

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Let's take a moment to reflect that this time last year we were experiencing the worst flood in living memory. Horror, grief and many acts of heroism by many untrained people. Some are still coming to terms with what happened. Our hearts go out to all who suffered. Hoping for recovery and a way forward.

There have been changes at Historic New Italy since it was a food distribution centre during that crisis.

The 'Tastes of New Italy' Café has a new look. Two large colourful Italian street scenes feature, with our piped music, giving the Café a more Italian atmosphere! Travellers take selfies in front of these scenes.

The long-awaited covered walkway at the front entrance to our site has been built. It provides protection from the weather and a more welcoming look for visitors.

Another project that we can tick off our never-ending to-do-list is the installation of our TapNGo donation points. They are in situ and fully operational. We have also erected signage in the rear car park suggesting a \$10 donation for vehicles who stay. Hopefully donations will start to roll in to support the rising maintenance costs at the site.

Another completed long awaited project is the installation of our Bushfire Water Supply for use by the Rural Fire Service and by locals to fight fires on their properties. The connection outlet is placed by the western edge of the car park for easy and safe access during a fire crisis. The installation of the pump and piping from the dam to the car park was provided and installed by the Richmond Valley Council through a grant stimulus package that was awarded to us after the bushfires. We thank Richmond Valley Council for providing this for our community.

Our Morning Tea Information Day was held on Sunday 12 February. It was good to see that folk were interested in what has been happening at Historic New Italy. Cups of tea and cake were enjoyed by all. We even acquired a few new contacts on our Friends of New Italy register: a list of those willing to help out in emergencies and working bees. A warm welcome is extended to you. Email or call the Shop if you would like to be added to the list.

Our Museum Working Group are busy little bees getting on with the Pavilion project. It will add great historical value and visitor interest to the site once completed.

As reported last year, the New Italy Community Hall sustained significant storm damage in March 2022. We were successful in our grant application to Create NSW CLIRP. Through this we will engage conservator, Christine Ianna (a New Italy descendant) to review and advise on better storage and working spaces as well as GMB Builders to add better drainage, repair and weatherproof the Hall - in the process future proofing this vital New Italy facility.

We are all looking forward to Anniversary Day - the 142nd year since arrival in Australia - 11-3 Sunday 16 April! This year it will be held in the New Italy Community Hall, not the Piazza. Musical entertainment will be by MeLa, a mandolin, guitar and violin trio plus piano accordionist, Val Wills. We are promoting it as a family celebration - bring a picnic basket/plate to share OR see alternatives and more information overleaf. We will be planting two trees in the Park of Peace to honour the late Peter Bortolin and Sam Robinson, two great friends to New Italy. **There is a limited space in the Hall so we need to finish taking bookings by 11/4/23. Get in quick!**

We urgently need new volunteers to come to help with the running of your museum site. Young and old can learn some valuable life skills through volunteering at New Italy.

President - Gail Williams



Top to bottom: Lily and Liz enjoying the scenes of Italy in the Café; the newly covered walkway at the front of the Museum; TapNGo machines in place; Bushfire Water Supply; Sam Robinson, Tony de Nardi and Peter Bortolin at a volunteers' celebration in 2014.

REMEMBERING THE BIG FLOOD OF 2022 - ONE YEAR ON...

There are thousands of stories about the big flood, its impact to the region and its people. Many volunteers and friends of New Italy were badly affected. Nic Volpato and Giovanni Foltran are two of many who experienced the destruction of property and their businesses as well as the massive flood heights. While Nic rebuilds the AZA and other properties for much needed accommodation, Giovanni lives in his work van in front of workshop/home, as it is rebuilt while helping others rebuild homes.



RECENT EVENTS

MORNING TEA GET TOGETHER - SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY



Thank you to all who shared morning tea with us on a very hot day at New Italy. The cakes were delicious! The company was supportive and fun! We were able to take the opportunity to fill the gathering in on the history of the site, our various facilities and the wide range of projects we have underway. The takeaway message was, we need more volunteers to make it work! **Contact giftshop@newitaly.org.au**

'BEYOND VENICE' SCU BAR & DECK: LISMORE CAMPUS - SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY



Domenico's Latin Mafia Band thrilled the masked up crowd at the SCU Bar and Deck. Special guests included Club Marconi and MP Janelle Saffin. The dinner dance was a fundraiser for the upcoming 'LisAmore!' 10-3 Sunday 18 June at the Lismore Turf Club. Photos by Peter Derrett

AMaGA - FAR NORTH COAST CHAPTER MEETING - YAMBA MUSEUM - FRIDAY 10 MARCH



New Italy Museum is one of 25 regional museums in the Northern Rivers region. We are members of the Australian Museums and Galleries Association - Far North Coast Chapter. These very diverse museums meet twice yearly. At each meeting there is a skills development presentation by an industry professional. Recently, Fiona Peters, photographer and social media consultant, led us through ways to use Facebook and Instagram to our best advantage. This presentation was generously supported by M&GNSW through a Volunteer Museum Skills Development Grant.

