

SUMMER 2020

# IL GIORNALE

CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE!

WISHING ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY HEALTHY 2021!

AUGURO A TUTTO UN BUON NATALE E UN FELICE SANO 2021!

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL N.I.M.I. MEMBERS

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11am Sunday 31 January 2021

With this edition of IL GIORNALE you will receive documents related to the upcoming AGM.

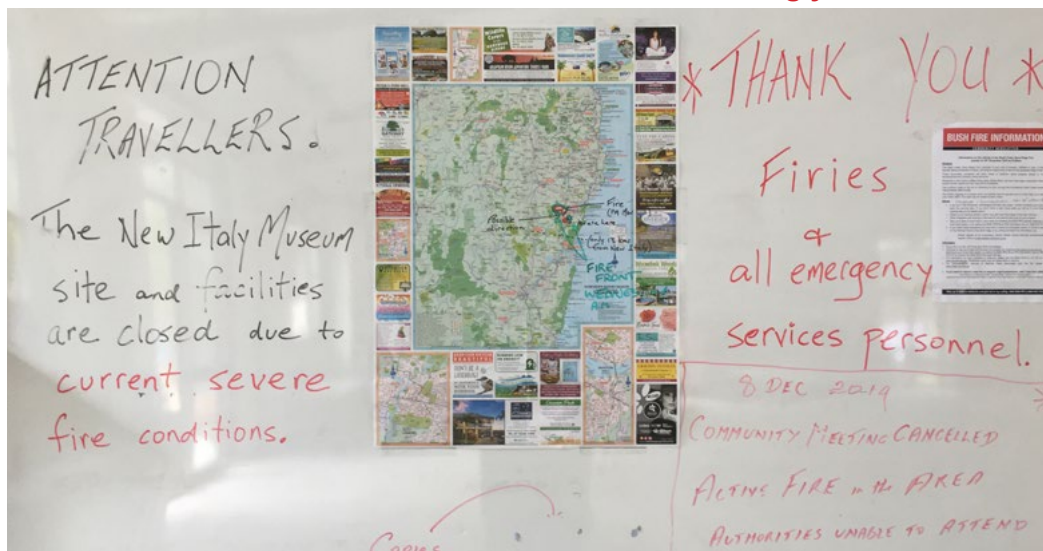
- NOTICE 2021 AGM
- Letter to the Members
- NIMI Membership form

All NIMI AGMs are important but this one is particularly so as key committee positions will need to be filled. The stepping down of our much valued NIMI President John Barnes and Vice- President Lester Cooke leave some very big shoes to fill! Also Peter Blackwood has been both Treasurer and Acting Secretary for some time now... Sadly we also say good bye to committee member Glenn Costello.

NIMI is looking to the Membership for new committee members who share our love for New Italy and are interested in its development as per our mission statement (*The New Italy Museum Inc. (NIMI) honours the spiritual legacy of Italian pioneer families who, through courage and community, established "New Italy". We celebrate the multicultural heritage shared by all peoples*).

After a very challenging 2020, and now with the Pacific Highway complete, Historic New Italy has a great future with many exciting new projects unfolding in 2021. It is a terrific time to participate in a meaningful way in this unique part of Australian regional history.

**We look forward to seeing you at the AGM!**



What a year! Our Community Hall whiteboard presents a reminder of where we were 12 months ago ... and then there was COVID! A big thank you to ALL volunteers and our visitors who have supported New Italy over the past year - see you in 2021!



## UPDATES:

### FRONT CAR PARK OPENS 9/11/2020!!



Left: Tatiana & Clare, travelling from Sydney to Byron Bay, were the first visitors to use New Italy's new front car park.

Right: The bunting goes up to welcome visitors to the front carpark. Peter Blackwood and the Museums Group (in the distance) inspect the new pathways and highway vista.

### PACIFIC HIGHWAY COMPLETION CELEBRATION ON 17/12/2020



Top left: State member for Clarence, Chris Gulaptis, NIMI President John Barnes, Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, NIMI Treasurer, Peter Blackwood, Federal Member for Page, Kevin Hogan with Robert Mustow (Mayor RVC) at the opening of the completed Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade: New Italy.



Top right: The ribbon is cut (by many) and the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade is officially open!

Bottom left: The new front car park was full for the Pacific Highway completion celebration.

