

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### Seasons Greetings!

I can hardly believe Christmas is almost here again! Following my last update, we held our **Annual General Meeting** on 2 November. I'm delighted to share that we now have a strong new committee ready to guide New Italy through the next 12 months. Our team includes four passionate New Italy locals who care deeply about the museum and its history, along with a Woodburn local with heritage ties. It is so good to have locals involved.

Your 2026 Committee:

- **President – Gail Williams**
- **Vice Presidents – Leonie Lane, John Barnes**
- **Secretary – Vanessa Dibley**
- **Treasurer – Kevin Poole**
- **Committee Members – Ros Derrett, Kerryanne Hayes, Anna and Jim Lagerstedt, Brian Pezzutti**
- **Hon. Committee Member – Michele (Mike) Grigoletti**

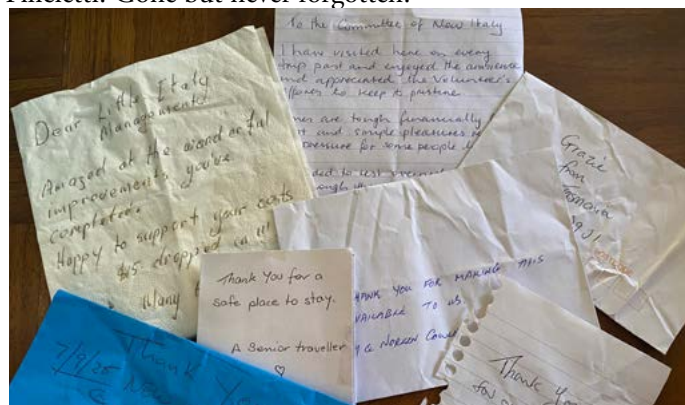
Following the meeting, **Dr Pol Dalmau** presented an informative talk via Zoom from Barcelona entitled 'Fresh Insights into the Marquis de Rays' Colony and the New Italy Settlers'.

**Solar-Powered Toilet Block & Septic:** As mentioned in my last report, we planned to go solar with the toilet block and septic system. I'm pleased to say it's now up and running beautifully! Solar by day, battery by night, and already saving us on electricity costs. It even kept going through two power outages—much to my relief, since I didn't have to lock and then unlock the toilets when the power was restored.

Meanwhile, the Australian Electric Vehicle Association has chosen the **Tesla Supercharger station** at New Italy as its 2025 Charging Station of the Year! More details over page...

**Remembrance Day** was held on the 11 November at the Honour Roll in the New Italy Museum with Vice-President Leonie Lane officiating. Lest we forget.

**Vale:** We sadly farewelled two long-time members of the New Italy Museum recently: Margaret Robinson and Barry Filicietti. Gone but never forgotten.



**Museum tours - School and TAFE visits:** It's always heartening to see teachers bringing their students to learn about early Australian immigration history. In mid-November, Woodburn Public School brought upper primary classes to explore the stories of our expeditioners. Also in late November, we were visited by 20 TAFE Yamba and Grafton English language students who are recent migrants to Australia. Such valuable experiences for our future generations!

**Termite Baiting:** Unfortunately, termites have struck again. This time, we've placed in-ground baits to lure them before they reach our woodwork. They were found in one of the poles supporting the Café/Museum roof. Baits have been applied directly to the pole and some bait has been taken. It remains an ongoing problem until the in-ground nest can be found and eradicated.



**Visual Screen:** Gardeners will be pleased to know the visual screen planted last year has had a refresh. Some plants didn't survive the tough conditions, so we replaced them with new tube stock and mulched the area. Several of the earlier plantings flowered in spring and are thriving. In another two years of growth, we should have the vegetative barrier we've been aiming for.

**Notes of Thanks:** It's always uplifting to receive spontaneous letters from travelers who appreciate the improvements we've made to our site and also being able to stay overnight in our back car park. Their gratitude reminds us that the hard work of our volunteers truly makes a difference.

**Café and Visitor Numbers:** The Café has noticed a steady rise in customers over the past few months. Our counter numbers are up, and the Charging Station is clearly encouraging more visitors to stop by.

Looking ahead, the future feels bright!

Wishing you all peace, love and contentment - not just at Christmas, but always.

