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11 • JUNE-JULY-AUGUST 2001

HIGHLIGHTS

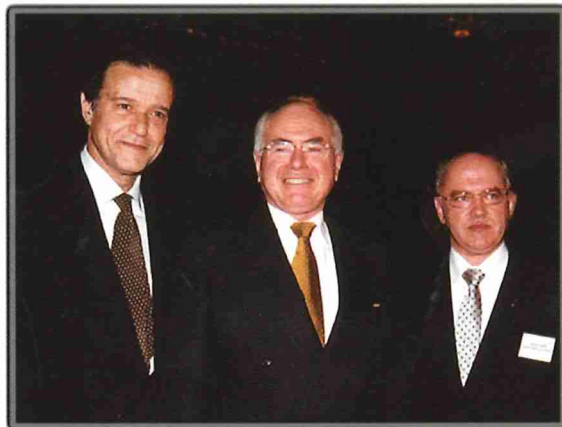
- 2** Editorial
- 3** President's Message
- 5&7** Promoted Trade Fairs
- 8-9** The PM at Chamber Luncheon
- 11** Dual Citizenship
- 11** Globus
- 12** Italian Business Associations
- 13** The ICCI Team
- 13** Members' News
- 14** Upcoming Trade Fairs
- 15** Trade Enquiries & New Members

First official engagement by the newly appointed Italian Ambassador to Australia

Australian Prime Minister Guest Speaker at Chamber Luncheon

On Friday, July 6th the Italian Chamber held a Business Luncheon at the ANA Harbour Grand Hotel with the Hon John Howard as Guest Speaker. More than 270 members and their guests attended the event, marking this as the Chamber's most successful luncheon to date.

In his address, the Prime Minister expressed his personal good wishes for bilateral relations between Italy and Australia, and highlighted the importance of Europe as a trading partner and in particular the contribution that the Italo-Australian community has made to the development of Australia in all business sectors.



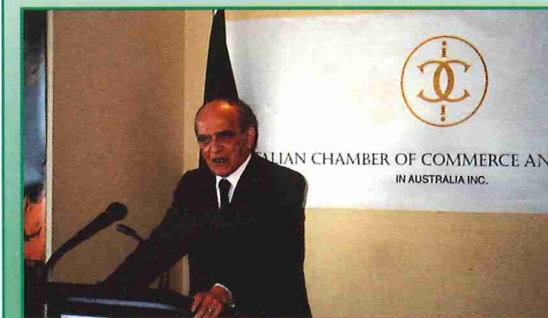
L to R: H.E. Dott Dino Volpicelli, The Hon John Howard and President Adrian Guido.

» p.8

DOTT PIERO BASSETTI VISITS THE ITALIAN CHAMBER

The Chairman of Italbiz, Dott Piero Bassetti, addressed 70 members and guests at a luncheon held at the American Club on May 24th. Dott Bassetti spoke on the topic "Building Virtual Communities and their importance for SMEs - the Italic Experience". Dott Bassetti is the former

President of the Association of Chambers of Commerce Abroad and former President of the Union of Italian Chambers of Commerce. Dott Bassetti took advantage of his visit "Down Under" to meet with Italian government officials and leading members of the Italo-Australian business community.



Italbiz.com is a new B2B website funded by SEAT Pagine Gialle (Italian Yellow Pages) and Banca di Roma, with the purpose of helping small to medium size Italian-oriented companies to harness the power of the Internet. For more information, please visit www.italbiz.com or contact Daniella Poschl at the Italian Chamber of Commerce on (02) 9262 5744 or email daniella.poschl@italbiz.com

LAW CHANGE TO ALLOW DUAL CITIZENSHIP SEE PAG 11



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Editorial

It is with a great feeling of accomplishment that I write this editorial, a feeling shared by many of us, in particular by my team and colleagues, the President and our Board of Councillors.

