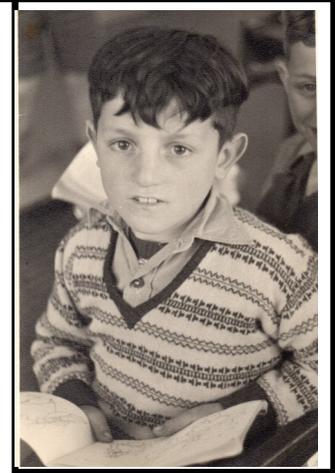


**COMMITTEE 2017—2018**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**Executive Committee**

NAME: **Nick Fazzalari**  
DOB 14th January, 1944  
Place of Birth Adelaide South Australia  
Province  
Date of emigration:  
Date of arrival in Australia  
Australian citizen: Yes



**Immigration experience:**

My name is Nick Fazzalari. I am the son of the late Ilario Fazzalari, born in *Focca*, a village of *Caulonia*, *Provincia di Reggio Calabria* Italy. My father immigrated to Australia in 1927 when he was 16 years old. As an immigrant he had a very hard life. He came looking for work and a better life. His first job was working in glasshouses.

In 1937 my father went back to Italy to find a wife. He met my mother, *Santina*, in *Caulonia* who was 16 years old, married her and came back to Australia. My mother had her first child at 17, my late brother *Pat*. She had 7 children in all, 5 sons and 2 daughters.

Dad bought the original *Hardys Wines Homestead*, *Bankside*, at the end of *Hardys Road Underdale* by the banks of the *River Torrens*. It was a large two storeys house with a cellar underneath large enough to drive a tractor in. There were also some outbuildings on the property. We were fortunate to have the most beautiful upbringing. Dad was very popular, hardworking, honest, a big hearted man who lived for his family and *paesani*. On the day I was born dad was interned as an alien.

My dad sponsored many people from *Caulonia* both individuals and families and would provide lodging for them on our property and help them to find work. I grew up in the company of many children on our property. Dad was liked by both the Italian and Australian community which included the chief of Police who would visit us on a regular basis on his motorcycle with sidecar. Every time he visited he would load his sidecar with vegetables and on occasions with a bottle of my dad's homemade grappa. On Sundays mum would cook for everyone, family, friends and people who lived on our property.

In 1955 my dad with 3 other *paesani*, *Giovanni Costa*, *Ilario Lamberto*, & *Giuseppe Ciccarello* decided to celebrate the Feast of *St Hilarion* the Patron Saint of *Caulonia*. The first feast was celebrated with a miniature statue owned by the late *Giuseppe Ciccarello*, at *St Joseph's Church* in *Captain Cook Street, Flinders Park*.

After the first year the novena was held at St Joseph's church and on Sunday, the day of the feast, the statue was taken in procession on the back of the truck to St Francis of Assisi Church in Newton. Eventually the whole celebration was transferred to Newton.

I went with my dad to all the meetings that were held in different houses. I was 10 years old and never missed a meeting, I would sit in on the meetings and I was so enthusiastic that I was made manager of the soft drinks stall for the first feast. I was involved with the Feast of St Hilarion from the age of 10 until the early 2000's.

I began my involvement in the Society of St Hilarion as the social co-ordinator and we were the first Italian organisation to hold a fundraising dinner dance which was held at the Latvian Hall at Wayville with the committee members and their families catering for the event. The event continued for many years being held in different venues.

A controversial decision was to transfer the feast of St Hilarion to Mater Christi Church in Seaton after many years of holding it at Newton. The decision was taken because there were a number of feasts in Newton and no feast of its type in the Western suburbs. The decision coincided with the invitation of the very popular Don Mimmo Lamberto, priest from Caulonia, for the feast which was a huge success. This particular feast was held with a framed picture of St Hilarion because St Francis of Assisi Church refused to release our statute. This continued for 5 years when the Archbishop of Adelaide instructed St. Francis of Assisi Church to return our stature.

I was President of the Society of St Hilarion for 20 consecutive years, I stepped down for a few years and then became President for a further 6 years. During my term as President in 1986 the Society received a Federal Government grant to purchase a 50 bed nursing home at Lockleys. We also built the *Villa St Hilarion* in Fulham consisting of 50 units for low care residents after which we were asked to build a 50 bed nursing home in Findon.

The next project, which was my dream for the Society, was to build a Community Centre in Barrpowell Street, Welland, named the *Riverbank Function Centre*, by the banks of the River Torrens. The purpose of the Centre was to act as the focal point of our community. There were many memorable occasions in the Centre. One of the highlights was the visit by the Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard, and his wife Janet who were accompanied by The Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Philip Ruddock, in the early 2000's. Unfortunately the Centre has since been sold to the Cypriot Community.

We also brought over many dignitaries for our feasts. In 1991 we brought Bishop Gilliberti, Bishop of *Locri- Gerace* together with Otello Profazio (Popular Calabrian Folk singer) who were funded by the *Ragione Calabria*. In 1997 we arranged for the new Bishop of *Locri-Gerace*, Bishop Bregantini, and the Mayor of Caulonia, Nicola Franmartino, with an entourage of 64 people to come to our feast. Both visits were a huge success.

In Caulonia the feast of St Hilarion is celebrated by carrying in procession an arm made of Silver which has a relic of the Saint's bone embedded in it. I thought it would be ideal to recreate this in Adelaide. Unfortunately it was impractical to replicate the arm made of silver but with the assistance of Don Mimmo Lamberto we had an exact replica of the arm carved out of an olive tree branch by a wood carver in Caulonia named Vigliarollo. Bishop Gilliberti obtained a bone relic of St Hilarion and had it embedded in the arm. The arm is carried in procession in Adelaide by the Procurators.

My passion has been fundraising for the needy and charities. Apart from fundraising for many years for St Hilarion I have been and continue to be involved in fundraising for many causes and through this I do three to four auctions a year. On many occasions I have been and continue to be asked to co-ordinate fundraising nights for families in need and for charities.

In 1978 after the loss of one of my dearest friends who died at the age of 34 from leukaemia, together with his wife, Joyce Bueti, we commenced fundraising for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Haematology-Oncology Department. The first fundraiser raised \$8,000 and the annual event over 18 years raised a total of \$1.5 million

I have been on Boards of many community organizations. In 2005 with the help of some great friends and community minded people I founded the Calabrian Benevolent Association to raise funds for needy causes. In particular we assist families with children in need of serious medical intervention. To date through this organization we have raised almost \$1 million. I was a member of the Mater Christi Pastoral Council in Seaton and was also involved in helping the parish particularly the building of the new church. I also have been a member of the Mater Christi School Council. I was on the Board of the Adelaide City Soccer Club and helped with fundraising events. I was a board member of Radio Italiana 531, and a member of the inaugural Com It Es.

I was involved in the first Italian festival in 1976 and continued for many years. I instigated transferring Carnevale to the Adelaide Show Grounds. I helped to form and was the inaugural President of the Calabrese Federation of South Australia. I was appointed as *Esperto in Consulta* for 5 years by the *Regione Calabria* which involved attending meetings in Calabria. I am a foundation member of the Campania Club. I was one of the founders of the rebuilt St Francis of Assisi Church in Newton.

In 1996 I received the Order of Australia. In 2007 I was made a Cavaliere.

In 2014 I became a member of the relaunched Italian Historical Society of SA and in 2016 I became the Vice President of the Society. I am proud to be part of this extremely important project to record the experiences of Italian Immigrants in South Australia.