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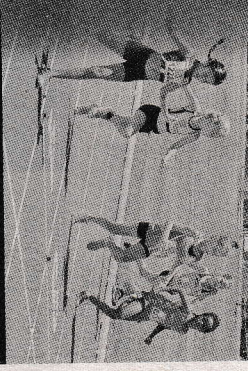
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Meeting to unearth forgotten history of Narrromine's WWII Italian POW's



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Meeting to unearth forgotten history of Narromine's WWII Italian POW's

By **BROOKE CHANDLER**

IT'S a mystery from the dark days of the Second World War, and locals are being invited to attend a special presentation next week to help find the answers.

For the past six decades, the Martin family knew there were layers of history built within the stone garden walls of their "Dulla Dulla" property.

One of the most fascinating of these memories, is the story of the six Italian Prisoners of War (POW) who were attached to the property during World War II (1939-45).

Recollections of those individuals, are vaguely etched into the minds of the of the property's current residents; David, Andrew and Kerrie Martin.

Paired with the need to restore the property's picturesque stone garden walls, Kerrie decided to invest her time and efforts into finding out more about these POWs.

Researcher, Joanne Tapiolas, became Kerrie's go-to expert on the topic with Australian and Italian publications and collaborations".

"I got in contact with Joanne. She showed keen interest in what I was looking to find-out, but didn't know much about billets in the Narromine area", Ms Martin explained.

Pretty soon, Joanne was able to discover a series of significant facts and figures including the identities of more than 80 POW's held in the Narromine area.

So far, however, Joanne has not been able to cement the identities of the six Dulla Dulla POW's, and is looking for help.

"A lot of the older farmers who might have remembered then have since passed away... And

unfortunately, "Italian names were common and used often as both first and last names so it's actually quite tricky," Ms Martin said.

Joanne's interest in the Dulla Dulla case, has also morphed into an additional research project and community presentation which is set to be hosted next Friday, February 24.

Currently, twenty-five locals with either interest or involvement in this key aspect of Australian history, will be in attendance.

"Narromine local Nesto Falconi has contacted us, revealing that his father, Nicola, was an Italian POW... after the war, Nicola emigrated back to Narromine", Ms Martin revealed.

"That's one fellow living on a farm, and loved it so much, he had to come back. We have already come across so many tidbits like that," she said.

Ms Martin and Joanne hope that the afternoon event at Dulla Dulla, will unearth more of Narromine's Italian POW stories and artefacts.

The meeting will include a presentation and question-and-answer hosted by Joanne as well as from David Martin, who was present on the property during the War.

Attendees will also be invited to walk around the house and garden to view the stone garden walls and raised beds constructed by the Italian POW's.

"Over 18,000 Italian POW's were sent to Australia. There is still so much of this era we do not know about", Joanne explained.

"I look forward to travelling down from Queensland to discover the treasures of Narromine's past," she added.

Italian Prisoners of War

Date: Friday 24th February 2023

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: Dulla Dulla Homestead 1112
Dulla Dulla Road Narromine NSW 2821

Text, phone or email your RSVP to
Kerrie Martin on 0407 248 847 or
admin@dulladulla.com.au



Cowra, NSW. 6 February 1944. Group of Italian prisoners of war (POWs) interned at
No. 12 POW Group.

Back row, left to right: 45680 Nicola Falcioni; 57516 A. Vagnoni; 57062
Marino Belletti; 49511 Emilio Re; 49915 A. Sabatini.

Front row: 57365 A. Mattei; 57398 S. Muccichini; 57532 Rino Scipioni; 57486 Dante
Santarelli; 57514 G. Vaccarini.