

Sydneys' Italian Fruit Shops Register *Take A Walk Down Memory Lane*

As part of the upcoming Sydney's Italian Fruit Shops Website and Register, we are pleased to publish one of the many beautiful memories that will be proudly displayed on the Register for future generations to enjoy.

This special memory was sent in to us by Silvana Cibeï, the daughter of Walter and Pia Cibeï, who owned a fruit shop called the Bardwell Park Fruit Shop at 54 Slade Street, Bardwell Park from 1960 until 1969. Silvana wanted her parent's story to be part of the project and to preserve this special part of their lives as a fruiterer family.

'The fruit shop was dad's big hope for success in life. Like many migrants he wanted to be his own boss running his 'own' business. He poured what little savings he had into the shop and renovated its interior turning part of the fruit shop into a milk bar. He purchased an Italian coffee machine and put a few tables and chairs out for patrons to sit and enjoy coffee, thus hoping to recreate some of that unique Italian atmosphere he sorely missed from his homeland.

He always longed for his 'Bella Italia'. Mum and dad worked in the fruit shop for 9 years. During these years they moved into the unit above the fruit shop and had two children, Daniel in 1965 and me (Silvana) in 1966. The business did well for the first few years. Dad loved going to the markets in the mornings to buy the fruit and vegies and of course catch up with other Italians. He made some markets and struck up a friendship with Mr Salvatore Stassi who had a fruit stand at the

Dad's friendship with day, dad had the idea of Rina who was a widow fell in love and three Dad was of course very



Pia and Walter Cibeï working in their Bardwell Park Fruit Shop, 1966

particularly good Salvatore Stassi who markets.

Salvatore grew and one introducing his sister to Mr Stassi. They met, months later married. pleased with himself.

In 1965 things changed, Roselands Shopping Centre opened up, another much larger fruit shop also opened up at the top of the hill in Earlwood and dad's business slowed down a lot together with many of the other small businesses in Bardwell Park. Dad had no choice but to sell the shop. This was the last time dad went into business.'

Be part of this important community based project and send us the details of the Sydney Italian Fruit Shop that touched yours or your families' lives.

Contact Linda Nellor, Heritage Officer at Co.As.It. on tel: 9564 0744 or email linda.nellor@coasit.org.au

Sydney's Italian Fruit Shops is a joint initiative of Co.As.It. & Australian Centre for Public History at UTS. It has been proudly funded by Sydney Markets Ltd, City of Sydney and the NSW Migration Heritage Centre.