



ILLAWARRA MIGRANT HISTORY
RESEARCH PROJECT

TIMELINE

The Illawarra Migrant History Project is a research undertaking of the Migration Heritage Project to provide a comprehensive picture of the settlement of post-World War 2 migrants to the Illawarra. The MHP will collate and host this information in a central location to assist further research and understanding of migration patterns to the area.

The research is being undertaken by Fidelia Pontarolo, Secretary and Founding Member of the Migration Heritage Project with assistance and editing provided by Franca Facci, Chairperson and Founding Member of the Migration Heritage Project and Darinka Radinovic and assistance with early historical research by Zofia Laba, both members of the Migration Heritage Project Committee.

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Migration Heritage Project Inc.

PO Box 1589 South Coast Mail Centre NSW 2521 Australia

E: admin@mhpillawarra.com.au

W: www.mhpillawarra.com.au

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The First Nations - Always Was, Always Will Be

The First Nations People were living in Australia long before European settlement. It is likely that the population of First Nations People prior to European settlement was anywhere between 300,000 and 1.5 million. This number declined rapidly after European settlement because of conflict as well as diseases introduced by the settlers.

1788 - 1793

The first migrants in Australia came with the First Fleet in 1788. A British outpost of military personnel and convicts, in amongst were just a smattering of other nationalities. On 16 January 1793 the first group of 11 free settlers arrived in Sydney on the "Bellona".

1820 – 1899

From the 1820s the British authorities encouraged the migration of free settlers to Australia. Free settlers with sufficient resources to develop the land and employ convict labour were given land grants. The first five land grants in the Illawarra were in the region known as "at the Five Islands" and were marked out by the Surveyor on 7 December 1816. Two of those grants would include land that was purchased or acquired to establish migrant workers hostels in Cringila, Unanderra, Warrawong, Port Kembla and Berkeley. Land grants in NSW ceased in 1831.

The first assisted migrants arrived in Australia in 1832. Free settlers continued arriving in Australia under various migration schemes many of which were assisted by government funding. Most free settlers were British. There were small groups of Germans, Italians and Swiss admitted into Australia under a contract scheme, administered by the States. In 1835 a bounty system was introduced which allowed private employers to select migrants and receive a government bounty for each approved person.

In 1847 the first indentured labourers from the Pacific Islands were brought to work on private farms, not all were willing and were subject to a form of slave labour. The Chinese were also brought in as indentured labour, initially to supplement the declining numbers of convict labour and their numbers grew during the Gold Rush. Other small groups of non-Europeans who migrated to Australia included Malays and Japanese who worked in the pearl industry, Maoris who were engaged in the timber and flax and whaling trades, as well as the Afghan cameleers who were integral to the transportation of supplies, equipment and tools for the construction of the Overland Telegraph and Trans-Australian Railway.

Between the 1850s and 1860s the Gold Rush brought many immigrants to Australia seeking their fortunes.

By the 1880s Australia was experiencing a thriving economy that saw an increase in immigration. Small numbers of Germans, Italians and Swiss were admitted to Australia under a contract scheme that had failed to attract much interest from the British and they increased the number who had arrived earlier. Some of those countries encouraged their citizens to migrate because of their own economic crisis. The Illawarra region would be the place some of those non-British migrants would settle during this time. In the 1856 NSW Census there were 146 non-British migrants living in Illawarra which increased to 299 in the 1891 NSW Census. The largest numbers were from Germany. These migrants, of diverse cultural backgrounds contributed to the settling, development and progress of the Illawarra alongside the British settlers.

In the 1890s drought and a weakened economy resulted in unemployment, poverty and industrial strikes which brought immigration to Australia to a standstill.

1900 – 1914

The early assisted migration schemes did not account for all immigration to Australia but provided a mechanism to keep Australia and the Australian race as British as possible. Australian colonies ran their own migration schemes until Federation in 1901. The Commonwealth Government had overall responsibility for migration schemes after World War 1. The Australian population's dislike of all things non-British or non-European brought about the Immigration Restriction Act and the dictation test following Federation in 1901. The dictation test was mainly to keep out the Chinese. This set the framework for immigration and naturalisation policies for many years and saw Australia remain predominately settled by the British. It was the beginning of the 'White Australia' policy. Between 1905 and 1914 free or part paid passages were granted and free land was offered.

1914-1918

1914-1918 saw World War 1 impact on immigration which virtually ceased during this time. During the war the Germany community in Australia was not treated well with many placed in internment camps and after the war many deported despite having been in Australia for generations. Yet Australians continued to enjoy the fruits of immigrant labour such as the Beers brewed by brothers Edmund and Emil Resch (Resch's Beer). Edmund and Emil Resch were both born in Germany. Edmund arrived in Australia in 1863 and Emil in 1882. After some indiscretion Edmund found himself interned during World War I.

In 1915 Newcastle Steelworks was opened.

In 1916 Peter Nissen developed Britain's first Nissen Hut.

1921 - 1925

In 1921 Charles Hoskins purchased 153ha of land at Port Kembla and gained permission from NSW Parliament to build a new steelmaking plant.

In 1921 responsibility for immigration was transferred to the Commonwealth Government under the Joint Commonwealth and States Schemes.

In 1921 Mrs Agata Pappalardo arrived in Australia from Italy first settling at Innisfail in Queensland. She was born in Fiume Fredo, Sicily and it was arranged for her to be married at aged 16. Eventually she and her husband settled in Wollongong where she owned and lived in a one storey building in Market Street and used to cook for the police station.

Between 1921 and 1930, after World War 1, Australia started an active mass immigration programme under the Empire Settlement Act of 1922 and received over 340,000 immigrants of which two-thirds came under the assisted migration scheme co-funded with the British Government. English and Scots were encouraged to emigrate to Australia. In the 1920s the fare from Britain to Australia was about £33, of which £11 was funded for suitably nominated immigrants, teenagers paid half price and children under 12 travelled for free. Assisted passages were not available for ex-enemies of Australia or to Russians and Maltese, nor was it available to New Zealanders. Italians were able to migrate to Australia under the wartime Anglo-Italian agreement. Increased numbers of Greek, Italian and Yugoslav migrants also occurred after World War 1, joining a small number who had arrived pre-

federation, especially during the gold rush. Farmers, domestic workers and juveniles were needed in Australia. Migrants from Greece increased following the mass expulsion from Asia Minor in 1922-23 and immigration quotas imposed by the United States. Italians immigrated because of the economic hardships in Italy after World War 1 and immigration quotas imposed by the United States. Yugoslavs, 80% Croats, arrived in Australia between the two World Wars. They were mainly peasant farmers and worked as unskilled labourers. People from Malta were not allowed to migrate to Australia until 1920. In the 1920s Australia introduced immigration quotas just like other countries. In 1925 a quota was extended to Greeks, Albanians, Yugoslavs, Estonians, Poles, Bulgarians and Czechs. Nationals from Germany, Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria were prohibited from migrating to Australia until 1926 and Turkish nationals not until 1930. This was mainly to keep Australia 98% British, although British migrant numbers had been on the decline. In 1924 alien migrants had to carry a guarantee of £40 from their Australian sponsors and in 1928 even stricter quotas were placed on visa entries and landing money increased from £50 to £200. British migrants only needed £3. The landing requirement was raised to £500 to place more firmer controls to keep alien migrant numbers down during the depression. The Immigration Act was amended in 1925 which allowed the power to restrict entry to alien migrants of any race on the grounds of economic or assimilation reasons and not solely based on the dictation tests.

While only a small number of non-British migrants were living in Australia compared to the number of British, these minority groups of non-British migrants helped pave the way in shifting the Australian population's attitude and acceptance of a greater diversity of migrants following World War 2. It was a long and arduous journey to acceptance.

In 1925 NSW Parliament passes bills to allow Hoskins to build a new steelmaking plant at Port Kembla.

1928-1935

Hoskins shut down his Lithgow works and moved his steelworks to Hoskins Iron & Steel at Port Kembla and many former steelwork employees from Lithgow came to Port Kembla steelworks for work. In 1928 Hoskins Iron & Steel merged with Howard Smith and two British companies to form Australian Iron & Steel (AI&S). The collapse of the Australian economy followed the Wall Street Crash of 1929 and brought on the Great Depression. The Great Depression caused severe hardship and unemployment world-wide. The idea of jobs going to migrants when Australians were unable to find work or house their families brought about a community dislike for immigration. Immigration to Australia stopped. The Great Depression had an even greater impact in Wollongong as it began its transition into an industrial centre. The Depression prevented Hoskins' new Port Kembla works to proceed as he had planned and this caused reduced employment opportunities. An influx of people, including employees who had followed Hoskins from Lithgow, moved to Port Kembla and looked for work. The already high number of unemployed people in Wollongong, plus people from outside the area looking for work, created a need for emergency housing. In 1937 there were 227 camps spread over an area of seven acres in Port Kembla area alone. In the single men's section 324 were housed in 161 camps, and in other places there were 84 men, 72 women, 49 boys and 37 girls living in 66 camps. The area around the future Steelhaven Hostel site was known for its shanty towns and humpies that were erected by unemployed people, using any material they could find such as kerosene tins. A shanty town sprung up in Flinders Street near the steelwork's coke ovens. At one time a total 566 men, women and children lived there. Hoskins was shocked at the conditions he saw first-hand in Flinders Street and arranged to have the empty offices and sheds from the old Lithgow works relocated for use as housing for any of his employees living in Flinders Street. In 1931 AI&S subdivided land at its Port Kembla works for the Steelhaven Emergency Settlement and built up to 27 houses. It was there AI&S erected houses with 3 or 4 rooms on blocks measuring 250 feet x 50 feet, ploughed and fenced. It was primarily for AI&S unemployed workers but anyone could apply for

housing. The site of Steelhaven Emergency Settlement is still known as Steelhaven today and stood where the AI&S garage was once located. Nearby 'Spoonerville' was built by the NSW Government in response to emergency housing requirements during the depression and replaced many of the shanty towns such as those that existed in Flinders Street near the coke ovens. Emergency temporary housing was also provided at the former Army huts on Hill 60 and at the Official Camp at Coomaditchy Lagoon.

After Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany in 1933, thousands of Jews seek protection in Britain, the USA, Canada and Australia.

By 1933 the largest group of migrants living in the Illawarra from non-British backgrounds recorded in the census for that year were from Italy, a total of 254. The residents of German backgrounds in Illawarra now numbered amongst the smaller groups totalling only 27 in 1933 compared to 299 in 1891. Censuses from 1901 to 1933 suggest that there were migrants from more countries and nationalities making their way to live in the Illawarra region. The 1933 census recorded 626 migrants from non-British backgrounds living in the Illawarra.

In 1935 AI&S became a wholly owned subsidiary of BHP.

1937 - 1939

In 1937 the Empire Settlement Act was ratified for 15 years but Britain was against a strong new programme. The failure of the British migrants of the 1920s had discredited Australia as a place to emigrate. It was suggested that migrants from Northern Europe be used which did not fall into Australia's concept of what type of migrant was wanted. However there was a reduction in the landing fee to £50 for non-British migrants to facilitate these other types of migrants.

Migration to Australia which had ceased since the Great Depression of 1929-1933 resumed in 1938. In that same year the Australian and British Governments signed an Assisted Passage Act for the next phase of immigrants with more stringent entry conditions. The number of British migrants were small. In 1939 Australia signed agreements with the Dutch and Swiss governments. Australia began to move away from Britain during the years between the wars as Britain no longer possessed a surplus population waiting to be enticed to move.

Australia was a signatory at the Evian Conference of 1938 which addressed the problem of German and Austrian Jewish refugees wishing to flee persecution by Nazi Germany. Initially reluctant and not wishing to import a racial problem, in 1938 Australia agreed to resettle 15,000 Jewish refugees. Jewish people had been in Australia since the First Fleet which arrived with at least eight Jews onboard. Jews who came to Australia as free settlers were mostly British. There were also a small number of Jews from Russia and Poland who arrived in Australia in the late 1890s and around 2,000 who fled pogroms in Eastern Europe in the 1920s. More than 5,000 arrived in 1939 before the situation in Europe made it no longer possible to bring them to Australia. The Australian Government's inability to deliver on the agreed programme to resettle Jews and the terrible consequences for the Jewish people were left behind was the impetus for establishing a department for immigration to better manage future immigration programmes and processes. Following World War 2, the Jewish survivors wanting to escape Europe and come to Australia were able to do so but were subject to various restriction and quotas. By 1954, over 17,000 Jewish people had arrived from Europe and Shanghai.

1939 – 1944

The provision for the registration of aliens was first introduced into Commonwealth law as a war-time measure by the War Precautions Aliens Regulations of 1916. The Aliens Registration Act was assented

to on 21 June 1939. It was to provide an effective and continuous registration of aliens resident in the Commonwealth to collate data on the whereabouts and movements of individuals as well as determining the degree of concentration of various classes of aliens in a particular locality as well as other information. It was repealed in 1984.

About 1939 Dr F. Stiebel and Mrs Stiebel came to Australia. Dr Stiebel from Eisenach, Germany and Mrs Stiebel from Bologna, Italy. Dr Stiebel graduated as a Doctor of Philosophy in Berlin where he majored in chemistry and was a senior research officer at the Steelworks in Port Kembla. For years Mrs Stiebel had conducted beginner and advanced classes in Italian at the WEA in Wollongong.

During World War 2 (1939 to 1945) major immigration to Australia stopped although existing programmes were kept intact for the post-war future. Migration agreements, such as those entered into with the Dutch and Swiss Governments before the war, had to cease operation. Although there was an exception with Australia providing safe haven for a small number of people seeking refuge from persecution like the Jews.

In 1941 the US Navy established a Temporary Advance Facilities compound at Quonset Point, West Davisville, Rhode Island and engaged the services of George A. Fuller Company to design a simple, repeatable and inexpensive structure that could be deployed as housing across naval bases during World War 2. These structures were called Quonset Huts.

The near invasion of Australia by the Japanese during World War 2 exposed Australia's isolation that made it vulnerable. Australia also needed to rebuild the economy after the war but there was a shortage of labour and building materials. During the depression the birth rate in Australia dropped and the war continued to keep it down. Prime Minister Curtin believed a population of 30 million was essential for Australia's security and committed Australia to an immigration programme once the war, particularly the war in the Pacific ended. The extent of the intended programme was largely controlled by Australia's economy and availability of housing. Australia needed to rehabilitate its own returning service men and women, who also needed employment and housing. Migration had to be managed so it would not be to the detriment of Australians. Australia's attachment to Britain was still strong and in 1941 Prime Minister John Curtin explained Australia's position regarding immigration when he said:

"This country shall remain forever the home of the descendants of those people who came here in peace to establish in the South Seas an outpost of the British race".

The 'White Australia' policy continued to influence Australia's approach to immigration and reflected the population's attitude. It also tainted Australia's reputation overseas and upset its Asian neighbours.

In 1941 the Housing Commission of NSW was established.

In 1942 land was acquired in Port Kembla and construction began on 25 houses with another 20 houses built at Unanderra by the Housing Commission of NSW.

In 1942 Australia began to turn its attention to the possibility of non-British migration and set up an Interdepartmental Committee on Migration. This foreshadowed Australia's acceptance of many refugees and displaced persons from diverse European nationalities after the war as well as German and Italian prisoners of war who were held in camps in Australia and were later permitted to remain in Australia after the war. But the Australian Government still preferred British migrants or at the very

least, people from Scandinavia, and embarked on a positive migration policy with particular emphasis on British Servicemen and selected children from the United Kingdom and Europe.

In 1943 and 1944 12,000 Italian prisoners of war were brought to Australia and put to work in rural industries a quasi "Italian Immigration Programme" and was remarkably successful. The Italians proved their worth and demonstrated the potential usefulness of Southern Europeans migrants, which was a group of migrants that the Australian Government wanted to avoid.

In 1943 Australia supports the establishment of the United Nation's Relief and Rehabilitation Agency and contributes financially signalling its commitment as part of the International countries' responsibility to refugees.

In September 1943 L.E. Isaacs Pty Ltd opened its factory on the corner of Ellen and Auburn Streets in Wollongong. They first began to make trousers for the "forces" and it was the first rural clothing factory under the Commonwealth Government's Decentralisation Scheme. Isaacs Pty Ltd then constructed a purpose built factory located in Gladstone Street Wollongong which was opened in 1946. L.E. Isaacs eventually took over the Silknet factory next door to be able to extend their factory.

Silknet was established in Wollongong in 1943 as part of the Decentralisation Scheme and was first located over Waters and Sons on the corner of Atchison and Crown Streets in Wollongong. In 1947 Silknet moved to its factory in Gladstone Avenue. Silknet produced women's and children undergarments, night apparel and some men's underwear. At the height of the business Silknet employed 110 workers. In July 1961 the factory was closed down.

1945

The largest and possibly most successful Australian immigration story is that which occurred post-World War 2

On 13 July 1945, the Department of Immigration was formally established with Arthur Calwell as its first minister.

A statement by the Minister for Immigration was made in the House of Representatives on 2 August 1945 which provided a preliminary report on the proposed Government policy on immigration. In this statement the Minister said that "if Australians have learned one lesson from the Pacific war now moving to a successful conclusion, it is surely that we cannot continue to hold our island continent for ourselves and or descendants unless we greatly increase our numbers". An increase in population was needed for reasons of defence and for the expansion of the Australian economy. The population increase would not be met by an increased birth-rate alone but needed a policy of planned migration. The Department approached the problem from the basis of making sure there were jobs for the migrants, proper housing and other social amenities to help them fit in to the Australian way of life. The immigration policy was closely interwoven with the new Housing Department, the Secondary Industries Commission, the Rural Industries Commission and the Department of Commerce and Agriculture. The policy flagged a migration ceiling of 70,000 per year. Before any large-scale immigration could be embarked upon the Government needed transfer back to their peace-time vocations the men and women of the Australian Defence Force, address the housing shortages as well as the provision of additional houses to meet the demands of an increased population and provision of shipping to bring the migrants to Australia under comfortable circumstances as reasonably possible.

It would be a couple of years before any organised migration was resumed, Australians were encouraged to have their families from Great Britain join them in Australia. In the meantime the

Commonwealth Government embarked on a publicity campaign in Britain and other centres of potential migrants on the European continent, designed to explain that Australia was willing to receive them as migrants and the inevitable delays in getting them to Australia. However, there was a decline in birth-rates in Britain and European countries and those countries would not be willing to encourage them to emigrate. Negotiations had been carried on for some time between the Commonwealth Government and the British Government concluding in two agreements: free passages to Australia for British ex-service men and women and their dependents or the dependents of British ex-service personnel who elected to demobilise in Australia and assisted passages to civilians who were not eligible under the free passage scheme. The first move was initiated by the British Government in April 1943 when it asked Australia if it would be prepared to accept the Empire Settlement after the war. In the first instance free passages would be offered to ex-servicemen paid by the British Government. As of 2 August 1945 these negotiations with Britain were still in draft form and conditions under which migrants from countries in Europe other than the British Commonwealth of Nations were being closely investigated by an Inter-departmental Committee. Orphans from Britain had been ongoing and now the Commonwealth Government intended to increase these numbers of child migrants and include acceptable children from other countries. Apart from these migration schemes the ability for migrating to Australia from the various dominions, the USA and from European continental countries was still available under the existing legislation of the time. Such migrants were to be in sound health, not become a burden to the community, and find their own accommodation.

The Department of Immigration, under the leadership of the Minister for Immigration, planned, managed and implemented an ambitious programme of immigration. It was a defining, nation-building enterprise with the Arthur Calwell declaring, "*populate or perish*". In the first years of the Department's existence the priority was to maintain a focus on Britain as the primary source of immigrants. Arthur Calwell reassured the Australian people, "*for every foreign migrant there will be ten from the United Kingdom*".

The Displaced Persons programme was a lead-up to future immigration programmes to be introduced from the 1950s. European countries were also keen to support emigration of their citizens which enabled several migration agreements to be signed. Despite Germany being a former enemy, Australia soon began seeking migrants from that country not long after World War 2 under the Special Projects.

Several British migration schemes were launched between 1945 to 1959. The most infamous scheme was the 'Ten Pound Pom' which was a general Assisted Passage Migration Scheme. Launched in 1945 it enabled British migrants from any British colony to come to Australia for the price of £10 per adult, provided the adult was under 45 years of age and in good health. The Ten Pound Pom scheme proved extremely popular with two clear waves of migration occurring, firstly immediately after World War 2 and then peaking in the 1960s. The majority of Britons who migrated to Australia from 1945 to 1959 did so under some kind of assisted passage scheme. Most were young married couples or single people.

The number of British people able to migrate to Australia fell far short of what the Australian Government hoped because of the shortage of shipping to transport them here and reluctance of some political parties of the British government to allow tradesmen to migrate to other countries when they were needed for the United Kingdom's own post-war re-building programme. A shortage of labour saw Great Britain also adopt a migration programme of displaced persons. As much as Australia wanted young and healthy British migrants so did Great Britain. Great Britain had been pleased to allow migration of its citizen during periods of severe unemployment but not so much when they were able to improve their post-war economy using migrant labour. Despite this there were many Britons who had applied to migrate to Australia.

An Empire and Allied Ex-servicemen Migration Scheme was established. The United Kingdom and Australian Governments covered free passage to Australia for British ex-servicemen and women, including their dependents and assisted passage was set up for ex-servicemen who fought with the Allied forces during World War 2. This was also offered to the British ex-servicemen and women who were demobilised in Australia and wished to remain. Of the married men who migrated to Australia during this period, 80% were ex-servicemen.

For the British migrants who had existing family in Australia or those who had been nominated by an Australian company or Australian citizen, accommodation was usually sorted for them before they arrived in Australia. The majority of British migrants had no connections in Australia and often little funding and they were accommodated in migrant hostels.

At the same time there were 20 million people in Europe who had been uprooted from their homes and placed elsewhere by the Nazis who also conscripted 2 million Allied nationals and dumped them in some other country in labour camps. These displaced persons included French, Belgian, Dutch, Czech, Polish, Russian, Greeks, Yugoslavs, Austrian, Spaniards, Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians. Where possible, and once military success opened the way, the immediate task was to get as many people back to their own countries. However, getting people back to their own country depended on their wanting to return or their government willing to receive them back. By 21 July 1945 almost half of the displaced persons had been repatriated with more to follow leaving only the non-repatriable in the camps, the largest group being the Poles who feared Russia. The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA, 1943-1947) urged countries to absorb as citizens displaced persons under their care residing in Allied-occupied territory in Europe now made up primarily of Poles, Yugoslavs, Lithuanians, Estonians and Latvians. Australia was reluctant at first and wanted to work out the qualifications of the "refugee" applicants concerned.

In 1945 a national housing programme was developed. A Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement was negotiated to put structures in place to facilitate close collaboration between State construction bodies and the building industry, the trade unions, professional organisations and employers to address the severe housing shortages caused by the Depression and World War 2. The Commonwealth Government contributed funds to the States until it expired in June 1956. Homes were constructed for low-income families through this Agreement and were either sold at reasonable prices or on long-term repayment terms or rented at a concessional rate. Alien migrants were not eligible for public housing.

By 1945 by Housing Commission of NSW building programme gets into full swing. New suburbs of such as Berkeley and Warrawong would be created near the Steelworks. At Berkeley 1,750 cottages and 36 flats and 13 aged persons units would be built using three types of cottages, brick with tiled roof, timber framed clad in asbestos cement sheeting with tiled roof or clad in asbestos cement sheeting with either tiled or corrugated iron roof.

In September 1945 the Berlei clothing factory in Denison Street near the Wollongong Railway Station was officially opened as part of the Commonwealth and NSW State Government's decentralisation programme.

1946

In April 1946 the Director of the British Zone of Germany put forward a plan to the Australia Resident Minister in London to settle 100,000 Balts (Lithuanians, Estonians and Latvians) in Australia. His opinion of the Balts was that "there were no finer types to be found anywhere else". Waiting to be repatriated in the camps in the British Zone were 50,000 Lithuanians, 30,000 Estonians and 20,000

Latvians. The Balts were mostly farmers, but Australia would have to compete with other countries for them owing to their being viewed as the superior applicant compared to other nationalities. However, the Australian Government still preferred British migrants despite difficulties in obtaining them.

On 5 March 1946, the Commonwealth Government and the British Government signed the migration agreements on free passages for British servicemen and their dependents and assisted passages for British civilians and their dependents to commence on a date yet to be decided. This was almost two years after these agreements were presented to the House of Representatives as being in negotiation.

15 June 1946 a survey completed at Australia House in London showed that applicants for passages to Australia from the United Kingdom totalled 33,184 representing a total of approximately 90,000 people which included wives and dependents. This was before the announcement by the Commonwealth and British Governments was made on the opening of the free and assisted passage schemes. Negotiations were underway on the subject of basic fares to be paid to shipping companies for each migrant coming to Australia under the official schemes. It was expected that passages would become available in 1947. Until shipping was finalised the announcement of the British migration scheme could not be made. There were also applications from 5,212 aliens mostly resident in Europe and represented approximately 14,000 people. The aliens were outside the scope of the assisted passage schemes and were admitted only after it was established they were desirable immigrants.

19 August 1946 at the Conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers held in Canberra, all aspects of immigration was discussed. Recommendations were submitted at the Premiers Conference the following day. All States supported the Commonwealth Government's immigration plans which were carried out as a co-operative and co-ordinated effort between the Commonwealth and the State Governments. The Commonwealth Government was responsible for the recruiting, medical examination, selection and transport of all British migrants brought under the free and assisted passage schemes and placing them in employment. The State Governments were responsible for their reception and accommodation on arrival and for their aftercare. With regard to accommodation the State Governments agreed to bear the cost of the migrants' needs for a period of seven days after their arrival as well as bear the cost of fares from the port of disembarkation to their final destination. It was also agreed that the Commonwealth and State Governments jointly meet the capital expenditure on governmental establishments in which migrants would be temporarily accommodated after their arrival. The categories of priorities for the early stages of the British migration schemes were also agreed upon. A survey was undertaken by the States in conjunction with Commonwealth representatives on facilities suitable for temporary or transitory accommodation of migrants. The survey suggested that Commonwealth service establishments which were no longer required, or hostels that were established during wartime by the Commonwealth, were used by the States for temporary accommodation of migrants after their arrival and in some instances, State establishments were renovated for this purpose. The States also provided the Commonwealth Government their individual capacity in which they could absorb migrants and into what industries. This provided the Commonwealth Government a complete picture of Australia's requirement in 1947.

Lysaghts Works Pty Ltd Port Kembla announced in September 1946 that they were finalising negotiations for the purchase of the top portion of the old Army camp at Hill 60 Port Kembla to house their workers to increase its output of galvanised iron.

On 13 September 1946 the Illawarra Mercury ran an article on Metal Manufacturers Ltd then located on Gloucester Boulevard Port Kembla. An advertisement for "Vacancies for Females" called for women 16 years and over to fill existing vacancies. The first factory building for Metal Manufacturers was constructed in 1971 and the company continued to expand. Metal Manufacturers commenced

by manufacturing copper bars, rods, wire and strand in Port Kembla in 1918. The telephone cable factory at Port Kembla produced in its covered wire department a range of plastic, paper and textile insulated conductors. In 1966 it was reported that this section continued to expand requiring additional factory space and new machines. In the 1966 Jubilee Album it was reported that 100 women were employed in this division.

7 November 1946 an act was proclaimed that allowed a British woman who married a foreigner in Australia shall be regarded as having retained her British nationality whether or not she acquired her husband's nationality.

In the House of Representatives on 22 November 1946 the Minister for Immigration, Arthur Calwell, spoke of the substantial progress of the immigration plans which at the forefront were the free and assisted passage schemes designed to bring in a steady flow of the "best possible immigrant types from the United Kingdom". He was unable to declare the schemes open because of the shipping difficulties. The Australian and British governments needed to reach agreement with British ship companies about the fares to be charged to transport the people to Australia. The number of inquiries registered in Australia House in London had risen to 63,7000 which accounted for approximately 153,000 people and 866 occupational categories. From the date of arrival the Commonwealth Government made social service benefits available to British migrants under the free and assisted passage schemes on the basis that they would be ordinarily resident in Australia. The question of similar benefits given to all categories of migrants had yet to be examined.

Also on 22 November 1946 Mr Calwell, the Minister for Immigration, stated in the House of Representatives that negotiations had been entered into with the Netherlands Government for an assisted passage migration scheme to Australia. Discussion with the Swiss Consul-General were being pursued as well as negotiations with other friendly European governments. Australian Migration offices had yet to be established in appropriate foreign centres to facilitate and encourage those who wanted to migrate to Australia. Mr Calwell also stated that Australia could not at this stage commit itself to participate in the resettlement programme of Displaced Persons who were waiting in camps in Europe. Limited numbers of Displaced Persons were allowed entry into Australia provided they were nominated by relatives in Australia who were in a position and willing to accommodate and maintain them. The holder of the landing permit would be granted a visa for admission into Australia. Mr Calwell also approached the idea of introducing a naturalisation ceremony and retention of a woman's nationality on marriage.

Up to 4,500 applications from British service personnel had been approved by the Department of Immigration and more than 200 by Australian Government representatives overseas. Special facilities had been given to Allied servicemen, particularly those from the USA and the Netherlands to encourage them to remain in Australia or return to Australia after receiving their discharge in their homelands. By 22 November 1946 over 1,000 American servicemen had been granted their discharges in Australia and a considerable number given permission to return to Australia after their discharge. Many Dutch and some Norwegian naval personnel had also been permitted to remain permanently in Australia after their discharge. Provision had been made by the Commonwealth Government to provide ex-service personnel from the United Kingdom, Commonwealth Empire and Allies to obtain re-establishment benefits after their arrival in Australia. These benefits included employment aid under the Commonwealth Employment Service, re-employment allowances during transitional unemployment, reconstruction training, re-establishment loans, fares to employment, free gift of tools of their trade and legal aid. In addition to these benefits for Ex-servicemen, those from the United Kingdom were also eligible for free transportation from the port of disembarkation in Australia to their inland destination, however, they were not eligible for preference under the Re-establishment and Employment Act of 1945.

In 1946 when Cabinet met to discuss the provision of hostels in Australia it proposed three standards for migrant hostels. First, Army huts for married couples or families with some modifications such as portable, prefabricated, partitions for 2-men cubicles. Second, where Army huts were not available and permanent hostels were required the construction of a "Port Kembla" type hut (referring to Unanderra No 1 Hostel buildings constructed of timber and fibro which cost about £200,000 per unit) or the construction of a "Kembla" type hut which was sleeping accommodation based on a modified Port Kembla hostel hut as sleeping quarters for the Displaced Persons and Quonset Huts for kitchens, dining, administrative and recreational facilities at a cost of £160,000 per unit. Third, temporary hostels with Quonset Huts provided as per permanent hostels (for kitchens, dining, administrative and recreational facilities and staff accommodation) and re-conditioned Nissen Huts and Quonset Huts for sleeping quarters for Displaced Persons. Cost for this option was £65,000 plus £4,000 per hostel units of 400 for roofing and side coverings. A couple of years later there would be quite a bit of juggling on the Government's part to acquire what was available, purchasing, installing and modifying huts and constructing entire hostel units and it did not have the luxury of time to consider the aesthetics as it scrambled to arrange accommodation for the imminent arrival to Australia of Displaced Persons and British migrants.

In a period of 14 months (1944-1946) Australia did admit a certain number of persecuted persons into Australia who were Germans, Austrian and Poles, the bulk of them Polish Jews. There was a limited number allowed and it was only on the proviso they had relatives in Australia who were able to maintain and find them accommodation. They entered Australia under permits granted by the Australian Government. Displaced Persons or persecuted persons who had been granted permits included other nationalities such as Czechs, Yugoslavs or Hungarians, as well as stateless people. However, British migrants and wives and families of Australian ex-servicemen continued to have first priority on passenger ships from Britain to Australia. All the persecuted and displaced persons granted permits to Australia at this time had to make their own way to depart from Continental ports to not take up berths for British migrants and returning Australians. Often the conditions on these ships were very poor.

In December 1946 and February 1947 free passages to Australia had been granted to 484 single ex-servicemen from Britain. The comprised of five under 21 years, 463 between 21 and 39 and 16 aged 40 and over.

In December 1946, Australia abstains in the United Nations General Assembly vote to establish the International Refugee Organisation, not wanting to incur responsibility for financial support.

On 22 December 1946 the first Lutheran Church service in the Illawarra was held by Rev. A. Miller when 14 people attended from the Graham, Smith and Klein families. At the 25th Anniversary in 1971, Alderman Graham attended when he represented the Mayor but he was also present at the very first service as a 2 year old boy.

1947

In January 1947 the first 200 British tradesmen arrived in Australia on the ship 'Largs Bay'. They were all ex-servicemen, building tradesmen who were brought to Australia to engage in the large works and housing programme in the ACT. This was arranged in an agreement made in 1946 with the British Government to allow 600 of these tradesmen to migrate to Australia. Special accommodation had been provided for them in reconditioned Army huts until the erection of a hostel was completed.

The Commonwealth Government announced in February 1947 it would construct large hostels to house Commonwealth sponsored British migrants arriving in Australia. Primarily for single men but

also able to accommodate married men, hostels would be constructed by Commonwealth or State authorities.

In February 1947 the Immigration Advisory Council was established to inform the Minister for Immigration on administrative and legislative matters and made similar recommendations. The council was composed of representatives of major employer and trade union bodies.

Prior to the Assisted Passage Migration Agreement being signed between the Commonwealth Government of Australia and the United Kingdom Britons could continue to migrate to Australia under the Empire Settle Scheme and those who were ineligible to migrate under the Assisted Passage Agreement could for some time still migrate under the Empire Settlement Scheme.

The Australia free and assisted immigration scheme began on 31 March 1947. The Australian High Commission in London had received an estimated 650,000 applications to migrate to Australia. Immigration for British migrants would continue to generally be unrestricted and often supported by assisted migration schemes. There were only four ships available on the England to Australia run when the scheme started which could carry migrants among tourist-class passengers. There was no ship at all for exclusive carriage of immigrants. In the first three months of the scheme the ships Largs Bay, Wairangi, Orion and Strathaven managed to land only 553 migrants between them into Australia. Apart from British migrants and Displaced Persons, permanent settlement by Europeans was only allowed if sponsored by relatives already living in Australia. Restricted non-European settlement kept the number of non-European population low. Non-Europeans made up only 0.25% of the Australian population in 1947.

Industry in Australia depended on the Government immigration schemes to increase their labour workforce. In Wollongong the iron and steel industry was vital for the manufacturing of building materials for housing and consumer goods. The Commonwealth Government allowed employers to recruit migrants for their workforce provided they provided accommodation for them. The Australian Iron & Steel (AI&S) Board of Directors approved the construction of their own company hostel and building plans were put before the Central Illawarra Shire Council by AI&S on 28 April 1947 to build Karingal Hostel in Cringila. AI&S instituted a scheme to recruit suitable British migrants by arrangement with the Government's immigration authorities and a proportion of the migrants were assigned to them.

Empire and Allied Ex-Servicemen Scheme for assisted passage migration to Australia commenced on 26 May 1947.

A number of "alien" migrants had commenced arriving in Australia. On 14 June 1947 the ship Marella arrived in Fremantle with 66 alien migrants the vast majority from Eastern Europe, including 30 Polish Jews. These alien migrants had made their way to Singapore to join the Marella. The following day, 15 June 1947, the liner Asturias arrived in Fremantle with a good many Britons intending to settle in Australia with up to another 600 under an Anglo-Australian agreement to follow. Onboard the Asturias were over 100 alien migrants including over 100 Greeks. These "alien" migrants were not part of an assisted migration scheme but were brought over to Australia by relatives or friends who undertook to employ or house them. These migrants were able to enter Australia under a landing permit.

Between 1939 to the 30 June 1947 census, Australia's numbers had grown from 7,000,000 to 7,579,358, but in the two years since the 1947 census nearly 160,000 new permanent residents had arrived in Australia. The Commonwealth Government expected that by November 1949 the population would reach 8,000,000. Most of the population increase had been absorbed in the cities

and a drive in the direction of decentralisation and regional development was proposed so that the maximum benefit of immigration would be attained by the whole of the nation.

The International Refugee Organisation (IRO) took over the responsibility from the UNRRA for the Displaced Persons Camps in Europe on 1 July 1947. Before doing so they needed the signatures of 15 nations before it could commence its undertakings under the auspices of the United Nations Organisation. They were four signatures short of which Australia was one. The scheme for the migration of Displaced Persons was for "Balts" who were considered the best workers. But Australia continued to drag its feet, although it had already granted permits earlier to persecuted persons.

In 1947 when Arthur Calwell visited Europe to arrange shipping for migrants from Britain, he took the opportunity to visit the Displaced Persons Camps in Europe run by the IRO. In Lausanne on 13 July 1947 Australia signed an agreement with the IRO to settle 170,000 Europeans by 1954 under the Displaced Persons Scheme from their camps in Austria and Germany. There were now just under 3 million displaced persons waiting resettlement with the majority living in camps in Austria and Germany. There were still many Jews left in the camps but mainly older and physically unfit for heavy work as the younger Jews found temporary homes in Warsaw, London, Paris and Amsterdam or moved illegally along the 'hidden road to Zion' to the State of Israel. Also living in the Displaced Persons Camps were the former German minorities from Czechoslovakia, Poland and East Prussia. The remainder of groups in the camps were Ukrainians who refused to return to the Ukrainian Soviet Republic, Poles feared returning to a Communist-dominated Poland, Yugoslavians and Croatians feared execution if they returned to Yugoslavia and some 60,000 Baltic peoples from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia whose democratic countries had been overrun by the Red Army and later by the Nazi and were now under Soviet Russia. It was this group of Balts that Australia was now drawing upon for the bulk of their foreign workforce. Many of the Balts were young women eager to migrate and undertake domestic, hospital and agricultural work of which they were most familiar with. The Polish Displaced Persons and German minorities were chiefly farm workers and miners. Australia was not seeking traders, merchants or retailers. Australia agreed to take 4,000 Displaced Persons in the first year and 12,000 yearly thereafter. Transportation by ship was arranged by the IRO and Australia provided employment. The main groups that Australia admitted under this scheme were Poles, Yugoslavs, Latvians, Ukrainians, Hungarians, Lithuanians, Czechs and Estonians.

The ship Orion arrived in Melbourne from London on 3 July 1947 and in Sydney on 7 July 1947. The ship carried 213 free and 88 assisted migrants onboard. They were welcomed by members of the Immigration Advisory Committee at the Town Hall in Melbourne. Among the passengers were 30 wives and fiancées of Australian servicemen.

The Asturias once again set sail from London for Australia on 29 August 1947 arriving in Fremantle on 22 September 1947. There were 377 assisted and 392 free passage British migrants including 159 British child migrants. Also onboard the Asturias at this time were 278 Polish ex-servicemen who fought alongside the Rats of Tobruk and had been specially selected to work on the Tasmanian Hydro-Electric Scheme with another 70 who joined them in October 1947. Another ship, Marine Phoenix, arrived in Sydney from the USA also on 22 September 1947 with the first 21 assisted migrants from the USA as well as a party of displaced persons from Europe. The Marella arrived in Melbourne from Singapore on the same day with 40 passengers, mostly Greeks.

AI&S announced in October 1947 their one million pound housing scheme at Port Kembla. This was a home building scheme to erect 500 homes in the Port Kembla and Wollongong district to accommodate their steelworkers who owing to the lack of building material and contractors were living in garages and stables.

A total of 3,400 Displaced Person, mostly Balts, were expected in Australia between December 1947 and March 1948. The first party of Balts left for Australia on the American ship, General Heintzelman on 31 October 1947, to be followed by three more groups of approximately the same number leaving Europe on 30 November 1947, 26 January and 8 February 1948. These Balts were what Arthur Calwell called "Beautiful Balts". It was their physical attributes he was most drawn to as they resembled the general Australian population. They were specially selected because of their appearance and youth with none over thirty years of age. The Australian public did not always agree with the Government's migration programme and Calwell felt that it would not be hard to sell them on the idea of migration once the press published photographs of this group. They were placed into employment by the Australian Government under contract for two years.

On 31 October 1947 the NSW State Premier wrote to the Prime Minister requesting additional labour to stimulate production of materials in the Wollongong-Port Kembla vital to the building industry. The Prime Minister agreed to allocate Displaced Persons Migrants to Wollongong but it was conditional on the availability of accommodation. Commonwealth Government agrees to employ Displaced Persons Migrant Workers, re-settled under the International Refugee Organisation Agreement, in the iron and steel industries in the Wollongong-Port Kembla area to address the bottleneck in the production of building materials. Commonwealth Government decides to build a hostel in the Port Kembla area to accommodate single or unaccompanied male Displaced Persons working in the iron and steel industry. This would become known as Unanderra Hostel Units 1 and 2.

The Ormonde arrived in Australia on 17 November 1947 with over 1,000 new settlers, 400 of those for NSW. It was the first all migrant ship from Britain since the end of the war. There were also 93 children onboard who travelled under the sponsorship of benevolent organisations such as the Fairbridge Farm Schools, Big Brother Movement, and Overseas League. The first government sponsored group of 50 building workers, mostly ex-servicemen and their families disembarked at Sydney. They were to be employed by W.J. Ritchie, a contractor from Sheffield, who had persuaded all his staff to migrate to Australia to work on housing programmes. These newly arrived building workers were greeted by NSW Governor at the Reception and Accommodation Depot at High Street in Kensington NSW. Their first contract was to build 150 Government houses. They were accommodated temporarily at Herne Bay and one third of the houses they built were let to them until all the migrants were housed.

19 year old John Cook was an ex-Fairbridge Farm boy who came out to Australia in 1940 and later found work at Port Kembla steelworks. When the Ormonde docked in Sydney he came to meet his sister and brother who were passengers on the ship but he needed to have them pointed out to him as it had been 7 years since he left Britain. The Ormonde continued to Brisbane with about 200 migrants.

Since 31 March 1947 forty five thousand British people had registered for migration to Australia as assisted, free or nominated migrants, including families, this represented 90,000 people who settled in Australia. Finding shipping to transport migrants to Australia continued to be a problem and it was predicted that shipping would not be available before 1952. In the House of Representatives on 28 November 1947, the Minister for Immigration, Arthur Calwell, stated that Australia's total of migrants for the year was expected to reach 30,000 and 50,000 in 1948. The 12,000 Displaced Person quota had been increased to 20,000. Most of the permanent new arrivals for the year had been from Britain. Priority had been given to nominated essential workers with guaranteed accommodation and children for child migration organisations. Negotiations by the Australian Government were made for the ship Asturias to make two more trips in January and March 1948 and as well as negotiations for the aircraft carrier HMS Victorious to carry Polish ex-servicemen and Maltese. Britain was also being asked to make ships available if Australia paid the operating costs. While costs for this form of shipping was

high, the Australian Government felt financial considerations were less important than the need to obtain migrants as quickly as possible.

The first group of 860 Balts (Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians) arrived in Freemantle from Bremerhaven, Germany, onboard the General Heintzelman on December 1947. They were described in newspapers covering this event as single men and women, displaced persons and with an average age of 24. Most had lived in Displaced Persons Camps in Germany for two or three years and many had experienced hardships having been taken from their homes and forced to work for the Germans as forced labour and suffered under their hands. The Balt's ship arrived simultaneously with the Asturias carrying a record number of other migrants. To overcome problems with receiving so many migrants at once, the Balts were transferred to HMAS Kanimbla for onward passage to Victoria and arrived at Prince's Pier Melbourne on Sunday 7 December 1947. Arthur Calwell also wanted to use their arrival as a public relations exercise and photo opportunity to help ease Australian's concerns with foreigners. On arrival the Balts were transferred by train to Bonegilla Reception and Training Camp where they spent a month learning English and the Australian way of life before they were allocated employment. Most of the men were sent to work in Australian foundries and factories which were seriously short of labour. This was particularly true in Port Kembla where workers were needed to manufacture steel and cast-iron products for the housing industry which was suffering post-war shortages. At that time there were no Commonwealth Hostels operating in Illawarra. Other men worked as repairers and fettlers on the East-West railway, the Alice Springs-Adelaide line and later the Northern Territory railways. The men were also be put to work in the timber-milling industry and in the cane fields Queensland and northern NSW. Men and women also did seasonal agricultural work on the land where most were provided accommodation by the employers. The Balts Displaced Persons were under contract to the Australian Government to work for two years. Practically all the men were sent to country areas. The Balt women were allocated work as typists, trainee nurses and hospital workers in Canberra, Victoria and NSW and some were employed as domestics in Government Hostels.

The passengers onboard the Asturias that arrived in Fremantle on December 1947, the same day as the first group of Balts onboard the General Heintzelman, were all immigrants. A total 1,730 of which 1,330 were travelling under the Government's free and assisted passenger schemes as well as 14 Poles and 50 key industrial workers nominated by employers in Australian industry.

Between 1947 and 1951 Dutch nationals in the Netherlands and elsewhere could apply for assisted passage to migrate to Australia under the Empire and Allied Ex-Servicemen's Scheme.

1948

Preliminary plans, sketches and estimates were requested by the Director of Works for a proposed Commonwealth Government Hostel at Port Kembla for Displaced Persons on 27 January 1948. The Government's plan was to lease or acquire land, construct a hostel and then lease the hostel to AI&S Port Kembla to operate and maintain. A site had yet to be chosen. Up until this time, the Commonwealth Government did not plan to build hostels for free or assisted migrants but under the IRO agreement had an obligation to provide accommodation for Displaced Persons in Australia.

In February 1948, the Attorney General provided the legal opinion that the Commonwealth Government did possess the power to expend money to build accommodation for migrants who were to be employed by private employers.

Australia was now seeing progress in the Government's general immigration programme and availability of shipping was slightly improved. There were more assisted migrants from the USA,

Displaced Persons numbers increased and the first party of Dutch farm workers left for Australia in March 1948.

Table 1: Allocation of Work by State for Balts January 1948

Victoria	Kiewa Dam (25) Yallourn Coal (50) Timber Industry (10) Flax Industry (5) Export Milk (10) Salt Harvesting (6) Quarry Work (12) Fruit Harvesting (200)
South Australia	Salt Harvesting (16) Timber Industry (33) Water Works Construction (65) Railway Construction (65)
Western Australia	Timber Industry (30)
Tasmania	Newsprint (123) Pine(?) production (12)
NSW	Building Materials Production (25) Forestry and Timber (105)

Source: Herald Melbourne, (Vic: 1861-1954), Saturday 3 January 1948, page 3.

In 1948 the Department of Immigration established the Migrant Workers Accommodation Division to administer a network of migrant hostels that provided accommodation for up to 12 months if needed. It also established the Commonwealth Migrant (Adult Education) Scheme which was initially for the Displaced Persons.

Housing remained a problem in Australia generally. The output of private houses, Housing Commission homes and even migrant workers' hostel were all affected by the limited output of building materials which depended largely on migrants (especially tradesmen) who depended on shipping being available for transport. The Commonwealth proposed to build migrant workers' hostels in the Wollongong-Port Kembla area for 400 Displaced Persons (not only Balts) to work in industries that manufactured building materials. But the Displaced Persons allocated work in this industry were met with opposition from the Unions as was the building of hostels for migrant workers when there was still insufficient housing available or being constructed for the people in the Illawarra region.

Because of the Depression and building lag caused by World War 2 in 1948 in Australia there was an estimated need for 400,000 new homes. Demand for housing also grew from newly married couples following the war and 31,466 unassisted migrants, 8,805 of them non-British, who arrived in Australia in 1947-48 and who were not eligible for Commonwealth-providing accommodation. These alien migrants were to be provided accommodation by their nominators but there was no means to check the compliance of this regulation nor the means to enforce this requirement which resulted in further demands on housing. Many migrants were discriminated against or exploited by being charged exorbitant rents.

On 12 March 1948 discussions took place at Port Kembla between Commonwealth Government Department Officers and Sid Hoskins from AI&S about availability of sites to construct a hostel and the employment of Displaced Persons at AI&S. Three sites were inspected and the one chosen was on AI&S land at the rear of the coke ovens. At another meeting in March 1948 AI&S agreed to the employment of Displaced Persons, the availability of the site at the rear of the coke ovens was still under review by AI&S and AI&S preferred that the Commonwealth Government operate and maintain its hostel.

In March 1948 the Port Kembla Council of the Ironworkers' Federation opposed the programme to build hostels for the "Balts" (Displaced Persons) to live in who were to be employed in industry in and around Port Kembla that manufactured building materials. The NSW Government had approved the hostels and they were paid for by the Commonwealth Government. The Communist newspaper, Tribune, embarked on a campaign against the employment of the "Balts" in the steel industry as the Commonwealth Government officials negotiated with the Ironworkers Federation. This opposition did impede the building of hostels and employment of Displaced Persons in vital industries in Illawarra. The Port Kembla branch of the Ironworkers' Union, endorsed by the Illawarra Trades and Labour Council, also opposed the proposal to settle 400 "Balts" in hostels in Port Kembla and their employment in the steel industry. The Unions felt that "Balts" would not mix properly with their members because most were "fascist supporters" and "union enemies" which would lead to friction and industrial disputes. The Union also opposed foreign migrants being settled in "colonies" rather than dispersed amongst the Australian people so that they could absorb the Australian way of life. The Union also wanted foreign migrants approved by the Port Kembla Branch of the Ironworkers' Union before they were employed in the iron and steel industry, they were to have clean trade union and anti-fascist records and that they did not live in isolation in hostels.

In addressing the 21st Conference of the Queensland Cane Growers Association in Grafton on 15 March 1948, the Minister for Immigration, Arthur Calwell, said,

"The stark reality is that we either fill this country or lose it".

Calwell went on to say that about 20,000,000 people over two decades was needed but even with so many migrants with different cultures and philosophies it was doubtful Australia would sustain an attack without the aid of other members of the British Commonwealth and the United States of America. Calwell had travelled through 23 countries in just over 12 weeks in 1947 on a migration mission that included the signing IRO agreement in Lausanne in July for the transfer of 12,000 Balts to Australia and with availability of shipping the number of Balts would increase to 20,000 by the end of 1948. Calwell assured the Australian people that these migrants were being taught English and the Australian way of life and asked Australians not to ostracise them nor condemn them for segregation. The Australian Government immigration programme also provided for 50,000 Britons brought out in 1948 of which 30,000 of them came under free or assisted passages scheme where they were either nominated by relatives or friends who were prepared to accommodate them. The short supply of suitable ships to transport migrants from Britain to Australia continued to hamper the immigration programme. Britain had entered the war with 21 million tons of shipping of which just over 13 million was sunk. Much of the shipping that remained for transporting migrants were troopships that needed to be converted before women and children could travel on them. Shipping availability was exacerbated further by the conditions that had occurred in Palestine, Egypt (1947-49 Palestinian War) and India (partition). Already 500 Polish soldiers had been brought out to work on the Tasmanian water ways and Calwell brought out several hundreds more despite the hostility expressed towards them even though the Poles had fought beside Australians in Tobruk or with the RAF in the Battle for Britain.

On 31 March 1948, the first ever group of 1,500 Scots departed from Glasgow for Australia. By May 1948 one thousand Balts had arrived in Grafton for work in the sugar industry. Landing permits were issued for 500 Italians nominated by friends and relatives for work in the sugar industry. Some of the Poles coming to Australia also worked in the sugar industry. It was vitally important to Australia that the supply of sugar continued to be exported to Britain otherwise the British Government would look to purchase its sugar from Cuba.

In (March) 1948 AI&S Karingal single men's hostel in Cringila that the Wollongong Central Council approved in 1947 was still under construction. It was being built primarily to house its selected British employees but also to accommodate non-British migrants as soon as they were able to employ them. Arrangements were continuing by the Commonwealth Government to erect four hostel units in the Port Kembla (Unanderra) area each to accommodate 100 displaced persons and the NSW Government had arranged to erect a large number of single dwellings houses on the South Coast. Arrangements were also being made to erect hostels in other parts of Australia for heavy industries such as Newcastle and Whyalla. Loss of steel through coal and labour shortages continued at a cost of 9,000 tons per week.

At the end of March 1948 there were 95,400 job vacancies in Australia (58,900 male and 36,500 female) an increase of 300 from the previous month, 5,000 vacancies alone in Newcastle and Port Kembla.

By April 1948 plans for the Port Kembla Hostel were proceeding although the AI&S site was still in doubt. AI&S and the Commonwealth Government reached an agreement in principle only. However, after further consideration by a representative for the Department of the Interior the site at the rear of the coke ovens was considered to be too close to the coke ovens and an alternative site to construction the Commonwealth Government Port Kembla Hostel was investigated. It was still to be constructed by the Commonwealth but leased to AI&S to operate and maintain. Also building a Commonwealth building on privately owned land required Cabinet approval.

On 5 May 1948 three sites were inspected and the land on Five Islands Road, Unanderra, was considered suitable. The Commonwealth Government proceeded to acquire the land by purchase from the owner, Mr Halloran, and the plans already in progress for the former site at AI&S were altered to suit the topography of the new area.

On 31 May 1948 the Australia-Maltese Assisted Passage Migration Agreement was signed and came into operation on 1 January 1949.

In May 1948 another 850 Balts comprising of 600 men and 250 women had arrived in Australia and this time were taken to the former Bathurst Military Camp which had been converted to a new Migrant Centre. About 20,000 migrants were expected by the end of 1948 and they were encouraged to join industrial organisations and adopt the Australian way of life as quickly as possible. All were contracted to the Commonwealth Government for two years. The Minister for Immigration, Arthur Calwell, approved the issue of landing permits to sugar cane growers for 500 Italians to enter Australia. They were accommodated by family or friends. They had been brought into the country at the request of the industry in addition to the Balts, Polish ex-servicemen and other displaced persons. European migrants were now working in the cement and brickyard industries as well. All these workers were also contracted for two years.

At first Arthur Calwell favoured a policy of using Displaced Persons solely in country areas where they would not encounter Australian worker unions. His plan was given the nickname "Balts for the bush". They were also deployed to country areas because of the lack of Commonwealth hostel

accommodation near industrial centres and established accommodation was more readily available by employers in country areas though much were converted woolsheds and many did not meet building codes of that time. This way the Government manipulated the Australian people's view towards foreigners, a sort of "out of sight out of mind".

On 25 June 1948, AI&S agreed to operate and maintain the Commonwealth Government Port Kembla Hostel for Displaced Persons at Five Islands Road Unanderra.

