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Full transcript of an interview with

Diana Maria Costantina Panazzolo nee Santin

on 13 September, 18 October and 13 December 2013

by Madeleine Regan

for the

Italian Market Gardeners' Oral History Project

Recording available

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Thank you Diana for agreeing to the interview and we will start with questions about your family background, but first of all could you give me your full name please.

Diana Maria Costantina Panazzolo (DP): [laughs]

And what is your date of birth?

23rd of July 1951.

Thank you Diana, and were you named for anyone in your family?

I was. I was named after my two grandmothers. Maria is my mother's mother in Italy and she was a Feltrin, and my *nonna* here, Dad's mum was Costantina and she was a Visentin, which we still keep in contact with all the cousins over there, which is really lovely.

That is great. Can you tell me about your parents? Maybe if you start with their names ... if you want to start with your Mum first.

My Mum, born in Italy 1932, to Olivo Oliviero and Maria Feltrin, she was one of ten children, her sister, her eldest sister just died last month, she was 98.

Where did she come from?

She was in Canada, Hamilton in Canada.

And your mother?

My mother came from Caselle d'Altivole Treviso, in the Veneto region. It is about an hours out of Venice, and I have been fortunate enough to go and visit, where both, where they both came from. Dad was born in the same town as well and I was fortunate enough to go there three times, and I hope to go there one more time.

[laughs] Mmm... Dad was born in 1924, the same town Caselle d'Altivole, he came out to Australia in 1935, and he was born to Giovanni Santin and Costantina. *Nonno* came out to Australia in 1927 and then he called his family out in 1935. I remember you saying in 1927 they stopped the intake to the United States. I remember one of the meetings that you had, and I thought Oh, maybe that's why he came here to Australia, but yeah and my *nonno* was widowed. His first wife died, and he had one daughter, Angelina, and then he married Grandma and they had three boys and a daughter; Luigi, Vito, Virginia then my Dad Romildo, whose nickname is Nugget.

How did he get that nickname?

Cos he was little. [laughs], and he was the youngest [brother].

And do you know why your *Nonno* came to Australia?

No I don't know that bit, um I know he was in the wars, and I don't know who he came out with, ... Vito passed away and I don't know who to ask or maybe if I go back to Italy I could ask, like *nonna*'s side of the family, 'cos I was talking to my sister last night, and I was saying, we don't know much about Grandpa's background maybe because, I do remember him, but I don't remember much of him. I was, what? Eight, when he passed away, and I just remember him with this walking stick, and I was just saying to Lisa [Diana's sister] last night, we don't know much of his background. His mother was a Berro, I remember that, that my Dad told me the surname was Berro, but that is about all I know.

And when your *Nonno* arrived in Australia in 1927, do you know where he went?

I don't know if he actually went to Wellington, first, when he first arrived, but that is where Grandma and Dad and his siblings settled when they came out. They were in Wellington and they worked for a family, Oh, I forget their name. I think it was Dos.¹ or something, and I remember Dad saying that they lived in this shed with no floors ... they used to dig a hole in the ground and tie a piece of meat on a piece of stick, you know like put it in the ground and cover it from how hot it was, ... and he went to school up there. I remember him saying he used to take his shoes off so he wouldn't wear them out. [laughs]

How old would your father have been when he arrived with his mother and siblings?

What's that... 24...34... well he was 10, 11, he was... yeh.

And do you know how long the family stayed in Wellington?

From records that we found like *nonno*'s old bankbook, we worked it out it was about 1941, and they moved down here with the Bernos.

And how would your parents have known the Berno brothers?

... I don't know, I don't know how they knew them but one of the Berno brothers, that was; Piero and Berto, well Berto was my godfather and he was at Dad's wedding

¹ In the editing process, Diana thought the name may have been Doz

in Italy in 1949 because we've got photos and that and - I don't know beforehand how Grandpa knew people down here and why they came here.

And what were your parents, sorry, what were your grandparents doing when they were with the Bernos on Valetta Road?

I know it was celery, they used to grow the celery, I don't know if they leased the land from them, I don't know if they leased the land from them or if they worked for them, I don't... but from photos, it was the celery, um I was one, I think I turned one there, Mum said, and then they purchased the land on Frogmore Road, but when I was born that's where I went home like, when Mum and Dad came from Italy they lived there.

Let's talk about your mother and your father marrying, like what's the story there?

So in 1949 Dad went to Italy for a trip. He was the youngest of all the brothers, he was a bit wild,

How do you mean wild?

Well he was with you know with 'Shorty' Rebuli, he was hanging around with all those ... Jack Young, Bob Leverenz, they were all motor bike drivers and I remember Dad having a motor bike and he hid it from his grandmother for quite a few years he said [laughs] and in 1949...

So your Dad would have been at that point, ... 25?

That's right. He went to Italy for a trip and my grandmother had told him to go and visit my Mum's family, that, you know they had a few girls there [laughs] and he ended up with my mother! She was only 19 she was, 18 when he met her, 19 when she got married in 1950,

And by that time had his brothers and his sister married?

Married here, yes I know *zia* Virginia and *zio* Oscar [Mattiazzo] married on the 23rd of July and that's my birthday [laughs] so that was the year they were over there. ... No *zia* Anna and *zio* Vito got married when they were over there so he wasn't here, I think *zio* Lui was married, yeah, then they came out here. Poor Mum, she goes, you know, her parents were devastated, she came to a country, didn't know the language, she didn't know anybody. She said, more than once she cried, but she said 'it was my

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own fault, it was my choice', and then with *zia* Virginia (and *zio* Oscar) was like her sister they got on really well. And then we had Grandma and Grandpa live with us all the time.

Why did your grandparents live with you, your family?

I don't know how that choice came about,

That's interesting

... yeah, Uncle Lui had his house on the corner of the property, then they purchased this great big house. It was 12 and a half, 13 acres of property,

And this is on Frogmore Road?

On Frogmore Road, right next door to the Piovesan's, where Bruno Piovesan had his property, and the house. We didn't have a lounge room because we had Grandma and Grandpa with us, right, so it was a nice little kitchen, laundry, ... three bedrooms, we could say, long passage, and on this door in the middle of the passage, there was the house reversed again, where Uncle Vic and *zia* Anna lived. So we lived in this big house with the door separating us.

And by that time you had a cousin?

Yes Dean, yes

And were there other cousins in your *zio* Lui?

Yes, Yiyi, we used to call him, yes Sandra, Johnny and Denise and we all got on. We still get on very well, I remember with Denise, with the half cases that uncle Lui used to build, how all this started.

Angelo Innocente?

Yes, we used to build like little rooms, you know, like there in the courtyard, and like this was the kitchen and this was the lounge, and we'd turn the half cases sideways and this was the cupboard and play with our dolls and things like that under the grape vines. I remember those times, they were great, and it was lovely building it and then we had to put everything away, we didn't like it. [laughs]

And Diana, I was going to ask you about your birth. So you were born in 1951 when your parents were still on Valetta Road?

Yes.

And then the three brothers...

... purchased...

... the land on Frogmore Road. And what were your parents doing around that time, and like what was the land like on Frogmore road, do you know?

As far as I can remember back, I can remember Frogmore Road, and I can remember all the box thorn bushes, and I can remember all the pugholes... but what my parents were doing? Dad and Mum were in business with *zio* Oscar and *zia* Virginia, they had Croydon Park Provision Store, and I remember Mum and Dad, you know, working there with him, and every Thursday, Mum used to also work in the garden because she couldn't speak English very well. She always used to work in the garden as well, and every Thursday she used to ride her bike to Croydon and fill out all the orders, she used to, and it was very hard for her because she didn't know her way round very much, because you know that Rosetta street, there's that tunnel there, yeah the bridge, she made it (laughs...) and so Nonna used to look after me and *Nonno*.

And what about your Dad, what was his role in the business there?

He was with *zio* Oscar [Mattiazzo], I just remember them working, I can still see the shop, and I remember myself after in the later years. I can remember with Christine [Mattiazzo], we used to play in the sacks and things like that out the back, and I spent lots of time at *zia* Virginia's house even after they sold the business. I remember going there for school holidays, and then I don't know because *zio* Oscar and Dad decided to sell the business, or if Dad's two brothers had asked him to come and work on the land with them. I don't know what decision that was, whose it was. After they worked the land, all the three brothers, and Mum lost all her English, yeah, because she picked up a fair bit you know serving the customers and that, and then she lost it, because she worked with aunties and uncles and everyone spoke Italian, so I said to her 'why don't you learn English?' She said 'I used to know a bit!'

And Diana, to finish off talking about you family, can you tell me about your siblings?

My brother was born in 1960.

And his name is?

Allan, Allan Lee, my mother liked Allan Lad, and I remember when he was born, I was at *zia* Virginia's and *zio* Oscar's, [Mattiazzo] and I remember Dad walking through the door, and he told me it was a boy and I gave him a kiss. And it was when that Palmolive Gold [soap advertisement] came out, and I could still smell it on him [laughs].

And you were nine!

Yes, I remember that, my sister, I was eighteen when Lisa was born, I remember her, we were waiting and Mum was at the hospital. I remember Dad waking us up, I was with my *nonna* in the bedroom, I used to sleep in the same bedroom. I remember Mum opening the door and going, and the next day you know anxious waiting, waiting, waiting ... Dad was in the garden working [laughs] and after a while the phone rang, and ... "It's a girl!" "Dad it's a girl!" "Oh, alright!" [laughs] Not like now days is it? [laughs] Yes so... So I played a big sister part, after bringing Lisa up, you know because the year after, Grandma died. I remember Mum saying I'm always left with five in the family, because the year after Allan was born Grandpa died, and the year after Lisa was born, Grandma died! Er yes, So I remember dressing her up taking her out, taking her to church, you know it was always because Mum still worked the land and all that, plus I was going, no ... I was working then, I was at work.

Thank you for that. Let's focus a little bit on your growing up on Frogmore Road. What is your earliest memory?

Um, hoeing, hoeing the glasshouses, round the edges of the glasshouses. We had to keep them clean because of the glass and all that.

How old would you have been?

Oh, I reckon I was about nine- nine, ten, that's the earliest I can remember. I remember sometimes we used to break the glass and get told off, [laughs]. You had to be careful!

Were your cousins working with you?

Yes, yes, we were all together.

So it was a good working force.

It was, it was- and I remember September holidays when the show was on, and we used to train the tomatoes or cucumbers, and beans to go up the strings. Because they were all on strings, you know how they used to have them in rows, and trail them up the strings, and we used to get some money to spend at the show, used to love that. And I remember the whirly winds we used to get, and they would go through the glass houses and we'd have to get on our knees and pick up every bit of glass, because when they used to plant the seedlings, they used to, you know, push them in with their fingers. I remember that, we used to have to pick up every little bit of glass, and I remember the watering...

Just to go back to the whirly winds, so the whirly winds would come, and how, was it like, the top panes of glass, or the sides, that would have been broken?

The tops, the tops, and I think some of the sides as well because I remember the glasshouses after - they weren't like individual glasshouses. They were like, they had like four sides, but then, all the middle bits were like, what do you say? Like elevated.

So there were four, like gables?

Yes.

So they were quite wide then!

DPYes, I reckon there was about seven or eight glasshouses, and they were quite long, they would have been from here to across the road where the carport is.

Can you estimate that sort of distance?

What would that be, about 30 metres, is that it? Yes they were quite long. I remember the glasshouse doors used to have numbers on them, yeah.

Why would they have had numbers?

Because I suppose if they are picking or whatever, or which one needs watering, or I don't know, which one needs spraying, but I know they all had numbers on the doors.

And what was growing in the glass houses?

DPThey used to have cucumbers, I remember the little apple cucumbers. I remember on Sundays, Christine and Helen [Mattiazzo]² used to come down, we would go for a walk all around, and we used to love picking them, they were lovely and fresh. They were prickly; we would clean the prickles off. They had the apple cucumbers and then they had the long green cucumbers, you don't see them very much now because they are all those burpless ones. The tomatoes, beans ... string beans. Mum used to hate picking those because she was scared of mice, (laugh).

Was there a problem with mice?

No, but every now and then there might be one coming out... [laughs] I remember we used to tease her. What else did we have in the glasshouses? That's all I remember in the glasshouses. ... I remember them trying the capsicums, and then, they only did them for a little while, and I asked Dad why they stopped doing the capsicums and he said they needed too much spraying; there was too many bugs and things on them. Ah artichokes... they started off down here with artichokes and they were very good, they ended up with quite a few acres of them at Bolivar, lettuces, and when I was younger I remember the cauliflowers, in the younger years, cauliflowers and cabbages, but I *just* remember that. I don't remember celery on Frogmore Road, carrots, I remember ... and the potatoes. I remember planting potatoes, I remember the ladies chopping them, cutting them with all the eyes, they all used to sit around, and then I remember planting them.

How deep would you plant?

Denise and I, used to have to sit at the back of the tractor, and they had this machine, and if you can think of this great big box sort of thing with this funnel, at the end, and one would sit there, and I would sit here,

Opposite each other?

Opposite each other, and we would have this tube, pipe which would go down into the ground, and Dad would, you know, drive the tractor, and we would sit at the back, and you would hear this ding, ding, ding, ding, every time you know, you would drop a piece of potato in, through this tubing, and that's how we planted them!

² Christine and Helen Mattiazzo were first cousins with Diana. Diana's father and the mother of Christine and Helen (Virginia) were brother and sister

And did the soil turn over as they were being planted ...?

Yes and so the little rows would come up at the end, you would have the, we used to say the '*vassoro*,' the plough, you know would make it and then the other little bit would cover it. And they would work out perfect, the rows, and they were all along, yeah I remember all along Frogmore Road. We would get to Frogmore Road, and we say 'Oh, who is going to see us on here', [laughs] – 'cos it was cold some times, and you'd have scarves and hats and you know, gloves on.

So that must have been in winter months that you were planting potatoes?

It must have been, because they were always ready around Christmas time, December, November ... December was a potato, when they had to pick them, so yeah...

And what would have been the biggest crop?

I think the tomatoes and lettuces. I just remember lots of tomatoes, lettuces, I remember wind, rain or shine they had to be picked, and you know sometimes when it was raining they'd all put their sacks on, and boots and things and we would have to go and, like there were the cutters. You'd cut the lettuce and turn it upside down to say this is ready to be packed. And then we'd go behind in crates, and I think there used to be twelve to a crate, we'd pack them. And then the last ones on top would be face-down. You know with the bottom, yeah I remember that. Then the men would carry them, you know because they were a bit heavy for us.

So the crates would be – what, at the end of the row?

In the middle, where you walk, because they used to be ... and we'd take the crates and then we'd pack them, and then you know, they would have to carry them to the tractor and the little cart at the end of the row, so then take them all to the shed, we used to have a big shed.

And I was going to ask you about your shed, the building on the property, but.

The shed

But before I do, um, when you were doing the picking, who was involved, like- you know?

The cutting of the lettuces, the lettuces, the ladies used to cut the lettuces.

So that would be your aunties?

My aunties, my Mum, yeah it was back-breaking... because you'd be, yeah...

And then you, you with your cousins ..?

Yes, yes they'd help sometimes. We didn't, because sometimes we were at school, you know we'd have to go to school, and things, but I remember all these days you know, holidays, and that.

And did the picking have to occur at a particular time of the day?

