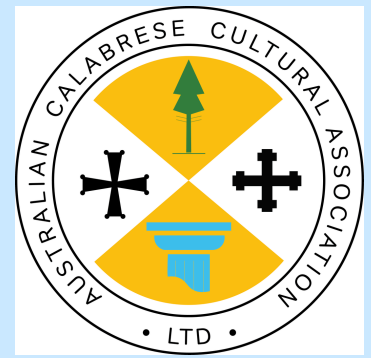


A.C.C.A. NEWSLETTER



President's Message

March 2025 Edition

Dear Members

I am pleased and excited to inform you that we are confident that 2025 will be an even better and successful year for our association than 2024.

In February, we held our Planning Day which I believe was a great success. I want to thank everyone who attended and contributed to its success. Frank and open discussions are the lifeblood for our continued success, and we truly valued the diverse perspectives shared regarding our future initiatives. While not all individual suggestions can be implemented, each one adds valuable insight to our collective vision..

We were excited to welcome new members to our sub-committees, namely Prof. Joe Lo Bianco, Michelle Loiello and Teresa Castelvetera. We thank each of them and look forward to their contribution. Being a voluntary association, we depend on members of our community giving their time and effort to help us achieve the objectives of the association. Our Annual General Meeting took place on the 25th of February, and I am pleased to announce that the current board has been re-elected. I am truly honoured to continue serving as president and to collaborate with such a dedicated and talented group of individuals. I am deeply grateful for their unwavering support and commitment, and I take great pride in being part of this exceptionally skilled team.

I am also pleased to report that we have agreed on the 2025 Calabrese of the Year. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who submitted nominations and encourage all of you to consider the award in the future, nominating deserving individuals for next year.

As always, the final decision rests with the Board, and no further correspondence will be entered into regarding the selection. The recipient will be officially announced at our Gala in October.

Two significant events this year will be the conference in Calabria in September and the Festa Italia in October. I strongly encourage each of you to participate in both and to reach out to us so we can keep you informed of all updates.

Additionally, we are eager to advance the History of the Calabrese in Australia project and would greatly appreciate any contributions you may have towards this important research. We believe this initiative is crucial in addressing and correcting the negative stereotypes of Calabresi in Australia.

The strength of ACCA lies in our active engagement, and I wholeheartedly invite you to join us. Let us unite in our enthusiasm, collaborate toward realizing our shared vision, and continue to strengthen our community.

Pat (Pasquale) Rocca, on behalf of the Directors



- **Upcoming March Events**
- **Other 2025 Events**
- **Aged Care Volunteer Visitor Program**
- **Feedback & Membership**

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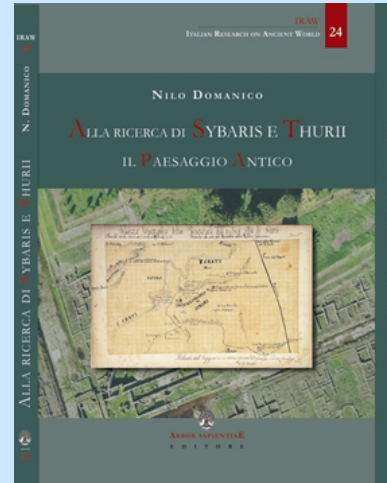
👤 info@accaonline.com.au

UPCOMING MARCH EVENT

SAVE THE DATE

WEBINAR FEATURING NILO DOMANICO - 13TH MARCH

Sybaris, an ancient Greek city founded around 720 BCE in present-day Calabria, was renowned for its opulence and extravagant lifestyle. Located near the Crathis River, it flourished due to its fertile land. The term "Sybaritic" emerged from the city's notorious reputation for luxury, with its citizens indulging in lavish banquets, fine clothing, and arts. The city was also known for advanced urban planning, with paved streets, public baths, and sophisticated plumbing systems.



Sybarites were famous for their hedonistic lifestyle, avoiding labour and hiring professionals like chefs and musicians. In 510 BCE, Sybaris fell to the more disciplined city-state of Croton, leading to its destruction. The city's remains were lost for centuries but were rediscovered in the 20th century, revealing much about its culture. The word "Sybarite" still refers to those who indulge in luxury. After its fall, a new city, Thurii, was founded on its site in 443 BCE, and Sybaris was eventually reestablished, maintaining its cultural legacy.

