

# Vastesi Migration to Western Australia

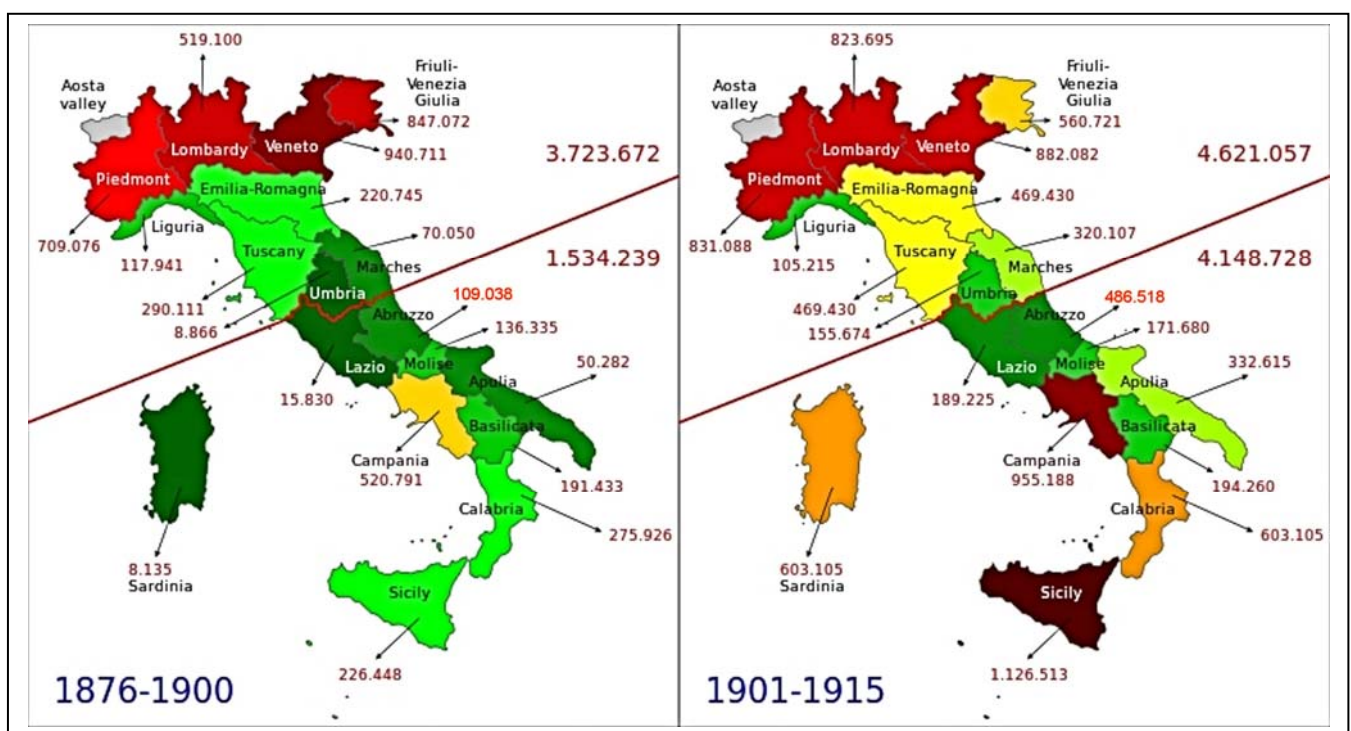
The 26th of December 1952 I remember it as the saddest day of my life, and many times I felt like throwing myself overboard with so much sadness, thinking of the the past sufferings and those I was about to confront, to learn a new language and also a new way of life...but, was it so necessary that the Italian youth had to travel the whole world to earn a piece of bread...leaving everything behind and all his family, going begging elsewhere???

(Nicola Sabatino Diary)

This paper follows on from the documentary which was based on the Vastesi migrants themselves telling their stories, keeping in mind that each story is unique, in the rich tapestry of migration. But first let's begin with some background information.

There have been no official studies of migration from Vasto, so we don't have accurate information of how many, when, where and how many returned. However, the pattern would probably be somewhat similar to that of Italy and the region of Abruzzo for which we have information, which will form a background to Vastesi migration.

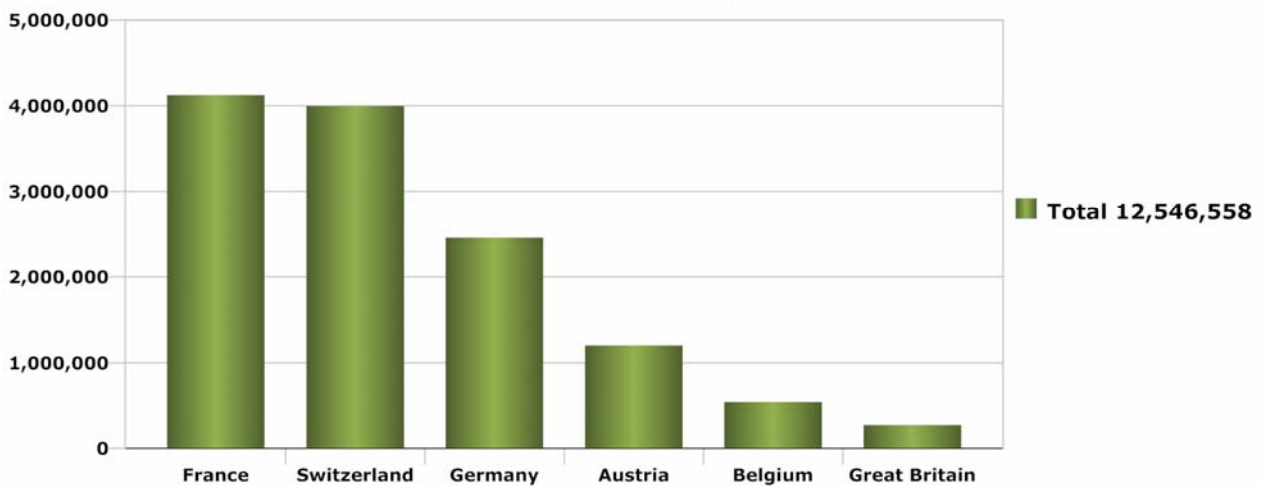
In the period 1876 to the new century 3.7 millions left from northern Italy, more than double that of the south. Just over 100,000 left Abruzzo. In the following 15 years there was an even greater migration rate in the north and the south caught up with almost the same with over 4 million. There was a dramatic increase from Abruzzo to almost half million.



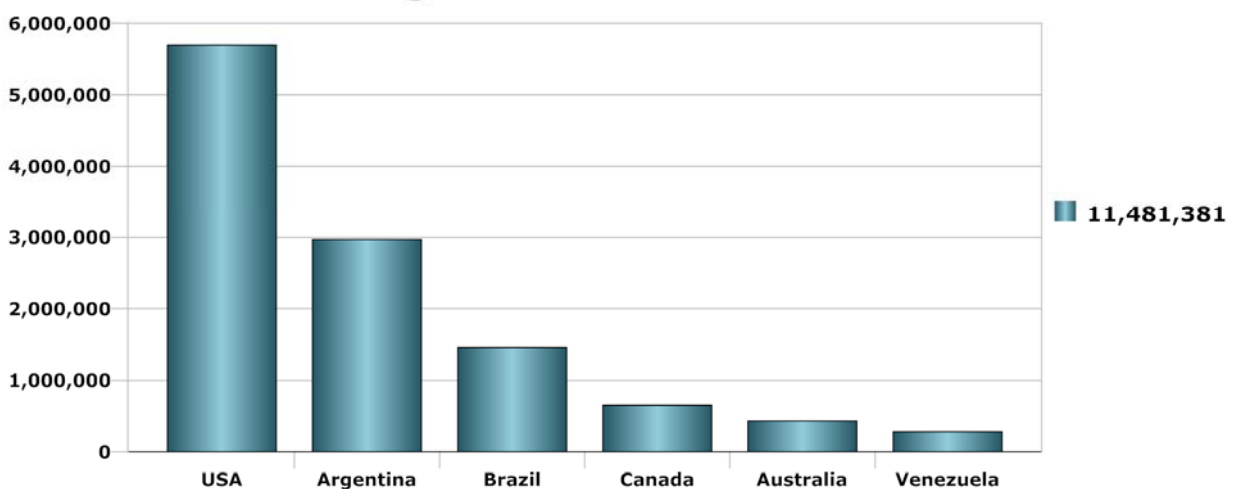
Map from Wikipedia

Where did the migrants go to...? In the century after 1876 over 12 millions migrated in Europe largely to France, Switzerland, Germany and Austria. Of the over 11 million that went overseas half went to the USA, and large numbers went to Argentina and Brazil. There was also substantial migration to Canada, Australia and Venezuela.

