

## **Italian market gardeners oral history project**

**Interview with Armida Mattiazzo OH872/12 recorded 11 January 2011**

**Recorded by Eleonora Marchioro in Veneto dialect**

**[Transcribed into English by Eleonora Marchioro and Madeleine Regan]**

**OH:** This is an interview with Armida Mattiazzo recorded by Eleonora Marchioro on 11 January 2011 in Armida's house at Brooklyn Park. It is an interview recorded for the Italian market gardeners oral history project. Also present is my husband, Johnny Marchioro.<sup>1</sup> Armida, buon giorno.

**AM:** Buon giorno.

**OH: (00:33)** Armida, tell me your name and your family name.

**AM:** My name is Armida Mattiazzo, and my name when I was young was Armida Biasetto and I was born at Ponzano Veneto, in the province of Venice.

**OH:** What were the names of your parents?

**AM:** My father was called Giovanni Biasetto, my mother was called Olivia.

**OH:** Where were they born?

**AM:** They were born in the same town, Ponzano Veneto.

**OH:** Both of them?

**AM:** No, my mother was from Villaorba and after, she always lived at Ponzano, Veneto.

**OH:** What do you remember about your childhood?

**AM:** Of my childhood I remember lots of things. I was a farmer and we used to work, not many parties, in those times there was not much enjoyment but in my house we never wanted for anything because we were farmers. We used to work for ourselves and I can't say that my father said no many times, there was always lots of food but there were no extras. We never missed anything, not even during the war. There was always food and drinks.

**OH: (02:16)** How many years did you go to school?

**AM:** I went to school to the fifth grade. I did from the first to the fifth grade.

**OH:** Did you like going to school?

**AM:** No I did not like going to school. [laughs] I had to go, I had to get a certificate for the fifth grade to find a job or at that time you couldn't.

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<sup>1</sup> Johnny (JM) occasionally contributes to the interview

<sup>2</sup> August Mattiazzo worked at the Spotted Tiger mica mine in the Harts Ranges about 215 kms north east of

**OH:** (02:51) Do you remember anything that happened during the war?

**AM:** I remember lots of things. When the Germans were coming, we were not in the town, we were on a farm. We didn't feel much of the war because we were five kilometres from Treviso. When there was bombing in Treviso I remember that one girl from our town died, the poor thing, she was going to get married the week after. It was around the time of Holy Week when the bombing started. But other than that, we didn't suffer much because I was the oldest one and I didn't have any brothers in the Army. So we didn't have any bad experiences.

**OH:** You told me about your father when he took you up the top of the ...

**AM:** We used to live in a three-storey house. We went on top of the barn to look at the bombs that were falling on Treviso. It was a bit ... What do you say?

**OH:** Scary?

**AM:** Scary. But we were young.

**OH:** (04:27) After the War how did life change in Italy?

**AM:** Life changed because of work; there was no work. That's why the young people who came back from the war, there were no jobs and they were looking to emigrate. Especially in Treviso there was no work. There were only two people working under someone else, a boss. For the rest, there no jobs.

**OH:** (05:01) What was your husband's name?

**AM:** My husband's name was Augusto Mattiazzo.

**OH:** How did you meet him?

**AM:** I met him because he came back from military service. There was not many outings so our main enjoyment was to go to Mass. [laughs] And there you saw the boys that used to come and I saw him and he was friends with my first cousin, Emilio Stefani, and we met and got to know each other. And after he left to go to Australia but he promised that he would write and we were always in touch and then I decided to go away because he promised that we would stay a few years and return. Instead [laughs] as usual, there was always a hope to go back but we never did it. But we did go back for a holiday.

**OH:** (06:22) When did you arrive in Australia? Where did you arrive?

**AM:** When I arrived in Australia he didn't have a house because he was working in Alice Springs in a mica mine.<sup>2</sup> But he had an agreement with the bloke he was working with, his name was --- Vendramini, he had his family in Melbourne, a family with three children. He said we'll go to

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<sup>2</sup> August Mattiazzo worked at the Spotted Tiger mica mine in the Harts Ranges about 215 kms north east of Alice Springs

Melbourne so then my children can go to school and you can wait for your girlfriend, fiancée who's coming from Italy. So he was waiting for me in Melbourne and we got married in Melbourne.

**OH:** How many people went to your wedding?

**AM:** There weren't many but there was around 35. For our first lunch we went to a hotel after we were married but at night we went to a garage with a lot of my husband's friends, lots of young boys just arrived from Italy. In those times, everybody used to get invited. It wasn't a real party, everything was cold food, it wasn't cooked.

