

Italian market gardeners oral history project
Interview with Milva Rebuli nee Zampin
OH872-/6 recorded by Madeleine Regan
at Flinders Park on 27th March 2016

OH: Oral Historian (Madeleine Regan)

MR: Milva Rebuli

OH: This is an interview recorded for the Italian market gardeners oral history project. I'm interviewing Milva Rebuli nee Zampin on 28th March 2016 at Flinders Park, South Australia and I am Madeleine Regan. Milva, thank you very much for agreeing to be interviewed for the project.

MR: That's alright.

OH: (00:27) And we're going to start with your background. What is your full name?

MR: Milva Joan Rebuli.

OH: And were you named for anyone?

MR: Yes, I was named after my father's girlfriend that he left in Italy. [laughter]

OH: I wonder how your mother felt about that?

MR: She didn't know until she went back with Dad and he took her into this place and he says I've got to go and see somebody. Are you coming? She said yes. And, he said: "This is my old girlfriend." --- So after that, I don't know what happened. [laughter]

OH: Because it's an unusual name.

MR: Mmnn.

OH: And Milva, what is your date of birth?

MR: 14th May 1932.

OH: Where were you born?

MR: I was born in ... I was going to say Parkside but I meant the Queen's home.¹ [laughs] in Adelaide.

OH: In Victoria Park?²

MR: Yes, that's right.

OH: Can you tell me the full names of your parents?

MR: Amelia Katherine --- Shaw, her name was. And Dad was Silvano Primo Zampin.

OH: Where was your mother born?

MR: Mum was born in the same place I was.

OH: Here in Adelaide?

¹ This was the Queen Victoria Hospital

² The suburb is Rose Park

MR: Mmnn, in the same hospital, yeah.

OH: What about your father?

MR: My father was born in Treviso in Riese.

OH: And that's in the north of Italy isn't it?

MR: Mmnn.

OH: I was wondering how did your parents meet each other.

MR: [laughs] Down in the cemetery. [laughs]

OH: Which is unusual.

MR: Yeah. [laughs]. Mum and --- My uncle died, he got killed in a motor bike, no, a car accident and Dad went down to put flowers to put flowers on his grave. And Mum went down to put flowers on her grandmother's grave. And somehow or other, they just met down there. Unusual, isn't it?

OH: Very. And this was the ... which cemetery?

MR: West Terrace.

OH: And do you know when they met, like what year it would have been?

MR: It was probably in '31. Mmnnn.

OH: Do you know what work they did prior to getting married?

MR: Dad, he'd just come back from Port Pirie, he was working on the ... in the mines, I suppose. And Mum, I don't know what she was doing. He came up for the funeral of his brother.

OH: And do you know when your parents got married?

MR: In October, 25th October '31.

OH: Do you know where they got married?

MR: Saint Patrick's.

OH: In the city?

MR: Mmnnn.

OH: And when you were born, do you know what your parents were doing at that time, like where they were living and what sort of work?

MR: Well, as far as I know, Dad was, Mum and Dad were living in Waymouth Street, next door to the hotel and there was a whole lot of heap of Italians in those cottages and that's all I know, really. About that part, yeah. I can remember growing up there for a while. They used to play cards at the night time and go into the hotel and get the six penny jug of beer [laughs] and stay there and play cards and the women used to just talk and look after babies because they all lived in the same cottages, you know. And then Mum and Dad went over to --- on West Terrace, the corner of West Terrace and North Terrace and they were living in a cellar there for quite a while.

OH: What do you mean by a cellar?

MR: Well, I call it a cellar because it was underground. It was the top and then there was like, we used to go down underneath to our house, or our home. And we stayed there for quite a while. Dad used to go over to a market garden over where the airport is now and worked for a China man.

OH: Oh.

MR: Over there for quite a while. He used to drive... go over in the morning, Mum used to go over with the, there was only two of us then, used to go over with the pram, walk over there, and she used to sort the tomatoes and do a bit of house cleaning or whatever and then they'd all come back on Dad's bike. I'd sit on the handle bar and Mum would have the pram at the back and she'd be sitting on the back, pulling the pram. [laughs].

OH: Wow. [laughter]

MR: Poor old Dad. [laughs]

OH: Yeah, he had a bit of a load.

MR: Yeah.

OH: So they walked from West Terrace?

MR: Yeah.

OH: Or he went by the bike? Yeah.

MR: Yeah.

OH: (06:00) Can you just tell me about the people in your family, like your sisters and brother? Like how many sisters did you have?

MR: I've got eight sisters and one brother. He got killed with a motor bike accident. But, yeah.

OH: You were the first?

MR: Yes, I was the eldest. Poor me. [laughs]

OH: And your own family. Perhaps if I can just ask a few questions about your husband?

MR: My husband came from Bigolino in the Valdobbiadene and he was from a market garden there. They all lived in a big house together and he come out when he was about four or five, him and his brother and his sister and mother, Guido was born out here.

OH: And your husband's name?

MR: Elvio.

OH: Elvio Rebuli.

MR: Mmnnn.

OH: And when did you and Elvio marry?

MR: We got married in 1952.

OH: And you went on to have quite a big family?

MR: Mmnn I've had eight children.

OH: And how many grandchildren?

MR: I've got 19 grandchildren.

OH: And?

MR: Four great grandchildren.

OH: Wow, so it's a big family?

MR: Mmnnn.

OH: When did Elvio die?

MR: In '97.

OH: So the Rebulis were a family that were market gardeners to begin with?

MR: Mmnn. on Frogmore Road, Torrens Avenue really. But they did have one in Valetta Road, yeah.

OH: (07:50) And I wanted to ask you about your father and arriving in Australia.

MR: Mmnnn.

OH: When did your father arrive?

MR: We think it was about '27.

OH: In fact, I reckon it was just in the first week of January 1928.

MR: It could have been, yeah.

OH: Do you know why your father migrated to Australia?

MR: I think it was more or less because they were so poor over there and his brother was here and he said: "When I've got enough money, I'll bring you over", yeah. And that's what happened. Yeah.

OH: This was the brother that got killed in 1930, I think?

MR: Yes, it was about that, '30 or '31.

OH: Very sad.

MR: Yeah.

OH: And do you know why the brother Pietro came to Adelaide?

MR: No, no.

OH: Would they have left behind family members?

MR: Mmnn, there was eight children there, I think there was four girls and four boys.

OH: Did any of the others come to live in Australia?

MR: Yes, another brother, after the War. I can't remember what year it was but he came and lived with us for a while until he brought his family out, saved enough money to bring them out and they more or less went to live behind Bernos.

OH: On?

MR: Valetta Road.

OH: Right.

MR: Yeah and then he bought the corner of Valetta Road and Findon Road. And he started up a market garden there.

