



IL GIORNALE

NEWSLETTER FROM NEW ITALY MUSEUM INC.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

At Historic New Italy, you can tell the passing of time simply by watching our grapevines - quiet, steadfast markers of each changing season.

Winter is fast approaching as our vines are shedding their leaves ready for their winter sleep. Lovely as they are they can be very messy! From falling ripe grapes squashed underfoot in summer, to crisp leaves blowing in the doorways and then crumbling, in autumn - there are many reasons to take a broom to our Piazza area and terraces – several times through the day to keep our site clean. We have actually had an order for some grape cuttings! If you would like some cuttings as well then please let us know and we will keep them aside for you too. I suggest you plant them on a pergola well away from any verandas or terraces!

I'm glad to report that **Anniversary Day** this year was well attended and appeared to be enjoyed by all - judging by the noise and laughter! It is so lovely to see the friendships the descendants share. Many big happy families! (See page 10)

When you next visit Historic New Italy you will notice a little face-lift out the front. John was deeply concerned about the lack of visibility to the right from the end of Swan Bay- New Italy Rd. The lomandra there had grown so tall it was difficult to see oncoming vehicles. He approached Council and they agreed to the removal of these plants and the area grassed over instead. Work Health & Safety is paramount to us at all times. (See below left. The addition of new signs out front have lessened confusion as explained on page 7).

Leonie and her band of willing workers are soldering on in **the Italian Pavilion**. On days when they are working there, they welcome the public interest. When the two entrances are complete and all the tools and objects are tied down, the Pavilion will be open when the Café is open. There has been a lot of interest from the public and many praises given which are well-deserved. We look forward to a grand opening when all is done! (See the Pavilion progress - page 6)

Recently we have received a small grant, thanks to Anna

Lagerstedt, our committee member extraordinaire (read *about the Lagerstedts on page 8*), who successfully applied for the grant to enable the purchase and installation of **two park benches for our dog park**. I'm sure the dog owners will be very appreciative of them Anna! I have seen owners set up their own seating in the dog park to enjoy time there with their pets (see below centre).

Talking of grants, NIMI has submitted an expression of interest for a major grant to **upgrade both our septic system and toilet block**. What a bonus that would be! Fingers crossed.

Unfortunately, there are some people who enjoy tampering at our site, from turning off the solar battery that runs our toilet block to kicking over the path light bollards! It seems to have become a sport! We are now seeking a sturdier **vandal proof lighting system** for our back car park path. We are also going to secure our solar battery behind an air conditioning cover – out of sight – out of mind! It is such a shame as 99% of our visitors show nothing but admiration of the volunteers and respect for our property.

In the last *Il Giornale*, I reported on the **native insects who have made a home in our mud bricks** thinking how lovely it was. When I had a good look, I realised how extensive and damaging it has become! Apparently, they love it where it is warm and since we removed the foliage from the courtyard there during the refurbishing and water proofing of the hall 2-3 years ago, that western wall now receives a blast from the afternoon sun. Those insects think our wall is a tropical paradise and have moved in by the hundreds! We are still seeking a mud brick specialist to help us solve the problem. There are remedies to deter these “holiday makers” and best applied mid-winter when activity is less. Now that will be an interesting job for our volunteers (see below right).

Speaking of volunteers, where would we be without them? It is **National Volunteers Week**, and I wish to thank them as I'm sure you do too, for their commitment and all that they do. They are the beating heart of NIMI.

Warm regards, **Gail Williams - President, NIMI**



MONUMENT TO THE PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T SURVIVE THE MARQUIS DE RAYS EXPEDITION

THOSE WHO DIED DURING THE VOYAGE, IN NEW IRELAND AND IN NEW CALEDONIA.

They have no known grave or were buried at sea.

As published in the Summer 2026 edition of 'Il Giornale', NIMI is planning towards a new monument as a tribute to those who did not complete the journey. Steve Capelin has provided an updated list of those who did not survive the expedition.

This information was taken directly from the *SS India's* records (verbatim - spelling as recorded) on the voyagers arrival in Sydney in 1881. Forty-eight names are listed in order of time of death. Note names of the children have been included.

