

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In earlier messages I have mentioned the many changes that have taken place at Historic New Italy and those that are planned. Due to the need to address ever increasing change pressures I think it necessary to explain just where these are coming from.

- 1. Our popularity:** In spite of extensive and site obscuring highway works at our entrance, visitor numbers have been maintained at an average of approx. 600 persons/day. This proves that we are a well-known stopping point. This number will no doubt increase when the highway is completed and the site is made more attractive.
- 2. Regulation:** Compliance, safety, health etc., the list goes on. To maintain our reputation, standing with authorities and ability to cope with increased patronage, we must abide by the ever increasing list of regulations that apply to public facilities.
- 3. Society's expectations:** We are becoming a noticeably well-known site catering for the expectations of today's social media-literate society who expect things to be "schmick" the first time. We will be in a competitive highway traffic-stopping situation and must be "up to standard", while being mindful that a "north and south" service centre is being built in Ballina.
- 4. The Highway redevelopment:** The by-passing of Woodburn, Broadwater and Wardell plus highway re-routing to the south, will result in New Italy being the only significant stopping point on 100km of highway. This presents us with a not-to-be-missed opportunity while presenting development challenges. This means investment.
- 5. Internal:** I make no secret of the fact that the average age of the committee and other active volunteers is well into the seventies. If we are to leave a worthwhile legacy to those who succeed us then we must address the current situation and plan for the future in a responsible manner. Whatever we do must be commercial and marketable in the future.

With the above situation in mind it has been decided to concentrate our efforts on the highway side appearance of the site in readiness for the completion of highway works in our area by early 2020. Firstly, the heritage post/rail fencing has been stored for later reinstallation in the Park of Peace. We have received a small grant to develop a site plan assisted by our architect Heike Seubert. This will include the redevelopment of the tower and the eastern entrance of the site. Heike will be providing plans for the construction



The heritage post rail fence has been relocated and stored awaiting a new life in the Park of Peace while Florian Volpato's billboard will add to New Italy's story in the Italian Pavilion.

of a round wooden post colonnade and covered walkway over the existing front entrance as well as highway visible signage and façade improvements. The existing picnic shelter at the corner of Swan Bay Road is shortly to be relocated to the grassed area to the west of the hall near the Park of Peace. The well on the site of the original Antonioli well at the front of the site is in a poor state of repair. We are yet to take advice on its repair or relocation. The site information billboard painted by Florian Volpato at the eastern end of the museum is out of date and no longer represents the activities within the site. It will be relocated and new signage will be created to promote the site.

In all aspects of development it is our intention to maintain the essence of why and how New Italy came to exist. Therefore every effort is being and will be made to preserve our historical identity, uniqueness and peaceful ambience in a rural setting.

Now all that said, I must report that the newly constructed 120 space car park has been a great success. Overnight vehicles are averaging about 15. The footpath lighting looks impressive and there are plans for solar powered security lighting courtesy of a successful Community Building Partnership grant!

Lastly, as separately reported in this issue, I must comment on the success of our recent constitutional update meeting. Read details on page 2 of this newsletter. I would like to say that we are now much better prepared to cope with the future. Additionally the meeting was a suitable opportunity for us to be addressed by the principal and senior executives of Benzina, the proposed developers of the neighbouring service centre. More information will be provided on this development as it becomes available. Thank you.

John Barnes, President

RECENT EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING ~ SUNDAY 26 MAY

At a very well attended meeting on Sunday 26 May, members voted unanimously to approve various changes to The New Italy Museum Incorporated's objects and constitution. A new object now enables the association to deal with its assets (including land) in pursuance of its other objects. The changes to the constitution align the constitution with the model constitution recommended by the Office of Fair Trading. Further, new clauses such as a "not for profit" clause and a "Deductible Gift Recipient revocation" clause have been introduced that are requirements for the association's registration as a charity by the Australian Charities and Not For Profit Commission. The committee thanks all members for their participation in this important process.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2024

Following the general meeting, members were briefed on the recently finalised Strategic Plan for 2019-2024 which identifies the following goals and priorities:

GOALS

PERPETUATE OUR SPIRITUAL LEGACY	ECONOMIC + CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION	CULTURAL TOURISM
To perpetuate the spiritual legacy of the Italian pioneers and families who, through courage, tenacity and community established the settlement that became "New Italy".	To embrace the economic and cultural contribution to Australia of all Italian Australians.	To develop Historic New Italy as a leading and economically sustainable cultural tourism experience for visitors and conserve the heritage status of the site.
CELEBRATE MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY	REALISE COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES	
To celebrate and honour the multicultural heritage shared by all peoples and to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land at New Italy.	To capitalise on New Italy's highway location and pursue commercial opportunities that will help secure the long-term future of Historic New Italy.	

