

□ 10 July 1994 - A DOUBLE CELEBRATION

Mamma Lena's 80th Birthday and 34th Anniversary of the "laying of the first stone" of the Apia Club

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Apia Club it gives me great pleasure in welcoming you all here today on this very special occasion.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following guests of honour: the Federal Leader of the Opposition The Hon. Alexander Downer and Mrs Downer, the Federal Minister for Veteran's Affairs The Hon. Con Sciacca accompanied by his advisor Mr Shane Wells, to Mamma Lena and Dino Gustin, the Hon. Jim Samios MLC who today is representing the NSW Premier John Fahey, the Hon. Phillip Ruddock MP, The Hon. Ivan Petch MP, The Hon. Dr Brian Pizzuti MLC, the Hon. Paul Zammit MLC, the Hon. Bronwyn Bishop MP.

From Monte Paschi Australia Mr and Mrs Marco Voliani and Mr Giuseppe De Giosa, from Widin and Company the Club's Administrator Mr John Mann and Ms Helen Proud. Also in attendance representing Alitalia Mr Franco and Emilio Labbozzetta of Emilio Travel Services, Mrs Josephine Cruze, President of Club Marconi Mr Tony Labbozzetta, President of Fogolar Furlan Mr and Mrs Bob Donati, from *Il Globo* newspaper Mr and Mrs Pizzagalli, from *La Fiamma* newspaper Mr Tornari, the NSW Ethnic Affairs Commissioners, the Apia Club Management



Mamma Lena, accompanied by Mr and Mrs Downer, while cutting her cake - a fine reproduction of the map of Italy and its islands.

Committee Mr and Mrs Joe Rosa, Mr and Mrs Renato Orsatti, Mr and Mrs Filippo Parisi, Mr and Mrs Tony Mazzarolo, Mr and Mrs Bruno Tava and of course members and guests of the APIA Club and friends of Mamma Lena.

Today I would like to inform you that we are having a triple celebration. First being the 80th Birthday of "Mamma Lena", a remarkable lady who has dedicated the greater part of her life assisting members of the Italian-Australian community. Mamma Lena has achieved many things in her life and has been awarded accordingly. Amongst many awards, two notable ones were the "Cross of the Knighthood" presented to her by the Italian Government in 1967 and sec-

ondly in 1968 she was awarded an MBE (Member of the British Empire) by the Queen this made her one of the first Italo-Australian women to receive this award.



The Hon. Alexander Downer and Mamma Lena surrounded by admirers.