OH: And what was his name?

MR: Nico.

OH: He brought his wife and family?

MR: Mmnn...

OH: Which would have been, I imagine, lovely, for your father?

MR: Yeah, it was.

OH: And for your family?

MR: Mmnn.

OH: Do you know if your husband knew other people here, sorry, your father ...

MR: Yeah?

OH: So, Silvano Zampin, did he know any other Italians here?

MR: Well, they all seemed to mix with themselves, you know. Well, when we went up into Waymouth Street, they were all Italians in those little houses and well, they were all mixed up together plus one knows one, one knows the other and they meet together, and all the rest of it. Yeah. But, yeah.

OH: So it was quite a community?

MR: Mmnn.

OH: (10:42) I wanted to ask you, so you started your life in Waymouth Street and then your parents went to West Terrace?

MR: Yeah.

OH: Where was the next house?

MR: The next house was on Frogmore Road, on the corner of, just next to the bridge.

OH: So the bridge that links to Torrens Avenue?

MR: Yeah, yeah.

OH: What do you remember about that house?

MR: Oh, that house --- well, we lived there oh, for about four or five years, I think. I started school there. Mum lived next to, Mum and Dad lived next door to Berno, Jim Berno, I don't know if you know of him?

OH: Jim, not Gino?

MR: Yeah, Gino Berno.

OH: Right.

MR: Well, he married Jean Dyson and they were more or less --- they lived next door to one another. Well, Mum and Dad lived next door to them.

OH: So is that in that pair of maisonettes?

MR: Yeah.

OH: Oh, okay.

MR: Mmnn.

OH: Do you remember what that house was like inside?

MR: Well, yes, I went to live there when I got married, didn't I?

[laughter]

OH: So you'd know it very well.

MR: Yeah. Yeah.

OH: Who owned that house?

MR: Now, I don't know but in that time, I don't know who owned it then but later on, when we got married, my mother-in-law owned it because my father-in-law had died. But we lived there for about 10 or 15 years before we bought this house.

OH: Right. And as a child, did that house have a backyard?

MR: Only a little backyard. Smaller than this, only a quarter of the size because there were two of them together. Next door was a market garden. I think it was, I'm not sure who had it then. It could have been Pasquale's or De Pasquale. No, it wasn't Canino because they lived somewhere else. No, I don't know who had it then. But on the other side of the road was Dyson.

OH: Do you remember whether there were many other houses at that time when you were growing up there?

MR: Yes, there was us and then there was a big paddock and then there was --- my husband lived in one of the little tin houses there and yeah, there were a few houses. And on the other side there was some house as well, not a lot, you know.

OH: And what else was there apart from those houses?

MR: (13:40) My husband! [laughter]

OH: So you knew him as you were growing up?

MR: Yeah, yeah, but, he let me out the gate when he brought the milk up because we used to buy milk from him. And, yeah, he met up the gate and Mum pulled his ear. [laughter] He reckons I've been chasing him ever since. Or he did. [laughter]

OH: (14:11) Were there many other market gardens in that particular part of Frogmore Road?

MR: No, there were but I can't remember who had them then, you know except Dyson's, and Collins over the other side of the road. There were Slattery, --- Satterley, not Slattery. --- Yeah because sometimes I get mixed up with after I got married and what happened before.

OH: Because you lived in exactly the same house, that would be ...

MR: Confusing, yeah.

OH: Yeah. What about further down?

MR: Further down, there was the train. We used to go down that dirt track and in all the mud. There was Tonellato's and Santin's came later on... What's his name? I can't ... Tropeano, he was there. Slattery. I can't remember ... the Santin's, they came later on. Then Piovesan's come down there, oh after the War, yeah.

OH: So there were a few of the *veneti* who were living there?

MR: Yeah, quite a few. Yeah. We used to go ... because Secondo Tonellato, he was in the, in the train and we used to go around there and have a dance and you know, a few things. We all used to bring something to eat and have a nice old time, sometimes on a Saturday night, you know. But, all the boys were about the same, about my age, you know, there were quite a few of them. [laughs] yeah.³

*****Who were the boys around your age that you can remember from that time?*****

OH: So this is the *vagon*?

MR: Yeah.

OH: What do you remember it looked like?

MR: Oh, I went in there and thought to myself: "Oh, I'd love to be living in here." Running ... Because I was only a child at the time when I first went in there and I was running up and down, you know that passage that they've got. Yeah, it was really nice.

OH: People say it was just beautiful.

MR: Yeah.

OH: (16:34) I wanted to ask you some questions about your family life. And the first thing I wanted to ask was who were your godparents?

MR: --- Visentin. My, for birth, for baptism was my grandmother and I don't know who was my godfather but for when I got confirmed, it was Visentin, Giorgio. I don't know if you've heard of them? They were more or less ... come from about the same place too.⁴ They used to live at Torrensville and they used to, ... there is a light place on the Henley Beach Road and they used to look after their grounds, a great big lovely place, it was, and it had all these ducks, chickens, lovely garden. It was beautiful and we used to go up there quite a bit because Mum and Dad were pretty friendly with them, you know. So that was my godparents.

OH: (17:44) What language did you speak at home with your parents?

MR: English.

OH: So your Dad's English was ... good?

³ In the editing process, Milva explained that the boys she remembered were Elvio and Vito Rebuli, Nino and Nano Tonellato and the Griguols. There were also lots of boys who had just come from Italy after the war

⁴ Milva refers to Riese Pio X, as the same place that her father came from

MR: Yes it was, yeah it was good. There were times that, you know, he didn't know. "Millie, what's this? What's that?" [laughs] And Mum would tell him but, no his English was quite good. Yeah.⁵

*****Why did your family speak English and not Veneto? Did your mother speak Veneto?*****

OH: I wanted to ask about ... you started saying about the Visentin's and your parents being close to them?

MR: Yeah?

OH: (18:20) Who were the other people that your parents would have mixed with?

MR: Oh, the Ballestrin's --- Tonellato's, Rosalia Piovesan, --- Marena Zalunardo ... everyone around --- you know, Valetta Road and that, they were all friends, Santin's, the Santin's were godparents to one of my sisters and Marchioro's, all of them, they more or less got on really well. Johnny's parents were godparents to one of my sisters.

OH: The Marchioro's?

MR: Yeah, Yeah.

OH: Berno?

MR: No, they weren't. Gino was. Gino was godparent to my son, my brother.

OH: Right.

MR: Yeah, and Irma, that was his second wife, Jean was his first. But they all got on well, if they didn't, they didn't associate with them any more. [laughs]

OH: And did people, did your parents go and visit?

MR: Yeah.

OH: And did people come and visit your parents?

