



SPRING 2019

IL GIORNALE

CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE!

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

With the completion of the Pacific Highway bypass of Woodburn programmed to be before Christmas 2019, and the completion of the New Italy section set to be in Feb/ Mar 2020, the past few months have been a period of intense activity. These activities have been designed to help the site cope with the resultant increase in visitor numbers on top of the normal Christmas / New Year holiday influx.

Projects completed during this period include:

1. The relocation of a picnic shelter from the front of the site to the area of the footpath from the rear car park. Two table/seat sets are about to be installed.
2. An entrance connecting footbridge and concrete path has been built in the delivery/bus stop area.
3. The uneven sandstone path to the hall entrance has been replaced by new concrete.
4. A plates and faces wash room had been located in the old (and remodelled) storage shed near the toilets. This eliminates the practise of campers washing up in the toilet wash basins. Included here was a lock up area to house a pump, hot water heater and people counter.
5. Some improvements have been made to the toilets - lighting, new mirrors and signage.
6. Security fencing has been erected about the rear carpark storm water pond and the hall/rear of gift shop area.
7. A safe pathway to the rear storeroom has been built and this room has been remodelled to be safe and secure.
8. A set of four solar powered flood lights has been installed in the rear car park. This was largely funded by a grant.
9. The old, out-of-date advertising billboard at the front of the site has been photographed, recorded and removed.
10. A plaque recognising the generous donation by Ida Nardi has been re-installed in the Piazza garden.

Under consideration is the future of the Antonioli well structure at the front of the site and the Bertoli windmill that is near the toilet block. Re the well, options include levelling the existing New Italy style well to ground level (as it would have been when in use) and commemorating it with interpretive panels on top and rendering it safe to visitors. The relocated windmill (Australian in design) could be transformed into a wind powered water feature.

While on the topic of the New Italy site's future, a community information meeting was held on 7 July at the New Italy Community Hall regarding the 24x7 Service Centre project that is being planned on our southern



The new shelter is a welcoming addition to visitors entering the site from the new car park. This, with new paths and lighting throughout the site, make it a safer and more appealing experience for visitors. We are hoping that gratitude is shown via the donation boxes.



boundary. More on this proposal, regarded as vital to the future of the New Italy Museum Inc., over page.

Recently an on-site master plan meeting has been held with our architect, Heike Seubert of Space Ark. Heike will draft a plan that will incorporate a wide range of short to long term proposals that include landscaping, a playground, shaded walkways, new toilets, the redeveloped tower, signage, flagpoles, the well/windmill and highway façade. We look forward to receiving and sharing these plans.

Finally I must acknowledge the tremendous work being done by our volunteers. In spite of access disruption, near constant building going on somewhere, a never-ending shortage of funds, creeping age and an hectic pace, the site continues to gain reputation and popularity. We often take things for granted and so at times it is necessary to reflect on the fact that the volunteers keep the place running. **As always new volunteers are welcome!** The Gift Shop and Museum are always "schmick" and open, the gardens are in order and the accounts paid. We are all very thankful for these things.

Thank you
John Barnes, President

OLD THINGS RE-VALUED AT HISTORIC NEW ITALY: THE NEW ITALY WELL, THE BERTOLI WINDMILL, THE IDA NARDI PLAQUE AND THE PARK OF PEACE



Left to right: There are plans to upgrade external features like **the original well** that sits on the site of old Antoniulli House as well as **the Bertoli windmill**. Stay tuned for more information about these after the new site plan is complete. Meanwhile **the Ida Amabile Nardi plaque**, commemorating

her generous donation of the outdoor dance area, has been reinstalled in the garden bed next to the cafe terrace. **The Park of Peace** has recently benefited from a couple of working bees. The addition of fresh mulch and the welcome attention to the trees is ready now for much needed rain.

NEW AT NEW ITALY: SOLAR-POWERED SECURITY LIGHTS, THE LAYOVER PATH, THE WASHOUT ROOM AND THE PICNIC SHELTER,



Much has been done to improve the visitor experience in the grounds at the New Italy site. **Four new solar-powered street lights** have recently been erected in the new car park. These lights are intended to provide security lighting in the car park for the many travellers who overnight in the car park. In addition to the new street lights in the car park, NIMI earlier this year installed **lighting along the footpath** leading from the car park to the Piazza area.

With a project cost of \$29,606 for the street lights NIMI was pleased to receive a grant of \$19,250 towards this project from the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership arrangements. NIMI wishes to thank the Hon. Chris Gulapitis MP for his assistance in securing this grant.

Other additions include **the bus/emergency vehicle layover area** adjacent Swan Bay Road, **a washing facility** for visitors to the site and **a new picnic shelter**. A table and seating setting will be installed soon. A big thanks to Jim Barnes and Pete Robinson for all their hard work.

THE NIMI PRESIDENTS ROLL OF HONOUR

We are in the process of making a Roll of Honour board to honour New Italy Museum Inc. (NIMI) Presidents - present and past who have contributed a great deal of time, energy and leadership honouring the original community, maintaining Historic New Italy and keeping it future proof. We thank John Barnes (2012 -); Americo Melchior (2009 - 2011, 2006 -2007); Silvano Gava (2008 -2009) Nicola Volpato (2000 - 2005); Florian Volpato (1989 - 2000) and Spencer Spinaze (1980 - 1989) all supported by their families.

