

Immigration Museum - Exhibitions and Programs

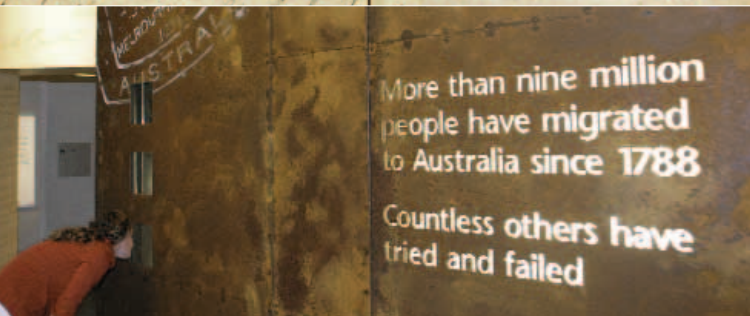
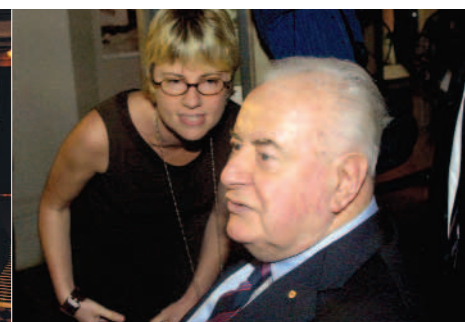
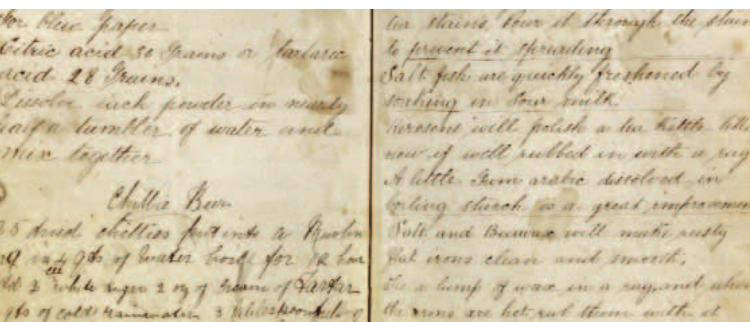
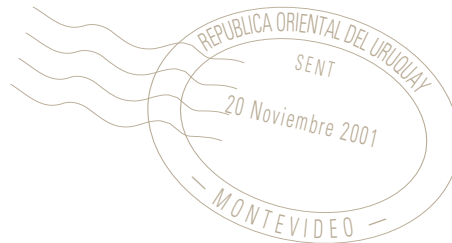
CAMPUS OVERVIEW AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

For over 200 years, people from all over the world have been settling in Australia. Many have been forced from their homeland as a result of conflict, whilst others have been drawn to Australia with the hope of a better life. Whatever the reason, each person has a story to tell.

The Immigration Museum aims to improve visitors' understanding of Australia's immigration history and provide insight into the migrant experience. Through exhibitions, a range of interactive programs, community festivals, workshops and presentations, visitors appreciate the experience of immigration, from the earliest days of European settlement, to post-World War II mass immigration and contemporary refugee arrivals. Through the various mediums, visitors undertake their own journey through the many immigration experiences: leaving, journey, arrival, 'getting in' and resettlement.

Located at Old Customs House, the Immigration Museum offers visitors a unique personal experience that is emotional, engaging, educational and entertaining, made even more so by the significance of the chosen site.

The Immigration Museum has received wide critical acclaim and earned a number of awards for the range of services and facilities it provides. During its fourth full year of operation, the Museum continued to build on the positive reputation established with stakeholders and audiences and position itself as a living cultural centre – a place for community, cultural, educational and social discourse. Over the past year, annual visitation targets were exceeded by 57% and the Museum strengthened its position as one of the State's key cultural attractions.



HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- 126,000 visitors (including ticketed and non-ticketed) experienced the Museum's exhibitions, activities and cultural events.
- *Getting In*, a new permanent exhibition about immigration policies and processes, was launched.
- A student program focussing on Australian society, immigration issues and cultural diversity positioned the Immigration Museum as a key education facility in Victoria. Over 31,000 students participated in this highly successful program.
- New signage was completed both in and outside the Museum, as well as the installation of directional tourist signage in the CBD.
- Tribute Garden Stage Four was launched in October 2002, with over 1,100 registrants and their families participating in celebrations.
- A VicHealth Major Arts Partnership Grant was confirmed for a further two-year period from 2003 to 2004, enabling the Museum to deliver Access Gallery exhibitions and community cultural festivals.
- The Immigration Museum continued to build strategic alliances with the Victorian Multicultural Commission, SBS, the Australian Multicultural Foundation, DIMIA and Victorian ethnic communities.
- Three new temporary exhibitions were presented: *We Are Australian*, *Holes: Surrounded by Thread* and *Special*.
- Venue hire and cafe operations were consolidated, with venue hire exceeding the net revenue budget by 35%.
- As part of the Immigration Discovery Centre, the Myer Foundation sponsored an active program of family history workshops, ship reunions and literary discussions.
- A citizenship ceremony was held in the Tribute Garden at the Immigration Museum to launch National Harmony Day.

LONG-TERM EXHIBITIONS

Four permanent galleries house historical objects and stories that are enhanced by multimedia technology and interactive facilities. The resulting displays offer an entertaining and emotional experience that brings the many dimensions of the immigration journey to life.

Leavings and Settlements Galleries

These galleries look at the reasons people leave their home countries, what they take with them, how they settle and what obstacles they have to overcome to start a new life in Victoria. Using sound, objects, still and moving images, these galleries also explore significant historical milestones that are part of Australian immigration history.

Journeys Gallery

All immigrants are linked by the common experience of a journey, regardless of their time of arrival. Located in the Long Room of Old Customs House, the Journeys Gallery features a 17-metre replica ship, which recreates the long sea journey many migrants endured on their way to Australia. The Journeys Gallery also examines the changes in shipping accommodation – from the cramped steerage-class, square-rigger of the 1840s to the luxurious second-class saloon of a 1900s steamer and the cabin of a 1950s ocean liner.

Getting In

Getting In is the Immigration Museum's latest permanent exhibition. As a study of Australia's immigration policies and processes since the 1800s, it looks at the reasons people are granted or refused entry. This confronting exhibition utilises images, historical objects, computer interactive displays and personal stories to explain the impact of policies and the resulting cultural diversity in Victoria.

Access Gallery

The Access Gallery is an important component of the Museum, presenting temporary exhibitions generated by Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse community.

Immigration Discovery Centre

This centre provides resources for the study of Australia's immigration history and the social and cultural development of Australian society. It is often a key resource for those undertaking research on their own family's history.

Tribute Garden

Located in the Festivals Courtyard, the Tribute Garden records for posterity the names of over 7000 families who have made the journey to Australia.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Special

1 August 2002 – 30 June 2003

This photographic exhibition displayed the work of 44 refugee and immigrant children from the Western English Language School, in conjunction with acclaimed Australian photographer and artist, Nicola Loder.