Source: NSW State Archives Report: Italian Immigrants Inquiry Board 1881. Appendix D - Doctors Medical Register

Steve Capelin

If descendants' families have further information that they would like to share please contact us: museums@newitaly.org.au



DATE OF DEATH	NAME	AGE
1. 19 July 1880	Lucia Roder	28 years
2. 21 July 1880	Giovanno Nardi	1 year
3. 4 August 1880	Giovanna Antonioli	6 months
4. 4 August 1880	Genoveffa Martinuzzi	1 year
5. 6 August 1880	Agata Roder	1 year
6. 6 August 1880	Francesco Melaré	1 year
7. Approx. 6 August 1880	Carlo Tomé	1 year
8. 12 August 1880	Ludovico Lorenzini	17 years
9. 19 August 1880	Nicodemo Bertolo	2 years
10. 29 August 1880	Cristina Roder	2 years
11. 27 September 1880	Angelo Bertolo	58 years
12. 30 October 1880	Marco Tomé	44 years
13. 31 October 1880	Guiseppe Battistuzzi	24 years
14. 6 November 1880	Domenico Gava	4 years
15. 18 November 1880	Agostino Pellizier	3 years
16. 19 November 1880	Maddalena Roder	78 years
17. 22 November 1880	Matteo Bordet	79 years
18. 7 December 1880	Giovanni Gava	47 years
19. 8 December 1880	Vincenzo Bertolo	4 years
20. 12 December 1880	Maria Pellizier	1 year
21. 14 December 1880	Antonio Spinace	2 hours
22. 23 December 1880	Bambina Zaza	8 months
23. 27 December 1880	Maria Melaré	22 years
24. 6 January 1881	Emilie Bertolo	36 years
25. 10 January 1881	Giovanni Roder	76 years
26. 20 January 1881	Maria Antonioli	32 years
27. 5 January 1881	Antonia Pellizier	35 years
28. 26 January 1881	Caterina Bazza	9 years
29. 31 January 1881	Francesco Berberetto	60 years
30. 14 February 1881	Lucia Spinace	58 years
31. 15 February 1881	Angelo Julian	34 years
32. 16 February 1881	Pio Bellotto	35 years
33. 20 February 1881	Giacomo Roder	42 years
34. 26 February 1881	Antonia Mazzer	14 years
35. 28 February 1881	Gerome Tomé	39 years
36. 1 March 1881	Emelia Bertolo	30 years
37. 2 March 1881	Maria Jabretti	48 years
38. 7 March 1881	Guiseppe Brican	33 years
39. 7 March 1881	Battista Maffari	61 years
40. 9 March 1881	Santo Bertolo	52 years
41. 13 March 1881	Giovanna Mores	57 years
42. 13 March 1881	Luigi Bertolo	60 years
43. 5 March 1881	Bartolomeo Maffoni	5 years
44. 16 March 1881	Andrea Maffoni	2 years
45. 16 March 1881	Rosa Bertoli	56 years
46. 19 March 1881	Caterina Cappellini (Capelin)	37 years
47. 30 March 1881	Albina Uneda	2 years
48. 30 March 1881	Luduvico Bertolo	14 months

It is acknowledged that a considerable number of unrecorded deaths could have also occurred during the voyage and settlement attempt.

REST IN PEACE ~ REQUIESCAT IN PACE

THE SS INDIA: RUST BUCKET OR LUXURY LINER



The *SS India* has been much maligned and much misrepresented in various publications over the past 100 years. This is my attempt to set the record straight.

My research, thanks to modern technology and the thorough documentation of the voyage of the *India* by Rosemary Harrigan led me to a number of sources which seemed to cross reference with consistency.

The *India* has often been described as a rusting unseaworthy hulk. Of course, that heightens the drama of the story but it is untrue.

1. Age and condition

The 885 ton *India*, the largest of the five ships that the Marquis de Rays sent to Nouvelle France, was built in 1873. In 1880, when the voyage began from Barcelona it was only six or seven years old. It had been built in Stockholm and was copper sheathed and fastened to 13 feet. The brackets and fastenings were of Swedish iron.

When sold in Noumea it was regarded as in good condition. On inspection by the company responsible for the auction, the engineers who inspected the ship prior to sale described the boilers as “in excellent condition,” and the mechanics of the vessel as needing only minor repair. It had three decks and was capable of carrying up to 1500 tons of cargo. Admittedly it had not been fitted out as a cruise liner but the ship was seaworthy and its engines in working order.

