



SPRING 2016

# IL GIORNALE

**CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE PRIMAVERA!**

**IN THIS EDITION:**

- From our President
- Plans for the New Italy Museum Upgrade
- What's happening at New Italy...



## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**Welcome to Spring! There is much happening!** With major Pacific Highway works getting ever closer to our site, their impact is becoming more apparent. I expect that the next few years will involve many meetings with Pacific Complete (the Highway constructors), surveyors, Richmond Valley Council, engineers (Geolink), site tenants, neighbours and, I expect, many others.

As reported in the last 'Il Giornale', an upgrade to the New Italy Museum is due to commence. Together with \$22,292 from the 2015 *Community Building Partnership grant* (for new lighting, ceiling, walls and floors) and accumulated funds, NIMI will make the museum into a showcase worthy of its incredible story. You will find our plan inside this newsletter. We are working in accordance with guidelines from the Heritage Council of NSW while respecting the central role of the family cabinets. The builder has put himself at our disposal for the months of September, October and November. There will be much to come and see at next year's Carnevale!

To assist with this upgrade and follow-up projects evolving from the Highway upgrade, the NIMI committee has engaged the services of architect, Heike Seubert, to assist us with liaison with the above bodies, produce a set of accurate site plans while making professional suggestions/decisions regarding the design of the site.

We aim to have the museum renovation completed by late 2016. Our focus will then turn to the new car/van park at the rear of the complex and the influence of major road/carpark works at the front of the complex. These works will produce some ever-changing traffic gymnastics - and dust - from about July 2017 to August/September 2018.

In the final highway layout, access to the site from the south and exit to the north will be similar to as it is now. However entry from the north will only be from a U turning bay about 250 metres to the south. Similarly vehicles exiting to the south will travel about 250 metres north before U turning in a southbound bay.

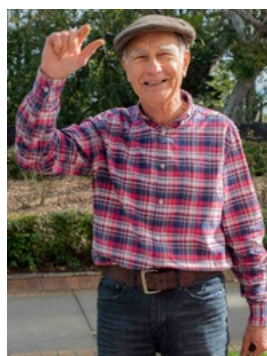
Thankfully **Carnevale Italiano - 9 April 2017** - will be held before traffic and parking disruptions occur. We will be able to continue to celebrate the New Italy anniversary day and local Italian culture as we have done to this day.

Speaking of which, we were pleased to be able to a part of Lismore's inaugural Friendship Festival held in Spinks Park, Sunday 26 June. It was a successful celebration of 'all things Italian'. New Italy Museum Complex were amply represented by our volunteers and our own success story - the New Italy Gift Shop - alongside a display of our recent Museum project, *New Italy's ANZACS*. The adjacent Richmond River Historical Society, installed a special display about the New Italy story. This is still on display as this newsletter goes to print. Have a look when you are next in Lismore!

We would also like to pay tribute to two of our significant community members - Pearl Morgan and Mary Dawson - who passed away early this year. They are remembered with fondness and respect by all at NIMI.

**NB: The Annual General Meeting date has been set for Sunday 27 November.**

**John Barnes**

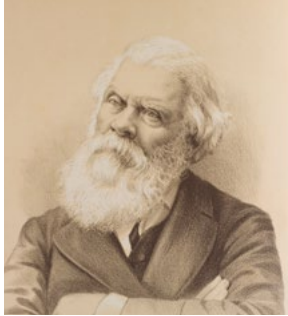
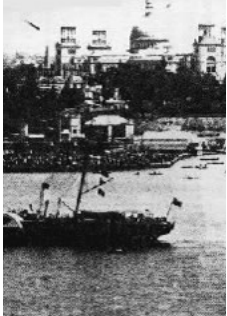


Top: An artists impression of the Pacific Highway Upgrade at New Italy Museum Complex.