Warmest regards

**Gail Williams - President, NIMI**

## WHO'S WHO ON THE NEW MUSEUM INC. COMMITTEE 2025-2026

### PRESIDENT: GAIL WILLIAMS



I'm a fifth generation north coaster. I live on the edge of New Italy on part of my grandfather's selection. He and his children – my father, were part of the New Italy community. I'm a retired Registered Nurse. Been volunteering at New Italy since 2009 and run the gift shop. I became President in 2020.

### VICE-PRESIDENT: JOHN BARNES



"Retiring" some 18 years ago, I began to look for something to soak up my spare time. After a busy working life and being a Spinaze descendant, I thought the needy New Italy organisation could fill the void. These past years have seen the giving and receiving of friendships and achievements. I have seen the New Italy site develop, improve and expand to a significant visitors destination with a difference.

### VICE-PRESIDENT: LEONIE LANE



A graphic designer and a retired SCU academic, I have been a New Italy Museum volunteer since 2011. I worked with the Museum Mondays group on the upgrade to the New Italy Museum (2016-2019). Our current focus is the Italian Pavilion: its renovation and the exhibition re-design. With John Barnes, I publish this newsletter, *Il Giornale*.

### SECRETARY: VANESSA DIBLEY



Of English/Ukrainian descent, I came to Australia (1970) as a baby '10 pound pom' to settle in SW Sydney. Moved to New Italy in 1988, purchasing Franco Roder's 105 acres and worked as a Registered Nurse, for 41 years while raising 3 strong spirited sons. Semi-retired, I volunteer - NI Gift Shop 2 days/week. Now 'apprentice' NIMI Secretary.

### TREASURER: KEVIN POOLE



After taking a transfer to this area with the Bank 35 years ago, my wife and I decided to stay. I have since left the bank and am now working at Woodburn. I have had the opportunity to see the wonderful work the volunteers are doing at Historic New Italy. Happy to be an active volunteer where needed at this great facility on the Pacific Highway.

### COMMITTEE MEMBER: JIM LAGERSTADT



Now happily retired, I have a background in publishing, photography, marketing, online media production and event management. After migrating from Sweden in 1988, my wife and I settled on the Gold Coast where we established our business and raised our two daughters. We sold our business in 2020 and retired to the New Italy area.

### COMMITTEE MEMBER: ANNA LAGERSTADT



Originally from Sweden, my background is in bookkeeping, graphic art, publishing and marketing. Jim and I ran our successful events and publishing business for three decades on the Gold Coast. We have found beautiful acreage in the New Italy area where we live off-grid. Love the history of Historic New Italy and the amazing work all volunteers have done so far.

### COMMITTEE MEMBER: ROS DERRETT



I have worked extensively in education, tourism, community cultural development and arts administration in Australia and overseas. Working with individual artists, cultural enterprises, businesses and local government in regional Australia, I have assisted the delivery of quality cultural/tourism experiences and place-making. I love a good heritage festival!

### COMMITTEE MEMBER: KERRYANNE HAYES



My husband and two children are descendants to Antonio and Maria Felicetti, and I also have Italian heritage myself. I have a strong belief in the importance of keeping family history alive for future generations. I have a personal interest in living museums and gardening, and have a career background in early education and administration.

### COMMITTEE MEMBER: BRIAN PEZZUTTI



I am the great grandson of Vincent Pezzutti, Founder of New Italy, grandson of Bazzo (exp) Roder Pezzutti and Scarabellotti. Educated at St Johns College, Woodlawn and Sydney University, I became a founding Specialist Anaesthetist Richmond Valley 1976-2022 and retired 2024. Member of NSW Legislative Council 1988-2023. Served ARMY 1965-2017 - retired as Brigadier.