2. Steam or sail

Was it a steam ship or a sailing ship? In fact it was both. It was the era of steam, but ships were still being build with steam and sail combined. The *India* is described as a “Screw Barquentine” meaning it was powered by a propeller (screw) and carrying a three-masted sailing rig. The 90HP inboard engine was about the size of a modern outboard motor used on a small fishing tinnie. It could only drive this very large ship

at a rate of 7 knots in calm water, which is roughly 13 kilometres per hour or a moderate to fast jogging speed and was intended to be used to supplement the sail power in light conditions. The sail configuration consisted of three masts – one square rigged foresail plus two aft sails rigged fore and aft in line.

It was sailing under the Liberian flag.

Source: Lloyds of London Reg No. 70936

Steve Capelin



PRG 1373/42/17

Barquentine *Selwyn Craig* - built 1868



SS Bergsund A vessel similar to the *India*. In this case a two masted Brigantine.

EARLY DAYS OF NEW ITALY SETTLEMENT:

An early account of settlement and lifestyle by an unknown New Italy settler (Part 2)



The Piccoli's tending their grape vines at New Italy

Most of the grape growers made wine from the grapes. There were rumours that the grapes were crushed by the men folk tramping on them with bare feet. This was ridiculous because no feet could withstand the coarseness of the grape stalks. In the beginning grapes were crushed with wooden rammers, later grapes were crushed between wooden rollers. The crushed grapes were put in big casks or vats and fermentation would start within a few hours. Fermentation would take four to six days. The wine would be drained off and put in big casks. Most of these casks were bought from the big hotels, mostly in Lismore. A cask which contained rum was not bought, because the rum would taint the wine.

*The skins were put through a still and the result was brandy. There were some crude stills in the area. The correct pipe should be copper, some had iron pipes and the result was brown from the rust in the pipes. Of course, this making of brandy is illegal but most of the settlers still made brandy. In Italian the name is **grappa**.*

*The **candles** were made of tallow but I remember getting the loan of a six-candle mould from my uncle, Angelo Roder. I made mine from beeswax.*

***Bed mattresses** were made from corn husks, only the inner husk was used and torn into strips. These were put in a mattress made of heavy calico the size of the bed and the depth of the husks would be between nine and twelve inches deep and were quite comfortable. These mattresses were stirred now and again but put out in the sun every three or four months and it would make the husk crisp again.*

***Later mud houses were built.** Most people are of the opinion that the walls were made of mud and poured like concrete is today. The soil for our home was had from a flat in Pezzutti's property, the soil had no clay in it and was sieved through a spring mattress to take out any big stones. The soil had to be damp and put in layers about three inches thickness between boards and rammed with heavy rammers. The same soil would be where the school was. It made a good tennis court. There were several homes made of soil. The only two storey made of soil were Antoniulli and Felicietti. Of timber the two storey wood buildings were Giovanni Rosolen, Giovanni Roder and Angelo Roder. (to be continued...)*

THE WOODBURN BAKERY - A 100 YEAR STORY

Locals of a certain age might remember McDonald's Bakery in Redwood Lane in Woodburn. It operated for about fifty years from 1910 and has links to the New Italy story. It was operated by Lorenzo (Larry) Capelin (b.1884) during the 1914-1918 war. Larry was a descendant of the Marquis de Rays expedition and my grandfather. I'd heard that he was a baker during WWI. It was one of those enduring family stories that focused on the outrage that the family felt (even almost one hundred years later) at Larry having been pressed to relinquish his bakery by the town fathers in order to offer the business to a young returning soldier. I decided to find out more about the story.

It took a funeral, a chance encounter, and a remarkable coincidence to finally learn that the bakery had survived. It was my uncle Paddy Powell's funeral that set things in motion. Paddy (Raymond Lawrence) had been born and raised in Woodburn and lived his adult life in nearby Alstonville. One of his relatives, a resident of Woodburn, mentioned that he's heard that there was an old baker's oven somewhere in the back lanes. He steered me towards a former baker still living in town for more information but that lead proved fruitless. I prowled the back lanes and had almost given up when I ran into a woman outside the community centre. I enquired about the building's history. She asked me about my interest in Woodburn. I told her the story of my quest to find the invisible bakery. She looked at me strangely and said: "There's an old baker's oven in my backyard."

And there it was. One hundred years later, a still recognizable brick Scotch Oven. Strangely, it sits on a small piece of land that straddles two urban blocks and is on its own title. No one knows it's there. In Victoria and South Australia some of these Scotch Ovens have been resurrected and given a new life.



Woodburn Bakery NSW 1910 – 1950

They're unique.

