



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

ITALIAN REPUBLIC DAY 2021

Auguri, to all Italian Australians, and your friends and family in Italy. I'm delighted to wish you *Buona Festa della Repubblica!*

On this day in 1946, Italy celebrated the triumph of democracy over fascism. The olive branch of peace extended from Italy's south to its north. The strength and dignity of the women and men of Italy was recognised in universal suffrage. A new republic was born.

In Australia, it is a reminder of the contributions that Australians of Italian heritage have made to our national life.

On this Italian Republic Day, we remember the late and great architect Romaldo Giurgola.

As the architect of Parliament House, his work touches our national life every day. He said of his design:

'The building should nestle within the hill, symbolically rise out of the Australian landscape, just as true democracy rises from the people.'

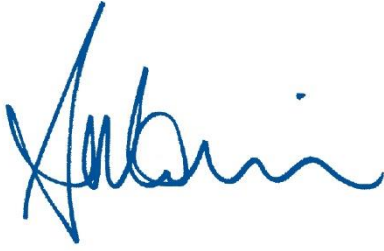
Romaldo caught this spirit in post-War Italy as an old country embraced a new optimistic and hopeful democratic future. His celebrated building in Canberra is a hymn to Australia and another shard of light that comes from our rich multicultural endeavour.

Men and women of Italian heritage have made an immeasurable contribution to Australia. You have toiled and you have triumphed. You have enriched our culture and built community. You have worked for the peace and prosperity of our nation.

In drought, flood, bushfire — a pandemic — Australians find ways to support each other and stand with each other. In celebrating your history and heritage, Italian Australians participate in our great, multicultural national story.

Australia is a country where the individual is valued, unique and respected. A place where we pledge to do together what we cannot achieve alone. Where we accept our individual and shared responsibility to build and sustain community.

I'm deeply grateful for the gifts you have brought to our nation as citizens, neighbours and friends. I join with you in celebrating Republic Day – a reminder of the liberal democratic ethos that our countries share.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Morrison', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia

May 2021