### HONORARY COMMITTEE MEMBER: MICHELE 'MIKE' GRIGOLETTI

Born in the Veneto region of Italy and migrated to Australia 20 years ago, I recently renewed the Friendship agreement signed between the towns of Conegliano and Lismore. I am elected member of COMITES NSW (Committee of Italians Abroad) and author of books, essays and documentaries about management of migration flows. I visit New Italy regularly especially when I need to refresh my cultural identity. I presented the New Italy museum on Italian TV. <https://youtu.be/PLLPIGR1JoY> (minute 29:00-31:00minutes 56.42)

Photo supplied

## VISITING PORT BRETON – NEW IRELAND – PAPUA NEW GUINEA: LATE C19TH documented by the Reverend George Brown, Missionary and Photographer

The Reverend George Brown (1835-1917) was a missionary and a photographer. Born in Durham, UK, George was the son of a minister, editor and barrister. Reacting to the harsh discipline of his step-mother he absconded to Canada as a teenager. Migrating to New Zealand in 1855 he was influenced by Methodist missionaries and became a preacher before ordination in Sydney in 1860. Married the same year, he and his wife sailed to the South Pacific with the purpose of establishing mission stations. He was most successful, establishing 29 stations in 21 years. An ardent missionary, prolific writer, photographer, traveller and linguist he gained the confidence of all as he displayed sincerity and an adventurous spirit.

Now how does Rev. Brown come into the Marquis de Ray's expedition story? As it happens that in November 1880, he visited the Marquis de Rays' settlement site at Port Breton on the southern tip of New Ireland. Here he took the accompanying photographs of settlers who had travelled on *SS India*. More photographs are in the Australian National Museum archives. Perhaps our ancestors are in the photographs. They are among the earliest ever recorded in that part of the world. Brown also noted the general condition of the settlement and its prospects (not good) and gave whatever assistance he could.

Shortly afterwards (5 December) he was at Port Hunter (Duke of York islands) when Mrs Danks, the wife of a fellow missionary went into labour. Complications were soon evident and professional attention was necessary. Since there was none available locally, George Brown organised eight burly Samoans and Fijians to row a whale boat sixty five miles (110km) to the Port Breton site, collect the expedition's French Doctor Goyon and return with him to Port Hunter to attend Mrs Danks. This duly happened (in 49 hours) and both mother and baby were saved by Dr Goyon.

This astonishing feat of endurance rowing (220 km in 49 hours = 4.3 km/hour in open sea) became a South Pacific legend.

A devoted medico, Dr Goyon, returned to Port Breton and continued his work right up until the survivors arrived in Sydney in April 1881. He then returned to Noumea to attend those left there in hospital when the *SS James Patterson* departed. He then accompanied them to Sydney.

Unfortunately there is no record of Dr Goyon's activities after he arrived in Sydney the second time. It is presumed that he went back to France.

Yet another story of the South Pacific.

**John Barnes**



Above: The only two period photographs of the settlers of New France taken by George Brown at Likiliki at the time of the evacuation. (NB The Maremma dog)\*



The Likiliki site. In the foreground, one of the boilers landed by the settlers, and abandoned before it could be used.\*



The natives come every day in their canoes to offer fruit and game to the colonists.\*

\* Photos and captions sourced from 'Port-Breton la colonie tragique' Daniel Floch - Quest France 1987

## REVISITING PORT BRETON – NEW IRELAND – PAPUA NEW GUINEA: 1 AUGUST 2025

As a descendant of the Italian settlers who were tricked into selling up their lands in Italy to move to a promised new life in Port Breton, I am very proud to report that I have been fortunate enough to have anchored in the bay of Irish Cove, Port Breton, on two occasions for extended periods. I met with the locals, retold the history of our Italian ancestors as experienced at this place; their trials, tribulations, struggles, suffering, deaths and the desperation on their arrival in 1880.

Our first trip to Port Breton was conducted in September 2000 after our charter season had ended in Kimbe Bay, New Britain. We were on our way back to Cairns, our base in those days, and took advantage of the time to visit Rabaul, Kokopo and Port Breton on our way through the islands. We had learnt much information from the owner of the Walindi Plantation Resort about the failed de Rays expedition, locations of some of the relics bought over on the *SS India*, the actual location of the failed settlement and new layers of knowledge of my Italian family history.

Irish and English Coves in Port Breton in 2000, did not have any villages or locals living on the settlement land. We were able to walk on the site, collect some bricks, broken china and imagine the desperation of the settlers trying to establish an existence in this hostile environment.

This area of New Ireland is not easy to access, even today. The only way to get there is by boat. There are no roads. The lower part of New Ireland is quite mountainous with very little flat land. It is very tropical with few ways to grow crops or to support any major settlement today let alone in the 1880s.