Ah, I know it was early in the morning, because I remember when they introduced daylight saving then it affected the market gardeners, because they used to get up with light you know, it was dark. So instead of getting up at 5:00 o'clock when the sun was rising, they'd have to get up at 6:00, or instead of 6:00 they'd have to get up at 7:00, so it used to affect them, it did ... the tomatoes, remember the glass houses and the tomatoes and we'd carry out the buckets for them. I don't think we picked many tomatoes, there was a knack of the way of picking them because you didn't want to break the vine and things like that. But I remember every Tuesday night after school, we had to put the white butcher paper in the tomatoes, in the boxes that Angelo Innocente made, all these little half cases, and Dean and I would do that. I don't remember Denise coming up, you know, and we'd stack them. There were a couple of hundred cases and then on a Tuesday night I remember all these men coming to help, all young men who used to work at Holden's.

And in the shed, in the big shed, all one side of the shed was where they'd grade the tomatoes. And so, the men would get the buckets and pour them, pour the bucket on this shelf which would sort of roll down, it was on this slant, and you'd have your half box here, another half box, another half box, you know all your little ones would go here, all your medium would go here, all the big ones would go somewhere else, and then the greener ones would go somewhere else. And that's how they used to grade the tomatoes all by hand. And I remember the top ones; they packed them all nice and neat, not the little ones but the others, you know the last layer they'd sit them all nice. And then they had this big, if you can think of compactors nowadays you know where they do filing.

Dad had made this big long rail where they used to stack all the tomatoes that were done. And all these men would, you know, get the buckets and go and empty them all out and go and help them and all that. And then there was the cucumbers, we used to count the cucumbers in the boxes and it was always one extra, when they'd say thirty six you'd put thirty seven, you know what I mean? And the artichokes as well, it was always one extra. We had to put, the beans, we had to weigh them, yes I remember. I could still see this, this, what's it called? *Bilancia?*

Scales?

Yes, yes and the tray would have been this big, if you can imagine a scoop, but it was this big, and the weight, Dad would put the weights on there and they all had to weigh, and we'd put them in there and then we'd put them in bags, and then sew up the bags.

Did you sew up the bags?

I remember doing some.

And what were the bags made of?

Hessian, hessian bags.

So how ...?

Oh, some of them, no they were about this high.

So about two and a half feet?

Yeah, yeah, about that and I remember on the little half cases of the tomatoes, we had this 'Santin Brothers Lockleys', it had. You know you had to do it with a little paintbrush, it was all cut out in the iron, all on the cases would be that.

Just on that, why was it Lockleys, do you know?

It used to be St James Park, it used to be, then it was Lockleys, and then it was Kidman Park. I don't know, the Council must have subdivided the area.

Diana, where did the produce get sold?

It was in the market.

Which market?

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The Central Market, and I know Tully and Son was one of the biggest buyers. And then they used to sell to shops as well. And I remember Mr Carbone, he used to have a shop on Crittenden Road and we used to deliver there. And then there were people that used to come and buy as well, but it was mostly at the market.

When you say the central market was it also at the East End market?

At the East End market.

So which of the brothers... Lui?

Uncle Lui was in charge -

Right

... I remember him going to the market with his little bag, [laughs] and - yeah, I remember going there in the truck

Early?

Early, and then on the way back he used to stop at the Joiners Arms Hotel, on Grange Road near the Entertainment Centre, and we used to get a raspberry. [laughs] We weren't allowed in the hotel, we were sitting in the truck, and he'd bring us out a raspberry.

And who would have been with you?

Uncle Lui, and I remember Dad, a few times as well, I remember the markets though. Just last week we went to a 21st [birthday party] at the Belgian Beer Bar. I said, you know, it just brought back all those memories, it did. But Tully and Sons and the McMahons, I think they're still in the Central Market now, in Gouger Street, McMahons? I remember them selling to them -

If you think about your trips to the market, is there anything that stands out, like, getting up really early and —,

I remember getting up early and going, but it was like an outing for us, we were all excited, it was not that we went all the time, you know what I mean. It was exciting, I just, I just loved it, and you'd see all these people and men. I know Tully's used to export to Darwin or something, so when they first sold the artichokes a lot of them went up there and a lot of our produce went to Darwin it did.

And the people who came and bought direct from the farm, who would they have been?

Probably little fruit and veg shops around here, I just remember Mr Carbone, -some others, I can't picture them I can't, no I don't remember.

Did individuals come and buy direct?

No not individuals, a lot of the men that used to work at Holden's that used to come on a Tuesday night, weekends and that, they'd used to come and help and then they'd bring produce home, you know what I mean. Sort of something for them. I know every year Dad used to buy them a bottle, they used to buy them a bottle of whisky or something, at Christmas time, to say thank you. But I don't think there was money exchanged, you know.

And how would your father and uncles have known about these men, were they like part of a community?

Well, a lot of them came from the same town or the town next door from Riese Pio Decimo. Grandma living with us, she was like a mother to all of them, and I remember Tuesday nights she used to love when they all finished grading the tomatoes, she used to love going out there, because we used to bring coffee and sometimes there was 12, 15 of them, you know altogether.

I remember I had to go out and count how many men 'cos we had to know how many cups to bring out, and I've still got the basket. I've kept the basket that we used to take the coffee out in. Coffee, and Mum used to do it one week and *zia* Anna used to do it the other week. *zio* Vito's wife, you know the one that used to live next door. So we'd have a turn each and I used to have to go and count how many cups, [laughs]. I remember the big pot of coffee, they used to, you know those big aluminium ones, it was coffee and chicory, 'Lions' I remember, and then they'd all sit around and you know talk and things like that. And a lot of them now, I still see, and that's how, maybe because even when they used to come and play bowls. We had a bowling ... what do I say? Bowling, what do I say? Not a bowling green, *bocce*³ at the back of the shed. And every Sunday the men used to come there, and they'd play bowls and like I said, I still see some of those men the ones that are left today... 'Ah Diana! Ciao Bella, Ciao !' ... You know, and sometimes there was

³ *Bocce* is the Italian word for lawn bowling

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that many cars you couldn't even turn, you know ... "Come and shift your car ..."
And but Grandma used to love it, I remember.

And were those men from the same province?

Yes, yes.

From the same area?

Yes.

How important was that?

I think it was like their own little community, very important to them. I remember the Mazzarolo brothers. It was what, one, two, three, four of them. I remember when they built their house, and then another one of them built next door, and it was lovely, and they'd all talk about old times. I remember some of them have gone back to Italy, they had, maybe they didn't like it here or what, I remember two of them going back to Italy, some of them passing. When you go to church you see some of them nowadays and you think back and I remember all the laughs they used to have, and jokes!

And were women also involved in those Sunday invitations?

No, no no, it was all men. *Zia* Virginia [Mattiazzo] used to come down and that, and she used to come and visit Grandma, and she would stay there with Mum and Grandma and *zia* Anna. And Christine, Helen [Mattiazzo] and I would go round the whole garden and we would walk around and sometimes we'd stop off at Denise's and you know it was just our weekly walk I suppose, and then they'd stay there for dinner. I remember the big house; we used to have races around the house. We used to time each other, we were sitting out there, the hills were so beautiful and the stars were so bright, because you know there wasn't that lighting that there is today. And in the hot weather, Dad used to put a tarpaulin on the lawn and we'd sleep out. It was absolutely beautiful and these are the memories that you've got that, but now you look at the hills, where are they? You know, all different...

Diana, going back to the kind of work involved in the market gardens, what kind of work did your mother do in the gardens?

In the garden, they would have planted all the seedlings; they would have pruned them.

So this was the women's work?

Oh, the men too, I think the men, you know because, they used to have a row each, um they'd prune them, because even the tomatoes you'd have to prune them and cut off the little shoots there. The lettuces, you'd have to hoe, and the potatoes as well, you'd have to hoe, it was all done by hand. What else did they do? It was all those sort of things, the picking you know, just wasn't, it was every day ... no Saturday mornings I remember even Saturday mornings because I remember every Saturday morning I used to have to polish the floors. We used to have the linos, we used to have to put the wax on them. It was my job on the Saturday morning, we used to put the record on and I used to polish the floors.

And where was your Mum?

In the garden, sometimes they'd be home by lunch, um 4:00 o'clock, 4:00 o'clock was always coffee time. So *zia* Rosina, *zia* Anna and Mum would have a week each of taking the coffee, um and then at four o'clock I remember a lot of people used to turn up at four o'clock. I particularly remember, we used to call him Blackie, I don't know what his first name was. His surname was Blackburn, Blackie, we used to call him. Lovely guy, he used to be a government man or something. He always used to turn up around four o'clock for a coffee.

Did he live locally?

I think he lived at Brooklyn Park. And some others, at four o'clock they'd turn up.

And was it unusual that Blackie was an Anglo Australian?

No, no, no there were lots of Australians as well, we weren't racist. We still got Australian friends. Dad was best man to Jackie Young and he was world champion racing motor bike rider. Dad's group of friends you know Jackie Young, Bob Leverenz, he used to know the Hanks that used to live at Lockleys there, no he wasn't, - they all had all sorts of friends you know.

On the Sundays when the *bocce* was on, was that mainly...?

That was mainly Italians yes I don't remember many Australians or Southern Italians or anyone coming. I don't remember any southern Italians actually. I remember one that used to come and help in the garden. Ilario Nesci I think his name was. He used

to come and help, and he lived locally. I think he worked, I think he got paid; I'm not sure. But no mostly it was Italians on the Sunday.

They came from the province of...

Yes, all the little home towns there, all around the area, so-

And what language was spoken at that time?

It was Veneto, but then I remember I was just thinking of that, like with the Tonellato's and Shorty, his name Rebuli, it was English. I remember them you know, they'd understand one thing for another, so they'd laugh even more[laughs].

And Diana, you mentioned that your *zio* Lui went to market, were there other roles that each of the brothers had in the business?

Yes Uncle Vic used to do the fumigating, it was part of Hutton and Burn I think, they used to get and I remember the little...

Hutton and Burn?

Hutton and Burn used to be like Adelaide Pest Control, you know those people, white ant people. The glasshouses where you plant the tomatoes and that, well every glasshouse actually, well after the crop was finished they would rotary hoe it, move the dirt. And then you'd have to fumigate the dirt and -

This is actually inside?

In the dirt, and they would put you know all these chemicals to kill whatever. I remember trying to plant tomatoes here and they didn't grow because Dad pulled the roots up and they had all these things on the roots and he would do that and you'd have to keep it wet all the time so the fumes wouldn't escape. And I remember even during the night when it was hot getting up and wetting the glasshouses, wetting the dirt to keep it... There was an incident here at Fulham a few years ago, quite a few years ago, but I remember it. They used to still have glasshouses at Fulham and there was a lot of Bulgarians here, and they didn't keep it wet and the fumes escaped, and the people round in the houses got sick. It might be in the papers somewhere or whatever I remember that. And then I remember Uncle Vic used to go to a lot of the farms, a lot of the market gardens so we used to call him to do this fumigating.

And how would he work?

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It was with a little ... if you can think of a little... we used to call it a *tracachetta*. If you think of, what's those ... they use in the army, what are they? The tanks! It had wheels like a tank, right, but it was only about this big, like this table.

So what size is that about?

About, what, six feet by four feet. And it was only little, it was all open and you'd just sit in the middle. I remember the controls were, it didn't have steering it just had things like, go this way, go that way and straight and back you know. You'd have this machine at the back of it that used to be something, I can't remember the machine but that was little. It could get in the glasshouses you see. Because you know, don't forget the glass houses were gabled and at the end they were lower, so this little tractor could get in and at the back there was this machine where you'd put the chemicals and that in, and it would go into the ground and cover it.

And who owned that machine?

We did, the Santin brothers owned the machine.

So people would ask your Uncle to...?

Uncle Vic, to go and do it, yes

And he got the chemicals from that...

Hutton and Burn, I remember.

And did he have to mix them?

I can't remember him mixing them, probably, I can't remember that far back, but I remember the machine, I remember him going and he used to put it on the truck, he used to.

When he did it at other people's places?

Yeah.

So that was Uncle Vic's role, what about your father, did he have a specific role in...?

Dad used to drive the tractor a lot, used to plough, used to like the ploughing, because you know you had to turn the dirt over get it all ready. Watering, I remember him watering ... you get down the end of, "Close it off!"

And what sort water, through the mains or was it...?

No, no --- about that, we had underground water, we had a well, it was what would you call it, we used to call it...

A bore?

Yeah a bore... we used to call it a *poiss* and-

Would your uncles and father have built that or was it already there?

No, they built it, I remember, and I remember the Woodville Council after they sold the land here asked Uncle Vic where it was. He said, 'You go and find it.' [laughs].

I'll be onto that story after. So your Dad did quite a bit of ploughing and things like that?

Yes, yes.

And what about? Sorry...

DP Nothing, you know they all pitched in together when it was time to work hard. There were days I suppose when it was much easier than others. I remember some bees. Dad used to look after some bees. Because they used to pollinate the cucumbers and the tomatoes and that.

So hives?

Yes they had about two or three bee hives, I remember walking past one, we were always scared [laughs] then one got, I forget who it was. Dean would probably remember, we started chasing him. I still see him, he lost his hat, he was running. [laughs] Yeah.

Do you remember honey?

No I don't remember honey, I don't know what they did, I tried to remember, but I can't remember the honey.

And Diana, what about finances, who would have looked after the finances of the business?

Ah, Uncle Vic I think was in charge of the money side of it. I know that the women used to get so much each year, and then all the money was together. I think later things that I've heard but you know...

You mentioned the Tonellato's before and I was going to ask you, what are your memories of other families that had market gardens? Maybe you could talk about each of them.

I remember the Tonellato's, I remember Lui Tonellato,

And where was he located?

He was right across the road from us, I remember Lucy and Adrian, and Italia, who's still alive.

And how big would their property have been?

They had quite a bit of property where Telstra purchased it.

On the corner of...[Grange Road]?

I don't think it went right..., that far up, and they were a bit further this way

On from the road?

Yes on from the road, and I remember '*Nonno della pipa*'⁴ we used to call him, which was Denise's grandfather, because he married a Tonellato which was Rosina, I remember the *vagon*⁵, the old train. Because when my Mum's brother came out from Italy, he lived in the *vagon*, he actually lived in there. I remember going there; I remember this bath tub, which was aluminium.

In the *vagon*?

In the *vagon*. I remember it was a metal bath tub, I remember the little kitchen and the bedroom, the toilet was outside.

Were there other people living there as well?

There was another one joined on, there was another bit on the other side, and I think just like a single man, you know when they come from Italy they just wanted somewhere to live, someone used to live in there, they did. And I remember the high step it was to get up. [laughs] And I remember cutting across the Tonellato land coming home from school we used to. Sometimes we'd come down Adele Avenue and cut across Lui Tonellato's land, and sometimes we'd cut across further down where Assunta and *nonno del pipa* we used to call him, Albert and all those had their

⁴ The equivalent in English would be Grandfather of the pipe

⁵ *Vagon* is the Italian word for train carriage

land. Albert used to live on Findon Road, I remember that, their house, that beautiful house, we used to think it was beautiful, you know, new house. I remember Stefan's garage, there, Sbrissa, I remember...

What did Sbrissa do?

I think he had a motor mechanic⁶, it's still there, the garage.

