

# Mamma Lena Child Care Centre

(Formerly "Sorella Radio Child Care Centre")



**Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**28 April 1984**

**28 April 2004**

**Founded by Mamma Lena and Dino Gustin**





# PROGRAM

- 11.30 \*Arrival of Guests
- 12.0 \*Official speeches  
and presentations:  
★ Lorraine Vagli &  
Angela Murgida for  
20 years of service  
\*“Heart of Mamma Lena”  
medal to the teachers
- 13.00 \* BBQ  
\* Music by Enzo Giribaldi  
\* Cutting of a huge cake  
offered by *Marineve Bakery*  
at Five Dock  
\* Lottery draw

**Fun and games for young and old**



Formulo le più vive congratulazioni per le celebrazioni in occasione del ventesimo anniversario dell'Asilo Nido di Mamma Lena, conosciuto come Mamma Lena Child Care Centre.

L'Asilo Nido di Mamma Lena, sin dalla sua istituzione, ha svolto una importante funzione di integrazione culturale e di sviluppo sociale per fanciulli che sono entrati a far parte della nuova comunità australiana, provenendo da paesi lontani dalle consuetudini socio-culturali molto diverse.

Il Mamma Lena Child Care Centre, frequentato da 65 bambini di diversi gruppi etnici, è dotato di personale educativo specializzato che esemplifica le diverse provenienze nazionali rappresentate nella popolazione australiana di Sydney, costituisce un duraturo e valido esempio di progetto di azione sociale ed educativa multiculturale.

Lo spirito di Mamma Lena e le sue molteplici iniziative in tutti i settori a sostegno della comunità italo-australiana, continuano a dare i loro frutti anche dopo la recente scomparsa della cara Mamma Lena e a farla vivere nei risultati della sua meritevole opera.

L'Italia può ben andar fiera di aver dato i natali a persone come Mamma Lena che hanno saputo esprimere in Australia il nostro patrimonio culturale e civile, ottenendo numerosi riconoscimenti anche da esponenti e istituzioni locali.

Esprimo l'auspicio che l'Asilo Nido, realizzazione che ha onorato l'impegno educativo e sociale della compianta Mamma Lena, continui a rimanere vivo, in questo Stato del continente australiano, il ricordo dei validi principi che lo hanno ispirato, nonché la fama dell'Italia, paese d'origine della nostra collettività, in questa terra d'Australia.

Va pertanto ancora una volta riconosciuto il merito all'Associazione costituitasi in nome di Mamma Lena, e alla Famiglia Gustin, per la capacità di proseguire e sviluppare le opere intraprese da Mamma Lena.

*Antonio Verde*  
Il Console Generale d'Italia in Sydney  
(Antonio Verde)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE ITALIAN CONSUL GENERAL DR. ANTONIO VERDE

The most heartfelt congratulations for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mamma Lena Child Care Centre. Since the beginning, the Mamma Lena Child Care Centre has had the important function of being a means of cultural integration and social development for children of all ethnic backgrounds who are now part of the new Australian community.

The Mamma Lena Child Care Centre with its 65 children from various backgrounds is also staffed by qualified teachers who themselves represent the many nationalities that is the Australian population thus creating a true example of a valid working multicultural project of social and educational importance.

The spirit of Mamma Lena and her many activities in favour of the Italian-Australian community continues after her recent demise. She still lives in the benefits the community derives from her selfless work.

Italy can be proud to have been the birthplace of someone like Mamma Lena who has translated Italian spirit, culture and ethic into a prodigious body of work recognized both by Italy and Australia.

I sincerely wish that the Child Care Centre, the Mamma Lena Foundation and the Gustin family will keep alive the principles that inspired Mamma Lena to work tirelessly to assist Italians integrate in this Australian land.





