

**Italian market gardeners oral history project**  
**Interview OH872/9 with Adelina (Lina) Rismondo nee Marchioro**  
**deposited in the JD Somerville Oral History Collection**  
**in the State Library of South Australia**  
**recorded by Madeleine Regan at Cowandilla, South Australia**

**Interviews recorded 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June, and 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

---

**First interview conducted on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

**Lina, we're going to start with your background. Can you tell me when and where you were born?**

*Well I was born in Adelaide, City of Adelaide, on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1927.*

**And I think you were born in Hindley Street.**

*In a boarding house in Hindley Street. My Uncle owned the boarding house.*

**And was that your Uncle on your mother's side?**

*On my mother's side.*

**And how long had he been here?**

*About four years before my mother came.*

**Right! And I guess that would have been the reason that your parents came.**

*Yes, he sponsored them.*

**Oh right, right.**

*Yes.*

**Yeah! And the date of your birth is really just a year after your parents arrived.**

*Yes, mm.*

**Your parents arrived in March of?**

*The 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1926.*

**And can you tell me about your parents, when they were born and where they were born?**

*Well my father was born in Malo, Province of Vicenza.*

**In the Veneto region?**

*In the Veneto Region, and my mother's Monte di Malo, Province of Vicenza.*

**And your father's name was?**

*Francesco.*

**And he was born in what year?**

*28<sup>th</sup> October, 1901.*

**And your mother's name was?**

*Margherita, and she was born on 26<sup>th</sup> of May, 1904.*

**So when they arrived in Adelaide they were in their twenties?**

*Yes.*

**So they were probably pretty energetic and ...?**

*And full of hope.*

**Yeah, yeah, and what a big thing.**

*Oh, they thought they'd only stay a few years, only a few years until they'd made enough money to live comfortably (laughs) initially. It didn't work out that way.*

**No. And you've told me that as a young child you moved fairly often ...**

*Often.*

**... with your parents.**

*Yeah, in Adelaide.*

**So you moved from Hindley Street to?**

*We went to Sturt Street, Gilbert Street, and then the last one was Waymouth Street, and that was before we came here to Lockleys.*

**And your, when your parents arrived they brought your sister, who was ...?**

*Six months old.*

**Six months old.**

*Maria.*

**And then by the time your family moved to the market garden there was another daughter?**

*Well that was later, 1938.*

**1938.**

*My sister was born.*

**Right. And when your parents were living in the City of Adelaide, what was your father doing?**

*He worked for my Uncle, my mother's brother, who had the terrazzo business, and he worked for him.*

**Right. And in Adelaide worked?**

*In Adelaide, all around Adelaide. I think they had part of the building of Government House, I believe, my father used to tell me, and the Adelaide Railway Station. They did all the terrazzo there.*

**Wow!**

*All the Del Fabbro was with them too.*

**Right. Hard work!**

*Oh yes, hard work.*

**Yeah. And do you know ... so your parents arrived in 1926, what year did they move to the market garden?**

*Well I was about six or seven.*

**OK, so that would have made you ... that would have made it, say early-1930s?**

*Yes.*

**And do you know why they moved?**

*Well my Uncle had arrived in Australia and he ...*

**And that's Johnny Marchioro's father?**

*Johnny's father, and he did suggest that Dad and he have a market garden at Lockleys. That's where most of the Italians went, anyhow, from that Veneto Region, they went to Lockleys.*

**That's the Frogmore Road?**

*Frogmore Road, we called it Lockleys, Frogmore Road.*

**Mm.**

*But my father kept on working in the terrazzo while Uncle and Mum worked the garden.*

**And you've ...**

*And they shared the profits and expenses of course.*

**Oh. And you've told me that your mother was a very strong, physically strong woman.**

*Yes, she was, very energetic, and strong-minded too.*

**Yes, she probably had to be I imagine.**

*Well yes with ...*

**And can you remember moving to Frogmore Road?**

*No, I don't remember the actual moving, no I don't. I just remember that I used to come down with my mother and my little, and my sister Mary, or Maria, to work on the garden, but then we'd go home at night time.*

**And the home, your home was on Frogmore Road?**

*Well it wasn't built then. Dad built it later on when he got some money. He built this wooden/iron house.*

**Oh, OK, so you were still living in the city?**

*For a short time, yes.*

**And you and your Mum and your sister would go and work on the market garden, and then go back home?**

*Go back home, yes.*

**And how did you travel?**

*Well a tram went to Torrens Road, Torrens Avenue.*

**Along Henley Beach Road?**

*Henley Beach Road, and we used to walk from Henley Beach Road down to Frogmore Road and we had to cross the Torrens River.*

**Just a very narrow plank.**

*Narrow plank (laughs).*

**Across the Torrens.**

*Across the Torrens, and then when it was floating on the top of the water we'd have to go back to Henley Beach Road and come around Rowells Road and ...*

**And cross the bridge.**

*The Keele Bridge.*

**Yeah, that connected Rowells Road with Findon Road.**

*Yes, yes.*

**An extra long walk.**

*It was, yes.*

*Laughter*

**And do you remember, you know, when you were working with your Mum, what ...?**

*Well I didn't actually do any work.*

**Oh, so you went there probably ...**

*I was only a child, I was seven or eight I suppose.*

**Yeah.**

*I didn't do any work. I remember that once I went and tried to see if the watermelons were ripe and I put little tiny slots and pulled out the slots to see if they were ripe, and of course they all went rotten, because they weren't ripe of course, and by the time the watermelon got ripe it was rotten.*

**Oh! And ...**

*That was the only work I ever did.*

**(Laughs) It wasn't found out who did it?**

*I suppose they knew who did it.*

*Laughter*

**And tell me about the house. So you said that your Dad built an iron and wood house.**

*He built a wooden iron house, yes.*

**And what was that like, how big?**

*Oh, I suppose the rooms were all at least 12 by 12 feet, two bedrooms, and the kitchen, and Mum always wanted a dining room which we never used, it was a spare room, but she just liked to have a dining room.*

**And what would the floor have been?**

*Cement floors, cement, but they put lino on top of the cement.*

**Right, and would there have been plumbing in those days, like did you have water and ...?**

*Yes, my father did all that. He knew how to do all that.*

**Yeah, yeah. And when your family moved there I guess the market gardening would have begun in earnest then?**

*Yes.*

**And what, what were your parents growing?**

*Mainly potatoes and onions and beetroot, and trombone.*

**Right! So at that time there weren't glasshouses?**

*No, not then, no, no.*

**Right! So it would have been very labour-intensive work.**

*Well, my Uncle did the hard work there, heavy work, and my mother helped planting and picking the crop. That was her work, but Uncle did all the heavy work. Of course he had a horse and plough.*

**And you were telling me that there were quite a few families that were doing the same kind of work.**

*Same, yes, same, and nobody had glasshouses then, couldn't afford to build them.*

**Right, yeah. And one of the things that you told me that's really interesting was that your mother remembered going into the City of Adelaide in 1927 when something special happened. Can you tell me about that – the Royal Visit?**

*Oh, the Duke of York and Elizabeth, yes, they came for a visit in Adelaide.*

**And your Mum told you that Elizabeth, Queen Elizabeth, was just a baby.**

*She was about six months old, yes.*

**Oh!**

*Yes, she said that the, the mother, she was holding the baby in her arms so I presume it was only about six, seven months old.*

**It must have been a very exciting occasion for people in 1927?**

*Yes.*

**And of course there's an interesting story about the railway carriage, isn't there?**

*That's right. When Tonellato, his family came from Italy, I think it was the cheapest thing to do, was to buy a carriage to put all his ... because he had five children I think, four boys and a girl, and that suited him and his family. A lovely carriage it was.*

**And do you remember it?**

*Oh yes, yes. Rosina, the daughter, she used to be so proud of it and she'd be polishing it inside, beautiful, yeah.*

**Because I think it was all beautifully decorated and wood ...**

*Oh, lovely.*

**... and velvet.**

*Beautiful wood and velvet, yes.*

**It must have seemed like a palace?**

*A palace, it was, yeah.*

**Yeah.**

*Yeah.*

**And the 'vagon' as it was called was ...**

*They called it vagon, yes.*

**How far was that from your house on Frogmore Road?**

*Oh, I would say about, well from here to the shopping centre, what would you think that would be, how many ...?*

**Oh, probably about half a kilometre or something.**

*That's not even, not even ...*

**Not even half a kilometre.**

*Quarter of a kilometre.*

**Right.**

*Mm.*

**Yeah! And there was another house there near that vagone?**

*There was a little house, that was of brick actually, but I don't know who built that. That's where Piovesan lived.*

**Right.**

*And that was opposite the vagon.*

**Yeah, and it was quite a centre that people came to?**

*Oh yeah, that was the centre, yeah.*

**And what happened there?**

*Well that's where, as I said, at least twice a week the men would go there of a night time and Mum would be roasting some chestnuts and the men would be singing, and that was lovely. I can still hear them singing, mm.*

**And how many would have been there?**

*Oh, about seven or eight of them, yeah, mostly bachelors of course.*

**Oh, OK.**

*Yes. One by one they got their wives from Italy.*

**Yeah, because your Uncle Vittorio eventually brought his wife?**

*Wife, and Piovesan did and because Tonellato, he was married and he brought his wife and children over here. Then there was the Zalunardo he got married over here to an Italian girl. I don't know whether he knew her from Italy, I don't know, but anyhow he married an Italian girl, and I know there was seven ... and there was another Mr Atto Rossetto, he used to come from the city to come down and spend the evening with these men, you know, they were all bachelors, and they all knew each other, they ...*

**Yeah, that would have been a really important social occasion?**

*Oh, it was, yes, yes. Oh, the singing was beautiful. I can still here them singing. I feel as though, you know, I can remember them all standing out with their arms around each other's shoulders, you know, singing away (laughs).*

**Oh, and would it have been outside?**

*No, inside the kitchen.*

**Of the Piovesan?**

*Of the Piovesan kitchen.*

**So it was that sense of a community getting together?**

*Yes.*

**And where were the women? Well some of them weren't here of course.**

*No, my mother was the only woman. There was another lady, a Mrs Rossetto, but she lived near, in the Keele house.*

**On Findon Road?**

*Findon Road. And she'd come there with her little babies and her pram, and her husband would be one of the men in the coral, you know, singing.*

**Oh, OK. Oh, that's lovely.**

*Yeah.*

**And talking about the Keele's, we know that they were big landowners.**

*Yeah, they were very with it, they were very classy too.*

**Did you?**

*Mm.*

**And did you tell me you remembered going to pay the rent, or, or ...**

*A Mr Lyons, or Lines, or Lions, he lived on the corner of Findon Road and Grange Road, a lovely big house, and he'd come to pick the rent up.*

**For, for the ...**

*For the garden.*

**... Keele's?**

*I suppose it was the Keele, I didn't know who it was for.*

**And do you know how much land that your father and Uncle had?**

*I think altogether it might have been about four acres.*

**Right.**

*Mm.*

**Mm. And if, if you remember at that time what the land around Frogmore Road looked like, can you describe it?**

*I know there was a dirt track from Grange Road down to Valetta Road, and just a barbed-wire fence on each side of the track. That's all I remember about it.*

**And ...**

*And sand hills on one side.*

**So that would be on the western side, on the sea side?**

*The sand hills were on the western side.*

**Were they high?**

*Yes, we used to love jumping from the top down to the bottom of the sand (laughs), soft sand.*

**Wow! So those sand hills are now where all that housing ...**

*Yes.*

**... was put by the Trust?**

*I think they must have cleared some of the sand away because where the Housing Trust area is that's quite flat.*

**Mm.**

*And when I lived on Fulham Gardens we were a little bit higher. That's probably where the sand hills start to climb.*

**Yeah! And what about, you know, if I think about the land that your parents and Uncle were working on and they grew potatoes and onions and trombones and beetroot, like can you remember what were the boundaries with other people's land? Were they bamboos at that time?**

*Some were bamboos and boxthorn bushes.*

**Right! And I think you told me that under the boxthorn ...**

*We used to get these lovely buckets of mushrooms in the winter time, wonderful.*

**Oh! And you'd take them home and your Mum would cook them.**

*Yeah, Mum would cook them, yeah.*

**Yeah, yeah.**

*And then, and they were lovely shaded areas in the summer time. I remember that – I don't know if you know about that hottest year, heard about the hottest year we had on record – I remember coming home from the city, because there was a lady, Mrs Rossetto, she asked me to go and be interpreter for her when she took her little children to the hospital.*

**And how old would you have been?**

*Only about nine.*

**Wow! (laughs)**

*And I remember coming home and Mum would be sitting under the boxthorn bushes with a baby, the new baby then, and my other sister, to get some shade.*

**Wow! They must have, you know, provided quite good shade because I understand they were quite high.**

*Yes, mm, they were.*

**Mm.**

*Sitting on chaff bags, bull ants (laughs) everywhere, but they were happy, they were ...*

**Yeah. And I remember you telling me, Lina, about there not being much money for your parents, and one of the things you remember was when you said about the chaff, the chaff bags being unpicked ...**

*Yes, mm.*

**... for blankets.**

*Uncle had a horse and he'd be buying the chaff of course, so Mum would unpick the chaff bags and make rugs out of them. That was part of our linen, bed linen.*

**Wow! And did you have a cow?**

*No, we didn't have a cow there, we bought the cow when we went over to Lockleys.*

**Oh, well we'll get to that in a moment, but I wanted to know when you were living on Frogmore Road you were probably school age?**

