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Italian Family History Group Report

February 27 2013

Our 131st meeting being the first meeting for the year 2013 was an entertaining night for the 40 people who came along to hear Art Phillips (Arturo Di Filippo) with his guitar. He made it a most pleasant occasion. There were 10 apologies.

Anthony Ravesi acted as presenter, reported that we have an excellent line-up of speakers for the year, included Mr Nick Cerrone one of Sydney's foremost jewellers, and Mr Michael Tedeschi, the NSW government crown Solicitor.

He also related that a comedy show entitled "La Giara" would be staged by the "Bottegad'Arte Teatrale" group at the Leichhardt Forum next month on 22nd & 23rd March. On both dates there would be afternoon and evening performances. The group performing these Italian comedy events have been an outstanding success in the past.

Chairman Dominic Arrivolo informed the meeting the although the bus trip to collect figs at Boronore, could not be organised, that farmer Warren Bradley would be coming to Sydney for the next four weeks to sell his products from a location at North Strathfield. The site would be in Concord Rd. on the garage site adjacent to Woolworths from 8 pm on Thursdays.

Arrangements are now complete in that after our meetings for the next six months coffee will be available at the Italian La Giara restaurant at no charge at the Forum complex on the piazza level.

Following a recent committee meeting it has been decided as from to-night a short segment of screening of a series of aerial panoramic views of Italy will be shown.

Anthony Ravesi introduced our Guest speaker. We were very privileged to have Art Phillips, session guitarist, composer, and orchestrator extraordinaire. Art Phillips's career began in the early 1970s in Los Angeles, where he was a session guitarist, composer, and orchestrator working and recording for popular artists Barry Manilow, Minnie Riperton, Demis Roussos, The Carpenters, Smokey Robinson, Dory Previn, Burl Ives, & The Lettermen. He did work on television series and feature films before moving to Sydney in 1987. He was musical director, conductor, and orchestrator on live concert tours for Demis Roussos, Dory Previn, and John Rowles, and toured as guitarist for Barry Manilow for over three years. He produced recordings for Demis Roussos, Barry Manilow, Sally Kellerman, and John Rowles, in addition achieving a Gold Record Award for his production work on the album Another Chapter for John Rowles.

Art shared his fascinating story with us and his love for his Italian heritage, and playing four interludes of beautiful romantic Italian melodies on his Guitar.

Art's grandfather on arriving in the USA in 1903 was prompted to change his name from Di Filippo to Phillips. -The name stuck !

Art grew up learning the traditional instrumental music of Italy in his grandpa's kitchen where food, family, love of life and heartfelt music all came together. This is the inspiration behind creating his CD "Chitarre Acustiche d'Italia"