

Italian Historical Society of SA Inc.



Editor: G. Geracitano

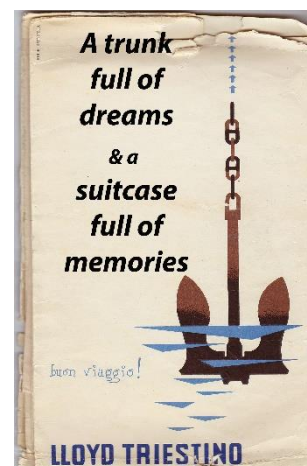
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Since 2020 the world has gone through turmoil as the Covid-19 pandemic has altered our way of life.

Due to the restrictions imposed on social interaction the Italian Historical Society of South Australia Inc. in March 2020 had to suspend its interviewing program which had a negative impact on its activities. Consequently, membership fees were suspended and there was no Annual Report issued in that year.

The restrictions were progressively removed over the coming years and by the end of 2021 with every state and territory having reached the 80% vaccination milestone restrictions were completely abolished. Since there had been no activity during 2021 again there was no Annual Report published.

The committee of the Italian Historical Society of South Australia Inc. resumed its meetings in 2022, but the interviewing program did not resume until 2023. The Society had lost the momentum that it had built in the years prior to 2020, and it had to re-contact many of its potential interviewees. Therefore, once again there was no Annual Report issued for 2022.

During the period that restrictions were imposed although there were no interviews research was undertaken to develop themes and target potential interviewees. The issues connected with this approach had to be considered and approved by the committee with the result that the interviewing program was not resumed until 2023. There was no Annual Report issue for 2023.

In the second half of 2023 and the beginning of 2024 the Society became once again fully operational with not only resuming its interviewing program but also holding social functions and releasing the immigration story of Rita Bianca Palumbo.

This Annual Report covers the period 2019 to 2024. It is divided into five sections each reporting on the Society's activities and research for the periods 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024. It is planned that from this year on Annual Reports will be issued each year.

Giuseppe (Joe) Geracitano
President
September 2024

Italian Historical Society of SA Inc.

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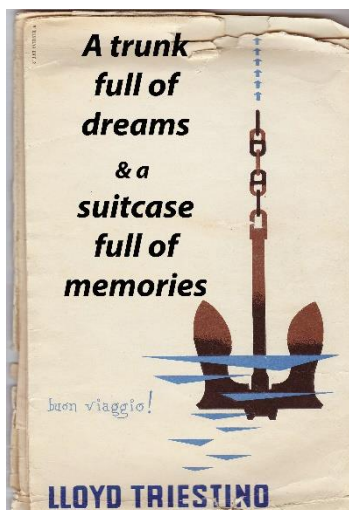
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To collect, preserve, interpret and promote the history of Italians
and document their contribution
in South Australia.

Project



Oral History

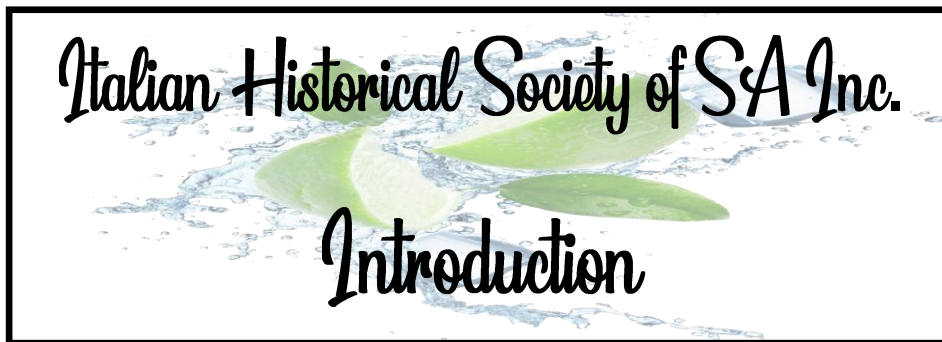
Oral History

Is a picture of the past in people's own words.

History

“To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child. For what is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?”

— **Marcus Tullius Cicero**



Italian Historical Society of S&A Inc.

Introduction

Italians have lived and worked outside of Italy since ancient times, but it was after unification in 1861 that they started leaving their country in large numbers, trying mainly to escape a life of poverty. From 1876 to the end of the 1980s almost twenty-seven million Italians had left Italy in search of a better life.

By far the largest recipients of Italian immigrants were the Americas, with the largest number in Argentina, followed by Brazil, Venezuela, the United States of America, and Canada. European countries have also featured as major destinations for Italian immigrants with Germany and Switzerland most favoured. As of January 2021, 880 thousand Italians lived in Argentina, two European countries, Germany, and Switzerland, followed the ranking, whilst Brazil had the fourth largest Italian emigrated population. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the Americas and other European countries were the preferred destinations. Between 1878 and 1940, 20 million Italians emigrated to European countries, and the Americas. Traditionally, in this period, Northern Italians were more likely to emigrate within Europe, and Southern Italians were more likely to cross the seas. Following World War II until 1970, a further seven million Italians left Italy. The most common destinations of this period were Venezuela, Australia, Canada, Argentina, and other European countries, and almost 90% of Italians who migrated outside Europe left from the South of Italy.

Although Italians have been present in Australia since the beginning of colonization, they have not featured as a major force until after the end of World War II when factors both in Italy and Australia combined to turn the trickle of Italian immigrants into a flood. By 1933 the number of Italians in Australia had reached 26,756 out of a total population of 6,630,600. The corresponding figures for South Australia were 1,489 Italians out of a total population of 580,087. By 1971, the end of mass migration of Italians to Australia, the Italian population in Australia had risen to 289,476 out of a total population of 12.7 million, and the corresponding figures for South Australia were 32,428 Italians out of a total population of 1.1 million. Fifty years after the end of mass migration Italian migrants and their children have increased proportionally in Australia. The 2021 census reported that almost 104,000 people, representing 6.1% of the population, in South Australia nominated Italian heritage.

This influx of Italian immigrants had a profound impact on Australian way of life and together with immigrants of other countries have irrevocably changed Australia from a monocultural Anglo-Celtic country into a vibrant multicultural society.

Despite the deep impact of migrants, and particularly Italians migrants, in Australia, there is a paucity of records and readily available information on the activities and contributions of the migrant population. History books skim over the exploits of non-Anglo-Celtic settlers in the development of Australia. Very few stories of non-English speaking migrants are stored in either the National or State archives.

It is to redress this imbalance that the Italian Historical Society of South Australia Inc. was founded. The Society focuses on the South Australian experience. Utilizing the techniques of Oral History and collecting relevant documents and photographs, the Society aims to collect, preserve, and promote the history of Italian immigration to South Australia; to establish a repository for the stories, letters, documents, photographs, and any other item associated with Italian immigration to South Australia; and to record and celebrate the contribution of Italian immigrants to the growth of South Australia.

The Society is open to all those interested in the history of Italian immigration, including researchers, students, professional historians, and genealogists.

The primary objective is the collection of Oral Histories of first-hand accounts of the migration experience. These stories and relevant documents will be submitted to the State Library of South Australia to be included in the J. D. Somerville Oral History Collection which strives to represent a spoken account of South Australia and South Australian experiences. This method is considered to be the most effective means for collecting these stories for two reasons: the spoken word is often the most poignant testimony of the challenges and successes of immigration; and most immigrants from Italy, especially during the mass immigration of the mid twentieth century, originated from rural backgrounds with little or no formal schooling.

The stories are based on the whole-of-life approach guiding the interviewee from the place of birth, childhood experience to adulthood. The stories focus on the life and regional customs in Italy prior to emigrating, the motivation to emigrate, the voyage to South Australia, the experience on arrival, the reaction to challenges and successes in the new country, and the contribution made to the development of South Australia.

The oral stories will be transcribed and deposited in the State Library of South Australia and other appropriate institutions.

The Society has embarked on a project to record and leave for posterity the experience of Italian immigrants in South Australia. The name of the project is: "A Trunk Full of Dreams and a Suitcase Full of Memories: Stories of Italian Immigrants in South Australia." The stories are grouped under categories such as: Life Achievement, Business, Sport, Community Organizations, *A Tavola: The Influence of Italian Immigration on Australian Food Culture*, Trades, Women and Business, Culture, and so on.

The motivation for the collection of these stories is threefold:

1. To inform Australian descendants of the first-generation immigrants so that they understand their heritage.
2. To inform those left in Italy so that they understand what became of their relatives and friends who made the courageous decision to leave the country of their birth.
3. To contribute to the history of Australian immigration, in particular, to consider the form and significance of this process through a foreign community's adaptation to a society with new demands regarding culture, rhythm of work, culinary practices, forms of worships and civic life.

The collection of these stories and documents will form a database of primary sources which will be available to both public and researchers.

The project is led by the President of the Society, Giuseppe (Joe) Geracitano, who is a graduate of the University of Adelaide majoring in Economics, History, Sociology, and Education and concentrated his academic research on ethnicity and multiculturalism. Mr. Geracitano has worked as a secondary school teacher, teaching Economics, Accounting, and History. He was also a tutor in Sociology of Education at the University of Adelaide where he has written articles on multicultural education, lectured in the Diploma of Interpreters and Translators at Adelaide College of Advance Education, and was employed by the Catholic Education Office of Victoria to develop their community language program in Catholic Primary Schools. Mr. Geracitano has had a long association with the Italian community as a volunteer both in South Australia and Victoria being involved in founding and developing many of the current institutions in the Italian community including: the Dante Alighieri Society of South Australia; the South Australian Association of Teachers of Italian; Italian community radio; Italian Festival; and the Coordinating Italian Committee. Mr. Geracitano was also instrumental in advising the then Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs to establish the South Australian Ethnic Affairs and Multicultural Commission and the Migration Museum. He is also a past member of the State Library of South Australia Board.

All the research and interviewing are voluntary done by the President of the Society; the interviewee will receive an audio copy of the interview. The main cost for the activities of the Society is to transcribe the interview, scanning of documents, photographs, and printing the book. To receive a hard copy of the interview, documents and photographs a contribution towards the cost will be sought from the interviewee.

The project is funded through the generosity of the community and fundraising by the Committee of the Society.

Giuseppe (Joe) Geracitano
President
2024

Italian Historical Society of SA Inc.



Editor: G. Geracitano

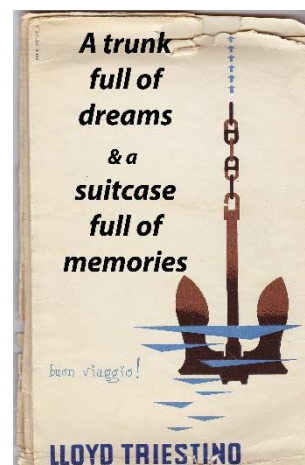
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PATRONS: Adriano Stendardo Consul of Italy
 Cav Uff. Carmine De Pasquale

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VICE PRESIDENT: Cav Nick Fazzalari OAM

SECRETARY: Mrs. Giovanna (Jenny) Geracitano

TREASURER: Mrs. Tina Dichiera

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:



Mrs. Franca Circosta
Mr. Lorenzo Circosta
Mrs. Angela Cutri
Mrs. Teresa Dall'Acqua Leonardi OAM
Ms. Rosemarie Geracitano
Mr. Paolo Mascia
Dr. Rachele Tullio
Mrs. Nella Santo
Mrs. Mira Sangregorio

CO-OPTED: Ms. Carla Sangregorio

AMBASSADOR: Cav Sebastiano Galipo



Welcome to the Annual general Meeting for 2019-2020 year.

The year 2019-2020 has been a frustrating period due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the imposition of restrictions on social interaction.

The year began full of promise following the successful release of the immigration story of Cav Sebastiano Galipo at the Sicilia Social and Sports Club in October 2019. The function was not only a success financially, raising almost \$11,000.00 but also as a public relation event. The Society was finally able to demonstrate how it was going to present its project on capturing the stories of the immigration experiences of Italian immigrants to South Australia. The community reaction was emphasized by the article published in Il Globo reporting on the function at the Sicilia Social and Sports Club and the reaction of the co-patron, Roberta Ronzitti Consul of Italy, who expressed her admiration for the work that the Society was doing.

Cav. Sebastiano Galipo has become a great supporter of the Italian Historical Society of South Australia since his interview and has been appointed as an ambassador of the Society, a role he has embraced enthusiastically and promotes the Society at every opportunity.

A full program of interviews has been initiated and three interviews were already planned for 2020.

A successful post-Christmas luncheon was held in January 2020 at Buonasera Restaurant which was well attended and included representation of the Migration Museum.