**Joseph Tripodi** MP  
State Member for Fairfield

Suite 6 Level 2 Neeta City Shopping Centre Smart Street Fairfield 2165 PO Box 502 Fairfield 1860  
ph: 02 9726 9323 fax: 02 9726 9783 fairfield@parliament.nsw.gov.au

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
**MAMMA LENA CHILDCARE CENTRE Inc.**

*Congratulations on celebrating  
20 years of active community service in Fairfield.*

*Mamma Lena Child Care Inc. was established  
when professional childcare was still a new concept and it has  
successfully traded for 20 years.*

*The many thousands of families that have benefited from  
your presence remain eternally indebted.*

*Once again Congratulations!*

Yours sincerely

*Joe Tripodi*

Joseph Tripodi, MP  
**STATE MEMBER FOR FAIRFIELD**







## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the past it was Mamma Lena who would be writing these messages. This time, for the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mamma Lena Child Care Centre I am writing the message to honour the memory of Mamma Lena who left us on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2003.

The Centre has always been a source of pride in the Italian community who, together with myself and Mamma Lena built it as a community project to provide assistance to the many Italian families who lived in the area 20 years. The Centre started with 45 children. Now, after the extensions, 65 children attend the Centre every day. Over the years the cultural mix has changed dramatically and we no longer have a large number of Italian families in the area. Nevertheless, its wonderful to see children from many cultural groups attending the Centre interacting harmoniously together. It gives us all great hope for the future.

I would like to thank all those who have made the Centre so special. The teachers, the children, the parents and a particular thank you to Lorraine Vagli the Centre's Director who has been the Centre's driving force for the last 20 years. I would also like to thank the members of the Board of Trustees who give generously of their time to meet the Centre's legal obligations.

I look forward to seeing all at the 21<sup>st</sup> celebrations in 2005.

Dino Gustin  
President Board of Trustees  
Mamma Lena Child Care Centre



## THE STORY OF THE MAMMA LENA CHILD CARE CENTRE

Mamma Lena was 69 when the Centre was officially opened on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1989. Behind the scenes are almost 20 years of bureaucratic battles to make it happen. Why and how it was built is not easy to explain. Perhaps a short introduction of Mamma Lena will help put it all in context.

Lena Gustin arrived in Australia with her family in 1956. At the time she was 42, a mother of three (the first deceased), a teacher, a hotel manager and, together with her husband Dino, a presenter of variety shows. A few days after landing in Sydney, fate would have it that her destiny as the guardian angel of a whole generation of Italian migrants was sealed. She was asked to write an "agony aunt" column in the Italian newspaper "La Fiamma" and shortly after was asked to conduct a one-hour radio program on 2SM. From 2SM she moved to 2CH where the programs, produced by Dino, grew to three hours per day with an unprecedented 12.5% foreign language content. Later the program went to 2KY - where Italian music and messages had to be shared with dog and horse races. Lena also became the President of the National Association of Migrant Families (ANFE). Each of her many activities enabled her to help thousands of new immigrants assimilate into the Australian way of life. Along the way she became "Mamma Lena", mother to the Italian community.

In 1963, and in conjunction with a radio program of the same name, she and Dino founded the "Sorella Radio Welfare Fund" with the aim of providing assistance to individuals or groups in need. For her work Mamma Lena was later to be awarded the Italian Title of Cavaliere in 1967, the MBE in 1968 and the title of Commendatore (Italy's highest award) in 2000.

As President of ANFE, Mamma Lena and her committee were planning the construction of an aged care centre but in 1968, in the middle of planning the project, the Italian city of Sicily was hit by a devastating earthquake and fund raising was diverted to assist the thousands of displaced persons that the catastrophe created. Through Mamma Lena's radio programs the community was generous and the money raised was personally taken by Dino to the Sicilian town of Poggioreale where a child care centre for 100 children was built to meet the needs of that stricken community.

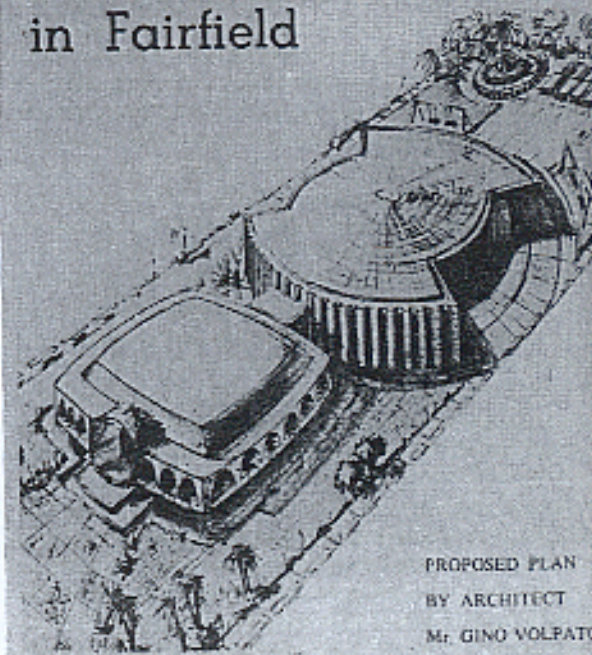
It also became clear that Italian families in Sydney also needed child care facilities. Fairfield at the time was an obvious choice as many Italian families had settled in the Cabramatta/Fairfield municipality.

