



SUMMER 2017

IL GIORNALE

CIAO E BENVENUTI AL GIORNALE ESTATE!

IN THIS EDITION:

- From our President John Barnes OAM
- From New Italy to Beersheba
- Recent and upcoming events
- what's happening at New Italy

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Many of you will be aware that not all New Italy settlers were actual survivors of the Marquis de Rays ill-fated expedition. With the recent passing of the valiant New Italy supporter and volunteer Tony Felicietti, we are reminded that his ancestor Antonio Felicietti was one of those who joined the expedition survivors in Sydney and later settled at New Italy.

Now how did this happen: Antonio was born in 1850 near Trento in a village called Sover (Trento was famous for a church council held there 1545 – 1563). His mother was of French origin (Baganellia) and his father was the local mayor. He received a good education, was multi-lingual and musically talented.

As a result of the Napoleonic wars, large areas of Northern Italy were a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, (1803-1918). Like all young men in their late teens, Antonio was drafted into the Austro-Hungarian army. In his role as a soldier he had to enforce Austro-Hungarian rule on his native Italians. He objected to this and deserted – fleeing to Holland, Sweden, England and then to USA.

Details of his life during these years are sketchy but it does appear that while in New York, he had a early evening visit from two New York policemen who were of Italian origin. They told him that they had orders to come back and arrest him later that night for desertion from the Austro-Hungarian army, but if he wasn't there than they could not arrest him. They advised him of a ship leaving port that night for Europe and it needed deckhands. Needless to say Antonio very quickly became a deckhand.

After arriving in Hamburg, he soon boarded a German immigrant ship bound for Adelaide. He arrived in 1877 and spent a short time mining in the Broken Hill area before going to New Zealand for 18 months. He then lived in Sydney where he worked in the accounts department of Anthony Hordens.

Hearing of the imminent arrival of the survivors of the Marquis de Rays expedition, he was on the wharf when the *James Patterson* arrived from Noumea on 7th April 1881.

His language translation skills were soon put to use as he assisted the settlement of the expedition survivors (Maybe he was the first NI volunteer?)

In the course of this activity he met Maria Battistuzzi a 16 year old expedition survivor. They were to marry some 5 years later, settle at New Italy and raise 11 children. In 1905 Antonio took out Australian citizenship. After WWI he was able to contact



Antonio Felicietti - New Italy Museum

surviving members of his family in Trento – some 45 years after he had left. Antonio died in 1923 and Maria in 1945. They are buried in the Woodburn cemetery. May they both rest in peace.

Notes

1. In the late C18th approximately 20% of the population of Northern Italy emigrated mostly to the New York region of the United States.
2. From the time of Hannibal in 218BC until WWII Northern Italy saw countless foreign invasions. So many armies criss-crossed the area that it became known as the crossroads of Europe. Many foreign soldiers settled in the area e.g. the expedition family name Roder is of German origin - and yes, Antonio's mother was French.
3. Felicietti, Filicietti or Felicetti. Antonio's surname was spelt Felicietti. Variations in spelling are believed to have their origins in the versions produced by midwives and government clerks. However all variations have their origins with our Antonio.
4. The release of northern Italian areas from Austro-Hungarian rule was a progressive affair that started in the 1860s and was not completed until after WWI.

**Please join us for our Christmas Party on Sunday 3 December preceded by NIMI AGM starting at 11am.
ALL WELCOME. Merry Christmas to all!**

John Barnes

**newitaly.com.au • PO Box 5139 East Lismore, NSW 2480 • info@newitaly.com.au
• 8275 Pacific Highway Woodburn NSW 2472 • FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**

