



Annual Presentation (Top L-R clockwise): Zofia Laba, Bill Fikkers, Mendo Trajcevski and with Franca Facci, Chairperson MHP

The Annual Presentation and Annual General Meeting of the MHP were held in conjunction on Thursday 2 December 2010. Bill Fikkers gave an entertaining and sometimes humorous talk on his book about the Dutch in the Illawarra; Mendo Trajcevski's presentation on the Macedonian community was an insight into the migration of this nationality to Illawarra and Zofia Laba's talk about the early pioneers showcased her growing research into those people from non-British backgrounds who helped shaped the Illawarra, and how little is known of them.

On completion of the presentations everyone was able to enjoy refreshments and the opportunity to catch up with the presenters before the Annual General Meeting began. The Chairperson, Franca Facci, gave the annual report which is provided in full below.

### ANNUAL REPORT 2010

In 2010, the MHP set its sights on applying for funding for small grants that would assist us to further develop some of the work we have carried out in the past.

To this end, the committee has been successful in attracting support for four projects. We were successful in attracting grants for three projects and professional support for the fourth.

#### Images and Permissions Database project

The Wollongong City Council Cultural Grants Program has provided funding for the development of an Access database that will be a repository for the hundreds of images we currently hold plus the permission documentation that relates to that image. CleverLink, a private business who

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### MHP MEETINGS

The MHP Committee meets the first Thursday of the month (February-December) at 5.30 pm, Meeting Room 1, Level 10 Wollongong City Council Administration Building, Burelli Street, Wollongong. Members and other interested people or groups are always welcome.

*(Venue for meetings provided through the Wollongong City Council Multicultural Services)*

### MHP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### Chairman

Franca Facci

#### Treasurer

Mendo Trajcevski

#### Secretary

Peter Bestman

#### Committee:

Gregor Cullen

Giulia Bonacina

Ludwik Ihnat

Eva Castle

Louise Thom

Zofia Laba

Fidelia Pontarolo

Marzia Zochil

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Don't forget to visit our website

[www.mhpillawarra.com](http://www.mhpillawarra.com)

specialises in the development of databases has also assisted us by sponsoring the project and contributing funding. This project may not sound terribly exciting but once completed it will actually assist to make the information we collect more accessible to a wide range of people. At the moment if anyone wants to use images or information we have to manually sift through stacks of paper to find the image as well as the corresponding permission of use form. When it is stored in a database we will be able to search quickly to retrieve the information. This project will be managed by Fidelia Pontarolo and Louise Thom.

### **Research on Early Immigrants to the Illawarra from Diverse Cultural Backgrounds**

This project was funded by the Royal Australian Historical Society, as part of the Local History and Archives Art Grants Program. The project seeks to uncover the names of immigrants who settled in the Illawarra in the 1800 and early 1900's. The impetus for this project came from the research that Zofia Laba and Barbara Mazur carried out on the contributions of early Polish migrants to the area. A reference group will help guide the project which will primarily be undertaken by Zofia.

### **Heritage Story Pocket Book and eBook Publications**

The Royal Australian Historical Society Local History Research and Publication Grants program has provided a small amount of funding to help the MHP produce innovative Heritage Story pocket book and eBook publications.

The publications would only be short runs and provide a summarised snap shot of heritage stories and images that document and profile migrant life in the Illawarra. They would be used to promote awareness of Migrant Heritage in the local community and help build on the history and identity of the region as a whole.

We hope this will be a way of introducing readers to Migration Heritage with the focus for the first book being on the Illawarra Textile, Clothing & Footwear Industry which was a project that Eva Castle researched as part of her internship with the Power House Museum.

The MHP will partner with the University of Wollongong School of Art and Design to carry out this project and Gregor Cullen from the School will lead the development and outputs of this project.

The eBook series will prototype future delivery of Migration Heritage research for iPad and GPS compatibility linked to future heritage walks and interpretative heritage signage.

### **Powerhouse Museum Strategic Support**

As part of its Regional Services Program, the Powerhouse Museum has accepted our expression of interest for support to develop strategies to formalise and manage the MHP resources and collections and to develop policies and procedures to facilitate access to these resources.

### **Powerhouse Museum Internship**

As I reported last year, Eva Castle carried out an internship at the Powerhouse Museum that focussed on researching the lives of working women in the Illawarra in the clothing, textile and footwear industries. Eva presented her research at the AGM and since that time has continued to finalise the material so it can be officially handed over to the MHP and the Local Studies Library of WCC.

### **The Wollongong City Council Heritage Advisory Committee**

The MHP nominated Fidelia Pontarolo to be considered for membership of the Wollongong City Council Heritage Advisory Committee and it was great to see that the Council recommended Fidelia's membership. As a result of her participation on the committee the MHP has been receiving information about the work of Council to further the promotion of local heritage. One of the key pieces of work commissioned by Council was a thematic study of the history of Wollongong. With Fidelia's assistance, the MHP had input into the study meeting with Dr Terry Kass, the consultant tasked with the job of preparing the study, and preparing a formal written response to the first draft.

