



AUTUMN 2018

# IL GIORNALE

**CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE!**

**IN THIS EDITION:**

- From our President John Barnes OAM
- Recent and upcoming events
- What's happening at New Italy

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Rather than write an account of an interesting historical feature of the New Italy story, I thought that a timely reality check of present and future developments is appropriate.

**Visitor Numbers:** During the recent December/January holiday period of 62 days, the site recorded an astonishing total of 62,101 visitors – a daily average of 1,001 persons! This compares with 616 persons/day when recordings were first made in December 2009/January 2010.

The annual daily average is currently approx. 600 persons/day, compared to 335 persons/day in 2009. While this patronage growth is gratifying, it does clearly spell the need for us to be prepared to satisfy the needs of New Italy's future growth - in all areas of our activities.

**Highway Upgrade:** This appears to be on schedule and it is due for completion in late 2020. It will have considerable positive influences on our visitor numbers because

1. The toileted rest stop (northern lane) to the immediate south has been permanently closed
2. Woodburn, Broadwater and Wardell will be bypassed.
3. New Italy will be the only flush toileted 24/7 rest stop on the 90km stretch between Ballina and Maclean.

In consideration of the disruption caused by roadworks at our site, the RMS is shortly to construct a 120 space "temporary" unsurfaced car park at the rear of the complex. This will remain in use when the front car park is rebuilt.

The arrangement is that we pay for the design and development approval costs (approx \$40,000) and the RMS pay for the construction (approx. \$350,000).

Development approval for this project and associated works (including a pathway to the buildings and an emergency and heavy vehicle lay over area on Swan Bay Road) has been received. Additionally one of the RMS sub-contractors (CPB) is to construct a temporary administration office on a southern section of the Park of Peace (2 year occupancy). This will be paid for in cash and kind directed towards the above improvements. Meanwhile tree clearance is well underway in our immediate neighbourhood.

**The Future:** Growth over the past few years has put pressure on all our facilities, volunteers workload and various site attractions. To date these challenging tasks has been dealt with and attained as we set about improving the Pavilion, Gift Shop, Museum/Café and the grounds.

However, to cater for future expected patronage growth, considerable expense is expected (within 3 -5 years) for a new toilet block, treatment system and additional water storage.

Also a place such as ours would welcome a children's playground, a dog exercise area and perhaps an electric car recharge station.

Anticipated growth will need to be planned and carefully managed in a manner that combines the current ethos of New Italy while meeting contemporary community expectations in a higher volume setting, as we justifiably make some money from our investments.

High on the priority list when the highway works are completed is the refurbishment of the eastern (highway side) facade of the complex. This overdue makeover will update our appearance (while being sensitive to New Italy's heritage) and hopefully increase visitor numbers.

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Even though the New Italy site toilets and sewerage system are kept clean and functioning, they are 'challenged' by large visitor numbers.



A feature of New Italy's fading infrastructure

Also to be considered is the future management structure and governance of New Italy. In circumstances of declining and ageing volunteers, is the current structure suitable for the future? We must plan towards a sustainable and manageable future and in a professional manner. No

longer can we rely on willing but ageing volunteer tradespeople, second hand materials or short term planning. To maintain a quality experience, we need to employ competence and vision. This requires a bigger budget and good planning. As members with connections to the site, your suggestions and input are encouraged and welcome.

**Footnote:** During the fore-mentioned holiday period, a total of \$6,118 was contributed to on-site donation boxes. Considering 62,101 visitors during this period, the donation rate averaged 10c/person/day! You would think the combined efforts and achievements of many volunteers over the past 30 years would be worth more than 10c per visit.

### DONATIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO US.

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 - <http://www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/donation/>**
- **Historic New Italy Facebook page**
- **Cheques can be sent to New Italy Museum Complex, PO Box 5139, East Lismore NSW 2480**

... looking to our future survival  
**John Barnes**

## CENTENARY OF ANZAC

Last year was the centenary of the deaths on the Western Front of two young men from the Italian families that settled New Italy. Pte John Caminiti, 36<sup>th</sup> Aust Inf Bn was killed in action on 10 June 1917, and Gunner Lorenzo Nardi, 4<sup>th</sup> Aust Div Ammunition Column died of wounds on 22 August 1917. This year is the centenary of the cessation of hostilities in WW1, but it also the centenary of the deaths of several other soldiers who had a connection to the New Italy settlement.

