



**NEW  
ITALY**

# IL GIORNALE

## CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE INVERNO!

IN THIS EDITION:

- From our President John Barnes OAM!
- Remembering 2 New Italy descendants killed on active duty in WWI
- What's on and what's happening at New Italy... the Museum upgrade + more

### FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Several recent reports have made mention of the Pacific Highway redevelopment and its effects on our site. Of particular note is the proposed car park (120 car capacity) construction planned on New Italy Museum Inc. (NIMI) land to the west of the complex.

Arrangements with the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) are that NIMI will pay for design/planning and approval costs while RMS pay for the materials and physical construction. While this arrangement is working well, the planning process has been delayed by the need for further heritage evaluation work. When this is completed, the Development Application will be submitted to Council along with the completed plans. To date this cost of the project's design and planning have totalled approx. \$30,000 This significant amount has unfortunately delayed plans for other improvements elsewhere in the Complex. We have been left with no alternative.

Early April witnessed the devastating flood that heavily affected the region. In so many cases its impact is still being felt by residents and businesses alike. It led to the cancellation of our well planned and eagerly anticipated Carnevale Italiano scheduled for Sunday 9 April. This was another financial setback as booked entertainers and suppliers had to be part paid. Thankfully Richmond Valley Council, Summerland Travel and the Ramada and other sponsors have honoured promises and so the loss was largely contained.

These above two factors have contributed to the delay in the start the upgrade of the appearance of the site from the Pacific Highway end of the Complex. We will undertake to commence this improvement when work on the Pacific Highway redevelopment is near complete.

Meanwhile the New Italy Museum/ Tastes of New Italy Cafe redevelopment has been unaffected and is ongoing. Since the cancellation of the 2017 Carnevale Italiano has left a hole in our social calendar, it is now proposed to schedule a function later in the year celebrating new displays in the Museum and the fresh new look in the Cafe. Stay tuned!

A summary of daily visitors over the past 8 years reveal that on a daily basis the average number of visitors has risen from 335/day in 2009 to 608/day to date in 2017. While this growth is very gratifying, it reassures us that our efforts to make an attractive and more rewarding visitor experience is being appreciated. This brings with it the need to continue improving facilities to cope with increased visitor numbers. This cannot be done without more volunteers to work at New Italy Museum Complex: in particular in the Gift Shop, the Museum and the Pavilion. We have work-for-the-dole opportunities in the Gift Shop. Email Gail Williams for more information - [giftshop@newitaly.com.au](mailto:giftshop@newitaly.com.au)

Sadly the second Lismore Friendship Festival: Piazza in the Park, Spinks Park has had to be postponed due to rain and saturated grounds. Put Sunday 1 October in your diaries and stay tuned for more information about this and other events in the next Il Giornale.

**John Barnes**

**NEW ITALY MUSEUM INC.**  
would like to extend our warmest  
congratulations to our wonderful  
President, John Barnes OAM!



John was recently awarded a medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to the community of the Northern Rivers. He was recognised for an impressive list of services including the following -

• President, New Italy Museum Inc.

• Member (since 1992), President (1997-1998) Rotary Club of Alstonville

• Co-ordinator redevelopment of the Private Bugden VC Memorial, Alstonville

• Sponsor of programs and activities such as Rotary Youth Leadership Award and the science and Engineering Challenge.

• Author 'So I fear Nothing: the story of Paddy Bugdan VC' 2011

• Financial supporter St John's College Woodlawn.

• Financial supporter Catholic Archdiocese of Honiara, Solomon Islands since 2008

• Supporter of and innovator in waste and recycling industry since 1984.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW ITALY...

## MUSEUM UPGRADE UPDATE ... JUNE 2017

In the Museum, we have been concentrating on the display area that we call Site 17 or 'Salami, Pasta and Parrot Pie: New Italy Food'. This takes a look at the New Italy foodscape from the point of view of residents and outside observers. It describes the growing and the production of many different foods like wine, pasta, salami - and even grape seed coffee!

The site has been prepared, the text researched and written, the accessioned objects from the collection chosen and cleaned, the space designed, the window painted, the curtains made and installed, the plinths prepared and their layout considered. Recently we have re-installed the Antonioli home stairs. These will provide a focus for the displayed objects and information panels. Last week we installed a large screen featuring the iconic New Italy image of the Pezzutti wineshop from 1895. This has been digitally printed on building site mesh by the Lismore Sign Shop. From the Museum side it provides a diffused backdrop for the food display. From the Cafe side you see the image in all its clarity, giving a real sense of the people and place of New Italy in the late C19<sup>th</sup> for cafe customers. The rest of the display will go in soon. As you can see it is quite a process. We are only too happy to have extra helpers. Drop by and have a look at our ongoing work or join the very industrious Museum Monday group who meet every Monday at 10am.

