



EDITORIAL

May 2006

Breathing Life Back Into an Old Italian

The oldest Italian building in Australia - Est. 1859

The Old Macaroni Factory - Hepburn Springs - Macedon Ranges & Spa Country

In 1990 Melbourne resident Maria Viola inherited an old family property built in 1859 at **Hepburn Springs** in Victoria's Macedon Ranges with an amazing history. This fourth generation member of the Italian **Lucini Family** had early childhood memories of visiting her father's cousin - Rosa at the old property located near Daylesford in Victoria's beautiful Macedon Ranges.

The **Old Macaroni Factory** was built by brothers **Pietro and Giacomo Lucini**, political refugees from the small township of Intra on Lake Maggiore, in the northern Italian Alpine region and close to the Swiss-Italian border.

In 1990 the **Old Macaroni Factory** lay derelict with floors rotting and blackberries covering most of the property. Family and friends set about to try to save the building, but it was the constant interest by younger family members about the family's history, that convinced Maria to write and research the story as part of an MA in Public History at Monash University.

Financially it was beyond the family's means to restore the building and the unique frescoes it housed. Help was first sought from Heritage Victoria and historic tours of the building were taken but much more work was needed. Next, Maria applied for further assistance under the Cultural Heritage Projects Program and after twelve months of research, a second attempt finally granted funding for further restoration work to find the fascinating historic frescoes under the many layers of paint! The imagination of the local community had been raised and members of the local Daylesford & District Historical Society established a Restoration Fund to help the process along.

In 2003 the production of the **Love's Brother** came to town to be filmed at the property and around the region. Produced and directed by Jan Sardi and Jane Scott, this project saw the additions of a traditional bocce court and rear paving. The movie was released in April of 2004 and the Old Macaroni Factory features prominently. To help complete works, further funding was sought under Victoria's Regional Tourism Program.

The **Old Macaroni Factory** officially opened to the public in 2003 with much colour and an exciting future planned towards its further rejuvenation. **Historic Tours** offer a rare experience and insight into the fascinating history of the Italian refugee family's re-location. Much of their story is told through the unique and colourful frescoes that decorate the ceilings and the walls. To add to the visitor experience, **Lucini's licensed Pasta Café** opened with an Italian-themed local produce menu and wines from the Daylesford-Macedon region.

For further details visit the website on: www.macaronifactory.com.au

SNAPSHOT

Nearly 150 years old, the Old Macaroni Factory was built by Australia's first pasta manufacturers Giacomo and Pietro Lucini. The building which has remained in the family is:

- On the National Estate Listing
- Registered by Heritage Victoria
- Classified by the National Trust

This historic project was officially opened in 2003 by Victorian Liberal Senator Tsebin Tchen.

Editorial contact and available for interview:

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Old Macaroni Factory | Est 1859 | and Lucini's Historic Pasta Cafe

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