

NEW ITALY'S ANZACS – A CENTENARY OF ANZAC PROJECT

As mentioned by John in his President's message, the New Italy committee has embarked on a significant project as part of the Centenary of Anzac commemorations. We wish to identify and acknowledge those family members from the original New Italy settlers who served in the 1st AIF in WWI. The family cabinets in the New Italy Museum already contain photographs and some stories of several young men who enlisted. Sadly, not all of the young men who served are currently acknowledged and our research to date has identified several other original ANZACs from New Italy.

Included with this edition of the Giornale is a table with the names and details of New Italy's ANZACS. The information has been drawn from the official records at the Australian War Memorial and the National Archives Office. Every effort has been made to ensure the information is correct. However, we would very much like to receive from you any information concerning errors or omissions and, in particular, details of any persons whom we have not yet identified. This may include those from the *non-Italian* families that settled New Italy and others who taught at the New Italy school, including the pupil teachers prior to WWI.

See inside table of 'New Italy's ANZACS compiled by Peter Blackwood.

Queries or information about this project can be directed to:
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Lorenzo (Larry) Antonio Nardi, a first generation New Italy Australian, fought and died in France 1917.

THE ITALIAN PAVILION

Now that the Pavilion is clean and termite free, its time to take the Pavilion forward! As John mentioned, the inside and outside of the Pavilion are receiving a coat of paint. A big thanks to volunteers Gareth and Susan! New Italy descendant, Kelly Scurr, has photographed the Volpato paintings. Gift cards of these and images from the 'Bananas, Business and Bocce: the Lismore Italians' will be sold in the Casa Vecchia Gift Shop. All proceeds go to creating new Pavilion displays.

These include *the making of the New Italy Museum Complex* using archival footage of Florian Volpato and recent interviews with Peter Bortolin and Elio Astone. We are also digitising the existing family history boards for the website and inclusion in themed displays. Friuli will be the next region to be updated... then Lazio... and onwards. A display of shoe and furniture making is being designed using tools donated by the Perin family – info from Beni Moras and Elsie Perin. More are planned - one step at a time... but we do need volunteers, donations of objects and money to take forward what all started as Floriano Volpato's vision!

Queries or information about this project can be directed to:
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Did you know...

... that our volunteers at New Italy often speak with visitors who have become interested in Italy only after visiting New Italy and seeing the delights that Italy has to offer?

A recent example is that of an excited mother who told us of her upcoming trip to Italy to attend her daughter's wedding. She said the family always stopped in at New Italy whenever they travelled the highway. It turns out that these stops had a very positive impact on her daughter who has now decided to have her wedding in Italy because of the interest in Italy that those stop offs generated. Despite the mother failing to find any Italian ancestry in the family tree, the whole family is now heading off to Italy for the wedding and an extended holiday there.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

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SPRING 2014

LA GIORNALE

CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE SETTEMBRE!
IN THIS EDITION:

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- The Italian Pavilion
- Did you know?

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It is with pleasure that I put pen to paper (a rare event in this digital age) to compile my first ever report for La Giornale. Space, time and knowledge restraints mean that I cannot account for our long and successful history. However I would like to brief you on the many unfolding items that are currently occupying the committee.

The flurry of activity that accompanied preparations for the 2014 Carnevale Italiano was rewarded by the success of the function – both socially and financially. Attendance (apart from volunteers who numbered about 80) was 1,700 people. This however does not mean that we "got everything right" e.g. there were some catering shortfalls. But rest assured that these and other problems are being addressed for the 2015 function – which we are already beginning to plan.

As a follow up to an OH & S survey and a recent fall (no injuries) we have ripped up some sections of rough (beyond help) footpath and smoothed out others. All commonly used surface areas will now be of an acceptable community standard.

Over recent months members of the committee have had discussions with the R.M.S. and lately the Richmond Valley Council, regarding the Pacific Highway upgrade and its impact on New Italy. Also, the local state member Mr Chris Gulaptis has been recruited to our cause- which largely revolves around vehicle parking areas, upgrading our toilet facilities, Driver Reviver and other matters that are important for our visitors. These matters are still in process.

