

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE PIER #2: JOURNEYS OF MIGRATION

AN EXHIBITION CURATED BY LELLA CARIDDI

ELTHAM LIBRARY COMMUNITY GALLERY
PANTHER PLACE, ELTHAM

TUESDAY 12 MAY- MONDAY 6 JUNE 2016



PUBLIC FORUM :
“From Displacement to Social Inclusion”
Saturday, 21 May 2016 3-5pm

A model for social inclusion:

What Happened at the Pier #2- Journeys of migration by and about local Memory Keepers

A multidisciplinary exhibition featuring written Social History; Heritage objects; historical documents and wall work in diverse style & technique. This project produced and presented by Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV) with the support of, Nillumbik Shire Council, Yarra Plenty Regional Library, Greensborough Historical Society, Nillumbik Reconciliation Group and Leo Scott Picture Framing & Gallery honours the memories of immigrants and refugees who travelled to Australia by ship through the historical entry points of Princes and Station pier in Port Melbourne, prior to the late 70s.

Over the past 2 years, through community outreach, site specific community consultation and artist liaison, we have connected with and brought together people of all ages and background for a meeting of minds and the sharing of stories.

Gathered from the participating Nillumbik community, the stories, items and newly created art-works assembled and presented in this exhibition give context and amplification to the *migration journey* which more than one million people who came through Port Melbourne have experienced. Drawn together these threads of memory will preserve individual social histories not just for the participating Memory Keepers but also for the broader Nillumbik community and beyond.

Lella Cariddi, Curator, 2015-16 What Happened at the Pier #2
March 2016

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S P A C E

When thinking about objects and time, space proposes different considerations. From cups dating back to the 1900s to fragments of stories and photographs framed into paper collages, the current iteration of *What happened at the Pier #2* is one of many previously presented in various areas of Victoria including the City of Port Phillip, City of Ballarat, City of Melbourne Libraries, Diamond Valley Library, and now at the Eltham Library Gallery located in the heart of the creatively dynamic Nillumbik Shire Council. An eclectic collection of artworks, stories, and objects were gathered from the participating Nillumbik community in an attempt to map, explore and preserve the history of migrants who travelled to Australia by ship through the entry points of Princes and Station pier in Port Melbourne. Space is a significant component for this overarching curatorial project. As the social histories and creative works differ from place to place, so does the exhibition design, constantly evolving according to local conditions, display possibilities and challenges associated with space, thus the works change the space and the space also changes the essence of the exhibition. Having the exhibition assembled within the Nillumbik community highlight the diverse migrant histories evident within the area. Every object, artefact and family memorabilia bring their own distinct identity to the intergenerational and multicultural exhibition, allowing different elements into proximity with each other. *Memory Keepers*, as do the visitors of the exhibition revisits the life-changing journeys of migration to Australia, enduring stormy weather, the emotional moments of departure, and the uncertainties up to when they first set foot in Australia. This is a narrative that is grounded in social inclusion, inviting people of all ages and backgrounds to come together and take a walk through a history often stored away in memory boxes. Arranged in the historic space of the Eltham Library Gallery, the *Memory Keepers* artworks and objects come to life for the greater good of the Nillumbik community, allowing the space to do much of the talking as do the works.

Bianca Winataputri

Art History student at the University of Melbourne
Multicultural Arts Victoria Intern 2016

T R A V E L

I was born and raised in Finland and first came to Australia in 2014 to visit a friend from back home. She is studying at Monash University, but before coming here she had no prior knowledge about Australian way of life. However, she had made up her mind to jump into the unknown and found Melbourne to be her home for the next four years. I really admire that, and having people around me who have done those life altering decisions also gives me inspiration. I came back to Melbourne in February 2016 with a working holiday visa, which allows one to work and live for one year in Australia. I had no plans and did not know whether I would be staying for a few months, a year, or even longer. For me, coming here was not the biggest dream of my life, but rather a chance to be somewhere new and get to live in a culturally diverse environment. I did my undergraduate degree in Cultural Studies. This subject sparked my enthusiasm for culture as everyday life. This is why I decided to get involved with the *What Happened at the Pier #2* exhibition as part of the Piers Festival 2016, arranged by Multicultural Arts Victoria. More and more people of my generation are moving abroad, and it is happening because we have the opportunity to do that. It might not be the same as the post-WW II migrants from Europe who came to Australia, but I do think it is possible to relate to that feeling of having to settle somewhere new and start from scratch. What motivates someone to leave everything behind?