*Yes.*

**And can you tell me where you went to school?**

*Well I went to school at Underdale, State School.[Now Flinders Park Primary School]*

**And did you walk there?**

*Yes, we used to walk there and that was on Holbrooks Road.*

**So that would have been quite a walk?**

*Quite a walk, quite a walk, yes.*

**Gosh!**

*Especially in the winter time, it was freezing.*

**And what was that ... yeah, I can imagine. What was that walk like? Did you walk along roads or across people's properties?**

*No, it was mostly paddock, yes, paddock.*

**So it would be muddy if it was wet and ...**

*Yes, it was wet. I remember the freezing feet (laughs).*

**(Laughs) Gee!**

*Frosty mornings you know.*

**And would you go with other people?**

*Yes, there was the Tonellato boys and Rosina – sometimes we'd go together, sometimes went on our own, yeah, so in the same school until the priest from Hindmarsh convinced Mum to send me to the Catholic school, so I went to the Catholic school then in Hindmarsh.*

**And did you still ... how did you get to Hindmarsh? Did you still walk?**

*We walked to the, to where the tram started on the corner of Grange Road and Crittenden Road. Do you know Crittenden Road?*

**Yes, yeah, the diagonal one?**

*That's where, yes, that's where the bus or the tram started, and we walked to the tram.*

**Wow, so that would ...**

*But we'd often get lifts by motorists going along Grange Road. We weren't frightened, you know.*

**Oh!**

*We'd often get lifts (laughs).*

**Gee!**

*And sometimes we walked.*

**Yeah. And Lina, did you speak Italian at home?**

*Yes, our dialect.*

**Your dialect from Northern Italy, from the Veneto?**

*Yes.*

**So when you went to school did you know English?**

*Oh yes, yes.*

**So who would you ...?**

*Because I grew up with Australian girls in Waymouth Street, all my playmates were Australian. I think I grew up with the two languages. Most of us did then.*

**Yeah, yeah. And then you were also asked to be interpreter by some people?**

*Then, yes, quite often.*

**To doctors and ...?**

*Oh, yeah. Well this lady in particular, yes, a doctor in the Children's Hospital, and from my Uncle at the Taxation Office when he had to do his income tax, and I didn't know what he was talking about (laughs).*

**(Laughs) A big responsibility.**

*Oh, it was, yes.*

**Yeah!**

*I remember once the tax, the one that was talking to us said to me "You're not telling lies, are you?" I said "No". I don't think they believed me when I said, you know, Uncle wasn't*

*making much money and I had to tell them there wasn't much money, and "You're not telling me lies, are you?" I said "No" (laughs).*

**Oh, that's hard on a little girl.**

*It was, yes.*

**And why ... can you say a little bit about the money situation, why was your Uncle not making much?**

*Well, by the time he had to buy chaff for the horse and then he wasn't a very good businessman, Uncle, he was careless with the money. No, there wasn't much money. Sometimes he couldn't sell them because everybody grew the same vegetable.*

**Oh, right.**

*But I remember going to the market with him four o'clock, or even earlier than four o'clock in the morning, it was lovely. We'd go and have breakfast with all these market gardeners in Hindley Street (laughs) porridge, that was something new to me, and sausages and eggs, and oh, it was, it was lovely.*

**It must have been quite an adventure?**

*Oh, it was quite an adventure, yes.*

**And I was thinking also about the time, you know, it was the depression years and hard times, so maybe ...**

*They were hard times, yes.*

**... maybe it wasn't ...**

*My father was lucky that he, he had his brother-in-law that gave him a job.*

**Mm, mm.**

*He worked, I don't know if he worked five days a week or not but I know he worked on the terrazzo business and he shared the money with my Uncle, and my Uncle would share the market proceeds, which wasn't very good, yeah.*

**And your father must have worked so hard, Lina?**

*Well he did, he used to ride the pushbike into town every morning and, yes, and then he got asthma and he still went to work, but then on, when we were living on Pierson Street, he gave up that terrazzo, he was able to stay home then.*

**Can you tell me about moving from Frogmore Road to Lockleys? What, what was the situation in your family?**

*Well when my Uncle married and his wife came to Australia, I think Dad said then "Well now he's got his wife to look after him, to help him, and they can work ..." I don't think it was enough for two families actually, because I think they started having their children too, so Dad said we'll go over to Lockleys.*

**And that was ... you thought that you were around twelve when ...**

*I was twelve.*

**... that happened?**

*Yes.*

**Yeah! So quite a big change really?**

*Well you take everything in your stride, and didn't take, didn't take much notice of it, no.*

**And I remember you telling me about when the war started ...**

*Uh huh.*

**... and ...**

*Dad had his ears glued to the little tiny radio, listened to the shortwave, hear the Italian news about Mussolini and, and then they'd buy the paper and Dad wanted me to read the paper to him and I couldn't understand what these (laughs) were about the war, and he'd say "Oh, you're in Grade 3, or something, and you don't, you can't understand". I used to get upset because I couldn't explain the war situation.*

**Mm, and it would have been complex information ...**

*I couldn't understand it.*

**... for a little girl.**

*Of course it was.*

**Ah, but your Dad was very keen to know.**

*He was keen to know, yes, yeah.*

**Did your father become natur... and your mother become naturalised before the war?**

*Yes, yes, yes.*

**And do you know why ...**

*But they were still interested though in their own home country, of course.*

**Oh yes. Do you know why they would have become naturalised?**

*Oh, I think it was the thing in those days that people became naturalised, yes, when they got here.*

**So by that time they'd obviously decided that they were going to stay?**

*Yes, yes.*

**Yeah, yeah.**

*That was when on the market garden, but while they were living in the city in Waymouth Street, my mother told me that she was putting up some curtains, and she was having difficulty, and then she said "Why bother, we're going back in a couple of years", so she (laughs) puts the curtains aside (laughs) and this is ... God, she died when she was ninety-seven. She was twenty-one when she came to Australia.*

**Wow! Such a long life.**

*So they didn't go back, never went back.*

**Your mother wasn't interested to go back?**

*No, she would have liked to have gone back to see her father because her mother died when she was quite young, and her brothers wanted to take my mother back to see their father, but Mum, perhaps she had a ... she panicked and she got ill, and "Nah", she said "I'm not going, I'm not going", and then her father died and that was the end of that, she never wanted to go back anymore.*

**And do you think she felt settled here in Australia?**

*Yes, she was happy here, yes, she was happy.*

**Yeah.**

*Yes.*

**What was the, the kind of life like, you know, in the City of Adelaide, because you were living in boarding houses rather than your family house, is that right?**

*Yes, and we had ... well that was in the beginning in the boarding house, but then Mum and Dad, they went on their own into little cottages, you know those little cottages in the ...?*

**Oh, OK. And they would have rented them?**

*You rented them, and as I said from Sturt Street they'd go to Gilbert Street, and from Gilbert Street to Waymouth Street, because the rent was probably sixpence cheaper, because the rent was only about 15 cents a week then, and sixpence was quite a lot of money (laughs).*

**Yes, yeah, you could probably buy quite a bit of food for that amount.**

*Yes, yes.*

**Yeah. And again it's the depression years, isn't it?**

*And the depression years they were, yeah.*

**Did you go to school in the city?**

*I went to Franklin Street, Catholic ...*

**Right, to St Mary's?**

*St Mary's.*

**Oh! And you would have walked there?**

*Walked across there.*

**Yeah. And were there many other Italian families living in the city at that time?**

*Yes, there was Eleonora's (Johnny's wife's) Auntie.\* She was a great friend of my mother. In fact she was my sponsor for confirmation too. They were great friends.*

**Oh! And what was her name?**

*Anita Guglielmo.*

**Right, ah.**

*Anita, she was lovely, yeah. They all lived near each other, you know.*

**Ah! So again there ...**

*And they'd be together all day long. They used to go to each other's houses or mainly to Conchi's, do ... I don't know if you know Conchi's Furniture?*

**Yes.**

*Well the mother was a good dressmaker, and so she'd be making all the little dresses and knickers for us children (laughs), and they'd all go there to help her with her sewing, and they loved it, you know, they loved their little gatherings.*

**Ah! It would have been a real community?**

*All in Weymouth Street.*

**Oh, right. And your parents would have shopped at Crotti's?**

*Crotti's, yes, yes.*

**Do you remember going there?**

*Oh yes.*

**And what was that shop like?**

*Ah ...*

**Because that was a grocer shop.**

*Yes, it was. They had everything that we wanted, yes.*

**Did they have food imported from Italy?**

*Yes.*

**What kind of food?**

*Oh, all the cheeses and the salamis, they had all those things, yes, and then the Australian goods, you know, sugar. What else? I know I used to go and do the shopping sometimes, I'd go by bus or tram and do the shopping, but then one of the Crotti boys when they bought a car I suppose, he'd come around to the different farms and pick up the order every week and then deliver.*

**This is Frogmore Road?**

*Frogmore Road.*

**Ah!**

*Mm.*

**Oh!**

*Yeah! Pastas – then Crotti’s got their own pasta factory, San Remo’s, was Crotti’s, mm.*

**Yeah, yeah. So they’ve had a long history of ...**

*Yes.*

**... being in Adelaide?**

*Oh yes, they have, yes, they did well.*

**Yeah. And you were telling me about the kind of social events on Frogmore Road, and you remember one of the Keele girls who entertained?**

*Yes, we had a little club.*

**Can you tell me about that?**

*(Laughs) She’d organise these little plays and I remember one was about King Alfred when he burnt the cakes. Do you know the story of King Alfred?*

**No.**

*Yeah, he made cakes and he burnt them, and he was scolded by his mother – that was the story – and she’d be acting all this. I think she was the only actress.*

**(Laughs) and where did she ...**

*She loved it.*

**... hold her little plays?**

*At her place on Rowells Road or Findon Road.*

**Right, and we were saying that we think she was probably the granddaughter of Edward Keele.**

*I think she would have been the grand... oh yes, I’m pretty sure she was the granddaughter.*

**Yeah, because you remembered that Edward Keele had a pretty big house ...**

*He did, yes.*

**... close to the river?**

Yes.

**And then she lived with her family a bit closer to Grange Road?**

*Grange Road, mm.*

**And how would you have known her? Did you go to school with her?**

*I suppose I would have met her through going to Underdale State School, yes.*

**Mm.**

*That's how I would have met her, but then we all played together in those days, we all knew each other. We'd have letterboxes in the middle of the ... on the border of different gardens, vegetable gardens, and I'd write a letter to my friend and I'd go and post it in that letterbox, and then my friend would come and pick up the letter and put her letter in for me to go and collect, and that's how we communicated too sometimes, just for fun.*

**Isn't that sweet?**

*Mm.*

**Yeah! And what sort of things would you do on weekends and when it was holidays, like you told me you didn't have to work in the gardens?**

*Oh, we'd be just home with Mum, different neighbours, I forget, we had knuckle bones in those days, you know, just played cowboys and indians with all the children, we all came in together, you know.*

**Yeah! And there would have been lots of hidey places and ...?**

*Yes, and I was always caught and I was going to be burnt to the stake by the bad indian, and then the good cowboy would save me. Oh, it was so good, it was so funny.*

**Oh, yeah!**

*And on the sand hills, we used to enjoy playing on the sand hills. That's how we spent all our weekends I suppose, and then the Tonellato's had a little, I don't know what you'd call it, a sulky, do you call it a sulky, a little trap with one horse?*

**Yeah.**

*And he'd often take us down to the beach on that.*

**Along Grange Road?**

*Grange Road, mm.*

**And there'd be a whole lot of you I guess (*inaudible*)?**

*No, only myself and the Tonellato girl, mainly the girls (*inaudible*), mm.*

**Mm, that would have been lovely?**

*It was lovely going along Grange Road with this little trap. I thought they called it ... I've forgot what they called it, a ...*

**Mm, yeah. And do you remember much about what Grange Road looked like at the time then, like were there many houses along Grange Road?**

*No, there was mostly boxthorn bushes on either side.*

**Going down to the beach?**

*To the beach, yes.*

**Wow!**

*Yeah.*

**And as you said, the tram stopped at Critt...**

*Stopped at Crittenden Road.*

**Which suggests that there wasn't a lot of housing west of there.**

*No, no, there wasn't then, no.*

**And were there farms, other farms and ...?**

*No, no, they were just big paddocks with boxthorn bushes.*

**Oh, and no gum trees?**

*No, no gum trees.*

**So they'd been cleared probably.**

*Well there weren't any then.*

**Oh, oh. And did you have chooks at your place?**

*Oh yes, of course, we had chooks, yes. We lived well.*

**Did you?**

*Mm, yes, we had eggs and chickens and lovely, Mum used to make lovely pasta with the eggs, mm, and I think we must have had a milkman bringing ... oh yes, because there was a milkman across the road from us on Frogmore Road, the Fewings, have you heard of him?*

**Yes, I have.**

*Yeah.*

**That's interesting because he was someone who leased land from Keele's.**

*Yes, that's right, yeah. His father, it would have been the father, he was a blacksmith on Findon Road, on the other side of Grange Road.*

**And the milkman, he didn't have a dairy?**

*I think he must have had something. I don't know where he got the milk from, I know he gave us the milk.*

**Oh, oh that's interesting. And what about grapevines and wine, did you parents make wine?**

*They used to make it, they used to go and pick it from these vineyards that they ... well they do now I think.*