On Findon Road?

On Findon Road, but I think they used to live on this side of it-

Any other families that had market gardens that you remember?

Zerella's, I remember someone Zerella that lived on Frogmore road. And I bet that's the land that the Education Department purchased when they had the school. It was the oval for the school, Kidman Park High School. They used to come over there, but it was something to do with the school, and the Zerella's had that land. The Piovesan's, we were right next door to the Piovesan, I remember *zia* Rosalia, Bruno's mother, who she was very close with my Grandma and they always used to talk and you know, visit one another. And then after Grandma passed away and they built the new home. Mum and Dad and Uncle built the new home on Frogmore Road, *zia* Rosalia still used to come and visit Mum all the time.

So when you were growing up ...and you mentioned earlier about Frogmore Road and the potholes and the boxthorns, what would it have looked like in general if you were walking along Frogmore Road? What would you have seen when you were younger?

Not many houses like there is today... just market gardens, a house here and there.

Glasshouses?

Some glasshouses...

Were they close to the road?

DPOurs weren't, no, no I can't remember them close to the road. No they were further back. Close to the road it was the capsicums, the lettuces, the potatoes. Lui had a fence up the front but no, his glass houses were at the back, I'm pretty sure as well. I can't remember the glasshouses at the front and I can't. And the Zerella's. No,

⁶ The garage was owned by Beppi and Clara Stepan. Clara had been married to Giglio Sbrissa. (See interview with Clara Stepan, OH872/34)

can't remember glasshouses at the front. They were mostly in the middle or towards the back and yeah amazing, I never thought of that.

Diana, we've come to the end of our card so I'll say thank you and we will pick it up with the next one.

Okay thank you.

END FILE 1: FILE 2

This is a second interview with Diana Panazzolo nee Santin recorded for the Italian market gardeners project on 13th September 2013 at Diana's home at Kidman Park. And I'm Madeleine Regan. Diana, you were just talking about a memory that you had involving some of the neighbours and your Dad?

Yes, it was one of my happiest memories. I remember Bruno Piovesan, I think it was Frankie

Frankie?

Ballestrin, I don't know if it was Nillo [Piovesan] and Rebuli and I remember a New Year's morning and they came to Mum and Dad's bedroom window, they started knocking at the window and singing. [laughs] I remember waking up, what was happening? You know. And I thought, that was really, one of my happiest memories and I still think about it quite a lot.

And how would your parents reacted to that?

I reckon that Dad would have, he was so happy and Mum and all that. So, a lot of people used to come to our house and I think, Oh ... it was really good, it was. [laughs] I remember Piovesan's being right next door and every time I had to go to the shop, I'd cut across their potato patch, and we had this little trail in the middle of the potato patch. [laughs]

And where was the shop?

Shops were on Grange Road, up the hill. We used to call it "up the hill" when we'd walk to Church, we'd just cut across the paddock, every Sunday morning, I used to have go and take eggs to a lady that used to live in Hoskin Avenue and I remember playing when you know, sometimes the patch was empty and we were playing

cowboys and Indians with Dean [Santin, first cousin] and the grass was so high, it was high, and when you have a bamboo and you cut, you've got a point at the end of it and he was the Indian with a pear [laughs] I remember going to the doctor and he sewed it up and I know it wasn't very nice. Mum was in the bathroom, she came out, she was all wet, sort of thing and my skirt was all full of blood and everything. That's one of my memories. Another memory was when we were hoeing potatoes, Denise [Santin, a first cousin] hit me with the hoe over the head [laughs] Things we used to do when we were younger, it didn't mean harm.

[laughter]

I remember the baker coming to deliver the bread. I can still see his cream cart drawn by the horse and you'd go in the back of the cart, just standing room and either side was all the bread and it was Michael Moore's bakery and you'd look forward to that.

What kind of bread? Was it continental?

It was just a, I can still see the loaf, it wasn't a continental loaf, what can I...? It was just a loaf of bread, it wasn't square or anything, it was nice and round and every day we would have a loaf of bread and I remember the horse if it did its droppings on the trail back home, Mum or Grandma would run and pick them up and bring them in the garden. [laughs] I remember my grandma, she had the chickens and we'd go down there and she'd let me collect the eggs, I can still feel how warm they were. Sometimes she'd say: "Have one, have one." And I remember drinking a fresh, raw egg, it was warm, I remember she oyster. I don't like oysters, when I had one, it reminded me of that. I remember the chooks.

Did all three families have chooks?

No, Grandma had chooks.

Were the eggs then for the others, as well?

Yes, yes, everyone had the eggs. She'd get them.

There must have been quite a few chooks?

Yes, there were quite a few... [counts out] one, two, three, four, four little pens. What are they called? It was like a little shed covered up and at the back, it was all fenced

off because of the foxes and that with bamboos growing in between them. And they had pigeons as well, I remember Mum cooking pigeons and grandma as well. My mother was the only one who killed the chooks. She used to just snap their neck, she used to do it in Italy, she started when she was little. A lot of them used to chop off their heads or something, they'd say. But Mum used to snap it and then they'd hang them upside down. I remember one year we had turkeys [laughs] and I remember all three ladies, you know, *zia* Anna, *zia* Rosina and Mum, and *nonna* and they'd clean the turkeys [laughs] I vaguely remember we had a cow. I remember, the *spagnia*, don't know what the -- little paddock and I remember them growing this *spagnia*, they used to call it.

What was that?

To me, I remember it was alike a clove, it used to grow high.

That was for the cow?

It was for the cow. That was just across our driveway further, where the chickens were, in front of the chickens, it was.

(06:35) So behind the house, we mentioned before about the big shed, so what other buildings were there that were related to the market garden?

They build on a great big long, I reckon it would have been, the length of this block, about 80 feet, they built this long open shed where they put all the tractors in.

How many tractors would there have been?

I reckon there were about two tractors, one was blue, one was red. I remember the name was Massey Ferguson. --- Then they would have the ploughs and the slashers when they used to slash the potatoes, that other little tank that Uncle used to use and I remember this big tank when they used to spray, it was like, it wasn't copper, it was brass, great big tank and they used to mix a chemical in there and they used to spray and everything was kept under these shed, it was always full. We had a petrol bowser, we had, as well that they'd fill up. Then Dad had made this machine because Dad was very good at welding and fixing things and making things, he made this machine to wash potatoes, it was like this, if you can imagine this round cage, these long bars which would rotate and they would put the potatoes on the slant and come out but then they found that it used to bruise the potatoes too much and the skin used

to come off a bit so that was a bit [laughs] a downer. I don't think they used it very much after. Then he made this little tank and he lined it with cement and we used to wash the cucumbers in there, we used to. Then in summer we used to play in there when it was hot. It was our little tank. [laughs]

How big was the tank?

It was only a little one, if you can imagine --- I've got a little tiny swimming pool, maybe six feet in radius, it was. A lot of water, I just remember a lot of water when we used to wash the potatoes and cucumbers at the back. --- What else?

(09:34) I was going to ask about some of the traditions that would have been part of your family and your other aunts and uncles.

Mmnn.

One thing I wanted to ask you about was the killing of the pig. Can you talk a little bit about that?

I remember them killing the pig.

Did the pig grow at your place?

They used to go and buy them. It used, it was there dead, I never saw them kill it. I saw them, they had this wooden tub and they'd cook the pig in it with a chain, you'd hold one side and I would hold another and they'd pour this hot water and you'd pull this chain along to take all the hair off the pig, I remember that. And then they'd life it up, in the shed, they used to do a few at a time because a lot of these young men that used to come and help, used to all come and help do the pigs. So you might buy might buy half, I might buy half, the other one would have half or whatever and they'd hose out all the shed, they'd clean everything up and they'd put sacks and things to cover all the machinery you know, for hygiene, I suppose.

When you think of it back in those years, they thought about all those things and all of that and they used to hose out the shed and everything and then they'd bring in these special tables and machines, and I remember them cutting the pig and all these halves being in the shed there. And then they'd all start work and things like that. But I didn't stay around that long, sort of thing, it was all men doing that. The sausages. I remember once they played a trick on me. They went me to Bruno Piovesan's house to go and get, we call it, *i stampo di marende* which is the shape to make these

marende, they called them. And I went to Bruno's house and I said: "Oh, Dad sent me to get the *stamp*", which was the mould [laughs] and I remember taking this sack home it was heavy, and it had all these weights in it. It was like a trick that they'd play on you. [laughs] He gave me those weights to bring home. I remember that. Bruno. [laughs]

So Bruno was part of playing the trick too.

Well, I suppose it's an old tradition, you know, *stampo di mareno*. So I went to Bruno and said: "Dad sent me to get the *stamp*." [laughs] And then when I got back there I remember the laugh. Oh, you know, I fell for it.[laughs] Only once though. [laughs] yeah, then after we had a very long cellar under the shed and I remember these all salamis and sausages and you know, meats being under there.

Who would have built the cellar?

I think it was there, I don't know if they built the shed. There was a pit in the shed too because Dad was pretty good at mechanics and you know, he'd fix up the cars and that and a lot of the boys would come there with their cars later on as well. I'm not sure if they built the shed or if it was there, with the house. But it was a pretty big shed, it was.

What else was in the cellar?

Ah, the barrels of wine, great big barrels of wine. And I Remember Dad getting cheese, we used to call them *petthe di formaggio*, you know, when you buy the whole thing of cheese? And he had made, like a piece of wire that came down from the ceiling with this piece of wood. If you can imagine these two wires holding it up and all the cheese used to sit on there because no mice could get to it or anything. You know, they wouldn't come down the wire. I remember all that.

Did the produce in the cellar belong to all three families?

Yes, it did. And it wasn't like now, a cellar like in the houses that they've got now. It was in the ground that you'd have to lift up a trap door. The cellar was like a door on the side of the shed and you'd just open the door and walk down the stairs, it was.

And what about the wine? Tell me about that process?

I haven't got that much of a memory of the wine. I do remember them bottling it and I do remember them putting the little lids on it after, out of the barrels. But in later years after, I don't remember much of the wine. In later years they did a lot of this at Bolivar as well, and killed the pig up there. But these were my earliest memories back here on Frogmore Road.

(15:18) In terms of food, in your household, so as you were growing up, and then Alan and Lisa, who did the cooking?

Grandma did a bit of cooking but I know Mum used to prepare before they went out in the garden. I remember grandma making the broth out of chicken and we used to eat the head as well, the brain, we used to eat the feet. Yes, I remember the little jelly thing on the feet. I know, [responding to the reaction of the interviewer] nowadays we were talking about this... actually Graziella, my son's fiancée, they still do it as well. She said: "Yeah, you eat the feet." I know, you can't think of it now, can you? [laughs] I don't know if I could do it nowadays. I remember Mum making the sauce and some of the chickens would have the little eggs in there and you'd look for the little eggs because it was beautiful. [laughs] And what else? Pigeons, I remember the pigeons, I remember Grandam, the pumpkins, I used to love pumpkin, I still do. In the wooden oven. She used to have pumpkin ready for me when I came home from school.

Roasted?

What they would do, they would boil it, and then cut it, put some sugar on it and put it in the oven. It was beautiful. And then sometimes she used to have... I don't know what you would call it, we call it *sbattuin*. Actually I made it the other day. It's with the yolk of an egg with sugar and you just keep beating it until it turns white and I made some the other day because I still make it because my children like it because sometimes when you make almond bread, you've got these yolks left over and I made it a couple of Saturdays ago. And then I got visitors, one was Robert's brother [Diana's brother-in-law] and another was Robert Berton. And I said: "Oh, I've made some *sbattuin*. Would you like it with your coffee?" And he goes: "Oh, I haven't had that since I was a boy." [laughs]

What consistency is it when you finish?

It's like a cream, I put you're supposed to put a bit of marsala in it, I didn't have marsala, I put in sherry. So it's...

Is that like *zabaglione*?

It would be something like that but not cooked.

So how did you serve it?

You just pour it in a cup after when it's lovely and beaten and white, it's all fluffy and you pour it in a cup and you have it with coffee.

With a spoon?

No, you just drink it and it all melts in the coffee.

Oh, so you put it in the coffee?

Yes, it's very rich like when people are sick, you give it to them to boost them. Yes, you should try it. [laughs]

I will, I will.

Well, next time if you come, I'll get some ready.

Okay, that sounds great.

Yes, when you think of it, an egg yolk with coffee and sugar? But you'd be surprised...

How nice it is.

Yes, if any other Italians, I'm sure Bruno and Frankie will probably remember the *sbattuin*, their mothers would have made it for them.⁷

I'll ask them.

[laughter]

Let's talk about your family, I was just thinking, before we talk about some other traditions, what about holidays, family holidays?

(19:18) The only family holiday I remember is going to Victor Harbor, all three of us, all three families, not the men, just the women with the children, staying in a caravan park at Victor Harbor. That was with the three of them. And then my only

⁷ In the editing process, Diana stated that she wanted to maintain the traditions from her mother and *nonna* because she wants to honour their memory and traditions

other holiday I remember is in 1962, Dad took us to Italy with his mother after *nonno* died, we all went to Italy on the boat. I remember it was a month on the boat going there and a month coming back, and we were six months in Italy.

So you would have been, how old?

I was ten and I turned 11 over there.

Do you remember much about that?

Oh, I remember like it was yesterday. I remember more that trip than what I did, my other two.

What do you remember most about that first trip?

I remember the stable and having a bath in the stable.

And the stable belonged to?

My grandmother. We stayed with Mum's parents, they had a big home. Because it was lovely and warm in there. I remember going to my Dad's side of the family. All the cousins and they'd all want me to stay and I slept most of their homes. I remember one, they left the windows open and the mosquitoes and one night I couldn't sleep. My first ride on a horse was in Italy. I remember with my cousins, in the middle of the night, with this net, we'd go and catch the starlings (...) in you know, the little black birds that dig up our garden. I remember going to catch them.

What happened to them?

Oh, they were rare over there and they'd try and catch them and took them home and it sings or something. I don't know what they did with it after but I remember going out into the dark and we took a photo. I've still got the photo and I remember seeing this flash and you couldn't see anything else after that. [laughs] I remember a sock, they gave me a sock and we went to find snails in the gardens, in the paddocks. And I said: "What are you giving me the sock for?" "Oh, that's where you put your snails in." And you kept your sock closed, you see. And I remember watering, my grandpa watering the paddocks and falling into the water and getting all wet. And I remember going to feed the silkworms over there. They were in the dining room, they had these layers, they'd shift the dining room table, like I said, it was big house so they could spare the room and they had all these trays in there. And every morning and night,

you'd have to go and cut the mulberry tree, and when I see a mulberry tree, and there's two on Henley Beach Road, when I come home from work every night, I see them --- What else did I do? I was fascinated by their toilets. Telling you everything now. [laughs]

What was different about their toilets?

Oh, I didn't like their toilets, they were next to the manure patch. [laughs] Grandma had a good one, so that as alright. I remember grandmother's, Dad's side of the family, she had sisters and brothers still alive and she just had time to see one of her sisters who died at 98 or 99. Her other sister owned a post office and looked exactly like her. One sister where, I stayed with her, because don't forget, her sisters now had cousins my age, had,grandchildren my age. So we all got on and I slept there. And I saw all these pomegranates hanging and they used to hang the pomegranates and keep them.

Inside?