Our forebears were from the area of Orsago, Northern Italy, where they were used to growing grapes, eating pasta, having flat fields for their farming needs. Imagining their arrival in this hot, humid, tropical, mountainous location and their attempts to build a settlement, one can be eternally grateful that members of that failed expedition survived and arrived in Sydney. That is the only reason I am alive today.

In 2024, we returned to Port Breton, Irish and English Coves, almost 25 years later, on our yacht *S Y Lola*. To our surprise there were now village folks living on the lands in the Coves. They had established vegetable gardens on some of the flatter, more elevated lands surrounding the bay. Their village homes had outside cooking areas, coral and rock walls and pathways that surround Irish Cove. They have lovely flowers adorning their various plots of land and live well from the land and the sea surrounding the village areas. Lambom Island in the middle of Port Breton always had a school and there were locals living around the Lambom location. The village areas had expanded with people living in both Irish and English Coves.

Chief William greeted us on our arrival, in the cove opposite his house. He quickly paddled his dug out over to us and welcomed us to come onshore to “story” with him and his family.

We had a guided tour of the area and I was able to tell them the story of the Italians’ failed expedition, show them photos and history books I had onboard our yacht. We also presented the locals with goods, clothing, fishing gear and toys for the children as we do in each location we visit in these remote areas. This particular “hand out” felt extra special given our family connection to the location.

Chief William is very proud of their land, villages and surrounds. He held my hand, picked a few flowers from his garden, we stood together to remember our ancestors and their struggles. Chief William collected more bricks from the surrounds. Nowadays, those bricks which came out on the *SS India* adorn their flower gardens around their houses.

The freshwater spring in Irish Cove has been extended to allow for washing of their clothing, bathing and collection of water for drinking. These days, a larger freshwater stream in English Cove is accessible to walk up and experience the magnificent bright blue freshwater flowing out of the mountains. It is such a beautiful sight to see and may have been the only life saver for the settlers back in 1880.

We have promised to return to Port Breton in the near future. We hope to be able to have our family fly over to Kokopo and join us to visit this special place.

**Sue Mason-Mitchell ~ descendant of the Battistuzzi/Sanotti families**



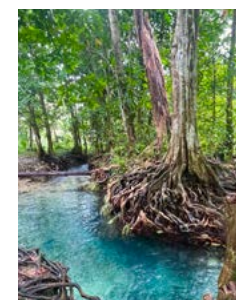
The gardens around the new village houses at Irish Cove looking towards the actual settlement site.



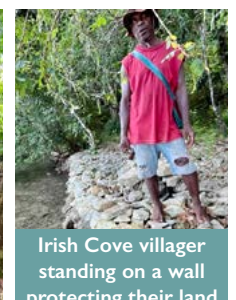
Our *Lola* anchored in Irish Cove, where *SS India* had been in 1880.



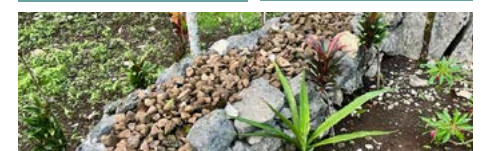
Chief William and I at new home in Irish Cove



Fresh water stream in English Cove



Irish Cove villager standing on a wall protecting their land from high water levels.



Broken fragments of the bricks bought over from Europe to build the settlement.

## DR POL DALMAU'S TALK AT THE 2025 NIMI AGM



A very big thank you to Dr Pol Dalmau who presented his talk after the NIMI AGM meeting via Zoom from his home in Barcelona. Titled *“Fresh Insights into the Marquis de Rays’ Colony and the New Italy Settlers”*, this talk presented new archival discoveries that shed fresh light on the early months of the Port Breton settlement. A British naval report from late 1880 offers a rare first-hand description of the colony when it still appeared viable: about 350 settlers, adequate provisions, abundant fresh water and initial land-clearing efforts. Crucially, however, the officer already questioned the poor choice of site. A second report from November 1881 reveals the dramatic decline: barely 110 settlers remained, with failing supplies, no crops, inadequate housing and growing desperation. Additional documents trace the Marquis de Rays’ earlier, little-known attempts to found “New France” in Shark Bay, Australia.