The exhibition is one way of letting people's own voices to be heard. It is impossible in Melbourne to ignore the various cultures, and it is something I have not experienced on such large scale before. I think it is important that this diversity of people from different backgrounds is acknowledged. Seeing different ways of living and hearing such unique stories is eye-opening.

Travel has given me a different perspective on life, and has made me more confident about myself. I have an appreciation for my own cultural background, as I am learning from the ways of others.

Johanna Teerijoki

Multicultural Arts Victoria Volunteer 2016

FROM DISPLACEMENT TO SOCIAL INCLUSION

Public Forum

Saturday, 21 May 2016 3-5pm

Eltham Library Community Gallery

Panther Place, Eltham



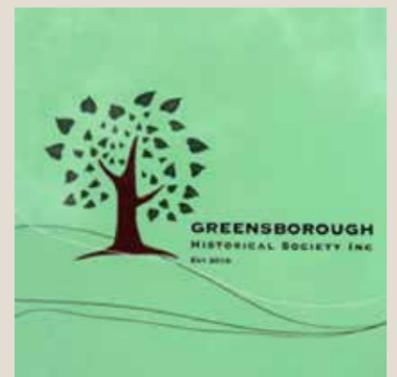
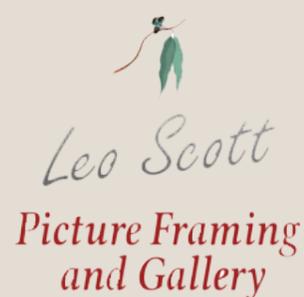
DR. GWENDA TAVAN

Dr Gwenda Tavan is a senior lecturer and the current Head of the Department of Politics and Philosophy at La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia. Her research interests include the politics and history of immigration and multiculturalism in Australian, global and transnational contexts. Her numerous publications include the award-winning book, *The Long, Slow Death of White Australia* (Scribe 2005). She is currently completing a biography of Arthur Calwell, Australia's first immigration minister.



PHILIP MORRISSEY

Philip Morrissey is a Murri scholar and Academic Coordinator of the Faculty of Arts Australian Indigenous Studies program at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in Aboriginal studies and Aboriginal writing. He has published on Aboriginal fine arts, film, literature, governance, sport and the public sphere.



GREENSBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



YARRA PLENTY REGIONAL LIBRARY

PIERROSS ITALIAN PASTICCERIA
ELTHAM TERRACE, 5/9
DUDLEY STREET, ELTHAM

MEMORY KEEPERS AT THE ELTHAM LIBRARY



MARIE BARRI (SARTORI)

Life in Italy post-world war I was extremely harsh, especially in the country area of Gallio. The weather was extreme, especially during the long cold winter months. Work was scarce and difficult to find in all of Europe. My father Antonio Sartori was born on the 12th of July 1886, in Gallio Province of Vicenza, Italy. In 1942 he bravely decided to leave his young wife and children behind and journey to Australia to seek better future for his young family.



TULLIO BARRI

No one chooses to leave their family or their home land easily. However, at times in one's life big decisions are made for the benefit of oneself and one's family. I was born in Dubino, Italy in 1933, 3rd child to Pietro and Maria Barri. Life was tough, winters were cold and like most families in the region, poverty existed. At the age of six, before going to school, my job was to take the family's small mob of sheep out to pasture, watching the church clock tower to ensure I was back in time for school.



CARMEN BORG

My parents Ernestu Borg & Maria Theresa Sacco (Tassie) were born in Malta: Ernest in Balzan, in 1910; Tassie in Valletta, in 1917. Both Tessie and Ernestu lived through the devastation of WW1. As they hid in the rooftops, they watched the bombs fall on the surrounding buildings as homes and churches were being destroyed. Food was scarce and our father told stories of how he would wait for darkness and then run through nearby orchards to collect some fruit to eat. They married during WW2. Mum had to make her own wedding dress, with the little that she had. The only flowers mum said she could find were white lilies as these were all that was available at the time. Guests at the wedding gave them old and unique gifts or, in some instances, food, which, of course, was a valuable commodity.