Inside, in the bedrooms. I said: "What's that doing there?" She said: "Oh, yeah, we'll eat them." Pomegranates, they were.

To dry out?

Yeah, well, it does keep, doesn't it? When you think, you try it and when you buy a pomegranate and it does keep. --- I remember the tractor when they used to bail the hay because I remember taking, Dad going over on the ship, bought a movie camera, and what he did, he went around to every family who had children here, you know, all their parents and took photos of every family. And when he came back here, he showed them. Yes. We've got it, we've got everything. Danny Conci's got everything, he's going to put it on CD, he's got all the old ones. Oh, and we travelled and found all these people. Going over, we took, you remember the old tape? The old, before the cassette, a tape recorder, we took. And he'd called people over to come and send their regards and their love to their mother, you know, so they could hear their voice. I remember going to play the tape and then Dad would take the film and brought it back here.

What a lovely thing to do.

Mmnn, yeah it was. Because you know, it was 1962, and you think 50 years ago, they didn't have all these things and the phone, it was very rare, it was.

So how long would you have been away for?

It was eight months. It was two months at sea, don't forget. We left in February, yes, and we were six months over there, and then another month to come back. Because I had to repeat Year 6. [laughs] I had to.

And [coughs] excuse me.

(26:03) Did your other two uncles and aunts and families also make trips to Italy?

Yes, *zio* Vito went later on ---- it must have been a few years later because Dean, after, worked for Hutton and Byrne and go and fumigate the wheat silos and that out in the country and he didn't go overseas with them. And I remember getting up and making his lunch for him when he was home. And Uncle Lui went as well, with Johnny and Denise. Sandra didn't go and they were away for a quite a while as well. So... Uncle Lui had a son, Johnny who wasn't well. I don't know what his diagnosis was, I remember playing with Johnny but he gradually got worse and worse. But I really don't what the diagnosis was.

And at what [coughs] age would he have died?

He died, he was in his 40s, I think, after. *Zia* Rosina always took him to do massages to try and keep him motivated and you know, when your muscles... and I remember them going to the Philippines, as well. You know, you try anything for a cure ---

Other things in your family life...

(27:53) How did your family celebrate occasions like birthdays and Christmas?

Birthdays, we always had a cake. Christmas, we were always together.

The three families?

No, no. We were invited to *zia* Virginia's and *zio* Oscar's, I remember all of us being three. But I don't remember other times. Birthdays, they'd come over, there was always a bit of a celebration. I remember my First Communion, my brother's, my sister's christening. They had like a garage there where they kept the two cars and we'd turn that into a little celebration thing. But others, no, I don't really, because I

suppose *zia* Anna had her side of the family, as well, *zia* Rosina had hers, as well. Most of ours, I know it was always *zia* Virginia, or they'd come or we'd go because they were pretty close, Mum and *zia* Virginia and Dad and *zio* Oscar, maybe because we had grandma with us and you know, it was her Mum, sort of thing. But I know, Mum, more than once said "If I didn't have *zia* Virginia..." you know---

It would have been a challenge for her?

Yes.

You mentioned your godparents?

Yeah, yeah, *zio*, well, *santolo*⁸ Berto and *santola*⁹ Elvira. Actually I rang her not long ago. She's still alive.

The Berno?

Yes, I tried a couple of times and she hung up on me. And then I thought, I came home from work one day and I thought: "Oh, it's early in the morning there." And I got her daughter-in-law, Anna, who is married to Johnny and I told her and I said: "Tell her, I still think of her and I remember her." She said: "She's lost her memory, a bit." I said: "Give her a kiss for me, I hope to see her again." I've still got my first prayer book that she gave me, well, not my first prayer book, a prayer book that she gave me. And a couple of little things here.

How important was it to have, you know, godparents

Godmother?

Or *santola*?

Oh, we were always brought up to remember them and respect them and give little gifts, you know and remember them at Christmas time and all that. And she did the same, as well. And even for Confirmation, I remember my Confirmation and the party and everything. My first watch. [laughs] I've still got it. [laughs] and a prayer book. My *zia* Angelina, she was my sponsor, who was my Dad's step-sister from you know, the first [marriage of Giovanni Santin, Diana's *nonno*], she used to come and visit Mum, all the time, after Grandma died, as well. They were close, grandmother brought her up as her own. There wasn't anything, I never hears anybody say saying

⁸ Santolo is the Veneto word for godfather

⁹ Santola is the Veneto word for godmother

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anything bad. I don't remember any arguments, I don't remember, everyone sort of got on and you know, everyone---- maybe because they had separate house to and they weren't always together. I used to get upset sometimes because I remember when the first TV came out and we were one of the first ones to get TV but we didn't have a lounge room. So I remember Denise and *zio* YiYi [Lui] and *zio* Vito got a TV and Dan and we had to share his. [laughs] Because it was t their house, you know, they thought it was theirs, and I was never allowed to watch what I wanted. My grandmother used to say: "Just call me when there is singing and dancing on. And she used to love 'The Three Stooges', so we'd go: "*Nonna*."

[laughter]

32:28 And your grandparents? Like, you remember your grandfather?

Here?

Yes.

Not that much, just.

When did he die?

He died in '62, '61. No, '61 because '62, we went overseas. I remember his walking stick with the big knob at the end of it. His hat, he used to wear a hat. I can't remember him smiling very much, more grumpier, you know, happy sort of thing.

(33:06) You know you spoke about the house, the big house that you shared with your Uncle Vic ...?

Uncle Vic.

And *zia* Anna...?

zia Anna.

Can you just take me through the house like, where your family was, and who was in what rooms?

You'd come in the side, there was a lovely verandah and on the side of the verandah, there was a little room, a little storeroom where we'd keep our shoes and polish our shoes, and you'd come into the laundry...

Is this the front or the back of the house?

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The front. The main door where you'd walk into the straight corridor was always open when the doctor came otherwise you'd never use that. So you'd come into the laundry and off the laundry there was the bathroom and toilet and then you'd have your little door to go in the kitchen and that window, the kitchen window would look onto the verandah at the front. And it was only a little kitchen, it would just fit the table and chairs, the sink, the hotplates, the wood fire and then we had a stove and there was a little bench and the radio, the fridge and the *cadenza*, we'd call it, you know. The door to go into the passage, Grandma's bedroom, Mum's bedroom and behind the kitchen used to be my bedroom which was now my brother's after my brother, you know... And then if you imagine this long passage, at the end of those two bedrooms, there was a door, and that opened up to *zia* Anna's and that was exactly the reverse with this one. It started off with her bedroom, Dean's bedroom and then they had the lounge where Grandma and I had the bedroom and they had their kitchen, their laundry and two bathrooms and their verandah was closed at the back. Alright? And they had a little room behind the lounge, Dean used to do bike rising and he had a little room there with bikes and things.

They had a patch of lawn and then behind that, was the *bocce* and on the side of that, that's where the big shed was, all on the side of that house, you can imagine that big house, all the side, there was the shed, the big long one where the tractors were and the double garage where the two cars were kept. And on the opposite side, was the clothes lines, they had separate, the Hills hoists and then there was the Piovesan land on that side, and we were all on the other side. And then when you'd drive up the front of the house from Frogmore Road, it was in a while and it was like an 'S' sort of thing, Grandma's chooks was over there, Dad had made a ramp where they put the tractors on the trucks. If you just imagine a piece of dirt with sleepers and they'd drive the truck right back because after they had Bolivar and they'd just load on and off and for when Uncle Vic used to do the fumigating, as well which was a lot easier and putting things on trucks and all that. Then there was the bore and Uncle Lui used to live right on the corner, the other corner of the property.

And was that close to Frogmore Road?

That was right on Frogmore Road, his house is still there.

[Sound of coffee machine processing]

Oh, that's the coffee machine. [laughs] Sorry.

That's alright.

Yeah, his house is still standing, it is.

On Frogmore Road?

It's still there. Right in front of Fergusson Avenue, you will see ...

Will that [sound] continue for very long?

No, should be finished. Yeah. If you see in front of Fergusson Avenue, you'll see two new homes and then you'll see an old one, back this way.

And that's...?

That was Uncle Lui's because that ended up being my brother's, that's where he first lived. And my brother got the house and the land there, Uncle Vic's son, Dean got the red brick house, or built the red brick house and Denise, the youngest daughter of Uncle Lui built right next door to them. So three children got three, you know, one each, I suppose. So that's still standing.

Oh, I'll have to have a look.

(38:24) When your brother was born, you moved into sleep with your Grandmother, is that right?

Well, not after he was born but after Grandpa died. I remember sleeping in the same bed, we've still got it, it's all in pieces and she'd put an old jumper on her shoulders and she'd sit in bed and pray. I remember her combing her hair every night and the way she'd make this beautiful little bun in the back of her hair and then she'd take this sip of paraffin oil [laughs] every night and then after in later years, as I got older, Mum got two separate beds, two single beds for us. But I remember, you know, she used to talk to me and tell me lots of little stories. I remember once, one boy asked me out and Dad wouldn't let me go with him and I was crying. And she said: "Don't worry", she said: "Your turn will come, you'll be alright." She comforted me, and yes, you know, I was very close to her.

(39:51) Did she speak English?

No.

You always spoke in dialect?

I always spoke in Italian and where I am working today, I sort of thank her and my mother for it because the job that I've got today requires a lot of Italian in the nursing home. They all come up or the carers will call me. Some of it is from southern Italian but I've picked up quite a bit. We've got quite a few *veneti* there, and they'll say: "Oh, can you come and interpret?" Or they're trying to get someone out of bed and when they hear you talk in their own language, it's a bit different. It's quite rewarding in a way. I always say, I've got my Grandma and my Mum to thank for that. The same with my sister, because Mum didn't speak much English, she still speak a bit of Italian so my brother's not as fluent, he's sort of lost it a bit, you know. But, yeah, it was quite good.

(41:08) Your parents and uncles and aunties built new houses. Tell me about how that happened?

I think eventually it was their time to be rewarded for all their hard work and everything. And they built new home on Frogmore Road. They all built what they wanted and --- they, I think, they were getting older as well, not that old but...

Sorry. I was going to ask did your Grandmother move with you?

No, no.

(41:47) So maybe we should finish talking about your Grandmother because...

Yeah.

How old was she when she died?

Eighty something.

She died in what year?

1970, 1970, she died.

So you would have been?

I was 19, I was 19, yes, I was 19. I remember Dad looked after her for quite a while. Dad, after, slept in my bed, the two single beds there during the night and I was sleeping with Mum. And I remember him after taking her to the hospital. And then she never came out. Dad got really depressed, I must say. Dad wasn't much, he wasn't one to talk a lot and he suffered quite a bit, you know, he was pretty close to her. Well, your Mum's your Mum but when you've lived with her nearly all your life.

Mum was very upset. I remember having the rosary and then they all came back for coffee and I remember saying: "How can you all...?" And they were talking and, you know, you do laugh. I said: "How can you all be so happy and that when you know Grandma has died?" I remember going to my room and I just cried and cried.

Because you were obviously really close?

Yeah. She used to get gifts, you know, from people all the time and you know, like towels and I remember I've still got this one towel. It's an aqua blue with stripes and a pink rose on it. And I used to say: "Open, it Grandma, open it Grandma. Use it." And she'd say: "No. that's for you. When I die, it's yours." I said: "No, no, open it." And you know, I've still got it. [laughs]

Have you opened it?

No.

[laughter]

I haven't. [laughs]

It's obviously very special?

Uh huh.

Yeah.

The furniture, her old furniture, two wardrobes and a dressing table, *zia* Angina too, her stepdaughter. And she wanted her wedding ring because that was her mother's wedding ring. And I've got Grandma's engagement ring. i have, yes.

That's lovely.

Add I've got a little brooch that her goddaughter, I think it was Bruna Zampin, gave to her so she goes: "My *fiofa* gave me this." And she gave them to me, well she always said they're yours, you know. I remember when we sued to go to school, every now and again, she'd give you two shillings, she would, you know. And New Year's day was *bon inno*, *bon anno* and she'd give you some money so, yeah. It was good.

(45:23) Your parents, like, who did they socialise most with, as you remember?

I remember my Dad's cousin who was here from Italy and his wife, Attilio and Imelda...

What was their surname?

Visentin and then they went back to Italy to live. And I remember Uncle Serafin, Mum's brother, --- they used to come a lot. *Zio* Oscar and *zia* Virginia, of course. *zia* Angina and *zio* Piero.

That was Compostella?

Hmmnn. This was in the earlier years and in the later years or not so late years, there was Pietro and Gina Brombal. --- They're the socialising but people always came even right at the end, Mum and Dad because even after they didn't have the garden any more, those people would bring their produce to Mum and Dad and said: "We remember what you used to give us." You know, which... it comes back to you, doesn't it? Or when they'd kill the pig, they'd bring a salami over or a couple of bottles of wine over, they'd bring, you know, some wine over. It was really nice --- [voice breaking] Alright.

(47:23) I was thinking about your parents and you know, you have obviously got fond and strong memories of your closeness to them. What would your parents have thought was important to communicate to you, do you think?

--- My Mum's last words were: "Don't argue."

[laughter]

"Don't worry about money, don't argue about money", you know, "Love one another." --- You know, family. Dad never wanted to go out and eat, Father's Day of Mother's Day. He said: "No, I just want to be home with my family." And it was true he was happy when his family were there and his grandchildren were there. I remember his 80th birthday which we organised in two weeks because Mum wanted to do something for him because he wasn't well. It was just after Andrew, my son, came back from the Paralympics in Athens and it was Dad's 80th, and we didn't put anything out of Andrews, you know. He goes: "Go and get Andrew's photos, go and get Andrew's medals, go and get, you know." And we had to put them all out so you could see he was proud of them. His family, that's all he wanted. He used to love

coming over here doing things. If one of the children's would break: "*Nonno* will fix it, *Nonno* will fix it." And he was the handyman of Kidman Park after.

[laughter]

(49:26) When did your parents die?

My mother died in 2005. She got diagnosed with a brain tumour. I remember it was 16th March, and she wasn't well and I was supposed to pick them up and take them to my brother's son, James, it was his birthday. And I was to come home from work and going to pick them up and take them to their place which was up at Saint George's. And she rang up, it was about 5:00 o'clock and she goes: "*Oh, Diana, su mi*", you know, it's me. I said: "Yes, Mum, I just got home, I won't be long.", you know. "No, no", she goes in Italian, "I'm not well." I said: "What's the matter?" And my sister had just left with her baby and she couldn't hold it any more, her arm went all numb. I said: "What's the matter?" And I said: "What's the matter?" She goes: "Oh, my arm, it's all numb." You know, in Italian. I said: "Okay, I'll come over straight away." And she had made *frittole* that day, it was her last batch, we always mention it. And I took her to the hospital. I said: "I'll take you to Ashford," I said: "We'll see what's happening." And my sister came to pick up my Dad to take him up there, and everything. And anyhow I was at the Ashford and they were doing tests on her and they did tests and everything and you know you have to wait and the doctor came down and said: "Oh, we think your Mum's got a tumour." "Oh." You know, I was there on my own, and to get his news because it was Dad that had the triple bypass that was always sick and I said: "Oh, well, how big is it?" I imagined it the size of a pea. He said: "About the size of a 20 cent piece." I thought: "Oooh hh." And I thought: "How am I going to say this?"

