



In this edition:

- New community hub: Amici House
- Our first NDIS audit
- Food, connections and cappuccinos!
- And much more..

OUR VISION

To be a leader in the provision of quality, accessible and affordable community care services for the general and CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) communities.

OUR VISION

To be the focal point in Queensland for the promotion and study of the Italian language and culture.



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In the past quarter, we've had a chance to widen our community contacts and the stories of these experiences are all in this edition.

A brief weekend visit to Stanthorpe with the Italian Consul and other community leaders was a rewarding way to connect with older members of that community, local Italian businesses and growers who are often now second and third generation Italians.

We were also lucky to be able to sit in on a lesson with students learning Italian at the high school. It is always an emotional high to see the maintenance of the Italian culture and language, especially in an area where the Italians have enriched both commerce and agriculture with their hard work and enterprise.

The Board and staff were thrilled to formally open Amici House at Bracken Ridge with an official launch and an open day for the community. The building has been in a construction metamorphosis for over 12 months and it was a triumph to see it finally opened to the public.

The facility has a café, allied health rooms and a range of other community services that are already running. Feel free to drop in and see what is on offer, between exercise and dance classes, social activities and outings there will be something that will appeal to everyone.

As usual all of our staff have been busy with client care, making sure our administrative processes are quick and responsive to our client needs and I am very proud of our staff who with their diligence and attention to detail have successfully completed our very first NDIS audit with 100%

compliance. This was no small feat because this program has extensive requirements that many other unregistered providers find almost impossible to complete.

I was pleased to be a part of some important milestones recently. On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Italian republic, as community representatives we gathered at Anzac Square with the Queensland Premier to mark this important anniversary with the laying of wreaths.

I was also delighted to be able to travel to Canberra to farewell The Italian Embassy's Education Advisor Dott.ssa Annarita Tamponi who finished her tenure in Australia.

With genuine excitement I'd like to announce that our next edition of Insieme will show our much larger and newly refurbished premises at 473 Lutwyche Road, Lutwyche.

All staff are currently packing to relocate to the new office building by the middle of July where they will have more space to operate. Our contact details will remain the same and all of our services will continue without interruption.

I hope you all stay safe and healthy during the latest Covid lockdowns.

Dina Ranieri

NEW COMMUNITY HUB - AMICI HOUSE

VISITORS TO THE COMMUNITY OPEN DAY ON MAY 8TH, RECEIVED SHOW BAGS AND ENJOYED REFRESHMENTS IN THE BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED GARDENS WHILST LISTENING TO MUSIC BY NICK TROVAS.



More than 100 people, including community leaders, representatives of community organisations, staff and volunteers recently gathered at the open day of Co.As.It. Community Services' latest community hub, Amici House, at Bracken Ridge.

The former gospel chapel on Bracken Ridge Road originally designed and built by Albert Lawrence and Arthur Sweeney has been refurbished by Co.As. It. for use by the local community. Daughters of the original builder, Beth Merkus and Sue Lawrence-Duman were thrilled to see their father's legacy repurposed as a community hub that now has a commercial kitchen, community café, allied health room, outdoor facilities for community gatherings, ramps and large carpark.

Re-designed by architect Paul Amabile, the hub is going to be a valuable centre for clients from as far as Redcliffe, Pine Rivers and Caboolture, providing exercise classes, physiotherapy, podiatry, education and information sessions and social group activities. The commercial kitchen and allied health

equipment were made possible with a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. Visitors to the community Open Day on May 8th received show bags and enjoyed refreshments in the beautifully landscaped gardens whilst listening to music by Nick Trovas.

Prior to the public event, 60 people attended the VIP Official opening by the Hon. Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education, Industrial Relations and Racing who praised the wonderful centre, noting the quality of service Co.As.It. has provided to the community for more than 40 years, including to her own parents.

Together with Co.As.It. President Cav. Nereo Brezzi, Board members and CEO Dina Ranieri, we sincerely thank our distinguished VIP guests below who celebrated the opening of the new community hub:

- The Hon Grace Grace - Qld Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing



- The Hon Luke Howarth MP - Assistant Minister for Youth and Employment Services, Federal Member for Petrie and also representing Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck and The Hon. Trevor Evans MP
- Councillor Sandy Landers - Councillor for Bracken Ridge Ward representing Brisbane's Lord Mayor
- Councillor Tracy Davis - Councillor for McDowall Ward
- Vice Consul Oreste Lastella - Representing Her Excellency Francesca Tardioli - Italian Ambassador and Salvatore Napolitano - Italian Consul for Qld and NT
- Cav Fil D'Arrò - President of Italian Chamber of Commerce & Industry Qld and Managing Director Italiquore Brands Internationale (Supplied the Bellini for the event)
- Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Alan Sparks, AM, BEM - Chairperson - Gambling Community Benefit Fund Committee (Received the grant which paid for the kitchen at Amici House)
- Mariangela Stagnitti - President - Com.It.Es. (Committee for Italians Abroad)
- Paul Amabile - President - Associazione Toscani

nel Mondo del Qld and the architect for Amici House

- Rosie Vecchio - President - Sicilian Association of Qld Inc.

Service Providers

- Angelo Galano - Managing Director - Better Build Constructions
- Chris Edith - State Manager, Queensland - LASA (Leading Age Services Australia)
- Sharon Sweeney - Executive Manager - PHN (Primary Health Networks) Brisbane North
- Bronwyn Bidstrup - Program Coordinator Aged and Community Care - COTA (Council On The Ageing) Queensland

Friends

- Julius La Robina - Managing Director, Italian Media Corporation, who publish Il Globo, La Fiamma and operate the Rete Italia radio network
- The Hon Ufficiale Teresa Gambaro - Former Member of the House of Representatives

OUR MENTAL HEALTH TEAM

PROMOTING POSITIVE OUTCOMES ORIGINATE FROM THE UNIQUE NATURE OF THE THERAPEUTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CLIENT AND COUNSELLOR. FOR THE RELATIONSHIP TO BE PRODUCTIVE, TRUST IS ESSENTIAL.

Here we are, well into our second year of 'Covid-19 living mode'.

Over the last year, we have seen the level of generalised anxiety grow prolifically. Generalised anxiety disorder (GAD) has increased in our clients, carers and all family members but this is not just related to Covid.

As counsellors, we see the fragility of the human spirit when confronted by situations or events that seem to have no solution.

As a mental health team, how then do we support our clients?

Promoting positive outcomes originate from the unique nature of the therapeutic relationship between client and counsellor. For the relationship to be productive, trust is essential.

- The therapist must share their knowledge, skillset and a desire to provide appropriate care.
- When client and therapist successfully engage with each other, trust - the most fragile component of a relationship, starts to build and beneficial changes in the client become evident.

Here are some positive outcomes we can confidently share:

- Clients who had not left their homes for a period of time due to death of spouses have been able to reconnect with family and friends.
- Clients who were unable to 'release and let go' of old family disputes and disagreements have successfully reconnected with loved ones.
- Clients experiencing existential pain and/or personal psychosocial conflict often driven by unmet emotional needs; loss of identity; fear of retribution have reconnected to themselves and significant others.
- Clients who received regular counselling for a period of time no longer require support from us and have ended the sessions.

Our mental health team is honoured to having been allowed to "talk the talk" and "walk the walk" with our clients who are, first and foremost, the reason we come to work each day.



I WAS NOT DEPRESSED. I WAS DISTRACTED.



"A year and a half ago I, Paola Reina, decided to return to Colombia after my plans in Australia did not turn out as planned. I felt like everything in my life was collapsing, and for the first time I felt total despair and no hope for my future on this continent.