SABI BUEHLER

Although I was barely eight years old when we left Germany to come to Australia, I already had a strong sense of the momentous changes that were about to occur in our lives. Nowadays migrants can make the journey to Australia within a day and with electronic media it is so much easier to stay in regular touch with loved ones 'back home'. When we came it was very different. I believe it is important to collect for posterity the stories of the migrants who arrived by ship and learn about their experiences, what motivations brought them here and how they fared in their new homeland. It is a crucial part of my own and my family's history.



DORIS CATANIA (nee GALEA)

Both my parents were born in Mosta, Malta. One of Mosta's landmarks is the Catholic Church "The Assumption of Our Lady," commonly known as "The Rotunda of Mosta". My mother's family lived to the left of the church, my father's to the right and both families attended Mass in this parish. My mother Josephine Camilleri and my father Lawrence Galea met and fell in love on the front steps of the church, the same church where as young lovers on 30 July 1944, they got married.



JACINTA CREALY

Jacinta Crealy is one of many direct descendants of Robert Whatmough. Jacinta completed an Arts degree, majoring in English and History. More recently, she completed her Social Work degree. Both disciplines are now at work, with Jacinta working with migrants in Community Health by day, and writing family history by night. Jacinta is a member of Bairnsdale Historical Society and Lakes Entrance Historical Society. And back in 2008, she was inspired by Robert's story.



MARCELLO D'AMICO

My mother Anna Maria Terzita, my father Vincenzo Calogero D'Amico, and older brother father Vincenzo D'Amico came to Australia in May 1960 on a tourist visa to visit my two brothers, my sister and myself who was the last to come to Australia in 1955. As soon as they arrived, members of the Aeolian Community made a representation to the then Catholic archbishop of Melbourne Dr. Daniel Mannix, DD, as they wanted my brother to stay in Melbourne because at the time there were no Italian priests available and the Italian immigration was at its peak.



JOAN & PAUL DUNELL

Joan and Paul Dunell are retired and live in Montmorency. Joan was born in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, England; and had an almost Gypsy like early childhood having travelled extensively before reaching Australia in 1953. Joan's Dad Ted Singleton saw action with the Airforce in two world wars. Joan's mother Dolly (Dorothea) Such was born into a British Army family and was educated in Burma and India, her Mother (Joan's grandmother) Louise Such was born in Rangoon, Burma (now Yangon Myanmar). It is difficult for Joan to state where her roots are. In her first eight years, Joan lived in England, Egypt, back to England, Canada, back to England, then out to Australia. Paul is an author, has published four books, and is regular voice at a number of poetry open mics in Melbourne.



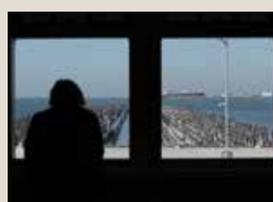
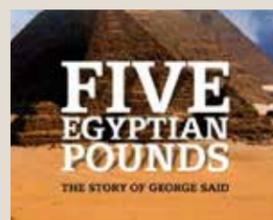
ZORA FRANK-DURUT

I was born in Slovenian Primorje on 21st August 1939. Imprinted in my childhood memories are the sounds of shooting, running and crying. At the time Slovenia was under Italian dominion, and during WWII my dad was a soldier with the Italian army. On the 3rd of July 1958 I left the immigration camp in Trieste Italy, boarded the ship Aurelia on the journey to Australia. I was 18 years old and on my own.



GIUSEPPE LAPADULA

I was born in Viggiano, (Basilicata), Italy. I was 25 when my brother came back from Australia with his fiancé to get married in our hometown. He told me that there was plenty of work in Australia, and if I wanted to join him he'd sponsor me. Two years later my sister and her husband also came to Australia. But I had no desire to come to this country so far away from where I was born. But my mother was missing her children and cried every day. I decided to also come and reunite with the family.



THERESE LAPADULA

My parents Maria Giuseppa and Gentile were both born in Vazzano, Pizzo Calabro (Clabria) Italy. They were childhood lovers, and married against their parents' wishes when my mother was nineteen and my father eighteen and half. Born into a family of land-owners, my father did not want for anything, but he found working the land condescending, and being a proud and adventurous man, he had set his sights on a life beyond the confines of agriculture, a long way from his home land.

