Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1096

Santospirito, Lena

(1895 - 1983)

Born	18950404, Ballarat Victoria Australia
Died	19831119, Melbourne Victoria Australia
Occupation	Community worker, Migrant community advocate

Summary

Lena Santospirito was one of the first Italo-Australian women to assume a leadership role in the provision of welfare and community services to Melbourne's Italian community. The Australian born daughter of Italian parents who migrated to Australia in the 1890s, Mrs Santospirito was the first woman (and layperson) to be appointed President of the Archbishop's Committee for Italian Relief. She held this position between 1946 and 1955, a period that coincided with the beginnings of mass migration from Italy to Australia. Her energy and generosity in this role, as she combined it with her responsibilities as a wife and mother, were recognised by the Italian government in 1958 when she was awarded the Italian Star of Solidarity.

After her resignation from the committee in 1955, Mrs Santospirito continued her community work for various religious and charitable organisations. She passed away in 1983 and is remembered for her tireless work, her faith and the generosity she showed to so many people in Melbourne's Italian community.

Events

2001 - 2001
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

Published resources

Finding Aid
Guide to the Santospirito Collection, Elkner, Cate and Santospirito, Tony, 2001,
http://www.coasit.com.au/historical/sant/santhome.htm

Journal Article
Lena Santospirito - the Person, Santospirito, Tony, 2001

Magazine article
The Advocate, 1967

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Italian Historical Society
Santospirito Collection

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