The leader of our Latino group at the Holy Spirit Parish suggested that before I buy my airline ticket, I speak to the Community Support Officer (CSO) at Co.As.It. I followed through with his suggestion and I met with Antonio.

I had my reservations for I have never spoken to a mental health professional, and assumed he was going to be a condescending figure who was going to dictate the path I should take. The reality was the opposite.

On our first meeting, the CSO spoke in very unpretentious terms, and assured me that his role was to support me on my navigation of the complex mental health landscape. The outcome was of great benefit for me for I discovered a holistic approach to address my situation.

For example, the CSO made a referral for me to see a Spanish-speaking counsellor, and slowly my despair turned into hope, and I started to find a courage, creativity and willpower I was not aware I possessed.

Some of the positive impacts I have enjoyed in this exciting journey are that I improved my English by enrolling in different English courses that led to a promotion of manager at my current job.

Also, I have started a Certificate III in Individual Support and with Antonio's suggestion, contacted Sarina, the Co.As.It. Community Visitor Coordinator and joined as a volunteer to provide social support to Spanish-speaking clients in the community.

I have learned, in working with the CSO, about the endless opportunities this generous country has to offer if I focus on the solution and not the problem.

I am absolutely confident that I was not depressed as my friends were telling me at the time, but distracted from the untapped potential and hidden resources that were dormant inside of me."

HARMONIOUS WORKPLACE CELEBRATES MULTICULTURALISM

WITH STAFF SPEAKING A TOTAL OF 52 LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH, CO.AS.IT. IS A MICROCOSM OF MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA AND WE LOVE THE DIVERSITY THATS THIS BRINGS TO OUR ORGANISATION.



Over 75 people recently gathered at the Co.As.It. offices in Brisbane and the Gold Coast to celebrate Harmony Day. Harmony Day initiated as the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It is now into a week for celebrating Australia's multiculturalism and the impacts migrants have made to our country.

Staff in both offices shared recipes and dishes from their ancestors' countries of origin. Each person brought a traditional dish from their culture, resulting in enough food to feed five times as many people. Staff placed posters, maps, flags and other mementos of their heritage on the walls and chatted about the history of the foods they had brought, almost all home-made.

The Harmony Day website states that traditionally, the orange colour signifies social communication and meaningful conversations.

It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

Many people chose to wear something orange to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia and the Co.As.It. blue and orange uniforms were also enriched with Mexican tapestry belts, national soccer team shirts and various other cultural accessories.

With staff speaking a total of 52 languages other than English, Co.As.It. is a microcosm of multicultural Australia and we love the diversity that this brings to our organisation.

Everyone in both offices returned to work feeling refreshed, and that night, we can confirm that the leftovers were enjoyed by many family members in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast!



FREE

WEEKLY EXERCISE
SESSIONS
FOR 65YRS
AND OVER

STAY ACTIVE

Co.As.It. Community Services is running an **exercise** group suitable for people aged 65 years and over.

The program is aimed at optimising strength, endurance, balance and flexibility. Enhance your overall **wellbeing** and delay aged-related deterioration.

Ideal for those able to **mobilise** without the use of a walking aid, walker or wheelchair.

Wednesdays

(During School Terms)

10.45am to 11.30am

Abruzzo Club

Fursden Rd

Carina

Bookings essential

Call Co.As.It. on 07 3624 6100

IRENE

**IL PERCORSO TERAPEUTICO
SEGUITO LE PERMETTE ANCHE
DI FARSI LA DOCCIA SOLAMENTE
CON UN MINIMO AIUTO DA PARTE
DEL MARITO.**

Nel 2017 Irene fu portata in ospedale a seguito di un pericolo infarto. Irene riuscì a sopravvivere, ma le furono date ben poche speranze di riuscire a camminare di nuovo.

Con una diagnosi così triste, Irene rimase in riabilitazione per poco tempo per poi tornare a casa dal marito e dalla famiglia.

Quando Irene si incontrò con il nostro Allied Health Team nel 2018, poteva solamente fare pochi metri con l'aiuto del marito e del bastone come appoggio.

Praticamente Irene poteva solamente fare affidamento alla sedia a rotelle manuale e a quella elettrica senza potere fare viaggi in macchina.

Come se non bastasse, Irene soffriva anche di emiplegia al lato destro, con il braccio e la mano praticamente immobili.

L'Allied Health Team pensò quindi di preparare un programma di esercizi su misura per massimizzare le capacità motorie di Irene che, grazie al supporto continuo offerto dal team, è riuscita a migliorare notevolmente la propria indipendenza.

A casa, Irene si muove da sola con l'aiuto del bastone, e riesce a camminare per almeno 50 metri fuori casa. La sua mano destra sta migliorando ed Irene riesce a sollevare piatti leggeri e altri oggetti di cucina.

Il percorso terapeutico seguito le permette anche di farsi la doccia solamente con un minimo aiuto da parte del marito.

Nonostante la diagnosi molto negativa, la voglia di migliorare e la determinazione dimostrata da Irene hanno portato dei cambiamenti positivi nella sua vita, e questo è motivo di orgoglio e soddisfazione per l'intero team.



CLIENT FEEDBACK: PAULA

"I was experiencing excruciating pain in my right shoulder and elbow, so badly that I was even afraid of making myself a hot drink because lifting the jug would cause me such pain and I had already scalded myself several times.

I called my HCP Coordinator to tell her about my experience and frustration in not being able to manage even a simple cuppa.

My Coordinator suggested a 'Tipping Kettle' which I had never heard of before!

I found out that this clever little device is a hinged kettle that doesn't need to be lifted to pour out

boiling water, it sounded too good to be true and such a good idea that I decided to buy one using my HCP unspent funds.

It wasn't very long before the kettle arrived by post and I was excited to try it. I watched it until it bubbled to boiling and then gently poured out the water into my cup! No spills, no pain and so easy!

I can certainly say the 'Tipping Kettle' has changed my life, it is a dream to use because the pains in my shoulder and elbow are bearable now.

I have even named it as it is so important to me. I call it 'Cedric the Kettle' and I love it!"



BRETT'S ROAD TO SUCCESS



Brett has been a Co.As.It. client since 2015. He started receiving support services under the Community Care Program and later transitioned to the NDIS program. Brett has Acquired Brain Injury as well as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, he has difficulty managing money, regulating his emotions and social skills deficits.

Over the past few years we have seen Brett make genuinely rewarding progress in his life. With specifically trained and selected community care workers (CCW), Brett has been able to tick boxes and achieve goals through support strategies that constantly adapt to his changing needs, goals and everyday activities.

Brett used to volunteer at a local thrift shop. In May 2020 we started supporting him in his role of managing a specific area in the shop. With his worker's support he ensured all his allotted tasks were completed.

In September 2020, Brett started volunteering at an E-Waste facility where his duties were to separate electrical goods (metal from plastic). He attended to this new activity with the assistance of his support worker Sam, who consistently encouraged him and guided him to complete his assigned jobs.

Brett discovered his passion for recycling and his dedication was noted by the facility coordinator who offered him a paid job.

In December 2020, with his two support workers, Brett began working at the E-Waste facility 2 days a week.

His job is to manually sort collected e-waste items, dismantle and then categorise materials which go through specific recycling and recovery processes. He has found a real passion working in recycling and takes pride in his work. Most importantly he understands that if recycled correctly, the components can be reused or treated properly, so he ensures his job is done well.