I have continued to represent the Society at functions held by the Italian community. In March 2020 I attended a cocktail party to welcome the new Consul of Italy, Adriano Standardo. The secretary and I attended the feast of Saint Giuseppe at Salisbury in March 2020 as invited guests.

All plans that the Society had planned for 2020 had to be shelved due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and the restrictions on social interaction imposed by the Government. Consequently, the committee only met once during the year.

Giuseppe (Joe) Geracitano
President
September 2020

Treasurers Report

Statement of Receipts & Expenditure

2019–2020

RECEIPTS	
Membership Fees*	\$600.00
City of Charles Sturt Grant	\$4349.80
Fundraiser	\$10954.39

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$15904.19
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EXPENDITURE	
Web Site Renewal	\$257.56
Stationary	\$740.63
Christmas Dinner (Drinks)	\$55.00
Refreshments AGM	\$103.59
Petty Cash	\$300.00
Printer	\$4349.80
Postage	\$38.00
Badges	\$839.80
Total Expenditure	\$6683.88

INCREASE IN FUNDS	\$9220.31
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PETTY CASH RECONCILIATION	
Opening Balance	(\$0.50)
Add Petty Cash Input	\$300.00
Less Expenditure – Postage	\$46.00
Meeting Expenses	\$67.05
Frames for Posters & Certificates	\$55.10
Stationary	\$94.11
Total Expenditure	\$262.26

CLOSING BALANCE	\$37.24
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BANK RECONCILIATION		
Opening Balance 1 st July 2019		\$20297.47
Plus, Receipts	\$15904.19	
Less Expenditure	\$6683.88	
CLOSING BALANCE 30 th June 2020		\$229517.78



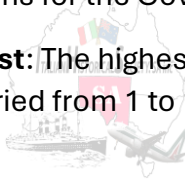


Overview

The Italian Historical Society of SA Inc. experienced consistent engagement across their social media platforms from 2019 to 2020. Through their activities, they engaged the Italian community in South Australia by celebrating cultural events, conducting interviews, and promoting historical content. The number of followers increased from 398 to 432, an increase of 34.

Key Metrics

- **Total Reach:** Approximately 3,108 people
- **Total Engagement (Likes, Reactions):** Varied significantly across posts, with highlights such as 696 reactions for the Governor's Multicultural Award post.
- **Average Engagement per Post:** The highest engagement post received 50 reactions, and other posts varied from 1 to 18 reactions.



Notable Campaigns and Posts

1. *Ferragosto* Post (15th August 2020):

- Celebrated the traditional Italian festival *Ferragosto*, explaining its cultural significance.
- Reach: 239
- Likes/Reactions: 16

2. Governor's Multicultural Award Post (May 2020):

- Celebrated President *Giuseppe Geracitano* award for his contribution to multiculturalism.
- Reach: 696
- Likes/Reactions: 50
- Highest engagement post of the year.

3. **Radio Italia Uno Interviews (June 2020):**

- Series of interviews with *Cosimo and Angela Cutri* on *Radio Italia Uno*.
- Reach: 3.1K (maximum reach achieved)
- Likes/Reactions: 13

4. **Festa Della Repubblica Post (June 2020):**

- Commemorated Italy's National Day with educational content on Italian history.
- Reach: 165
- Likes/Reactions: 20

Engagement Trends

- **Video Content:** Video interviews conducted with *Radio Italia Uno* were among the most engaging posts, often reaching over 3000 people and receiving consistent reactions.
- **Cultural Posts:** Posts about significant cultural events like *Ferragosto* and *Festa Della Repubblica* had notable engagement, often educating the audience about Italian history.
- **Award Recognition:** Posts celebrating *Giuseppe Geracitano's* achievements garnered the most engagement, reflecting strong community support for leadership figures.

•

Insights & Recommendations

- **Video Content:** The Italian Historical Society should continue prioritizing video content, as it consistently generates higher reach and engagement.
- **Celebratory and Award Posts:** Posts that acknowledge community figures and achievements resonated well with the audience. Continue leveraging such posts for increased engagement.
- **Cultural Posts:** While educational cultural posts had decent reach, adding interactive elements or calls to action (like asking followers to share their Ferragosto experiences) could boost engagement further.

Conclusion

The Italian Historical Society of SA Inc. maintained strong community engagement through culturally significant content and recognition of community leaders. To continue growing their audience, they should focus on expanding their video content and leveraging community-driven posts to further boost interaction.

Rosemarie Geracitano – Social Media Coordinator.

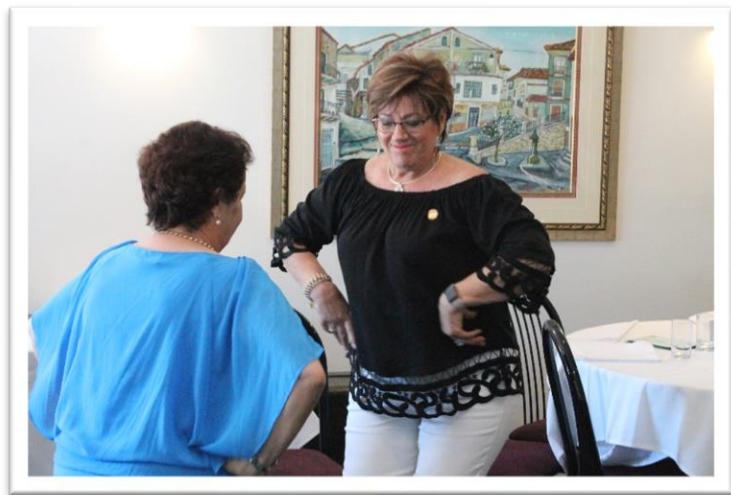
Christmas in January
2020
Buonasera Restaurant













Governors Multicultural Award 2019



Congratulations to the President of the Italian Historical Society of South Australia, Giuseppe (Joe) Geracitano, on being the winner in the Volunteer Category of the 2019 Governor's Multicultural Award. A fitting tribute to the achievements and hard work he has put in over the last 45 years.

The citation for the award read:

“Mr Giuseppe Geracitano With an extraordinary 45 years of selfless community service – especially in the fields of education, welfare and heritage – Giuseppe Geracitano has enriched the Italian community and the multicultural sector more broadly. In founding a range of community organisations, Giuseppe has been instrumental in the elevation and preservation of important heritage. His role in the establishment of both the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission and the Migration Museum represents a particularly significant contribution to the state's cultural fabric.

Pluripremiata la comunità italiana al Multicultural Governor's Award 2019

ADELAIDE - La scorsa settimana sono stati annunciati i vincitori dell'annuale Multicultural Governor's Award. Normalmente la cerimonia di assegnazione dei premi avviene presso la residenza del Governatore ma quest'anno, a causa della situazione contingente, non è stato possibile. I premi sono stati comunque assegnati e il Governatore del South Australia, Hieu Van Le, ha pubblicato un lungo e ispirato discorso, con la presentazione di tutti i vincitori, elogiando il ruolo dei migranti in Australia che hanno contribuito a rendere la nazione ciò che è oggi, "non solo economicamente ma anche dal punto di vista culturale e sociale", riconoscendo che ogni ondata migratoria continua ad apportare un grande contributo e che il South Australia è uno degli esempi di multiculturalismo più riusciti al mondo.

Per questo il Multicultural Governor's Award vuole far luce "sui risultati raggiunti dai tanti cittadini del South Australia la cui passione e dedizione hanno creato una comunità vivace, prospera ed armoniosa".

Nove categorie per 106 nominati. Nell'edizione 2019 l'Italia ha vinto in ben due categorie, arrivando però finalista in tre. Infatti Mario Bianca, storico volontario presso Radio



A sinistra, Giuseppe Gennitano, presidente dell'Italian Historical Society. Nella seconda foto, da sinistra, Tony Cocchiaro e Mario Romaldi, vice presidente e

Italia 531, è arrivato comunque in finale, nella categoria "Senior Volunteer Award", pur non essendo poi arrivato primo. Radio Italiana 531, che proprio quest'anno celebra 45 anni, si è invece aggiudicata il "Media Award". Mario Romaldi, l'attuale presidente, si è detto molto onorato del riconoscimento. "Oltre 45 anni della radio nella promozione della nostra lingua, cultura e musica, che tiene aggiornati e informati i tanti ascoltatori-sette giorni alla settimana, 24 ore al giorno - ha detto -. Senza il continuo supporto degli sponsor e l'insostituibile lealtà e

l'impegno dei quasi 80 volontari e dello staff, questo riconoscimento non sarebbe stato possibile e quindi è a loro dedicato".

Tony Cocchiaro, il vice presidente, ha detto di essere "orgogliosissimo che a Radio Italiana 531 sia stato assegnato un premio tanto prestigioso, che riconosce la professionalità di volontari e staff".

Dello stesso avviso anche Robert Di Cicco, *station manager*, che in particolare ha voluto ringraziare "ogni singolo volontario, per il tempo donato a mantenere l'intera comunità infor-

poi tanto ne accettava la cultura - ha raccontato -. Per questo è nata in me la voglia di dare un contributo, a partire dalla lingua e dalla scuola, essendo stato per tanti anni un insegnante, anche all'università".

Giuseppe ha iniziato il suo volontariato nell'Italian Education Movement, un gruppo di laureati con lo scopo di divulgare l'italiano attraverso le scuole, presso la Dante Alighieri Society, SAATI (South Australia Association Teacher of Italian), Cae, Co-Ordinating Italian Committee, di cui è stato presidente, tra i promotori e organizzatori del Carnevale, infine presidente dell'Italian Historical Society, dove ha dato vita ad un ambizioso progetto di conservazione delle fonti orali dell'emigrazione italiana in Australia. È una persona molto discreta, che al "coinvolgimento" in un singolo club regionale ha prediletto l'appartenenza ad associazioni rivolte all'intera comunità e alla cultura italiana. Come si è sentito quando ha ricevuto l'ambito premio? "Per me già la nomina è stata un onore, l'aver vinto poi è stata un'emozione immensa".

Congratulazioni quindi all'italianità, che ancora una volta si è distinta e fatta onore.

EL

Premier Welcome 2020 Adriano Stendardo Consul of Italy



Italian Historical Society of SA Inc

Events 2019–2020



Rest in Peace
Paola Matta

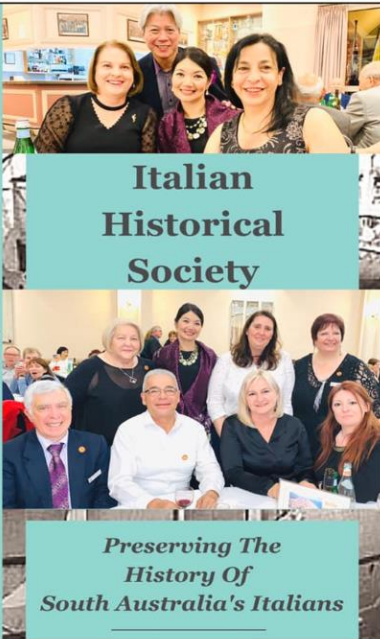
1953 - 15th August 2024



The Italian Historical Society of South Australia, Inc., a not-for-profit society, was founded in 2014 to collect, preserve, and foster the history of Italian immigration to South Australia.

The Society aims to foster an appreciation and preservation of the Italian culture by the descendants of Italian immigrants to South Australia, and to record and celebrate the contribution of Italian immigrants to the growth of South Australia.

It also Aims to establish a Repository for the stories, letters, documents, photographs, and any other significant items associated with Italian immigration to South Australia.



Italian Historical Society

Preserving The History Of South Australia's Italians



Italian Historical Society of South Australia

Preserving The History Of South Australia's Italians



Italian Historical Society of South Australia

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Preserving The History Of South Australia's Italians



Italian Historical Society of South Australia

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Italian Historical Society of SA Inc.



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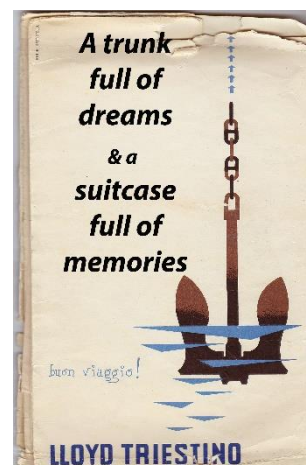
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Ms. Rosemarie Geracitano

Dr. Rachele Tullio

Mrs. Nella Santo

AMBASSADOR: Cav Sebastiano Galipo



The year 2020-2021 has continued to be a year of frustration with the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and the continual imposition of restrictions on social interaction and business activities the Society has been prevented from implementing its program of interviews.

