



IL GIORNALE

CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE!

MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Let me introduce myself. My name is **Gail Williams**. I am the new President of the New Italy Museum Inc.

I have been a volunteer at New Italy since 2009. In 2010 I started up and continue to manage the Casa Vecchia Gift Shop. I have also been a committee member for the past 10 years.

I am a local and I live in the district. I am not Italian, my ancestry is Welsh/Scottish but I am a New Italy descendant. My grandfather selected land and had a Jersey stud on the boundary of the New Italy settlement. All of his six children went to New Italy School, my father included.

I attended primary school in Coraki and then Lismore High School. I became a Registered Nurse at Royal Prince Alfred hospital in Sydney, studied Midwifery in England followed by Intensive Care training in Johannesburg South Africa. I have travelled and worked abroad for many years until the year 2000 when I returned home to settle back on part of my grandfather's farm that I call home. I retired from nursing five years ago and now have more time to fully pursue my volunteering activities.

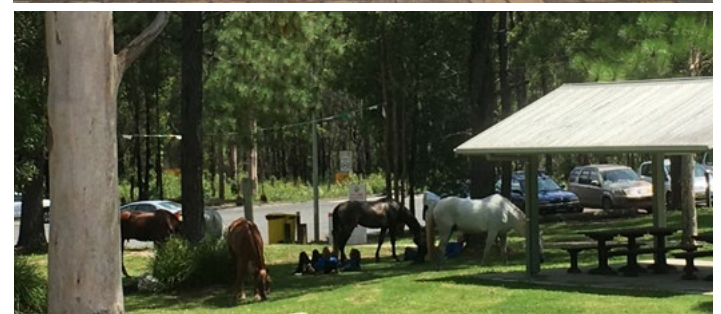
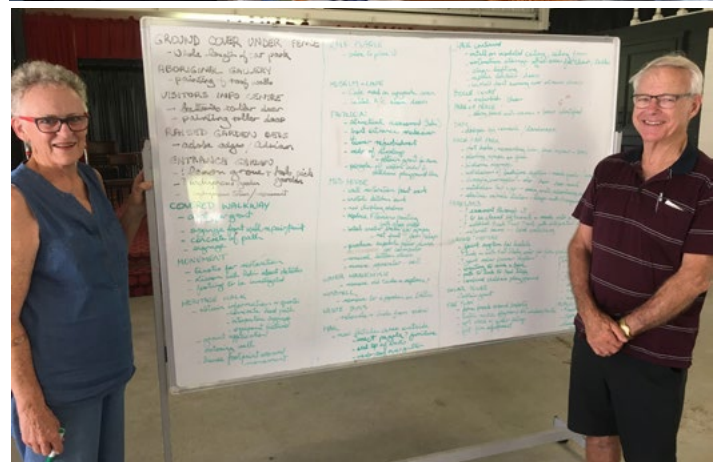
You will all agree that NIMI's retiring president, John Barnes OAM, has done an amazing job over the past 9 years (2012 - 2021) and his presidency will be a hard act to follow. I plan to continue this work on the seemingly endless list of projects - with priorities previously decided by the committee.

This year I'd also like to focus on bringing people and life back into Historic New Italy. There has been so much upheaval over the last few years. From the 2019 bushfires where we faced the threat of losing this place, to COVID. With all the shut-downs and lock-downs, we fear that we may have become isolated from you; our members and visitors. The entire Historic New Italy site is a registered COVID Safe business. We look forward to seeing familiar faces here once more using our facilities in a COVID-Safe way.

Our new Community Hall kitchen will soon be completed which will make the hall hire more appealing and will increase our ability to hold small functions again.

I take my role as a custodian of Historic New Italy very seriously, and with the NIMI committee, will endeavour to continue to move New Italy forward into the future, while valuing our past!

Gail Williams



Top: Gail Williams in the Casa Vecchia Gift Shop. Photo by Peter Derrett.

Middle top: President, Gail Williams and Vice-President, John Barnes with a very long list of projects.

Middle bottom: Members of the new NIMI committee elected AGM 31/1/2021: Peter Blackwood (Treasurer/Secretary), Robert Antonioli, Leonie Lane (committee members), Gail Williams (President), John Barnes (Vice-President) and Tina Sheehy (committee member). Absent Vice-President Americo Melchior and committee member, Adrian Murgo. Photo by Peter Derrett.

Bottom: The tranquil setting and relaxing stop over that is Historic New Italy with resting horses next to the back car park.