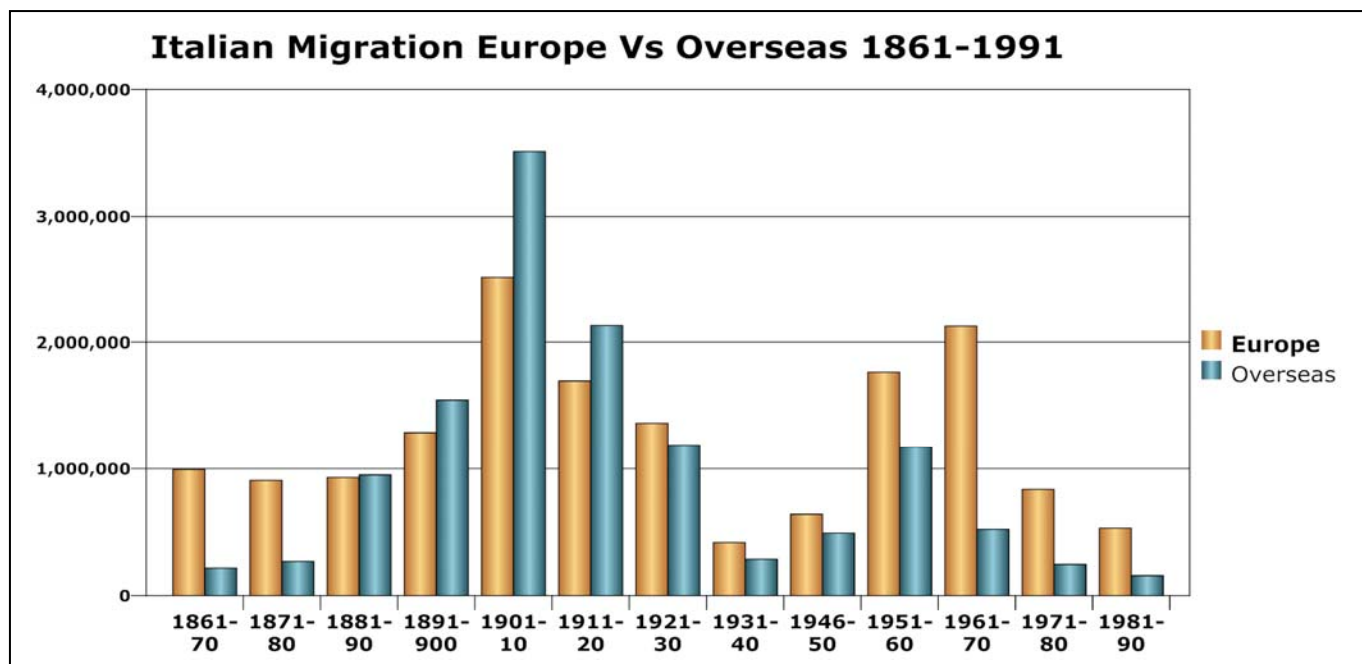
## Italian Migration Europe 1876-1976



## Italian Migration Overseas 1876-1976

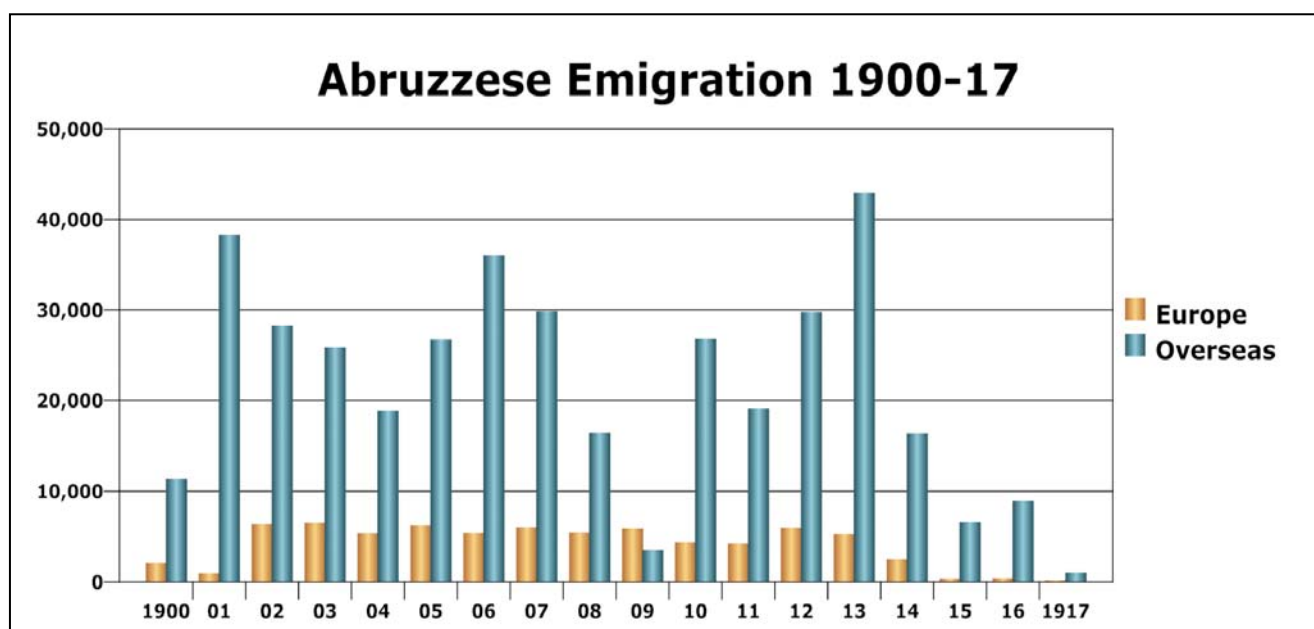


The history of migration since unification in 1861 shows a rapid growth towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, then a substantial decrease especially after WW1 and the depression years. After WW2 there was once again a substantial rate of migration, which declined after the 1980s. Those that returned show a changing pattern for the years that we have information. In the 1870s and presumably until WW1 the majority did return to Italy. In the post WW1 period the rate of return dropped, but most returned in the depression period. Again in the post WW2 the rate of return dropped, to be reversed in the 60s, when Italy was undergoing its economic miracle.

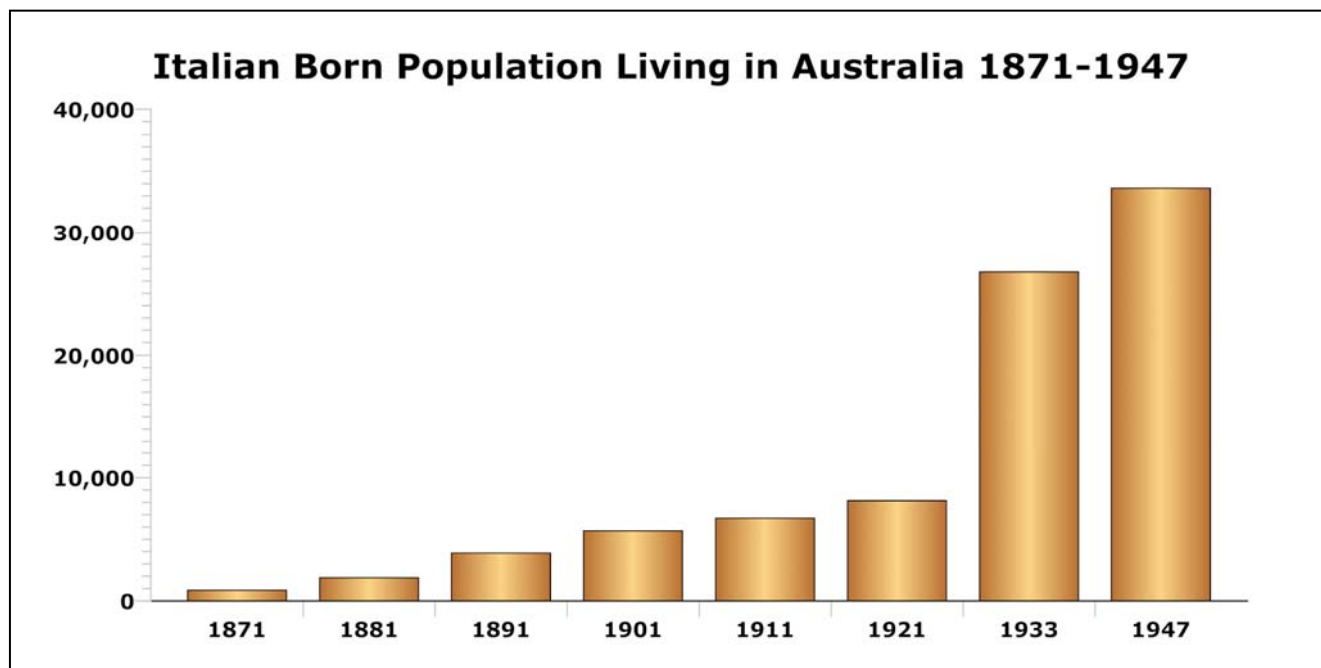


After unification migration was much largely in Europe, but overseas grew fairly rapidly and was greater after the 1880s and up to WW1, when the trend swung back over to Europe once again, especially after the 1950s.

