

6 March - 2 July 1995

a free exhibition

la Dolce Vita?



STATE LIBRARY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES

Italian-Australians of NSW

State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street, Sydney

EXHIBITION HOURS

Monday to Friday 9am-5pm,
Saturday, Sunday and public holidays
11am-5pm. Closed Good Friday and
Easter Saturday. Admission free

THE LIBRARY SOCIETY

Tours by curator James Andrighetti at
10am-12noon on Thurs 16 March and
Wed 22 March. \$15 non-members,
\$12 members. Morning tea included.
Booking essential on (02) 230 1500.

PUBLICATION

*Italians in NSW: a guide to archives
in the Mitchell Library, State Library
of NSW*, by James Andrighetti.

SCHOOL GROUPS

Bookings essential for school group
visits. Telephone (02) 230 1603.

HOW TO GET TO THE LIBRARY

- 1 State Library of NSW
- 2 St James Station
- 3 Martin Place Station
- 4 Wynard Station
- 5 Domain Carpark
- 6 Royal Botanic Gardens
- 7 Sydney Explorer Bustop



La Dolce Vita?

is the first major exhibition on the twentieth-century Italian presence in NSW. The exhibition traces the bittersweet experiences of ordinary and extraordinary Italian-Australians during war and peacetime. Diaries, letters, photographs, memorabilia, sketches, oral history and video provide a fascinating insight into private and public lives.



The many stories revealed in the exhibition include those of Italian-Australians in the Allied war effort during the First World War, the thousands of civilian internees during the Second World War and the Italia Libera anti-Fascist movement in Sydney. In the early Cold War years, a remarkable Catholic priest, Father Giuseppe La Rosa, founded the newspaper *La Fiamma* to counter rising fears of the Communist influence.



Postwar migration contributed to a distinct Italian-Australian lifestyle. In 1955 Terry Paliani, a top mannequin from Florence, was brought out by David Jones to model high fashion. Against this tide of migration, Vic Facchini took his FJ Holden to Italy, causing a stir from the Alps to the Appian Way. Radio broadcaster Mamma Lena became the voice of the Italian community.



La Dolce Vita? draws largely on the State Library's growing archive on Italian migration, a rich documentary heritage preserved through The Italians in New South Wales Project, a joint venture of the State Library and the Italian Historical Society (NSW).

Front image: *Italy at David Jones, 1955*, by Ronald H. Armstrong.

This exhibition is
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The State Library is a NSW government organisation.