



WINTER 2016

IL GIORNALE

CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE INVERNO!

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

On Sunday 10 April, at Carnevale Italiano, we celebrated the 135th anniversary of the arrival in Sydney of some 217 destitute survivors of the Marquis de Rays expedition. As you are no doubt aware, a large proportion of these people found their way to 3000 acres of poor quality land in the Richmond River area that became known as New Italy! This place!



Defying all expectations this settlement became for a time a successful model of enterprise, thrift and ingenuity.

This year's celebration of these pioneering achievements was a well-organised and memorable event attended by many hundreds of people from local communities and beyond. Attendees were treated to a polished presentation of quality variety entertainment in an historical setting with a strong cultural style.

While originally intended to be the central major annual fundraiser for New Italy, Carnevale Italiano has become a well-publicised and reported public relations exercise of outstanding success. This cannot be underestimated for us economically and provides terrific good will on which to build.

This year's success was enhanced by the recent extensive renovations to the central plaza, reported in the Autumn Giornale as being Stage 1 of our major redevelopments. It is expected that these facilities can be used across a variety of functions throughout the year. Stay tuned for news of Italian Film Nights and other anticipated events. All Stage 1 works have been completed without resorting to borrowing.

Once again a group of talented and enthusiastic volunteers gave their valuable time to prepare for the function. They were joined on the day by about 70 others who staffed the kitchen and bar, sold tickets and directed traffic. Their services were invaluable and we thank them all.

With Carnevale over for another year, we can now turn our attention to the refurbishment of the Museum building. As mentioned in the Autumn Giornale this is our Stage 2 of the renovation program. I look forward to reporting its progress!

Finally New Italy Museum Inc. are supporting the first Lismore Friendship Festival in Spinks Park on Sunday 26 June! Treats from our Gift Shop and the New Italy ANZAC's display will be on show.

We hope to see you there! Drop by and say ciao!

John Barnes



The crowds and performers enjoyed both the revamped piazza with fixed stage as well as the old verandah and grapevines next to café.
Photos Peter Derrett and Leonie Lane

2016 CARNEVALE ITALIANO

2016 CARNEVALE ITALIANO – ALL WRAPPED UP!

Over for another year **Carnevale Italiano** was just a dim memory in my head until now where I have had an opportunity to reflect on what we achieved together. Alongside some amazing people on the organising committee and over 70 truly wonderful volunteers we managed to create another positive family-friendly fun day at the New Italy Museum Complex. This is my third and I have watched the event grow into something substantial that maintains it's core values of bringing the Italian descendants together to celebrate their history whilst raising awareness and finances to keep the complex going for another year.

Gail Williams and I ran a survey on the event and although our survey skills are slowly improving our analysis still needs work. However, we gleaned the following information from the 189 results gained (58 up from the previous year). Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill it in.

Some of the interesting results are:

- 59.43% heard about it through word of mouth
- 45.95% were between 61-75 with 32.43% between 41-60 (this is up from last year)
- 32.89% were from Lismore with Adelaide being the furthest anyone travelled.
- 66.92% would like to see wine-making exhibition introduced (where will we get grapes at that time of the year?)
- We had a positive 4.1 out of 5 for overall satisfaction

Mostly there were positive ideas for improving it but also a few comments that need digesting and filtering to see what is relevant to the organisers. The biggest concern was the sun on the dance floor making it almost impossible to dance.

A big thank you to all our sponsors – from our major Gold supporters **Summerland Travel Lismore, Richmond Waste, Booyong Design, Richmond Valley Council** and **REX Airlines** to our Silver supporters **Northern Star, Ramada Ballina, River FM, The Italo Club, Reel Hotel, Oz Rice** and the **AZA Motel**. We rely on the generosity of these local businesses so please use them if you need to travel, educate yourself on what is happening in the region, drink, eat and sleep!



Aliison Kelly says 'Ciao' for another year!

Lastly, thank you also to everyone involved but especially my cohorts, **John and Ellen Barnes, Peter and Pauline Blackwood, Gail Williams, Lester and Evelyn Cooke, Julie de Nardi and Leonie Lane**. This event would not happen without you – you are all ace and I loved working with you again!

**MOLTE GRAZIE
E ARRIVEDERCI A TUTTI!**

Aliison Kelly Event Manager 2016



Top to bottom:
MC extraordinaire – Dennis Dardengo
Father Slack leads Mass in the Community Hall
The Chefs kept the young ones creatively occupied in the KidsSpace
Leonie Lane talks about the Pavilion displays
Photos by Peter Derrett

FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING SISTER CITIES

Conegliano and Lismore

New Italy Museum Inc. is looking forward to celebrating connections to Veneto from where its pioneers came.

As such it is proud to be a supporting partner of the first Lismore Friendship Festival, Spinks Park - coming soon - 10-3 Sunday 26 June!

Most people will recognise the Italian word piazza as a town's public square or market place. It is a lively urban space that commonly becomes the heart of a place for community gatherings. This is exactly what is planned for **Sunday, June 26** in Spinks Park, Lismore when the CBD landscape is transformed into a festive town green. Well, green, white and red as music, open-air games, plenty of food and beverages will allow locals and visitors a chance to 'be Italian for a day' Lismore's inaugural **Friendship Festival** will host as part of a weekend of fun family entertainment in the city centre to complement Lismore's iconic **Lantern Parade** to be held on Saturday, June 25.