**OH:** After how many days did you decide to go to Alice Springs?

**AM:** I had my brother-in-law here in Adelaide, Attilio Piovesan who had married my husband's sister.<sup>3</sup> They wanted me to stay a week here with them.

**JM:** Frogmore Road.

**AM:** My husband couldn't come because he still had a job to finish in Melbourne and I came back by myself, by train. I met my brother-in-law who came to pick me up and I stayed a week and then my husband came and then we went to Alice Springs under a tent.

**OH:** (08:58) When you arrived in Alice Springs what did you think of the place, the mine?

**AM:** [laughs] When I arrived in Alice Springs, for me it was a big thing especially the trip to get to Alice Springs, it took eight hours in those times with a plane. I came in 1952 and in those times there were only planes with four engines, there was only two. We had to stop three or four times. When we arrived in Alice Springs we went to friends and we stayed there for two or three days and then we left with a jeep and went to the northern territory and it took 11 or 12 hours and I arrived and I was in the desert. There was no roads, how do you say it, there was no bitumen roads. They were tracks made by people driving up and down with trucks. I was never desperate, I always liked it but I was young and I had a young husband.

**OH:** How did you spend the days when ...

**AM:** I had a good life there. In Italy I had to work as a farmer, instead there, there was nothing to clean. Because [laughs] there was dust everywhere. Under a tent **there was** nothing to do but the men were good, I was the only woman, and at night they used to prepare the yeast for the bread and after in the morning they used to go up to the mine ...

**JM:** Last Chance [mine]

**AM:** And I used to stay down at the camp and I used to get the bread which was baked

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<sup>3</sup> Clara Mattiazzo married Attilio Piovesan

underground. It used to take an hour and the bread would be ready. At ten in the morning I used to bring them tea and I used to make little cakes because I knew my husband liked them. I used to bring this for the friends and they came down for lunch at 12.00 and then I used to go back at 3:00 pm because I didn't have anything to do and it wasn't far. And that's the way I used to pass my day. And at night, it was always a party. There was always a party

**OH:** *Paesani*<sup>4</sup>

**AM:** Friends, *paesani*, even if they were not *paesani*. Once upon a time we all used to love each other.

**OH:** All migrants.

**AM:** They were always migrants, that's right.

**JM:** You were at Last Chance?

**AM:** No I wasn't. Yes, it was Last Chance mine, I got a bit confused.

**OH:** (12:23) Tell us what it was like when you had your children at Alice Springs?

**AM:** After in Alice Springs I got pregnant after a while and I had a little girl and instead of nine months, I carried her for ten months and when she was born, she needed a humid crib and, as you say, up there, there was nothing, there was not even a doctor you could trust and --- however after 24 hours, I spent a terrible time, very bad to be born it took eight days. I used to be on a table, in great pain and they would give me an injection. When another lady arrived they used to take me out and put her in on the table and she would have her baby but mine was never coming. But at least at the end the doctors put a belt tightly on me I had a very strong back and my baby wouldn't let go of me and I couldn't have a caesarean birth so they pushed it out with a belt. But when she was born she needed a machine to keep her alive but there was nothing. My poor baby, she had to let go. But [laughs] I wanted a baby badly. I called my husband but he said no more children. Then I'm going to go away and like that, I got pregnant again with Denny, after 12 months. And everything went well. I was happy because he was born.

Then Alice Springs was a very small town but everybody used to know each other especially the miners were all well known because when they used to come, they used to fill up the town. When the baby was born, my husband did not invite anybody but he spoke on the radio and invited all the town.

[laughter]

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<sup>4</sup> *Paesani* is an Italian word that means people who lived in the same village or area

There were policemen, air force and everyone was there. That day and night they drank 25 barrels of beer (18 gallons in a barrel) [laughter] The manager of the hotel, he was a friend and he said when you finish one barrel, just call and I'll bring you another one. How much beer they drank in Alice Springs I used to think it was free! I thought it didn't cost anything. [laughs]

**OH:** (15:58) How long did you stay in Alice Springs?

**AM:** Well, I stayed four years but my husband was there for seven years. After he got sick with gout and he decided to come down to Adelaide, he couldn't stay there any more.

**OH:** That's why you came to Adelaide?

**AM:** We came to Adelaide because he had a sister here, we stayed here and bought a house at Brooklyn Park. We stayed there for 14 years.