Such was my excitement at the discovery that it's inspired the working title of my new historical novel: *The Baker's Wife*.

Here's a list of the owners of that bakery:

1910 – 1912	J. W. Hunter
1912 – 1914	E. Taylor
1915 – 1919	Lorenzo Capelin (Jnr)
1919 – 1921	Bert Hill
1921 – 1926	Mr. Cravigan
1926 – 1936	Donald McDonald
1936 – 1940	Jack and Stuart McDonald
1940 – 1947	Ron and Mrs McDonald
1947 - ??	Fred McDonald

Thanks to Anne Gwynne Researcher at MRHS Coraki.

In a strange coincidence Anne's parents Tim and Ivy Carter had purchased Larry's family home on Pimlico Road in Wardell in 1962 and lived there until 2013 (51 years). Larry lived there from 1921 until 1962 (41 years). Almost 100 years between the two families. Larry died in 1964.

Steve Capelin

PROJECT UPDATES

TOILET RENOVATIONS.

Constructed some 40+ years ago this well-used facility is more than showing its age.

Therefore, bearing in mind the vast general improvement of public facilities elsewhere and the importance of such to the New Italy site, a major renovation and/or rebuild has been at the top of our major items wish list for some time.

Consequently a design draftsman was employed to produce plans for a new toilet block - a renovation scope of works that include our ideas for the future. This includes vastly improved natural ventilation and lighting, a ceiling that follows the roof line, new cubicle partitions and doors, lined walls, durable floor surfaces, contemporary benches and basins, new urinals, wall flush pans, hidden piping and a covered access walkway. This plan also included the location of an easily accessible state-of-art disabled toilet at the verandah level.

Total cost is approximately \$200,000 + GST at today's prices. This excludes portable toilet hire during construction.

This expenditure is within our predictable capacity in say the next 2-3 years. The availability of a government grant would (depending on its size) influence the start date and maybe the scope of the works.

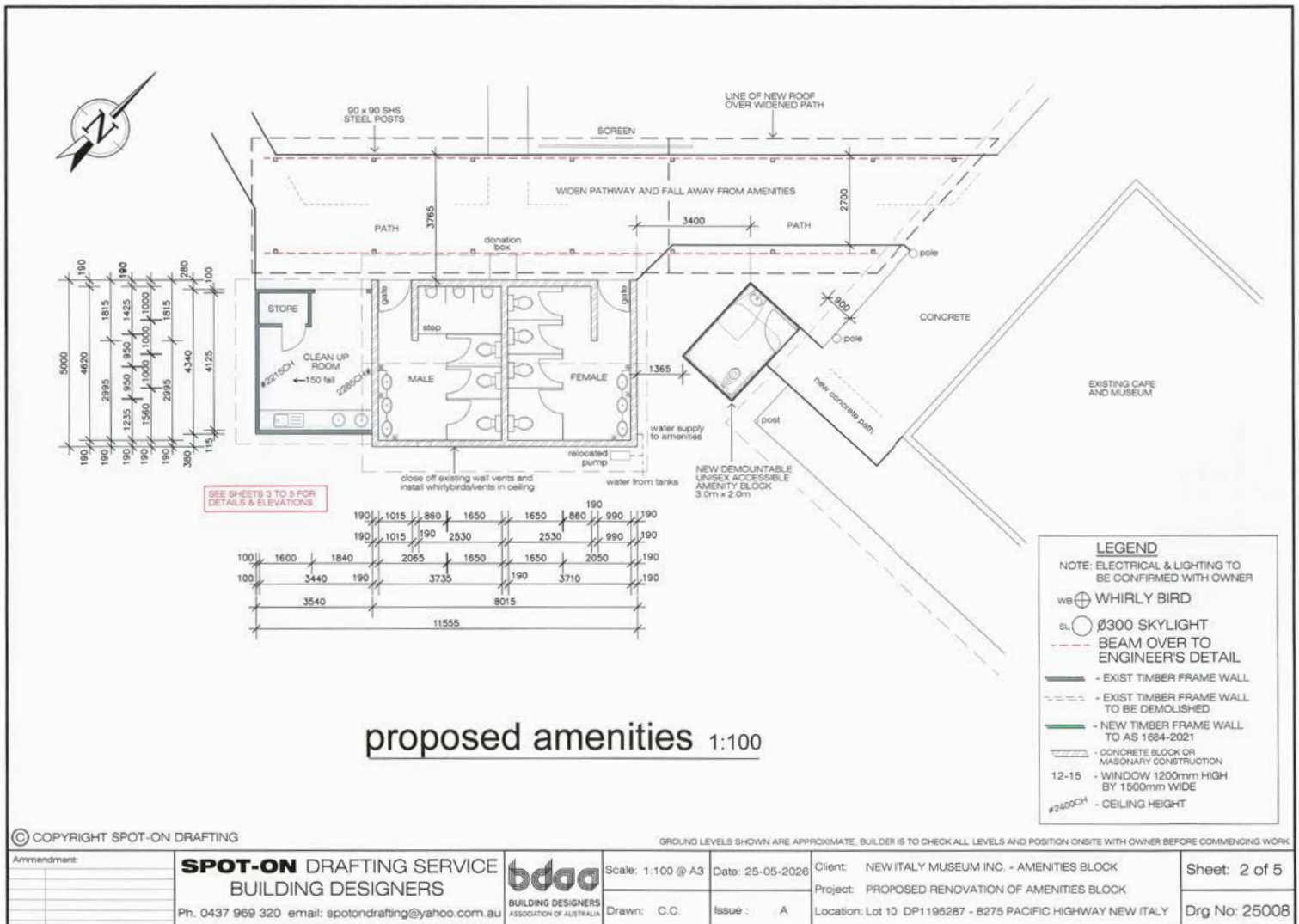
The proposed works would not increase the capacity of the toilets, apart from the disabled facility. However if necessary the existing building lends itself to a relatively cheap eastern extension.