In July 1948 Wollongong Council approved the Metropolitan Water Sewerage & Drainage Board (the 'Water Board') proposal to erect a hostel on (Old) Springhill Road, Coniston, for the housing of their "Balt" (Displaced Persons) workers with the stipulation that the hostel be removed when the Water Board works were finished. This camp became known in Wollongong as the "Balts" camp and while Balts were part of the Water Board's workforce other non-Balt Displaced Persons lived in this camp. The Water Board was amongst the first employers to offer to employ migrants from Baltic countries as soon as they became available in 1948. The Water Board employed Displaced Persons throughout NSW and the Displaced Persons who lived at the Water Board's Balts Camp at Coniston were one of the first groups of migrant workers in Wollongong.

The Tribune, the official newspaper of the Australian Communist Party, continued its campaign of reports against the employment of the Balts. The Unions and the Tribune's opposition played some part in the delayed channelling of Balts into basic industries and very early on prevented AI&S employing Displaced Persons. This continued to have a retarding effect on the housing industry, including the construction of the hostels in Port Kembla. Arthur Calwell continued to deny that the Federated Ironworkers' Union were delaying the hostels being built and that there was no surplus of Balts to employ in the steelwork as they had been sent to Queensland and NSW for the sugar industry and others had been employed within the tile and cement industries whose Unions were less militant.

British migrants were still preferred by the Commonwealth Government but they were only accepted if accommodation was already available or provided by employers so the Australian population would not be disadvantaged when it came to housing. British migrant numbers remained low and this was primarily because no political party in Britain was willing to support mass migration of their people to other parts of the Empire particularly as people were required for Britain's own post-war nation rebuilding programmes and the ongoing unavailability of suitable ships for transport.

By mid-1948 a total of 27,441 permanent settlers had arrived in Australia of which more than 18,000 were British migrants, a ratio of 2:1. By 1948, twenty British migrants had returned to Britain unable to secure homes. Britons were warned that those who intended to pay their own fares had to have accommodation available in Australia before setting out. This matter was discussed in the House of Representatives on 26 October 1948.

On 23 July 1948 at a meeting between the Departments of Immigration and Labour and National Service the building of a second hostel at Port Kembla to accommodate workers to meet the needs of Lysaghts and other heavy industries in the area was given consideration. The huts were to be comparable to the timber framed huts at Port Kembla No 1 Hostel. At the same meeting an examination of the suitability of Quonset from Manus Island in lieu of timber huts was underway.

In July 1948 Peter Richards migrated from England to Australia. Peter worked as an actor in England and he continued his work in Australia with the John Alden Shakespeare Company, the Independent Theatre and J.C. Williamsons. Peter Richards also taught drama and speech training in different schools in Greater Wollongong and in 1968 worked with the School Department of the Arts Council in Australia, in Sydney, but spent his weekends at his home in Austinmer.

On 2 August 1948 Cabinet authorised the building of 7 Government Hostels for the accommodation of IRO migrant workers. 3 in Sydney, 3 in Melbourne and 1 in Port Kembla, with each to accommodate 400 persons in addition to the two hostels which had already been approved at Port Kembla and Newcastle. The provision of £2,500,000 was made in the 1948-49 estimates to cover the cost of building and equipping a total of 9 hostels and for structural alterations and equipment for ex-Defence and other buildings. Each migrant would be charged £2/12/6 a week for board and lodging. Military Camps and other buildings at Gawler, Parafield, Fishermen's Bend, Albert Park, Broughton, Warwick Farm, Meadowbank, Port Stephens and Brisbane were also converted into Commonwealth Migrant Workers' Hostels. The Commonwealth Government had embarked on a national hostel building campaign and would be responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance of its Hostels.

On 5 August 1948 the design of the Dormitory Blocks of the Unanderra No 1 Hostel were altered to accommodate married couples and two single persons of the same sex. Up until now the Hostel at Unanderra was designed to accommodate only male workers. Additional designs changes occurred throughout August and September 1948.

AI&S Karingal Hostel which was nearing completion had received Wollongong Council approval for extension to accommodate more of its predominantly British migrant work force. AI&S was still in the process of acquiring Steelhaven Hostel for its Displaced Persons migrant workforce and the Metropolitan Sewerage and Drainage Board Workers Camp was almost ready for the first intake of Displaced Persons into their workforce.

By September 1948 five vessels had reached Australia and brought 3,978 migrants. The ships were the Strathnaver, Orion, Asturias, Empire Brent and the Port Hobart. This increased flow of migrants enabled Australia to reach its target of 70,000 migrants a year but it also forced the Commonwealth Government to seek further solutions for accommodating a changing demographic of migrants arriving in Australia. Originally the Commonwealth hostels had been designed as single rooms but now more married people than single people under the Displaced Persons Scheme were coming to Australia. The hostels comprised of long wings with communal dining rooms and communal amenities and each block had an ablution section. The structures planned were of either timber and asbestos or steel and a special type of wallboard with the finished appearance of roughcast concrete. Tenders were called for the construction of Commonwealth migrant workers' hostels. Sites for the Commonwealth Migrant Hostels in Newcastle and Port Kembla had been selected but not yet in Sydney and Melbourne

A unilateral scheme, the Irish Scheme, to provide assistance towards the passage costs of citizens of the Republic of Ireland came into effect in September 1948.

Migration schemes and agreements as of 1948 comprised the resettling of Jewish refugees, Displaced Persons favouring the Balts and assisted passage schemes focussing on Britain as its primary source of immigrants. For the purposes of Australia's immigration policy, the Maltese were classified as 'white' British subjects and under an agreement 43,000 Maltese were assisted to Australia between 1948 and 1975. There was limited immigration for non-British usually through sponsorship by relatives already in Australia and landing permits offered to others when migration schemes and agreements did not apply provided they had employment and accommodation made available to them by family or friends.

On 12 October 1948, funds were made available for the Commonwealth Government to acquire about 7 acres land from AI&S across from the Unanderra Hostel site on Five Islands Road for a sewerage treatment works.

On 25 October 1948 the contract to build the Commonwealth Government Hostel for Displaced Persons Migrant Workers on Five Islands Road Unanderra (Unanderra Hostel No 1 Unit) to John Stubbs & Sons Pty Ltd.

The matter of accommodation for British migrants was discussed in the House of Representatives on 26 October 1948 when the question was put to the Minister for Immigration during budget estimates debates for year ending 1949 if any of the £50,000 provided for the accommodation of immigrants included the accommodating of British migrants or for foreign migrants only. Accommodation had been arranged so far for the Balts and Poles who were being housed in some converted military camps. The Minister for Immigration did not want to put British ex-servicemen into barracks as they had experienced enough of living in barracks during the war. Instead he was to appeal to the Australian population to bring Britons into their own homes. Hostels were provided for refugees who came to Australia under the International Agreement and there was provision of accommodation for free and assisted British migrants to be found among "our own people in our own homes". If this nomination plan was observed, then there would have been no additional housing problems. The Commonwealth Government's expectation was to absorb British migrants by Australians sharing their homes with them so they were accommodated where they belong, that was in the hearts of the Australian people in our own homes. Single British male migrants did live in huts but they arrived in Australia under a different scheme. The family scheme was different. The plan provided that British ex-servicemen would not be accommodated in hutments, but that international refugees shall be accommodated in hutments. Refugees in this instance meant the Displaced Persons from camps in Germany. There were two schemes in 1948, one was to bring Britons to Australia on a preferred basis totally 60% British migrants with the remaining 40% consisting of Displaced Persons who were to be used to build houses for Australians while they lived in huts. The Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia had canvassed their members who could provide accommodation for British ex-servicemen and as a result 500 were on the way to Australia by October 1948.

The ongoing Communist-led unions' propaganda campaign successfully defied the Federal Government's migration policy when it succeeded in its ban on the employment of foreign migrant labour in the NSW coal mines, steel works and building industry. These vital industries suffered the most from manpower shortages. The ban had been mainly directed towards the 4,000 European Displaced persons in Australia, mostly Poles and Balts, 2,150 of them in NSW. They were all doing nationally useful work but not in the three basic industries shortest in manpower such as coal, steel and building. The Commonwealth Government continued with its denial that the unions had stopped their employment in these vital industries. At the time the coal mines were able to absorb 2,000 Poles or Balts, iron and steel industry could readily employ 1,200 and the building industry a total of 2,000 and with an additional 400 men the brick and tile output in NSW would have increased.

The Communist controlled Miners' Federation and Ironworkers' Unions had declared Displaced Persons labour "black". In fairness, Unions stated that they were not against the Government's immigration policy of national groups, what they were against were migrant workers known to have an outlook and training foreign to the democratic ideals of the Australian working-class movement. They were also opposed to the preference given to Balts and Poles over British migrants without trade unions having any say in selection. They opposed the segregation of Balts and Poles in barracks attached to selected industries. As a result the Government continued to hesitate sending Poles or Balts to the NSW coalfields. Unions of the iron and steel industries opposed the Poles and Balts as they had been informed they were Fascist supporters and enemies of trade unionism. Two years had passed since the first attempts to place Displaced Persons labour in the NSW building industry and five months since the Government announced 800 Displaced Persons to be employed in the steelworks at Port Kembla. The Brick, Tile and Pottery Workers' Unions were not against the Balts employed in the manufacturer of bricks but because of the success of the Communist-led unions'

campaign some of the employees of the State brickworks threatened strike action if Balts were housed in the converted military camp at Meadowbank claiming this was giving preference to Balts over Australian brickmakers. During the debate on estimates in Parliament in October 1948, the Minister for Immigration, Arthur Calwell, informed the House that within a few months Balts, Poles, Ukrainians, Czechs, Yugoslavs and other Displaced Persons would be working in the iron and steel industry and the coal mines of Australia. Australians had been notoriously insular and inclined to view a stranger with a great deal of suspicion. In answer to the question of allowing Chinese migrants into Australia his response was that he would never agree. Immediately after World War 2, in 1945, the 500 Chinese refugees that had resided in Australia were forcibly deported despite that many had helped with the war effort. Australia's focus on European only migrants was regarded by many as being out of step with the post-war realities.

In late October 1948 Dependent Holding Centres were established borne out of the necessity of accommodating families, including dependents, of Displaced Persons. Previously Displaced Persons were single men and women or married couples without dependents. Bathurst No 2 Hostel was in operation, followed a short while later by Cowra and Uranquinty (near Wagga Wagga).

By 18 November 1948 a local newspaper reported that not a sod of soil had yet been turned on the site acquired for the Government Hostels to build a hostel for the Displaced Persons migrant workers to be employed at the Port Kembla steelworks and other manufacturing industries in the area. Three former service camps at Bathurst, Cowra and Uranquinty (near Wagga Wagga) were being reconditioned by the Commonwealth as migrant holding centres for the wives and children of Displaced Persons already in Australia. These holding camps allowed the Commonwealth Government to implement fully its agreement with IRO to bring out the relatives and dependents of Displaced Persons, subject to that Displaced Person having resided in Australia for three months and in a position to receive and support their family.

The concept of Commonwealth Hostels to house migrants brought to Australia was conceived in 1947, yet obstruction tactics by Communist-led unions were often blamed for the delay in their construction. Delays were caused by many different global, national and as well as local reasons and not all the blame could be placed a single entity. No matter the cause of the delay, lack of migrant hostels had the detrimental effect on all aspects of Australia's manufacturing output, housing, labour, training and defence and made the Federal Government keenly aware of the vital role Wollongong had to play in immigration development and the defence of Australia. To this end the Federal Government promised to expedite the completion of hostels in the area as rapidly as the labour and materials position allowed.

By late-November 1948 the construction of Unit No 1 of the Commonwealth Government Hostel at Port Kembla for Displaced Persons Migrant Workers (Unanderra Hostel No 1) on Five Islands Road Unanderra commenced. The land was still to be officially acquired by the Commonwealth Government. Unanderra No 1 Hostel huts were timber-framed, purpose-built huts that consisted of double furnished rooms. The Government made the building of Commonwealth Hostels a priority despite the continuing shortage of housing and housing materials.

Unable to continue a building programme using building materials which were in short supply, the Commonwealth Government purchased Quonset, SAAR, Nissen and Romney huts as alternatives for accommodation and amenities buildings for use at Airports and other Commonwealth Departments Buildings throughout Australia. On 1 December 1948 the first contingent of 19 Balts travelled by air to Manus Island US Naval Base. They were sent by the Commonwealth Government to dismantle Quonset Huts purchased from the United States Army. Once dismantled they were shipped back to Australia. A total of 44 Balts was sent to Manus Island to dismantle the Quonset Huts. They were

assisted by the natives as well as 200 Japanese war criminals from Rabaul. Worth £12 million to the United States, Australia bought the Quonset Huts for about £1 million.

When the immigration programme to construct hostels first commenced two factors dominated: First was the speed of construction, the second was avoiding the use of materials in short supply. Every opportunity was taken to convert and enlarge existing accommodation that was no longer required for its original purpose such as former army barracks. Hostels had been designed based on an economic unit of 400 residents plus staff and camps consisted of anything from one to seven units. At first when hostels were to be constructed and not converted, timber-framed dormitories sheeted with bituminous felt were used. Later hostels units were erected mostly using prefabricated English Nissen Huts and the American "igloo" Quonset Huts.

By late-1948, AI&S Karingal Hostel commenced operation. It started with accommodation for 208 men in single rooms and later added 96 double rooms to accommodate up to 400 occupants. The initial cost of board and lodging at Karingal Hostel was 37/6 (thirty seven shillings and sixpence). AI&S had also subdivided a large area of company land and provided finance for employees to buy land and build their own homes as well as assist them in acquiring building materials from its non-profit housing division.

The Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board workers' camp was now accommodating the Displaced Persons who were employed by them to work on a programme of renewal and amplification work on the South Coast. The Housing Commission and private builders had started the construction of 791 homes in the Greater Wollongong area. The Housing Commission had already completed 400 homes. The South Coast still needed 7,500 houses in five years to solve the housing problem.

Towards the end of 1948, Calwell returned to Britain to discuss Australia's proposed mass migration scheme of 10,000 British migrants as soon as possible as the response to the scheme so far had been poor. The Department of Immigration commenced an advertising campaign aimed at Australian people that emphasised the importance of increasing its population through immigration. If Australia were to survive it had to be prepared to accept every suitable person of European origin and descent who wanted to settle here as Australia could not afford to wait until she could get British people only.

In 1948, the Australian Nationality and Citizenship Act was passed which allowed British migrants to apply for citizenship after residing in Australia for one year. This was markedly different for other foreign migrants who, initially, had to wait five years before they could apply. The British enjoyed many privileges, even if they were not citizens, including the right to vote and the ability to enter and leave Australia freely. These privileges were not allowed to foreign migrants during the early years of the migration schemes.

Crystals Clothing Industries moved to Wollongong under the Government's Decentralisation of Industry Scheme. It first started operating out of a garage in Crown Street until 1948 when Crystals moved into a purpose built factory in Keira Street Wollongong. The Keira Street factory was closed down and it moved to Ellen Street Wollongong. By January 1949 it had become the largest manufacturer of shirts in Australia producing 45,000 shirts and pyjamas a week in 1957. It started with a staff of 16 in 1944 and by the end of 1956 had a staff of 300.

Table 2: Most Prominent Migration Nationalities in Australia as of June 1948

1042	Latvian
1029	Polish (mostly ex-servicemen)
964	Greek
882	American
828	Lithuanian
718	Estonian
586	Italian
429	Yugoslav
369	Dutch

Source: Age (Melbourne, Vic: 1854-1954), Tuesday 10 August 1948, page 3.

1949

On 1 January 1949, the Australia-Malta Migration Agreement which had been signed in May 1948 came into operation.

Between January and June 1949 two shipments of Quonset Huts from Manus Island had arrived in Australia and they provided enough huts to meet the immediate requirement for Displaced Persons Migrant Accommodation Programme in NSW although further shipments were required later. Nissen Huts were on order from the United Kingdom and were expected about June.

Reports had appeared in newspapers about 120 British migrants onboard the Moreton Bay that were returning to the United Kingdom because they were unable to find accommodation in Australia. Figures stated in the House of Representatives by the Minister of Immigration on 16 February 1949 showed that of the 20,000 British migrants who came to Australia under both free or assisted passages, 385 had returned and of the 2,660 British sailors who took their discharge in Australia at the end of the Pacific war, 86 had returned. The Captain of the ship Moreton Bay, said that the returned British migrants had embarked but were nowhere near that number. When officers from the Department of Immigration and Department of Information investigated the reports of the returned British migrants, the Captain spoke of the British migrants who he had so far conveyed to Australia and his views were that they were no loss to Australia as many of them had come for a "winter tour" and had no intentions of staying. The number of British migrants onboard was well below 120 on this occasion. Other countries such as Canada and USA experienced migrants returning to the United Kingdom as well but in much higher numbers. Lord Tweedsmuir in a speech said, "most of the people returning to England from Canada and Australia showed more wishbone than backbone." The one accuracy of the newspapers reports was the inability to find accommodation. The Commonwealth Government had up to this time considered building hostels in capital cities and elsewhere to house single British migrants to begin with, but also other single migrant nationalities. It was also planned to take over of further hostels in various parts of Australia. In some instances the accommodation would be entirely for British migrants. British migrants were migrating to Australia under schemes where accommodation was provided by themselves or their nominators.

In the very early days of immigration, all migrants needed to make adjustments and just because British migrants spoke the language, unlike the migrants from Continental Europe, it did not make them adjust automatically. Migrants from Continental Europe had a language barrier and found themselves away from their comfortable, cultured life and subjected to prejudice against foreigners. Migrants from Continental Europe may have been insulted and called dirty names by people in the street, or maybe made to wait longer in queues to be served. They would have been given the worst of jobs in factories and mis-treated. They may have had a degree in law back in Europe but unable to practice in Australia. But as people became more used to and accepting of differences more kindness

and tolerance was shown towards them. The longer the time spent in the workforce the better grasp of English was made. Still, being called a "reffo" and told to "go back from where you came from" continued. Many Australians befriended their "New Australian" neighbours as acceptance was made and long-life friendships cemented. European migrants having fled war and Hitler may have arrived with a persecution complex and without much hope which sometimes prevented acceptance to be readily received. The British migrant was often given second preference to an Australian when it came to work and housing. British migrants too were sometimes insulted and called names and told they were not wanted. But sometimes those names were said in the context of friendly jibing, the Australian way. British migrants were not very appreciative of the Australian way sometimes and felt them culturally behind. The Australian "she'll be right mate" attitude was seen by the British migrant as lack of pride in a job well done which was foreign to the British migrant.

A 1947 conference in London with members of the British Commonwealth recommended each country should define who were or could become its citizens and then declare its citizens as British subjects. The nationality of most of those who may have considered themselves 'Australians' was solely that of British subject until 1949. The Nationality and Citizenship Act of 1948 created an Australian citizenship and the conditions under which it could be acquired and also introduced an oath of allegiance for new citizens. The first citizenship ceremony was held at the Albert Hall in Canberra in 1949.

The Commonwealth Government prepared for the arrival over an 18 month period (January 1949-June 1950) of 100,000 European migrants as part of the IRO agreement. After the initial stay at reception camps at Bathurst or Bonegilla, the men were sent to work in a variety of industries throughout Australia by the Commonwealth Employment Service while the wives and children either remained at Bathurst or were sent to other holding centres such as Cowra and Uranquinty until their husbands found accommodation for them. By 1949 the capacity of reception camps was expanded and they could hold approximately 15,000 refugees at one time.

With a shortage of iron products the Department of Immigration endeavoured to assist and encouraged migration to Australia of labour suitable for the iron and steel industry. By February 1949 it commenced arrangements to erect hostels at Port Stephens to accommodate 500 men, Newcastle for 400 men and another hostel at Port Kembla (Unanderra) for 400 men. This was in addition to the AI&S Karingal at Cringila.

After World War 2, Lysaghts had purchased some of the army huts no longer need by the Army on Hill 60 to house their workers. In February 1949 Newbold General Refractories received Council approval to build a hostel block on Wollongong Road, Port Kembla and the Department of Main Roads (DMR) had established a Displaced Persons' camp at Helensburgh.

The first 19 migrants to settle at AI&S Karingal Hostel arrived in Australia onboard the Georgie on 14 February 1949. They were followed by a further 10 who arrived onboard the Asturias on 5 March 1949. On 19 March 1949 the Empire Brent arrived in Sydney bringing a further 16 men. All were qualified British tradesmen specially selected by AI&S and were employed at its Port Kembla steelworks.

On 6 April 1949 the Governor General signed the Notification of the Acquisition of Land for Immigration Purposes. This was gazette in the Commonwealth Government Gazette No 20 dated 28 April 1949. The total area of land was 29 acres, 2 roods and 32 perches, excluding the 100 feet easement for a transmission line. The land faced Five Islands Road and stretched back to the State Metal Quarry. This was for the Commonwealth Migrant Workers' Hostel at Unanderra.

A Federal Cabinet Sub-Committee on Displaced Persons Scheme Accommodation was appointed on 7 April 1949. The Cabinet Sub-Committee decided to use pre-fabricated huts for use at migrant hostel camps. Nissen Huts were purchased from Great Britain and Quonset Huts were purchased from the United States Naval Base at Manus Island.

On 27 May 1949 the Minister for Immigration, Arthur Calwell, declared that there would be 1,200 Balts working in the steel industry at Port Kembla and Newcastle by the end of the year and within a few months enough accommodation in the two areas to house the Balts would be built. A party of 402 migrants arrived in Sydney onboard the Chitral in May 1949. Included in this group were 31 fitters and turners and bricklayers from the United Kingdom for AI&S Port Kembla.

The question of costs to house Displaced Persons was asked of the Minister of Works and Housing in the House of Representatives on 25 May 1949. He was asked to table a list of all building contracts let under the £11,000,000 housing scheme for displaced persons together with estimates received. The Minister replied that the Minister for the Army and the Minister for Air had both cooperated by making available many huts and other structures that would be converted to house Displaced Persons. In addition, the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture had made available many wool sheds which were used during the war for storing wool which had been acquired under the British appraisalment schemes. The partitioning of these huts and sheds required very little material and because of these arrangements it was not necessary to expend the £11,000,000 provided. A portion of this money was spent to bring to Australian Nissen Huts from Great Britain and Quonset Huts from Manus Island for which the Prime Minister had arranged. The differences between Army huts, Nissen Huts and Quonset Huts were to be checked before prototype construction was decided upon.

The first delivery of Nissen Huts was made in June 1949. About 80 Nissen Huts were imported each month until there were sufficient numbers to house migrant workers. These huts were in addition to about 540 Quonset Huts purchased from Manus Island. Together the Nissen and Quonset Huts would supplement accommodation and amenity buildings constructed for Commonwealth Migrant Workers' Hostels including those at Unanderra, Berkeley and Balgownie.

The June 1949 Coal Strike disrupted the nation-wide Hostel building programme. It affected rail transport and employment in the mines and industries reliant on the supply of coal. Many men were out of work.

On 22 June 1949 it had been reported that the DMR camp at Helensburgh was in poor condition following a particular period of heavy rainfall. Most of the tents were not waterproofed and left bedding and clothes wet. The galley had been inundated with water and the food spoilt. The recreation tent had also been completely saturated. Contrary to popular opinion not all Displaced Persons were living in luxury. In June 1949 extensions to the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board Camp at Coniston had been built. It was enlarged in two stages to provide accommodation for a total of 176 men.

Negotiations between the Ironworkers' Union and the Immigration Department about Balt labour in the mines and steelworks continued over many months. Proposals by the Unions were considered reasonable by the Minister and the terms of agreements guarded the interests of the Australian members of the Union. The agreement set out the jobs Balts could do and defined the priority in which to lay off men during the coal shortages or industrial trouble. The Government promised that European migrants would not encroach on work reserved for Australians. The question of employment of Displaced Persons in coal mines was also discussed with the miner's union. The Queensland Government in early June 1949 was ready to employ more people at their open cut mines. Terms for the employment of Displaced Persons in all Australian coal mines had been investigated.

The terms were similar to those of the Ironworker's Union, including an undertaking that no Displaced Person would be allocated to a mine where there was current industrial dispute or it was clear that the presence of a Displaced Person aggravated a current dispute nor were they to be placed into accommodation originally intended for Australian or British workers. In consultation with Broken Hill Pty Ltd (BHP) these general principles were accepted. However, talks between the Ironworkers' Union and Federal Government about the employment of Displaced Persons in the iron and steel industries continued throughout the early days the Commonwealth Government's and immigration schemes.

Continued shortages of coal, labour and materials at the Port Kembla steelworks and Lysaghts Works Pty Ltd was ongoing and it created a big lag in the steel and galvanised iron output. No 1 Blast Furnace had been closed since 1946. This shortage had a severe effect on the housing industry. AI&S pushed ahead with its construction work as labour and materials permitted. The coal-washing plant had eventually commenced operations and the 48 additional by-product coke ovens were readied for operation. Planning and construction work on the hot and cold strip mill and the tinplate plant progressed and contracts had been let for the new power station. Preparatory work had also started on a third blast furnace.

By 27 June 1949 there were 4,670 Displaced Persons enroute to Australia with a further 10,433 who had left camps in Germany and assembled in Europe and Italy for embarkation in July with more shipments to follow.

However, by late June 1949, most workers in heavy industries were out of a job because of the miners' coal strike. The miners' union were demanding the nationalisation of mines and more equitable distribution of work. At Port Kembla steel and iron centres, foundries and factories were idle. In the Greater Wollongong area, over 3,000 men and about 1,000 women had applied for unemployment relief at the unemployment centres set up by the Department of Labour and Industry. The angriest were the 100 British assisted migrants that AI&S had brought out to work as tradesmen. Some had only been in Australia four days, started work at AI&S in the morning only to be put off by that night. This created financial hardship for them as they had no money to fall back on. Displaced Persons still arrived in Australia at a rate of about 2,000 a week and more than 10,000 Displaced Persons in Australia were without work. The Commonwealth Office of Education, that worked with the Immigration Department, set up education and welfare programmes during this time for the Displaced Persons waiting in Migrant Reception and Holding Centres. Displaced Persons were given special classes in English. Classes were normally conducted at night and without electricity, some camps had to acquire lamps for the classes to proceed. Additional teachers were engaged to conduct the classes. Some Migrant Holding Centres became temporary Migrant Reception Centres to cope with the increased numbers of migrants waiting to be allocated employment and workers' hostel accommodation. But the jobs were not available. Instead of the four week stay at the Reception and Training Centres, the stay became much longer during the strike action. The migrants whose jobs vanished temporarily or who had been unable to take up jobs because of the strike were immediately entitled to unemployment benefits. Migrants were no worse off than Australians. The coal strike delayed the building of hostels because it created a further shortage of materials and the lack of sufficient, suitable accommodation also held up the employment of Displaced Persons particularly in the heavy industries.

On 18 July 1949 the Federal Cabinet Sub-Committee in its third meeting reviewed accommodation for migrants and emergency measures for accommodating the increased number of Displaced Persons. The accommodation building programme had been interrupted by the 1949 coal strikes.

On 11 August 1949 a second site for Unit No 2 for the Port Kembla (Unanderra) Hostel was being investigated. Two sites were inspected and it was agreed to use the land adjacent to Unit No 1 that had already been acquired by the Commonwealth Government.

The high turnover of Australian labour, partly as a result of the change of management style when BHP took over from AI&S and manpower shortages continued but it was the shortage of coal caused by the frequent stoppages at the coal mines that had hindered AI&S most as explained by the BHP Chairman of Directors address to the shareholders on 26 August 1949. Steelworks were not able to operate at peak efficiency without the continuous supply of suitable coal. Unfulfilled orders due to the disruptions widened the gap between supply and demand.

During construction of the "Balts" hostel at Unanderra, the Building Workers' Industrial Union (BWIU) Federal Executive expressed opposition to the national curtailment of building homes, hospitals and schools and other essential buildings to further construct or reconstruct hostels and camps for migrants. The needs of the Australian people, according to the BWIU Federal Executive, were being overlooked. Housing shortages meant that emergency camps and settlements were still used by the homeless people in Wollongong while hostels were being constructed to house migrants. Housing Commission homes were still behind in construction. In July 1949 the BWIU Executive had called for a ban on overtime on jobs like that at the "Balt" Hostel on Five Islands Road, Unanderra. The Union Executive felt it unfair that some of its members were able to work on this hostel building project and others could not and that the materials used in the building of the hostel should have been transferred to the Housing Commission in order to relieve the housing problem. The South Coast branch of the BWIU voted not to endorse the ban because it decided the Federal Government's policy of prioritising the building hostels had been the correct one. Shortages in building materials had closed down many building projects in the Wollongong area, whereas building at the hostel had provided work for local tradesmen six days a week.

The Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme commenced in August 1949. Overall this scheme employed more than 100,000 men and women from 30 different countries, with a peak employment of 10,000. The Snowy Mountains scheme, which took 25 years to complete, gave Australia a broader vision for its post-war immigration policy.

In August 1949 the Minister for Immigration had appealed to the Australian people not to call migrants "Balts", "Displaced Persons" or "DPs" and suggested they be called "New Australians", "newcomers" or "new settlers".

In early September 1949, the first group of Displaced Persons who had arrived under the International Refugee Organisation Agreement arrived in Australia on the General Heintzelman in November 1947 were released from their Government contracts two months earlier than the normal time. The Minister of Immigration, Arthur Calwell, took this action in recognition of the outstanding contribution they made to Australia's labour-starved economy. The release took effect on 30 September after which they were able to freely move about and find employment of their choice. Further releases were also given to the second arrival of Displaced Persons of February 1948 that took effect at the end of November 1949. One benefit of the early release of Displaced Persons was that it created accommodation vacancies at Commonwealth Hostels for newly arrived migrants.

After arriving in Australia, many Displaced Persons worked as carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers, plumbers and laborers in the building industry but work was confined to the building of hostels for further arrivals of Displaced Persons. Unions did not prevent them working on hostel sites but the Communist-led unions remained hostile towards them and threatened refusal to allow Displaced Persons even this work. Displaced Persons were excluded from the Brick, Tile and Pottery Employees'

Union despite acute shortages of stoneware, pipes, bricks and tiles. The shortage of stoneware piping impacted on the Water Board's sewerage programmes. The Painter and Decorators Union demanded that the Federal Government ceased its immigration policy which they viewed as flooding the market with Displaced Persons. The Australian Workers' Union and the Australian Railways Union actively co-operated with the Commonwealth Government and allowed Displaced Persons full membership to work alongside Australians in road and rail construction, farming, water storage, afforestation and timber-getting. The Director of the Building Industry Congress did not agree with the militant unions that interfered with the Commonwealth Immigration Scheme and prevented absorption of Displaced Persons into basic industries desperately short of labour. Throughout Australia the Commonwealth Employment Service, responsible to the Department of Immigration for the allocation of employment of migrants, had placed approximately 25,000 displaced men and women into jobs. 3,200 were employed in the production of timber and building materials, 3,000 in hospitals and other institutions, 5,000 with public utilities and 3,000 in rural production. Thousands more Displaced Persons arrived in Australia but very few found themselves working in the mining and steel industries because of Union opposition. By early September 1949 in NSW approximately 1,000 Displaced Persons were working for the Water Board, 100 for the Railways, 600 in the timber and sawmilling industry and 200 in rural industries.

On 5 September 1949, the Commonwealth Government Port Kembla Hostel for Displaced Persons Migrant Workers (Unanderra No 1 Hostel) on Five Islands Road Unanderra officially began operations. It is possible that it had begun to accommodate Displaced Persons as early as July 1949 according to Director of Works correspondence. The two dates have been recorded in separate Commonwealth Government files.

The Commonwealth Government wanted to employ as many Displaced Persons as they could in the steel industry and other industries with production bottlenecks. On 12 and 13 September 1949, in response to a letter received by the Ironworkers' Union from the Federal Minister for Labour and Industry which advised the Union that Displaced Persons had commenced work in the steel industry, the Ironworkers' Union held meetings at AI&S, Lysaghts and CRM where they voted almost unanimously against Displaced Persons coming into the industries. The Commonwealth Government had forced its position upon the unions despite earlier the resolutions not to employ Balts in their industry. The BWIU had admitted some Displaced Persons who had acceptable trade qualifications as members but refused those without. The Union viewed the Government's policy of introducing Displaced Persons to Australia as slave labour under a two year indenture system would lower the working conditions of Australians.

The first large batch of 160 Displaced Persons arrived in Wollongong on 13 September 1949. 70 worked at AI&S, 30 at Lysaghts, 6 at the Commonwealth Rolling Mills (CRM) and 14 at Fertilisers Ltd, Port Kembla. Another 160 were expected in October all of which were allocated for work at AI&S. It was understood no further Displaced Persons would start in heavy industries until more accommodation become available. The first batch were all accommodated at Unanderra No 1 Hostel. Some would also be accommodated at AI&S Steelhaven Hostel near Warrawong.

The newly arrived Displaced Persons now called "New Australians" had been accommodated at the Commonwealth Migrant Workers' Hostel, Five Islands Road, Unanderra. While the Union had allowed the employment of these New Australian's they took no responsibility for their inclusion in the industry until they qualified as tradesmen and viewed the first group of New Australians as a test case. These New Australians were only permitted to undertake shift work and other unpleasant work which Australians had refused to do.

In another Ministerial Statement by the Minister for Immigration, Arthur Calwell on 8 September 1949, he explained that when the free and assisted migration schemes opened in March 1947, there were only four ships available on the England to Australia run which could carry migrants among tourist-class passengers. There was no ship at all for exclusive carriage of immigrants. Through the Commonwealth Government's persistence since the start of the scheme, ten ships wholly devoted to the carriage of free and assisted immigrants to Australia from Britain had been arranged. This was the one mainstream of migrants of the time, the second stream being Displaced Persons from the camps in the western zone of Germany, whose shipping was arranged by the IRO. The Minister also foretold of development of the un-nominated British migrant. Conferences were held with the States and it was generally agreed that these migrants would have accommodation provided for them jointly by the Commonwealth and State Governments. These migrants provided the Commonwealth Government the ability to select new settlers from a wider field for selection particularly of skilled tradesmen and workers who were encouraged to find and make opportunities in Australia.

In September 1949 at a meeting with State Premiers, the minister for Immigration discussed a joint Commonwealth-State scheme for building hostels for British migrants who could not obtain State or private nominators. However, the Commonwealth was determined to build them although they had no idea where they would be located or how many would need to be accommodated. Calwell did not want them to be placed into former Army or Air Force camps as the British migrants might think these camps as inferior and would leave, thus aggravating the housing problem.

Eventually Unions attempted to make life easier for New Australians and extended to them the same privileges and protection by the Union as its Australian members. New Australian employees in the steel industries at Port Kembla had become members of the South Coast branch of the Ironworkers' Union since they commenced their employment at Port Kembla. However, the Union continued to object to the building of hostels for New Australians when so many Australian workers in the district were still without homes. It also continued with its view that New Australians should be living in the broader community and not isolated in Government camps. The Union still objected to the New Australians not allowed to work where they wanted and to the New Australian migrants indentured to work for two years under the Federal Government immigration policy. The Union continued to advocate on behalf of the New Australian's separated from their families and represented this view to the Government and urged the building of hostels close to Port Kembla to include the New Australian migrants' wives. Some New Australian migrants had begun leaving the hostels and found board and other accommodation. Likewise, the District Organiser of the BWIU, Mr W. McLeod, appealed to the South Coast Trades and Labour Council to support his demand to inspect the living conditions at AI&S Steelhaven Hostel which housed Displaced Persons and Maltese migrants employed by AI&S after he received reports of the primitive facilities. The poor conditions were denied by AI&S. Many Government Commonwealth Hostels were not ready to house families and many of the men living at Unanderra Hostel were either single or unaccompanied married men separated from their families who remained in Commonwealth Migrant Holding Centres throughout NSW. The Assistant Secretary of the Ironworkers' Federation, Mr E. Arrowsmith, this time championed the New Australians. In September 1949 he wrote to the Federal Minister for Labour and National Service and asked for arrangements to be made to have the family units brought together. He also wrote about the conditions at the Unanderra Hostel regarding the quantity and quality of the food, the high cost of the weekly tariff (£2/12/6), no cleaners to clean the worker's room or do the worker's washing and the low wages of the domestic staff which was £1/17/0. At Lysaght's Hostel the tariff was £1/15/0 but the men supplied their own food. The Union determined the average boarding house rate in the district was £2/5/0. Mr Arrowsmith also wanted the Commonwealth Government to arrange English classes for the men's safety and their workmates safety.

In 1949 AI&S acquired from Concrete Constructions their worker's accommodation camp and commenced operating it as Steelhaven Hostel on Five Islands Road, Port Kembla (near Wattle Street). Now AI&S was operating two hostels for their workers, Karingal for its British migrant workers and Steelhaven for its Displaced Persons and non-British migrant workforce. Displaced persons were placed at Steelhaven by October 1949 and were amongst the first non-British migrants to be employed at AI&S before other assisted migration schemes had been agreed to with countries other than Britain. In 1949 further extensions to increase its accommodation capacity at the Metropolitan Water Sewerage & Drainage Board Migrant Workers camp were in progress.

In October 1949 the Department of the Interior had asked Wollongong Council for immediate access to land in the Council's industrial estate that was being resumed for AI&S for the erection of another "Balt Camp". This was for Unanderra No 2 Hostel.

Since 1945, under Arthur Calwell, Australia had welcomed 292,145 migrants. Of that total number 157,964 were British and 134,181 were aliens including 87,000 from Displaced Persons Camps of Europe under the IRO agreement. Landing permits were given to 71,431 aliens of whom some 24,000 had not yet arrived. During the 1949 calendar year of the estimated 168,900 migrants, 119,500 came under migration schemes and 49,400 were paid for by their nominators. The Prime Minister, Ben Chifley, still chased 25 million people for the defence of Australia. The desired number of British migrants had still not eventuated and in addition to the Displaced Persons Resettlement agreement Australia began to consider other European countries from which to source migrants.

AI&S financial results for year ending 1949 had been adversely affected by the general coal strike which had caused almost a complete stoppage of operations for about 8 weeks. This also had impacted on employment availability not only for migrants, but for Australians. When increased accommodation became available for migrants in the area this helped ease the acute labour shortage and allowed for No 1 Blast Furnace, which had been closed since July 1946, to resume and this increased the steel output towards the end of 1949. A second shift at the spun pipe plant commenced in December 1949 which partially relieved the shortage of cast-iron pipes for water, gas and sewerage construction programmes. The new merchant bar rod and strip mill commenced on 10 October 1949 on a three-shift basis. The additional 48 battery coke ovens commenced production on 24 January 1950, but insufficient quantities of coal did not allow the coke ovens to operate at capacity. More labour was required by AI&S to achieve maximum production and maintenance. Additional labour was also required by AI&S for its planned construction programme. As labour and materials became available work on the construction programme for the hot and cold strip mill and tinplate plant proceeded or accelerated when other sections were brought nearer to completion. The erection of the new power station had to be deferred due to lack of labour and materials. Every endeavour had been made to push ahead with a programme of modernisation and mechanisation of collieries on the South Coast which had provided some relief to the acute coal shortages. Still more labour was needed.

19 December 1949 saw a change in Government from Labour to Liberal. The new Prime Minister was Robert Menzies (1949-1966) and Harold Holt the new Minister for Immigration. Much of the immigration programme framework by the previous Labour Government under Prime Ministers Curtin and Chifley and the Immigration Minister Arthur Calwell remained.

By December 1949 only 59,476 British migrants had come to Australia under the sponsorship or nomination schemes. A spokesman for the Department of Immigration predicted that by 1951, 99% of all migrants would be British. The IRO Agreement that Australia had signed in July 1947 would soon cease and consequently the government set out to get as many of the best-class European migrants as possible.

In December 1949 the New South Wales State Authorities requested a grant of easement of 60 feet width for another transmission line which adjoined the existing 100 feet easement on the Unanderra Hostel site. Construction of Unanderra No 2 Hostel commenced in 1949 adjacent to Unit No 1 Hostel. Like No 1 Hostel it had the capacity to accommodate 400 persons. The completion date for No 2 Hostel was set for March 1951. Unit 2 comprised of Nissen Huts for Dormitory Huts and Quonset Huts for amenities. The State Housing Commission was also in the process of its own home building programme.

In 1949 Fetiye came to Australia with her parents from the Mediterranean Island of Rodos and was of Turkish descent. She married a German migrant named William Lechner who came to Australia about 1955. The couple had two daughters, Regina and Belinda. Their parents also lived in Wollongong.

In 1949 Walter Knight migrated to Australia with his mother and two sisters. He was of Ukrainian descent. Antal and Agnes Scharok from Hungary migrated to Australia in 1949 also and became naturalised in 1967.

Wasyly Sukan came to Australia in 1949 with only the clothes he wore and a few words of English. The Ukrainian had been in the tank force of the Russian Army but was captured and sent to a prisoner of war camp but managed to escape and fled to Italy where and later joined the Free French Army and rose to the rank of sergeant. But Wasyly Sukan became tired of fighting and so he migrated to Australia where he joined Lysaght's as a labourer and worked his way to an Inspector and later a Re-Inspector. He met his wife at the first "Welcome to New Australians" night held in Wollongong in 1950 and they were married in 1951. Mrs Sakun worked as a music teacher at Jurgens for many years. They built their own home to their own design in 1951 and by 1968 they owned their home in Porter Street, Wollongong valued at \$180,000. Wasyly Sakun was a self-taught linguist and spoke French, German, Russian, Polish, Ukrainian, English, Czechoslovakian and Yugoslavian. Mr and Mrs Sakun had two children, Lisa and Alex.

Dragan Ristic migrated to Australia from Yugoslavia with his Polish wife Lucia Maria in 1949. They had a son Miroslav. Dragan Ristic worked at Wollongong Hospital as a Roengten assistant, then at the Water Board and by 1968 used his language skills in his employment in a travel bureau, as an interpreter at court and teaching English classes at Wollongong Primary School. He also became a Justice of the Peace.

In 1949 Juris Krumins-Strauss migrated from Latvia to Australia with his parents, sister and brother. He would marry an Australian girl and settle in Austinmer.

John Mihaly was born in Hungary. He had also lived in Italy, Spain, France, Germany and Australia where he learnt to speak all these languages, before he migrated to Australia in 1949. John Mihaly was single and had no relatives in Australia or in Hungary. Mr Mihaly would become the first President of the Australian International Friendship Association of Wollongong in 1969, which he formed with Harry Young. John Mihaly worked the Postcom Credit Union as Secretary Manager.

The Siderenko family migration from Latvia via Germany in about 1949. By 1971 they were living at Austinmer with their three sons. One son, Andre, born in 1951, trained as an industrial chemist and was a foreman at South Coast Refractories.

Irene Beranyi arrived in Australia on 7 September 1949 and lived at Greta Migrant Camp. She came to Wollongong in 1951. She was accompanied by her husband Steve and their children Elizabeth and Steven who had been born in Austria. Irene Beranyi and her husband were Hungarian. When they

first came to Wollongong they lived in a garage in Cringila where they stayed for 3 years until they moved to a house they purchased at Mangerton. They would run film nights at Karingal Hostel.

Maria Schmyko arrived in Australia in September 1949 and lived at a hostel, a former army camp, at Rooty Hill near Penrith. Maria's husband worked at AI&S and lived in a men's hostels near the steelworks. In April 1952 Maria and her daughters, then 5 years old and a three week old baby, came to Wollongong and moved into a house her husband had bought in Corrimal.

In the late 1940s and 1950s camping grounds in the Illawarra were very popular especially in summer and the district attracted large increases in population during the summer holidays. Many migrant families chose to live in camping areas along the coast as it was a practical temporary option when more conventional accommodation was in short supply.

1950

The former Prime Minister, Ben Chifley, had chased 25 million people for the defence of Australia. The desired number of British migrants had still not eventuated and Australia began to consider other European countries from which to source migrants. In the early 1950s the Australian Government introduced immigration schemes to encourage migration from European countries. The Italian Premier had advised the Australian Prime Minister that Italy had a surplus population of four million that were potential migrants for Australia. Britain, with 50 million people, had become overcrowded. Australia was one country in the world that was able to offer people a living and contribute communities needed by the rest of the world. Over a 4 year period Australia entered into migration agreements with several European countries that would represent over two-thirds of the immigration programme. The family reunion scheme was viewed as an important component of migrants successfully settled in their new country and 'Operation Reunion' was implemented and assisted family members overseas to migrate to Australia and be re-united with family already living here. Over a ten year period about 30,000 people would migrate under this scheme.

Table 3: Assisted Immigration Schemes – 1950s

1951	Italy and the Netherlands enter into assisted migration schemes to Australia
1951	Berkeley Hostel operated 1951-1956, 1954-1967. Huts removed 1972.
1951	Balgownie Hostel operated 1951-1982. (re-named Fairy Meadow 1957).
1952	Austria, Belgium, Greece, Spain and West Germany enter into assisted migration schemes to Australia.
1954	Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States enter into assisted migrant schemes to Australia.
1955	Operation Reunion reuniting in Australia families from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, USSR, former Yugoslavia

Source: 'A History of the Department of Immigration, Managing Migration to Australia', Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Revised Edition, June 2017.

The new Minister for Immigration, Harold Holt, in January 1950 announced a new migration programme in which Australia concentrated on securing a predominance of British migrants. In 1950 4,000 Commonwealth-nominated British migrants arrived in Australia.

The new Liberal Government's immigration priorities introduced an increased annual intake of migrants maintained at the highest possible level over a long period in the long term and concentrated on getting more British migrants to Australia.

Australia intended to take 200,000 migrants in 1950 (compared to 170,000 in 1949) 100,000 were to come from Britain. The immigration centres used for Displaced Persons were set aside for the British migrants. Of the 100,000 British migrants, the Government planned 70,000 to come under the free and assisted passages scheme compared to the 40,000 that came during 1949 and assumed responsibility for 33,000 Britons at certain immigration centres that had been established for Displaced Persons. The Government hoped that of the 70,000 British migrants 30,000 would come to Australia independently as paying passengers. A varied employment contract system based on the Displaced Persons contract was introduced for the British migrants whereby those that lived in the Commonwealth Hostels would be required to work in essential industries as directed until they were passed out to private employment.

The Government launched a programme to provide sufficient accommodation for these migrants and hostels were built in country areas to provide for the rural labour pool. The Government continued to honour the former Labour Government's agreement to take 110,000 Displaced Persons up to 30 June 1951 in addition to the 27,000 by December 1950. This meant an approximate total 50,000 Displaced Persons came to Australia in 1950. In addition to the new settlers from Britain, the Government hoped to obtain 50,000 Europeans possibly 10,000 Dutch and 40,000 from other countries. The Government hoped to get Dutch migrants on a much larger scale than previously as they had proved themselves as excellent settlers in every part of the world. The Australian Government had undertaken negotiations to bring about 1,500 Dutch servicemen to Australia from Indonesia. The 40,000 migrants from other countries came from a variety of countries including Malta and Eire (Ireland) as well as a large number of foreign migrants arriving in Australia as nominees of friends and relatives already living in Australia. The Government hoped that this would mean by 1960 Australia's population would reach 10,500,000.

By 1950 the principal migration schemes were the Free and Assisted Passage Schemes for British subjects of the United Kingdom, the Displaced Persons Resettlement Scheme, the Maltese Assisted Passage Scheme, the Empire and Allied Ex-servicemen's Assisted Passage Scheme and the Eire Assisted Passage Scheme. The responsibility for the preliminary approval of nominations of British migrants and for their initial reception and after-care had been delegated by the Commonwealth Government to State Governments. The Commissioner for Malta in Australia was responsible for the reception and after-care of Maltese migrants. Responsibility for the after-care of Ex-servicemen rested entirely with the Commonwealth Government who also contributed to the cost of travel to Australia of selected ex-servicemen. The Eire Assisted Passage Scheme was under the same general lines as that of the Empire and Allied Ex-servicemen's Assisted Passage Scheme and was applicable to citizens of Eire residing in Eire or in the United Kingdom. Under the agreement with the Netherlands Emigration Foundation instituted in December 1946, the Netherlands Government was responsible for the reception and after-care in Australia. A new category was introduced for British migrants under "Commonwealth Nominations" and comprised of selected applicants under the free and Assisted Passage Scheme who could not find personal or group nominators. This was supplementary to the personal and group nomination scheme and used to bridge the gap between the actual number of personal and group nominations submitted by the states and the target of 70,000 set for 1950. Under this new scheme the Commonwealth undertook full responsibility for the reception, accommodation and employment with the exception of those British migrants who found private accommodation on arrival who were then free to seek private employment of their own accord. A second Migrant Worker's Hostel Programme was commenced in 1950 for British migrants under the Commonwealth Nomination Scheme but by November 1950 none of these hostels had been completed and so to speed up the increase of capacity, Nissen Huts were installed at existing hostels.

By 1950 holding centres used to accommodate dependents of alien migrant workers had reached their 28,208-bed capacity and had to be expanded. Separated from their husbands and located far from

centres of employment, the women found the forced separation created much hardship and social problems.

On 8 February 1950 nearly 50 sporting and cultural organisations attended a meeting in Wollongong called by the Mayor of Greater Wollongong, (Alderman Dawson) where they discussed the social and welfare needs of the migrants living in hostels in the district. The City of Greater Wollongong New Australians' Social Committee was formed and it helped the migrants to become part of the Australian way of life and encouraged the people of Wollongong to accept them as real Australians. Several sporting organisations such as the Corrimal Rangers Soccer Club offered to hold football competitions, not only to help the men but the Club looked for new talent in amongst the European migrants. Many of the migrants had been musicians and entertainers and had no outlet for their talents. Books on Australian subjects were donated as well as chess sets. English classes were already operating at local schools at Coniston, Port Kembla and Unanderra and there were plans for others. At that first meeting five New Australians from Unanderra Hostel attended and one of them offered the thanks of his fellow migrants for the interest shown in their welfare. The Committee met regularly and organised such things as "Welcome" entertainment and access to financial, legal and accommodation assistance. Mr Boris Cerns became the representative of the New Australian Migrants at Unanderra Hostel. Donations were asked of local people, organisations and businesses and volunteers provided catering. Migrants had asked the Committee to be put into contact with local citizens who shared similar interests such as horse or cattle breeders, gardeners, poultry farmers, hotel managers and orchestras. The Committee also assisted with finding accommodation that enabled the New Australian migrants to bring a fiancée or wife to Wollongong. The New Australians reciprocated by hosting "thank you" parties.

In March 1950 Wollongong Council approved a further building extension to AI&S Karingal Hostel at a cost of £19,500 which increased its accommodation capacity.

The liner Asturias called into Fremantle on 6 March 1950 carrying 1,548 British migrants and 369 Maltese migrants. 114 migrant passengers disembarked at Fremantle and 20 of those migrants were young, single men who were trained as miners. The remainder of the passengers then sailed onward to the Eastern States. The Maltese migrants were sent to the Victorian Electricity Commission, Canberra and Port Kembla.

Over the weekend of 17-18 March 1950, about 350 non-British male migrants living at Unanderra No 1 Hostel were moved to No 2 Hostel which was still under construction, to make way for British migrants and their families. A further 12 British migrants and families arrived in June and they too were accommodated at Unit No 1 Hostel at Unanderra. Most of the men were from mining backgrounds.

To explore the possibility of increased importation of pre-fabricated houses representatives from the Commonwealth Government, NSW and Victorian governments and a private contractor left Australia on 20 March 1950 and investigated pre-fabricated housing systems in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, Austria, Italy and the USA.

By 13 May 1950 the scheme to bring 27,000 British migrants was threatened by the ongoing shortages of shipping to transport them. The Minister for Immigration, Harold Holt, proposed that schools be built to train both migrants and Australians for the building industry as the present Government policy of only admitting skilled British building trade workers was to be discontinued.

7,000 migrant workers with their families were expected to arrive in Wollongong before 1954 which increased Wollongong's population to over 20,000. By April 1950 the Commonwealth Works and

Housing commission planned to erect a hostel (Unanderra No 2) at Five Islands Road, Unanderra. By May 1950 two hostels on a 27 acre property at Flagstaff Road, Berkeley were planned to house an expected 2,500 British migrating to the Illawarra. These British migrants provided labour to industries in Port Kembla.

Although the Department of Works had planned to establish hostels at Unanderra and Berkeley for all incoming British migrants, Wollongong Council did not want hostels concentrated in one area and objected to the Department's plan. On Monday 29 April 1950, Mr W. Davies, MHR, and representatives of the Commonwealth Department of Works and Housing were given a tour by Wollongong Alderman Dawson to select an alternative site for a hostel to house British Migrants. A compromise was reached and 3 hostel units were planned for Balgownie Hostel, Fairy Meadow for 2,000 British migrants reducing the accommodation capacity originally intended for Berkeley. The planned hostel, Unanderra No 2, remained.

26 June 1950 a "Welcome Social" was held at the Soldiers Memorial Hall for the New Australians. The secretary of the organising committee was Mr Harry Box. This social followed the successful welcome that was held some months earlier. The social included games, dancing and a number of items by the new citizens. Various organisations assisted with the function with the ladies from various organisation attended to the food.

By June 1950 Mr Collaery had agreed to sell 116 acres of his land to the Wollongong Council at the agreed price of £14,000. A portion of about 30 to 35 acres of that purchased property was then to be sold by the Wollongong Council to the Commonwealth Government as the site for hostel units for British migrants that became known as Balgownie Hostel and in July 1950 approval was given to acquire an additional 25 acres for the Balgownie Hostel which was owned by the Frost family.

Like Berkeley Hostel, prefabricated huts (Nissen and Quonsets) were used at Balgownie Hostel and Unanderra No 2. Both Berkeley No 1 and Unanderra No 2 hostels were scheduled to be completed before Christmas December 1951. Work on Unanderra No 2 Hostel started almost immediately. While prefabricated huts at Unanderra No 2 Hostel were being erected in preparation of the impending arrival of British migrants, 48 BWIU carpenters employed by contractors, Kennedy and Bird, at the Unanderra No 2 Hostel construction site, stopped work in late June 1950 when they no longer received "country allowance" which had been paid to them by their former employer John Stubbs Construction Co. The Department of Works and Housing directed the contractors, Kennedy and Bird, to discontinue the allowance as the men who worked at the Unanderra No 2 Hostel site were local men. The matter was heard by the Conciliation Commissioner on 11 July 1950.

On 30 June 1950 the Commonwealth Government decided to step up the intake of Displaced Persons to 100,000. This increase required considerable modifications of the design and character of the hostels if they were to be available to coincide with the programmed arrivals and without too great a drain on scarce building materials.

Hostels to accommodate about 37,000 selected British migrants were established throughout Australia in country and industrial areas. The Immigration Planning council had approved plans to house about 15,000 migrants in country centres as part of the Government's general decentralisation policy and in addition to more than 20,000 in industrial areas throughout Australia.