## THE NEW ITALY MONUMENT UNVEILED AND VISITED IN 1961



Crowds travelled great distances to celebrate the unveiling of New Italy’s monument on 8 April 1961. Thank you for the photos John Cameron of Maclean.



1961, New Italy, NSW  
Back: John Reardon, Cathy Reardon, Judy Bodley,  
Front: Roseanne Birmingham, Bridget Reardon, Robyn Bodley, Elizabeth Reardon



Today the obelisk type monument in concrete and Italian marble, stands on top of a ‘natural dais composed of the mud of the old New Italy [Antoniolli] wine shop.’ A most important document!

It is showing signs of age, wear and tear. Yes it is in need of repair. We will (re)apply for a grant to do some urgent conservation.

## THE TULLERA CRICKET TEAM



This team won the Lismore District Cricket Association B Grade competition in 1937-38. You might say that this is nothing extraordinary. Well that is true, but a further investigation reveals that of the 16 men photographed in the team, 5 were Spinaze family brothers. Now that is something extraordinary. They were Steve, Albert, Lawrie, Vince and Frank. The brothers had all grown up on the family dairy, pig and banana farm at Tullera, on the Lismore-Dunoon Road. Their father Anthony (Tony) Spinaze had been born in Italy and as a child had sailed on the Marquis de Ray’s expedition. He grew up at New Italy and later married Fiorina Bazzo who was born in New Italy of expedition survivors.

I add that this photograph was taken during an era when virtually all rural areas had their own cricket team, and often their own tennis teams.

The last known survivor of this team was Frank Spinaze (front row left) who died in 2014 at the age of 93.

Should anyone be connected with other members of the team or have knowledge of interesting facts concerning it, they are asked to contact the New Italy organisation. **John Barnes**

## THE NEW ITALY GRAPE VINES



Many visitors to the Museum site admire the beautiful grape vines in front of the gift shop and along the café terrace. At this time of year they look particularly spectacular with the grape bunches forming and the leaves abundant.

In the days of the New Italy farming community, many farms had grape vines and some wine was produced.

*Small vineyard plots were developed on the Italian family selections, however most people preferred to sell their grapes rather than make wine. The Pezzutti and Antonioli families were the renowned wine makers of the settlement, each running a wine shop at either end of the settlement. The two storey mud-brick building in the Museum precinct is a replica of Luigi Antonioli's wine shop, which catered for travellers and Woodburn locals as well as the New Italy settlers. From 'Salami, Shortbread and Parrot Pie: stories of multicultural New Italy' compiled by the Museum Monday Group at New Italy, assisted by Jo Kijas and Kate Gahan (available from the Casa Vecchia Gift Shop.)*

The vines are cared for by our extraordinary volunteer gardeners, Kel and Val Walker. With their assistance we are trying to identify the grape varieties.



1. The front vine closest to the Pacific Highway is a muscat variety.
  2. The vine on the café terrace was donated to New Italy by a volunteer from Coffs Harbour and planted by Elio Astone. (Top left and bottom - Elio with the mature vine he planted). Some suggest that it is a variety of Isabella.
  3. In front of the gift shop we have a black variety (top right) in its unripened phase. Could anyone help identify it?
- They were all planted around 1986.

**Leonie Lane**

## A HISTORY OF LAWN MOWING AT NEW ITALY



It may seem a rather mundane subject but in many ways the history of lawn mowing at the New Italy memorial site parallels that of the whole site's development and improvement.

The original settlers no doubt kept the grass at bay and themselves very fit with by cutting with scythes. The memorial site which was built in the 1980s originally had very little grassed areas which was mown with a standard push motor mower. In time however a small ride-on was purchased to cope with the expanded Park of Peace that is to the south of the buildings.

As further lawn area was created from bush to the west of the buildings it became evident that something bigger and faster was needed so the small ride-on was retired. The need was filled by a larger but well used secondhand 2000 vintage machine in about 2018. In time however this machine proved very troublesome and this problem coupled with even more expansive mowing areas to the west of the rear car park prompted us to think again.