UPDATES TRI-LINGUAL WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



We are looking forward to installing the tri-lingual - Bandjalang, Italian and English - Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country signage inside the entrances to the front and back carparks. The featured painting is by Elder and local artist, Auntie Simone Barker, design is by Booyong Design and fabrication will be by Armsign, Goonellabah. Consultation has been the Bandjalang Elders, Minyumai Rangers & NIMI.

CREATE NSW CLIRP GRANT SUCCESS! NEW ITALY HALL: 2022 FLOOD RECOVERY & PREVENTION.



The New Italy Hall, vital to New Italy Museum operations and to New Italy Museum Inc. (NIMI) administration, sustained internal flood damage to building and contents during the major weather event of March 2022. NIMI is seeking professional solutions in conservation, drainage and building renovation to make this essential facility watertight.

THE SQUEAKY WINDMILL IS NO MORE!



After consultation, the New Italy windmill, kindly installed by members of the Bertoli family in the 1980s, was inspected, deemed unsafe and uninstalled. One less layer in the Historic New Italy soundscape!

2023 ANNIVERSARY DAY ~ NEW ITALY COMMUNITY HALL: 11-3 SUNDAY 16 APRIL



HISTORIC
NEW ITALY
invites you to

NEW ITALY COMMUNITY HALL

11am ~ 3pm
SUNDAY 16 APRIL 2023

142ND ANNIVERSARY DAY CELEBRATION
A PICNIC LUNCH

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
RSVP 11TH APRIL
museums@newitaly.org.au
or 0484 267 632
or GIFT SHOP

ENTRY BY DONATION

MUSIC BY




LeMa
MARK BROMLEY (BASS)
LEO GLASS (GUITAR)
MAT LYDON (VIOLIN)

VAL WILLS
ON ACCORDION

HISTORIC NEW ITALY invites descendants, their families and friends, to celebrate **Anniversary Day on Sunday 16 April (11am - 3pm)**. This year marks 142 years since the arrival of the New Italy families in Australia!
AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT - BOOK NOW!

PROGRAM

11am - Meet, greet, refreshments. Visit memberships and genealogy table. Buy your raffle tickets.

11.15 - Welcome and Welcome to Country by NIMI President Gail Williams

11.30 - A blessing by Father Frank Devoy

12.00 LUNCH with Music by **LeMa** - Mark Bromley (Bass), Leo Glass (Guitar), Mat Lydon (Violin) PLUS Val Wills - Accordion

1.30 - Salami Wheel & Raffle

2.00 - Two tree plantings in the Park of Peace in honour of the late Peter Bortolin and the late Sam Robinson

2.30 Tours and Gift Shop

3.00 Finish

LUNCH

EITHER bring your own picnic to share with your pre-booked table. NIMI will supply a BBQ for you to use.

OR you can pre-order from 'Tastes of New Italy Café'
02 6682 2622 or email newitalycafe@gmail.com

Menu:

HAMBURGER - lettuce, tomato, beetroot, carrot, onion \$13

CHICKEN BURGER - lettuce, tomato, beetroot, carrot, onion \$13

BEYOND BURGER (VEGAN) - lettuce, tomato, beetroot, carrot, onion \$15

- SALAMI FOCACCIA - chilli, relish, salami, cheese, tomato \$12.50
- CHICKEN FOCACCIA - aioli, chicken, tomato, cheese \$12.50
- HAM CHEESE TOMATO FOCACCIA - ham, cheese, tomato, mustard, mayonnaise \$12.50
- PUMPKIN FOCACCIA - basil mayonnaise, pumpkin, baby spinach, fetta, red onion \$12.50
- SPINACH AND MUSHROOM FRITTATA with salad (gluten free) \$15.50
- EGG AND BACON FRITTATA with salad (gluten free) \$15.50
- BACON & EGG ROLL \$8.50
- BLT - bacon, lettuce, tomato, Caesar dressing \$12.50
- HAM & CHEESE CROISSANT \$12
- CHEESE & TOMATO CROISSANT \$12
- LASAGNE with salad \$18.50

Excellent barista coffee can be purchased on the day.

