



Associazione Culturale e Sociale Sarda Inc.

Sydney N.S.W. Australia

Wednesday 7th March 2018

Dear Members

The AGM is upon us once again and this time it is time to elect a new committee.

As you all know after each term all committee members must step down to allow for new members to step up and form a new committee. Over the six past few years the same committee members have stayed on to ensure that the Association lives to see another year. This year we **don't have good news**. 7 committee members (of 9) are stepping down and do not intend to be re-elected. The reasons are many and it is important you appreciate their why.

First and foremost is simply that *times have changed*.

How you ask?

If you think back to why the association was formed over 35 years ago it was to bring Sardinians living in NSW (and sometimes around Australia) together so that they could support each other, grow together, retain and continue to enjoy their homeland traditions. The other reason was to expose the beautiful island of Sardinia to non-Sardinians and to inspire them to one day visit and see for themselves where the Australian-Sardinians had left their heart.

Today for many reasons these motivations are no longer there.

1. For one, the generation that came to Australia in the 50's and 60's is diminishing. It is this generation that continues to show their support with attendance at our social events however sadly this group is also getting smaller each year.
2. The next generation born is history's most time poor and hence challenged to commit to duties and responsibilities over and above their professional and family ones.
3. Connection is no longer dependant on face-to-face communication. Digital and Social media ensure that the world is one and that Sardinians leaving their homeland are already connected before they leave.
4. In the last few years many Australians know of Sardinia (thanks to the many years of committee activity and the wonderful Sardinian chefs around Australia sharing the amazing cuisine), more than ever many have visited the island (Cruise liners now visit) or are aware of its beauty and attractions and are inspired to visit.

It is fair (and to some extent sad) to say, "we feel our work is done".

As committee members you will find even after a minimum of 6 YEARS OF SERVICE (that's right we have done our best for all these years) we would stay on IF OUR EFFORTS MADE A DIFFERENCE. But they don't. The paperwork required to receive funds from the Regione is intense and sadly we can no longer find the time to meet their stringent rules (for little return). The mixed generations have different needs and bringing them together is challenging. Everything costs and the diminished contributions from the Regione hardly pay the sede rent.

ABN: 88 001 987 506

Suite 5, 99A Great North Road, Five Dock NSW 2046 –P.O. Box W21, Wareemba NSW 2046

Email: sardisydney@bigpond.com– Web: www.sardisydney.com



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We ask that you appreciate we are not giving up or running away, we simply feel we have given it (at least) **6 great years and we have no more to give.**

For those of you reading and thinking, “no this isn’t right, there is still a lot we can do “then here’s your chance.

WHILE WE ARE STEPPING DOWN, THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO STEP UP!

If you don’t agree that it’s time for the Association to minimise their current activity or even possibly shut its doors, then it’s time for you to STEP UP AND TAKE ACTION. With only two people left on the committee the Association will be severely compromised and so **we invite you to make the difference.**

The future is up to you.

Join us for the 2018 AGM and elections, memberships renewals;

Date 15 April 2018

Time 11am to 5pm

**Address Church of the Immaculate Conception and St Paul of the Cross
532 New Canterbury Road Dulwich Hill**

RSVP by 6th April

RSVP to Assunta 0418 435 834,

Light refreshments will be served on the day

Membership fee \$20.00

**Completed nomination forms can be emailed or mailed to the Secretary no later than 8th April 2018.
Please see below for address details.**

The current committee thanks you for your support over the terms we have served, we have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know so many of you and the wonderful events we have shared in your company. We remain at your service and will continue to support events wherever possible.

Yours Sincerely

Teresa Spada
President

ABN: 88 001 987 506

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