



9th August 2011.

MEDIA RELEASE

ICCI (Qld) honours and celebrates the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy

The Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, last Saturday night, hosted a spectacular Gala Dinner to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy.

The Dinner was attended by many of Queensland and Australia's political leaders, including, *The Premier of Queensland, The Hon Anna Bligh MP, Queensland Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs, The Honourable Anastacia Palaszcuk MP, Member for Brisbane and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, the Hon Teresa Gambaro MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator the Hon George Brandis, Federal Member for Bonner Mr Ross Vasta, MP, and Shadow Member for Indooroopilly, Shadow Minister for Transport, Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Shadow Minister for the Arts. Mr Scott Emerson,*

All of the above special guests delivered very significant speeches in honour of Italy and its Unification 150 years ago.

Commendatore The Hon Santo Santoro said that the function was particularly honoured by the presence of The Italian Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Gianludovico De Martino Di Montgiordano, who delivered a stirring and motivational address within which he stressed the historical cultural and economic links between Italy and Australia and in particular Italy and Queensland.

President Santo Santoro expressed very deep appreciation to His Excellency Gianludovico De Martino Di Montgiordano for his continued and sincere support of the Chamber and its activities.

The Ambassador praised the Chamber for its renewed vigour in promoting these links between two of the world's leading nations.

Also in attendance at the Gala Dinner was the Queensland Vice-Consul of Italy, Dott. Antonio Colicchia and the Italian Ambassador to the Republic of Montenegro, Dr Dojcilio Maslovacic.

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The President of ICCI (Qld) also delivered a speech on behalf of ICCI (Qld) within which he *stated* “*I suspect that to outsiders, modern Italy is a peculiar phenomenon, with a rate – at least until recently – of political instability which most resembled the late Roman Empire.*”

Underlying that of course is that there is something of a myth about a homogeneous Italy. Contrary to the American viewpoint, there is no single Italian cuisine. And contrary to Gibbon’s views about linguistic unity, a conversation between Milanese and Calabrese might well require interpreters.”

“But the identification with the ambition and memory of Rome, and the freedom of the Republic is a common value, and a glue for what is otherwise a boisterous and regionally competitive nation. There is great strength in that tension, as it brings the twin commitments to National independence and personal freedom to the centre of what Italy is about, and has been about for the past 150 years.”

Two of the highlights of the Gala Dinner were the presentation of two substantial donations by ICCI (Qld) to the Queensland Premier’s Flood Relief Appeal and to the Brisbane Lord Mayor’s Flood Relief Appeal.

The donations of \$2,800 each were made possible by the generosity of two of ICCI (Qld)’s major sponsors, Mr Paul Vincent, the Managing Director of Vincents Chartered Accountants and by the Chamber’s Honorary Solicitor, Mr Ian Humphreys, the Managing Partner of from Blake Dawson Solicitors.

These donations continue to underline the commitment of the Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Qld) to reaching out to the wider Queensland community in addition to the Chamber’s commitment to promote the economic relationship between Italy and Queensland.

An auction for two return tickets to Hong Kong with Singapore Airlines, most capably conducted by ICCI (Qld) Treasurer, Peter Costello, raised \$2,200, thanks to the generosity of Cav Steve Pellegrino, who remains a most generous supporter of the Chamber.

Represented within the crowd of 200 plus were many of the leaders of the Italian community in Queensland, including the President of the Sardinian Association, Mr Giuseppe Murtas, the Chairman of the Italian Committee 4EB, Mr Renzo Zanuttini, President of the Toscani Association, Mr Paul Amabile and Cav Guido Canale from The Three Saints Committee.

President Commendatore Santoro also thanked the major sponsors of the Chamber, including, Ansaldo-STIS, Singapore Airlines, EuroMarque, Beyond Web Developments, Ghella, Vincents Chartered Accountants, and Savino Del Bene.

Commendatore Santoro also thanked the many supporters of the Chamber, including and in particular, Filippo D’Arro, the Managing Director of Italiquore, Salvatore Gerbino, Proprietor of Gerbino’s and Alladino Pozzobon for providing the wine and the sweets that were enjoyed at the dinner.

For any further queries in relation to the dinner, please contact Commendatore The Honourable Santo Santoro on (07) 3262 4266 or 0407 162 187.