The planned interviews of:

Vince Clemente (regarding his father Domenico Clemente)
Nino Diciccia
Fulvia Caruso
Assunta Selvanera

Still remain a high priority and will be implemented as soon as it is safe to do so. It is impossible to predict at this stage when the planned interviews will be implemented as there is no clarity as to when the pandemic is over. We will continue to monitor the development of the pandemic and as soon as it is safe to implement the program we will proceed.

The payment of membership fees was suspended for the financial year 2020-2021 and that is reflected in the Statement of Receipts and Payments and apart from the payment for web hosting there has been no movement in the funds of the Society.

Other activities including posting on the Society's Facebook page have continued and the year has seen a marked increase in the numbers of followers of our page.

I have taken the opportunity to deepen my own knowledge of the history of the various provinces of Italy and in particular the history of towns from which Italian immigrants to South Australia have originated. This knowledge will be utilized in writing the reports of the interviews once we are able to implement them.

I'm a working member of the Sub-Committee for the 50th anniversary of the San Giuseppe Association Salisbury Inc and assisting the Society to document their history.

The Secretary and I have met with the Consul of the Republic of Italy in South Australia, dr. Adriano Stendardo, to brief him on the objectives and program of the Italian Historical Society of South Australia Inc. Dr. Stendardo has agreed to become co-patron of the Society.

I look forward to implementing the interview program that the Society has planned and to expand the number of interviews as soon as the Covid-19 pandemic makes it possible.

Giuseppe (Joe) Geracitano
President
September 2021



Treasurers Report

Statement of Receipts & Expenditure

2020–2021

RECEIPTS	

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$0.00
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EXPENDITURE	
Web Site Renewal	\$304.98
Total Expenditure	\$304.98

DECREASE IN FUNDS	\$304.98
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PETTY CASH RECONCILIATION	
Opening Balance	\$37.25
Add Petty Cash Input	\$0.00
Less Expenditure	\$0.00
Total Expenditure	\$0.00

CLOSING BALANCE	\$37.25
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BANK RECONCILIATION		
Opening Balance 1 st July 2020		\$29517.78
Plus, Receipts	\$0.00	

Less Expenditure	\$304.98	
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CLOSING BALANCE 30 th June 2021	\$29212.80
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Overview

The Italian Historical Society of South Australia (IHSSA) experienced a steady social media presence throughout 2020-2021. The organization shared various posts commemorating significant cultural events, promoting book launches, and celebrating community milestones. Overall, the IHSSA leveraged its platform to engage the Italian community and broader public in South Australia. The number of followers increased from 432 to 562, an increase of 130.

Key Metrics

- **Reach:** The highest reach was achieved with the "27th Anniversary Feast *Maria SS. Tutte le Grazie*" post, which garnered 1.2K in reach. Other notable posts such as videos and event promotions achieved lower reach numbers, ranging from 15 to 717, with a general trend of consistent engagement.
- **Likes and Reactions:** Across posts, reactions varied significantly, with several posts having up to 20 reactions, while others had none. Most posts did not receive comments or shares, indicating a lower engagement rate in terms of interaction beyond initial likes or views.

Notable Campaigns and Posts

1. **27th Anniversary Feast *Maria SS. Tutte le Grazie*:** This campaign achieved the highest engagement with 1.2K reach, marking it as a standout cultural event for the community.
2. **Mother's Day & Easter Wishes:** These posts consistently garnered between 100 and 200 reach, with reactions reflecting a strong cultural connection during key holidays.
3. **75th Anniversary of the Republic of Italy Post:** This was another high-reach post, receiving 206 engagements, indicating a strong community response to significant historical milestones.

Engagement Trends

- **Cultural Events Dominate Engagement:** Posts related to major cultural celebrations, such as the *Feast Maria SS. Tutte le Grazie* and the *Festa Della Repubblica*, saw the highest levels of engagement in both reach and reactions.
- **Video Content:** Videos performed well, with many posts reaching above 100 views. Videos consistently reached audiences better than static posts, indicating a preference for dynamic content.
- **Seasonal Greetings:** Holiday-themed posts like Mother's Day and Easter saw moderate success in terms of reach and reactions, showing a consistent level of engagement during festive seasons.

Insights & Recommendations

1. **Focus on Video Content:** Given the higher engagement rates seen with video posts, IHSSA should increase the frequency of video content to enhance reach and viewer interaction.
2. **Leverage Cultural and Historical Events:** Posts tied to significant cultural events had the most success. IHSSA could continue to emphasize these events, perhaps by expanding multimedia elements and community involvement through social media polls or questions to further drive engagement.
3. **Encourage More Interaction:** While reactions were decent, there was little in terms of comments and shares. Introducing interactive content like Q&A sessions, polls, or event-specific hashtags could stimulate further community interaction.

Conclusion

In 2020-2021, IHSSA's social media presence was marked by stable engagement, particularly around cultural celebrations and video posts. By increasing video content, focusing on major events, and encouraging more interactive elements, IHSSA has the opportunity to further strengthen its social media engagement and reach a wider audience.

Rosemarie Geracitano – Social Media Coordinator.

Italian Historical Society of SA Inc

Events 2020–2021



Italian Historical Society of SA Inc.



Editor: G. Geracitano

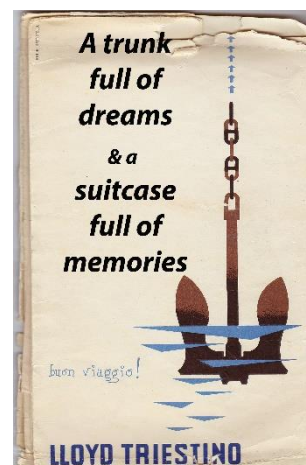
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Contact Number: 0403 177 688





PATRONS: Adriano Stendardo Consul of Italy
Cav Uff. Carmine De Pasquale

PRESIDENT: Mr. Giuseppe (Joe) Geracitano

VICE PRESIDENT: Cav Nick Fazzalari OAM

SECRETARY: Mrs. Giovanna (Jenny) Geracitano

TREASURER: Mrs. Tina Dichiera

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:



Mrs. Franca Circosta

Mr. Lorenzo Circosta

Mrs. Angela Cutri

Mrs. Teresa Dall'Acqua Leonardi OAM

Ms. Rosemarie Geracitano

Dr. Rachele Tullio

Mrs. Nella Santo

AMBASSADOR: Cav Sebastiano Galipo

President Report

2021—2022

The year 2021-22 ushered in the end of social restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Italian Historical Society of South Australia Inc. reactivated its program of recording the history of Italian immigrants.

Whilst it has taken some time to recontact potential interviewees, the Secretary and I have continued to represent the Society at events held by the Italian community. In the course of the year the Secretary and I have attended the following functions:

- Festa della Liberazione
- Festa della Repubblica
- Launch of the history of the South Australian Italian Association, *La Seconda Casa*.
- Screening of *Una Donna Allo Specchio*, theatrical presentation of the De Marco family immigration story.
- *Il Viaggio* exhibition featuring stories of Italian immigrants held at Nazareth Catholic College, an event of the Italian Festival.
- Presentation of *The Good Italian Girl* by Claudia Callisto, an event of the Adelaide Fringe.
- Gala dinner celebrating and release of book of the 50th anniversary of *La Festa di San Giuseppe Inc.*

The committee resolved that whilst individual stories sourced at random would continue to be recorded, particularly those of older immigrants, the focus in future would be to concentrate on themes. To implement this, I have had a number of meetings with potential interviewees to explore the range of themes. I have also carried out extensive research to investigate various themes.

The collection of stories on the theme *Bound for South Australia* has continued and five stories have been submitted so far.

- Commendatore Raffaele De Marco by Angela De Marco
- Di Martino Family by Laura Di Martino-Kempt
- Racioppi Family by Dr. Rachele Tullio
- Giovanni Scalzi by Joe Scalzi
- Nella Santo

These stories will be published in the Society's Annual Report.

It is my hope that we can re-activate the momentum that we had established in 2019 before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Giuseppe (Joe) Geracitano
President
2022

Treasurers Report

Statement of Receipts & Expenditure

2021–2022

RECEIPTS

Membership Fees	\$170.00
City of Charles Sturt Grant *	\$2310.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$2480.00
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EXPENDITURE

Web Site Renewal *	\$483.57
Domain Name Renewal	\$44.98
SAIA Book La Seconda Casa	\$50.00
Refreshments AGM	\$82.32
Total Expenditure	\$660.87

INCREASE IN FUNDS	\$1819.13
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PETTY CASH RECONCILIATION

Opening Balance	\$37.25
Add Petty Cash Input	\$0.00
Less Expenditure	\$0.00
Total Expenditure	\$0.00

CLOSING BALANCE	\$37.25
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BANK RECONCILIATION

Opening Balance 1 st July 2021	\$29212.80
Plus, Receipts	\$2480.00

Less Expenditure	\$660.87	
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CLOSING BALANCE 30 th June 2022	\$31031.93
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*City of Charles Sturt Grant to be spent on Purchase of Equipment

* Web Site Renewal amount is for two years



Overview

During the 2021–2022 period, the Italian Historical Society of SA Inc. focused its social media efforts on celebrating key events in Italian history, promoting community engagements, and sharing the cultural heritage of Italian immigrants in South Australia. The primary content focused on event announcements, historical commemorations, and community updates, engaging the community both locally and globally. The number of followers increased from 562 to 763, an increase of 201.

Key Metrics

- **Total Reach:** 3,045 impressions for the most popular post.
- **Top Engagements:** Posts received between 1 and 68 comments and reactions, with the highest number of reactions (54) and comments (68) recorded for a single post.
- **Average Post Reach:** Around 200–300 impressions per post, with some posts reaching as high as 1.3K and 3K impressions.
- **Interactions:** Posts generally received an average of 5–10 reactions, with comments often being lower, generally around 1–2 comments per post.

Notable Campaigns and Posts

1. ***Festa Della Repubblica (2nd June 2022):***
 - Celebrated the Italian National Day and the 1946 referendum establishing the Republic of Italy. This series of posts received some of the highest engagement, with over 843 interactions, 54 reactions, and 68 comments.
2. ***Ukrainian Fundraiser at Sicilia Social and Sports Club (30th April 2022):***
 - Supported a fundraising event for Ukraine, with notable community interaction. Posts reached over 816 people and garnered seven reactions.
3. ***Madonna Dei Martiri Molfetta Club Seafood Night:***
 - A community event that saw significant interest, reaching a large audience and driving engagement with eight reactions and six comments.

4. Bound for South Australia Exhibition:

- Celebrated Italian immigration stories and their contributions to South Australia. Posts about this exhibition reached over 1.1K users.

Engagement Trends

- **Event-based Posts:** Content related to community events, such as *Festa Della Repubblica* and *Madonna Dei Martiri*, consistently generated higher levels of engagement compared to regular updates.
- **Historical Commemorations:** Posts that celebrated Italy's historical events, including *Festa Della Liberazione* and *Festa Della Repubblica*, attracted significant attention, reflecting the community's connection with Italian heritage.
- **Fundraising and Special Events:** Fundraising campaigns and community efforts, such as the Ukrainian fundraiser, also attracted strong engagement, indicating that charitable events resonate well with the audience.

Insights & Recommendations

1. **Content Focus on Events:** Posts about events and celebrations generated the highest engagement. It would be beneficial to increase the frequency of similar content, potentially adding behind-the-scenes posts or member interviews to further involve the community.
2. **Video Content:** Video posts generated strong reactions, particularly when tied to cultural celebrations. Leveraging more video content for future announcements or historical storytelling could significantly boost engagement.
3. **Interactive Posts:** Comments were relatively low, suggesting an opportunity for more interactive content, such as polls, Q&A sessions, or member spotlights, which could invite more dialogue with the community.
4. **Boosting Strategic Posts:** Boosting high-performing posts, particularly those tied to key events like *Festa Della Repubblica* or cultural heritage campaigns, could extend their reach and drive more interaction with non-followers.

