

# Griffith cappuccino machine hides a fascinating history

By AMELIA ELLISTON

IT SEEMS appropriate that a city like Griffith with a passion for coffee may well be home to Australia's oldest cappuccino machine.

Miei Amici owner Peter Piccolo now boasts a 1920s coffee machine from Buenos Aires in Argentina after he picked it up from Australian Salvage in Brisbane a year ago.

The beautiful machine has been fully restored and is even in working order at the Banna Avenue cafe, and Mr Piccolo wants people to know its history.

"There are three stories to the first cappuccino machines in Australia - one is in the Paragon Cafe in Goulburn and two in Lygon Street in Melbourne," Mr Piccolo said.

"They were all around the same time and one of the ones in Lygon Street was a cafe owned by Guidolin's, who are a Griffith family.

"So there is already a lot of coffee history in the town."

The machine was made in Argentina and Mr Piccolo believes it was made by an Italian man, as at the time Argentina had a very strong Italian population.

Mr Piccolo said salvage companies took a lot of old items from Argentina in 2001 when the country was suffering an economic downturn.

"The salvage guys were sure this was the only coffee machine they bought back," he said.

"And also considering it is a 1920s machine, I think it would be the oldest coffee machine in Australia."



Miei Amici Cafe owner Peter Piccolo proudly displays what could be the oldest cappuccino machine in Australia at his Banna Avenue eatery.