OR buy from

'Olive and Luca' pizza truck (Lennox Head) on the day

WOOD FIRED PIZZA

Mozzarella Garlic Bread - \$12

Napoli bread - \$12

tomato, basil, garlic, olives, capers & anchovy

Margherita 1/2 \$10 - Whole \$18

tomato, mozzarella

Tartuffo 1/2 \$12 - Whole \$20

Roast garlic base, mushroom, scamorza, smoked ham, truffle

Diavola 1/2 \$12 - Whole \$20

Salumi sopressa, chilli, olives

Fiorentina 1/2 \$12 - Whole \$20

Spinach, olives, red onion, parmesan

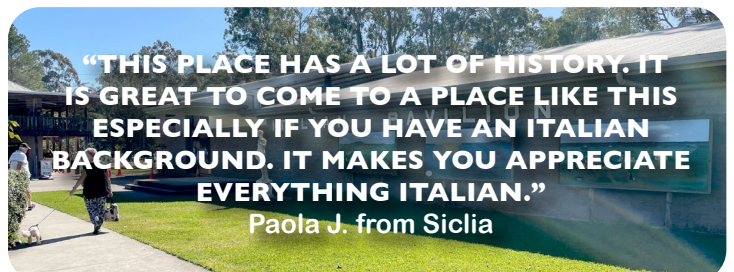
BAR NIMI is selling wine, beer, and non-alcoholic drinks.



...SAVE THIS DATE...

LisAmore!
LOVING LISMORE

SUNDAY 18 JUNE 2023 • LISMORE TURF CLUB



"THIS PLACE HAS A LOT OF HISTORY. IT IS GREAT TO COME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE AN ITALIAN BACKGROUND. IT MAKES YOU APPRECIATE EVERYTHING ITALIAN."
Paola J. from Sicilia

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW ITALY...

THE CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP



NI volunteers Ellen Barnes and Ev Cooke, and curious canine visitor.

Our skilfully crafted wooden seat in front of the gift shop has many uses. Do you think this little lady is looking for her owner or trying to get a bird's eye view of the dog products we sell in the shop? Sadly, due to a lack of volunteers, this vital income stream for the museum will only be open 4 days a week, Friday – Monday.

Becoming a shop volunteer is a great way to support your museum. It is like a free trip to Italy each time you work. You meet people from all around the world and all walks of life. We pay a travel allowance and you get a 10% discount on your shop purchases! Not bad! Come and join us once a fortnight.

Gail Williams • giftshop@newitaly.org.au

ITALIAN PAVILION

While we are doing the preparatory work for the Pavilion renovation early 2024, content is being prepared for new displays around the edge of the Pavilion. The plinths go in first. Thanks to all who helped prepare them at the working bee 15/3/23!



As you will be aware, the Pavilion emerged, through Floriano Volpato's dream and the hard work of many local volunteers, from the dismantled and relocated Expo88 Italian Pavilion. Reference to that heritage is seen at Historic New Italy in the ballustraded archways and alcoves, the model of the Da Vinci Car and the opera

figures in the Hall. We were recently gifted support material by representatives of 'Celebrate 88', John McGregor and Peter Rasey, that will help tell the 'Making of Historic New Italy' story. 'Celebrate 88' have already started promoting our Pavilion upgrade on their website and Vimeo channel.

On 2/3/23, Roland Leikauf, senior curator from the Australian National Maritime Museum, visited Historic New Italy. We were very thankful for his incisive feedback on themes, displays, grants and storytelling in relation to how we will interpret the 'Migration Stories' theme in the Pavilion. He was very impressed by the quality of interpretation in our Museum.

Next Pavilion meeting/working bee will be Monday 27 March: 10 - 3

Leonie Lane • museums@newitaly.org.au

NEW ITALY MUSEUM



The Family Cabinets are the heart of the Museum and honour the New Italy Settler families. Their cleaning and maintenance have been managed by the Museum volunteers since their installation. Funded by Museum donations, family members and Floriano Volpato in the 1980s, many cabinets feature the first and second generations of the New Italy pioneering families while some include non-Italian families who joined the settlement in the 1880s and 1890s. Each are labelled to indicate the patriarch and matriarch who first settled here and, where known, the matriarch's family name and their village of origin. A map shows these villages in close proximity to each other in the northern Italian regions of Veneto and Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

A revised register, recording each cabinet's contents and regular care, will aid in their maintenance. **If you are interested in helping with the care of your family's cabinet please contact us.**

The Museum Group • museums@newitaly.org.au

CAPELIN/PERIN/TOME FAMILY

Lorenzo ~ Maria formerly Mrs Tome born LUCON
GHIRANO CIMETTA



GINA SAYS
N.I.M.I.
NEEDS
YOU!



RIP 1927 ~ 2023

JOIN / RENEW NIMI Membership <https://www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/membership/>

BECOME A VOLUNTEER info@newitaly.org.au • 0484 267 632

CASH DONATIONS <https://www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/donation/>

NIMI is registered with ATO ~ Deductible Gift Recipient

ITEM DONATIONS <https://www.newitaly.org.au/about-us/item-donation/>

'IL GIORNALE' Winter 2023: content 2/6/2023 • museums@newitaly.org.au

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

Facebook: New Italy & Historic New Italy • Instagram: #casavecchiagiftshop

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