

THE NEW ITALY GIORNALE



JULY 2012

Dear members and friends of New Italy,

This month we have some exciting news. We have received a copy of Mr Pryor's Master's thesis on New Italy, we have been successful with three grants for funding, the Leonardo da Vinci "car" is up and running, and the *Casa Vecchia* shop is on the move.

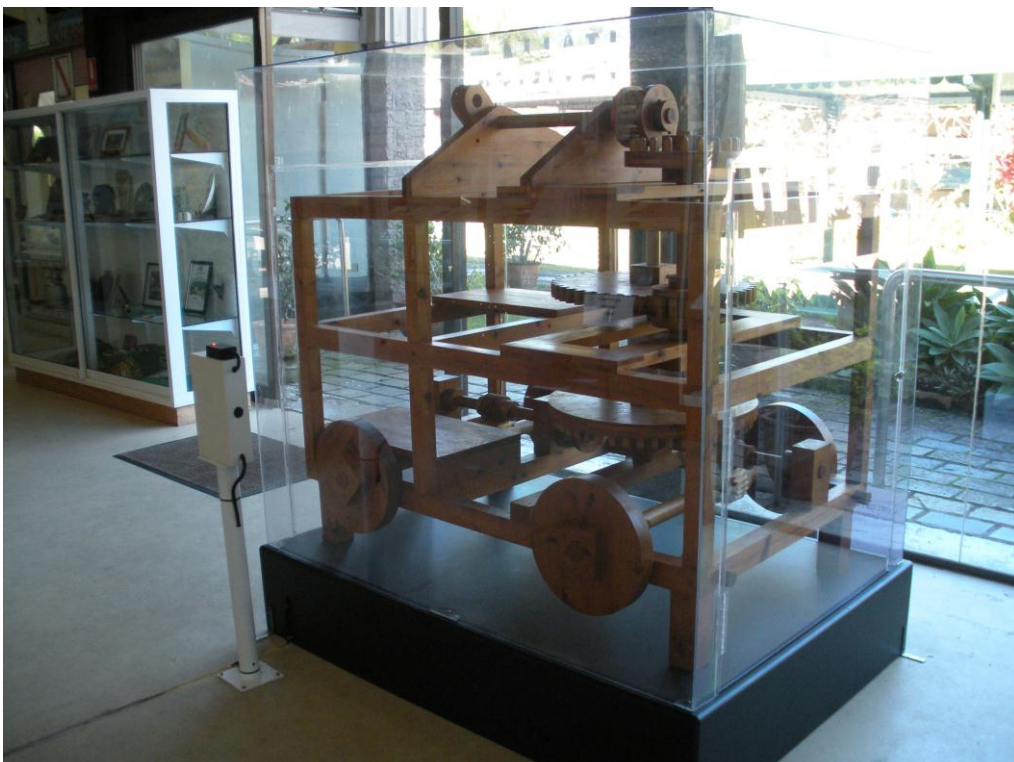
New Italy – A refuge from Misadventure

The Richmond River Historical Society Inc. (RRHS) recently received the only two copies of a Master of Arts thesis titled "New Italy a Refuge from Misadventure" by P. G. Pryor. The RRHS has kindly allowed the New Italy Museum Inc. to house one of these copies in our archives.

In this document Mr Pryor's well referenced research will be invaluable for us to relate, research, and interoperate our fascinating history. The thesis will be digitised at some stage in the future.

The Leonardo da Vinci Car

The "car" came to Australia as part of the 1988 World Expo in Brisbane and was later donated to the New Italy Museum. It was designed by Leonardo do Vinci for stage use in the theatre in Italy. The model of the car had deteriorated somewhat and was inoperative but has been repaired and restored by Mr Jim Muldoon.



Under the guidance of Mr John Barnes and Mr Lester Cooke a willing group of volunteers have installed the Leonardo da Vinci car in the Pavilion. Lester has carried out the work required to allow the car to operate and plans to sit a "person" in the display to more accurately represent how the car was operated.

The car is now coin operated, enabling visitors to view the machine functioning. It is well worth seeing the masterfully restored car running, as has been evidenced by the feedback and support given by the visitors to the pavilion.

Grants Received

You will be pleased to know that this week we have just received notice of approval of three grants. The first grant is for the remodelling of the septic treatment system – a much needed upgrade.

Another grant has been received under the *Your Community Heritage Program*. This will cover the project titled "*Salami, Shortbread and Parrot Pie: Stories of Multicultural New Italy.*"

The third grant is a limited amount of funding for the employment of a person to assist with *Multicultural New Italy - reconnecting our community through culture*. Expressions of interest will be invited for a person to undertake this role. Stay tuned for more details!

A Tidy Up in Progress

We have had two men assigned for a short period to do community service work at New Italy. They have come in handy in cutting bush, removing rubbish, digging out roots and stumps, and painting.

Casa Vecchia Gift Shop is on the move

We have been granted permission to move into the ground floor of the *heritage-listed mud brick house* at New Italy! This much larger space means we can expand our range of New Italy souvenirs and Italian gift items and our visitors will be able to shop in comfort. As ideal as the new space is it needs some restoration work, mainly for security.

We are inviting descendant's families/NIMI members to "sponsor a window". Your name will be placed on our Sponsor's Board, to be proudly displayed in the shop.

Membership 2012-13

Membership is due in July and existing members will receive a notification in the mail. The museum is run by volunteers and relies heavily on donations and membership to fund our running expenses.

If you can contribute some of your time to volunteer, your contribution would be welcomed. Volunteers are particularly needed for the *Cassa Vecchia* shop in order to keep it open on a more regular basis

To become a New Italy Museum member please download the Membership form from this link http://newitaly.com.au/?page_id=66

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