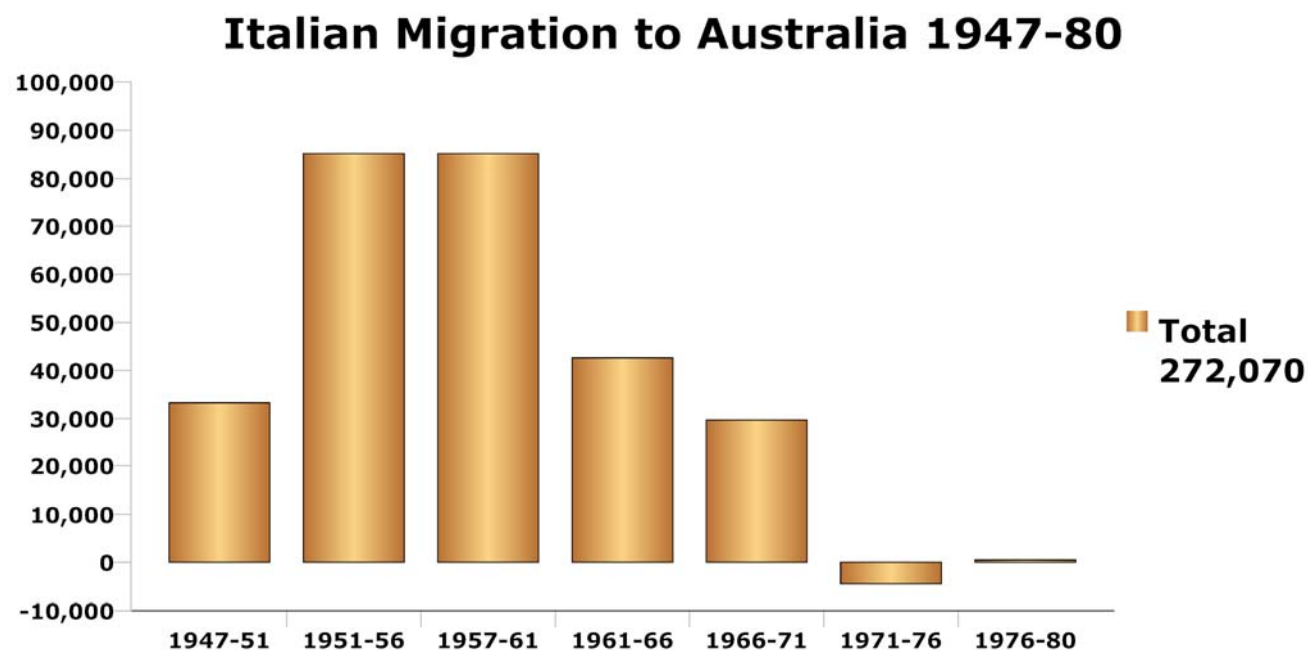
We have some information on Abruzzese migration from 1900 to WW1. The Abruzzesi in this period migrated much more overseas, than Europe. However, there was a steadier flow in Europe.



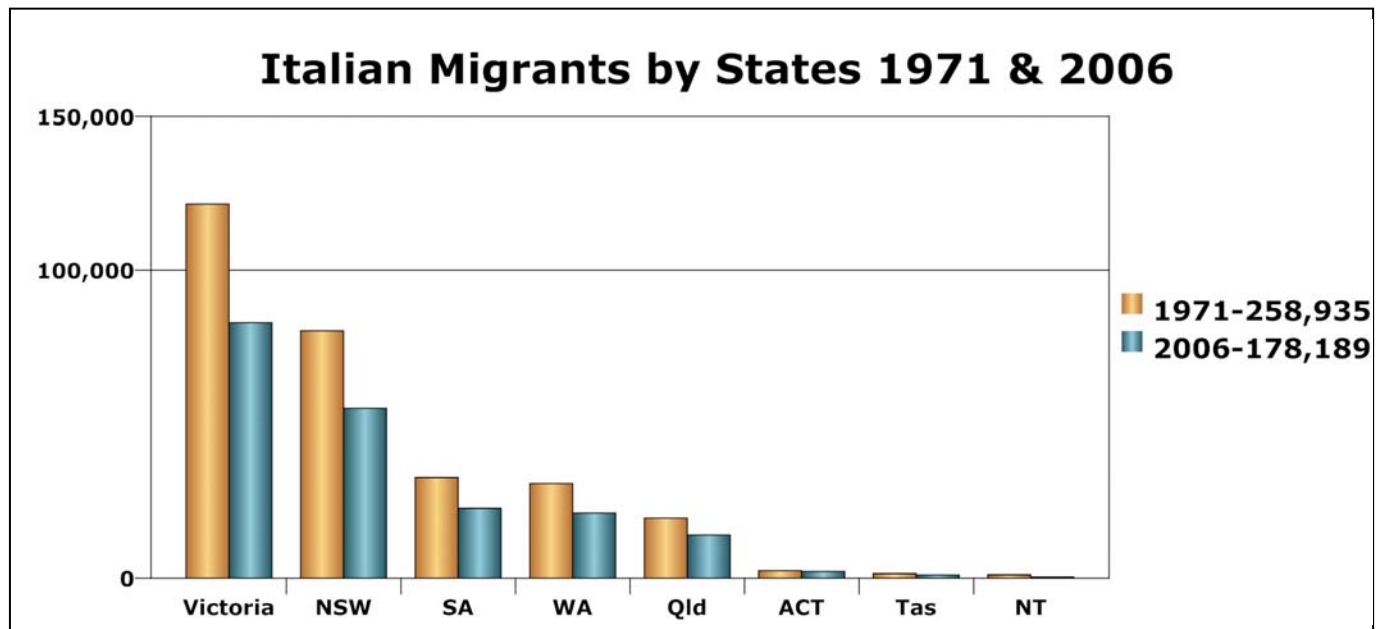
And what about migration to Australia? Again we only have information for the whole of Italy. Italians have had a small presence in Australia for a long time, which became more significant in the 1920s due to the USA imposing restrictive entry. The numbers increased slowly from 1933 to 47 due to the depression and WW2.



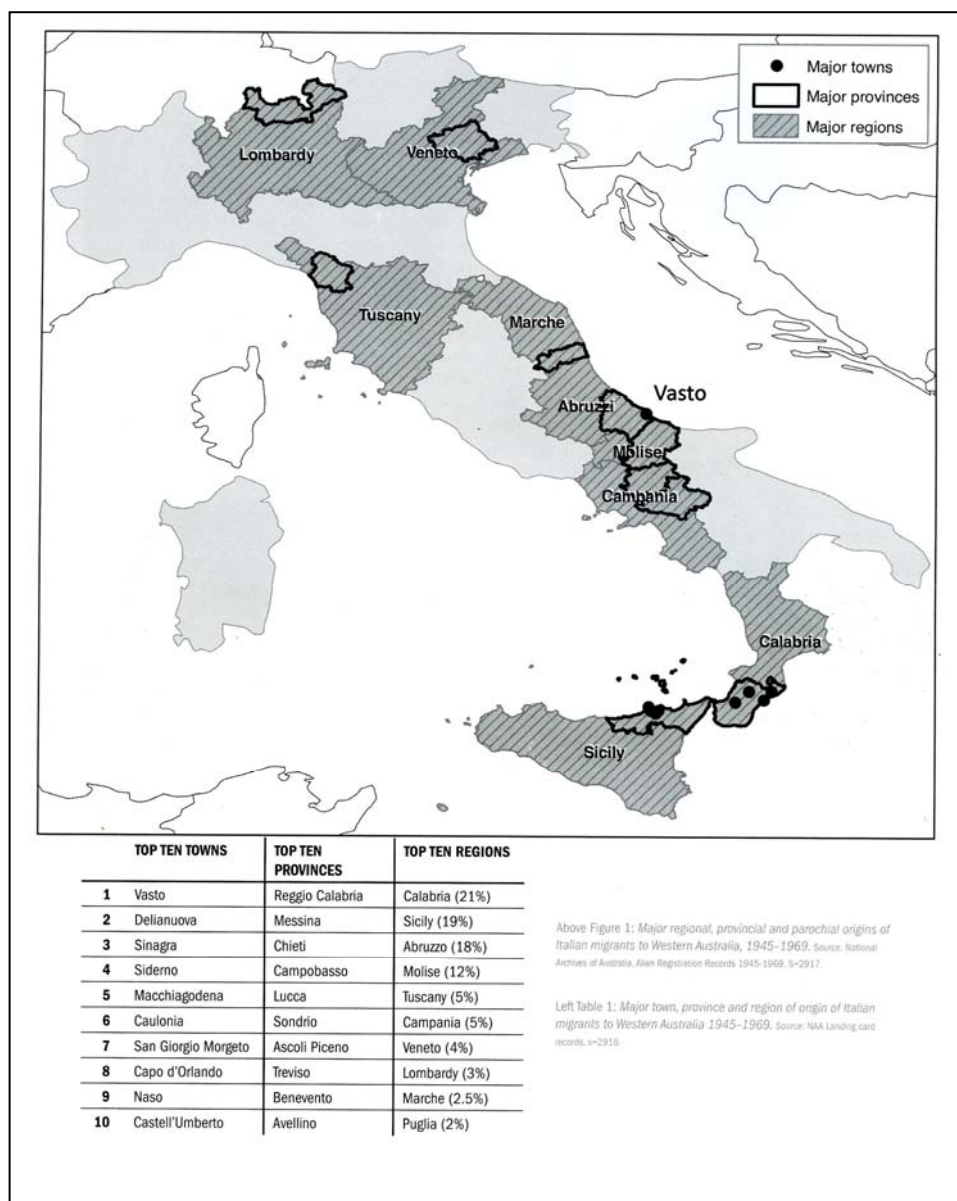
In the post war period there was a very substantial increase of Italian migration to Australia due to the “populate or perish” policy adopted. A total of over 272,000 arrived between 1947 and 1971. The Italians at this time represented the second largest migrant group in Australia. This ended by the late 1960s, and in fact more Italians left Australia in the 1970s than arrived as Italy was needing workers for its own economic growth.



