



SUMMER 2016

IL GIORNALE

CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE ESTATE!

IN THIS EDITION:

From our President

Christmas Shopping at New Italy's Gift Shop

The Museum Upgrade - so far

What's happening at New Italy...

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

My annual report to be presented to the AGM on Sunday 27 November contains details of the striking renovations to the interior of the museum/cafe building that are currently underway. Therefore rather than repeat myself, I refer you to that report or better still call in and see for yourself. What a transformation! Final costings are not yet available as some work is still in progress.

Now talking about 'calling in', I am amazed at the number of people (including locals and descendants) who have not visited New Italy for quite some years. No doubt your experience is the same. Now here is your opportunity! Why not suggest a visit to the New Italy Museum Complex to see all the wonderful transformations that are happening. We would appreciate yours and others feedback! It is always encouraging for us to know that our efforts are finding traction as New Italy becomes not only a stop off point for long distance travellers but also a meeting place for locals. With Christmas coming, why not do some shopping in our ever-improving gift shop - see inside for some excellent gift ideas!

Visitors to the district will see that serious earthworks have started on the Pacific Highway upgrade. This upgrade will mean that in about three years the towns of Woodburn, Broadwater and Wardell will be completely bypassed while (as you know) our site will not. Since we will then be in a "last-man-standing-situation" it is logical to anticipate a considerable increase or a healthy growth rate in visitor numbers. Therefore our next renovation focus (after the museum/cafe upgrade is completed) will be improving vehicle parking facilities. To do this we are in discussions with the RMS

regarding their building of a temporary parking facility to the west of the site (in the pine forest) while the existing one at the front of the site is demolished and then rebuilt to a higher standard. Then when the new front parking is complete we will also have use of the temporary parking facility - which will be upgraded to an acceptable standard. These expanded facilities will give us the opportunity to both cater for more short stops and to increase the number of overnight stays by caravans. At this point in time, this work is expected to commence in about 18 months.

Last but certainly not least, in order to continue to grow and improve, we need more volunteers! We are desperately short of willing hands to assist in the gift shop and/or museum and pavilion. The work is light, the socialising is fun and the results satisfying. What a difference a few more people would make! If interested in helping in the shop please call Gail on 0414 348 566. Perhaps you would be more interested in helping with developing or up-keeping the New Italy Museum or the Italian Pavilion - if so call Leonie on 0423 733 569.

New Italy Museum Complex is so much more than a stopping off place. It is now a lovely venue for Sunday entertainment with live music. 'The Atoms' (www.theatoms.com.au) have been our local featured performers in the Piazza over the past month to a growing audience. Come, see and enjoy for yourself!



Seasons Greetings to all ~ safe travels over the holiday period.

John Barnes



**newitaly.com.au • PO Box 5139 East Lismore, NSW 2480 • info@newitaly.com.au
• 8275 Pacific Highway Woodburn NSW 2472 • FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK •**

Casa Vecchia GIFT SHOP

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS AND SO MUCH MORE...

NEW ... CERAMICS from TUSCANY

- **MICROMOSAIC** Ear Rings and Pendants from Florence
- Our popular Nesti Dante soaps from Florence
- Linen and linen/cotton tea towels and hand towels from Umbria
- Murano Jewellery and Cruciani woven bracelets from Italy
- Quality 'SCALA' and 'CELLINI' leather handbags and purses

• 'Vasse Virgin' produce a beautiful range of skincare products for both men, women and children using Olive Oil – suitable for even the most sensitive skin. This Italian family business is based in the Margaret River Region of WA.

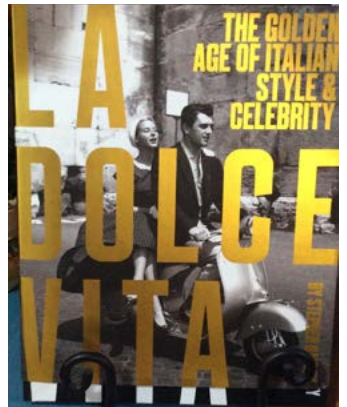
A group of talented **Australian Indigenous artists** have designed a fabulous, colourful range of gift ware that includes teapots, mugs, tea towels, handy tote bags, iPad cases, bookmarks and more with part profit returning to the indigenous communities. We also sell a popular range of prints and cards by well-known local indigenous artist **Digby Moran**.

Italian cook books and aprons, Italian-themed novels, art books, movies, CDs and cards.

Our cute new 'Gondolier' Dog who sings "O Sole Mio"!

Children's Gifts and much more...

WELL WORTH A VISIT!



EXTENDED OPENING HOURS FOR DECEMBER + JANUARY 9.30 ~ 3.30 DAILY

NEW ITALY MUSEUM UPGRADE - SO FAR...

To facilitate the New Italy Museum upgrade, all the displayed items, photographs and the family cabinets have been removed from the museum display area.

