

Press Cuttings

Photographs



WHO ARE WE?

“ We packed our belongings in suitcases.
 Hoping for a future in distant places.
 We left our home and loved ones behind.
 Their memory we carry in our hearts and mind.
 In tears we left on a ship called Oceania,
 Travelled for a month to Australia.

We arrived as aliens from far away.
 So much hurt and pain, why didn't we stay?
 Confused in this accursed land.
 Why don't they understand?
 We look and speak differently.
 Have a unique culture and history.

We wanted to practice our religion.
 But the church was of Irish origin.
 Our religion venerated many virgins and saints.
 Nuns and priests ensured Italians did not debase.
 Even God was cold and indifferent here.
 We prayed and petitioned but He did not hear.

We came as Italian immigrant.
 Lonely, frightened and indigent.
 Australia only needed factory fodder.
 Fill mines and construction sites with blue collar.
 Doctors and professional it did not want.
 Regional, rural people from Italy it got.

Just good for factory labour.
 Low wages, hard work and danger.
 People who work long and quick.
 Callused hands were not required to think.
 Work horses from the immigration.
 Must build infrastructure and irrigation.

All for the new white Australia superior.
 The order was to assimilate but stay inferior.
 Italians almost last on the social ladder.
 Wogs and dagos did not matter.
 We worked hard and diligent.
 Understand we are not ignorant.

When can we integrate and be accepted?
 We know our English is poor and accented.
 Perhaps the next generation will do better.
 It will be active in Australia without fetter.
 Our youth will speak proper English
 They will be professional and not languish.

We endured many lonely hurts and pain.
 To build a new home and here remain.
 It was difficult for the first migrants to do all.
 But their children will achieve and stand tall.
 Mate, we are Italo- Australian and ought be proud.
 Noi siamo Italiani, what a nostalgic sound!”

Diana Ruzzene Grollo



WHO ARE WE? GLOBALIZATION? IMMIGRATION? UNIFICATION?

The 1996 Census shows that:

1. The population of Italian was 238,216
2. Distribution per state was, VICTORIA 41.6%; NSW 27.8%; QLD 6.8%; SA 11.4%; WA 10.5%; TAS 0.5%; NT 0.2%; ACT 1.1%.
3. The total Italian born population has 31.2% as aged 65 years and over.
4. Only 4.7% of Italian born have a degree or diploma.
5. The Italian born consists of 95.4% Roman Catholic.
6. The census show that 23.7% speak poor or no English.
7. The Italian born is the largest NES` community in Australia.
8. A large percentage of Italian born are blue-collar workers, construction and manufacturing.
9. Home ownership or purchasing was at 92.3% of Italian born.
10. Second generation Italian Australian population is 333,886.

WHAT ARE THE SECOND GENERATION ITALIAN AUSTRALIAN DOING?

WHAT IS THEIR LEVEL OF EDUCATION?

WHAT ABOUT THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATION?

THERE ARE NEARLY 2 MILLION AUSTRALIANS OF ITALIAN ORIGIN!



Italian Australian Institute

WHO ARE WE?

Public Meeting
Caulfield

MESSAGE: ITALIAN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE INAUGURAL CONFERENCE, 24-26 MAY 2000

It gives the great pleasure to send greetings to the Italian Australian Institute, the community organisation, charitable, non-profit, business, financial and educational institution, this inaugural conference in Melbourne from 24-26 May, 2000. I repeat this Institute of Italian Australians I would regard as important.

For this long experience the Italian Australian Institute has opened the doors to members of the Italian Australian Institute for the first time. The focus has been on the historical aspects of the Institute and the role of the Italian Australian Institute in the development of the Italian Australian community. The focus is on the historical aspects of the Italian Australian community and the role of the Italian Australian Institute in the development of the Italian Australian community. The focus is on the historical aspects of the Italian Australian community and the role of the Italian Australian Institute in the development of the Italian Australian community.

From the Australian Parliament and created in 1984, the Italian Australian Institute has greatly benefited its members in Australia and the way we live here. The focus is on the historical aspects of the Italian Australian community and the role of the Italian Australian Institute in the development of the Italian Australian community. The focus is on the historical aspects of the Italian Australian community and the role of the Italian Australian Institute in the development of the Italian Australian community.