**Where would the vineyards have been?**

*Reynella, down that way.*

**Oh, that would have been a pretty long way to go.**

*Well I suppose whoever sold them delivered it, delivered the grapes. They made their own wine, mm.*

**And did you have a cellar?**

*No, no, they used to bottle the wine.*

**And did your parents also do a pig each year?**

*They did sometimes, yeah, not very often then.*

**For salami, mm.**

*I think that came later, I think it might have been a bit of a luxury, you know, the pigs, salami.*

**I guess it would have, yes, and quite expensive probably to buy.**

*Expensive, yeah.*

**Yeah. Did your father buy a car or a truck or ...?**

*No, poor Dad, he bought a van which he had converted into a little utility, or buckboard we used to call them, backboard or buckboard, and while he was having that done he died in hospital and he didn't ever see, see that lovely buckboard that he'd bought, that he'd had made.*

**Oh.**

*It was an enclosed van, you know, I (inaudible) can explain it, and he had it made into a buckboard.*

**Oh.**

*And it had to be sold later to somebody else because he didn't ever, he didn't live to see it.*

**No.**

*That was the only one he ever had.*

**Oh! So he would have ...**

*Always rode the pushbike.*

**Oh, gosh! So you remember moving from Frogmore Road when you were about twelve?**

*Twelve, yes.*

**So we said that that would have been, say, 1939, around that time?**

*Something like that, yes.*

**And when your parents moved, Pierson Avenue didn't have houses on it?**

*No, no, no.*

**And how much land would your parents have bought?**

*I think he had eight acres.*

**Right.**

*On Pierson Street.*

**And did they have glasshouses there?**

*That's when he bought the, they bought the glasshouses.*

**So that would have meant that they could have increased the kind of vegetables that they were growing?**

*Well then it was mainly tomatoes because the glasshouses kept them busy, and beans, but we didn't have potatoes anymore then.*

**And did your parents build a house there?**

*Well they pulled the house down from Frogmore Road and then built it, rebuilt it on Pierson Street, the same house.*

**So how did they get that ...?**

*That's the one there.*

**The one in the photo?**

*That's the one, yeah.*

**How did they get all the pieces of ...?**

*With a horse and cart I suppose.*

**Wow! What a big project.**

*Yeah.*

**So I wonder where you lived while it was being built.**

*I don't know, that's the amazing part.*

**Yeah.**

*Probably the little shack, you know, they had a shack somewhere.*

**Oh! And how long after you moved there did your father die?**

*He died in 1945.*

**Right.**

*So he died (inaudible).*

**So you moved in, say '39, about six years.**

*'39, mm, he died.*

**So that, that's interesting that '39-'45 is the time of the World War II years, isn't it?**

*Yes, yeah, that's why he was interested in the war.*

**Yeah! And he hoped that you would be able to tell him what was happening (laughs).**

*Explain what was (laughs) ...*

**Do you remember much about the experience of the war, like was it talked about at school?**

*No! Well I remember we had coupons to buy butter and milk and meat I think, clothing, we had coupons.*

**Right.**

*And there was a family next door to us, they had a lot of little children, and they didn't use all the coupons so they'd give them to Mum, so we had plenty.*

**And this is when you were at Pierson Street?**

*On Pierson Street, and we lived well.*

**And was it at Pierson Street you told me that your parents got a cow?**

*That's where we had the cow, yes.*

**So that would have helped with butter and milk.**

*Oh, butter, cream, we used to have plenty of jam and cream sandwiches, beautiful.*

**And did your Mum make cheese?**

*Yes, she made the cheese.*

**Would that have been like a soft cheese?**

*Oh, she'd let it dry, and it was a whitish cheese.*

**Right, yeah. And you would have been going to school?**

*Well she used mostly the butter though.*

**Oh right.**

*She used a lot of butter in the cooking.*

**Yeah. Nice rich food.**

*Lovely pasta sauce.*

**Mm. And you would have been going to school?**

*That's when I was going to Hindmarsh Catholic School.*

**Right.**

*Had to ride the pushbike.*

**To Hindmarsh?**

*Mm.*

**Mm, you would have been pretty fit?**

*Oh yes, yes.*

**And you continued at school until?**

*I did my Intermediate.*

**Yeah. And then when you finished your Intermediate?**

*I worked in an office for a while, which I didn't like, and then poor Dad got sicker so Mum asked me to stay home and help her in the garden, so I stayed home and I worked for Mum in the garden for about four or five years until she built her house. She built a lovely house on Lasscock Avenue, and then I was out of a job then.*

**I remember you telling me that there were a few other girls around your age ...**

*Yes.*

**... who were doing work on their parents' market gardens ...**

*Yes.*

**... and you had a great social time?**

*Yeah, we did, we used to love it. In fact, there's only one left though, and we ring each other now. She lives in Gawler and we always talk about those days, yes.*

**And you would have worked hard, Lina?**

*Um, oh yes. When I was in Pierson Street I did work hard there.*

**How many glasshouses?**

*Sixteen.*

**Wow!**

*Yeah.*

**And all with tomatoes and beans ...**

*All with tomatoes and beans.*

**... depending on the season?**

*Season, yeah, and I remember when the frost used to come, Mum and I would be up at 2 o'clock in the morning to wash the frost off the glass because that would have burnt the tips of the tomato plants, so we'd hose them off with the hose water, and that saved the crops, because in those days it was, I don't know about now, but I don't see frost around now, but then we'd have lots of frost, frosty weather, and they'd cover the grass with ice, so we had to melt the ice with the water. It was 2 o'clock in the morning you know.*

**Wow! You'd go back to bed and then have to get up again. Did you go to market then?**

*No, no, we had these people at the East End Market, yeah, East End Market, and they'd pick up the tomatoes, cases. I used to help Mum because she used to send them to Melbourne and she'd have to ... we'd pack the tomatoes in the boxes and put the lids on and stamp our name and address and I used to help Dad, and then the – I forget now who he was – there was Mr Dowd, he used to pick up the boxes of tomatoes from Mum and take them to the market in town and they'd send them off to Melbourne.*

**Gee.**

*It's a bit hazy but that's as far as I can remember, yeah.*

**Oh, oh! And then you decided after a number of years working in the garden to do something ...?**

*Well, when Mum, after five years Mum built her house ...*

**Right.**

*... and then I got married, you know, and ...*

**But before you got married you had quite an interesting working life.**

*Yes, dressmaking, because Mum said to me, because I used to love clothes, "Well" she said "if you like clothes then you'll have to learn to make them", so I went to learn dressmaking.*

**Where did you go?**

*I went to Shell House in North Terrace.*

**And was that like a training place for young women?**

*Training, yes, yes, and ...*

**And so you would have learnt to cut ...**

*Cut ...*

**... draft?**

*... and draft and the lady who ran that, what was her name, I forget now, it was ... anyhow she, once I'd finished learning, or the course, she rang one of my Auntie's up and said would I like a job from Mrs Quigley in North Terrace, so I went there and got a job there.*

**And what, what were you doing there?**

*Cutting, cutting and designing, and then I was lucky through, through this, what was her name, I forget her name ... anyhow it was a big factory, Quigley's factory.*

**Oh, OK, and what did they make?**

*Dresses – there was about 100 girls sewing, in Shell House in North Terrace.*

**Wow! A hundred, gee.**

*Yeah, yes.*

**And were they like dresses that were sold in places like John Martin's or Myers?**

*Myers, yes, Kathryn Hecker, they were the exclusive ones, and then, and then I met the niece of the lady who owned the factory and we got on well together. And so we said "Let's start on our own", so we got a shop out at Prospect.*

**On Prospect Road.**

*Prospect Road.*

**Whereabouts on Prospect Road was it?**

*Near the Rosary Church.*

**Oh right, yeah, down there.**

*Just near there.*

**And how old were you?**

*Oh, I would have been 21, 22, something like that.*

**So you were a businesswoman (laughs)? And ...**

*She was the business girl because her Auntie said "Now don't sew cheap, make sure you get good money for your dresses", you know, so we charged quite a bit. One lady came to the door one day and said how much we charged for a dress, to make a dress, and we said three guineas, and she said "Does that include the material?" (laughs) and I said "No, that was for making it", so we got good money. I did well.*

**Yeah.**

*I did well.*

**Did you have the rolls of fabric there or did people bring their fabric?**

*No, no, they'd bring their own, they brought their own fabric.*

**And you had some interesting clients?**

*Yes, we had lots of nurses from the Children's Hospital and doctors' wives that lived in the area. It was quite a wealthy suburb. We only got the rich ones because we were charging so much.*

**Mm! So that would have been interesting?**

*It was good, mm.*

**And what did your Mum think of you having this, you know, job?**

*Oh, she was quite proud, she was proud of me, yes, yes she was.*

**And meanwhile Maria was at home with your Mum?**

*With Mum and ...*

**And then Connie was ...?**

*Connie was, she was ...*

**She would have still been at school maybe?**

*Yes, still at school.*

**Because she was 11 years younger than you?**

*Yes.*

**And for how long were you working in that shop with your friend?**

*About, about four years, because we both got married then.*

**And that ...**

*So we sold the shop, the business, to another friend of ours who we'd met at the same factory, we were all cutting together.*

**So you would have had very good skills, wouldn't you, from that experience?**

*Oh yes. In fact the boss, he was sorry I left, you know, he said "Oh, I'm sorry you are leaving because you had a good future here." But I thought the future was better with my girlfriend, sewing together, you know, we used to enjoy each other's company.*

**It must have been a lot of fun?**

*Fun, yes it was.*

**And you would have worked together to do things ...**

*Yeah.*

**... to get the jobs done and ...?**

*Yeah, yes, yeah, we got on well together, and (laughs), yes.*

**And at 25 did you marry?**

*Yes.*

**And did you tell me that you made your own ...**

*Wedding dress, yes.*

**... wedding dress?**

*And the bridesmaids, yes.*

**Wow! And that would have been quite beautiful I imagine?**

*Well I had three girls that copied it later.*

**And it was your design?**

*Do you want to go and have a look at it?*

**I'll have a look at it after, yeah, I'd love to, yeah. And they copied it because they thought it was so beautiful?**

*Well one borrowed mine and the other two copied them, yeah.*

**Oh.**

*No, they loved it.*

**Wow! And you married Ruggero?**

*Ruggero.*

**Who came from Istria?**

*Istria, yes.*

**Which is close to Italy, isn't it?**

*Yes, I think, I think it was about two hours' boat trip from Venice, straight across from Venice ...*

**Right.**

*... he came from.*

**Oh! And Lina, you've been a number of times to Italy, haven't you?**

*Yes, five times.*

**Five times? And your parents kept in contact with their relatives, didn't they ...**

*Yes, yes.*

**... through all those years?**

*Until of course one-by-one they died, but no, my Auntie, my father's sister, is still alive, believe it or not, yeah, she's still alive, the youngest girl. She's still alive and she's in a nursing home of course.*

**And you've been to visit those relatives, haven't you?**

*Yes, yes.*

**And what was that experience like?**

*Oh, lovely, lovely, yes, they were pleased to see me too.*

**Yeah.**

*Yeah, and Roger's people were very good to us too. They were wealthy, more wealthy than my mother's side of the family. In fact my brother-in-law, my sister-in-law, wanted me to go there for a holiday now after Roger died, and they said "It will do you good", she said*

*"I'll pay your fare if you want to come". I didn't want to go, you know, I'd been five times, I couldn't go without Roger.*

**Yes, yeah.**

*It wouldn't be the same.*

**And you have three sons?**

*Three sons.*

**And have they been to Italy?**

*Yes, two have been and one's over there at the moment.*

**Wow! And have they met the Marchioro relatives?**

*No, because none of them Marchioro's speak English.*

**Right, yeah.**

*And my boys, they don't speak Italian, so there's no point, whereas on Roger's side they all speak English, they all learnt English at school.*

**Oh right, so that makes it easier?**

*So it made it easier.*

**Yeah.**

*And at the moment I think my son is in Sorrento now.*

**Oh, how beautiful.**

*On his way to Canada where he's got his daughter.*

**Oh, that's lovely. And Lina, we're coming to an end now and you talked about your parents arriving in 1926 full of hope, and do you think that their hopes were realised?**

*Yes, I'm sure, but then Dad got ill, that was the sad part. He didn't live to enjoy what he had, but Mum had a lovely house when she died.*

**Yeah, and a long life.**

*And she loved her grandchildren, and my father would have loved them too, but he didn't see, meet any of them.*

**No! And when you look back at your life, it must be quite amazing that you think of your parents as those young people?**

*Yes, yes.*

**1926, yeah, mm. Thank you Lina, thank you very much.**

*Thank you.*

**Second interview with Adelina (Lina) Rismondo nee Marchioro**  
**Recorded by Madeleine Regan at Cowandilla South Australia, on 14 June 2010**

---

**Lina, I remember you saying that you were given a camera for maybe, your 12th birthday, and today we've got a number of these photos that you took of life in Frogmore Road, probably around the age of 12, and that year would have been?**

*1939.*

**1939. And you remember that your Dad gave you that camera?**

*Yes, for my birthday.*

**You must have shown some interest in photos.**

*I think my Dad spoilt me really. He used to love buying me things.*

**(Laughs) Did he?**

*Mm.*

**But to buy a camera, because this was a little Brownie Box camera, wasn't it?**

*Yes, yes.*

**We've got a photo in front of us and I thought we could start by talking a little bit about that. Could you tell me who's in that photo?**

