MEL GIORNO DEL SUO 84.Mº (

MAN.



















CONCA D'ORO, RIVERWOOD – SYDNEY, 12 LUGLIO

A Tribute to Mamma Lena

ON THE OCCASION OF HER 84th BIRTHDAY

Today we celebrate the 84th birthday of a remarkable lady who has been a comfort, a friend and a supporter to thousands of Italians in their time of need. Mamma Lena, a unique lady, is known to all Italians in Australia. There would not be one Italo-Australian that has not been touched by her many kind and good deeds. Mamma Lena has made more contributions to the Italo-Australian community than most could imagine. Songs have been written and sung about her, poems and books have been written about her, documentaries have been produced and numerous awards have been given to her. Mamma Lena's years of dedicated work has been acknowledged not only by the Italo-Australian community, but also by the Italian and Australian media, the Italian and Australian Governments as well as prominent dignitaries such as Mr. Menzies, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Whitlam, Mr. John Laws, Mr. Askin, Mr. Keating, Mr. Howard, Mr. Downer and many more too numerous to list. "Mamma Lena", the first song dedicated to her, was composed and publicly sung in 1965.

Mamma Lena in 1967 was awarded "The Cross of the Knighthood" as Italy recognized her valuable work for migrants in Australia thus awarding her with its second highest honour. Mamma Lena is also the first Italo-Australian woman ever to be made a Member of the British Empire (M.B.E.) and in June 1994 was presented with a gold medal by CO.AS.IT. - Comitato Assistenza Italiano - for her contributions to the Italo-Australian community.

In 1968 following the earthquake in Sicily, she launched an appeal to the Italo-Australian community through her radio programmes. The donations were generous and she was able to have a Child Care Centre for 100 Children built at Poggioreale (Trapani).

Mamma Lena was born Lena Morelli in Azzone di Scalve (Bergamo) on the 9th July 1914. Both her parents died when she was a child. She pursued her studies with four years at the Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

In 1940 She married Dino Gustin, they had three children; Alberto, Rosalba and Roberto. The scarcities of war resulted in Alberto not being able to have the medicines he needed when he came down with meningitis and died at the age of four.

In 1956 Dino, Mamma Lena and family migrated to Australia. Upon arrival they found a lack of services to assist newly arrived as well as established migrants to cope with the traumas of change in life styles in their new environment. After only six months in Australia, Dino and Mamma Lena set out to do something about this lack.

Mamma Lena started writing in "La Fiamma". Her contribution grew to three

pages as she set about responding to readers on their problems, informed them of various activities and advised them on social problems and activities. Mamma Lena wrote for "La Fiamma" for about eight years.

With Dino as producer, Mamma Lena started her radio programmes on 2SM and then moved to 2CH, 2KY and finally to 2SER. On radio they were able to reach into the homes of the Italians in Australia and to advise them of services available, give them news of their homeland and entertain them with music, competitions and organising many events and annual balls for the Italian community.

Her programmes also promoted many Italian businesses and personalities. Mamma Lena's radio programs were what all Italians would look forward to daily. Letters poured in from the listeners to confide their anguish, encouraged them to learn English, knowing that most families worked day and night, she would send learning kits or relevant information to those who wanted to.

To the new generation of Australians with Italian background, Mamma Lena has also contributed and continues doing so through her promotion for the teaching of Italian in our schools. In 1992 Mamma Lena set up a petition with thousands of signatures to lobby the Federal Government to have Italian as a priority language in our schools. Mamma Lena also taught Italian for two years through the Evening College at Ashfield.

In 1984 Mamma Lena's dream of building a Child Care Centre was realised with the opening of the "Mamma Lena Child Care Centre" at Fairfield. It now caters for 40 children of all nationalities and the new extension to be completed in the next few months will allow them to look after another 20.

In 1991 the popular singer songwriter Peter Ciani composed the second song to be dedicated to Mamma Lena: "Omaggio a Mamma Lena"

To list all of Mamma Lena's achieve-



Teresa Monzo and Santino Granturco with Mamma Lena.

desperation, their pining for their homeland, their loneliness and depression. They would plead for her advice on general and personal issues. Her listeners depended on her for every aspect of support. From then onwards she was considered a mother to all Italo-Australians, an icon. Hence the endearing title of "MAMMA LENA".