There are more Italians in Victoria than any other state, and together with NSW they have the lion share.

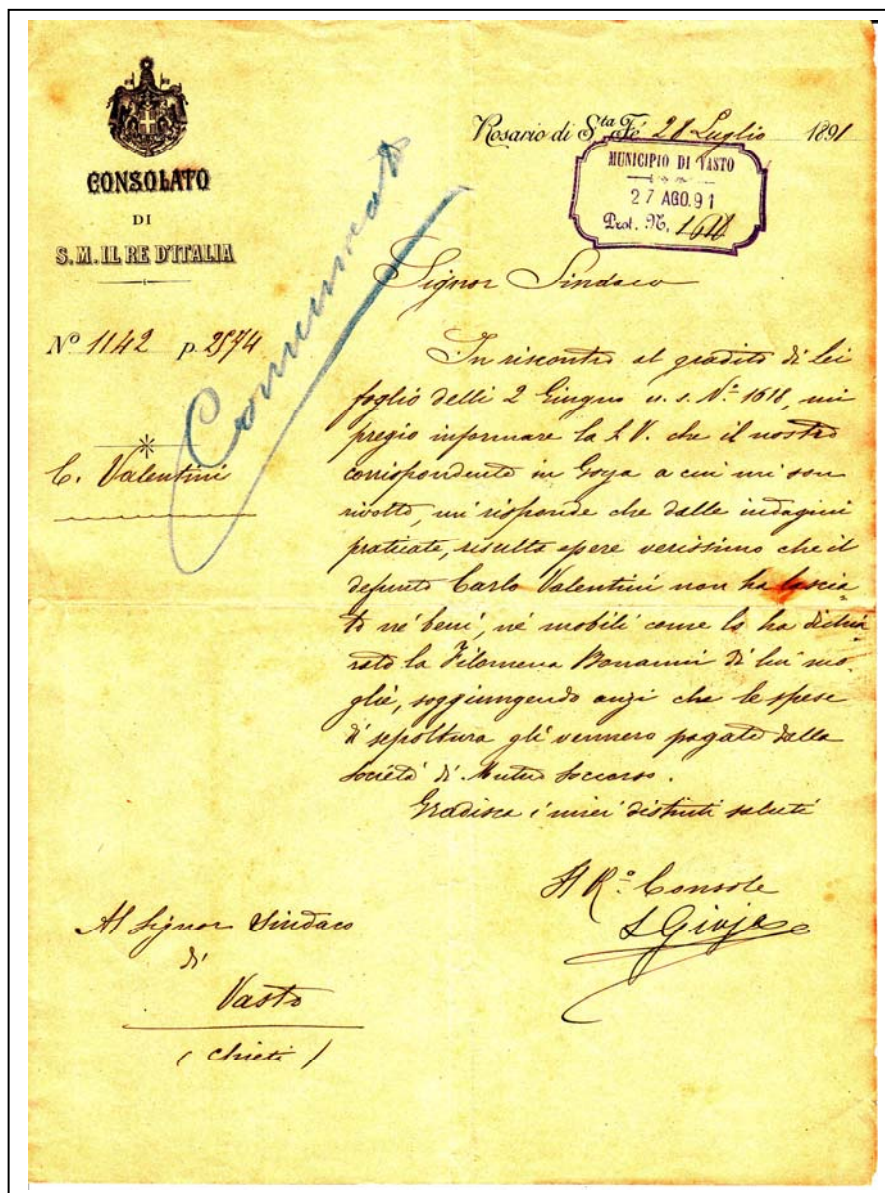


Concerning the Vastesi the only data available is the work done by Susanna Iuliano for her recent history of Italians in Western Australia. Using a sample of almost 3,000 Italian migrants it shows that Vasto has contributed the largest number of migrants of any Italian town or city. See the map below.





Another source of information of Vastesi migrants is the archives in Vasto which holds a series of documents of correspondence of the city of Vasto with Italian consular representatives in various countries of the world concerning issues with its citizens. This at least gives us an indication of where the Vastesi went in Europe and overseas. Countries of the former include: France, Belgium, Germany, UK, Russia and many others. Many went to North & South America.



Typical letter of correspondence. In this case the wife of Carlo Valentini (who had died in Argentina) wishing to know if her departed husband had left any estate.

Vastesi Migration to Australia began by default in the mid 1920s due to the USA's Emergency Quota Act (also known as the Emergency Immigration Act of 1921, the Immigration Restriction Act of 1921, the Per Centum Law, and the Johnson Quota Act) which restricted immigration into the United States.

The Emergency Quota Act restricted the number of immigrants admitted from any country annually to 3% of the number of residents from that same country living in the United States as of the U.S. Census of 1910.[1] Based on that formula, the number of new immigrants admitted fell from 805,228 in 1920 to 309,556 in 1921-22.[2]. This act was further amended in 1924.

The Immigration Act of 1924, or Johnson–Reed Act, including the National Origins Act, and Asian Exclusion Act, limited the annual number of immigrants who could be admitted from any country to 2% of the number of people from that country who were already living in the United States in 1890, down from the 3% cap set by the Immigration Restriction Act of 1921, according to the Census of 1890. The law was aimed at further restricting Southern and Eastern Europeans

That revised formula reduced total immigration from 357,803 in 1923–24 to 164,667 in 1924–25. The law's impact varied widely by country. Immigration from Great Britain and Ireland fell 19%, while immigration from Italy fell more than 90%.[3] This impacted heavily on the Vastesi who had to find an alternate place to migrate and so they began to look to “l’America nuova” (“New America” as Australia was known in Vasto at the time).

In fact the first Vastesi that arrived here had been migrants to the USA and their reentry there had been barred. They did not come quite in the same numbers as the USA. Those that arrived in 1926 included Luigi Saraceni, Luigi Barone & Domenico Ciccotosto who had migrated to the USA at first and later to Australia. Some of the others that migrated at this time were: Antonio Saraceni, Nicola Saraceni, Luigi Pracilio, Nicola Del Borrello, Nicola De Rosa, & Gaetano Del Borrello.



Photo of Luigi Barone taken while he was in the USA early 1920s

The following year these Vastesi are known to have arrived: Michele Celenza, Michele Schiavone (who died in 1940 without ever seeing his wife and five children again), Giuseppe Spadaccini, Michele La Canale and Giuseppe Bontempo. The total numbers that arrived from 1927 to 1929 are not known. However, with the onset of the depression very few men migrated and only a few members of the family joined their husband, such as Consiglia De Rosa & 8 year old daughter Silia, who had just been born when her father Nicola had left for Australia.



The depression added to the many difficulties experienced by the Vastesi migrants. Examples of these may be gleaned from correspondence between the Italian consul in Perth and Vasto in Italy in the 1930s(4).

Letter from consul Renato Citarelli explaining that he had spoken to Giuseppe Del Casale who had promised to correspond soon with his widowed mother. He was in good health but has been unemployed for a long time. He also mentions a lack of affection of his brothers towards himself.

Letter concerning the request from Vasto of Michele Bevilacqua of news of his son Luigi living in Australia. The consul states that Luigi had asked for consular repatriation, but had had to wait for a decision. When Luigi was advised that he could be repatriated he said that he wanted to stay longer to earn some money to repay some debts first. He was in good health and lived in 2 Parker St Perth.

Signora Annunziata Ciccotosto applied in Vasto to have her husband Antonio, living in Waroona, repatriated.

Antonio told the consul that he did not intend return to Vasto at least for that year. The consul points out that they do not have the power to enforce repatriation however, Antonio had been encouraged to return and also to provide for the needs of his family.