MR: Yeah, Dad was about the first one that got a car and we used to go around every Sunday and meet, talk to somebody. We used to go to Brazzalotto's over at Marion and they'd all talk to one another. You know, it was just ... a great big family.

OH: A lot of socialising between people?

MR: Yeah. Everybody knew everybody in the Italian part, you know. The south Italians, well, we stayed away from them, there was a bit of a thing about south Italians: "You're not going to marry a south Italian", and all that kind of stuff. But --- now they're all alright.⁶

[laughter]

OH: (20:34) What about your mother, how do you think it was for her moving into this community?

MR: Well, my mother had a mother that when she married Dad, she was disowned more or less because he was Italian and sometimes she'd come down to see Mum and Dad but not a lot. So Mum had to go out with the Italians, Same as us, we didn't know better, we only knew what --- we only

⁵ In the editing process Milva explained that her father wanted to learn English and her mother spoke a few words of Italian but not a lot.

⁶ Milva said that she thought it might have been similar to parts of England where people married in their own town, not in another.

knew Italians and we grew up with them, you know, it didn't worry us. When we went to school it was a bit different because we were dagoes, know what I mean? They more or less looked down on us. But we still had our friends in the Italians. But sometimes we felt as though we didn't belong to either of them because we were half and half but we grew out of that. --- We turned round and married Italians so we must have.

[laughter]

OH: Which is interesting, isn't it?

MR: Yeah.

OH: How many of you married Italians?

MR: Well, all of us except Cynthia, yeah. She married a Dutch man.

OH: It's very interesting, isn't it that that happened?

MR: Mmnn.

OH: So on your mother's side there weren't a lot of relatives?

MR: No.

OH: Who were part of the life you had. So your mother really embraced the Veneto community?

MR: Mmnn.

OH: Did she learn to speak Veneto?

MR: She could speak a little bit but it was mostly swearing. She always said and my mother-in-law said that if you swear in another language it is not as bad. [laughter]

OH: (22:31) And what about family rituals in your family?

MR: Family rituals? I don't think we had any. We always had a nice --- Christmas, was Christmas and we more or less, you know, had our Christmas lunch and that but it was all Italian, it wasn't Australian, no roast turkey, it was always something special, Italian style.

OH: And would your mother have learned to cook the Veneto style?

MR: My mother couldn't cook. Dad taught her. Yeah.

OH: He was obviously a good cook?

MR: We, I don't say he was a good cook but she more or less went out with the Italians and they taught her quite a bit, you know: "You do this, and you do that and you do something else." And she'd ask too, you know.

OH: So does that mean you would have had a lot of pasta?

MR: No we didn't have a lot of pasta. We had our own chickens because we were in the garden. Mum had ducks at one stage, we had plenty of vegetables. Dad used to go to market and bring back the meat from the ---- butcher on --- Currie Street, Mattiazzo.⁷ Yeah, and he'd go there once a week when he come home from the market on a Friday and bring it home. And we used to get most of our

⁷ Emilio Mattiazzo, was the butcher and he had emigrated from Bigolino like the Rebuli family

groceries from Star grocery and they were on Hindley Street on the corner there.

OH: Would your mother have gone into the city very often?

MR: Yeah --- oh, when are you talking about?

OH: Like when you growing up?

MR: When we were growing up, they brought out the Child Endowment, and she used to go up to... when the War was on, she'd have to go to the police station and get a permit to go into town, and then she'd more or less buy clothes with us, for us and that with the Endowment money.

OH: And that's interesting about during the War. So she was considered part of the Italian, kind of population, if she had to apply for that permit to move into a different area.

MR: And yet, Dad didn't have to. --- I don't know why. But that was what happened.

OH: Interesting.

MR: Hmmnn.

OH: (25:09) And other rituals, that your family might have taken part in? I was thinking of Italian rituals, like the killing of the pig?

MR: Oh yes, yes. We used to kill a pig. It didn't start until, oh I suppose when we were starting to really grow up, I was about 13 or 14 at the time and then Dad started because he didn't have money to buy pigs and all the rest of it. But he always made his own wine. We had a cellar down the back because we had the ---- American soldiers at the back of our place at that time. They had dugouts and when they left, we had the dugouts, they more or less filled in most of them but they left one, and Dad used to put all of his wine in the cellar out the back.

OH: How interesting. Where was this?

MR: (26:05) That was over on Henley Beach Road.

OH: Because I forgot to ask you about the next house after Frogmore Road.

MR: Yeah.

OH: When would you have gone to Henley Beach Road?

MR: I must have been about six years old. It would have been about before the War, yeah. About 1938, '38, '37 because Roma was born over there.

OH: And what was that house? Like was that leased?

MR: We leased it off Dring, the carrier people.

OH: Dring?

MR: Dring, yeah. He had a big carrier thing. Giacomelli used to lease it off of Dring and we leased, subleased and whatever, the house was only two rooms, to be honest. And it was only four of us there at the time but Dad more or less built a lean-to at the back and covered it all in and that and we went into that. Yeah.

OH: Was that right on Henley Beach Road?

MR: No, it was off the Henley Beach Road. Do you know where the school is?

OH: The Catholic school?

MR: Yeah, there.

OH: Yes. So it was right here?

MR: Right at the back, yes.

OH: And what was the land like, was it market garden land?

MR: Hmmm. Dad had about ten glasshouses. He leased them off Giacomelli and yeah, he used to grow peas and beans and all the rest of it, you know.

OH: Tomatoes?

MR: He was best at tomatoes. He tried everything but he always went back to beans and tomatoes.

OH: And they were a crop that followed each other, weren't they?

MR: Yeah.

OH: And any outside vegetables?

MR: Yes, beetroot, onions, brown onions, peas, little beans, carrots, potatoes. He used to grow potatoes for the troops and --- watermelons, yeah. All that kind of stuff.

OH: So quite a variety?

MR: Yeah, he was more or less trying it out to see what he was best at. But he always seems to go back to beans and tomatoes.

OH: Do you know how much land, roughly, he would have?

MR: Gosh, I don't know.

OH: Ten glasshouses plus room for the outside vegetables?

MR: I don't know because there was this great big hole at the back which was only sand so you couldn't use that and boxthorns. He never ever fixed that up. No, I wouldn't have a clue about how much land he had, but he quite a bit.

OH: And you were saying that you remembered the soldiers at the back of the land?

MR: Yeah. They ... the Aussies came in first and one night we were standing at the ..., it was raining and Dad had gone to the pictures, he used to go to the pictures on Saturday night and all of a sudden it was raining like anything somebody came knocking at the door. And Mum gets up she was bit scared because it was dark and all that and this American soldier knocked on the door and he says: "Where's the rest of the dugouts? Where are the dugouts?" And she said: "What do you mean? And he said, The Dugouts. And she said: "Oh, they're round the back." But they were there for about one night, two nights and the next night they were gone. But we always had Australian soldiers at the back.

