



## GEORGE CROSS FALCONS CLUB EXHIBITION

2-15 September 2006



*(L-R) Councillor Anne Wood, Hon. David Campbell, Sharon Bird MP, Noreen Hay MP and Gregor Cullen at the launch of the George Cross Falcons Club Exhibition*

The George Cross Falcons Club Exhibition was launched on Saturday, 2 September 2006, by the Hon David Campbell, Member for Keira, Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development and Minister for the Illawarra. The exhibition was located in the foyer of the Wollongong City Council building until 15 September 2006. The exhibition was researched by Lorraine Vargas, curated by Linda Raymond and designed by Gregor Cullen.

This small but important exhibition, funded by the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW and set up in the foyer of the Wollongong City Council Administration Building is an innovative way of sharing the history of the Maltese community and the George Cross Falcons Club with all the residents of the region.

The George Cross Falcons Club has become a real landmark in the suburb of Cringila. 55 years on, the Club continues as an active social club with a membership made up of first and second generation Maltese as well as members from other communities. However the Club also serves as a reminder of the importance that places like Clubs have in supporting the social infrastructure of a community. Clubs are not just about being a large hall, clubs can bring people together, they can

generate debate and community action, as well as promote interaction with other groups and communities. They also act as places where ideas are generated for work opportunities and for innovative ventures as well as promoting entertainment and a sense of fun. In heritage terms it is important to identify these places of significance in our community as they help us identify the rich cultural heritage of a place like the Illawarra region.

The MHP are pleased that we were able to highlight a place of significance to the community and the area as a whole and hopefully highlight to mainstream heritage the importance of ethnic clubs and organisations in the culture of the city. We are also really pleased that the location of the exhibition was the Wollongong City Council foyer as it is such an accessible area allowing for many more people to see the exhibition than might have been the case if it were held elsewhere.

Thanks to Wollongong City Council and in particular Margaret Westbury for the use of the foyer. Most importantly thanks go to the contributors to the exhibition and members of the George Cross Falcons Club, celebrating their 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a club, for telling their stories and lending us their valuable objects and images. Thanks go of course to the CRC for the funding and to members of the MHP committee for their tireless work.

## CRINGILA PUBLIC SCHOOL 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

On September 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> the Cringila Primary School celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. MHP participated in the festivities by providing display panels as part of the exhibition. The display showed celebrations of five different cultural celebrations including that of the Macedonian, Greek, Vietnamese, Italian and Greek communities here in Wollongong. The panels were originally part of an exhibition held at Wollongong City Gallery. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to share the celebrations of these communities with yet another audience.

## LINGUA LOCA

*Diversity: riches from the deep*



Artist Arja Valimaki (photo courtesy of IECC)

On 20 July 2006, the Chairperson of the Migration Heritage Project, Franca Facci, had the great pleasure and privilege to officially open the Lingua Loca exhibition at Project Art Space Keira Street Wollongong. Lingua Loca was coordinated and produced by the Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council (IECC) with the aim of enabling an exploration of language and location and expressing multicultural identity in Regional Australia. Sophie P.d'Abrigeon and Aanya Roennfeldt facilitated and managed the project.

The theme for this year was *Diversity: riches from the deep* giving artists a chance to explore migration and refugee issues, the concept of Australian identity, community and government policies and the values of equity and cultural exchange. The calibre of work that comprised the exhibition was rich, beautiful and evocative. There were many images and themes of migration and displacement interpreted. The footsteps we take and leave, the items we bring and leave, our emotional baggage, carving out new identities, the struggle and juggling act of living between two cultures, the people we displace and colonise, and the wonderful creativity that comes from distilling the best of many worlds.

*"It was an honour to open the exhibition and I hope that the IECC is able to continue the work with professional and emerging artists from culturally diverse backgrounds. I also hope that the MHP might be able to collaborate on joint projects in the future."* Franca Facci, Chairperson MHP.

## MHP PROJECT UPDATES

### MHP Publication

The MHP Committee will meet again with Meredith Walker and John Petersen (Migration Heritage Centre) to discuss the way ahead. This publication has turned out to be much larger than expected which is seen as a positive sign.

### MHP Home Movies Animating Heritage Project

This project continues with the second stage of selecting, digitising and burning to DVD. This part of the project will take some time to complete.

### New MHP Project – Migration Heritage Places in Wollongong

The MHP has been successful in obtaining a grant through the NSW Heritage Office to undertake a study of Migration Heritage Places in Wollongong. Further funding for the project has been committed by the NSW Migration Heritage Centre and we are waiting for Wollongong City Council to confirm a financial commitment that was given when the application for funding was prepared. The aim of the project is to identify, document and assess migration heritage places in Wollongong. The population of Wollongong more than doubled between 1947 and 1961 due to migration yet previous heritage studies of Wollongong have not acknowledged migration as a significant historic theme in the City's development. This study aims to address this by investigating the migration history of the city which will in turn lead to a better understanding of places significant due to migration. As soon as funding is confirmed then a memorandum of understanding will be negotiated between the subject parties involved and a brief for the project will be prepared. The project will be overseen by the MHP.

### MHP Workshop: Archival Practice – The Keeping of Records

Unfortunately the proposed workshop intended to be held on 28 October has had to be cancelled. This workshop was to be run by the staff of the Powerhouse Museum. Apologies to those who were keen to attend. However we direct anyone interested in creating an archive to the National Library's document "Preserving Australia's Multicultural Documentary Heritage". This document can be found by going to the Resources section of the MHP website and clicking on the National Library link.

