

EDITORIAL

July 2007

**The Lucini Women of the Old Macaroni Factory
Story 1: Rosa's story**

When Maria Viola wrote a Master Thesis on her family's history, it focused on the Lucini men. It was their endeavors that were made more public and recorded for historical purposes, but the women had to toil just as hard or maybe even harder, trying to live and raise a family on a goldfield, especially in the 1850s! This is Rosa's story.....

The Story begins with Rosa Lucini - Giacomo's wife, who arrived in the bustling provincial city of Melbourne in 1859. She was an elegant lady used to living in an Italian mansion overlooking the beautiful Lake Maggiore, in Northern Italy.

Can you imagine how she felt when she boarded the ship for the long journey to the other side of the world knowing she may never see her family again? On arrival, it was probably exciting walking down the gangplank and travelling through Melbourne's bustling city, but the long bumpy dusty ride that followed in a horse-drawn buggy to Daylesford, would have tested her energies. She was pregnant with her first child and had arrived on a very cold miserably wet day. The small town of Daylesford was one thing, but Spring Creek (now Hepburn Springs) was a further challenge where she travelled on for another 2.5 kilometres to her new home which was a small miner's cottage. She cried for months!

Very quickly Lucini brothers Pietro and Giacomo set about building Rosa a new home that was the first floor over the Macaroni Factory. One ponders on the every day mundane tasks Rosa had to complete. Everything had to be brought up from Melbourne on a bullock dray that was expensive and took so long. It would have taken time to organise bedding, cooking utensils, washing and toilet facilities. There was a well in the new cellar and mineral water down the road, but it was a task in itself to bring it to the house. It may not seem too harsh to us today, but remember she was used to living in comfort in an Italian mansion!

Rosa raised four children - Cosmo, Maria, Peter and Annette, and the last three were born at the "Factory". All were educated and spoke and wrote in both Italian and English. Maria and Annette rode a horse to school and were told to hurry there and back again because Ned Kelly was on the loose. Kelly never did make it to the area but no-one knew where he was; the fear was real.

Old Macaroni Factory | Est 1859 | and Lucini's Historic Pasta Café
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