OH: And lots of them?

MR: Yeah, lots of them, yeah.

OH: How interesting.

MR: They had lots of dugouts out there, yeah

OH: (30:25) And going back to the wine, do you know where your father would have got the grapes from?

MR: Probably Patrilli. Yeah. You've heard of them?

OH: Yeah, at Marion?

MR: Yeah.

OH: Right.

MR: They used to go and pick them and then bring them back. And then he'd wash his feet, he'd be there for an hour washing his feet --- then he'd get in there and start squashing.

[laughter]

OH: Hard work?

MR: Yeah.

OH: (30:56) And what about your Mum, did she help in the garden?

MR: Yeah. Mmmnn.

OH: How could she have done that with so many children?

MR: (31:00) Well, when she, when we frits went there, there was only me and Bruna. Roma was a baby, yes, she's about five, seven years younger than me. --- Well, she used to go in there and you know and went in the glasshouse and that. And then we got a whole, great big piece of land. Giacomelli gave, it he didn't give it to us. But there was no water or anything over there. And Dad said: "Alright, I'll try it out", you know, he had it for free. And he grew trombones and to get the water over there, he had to get these kerosene buckets. Have you ever seen a kerosene bucket? And put handles on them and they'd take two kerosene buckets and take them right over to the corner, it'd probably be from here to the Grange Road.

OH: Quite a distance?

MR: Yeah, mmmnn, yeah, Mum used to help. And do those kind of things. She used to pick tomatoes and that and ... I'd never seen her plant them but, you know, she used to pick them and pick beans and get the carrots and that ready. Then we'd come from home and wash them all. Then Dad would weigh the beans and then we'd have to put them on the truck for market next morning, yeah.

OH: (32:31) How often did your Dad go to market?

MR: He used to go three times a week; Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

OH: He had a truck?

MR: Yeah, first of all he had a --- horse and trolley and the horse threw, shied one day and he did a somersault and he hit his head or something and after that he got a truck.

OH: A bit dangerous, if that was going to happen?

MR: Yeah.

OH: (33:05) And the land that you had the glasshouses on and the other vegetables, that had water?

MR: No, it didn't. We used to have a well and we'd get the water there but because that land over the side was sandy. The water wouldn't go that far. But we'd dig trenches so the water would go along and go in the glasshouses. You understand what I'm trying to say?

OH: Mmnn. So from the well...

MR: Yeah, We had a great big trough that went right through Giacomelli's place and to our place and when it came to the end of the part, we'd more or less put a --- pipe there and it would go into this furrow and we'd water the... what do you call them like that?

OH: And flood them?

MR: Yeah.

OH: When you say Giacomelli, was that an Italian man?

MR: Yeah, he came from about the same place.

OH: So he was the one who had the land from Dring?

MR: Yeah.

OH: And then sub-let to your parents?

MR: Yeah.

OH: Okay, right.

MR: Yeah.

OH: There must have been big land around there?

MR: There was. Yeah, there was.

OH: Hmmnn and the sandy land that you're talking about, was that closer to the river?

MR: --- Oh, the river, river? Well, on the other side of this great big boxthorn, Hanks had their land and well, they used to more or less put the same kind of things as what we did. But I can't remember what they had, you know. But I used to hear over there playing football. Reb⁸ used to go there and play football with them.

OH: They were obviously really good characters in the area.

MR: Mmnn...

OH: (35:09) I was going to ask you about the War years because we started talking about that.

MR: Mmnnn.

OH: What else do you remember about the War years?

MR: What do you mean by that?

OH: You remembered the soldiers?

MR: Yeah.

OH: And you remember the --- permission that your Mum had to get?

⁸ 'Reb' was the nickname for Elvio Rebuli

MR: Yeah.

OH: Was there anything else?

MR: Well, Dad had to go, Dad was called up but he had his trigger finger blown off when he was in Italy. He picked up a grenade or something, and that's what told us, anyway. And because he didn't have his trigger finger, he couldn't go in the Army or whatever. So he worked in the munitions over at Woodville. Oh, and he came back and he did the garden as well.

OH: Wow, it must have been a busy time. So he'd go there during the day to the munitions ...?

MR: Oh, it was shift work and yeah, he'd go over there on his bike and because we didn't have the car then. Yeah, he'd go over there, work his shift and then come back. Yeah.

OH: (36:39) Do you know if your Dad was naturalised?

MR: Yes, he was.

OH: And would that have been important to him?

MR: Well, I think, I can't remember him getting naturalised but isn't there a law that says that if you marry an Australian person, you take over their --- naturalisation?

OH: I don't know, I think that that applies to the children but not ...

MR: I think it does but they took Mum's naturalisation away. They said that he was an Australian citizen but Mum wasn't. Yeah. That's why she had to go and get the permit.

OH: How interesting, that she had married an Italian.

MR: Mmmn.

OH: (37:35) I'm going to ask you about growing up and going to school. Where did you go to school in primary school?

MR: Primary school, I went down to Lockleys Primary School and then ...

OH: How would you have got there?

MR: Walked.

OH: So you would have crossed Henley Beach Road?

MR: Well, my children did the same, you know, when they were Yeah, crossed the Henley Beach Road.

OH: Were there other Italian families who sent their children there to school?

MR: Not that I can remember.

OH: What about other market gardener families?

MR: They went to Flinders Park. Mmmn. Because my husband went to Flinders Park. And we didn't stay at Lockleys for an awful long time because then we went up to Queen of Angels, to the Catholic school. We were more or less, we started at Lockleys, went --- Henley Beach Road, so we were more or less --- still going to Lockleys school but then the priest came down and made us go to the

Catholic school at what you call it? Thebarton and that's well, that's where I went. Roma and a few of the others went down to the Star of the Sea.⁹

OH: Right, so you finished your primary school at Queen of Angels?

MR: Yeah.

OH: (39:01) And then did you start high school there?

MR: No, I didn't go to high school. I stayed home and helped in the garden because by then we had about, Dad and Mum had about seven children, eight children, seven... about seven, yeah.

OH: So you had quite a responsible role then?

MR: Hmmn. I've always had a responsible role.

[laughter]

OH: That often happens with the first, doesn't it?

MR: Yeah, it does.

OH: (39:29) So you finished school in Year 7?

MR: Yeah.

OH: And then what ... how was it decided? Like were you...?

MR: We didn't decide, it was more or less the parents' decision, you know. Bruna, the next one, she did high school but not a lot. But she still went to high school. But that's the way it was. I didn't have a say in it, you know.

OH: So, what was the work that you were doing then?

MR: Digging glasshouses.

OH: Because your parents were moving the glasshouses every few years?

MR: Mmnnn, yeah, Oh that was an awful job, it really was.