FROM NEW ITALY TO BEERSHEBA: REMEMBERING TROOPER FREDERICK MAZZER



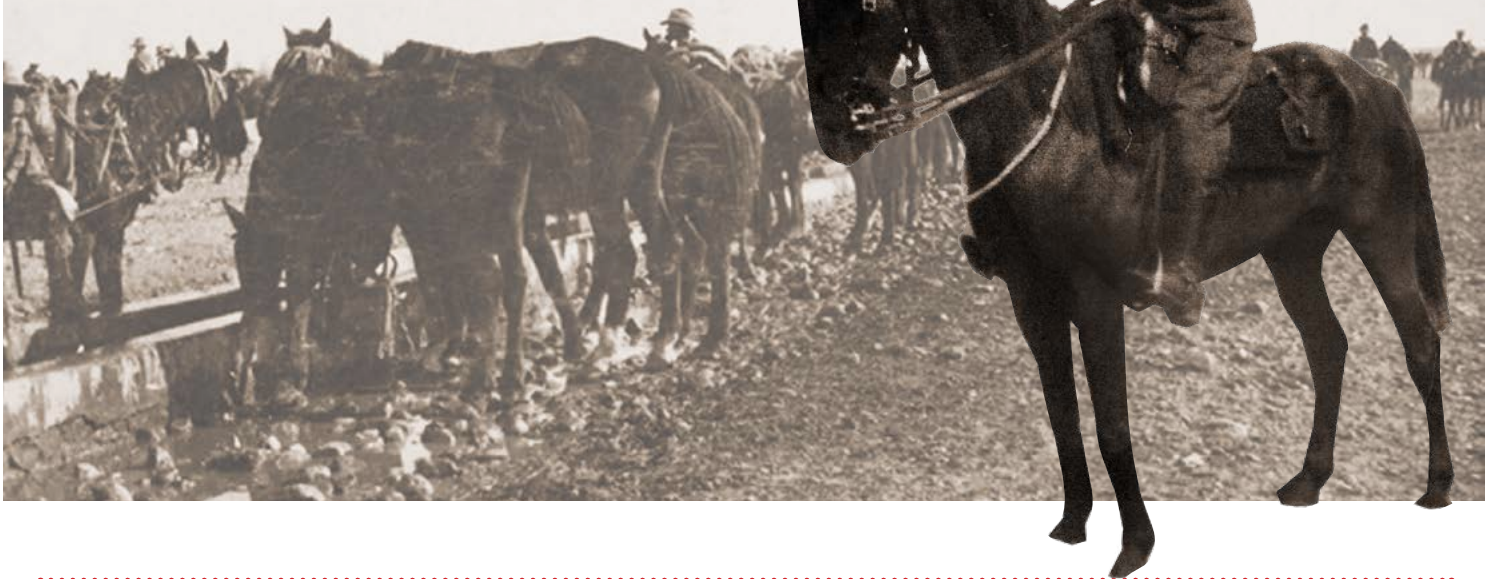
On 31 October this year Australia commemorated the centenary of the Australian 4th Light Horse (LH) Brigade's attack on Beersheba during WW1. This mounted attack by the 4th and 12th LH Regiments of the 4th LH Brigade became famous for what was arguably the last successful wartime cavalry charge. Taking part was Trooper Frederick Mazzer (12th LH Regt), one of 11 children of Pietro and Louisa (née Gava) Mazzer, original settlers of New Italy and survivors of the ill-fated Marquis de Rays expedition.

Frederick was born at Bungawalbyn and enlisted in the AIF on 4 February 1916. He embarked for overseas as part of the 2nd Camel Regiment and on arriving in Egypt was transferred to the 12th LH Regiment. The 12th LH Regiment had fought at Gallipoli and after its evacuation it returned to Egypt. In 1917 it was operating in Palestine in both mounted and dismounted roles. The entire regiment – approx. 500 men – took part in the attack on Beersheba. The unit's war diary records that the attack commenced at 4.30pm on 31 October

and Beersheba was "taken" by 5.30pm. This belies the fierceness of the fighting that occurred to secure several rows of heavily defended trenches.

Frederick and the regiment later went into the Jordan Valley where he was wounded in a raid against Turkish troops at Es Salt on 4 May 1918. After recuperation, he returned to his regiment as it advanced along the Palestinian coast, capturing Damascus and taking the surrender of the Turkish troops on 30 October 1918. Following cessation of hostilities Frederick remained in Egypt until he embarked from Suez for Sydney on 1 April 1919.

On his return to Australia, Frederick married Margaret Jane Hancock and moved onto a soldier settlement block at Ellengowan – a typical "starvation" block - where the first four of their children were born. In 1926 they moved to Biloela in Qld to take up a 450 acre block that they turned into a dairy farm. Frederick passed away on 14 May 1943.



LAND AND CAR PARK UPDATE

You may recall several years ago we were gifted by Nic Volpato two hectares of land to the south of the complex. This was on condition of us paying for all the necessary surveying, legals and Council approvals etc. This process is now almost complete.

Additionally we have been negotiating for some two years with the RMS, Pacific Complete and engineering consultants for the construction of a temporary car park of 120 spaces, to the west of the complex.

The arrangement is that we are to pay for all compliance, legal and design items etc while effectively Pacific Complete pay for the car park construction.

In conjunction with this project a concrete walking path, lighting and a bus drop-off facility are planned for the Swan Bay side of the site. A grant for these later items has been applied for.

This car park facility is to be completed before the existing highway car park is demolished.

The highway car park will later be re built in contemporary style at no cost to New Italy.

A BIG THANK YOU TO MONICA THOMAS

New Italy Museum Inc. would like to express a very big thank you to Monica Thomas for 10 years service as our cleaner. Monica has moved from the area to look after her ill mother. We wish all of her family very best wishes.

RECENT EVENTS:



STORM DAMAGE

Early November storms caused some havoc with blackouts to the whole complex and tree damage to the Swan Bay Road entrance as well as the Park of Peace. Discussions have begun within the committee to look at future proofing against power outages. Stay tuned for more information.



LISMORE'S PIAZZA IN THE PARK

New Italy participated in the '2017 Friendship Festival - Piazza in the Park' as sponsor. We also ran a very successful and popular Gift Shop stall well loved by young and older festival goers.