In 1969 at a function at the Marconi Club also attended by Janice Crosio and the Hon. Ferguson, the idea of a child care centre in Fairfield - to be called the "Sorella Radio Child Care Centre" - was mentioned. Janice Crosio at the time was the President of the Ladies Committee of the Marconi Club. She was later to become Mayor of Fairfield and a State and Federal Member of Parliament and throughout her political career she has been a great supporter of Mamma Lena and the Centre.

In 1970 fund raising for the Sorella Radio Child Care Centre begins in earnest. At the time when listeners to Mamma Lena's radio programs wrote to her requesting a song or a special greeting, they usually included a couple of dollars in the letter. This money was set aside for the Centre. Every time a function was organized, the money raised was set aside for the Centre. A house at 4 Hampton Street Fairfield was purchased and demolished and architect Gino Volpato was commissioned to draw up the plans for the Centre - as seen on the right - only to see them



Help us to realize this  
**ASSISTANCE CENTRE**  
in Fairfield



PROPOSED PLAN  
BY ARCHITECT  
MR. GINO VOLPATO



# COUNCIL SLAMMED OVER CENTRE

Field Council's decision to delay approval of a child day care centre in Hampton Street was a "backward step".

Youngs said Aldermen, Ken Wilson, said the delay was a "backward step".

The Wilsons claimed the council was delaying approval of the centre.

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modern". Over many years the plans were modified and finally accepted but not without controversy as seen in the newspaper article of the time. Eventually, and with the help of the Hon. Janice Crosio, the Federal Government granted \$160,000 to build the Centre. Finally, in 1979 the laying of the first stone at a ceremony attended by hundreds of guests among whom the Hon. Janice Crosio, Senator Bonner representing the Federal Government, the Italian authorities, members of the Sorella Radio committee; Nick Scali, George La Paine, Lorenzo Marchetto, Mamma Lena, Father Mantovani and Dino Gustin. A company called FAXIS had been given the job of constructing the Centre. Work begins with the construction of the Walls, roof, windows and doors and then stops. The treasurer, George La Paine regretfully informs the Committee that the money has run out.

For a year and a half, the Centre is left half completed and looks a sorry sight. The authorities were not able to help and, left in that state, the Centre was a tangible reminder of shattered dreams and a black mark against the Italian community.

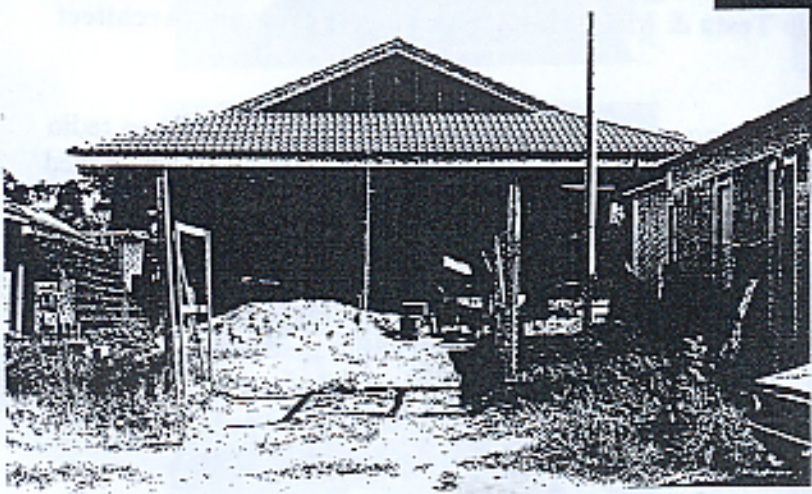
## Foundation stone laid for centre

TWO YEARS of hard work and frustration ended for a group of fundraisers recently with the laying of the foundation stone for a child care centre at 4 Hampton Street, Fairfield.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1980 came the turning point. The Sorella Radio Committee comprising of Nick Scali, George La Paine, Joe Finn, Dino Gustin, Lorenzo Marchetto and Mamma Lena, met at the premises of the Italian Chamber of Commerce which, at that time, was in Leichhardt.