The items are temporarily housed in the community hall where they are being cleaned, photographed, and entered into our "Collection Mosaics" data base program

The museum ceilings and walls have been lined, the floor repaired, with all surfaces being sealed and painted. With the addition of track lighting, we now have a vibrant, bright, display area to work with.

The museum working group are designing and planning the new displays that will be arranged around the walls so they tell the story of New Italy as you walk around the museum.

In this *Il Giornale*, you can see the process so far. We aim to keep the style and atmosphere of the New Italy settler community, working closely with a range of sources, descendants and community members, the Heritage Council, architect Heike Seubert with builders Jimmy Barnes and Pete Robinson.

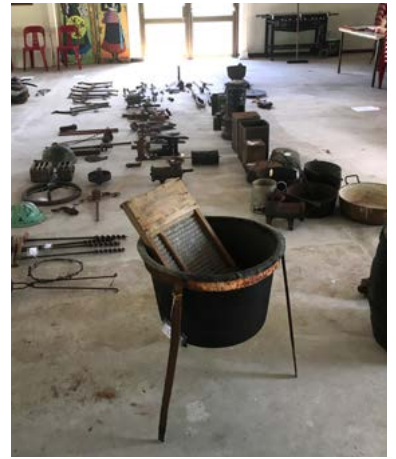
Should you have any items, photographs, or documents which are relevant to the settlement of New Italy, the museum would gratefully accept your donation and pledge to keep it safe for future generations to enjoy.

If you would like to help us, the **Museum Monday Group** meets in the Community Hall at the New Italy Museum Complex at 10^{am} on every second Monday in the month. You are most welcome to join us!

Lester Cooke

Museum Group Coordinator
webmaster@newitaly.com.au

Top left to bottom right: New Italy Museum banner and bocce court roller; the collection in the Community Hall; Cynthia McKeough, Barry Fellicetti, Jo Kijas, Arthur Green and Max Green with Gidget; the new Museum A/V room, the New Italy kitchen display area; the Museum before; the Museum with new ceiling and panelling. Photos Leonie Lane



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW ITALY...

TASTES OF NEW ITALY CAFÉ

CALL FOR GROUP BOOKINGS 02 6682 2622

The Tastes of New Italy Café has been open and working normal hours during the Museum upgrade and will continue to do so throughout the holiday season. NIMI would like to thank Rob and all the staff at the Café as well as their patrons for their support, patience and understanding during the renovations.

!?! MYSTERY OBJECT... !?!



Many wonderful objects in the collection have been under extra scrutiny during the Museum upgrade sorting process. Some are very ... different. We thought it would be fun to have a regular guessing competition.

We think the 'mystery object' (above) was used at the New Italy settlement perhaps as far back as the late 1890s or in the early 1900s.

WHAT IS THIS?

If you know what it is, what it did or have a story about it or similar, we would love to hear from you ~ booyongd@bigpond.net.au

(We will publish the answer and more information in the next *Il Giornale* with a new 'mystery object'.)

THE ITALIAN PAVILION

While the New Italy Museum is being given the love and attention it deserves, there is still much to do in the Pavilion!

A major project is the evolving WWII and the Northern Rivers (NR) Italians display. Under this broad topic there are many themes to investigate. Some themes being developed are:

The everyday experiences of NR Italian families during WWII

The experiences of Italian family members who spent the war years in Italy

Internment of NR Italian family members in Australia

Italian POWs in NR of NSW

Australian POWs in Italy

The impact on the Brisbane Line on the local community around New Italy during WWII

This will be developed using the existing draft material supplied by SCU

Community History students, the Pezzutto and other families plus material from Lesley Jenkins, *Power of the Land*. We are being encouraged to apply for a grant from ANZAC Community Grants Program in early 2017 to assist with the material and design costs of the display.

There has been some interest in the gathering of Northern Rivers Italian family stories as mentioned in the Spring *Il Giornale*. Please email if you are interested in helping to add more family stories to the Pavilion displays.

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



From the developing display on WWII in the Italian Pavilion.
Photomontage Leonie Lane

... 2017 UPCOMING EVENTS ... SAVE THESE DATES ...



2017-2018 MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE 1/7/17

Download the Membership form from
http://newitaly.com.au/?page_id=66

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO IL GIORNALE?

Email stories, tourist tips to Italy, recipes etc.
Autumn 2017 edition: content due 17/3/17

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Peter Blackwood (Secretary)
info@newitaly.com.au • 0414 673 933

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: SUSAN CREASEY

Susan is an enthusiastic and tireless member of the Gift Shop team. With an English/African background, Susan migrated to Australia - first to Adelaide and then north to our more tropical climate - with her partner, artist Gareth Deakin. She has many talents, a wonderful energy, impressive IT skills and is a highly valued member of the Museums' Monday group.