In 1978 Mamma Lena was made a member of the National Women's Advisory Council for a period of 2 years, attending meetings which took her all over Australia.

As Italians were still migrating to Australia, Mamma Lena visited immigration camps where she would deliver food and clothing parcels, would fund accommodation and employment for the new migrants. For more established migrants she would personally accompany them to various government offices and doctors. They would go by taxi more often than not, at her own expense. She

ments in a few lines is impossible. However, you can read her full history in Dino's 714 page book "70 Years of Life in Two Countries: Italy and Australia". The book, released in 1988, can be found in most libraries. Now Dino is writing another book which will cover Mamma Lena and Dino's activities in the period from 1988-1998.

Mamma Lena, our celebrations for you on your 84th birthday is a small token to show you how we the Italo-Australian Community feel about you our friend, our companion and our "Mamma Lena".

Dear Mamma Lena, with great pride we wish you a very happy 84th and a big THANK YOU for all the work you have done and continue to do for the italians who have made Australia their home.

TERESA MONZO President of "La famiglia di Blacktown"

Congratulatory Messages from...

The Hon. Philip Ruddock MP

Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

Dear Mamma Lena

I am sure that, as you celebrate the occasion of your 84th birthday, you derive great satisfaction from your achievements over many years, secure in the knowledge that they have been of enduring benefit to both the Italian community and wider Australia.

It would be impossible in the space of this letter to list the many achievements for which you have been honoured, however I have no doubt that many Italian migrants can recall the assistance they derived from your radio program, Arrivederci Roma. It not only met their information and entertainment needs, but also made them feel more at home in Australia and thus reduced their sense of isolation.

As a migrant you understood your listeners' needs and aspirations. Importantly, your advice never wavered from being unstintingly positive, encouraging them to participate fully in Australian society. With your encouragement they persevered, joining the many thousands of other migrants who built a future in Australia for themselves and their descendants and made a substantial and generous contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of this nation.

As you look back over four decades of service to Italian Australians, you can reflect on the strong and enduring family ties between Australia and Italy. Ties with Australia are being continuously nurtured through migration, tourism, family visits, student and teacher exchanges and a growing number of cultural and trade

You have also witnessed the contribution which migration and cultural diversity have made to Australia, in our present tolerant and inclusive society. Our accomplishments together reflect the capacity of people, to understand and accept cultural differences. They also reflect the opportunities which exist to develop services of benefit to the community.

In this respect, it must be of great satisfaction to you that the Sorella Radio Child Care Centre, which you inaugurated thirteen years ago, has recently been renamed The Mamma Lena Child Care Centre and is being expanded to cater for a larger intake of children. This important achievement thus becomes another part of your proud legacy.

Thank you, Mamma Lena, and happy birthday!

Giovanni Castellaneta

Ambasciatore d'Italia

È con molto piacere che formulo alla Signora Lena Gustin i migliori e più sentiti auguri per il Suo 84mo compleanno. Questo anniversario è un'occasione per sottolineare, ancora una volta, l'impegno da lei dimostrato in tutti questi anni verso la nostra collettività residente in Australia. Mamma Lena ha dedicato la propria vita all'assistenza delle persone bisognose, sia della comunità italiana, sia delle altre comunità, ed il "Mamma Lena Child Care Centre" di Fairfield, da lei fondato nel 1983, è una prova di questa sua dedizione per il benessere del prossimo, che le ha meritato e le merita tuttora manifestazioni di affetto provenienti da ogni ambiente sociale.

Voglio cogliere questa occasione per porgere a Mamma Lena a nome mio personale e di tutta la collettività italiana in Australia, i migliori auguri insieme ad un grazie di cuore per la sua preziosa opera in favore della comunità.

John Aquilina MP

Minister for Education and Training

Mamma Lena's caring contribution for more than 40 years has helped thousands of Italian migrants integrate more smoothly into the Australian lifestyle and culture. Her care extended beyond her own community and particularly to my community; the Maltese.

Mamma Lena played a pivotal role in setting up the first Maltese radio program in Australia. Her popular

Arrivederci Roma program on 2CH inspired Josephine Zammit to dream of a similar program to help the Maltese community. Mamma Lena helped plan and barrack for the program, willingly sharing with Josephine her expertise, even the addresses of her advertisers, making it possible for the dream to become a reality.