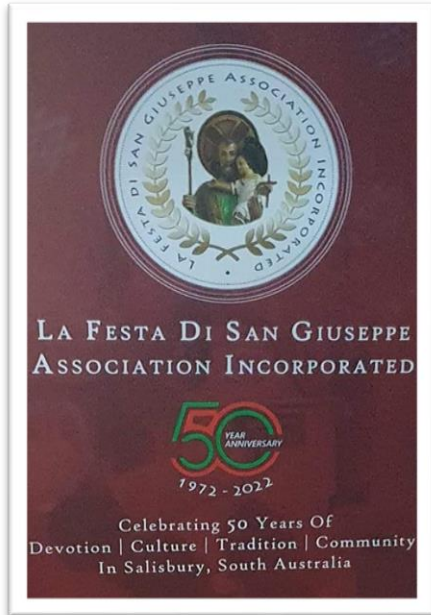
Conclusion

The 2021–2022 social media activity effectively engaged the community by focusing on cultural celebrations and significant community events. Increasing the use of video content and creating more interactive posts can further boost engagement, while promoting major events through targeted boosts may help reach a broader audience and elevate the Society's digital presence.

Rosemarie Geracitano – Social Media Coordinator.

San Giuseppe Salisbury

50th Anniversary Gala Night 2022



Memorial Page

Past Members

Special Tributes to our dearly departed Members.



Peter Dichiera

Born in San Nicola di Caulonia

Prov. Reggio Calabria, Italy

8th February 1933

Passed away in Adelaide

25th April 2022



Your Memories

will always be

treasured

moments.



Cav Uff Angelo Raffaele Fantasia OAM

Born 25th July 1955

Passed away in Adelaide

31st May 2022



Alfia Patrizia De Pasquale

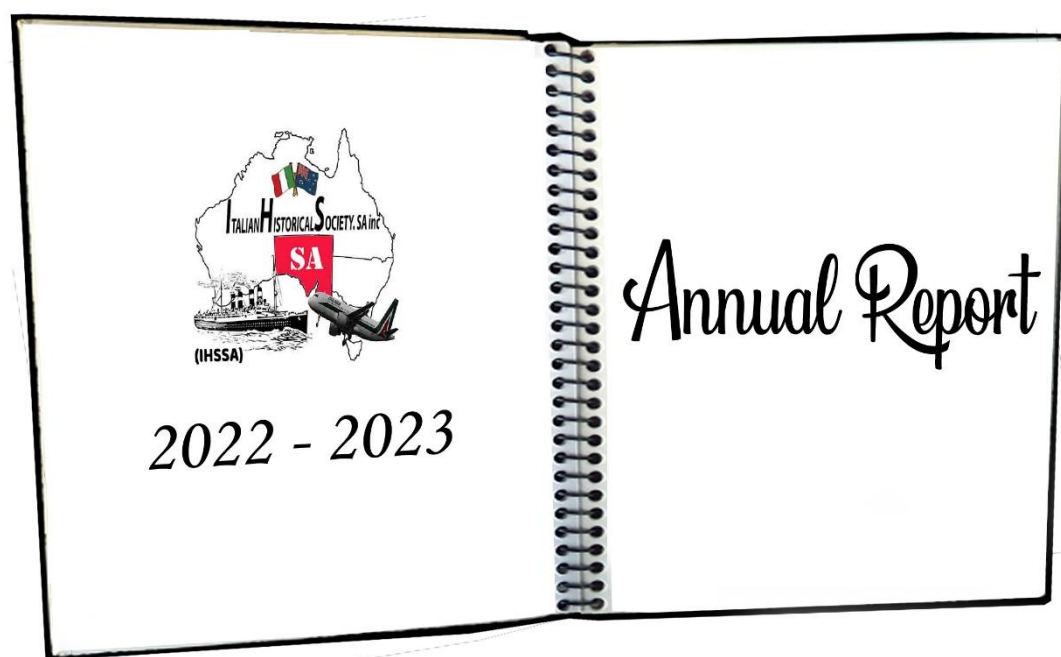
Born in Cairns Queensland

26th October 1944

Passed away in Adelaide

18th June 2022

Italian Historical Society of SA Inc.



Editor: G. Geracitano

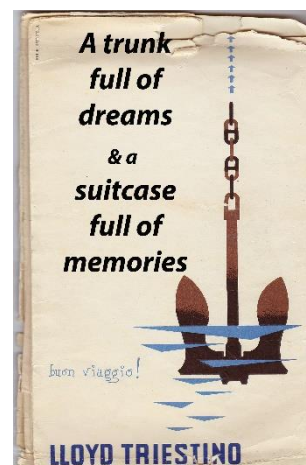
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Mrs. Teresa Dall'Acqua Leonardi OAM

Ms. Rosemarie Geracitano

Cllr. Dr. Rachele Tullio

Mrs. Nella Santo

AMBASSADOR: Cav Sebastiano Galipo

President Report

2022—2023

The year 2022-23 has been a year of reactivating the activities of the Italian Historical Society of South Australia Inc. and I'm delighted that we have begun recording interviews again.

The Secretary and I have continued to represent the Society at important functions of the Italian community in Adelaide. During the course of the year, we have attended the following functions:

- Gala Ball *Madonna Dei Martiri Molfetta Club Inc.*
- *Festa di Maria SS di Crochi*
- *Festa della Liberazione*
- *Festa della Repubblica*
- The Voice of Italy Concert
- *Festa di San Hilarion*
- Gala Dinner Co.As.It.
- *Festa di San Giuseppe Salisbury*
- Gala Dinner celebrating the 30th anniversary of the *Associazione Sinopolese Del Sud Australia Maria SS Di Tutte Le Grazie*
- *Sicilia Night* at Sicilia Social and Sports Club Inc.



The Society received requests from two Italian community organizations, *Associazione Sinopolese Del Sud Australia Maria SS Di Tutte Le Grazie* and *Radio Italiana 531*, to assist them to document their history to celebrate reaching milestones in their development.

The *Associazione Sinopolese Del Sud Australia Maria SS Di Tutte Le Grazie* celebrated its 30th anniversary of the feast of *Maria SS Di Tutte Le Grazie* and to celebrate held a gala dinner on Saturday 24th of June 2023. The Italian Historical Society of South Australia Inc. wrote a booklet tracing the foundation and development of the *Associazione Sinopolese Del Sud Australia Maria SS Di Tutte Le Grazie*. I would like to thank the President, Angela Cutri, for giving our Society the opportunity to demonstrate what we are able to do, and to our secretary, Jenny Geracitano, for typesetting and graphic designing the booklet.

Radio Italiana 531 will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Italian community radio in 2025. The Italian Historical Society of South Australia Inc. was approached by the President, *Mario Romaldi*, to assist with documenting the history of *Radio Italiana 531*.

I have agreed to assist with documenting the foundation and development of *Radio Paesani*, the former organization from which *Radio Italiana 531* evolved, and have already recorded interviews with three of its founding members: Keith Conlon (station manager of 5UV from which the radio programs were broadcasted), Rose Colanero (founding program director of *Radio Paesani*) and Lino Cardone (technician of *Radio Paesani*). There are still a number of other broadcasters that I'm in contact with who have to be interviewed. I have also located a tape of one of the programs which was broadcasted in 1977 and I'm in the process of transferring it to digital format.

The collection of stories for the Society's Annual Report on the theme *Bound for South Australia* has continued and to the five stories that were reported in the 2021-2022 President's Report, namely:

- Comandatore Raffaele De Marco by Angela De Marco
- Di Martino Family by Laura Di Martino-Kempt
- Racioppi Family by Dr. Rachele Tullio
- Giovanni Scalzi by Joe Scalzi
- Nella Santo



Four other stories have been added:

- Michele Donato
- Francesco Fogliano
- Rita Bianca Palumbo
- Giuseppe (Joe) Geracitano

The title of the theme has been altered to *Bound for South Australia: The Italian Experience* to avoid any possible infringement of the title of the song *Bound for South Australia* by John Williamson.

I have also written four articles for the 2023 Annual Report to place the stories collected in a historical framework. These articles are:

- History of Italy with a focus on factors promoting emigration
- Italia Diaspora – History of Italian Emigration
- History of Italian Immigration to Australia
- History of Italian Immigration to South Australia.

The Annual Report to cover the period 2020 to 2023 is in the process of being prepared, i.e., graphic artwork, typesetting, etc. I anticipate that it will be ready for distribution in early 2024.

I have prepared a timeline of significant Italian immigrants' arrivals to Australia with an emphasis on those arriving in South Australia to give a snapshot of the contributions by Italian migrants in the development of South Australia. This is a work in progress and additions will be made as research discovers more information.

In the 2021-2022 President's Report I indicated that the Society had resolved to establish themes in organizing the selection of interviewees. I have devoted considerable time to investigating various themes and concluded that the one theme that best illustrates the impact of Italian migration in South Australia is the Italianization of the Australian cuisine. To this end I have delved into research that has been done on the impact of Italian migration to Australian cuisine culture and developed a rationale and framework to examine the factors involved.

The theme to examine the impact of Italian migrants on the Australian cuisine culture is titled "*A Tavola*" *The Influence of Italian Immigration on Australian Food Culture*. To implement the project, I have prepared a detailed proposal examining various aspects of food which includes:

- **Dinning out** (Restaurants, Bistros, Cafés, Pizza Bars, Ice Cream Parlours)
- **Food Manufacturers** (Bakers, Cheese Manufacturers, Coffee Roasters, Continental Smallgoods, Olive Oil producers, Pasta Manufacturers, Market Gardeners)
- **Importers**
- **Retailers** (Butchers, Delicatessens, Fruit and Vegetable including Central Market, Grocery Stores)
- **Australian Wine Industry**

I have already canvassed some of the early pioneering Italian restauraners to ascertain their willingness to be part of the project. So far, I have had meetings with:

- *Giorgio Belperio* (associated with La Mensa, Via Veneto, Settebello, Alfresco Gelateria, and Fasta Pasta).
- *Tony Sanso* (associated with Villa Sanso in Kensington, Hanhdorf Mill, Osteria Sanso in Kanmantoo)
- *Silvana Zerella*
- *Ilario Nesci* (proprietor Buonasera Restaurant)
- *Paolo Benizzi* (Son of Ettore Benizzi of the Sorento Restaurant)
- *Nick Minicozzi*
- *Phillip Donato*
- *Enzo Clappis*

Other contacts include:

- Vittorio Ventura
- Carmine Deleso
- Tony Deleso
- Nino Tolina (Al Fresco)
- Andy Parisi (La Trattoria)

I have already scheduled an interview with *Enzo Clappis* who is one of the earliest post World War II Italian Chefs to establish Italian restaurants in South Australia.

To assist with the project, I have approached the History Trust for funding.

In addition, in my President's Report of 2022 I indicated that the establishment of themes to select potential interviewees would not prevent the Society from recording interviews on ad hoc basis. In this category I have completed an interview with *Rita Bianca Palumbo*, a member of our Society and President of the *Sicilia Social and Sports Club Inc.* Highlights of her career included being appointed as the first Italian secretary of a Good Neighbour Council in South Australia (Woodville branch), founding member of *Australia Donna*, and her experience of interpreting and translation in the 1970s before the establishment of professional interpreters and translators.

I anticipate that this program of interviews will continue in 2024 and beyond which will have an impact on the financial status of the Society. To this end the Society will have to organize fundraising events to secure the finances to transcribe the interviews.

I would like to thank the committee for your assistance and patience in the past year whilst I and my family attended to our personal issues and look forward to implementing the interview program and initiating other activities of the Society.

Giuseppe (Joe) Geracitano

President

November 2023

Treasurers Report

Statement of Receipts & Expenditure

2022—2023

RECEIPTS

Membership Fees	\$220.00
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TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$220.00
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EXPENDITURE

Turramurra Music (Recorder) *	\$2197.00
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Total Expenditure	\$2197.00
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INCREASE IN FUNDS	\$1977.00
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PETTY CASH RECONCILIATION

Opening Balance	\$37.25
-----------------	---------

Add Petty Cash Input	\$0.00
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Less Expenditure	\$0.00
------------------	--------

Total Expenditure	\$0.00
-------------------	--------

CLOSING BALANCE	\$37.25
-----------------	---------

BANK RECONCILIATION

Opening Balance 1 st July 2022	\$31031.93
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Plus, Receipts	\$220.00
----------------	----------

Less Expenditure	\$2197.00
------------------	-----------

CLOSING BALANCE 30 th June 2023	\$29054.93
--	------------

Cash on Hand (Memberships) \$100.00

*Recorder funded by grant from City of Charles Sturt Grant



Overview:

The Italian Historical Society of South Australia (IHSSA) engaged in multiple campaigns and content related to Italian heritage, culture, and history. The social media presence of IHSSA between 2022-2023 saw fluctuating engagement levels, with specific posts performing significantly better based on cultural relevance, timing, and content type. The number of followers increased from 763 to 902, an increase of 139.