Dino makes a momentous decision. *He will take on the responsibility of finishing the Centre with the help of volunteers!*

Dino mobilized everyone in the Italian community. Dozens of people and firms pledged their support. With love and a big Italian heart Dino and his team turned a desperate situation into a winner.



How the Centre looked for one and a half years.



It is fitting that we remember some of these unsung heroes because without their commitment the Child Care centre would certainly not be standing.

(We list the major volunteers in alphabetical order)

**Aldo BREDÀ** who installed the stainless steel toilets, the windows, the 10 meter sliding doors and built the tables and chairs.

**Charles BUDA** for the kitchen.

**Alfredo FERRARA** and his son who with a front-end loader and a truck took away 10 loads of soil and rubbish.

**Luciano MARSON** who provided Dino with a labourer one day per week and then, two days before the opening, brought along 10 workers and a cement truck to lay the footpaths.

**MENDUNI G&F** who donated the statues.

**Giovanni SPADA** who provided three workers to lay the tiles all around the building.

**Santo TORRESAN** who with his son Domenico would come every weekend to Build fences, gates and columns.

**TRIPOLONI Brothers** who built all the cabinets.

Others who, at the time, gave generously of their time or contributed financially were:

**Adrano Etneo Club, G. Aiello, Alitalia, Angelo Anastasi, Cardinale Antonio, K. Bedano, Benson & Hedges, Silvia Biasetto, G. Bortolin, Peter Bertolisso, Domenico Cammareri, Vince Cammareri, Aldo Cantafio, Pina Cantale, Cantarella Bros. R. Carniato, A. Caruso, C. Caruso, Antonietta Cassisi, S. & G. Castorina, S. Ceinar, M.R. Cerizza, Tonino Cerizza, Nicola Cerrone, G. Cipolla, Maria Coco, Clara Comisso, The Hon. Janice Crosio MP, Mario Della Cioppa, Paola De Romanis, Attilio Di Gianni, Daniela Di Gianni, Frank Di Marco, A. Di Michiel, Sandra Di Ramio, Angelo Duria, C. Failla, D. Falchi, Pino & Mary Falvo, Gino Ferlauto, Alfredo & Lucia Ferrara, Fausto & Mario Ferrari, Ferrero Australia, Fiorelli & Co., Dr. Vittorio Fioretto, Loretta Fiorini, Vicki Fontana, Mario Fuda, A. Gerli, Alfredo Germano, Il Globo, International Florist, Father Alberico Jacobone, Jolly Studio, La Fiamma, Vincenza Lampasona, George La Paine, Leichhardt Hardware, L. Leschi, C. Longo, Francine Mammone, Brother Lorenzo Mantovani, Rosalia Marasco, Lorenzo & Emily Marchetto, Marconi Club, Grazia Marson, Antonella Mazzilli, Dr. Alvisè Memmo (Italian Consul General), G. Merlino, L. Mongelli, Giovanni Monticciolo, Peter Murgida, Raffaella Nesci, F. & R. Nicolosi, Nick Scali & Co., Clemente Nigro, Tony Noiosi, Franco Pacc, A. Pacchierini, Sammy Palazzolo, N. Pavan, Angelo Piccini, Flavio Pinizzuti, Sam Proto, Peter Romano, Joe Rosa, Sandra Rover, Scalabrini Village, Nick Scali, Scundi Bros., Federico Simonetto, Filippo Signorelli, Ivana Smaniotto, E. Soligo, M. Soligo, St. Elia Sepolta Ass., Sam Stagnitta, Brother Stephen (Society of St. Paul), Luigi Stivala, A. Taccori, Bruno Tava, Laura Tedeschi, Angelo Testa & Mr. Arlotta, Salvatore Tornatore, Architect G. Volpato, Cav. Carlo Zaccariotto,**

To thank the main volunteers, Mamma Lena and Dino prepared the life story of each to be read on radio and for publication in their 714 page book *"70 Years of Memories in Two Worlds"* which was launched in 1988.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1984 the official opening of the Sorella Radio Child Care Centre for which Dino produced the *"Welcome to Open Day"* flyer. On the next page are the pictures of Deborah Watson, the first Director, and the team she gathered together with the first groups of 45 children to attend the Centre.

