



## **Italy Down Under Spring Summer 2004 magazine Books *New Releases***

### **COOPER'S CREEK PIONEERS THE UNTOLD STORY**

..."Ruzzene Grollo Focuses on the lives and experiences of over 30 Trevisani men who migrated to Australia, drawn to Cooper's Creek to be employed in limestone quarry smashing rocks, as woodcutters in the bush, or in the lime burning kilns, doing the back-breaking work that for many was considered employment of last resort.

The Trevisani who gathered in the remote heart of Gippsland had left behind their own homegrown privations – the ravages of the Great War, the famine and illness, which decimated so many families in northeastern Italy. No matter how punishing their new environment, these men, and the women and children who followed, would with iron-willed determination transplant their culture to this alien land, striving for the livelihoods they were denied in their land of birth.

The migrants' stories chronicled by Ruzzene Grollo contributed to the richness and diversity of modern Australian history. That said, for this reviewer, the book's highlight was the wealth of photography featured throughout its 250 pages. Photos of great beauty, poignancy and simplicity, retrieved from obscurity and lavishly reproduced in sepia to evoke the times they capture, bring to life the faces, hopes and dreams fulfilled of the Trevisani of Cooper's Creek"...

**By Leo D'Angelo Fisher, IDU Editor-at-large.**