Aside from learning the necessities of his new job, he was also presented with new challenges, like getting ready on time in the morning, packing a lunch box, taking his medications for the day, etc.

During their weekly budgeting and shopping outings CCW Sam assisted him in buying lunch items and healthy snacks to take to work and Brett has seen the monetary advantage of packing a lunch box.

With consistent support from CCWs Sue and Lachlan, Brett has adjusted to his new routine, has learned to work in a team environment and his social skills have developed too, e.g. learning to be patient with colleagues who do not work at the same pace. He has come a long way in a short time.

We could not be prouder of Brett's journey. We have seen how empowered he has become, how he has striven to reach his goals and become a young man full of potential.

With continued input from his support workers, Brett has a fulfilling and satisfying life to look forward to and we will continue to be there for him for as long as he needs us.

OUR FIRST NDIS AUDIT

Providers who run government funded programs normally have to undergo an audit to determine the success of their operations. We had our first audit recently for the NDIS program and we are very proud to say that we passed this audit with flying colours!

The purpose of this audit was to determine compliance of Co.As.It. management system with the audit criteria and our effectiveness in achieving continual improvement and quality objectives.

The audit team conducted a process-based audit focusing on interviews, observation of activities and review of documentation and records.

The Audit started with a self-assessment submission to the NDIS Commissioner submitted in July 2020, then an Auditor was engaged for a 2-stage Audit process.

Stage 1 was completed in March 2021 and stage 2 in April 2021. We were very happy to be advised that met all of the requirements under the NDIS Practice Standards and Quality indicators and that the final report has been successfully submitted to the NDIS Commission.

Having initially registered in June 2019, NDIS was a new program for us. The regulatory requirements were different to our well known aged care and community funded programs so there was a huge learning curve for Management and staff to ensure we met the required parameters to run the program.

Therefore it was deeply satisfying to see that the Auditor did not make any recommendations for improvements.

We currently have NDIS clients between Brisbane and the Gold coast and we feel that our focus on providing our best care for them was not only recognised by the Auditor but also by our clients.

We were humbled to see some of the comments our clients made to the Auditor during their interviews. Most of our clients scored us a 9 or 10 out of 10 in client satisfaction with the lowest score being 8 out of 10.

Some of their comments are listed below:

“Paola is a really nice person. She took a long time to talk to my husband and I. They developed an effective system. My son is really happy. They respect a person with disability. They care for humans, families and their goal setting is great. Their consistency in providing great supports. Rostering people are great. Reception is really nice. All reports from OT or Psychologist are reviewed by Paola in details.”

“They are helpful, never judge, always have a smiley face and they are really friendly.”

“They are friendly and supportive and really nice. They look after us well. “

“No matter who we talk to they are really nice and supportive.”

Best of all we are chuffed by one client who said:
“They are like my family.”



ALWAYS WITH US, RUTH

WE WERE PRIVILEGED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT, ADVICE AND A TEAM OF FRIENDLY CARE WORKERS WHO SHARED THE PASSION AND JOY THAT RUTH BROUGHT TO EVERY ENCOUNTER. WE ESPECIALLY LOVED TO HEAR ABOUT RUTH'S LIFE STORY AS TOLD BY HER SON PHIL.

As a hale and hearty centenarian, Ruth Margaret Ellison became our client in December 2018.

Her daughter Heather mentioned, *"The family was very proud of her and delighted to see the amazing age she reached while still retaining her good health, pleasant disposition and sense of humour."* Ruth celebrated her 103rd birthday on 21st November 2020 - a truly significant birthday milestone.

We were privileged to provide support, advice and a team of friendly care workers who shared the passion and joy that Ruth brought to every encounter. We especially loved to hear about Ruth's life story as told by her son Phil.

Ruth (née Rapkins), was born in 1917 and she lived through some magnificent times - from the first wind-up air plane to the unimaginable space age landing on the moon. No doubt, she would have marvelled at the weird and wonderful technological innovations and significant medical advances made in the last few decades.

As a child, Ruth spent her early years on a family farm at Tweed Heads, NSW, the youngest of seven girls and one boy. Her large family moved to a small dairy farm at Mundubbera, QLD, where as a young lady, Ruth worked as a secretary at the Mundubbera Butter Factory, testing and recording the quality and quantities of cream and milk delivered to the factory.

It was here that she met Alexander William Ellison, a young Commercial Bank of Australia teller whom she married in 1940. This heralded an interesting life of travelling all over Queensland, following



Alec as he was transferred and promoted in his job. Throughout her husband's working life, they lived in Maryborough, Home Hill, Innisfail, Gympie, Brisbane, Stanthorpe, Nanango, Sandgate, and Boondall. Their son Philip was born in Mundubbera, and daughter, Heather, in Nambour. Ruth was never one to remain inactive - in the many country towns they lived, Ruth gave generously of her time involving herself (often as an office bearer) in committees and organisations such as the CWA (Country Women's Association), Rural Youth, Church Guilds and Probus (Professional Business).

Until her passing on June 16 this year, just 5 months shy of her 104th birthday, Ruth still lived in the home she and Alec built at Boondall in 1969. Ruth had two children, four grandchildren and six great grandchildren and her son Phil was her primary carer. He and the family were very grateful for the friendly support staff that Ruth called her 'Italian ladies' who came regularly to meet Ruth's needs.

This remarkable lady will be missed, especially her tongue in cheek humour like enjoying driving 'the oldies' to the Sandgate Presbyterian Church, although she herself was the eldest in the congregation!

You will always be in our memories, Ruth!

PEACE OF MIND - ABOUT TIME!

Audry Thomson is no stranger to financial hardship, grief and family turmoil. An asthmatic with chronic back pain, she will be 66 soon and says it is only now that she can relax and enjoy a better quality of life.

Thanks to Co.As.It. she receives assistance with meal preparation and cleaning and can get out and about without the anxiety of how much it will cost.

"I'm not having to worry about finances which has been a problem for years" she says.

A country girl, Audry has lived in many parts of Queensland, spending much of her childhood travelling around as her father followed his work, first as a drover, and later building dams with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission.

Born in Nambour on the Sunshine Coast, she grew up in the Burnett region - her dad worked on the Wuruma Dam at Eidsvold - and attended high school at Boonah. She left home at 16, and became a nurse at the Ipswich General Hospital.

"I loved it. I would go back tomorrow if I could" Audry says, "but I left after three years when I married a man who turned out to be full of alcohol and abuse."

She had three children and a fourth child to her second partner, who was also abusive. She took the children to Melbourne where she raised them on her own. But then, in another quirk of fate, she lost everything, including the photos of her children, and had to start again.

Eight years ago, Audry was living in Mackay when her second youngest son visited and told her how much she meant to him, despite the setbacks of their lives, so it was a particularly hard blow when he was killed in a motorcycle accident in January this year. He was 42.

Her youngest son took his own life six and a half years ago. It was just before the anniversary of his death that she decided it was time to leave her public housing home in Mackay and return South.

She moved to a two-bedroom housing commission unit in the Brisbane area, where she has been living alone ever since. She's no longer confined to a

small town and relishes the opportunity to get out and see new things. When she turned 65 last year, Audry became eligible for services through My Aged Care and was introduced to Co.As.It.

"My quality of life has been much improved by the services I am now able to access and I don't have to wonder where I am going to get the money" she says.

"It gets me out of the unit. I have two hours a week, but make it a social outing for four hours every second week, so I can go shopping... we don't have many big shops other than supermarkets here" Audry said.

Audry buys the ingredients for her meals and then has a helper come in each week for two hours to help with preparation. Meals are frozen and re-heated as she needs them during the week.