(Cont. p.11)



# THE FIRST YEAR STAFF & PUPILS 1984

The Staff of our  
Pre-School  
Kindergarten speak:  
Italian, English,  
Greek, Spanish,  
Polish, Vietnamese

Deborah Watson  
Director



Angela Murgida  
Assistant



Lorraine Vagi  
Clerical Assistant



Anna Slobodtjan  
Child care worker



Helen Bendsy  
Mothercraft Nurse



Gail Oreshkin  
Mothercraft Nurse



Teresi Loungwong  
Nurse



Ida Zymatore  
Cook



Fina Pace  
Helper





# OUR 2004 TEAM



**Lorraine VAGLI**

Director

Celebrating 20 yrs with Centre



**Teresa  
CABRERA**



**Kristy  
DORE**



**Janet  
FRISCH**



**Elena  
GARZINITI**



**Sue  
GUO**



**Lesa  
MOORE**



**Marta  
MORALES**



**Gladys  
MUNOZ**



**Angela  
MURGIDA**

Celebrating 20 yrs  
with the Centre



**Fina  
PACE**



**Katrina  
TRUONG**



**Natalie  
VAGLI**

Attended Centre as  
a 3 year old



**Cristina  
VARELA**



**Nicoletta  
VICARETTI**



**Lyndal  
WILKINS**



**Jacqui  
WILSON**



# OUR LITTLE STARS IN 2003/4



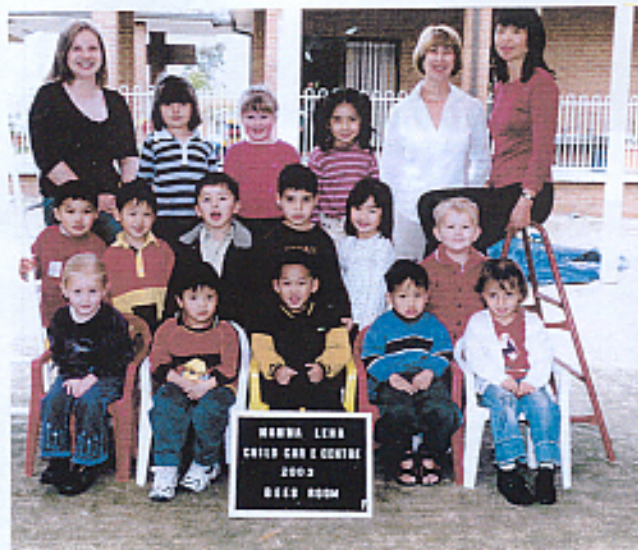
## SUNNY

Back Row: Mirta Morilar (Staff), Jacqui Wilson (Staff), Lorraine Vagli (Staff), Kerina Young (Staff)  
 Middle Row: Ethan Young, Nathan Tai, Mikaya Guattieri, Kallee Dennis, Zack Whitteten  
 Front Row: Ryan Nguyen, Owen Tuhamao, Jessice Millarova, Ami Puvion, Nicole Hoyle



## BUTTERFLY

Back Row: Wizzon Sun, Jeremy Mon, Neelie Vagli (Staff), Lynel Mikles (Staff), Lorraine Vagli (Staff), Janet Fitzch (Staff), Michael Shabo, Middle Row: Jason Dang, Jonathan Aloua, Andrew Tai, Karolyn Nguyen  
 Front Row: Gabriel Marakina, Erica Alvarado, Constantia Zhang, Jaya Middleton, Brendon Mendis, Tereza Thomason, Alice Lavelle