Industrial sites and hostels were established for those industrial workers engaged in the production of building materials at Melbourne, Geelong, Adelaide, Launceston, Newcastle, Sydney and at Port Kembla (Unanderra) a hostel to house British migrants. By July 1950 the sites for the country areas selected were Maitland, Taree-Wingham, Grafton, Gunnedah, Wagga Wagga, Lithgow and

Cootamundra and it was recommended hostels also be established at Cooma, Cessnock, Deniliquin, Armidale, Tumut and Batlow. Hostels were also planned for South Australia and Western Australia. These hostels were in addition to the hostels built for 32,500 European migrants.

The British migrants who came to Australia as Government nominees were compelled to stay in specific industries only while they lived at a Government Hostel and only when they found private accommodation for themselves were they allowed to work where they chose. All these hostels planned allowed for the provision of a continuous labour force in metropolitan industries producing essential materials and for country towns short of houses. Where accommodation was not available the British migrants would remain at Holding Centres.

In August 1950, the South Coast Trade Union officials took action to place grievances before the Government on behalf of the New Australian migrants at Unanderra Hostel about increased tariff charges. Tariffs at all Commonwealth Hostels had been raised to meet rising costs. The Minister for Immigration, Harold Holt, responded by stating the new rates were "fair and reasonable".

On 1 September 1950 a non-official Post Office was opened at Unanderra Migrant Hostel. The Post Office was known as Unanderra East.

By September 1950, the Department of the Interior was still waiting to take possession of the land at North Wollongong from Wollongong Council to erect Balgownie Hostel but cost and conditions of sale for the land were still being negotiated with Wollongong Council.

The first section of Berkeley Hostel was planned for occupation by November 1950 for 800 migrants and the second section of the project was to be completed by February 1951. The Berkeley Hostel was erected using the prefabricated huts to avoid the local supply of building materials being drained. The Government requested Wollongong Council to supply electricity to the site and to establish a good road between Berkeley and Port Kembla. Council determined the best option for the road would be to continue Northcliffe Drive to Short Street but wanted the Commonwealth Government to finance road construction.

In October 1950 the contract was let to Concrete Constructions to build Balgownie Hostel using Nissen and Quonset Huts.

In November 1950, more than 600 New Australian migrants that worked at Port Kembla industries declared their support for anti-Communist candidates in the Federated Ironworkers' elections. Many Unions during this time were still led by militants and Communists. A series of meetings were held at hostels where New Australian migrants spoke out against the Union's Communist officials. One candidate was Mr Paul Mitrega, a Polish ex-servicemen. Like Mitrega, many of the New Australian migrants had personal experiences in their homeland of Communism and suffered under this regime. According to Mitrega, strikes and sabotage were how the communist unions in Australia functioned. Mitrega told the meetings that the Union had forbidden New Australian members to work in machine shops and other departments within the industries. Bricklayers were sweeping floors, carpenters were being used as crane chasers, chemists were carrying coal and turners and mechanics were forced to decorate safety slogans with paint. New Australians who were skilled fitters were forced to carry bags for fitters. Much of all this was true, but maybe Mitrega was unaware that this was one of the compromises made by the Federal Government with the Unions for the employment of Displaced Persons in iron and steel industries in which skilled jobs would go to Australian workers first and the unskilled jobs were to be filled by Displaced Persons. Displaced Persons were permitted to work as skilled tradesmen but only with Federal Government approval. Mitrega also declared that New Australians were indentured for two years to work in a system that was sabotaged by Communists. A

Communist-led Union had been beaten the year before in Newcastle and the 500 New Australians in that branch played a big part in their defeat. The meetings in November 1950 took place at Unanderra, Cringila and Karingal Hostels in many languages and the attendees pledged to vote for anti-Communist candidates. One of the fears of the Communist-led Unions of allowing Displaced Persons to work in industries had now been realised.

By November 1949 about 14 British migrant miners and their families moved into pre-fabricated homes at Dapto.

Housing shortages for the local population in the district continued and cuts to the proposed importation of prefabricated houses further impacted these shortages, though migrant labour increased the output of homes and increased housing programmes. Housing programmes were financed by State Housing Authorities. In December 1950 the Wollongong Council was asked to lease 10 acres of its industrial area at Unanderra to the Department of Interior as a site for the erection of homes for British migrants. The Federal Government was anxious to bring out British migrants and their families to work in the mines. The land that the Commonwealth Government wanted was not for a hostel, even though it was proposed to use Nissen Huts as homes on a basis of five to the acre, with the families out of the area in 10 years. There was to be 500 of these homes to be erected along the coast. The Department of the Interior also investigated land in the town of Dapto. Council agreed to lease the land.

In 1950, Mr Anton Tracz, from Poland was one of the first migrants to be employed at AI&S Port Kembla. By 1965 he was still employed at AI&S as a plate layer in the traffic department.

In 1950, Joseph Delekta who was born in Germany of Polish descent came to Australia with his parents and sister. He became a trainee chemist at the Steelworks. The family settled in Unanderra.

In 1950 Peter Paplauskas's parents migrated from Europe. His father was from Lithuania and his mother was from Germany. By 1971 Peter was 15 years old and a student at Edmund Rice College, his older brother Manfred was married and his younger brother John was 11 years old. Mr Paplauskas was a shift supervisor with Australian Fertilizers and Mrs Paplauskas worked in a delicatessen. Mr Paplauskas was Scout Master of the Central Illawarra District.

In 1950 the Natalenko family arrived in Australia. Mr Natalenko was Ukrainian and Mrs Natalenko was Russian. Their son Bob (Bohdan in Russian) was born in Bavaria, West Germany about 1949 and their daughter Oxana was also born in Germany. Before coming to Australia Mr Natalenko was an actor, newsreader and a painter and Mrs Natalenko was a former actress and remained involved in activities related to her profession in Wollongong. By 1972 Bob Natalenko had just finished his studies at Wollongong University College for a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in English. Mr Natalenko had died seven years earlier in about 1965.

Mr and Mrs Sinadinovic migrated to Australia from Yugoslavia about 1950. Two of their sons, Michael and Davo, were born in Australia. By January 1972 Michael Sinadinovic was waiting for his HSC results and dreamt of embarking on a medical career. Michael was also active in the North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club and had won school trophies as a senior school swimming and age athletics champion.

From about the late 1950s/early 1960s there were many houses in the southern industrial suburbs of Wollongong such as Cringila, Port Kembla and Warrawong that were operated by migrants from Macedonia (the former Yugoslavia) for their countrymen. Migrants from Macedonia established boarding houses for their compatriots. In the 1960s it was usual for the men to travel from Macedonia to Australia using their own resources. Many of these men found work at AI&S and other heavy

industries in the area and would send money home. They worked very hard and saved money to return home with the intention of investing and remaining in Macedonia or arranged for their family to join them in Australia. Their sponsors, usually family, friends or people from their village arranged their initial accommodation. By the 1960s there were about 4 houses owned by Macedonians that could be called boarding houses where men were the only boarders. There were a number of family homes that took in a few boarders to supplement their income. In 1970 the migration agreement was signed between Australia and Yugoslavia and this provided financial support to travel to Australia as well as access to accommodation at the Migrant Hostels in the area.

Tents were a common form of temporary accommodation for migrants in the 1950s. After World War 2 there was a shortage of accommodation and building materials Australia wide but especially in Wollongong where the workforce and population grew quickly due to the influx of migrants, many of whom worked in industries to increase the production of building materials. Public parks were used by not only migrants but by holiday makers as a form of accommodation. Migrants who were unable to secure accommodation, or who found living in the local Commonwealth Migrant Hostels unsuitable for their families, lived in tents and caravans on camping grounds in the Illawarra, particularly Stuart Park.

1951

In 1951 the Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME) was established. Australia is one of the 16 founding nations.

The Hostel building programme for Balgownie Hostel at Fairy Meadow was still in progress in January 1951.

The New Settlers League, another Illawarra group, was formed in 1951 to welcome and assist newly arrived British migrants. Members of the League would visit migrant hostels to ascertain the requirements of the British migrants and their families and provided them information relative to their new adopted home. The League appealed to businesses and industry for donations that allowed them to undertake this work. They also organised Welcome Social and Dances at the Soldier's Memorial Hall with supper provided by ladies auxiliaries from local groups and organisations. The Wollongong City Band would play concerts at Unanderra Hostel and British migrants from Balgownie Hostel attended as well. The British migrants also arranged dances at their hostels.

The low birthrate during the depression years reduced the number of working age men each year since so for Australia migration became even more necessary. The Minister for Immigration, Harold Holt, in an address to the delegates at the Jubilee Citizenship Convention on Tuesday, 23 January 1951, spoke of the hope for 200,000 migrants for Australia by the end of the year and by 1960 there would be two million in Australia, half British migrants and half New Australians migrants. Australia had a net gain of 81,000 migrants in 1949 and some 86,000 during 1950 which assisted breaking bottlenecks in the iron, steel, brick, tile and cement production. Holt outlined the work undertaken by the Displaced Persons and paid tribute to the Trade Union Movement for its acceptance of migrants into their unions in Australia, including militant unions.

The Federal Government was still focussed on increased British migration to Australia but the United Kingdom still suffered with its own manpower problems. The Federal Government then surveyed the main sources of European migrants and believed the Netherlands, Italy and Germany held the best prospects for the supply of migrants to carry out skilled and unskilled work on Australian developmental and defence plans. In 1951 the Federal Government had negotiated migration agreements with Italy and the Netherlands and entered negotiations for a selection of German

migrants. Under the Dutch agreement Australia would receive 25,000 migrants in 1951 and Italy would supply assisted migrants not exceeding 15,000. The Dutch government agreed to share costs and this proved to be a reason for large numbers of Dutch migrating to Australia. Migrants from Italy were focussed around young Italian couples. Italian migrants would become the largest non-British migrant group in Australia. There was opposition to bringing German migrants to Australia but Minister Holt assured those opposed that care would be taken in the selection process. These proposed new sources of migrants allowed for some two million newcomers in Australia by 1960.

On 29 March 1951 the Bilateral agreement between Australia and Italy is signed.

In April 1951 the Port Kembla No 1 Hostel (Unanderra No 1 Hostel) was diverted from Displaced Persons and non-British migrants to British Migrants.

In 1951 and 1952 the Special Projects Procedure operated and brought in 77,000 male workers, mainly from Germany but also the Netherlands, France, Austria and Italy to work for the Snowy Mountains Authority, the Tasmanian Hydro Electricity Commission, the South Australian Railways and AV Jennings.

An improved housing situation to house migrant families was needed to adjust the gender balance of the current migrant population but there remained limited housing availability in the district. Wollongong housing shortages continued immediate to post-World War 2 as a legacy of the depression which the world was still recovering from, as well as the War and acute labour and material shortages. When hostels and housing for migrant families were being constructed there were many people in Wollongong who still lived in the remaining emergency housing settlements and therefore the criticism of building hostels and housing for migrants when housing for Australians was still under resourced can be understood. Yet, migrants would be responsible for the increased output of building materials that would enable houses to be built. People in Wollongong, particularly the former Commonwealth Hostel residents, attempted to solve the housing shortages themselves. Some families shared houses they bought jointly or boarded. Others purchased land and built garages or workshops to live in until they could afford to build a house. Local authorities deemed this trend worse than during the depression and criticised the Federal Government of building hostels for the migrants and then wiping their hands of them after they left the hostels. Local tradesmen on Flagstaff Road had commenced a mutual cooperation scheme going from house to house to build homes without delay. The State Housing Commission had made some contribution towards the solution through housing projects in the district, but many people did not fall under its ambit.

On 17 March 1951 the 350 New Australian men who lived in the timber huts at Unanderra No 1 Commonwealth Migrant Workers Hostel since 1949 were moved to tin "igloo" huts at Unanderra No 2 Hostel while it was under construction. Their move enabled the accommodation of British migrants and their families in the better standard of hut. These British migrants were expected within the week. A protest meeting was held by the New Australians but they decided not to make an issue of the Government's directive although several thought it unfair that married European migrants were not allowed to bring their families to Wollongong when hostels quarters were being vacated to house newly arrived British migrant and their accompanying families. The Federated Ironworkers' Association investigated the standard of the new accommodation at Unanderra No 2 Hostel which the New Australians had been forced to move into and found it to be below the standard required for workers in the steel industry. They found the 42 feet x 15 feet x 7 feet Nissen Huts housed 12 men, had insufficient head room causing the huts to become ill-ventilated and unsuitable for accommodating shift workers who needed to sleep during the day. The huts were badly lit and leaked in the rain that caused stagnant water outside the huts. The new huts had no power points and many of the doors leading to the rooms were below ground level. Roads had not been completed through

the new hostel construction site and although water and closet fittings had been connected, the reticulation system was still under construction and many excavations were still present throughout the site. There were no properly organised cleaning arrangements. These matters were investigated by authorities. The Federation Ironworkers' Association representative reported that with some improvements Unanderra No 2 Hostel quarters was suitable as a temporary measure but not suitable in their present state. After the men moved to Unanderra No 2 Hostel they still had their meals over at Unanderra No 1 Hostel cafeteria.

Table 4: Hostels & Emergency Housing Resident Numbers, 24 February 1951

Hostels (men)		Emergency Temporary Housing (homes)	
Unanderra	370	Spoonerville	69
Karingal	390	Official Camp	69
Steelhaven	200	Federal Reserve	30
Lysaghts	120	Hill 60	16
Berkeley and Unanderra Hostel under construction			

Source: Illawarra Daily Mercury, (Wollongong, NSW: 1950-1954), Saturday 24 February 1951, page 2.

On 1 April 1951 the Assisted Migration Agreement between Australia and the Netherlands came into operation and the Agreement between Australia and Italy commenced operating from 1 August 1951.

When Leonardis Connelius and Guiliana Boeyan left the Holland to migrate to Australia they were given a parcel to deliver to an elderly woman in Thirroul. Giuliana and Leonardis arrived in Australia by plane on 11 April 1951. When they delivered the parcel the elderly woman offered them accommodation for a few days and she then helped arranged for Leonardis and Guiliana to rent a room in a premises at Woonona which was located opposite the brickyard on the highway. They were able to do their own cooking. Both of them found work and within nine months had saved enough money for a deposit on a new house in Woonona. Leonardis was a Bootmaker but worked at a brickworks. After he left the brickworks he purchased a shoe repair shop in Woonona but sold the shop two years later. In 1954 seeing an opportunity they bought a shop in Fairy Meadow that sold baby clothes on consignment from a lady in Thirroul. Leonardis would sell dresses door to door which he bought in Sydney. They kept the business until 1986. Leonardis and Guiliana later moved to Figtree and then to Mt Keira.

On 19 April 1951 Balgownie Hostel commenced operations. By June 1951 there were about 200 migrants accommodated in Unit 1 at Balgownie Hostel and it was anticipated that at the end of 1951 more units would be completed to take the overall capacity of Balgownie Hostel to 1,200. Work was continuing on Balgownie Hostel in October 1951 when 80 carpenters threatened to stop work over a dispute of the non-payment of living away from home allowance by Concrete Constructions Pty Ltd. The stop work threat was called off when it was agreed payment would be made retrospectively.

In April 1951, when questioned by reporters, the manager of Unanderra Hostel said he was not permitted to disclose information about how many British migrants had arrived and how many more were expected. It was learned through industrial circles, however, that the first contingent of 20 British migrants were mostly Scots and English miners for AI&S Nebo Colliery. Unanderra and Wollongong Primary Schools and Wollongong High School had received increased enrolments from children from Unanderra Hostel. Residents at Karingal Hostel said they expected 80 new British migrants in a week. The Miners' Federation officials had issued clearance for about 20 new British miners to work as second shiftmen at Nebo Colliery. A new intake of British migrants also went to Balgownie Hostel.

Less than a week after the British miners at Nebo Colliery had arrived, the British migrant miners who were accommodated at Unanderra No 1 Hostel complained to the President of the Southern Miners, Mr Parkinson, about the cost of meals and accommodation. The weekly tariff for families with four children was £9/5/- (tariffs were less if fewer children). The British miners earned £21/5/- per fortnight which also went towards their bus fares to and from Nebo Colliery, taxes, union dues and doctor. The British migrants claimed that left just £1/1/- a fortnight. The British Migrants claimed before they left for Australia they had been advised by the Australian authorities the maximum tariff was £7/5/- for a large family. Though originally classified as second-class shiftmen Colliery management placed the British miners on first-class shiftmen rates which increased their fortnight pay to £23/10/- a fortnight. All these new British migrants were obliged to work for AI&S for two years. Coalcliff and Old Bulli Collieries stopped work for 24 hours on 12 April 1951 and the Excelsior pit on 11 April 1951, in protest of accommodation charges being asked of the new British migrants at the Unanderra Hostel. Some other South Coast mines sent protest telegrams to the Minister of Immigration. According to the Minister of Immigration, Harold Holt, the £9/5/- charge was correct and that the charge for British migrant families at Unanderra was the same as it had been for thousands of New Australians for the past year. With concessional arrangements they were charged £7/13/10 per week which left them a nominal £3/2/0 per week plus child endowment and any additional earnings which, according to Harold Holt, most Australians would be happy with. The Unanderra Hostel provided the British migrants a good standard of living until prefabricated houses and self-contained houses became available for them, specifically the coal miners. The British migrant miners were fundamental for the remedy of power supply problems and basic materials shortages that stemmed from the inadequate coal supply. The Commonwealth Government provided housing for them within reach of the collieries rather than wait for housing materials as they became available and removed the requirement of the pre-requisite one year residency in NSW to become eligible for a Housing Commission home. The first of these groups of prefabricated houses was erected in Dapto. The houses were of a conventional framed design, fully furnished and equipped. Similar accommodation for British migrants working in the coal industry were also provided at Unanderra, Bulli and elsewhere on the South Coast. The Federal Government sought permits from Wollongong Council to erect new migrant hostels at Dapto and Helensburgh. At the time of the request it was uncertain if the Government was going to erect hostels or houses. The Dapto site was to be built near Beattie's subdivision, though Council preferred the former military camp.

At the same time (April 1951), landowners on the Swan Subdivision at Dapto had protested to the Minister of Immigration, Harold Holt, and petitioned Wollongong City Council against the establishment of a migrant housing centre at the rear of their property on the slopes on the eastern side of Prince's Highway between Brownsville and Dapto, the 'houses on the hill'. This was the first time Nissen Huts were supposedly to be erected near the suburban houses as migrant hostels had only been erected in comparative isolation. There was uncertainty at the time if the migrants in this new locality were to be housed in Nissen Huts or houses. The landowners did not object to the migrants themselves but considered the migrants ought to have been decently housed in a housing settlement rather than huts and proposed an area south of the former army camp, but if huts were to be used then they should be set up further from the Dapto town area. They were concerned that a hostel would reduce the value of their land and dwelling. The protest was supported by Wollongong Council's Southern Zone Committee although the Council had no objection to the housing of migrant families in separate, self-contained houses on separate blocks provided the houses were built to Council requirements. But Council did object to hostel type accommodation with communal services or accommodation for single men only. In a letter of reply from the Minister of Immigration, the Minister referred first to a hostel and then to a number of prefabricated houses on the site, so uncertainty continued due to the Federal Government's failure to disclose fully its plan and the landowners continued their fight against this development. By the end of April 1951 the Department of Labour and National Services made their intentions known and prefabricated houses, not huts,

were built at Dapto for British migrant families. No hostels for single men or European migrants were erected in the housing development. The Dapto residents commented on the monotony of two rows of prefabricated houses and suggested it could be relieved if normal types of houses were built by War Services Homes Commission on every sixth block. The Government found merit in this suggestion to warrant further examination.

On 23 June 1951, 12 British migrant families arrived from Bathurst and were accommodated at Unanderra No 1 Migrant Hostel that had two hostels units that housed approximately 800 persons. Most of the men in this group of migrants were miners. Hundreds more British migrants arrived at Balgownie Hostel from about July 1951. There were about 200 migrants at Balgownie Hostel and by year's end this number increased to about 1,200. 880 expected British migrants were housed at the new Berkeley Hostel which in June 1951 whilst still partly under construction. Wollongong needed more British migrant workers with building and metal trade skills. By 11 October 1951 the ongoing hostel and housing development, particularly in the Port Kembla area, increased the migrant population to over 3,500 within three years.

In 1951 Mrs Ludmila Natalenko migrated to Australia. She was a fully trained actress and lived and worked in Moscow and Smolensk. Ludmila worked as a relief teacher of Russian and lived at Corrimal.

The first large batch of prefabricated homes (first mentioned in April) arrived late June/early July 1951 from Victoria which had already used these types of dwellings before its housing scheme was abandoned. They were manufactured in Britain. This first batch consisted of about 200 dwellings for British migrant miners and their families on the Swan's subdivision with others planned for Unanderra and Bulli. The Commonwealth Government negotiated with Wollongong Showground Trust to use the industrial pavilion as temporary storage. The construction firm engaged for the housing project was K. Rice Building Construction of Morwell, Victoria, and it set up offices and warehouses at the South Unanderra site early August 1951. 200 carpenters and labourers also came from Victoria because of the continued labour shortages in Illawarra. The Construction company built their own hostels and dining hall for the Victorian workers. The prefabricated houses were described as three bedroom, weather board construction, pre-cut in England with first class interiors all flush plastered. They had a lounge room with a fireplace, kitchenette, with all electric coppers and ranges and tiled bathrooms. There were even plate-warmers provided in the kitchen. Each bedroom had built in wardrobes. The homes contained hot and cold water systems. Construction of the British prefabricated homes began mid-August 1951 at a rate of 20 per week and were erected in Bulli, Unanderra and Dapto in the first extension of the Commonwealth Housing Scheme in the Illawarra district. The first 50 prefabricated houses were erected almost immediately on the northern end of the land recently acquired at Dapto. Most British migrant families expected to live at the Hostel for at least two years but some were lucky to be given a house under two years.

The Federal Cabinet decided on a revised immigration programme in August 1951. The annual immigration target had been 200,000 but under the revised plan it was reduced to 150,000. The aim was to introduce the highest percentage of workers possible to make an even greater contribution to production and defence preparation that had been achieved so far. Migrant families were sought for Defence preparations by increasing the population numbers (peopling the land) and providing and producing future members of the armed forces. Now the Commonwealth Government needed more workers to increase production. This included additional accommodation for migrant workers in basic industries vital to defence preparations. Particular attention was placed upon the recruitment of workers with the skills and experience needed in rural industries for food production and secondary industries for defence. This was considered an emergency period from 1951 to 1953 following a report prepared by the National Security Resource Board. There was a need to combat inflation as the migration of family units to Australia had added substantially to rising costs and accommodation

problems. The Minister for Labour and National Service, Mr Holt, reported that even though the number of migrants arriving would be substantially lower he hoped to improve on the proportion of 40% British migrants that had so far been received in Australia.

The Minister for Labour and National Service, Mr Holt, announced on 23 August 1951 that a Government corporation to undertake the conduct and management of hostels would be registered. This would become Commonwealth Hostels Ltd. Hostels were operated by the Department of Labour and National Service. By this time there were 64 migrant hostels with about 26,000 beds, two hostels for dependants and one hostel at Lithgow for Australians and migrants. The number of personnel employed to run the hostels were about 2,500. This recommendation was adopted by Cabinet as the running of an enormous boarding house business within the confines of departmental framework, public service procedures and Treasury methods could not be conducted satisfactorily.

In late September 1951 the 117 building workers employed on the Berkeley Hostel construction threatened job action over one employee not being paid country allowance. They voted instead to allow the State Executive of the Building Workers Industrial union to refer the question to the Industrial Registrar. Berkeley Migrant Hostel consisted of two large hostels and provided accommodation for another 800 persons.

The Department had acquired land at Unanderra adjoining the Council's Industrial area for even more housing for about another 1,000 people. It was phenomenal development but presented problems for Council because of the demand made on them for supply of essential services required within the next three years. By 11 October 1951 the first of the 32 pre-fabricated houses from the UK were in the forward stage of construction in Dapto.

On 24 October 1951, 80 carpenters employed by Concrete Constructions Pty Ltd at the Balgownie Hostel also threatened to stop work over the same issue with country allowance that affected five workers. Concrete Constructions conferred with the Department of Works and Housing and the carpenters were paid their allowance and work continued. Balgownie Hostel comprised 3 hostels and was able to accommodate 1,200 persons.

On Saturday, 3 November 1951, the first 14 British migrant miners and their families who had been living at Unanderra Hostel moved into the "all-electric prefabricated" homes in Dapto. The houses contained a lounge room, kitchenette, a bathroom, three bedrooms and possessed electric hot water systems, electric ranges and electric plate warmers. Built in cupboards and wardrobes were also included. These were the first of the hundreds of three-bedroom homes that were provided for New Australians working in the mining industry on the South Coast. These homes were awarded by ballot conducted by the Department of Interior. The ballot was based on the miners' seniority. The weekly rent was £3/19/6/. The Commonwealth Government supplied furniture to the families as required on hire or purchased on a time-payment system.

Mrs Fail, her three children and husband, a miner at Nebo Colliery were some of the first tenants of the homes in Dapto. They had arrived in Australia on 15 March 1951 and expected to stay at the Hostel for two years before given a home.

The Aldermen of the Greater Wollongong were critical of the homes with one describing them as "four room humpies". The Federal Government came in for a lot of criticism from Wollongong Council about the sub-standard homes and hostels that had been built for migrants in Berkeley, Dapto and other parts of the South Coast. It was described in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister for Local Government, Mr J.J. Cahill as a major scandal. The Federal Government was accused of providing buildings with inadequate ventilation because of 8 feet ceilings and studs at three feet centres and of

deliberately and systematically ignoring the provision of the Local Government Act despite an approach being made to the Federal Government and necessary assurances given. The houses in question were the prefabricated houses from England acquired by the Federal Government from the abandoned Victorian project. After it was abandoned the prefabricated houses were sent to NSW where the ceiling limit was 9 feet. The Federal Government had proceeded with its building programme primarily to expand the heavy industries as part of its defence effort placing additional infrastructure burdens on Council.

Wollongong Council also complained that the Federal Government had failed to install and control adequate sewerage systems at the hostels and roads. Wollongong Council was unable to proceed with constructing the Northcliffe Drive road extension to give access to Port Kembla from the Berkeley area as the Federal Government had restricted Council's borrowing for 1951-52 that was needed for the building of infrastructure, including expanded electricity supply which had been caused by the construction of Federal Government hostels and housing estates. The electricity problem was such that a dentist in Dapto was unable to operate machinery after 3pm as the additional houses in Dapto placed an even further drain on the supply. The Commonwealth Government eventually offered a solution to the power supply problem that would put further financial strain on Wollongong Council.

In November 1951 the Commonwealth Department of Works and Housing in response to Wollongong Council's complaints, felt on the whole the housing project was well designed from an "aesthetic point of view", that it observed Local Government ordinance wherever practicable but at the same time remained flexible as the projects depended on material and labour availability on a national level. The Department believed 8 feet ceilings in the prefabricated houses were adequate but agreed to act on the Council Health Officer's suggestion and installed roof voids to improve ventilation. The Department also advised Wollongong Council that contracts had been entered into that addressed the sewerage problem in Unanderra and gave an undertaking that future hostels in Berkeley would not operate until water borne sewerage became available. Despite the Department of Works and Housing's undertakings, the operation of hostels was often dictated by large influx of migrants and the lack of other accommodation. Plans of all proposed hostels and housing development projects in the area were forwarded for information to Council on 2 November 1951 and plans for future proposals were forwarded in advance.

The Federal Minister for Cunningham, Mr W. Davies, complained to the Commonwealth Government over the use of galvanised iron Nissen Huts erected at Berkeley and Balgownie Hostels and described them as "unsightly" and "blots on the landscape". This question was raised in Federal Parliament on 9 November 1951 to which the Minister of Immigration, Harold Holt, responded that the use of galvanised iron Nissen huts for hostels could not be discontinued as it would increase demands on building materials and labour which was not in Australia's interest

On 17 December 1951 a special committee was appointed by Wollongong Council to investigate the "slums of the future" meaning the Commonwealth Government housing and hostel activities in the district as one Alderman suggested that Council will be blamed for them in the future.

By 27 December 1951 Berkeley Migrant Hostel was ready to commence operation. When the Commonwealth Government advised Wollongong Council of the impending occupancy it requested the Council make an early start on the construction of Canterbury Road as a means of access to the Hostel. The work on Canterbury Road had been delayed because of the possible substitution of Northcliffe Drive as a means of access to the Hostel. The constructions of roads were a matter for the Southern Zone Committee to resolve.

In the 1951 Southern Zone Committee annual report, the Zone Health Inspector, Mr H. Roach, gave a conservative estimate of 3,500 people residing in Hostels in the Southern Zone by the end of 1952 and that hostels with their attendant problems would remain for some considerable time. Unprecedented expansion in industrial activity in the area were evidenced by increased 1951 building applications compared to 1950. The total number of building applications in the Southern Zone for brick, weatherboard and fibro houses was 304, 28 for factories and 9 for shops with dwellings attached. With other applications the grand total of applications was 513 valued at £2 million. Final figures did not include applications for private homes but the report estimated that 220 private homes were built and occupied. Credit restrictions imposed during the latter half of 1951 impacted adversely upon the private builder. Housing Commission homes completed in the Southern Zone totalled 95 with 142 under construction by the end of 1951. The AI&S major project at Tom Thumb lagoon was in a forward stage of construction. In the past year 85% of industrial expansion within NSW was in the Port Kembla area.

500,000 migrants had arrived in Australia from the start of the Commonwealth Government's migration scheme in 1947 to 1951. Of this number only 6% were farmers or farm labourers. Some saw this as a flaw in the migration scheme and contributed to a worsened food crisis. The principal architect of migration policy, Arthur Calwell, aimed at national protection and expansion of an industrial labour force. The majority of migrants worked in city factories and few worked on the land which was also short of labourers. Displaced Persons who were directed where to work in food harvesting by the Commonwealth Government made very little impact on the nation's output of food. Of the 170,000 Displaced Persons 4.5% were sent to work on the land.

In December 1951 Berkeley Hostel commenced operations.

Petrus and Anna van Gils with their five daughters Jeanny, Joke, Jeannet, Elle and Elizabeth and son Herbert, arrived in Australia from Holland on 20 January 1951. The family were first accommodated at Bathurst Migrant Reception Centre. When Petrus was allocated work at AI&S he and his eldest daughter, Joke, moved to Wollongong and lived at the back of a boarding house in 117 Corrimal Street, Wollongong which is where the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra office is today. When his wife and the rest of his children came to Wollongong shortly after they all lived together in a tent at Stuart Park, North Wollongong. They purchased land at Figtree and moved the tent from their Stuart Park camp to Figtree in which the family lived in as well as a shed they constructed on the Figtree site while they waited for the prefabricated kit home ordered from Sweden to be delivered. They had to cart water from a nearby farm.

Wolfgang Leiner emigrated from Berlin, Germany in 1951 with his wife Gisela. Wolfgang became a painting and building contractor and they eventually settled in Fairy Meadow. The Leiners had three sons, Peter, Andrew and Christopher. He would one day become the President of the Australian-German-Austrian Club.

Gerrit-Jan Hendriks with his wife Diane and children Henk and Gerda migration to Australia from Arnhem, Holland, in 1951. He was a bricklayer by trade and in 1934 he was Holland's second best amateur long distance runner and one of the best long distance cyclists in East Holland and a hiking enthusiast.

Harry Pearson was born in England and migrated to Australia in 1951 with his parents. Harry lived at West Wollongong.

Hermine Rainow came to Australia with her husband Stephen and children, Eva and Peter in 1951. They had two more children in Australia, Julianne and Stephan. Hermine was born in Bucharest,

Romania. In Wollongong during the 1960s and 1970s, Hermine wrote columns for the South Coast Times and Illawarra Mercury reporting on the lives and social events of the migrant communities, as well as provided interpreting services. Much of the information about the clubs and the people in this publication are drawn from her work.

Mr and Mrs Strasser came to Australia in about 1951 from West Germany where they had settled temporarily as refugees. Mr Strasser was originally from a district of Germany that had become a part of Poland and Mrs Strasser had come from a German settlement in Palestine. By 1971 they had three children all born in Australia and the Strasser family, including Mrs Strasser's parents, lived at Unanderra in a German-style house with a steep gable roof.

Peter Stawanski, born in Roznow Kosow in the Ukraine, migrated from Poland to Australia and came to Wollongong in 1951 accompanied by his pregnant wife, Edith. Peter was sent to work at AI&S at Port Kembla but his wife was sent to Greta Migrant Camp where both their children, Bridget and Daniel, were born. Peter bought some land and built a garage on it to live in and eventually his family joined him in Wollongong.

From 1951, at the recommendation of the Citizenship Convention, desegregation of hostels began to improve alien migrant's opportunity to learn English and to absorb a British outlook on life. It would also minimise the tendency to form national groups and promote assimilation. The desegregation began cautiously with the introduction of Dutch migrants into British hostels first.

The Wollongong Scottish Country Dance Association was formed in 1951 and was affiliated with the Royal Scottish Dance Society in Edinburgh. The dancers would meet at Smith's Hills Girls' High School every Friday night and each October the Wollongong Association joined other Scottish country dance groups from Australia and New Zealand for a weekend of country dancing at the Fitness Camp in Narrabeen NSW.

Between 1951 and 1952 the Commonwealth Government's Special Projects Scheme operated. The migrant workers employed by to work on projects for the Snowy Mountains Authority, the Tasmanian Hydro Electricity Commission, the South Australian Railways and AV Jennings.

The Wollongong Congregation of the Dutch Reform Church was the first one in Australia to have its own church premises. The Dutch Reform Church was formed in 1951 by post-World War 2 migrants from the Netherlands. The first Dutch Church service was held on 5 August 1951 in the Methodist Church in Corrimal and was attended by about 50 people. Soon after, services were held in a small timber hall on the corner of Carters Lane and Holder Street in Fairy Meadow, which the Church purchased from the Australian Institute of Evangelism in 1952. The Wollongong group grew quickly and it became an independent church in January 1953. At the end of 1973 their first minister arrived from Holland. Arendt de Graaf had just completed his studies and was ordained shortly after his arrival in Australia. In January 1954 it was decided to hold one church service a month in English as a way of adjusting to Australia. Later all church services were conducted in English. In 1959 the foundation stone for a new church was laid. The new Church building was designed by Pastor de Graaf and constructed by volunteer craftsmen of the congregation under the direction of Mr Pasman who was a builder with his own joinery business and also lived nearby. The second stage of the building was completed in December 1971.

The George Cross Falcons Club was established in 1951 on Lake Avenue in Cringila. The Club was the one and only organisation for Maltese migrants in the Illawarra and it was built by volunteers through donations from the Maltese community in the Illawarra. Other Clubs would follow as the New

Australian communities grew and prospered. Nearly all these types of clubs were established through community donations and volunteer labour.

From 1949 to 1953 more than 600 migrants from the Ukraine came to Australia, most as displaced persons. In 1951 the first Ukrainian Society in Illawarra started in Thirroul and several years later another society started at the Unanderra Migrant Hostel. In 1963 the Ukrainians purchased a weatherboard house in First Street, Wollongong which served as a centre for meetings, Sunday School, a dancing school, choir practice and a place where the local Ukrainian migrants could celebrate the special days of their culture. In 1969 two vacant blocks were purchased in Auburn Street not far from Wollongong Station. Architect Phillip Green drew up the plans for a new centre and construction started in 1971 using volunteer labour. By 1988 all debts were paid through substantial volunteer effort. By the mid 1990s the club's activities were not paying their way and the Ukrainian Society found it difficult to interest the younger generation to participate. In 1998 the building was sold at auction to the Workers Education Association (WEA). Both the Cyprian Club and a Greek Club were also located at Auburn Street.

1952

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME) changed its name to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) in 1952. Australia withdraws its support in 1973 and re-joins in 1985.

In 1952 the Australian Government entered into assisted migration schemes to Australia with Austria, Belgium, Greece, Spain and West Germany. The agreements were within the framework of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration and Australia therefore had no formal migration agreement with these countries.

In January 1952 the administration of Hostels was handed over to Commonwealth Hotels Limited, a Commonwealth owned company registered in Victoria.

The immigration aim the Commonwealth Government aimed to achieve in 1952 was 150,000 new settlers, compared with 133,000 in 19051 and 174,000 in 1950. Of the 150,000, 63,000 were to be British with the rest to be: 25,000 assisted Dutch migrants, 15,000 to 20,000 assisted Italian migrants, 12,000 from other Western European countries including West Germany and 30,000 to 35,000 others on Commonwealth Landing Permits. The gradual tapering of the Displaced Persons Scheme had considerably affected the 1951 intake numbers of migrants. Administrative problems had slowed down migration from Italy and there had also been a temporary slackening of the Dutch scheme. The economic condition in Australia made an easing in the rate of arrivals desirable. Still the White Australia Policy did not allow for Asian migration yet there were about 1,800 Asian students in Australia at the time.

By February 1952 half a million migrants had expanded industry and staffed public utilities but had not been put to work on the land. Food production at the rate of 1% per year could not keep up with the population growth at the rate of 3% per year. This created shortages in meat, wheat, milk, butter and vegetables. The Minister for Immigration, Harold Holt, conceded that industrialisation had expanded too extensively and rapidly and this gain had absorbed the rural workforce and reduced rural population numbers. Few would have foreseen food shortages after the war which could have been avoided if more migrants had been sent to work the land. Migrants were put to work in heavy industries, shipbuilding, coalmining, power and transport undertakings. It was easier for the Government to put migrants into factories than farms. The migrants who were not used to farm work shunned the land because it paid and housed them poorly. The migrants who had been sent to rural

areas often asked for other jobs after trying their hand at farming. It was a lonely life for them with little entertainment such as cinemas and in some rural areas schools for their children were 30 miles away and they were unable to cope with teaching their children via correspondence. The Federal Government decided to deal with the worsened food crisis and planned sending some thousands of migrants who were under contract to the Government to work on the land during 1952 to address the biggest flaw in the migration system. Migration Officers voiced concern about sending unwilling migrants to work on the land and wanted more keen, competent migrant farmers like the Dutch who were brought up as farmers and did not need factory work nor bright city lights. Former British farmers or farm labourers with a family were also preferred but Britain also experienced food shortages and needed its farmers. Not all farmers welcomed non-English speaking migrants nor did some farmers have accommodation for a migrant and his family.

A period of hardened business conditions in Australia started about mid-1951. The country was burdened with inflation and the Government placed a brake on credit expansion to bring it under control. It was one of the most difficult problems the Menzies' Government had to face. In January 1952 Commonwealth Finance Officers met in the United Kingdom to discuss methods to combat inflationary tendencies. A credit squeeze was imposed by the Federal Government which resulted in substantial cuts to finance for the States works programmes and subsequently limited funding for Local Governments. At this time Wollongong still needed about 3,000 homes, five primary schools, two secondary schools, better hospital facilities, kindergartens and health centres which could not proceed or be started because of the credit restrictions in place. The population increase through migration and the inability to construct additional public facilities required placed further strain of existing infrastructure in the Wollongong area. The Local Government Association urged the NSW Premier, Mr Cahill, to try and get enough money to carry on essential works such as the country electricity schemes. The credit squeeze and its restriction on works programmes caused unemployment and a downturn in the building industry. Ironically, this particular downturn in building construction was at a time when previous empty timber yards were stacked to capacity with timber and record amounts of building materials had been produced. Allegedly inferior pre-fabricated homes constructed in Europe were still being imported when locally designed and superior products were available in Australia. In response to the building industry's request for positive action to avert a major collapse of the industry the Federal Government allocated an additional £10 million for the 1952-1953 financial year. The consequence of the credit squeeze was a minor recession. Other measures took place to reduce inflation so that the Government could balance the budget. The Federal Government also planned to increase food production, stabilise the dairy industry, open up new wheat areas and make Australia self-sufficient in superphosphate. It planned to give priority to food production despite its credit restriction policy giving States first priority for funding of plant and materials for agriculture. From 1952 to 1960 the Federal Government licensed imports because Australia's rural exports did not earn enough to pay for all its imports. It was not until the end of the 1950s that import licensing came to an end as inflation started to rise. Import restrictions were abolished in February 1960. The halting of inflation and stabilisation of costs and prices were seen by Prime Minister Menzies as fundamental to national development, national defence, industrial stability, secure employment and rising standards of living. Mass migration was viewed by the opposition party as adding to the problems of inflation and unemployment, particularly with the flow of migrant, unskilled labour congregating in cities and aggravating the housing problem. The Minister for Immigration, Harold Holt, was opposed to any cuts to the inflow of the expected 150,000 migrants during 1952.

It was a period of unemployment caused by strikes that affected the British migrants' incomes and caused arrears in rents, as well as affected the incomes of Australians workers. It came about because of the wave of industrial unrest, strikes and disputes that stemmed from the dissatisfaction with the wage margin paid to skilled men and the Unions claim that as the basic wage has risen the relative value of the amount above that wage paid for skill had shrunk. The Waterside workers' dispute went

back to December 1950. The disputes in other industries, particularly the metal trades, arose from the Galvin Award that was handed down in January 1952 that refused to increase margins in metal trades. During all the upheaval caused by the strikes, AI&S took the offensive and used staff labour in place of the striking workers which only fuelled the Unions resolve to fight. After 13 weeks on strike 2,600 AI&S employees held a mass meeting on 5 June 1952 where they voted to return to work. They were the first lot of striking workers who voted to return to work. AI&S opened its plant by sections to its employees and Lysaght's and CRM plants resumed operations when the steel supplies became available. The NSW metal workers who had been on strike since February 1952 also ended their strike in June 1952. Other strikes occurred in and around the same period as well as in September and November 1952. It was not until 1954 that industrial peace in all industries began to be restored.

On 11 February 1952 the initial meeting of the South Coast Social and Fraternity Club was held at the Tarrawanna Hall. Forty-six members of the local Italian community attended where it was unanimously decided to form the club and a Provisional Committee was elected as well as a Chairman Pro Tem, Mr Mario Borgo. Applications were called for those who wanted to buy shares at £10 with a maximum of the shares per person. It was also decided to approach Mr Fogliatti of Bourke Street Fairy Meadow to purchase some of his land on which to build the club. On Saturday, 27 August 1953, the South Coast Social and Fraternity Club at Bourke Street, Fairy Meadow was officially opened. The building was erected mainly by volunteer labour from the local Italian community. The Club's location was near to, and within walking distance of, Balgownie Hostel.

The King Gee Clothing Factory opened on 11 June 1952 on the Princes Highway Corrimal. The company manufactured industrial wear, overalls and bib and brace in various styles and the range over time was extended to include children's wear, shirts, trousers, shorts and dusts coats. Polyester school garments, men's casual shorts and football shorts were added to the range. In 1966 King Gee Clothing Factory needed to expand its premises so they moved out of their Princes Highway Corrimal factory to Bellambi which was located adjacent to the Railway Station. It was partly funded by the NSW State Government as a means of overcoming shortage of jobs for women. By 1966 it King Gee became the further largest manufacturing plants in NSW. In 1969 it was acquired by Bradmill Industries and in 2001, after a number of subsequent acquisitions, King Gee was finally bought by Pacific Brands.

In August 1952 Police were called to a brawl at Unanderra Hostel that took place during a dance social. No arrests were made or injuries reported but it did result in a visit by an Italian Consular officer to the Hostel to investigate charges that a group of "drunken Polish migrants" attacked a group of Italians. The Italians alleged they had been threatened with knives, picks and bottles and informed the Police of the racial fight. Many of the Italians and Polish migrants were forced to share rooms in the Nissen Huts at Unanderra No 2 Hostel and the Italians refused to return to the Hostel unless they were segregated from the Poles who "drank too much and attacked them". Segregation was not favoured as the mixing of nationalities was to meant to foster assimilation.

On 29 August 1952 the bilateral agreement between Australia and West Germany was signed and the Commonwealth Government agreed to a proposed by the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, with the Greek Government's agreement to a migration scheme for Greek Nationals. The first group of German assisted migrants under Australia-West Germany Agreement arrived in Australia on 30 October 1952. The first group of Greek Nationals under the ICEM proposal arrived in February 1953.

By early September 1952, 70 Commonwealth homes at Unanderra became available for British migrants. These were offered to British migrant families at Balgownie Hostels whose husbands worked at Bulli Colliery. They had a choice of either living in the houses at Unanderra or remain at the

Hostel. Most of the migrants objected to being housed in Unanderra and preferred to be allotted housing at Bulli or remain at Balgownie Hostel because of the perceived additional travel costs from Unanderra to Bulli compared to the cost incurred travelling from Balgownie to Bulli. Commonwealth homes for miners were allotted by the Joint Coal Board based on seniority whereas the State Housing Commission homes were allotted by ballot. On 8 September 1952 another group of 25 migrant miners arrived in Australia on the SS New Australia and were accommodated at Balgownie Migrant Hostel. They too were promised homes within a month of arrival and in close proximity to their place of employment. At first the Miners' Federation refused membership to the Federation of these newly arrived contingent of migrants in protest of the alleged promises made by the Commonwealth Government to the British migrant miners that they would be allocated houses within proximity to their place of work. The Miners' Federation sought a solution to this housing complaint and tried to get AI&S to agree to transfer the men from Bulli Colliery to Nebo Colliery, then the newly arrived migrant miners could be allocated houses in Bulli and be put to work at Bulli Colliery. AI&S did not agree with this proposal and cited the need for experienced miners at Bulli. The Federation threatened to not admit the migrant miners until the housing promised was satisfactorily adjusted.

On 9 September 1952 five children (three Polish, one Latvian and one Ukrainian) between the ages of eight months and seven years were burnt to death in the hospital block of Somers Holding Centre in Victoria. This Centre was a former Air Force base.

Throughout Australia the industrial position caused misery and loss in wages. It also lent itself to a spate of unemployment for newly arrived migrants such as the 900 Italians waiting at Bonegilla and other hostels. The Italians at Bonegilla protested their unemployment situation to the point of riots and the Army was called upon to quell the protest with "tanks and rifles with fixed bayonets". There were tensions brewing anyway between the northern and southern Italians and also with the standard of accommodation at Bonegilla. Whilst it was described as a riot, it was more of a protest. It did harm the relations between Australia and Italy and remained so until a new migration agreement was put in place in 1954. Another 750 Italians were on the way to Australia with another 300 to follow. The Australian Government then decided to halve the migrant quota because of the lack of jobs available caused mostly by strikes. On 11 October 1952, ninety one Italian migrants demonstrated outside Central Station over wanting to work. They were some of the same men who had waited at Bonegilla for employment and participated in the protest there. About 200 Italians from Villawood and Matraville camps also demonstrated on 31 October 1952 demanding work or be returned to Italy. They marched onto the offices of the Italian Consul-General in Rawson Place Sydney and Police were called to quell the demonstrators, drawing their weapons against some of the demonstrators who collected pipes and pieces of wood from a nearby construction site for weapons. Five Italians were gaoled.

On 2 October 1952 a survey of employment prospects in the Newcastle and Wollongong regions was requested for the proposed building of hostels at Shortland and another unit Unanderra. The Wollongong report revealed that labour demands in Wollongong had fallen steadily. Vacancies held by the Commonwealth Employment Service was 184 in October 1952 compared to 3,315 in January 1952. Of the 184 vacancies 120 were in iron and steel and heavy engineering and 60 were in coal mining. These vacancies were confined to metal tradesmen and experienced workers of various categories. The fall in labour demands was accounted for partly by substantial workforce gains and partly by cancellation of job requisitions by the employers. Only a portion of the employment level gains as of October 1952 were attributable to the provision of hostel accommodation. In October 1952 there was a surplus of unskilled male labour in Wollongong; 472 males unemployed, including over 240 on Unemployment benefits. The surplus of female labour continued during this period with 275 unemployed females seeking work of which about 100 received unemployment benefits. As a result of the surplus workers the existing hostel accommodation was being under utilised at the time

of the survey. The number of empty beds exceed that of the total male vacancies held by the District Employment Office. With the exception of AI&S there was no expansion plans immediately to be undertaken and any additionally workers needed would be obtained locally. It was determined by the Wollongong survey officer that provision of additional hostel accommodated was not warranted at this time. The conclusion drawn by the survey was that there was a surplus of unskilled male labour in the Wollongong area with hostel accommodation in the area already available was not being fully utilised and was in excess of the vacancies held. There was no justification at this time for the erection of further hostel accommodation. There was only the question of AI&S requirements of additional workers with its expansion plans but unless the plans were very large, workers could be sourced locally. Newcastle was in a similar position.

The first German assisted migrants arrived in Australia on 30 October 1952.

In November 1952, the Italian Prime Minister, Mr de Gasperi, had asked the Australian Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, to find permanent work for the unemployed Italian migrants. Since July 1952, the Italian consulate had provided funds that helped the unemployed and homeless Italian migrants and he felt their situation was caused by the Australian Government's preoccupation with legal points and political reactions. Italians were protesting in other states as well. The restriction of loan monies for national projects by the Federal Government saw 20 carpenters dismissed at Tallawarra Power Station and the building of the Wollongong Hospital Nurses' Home at a standstill and the ever-continuing housing shortages.

During the 1952 recession the Department of Immigration made special 'austerity' accommodation and services available at reduced rates to European migrants who had lost their jobs. It was found that Italian migrants were the principal defaulters in payments as many were unskilled workers with poor English and were at a particular disadvantage during periods of recession and unemployment.

On Sunday, 24 November 1952, two hundred British migrants held a mass meeting at Balgownie Hostel in protest over the placing of single, foreign migrants into English hostels and evictions from the hostel by Commonwealth Hostels Limited from non-payment of tariffs by British migrants. British migrants at the meeting were from Balgownie, Unanderra and Berkeley Hostels as well as hostels throughout NSW and they threatened to withhold the payment of all tariffs if foreign, single men were placed into English hostels and walk out of all hostels if further evictions by Commonwealth Hostel Limited occurred. The meeting was called by the British Migrants Association Federal President, Mr Boreham, in conjunction with the Balgownie Branch. The British Migrants Association, which had a Federal President as well as state delegates and representatives from individual Commonwealth hostels, often represented the British migrants with their complaints and other grievances. The speakers at the meeting protested the high tariffs caused by an increase in charges by the Commonwealth Hostels Limited in April 1952. They also wanted better living conditions at the hostels. The British migrants felt they had been promised so much but had received so little and the Australian Government mislead them which had forced them to take action and to break the law. Many of the British migrants who lived at the hostels at this time owed tariffs claiming they were unable to pay due to periods of unemployment and the high costs. The Commonwealth Hostels did intend to evict all migrants who had not paid their tariffs.

The placement of foreign, single migrants in British hostels was another perceived broken promise by the Australian Government. The British migrants felt they needed to protect themselves against these foreign migrants, particularly the single ones. They felt the position would be the same even if they were single British male migrants and claimed they were not against the foreigners but against single men living in a family hostel. The British migrants claimed they were advised by Australian migration officials in London that they would not be required to live with foreign people as accommodation at

hostels was being used exclusively for British migrants. The majority of the 200 British migrants at this meeting wanted to return to Britain and criticised the Australian Government about the lack of social services saying that Australia was 100 years behind other countries in respect of these services.

Table 5: Hostel Occupancy Survey as of 31 October 1952

Hostel	Present Occupancy	Extra Room Availability
Unanderra No 1	246 people	4 British families
Unanderra No 2	454 people	102 beds for single men
Berkeley	270 people	16 families or 106 single beds
Balgownie	791 people	105 families no singles

Source: National Archives of Australia SP193/1, T75259, "Report on Proposed Hostels – Shortland and Unanderra (Department of Labour and National Service)", pp8.

Table 6: Male Employment Levels in Wollongong January to September 1952

Employer	January	September	Development Undertakings - Effect on Work Force Numbers
Australian Fertilisers	236	257	50 men engaged on extension constructions and when completed and new machinery installed some factory staff will be put off
Australian Iron and Steel	5454	6433	Plate and strip mill currently under construction, plate to be produced by mid-1954, 1955 for strip. Estimate of labour needs not known at this time
CRM Division of Lysaghts	956	961	No major change in labour contemplated
David Bros	76	96	No expansion contemplated; employment levels dependent on NSW Public Works Department for special pipes
Thirwell & McKenzie	184	203	No programme planned for the next two years
B & W Steel	94	107	Expected no increase in labour force needed for next two years
Lysaghts	979	1073	Expected to add another 160 workers in the next two years
Metal Manufacturers	1226	1367	Expansion depended on state of economy
Coal Mining Industry	3510	4052	Unlikely will need substantial increase in additional workers
ERS			No expansion contemplated. Current construction programme was to renew old building
Austral Cables			Retrenched 60 workers mid-October with 27 more to be retrenched early November
British Power Cables			Some 180 additional workers were required soon but bulk needed were of the unskilled and semi-skilled category and would be sourced locally

Source: National Archives of Australia SP193/1, T75259, "Report on Proposed Hostels – Shortland and Unanderra (Department of Labour and National Service)", pp7.

Similar protest meetings took place in Melbourne and Adelaide and at Bunnerong migrant camp at Matraville where 20 British immigrants had received eviction notices, Bankstown No 2 hostel (10 eviction notices), Brooklyn and Geelong Hostels in Victoria (22 eviction notices). The migrants at Finsbury Hostel in South Australia began paying their tariffs when advised by their legal counsel they should be paid until the result of a High Court test case by migrants who refused to make payments was heard in Sydney. (The High Court found that the fees charged by the Commonwealth were subject to State prices legislation. The States then moved to exempt them). However, the British migrants at Finsbury Hostel continued to picket the entrances at Finsbury Hostel and patrolled the huts of the three families who had received eviction notices. The Commonwealth Hostels Limited set a deadline for payment and if payment was not received by specified dates they would be evicted. In NSW no further trouble was given as all migrants who were served notices made payments. In Melbourne and Adelaide about half had paid.

In Wollongong some of the British migrants who did not agree with the protesters gave their views via letters to the Editor in the local newspaper.

At Karingal Hostel the Southern District Vice President of the Miners' Federation, Mr W. Smart, accused AI&S of running Karingal Hostel as a concentration camp when it tried to evict a Nebo Colliery miner. The miner had been living at Karingal Hostel for 18 months but was forcibly evicted on 27 November 1952 by two AI&S watchmen after he had been issued with a notice to quit the premises 4 days earlier. The miner was evicted because he had refused to eat cold, greasy eggs for breakfast and tipped them into a refuse bin and placed the empty plate back on a dirty dish rack. When questioned the miner said to the waitress that as he paid £4 a week board he could do what he liked with his breakfast. The management called police the following day but after they investigated the police decided to take no action provided the miner kept the peace. The miner was fully paid up and the police failed to understand why they were called for such a trivial matter. Sometimes Migrant hostel managers were equally responsible for problems that arose.