*Well it's my Auntie with Johnny.*

**And her name was?**

*Angelina.*

**Angelina Marchioro.**

*Marchioro, and the other lady is Maria Ballestrin.*

**And her son ...?**

*Her son is Egidio.*

**And we were saying we think that those boys are probably 18 months, do you think?**

*Yes, between 18 months and two years perhaps.*

**Right. And if we look at that photo, in the distance we can see a little house, or a little hut really I guess, is it?**

*Well we called it a house.*

**A house, sorry.**

*Yes.*

**Immediately here ...**

*That's a shed.*

**Oh, a shed.**

*Probably where Uncle used to live before he built the house for my Auntie when she came from Italy.*

**Right.**

*When they got married.*

**Right. Because your Uncle was a young single man.**

*Yes.*

**And you and your sisters, or your sister at that time, and your Mum and Dad, lived in a house quite close to Frogmore Road.**

*Yes, yes, on Frogmore Road, our frontage was Frogmore Road.*

**Right. And then there was this little place your Uncle built a bit further back?**

*Further back, yes.*

**And you told me that you used to go and clean that ..?**

*Now and again Mum would say "Go and clean your Uncle's room" (laughs).*

**And you told me a story about a clock.**

*A clock. I forgot you had to clean the clock so I dipped it in the tub of water*

*Laughter*

*But it did the job because Uncle said it never worked so well as after (laughs). Oh yeah.*

**And he had a very simple room basically?**

*Just the one room, yes, with the iron bed.*

**And a dressing table?**

*A dressing table, that's all he had.*

**And would it have had a floor.**

*Well he might have had a wardrobe for some few clothes. He had a wooden floor actually.*

**Oh, OK.**

*I think it was wooden, yes.*

**And who would have built that shed or that ...?**

*I suppose he and Dad would have done that.*

**Right, yeah. And your Uncle joined your family for meals, is that right?**

*Yes, had all his meals with us, yes.*

**And he was working the land when your Dad went and worked ...**

*For the terrazzo company, Del Fabbro's, with the Del Fabbro.*

**Yeah. And not very far from that shed is a house, it looks like it's a white house in this photo.**

*But I don't think it was painted white, it was just the ordinary galvanised iron like ours.*

**Right. And how big would that be? I can see at least, is it two windows?**

*Yes, across the front.*

**Yeah.**

*And I think it was just the two rooms because I think Auntie used to cook over in the other place ...*

**Oh, OK.**

*... where Uncle used to live.*

**Right, right. And that would have been a fairly small place?**

*Yes, it was smaller than ours.*

**Right, yeah. And did that have a cement floor or ...?**

*Cement floor.*

**Yeah. And who would have built that?**

*Oh, my Uncle and Dad, yeah.*

**Together?**

*Together.*

**Yeah. So that's in the background of the photo. The photo looks quite like it's probably summer, like the short sleeves on the two mothers.**

*Yes.*

**You were saying that immediately where the two women with the children are standing that it looks like cement.**

*Where we had our house.*

**Right. So when you moved with your parents to Pierson Street, Lockleys, it was 1939?**

*1939, yes.*

**The same year that you got the camera.**

*Yes.*

**And how did the house get moved?**

*Well I remember Dad pulling it down, piece by piece, and they must have put it on a truck of some sort, driven by a horse. That's the only way they would have taken it over to Pierson Street.*

**Yeah. And you must have lived somewhere in the meantime too?**

*Well I think we did have a ... at the back of our house we had like the laundry, a lean-to laundry, and I think that's where we slept while the house was being built over at Pierson Street.*

**Right, mm. Not far behind where the two women and the children are standing, looks like there's a chook house.**

*Yes.*

**You would have had that chook house behind your house?**

*Yeah, yeah, that's what we probably would have left that behind, yes.*

**(Laughs) How many chooks would you have had? Did you have lots?**

*It would be a half a dozen I think, just enough to have eggs for what we wanted.*

**Yeah.**

*Mum used to make her own pasta and ... mm.*

**And in that photo we don't see many trees or anything like that.**

*No, no.*

**It's sort of a bit busy.**

*Mm.*

**Mm, yeah.**

*Well we were only there for about five years altogether, from when we shifted from Waymouth Street, so we wouldn't have time to grow too many trees.*

**Yeah.**

*There was lots of boxthorn bushes around there, and bamboos.*

**Yes, yeah.**

*Nothing that we planted.*

**No. You told me an interesting story about when you were about twelve, and you had to go and interpret for Mrs Rossetto.**

*Rossetto, she had a sick ... actually she had two sick children, one after the other, and they went for quite a while to the Children's Hospital, and the Mareeba Babies Hospital at Woodville.*

**Oh!**

*And I was the interpreter for her.*

**Oh! Did it feel like it was a serious thing that you were doing, being an interpreter like that?**

*Not really, it didn't seem to worry.*

**No? Oh. You told me about being with Mrs Rossetto on a very, very hot day in 1939. Can you tell that story?**

*That was the day I went to the Children's Hospital with one of the babies and she gave me sixpence, and probably the money to go to the pictures, and I went to see 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'. That was the first screening of 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'.*

**Wow! And you told me you went by yourself?**

*By myself, yeah.*

**And you ...**

*Then I caught the tram to come home and walked through the paddocks, across Findon Road, and down to Frogmore Road.*

**Wow! And it was a hot, hot day?**

*It was that very hot day.*

**You told me it was about 116?**

*116, yes.*

**Wow!**

*The hottest day on record.*

**Wow!**

*Yeah.*

**And as you came near home, you saw your Mum.**

*My mother and my sister, my baby sister, and they were sitting under the boxthorn bushes to get some shade.*

**Yeah, to try and keep cool?**

*Keep cool, yes.*

**And I imagine you would have been so excited having been to the movies, to the pictures?**

*Well nothing used to (laughs) excite me much, I was very calm.*

**Were you?**

*Yes, I just took everything in my stride, yes.*

**Yeah, yeah. And you were telling me about your family outings.**

*Yes. Well we'd go to Mass on Christmas Day in the city in Grote Street, the Catholic, St Patrick's Church I think it was called, and then on New Year's Day we'd go, we'd walk down to Grange Beach and have ice-creams. They were our main outings, big outings, but*

*apart from that we just had evenings together with different market gardeners, sing songs and ... yeah.*

**Oh! And why would you have walked down to the beach? You would have had ...**

*There was nothing else to go by, we had to walk.*

**And how would you have got to church in the city?**

*We walked to the tram and then caught the tram to the city then, Currie Street.*

**Oh right, wow! Quite a long walk to get to ...**

*Yes.*

**... to the tram and ... mm.**

*Yes, I suppose, yes.*

**Yeah, yeah! Did your father ... I remember you telling me your father had a bike but no other form of transport?**

*No.*

**Right.**

*No.*

**Yeah.**

*He used to ride that to work.*

**Mm, mm, wow! And we're going to have a look at another photo here, and it's a photo of three children. Can you tell me about that photo?**

*Yes, that was Johnny and Romano on their horse. The little girl, she was the daughter of a man that was interned during the war, he was interned at Loveday, and the little girl and her sisters came from Western Australia with their mother to be nearer to their father, and actually they lived with us.*

**Oh, and did you, did you know them, the family?**

*No, they were introduced to Mum by my Uncle, my mother's brother who lived in Perth.*

**Oh!**

*And then he was interned too, so we used to go to see him up at Loveday, and this little girl, she came with her mother and her sisters to be near the father who was at Loveday.*

**And how far would Loveday be from Adelaide?**

*Loveday, oh, about two hundred miles I suppose, it's a vineyard, Loveday.*

**Near the Murray?**

*Murray, yes, on the Murray.*

**And so your Uncle was interned there too?**

*Yes, he was interned.*

**Did you understand about internment at that time?**

*Not that much, just because the war the Italians, because of Mussolini being with Hitler, and, and, no, they got the Italians, rounded up the Italians and interned them.*

**Oh. Did you know Johnny's father was in a different sort of category because he went up to Alice Springs but wasn't really interned, was he?**

*No, but see he, he was naturalised, like my father was naturalised, but my father couldn't go because he wasn't, didn't have good health.*

**Right.**

*And Uncle was younger and they sent him up to Alice Springs, I think.*

**Yes.**

*To work with the government.*

**Yeah. And how long would the Baruffi mother and children have stayed with you, do you think?**

*They lived with my mother, with us, for about three years, and then they went to live in the city where she had a boarding house there.*

**Oh right.**

*And then by then the war was over and Mr Baruffi came home, and they stayed in Adelaide for the rest of their lives.*

**Oh! And were they also from the Veneto Region?**

*Yes, they were from the Valtellina up in the mountains.*

**Right, yeah. So those children would have been quite a bit younger than you?**

*Yes.*

**Yeah.**

*One, one, she was two years older than I was actually.*

**Oh, oh, because this little girl in the photo ...**

*She's the little girl.*

**... is the ...**

*She's the baby.*

**Oh right. It's a beautiful photo because they're on a pretty ... it seems like a very large horse.**

*Yes.*

**Very large.**

*Well it used to take us to market (laughs).*

**That's your Uncle's horse?**

*Uncle, Uncle's horse, yes.*

**And you told me that sometimes you went to market with your Uncle?**

*Mm.*

**By horse and cart?**

*Yes. We used to leave home, well it was pitch dark, it was probably about three in the morning I suppose. I used to love it.*

**And were you there as a helper?**

*No, I just walked around the markets, you know, looking around.*

**Yeah, having an interesting adventure.**

*Yes, yes.*

**Yeah, yeah.**

*And then going to have breakfast which was rather an unusual breakfast because Italians don't usually eat bacon and eggs for breakfast, they have what they call a continental breakfast, and to me it was quite a novelty eating porridge.*

*Laughter*

*I used to love it, with all the men there, oh.*

**Oh, yeah. So when you took this photo you were obviously the owner of the camera, you know, aged about twelve, and you would have been still at primary school at age twelve?**

*Well I would have been in my last year, in grade 7, mm.*

**Yeah. And did your ... you would have been at the Hindmarsh Convent School then?**

*Yes.*

**And did you have any special kind of things that had to happen because of the war, in your school?**

*No.*

**No, you didn't have any little shelters or anything like that?**

*No, no, nothing like that – never spoken of either.*

**Yeah. And you enjoyed your primary school years?**

*Oh yes, yes.*

**You told me that you were pretty good at school.**

*Yes, I used to come top in grade 7.*

**Oh!**

*But then by the time I did my Intermediate I think by then I wanted to do dressmaking, sewing, and be a dress designer, so I didn't want to go to school anymore.*

**Yeah.**

*But anyhow I don't think my parents could afford to send me like more, because at Hindmarsh we only got to Intermediate, and then I would have had to have gone to town to further studies, but by then I was nearly sixteen and I think that, my Dad thought it was enough.*

**Mm. How did you get that interest in dress designing and clothes?**

*Just liked it, I don't know, just something that's born in you I think.*

**Mm.**

*Yeah.*

**Mm, because when I look at these beautiful photos that you have taken, I can see that you've got a real eye for how you put it together.**

*Yes, I do and I love it, yeah, I used to love it.*

**Yeah.**

*I used to get what they called the Women's Weekly and I'd cut out dresses and paste them all in a book, and it was called, I called it a portfolio of fashion. I had all those dreams, yeah.*

**So do you think that you had that from, you know, when you were young?**

*Yes, I think so because Mrs Rossetto that used to come and see Mum, she said to me one day "I'm not surprised you're going to be a dressmaker, Lina, because ...". I made a little booklet with flannelette pages to put needles in.*

**Oh!**

*I don't know how I got to make that but I did, and she couldn't believe it, so she said "I knew you were going to do something with dressmaking of some sort, sewing of some sort".*

**And would you have made that by hand?**

*Yes, by hand.*

**Wow!**

*It had a cover on it and little flannelette pages.*

**How creative because you wouldn't have had a sewing machine in your house, would you?**

*No. I think Mum had a treadle war time machine, but I'd never used it though. I used to sew by hand if I did.*

**Yeah.**

*And I think then I used to do more embroidery, use the needles for embroidery.*

**And did you do embroidery?**

*Yes, I used to like doing these aprons and I don't know if you know or remember them, big white aprons with ladies in the garden with flowers around them. That's what I used to do.*

**Oh! And did you do that with school or you just did it yourself?**

*No, I just did it myself at home.*

**Yeah.**

*Well see there was no radio then or television of course.*

**Yeah, yeah. Wow! When you were growing up were you asked to do a lot of work around the house?**

*Oh yes, I did help Mum with the ironing and cleaning the house because she was always busy in the garden, and I had to look after, help look after my sister, my older sister who was sick, and then the baby sister, I helped look after her.*

**Because she's quite a bit younger than you, isn't she?**

*Yeah, eleven years younger.*

**Eleven years, yeah. So you would have been a really proud big sister I imagine?**

*Oh yes, I used to carry her around on my hip. There were no pushers or prams then.*

**Yeah, yeah. And when you were on Frogmore Road going to school, you ... did others of the kids who were living around near you go to the school too?**

*Yes, we were at the same school, yes. We all started at the Underdale school and then we went to the Hindmarsh Catholic School.*

**Yeah, yeah. And we've got another photo here, we've got a photo of some pretty hard-working women, working, obviously picking what we think is onions.**

*Onions.*

**Yeah. And it's quite a remarkable photo because it looks like it could be in the country anywhere, certainly not where there are houses close by, or anything like that. There's a row of gums and I think maybe pine trees, or are they all gums?**

