

30th August 2013

MEDIA RELEASE

ICCI (Qld) Hosts Nostalgic Night In Rustic Italy

ICCI (Qld) has hosted its Annual Dinner based on the theme of an nostalgic night in rustic Italy.

The dinner, held in the presence of the Hon Tim Nicholls MP, the State Member for Clayfield, Treasurer of Queensland and Minister for Trade, was attended by many leading members of the Italo-Australian business community and representatives from many Italian organizations, including Com.it.es and the Tuscany Association.

In attendance as special guests were, The Hon Tim Nicholls MP, Queensland Treasurer and Minister for Trade, Mr Ross Vasta MP, Federal Member for Bonner, Mr John Kotzas, Chief Executive of QPAC and his wife Jano, Mr Stefano Cirilli, Acting Italian Consul for Queensland, Mr Frank Paolino, Italian Consulate Office, Brisbane, Miss Maria Stagnitti, President, Com.it.es, Mr Paul Amable, Treasurer of Com.it.es and his wife, Linda, The Hon Con Sciacca and his wife Karen, The Hon Larry Anthony and his wife, Jenny, former Mayor of the Sunshine Coast, Mr Joe Natoli and his wife Rosanna and Mr Ross Rolfe, Managing Director – Resources and Infrastructure, Lend Lease and his wife, Dana.

Many of the leading Italian companies in Queensland were also represented and recognized as major sponsors of the Italian Chamber of Commerce (Qld), including, Ansaldo-STIS represented by Vice-President Sales and Business Development Australia, Mr Michele Golda, Ghella Pty Ltd, represented by Area Manager Australia, Mr Giuseppe Benassi, Salini Australia represented by Director – Australia, Mr Enrico La Civita and his wife, Adele, Azzura Bathrooms represented by Director, Mr Tony Bosso and his wife, Patricia and Rita Maggiollo, Euromarque represented by Mr Scott Newland, Di Bella Coffee represented many members of the Di Bella family, including Phillip Di Bella's sister, Mrs Josie Mansell

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and her husband Bill and their parents, Rosario and Anna Di Bella, Gerbino's represented by owners, Salvatore and Simone Gerbino and Dolci Sapori, represented by owner, Aladino Pozzebon.

The President of ICCI (Qld), Commendatore the Honourable Santo Santoro, also introduced to those attending the Annual Dinner, the new Secretary General of the Chamber, Ms Beatrice Di Furia and interns, Alessio Ammazzini (University of Florence), Niccolo' Baldi (University of Florence) and Michele Favaron (University of Venice).

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the Ospitalità Italiana plaque to Grappino Ristorante Trattoria, one of only four restaurants in Queensland to be able to boast of this recognition.

In his speech to the dinner, the Hon Tim Nicholls MP, Treasurer of Queensland, emphasized the very strong contribution that Italian businesses have made to the development of the Queensland and Australian economies.

“Whether Italian businesses have come straight out from Italy – for example, Ghella, Salini and Ansaldo – or whether they have been home-grown Italian businesses – for example, Di Bella Coffee, Winslow Constructors and Schiavello's – they have all been distinguished by an adherence to a very strong work ethic and a total commitment to quality and excellence in design and delivery.”

The Treasurer in particular mentioned the exceptionally good work performance of Ghella, currently involved in the construction of the Legacy Way Tunnel which represents Australia's largest current infrastructure project.

The Treasurer also thanked the Chamber and its President, Commendatore the Honourable Santo Santoro for providing very strong leadership within the business community of Queensland and for the very regular provision of tremendous networking and business development opportunities, not only for the members of the Chamber but also for many other Queensland and Australian businesses that are looking to connect with Italy and businesses there.

The President, Commendatore the Honourable Santo Santoro made very specific reference to the presence of Mr John Kotzas, the Chief Executive of the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC). The President spoke of the strong and developing relationship between the Chamber and QPAC and again, spoke of some very exciting projects that are being jointly developed by both the Chamber and QPAC.

The President also extended his thanks to the Chief Organiser of the function, Ms Kim Macaranas, from the firm Vicca Forensic Accountants. The President also thanked, in his absence, the Principal of Vicca Forensic Accountants for the tremendous logistical and other contributions made to not only the success of the dinner but also the Chamber as a whole.

Much comment was also made about the type and quality of the meal, which reflected the rustic and rural traditions of Italy.

The President thanked Master Chef, Ryan Rodrigues and those members of the Chamber who supplied food and beverages, including Casella Wines and Yellowtail, Italiquore (Fil D'Arro), Salvatore Gerbino from Gerbino's, Cav Adj Prof Phillip Di Bella (for his magnificent coffee cart and coffee) and Visco Fine Foods who supplied the antipasto platters.

Thanks were also extended to Joe Dercole for supplying demonstration models of the famous Italian Vespas and to Euromarque for the magnificent red Maserati, also on display.

A vast array of raffles – over \$8,000 worth! – was also enjoyed by all participants at the dinner.

In conclusion, the President expressed his appreciation to major sponsors of the Chamber, including, Ansaldo-STS, Ghella, Savino Del Bene, Di Bella Coffee, Salini Australia, Stanbroke, EuroMarque, Azzurra Bathrooms, Singapore Airlines, Hardy Brothers and Vincents and also the support of other Italo-Australian companies, including Copy Cat Printing, Dolci Saponi, Gerbino's Pasticceria, Crucial Paradigm, Canale Travel, Italiquore Brands Internationale, Schiavello Group, Merlo Coffee, Fairchild Multimedia and Entertain.it.

Excellent musical entertainment was provided by new Italian band, Sinfonia, proudly sponsored by Frank and Loretta Paolino of Entertain.it fame.