

HISTORIC

NEW ITALY

AUTUMN 2022

IL GIORNALE

NEW ITALY MUSEUM INC. 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.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I enjoyed watching the Winter Olympics and I hope you did too. Cheering on the Italian team as they won the silver medal in the mixed 2000 metre relay. What a crazy race that is!! Then I celebrated when Arianna Fontana won gold in the short track speed skating. You would think I was an Italian – I think Italy has become my adopted country!

The glow of the Winter Olympics didn't last long as it was soon washed away by the worst flood on record in the Northern Rivers. Fortunately, the museum complex was unaffected as it was built on high ground, but not so for our poor neighbour Woodburn that went completely under. Even our new "above flood level" highway that bypasses Woodburn went under by 2.8 metres in some parts. There was 1.5 metres of water over the highway at Oakey Creek just north of us (see below). This stranded some vehicles and trucks at New Italy. Suddenly our community hall became a makeshift evacuation centre. Our front car park became a helipad for food drops. The Café was converted to a food distribution centre with boxes of food being delivered by helicopters. We also received donated food items delivered by road from Maclean. From our food distribution centre, food boxes were made up by the SES to deliver to locals who were flooded in.

Things became complicated with the loss of electricity, phone and internet connection. Despite that our trusted

volunteer, Adrian got the toilets working, providing barrels of water with buckets so toilets could be flushed. New Italy made great use of the generator donated by Richmond Valley Council after the 2019 bushfires. It was quickly connected and it never missed a beat for the three days before power was restored. It kept the Café fridges going with all the fresh produce and meat being delivered and powered a few lights to brighten the interior of the room. Adrian also did a juggling act with the generator to pump the excess water out of the septic tanks each day to keep the toilets functioning for everyone. (See next page for more photos.)

Luckily the road south to Woombah and Maclean was not flooded. Adrian made several trips collecting fuel for New Italy and other community members' generators. It was a very hectic and stressful time for our lone committee member, Adrian and his wife Kerri who live above the gift shop. They ensured the site continued to serve the stranded public while helping the local isolated community as well. Their commitment and attention to detail is commendable!

Flood waters have now receded, and the site is open once more operating on reduced hours. Staff, like so many others, are attending to their flood-damaged homes/farms. It is tragic what has happened to so many. We hope the sun will shine brightly on all in the near future.

Gail Williams





Aerial view of flood inundation featuring Evans Head



Helicopter and emergency food drop in front car park at Historic New Italy



The Tastes of New Italy Café became a food distribution hub



Swan Bay-New Italy Road. Compare to 1919 version in the Museum Report.



Two of Cynthia McKeough's cows found safety on Judy McCormack's balcony!

MAX UECHTRITZ' STORIES FROM NEW BRITAIN: PART 1 QUEEN EMMA'S STEPS



Top left: Acclaimed ABC reporter and journalist, Max Uechtritz at the Cannon Museum, Kokopo.
Top right: Queen Emma's steps in Kokopo, East New Britain.
Bottom left: Queen Emma and Phebe (Coe) Parkinson.

Queen Emma's famous steps at Kokopo, East New Britain, are crumbling from neglect. These steps are 138 years old, built in 1882 to grace Queen Emma's famous bungalow '*Gunantambu*' and provide access to her complex of offices, stores and wharves.

Many descendants of Queen Emma are petitioning to save the steps for posterity and for Papua New Guinea. The family group descends from Emma Coe Forsyth – Queen Emma – and her sister Phebe Coe Parkinson. They hail from Australia, New Zealand, USA UK, France, Switzerland, Japan, China and PNG.

Bernie Uechtritz is Australian-born and PNG-raised, joined 80 clan members in Kokopo in 2019 to inter the ashes of his parents in the Parkinson family cemetery and make a pilgrimage to Ralum to see the steps so central to his family history.

"No relic embodies more stories of one of the most colourful and fascinating eras in South Pacific history," he said. "And no history of New Britain and PNG is complete without the legend of the woman who swept down those stairs daily to oversee her trading empire from her Ralum headquarters."

They were climbed by governors, ambassadors and officers representing the German Kaiser, American president and kings of England, France and other European nations along with assorted bishops and world-renowned scientists, explorers, anthropologists and adventurers. '*Gunantambu*' gatherings were famous throughout the South Seas.

Queen Emma's distinguished brother-in-law Richard Parkinson built '*Gunantambu*' and its steps and his wife Phebe managed the Ralum plantations for her sister Emma.

