



AUTUMN 2019

# IL GIORNALE

CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE!

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Little more can be said about the impact of the Pacific Highway redevelopment on the New Italy Site (and many others) than that in time we will almost gauge history as before or after the re-development. I can assure you that this is no understatement because the implications are game changing. It is however our intention to meet this challenge as it is essential for our longer term survival.

Although we saw the by-passing of Woodburn, Broadwater and Wardell as favourable to us it is now news that both north and south bound service centres will be built at Ballina. The northbound centre will be open in time for the completion of our section of the highway - say mid to late 2020.

With this in mind we need to improve our traffic stopping ability by whatever means are available. We have at our disposal the unique opportunity to capitalise on things Italian, Italian settlers in this region and the New Italy story in a busy Pacific Highway location. What a combination of opportunities!

Since, let's face it, the appearance of the site from the highway is sub-standard, we need to improve it to be "in the market". Remember we are competing against major well-recognised national and even global brands.

Therefore a 3 stage appearance improvement plan is being considered. Hopefully it can be implemented in time for the opening of our section of the highway.

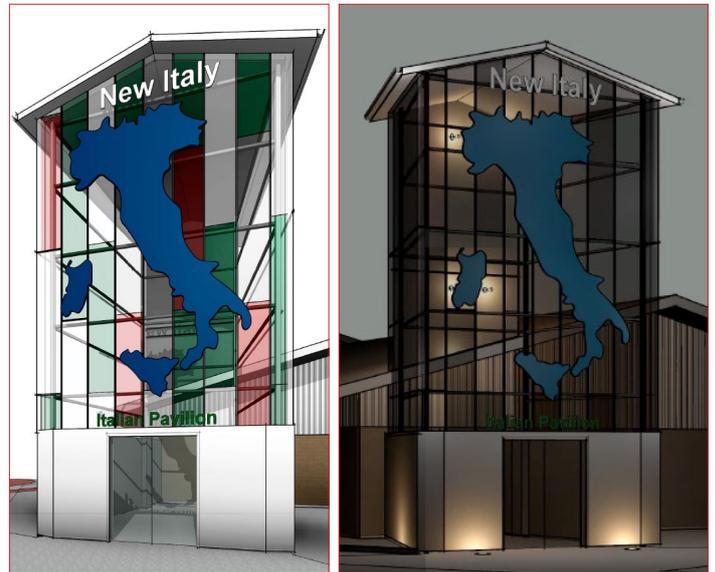
**Stage 1:** The refurbishment of the Tower which faces the highway. This will involve:

1. The replacement of the existing metal cladding with translucent sheeting. The relocation of the map of Italy from the rear of the tower to the front and its back-lighting at night.
2. The installation of glass panels and doors at the alcove under the map that is the eastern end of the pavilion.

These plans have been completed and work is expected to start mid year. It could be said that this tower has been a under-developed asset.

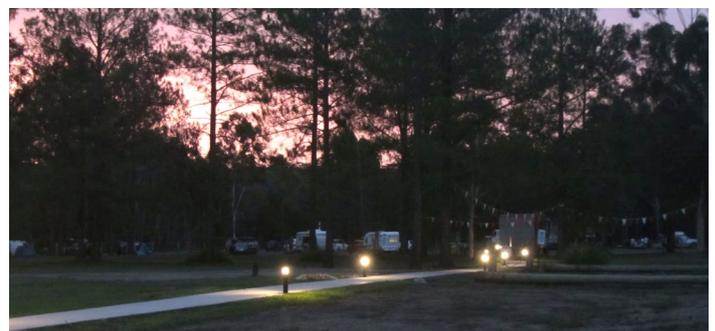
**Stage 2:** While not yet designed it has been suggested that a Italian street scene or a Venetian canal scene of say the 1880's -1890's be painted on a high-set facade to be built at the highway end of the museum. This would replace the existing billboard which is out-of-date and misleading.

**Stage 3:** Minor works to include fencing and landscaping in the eastern entrance areas. Also since the water well is crumbling it needs a serious rebuild.



Above: Architect, Heike Seubert's concept drawings for renovations to the New Italy Pavilion tower by day and illuminated at night.

Below: Recently installed footpath lighting leading to carpark.



