Letter from the President

Hello and welcome to our Winter Newsletter hoping you all had a wonderful and safe Easter. I’m sure most of you have been busy making your home-made wine and preparing to make your smallgoods as it is a very important time of the year for those of us that continue our traditions brought here from Altavilla.

It’s at this time of the year that we turn our attention to organising the San Pellegrino Festa. We start with our Dinner Dance on 22nd July and plan for our Festa on 21st January 2018. Again I urge anyone who is able to help at the club or attend one of our events. Volunteers are needed.

Held in May, the Mother’s Day Dinner was a fabulous night and the air was filled with love – love for all the Mothers.

If we’re allowed to speak the truth, we’d probably all admit we don’t thank our Mothers enough for all they do and have done for us in our lives. Now while a 4 course dinner and rocking band might not make up for all the dirty nappies and hot meals, it did bite a little into the cake of appreciation.

All the Mothers were given gifts and flowers, a small gesture of thanks for all the hard work they do for their families.

Prizes were awarded to the Eldest and Youngest Mothers who attended the night. The youngest and eldest Mothers were Melissa Calabria (youngest) and Natalia Szymainska (eldest). Unfortunately, Karoline Minicozzi was to win the prize for the youngest Mother but had left early.

Although missing out on the Youngest Mother prize, Karoline and her table were the lucky winners of the highly sort after raffle prize – the Prosciutto, jointly donated Il Mercato and the Altavilla Irpina Sports and Social Club.

The music, provided by event regulars ‘The Godfather’, went late into the night.

Fusilli Nights at the Altavilla Club are a favourite and deeply embedded in our tradition.
These family nights were the first events held at the Altavilla Club when it was first established as a way for the members and regulars at the club to enjoy themselves and also to showcase the traditions from their home town. To be honest these nights have hardly changed. Guests are greeted with Antipasto, usually consisting of slices of Mortadella, Prosciutto Cotto and Prosciutto Crudo (cooked and cured hams), Italian cheese and pickled vegetables.

The star dish has always been the traditional Fusilli Pasta bathed in homemade Neapolitan tomato sauce. The pasta was hand made at the Altavilla Club by the female volunteers (the men’s hands were deemed not to be delicate enough). The sauce was made during the tomato season - again at the club by volunteers. After a hard day’s work the sauce is bottled.

Just like at Nonna’s house, the pasta dish is followed by a main course – usually meat or fish, before coffee and Italian sweets are served.

It was great to see a varied crowd at this Fusilli Night. Whilst there were still the regular folk, our traditions were on display to people not from Altavilla or even Italy. Of this we are very proud.

The Altavillesi have always enjoyed a good dance and it was no different tonight. A live video is available on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/altavillaclub).

No event would be possible without the generosity of local businesses and we would like to thank Anna Farruggia from Chapel Funerals, Il Mercato, Vincent Tarzia MP, Jo Chapley from Norwood Foodland, Globe Importers, Tony and Marks Newton and Festival City Wines & Spirits.

Bingo is a game of probability and chance. It is believed to have originated from the Italian lottery, II Gioco del Lotto d’Italia. From Italy in the 1500s, the game spread to France where it was known as Le Lotto, played by the French aristocracy.

Players mark off numbers on a ticket as they are randomly called out, in order to achieve a winning combination. In Italy the winner yells Tombola!

We held our inaugural Bingo Night in April, 2017. Judging by the success more events will be held in the future.

Long time club visitors will surely recall the ladies playing Bingo (Tombola) at the club on Friday nights. The number being drawn from either a small vessel or the numbered balls drawn from a spinning wheel. Beans or coins used to mark the cards.

The 100 guests arrived early to take advantage of the pizza on offer.

The prizes for 2, 3 and 5 numbers were excellent. The prizes included bottles of wine, pizza vouchers and club vouchers. Game session were comprised of 10 games.

