



AUTUMN 2015

IL GIORNALE

CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE AUTUNNO!

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

When writing this column for our last edition I made mention of the many noteworthy aspects of New Italy Museum Complex. Honestly though I did not find this edition's choice difficult. There is a long overdue tribute needed to those pioneering women of New Italy who endured so much hardship during the voyage and early years in Australia. Despite all, they achieved so much.

Accounts of the voyage from Europe and settlement attempts in Port Breton all mention cases of deaths in childbirth, high infant mortality, malnourishment and at times the lack of the most basic goods and facilities. Furthermore some women lost their husbands on the voyage and others endured long periods of illness. At times I am sure that they were at the point of despair.

While arrival in Australia gave respite to some hardship these were soon replaced by other issues. There existed the deep cultural divide between them and the wider community. Illiteracy in both Italian and English was a problem. Then there was the tyranny of isolation in a foreign country.

Circumstances at New Italy were such that the farms were only able to produce little beyond a subsistence level. Therefore the men had to work elsewhere for cash. This left the women at home to raise the children, tend the vegetable gardens and fruit trees, chop the wood, kill the snakes, tend the chickens and pigs, and probably make the vino and salami. All this was done while living in a three or four room mud brick cottage without running water. Electricity would have been a fantasy. Forms of transport beyond walking or riding a horse did not exist.

To their everlasting credit these resourceful women drew upon their traditional knowledge of sericulture (silk worm cultivation and silk weaving) to establish a silk industry at New Italy. This involved the cultivation of mulberry trees, silk worm raising, silk harvesting, spinning and weaving, and finally garment sewing. The products of this industry won awards at Sydney, Chicago and Milan exhibitions. Truly remarkable achievements! For more information, visit the New Italy Museum, the website newitaly.com.au and the Casa Vecchia Gift Shop where you will find books on New Italy's history. I will also be talking about New Italy's story at Carnevale Italiano - see program inside!

John Barnes



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2015 CARNEVALE ITALIANO

ANNIVERSARY DAY to CARNEVALE ITALIANO...

This event is held annually to celebrate New Italy's first settlers arrival to Australia after their miraculous nine-month journey. Carnevale Italiano is a day to remember this significant voyage, the tenacity of the settler families .. but also to celebrate '*All things Italian*'.

On 7 April 1881, destitute and in poor health, 217 survivors of the original 340 Italians who left Northern Italy via Barcelona, seeking a promised 'brighter future' at New Breton, sailed into Sydney Harbour. After 12 months of working at various sites around Sydney, they reunited and bought small parcels of land in the Northern Rivers of NSW at the place we now know as New Italy. Through their hard work and tenacity the original settlers created a new home and forged a prosperous Italian settlement that endured for over three decades.

Eventually the settlement declined as residents left to seek work in neighbouring towns. In 1936, the longest New Italy resident, Giacomo Piccoli established a 'Park of Peace' and started holding annual festivities to commemorate the original inhabitants arrival to Australia. Every year he planted a tree with a hope for world peace.

This year we will plant a tree to acknowledge the WWI service of the thirteen men from original New Italy Italian families who enlisted in the 1st AIF.

In 1961, The New Italy Museum Incorporated (NIMI) was created under the founding President, Spencer Spinaze, to establish a tribute to the settlers. Over the years, Anniversary Day has grown into Carnevale Italiano and has become the Museum complex' biggest annual fundraising event.

Monies raised help fund the maintenance of this highly valued visitor destination and centre for the local Italian community. Many visitors enjoy the Casa Vecchia Gift Shop, the Tastes of New Italy Café, the New Italy Museum, the Italian Pavilion, the Park of Peace and the lovely gardens.

THE PERFORMERS

TONY PANTANO



Award winning Tony Pantano will entertain for the third consecutive year at this year's Carnevale Italiano. Tony's humour together with his own much renowned style and rich, warm deep voice captivates audiences with every performance and will have the crowd on their feet dancing for most of the afternoon. Tony has won 14 'Mo Awards' (a record) in Australia and has been compared to the likes of Tom Jones, Englebert Humperdink, Mario Lanza, Elvis Presley and Luciano Pavarotti all rolled into one amazing entertainer.

FORTUNATO ISGRO



Fortunato Isgro is a solo singer/musician who at the age of eight taught himself how to play keyboard by ear. He went on to learn traditional Italian songs. His launch into the Italian scene was well received by the Italian community and he became a favourite at Carnevale Italiano as well as many clubs, restaurants and wineries across the country. Over time, Fortunato has built a strong rapport and fan-base within Australia and is renowned for his powerful voice, extensive repertoire of both English and Italian songs and his ability to entertain large groups of people.