UPDATES:

HIGHWAY SIGNAGE



Following the completion of the Pacific Highway upgrade past Historic New Italy it became obvious there was no signage for southbound traffic giving directions to Historic New Italy or Swan Bay New Italy Road. This lack of signage immediately created a major safety issue as southbound traffic attempted to locate then negotiate the otherwise simple means of accessing the route into the New Italy area. Your association, together with many New Italy residents have lobbied Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to have appropriate signage erected. TfNSW has now conceded to install a directional sign to Swan Bay New Italy Road for southbound traffic. However, your association is of the view that this single sign is insufficient and fails to fully address the safety issue.

Recommendations have been made to TfNSW for 2 further signs to be erected - a "tourist" sign (white on brown) approx 2kms north of Historic New Italy ("Historic New Italy - 2kms on right") and a directional sign (white on blue) approx 1 km north of Historic New Italy ("New Italy - merge right now"). We have yet to receive a response from TfNSW to these recommendations."

The sign erected at the southern end of the front car park.

BENZINA SERVICE CENTRE UPDATE

A Development Application (DA) by The Benzina Group for the construction of a service station and other facilities at New Italy is understood to have been lodged with the Richmond Valley Council on Monday 15 March. As previously advised to members, this development is proposed on the southern boundary of the Historic New Italy site and will involve the sale of approx 1 hectare of the association's land to the developer. The land to be sold comprises mainly the area now used to reticulate waste water and if this were to occur the sewerage and waste water from the Historic New Italy site would be treated by the service station's waste treatment facilities. Importantly, the Park of Peace will remain intact and will become an attraction that draws visitors to the service station site across and into Historic New Italy's facilities.

A development of the scale and significance as being proposed will undoubtedly attract much attention. We will arrange opportunities for you to be briefed on details of the proposed development. In the meantime, however, should you have any questions about this matter please email info@newitaly.org.au or call **Peter Blackwood (Secretary/Treasurer)** 0414 673 933.



Finally, the DA's lodgement date (15 March) - the "Ides of March" - may for some conjure up Shakespearian thoughts of doom and gloom ("beware the Ides of March"). However, before the bard popularised the negative aspect of the date, it was an occasion for rejoicing and celebration on the advent of a new moon. We prefer the latter significance of the date and are looking at this proposed development very positively.

The Goddess Luna attends The Ides of March in Ancient Rome.

THE NEW ITALY MONUMENT CONSERVATION

The site in itself has an interesting history. It will be observed that the obelisk is erected in the centre of a square mound about 2 feet above the surrounding land. This natural dais is composed of the mud of the old New Italy wine shop, for many years consolidated with the earth and overgrown with grass. So our monument is placed on what was once one of the social centres of New Italy. The land for the site was made available most generously by Mr. Alex Roder of Woodburn.

NIMI is consulting with local engineers re the condition of the foundations of the Monument before deciding on a course of action. This report will add to advice delivered by Queensland Heritage Masonry and Clarence Heritage regarding the New Italy Monument, its future, its conservation and its upkeep.

Excerpt from "The Story of the Monument" by Charles M. Ebert, President of the New Italy Memorial Committee in the New Italy Monument Brochure 1961

CASA SERENA



Many may not be aware that it is a duty of the New Italy committee to manage a complex of 11 modest but comfortable bedsit units in High Street, Lismore. The low-set, wooden buildings occupy a flood-free corner position that is surrounded by well maintained gardens. Built in the early 1990s (under the auspices of Floriano Volpato and in co-operation with the then Housing Commission) it was originally intended for occupancy by needy elderly Italians. However since this need is no longer evident it is now fully occupied by locals of a variety of circumstances.

Day to day supervision and letting is in the hands of a Lismore Real Estate Agent while delegated NIMI personnel are responsible for major decisions after consultation with the board. NIMI is responsible for the payment of rates and basic upkeep while Housing NSW is responsible for major maintenance. This site is a significant revenue earner for the organisation and surplus funds have played an important part in the New Italy site development.

RECENT EVENTS



Christine Ianna

Historic New Italy was host to Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AM&GA): North Coast Chapter meeting held on Friday 5 March in the NI Community Hall. A large gathering assembling for the first time since late 2019!

This meeting's guest speaker was Christine Ianna (descendant of New Italy), an established and respected conservator with considerable expertise in providing preventive conservation advice and training to a variety of differently resourced collections. Christine has worked in the Museum and Materials Conservation profession in Queensland for more than thirty years. She presented a very appreciated talk about *Disaster Planning for Local History Museums*. Important questions were discussed: Does your museum have an evacuation map? A plan of your site? A plan of your

building/s? Do you have a list of contacts? The session was aimed at reviewing the chapters' museums current Contingency/Preparedness and Response plan, risk management practices and adding to them in light of recent events such as fire, floods, COVID19, mice plagues and locusts to name just a few. Much to learn about and put in place considering our experiences over 2019/2020.

Christine commented later: "I really enjoyed the opportunity to participate and meet and hear of everyone's achievements, it's certainly a very active chapter and every group is to be commended. It was especially satisfying to deliver the session to such an engaged and enthusiastic group."



