

NEWS

Australia Day 2012 Awards – Congratulations MHP

MHP was this year the proud recipient of Wollongong City Council's 2012 Community Award. Presented each year on Australia day WCC the awards recognise outstanding citizens and organisations in the Wollongong community who have given their time and expertise for the benefit of others. The award is a very welcome acknowledgement of the hard work and knowhow of our members.

Collections of Hopes and Dreams Exhibition enjoyed by Illawarra Families

This highly successful exhibition curated by Eva Castle for MHP about the significance of personal objects and images for families and communities provided an intimate insight into our migrant past. Exploring the lives of European born residents of Wollongong it provided connections and insights into personal lives and journeys that are normally unavailable outside the family. The exhibition **Collections of Hopes and Dreams** at Wollongong City Gallery was attended by relatives and friends as well as members of the European communities and ran from November 2011 through to March.

The Story Circle, a poetry afternoon based upon the exhibition, gave an added layer of depth and poignancy to the exhibition. Responding to the objects in the exhibition writers from the Transnational Story Hub at Wollongong University together with the South Coast Writers Centre performed poems interpreting the Collection's exhibits. Of particular note was a poem Blessings from Abroad performed by Barbara Nicholson, an Indigenous Elder and Honorary Fellow at the Faculty of Law, University of Wollongong who also gave the Welcome to Country,



Image: Dolls in Ukrainian costume

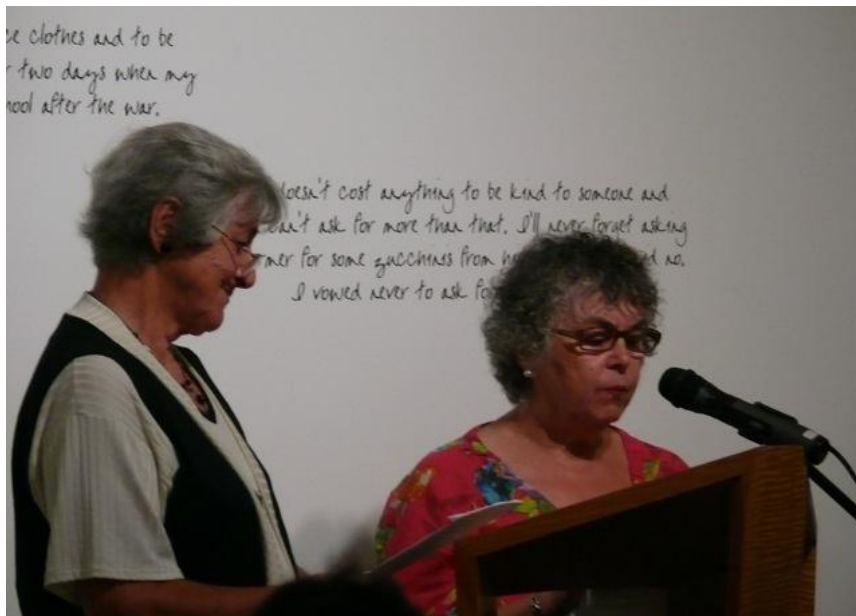


Image: The Story Circle: Poetry responses to the story objects in the 'Collections of "Hopes and Dreams"'. Presenters of a bilingual poem 'Home-Hogar', Maricarmen Po'o and Cleo Pacheco.

Future Hopes and Dreams Book

So successful was the Collections of Hopes and Dreams exhibition that the Migration Heritage Centre of NSW and Friends of Wollongong Library have committed funding to produce two books based upon the Hopes and Dreams objects: many thanks to Jan Keith and John Peterson for their support. The first, a companion book to the exhibition, will provide a brief record of some of the collected objects. The second limited edition book will be a comprehensive record of the full exhibition with historical information and will be available for viewing in Wollongong City Library. To be written by Eva Castle and designed by Fiona Hudson with supervision by Gregor Cullen of the Creative Arts Faculty of Wollongong University, the book is eagerly anticipated.

Strategic Planning Workshop with the NSW Migration Heritage Centre CEO

Committee members recently contributed a Saturday of their time to plan the future of MHP. Expert guidance was kindly provided by the NSW Migration Heritage Centre CEO John Peterson. The group analysed the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation with a view to understanding what the opportunities and threats are that might face MHP in the future. At the end of the workshop participants were pleased to see that the organisation has a great many strengths which will continue to lead to many opportunities in the future.

MHP MEETINGS

The MHP Committee meets the first Thursday of the month (February-December) at 5.30 pm, Library Meeting Room Ground Floor 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

Fidelia Pontarolo

(Temporary)

This could be you!

Committee:

Gregor Cullen

Giulia Bonacina

Ludwik Ihnat

Eva Castle

Louise Thom

Zofia Laba

Marzia Zochil

Peter Bestman

Migration Heritage Project

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South Coast Mail Centre

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Don't forget to visit our Website

www.mhpillawarra.com

COMING EVENTS

Practical Photograph Workshop – Stories to Tell

Thursday 2 August 2012 1.30 for 2pm, Function Room Level 9, Wollongong City Council Building

Eva Castle will present a 2-hour hands-on workshop on family photograph and memorabilia collections. Presented by the Friends of Wollongong City Library during Family History Week, it is for anyone who would like ideas and practical tips about making a start on documenting and sorting their collection.

There will be an introductory session about methods and tools followed by a practical session on working with photographs, objects or albums. The workshop is based on heritage consultant, Meredith Walker's manual on recording information about migrant families.

Contact the **Friends of Wollongong City Library** after 19th July for details: Helen Woodward: phone: 4225 9223; mobile: 0414 415 624; email: hwoodward12@bigpond.com or visit the Wollongong City Library: <http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/library/activities>

John Radecki: Stained Glass Artist The Wollongong Works – A tour of 3 churches

Saturday 18th August 2012 1.30 pm, The Chapel, St Mary's Star of the Sea College, 15 Harbour Street, Wollongong

John Radecki (1865-1955) Polish born but lived with his family in the Illawarra as a young man, was an accomplished sketch artist and became Australia's first trained stained-glass artist who for nearly 70 years designed and produced some of the finest stained glass windows for public and church buildings mainly in Sydney and country NSW, including Illawarra.

The National Trust in co-operation with the MHP will present a travelling tour of the three central Wollongong churches which contain some of John Radecki's most personal works. The tour will start at St Mary Star of the Sea College Chapel, continue on to City Central Church (St Andrew's Presbyterian) and conclude at St Michael's Anglican Cathedral, where afternoon tea will be served. Zofia Laba, who is a local historian and member of MHP, will provide commentary throughout the tour on Radecki's life and works.

For Information and Bookings contact Gillian at the National Trust on

Ph. 4227 4614 Price: \$20 NT members / \$25 for non-members

Annual General Meeting

1st November 2012

Speaker and venue to be confirmed.



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
Migration Heritage Project Inc.
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www.mhpillawarra.com

We would love you to join, but you don't have to be a member to participate.