"I can't stand at a bench for that long because of my back. It's agony to even stand up" she said. Co.As.It. has also organised for her to have help with the cleaning, sweeping, vacuuming and mopping, all the things around the home that she is unable to do herself.

She sees the same crew every week and has been able to establish a relationship with them. Her other help has come from the Harvest Point Church where she has made friends who look out for her.

Someone always comes to take her to church on Sunday and Bible classes on Wednesday nights. *"I have become reliant on my church family" she says. "I've got my services and my church friends. They are my family now. I'm not moving."*

Audry also keeps herself busy with what she can manage - knitting, crocheting and a spot of gardening and also finds peace working on her adult colouring books.

"My quality of life has become good, other than the back pain" she says. "Co.As.It. has made a real difference to me. Life is looking up."

And, she adds, *"It's about time."*

PATRICIA

Last week we had the pleasure of meeting one of our clients Patricia who is a lovely, caring lady who lives with and cares for both her husband and her sister-in-law.

At times it can be overwhelming caring for just one person, but it is definitely challenging and exhaustive caring for two people at the same time.

Understandably, sometimes Patricia feels overwhelmed. Organising specialist appointments, transfers to and from the hospital, shopping and many other tasks of daily living get constantly interrupted by the needs of her loved ones.

Thankfully, the assistance provided to her by Co.As.It. has been indispensable and with the

support she receives from their community care worker Fiona, much of the stress of being a full time carer for two people has been minimised.

Patricia has stated, *"I wouldn't know what to do without Fiona"*. Fiona not only helps Patricia keep the house clean and tidy, she also provides social support, an empathetic ear and respite care, offering time out for Patricia away from her constant caring role.

Patricia continues stating that *"I hope Fiona never leaves her job"*.

We also hope that our workers feel so appreciated that they never want to leave their job!



FOOD, CONNECTIONS AND CAPPUCCINOS!



After a challenging 2020, aged care homes have warmly welcomed the CIAO Program back.

Italian cultural and linguistic connections with our Activity Officers were sorely missed by staff and residents during isolation so we are very pleased to be able to bring again traditional pastimes and recreational activities into the aged care homes.

Two new homes have joined the program, Bellevue Care at Ferny Hills and Arcare at Taigum. These do not have staff who speak Italian, therefore the Activity Officer is a very welcome visitor.

Families and friends enthusiastically join the twice monthly CIAO Program at Arcare Taigum and for afternoon tea, and contribute by cooking traditional sweet and savoury delicacies from different regions of Italy.

Arcare's own café provides barista quality coffees at these sessions - the cappuccinos are very popular!

As with many cultures, food brings people together and the Italians have mastered the joy of creating a sense of belonging through the sharing of a communal meal. Being in aged care, the enjoyment of this kinship and the savouring of traditional dishes is often lost.

Recently, Melinda who is the daughter of Arcare resident (Maddalena), cooked "pastiera napoletana" and "calzone" with quintessential ingredients of eggs, salami, cheese, ricotta, pastry and lemon essence and brought them to share.

These typical recipes from the Campania region were no doubt handed down from generation to generation and the residents were delighted by these special dishes.

We will continue to provide enriching experiences for our elderly in aged care. Let us know if there is a new group in an aged care home that you feel would benefit from this program.



CARD GAMES AS ICE BREAKERS

Perry has been a community visitor volunteer for six years and he has seen how much his visit is the highlight of the week for Luigi, a resident at Griffith Cottages in Sandgate.

"I hope that when I'm elderly, someone will visit me to provide social support and connection, so I guess in a way, I'm paying it forward" says Perry. "I think I'm doing something for the community by giving back to people. I enjoy connecting with people and seeing how uplifted Luigi is by my visits. I know how much he looks forward to having someone visit. He particularly enjoys being able to converse in Italian because it was his first language."

From his experience, Perry knows how important it is not to disappoint older people who expect a visit from him. His friendship is cherished and the people he visits are gratified that a special friend comes to see them.

When he first met Luigi, he was quiet and reserved but over card games of Briscola and Scopa, Perry earned Luigi's trust who now tells him stories about his life and family whilst playing cards strategically. The scores are pretty even between the two, but Perry notes that *"Luigi is a very sharp card player who likes to win!"*

Playing cards is a traditional Italian pastime, and Briscola and Scopa are old Italian card games that children learn when they're young - often playing with parents, grandparents and extended family members. Most children learn from watching their elders play, as did Perry and Luigi. *"Being in an aged care home, away from his family and friends is not what Luigi had pictured for his later years"* remarks Perry.

Luigi is very pleased however to have Perry engage him in card activities that he loves and in being able to squabble about strategy in his mother tongue.

NEW VISITOR IS AN INSTANT SUCCESS!

The Community Visitors Scheme was originally funded in the 90's specifically for people in aged care who were from a different cultural and linguistic background (CALD).

Since then, Co.As.It. has provided aged care facilities with community visitors who speak many different languages.

However, we have never had a Chinese speaking volunteer.

Our newest volunteer visitor, Lee Hua-Yueh, speaks English, Mandarin and Cantonese, and is now visiting a small group of four Chinese residents living at Arcare - Taigum. On her first visit there was a lot to celebrate!

One of the residents Rui Rui was celebrating her 101st birthday when Lee and CVS Coordinator Luisa arrived at the facility. Rui Rui has had an illustrious career: she was Dean of Foreign Languages at the Shanghai Teachers' University

for more than 30 years and taught English for more than 40 years before retiring at age 65.

Lee and Luisa were warmly welcomed into the birthday celebrations where Lee enthusiastically spoke both Cantonese and Mandarin.

The excitement of the residents at being able to converse in their first language was an added joy to the party atmosphere.

There was much to talk about and share with the residents, Lee and Luisa were told a lovely story about white finches and the role they used to play in Chinese fortune telling. Each person at the table would release the finch which would then settle on a cookie. The message contained therein was that person's fortune.

Regrettably, there were no finches to catch at the facility to predict her longevity, but if there was even one, undoubtedly Rui-Rui's fortune would have been that she would live to a wonderful old age!



FUNDS FROM DEMENTIA AUSTRALIA



Co.As.It. recently received funding from Dementia Australia for a project to deliver a mix of group, individual and family-based information, education and support services with key performance indicators to be met between January and June 2021.

The first key performance indicator of delivery was to plan, organise and facilitate group activities aimed at improving awareness and understanding of dementia within the community.

The target outcomes expected were that both clients and the wider community acquired a better understanding of dementia, coping strategies, and supports.

The second key performance indicator was to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate support to individuals and family groups impacted by dementia.

In particular, information, education and support on how to access, understand and use dementia related services to empower people living with dementia, their families and carers.

The target outcomes expected were that clients feel listened to, their needs were met and understood and that the information and support they received was helpful. Clients were to also attain a better understanding of dementia, coping strategies and supports and implement relevant strategies as needed.

The first interim report has been submitted to Dementia Australia outlining the highlights and the challenges of the project so far.

Some of the highlights have been the education sessions delivered in Italian.

Participants were delighted to have Dementia Australia resources in their own language and they responded with enthusiasm about their own stories and burdens.

The participants were also able to see other carers' journeys, experiences and challenges through videos spoken in Italian.

Carer stories and discussions that reflected their own feelings, emotions and challenges created a sense of relief and acceptance that they were not unique in the way that they addressed their individual caring for a person living with dementia.