*Gums, but there were some pine trees near the Piovesan's and Tonellato's, there was a row of pine trees there, and we'd often go there to keep cool in the summer time.*

**Because it was a cool spot?**

*Yes.*

**Yeah... Do you remember who would have grown a large section of onions?**

*That would have been my Uncle and he'd get casual workers now and again to help him, but they only came a day or two at a time.*

**To kind of break the back of it, I guess?**

*Mm, yes.*

**I wonder what ...**

*And then my Auntie probably helped him too, yeah.*

**Right, yeah. I wonder where he would have got the casual workers from because, you know, it's interesting, isn't it?**

*Oh, everybody seemed to know each other. They probably lived nearby.*

**Right, yeah. And talking about people living nearby, we were looking at some land titles and some of those names came to you from those days. Maybe we could talk about some of those, like Fewings, a man called Mr Fewings.**

*Fewings, yes.*

**Can you tell me about him?**

*Well the father was a blacksmith on Findon Road nearer to Port Road it was and the son, I think it was, I think he ran the garden, not a market garden I think he had more of a dairy farm on Frogmore Road.*

**Mm.**

*The son.*

**Ah! And would he have had a ... do you remember him having cows and ... or was it more a centre where he collected milk?**

*I don't remember. I know we got our milk from him but I don't know how he got the milk.*

**Yeah. I know there were quite a few dairies in that area.**

*He might have had a small dairy farm.*

**And did you go as a child and collect the milk, or was it delivered to you?**

*It was delivered, delivered.*

**Oh, OK. Oh right.**

*I think he delivered milk to everybody in the area.*

**Right, yeah. And we were talking also about Edward Keele, you know the first big landowner, and you knew his daughter.**

*I think it would have been his granddaughter.*

**His granddaughter, right.**

*Joy, yes.*

**Right! And did she go to Hindmarsh school too?**

*No, no. I don't know where she went to school. She might have gone to Lockleys Public School.*

**Right, yeah.**

*But I know that later on in life I had heard that she married a Doctor Swan, because when I went to live over at Lockleys we lost touch with a lot of people then – my girlfriends.*

**Yeah, but not with the Italian families?**

*Not the Italian, our parents all stayed together.*

**Yeah.**

*But just going to different schools I suppose.*

**Yes.**

*We made different friends, you know.*

**Yeah, yeah. And you remember the first Mr Keele with the large house?**

*Yes.*

**Closer to the river.**

*Beautiful large house, mm.*

**And then you think his son had a smaller house ...**

*A smaller ...*

**... on Findon ...?**

*... a very nice house but smaller on the Findon Road, and that's where Joy lived.*

**Yeah. And other names that you spoke about were Barnett.**

*Barnett – I knew them well. I was very close friends with the daughters, Vera and Elma Barnett, and I know she had two or three, four brothers actually.*

**And Mr Barnett had an orchard, is that right?**

*Yeah.*

**Quite a large orchard?**

*A large, yes, he had ... all his land was taken up with the ... I don't know whether they were all nectarine trees or peach and nectarine, but I know we used to go and buy the nectarines because we used to like the nectarines.*

**And his land was on Findon Road?**

*Findon Road, the frontage was on Findon Road and it went down to the boundary of Tonellato and Piovesan land.*

**Right, near the vagon.**

*The vagone*

**Oh, the famous vagone, yeah. Well that's interesting that you had access to all that beautiful fruit in summer.**

*Oh yes, it was beautiful. Oh, they were so sweet, they were beautiful. I still remember them.*

**Oh. And do you remember a Mr Robinson who had a trotting track on the corner of Findon Road and Grange Road?**

*No.*

**Right.**

*No, I don't remember. I know there was one over at Brooklyn Park.*

**Right.**

*Had trotting horses there.*

**Oh, OK. I thought there was a stable or something on the corner of Findon and Grange Roads.**

*No, I don't remember that, no.*

**And going back to where your parents lived on Frogmore Road, did your parents grow flowers at all?**

*No, not there.*

**No?**

*No, but they did on Pierson Street, Mum had a lovely flower garden.*

**Yeah, yeah. And probably made it quite beautiful I imagine?**

*Yeah, it was, yes, yes.*

**Yeah, yeah! And we're going to look at another photo which shows your cousin, your cousins and your sister.**

*Oh yes.*

**Can you tell me a bit about what you see in that photo?**

*That, I think it would have been on Pierson Street, by the bamboos.*

**The bamboos were like a boundary ...**

*A boundary.*

**... between properties?**

*Yes.*

**Yeah. And is that a crop, do you think?**

*That looks like poppies there.*

**It does look like poppies, yeah. And your sister there is ... how old do you think she is?**

*She'd be about nine.*

**Yeah. And the boys are probably five and ...?**

*And four.*

**Or six and four or something, yeah.**

*Yeah.*

**So the bamboos were an important way of, well I suppose a cheap way of having a boundary between pieces of land?**

*Yes, and they made good stakes for the tomato plants for outside tomatoes.*

**Yeah, yeah. The next photo is quite a delightful little photo, isn't it?**

*Yes, I think that would have been at my Uncle and Auntie's house.*

**On Frogmore Road?**

*On Frogmore Road, mm.*

**And it's Johnny and Romano under the pergola?**

*Yes.*

**So the pergola would have helped keep that house cooler, I guess?**

*Yes.*

**The iron house or the galvanised iron?**

*Mm.*

**And it looks like there's concrete there.**

*Yes, mm.*

**And a couple of bikes so ...**

*Mm, they had their bikes.*

**Yeah! And you had a bike, you would have ridden around quite a bit?**

*Yeah, rode it everywhere, rode it to school at Hindmarsh and into the city, when I had to go on messages into the city for Mum and Dad.*

**What kind of messages would you have had to (*inaudible*)?**

*Well they needed different things for their market garden – strings to string up the tomatoes and the manures, fertilisers, so I'd go up to the market, East End Market, to the producers there, and I'd put in the order for Mum and Dad, you know, and then they'd deliver it.*

**Wow! Because of course you wouldn't have had a telephone in those days?**

*No, no telephones, no.*

**No! So you were obviously a very responsible girl?**

*I was made responsible, yes, because my older sister, like I said, was sick, and the youngest one was little, and I was the only one. Dad wasn't very healthy so he couldn't do it – he had to give up his terrazzo job – and he just helped around the house, did a bit of housework for Mum. He couldn't go in the glasshouses because of his asthma. So he was quite sick.*

**Mm, and it would have been quite a lot of work then for your mother, wouldn't it?**

*It was, yes, oh yes.*

**Yeah. So ...**

*But she was strong, tough.*

**Yeah.**

*And I suppose it was her way of building a ... she built a lovely house and I suppose she had that satisfaction that she'd got what she wanted, a lovely house, furnished it nicely, so ...*

**Yeah.**

*After living all those years in a wooden/iron place, you know, you can imagine.*

**Yeah, the joy of being in a ...**

*A joy to have it, mm.*

**Yeah.**

*But my father didn't enjoy it because he'd gone, I mean he didn't live to enjoy anything like that, poor thing.*

**Yes, that must have been a great sadness.**

*It was a sad part, mm.*

**Yeah. When you were a child and being responsible, as you said you probably just took it in your stride, you know, Mrs Rossetto would ask you to interpret, you know, did you interpret for other families as well?**

*No. Oh, later on in life though when I was 18 and 19, after Dad died, we met these other people over at Pierson Street, and there was a lot of Calabrians there, and there I used to help them with their income tax forms. I didn't know what I was doing but it helped them, and there I was an interpreter for a few people, yes.*

**Yeah, yeah.**

*They all seemed to rely ... I used to look for jobs, when the girls came from Italy looking for jobs, I'd get them all jobs in these dressmaking factories, Actil's – you've heard of Actil's?*

**Yes.**

*Quite a few went down there to work, and one of them worked as a tailoress for some people I knew in the city, yes, I did a lot of things for them.*

**Oh! So people knew that you would be able to give them assistance?**

*Well I was the only girl around that knew anything about those things, so they'd all come to me.*

**Mm, mm! You must have had quite a reputation?**

*I did (laughs).*

**And from a young age too because you were in primary school and doing the interpreting, weren't you?**

*Oh yes, for Mrs Rossetto I was, yes.*

**Yeah. And at school were you seen as being a responsible girl?**

*Um, no I don't think so, no. I had some lovely girlfriends and they all liked me, we seemed to get on well together, but no, no big responsibility, no.*

**Oh. It certainly seems like in your family that you had the responsibility, and you were obviously the photographer, the family photographer as well, yeah.**

*Yes.*

**There's another photo here that we'll look at and this is a delightful photo of children, a group of children, gathering for your cousin Johnny's, we think it's maybe his fifth birthday, fourth or fifth.**

*Fourth or fifth, I wouldn't be sure of that.*

**And there's ten children in that photo, and you've got them just perfectly, you know, in front of a very long glasshouse.**

*Yes (laughs), yes. I think there's two glasshouses. That's one ...*

**Oh, OK, and that's a break?**

*... and then the other one, then the other one is just behind it.*

**Right, right. And someone has baked Johnny a beautiful cake, and he's holding it.**

*Yes. I don't know who would have done that.*

**And these children are all from the families, you know, nearby aren't they?**

*Yes, yes.*

**Like they Piovesan family.**

*Piovesan, yeah. She was a Daminato that one. Mrs Ballestrin, all Ballestrins. That's Egidio Ballestrin there I think.*

**And they all like they're pretty happy.**

*Oh yes, yes.*

**And some of them are holding fruit.**

*Yes.*

**Which would have been like a birthday, what a treat or something?**

*Oh, I don't know that it would be a treat, they're just happy to have them there I suppose. I think everybody was well fed (laughs) in those days, we never went without, and what I used to enjoy also, the bonfire night. We'd all bring our branches and trees and whatever, and make a big bonfire, and we used to have this most wonderful cracker night we used to call it, with our crackers.*

**Wow! And was that at Guy Fawkes night?**

*Guy Fawkes night, yeah, 5<sup>th</sup> November.*

**Yeah, and so everybody would gather?**

*With their crackers.*

**Oh!**

*Oh, that was a wonderful night with this huge bonfire we had.*

**And good for the adults as well as for the children no doubt?**

*Well, they had to supervise I suppose (laughs) in case we burnt down everything else that was around, but I know it was a huge bonfire we'd have, once a year on Guy Fawkes night, yeah.*

**How lovely. And do you ...**

*Oh, we did have fun you know, mm.*

**Yeah, yeah. And as a group of families ...**

*Yes.*

**... you would have had a lot of fun?**

*Yes, we all got together then, yes.*

**Yeah. Would you have got together for celebrations like First Communions and Confirmations?**

*They were more private affairs.*

**OK.**

*No, they were just, like for Confirmation would be just the Godmother and that's all, no big party for that. The party was for the school.*

**Oh!**

*We'd have a party at school on these big days and then everybody went to their own homes with their sponsors.*

**And what about birthday parties, like it seems from this photo that birthday parties were celebrated pretty well?**

*Yeah, oh yeah.*

**For children?**

*For that age, yes. I used to have parties too but we were an older age group than these of course.*

**Yes, yeah, and what do you remember about birthday parties?**

*Oh, I always had one, yes, I was one of the few that had. There weren't very many of us around then, about three girls, and Mum would always give me this cake and little presents, and they would come to my party.*

**So your Mum made the cake?**

*Yes, I think she would have made the cake, yes.*

**Oh. And who were the three ...?**

*And we'd have jelly, she'd make jelly and ...*

**Mm, nice.**

*One girl would have been the Tonellato girl.*

**Right.**

*And one was Daminato, who used to work for the, lived in the Fewings property.*

**Right.**

*Yes, I think she was one of them but when she ... I don't remember now.*

**Another question I was going to ask you about your family is about how your parents kept in touch with their relatives in Italy?**

*By letter, of course, yes, they always looked forward to getting their letters.*

**Mm. Did you have a postal service, like was it delivered by a postie?**

*Yeah, it got delivered by a postie, yes.*

**Because people say that Frogmore Road was not a great road in those days.**

*It was a dirt track.*

**Yeah (laughs).**

*But there were ... no, the letters were delivered though by posties, yes.*

**And do you remember your parents telling you about the letters coming from family in Italy?**

*No, not much, no, no.*

**How did you know about your relatives then in Italy?**

*Well later on in life after, after the war more than anything, different ones, different friends of ours went back to Italy and they'd come back with stories of Italy then. My mother never went. She didn't want to go, and her brothers all went and they'd tell her different things about the family in Italy.*

**Right.**

*And that's how I got to know them.*

**And what about your father's family?**

*Mm, not so much because my father came from a poorer family, and not so much of them I knew, it was mostly my mother's side, because my Uncles were working in the terrazzo business in Perth, and they were quite wealthy, and they were able to come over to see my mother quite a lot.*

**Oh! I wonder how they got to be in Perth?**

*I think my Uncle, as I said, they owned their boarding house where my mother lived when she came from Italy, and he had started up a terrazzo business, but then jobs got scarce and I think he thought "Oh well, I'll go to Perth and start up there", and there he really did well, there was more work over there.*

**Oh! Isn't that interesting?**

*So my father, my father was supposed to have gone over there too, but he didn't go, instead he got a job for Del Fabbro, with the Del Fabbro, doing the same type of work.*