PRIORITIES

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	Ensure long-term financial viability of Historic New Italy to continue surplus investment with a strategy of income diversification for future growth, infrastructure needs, market development and long-term partnerships.
HUMAN RESOURCING	Development of volunteer base, succession planning and contracting professional support.
INFRASTRUCTURE	Future development and continual upgrading and maintenance of infrastructure to meet the growing demand from travelling public and visitors to the region.
ENHANCE THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE	Further develop and elevate the visitor experience to ensure the site meets visitor expectations into the future, with aims to increase visitor satisfaction, length-of-stay and spend onsite.
MARKETING	Continue to raise awareness of Historic New Italy, contributing to its appeal. Specifically growing social media reach and digital media presence.

HIGHWAY SERVICE CENTRE AT NEW ITALY

Members were also briefed on the proposed development by the Benzina Group of a new Highway Service Centre at New Italy. NIMI's Treasurer explained that NIMI's committee has been involved on a "commercial in confidence" basis with this proposed development over the past 8 months. The preferred site for this development is the highway frontage land on the southern boundary of NIMI's site. This land has been secured by the developer with a 2-year option agreement. The development also requires a portion of NIMI's land, being approx. 1 hectare to the west of the Park of Peace and along the southern border of the recently built car park off Swan Bay/New Italy Road. NIMI has granted the Benzina Group a 2-year option to purchase that land, together with a proposed permanent easement across NIMI's

land to the west of the car park that would enable vehicular access to and from Swan Bay/New Italy Road.

Mr Wayne Gersbach, representing the Benzina Group, told the meeting that a Development Application has not yet been lodged with the Richmond Valley Council. Wayne explained that numerous matters, such as traffic arrangements, heritage and archaeological issues are still being worked on before a DA can be lodged. Meetings on these matters have been held with Council and the Roads and Maritime Services and further liaison will be occurring over the coming months. It is intended to hold a meeting on Sunday 7 July with the local community as part of the broader consultation process.

NIMI's committee is fully supportive of this proposed development. The committee is confident the development will respect the heritage of the New Italy site and ensure the travelling public continue to be drawn to stopping at New Italy. The increased commercial opportunities for NIMI from the development will also help secure the financial future for NIMI and enable NIMI to pursue its goals with much greater confidence.

Members will be kept abreast of progress on this development in future editions of Il Giornale.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING PROPOSAL

In the week leading up to the General Meeting NIMI received a proposal from Tesla for the installation of a 6 bay Tesla Supercharger facility on the New Italy Museum site. This proposal was explained to members following the briefing on the proposed Highway Service Centre. The Tesla proposal will now be considered in conjunction with the plans for the proposed Highway Service Centre. Clearly, the New Italy Museum's location alongside the upgraded Pacific Highway make it a very attractive location for electric vehicle charging facilities.

SAFETY FENCING

A 1200mm high safety fence has now been erected around the bio-retention basin located off the south-western corner of the new car park. The basin traps water flowing off the car park and is a safety hazard, particularly for small children.



A safety fence is also being erected around the outer corner of the Community Hall that adjoins the Casa Vecchia/residence building. This corner is a fall hazard and the fencing will deny public access through this area.

ANNIVERSARY DAY ~ SUNDAY 7 APRIL



Photos by Peter Derrett and Peter Ward

Clockwise from top: A happy crowd in the shaded piazza with Val Wills on accordion; John Barnes, Leonie Lane, Mike Grigoletti (COMITES), Julie de Nardi and Ros Derrett; the busy Membership table; a pensive Domenico.

CONSULAR ASSISTANCE IN LISMORE

The Consulate General of Italy (Sydney) is sending two staff Members, Vice-Consul Sergio Bianchi and his colleague Annalisa Fezza to Lismore to meet members of the regional Italian community on the **21/22 June**. They will also be at the Lismore 'Piazza in the Park'.

Appointments can be made to formally meet these people by contacting **Tatiana Cagnola**, or tatiana.cagnola@esteri.it or + 61-02-9392 7900 at the Sydney Consulate.

The meetings will be arranged for interested people at the Italo-Australian Club in Barrow Lane, North Lismore.

Attendees may wish to discuss:

- Italian passport, for Italian citizens who are already registered at the AIRE with this Consulate General or who are temporarily residing in the area;
- Recognition of Italian citizenship by descent, for Australian citizens (or foreigners to Australia, holders of permanent resident visa) of Italian descent resident in the area;
- Submission of Registry documents (births, marriages, divorces certificates). Certificates must have already been legalized by means of an Apostille by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and translated into Italian by a NAATI certified translator. Death certificates can be submitted only as a photocopy, without Apostille nor translation;
- Signature/photo authentication, certificates of citizenship, residence, family composition and single status.

