

In the market for history

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THE OLD:

Long before mega-markets arrived on the scene, family-owned Italian fruit shops like the Rizzutos' in 1950s Rose Bay were a Sydney institution.

The Italian Association of Assistance and the Australian Centre for Public History at UTS are now working to ensure they are not forgotten and are calling for residents to share their memories and old photographs.

Oral history interviews, photographs and memorabilia will be collected for an exhibition and website to be launched at Customs House this May called "Sydney's Italian Fruit Shops - The Original Green Grocer".

One of the shops already in the collection was remembered by Antonina Di Benedetto, the daughter of Eastern Suburbs fruiterer Giuseppe Rizzuto.

Arriving from Sicily in the mid- 1920s, Mr Rizzuto worked in the sugarcane fields before marrying his wife, Ignazi, and setting up their first fruit shop in Victoria St, Potts Point. They later moved their shop to Kensington and then again to Old South Head Rd, Rose Bay.

Project organiser Linda Nellor said the project aimed to honour and celebrate the contribution made by Italian fruiterers to Sydney's social history over the past 100 years.

"This will leave a lasting legacy for present and future generations of Australians to fondly remember," Ms Nellor said.

The project is sponsored by the City of Sydney, Sydney Markets Limited, the NSW Heritage Migration Centre and Doltone House.

The exhibition at Customs House will run from May 23 to August 8, 2010. For information or to contribute call 9564 0744 visit <http://www.coasit.org.au>.

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<http://www.wherelive.com.au>

