

COM.IT.ES. September Monthly Meeting— Monday 5th September 6:15pm

Com.It.Es SA – 262a Carrington St Adelaide

MINUTES:

1. Welcome & apologies

- Present: Mark Quaglia, Christian Verdicchio, Gianna Vorrasi, Angelo Fantasia, Angela Scarino, Alessandro Vecchiarelli, Martina Matta.
- Apologies: Michael Donato, Alessandro Ragazzo, Andrea Ramon, Tony Piccolo, Antonio Rosato, Marinella Marmo (Maternity Leave).
- Consular Rep: absent.
- Guest: Sen. Francesco Giacobbe

The President welcomed Sen. Giacobbe to the meeting.

2. Minute of silence for the Victims of Earthquake in Italy.

3. Conflict of Interest

None.

4. Confirmation of the agenda

None.

5. Confirmation of August Minutes

Angela Scarino moved, seconded Christian Verdicchio and carried.

5.1.1 Business arising

Budget for 2017 (treasurer); Aria initiative (Education); Italian Language & Culture (Education).

6. Reports

6.1.1 President's – Mark Quaglia

- o Copy sent via email.

6.1.1.1 Intercomites meeting will be held in Canberra and it will be a shorter meeting due to the Italians Down Under conference. The agenda is not yet available.

6.1.2 Secretary's – Christian Verdicchio

Correspondence tabled

- o Email Earthquake Central Italy appeal Melbourne & Sydney
- o Funding Enti Gestori, funding increased what was cut.
- o Invite sent to Veneto Club (meeting tonight) and PISA

6.1.3 Treasurer's – Gianna Vorrasi

- Submitted and Tabled
 - o Current closing bank statement \$11,744.15
- Payments
 - o \$1,750 for the website
 - o \$260 - 4 months website updates & Security monitoring
 - o \$102.48 QBE insurance

A quarterly income and expenditure will be presented on a quarterly basis starting from 1/7/16 to 30/09/16.

6.1.3.1 'Preventivo' Submission 2017

- Budget submitted and tabled. Items listed in the Cap. 3103 (administration) are all operational costs; projects: conference, SALA exhibition, new arrival seminars. The Cap. 3106 (President's travel) consist of the Italian Embassy annual meeting; Intercomites 2017 should take place in Adelaide. Also a

request letter will be presented to the authority for an advance payment of the funding.

- Gianna Vorrasi moved to accept and approve the 'Preventivo' 2017 presented, seconded by Christian Verdicchio, all in favour.
- Gianna Vorrasi and Marylisa Fabian were thanked for preparing the application.

Angelo Fantasia moved all reports to be accepted, seconded Martina Matta, all in favour.

7. Sub-Committees Reports

7.1.1 Communications and Public Relations – Christian Verdicchio

▪ Website:

- Website online, received positive feedback.
- Need the support of a plugin, payment of \$70 and then \$5 every month.
Martina also can have plugin to access remotely.
- Translation: Antonio Rosato and Alessandro Ragazzo.
- Updates on website linked directly to Facebook.
- Aperitivo event on hold, TBA.

7.1.2 Community Engagement

- None presented as Michael Donato is absent.
- Christian Verdicchio opened the discussion about the Central Italy Earthquake appeal. Spoke to SAIA, COASIT and Dante Alighieri to make donations online, fund me page. The money raised will go to the Italian Red Cross.
- Francesco Giacobbe advised against it as there will be fee charges and the funding will not be tax deductible. More favourable to a national fund.
- COASIT Sydney is a fundraising authority for the Earthquake Appeal and can issue tax deductible receipts and there are no fees involved. A coordinating committee

has been established. A separate bank account has been organised, with 2 board directors and signatories.

- Francesco Giacobbe rose that after the experience with the Abruzzo earthquake 7 years ago, suggested not to be in a rush, look into a project that is achievable and needed e.g. helping with the items/furniture for the school, have clear objective.
- For the Abruzzi earthquake \$2million were raised plus matching funds from the Federal Government to reconstruct the Opera Theatre. The money raised is still in the bank account in Australia as the project to reconstruct got approved only recently.
- Multimedia groups are also organising radiothons, newspapers (Il Globo, La Fiamma) are promoting an appeal for donations.
- Alessandro Vecchiarelli raised concerns about the fund web page, not everybody understands the process of it and will lose a lot of people; there is a tendency to rush to raise money, more important to target a specific target.

Action: all members to think about the options of: 1- Fund me page; 2 – National fund with own bank account e.g. Com.It.Es. or SAIA; through COASIT Sydney. All to put forward thoughts and then a document will be circulated: Mark Quaglia, Martina Matta, Christian Verdicchio and Alessandro Vecchiarelli.

The meeting was interrupted at 7.15pm for the scheduled meeting with the Veneto Club.

Com.It.Es. meeting resumed at 8.15pm

7.1.3 Education and Research – Angela Scarino

- Project submitted and tabled. Database of Italian Scientific and Research Expertise in South Australia, a project in collaboration with ARIA to establish a register of Italian academics experts. The data base will capture the work of Italians to be able to present a picture of expertise and with a valuable story to tell to the Australian community how the Italians have contributed to the

intellectual resources. It is a 3 stage project, and it will be owned by both Com.It.Es. and ARIA. Cost for the project \$1,948.10.=

Angela asked that the project be supported by Com.It.Es.

Alessandro Vecchiarelli moved to accept the proposed project, seconded by Angelo Fantasia, all in favour.

- Conference in November. To be discussed with the Italian Consul.

Christian Verdicchio moved motion to accept the reports, seconded Angelo Fantasia and carried.

8. Italians Down Under

Not yet received the agenda. The earthquake appeal will be discussed.

9. Consular Report

- Not Present.

10. Sen. Francesco Giacobbe Report

Reported on:

- Visit from INPS officials in Adelaide – ask relevant questions, make them commit to important issue; at the Melbourne meeting with the ‘Patronati’ was discussed about the Australian legislation, age pension and the pension rate when outside Australia. As Italian parliamentarian cannot interfere with Australian legislation.
- Lack of a lobbying group in the Italian community to put forward any concerning issues. Need to have local parliamentarian to lobby and those working in the field.
- ARIA – has been one of his focal activities.
- Italian Language funding – budget approved for next year, there will be an assessment and then it will need to final approval. Important to work on reasonable projects to get funding.

- Working Holiday Visa – a lot of young Italians don't know that they can claim unemployment once they return to Italy.
- Has been working hard on trading exchange Italy-Australia; looking at special visa for companies and investors for exchange businesses;
- Italian Chamber of Commerce. Not existing in Adelaide however the ICCI in Sydney will be happy to have a branch. Outlined that the ICCI abroad are managed different from the one in Italy, if the ICCI abroad don't invent themselves and start cooperating will not get anywhere, they are however a good point for network.
- Enti Gestori funding 2017 – additional funding has been approved.
- Com.It.Es. and CGIE reform – Com.It.Es. needs to be reinforced, have a role to be able to liaise directly to the authority. CGIE, it has become nearly no-existing.

Sen. Giacobbe thanked for including him in the meeting and congratulated the members for their work.

11. Other business

None.

12. Meeting Close 8.40 pm

Signed by:



Mark Quaglia
President



Christian Verdicchio
Vice President & Secretary