



Chairman's Annual Report 2006

Our Purpose

To define, record, protect and promote migration heritage in the Illawarra.

Our Objectives

1. Develop relationships and links with relevant organizations and the community.
2. Employ a cultural worker/curator to facilitate MHP objectives.
3. Adopt a broad community strategy that communicates processes and products and encourages involvement in projects.

This year has witnessed significant progress for the Migration Heritage Project Inc (MHP) and it is with great pleasure that I present to the membership and the community the annual report for 2006.

Launch of the MHP website

The launch of the MHP website by the Minister for the Illawarra, the Hon David Campbell MP, would have to have been the highlight for the year. It was with great pleasure and satisfaction that the work of so many months culminated in a successful launch and impressive website that is our main vehicle of communication to the world about the work we do in the Illawarra. The website was launched on 6 of April at the Old Court House at Belmore Basin. The room was filled and it was exciting to be able to promote the site to so many people. Many thanks must go to Fidelia Pontarolo who did an enormous amount of work with Wes Wickham to get the site up and running without too many glitches. The site was designed by Gregor Cullen from the UOW School of Art and Design. Fidelia also has taken responsibility for maintaining and regularly up-dating the site. For those who haven't visited the site here is the address: www.mhpillawarra.com let us know what you think!

Facilitation of heritage projects with ethnic communities

The MHP was fortunate to be able to employ Louise Thom, a very experienced heritage worker, as a project officer to investigate opportunities to engage communities and individuals in migration heritage and the activities of the MHP. Louise was employed with funds from the IMB Community Foundation.

Louise made contact with, and promoted the MHP, to numerous individuals and organisations involved in heritage in the Area. She also organised a workshop between the NSW National Trust and the MHP which was facilitated by Stuart Waters from Twyford Consulting free of charge. This resulted in the sharing of information and exploring ways of working collaboratively in the future.

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2007 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. The meetings scheduled for 2007 are as follows:

- 1 February
- 1 March
- 5 April
- 3 May
- 7 June
- 5 July
- 2 August
- 6 September
- 4 October
- 1 November (AGM)
- 6 December

2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The MHP Annual General Meeting was held on 2 November 2006 and the following office bearers and committee were elected:

Chairman
Franca Facci
Treasurer
Mendo Trajcevski
Secretary
Fidelia Pontarolo
Committee:
Gregor Cullen
Rina Montgomery
Olga Romano
Giulia Bonacina
Ludwik Ihnat
Peter Bestman

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As a result of her work, the MHP participated in the Cringila Public School 50th anniversary display and Louise spoke about the MHP at the AGM of the Illawarra Historical Society. She also organised an archives workshop in collaboration with the Powerhouse Museum. The aim of the workshop is to promote best practice in keeping archives which would be of interest to organisations and clubs, however, the date and time of the workshop is still to be confirmed (if you are interested please email us). Louise was also employed to investigate additional funding for the MHP. Her work in this area resulted in a successful application to the NSW Heritage Office for funding to complete a study of migration heritage places in Wollongong. The MHP was granted \$7,500 for the project while another \$7,500 was granted to the NSW Migration Heritage Centre and the \$15,000 was matched by Wollongong City Council bringing the project total to \$30,000. We look forward to scoping this project with NSW Heritage, the MHC and WCC. Louise has now completed her work with the MHP but is keen to continue being involved in the Places project.

Migration to Wollongong Publication

It has been with great pleasure that the MHP has been able to work closely with the renowned historian Meredith Walker and the NSW Migration Heritage Centre on the Migration to Wollongong publication. We had hoped to have this project already completed but it has become such a large project that we had to revise the publication date to early 2007. This publication will not only document the impact that migrants and refugees have made in the Illawarra, but it will also act as a thematic guide for people wanting to explore and research the heritage of migrants in the Illawarra and Australia. We look forward to its completion and launch. (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)

Exhibition with the Maltese Community

On 2 September the MHP launched the George Cross Falcons Club Exhibition with the great support once again of the Hon. David Campbell MP along with Cr Anne Wood from WCC. Noreen Hay MP and Sharon Bird MP were also in attendance at the launch held in the foyer of the WCC administration building. The project was made possible with funding from The Community

Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW and was researched by Lorraine Vargas, curated by Linda Raymond and designed by Gregor Cullen. The foyer of WCC proved to be a great venue to showcase the importance of community clubs in fostering and supporting the social infrastructure of a community. The George Cross Falcons Club was founded 55 years ago as a space for the Maltese community to socialise, to celebrate and to support each other. The Club is a real landmark in Cringila and it was a pleasure to be able to work with such an enthusiastic community on a significant place of migration heritage in the Illawarra.

Animating Heritage Project

As we reported last year, the MHP was successful in attracting another round of funds from the IMB Community Foundation for a project to digitise old film and videos held by migrants in the area. This project is being conducted in partnership with Film Illawarra and the UOW School of Art and Design. Throughout the year we worked to promote the project within the ethnic community in order to uncover old films and videos held in personal collections. A range of interest was expressed and the next phase of the project involves viewing the material and determining which films will be digitised and composed into an interpretative, multimedia piece of work. Many thanks also to Beth Herbert who has stayed on as a volunteer on this project after her project officer role finished.