I first met Mamma Lena in 1978 when I was Mayor of City of Blacktown. I have always been impressed by the caring and practical advice she gave the Italian population on her radio program and the extra fundraising and activities she inspired and saw to fruition. Her willingness to give practical assistance by doing such things as taking people to hospitals and helping new migrants fill in complex Government forms was also impressive.

By helping Josephine Zammit produce her radio program, the Maltese community was able to access that same level of community feeling and assistance which had been prompted by Mamma Lena for the Italian community.

Even knowing her magnanimous reputation, when I first met her I was still impressed by her kind and caring spirit and her interest in the needs and experiences of all those about her. She knew not only how to listen and sympathise, but could give sound counsel on what action should be taken by both individuals and Governments to solve problems. As a State Government Minister, I am aware of the need for decision makers to have access to sensible people sensitive to the needs of various communities. Mamma Lena has been an excellent source of practical advice on migrant issues to many Governments over the years.

Age has not wearied her. Although now 84, Mamma Lena is still playing a role in the community as president of the Mamma Lena Child Care Centre in Fairfield. She continues to offer sound advice to individuals and Governments as required. Congratulations, Mamma Lena, on all you have done, and well done to your husband Dino who has supported your hard work and is now ensuring your legacy lives on through the printed word.

Yours sincerely

Francesco Catania

Console Generale d'Italia

Nell'era delle comunicazioni di massa in cui le informazioni ci giungono da tutte le parti, in tante lingue, a tutte le ore, fa quasi tenerezza ricordare i tempi quando Mamma Lena si rivolgeva dalla radio agli Italiani di Sydney, nella nostra lingua.

Ma Mamma Lena merita più del nostro sentimento, seppur sincero di tenerezza. Essa merita il nostro rispetto e la nostra ammirazione. Erano tempi a volte difficili, per i pregiudizi sommari che sfavorivano i nostri connazionali; anni in cui la prima generazione dei nostri immigrati doveva lavorare duro per guadagnare un posto dignitoso in questo nuovo mondo, per se stessi e la propria famiglia. Tempi di pionieri nei quali Mamma Lena e Dino Gustin impegnavano risorse ed energie per dare una voce alle emozioni ed ai problemi dei connazionali. Una voce che attraverso la radio diventava voce di tutti. Così come Mamma Lena è diventata un po' la Mamma di tutti.

Gli anni sono passati e Lena e Dino sono ancora lì, ad animare gli italiani, ad organizzare eventi, ad essere in qualche modo presenti. I tempi cambiano ma Mamma Lena appartiene sempre di più a tutta la comunità italiana.

A lei ed al suo infaticabile coniuge giunga dalle Autorità italiane nel New South Wales il ringraziamento più profondo e sincero. In particolare a Mamma Lena gli auguri più sentiti e fervidi di un felice e sereno 84 mo anniversario.

Janice Crosio MP

Member for Prospect

Dear Mamma Lena

I am delighted to offer my warmest greetings and best wishes on the happy occasion of your 84th Birthday celebration. It is a pleasure for me to send you this message, as we cannot speak too highly of your valuable contribution and wonderful work for our Italian community over many years.

Your dedicated involvement with people, young and old, in fostering the development of a society in Australia where our spectrum of traditions and cultures are understood, respected and valued by all Australians is well known.

My husband, Ivo Crosio, and I regret we cannot be with you on this special occasion.

Nevertheless we congratulate you on all that you have done and we wish you a Happy Birthday.

Our best wishes are with you for a successful, enjoyable and memorable afternoon.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Kevin Hill

Mayor of Bankstown

It gives me great pleasure to add to the many voices of praise for a great lady Mamma Lena.

Bankstown has been fortunate to have Mamma Lena reside in our fair city for the last 40 years, reaching out with her help and compassion to all Italo-Australians who needed her assistance.

Our city is also fortunate to have the advantages of multi-cultural diversity and through her commendable efforts, Mamma Lena has encouraged thousands of migrants who have built a future in Australia for themselves and their descendants to participate in Australian society. In so doing, she has contributed to the social, economic and cultural life of this nation.

economic and cultural life of this nation.