OH: What did you have to do for that?

MR: Dismantle the whole lot and put them in another place. Just taking from one place and putting them in another place. Dismantle all that glass, and I tell you what it was awful when the hailstones come and smashed all the glass. We had to go in the glasshouses and pick up all the glass. It was shocking. But that was before I left school.

OH: The hailstones, you remember the hailstones?

MR: Mmnn...

OH: When you finished school would you have had to have started with your Dad?

MR: Yeah.

OH: What time would he have started?

MR: Light.

⁹ Star of the Sea Convent at Henley Beach

OH: Right. So you were up and then basically working alongside him.

MR: Mmn...

OH: So you would have got to know a lot about ...

MR: Gardening.

OH: What were some of the things that you enjoyed?

MR: I didn't. [laughter] I didn't. [laughs]

OH: So it was hard work?

MR: Yes, it was, Yeah. In those days, we had to dig the glasshouses, we didn't have rotary hoes or things like that. And then Dad got a rotary hoe and he started going around to all the gardeners and digging their grounds. And that used to help quite a bit.

OH: Mmnnn.

MR: Yeah, so.

OH: (41:41) Did you go to market with your Dad?

MR: When I was young, I went once on the --- on the horse and trolley. Yeah. And I got up about 2 o'clock in the morning to get there. Oh, I loved it. [laughs]

OH: I guess it would have been an adventure.

MR: Yeah, it was but I wasn't very old at the time, about nine or ten. Yeah. You know, just to see it, it was different. And then when he had the truck, a couple of times, I went.

OH: (42:16) And Milva, when you were working in the glasshouses and in the gardens with your Dad, did you have a social life?

MR: No because I stayed there, I was 14, I wasn't even 14 when I left school and it must have been, I was about 17 when I started working. I went up to Brazzales in Liverpool Street and I started working there. And then we'd still come home and work in the glasshouses.

OH: (42:50) Brazzales was the mica factory?

MR: Yeah.

OH: How did you get the job there?

MR: Dad knew Brazzales and he was talking to him one day and he just more or less said to him. I got the job of being leading hand, not leading hand, supervisor, you may as well say, before I left. And then I got married.

OH: How long did you stay at Brazzales?

MR: Oh, must have been about... what did I say, 17, 18, 19, 20. --- I was married at 19. Oh, only two, three years.

OH: How many people would have worked there at the time?

MR: About 40.

OH: And a lot of them were Veneti, women?

MR: Yeah, yeah.

OH: How was it moving from working at home on the market gardens to a work place like that?

MR: Heaven! [laughter] Dad... Yes, it was heaven. Well, we used to come home, put our envelope on the table and Dad used to give us 30 shillings a week. And we'd have to do everything because we used to bike up there every morning and every night.

OH: That's quite a distance.

MR: Mmnnn.

OH: Was it early hours?

MR: If they were busy, yes. We'd start at 7.00 otherwise we start at 8:00. Sometimes we used to go quite late in the night. Depends on how many orders were in. Yeah.

OH: When you say, 'we', who else in your family?

MR: Myself and Bruna, mmnn. Then Roma came up for a little while but then she went over to Mottrams or something like that and then she went down to Holden's.

OH: You were saying that you were supervisor?

MR: Mmnnn.

OH: By the time you finished. That must have been interesting part of the job?

MR: Yeah, it was, yeah. Used to weigh all things out, time books and all the rest of it.

OH: It's that responsibility again?

MR: Yeah, Again. It seems to me like that I get it, doesn't matter where I go.

[laughter]

OH: (45:14) And what was your social life, then, when you were at Brazzale's?

MR: We used to go to a dance on Saturday night at Saint Patrick's and we'd meet all the boys and we'd go up by bus, no, tram. And we'd always get a ride home from the boys. My husband included. [laughs]

OH: Your parents trusted you?

MR: Oh we had to be home by 11:00 because the last tram went about 11, quarter past. Yeah. But lots of times we sneaked around. Dad would go out and play cards or go to the pictures or something and we'd be a bit late so we'd come home by tram and we'd hear Dad's car, truck [laughs] because we had a great big lot of land in the front and we used to more or less hide in there and because we used to sleep in the front and Dad made a house, it wasn't really a house because we used to sleep on the verandah. And we had a hessian thing in the front like a blind and we used to sleep in there. So we could sneak in the front without ... and when he'd go and put the car in the shed and we'd sneak in and get into bed with all our clothes on because Dad used to check up on us.

OH: So you had a kind of system worked out. [laughter]

MR: You had got to. [laughter]

OH: (46:46) I was going to ask you about --- the dance at Saint Patrick's.¹⁰

MR: Yeah?

OH: Who were the sorts of the people who went to that dance?

MR: Tonellato's, Santin's, Pasin --- Oh, just about everyone, you know, round my age at the time. Griguols', yeah. --- I'm talking about Lea Tonellato, she married Nano and all, they all seemed to, we all seemed to mix up together, you know. Tormena's, --- Rossetto. Who else? Urbani's?

OH: So lots of Italians?

MR: Yeah.

OH: Was it mainly a dance for Italians?

MR: No, no, it was just that a lot of them went to, because they used to live in town and a lot of them used to go to St Pat's school and of course, being in the mica factory we mixed up with Maria Tormena and all that crowd and she said: "Come on, we'll go in there." And of course, we had a job talking Mum and Dad around letting us go. But we finished off going. And then we found out that all the boys from ---- The Tonellato's and all them were there. So we used to get a ride home, sometimes. It depended. [laughs] Yeah.

OH: Oh, that's interesting.

OH: (48:26) Then, how, did you move from being, you know, the eldest girl in your family, to being Elvio's wife?

MR: Oh, well, he was in the crowd, you know and it more or less, he kept following me around. [laughs] Couldn't get rid of him. [laughs] And sometimes he would come up to meet us because when we were coming home from work and that. and we just, well, everybody else, everybody seemed to pair up, you know, so --- it was just --- just we met one another, Oh we met one another when we were quite young but we knew one another, you know, the same as the Tonellato's, we knew them all. We were friendly with all of them.

OH: How would your parents thought of you marrying a Rebuli?

MR: There was no worries, no.

OH: Was it, do you think it was good thing for them that you were marrying into an Italian family?

MR: I don't think it worried them. I suppose it would have been, mmnn.

OH: And that they knew the family?

MR: Mmnn... because there were a lot of new Australians out at that time. And a lot of them they didn't know.

OH: These are the ones who came after the War?

MR: Yeah.

OH: Mmnn. It was interesting how it was a different generation.

MR: There was a little bit of animosity there, you know. Well, we were ... there weren't a lot of girls around, you know [laughs] and the new Australians used to come in and pinch their girls, so they said. Yeah.