And anyhow, I went into the little room to ring up because I didn't have mobiles then and I opened the room up and Lui Tonellato's family was in there because he was in hospital as well. So Lucy and her mother and, you know, they were all in there. And I'm all... to use the phone and I spoke to my brother and I said: "Don't tell Dad." Because they wanted her to go to the Memorial [hospital] so I had to wait and for the ambulance and then I went up there with the car, and they kept her in the Memorial and that was Wednesday night and on Thursday morning, they did an MRI and specialist after on the Friday morning, wanted to see us and by then, she was okay,

you know, her numbness had come out. And I had to go on Friday morning, Dad still didn't know. I told my brother, I said: "You're coming with me. I'm not going up there to hear the news all by myself." And the specialist said: "She's just had a stroke." And I thought to myself: "Oh." That was a relief, in a way, and I thought: "Oh, what a relief, she'd get over it." And all this and that." Anyhow she was in there for another week because after it was her birthday and we took her home here for her birthday. They were all here and she was outside and Amanda and Lisa were rubbing her feet and you know, she got sick. She fainted, or collapsed or something and we had to call an ambulance. What a day! She went back to the hospital and she did therapy and then eventually, a week or two later she came home.

She was okay but her mouth was starting to drop, and they saw it and they said it was that Bell's palsy, and her eye, she said: "I can't see, I can't close my eye." Anyhow with physio and that, but it wasn't getting better, it was getting worse and months went by, Mother's Day and everything and --- not better, not better, back in hospital. The children had bought Robert and myself, my husband, a trip to Perth for Christmas and we had six months to use it. Anyhow in June, we thought we'd better go or we'd lose it. We were in Perth three days into our seven-day stay and my brother rings: "The doctor did another MRI and it's a tumour, she's got cancer." I said: "After all these months", you know, the specialists. One doctor tells me, tumour, the specialist says a stroke, then after it was a tumour. It was their wedding anniversary on the 1st July and that was the day she came home from hospital. Dad was too sick to look after her so I decide, I spoke with my husband, "I'm the closest, our children are the eldest, I'll go and live there with her." And I was coming home on the Saturday and going back on the Sunday night. And I did all the cooking and washing there and my family would come there and eat which was a lot easier. My daughter ran the house here and looked after them all. But it was a lot better because she used to get visitors and that and they all used to come there and the number of visitors that brought cakes and biscuits. And Elsa Innocente, how many times she made us *pasta marinara*? So until she passed away, I stayed there.

When did she die?

She died in November.

Of 200?

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2005.

How old was she?

She was 74.

Diana, thank you telling me about that, and we've come to the end of this part of the interview. Thank you very much for the lovely information that you've given.

You're welcome.

And we'll pick it up next time.

Okay.

Thank you.

END FILE 2: FILE 3

This is a third interview recorded with Diana Panazzolo for the Italian market gardeners oral history project. I'm Madeleine Regan and I'm recording the interview on 18th October 2013 at Diana's home at Kidman Park. Thanks, Diana for agreeing to this interview. And we're going to start the interview picking up where we left off last time. You had told me about your mother's death. And I just wanted to ask you about when did your father die?

My Dad died on 14th April 2007. After Mum died, he was really depressed, got sicker, he always said it should have been him that died. It was very sad. He went into hospital for a procedure and the specialist had told him that his heart and kidneys weren't up to it but he still wanted it done. And he never came out of hospital. He died a few weeks, he died in April, 14th April and my daughter had gotten married on 10th March, the same year. We saw that he was sick at the wedding, it was very sad. But he was at peace at the end, he was.

Well, thank you for that information, Diana.

(01:37) And we're going to just talk about your paternal grandfather, Giovanni Santin.

Hmm.

Because you've actually discovered some very interesting documents about him.

Yes, I thought I didn't much about Grandpa but my sister had all this documentation which Dad had always kept in the *boule*, which was the trunk, Mum's glory box, you

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can say, which she took from Italy. And he had kept everything probably because Grandma and Grandpa always lived with us, and I knew when we cleaned it out that there was other documentation so we did find it and it was quite interesting. We found that *nonno* Santin went to Canada to work as a miner for ten years.

What year had he gone there?

1910.

He would he have been, what age?

Thirty, was it 30? I think we saw.

He was born in 1886.

1886. --- 24, no? 24, yeah. And came home when he was 30 then, was it? Yes, when he came home, he was married when he'd left. He had married his first daughter, Maria had his daughter, Angelina which and later married Compostella, Pietro. When he came home she died, I know it was the Spanish fever and left him with Angelina. Then after a few years, he must have married my grandmother and had four other children. Then he came out to Australia in 1927 and called out his family in 1935. Then lived at Wellington and then from Wellington came her down to Adelaide in 1941, we figured that out from his bank books when they were transferred from Jervois to Adelaide. --- What else did we figure out? We found a lot of documentations like a police clearance was required when he came out here and all the money that was sent back to Grandma to pay for the *viaggio* to come here, there was 700 lire [laughs] for all of them. Mmnn...

And I don't know whether we mentioned last time but when your grandmother and the four children, three sons and the daughter, left Italy they he left on one ship...

Yes, they left on the 'Remo', I remember my Dad telling me. And it broke down in Port Said and they had to wait there for weeks, he said, until another ship came which was the 'Viminale' and which they had to transfer from there and arrived here at the I think it was the last day of 1935, last day of December. So they had a long voyage, [laughs] turned out to be over two months, well, two months instead of one month. Yes. And I think the 'Remo', the ship the 'Remo', is still going, I think it's turned into a library ship or something because my girlfriend, Marisa, it came into

Port Adelaide once and I remember once and I remember that she came to Australia on the 'Remo'. And they went to see it and it was turned into a library ship or something like that.

(05:50) Oh, interesting.

Diana, how did you feel when you found all this documentation?

--- I didn't know my grandfather very well, can't remember and I felt like I was getting to know the person and it was very interesting and I thought, "Oh, you know, a miner, arrived in Quebec, Canada, then took the train to Calgary and then went back to Italy." They did a lot of travelling in those days, didn't they? Sometimes you think the money, as well because they were so poor. But from the photo in the identification book, he looked quite smart and everything. I felt like, you know, my Dad, I should have asked my Dad a lot more questions, I felt. That's why now maybe even the generation of today should keep asking questions [laughs] Yeah.

That's really interesting and I think it's quite rare to have so much documentation because you've got your grandfather's National Service records from Italy, haven't you?

Yes, we figured what that was. I hope that we can preserve all these. But he did National Service, what was it? 1909, he did National Service. --- What was he? He was a *contadino*,¹⁰ there he worked in the gardens and all of that. I don't what made him decide to go to America. I wonder if he went with someone, or you know, if there were other people. If we knew the names, we could look up, he went on the ship, the 'Sicialano', the steam ship, 'Siciliana,' it would be good to know if he did go with other people and see if others knew what was happening, you know.

Yeah, as you say, when you think about 1910

Yeah.

It's really early for people to be migrating like that, and a young man.

I know in 1927, he came to Australia. And you think, maybe he did apply to go back to America. I remember you saying that America wouldn't take any more immigrants. So maybe that's when he decided to come to Australia. So ---

He must have known someone here, you know, to be called.

¹⁰ *Contadino* is the Italian word for farmer, peasant farmer

To be called here. I don't know if it was the Berno's who called him because there's a strong connection there. But how come he went to Wellington and onto work down here at Valetta Road? So, maybe he wanted to do his own thing when he was here.

I also think 1927 was a difficult time in terms of the economy so maybe, I don't think the Berno's had actually started at Valetta Road at that time.

Oh.

But there's a lot to investigate.

There is, there is... yeah

Well, thank you Diana for that.

(09:13) I'm going to ask you now to come back to your life because in the last interviews we didn't get to talk about your schooling and I wanted to find out where you went to primary school first.

Primary school? I went to Saint Joseph's school at Flinders Park in Captain Cook Avenue with the Berno's, the Tonellato's, the Mercurio's, all those, all the market garden children.

How did you get to school?

Eh, I remember when I was little, I reckon, really primary school. They used to drive me and I remember my Dad coming at lunchtime, bringing me a little plate of soup with the lid because I never used to eat much so Mum was worried, you know. They used to come for lunch from the garden and I used to sit in the car and eat this plate of soup. As we got older, I remember riding the bike. Dad bought me my first bike, and it belonged to Jack Young's daughter. It was from England and I can still see it, it was cream and green, it was beautiful and I used to ride the bike.

What was your route to school from Frogmore Road?

It was across the paddocks, it was mostly down the side of the Tonellato because it had more of that black, grey gravel, sort of thin where the *vagon* was. It was the end of the Tonellato and we'd cut across and hit Findon Road and then across. There was the Zerella's market garden, there was and there was the Ballestrin's market garden and I remember the dirt road down there. I think it was Drake Avenue now, and then we, when we went to Italy in 1962, we bought new bikes, Dad bought me a new bike and a new bike for Johnny and a new bike for Dean and then I remember riding that.

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The roads were a little bit better then, and I remember after, we used to come down Drake Avenue and we could either turn left and go home the Tonellato way, Findon Road because there was the Adami shops there or else we could go down Adele Avenue which is still the dead end and cut through the gate of --- Bernardi, Romano and Malia Bernardi, they had a little side gate, and we'd go through the gate we'd be on the Tonellato, Lui Tonellato's land and cut across there and we'd just go straight and then we'd end up right in front of our house all the way, just across Frogmore Road.

So I'm getting the picture that there weren't many houses because what year did you start school?

Oh, what year? '55, '56, mmnn.

So, in the '50s and probably early '60s while you were still at primary school.

Yeah.

Not that many houses?

No, no. I remember these houses on the Tonellato land. One was Achille, I remember the son, come across it. It was all in the middle of the garden, it was just, you know, these dirt roads, dirt tracks you could say, they were. We'd come down and there were two houses, then it was their house, Frogmore Road and just across, it was ours. And you'd go down the lane and you'd hit our big house.

And what do you remember about the *vagon*?

My Auntie and Uncle lived in the *vagon* so I visited the *vagon* quite a lot. I remember the step up...

Which Auntie and Uncle?

My Mum's brother, Serafino Oliviero and Lina Oliviero and I remember the step very high to get in. I remember a bathtub made of aluminium, a nice little kitchen and the bedroom and that and then there was, I think there was two because there was another man living next door in another little part of it and I remember the Tonellato house just across the pathway there and I remember how beautiful it was [laughs] being in there.

Do you remember what happened to the *vagon*?

No, no I don't remember what happened to it because once my Auntie and Uncle built their house in Adele Avenue, we never visited, didn't go that way.

And Diana, when you started school, did you speak English?

Yes, spoke English because Dad went to school here. I remember him helping me with my homework, my times table, he helped me a lot with my homework. Yes, I never found there was any, I was never called a wog or anything. We all got on at school, the nuns. I remember when it was sports day, everyone, the market gardeners would bring their produce and donate it and the money they'd make would go to the school and all my Australian friends, I still think of them. I don't remember any fights from school. No, the nuns still, I was quite happy with the nuns, they were good, there were some strict ones, you know.

And you finished Year 7 and where did you go after that?

After that, I went to Hindmarsh which was still part of St Joseph's, Hindmarsh which was first, second and third year so I did that here. Then I went on to Kensington which is now MacKillop College because it was still part of Saint Josephs'. So back in those days, you'd stick with Saint Joseph and I remember getting up early in the morning, very early in the morning, catching two buses and walking, you had to walk to the bus stop and a lot of times I met with Luciana Tonellato because she used to go to school up that way or to town or something but we used to catch the bus together.

I remember getting up early and I was the one who had to light the little kerosene heater in the kitchen and put the kettle on and I'd come home, and it'd be late when you come home and Mum and Dad were still in the garden so you'd try and do a bit of homework and get a bit of tea. Mum would get some things ready at lunch time and if you'd get visitors, that was it, I couldn't do homework but then as I got older I used to go into Dean's bedroom because he had a desk in there, and I'd do my homework in there because we didn't have a lounge and if you got visitors, that was always in the kitchen there so I'd have to pack up and shift out and go into Dean's or aunties because we were all in the big house and just go across and do my homework there. And I remember with Grandma, sleeping with Grandma after Grandpa [died] and I'd say: "Grandma, call me early, I've got to study." And she'd call me early in

the morning, I didn't need an alarm clock. [laughs] --- And yeah, then, after I didn't finish Leaving, I didn't like Kensington, I was used to down here, I suppose even Hindmarsh, everybody knew each other, it was like a little family at the school and there, they were all in their groups and I wasn't used to that and so I left in September and I started work at Onkaparinga. [woollen mills in the inner western suburbs of Adelaide]¹¹

(18:12) When you were at school, what had you thought you'd do in the future?

It was always like, back in those days, a lot of people left before Intermediate, and it was first, second, third year, third year it was Intermediate and you'd just go and work in an office. --- I don't know, I just wanted to do office work, secretary and that, back in those days. I did go for Government, they had Government typing things. I did get one once but I decided to continue on at school and then I didn't like the school, did I? [laughs] So, Teresina was working at Onkaparinga.

Who is Teresina?

Teresina Zampin who married a Mazzarolo, and I heard there was a job going there so I went for the interview and I got it.

Where was Onkaparinga?

It was called Torrenside Woollen Mills, Onkaparinga, it was right on the edge of Torrens River at Thebarton or Torrensville there on South Road, just after they built the new premises up the front. They were good days, still a lot of people, made lots of friends. I was there --- I started in 1968 and I was there until 1972.

And how did you get to work?

Bus, with the bus.

Two buses?

No, just one. It was 20 cents, I remember. We used to walk down our road to hist Frogmore and onto Grange Road.

Oh, right, that bus went along Henley Beach Road?

No, no, Grange Road, Grange Road.

¹¹ Diana reflected about her parent's wish to give their children education, "I suppose they wanted us to have what they could not have."

South Road?

It hit South Road and it used to go up George Street and the bus stop was right out the front.

What did our parents think about you in that job? Were they happy?

Oh, they were happy, I never heard them complain. Once a month, we used to have stay back and work and do stocktake of all the blankets and everything, I know it was once a month. So we'd finish late and Dad would come and pick us up or Uncle Lui or someone would come and pick us up. You don't want to catch the bus late at night. --- And sometimes it was Tuesday night, I remember going into the shed and seeing all the men. [laughs]

Were you still asked to do things in the garden while you were working?

No, no, it sort of died down a bit. No. At school, when we were at school, primary school, I do remember still coming home Tuesdays, putting that butcher, sheet, butcher paper in the half cases, helping pick potatoes, planting the potatoes during the holidays and all of that. I remember training the cucumbers and the tomatoes up the strings, very gently, doing that but not a lot of physical, like we used to when were in primary school. I think they had more tractors back then, now, later on it was a lot easier, even the potatoes, they had a machine after, that you'd just stand on the machine, and collect them you didn't have to bend down and put them in the bucket and put them in the sacks and then sew up the sacks, you know. It was a lot easier.

(22:15) When you were working at Onkaparinga, what was your social life?

Very good, I had a very good social life. My parents weren't overly strict. I remember once, this boy asked me out and my Dad wouldn't let me go out with him. And I started to cry. And my Grandma said: "Oh, don't worry", she said. [laughs] I remember that. She sort of consoled me. She said: "Oh, you'll find the right one." And then after I found out he was a bit of a wild boy, maybe that's why. [laughter]

What sorts of things would you do and who were your friends?