It is impossible to list all the achievements for which Mamma Lena has been honoured but I would like to mention two events this year which enforce her undying popularity. On Australia Day, Mamma Lena was honoured at a function at State Parliament in front of 200 ethnic leaders for her work and contribution to society. Secondly, and more recently, the Italian newspaper "La Fiamma", in its special 50th birthday supplement, paid appropriate testimony to Mamma Lena with a 26 page chronicle outlining her contribution to the community and our country.

As Mayor of Bankstown, I would like to pay tribute to this great lady and send her the following message - "at your grand age, it must be a wonderful feeling to reflect on your life and know that you have really made a difference".

My very best of wishes to you.

Frank Sartor

Lord Mayor of Sydney

It is difficult to express in such a short space the many achievements of Mrs Lena Gustin during her countless years of community work in Sydney.

Mamma Lena, as we know her, has been a distinguished voice in this city's Italian community since arriving with her family in 1956.

Apart from her voluntary activities, Mamma Lena's long involvement with radio and newspapers has given Italian people a sense of belonging in a new country.

I know from personal experience what it feels to be a newcomer to Australia. My parents were Italian migrants and four of my brothers and sisters were born in Italy. I was the first Australian born in our family but still knew what it meant to feel out of place - to be regarded as different.

Today my own sons share none of these experiences. They have grown up in a city and in an age which has embraced multiculturalism and have enjoyed the benefits of being "half-Italian".

It is in no small way due to the work of people like Mamma Lena and her husband Dino, that Sydney's Italian community has remained so strong, particularly during those early years of immigration. They have worked tirelessly for Italian people out of love for their own culture and their own people. Most importantly, they have provided Italian immigrants with information and assistance in learning the ways of a new country.

At 84, Mamma Lena continues to be an inspiration. She has, with Dino's support, consistently directed her passion into working for people. May they both be richly rewarded.

She is a living legend amongst Italians.

SHORT HISTORY OF THE SOCIAL GROUP

"Family of the Social Group of Blacktown Italian Pensioners"



Founded in 1985 through the efforts of Mr. Frank Cardinale and under the auspices of CO.AS.IT., the "Blacktown Italian Social Group" (as it was known then), has always been active in providing its members social activities such as get togethers, lunches, bingo, card games and excursions.

In 1989 Mrs. Teresa Monzo was elected President. In the same year, Sabato Monzo canvassed the idea of christening and blessing a new name for the group in a religious ceremony at the Italian Catholic Church Marayong. The new name was to be "Family of the Social Group of Blacktown Italian Pensioners".

The group also boasts its own theme song with words by Sabato Monzo and music by A. Mastro.

The group looks forward to many more years of prosperity under the capable guidance of its dedicated present and future elected office bearers. The present office bearers are: Teresa Monzo, Santino Granturco, I. Zec, G. Bellomo, M. Di Lorenzo, G. Di Nicola, M. Grifa and E. Carpane.



The many activities of Teresa Monzo never cease. As of the 23rd May to the 12 June 1998 she guided a tour of Italo-Australians to Europe visiting holy sites such as Lourdes and S. Giovanni Rotondo hometown of Padre Pio.

On the 12th July 1998 Teresa and the

Committee of the "Family" also organized a special function to celebrate the 84th birthday of the legendary Mamma Lena. It can be said that Teresa has always admired the voluntary social work done by Mamma Lena these last 40 years and has used her as her inspiration to help the Italo-Australian community.

Teresa would personally like to thank the founders, collaborators and participants, past and present for their support in maintaining the high ideals and aspirations of the group. She intends to continue her involvement with the group: providing this much needed service to the Italian community in Blacktown.





Programme

11.30 Arrival of Guests12.30 Welcome and Introduction to the Guests of Honour

LUNCH

Entree:

Italian antipasto with woodfire bread

Pasta:.

