
THE NEW ITALY GIORNALE



MAY 2014

CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE MAGGIO!

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Carnevale Italiano 2014 - a snapshot of the day



This year's Carnevale Italiano was a success on many fronts – the Italian Mass, the weather, the music and entertainment, the food and the overall celebratory atmosphere.

Getting the weather right is always a tricky prospect for any outdoor event. In 2013, it poured rain up until the day before ... this year, the rain started the day after Carnevale. On both occasions, we were blessed with delightful north coast autumn conditions on the day, and we have already placed an order for similar weather conditions for next year's event which will be held on Sunday 12 April 2015.

The New Italy hall filled at 10am for a beautiful Italian Mass led by Fr Slack. Many stayed on in the hall to hear John Barnes, President of the New Italy Museum Inc. give an interesting and fact-filled talk on the history of the New Italy settlement. Afterwards, the aromas from Americo's pasta kitchen and the anticipation of seeing Fortunato Isgro and Tony Pantano perform in the piazza drew the crowds around the rotunda.



With Denis Dardengo orchestrating activities, the rest of the day was a celebration of Italian music and dance, intermingled with salami raffles and warm wishes from our local elected officials.



The success of Carnevale Italiano has also brought some challenges. Parking arrangements for our many visitors, long queues for food and beverages, and finding a seat around the delightful but relatively small piazza are just some of the challenges the New Italy volunteers will address for next year's event on **Sunday 12 April 2015**.



Have a guess

If you were at the event, take a guess at how many people were there with you. If you guessed maybe 2,000 people (as did many on the organising committee) then you were misled by the proximity of the crowd within the confines of the New Italy complex. In fact, our records show that there were about 1,500 people at the event, including children. This was an increase on last year especially of the number of children and younger adults which shows the rising interest that younger Australians have in the history of our country.



Everything that's old is new again



In our previous Giornale we gave an update on changes being made to the Italian Pavilion. These changes were very well received by the many visitors who took time to explore the Pavilion or participate in one of the tours led by Leonie Lane.

Leonie Lane hosts a tour group in the Pavilion

The Pavilion is now home to “La Pacchiana”, a Minternese costume that was the beautiful wedding outfit worn by Angela Astone (nee Forte, 1904-1984). Angela was from the Lazio region of Italy, and we are indebted to the Astone family for allowing us to display the outfit in the Pavilion.

On Carnevale day, the Pavilion hosted Simon and Jasmine Pagotto who held 2 well-attended workshops on making pasta and ravioli, and Calla Gould-Whaley and India Nash from Trinity Catholic College who hosted our inaugural Italian Conversation Corner. This Italian Conversation Corner is an initiative designed to foster a growing interest in Italian language skills, particularly among school students – there are 5 secondary schools in the region where Italian is taught.

Capelin family reunion

A wonderful feature of Carnevale this year was the Capelin family reunion. As reported by Steve Capelin, there were three lines of descendants to follow in organising the reunion. These were the descendants of Lorenzo Capelin and his wife Caterina who died on the voyage to Australia, the descendants of Maria Tome and her husband Gerome who also died on the voyage, and the descendants from the marriage in Sydney in 1881 of Lorenzo and Maria. The result was a gathering of approximately 60 people from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Newcastle, Inverell and the Richmond River district.



Steve Capelin with honoured guests (l to r) Leo Bull, Spencer Spinaze, Alan Hankinson, and David Tome

A highlight of the reunion was hearing Spencer Spinaze, a 90 year old descendant of Mary Capelin, discuss the struggle to convince people that a museum at New Italy was possible and a good idea.

In Australia, the ten children of Lorenzo and Maria Capelin lived under the one roof as one family. However, as often happens in any family, let alone a blended family, the descendants from this Capelin/Tome family gradually lost contact with each other. It is a credit to Steve and his family members that they were able to bring this large group together for the reunion. Moreover, Adam Capelin, who was only a one year old at the time of the 1980 centenary celebration, designed the modern family history display now featured in the Museum at New Italy. This follows the first two generations of the family from their beginnings in Sydney to life at New Italy and beyond.