**STANLEY MORROW** was the teacher at the New Italy school throughout 1915. He enlisted on 19 June 1916 and joined the 57<sup>th</sup> Aust Inf Bn in France. Stanley was killed in action on 18 August 1918 just south of the Somme River in the vicinity of Mericourt and Proyart. Cpl Stanley Morrow is buried at Mericourt L'Abbe Cemetery. He was 36 and married with 2 children.

**LIONEL PINCHIN** was a 16 year old pupil teacher at the New Italy school in 1902. When he enlisted on 24 July 1916 – at age 30 - he was married and working as a school teacher. Lionel joined the 53<sup>rd</sup> Aust Inf Bn on the Western front on 21 October 1917 and was killed in action on 1 September 1918. Pte Lionel Pinchin is buried at Peronne.

**LT-COL JOHN MILNE DSO** was John Caminiti's Commanding Officer in the 36<sup>th</sup> Aust Inf Bn. Notwithstanding the large losses to his Bn in the action when John Caminiti was killed, he still found time to pen a personal letter about John's death to Millicent Archer, John's defacto wife in Sydney. John Milne, who was in the 1<sup>st</sup> wave of landings at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, was himself killed in action on 12 April 1918.

**CHRISTIAN PETERSEN** was another pupil teacher at the New Italy school who served in France. He was 30 and working as a teacher when he enlisted in January 1917. As part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Aust Inf Bn, Christian was twice wounded in action and returned to Australia as an invalid on 27 February 1919.

**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.**

## RECENT EVENTS



### 2017 AGM AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

A good crowd of New Italy members attended the AGM Sunday 3 December followed by our annual Christmas party. After viewing the new displays in the Museum, there was a photo opportunity not to be missed.

The 2018 New Italy Museum Inc. committee: John Barnes (President), Peter Blackwood (Secretary and Treasurer), Americo Melchior and Lester Cooke (Vice-Presidents), Tina Sheehy (Membership), Ellen Barnes, Gail Williams, Leonie Lane, Judy McCormack, Robert Antonioli (Committee members).



### MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION FAR NORTH COAST CHAPTER MEETING - 2 MARCH 2018

Lester Cooke and Leonie Lane represented the New Italy Museum at the recent meeting hosted by Brunswick Valley Historical Society, Mullumbimby. There are many small museums in our region with inspiring stories!

### NEW ITALY ON TOURIST BUCKET LIST

A recent traveller to New Zealand found a special mention of New Italy on an 'Australian Bucket List'.





**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**COME & JOIN US THIS ANNIVERSARY DAY!**



**NEW ITALY** CELEBRATING 137 YEARS OF SETTLEMENT AT NEW ITALY  
**ANNIVERSARY DAY**  
**ITALIAN LUNCH**

**11AM (FOR 11.30AM) SUNDAY 8 APRIL 2018**  
**HISTORIC NEW ITALY**  
**PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SOUTH OF WOODBURN**

- CELEBRATE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS • MUSEUM UPGRADE PROGRESS
- AMERICO'S FAMOUS PASTA FOR SALE • TASTES OF NEW ITALY CAFE OPEN
- SALAMI WHEELS • GIFT SHOP OPEN • LIVE MUSIC

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

Wine making at New Italy, at the home of Antonio Pezzutti in 1895.  
 Photograph from the estate of G. Piccoli. Courtesy of Richmond River Historical Society.

**FREE ENTRY**

There is much to celebrate this Anniversary Day! Not only is it 137 years of settlement at New Italy but also the Monument to the New Italy pioneers was unveiled on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1961 by Dr G. Carnevali, Consul-General for Italy, 57 years ago! Below descendants mark that occasion all those years ago.



