

WINTER 2021



IL GIORNALE

CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE!

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Every year I am drawn to watching *Giro d'Italia* on television. Not that I am a cyclist, nor do I wear Lycra, but I enjoy the scenery, the thrill of the chase and the remarkable fitness of the competitors! I call it my "free trip to Italy"! Such a lovely mental escape. I hope you enjoyed the bike race too. Oh to have that fitness and stamina to apply it to our Project List here at New Italy! Even without it, we have achieved a few things of late.

A successful **Fire & Emergency Evacuation Training Drill** was held for the volunteers recently. An excellent in-service was given by *Hawkins on Fire* from Goonellabah. With our new Bushfire Plan and General Fire Plan in place it was deemed essential to also familiarize ourselves with using fire extinguishers and fire blankets. I always say if you are prepared for it, it won't happen. I hope I am right in this case!

We have also had two **Tap&Go donation points** installed. One in the Museum and one in the Pavilion. Even before COVID struck, we were noticing that travellers didn't carry cash anymore – they just carry their phone and credit card. To provide a portal for them to donate, we decided to install these contactless payment systems throughout the site. Three more are still on order.



There has been a lot of activity at New Italy of late. In early May, the front car park was closed while a crane and many workers placed a commemoration stone at the entrance to the site. **A plaque commemorating the opening of the new highway** by Federal and State ministers was attached.

Speaking of the **new highway, signage** about access to New Italy via the southbound lanes has been non-existent. Many visitors had missed the U-Turn bay or have made hasty decisions at the last minute. Luckily no accidents have occurred but there have been some near misses! After months of letterwriting and canvassing, Transport NSW have agreed to install a temporary Tourist sign on the southbound lane. It will be interesting to see if daily numbers pick up after this signage is in place.

On Sunday 16 May, we enjoyed a **visit from the Sydney and Brisbane branches of the Alpini Association** during their five-day bus tour through our region. They stopped for lunch and had guided tours of the Museum and the Pavilion. Thanks to the Friends of New Italy plus the volunteers who helped as a happy time was had by all. We are looking forward to them visiting us again in November.

Our **Membership Morning's** have had a slow start but let's see how we go over winter. The second Sunday of each month, come along and enjoy NIMI members' discounts in the Gift Shop and the Café.

Casa Serena is in need of urgent major repairs. We are negotiating with the Land & Housing Corp to rectify the problems. This could involve us having to pay a portion for the repairs. This has halted us powering on with our other projects at the moment.

In our last newsletter, it was noted that Benzina had lodged the DA for the **New Italy Service Centre**. We were subsequently informed that further information needed to be submitted - this has now happened and the DA 2021/0330 is now on the RVC's DA Tracker website.

What I love about **volunteering at New Italy** are the people you meet. Recently I had the pleasure of meeting Elaine Seeto-Vittoria, her family and her husband from Brisbane. They are originally from New Ireland and knew the story of the ill-fated Marquis De Rays expedition very well as it is part of their island's history. Elaine's husband worked with a man who knew the great nephew of Queen Emma, the island trader who kept an eye on the expeditioners.

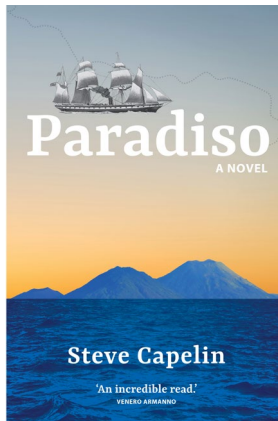
Such a small world. I wonder who I will meet next?

Gail Williams



Top: Gail Williams, Elaine Seeto-Vittoria with husband Mark Schubert and their family at the Casa Vecchia Gift Shop.

'PARADISO', A NOVEL BY STEVE CAPELIN



Above: 'Paradiso' cover.

It has often been said by friends of New Italy and visitors to New Italy Museum, that the New Italy story has the makings of a great movie.