We are Australian

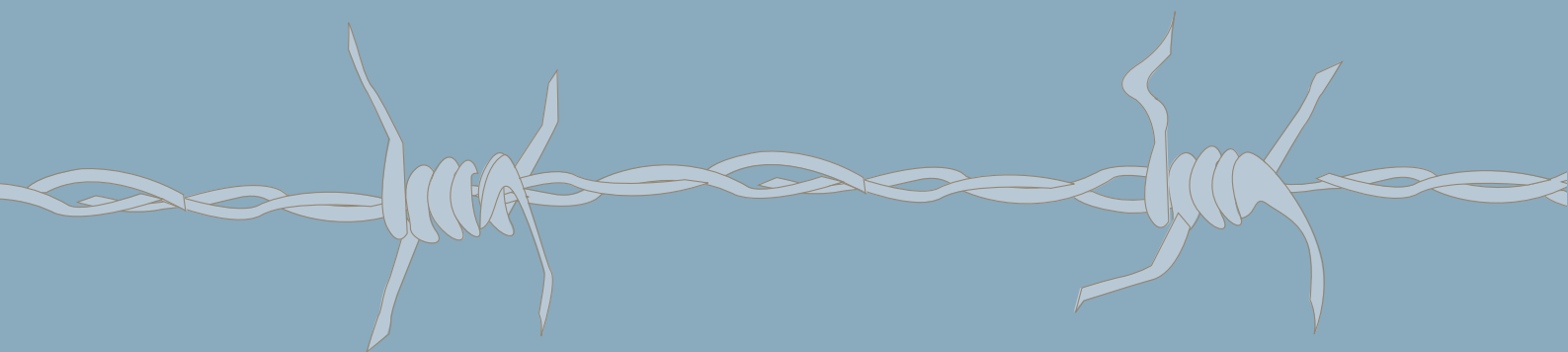
2 September 2002 – 28 April 2003

This travelling exhibition is a tribute to contemporary Australia's cultural diversity and includes the work of 300 Australian artists. This vibrant exhibition brings together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders artists with artists from over 140 different ethnic backgrounds.

The Story of A Hoa: Indo-China Ethnic Chinese in Victoria

22 August 2002 – 10 November 2003

As part of the Access Gallery program, this exhibition looked at the immigration experience of A Hoa, a young Vietnamese man of ethnic Chinese descent who was granted asylum in Australia in the late 1970s.



A Community of Communities: Victoria's Spanish Speaking Community

**21 November 2002 –
9 February 2003**

This exhibition highlighted the lives of individuals from the Spanish-speaking community of Victoria, which accounts for people from 23 different countries including South America, Central America and Spain.

Trammies

20 February – 11 May 2003

This exhibition looked at the characters and culture of Melbourne's most endearing form of transport, the tram. Using objects, costumes, images and stories, Trammies explored Melbourne's colourful tramway history, with a particular focus on the contributions made by generations of migrants who found work and friendship in the 'Trammie family'.

Holes. Surrounded by Thread

12 March – 14 September 2003

This exhibition explored the rich history and cultural significance of lace and knitwear design. It brings together three collections of work comparing traditional methods and designs with the work of new artists, as well as featuring Lace – *Contemporary Perspectives* – works by Victorian knitwear and fashion designer Lorinda Grant and the Embroiders Guild Victoria.

Journey through Diversity – The Story of Armenian Immigration

21 May – 10 August 2003

This exhibition conveyed the immigration experience of Armenians in Melbourne. For many Armenians, arriving in Australia was their second experience of resettling in a new country. Having been forced to flee host countries as a result of persecution and economic and political instability, many Armenians were further estranged from their traditional culture. As a result, the Armenian community is influenced by other cultural groups as well as their own heritage.

VISITOR PROGRAMS

Throughout the year, the Immigration Museum continued to attract new audiences with its vibrant program of activities that reflect the issues and interests of our culturally diverse community. A number of strategies were implemented to target Australia's culturally diverse communities and broaden the Museum's reach and appeal.

The program of cultural festivals and Access Gallery exhibitions continued to strengthen and develop ties with specific cultural communities in Victoria. The programs on offer aim to provide opportunities for community and cultural groups to showcase their stories to the broader community by participating in exhibitions at the Immigration Museum. Additionally, the programs encourage members of the public who would not normally visit Museums to actively participate in Museum activities.

Market research and evaluation was conducted at all cultural festivals to enable management to better understand visitor profiles and measure the success of the events and levels of visitor satisfaction.

Highlights included:

- Access Gallery exhibitions were developed in partnership with a range of community groups including: the Indo-China Ethnic Chinese Association of Victoria, the Spanish Latin American Welfare Centre, the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, and the Armenian General Benevolent Union (Melbourne Chapter).
- 33,413 people visited the Immigration Discovery Centre (IDC).
- Three cultural festivals were presented throughout the year – Indian, Afghan and Chilean. A total of 2189 (ticketed) visitors joined the activities.
- The *Bookmarks and Monologues* series of literary discussions were launched in February 2003, consisting of three presentations from key authors on immigration related topics.
- Programs delivered throughout the year as part of the IDC program included two successful *Ship Reunions*, an Afghan Family History workshop and a Great Britain 150th Anniversary celebration.
- Four successful school holiday programs were held with a range of hands-on workshops including making toys and costumes from far-away places and dance programs.