Consequently after much deliberation we are now the proud owners of a new John Deere ride-on, model X580. Its ground speed of 11.6km/hr, cutting width of 54" and manoeuvrability have made the job faster and easier.

The making of most lawn areas has not been one of levelling and turf. Rather it has been one of seeding, fertilizing, stone, stump, and root removal.

Along with vastly expanded lawn area our fence lines are now over 500m long. These and other border areas need frequent whippersnipping. Thankfully this and some of the mowing is done by community service workers. The overall result is very pleasing. Isn't it nice to experience such an expanse of well kept green lawn and gardens.

As Julius Seizure said: "Too much lawn care can be back stabbing."

**John Barnes**



In 1993, **Power of the Land: The Social History of Italian Settlement in Lismore** / **'Il Potere della Terre: Una Storia delle attivita' dell 'insediamento Italiano di Lismore'** by **Lesley Jenkins** was published. Lesley was assisted by a working group that included **Ida Ros, Jo Walsh, Ellie Gava and Floriano Volpato** (see photo left in front of the Italian Pavilion in 1993) as well as **The Hon. Franca Arena, Ros Derrett and Eni Perin** in the production of this important bilingual publication. It forms the framework of the retelling of many stories in the Italian Pavilion upgrade, building on the powerful body of work produced by **Floriano Volpato** ahead of the opening of the Italian Pavilion in 1993 by then **Governor General Bill Hayden**. **The refreshed interpretation builds on three themes: Migration Stories, Connections back to Italy and Culture, Community and Local Businesses.**

**1. MIGRATION STORIES**

- Introduction
- 1880s onwards: New Italy settlement and beyond
- 1920s – The Pathfinders: The Arrival of the Single Men
- 1930s – Women, Children and Community
- 1940s – The War Years
- 1950s – The New Immigrants
- 1960s/1970s – The Decline of the Italian Community
- Family Stories
- EXPO 88
- The Making of the New Italy Museum site

**2. ITALIAN CONNECTIONS**

Family connections to the twenty different regions

- Maps
- Molise
- Abruzzo
- Lazio
- Umbria
- Marche
- Toscano
- Veneto
- Friuli-Venezia Giulia
- Tranto-Alto adige
- Emilia Romagna
- Lombardia
- Liguria
- Piemonte
- Valle d'Aosta
- Sardegna
- Sicilia
- Calabria
- Basilicata
- Puglia
- Campania

**3. CULTURE & COMMUNITY**

- Faith
  - The Clubs
  - The Festas
  - Café
  - Businesses
  - Salami-making
  - Farming Communities
  - Sugar Cane cutting
  - Heritage Fabrics
  - Bananas
  - **Italian Kitchen Garden**
- Backdrop: Angela 'Rosetta' Polese in her garden 1955 with Lina Simeoni's garden 2024 in foreground.**
- Banana farming family's kitchen
  - Wine making/ Selling
  - Continental Grocers
  - Fruit shops
  - Large NR Italian Community Map



**If you or your family can contribute to any of these themes, contact Leonie: [museums@newitaly.org.au](mailto:museums@newitaly.org.au)**

FRIENDS OF NEW ITALY NANCY & LISA

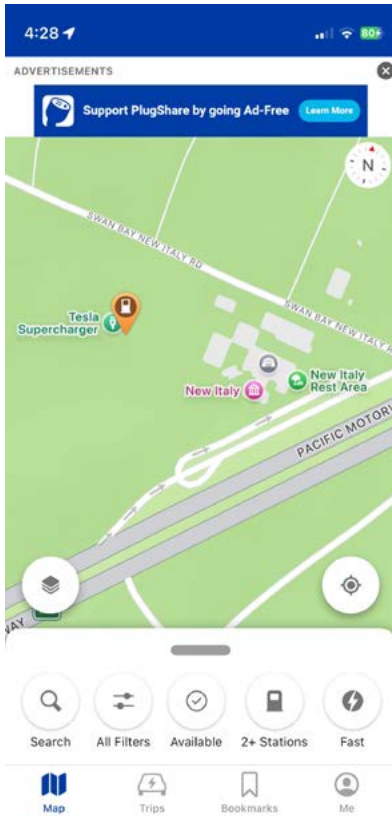


These two recent retirees have joined the Museums team as we work our way through the Pavilion upgrade. In another life: a banker and an occupational therapist. They are from Northern Rivers Italian families and are quick to vet content and design ideas. They bring great skill sets: (giant) macramé-making, writing/checking lists that get visited (and revisited), papier-maché fruit and vegetable construction (good enough to be devoured by rats), patching/painting (and more patching/painting). They are young, strong, energetic, patient and big-hearted. Both possess wicked senses of humour and a great love of 1980s music.