Here descendant, Steve Capelin, has recreated the story in 'Paradiso', an immersive novel.

It will be available at New Italy's Gift Shop. Enjoy!

Writer, **Steve Capelin**, is a descendant of the New Italy Italians and the expeditioners who left Veneto in 1880 for a new life. He has followed his ancestors around the globe in researching his new novel, '*Paradiso*'.

'*Paradiso*' sticks to the facts of the expedition and is peopled by real expeditioners but this is Steve's imagined version of the expedition, brought to life through the eyes of two children on the voyage (his great-aunt and great-uncle).

The characters who take centre stage, and those with minor parts, will be familiar to the New Italy descendants. The Capelins, the Martinuzzis and the Tomes are the key families we follow. Giuseppe Martinuzzi and his wife Luigia are the key proponents of the scheme. Lorenzo Capelin is also convinced of the merit of the idea, while his wife Caterina is sceptical. Maria Tome enters the story as a close confidante of Caterina Capelin and, as events unfold, becomes a key player in the story. Also in the mix are characters with familiar names – Roder, Battistuzzi, Barberetto, Mellare, Nardi, Antonioli, Spinaze etc.

For Steve his quest began when he discovered that his great grandfather Lorenzo Capelin had arrived in Australia under a different family name.

Steve knew the New Italy story and had a fascination with his Italian heritage. It gave him a sense of identity beyond his boyhood growing up in suburban Brisbane, but it wasn't until 2001

when the Federal Government passed legislation allowing Australians to hold dual citizenship that his interest was piqued further. What if his children could hold European passports through Lorenzo? That would be something that could be useful for travel, work, even residency. He began digging and travelling.

Twenty years later, after half a dozen trips to Italy and one to New Guinea, and after ten years of concentrated writing, he has reached the end point of his quest. The novel has allowed him to imagine answers to a series of questions – How was the decision to leave Italy made? What were the tensions and debates surrounding that decision? Were the Italians under some strange spell cast by this French con-man? What were conditions on the voyage and how did people cope? When things went badly wrong who stood tall and who capitulated? What was the attitude of the Australian Government to these C19th refugees?

The children who tell the story, Domenico (8 years old) and Marietta (13 years old), see events unfolding around them with surprising clarity. There is pain, tragedy, hope, and change in all of the characters lives. There is also love, humour and plenty of surprises.

This is Steve's version of the Nouvelle France story. He hopes readers enjoy his offering and forgive him for some of the liberties he has taken with the characters.

Available from:

- AVID Reader Bookshop, Boundary Street, West End Brisbane <https://avidreader.com.au/products/paradiso-3>
- AndAlso Books <https://www.andalsobooks.com/#/paradiso-a-novel/>
- Casa Vecchia, New Italy Gift Shop <https://www.newitaly.org.au/new-italy-museum-complex/casa-vecchia-giftshop/>

UPDATES:

NEW ITALY HERITAGE TRAIL AND BUSHFOOD WALK



On 28 June, Minyumai rangers, Mary and Maitland Wilson, joined the Museums Monday group, to discuss the inclusion of indigenous bush knowledge and plantings in our trail development. With the development of the Trail, Historic New Italy would like to honour the Bandjalang Clan as the traditional custodians of this place and pay respects to Elders past and present. We wish to acknowledge them together with the Italian farming settlement from the 1880s. The trail concept will comprise new plantings, some path development and many interpreted sites adding to our two Museums. Looking forward to meeting Mary and Maitland at Minyumai, The Gap Road, in late July to look at similar work they have undertaken on their site.

<https://www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/environment/indigenous-protected-areas/minyumai-ipa-and-jahnala-yenbalehla-rangers>

Museum Monday Group walk with the Minyumai Rangers from the Park of Peace to Historic New Italy's western bushland. Left to right: Leonie Lane, Mary Wilson, Joan Kelly, Maitland Wilson, Gail Williams, Jo Kijas and Ellen Barnes.

