

## ITALIAN MIGRANT WORKER INDUSTRIAL FATALITIES OF THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME 1949-1974



The construction of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme (Snowy Scheme) during 1949-1974 is one of the most significant and long duration public infrastructure projects ever undertaken in Australia.

The completed Scheme consisted of 16 dams, 12 tunnels, 7 power stations and 2 pumping stations.

Over 100,000 workers participated in the Scheme, 65% of whom were migrant workers from over 30 countries.

121 men were officially declared to have died from industrial accidents during the 25 year period. 27 of them were Italian migrant workers. Another 2 Italians died in the early years of the Scheme while in the employment of the NSW Department of Public Works.

In 1981, a Snowy Workers Memorial incorporating the names of the 121 men was inaugurated in Cooma NSW.

The worst multiple fatality accident of the Scheme occurred on 16 April 1958, resulting in the death of 4 young Italians - DI SALVIO Michele, GUSELI Antonio, PIZZOL Benito and RUGOLO Giuseppe.

A nephew of one of the men (Tony Guseli) has researched National and NSW Archives to acquire and analyse inquest, probate, migration and newspaper articles for each of the 29 Italians in order to tell the broader story of these post-war young migrant workers.

A specific goal of the research is to establish contact with contemporary relatives of each man, provide them with archive records and encourage them to contribute to telling their collective story.

20 of the men originated from the North/East area of Italy, 1 from Sardegna, 1 from Toscana and 7 from various locations South of Rome.

5 men were direct employees of the Snowy Authority, 2 were employed by NSW Dept of Public Works, the remaining 22 were employed by various contractor consortiums.

Upon arrival to Australia, 13 men resided at Bonegilla VIC migrant centre, 4 at Greta camp NSW, 1 at Cairns camp QLD and 1 at an SA camp. The remainder resided at accommodation provided by relatives or employers.

16 of the men are buried at Cooma NSW cemetery, 9 in other NSW/VIC cemeteries and 4 in cemeteries in Italy.

The following summary details of each individual is derived from archive records and provided to assist readers to establish contact with contemporary relatives in Australia and Italy (or elsewhere) Enquiries or details of relatives to be contacted may be directed to Tony Guseli by email at [guselitvg@bigpond.com](mailto:guselitvg@bigpond.com)

Individual summary details are in order of date of death and as per the corresponding number on the photographs.

1 PINAZZA Orfeo Vincenzo

Born 27/5/1931 in Domegge di Cadore (Belluno)

Died 19/1/1953

Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery

Father - PINAZZA Osvaldo Mother - CALLIGARO Filomena Sister - PINAZZA Valentina

Uncle in Cairns QLD area in 1961 - CALLIGARO Giovanni

2 PELLEGRINI Nardino (employee of NSW Dept Public Works)

Born 14/1/1923 in Pitigliano (Grosseto)

Died 25/6/1953

Buried at Old Adaminaby NSW cemetery

Father - PELLEGRINI Giuseppe Mother - BOSCHI Erina

3 DEGANI Vitaliano

Born 14/5/1925 in Robecco D'Oglio (Cremona)

Died 17/11/1953

Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery

Father - DEGANI Arnaldo Mother - Adele

4 DE LUCA Cherubino (name on memorial CERUBINO Luca)

Born 22/6/1933 in Jenne (Roma)

Died 17/12/1955

Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery

5 NUVOLI Mario (employee of NSW Dept Public Works)

Born 5/3/1927 in Alghero (Sardegna)

Died 30/1/1956

Buried at Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park Matraville NSW

Father - NUVOLI Angelo Raffaele Mother - FANCELLU Rosa

6 DALL'ANTONIA Silvio  
Born 2/5/1918 in Scomigo di Conegliano (Treviso)  
Died 10/4/1956  
Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery

7 SELLAN Angelo  
Born 7/3/1927 in Pasiano di Pordenone (Pordenone)  
Died 28/4/1956  
Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery  
Father - SELLAN Giuseppe  
Wife - POSOCCO Edda (remarried name DURIGON Edda)  
Daughter - SELLAN Daniela)

8 MINIUTTI Marcello  
Born 26/6/1930 in Travesio (Pordenone)  
Died 30/4/1957  
Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery  
Brother - MINIUTTI Luciano Sister - DE CANEVA Alma (both in Australia)

