

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4817

Patroni, Savina

(1923 - 2012)

Born 9 January, 1923, Serino, Northern Italy

Died 25 June, 2012, Kalgoorlie Western Australia Australia

Occupation Gardener

Summary

Savina Patroni migrated to Australia from Italy in 1951. She lived in the Somerville garden district of Kalgoorlie and raised a family while also working on the family market garden.

Details

Savina Patroni migrated to Australia in 1951 with her husband and two children, Laura and Bert, on the *Australia*. Prior to her marriage, Savina had worked as a tailor in one of Milan's top fashion houses. She moved with her husband and children into a house, which had been transported from the Gwalia mine. The corrugated iron dwelling was lined with hessian bags, and there was no electricity or running water. Savina had three more children – Nellie, Alfie and Vilma – in Australia, and cared for the family while also doing hard physical labour in the garden. She picked, packed, and loaded vegetables for sale to markets in Kalgoorlie. The family also had a cow and raised goats and pigs for milk and meat.

Savina continued to work on the garden well into her 60s. She still lives in the same house – albeit with modifications and renovations.

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition

Karlkurla Gold: A History of the Women of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Criena Fitzgerald and National Foundation for Australian Women, 2012,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/wikb/wikb-home.html>

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

[Savina Patroni interviewed by Criena Fitzgerald \[sound recording\]](#)

Author Details

Criena Fitzgerald

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Digital resources



Title: Savina Patroni's vegetable garden, Sommerville

Type: Image

Date: 3 May, 2023



Title: Savina Patroni, taken on arrival in Australia

Type: Image

Date: 3 May, 2023



Title: Savina-Patroni-photograph-taken-on-arrival-in-Australia-ca-1950s.-

Type: Image

Date: 3 May, 2023