RECENT EVENTS

COMMUNITY MEETING SUNDAY 7 JULY: BENZINA PROPOSAL UPDATE

NIMI hosted a meeting for local residents in our Community Hall on Sunday 7 July. The purpose of the meeting was to brief residents on a proposed development of a Highway Service Centre (HSC) at New Italy. Representatives from the developer, The Benzina Group, explained that the HSC would be located on the southern boundary of NIMI's land, extending on to approx. 1 hectare of NIMI's land that lies to the south of the new car park. The HSC would operate on a 24/7 basis providing fuel for passenger and freight vehicles and would include several food outlets. It is estimated the HSC would create approx 40 - 50 full-time equivalent jobs when operating and there would be jobs and contracting opportunities during the estimated 12 months it would take to construct the facilities.

Residents generally applauded the proposed development although there were a number of concerns raised. Benzina Group representatives thanked residents for raising their issues and said, where possible, these matters would be addressed in the Development Application (DA). In the meantime, further meetings would be held with the community as part of a consultative process. It was hoped that a DA would be lodged in the next 2 months.

NEW ITALY RESIDENT'S 1919 MARRIAGE COMMEMORATED - 24/25 AUGUST



Johanna (née Bertoli) and Michael McCormack on their wedding day.

More than 100 family members gathered at New Italy over 24/25 August to commemorate the marriage on 27 August 1919 of Johanna Bertoli to Michael McCormack. Johanna was born at New Italy and was the daughter of Marietta (née Antonioli) and Borto Bertoli (both survivors of the Marquis de Rays expedition). Descendants travelled from as far as London and Perth for this happy event that included a tree planting in New Italy's Park of Peace.

COMING EVENTS

NEW ITALY FUNDRAISER SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER



Italian FASHION PARADE and Luncheon

NEW ITALY HALL
SATURDAY 7th Sept
11am for 11.30 am

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Tickets \$40

Includes....
complimentary prosecco on arrival
antipasto, pasta
coffee / tea & biscotti

Tickets from ...
Gift Shop at New Italy - 6682 2310
etika - 147 Keen St Lismore
or 130 River St Ballina
0438 415 153

Dressed by

etika

Lismore & Ballina

**Fabulous lucky door prizes*
** Guest speaker*
** Great raffle*

**10% OFF AT THE
GIFT SHOP**

All proceeds to the ongoing upgrade of Historic New Italy

**GUEST SPEAKER: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
ADELE WESSELL, FOOD HISTORIAN AND SCU HISTORY
LECTURER ~ "HOW AUSTRALIANS INVENTED SPAGHETTI
BOLOGNAISE." INTRIGUING TOPIC !**

FOR MORE INFO
www.italianfilmfestival.com.au/

NIMI 2019 AGM

11^{AM} SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME !
MAKE SURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS CURRENT

ENQUIRIES:

PETER BLACKWOOD (SECRETARY)

INFO@NEWITALY.COM.AU • 0414 673 933

NEW ITALY MUSEUM



Right: Reviewer Joanna Nicholas, with New Italy Museum's John Barnes, Ellen Barnes, Cynthia McKeough, Leonie Lane and Lester Cooke



Leonie Lane • New Italy Museum • booyongd@bigpond.net.au

A scenic view of a river flowing through a town, flanked by historic stone buildings and a stone bridge in the distance. The river is calm, reflecting the sky. The buildings on the left are multi-story, with some having red shutters. The buildings on the right are also historic, with some featuring arched windows. In the background, a stone bridge spans the river, and mountains are visible in the distance.

Once the highway upgrade is finished, the front carpark is re-installed, the front entrance/exit of the whole site but especially the Pavilion will be an important feature. We will reopen the front entrance and visitors will be encouraged to use both doorways. This thoroughfare will realign existing and new displays. These will include the many connections back to Italy through our Northern Rivers community. Members of the Lismore City Council's Sister City Advisory Panel are looking at ways to revive their long standing friendship relationship with Vittorio Veneto and Conegliano. They are keen to connect local families around Lismore to efforts to celebrate the cultural heritage of each destination. Plans are in hand to encourage exchanges for students, visits between citizens and explore some historic events in conjunction with Historic New Italy Museums.

Leonie Lane • New Italy Museum • booyongd@bigpond.net.au

There is great excitement in the air as Casa Vecchia Gift Shop is gearing up for its **second annual fashion parade** on the **Saturday 7 September**. This year you will be treated to an Italian luncheon to complete the Italian experience. The parade will showcase “etika” boutique’s amazing range of Italian linen clothing. Bookings are essential, for catering purposes and tickets are selling fast. Don’t miss out! Hope to see you there from 11am. It will be a little bit of Milano in the Australian bush! See details on page 3 of this edition of *‘Il Giornale’*. **Bookings: Gift Shop - 6682 2310 or etika - 147 Keen St, Lismore/130 River St, Ballina**

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

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

Summer 2019 edition:
content due 19/11/19

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

A Florentine native, David has been a constant meet-and-greet volunteer for many decades at New Italy. He enjoys New Italy's big events like Carnevale Italiano and Anniversary Day - always the centre of the party! His stoic, muscular approach to life is admirable. Great with animals, he is a strong supporter of the bird-life in the Piazza. Over the years he has worn graffiti, sunglasses and bunting with little fuss (or clothes) and much style. His greatest contribution at New Italy is as the favourite accompanist. We hope his compatriot Michelangelo would