In another letter the consul suggests to advise Signora Smerilli that for some years there had been a severe economic crisis and workers are finding it difficult to find work, and if they did the pay hardly covers their personal needs. Antonio lives in Waroona and its difficult to make contact with him and to know his conditions.

Antonio Pellicciotta writes directly to the Podesta` in Vasto asking him to look into the reason why the Adriatic Bank had exchanged the check of 6 pounds 10 shillings he had sent his wife for 323 lire when it should have been 461.

The consul writes that Domenico Bozzelli had been silent for some time due to the unloving attitude towards him by his wife and elder children. He was currently unemployed, but as soon as he could he would send the means to look after his irresponsible younger children. The



consul adds that Domenico was crying while explaining his situation and could not insist on anything in such a case.

Letter sent by the consul in Perth to the mayor in Vasto concerning the entreaty of Gennaro Scafetta regarding the death settlement of his son Giuseppe, who had died in Western Australia. The consul points out that the reason was that they had not yet received the necessary marriage certificate of Giuseppe's parents.

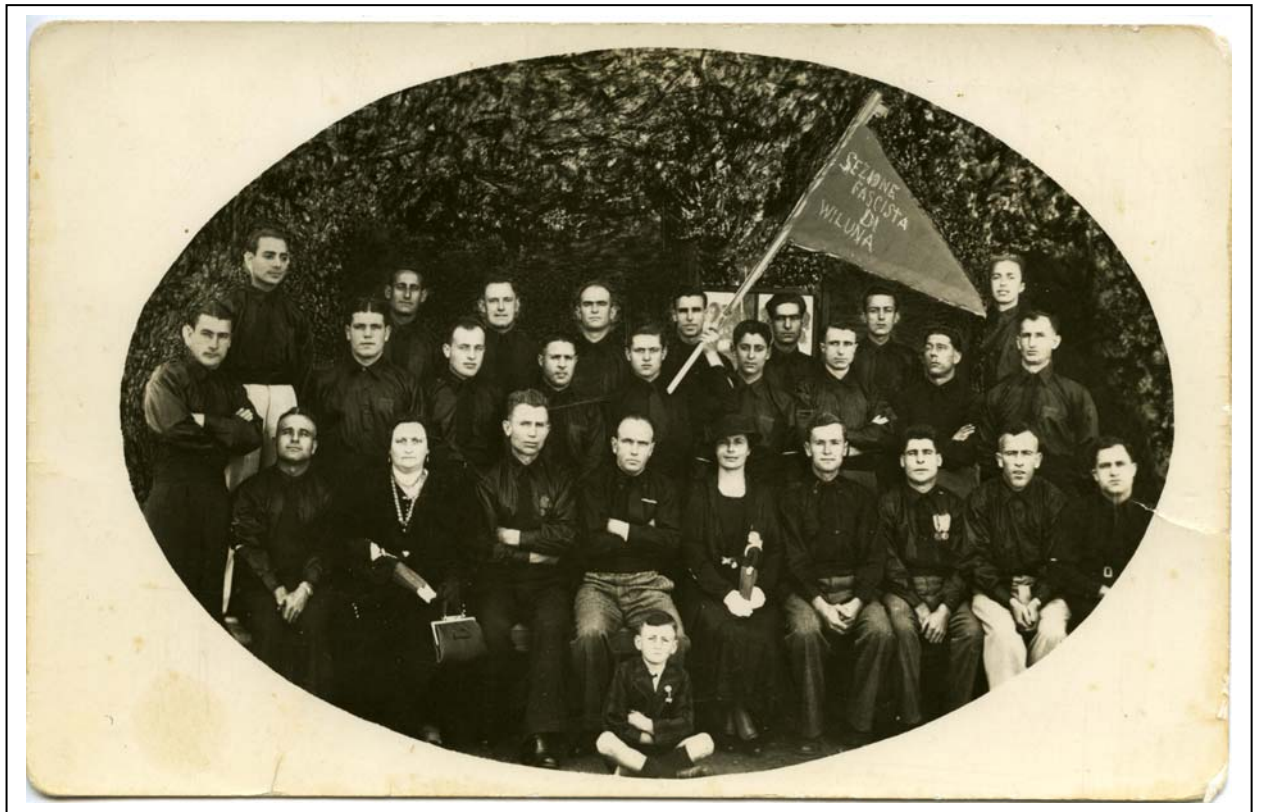


Luigi Barone in the wheatbelt early 1930s

### **World War 2 Interlude**

With the outbreak of the war a number of Vastesi, together with many Italians were interned. In the case of Antonio Barone, who was interviewed, he spent 45 days on Rottnest Island and then to his surprise was released. He later found that that all potato growers were sent home as there was beginning to be a shortage of potatoes for the soldiers returning from Europe to fight the Japanese.

His brother in law Angelo Sputore was not as fortunate. He too had been release, but it seems that the authorities discovered a photo of him as a member of the Wiluna Fascist party and so he was reinterned.



Fascist group Wiluna 1937. Angelo Sputore middle row 2<sup>nd</sup> from left. Tommaso D'Orsogna is holding the flag

After Rottnest he was first sent to the Harvey and later to Loveday camp in South Australia.

C.A.C. 18 C.A.C. No. 13704

INTERNEE EX LOVEDAY Commonwealth of Australia  
ALLIED WORKS COUNCIL

**Civil Aliens Corps Members Employment Record Card**

Surname SPUTORE Christian Names Angelo

Private Address PANEL W.A. Trade Classification \_\_\_\_\_

Allottee—Name LUCIA SPUTORE Address PANEL W.A.

Amount of Allotment \_\_\_\_\_ Commencing Date 9.9.1943

Personal Equipment and Advances (Value to be shown) \_\_\_\_\_ Specimen Signature \_\_\_\_\_

5207

SERVICE LEAVE							
Year	Employing Authority or Contractor	Leave Due Days	LEAVE GRANTED		Credit Balance	Payment Reference	Entry Made by
			No. of Days	From To			
25/5/44	Commonwealth Rlys.	10 + 1	11	29/9/44 11/10/44	—		AO.
20/10/44	" "	3	—	—	3		AO.

SICK LEAVE							
Year	Employing Authority or Contractor	Leave Due Days	LEAVE GRANTED		Credit Balance	Payment Reference	Entry Made by
			No. of Days	From To			
20/9/44	Commonwealth Rlys.	12	3	2. 3. 44 4. 3. 44		Paid:-	AO.
20/10/44	" "	1	4	23. 6. 27. 6		48 hrs.	AO.
20/9/45	" "	12					



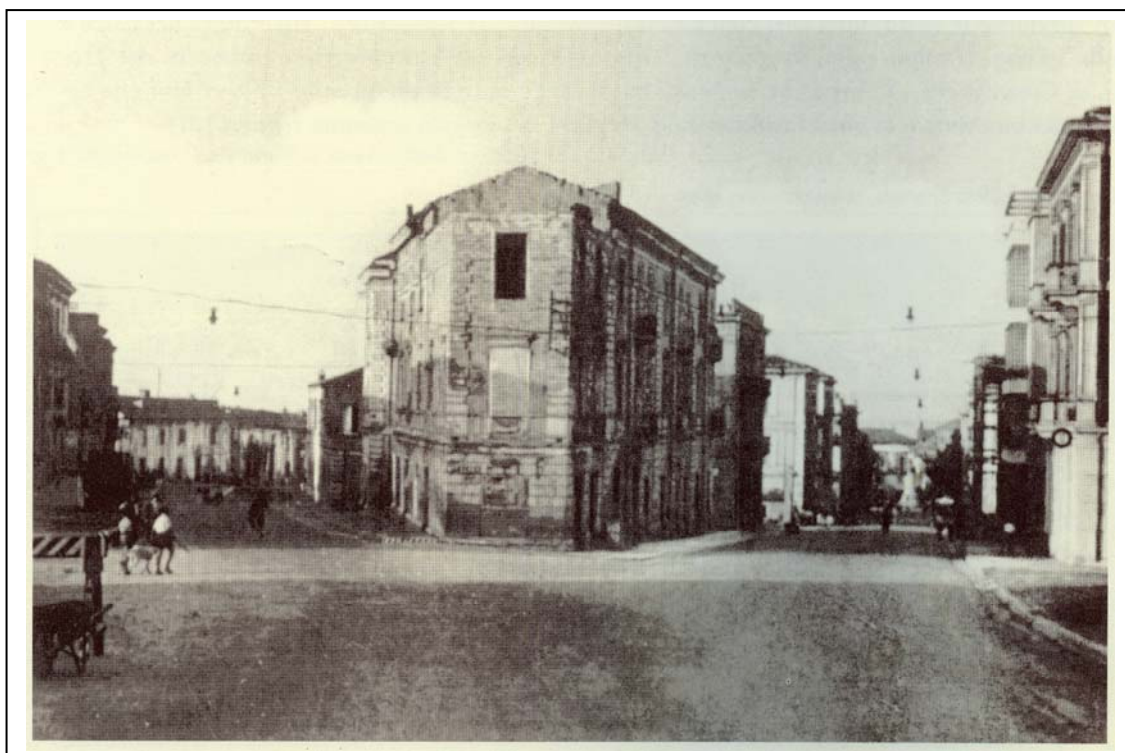
However, he accepted to be man powered and first went to work on the Transcontinental railway at Karonie (east of Kalgoorlie) and later in a sawmill in Jarrahdale, before he was released in 1946.