## BEES

Back Row: Kizzy Dore (Staff), Madelon Dohis, Blazina Niggas, Celine Hoyle, Lorraine Vagli (Staff), Sue Qiu (SM)  
 Middle Row: Edmund Tran, Jeremiah Baw, Deikel Ugarte, Nicole Kaka, Kristina Nguyen, Cameron Holbrook  
 Front Row: Marcella Chami, Johnson Prosevani, Kenneth Hoyle, Tony Lee, Eise Whelan



## BEARS

Back Row: Lorraine Vagli (Staff), Jonathan Elliot, Angela Marglitz (Staff), Neelie Perovic, Joliese Lane, Christina Caballo, Natalie Boggan, Jonathan Ho, Teresa Calanca (Staff)  
 Middle Row: Mohamed Dair, Daniela Perovic, Charles Okonko, Shayla Nguyen, Ryan Hoyle, Jacob Sella-Camara, Ricardo Lazzano, Calica Hansen, Jessica Spehr, Emily Villanova, Aparajita Williams, Andy Nguyen, Diego Martinez, Marissa Anderson





Although the Centre had been built by Mamma Lena and Dino Gustin with the help of the Italian community, children of all ethnic backgrounds have always been welcome. And, as it is so prevalent in a multicultural country like Australia, the Centre is now truly representative of many cultural groups within the group of children and teachers.

At the official opening of the Centre, Mamma Lena, together with the Hon. Dr. Richard Klugman unveils the plaque bearing the names of the Board of Directors at the time. On the plaque are also the names of various authorities who had assisted with the construction of the Centre. The marble plaque had been donated by Frank Di Marco and the Centre was blessed by Father Alberigo.



Hon. Janice Crosio, Dr. Alvisè Memmo, Italian Consul General in Sydney, Mamma Lena, Hon. Dr. Richard Klugman, M.P. at the official opening of the Sorella Radio Centre 28<sup>th</sup> April 1984



Fr. Alberigo blessing the Centre



In 1983-84 funds were still a problem and the Centre was struggling financially. As a fund-raiser, Dino organized a "Miss Charity Queen" pageant. As seen below, 12 young "princesses" entered the contest and for 12 weeks Mamma Lena featured one of them in turn on her radio programs. This helped to introduce the contestants to the community at large and to explain the importance of the funds to the Centre.

The event was coordinated by Mrs. Vicki Fonatana and the winner was Grazia Marson who raised \$14,000 for the Centre. Like her father, Grazia did all she could to ensure that the Centre was successful.



Loretta Fiorini  
Ass. Emilia-Romagna-Toscana

Francine Mammone  
Associazione Alpini

Antonietta Cassisi  
S. & G. Ceramic Tiles

Grazia Marson  
Marson Paving



Sandra Di Ramio  
Associazione Azzurri

Paola De Romanis  
Associazione Bersaglieri

Rosalia Marasco  
Casa del Corredo

Laura Tedeschi  
Euro Loc. & Int. Removals P/L



Vincenza Lampasona  
Ass. S. Antonio da Padova  
prof. di Poggioreale

Daniela Di Gianni  
Breda Constructions e  
Maiella Butchery

Antonella Mazzilli  
L.P. Giordano Real Estate  
(Pugliesi) York Pool

Pina Cantale  
Associazione Trinacria

On the following page is how the local paper reported the event.



# Mamma Lena a link to home

**A CHEQUE for \$59,390 was handed to Mamma Lena for the Sorella Child Care Centre by State Member for Fairfield Mrs Janice Crosio on behalf of the Federal Government.**

From the twelve candidates who paraded before the judges Loretta Fiorini was chosen Miss Sorriso, the girl with the nicest smile.

The title Miss Elegance was won by the Charity Queen, Grazia Marson.

Co-ordinator of the quest was Mrs Vicki Fontana. Entertainment was provided by the Mendoza Sisters Duo, the Euromod orchestra with singer Davide De Angelis, and Alfredo Germano.

Sorella Radio first went on air 20 years ago. The warm friendly voice of Mamma Lena became a link with home for thousands of Italian families

The Sorella Child Care Centre in Hampton St, Fairfield opens officially next month for infants and children from birth to 5 years of age.

Any parent wishing to enrol their child should contact the director of the centre Debbie Watson on 727 6324.



