



1930s Greengrocer's Shelves

# Casamento Family

## Fruiterers

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As Italian-Australians, Antonio Casamento and his wife Guiseppina (nee Palmisano) represent one of the largest non-Anglo groups in Australia. The Casamentos are unusual, however, in that they are examples of early Italian immigrants who arrived in Australia after the Goldrush and before World War Two. This was a time of famine and instability throughout Italy and entire villages were leaving home and setting out for Australia or the United States where they hoped to build a better life.

After their marriage here in Victoria in 1905, Antonio and Guiseppina settled in Ballarat, where Antonio ran his Sturt Street fruiterer's business and where their two children were born, Antonino in 1906 and Nunziata, known as Nancy, in 1913. Although Antonio had become an Australian Citizen by the time World War One began, his wife had not and like all residents who were not naturalised or not of British background, she was required to register as an 'Alien'.

In 1919, Antonio moved his family and his fruiterer's business to 356 Queen's Parade, Clifton Hill. Many Italians set up as fruiterers, none more so than the members of the extensive Casamento family network whose shops dominated the northern suburbs. Antonio died in 1923, Guiseppina in 1924, leaving their two young children to be brought up by Antonio's brother Guiseppe (sometimes known as Joseph) who also took over the family business which he ran until his death in 1945.

Antonio and Guiseppina Casamento are buried here with their daughter Nancy and their son Antonino (Tony) and his wife Cecilia. Their monument stands as an impressive reminder of this early Italian-Australian family.

Working together to preserve our history



The above information is based on research conducted in 2011-2012 and is presented in good faith by the Friends of Coburg Cemetery. Should family members wish to upgrade existing monuments within this cemetery please email [enquiries@gmct.com.au](mailto:enquiries@gmct.com.au)