Angelo, Lucia & Tom Sputore on the way to a picnic with Seaman family, on Abraham's camel dray

### **Post war migration**

Conditions in Vasto in the post war period were very difficult and the Vastesi tried desperately to find ways of making a living for themselves.



Vasto: Via Vittorio Veneto and Corso Nuova Italia circa 1950.

Those that had relatives or friends in Australia made contact in the hope of migrating.

In Australia a number of the pre war period migrants such as Michele Celenza, Nicola De Rosa, Nicola Zaccaria and others then began to sponsor a substantial number of them. In order to sponsor relatives or friends they had to guarantee that work was available and also lodgings. This was exemplified by Michele Celenza who had established a market garden in Gribble Road Balcatta. His National Archives records show a substantial number of people that he sponsored. Some were interviewed and testified to the welcome that they received and were housed by him after their arrival, until they found other employment.



Michele Celenza 1948 National Archives 3104630 K1331



Vastesi working in the market garden in Balcatta early 1950s



This led to a chain migration in the early 1950s, as the new arrivals themselves began to bring out their own family and friends.

In fact, as we have seen, the Vastesi became the largest number of migrants from any town or city of Italy in Western Australia.

### **Vastesi in Employment**

Many of the Vastesi that migrated to Australia came from the land as small landholders or as tenant farmers. Those that came from the town were either mostly manual workers and in some cases skilled tradesmen. The pre war migrants could only find employment in rural areas as farm workers, clearing bush, sawmilling etc. Some also went to the goldfields and worked in the mines. In some cases, such as Nicola De Rosa & Luigi Barone, after they had established themselves, they took up land in places like Hamel and grew potatoes and later a variety of vegetables. A few stayed near the urban area and established market gardens, especially in the Balcatta area, as in the case of Michele Celenza.

Some of the post war migrants also followed similar occupations. A number of Vastesi used their agricultural skills and set up other market gardens in the Balcatta area, near the pre-war "paesani".



Post war market gardener in the Balcatta area. Note broken leg in plaster.



L-R: Nicola Dicembre, Maria ?, Pasquale & Giuseppina Di Cicco, Michelina & Pasquale Celenza



A group of Vastesi timber felling in the SW of WA





Two Vastesi bush clearing in the wheatbelt. Nicola Zaccaria on the right.

Many Vastesi went to work in rural areas where unskilled labour was required in such occupations as saw milling, railway workers, water supply pipelines and farm workers among others.



Michele Delli Benedetti (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) in the Elleker railway gang

However, as the urban area of Perth began to develop in the post war period this gave rise to a greater demand for labour and so many Vastesi found work in the metro area.



A group of Vastesi working at the Kwinana refinery

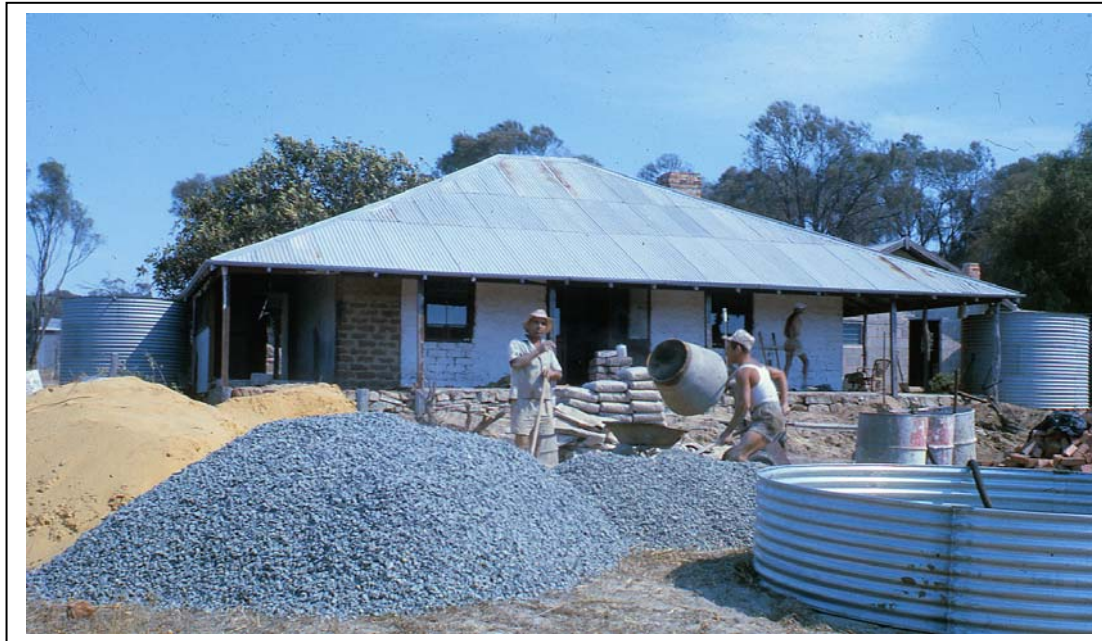
In some cases when work was not available in Perth some of the skilled Vastesi found work in country areas. An example was Giuseppe Smargiassi who migrated in 1952. On arrival little work was available in the building industry and Paul Narducci came from Pingelly to look for someone to repair his home in Pingelly. Giuseppe went there to renovate the old mud block home. In fact within 18 months of his arrival he built his first home, using cement blocks that he made himself, as bricks were in scarce supply at the time.



The Smargiassi home in Pingelly built in 1953. The sheds were added in due course



An interesting sequel was that when he tried to sell his house all the prospective buyers were very pleased with the new look and solid structure of the house, however, on entering they were struck by the terrazzo tiles throughout the whole house, and no one bought it on the ground that it would be too cold in the winter. Giuseppe who had wanted to return to build in Perth where there were greater building prospects, decided to go to live there with his family that come to join him in 1954. He established himself there as a builder, and also began to manufacture concrete products in the shed shown on the photo.



Giuseppe Smargiassi (left), Gino Sabatino (sponsored by Giuseppe).& Cesare Smargiassi (background) renovating Parson's farm house in Pingelly. Note mud blocks walls of house.

When there was an economic downturn in 1956, some Vastesi could only find work in other parts of Australia and a number went as far as Darwin. One of the interviewees, Silvio Di Rosso was an example, who with a group drove across the Nullabor and went to a contract to lay cement blocks for Aboriginal housing in Alice Spring. He worked there several years before returning to Perth. There were enough Vastesi there to form their own soccer team. Silvio met his future wife Irene Seymour who was nursing there.



A group of Vastesi building in Alice Springs: Liberatore Colangelo, Giuseppe & Silvio Di Rosso, Giovanni Filgoni, Luigi Marinucci & Paolo Notaro,

Many found jobs in the building industry and learnt various trades, some of whom in due course set up businesses on their own account. In fact a popular saying about the Italians was "We came, we saw, we concreted".



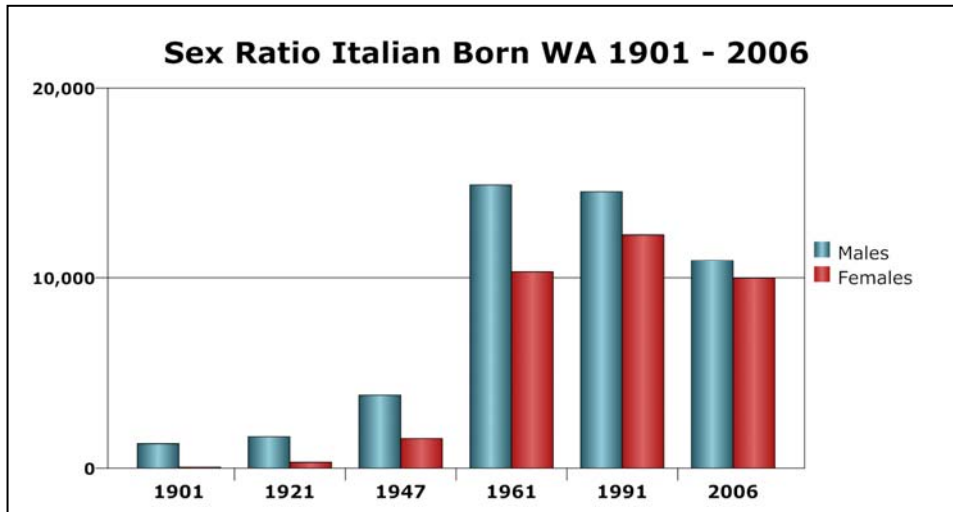
Gioacchino Baiocco, Giuseppe Pollutri & Silvio Di Rosso Perth 10 March 1954