**OH:** When you first arrived where did you go to live?

**AM:** I went to my sister-in-law for one month.

**JM:** Frogmore Road.

**AM:** Frogmore Road, there to Attilio Piovesan who was my brother-in-law, for more than a month until my husband found a house at Torrensville.

**OH:** (17:04) Do you remember what Frogmore Road was like?

**AM:** Yes, I remember Frogmore Road like now. When I arrived there was nothing only four shacks, you know, I thought I was back in the country in Italy. There was my brother-in-law, the Tonellato's and Santin's, there were other families I can't remember their names.

**OH:** What were the Italian families doing in the area?

**AM:** They had their farms and glasshouse and they worked, there was the Piovesan boys ...

**OH:** Did you have any *paesani*<sup>5</sup> on Frogmore Road?

**AM:** No, just my brother-in-law, there was Mario, Attilio's brother, with his wife Vittoria. They lived in a small house just off Frogmore Road, on the Piovesan land.

**OH:** On Frogmore Road. Did you lease some land on Frogmore Road?

**AM:** No we didn't but after a couple of years, the brother-in-law decided to go to Italy and by going to Italy he left two acres of land unoccupied. So we decided to work the land with outside tomatoes. It was next door to the land of the Piovesan boys, Bruno, Dino and Nilo Piovesan. For four or five years we just grew outside tomatoes in the summer, we didn't work in the winter. So Saturday and Sunday we worked the land.

**OH:** How did you grow the tomatoes, did you grow them on the ground?

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<sup>5</sup> *Paesani* in Italian means people from the same village or area

**AM:** No, They weren't on the ground. My husband used to go to Bolivar and pick up bamboos ... what do you call them?

**OH:** Bamboos.

**AM:** Tall ones.

**OH:** Did you have enough water?

**AM:** Water, sometimes yes, sometimes no, it wasn't for land use, just for house use. But the Santin brothers were so good, they gave us the water a lot of times for the tomatoes.

**OH:** After you finished growing tomatoes on Frogmore Road ...

**AM:** My brother-in-law came back from Italy and he sold the land and Nillo bought it.

**OH:** Nilo?

**AM:** Nilo Piovesan , that's where he built his house for his son. I don't know. Then they didn't work the land anymore. We were living at Torrensville and an opportunity came up at Lockleys --- Mr Jim Russo leased out glasshouses where we got six and we worked them for five or six years at Lockleys.

**JM:** The Lockleys hotel.

**AM:** Where the Lockleys hotel is. At that time we worked ...

**OH:** Can we go back a bit? When you bought the house at Torrensville, you said your husband was getting sick.

**AM:** My husband was sick from the first day we got married.

**OH:** How did you live?

**AM:** He used to go to work a little bit if there was work to be done.

**OH:** Did you have some boarders?

**AM:** I couldn't go to work because I had two small children. When we came back from Alice Springs and my son was 14 months old then I got pregnant with my daughter but I had a lot of energy to help my husband. We couldn't get ahead with just his wage. So we had a big house and I decided to go to a second-hand shop to buy some beds and then boys would come from Italy and I took them as boarders. Then I had eight, up to ten of them.

**OH:** Were they good people?

**AM:** Yes, I couldn't complain, they were always very good. They respected me and even helped when my husband wasn't feeling good. Then I had my daughter and then one of them was the godfather for the baptism and when the baby was crying, I didn't have time and the godfather used to take her in his arms. He was good, he was called Fino Moro, he was from the same village. He

used to come to work near you [indicates Johnny Marchioro], for the Australian man, he used to do gardening.

**JM:** Boss Huelin.

**AM:** He used to work there with his uncle, Toni Moro, he came down from Tennant Creek where there was a mine of *golfo*.

**JM:** *Si si*.

**AM:** You were only a young lad, you can't remember. Toni Moro and Fino Moro and he was very good.

**OH:** What did your husband say when you decided to lease some glasshouses?

**AM:** I got this opportunity to lease them but my husband didn't want to because he thought I wasn't strong enough to do it. So he would have had to work to pay for the lease. Instead I would try my best and I worked them for a few years. At first when we just leased the glasshouses, I convinced my husband to get some fowl manure at Murray Bridge. We loaded it up and it was chicken manure and took it home. I couldn't take it all into the glasshouses and had to do it a little bit at a time.

In the meantime, the health inspector went past and said: "If you don't use it up in the next 24 hours, we will throw it away in the creek." So my husband and I we covered up the manure with dirt. Slowly, slowly we put it in the glasshouses with water. But I grew so many tomatoes and we made lots of money. Yeah. I thought it was unbelievable. After the tomatoes, we used to plant stick beans. Even there we used to get good money. My husband used to take them to market at night. Or, early in the morning because sometimes he used to go to work.