They have learned new skills and experienced new joys here at the New Italy Pavilion: chiefly the application of giant Phototex prints! The stuff of dreams and some nightmares. The thrill you get when you step back and immerse yourself in the print is beyond words! Agreed?

You have to watch them though as they are quick to fill skips with what might be 'the collection'. They have both learnt to love pink! There is a lot of pink to love in the Pavilion.

## THE NEW ITALY EV CHARGING STATION



New Italy is on the map for all sorts of good reasons. The following information was provided by the Australian Electric Vehicle Association and reported in the Northern Rivers Independent newspaper (30/11/2025).

*The Australian Electric Vehicle Association has chosen the Tesla Supercharger station at New Italy as its 2025 Charging Station of the Year. This title is awarded to the most reliable, convenient, well-kept, and thoughtfully designed public EV charging station in the country.*

*The Association said the New Italy facility, located off the Pacific Motorway, offers a “very high level of amenity for EV users.”*

*There is a large solar array shading the 12 charging bays and pull-through parking for EVs towing trailers. It is also open to non-Tesla drivers with CCS2 plugs and features a convenient tap-and-go credit card payment option.*

*The New Italy location is close to a cafe, toilets, shops including the Casa Vecchia shop, wholefood shop MyBelle Pantry and the Glass Art Gallery. This means there is plenty to do and see for drivers while their car is being charged.*

*Visitors can also enjoy free entry to the New Italy Museum showcasing the history of Italian settlement in the region dating back to 1882. The complex is pet friendly and there’s a fenced in off-leash dog area.*

*AEVA national president Chris Jones said New Italy had all the elements EV drivers want at a charging station. Visitors can go to the gift shop while their car is charging.*

*The New Italy EV Charging Station is listed on the global PLUGSHARE app (left: see screen shot) with more than seven million registered users worldwide.*

*On your trip, wherever you’re going, stop at New Italy EV Charging Station, 1269 Swan Bay-New Italy Road.*

## SIGNAGE IMPROVEMENTS



At present visitors exiting the M1 can experience confusion due to a lack of directional signage in the front car park, unclear access points to EV Charging Bays, amenities and parking with some near misses and unsafe vehicle movements. We wish to keep visitors safe, avoiding vehicle accidents, detracting from otherwise good visitor experiences. Proposed signage locations and specifications: 2x3metre signs will include recommended features: clear directional arrows, icons for amenities (EV charging, dog park, overnight stays, extra parking), high contrast, (Blue/White) weather-resistant materials.

Site 1: grass/bush area behind the bus shelter, where facing vehicles are entering from the M1 - providing immediate orientation and service overview.

Site 2: intersection of M1 on/off ramp at Swan Bay–New Italy Road, with a left-facing arrow - guiding vehicles toward the precinct and reduce hesitation.

Site 3: replace the small ‘P’ Parking sign before entrance to back car park-clarifying parking access and improving traffic flow.

## VISITOR FEEDBACK



*“To the committee of New Italy: I have visited here on every trip past and enjoyed the ambience and appreciated the volunteers efforts to keep the place pristine.”*

*“Grazie from Tasmania!”*

*“Dear Little Italy Management: Amazed at the wonderful improvements you’ve completed, Happy to support your costs. \$15 dropped in. Many thanks.”*

*“Thank you for a safe place to stay - A senior traveller. <3”*



**Margaret Mcalpine**

A wonderful place to stop. Thank you New Italy!