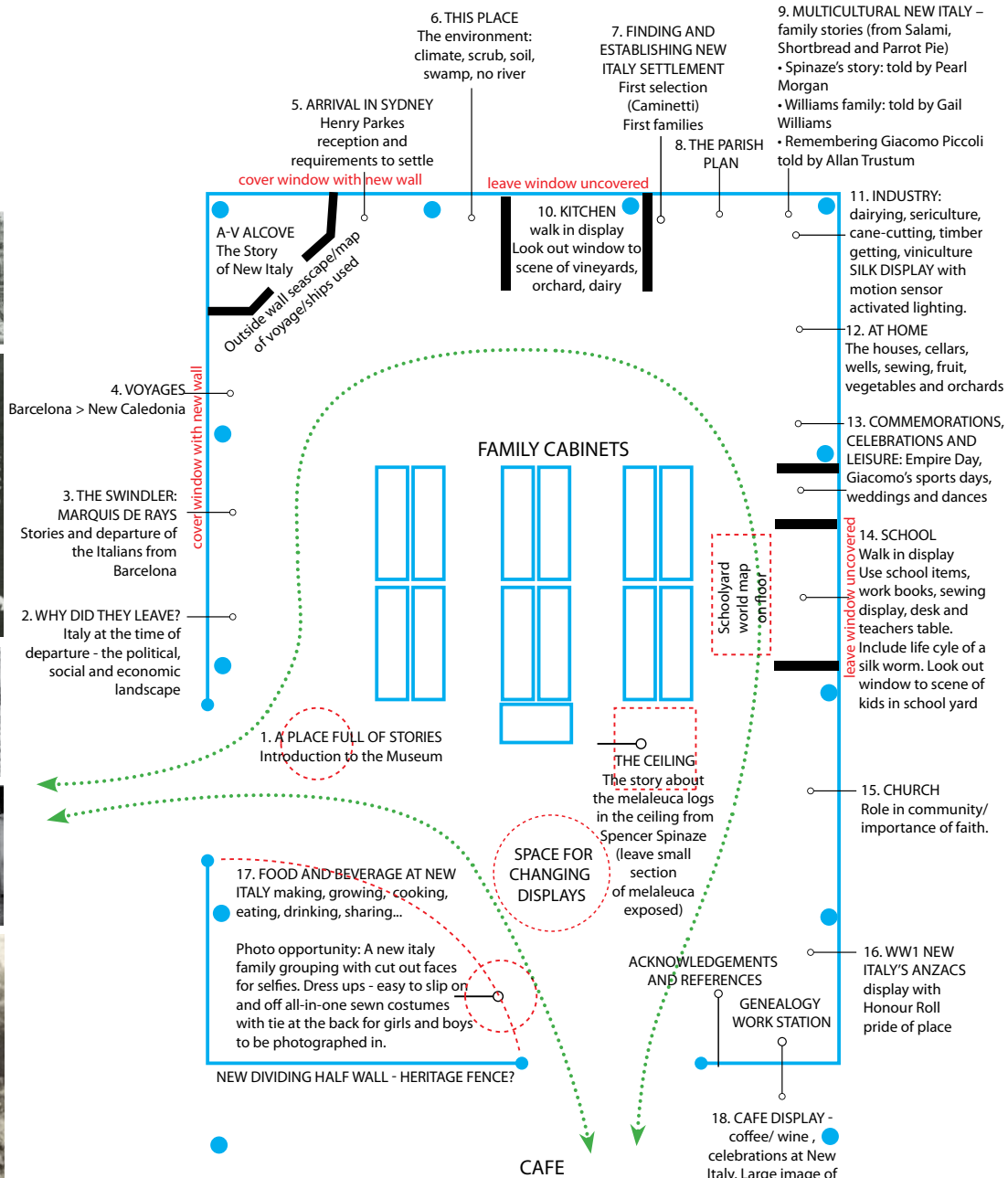
Second from top to bottom: At the Friendship Festival, Spinks Park, Lismore, New Italy's Gift Shop workers - Gail Williams, Susan Creasey and Ellen Barnes; Lester Cooke helping with Bocce; Peter Blackwood assisting with site installation and the New Italy ANZACS display. Photos Lisa Gough







## NEW ITALY MUSEUM UPGRADE - DRAFT CONCEPT





# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW ITALY...

## TASTES OF NEW ITALY CAFÉ

CALL FOR GROUP BOOKINGS 02 6682 2622

### NEW ITALY MUSEUM



We are all very exciting about making the New Italy Museum experience even better!  
Photo Lester Cooke

As well as preparing for the museum upgrade during the last few months, museum volunteers have also been honing their skills to bring you a better museum. In July, a three day training session was held in the New Italy Museum Community Hall on the Collections Mosaic computer program. It was presented by Andrew and Sally-Anne Whittington, the authors and distributors of the program. [www.istechnology.com.au](http://www.istechnology.com.au)

NI volunteers, Susan Creasey, Ellen Barnes and Lester Cooke, attended this course along with representatives from 4 other museums. This database program will be used to store a digital record of our collection items linking them to the people, places, photographs and stories related to those items, provide information for future research and our own administration as well as enable us to publish an on-line museum.