**JM:** Were you on the corner of Tapleys Hill Road at Lockleys?

**AM:** There I worked the glasshouses.

**OH:** Tell me how did you get there from the house?

**AM:** I used to go [laughs] by bus in the meantime I had to pay when I got on the bus I used to be embarrassed so I used to wear leather gloves that I brought from Italy because my hands were dirty from the tomatoes. You know, when you're working with the tomatoes, your hands go black. And then the children, I took them with me in the morning, not all day, maybe four or five hours.

**OH:** Tell me about the days when it was very hot?

**AM:** Yes, you know at that time it was hotter than now, and the cold was colder so in the winter, we used to burn the tyres. My husband used to light them and with the smoke it kept the frost away. In summer it was very hot, it used to be over 100 degrees. I had to do my job even it was hot.

My friend used to work two glasshouses next to mine. And he said: "How do you work in the heat?" I said: "Because you don't want to. Why don't you try it too?" So he did, but he got diarrhoea and had to stay home for a week. Poor thing.

[laughter]

**OH:** When the tomatoes were dear, a shop asked you for four boxes of first class ones?

**AM:** One day Mrs Russo who had a shop on the corner of Tapleys Hill Road. She asked me for four or five boxes of first class tomatoes and I didn't want to give them to her because she wanted to give them to the man in the market. My husband did not want me to give them but the lady gave me good money for them, so I gave them that day. I was happy. She paid well.

**OH:** After you finished work, what kind of celebration did you used to have with the family, children or friends?

**AM:** Always lots of celebrations once upon a time because there was no television. Between friends we all used to love each other. I tell you the truth, in Australia, I have always been by myself because I had two sisters and both always lived in Alice Springs. But there, I never had anybody. But, here I always had lots of friends and they all loved me.

**OH:** What are your sisters' names?

**AM:** The one after me is named Giulia and was married Giovanni Pozzobon, also from Italy who came from a place close by, called Santabuona, near Treviso. They met each other through photos and then she came here and got married and after, the younger one came too. She is called Alice and she also married a certain Pozzobon. But poor thing after six, seven months he went to Alice Springs, there was lots of people working at Alice Springs and he used to like work as a handyman but his boss asked him, he was a mechanic and would he mind if he could fix some electric wires that were damaged because there was a big storm in a place near Alice Springs. He said, "Yes, yes I can do it." So instead of sending white workers, he sent some black workers. While he was up the top, he thought they had disconnected the electricity but they didn't, and he fell to the ground and he killed himself and he died. He must have swallowed his tongue but the black people didn't know how to take his tongue out. The poor thing died and left my sister and the little girl who was three months old. So she stayed there.

After three years she met Guido Tosini, he came from Queensland and he was single. She met him and married him. My brother-in-law, he had a good job in construction, making roads and bridges, a lot of jobs but he had fortunate in those years. He made lots of money so he retired here in Adelaide. He married my sister and she had a little girl but then with him she had another two so

he used to say: "Why should I work?" He was well off. Anyway, he had lots of money.

**OH:** Your brothers?

**AM:** My brothers, they stayed in Italy in my father's house. They are well off too.

**OH:** When did your children get married?

**AM:** Oh dear, I can't remember the date.s But within two years they were both married, first my son, and then my daughter.

**OH:** How many grandchildren have you got? What are their names

**AM:** My son has got two children, one is Lisa and one, Natalie. Then my daughter, in Italy, went to Italy and that is a long story to tell. We took her to Italy for holidays and when she was there, she fell in love with her cousin, they were first cousins, children of two brothers. It was a big disappointment, you know what it's like, she's still my daughter but we tried everything. But they used to write to each other because she used to work in a bank in Adelaide so she used to get the mail delivered at the bank.

They wrote to each other for three years and then he came to Australia. We didn't know anything. So I trusted her, I thought she must have forgotten him but it wasn't like that. He came here to take her away. [laughs] But my husband didn't want to give her to him. So one night here in Adelaide, the shops just started opening late on a Friday night in the city until 9:00 pm. She said to me: "I'm not coming home straight away. I'm staying in town to do some shopping." I said: "That's okay." I never thought that she was meeting him. Because I have got a good character, I trust people, I don't think badly about people. Instead at a certain time, around 10:00 o'clock, then I was here by myself but it was summer. So I said to my husband: "This daughter, isn't she coming home? Where has she gone?" So he went outside to look and found them and they were sitting on his brother's fence. That was my brother-in-law because he went to stay there because it's his brother.