Bottom right: The McClymonts wowed the audience in the New Italy Hall.

### THE NEW ITALY MONUMENT CONSERVATION



The New Italy Monument in front of the Pavilion. Note the fresh new banner on the Pavilion Tower.

NIMI approached Queensland Heritage Masonry P.L. to visit the site, inspect the monument and produce a conditional report of the New Italy Monument and the possibilities for its conservation. It was deemed by them that *"the New Italy Memorial is in sound condition, well proportioned and solidly constructed, the lead inscribed marble panels are significantly stained along with chipped and damaged render detracting considerably from the overall appearance of the monument. The rendered concrete structure has been well executed and the Carrara marble lead inscriptions are well done by a competent stonemason. It is the opinion of Queensland Heritage Masonry that this monument should be preserved in its current position with the necessary conservation works carried out in the short term to improve the overall appearance of the monument."*

- After considering the received report and quote together with other reports from Beckinsales and Spinaze Consulting, the NIMI committee decided to accept their quote subject to certain conditions being met;
- Satisfactory advice from Spinaze Consulting re work to ensure long term stability of monument;
- Whether quote would include costs for re-painting the entire monument if required after cleaning work and, if not then include a quote for such re-painting work;
- Revise quote assuming (1) NIMI can supply barrier fencing and (2) surrounding pavement would be removed and re-laid by NIMI;
- Work to proceed only after NIMI obtains approvals from RVC/Office of Environment & Heritage – as may be needed.



## LESTER COOKE: RECIPIENT OF THE 2020 CO.AS.IT. MEDAL (COMMUNITY SERVICES) & OUR RETIRING VICE-PRESIDENT



NIMI would like to congratulate Lester Cooke who is the 2020 recipient of the CO.AS.IT. Medal (Community Services).

Lester is a descendant of the Bazzo and Roder families, two of the 30 New Italy settler families who established a farming community in northern NSW (south of Woodburn) in 1882. Infamously, he is the author of the 'Spaghetti Tree' included in the New Italy publication, 'Salami, Shortbread and Parrot Pie: stories of Multicultural New Italy', inspired by the 'stud-book', 'Our Italian Heritage: 1880-1980' compiled by Helen de Stefani and Susanne Craven. Lester remains fascinated by the history of the early settlement at New Italy, admiring the tenacity of those early settler families.

Since 2010, Lester has managed the NIMI website. Importantly, Lester has established 'The Families' page and during the past ten years has expanded the New Italy genealogy records available on the New Italy website. Today there are 11,678 descendants and 3,486 family names spawned from the 62 family names from the Marquis de Rays expedition. Go to [www.newitaly.org.au/the-families/](http://www.newitaly.org.au/the-families/)

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Lester for his term as NIMI Vice President. Lester has been a NIMI committee member for the past 10 years and Vice-President for the past 6 years. He is our much-valued, token 'Museum lady', go-to-tech-guy and enthusiastic volunteer at New Italy Museum, who won't seek re-election to the NIMI committee in 2021.

However we are happy to say that Lester will remain active with the NI Museums Group.

## THANK YOU TO DRIVER REVIVER VOLUNTEERS AT NEW ITALY!



On 24 November, a team of valued volunteers were celebrated at New Italy in recognition for their years of providing Driver Reviver support at New Italy to thousands of highway-weary travellers. Their generosity and this service has no doubt saved many lives by preventing driver fatigue.

It was lovely to see all at New Italy for the celebration. In the group are long term Museum volunteers, Margaret and Sam Robinson, Dot Randle and NIMI President John Barnes.

Driver Reviver Volunteers gathering in the Piazza at New Italy

## NEW FENCES ARE UP AND THE COVERED WALKWAY IS COMING SOON...



**A NEW COVERED WALKWAY**  
is to be built across this area



**Construction will start as soon as all regulatory issues are finalised.**

Thank you for your patience & please enjoy your visit.

**THE NEW ITALY MUSEUM INC.**

## COMING EVENTS

ONE FOR THE DIARY!