The rationale behind stages 1 & 2 is that since the completed highway will be at least 2 metres below the existing road level, it is necessary to maximise the height of the eastern façade in order to ensure highway visibility over the intervening roadside bank.

Meanwhile, I advise that the newly completed rear carpark has been a great success. Lighting has been installed along the footpath and plans have been completed for solar-powered security lighting in the car park. Thanks to the Hon. Chris Gulaptis MP for his efforts in securing grant funding. The extensive roadworks in our immediate vicinity are however impacting on patronage at the moment by around 20%.

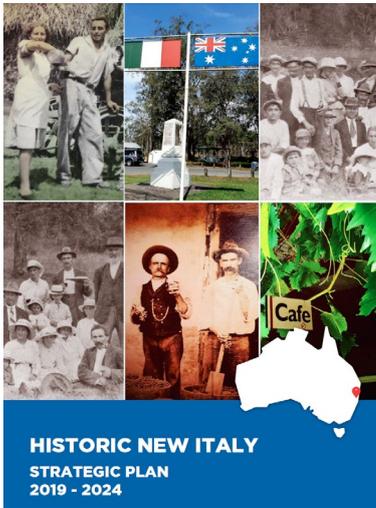
Separately please note in the following pages the update of our Constitution and the Strategic Plan's progress. Having these two documents in place will greatly assist our management of future needs and assist us to meet the challenges that will surely eventuate. Happy to discuss all further at the upcoming Anniversary Day - Sunday 7 April!

**John Barnes, President**

## OUR CONSTITUTION NEEDS UPDATING

### NIMI Members : a notification about a General Meeting coming soon

The committee has been putting a lot of work into reviewing the association's current constitution which was last updated in November 2009. Members will soon be receiving an invitation to attend a general meeting of the association to consider a special resolution to adopt various changes as recommended by the committee.



### STRATEGIC PLAN FOR NEW ITALY

The work in developing a Strategic Plan for the New Italy Museum Inc for 2019-2024 has been completed. The final document is now being assembled and will be available for members to view in the near future.

There are 5 priorities identified in the Plan

1. Financial Sustainability
2. Human Resourcing
3. Infrastructure
4. Enhancing the visitor experience
5. Marketing

Each of these priorities has a number of actions to pursue, a suggested performance monitoring arrangement with measurable targets and a challenging action plan timeline. Many thanks to all who have contributed to this plan, and many thanks also to Krista Hauritz who worked with us to develop the Strategic Plan.

## RECENT EVENTS

### MICHELE GRIGOLETTI FROM COMITES NSW VISITS NEW ITALY



From left to right: Peter Blackwood (NIMI Treasurer/Secretary) Museum volunteers Lester Cooke, Leonie Lane, Peter Ward, Leone Stibbard, Cynthia McKeough, Michele Grigoletti (Consigliere ComitEs NSW), Ellen Barnes and John Barnes (NIMI President).

We were thrilled to meet Michele Grigoletti from ComitEs NSW at New Italy one recent Museum Monday. Briefly the NSW ComitEs is composed of 12 members and is a representative body of Italians abroad with diplomatic-consular representation. It contributes to identifying the social, cultural and civil development needs of the Italian NSW community. It enables social and cultural networks and initiatives related to social and cultural life, for young people in particular, equal opportunities for social and scholastic assistance, vocational training, the recreational sector, sport and leisure. It protects the rights and interests of Italian citizens residing in Australia. For more information ~ <http://www.comitesnsw.com>

### MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA FAR NORTH COAST CHAPTER MEETING AT NEW ITALY ~ 1 MARCH

Approximately 30 representatives of the Museums Australia Far North Coast Chapter gathered at New Italy for the first of the 2019 meetings. The main presentation was by Dr Kate Gahan, Museums & Galleries of NSW, who spoke about the Collections and Stories Project. M&G NSW has partnered with several councils, including Tweed, to deliver a prototype website that profiles select objects from the local museum and gallery collections. The Collection and Stories Prototype demonstrated the diverse and unique histories

of regional NSW. This will include the stories about the cultures and Country of the state's Aboriginal peoples and communities; the lives and ways of all migrant-origin people and communities; diverse and striking historic characters or people—including men, women, and children; as well as the features, activity, events or moments that have significantly shaped our regions. More information at: [mgnsw.org.au/articles/meet-our-collections-and-stories-project-team/](http://mgnsw.org.au/articles/meet-our-collections-and-stories-project-team/).