The British Migrants Association demanded that the Minister for Immigration, Harold Holt, receive a delegation representing all migrants on their grievances about the Hostels. Mr Holt appointed an independent committee first to investigate the grievances about accommodation and charges by the British migrants. Evictions were suspended until after the inquiry. There was also suspicion by the Federal Government that the British Migrants Association had been infiltrated by members of the Communist party who played a role in stirring up the British migrants. Within a week (December 1952) the committee had delivered its findings to Mr Holt. The committee found the tariffs charged in migrant hostels were fair and reasonable by all comparable Australian Standards and migrants were not justified in withholding payments. The committee recommended substantial increases in concessional rates for migrants with families. The committee rejected the migrant's claim that single men and women should be excluded from family hostels but conceded where possible their sleeping arrangements should not immediately adjoin that occupied by families. The committee expressed concern about the unsightly and unsanitary conditions near some buildings in hostel areas and recommended attention be given to these. The committee found that the Communists had pursued a deliberate policy of ingratiating themselves with the migrants' association and exploited their grievances. The committee did not suggest the British Migrants Association representatives themselves were Communists or even Communist sympathisers and accepted the British migrants' representatives as sincere advocates with a desire to serve in the best interests of their members. Mr Boreham, the Federal President of the British Migrants Association accused the committee of purposely whitewashing the migrant's complaint. Harold Holt put into place some of the Committee's recommendations with regard to the unsightliness and unsanitary conditions, attached staff to Hostels as Welfare Officers and made arrangements where the breadwinner of a family which resided at a Commonwealth Hostel was able to retain a larger amount of his weekly wages after all costs were

paid provided a certificate from the employer was submitted that showed the actual nominal wage was supplied. Unemployed breadwinners would not be prejudiced if unable to make full payments provided they complied with requirements that had been explained to them. Still the British Migrants Association was not satisfied and continued with the High Court test case that challenged if those living at hostels can be legally classed as "tenants". The British migrants also wanted to prepare their own meals in lieu of eating in the communal hostel cafeterias and only pay for meals eaten in the cafeteria which the Commonwealth was unable to allow. The Chairman of the Board of Commonwealth Hostels Ltd, Mr W. Funnell, spoke out against the demands made by the South Coast branch of the British Migrants Association. Mr Funnell explained that Hostels were never intended to be anything more than transitory in nature while waiting for permanent homes, which most of the migrants living in hostels were doing but there was a core of residents who had no intention of leaving hostels because it was a cheaper form of living than was available elsewhere. Mr Funnell agreed that certain migrants had cases with genuine elements of misfortune but they were no different to the Australians with families whose incomes often fell below £14 or £12 per week and suffered similar periods of unemployment and expenses and these Australians would not expect the Government to regard their circumstances as an excuse not to make payments on arrears in rent. Moreover, Australians did not have their living expenses graded according to their size and economic circumstances as did the hostel residents and would be pleased to have £4 a week left over from his pay after paying all his taxes and bills. Mr Funnell asserted that that the British Migrants Association no more represented the hostel residents of the South Coast than similar factions elsewhere. Only the pattern was identical. Of the 90 families at Balgownie in late January 1953 no more than 23 refused to use the dining rooms; at Unanderra No 1 Hostel less than half; at Berkeley none at all.

In 1952 the Department of Immigration was owed £150,000 in outstanding accommodation fees.

By the beginning of December 1952 there was about 4,305 persons living in hostels in Greater Wollongong and despite the great deal of unemployment in the area the Federal Government planned to house a further 3,000 in hostels and cottages by 1954. Many migrants felt they had been misled by being told that they would have jobs and homes when they came to Australia.

By mid-December 1952 many of the industries on the South Coast closed down for the annual holiday period, causing further loss of work opportunities until 12 January 1953. Many family incomes, not only migrants, were severely affected by these disputes and circumstances. This was felt all across Australia.

The Water Sewerage and Drainage Board Camp at Coniston ceased operating as a migrant worker's camp about 1952. The camp was still standing in October 1960.

The Australian Government decided against allowing any Japanese women into Australia immediately after World War 2. It was not until 1952 when the Australia Government relaxed its approach to non-European immigration that it allowed the Japanese wives of Australian servicemen who had served in the Pacific War to settle in Australia.

The Dutch-Australian Society in Illawarra was founded in 1952. Members and friends met socially every first Saturday of the month. About 300 families would make up its membership by 1966. The Society had their own instrumentalist groups, singers and choirs and put on plays three times a year. Dutch ladies stayed fit with a gymnastics group. The socials were held in Corrimal Community Hall until their own premises were established. The most important celebration each year was on 5 December, St Nicholas Day when the good children were rewarded with presents. The society also had a library but the main reason that it formed was to help new settlers in distress as these people had been cut off from close relatives and had to rely on the help of the Dutch Society.

Mary Rose Liverani, author of "The Winter Sparrows", which tells of her childhood leaving Glasgow in 1952 with her family to migrate to Australia and living in a migrant hostel then a housing commission home in Unanderra.

Katalin Jozsa was born in Budepest but lived in Munich Germany for eight years before coming to Australia in 1952 on her own. She met her husband, Istvan Jozsa, on the day of her arrival in Australia. Istvan Jozsa was from Kecskemet, Hungary and he had migrated to Australia in 1949 and worked for Metal Manufacturers. By 1967 they were living at Warrawong.

In 1952 Mr and Mrs D. Demaagd migrated to Australia from Holland with their two children. They eventually settled in Dapto.

Jan Hendricks of Lake Heights also migrated to Australia from Holland in 1952 with his wife. After 12 years struggle in Australia Jan Hendricks had become a successful building contractor. Mr and Mrs Hendricks were both active members of the Dutch-Australian Society in Illawarra. They had 2 children who all lived in Australia.

In 1952 Juan Jose Garcia arrived in Australia from Toulouse, France. He travelled to Australia with his Aunt Maria Louisa Garcia. His Uncle had managed to find work at Nebo Colliery and he lived with his Uncle Diego and Aunt in Wollongong. Of Spanish heritage, Juan Jose Garcia had been born in 1940 in a Concentration Camp Argeles Sur Mer. Juan Jose attended Wollongong High School. Juan Jose's Uncle Diego and Aunt Maria Louisa built a house in Warrawong which at the beginning with Juan Jose and his aunt breaking up the rocks which he and his aunt separated into different sizes for his Uncle to choose from or cleaning the discarded bricks found at the local dump. Juan Jose Garcia did this work on weekends when he was not at school. In 1955 after work had finished on the Kiewa Hydro-Electric Project Juan Jose Garcia's father joined him in Wollongong. After finishing school Juan Jose Garcia did various labouring jobs at building sites and in 1958 worked at AI&S for 2 months before he gained a scholarship at Sydney University to study architecture. While at University he lived in Pymont with his parents and brothers as Juan Jose's father had saved enough to bring them to Australia. Juan Jose's father found work in Sydney with the Water Board until he found another job at a small factory in Surry Hills. Between 1946 and 1968 Juan Jose Garcia worked for the State Planning Authority of NSW. He returned to live in Warrawong.

Tina Zuiderwyk and her husband Jack came to Australia from Holland and made Bulli their home in 1952. They first lived in a tent on property in Lawrence Street Bulli where they kept had a few cows and a couple of horses for neighbours. They eventually built a small home on the site as additional houses filled the empty paddocks that first surrounded them. The Zuiderwyk's family home in Lawrence Street (on the corner of Waterloo Street) became a local tourist attraction when Jack Zuiderwyk built a miniature Dutch village in the front yard complete with windmills and cobble paved streets. Jack Zuiderwyk passed away in 1967 the miniature Dutch village was moved to the Queen Beatrix Retirement Village at Albion Park. Tina was 89 years old when she moved into a Woonona retirement village in 2005 after the garden and home which she loved very much became much too difficult for her to maintain. Forty of Tina's friends and neighbours marked her departure from Lawrence Street with a picnic party in Dobbins Park where she once milked here cows.

The Pronk family, father, stepmother, two sons and two daughters arrived in Wollongong from Holland in late 1952. The first lived in a tent in Towradgi Park and it rained for three days and nights flooding their tent. They then lived in a small garage near Woonona Railway Station and from there bought a block of land on Mt Keira Road near where Edmund Rice College is today which was then called "Sheppards Oval". Some of the family lived under three sheets of corrugated iron laid on top of loosely stacked building blocks while the rest lived in the same tent they used at Towradgi Park.

By 1952 the total Italian population in Australia was 13,018 and the total German population was 1,592.

In 1952 the footbridge that provided access from Cringila Railway Station to the Port Kembla Steelworks was built. It also provided access for Cringila residents who also worked at the Steelworks.

1953

In 1953 arrangements were made for the migration of refugees from Trieste which began in 1954 and lasted until Trieste became a part of the Italian Republic and migration assistance came under the Australia-Italy Bilateral Agreement.

Construction work at Berkeley Hostel was closed down in January 1953 and 90 men employed by the contractors, Kennedy and Bird, were dismissed. The contractors had been directed by Commonwealth Department of Works and Housing to close down the Berkeley Hostel building project due to the Federal Government's credit restrictions.

Life in hostels, particularly for single and unaccompanied men, British and New Australians, could be considered as monotonous. In 1952 residents at Al&S Karingal Hostel formed a social club and held its first social event a "smoko" in late January 1953 using money raised from the film nights that were held at the hostel every Sunday night. A fancy dress parade and afternoon party for the migrant children at Balgownie Hostel was held by management who was assisted by a number of migrants in February 1953. About 200 children participated. A children's picnic at Thirroul was held two weeks earlier. The same evening as the children's fancy dress parade, a Valentine's Day Fancy Dress Ball was attended by 300 adult migrants at Balgownie Hostel Recreation Hall. Music was supplied by Wally Mason's Orchestra. Despite complaints, grievances and monotony, life in the Hostels could be pleasant, entertaining and quite sociable.

From the very first migrant workers' hostel established in Coniston in late 1948, the members of Wollongong Council and sometimes the residents of affected areas, complained about the camps being located near residential suburbs or concentrated in one area. Council was concerned about placing migrant hostels in industrial areas and felt migrants were not being given a decent chance at settling in Australia when they had to live in hostels. Housing people in hostels was not in the best interest of the community as it did not bring out the best in people when forced to live under these conditions. The basis of a good citizen is a good home. Council's altruistic concern for migrants, on balance, was probably more to do with the fact that each time a Commonwealth Hostel camp was established the Council had to provide roads, sewerage, electricity and it placed additional burdens on existing schools, ambulance services and hospitals. This placed even further financial burdens on the funding allocated to Council for building programmes. Council had already voiced its dislike of the tin "igloo" huts calling them a 'blot on the landscape'. More to the point, Council did not want a repeat of temporary housing settlements such as seen during the depression in areas not properly serviced which could cause illness in the population. The experience of trying to shut down and move people on from these temporary depression houses and camps came only after a great deal of problems and Council could see this being repeated particularly as lack of employment and housing resulted in the transitory nature of the hostels being turned into more permanent settlements.

The Commonwealth Hostels were running at a loss of about £1.5 million per year. The Commonwealth Hostels Limited appealed to all 16,000 residents housed in hostels all throughout Australia for cooperation in avoiding waste. Upon arrival in Australia if migrants were sent to Reception Camps they were not charged a fee, it was only when a migrant obtained work and transferred to workers hostels were they charged a tariff, determined by family size, for living in a Commonwealth Hostel.

Wastage and destruction of property was costing the Federal Government, and therefore the Australian taxpayer, an estimated £85,000 per year. Much of the damage, although only caused by the minority, resulted from pranks by children. But the children were not entirely responsible for wastage such as the disappearance and breakage of dining room crockery, cutlery and trays. These types of losses were in addition to the normal running costs for maintaining a hostel. With concessions on tariff charges to be paid and restrictions to ensure the breadwinner would have a prescribed amount per week left over from his pay after expenses, it cost taxpayers more than £1,000,000 a year to accommodate and feed wives and children and other residents of hostels who do not pay for their keep. The appeal for restraint in damage and wastage was to not burden the taxpayer any further above that of the already rising costs for accommodating migrants.

By early March 1953 there were approximately 300 families living in hostels in the Wollongong area of which 218 were at Balgownie. There were sufficient vacancies at Balgownie then to take the small number of families that were still living at Unanderra No 1. All the houses erected by the Commonwealth were tenanted firstly by migrant miners, secondly to rejected migrant miners and thirdly to migrant miners who had started in the industry but subsequently were found to be medically unfit. An additional 80 homes were ready for occupation except that sewerage had not been installed and inadequate provision for disposal of sullage owing to the soil conditions. It was proposed that representation be made to the Commonwealth Government that these 80 cottages be made available to families that were still living at Hostels and once cleared of families the Hostel should be converted to house single working men because industry at Port Kembla needed more labour than could be provided by normal housing particularly as it was not Commonwealth Government policy to house single men with family units at its hostels. The Wollongong Council wanted the Commonwealth Government to provide finance to migrants at present living in hostels to erect part-houses and as a means for the Commonwealth Government to capitalise on its losses. This suggestion came about from a conference held between Council, State Housing Commission and Commonwealth House Commission for the purpose of preparing a case to be presented to the Commonwealth Government for the provision of housing for present and future migrants referring back to Council's concerns expressed in December 1952 about how the continuing housing of family units in hostels was contrary to social interests and hampered assimilation into the community. This proposal by Council did not eventuate. The Housing Commission agreement with the Commonwealth Government did not allow for the erection of part homes. British migrants were eligible for inclusion in housing ballots after 12 months. Some foreign governments from which the migrants originated did have home loan finance schemes in place such as the Italian governments housing loan scheme. What continued in Wollongong were garages being erected on the land into which migrant families would move into while the homes were being built or erecting half houses to live in with the intention to complete the building once more finance was available.

The Citizenship Convention of 1953 drew attention to the discrimination against alien migrants in the provision of public housing. This discrimination had been ongoing since the introduction of the 1945 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement. The Convention recommended to the State Housing Authorities that migrants be allowed to apply for housing schemes and residents of hostels be treated the same as non-migrant residents in emergency housing settlements. In NSW alien migrants were not eligible for public housing at all. In Tasmania they were ineligible until 12 months had lapsed after they became Australian citizens. In Victoria there was a ballot system (as in NSW) and alien migrants had to submit a Declaration of Intentions to become citizens before being able to enter a housing ballot. British migrants could apply for public housing after 6 or 12 months depending on the State. Queensland did not have a ballot system and alien migrants were able to enter a ballot after 6 months in Australia, but preference was given to Australians. In South Australia any migrant could apply for public housing but the wait was five to six years which ensured many bought their own homes. The system in Western Australia was the most fair where migrants under contract could apply for housing

after their 2 year employment contract expired, nominated migrants only had to wait one year and full-fare paying migrants were treated on equal terms as Australians which was based on hardship and date of application.

On 14 May 1953 the Deputy Mayor of Wollongong, Alderman Ward and Mr Davies, MHR, received a telegram from the Acting Minister for Labour and National Service advising that he saw no reason in further delay to act on its threat to evict 108 British migrants from Unanderra Hostel. These migrants had continued to refuse to pay full board and cooked their own meals in their hostel accommodation and so only paid the rent component of the tariff. This dispute that had been going on for the last 7 months was over not being permitted to prepare healthy meals for their families in their accommodation. The migrants had asserted that meals served by the catering staff at Commonwealth Hostels were not healthy especially for their children. There was only a small minority who refused to pay full board. The Federal Government refused to discuss the matter of the evictions as it was felt that they brought this upon themselves when they decided not to pay their debt. In a newspaper report on the conditions at Balgownie Hostel the Commonwealth Hostel representative was quoted as saying "the dining rooms were full with hostel patrons", the British migrants' representative responded "that was only because the Sydney Waterside Workers who had their tariffs paid for them and the single male steelworkers who had no one to cook for them had no choice but to eat Hostel meals".

By mid-1953 a total of 185,198 British people had migrated to Australia of whom 27,635 were Commonwealth-sponsored with the remainder sponsored by individuals or groups. Those who were sponsored by the Commonwealth were housed in hostels separate from and better than those provided for alien migrants.

On 9 June 1953 two families, including children, had been forcibly evicted from Balgownie Hostel. The migrants, most of whom belonged to the British Migrants' Welfare Association, had received written notices of eviction four weeks earlier because they refused to pay for their meals when they cooked their own meals, even though that was not condoned by Hostel authorities, nor was the Commonwealth Government able to split food and accommodation charges. State and Federal Police were used to evict the families by forcing open doors and forcibly removed the men and women who attempted to prevent them moving the furniture out of the hostel rooms. It was alleged by the migrants that police stopped attempts to call for help from the public phone booth and smashed cameras of the migrants who photographed the event. The two families and their possessions were put out in the street and they were ordered to stay off the premises however the other migrants smuggled them back in and hid them within the Balgownie Hostel complex. Police continued to patrol Balgownie Hostel once the two families had been evicted, watched on by the remaining migrants. Migrants from Burwood, Bunnerong, East Hills, Cabramatta, Unanderra and Berkeley Hostels poured into Balgownie and all available police in the area were rushed to Balgownie Hostel. All remained peaceful after the British Migrant Association officials urged peaceful protest be adopted. The Waterside Workers' Union, the Federated Coal Miners' Association and other unions supported their stand. The following day 200-300 British and New Australian migrants took part in a mass meeting of South Coast Migrants and Unions and marched in protest down Crown Street, Wollongong. About 50 miners from Excelsior Mine stopped work to join the protest march. Before the march, the protestors were told, as reported, by the Balgownie British Migrants Association President, Mr Bolger, "to keep it peaceful until we tell you otherwise". A deputation comprised of migrant representatives, the Trades and Labour Council, the Miners' Federation, the FEDFA and the Waterside Workers Federation met with the Deputy Lord Mayor and Mr Davies, MHR at Council Chambers where it was decided that some of the deputation would travel to Sydney for talks with Mr Funnell the Managing Director of Commonwealth Hostels Ltd. Police had returned to the hostel to search for the two families that had been evicted but were unable to find them. Meanwhile at Unanderra and Berkeley Hostels squads of

migrants patrolled the premises of four other migrant families who had also received final eviction notices. A communication system between hostels had been arranged by the migrants in case attempts were made to evict the families.

A couple of days after the protest march another meeting was held by migrants at Unanderra and many British, Dutch and other migrants came from Balgownie and Cringila. They heard a report back from the deputation that went to Sydney and met with the Acting Premier, Mr Heffron. A proposal for a cafeteria be established in one of the South Coast Hostels as an experiment had been approved and no more evictions from hostels would occur before all suggestions had been examined. The cafeteria proposal was seen as a compromise, not what was hoped for, but a start. The evicted migrants were reinstated as well. The following month, on 11 July 1953, a ballot was held to determine whether a cafeteria system was to be introduced on an eight-week trial basis at Berkeley Hostel. The service was based upon a charge of bed and breakfast with a pay-as-you-eat cafeteria system for all other meals. During the trial residents were not to use unauthorised cooking or heating appliances in their living quarters, breakfast and all food purchased in the cafeteria was to be eaten in the hostel dining room unless approval had been given to do otherwise and if patronage fell during the trial period or if not considered successful, the hostel would revert to the previous meal services. New tariff charges would be applied if the new scheme was adopted, with room service an optional charge. The ballot was conducted by a Commonwealth Returning Officer. The number migrants eligible to vote was 133. Forty voted in favour of the cafeteria and 41 against and 51 did not vote. The existing arrangements for meals remained in place.

Again, on 16 July 1953, fifty nine migrants at Balgownie, Unanderra and Berkeley Hostels were served notices of eviction. Their eviction was because they refused to eat in the communal dining halls and preferred to cook their own meals. They were not behind in their rent payments. Another public meeting was held on 23 July 1953, the day on which the 7 day eviction notices expired. Although it was a public meeting few Australians attended and no more than a third of migrants under notice were present. The migrants who spoke at the meeting said that the defeat of the ballot to introduce the pay as you eat cafeteria system occurred because of a misunderstanding. The main issue discussed at the meeting was what to do with the families after they had been evicted. Nothing definite was agreed although camping at Stuart Park was offered as a suggestion. Alderman Ward suggested they form a Community Advancement Society and go ahead with a housing scheme. Of the 59 migrants served eviction notices, 20 had left the hostels and 21 returned to eating meals in the dining room, the remainder apparently continued cooking and eating in their accommodation in secret.

On 17 September 1953 the Minister for Immigration, Harold Holt, in the House of Representatives responded to all the protests that had occurred in the months previous with regard to the recent evictions of migrants from Commonwealth Hostels throughout Australia. He declared that it was not intended that migrants who were able to pay for living in hostels provided by the Commonwealth should do so at the expense of the Australian taxpayer. Holt also claimed that definite evidence had been uncovered of efforts by the communist Party in Australia to infiltrate among the British migrants, but not in any official capacity. British migrants who failed to pay their way should be treated no different to any Australians who failed in their obligations. Most migrants to Australia supported and abided by the rules. Holt also confirmed the findings of the independent committee that found tariffs to be fair and only those with an axe to grind denied that the hostels were adequately equipped and the food was of good quality. Additional concessions and ceiling rates were allowed to ensure every family was left with a reasonable margin from their weekly income. Hostels were only intended as transit accommodation with an average stay of nine months and should never have been viewed as more than emergency accommodation before a move into a home within the wider community took place. Since 1950 hostel accommodation was provided to British migrants otherwise they would not have been able to come to Australia. The ballot that took place at Berkeley Hostel for a cafeteria had

been defeated and this suggested that the individuals controlling the affairs of the British Migrants Association really did not have the general support of the hostel residents. Evictions did not take place if there was hardship such as unemployment or sickness.

The British migrants were the most vocal when it came to complaints and the British Migrant Welfare Association led them on the protests. This is not to say that other non-British migrants did not complain, but somehow the British appeared to do so more often. Other nationalities may not have had a powerful association to represent them, nor the language skills to voice complaints. The British migrants, though again only the minority, were more militant and perhaps other nationalities were more inclined not to cause trouble or bring attention to themselves after their war-time experiences and were just thankful for what they had been given.

The protests and complaints reported would suggest a thankless bunch of British migrants and supported the awful descriptor of “whinging poms” but the migrants as a whole consistently met their obligations without fuss and observed the Hostel rules that were made in the interests of comfort, safety and health for all. Some British migrants often felt they were misinformed by Australian Officials in the United Kingdom. Frequently they referred to pamphlets they had been given in the United Kingdom but had become outdated because migration schemes and other local, national or global incidents caused the government to make changes. Migration was a reactive and evolving “industry”. A minority of British migrants portrayed a group of people who felt Australia owed them, felt themselves superior to other non-British migrants and were satisfied they did not have to live with them. This would suggest the European, New Australian, migrants were happy with their lot, but this was not the case. One could deduce from past events that war-time and life experiences of the New Australian migrants, many who escaped Nazism, Communism and Russian control, conditioned a person to do what they could to survive and were able to better endure conditions in a migrant hostel camp when compared to labour camps or refugee camps in Europe.

English language classes had been on offer, on and off, to New Australians from their arrival in Australia. In September 1953, under the auspices of the Department of Education, more classes in Illawarra were made available. By September 1953 English classes could be taken at Berkeley and Unanderra Hostels, Newbold’s Port Kembla Hostel, Corrimal, Dapto and Fairy Meadow Public Schools, Wollongong High School and Lake Heights Community Hall. New Australians were encouraged not to speak their own language because it was felt that they would be better assimilated and accepted if they spoke English. This was misinterpreted by some New Australian migrants to mean not to speak their language in public. Knowledge of English was essential to successfully navigate life at work and in the community. Clubs and organisations formed by and for the New Australians provided a community of shared language, culture, celebrations and food and were indicative of maturing Australian citizenship no longer reliant on the goodwill of the local Wollongong community for support but now able to navigate on their own as well as help the more newly arrived migrants from their former homelands. It was not after 1973 when multiculturalism was introduced that New Australian migrants no longer felt the need to shed their language and culture to fit in.

A new non-official post office was opened at Unanderra Hostel on 1 September 1953. It was known as Unanderra East.

By late September 1953, the Berkeley Migrant Hostel closed because Commonwealth Hostels Ltd could not continue to run the hostel economically. Berkeley Hostel was run on a caretaker basis in case it was needed to be re-opened. Most of the migrants at Berkeley Hostel at the time of the closure were New Australians. Sufficient accommodation was available at both Balgownie and Unanderra to absorb them after Berkeley closed. When Berkeley Hostel closed there was a total of approximately 1,100 migrants being accommodated at Unanderra and Balgownie Hostels. There was almost an equal

number of staff. At Balgownie, the largest of the three Commonwealth Hostels in Illawarra, only 560 people, including the Waterside Workers and single men were living in and it had vacancies for 160 families and 60 single men when Berkeley Hostel closed. Unanderra Hostel vacancies totalled 200. Hostel numbers had steadily decreased. In fact, except for a few arrivals from Berkeley Hostel there had been no large migrant intakes at all for almost 12 months. There was not enough work available in the district as unemployment was still a problem. Even the number of Waterside Workers who had been billeted at Balgownie Hostel had fallen from several hundred to just on 90 with many opting to camp at Stuart Park. Some of the Waterside Workers had stayed at the Hostel for longer than the three month limit, others left because the food was inadequate for a working man and while the food might be all right for migrants who were, according to the Waterside Workers "not used to good food" it was not acceptable to the men. Other Waterside Workers preferred to live under canvas because their shift work routine absented them from the Hostel during meals hours yet still they had to pay for meals they did not eat. Some of the other migrant residents were perfectly satisfied and preferred to remain living at the hostel because it was much cheaper than living in a Housing Commission home.

In 1953 Renate Kuhnel came to Australia from Germany with her parents and they made a home at Barrack Heights. In 1962 Renate enrolled in Wollongong Teacher's College but left a year later to marry Sean Borovilos. Soon after her son Michael was born her husband was killed in a motorcycle accident. Renate would later teach German to students at the Saturday German Language School.

Also in 1953 Albert Hoefner migrated to Australia from Germany. Albert was a trainee draughtsman at the Steelworks where he also completed an apprenticeship as a fitter and turner. He would later celebrate his engagement in 1967 to Maureen O'Malley who lived at Mt Keira.

Theodorus and Mathilda Jansen arrived in Australia from Holland in November 1953 with their 2 year old son Frank. They were accompanied by Mathilda's sister, brother-in-law and niece. Mathilda, Theodorus and Frank first stayed at Bonegilla before they were moved and travelled by rail to Balgownie Hostel where they stayed until about June 1955. While at Balgownie Hostel a lot of waterside workers were staying there. Theodorus and Mathilda bought a block of land at Storey Street Fairy Meadow and a local Dutch builder constructed half a house (two rooms, kitchen and laundry but no bathroom). While living in the half house Theodorus showered at work and Mathilda showered at Balgownie Hostel where she worked in the dining hall. The house was clad in fibro and lined in canvas. Theodorus made beds that folded up against the wall and pulled curtains across to cover them when not in use which was a common practice in Netherlands. They borrowed money from another Dutch couple and bought table and chairs for the kitchen. Linen, crockery and other household items were brought over from Holland in a crate. The house in Fairy Meadow was completed in 1957. Theodorus and Mathilda had two more sons, Terry and John and they both lived in the house at Storey Street until 2000.

By December 1953 assisted British migrants comprised 31.1% men, 34.2% women and 34.7% children. The alien migrant comprised 52.4% men, 22.5% women and 25.1% children.

At the 1953 Citizenship Convention it was resolved that 'where practicable, the same standard of accommodation be provided for European migrants as for British migrants'. Commonwealth Hostels Ltd agreed that there should be no more discrimination and that where needed those hostels would be built up as near as possible to the standard provided at the best British hostels. The quickest way to achieve accommodation by management was to remove the sitting rooms that British Hostels had. This caused discontent amongst the British migrants. The non-British migrants tended to spend less time in hostel accommodation than the British migrants.

1954

In 1953-54 when the intakes of Displaced Persons and Refugees had ceased the numbers had declined to 446. The peak was in 1949 at 75,486 to 2,055 in 1952. This eased the pressure of accommodation at holding centres. The policy of keeping the number of dependents to a minimum by giving preference to single men and women and married couples without children when negotiating migration agreements with European countries (from 1951) also reduced the pressure on holding centres.

In 1954 Australian entered into assisted migrations schemes to Australia with Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

The Belgians were able to migrate to Australia under the Empire and Allied Ex-Servicemen's Scheme from 1947 to 1954. From 1954 Belgian could apply to migrate to Australia under the General Assisted Passage Scheme until 1961.

The Housing Commission project at Berkeley on the northern shores of Lake Illawarra was the largest Commission programme in Australia of that time in May 1954. The Commission planned to construct 2,575 homes and the population of the "new" town would be approximately 5,000 persons. People were initially charged £3/25/- per week. There were some of these types of homes erected at Lake Heights with no complaints from the residents. The Town Clerk reported that the houses contained a kitchen and living room, 3 bedrooms and a combined laundry and bathroom and the homes were quite suitable for use and would fill the need of the community provided they were not erected in large groups but interspersed with other types of houses. Mr Gallop from the Housing Commission had assured Council that the houses would not be built in groups. The Housing Commission "economy homes" were discussed by Wollongong Council Aldermen who were critical of the houses that were to be built. The Council believed the houses to be sub-standard and only suitable for holiday homes or weekenders. There were no paths or drainage. As a cost cutting measure, the houses were built on wooden piers and not brick and utilised rafters instead of ceiling joists. Council considered the pre-fabricated houses erected by the Commonwealth much worse.

The NSW Housing Commission erected 2,000 homes at a rate of 500 a year. Council also took part in this development and extended Northcliffe Drive with the NSW Housing Commission assistance. The extension enabled a direct route to Port Kembla and avoided the steep hill. Northcliffe Drive was extended and joined Canterbury Road and provided direct access to Port Kembla on the east and Princes Highway to the west.

The Director of the NSW Housing Commission and the Director of Commonwealth Hostels met with the Mayor and Aldermen in Wollongong on 23 June 1954 to discuss hostels and housing.

On 24 June 1954 the first unit of the Tallawarra Power Station on the shores of Lake Illawarra went into production.

Within the next six months (from 19 July 1954) upwards to 700 single men and 400 families arrived in Wollongong and were accommodated at Berkeley Hostel. In anticipation of the new arrivals, improvements to Berkeley hostel were undertaken eighteen months after construction work had been stopped owing to credit restrictions.

Wollongong City Council was also looking at suitable buildings to establish aged care homes wanting to take advantage of the Federal Government proposal to subsidise on a pound for pound basis on capital costs. When construction at Berkeley Hostel had stopped and the overall number of migrants

living in hostels had been on the decrease, the Council entertained the idea of perhaps converting hostels for aged care before turning its attention to Lysaght's workers' hostel at Hill 60 at Port Kembla which was about to close. Lysaght's Hostel comprised of some well-fitted cottages that could accommodate 50 married couples and 3 large single room dormitories to accommodate single people, kitchen, dining room to cater for 164 people, a store room, cool room septic tank station, a manager's residence and bathroom, shower and laundry facilities. The land belonged to the Wentworth Estate but the buildings were owned by Lysaghts. Council was wary of utilising buildings that were "poked away and difficult to administer" and wanted "buildings be worthy of the people" and not of a dormitory type. It would appear the Commonwealth did not share these sentiments when it came to housing migrants as often migrants were housed in places isolated, remote and away from the general public so as not to draw attention to them. A Mayor's Pensioners' Building Appeal was launched and by 1954 a deputation committee had been formed but no site for the proposed aged care home had been decided. In 1954 Wollongong, with a population of 90,000 people, still lacked any facilities for the care and welfare of the aged pensioners. The preference was to construct the home and not take over any former hostel buildings. Most of the aged had to be sent to Sydney to live in aged care homes amongst strangers. This was even more traumatic for the aged migrant pensioners, still very much in the minority, but an overlooked, emerging problem at which time no consideration was given by Council for their welfare and cultural needs, nor was there any representation of migrants on the committee. It was not until the early 1980s that members of the Illawarra's Italian community took action to address the limited availability of quality aged care for the region's migrant community. The Marco Polo committee was formed to investigate what could be done to meet the needs of the frail migrant elderly in the community. The Italian community was large enough and well-established to raise funds required to proceed with construction of a nursing home and formed a joint venture partnership with Uniting Church Farmborough Grove Retirement Village Board and in 1988 Unanderra Nursing Home was opened. In 2008 the partnership was dissolved and Marco Polo committee assumed the sole management of the original nursing home and Cordeaux Lodge and began operating as Marco Polo Aged Care Services, built primarily for the Italian community by the Italian community through their many fundraising activities. The elderly from other smaller migrant communities were also catered for by Marco Polo Aged Care. Other migrant community groups in the following years would form to create similar aged care facilities.

The stress placed on wives and children as they continued to be placed in Holding Centres and separated from their husbands and fathers was a condition felt often by the New Australian migrants. Few differences to this pattern of housing New Australian migrant families had occurred since the commencement of assisted migration schemes. Distance was a problem which involved travelling from Wollongong and costs of fares for the men to visit their families in places like Cowra, Scheyville, Bathurst, Cowra, Greta, Parkes, Bowral and Uranginty. Many dependants of the migrants living at Unanderra Hostel were sent to Scheyville as it was considered the closest Holding Centre to the South Coast. Wives staying at these hostels also found employment particularly on farms to supplement family income not only to purchase their own homes, but also to pay for their keep at the Migrant Centres. Five German families who had arrived in Australia in June 1954 spent some time together at Bonegilla before the husbands were allocated employment at Port Kembla. These wives were sent to Scheyville Migrant Camp which was located near Windsor in NSW having been informed that they would only be separated from their husbands for a fortnight until suitable accommodation was found. But their stay was much longer. Depressed and not willing to put up with the standard of accommodation and food, the wives and children of these five German men left Scheyville and arrived in Unanderra Hostel. The first night they slept in a corridor at Unanderra Hostel. Although there was accommodation available at both Berkeley and Balgownie Hostels, the husbands were informed they could not live there as a family unit because they were not skilled workmen and both hostels were for British migrant families. The families were warned they could not stay at Unanderra Hostel because it was a hostel for single men only and it was fully occupied. The wives were threatened with arrest

for trespassing if they remained. The families alleged that they had been told by Australian officials in Germany that families would not be separated.

In the assisted migration agreement between Germany and Australia, the Commonwealth Government provided accommodation to the "breadwinner" in a migrant workers' hostel unless he was placed in an employer-found accommodation, and his dependants would be placed in an Immigration Holding Centre. Similar arrangements applied to nationals from other European countries with which Australia had bi-lateral migration agreements. Many migrants had been handled in this manner. When vacancies at workers' hostels occurred in any States where dependants could be transferred, arrangements were made either for the entire family to be accommodated after their arrival at these hostels or for dependants to be subsequently transferred from holding centres to the hostels where the breadwinners were located. Although there was no obligation by the Department to do so, it tried to avoid separating families. National events, such as strikes, material shortages and credit restrictions often caused bottlenecks of employment and accommodation as well as fluctuations in migrant numbers. This incident that involved the 5 German families took place when there had been an increased flow of migrants who had been placed in basic industries especially in the Wollongong/Port Kembla area where they were needed. It was necessary therefore to allocate the men to hostels in the area for the purpose in which they were originally built and meant that their dependants could not immediately be sent to hostels to join them. In fairness to all migrants of different nationalities the Commonwealth took the decision that where vacancies arose in workers' hostels in any States to which limited numbers of dependants could be transferred from holding centres, transfers would be in strict order of priority according to the date of their arrival, meaning first in first out. Before leaving Bonegilla the migrants were to be fully acquainted with the arrangements. Allowing a few migrants to gain an unfair advantage by forcing their way into migrant hostels to join their husbands would have imperilled equity for all migrants concerned and introduced chaos to the processes in place. Other reasons the German migrants' wives gave for leaving Scheyville were the poor living conditions and the bad food. These types of complaints were often repeated by a great number of migrants, irrespective of nationality, living at most hostels, some only if they were justifying their actions for non-compliance, yet the Government continued to deny the allegations and did not appear to make any substantial efforts for improvement. However, the complaints did seem to come from a minority whose actions or voices made the most noise and were more newsworthy.

On 20 August 1954 William and Margaret Last arrived in Wollongong from Birmingham, England, with their daughter Ann and sons John and Peter. They family were accommodated at Balgownie Hostel which was arranged for them by BHP. The family lived at Balgownie Hostel for about five and a half months in D Block Hut 12B. They eventually built their house in Towradgi.

The first Naturalisation Ceremony at Wollongong was held on Tuesday, 10 August 1954 by the then Mayor, Alderman J.J. Kelly. Four of the new citizens at the first Wollongong naturalisation ceremony were recorded in the Illawarra Mercury (11 August 1954) as Karl Haring, Atis Strazdins, Constantinos A. Simons and Marie Carvelis. One of the candidates who was unable to attend because he was in hospital was Alois Lemberkovics.

By September 1954 the Wollongong Council's Southern Zone Committee decided to ask AI&S to remove Steelhaven Hostel after being advised by a company officer that the hostel was unoccupied and had no plans for using Steelhaven in the future nor to remove the buildings. But AI&S neither removed the buildings nor used the former hostel site, instead, in 1959 Steelhaven Hostel was leased to Electric Power Transmission Pty Ltd (EPT) to house their migrant workers until Steelhaven Hostel, now described as an eyesore, was set for demolition in May 1959 and EPT moved into their own hostel premises.

When Cornelia and Anthonie Degraaf first arrived in Wollongong on 11 March 1954 after migrating to Australia from Holland they spent a week at Unanderra Hostel but moved to a Presbyterian Church Hall for a few days. Anthonie's uncle had a vacant block of land at Bellambi so they rented a caravan and lived on the vacant block for about four months. They then moved into the laundry that was located at the back of a house, also in Bellambi when the owner offered to sell them another block of land. They remained living in the laundry while Anthonie built a garage on the new block of land which they moved into on 29 September 1954. In October 1954 Anthonie's parents and brothers arrived so they gave them the garage to live in while he and his wife Cornelia moved into the caravan again. Cornelia and Anthonie Degraaf had four children all born in Australia.

Many migrants had become involved in local sporting competitions. There was a thriving Illawarra Men's Basketball Championship in 1954 with teams from Unanderra Hostel, Waterboard Wanderers, Tempo, Commonwealth Bank, CRM, All Stars and Mormon Seagulls. Trial matches were played at the Unanderra Hostel indoor court. Many star players participated including an American College player, representative players from the University of Sydney, and the "continental" stars of Ernie Kaucis and Harry Alla. The coach was a 1936 Czechoslovakian Olympian, Louis Prokov. Tempo was another strong "continental" team and was composed of Latvian and Estonian players. The Unanderra team was captained by Charlie Pietracci and included several former international players. Young Italian migrants joined the South Coast Cycling Club, racing at the McCabe Park Velodrome in Wollongong and at the velodrome in Unanderra. The sport of cycling very popular in European countries long before the latte sipping, lycra-wearing crowd discovered it some 50 years later.

Balgownie Hostel catering staff protested and stopped work on 25 October 1954 demanding more staff. Villawood, a large hostel with about 1,600 migrants and 120 caterers had called a 3 day strike earlier with the same demand and went out on strike again with the Balgownie Hostel catering staff after the terms of settlement which had been agreed by the Hotel, Club and Restaurant Employees Union at the Conciliation Commission had been refused by the caterers. On the same day, a large intake of British migrants had arrived on the liner "New Australia" and were on their way to Balgownie Hostel. Commonwealth Hostel Ltd responded by calling for volunteers from their own staff of typists and executive officers, to prepare and cook meals for the impending arrivals and were rushed by car to Balgownie.

The Baart family, Jacob, Levina and their daughter Catherine arrived in Australia from Holland on 20 October 1954. They first stayed at the Migrant Centre at Scheyville but found the accommodation of a poor standard. They left the following day and found their own way to Wollongong where their relatives, the Fosters, were living at Balgownie Hostel. They shared with the Fosters for about 10 days until they got their own accommodation at the Hostel. By the end of February 1955 they found accommodation at Brayton Boarding House. Brayton Boarding House had once been a hospital before it was a boarding house. It provided accommodation mostly for single men but there were two rooms available for the Baart family. There was no water connected to the rooms and cooking was done on a primus stove and a two-gas jet camping stove. Bathing facilities were shared with other residents in at Brayton Boarding House. Two sheep were kept on the premises to keep the grass mowed. Another daughter, Patricia, was born in 1959 and by then the Baart family had saved enough money to purchase a home in Corrimal Street in August where Jacob and Levina lived until they passed away. Jacob (Jack) in 1978 and Levina in 2004.

By December 1954, there were approximately 3,170 persons living in hostels and 1,135 living in prefabricated cottages and Nissen huts, making a total of 4,305. Of this total approximately 40% were single men and 60% married persons, most of the latter being British migrants. The married British migrants were accommodated together as family units, whereas nearly all New Australian migrants were separated from their families. Separation from families sometimes had an unsettling influence

on migrants leading often to anti-social behaviour and depression. The New Australians were not provided with a decent start in settling down in their new country and possibly would have retarded their assimilation into the community. Lack of ideal living conditions continued to impede assimilation when the Government housing scheme did not allow for provisions for New Australian migrants as it had provided for British migrants. This led to many New Australia migrants building half houses or garages or sheds to live in. Some countries, such as Italy, did set up a home loan scheme for migrants, while other countries such as the Netherlands, did not allow for family separations in their migration agreement with Australia. Wollongong Council wanted the Government to make more houses available and not more hostels or prefabricated houses that did not comply with Local Government standards.

The atrocities against people based on their political, religious or cultural, ethnic backgrounds during the 1930s and war crimes committed during the 1940s had left a deep impression on the world and Australia was not immune to the suffering experienced by the so-called 'undesirable groups'. Australia had provided safe haven for refugees, Jewish people just before the outbreak of World War 2 and Displaced Persons following World War 2, and this demonstrated a willingness to offer resettlement on humanitarian grounds. In 1954 Australia ratified the 1951 the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and signed the 1967 protocol that extended the geographical scope beyond Europe. Australia continued to resettle vulnerable groups on an ad hoc basis in response to specific situations from the 1950s and onwards.

Australia's policies, sympathies and international reputation towards the resettlement of refugees have changed continually since the 1950s. Australia now has developed a more hard-line approach in the resettlement of refugees to battle "illegal immigrants" but is still willing to accept those who apply through the proper channels. Unfortunately, circumstances for some refugees put legal channels out of reach.

The Good Neighbour Councils were co-ordinated by the Department of Immigration and provided a support network established in all states to assist new arrivals with challenges they faced as well as develop valuable skills to assimilate into the Australian community. The Good Neighbour Councils were modelled from the 1920s social clubs that were established for British migrants. By 1954 there were over 100 branches engaged in various committees delivering advice and guidance. In July 1964 the Department of Immigration opened a Regional Office in Wollongong and up a lot of the responsibility left to the Good Neighbour Council. When it was first established, the Good Neighbour Council never intended to handle matters concerning migrants but did so to prevent homesickness and helped to reunite migrant families so that they would not return but remain in Australia. Since 1950 the Good Neighbour Council had been instrumental in bringing out 2,000 migrants from England and Europe. The work of the Good Neighbour Council continued after the Department of Immigration Wollongong Regional Office was established.

The 1954 Commonwealth Census figures disclosed that Greater Wollongong was the fastest growing city in Australia. In the last seven years the population had increased by 42% to 90,811 which was an increase of 27,951. In 1954 Wollongong was the third largest city and population centre in NSW and was the eighth largest city in Australia.

Ferdinand Hassmann was a German from Czechoslovakia who came to Australia in 1954 with his wife Barbara and children Guenther and Angela. In 1967 he would be selected as the Prince at the AGA-Kaner Festival. He was the first Vice President of the Australian-German-Austrian Club in Wollongong. Mr Werner Wachsmuth, who met Ferdinand on the ship coming to Australia was to become the second Vice President of the Australian-German-Austrian Club in Wollongong.

Table 7: Resettlement in Australia by Migrants Affected by Civil War

1956	Hungarian refugees flee fighting in their country
1963-66	Immigration restrictions on non-Europeans further relaxed. Over the course of a decade around 300,000 people would migrate from other countries such as Bulgaria.
1967	Turkey and the former Yugoslavia migration commenced.
1968	Czech refugees flee fighting in their country.
1973	Chile refugees flee to Australia following the overthrow of the elected government.
1975-81	Lebanese refugees flee civil law in their county and settle in Australia.
1975-85	Refugees from Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos) come to Australia after the end of the Vietnam War.
1980-85	Solidarity movement/Marshall law in Poland allowed permanent entry to Australia for more than 25,000 Poland-born settlers, many arriving as refugees.
From 2000	Australia has taken in people from a broad range of countries including Iraq, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Sudan, India and Sri Lanka.

Source: 'A History of the Department of Immigration, Managing Migration to Australia', Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Revised Edition, June 2017.

Mrs Margot Baumgaertel came to Australia from Luebeck, Germany in 1954. She and her husband lived in Dapto. Mr Baumgaertel was the third Vice-President of the Australian-German-Austrian Club. It would take 14 years before Margot Baumgaertel returned to Germany to visit her former home.

The McGorry family came to Australia from Scotland in 1954 and eventually settled in Austinmer. Because they felt a "wee" bit lonely they started their own private "immigration scheme" and convinced their relatives, the Quirk, the Roach and the Barr families as well as Mrs McKeegan to also migrate to Australia. They did and they all lived in Austinmer.

In 1954 the van Duin family, Johannes, Martha and their 10 children Jim, Nick, Bill, Jerry, Peter, John, Johanna, Geraldine, Adrian and Trudi came to Wollongong. The van Duin family had migrated to Australia from Holland three years earlier on 11 March 1951 but were sent to Bathurst Reception Centre where they lived until they moved into a large shed nearby and later in a house supplied by Johannes' employer in Bathurst. When they arrived in Wollongong they lived in a garage for 2 to 3 years that had 2 rooms and a shack while their Johannes van Duin and four of his sons built their house in front of the garage on the same block of land in Corrimal. They later rented the garage to a migrant couple from Germany.

Peter van Duin with his wife and 12 children came to Wollongong in 1954. They migrated from Holland and arrived in Australia on 2 December 1954.

The Herbertus and Marie Schelle with their twelve children flew via KLM from Holland and arrived in Australia in December 1954. They lived at Balgownie Hostel until April 1955. At the time, migrants were only allowed to bring 10 pounds cash per family. They filled limited sized crates with as much from their home and brought out their belongings to Australia. Herbertus worked at the Fertilizer company at Port Kembla then obtained work as a Leading Station Attendant at Wollongong Railway Station. Marie went to a real estate agent looking for a house and they bought a house at Bulli because it was near the beach. Some of the wooden crates were used for flooring which was later covered with linoleum or carpet.

In 1954 the Church of the Immaculate Conception on the Princes Highway Unanderra was completed. A purpose built church it was established by the Italian Scalabrini Priests of NSW and it was designed by Hirst and Kennedy Architects.

1955

From 1955 to 1956 special arrangements existed for refugees exiting from Austria who were unable to escape under national assisted passage schemes.

In 1955 'Operation Reunion' which reunited in Australia families from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, USSR and the former Yugoslavia commenced.

Volunteers, including non-Catholics, from many nationalities helped build a new Hall in O'Donnell Street Port Kembla. The migrant volunteers included men from Ireland, Poland, Italy, Malta and Hungary who worked alongside the Australian volunteers. Construction on the hall commenced in January 1954 and it took 47 men of the parish over 61 weekends to complete. The hall was officially opened by Bishop Thomas McCabe on 13 June 1955. To build the hall by contract would have cost £7,000 but with volunteer labour the cost was reduced to £4,360.

Whilelm and Whilelmina Deroy arrived in Australia from Holland in September 1955. Whilelm worked at AI&S as a boilermaker for 36 years until 1991. Whilelm (Bill) had done his apprenticeship in Holland but he had to do a Trade test at the Technical College at Coniston. When they came to Wollongong they lived in a flat beneath Whilelm brother's house in Lake Avenue in Cringila which was located behind a blast furnace. Their belongings were shipped out to them by crate by Stam & Bakker of Holland. The Deroy's heard about a Dutch couple moving home so they had first option on a 5 square furnished house in Bellambi which they bought in 1956. Their first child Thelma was born in 1957 and they had two more children, Richard and Sharon. The wood from the shipping crate was used to build cupboards in the kitchen and garage. In 1960 they bought a block of land at Figtree where Bill built a garage that had one bedroom, living room, a tool shed and a combined toilet and laundry. As a trained shipbuilder, Bill drew up the plans for the house and it was built in 1960 to 1961. The wood from the crate was used to build a workbench in the garage.

On 20 October 1955, the Commissioner for Railways announced that Balgownie Railway Station was to be renamed Fairy Meadow. Balgownie Station was opened in 1887 with sparse settlement around the station with the township of Balgownie more than a mile back towards the escarpment. Over the past 10-15 years Fairy Meadow had developed beyond recognition and had become a thriving centre in its own right. The nearby Commonwealth Migrant Hostel remained as Balgownie Hostel and was not changed to Fairy Meadow hostel until 12 years later.

A local paper featured a photograph on its front page of Katherine Skara, an 11 year old Polish girl. Katherine Skara arrived in Australia on 14 October 1955 and was reunited with her parents as well as her two younger brothers and baby sister who she saw for the first time. Katherine was the first child allowed to leave Poland to join her parents who then lived in Primbee. The Polish authorities had not allowed Katherine to leave Poland after she was born and her mother had to leave her with her grandparents.

In October 1955 Mr and Mrs Ernst migrated to Australia from Frankfurt, Germany with their daughter Elke and son Juergen and settled in Wollongong. Elke would work for the Illawarra County Council, married and remained in Wollongong. He brother Juergen would join the police force.

Wilhelm Lechner came to Australia from Linz, Germany, in about 1955. In Australia he completed an apprenticeship in pastry cooking and ran a cake shop. He married Fetiye who was of Turkish descent. Fetiye came to Australia with her parents from the Mediterranean Island of Rodos in about 1949. The couple had two daughters, Regina and Belinda. Their parents also lived in Wollongong. Wilhelm was quoted as saying "Wollongong's been good to me".

In about 1955 the Aroutsidis family came to Australia from Koroni, Greece and settled in Cringila. Mr and Mrs Aroutsidis had four daughters and one son when they arrived in Australia and a year later Lisa Aroutsidis was born at Wollongong Hospital.

Mr and Mrs Gutjahr and their two sons Hans-Dieter and Wolfgang came to Australia in about 1955. They were from Marseburg, East Germany but lived for a time in Fulda, West Germany. They moved from Ballarat to Wollongong in 1966 where Mr Gutjahr found work at the Steelworks. Thirteen years later Hans-Dieter and Wolfgang would be members of the Australian Army serving in Vietnam.

The Australian-German-Austrian Club formed in 1955 to give people a home away from home and assisted newcomers in the difficult task of settling in a new country and with their integration into Australian society. A former president was Mr Wilmes and Mr Papon also served as President.

In December 1955 Mr and Mrs Hans Schuster and their son Helmut migrated to Australia from Wiener Neustadt, Austria. Hans found work and they eventually settled at Berkeley, had 3 more children. Hans would go on to study painting and have them exhibited.

Midford Clothing Factory started in a small factory in Fairy Meadow in 1955 before it moved to West Wollongong in 1960. It moved into new premises in 1969 on the Princes Highway on the corner of Canterbury Road and Northcliff Drive Unanderra/Kembla Grange. The majority of employees were women, mostly migrant women from Yugoslavia, most of whom could not speak English. When brother Frank and Bob Issa sold Midford to their cousin in about 1991 the manufacturing business was moved offshore.

The Polish School in the Illawarra was established in 1955 by Mrs Lucja Rstrich and a priest, Father Arciszewski. The lessons at first had taken place in Port Kembla and Corrimal and by 1957 at St Francis Xavier's Catholic Primary School in Wollongong and then later at the Polish Centre at Gwynneville. In the 1980s classes also were held in Dapto, Shellharbour and Albion Park. Children from the Polish School took part in important Polish events such as Independence Day, as well as representing the Polish Community at local events.

By 1955 the Department of Immigration was attempting to change State regulations that discriminated against non-British migrants becoming landowners. In many States aliens were prevented by law from owning land. There had been an enormous Housing Commission development in the Wollongong and the British migrants were allowed to move into these houses within six to eight months on arrival at the hostel (subject to housing availability). Discrimination against the non-British migrant's eligibility to apply for Public Housing forced them onto the private home ownership market sooner than British migrants. People were encouraged to build their own homes, but once again British migrants were favoured. Banks were reluctant to provide housing loans to migrants who had not been customers for a number of years and non-English speaking migrant owner-builders had great difficulty understanding and complying with local government building regulations. Some changes had occurred in some States in response to the needs of migrants, but not in all States and discrimination against non-British migrants continued into the 1970s. Several countries had set up housing loan schemes for their nationals who had migrated to Australia to enable them to enter the private home ownership market. In Australia from 1958 to 1967 the Dutch Government provided £2.6 million that allowed more than 3,000 homes to be purchased by Dutch migrants. A statutory body set up in Italy provided credit to Italians throughout the world and in Australia 1,920 Italians had bought their own homes. In 1967 the Maltese Government granted \$1.25 million for building societies and in Victoria a housing society was formed by Greek migrants without assistance from the Greek Government. In 1968-69 the Maltese Government provided \$125,000 for housing finance to its

nationals and \$200,000 came from the Dutch Government. Representations made to the British Government to fund similar schemes for their nationals in Australia were unsuccessful.

Towards the end of 1955 the post-war labour and material shortage had virtually disappeared. Much of this was achieved by the Government-directed migrant workers, in particular the Displaced Persons, who were required to live in sub-standard accommodation, many of whom were separated from their wives and families. They worked in the worst jobs, went into foundries and other factories to manufacture baths, sinks and stoves, bricks and tiles. They also produced storm pipes, cement, timber and gypsum. They produced all manner of other materials required for the building industry such as fibrous plaster, asbestos sheeting and paint. They worked on water, sewerage and other essential services and as on-site building labour and by June 1956 the Australian building industry employed 41,887 migrant tradesmen. The annual production of domestic refrigerators, washing machines and telephones had increased. They improved domestic life for all Australians.

1956

In 1955-56 the average length of stay in Commonwealth Hostels was 83.3 weeks for British migrants and 45.5 for alien migrants.

By 1956, Balgownie Hostel was preparing about 3,000 meals a day. That daily total was made up 400 families numbering 1,150 men, women and children. Balgownie Hostel had 92 on the staff and a youth leader who organised activities for young people and language classes were conducted twice a week. Formerly a receiving centre for British migrant families, Balgownie Hostel now accommodated Greek, Italian, German, Dutch, Triestienne as well as British migrants. The Hostel, which covered an area of 90 acres, was now 5 years old and the manager was Mr Claude Kelly. About 90% of the men worked at Port Kembla steelworks. Many New Australians remained in the area and built their own homes. British migrants either entered the Housing Commission ballots after 12 months waiting time to become eligible or were allocated Commonwealth Miners' Cottages and tended moved to suburbs such as Bulli in the north and Dapto, Berkeley and Unanderra to the south.