Representatives from various Museums of the AM&GA-FNC Chapter gathered outside the New Italy Italian Pavilion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

YOU ARE INVITED TO

MEMBERS MORNING

(2ND SUNDAY EVERY MONTH)

STARTING

SUNDAY 11 APRIL

ALL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE **10% DISCOUNT** FROM **BOTH**
CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP & THE TASTES OF NEW ITALY CAFÉ

BRING YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY
AND ENJOY MORNING TEA AND/OR LUNCH IN THE CAFE!

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE !

DUE TO
COVID19
WE HAVE POSTPONED
2021
ANNIVERSARY DAY

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



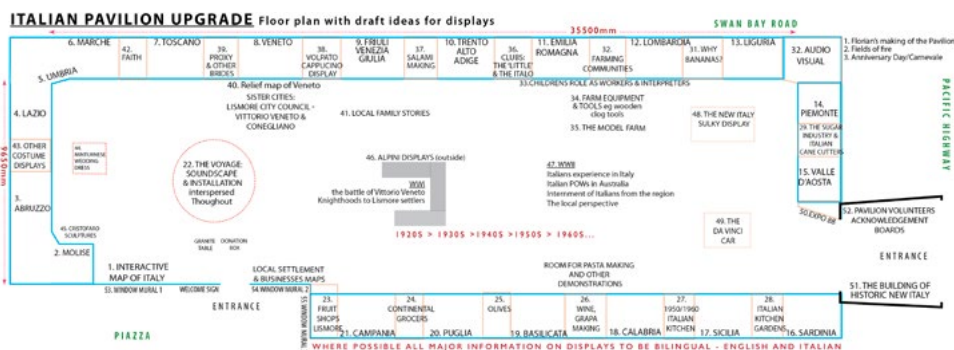
In the last edition of *Il Giornale* (Summer 2020), we gave you an insight into the Nesti Dante brand of Italian handmade soaps. This time we want to sing praises to the Australian company - Vasse Virgin. We are one of the few stockists of their products on the east coast. Based in Margaret River in Western Australia, these innovative Italians started making soap products for their children who had problem skin. Using extra virgin olive oil as the main base with 100% essential oils and plant extracts, they make chemical free soap and skin products for sensitive skin. Their small business has developed into a huge award winning business venture! This brand has developed a loyal following of thankful customers who enjoy the benefits of their product's healing properties. Come to our shop to view our range.

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

ITALIAN PAVILION



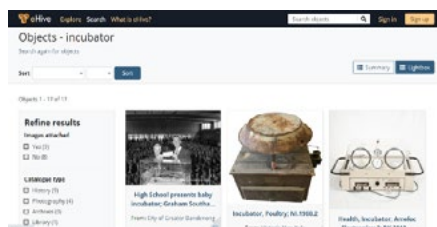
Leonie Lane in the Pavilion (photo Peter Derrett), a geographical map of Italy and one of the Coiacetto banana box stencils.



With assistance from **AM&GNSW Project Development Grant**, the **Italian Pavilion Exhibition Plan** (above) is in progress with new material being added each week! Updates will be available on the New Italy website: newitaly.org.au/new-italy-museum-complex/the-italian-pavillion/ and our **Facebook pages**. At the moment we are particularly interested in stories of the voyages to Australia and also the development of the farming communities around Lismore. Northern Rivers Italian families, if interested, want to contribute - contact **Leonie Lane 0423733569**.

Leonie Lane • Italian Pavilion • museums@newitaly.org.au

NEW ITALY MUSEUM



NIMI has been using the Collections Mosaics collection management system since 2008 and has used it to catalogue 850 objects. It is an excellent system.

However, several issues arose with Collections Mosaics for our application. We needed an expensive upgrade. Mosaic is a single user, single computer license. No one in our museum working group was proficient in using the system. Although it can produce web pages, and you can pay IST to have an on-line museum presence it is a complicated process.

With this in mind, we have been looking for a replacement system and have settled on eHive. eHive is a free, cloud-based collection management system - <https://ehive.com/> The free version gives you 50MByte of cloud storage and you pay approx. US\$100 p.a. for each additional 500Megabyte. There are no upgrade fees and the cloud-based system is automatically upgraded. You can access and work on your

site from any computer with internet access. Multiple users can be given read, write or edit privileges to manage the site. It produces a very professional on-line museum and we can become part of the eHive community of museums.

Lester Cooke • Museums Collection Database • webmaster@newitaly.org.au

DONATIONS 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

'IL GIORNALE' Winter 2021: content due 26/5/2021 booyongd@bigpond.net.au

BECOME A VOLUNTEER Contact info@newitaly.org.au

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