

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11th February 2009

**The Old Macaroni Factory
Victorian Multicultural Commission Launches
& Funds 2009 Celebrations**



150th Commemorative Logo

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Hepburn Springs, Australia's Spa Capital goes under the spotlight in 2009 when Australia's oldest Italian building and first macaroni producing factory turns 150 years!

Following more than 18 months of planning, owner-proprietor and fourth generation descendant Maria Viola, whose family (the Lucinis) built The Old Macaroni Factory 150 years ago, has set her sights on bringing together descendants of the early pioneering families to the region as well as celebrating the 150th Anniversary of this grand building and her family's presence in Victoria.

On Wednesday 11 February Commissioner Joseph Caputo from the Victorian Multicultural Commission will officially launch the 2009 celebrations on the property of The Old Macaroni Factory. This precedes a massive year of community celebrations, reunions, dinners, concerts and new projects.

The Old Macaroni Factory is the recipient of a \$3,000 grant from the VMC. At the launch Commissioner Joe Caputo will also open the **Pioneer's Avenue of Honour**, a commemorative project of tree plantings to remember the many early-settlers to the area. On the day, Graham Sellars-Jones will represent these families, whose forebears on his mother's side settled here around the 1870s. His great grandfather Batista Borsa migrated from Bellinzona, Switzerland and moved from Forrest Creek (now Chewton) to Spring Creek (now Hepburn Springs), to set up business including butcher shops and a brewery. Batista married Ellen Hill and produced numerous offspring of which two sisters (one being Graham's grandmother Blanche) married two brothers, being Ernest and Victor Zelman, all of whom remained prominent in the district.

A significant event to kick off 150th year festivities is an outdoor concert in the garden theatre newly established on the historic property. “A Night on the Goldfields” is an event for the community, and all visitors to the region that suits all ages. The concert will be under the direction of Creative Consultant Jon Stephens who has worked in cabaret, theatre, film and television as a director and writer. Jon is passionate about the history of the area and lives in the region. [See separate release]

A major contributor to the 150th Celebratory plans has been the assistance of The Melbourne Italian Festival who will include some of their programming as part of the 5th edition of the Festival from the 24th May-7th June this year. The details of the events will be available over the ensuing weeks. MIF is proud to support the celebrations of the Macaroni Factory; a cultural and historical centerpiece of Victoria and Australia generally. Director of MIF, Franca Smarelli, will MC the launch. Franca is also fulfilling a promise made to Maria’s father, Joseph Andreallo, thirty years ago – to do what she could to help in the restoration of The Old Macaroni Factory and development of the property.

Full details of 2009 celebrations can be found on the website: macaronifactory.com.au

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PUBLICITY CONTACT: Maria Viola - Proprietor mariaviola@bigpond.com
Old Macaroni Factory | Est 1859 | and Lucini's Historic Pasta Cafe & Bar
64 Main Road Hepburn Springs Victoria 3461 AUSTRALIA www.macaronifactory.com.au
TEL (03) 5348 4345 (Fri-Sun) (03) 9457 7035 (Mid-week) MOB 0400 854029