*Continued page 3*



From left to right: Our guest speaker, Historian, Kate Gahan; the assembled meeting in the Community Hall; Jo Kijas explains the Museum concepts and narrative with Lester Cooke; next page the new Heritage Fabric cabinet and Museum screen design features explored with Leonie Lane.

## COMING EVENTS

### ANNIVERSARY DAY ~ SUNDAY 7 APRIL



**HISTORIC NEW ITALY**  
CELEBRATING 138 YEARS OF SETTLEMENT AT NEW ITALY  
**ANNIVERSARY DAY**  
**ITALIAN LUNCH**

FEATURING DOMENICO

BENVENUTI A TUTTI! WELCOME EVERYONE!

11 AM (FOR 11.30 AM) SUNDAY 7 APRIL 2019  
**HISTORIC NEW ITALY**  
PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SOUTH OF WOODBURN

CELEBRATE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS • NEW MUSEUM DISPLAYS  
• PASTA LUNCH MENU • 'TASTES OF NEW ITALY CAFE' OPEN • SALAMI WHEEL  
• PRIZES TO BE WON • GIFT SHOP OPEN • LIVE MUSIC & MORE...

Visit us at NEW ITALY MUSEUM COMPLEX • [www.newitaly.org.au](http://www.newitaly.org.au) • FACEBOOK New Italy / Historic New Italy

FREE ENTRY

Joseph Check photograph 'Gathering at New Italy 1899' (detail) New Italy Museum donated by the Spinaze family  
Photograph of Domenico by Peter Demmett.

All are warmly invited to Anniversary Day celebrations at New Italy for a day of food, music and dancing while exploring New Italy's history. We are pleased to announce that Mike Grigoletti, from ComitEs NSW (Committee of Italians Abroad) will be joining us.

The day will begin at 11am with New Italy volunteers, Val Wills and Cynthia McKeough, on their piano accordions

From page 2

Many will be familiar with Kate who is a Northern Rivers-based historian. She assisted the Museum group with our book, *'Salami, Shortbread and Parrot Pie: Stories of Multicultural New Italy'* (available in the Gift Shop).

Special guests included Niomi Sands, Grafton Regional Gallery and Joan Kelly, Clarence Valley Museums Advisor.

After a stimulating meeting and relaxing lunch, we ran a tour of the Museum upgrade for the meeting participants.

Photos by Peter Ward



playing in the piazza. A pasta lunch will be served from midday. Back by popular demand is Brisbane-based Domenico Taraborelli who never fails to get the crowd up and dancing! Bring those dancing shoes!

Enjoy John Barnes' talk about New Italy in the Community Hall and later a guided tour of the new Museum displays will take place. Lester Cooke will be on hand to help with genealogy questions about the New Italy settlers and descendants.

There will be children's activities in the Pavilion plus salami wheels and other prizes to be won in the piazza throughout the afternoon. Entry is free with food and drinks available at the Tastes of New Italy café. In addition Casa Vecchia gift shop with its beautiful imported Italian gift-ware will be open until the end of the festivities, at around 3.30pm.

See you there!

### SPRING FASHION PARADE ~ 31 AUGUST

Following the runaway success of last year's fashion parade, we have started organising this year's event. **Save this date!** More information will be in the Winter 'Il Giornale'.



In 2018, 'Etika' featured its wares at the Inaugural New Italy Fashion Parade in the Community Hall.

### DONATIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO US

NIMI is a volunteer-run organisation reliant on the good will of our visitors and community.

