

The Acting President of Giovani Italiani Australia is preparing the National Forum in November in Melbourne

Talis Evans: “2011 a special year for GIA”

The experience of a lifetime in Camerino at Scuola Dante Alighieri, when your entire world is in Italian

Giovani Italiani Australia (GIA) – the Melbourne Forum 2011 – and the experience of a lifetime in Camerino for Talis Evans, Acting President of GIA.

“The coming twelve months will be very exciting as we begin our preparations for the Melbourne Forum in November this year,” said Talis Evans, Acting President of Giovani Italiani Australia (GIA).

GIA has successfully convened two forums in the past, one on the Gold Coast in 2008, and one in Sydney in 2009. Now GIA is preparing itself for its biggest challenge yet, organising a national Forum in Melbourne later this year. The Forum will pioneer a theme of showcasing food, culture and information on the different geographical locations of Italy including Il Nord, Centrale, Il Sud and le Isole d'Italia to young people from all parts of Australia.

In September 2010 GIA convened a Special General Meeting in Sydney to change its constitution. At this meeting the GIA membership voted for a model that allows individual organisations, as opposed to individual persons, to join GIA as member-organisations. This creates a federation of Italian youth organisations that brings together the good work of the many associations and groups operating throughout Australia that promote Italian language and culture to young people.

“The Melbourne Forum 2011 will be the first opportunity for our member organisations and individuals to come together in person for a weekend of all things Italian”, Talis said.

GIA has launched the Melbourne 2011 Forum Website <http://www.gia.org.au/forum> and is currently seeking feedback on its draft program.



Talis Evans, second from left, and friends in Italy

“We encourage people to visit our newly launched forum website and tell us what they think of our thoughts for Forum so far,” Talis said.

So why does someone with the surname of Evans have such a passion for GIA and the Italian youth community? Granted, his mother, and her side of the family are Italian, with the surname of Campagna, but Talis has recently returned from Italy with a far deeper appreciation of contemporary Italian culture.

The University of South Australia and Deakin University offered for the first time a subject “Languages in Country.” This university subject involves a six week stay in Camerino (in the Marche region), completing a 100 hour intensive Italian language course with the Scuola Dante Alighieri, which is

closely linked to the Università di Camerino. As a student studying a Bachelor of Commerce / Commercial Law at the University of South Australia, Talis took this opportunity to travel to Italy for the first time.

Having studied Italian for three years at University before his first trip to Italy, Talis had an appreciation of the language but has said that he gained a far deeper appreciation of the use of Italian in everyday life. “It’s one thing to learn a language in a textbook during class, but it’s a completely different experience when your entire world is in Italian,” Talis said.

The Scuola Dante Alighieri, as a component of its course, organised excursions to Fabriano, Macerata, Ancona, Firenze, Venezia, Perugia, Assisi, Le Grotte di Frasassi, Urbino, Roma, Porto Recanati and San Marino to name only a few. “In my six weeks, not only did I have the

opportunity to improve my Italian, but I also got to see some of the most amazing places on earth,” Talis said. When asked what he will miss the most about Italy, Talis replied “I think language has a lot to do with my passion for Italy. The food, fashion, culture and love of Italy are enough in themselves, but I think I’m really going to miss the opportunity to get up in the morning and talk Italian.”

2011 will indeed be an interesting year for Talis and GIA as they prepare the Melbourne Forum 2011.

For further information on the national federation of Italian youth organisations, GIA, and its member organisations visit the website www.gia.org.au.

Talis Evans Winner of the Young Volunteer Award for 2010

Talis’ contribution to the community is outstanding for someone of only 21 years of age. With not only job and full time study commitments, he continued to volunteer for the community. Talis has volunteered for GIA as the South Australian Youth Representative, with it.sa, Carnevale, Fresh FM, the United Nations Youth Association and formerly the St John Ambulance. It is commendable that Talis show dedication and passion for ensuring the Italian traditions and culture are kept alive within the Italian Australian youth community of Adelaide.



The Melbourne University Italian Social Club is about to launch the new academic year and is actively involved in GIA

Parkville Campus in Carlton: The Other Little Italy

When people think of Italians in Melbourne, it is difficult not to picture Lygon Street, with its hustle and bustle of warm, welcoming restaurateurs, pretty little fashion boutiques and its lingering aroma of espresso. However the dolce vita lifestyle does not end there. No ladies and gentlemen, it makes its presence well known past Cardigan Street and all the way across Swanston Street. Italian culture is, as a matter of fact, more alive than ever at the Parkville campus of the University of Melbourne. The Melbourne University Italian Social Club is about to launch the new academic year during the O Week celebrations in March. 2011 is looking to be promising, with the club’s committee already onto organizing a bigger and better Ball than last year’s, once again in collaboration with the Monash Amici student association as well as the more recently established, yet just as passionate and dedicated Swinburne Italian Club.

Other than the annual Ball which will take place in September, the club is preparing a series of



David Cardamone, Joseph Mirabito, Federica Cologni, Olivia Formica, Ashleigh Onori, Steve Percy and Nicholas Butera. A group of this year’s and last year’s committee members meet at Café Italia to discuss plans for 2011

fun activities for its members. Membership is open to anyone: you do not need to be Italian nor speak the language to come along

to our fun events. Our club’s vision is simply ‘to bring a piece of Italy to Melbourne Uni’. We do so by organising coffee mornings, Italian

film screenings, sports tournaments (soccer and bocce have been popular so far!) among other events. The club has also been

involved in setting up a network among Italian Youth Associations of Melbourne. In the past we have successfully held events with the Italian clubs at Monash and Swinburne universities as well as the Circolo Giovanile Italiano.

A few of our representatives have also been actively involved in GIA, attending last year’s AGM in Canberra as well as state meetings. The club was also able to send one of its representatives to pay respects at the Italian Murchison memorial ceremony last November. If interested in joining, come along to the Parkville campus to talk to us in person during O-Week. Also take a look at our new website: <http://muitalianclub.org/>. Here you will find links to all three universities’ clubs as well as our blog, which will be full of information regarding our next events as soon as we are all back at uni! In the meantime enjoy the summer... e ci vediamo a marzo!

Federica Cologni
Operations Manager
Melbourne University Italian Social Club

secretary@muitalianclub.org