The first group of refugees who came to Australia from the mid-1950s were 83 Hungarians fleeing from the aftermath of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. The refugees arrived in Sydney, Australia by plane on 4 December 1956 and it was one of the first times that aircraft was used to bring migrants from Europe. A group of over 1,500 Hungarian New Australian migrants waited at Mascot for relatives or wept bitterly when their loved ones were not amongst the refugee arrivals. The Minister for Immigration, Mr Townley, drew a cheer from the crowd of Hungarians when he announced that Australia had decided to bring an additional 2,000 Hungarians to Australia before June 1957 making a total of 5,000. There were some anti-Semitic actions by the Hungarian refugees against the Jews on the travel over to Australia and in camps both in Europe and Australia and this caused deep concern for the Jewish refugees who explained that often they fled from Hungary because they feared the counter revolutionaries of Hungary and not the Russians. This was not limited to Australia as similar anti-Semitic actions took place in London and other European countries as well.

In 1956 the Commonwealth and State Authorities renewed the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement that was established in 1945 and revised its policy that removed the discrimination against non-British migrants. In NSW, which discriminated the most against migrants, all migrants whether British or alien, were allowed to register for Housing Commission homes after 12 months residence in Australia. However, there was a long waiting list because 40% of the housing allocation went to applicants living in emergency housing settlements and living in hostels did not qualify as emergency housing. The other States followed similar non-discriminatory policies except for Queensland and Tasmania.

On 24 October 1956 Athol Townley became the Minister for Immigration.

In 1956, Rudolf and Heidi Krupka with their daughters Gerda and Monika came to Australia from Austria. In the first 3 years Rudolf Krupka worked at the Steelworks then in 1959 worked as a cook at Balgownie Hostel where his wife, Heidi, worked as well in the dining room. Gerda was a nurse and married an Australian, Fred Tolhurst. Monica worked in the office and Balgownie Hostel and she married a former Austrian, Helmuth Kohl who also worked at Balgownie Hostel as a storeman.

In 1956 the De Jong family, comprised of Mr and Mrs Jo De Jong and their two daughters and three sons emigrated to Australia from Holland. They would return to Holland in 1961 only to come back to live in Corrimal in 1964.

Dave Williamson together with his wife, son and daughter migrated to Australia from Leith near Edinburgh, Scotland in 1956. His son Dave (Junior) would become Captain of the North Wollongong Soccer Club and served as Vice President. Dave (Junior) and his wife Linette had two daughters born in Australia, Linette and Jeanette.

In 1956 Mr and Mrs Otto Krahm came to Australia from Wilhelmshaven, West Germany, with their son and only daughter, Helga Krahm. The Krahm family lived at Berkeley and in 1968 Helga Krahm married a British migrant, also from Wollongong.

Friedrich and Luise Frisch, with their son Rainer and daughter Reinhild, migrated to Australia from Feuchtwanger, Bavaria, in 1956. They made a home at Oak Flats. Rainer would be awarded the Queen's medal on 13 December 1967 and would serve in Vietnam as a First Lieutenant. Rainer was a structural engineer. First Lieutenant Frisch was the first migrant and first officer born in Germany to be awarded the Queen's Medal. Rainer married an Australian girl.

1957

In 1957 a cooperative scheme with the Danish Government, Australia and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration was introduced to enable Danish nationals to migrate to Australia. The scheme ceased in 1960 and Danish nationals were able to apply under the General Assisted Passage Scheme. Australia did not have a bilateral agreement with Denmark.

In 1957, the formation of the European Economic Community provides freedom of movement between member states and guest worker programmes all of which reduced European migrant numbers and refugee interest in Australia for nearly ten years.

On 25 January 1957 the Busacker family migrated to Australia. Five years later Hans Busacker and his wife Wiltrud and their son Rainer were naturalised. Mr Busacker used to be an artist and stage director in his former homeland and in Wollongong worked for a Volkswagen company. Mrs Busacker was a librarian before she came to Australia and she continued working in that profession after she came to Wollongong.

Tom Krailach was described as nuggety and well-muscled. A former Austrian welterweight boxing champion, Tom Krailach, put together an all-nations band New Australian gymnasium team that trained in the sportsroom at Unanderra Hostel. He ran a well-disciplined squad of 15 young men teaching them the art of boxing with skipping, bagwork, shadow boxing, calisthenics and muscle building exercises not known or used in Australian gyms. One of his pupils, Alf Tauber, acted as his interpreter when interviewed by Illawarra Mercury reporter, Jack Underwood, on 22 February 1957. When asked why he started these classes Tom Krailach replied "to keep the boys' minds and bodies

occupied". The gymnasium were very short on equipment for teaching boxing. Other pupils included Canadian Doug McClure an Olympic oarsman who had been in Australia for several weeks for a six month course with AI&S as well as young men from Italy, Greece, Egypt, Austria and Germany.

'Bring out a Briton' was launched in 1957. Athol Townley, the Minister for Immigration, sent a letter to his fellow Australians encouraging them to participate in this campaign. He asked the Australian people to help increase the flow of British migrants to develop Australia and to keep Australia as "a British country for her children". It was not because non-British people were not welcome, and in fact, they had already made a significant contribution to Australia, but Australia saw itself as a British country with blood ties and responsibilities to the British Commonwealth and needed to keep a reasonable balance between British migrants and those who came from other countries. 'Bring out a Briton' committees were formed in country districts throughout Australia and all Australians were asked to lend all possible assistance to them. It was somewhat like a sponsorship scheme where towns helped settle British migrants into their communities and provided them with accommodation.

In 1957 Arthur Ripley came to Australia from Castleford in Yorkshire, UK. He and his wife Brenda settled at Austinmer and had children. Arthur's parents would come to Austinmer in 1967 to visit them and stayed 12 months before they returned to the United Kingdom.

In Illawarra hostels had been built for new migrants, pre-fabricated houses erected for British migrants and the Housing Commission had commenced its building programmes. But, for some the disadvantaged Australian citizens of Wollongong, normal housing accommodation could not be obtained. The disused Army huts in Port Kembla were used by some of those disadvantaged families as accommodation. On 28 February 1957 an ex-serviceman and former POW who lived in one of those huts with his wife and four children were evicted by the Commonwealth. After they left the hut members from the Regular Army were called in and quickly smashed the hut. In light of these forcible evictions and with no provision of affordable housing, the criticism of hostels being built for migrants is easily understood.

Migration and development saw a surge of industrial and civic expansion in Wollongong surpassing anywhere else in Australia. Metal and men were the powerful partnership responsible - Port Kembla Steelworks expansion programme and migration. In 1947 production output at the Steelworks was at about 70% and by June 1957 it had trebled. Port Kembla Steelworks employed 10,225 people of whom 4,525 were post-war migrants of 34 different nationalities. From June 1957 AI&S still needed to grow its labour force to 13,000. Although AI&S was the biggest employer there were other Illawarra manufacturing companies that employed migrants as part of their labour workforce as well as women in the textile industry. Population of the Greater Wollongong Area in 1947 stood at about 60,000, then years later it was 104,000 with post-war migration responsible for 45% of that growth. Whilst it was feared that migrants would cause Australians to lose their jobs, the opposite occurred with migrants making more jobs available. As the population grew and new suburbs established more services were needed which meant more work for Council employees and tradesmen and increased purchasing of building materials. Increased industrial production output and population growth gave rise to the increased number of privately built, housing commission or owner-built homes in new and old suburbs, it built new schools, recreational parks, health care centres and local businesses prospered. Conversely, the economic downturn of the steel industry in the 1980s, the most affected group of workers were the very group that gave AI&S and Wollongong its most successful and prosperous years – migrants.

The first Danish migrants under the combined ICEM and Commonwealth scheme sailed from Rotterdam to Australia on the SS Waterman on 30 October 1957.

Table 8: Migrant Groups by Nationality Employed at AI&S Port Kembla – June 1957

Nationality	Number
Italian	1093
Greek	711
British	620
German	370
Polish	348
Dutch	306
(former) Yugoslav	183
Austrian	107

Source: Illawarra Daily Mercury, Thursday 20 June 1957, page 4.

Table 9: Overall Employment Numbers of Companies in Wollongong (other than AI&S) that Employed Migrants as part of their Workforce – June 1957

Company	Employee Numbers	
	Men	Women
Lysaghts Works Pt Ltd	2,101	126
Metal Manufacturers	1,535	204
Electrolytic Refining and Smelting Co	667	36
Australian Fertilizer Ltd	274	0
Austral Standard Cables	136	38
B&W Steel	112	0
Hardie Rubber Company	136	0
Newbold Bricks	115	0
Crystal Clothing (2 x Factories)	0	354
Berlei Ltd	0	166

Source: Illawarra Daily Mercury, Thursday 20 June 1957, page 4.

Albert Negrine arrived in Australia on 31 October 1957. He came from Alexandria in Egypt and his parents were French. Albert first stayed in Sydney before he came to Wollongong in December 1957. In Wollongong, Albert boarded at the Breadalbane Guest House at 60 Kembla Street Wollongong which was arranged for him through a chance meeting at a Wollongong Hotel. Lots of teachers used to board at Breadalbane at the time. Albert Negrine had overseas experience working with non-ferrous metal and spoke five languages. Although he was offered work in the USA he chose Australia as he wanted to come to a “young country”. Albert Negrine stayed at Breadalbane for three months then moved into a spare room he rented in Atchison Street Wollongong where other single men boarded. He would move to other boarding houses until he moved into a place of his own. Albert worked at MM Kembla from 1958 to 1990 as a Technical Officer in the Tube Division, Production Controller, Production Superintendent and managed the factory until he resigned.

On 3 November 1957 Jeanne von Grimbergen arrived in Wollongong from Holland under the assisted passage scheme to join her future husband, Alex Ziegelaar, who had migrated earlier in 1955. Jeanne lived with her sister-in-law and shared a room with her four-year-old nephew and three-year-old niece for about a year until she and Alex were married. They were able to buy a block of land in West Wollongong and lived in a caravan while the house was being built. They then moved to a larger house at Balgownie. Jeanne worked at Lysaghts in the office from about 1958 to 1959 but her husband did not want her to work. Jeanne and Alex Ziegelaar had two children who were born in Australia.

By the end of 1957 a total of about 14,000 Hungarian refugees had been resettled in Australia, but many were still without jobs and were placed in Commonwealth Holding camps at Scheyville and Greta in NSW and Bonegilla in Victoria waiting to be allocated employment and accommodation at nearby migrant workers' hostel.

In 1957 Irene Glouvehinsky, with her parents and brother Paul, came to Australia. Irene was of Russian descent and was born in Harbin, China. Irene attended Russian school in China for a year and by 1967 still read, wrote and spoke fluent Russian. At their Fairy Meadow home her parents kept a library of Russian classics. Irene worked in an office in Wollongong and studied a commercial arts course part time.

Arno Mielke came to Australia from Germany in 1957 as a 9 month old baby with his parents Bruno and Ilse and sister Hedwig who was 6. In 1967 as a ten year old he spoke both English and German and did most of the messages for his mother who did not speak English and his best friends were Darcy Dunston and Barry Hill.

In 1957 Graham Wright migrated from England to Australia with his parents and the Wright family settled in the Wollongong region. In 1968 Michael Wright married a German migrant who lived with her family in Berkeley.

In 1957 Mr and Mrs Casarotto with their son Joe and daughter Leonora migrated to Australia from Italy. By 1971 they lived in Corrimal. Mr Casarotto was a builder with his own business and his wife was a hairdresser.

In 1957 the Urge family, husband, wife and three sons arrived in Wollongong from Hungary. They first rented a garage in Warrawong from an Italian family for about two years while they waited for a Housing Commission house in Berkeley. One of their sons became a sports broadcaster for SBS and became the most known soccer commentator in Australia. He changed his name to Les Murray.

1958

In 1958 the Immigration Act is overhauled. The new Migration Act 1958 abolished the dictation test and replaced it with an entry permit system.

Hundreds of Britons with experience and trades in the steel industry were anxious to migrate to Australia but without a nominator or available accommodation they were unable to enter Australia. However, regular intakes of British migrants, still occurred and in June 1957 an intake consisting of families, married couples and single women were settled in at Balgownie Hostel. On 13 January 1958 British migrants onboard the Fairsea arrived in Australia. They were steelworkers and their families who were jointly sponsored the Commonwealth Government and BHP. Twenty-two were sent to Port Kembla and accommodated at a Commonwealth Hostel and 79 went to Newcastle.

By 1958 there were only 6 Holding Centres at Wacol, Greta, Scheyville, Bonegilla, Benalla and Woodside with a capacity for 8,000 but accommodating only 2,519.

In 1958 the ship "Flamina" sailed with 600 Dutch families onboard who were returned to Holland. Homesickness was the main cause for Dutch migrants to leave Australia, but many re-migrated later.

In 1958 a migration agreement was entered into with Spain. Other agreements with Denmark, Ireland and Belgium followed.

In January 1958 the Fischer family migrated to Australia from Bavaria in Germany. Fritz Otto Fischer originally came from Garnsee, West Prussia and his wife Lilly was originally from Neunkirchen, Lower Austria. Fritz Otto and Lilly Fischer lived at Barrack Heights with their four sons and daughter Elizabeth. Mr Fischer was secretary of the Rifle Shooting and Nine Pin Bowling Club "Waldeslust". As an expert rifleman Mr Fischer once won an award of merit from the Air Rifle Association of NSW. Mr Fischer also became the Wollongong correspondent of the Australian-German weekly newspaper "Die Woche". Mrs Fischer had been awarded a golden friendship needle from the Shellharbour Girl Guides and had served as the troop's Treasurer. In 1970, 16-year-old Elizabeth Fischer a fifth year high school student, was elected the Carnival Princess by the AGA-Kaner, the carnival group of the Australian-German-Austrian Club Germania.

On 19 March 1958 Alexander Downer became the Minister for Immigration.

A need for better living and hygienic conditions at Balgownie Hostel saw more than 200 women stage a demonstration in the playground area on 26 March 1958 to put their claims to Hostel management. It was alleged that the conditions at the hostel had deteriorated rapidly over the last six to nine months. There was now only one dining hall for the Hostel and 1,357 people, including babies, were expected to eat there despite requests to have two more dining halls opened. The closed kitchen and dining halls still had all amenities needed to function. Insufficient staff numbers was the reason given for the closure of the other dining halls of which one had been leased to a technical college to train cooks. For those people living at the far end of the hostel complex it meant a long walk to partake in meals. This was even more difficult when it was raining, especially with small children. Meals were described as having no variety and unsubstantial for children who were served food that did not appeal to the young. It was also claimed that children had suffered from malnutrition and were susceptible to contagious diseases. Unhygienic toilets were pointed out as the major source of outbreaks. According to the demonstrators, toilets were cleaned on average about twice a week and others claimed toilets in their sections had not been cleaned in over a week. Other complaints were watered milk and custard, flies in the food, maggots in the meat, long waits in queues before being able to enter the dining hall. Similar protests at other Hostels had taken place.

Australia did not have a formal migration agreement with Spain but in August 1958 in cooperation with Spain and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration and informal tripartite arrangement was in operation to enable Spanish residents assistance to re-settle in Australia.

By 12 August 1958 Australia was finding it increasingly difficult to secure immigrants unless there was a global development such as the Hungarian Revolution. Aside from the British migrants, Australia still preferred Dutch migrants as they were viewed among the best and felt a development fund for housing should be obtained as an incentive. Australia was still in competition with other countries, particularly with Canada, to secure the best migrants.

On Friday 29 August 1958, Stefan Kellar, 36, who had come to Australia from Warsaw, Poland, was the 1,000th new Australian to become a British subject and Australian Citizen by Naturalisation at Wollongong. He was accompanied by his wife, a third generation Australian whose grandfather came from Germany. The Lord Mayor was Alderman A. Squires and the Town Clerk was Mr W.H. Mitchell, who had organised a special ceremony to mark the naturalisation of Wollongong's 1,000th new migrant citizen and the Lord Mayor pinned the Coat of Arms of the City of Wollongong on Stefan as a special honour to mark the occasion.

In 1958 Jens Madsen arrived in Australia by ship with five pounds in his pocket and a small box camera. Arriving in Wollongong from Townsville and he found work at Nebo Colliery at Mt Kembla and purchased his first decent camera that was worth 10 weeks wages. In 1966 he started his

photographic business that would be located over time in three different Crown Street locations in Wollongong.

In 1958, 12 year old Gerard Willems moved into Balgownie Hostel from the Netherlands with his parents. The family brought with them a piano that his grandfather had made for his mother on her wedding day. The piano was his escape from the cruel taunts he had received from fellow school students because he did not speak English. He and his family remained at Balgownie Hostel for five years unable to break out of the cycle of poverty. His mother worked at the Hostel kitchen. He had three siblings. He did not have good memories of Wollongong and always felt out of place. After a few years in Wollongong his father died of cancer. His father was a pharmacist in the Netherlands but he could only find work as an industrial chemist at BHP. Willems went on to win a scholarship at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where he immediately felt at home amongst the students, many of whom were also migrants. He was the first Australian pianist to record the complete series of 32 piano sonatas by Ludwig van Beethoven.

John and Angelina van Ravenstern arrived in Australia from Holland on 17 March 1956. They came to Wollongong in 1958 and first lived in a hired holiday tent at Stuart Park in North Wollongong near where to the Lagoon Restaurant is today. They lived there for about 5 weeks. They used a spirit stove for cooking and a mattress on a wooden base for a bed. They had two chairs and a box that was used as a table. A bad storm once resulted in their tent being ripped open. John worked at Commonwealth Rolling Mills. Their next accommodation was a rented two-bedroom flat that was half a house in Thirroul. They went on to have children, two boys and two girls.

1959

The 'Next Egg' scheme offered assisted passage to Britons who had more than £500 and were willing to make their own accommodation arrangements. The first migrants under this scheme arrived in 1959.

Twenty-year-old Dieter Schaar came from Germany in 1959 and lived in Keiraville. Before he came to Australia he lived mostly in Sweden. Dieter was a graphic designer and was glad to have found work in his profession in Australia.

Bruna Kacic came to Australia in 1959 with her mother Flora, two sisters Vesna and Iren and her brother Roland and they stayed at Fairy Meadow Hostel. Brunna would one day be presented at the 1967 Wollongong Debutant Ball as well as become an Illawarra entrant in the Miss Australia Quest. Brunna attended Smiths Hills Girl's High School and Williams Business College. In 1967 she and her family were still living at Fairy Meadow Hostel and Brunna worked at a Travel Agents where she spoke Yugoslav and Italian.

Albin Paikovic came to Australia from Yugoslavia in 1959. He was joined by his sister Maria five years later. However, Maria soon married Albin's friend Jack Biletic, so Albin went back to Yugoslavia where he married Slavica who came from his village. Albin was a painter and owned a beautiful house. Slavica was a nurse but because she married she missed her last year of nurses training. Jack Biletic was an electrician in the Steelworks and he came to Australia in 1961. Jack found Australia a good place to live however he was disappointed that there was no recognition of a migrant's trade. Maria, Jack's wife, was a dressmaker and was not as happy with living in Australia like Jack as she found it hard to make friends. The young couples lived together at Fairy Meadow. Maria found living in Australia much easier once her new sister-in-law Slavica came to live with them.

Franz and Stephanie Adam of Graz, Austria migrated to Australia in 1959 with their four daughters and settled in Oak Flats. Franz worked as a welder. After the family had achieved a good home and material possessions they wanted to return to Austria. They sold everything but the car and what they could pack into overseas trunks and returned to Austria in October 1966. Franz said that people in Austria thought everyone who came from Australia was a millionaire. By March 1967 the Adam family returned to Australia and although Franz remained nostalgic for the mountains and the snow of his homeland, he never wanted to leave Australia again. Franz Adam thought it would be too hard to build up a good existence in Australia a second time but within three months were living in their own home again. Franz Adam said that if he ever went to Europe again he would only take one suitcase and buy return tickets.

Reino and Kaija Tolvanen came from Helsinki, Finland to Australia in 1959. With three sons Taipo, Seppo and Jorma, they lived in Wollongong. Reino Tolvanen worked at the Steelworks as a clerk and was the first President of the Wollongong District Finnish Society, which was founded in 1962. Mr and The Tolvanen family spoke Finnish in their home and maintained a Finnish library in their home which helped their sons to also read and write in Finnish.

Kevin Nivala was born in Finland and came to Australia with his parents in about 1959. By 1971 he lived with his mother and two younger brothers at Bellambi. His father had died ten years earlier. Kevin became a trainee electrical engineer at the Steelworks and studied part-time at the Technical College. He became a committee member for the Finnish Society.

The Radinovic family arrived in Wollongong in 1959. They were from the Croatia (former Yugoslavia). They left for Australia from a refugee camp in Germany and spent time at Bonegilla Reception Centre before they arrived in Wollongong. Drago Radinovic, his wife and daughter first home in Wollongong was in a garage in Swan Street where they slept on a mattress on the floor. They then lived in a house at Auburn Street Wollongong for four years which they shared with three other families.

1960

In May 1960 Australia's 25,000th post war migrant stepped ashore in Fremantle, WA. The family of four were from Malta. The occasion was marked by a welcome from the Minister for Immigration, Mr Downer, at a luncheon at Parliament House in Canberra. The Commissioner for Malta in Australia and the head of the Department of Emigration and Social Welfare in Malta also attended. Mr Downer reminded the gathering that Malta and Australia were members of the "greatest of all families, the British Commonwealth, an association that Australians of all political parties hold uppermost in their hearts".

During the 1950s and 1960s up to 500 British youths arrived each year under the Big Brother Movement. Under this scheme an adult in Australia was assigned as the Big Brother to British boys ranging in age from 15 and 19 (the little brother) who were from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Department of Immigration was responsible for arranging their accommodation, training or employment.

In 1960 Jakob Papendell left Krefeld, Germany, to come to Australia. Jakob, his wife Inge and his sons Andree and Mark lived at Thirroul until a Housing Commission home became available for them at Berkeley. Jakob Papendell worked at the Steelworks and was a keen spearfisherman. In 1963 Mr Papendell established the German male choir "Sanssouci" in Wollongong.

Also in 1960 Udo Krink came to Australia from Germany with his parents Willy and Ria Krink. Udo became an apprentice mechanic in the Royal Australian Air Force and in 1967 became engaged to Marity Watson of Toowoomba Queensland.

Alice and Patrick O'Neil migrated to Australia from Scotland with their 9-year-old daughter Patricia in 1960. They never lived at a hostel and settled at Austinmer where they had another child, Peter. Patrick O'Neil worked at Newbold Brick Factory at Thirroul.

The Molenaar family came from Vught in Noord Brabant, Holland, in 1960. The family consisted of Mr and Mrs Molenaar, five boys and 3 girls and by 1967 they settled in Towradgi.

Mr Emanuel Rizzo was a Spanish migrant from Morocco who came to Australia via Argentina. He met his wife in Buenos Aires and together with their first child, Claudio, migrated to Australia in 1960. They had two more children in Australia, Catalina and Lucia. Emanuel Rizzo was an architect but once he got to Australia he did not want to start studying again. Mr Rizzo preferred buying and selling and opened a delicatessen in Warrawong where most of his customers were Spaniards or Italians. Besides speaking Spanish, Emanuel Rizzo also spoke Italian, French and English. His children grew up to be bilingual as Spanish was spoken in their home. Each Sunday Mr Rizzo used to conduct a broadcast with Spanish music at the local radio station. Four Spanish girls in national costume formed part of the guard of honour when Queen Elizabeth visited Wollongong, one of those children was Catalina Rizzo, Emanuel's daughter. Mrs Rizzo made the Spanish outfit for her daughter.

About 1960 Mr and Mrs Martii Jukola came to Australia from Finland. Mr Jukola was a carpenter and lived with his family in Coniston. He would serve as President of the Finnish Society in Wollongong and his wife, Martii as Secretary. Mrs H. Nurminen would also perform Treasurer duties. The Wollongong Finnish Society would have about 120 members in 1970 and was attached to the Australasian Finnish Union which included 10 Finnish societies. Every Sunday morning members of the Wollongong Finnish Society would meet in Syd Parrish Park in Figtree to play pesepallo, a Finnish version of basketball and five times a year held dances in Coniston, Albion Park or Oak Flats. Most of the Finnish people who settled in Wollongong lived in these suburbs. The women's committee met once a month and it was their job to produce handicrafts to be sold at functions to raise money for the Society. The Finnish people in Australia had their own newspaper called "Suomi" that was published in Brisbane and had done so since 1926.

The Free Serbian Orthodox Church-School Congregation of Wollongong was formed in 1960. The congregation was part of the Free Serbian Orthodox Church Diocese for Australia and New Zealand. The head of the Diocese was a Bishop who was located in Cabramatta where a Cathedral had been built. A temporary chapel was used in Kenny Street, Wollongong until a Wollongong church was built.

In the 1960s Turkey had become a major source of guest workers in European Countries. About 180,000 Turkish workers had found employment in various Western European Countries and earned a high reputation. Australian began to turn its attention to these Turkey workers as a source of migrants.

1961

From 1 February 1961 an assisted passage arrangement through the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration in cooperation with the Belgian Government was introduced.

Balgownie Hostel was attributed for the role it played in the development of the district. By early 1961 more than 14,000 persons had passed through the facility and at by late September 1961

accommodated some 1,000 persons all in family units. It was an ever-changing population with some staying only a few weeks, others a matter of months and some for up to around two years before moving out, particularly the larger families with 6 or more children. The hostel despite condemnation and criticism had proved its worth by contributing to the growth of Fairy Meadow. The children made up a large proportion of students at nearby Towradgi Public School.

The need for an increased population in Australia that could not be achieved solely from British migrants and the schemes that allowed non-British Europeans to migrate to Australia had made acceptance of a more diverse population possible. With so many arrivals of migrants from across Europe during the 1950s Australia's immigration policy had undergone many changes. The Immigration Restriction Act of 1901 was replaced by the Migration Act 1958. This Act also abolished the dictation test used arbitrarily to keep people from migrating to Australia. Countries with high levels of immigration such as Canada and the USA began dismantling their discriminatory policies. In 1961 Australia too began work towards distancing itself from the idea that its immigration policies were based on race. The 'White Australia' policy framework that put up barriers against people from non-European backgrounds needed to change. Australia's sense of racial superiority damaged its overseas interests and the Department of Immigration looked for a new approach. Development of new policies was slow and done incrementally. It required approval by Ministers of Immigration and maybe wariness of possible political backlash may have held some Ministers back.

Despite the increase of New Australian migrants, which by 1961 was about 9% of the Australian population comprised mainly of Italians, Germans, Dutch, Greeks and Poles, British migration was still preferred and encouraged.

At the invitation from the Australian Government, representatives from the West German Government came to Australia for two weeks on 25 August 1961 to study German migration problems in Australia and to discuss the conditions, integration of German migrants and future German migration plans. Migration to Australia was covered by a five-year bi-lateral agreement that expired in August 1962. Discussions also took place between German and Australian Government officials regarding recognition in Australia of trade qualifications held by German tradesmen, housing and social services. The German officials also visited hostels, including Bonegilla, Port Kembla Steelworks and the Snowy Mountain Hydro Electric Scheme and spoke with German migrants.

In September 1961 building was underway for the Bonds Factory on Fitzwilliam Street, corner of Wentworth Street in Port Kembla. Bonds was a manufacturer of clothing and underwear and employed about 160 women many of whom were chosen as they were a good source of European trained factory girls who because of the language barrier and other difficulties were unable to obtain employment elsewhere.

In 1961 Klaus-Jurgen Doering came to Australia from Germany after marrying Australian Lynne Hodge and settled in Wollongong. He was the son of a well-known artist Gretel Doering.

By 1961 more than 4,300 dwellings were built in the Wollongong-Port Kembla area with one in seven people from Stanwell Park to Dapto and Windang living in a Housing Commission home.

1962

Reverend Konstantinos Knithacis, came to Australia from Crete in 1962 and was joined by his wife and two children five months later. He settled in Wollongong with his mother and three brothers who had left Crete 15 years earlier. Father Knithacis was in charge of the Holy Cross Greek Church in Stewart Street, Wollongong.

A memorial window at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Wollongong was installed by the South Coast Hungarian community dedicated to the Virgin Mary, patroness of Hungary. At the unveiling of the memorial window on 26 August 1962 prayers were offered to the fighters massacred in the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

Jogan Gagovski came from Velusina Yugoslavia (Macedonia) to Australia. He came to Wollongong in September 1962. Jogan had been sponsored by his cousin who had been living in Wollongong for 18 months and arranged his accommodation at a Boarding House in Osborne Street Wollongong. The boarding house had 7 to 8 men living there at the time. Jogan worked at AI&S. Jogan returned to Macedonia for 5 to 6 months and when he returned he lived at Port Kembla until about 1970 when he returned once again to Macedonia this time for about 10 years. He returned to Australia in 1982 with his wife, two daughters and son.

Ilija Manevski arrived in Australia from Velusina in the Bitola region of Yugoslavia now Macedonia in October 1962. He first went to Newcastle where his sister who sponsored him lived. Ilija came to Wollongong in February 1963. His brother arranged accommodation for him at 13 O'Donnell Street in Port Kembla. He cooked with his brother and shared his room with one other man and other friends in the house. After two years he bought a house at 24 Cowper Street. Ilija worked at AI&S for 40 years as a forklift driver, was married to Dragica and had 2 daughters who had been born in Australia, Elizabeth and Sonia.

The Wollongong District Finnish Society was founded in 1962. Mr Reino Tolvanen was its first President. The Wollongong Society was attached to the Australasian Finnish Union and included ten Finnish societies. Since 1967 these Societies took turns to organise an annual "Suomi Paivat", an Easter Festival. The first one was held in Wollongong. The three day festival included sporting events and cultural contests. Volleyball and pesepallo (Finnish style baseball) was played and the cultural section consisted of folk dancing, singing, plays, painting and handicrafts.

June Gibbs with her husband Fred and four children, came to Australia about 1962. Mrs Gibbs was born in India but grew up in London where she worked in an office. Mr Gibbs found work as a clerk at the Steelworks and to help get by they worked as a waiter and waitress. June and her husband went on to have another child and June later promoted food lines as a demonstrator on local Wollongong television. Fred Gibbs did experience homesickness but found consolation in coaching the Port Kembla Senior Soccer Club team. The five Gibbs children were Kenny, Cathy, Jenny, Linda and Eddie.

Dimitrie Kokalevski and his wife migrated to Australia in about 1962. In 1971, his mother Gospoja Masa Kokalevska returned to her home near Bitolja in Macdonian after she had visited Dimitrie for a year in Wollongong.

Gretchen Arens migrated to Australia from Tellingstedt in the Dithmarschen District of Germany with her husband and two sons in 1962.

It was about 1962 when the Ernesto Jimenez and his wife migrated to Australia from Spain with their 12 year old son Carlos and a younger daughter. By 1971 the Jimenez family lived in Warilla. The family had grown with two more sons and Carlos's grandparents. Ernesto Jimenez worked at the Steelworks but in Spain he had been a schoolteacher.

1963

In February 1963 there was a total of 274 persons living at Unanderra Hostel comprised of 66 Yugoslavs, 58 Spanish, 34 Germans, 3 British and 113 other nationalities.

On 5 March 1963 Unanderra Hostel No 2 ceased operation.

Aleksandar Karanfilovski migrated from Kanino near Bitola (Macedonia) in the former Yugoslavia to Australia. He arrived in Wollongong on 27 May 1963 and started work immediately for AI&S at the coke ovens until 1992. Aleksandar had been sponsored by his cousin who also arranged his accommodation in a house in Port Kembla. The boarding house had four rooms and six or seven men lived there and each paid two shillings rent a fortnight. He lived at this house for three years until 1966 when his family joined him. After his wife Menka and son Branco came to Wollongong Aleksandar rented a place for about three months until he bought a house at Port Kembla. Aleksandar and Menka had two more children born in Australia, Michael and Andrea.

Other visits from representatives from overseas continued such as the visit by Dr Felix Schnyder the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees in June 1963. Dr Schnyder visited Unanderra Hostel and spoke to the migrants there as well as former refugees at a civic reception hosted by the Mayor. He praised the people of Greater Wollongong for the part they played in helping to absorb European refugees.

By June 1963 there were only 2,661 migrants in accommodation centres run by the Department of Immigration.

On 13 August 1963 the German Male choir was formed in Wollongong calling themselves "Sanssouci". Sanssouci was the summer palace of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, in Potsdam, near Berlin, German. The choir was established by Mr Jakob Papendell.

Stephan and Maria Radovic came to Australia in 1963. They had migrated from Italy but they were originally from Yugoslavia although they were of Hungarian and Czechoslovakian descent respectively. Mr and Mrs Radovic with their son Joe, 23, and daughter Margita, 17, lived at Warrawong. Stephan and Joe were crane drivers at Port Kembla Steelworks, although Joe attended a course at the Technical College to become a panel beater. Margita had passed her School Certificate in 1971 and hoped to find work in an office. The Radovic family owned their own home plus a block of land and would only go back to Yugoslavia for a holiday after making Wollongong their new home.

It was about 1963 when the Macedonian Orthodox Community was formed in Wollongong.

By 2 October 1963 Unanderra No 2 Hostel was officially closed and retained on a caretaker basis. No 1 Hostel was still in operation.

On 18 December 1963 Hubert Opperman became the Minister for Immigration

1964

Russell Hadley migrated from Wrexham in North Wales with his wife Pamela and four young children and arrived in Wollongong on Australia Day 1964 which was a Saturday. By Monday morning Russell had started work at the Steelworks as a leading hand electrician. The family were accommodated at Berkeley Hostel in half a Nissen hut for two years before they could afford to buy a house of their own. Russell and Pamela had another child in Australia. In 1990 Russell Hadley retired having worked at the Steelworks for 25 years. Russell passed away in 2010.

In May 1964 a stained-glass window with a replica of the painting of the Polish Madonna of Czestochowa was installed at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral of Wollongong by the local Polish society in commemoration of Bishop Thomas McCabe's silver jubilee. The funds were raised by the Wollongong

Polish Community and its Chaplain, Father Dzida. The window, situated on the front porch of the Cathedral, cost £250. The replica bears the 1,000 years old Polish national emblem – white eagle wearing a gold crown. After the World War 2 the Communist Government decrowned the eagle.

In July 1964 the General Assisted Passage Scheme was introduced for eligible applicants from countries who were not eligible for consideration under a national or refugee assisted passage scheme.

In July 1964, the Department of Immigration Regional Office opened in Wollongong with Mr Don Perrin in charge. The Wollongong Regional Office provided services to migrants and Australians. The main aim of the Regional Office was to encourage New Australians to become naturalised Australians as well as deal with applications by British migrants to become Australian citizens. At the time most British migrants thought they would automatically become Australian citizens once they arrived in Australia, but they had to register to do so after being in the country for at least 12 months. There were about 60,000 British and non-British migrants living on the South Coast at the time of the establishment of a Regional Office and this number represented one-third of the overall population. Applications were accepted in the Regional Office from British and other migrants who wanted to bring relatives and friends to Australia. English classes were also arranged by the area supervisor of migrant education. More migrants attended English classes in Wollongong than many other parts of Australia, but attendance levels were still not at 100%. Passports for Australians were issued from the Department of Immigration Regional Office. Mr Perrin paid tribute to Harry Box for his work for the migrant community. Harry Box assisted Mr Perrin when he set up the Regional Office. The Department of Immigration Regional Office took up a lot of the responsibility left to the Good Neighbour Council of which Harry Box had been a foundation member and its Chairman. Mr Box and its many volunteers commenced the Good Neighbour Council in 1950. The work of the Good Neighbour Council continued after the Department of Immigration Wollongong Regional Office was established.

On 13 October 1964, Balgownie and Berkeley Hostels had the biggest single intake of migrants for some time. About 106 British migrants arrived in Wollongong and were the first batch of migrants to arrive that followed an intensive recruiting drive by AI&S in London. Officials from AI&S were sent to Britain to recruit workers to ease its labour shortage. More than 1,500 men were recruited for both BHP's Port Kembla and Newcastle Steelworks. Mrs N. Walker was the senior housekeeper at Balgownie Hostel in 1964. The British families arrived in Sydney onboard the Canberra and were taken by bus to Balgownie and Berkeley Hostels. The new arrivals comprised 24 workers, 23 wives and 69 children. The men worked at Port Kembla Steelworks. Another 131 people that included 26 workers arrived on the Fairsky the next Sunday and the third group of 53 British migrants arrived by air at Mascot on 31 October 1964.

The Minister for Immigration in December 1964 stated that Australia would raise its 1964-65 assisted migrant intake by 15,000, to a record 70,000. In Wollongong between 4 December 1964 and 4 January 1965, 135 families had arrived at Balgownie Hostel, specially selected by AI&S the men were employed at the Port Kembla Steelworks. This brought the total number of people living at Balgownie Hostel to 1,707. AI&S prepared for the increase of migrants with a new residential block at Karingal Hostel in Cringila that would accommodate an additional 100 workers. The question on how the Commonwealth Government intended to house the migrants because of housing shortages was raised by the Labour Member for Wollongong. Some changes to the housing policy had occurred such as enabling British migrants to apply for commission homes as soon as they arrived in NSW, but the reality was that it just placed them on the end of a 3 year long queue. Long-term living in hostel barracks created living conditions that some migrants could not tolerate and they returned to Britain. Unlike the Dutch and Italian Governments who assisted their nationals who had migrated to Australia,

there was no similar assistance given to British migrants from the British Government. Clearly this was not entirely needed when British migrant families were housed together in hostels and not separated, could apply for Housing Commission homes or were provided with Commonwealth Miners cottages. There was inequity in New Australians entitlements so assistance from their Governments was essential for their successful migration.

In 1964 the De Jong family came back to Australia after they had returned to Holland in 1961. They first came to Australia in 1956. The reason they came back was because their children wanted to live in Australia. The family consisted of two daughter and three sons. Mr De Jong was a marine engineer and had worked in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany and had also worked in the construction of wheat silos for the Common Market. It was a cosmopolitan family with a Yugoslav son-in-law and an Australian daughter-in-law. Mr and Mrs De Jong were now grandparents. They lived in Corrimal in when they returned in 1964.

Fay and Brian Cox migrated to Australia from Manchester, England, in 1964 with their two sons Brian, 8 and Tony, 6. They stayed at Balgownie Hostel until they moved into a new home in 1967 that was built at Albion Park. Brian Cox worked as a boilerman and Fay Cox worked part time at the Hostel.

Abe and Elizabeth Quirke migrated to Australia from Scotland in 1964. They had been encouraged by their relatives, the McGorry family, to come to Australia. The Quirke family which comprised of 5 girls and 2 boys, settled in Austinmer. Their daughter, Laurie Quirke, was in a fourth year student at Holy Cross College in Bellambi in 1969 and played Yum-Yum in "The Mikado" a joint Holy Cross and St Paul's Colleges production.

The Mr and Mrs Azzopardi came to Australia from Malta in about 1964. By 1971 they lived in Cringila with their two sons and daughter. Mr Azzopardi worked as a carpenter at the Steelworks. Their eldest son Joseph had a traineeship at the Steelworks as an Industrial Chemist.

From 1964, Commonwealth home savings grants became available without discrimination for all migrants who had lived in Australia for three years.

1965

By 1964-65 the annual intake of assisted migrants reached 88,000. This was the largest figure since 1950-51 and put the need for hostel accommodation under pressure again. In 1965 the number of assisted migrants living in hostels was 32,000 which was double to that of the previous year. Of these 83% were assisted British migrants who were entitled to on-arrival accommodation. At least 93% of alien migrants were unassisted and were nominated and accommodated by relatives. The increased number of British migrants enforced a lengthier stay in hostels particularly in NSW where there was still a three-year waiting time for public housing. The average length of stay in hostels for British migrants was 9 months and less than 6 months for assisted alien migrants. The pressure on existing migrant accommodation provided by the Department of Immigration forced the State Governments to embark on their own migrant housing schemes mostly aimed at British tradesmen.

By 4 January 1965, one hundred and thirty-five British migrant families had arrived at Balgownie Hostel in just one month. They were part of the group of workers that had been specially recruited by AI&S for its Port Kembla Steelworks. Another group of 16 families arrived on the Ellinis on 9 January 1965 which brought the total number of people at Balgownie Hostel to 1,707. On Sunday 10 January 1965 a further 13 British families, totalling 58 people, arrived by air and were accommodated at Unanderra Hostel. This was the first time that British migrants had stayed at Unanderra Hostel for several years as Unanderra Hostel was normally used for European migrants and at the time of the new intakes of

British migrants they were about 60% Spanish. One British family first impressions were the big beaches, flies were bad and jobs for women were hard to get. The Balgownie Hostel Manager was Mr R. Gray and Mr T. Hopper was the Unanderra Hostel Manager.

In 1963 and 1964 there were many splinter groups within the German community in Wollongong. Harry Box from the Good Neighbour Council called a meeting on 1 August 1965 to bring the groups together. The Australian-German-Austrian Club, which later became the AGA Club Germania was formed. The first clubhouse was at Berkeley and Harry Box was made a life member.

Mr and Mrs R. Makula and their children Peter, who was 18 and Avril, aged 8, came to Australia in August 1965 from Staffordshire, England. Mrs Makula's father, Wililam Ehrhardt had migrated from England 10 years earlier and resided in Wollongong. Mr Makula was of Polish descent and went to England during World War 2. When he came to Australia Mr Makula worked at Port Kembla Steelworks as a fitter. The Makula family lived in Fairy Meadow. Their son Peter, studied sculpture full-time at East Sydney Technical College, while his mother attended day time classes of Roy Jackson at Wollongong Technical College.

Domenico Silveri was a 19 year old apprentice boilermaker who turned to sculpture. He once startled his neighbours in Shellharbour Road when he built a statue in his front garden. On 5 August 1965 he made it into the local newspaper (South Coast Times) this time with his sculpture of a water scene with figures of a female holding a sprinkler system and a figure reclined in front in his sister's front garden at her home in Hoskins Street, Cringila. Hoskins Street during this period was known as Little Europe and his statue caught a hint of Europe but oddly set against the backdrop of the Steelworks.

The German Saturday School in Leamington Road, Oak Flats was officially opened by the former Consul-General Mr K. Brunhoff in September 1965. There were many such schools throughout Australia however the school at Oak Flats was the only one housed in its own building. The Oak Flats School had been built with financial aid from the German Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany in Sydney, (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and with a great deal of voluntary labour as well as contributions from the teachers own salaries. Mr W. Daniel and Mr E. Schmidt played major roles in the building of the school. The first German Saturdays Schools began in Wollongong and Oak Flats in 1862 and to a large extent were the cornerstones for the German Schools Association of Greater Wollongong.

In November 1965, Roeli Scholtens arrived in Australia from Holland with her parents and younger brother and sister. Back in Holland she was the one that did not want to emigrate. When her family returned to Holland in July 1966 she was the one who stayed behind in Australia having married Jan de Jong in October at the Presbyterian Church in Corrimal. Jan worked at the Tallawarra Power Station as a fitter and turner and Roeli worked at a local bank and spoke three languages, English, German and French and she used to board with an Italian family.

In December 1965 another gathering for Latvian "culture day" was held in Melbourne. This was attended by the Stranberg family, 14-year-old Balba, her brother Gerry (born in Denmark) and her parents. All were Latvian refugees who came to Australia in 1949 and settled in Austinmer. "Culture days" were the nearest Balba and her family came to anything Latvian. Latvians from all over Australia gathered to sing, dance and perform plays as well as catch up with relatives and friends.

Karl-Heinz Brockly as a 27-year-old, came to Wollongong from Germany in 1965 and worked in the Steelworks. Karl-Heinz was satisfied with his life here and with the money he was earning. In 1966 he planned a trip to the 1972 Olympic Games in Berlin with a friend he made in Wollongong, Dieter Schaar, also from Germany, who had come to Australia in 1959. Karl-Heinz was not homesick for

Germany as it was Australia where he intended to stay for good. Karl-Heinz was an orphan and had no family-ties, only bad childhood memories. In Australia, Karl-Heinz was able to start anew.

The Brett family from Manchester, England came to Australia in 1965. Ernie and Dorothy and their son David, 8, lived at Berkeley Hostel. Ernie's parents were also on their way to migrate to Wollongong as well. Ernie and Dorothy looked forward to having their own home.

In 1965 the South Coast Accordion Ensemble was founded. They were an independent and international group whose aim was to play for their own enjoyment but enjoyed playing music with other music lovers.

The British-Australian Friendship Club was also founded in 1965 and was established to help British migrants find their feet in a new land. A number of British Clubs from all over Australia sprang up in 1965 and 1966 and people had joined these clubs to charter planes to go home to England for holidays or to bring their relatives to Australia for a few weeks.

1966

In 1966 the White Australia policy was officially terminated when the Australian Government announced that migrants would be allowed based on their suitability as settlers, ability to integrate and in possession of skills and qualifications which were useful to Australia.

It was not until the formal review relating to non-European immigration in 1966 recommended that rather than race, an applicant's suitability to settle in Australia was based on their ability to integrate and professional qualifications. The requirement that applicants were to be 'distinguished and highly qualified' that restricted entry by non-Europeans changed to 'be well qualified' and numbers of more diverse migrants started to increase gradually from around 750 in 1966 to almost 2,700 in 1971. Many migrants from Indian backgrounds with professional qualifications started to migrate to Australia. Lebanese migration to Australia dates back to the earliest days of settlement and many more were now able to apply to migrate to Australia under new policy directives. Non-Europeans no longer had to reside in Australia for 15 years before becoming eligible to apply for Australian Citizenship and now were aligned with the eligibility criteria of European applicants of a 5 year wait.

In February 1966 another group of British migrants and their families arrived in Wollongong. Thirty-eight families comprised of 76 adults and 69 children were accommodated at Berkeley Hostel while 19 families and one single male, making a total of 39 adults and 35 children were lived at Balgownie Hostel. Their names appeared in the South Coast Times.

Towards the end of March 1966, Karingal Hostel extension was nearing completion. The residential block gave the Hostel about 100 bed sitters for its AI&S migrant workers at Port Kembla.

In about May 1966 a regular column appeared in the South Coast Times called "Monitor on our Migrants". Today that title has a rather ominous tone, but back in 1966 "Monitor on our Migrants" was a social column that featured news about the migrant new settlers in Illawarra focussing on their celebrations, clubs and general news. It would go on to have other titles such as "Our New Neighbours" and "New Neighbours". The column continued after the Illawarra Mercury and South Coast Times amalgamated in 1968 as "New Neighbours" and eventually contained social news in general. The reporter was Hermine Rainow was born in Bucharest. On 12 May 1966, Hermine brought up the idea of a migrant museum. Hermine Rainow's columns were just little fluff pieces about concerts, clubs, church services, weddings and general social events involving mostly migrants. Possibly the only type of news reporting allowed to a woman in those days, or one could speculate

perhaps because she was herself from a German background. Little did the editors or Hermine know that her columns were much more than that and would provide a record of families and events that formed part of the history of migrants in the Illawarra, record some histories of families and provide an insight of the migrant populations of the Illawarra region of the 1950s and 1960s. Information from her many articles is included in this timeline.

23 May 1966 a Mother's Day celebration took place at the Ukrainian Centre in Wollongong. Ukrainian Saturday School was also held at the Centre.

On Sunday, 29 May 1966, the South Coast Polish Community laid the foundation stone of a community hall which commemorated the conversion of Poland to Christianity 1,000 years ago. A mass was celebrated before the laying of the foundation stone by an American-born Polish priest, Father Mitchell, who flew in one a month from Adelaide to say a mass in Polish. A replica of the well-known Polish Black Madonna of Czestochowa was exhibited at the Cathedral during the mass. This mass was presided over by Bishop Thomas McCabe at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral and he also blessed the foundation stone which was laid at the half completed hall at Gwynneville. The hall, which cost £22,000, was built on a two acre site off Gipps Road, beside the then Wollongong's Women's Bowling Club. The President of the South Coast Branch of the Polish Association then was Mr M. Dabros and four young ladies attended in national costume and they were: Jerena Brejiniak, Helen Jasinki, Wanda Adamczyk and Krystyna Duc. At this time there were approximately 500 Polish families living in Wollongong and the Polish Association hoped to use their hall foster Polish culture and tradition.

In June 1966 a group of women from the Latvian Lutheran congregation of Pastor Pilmanis met at the Balgownie home of Mrs Rudzatz. Present at that gathering was Lida Ansons. Lida was a Latvian refugee who had studied medicine in Sweden then in Germany as a Swedish exchange student. She came to Australia because she thought it would be a better life and had to start her studies all over again at University of Queensland as well as learn English. Lida graduated as a Dental Surgeon. As Mrs Pilmanis, mother of Anda and Linda, she had her own dental surgery in Wollongong. "Kraenzchen" of the Latvian Ladies Friendship club were held monthly. Kraenzchen is from the German word meaning little wreath and also means small private party for ladies.

On 2 June 1966, the German School at Oak Flats was visited by the German Consul in Sydney, Dr K.H. Scholtyscek. The Oak Flats School conducted four classes and some of the teachers were Mrs Siebrecht, Mrs Mide and Mrs Mumzel. Wollongong classes were held at Wollongong Primary School in Church Street, Wollongong. There 6 classes were held by the teachers Mrs Kordiak, Mrs H. Rainow, Miss E. Rainow, Mr Revington, Mr H. Papson, Mr D. Lepahe. The newest teacher was 29-year-old Dieter Lepahe from Woonona. He had come to Australia in December 1965 with his wife, Zita and sons Heinz (aged 5) and 2-year-old Frank.

In the afternoon on 2 June 1966 the German male choir "Sansoucci" held its very first concert at Wollongong Town Hall. Nine hundred people attended with the oldest guest being 80-year-old Mr Karl Bormann who came to Australia two years earlier to be live his son in Woonona.

On 3 June 1966 the British-Australian Friendship Club held a dance at the Wollongong Ironworker's Club. The British-Australian Friendship Club was formed to help the assimilation of British migrants in the community.

On 5 June 1966 the new War Memorial Chapel and addition to the Italian Centre in Stewart Street in Wollongong were officially opened by Bishop McCabe and Father Aldo, the Superior Provincial in Australia. Father Joseph attended also as Director of the Italian Centre.

On 14 June 1966, two hundred Dutch people gathered at Corrimal Hall for an "Amateur Night" held by the Dutch-Australian Society of Illawarra. A talent quest was held. Prize winners were Mrs Baart, Louise Dekker and Volendammer Quartet which consisted of Mrs T. Zuiderwyk, Mrs C. Meyer, Mrs G Feenstra and Mrs L Dymet, all playing the accordion and wore traditional Dutch costumes including wooden clogs. Mr Arntz played the Hammond organ and Henk van Iersel and Tony Kemper shared compering duties.

On the 16 June 1966 the South Coast Times newspaper article started with the title "One in Three a Migrant" and went on to quote numbers and nationalities. Nowhere in the article did it say where the figures were obtained but the information provided said that about 60,000 migrants were living in the Greater Wollongong area. Of these 40,000 came from Europe and 20,000 from the United Kingdom which meant that one in 3 people that lived in Wollongong was a migrant. There were 14,000 Italians which at the time made for the largest number of European migrants followed by the next largest group of 6,000 to 7,000 German-Austrians combined. Greeks and Yugoslavs accounted for about 3,000 each while Spanish and Portuguese shared a migrant population of 1,500. There were 1,000 Poles and some 1,500 Hungarians and Ukrainians and about 1,000 Maltese. Fifty percent of the workforce at AI&S were migrants - 8,992 migrants from 32 different countries – comprised of 2,529 Yugoslavs, 230 Italians, 732 Germans, 33 Hungarians, 140 Austrians and 12 Swiss.

By 16 June 1966, throughout Wollongong 40 different English classes for newcomers were held in 16 localities from Thirroul to Oak Flats. They were held twice a week at night. Day classes were held at Wollongong, Fairy Meadow and Warrawong and were mainly attended by migrant women. The classes were organised by the Department of Education and lessons and textbooks were free.

Ukrainian language classes were held at the Ukrainian Centre at Wollongong. Students were taught the Ukrainian language as well as cultural heritage and traditional dancing. Australian born, seven-year-old Ivasyk Tomashek from Dapto was once a student in 1966. Mrs I. Poydynee, a former teacher from Ukraine, came to Australia in 1950 and lived with her son and daughter at Dapto. She taught at the Ukrainian Centre. Her son was Leo and he studied at the Wollongong University College and her daughter Irene attended high school. Another teacher was Miss S. Beresovska.

The Autumn Ball of the AGA Club was held at the Ironworker's Club on 24 June 1966. The ball was called "The Squareheads from Afar". Probably not considered politically correct today, but some migrants learnt how "taking the mickey" sometimes helped with being accepted even if it might have made them feel uncomfortable.

On 28 June 1966 a Naturalization Ceremony was held at the Wollongong Town Hall. Some of the people reported in the South Coast Times as having received their Australian Citizenship were two members of the German Choir "Sanssouci", Mr E. Neuhaus and Mr H. Young. Mr Neuhaus came to Australia from Essen, Germany, with his wife in 1960. Their son and daughter were under the age of 16 so they automatically became Australian Citizens with their parents. Mr and Mrs Young lived at Lake Heights and had 4 children: 3 of them received automatic citizenship with their parents while 18-year-old Jurgen became naturalized in 1964. The Young family migrated to Australia from Siegen (Westphalia), Germany in 1960. Mr Ewald Karl Lang and his wife Gisela and daughter Ina Maria arrived in Australia from Selb in Upper Franconia, Germany, in 1950 and settled in Mt Kembla. They too became naturalized citizens as did Mr J. Lee and his daughter Loretta who came to Australia from Berlin, Germany, in 1959 and lived at Lake Heights. Arriving in Australia from Salzburg in 1957 Paul and Inge Landauer and their 2 children all become naturalized citizens too. Also amongst those who received their citizenships were Tadeuse Rak who arrived in Australia from Warsaw Poland in 1957. His mother, Leckadia joined him in 1959. Tadeuse worked with the Railway and lived at Port Kembla.

He had 2 sisters also in Wollongong. One had married an Australian, the other a German. His mother got to enjoy her grandchildren and was quoted, "Life is so much easier here".

