



Associazione Culturale E Sociale Sarda Inc. Sydney N.S.W. Australia

4th April 2013



Dear Members

Allow me to begin by apologising for the delay in this formal communication from your newly elected and incredibly dedicated and busy committee. As you know the last elections in July unexpectedly bought a committee of 13 passionate and patriotic individuals together, I say unexpected since I can assure you when I left home that day I had no intention of joining the committee let alone becoming President! However like my fellow committee members the history of this Association is an incredible story and the future far too exciting to pass up. Hence in July we hit the road running at full speed may I add to bring four incredible and very well supported events to you our members, Gusti Di Sardegna, All Souls Mass & Refreshments, Christmas Lunch 2012 and more recently the Sardinian concert with Gruppo Pino D'Olbia.

In the middle of these events we relocated the SEDE our official office from Auburn to Five Dock. We did this for a number of reasons, a more central location, a clean start and freshly renovated premises with upstairs security. Our intention once we have settled in is to have an open day and invite you to see the upgrade, check out our library and sight our continued efforts.

All of the above has been a huge effort by the committee (in such a small time frame) and I know, because many of you tell me consistently, how much you understand and recognise the intensity of effort on the committees part. You now can also see we the committee give it everything we have got, this is over and above every one committee member juggling family and a demanding career. We do this with pleasure.

Whilst we do what we do with great pleasure we have a number of challenges (and concerns) that we are dealing with and need to share with you.

Challenges & Concerns

- La Regione Sarda has cut funding to Sardinian Associations all around the world. Whilst we are not the only ones affected we can only worry about Sardi Sydney. These cuts, to which we are still awaiting details may ultimately affect our ability to cover fixed costs such as rent, water, electricity, phone, insurance, accountant fees to name a few.
- Fund cutting means for the Association to move forward we must raise our own funds, we can no longer rely on funding to the same level previous committees enjoyed.
- Our members cover three-four generations ... This is fantastic, however it also means our events need to either be specific to certain ages and generations or family orientated to attract the masses...when they are specific this usually means smaller numbers participate and covering our costs is difficult

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Opportunities & Solutions

- When it comes to funding we have a strategic plan and calendar of events to support fund raising, we have functions geared to bringing all the generations together as well as specific events to attract specific groups
- We the committee use our own computers, phones, copiers etc without charging the Association, we also put up 80% of lottery prizes out of our own pockets. We are 13 people, we do what we can however your support is essential wherever possible
- Fund raising is easier in numbers hence your attendance enhanced by the support of your family and friends not only helps us raise funds but helps grow our network, friendships and ultimately memberships
- Fund raising requires sponsors, hence we ask, plea, if you are in a position to become an official sponsor please contact a committee member. Lottery prizes are always welcome too.
- Our aim will always be to be as affordable as possible and hence we ask that you understand this and be reassured ticket prices are minimum and have been calculated to cover costs with a "little" profit too (and I do mean little)
- We understand you can't come to every event however we beg you ALL to make a special effort for family orientated events such as Mother's and Father's Day, Christmas. These events are ones we all celebrate in numbers. Sharing these important events with your fellow members guarantees a memorable occasion! We the committee will ensure all generations are catered for and everybody enjoys the day, however if the numbers are not there, if you don't come and don't bring your family and friends we will be left with no choice but to cancel events.

As you can see our two concerns are primarily money and attendance.

In this envelope is our invitation to Mother's Day lunch on Mother's Day, the actual day we give thanks for the blessing of mothers. PLEASE boycott the kitchen, spoil your mums and share this very special day with your mum, brothers, sisters and friends in the company of fellow members. When you do this you are not only rewarding your mum but also keeping the dream our parents started alive.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your support to date, to thank the wonderful women that make Sardinian sweets for our events from the kindness of their heart, those that supported the relocation of the SEDE and each of you that understand and appreciates our efforts and circumstances.

I hope to see you on Mother's Day.

Please call a committee member and secure your place for Mothers Day and our future now:

Michael Porcu PH: 0411 191 116, **Giovanni Migheli** PH: 0405 191 967, **Laura Di Leva** PH: 0414 295 367, **Assunta Tilocca** PH: 0418 435 834, **Gavin Sanna** PH: 0412 324 224, **Teresa Spada** PH: 0411 283 159, **Gavina Cossa Zappia** PH: 0415 236 356, **Tony Mura** PH: 0409 300 740, **Dina Mura** PH: 0403 128 014, **Gavina M Cossa** PH: 0447 250 656, **Piera Canto** PH: 0418 622 261, **Tania Zarodoukas** PH: 0416 046 708

Yours in HEALTH

Marie Enna-Cocciolone
President