The new lawn area on the Swan Bay Road side of the site and converted former glass blowing building have proved to be a visual and practical asset, which no doubt will receive more use in summer. A vehicle barrier is shortly to be erected about this area.

Recently dense undergrowth to the immediate south of the southern entrance has been cleared. Passing motorists are now able to get a much better view of the site. The cleared area will grass over in summer.

Our major success story of late is the Casa Vecchia gift shop which continues to show growth. Even as a self-confessed shopping avoider I can recommend this place as having something of rare quality for all. Led by Gail Williams the shop team is doing a great job. Arrangements are being made to improve the lighting in the shop and also install heating.

The Pavilion interpretation plan has been recently updated and plans include a history timetable, maps, family stories, audio visual displays and further redecorations, etc. Painting both inside and out is underway. Additionally, the hall is being painted inside.

Some months ago New Italy was generously gifted (by Nic Volpato) 2 ha (5 acres) of highway frontage land to the immediate south of the complex. The site has been surveyed and the legalities/registration process have begun. This process is expected to take approximately 12 months.

In time for Anzac Day 2015 it is proposed to unveil a commemorative honour board and associated memorabilia in recognition of the 1st generation of New Italy settlers who volunteered for active service in WW 1. To assist with the compiling of correct information members are asked to advise of any relatives with N.I. connections who may have served.

Finally it is with satisfaction that I report on the many excellent comments that we receive about the existing status and progress of N.I. We are now certainly "on the list" of travellers wanting a safe and clean stopping point with a good café and peaceful ambiance. Visitor numbers now average in excess of 500/day and are still growing. While this is good news, - growth brings challenges - may they be small ones.

I look forward to one day meeting you all

John Barnes

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DATE SAVER

NEW ITALY'S ANZACS

WWI Enlistees – New Italy Descendants (Italian families) - confirmed											
Reg. No.	Rank	Family Name	Given Names	Occupation	Address	Age	Unit	Date enlisted	Date returned to Australia	Next of kin on embarkation	Descendant status
5990	Pte	CAMINITI ¹	Albert	Apprentice Iron Moulder	Rozelle	19	1 st Bn	1.2.1916	13.11.1919	Mrs Catherine Caminiti (mother)	Parents – Rocco and Catherine (nee Gava)
2289	Pte	CAMINITI	John	Fisherman	Rozelle	29	36 th Bn	20.3.1916	Killed in action - Belgium -10.6.1917	Mrs Catherine Caminiti (mother)	Parents – Rocco and Catherine (nee Gava)
2024	Pte	MAZZER	Frederick	Lineman	Ballina	23	12 th Light Horse	13.1.1916	1.4.1919	Peter Mazzer (father)	Parents – Pietro & Luisa (nee Gava)
680	Cpl	MAZZER (Military Medal)	Toney Henry	Timber getter	Tuncester	21	41 st Bn	2.2.1916	18.1.1919	Peter Mazzer (father)	Parents – Pietro & Louisa (nee Gava)
27106	Gnr	NARDI	Lorenzo Antonio	Farmer	Nimbin	21	3 Fd Arty Brigade	23.2.1916	Died of wounds - France -22.8.1917	A Nardi (father)	Father – Angelo Nardi, and grandparents, Vincenzo and Catterina Nardi
3368	Pte	RODER	James	Farrier	Woodburn	26	49 th Bn/52 nd Bn	30.10.1916	23.9.1919	Miss Lucy Roder (sister)	Parents – Lorenzo & Maria Roder
6947A	Pte	SANOTTI	Giovanni (John)	Farmer	Lismore	19	23 rd Bn	20.6.1916	28.10.1918	Pietro Sanotti (father)	Mother – Angelina Battistuzzi
283	Cpl	SCARRABELOTTI ²	Laurence	Labourer	Biggenden Qld	26	41 st Bn/11 th L.T.M Bty	10.1.1916	16.3.1918	Mrs Johanna Scarrabelotti (wife)	Parents – Michael & Zelinda (nee Mellare)
3917	Cpl	SCARRABELOTTI (Distinguished Conduct Medal)	Michael	Labourer	Richmond River	22	49 th Bn	21.9.1915	5.4.1919	Michael Scarrabelotti (father)	Parents – Michael & Zelinda (nee Mellare)
3494	Pte	SCARRABELOTTI	Angelo (Angus)	Farmer	Coorabell Creek	21	47 th Bn	31.10.1916	5.4.1918	Michael Scarrabelotti (father)	Parents – Michael & Zelinda (nee Mellare)
5804	Pte	SPINAZE	Anthony (Antonio)	Farmer	Brisbane	21	15 th Bn	25.9.1915	23.7.1919	Mr J Spinaze (father) Pomona Qld	Parents – Giovanni (John) and Maria Spinaze
2018	Pte	SPINAZE	John (Giovanni)	Labourer	Brisbane	24	51 st Bn	24.1.1916	19.6.1919	Mrs Mary Spinaze (mother) Pomona Qld	Parents – Giovanni (John) and Maria Spinaze
4539	Tpr	TOME	John Frank	Farmer	Cherry Tree Hill, Inverell	21	12 th Light Horse	6.12.1917	20.7.1919	Mr J Tome (father)	Parents – John & Judita (Julie) (nee Mellare)
WWI enlistees – married to New Italy descendants											
3498	Pte	ANSBAGHER ³	Cyril Louis	Chemist	New Farm Qld	24	41 st Bn	7.7.1917	Died – Egypt -25.4.1918	Mrs Kathleen Ansbagher (nee Scarrabelotti)	Kathleen was the daughter of Michael and Zelinda Scarrabelotti
WWI enlistees – New Italy School staff ⁴											
3044	Cpl	MORROW	Stanley	Teacher	Bowral	36	57 th Bn	19.6.1916	Killed in action – France – 18.8.1918	Mrs Elsie Morrow (wife)	Teacher – 1915 – June 1916 (enlistment)