**For more information contact Jo 0425 793 668**

**[jkijas@iprimus.com.au](mailto:jkijas@iprimus.com.au)**



The Autumn edition mystery object was a pasta hanger - we have no information re donor or it origins - can you help us?

## THE ITALIAN PAVILION

Even though the Museum is uppermost in minds at the moment, we are still interested in collecting Northern Rivers Italian family stories. If you would like to know more please contact ...

Leonie Lane, Italian Pavilion • [booyongd@bigpond.net.au](mailto:booyongd@bigpond.net.au) • 0423733569

## THE CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP



A surprise bonus with every purchase from the Gift Shop.

Things are humming along in the gift shop. Our buyers have been busy and we are expecting a lot of new stock to arrive in the coming weeks. Included will be a large shipment of religious jewellery from Italy. In the meantime shoppers have had the surprise of being given a potted Italian herb to take home free with their purchases – yes a little bit of Italy for their garden!

Enquiries: Gail Williams, Casa Vecchia Gift Shop • [giftshop@newitaly.com.au](mailto:giftshop@newitaly.com.au)

### 2017 MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE

Download the Membership form from  
[http://newitaly.com.au/?page\\_id=66](http://newitaly.com.au/?page_id=66)

### WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO IL GIORNALE?

Email stories, tourist tips to Italy, recipes etc.

Winter 2017 edition: content due 17/8/17

### INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Peter Blackwood (Secretary)

[info@newitaly.com.au](mailto:info@newitaly.com.au) • 0414 673 933

### VOLUNTEER PROFILE: LEONIE LANE

Leonie is a graphic designer, who works under the studio name of Booyong Design, and a printmaker whose artwork tells stories of connections to 'place'. While her aunt happened to marry a Scarrabelotti, she has a fascination for the New Italy story. She is a NIMI committee member and a member of the Museum Monday group.







### **JOHN CAMINITI**

#### **PRIVATE, 36<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY BATTALION**

#### **- KILLED IN ACTION 10 JUNE 1917**

John Caminiti was born in Woodburn in 1886, one of 5 sons and 2 daughters of Rocco and Catherine (née Gava) Caminiti. After having settled in the New Italy area, the Caminiti family moved back to Sydney and when John enlisted on 20 March 1916 he was working as a fisherman and running a fish shop in Balmain with his brother Rocco. When enlisting, he nominated his mother (living in Rozelle, Sydney) as his next of kin after his father had earlier passed away. At that time, however, he was living in a de facto relationship with a young widow, Mrs Millicent Archer who had 3 daughters from her 1st marriage and a son and daughter with John.

John enlisted 2 months after his younger brother Albert and embarked from Sydney on 17 October 1916 as part of the 4th reinforcements for the 36th Infantry Battalion. Following several months of training in England, John was shipped over to France and joined A Coy, 36th Inf Bn near Armentières in 1917. By the end of April he was in the trenches in the Le Touquet sector.

The 36th Bn was in the front line throughout May 1917 and was one of the attacking battalions in the attack on Messines Ridge. On 10 June the battalion was ordered to secure the enemy positions in the La Potterie farm system. As part of A Coy, John was in the lead attacking formation that stepped off at 11pm. Immediately before stepping off, German artillery laid down a barrage on the attacking Australians' positions. It is possibly in this barrage that John was killed. His body was found several days later by Pte C C Kavanagh, 1st Otago (NZ) Bn who buried John where he lay. Using information he found



**JOHN CAMINITI'S** grandchildren have never seen a photo of their grandfather. This photo is of a group of 23 men who were part of the 4th reinforcements for the 36th Inf Bn – it was taken in England prior to these men being shipped over to France to join the battalion on the Western Front. Perhaps John Caminiti is one of these men in the photo?

**LORENZO ANTONIO NARDI**

in John's clothing, Pte Kavanagh later wrote to John's mother to tell her of John's death.

John Caminiti was initially listed as "Wounded – missing in action". Subsequently, it was confirmed that he had been killed in action although his body was not able to be recovered. His name is one of many now listed on the Menin Gate memorial at Ypres. The 36th Bn suffered heavy casualties in the attack on the La Potterie farm system – 70 killed in action, 323 wounded and 16 missing in action (one of whom was John Caminiti). Notwithstanding the pressures of duty on the front line, Lt-Col Milne, CO of the 36th Bn, found time to pen a personal letter to Millicent Archer to inform her of John's death. John Milne was himself killed in action in April 1918.

Millicent Archer worked as a school cleaner to raise her five children - three daughters from her first marriage and a son (John – born 1914) and daughter (Iris – born 1916) from her relationship with John. In the late 1920's she moved from Pymont to Belmore and passed away in 1987, aged 99 years.