The New Italy website is being upgraded.  
 Our new slightly modified address is now  
**[www.newitaly.org.au](http://www.newitaly.org.au)**



**Italian**  
**FASHION PARADE**  
 dressed by **etika\***

**NEW ITALY HALL**  
 10am (for 10.30)  
**Saturday 21 April 2018**

**\$20 entry**  
 (includes a complimentary Prosecco and Antipasto)

Bookings essential ~ Tickets from  
 New Italy : 6682 2310 : 0412 811 022  
 etika\* : 0438 415 153

**WONDERFUL RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZES TO BE WON!**  
 'MYSTERIES OF VENICE': a talk by our compere for the day, Luisa Liussi.  
 10% GIFT SHOP DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON THE DAY

**etika\***  
 Star Court Arcade 126 Molesworth Street Lismore  
 Weekdays 10-4 Saturdays 10-1  
 CONTACT [etika.etc@gmail.com](mailto:etika.etc@gmail.com) • [etikaboutique.com](http://etikaboutique.com)  
 @etika etc • 0438415153

\*etika is a Lismore-based boutique selling fine Italian goods: linen clothes, felt hats, leather bags, knitwear and scarves.



**MASQUERADE**  
**DINNER DANCE**  
**SATURDAY 12 MAY**  
 6.30pm ~ Midnight  
 (doors open at 6pm)

**ITALO-AUSTRALIAN CLUB**  
 Barrow Lane, North Lismore

**TICKETS \$40 each**  
 (Bookings essential)  
 contact Julie  
 02 66243506

**SUPPORTING**  
 RELAY FOR LIFE  
 Cancer Council

**SUPPORTING ITALO CLUB FRIENDS**



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW ITALY...



Top left to bottom left: Developing Pioneer Kitchen, Settlement and Making Home displays. Top right: This is believed to be Girolamo in his military uniform with the Tome rifle.

## MUSEUM UPGRADE UPDATE ... MARCH 2018

We look forward to sharing the work done so far in the New Italy Museum at the upcoming Anniversary Day. While work is ongoing, we hope you enjoy the story as it is unfolding around the walls of the refurbished Museum building.

We are also very excited about a significant new donation to the Museum collection. This is the historic Tome Rifle that was owned by Girolamo Giovanni Tome of Orsago, Italy. Girolamo, his wife Luvigia and their 5 surviving children, were on the Marquis De Ray's expedition of 1880-1881. The family story is that the rifle was used by Girolamo Giovanni Tome at the Battle of Solferino on 24 June 1859. The rifle was passed to Nicholas John Catlan (previously Catalano), great-grandson of Girolamo. Nick who passed away on 1/12/2017 aged 83, was a keen supporter of the New Italy Museum, so the family thought it was very fitting to donate Girolamo's rifle to our Museum for its display. We thank Belinda Patterson née Catlan and family for their generosity.

Leonie Lane, Museum • booyongd@bigpond.net.au • 0423733569

## THE ITALIAN PAVILION



In 2012, as a part of the *'Bananas Business and Bocce: the Lismore Italians'* exhibition at the Lismore Regional Gallery, information was gathered about the spread of Italian community settlement across the Northern Rivers area. At the same time names of Italian family businesses in the Lismore area were sought. The resulting names were added to the maps that are currently housed in the Italian Pavilion at New Italy. No doubt there are many more family names and businesses to add. If you would like your family name added to the map please contact me and I would be very happy to do so.

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

## THE CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP



For those avid Murano collectors, a limited range of Murano Glass clowns have just arrived. The colours and craftsmanship are outstanding!

Recently we have purchased beautifully hand crafted Venetian masks from Venice. Some are adorned with Swarovski crystals and ostrich feathers – they are absolutely stunning! You will be the Belle of the Masquerade Ball in one of these! We also have a new range of cookbooks plus some innovative children's educational kits to assemble. Make your very own programmable Italian robot!

Pop in and say 'Ciao!' and see our expanding range of Murano jewellery here at your Italian Gift Shop on the north coast of NSW.

Gail Williams • Casa Vecchia Gift Shop • giftshop@newitaly.org.au

## NEW ITALY NEEDS YOUR HELP MAKE A DONATION

[www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/donation/](http://www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/donation/)

## BECOME A MEMBER

[www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/membership/](http://www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/membership/)

## CONTRIBUTE TO 'IL GIORNALE'

Winter 2018 edition: content due 18/5/18

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER

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

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE: AMERICO MELCHIOR

Americo has had a long and significant connection to New Italy. He started volunteering in 1999 when the New Italy Museum Complex site needed a lot of help. He later became President, a role he undertook for 8 years! For the past 5 years he has been NIMI's Vice President. He is well known for his fantastic cooking at New Italy celebrations and also at Lismore's Italo Club where he is Club President! Come to 2018 Anniversary Day and sample Americo's famous pasta sauce!

