



THE PIEMONTEIS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND. INC.

Newsletter: August 2018.

YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2018.

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Committee Members: *Franca Accornero, Luigi Accornero, Peter Accornero, Deanna Isoardi.*

Direct Payment information: A/c Name: **Piemonteis Society.** (Commonwealth Bank of Australia).
BSB: **064000** Account Number: **1028 - 1865**
(Remember to include your name and reason for payment.)

Booking / paying by mail:

Mr D Ballarino,
P.O. Box 214,
Cannon Hill,
Qld. 4170.

Please address cheques to the
[Piemonteis Association.](#)

Hi to all our members and Friends.

We had a very enjoyable time and an extremely successful Bagna Cauda lunch at the Abruzzo Club on the last Sunday of July. Lots of good food, the buzz of light hearted conversation and the company of long time friends assured the success. Of course the support of our Members and their friends was pivotal. There were several Italo-Australian Clubs having functions on that same day, but almost 140 people chose to support us, which is most gratifying. Thank you. From the laughter, you all were having a great get-together.

As well, the pleasure was due partly to the music by the De Pasquale Brothers, by the ten quality prizes which were raffled, by the guessing game of the small change in a jar, and by the quiz between the Piemonteis Team and the Rest of Italy Team (no winner there??) - not to mention the lucky door prizes. The lunch finished quite late as some people almost refused to leave! Our thanks to Tina, Vicki and the girls and guys of the club.

The gathering mourned the absence of Vilma Theodore, who passed away in late June. She was a member of the Committee since inception of the Piemonteis Association 19 years ago, as well as a Past President. She is already missed.

I mentioned in my welcoming speech, the new Cavaliere and the new Order of Australia Medal recipient who are Piemonteis Association of Qld Members and I have recorded more details about them on the next couple of pages. You will find that these Medals and Honours have been well and truly earned by both recipients.

Our Sponsors once again have helped enormously. Alf and Di Sorbello (*\$200 Coles gift voucher*) and Mary Merlo (*Merlo coffee box*) are the perennial sponsors while gifts from Lucy Valeri (*synthetic marble statuette and fine Italian photo frames*), Peter Accornero (*Piemonteis Tea Towel and Piemonteis Key Ring*), and Lynda MacKenzie (*hand-crocheted kitchen towels*) were popular. The gift boxes (2 x Pasta boxes and 2 x tea boxes) were made up by The Piemonteis Association and were good value as well. The Raffle sellers and of course, the heaps of ticket buyers, made all the difference to our ultimate profitability for the day.

It's very easy to be a sponsor; just donate a prize, or donate \$25 for a gift box and we will put your name on it—and you'll be famous!! Seriously, we are extremely grateful to all our sponsors and helpers.

Next, we will be having the Annual AGM and Christmas Party on the 25th November, once again at the Abruzzo Club. More about this function in a later date. I mention it solely so you may mark it off on your calendars. Hope you enjoy this Newsletter. I have sent some photos to *La Fiamma*.

John Isoardi (Editor and President).

LUCY VALERI (ISOARDI) - Cavaliere.

A Knighthood in the Order of The Star of Italy (*Cavaliere—Ordine della Stella d'Italia.*) was awarded to Lucy Valeri on 6th April 2018. This is the story behind the Award!

This order was introduced in 1947 as The Order of The Star of Italian Solidarity but was updated to its current name in 2011 by the President of Italy. The first Award in this new name was made in 2012. This is the first time it has been awarded to a woman in Australia. The Award is for foreign nationals and expatriates who have worked purely in a volunteer capacity for the preservation and promotion of Italian national prestige abroad, and the promotion of friendly relations between other countries and Italy.

In the 1990's Lucy was involved with the promotion of the Italian language in Queensland schools and for adults. Lucy was part of a *Steering Committee* which included lecturers in Italian from Griffith University, Politicians and the Italian Consul. They were successful in making Italian a priority language in Queensland schools, while adult classes in Italian were duly commenced at *TAFE*. Both still continue today.