Above: Jo Kijas chatting to Gail Williams and Ellen Barnes at New Italy's very popular Italian Gift Shop stall



VALE TONY FELICIETTI

On 8/8/17, Tony Felicietti passed away and NIMI lost a good friend and a hard working volunteer. He was a descendant of a New Italy settler family, a NIMI committee member, a long time supporter of the New Italy Museum Complex and its Gift Shop. He will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends and is well-remembered by us for his wonderful sense of humour and willingness to help. Rest in peace Tony.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL WELCOME NIMI 2017 AGM & CHRISTMAS PARTY

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11^{AM} SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER

ENQUIRIES:
PETER BLACKWOOD (SECRETARY)
INFO@NEWITALY.COM.AU
0414 673 933

SAVE THIS DATE



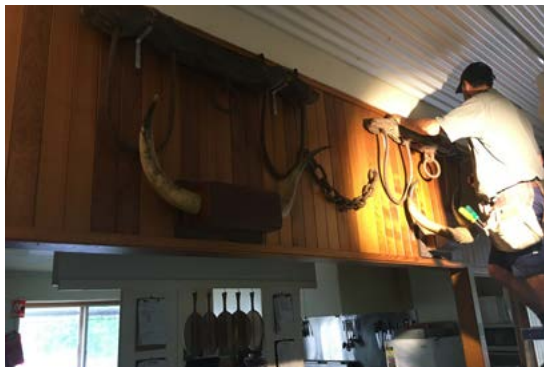
Sunday 8 April 2018

Due to uncertainty and the possibility of traffic chaos created by the Pacific Highway development, NIMI has decided not to go ahead with Carnevale Italiano in 2018. Instead we will have a smaller New Italy family and members-based celebration at the site. More details will be available in first 2018 *Il Giornale*.

*May you all have a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW ITALY...

MUSEUM AND CAFÉ UPGRADE UPDATE ... NOVEMBER 2017



Jim Barnes installing the New Italy Museum's bullock team artefacts in the Café.

Work progresses... We hope to have 65% of the museum complete by the end of 2017. It is a big job relying on the expertise, local knowledge and commitment of a dedicated team.

With support of Café owner Rob Duncan, we have been able to extend the Museum displays onto the Café walls. So far we have been able to illustrate the importance of the bullock teams in our settler history... and there's more to come. The pioneer kitchen is well underway with wall graphics up and the remaining displays ready to put in place. The spectacular New Italy early settlement tool wall will have its story threaded through it with photos and panels. Also a new display on the 'Home' has been started by the Museum Monday Group. This month we have welcomed the assistance of Delores Compagnon (Nardi/Spinaze families). All helpers welcome!

Leonie Lane, Museum • booyongd@bigpond.net.au • 0423733569



Arthur Green, Max Green (with Gidget) and Barry Felicietti assisting the Museum Monday group identify tools and artefacts for the displays.



Cynthia McKeough and Leone Stibbard prepare objects for the kitchen and home displays .



Objects ready for the kitchen.

THE ITALIAN PAVILION



Salvator Mundi (Latin for 'Saviour of the World') by Leonardo da Vinci, (c. 1500) is one of fewer than 20 known paintings by da Vinci, and was the only one to remain in private hands. It was sold at auction by Christie's in New York, on 15 November 2017, for \$450.3 million, setting a new record for most expensive painting ever sold.

We also have a da Vinci in the Pavilion - the da Vinci car. It didn't cost quite that much and this one moves! Simply insert a \$2 coin in the slot and watch it go! Come and enjoy the Pavilion when next you visit.

Leonie Lane, Italian Pavilion • booyongd@bigpond.net.au • 0423733569

THE CASA VECCHIA GIFT SHOP



Christmas is coming! We have lots of lovely new merchandise for the festive season. These include new shipments of Millefiori jewellery from Corte Murrina and Micro Mosaics from Fratelli Traversari in Firenze as well as Vintage Italian wares. Our very own New Italy Disegno has been busy making the very popular Christmas necklaces and earrings. Better be quick to purchase yours before they sell out!

All volunteers at Casa Vecchia wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you again in 2018.

Gail Williams • Casa Vecchia Gift Shop • giftshop@newitaly.com.au

FOR MEMBERSHIP

Download the Membership form from http://newitaly.com.au/?page_id=66

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO IL GIORNALE?

Email stories, tourist tips to Italy, recipes etc.
Autumn 2018 edition: content due 16/3/18

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Peter Blackwood (Secretary)
info@newitaly.com.au • 0414 673 933

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: TINA SHEEHY

Tina's maiden name is Capelin (grandparents Dominic Capelin and Maria 'Mary' Pezzutti). Born and bred in Lismore, she left the area after Year 12, returning 2.5 years ago to retire at Evans Head. The New Italy story was a part of her upbringing (especially from her Aunt Kit Piper née Capelin). An ad calling for New Italy volunteers inspired Tina to join the lovely ladies at Casa Vecchia Gift Shop. In 2017 she took on the role of Membership Officer on the NIMI Committee.

