
THE NEW ITALY GIORNALE



MARCH 2012

Dear members and friends of New Italy,
This month we introduce our new President and Committee; give you the date of the 2012 Anniversary Celebrations; announce a new partnership with SCU; and let you know about opportunities for volunteering at New Italy.

Change of President and new Committee

We would like to introduce John Barnes, who was appointed as the new President of the New Italy Museum Inc (NIMI) at our AGM, taking on the role from long standing President Americo Melchior who will continue as Vice President. The Committee thanked Americo for his huge contribution, energy and leadership as President.

John, who is a descendent of the Spinaze family, joined New Italy six years ago. He said its been “a rewarding and enjoyable experience, much more satisfying than spending retirement in an unproductive manner. My original intention was to help with grass cutting but things just mushroomed. With Ellen’s support I look forward to assisting the seemingly limitless growth of the complex. I would like to thank Americo and all past supporters for their efforts and achievements. They have created a unique site as they kept the dream alive.”

Other committee members are Arthur Green (Vice President), Donella Kinnish (Secretary), Danielle Teague (Treasurer), Margaret Robinson, Ellen Barnes, Gail Williams, Lester Cooke and Leonie Lane.



NIMI committee and volunteers enjoy our annual (not) Christmas party on 26th February:
Top: NIMI president John Barnes and Ellen Barnes. Bottom L: Danielle Teague and Tony Felicetti,
Bottom R: Gail Williams, Flo Atkins and Leonie Lane.

Save the date – the 2012 Anniversary Day celebration is on Sunday 15 April

The New Italy anniversary day commemorates the Sydney landing, on April 7 1881, of survivors of the 50 northern Italian families who embarked on the Marquis de Rays' sham immigration scheme, who settled at New Italy in the Northern Rivers of NSW. Their descendants celebrate their courage and tenacity each year with an Italian mass from 10.30am followed by a celebration from 11.30am at the New Italy Museum Complex. More details will be announced soon.

Southern Cross University Students take on New Italy design projects

Leonie Lane and 15 of her SCU Digital Art and Design I students visited New Italy Museum Complex on 28 February to collect raw material for their design projects (pictured R). They are developing visual narratives and designing souvenirs using the New Italy story, the history of the silk industry at New Italy and the Sulky restoration as narrative ideas. They had a great time and fell in love with the place! Outcomes of their projects will be available at the end of May. A mid year display of this material will be announced on the website in June.



Join our labour of love – volunteering to keep the dream alive

The New Italy Museum complex is completely volunteer run, as a labour of love, by New Italy descendants and supporters from all over the region. By volunteering you can enjoy being part of a community activity, meeting other volunteers and visitors, and sharing the story of New Italy.

Following are some volunteer projects and who to contact if you would like to join the fun:

- **Casa Vecchia** – working in the museum gift shop – contact Gail on 0414 348 566
- **Museum Monday** – a monthly hands-on working group on museum projects such as restoration, interpretation, displays, oral histories and research – contact Ellen on 66283461
- **The Sulky** – restoration of an old wooden sulky (see below) – contact Lester on 0427 975460
- **Pavilion Working Group** – updating displays in the Italian Pavilion to celebrate the contribution of the broader Italian community to our region – contact Leonie on 0423 733 569
- **Anniversary Day** and fund raising events – contact John on 0408 662 878
- **Green thumbs** to cultivate heritage plants to sell at the Museum - contact Gail on 0414 348 566



L: NIMI committee member/volunteer Lester Cooke with the sulky which was donated by New Italy descendants and is being lovingly restored by volunteers.

R: NIMI Volunteer Michael O'Keefe with SCU student Julie Ray in the Casa Vecchia museum gift shop.

For more information visit www.newitaly.com.au or contact us at info@newitaly.com.au