**Interesting.**

*And then the war broke out and my Uncle was interned, anyhow, from Perth.*

**Mm, all the way to Loveday?**

*Yes, they sent them all to Loveday.*

**And did you ever hear people talk about what Loveday was like?**

*No, they seemed to be happy there, the men. They were well-fed, they had these huts, they lived in these huts, and I went to visit my Uncle once with my Auntie and he seemed to be happy enough.*

**How would you have made that trip to Loveday?**

*I think we went by train, probably gone by train.*

**Mm. So the women weren't interned, it was just the men?**

*No, just the men, mm.*

**Hard kind of situation for families?**

*Well yes, it could have ruined my Uncle's business because he had to shut everything down but, yeah, it was hard. I don't know, some how they managed. The Italians pick themselves up and start all over again, don't they?*

**They do! What do you think makes them do that? Do you think there's something in the Italian spirit?**

*They're determined, yeah.*

**Determination?**

*Yeah, determination, yeah, yes.*

**I think they must have had a lot of determination and courage to have come here.**

*Yes, yes.*

**Especially, you know like in your family in the '20s.**

*Well I suppose the Australian Government did ask for workers.*

**But that was after the war.**

*Even before the war.*

**Was it?**

*Mm. Otherwise my Uncle probably wouldn't have known much about Australia. It must have been, it must have been advertised somewhere to come to Australia.*

**Yeah! I understand that, you know, lots of Italians have gone to America.**

*Yes, at the same time some went to America.*

**Yeah!**

*And some came to Australia.*

**And then the Americans cut back on the numbers.**

*Oh!*

**And so, for example, here in Adelaide, the largest number of Italian migrants before World War II, was in 1927.**

*Oh yeah, well that's ...*

**Who came to South Australia.**

*Well there must have been something said then, advertised.*

**Yes, or people knew that Australia was accepting, you know, the migrants, and yeah.**

*Yes. And my Uncle's wife, her brother was 15, and he wanted to come here too, so my father was his guardian and brought him over with my mother, and his name was Angelo, and when he got here he somehow got called "Boy", and he was always known as the boy.*

**Even as an adult?**

*Adult, the boy, the boy.*

**Wow!**

*Il Boy.*

**Il Boy?**

*Mm, isn't that funny.*

**And, and what did he do, you know, at 15, he arrived in 192...?**

*Well he probably worked for his Uncle, his mother's husband, probably worked doing cement work, perhaps the lighter jobs, I don't know.*

**Because it's very young, isn't it?**

*But then he started on his own though, he did ... actually he ended up tiling, doing a lot of tiling.*

**Oh! And he was still called *Il boy*?**

*Il boy, mm.*

**Il boy Marchioro.**

*Marchioro.*

**And did he stay in Adelaide?**

*Yes, he lived at Keswick, and he married an Australian girl, yeah.*

**Would that have been seen as something a bit different, to marry an Australian?**

*Yes, I suppose it was, yes. They used to go dancing, the boys, and I suppose they met girls at the dance, fell in love with them and married them, yes.*

**And was it something that you would have thought much about, about, you know, being the daughter of parents who came from Italy, because you know at that time there weren't lots and lots of different nationalities.**

*No.*

**You know like that happened more after World War II. Did you ever experience any kind of feelings of discrimination or ...?**

*No, no, that's the amazing part. Some people did in those days but I never, never had any problems. Never. I was lucky.*

**And what did you know that people experienced?**

*Oh, I've heard that there had been fights outside the dance halls, and then they were called dagoes and ... but it didn't seem to worry me. I went to school and that was it.*

**Oh! So maybe more with young men perhaps?**

*Probably, yes. Sometimes it was the Calabrians with the North Italians, they used to fight, yes.*

**Oh, OK (laughs).**

*Mm, that happened.*

**Oh! And some people remember going to school with very different lunches than their, you know, say Anglo-Australian friends. Did you ever feel that?**

*No, no, no, I always had egg, I remember egg and salami sandwiches.*

**Nobody ever said “[sound effects] what’s that?”**

*No, no, no. I think with the nuns there everybody were kept in line, you know, there was never any fights amongst the girls, no. We had lovely nuns that taught us, St Joseph nuns.*

**Yes.**

*They were beautiful.*

**And the boys would have gone to ... like if they went to a Catholic school where did they go to?**

*They went to the same school at Hindmarsh up to Grade 7.*

**Right.**

*And then after Grade 7 they would have gone to Marist Brothers at Thebarton.*

**Right.**

*And the girls stayed at home after they did their Intermediate, yeah.*

**And when you left at 15, you went home, basically, to work at home, didn’t you?**

*Well I worked in an office for about six months.*

**Oh, that’s right, and what was the ...?**

*And then my father was sick and he couldn’t work and he couldn’t help Mum, so Mum asked me to stay home and help her in the garden, which I was glad, I didn’t like office work.*

**And what office was it, do you remember?**

*It was the Strath Butter Factory, got in the office there in Waymouth Street.*

**Oh right. And you didn’t enjoy the work?**

*No, not really, no, it wasn't very interesting for me, working out the ratio of butter and cream and all of this, or whatever it was, you know. It was my first job, and then to go and get the mail at the post office. I found it very boring.*

**And when you were working then on your parents' garden, you must have worked very hard?**

*Yes, it was hard work.*

**Like a really big contrast I imagine?**

*Yeah, it was very hard with the forks and shovels, but the other girls did it too, in the area.*

**Yes.**

*There were three or four of us that were on the market gardens there, and one Calabrian girl next door. In fact I'm still in touch with her, she lives at Gawler now, and we often talk about those good old days, you know, (laughs), I enjoyed it.*

**Yeah, yeah! And if you think about Frogmore Road again, and you think about all those people who would have lived there, like I was thinking about Mr Fewings, the blacksmith, who did he have work from? I guess there were a lot of people around who needed ...?**

*Well, all the market gardeners had their horses, so they all took their horses to get the shoes, what do you call them?*

**Shod?**

*What do they call it?*

**Shoe shod or something.**

*Something like that, yeah.*

**Yeah, yeah.**

*I remember going there with my Uncle and seeing this man, I can still see him working on this shoe from the horse (laughs).*

**Wow! With a fire?**

*Yes, a fire.*

**So you got to see quite a few things really, didn't you?**

*Yeah, yes.*

**Going around and ...**

*Yes, the market, I used to wander, this little girl, just imagine wandering around the market.*

**And this little girl interpreting and then going off to the pictures by herself.**

*Yes, yes.*

**Something that probably wouldn't happen today.**

*And I remember Uncle used to get me to go with him when he had income tax forms to fill out. He couldn't do it so he'd take me with him to the income tax department, and (laughs) and they'd wonder how he would have saved so much money, and it wasn't declared, so I said "Oh, the Italians live on, we live very frugally, you know, and that's how we save our money", and he said "You wouldn't be telling me lies, would you?" and I said "No" (laughs), but I'd only be saying what Uncle had told me to say.*

**Yeah, yeah.**

*Well, they wanted to know where the money came from and where it was spent, and how he was able to buy a truck, because he ended up buying a truck to go to the market.*

**And there's a beautiful photo of that new truck, isn't there?**

*That's right, yes.*

**The one that you took, yeah.**

*That's right, and they wondered how he got the money to buy that.*

**And you had to report as the interpreter, what was happening?**

*Yes.*

**Yeah! But I also have that sense of you, you know, being a child on Frogmore Road and like you say having a pretty good social life with the other children, and those sand hills, and going to the beach occasionally – not very often but ...**

*Tonellato, Mr Tonellato had a horse and I don't know whether you'd call it a buggy or a trap, with one horse, and he'd take two or three of us at a time down to the beach. That was lovely in the summer time. That was a treat.*

**Yeah! And what about clothes, did your mother buy clothes in Adelaide, or did they get sent from Italy?**

*No, she'd buy the material. She had two friends who were dressmakers in the city, and they'd make our dresses. One in particular, she was Eleonora Marchioro's Auntie.*

**Oh right.**

*Used to make my dresses.*

**And did you learn from her some of the dressmaking, or ...?**

*Not really but I used to love having them made. It was usually a Christmas present, a new dress for Christmas.*

**Oh, how lovely. And what do you think that you would have learned from your parents, you know, what would have been their message for you and your sisters in life?**

*I don't know really, I think they just let us grow up in their own stride, I don't know, we weren't really taught anything in particular, but I knew that they were honest people, and I think you learn more by example I suppose; hard workers and frugal.*

**An important way of living for anybody really, but particularly for people who come from another country where they've had, you know, to really put down their own roots.**

*Yeah.*

**And now at your age when you look back you must think about them as being very strong young people coming here?**

*Yes, they were, yes, yes, but even the Australian friends that my mother and father made in the area, they were good to Mum and Dad. One lady I remember she used to make us a lovely big cake every week for two shillings (laughs), and it was lovely cake with icing on it.*

**How lovely. Well thank you very much, Lina. Is there anything last words that you would have?**

*No, I don't know what.*

**OK. Thank you very much.**

**Third interview recorded with Adelina (Lina) Rismondo nee Marchioro**  
**Recorded by Madeleine Regan at Cowandilla, South Australia on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

---

**Lina, the focus of this interview will be the years of World War II and your memories of that time, and some of the events that took place, so between 1939 and 1945.**

**Can you tell me what was happening in your family when the war began in 1939, like where were you living and who was at home, that kind of thing?**

*I don't know how to ...*

**How old were you in 1939?**

*I was 12.*

**Yeah.**

*And we moved from Frogmore Road to Pierson Street, Lockleys, and I helped my mother work on her market garden because my father was too sick to do anything.*

**Right.**

*He had asthma and kidney trouble.*

**And in 1939 when you were 12 were you still at school?**

*Oh yes, yes, at Hindmarsh St Joseph's Catholic School. I used to ride the bike there.*

**And do you have a memory of the war, you know, any information about the war starting?**

*No, I just remember listening to the radio, shortwave radio, with my father, and reading the paper for him. That's about all I knew about the war then, and I knew that my Uncle Florindo was interned from Perth, and he was sent to Loveday Internment Camp, which we took it in turns to go and see, and I went with my Auntie, what would I call it, his wife, partner, and we were billeted on a vineyard, and we picked grapes during the day time and then went to see my Uncle at night time. Actually we used to have our meal at the camp with these internees, which we rather enjoyed.*

**And when you say *billeted*, what were those arrangements?**

*Well, the government used to send us ... well, we wanted to go to Loveday of course, so they found a place at Loveday for us, which was near my Uncle's camp.*

**And whereabouts was that?**

*At Glossop, they called it Glossop, nearby.*

**And when you say you took it in turns, do you mean in your family?**

*With my parents, yes. My mother went first because it was her brother, and I went then with my Auntie – well, she went first by herself – and then to it again with me, and then my father went to see him in the camp.*

**And would you always go up, would the people always go up for a week?**

*No, it was only a week when I went with my Auntie because we, as I said, we worked on this grapevine farm, orchard. But my mother and father, they only stayed a day or two I think.*

**Right! And were you paid for ...?**

*Yes, we were paid, so much a bucket for ... we didn't earn much I'm afraid.*

*Laughter*

**And would you go to Loveday every day to visit your Uncle?**

*Yes, every evening we went, mm.*

**And your Uncle's name?**

*Was Florindo.*

**Florindo Marchioro, yeah. And do you remember what year, you know like was it 1939 or was it after the war began?**

*It would be after, it would have been more 1941 I suppose, because my father died soon after the war ended.*

**And do you remember what it was like at Loveday?**

*Just lots of vineyards, that's all I remember.*

**But the camp?**

*The camp, they were like huts, iron and timber huts, and there were ... I think there were Italians and then the Germans, and the Japanese. They were all in different sections of the camp.*

**A very interesting experience for a young girl?**

*Yes, but it didn't seem to impress me very much.*

*Laughter*

**And do you remember, did you have to check in to go to the camp?**

*Oh well, there was the office there, there was an office and we had to go to the office and then we'd be taken over to the mess where they had their meals, and all these men were there having their meals, and we were sitting with my Uncle ... and I think my Auntie made friends with some other men there, and friends of my Uncle, we were in a group, and we had meals there, nice meals.*

**Mm. And I'm interested to know whether it was like a prison situation.**

*No, not really, it didn't appear to me a prison, no.*

**What kind of clothes did people wear?**

*I think they had just ... I think like the khaki colour clothes.*

**Like a uniform kind of ...?**

*I think so, yes.*

**And do you know if your Uncle would have been working there?**

*No, they weren't.*

**They didn't work?**

*Well they used ... I don't know if you've ever seen ships in bottles. Have you seen those ships in bottles? Well they learnt to do that sort of work, art or whatever you call it, yes, they did that. I think they did a lot of things like that, woodwork with their hands, you know.*

**So they weren't ...?**

*They weren't working as labourers anywhere, no.*

**And what about food and stuff like that, were they growing food at the camp?**

*No, no, they didn't do that, that all came from Adelaide I should imagine.*

**Interesting that experience.**

*It was, yes.*

**And did you understand, say at that time, about internment and what it meant?**

*No, I just thought because they were Italians, and I think it was mostly the wealthy Italians that were called up. They probably thought they had the means to have communication with Italy. No, I don't know, because my Uncle was wealthy even then.*