Some of the challenges have been:

- Addressing carer burden, particularly relevant when the client has complex needs as well as challenging behaviours because of their dementia.
- Trying to encourage the carer to get support, access respite, or delegate to other family members.
- Helping carers understand that behaviours of dementia are unintentional and that the person they knew is still there but is also struggling to live their life with dignity and respect.

SPECIALISED CARE - ESPECIALLY CALD

The QCSS is a Queensland government initiative that supports individuals under 65 who are living with a low level disability, chronic health or mental health condition, and are not eligible for the NDIS.

This program is underpinned by a person-centred, enabling and capacity building approach to service delivery.

It focuses on improving a person's quality of life and general wellbeing by increasing the person's ability to be as independent as possible in their own home and community.

Co.As.It., together with its two consortium partners, GOC Care and IWAA Inc., provides specialised care under this program for individuals from CALD backgrounds.

With our diverse range of community care workers, we are able to provide in-home supports and community connections that meet the cultural and linguistic needs of each individual registered under this scheme.

Our clients are able to access in-home support and or community connection support based on their goals enabling them to live safely in their homes and be engaged participants within their community.

If you would like to know more about the QCSS program and how this service could support you in living independently as well as increasing opportunities for community participation and access, please contact our QCSS Coordinator on (07) 3624 6100.



CONSULAR VISIT TO STANTHORPE

A number of Brisbane-based Italian organisations recently travelled to Stanthorpe over a weekend to meet with the local Italian community.

Initiated by the Italian Consul Salvatore Napolitano, the visit was an opportunity to meet local Italian businesses, community representatives and the people of Italian origin who have made Stanthorpe their home. Mariangela Stagnitti (President of Com.It.Es.), Phil D'Arrò (President Italian Chamber of Commerce Qld), Dina Ranieri (CEO Co.As.It. Community Services) and Fabio Orlando (Special Counsel at SLF Lawyers and Com.It.Es. Secretary) accompanied the Consul.

Welcomed by Southern Downs Regional Council Mayor Vic Pennisi and his members of Council, visits were organised to meet with first, second and third generation Italian business owners who were very proud of their achievements and the legacy they carry on behalf of their fathers and grandfathers.

There was great interest from the local community who felt honoured by the Consul's visit and they were very keen to meet him and his visitors.

The group travelled around Stanthorpe to the Civic Art Centre, Ballandean Estate, International Club, Heritage Wines, Rizzato's Apple Orchard, Savio's Family Orchard, Lyrah Australian Vinegar, Sam's Fruit Shop, and Stanthorpe State High School.

Co.As.It.'s CEO Dina Ranieri was pleased to visit the high school where Italian is taught as part of their enrichment program. The visitors sat through an Italian lesson and shared with the students their connection to the Italian language and experiences of arriving in Australia not being able to speak English.

During a meeting with The Italian Australian Welfare Association (Granite Belt) Inc. the visitors discussed the future of aged care and how best to meet the needs of a growing elderly community in the Stanthorpe area.

That evening a wonderful dinner event was organized by Mayor Vic Pennisi as an opportunity to catch up with the locals, make new acquaintances and establish special relationships that benefit the Italian community needing aged and community care in that region.



WEEKLY FITNESS DANCE SESSIONS

ZOOM-BA

Kids'

Ages 7- 12 yrs



Venue:

**The Community Place
20 Clark Street
KALINGA**

Fees per 10 week term

1 Kid	\$50
2 Kids	\$90
3 Kids	\$125

**To book and pay call
Co.As.It. Tel: 3624 6100**



**Every
Wednesday
during school term
3.30pm to
4.30pm**

 **the
community
place**
connecting the inner-north

**Kids to wear comfortable clothes,
closed shoes and bring their
own water bottle.**

 **co.as.it.**
community
services

ALLA SCOPERTA DI YATALA!

È incredibile quante persone fra i clienti del Co.As.It. non abbiano mai assaggiato le famose tartine di Yatala!

Durante il viaggio siamo riusciti a creare un tale interesse per i prodotti che avremmo trovato che i nostri clienti non vedevano l'ora di arrivare e provare le delicatezze di questo pezzo di storia del Queensland.

Sono state tante le scelte - salate o dolci, tutte accompagnate da un caffè.

Un momento così importante non poteva non essere immortalato con fotografie, e così è stato, prima di ripartire per Seagulls, meta per il pranzo.

Una volta arrivati, alcuni clienti si sono diretti verso le poker machines, altri hanno giocato a carte ed altri ancora hanno preferito fare una passeggiata sul lungomare.

Il viaggio di ritorno - due ore e mezza - è stato un po' lungo, ma come al solito tutti si sono divertiti e rilassati con musica italiana, risate, e per alcuni il viaggio è stata una occasione per riposare un poco.



THE MORE, THE MERRIER

As we know that our clients have many friends and relatives scattered across Brisbane we try to plan a combined outing a few times a year that allows the clients to be together for a few hours.

Our latest outing to see Fortunato perform at the Redcliffe Dolphins Club was in May and 82 clients booked out the buses within days of receiving their outing flyer.



Morning tea was served as soon as the groups arrived and there was a lot of chatter, catch ups, laughter and reminiscing around the room before heading off to see Fortunato for a two-hour show with a lunch break in between.

After the show, some clients played on the pokies, others played cards or enjoyed a second cup of coffee and more chatting, laughter, reminiscing and stirring each other up, with such things as *"I saw your dance moves, don't put your hip out of place"* and *"You are too old to dance, don't have a heart attack."*

SITTING ON THE DOCK OF THE BAAIA

Sitting at the Baaia Café looking out across the water during a recent social group outing, participants could have imagined they'd gone back in time to the glory days of Sandgate, when the location was a popular seaside holiday spot.

It was easy to visualise ladies in long beach dresses strolling under little parasols while their children played in the sand.

After morning tea, the 'beach' beckoned and a walk across the mudflats in the sparkle of the sun gave the women an opportunity to reminisce, while most of the men, true to form, sat at the picnic tables and played cards.



The ubiquity of cards to any group of Italian males is quite endearing. Wherever they are, if there's a table, no matter what state it's in, someone will pull a deck of cards from their pocket.

At 10.30am, and many photos later, the group continued its travels up to Buderim Tavern for lunch.

Everyone was keen to sit by the full-length windows overlooking the ocean, the spectacular view made lunch even more memorable. Prior to the 3pm departure, again, the cards were whipped out, while others went for a stroll through the shops and other contented souls sat around chatting.

The day proved exhausting for one gentleman who put his COVID-19 face mask to good use, using it to cover his eyes while he napped on the way home. All in all, another enjoyable day, as the social group outings continue to return to 'normal'.

BALLA COME SE NESSUNO TI VEDESSE

Immaginatevi questa scena: 30 - 35 persone, tutte sopra i 65 anni, seduti in circolo, che dimenano braccia e gambe al rito di musica latino-americana. Quello che probabilmente non riuscite ad immaginarvi è l'espressione di pura gioia sui volti dei partecipanti!

Le classi di musica latino-americana, condotte da Rafael Pitarello, sono state create per permettere la partecipazione di tutti, a prescindere dal livello di mobilità individuale.

Fra i partecipanti ci sono infatti persone afflitte da demenza, altri che sono particolarmente fragili, mentre altri ancora soffrono di dolori e problemi - anche gravi - alle articolazioni. E nonostante ciò, tutti partecipano, al meglio delle loro capacità, alle classi di danza.

Rafael è convinto che "tutti possono ballare", ed è basandosi su questa convinzione che riesce con successo a creare un ambiente sicuro per tutti i partecipanti, a prescindere dal loro livello di mobilità.