So when my husband saw them talking we were thinking that maybe there was still something going on but we weren't sure that would keep going but then her father told them off. He said to them: "What are you doing here? Your mother's worrying about you." So she didn't say anything but he said: "She's old enough to do what she wants." So the blood went to my husband's head and he grabbed him by the neck [laughs] and he punched him on the face. So by then, holy Mary, everyone was upset, then he took my daughter home, my husband, Enzo [his brother] were in despair, you know. And she said: "That's it, I'm going to marry him."

**OH:** But they are happy now?

**AM:** Yes, they are happy.

**OH:** Two children?

**AM:** They have two children, yes. Then they left but my husband always hoped that she'd come back. But I knew that she wasn't going to come back. He left in March [Armida speaks to Johnny] “And Adelina went with your Mum and Dad going home, do you remember when your Mum and Dad went home because I talked to them about Adelina and what happened? But after so many years that she's been away, Adelina couldn't remember you, Johnny Marchioro.” Yeah, they [Johnny's parents] come home with me, there was Silla.

**JM:** Oh yeah.

**AM:** And also Maria Ballestrin.

**JM:** And Narciso?

**AM:** And Narciso. *Bravo*. Also them. All of us went home altogether when my daughter left. It was either 21st March, or 21st February.

**OH:** Does she come back often to see you in Australia?

**AM:** Yes, she comes often enough, every two or three years.

**OH:** Okay. Did you used to make your own wine?

**AM:** Yes, at the beginning, yes, my husband used to make it and also kill the pig.

**OH:** Where did you used to go and buy the pig?

**AM:** Well, we used to go to Murray Bridge, some places. We used to select the pig two months earlier. Then after we would go to Murray Bridge, pick it up and then we used to do it here at home. There used to be Leandro who used to do it, Leandro Bortoletto who was my husband's cousin. We did it for some years but with my husband's sickness, he couldn't eat more than so much, so we stopped, not even the wine.

**OH:** When did you finish working the glasshouses? What did you do after?

**AM:** When I finished working in the glasshouses I went to Italy that time --- for holidays and that was when my daughter met this boy, this cousin. When I came back I went to work in a factory at Torrensville called Spotweld. There I worked for two or three years. Then after two or three or four years, I don't remember exactly, we went to Italy again and when I came back, they told me that I would have to wait another few months to get work. So then I went to Clarks, I tried at the shoe factory and I worked there for 12 years. I used to repair shoes.

**OH:** It was at Richmond?

**AM:** At Richmond. I was not on the sewing machine, no. But your cousin [speaking to Eleonora] was on the sewing machine.

**OH:** Anna?

**AM:** Yes, Anna.

**OH:** Were there a lot of Italians there?

**AM:** Yes, there were lots of Italians there. But our boss was not very nice. She didn't really like Italians. Yeah. She was the one who made me spiteful after so many years, she made me tired so I went to look for work at Casa d'Italia<sup>6</sup>. There I stayed for one and a half years.

**OH:** Who did you work with at Casa d'Italia?

**AM:** I was together with Silla Bottin, Elsa Innocente, Maria Ballestrin and two men helping, my husband, Primo. Yes, yes, they used to pick me up and take me to work and they used to stay and help. Especially Saturday and Sunday because it was not open every day because it was only open Saturday and Sunday, that's when did most of the cooking for these people. Even there, I got tired of it so I went to work at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. There I worked for another 12, 13 years.

**OH:** How did you get to the city?

**AM:** Well, I used to get the bus but after because my husband was not well stopped working many years before me so he used to take me with the car. At night I used to come back by bus.

**OH:** Can you tell me when you learned to drive?

**AM:** When [laughs] we stopped working, in the meantime that I stopped working, my husband used to take me to work, he had an accident with someone who was working at the Royal. [Adelaide Hospital] So this man blamed my husband and then he said his knee was injured. So four years went by and the insurance did not want to understand that it was not my husband's fault but they knew that it wasn't my husband's fault but it was the other man. So they took him to court and they were there for three days. In the meantime, my husband had a stroke.

**OH:** Then, did you learn how to drive?

**AM:** Nobody could take me and because I was sick, I had a bad back, there was no bus going through because he was not at Hampstead but at Western Community, there was a nursing home and he was able to find a place. They had a machine to take out the mucous. So I had to put him there but the nursing home was really good, like you can't believe that they were so good. I couldn't go there by bus so then I decided to learn how to drive a car. It was very hard for me.