1985 was a time of upheaval for the Committee. Nick Scali and George La Paine resigned because they considered their task had come to an end and the Secretary, Renzo Marchetto and his wife Emily went to live in the Blue Mountains, Giuseppe Calabro' needed to go interstate for business, Fr. Mantovani was transferred to Italy and Mr. Taccori unfortunately died.

Mamma Lena, Dino Gustin and Maria Coco were still part of the Committee but new members were urgently needed. Mrs. Vicki Fontana and Mr. Mario Mura joined the Committee and became the Vice President and Secretary respectively. Another blow was the resignation of our first Director Debbie Watson. Her place was filled by Mrs. Lorraine Vagli who, to this day, is still the Centre's Director.

The Centre was doing well and the list of children waiting admittance was growing. The problem, however, was the lack of paying area and in the late 80's the opportunity arose to purchase the house next door. This immediately doubled the children's play area and the Committee thought that the house would make an ideal Community Centre for the Italians in the area.

The Community Centre remained a dream and the pressure of children on the waiting list made the Committee reconsider its plans. The house would be demolished and the Centre would be expanded. In 1993 architect Arnaldo Bello was approached to draw plans for the extension and the plans were launched on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 1993 for all to see. However, it would be a few years before the project came to fruition. In the meantime, in July 1995 the Sorella Radio Child Care Centre had changed its name to the Mamma Lena Child Care Centre,

In 1997, after changes of architect and plans, and a sizeable grant from the government, construction on the new extension finally begins. Mamma Lena and Dino are totally unaware of what is happening as Dino was critically ill in hospital at the time and it would be at least a year before he and Mamma Lena see the new wing which was officially opened in April 1999. The Centre would now have a capacity of 65 children with a totally new baby's wing – the "Bunny" room.



The Hon. Janice Crosio cuts the ribbon to officially open the new wing of the Mamma Lena Child Care Centre.



"The Torch" of 14 April 1999 ran the following article which also shows the Hon. John Aquilina unveiling a bronze bust of Mamma Lena which some members of the Italian community had commissioned from the renowned artist Terrance Plowright in honour of Mamma Lena. The bust is permanently displayed in the office wing of the Centre.

On the marble base which was donated by Frank Di Marco & Son, is the following inscription:

*"No one will forget the contribution Mamma Lena made during the difficult years of immigration to Australia. A reminder to future generations".*

The inscription is followed by the names of all those who donated to the commissioning of the bronze:

**APIA Club, Ass. S. Antonio di Padova Protettore di Poggioreale, Ass. S. Francesco di Leichhardt, CO.AS.IT. NSW, Italo Australian Club, Marconi Club, Italo Mazzola, La Famiglia Di Blacktown, Teresa e Sabato Monzo, Nick Scali, Giovanni Spada, Stefano Jewellery, Daniele & Vittoria Velcich, Nat Zanardo**



## New wing for centre

Blessed by beautiful sunshine and a large crowd, the inauguration of the new wing of the Mamma Lena Child Care Centre in Fairfield occurred on March 21. The new wing adds much needed room plus gardens and parking to the existing centre which was officially opened in 1984.

The centre accommodates 65 children of all nationalities.

The secretary of the centre, Mario Mura, introduced the guests of hon-

our and the centre committee, after which Junior Crosio, Federal Member for Prospect, cut the ribbon and unveiled the plaque.

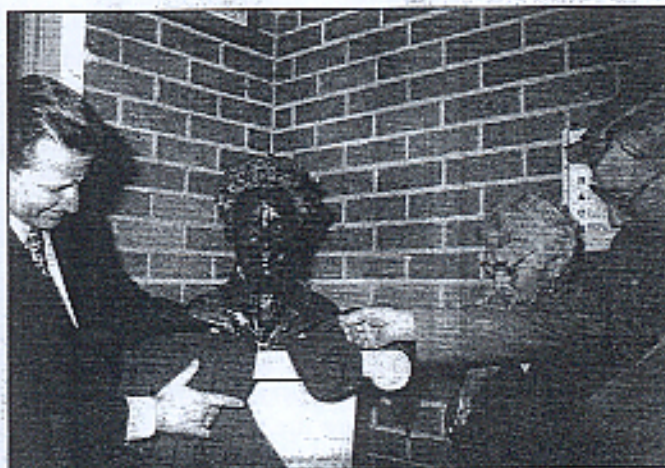
In her speech, Mrs Crosio highlighted the various stages of the centre. After initial refusals by council, construction commenced in 1979 and after many years of struggle, was finally finished in 1983 and officially opened in 1984 by Mrs Crosio.