Business Luncheons

Since our last newsletter we have held two extremely successful Business Luncheons. On May 24th the Chairman of Italbiz, Dott Piero Bassetti, addressed 70 members and guests at the American Club on the topic of virtual communities. We thank Dott Bassetti for taking the time to visit us "Down Under" and we look forward to welcoming him back in the near future. Then on July 6th the Hon John Howard MP was the Chamber's Guest Speaker at a Luncheon held at the ANA Harbour Grand Hotel. Over 270 members and guests attended, and the feedback has been overwhelming, with many members expressing great pride in being affiliated with the Chamber. Also in attendance was H.E. Dott Dino Volpicelli, the newly appointed Italian Ambassador to Australia in his first official engagement. The Italian Chamber looks forward to working closely with Ambassador Volpicelli during his mandate in Australia and to assisting him where possible. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my team, President Guido and the Councillors, and in particular the Chairperson of our Social Committee, Ms Maureen Mustafa, and my personal assistant, Ms Kylie Sharp, for all their efforts in making this event our most successful luncheon to date.

Italbiz

By the time you receive this newsletter our new website - powered by Italbiz - should be up and running. Make sure to check it out at www.icciaus.com.au and let us know what you think of it. In particular, be sure to check your own listing to ensure all details are correct - if not, please let us know and we shall make the necessary amendments. We are also currently in the process of updating our membership database to allow all ICCI members to be listed for free in the Italbiz directory (see www.italbiz.com). By now you will have received a letter informing you of the free entry and for confirmation of data. Your contact at the Chamber for any queries regarding Italbiz is Daniella Poschl (tel 02 9262 5744 or email daniella.poschl@italbiz.com)

Upcoming Projects

Both the Excellence of Italia exhibition and Fendi fashion event have been pushed back to March 2002. We look forward to providing you with more details on these two extremely exciting events in upcoming issues of Connect.It.

Meeting of Secretaries-General

In July I went to Salerno to attend the Annual Meeting of Secretaries-General. It was rewarding to see how much interest there is in Australia, and in particular the confidence given to the Italian Chambers abroad as the primary conveyors of business.

Trade Fairs

The Chamber has been extremely busy in recent months promoting upcoming Italian trade fairs, in particular CERSAIE (Int'l Exhibition of Ceramics for the Building Industry, Bologna, October 2-7), SMAU (Int'l Information & Communication Technology Exhibition, Milan, October 18-22) and EIMA (Int'l Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers' Exhibition, Bologna, November 17-21). See pages 3 and 5 for further details. Furthermore, in consideration of last year's overwhelming success, the Chamber, in collaboration with Presenza, is organising a trade delegation to visit and/or exhibit at *L'Artigiano in Fiera* (Int'l Craft Selling Exhibition) to be held in Milan December 1-9. See page 12 for further details.

Globus Project - Sportello per l'Internazionalizzazione

We are currently in the process of implementing the new computer-based service of the Italian Chambers of Commerce - both within Italy and abroad - addressed to all Italian enterprises interested in operating overseas and to foreign entrepreneurs interested in the Italian market. For more information please see page 11 or contact Alessia Rota.

23rd Annual Gala Ball - Friday, November 30th

Preparations have already begun for our Annual Gala Ball, which will be held on Friday, November 30th at Le Montage in Leichhardt. More information will be provided in the next issue of Connect.It, but in the meanwhile be sure to mark this date in your diary. For the first time this year all members will be given the opportunity to nominate candidates for the *Azienda Italia Award*. This award, whose winner is announced at the Gala Ball, is conferred each year to a company or individual in recognition to having substantially contributed to the fostering of relations between Italy and Australia - you will be receiving a letter to this regard in the upcoming weeks.

In conclusion, I would like to welcome all our new Members - the year is definitely not over yet and we still have several exciting events in our programme which I hope you will be able to attend. To all our Members, I would like to remind you that your feedback and suggestions are always welcome, therefore please do not hesitate to contact me or any of my team at the Chamber.