REMEMBERING THE NEW ITALY ANZACS



We remember **John Caminiti** (killed in action 10 June 1917) and **Lorenzo Nardi** (died of wounds 22 August 1917), 104 years after their deaths.

The Centenary of Anzac project has a continuing significance in the New Italy story.

~ Lest we forget ~

RECENT EVENTS

FIRE & EMERGENCY EVACUATION TRAINING DRILL - MONDAY 3 MAY



New Italy residents and volunteers are very aware of the dangers of bushfires. With the Bushfire plan developed for the Museums in place, we undertook a Fire & Emergency Evacuation Training Drill. The New Italy back carpark was the stage for a series of hands-on demonstrations for New Italy volunteers. Training included how to prevent fire emergencies and what to do in case of them. It was an enlightening and very professional afternoon workshop.

VISIT TO NEW ITALY BY THE ALPINI ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA - SUNDAY 16 MAY



During their recent tour of Northern NSW, a busload of members of the Alpini Association of Australia were welcomed to Historic New Italy. A beautiful lunch and an enjoyable day was had by all! Our visitors were entertained by Val Wills and Cynthia Mc Keough on accordians. Prior to lunch in the Hall, tours of the Museum and the Pavilion were led. Feedback on our work done in the Museum and plans for the Italian Pavilion was very positive. NIMI would like to thank the Alpini Association of Australia and the Queensland branch for visiting us and for their generous donations towards our ongoing projects.

A big thank you to all our volunteers for helping out on the day, especially to our Italo Club friends who helped, as they have done so many times in the past, in a very big way!

Top left to bottom right: Val Wills and Cynthia McKeough meet the Alpini visitors on arrival; Two Alpini in their fine hats; Lunch in the Hall; NIMI receives thanks from the Alpini Association; Cynthia and Val; Lester Cooke leads the Museum tour; New Italy silk impresses; Leonie Lane leads the Pavilion tour; a musical farewell. Photos by Peter Blackwood, Leone Stibbard and Leonie Lane

VISIT TO NEW ITALY BY THE BALLINA COFFEE CLUB - SUNDAY 16 MAY



It was a busy day on Sunday 16 May! The Ballina Coffee Club chose New Italy as destination for their Sunday outing. Twenty visitors brought their own musical entertainment. Here twelve of the group of friends (left to right) soak up the New Italy ambiance on the stage in the Piazza: Reg, Joe, Thelma, Pat, Sharon, Ted, Cathy, Denise, Richard, Mary, Marie and Jo. Come visit us again! Photo by John Barnes

UPCOMING EVENTS

YOU ARE INVITED TO

MEMBERSHIP SUNDAYS

(2ND SUNDAY EVERY MONTH)

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 CAFÉ!

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE !

2nd LISMORE ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

**Saturday 7 AUGUST
Sunday 8 AUGUST**

- 'FERRANTE FEVER'
- 'PROMISED'
- 'PAVAROTTI'
- '10 DAYS WITHOUT MAMMA'
- '8½'
- 'PINOCCHIO'

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Use your Discover NSW Vouchers.

LISMORE Friendship Festival 2021

bcc CINEMAS

LisAmore!

Sadly the 2021 Lismore Friendship Festival 'LisAmore', which was to be held at the Italo Club on 29 August, won't be going ahead due to COVID uncertainty. The Lismore Friendship Festival committee extends its apologies to all. It will work with the Italo Club to hold 'LisAmore' in June 2022! Stay tuned! Meanwhile see details of the 2nd Lismore Italian Film Festival above! **Saturday 7- Sunday 8 August!**

THE CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP



We have recently received a shipment of micro mosaic jewellery, religious crosses and pill boxes directly from the factory in Italy. Exquisitely handcrafted pieces. An ancient craft that is still in practice today. Pop in to see the full range before they sell out!

