

Hellenes of the 'SS Regina d'Italia'

Step on board and take part in this historic and unique journey.

'Dall'Italia All'Australia', literally 'From Italy to Australia' is a silent film shot by Italian director Angelo Drovetti in 1924. It chronicles the voyage of the Regina d'Italia (Queen of Italy). This historical footage is one of the earliest known cinematic records showing the migrant voyage to Australia.

In September 1924, this vessel - one of three passenger ships first built for the Lloyd Sabaudo Line at the turn of last century - brought 504 migrants from southern Europe to the South Seas. The passengers included some 130 Hellenes, mostly from Kythera, Castellorizo and Cyprus.

The film showcases the panoramic views enjoyed by the multicultural passengers as they stood atop the deck of the old steamer during their seven-week world odyssey from Genoa to Australia's port cities, in September and October 1924.

Drovetti went ashore in Egypt, Sri Lanka and Australia to film place and people. Of particular interest is the footage of Fremantle, Port Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane in the Roaring Twenties.

Some remarkable images appear in this film, including Sydney Harbour (before the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House), Circular Quay, Martin

'Dall'Italia all'Australia' (1924 film on voyage of migration)

Place and Taronga Park Zoo.

While almost one-third of Dall'Italia all'Australia comprises footage of this nation in the 1920s it had never before been seen specifically by an Australian Hellenic audience.

Drovetti remained aboard the Regina d'Italia, returning to Italy with his precious film. It was first screened in Milan in 1925, only to disappear into a vault for the next eight decades.

This screening will be the first time Dall'Italia all'Australia will be shown to an Australian Hellenic audience in conjunction with the 27th Greek Festival of Sydney.

The film will be accompanied by live music performed by 'The Viaggiatori' (The Voyagers) including Kavisha Mazzella (Aria award winning singer, guitar, accordion), Irine Vela (bouzouki, mandolin guitar) David De Santi (accordion) and Mark Holder-Keeping (saxophone, clarinet). They accompany the screening by performing old Italian and Hellenic folk songs and tunes including tarantellas, mazurkas and waltzes. Their rich interpretation of Italian and Hellenic music from the 1700s to the present creates a charming old world feel.



Rare archival material and historic books from the Hellenic diaspora mostly dating from the early twentieth century will be on display on the night showcasing migrant settlement in Australia.

The film was re-discovered by Melbourne journalist and writer, Tony De Bolfo, during research for his book 'In Search of Kings' that chronicles another passenger ship from the same line called 'Il Re d'Italia', (The King of Italy) - 1927.

Tony De Bolfo was determined to deliver 'Dall'Italia All'Australia' to an Australian audience based on the belief that the film not only commanded enormous Australian historical value, but that it would resonate with the

many Australians who have empathy for the courage of migrants and who share the excitement in being part of a most unique event.

Bookings Essential
Date: Tuesday 26 May
Time: 7.30pm for 8pm
Venue: The Factory Theatre
105 Victoria Rd, Marrickville
Cost: \$15 + Booking Fee
(Refreshments and canapes included) - Contact: 9550 3666
www.factorytheatre.com.au

Tony De Bolfo, journalist and author, will provide an introduction to the film.

Dr Panayiotis Diamadis, a senior history teacher at St Andrew's Cathedral School, Sydney, and Lecturer in Genocide Studies at the University of Technology will provide the historic context of the migrant voyage recorded in the film.



George Doukas' Balcano

George Doukas is a favourite of the Australian Greek music scene.

His virtuoso guitar and bouzouki playing has mesmerised and excited audiences from intimate venues and tavernas to Greek festivals and larger concerts alongside Sakellariou, Doukissa, Floriniotis and Dalaras.

"Balcano" is an exciting fusion of Greek, Serbian and Balkan Gypsy music.

Café Carnivale website: www.cafecarnivale.com.au

Date Saturday 30 May Time 8.30 pm
Venue Eastside Music Café,

395 Oxford Street, Paddington
Cost Full \$23, Concession \$20, Café Carnivale Members \$17

Contact Musica Viva Box Office 1800 688 482 (Mon - Fri 9.00 am - 5.00 pm)

www.cafecarnivale.com.au - please note web bookings close 24hrs prior to concert time. All seating is unreserved.

NSW Government at work on flood recovery

Premier Nathan Rees today said the NSW Government has appointed former NSW Police Commissioner Ken Moroney to coordinate recovery operations in flood-devastated Northern NSW.

Mr Rees visited Kempsey and nearby flooded areas on the Mid North Coast to inspect damage, thank emergency services personnel and talk to community leaders about the region's recovery.

"I can assure communities along the coast from the border south that we are ready to help them through this emergency and to return to normal as quickly as possible," Mr Rees said.

"The impact of these floods is comparable to the severe floods that swept over such a large area of Northern NSW in 2001. "Like then, this will be a large-scale recovery effort to help restore the region.

"Ken Moroney, who spent his career serving the NSW community before retiring from the NSW Police, will be based in Northern NSW to coordinate the huge on-the-ground effort that will be needed to assist these damaged communities.

"This third major flood to strike the Mid North Coast this year is compounding the damage caused by the February and April floods.

"We will redouble our efforts to

help local authorities, property owners and industries repair damage to property, assets and infrastructure and assist those suffering damage and hardship.

"We are working with local government, industry groups and welfare agencies to establish one-stop-shop Disaster Recovery Centres to provide coordinated assistance to people in need."

The State Government has declared a natural disaster area covering the Kempsey, Coffs Harbour, Bellingen, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle, Richmond Valley and Clarence Valley local government areas.

More than 21,000 people are isolated by floodwaters. Emergency services have carried out 47 flood rescues.

Overnight, water entered the Kempsey CBD after the Clarence Street levee was overtopped when the Macleay River peaked at 6.9 metres, with 32 people spending the night in evacuation centres.

"Our emergency services are doing a tremendous job helping people suffering damage, evacuating people in the path of rising floodwaters, supplying isolated communities and rescuing those in peril," Mr Rees said.

"About 400 SES volunteers are in the field today, along with their col-

leagues from the other services, with extra personnel and resources deployed to help local units."

The SES has so far received more than 2500 calls for help as the torrential rains and high winds have hit the region from the Queensland border to the Mid North Coast.

Personnel from the SES, Rural Fire Service, NSW Fire Brigades, NSW Police Force, NSW Ambulance Service, the Department of Community Services, welfare agencies, local councils and energy companies have worked around the clock.

"They deserve our thanks and praise for their tireless efforts to help these communities," Mr Rees said.

If you need emergency assistance, contact your local SES on 132 500. For life-threatening emergencies call Triple Zero.

Other flood information is available on the Public Information and Inquiry Line on 1800 227 228.

Drivers should check the RTA Traffic Information Line on 131 700 or www.rta.nsw.gov.au for the latest road information.

For small business requiring assistance from the Rural Assistance Authority, call 1800 678 593.

For Primary Producers requiring assistance from the Rural Assistance Authority the RAA, call 1800 814 647.