

Discover Love's Brother Country

Extracts from Hepburn Shire publication, released March 2004

No wonder writer-director Jan Sardi chose the central Victorian towns of Daylesford & Hepburn Springs as the main locations for his evocative romantic movie, **Love's Brother**.

Nestled at the foot of the Great Dividing Range and surrounded by the magnificent Wombat State Forest, the towns were perhaps the first places settled in Australia by Italian migrants. In the mid-19th Century, people emigrating from northern Italy and Switzerland flocked to the area. They came seeking a new life, free of oppression, lured by the prospects of gold and lush pastures.

Yet they found so much more. They found beautiful scenery, fertile soils, abundant natural mineral springs, and a growing polyglot community that must have been both familiar and exotic. Within just a few years they had established vineyards, market gardens, and guest houses.

Today, the legacy of those early settlers is still much in evidence - a fact which contributes much to the popularity among Australian and international visitors. The streetscape still largely unspoiled by modern developments, boasts many buildings erected by the Italians, among them fine examples of Lombardian architecture, including mansions, such as Villa Parma, and the delightful limestone farm houses of the nearby hamlet. Many of these structures feature in **Love's Brother**.

Prime among them is the **Old Macaroni Factory**, built in Hepburn Springs in 1859 by two brothers named Lucini. The factory was the first pasta manufacturing business in Australia. The Lucini brothers were so successful in their venture that at one stage they were even exporting their products back to Italy!

The Old Macaroni Factory features prominently in **Love's Brother**, in which it is Il Café Latino, in real life, it is a heritage-listed treasure, containing a museum and a restaurant, which specialises in pasta dishes and is still owned by Lucini descendants.....

Although the story in **Love's Brother** is fictional, it contains universal truths recognizable to all. Anyone who has ever travelled in search of a new life, or pursued desire around the world, will be touched by this simple, stylish tale of love in a foreign land.

Against a backdrop of the beautiful Italian migrant architecture of Hepburn Springs, **Love's Brother** traces the lives of two brothers. Angelo and Gino Donnini (Giovanni Ribisi and Adam Garcia) and one young woman, Rosetta (Amelia Warner).

Footnotes:

Love's Brother is an original screenplay by Jan Sardi, and is inspired by his own personal background as the son of an immigrant Italian family in 1950s Victoria. "My father was a restaurateur so we spent a lot of time in kitchens and dining rooms ... I still remember my first cappuccino!" One of the most delightful scenes in Love's Brother is the ceremonial arrival of the first cappuccino machine in the small rural town of Hepburn Springs where the story is set, and the first precious, almost sacred moment when the first cup is made and savoured at Il Café Latino (The Old Macaroni Factory).

Love's Brother premiered in Australia in March 2004 with an historic launch at the Shire of Hepburn Town Hall in Daylesford. It is a wonderful love story featuring two Italian brothers who are building a new life as immigrants in Australia. A bride travels from Italy, betrothed via correspondence to one of the brothers - but as fate would have it she falls in love with the other!