

COMMITTEE 2017—2018 Committee Member

NAME: **Filomena Larosa
(Nella Santo)**
DOB 21st July 1956
Place of Birth Italia Tresilico Oppido Mam
Province Reggio Calabria
Date of emigration: 18th June 1972 Nave Galileo Galilei
Date of arrival in Australia 18th July 1972
Australian citizen: No



Immigration experience:

After arriving in Melbourne we travelled to Adelaide by train.

Left Calabria together with my parents, 2 sisters and 3 brothers I was the oldest of the siblings.

Left beautiful Calabria because dad did not have a lot of work to carry the family forward and to give us children a better future.

To leave the land in which you were born is never easy, to leave the relatives and school friends is always a very difficult path with the hope of finding a better life in Australia.

My father had his relatives in Adelaide, brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces, and fellow town's people which made it easier for us than those who had immigrated before us. However there were difficulties: first of all the language and the integration with those that regarded us as foreigners, and called us wogs. "Wogs go home" however slowly with all our good intentions we made it.

To me learning the English language was very important and I did everything to improve myself at night school and by correspondence. Let's say that I succeeded even though I prefer to write in Italian. Today after 46 years I am happily married to Luigi (Gino) Santo have two children and three grandchildren thanks to this land that has given us the opportunity to make a new life for ourselves but always with our heart in the town where we were born. I have been involved in many community groups as a volunteer such as Society of St Hilarion, in the committee of Maria SS di Crochi for 4 years and others however I am now in the Italian Historical Society Committee for the last 2 years, thank you to the President Giuseppe Geracitano for his vision to create a society with the task of recording and preserving all our beautiful past for our future generations. I am proud to be part and hope that slowly this dream will become a reality. For this reason I have decided to be part of this wonderful project and to be remembered that I have made a small contribution for the society and the future of our grandchildren and great grandchildren.