My friends were: my cousin, Denise, Norina Ballestrin, Lucy Tonellato, Liana Conci, Rachel Bartolo. We use to meet every Sunday, go for walks down to the beach or we'd go to town, it was absolutely wonderful. It was just something you'd look forward to, you'd go to Church in the morning.

Where did you go to Church?

Mater Christi?

At?

At Seaton. Gleneagles, it used to be called. And sometimes we'd go to Church in the evening too because I remember Liana Conci liked Johnny Torresan so we'd go to Church again because she wanted to see him. [laughs] But she ended up marrying him, they're happily married. Because there was all those boys as well. Dean, my cousin had his friends, Liana's brother, Lino, had his friends and then when I was working at Onkaparinga, I made friends with this other boy, Michael Capurso who is Ivan's godfather now. And we've all been together now, for what? Over 40 years.

It's a long time.

It is, it is. And we used to go to the Juventus dances in Centennial Hall. It was good.

Who ran the Juventus dances?

I don't know who ran them, it must have been some sort of committee. I used to sell about 20, 30 tickets. Yeah, they were wonderful. Yes, you didn't have to have drugs or drink to have a good time in those days.

Was it live music?

Live music, we used to have the 'Instyles' which was Frank Rugari, it was. And you'd get half a chicken or something. But it was wonderful, old and young people would sort of go. Yeah, Centennial Hall, you can imagine, you used to have trestle tables and you met lots of people. And it was really great and my parents never told me what time to be home but you sort of knew, you didn't overstep the boundaries. We didn't lock the doors, the doors was always open. I had a good young upbringing or good social life. [laughs]

(25:49) And then, you were telling me before about becoming engaged to Robert.

Yes, yes.

How did that come about?

Oh, well, through Michael who I worked with at Onkaparinga. He was in his group of friends and we started going to these Juventus dances and that and you know, they

ask you to dance and then they'd ask you out and a little bit at a time, someone's 21st and so you got invited and from there, it went with Robert. [laughs]

And Robert's family, I understand, were *veneti*?

Yes, they came from San Vito di Asolo, yeah. Robert was born in Asolo and he's the youngest of five and they lived at South Road, Thebarton and he's a hairdresser, his sister was one of the first hairdressers here.¹²

His other brothers were builders, carpenters painters, and Robert was a hairdresser, took after his sister.

[laughs]

How did your parents think about Robert as a prospective son-in-law?

Well when they first met him, he had long hair and a beard. My Dad had told me, when I was going out, he said: "I don't want you bringing home lots of boys." I said: "Fair enough." I had friends, you know and when he did ask me, and Dad goes: "Well, he'd better get a haircut." [laughs] So he did, he got a haircut and shaved his beard. And yeah, I was quite surprised and it just went on from there. NAs we went overseas in 1972, '73 and I was away for three months. Um, and I, you know, missed him, I was engaged and I remember my Grandpa over there, teasing saying this and that. He had an accident while I was and I didn't know that. I went overseas, yeah.

I was engaged on my 21st because we didn't want a big party or anything and that was his gift to me and it was my grandparents, my Mum's side, their 60th wedding anniversary, the following year and Dad asked if we would go, if I wanted to come and I said: "No, I can't." You're saving for a house now, you've got to think of the future and he goes: "Look if you want to go, I'll pay for you." So I said: "Okay, I'm coming." [laughs] So that's when I left, I had to give notice at Onkaparinga. And so we were away for three months, we were away. And then when I came back, they rang me up to go back to Onkaparinga but because I had to give notice, I was a bit upset and I got a job at Associated and ...

Here on...?

¹² Diana clarified in the editing process that her sister-in-law was one of the first Italian hairdressers with her own salon

On Findon Road. My boss that had hired me was working here as an accountant so I got the job, you know, I went for an interview here and got the job as head cashier. So I was doing all the banking and I remember like Roger Drake when he was working there and a lot of the people now that have got all these supermarkets --- and yeah, it was good.

29:43) Then walking home one day, I just cut across the paddock here and there was all these empty blocks and I said: "Oh, Dad, there's blocks for sale." We came to have a look and I showed Robert and his brother came to have a look and so they came to the auction and this is where we got our block and here we are.

You're very close to Frogmore Road, aren't you?

I am, I am.

[laughter]

How important was it for you to be thinking about living in this area?

Um --- well, it wasn't that important but I've always loved the area. I think, you know, Robert, but from Thebarton to here, it was this side of town so we would have been looking on this side on this town but I think God looked after me and said: "Here you are." I didn't venture very far from home, did I? [have]

You know, when you bought this block of land, what did the area look like here in Veronica Street at that time?

The houses were, like the house next door, here, that was there and it was just this square patch in the middle of all these homes that had already been built.

When did you think the houses first started to be built in this subdivision?

I reckon it was the late '60s, I reckon, yeah, it would have been the late '60s because even Frogmore Road was developing, it was, yeah. Even the house next door to the old Tonellato house, I remember that one there being built. --- From Yiyi's *vagon*, I think it was, and then there was Diego Tessari that owned it and then, you know, they went back to Italy --- and the Tonellato's, *nonno del pipa*, we used to call him and *nonna del pipa*, because he always used to always smoke the pipe, I remember them building their house there on the corner, their Basket Range brick house.

On the corner of?

Fergusson Avenue and Frogmore Road and then when I remember when they passed and then my Auntie, which we call my auntie but she's really my cousin and she had lived in the little asbestos house just two houses down from there. And I remember the two asbestos houses, one was green, one was grey, the grey one's still standing and how huge the block is. The lady next door, Bruno and Bruna Basso, I remember their house. They had a little green asbestos house with this block at the front and I remember the lettuces there, them growing lettuces there and young men from Italy, they had a shed and they used to live in a shed at the back. I'm jumping from one thing to another now, aren't I?

I think it's really interesting because you're remembering the changes and what they area looked like, it's great.

I remember taking my brother for a haircut when he was little, to Mario, he used to cut his hair. And there were all these little sheds and now they've all got their beautiful homes --- and you think, like now, people come from overseas and they expect everything.

Times were different, weren't they?

Weren't they, weren't they?

(33:57) Diana, I'd like to go back to your engagement and marriage, was it a formal kind of situation where Robert had to ask for you hand in marriage?

[laughter]

Robert did ask me to marry me.

But what about approaching your parents?

--- I don't think he did, i never asked him. [laughs] No, I think we just told our parents. Yeah, we just told Mum and Dad and said: "Look, we're getting engaged on my 21st." And Mum gave us a surprise cake, a heart cake, I remember that. No, it wasn't that formal that he had to then when it was the time of the wedding and everything, she just let me do what I wanted, really. Robert gave me his list, it wasn't anything overly traditional, put it that way.

Did your parents know Robert's family?

No.

Even though they were from the same region in Italy?

No, who knew Robert's family was my Uncle Serafin because he used to be a baker and he delivered bread there. No, I didn't know any of his brothers or his sister. There were people who had heard of them but no. At my 21st, they all came, they were all invited, Mum and Dad met them all. We just went from there. [laughs]

The Pannazolo had arrived after the War?

Yes, they came in 1960, a long time after. Yeah. The two brothers, two of the brothers came earlier because Robert's mother was 45 when she had Robert and two of the sons were already here. He had never seen his older brothers, yes. --- And then I think it was Romeo that wanted to go to America. And she said: "No. We're all going to Australia, I'm not going to have my family split up." She used to have, they used to have What do I say, Crocio D'Oro, they used to have an *osteria*¹³ there and so they sold up everything and came out here. And they lived with his brother at Seaton for quite a while and then bought the house at Thebarton.

How important would it have been to your parents that you were marrying an Italo Australian boy?

--- I don't think that it was that overly important. I think they were happy that he was Italian, you know, from our parts. Even Michael, some of the other friends weren't, you know I had Australian friends as well, and they weren't, even Michael was Molfetese, Dominic is from Napoli, Benevento, there. I don't think they were racist or prejudiced or... as long as I was happy.

Yeah, I guess my question is not so much about the racist side but like, then I guess the pleasure of knowing that our daughter was marrying into a family which kind of understood our traditions and that kind of thing.

I think they were pretty proud of that but I didn't look at that, I just...

You fell in love.

That's it.

[laughter]

Where did you get married?

¹³ An *osteria* is a casual café style eating place in Italy

We got married at Mater Christi Church which is not there any more, it was an old asbestos building and from Padre Mario, Bonpato, married us. And we had our reception at the Slovenia Hall in Young Street.

Young Street?

Hindmarsh. Yes. Apparently it's still standing.

Ah, why would you have had it there?

It was a hall close by. We use to, Robert and I on the Saturday night used to work for Ruggero Catering to earn extra money and we used to go and work, you know when they did parties and things like that. And we found out about this hall, it was lovely and it was close to home here. Then after, I remember we were one of the first people to have steak on the menu for the wedding.

Did you ask for that?

Yes, because Ruggero did the catering and because you know, we worked for them, we knew what they did because everyone used to get chicken when they'd get married so we got the steak.

What else was on the menu?

Oh, I can't remember, steak and salad [laughs] and antipasto and cake, I remember my cake. My Auntie Virginia knew a lady who made the wedding cakes so that was a 20-tier wedding cake, fruit cake. I remember my Auntie sending me flowers from Canada. I remember my cousin coming from Canada and surprised us.

How many people would you have invited?

Oh, it was about 200, 210 or something, yeah. Robert and I had made our list which was about 80, 90 but then our parents, you know, his parents and my parents put their bit on. Yeah, it was just over 200.

Who would your parents put on the list?

Who did they put it? I remember Gazzola, Fabian, all the old people that

Like the older generation?

You know, they knew lots of people. I remember Mr and Mrs Brazzale because we had just put our friends, you know. Then they added theirs, lots of them, the Tonellato's were there, the Zampins, the Berno's, you know from the other Berno's?

On Findon Road?

Yeah, what's his name, Bino [Albino] Berno?

[coughing]

Shall we pause for a minute?

Do you want a drink of water?

We're resuming the interview with Diana and Madeleine Regan and Diana, I'm just wanting to finish your story about your wedding. So what year did you marry?

We married on 27th April 1927, 1974. I can still see my wedding day, it was beautiful. Mr Lui Carbone lent me his Mercedes, white Mercedes, yes. And then we hired another one. --- Then we went for photos, back home, I didn't want to go out to have photos so we all came back home.

Whereabouts at home did you have the photos?

We had the new house on Frogmore Road and we had photos taken at home and Mum had food and that there because I got married later in the afternoon, we didn't want too much fuss and all that. And then we went down to the Slovenian hall and I remember we didn't shake hands at the front door.

Was that the custom?

It was the custom but we didn't do it.

Why not?

Because I didn't want to. [laughs] And what I did, I had made all my own *bomboniere*.¹⁴ Oh, a lady had made the flower and I put all the confetti in them and I got these clear boxes and all put them in a box and I wanted to go to each family and hand them out and thank them personally and have a little chat with them.

Can you explain the tradition of the *bomboniere*?

¹⁴ *Bomboniere* is the name given to small gifts given by the newly married couple to their guests at the wedding reception

A little gift to say thank you for, and appreciate and remembrance of our wedding.

What was put inside them?

It was a flower it was like a little stem, if you imagine a flower with leaves and the leaves were a nylon with a little wire around them and the confetti were in the leaves like a ...

The confetti are the little sugar...

Yeah, the sugared almonds were the leaves of the flower.

And had you made those?

No a lady made those for me but I had put the confetti in, the sugared almonds, and I had these little boxes made, found them and I tied them all with a red ribbon because I had red and white for my wedding.

So during the reception, you went around and did Robert go?

Yes, Robert held them, Robert had them on a tray and we went around to each family person and handed them around and had a little chat with them and said thank you. I don't know, I just felt, that's what I wanted to do that and that's what I did. Not just shake hands at the door, you know: "Hi." "Hi." And then after you don't see them. You know what I mean? And I got to meet some of Robert's side of the family, and he got to meet mine.

Did you have music at the wedding?

Yes, yes, what is the name of the band? I forget the name. They were friends of Robert's and ours. *Savoir Faire*? I think it was the *Savoir Faire*, I think it was, a group of young boys because Robert used to cut the hair and he used to know lots of people as well. I'm pretty sure it was *Savoir Faire*.

What about your dress?

My dress, I bought from Holsteins in Rundle Street, then, it wasn't a mall. Just had a lace bodice and just plain. I did take some lace off from around the neck, I didn't like it, it was too high. I just had clear nylon here and beautiful lace with long sleeves with lace and not a very long train, short veil. Not high because Robert's not very tall and you know, I didn't want to be taller than him.

Bridesmaids and grooms?

Bridesmaids were two, Christine Mattiazzo which is now Rebellato and Peter Rebellato and Denise Santin and Dominic Parente. Then I had my little sister, Lisa, and Robert's nephew, Johnny Panazzolo. That was it, it wasn't anything big. We didn't say goodbye at the wedding, I remember, you know, how they do the arch at the end, we just sneaked off. [laughs] Because I knew I was going to cry. And I remember in the morning...

[Sound of coffee machine cleaning itself]

That's the coffee machine.

That's the coffee machine again.

[laughter]

I was going to turn it off.

Don't worry, don't worry.

[Sounds of the machine continue]

It doesn't last long, does it?

No, I doesn't. [laughs] Sorry, I forgot to turn it off. I remember the morning of my wedding, I remember going to the Church and doing the flowers because it wasn't all, I got married at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon. Like now, it's all flimsy and you have this, do that. I went to do my own flowers and my *zia* Virginia and Gina Brombal came to help me and after, you know, you went home, you get ready and still have a few hours to get ready. Desma did my hair.

Who's that?

Desma, Dean's wife, did my hair, a bit of makeup. That was it.

How many of your cousins had married? How many of the Santin cousins had married at that time?

It was only Sandra, she'd got married about four, five years beforehand. -- No, then it was me, then it was Dean.

So it was pretty special then?

Yes.

For the Santin families.

Another wedding. It was. Yes, I was 23, nearly 23.

Was that considered an average age do you think, for a woman?

That was old back in those days, wasn't it? You used to get married, 19, 20, 21. No, it was just, I knew what I wanted and I was heading and plus going overseas, those three months. And when I came back we just started making plans and Robert was happy, we bought the house here, his brother built it but it wasn't read. We got married in April and Robert's house had bought the house just behind the shop where he was living which he was going to throw down to build units, and so he let us live there until this was ready and we shifted between Christmas and New Year of '74. A bit at a time I was shifting in and I remembered starting off with my *zia* Maria's old lounge, a carpet square, Mum and Dad's old table and chairs. Robert's mother had given us the old bedroom suite so it was all, you know and slowly, slowly we worked it up to this. [laughs]

(08:00) Were you working? Did you continue to work?

Yes, I did continue, yes, it was good. Robert used to drop me off in the morning after, we were all going to work there and I'd walk, it was only a ten minute walk, not eve, come home, have his food ready because I was home before him. Yes, I continued working until I was sick, I did get sick after. Then after, we went overseas and that's when I got pregnant with Andrew and he was born in '79. And then, I gave notice but my bosses, I must say, they used to come here for coffee, I always kept in contact with them, when someone was on holidays, they'd ask me to go in and fill in and after there was Mr Rogers who was retiring after umpteen years of service and Mr Magor had asked me to work in credit control, if I'd like a job there. So I went back then I stayed in credit control of gee, --- till what? 1999, I think it was, when I was made redundant when they sold to Mayne, no, not Mayne, what was it? Metcash, African. Because it had changed from Associated, Independent Holdings to David's. Oh, and it changed so many times.