23w Love Reply Hide



**Carol Rose Da-Re**

We had lunch there on Sunday. Always great food and the grounds around the complex look really lovely 🍷 Lots of people charging their cars also. Well done 🍷

1w Love Reply Hide



## RECENT EVENTS

### 17/11/2025 - EXCURSION BY WOODBURN PUBLIC SCHOOL



Woodburn Public School history class of 21 students from Year 5-6 visited New Italy Museum for a tour of the site and the Museum. They are doing a unit on Australia's Migration stories, looking at changing migration policies, the reasons for migration and the personal impacts on migrant communities. With New Italy on their doorstep, students were able to experience the challenges the first Italian settlers endured through the Museum's interpretation of the settlers journey and community development. The students did a case study on the Marquis de Rays venture to La Nouvelle France and the subsequent arrival of the men and woman who came to the Woodburn area. History teacher, Suzanne Johnston, wished to increase her students understanding and their connection to New Italy as well as appreciating reasons for migration.

Woodburn Public School students were able to revisit the thriving lemon tree planted by them after Crystal Carocher's storytelling workshops post launch of her children's book 'Giovanni' in 2023 (see left).

### 26/11/2025 - EXCURSION BY GRAFTON AND YAMBA TAFE STUDENTS

Leonie conducted a tour of the New Italy Museum site for 20 students from the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP), TAFE Grafton and Yamba. An extraordinary lunch prepared by all students was delightful! A lovely time was had by all!



## UPCOMING EVENTS - DATE SAVERS

  
INVITES YOU TO  
**2026 ANNIVERSARY DAY**  
CELEBRATE WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS  
10.30AM (FOR 11AM) **SUNDAY 12 APRIL**  
145 YEARS SINCE THE NEW ITALY EXPEDITIONERS ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA

**2026**  
**LisAmore!**  
LOVING LISMORE... ITALIAN STYLE  
**SUNDAY 5 JULY**

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

## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT HISTORIC NEW ITALY...

### CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP



The Christmas decorations are up and the shop is well stocked for those looking for that special Christmas present... New jewellery items from Venice have arrived and as have Italian children's educational toys and games.

Did you know the first Montessori school was started in 1907 in Rome by Dr. Maria Montessori! She had a different philosophy on how children learn. She believed the best age to start educating children was at three years of age. We have many quality educational toys and games for that age.

**Gail Williams • [giftshop@newitaly.org.au](mailto:giftshop@newitaly.org.au) • 0414 348 566**

### MYBELLE PANTRY



At MyBelle Pantry we're celebrating the festive season with organic and local favourites like Mindful Foods granola and Emma's jams crafted by Nicholson Fine Foods. Explore our in store Italian gelato, natural skincare and thoughtful self-care which make perfect gifts. Our website - <https://www.mybellepantry.au/> - is now live with a growing selection. Also we have delightful pantry staples for every celebration throughout the summer season.

**Michele Bertoli • [masfmdcare@gmail.com](mailto:masfmdcare@gmail.com) • 0403 212 747**

### NEW ITALY GLASS ART GALLERY



Over the last 20 years, the Glass Art Gallery has established itself as a 'go-to' destination for gift shopping. The work of some of this area's most accomplished artists is complemented by a range of quality Australian-made giftware.

As we celebrate this festive season, give presents that are quality items, locally made and, most importantly, made in Australia.

**Ian & Julie O'Driscoll • [ianodriscoll58@gmail.com](mailto:ianodriscoll58@gmail.com) • 0414 668 223**

### TASTES OF NEW ITALY CAFÉ



Looking for a friendly place to relax, eat, and enjoy good company? The New Italy Café offers fresh meals, great coffee and a warm, welcoming atmosphere for everyone. Whether you're charging your car, having a break from a long drive, catching up with friends, or grabbing a quick bite, we've got something for you. Enjoy tasty breakfasts, hearty lunches, delicious treats and beverages made just the way you like them.

Located at the New Italy Museum site. Open 7 days. Great coffee. Fresh food! Come in, say hello!

**Jamie Herring • [newitalycafe@gmail.com](mailto:newitalycafe@gmail.com) • 6682 2622**

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NIMI is registered with ATO ~ Deductible Gift Recipient

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**'IL GIORNALE'** Late Summer 2026: content 27/2/2026 - [museums@newitaly.org.au](mailto:museums@newitaly.org.au)

**STAY IN TOUCH** <https://www.newitaly.org.au> • 8275 Pacific Highway Woodburn NSW 2472

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