It was then the turn of Minister of Education and

Training, John Aquilina, who unveiled the Terrance Plowright bronze bust of Mamma Lena - a gift from members of the Italian community.

Mamma Lena, a long-time resident of Bankstown, was seen to be moved when Mr Aquilina recounted some of her radio and newspaper work in support of the Italian community.

The centre was blessed by Father Alberico who was also on hand to bless the original centre 15 years ago.



Minister of Education and Training, John Aquilina, unveils a bronze bust of Bankstown identity, Mamma Lena, who is also pictured with her husband, Dino Gustin.

THE TORCH Wednesday, April 14, 1999

**Terrance Plowright** - A gifted and prolific artist Terrance specializes in large works of art in many mediums. Terrance was invited by the World Council of Churches - Geneva Headquarters, to be the sculptor and artist in residence for the 1991 Congress. In 1993 Hazel Hawke launched a book on his glass and sculptural work.



Admiring the newly unveiled bust: L-R Amelia Capogna, Concetta Fioravanti Wells, The Italian Vice Consul, The Hon. Janice Crosio MP, The Hon John Aquilina, Mamma Lena, Elaine Labra from DOCS and Dino Gustin



In 2000 a new Board of Trustees was elected with the addition of Arnaldo Bello, Ivana Smaniotto, Joe Buda, Rosalba Gustin and later John Orlando, Rose Cantali and Vince Ruggeri.



Some of the members of the Board of Trustees with Mamma Lena:  
Rosalba Gustin, Rose Cantali, Ivana Smaniotto, Amelia Capogna, Joe Buda, John Orlando and Dino Gustin.

Mamma Lena left us in September 2003 but her spirit will live on with the Mamma Lena Child Care Centre and the Mamma Lena Foundation which was established in 2001 to continue Mamma Lena's charitable activities. She will also be remembered through the countless songs, poems, articles, books and testimonials that sing the praises of a modest and generous person who, despite being honoured by both the Italian and Australian governments with some of the highest awards that they could bestow, she was happiest when simply called "Mamma Lena".



The medal "Heart of Mamma Lena" on which is written:  
*"Life passes but the good done remains"*



# SOME OF MAMMA LENA'S FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES





# 20th Anniversary Lottery

**Drawn 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004 on the premises of the  
Mamma Lena Child Care Centre  
4-6 Hampton Street, Fairfield  
(Total prize value in excess of \$3000)**

1. Rolled gold necklace and bracelet set offered by **Wellth Developments**
2. Silver framed painting offered by **Caruso Giftwares, Five Dock**
3. \$200 voucher towards a **Samantha Bree** family photograph portrait
4. \$200 voucher towards a **Samantha Bree** family photograph portrait
5. Chanel Pin
6. Bridge Climb offered by **Bridge Climb Pty Ltd**
7. Basket of fruits offered by **Hamilton Road Fruit Market and Deli**
8. A "Ferrari"
9. 100% Silk Blouse
10. TimeStone Superclock
11. Beach towel
12. Italian bath sheet, yellow
13. Italian bath sheet, blue
14. Ladies/men's watch
15. Anna Chandler wall decoration
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17. FM Auto Scan Radio
18. Stealth Radar Shield (advanced phone radiation defence)

## SPECIAL THANKS:

**The Board of Trustees of the Mamma Lena Child Care Centre would like give special thanks to:**

- Mr. & Mrs. Raiti of **Marineve Cakes and Pastries** in Five Dock for their gift of the wonderful large cake they offered for the occasion.
- Lorraine Vagli and the Centre's team who give so much to make the Centre very special.
- John and Connie Orlando, Amelia Capogna and Rosalba Gustin for some of the lottery prizes in the list above.
- Rene Baissari, Michael Carlin and Samantha Middleton our parents' representatives on the Management Committee and their commitment to the Centre. We also thank them for the lottery prizes they donated/sourced.
- To all the parents and children who fill the Mamma Lena Child Care Centre with love and laughter.



*Samantha  
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## Congratulations

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