Meanwhile you were raising your family?

Yes.

So Andrew was born in '79?

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In '79. Amanda was born in '80 and Ivan was born in '84.

And how did you...?

Then I was just filing in, Mum would look after them just for holidays, then when Ivan was ready for Kindy, I put my name down to work permanent part-time because my sister had got a job there, she was working there in the meantime, Lisa. I said: "Just bring me home the application form." and two weeks later rang, to start. [laughs] So Mum looked after Ivan for a little while and I was there, I think it was 12 years, permanent casual. Yeah, I loved, made lots of friends, still got friends from there. And my boss, from credit control, Mr Magor, I mentioned him, he was so lovely. He used to live at Aldgate with his wife, he invited us up after because he had grandchildren who was Andrew's age. And when he retired, he used to visit me, and he used to stay here all day from 10:00 o'clock in the morning. Then I used to say: "Mr Magor, it's 3:00 o'clock, I've got to leave to pick up the children." You know, we became such lovely friends even with Mum and Dad. He'd say: "Don't call me Mr Magor, call me Ken." I said: "I can't." [laughs] Oh, wonderful memories.

Yeah, and thank you for filling in that part of your life.

(11:57) I'm going to ask you now if we could just go back to the Santin family and the market gardens? I think you told me that the Santin families bought land at Bolivar?

Yes, in 1960.

Can you tell me why that was a decision made?

I think it was like, the profit of the money to be made where they were, wasn't as good as it used to be, the living costs were higher. One side of the road where the Tonellato's were it was commercial so the taxes, the rates weren't as high as on the residential side.

So on the western side where...

Where we were, yes. And I remember my Dad, the rates were too high with three families to maintain and they bought Bolivar which we thought was at the ends of the earth.

How much land did they buy there?

Thirty three acres, they bought right next to the Para River.

What side of Port Wakefield Road was it?

Well, Frankie Ballestrin had it just on one side of the little Para River and we had the other side.

Was that on the sea-side or the hills side?

No, the hills side. I remember going down there, I remember going down the river. We used to go and investigate and when they built the shed, I remember that. Oh, I won't say that, the dunny, you can say and the chickens because the chickens were kept up there after because everything was starting to get cleared up here. And they sold the land here after. I know they went to court for the Kidman Park land.

Perhaps we can talk about that in the next interview. But just to finish off with this interview, were your father and his brothers and their wives working here on Frogmore Road as well as at Bolivar?

Yes, yes, I remember that. They'd go off, they'd spend certain days up there and they would go off early in the morning in the trucks and the car, I remember they had bought an old car, as well and they'd come home late at night, working both, they were.

And I think that's a good place to complete this interview. In the next interview we'll just finish talking about the Bolivar and Frogmore Road and the change that happened for the Santin family. So thank you very much, Diana.

You're welcome.

END FILE 3: FILE 4

This is fourth interview with Diana Panzzolo for the [Italian] market gardeners oral history project. I'm Madeleine Regan and I'm recording the interview on Friday 13th December 2013 at Diana's home in Kidman Park.

Well, Diana, thank you very much again for your willingness to be interviewed for the project. We're going to begin this final interview by talking about, I guess, the changes from the 1970s. And I wonder if you could tell me about the, how things were in the Santin market garden business. Last interview we talked about the Santin families buying land up at Bolivar in 1960 and I wonder if you could just perhaps talk about how that changed what was happening here, on Frogmore Road.

Yes, in 1960, they purchased 33 acres at Bolivar. I remember talking to my Dad and he was saying things are getting a bit tougher with three families and everyone had

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children so they bought other land. The 12 and a half acres wasn't sufficient enough to maintain the three families. So... And there were quite a few people from around Kidman Park that were buying land up there at Bolivar. And I remember when they were building the shed up there and all the glasshouses and I remember down here ...

[sound of coughing]

They tried to grow capsicums, it was near the road but then after it was too much spraying and looking after them with the capsicums. They tried with the artichokes and they were a great success when they purchased Bolivar, they had quite a few acres of artichokes, there was a couple of different sorts up there. And I remember picking them because we used to pick them as well, and Tully's --- this was the merchant that used to buy them was Mr Tully, and they used to be exported up to Darwin or somewhere and overseas, I remember that.

Diana, did much of the equipment move up to Bolivar and what about things like the glasshouses?

No, the glasshouses stayed here, they built new ones up there. They did buy new machinery, as well, up there, a little blue truck that they used to go up there all the time. And then they bought a ute, a station wagon that the women always used to get in. You'd see them go off in the morning with their hats.

[sound of coughing]

They bought these jeans, I remember, they used to wear jeans and long shirts, long, you know, the old shirts of the men because when you're in the glasshouses and the tomatoes and that and that saved you from the sun as well. And they all used to choof off with their baskets and food and all that. And eventually, in the shed up there ...

[sound of coughing]

Dad closed it off and built like a little kitchen and they put in a stove and a fridge, coffee was instant coffee. [laughs] They had no hot water, though, and I remember that Mum always used to want to do the dishes because she knew how to wash the dishes in cold water. [laughs] It was all tuna, tuna and eggs and cold meats and things like that. Down here after, they still had it down here. It was mostly potatoes and glasshouses and the lettuce. That's all I can remember down here after. Up at Bolivar, it was acres of potatoes, artichokes and tomatoes and they had plenty of that.

On weekends, I know the boys used to go up there, Dean and Alan, my brother Alan and Dean, my cousin. And after, they started taking over the business you know, when our fathers were ready to retire.

When would that have been? The ages of retiring?

It would have been in the 1990s, late '80s, early '90s. They were, like Alan and Dean had taken over, they had sold the land here at Kidman Park so it was only Bolivar after. And the boys had taken over but the men used to still go up there and help but... and after I remember Andrew, my son, going up there. Dad used to come and pick him up and he used to go up there but the land down here had been sold. They had built their new homes on Frogmore Road.

Remind me what year that occurred?

That would have been 1972 because I remember having my 21st in there.

In the new house?

In the new house.

[coughing]

And the back verandah wasn't quite finished and my birthday is in July and Dad had closed it off with a tarpaulin so that would have been '72. They had the back gate to get to the garden.

And there's a bit of a story involved in the land on Frogmore Road?

Yes.

Could you give some details?

(06:39) When they sold the land, they decided, the three brothers decided to sell Kidman Park and they sold it to Jordan, RV Jordan but they had a bit of trouble with the Council because ...

RV Jordan was a developer?

Mmmn. Because you owned over a certain piece of land, you had to give so much to the Council as a reserve. Right? And I remember they did up three plans from the architect to divide the property between the three brothers so none of the land would

have been taken but the Council refused that. Then they did another plan with all the blocks and everything, and the Council refused that one, as well.

Do you know on what grounds?

I don't know that one ...

[coughing]

Because they tried to split it up in a way or do it in a way that they didn't have the eight blocks, I know it was eight blocks.

So eight blocks was supposed to allocated to a reserve?

To a reserve.

Because there was 12 and a half acres minus the three house blocks?

Yes, yes. Because they were thinking of selling off a bit at a time themselves but then it was too much money, you had to pay for the electricity, you had to pay the sewerage, you had to pay for the roads and things like that. It was just too much so they just sold it in a lump sum. I remember them, I read that they went to the Supreme Court. They ended up in the, I'm pretty sure it was the Supreme Court, and I remember an old boss when I worked at David's here and we got the copies, the copies are in there. And the Santin brothers lost, they had to give the eight blocks up. Then they'd never planted any trees, you know, we were waiting for it to be turned into a reserve. And one of the points were that why do we have to give you all this reserve when next, right next to them, the school and Collins Reserve was there. So they had plenty of room or plenty of land to do what they had to do.

Diana, Collins Reserve is on Valetta Road? Is that right?

On Valetta Road. From Valetta Road, it was to the end of our property because it was all market garden back then and there was all Housing Trusts and all this land. I think the Zerella's owned that piece next to us from Alfrena Street here [indicating on the map] to there, end of the Santin ones and they had sold that to the government which they were building the school. Then I remember the Kidman Park high school used to go there because there were ovals there and I remember seeing the children go across and playing and all that. That was one of the points, why do you want this land as well? But they lost and had to give it and for about 20 years, nothing was

done with this land and then the Council tried to --- sell it and put an old people's home on there. My uncle Vic ... [coughing] Went around and all the residents that were around there and signed a petition because they had bought these blocks across a park, hoping that they were across a park. And some of ladies or people signed it so that was stopped and my uncle told them if you ever sell it, try and do something with it while I'm alive, he said, I'll do it again. So he won that one, and so that's what I'm telling my children too.

[laughter]

What are you telling them?

My mother used to say: "Well, if they want to sell it, why don't they give us the money?" [laughs] Because back then, that was a lot of money that they had lost, you know, had to give it away because that side of the road [indicating the map] was residential and the other side was commercial so the Tonellato's and that didn't have to give but there is a reserve near the Tonellato's so I don't know what's happened there. I know it was the rates and taxes, the rates on one side of the road were higher than the other.

(12:05) Then at Bolivar, the same thing happened to them at Bolivar. The land was 33 acres and it was right next to the Little Para River which is now wetlands and my brother and Dean, my cousin had all this new machinery, you know they were young boys and it was good living and then they got this letter that they will acquire the land, the Salisbury Council will acquire the land as from, it was April. I can't remember what year. It was in the '80s though. They were left to sell the glasshouses, sell the machinery, everything. The Council didn't compensate them for anything.

So the entire 33 acres was compulsorily acquired? And compensation?

No, no compensation. They bought it, they got paid out because on the other side of the Little Para River, it was Frankie Ballestrin's land.

So your families were on the northern side of the river?

Yes, yes.

Right.

And Frankie got a fair bit of money for his there because that's all houses and that, right? And what happened with this one was the Council had offered them, I don't know, x amount of dollars and they dais "No, it's worth more than that." Because I think it was more than Frankie's as well. Anyhow, they ended up in Court again, but they won this time and the Salisbury Council had to pay for all the court costs which if the Salisbury Council had given them what they had asked, they would have still paid the same, know what I mean? Say if they had asked for \$500,000 and the Council only offered them three, back in those years but the Council ended up having to pay the difference and pay the court costs.

An expensive exercise?

I know, I know and then I remember that's when Dad bought his new car. And I said: "Well why don't you buy some land up in the hills, Dad and plant some chestnuts and cherry trees?" And I remember he goes: "What, so they could take it from me again?" --- Because you know, here, to go out and Salisbury and I remember my Dad after, he wasn't very well, he was always, then he had a heart attack, I must admit, I don't know if it was all due to the stress and seeing your son after without a job and you know, he was married and a family. But things work out.

But difficult, and especially as you say, for it to happen a second time?

Mmnn.

(15:04) What about your parents retiring? I guess they retired from the gardens but what would that have been like for them?

I think it would have been a bit hard. Mum was good, she was on around the house and she used to love her cooking and they always had my sister, Lisa because she was a lot younger so they had her. Dad used to come here and do all the gardening, his at home, as well. The blocks weren't overly big so he had a little vegetable patch around the fish pond but nothing overly, but he was like, we used to call him the handyman of Kidman Park because everyone used to come to him to fix things, a washing machine, a dryer, or the car wasn't going or something's wrong in the house. He was that sort of person. He loved fiddling around in his shed, made his wine. Then at the end, he said: "Oh, I don't drink that much any more." And he might just help someone do the wine and they'd give him some. But yeah.

[sound of coughing]

They slowed down, then I had the children and so they were busy, he helped me a lot with Andrew, taking him to like, when he had swimming at Regency Park or he did Footsall for the disabled down at Marion. Dad used to take him. He was good.

So he was very involved.

Mmmn. Yeah. And Mum was always there for us, yeah. [sighs]

(16:59) I'm thinking about the changes that you've seen on Frogmore Road, and wonder if you can take your mind back to some of the big changes because you've talked about when you were at school, you know, traipsing

Market gardens

To Flinders Park through a series of market gardens?

Yes, I remember Frogmore Road with the potholes. [laughs]

What was it like when you say, potholes?

It was only this little bit of, I don't know if it was bitumen because it was real rough stone in the middle but at the side, big holes. [laughs]

Deep?

Yes, you know, eventually when the water gets in thee, you'd get these holes in there. It always had this little bit of bitumen, you know, not like they are now.

So two cars wouldn't fit across the bitumen?

Just, just, one might have ended up with the wheel and the end in the hole or whatever. I remember the boxthorn bushes, the fence along our property, all the way.

What kind of fence?

It was just like posts, cut roughly with this wire threaded through it, about three things of wire.

Was that along Frogmore Road?

Along Frogmore Road. And then there was quite a bit from the fence to the road
[coughing]

I'd say, how much is from here to there?

How far's that?

From here to the fence, how much is that now in metres?

I don't know but maybe 10 foot or 12 foot? Something like that? More?

More, yeah. And that was all Council land. And I remember the wild artichokes growing there and the wild fennel, the olive tree that grew by itself, is still standing on Frogmore Road.

Whereabouts is that?

It's on the corner of Santin Avenue and Frogmore Road, that two-storey house, they built the fence and they built the fence around the tree. I remember that because right next to Bruno Piovesan's old house was where we had the little road to come up to our house, and the letterbox was there. And I remember walking a lot of times with Grandma to go and look for letters and then she'd see like Bruno's mother, *zia* Rosalia and start chatting with people. The Tonellato was right across the road and then there was this other fence with all these prickly pears hanging over it.

Did people eat the prickly pears?

No, well, I suppose, they were, they were southern Italians, his name was Matteo and he had a couple of daughters, I can still see the house with the little verandah up the front on the side between Lui and Tonellato's house and theirs, there was this fence, it was metal but the metal had gone all rusty, brownny rusty. --- I remember cutting, going to school, Dad bought me a bike and going, riding it to school through the Tonellato's, they had a little road at the end of their --- property ending up on Findon Road. I don't remember coming home with that bike, and I can't remember if we used Grange Road.

But then after in 1962 when we went overseas to Italy, Dad had bought me a new bike...[coughing] And a new bike for Dean and Johnny which was uncle Vic's son and Johnny was uncle Lui's son and I remember going to school with that one, and then coming home through the Drake Avenue, it is now, it was the Zerella's property and we'd cut through Adele Avenue and then come through Tonellato's property across the paddocks. I remember that, you used to come home with all your friends from school and they used to load their school bags on my bike you know, because I'd walk with them, we'd walk, we wouldn't ride.

So not everyone had a bike?

No, not everyone had a bike. We'd walk and by the time we'd cut through, get to Tonellato's we used to go through Bernardi's house, they had a gate on the side and cut through there. In winter, I don't know what I did, if it was muddy, I can't remember or what, when it was raining. I remember a blue rain coat that I had.

Were there animals that people had or was it mainly market gardens?

It was mainly market garden, I can't remember animals. We, I think, had a cow in front of our old house and the *spagna*, that's what they used to grow for it. It was only a patch, maybe as big as this block and *nonna* had the chooks and the pigeons, that's all I remember. I don't remember other people having chooks or animals.