Footnotes

1 The spelling of the family name 'Caminiti' seems to have resulted in various versions of that name being used in various records – e.g., Cominitti, Caminetti and Caminite. Also, it is understood that some of the Caminiti family members changed their name to CAM – there are 3 Cams listed on the Nominal Rolls for WWI (Arthur, John and William) but they don't seem to be the sons of Rocco and Catherine. The Caminiti brothers listed above are known to be the sons of Rocco and Catherine Caminiti. This is evidenced in official documents in the National Archives. The documents also show there was a 3rd son – Joseph – and at least two sisters – Rose (Mrs Rose Mason) and Mary (Mrs F W Deal). These family members match the names in the publication 'Our Italian Heritage'. Further, John Caminiti's full name seems to have been 'Peter John' as per one of the letters from his sister held in the National Archives.

2 The Scarrabelotti cabinet in the New Italy Museum houses a picture of Mr Tony Scarrabelotti in uniform (stated to be of the 16th Northern Rivers Lancers) and shows '1914-1918'. This picture is understood to be of Mr Anthony Scarrabelotti (b. 1884), eldest son of Michael and Zelinda Scarrabelotti. There is no record of an Anthony or Tony Scarrabelotti in the Australian War Memorial's official nominal or embarkation rolls of those servicemen who served overseas in WWI. Therefore, a reasonable conclusion (subject to confirmation/clarification with the Scarrabelotti family) is that Tony did not serve overseas. Also, there is no record of the 16th Northern Rivers Lancers. It is likely the unit mentioned was either the 15th Northern Rivers Lancers or the 16th Hunter Valley Lancers – these were militia units (i.e. similar to the more recent CMF or Reserve units) and were not deployed overseas.

3 Cyril Ansbagher is the only enlistee married to a New Italy descendant who has been identified to date. There may well be several more spouses of New Italy descendants and who enlisted in WWI.

4 It is understood there were eleven teachers (including relieving teachers) at New Italy's school between its opening in 1885 and 1933. In addition, there were at least 4 'pupil teachers' between 1897 and 1904. Research to date establishes that Mr Stanley Morrow (see above) who taught at the school through 1915 and into 1916 was an enlistee in the 1st AIF – however, further research is required to establish if any of the other teachers or pupil teachers were also enlistees.