Al termine del periodo di riscaldamento da seduti, i più avventurosi si sono buttati sulla pista a ballare

con i propri partner. Pietro Iacuzzo aveva voglia di ballare ma, a causa del suo equilibrio instabile, era restio a partecipare.

Tutto questo fino a che un membro del personale del Co.As.It. non l'ha invitato a ballare. Che piacere vederli danzare assieme! È stato un momento molto felice per Pietro, che ha voluto condividere con sua moglie Luisa non appena si sono rivisti. *"Ho ballato anch'io!"*

La musica è riuscita a convertire un altro partecipante, che ha entusiasticamente confermato la sua partecipazione alla sessione successiva.

Le classi, che si tengono ogni tre settimane ed hanno una durata di circa 30 minuti, sono state introdotte di recente come nuova attività per i gruppi di Stafford e Acacia Ridge. La partecipazione a questi gruppi viene determinata tramite il portale del My Aged Care. I partecipanti vengono accompagnati ai Centri e riportati poi a casa dal personale del Co.As.It. dopo una giornata ricca di attività che comprende anche colazione e pranzo.

Per ulteriori informazioni si prega di contattare Franca al 3624 6100.



BUSY DAYS ON THE SOUTH COAST



The social group activity centres have been a hive of activity over the past few months. Not only did they celebrate Easter with collage making, egg races and a visit from a somewhat emaciated Easter bunny (poor thing needed to eat some of his own eggs!), the groups also enjoyed Mother's Day arts and crafts activities painting their own floral bouquet.

As part of the celebrations our regular visiting choir entertained us with much singing and dancing.

There was serious competition knocking over indoor bowling pins and checking on the raised garden bed to see how the seedlings were coming along.

Gardening is a passion for many of the clients and they all have their own tried and tested methods of growing fruit, vegetables and flowers. We cannot wait to see how the little garden patch is going to look in springtime.

Italian Republic day was celebrated at the beginning of June with all the colour and fabulous food we normally produce for the national day of Italy. This is a favourite cultural event enjoyed by Italians worldwide.

Pity we could not get the military planes doing their traditional tri-colour flyover - a magnificent, choreographed spectacle displayed in Italy each year. (Ok, well it might have been a little far for them to fly to us!)

We introduced a new game to the groups called Giant Genga, which had people focussing and concentrating to ensure their turn didn't topple the structure. It wasn't as easy as it looked.

Finally, we were able to christen our new BBQ on site, sitting out the back of the club and enjoying the view of the soccer field during our alfresco dining.

GROUPS ENJOY THE COOLER WEATHER

Outings on the Gold Coast have been a highlight in the past few months and especially now that the weather has cooled enough to go on leisurely strolls and admire the beautiful surroundings so close to home.

An 'al fresco' picnic at Tallebudgera Creek in the clear sunshine and fresh air was indeed refreshing.

Ancient Aboriginal people used to call this Gold Coast suburb "good fish" and you'll hear no argument from anyone on this apt name. Framed by the Burleigh Heads National Park at one end and Palm Beach on the other, the 25 km creek is an idyllic, sparkling body of water that draws many tourists who love camping, swimming, picnicking, kayaking, and of course fishing.

Another outing to Broadwater Parklands for a lovely walk before a sumptuous seafood meal at the Galaxy Restaurant was also a great day out. The Parklands have extensive playgrounds, cafes, picnic areas and places to swim, making it the perfect place for the kids and families all year round. It was also really enjoyable for our clients!



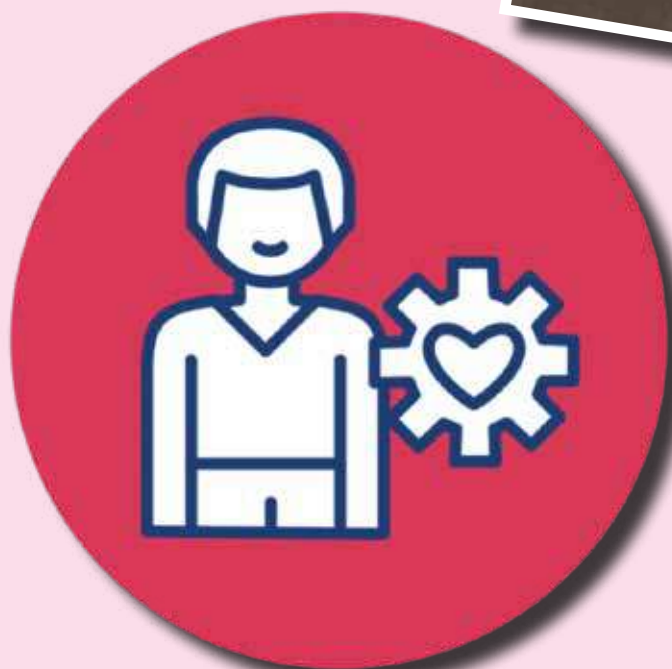
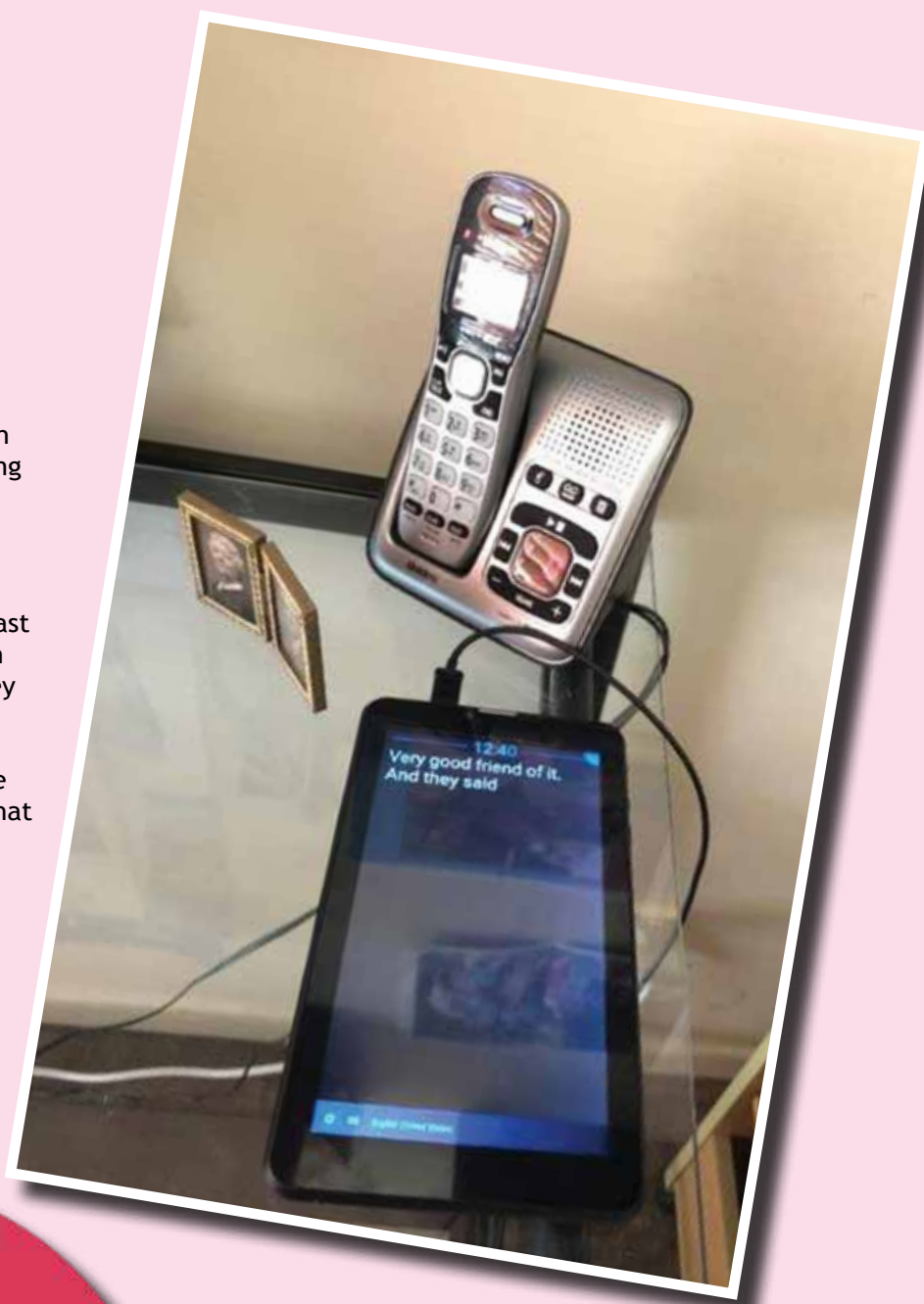
GEORGE