Stay tuned for future event dates on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/altavillaclub) or on our website (www.altavillaclub.com.au).

an essential part of our club, without them we would not be where we are. We would love you to get involved and help in whatever capacity and time you can.

We are constantly looking for ways to help improve our club so that it grows and thrives for generations to come. If you have any ideas please contact me on president@altavillaclub.com.au, phone 0419 802 551 or catch up with me at the club any Friday or Sunday night.

Don’t forget this year’s Annual General Meeting will be on the 6th August hoping you can join us for the meeting and light refreshments after the meeting.

Together we can make sure that our club continues to be a fantastic and beloved part of our community.

Regards,

Dominic Reppucci
President

 Dominic Reppucci & Peter Varricchio

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We would be grateful if you are able to assist at the club by either:

- Working at the bar
  Friday and Sunday night and some functions

- Working in the kitchen to help cook and serve

- Assist with organise events for members

If you cannot volunteer we welcome your support by attending the club on a Friday or Sunday nights for a chat, Pizzas or a drink.

Please contact us on president@altavillaclub.com.au or phone 0419 802 551.

Volunteers Needed
NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING/
AVVISO DI ASSEMBLEA SPECIALE
GENERALE

To be held 4.00 pm, Sunday 6th August 2017 at the Altavilla Irpina Sports & Social Club (281 The Parade, Beulah Park)

YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUIRED FOR THIS IMPORTANT MEETING. IF A MEMBER REQUIRES TRANSPORT TO AND FROM THE VENUE PLEASE CONTACT THE SECRETARY BEFORE JULY 31st

AGENDA

1. Welcome.
2. Attendance and Apologies.
3. Rationale for the proposed resolutions.
4. Vision for our Club, including opportunities for continued growth and success and what it means for Members.
5. Special Resolutions.
   5.1. The Special General Meeting of the Club resolves to:
      5.1.1. Reduce the Club’s required chorum of financial members at Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings, as outlined in Altavilla Irpina Sports & Social Club Inc Constitution, from 25% to 20%;
           Moved:
           Seconded:
      5.1.2. Introduce a President’s Award honour board, in celebration of the longevity of years of service and overall contribution made by members to the Club and the general community. Moved:
           Seconded:
      5.1.3. Introduce a Proxy Voting system for members who wish to vote but are not able to attend meetings (a sample form is attached).
           Moved:
           Seconded:
6. Meeting close.

At the conclusion of the Special General Meeting, we will commence the Annual General Meeting.

For further information, special transport needs, or to report apologies, please contact the Secretary, Antonio Tarzia via email: admin@altavillaclub.com.au or mobile: 0419 771 777.

Che si terrà alle 4:00PM, Domenica 6 agosto 2017, Altavilla Irpina Sports & Social Club (281 The Parade, Beulah Park)

LA VOSTRA PRESENZA E’ NECESSARIA PER QUEST’IMPORTANTE INCONTRO. NEL CASO UN MEMBRO HA NECESSITÀ DI TRASPORTO PER E DALLA SEDE, SI PREGA DI CONTATTARE IL SEGRETARIO PRIMA DEL 31 LUGLIO

PROGRAMMA

1. Saluti di benvenuto.
3. Motivazioni delle soluzioni proposte.
4. Visione del nostro Club, includendo opportunità per la continua crescita e successo e cosa significa per i Membri.
5. Soluzioni speciali.
   5.1. L’assemblea speciale generale s’impegna a:
In memory of ...

We are saddened by the sudden passing of Elena De Nicola (nee Di Troia). Born in Altavilla Irpina (AV), Italy on December 25, 1947, Elena passed away peacefully on June 20th, 2017, aged 70 years. Dearly loved wife of Giuseppe, mother of Maria, Dino and Gianni; sister of our Vice-President Angelo Di Troia and committee member Frank Di Troia.