Lismore's friendship connection with the northern Italian city of **Conegliano** brings to mind that city's popular town square, alongside a river and a place for civic celebrations. So, it is appropriate that the **Italo-Australian Sport and Recreation Club**, along with **Lismore City Council's Sister City Advisory Committee**, the **Lismore Lantern Parade**, **Lismore Tourism**, the **New Italy Museum and Creative Lismore** work together to host a truly community cultural celebration that recognises the contribution Italian settlers have made to the city over many years.

The Italo club team will be at the **Riviera Trattoria and Bar** serving great traditional dishes with **Tony Pilati** and **Dave de Nardi**, Lismore café proprietors, will run the bar! There will be plenty of great food, the historic mosaic celebrating early Italian settlers, wine (Conegliano is famous for its world class Prosecco) all served up in a lively atmosphere. Locals and visitors can join in the Italian card games, bocce and outdoor chess, or just sit around on the chairs or grass and take in the sounds or take up conversation in Italian with students from **Trinity Catholic College**. There will be cooking demonstrations at **Palate Café** and sale of local products including souvenirs from New Italy's own **Casa Vecchia Gift Shop**. **New Italy Museum Complex** will also showcase their New Italy ANZACS display.

At the rotunda, non-stop music for listening and dancing from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. from the ever popular accordionist **Domenico** and local instrumentalists, choirs, dancers and local radio station **River 92.9**, there will be high quality exhibitions at **Lismore Regional Gallery**, the **Richmond River Historical Society's Museum** and the **Environment Centre** in Molesworth Street. Behind the old Council Chambers there will be a collection of **classic and contemporary Italian cars and bikes** brought together by owners from around the region. There is ample off street parking, especially in the adjacent Rowing Club and Riviera car parks by the river.

**For further information: Ros Derrett
rderrett@bigpond.net.au • 02 6625 1384**



Above: Friendship Festival poster by Booyong Design.

Below: The flag of Veneto loaned to New Italy Museum Complex by the Sommerlad family. Photo by Peter Derrett

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW ITALY...

TASTES OF NEW ITALY CAFÉ

CALL FOR GROUP BOOKINGS 02 6682 2622

NEW ITALY MUSEUM



Giacomo Piccoli demonstrating his bush built hand reeling machine.
Photo courtesy New Italy Museum

In 1886, Reginald Champ, a Sydney based agent for raw silk merchants, investigated the silk industry in China. He advised Sir Henry Parke, to encourage and facilitate the development of a silk industry in Australia. New Italy was seen as a suitable site for sericulture considering the New Italy farmers' pre-existing knowledge of sericulture in Veneto.

The settlers embraced the idea. Sixteen families received government loans at 5% to help establish the silk industry at New Italy. The mulberry trees flourished, and silkworms were being bred everywhere; sheds, kitchens, bedrooms and sapling framed breeding shelves. Mr. Pezzutti and Mr. Martinuzzi, used their ingenuity to create their own reeling machine.

Sadly in 1893 a fire ravaged and crippled the New Italy settlement, putting an end to sericulture as a major industry while it remained a cottage industry for a few. It is a testimony to the sericulture skills developed at New Italy that Giacomo Piccoli won prizes for his raw silks at the Sydney Exhibition in 1899 and at Milan in 1906.

Enquiries: Lester Cooke, *Museums* Co-ordinator. • webmaster@newitaly.com.au

THE ITALIAN PAVILION



Susan Creasey at work removing bucketloads of water from the Italian Pavilion.
Photo Gail Williams

The torrential rain experienced on the weekend 4 -5 June impacted many people up and down the east coast of Australia. The Italian Pavilion, in its desire to emulate San Marco's in Venice, was one of the many victims, with a massive amount of water flooding its interior.

Luckily one of our wonderful volunteers, Susan Creasey, has a wet and dry vacuum cleaner. 125 buckets of water were lifted off the floor on that very wet Sunday! Thank you Susan!

At New Italy work never ceases. We are looking into doing some serious ground work to alter the course of run-off rain water during these serious weather events. As you can imagine the mud brick walls don't appreciate having wet feet. Luckily there was minimal damage to the displays and the recent joinery work. Investigations are underway to find ways to divert water flow from the car park.

Contact Leonie Lane, *Italian Pavilion* Co-ordinator • booyongd@bigpond.net.au • 0423733569

THE CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP



Leather dog collars by Jenifer Rahmoy available at the Casa Vecchia Gift Shop.
Photo Gail Williams

Our gift shop is continuing to experience good sales in our quietest retail period of the year. This could be due to the uniqueness of some of our merchandise.

Our latest new stock are hand crafted leather dog collars by local leather worker artisan Jenifer Rahmoy. Skilfully crafted from cow hide, some lined with sheep skin to protect delicate skin, these collars are for your pampered pooches. All buckles and rings are soldered for strength. Some of these delightful collars also come with matching leather bracelets to pamper the owner as well!

Looking forward to setting up a small stall with NIMI at the upcoming Lismore Friendship Festival - hope to see there!

Enquiries: Gail Williams, *Casa Vecchia Gift Shop* Co-ordinator • giftshop@newitaly.com.au

2016-2017 MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE 1/7/16

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.
Spring 2016 edition: content due 17/8/16

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

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

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: LEONE STIBBARD

Leone is a descendant of the Rosolen family. She continues to live locally and farm ti-tree at Dungarubba with her husband. Leone is an enormously practical soul. She is extremely energetic and a member of the Museums' Monday group as well as NIMI committee member.