From 1 July 1966 the Special Passage Assistance Programme came into effect which allowed for unilateral assistance to selected applicants who were resident in Britain, Ireland and a number of Western European countries who were not eligible to apply under existing bilateral agreements or internal migration agreements to migrate to Australia. It was aimed largely at attracting guest workers in Europe. Migrants from France, Scandinavia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Portugal were eligible to migrate to Australia under this scheme. The Special Passage Assistance Programme had replaced the General Assisted Passage Scheme which operated from 1954 to 1966.

In July 1966 the Wollongong City Council required part of the land acquired for Unanderra Hostel for road widening purposes on Five Islands Road Unanderra. The sale of the land to Wollongong Council was approved by the Governor General on 28 September 1966 and the sale was settled on 17 March 1967.

In July 1966 Wolfgang Seyd enjoyed a break at his home in Austinmer. Wolfgang had settled in Austinmer after arriving from Germany. He worked as the tour manager of the Opera Company during the opera season which was why he was enjoying this his time off at his home. He also worked for the Arts Council.

Within the framework of the Pffife Serbian Orthodox Church and Education Community the Serbian community in Wollongong provided for its local members and friends Orthodox church services, languages classes, social functions and all kinds of help and support for people who came from (the former) Yugoslavia and settled in Wollongong. By July 1966 the Serbian Association had 53 registered members of which 35 were families. During the summer every Saturday morning Serbian language classes were conducted by Mr Dragan Ristic. Mr Dragan Stefanovic was the President of the Serbian Association, Mr Branco Hega the secretary and the Treasurer was Mr Dimitrie Raicovic. A priest from Melbourne came to Wollongong every 3 to 4 weeks and conducted church services, christening, weddings and funeral ceremonies. Church services took place in a chapel in Kenny Street, Wollongong where the Association owned a house which they rented out to help raise funds towards the building of a church. Social functions were held every 3 or 4 weeks also at Pioneer Hall in Wollongong also for the purposes of fundraising.

The Polish Club building in Gipps Street, Gwynneville, was nearly completed and by 28 July 1966 the construction of the roof was well underway. To a large extent, it was built by volunteer labour. The 1966 Christmas festivities were held in the new Club.

An international concert was held in Wollongong in 1966 where Estonian folk and traditional songs were performed by soloist, Mrs Kalnin from Dapto and a choir of 20 singers. The Estonian choir, which was incorporated in the Wollongong Estonian Association, met every Wednesday in the hall of the Lutheran church in Burelli Street Wollongong. The Estonian language belongs to the Ural-Altai language and related to Hungarian as well as the Finnish and Laplandic languages, but compared to the rest of the Europe, quite an outsider. Three or four times a year a function would be held by the Estonian Association and in keeping with the multicultural communities, the Dutch band "Strolling Players" sometimes provided the dance music. Four times a year the Estonian community held an Estonian church service at St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and a visiting pastor from Sydney conducted the services. By July 1966 the Estonian Association had 50 registered members out of the 120 Estonians living in the area. The President in 1966 was Mr A.J. Mandri, Secretary was Mrs E. Ups and Treasurer was Mr A.J. Mandri.

English language classes were taught by a Mrs Lotte Bentley to 21 Spanish women every Tuesday and Thursday in the Presbyterian Church Hall in North Warilla. The classes were arranged by the Department of Education in July 1966.

Ana Laush came from Karlovac (a place in the former Yugoslavia) and before she migrated to Australia with her husband and adopted son in 1951 she spent 7 years in a refugee camp in Germany. The adopted son was an orphan whose sister stayed behind in Yugoslavia and whose brother was adopted by other people living at the time in the same camp. The family unit fell apart after arriving in Australia. First the adopted son left and made his own way and her husband died of cancer in 1961. Ana Laush worked at Balgownie Hostel Canteen for twelve and a half years and her work mates rallied around her when her world fell apart. Ana would have kept working at the Hostel had it not been for her age and failing health. Ana Laush still lived Fairy Meadow in August 1966 and was known as "Mama Laush. She lived in an old workshop that had been converted into a flat. It consisted of a small kitchen and a room divided by a curtain that formed a living room and a bedroom. At the time of her death notice published on 22 June 1978, Ana Laush lived at Berkeley and she was 73 years old.

The National Council of Women convened a forum held at the Wollongong Town Hall in early August 1966. Mr King Bond, Chairman of the Illawarra Development Committee, spoke of the 49½ percent of the workforce at AIS being made up of migrants with 80% in some sections. The Minister for Labour and Industry and Minister for Tourist Activities, Mr Eric Willis, referred to the impact the migrants had made on the Australian way of life, politically, economically and culturally with Wollongong being a good example where production levels had trebled in the last 20 years. Of the 75 people in the hall was Dutch migrant, Mrs Tini van der Werf, who spoke of the cosmopolitan atmosphere of Wollongong and of the joys and sorrows, shortcomings and enticements associated with settling down in Wollongong. Also in the audience were representatives from the Dutch, Ukrainian, British and German national groups and Mr V. Merolevich who came to Australia via China from Russia, Mr P. Groch and Mr W. Senkiw from the Ukraine, Mr C. Degens from Holland, Mrs D. Brett, Mrs P. Mackie, Mrs H. Clift, Mrs R. Lowcock from Great Britain, Alderman and Mrs Morley from Shellharbour, Mr Papson President of the Australian-German-Australian Club.

The Lions Club conducted a "Youth of the Year" quest in 1966 and in early August 1966, of the three boys nominated who won was 14 year old Kevin Rooney who emigrated to Australia from Great Britain in 1959 with his parents James and Patricia Rooney and siblings Gerard, Brian, Neil, James and Jane. Although they came from Manchester the family were Irish. The Rooneys lived at Warilla, James Rooney worked at the Steelworks and Kevin Rooney attended St Paul's College, Bellambi.

On 6 August 1966 the Dutch-Australian Society celebrated their 14th anniversary at Corrimal Town Hall with 450 people who attended the event which included former Presidents, Mr Busing and Mr Hezemans.

On 27 August 1966 the AGA Club held its Winter Ball at the Warrawong Community Hall. Four hundred people attended with about 50 turned away. President of the AGA, Mr Papson, called attention to membership applications that closed on 30 October 1966. Up until this date AGA members were regarded as Foundation Members.

On 8 September 1966 a 13-year-old boy from Unanderra Hostel, Stephen Smith, was killed when he fell about 100 feet over the sheer edge of the disused public quarry that was located about 100 yards from the Hostel. During school holidays the children from the Unanderra Hostel had played there. The accident happened at 3.45pm and the young boy received a fractured skull and multiple fractures to his body and limbs. Workmen from a nearby engineering firm who responded when the alarm was raised by one of the other boys who were playing at the quarry, feared that a child would fall over the

edge. Stephen and two companions had played at the top of the quarry trying to catch lizards. Stephen was on a ledge about six feet from the top of the quarry and when he left instead of climbing back up the way he came he tried to jump to another ledge, slipped, landed on his back and somersaulted over the edge to the bottom of the quarry. When the ambulance arrived he was given emergency treatment. Stephen Smith died on the way to hospital.

Marianne Eggen, as a seven-year-old, came to Australia from Holland in 1954 with her parents Wilhelms and Hubertina, her brother Will (aged 17) and her sister Ineke (aged 14). Mr Eggen worked in a colliery, her brother Will at the steelworks, and by September 1966, Marianne found herself working in an office. The Eggen family lived in their own home in Fairy Meadow.

Migrant Hostels were very institutional in design. Aesthetic considerations were unable to be given to the early migrant hostel camps given the shortage of labour and materials and the need to expediate accommodation facilities which meant many were former Army camps or rows and rows of iron huts. From September 1966 new hostels were designed to be more self-contained with their own toilets and showers. A new migrant hostel in Randwick was to be built to replace the Bunnerong migrant hostel and Springvale in Victoria. The new Randwick Hostel was built solely for migrants with a standard of accommodation that would see improvement in conditions and provide a standard that met reasonable expectations.

On 12 October 1966 the Ukrainian Co-operative Society in Wollongong held a dinner-dance in the Bulli Police Boys Club where 100 people attended including guests from Liverpool. Some of the guests were Mr and Mrs Konyk, Mr and Mrs A. Troy, Mr and Mrs P. Green, Mr and Mrs R. Madre and Mr and Mrs W. Knight. Walter Knight came to Australia from Austria but he was of Ukrainian descent, his wife, Margaret was from Victoria. Walter's sister, Mrs Olga Madre, lived in Austinmer with her husband and four children, Irene, Timothy, Danny and Vicky. Walter Knight worked as a customs officer in Port Kembla.

In October 1966 it was observed at Port Kembla Library that the greatest borrowers of books written in English were children and the greatest number was made up of Italian children which was not surprising given that at this time the Italian population in Port Kembla was quite high. The Italian children would read the books aloud to their parents and extended family who as they listened helped them to learn the English language.

By October 1966 Bendt Nielsen believed there to be only about two dozen Danes living in the Wollongong area. Bendt Nielsen who came to Australia from Denmark in 1957 with his wife Gudrun and daughters Bente, Karen and Hanne. In 1963, missing his close family, he and his family returned to Denmark for a five month visit but returned to Australia for the sake of his daughters schooling. He remarked that like Australia, Denmark had progressed and changed.

In October 1966 the German male choir, Sanssouci, were practicing for two and a half hours each Wednesday at the Ironworkers Club as they were working five new songs into their repertoire. The choir, first formed in 1963, now had 35 members and the choirmaster was Jakob Papendell who had helped to establish the choir. The President of the choir was Mr E. Kromholz was the president, Mr E. Neushaus, the secretary and the treasurer was Mr M. Schleusinger. The 1966 Oktoberfest was held in the Warrawong Hall by the Australian-German Austrian Club. In Munich, the home of the festival, band music plays a large role and at Oktoberfest 1966, the Steelworks Band played a major role the Wollongong Oktoberfest when 20 members of the Band marched into the Hall followed by about 450 merrymakers. The Otto Weiss Band from Sydney provided the dance music and the Sanssouci German Male choir contributed with their own "Schunkellieder" and some of the women wore traditional dress for which prizes were awarded.

In October 1966, Enrico Zanotto and Giuliana Finato celebrated their engagement. Their fathers, Giuseppe Zanotto and Antonia Finato were good friends back in Cavasa Del Tomba in Northern Italy. Giuseppe Zanotto came to Australia with his wife Eva in 1956. They lived at Balgownie with their children Enrico (22), Valerio (7) and Paula (20). Antonio Finato came to Australia in 1958 with his wife Teresa and they lived at Bellambi with Giuliana (19) and Maria Gracias (22).

The Dutch-Australian Society of Illawarra held a special function at the Corrimal Community Hall in October 1966 "Leidens Ontzet". In 1574, in the town of Leiden in Holland, the Spanish suffered a decisive defeat by the Dutch. The events that led up to the liberation of Leiden was recreated on stage with the Burgemeester (Mayor) played by Mr Jo de Jong and the Admiral by Mr Henk Kist, together with other performers such as Mrs Iersel and Mrs Fydh. The old traditional stew "Hutspot" was served at the function. This was the name of the stew the Spanish left behind in 1754 that was distributed to the starving population of Leiden. About \$1,200 was raised that went towards the cost of the Strand Theatre in Corrimal that served as a future club house for the Dutch-Australian Society of Illawarra.

At the 1966 opening of the Wollongong Annual Show were 150 school children who performed folk dances from Sweden, Germany and the British Isles. Amongst the children performing was the son of Kurt and Margot Schroeter who arrived in Australia from Germany in 1960. They were in the crowd watching their son perform the German Klapptanz. The Schroeters lived at East Corrimal and another member of the family was their daughter Brigitte.

Between 16 and 19 November 1966 David Jones in Wollongong was used to house a display of International Table Settings organised by the members of the Wheel Club of Wollongong. Table arrangements entered were a Ukrainian table by Mrs O. Madre, a Swedish table by Mrs R. Ploss, a German table by Mrs G. Leiner, a Latvian table by Mrs A. Zids and an Israeli table by Mrs U. Reed and Mrs L. Helmann. An exhibition of traditional Roumanian art was also exhibited. Proceeds of this novel exhibition for its time went to the Wollongong Crippled Children's Association.

The Illawarra Branch of the British-Australian Friendship Club held its first welcome dance in November 1966 in the Warrawong Hall. The Scottish Ladies Dance Group performed and Mr and Mrs Hassmann served a continental-style supper.

On 12 November 1966 the members of the German Sanssouci Male Choir played a social match against the North Wollongong Soccer Club at Cook Street Oval in Unanderra. The friendly match was under the auspices of the Australian-German-Austrian Club. Also in November the 12 members of the Sanssouci choir sung at Wollongong Railway Station as they farewelled one of their members, Mr Krohm, who left for a holiday in Europe and they also greeted Ernst and his wife Ursula in song when they returned from a nine month holiday in Germany. They then went onto the Oaks Hotel in Albion Park and continued to sing.

In November 1966 a special convention was held in South Australia to organise the union of the two Lutheran churches in Australia. About 1846 the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia and the United Evangelical Luther Church of Australia split. In 1965 the two churches agreed to an Altar and Pulpit Fellowship. Pastor Haebich of St John's Lutheran Parish in Wollongong attended the convention.

On 14 December 1966 Billy Sneddon became the Minister for Immigration.

In 1966 the average length of stay in Commonwealth Hostels declined gradually to 38 weeks (83.3 weeks ten years ago).

In 1966 (and 1967) modern blocks of family accommodation had been built at former hostel sites and preparations were made for the construction of two new hostels, one in Randwick and the other in Springvale. Most of the old Nissen Huts had been replaced by brick buildings with private toilets and showers with covered walk-ways from living quarters to communal areas and improved laundry facilities.

In 1966 John Novakovich came to Australia from Chesterfield, England, with his wife Mona and daughters Maria, 15 and Julie, 13. Their third daughter, Sandra, was born in Australia. The family lived in Campbelltown. In England John Novakovich was a mining engineer and in Australia he also worked in the mining industry at Appin Colliery. Coming to Australia was his second migration experience. In 1947 he went to England from Yugoslavia via Italy and Germany with his father when he was only 13 years old. His father, brother and sister still lived in England while his mother and other brother lived in Yugoslavia. In 1967 he had a very serious accident at Appin Colliery which rendered him unconscious for 3 days and put him on the critical list for 10 days. After the accident there was a time he could only work part-time.

The Lysaght Alpine Club was founded in 1966 as well as the Wollongong Burns Society. Mr William Scott was instrumental for the foundation of the Burns Society and was its first President. Mr Scott also became one of the Presidents of the Wollongong Scottish Country Dance Association. In 1970 the Burns Society President was Mr Robert Henderson. The Wollongong Burns Society was affiliated with the Burns Federation in Scotland.

1967

In early 1967, the application rate from Britain had declined markedly which caused the Commonwealth Government to take steps to diversify its migration sources. New and revised agreements with Britain, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey were made. More liberal assisted passage arrangements which brought it into financial reach of a greater number of suitable applicants, opening new migration offices and increased staffing in existing posts, improved services to prospective migrants and more extensive publicity in an increased range of languages.

In 1967 migration from Turkey and the former Yugoslavia commenced. A migration agreement with Turkey was finalised in 1967 however Australia was discriminatory in its selection of the people allowed to migrate. Most of the Lebanese and Egyptians were Christians and preference was given to non-Muslim and non-Communist applicants.

Unanderra, Balgownie and Berkeley Hostels were still operating when a meeting of angry British migrants at Unanderra took place on 25 January 1967. A welfare committee was formed to protest against the 60% increase in tariffs. Balgownie and Berkeley Hostels had already formed their committees and planned similar protests. Very little as to the nature of complaints had changed: poor food, bad living conditions, protest actions, committees formed, joined by other hostels in the area, increase in tariffs leaving very little to nothing to live on, facing poverty, acute shortage of employment (this time also for women workers). Berkeley Hostel was sitting in a picturesque part of Wollongong. A colourful, little town of painted igloo-type dwellings, but the closer you got the less colourful they became. Right up and close you can see they were quite squalid. All the huts were still ovens in the summer and refrigerators in winter. Shared communal bathrooms, toilets and laundries lent themselves to diseases from the germ-laden flies. Hepatitis and gastro-enteritis were just as prevalent at Berkeley Hostel as it was in Berkeley itself. The figures for hepatitis for Berkeley were among the highest in NSW at this time. There was no sewerage in the town with residents having to make do with the filthy pan sanitary system. Draining pits were built in the backyards of Commission homes. These would sometimes overflow and left a bog of stinking water and a breeding ground for disease.

When Berkeley Hostel was still in operation, very few recreational or sporting amenities existed within the town itself.

In January 1967 the Traditional Art Society of Greater Wollongong was founded. Mrs Cornelia Wheathley was the President and was also a member of the Royal Art Society. Mrs Wheathley migrated from Germany in about 1954 and lived with her family at Port Kembla. Cornelia Wheathley studied art in Germany before she migrated to Australia and she taught art at the WEA in Wollongong. Mrs Wheathley was also art advisor for the Captain Cook Bi-Centenary committee.

Vlase Sekulouvska, his wife Stonja and six month old son rented a room in a house in Lackawanna Street Cringila when they came to Wollongong on 13 March 1967. They had migrated from Yugoslavia (Macedonia). They had two more children born in Australia. Residents all shared the kitchen and bathroom. Many single men who were shiftworkers lived at the house as well but Vlase and Stonja moved out because their baby son was too noisy. They moved into a 2 bedroom flat, also in Lackawanna Street, with their relatives, Stonja's brother in law and her husband's friend. They eventually built their own house on the same street.

In March 1967 there were 16,187 British migrants in hostels Australia-wide and only 2,559 alien migrants.

In March 1967 20-year-old Herbert Burghardt, his parents and sister Roswitha returned to Australia for a second time. They returned to Germany for three years but decided to come back to Unanderra.

In April 1967 the Ministers for Labour and National Service and Immigration announced that flats would be provided for migrants instead of hostels. Families were limited to a maximum stay of six months.

The 1 May 1967 edition of the South Coast Times introduced its new feature, "Our New Neighbours". This took over from the previous column called "Monitor on our Migrants". This feature was still being written by Hermine Rainow and it was meant to contribute to the assimilation of national groups in the Wollongong area. It was used as a public noticeboard for members of every nationality in Wollongong and reflected their aims and activities. National groups were invited to send information to Mrs Rainow.

On Saturday, 6 May 1967, Polish migrants from Wollongong gathered at the Town Hall to celebrate Polish Constitution Day. The Polish choir sang at the event and the choirmaster was Mr J. Szwaja. Poems were recited and traditional dances were performed by the children. The President of the Wollongong Polish Association was Mr M. Dabros and committee members were Mr and Mrs L. Szajewski and Mrs A. Molenda who organised the event. A church service led by Father A. Staroborski of Warrawong was also held in recognition of the celebration. Father Staroborski, who came from American, lived in Warrawong.

Also on Saturday 6 May 1967, the Estonian new settlers held a dance at the North Wollongong Police Boys Club to raise funds for their 1967 Estonian Sports Carnival. Sport played a major role in the Estonian community. The Wollongong Estonian Sport Society was led by Mr K. Kiviaru, Mrs V Kalnin was secretary and the treasurer was Mr E. Milander. The 1967 carnival was held in Wollongong in December.

By 1967 Estonian language classes were held every second Saturday at Wollongong Primary School. Mrs W. Oeser of Keiraville conducted the classes. Mrs Oeser also taught German at Keira Boys' High

School during the week. Three pupils of the Estonian language classes were Peter (7), Helely (18) and Laine (16) Upps.

Mr Harry Box celebrated his 72nd birthday on 11 May 1967. Harry was the secretary of Wollongong's Good Neighbour Council and helped many new migrants. He had been helping new settlers in Wollongong since World War 1.

Forty-five paintings were exhibited at Wollongong's Tom Thumb Gallery by Mrs Aina Niemanis in May 1967. Aina and her husband both came from Riga in Latvia and at the time of the exhibition lived with their 11-year-old daughter Vivienne at Fairy Meadow. Aina left Latvia when she was only 3 years of age. The paintings Aina exhibited captured her native country's landscape as well as the landscapes of Australia.

At David Jones Wollongong an exhibition celebrating German Week was held in May 1967 which included products from German firms and German music. German-born artists, Mrs G. Doring and Mrs C. Wheatley showed their paintings and Mr F. Rentz his woodcarvings. The newly formed German Children's Choir, conducted by Mr E. Neuhaus, sang at the exhibition and patrons learnt of the first mobile German library, operated by Mr H. Papendell, which allowed German people to borrow books from their homes. At the exhibition were two Wollongong migrants, Heinz Klosowski and Hans Kuck, both were unmarried and worked at the Steelworks and both had booked their passages to return to live Germany.'

By May 1967 the North Wollongong Soccer Club claimed it was the most cosmopolitan in Australia with the majority of its 40 active and 70 non-playing members German and Austrian as well as quite a number of Dutch. It also had two Scots, 2 British, 1 Italian, 1 Spaniard and 2 Australians. The President of North Wollongong Soccer Club at the time was Mr F. Pompey, Vice-President was Tom Skala and Mr G. Baumeister was the Secretary. A Scot, Mr D. Williamson was the referee and two Australian women acted as Treasurers, Misses P. Scott and C. Crilly. Foundation member and the first president was Mr Wilmes of Thirroul, formerly of Germany.

The Dutch Society of the Illawarra held a function in May 1967 for their entrant in the Miss Australia Quest, 21 year old Catharine Baart.

A Philatelist's club also formed in May 1967 and met at the German Saturday School at Oak Flats. One stamp enthusiast was Roumania-born Emil Tecles. Emil was studying for a Doctorate in Engineering in Berlin and cut short his studies when his visa to come to Australia arrived earlier than he expected. Arriving in Australia he continued his studies and worked as an engineer at a major Port Kembla firm. He married and by 1967 had two sons and a daughter.

By May 1967 the South Coast Accordion Ensemble, which was founded in 1965, had 14 members comprised of 7 nationalities. The conductor was Mr L. Dymet of Corrimal and the secretary was Mrs M. Strasser of Unanderra Heights. Mr Joe Liebhardt of Mount Ousley, who played the bass-accordion, was the manager. Two of the players, Australian born Gwen Parson, 17, of Berkeley and Emil Arjan, 15, of West Wollongong and who was of Hungarian descent, each won high marks at the Parramatta Eisteddfod.

Also in May, the Port Kembla Library received a collection of Hungarian books donated by the former Hungarian Association in Wollongong. Hungarian born Mrs A. Somogyi from Lake Heights was a librarian at Port Kembla.

On 12 May 1967, the German male choir "Sanssouci" wore their new grey uniform jackets with embroidered Sanssouci badge for the first time at their regular stag party. Mr E. Krombholz was president of the choir.

Another singing group formed in 1967 comprised of a happy combination of Austrian, Dutch, German and Latvian women. They formed to sing for their own pleasure after they attended a lecture on music appreciation at the WEA Wollongong. Their lecturer was Mrs Nan Price and it was her suggestion that they continued to sing together. For a while the group did not have a name but they had become well-known from their performances at various venues and functions around Wollongong. However, they had all made their own Dirndls so they decided to call themselves the Dirndl-Singers. Dirndl is a traditional costume of Austrian and Bavarian women. Mrs Lotte Dymet, of Keiraville, a music teacher who migrated from Graz, Austria, was the Dirndl-Singers leader and also accompanied them on the accordion. They met every second week for singing practice which always starts with serious work and finished with a cup of tea and coffee and a chat. Three of the Dirndl-Singers were members of the Volendammer Quarter: Tina Zuiderwyk from Woonona, Cory Meyer of Bellambi and Grace Feenstra of Wollongong. The Volendammer Quartet formed in 1966 and was an integral part of Wollongong's cultural scene. Zus Buikstra was another Dutch member of the Dirndl-Singers as well as a member of the Mixed Dutch Choir. Ilse Horndlein and Margot Seemann of Woonona, Ellen Stefanovic of Bellambi and Martha Strasser of Farmborough Heights were the German representatives. Mrs Strasser was born in Germany but had settled in Palestine before coming to Australia. Anna Rudzatz of Balgownie stands in for Latvia. The singers did not have any language barriers and as the need arose they were able to speak German, English, Dutch or Austrian dialect. The only Australian in the Dirndl-Singers was Alicia Ryan of Corrimal, who was also a member of the Illawarra Choral Society and the Dutch Mixed Choir. They had all become the best of friends.

English classes for new Italian migrants were held weekly during the day at the Italian Centre in Stewart Street Wollongong. By May 1967 classes for women were held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The tutor was Mrs Moon of Wollongong. Evening classes for men and boys were held on Monday and Wednesday nights and their tutor was Miss Maria Lucich of Cringila. Reading material for the classes was provided by the Italian Consulate in Sydney. Father Joseph conducted evening classes on Tuesday for students who spoke in Italian dialect so that they might read and write correctly in "pure" Italian. Father Joseph also conducted classes in the evening for beginners who wished to learn Italian. Miss Adreina Belotti of Port Kembla taught the children on Saturday mornings. Secondary students were also catered for and Father Adrian was in charge of advanced classes. Father John prepared students for Italian language exams at the School Certificate level. Enzo Giribaldi gave music lessons where he also taught some new settlers from Spain to play the piano-accordion and guitar. Dressmaking and pattern classes were also held at the Italian Centre and were conducted by Wollongong tailor Molino.

By 1967 Italian Catholic Church services were held in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart War Memorial Shrine, the Immaculate Conception Church in Unanderra, St Columbkilles Church Corrimal and St Patricks Church at Port Kembla.

Lucy Troy of Figtree was 8 years old in May 1967 when she attended Ukrainian language classes at the Ukrainian Centre at First Street, Wollongong and learnt to speak, read and write in the language. Lucy was Australian but her mother came from the Ukraine. Mrs I. Podyynee of Dapto conducted the classes at the Saturday School.

Latvian church services were held every second and third Sunday of the month at St John's Lutheran Church at Burelli Street Wollongong. In late May 1967 Pastor Pilmanis and Pastor Zids conducted the services. Father Kiviste of Sydney held Estonian services at the church. Russian church services were

held every second Sunday in Wilford Street Corrimal. Father Klebansky, from Sydney, conducted the services. Still by June 1967 for major religious occasions the congregation members from Wollongong had to travel to the Russian church in Sydney.

Two units at Balgownie Hostel and one unit at Berkeley Hostel were closed on 14 May 1967.

Reverend Konstantinos Knithacis, who came to Australia from Crete in 1962, and in June 1967 he encouraged children of Greek origin to learn the language of their ancestors. Father Knithacis was in charge of the Holy Cross Greek Church in Stewart Street, Wollongong. With Mr Antony Vorias, Father Knithacis gave religious instruction and language lessons to about 90 children. Textbooks were provided by the Greek Government. In Father Knithacis opinion expressed in June 1967 he believed many Greeks left Wollongong for Sydney because of low wages at Port Kembla Steelworks and the lack of work for their wives and daughters and went on to say that "the Australian way of life was the best of English and American Traditions".

About a dozen children were learning Polish at St Francis Xavier School in Crown Street Wollongong by June 1967. Mrs K. Lesniowska conducted the language classes which also included lessons in traditional dancing.

Also in June 1967, Renate Andrich, an 18 year old chemist assistant who lived at Mt MacArthur, was sponsored by the Wollongong Club Germania as an entrant in the Miss Australia Quest. Renate and her parents and brother came to Australia from Austria 13 years earlier. Renate was also a member of the Germania dancing group.

In June 1967 the North family came to Wollongong from Coleford, Somerset, England. Austin and Pamela North with their children Wendy (6), and Tracey (5) and 2-year-old Sarah lived with their relatives Derek and Carol Cosh in Corrimal Street, Wollongong. The Coshs arrived from Frome, Somerset, England in 1966 with their children Linda (5), and 18-month-old Sally. The Coshs first Aussie baby was Sharon, born in 1967. Derek Cosh and Pamela North were brother and sister and their mother arrived in August 1967 for a visit.

The Estonian Society and the South Coast Latvian Friendly Society held a joint celebration on 24 June 1967. The function was held in the Wollongong Trades Hall. Mrs V. Kalnin, who came from Latvia and lived at Dapto, sung at the function. The Hungarian Community conducted a separate function when it held a ball at the Coniston Hall on Saturday, 10 June 1967.

A new migrant hostels improvement programme was announced by the Department of Labour and National Service on 9 June 1967 with the replacement of the Nissen Hut accommodation at Balgownie Hostel to commence in the 1969/1969 financial year. A new type of brick units for migrant accommodation started to be built at Fairy Meadow Hostel in 1975. These brick units were demolished in 2020 to make way for more development by the University of Wollongong Innovation Campus.

On 10 June 1967 the Finnish Association held a social at Unanderra Community Hall. The president of the Association was Mr Heino and the funds raised at the social went to an association member in need.

On 14 June 1967 "Operation Friendship" a special get-together was held by the British-Australian Friendship Club" at the Normandie Hotel. The President was Mrs A. Catterton.

An official name change from Balgownie Hostel to Fairy Meadow Hostel occurred on 1 July 1967. Balgownie Railway Station was re-named to Fairy Meadow Railway station approximately 12 years earlier in October 1955. During the financial year 1968-69 Balgownie Hostel was given a face lift as part of the modernisation programme. The barbed wire that surrounded rows of tin "igloo" huts was taken down, removing the concentration camp atmosphere and the Nissen Huts were also removed. At the time of the announcement Mr R. Gary was the manager of Balgownie Hostel and said the name change to Fairy Meadow Hostel would bring it into line with the neighbourhood and make it quicker and easier for mail deliveries for the hundreds of migrants who lived at the hostel.

In July 1967 the Minister for Immigration approved Unanderra No 2 Hostel be declared for disposal. Disposal occurred in two stages with the buildings to go first then the land to be disposed. Building Numbers 40, 41, 42 and 43 which were Nissen Huts were retained and relocated for use at other Hostel sites in NSW. Building Numbers 52, 55 and 58 which were the Managerial Residence, Linen Store and Recreation/Dining/Kitchen were retained. The disposal of Unit No 2 was deferred during the Hostel replacement programme as emergency accommodation.

On Friday, 2 July 1967 an International Concert was held at the Wollongong Town Hall. The Scottish Dance Association, the British-Australian Friendship Club and the Estonian Society put together the Concert to raise money for the Spastic Centre. The South Coast Accordion Ensemble played at the function.

On 15 July 1967 the remaining two units at Fairy Meadow (Balgownie) Hostel were closed down. Some Nissen huts were removed to allow for the new improved brick accommodation units.

On 22 July 1967 debutantes were presented at an International Ball held in Wollongong Town Hall. The 16 debutantes represented eight nationalities. Their partners represent even more European nationalities. The Debs were presented to Mr and Mrs P.N. Shaw. Mr Shaw was the Commonwealth Coordinator of the Good Neighbour Movement. The ball was organised by the Australian-German-Austrian Club and the Wollongong Branch of the Good Neighbour Council. Patron of Honour was Miss Ethel Hayton, a foundation member of the Wollongong branch of the Good Neighbour Council and secretary of the forerunner of the Australian-German-Australian Club. The Debs were Eva Sehibeci and Rose Fillipi (Italian), Elke Schuh, Ute Seeman and Renata Sleky (German), Barbara Zareba and Donata Rudowciz (Polish), Louise Dekker and Janneke Bulsing (Dutch), Patricia Kingsbury, Jennifer and Elizabeth Lieske (British), Elenore Vitney (Hungarian), Bruna Kacie (Yugoslavian), Nicola Palmer and Elizabeth Parker (Australian). Among the official guests were the German vice-counsel, the First Secretary of the British High Commissioner, the Yugoslav Consul and the State Secretary of the Good Neighbour Council, Father Joseph from the Italian Centre and the President of the British-Australian Friendship Club.

In July 1967 at the annual meeting of Club Germania, Mr Karl Schauer of Bulli was elected as the Club's new President. Other elected officers were Gerhard Mueller of Bulli and Karl Nau of Berkeley. Herbert Young of Lake Heights was elected as Vice-President and Else Meyer of Barrack Point as Assistant Secretary. Elizabeth Schauer of Bulli, Erich Tretau of Port Kembla and Dieter Lapahe of Woonona were elected to handle the finances. Committee members for 1967 were Werner Tischler of Lake Heights, Walter Voss of Warilla, Else Predki of Mt St Thomas and Werner Behrend of Port Kembla. The Club now had \$7,000 and expected to start work on a clubhouse on land in Berkeley.

The July 1967 annual meeting of the German-Australian-Austrian Club attracted 70 members. The annual net profit amounted to \$6,100.00 and went towards the building of a clubhouse. The elected officials for 1967 were Mr W. Leiner, President, Mr F. Hassmann, Mr W. Wachsmuth and Mr F. Baumgartel as Vice-Presidents, Mr H. Kuhnel as Secretary and Mr J. Roeder for Assistant Secretary

amongst others. The German Consulate General, Dr K.H. Scholtyssek, opened the third annual ball held at the Wollongong Town Hall that month where he announced that the Consulate would help to furnish and equip the new clubhouse to be built at Warrawong. Many local, state and inter-state dignitaries attended but amongst those were Wollongong locals such as Mr W. Daniel and Mr E. Herrmann from the German Saturday School and Mr F. Pomey and Miss Pat Scott represented the North Wollongong Soccer Club which appeared to be affiliated with the local Germany community. Mr I. Wilmes, past president of the AGA Club, Mr and Mrs M. Oder from Fairy Meadow, Mr and Mrs R. Mihajlovic from Balgownie, Mr and Mrs W. Nierle and Mr and Mrs E. Kube from Dapto, Mr and Mrs H.J. Roeder and their daughter Karin from Berkeley. Also present was Miss Ethel Hayton a former secretary of the AGA. The Greek community representatives at the ball were Jim Soulos and his wife and his sister Betty.

German Catholic Church services were held in Wollongong at different venues. In July 1967 the church services were held at the chapel of St Francis Home for the Aged and the Community Hall at Oak Flats.

The Lysaght Alpine Club, which was founded in 1966, by mid-July 1967 had 65 members of many different nationalities. The President of the Club was Mr Werner Daniel from Oak Flats who came from Berchtesgaden in Bavarian. The Vice President was Mr Ron Cook of Fairy Meadow who came from England. The Secretary was Mr Barney Macready from Wollongong and an Australian beginner skier and the Treasurer was Mr Waldemar Kuhna who lived at Towradgi and was originally from East Prussia.

On 23 July 1967 the Ukrainian Community celebrated Volodymer the Great who introduced Christianity to the Ukraine with a mass held at St Francis Xavier Cathedral in Wollongong. The mass was celebrated by Father Rozyk from Sydney. Afterwards they held a dinner party in the Ukrainian Centre in First Avenue, Wollongong. The Ukrainian Community had voted in favour of building their own church with a Ukrainian centre attached.

The Hungarian Community held a "Vidamest" (gay night) at Coniston Hall in July 1967 where 120 guests attended.

The Latvians and Estonians celebrated jointly a traditional solstice in July 1967 in Wollongong Trade Union Hall. A solstice play was performed with the mystical figures of father and mother Janis played by Mr and Mrs J. Mednis. Mrs Aina Niemanis from Fairy Meadow and a painter provided the stage settings. Others who took part were Mr and Mrs Martinson, Mr R. Vidins, Mr and Mrs Paegle, Mr and Mrs P.I. Sumskis and their 2 sons, Mrs A. Rudzats and her daughter Margaret and Mrs I. Pilmanis. The players, dancers and singers wore traditional national costumes with symbolic oak leaves in their hair. The special solstice cheesecake was made by Mrs Sidorenko from Austinmer. Mrs. V. Kanin sang traditional Estonian songs and Mr P. Sumskis accompanied the singers and dancers on his accordion.

The Australian Translator Association was formed in 1965 and in July 1967 the Wollongong Branch office address was Mrs Hermine Rainow, 36 Daisy Street, Fairy Meadow. The formation of the Wollongong Branch was in response to the growing demanding for such translating and interpreting services. The services available by the Association were mainly for commercial purposes, however people could use the free services offered by local banks for help in filling in forms. The Australian Translator Association was affiliated with the International Federation of Translators in Paris.

From July to September 1967, Wollongong's new migrant settlers were able to discuss taxation problems with the members of the Commonwealth Bank Migrant Information Centre. Interpreters at the Centre were able to speak ten languages.

The Lutheran Ladies Guild celebrated their 11th Anniversary in August 1967.

St Steven's Day (Szent Istvan) is the greatest public holiday celebrated in Hungary. The Australian-Hungarian Club of Greater Wollongong celebrated St Steven's Day on 20 August 1967 when they held a charity ball in the Coniston Hall. The entire proceeds went to the St. Elizabeth Home for the Aged in Blacktown. In subsequent years, the local Hungarian community continued to celebrate St Steven's Day at different venues in Wollongong and some celebrations included traditional Hungarian dances and songs.

In August 1967, Michael Bray joined the musical comedy group, "The Arcadians". The evenings of the Arcadians were held every Thursday night at the Wollongong Primary School in Smith Street, Wollongong. Michael Bray had just arrived from Lancashire, England two months prior. He had belonged to a musical group in Lancashire. Michael Bray lived at Mangerton.

From 7 to 14 August 1967 a collection of the work of Hans Schuster was shown at the Tom Thumb Galleries in Crown Street, Wollongong. Hans Schuster migrated from Austria to Australia with his wife and son Helmut in December 1955. He and his wife had 3 more children, Hans, Harry and Brigitte. They lived at Berkeley and Hans worked as a foreman at Metal Manufacturers at Port Kembla. Hans did not have any art training in Europe, but he was able to establish himself as an artist in Australia. He studied painting and drawing at Wollongong Technical College under Ivan Englund and in 1961 had his first one-man show at Barry Stern's Gallery in Paddington. In 1965 he had his second one-man show at the same gallery and in the same year he and two more one-man shows, the first in June 1965 in the Toorak Gallery in Melbourne and the second in September 1965 in the Crana Gallery in Wollongong. Hans favourite subjects to paint were abandoned goldmining towns. In August 1967 Hans' father returned to Austria after visiting Hans and his family in Berkeley. He returned to Austria with three of Hans's paintings.

The Jussef Obeid and his wife Henriette came to Australia from Lebanon and settled at Unanderra. In 1967 Jussef Obeid was a travelling fruit vendor and travelled up and down the coast every week.

In September 1967 the German Saturday School Association held its annual ball at the Oak Flats School. Guest of honour was the German Consul, Dr K.H. Scholtyssek. As well as members of the Wollongong German community, Reverend Koch from the Lutheran congregation of Oak Flats and his wife attended as well as representatives from Sanssouci the German male choir. The dancing team at the annual ball consisted of eight dancers: Evelyn Moor, Renate Schmidt, Beatrix Sablowsky, Ursula Hanisch, Wolfgang and Juergen Hanisch, Gerhard Zatschler and Ralph Steyer. The annual ball of the Sanssouci Choir was also held about this time in the Warrawong Hall.

In September 1967 the committee of the Australian-German-Austrian Club decided not to settle the contract of sale on the block of land in King Street Warrawong where they had proposed to build their club. Negotiations were undertaken for the purchase of two acres of land on the east bank of Lake Illawarra. The following month the "Germania Club" submitted plans for its clubhouse on 14½ acre site at Kembla Grange on the corner of Northcliffe Drive and Canterbury Road and intended to commence building later in the year or early 1968. The club was to be built in three stages. The first would include a hall and a non-drinkers' lounge as the club needed to apply for a liquor licence. The hall would hold 650 people and the smaller lounge would be used to serve people with children as well as read magazines and newspapers. The second stage was the building of a paved terrace for outdoor entertainment. Later a restaurant and cafeteria were built. Tennis courts, a bowling green, gymnasium and sportsground were also planned for the future.

The Estonian Home for the Aged was built at Thirlmere in about 1963, with additions built in 1965. Most of the furniture and equipment was donated by Estonian businessmen and it was partly built with funds raised by the Estonian community. By September 1967 there were 25 elderly men and women living at the home. The residents shared a common living room but were able to cook their own meals to provide them a sense of independence. Picton and Thirlmere had one of the largest Estonian settlements in Australia.

A Latvian Art and Craft Festival was opened in Sydney in September 1967. Mrs A. Rudzats, of Balgownie, participated in the Sydney exhibition with her bark paintings.

The British-Australian Friendship Club met every second Wednesday of the month. At their 1967 September meeting which was held at the Normandie Hotel a games evening was held.

In September 1967 the Department of Immigration's mobile office visited Wollongong for the first time, manned by two senior Immigration Officers from Sydney. The mobile office service was introduced in June to help boost the number of migrants applying for Australian citizenship. It had handled over 4,000 inquiries in Sydney and Newcastle. Between 12 September and 15 October 1967, the mobile office visited Port Kembla, Warilla, Cringila, Unanderra and Dapto.

A Hungarian masked ball was held in the Coniston Hall on 14 October 1967.

On 21 October 1967 the Australian-German-Austrian Club held "Oktoberfest" at Warrawong Hall. Oktoberfest originated in 1810 when the Bavarian King Max gave this gift to his subjects in celebration of his son Crown Prince Ludwig's marriage to Saxonian Princess Therese. In the beginning Oktoberfest was on the "wiesn" (meadow) and was an agricultural show and cattle display. Now the only rustic note was people wearing national costume.

Mr and Mrs I. Krailach's restaurant at Jamberoo was the venue for the presentation of medals to deserving members of the AGA-Kaner of the carnival group and "fool's caps" to the new members in October 1967. Barbecued pig, sauerkraut and dumplings was on the menu. Medal recipients were Mrs G. Ziegler, L. Kuhnel, A. Schaefer, T. Kalkowski, A Hendrix and Mr B. Herzog. Four Australians at the event became members of the AGA-Kaner group.

The mixed choir of the Dutch Australian Society in Illawarra celebrated their second anniversary in October 1967 in the Corrimal Community Hall. Mrs J. Bouma was the conductor.

In October 1967, Berkeley Hostel was temporarily closed by Commonwealth Hostels Ltd as an economy measure and was placed on a caretaker basis. The closure was forced by low occupancy and resulted in a saving of about \$10,000 a year according to the company. More than 70 families at the Unanderra Hostel were advised by letter of the closure of one hostel unit effective on 11 November 1967. They were given a choice to transfer to either Fairy Meadow or Unanderra Hostel. Commonwealth Hostels Ltd felt it was uneconomic to keep all three hostels operating at that particular time. The low occupancy had been caused by the success of the accommodation advisory service in finding private dwellings for hostel residents. This advisory service was established about six months previously and had helped 236 migrant families, that equated to 1,000 people, find homes either to rent or buy in the South Coast area. Free transport was provided by Commonwealth Hostels Ltd to move the families and their belongings from Berkeley Hostel to Fairy Meadow or Unanderra Hostels. Preference was given to families with children who attended Berkeley High School to move to Unanderra Hostel and a school bus from Unanderra Hostel was promised. The manager at the time of the Berkeley Hostel temporary closure, Mr B.R. Wood, was transferred to Pennington Hostel in South Australia. Commonwealth Hostels Ltd was responsible to the Australian Government who

subsidised hostel operations and the taxpayers who included the migrants themselves. The first ten migrant families transferred from Berkeley to Fairy Meadow Hostel on 21 October 1967 and another 24 families had also asked to be transferred to Fairy Meadow Hostel. Only 2 families had requested to be transferred to Unanderra Hostel. Fairy Meadow Hostel proved more popular because of the nearby beach. There was ample room at Fairy Meadow Hostel to receive the extra residents with 500 people living there at the time of the impending transfers from Berkeley Hostel. There were another 8 British families that arrived on the Sunday as part of the normal intake programme. Many of the families that were moved out of Berkeley Hostel were angry because they would have to move again within three months as some were waiting for a Housing Commission home, building their own homes or planning to rent or even return to England. One such family was the Magrin family who moved from Berkeley Hostel to a Nissen Hut at Fairy Meadow Hostel and in two months time would have to move again into their Housing Commission Home.

The annual general meeting of the Dutch-Australian Society was held in October 1967 and Mr C.W. de Bruyn was elected President, Mr J. Dekker as Secretary and Mr K. Kuiper as Treasurer. Committee members were Mr M. Berghuis, Mr J. Sierhuis, Mr F. de Lange, Mr J. Dieprond and Mr P. van Dyk. The Society planned to open clubrooms in Woonona.

On Saturday, 4 November 1967, the Polish community came together to celebrate Polish Independence Day at the Trade Union Hall in Wollongong.

Also in November 1967 an exhibition was held at David Jones in Wollongong by wood carver Fritz (Frank) Rentz. Mr Rentz lived at Port Kembla after migrating to Australia from the Black Forrest, German. He had recently showed his work in Canberra.

The AGA-Kaner, the carnival group of the Australian-German-Austrian Club, held a fancy dress and masked ball on 11 November 1967 in the Town Hall in Wollongong. Ferdinand Hassmann and his daughter, Angela, were the Carnival Prince and Princess and Renate Borovilos danced the "Funkmariechen" a traditional carnival figure. The new AGA-Kaner guard made their debut and wore dashing uniforms with carnival caps that were imported from Germany. The Fairy Meadow Drum Majorettes also put on a display. The traditional carnival season is declared open at 11 minutes past 11 on the 11th month. It is the time of merrymaking in the streets with people in Cologne go out masqueraded. Every year three people are granted the titles of maiden, prince and peasant respectively. Ferdinande Hassmann was a German from Czechoslovakia who came to Australia in 1954 was a former footballer and was a member of the North Wollongong Soccer Club. He owned his own catering business.

Stephen Timothy Knight was born in November 1967, the first born son of Walter Knight who migrated to Australia in 1949. Walter was of Ukrainian descent but migrated from Graz, Austria. Walter married Margaret, from Rosebud in Victoria and they lived in Austinmer. Walter Knight worked at the Customs House in Port Kembla.

Hans and Renate Bozic and their children Renate, 9, Fredy, 7, and Silvia, 4, returned to their homeland in Austria in November 1967 after spending two years in Australia. In Vienna, Hans worked in the Australian Embassy as chief interpreter of the Information Service and spoke German, English and a few Slavic languages. When he returned to Austria he resumed his position in the Australian Embassy. In Australia Hans Bozic was an accountant and worked in the accountancy department of a Sydney newspaper before he joined the staff of the Commonwealth Bank in Wollongong as part of the Migrant Information Service.

In November 1967 Aaltje Tiny Van De Meulen of Unanderra and Garry Stuart Willis also from Unanderra married at the All Saints' Church of England in Figtree. Aaltje was the youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Van De Meulen and migrated to Australia from Holland. Bridesmaids were Gusta and Lee Van De Haar. Laurie Willis was best man and John Van De Meulen was groomsman. The reception was held at the Embassy Rooms at Unanderra. A telegram was received from her parents in Holland and read at the reception.

By November 1967 contracts for the purchase of land for the Australian-German-Austrian Club were exchanged. The land was cleared and levelled with an outdoor function planned to be held soon.

On Sunday, 3 December 1967, the President of the Lutheran Church of NSW District, Pastor R. Paech, laid the foundation stone for St John's Church in Burelli Street, Wollongong.

A book "Hungarians in Australia" by Dr Egon Kunz was published in 1967. It took Dr Kunz 20 years to write the book which dealt with the history of Hungarian migration to Australia between 1830 and 1960.

In December 1967 about 130 members of the Austrian Association of Sydney held a function at Uncle Tom's Hut in Jamberoo. Uncle Tom's Hut was owned by Mr T. Krailach who had recently planted 3,000 pine trees.

Tony Molenaar was 22 years old in 1967 and came to Australia with his parents, four brothers and three sisters from Vught in Noord Brabant, Holland in 1960. The Molenaar family by 1967 lived in Towradgi. Tony was the eldest child and worked at the Steelworks while he studied part-time to become a building engineer.

In 1967 Mr Steven Szabo and his wife Diana were among the 310 citizens who were naturalised. Steven Szabo was from Hungarian descent and his wife was Dutch. They met in Holland. Their three children, Tony, 15, Mary 11 and Diana, 7 automatically became Australian citizens with their parents. The Szabo family lived at Corrimal at the time of their naturalisation. Also naturalised was Antal and Agnes Scharok who were also from Hungary and migrated to Australia 18 years earlier.

Stefan Reljic and his wife Jovanka arrived in Australia on 14 December 1967. They both came from Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Prior to coming to Australia they lived in Germany for some time. In Yugoslavia Stefan was a professional musician as well as a businessman who worked in imports and exports travelling throughout the Balkan states as a representative for a German electrical firm. In Australia he became the sole representative for German Framus guitars. Jovanka was a solicitor and wanted to embark on a business in Australia called 'Balkan Express Marriage Agency' and had connections with a solicitor's office and marriage bureau in Belgrade in response to the women shortage she saw in the heavy industry area of Wollongong. Stefan met Jovanka in Germany whilst she was a law student on holidays. Jovanka's mother was American married to a Yugoslav. Stefan and Jovanka lived at Fairy Meadow and attended migrant English classes to learn the language. Stefan had planned to bring his mother and brother out to Australia as well.

Brigitte Fischer and Bernardino Di-Fiora were married on 23 December 1967 at St John's Lutheran Church in Wollongong. Pastor Haebich performed the marriage ceremony. Brigitte came from Germany 2 years earlier to visit her sister in Oak Flats. Bernardino, who lived in Wollongong, migrated from Italy and was a carpenter by trade.

The United Estonian Sports Association held its 15th nationwide sports carnival in Wollongong and the highlight of the Estonian gathering was the New Year's Eve Ball at Wollongong Town Hall as well as

other functions. The sporting events included Men and Women's basketball which was played at Beaton Park Stadium and athletics were contested also at Beaton Park. Other sports contested were shooting, swimming, tennis, table tennis and chess. The Wollongong Basketball teams came second. Mrs Vilma Kalnin, a well-known Estonian singer, was the then Secretary of the Estonian Sports Club, as well as the President of the Estonian Club of Wollongong and she hosted a barbecue and campfire on the four acre property in Dapto owned by her and her husband.

Other 1967/68 New Year functions were held such as the Hungarian group at Coniston Hall with music supplied by the Latin Beats of Warrawong. Members and friends of the Australian-German-Austrian Club packed the Warrawong Hall for their New Year celebration. At midnight the New Year was depicted by a pretty young girl with a silver crown who was introduced by an old gentleman who represented the Old Year. For good luck the 'New Year' scattered leaves of trefoil around. Five of these had four leaves and the people who found them received a bottle of champagne. The first clover-prize, however, was a lawn mower and the winner was surprised to find that the lawn mower turned out to be a goat with a lawn mower handle attached. The goat was donated to the Australian-German-Australian Club who in turn put the goat onto the two acre building block in Primbee.

By 1967 Queensland and Tasmania removed discrimination against migrants regarding eligibility for public housing. This was ten years after the policy was revised in NSW.

In 1967 Andrew Krumins-Strauss was born in Wollongong. His father Franz Krumins-Strauss had migrated from Latvia in 1949. Franz married Roslyn Dick, although Australia, her father had migrated from Scotland with his parents at the age of 12. The Krumins-Strauss family lived at Austinmer. Juris worked as a car salesman and Roslyn was an infant school teacher at the Towradgi Primary School where half of her students were Italian, Spanish, English and German. Roslyn found many of her pupils did not come to school on Fridays as that was shopping day and they had to accompany their mothers and act as interpreters.

The Spanish Soccer Club, Warilla Wanderers, was formed in 1967. The players were all amateurs and played in the Illawarra first division.

In excess of 15,000 persons of mixed descent had come to Australia to settle post-World War 2 to 1967. By 1967 many were from Ceylon, India and Pakistan. The number of people from Burma had increased in the 1960s.

The development of a charter operations between Australia and other countries was commenced in 1967. Scheduled airlines would be the first to operate charter flights between Australia and Britain and back. Only the national airlines of the two countries, the country of destination and the country of departure would be afforded this primary opportunity. Under charter arrangements individual members of the charter party had to contribute to the cost of the charter, directly or indirectly, which meant each individual was a passenger paying fare. The condition was that a charter flight must be filled to capacity. The charter operations were conceived as a means to combat the loss of migrants who had returned to their former homeland because of homesickness or to visit aging parents only to find themselves unable to return because they could not afford the return fare. The scheme began on 1 November 1967.

By 28 December 1967 fifty-two building declared for disposal from Unanderra No 2 Hostel had been sold at auction with the exception of Building Numbers 52, 55 and 58. Building No 52 (Managerial Residence) was relocated to Unanderra No 1 Hostel.

Lorence and Valeria Bedek migrated to Australia from Slovenia (Yugoslavia) in 1967 and by 1974 were living in Warrawong with their 7 children.

1968

In 1968 a revival of a regular flow of assisted migrants from Italy was expected.

On 20 January 1968 the German Mixed Choir celebrated its first birthday at the Warrawong Hall. The choir celebrated with a few songs and the President of the Germania Club, Mr K. Nau, presented the choir with a cup. Mrs Hertha Beusch and Miss Marion Makowski celebrated their birthdays at this function. Choir practice was held each Thursday night at the Open Hearth Hotel at Warrawong.

A half yearly meeting of the Germania Club was held in January 1968 at the NES Hall in Port Kembla. At this meeting the former Vice-President, Mr Karl Nau, was elected as the new President. First Treasurer was Mr Erich Tretau with Mrs Else Predki as second Treasurer. Mr Gerhard Mueller was voted in as the new Vice-President and Mrs Else Meyer as assistant Secretary. Mr Herbert Young kept his position as the Club Secretary.

In January 1968, 71-year-old Mrs Marie Szabo from Budapest, Hungary, visited her daughter Mrs Z. Taylor at her home in Hale Street, Woonona. Whilst in Wollongong she was contacted by George Farago. George Farago fled his homeland, Hungary, after the 1954 uprising. He had not been back to Hungary nor seen his family for nearly 12 years, but Marie Szabo and George's family lived nearby each other in Budapest and a chance article in the Times alerted George Farago to Marie Szabo's visit where he met with her and was able to exchange news and knowledge for Mrs Szabo to take back to his family in Hungary.

By January 1968 the Fairy Meadow Hostel could accommodate up to 2,000 people but only 625 people were living there at this time. Most of the occupants were from the United Kingdom as well as a few Italian and Yugoslav single men. The only German family at the hostel was the Hischers. Willi Hischer and his wife had 2 small daughters, one having been born in Australia. There were about 300 children in the hostel in January 1968 and looking after them was Mr J. Hickson a youth leader employed full-time by the Commonwealth Hostel. The hostel had a recreation field and a youth centre. Competition games between teams made up the outdoor activities while the indoor activities included games such as table tennis. During school holidays a vacation play centre was conducted by five vacation play leaders. The Child Minding Centre was re-opened on 22 January 1968. Two attendants conducted the Centre which was provided mainly for working mothers.

The Polish Club at Gwynneville showed Polish films on 28 January 1968 in their recently completed Clubhouse in Gwynneville. New Year's Eve celebrations had been held in the new Clubhouse.