<http://mhpillawarra.com/resources.html>

## **MHP Meetings**

The MHP Committee meets the first Thursday of the month at 5.30pm in Meeting Room 1 Level 10, Wollongong City Council, Burelli Street Wollongong. Members and guests are most welcome to attend. Please contact the MHP to confirm attendance (mhp@learth.net). (See AGM Notice in this newsletter with regard to the November meeting details).

## **WOLLONGONG LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY**

*By Marisa O'Connor, Local Studies Librarian*

Wollongong City Library is the ultimate source of information about the Illawarra. The local history collection includes extensive material about Wollongong and the Illawarra region. Local history is not only about famous people and major events. Ordinary lives and ordinary events shape our communities, each one building on the other. There is no 'community' without the people and their stories.

The Local Studies collection is unique, not only because our community is unique, but also because it is in one place and accessible to anyone who is interested. People don't have to be members of the library to use the collection. The library's aim is to collect information that documents the people, places, events and development of the local area. Not just books, but photographs, oral histories, maps, manuscripts ... anything which tells the stories of our unique city. We collect and preserve this information to assist researchers, students, family historians and prospective business owners both now and in the future.

The collection is made up of: over 4,300 books; over 640 serial titles; over 980 manuscripts (unpublished material); over 17,000 photographs; over 500 maps; over 40,000 newspaper/journal articles and pamphlets. The collection began in the 1960s however the information within the collection dates much earlier. The history of the Illawarra began before European settlement. The early indigenous tribes of the Illawarra have been written about in many books. European settlement began when land was given to early settlers. These settlers farmed the land and an important dairy industry grew. The first coal mine was opened in 1849 and the railway line from Sydney to Wollongong was completed in 1887. In 1927 a steelworks in Port Kembla was planned. In 1935 BHP and AIS merged. The steel industry attracted

many immigrants in the postwar years who in turn have profoundly influenced Wollongong's character.

Photographs form an important part of the Local Studies collection. The collection has continued to grow with numerous donations over the years. Works by well known photographers including William Bayley, Jack Southern, Arthur Cratchley, Leo Lyons have been important additions and greatly increased the size and value of the collection. The Library's extensive photographic collection has been digitised and is available to anyone with internet access

<http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/library/weblinks/>

This photograph, donated to the Local Studies Library in 2005, is of Italian immigrants taken in 1951. The men were all members of the Fraternity Club's first working party. They were laying bricks for the first club in Bourke Street, Fairy Meadow.



The library is always keen to continue growing and developing the photographic collection and welcomes contributions from the community. Photographs from family albums, of people, places and events in the community are not only valuable to their owners. They paint a unique picture of life in a particular place, at a particular time. You can help the Illawarra's biggest collection of local photographs grow.

The Local Studies Library is located on the first floor of the Central Library, 41 Burelli Street Wollongong (in the Council Administration Building) It is open Mondays, 9.30am – 8.30 pm; Tuesdays to Friday 9.30am – 5pm and Saturdays 9.30am - 12noon. Telephone 4227 7418 and email is [lib-enquiries@wollongong.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lib-enquiries@wollongong.nsw.gov.au)

## PHD STUDY ON DISPLACED PERSONS

A reminder about Jayne Persian's PhD study at the University of Sydney focusing on the 170,000 Displaced Persons – predominantly Central and Eastern Europeans who ended up in the European DP camps after the Second World War - who arrived in Australia as IRO-sponsored refugees between 1947 and 1953. Jayne is interested in the themes of war, trauma, memory and commemoration, and is planning to conduct oral history interviews with Displaced Persons and their children as part of her research. For further information, or if you would like to be involved in this project, please email Jayne on [mhp@learth.net](mailto:mhp@learth.net) or ring her on 4285 9027 or 0404 880 141.

## KOMPAS MAGAZINE

Kompas Magazine is a quarterly magazine published by the Macedonian Welfare Association and the brainchild of Mendo Trajcevski who also happens to be a founding member and Treasurer of the Migration Heritage Project.

The magazine is bilingual with the articles appearing in both Macedonian and English and is a means of preserving the stories of the Illawarra Macedonians as well as providing information on available community services to the wider Macedonian community. This glossy magazine, which is designed by Gregor Cullen (also a founding member and Committee member of the Migration Heritage Project) contains a host of stories from members of the Macedonian community as well as great photographs that the contributors have supplied to the editor to accompany their stories.

The annual subscription is \$20.00 and if you would like to subscribe to this magazine please contact Mendo Trajcevski by email at: [mwa@mwa-inc.org](mailto:mwa@mwa-inc.org)

### MHP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Migration Heritage Project Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 2 November 2006, Level 9, Wollongong City Council Administration Building, Burelli Street Wollongong commencing at 5.30pm.

## HELP US SAVE TREES

We'd like to reduce the amount of paper we use. Why not help us by receiving this newsletter by email. If you are not yet receiving your newsletter by email, please complete the form below and send to the Migration Heritage Project or email the Migration Heritage Project at [mhp@learth.net](mailto:mhp@learth.net) with the subject heading Newsletter.

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The Migration Heritage Project Committee thanks you for your assistance in this matter.



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

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

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

The Secretary  
Migration Heritage Project Inc.  
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Email: [mhp@learth.net](mailto:mhp@learth.net)  
We would love you to join but you don't have to be a member to participate.