In early September, Ellen Barnes and Lester Cooke, attended the Museums Australia, NSW Far North Coast Chapter meeting held at the Alstonville Plateau Historical Society. After that meeting, Skye Mitchell, a curator from the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, conducted a workshop on the methods and materials used to clean and conserve metal items.

You are very welcome to join the Museum Monday Group at 10<sup>am</sup> every second Monday of the month: Community Hall, New Italy Museum Complex. Your comments about the Museum Upgrade concept plan are very welcome.

Enquiries: Lester Cooke, *Museums* Co-ordinator. • [webmaster@newitaly.com.au](mailto:webmaster@newitaly.com.au)

### THE ITALIAN PAVILION



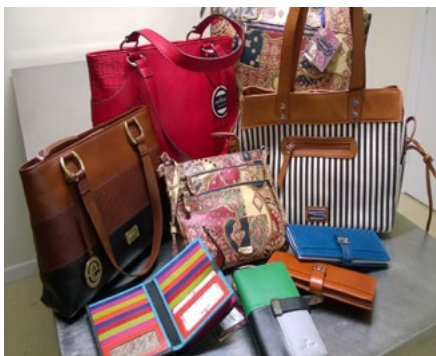
One of the existing family panels - the story of Elio Astone - in the Italian Pavilion.  
Photo Leonie Lane

While the Museum is being upgraded, the Pavilion is housing some of the Museum displays: the *New Italy ANZACS* display with its beautiful Honour Roll, the saw mill display (next to the New Italy sulky) and the sewing machines (next to the costume displays).

Meanwhile information collected by Florian Volpato about various Northern Rivers Italian families will find a new layout and a new home as posters next to the Northern Rivers Italian maps of settlement and Lismore businesses. These family stories were collected in the early 1990s when the Pavilion was opened. They include the Astone, Basso, Bortolin, Camillo, Ceccato, Da Re, De Re, Donadel, Fiore, Fortran, Gava, Lorenson, Marrone, Miani, Moras, Morelli, Pagotto, Pavan, Piga, Piovesana, Rambaldini, Ros, Santin, Simeoni, Vecchiet and Zulpo families. After design and printing is complete they will be on permanent display in our donated display rack. If anyone is interested in helping collect more family stories please let me know.

Enquiries: Leonie Lane, *Italian Pavilion* Co-ordinator • [booyongd@bigpond.net.au](mailto:booyongd@bigpond.net.au)

### THE CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP



The choice and quality at the Casa Vecchia Gift Shop gets better and better!  
Photo Gail Williams

The joys of spring are upon us and I've been on a buying spree! We have some exciting new stock to tempt you! Our leather goods range has been extended. Included are *Cellini* handbags to complement our Tuscany range by *Scala*. For the men, we have some very handsome *Armorni* leather wallets! Christmas shopping ideas? Come and see!

On a completely different note, I am floating a new creative idea for the New Italy Museum Complex and would like to know if there is any interest. I propose we construct a large Venetian paper lantern (or two) for New Italy. It or they could feature in the annual Lismore Lantern Parade as well as New Italy Museum Complex' own celebrations like Carnevale. We would welcome interested NI descendants to help construct this lantern under supervision by lantern makers during the school holidays at Christmas time. Small children would need to be supervised by parents. If interested contact gift shop as below.

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

### 2016-2017 MEMBERSHIPS WERE DUE 1/7/16

Download the Membership form from

[http://newitaly.com.au/?page\\_id=66](http://newitaly.com.au/?page_id=66)

### WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO IL GIORNALE?

Email stories, tourist tips to Italy, recipes etc.

Summer 2016 edition: content due 16/11/16

### INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Peter Blackwood (Secretary)

[info@newitaly.com.au](mailto:info@newitaly.com.au) • 0414 673 933

### VOLUNTEER PROFILE: MARGARET ROBINSON

Margaret is a descendant of the Battistuzzi and Felicetti families. Margaret was raised at Swan Bay.

After marrying, Margaret moved to Bungawalbyn where she continues to live and farm with her husband Sam. She is a valued 'brains trust', was very active in the development of the New Italy Museum, is an original member of the Museums' Monday group as well as a valued NIMI committee member.

