

Who: Clarissa's family

From: Italy

When: Great Grandfather
in 1925.

I was born on September 4th, 1997 in Nelson, as were my parents and my Dad's Dad. My Great Grandad Jim Romano was born on March the 5th 1909 in Italy just five years before the First World War started. During the First World War Jim and his mum lived where they were not affected by the war but could still feel the impact of what had happened

In 1925 he left Italy and set off for New Zealand and the only thing he was able to bring was small gift for his uncle who already lived in Nelson. The cargo ship he arrived on was called was the Ormondo.

When Jim arrived in Nelson he lived in a small shed at 19 Grove St and every night he would sleep on a pile of sacks, and during the winter he would use the spare sacks to cover up the holes in the walls. His only source of income was a small crop of tomatoes that he grew out the back of his shed.

In 1938 Jim returned to Italy in search of a wife and later that year found his love in Buenos Aires in South America. He then returned to New Zealand with his new wife Emma.

At home we have three large green crates that read:

**Mr.C.Romano
Passenger to Sydney
on Canberra
Transit to
New Zealand**

In 1939 their first child Tony was born in the Nelson Hospital. Three years later Maria their second child was born, and then six years later Christina the youngest was born in 1947. Each of them attended St Joseph's School.

In 1960 Tony, the eldest, traveled to Italy - the same place that Jim and Emma met - to watch the Olympic games there he meet the love of his life Gemma. That year they got engaged and the next year they got married in St. Mary's church, Nelson.

In 1962 Aldo arrived Tony and Gemma's the first child. In 1963 Nick was born on 23rd October. Anthony and Paul were the younger brothers.

When Jim could not look after his glasshouses anymore Tony inherited them, took over and began to grow more things such as: cucumbers, eggplant and peppers. Ever since Tony was born he has lived at 89 Grove St.

In 1991 Nick and Bettina meet and in 1996 got married at St Mary's Church then on 4th September 1997, Clarissa Romano was born. Two years later Anthony was born on 30th May 1999.

2001 Tony felt he could not look after the glass houses anymore so Nick relocated them out to 10 Acre block out at Cable Bay and sold vegetables out of small van. My family still own the glasshouses.

In 2003 Emma passed away at the age of 83. Jim passed away in 2007 at the age of 97.