### **Proxy brides**

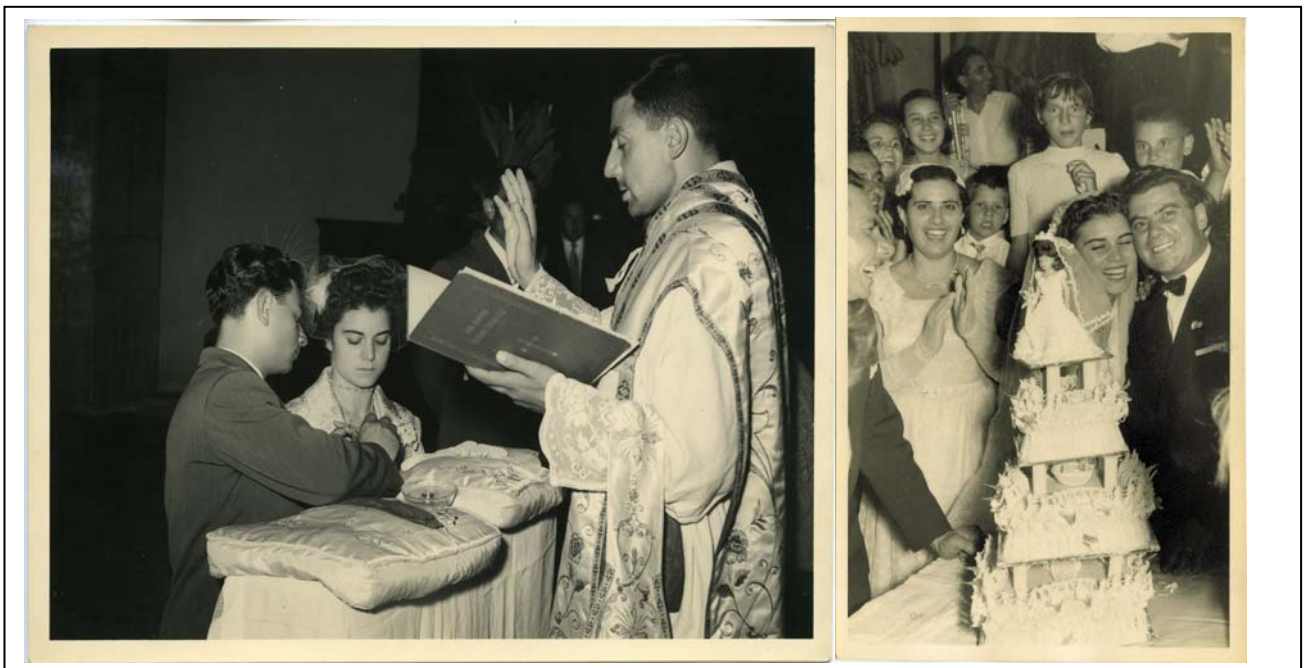
The post war chain migration, especially in the early 1950s led to an unbalanced sex distribution, as many more males than females migrated to Australia. A group of vastesi men in Kings Park in 1952.



In fact this had always been the case until the 1990s as can be seen in the graph.



The males that decided to remain in Australia then began to look for a partner, usually from their home town, however some did marry outside their culture. Due to a number of difficulties that had arisen earlier the Australian Government introduced the regulation that any female coming to join their partner in Australia had to be married. A few Vastesi did go back to marry in Vasto, but the vast majority married by proxy, as in the case of Antonio & Anna Canci (nee Di Cicco).



Left image: Proxy marriage in Vasto (Antonio's brother Michele standing as groom). Right image: Marriage celebrated in St Bridgid's Church in Perth in 1957

### **Vastesi migrants return to Vasto**

By the late 1960s Italy was beginning its own economic growth and so migration to Australia came to an end. The number of post war Vastesi that returned to Vasto is not known, but a reasonable number did go back. There were a number of different reasons for returning, and often it was the women, particularly those that had no family here, that persuaded their husbands to return to Vasto.



Some regretted the decision to return, and in fact a few remigrated once again. In some cases they were quite happy to have returned to Vasto permanently, and used the skills and business acumen that they had gained in Australia and put them to work successfully back in Vasto. One such example was Giuseppe D'Annunzio who set up a tyre retreading company. He had worked in this industry in Australia for some years. Another example is Michele Desiderio who became a plasterer in Australia. He returned to Vasto to look at the situation there, and arrived at a time when Vasto was beginning to develop economically (a large glass making factory had been built there) which led to a demand for housing. He began to build homes there and became a successful builder.



Michele Desiderio at home in Vasto

Most of the ex migrants interviewed held fond memories of their experiences as a migrant in Australia, and in some cases came back later on to revisit their friends in Australia, as in the case of Giuseppe D'Annunzio & Michele Desiderio.

### **Return visits to the town of their birth**

Where we are born and grow up has a lifelong impact on our being. Most of the Vastesi that migrated longed at least to return to visit the place of their birth, to see again their dear ones and retrace the steps of their youth. Once the Vastesi had established themselves in their new country, built their homes and their family was growing up they began their return visits to Vasto to see their aging parents (if they were still alive), their relatives and friends.

It was interesting to note that the experience of their visits home was positive with respect to their immediate families, however often they were ignored or not well received by former friends and acquaintances that had not migrated.





A group of Vastesi in Vasto in the 1980s: L-R: ?, ?, Paolo Del Casale (President Vasto Club in Perth), ?, Giuseppe D'Annunzio (ex-migrant), ?, Ettore Raspa (former president Vastesi Association in Perth), Nicola Vinciguerra & Antonio Barone. With the traditional "porchetta"

### **Vastese Soccer Club**

Soccer playing and watching had a long and strong tradition in Vasto, and with so many young men and the need to socialise it was natural that the first grouping of the Vastesi was the formation of a soccer team. In due course this led to the formation of the Vastese Family Association and later still the building of the Vasto Club.

Antonio Barone recalls that after several months it was decided to hold a general meeting to create an official structure for the Vastese Soccer Club. The president was Domenico D'Adamo and the secretary Michele Marchesani. The treasurer was Antonio Barone, who recollects collecting money at the games by passing the hat around.

There were quite a few Vastesi in the committee, including Ettore Raspa, Paolo Romano and quite a few others and the team used to practice at Dorrien Gardens. However, soccer did not continue for a long time, as there was no money and no players. The players all got married and they had families. Instead of the soccer club a separate social club was formed, which was not connected to the soccer club.



Soccer team and supporters Fremantle in 1956

### **Vastesi Family Association**

In the early 1950s friends and families would meet together informally. In due course they began to organise socials in various halls. In 1959 Ettore Raspa suggested the formation of the Vastesi Family Association and he put together a committee. This grew steadily and by the end of the 1970s there was talk about building a separate Vasto Club.



Vastesi social possibly in the North Perth Town Hall 1950s



Land was acquired from the Shire of Wanneroo, and it was cleared by Jim Calautti. However, there was some resistance to its location, especially from Vastesi living in the Fremantle area, who pointed out that it was a long way to travel. This land was then sold.

12 NORTH SUBURBAN NEWS THE WEST AUSTRALIAN, WEDNESDAY MARCH 10 1982

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**North Suburban News**



Helping to clear the Wangara site are Ben Marino (left), of Stirling, Hector Raspa, of Maylands, Paul Delcasale, of Tuart Hill, Marisa Delcasale, Kylie Celenza of Girrawheen and Vicky Delcasale.



**HALL AND CLUBROOMS**  
**VASTO ASSOCIATION**

An artist's impression of the proposed hall and clubrooms for the Vasto Association.

**City of Stirling**

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
RICKMAN/DELAWEY RESERVE, BALCATT  
and the  
ENTERTAINMENT PARK PROPOSAL

Wednesday, March 24, 1982 at 8 p.m.  
Jones/Parkin Hall, corner of Jones and Parkin Streets, Balcatta

Ratepayers and residents are invited to attend a public meeting to discuss the future use of Rickman/Delawney Reserve and the proposal to develop the area north of Delawney Street as an Entertainment Park.

As proposed developments would need to be compatible with both existing user groups and local residents, we urge all residents to attend. Submissions and/or ideas will be accepted at the meeting.

**M. SARGANT**  
TOWN CLERK.

**Club's dream coming true**

After seven years, a dream is coming true for an Italian community club based in the northern suburbs.

The Vasto Association was formed seven years ago by a group of people who came from Vasto in central Italy.

The club now has more than 700 members from all over the metropolitan area. The club has an office in Maylands and in the past has hired halls for social gatherings.

But the club has had to fight a battle to get clubrooms and a hall of its own.

The secretary of the club, Mr Sam Celenza, said that the club had negotiated with local authorities all over Perth in the search for a site for its headquarters.