Follow us on Instagram
#casavecchiagiftshop

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

ITALIAN PAVILION

The New Italy Italian Pavilion Exhibition Plan is gaining content.

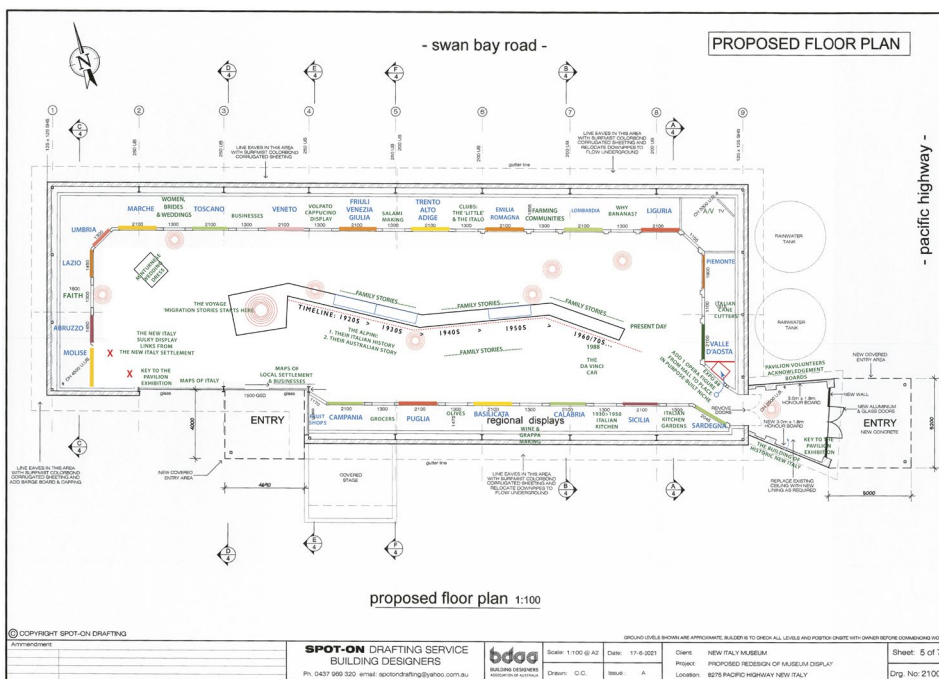
Carl Cadonetti (a big thank you to you!) has completed some very impressive Proposed Plans for the upgrade of the building with particular attention to the two entrances. Next up, getting the building, electrical and display quotes!

While retaining the alcoves and archways inherited from Expo88, we will add a new display down the spine of the building.

The contents within include

- Regional alcoves with revised material
- ‘Migration Stories’ soundscape and installation
- A central spine that will carry a timeline informed by ‘Power of the Land: The Lismore Italians’ by Lesley Jenkins. This is where collected family stories, the Alpini and other displays will be installed.

• The Archways display themed displays pertinent to Northern Rivers Italian stories. There's more! For closer examination, this latest diagram will be available of the New Italy website. Contact **Leonie Lane 0423733569** for more information.



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

NEW ITALY MUSEUM



As President Gail noted on the front page, COVID and an increasing cashless user/visitor has led NIMI to embrace this change and we encourage our visitors to donate on line or by TapNGo. We have now installed two TapNGo readers on site: one in the Museum and one in the Pavilion. Look for them near the entrances to the two Museums when you next visit Historic New Italy. We welcome feedback on their usability. Three more will be installed outside, at the front and back entrances plus near the toilets.

We recently enjoyed wishing Dot Randle, our oldest and most charming Museum volunteer, a very happy 89th birthday!

Lester Cooke • Museums Collection Database and more • 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' Spring 2021: content due 26/9/2021 booyongd@bigpond.net.au

BECOME A VOLUNTEER Contact info@newitaly.org.au

STAY IN TOUCH newitaly.org.au • PO Box 5139 East Lismore, NSW 2480

- Facebook: New Italy / Historic New Italy

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