The pioneering trio established commercial agriculture in New Guinea with the first coconut plantations while botanist Parkinson introduced cocoa, coffee, cotton, kapok and other crops and livestock. Parkinson's book '*Thirty Years in the South Seas*' is the quintessential anthropological record of the customs and cultures of the Bismarck Archipelago (to be continued).

**IN THE NEXT EDITION - PART 2:
MARQUIS DE RAYS EXPEDITION BRICKS USED IN
CONSTRUCTION**

THE MARTIN MULLIGAN STORY



Martin with Rod Laver

Many New Italy descendants of de Ray's expedition have succeeded at local, national and even international levels of endeavour. One such person was Martin Mulligan who graced the upper echelons of world tennis in the 1960s and 1970s.

Martin is a descendant of the Tome/Capelin families (Osago, province of Treviso) on his mothers side. After arriving in Sydney with the other survivors of the expedition (7 April 1881) the family settled at New Italy for some years before moving back to Sydney around 1900.

Born in Sydney in 1940, Martin grew up in the suburb of Marrickville. Early in life he showed a wide ranging natural sporting ability, but an injury led to tennis becoming his preferred sport. He moved quickly through junior suburban ranks and was soon playing at national junior level. He won the Australian Open junior singles title in 1958 and went on to also win the doubles with Bob Hewitt.

In 1959 he was selected to the Australian Davis Cup squad and began travelling overseas to tournaments. After two years he joined the on court squad and went on to win the Australian Hardcourt Championships in 1961. This achievement launched his international career and after a stint in the UK he returned home to be a finalist in the Australian Open men's doubles later that year.

Martin's highest personal tennis achievement was to be a finalist against Rod Laver at Wimbledon in 1962. He was however defeated 6-2,6-2,6-1. Earlier that year he almost defeated Laver in the quarter finals of the French Open.

Moving to Europe he won a succession of major titles (17 wins from 27 tournaments) in many countries and was ranked in the top 10 of the worlds players for a 5 year period. It was in Italy that Martin found a tennis home and employment. Becoming known as "Martino Mulligano" he became a member of the Italian Davis Cup squad in 1968 and went on to be it's coach for a 10 year period until 1979. With a fluency in Italian, a passion for tennis, a pleasant personality and a good business sense, he was recruited by the sports apparel company FILA in the early 1970s. He identified high-potential players and negotiated contracts. He was, and still is in contact, with leading players like Becker, Dokic, Philippoussis, Borg, Clijsters, McEnroe and Capriati who became FILA recruits. Ash Barty also became a notable recruit. In 1992, Martin became the first non-Italian to receive the Golden Racquet award from the Italian Tennis Federation for services to national tennis.

Moving to the United States in the 1980s, he studied business/economics at the University of California before becoming the global player relations manager for FILA. Now often referred to as 'Mr FILA', he manages his own family company, Global Tennis Marketing. He visits Australia every year for the Australian Open.

Why this interest in Martino? His grandmother was a product of one of several widow/widower marriages that followed the arrival of the expeditioners in Sydney. My grandmother was born into the same family and as children we heard all about the success of Martin. His mother was my mother's cousin.

John Barnes

WOODBURN'S FINEST!



WOODBURN SIDE: Walter Kelly sent in this picture of the Woodburn Rugby League team, taken at an unknown date. Pictured rear, from left: T Smith, B Moran, A Bolt, R Roberts, L Moran, R Gordon, A Moran and R Antonelli. Pictured front, from left: T Cook, P Anderson, F Scrivener, W Kelly, C Bolt and H Kelly.

The New Italy area, and in this case Woodburn, is the home to many sports heroes. This newspaper clipping features the Woodburn A Grade team from about 1965 to 1972.

This team was mostly made up of some local indigenous families from Cabbage Tree Island near Wardell: Roberts, Kelly, Smith, Moran, Gordon, Bolt and Anderson. A hard working and highly talented team, they played at the highest level in the Northern Rivers. These men were not only great footballers they were amazing cane cutters with grit. It is incredible how these unsung heroes worked six days, trained two nights and played on Sundays what they loved, Rugby League, in front of huge crowds at Woodburn Sports Oval. In one big game against Terry O'Brien's famous Casino side (1969-70), Woodburn won 17-16. It was written up in the London Times that a boomerang was thrown during this game. There was some controversy during this great game watched by a huge crowd at Woodburn Oval.