**Can you tell me a bit about your Uncle, like he was your mother's ...**

*Brother.*

**... older brother or ...?**

*Older brother, yes. Well he, he's the one that got Mum and Dad to come to Adelaide because he was in Adelaide in the beginning. Then he went to Perth to start a terrazzo and cement business in Perth, and he did well there, there was plenty of work there, and that's when the war broke out and he was, and I think he was the ... they had a club, the Italian Club, and my Uncle was one of the main men on the committee, you know. Perhaps that's why he was under suspicion, I don't know, but I don't know of anybody that did collaborate with Mussolini at the time, no, they were all innocent people, they just had to take precautions I suppose, the war, mm.*

**And when your Uncle was released from internment, what happened?**

*Well, he came to live with my mother for a few, I should imagine a few weeks, until he went back to his home in Perth with Elisa, his companion.*

**And while your Uncle Florindo was interned did Elisa live in your house?**

*Yes, yes.*

**Did she come from the same part of Italy?**

*No, she came from Bergamo, that's up north from Milan, in the mountains there, Milan, and Valtellina do you know Valtellina, near there? And she was friendly with a Mrs Baruffi, because her husband was interned there with my Uncle, and they both, actually they both came to live with my mother for a few weeks, then they all went to Perth, back to Perth, and then Mrs Baruffi, she must have come back to start a boarding house here in Adelaide, in Hindley Street, because then I was friendly with her daughters.*

**So they ended up staying in Adelaide?**

*Stayed in Adelaide, yes, yes.*

**Do you remember people talking about internment, you know, of the Italians? Was there any feeling that it was ... about it?**

*No, not really. I remember it was quite a joke. The Greek people would ... when they had their fish and chip shops, they had signs out the front, "We are a Greek establishment." They didn't want to be thought they were Italians. They used to want to be Italians, but during the war they didn't want to be, and they'd have "We are a Greek establishment" (laughs). I remember seeing that on the windows (laughs). That's all I know much, how much about what happened really. There was never any fighting or, you know.*

**And obviously not all Italians were interned?**

*No.*

**Because your father wasn't.**

*No, no, no, no. It was only the people in business mainly, the Del Fabbro's here in Adelaide – my father worked for him – and it was only the wealthier people.*

**Was Del Fabbro interned at Loveday?**

*I think he would have been, yes, yes, but my Uncle didn't have anything to do with him, we didn't see much of him. All I know that he was interned for a while, mm, but then I think he got ill and I believe he had cancer. Of course that was the end of Loveday for him, yeah.*

**This is Del Fabbro?**

*Del Fabbro, yeah, mm.*

**We looked at some documents from the National Archives about your family and the focus on them during the war. What do you think about that?**

*In what way?*

**Remember there was a document which said that your parents owned a wireless?**

*Yes.*

**And they were, I guess, investigated because of that.**

*Well, it must have been secretly though because I don't remember anybody coming to the house and asking Dad about the wireless, no.*

**Were wirelesses easy to buy at that time?**

*Oh yes, yes, yes.*

**And was the wireless important to your Dad?**

*Yes, he used to ... he'd listen to the news in English of course, never missed that, and then he'd also listen on the shortwave, and he listened to the Italian news early in the morning or during the night, I forget now. Yes, he was very interested in politics.*

**And why do you think he was so interested in politics?**

*Well, I think it's only natural, I mean they came from Italy. I think you never forget your homeland, do you?*

**So he was interested in the political situation in Italy?**

*In general, yes, in general, more or less the war, but I don't think he had any preferences. I mean he had a friend that he used to work with and he was called up for the army, and he used to come down and see Dad in his army uniform, you know, Australian Army. And of course because Dad had kidney trouble and asthma, so he could never go to the war, or into the army, so he just stayed home.*

**And I guess your parents would have had, you know, their family, brothers, sisters, parents, in Italy who were affected by the war?**

*Oh yes, I suppose, yes. They all had their farms, they were peasants, you know, so I suppose they lived well. They weren't in the cities where the, where the riots were, you know, if there were any, I don't know what happens during the war, they were on farmland, but we didn't hear from them for years, no, there was no communication. I think that's probably why my father wanted to listen to the news to see what was going on over there with his family, because he had brothers and sisters there. My mother didn't, she only had ... I think she had a sister in Rome, yeah, and yes, my mother's sister, she had a son who was engaged to a cousin, Florindo's daughter actually, but then she met a Fascist and she got into trouble there. They imprisoned her because she was with the Fascists, and they're things that my father used to try and find out about, what happened to the people.*

**And do you know what happened to that aunt?**

*Well ... my cousin?*

**Your cousin, sorry.**

*Yes. She came to Australia. Her Fascist fiancé was killed by the partisans and she was imprisoned, and she had all her head shaved. In those days they used to shave all the girls'*

*hair off, and when the war was over she was able to come to Australia. She had a little girl by this man, lovely looking boy he was, mm.*

**And did she settle here in Adelaide or in Perth?**

*In Perth, yes. And my Auntie from Rome came over. She lived in Perth, and my mother used to go and see her every so often.*

**So your father's family had more of their members who stayed in Italy?**

*Yes, they all did, yes. In fact, the first two that came to Australia were two ... my father's brother's two sons came to Australia because there wasn't much on the land for the whole family when they grew up, so two of them came here and they worked in the cement and terrazzo business (laughs), poor things.*

**And was that after the war?**

*Oh yes, when the war was ended.*

**Yeah.**

*And my mother, you know she was friendly with a Mrs Rossetto, don't you? Well, Mrs Rossetto had friends that wanted to come to Australia so Mum did sponsor a couple of them, and some of them, I think, they boarded with Mum for about two pounds a week, but only for a few days until they got a job, you know, somewhere. Mum was very good like that, she had the room there.*

**This is after the war?**

*After the war, always after the war.*

**Mm.**

*After Dad died actually.*

**And you were telling me your Dad died in 1945?**

*Yes, yes.*

**Before the war ended?**

*I get mixed up there, it was either '45 or '43. I think he was 43 and he died in 1945,<sup>1</sup> yes. Is that the year the war ended in August?*

**Mm.**

*Yeah, that's right. Well he was 43, yes, he died then (laughs).*

**And if we go back to the beginning of the war again, one of the things that you used to do with your Dad was to read the local paper, English paper.**

*The English paper, yes.*

*Laughter*

**Can you tell me about that?**

*I didn't understand much about it (laughs). I remember reading about the, I don't know what ... if that came with Tobruk, you know, those days, was it, Tobruk, Rats of Tobruk, yeah, and the Abyssinia and, oh, I didn't understand any of it, you know, but I'd try to read it to him, but anything he didn't understand, "Oh", he said "you're in Grade 3" (laughs). He was disgusted with me.*

**He thought you should know?**

*I should know all about it, mm, You're in Grade 3 (laughs). Poor old Dad.*

**Yeah! And at school was war talked about, do you remember?**

*No, never, never talked about, no, no. As I said the only thing we ever talked about was the coupons. We were all comparing each other having coupons. We had to buy clothing, Mum had plenty of coupons to buy meat and milk and sugar, I remember, and then clothing of course, but then we didn't have much clothing anyhow, didn't have much money for that, but there were plenty of coupons.*

**And where did you take the coupons when you had them?**

*To the store where we bought the goods, yeah.*

**And did people share the coupons around?**

*Not that I know of, only our family with the people next door, but I don't know of anybody else if they did it, but these people, I was friendly the eldest daughter, we were the same*

---

<sup>1</sup> Francesco died 19 March 1945

*age. In fact we still ring each other on the phone, and she had three little sisters, one after the other, and they had plenty of coupons, and a brother who was younger than she was, so because of them, you know her, she'd give them to me and I'd give them to Mum (laughs). We did alright.*

**And you obviously had extra people too in your home?**

*Well that's it, yes, yeah, but as I said no money. I remember charging, her charging two pound a week for the girl who came here to marry somebody, and when she got here she didn't like him, so Mrs Rossetto came to see my mother and she said "Will you take Ida in until she gets a job?" and so she came to live with us, and then I got her a job down at Actil's Factory, the sewing factory, and she was doing alright. Mum charged her two pound a week, I remember that, and then she met another boy and she married him and went to live out at Payneham somewhere, mm. She only died a few months ago actually, yeah.*

**And in your family, if we think about the beginning of the war again in 1939, you were the middle child ...**

*Yes.*

**... because your sister ...?**

*Maria. [Also known as Mary]*

**Yeah.**

*She had epilepsy.*

**Yeah.**

*And she was a year and a half older than I was, and there was Connie, she was eleven years younger.*

**So Connie would have been born, I think we said just before the war, 1938?**

*Yes.*

**And did you have responsibilities for Connie?**

*Oh yes, yes, I had to carry her around, no pushers in those days, or prams, so everywhere I went I had to carry her on my hip (laughs), because Mum was busy working in the garden*

*and, yes, I helped look after Mary too. Mary thought the world of me, we were very close with Mary.*

**And during the war, like you would have had plenty of vegetables and ...**

*Yes.*

**... you know?**

*We did, yes.*

**Other sorts of food that was produced on your parents' land?**

*No, only the tomatoes and beans that we used to sell, but apart from that Mum would grow her own lettuce and, oh, different – what else did she grow – onions and peas. Oh, we had plenty of vegetables. She only had the coupons to buy meat and butter, and I think milk too, and sugar, but not vegetables, she had her own vegetables. Oh, we ate well. We had our own fowls so we'd have plenty of eggs, and of course, she'd made her own pasta, and then we had the chickens that we used to eat when they were little. Oh yes, we ate well, and of course Mum had a cow, so we had plenty of milk and cream, you know, to make the butter. So on top of the coupons we had plenty.*

**And then you would have left school I guess during the war?**

*Yes, when I was sixteen, yes, oh yes. Yes, because the war finished when I was eighteen.*

**And when you left school you, did you stay at home?**

*No, I worked in the office, at Strath's Butter Factory, they were in Waymouth Street, but then my father got sicker and Mum said "You'll have to stay home and help me because Dad can't do anything in the garden". Actually Dad was still working for Del Fabbro and it was very sad to see him go to work on his pushbike with asthma, but in the end he had to stay home, and then I stayed home too from my office job, which I was glad, I didn't like it anyhow, it was boring for me (laughs). I had my girlfriend next door, you know, working, we were good friends, it was better home (laughs).*

**And you probably worked very hard when you were at home too?**

*Oh yes, with the glasshouses, yes, oh yes, digging them by hand with the forks, and then we had to plant them, and then we had to string them up, you know how they go up a string. Have you seen, seen tomatoes in a glasshouse? Yeah, but oh, we didn't mind, it wasn't that*

*hard. The hard work was digging the ground to plan the tomatoes, but then after that it was alright. Then we'd pick them and pack them, and send them off to Melbourne.*

**I imagine that you must have had an agent who would pick up the produce?**

*Yeah, we had the Market Gardeners' Association from the East End Market, there were quite a few there, and they'd pick up our tomatoes, yeah.*

**And your parents would have kept this going through the war years?**

*Yes, mm.*

**Did they grow any food for, you know, the army or ...?**

*No, the only thing we did have from the army were the tomatoes when they were, the crop was finished, and there'd be lots of red, overripe tomatoes, which was good for the grape juice, tomato juice, and of course the Americans, they liked their tomato juice, so we'd send boxes of red, ripe tomatoes to the, probably Rosella Factory, I don't know where they went to. Somebody used to pick them up and then make the juice for the American soldiers.*

**And when you think about the end of the war, it must have been a difficult time in your family then if your father had died quite recently and ...?**

*Well, my mother had done all the work on the garden anyhow, and he didn't help us there. He was just, poor Dad, he used to sweep the floor for Mum, you know, he couldn't do anything, so financially it didn't make any difference to my mother. She built her house with the money she got from her tomatoes. Yes, she did well with the glasshouses. In those days there wasn't much competition around, you know. See now I believe a lot of tomatoes come from Queensland, but then it was just the South Australian growers and it was good, they got good money. She built a lovely house at Lockleys.*

**This is after Pierson, you left Pierson [Street]?**

*Yeah, then we went to Lasscock Avenue.*

**And in terms of, you know, I'm thinking about that wireless situation, would your father and mother have been unusual having a wireless in those days?**

*Yes, they were one of the few. They liked to have things, nice things, they did, and it was a luxury, not too many people had a wireless, because my girlfriend next door, I used to have to go to her place of a night time, about 7 o'clock, because the Calabrians are very strict with their daughters, and they'd say "Teresa, come and listen to 'Martin's Corner' and*

*'Dad and Dave' on the radio", and the father would say (laughs) "Yes, because it's you Lina, I'll let Teresa come", you know, so she was allowed to come and listen to Dad and Dave, but no, Dad wanted ... did his best for us. He knew I'd enjoy the radio, but then he also wanted to hear the (laughs) war news (laughs).*

**And would listening to those programs, the 'Dad and Dave', and what was the other one, 'Martins ...?**

*'Martins Corner' and 'When a Girl Marries', 'Shandoo the Magician', oh gosh, there were some good ... oh there was the, the Holden Play, it was a play for one hour, lovely stories they were, you know, just for one hour, and we'd listen to them once a week. They were on every Sunday night I think, but my girlfriend was there every night to listen to the radio, because they didn't have one.*

**And in those days you had to have a licence, didn't you?**

*Yes, oh yes, oh yes, we paid for a licence, mm.*

**And what would you do when you were listening? Did you do anything, you know ...?**

*Knitting.*

**Knitting?**

*Knitting, yes, yeah, lots of knitting (laughs).*

**And would you knit for yourselves or for other people or ...?**

*No, for myself, you know, and fancy work – lovely aprons with the fancy-work stitching you know, yes.*