9 SAVEGNAGO Luigi  
Born 19/12/1930 in Cornedo Vicentino (Vicenza)  
Died 16/7/1957  
Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery  
Brother in Australia - SAVEGNAGO Ilario  
Wife - SAVEGNAGO Annie Eileen Daughter - SAVEGNAGO Margarita

10 KOCH Giuseppe  
Born 12/8/1933 in Fiume (Italy) now Rijeka (Croatia)  
Died 1/11/1957  
Buried at Tumbaramba NSW cemetery  
Sister - KOCH Ada

11 PELLEGRINO Domenico  
Born 2/1/1926 in Palazzo San Gervasio (Potenza)  
Died 17/3/1958  
Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery  
Father - PELLEGRINO Gerardo

12 DI SALVIO Michele  
Born 9/8/1934 in Teggiano (Salerno)  
Died 16/4/1958  
Buried at Teggiano (Salerno) cemetery  
Father - DI SALVIO Vincenzo Mother - DI ZEO Assunta  
Brothers - Pietro, Angelo and Donato

13 GUSELI Antonio  
Born 1/5/1935 in Castelliri (Frosinone)  
Died 16/4/1958  
Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery

14 PIZZOL Benito  
Born 18/6/1936 in Sarmede (Treviso)  
Died 16/4/1958  
Buried at Wonthaggi VIC cemetery

15 RUGOLO Giuseppe  
Born 12/11/1930 in Asolo (Treviso)  
Died 16/4/1958  
Buried at Castelli di Monfumo (Treviso) cemetery

16 CUPIDO Francesco  
Born 15/11/1933 in San Vito Chietino (Chieti)  
Died 12/12/1958  
Buried at San Vito Chietino cemetery

17 DRAMISINO Salvatore  
Born 2/1/1933 in Plataci (Cosenza)  
Died 2/3/1959  
Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery

18 PAGGI Alfonso  
Born 5/6/1929 in Isolato (renamed Madesimo) (Sondrio)  
Died 9/3/1959  
Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery

19 D'ARSIE Ivo  
Born 16/11/1929 in Treviso City (Treviso)  
Died 1/8/1959  
Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery

20 VETTOR Giuseppe  
Born 19/3/1928 in Treviso City (Treviso)  
Died 10/10/1959  
Buried at Santa Bona cemetery (Treviso)  
Brother - VETTOR Romeo

21 VECCHIATO Ernesto  
Born 28/10/1930 in Martellago (Venezia)  
Died 24/10/1959  
Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery  
Father - VECCHIATO Emilio Mother - PESCE Clelia

22 BECCIA Giovanni  
Born 15/1/1933 in Campobasso (Molise)  
Died 5/11/1959  
Buried at Melbourne General Cemetery Parkville VIC  
Mother SPALLONE Maria Vittoria

23 BISCONTIN Tomaso  
Born 18/11/1933 in Brugnera (Pordenone)  
Died 6/6/1960  
Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery  
Father - BISCONTIN Marco

24 GASPARETTO Danilo  
Born 23/5/1936 in Asolo (Treviso)  
Died 22/8/1960  
Buried at Field of Mars cemetery North Ryde NSW  
Father - GASPARETTO Angelo Mother - PANAZZOLO Maria  
Brother in West Ryde NSW Australia 1961 - GASPARETTO Amadeo

25 LUISOTTO Mario  
Born 1/9/1941 in Fontanelle (Treviso)  
Died 1/8/1962  
Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery  
Father - LUISOTTO Arcangelo Mother - Di TONUS Agnese  
Brother in Australia 1961 - LUISOTTO Angelo

26 LONGO Camillo  
Born 15/9/1936 in Segusino (Treviso)  
Died 6/11/1962  
Buried at Springvale Botanical cemetery VIC  
Father - LONGO Antonio Mother - FURLAN Flora  
In Australia, Wife - LONGO Elvira and 1 child

27 FRANZ Eugenio (name on memorial SRAMZ E)  
Born 31/7/1920 in Moggio Udinese (Udine)  
Died 18/10/1963  
Buried at Cooma NSW cemetery  
Father - FRANZ Erminio Mother - PLOTZNER Virginia  
Brother - FRANZ Lino

28 B E  
Born 10/11/1933  
Died 3/2/1964  
Buried at Woden cemetery ACT

29 BOTT Serafino  
Born 14/6/1933 in Salter di Romeno (Trento)  
Died 14/8/1966  
Buried at Salter (Trento) cemetery  
Father - BOTT Olivo Mother - PELLEGRINI Agnese

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