Rigatoni alla Napoletana

Main Course:

Roasted fillet with mushroom risotto

Dessert:

Tiramisù

Coffee and Chocolates

Beverages:

Imported wines from the Conca D'Oro cellars, Beer, Soft Drinks, Mineral Water and Orange Juice

During Lunch: Official Speeches

After Lunch:

Dancing, Floor Show and Surprises

Inauguration of

Mamma Lena's Bronze Bust

Awarding of the

"Cuore D'Oro" of Mamma Lena Cutting of the "Italia Cake" offered by Marineve

Drawing of a Lottery with rich prizes

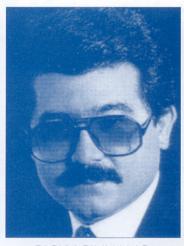
17.00 CLOSE

Mamma Lena and Teresa Monzo wish to give special thanks to the following:

Peter Ciani, Ricky Giuliano, Tonino Speciale, George Alexander, Joe Avati - Comedian, Paolo Rajo, Antonio Maniaci - Presenters and the Conca D'Oro Orcherstra



PETER CIANI



RICKY GIULIANO



TONINO SPECIALE



GEORGE ALEXANDER



JOE AVATI



PAOLO RAJO





POLLI FRESCHI

Cotti e da cuocere Gourmet Chicken

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TERRANCE PLOWRIGHT



A gifted and prolific artist, Terrance specializes in large works of art and works with many mediums; stone, cast bronze, timber, stained glass, mosaics, murals, etc. Many of his works have been completed for the church.

Terrance was invited by the World Council of Churches - Geneva Headquarters to be the sculptor and artist in residence for the 1991 Congress. In 1993 Hazel Hawke launched a book on his glass and sculptural work.

In Sydney some of Terrance's stained glass and sculptures can be seen at: The Garrison Church, Penrith R.S.L., St. George Hospital, Neeta City - Fairfield, Westfield Parramatta, Gordon Uniting Church, Star City Casino, St. Bernadette, N.S.W. Museum of Fire. Terrance is also working on a 7 meters long sculpture of two humpback whales for Darling Park - Darling Harbour, Sydney.

Up to now the following have contributed to the cost of the bronze bust for MAMMA LENA: APIA Club; Ass. S. Antonio Di Padova Protettore di Poggioreale; Ass. S. Francesco di Leichhardt; CO.AS.IT N.S.W; Italo Australian Club: Marconi Club: Galasso Alina; Group "La Famiglia di Blacktown" -Teresa & Sabato Monzo; Giovanni Spada; Nick Scali; Daniele & Vittoria Velcich; Nat Zanardo - Canterbury BMW

Mamma Lena wishes to thank

all those who have contributed to the organization of this wonderful "festa" in her honour. A very special thanks to Mrs. Teresa Monzo and her husband Sabato Monzo who, together with the exceptional committee of "La Famiglia di Blacktown" and Dino Gustin, have worked tirelessly to organize a function she will remember for the rest of her life. A vote of thanks also to: His Excellency Giovanni Castellaneta, Ambassador for Italy, Dr. Francesco Catania, Italian Consul General, Hon. Philip Ruddock MP, Federal Immigration Minister, Hon. John Aquilina MP, NSW Education and Training Minister, Hon. Paul Zammit, Hon. Morris Iemma, Hon. Maria Ficarra, Ald. Frank Sartor, Lord Mayor of Sydney, Ald. David Hill, Lord Mayor of Bankstown and to the entertainers who so graciously gave of their time to make the occasion so memorable: Peter Ciani, Tonino Speciale, Ricky Giuliano, George Alexander, Joe Avati (Comedian), Paolo Rajo and Francesco Raco from Rete Italia and the Conca d'Oro Orchestra.

Mamma Lena would also like to thank

APIA Club - Tony Raciti, Arredo Luce, Associazione Napoletana, Associazione San Francesco, Franco Baldi - Photo & Video, Arnaldo Bello, Alvaro Bianchi, Joe Bianchi, Marianna and Domenico Biviano. Bruno Buttini - Padana Press, Peter Campbell, Rosalba Gustin -Campbell, Amelia Capogna & the SWIA Committee, Casa Adamo, Castel d'Oro, Castorina & Son, Casa Nicola Cerrone, CO.AS.IT., Combined Wines & Foods, Comitato S. Antonio di Padova Protettore di Poggioreale, Lucho De Nicola, Enza Falanga, Lucia & Alfredo Ferrara, Joe Ferrone, Fontana di Trevi, Alina Galasso, Rosalia Gennusa, Teresa Gentilin, S. Gullo, Dino Gustin, Italian Shoes, Italo-Australian Club, La Conca d'Oro, La Fiamma,