SIMONE NICOLE



Accomplished cabaret, Broadway musical and opera singer Simone Nicole, from **VAVACHI ENTERTAINMENT***, will join our stellar lineup of exceptionally good entertainers. She represented Australia at the 15th Annual World Championship of Performing Arts in Los Angeles bringing home 3 gold and 2 silver awards. Simone has sailed the high seas onboard the MS Arkona and had an amazing career as a ballet dancer before becoming the multi-lingual classical performer we will be privileged to hear at Carnevale Italiano.

*** VAVACHI ENTERTAINMENT** brings together a unique blend of music theatre, cabaret, opera and comedy, ranging from Broadway and opera favourites to jazz and swing for your entertainment. For more information go to www.vavachi.com.au

THE VOLUNTEERS

New Italy Museum Complex was built by teams of volunteers in the 1980s and 1990s as a commemoration to the New Italy settlers and also as a gathering place for all to celebrate Italian culture. That original dedication and energy continues in the day-to-day running of the Complex. However it is especially seen at Carnevale Italiano! Last year John Barnes, President of NIMI, estimated that 85 volunteers were involved to make Carnevale a success!

NIMI is a non-profit organisation and relies on this generous spirit and the varied talents of its volunteers. Interested in joining us? Contact info@newitaly.com.au. or speak to us at Carnevale!

celebrating all things Italian

THE SPONSORS

Community events that acknowledge and celebrate our shared history raising much needed funds at the same time depend on sponsorship financially and in-kind to ensure the event is a success. Carnevale Italiano is very excited to have the following local businesses support. We asked them "Why do you support Carnevale Italiano?"

RICHMOND WASTE



Richmond Waste are proud to provide the waste management needs for the New Italy site and in particular their Carnevale

Italiano. The site represents a unique story for our region and for those descendants that make the Far North Coast of NSW what it is today. Richmond Waste are delighted to compliment this history and recognise the importance of recording and celebrating such.

BOOYONG DESIGN



Being associated with New Italy Museum Complex' Carnevale Italiano has been a wonderful experience. We have enjoyed working on the design of the promotional material and the new displays in the Italian Pavilion, helping to visualise and celebrate this wonderful community.

RAMADA HOTELS AND SUITES



Ramada:Ballina/Byron are proud sponsors of the 2015 Carnevale Italiano for the second year running. As a local business, we are thrilled to support great events that acknowledge and celebrate our diverse history. It provides a fun-filled day for locals, their families and beyond.

HELLO WORLD - SUMMERLAND TRAVEL LISMORE



Summerland Travel Lismore is proud to continue our support for the New Italy Museum Inc. As 2015 celebrates the 134th Anniversary of settlement, the legacy of the New Italy Pioneers' will and determination against adversity has never been forgotten – as evidenced by the sense of community spirit that still exists to this day, creating an important chapter in our local history.



NORTHERN STAR

The Northern Star commenced publishing nearly 140 years ago, just a few years prior to the 1880

sailing of the New Italy settlers leaving Barcelona on the Marquis de Rays expedition. The paper has chronicled the history and significant events of New Italy and its residents since its settlement from 1882. These stories can be seen today as part of the New Italy Museum exhibition. With such a strong link to our shared unique histories, the Northern Star is proud to be a supporter of New Italy Museum Complex's Carnevale Italiano.

If you have the opportunity to use the services of any of our sponsors then please let them know you heard about their involvement with New Italy Museum Complex and thank them for their support.

THE 2015 CARNEVALE ITALIANO PROGRAM!

TIME GATES OPEN 9.30	COMMUNITY HALL	STAGE	ITALIAN PAVILION	GROUNDS	IL CENTRO
10.00	Mass: Father Slack with St Augustine Choir				Piano Accordion: Val Wills • LUCKY DOOR PRIZE TICKETS > BARREL • MEMBERSHIP • NEW ITALY FAMILY RIBBONS AVAILABLE • RAFFLE TICKETS • FOOD TICKETS
11.00	The New Italy Story: John Barnes		Cooking Demonstration		
11.15				Whip cracker	
11.30		Circus Performance: Spaghetti Circus	Genealogy (on going)		
11.45		St Augustine Choir	Family Photographs: Sulky display (on going)		
12.00 midday		Welcome to Country Opening Speeches: John Barnes - President NIMI Kevin Hogan - Member for Page Chris Gulaptis - Member for Clarence Ernie Bennett - Mayor Richmond Valley Council		Bocce (on going)	
12.30	Circus Play: Spaghetti Circus	Simone Nicole	Colouring In + Mask Making (on going)		
12.50		Salami Wheel and Raffle			
1.00		Fortunato Isgro	Cooking demonstration		
1.30		Tony Pantano			
2.00		Fancy Dress Parade	Tour of Displays: Leonie Lane		
2.15				Whip cracker	
2.30		Simone Nicole			
2.50		Salami Wheel and Raffle		ANZAC tribute Tree Planting	
3.00		Tony Pantano and Fortunato Isgro			
3.30		Draw major raffle and door prize			
3.45		Tony Pantano and Fortunato Isgro			
4.30		CIAO!			