Join us on **March 13, 2025, at 7pm** for an exclusive presentation by renowned Calabrian engineer. Nilo Domanico, who will unveil the fascinating findings of his research on the lost city of Sybaris in Calabria.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7847888223?pwd=aEN3c1FwZjh3KytsME5udmZlS1Q1Zz09&omn=87642092038>

Meeting ID: 784 788 8223

Passcode: 758748

OTHER 2025 EVENTS

BISCOTTI MAKING - SATURDAY 5TH APRIL

Join private Chef & Musician, Guy Scalise, as he demonstrates the art of making delicious Italian biscotti. The venue and timing will be finalised shortly so look out for further details in the next month's Newsletter



2025 CONFERENCE IN CATANZARO - SEPTEMBER 2025

Details are being finalised for the 2025 ACCA International conference. This year's theme is "Increasing Tourism, Improving Hospitality Competency and Addressing Key Issues Facing Calabria's Tourism Industry."

Look out for updates on our website.

We encourage all to join us in what will be a very exciting conference.

2025 CALABRESE OF THE YEAR: FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER

Join us at the Gala Dinner to celebrate the Calabrese of the Year 2025. It promises to be a fun and memorable evening.

More to come

Previous Recipients:

- 2019: Anna-Maria Arabia
 - 2020: Antonio (Tony) Roccisano
 - 2021: Dr. Teresa De Fazio
 - 2022: Professor Elisabetta Barberio
 - 2023: Joe Avati
 - 2024: Professor Joseph (Joe) Lo Bianco
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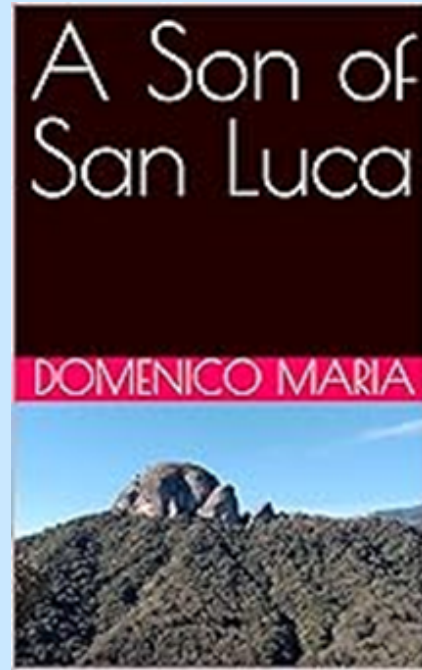
A SNIPPET OF CALABRIAN CULTURE

A Son of San Luca

ACCA is happy to inform of the recent work done by one of our newest members Teresa Castelvetera in translating the memoir “A Son of San Luca” by Domenico Maria.

It is the story of a former “pastore” born in San Luca in 1939, who was forced to leave school and take on that work on the slopes of the Aspromonte.

In the course of telling his story, Domenico sheds light on various tough social and economic realities that are not always easy reading. Many of us either directly, or indirectly through our parents or other family members, have shared the experience of the author.

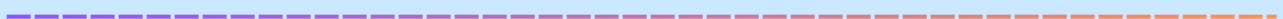


My mother’s village is only ten kilometres from San Luca and she is very much of the same generation of children who grew up in rural Calabria at the time of the Second World War and its aftermath as the author. The memoir takes the reader through the author’s early childhood, his prematurely interrupted schooling, the hardships of village life, and the interactions with other herdsmen on the mountain, ending with his journey north in his early adulthood to start a new life outside Calabria.

Overall, the story offers quite an insight into the difficulties of life in a part of Calabria that has too often been vilified and misunderstood.

If you are interested in the story, then the Kindle Edition is available: [Here](#)

[Ernest Zanatta](#)



AGED CARE VOLUNTEER VISITOR (ACVVS) PROGRAM

A few of our ACCA Directors are actively involved in the Aged Care Volunteer Visitor (ACVVS) program, dedicating several hours each week to visit isolated elderly individuals in their homes or nursing homes across Melbourne.

Unfortunately, there are far more people in need of companionship than there are volunteers, especially with the shortage of Italian speakers who are able to participate. Many of these elderly people experience deep loneliness, and a simple visit can make a world of difference in their lives.

If you have the time and would like to help brighten the day of some of our more vulnerable and elderly neighbours, we would love for you to consider joining this important program.

You could learn more about the program by visiting <https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/aged-care-volunteer-visitors-scheme-acvvs> or you can reach out to Leo Serratore or Ernesto Zanatta via email on info@accaonline.com.au

Your support could make a real difference in someone's life. Here's a positive example of how it can have a meaningful impact: [Volunteer Visitor Care Volunteer](#)

FEEDBACK & MEMBERSHIP

ACCA is here for you! We want to know what excites you and what you'd like to see us pursue. Reach out to us – drop a line at; info@accaonline.com.au

ACCA is excited to welcome new members, especially those eager to bring fresh perspectives from women and younger voices to our board. Join us today by visiting our membership page at <https://accaonline.com.au/membership/>