The club's efforts were rewarded in August 1980 when a site on the corner of Hartman Drive and Parri Road, Maylands, was secured from the Wanneroo Shire Council.

Clearing of the 2.3ha site started last month and it is expected that the hall and clubrooms will be finished in 12 months.

More than 300 club members, including bricklayers and carpenters, will donate their labour to build the clubrooms, which will cost \$300,000.

Vasto Association Wangarra Site. Article North Suburban News 10 March 1982

The City of Stirling was approached, as it was felt that a lot of the Vastesi lived in the Balcatta area. After a process of discussions the City of Stirling made available some land off Delawney Street in Balcatta in 1983.





Aerial view of land area leased by the City of Stirling for the construction of Vasto Club 1983

Fund raising began in earnest and the building was begun in 1987 and completed in 1988. It was inaugurated 27 March 1988.



### City of Perth Sister City Relationship with Vasto

It may come as a surprise that the one and only Italian city to have a sister city relationship with City of Perth is in fact Vasto. This was largely the result of the initiative and drive of Silvio Petraro, who had been a short term migrant himself in Perth in 1952. He returned to Vasto and expanded his family business. In due course in the 70s he began to turn his attention to the Vastesi migrants in both Canada and Australia.

In 1982 he established a friendship bridge with the City of Perth. He then enlisted the help of Enzo Iustini, who contacted his friend Vince Scurria, who was a councillor in the City of Perth and was born in Sicily. The latter in due course decided to support Petraro's ambition for the sister city relationship. After a substantial effort and with the support of Vasto Club success was reached and the City of Perth established a sister city relationship with Vasto.

The date for the official ceremony was set for the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1989, and a substantial delegation came from Vasto, headed by the Mayor Antonio Prospero.





Postcard created in Vasto to celebrate the Sister City relationship

One of the lasting and continuous relationship between the two cities has been the annual exchange of students between the them.



A group of students from Vasto welcomed by the City of Perth 2010

### **Traditions**

The Vastesi have been active in community life. Apart from the Vasto Club they also began in the 1980s the San Michele Association, the patron saint of Vasto. Ettore Raspa, the former president of Vasto Association gathered a group of Vastesi and the formed the association in honour of San Michele who is the patron saint of Vasto, whose feat falls on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September.

The committee then commissioned a statue of Saint Michele from the Hungarian sculptor Peter. The statue is housed at Sacred Heart church in Highgate, and each year on the feat of San Michele there is a procession on the streets of Highgate. They also participate in other feasts held by other associations such as the Blessing of the fleet in Fremantle.



San Michele Association committee at Sacred Heart Church

## Cultural

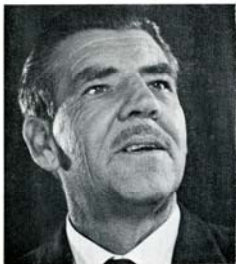
The Vastesi have made substantial contributions to the economic, social and cultural life in Western Australia. An example is Nicola Smargiassi's, one of the interviewees, lifelong involvement in singing.

A choir was formed in the early 1950s at St Bridgid's church by Father Abramo., and a number of Vastesi belonged to the choir, including Nicola. This choir grew and then a men's choir was formed directed by Valentino Andreatta. The choir in the 1970s consisted of over 40 members, with a repertoire of folk and classical music.



WA Italian Choir. Nicola Smargiassi back row 4<sup>th</sup> from left

In 1968 they took part in WA's first opera Carmen, which had been created by the Italian tenor Giuseppe Bertinazzo.



**EARLE NOWOTNY**  
Chorus Master

**WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA CHORUS**

**LADIES—**

**SOPRANOS:** P. Conway, I. Sadler, F. King, E. Jansen, E. Alderson, K. Longton, J. Hardy, B. Palmer, D. Browning, S. Shaw, E. Nicks, S. Nowotny, M. Hawke, L. Beresford-Bevan, P. Green, D. Smith-Ryan, B. Beetham, S. Morgan-Towney, E. Peacock, K. Bramham, G. White, C. Bradbury, D. Logan, L. Salter, J. Sample, M. Warren, S. Heaton, D. Lee, J. Ridgeway, G. Uyen.

**ALTOS:** P. Byrne, V. Inglis, B. Sacker, H. Harvey, M. Evans, J. Baker, M. Smith, C. Fitzgibbon, E. Sully, E. Hopp, P. Palma, G. Tully.

**GENTLEMEN—**

**TENORS:** T. Hayden, C. De Vos, K. Terry, M. Costello, T. Wilson.

**BASSES:** C. Scott, W. Robinson, L. Wynne, M. Roper, D. Dwyer, M. Long.

**W.A. ITALIAN CHOIR**  
Choir Master: V. ANDREATTA

**FIRST TENORS:** R. Amoroso, L. Andreatta, P. Andreatta, B. Buttolera, G. Colefan, M. Chemelli, C. Mengutti, R. Polastrini, P. Pastorino, P. Romano, G. Turcato.

**SECOND TENORS:** N. Caccin, N. Giosetto, G. Masolini, M. Pellizzari, M. Pezzotta, S. Sany, C. Versachi, O. Gronda.

**BARITONES:** A. Bertinazzo, M. Bertinazzo, T. Bernelli, L. Cergipani, O. Fabris, T. Pengi, G. Cecchale.

**BASSES:** G. Cino, M. Dragons, B. Denisberto, D. Ferrau, G. Paratore, N. Smargiassi, G. Valenti.

**ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR**  
Choir Master: FATHER AHERN

Tim Lyons, Kevin Yuen, Ron Oliver, David Oliver, Tony Stefanetti, Greg Dawson, Peter Polakiewicz, Stephen Vanspeegen, Greg Parker, Stephen Parker, Tom Luttrell, Chris Parkinson, Chris Anthony, Patrick Colezoy, Stephen Glorie, Sam Sita, Chris Hall, Chris Golan.

**MT. LAWLEY HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR**  
Choir Master: ALAN TREW

Justin Moxley, David Glendinning, Mark Ellis, Stephen Fanning, Leon Levitt, Ian Linforth, John Tassicker, Stephen Morra, Lex Huisman, Peter Hastings, Warwick Hemley, Arthur Popadopoulos, Lance Munnay, Stuart Eales, Jonathan Sully, Trevor Roccheccioli, Vincent Mendrik.

## Lake Vasto – Migrant Monument – Migrant Pavilion

Another example was the Abruzzese Emigrant Association presided by Albert Di Lallo. As part of the Sister City relationship the association proposed to the City of Perth to reciprocally name a main street in each city. The City of Vasto did so, however it was not possible for Perth to find an appropriate street to name and so it was decided to name the water body in Ozone Park (East Perth) Lake Vasto. A ceremony was arranged and a delegation came from the City of Vasto headed by the mayor Filippo Pietrocola.



Mayor of Vasto Filippo Pietrocola & Mayor of Perth Peter Nattrass naming of Lake Vasto in Ozone Park 28 March 2004

Another substantial undertaking by the Abruzzese Emigrant Association was the building of a monument in honour of all migrants to Australia next to Vasto Lake. It was inaugurated the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2008.





Inauguration of Migrant Monument 18 January 2008

An interesting episode concerned the height of the monument. It became known that the maximum height was 4.8 metres, and the proposed statue was substantially higher. It had to go before the Perth City Council, which despite some opposition, including the mayor, it was passed and so a new height for monument was established.

Since the monument another project was proposed by the Abruzzese Emigrat Association to the City of Perth and that was the erection of a Migrant Pavilion and children's playground next to the monument. The project was accepted and the City of Perth undertook to supply the infrastructure of water, electricity and sewerage to the site at a considerable cost. Lotteries West provided a grant to cover the cost of the children's playground. The project was initiated in October 2013.



View of Migrant Pavilion project next to the Migrant Monument. Lake Vasto also in view

So ends this sketch based on the documentary of the Vastesi migration to Western Australia. A story perhaps in many ways typical of any migrant community. Many details could not be included, however, the fuller stories of those interviewed are available in the state Library.

Lets conclude, as we have begun, with a comment by Nicola Sabatino from his diary, written on a trip back to Vasto

..but I return to repeat to everyone (in Vasto) that our home is now Australia, which has given us much hospitality and good fortune to allow us to travel and know the whole world, its useless that they wish to insist that Vasto is a golden land, for us old migrants Vasto has to be recognised as the land that has given us birth. However, we must understand that it has given us suffering and pain, in all of our time on Italian soil, that is why the proverb says “do not depreciate the future remembering the past”.

1. Divine, Robert A. (2007) America, Past and Present, 8th ed., 736
2. Robert K. Murray, The 103rd Ballot: Democrats and the Disaster in Madison Square Garden (NY: Harper & Row, 1976), p. 7
3. Murray, Robert K. (1976). The 103rd Ballot: Democrats and the Disaster in Madison Square Garden. New York: Harper & Row. p. 7
4. Letters in the Archivio Comunale in Vasto