Presentation at the MGF NSW & WCC Planning for Sustainability Conference

Wollongong City Council and the Museums and Galleries Foundation NSW organised a conference on 7 October which focused on strategies for the sustainability of heritage projects. The MHP was delighted to have been asked to present a case study on "Strategically recruiting volunteers for specific projects". The conference presented the MHP with a unique opportunity to illustrate the work we do and approaches we take in promoting migration heritage.

Lingua Loca – Diversity: riches from the deep

The MHP was invited and honoured to open the Lingua Loca exhibition at Project Art Space on 20 July. The project was initiated and managed by the Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council and the participating artists exhibited works interpreting themes of migration and displacement. The project was a demonstration of the richness and diversity of artistic practice in the Illawarra.

(Chairman's Annual Report Continued)

Other Work

Throughout the year the MHP has also had valuable discussions with, and input from, a wide variety of people engaged in the heritage and migration sectors. The discussions and approaches have all helped to add value to the direction of the MHP and to keep the organisation up to date with progress and innovations in this area.

Sincere and heartfelt thanks

As chairperson I am extraordinarily privileged to work with an impressive group of people who constitute the MHP. Every year as I prepare the annual report I am amazed at the progress that such a small group of people, all volunteers with a few spare hours a week, can achieve.

It is a delight to work in the company of the members who make up the MHP and I thank every individual from the bottom of my heart for their dedication and commitment. I would also like to highlight the value-added time of the expert project officers who have worked with the MHP.

In particular I would like to thank Meredith Walker, Linda Raymond and Louise Thom. Special mention goes to Gregor Cullen from the School of Art & Design at the UOW for his creativity and generosity in ensuring the MHP is visually impressive. Thanks also to Macedonian Welfare for assisting us with our bookkeeping and to Fidelia Pontarolo for keeping our correspondence and records so impeccably ordered.

The generosity of Wollongong City Council in allowing us to use rooms for our meetings and work does not go unnoticed. It is with many thanks that we acknowledge the valuable contribution that WCC makes to the MHP.

John Petersen and Andrea Fernandez of the Migration Heritage Centre for NSW continue to encourage and support us offering professional assistance and advice with warmth and openness.

Many thanks of course to the IMB Community Foundation, the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW, and Heritage NSW for the funding they have provided for our projects.

Franca Facci

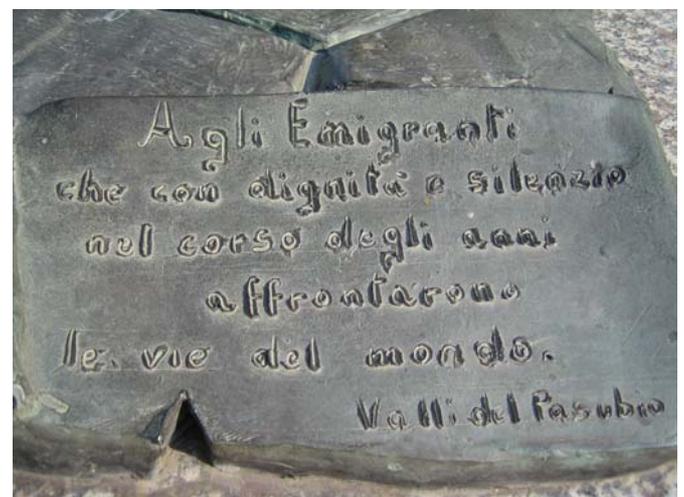
Chairperson

2 November 2006

MONUMENT TO EMIGRANTS



Whilst we work diligently to preserve and document the history of migrants in the Illawarra it is also a part of history acknowledged overseas. Recently our Chairman, Franca Facci, was in Italy where she took this photograph of a statue built in honour of their countrymen who journeyed to other lands for whatever reason. This monument is in Valli del Pasubio in Northern Italy and the inscription below translates:



“In memory of our Emigrants: who, over the course of many years, with silence and dignity, took to the roads of the world.”

If you have photographs of any similar types of monuments and like to share them our readers please contact the MHP.

To all our readers thank you for your continued interest throughout 2006. We hope you continue to read our newsletter to keep abreast of what we are up to and what we hope to achieve. If you are interested in helping with any of our projects please contact the MHP.

May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a Merry Christmas to all those who are celebrating Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all.



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.
PO Box 1589
South Coast Mail Centre NSW 2521
Email: mhp@learth.net
We would love you to join but you don't have to be a member to participate.

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 with the subject heading Newsletter.

To: MHP Newsletter
Migration Heritage Project
PO Box 1589
South Coast Mail Centre NSW 2521

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

(please tick box)

Please remove me/my organisation from the MHP Newsletter mailing list.

Please send the MHP Newsletter by email to

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

