support in all of our up-and-coming functions as listed on page 4 of this newsletter. I wish to highlight in particular that at a national level we are at the forefront, in close consultation with the Consultore, Pietro Schirru, in ensuring all Associations work together in harmony, noting that some of the projects planned for next year and beyond are:

- Muralista 2007,
- History of Sardinian migration 2008,
- Unification of Sardinian Associations in Brisbane, and
- The involvement of the 'Next Generation' of Sardinians.

In fact I have recently visited the Consultore in Sydney and Angelo Ledda and I are about to go to Brisbane for a meeting of the 'Co-ordinamento' of Sardinian Associations in Australia to develop these projects further and in this regard we will report to you in due course.
Regarding the involvement of the 'Next Generation', I am pleased to confirm that an event, titled 'un incontru' has been scheduled for Saturday 11 November 2006 at the Enoteca Vino Bar in Carlton North and will include a prominent contemporary media guest with a love of Sardinia. Formal invitations will follow soon, in line with names already provided by you the 'mature' members within our community therefore, we seek your support in ensuring a strong participation to this event.
I take this opportunity to thank you and the Committee for the support given in all our initiatives, especially those that may have been a gamble and particularly to Angelo Ledda for promoting and developing this newsletter on a 'hands-on' basis and our Consultore who continues to work diligently in his role and is most appreciative of the support we have given to him since his election to that position.
The only sensible thing left to state is 'Forza Paris, Forza Melbourne and Forza Cagliari'.

Paolo Lostia
President

Congratulations

Congratulations to the very happy new parents Michael & Marisa Piu on the birth of their baby daughter Emma Marisa.
Latest reports are that Emma Marisa is progressing very well but is probably keeping mum and dad from getting a good night's sleep.
Grandmother Marie and Grandfather Giuseppe are ecstatic.

SCA NEWS

RECEPIES

CULUNZONEDDUS DE MENDULA
(Small almond ravioli)

Ingredients:
1 Kg plain flour
1 small glass of liqueur
300g ground almonds
150g sugar
1 Lt olive oil
150g margarine
The rind of one grated lemon

Method:
Dissolve a little bit of the sugar in a glass of hot water. Mix the flour with the margarine and add the dissolved sugar. Roll out to fine sheet and cut into small diamonds.
In a bowl mix the ground almonds, sugar, lemon and liqueur.
With a spoon place a small amount of the mixture in the centre of each diamond.
Fold each diamond to make a triangle making sure that the ends are properly sealed.
Fry in the olive oil until golden brown on both sides.
Leave to cool for a short time.
Buon Appetito.

COMING EVENTS

October 15—S Ignazio lunch
Our lady Help of Christians Hall, Nicholson Street Brunswick.
Bookings: FranK Ortu: 9884 0479
Benito Cordedda: 9726 5561
October 22—S Ignazio Mass 10-30am
St Anthony's Church
Power Street Hawthorn
November 11—'Next Generation' Meeting at Enoteca Wine Bar
November—19 Lunch at Club Rooms 'Australian Adventure'
December 3—'Tutti a Lower Templestowe
December 10—Member's Spuntino
February 17—Sandro Fresi concert (To be confirmed)
February 18—SCA Annual General meeting

Lets laugh

LIFE EXPLAINED

On the first day God created the dog and said " Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this I will give you a life span of twenty years".
The dog said " That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"
So God agreed.
On the second day, God created the monkey and said " Entertain people, do tricks and make them laugh. For this I will give you a life span of twenty years".
The monkey said " Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?.
And God agreed.
On the third day, God created the cow and God said "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this I will give you a life span of sixty years".
The cow said " That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty years and I'll give you back the other forty?".
And God agreed.
On the fourth day God created man and said "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this I'll give you twenty years".
But man said "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty years, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty years. Is that OK with you?".
"OK" said God, "you asked for it".
So that is why the first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family.
For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren.
And for the last ten years we sit on the porch and bark at everyone.

WIN A $50-00 VOUCHER

Here is your opportunity to win a $50 Myer store voucher for your creative ideas.
All you need to do is come up with a title for this newsletter.
I'm sure that there are plenty of creative ideas out there.
It does not have to be an English word or an Italian one either. It can be either of those or even a Sardinian word.
It will need to be relevant to what this newsletter is trying to achieve, that is to communicate to the members and friends of the SCA, events and activities and other items of general information.
So get your thinking caps on and mail or email your suggestions to: The Editor Sardinian Cultural Association (Vic) Inc.
PO Box 136 Heidelberg Vic 3084
or email:
sardi.melbourne@bigpond.com

The Sardinian Cultural Association invites the 'next generation' of Sardinians and their friends to ***'un incontru'*** (an informal get-together) to exchange views and ideas of how of how we can continue the connection with our Sardinian heritage.
The venue will be Enoteca Vino Bar
920 Lygon Street North Carlton
If you are part of the 'next generation' and would like to attend, email:
sardi.melbourne@bigpond.com

Enoteca Vino Bar
920 Lygon Street North Carlton
(cnr. Richardson Street)
Telephone: 9389 7000
Supporter of the Sardinian Cultural Association

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