Lucy helped write a curriculum for teaching Italian in schools with *LOTE (Language other than English)* advisers in the 1990's.

As *President of COASIT*, Lucy helped Italian language and welfare activities and funding for them, by liaising with Italian Consuls / Ambassadors and Australian Politicians. In this role, she was able to put procedures into place which ensured that all Italian teachers could upgrade their skills to enable them to qualify under Queensland standards for registration as teachers.

She became Vice-President of the *Italo Australian Centre* in a Committee striving to keep the club open.

With *Italians Abroad*, Lucy was one of four delegates elected by interested people in Brisbane to represent them in Rome. They were successful in lobbying for Italian Citizens in Australia to have the right to vote as Italians Abroad.

For the *Italian Catholic Centre*, Lucy became Secretary in 1982 and moved on to become President in 1984, holding this office continuously up to the present time. This Centre is involved in keeping Italian traditions alive and introducing them to the younger generation.

Lucy was instrumental in opening classes funded by both Federal and State Governments *teaching English to Italians* who were unable to communicate in English. These classes were at Kedron, Rosalie, Windsor and Petrie Terrace from 1978 to 1987.

Lucy was asked to be on the Trust of the budding *Canossa Services Complex* at Oxley in 1998. She became the Chairman (*i.e. the holder of the chair*) of the fundraising entity the *Canossa Events Committee* in 2000 and with her tightly knit Committee raised funds successfully for the Dementia Unit. She continues as Chairman of this Committee to the present time.

Lucy has been a *Justice of the Peace* since 1991 and a very busy one at that, mainly catering to Italian Immigrants and giving freely of her time for this important office.

I do think she has earned her Knighthood for preserving and promoting Italian national prestige abroad and she has contributed mightily to the friendly relations she has fostered between Australia and Italy. Her years of volunteer work have left me marvelling at her patience, tenacity and endurance — and all this while managing a family and household. Lucy continues to be of service to Italy and to Australia.

Her actual medal photograph is presented on the following page. Congratulations Lucy.

John Isoardi (Editor and President)

LES MICALE OAM.

Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division for Service to the community of Sunnybank, Queensland.

The Australian honours system consists of a number of orders, decorations and medals awarded to Australian citizens for deeds or actions of individual citizens which benefit the nation. Initially established in 1975 with the Order of Australia, the system has grown to replace the Imperial honours system which previously honoured Australians. Though new honours may be awarded at any time, most new honours are awarded either on Australia Day (26th January) or on the Queen's Birthday, every year. Les was in the Queens Birthday Honours List of the 11th June 2018.

The Order of Australia is the pre-eminent way Australians recognise the achievements and service of their fellow Australians. Nominations for the OAM come directly from the community.

Les was nominated for some of the following reasons - this is his story:

- He has been a volunteer since 1992 to the current day at *Our Lady of Lourdes Parish*, Sunnybank. He is Mass Coordinator on Sundays for the parish. He is a volunteer member of the parish office and organises parking for funerals, masses for priests, banking and picks up and drops off goods for the parish. He prunes the trees, sets up for functions and cleans up after them, opens the church every day for worshippers and helps people who have functions in the parish complex. He even answers the phone in the parish office.
- He is the initiator and organiser of the *Men's Breakfast Group*. In 2012, Les spoke with the parish priest about organising a Men's Breakfast Group because he felt there was a need for men in the parish to mix with other men. This proved such a success that other parishes have since taken up the concept as well.
- Les has been a volunteer since 1990 to the current day at Souths Sunnybank Rugby League Club where he mowed and marked the fields every week and witnessed documents as a JP and as a Commissioner for Declarations for all players until 6 years ago. He continues to be part of the management team for the Open 1's team. Les has been Patron of Souths Sunnybank Rugby League Club since 1997 and was awarded *Life Membership of Souths Sunnybank Rugby League Club* in 2007. To date only 14 people have received this honour in the 51 years the club has been running.
- Les has been a "volunteer person" from his early days in Innisfail with the *St Vincent de Paul Society*, to his days with the *Mackay Rugby League Club* selling meat tray tickets on Saturday mornings.
- Since 2006, Les has helped Sister Bridgit Courtney from *Soubirous Place* at Sunnybank with mowing the grounds, taking goods to *St Vincent de Paul* at Acacia Ridge and any other requests.
- In 1994, Les was an active Block Coordinator the *Neighbourhood Watch* in Sunnybank Hills until it folded in 2016 due to lack of membership.
- Les is an active member of the *Knights of the Southern Cross*, Sunnybank Branch.