LISMORE Friendship Festival's

2019 **Piazza in the Park**

SUNDAY 23 JUNE

SPINKS PARK, LISMORE

BENVENUTI A TUTTI!

featuring **DOMENICO & THE LATIN MAFIA BAND**

Supported by the **NSW GOVERNMENT**

LismoreFriendshipFestival.com.au
[#lismorefrienshipfestival](https://www.facebook.com/lismorefrienshipfestival)
visitlismore.com.au

FREE ENTRY

Christmas in July

6.30PM FRIDAY 5 JULY

ITALO CLUB LISMORE

\$25 ~ 3 COURSE MEAL

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

CALL JULIE 6624 3506

ITALO - AUSTRALIAN
SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB
YOUR HOST LISMORE

DATE SAVER

Italian

SPRING FASHION PARADE

dressed by **etika***

NEW ITALY HALL

Saturday 31 August 2019

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL - TICKETS

New Italy Gift Shop: 6682 2310 :

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW ITALY...

THE MUSEUMS REPORT

'La Cea Venezia' or 'La Cella Venezia'? If you have followed the story of New Italy, you will know Anne-Gabrielle Thompson's 'Turmoil, Tragedy to Triumph: The Story of New Italy.' Edition one (1980) names the budding community, La Cella Venezia (The Venetian Cell) 'more as a symbol of their closeness than their exclusivity'. A second edition was published in 2011 and later revised in 2013. Responding to further research carried out by members of the Museums group, with information from Italian and Venetian dialect speakers, the use of the word 'cella' was questioned. It translates from mainstream Italian to 'prison cell' or 'cage', with unintentional negative connotations and has no translation in Venetian dialect. 'La Cea Venezia' was believed to be the actual name. An affectionate term for tiny or small Venice in the Venetian dialect spoken by the expeditioners at the time of their extraordinary journey. It was felt that perhaps - as with many family names - there had been a mis-hearing or mis-spelling repeated over generations. 'La Cea Venezia' has made its way to our Museum door and intro text. It has been suggested that dual understanding suggests an ongoing discussion of the "living" nature of the museum bringing life to the dialogue of the settlers at New Italy. What do you think? Readers thoughts and family remembrances are always appreciated.

As the work on our Museums continue, new skills and knowledges have been learnt, shared and appreciated within our group. Aiming to extend these learnings, NI Museum Monday group is taking part in the **2019 M&G NSW Standards Program**. The Standards Review Program is a nine month program M&G NSW runs each year which helps museums, galleries and Aboriginal cultural centres benchmark themselves against the National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries. Looking forward to the expert advice and mentorship from our specially appointed Standards Reviewers. Two activities on, we have a media kit! All good!

Leonie Lane, New Italy Museums • booyongd@bigpond.net.au

THE CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP



New items in the gift shop include the following: **1899 photograph of New Italy settlers** as seen on the New Italy Museum screen reproduced on canvas (600 x 300mm) with list of names of participants. Featured families in the photo: Battistuzzi, Bazzo, Bertoli, Capelin, Fillicetti, Flynn, Gaurischi, Martinuzzi, Mellare, Morandini, Nardi, Pedrini, Pellizer, Pezzutti, Picco, Piccoli, Pradella, Roder, Rosolen, Scarrabelotti, Serone, Spinaze & Tedesco.

\$89.95 (plus postage).



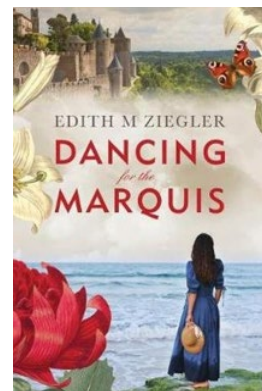
Settler Mugs (in two styles) list all the names of the families who arrived in Australia on the ill-fated 'Marquis de Rays' expedition in 1880.

\$16.95 (plus postage)

Historical novel "Dancing for the Marquis" by Edith Ziegler. This book's interwoven stories examine different responses to adversity and especially the resilience of the Italian refugees from Veneto who had nothing except their determination to succeed. A Booktopia review concisely reports "... Although the novel is set in the

nineteenth century, it touches on issues that have resonance in the twenty-first century - financial fraud, a loss of trust in once revered individuals and venerated institutions, refugee policy, and the perennial dreams of 'economic' migrants seeking a better life. In her research for this novel, Ziegler spent time in Conegliano, Marseille, and Barcelona, absorbing the atmosphere and detail of these places...

\$32.50 (plus postage)



Orders - giftshop@newitaly.com.au / (02) 6682 2310

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

WANTED: We are looking for a keen drone operator (with camera) to volunteer to photograph our site. These images would be used, in the first instance, to assist in developing our site plan, but also to record the changes occurring with our site.

JOIN OR RENEW NIMI MEMBERSHIP

www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/membership

CONTRIBUTE TO 'IL GIORNALE'

Spring 2019 edition:
content due 19/8/19

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

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

MAKE A DONATION

www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/donation/

VOLUNTEERS SHOULD ALWAYS BE CELEBRATED!

Every 'Il Giornale' we try to profile one of our wonderful volunteers. They are GOLD! Believe it or not our supply of willing subject matter is drying up. Yes we have a few shy ones! As of next 'Il Giornale' we will start looking at those from the past. THERE ARE SO MANY! Here is one small photo with Peter Bortolin, Florian Volpato and others with a consul general. They built the place! VOLUNTEERS ARE CHAMPIONS!