PAOLINA LICATA

I am an only child, and in 1949 I came to Australia with my mother Caterina Dal Santo, to join my father Teresiano Dall'Oglio who had come out one year earlier. Work was hard to come by after World War II; however, luck was on my father's side as he already had two brothers in Melbourne who had migrated in the nineteen-twenties when migrants were only allowed to work in "the bush" as timber cutters; and labourers in the mines. But my uncles had other ideas; and each of them established himself in his own small business.

GIULIO MACCHION

I was born in Bassano Del Grappa on the 6th of September 1940. By October 1961, I was expected to report for military service. However, in October 1960 I found myself talking to another young man at the bar, who told me that the Australian Government's Department of labour, was offering a work contract, and paid the fare for anyone who wanted to go to work in Australia for two years, and suggested that I too apply and go with him to Australia.

VITA MACCHION

I was born in Licodia Eubea (Catania), Sicily, on 2 August 1943. In 1960, we said goodbye to my three grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and together with my mother (42), my brother (14) my sister (22), and two trunks full of family belongings (bauli), we left my grandmother's house to board the migrant ship Roma, to make the long journey to Australia and be reunited with my father, who nine years earlier had left behind Sicily, and back-breaking work on the land, and migrated to Victoria.

ANTONIO MELLINO

I was born in a double storey brown house in Nerano, near the bay of Naples, in 1945. My grandparents (on both side of the family), had been fishermen for many generations. From the age of seven, under guidance from my maternal grandfather, Antonio Cioffi, I too became a fisherman. During the summer we'd be up at 2 am every morning, get in the boat and take to sea to drop traps ready with bite to catch the crayfish (the more bite- the more crayfish).

VIVIEN MELLINO

My maternal family originated from France and Italy. Born in Lago di Garda, my grandmother went to work as a maid in Longwyn, France, where she married Gabriel Noel. My grandmother Marguerite (nee Cagna) and her husband left France in 1938, and together with their children Andree Jeanine, who was three - years old, and her sister Paulette, who was six, they migrated to Australia aboard the ship Strathmore.

DOROTHY POULOPOULOS

Dorothy Pouloupoulos is an award-winning Melbourne-born poet who has been published in literary magazines and anthologies in both Greece and Australia, since 1995. Dorothy is a member of The Melbourne Poets' Union (Poets @Watsonia) and The Greek-Australian Cultural League. She writes in both Greek and English and has presented at Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries, The Wheeler Centre, Poetry @ Fed Square, The Immigration Museum, Montsalvat, The Hatch Contemporary Arts-space, Steps Gallery and other venues.

HELEN SAID

FIVE EGYPTIAN POUNDS- The Story of George Said, is about my Greek - Maltese family, British subjects, who were expelled from Egypt during the Suez crisis in 1956. They arrive at Heathrow with two suitcases of clothes and five worthless Egyptian pounds. I was born in England, and was four years old when together with my family we migrated to Australia in 1962.

GRAZIA STOCCHERO (nee SALAFIA)

I was born in Vizzini, Catania, Sicily, on the 18th January 1941. When I was about 8 years old, I lived with my parents my three sisters and a brother in an almost abandoned house, which we rented from a friend of my father's. My parents had a small grocery store, but in those days it was not easy to survive on the little we earned, especially with us children, who ate more food than we sold!

DUILIO STOCCHERO

I did not attend high school, and actually only had three years of education - this does not stop me from writing the history of my life as an immigrant. I am the second last in a family of eight children. I was born in 1938, and grew up in Recoaro Terme, a small town in Veneto, near the Austrian border. In those times work was hard to come by - my grandfather, together with his comrades, did all sorts of jobs, including smuggling sugar, coffee, alcohol and tobacco along mountain paths from Austria.

READING THE WIND - A Documentary by Lella Cariddi and Filmmaker Adam Ricco

Between 1947 and 1971, 1 million migrants travelled to Australia by ship and disembarked at Melbourne's iconic Station and Princes Piers. Framed by those who undertook these journeys, Reading the Wind helps to inform us of the uncertainty of migration, and gives perspective on why landmarks like Port Melbourne's piers remain embedded in the minds of many. Adam Ricco and Lella Cariddi are both committed to bringing stories of migration back to life.