Arrivederci,

 Nicholas Carè

A message from the President

Welcome - H.E. Dott. Dino Volpicelli, the Italian Ambassador to Australia

At our Business Luncheon held at the ANA Harbour Grand Hotel in Sydney on 6 July 2001, your Chamber of Commerce had the unique privilege of having as one of its most distinguished guests the newly appointed Italian Ambassador to Australia, Dott. Dino Volpicelli. It was a great pleasure, both as President of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce and Industry and also as President of the National Council/Area Representative for Australia, to extend a very warm welcome to His Excellency on the occasion of his first official visit to Sydney. By way of background, I pointed out at the Luncheon that the Ambassador is a graduate in Law from the University of Rome. Over recent years he has held a number of very senior positions within the Italian Government structure. To mention just a few of the more recent appointments:

- In 1999 he was Diplomatic Advisor to the Minister of Public Works;
- In 1997 he was Diplomatic Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Trade;
- In 1994 he was Economic Affairs Director to the Ministry of Foreign Trade;
- In 1991 he was nominated Italian Ambassador to Seoul in South Korea and also received the prestigious nomination of Envoy Extraordinaire;
- In 1985 he was nominated Minister Plenipotentiary to the Italian Embassy in Tokyo.

On behalf of all Members, I take the opportunity to once again extend a warm welcome to Australia to our new Ambassador, Dott. Dino Volpicelli and wish him every success with his career in Australia.

Visit to Sydney - Dott. Piero Bassetti

On 24 May this year, your Chamber had the pleasure and opportunity to host a luncheon at the American Club in Sydney in honour of the visit of Dott. Piero Bassetti, the Chairman of Italbiz. Italbiz has now become one of our major corporate sponsors. Dott. Piero Bassetti is no stranger to our City of Sydney. He has been to Sydney on several occasions when he was President of Assocamerestero for the last 7 years. This is the Association based in Rome, which governs the 65 Italian Chambers of Commerce and Industry throughout the world. By way of background, Dott. Bassetti is a graduate of Bocconi University of Milan, Cornell University in the United States and also a graduate of the London School of Economics. Significantly, he was the first President of the Regional Government of Lombardy between 1970 and 1974. He was described in an article in the Washington Post as a "charismatic crusader" in the early years of Italian Regionalism. Dott. Bassetti went on to become a member of the Italian Parliament between 1976 and 1982, and has served as Chairman of a number of Italian Banks as well as being the President of the Milan Chamber of Commerce.

The Sydney Chamber of Commerce and Italbiz have entered into what may best be described as a joint co-operation and collaboration agreement with the main object being to promote the Italbiz Website and related services to Italian/Australian small and medium sized business enterprises in Australia. The prime objective of the Agreement of joint collaboration is to combine the specialised local knowledge of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce with the internet "know how" of Italbiz, and in that way exploit the power of the internet so as to provide small and medium sized Australian/Italian businesses with the state-of-the-art e-commerce tools and resources. This will in turn assist small and medium sized businesses to obtain a greater market share for their products, goods and services.

National Council

The National Council met in Adelaide over 21/22 June 2001. At this meeting I was confirmed as President of the National Council and Area Representative for Australia. The meeting was significant in that, after several months of constructive debate between all five State Chambers of Commerce, those efforts were finally codified in a document known as the "Heads of Agreement" which was duly signed by each of the five State Presidents. The essence of the document is that notwithstanding that each Chamber is governed by its own rules and regulations as set out in its own Constitution, and further obliged to follow the State Laws in which it is registered, there is no longer any barrier to the individual Chambers coming together as a National Council, harnessing their energies and co-ordinating their resources so as to produce a mutual and reciprocal benefit, not only to the individual Chambers, but also to the National Council.

Essentially, the National Council will be concerned with:

- Co-ordinating all the activities of all major projects;
- Being a vital entity desiring to incorporate new trade practices;
- Issuing guidelines for all the Chambers in Australia so that they can work together in harmony and produce state of the art service oriented offices.

Prime Minister's Luncheon

On Friday 6 July 2001 at the ANA Harbour Grand Hotel Sydney, your Chamber of Commerce held a Business Luncheon at which the guest speaker was the Prime Minister of Australia, the Honourable John Howard. The event proved to be an outstanding success. Those of you who were present would have had the opportunity of personally meeting the Prime Minister when the formalities of the Luncheon had concluded. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you, the Members, for your contribution and support in making this Luncheon a truly magnificent and memorable occasion. The participation and enthusiasm that you, the Members, displayed is an attribute that can only enhance the future growth and stability of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce.

I congratulate you and thank you on this magnificent effort.

 Adrian F. Guido