### **Migration to Wollongong Publication**

Meredith Walker is currently finalising this publication with support from the NSW Migration Heritage Centre at the Power House Museum. We are greatly indebted to Meredith for the work she has carried out to complete the manuscript and we look forward to completing the design and publication. We know the publication will be used and referenced by people interested in migration history in the Illawarra and across Australia. It is intended to not only document the impact that migrants and refugees have made in the Illawarra, but also to act as a thematic guide for people wanting to explore and research the heritage of migrants in the Illawarra and Australia.

The main themes identified in the book include:

1. Life in the homeland
2. The decision to emigrate & the choice of Australia
3. Journey to Australia & to Wollongong – first experiences
4. Migrant accommodation & next home
5. Work
6. Worship, maintaining worship and religious traditions
7. Forming organisations – communities of language culture & homeland
8. Home & family life
9. Getting to know Wollongong – leaving, staying, becoming Australian, links with kin
10. Recognising the contributions of migrants – multicultural Wollongong, festivals and traditions

This project has been funded by the NSW MHC. (The NSW Migration Heritage Centre at the Powerhouse Museum is a New South Wales Government initiative supported by the Community Relations Commission. [www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au](http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au))

### **The Migration Sculpture Project**

The MHP has continued to be represented on the Wollongong City Council's planning committee that is scoping the work for the production of a sculpture to commemorate and celebrate the contribution of immigrants to the region. The MHP was one of the groups convened to be consulted on the concepts for the sculpture and ideas for the location of the proposed sculpture. This is a very exciting project that we are pleased is progressing.

### **Membership on the Advisory Panel of the NSW Migration Heritage Centre**

As chairperson I continue to participate on the Advisory Panel of the NSW MHC at the Powerhouse Museum. It is an honour to be a member of the panel.

### **Financial Report**

A full financial report will be prepared by the treasurer and audited independently. It will be available at the Annual General Meeting.

### **With sincere thanks**

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to many individuals and organisations that support us throughout the year.

To Wollongong City Council for allowing us to utilise meeting rooms on a monthly basis and assists us with printing and mail outs throughout the year. Council officers Darinka Radinovic from Multicultural Services and Megan McKell and the team from Cultural services have provided great support in their respective roles.

Our ongoing thanks to Meredith Walker for her work on the Migration to Wollongong publication.

Thanks also to John Petersen and Andrea Fernandez and The Migration Heritage Centre for NSW at the Power House Museum.

Thanks to Mendo Trajcevski and Danco Stojkoski at Macedonian Welfare who continue to help with our bookkeeping and organising the annual audit.

As always the members of the MHP committee deserve many thanks for their hard and enduring work. I wish to name all of them to thank them personally:

- Fidelia Pontarolo
- Gregor Cullen
- Peter Bestman
- Louise Thom
- Olga Romano
- Ludwik Inhat
- Mendo Trajcevski
- Zofia Laba
- Eva Castle
- Rina Montgomery
- Giulia Bonacina
- Darinka Radinovic

I thank everyone for their support of the MHP and wish you all a safe and relaxing festive season. Looking forward to many successful future collaborations.

kindest regards  
 Franca Facci  
 Chairperson  
 2 December 2010

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To summarise the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting, after the annual report from the Chairperson and the Treasurer's report, elections were held for positions on the committee and the names of those elected can be seen on the front page of this newsletter.

We welcome Marzia Zochil as a member of the committee, while we farewell both Rina Montgomery and Olga Romano as committee members, although they remain respected and much appreciated members of the MHP.

Peter Bestman kindly accepted the nomination as Secretary of the MHP. The outgoing secretary, Fidelia Pontarolo, having filled this position for 6 years, will continue as a member of the committee and will now be

able to devote more time to assist with projects such as those mentioned above in the Chairperson Annual Report.

The special resolution was passed to adopt the new constitution in keeping with the changes to the Association Incorporation Act 2009 and Association Incorporation Regulation 2010. Earlier in the year, both Mendo Trajcevski and Fidelia Pontarolo attended the seminar by the Department of Fair Trading which explained the new constitution and whilst there was not a great deal of change to the constitution that would impose a great impact, advice given at the seminar was to adopt a constitution based on the model provided by the Department sooner rather than later.

**Thank you for your continued support**



### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Joining Fee:	Individual \$5.00	Pensioners \$2.00	Organisations \$10.00
Membership & Annual Fee:	Individual \$10.00	Pensioners \$5.00	Organisations \$10.00

Joining & Membership fees payable within fourteen days of receipt of advice of membership approval.  
Annual fees payable by 30 June of each year.

The Secretary  
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We would love you to join but you don't have to be a member to participate