



**NEW
ITALY**

IL GIORNALE

CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE AUTUNNO!

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In a earlier edition of *Il Giornale* I made mention of the marble altar stone that was brought via the expedition from Milan to the colony site in New Ireland. Well now I have another stone story.

This story is of a large grain grinding mill stone brought from Europe by the colonists for the production of flour from their cereal crops. Little did they know that this stone would have a story almost as eventful as their epic journey, without crushing a single grain!

In early 1881, when the colonists were abandoning the attempted settlement at New Breton for Australia, this stone was left behind in the jungle with its accompanying mechanism. There it lay for some 56 years until 1936 when an energetic Public Works Architect, Mr W. L. McGowan, who with the help of the Rabaul Harbour Master, had it collected and towed on a raft some 50 km to Rabaul. Here it was erected in an open park space in the centre of town near the Commonwealth Bank. The stone stood here for a further 58 years. During this time it stood as silent witness to (and survived) the Japanese occupation and Allied bombings between 1942 and 1945. During this time it was used as a sign post to the Japanese officer's mess.

After WWII it remained in position as Rabaul was rebuilt. All was well until 1994 when a violent volcanic eruption destroyed the town and covered it in up to 2 metres of sulphurous volcanic ash. Some years later the stone was retrieved from its ashen grave and taken 20km away to the town of Kokopo and located in the museum there. Here it rests today outside on the grass along with a collection of WWII military hardware.

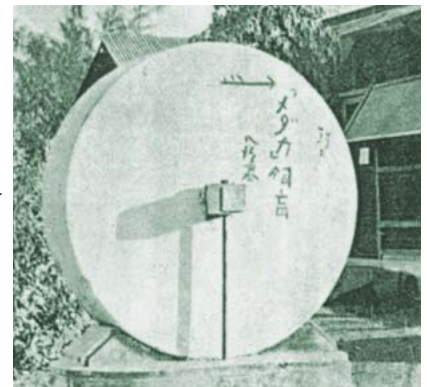
With a view to adding the stone to the New Italy Museum's collection of memorabilia, I have contacted the Kokopo Museum. Unfortunately for legal and cultural reasons the stone is regarded as a item of historical significance by the PNG government and therefore is a prohibited export. However it may be possible to retrieve one of the expedition cannons that lie with it. Time will tell.

Meanwhile I dare say that the stone's survival has a lesson for us. That is to persevere and to be resilient as we continue our efforts to add to the great work already done at what is New Italy Museum Complex. A recent example of this is the work involved in the transformation of the café/museum building and the evolving new museum displays. A further example is the continued success of the Casa Vecchia gift shop which when threatened with drastically reduced trading days was able to muster new volunteers and so restore trading days. Well done Museum Mondays and Gift Shop teams!

Finally I advise that although design work on the new car park is nearing completion a number of things are not yet decided. Look forward to a more accurate report in the next *Giornale*.

We look forward to seeing you all at Carnevale Italiano - Sunday 9 April! Read inside for more information ...

John Barnes



Top: PNG resident sitting on top of the mill stone, with infrastructure lying unused in the jungle.

Middle: The mill stone during WWII used as a sign to the Japanese officers' mess.

Bottom: Len Barnes next to mill stone at Rabaul during the 1970s.





MUSEUM UPGRADE ...SO FAR

For those of you who have visited the Museum in the last four months you will have seen the big changes to the building with a new entrance, ceiling and walls ready to display old and new stories. The dedication and expertise of the architect and builders are there for all to see. In March we will install the wonderful front entrance images and the first new interpretation panels (Sites 2-6), that outline the story up to the start of the settlement. This will be something to enjoy when you come to Carnevale!

As you'll know from previous Giornales, volunteer labour and the success of a small grant got it started. Ongoing progress has been supported by proceeds from the Casa Vecchia Gift Shop and careful fiscal management by the NIMI committee. This plus the generous support of time and energy of a small band of volunteers are making the upgrade possible. However it is a big job!

Our very small Museum Monday volunteer group needs your short-term help to get objects and displays back into the Museum. We have jobs for all interests – no specific expertise is required and we will find you a job that will suit. They include a much needed clean, oil and care of leather, metal and wooden objects as well as fabrics; recording of each item; researching key objects; making display boxes; cart and carry; further identification of objects including in the family cabinets, and more. We always have tea and coffee (and cake contributions never go astray). It's actually fun!

Without the invaluable help of Arthur and Max Green and Barry Filicietti with organising what you see in the photo, we would never have got this far. You can help us for a short time or come when you can on a Monday. We will be in the Hall every Monday until we get everything off the floor and the Museum finished. Please don't leave us here for all Mondays into eternity.

If you'd like to have a chat about working with us please contact Jo 0425 793 668 jkijas@iprimus.com.au or come any Monday around 10am.

!?...MYSTERY OBJECT...!?



December's mystery object was a 1898 Tamblins Non Pareil Egg Incubator made by William Tamblins, Surrey, United Kingdom.

THE NEW ITALY MUSEUM COMPLEX MAJOR EVENT FOR 2017, CARNEVALE ITALIANO

IS ALMOST HERE!

Funds raised supports infrastructure changes and maintenance to the site. Through passionate volunteers, generous sponsors and Carnevale Italiano patrons, we continue to grow. *Carnevale Italiano* remembers New Italy's first settlers arrival in Australia in 1880, and their miraculous sea journey and we celebrate "*all things Italian*".

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND THE 2017 PERFORMERS WILL BE...

TONY PANTANO Tony Pantano is an internationally acclaimed entertainer who has entertained us before at New Italy. His beautiful voice has been compared to the likes of great talents such as Tom Jones, Englebert Humperdink, Mario Lanza, Elvis Presley and Luciano Pavarotti; all rolled into one amazing entertainer.

