

From Italy to Greensborough in the 1950's

By Rosie Bray

When Bruno and Carmela Sculli with their three young sons Frank, Vito and Mario, arrived in Melbourne in the early 1950's they knew nothing at all about Australia. They boarded the ship and arrived at Princes Pier Port Melbourne with faith that this was to be their new country. All were born in Colombia Italy and had experienced difficult times during World War Two and were looking forward to living in a new land. The boys went to school and soon blended into the Australian way of life.

Eldest son Frank said that the family first took up residence in Johnson Street Fitzroy for three years before moving to Brunswick Street Fitzroy for four years. When the family took a chance and moved away from a busy suburban area to open a fruit shop at 50 Main Street Greensborough they were apprehensive at first. Frank reflected that this was soon dispelled when they were made welcome by the Greensborough Community who opened their hearts to them. They had no doubt that this was where they wanted to live. They had 'come home'.

In 1960, the three brothers established their premier fruiterer's outlet in Main Street Greensborough. Following the marriage of each son and the expanding families the business was strengthened by a strong work force within the growing family. (Frank and Val had five children, Vito and Connie had three children and Mario and Maria had four children) all acquiring knowledge of all aspects of the business. The Main Street shop continued for forty five years, until Sculli's moved to Greensborough Shopping Centre Food Court trading under the family name "Growers Fresh Sculli Bros", when the Shopping Centre was re-developed and enlarged.

There have been some sad times for the family. The death of their Father and Mother and also brother Mario in 2005 affected the whole family.

Frank says that the Sculli family have always been closely connected with charitable and sporting organisations providing produce and sponsorships for many organisations. Many clubs and groups have benefited by their generous gifts. The family hosted the Churinga and St Mary's Catholic Church Fetes for many years. Frank and Mario Sculli were closely associated with the Greensborough Chamber of Commerce and Frank was awarded an honorary membership of the Greensborough Rotary Club for his services to the local community.

Oral History

From a young Italian family landing in Melbourne in the 1950's the Sculli family have become a well respected and a 'dinky-di' Aussie family who have been a great asset to the Greensborough district. They will always be part of the Greensborough area history. Final word from Frank who said that the best thing their parents did for them was to board the ship for Australia and moving to Greensborough where they all found their second home.