Raymond Antonioli was the President of the Woodburn Football Club while Frank Scrivener was the Captain Coach. After each home game Mr Antonioli organised a BBQ at his property at Swan Bay and all the players still reflect on the great times they had with their families at the Antonioli farm at Swan Bay. Raymond Antonioli was my father!

Robert Antonioli

EVENTS



POSTPONED UNTIL LATER 2022 to be advised

**DONT FORGET MEMBERSHIP SUNDAYS
(2ND SUNDAY EVERY MONTH)**

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW ITALY...

THE CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP



I am glad to say that we are open once more following the flood crisis!

Now, due to volunteer shortages, the shop will only be open 9.30am – 2 pm Wednesday to Sunday. Hoping our flood-affected volunteers are safe and we look forward to their return.

To all the Italophiles out there we have just had a shipment of Vintage Italian goods arrive and have now filled the shelves. So do come for a browse and say Ciao!

Remember to follow us on Instagram #casavecchiagiftshop

Gail Williams • giftshop@newitaly.org.au

ITALIAN PAVILION



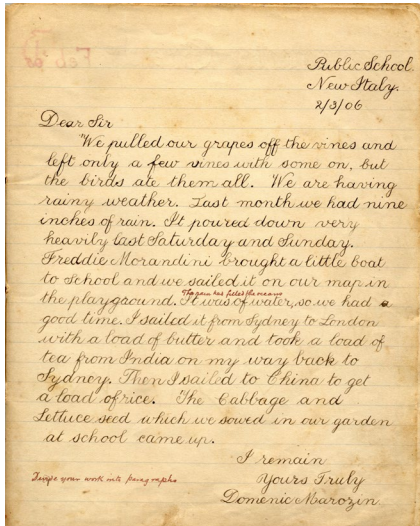
There are three major themes in the Italian Pavilion upgrade; 'Migration Stories', 'Italy's Regions' and 'Northern Rivers Italian community life'.

'Migration Stories' will feature a large installation just inside the Piazza Entrance. It will include a soundscape, several crates, sea chests and suitcases installed on a 'wharf' plinth. Dropping from the near 6 metre roof apex will be a rope sling or cargo net reminiscent of those used on the wharves in the times before shipping containers. Have recently done a bit of experimenting with a small scale version. Are there any of our readers who have had experience with marine knots? Would love some help!

Cargo net as used at the Immigration Museum, Melbourne

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NEW ITALY MUSEUM



"We would like to think that in the future, the social value of museums will increase, not because they will have more prestige but rather because they will meaningfully and truly include, integrate and unite communities, who will find themselves reflected, identified and considered as a vital part of the experience itself" Anne Baillie, Professional Development Officer M&GQ - quoted by Joan Kelly in the Italian Pavilion Interpretation Plan (2020).

Regional Museums like New Italy Museum are important keeping places for community stories and climate events. After the recent floods these two items resonate: a page from Domenic Marozin's exercise book (1906) records a deluge while the photo above records 1919 flood at Swan Bay-New Italy Road looking toward the School.

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FEEDBACK FROM THE REAR CAR PARK DONATION BOX - LATE 2021

We love gathering your feedback! In these challenging times - bushfires, COVID, floods - your kind words make the hours spent as volunteers at Historic New Italy worthwhile. Thank you for the thank-yous! They make our collective heart sing!

17 Oct 2021 Len & Evelyn "Many thanks – nice quiet stopping area."

20 Oct 2021 "Thank you New Italy Museum Inc. We were disappointed we missed out on sharing a cup of your great coffee. We hope you will be up and running soon! COVID-19 sucks! Another happy camper!"

1 Dec 2021 "We are members of the Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia. We participate in their Leave No Trace Scheme. We enjoyed our stay. Thank you, Rod & Bette Pattemore, Mackay Qld."

16 Dec 2021 "To the volunteers: We came to stay overnight at this rest stop on our way to see family because of the amazing reviews online! We really appreciate having a safe place to stay & access the toilets & the washroom. Really wonderful services that you provide to the community. You probably don't get thanked enough so thank you! Providing this space for people to stay is wonderful. Everything was pristine clean which is also a big bonus! Thanks so much. Tablia & Sam. P.S. I'll leave a review online."

DONATIONS newitaly.org.au > Donation page

NIMI is registered with ATO ~ Deductible Gift Recipient

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'IL GIORNALE' Winter 2022: content due 25/6/2022 museums@newitaly.org.au

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