¹⁰ St Patrick's hall, located in the same grounds as St Patrick's church, Grote Street in the City of Adelaide

OH: Oh, that's interesting.

MR: Yeah.

OH: (50:33) When you went to work at Brazzale's, did anyone else replace you in the garden, you know, working with your Dad?

MR: No, I don't think they did --- No. --- Because Bruna was still at school and she came up to Brazzale's too and then Roma came up as well. But, yeah.

OH: So your Dad would have been there working hard?

MR: Yeah, but we used to help him when we come home.

OH: Right, and so everyone in the family as they grew older, would have had had jobs?

MR: Yeah, yeah. He used to wait for us to come home so that we could go and you know, help. Yeah, the nights we were there weighing beans and sorting tomatoes and all the rest of it. 8.00 and half past 8:00 in the night, go in and have our tea and go to bed and get up next morning.

OH: And were you doing work in the garden before you went to school or went to work?

MR: Yeah.

OH: What sort of things would you be doing then?

MR: Pruning tomatoes, picking tomatoes, beans or whatever was around.

OH: So, always tasks for everybody?

MR: Yeah, yeah.

OH: Quite a hard life?

MR: It was, yeah.

OH: (52:12) At what point did your parents move to the next house?

MR: Well, I was married. You mean the one at Findon?

OH: Yes.

MR: I was married. We more or less put our money in the bank every week or Dad put our money in the bank to buy that land and I didn't reap the benefit of it.

OH: Can you tell me where that land was?

MR: Oh, Angley Avenue, do you know were the --- how can I say this? It was, there was Lasscocks Nursery next door and Pergoletti's, along that road. And McCallum's, they had the orchid place across the road. He had, all the way from Angley Avenue right up to the back of the dump, he had that land.

OH: How much land was there then?

MR: That again, I can't say, it was quite a bit, you know. I suppose it would be about double the width of the block

OH: Double the width of the usual house block?

MR: Yeah.

OH: Oh, I've forgotten --- Did he move the glasshouses?

MR: Yes. Mmnn. Lucky I wasn't there. [laughter]

OH: I was just thinking, it's such a big job.

MR: Mmnn.

OH: So he transferred the ten glasshouses?

MR: Yeah.

OH: Had that been used before by a market gardener?

MR: --- No, not that I know of. --- There was a well there, though. Yeah.

OH: Was there a house on that land?

MR: Yeah, yeah.

OH: So the family was able to move into the house?

MR: Yeah, and he made the kitchen bigger. We used to go round there on a Sunday night, play cards and have tea, you know, with all our kids. Mum used to be glad when we left, I suppose. But still [laughs] we used to enjoy it.

OH: So, roughly when would they have moved there?

MR: I was married in '52 so about '53, '54.

OH: How important would it have been to your parents to have moved there?

MR: Oh, they were in heaven. Mmnn.

OH: Why?

MR: Why? Because it was one of their dreams, I suppose. And Mum had had Peter, my brother, and --- well, Peter, my brother was --- sunshine, you know it was their dream and Mum and Dad had three dreams, two dreams there, just like that.

OH: And the first dream was about ...?

MR: Peter, because having all us girls and a boy, it'd be a ... yeah. But Peter was in the middle of my two eldest children. They used to get on really well together.

OH: Oh, an uncle but really close in age.

MR: Yeah.

OH: And when you say that your parents had that second dream, was that to own land?

MR: Mmnn... yeah because they were only renting land on the other side, yeah.

OH: And they'd done that since the time that they were married?

MR: Well, not, no --- since I had been about five.

OH: Right.

MR: Yeah, five, six.

OH: So, a long time.

MR: Yeah.

OH: Milva, we've come nearly to the end of this piece of the interview and so I'm going to say thank you for giving such a lot of good information and we'll pick it up with the next interview.

MR: Alright.

OH: So thank you very much.

MR: Mmnn.

Second interview recorded on 28th March 2017

OH: This is a second interview recorded for the Italian market gardeners oral history project. I'm interviewing Milva Rebuli nee Zampin and I'm interviewing her at Flinders Park on 28th March 2016 and I am Madeleine Regan. Milva, thank you for the second interview today. It's great that you've been able to give the time.

(00:28) We were talking towards the end of the previous interview about you know, your parents' dream of owning land at Findon and I just wanted to ask ... the glasshouse got moved over there?

MR: Mmnn

OH: And then, how did your father and mother start up again with the market gardens?

MR: Well, with that --- when --- I was married at the time so I ... Sandra would be able to tell you more about that than I can because, well, I was married, I was more or less out of that part at the time.

OH: Right.

MR: So I can't really help you there.

OH: I'm just assuming that they would have grown the same kind of vegetables.

MR: The same kind of vegetables. Yeah. Mmnn. As far as I know they were. Oh, I did go over and work there after all my crowd were born. [laughs] A little bit, you know, couple of days a week, afternoons a week and prune tomatoes or whatever. Mmnn.

OH: So your Dad and Mum were lucky in a way that they had people who could continue to work with them. [laughs]

MR: Yeah, that was after Sandra had got married and for two or three years until he retired.

OH: When would he have retired?

MR: That, I don't know. No, I don't know.

OH: (02:10) And we were talking before, you and I, before the interview about your parents going to Italy and do you remember when they first went to Italy?

MR: Um, ---- no, see I don't really know the first time. It was just after the War, they went on a boat. Yeah. And they came back with a new car, a Simca, a red one. And they had it shipped it over. They went right through Italy and France, bought the car in France and went to Italy and then had it shipped it over here. But I don't know an awful lot about that because, well, I was married and didn't see them an awful lot.

OH: Did they go by themselves, the first time?

MR: Yeah. Mmnn.

OH: Do you know what it would have been like for your mother to go?

MR: Well, she was quite happy to go, yeah. She --- you know, was all getting things ready and that, really happy.

OH: And for your Dad, were the relatives still alive, you know his parent still alive then?

MR: Yeah, they were still both alive, even the second time they went over, they were both still alive. I think one of his sisters had died but, no, they, well, you see, I can't say an awful lot there because I don't really know.

OH: But obviously, it was important.

MR: Yeah, oh, they always wanted to go, he was always, she always wanted to go, Mum always wanted to go and meet her ...you know, and Dad, when we were home, he'd always say something about our grandfather and our grandmother. He slept with the Pope and all this kind of stuff, you know.

OH: And tell me about that joke?

MR: Oh, we were talking one day and he says, you know, I slept with the Pope. And we all looked at him, you know, because we were all quite young and we went to school next day and we told them

[laughs] The nuns weren't very impressed. [laughter]

OH: I can understand.

MR: From what I can gather he was quite and you know how young kids go over one place and another, they probably while the others played cards. [laughs]

OH: And the reason that he said that was because he came from the same village as Pope Pius the tenth?