**OH:** How old were you?

**AM:** I was just over 61 years but I found a lot of good people who taught me and helped me. Dino Piovesan, he taught me how to drive and then I had my brother-in-law, Giovanni Pozzabon who came to help me practise once a week. But I can only tell you once that I had lots of help

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<sup>6</sup> Casa d'Italia was in Carrington Street in the City of Adelaide, the Italian Club

from my friends because my husband was a man that had never had a bad word with anybody. He used to get along with everybody. Yeah.

**OH:** Do you want to tell us about your Veneto friends?

**AM:** Well, my friends...

**OH:** Your closest friends?

**AM:** Well, the closest is Elsa Innocente, Tonellato, Italia Tonellato, Mary Tonellato, dear Rosina, [Santin nee Tonellato] before she died, all of them but I have friends here at Brooklyn Park parish. Ballestrini, Natalia, what do you call her? Angela Vidotto, Maria Veneziana, she was Maria Di Stefano who is very dear to me. Gina De Sanni. They are very good and after Mass on Sunday, they come to my house or we go to other families for a coffee together because the majority are widows.

**OH:** When you look back on your life in Australia, what was important to you? Family?

**AM:** The family, first of all but I had a big sadness when my daughter left at that time. But I knew that she was going to get married and I went to see her get married and she had a beautiful wedding so we were happy and we left her there. After a few years even my son separated from his wife so there was a big shock for us. But as I said, I have been a woman who has given herself a lot of courage because I was my own and I was thinking that I had to have courage because no one could help me so I had to help myself because I had breast cancer. In the meantime when I had the operation, my husband was still in the nursing home so we were both being cared for.

**OH:** Oh.

**AM:** After a while the son separated and I felt that there was nothing but after ...

**OH:** What happened then?

**AM:** After he found this nice girl so I tell the truth, she's very good. So I was very happy with my first daughter-in-law. I can't complain but I did try to get along with everybody. I never look for trouble, you know. I get along with everybody. I don't want any trouble. You know, they were good, both of them have respected me.

**OH:** Do you go often to the Veneto Club?

**AM:** I go often and very often especially when my husband was alive. On Sunday he used to play *la borella* and I used to go and spend time with my friends. Even now I go once a month to the Pensioners' Lunch. I go and see my nephew, Enzo who likes going to the Veneto Club and I go with him. I live here because Enzo and Lina live here too, my nephew and niece, and they're very good. My son lives too far away in North Haven, a bit out of the way.

**JM:** Have you ever thought of going to live in Italy?

**AM:** No because I'm thinking I could have been born in Australia. After 60 years I've been here. I don't think so. My daughter doesn't even ask me to go there because she knows that here I have got my own car and go wherever I want to. I'm independent and I like to be independent. I don't like depending on anybody.

**OH:** Doidyou become naturalised?

**AM:** Yes. I became Australian many years ago. Yes. We bought a block of land which was on the way to Salisbury

**JM:** At Bolivar?

**AM:** Not Bolivar.

**OH:** Para Hills?

**AM:** Yes, Para Hills, my husband bought a block of land so when he bought this land he couldn't buy it in his own name, and this 90 year old friend of ours, his name was Piero Pisanato and he said to my husband, buy it and put it my name so when you become naturalised I'll pass the land back to you. In those years there was lots of good people. Really, here we always found good people. My husband trusted him and he put the land in his friend's name. In the meantime, we became Australian citizens. Then as we agreed, he passed it on to our name. But then we sold it not long after. I used to love living away from the city because I didn't like to live in the city. I used to love the land but my husband, because he was sick he used to say: "What are you going to do with the land?" He said that I couldn't drive and even if I learnt, he asked: "What will you do?" But we did buy some land.

**AM:** We bought land along the straight road that goes to Enfield and we bought more land and sunk a bore but the block was too narrow and too long and we would have had to buy more land but my husband didn't want it any more. So we sold it. We must have bought it because I wanted to live away from the city.

**OH:** Do you have anything more to tell me about your life in Australia?

**AM:** Well, I had not much pleasure, I tell you the truth but I always gave myself courage and I always wanted to go forward and not much entertainment but what do you want? When you are not well, you cannot even organise anything, we always lived in hope, just to have the little bit without asking for more, you know.

**OH:** So, Armida thank you for telling us your story.

**Interview ends.**