Survey results

This year we surveyed more than 122 people during and after Carnevale, seeking their views on a range of topics. The survey indicated that approximately 20% of the people who attended Carnevale this year were visitors to our region and, overwhelmingly, people said they thoroughly enjoyed Carnevale and the opportunity to catch up with family members. We were excited about the responses and have noted the suggestions for future Carnevale days. As indicated earlier,

there are also many challenges that have been thrown up if we are to improve your enjoyment of Carnevale and we are looking forward to meeting those challenges in the year ahead.

Many thanks go to



Summerland Travel Lismore



Carnevale Italiano 2014's organising committee extends its heart-felt thanks to the generous support provided by Summerland Travel Lismore, Southern Cross University, Richmond Waste, Richmond Valley Council, Regional Arts NSW – Country Arts Support Program and the Ramada Hotel & Suites Ballina.



This project is supported by Arts NSW's Country Arts Support Program, a devolved funding program administered by Regional Arts NSW and local Regional Arts Boards on behalf of the NSW Government

We would also like to sincerely thank the more than 80 volunteers who contributed their time and effort to make Carnevale Italiano 2014 a success. We couldn't have done it without them!

Lismore Italo Club Dinner Dance 31 May 2014

For more Italian events why not book a table at this year's Lismore Italo Club Dinner Dance?

When: Saturday 31st May - 6.00 pm for 6.30pm start.

Music by Fortunato Isgro, plus a \$2,000.00 travel voucher to be won (courtesy of Summerland Travel Lismore).



Bookings may be made at the Lismore Italo Club - tickets \$35.00 per head which includes dinner. This will be a great night out, so get a table together and make this a fun night with family and friends. For more information please contact Julie De Nardi...ph.02 6624 3506.

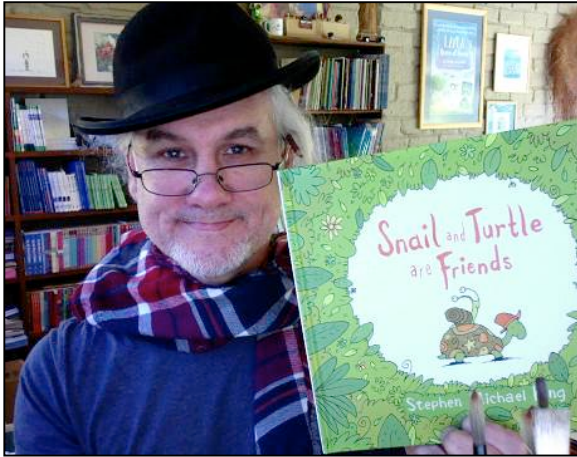
Italian Week

Celebrating the Italian National Day and in its 8th year now, Italian Week 2014 (26 May to 2 June) will once again shine the light on all things Italian in Queensland with over 30 events planned for this year. Together with the Brisbane City Council Multicultural Affairs Queensland, the Gallery of Modern Art, the Treasury Casino and many others, Italian Week 2014 presents 'Stories of Italy and Italian Stories'. For more information go to www.italianweek.com.au.

Did you know?

Did you know that the author Stephen King is a descendant of New Italy?

Not the American Stephen King of “*Carrie*”, “*The Shining*”, etc. fame, but Stephen Michael King, author and illustrator of a multitude of children’s books. Odds are that your local primary school’s library will have one or more of Stephen’s books on its shelves, and one of those books will be a favourite of the children who read them! Stephen’s books, including “*A Bear and a Tree*”, “*Bella’s Bad Hair Day*”, “*Emily Loves to Bounce*”, and “*Mutt Dog!*” are also available at the Casa Vecchia gift shop.



Stephen is the great-grandson of Antonio Felicietti and Maria Battistuzzi who were original settlers of New Italy. His career as an illustrator and author has involved him in collaborating with authors such as Margaret Wild, Jackie French, Peter Carey and Tim Winton. He has authored 15 books, illustrated at least 89 books, has had his books translated into approximately 16 different languages and has his books sold in more than 20 countries. Stephen, his wife and children live on a rural property in the Manning Valley area of NSW.

You can follow Stephen on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/StephenMichaelKingBooks>

Interested in volunteering?

New volunteers are always welcomed at New Italy. If you can spare some time and want to be involved then please contact Peter Blackwood (Secretary) either through email info@newitaly.com.au or by phone 0414 673 933.

For more information visit www.newitaly.com.au or contact us at info@newitaly.com.au. We are also active on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/NewItaly?bookmark_t=page