Your generous cash donations keep us going! They can be made to New Italy by

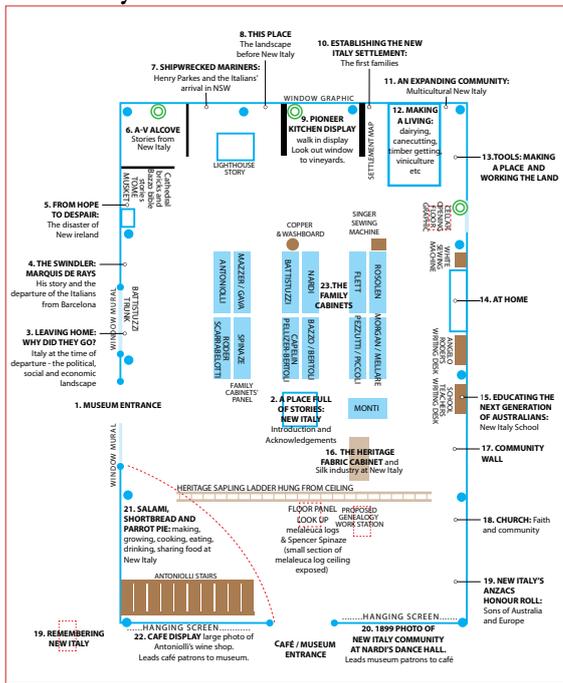
- New Italy Museum Complex on-site donation boxes
- New Italy website has an easy to use donation form - go to [www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/donation/](http://www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/donation/)
- Our Facebook page provides a link to that page
- Cheques can be sent to **New Italy Museum Complex, PO Box 5139, East Lismore NSW 2480**
- Bequests

WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW ITALY...

## THE MUSEUMS REPORT

Our website - [www.newitaly.org.au](http://www.newitaly.org.au) - provides an important interface with our built museums. It provides access to many aspects of Historic New Italy including the New Italy Museum design. On that you will note that Display Bay 17- the *Community wall* - is now installed on-site in the Museum. It is a numbered collection of pioneer family photographs with a corresponding panel at the bottom that identifies family names to the people in the photographs. If you are a New Italy descendant, we hope you will find one of your relatives amongst them. View the plan and more at <http://www.newitaly.org.au/new-italy-museum-complex/the-new-italy-museum/>



Meanwhile Display Bays 15 *The New Italy School*, 18 *Faith and Community*, and 19 *The New Italy ANZACS* are in process. When finished will complete the wall displays. The numbered Display Bays in turn references our Mosaic archival database.

At New Italy there is very little evidence of the original New Italy settlement. The legacy of those settlers is not so much grand buildings but rather the many thousands of descendants spread across the land and their contributions to the culture and commerce of Australia. The genealogy section of the website records these families. To celebrate those descendants we are planning an interactive genealogy display in the actual museum.

These genealogy records were primarily sourced from 'Italian Immigrants Inquiry Board Report 1881' NSW Government, 'Our Italian Heritage 1880-1980' H.T.De Stefani & S.M.Craven and the Monument to the Pioneers at Historic New Italy. View the abridged version, showing names, dates of birth, death and marriage at <http://www.newitaly.org.au/the-families/> Your contributions, additions and/or corrections are valued. You are always welcome to join us every Monday at 10am in the very real world of the Community Hall at Historic New Italy, where we have morning tea, discuss, plan, caretake, archive and create new displays for both the New Italy Museum and the Italian Pavilion.

On a personal note, we wish one of our longest serving Museum volunteers - Margaret Robinson - our love and very best wishes towards her recovery.  
Lester Cooke, Museum • [webmaster@newitaly.org.au](mailto:webmaster@newitaly.org.au)

## THE CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP



Work certainly is progressing on the new highway out the front of the New Italy site. Don't be dissuaded - come in, park in the brand new car park - and experience the changes! Drop into the Gift Shop and check out our new range of handbags and backpacks handmade in Italy! We only have a small range at the moment but more are on order. They are a little different to what we have stocked before. So beautiful! A genuine Italian leather handbag - molto elegante - a must for every wardrobe!

Gail Williams • Casa Vecchia Gift Shop • [giftshop@newitaly.org.au](mailto:giftshop@newitaly.org.au)

**JOIN OR RENEW NIMI MEMBERSHIP**  
[www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/membership](http://www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/membership)

**CONTRIBUTE TO 'IL GIORNALE'**  
Winter 2019 edition:  
content due 19/5/19

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER**  
Contact Peter Blackwood (Secretary)  
[info@newitaly.com.au](mailto:info@newitaly.com.au)  
0414 673 933

## VOLUNTEER PROFILES: PETER WARD

Peter is relatively new to the Northern Rivers, having moved south from Brisbane with his wife, Erine, who is employed on the current Pacific Highway upgrade. Peter lives in Yamba and spends his spare time photographing the region's people and places. With a technical background from time served in the RAAF plus studies and practice in the visual arts, Peter has come to New Italy to assist with the Museum's digitisation program - photographing and scanning our inventory of objects, documents and photographs for our archives.