MR: Pio, wasn't it?

OH: Yeah.

MR: Yeah, I've got one of my sisters called, her second name is Riese after the town, yeah.

OH: (05:02) And what did your father tell you about your grandparents?

MR: Not an awful lot, just that, they did this, they did that. Not an awful lot. Dad was more or less, always thinking about his garden and all the rest of it, you know. But every now and then, he'd come out with something, but not an awful lot. I can't help you out much there. [laughs]

OH: So your parents had two visits to Italy?

MR: I think they had three. Mmnn, yeah. They went over and you know, each time, they used, because Dad's sisters were mother superiors in the convent and not sisters, aunties and they used to go there and see them and stay there and pay their way, you know. And then they'd go up and see the grandfather, --- my grandfather and go all around, you know, but they used to spend a lot of time there in Riese seeing different people.

MR: (06:19) But when we went over there, when we said where did the Zampins live. They didn't know him, nobody knew where the Zampins were because they had a nickname, *Fasin* and soon as you say *Fasin*, they all knew. Of course, half the town's Zampins. [laughter]

OH: Do you know how the nickname *Fasin* came about?

MR: No, no, I think it must go way back.

OH: When did you go, Milva?

MR: I went --- when did I go? Must be about... Tania was about 16 and what is she now, 40? --- How many years ago is that? 40.

OH: So she's 40 now?

MR: About 14, 15, oh no, it's more 25.

OH: Twenty something.

MR: Yeah.

OH: So you and Elvio and went?

MR: Yeah.

OH: Was that the first time?

MR: Yeah. It's a beautiful place, you know. I went to see my auntie Adelia, she my uncle Nico, that's his wife. My uncle Nico went back to Italy and he died there. He took Irene, my cousin, and --- I can't remember the boy's name ... anyway, they went back and Irene stayed here and we went to see them and they took us around and we had lunch there and that. And then we went to see my Auntie's sisters and went to see one of Dad's sisters but she more or less made me feel awful. She said:

"What's the good of bringing her here? She can't talk to me". [laughter] So it didn't leave a very good taste in my mouth. But we stayed with Reb's people, you know, and with Lino Rebuli, he's got an

*osteria*¹¹ there.

OH: At Bigolino?

MR: Yeah. We stayed there with him because he and Reb used to get on really well. They're two of a kind. But he died too. I still keep in touch with Marisa, his wife and Johnny, Johnny Rebuli. You got him in this as well, the one who went back to Italy?

OH: No, I don't. He had been here?

MR: Yeah, he had come here. He's Richetto's nephew. Two sisters married two brothers and well, they both come out here and Doro went back, that's the brother. And stayed there, he died there. But his wife's still alive and Johnny's still there with his mother. And he comes over every now and then and sees us. He's a bit like Guido¹², he's a --- ratbag. [laughter]

OH: He speaks English?

MR: Yeah, yeah, he grew up, he went to school went to ... yeah. Went to high school and all here and they went back so he's got quite a responsible job, yeah. He travels the world, marketing. Mmmn..

OH: I don't know him. What was the experience like for you to meet some of your Dad's relatives?

MR: Well, I had met my auntie before because she was out here.

OH: Did she speak English?

MR: No --- well, you don't need to know the language do you? [laughter] as we've proven with Mum and Dad. [laughter] Well, Dad's people, --- they didn't make a very big impression on me, to be honest because most of them had died when I went over there and I didn't see a lot of them because we were only there in the afternoon and we only saw a little bit, you know. But Reb was too busy with his own side of the family. [laughs]

OH: That must be so important when you go back.

MR: Yeah, but more his side of the family. I saw all of his side and they treated us well, so you know.

OH: Was language a barrier?

MR: No because a lot of them speak English. Yeah, all my nieces spoke English. A lot of them learn English in schools over there now and it's proper English, too.

OH: (11:39) And Milva, I'm interested in how you feel about your Italian heritage.

MR: How do I feel about it? Well, they're my people, aren't they? They're --- well, they are my heritage, more so than the Australian ones well, let's face it, we've been brought up with it. Oh we go both ways but --- we're more Italian, than what, I think all of us are more Italian than Australian, yeah.

OH: How would that show, that you are more Italian?

MR: Well, now --- I can go, I can down the shop and see someone who's Italian and I'll stay there and talk to them and that's me. But if I see someone Australian that I know, I'll still do that but I seem to lean more towards the Italian side than what, --- what I do to the Australian side. Can you understand that?

OH: Hmmn, I think that's really interesting.

MR: Yeah. Well, we were brought up with Italians. It's not that we don't know Australians, it's Italians and most of our ways are Italian even down to ... last night they come around here and had

¹¹ An *osteria* is a casual café kind of eating place in Italy

¹² Guido Rebuli, Milva's brother-in-law. See interview 872/25

Easter with me. It's a tradition, it's like Christmas, they come here on Christmas night. Well, everybody brings a plate, they don't expect me to feed them but everyone brings a plate and the whole family is here, the whole 50 of them. Yeah, they're getting more. [laughter]¹³

OH: That is a very strong Italian kind of kind of tradition, isn't it?

MR: Family, yeah.

OH: Especially to mark those two seasons.

MR: Yeah.

OH: (13:50) When you were growing up as a child at school and --- who would have your friends have been?

MR: I didn't have a lot of friends at school. None of us did, I think because we always had to get home early and help in the garden. Oh there was certain, they weren't a lot of Italians up there, there was only a couple and...

OH: On your side of the river?

MR: Oh, then are you talking about when I went to --- Star of the Sea or?

OH: Oh, sorry I wast thinking about when you were ---

MR: Not Star of the Sea but Queen of Angels.

OH: Queen of Angels, just thinking about where your parents were on Henley Beach Road...

MR: Yeah?

OH: There weren't many Italians there then?

MR: There was no one, there weren't any. There was only Giacomelli, well he was single, well he was a man, you know, older and then his brother came out. But there was no Italians, no Italians there at all. But of course we lived just across the road from bookmakers row, if you know where that it. It's --- um , do you know where, do you know Henley Beach Road?

OH: Yes.

MR: Do you know where all those flash houses were?

OH: On the other side, like the southern side, the airport side?

MR: Yeah. Well that used to be called bookmakers row

OH: Oh okay.

MR: In those days. Yeah. And they were all toffs, you know. But there was no one there for us to more or less mix with.

OH: But as you said when you were at home, you had jobs in the garden.

MR: Yeah.

OH: (15:44) So where you met other children apart from your family would have been social occasions with the community?

MR: Oh, yeah, we used to mix with the Italian people, yeah. But there weren't a lot around those times it was only when we got a bit older and we used to mix with Lea, the Griguol's and Tonellato's and all that, when we got a bit older, you know, when we were working.