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW ITALY...

• • • • • THE TASTES OF NEW ITALY CAFÉ • • • • •

New Italy Museum Inc. would like extend a very warm welcome to the new owners of the Tastes of New Italy Café, Mr Rod Duncan and his family. NIMI looks forward to working with Rod and his wonderful staff making New Italy Museum Complex a memorable place to visit (and revisit) on the Pacific Highway. The Café will continue to offer great coffee and delicious food seven days a week including public holidays. It is open from 9am until 4pm.

Enquiries: The Tastes of New Italy Café • (02) 6682 2622.

THE NEW ITALY MUSEUM

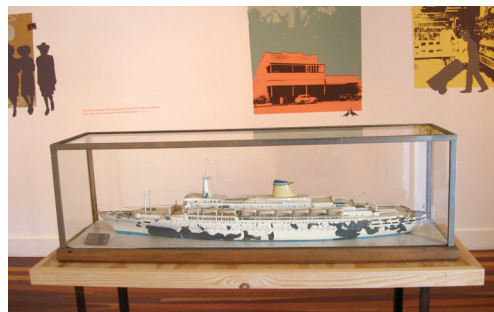


The salami meat mincer. Courtesy New Italy Museum collection. Photo Martha Beasley.

The change of ownership of the Tastes of New Italy Café has created an opportunity to look at the shared space that houses the Museum. Referring to *'Turmoil - Tragedy to Triumph: The Story of New Italy'*, the Museums group would like to rethink the wall displays referencing the family displays in the centre of the Museum. Several strategies are being discussed including the reinterpretation of a settler kitchen using implements like salami meat grinders and butter churns. A plan is being drawn up and a grant application will hopefully secure funds to take this further. If you would like to be a part of this process please contact us. We continue to meet on Museums Monday, the second Monday of every month.

Enquiries: Lester Cooke, Museums Co-ordinator. • webmaster@newitaly.com.au

THE ITALIAN PAVILION



The model of the *Galileo Galilei* will feature in a display called 'The Voyage'. Model courtesy the Volpato family. Photo Leonie Lane.

The New Italy sulky will be on display at Carnevale in the Pavilion. Families will be invited to have their photos taken next to it.

Other new displays will be ready for Carnevale Italiano using gathered material from existing interviews as well as projects by Southern Cross University's Community History students supervised by lecturer Jo Kijas.

Donations to the Pavilion via the Da Vinci car, the Pavilion donations box as well as the sale of prints from *'Bananas, Business and Bocce: the Lismore Italians'* exhibition and Florian Volpato Italian regional landscape gift cards have funded some of these new displays. The Evans Head Men's Shed are building plinths and structures for new signage. Come and have a look at Carnevale Italiano!

Enquiries: Leonie Lane, Italian Pavilion Co-ordinator • booyongd@bigpond.net.au

THE CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP



Murano beads from the Casa Vecchia Gift Shop. Photo Paulene Blackwood.

The Gift Shop has donated two of the three fantastic prizes in this year's Carnevale Italiano Raffle. Second prize is an elegant Scala Leather handbag while third prize is a choice of a beautiful Murano bead necklace from the Gift Shop selection. First prize is a \$2000 travel voucher donated by Summerland Travel Lismore! Tickets are available from the Casa Vecchia Gift Shop. Tickets will also be sold at Carnevale Italiano - Il Centro. They will be drawn after 3pm. Buona fortuna!

Enquiries: Gail Williams, Casa Vecchia Gift Shop Co-ordinator • giftshop@newitaly.com.au

CENTENARY OF ANZAC PROJECT UPDATE

We were successful in securing a grant from the Australian Government's Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program to assist with development of the project, New Italy Centenary Of Anzac Commemoration. Outcomes will include the identification and acknowledgment of the men from Italian families at the New Italy settlement who enlisted with the Australian armed forces in WWI. The families of these enlisted men are being sought to enable the stories for display in the New Italy Museum. An Honour Roll will be designed and fabricated ready for Remembrance Day 11 November 2015.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: DOT RANDLE



At 83, Dot is our oldest volunteer. With a long association with New Italy Museum Complex, she brings a deep local knowledge, great ideas and a cheerful dedication to the upkeep of the Museum and the Pavilion every Museum Monday. Dot was a well-loved teacher at different schools for many years. Woodburn Central was her last post.

LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO IL GIORNALE? EMAIL YOUR STORIES, TOURIST TIPS TO ITALY, RECIPES...

Content deadline Winter 2015 edition due 20/6/15

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT NEW ITALY MUSEUM COMPLEX?

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