Diana, what about going along Frogmore Road to the river? Did you go to the river very much?

No, not when I was younger. Later on in the years, I remember the wooden bridge, I was always scared when we went over it because right next door to that, there, there as the Cavallaro's and she was a hairdresser. I remember Valetta Road when it wasn't open.

So it was like a dead end?

It was a dead end.

[coughing]

Near, it was near where Bruno Piovesan lives now, I think it finished somewhere near there, near Stokes Crescent or something.

Right. Was that bituminised?

--- I can't remember, I just remember bushes and trees and that was finished back then. Actually that's where the old house is, around there. I still think it's still standing around there.

The Kidman house.

Yeah, we never ventured that side.

(24:22) If you went into the city by car with your parents what was the route that you took from your house, along Grange Road?

Yeah. I don't ever remember going to the city by car, we used to catch the bus.

Where would you catch the bus?

On Grange Road. I remember the day to the city. Oh, that was a big outing for us. And we used to go to Coles, their cafeteria and have pasty and chips. [laughs]

Who did you go with?

It was Mum and myself and my Auntie Anna, and Dean, *zio* Vito's wife because my Mum couldn't speak much English and there was the four of us and I remember, Oh, that was a day out, that was fantastic! [laughs] The cars? I just remember the Zephyr, the blue Zephyr. The ones before that, I can't remember. Dean ended up getting the blue Zephyr and Dad bought the Valiant, the VIP Valiant which I still remember the number plate, RWK984 because I got my licence in that.

(25:37) Outings to Murray Bridge and people up there in Jervois.

Do you remember the names of any those people?

The Brion's, the Casolato's. Yeah.

What would you do up there?

I remember going on picnics but in the scrub, you know, there were no reserves or things like that so you'd find an opening and everyone would join in and it was so lovely and us children would just wander off. It was just, you know, I don't know how far we used to wander off.

And what were the Brion and Casolato families doing up there?

They were market gardeners, the Casolato's. The Brion's were dairy farmers, we still keep in touch with the son of the people that Dad, his Dad, actually, Lui Brion's Dad and my *nonno* Santin came out together in 1927.

There's obviously that connection about when your Dad went to Jervois?

That's right. Yes.

When he first arrived?

Yes, their property was on the same road where Dad used to live when he came out when he was a little boy, on the Jervois to Wellington Road.

So Lui Brion was Veneto. What about Casolato?

Casolato, yes. I think like Mrs Casolato and Lui Brion's mother were sisters. I think that was the connection there. I remember going on holidays to Casolato's family because they had a daughter around my age, yeah, it was off the main street there, it was near the cemetery.

At?

Murray Bridge, I remember staying up there for two weeks. [laughs]

That would have been a big holiday for you?

It was a big holiday, mmnn. The Brion's, the lady was lovely. I can't remember going to her house because it was always Casolato's house. But now we see Maria and Lui quite often because they always used to come to Mum and Dad's as well. Actually we went up there when it was my Dad's birthday. We always try and go around that day and my brother and sister came as well and we made it a day to remember Dad. And they thought it was lovely too. We all brought something up. Some years, we had gone to Wellington pub but Maria goes: "No, come here." And Amanda, with the children now, it's a lot easier. We went to see the little cows, the calves, the girls loved it.

There's a long family connection there? And it's really interesting because it was your *nonno* from 1927.

27, and his Dad. Because Lui [Brion] was born here, you see. It's quite interesting.

(29:14) Other outings, do you recall going to the beach here, in summer?

Yes, I remember they used to drop us off in the morning, the three sister-in-laws, Mum and my two aunties and all us children. I remember Dad pitch the tarpaulin that they use to cover the fruit and veg with, the vegetables at the back of the truck, this big green tarpaulin, and they used to pitch that up sometimes.

Which beach was it?

I think it was Grange, right down, yes, right down the end of Grange Road, there. And we used to spend the whole day there, it was lovely. What else?

Were there other families there, as well?

I can't remember but there probably would have been. We were quite big with the three of us and all the children, it was quite a few of us there. It would have one, two,

three, four, five, yeah, because my brother came along after. I can't remember with my brother, maybe just, when my brother was little because he was born in '59, '60. After when my sister was born in '69, '70, I was older.

You were probably doing things with your own friends at that time?

Yes, my friends, yeah.

(30:57) You know you talked about finding this block of land here in Veronica Street, I'd like to ask you how important was it for you to live in the area that you grew up in?

Oh, I found this block of land coming home from work because I used to work here on Findon Road and I'd walk home, it's only what? Only two kilometres. And I remember one day cutting through and it had the big For Sale sign -- I mentioned it to my Dad, to Robert and we looked into it because we were also looking into buying a house across the road from Mum and Dad on Frogmore Road which belonged to Maria Mazzarolo which was Compostella's daughter, Pietro and Angelina's daughter, they used to live across the road. And the Tonellato, we used to call him, *nonna del pipa*, Secondo Tonellato, had passed away, that house was empty, went for sale, on the corner there. So they purchased that house and so their house was being sold and I thought that it was a bit too close to Mum and Dad, across the road. [laughs] So we purchased this one and built the house here. The thought of staying close, yes, it's always been in my heart, around this area. And plus, Robert, my husband came from Thebarton so it wasn't that far. And I think we were lucky to purchase it here. It was just this little patch here, all the other houses were all built.

(33:06) So you grew up watching big changes here, in this area?

I remember the house next door, the block was empty for quite a while and I remember the spinach growing there [laughs] just wild, all the seed from previous, that on one had picked or whatever in the middle of the weeds but I knew what spinach was. [laughs]

And I was going to ask you how, or what does your Italian heritage mean to you now?

It means quite a lot to me. I'm very proud of my Italian heritage and my children are the same. I didn't think it was so strong but no, they're quite, quite proud of their Italian heritage.¹⁵

How do they show that?

Well, my youngest son, Ivano, has got a tattoo with the Venetian lion on there¹⁶ with Santin and Pannazolo on there. How much stronger can it get? [laughs]

Wow.

Yes. So, they've got the cafe, *Sportivo*, if you go there, above the wood oven, you'll see the lion. They had it on the marble plaques. Tillets did it, I think you know the people who did Mum and Dad's headstone, etched it out.

So that's your husband's family who've got the cafe?

That's us,

Oh, that's you?

My boys and my husband have got it.

Oh, right.

You notice the pizzas? They're called Asolo, Caselle, Crocio D'Oro.

All localities in the province of Treviso?

Yes, yes, a lot of them. The boys did that, I didn't have anything to do with the names. Ivan did that. That shows you a lot doesn't it? [laughs].

**What does it mean for you, if you thinking about your *nonni* and your parents?
What does it mean to have that connection through them?**

How can I explain it? --- I don't think my family will be lost, I've always thought it is good to keep this going all the time. The cousins all know one another, we're always sort of together and I'm very grateful for my Mum and *nonna*, not speaking too much English because I've always spoken the Italian with them which in my job, I think I've helped a lot of people.

¹⁵ Diana explained in the editing process that her children became attached to their Italian heritage and the Veneto region because of the love of their grandparents and their trip to Italy together to meet both sides of the grandparents' families.

¹⁶ Diana referred to her son's chest

Can you just explain what your job is?

I work for aged care, I'm a receptionist there. It's an Italian village, it's called Saint Hilarion at Fulham. We've got low care residents and a lot of them come to me every day, say hello, if they've got a little problem. They speak the Italian because the older people in their 80s and 90s don't know much English. If I'm away, I was away the other week, the day I went back [laughs] You know: "Oh, where have you been? We've been waiting for you?" A lot of them...

Do you speak the dialect from the Veneto?

With the *veneti*, I do, like when I make the *crostoli*¹⁷ and the *frittole*,¹⁸ there's a few little ladies that I just bring a few and you know, it just means so much to them. And I can see it and it takes so little to give them so much. There's one lady that knew my Mum, she used to ride the bike to see my mother all the time. She always mentions here, she always does. So I'm grateful to my Mum and my *nonna*. My Dad, he always spoke English because he went to school here and it was a lot easier. My Italian, I'm just proud of everything and I try to keep up the traditions, and my daughter is doing the same.

What sort of traditions?

The cooking, you know the *crostoli*, we'll do the polenta. You know it's just all these little things like *nonna* used to do, they'd say. The religion has a lot to do with it too, I keep our faith.

What is your parish church?

My parish church is Mater Christi, it's the Scalabrini fathers.

That's on?

On Grange Road at Seaton. We're very good friends with a Scalabrini priest, in Sydney, Father Fegolent. He came to do Mum and Dad's funeral, he came to marry my daughter, he came down for the two grandchildren's christening, he's going to come for Andrew's wedding, you know, a dear friend which we got to know him and love him when my mother-in-law where I work at Saint Hilarion's and we used to

¹⁷ *Crostoli* are a delicate deep fried pastry usually dusted with icing sugar

¹⁸ *Frittole* are fried sweets made with dough, often with raisins, orange peels, or lemon peel. They are eaten in the Veneto regions

pick her up every Sunday and bring her here for lunch and take her back for mass, to church and I used to take her back with the three children and we'd stay for church and we got to know father Anthony and it's just grown from there. It's amazing the friendship that you have and what it means.

And Diana at Mater Christi, how strong is the Veneti community there?

It's not overly strong, I think a lot of it has died down now. When they first built the new church, Uncle Vic was the one who levelled off all the land with the tractor and everything. A lot of them put work into the church, I know it was opened in 1978 because I was overseas when it was opening. We got married in the old one in 1974, it's not there now, it got thrown down. I have seen a lot of changes. I remember a lot of the *veneti* did help with it and wholeheartedly but I think a lot of the other Italians as well. I think the southern Italians do more *feste*¹⁹ there, have got, they're more involved now than *veneti*, they're dying out a bit, I don't think we're as strong as they are. I do go to church at Henley Beach and where I work at the villa on Sundays and then I've got... it all depends on the time, sometimes. But I think that faith has got a lot to do with family, keeping it together and getting through like when Mum and Dad passed away and things like that, it does help you.

(41:51) And when you think this area, of say, Kidman Park and maybe Fulham and Seaton, how strong are or is the community of *veneti*? Do you see it as being a region or a suburban area where there are a lot of *veneti*?

There still is a lot of *veneti*. I see the children now, of the people that used to come and bowls.

At your parent's place?

At the old house, yes, up in the market garden and you know they just say: "I remember your Mum and Dad, I remember this and I remember that." It just goes to show how old I am now.

[laughter]

One lady came in the other week and her Dad is coming in for respite next Monday and I hadn't seen her for years and I saw and I said: "Gee, you look like your mother." And I think as we get older, we do look like our parents. --- We were

¹⁹ *Feste* is the Italian word for party or celebration

talking before John Berno. I remember his Dad and we used to call him the *Tosototto*. --- You know, and they are all still around and when they see me or I see them, it's "Hi." you know, you just picture all these things coming to your mind. But the *veneti*, I think are dying out here. We don't keep the traditions as strong as the southern Italians, I don't think we do. In our little families, I try and keep it going. My brother, no way. My sister, she doesn't do the bits and pieces that I do, you know and so there's that generation that's going to die out, I reckon.

And of course, Lisa is 18 years younger than you.

That's right.

So it's almost like a new generation?

That's right, yes. But she loves it, you know when I make the biscuits: "Oh, like Mum's." So that's lovely, you know.

(44:25) Diana, one other question about keeping in contact with relatives in Italy. How easy or how possible has that been?

I keep in contact with cousins, they're like second cousins now. I ring them, I have phone numbers, we ring each other a few times a year, Christmas cards, Easter. My children, all three have been over but especially Andrew, everybody always when they ring: "How's Andrew?" With his Paralympics and cycling has been to Italy four, five, six times, I don't know. So he's known. Like I said they know their second cousins and I hope it keeps going. I'm hoping to get there to see them again and I don't want to lose it, I think, probably after my children, it will probably get lost. Because like even last night on 'Getaway' there was Rio de Janiero, like my Grandpa from Italy was born there. And I said to my husband, Robert, I said: "Oh, I wonder if I've got rellies there." [laughs]²⁰

Which Grandfather was that?

Olivo, my Mum's Dad, Olivo, Oliviero, he was born in Rio de Janiero, I remember my Mum always said that. And it's true, isn't it has he got other family over there? Did his parents leave anyone behind? Who knows? And this is eventually what will happen to use here, after my children. I can't see my grandchildren, keeping in contact.

²⁰ Diana explained in the editing process that her children do not know their father's family in Italy

No, it gets more difficult, doesn't it, the further away?

And we've had cousins come over here, which is good.

(46:29) And Diana, if you think about your *nonno* coming out here in 1927, he was already 40 years old, what sense do you make of what he did?

I think it would have been very hard, a big decision, at that age because you'd think you'd be settled in Italy by then. But I don't know why he came out. I don't know if it was because after, when he went back and married and lost his wife and they said that he drank, you'll have to ask my cousin, Maria, she would probably remember him more than me. But it would have been hard, it's not like the refugees today who get their houses, commodities and you know, get their welfare and all that. There was nothing.

Your grandfather never went back to Italy?

No, no. --- My Grandma did because once he died the year after, Dad took us, in 1962 so she saw her sisters and her brother and that's how you know, we always kept in contact. And I remember they had a cousin who couldn't afford to come out here and always wanted to come and so the three brothers paid for his trip out here. It was in '74 when he came for the wedding.

For your wedding?

Yes. And because I remember him bringing the gifts that my Grandma bought, my grandparents sent me a wedding gift and now with his children, we're close and like *his* grandchildren and *my* children know one another. And even Sandra Conci, she went overseas, her first time, quite a few years ago and didn't want to: "I don't know them, I don't want to." "No." I said: "Go, go." Now she goes back nearly every two years to see them.

[laughter]

So there's a real connection?

See? Yeah.

Yeah.

Mmnn.

(48:58) I have the sense that you are really deeply connected to your roots?

I think so, and I want to keep it that way, I do.

And you're also connected to your roots on Kidman, on Frogmore Road?

Yes, yes. I go down, now there's, Frogmore Road's been closed for quite a few months and like yesterday I went to Grange Road and I had to go the back streets and I was saying: "Oh, this is where the house was, Oh, this is where the tank was. Oh, I'm running over, going over where the well was. [laughs] You know, how I just picture because I was going down Santin Avenue and I was picturing the glasshouse and the tanks because the road was right on the edge of the property, and now there's houses and along here. [indicating the map] I can still see it.

It's a really strong memory.

It is, it is, yeah.

And Diana, we're coming to the end of the interview, is there anything else you'd like to add before we complete it?

No, I'd just like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to say all this. I'm hoping that my children or my grandchildren will listen to it one day. That's my life, had a wonderful life there on Grange Road,

Frogmore?

Frogmore, yes, that's right. It's just Grange Road too, going down to the beach, the bus stops, walking to church and Rebuli's store on the way home. You know, you'd buy a threepenny ice cream. My Mum with the bike when I was little sitting me on the seat, I remember that. No, I've got wonderful memories, it's all a picture in my mind now but they can't take that away from me. [laughs]

No, It's really important to be able to record that. I'm really pleased that you have been able to.

Yes, Thank you, it's been great. [laughs]

Well, thank you, Diana for contributing too, to the market gardening project. I've really appreciated your really clear memories. So thank you.

Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW