



SUMMER 2014

IL GIORNALE

CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE DICEMBRE!

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

When sitting down to write these few words I was struck by just how many options there were to write about. No doubt this is because we have such a busy and multi-faceted, conspicuous organisation. When using the word facets I was reminded of diamonds. Now how do diamonds have an association with New Italy Museum Inc? Well it just so happens that there is a whole bag of living diamonds who have a very close association with the New Italy Museum Complex. They are called volunteers.

In the course of twelve months it is estimated that some 150 people donated their time and talents to the organisation with the object of helping it not only survive but also to grow. Naturally the amount of time per person varies widely – from regular gift shop and administration people etc. to those that put in a exhausting 10 hours on Carnevale Italiano day. Talents and tasks vary widely and people often get the opportunity to discover skills that they didn't know they had. Many a volunteer has been delighted to find that in retirement they find a productive use for their time and consequently a ever growing number of like minded friends along with a great sense of job satisfaction.

Then there are those volunteers who are not retired from full time work and yet find time to give to our organisation. These deserve special mention. They along with others often travel considerable distances at personal sacrifice to make a contribution. Well done.

The overall growth of activity, patronage, and attractions at the site means that the need for volunteers is growing. If you are interested then please make contact – you will be welcomed to something that promises some work, a lot of fun, interesting colleagues, a sense of purpose and participation in a unique historical enterprise.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. May the peace it offers be yours.

John Barnes



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Casa Vecchia GIFT SHOP

BACKGROUND

Casa Vecchia Gift Shop had humble beginnings back in 2010. It started as a means to provide an income stream for the museum complex to help pay for the rising costs of maintenance.

The idea was put to some keen volunteers who embraced it totally and started New Italy's retail journey.

As they say "from little things, big things grow". After two years of the gift shop being in the old Driver Reviver corner, space was becoming very limited so it was decided to move to the ground floor of the heritage listed, double story mud brick house (a replica of the old Antonioli's wine shop). It was the disused Osteria, an area about four times larger where we could spread out and display our products more effectively! Again those dedicated volunteer went into a flurry converting the old restaurant to the lovely shop we now have.

The shop has been operating four years but it was officially opened by Helen Trustum, inaugural NIMI committee member, on 15 September 2013.

Our gift shop specialises in all things Italian, be it Italian made, Italian designed or inspired gifts, plus a small selection of quality, locally made products.

Also, as a mark of respect to the traditional owners of the land where New Italy Museum Complex stands we stock a small range of indigenous merchandise.

Come and enjoy the Italian Dolce Vita at Casa Vecchia!

All profits from the shop are used to help maintain the museum for generations to come. It is totally run by dedicated volunteers.

Shop hours:
9.30 – 3.30 DAILY
CLOSED TUESDAYS

BOOKS

There are several books that tell about the history of New Italy for sale in our shop. They give a fascinating insight into life at that time of pioneer settlement.

The book section boasts cookbooks to novels set in Italy. There are many children's books including Italian colouring-in books. You will find a small range of art books about the major Italian masters.

JEWELRY

New Italy has its own range of Murano jewelry thanks to a mother and daughter team, descendants of Luigi Antonioli (the Gift Shop is housed in a replica of his wine shop).

Our necklaces, bracelets and earrings are designed and made using imported high quality Murano glass beads, sometimes adding Swarovski crystals, fresh water pearls and natural stones to make our unique range.

We also import large holed beads (Pandora style) and lately the popular inexpensive lace Cruciani bracelets seen on the arms of the rich and famous around the world.

MUSIC AND DVDS

A wide range of CDs - from Italian opera to traditional folk music - are available. This includes music by Italo-Australians such as Fortunato Isgro and Art Phillips. Some classic to modern DVDs set in Italy, in both Italian and English are also available.

KITCHENWARE

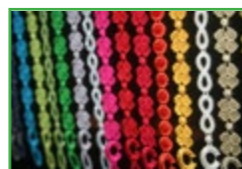
You can find everything needed to make and serve pasta or pizza including Italian themed aprons! Also available are Italian coffee percolators, mugs and fridge magnets adorned with famous Italian paintings, porcelain platters, linen tea towels and silicone trivets to brighten your kitchen, Italian style.

HOMEWARE

Italian themed tapestry cushions, fragrant candles, wall art including framed pictures of Vespas, vases and tin signs are on display.

SOAP

We stock a range of soaps from liquid to bars. This includes the Nesti Dante range that has been handcrafted in Florence since 1945, using the classic cauldron method. Through this they have pursued a balance between innovation and tradition. Nesti Dante is one of Europe's major soap producers.



We also stock our locally handcrafted, award-winning and chemically-free "Scent of New Italy" soap.

RELIGION

We import a large range of rosary beads and rosary boxes from Italy. Some are produced by Ghirelli, Italy's longest established rosary bead manufacturer. We also stock Heartwood Creek decorative - some musical - angels.

FOR MEN

In 1869 a young Italian merchant established a brush factory just north of Venice. 140 years later it is still a family business producing fragrances, bath and body products and handcrafted brushes. Acca Kappa is recognised the world over as a byword for luxury. We stock a small range of these products including soap, shower gel, shaving cream, Eau de Cologne, shaving brushes and back scrubbers. We also stock Armando Caruso Italian handkerchiefs.



FOR WOMEN

Leather handbags, wallets, silk scarves, frilly edged umbrellas to colourful silicone watches and handbags. We also have purse mirrors and ladies Italian handkerchiefs.



FOR CHILDREN

The Italian brands of Sevi (wooden designed pull-along and stacking toys) and Trudi Mia's quality dolls are on our shelves.

Also Pinocchio marionette puppets or wooden dolls, Pinocchio money boxes, Italian board games both fun and educational and traditional Italian playing cards for that game of Scopa or Briscola. Also musical toys, jigsaw puzzles and Italian themed T-shirts for toddlers and small children.



ITALIANA

Say *Viva Italia!* with Italian flags, key rings, model cars and Vespas, Carnevale masks and vintage prints.

NEW ITALY SOUVENIRS

We also stock a small range of branded products including stickers, key rings, rulers, pencil sharpeners, stubby coolers, fridge magnets and pens. Polo shirts in various colours, embroidered hand towels, hand painted family name plates that you can order. Plus a large range of handcrafted greeting cards - some with Italian language.



**AND SOOOO MUCH MORE... COME AND SEE
OUR COMPLETE RANGE OF PRODUCTS!**

GAIL WILLIAMS (right) is not an Italian but Scottish descendant of New Italy as her grandfather Edmund Williams selected land on the boundary of the community. He was very active in the Italian community in his time.



Gail has been the Coordinator / Manager of the shop since its inception, overseeing the running of the shop and helping Paulene with the sourcing and purchasing of stock. **PAULENE** (above left) a descendant from the Antonioli/Bertoli line has been working mainly behind the scenes, tirelessly sourcing and buying merchandise for the shop since the shop opened its doors way back in 2010.

CATHY BERTOLI from Antonioli / Bertoli line and **GAIL YOUNGBERRY** from the Bertoli / Pedrini line have both been working on and off in the shop since the very early days.



TONY FELICIETTI, from the Battestuzzi line is an inaugural gift shop volunteer. Tony's business life had been in retail until he retired.



ELLEN BARNES is an inaugural gift shop volunteer and an excellent bookkeeper. She has brought valuable skills to our shop. Her husband, John, is a descendant of the Spinaze and Capelin families.



JENNY M^CCORMACK'S husband is an Antonioli/Bertoli descendant. Jenny has been volunteering with us for 2.5 years.

Then there are **CARMEN, KERRY** and **SUSAN** who complete our role call. They are enthusiastic volunteers from the local community who bring their own set of skills to the mix at the shop. Their commitment is appreciated as now we can be open 6 days a week.



Our aim is to be open every day of the week.

NEW VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

For more information call the **Gift Shop**
02 6682 2310

**02 6682 2310 • giftshop@newitaly.com.au • FACEBOOK - NEW ITALY
OPEN DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAYS**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW ITALY...

THE NEW ITALY MUSEUM



Giacomo Piccoli with two wood chopping winners at his Park of Peace in the early 1950s. From 'Salami, Shortbread and Parrot Pie: stories of Multicultural New Italy' by the Museum Monday Group.

The renovation of the New Italy sulky was recently completed. This and its story will be added to displays in 2015. A New Italy Museum Complex site guide brochure has been produced to entice and inform visitors.

Among our many on-going projects is the development of the acquisitions room where donated items are assessed and recorded. When completed, the entire museum collection will be digitally archived as required by correct museum acquisition procedure.

In March 2015, there will be a change of ownership of the Tastes of New Italy Cafe. This change creates an opportunity to rearrange visitor access and the layout of the cabinets and displays in the New Italy Museum. Using the New Italy Museum Complex Interpretation Plan as a guide, the group will develop a comprehensive plan in consultation with the descendants of the families. We will look at new ways to tell stories of the different facets of New Italy's early days e.g. a reinterpretation of a settler kitchen using implements like meat grinders and butter churns. 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



Wedding breakfast for Lucia and Giuseppe Ros in Sacile, Italy - married by proxy. The vacant chair honoured the absent bridegroom. From 'Power of the Land- Il Potere della Terra' by Lesley Jenkins.

Community History students from Southern Cross University are researching two new projects with New Italy Museum Inc as their community partner. Ebony Duncanson is investigating the phenomenon of 'proxy' brides where Italian women married by 'proxy' in the 1940s, 50s and 60s before their migration to Australia. Steven Harris is looking into the WWII experience of the Northern Rivers Italian community with an emphasis on the detention of Italian migrants; the hardships, experiences and conditions they faced. He will also look at the treatment of Italian prisoners of war who were housed in Australia. Both students will be accessing existing interviews and documentation to help build archival material for New Italy Museum Complex to assist the development of interpreted displays on both topics in the Italian Pavilion.

Looking for greeting cards for the festive season? Like to contribute to the development of the Pavilion? Gift cards of Florain Volpato's Italian regional landscapes and images from the 'Bananas, Business and Bocce: the Lismore Italians' are for sale at the Casa Vecchia Gift Shop. All proceeds go to creating new Pavilion displays.

Enquiries: Leonie Lane, Italian Pavilion Co-ordinator • leonie.lane@scu.edu.au • 0423 733 569

CENTENARY OF ANZAC PROJECT

We intend to have an Honour Roll constructed that acknowledges the WWI service of the thirteen men from the original New Italy Italian families who enlisted in the 1st AIF. This Honour Roll will be unveiled at a service in the New Italy Museum complex on Remembrance Day 2015. We also would like to construct a special cabinet within the New Italy Museum that houses the stories of each of these men, together with photographs and any relevant memorabilia that is available. In the meantime, we will be liaising with the families of these men to verify facts, etc. and hopefully obtain permission to display photographs and memorabilia in the special display cabinet. The 2015 Remembrance Day ceremony will be a special occasion so please mark this in your diaries – Wednesday 11 November 2015.



IAN COOKE has been a long time supporter of New Italy and gallantly manned the Bocce court at all our Carnevale Italiano's. Ian sadly passed away suddenly on 1 October 2014. We send our sincerest condolences to Ian's family, especially his father Lester, during this very sad time.

LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO IL GIORNALE?
email your stories, tourist tips to Italy, recipes...
Content deadline Autumn 2015 edition due 21/3/15

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT NEW ITALY MUSEUM COMPLEX?
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