

Paul J. Keating

Prime Minister

It is a great pleasure to add my voice to all those who are gathering today tribute to you, Mamma Lena, on the celebration of your 80th birthday. Turning 80 is a significant achievement for a person, but it is a special occasion indeed when it is the birthday of one who has done as much as you have to foster the welfare and cultural life of your community.

This commemorative booklet records the details of your work for the Italian community almost from the moment of your arrival in Australia in 1956. It traces your contributions to a host of causes through *La Fiamma*, *Sorella Radio*, the *Associazione Nazionale Famiglie degli Emigranti* and other organisations. It is a record of which you yourself, and members of the community, may all feel just proud.

Through your work, Mamma Lena, you have helped not only in a very practical sense, but even more importantly through your columns and broadcasts, you have helped change the perceptions of government and other authorities as to what it means to be an immigrant, and of the expectations and needs that new settlers bring with them. You have helped form our nation into the vibrant multicultural society that it is today.

I am happy to see that both the Australian and Italian governments have formally recognised your tireless work for the Italian community in Australia by conferring respectively the rank of MBE and the *Croce di Cavaliere*. On a more personal note, I would like to add my own congratulations.

Your friends will honour your achievements today, and I hope that this gathering will demonstrate the gratitude and thanks of all members of the community for your dedication to their welfare over so many years.

Grazie e tantissimi auguri.

P.J. Keating

John Fahey

Premier of New South Wales

Dear Mrs Gustin

I understand that you will be celebrating your 80th Birthday at a luncheon to be held at the Apia Club, which co-incidentally is

celebrating its 34th birthday, on Sunday 10th July, 1994.

May I congratulate you on achieving this milestone in your life and join with your friends and colleagues in wishing you all the very best on this important occasion. You have worked tirelessly for the Italian community since your arrival in this country in 1956 and the many accolades you have received over the years is an acknowledgment of that hard work.

As you are joined by family, friends and colleagues I send my best wishes for a most enjoyable celebration.

Yours sincerely

John Fahey
Premier

Michael Photios

New South Wales Minister for
Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs

It is indeed a great pleasure to extend warm wishes and congratulations to "Mamma Lena" Gustin on her 80th birthday.

Like many Italians "Mamma Lena" has chosen Australia to be her home and has given everything she has to being an Australian who is proud of her cultural heritage.

Mamma Lena you have certainly set a fine example for the rest of the Italian and Australian community, I wish you continued health and happiness.

My birthday wishes also extend to the Apia Club on the celebration of its birthday. For 34 years the Apia Club has served as a significant organisation for members of the Italian community and I am confident your good work will continue.

Michael Photios

James Samios

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Arts
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister
for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs

Dear Mr Cantali

Thank you for your kind invitation to Premier Fahey to join you and the Australian community at the Luncheon /Dance to honour Mamma Lena on the occasion of her 80th birthday at the Apia Club on Sunday, 10 July 1994.

The Premier regrets that he is unable to attend the celebration but has arranged that his congratulatory message for Mamma Lena be sent to her through you. Premier Fahey has also requested me to represent him on the occasion.

I look forward to meeting with you, Mamma Lena and the Australian-Italian community at the Apia Club on the day.

Yours sincerely,

James Samios

Paul Zammit

Member for Strathfield
Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Treasurer
Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Minister
for Aboriginal Affairs

Dear Mamma Lena

My wife Rita joins me in congratulating you on your 80th Birthday and wishing you continued good health.

Cari Lena e Dino, siete davvero due persone eccezionali. Avete vissuto e continuate a vivere la vostra vita per gli altri.

*Vi ringraziamo,
Rita e Paolo Zammit*

Yours sincerely

Paul Zammit

Michael Cantali

Councillor, Concord Municipal Council
Commissioner, Ethnic Affairs Commission

Cara Mamma Lena,

Thank you for the support you have given the Italo-Australian community over almost four decades. Through your work and caring, our community is well regarded and an integral part of Australian society. Deservedly our community has bestowed on you the most loving of all titles, that of "Mamma".

Mamma Lena, in good health may we share with you many more birthdays.

Desidero formulare i più sinceri auguri di buon compleanno e di ringraziare Mamma Lena, a nome mio e di tutta la comunità italo-australiana, per l'infaticabile lavoro da lei svolto per la causa degli italiani in Australia.

Michael Cantali