Alternatively there has been a suggestion to build a completely new toilet block and demolish the existing. This proposal, which would be vastly more expensive, has not gone past the idea stage.

John Barnes



Would you like to contribute to the upgrade of the New Italy toilet block?
ON-SITE Please use the cash or TapNGo options at the Toilet Block donation box
 OR
<https://www.newitaly.org.au/donation/>
 OR
CONTACT US info@newitaly.org.au



TESLA EV CHARGING STATION

By now most would be aware that a 12 bay electric vehicle charging station is operating in the rear car park of the New Italy site. This facility is the second largest in NSW and being within a charges range of Brisbane it has proved to be very popular. Commonly 4-6 stations are in use and sometimes during the recent school holidays all 12 bays were being used.

This rental income source has been a positive injection to the site as knowledge of its existence increases.

Set in park like surrounds and covered by a solar panel supporting structure, the facility offers a fully shaded charging experience in a clean situation that is removed from traffic and noise. The New Italy Tesla Supercharger has been awarded the EV charging station facility of the year award. During charging,

visitors are free to use our facilities and visit the museums, gift shops and café. This has resulted in additional income.

However, since some patrons tend to loiter about the site during the charging period, the committee intends to produce informative/promotional notice board that informing them about New Italy. A promotional opportunity not to be missed.

Unfortunately, some car energising people are dumping their rubbish about the facility. However, we are reluctant to provide a bin because this will encourage the practise and we then have the problem of emptying and disposal. *Take it with you* signage is the better option.

Change brings some disadvantage but overall New Italy is well advantaged by this installation.

John Barnes



“Looking forward to promoting this wonderful site and rest area to all EVs with CCS2 which is almost all electric vehicles sold into Australia! Great for anyone towing, no need to unhitch and charge with the free standing outlet.”

Historic New Italy Facebook page



NEW SIGNAGE

In an effort to welcome, inform and direct our visitors, a number of new highly visible signs have been erected about the site.

Of the various types, the entrance roadway ones are known to be reducing confusion by clearly indicating parking, camping, EV charging and dog exercise areas. Others plea for donations in subtle and not so subtle ways while some direct visitors to the features of the site.

Overall they have had a very positive effect on our visitors and some positive effects in our donation boxes while decreasing questions to staff in the cafe and gift shop. Acting on these results, and in anticipation of increasing visitor numbers, more signs are planned.

John Barnes.



FRIENDS OF NEW ITALY ANNA & JIM LAGERSTEDT



If you were at the recent Anniversary Day, you may have seen the Lagerstedt's in action! They are relatively new volunteers at the New Italy Museum site and are now valued committee members.

For Anniversary Day, Anna generously took over the promotions, table bookings, the program, liaising with the food vans, MC and all from me (a big thank you, Anna!). This job couldn't have landed in more capable hands. Like the proverbial swan on the water, Anna appeared calm, serene and unflappable, while paddling madly below the surface.