By January 1968 there was an ice-skating rink operating in Wollongong a sport Irene van Bockel took up again after migrating to Australia from Rotterdam as a twelve year old with her parents, Johan and Maartje. Irene lived with her family in Unanderra. Irene worked in a department store and took classes in ticket writing at the Technical College.

The first club night of the Illawarra Region Youth Hostel Association was held on 9 January 1968 in the Alliance Hall, Market Street, Wollongong. About a quarter of the association's members were migrants, such as Willi Gutmann from Germany, Tony Molenaar from Holland and Martin Conybeare from England who were all enthusiastic bushwalkers. The nearest youth hostel was at Kangaroo Valley which used an old United Church that had been closed for many years.

The Serbian Community continued with a church service every fourth Sunday and Father Vucurovic of Sydney conducted the services in 1968. The Free Serbian Orthodox Church and Education Committee had converted one room of its home in 82 Kenny Street as a temporary chapel. The Committee arranged to build their own church in Wollongong.

"Sveti Jovan" Day was Serbian religious holiday that was observed in January 1968 at the Greek Orthodox Church in Stewart Street, Wollongong and the Serbian Bishop of Australia and New Zealand, Dimitri Balac, celebrated the service. Following the old Orthodox calendar Christmas was celebrated in January with old Serbian traditions such as decorated oak tree branches that were burnt on a bonfire and children received sweets and nuts which were thrown into the crowd. This was followed by boiling hot Slibovits, a special plum brandy, with sugar. Mr and Mrs D. Ristic and Mr S. Georgevic were amongst the people that attended this occasion. The Parish Priest, Slavko Nicetin, came to Australia 11 years ago from Yugoslavia via Trieste. Five year old Peter Vladeta of Wollongong recited a Serbian poem and the event was hosted by Mr D. Stefanovic and Mrs Stefanovic made the traditional cake "Slava Kolac" and the "Koljivo" a dish made from nuts. The national Serbian dance "Kolo" was performed and Miss Mira Vujusinovic sang Serbian folk songs. About 200 people attended this function.

St John's Lutheran Church pastor, Pastor B. Haebich preached his farewell sermon in January 1968 and then took up a new position at Newcastle.

Slav Gorsoski was 23 years old when he migrated to Australia in about 1968 from Ohrid Yugoslavia leaving behind his parents, two sisters and a brother. He hoped to embark on a tertiary education in Wollongong to study for a Bachelor of Commerce. At first, Slav was employed with AI&S and by 1971 worked for the ANZ Bank as a migrant advisory officer. He was an active member of the Macedonian Church Community and also conducted a Macedonian radio program on Sundays on 2WL.

Walter and Ingrid Musielak were a Wollongong couple who in January 1968 were about to embark on a second honeymoon where Walter saw his mother in Dortmund, Germany for the first time in 10 years and for Ingrid it was the first time she met her mother-in-law. Ingrid had migrated with her parents from Rheydt near Moenchengladbach in 1956. Walter was a leading hand fitter at the Steelworks and Ingrid worked in a travel bureau.

The Italian Language classes were continuing at the Italian Centre in Burelli Street, Wollongong. The teachers in February 1968 were Miss Adreina Belotti of Port Kembla, Mr M. Braccesi taught the advanced classes. Many Australians attended the beginner's classes conducted by Miss Belotti. Father Mario also taught Italian language classes. English also was taught at the centre by Mr Ricki Alberti, who also wrote for the Italian column in the South Coast Times. The music school had been established under the tutelage of Maestro Simonelli from Sydney who taught the piano, accordion and the guitar. Enzo Giribaldi continued as the local music teacher.

There were about 150 Estonians living in Wollongong in February 1968 and on 2 May they gathered in the Trade Union Hall in Station Street, Wollongong to celebrate the Estonian Independence Day.

Sonja Kim de Bruyn was born in Wollongong on 15 February 1968, the daughter of Fred and Betty de Bruyn of Primbee. The de Bruyn family had migrated from Holland and Mr de Bruyn (Senior) was the President of the Dutch-Australian Society of Illawarra at the time of his granddaughter Sonja's birth.

The Dutch-Australian Society of Illawarra had signed contracts for the purchase of the former clubhouse of the Woonona Legion of Ex-servicemen and Women in Woonona in February 1968. This would serve as the new clubhouse for the Society.

The Australian-German-Austrian Club held a half yearly meeting in February 1968 at the Warrawong Hall which was attended by about 50 members and 10 guests. The Club's main aim continued to be the building of a clubhouse and members were keen to hear from the Club President, Mr Leiner, what had been done towards the final settlement of the land purchase in Windang where the clubhouse was proposed to be built. The 2 acre building block had 270 feet waterfront along Lake Illawarra and was about 370 feet deep. An interim development application had been lodged for approval to the town planning authority and they were waiting for the land sale to be finalised. As soon as it was finalised the Steelworks filled in the 6,800 cubic yards building site with coal wash free of charge. Two trustees, Mr E. Papon and Mr E. Korgitta had withdrawn and a vote of confidence was passed by the board and this was granted unanimously. Taking the place of the resigning trustees were Mr W.C. Reed and Mr H. Kuhnel, the Club Secretary. The Australian-German-Austrian Club President, Mr Leiner, and the Germania Club President, Mr K. Nau, had a meeting on 16 February 1968. This meeting was initiated and mediated by Mr W. Daniel, who was the President of the German Saturday School Association. As a result the two German Clubs agreed to exchange their club bulletins, support the German Saturday School, the German Male Choir "Sanssouci" and developed a friendly relationship.

The AGA-Kaner carnival group went to Blacktown on 17 February 1968 at the invitation of the Dutch carnival society. The carnival Prince was Ferdinand Hassmann and the Princess was his daughter Angela. The AGA-Kaner flag was carried by Herbert Kuhnel and "fusilier" Ernie Lawiecka blasted confetti out of a home-made cannon. The "Funkenmariechen" was Renate Kuhnel. The Corrimal Drum Majorettes was also in the Wollongong contingent.

By February 1968 Joe Liebhardt had two cafes in Wollongong and claimed he introduced doughnuts to Wollongong. Joe Liebhardt came from Marktschelken in Transylvania (in Roumania) where his German ancestors settled 800 years earlier. After the war in 1948, Joe migrated to Australia where he married and had two daughters, Ingrid and Venessa. He wife was from Yugoslavia but grew up in Austria. Back in Roumania Joe's father had a mill and Joe Liebhardt became a miller by trade. But in Australia he worked with a pick and shovel for the Water Board and as a knitting machine operator in a factory, but he dabbled with flour. Joe Liebhardt returned to Marktschelken so his children could be christened in the same Church that he was christened in. Apart from his business Joe Liebhardt played the accordion and was the manager of the South Coast Accordion Ensemble. Joe said he had made a success of his life in Australia where he combined good luck with foresight, hard work and consistency. Referring to the saying – a woman can make you or break you – Joe Liebhardt paid tribute to his wife when he said, "My wife made me".

When a Ukrainian function was held on 17 February 1968 it was quite the multicultural event. Held in the Greek Church Hall in Wollongong and a Finnish dance band from Oak Flats that provided the music. The traditional Ukrainian music was played by the brothers Hawriliw on violin and accordion with W. Vera on drum. About 80 people attended the function among which was Mr and Mrs M. Jaworski, Mr and Mrs A. Troy, Mr and Mrs G. Danshuk and Mr and Mrs R. Madre.

In February 1968 brothers Hans-Dieter and Wolfgang Gutjhar were serving together in Vietnam with the 1st Australian Task Force, Operation Coburg in Bien Hoa Province in South Vietnam as members of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment. They had come to Australia with their parents in 1955 from Germany. Hans Dieter was 26 years old and worked as a clerk. Wolfgang was 20 years old and worked as a salesman. In December 1969 both Hans-Dieter and Wolfgang arrived home in Wollongong on leave from Vietnam. Wolfgang had already served his three years and Hans-Dieter had another year to go.

Wollongong City Council's 66th Naturalisation Ceremony took place in March 1968 where about 260 new settlers received their citizenship. The first naturalisation ceremony took place on Tuesday, 12

March, at Wollongong, for an estimated that 130 newcomers. The Wollongong Ceremony was one in a series of quick naturalisations with minimum formalities introduced to overcome a backlog of new settlers that waited to be naturalised. Another 130 received their citizenship at Shellharbour on Wednesday, 13 March, in the Centenary Hall in Flinders Street, Albion Park, which was the largest naturalisation ceremony that had been arranged to date by Shellharbour Municipal Council. After the ceremony the new citizens and guests shared a buffet tea. The Shellharbour ceremony was also followed by a concert and each candidate was presented with the Bible on which they took the Oath of Allegiance. The Mayor, Alderman A.J. Beaton, greeted the candidates who included 39 people from Germany, 19 from Yugoslavia and 15 each from Hungary and Austria. There were also Finns, Greeks, Spaniards and two Stateless people included in the group.

Berkeley Post Office that was located in the mall had operated on a non-official standard and staff were only employed on a temporary basis. The rapid growth at Berkeley made the cramped conditions at the Post Office inadequate and it was found a move was necessary to cope with the increase. In March 1968, the Post Office had moved into premises that had been occupied by Eric Anderson. The new premises was nearly three times larger. It was hoped that the Post Office would be upgraded to an official Post Office and a Postmaster appointed.

A new pastor of St John's Lutheran Parish in Wollongong was inducted into the ministry in March 1968 by Pastor R. Paech, the President of the NSW District of the Lutheran Church in Australia who was assisted by Pastor W. Koch from Oak Flats. Pastor A. Zids from Berkeley also attended the induction. The new Pastor was Konrad Hartmann. Pastor Hartmann's father, who was also a Pastor, had migrated to Australia with his wife in 1903 from Germany. Pastor Konrad Hartmann was the youngest of 9 children. Konrad Hartmann studied at the Immanuel Seminary in Adelaide and was also ordained in Adelaide. Despite coming from Germany, the Hartmann family did not suffer any discrimination during the two world wars. Pastor Hartmann came to Wollongong from North Adelaide with his wife and two children, Michael (8) and Susan (6). Pastor Konrad Hartmann's performed the first christening of his new minister after his induction ceremony. The infant was Christina Karen Pergande, daughter of Helen and Volkmar Pergande. Helen was from Ukraine and Volkmar was of French-German descent. The godparents were Katarina Trompe and John Jerwchenko.

Renate Andrich was presented with her first aid certificate by the Voluntary Aid Detachment at the Red Cross Centre in Burelli Street, Wollongong, in March 1968. Renate came to Australia from Austria with her parents. She worked at a Warrawong chemist shop.

In March 1968, the junior group of the South Coast Accordion Ensemble was formed led by Mrs Lotte Dymet, a music teacher originally from Graz, Austria, who also conducted the South Coast Accordion Ensemble that was formed three years earlier. The junior group practiced in the North Wollongong Scouts Hall and consisted of 15 players, the youngest was 7 years old.

On 19 March 1968, Helga Krahm and Graham Wright were married at St Michael's Church of England, Wollongong. Both were migrants from West Germany and England respectively. After returning from their honeymoon in Queensland they made their home at Lake Heights. Helga was asked if she wanted to return to Europe and replied, "Yes, but first I want to build my house in Australia".

In April 1968 Mrs Betty Hartmann, the wife of the newly appointed Pastor of St John's Lutheran Church, accepted the position of President of the St John's Ladies Guild. Mrs Khrenbrut was welcomed as a new member. Mr Khrenbrut, her husband, was a church elder as well as the Chairman of the building committee. The 1968 Executive Committee of the Ladies Guild were Mrs B. Hartman (President), Mrs O. Heinrich (first Vice-President), Mrs M. Fix (second Vice-President), Mrs Wasow (Secretary), Mrs H Foster (Assistant Secretary) and Mrs R. Mataitis (Treasurer).

In April 1968, about a dozen male students were attending English classes being taught by Mr Dragan Ristic at Wollongong Primary School in 1968. Classes were organised by the Education Department. When Dragan Ristic first started teaching the English classes he had about four female students who have since all married. Apart from the Yugoslav languages Dragan Ristic also spoke Polish, German and some Italian and acted as an interpreter at court and was a Justice of the Peace. Dragan Ristic was a foundation member of the Illawarra Alpine Club and worked at a travel bureau. Dragan Ristic came to Australia from Yugoslavia in 1949. Dragan's son Mirolsav, better known as Michael, worked at the Steelworks and studied structural engineering.

On 2 April 1968 a Macedonian folklore group from Skopje that toured Australia, were guests of the local Macedonian community of Wollongong. The group were well-known in Macedonian for their radio and television appearances.

On Thursday, 4 April 1968, members of the Polish Community welcomed Bishop Rubin. The Wollongong Branch of the Polish Association of NSW waited for the Bishop outside St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Wollongong with a traditional offering of bread and salt. Bishop Rubin had been appointed in Poland to take charge of the 7 million Polish migrants across the world. Bishop Rubin was a guest of Bishop McCabe and functions were held for the Bishop at the Polish Club in Gwynneville where the Polish choir, led by J. Szwajer, gave a recital. A dance presentation by the Polish Youth Association was also given led by Mrs Szajewski. At the time of Bishop Rubin's visit there were 1,000 Polish families living in Wollongong and altogether 20,000 in Australia.

The New Citizens' Council of Australia began a campaign in 1968 for the Immigration Department to bring out to Australia more women, particularly from the continent, of 'marriageable age' to stop what they termed the 'enforced celibacy' of Australia's surplus males. In the beginning the Australia Government had concentrated their migration schemes towards skilled and unskilled men to work in the manufacturing industries and which meant the majority of migrant hostels they needed to provide were for single people. This led to a surplus of males and in 1968 meant that in Australia at this time there were two single men to every girl. The New Citizens' Council of Australia hoped for considerable support from the migrants living on the South Coast.

On 4 May 1968 Elke Ernst and Max Fredericks were married in the Congregational Church, Wollongong. The reception was held at the Carousel, Woonona. After returning from their honeymoon on the North Coast Elke and Max Fredericks lived at West Wollongong. Both Elke and Max worked at the Illawarra County Council in Wollongong. A week after Elke's wedding her brother Juergen announced his engaged to Leslie Rutter, of Bathurst. Juergen was with the police force. Elke migrated to Australia from Germany in 1955 with her parents.

On 5 May 1968 the new St John's Lutheran Church in Wollongong was officially opened by Pastor R. Paech, President of the Lutheran Church in NSW

The German male choir, Sanssouci, were amongst the performers at a concert in Wollongong Town Hall that was held on 10 May 1968 to help raise funds for the purchase of a grand piano for the Town Hall. The South Coast Accordion Ensemble also took part in the fundraising event.

Anita Martinez was just 6 years old in May 1968 and lived with her parents and 4-year-old sister, Raphaela in Charles Street, Tarrawanna. Anita considered herself to be English and her family Spanish because she often had to step in as their interpreter for them and for someone who had not yet mastered the Spanish language. Anita attended Tarrawanna Public School and was a member of the Junior Red Cross and also taught her parents English using her text books from school.

On 22 June 1968, the Estonians celebrated their traditional St John's Day called "Jaanipaev" at the Trade Union Centre in Wollongong. Estonian dancers from Sydney put on a display of traditional dances. Mrs Vilma Kalnin, the President of the Estonian Society in Wollongong sang traditional Estonian songs. Hungarian born Miss Charlotte Kereszi accompanied her on the piano and Miss Lina Aarn from Estonia played a piano solo. Mare Reelaid was the Estonian Association's new Secretary and she and her husband John attended the celebrations. Some of the local Latvian community joined in the Estonian celebrations including Pastor and Mrs Zids, Pastor and Mrs Pilmanis, Mr and Mrs J. Rudzats and Mrs and Mrs A. Nicmanis.

In July 1968 assisted migration from Spain was resumed.

The Polish Youth Club met every Friday night at the Polish Club Hall in Gipps Street, Gwynneville, where they learnt Polish folk dancing, language and were given religious instruction. In 1968 Mrs Maria Szajewska was in charge of the folk dancing, Mrs Kristina Lesniowska conducted the language classes and Father Arthur Staroborski of the Warrawong Presbytery gave religious instruction. Of about the 1,000 Poles living in Greater Wollongong in 1968, more than 200 were active members of the Polish Association. On Saturday 17 August 1968, about 400 people filled the Polish Millennium Hall in Gwynneville and commemorated the "Day of the Polish Soldier". Eva Szymkiewicz and Halina Seweryn, wearing their Polish national costumes, presented a bouquet of flowers of red and white roses, the traditional colours of Poland, to Mr General Juliusz Kleeberge the 1968 President of the Polish Association of Australia. The Polish mixed choir, conducted by Mr J. Szwaja sang national songs and the pupils from the Polish Saturday School performed plays and recited poetry under the direction of their teacher, Miss K. Lesniowska.

At the August 1968 St Steven's Day Hungarian celebration held in the Warrawong Community Hall a dedication of the Australian and Hungarian flags was conducted. Mrs D. Varga and Mrs E. Munteanu were keepers of the flag. A Hungarian poem was written by Mr Fazekas and recited by 17 year old Veronika Ujas and Ella Baruta, aged 11, performed a Hungarian traditional dance with Marianna Stephan, Carmen Velasco, Margaret Marethy, Eva Grossmann and Eleonora Nagy and sung as well. Guests were greeted by Mr TI Munteanu in Hungarian and Mr E. Fazekas in English. Marika Oszpet, aged 8, also recited a poem. The singers were accompanied by accordionist Jozsef Molnar. Representatives of the Polish, Yugoslav, German and other national groups attended the function with four Italian musicians, the Latin Beats, provided the dance music. At aged 80, Mrs Borbalya Kovacs of Fairy Meadow was the oldest guest at the function. The engagement of Veronika Ujas and Adam Bobojcsow was celebrated at the St Steven's Day celebration. Veronika lived with her parents at Berkeley and Adam had migrated from Yugoslavia and was of Serbian-Hungarian parentage.

In August 1968 the Board of Directors Young Women's Christian Association of Wollongong met in the YWCA Hall to discuss one of the goals it had set themselves on how to help migrant women towards integration into the Australian community. This was well before the Australian Government realised that assimilation and integration were not necessarily successful in achieving integration and introduced multiculturalism. The well-meaning Association invited Miss J. Haigh from the World Fellowship Committee of the YWCA in Sydney as guest speaker. Miss Haig was in Japan and Germany with the British Occupation Forces after the second world war. Miss Haig told the meeting that "we Australians are not that much the outgoing, friendly people as we think we are" and advised that if you wanted to help migrant women this needed to be done on a more personal basis. Mr A.W. Smith, supervisor of the migrant education classes in Wollongong led the informal discussion and said "At a meeting like this the migrants should be here and tell us something". Typically, the migrants were never invited to form part of the solution so Mr Smith was rather forward-thinking for the times and urged the recruitment of representatives of different nationalities to participate at meetings.

Mr Bodo Schwarz was elected a trustee of the Germania Club and Mr Walter Musielak elected as Secretary of the Germania Club at their annual meeting held in August 1968. At this meeting the majority of members present voted for the merger of the Germania Club with the Australian-German-Austria Club. The Committee were authorised to commence the negotiations for the merger. A new committee of the Australian-German-Austrian Club was voted in at the annual meeting held on Sunday, 25 August 1968 and comprised W.M. Leiner (President), W. Wachsmuth, E. Krombholz and F. Hassmann as Vice-Presidents, H.R. Kuehnel (Secretary), J. Roeder (Assistant Secretary), E. Gahlert (Accountant), Mrs D. Ernst, Miss I. von Damm and H. Edelbauer as Treasurers and F. Frisch and F. Rast as auditors. Mrs T. Mihjlovic, W. Reed, F. Frisch, H.R. Kuehnel as trustees, R. Zeigler, H. Wichmann and D. Kopke were elected as organisers of cultural activities and I. Wilmes organiser of sporting activities. The newly elected committee members were F. Kalkowski, F. Lengling, J. Acker and Mr Korgitta and Mr W. Daniel. At this meeting the members of the Australian-German-Austrian Club voted unanimously to merge with the Germania Club. The committees of the two clubs would meet in order to work out the technicalities of the merger and the desired fusion of the two clubs. At a joint meeting of the two committees it was decided to hold a special meeting for the members on 27 October 1968. The purpose of this meeting was to elect a new committee consisting of members of both clubs in equal numbers for the merger to be accomplished. After the merger, the choir of the former Germania Club, the Germania Mixed Choir, kept its name.

The next group of refugees that Australia accepted were from Czechoslovakia. The Soviet armed forces had invaded Czechoslovakia on the evening of 20 August 1968 and took back positions of power and stopped plans for democratization of the government which led to around 24,000 Czechoslovakians to seek asylum or temporary assistance in other countries. Australian immigration officials in Austria moved quickly and approved applications from Czechoslovakians who chose to come to Australia as refugees. The Federal Government arranged Qantas charter flights for transportation. On 14 September 1968 the first group of 164 Czech refugees arrived at Sydney airport and 125 of them were accommodated at Villawood Migrant Hostel. Others were assisted by relatives and friends many of whom had migrated to Australia almost 20 years earlier, as refugees, Displaced Persons or assisted migrants. The second group of Czech refugees arrived in Sydney on 20 September 1968. Overall, about 6,000 Czechoslovakian refugees entered Australia in 1968. In addition to refugees being accommodated at Villawood Migrant Hostel they were also sent to Orana Centre and Dulwich Hill unless they could find their own accommodation. All who were accommodated at Commonwealth Hostels had to pay the \$24.26 per week accommodation tariff. Prior to the invasion many students and professionals were advised to leave Czechoslovakia for fear of reprisal from hard-line Communist government powers. As a result, Australia gained many professional and qualified migrants such as doctors who took up appointments in hospitals, research scientists, dentists, nurses, industrial chemists, engineers and university students who were able to continue their studies in Australia. This was very different compared to the refugees, Displaced Persons or assisted migrants who came to Australia immediately after World War 2 in the 1940s and 50s who, irrespective of qualifications, were put to work as unskilled labour for at least 2 years. The Czech refugee's knowledge about life in Australia was through visiting relatives or friends who had come to Australia immediately after World War 2. Returning relatives often made a habit of boasting about their grand and wealthy lives in Australia, but to make the journey to their former homeland some would take out loans to pay for airfares and expensive gifts. The newer refugees were shocked to see that their Australian relatives actually lived in "dingy" weatherboard houses in the suburbs. Accommodated in Commonwealth Hostels the refugees lived in a "bare, stuffy hostel hut" when many had lived in fine apartments in Prague and enjoyed good standards of living, cultural opportunities and social services. The earlier Czechoslovakians having left a war-torn homeland during or immediately after World War 2, had lost touch with the Czechoslovakia of the 1960s. This trend was true for members of the many different migrant communities in Australia who would travel to their homelands after years of absence. A memorial window dedicated to the Patron Saint of Czechoslovakia was installed by the Wollongong

Czech community at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Wollongong. At the dedication ceremony a prayer was offered to the massacred Czech freedom fighters.

The first group of assisted migrants from Turkey and their families under an agreement with Turkey arrived in Australia in October 1968.

On Saturday 26 October 1968 the South Coast Accordion Ensemble gave a concert in the Wollongong Town Hall Annex. An audience of about 450 attended. The Ensemble consisted of a senior and junior group and had 31 members that represented 8 nationalities. The Ensemble was well-known in the district having played up to 40 charity concerts. The founder of the South Coast Ensemble, Mrs Lotte Dymet's son Bernie (8) and ensemble member Joe Liebhardt's daughter Ingrid (10) were two of the youngest ensemble members.

In about November 1968, Erguden Tuncay migrated to Australia from Ankara in Turkey with his wife Mufude. They had two young sons Mustafa and Nazim. Most people in Australia still believed that harems still existed in Turkey and often assumed Erguden had many wives, which he played along with and often answered that he had seven wives whenever he was asked if he was married. Erguden worked as an electrical mechanic at the Steelworks and in his spare time he was a judo instructor at Bulli Police Boys Club. He was also a wrestler and had won gold and bronze medals. Erguden Tuncay had learned his trade in Germany when he was part of a huge work force made up of foreign workers. His friends and colleagues from Germany were Bekir Musker and Aydin Yuksel. Bekir came from Istanbul and was an electrician and Aydin came from Samsun and was a mining engineer. In 1969 Aydin and Bekir came to Australia intending to settle here with their friend Erguden. Aydin and Bekir did a crash course to learn English in Sydney before they started to work in Wollongong and continued their studies at the Technical College. The German Government allowed their foreign workers to spend the first two months of their stay attending full-time language classes, which was free. The German Government also gave them a living allowance and paid for their fare to and from Turkey when they went home during the holidays.

The Dutch-Australian Society of Illawarra Clubhouse on the Princes Highway, Woonona was officially opened by Mr W. G. Zeylstra, Ambassador of the Netherlands on Saturday, 16 November 1968. Saturday's function was organised by Mr Keith Baas who was the secretary of the Dutch Church Workers Group. Mary Kylstra of Bulli acted as a guide for the Ambassador during his visit. Mary Kylstra was a school teacher who in 1952 came to Australia with her Dutch parents.

On Thursday, 21 November 1968, the Italian Ambassador, Dr Mario Majoli, came to Wollongong and visited Port Kembla Steelworks where he met with Italians working there. The Mayor, Alderman Bevan gave a reception for the Ambassador at the Italian Centre which was open to everyone. In November 1968 there were about 16,000 Italians living in the Wollongong area according to the Mr G. Perusse, the Consulate Agent for Wollongong who also said that most of the Italians were happy here but were not satisfied with the non-recognition of trade certificates. At this time an Italian language class had been introduced at Port Kembla High School, the first time one had been taught at a local school. The teacher was Miss Marelle Birss, a graduate from the University of Sydney. Miss Birss was Australian while most of her students were of European parentage. The following year there would be 112 students.

On 30 November 1968, the two German clubs that had merged on 27 October 1968 to form the Australian-German-Austrian Club Germania, held an Amalgamation Ball in the Warrawong Hall. The differences that had separated the two clubs had been tossed aside which was evidenced in the people who attended the ball. Mr W. Leiner was the president of the newly established club. As a token of appreciation for the work done on behalf of the club, Mr Leiner was presented a chain of

office in the name of the club members. Medals from AGA-Kaner (the club's carnival group) were presented to Mr Leiner and to Mr G. Mueller, the president of the former Germania Club. Mr Peter Shaw, Australian Co-ordinator of the Good Neighbour Movement, expressed his appreciation for the amalgamation of the two clubs in a letter.

Leon Hawryliw was born in the Ukraine and in 1968 studied medicine in Sydney and was part of a Ukrainian traditional dance group. The other members of the dance group were Andrew Hawryliw, Stephen Dunchouk, Helen Dunchouk, Stephen Zubal, Anna Opychane, Yaroslaw Olendere (trainee at AI&S Port Kembla) and Irene Maria Pojdvnc and they were all born in Australia but their parents had come from the Ukraine. Their age range was 15 to 20. They all expressed that having Ukrainian heritage gave their lives an extra dimension and wanted to share their Ukrainian culture with Australians. Mrs Ludmila Natalenko was the leader of the group and both she and her husband had been professional actors in Russia. Ballet instruction had been part of the drama school's curriculum in Russian and she was able to use her skills to teach the young Ukrainian dances.

On Saturday 7 December 1968, the Wollongong Male Choir, Sanssouci, placed sixth in the final of "Red Faces" on Channel 9 in Sydney. In October they had come first in their heat. It was the first group from Wollongong to have won a prize on Red Faces. On Saturday, 14 December 1968 the Australian-German-Austrian Club Germania organised a joint Christmas Dance in the Warrawong Hall. Almost 200 children and adults participated in the German Weihnachtskonzert (Christmas Concert) in the Wollongong Town Hall. The concert was organised by the German Saturday School Association and an audience of more than 1,000 attended. Mrs L. Dymet conducted the South Coast Accordion Ensemble and the Dirndl-Singers. Mrs E. Neuhaus conducted the German School Choir and the Mixed Choir "Germania". Mr J. Papendell conducted the German male choir, Sanssouci and Mr R.A. Byron conducted the choir and recorder group from Woonona Primary School. Mrs H. Munzel a teacher from the German Saturday School produced a play. Bridget O'Brien and Veronika Stoeckl both recited a poem. Mr R.L. Cerreti played the organ and Mr R. Horndlein accompanied the Dirndl-Singers on the zither. Helen Mandl, a well-known soprano also sang.

Ten Ukrainian children from Wollongong attended the Ukrainian Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Camp that was held in Ingleburn from 21 December 1968. The leader of the Wollongong group was Mr G. Shylkevich and the chief cook was Mrs V. Jawersky whose 12-year-old son Roman also attended as a Scout. Other Scouts and Guides from Wollongong were Ann (14), Natalie (12) and John (10) Tomashek of Dapto whose father was an official of the Ukrainian Cooperative Society in Wollongong. The camps were held once a year and children of Ukrainian parentage were taught about the history and geography of their former homeland as well as Ukrainian songs and dances to help them appreciate their Ukrainian cultural heritage. About 100 children attended the camp.

The Illawarra Welsh Society Singers were formed in 1968. The singers were trained by Mrs Frank Williams and often sang at church services and charity events as well as the annual St David's Day Festival.

Louise Dekker graduated from Wollongong Teachers' College in December 1968 and embarked on a career as a physical education teacher and was also qualified to teach history. In January 1969 she completed a senior sports coaching camp at Narrabeen to specialise in skin and scuba diving. Louise also taught folk singing and guitar. Louise Dekker migrated to Wollongong from Holland with her parents and elder brother when she was four years old.

Patricia Stiebel was one of the top fifteen students of the South Coast in the 1968 Higher School Certificate and intended to study science and engage in scientific research. Patricia's parents were Dr

and Mrs Stiebel who came to Australia in about 1939. Her mother taught Italian at the WEA in Wollongong and her father worked as a senior research officer at the Steelworks in Port Kembla.

It was about 1968 when Stan Charles and Marie-Louise Mares came to Australia with their children John, 13 and Louise, 3. The family were from Czechoslovakia but before coming to Australia had lived in Austria and France for a few months. Mr Mares had graduated with a Bachelor of Economics from Prague University and he taught commerce and German at Bulli High School. Mrs Mares taught French and Russian at Wollongong High School. The Mares chose Australia because to them it was one of the few countries open to migration with a fairly good prospect of employment and advancement. The Mares noticed that compared to Czechoslovakia there was more emphasis on sport in the lives of young people and put that down to the climate and English tradition. Mr Mares also thought that there was less respect for authority and education amongst the Australian youth.

Minister for Immigration, Mr Snedden in a statement in the House of Representatives on 15 August 1968 announced that a combined effect of the resurgence in migration in Britain and the strong upward trend of applications from Europe gave the Commonwealth Government encouragement to undertake the most ambitious immigration programme during 1968/1969.

In 1968 the Premier of NSW announced that the Wollongong Special Assistance Programme to correct the imbalance of work opportunities between male and female workers. Manufacturers were required to have a workforce that was 75 % women. Pye Industries received a loan from the State Government. Backing onto the Bellambi Railway line, Pye Industries was a television manufacturer that employed many migrants, both men and women both on the electric assembly line or the cabinet making section. Migrant employees were from the UK, Greece, Italy, Holland and Poland but no Asian workers were employed as they needed to be able to speak English.

1969

By January 1969 the remaining two buildings from Unanderra No 2 Hostel, Building Numbers 55 and 58 were advertised for sale. Due to lack of interest the disposal sale was cancelled and the buildings were set to be demolished. By April 1969 an offer was made for the remaining two buildings and they were sold for \$10 each.

In July 1969 the Commonwealth Government introduced a scheme that facilitated family reunions available to migrants who came to Australia without financial assistance.

The smaller numbers of migrants, increased availability of houses, and the better economic circumstances that was earned by the migrants who had settled in the area about 20 years earlier saw the need for hostel accommodations on the decline.

By 1969 the Department of Immigration gradually withdrew from the provision of on-arrival accommodation and Bonegilla was the only reception centre they operated that provided in-transit to employment and hostels at this time.

In 1969 the average length of stay in Commonwealth Hostels was 19 weeks (83.3 weeks in 1955-56 and 38 weeks in 1966) for migrants. The British migrants always stayed longer than the European migrants based on their UK experience where they had a right to be given public housing.

The Department of Immigration had improved its ability to collect and process information on migrant communities by the late 1960s and this provided a greater understanding of the settlement needs of migrants.

From 18 August 1969 Commonwealth Hostels Ltd employed 19 trained welfare officers, six of whom were of non-English speaking background (speaking German, French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch and limited Portuguese, Yugoslav and Greek).

The incoming migrants being allowed entry into Australia included people from Turkey and Yugoslavia from the late 1960s.

The AI&S Steelhaven Hostel, which had been leased to EPT, was demolished in September 1969.

The Serbian community in Wollongong celebrated the 1969 Christmas Day at their clubhouse in Kenny Street which included a temporary chapel. Father Vucurovic from Blacktown conducted the church service. In accordance with the old Eastern calendar, it was celebrated on 6 January 1969. Children received gifts of fruit, nuts and sweets. The Free Serbian Orthodox Church and Education Committee had started fundraising to build its own church in Kenny Street and held monthly dances once a month in the Greek Hall in Stewart Street, Wollongong.

On 9 January 1969, a new committee was elected for the Mixed Choir Germania. President was Mr H. Young, Mr G. Mueller (Vice-President), Mr B. Schwarz (Secretary), Mrs L. Fischer (Assistant Secretary), Mrs E. Fredki (Treasurer) and Mr Sernig (Assistant Treasurer). The choir had 36 members and Mr E. Neuhaus was its conductor.

Ilse and Paul Schaefer were hosts of a garden party for the AGA-Kaner (carnival group of the Australian-German-Austrian Club Germania) on 12 January 1969. The Schaefers were in charge of the inn and Tullimbar service station at Albion Park. Special medals were awarded to members of the "Elferrat" (special committee of the AGA-Kaner) by Franz Lengling, President of the AGA-Kaner.

The first meeting for the year of the British-Australian Friendship Club was held on 17 January 1969 at the Normandie Hotel, Bourke Street, North Wollongong. Part of the planned yearly programme was to have people take new settlers for sightseeing tours and invite them to their homes. Mrs Chatterton was one of the Club's organisers.

Fiona Lueck was 3 years old in January 1969 and lived in Austinmer with her parents and spoke German fluently although English was her first language. Her mother, Diana, was Australian but taught German. When Diana married her German migrant husband, Richard Lueck, she persuaded him to go back to Germany with her to live for two years where Diana learnt German. Fiona Lueck was born in Frankfurt am Main, West Germany and came to Australia when her parents returned from the time they lived in Germany. Although Diana loved living in Germany, her German husband Richard Lueck preferred Australia.

Gerrit-Jan Hendriks had migrated from Holland in 1951 with his family and by March 1969 he operated a milk run with his son-in-law Joe Calleja. Gerrit-Jan was a keen sportsman and became a patron of the Balgownie Soccer Club as well as a member of the Dutch-Australian Society of Illawarra where he enjoyed playing the Dutch card game "Klaverjassen" on Thursday nights. His son Henk married Betty, an Australian girl, and they lived at Lake Heights and they were members of the Wollongong Civil Defence Zone. Gerrit-Jan's daughter, Gerda, married Joe Calleja. Joe came from Malta in 1955, and he and Gerda lived at Dapto with two children, Corina and Adrian.

The Australian-Hungarian Club of Greater Wollongong held an annual meeting in March 1969 and new office bearers were elected. The President was F. Hidasi, T. Munteanu (Vice-President), P. Pota (Secretary), I. Katerinka (Assistant Secretary) and J. Jeszenak was editor of the club's bulletin. Committee members were K. Varga, the founder of the club, L. Sipes, L. Nagy, J. Jeszenak, J. Agyik, Mrs

H. Varga, Mrs E. Munteanu, Mrs C. Sipos and Mrs J.A. Agyik. The Hungarian Club had been founded in March 1968 and its patron was Mr W. Hough, MLA.

Alan and Maureen Hawker arrived in Australia from England in March 1969. They originally were allocated accommodation at Villawood Migrant Hostel. Alan's aunt, who came to Australia in the 1940s, lived at Fairy Meadow and advised Alan and Maureen to come straight to Wollongong. They arrived in Wollongong on 31 March 1959. Alan and Maureen first two nights in Wollongong were spent at the Cabbage Tree Motel in Fairy Meadow until they rented a furnished unit on the Princes Highway at Geard's Hill opposite the Little Flower Church in West Wollongong. They lived in the rented unit for two years while their house was being built at Kanahooka. Maureen first found work at the Pye Television Factory in Bellambi on the assembly line where she soldered electrical circuit boards. Alan and Maureen had two sons and a daughter all born in Australia.

On 21 March 1969 a display of stamps issued by the German Occupation Forces in Allied Countries was shown at the Wollongong Town Hall. The Illawarra Philatelic Society held month displays and the March display was from the collection of Mr E. Tecles, a German from Roumania. He had collected stamps for long as he could remember and his father had also been a keen collector. During the war, Mr Tecles had lost his stamp collection twice, once in his native Brasov and once in Berlin.

A reception was held by the Wollongong Branch of the Good Neighbour Council at Renown Court, Wollongong on Wednesday, 16 April 1969, where men and women from 19 different nationalities were guests. The reception was given to bring the national groups together and thank them for their co-operation with the Good Neighbour Council in many public and charity appeals. The NSW President of the Good Neighbour Council, Sir John McCauley, a guest at the reception, praised the work of the committee in Wollongong. Wollongong was the first place in Australia to have a migrant welfare committee when more than twenty years earlier the local people formed the City of Wollongong New Australian Social Committee, which later became a branch of the Good Neighbour Council. Mr Harry Box, who was secretary for the entire period, Dudley Compton, a past chairman, Stan Dignan, treasurer and 1969 Chairman, Miss E.A. Hayton and Monsignor Dignan, five of the foundation members were present at the reception.

On Tuesday, 6 May 1969 a Mayoral Reception was given to honour Mr Harry Box and mark his retirement from public life three weeks earlier. Harry Box was best known for his work as secretary of the Good Neighbour Council. He was awarded a British Empire Medal for his work in 1971.

An old time "Jaanipaev" was held in the Trade Union Hall in Wollongong on 21 June 1969, where about 180 members of the Estonian and Latvian communities and their friends gathered. Whatever the differences the Estonian and Latvians may have had back in Europe these were not perpetuated in Wollongong, rather, they celebrated what they had in common. Mr S. Pitrans was the Latvian compere, and also spoke in English. Mrs W. Kalnin sang Estonian and Latvian traditional songs. Ballet dancers Margaret Rudsatz and Vivienne Niemanis also performed on the night. Highlight of the evening was the "Maasepa Maasika" which meant Masep's Strawberries. Mr Maasep was the conductor of the Sydney Estonian Mixed Choir and the strawberries were six ladies from the choir who, wearing traditional costumes, sang old Estonian folksongs. A Finnish dance band provided the dance music on the night. It was a truly Nordic nations family affair.

A testimonial dinner was given to pay tribute to Mr Harry Box who for almost twenty years was the secretary of Wollongong Good Neighbour Council as well as a foundation member. Mr Box was accompanied by his wife and daughter, Mrs Wendy Deveson, who was staying with her parents on holiday from England with her 11-year-old son, Bradley. The function, organised by Mr W. Hough, MLA, was held on Saturday, 28 June 1969, at Illawarra Leagues Club and was attended by more than

300 people of 20 nationalities including some in traditional costume. In his 20 years with the council in Wollongong Harry Box had arranged for 1,240 people to migrate from Britain, 20 from behind the Iron Curtain, filled in more than 1,500 applications for naturalisation and attended 9,620 naturalisations, found jobs for more than 800 and accommodation for more than 1,000 people. In traditional Ukrainian costume at the dinner were Anna Opychene, Helen Dunchouk, Irene Pojdynec and Iren Sules, all from Wollongong. Mr Olender spoke on behalf of the Ukrainian community and thanked Mr Box for "being our friend right from the beginning". The Italian Consular General of Wollongong, Mr G. Perusuco described Mr Box as a pioneer who started the ball rolling for this kind of work on behalf of the migrants. Mr Berenyi was the spokesman for the Hungarian community and said that they will never forget the work he did for them. Newly arrived Mrs K. Szerdahelyi, from Budapest, attended the function with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr and Mrs S. Szerdahelyi-Kovaks, and 80-year-old Grandmother Kovacs. Others present were: Father Joseph from the Italian Centre, Pastor and Mrs Pilmanis, Mrs W. Kalnin, President of the Estonian Society and Mrs M. Reelaid, Secretary of the Estonian Society, Mr Papendell, conductor of the German male choir, Sanssouci and Mrs Papendell, Mr A. Andrich, Vice-President of the AGA Germania Club with his wife and daughter Renata, Mr W. Daniel, President of the German Saturday School and Mr G. Ohlin who represented Denmark. The Latvian community entertained the guests with a floor show. Mr and Mrs Reino Tolvanen, represented the Finnish community and Mrs Tolvanen wore the Finnish national costume. Mr Box said that meeting migrants and working with them gave him great pleasure.

Trajko Trajovski and Mirjana Arginovi were married on 22 June 1969 in the Greek Orthodox Church, Wollongong and the reception was held in the Pioneer Hall. Trajko migrated on his own from Macedonian in 1967 and Mirjana, also migrated from Macedonian with her parents, Ivan and Vera in 1960. At the time of his wedding, Trajko Trajovski worked with the PMG Department.

The Australian International Friendship Association was formed on 26 June 1969 and was Wollongong's first international organisation. By July 1969 the Association had 40 members that represented 8 nationalities. By September 1969 the membership had grown to 300 members of almost every nationality that lived in Wollongong. The President of the Association was Mr John Mihaly who had migrated from Hungary, Mrs Phyllis Nicholls from England and Mr Tom O'Loughlin who had migrated from Ireland. Chairman of the social committee was Mrs Lilly Gallimore, originally from England. Mr Peter Vlandys of Greek origin was Chairman of the sports committee. Mr Harry Box of the Good Neighbour Council was the Association's patron. The aim of the Association was to bring people of different nationalities together to enjoy the diversity of their backgrounds and at the same time share in the common experience of settling in a new country. Every second Wednesday members and guests would gather and larger functions were held every four weeks. The idea to form the Association came from John Mihaly and Jack Young, the Association Secretary.

Julie O'Connell was born in Wollongong Hospital in June 1969, the first daughter of migrants Peter O'Connell and his wife Elizabeth. Peter had come to Wollongong from the UK 14 years earlier and Elizabeth came with her parents, the Berenyi from Austria. The Berenyi family had lived in Austria as Hungarian refugees for a few years before coming to Australia.

Over three Sundays, June to July 1969, Waldeslust, the rifle shooting and bowling club, held its "Koenigs-und Meisterschiessen" (rifle shooting competitions) in Jamberoo. Clubs from Liverpool and Sydney also took part in the competitions. President of the Waldeslust Club was Werner Jezek. No members of Waldeslust were prize winners but 12-year-old Peter Locher came first in the youth rifle shooting competition. Eligible for the title of "Schuetzenkoenig" (king) only were two members of Waldeslust. Michael Huedig became Schuetzenkoenig and Ron Locher and Werner Daniel became first and second knights. In accordance with an old tradition a "Schuetzenliesl", Nancy Meyer of Warilla was elected. Members of Waldeslust practiced their shooting every Sunday afternoon at Uncle

Tom's Hut. They were also able to practice in Oak Flats at the German Saturday School each Tuesday night. Trophy presentations occurred on 2 August 1969 in the Albion Park Centenary Hall at the first "Scheutzenfest" of Waldeslust. Mr H. Sierszen was compered the evening and W. Lorz and his Boys provided the music.

On 1 July 1969, the Italian Consulate in Wollongong was fully recognised and approved by the Italian Government in Rome. Mr George Perusco was the consular agent and his office was located in the CML Building in Crown Street, Wollongong. George Perusco migrated from Pesaro, Italy, to Australia in 1952. He married Australian, Mercy Therese, and they had five children, Angelo, Bernadette, Damien, Monique and Christopher. The family lived in Fairy Meadow. Mr Perusco was a tax consultant as well as an official of the Italian Government in Wollongong. Part of his duties as a Consulate was to witness signatures required by the Italian Government and to renew Italian passports. The Italian Consular Agency was the first, and in 1969, the only government representative of a foreign country in Wollongong.

On 2 July 1969, Lufthansa German Airlines began a second weekly service to Australia via Djakarta which was a port not previously serviced from Australia by Lufthansa.

In July 1969 the Australian-German-Austrian Club German (AGA-Germania Club) held its first annual ball at the Warrawong Hall attended by about 400 people who were welcomed by the Club President, Mr W.M. Leiner. Plaques were presented at the Ball to Harry Box, Mr T. Malcolm and Mr W. Schnitker in appreciation of their services to new settlers of all nationalities. Mr Box and Mr Schnitker were also nominated as honorary members of the AGA-Germania Club. Mr Malcolm was already an honorary member as he was the first President of the Australian-German-Austrian Cultural and Welfare Society, the forerunner of the AGA-Germania Club. Telegrams from Bill Sneddon, the then Minister for Immigration and a letter from the Prime Minister of Australia, John Gorton, were read to the guests. The German mixed choir, Germania, sang a few songs and the marching and dancing "Funkmarichens", led by majorette Renate Lopian, also provided entertainment on the night. Cheques towards the clubhouse building were also presented on the night. Some members of local German organisations at the annual ball were: W. Daniel, E. Krombholz, E. Herrmann, E. Haider, F. Lengling, F. Kalkowski, F.O. Fischer, H. Young and E. Neuhaus. Other guests included Mr and Mrs T. Hiesgen and their son Jost, Mr and Mrs H. Hennings, Mr and Mrs J. Zeiser, Mr and Mrs G. Tahi, and Mr and Mrs P. Faber.

The annual meeting of the AGA-Germania Club was held on 2 August 1969 and once again office bearers and committee members were elected. Mr W.M. Leiner remained as President. First Vice-President was Frank Rast with Eddie Papson as Second Vice-President and Werener Wachsmuth, Third Vice-President. Herbert Kuhnel was elected as Secretary and Waldemar Coen as Assistant Secretary. The Accountant was Alexander Andrich with Wolfgang Deckenbach as Assistant Accountant. Mrs Else Fredki was voted in as Treasurer and Miss Inge von Damm as Assistant Treasurer. The Social Committee were Robert Ziegler, Walter Voss and Heinz Ott. Ernst Korgitta, Hans Acker, Paul Schaefer, Harry Pohl and Albert Kujat were elected as committee members. The AGA-Germania Club was a non-political and non-sectarian organisation and its main aim was to foster the German language and culture and develop friendly relationships with Australian organisations and Australians. It strived to achieve closer cooperation between the German Saturday School, German and other national organisations and the Good Neighbour Council. In 1969 most the attention of the Club's committee went towards the building of the clubhouse but still more debentures were needed and more people to invest.

The Macedonians celebrate their National Day on 3 August. In 1969 a function was organised by the Macedonian Orthodox Community in Wollongong and Port Kembla to commemorate the day. Celebrations were held in the Pioneer Hall. Music was provided by the folk music group of Mirce,

Klime and Kiril and the pop band of Pande, Nikola, Bale and Gole. Seven girls and eight young men danced traditional Macedonian dances in traditional costumes. Ilija Dimovski had been a professional dancer and was the leader of the dance group which had formed only six weeks earlier. Ilija Dimovski had worked at the Steelworks as a carpenter. Nearly 500 adults and 100 children attended the function. Gospodin Dimki Dimitrovski, of Thirroul, was the President of the Macedonian Orthodox Community in 1969.

Benny Dick of Austinmer turned 90 on Tuesday, 12 August 1969. He came from Scotland 48 years earlier, in about 1920. Benny's main reason for coming to Australia was for health reasons when doctors gave him only two years to live after he was gassed in France during World War 1. He migrated to Australia with his wife and two sons, Lindsay and Robert. Mr Lindsay Dick lived in Goulburn and Robert Dick also lived in Austinmer. Benny Dick was a great grandfather and in 1969 his great grandchildren were Holly Jennifer West and Andrew Krumins-Strauss. In Glasgow, where he was born, Benny Dick had a successful musical career and was a well-known violinist. He had played for Dame Nelly Melba and Gladys Moncrief. He remained working in the entertainment field in Australia and did a lot of charity work for which he was awarded the Crest of the City of Greater Wollongong for his services. Mr Dick was also a life member of the Wollongong Scottish Country Dance Association and he attended the Tartan Ball on 1 August 1969 which was held in the Town Hall. In 1971 at age 93 after surviving four strokes and suffering a fall where he broke his left wrist that left the muscles in his left wrist weakened Benny could no longer play the fiddle. But the Great Grandfather continued with his love of music through singing at the Senior Citizens' Centre Thirroul. He would play his fiddle on occasions even if his feet no longer tap in time to the music.

The 1969 Tartan Ball had been organised by the Wollongong Scottish Country Dance Association, Mr William Scott was the President. Ten debutantes had been presented at the 1 August ball. Mr and Mrs A. Chalmers were the hosts of the ball and Mrs Dave Marnoch led the Scottish band. Nearly 400 people attended the Annual Ball. At the Tartan Ball 10 debutantes had been presented to Mr Les Cummins, a representative of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society of Canberra.

Mr Gines Olaya took up his post as Welfare Officer on 19 August 1969 to assist the 1,300 migrants who lived at Fairy Meadow and Unanderra Commonwealth Hostels. Berkeley Hostel was no longer in operation in 1969. Mr Olaya was one of the 14 officers that had been appointed by the Immigration Department to serve 28 migrant hostels throughout Australia. Apart from being a sympathetic listener he provided help with access to social services benefits, especially sickness benefits and with the integration of New Australians which included provision of language classes and housing. Gines Olaya was born in Spain and came to Australia 18 years earlier. Mr Olaya was married with two sons and was a schoolteacher by profession. Gines Olaya also worked on the Snowy Mountains Scheme after he landed in Australia in about 1951.

The second German Sports Festival was held in Sydney in September 1969. It was organised by the German-Austrian Society in collaboration with the German Club Concordia and was conducted by the group "Deutsches Sportabzeichen in Australien". Any nationality was welcomed to compete. Mr Karl Libner of Woonona won the gold medal in 1968 and again in 1969.

The Greek Orthodox Church and Community of Wollongong organised a social function in September 1969, where the guest of honour, Mr W.M. Hough, MLA, praised the contribution the Greek people played in the early days of Australia's migration programme when manpower shortages were most acute after World War 2. The Greek Community had built the church and the church hall in Wollongong. Their European neighbours, the Macedonians, would build their own church nearby.

The Gladstone Avenue Technical College and the Australian Translators' Association organised classes for Tradesmen of non-English countries to familiarise them with English trade terms. Mr W. Matusch, a member of the Australian Translators' Association conducted the classes that were held twice a week over a three month period. The classes started in 1969.

In the suburb of Wombarra in 1969, there was only one family of Italians, the Gnata family. Sixty year old Virgilio Gnata and his family migrated from Naples in Italy and had three children: Maria who in 1969 was married and had two children of her own, Alfredo also married and Alberto who was still single at this time. Both Alberto and Alfredo worked as fitters and turners at Coalcliff Mine. In Italy Virgilio Gnata worked as a draughtsman but in Australia drawing and painting was only a hobby.

The Flight family, Trevor and Rasheeda, migrated from India in 1969. They had two sons Troy and Tsean. Mr Flight was Administrator-Director of the Human Resources Centre and Mrs Flight was the Director of the YWCA youth activities. As a 4-year-old in 1973, Troy participated in the Paint Pot Club which was a weekly session of the YWCA for toddlers to learn German that commenced in 1973. Mrs H. Schulze was the toddlers' teacher. Troy, at age 7, learnt German at the Saturday School.

In the late 1960s Kole Markovski and Cane Ksotevski owned a house in Keira Street Port Kembla which they ran as a boarding house for men from Macedonia. The house was very long and had lots of rooms and with borrowed money from a family member they purchased extra beds. In a very short time they had 17 boarders, some of which they sponsored.

On 11 November 1969 George and Margaret Lappin arrived in Wollongong having migrated from Scotland with their three sons George, Stephen and Derek. They had assisted passage but had to pay 50 pounds to migrate. Their accommodation at Fairy Meadow Hostel had been arranged by AI&S where George was employed as a Fitter but he was actually a qualified engineer. His next job was at Vernier Engineering that was located in Beach Street in Wollongong as a Fitter and Engineer. Later he worked in the mines both at Corrimal and South Bulli until 1997. Margaret worked at North Wollongong TAFE for 23 years from 1973, first as a Technical Officer and then as a Purchasing Officer. The family moved many times and eventually rented a house at Corrimal.

Towards the end of 1969 an arrangement was made with Wollongong WIN 4 Television Station for the development of a series of 40 weekly one hour programmes on language instruction and community affairs for migrants. The first episode was screened on Saturday 11 September 1971. The programme was called "You Say the Word".

On 12 November 1969 Phillip Lynch became the Minister for Immigration.

1970

By the 1970s Australia's Department of Immigration had about 25 years of experience in administering and managing migration and over time they developed new policies or systems that were introduced to improve and adapt the process. The Department endeavoured to strategically plan migration programmes regarding the economic and social implications that existed in Australia. Not all Australians agreed with the controls and even today Government controls on migration and refugees are sometimes criticised as inhumane and non-transparent. From 1972 to 1974 remnants of the "White Australia Policy" were further dismantled and allowed for a more non-discriminatory approach to immigration and additional services for migrants were introduced. A diversified programme of immigration to Australia saw international agreements negotiated with several Asian countries thus removing any remaining barriers. The immigration assessment processes now disregarded nationality and race. This eliminated any discrimination against an applicant based on these two criteria.

Immigration levels in the 1970s were set to the lowest level since 1945 in response to another decline in the Australian economy and employment opportunities.

On 20 May 1970 the formal agreement between Australia and Yugoslavia came into operation. The migration agreement was signed in February 1970 and it was the first time an agreement had been signed by Australia with a Communist country.

From July 1970 the Commonwealth Government required all British migrants travelling to Australia under the Estg.10 Assisted Passage Scheme to obtain passports from the British Government. In the past only one in three British assisted migrants held passports and the remainder carried documents of identity issued by the Australian migration authorities in Britain. This had been the case since 1946. These steps were taken to reduce the risk of identity fraud, impersonations or false representation. The requirement to hold a British passport brought them into line with passport conditions applicable to other countries.

In August 1970 the General Manager of Commonwealth Hostels Limited proposed the closure of three Hostels in NSW one of which was Unanderra No 1. It was proposed to allow Unanderra No 1 Hostel be allowed to run down and be placed into caretaker basis. The approximate 125 residents still at Unanderra No 1 Hostel were offered accommodation at Fairy Meadow (Balgownie) Hostel and others were placed into private homes. Unanderra was kept as reserve migrant workers accommodation for the Wollongong area.

