

THE NEW ITALY MUSEUM INCORPORATED

Annual General Meeting

Italian Pavilion, Historic New Italy
11am, Sunday 5 November 2023

Agenda

1. **Welcome** Chair: Outgoing Treasurer/Secretary Peter Blackwood
2. **Attendance and Apologies**
Attendees names collected by attendance sheet.
Ross Fraser attended via phone.
Apologies: John and Ellen Barnes, Leone Stibbard, Cynthia McKeough
3. **Minutes of the 2022 AGM held on 6 November 2022** Minutes of the 2022 AGM held on 6 November 2022 accepted by Ros Derrett, seconded by Kel Walker
4. **Business Arising from the Previous AGM** There was no business arising from the previous AGM.
5. **Presentation of Reports:**
 - a. **Auditor's Report** (as required to be submitted to members under s.26(6) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1984) Auditor Bruno Ivan wasn't present. In lieu Peter Blackwood presented the auditor's report. Comments from PB – Casa Vecchia figures were healthy, with a cash surplus of over \$50,000. Beating previous best figure \$46,000. Casa Serena has a surplus of \$60,000 - best previous \$53,000.
 - b. **President's report - Gail Williams:** 2023 was a good year!
 - Anniversary Day was a great success with full house picnic lunch in the Hall. We celebrated the lives of two well-loved volunteers, Peter Bortolin and Sam Robinson, with two tree plantings in the Park of Peace.
 - We were fortunate to receive two large grants; Creative Capital - \$250,000 for the Pavilion renovation and Create NSW CLIRP - \$498,000 for the Hall Storm Damage Repair (project underway).
 - Our visitor numbers are up to pre-pandemic numbers.
 - We have enabled water access from a local dam for locals and the RFS in case of fire. It was put to good use at recent house fire.
 - We completed the covered walkway at the front of the site (\$110,000) achieving a more welcoming entrance to Historic New Italy offerings.
 - The future of the proposed service centre at this stage is uncertain. RVC rejected DA. We are waiting to hear future plans from developers.
 - Off-leash dog park is complete awaiting furniture and signage to be installed.

- The shop previously known as 'Dot's Spot' has been leased by Michele Bertoli. Her local produce and wholefoods business 'MyBelle Pantry' is proving to be successful.
- In the grounds, more trees have been removed gradually reducing slash pines and damaged eucalypts. More native shade trees are being planted.
- NSW Government have upgraded electricity systems.
- The Hall flood repair grant has enabled builder, Jim Barnes, to do external drainage, adding new footpaths, replacing old tanks with new ones. Internal storage and collection rooms are being developed.
- In the process, two gardens have been removed and replanted in the Park of Peace.
- Hall kitchen –the problem gutter has been replaced by a more efficient one
- On screen advertising is to be established in the café, offering free advertising to Woodburn businesses returning post flood.
- Unfortunately, we had a robbery losing a generator, whipper-snipper and batteries.

c. Pavilion - Leonie Lane

- The Italian Pavilion building renovation is waiting for builder availability to begin the renovations in 2024.
- The NR Italian Community reference group meets occasionally or by email or face-to-face visit to advise on content and help with display planning. We are gradually working through designs for each theme and their topics, treading water waiting on the building renovation.
- We have M&GNSW Small Grant funding to engage Museum Advisor, De Vieth, to update our Collection Policy. This will add recent additions to the NIM Collection specific to the Italian Pavilion displays: the Northern Rivers Italians up to 1980s.
- To provide Pavilion cabinetry and infrastructure a Club grants Category 3 Infrastructure grant is due 18 December (up to \$200,000).