VISITOR NUMBERS UPDATE



As readers may be aware we have long had a toilet use counter installed at the door of the women's toilets. The system is such that it counts the women twice (in and out) and the men not at all. Allowing for a 50:50 gender distribution in the population (and almost universal visitor toilet use) the count is considered accurate for all practical purposes.

As of 17 September 2025 our original counting gadgetry was replaced by a more foolproof system. Recordings since (to May 22) show that a total of 157,395 people have used the facility over 267 days. This averages at 589 visitors/day.

As previously reported during the recent 60 day December/January holiday period the daily average was 877 persons. The recent Easter week recorded 910 persons/day.

Now how do these creditable visitor numbers translate into NIMI life essential money ex-donations.

Before and during this 267 day period much of our donation pleading signage was improved, refreshed and/or increased and "TapNGo" facilities refined. Has it worked?

Jim has also been working wonders behind the scenes doing an excellent job photographing daily events on site at our various venues, rescuing our website and creating the best social media profile that we have ever had. He was also there on Anniversary Day chatting with attendees and photographing highlights of the day along with our long-time New Italy photographer and supporter, Peter Derrett.

Seemingly joined at the hip, Jim and Anna's skills, experience and congeniality are perfectly suited to the new NIMI Events committee and also to the developing Marketing committee.

Anna has a background in bookkeeping, graphic art, publishing and marketing. Jim, now a happy retiree, has a background in publishing, photography, marketing, online media production and event management.

Where did they come from and how did they get here? After migrating from Sweden in 1988, this dynamic duo settled on the Gold Coast where they built their home and raised two daughters. They created and ran a successful events and publishing business for three decades. Following the sale of their business in 2020, they retired to the New Italy area where they found beautiful acreage and now enjoy living completely off grid.

What do they like about New Italy? 'We love the history of Historic New Italy and the amazing work all volunteers have done so far... and the coffee of course.'

Leonie Lane

Well to a certain extent it appears it has.

TapNGo donations were \$13,694 and cash boxes \$28,234.90 - Total \$41,928.90.

This translates to \$157.03/day. When this amount is related to the daily 589 visitors it shows that the average visitor donation is approx. \$0.27 cents.

Now before our talented and hardworking volunteers get too upset about this relatively meagre amount they are reminded that not so long ago the average donation was about \$0.15 cents/visitor. Inflation aside I would like to think of it as progress. I am sure that our signage is pricking a few consciences if nothing else.

In the next edition of *Il Giornale* I will address the problem of the serious shortfall in donations from the overnighting grey nomads in our car park. Many appear to be largely sign illiterate.

John Barnes

RIPOSA IN PACE

VALE AMERICO ADRIANO MELCHIOR:

11/4/1947 ~ 17/3/2026



Americo Adriano Melchior is well-remembered in the NR Italian community as President of Lismore's Italo Club and also as President of New Italy Museum Inc. (2011- 2014) and as a good friend to many.

He was born in Fagagna, Udine province, Italy just two years after the end of WW2. These were difficult times and his parents, Maria Miani and Fervido Melchior, were ready to try their luck elsewhere. Maria's father, Giuseppe "Bepe" with her brother Fabio "Tubby," had already established a life farming land in Bungabee, outside Lismore. Like many families of that time, Maria, Fervido, Maria's mother, Fulvia Miani and 2.5year old Americo, left Italy for a better life. It was a defining journey that led to a new life of hard work at Bungabee. Americo and his family grew beans, peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, bananas surrounded by people of different cultures and backgrounds who spoke languages from all over the world: his native Friulian (furlan), English, Bundjalung, Indian languages, and more. On the farm, work was shared with local Aboriginal workers from the nearby Cubawee - people Americo remembered as strong, hardworking, and essential to clearing the land.

His family moved to Rock Valley, where school was not a happy place. Experiencing bullying, struggling with speech and writing, he grew to hate school. At St Joseph's Marist Brothers High School during his teenage years he formed lifelong friends with Tony DeNardi, Lino Pirlo and others.

After he left school, Americo began a life long passion for cooking at Hutton's Bakery.

In 1967, the Melchior family moved into Lismore, next door to the Rosa family. Kerrie recalled: the Friday nights at the

Gollan Hotel, boys on one side of the street, girls on the other. Friends like Tony DeNardi and Janice Thurtell hanging around with a fellow called Americo. The Gasparini store, the movies, the Dairy Delight, and Harry Crethar's Wonder Bar. Kerrie (19) and Americo (21) met and married 26/11/1968, at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in South Lismore.