Lamonica Payless, Libreria Italiana, Luciano - Europress, Antonio Maniaci, Marconi Club, Marineve - Mr. & Mrs. Raiti Mediterranean House, Menduni Garden, Alberto and Anna Mollica, Filippo Navarra, Molinari Ninel, Panorama House, Paradiso Wedding Reception, Nerina Parisi, Rete Italia, Anna Ridolfi, Elisa of Romance of Italy, Joe Rosa, Vince and Sandra Ruggeri, Mimi & Sam Volpe, Nick Scali, Giovanni Scardinale, Giovanni Spada, Filippo Speciale, Stefano, Bruno Turchini, Vittoria and Daniele Velcich, Villa Rosa, Pino Zappia, Silvana and Giulio Vidoni and friends ...and all those who have contributed to the sale of lottery tickets and to the success of this unforgettable day for Mamma Lena.

PRIZES:

- One RETURN Air Ticket to ITALY (low season) onated by FORZA TRAVEL, 151 Ramsay St., Haberfield, Tel. 9716 6922
- WALL DECORATION IN SILVER Value \$1000.00 nated by JOMARIE IMPORTS, 6A Ida St., Hurlstone Park, Tel. 9798 5644
- PAINTING (ITALIAN MASTER) Value \$800.00
- Don. by NICK SCALI, Caringbah, Chatswood, Canterbury, Tel. 9787 4000 RING (GOLD, SAPPHIRE AND DIAMONDS) - Value \$750.00 Don. by The House of CERRONE, 13-19 Catherine St., Leichhardt Tel. 9569 8922
- TABLE LAMP (Made in MURANO, Italy) Value \$500.00 onated by ARREDO LUCE, 274 Norton St., Leichhardt Tel. 9564 1599
- ESPRESSO MACHINE Value \$375.00
- Shop 6-8 Marketplace, Leichhardt. Tel. 9569 1671 A pair of ITALIAN SHOES of your choice - Value \$150.00 ated by ITALIAN SHOES, 15 Brunker Rd., Greenacre. Tel. 9796 4811
- VOUCHER for Mens' Clothing Value \$150.00
 Donated by CASA ADAMO, 39 Norton Street, Leichhardt. Tel. 9569 6419
- LIGHT AND HEAT EXTRACTOR FAN Value \$129.00
- Don. by NEW ERA ELECTRONICS, 944 Botany Rd., Mascot. Tel. 9667 4986 $10^{\rm th}$ **VOUCHER** (DINNER or LUNCH) Value \$100.00 Don. by PANORAMA HOUSE, Princess Hwy, Bulli Tops. Tel. (02) 4268 3388

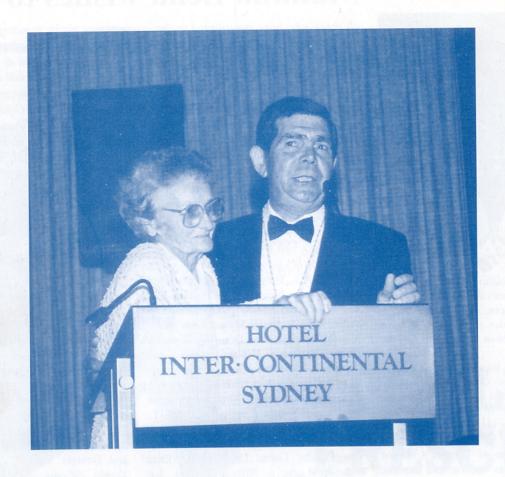
GUESSING COMPETITION M-M-A L-N-



Lottery proceeds will be donated to charities at the discretion of the President and Committee

Gruppo Sociale Pensionati Italiani, Blacktown.

384 CANTERBURY RD., CANTERBURY - Ph: 9787 3555 & 101 PRINCES HWY, SYLVANIA - Ph: 9522 5000



Messaggio per Mamma Lena

Colgo l'occasione insieme alla mia famiglia per augurarti un felicissimo "Ottantaquattresimo", con la speranza di poter partecipare e festeggiare con te il tuo centesimo compleanno. Sono certo tutta la comunità italiana di Sydney ricorderà il tuo compleanno con affetto anche se non presenti nella sala Conca d'Oro.

Purtroppo per motivi di lavoro sarò fuori dall'Austrtalia la sera del 12 luglio, ma il mio pensiero sarà con te mentre festeggerò il tuo compleanno con un bicchiere di champagne ovunque mi troverò.

Con tanto affetto.
Nick Scali



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