SIMONE NICOLE We also welcome Simone Nicole back to our stage! Simone is an accomplished opera singer, a stunning entertainer and cabaret artist – a genuine treat!

FORTUNATO ISGRO Also looking forward to hearing Fortunato's lovely voice back at New Italy! A popular entertainer within the Australian-Italian community, Fortunato performs at numerous Italian clubs and festivals throughout Australia.

VAL WILLS A much loved local accordion player who first appeared at the New Italy Museum Complex alongside Harry Venn in the early 1990's. Val will be playing in the Museum, the Pavilion and throughout the Food Court.

THE LOWER CLARENCE COMMUNITY CHOIR was enjoyed at last years Carnevale at both Mass and as a part of the days program.

SPONSORS

A big thank to all our sponsors for their continued support!

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RAMADA HOTELS AND SUITES: BALLINA/BYRON
BOOYONG DESIGN
ROD N REEL WOODBURN
OZ RICE

Please consider using these businesses in the future and let them know you heard about them at New Italy. Your patronage is most appreciated.



NEW ITALY MUSEUM COMPLEX gratefully acknowledges all our sponsors:



TIME	COMMUNITY HALL	PIAZZA / STAGE	MUSEUM	ITALIAN PAVILION	FOOD COURT	BOCCE	
GATES OPEN 9.30	MASS with FATHER SLACK featuring LOWER CLARENCE COMMUNITY CHOIR	VAL WILLS Accordion					
10.30			JO KIJAS Museum Upgrade	Childrens History Hunt starts	PASTA ON SALE		
11.00	New Italy Story: JOHN BARNES	LOWER CLARENCE COMMUNITY CHOIR	ALL DAY GENEALOGY AND MUSEUM INFORMATION	LEONIE LANE Pavilion Displays	9.30 - 2.35 FOOD VOUCHERSS ON SALE	ALL DAY BOCCE COURT AVAILABLE FOR VISITORS	
11.15		MC DENIS DARDENGO Welcome to Country National Anthems Opening Speeches: JOHN BARNES: President NIMI KEVIN HOGAN: MP Page CHRIS GULAPTIS: MP Clarence Special guests: DAN SIMPSON: Richmond Valley Council LORENZO FAZZINI: CoAsit President (Sydney)		ALL DAY KIDS ACTIVITIES (COLOURING IN AND MASK MAKING)			
11.45		TONY PANTANO & FORTUNATO ISGRO					History Hunt collected
12.20		SIMONE NICOLE Coffee Cup Plant Stall opens					
1.00		1st Salami Wheel drawn					
1.20		TONY PANTANO & FORTUNATO ISGRO					
1.35		SIMONE NICOLE					
2.15		Childrens mask making winners History Hunt winners 2nd Salami Wheel Draw					
2.35		TONY PANTANO & FORTUNATO ISGRO					
2.50		Lucky door prize and raffles					
3.25		SIMONE NICOLE					
3.35		TONY PANTANO & FORTUNATO ISGRO					
3.55		CIAO!					
4.30							

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW ITALY...



THE TASTES OF NEW ITALY CAFÉ AND THE MUSEUM ARE STARTING TO LOOK A BIT DIFFERENT!
Enjoy the café's excellent food and coffee at CARNEVALE ITALIANO and beyond...
Enquiries: Rob Duncan, Tastes of New Italy Café owner • 02 66822622

THE ITALIAN PAVILION



POW in uniform working at Jiggi from 'Power of the Land: A Social History of Italian Settlement in Lismore/ Il Potere Della Terra: Una storia delle attività dell'insediamento Italiano di Lismore' by Lesley Jenkins 1993

Recently a grant application was made to the Department of Veteran Affairs ANZAC Community Grants Program to assist NIMI in the development of an important new display for the Italian Pavilion. This project will look at WWII experiences as recalled through members of the Northern Rivers Italian community.

This project focuses on the war years of the 1940s, through a variety of different viewpoints. Using Lesley Jenkins' book, *'Power of the Land: A Social History of Italian Settlement in Lismore/ Il Potere Della Terra: Una storia delle attività dell'insediamento Italiano di Lismore'* as a foundation, more stories will be gathered to provide an overview of the multifaceted experiences from the local community.

Varied viewpoints include: the Italian civilian experience of war in Italy before migration, Italian prisoners of war in Australia, internments of Northern Rivers Italian naturalized and un-naturalised male civilians in Australia, women and children managing life in a new country while their menfolk were interned, the WWII experience of the local community in general - New Italy and the larger Northern Rivers community e.g. homeland security (the Brisbane line preparations) racism, fear and acceptance. If you are interested in being involved or would like to share your family stories, we would love to hear from you.

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

THE CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP



A small sample of the range of fine silk scarves available at the Gift Shop. Photo Gail Williams

We have been very fortunate to find a company in Milan, the fashion capital of the world, who make fine Italian silk scarves. Our first shipment sold out. Our second shipment is due in at the end of the month. The scarves come in three sizes from square to shawl style in vibrant colours and patterns. We will also be stocking some Italian modal scarf/shawls.

Feel like a free trip to Italy each month? If so then join our merry bunch of volunteers and feel transported there when you work in our Italian gift shop! It is as good as being there! Cheapest form of travel that I know of! Give us a call. Great conditions, interesting customers ... it's a great escape!

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

2017 MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE

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.
Winter 2017 edition: content due 13/6/17

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

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

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: DR JO KIJAS

Jo is a professional historian who first began her association with New Italy Museum Inc as NIMI's part-time Community Development Officer. Since then she has engaged in many historical adventures as a volunteer at the Museum.