George is on a Home Care Package and lives with his wife on the Gold Coast. Our Coordinator was aware that he dearly missed his children and grandchildren who live in Sydney.

Although he often enjoys speaking with them over the phone, due to his hearing deficit, it is becoming increasingly difficult for him to communicate with this device.

In what they both believed to be the last time they make the trip, recently both George and his wife travelled to Sydney to visit their loved ones.

It was no doubt that the elderly couple returned to Brisbane with sadness. What contact they would now have would depend on the telephone that was not easy to hear.



Thankfully, George's home care package allows the buying of innovative items to improve his wellbeing.

Knowing how much he missed talking to his family, his Coordinator organised the purchase of a telephone system with a tablet and an app that enhances his communication whenever he makes or receives a call.

He is now able to speak on the phone and the words are transferred to text on the tablet. George is very happy with his new device and we are delighted that we were able to make his interactions with his family and friends much more rewarding!

SUCCESSFUL REHABILITATION POST-SURGERY



Late last year (Ethel)* one of our clients on a Level 2 Home Care Package (HCP), had a terrible fall that left her with fractures to her hip and wrist.

The wrist was surgically treated with a screw fixation and she also had to undergo surgery to have orthopaedic pinning to repair her hip.

Rehabilitation was provided as an in-patient in hospital but it was noted that Ethel experienced significant functional deterioration in her strength and mobility.

As both the client and her husband have Parkinson's Disease, when she returned home, carrying out tasks of daily living was increasingly difficult, they were not managing with cooking and moving about was an additional challenge.

A coordinated team of allied health and community care staff met many of the clients' daily needs as well as helping Ethel improve her mobility via intensive physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

Input from our Occupational Therapist enabled the fitting of equipment that allowed safe bathroom

transfers which helped Ethel regain confidence and independence in showering unaided, and gourmet meals were ordered and delivered so they did not need to cook. With the help of our community care workers, Ethel and her husband were able to receive assistance with daily tasks like cleaning, washing and grocery shopping, all further aiding her recovery.

After her discharge from hospital, Ethel was only able to move short distances using a hopper frame, but by the end of the 12-week period of physiotherapy, she happily greeted the Coordinator at the door slowly but confidently using her 4 wheel walker.

Even better, Ethel was able to recently travel to Sydney to visit her daughter, something she hadn't thought possible after her surgery.

With all disciplines involved in Ethel's recovery it can be seen how a multi-disciplinary and holistic approach to rehabilitation can lead to positive results post-surgery. Well done Ethel!

*Name changed

CO.AS.IT. SOUTH COAST REPLICATES SUCCESSFUL U.K. PROJECT



Some time ago, Rita La Rocca, one of our Gold Coast Coordinators, became aware of a project that was done in the UK where people with cognitive impairment had become vocalists in a choir.

Inspired by the success of this initiative, Rita felt that the project could be replicated here to provide a wonderful experience for our Sunshine Group participants. Best of all, the choir would perform a concert for family, friends and staff.

Fourteen members between the ages of 69 and 97 years were voted in by the social activity group members and practice sessions for the new vocalists were trialled in January. There was a lot of trepidation in the new choir, some were timid and others intimidated by the learning process involved.

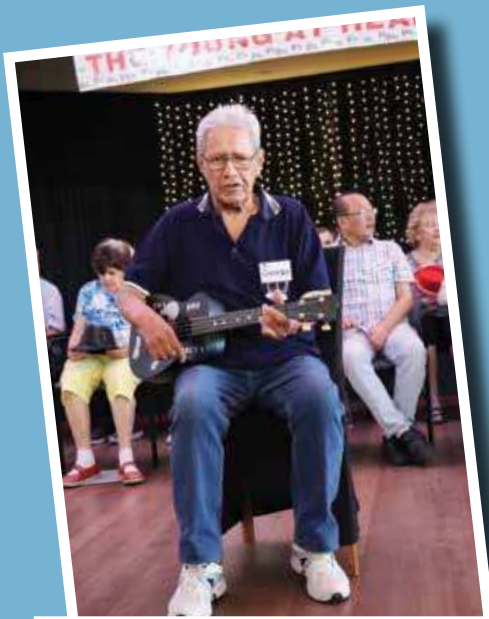
True rehearsals for the concert began in March after the whole group had decided which songs they wished to perform - a large repertoire of songs

ranging from Louis Armstrong's 'A Beautiful World' to Vera Lynne's 'We'll Meet Again'.

Over the rehearsal sessions we received constant feedback from the choir, especially from participants Fred and Gay who had some great ideas. From this feedback, changes were introduced that made the format easier for the singers to learn the lyrics and perform their parts.

At our first sessions, everyone was singing - just not in unison! We marshalled experienced Choir Master David Brigden (Young Sydney Singers, Carols in the Domain) to help us with the vocalists and with his input, the singers soon progressed from being able to retain the lyrics to singing together as a group and even gaining enough confidence to do solos, with dancing!

It was an arresting transition because initially many were reluctant to participate but over the



ten rehearsals, with each singer encouraging and supporting the other, everyone became invested and excited about the concert.

The 'Young at Heart Concert' was held on May 5th and began with Coordinator Rita formally introducing each vocalist and highlighting one unique thing about each singer - setting the tone for a fun-filled evening.

The highlight of the concert was the Choir's performance of Village People's 'YMCA', which had many taking on the characters of the Policeman/ Indian/Construction worker. The evening ended with both the audience and the choir taking to the dance floor.

CEO Dina Ranieri attended the concert and congratulated staff and clients for a genuinely moving experience. She went on to say that sometimes consumed by the daily administrative

processes, audits, reports and reading the findings of the Royal Commission into Aged Care, she often questioned why we persisted in overcoming so many hurdles in the aged care sector.

The "why" was beautifully explained when she further went on to say that *"It's days like today that I get to witness why we do what we do."*

It was obvious that she was intensely proud of Co.As.It. staff and the dedication they put into caring for our community.

Congratulations to Gold Coast Manager Mariel Flutters, Coordinator Rita, Choirmaster David, our staff, and everyone involved in bringing the concert to life.

There was so much joy and a sense of achievement for the choir, their families and friends. A project worth replicating indeed!

75 ANNI E NON LI DIMOSTRA

La cerimonia per il 75mo anniversario della Repubblica italiana, organizzata dal Presidente del Com.It.Es. Mariangela Stagnitti, si è svolta il 2 giugno presso l'Anzac Square nel centro di Brisbane.