Key Metrics:

- **Total Reach:** 7.3K (max post)
- **Average Engagement (Likes & Reactions):** 0-42 per post
- **Top Performing Post:** *"Congratulations to Sebastian and Bill Galipo on the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Galipo Food Company"*, which garnered 7.3K reach and 42 reactions.
- **Notable Fluctuations:** Reach varied from 20 to 7,253, indicating inconsistent audience engagement.

Notable Campaigns and Posts:

1. Cultural Celebrations:

- Posts related to *Festa Della Repubblica* (e.g., *"Viva Italia"*) consistently had high reach, with a peak of 2.3K.
- Announcements about *Feast of St Giuseppe* and other cultural events like *La Settimana del Lingua Italiana* garnered over 200 engagements collectively.

2. Commemorations & Tributes:

- *"Lest We Forget"* tribute for a society member's grandfather reached 262 people with 10 reactions, showing strong emotional engagement from the community.

3. Milestone Celebrations:

- Posts like "*Galipo Food Company 40th Anniversary*" achieved the highest reach and engagement, highlighting the community's support for local businesses and notable figures.

Engagement Trends:

- Posts related to **events and milestones** had the highest engagement.
- **Video content** showed potential for higher interaction but remained underutilized, with views between 90-256 but minimal likes or comments.
- **Cultural and commemorative posts** (such as holiday greetings and heritage celebrations) had medium engagement, while general posts without significant emotional appeal saw lower engagement.

Insights & Recommendations:

1. **Consistency in Posting:** Engagement levels fluctuated due to inconsistent posting. Maintaining a regular posting schedule focused on cultural events and milestones could help keep engagement steady.
2. **Leverage Video Content:** While videos were underperforming in terms of likes, their reach was generally higher than text posts. Increasing video content could capture a wider audience, especially if paired with promotional pushes or event highlights.
3. **Boost High-Performing Content:** Successful posts like the *Galipo Food Company* milestone celebration demonstrate the community's interest in local success stories. Similar content should be promoted and boosted to maximize reach.
4. **Increase Community Interaction:** Posts with emotional ties (e.g., "*Lest We Forget*") resonate well. Focusing on storytelling or interactive content (e.g., polls, questions) could encourage more shares and comments, thereby increasing organic reach.

Conclusion:

The Italian Historical Society of South Australia's 2022-2023 social media activities showed peaks in engagement during cultural events and milestone celebrations. With a more consistent posting strategy, leveraging video content, and fostering community interaction, the society could achieve better engagement and awareness in the upcoming years.

Rosemarie Geracitano – Social Media Coordinator.

Italian Historical Society of SA Inc

Events 2021–2023



Madonna di tutte le Grazie

30th Anniversary Gala Night 2023



Italian Historical Society of SA Inc.



Editor: G. Geracitano

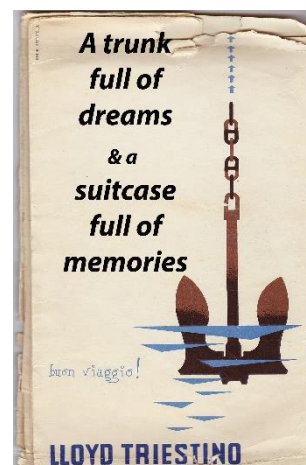
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Italian Historical Society of S&A Inc.

2023—2024

Committee

Patrons

Ernesto Pianelli Consul of Italy
Cav Uff. Dr Carmine De Pasquale



Ambassadors

Cav Sebastian Galipo
Rita Bianca Palumbo



Executive Committee

Giuseppe Geracitano (President)
Cav Nick Fazzalari OAM (Vice President)
Giovanna (Jenny) Geracitano (Secretary)
Tina Dichiera (Treasurer)



Committee

Angela Cutri

Cr. Dr Rachelle Tullio

Anna Farrugia

Lorenzo & Franca Circosta

Teresa Dall'Acqua Leonardi OAM

Nella Santo

Rosina Peryk



Social Media Co ordinator

Rosemarie Geracitano





Welcome to the Italian Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

Annual General Meeting for 2024.

This year is significant in many ways as it marks the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Italian Historical Society of South Australia Inc. Although there was in the past an Italian Historical Society in South Australia founded by Marco Danielle in 1991 which left a legacy in the form of a statue of the first recorded Italian settler in South Australia in Norwood, Antonio Giannoni, and published a book of traditional Italian proverbs '*Mio Nonno Parlava Così, Mia Nonna Pensava Così*' authored by Cav Uff. Carmine De Pasquale, nevertheless, with the passing of Marco Danielle that association ceased to exist. In many ways our present Society is very different both in its objectives and methodology of capturing the history of Italian immigrants in South Australia.

It is important to trace briefly the path which led to the foundation of the present Society and also why it adopted the methodology of oral history to record the history of Italian immigration. I've had a long association with developing organizations to service the Italian community both in South Australia and to a less extent in Victoria. My interest in the Italian community in South Australia stems partly from my own experience as a child migrating to a new and unknown country and partly as an academic curiosity of what elements are essential in moving from a mono cultural society to a multicultural one based on living in harmony.

Like most immigrants I experienced the challenges facing a new society with a different language and new demands regarding culture, culinary practices, and forms of worship. I faced the trauma of being torn from my extended family and all that was familiar to me. Both the challenges and trauma were part of my life as I navigated through my schooling in Australia and having to constantly prove to my teachers and school authorities that lack of linguistic ability did not equate to lack of intelligence. The schooling system of the 1950s and 1960s was not geared to dealing with students from non-English speaking background. There were no special teachers for second language learners, there were no special English teaching, students were expected to 'pick up' the language whilst they got further and further behind with all their subjects. Some students were fortunate to have an understanding teacher who would mentor

and give extra help with the language. The fact that so many non-English speaking students were able to successfully navigate through this system and managed to not only gain entrance at the university but also excel in their studies and become leaders in their field is a testimony to their hard work and resilience.

Through hard work and persistence, I successfully progressed through the education system and achieved my goal of not only becoming a secondary school teacher but being invited to train future teachers at the highest education facility being the University of Adelaide. It was in this institution that I developed my intense interest of developing educational policies for a community that was no longer an Anglo-Celtic enclave but one that had been developed by immigrants from many countries.

The 1970s was a period of intense social change, it was a time that the non-Anglo-Celtic community found a voice and demanded changes so services were directed to meet their needs in their own languages where it was required. The Italian community, being the largest non-Anglo-Celtic community, was at the forefront of this social movement and I was privileged to be part of that movement. Utilizing my own experience, the knowledge I had gained throughout my studies and research I had conducted, and having the respect that comes by being a member of the University of Adelaide, I joined many others to become an advocate for the Italian community in South Australia.

Since the 1970s many changes have occurred in the institutions that serve our community and, in the community at large. The non-Anglo-Celtic communities, and the Italian community in particular, are no longer seen as competitors for Australian jobs or their behaviour regarded as being non-Australian. Indeed, the impact that they have made in developing the country has been widely acknowledged. Australia is no longer regarded as a child of the British Empire relying on its agricultural produce and supplier of raw material for the more advanced English manufacturers. The Italian community has played a large part in transforming Australia and South Australia in particular from what it was in the 1950s to the vibrant economic success that it has become in the twenty first century.

The transformation has been multifaceted, not only economic development, but also in terms of attitudes, culinary diversity, entertainment, and religious practices. Yet much of this change has not been recorded. There is anecdotal evidence often referred to in speeches by our community leaders. However, if a total stranger were to come to our shores to look for recorded evidence of the challenges and triumphs that we as migrants had to endure, he would find that we in fact don't exist as far as documented history is concerned.

Throughout history documents have been saved as evidence of events that have happened. Documents that not only chronicle events, but ideas, recipes, and prayers form the basis of studying the past and assist us in explaining the present. These documents are saved by succeeding generations and become the archive that stores the knowledge of the various generations. In South Australia the task of storing these archives has been entrusted to the State Library of South Australia.

Over the years partly due to my own interest in history and partly due to responding to enquiries from various organizations about the origin of present-day organizations serving the Italian community I have become increasingly aware about the lack of original documents concerning the Italian community stored in any institution in South Australia. In the absence of documents many claims are made about the people who were in fact responsible for founding organizations. I discovered that the State Library of South Australia has very few documents of first-hand experiences of our grandparents' and parents' journey to make a better life for their families. I realized that with the passing of the first-generation Italian immigrants, history would in time forget that they ever existed. It was then that I decided that this had to be redressed.

Having made the decision that, the lack of documentation needed to be redressed it became a question as to how this could be achieved. Italian immigration especially in the twentieth century has been dominated by immigrants from the Southern regions of Italy and predominantly from rural areas. Immigrants from these areas in the main had no or little formal education, often relying on fellow immigrants to communicate with loved ones left behind in the small towns in Italy. Unlike immigrants in the nineteenth century to the United States from central European countries very few Italians left memoirs about their experiences.

My research indicated that the most effective method to capture the stories of the Italian immigrants was by Oral History. Oral history is a picture of the past in people's own words. It is a technique for generating and preserving original, historically interesting information, primary source material, from personal recollections through planned recorded interviews. This method of interviewing is used to preserve the voices, memories and perspectives of people in history. It is a means of recording history from people who are not represented in written records. Archives, libraries, museums, and other cultural institutions are filled with records and sources that document the elites of the world, such as politicians, successful businessmen, celebrities, leaders, etc. But the majority of people are either undocumented or under-documented, and oral history can be an effective way to capture their stories so that they can be added to the historical narratives.

Although I'm an experienced researcher in Social Science, Oral History methodology was not my forte. This was the start of my journey to familiarize myself with a new method of recording history. I immersed myself in the literature which led me to the discovery of the Oral History Association of Australia which I joined in 2010. I spent four years in my spare time researching the method of oral history, attended training sessions conducted by the South Australian branch of the Oral History Association of Australia, and exploring the involvement of the State Library of South Australia in the preservation of Oral History. The training involved not just methodology but also familiarizing myself with professional recording equipment. I discovered the existence of the J. D. Sommerville Oral History Collection. The collection established in 1987 contains over 9,000 interviews, making it the largest and most comprehensive collection of its kind in any state library in Australia and the major archival repository for

oral histories in South Australia. The collection strives to provide an oral record of all aspects of the South Australian experience and particularly of those people who are poorly represented in documentary records such as low-income earners, people of non-English speaking background, first nation community, women and people living in rural areas. Despite these priorities it was pointed out to me by the then Acting Coordinator Archival Collection Development, Tonia Eldridge, from the State Library of South Australia that the collection was under-represented in the category of people of non-English speaking background. Even today, 14 years after that conversation, the only major project stored in the collection involving the Italian community is the Veneto Market Gardeners 1927 Oral History project by Madeleine Regan. This project consisting of 65 hours interviews is based on 11 families immigrating from the Veneto Region in 1927 and establishing market gardens on Frogmore Rd Kidman Park South Australia. The project has taken 16 years to complete.

Further investigations into the Oral History methodology revealed that the process involved not only oral recordings but that those recordings had to be transcribed and accompanied by documents and photographs. The professional equipment required was expensive and although the cost of recording was negligible if the time of the interviewer was voluntary, the cost of transcription was the major component.

It was at this point that I realized that if the project was going to be a success I required help from the community. To get that help I sought the assistance of like minded people within the Italian community and founded the Italian Historical Society of South Australia in 2014. The aim in the initial years was to develop a committee with transparent and strong governance in which the community would have confidence that any funds entrusted to the Society would be spent to benefit the objectives of the Society. Also, it was important the committee fully understood the process involved in undertaking the research to capture the stories and the funds required to implement every aspect of the project. The role of the committee was to oversee the implementation of the project and to raise the necessary funds to bring the project to fruition.

From the day that the Society was founded I made myself available to the numerous Italian Community Organizations to be a guest speaker at their functions to explain the need for their migration stories to be recorded and preserved. I was invited to numerous dinner dances, community meetings, professional conferences, Italian community radio, and schools. The aim of these meetings was not only to sensitize the community but also to build moral and financial support for the objectives of the Society.

The project that the Committee resolved to undertake was "*A Trunk Full of Dreams, A Suitcase Full of Memories: Stories of Italian Immigrants in South Australia*". Over the course of the last ten years the project has been refined by the establishment of themes to select potential interviewees. So far, the themes selected are: Life Achievement; Business; Sport; Community Organizations; A Tavola: The Influence of Italian

Immigration on Australian Food Culture; Women and Business; Women Life Achievements; and Culture. Other categories will be added as required.