The Altavilla Irpina Club would also like to send our sincere and deepest condolences to the family of members and friends of our club who recently passed away. They will always be in our thought and prayers.
A Member's Story: Domenic Marrone

This is the story of one of our long serving Club Members and how he became involved with the Altavilla Club.

Domenico Marrone (Domenic) is a familiar face to all regular guests and members of the Altavilla Club. A keen bocce and cards player, Domenic is often seen marshalling the players together for a game of bocce, no matter what the weather.

What people may not know is Domenic's story and his depth of involvement in the history of our club and his almost continuous service in the committee for over 35 years.

Domenic was born on the 15 May, 1934 in Altavilla Irpina (AV). It was a Tuesday.

Domenic left for Australia on the 16 July, 1952 in search of a better life. After the war (World War 2) "everything was a disaster" he recalls. Although Altavilla Irpina didn’t see much conflict during the war, two bombs were in fact dropped between Altavilla and Grottolella. The American army were making daily bombing flights to Napoli. But on this one particular day their flight path was disturbed and they were forced to drop the bombs they had on board.

One Altavillese migrant, Francesco (Ciccio) Bruno, was injured by one of the exploding bombs. He was blinded in one eye from the shrapnel. Francesco was a long serving volunteer at the Altavilla Club and for San Pellegrino.

Altavilla avoided much of the violence of the war because of its fortunate geographic position. There was only one way out of the town, so when the Americans were making their approach, the Nazi soldiers stationed in Altavilla were forced to evacuate - saving Altavilla from a terrible standoff.

Domenic was not alone on his voyage to Australia. Fifteen other Altavillesi were on the same 38-day journey.

As with the other migrants who came to Australia, Domenic wasted no time in getting to work. His first job was making bricks. "I was under paid" Domenic recalls. "It was hard work. But it was a first step and I began to learn English".

From there Domenic began driving taxis in 1956. “I was the first...
Altavillese to drive taxis". After five years, he sold his taxi and moved to Virginia with his wife Linda. Here he began small scale farming and working at GM Holden. "I was farming the land when I wasn't working at the Holden factory". "It was long, hard work". Domenic epitomises that generation. There were no excuses given. They came to this country for a better life and a better life they made for themselves and their family. That life was built on hard work and sacrifice.

Being busy working the land and at Holden, Domenic didn’t join the club straight away. Angelo Di Troia, who was already a member of the club, visited Domenic in 1975 with his father Pellegrino. Angelo chatted to Domenic about the club and this lit the fire of curiosity. But Domenic didn’t end up joining until the early 1980s with his brother-in-law Giuseppe Zaccone. Now being closer, living in Rostrevor, after selling his land in Virginia, Domenic was able to dedicate more time to the club and became a Foundation Member upon joining.

After lending a hand for a short while, Domenic was asked to join the committee and, apart from one year, has been a committee member ever since. Domenic served twice as President – in 1990 and 2003-2005.

The club’s first social functions started whilst Domenic was president. And, as Domenic says, ‘it occurred all by accident. We never used to do any other events other than Fussilli nights, Mother’s Day, New Years’ Eve. Then I was asked about doing a birthday party. I guess that’s when it started at the club and we have done plenty ever since”.

“My best memories are the Fussilli Nights. They were so exciting. We needed to raise money for the club and so we got together to make fusilli and put on an event for ourselves and to show our traditions to others”. It was a very important night for us.

“I hope the club goes forward and moves with the times in order to stay alive. For that to happen we need new, younger people involved”.

We hope so too, Domenic.

Our club pioneers have laid the foundation of this great place. Let us now build the walls.
1 - 8: Fusilli Night • 9: 21st Birthday • 10: Friday Pizza Night • 11 - 15: Mother's Day 2017
San Pellegrino Dinner

Saturday, 22nd July 2017 6.30 PM

Tickets: $40 Adult / $25 Children (under 12)

4 Course Meal

Drinks available for purchase

Music by The Sounds

Bookings: 0419 802 551 / 8337 3661

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