OH: But I was wondering if you would have gone to weddings...

MR: Yeah.

OH: With your parents? Like people in the Veneto community?

¹³ Milva explained in the editing process that three of her children, Jenny, Linda and Bruno learned Italian and also one of her granddaughters, Laura, is learning Italian

MR: Yeah.

OH: What do you remember about those sorts of occasions?

MR: Well, it was nothing like there is today [laughs] There was more or less, we always used to make our own sandwiches and cook our own chickens, and do up the plates. When one got married, we'd all go and help, the young ones would go and help and put things on the table and that and go and make sandwiches and decorate the place as much as we could. It was all help, you know. It cost but it didn't cost what it does today. We used to cook the chickens in a copper and you know, that'd be boiled most of the time and then we'd put, cut them up and put them on the tables and that. Yeah, The same with me, well that's what they did when I got married, they all came and helped.

OH: (17:27) Where did you get married?

MR: I was the first one in Christ the King.

OH: On?

MR: On the Henley Beach Road, the new one.

OH: Oh, in 1953?

MR: In 1952. Yeah, then we went up to --- you know on Taylors Road, there's, remember where the police station used to be --- on Taylors Road? --- you know where Queen of Angels Church is?

OH: Yes.

MR: Well, there's the convent next door and then there's the post office and then over the road, is a big hall, there, in there, we had a big reception there.

OH: So, did you name South Road as Taylors Road?

MR: Yeah.

OH: Oh, okay. On the corner of George Road and South Road, Taylors Road?

MR: That's right.

OH: And everyone helped provide food?

MR: Yeah, we had 500 people at our wedding.

OH: --- 500? [exclaims] And who were they all?

MR: Well, in those days, you used to ask all your *paesani*¹⁴ and all your relatives and of course all these people that you're interviewing, were part of our group, you know. And they would bring their children and their children and Reb's, well, half of Bigolino was there, you know. So, the Rossetto family is not small not by a long way.

OH: So, plenty of people?

MR: Mmnn.

OH: And what about your dress?

MR: My dress? Do you want to see my dress?

OH: Maybe, after.

MR: Not my dress, not ---

OH: Well, you can tell me about it and then we could have a look at it. Did someone make it for you?

MR: No, I bought it. I saved up all my money that I ... 52 pound, I paid for it and ...

OH: That would have been quite a lot of money?

MR: Yeah, out of 30 shillings a week, yes. I paid for it.

¹⁴ *Paesani* are people who come from the same village and area in Italy

OH: Where did you buy it from?

MR: Miller Andersons, yeah. So, yeah.

OH: Long?

MR: Yeah, long and --- oh, it was quite a nice dress. I made one almost the same for my daughter, my eldest daughter, when she got married because I used to sew.

OH: Oh how lovely. And who were your bridesmaids?

MR: I don't ... One was Cath and the rest were my sisters.

OH: Cath?

MR: Cath Zuccolotto. She went back to Griffith with her husband.

OH: Right. And I think we're being visited here by someone, so we'll take a break for a minute.

MR: Yeah.

Continuation of the second interview, joined by Milva's daughter, Stephanie Burgess.

OH: We're resuming part 2 of interview number 2 with Milva Rebuli

And Milva, we were just talking about your wedding and your daughter has arrived and we're going to see the photo but is there anything else that you would like to say that you haven't said in this interview?

MR: Not that I know of. Unless you can remind me of something, I don't know. [laughs]

OH: I wanted to I guess just ask you how important that community of people is to you, even now.

MR: Yeah, it is important because well, they're my life aren't they?

SR: Just to interrupt, we were watching 'The Godfather' the other day and we were having a joke about it and Mum said to me that so much of our heritage, not the murdering and that. But the Italian life, it's so much more relaxed and huge families together and all that. It is.

MR: Yeah

OH: Yeah.

SR: And something that I didn't use because I got picked on a lot as being Italian when I was little. That's why I didn't have much to do, yeah but now I'm sorry that I've missed all that.

MR: Yeah.

OH: Yeah and that's difficult when you get picked on and you were saying. And I should say that Stephanie is here and Stephanie is Milva's daughter, and has just come in. But being picked on because I think you said that too, Milva?

SR: Did you, Mum? You got picked on too?

MR: Yeah. More than you did. [laughs]

SR: Oh, primary school was awful for me.

OH: And for you, it obviously ...

SR: It would have been, yeah.

OH: It would have been quite difficult?

MR: Yeah, We used to go past the public school and that used to make it even worse because they'd all, they were mostly Aussies in those days, you know.

SR: And you were fresh people, even though you were born here, it was fresh people off the boat, the Italians who knew that.

MR: Yeah.

OH: And I think it happens to every new group of migrants really, doesn't it?

MR: Yeah. We were saying the other day, Roma and I, the Vietnamese and all the rest of them are all going through what we went through even though we were born here. They're going through what we went through.

OH: Yes.

MR: You've got to feel sorry for them because you know what's it like.

OH: Yeah, and it's about your name and not that any of you looked really different?

MR: I don't know. [laughs]

SR: You know what? I think we did look a lot different. For every it was such --- I mean, Australians are basically English and whatever but you had these dark people coming over and we, Australians didn't even like the Aborigines, they still give them a hard time.

MR: Mmnn.

SR: But we were different customs completely, you know? Dark skin, ate all this food that nobody ever heard of, smelly food.

[laughter]

SR: For weeks or years, I hated taking my salami sandwiches to school and I used to hide them only to find out that my friends, Australian friends wanted my salami sandwiches and I wanted their vegemite. [laughter] Great friendships for you.

OH: Yeah. I'm sure they do. Yes, that is interesting, isn't it.

MR: Yeah.

OH: And I can pick up that you still feel that strong feeling about being Italian.

MR: Yeah, yeah. But if anyone picked on me now, well, I'd say that's your problem, it's not mine. But I'm older now and know better.

OH: Yeah, I think that's really true.

MR: Yeah.

OH: In terms of this project, I'm wondering what you think of the idea of interviewing people who were in the market gardening community.

MR: Well, I think it's good, yeah. I really do, I think it's good that someone can speak out and that someone's gone to the trouble to do it. Because I couldn't have done it. Well, anyone who can do it, I'm fully in favour of it, you know. What can I say? [laughs]

OH: I'm glad that you are, and also that you've agreed to be interviewed. I think that's terrific, and also a way of remembering your parents too.

MR: Yeah. Would you like to have a look? Have you finished?

OH: Well, thank you very much for being interviewed today and for giving, you know, such lovely memories and details about your family.

MR: I hope it's helped you.

OH: It has, a ...

MR: Yeah.

OH: And it's given me, you know, another perspective.

[laughter]

OH: So thank you very much, Milva.