The committee explored a number of avenues to raise the necessary funds. It examined the availability of public money through grants offered by public institutions, sponsorship from private companies, and holding fundraising events.

The Society did receive some support from Italian organizations. The pamphlet to promote the Society and its objectives was printed by arteGRAFICA free of charge. It raised \$4,500.00 in donations, contributions were made by the Lions Club of Adelaide Italian, Bene, the South Australian Association of Teachers of Italian, Galipo Food Company, and Cav Nick Fazzalari OAM and Joan Fazzalari.

In 2015 the Society made its first attempt to access funds from a public institution to conduct a small Oral History project and applied for a grant to the City of Charles Sturt's Cultural Heritage Program. I approached Tonia Eldridge for a letter of support. Ms. Eldridge had no hesitation in supporting the application on behalf of the State Library of South Australia. The support was based on, and I quote "Mr. Geracitano's objectives of capturing the memories and experiences of key players in SA's Italian community is consistent with the Collection Development goal of increasing representation of people of non-English backgrounds, and immigrants. It is also a step towards redressing the shortage of such material in Australia's collecting institutions, in general." The Society was successful in obtaining funds.

This grant was followed by three further grants from the City of Charles Sturt through its Discretionary Ward Allowance program. In 2017 it received \$6,582.00 to purchase a computer, professional recorder and recording accessories; in 2019 it received \$4,349.80 to purchase a large frame photographic printer and professional photographic scanner; and 2021 it received \$2,021.00 to purchase a second professional recorder and recording accessories. We thank the City of Charles Sturt and the Ward councilors of the Grange and Woodville West in particular for their on-going support.

In 2017 the Society held two fundraising functions, the first held in February at European Reception Centre yielding \$6,001.00, the second function held in November at the Marche Club yielding \$11,054.00. This was followed in 2019 by a further fundraiser at which the immigration story of Cav Sebastiano Galipo was released held at the Sicilia Social and Sports Club which raised \$10,954.39.

In 2018 the Society identified Cav Sebastiano Galipo as its first major interviewee. Cav Sebastiano Galipo fulfilled all the criteria for a worthy interviewee. He immigrated to Australia in 1952 with his mother and older brother. He was 4 years old when he arrived in Australia. He spent his early childhood on a tobacco farm in Northern New South Wales where his father was a share farmer. In his early teens the family transferred to Adelaide where he has spent the rest of his life. The challenges he had to overcome in his education are typical of many immigrants of non-English speaking background. How

he overcame these challenges and eventually was able to gain entrance to the law school of the University of Adelaide is an inspirational story. Disillusionment with law school led Cav Sebastiano Galipo to utilize his marketing skills, which led him to founding the Galipo Food Company in 1983. From a home-based operation Galipo Food Company has become a multimillion-dollar Company and has won multiple national awards as the best food distribution company in Australia. In February 2019 I was finally able to engage Cav Sebastiano Galipo in a two-hour interview and the transcript with documents was released at a fundraiser dinner attended by 300 people in October 2019.

At that stage the Society had programmed a comprehensive list of interviewees that were to take place in 2020. The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted all the plans made by the Society and due to restrictions on social interaction the Society went into recess and lost the momentum that it had generated. For the next two years I devoted my time to continue to research the impact of Italian immigrants to the development of South Australia and identify possible themes and target suitable individuals to be interviewed. Since the Society was not able to continue with its interviewing program it invited its members and supporters to write a brief account of their own migration experiences based on the theme '*Bound for South Australia: The Italian Experience*' which resulted in ten stories being submitted. These will be published in early 2025.

The research revealed that the most visible impact of mass Italian immigration to South Australia was the change on South Australian food culture. There has been an overwhelming change in Australian eating habits in the last 50 years and although there are many factors involved the presence of Italian food establishments in the community has been an important factor. The Committee of the Society began to meet regularly in late 2022 and by mid-2023 the theme "*A Tavola: The Influence of Italian Immigration on Australian Food Culture*" was born. Based on the research done I developed a rationale and a list of potential interviewees.

Food culture has many aspects including dining out venues, food manufacturers, importers, retailers, and the production of wine. To fully understand the changing nature of food culture in the last 50 years one must examine the interaction between the various sectors.

The most visible form of the new dining experience is the presence of Italian restaurants, Bistros, Cafés, *Pizzerie* (Pizza Bars), *Gelaterie* (Ice Cream Parlours), Catering companies, and Community Social Clubs which certainly have had an impact. However, for these establishments to offer new tastes a chain supply was needed for the necessary ingredients. The classic example was the availability of olive oil in the 1950s and 60s. During those years olive oil was primarily sold by pharmacies as a laxative. Yet it is an essential ingredient in Italian cuisine. It wasn't until the Italian community began producing and importing olive oil that this essential ingredient was available in bulk. There are three sectors which supply all the essential ingredients,

manufacturers, primary producers, and importers. Many forms of manufacturers supplying continental ingredients mushroomed in the 70 years since the beginning of the mass Italian immigration in the 1950s. These include bakers, continental pastry and biscuit manufacturers for example *Avanti Pasticceria* founded in 1964 and *St George cakes and Gelati* founded in 1971; cheese makers for example *Casa Dell Formaggio* founded in 1988 and *La Vera* founded in 1984; pasta manufacturers for example *San Remo Macaroni Company* founded in 1936; coffee roasters for example *Rio Coffee* founded in 1964; olive oil producers for example *Bovalina Olive Oil Group* founded in 2002; and the numerous market gardeners introducing the community to new vegetables including zucchini, broccoli, melanzane, and so on. What wasn't being produced in South Australia was imported from overseas.

Given the dearth of familiar food items in Australia owned grocery stores a burgeoning demand for shops catering for Italian culinary preferences proliferated the market. Among the prominent retail ventures established by Italian immigrants were butchers serving Italian style cuts of meat such as *Osso Buco*, delicatessens selling a vast variety of ingredients such as Italian smallgoods (*Il Mercato* being an example), and greengrocers including the *Central Market*.

Finally, mass Italian immigration coincided with a change in the production of wine in Australia. Wine is an integral part of the Italian food culture. 'A day without wine is like a day without sun' is a popular Italian saying. The majority of wine produced by Australian wineries in the 19th and early 20th centuries was intended for fortification. The influx of mass Italian immigration in the mid-20th century led to a demand for table wines. Italian immigrants also established their own wineries as for example *Serafino Winery* in *McClaren Vale*. The wine industry as a whole introduced Italian wine varieties such as *Nebbiolo*, *Pinot Gris*, and *Sangiovese*.

To implement the project pioneers in all the different sectors mentioned above have been targeted to be interviewed. The interviews will be the whole-of-life approach to understand the background of the interviewees and examine the factors leading them to establish their undertakings. For example, in the case of restaurants, *Enzo Clappis*, an Istrian refugee who came to South Australia in 1952 as a 17-year-old and established *Buonasera Restaurant* in 1966 in *Glenunga*, a restaurant that is still operating at the same premises, was interviewed recently and the Society is at present working with him to select all relevant documents and photographs. The interview is planned to be released later in 2024. Other pioneers contacted and expressed their willingness to take part in the project include:

- *Tony Sanso*, founder of *Villa Sanso* in the 1970s in *Kensington*.
- *George Belperio*, proprietor of many restaurants as for example *La Mensa*, *Settebello*, and current owner of *Fasta Pasta*.
- *Paolo Benizzi*, son of *Ettore Benizzi* who founded the *Sorento Restaurant* in *Hindley St* and *Ettore* in *Hindmarsh*,

- *Ilario Nesci*, who took over *Buonasera Restaurant* in 1969, when *Enzo Clappis* moved to Burnside Village.

Many others are also on the list, including:

- *Vitorio Ventura*
- *Carmine Deleso*
- *Tony Deleso*
- *Nino Tolina*
- *Andy Parisi*
- *Enzo Fazzari*
- *Larry Piscioneri*

In the catering field plans are to interview members of the:

- *Donato* family, the longest surviving Italian catering establishment in South Australia.
- *Minicozzi* family
- *Fantasia* family

This is only a small sample of interviewees. Similar lists are ready for all other categories. The object of the project is not only to record and preserve their stories but also to preserve their documents related to the restaurant(s) including menus, photographs, advertisements, reviews, etc.

Each individual story will be published, and the transcript and scanned documents will be deposited in the State Library of South Australia and other institutions as required by the Legal Deposit Act. The audio will be submitted to the State Library for inclusion in the Oral Histories collection. This is primary data that has not ever been recorded before and will be the foundation on which further research will be based in the future. Many of the interviewees are elderly and unless their stories are recorded with their passing a whole library is buried with them. At the end of the project, it is planned that an analysis of how the impact of Italian mass immigration to South Australia has transformed the South Australian food culture.

In 2023 the Society was approached by two Italian community organizations that were celebrating milestones in their development to assist them in writing their history. The first organization, *Associazione Sinopolese Del Sud Australia Maria SS Di Tutti Le Grazie*, celebrated their thirtieth anniversary of their feast day in Adelaide for which I wrote a small book tracing its history; the second organization *Radio Italiana 531*, will be celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of Italian community radio in 2025. I undertook to interview and produce a report of its founding members and the early development of *Radio Paesani* which is the forerunner of Italian community radio. This

will be presented in March 2025 at a gala function celebrating the fiftieth anniversary. For this project I have interviewed Keith Conlon, the then manager of 5UV from which the Italian language radio programs were broadcasted, *Rosa Colanero*, the first program director, and *Lino Cardone*, technician producing the programs. It is planned to interview other pioneering broadcasters.

Finally, to honour the contribution that women have made the Society has completed an interview and published the transcript of *Rita Bianca Palumbo* under the sub-theme Women's Life Achievements. *Ms. Palumbo*, immigrated at the age of 10 and on reaching 16 years became the first Italian to be appointed as secretary of the Good Neighbor Council in Woodville. *Ms. Palumbo* at that early age became the interpreter for the Italian community. For the last 18 years *Ms. Palumbo* has guided the *Sicilia Social and Sports Club* as President. Her story was released at a function on the 6th of July 2024. The function was also a fundraiser for the Society and \$6,062.00 was raised. The transcript and documents have been deposited in the State Library of SA and the oral recording will be submitted to the State Library to be included in the Oral History Collection. Plans are also well underway to record an interview with *Giovanna Mercuri* from the Mercuri Knitwear company operating from the 1950s to the 1980s which impacted Australian women fashion. The Company subsequently evolved into Ennio International producing globally knitted casing for the meat and poultry industries. Once again, these interviewees are elderly, especially *Ms. Mercuri* who is 92 years old and it is important to record their stories before it's too late.

We have progressed from printing the Annual Reports and transcript books in-house to professional printed books. This is important as a sign of the evolution of the Society.

The Society has relied on social media via Facebook to communicate its activities to the public. It has achieved a following of over 1,000 people and organizations mainly from South Australia. The Society has also a web page, but it is out of date and in need of a professional makeover. In 2025 it is planned to revamp the web page so that the interviews and transcripts can be uploaded. Also, plans are underway to explore other digital avenues to make the oral interviews more easily accessible to the public.

In conclusion the last 10 years have been an exciting journey and although the output of completed interviews has not been as numerous as I had anticipated mainly due to the break we had to have during the Covid-19 pandemic with the subsequent loss of momentum, the ground work has been laid so that we can now accelerate the number of interviews and publications. I would like to thank the foundations members who were willing to accompany me on a dream, the sponsors who supported our activities, the various committee members that have persevered over the years to develop the dream, and finally my family who has supported and given me the opportunity to implement my dream.

Giuseppe (Joe) Geracitano
President
August 2024

Treasurers Report

Statement of Receipts & Expenditure

2023–2024

RECEIPTS

Membership Fees *	\$780.00
Donations	\$120.00
Tickets for Fundraiser 6 th July 2024 #	\$3840.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$4740.00

EXPENDITURE

Web Site Renewal	\$300.53
Stationary	\$1353.35
Frames	\$10.00
Refreshments AGM & Meeting	\$60.71
Petrol Reimbursement	\$450.00
Transcripts	\$2717.00
Postage	\$12.00
Badges	\$68.75
Petty Cash	\$50.00
Total Expenditure	\$5192.34

PETTY CASH RECONCILIATION

Opening Balance	\$37.25
Add Petty Cash Input	\$50.00
Less Expenditure Meeting Expenses	\$18.15
Total Expenditure	\$18.15
CLOSING BALANCE	\$69.10

BANK RECONCILIATION		
Opening Balance 1 st July 2023		\$29054.93
Plus, Receipts	\$4740.00	
Less Expenditure	\$5192.34	
CLOSING BALANCE 30 th June 2024		\$28602.59
DECREASE IN FUNDS		\$452.34

Notes:

*Membership Payment for 2024 – 2025 \$20.00

#Ticket Payment for Fundraiser 6th July 2024





Overview

This report covers the Italian Historical Society of South Australia's social media activity for 2023-2024. The organization achieved significant outreach, with posts focused on community events, historical celebrations, and engaging content about Italian heritage in South Australia. The overall performance reveals a successful year, with notable peaks in engagement linked to key events. The number of followers increased from 902 to 1025, an increase of 123.