### **LORENZO NARDI**

#### **GUNNER, 4<sup>TH</sup> AUST DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN – DIED OF WOUNDS 22 AUGUST 1917**

Lorenzo Antonio Nardi was the fourth child in Angelo and Lucia (née Spinaze) Nardi's family of 12 children. He was born at New Italy in 1894 after his parents and grandparents had settled there following the Marquis de Rays ill-fated expedition. When he enlisted on 23 February 1916 Lorenzo was just over 21 years old and working as a farmer. By then, his family had left New Italy and were living at Tuntable Falls near Nimbin. Lorenzo was allocated to artillery and after several months in training



## NEW ITALY REMEMBERS THE CENTENARIES OF THE DEATHS OF JOHN CAMINITI (JUNE 2017) AND LORENZO NARDI (AUGUST 2017) WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY IN WORLD WAR I.

in Australia he embarked from Sydney on 30 September 1916. He underwent further training in England before being sent across to France on 15 March 1917. In France, Lorenzo joined the 4th Australian Divisional Ammunition Column (DAC) which was part of the 4th Australian Division artillery. Troops in the ammunition columns were tasked with maintaining the ammunition dumps, delivering ammunition to the guns (field guns and trench mortars) and front line troops (small arms ammunition, bombs, etc.). They also had to handle captured enemy ammunition and worked in particularly hazardous and dangerous situations.

Located near Henencourt in the Somme the 4th DAC was constantly moving around to meet the requirements for supply of ammunition. On 21 August 1917 the 4th DAC diary records that 2 of its soldiers were wounded "at Lindenhoek dump carrying salvaged German fuses". Lorenzo was one of those soldiers wounded when a fuse exploded causing fatal injuries to his arm, head and body. He died the following day at the 2nd Div Casualty Clearing Station and was buried at Trois Arbres Cemetery, Steenwerck. Such was the incidence of death and injury within these front line units that the unit diary records on the 22 August "Nothing of importance".

Lorenzo's death was keenly felt by his immediate family. In addition to the loss of their much-loved son, Lorenzo's parents would have been looking forward to Lorenzo's return to assist them on their Tuntable Falls dairy farm. Lorenzo's older brother Vincenzo had passed away in 1913 and Lorenzo would have been the eldest son and ideally suited to work alongside his father. He now lies in Trois Arbres Cemetery alongside a gunner comrade from England and an infantryman from New Zealand.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW ITALY MUSEUM INC. has been proudly sponsoring the **2017 Piazza in the Park**. Our Gift Shop was to be one of the many great stalls on display in Spinks Park - **POSTPONED - NOTE NEW DATE!**

**2017 Piazza in the Park**

**POSTPONED DUE TO RAIN AND SATURATED GROUNDS**  
**NEW DATE: SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER**

Watch for future developments via local media,  
**FACEBOOK Lismore Friendship Festival**  
 ... and the next **Il Giornale!**

**SPINKS PARK LISMORE**

ITALIAN FOOD, MUSIC & DANCING - TARANTELLA LESSONS - PROSECCO - KIDS ACTIVITIES - BOCCIE  
 ITALIAN LANGUAGE LESSONS - ITALIAN CARS & BIKES - ITALIAN GOODS & LOCAL PRODUCE  
 TUG-O-WAR - SALAMI WHEELS - GIANT RAFFLE - LUCKY ENTRY PRIZE

Logos for sponsors: Lismore, Summerland Travel, Northern Star, PRIME7, 92.9 River fm, THE CHARMION CRAFT MARKET INC, and others.

## RECENT EVENTS

The recent flood-forced cancellation of the popular annual Carnevale Italiano at New Italy did not stop the volunteer organisers from continuing with ticket sales in their yearly fund raising raffle.

The raffle was drawn on Friday 5 May at the offices of major sponsor Summerland Travel, Hello World in Keen St Lismore.

**First prize** – a \$2,000 international travel voucher donated by Summerland Travel, Hello World – was won by **J. Hicks (ticket number 0654)**.

**Second prize** – a Scala leather handbag courtesy of Casa Vecchia Gift Shop, New Italy – was won by **Valda Van Gelder (ticket number 1214)**.

**Third prize** – a \$100 gift voucher courtesy of Casa Vecchia Gift Shop, New Italy was won by **Maddie Clarke (ticket number 1291)**.

**THE NEW ITALY MUSEUM INC. WOULD LIKE TO THANK SUMMERLAND TRAVEL AND THE GIFT SHOP FOR THEIR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT.**



Neelia Rixon from Summerland Travel draws the prize-winning tickets with NIMI committee members, Peter Blackwood, Leonie Lane, President John Barnes OAM and Ellen Barnes at Summerland Travel, Lismore.