Alla cerimonia hanno preso parte i rappresentanti delle associazioni italiane e i rappresentanti della comunità australiana, fra i quali Vicky Howard, Consigliere comunale per l'elettorato di Central. I discorsi ufficiali della Sig.ra Howard e del Console italiano Dott. Napolitano hanno messo in evidenza l'influenza innegabile che l'Italia ha avuto nel mondo e il contributo incredibile dei nostri connazionali emigrati.

La giornata ufficiale è proseguita in serata presso la Customs House, dove si è svolto un ricevimento ristretto organizzato dal Console e dalla sua signora per festeggiare, oltre ai 75 anni della Repubblica, anche i 60 anni di Consolato d'Italia a Brisbane.

Nel corso della serata, alla quale ha partecipato anche il Premier del Queensland Anastacia Palaszczuk, sono stati assegnati i titoli di Cavaliere dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana all'On.le Grace Grace MP, a Ray Rinaudo e a Renzo Zanuttini, nomi conosciuti all'interno della comunità italiana.



FAREWELL TO DOTT.SSA ANNARITA TAMPONI

It was with regret that Australia recently farewelled Dott.ssa Annarita Tamponi - Education Adviser based at the Italian Embassy in Canberra.

Passionate about her role in the diffusion of the Italian language and culture in Australia, Annarita held the position for seven years and was a valuable support to many organisations involved in the teaching of Italian in both primary and secondary schools throughout Australia.

Funded by the Italian government's Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and administrated through the Italian Embassy and Italian Consulates, Annarita performed her role in an exemplary manner.

In May, a special farewell ceremony was organised at the Italian Embassy by Her Excellency Francesca Tardioli - Italian Ambassador to Australia.

Friends, work colleagues, and other Australia-wide representatives from Co.As.It. entities in Sydney and Melbourne attended the event, as did Co.As.It. President Cav. Nereo Brezzi and CEO Dina Ranieri.



IILC
ITALIAN
LANGUAGE
CENTRE

A CONSTANT GROWTH

BOOK CLUB ITALIANO and CANZONI A TEMA are two popular ILC events which alternate throughout the year. Teachers of Italian as well as students find that attending these groups helps them gain mastery of 'la bella lingua'.

Since the very first Book Club Italiano in 2019, the sessions have grown in popularity with the 6th edition which commenced in February 2021.

Over three fortnightly meetings, Italian facilitator Giovanna Amatruda presented the book 'Cristo si è fermato a Eboli' by Carlo Levi.

Students thoroughly enjoyed delving into the novel which is a memoir of the period the author spent in exile. Carlo Levi was a doctor, painter, philosopher, and man of letters with strong anti-fascist political views.

In 1935, Benito Mussolini's Fascist government declared Carlo Levi a political prisoner and he was banished to the desolate Southern Italian region of Lucania (today's Basilicata).

During this period of house arrest, Levi reflected on the harsh landscape and its inhabitants, peasants

who lived the same lives their ancestors had. In his novel he offers a starkly beautiful and moving account of a place and a people living outside the boundaries of progress and time.

Levi explained that the title of the book was inspired by what the people of the area said of themselves: 'Christ stopped just short of here (Eboli)' meaning they felt they had been bypassed by Christianity, by morality, by history itself - and somehow being excluded from living a full life.

BOOK CLUB ITALIANO alternates with CANZONI A TEMA, an activity offering teachers of Italian and adult students the opportunity to maintain fluency and perfect their Italian through songs.

The following CANZONI A TEMA took place over three fortnightly Saturdays commencing on 8 May with the theme 'Le Quattro Stagioni' - songs for all tastes and all seasons!

It was again another unmissable opportunity to learn new vocabulary and correct pronunciation, intonation, rhythm and flow through popular Italian songs featuring the four seasons.



PASQUA AT PLAYGROUP



What began as an ordinary Monday soon changed as news trickled in that Brisbane was facing a 3-day lockdown to commence at 5:00pm that very day.

A collective sigh of relief was heard at the Italian Language Centre as children arriving for the Monday morning Girotondo Italian Playgroup realised they would still be able to attend the final session of Term 1.

Teacher Franca told the excited children that a visitor called “Coniglietto” (Little Rabbit) had visited overnight and hidden several “uova di Pasqua” (Easter eggs) all over the Centre.

During the “Caccia alle uova” (egg hunting) the eggs were all found and placed in Maestra Franca’s big

yellow “pulcino” (chick) basket. Later, children practised their Italian numbers by each counting out CINQUE eggs to place in their own little bags.

After several exciting Easter activities, children settled down to listen to the adventures of Coniglietto Gigi in the story “La Fata e le Magiche Uova di Pasqua”.

As children sang the closing “Ciao buongiorno” song they were delighted to receive a little bag with their very own copy of “La Fata e le Magiche Uova di Pasqua” to take home and read with their families.

The delightful little bags prepared and decorated by Co.As.It.’s Cintia Paolino were the hit of the day!

IN GUERRA PER AMORE - ILC FIRST MOVIE NIGHT

Upon arrival guests were greeted by ILC staff who welcomed them with a goody bag filled with Baci Perugina chocolates and flyers outlining the exciting forthcoming ILC events and classes in Semester 2.

Teachers of Italian in schools were delighted to enjoy a relaxed networking opportunity while students of Italian jumped at the chance to listen to authentic Italian during the screening of 'In Guerra per Amore' at the New Farm Cinemas.

Directed by Pierfrancesco Diliberto, known as Pif, 'In Guerra per Amore' is a comedy set in 1943 when the Allied Forces are preparing to land in Sicily. In New York, Arturo and Flora are in love, but their relationship cannot go anywhere as she is promised in marriage to the son of a Mafia Boss.

Arturo is determined to marry Flora, but needs to obtain permission from her father who lives in Sicily.

With no money, the only way Arturo can get to Sicily is to enlist in the U.S. Army which is preparing to land on the island.

The clever narrative tells of how relations between Allies and the Mafia during World War II shaped the fate of Sicily for years to come.

One hundred students and teachers filled the 200-seat cinema (to allow for social distancing) and had a thoroughly enjoyable evening which ILC anticipates repeating in Semester 2.



CIAO A TUTTI!

My name is Annalisa and I have been working at ILC since the start of the year. I am originally from Milan and moved to Australia in 2010.

What started as a 4 month backpacking experience turned into finding a new home here in the land Down Under.

After a decade working in hospitality and tourism I transitioned into marketing two years ago and I am very excited to be part of Co.As.It. and involved in promoting and working with staff at ILC.

I look forward to meeting some of you in the near future!



Servizi comunitari per anziani e giovani bisognosi di sostegno.

**Avete bisogno di aiuto nei lavori domestici?
Avete bisogno di aiuto per cucinare?
Volete incontrare nuovi amici?
Assistete qualcuno a domicilio e
avete bisogno di aiuto?**

Il Co.As.It. Community Services fornisce assistenza alle persone anziane e ai giovani dal 1987 e il nostro personale esperto e qualificato è capace di prestare un servizio culturalmente e linguisticamente adeguato.

La maggioranza del nostro personale è bilingue e capace di assistervi nel vostro ambiente familiare in casa vostra.

I nostri gruppi sociali offrono un pasto casalingo e la possibilità di incontrarsi con gli amici e chiacchierare dei tempi andati.

Attività di arti manuali, canzoni e balli, tombola e gite fanno parte del nostro programma giornaliero.



Contattate il nostro centro al

3624 6100

per ulteriori informazioni



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