Key Metrics

- **Total Reach:** 4,105 max reaches for posts.
- **Top Post:** Fundraiser & Release of Rita Bianca Palumbo's Immigration Story achieved a reach of **3.7K**.
- **Average Engagement:** The average reach for general posts was **100-500** with fluctuations around major events.

Notable Campaigns and Posts

1. Fundraiser & Release of Rita Bianca Palumbo's Immigration Story:

- Several posts around this campaign were among the highest performing, with reach figures up to **4.1K**. This demonstrates significant interest in community-driven, personal stories and events. The dinner event and related content consistently exceeded 1K reach, contributing to overall engagement.

2. Celebration of Italian Heritage:

- Posts celebrating the Italian community's contributions to South Australia, particularly the 75th Anniversary of the South Australian Italian Association, had considerable traction, reaching up to **2.2K**.

3. Launch of Community Stories:

- Posts highlighting individual community members, such as *Ria Bianca Palumbo*'s immigration story, consistently garnered high interest, with engagement often exceeding **500+** reach.

Engagement Trends

- **Event-Centered Posts:** Posts promoting events or celebrating significant community achievements performed exceptionally well. For example, posts about the **Diner Dance** and **Immigration Story Launch** saw a large uptick in likes, shares, and comments, with videos from these events reaching over **3K** views.
- **Video Content:** Visual media performed better overall, with video posts achieving higher reach and engagement compared to text-based posts.
- **Consistent Interest in Heritage Content:** Historical content, particularly relating to immigration stories and cultural celebrations, maintained steady engagement levels, showing a strong community interest in maintaining ties with cultural heritage.



Insights & Recommendations

- **Leverage Event-Driven Content:** Given the high engagement around event-related posts, it's recommended to further amplify promotions for such events, particularly utilizing video content which has shown to perform well. Livestreaming and post-event recaps could help maintain momentum.
- **Boost Key Posts:** To maximize reach and engagement, particularly for important community announcements or celebrations, consider using post boosts or targeted advertising to expand the audience.
- **Storytelling Focus:** Personal stories about immigration and community members garnered strong interest. Continuing this narrative focus will likely drive consistent engagement. Highlighting individual journeys or family histories can deepen community involvement and attract a wider audience.

Conclusion

The Italian Historical Society of South Australia's social media presence for 2023–2024 successfully engaged its community, particularly through event-driven and storytelling content. By continuing to focus on community stories and promoting key events with engaging media, the Society can build on this success and further enhance its digital footprint in the coming year.

Rosemarie Geracitano – Social Media Coordinator.

Italian Historical Society of SA Inc.

Fundraising Dinner Dance

Release of Immigration Story of Rita Bianca Palumbo

6TH July 2024

The Fundraising Dinner Dance and Release of the Immigration Story of *Rita Bianca Palumbo* held on Saturday the 6th of July 2024 at the Sicilia Social and Sports Club was an outstanding success both in terms of raising funds and as a public relation exercise. It was supported by political dignitaries, Italian community organizations, and businesses. Despite the lower than anticipated attendance with 160 people attending due to mainly people being overseas during the winter months, the event raised \$6,062.00.

The night was enhanced by the release of the immigration story of *Rita Bianca Palumbo*, President of the Sicilia Social and Sports Club, which further demonstrated the work that the Society is doing to promote, record, and preserve the history of the Italian immigrants in South Australia.

On behalf of the Italian Historical Society of South Australia we would like to thank the following dignitaries for attending the function: The Hon Dana Wortley MP, Member for Torrens representing the Premier and Minister for Multicultural Affairs; the Hon Jing Lee MLC, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Shadow Minister for Multicultural SA, Shadow Minister for Tourism and Hospitality; the Hon Frank Pangallo MLC; the Hon Russell Wortley MLC; the Hon Tony Zappia MP, Member for Makin; Mayor Angela Evans, Mayor City of Charles Sturt; Ernesto Pianelli, Consul of Italy, and Co-Patron of the Italian Historical Society of South Australia; Cav Uff. Dr Carmine De Pasquale, Co-Patron of the Italian Historical Society of South Australia; Ms. Emma Luxardo representing *Il Globo*; Cav Sebastian Galipo, Ambassador of the Italian Historical Society of South Australia and Managing-Director of Galipo Food Company; Special guest *Rita Bianca Palumbo*, President of the Sicilia Social and Sports Club Adelaide.

Also thank you to all the representatives of Italian community organization which included: Laura Beres, President ANFE; John Bergamin, President *Maria SS Madonna di Crochi*; Claudia Calisto, Celebrated author of Good Italian Girl; Robert Ciufoli President of the Marche Club; Angela Cutri President of *Associazione Sinopolese del Sud Australia* *Maria SS di tutte Le Grazie*; Laura DiMartino, Author of Cremona House;

Cav Dr Phillip Donato OAM, President South Australian Italian Association; Dr Antonio Dottore, President Com.It.Es; Anna Farrugia, President *Madonna di Martire Molfetta Club*, and Director Chapel Funerals; Giuseppe (Joe) Ienco OAM, Foundation Vice-President of the Italian Historical Society of South Australia, and Managing-Director Mount Compass Spirits; Cav Ted Iuliano OAM, Retired Magistrate; Associate Professor Marinella Marmo, Retired President Com.It.Es; Dino Musolino, President Radio Italia Uno; Cav Cathy Papandrea, Manager Marche Club; Cav Martino Princi, President OzItalian Community Choir; Associate Professor Angela Scarino; Councillor Dr Rachele Tullio, Councillor for the Grange Ward City of Charles Sturt; Tony and Cecilia Virgara from Virgara Wines; Dominic Versace, Manager Dominic Versace Wines.

A special thank you to the business community and individuals who donated prizes for the lottery and auction. In particular thank you to Adami's Sand and Metal, Artcol Developments Pty Ltd, Blackwell Funerals, Buonasera Restaurant, Chapel Funerals, Distinctive Funerals, Dominic Versace, Essential Beauty Arndale, Galipo Food Company, Hon Dana Wortley MP Member for Torrens and Hon Russell Wortley MLC, Lorenzo and Franca Circosta, Our Place @ Willunga Hill, Romeo's Foodland Rostrevor, Rosina and John Peryk, Serafino Winery, Schinella's Market, Sicilia Social and Sports Club, Shauna and John Fragomeli, Tina Dichiera, and Virgara Wines.

Thank you to all guests who attended and helped to make the function a great success.

Thank you to the auctioneer, Robert Ciufoli, raising \$3,115.00 from the auction.

Thank you to the Master of Ceremonies, Anna Farrugia.

Thank you to all the committee members who sold tickets and carried out their role during the function. In particular thank you to the secretary, Giovanna (Jenny) Geracitano for producing all the advertising posters and the Power Point presentation for the event, Rosemarie Geracitano for her technical support on the evening, and Rosina Peryk for coordinating the administration of ticket sales and tables allocation.

Thank you to Luigi Vella for the great photographs shoot on the night, and Frank Varacalli for the video of the proceedings. The photographs were posted on the Italian Historical Society of South Australia's Facebook page and the video was posted on the Society's channel on You Tube.

Thank you to Jack Fogliano and Friends for entertaining us.

Thank you to Emma Luxardo for publishing the article in *Il Globo* reporting on the proceedings of the function.

Thank you to *Rita Bianca Palumbo* for accepting the Society's invitation to become an ambassador of the Italian Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

Finally, thank you to the Sicilia Social and Sports Club for hosting the event.

Giuseppe (Joe) Geracitano

President

July 2024



L'Italian Historical Society ha organizzato un'importante serata a celebrazione dell'immigrazione tricolore

Tantissimi ospiti alla raccolta fondi

ADELAIDE - Lo scorso 6 luglio, presso il Sicilia Sport & Social Club di Klemzig, l'Italian Historical Society ha organizzato una serata di raccolta fondi con la presentazione dell'ultima testimonianza raccolta, questa volta con protagonista Rita Bianca Palumbo, la presidente del Sicilia Club, per l'appunto.

Joe Geracitano, il presidente dell'Italian Historical Society e grande appassionato di storia dell'emigrazione, ha fatto da padrone di casa, dando il benvenuto a tutti i presenti a inizio serata: "Per me è un grande piacere darvi il benvenuto questa sera. Grazie per averci sostenuto e per aver condiviso con noi il sogno di registrare la storia del nostro viaggio da una terra che tutti amiamo e che rimarrà sempre nei nostri cuori, dalla quale siamo arrivati nella nostra terra adottiva che abbiamo abbracciato e amato".

Ha poi dato il benvenuto agli ospiti d'onore, Dana Wortley MP, membro per Torrens in rappresentanza del Premier e del ministro per il Turismo e gli Affari multiculturali Zoe Bettison, l'onorevole Jing Lee, vice leader dell'opposizione nel Consiglio legislativo, ministro ombra per il per gli Affari multiculturali, il Turismo e l'Ospitalità, in rappresentanza del leader dell'opposizione, oltre agli onorevoli Frank Pangallo, Russell Wortley e Tony Zappia, il sindaco di Charles Sturt Angela Evans, il console Ernesto Pianelli, co-patrono dell'IHSSA, così come Carmine De Pasquale e Sebastian Galipo, ambasciatore dell'associazione. Presenti anche diversi rappresentanti delle associazioni comunitarie: Laura Beres, presidente Anfe, John Bergamin presi-



Nella foto a sinistra, il comitato del sodalizio con uno degli ospiti speciali della serata, primo da sinistra, il console Ernesto Pianelli. Nella foto in basso, Rita Bianca Palumbo commossa mentre Franco Bava legge la poesia scritta per lei

dente di Maria Santissima Madonna Di Crochi, Claudia Calisto, la celebrata autrice di *The Good Italian Girl*, Robert Ciufoli, presidente del Marche Club, Angela Cutri, presidente dell'Associazione Maria SS di Tutte Le Grazie, Laura Di Martino, autrice di Cremona House, Phillip Donato, presidente SAIA, Antonio Gabriele Dottore, presidente Com.It.Es, Anna Farrugia, presidente Madonna dei Martiri Molfetta Club, Joe Ienco, vicepresidente dell'Italian Historical Society, Ted Iuliano, Marinella Marmo, ex presidente Com.It.Es, Dino Musolino, presidente di Radio Italia Uno, il neo cavaliere Martino Princi, presidente dell'Ozitalian Community Choir, la professoressa Angela Scarino, Rachele Tullio,

consigliera per il Grange Ward City of Charles Sturt, Toni e Cecilia Virgara di Virgara Wines, Domenic Versace di Versace Wines.

Geracitano ha poi ringraziato le singole persone che devolvono fondi perché "in definitiva, non sono i comitati a raccogliere fondi nella nostra comunità, ma le migliaia di persone che mettono mano al portafoglio e donano per una causa in cui credono".

E ha continuato: "Per questo facciamo appello alla vostra generosità, per aiutarci a realizzare con successo il nostro progetto, che andrà a beneficio non solo nostro, ma anche delle generazioni future". Infatti, l'IHSSA ha come obiettivo il raccogliere, in forma orale, video e scritta, le storie dei migranti delle scorse generazioni, per poi depositarne una copia presso la State Library, affinché non vadano perse nel corso del tempo.

Infine, prima di proseguire la cena, un ringraziamento è stato esteso ai numerosi sponsor: "Queste persone sono state disposte a correre un rischio, quando hanno creduto al progetto, come hanno fatto molti dei nostri immigrati, per investire in un sogno: quello di lasciare alle generazioni future una testimonianza del passaggio degli italiani in South Australia".

Un ringraziamento speciale è andato poi al suo comitato, a cui è molto grato e che ha nominato uno a uno, invitandoli a raggiungerlo, per un meritato applauso: Jenny Geracitano, Tina Dichiera, Angela Cutri, Nella Santo, Rachele Tullio, Rosemarie Geracitano, Anna Farrugia, che ha fatto da MC, Teresa Dall'Acqua Leonardi, Franca e Lorenzo Circosta e Rosina Peryk: "Questi sono gli eroi non celebrati che hanno reso possibile questa serata e che continuano a lavorare affinché la nostra storia continui a vivere dopo che ce ne saremo andati". Durante la serata, Joe Geracitano ha poi raccontato la grande storia dell'emigrazione italiana in South Australia.