Americo became something of a jack-of-all-trades — panel beater, mechanic, auto electrician, welder, spray painter. Americo and Kerrie bought their first home for \$11,000. Along came Adrian(1971), Justine (1974), and Bronwen (1980).

With Dino Zorzo and Bob Viero, Americo formed the Italo Australia Fishing Club - a social network where families gathered to fish and friendships flourished for over 57 years.

He continued to farm at McKees Hill: soybeans and market crops. Markets collapsed, rains came at the wrong time, crops were lost to floods. Americo persisted as he continued working full-time as a baker.

Americo loved people. He thrived on community and feeding people. His involvement with the Italo-Australia Club spanned decades. He served as a volunteer, committee member, then vice president and president for over 10 years. The Friday night feasts became legendary. Americo would work a full shift at the bakery, come in to start his legendary pasta sauces, sleep briefly, and return to finish them. The club was facing closure and Americo presented its history, the Italian community with the committee in negotiation with Marconi Football club to take it over. Americo remained practical tasked with managing the difficult end of a once-thriving cultural institution.

Marconi opened the renovated club in early Feb 2022 with hopes of trading and reinvigoration. However with floods later that month, the Italo Australia Sports & Recreation Club has remained closed until further notice.

Americo steered New Italy Museum Inc. committee and Anniversary Day celebrations and was responsible for holding NIMI together in difficult times. He co-ordinated volunteers at events and made the best pasta sauce for a passionate Italian community of 3000 plus people! He is well remembered as a man who brought others together, made sure there was enough food, enough chairs, enough laughter - more, the merrier.



Sadly, Americo's lifelong partner, Kerrie, died after a sudden illness, a little under 2 months after Americo. Our hearts go out to their children - Adrian, Justine and Bronwen - and families, all their cherished grandchildren and many friends. Kerrie is remembered by many as a person of grace who provided Americo and all at NIMI with kindness and huge support over many years. May they both rest in peace.

RECENT EVENTS

TAVOLA LISAMORE! (ITALIAN LONG LUNCH) LISMORE SHOWGROUND: SATURDAY 14 MARCH

The inaugural **Tavola LisAmore!** was a very special experience - a great success! Remarkable food, great cooks, wonderful Lismore venue, warm friendly atmosphere, beautiful company - let's do it all again next year!



HISTORIC NEW ITALY CELEBRATES 145TH ANNIVERSARY DAY - SUNDAY 12 APRIL

Beautiful weather, fresh pasta, wine, family, friends, laughter and gelato. 240 guests arrived in family groups, with music by accordion player Val Wills. NIMI President Gail Williams gave a warm welcome followed by a beautiful blessing by Father Frank Devoy.

The inaugural Great Italian Trivia Quiz had family teams competing against each other for prizes. Lunch was provided by the Amici Team's servery. Benilato's Gelato served up homemade gelato and tiramisu. MC Phil Eckersley paid tribute to special guest, Lina Simeoni who will celebrate her 100th birthday this year. The salami wheel delivered prized salami by Fowl Rabbit Artisan Butcher.

Huge thanks to the dedicated and hard working volunteer team, led by Event Coordinator Anna Lagerstedt, for making this event possible.

Many raffles and prizes won, generously donated by businesses located in the New Italy Museum complex - MyBelle Pantry, Tastes Of Italy Café, The Glass Art Gallery and Casa Vecchia. Thanks also to Australia Post in Lismore and the resourceful Nancy Gava for helping make this annual fundraiser a success. The major prize were two double passes to see the The Italian Tenors at the Lismore Workers Club. Huge thanks to Abstract Touring & Events for these great prizes!

The Salami Wheel enabled six very happy winners to take home delicious salamis.

The membership and genealogy desk was manned by Lester Cooke and Kerryanne Hayes who assisted anyone interested in researching their own family history and refreshing their membership.

The day wrapped up with a tour of the Italian Pavilion upgrade. Leonie Lane was on hand to guide curious visitors and answer questions.

Historic New Italy's 145th Anniversary Day Celebration was a resounding success. See you next year!



RECENT EVENTS (CONTINUED)

ANZAC DAY SATURDAY 25 APRIL

A quiet and respectful commemoration of ANZAC Day was held in the New Italy Hall with approximately 20 people in attendance. We were fortunate to be joined by special guests from the Alpini Association of Australia including their President Giuseppe Querin.