**ANNIVERSARY DAY**  
**SUNDAY 11 APRIL 2021**

CELEBRATE 140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL IN SYDNEY OF THE NEW ITALY SETTLERS

**THE LISMORE ITALO-AUSTRALIAN CLUB**

Typically Italian food. Pastas our specialty. Please book 66214677

**FACEBOOK: ItaloAustralianClubLismore**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW ITALY...

## THE CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP



I would have to say the best sellers in our shop (even before COVID) are the lovely handmade Nesti Dante soaps from Florence. This is the story of its origin;

*It was a sunny morning in early summer just after the Second World War, when young Dante, in search of some meat for his family to eat, was traveling through the broken cobblestone streets of Florence on his bicycle. Trying not to lose his balance while avoiding the large holes in the street, he didn't see a large stone and tripped over it, falling roughly to the ground. Covered in dust and with his knees all scraped, he noticed the wheel of his bicycle had a flat tire. By the time he reached the market, the meat was already all finished. His bright blue eyes suddenly looked down. The butcher noticed the disappointment in young Dante's face and decided to give him the leftover fat pieces of the meat telling him that if he mixed it together with soda he could make soap. Soap? Soap!!! An item that was quite rare in those times; the war had just ended and what was once considered a necessity that was always available, was now hard to come by. Young Dante got back on his bicycle, went straight to the hardware store to buy all of the necessary supplies that he was told he needed, and headed home...*

To read more click on this link [www.frenshi.com.my/nesti-dante](http://www.frenshi.com.my/nesti-dante)

Gail Williams • Casa Vecchia Gift Shop • giftshop@

[newitaly.org.au](http://newitaly.org.au)

## NEW ITALY MUSEUM



We are honoured that our proposal to develop a *New Italy Heritage Trail* at the New Italy Museum site, won a \$3000 grant in the inaugural Museums and Galleries NSW Imagination Award (a new initiative in the annual IMAGinE Awards) - 25/11/2020. The New Italy Museums Group was selected from a broad field of amazing initiatives. Stay tuned over 2021 as this project unfolds.

SCU Education student Dylan Webster is working with the Museums Group developing educational materials informed by the New Italy story for junior secondary students.

Visit our beautiful Museum and view our new exhibits. In the A-V room you can enjoy 'A Big Country: Our New Italy' made in 1981 by Stewart McLennan from ABCTV. This wonderful documentary tells the story of New Italy and of the Centenary celebrations held at the Lismore Showground. Also see the Silk Industry display. It demonstrates the intuitive of the New Italy settlers while the adjacent Heritage Fabric cabinet houses New Italy's fascinating collection of fine craft works.

The NI Museums group will be taking a well earned break until 1 February 2021. With new projects on the horizon, more volunteers are needed! Drop us a line if you are interested in joining a great team. Meanwhile stay safe, stay well and enjoy the festive season from all of us!

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

Above: Spencer Spinaze and Walter Rosolen in a scene from 'A Big Country: Our New Italy'.

## ITALIAN PAVILION



Joan Kelly (left) and the Pavilion's 'Voyages' display to be expanded in the 2021 upgrade

NIMI is thrilled to receive a 2021 CASP grant for the production of a 'Migration Stories Soundscape' in the Italian Pavilion! It will be an oral history-based sound design that will honour the enduring spirit of Italian migrants to Australia and the Northern Rivers (1920 -1960). The soundscape will be a key sensory element of the wider exhibit in development for the Pavilion. Starting early 2021, this project will employ local sound artist and friend to New Italy, Joan Kelly, who will work with the New Italy Museums group on the Pavilion upgrade. As sound engineer and artist, she will create a museum-based sound installation from collected new and existing oral histories with aural ephemera adding depth to developing displays.

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

**DONATIONS** [newitaly.org.au](http://newitaly.org.au) > Donation page

NIMI is registered with ATO ~ Deductible Gift Recipient

**JOIN or RENEW NIMI MEMBERSHIP** [www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/membership](http://www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/membership)

**'IL GIORNALE'** Summer 2020: content due 20/3/2021 [booyongd@bigpond.net.au](mailto:booyongd@bigpond.net.au)

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER** Contact [info@newitaly.org.au](mailto:info@newitaly.org.au)

**STAY IN TOUCH** [newitaly.org.au](http://newitaly.org.au) • PO Box 5139 East Lismore, NSW 2480

• Facebook: New Italy / Historic New Italy

**VISIT US** 8275 Pacific Highway Woodburn NSW 2472