Alla serata del 6 luglio la vera protagonista è però stata Rita Bianca Palumbo, nata il 6 maggio 1949 a Villa San Giovanni, in provincia di Reggio Calabria, da padre calabrese e madre siciliana. È emigrata in Australia con la sua famiglia il 13 gennaio 1960. Come la maggior parte degli immigrati italiani, Rita inizialmente ebbe difficoltà con la lingua e il cibo non familiare oltre all'impegnativo inserimento nelle scuole australiane. Tuttavia, con l'aiuto della preside della scuola St Joseph Hindmarsh e tanto studio, superò gli ostacoli e raccolse i primi grandi successi scolastici. Rita inizia a fare volontariato in giovane età: già a 16 anni entra nel Good Neighbour Council di Woodville, diventando la prima segretaria italiana dell'associazione in Australia. La sua mansione al Good Neighbour Council consisteva nell'assistere i migranti offrendosi da interprete e grazie alle sue traduzioni, aiutandoli con le problematiche con i dipartimenti e le istituzioni governative, nella gestione degli appuntamenti medici e



molto altro. Aiutava anche familiari e amici a compilare le loro dichiarazioni dei redditi. Negli anni '70, come assistente amministrativa al Queen Elizabeth Hospital, spesso faceva da interprete per i pazienti italiani, ruolo che ha continuato anche dopo aver lasciato il suo incarico lavorativo. Nei primi anni '90, è entrata a far parte dell'Italian Choral and Arts Society, di cui è stata anche segretaria.

Nel 1997, Rita entra come volontaria a Doppio Teatro, in qualità di responsabile della Pulcinella Troop, che intratteneva gli anziani nelle case di cura e promuoveva la cultura italiana in luoghi come il Central Market. Durante questo periodo, è tra i membri fondatori di Australia Donna, diventandone la prima segretaria e co-webmaster con Caterina Andreacchio. Nel 1999 è tra i membri fondatori e segretaria di PISA (acronimo di Pasti Italiani e Servizi per Anziani, ora "Nonna's Cucina", ndr). Nel 1998 Rita si è unita a Radio e Televisione Italiana organizzando e trasmettendo in italiano, con la sorella Carla e il fratello Francesco, un programma sulla salute e il benessere, intervistando medici e altri professionisti sanitari. È stata poi invitata da 5EBI (Ethnic Broadcasters Inc) a essere formata come operatrice di console, scrittrice per programmi radiofonici e su come condurre interviste: è stata infatti una continuity producer per cinque anni. Durante il suo periodo a 5EBI, Rita ha fatto parte del team, finanziato dal governo federale, per produrre una serie di otto programmi sul vivere in armonia. Per 12 anni Rita è stata mentore poi sempre a 5EBI, dove formava i nuovi arrivati. Nel 2007 si è unita al Sicilia Social and Sports Club su invito di Jack Fogliano: come membro del comitato, utilizzando le sue capacità organizzative, ha gestito tutta la corrispondenza e altri compiti di segreteria. Nel 2008, dopo le dimissioni del presidente del Sicilia Social and Sports Club, Rita ha preso le redini dell'associazione, alla carica di presidente che detiene da 17 anni.

Durante il suo mandato come presidente, il Club ha sviluppato nuovi eventi sociali, ha aggiunto un campo da bocce e ha introdotto le nuove tecnologie in modo da poter offrire servizi migliori non solo ai suoi soci, ma anche alle molte organizzazioni che utilizzano le sue strutture. Joe Geracitano ha poi invitato Rita Bianca Palumbo a diventare un'ambasciatrice dell'Italian Historical Society. Franco Bava, a sorpresa, ha scritto e letto una poesia in suo onore, che ha commosso la presidente.

La serata è proseguita in allegria, con musica dal vivo, balli, un'asta condotta da Robert Ciufoli, presidente del Marche Club, e una ricca lotteria.

EMMA LUXARDO



Rita Bianca Palumbo was born on the 6th of May 1949 in *Villa San Giovanni, Provincia di Reggio Calabria*, Calabria, Italy. Her father, *Vincenzo Carminiti*, was born in *Punta Pezzo*, a *frazione* of *Villa San Giovanni*. Mother, *Carmela Picciotto*, born in *Furci Siculo*, a municipality 31 km south of *Messina*, Sicily, Italy. Rita was the youngest of seven children, *Rosa, Carla, Maria, Francesco, Salvatore, and Santino*. Rita married in 1970 to *Erasma Palumbo* who was born in the region of *Abruzzo*, Italy and they have two children, *Liana* born 1972 and *Claudio* born 1974.

Rita's three oldest sister had emigrated to Australia prior to Rita and the remainder of her family emigrating and disembarked in Melbourne on the 13th of January 1960. Like most Italian immigrants, Rita initially struggled with the language and unfamiliar food and found the introduction to Australian schools challenging. However, with the assistance of the headmistress at St Joseph's school Hindmarsh and Rita's hard work she overcame the obstacles and blossomed in her studies.

Rita was introduced to volunteering at a young age. In 1965 at the age of 16 she was persuaded to join the Woodville branch of the Good Neighbour Council becoming the first Italian Secretary of the Good Neighbour Council in Australia. During this time, she learnt skills of minute taking, dealing with correspondence, and general office duties which she utilized in all volunteering work she has undertaken. In her role at the Good Neighbour Council, she also assisted migrants with interpreting and translations, issues with government departments and institutions, doctors' appointments, etc.

Rita also assisted family members and friends with compiling their taxation returns and acted as an interpreter and accompanied fellow Italian migrants to doctors' appointments and dealing with government institutions. In addition, she helped friends to travel to country areas such as Virginia to purchase bulk meat and vegetables. In the 1950s and 1960s many of the vegetables that Italians were familiar with weren't sold in fruit and vegetable stores.

In the 1970s as a clerical assistant working at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Rita was called on to be an interpreter for Italian patients, often having to voluntary work back to help her fellow Italian migrants. She continued to assist Italian migrants with interpreting even after she left her position at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. This was at a time when there were no government funded positions in interpreting and translation,

no Interpreting Telephone Service. Italian migrants, especially women, preferred an adult person to act as an interpreter especially in delicate matters such as medical.

In the early 1990s Rita was part of the Italian Choral and Arts Society and acted as its secretary as well being part of the choir. She also was a member of the choir in the Mater Christi Parish church in Seaton, South Australia.

In 1997 Rita joined as a volunteer *Doppio Teatro* acting as manager for the *Pulcinella Troop* which entertained the elderly in nursing homes and promoted the Italian culture in places such as the Central Market. During this time Rita was also a founding member of Australia Donna becoming its first Secretary and co-webmaster with *Caterina Andreacchio*. She continued with Australia Donna for 2 years.

In 1999 Rita was a founding member and Secretary of PISA (*Pasti Italiani e Servizi per Anziani*, now *Nonna's Cucina*) organizing the delivery of cooked Italian style meals for the aged and people with disabilities and their carers across Adelaide. Rita was also instrumental in designing PISA's first logo.

In 1998 Rita joined the Italian language radio station, *Radio e Televisione Italiana*, organizing and broadcasting in Italian with her sister *Carla* and brother *Francesco* a program on health and wellbeing interviewing doctors and other related health professionals. She also assisted in the office when the Radio's regular secretary, *Maria Donato*, was away, and downloaded the music to be used on all the Radio's programs.

Rita was also invited by 5EBI (Ethnic Broadcasters Inc) to be trained as a console operator, writer for radio programs and how to conduct interviews. She was a Continuity Producer for 5 years. During her time at 5EBI, Rita was part of the team funded by the Federal Government to produce a series of eight programs on the theme of Living in Harmony.

For 12 years Rita was a tutor at 5EBI teaching newcomers how to write for Radio, how to conduct interviews, how to put music and words in a program so that it avoided dead time on air.

For many years she conducted a program on 5EBI called International Rendezvous, a request program catering for all ethnic groups.

In 1999 Rita won the Golden Mic Award in recognition of her voluntary work at 5EBI.

In 2007 Rita joined the Sicilia Social and Sports Club Inc. at the invitation of *Jack Fogliano*. As a member of the Committee, utilizing her organizational skills, she handled all correspondence and other secretarial duties. In 2008 after the resignation of the President of the Sicilia Social and Sports Club Inc., Rita was promoted from the role of Vice-President to President, a position which was endorsed at the following Annual General Meeting in 2009. Rita has been President of the Club for the past 17 years. During her time as President the Club has developed new social events, has added a

Bocce court, and incorporated new technology so that it can better services not only its members but also many organizations that use its facilities.

Rita has utilized skills that she acquired through her volunteering and studies to assist all community groups that she joined to make them more efficient and better placed to serve the community.

All the work that Rita has undertaken has been voluntary. Rita is a woman that can be seen as a role model for those interested in voluntary work.

Giuseppe (Joe) Geracitano
President
Italian Historical Society of South Australia Inc.
2024



South Australian Italian Association

75th Anniversary

Congratulation to the South Australian Italian Association celebrating its 75th anniversary. The Association has a very rich history of serving the needs of the Italian community in South Australia.

The Catholic Church in Adelaide, under the leadership of the Archbishop Beovich, identified the ever-increasing Italian population after world war two and was instrumental in assisting the Italian community with the birth of the Catholic Italian Welfare Association (CIWA) and appointed Michele Bini as the inaugural President in 1949.

The CIWA provided social, and welfare needs of the Italian community and in 1952 became an incorporated association. In the same year with the assistance of the archbishop, they purchased a house in 262 Carrington St. Adelaide, which was used primarily as a meeting room for the committee and offices for the Capuchin Priests. The association held social evenings by leasing halls in Adelaide.

In 1957, the committee of CIWA decided that it was time for the Italian community to have its own centre to host its own events. Again, with the assistance of the archbishop who supported a loan, a hall was built and officially opened on 28 September 1958.

On 18 March 1963, other clubs were approached to amalgamate with CIWA, there was decision to merge with local soccer club team Juventus United (now Adelaide City Football Club) and with social club Lega Italiana to form the Italian-Australian Centre. Within three years further significant changes occurred and the South Australian Italian Association, as is known today, was established in 1967 and incorporated on 27 August 1968. The Association broadened its objectives and on the 24th of April 1972, the Italian Centre was rebuilt and officially opened jointly by the Ambassador of Italy, dott. Paolo Canali, and the Premier of South Australia, the Hon Don Dunston Q.C. MP.

The Association, trading as the Italian Centre, became a very popular venue hosting among other events the regular Sunday night family dances and is still the nostalgic home for many Italians. Over the years the Centre has housed many prominent Italian community organizations, providing office space for the Italian Chamber of Commerce, the Committee of Italians Abroad (Com.It.Es.), the Dante Alighieri Society of South Australia Inc., and Italian Committee of Assistance (Co.As.It.). Today the Centre continues its love with Italian food. d and wine in the form of a function venue.



The first committee of the Italian Catholic Welfare Association, 1953. Front row from left: Silvio Genovese, Fr Nicola Simonazzi, Michele Bini (President), and Fr Germano Madonna.



The house purchased by CIWA in 1953 in Carrington Street, Adelaide. In 1957 it was demolished and a hall was built in its place.

Memories

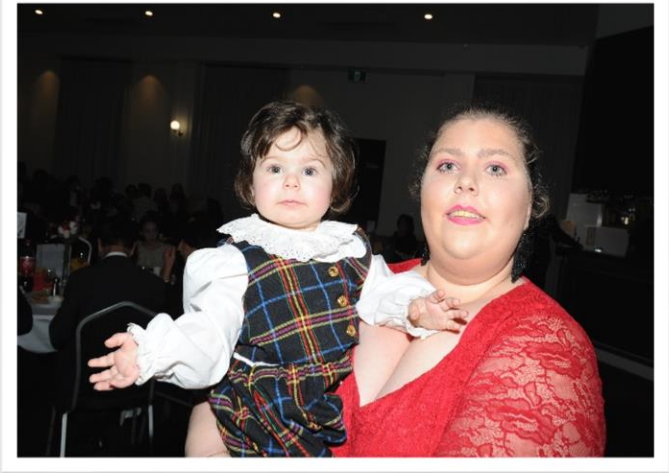
Immigration Story

Rita Bianca Palumbo











Memories

2023-2024



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