

COMMITTEE 2017—2018

SECRETARY

Executive Committee

NAME: **Giovanna (Jenny)
Geracitano**
DOB 18th March 1959
Place of Birth Coburg
Province Victoria Australia.
Date of emigration:
Date of arrival in Australia
Australian citizen: Yes



Immigration experience:

Jenny Geracitano (nee Interlandi) I was born on the 18th Day of March in 1959 at Sacred Heart Private Hospital, Moreland Road Coburg. Victoria

I am the eldest child of Gregorio Giovanni Interlandi of Vizzini, Sicily (Vizzini is a town and commune in the Metropolitan City of Catania, on the island of Sicily, southern Italy. It is located 60 kilometres from Catania in the Hyblaean Mountains, on the most north westerly slopes of Monte Lauro) and Marjorie Ila Dell who was born in Coburg Victoria , descendent of John James Dell (1763-1866) who was the first Dell to come to Australia, in 1790, on the Second Fleet but it was his arrival in Tasmania to settle on 11 October 1818, after going back to England in 1810 with the NSW "Rum" Corps.

In Late November of 1950 my Father who was 16 years old, together with his Father Felice journeyed from Messina Italy on the Surriento and docked in Melbourne on the 27th December where he was met by Vito Trantino (Uncle) who sponsored the family (Born 1910 and travelled to Australia on the Remo and arrived in Melbourne on 9th January 1939) his older brother Vito arriving on the 15th February 1950 and his Grandmother Santina, mother Giovanna and brother Giovanni and sister Santina followed on the Surriento on 6th of July 1953.

On arrival My Father together with his Father got work in the fields in Koo Wee Rup (Country Town 75 Kilometres from Melbourne CBD) and were able to purchase land to grow their own crops of potatoes.

In 1953 my family purchased property in Moonee Ponds and this became the base for produce to be taken to the market and for the family to make roots, by 1958 a business (Milk Bar was purchased and was one of the first expresso shops where coffee was made, my father Gregorio operated one of the first Gaggia 9 cup Coffee machines in Melbourne which explains his great love for coffee, and this has been passed down to me. The business was sold in 1960 to make way for upgrading of roads on Mount Alexander & Maribyrnong Road and also gave the family and opportunity to establish their own properties within Moonee Ponds and Koo Wee Rup to this day.

I grew up in an Italian environment learning all the family traditions and love of all things Italian with my Nonna teaching me, and extended family something which is very close to my heart.