Les's investiture ceremony is to take place on Thursday 20th September, 2018, at Government House, Brisbane. His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland will conduct the ceremony. Les's strong and long history of providing voluntary services for the Sunnybank Community in general is something of which Les can be extremely proud. The Order of Australia Medal, along with the respect of his peers and friends, has been well and truly earned and is much deserved. Congratulations Les.

John Isoardi (Editor and President).



Lucy Valeri's Medal: Cavaliere— Ordine della Stella d' Italia (*not to scale*).



Les Micale's Medal: Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division (*not to scale*).

BAGNA CAUDA PICS JULY 2018



First to the door: Dr Lawrence Brunello with Deanna Isoardi, Franca Accornero and Anna De Pasquale



Brule' Corner: Gabriella and Iride Bortuzzo (back to camera), Dante Ballarino, Peter Accornero (sitting), Luigi Accornero and Christine Stayte



Lucy Valeri, Paola Virzi, Roberto Raschella, Joe Valeri, John Parrella, Les Micale, Carole Parrella, Carol Micale . Two Medal winners here!



Paul Militano, Santina Berta, Nedda Militano, Joe Berta, Enrica and Dr Fabio Brecciaroli



Alf Sorbello, Dr Lawrence Brunello, Peter Castellaro, Cathy Wardle, Astrid Vallati



Luigi Accornero, Barney and Elda Gastaldon, Anna Lazzarin, Tony and Maria Rosa, Coreta Asnicar, Franca Accornero, Paolo Lazzarin, Marco Asnicar



Sarina, Richard and Michael Trojnar



Nola and Angelo Rossetti, Elaine and Peter Accornero and Walter Cantatore



Musicians -- Victor, Ralph and Vince De Pasquale - Still going strong after more than 50 years playing together



Emcee - Vince De Pasquale with Wife Anna and Raffle winner Peter Accornero



Glenda Blanco, Stella Cantatore, Jim and Enna Pisanos and Nola Rossetti



Tony and Carmen Ford, Diana and Alf Sorbello



Anna and Peter Pavia, Michael Watson, Ros Benedetto, Victor De Pasquale and John Greenhald



Ralph and Angela De Pasquale with Anna and Vince De Pasquale



Gabriella Bortuzzo, Jenny Scodellaro, Elizabeth and John Hilton, Rick Nucifora and Joe Scodellaro



Joe and Ezio Scodellaro, Iride Bortuzzo and Mina Scodellaro



Kathy and Brian Pearson, Marino Gri, Ray and Julie Rota, Mary Gri



Mary La Spina, Maria Torrisi, Edith and Mario Cantatore



Mary Napoli, Santa Fabiani and Carlo Crocetti



Abigail Pavia and friend Harrison, Marsha Pavia, Kirsten and Errol Morzone, David and Dr Stephen Pavia, Oscar Morzone with iPhone



Tony and Kathy Abussi, Cora Zanetti, and Mary Merlo



Tina Lamonaca, Daphne and Dante Ballarino



Anna De Pasquale, Deanna Isoardi and Anna Pavia resting after their hard work

REMEMBER TO SET ASIDE THE DATE

FOR OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY.

25th NOVEMBER, 2018

DO IT NOW !