d. Museum Working Group - Leonie Lane

- NIMI was successful in its application to the Create NSW through The Community Local Infrastructure Recovery Package – Arts and Culture Priority Needs Program to remediate drainage issues surrounding the Hall and to facilitate changes to house properly key operational areas. This project includes a consultancy with NI descendant and conservator, Christine Ianna.
- Lester Cooke has continued to update the archives using Musarch.
- Currently we house 21 DVDs (Carnevale and other Events - all Digitized), 77 Photographic prints (framed and unframed), 42 Digital Images, 14 Books, 35 Paintings, 731 Other Objects. Approximately 250 objects have not been accessioned yet.
- The current number of descendants recorded in the Genealogy Records list 11,171 individuals in 66 Families.
- In 2024 we will apply for a M&GNSW Project Development grant for a touch screen interactive genealogy display to complement existing

displays. This will enable visitors to search and check their lineage within the Museum space.

- Ross Fraser and Lester Cooke continue to add material to the website making it more user-friendly, up-to-date and are growing the virtual museum. <https://www.newitaly.org.au/historic-new-italy/>
- TAPnGO machines are working well in the Museum, the Pavilion, at the Toilets donation box and at the back carpark Donation box. Visitor numbers are swelling and reflected in donations. Another TapNGo is to be installed on the corner outside Museum.
- Maritime Museums Of Australia Project Support Scheme (MMA PSS) Leonie Lane - on behalf of New Italy Museum - will take part in a one-week course looking at collections and curation on site at the Maritime Museum in Sydney: 20-24 November 2023
- 'Acknowledgement of Country/ Welcome' Signage at the front and back Entrances, mark the beginnings of what will be our Heritage Walk. This signage is in 3 languages: Bandjalang, Italian and English. Designed by Booyong Design, fabricated and installed by Armsign, Goonellabah and funded by Richmond Valley Council Community Financial Assistance Program Grant with assistance from the Minyumai IPA and Bandjalang Elders.
- The launch of Crystal Corocher's children's book 'Giovanni' at New Italy was a great success. The two events: a public morning tea Sunday 8/10/23 and the school visit by Woodburn Public School gave us media exposure and two wonderful opportunities to engage with the community and the younger generation. The plantings of the 2 lemon trees were beautiful moments! It has opened possibilities for future collaborations with local schools especially Woodburn.

e. Casa Vecchia - Gail Williams

- More volunteers have come on board some of whom are mutual obligations workers. We will now have an ability to fill our roster. Soon we will be back to being open 7 days a week.
- Termites were found and dealt with in the Shop building
- We are delighted to have the new books, 'Giovanni' and 'Naked Sheep' by Crystal Corocher on our shelves.

f. Casa Serena - Peter Blackwood

- Currently 11 units are occupied. One unit experienced a ceiling collapse where the tenant needed to be housed elsewhere. Rosie Pierce, one the original tenants, has now moved to aged-care, and has been refunded her initial deposit.
- Repairs issues continue to arise. On 11/5/23, NIMI met with a team of four representatives from LHAC to investigate the state of the buildings. A report is still to come.
- NIMI committee has canvassed options re Casa Serena 16.8% NIMI/ 83.2% LHAC ownership. The question remains does NIMI want to have any further commitment to Casa Serena?

g. Membership - Tina Sheehy

- 82 Lifetime members

- 26 annual members plus 6 member applications prior to the commencement of the AGM

All the reports were accepted: moved Ros Derrett, seconded Julie de Nardi

6. Election of Officer Bearers and Members of the Committee of Management

New NIMI committee 2024

Office-bearers

President Gail Williams

2 Vice-Presidents: John Barnes, Leonie Lane

Secretary: Ross Fraser

Treasurer vacant - currently filled by Peter Blackwood

Committee members

Jamie Herring

Adrian Murgo

Milou Muiser

Michele Bertoli

Sue Abby

Justine Ryan

On behalf of all, Ros Derrett voiced a special thanks to Peter Blackwood for his excellent management and steering of NIMI in the combined roles of Treasurer and Secretary ... and so much more. This was wholeheartedly endorsed by attendees.

Date for 2024 AGM - Sunday 10 November