A friend to New Italy, ex NIMI Treasurer and Secretary, Peter Blackwood, held a thoughtful and evocative ceremony, describing the conditions under which the 13 New Italy ANZACs and others fought plus the mateship that resulted.

NIMI continues to observe ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day annually and through outcomes of the 2018 ANZAC Centenary Project co-ordinated by Peter Blackwood.

A cup of tea and ANZAC biscuits were enjoyed by all afterwards. Our Alpini guests were invited to view recent changes to the displays in the Italian Pavilion.



Top to bottom: Giovanni Foltran, Orlando Brombal, Giuseppe Querin and Daniele Riondato in front of the New Italy ANZACS roll of honour; the New Italy Hall ready for ANZAC Day; in the Italian Pavilion, Alpini special guests Giovanni Foltran, Orlando Brombal and President of the Alpini Association of Australia, Giuseppe Querin is joined by New Italy friends and committee, Ellen and John Barnes, President NIMI, Gail Williams, Julie de Nardi, Tony de Nardi and Alan Magnay.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

2026

LiAmore!

SUNDAY 5 JULY

LISMORE SHOWGROUND

10am-3pm

NEW
VENUE!

FUN FOR EVERYONE!

LEARN ITALIAN WITH CLAUDIA CANTORI:

Note: Claudia will be taking a small break from June until mid August - yes she's off to Italy! When she returns classes will resume.

Lismore Library : 10.30 Saturday mornings

The small meeting rooms ~ groups 6 students (max.)
Classes for all ages • parents and children • children (age 8+) • adults

\$25/hour or \$20 with sibling/parent discount

For more information contact Claudia Cantori:
cantoriClaudia@gmail.com
text 049 041 0193



NEW ITALY HALL Historic New Italy

8275 Pacific Highway, Woodburn NSW 2472

BOOKING ENQUIRIES

@ newitalyevents@gmail.com

🌐 www.newitaly.org.au

📱📷 Historic New Italy



...WATCH THIS SPACE ... RE-OPENING
THE ITALIAN PAVILION ... 2026...

SHOPPING AT HISTORIC NEW ITALY...

CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP



As winter approaches, we are stocking up on scarves and gloves to keep you warm on these frosty mornings.

We have another shipment of Italian handbags to tempt you. Also more Murano glass stock has arrived: Millefiori from Venice and Micro Mosaic from Florence. Both use Murano glass but in different ways. Small narrow rods of Murano glass are cut into thin segments and arranged in patterns within a metal shape. The Millefiori jewellery is then reheated until the glass nears melting, allowing the pieces to fuse. With Micro Mosaic each individual glass rod segment is glued into position using tweezers under magnification. I regard both as "patchwork in glass".



Gail Williams • giftshop@newitaly.org.au • 0414 348 566

MYBELLE PANTRY



Michele (MyBelle Pantry) with bike-riding visitor from Germany, Princella.

At MyBelle Pantry, we love the conversations we have with our customers and noticing how many shared values we hold around supporting local farmers, small businesses, and more conscious ways of shopping. So many people are wanting to step away from systems where big supermarkets can dictate the prices farmers receive and even reject perfectly good produce and deliveries that don't meet strict standards. Every time you shop small, you're directly supporting growers, community, and a more connected way of living.

Michele Bertoli • masfmdcare@gmail.com • 0403 212 747

NEW ITALY GLASS ART GALLERY



At New Italy Glass Art Gallery, my range of work is constantly evolving. Often in response to customers requests. This month bees and pelicans have been added to the already extensive selection of animal earrings. All made on site at New Italy!

Ian & Julie O'Driscoll • ianodriscoll58@gmail.com • 0414 668 223

TASTES OF NEW ITALY CAFÉ



New Italy Café offers a relaxed and welcoming stop for locals and travelers alike, with quality coffee, fresh meals, and friendly service. Located within the historic New Italy precinct, the cafe is proud to provide a comfortable atmosphere and a taste of the local area. Open 7 days from 7am - 4pm.

Jamie Herring • newitalycafe@gmail.com • 6682 2622

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'IL GIORNALE' SPRING 2026: content 31/7/2026 - museums@newitaly.org.au

STAY IN TOUCH newitaly.org.au • 8275 Pacific Highway Woodburn NSW 2472

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