**And was it just you and Teresa, or did your Mum and your Dad listen to those programs?**

*No, Mum didn't, no, just me and Teresa, the English programs. Mum and Dad, they'd probably listen to the news and music when there was music, but the plays, they didn't listen to the plays, that was for us.*

**And what would they be doing at that time while you were ...?**

*Oh, probably washing the dishes (laughs).*

**Oh! And then of course there was the baby, you know, Connie and ...?**

*Yeah, Connie, yes, mm, yeah (laughs). No, there wasn't much ... that was our ... at one stage the American soldiers camped along Pierson Street, and Dad had a lovely time with them. Oh, he'd give them his home-made wine and they loved it, yeah. I remember that happening.*

**What would the American soldiers have been doing there?**

*I don't know what they were doing. I know they were camped, they had their camp there, tents, along Pierson Street. They used to sleep in them.*

**They actually had a camp set up there?**

*Yes, only for about a week I think. I don't know what they were doing though there, while they were there, but they used to come and see Dad at night time, you know, because at night time they were free, and they mixed with the Italians and the ... and I remember them coming to see Dad – I remember it was about three or four of them one night – and Dad was giving them like his home-made wine, and maybe Mum cooked a meal of spaghetti for them, I don't know, but I know they had a good time. Dad loved it, mm, yeah.*

**It's interesting to think of American soldiers being so close to the city of Adelaide.**

*Yes, yes, yes, I don't know why they were there, no I really, I really don't.*

**Would there have been many houses in that area at the time?**

*In that street there were ... on our side there were about four houses, because we all had our market gardens you see, and our house on each garden, and on the other side there were only about two really, mm, two ...*

**So not many?**

*No, not many.*

**And if the houses had market gardens, I guess they were quite a few acres each probably?**

*Yeah, eight, mostly eight.*

**Eight acres?**

*On our side they were eight acres, on the other side they were bigger, bigger farms.*

**And so next door were Calabrians?**

*Yes.*

**And then did you know the other people?**

*Well, on our side they were mostly Calabrians, and on the other side they were Australians, yeah. Mr and Mrs Fry – and who else was there – Wooldridge, and they had different sort of vegetables. They didn't have glasshouses, they had mostly potatoes, big acres of potatoes they grew.*

**And would they have farmed by hand mainly, or did, did they have equipment?**

*They probably had tractors, you know, they did, yes, mm.*

**It's interesting that ... so the Italian market gardeners had the glasshouses and the ...**

*Yes, tomatoes. It's strange, isn't it, yes, yes.*

**Do you remember where your parents got the seed, the seed for the tomatoes?**

*Oh, we bought the little plants from the suppliers at the East End Market. They're the ones that used to buy, take our tomatoes when they went to the market, and then they'd sell the seed and the fertilisers, everything we needed for the tomatoes, and I remember the boxes with all these little seedlings, yeah.*

**I guess when you were working there with your mother you were responsible for some of the planting, were you?**

*Oh yes, yes, mm, yes (laughs).*

**How many crops a year would you have had?**

*Only the one crop, only the one crop, because then we, towards the end of the tomato crop, we were able to put beans, climbing beans, so we had climbing beans – that was our second crop – and then when that was finished we had to clean, clean them out. That was the worse job, itchy skin, you know, dried tomato leaves, oh, that was the worst of the lot. Anyhow we got it done. Mum was very strong, and I'd get cross with Mum because we'd have to put seven rows of plants in each glasshouse, and Mum was always crooked. We'd end up on that side of the ... "But Mum they're crooked", and she'd say "Oh", she said "I get tomatoes as nice as anybody else with my crooked rows, why worry?" I mean they looked awful, you know, (laughs) poor old Mum (laughs).*

**And what about, you know, I'm wondering like during the war, about social life, you know, in your family and, you know, as you were growing up as a teenager?**

*(Laughs) Well I think once a year Mum and Dad would go to town and we'd go to Mass in St Patrick's Church in Grote Street, and we'd go to town, and everybody would meet at a certain place, Stoccos they were called, but that's about every ... There were pictures at the Lockleys picture theatre.*

### **On Henley Beach Road?**

*On Henley Beach Road, yes. We'd go sometimes to that (laughs). Our main outing was with Teresa. We were allowed to go to confession, because her father was so strict, but he'd let her go to confession, so (laughs) we'd go to confession every Saturday night at Thebarton Queen of Angels [church]. And halfway there, there were these boxthorn bushes, and we'd get behind the bushes and put lipstick on, and then (laughs) go to confession (laughs), and all we'd tell the priest was that we used to put lipstick on, and look, and we were 18 and 19 years of age (inaudible). Anyhow, the priest must have laughed, and every Saturday (laughs) we'd turn up to confession. I can imagine what he used to say, "Oh those two silly little girls", you know, and they'd say "Give us our penance", you know. And home we'd come and our parents were happy, you know, we'd been out.*

*Laughter*

### **And Lina, how did you get to Queen of Angels from Pierson Street?**

*We'd walk through to the bus, the tramline then, the tram, and then we walked down from Henley Beach Road to Queen of Angels.*

### **And where did you put the lipstick on?**

*Well, see our (laughs), we both had, like living on market gardens and walking down towards the bus stop and the tram stop, there were these boxthorn bushes dividing, dividing fences they were, and that's where we put our lipstick on (laughs), and we thought, we thought we were wicked you know. That's dreadful. Talk about naïve you know (laughs), and the priest, I can just imagine now when I look back he must have thought it was so funny, the same girls every Saturday night going to confession.*

### **And you didn't make any detours?**

*No, no, no, we were too innocent, you know, we didn't think of anything else. No, we were good girls, you know (laughs).*

**And ...**

*But I will say this though, I don't ... do you want to hear this? Well when the father used to "Lina, because it's you, I'll let her come to your place and listen to the radio", but then in the meantime she met a boy who wanted to see her, so she'd come to my place and then she'd go and meet him on Pierson Street, and, and of course I'd be sitting in the, on the roadside waiting, you know, and I suppose they just talked and kissed a bit, you know. Then one night she said something, I got worried, and I said "Oh, Teresa, I'm not coming anymore because if your father finds out he'll kill us". I think he might have started to get a bit more passionate, and she'd tell me everything and, you know, he was good, he was a good boy. He went to see her father then, but nothing came of it, you know.*

**And was her Italian, the boy?**

*Calabrese, yes, nice looking boy, but when ... I suppose he tried to kiss her or something, I don't know, and "Oh Teresa". I said "I'm not coming anymore" (laughs). We laugh now, we ring each other, she lives in Gawler, and I say "Remember this, remember that", and she says "Oh yes", she says "Yes, but we had a good time, didn't we?"*

**(Laughs) And were your parents strict?**

*Yes, yeah, my father was strict, yes, but I didn't, I didn't meet anybody (laughs) so everything was alright (laughs), mm.*

**Do you remember about your parents and their social life in the Italian community?**

*I think they would sometimes come into town and they had friends in town, and they'd sit there and play cards probably, and come home, catch the last bus home, but then I was at home with Mary and my sister, we went to bed. In those days we weren't frightened of anything happening, we were all safe, and Dad, Mum and Dad would come home about 11 o'clock. That happened about, well perhaps once every few months, but no, nothing much else, and then they'd visit different people in the area, and people visited us, they'd play cards, that was just about all they had, mm.*

**And do you remember going over to Frogmore Road?**

*I didn't go much there then, it was mostly they'd come over to our home. The boys made a little motor car with bicycle wheels, and we'd say "Please let us have a ride on it, please", so they'd let us have a ride (laughs) around the farm, and we were all in our, like 18 and*

19, mind you, riding this little motor car made out of bicycle parts, or wheels, or something.

**And who'd made the bike, the car?**

*The Santin's, the Santin's, yeah, and Tonellato's, because they lived, they had their farm down further from us and, oh we had to beg them to let us have a ride on it, you know (laughs). But I think there were days ... I think we had a better time then than a lot of the young ones do now, quite frankly.*

**Why do you think that?**

*Oh, well now you hear them, they go to parties and the pubs, come home early hours of the morning. Well I mean my father wouldn't have allowed that, you know. None of them would have allowed that sort of thing, and we wouldn't have dreamt of doing it. No, we had a very innocence [sic] life, you know, naïve too.*

**That very ...**

*And this, and this girl, my friend Teresa, she must have met this boy at a wedding, you see, and he said "Can I come and see you?" She said "Yes", you know, and I was the one (laughs) who had to go (laughs) and ask her father if she could come and listen to the radio, and "Because it's you, Lina, I'll let her". Well, little did he know, that's what I said to Teresa, "Don't you dare ask me again. You tell Joe to come and see your father", which he did.*

**And would Teresa's father have thought Joe was OK?**

*No. I think that's what happened. No, Joe was too good looking and he didn't trust him. Oh no, nothing came of that. And then there was an arranged marriage with somebody else, and she had a happy life though with him, because in those days they had arranged marriages you know, the Calabrians, yeah. and she married the one her father picked out for her. She was happy. I was her bridesmaid (laughs).*

**Did she marry before you did?**

*Yes, yes, yes.*

**Would you have had a view about arranged marriages?**

*No, we didn't have them in our ... not where my mother came from, no, but my father, he didn't seem to like any of the boys that were around though. I remember he was ... I remember one boy coming there one night and asked Dad if I could go to the pictures with him, and Dad says "No". The poor boy ran for his life, you know, and my father said to me, "You're not going out with all these ratbags". He was a lovely boy, Tonellato's boy, good boys, you know. But no, my father was very strict like that, you know, he didn't ...*

**And what do you think he would have, you know, thought about you?**

*I don't know, I was too young perhaps, mm, too young, because then he died so ...*

**And what about you, did you have any thoughts about arranged marriages?**

*No.*

**Like what did you think when Teresa had her marriage?**

*Well, we ... being Calabrian we expected that, so we didn't think anything of it, that's their custom and that's it, and with arranged meetings on each side. They had to bring a certain amount of dowry, you know, and I remember poor Antonio, her father, had to give this boy two glasshouses, and he had these small little children to rear, but that was the thing then and ...*

**Who would have worked out the conditions?**

*The parents, this boy's parents and her parents, they work out ...*

**So would the boy's parents have brought anything to the ...?**

*Oh yeah, he would have had to too, oh yes, they'd have exactly the same (laughs), but I remember Teresa telling me that her father gave them two glasshouses (laughs) for her hand in marriage, and I thought that was a bit mean because the poor little girls, you know, growing up, one was three, one was four, one was ...*

**This is Teresa's sisters?**

*Teresa's sisters, yes, little sisters. Yeah, the father had come to Australia, um, earlier on his own and then left Teresa and her brother behind, and then a few years later, after the war, he got them out here and then he started another family, the three little girls came along, and the poor mother had epilepsy and having these children. They had a hard life. Poor Teresa had a hard life.*

**Because she ...?**

*Had to look after her little sisters and her mother, and of course ... and her grandmother, her grandmother was the matriarch, she was strict, and she had everybody on their toes, and she was the big boss, because I remember when we were together talking we'd often hear her "Teresa, Tara, where are you?" you know, and Teresa would have to go running because her grandmother was calling her, yes, and we were all 18, 19 years of age, 20, I think when I got my first job.*

**How old was Teresa when she married?**

*She would have been about 19 – I think she got married when my father was still ... she would have been 18, yes, mm.*

**So that makes it probably during the war?**

*Yeah, when she got married.*

**And where did they live when they got married?**

*They went over to Findon, that's where the boy came from. He had his market garden and glasshouses at Findon (laughs), and then the two extra (laughs) that he got in the dowry.*

**And was Teresa's father interned or anything during the war?**

*No, no, no, he wasn't. No, none of the Italians there were interned. I suppose being market gardeners though we were needed really to produce the vegetables and tomatoes. But I know Del Fabbro was interned, and a few others, but they were the wealthy people that we knew of. I don't know why the wealthy people. I suppose people like us, what harm could we do (laughs)?*

**And if you think about that time growing up, you know, say in those years of adolescence, and you look back, is there anything that, you know, that you can think of that was, that you haven't already spoken about, anything that, you know, makes you think about that time?**

*No, not really. It wasn't a very exciting time for us, believe me, but we were, we were all ... we'd meet on weekends, like the boys and girls, and talk, and we had a good time, you know. We enjoyed ourselves. There was a dance at St Pat's [St Patrick's, Grote Street in Adelaide] on a Sunday night which I went sometimes, but not very often. I didn't care for dancing much, no.*

**And if you look back at yourself at that time, how would you describe yourself growing up then in your family?**

*Oh, I was happy, yeah, we were happy. We'd buy different magazines and pass them onto each other, and every weekend I'd have my, what was it, 'Oracle', 'Miracle', and the other one would have some other, and we'd hand them over to each other, but we enjoyed ourselves then, yes, and we started, we all learnt to make our own clothes, so we'd talk about clothes, mm. Different from now.*

**Yeah!**

*And we'd get a perm now and again, these frizzy perms that they used to have (laughs).*

**So you were a young ...?**

*So we had everything that we really wanted, our parents never denied us anything. I had my camera and my wristwatch and, you know ...*

**And life kind of carried on?**

*Yes. Well we knew nothing else anyhow. There were no holidays in those days. Now girls travel.*

**And as we draw the interview to a close, is there any last comment that you'd make, you know, about yourself at the time, you know, 1939-1945?**

*No, I can't think of anything.*

**Well thank you very much for your interview.**

*I hope it was fruitful.*

**Thank you.**

*End of interview*