I congratulate the Italian Australian Institute on its first and state here progress in this inaugural conference.

John Howard

THE HONOURABLE JOHN HOWARD
PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Italian Australian Institute

Inaugural Conference

"IN SEARCH OF THE ITALIAN AUSTRALIAN INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM"

May 26th to 29th 2000
The Park Hyatt Hotel
Melbourne

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS

Endow separately the booking form for Park Hyatt Hotel, our Conference Venue. PLEASE BOOK DIRECT WITH THE HOTEL USING THE ENCLOSED FORM.

Car parking in the Hotel Carpark is available at \$10.00 per day.

ACCOMMODATION

PARK HYATT MELBOURNE
171 Collins Street, Suite 1000
Off Parliament Street, Melbourne
Phone: 9224 1234
Rate: \$250.00 per night (Double Room)
\$200.00 per night (Premier Room)

The following hotels are within easy walking distance of a short train ride from the Park Hyatt. Make a quick check the Conference Venue if booking with any of the listed hotels.

LE MERIDIEN AT MALTO
Collins Street, Melbourne
Phone: 9420 9444
Rate: \$215.00 per night, room only

HOTEL BHS
45 Murray Street, Melbourne
Phone: 9252 2269
Rate: \$116.00 per night, room only

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

The Conference acknowledges with thanks the sponsorship of:

- ANZ Banking Group
- Bells Italia
- Bonded Group
- C&A Commercial
- Conquest
- Fondazione Casa Italia - Trieste Italy
- Grosvenory Ltd
- Italo Australia Pty Ltd
- Il Globo
- James L. Williams Pty Ltd
- Laing & Brae
- Park Hyatt Hotel
- PentaMedia - Trieste Italy
- Project Foundation
- Qantas
- The Government of Italy

We also acknowledge the support of:

- Australian National University
- Deakin University
- La Trobe University
- Monash University
- RMIT University
- Swinburn University
- University of Melbourne
- University of Southern Queensland
- University of Sydney
- University of Western Australia
- Victoria University

THE ITALIAN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE is a non-profit, non-partisan national organisation devoted to the advancement of the interests of newly arrived Italian Australians of Italian origin. Its major objectives are to promote the Italian heritage and culture, to conduct research projects and to enhance the image of Italian Australia by highlighting their contributions to Australia's multicultural society.

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ITALIAN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE

Level 32, Rialto South Tower
325 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000
Tel: 03 9202 5866 Fax: 03 9202 0203
Email: ena@iaii.com.au

Monday 26th May 2000

8.00am registration

9.00am welcome
Chairman of the Italian Australian Institute
Welcome of guests to Melbourne
This is followed by a reception, a lobbying of Melbourne
official conference opening
It is followed by the opening of Victoria
This is followed by a reception, a lobbying of Melbourne
Chairman of the Italian Australian Institute
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10.00am morning tea

10.30am keynote
The new world of Italy: a new world
Chairman of the Italian Australian Institute
This is followed by a reception, a lobbying of Melbourne
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11.00am session close

12.00pm lunch
The Italian Australian Institute, Highgate, chair

1.00pm registration

1.30pm word hops
1. cultural identity and community life
Chair: Prof. Edward Canessa
University of Sydney, NSW
2. reconstruction of Italian heritage in Australia
Chair: Dr. James Alago
University of Sydney, NSW
3. Italian Australian in the new world
Chair: Prof. John Alago
University of Sydney, NSW
4. Italian Australian in the new world
Chair: Prof. John Alago
University of Sydney, NSW

2.00pm session close

2.30pm registration

3.00pm theme: global reality
Chair: Dr. James Alago
University of Sydney, NSW

3.30pm panel
Panel: Cultural diversity in Italy
Chair: Prof. John Alago
University of Sydney, NSW

4.00pm panel
Panel: Cultural diversity in Italy
Chair: Prof. John Alago
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5.00pm session close

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5.00pm session close

Day Two: Educating For New Horizons