Unanderra Hostel No 1 was officially closed on 5 September 1970 and a caretaker was placed in charge. The 125 migrants that lived at Unanderra Hostel were offered accommodation Fairy Meadow Hostel, which the was sole remaining hostel on the South Coast with a capacity to house 1,800 people but only had 1,100 residents. Commonwealth Hostels accommodation officers placed others into private homes. The flow of migrants to the South Coast had not slowed down but an accelerated rate of placing new arrivals into private accommodation was the reason given for the shut down of Unanderra Hostel. Unanderra had joined Berkeley Hostel which closed down a year earlier, as part of the mothball fleet of Commonwealth Hostels.

By November 1970 the Minister for Immigration approved the closure of Berkeley Hostel Units 1 and 2 and the disposal of the buildings.

By 1970 there was no longer any discrimination against migrants in their eligibility to apply for public housing and they had equal rights with Australians. This was 25 years after the Public Housing Agreement commenced.

In the 1970s migrants coming into Australia now included people from Lebanon.

Each January the Lithuanians gathered to celebrate their traditional "Day of the Sea". In 1970 there were only about 30 Lithuanian families living in Greater Wollongong but about one to two thousand would come together for this festival which had been held in Wollongong for the past 11 years. Lithuanians had been political refugees and were organised on a world-wide basis. The Wollongong Association was part of the Australian Lithuanian Association. In 1970, Mr Albert Paplauskas was the President of the local branch and Mr Mates Gailinnas and Mr John Elms were Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Every second Sunday of the month a Lithuanian church service was held at St Francis Home for the Aged with priests from Sydney coming to Wollongong to conduct the services. A group of 10 Lithuanian children, dressed in their national costumes, formed part of the guard of honour when Queen Elizabeth visited Wollongong.

Photographs of young Polish folk dancers featured in two recently issued tourist brochures of Wollongong in January 1970. The young Polish dancers wore traditional costumes and helped illustrate the cosmopolitan character that had developed in Wollongong with people who had migrated into the area. The members of the photographed group were of Polish descent, lived in Wollongong and were members of the Polish Youth Club. Les Papynowski and Krystina Duc were President and Vice-President of the Youth Club in 1969. The Youth Club's headquarters was in the Polish Millennium Hall in Gwynneville.

French lessons commenced in January 1970 for Australians and English lessons for the French. The lessons were conducted by the L'Association des Residente de Langue Francaise, Wollongong's first French Club. The Club's members were made up of French, Belgian, Swiss, Spanish, Dutch, German, American and Australians and met once a month. Each 14 July the Club celebrated Bastille Day, the greatest French national day. Mr G. Ackaoui was the Club's secretary.

The Wollongong office of the Good Neighbour Council opened in February 1970 in the heart of Wollongong. It was located in an upstairs office in Flinders Chambers at the corner of Crown and Keira Streets. The new office was the Good Neighbour Council's first official home in Wollongong and was staffed by two, a field officer and a clerk. It had been decided by the NSW Division of the Good Neighbour Council to open a regional office in Wollongong. For the past 20 years the Wollongong Office of the Good Neighbour Council was conducted by the branch chairman, Mr Harry Box, on a voluntary basis at his music shop in Crown Street. Mr Box, a foundation member of the Wollongong Branch of the Good Neighbour Council, retired from business in May 1969 and was pleased about the establishment of a regional office which proved to him the importance of the area as a migrant centre had been realised and respected. It had only been ten years ago that official migrant information centres were set up in Wollongong. The first was established by the Commonwealth Bank in August 1960. In 1965 a regional office of the Department of Immigration was opened in Wollongong, the first one in Australia outside the capital cities. The Wollongong Branch of the Good Neighbour Council, then known as the City of Wollongong New Australian Social Committee, opened on 7 February 1959. Mr Harry Box received the order of "The Freedom of the City" for his services and on 6 March 1970 was re-elected the chairman of the Good Neighbour Council.

Leonardos Dalezios, his wife Diamando and daughters Sophie, 11 and Joanna, 4, arrived in Australia from Greece about February 1970. Leonardos was a fitter but because he could not speak English he worked in Sydney in a television repair shop. The family moved to Wollongong when Leonardos worked on a project for a Wollongong firm.

The 37th Naturalisation Ceremony was conducted by the Municipality of Shellharbour for the migrants that resided in that Municipality. The ceremony took place on 11 March 1970 and for the first time in the new building of the Council Chambers in Warilla. Mr Harry Box represented the Good Neighbour Council at the ceremony where 15 New Australian citizens were invited to have supper with the Mayor, Aldermen A. Beaton.

"Talpra Magyar" (Get up, Magyars) the Hungarian revolutionary proclamation was paid tribute at the Hungarian National Day held on 15 March 1970. Hungarian migrant, Mr Zoltan Taylor, recited the poem at the function that was organised by the Australian-Hungarian Club of Greater Wollongong in the Warrawong Hall. Hearty Hungarian tunes were sung at the function and Marika Molnar also sung while wearing her Hungarian national costume. The Hungarian Club's new President was Mr M. Hollak, Mr Kalman Biro was the Secretary and Mr T. Munteanu the Treasurer. The new committee of the Hungarian Club had made some progressive plans which included the possible fostering of the csardas, a national dance.

By March 1970 there were 42 English classes for migrants in Greater Wollongong that were run by the Education Department. There was also intensive English course in Sydney run by the Department of Immigration and another intensive course run by the State Education Department. A three-month English course for tradesmen was held again in 1970 at the Wollongong Technical College in Gladstone Avenue, Wollongong.

Klime Petroski arrived in Australia from Plake in the Ohrid region of Macedonia in March 1970. He was sponsored by Ilja Klimeski. He boarded at a house in Warrawong for a year where he shared with three other single men. Each had their own bedroom and cooked their own meals. Occasionally the land lady would cook for the men. Klime worked at the coke ovens at AI&S from 1970 to 1990. Klime then bought a house at Lake Heights. Klime's wife and three children joined him in 1971.

On 4 April 1970 the South Coast branch of the Australian Translators' Association held a Yugoslav cultural evening in the home of Mrs and Mrs K. Tankovski in Cringila. About 70 guests attended and nearly every ethnic group of Yugoslavia was represented: Bosnia, Croatia, Dalmatia, Slovenia and Serbia. Even Skiptars, Yugoslav Moslems of Albanian descent and a Bulgarian migrant were present. Among the guests were Wollongong locals Mr Stanjakovic, Mr Mravak and Mr Slave who were interpreters, Mrs Sharpe an English lecturer at the Wollongong University College and Mr G. Petersen, MLA. A talk was given by Mr Rudolph Dezelin, Federal President of the Australian Translators' Association, who spoke about the history of Yugoslav migration to Australia and about the language problems the Yugoslav migrants were facing. To facilitate the integration of migrants from Yugoslavia, a non-political and non-sectarian organisation was to be formed that would not indulge in the past but concentrate on the future. Mr Spase recited some of his poetry at the function and 10-year-old Macedonian boy, K. Spaseski, sang Macedonian folk songs.

On Easter Sunday, 1970, the British-Australian Friendship Club organised an excursion to Taronga Park Zoo for the migrants and their children who were living at Fairy Meadow and Unanderra Hostels. Five busloads headed off to the Zoo.

When Queen Elizabeth visited Wollongong on 10 April 1970 two hundred and six migrant children, representing 32 nationalities wearing national dress, formed a guard of honour to demonstrate the cosmopolitan character of Wollongong. The guard included Estonians, Turks, French, Chinese, Polish, Greek, Hungarian and Spaniards amongst others. Some of the youth who wore traditional national dress and were part of the Migrant Youth Guard of Honour were Julianne Rainow representing Rumania. Maria Molnar. Petra Balacz (12), Marianna Hegyi (12), Ilona Zakara (12) and Livia Habda (11), Ibolya Kiss and Gabriella Taylor represented Hungary. 11-year-old Bernhard Dymet wearing Lederhosen who with his 13-year-old sister, Corrie, represented Austria, 11-year-old triplets Lawrence, Rank and Marianne Gerada, Pocrates Delios (10) Raymond D'Amato (10) Charlie Grech (10) all were in the Maltese national costumes. In Spanish national dress were Anamaria Senor (12), Catalina Rizzo (10), and Alicia Valleja (6). Helga Monks (13), Jutta Zatschler (13) were part of the German group. Representing the British-Australian Friendship club were children Michael and Steven Heddington, Debbie and Lynette Williams and twins Nan and Joan Young. The Greek children were Mary Jatras (11), Vasiliki Avantis (11), George Chartas (9) and his sister Maria aged 10. Vicka Madre (6) wore traditional Ukrainian dress. Liina Aarn, who was in her sixth year of school at Port Kembla and a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Medal contestant met with the Duke of Edinburgh wearing her school uniform. Mr William Crawford Scott wore his Scottish kilt as he looked after the Scottish contingent of migrant children. Mr Harry Box, Chairman of the Good Neighbour Council in Wollongong, met the Queen who congratulated him on organising the migrant children guard of honour.

The Mixed Choir Germania organised a dance in the Warrawong Hall on 11 April 1970. At this function the choir had 43 singers most of whom were Germans and Austrians but there were also Dutch,

Australian and Hungarian singers. The choir's conductor was Mr E. Neuhaus of Berkeley and some of the members were family units such as Mrs Christl Neuhaus and Marlis, the conductor's wife and daughter, Mr and Mrs Hans Sernig and their daughter Sonja and son Roland, Mr and Mrs Alexander Andrich. Mr Andrich was the President of the Germania Choir. Mr J. Timar and his daughter Hermine. In the following October the Mixed Choir Germania joined with the German Male Choir Sanssouci and gave a concert in the Wollongong Town Hall.

In about 1967 Vlade Grezdanovski came to Australia from Velusina, in the Bitolsko district of Macedonia and lived in Port Kembla. In 1969 he returned home to Macedonia for a holiday and to look for a wife. He met Menka Dimovska and they returned to Australia together in April 1970. Vlade also had a married sister living in Wollongong and he hoped to bring out his mother and grandmother. Although Menka could not speak English she found work in a clothing factory in Port Kembla. Vlade worked at Lysaght's at Port Kembla.

The Polish Association's first ball in Wollongong was held on Saturday 2 May 1970. The ball was in the Polish Millennium Hall in Gwynneville and it was opened with a Chopin polonaise that was danced by member of the Polish Youth Group. The ball commemorated the Polish Constitution Day and Australia's Cook Bi-Centenary. The President of the Polish Association of Wollongong was Mr Z. Suryak welcomed the guests. Representatives from other national groups attended which included Mrs A. Chatterton, President of the British-Australian Friendship Club, Mr G. Ackaoui, Secretary of the L'Association des residents de Langue Francaise, Mr M. Jukkola, President of the Finnish Association, Mr P. Salimeras, President of the Greek Association, Mr G. Bartolo, President of the George Cross Falcons Maltese Club. Donata and Helen Rudowicz and Helen Bedzinzki entertained the guest with dances. Miss Elizabeth Socha, of Moss Vale, was chosen as Belle of the Ball. President of the Polish Club was Les Patynowski.

Also in May 1970 the British-Australian Friendship Club held a social in the Masonic Hall in Gwynneville where 200 members were farewelled before they left on a three month holiday tour. The Maltese George Cross Club organised fortnightly dances at their Clubhouse in Cringila. Finnish Association of Wollongong held a Mother's Day dance in the Coniston Hall. French classes for beginners started at the Italian Centre in Wollongong with Mr George Ackaoui, Secretary of the French Association as the tutor. The Good Neighbour Council in Wollongong organised informal, coffeehouse styled social gatherings to hold conversation classes as an way to gain better contacts through communication. The classes were held in the offices of the Good Neighbour Council in Flinders Inn Chambers on the corner of Keira and Crown Streets in Wollongong. By May 1970 two Rumanian socials had been held and they were followed by German, French, Spanish and English. The Ukrainian Co-operative Society had sold its premises and entered into a new phase of development. The Society had been converted to a club and planned to build a two-storey community hall in Auburn Street, Wollongong. The L'Association de Langue Francaise, Wollongong's French Association held its annual meeting where newly elected officials were President George Ackaoui, Edmund Naggiar as Vice-President, Victor Adrian as Secretary and Edmund Ksiazek as Treasurer.

By June 1970, the Spanish Soccer Club Warilla Wanderers which formed three years earlier, had nearly 200 members and its President was Mr Jose Martinez of Warilla. Playing in the Illawarra first division, the team was 60% Spaniards with other nationalities being Australian, Yugoslavian and Hungarians. Once a month the Soccer Club held dances in Berkeley or Wollongong. "Noche de Espana" was organised by the Warilla Wanderers Soccer Club in June 1970. The Spanish floor show was held in the Berkeley Hall where an audience of more than 400 Spaniards of all ages attended. Aurora Rixco, Encarna Melgarejo, Barabara Vergara, Isabel Vargas, Maria Luisa Diaz, Anita Senior, Coci Lorenzo, Antonio Rojas and Andres Martin were the dancers who provided entertainment on the night, with musicians Antonio Lorenzo and Jorge Compano on guitars, Antonio Gonzalez played the accordion

and Juan Vela on the drums. Traditional dance from the area of Seville were performed by Mari Labrador and Rosario Gonzales and the Spanish youth group gave a marching display. Many of the entertainers were local amateurs comprised mainly from laborers from the Steelworks, their wives and daughters.

On 7 June 1970, the first Croatian broadcast was transmitted on Wollongong radio station 2WL. When the broadcasts were first aired each Sunday at 9am for 15 minutes they included a sermon read by Father Mak from Sydney, some traditional music and an information service.

Jorda Jankulska arrived in Australia from Yugoslavia (Macedonia) on 9 June 1970 and lived in a boarding house in Newcastle Street Cringila with her husband Vasil who had arrived a year earlier. Twelve other people lived in the boarding house which included her brother-in-law, the owner of the house and his wife and four children, a father and son, one single man and two single men. Jorda and Vasil stayed at the house for about a year then bought their own house in Lake Heights. They had a daughter, Velika, who was born in Australia.

One of the youngest Good Neighbour Council's contact worker in June 1970 was 10-year-old Julie Weir of Austinmer. Assisted by Hermine Rainow she visited Verena Dobozy, another 10 year old girl who had just come to Australia from Germany with her parents and elder brother Peter, 17. Verena did not speak English and Julie arranged an interpreter for her in Gabie Fock, also originally from Germany, and Gabie looked after Verena at her first day at Austinmer Public School.

The Australian-German-Austrian Club Germania held its annual meeting on Sunday 21 June 1970. Newly elected officials were: Frank Rast as President, Vice-Presidents Alexander Andrich, Albert Kujat and Peter Faber. Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively were Waldemar Coen and Hans Acker and Ewald Declenbach as Treasurer and Emil Tecles was elected as Assistant Treasurer. The 1970 Committee members were Hubert Kuhnel, Robert Ziegler, Mrs Doris Ernst, Miss Inge von Damm, Kurt Schroeter, Ernst Korgitta and Paul Schaefer.

On Tuesday 21 July 1970 another Naturalisation Ceremony took place in the Council Chambers auditorium of Shellharbour Municipality. The Shellharbour Mayor who handed out the naturalisation certificates was Alderman A. Beatson. Migrants from Austria, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, Holland, Latvia, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and Yugoslavia were naturalised. The German Mixed Choir Germania provided entertainment.

By July 1970, Peter Goode became the youngest electronics engineer with an international firm in Sydney. Peter migrated to Australia from Germany with his parents when he was six years old and the Goode family lived at Berkeley. With no English language skills Peter did well at school and went to high school at Edmund Rice College, did two years of his degree at the Wollongong University College before he finished his studies in Sydney.

When the Dutch-Australian Society in Illawarra held an annual meeting in 1970 a new committee was elected and as well as office bearers. President was Mr C.H. de Bruyn, Mr F. Fickers was elected Vice-President and Mr J.P. Dekker as Secretary and Mr J. Vanderbent as Assistant Secretary. Mr H.F. Schaaps was Treasurer with Mr R. Verhoeve as Assistant Treasurer. Mr K. Kuiper was elected to the position of committee member.

Mike Walshe migrated to Australia from New York in July 1970 and worked with the Department of Public Health in Wollongong. Mike had been in Australia before with the American Navy. He was reunited with his wife Patricia and 3-year-old son, Kevin in 1971 when they too came to Wollongong from New York. The Walshe family intended to stay in Australia.

Stevo Radiceski arrived in Australia from Meseista in the Ohrid region of Macedonia and came to Wollongong in July 1970. He travelled alone and lived at his sponsor's home at Lake Heights for two years while he worked at the steelworks. His wife Ivana and three sons remained in Macedonia. Stevo bought a house at Cringila. His wife Ivana and one of his three sons, Zoran, joined him in Wollongong in 1985 when all but one of his sons migrated to Australia.

In September 1970 George Marley, 36, of Fairy Meadow Hostel, received the Commonwealth Youth Leader of the Year Award. At the time, George had been the Fairy Meadow Hostel Youth Leader for two years, although he had been associated with Commonwealth Hostels throughout Australia for more than 7½ years.

National Days were often celebrated by migrant communities throughout the Illawarra. Two such National Day celebrations took place in September 1970. The Chilean National Day was celebrated in the Wollongong flat of Washington Olave and his mother, Senora Graciella Vallejos. Chilean flags, souvenirs and background music formed part of the decorations. The soft "Castilian" brand of Spanish was spoken. Washington and his mother performed a "Cueca" a national Chilean dance. Empanadas were served at dinner in keeping with Chilean tradition. Washington Olave had migrated to Australia a year earlier and his mother had arrived just three weeks prior to the September 1970 celebration. A special guest at the Chilean celebration was Mrs Peggy Stransky, an Australian who married a Czechoslovakian and had lived in Santiago de Chile for six years, where her daughters Jenny and Helen had both been born. Five years earlier Mrs Stransky and her daughters had returned to Australia and new lives at Port Kembla. Helen, 10 and Jenny, 8, refused to wear the ponchos they had brought back from Chile to school as they children were called "Indians". The Maltese National Day Celebrations by the George Cross Maltese Club in Cringila took place in the Warrawong Hall. Mr George Bartolo, the Club President gave a speech about the significance of the Maltese National Day. Young Maltese boys and girls, most of whom had been born in Australia, performed the Maltese national dance in traditional costumes. Nine year old John Micaloff and eight year old Marianne Bongailass each received a cup awarded for the most popular boy and girl. The belle of the ball was awarded to Martess Cuell of Corrimal, who was Miss Malta of Sydney. The George Cross Club had also nominated Martess for Miss International for the Wollongong Show.

About 20 nationalities participated in the 1970 Wollongong Show. It was the first time in the show's history that a representation of migrants had been asked to take part. A procession of floats featured and groups appeared in national dress. One group was the AGA-Kaner Carnival group from the Australian-German-Austrian Club Germania who wore their carnival uniforms and marched to the music of their maxi-trumpeters and mini-drummers, as well as marching and dancing girls headed by the Prince and Princess Carnival. The Lithuanian, Chileans, British, Bulgarian, Dutch and Maltese and many other groups also took part. The Wollongong Fair and Trade Show took place on 29, 30 and 31 October 1970.

The Wollongong Girls' Choir was re-constituted in October 1970. The choir then consisted of 20 girls aged from 12 to 18. They met for practice every Friday at St Michael's Church Hall in Wollongong. The conductor of the Girls' Choir was John Bouma who was also the conductor of the Dutch-Australian Choir. On 30 October 1971 the Wollongong Girls' Choir participated in the Lustrum (fifth anniversary) concert of the Dutch-Australian Choir in the Wollongong Town Hall.

A handloom made its way from home to home in the Wollongong area which allowed Finnish women to weave mats and rugs which they displayed at the 1970 Wollongong Show. The loom had been built in Wollongong by a Finnish carpenter.

Eero Rouvinen and his wife, Sanni came to Australia from Finland in 1970 with their 17 year old daughter Anne. They lived at Dapto. Mrs Rouvinen worked at the Steelworks and would become President of the Finnish Women's Committee.

An Islamic Society was formed in November 1970 by Wollongong's then 400 Moslem families. About 100 of the Wollongong's Moslem families were from Turkey. Dr Shamsher Ali, an Indian Fijian, was elected as the Society's President, Ahmet Ismail was elected as Secretary with Hussein Ismail as Treasurer. Dr Ali was an economics lecturer at Wollongong University College and had been in Australia since 1964.

The Good Neighbour Council's voluntary contact workers in Wollongong were able to advise migrants in 25 different languages. There was a group of a hundred contact workers who assisted the Council and they were divided into six zones from Helensburgh to Kiama. The contact workers job was to assist migrants with information and advice or practical help or just visit new arrivals. The contact workers had zone meetings once a month where they exchanged views on different situations they had encountered. They also received formal instruction from Good Neighbour Council Field Officers, social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists amongst others. Twice a year a combined zone meeting was held with university lecturers, officers from the Immigration Department and were given lectures on topics related to their Good Neighbour work. The Good Neighbour Councils throughout Australia co-operated with the Departments of Immigration, Social Services, Health, Employment, Child Welfare and also with voluntary welfare organisations, hospitals doctors and national groups. On Saturday 7 November 1970 at a seminar held in the Adult Education Centre in Wollongong, many migrant integration problems were discussed. The seminar was chaired by Dr Jim Hagan from the Wollongong University College and the speakers were Mr John Rooth of the Immigration Department in Canberra, Mr Phillip Wearne of the Good Neighbour Council in Sydney, Dr Neda Herceg, a local psychiatrist and Mr Rudolph Dezelin, President of the Australian Translators' Association. About 100 people attended the seminar. "Adopt a Migrant" was the theme of the seminar. Dr Herceg was very much in favour of an Adopt a Migrant Scheme. Dr Herceg was a migrant and had come to Australia from Yugoslavia and her family were adopted by an Australian family. Personal contact between migrants and Australian-born people was viewed as essential in helping migrants. Mr Wearne pointed out at the seminar audience that the idea behind contact work used by the Good Neighbour Council was a personal approach. The "Adopt a Migrant" was put into practise by the Wollongong French club L'Association des Residents de League Francaise. Salah and Claudine Boudelah and their two daughters, Salah and Claudine arrived in Australia on 16 September 1970 and had been nominated by the Association which had provided them accommodation and employment. Mr Boudelah worked as a rigger at the Steelworks at Port Kembla and Mrs Boudelah worked at a guest house in Cringila.

Mrs Philomena Munive came to Australia with her husband and four children from Peru in 1970. By 1973 Philomena hoped to enrol in a receptionist course and was in a hurry to learn English so she enrolled in the Accelerated Day Course for English in the WEA. Sonja Reyes also migrated in 1970 from Chile with her husband and three children. Sonja also enrolled in the Accelerated Day Course in 1973 as she hoped to work as a nurses' aide in Wollongong. Before coming to Wollongong Sonja Reyes worked as a nurses' aide in Chile.

Pedro Abarca arrived in Wollongong from Chile on 20 December 1970 with his parents, two brothers and two sisters. They had left Chile because of the political situation that was occurring. The family at first lived at Fairy Meadow Hostel for about 11 months then they rented a house in Corrimal and later moved to Barrack Heights. Pedro recalls that the hostel used to allocate accommodation based on nationality although he was very grateful to be living at the hostel where everything was provided.

The Austrian-Bavarian folk dancing group was formed in Wollongong in 1970. The group consisted of 6 adults and 5 junior couples with Mr Franz Steinbauer who was a migrant from Graz, Austria. Mr Steinbauer was also Vice-President of the German School Association. Weekly practices were held at the German School at Oak Flats.

1971

In early 1971, the Commonwealth Government intended to call for tenders for new accommodation blocks at Fairy Meadow Hostel. The old Nissen Huts were gradually being replaced with modern, brick, accommodation units.

New office bearers for the Greek Orthodox Community of Wollongong and Illawarra were elected in January 1971. Mr George Davlourous was elected President with Alexander Kandis as Secretary and Jim Arnakis as Treasurer. The association had about 650 members and was closely co-operating with the Greek Orthodox Church organisation that was being led by Father Chrysostomos Alemango.

In February 1971 Transfield Pty Ltd requested that Unanderra No 1 Hostel be leased to them for a period of 12 to 18 months to accommodate some of their labour force. Transfield had been contracted to construct a blast furnace and steel making plant at Port Kembla. The only migrant accommodation now available was at Fairy Meadow Hostel which was undergoing a hostel improvement replacement programme and Unanderra No 1 Hostel was kept to be used as overflow accommodation if required.

15 March 1971 the lease of Unanderra No 1 Hostel to Transfield commenced with the exception of Building Numbers 16 and 18 which were kept for storage purposed by Commonwealth Hostels Limited.

Mesat Huseyin advised and helped Turkish migrants as the Turkish interpreter at Fairy Meadow Hostel in 1971, aged 24. Mesat had migrated to Australia from Cyprus 3 years earlier. His sister and brother-in-law were his only relatives that lived in Australia. Mesat Husseyin lived with his friend, Aris Muslu at Mt Warrigal and worked at a fruit shop until he took up his position as interpreter in January 1971. To socialise Mesat went to the club of the Cyprus Brotherhood Salamis.

Following a Macedonian Orthodox Church service on Sunday 21 February 1971 was the wedding of Sveta Tancevska and Stefo Naumovski who were both from Corrimal. The bride and bridegroom had both migrated to Australia from Macedonia. The new President of the Macedonian Orthodox Church Community was Metodia Kulatacovski and the newly elected office-bearers were Ilo Yofchevich (Vice-President), Dusan Stanley (Secretary), Ilo Dimovski (Assistant Secretary) and Angelo Ristich (Treasurer).

About 25% of Corrimal Lions Club members were migrants from Scotland, Yugoslavia, England and Holland. By February 1971 the Corrimal Lions Club had provided six extra beds for Bulli District Hospital after the Recovery Ward had been installed and was short of beds. This project was valued at \$14,000 and was financially supported with \$5,000 by the Hospital Commission and donations from the Hospital Younger Set and private sources. They were donated in memory of the late James Malouf and handed over to the hospital on 27 February 1971.

It was about February 1971 when Blasco Lopez arrived in Australia from Spain. The 23-year-old Spaniard was from Madrid and the first language he learnt after coming to Australia was Italian. Blasco learnt the Italian language through living at a hostel occupied mainly by Italian migrants. Blasco Lopez also spoke French which he learnt from members of his family who settled in France after the Spanish Civil War. His goal by 1971 was to improve his English.

A farewell luncheon was given for Mrs J. Brown and an international group of local women represented the Good Neighbour Council in February 1971. They were Mesdames H. Jelercic, M. Jukkola, E. Lapkiw, M. Murphy, H. Rainow, M. Ristic and M. Phipps who came from Yugoslavia, Finland, Ukraine, England, Rumania, Poland and Australia respectively. Representing the Italian Centre was Mrs Moon, a Latvian who taught English at the Centre. Mrs Brown had for a number of years served as President of the Wollongong Branch of the Red Cross Society.

The Finnish Society which had been formed in 1962 had about 200 members by February 1971. The members of the Finnish Women's Committee met once a month at the CWA Rooms in Burelli Street. The 1971 Women's Committee President was Mrs Sanni Rouvinen. There were more than 400 Finns living in the Wollongong area at this time. The Finnish Society organised social functions, men and women's basketball teams and skiing tours. The Society had no welfare committee but its members often collected money in aid of their fellow countrymen who lived in Wollongong. A Library of about 400 Finnish books and magazines were available to Society members. The library was located in the home of Mr and Mrs M. Jukkola in Coniston. Mr Jukkola was President of the Finnish Society while his wife was the Society Secretary.

By 1971 there was a shift in policy for the catering to the migrant housing needs as policy makers began to appreciate cultural diversity.

By 1971, after a long period of economic prosperity, unemployment numbers began to increase. From 1971 to 1975 concerns over unemployment levels led to significant reductions in the planned intake of the Migration Programme. The Government reduced the planned migration quota in 1971 from 170,000 to 140,000. The ten pound pom scheme was stopped as British migrants were now in the minority amongst Australia's migrant intakes. Britain now was part of the European Community.

In 1971 Bonegilla Migrant Reception Centre closed. Although planned to shut down in 1967, these plans were delayed because of an increasing number of alien migrants going to hostels.

Mr Peter Hilton became President of the Wollongong Good Neighbour Council at the annual meeting that was held on Wednesday 3 March 1971. Mr Hilton had replaced Harry Box who had resigned from the Good Neighbour Council after 21 years of unbroken service. Mr Box was made the first life member at the annual meeting in recognition of his service. Mr Dudley Compton, a founder member of the Wollongong Branch, was elected as Senior Vice-President. Vice President was George Ackoui and John Seisun was elected as Secretary with Stan Dignan as Treasurer. Miss E. Hayton was elected publicity officer for her twenty-first term.

Louise and Therese Khayat arrived in Australia with their children Nadine, 10 and Tony, 6, in March 1971. They are of French descent and came from Lebanon. Mrs Khayat's mother and two brothers had migrated to Australia 8 years earlier and they lived in Sydney. Mr Khayat was a clerk employed at the Steelworks. Mrs Khayat was a shorthand typist, milliner, language teacher and window dresser who spoke French, English, Arabic, Italian and some Greek.

On 22 March 1971 Jim Forbes became the Minister for Immigration.

On 1 April 1971, a year before the current migration agreement between Australia and the United Kingdom expired, the British High Commissioner advised the Minister for Immigration that the British Government wanted to discontinue the Assisted Passage Agreement. Financial assistance from the British Government ceased in 1972 and from 1975 Britons who had been able to enter Australia without prior permission were now required to obtain visas for entry as visitors or as residents.

The German Rifle Club, Waldelust, was renamed German Air Rifle Club Illawarra in 1971. Shooting practice continued at Oaks Hotel, Albion Park Rail, with opening shooting at Tullimbar Inn at Albion Park every third Sunday. A shooting festival was held in conjunction with Shellharbour Lions on Saturday on Saturday 24 April 1971. All Wollongong German organisations participated in the Rifle shooting event and Rifle clubs from all over NSW attended. The AGA Club Germania put up a big beer tent. German beer and German traditional food were sold and three bands provided music and there was a lot of dancing and singing.

On Monday 26 April 1971, twenty-nine, newly arrived Turkish families were welcomed at Fairy Meadow Hostel by representatives of the Immigration Department, Department of Labour and National Service, the Good Neighbour Council and the Islamic Society of Wollongong. Among the new arrivals were Arto and Heran Goc with their 11 month old daughter Kalinka, from Istanbul where Arto worked as a receptionist at a hotel. Arto Goc spoke Turkish, Armenian, Greek, French and English. Heran Goc was Armenian from Turkey. They had come to Australia for their baby. Husan and Elmas Celebi and their son Alper, 3, and two daughters, Turkan, 5, and Ozgul, 6 months, had come to Australia from Nigde. Hasan Celebi was a carpenter by trade. Mustafa and Hatice Ozcan with their son, Can, 9 and daughter, Zeynep, 3, were from Ankara where Mr and Mrs Ozcan both worked as interpreters for the state department. Mrs Ozcan was also a qualified English teacher who had organised English classes for a governmental primary school in Turkey. It was Mustafa Ozcan's idea to migrate to Australia after having received brochures and books from an Australian penpal for about 10 years. Hassan Yalcin was another new arrival and he was accompanied by his wife and three children.

An International Concert was held in the Town Hall in Wollongong on Tuesday 27 April 1971 and attended by the Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Alderman E. Ford. The concert allowed the audience to become acquainted with culture from other people and lands. The South Coast Accordion Ensemble performed Strauss, members of the Germania Choir sang, a Flamenco group sang and danced, Brahms Lullaby was sung by the Mixed Choir, Germania.

A new committee of the Estonian Society in Wollongong was elected in May 1971. The new committee were Artur Mandre, President, Endel Jaagos, Sari Treasurer, and Mrs Helmi Saik as Secretary and Mrs Hilda Kirss as Assistant Secretary. Committee members elected were Robert Kalnin and Hugo Tuk. On 26 June the Estonian and Latvians in Wollongong combined for a joint solstice celebration in Corrimal Community Hall. The Estonian Women's Guild President was Mrs Hilja Aarn. The Finnish Society in Wollongong held a dance in Berkeley Community Hall on Saturday on 15 May 1971. The 1971 George Cross Ball was held in the Ironworkers' Club to mark the award of the George Cross to the Island of Malta by King George VI during World War 2 as well as celebrating the third anniversary of the opening of the George Cross Club in Cringila. Catherine Orvad was elected Miss George Cross and Mary Magro won Miss popularity. The doors to the George Cross Club were open to everybody and the Club President for 1971 was Mr Joe Mallia.

Italian-born sculptor, potter and painter, Gino Sanguineti had a one-man show at Roslyn's Gallery in 1971. Gino migrated to Australia from Italy in 1951 and lived in Wollongong with his wife and two children.

A concert at Wollongong High School featured the play "Jubilee" by Anton Chekhov in May 1971. The producer of the play was Mrs Ludmila Natalenko who had migrated from Russia to Australia some 21 years earlier and had been a relief teacher of Russian at Wollongong High School. The leading roles were performed by Nigel Chesterfield, Rosemary Widowson and Liz Denley. Also performed at the concert was the "Hopac" a Ukrainian folk dance which was also directed by Mrs Natalenko who had trained and worked as an actress and dancer in Moscow prior to coming to Australia. The dancers

consisted of eight female Wollongong High students and two male members of the Ukrainian folk dance group in Wollongong.

Sami Ozmen was newly arrived in 1971 having come from Ankara in Turkey. He lived at Fairy Meadow Hostel with his wife and daughters. Sami worked as an operator at the Steelworks however he was a shoemaker by trade and if he could open his own business he intended to stay in Wollongong for good. Sami Ozmen's father migrated to Turkey from the Crimean Peninsula.

On 1 June 1971 a chartered flight departed Australia for London with 195 South Coast people. The 195 people were from the British-Australian Friendship Club. For some it was the first time back to England since they migrated to Australia while for others it was a trip following retirement. A farewell function was held in the Masonic Hall in Gwynneville on Friday 21 May 1971. They would be away until the first week of September 1971.

In March 1971, Commonwealth Hostels granted a lease of Unanderra Hostel to Transfield Pty Ltd. The lease was for an indefinite period, dependent upon how long Transfield wanted it and whether Commonwealth Hostels wanted to reopen it as a hostel. Both Unanderra and Berkeley Hostels had been out of use as hostels for about two years by this time. The Department of the Interior had yet to decide whether to retain the land at Berkeley Hostel. The Department of Immigration had advised the Federal Minister for Cunningham, Mr Rex Connor, that it would be four to six weeks before a decision would be made about the future of Berkeley Hostel. This information had been passed on to a number of groups that used Berkeley Hostel for club activities who had been assured that when a decision was made each group would be given one month's written notice by the Commonwealth Hostels Ltd. By June 1971 Commonwealth Hostels decided to withdraw Berkeley Hostel from operation. The handful of Clubs, Berkeley Sports and Social Club, Scouts, Guides and Brownies and a Scottish Dancing group, which used Berkeley Hostel were to be moved out by the weekend of 3-4 July 1971, but Rex Connor managed a reprieve for them. The area upon which the Berkeley Hostel was handed over to the Interior Department which handled and managed all Commonwealth property. The property was offered to the State Housing Commission from whom the Commonwealth Government had acquired the land in the 1950s. Fairy Meadow Hostel now operated as the only residential centre for migrants coming to Wollongong.

In 1971, the Education Department introduced new boundaries for high schools south of Wollongong. The changes were as a result of a gradual alteration of boundaries that started in the Northern Suburbs and these boundary changes had been caused by the closures of both Unanderra and Berkeley Commonwealth Migrant Hostels. When the High Schools could not cope with the extra number of children the boundaries were altered. These boundary changes affected Port Kembla, Dapto, Figtree and Warilla High Schools. Children from Windang Primary School had previously gone to Warilla High School now had to go back to Port Kembla High School. Children from Farmborough Road Primary School in Unanderra went to Dapto High School instead of Figtree High School. All new migrants coming to Wollongong who required accommodation were being housed at Fairy Meadow Hostel and meant all the children went on to Corrimal High School but were channelled to the three central high schools when Corrimal High School could not cope with the additional student numbers.

Michael and Lucie Dobosz, with their children Peter, 17, and Verena, 10, migrated to Australia from Hamburg, Germany in 1971 and settled in Austinmer. Mrs Dobosz was a native of Hamburg while Mr Dobosz was originally from Poland but had lived in Germany for 29 years prior.

It was about July in 1971 when the Domingo and Lola Otero came to Australia from Spain. Earlier they had lived in Holland for ten years where Domingo Otero worked under the guest workers' scheme. They had a twelve-year-old son and a nine-year-old daughter. In Wollongong Domingo worked as a

welder and boilermaker with Transfield and Lola worked as a cleaner at Fairy Meadow Hostel. By May 1972 they had saved enough to move into their own home.

Two Wollongong local organisations held their respective first annual balls in July/August 1971. The Good Neighbour Council Ball was attended by locals from the Wollongong migrant community of more than 20 nationalities some of whom were Mr M. Olender (Ukraine), Mr D. Lim (China), Mr & Roeder and W. Coen (Germany), Mr T. Munteanu (Hungary), Mr H. Pestrucha (Poland), Mr G. Bartolo (Malta), Mr J. Steinke (America), Mr J. Chatterton (UK), Mr J. Cerniauskas (Lithuania), Mr R. Suleymand and O. Ismail (Turkey), Mr D. Stanley (Macedonia) the Rev J. Pilmanis and Mrs V. Moon (Latvia). Mr R. Dezelin represented the New Australia Club and Mr C. Paulus from the International Coffee Inn (an association formed in Wollongong welcoming young people to help them overcome loneliness and isolation). Also present was the President of the German Saturday School, Mr W. Daniel and Mr E. Neuhaus who was the choir leader of the Mixed Choir Germania. The other first annual ball was held by the Italian Welfare Centre, CoAsIt at the Fraternity Bowling Club which was attended by 700 people. Mr J. Dal Santo, acting President of the Fraternity Club and Mr L. Contarin, President of CoAsIt welcomed the guests to the ball.

The Wollongong Spanish Association gathered at the Warrawong Hall in July/August 1971 to elect its beauty queen, Connie Carvajal. Ester Gobantes and Isabel Gobantes were the runners up. President of the Spanish Association in Wollongong at the time was Mr F. Tejo with Mr J. Velasco as Secretary and Mr J. Saez, President of the Warilla Soccer Club were all part of the judging committee.

Weekly programmes of the television series "You Say the Word" on Wollongong Channel WIN4 commenced between 9.00am and 10.00am on Saturday 11 September 1971. The programme was aired to help newcomers learn English. Wollongong was selected mainly because it had a migrant population of more than 40 per cent. The programme's director was Michael Parer. Because of the success of the programme the broadcast was extended nationally. The purpose of "You Say the Word" was to teach English in an amusing way, adding lessons in history and geography as well as inform the local viewers on community services and current events. The programme was a major achievement in the field of educational television and widely used elsewhere in Australia and overseas at the pre-embarkation stage. The first series ended on 10 June 1972 and a second series of 40 programmes followed. You Say the Word was produced at the Department of Immigration's Migrant Education Television studios at 42 Smith Street, Wollongong. Later a building at Fairy Meadow Hostel was converted to a television studio in which the programme was filmed.

Dr Shamsher Ali was re-elected as President of the Islamic Society of Illawarra. The other officials elected in September 1971 were R. Suleyman (Vice-President), A. Ismail (Secretary), I. Muljune Ijokroaminoto (Assistant Secretary) and H. Ismail (Treasurer). Elected 1971 committee members were M. Matar, M. Sherif, O. Hasanowski, S. Junuzi and S. Selvi. The countries represented by the 1971 elected officials were Turkey, Cyprus, Macedonia, Fiji and Indonesia.

When the Wollongong Show Society and representatives of national groups met on Wednesday, 22 September 1971 it was decided that the migrant groups would again participate at the show with individual displays and exhibits characteristic of their former homeland as well as join the procession of floats in national costumes or enter the Miss International Show Girl quest.

Hermine Rainow who was a features writer for the "Our New Neighbours Column" for the South Coast Times, as well as writing her column "New Neighbours" for the Illawarra Mercury when the South Coast Times and Mercury amalgamated began working as a member of The Mercury Staff in September 1971. Migrant Liaison Officer and writer, Mrs Rainow, had served on the Good Neighbour

Council. Her new job at the Mercury enabled her to extend her services to thousands of migrants on the South Coast as well as entertain them with her articles in the paper.

In November 1971 Luis and Maria Lopez came to Australia. Luis Lopez worked as a fitter at EPT and their sons, aged 19 and 17 worked at AI&S. They also had a three-year-old daughter, Fabiola. Maria Lopez spoke Spanish however she and her family came from Chile. They had to pay 50% of their fare to Australia and by May 1972 had saved enough money to buy a house at Albion Park Rail.

A special church service was held on Sunday, 19 December 1971 to mark the 25th anniversary of the first Lutheran Church Service in Wollongong and the official opening of the new Lutheran Chapel at Thirroul. The dedication service was conducted by the Rev. W.R. Paech, President of the Lutheran church of NSW who was assisted by Pastor K.E. Hartmann and Vicar D. Schulze. Property had been purchased at Lawrence Hargrave Drive and the new chapel was built financed by a loan from the Lutheran Mayman's League. Local parishioners contributed towards the furnishings. By 1962, Lutheran services were held in the Church of England Hall in Roxborough Avenue Thirroul in by Rev. B. Haebich. At the 25th Anniversary in 1971, Alderman Graham attended representing the Mayor but as a 12-year-old boy he had been one of the 14 people present at the very first service in 1946.

The newly formed Dutch Austrian Choir sang at the Carols by Candlelight on 16 December 1971. The Dirndl Singers also performed. The event was organised by the Smith Family and the Miners' Federation Band, Edmund Rice College Band, the Tornadoes pop group and marching girls all took part.

In December 1971 a presentation night was held for the Migrant Adult English Classes. 400 migrants were in the audience that was addressed by Mr Falkenmire, the officer in charge of the Adult Migrant Education of the Department of Education. Mr S. Schaller, a migrant from Czechoslovakia, was chairman on the night. The Dirndl Singers provided the entertainment as well as members of the Arcadians.

The Planica Club was formed in Wollongong in 1971 on the initiative of Mr S. Vaupotic. Planica is the name of a mountain and well-known skiing resort in Slovenia. The club succeeded the former Slovenian Association that was established as early as 1949 when it was called "Danica" which translated to "Morning Star". The Planica Club was closely linked to the Slovenian Association Triglav Pty Ltd of Sydney and incorporated a social club, community centre and provided Slovenian periodicals. The aim of the Planica Association was to provide Slovenians with opportunities to meet fellow countrymen that enabled them to converse in their first language, preserved old traditions and occasions that pertained to their national identity. Members were encouraged to love their adopted country and be good citizens of Australia. The President of Planica in 1973 was Zvonko Groznik and Andrej Oblescak was Vice-President. Karel Marksel was Secretary and the Treasurer was Vinko Bogolin.

The Irish Australian Sports and Social Club was formed in Wollongong in 1971. The main aim of the club was to build its own premises and engage in youth work.

1972

In 1972 eighty thousand Asians are expelled from Uganda. In October the Australian Government grants entry to 198.

The Anzefa Wollongong Social Club was formed in 1972. Anzefa Clubs are managed by the Australia and New Zealand Emigrants and Families Association Ltd. The aim of Anzefa was to foster fellowship between people of different nationalities with the aid of higher standard social functions.

In 1972 Mrs Wendy Swire and Mrs Sheila May Hirst came to Australia from Yorkshire with their respective families. Both their husbands worked at the Steelworks. By May 1972 the Swires were about to move into a new home at Albion Park Rail. The Hirst family was still looking for a home made more difficult with four children. Three children seemed to be the limit when trying to secure accommodation.

Work started on the Spanish Clubhouse in Kemblawarra on Saturday, 18 March 1972. The club had been formed in April 1970 and it had raised \$18,000 to buy the land and for construction costs. In 1972 there were about 800 Spanish families living in Wollongong. The members of the Spanish Club used to hold their monthly dances at the Warrawong Hall. The Spanish Club elections were held on 9 March when Mr A. Najera, Mr J. Velasco and Mr J. Barea were elected President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

In April 1972 all financial members of the Australian-German-Austrian Club Germania had to re-register to become foundation members of the re-named Club, AGA Club Germania Limited. The AGA Club Germania Limited was the successor of the Australian-German Welfare and Cultural Society which had been formed in 1962. In 1963 the German Male Choir "Sanssouci" was formed and in 1965 the choir and the welfare society founded the Australian-German-Austrian Club. In 1965 the Club Germania was established and in October 1969 the two German clubs merged to form the Australian-German-Austrian Club Germania.

Mr David Werner was re-elected as President of the German School Association of Wollongong in April 1972. He had been President since 1966 and 1972 marked his eighth term. Officer bearers elected were Mr Egon Herrmann (Vice-President), Werner Kaul (Secretary) and Mrs Johanna Schmidt (Treasurer). Committee members were Wilhelm Moor, Peter Faber, Wolfgang Lachermund, Hans Tahl, Franz Steinbauer and Mrs Brigitte Kaul. In 1972 there were about 150 pupils learning the German language at the Saturday School held at the German School in Oak Flats and at Smith's Hill Girls' High School in Wollongong, as well as adult classes.

Also in April 1972 the Wollongong International Set, which was formed in May 1972, held its opening function. It was held at the home of Mr and Mrs Taylor at their home in Grafton Avenue, Figtree. The Patron of the Wollongong Branch was Mr Peter Hilton who was the Chairman of the Good Neighbour Council at the time. President of the Wollongong International Set was Mr Claus Paulus, a former president of the International Coffee Inn which had joined the Set. The Wollongong International Set was closely linked with the Good Neighbour Council. Office bearers were Mrs G. Pedrick (Vic-President), Mrs A. Jensen (Secretary), Miss D. Vergan (Treasurer), Miss A. Federico, Miss G. Keys, Mr G. Brook and Mrs D. Taylor were the committee members. Miss Margaret Stiebel was head of the Social Committee. The main aim of the Wollongong International Set was to help with the integration of migrants by engaging in welcoming them and, if necessary, offer welfare services. Members between the ages of 18 and 36 were welcomed.

On Saturday, 5 August 1972, the Dutch-Australian Society in the Illawarra held a reception and dinner to celebrate their 20th Anniversary. The celebration took place in the Corrimal Community Hall. Lionel Long, TV personality and folksinger was entertainment on the night and music was provided by the Strolling Players.

By May 1972 there were 690 migrants living at Fairy Meadow Hostel comprising 170 families of 23 nationalities.

The laying and blessing of the foundation stone for the Ukrainian Community Centre in Wollongong took place on Saturday, 5 August 1972. The ceremony marked the completion of the first stage of the Ukrainian Centre in Auburn Street, Wollongong. At the ceremony mention was made by Mr Kolomyets, Federal Chairman of the Ukrainian Youth Association, of the struggle by Ukrainians all across the world with their national identity after being devoid of their home country.

In August 1972 Anne and Jytta Tvedskov left Australia to visit Denmark on a holiday. They had migrated from Denmark in 1958 when they were 8 and 7 years old respectively. They were cub mistresses for the Austinmer packs.

By September 1972 a total of 2,453 units for migrants had been built in Australia since first announced in April 1967. 10,494 people from 33 nations had been housed in them with an average stay of 19 weeks. The flats were fully furnished with all necessary equipment including cutlery and linen and were located near shops and transport.

In September 1972 the Department of Immigration was asked if there was any further requirement to use Unanderra Hostel for migration purposes and if not, arrangements would be made for the disposal of the land and buildings.

In September 1972 the Spanish Clubhouse in Kemblawarra was officially opened by the Spanish Consul General from Sydney. The Spanish Club opened from 6pm every day of the week and on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays there was music and dancing and on other nights Spaniards and their friends would gather at the hall to play pool or just to get together.

A new committee was elected for the British-Australian Friendship Club on 27 October 1972. Ray Ball was elected President and Bob Keene as Treasurer. Alice Chatterton and Marj Rickard were elected Vice-President and Secretary.

In November 1972 Heinrich Weingart was somewhat puzzled over his experience when he attended a cocktail party and barbecue at the Mt Ousley residence of George Ackaoui, President of the French Club. Heinrich had only come from Germany two weeks earlier on a one-year exchange at AI&S Port Kembla. Dr Weingart was an assistant superintendent with the August Thyssen-Huette AG in Germany and the Australian exchange was Bill Davies, Assistant Superintendent of the Strip Mill at Port Kembla. At the gathering of about 110 people Heinrich Weingart arrived with a bouquet of flowers for the hostess and intended to buy a box of chocolates as well if he had been able to find a place to buy them on the way. He discovered that he was the only one with hostess gifts and dressed in a suit and tie as opposed to the casual dress of the other guests.

On 3 November 1972, Maria Stoncato of Port Kembla was crowned Miss EPT Soccer Club at a function held at the Fraternity Club. For the first time a Miss Popularity was chosen and the title went to Benedetta Pellegrino of Fairy Meadow. Orlando Chiodo acted as page boy and it was his job to carry the crown to the stage. It was the first time also for Miss EPT to be presented with a cape and a sceptre. About 550 guests attended the gala ball on the night. All EPT soccer players received pennants and trophies were awarded to Frank Lemmi for the highest scorer for the season, Lido Rocchi for best player, and Jim McCallum for best clubman.

Joe Roeder was re-elected as President of the AGA Club on 5 November 1972. Albert Kujat, Fred Kalkowski, Theodor Hiesgen, Hans Acker, Herbert Young, Heinz Gundlach and Harry Pohl were elected

first, second and third Vice Presidents, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasure and Assistant Treasurer respectively.

Mary Rose Liverani of Unanderra was awarded a Commonwealth Literary Fund \$8,000 Fellowship in November 1972. Her autobiographical novel of her migrant experience "The Winter Sparrows" won her this grant. Mary Rose Liverani was a Scottish migrant who lived at Balgownie Hostel and later married an Italian migrant and became a mother of twin daughters. She spoke English with a Scottish accent, although she was only 13 when she migrated to Australia. Mary Rose also could speak Italian. Mrs Liverani studied economics and English at the Sydney University and the Wollongong University College. Mary Rose Liverani worked as a cadet journalist and as well as a teacher of English and History at SCEGGS and at Port Kembla High School. At Port Kembla she also volunteered to teach English to migrant children. At the time of her Commonwealth grant fund she was working as a public servant at Sydney and spent a great deal of time commuting between Wollongong and Sydney.

On 25 November 1972 celebrations were held by the local Greeks in recognition of their National Day. Members of the Greek Orthodox Community celebrated at the Holy Cross Hall in Stewart Street, Wollongong and members of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Illawarra Independent Community held a function at the Southern Cross Hall.

On 5 December 1972 Lance Barnard became Minister for Immigration, two weeks later the portfolio was passed to Al Grassby on 19 December 1972.

In the 1972-1973 immigration programme the planned intake from was revised down to 110,000. Negotiated migration agreements were introduced and source countries paid attention to the conditions of their nationals in Australia. This served to focus the attention of Australian politicians and bureaucrats on the housing needs of non-British migrants. The six migration agreements current in December 1972 included articles which precluded discrimination against the nationals of their respective countries. The German agreement was in general terms, while Turkish and Yugoslav agreements were relatively comprehensive in detail but they safeguarded the civil, legal and social status of migrants. They now had the same rights, and obligations, as Australian citizens and were given equality in matters such as social security, employment, education and housing.

Ilse Musarevski migrated to Australia in 1972 from Macedonia and came to live in Wollongong. Ilse was about 21. Ilse Musarevski's ambition was to study chemistry and mathematics at the Sydney University and he undertook the Accelerated Day Course for English at WEA in the hope that he would master the English language to fulfil his dreams. 19-year-old Helen Bakola also came to Australia in 1972 and undertook the same English course in Wollongong with the hope to embark on a University course. Helena Bakola was from Greece.

John McCreary migrated to Australia from Nottingham Shire, England, with his parents in 1972 and came to Wollongong where his Aunt and Uncle had migrated to two years earlier. The family first lived with the Aunt and Uncle.

By 1972 many migrants were still unable to access services due to language barriers. The Australian Government recruited and trained bilingual welfare officers to address this shortcoming.

1973

In 1973 the Commonwealth of Australia withdrew its membership from the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration. Assisted migration for Greek Nationals under this Agreement ceased upon Australia's withdrawal.

In 1973, the Australian Government endorsed a Protocol that related to the Status of Refugees adopted by the UN in 1967 that sought to update the scope of the of the 1951 convention. The new Whitlam Government announced future immigration policies would not distinguish between immigrants on the basis of race, colour or nationality. The White Australia Policy is finally abolished.

The Australia Government of varying political powers had been settling Displaced Persons, refugees and migrants since just before the start of World War 2. What followed the end of that war was the largest settlement of assisted migrants ever seen in Australia. Yet it appeared that despite reviews, reports and changes to policy very little had changed towards truly assisting the migrants with services and equity, tolerance and acceptance despite the fact that these migrants when asked helped Australia build its economy, industry and population. This was also a reflection on society's attitude towards migrants whose response was and always will be "well if you don't like it go back to where you came from".

The concept of multicultural society was first mention in 1973 in a speech by Al Grassby.

"The White Australia Policy is dead, give me a shovel and I will bury it".
Al Grassby, Minister for Immigration, 1973

The immediate post-World War 2 period the focus was on teaching migrants to speak English, accommodation, employment and assimilation into the British-Australian culture. By the 1960s it was realised that settling into a new country was not an easy process and nor was it beneficial to abandon one's migrant heritage and culture. From the 1970s the focus changed to cultural and linguistic needs as well as physical needs.

What followed, particularly for people in Wollongong, was exposure to a rich array of cultural festivals, music, sport and cuisine. Once a 19 year old migrant from Italy was told in 1952 not to speak his language in the streets of Wollongong, now it no longer felt taboo. Yet if a foreign language is spoken in the streets, even today in Wollongong, the reaction from the Australian people is not always favourable. But, oddly, culturally diverse cuisine is immune to racial bigotry.

In 1973 the Department of Immigration introduced Settlement Services Branch to assist immigrants to adjust to their new life in Australia although this branch and its services had many changes over the years.

In 1973 changes to the citizenship criteria allowed all migrants eligible to apply for Australian citizenship after 3 years of residence. A stark difference from the previous 15 year and 5 year former eligibility criteria and demonstrated more equity.

In 1973 the cost of the migrant's contribution under the Assisted Passage Schemes to Australia had increased to a uniform amount of £75 for families, married couples and single persons over the age of 18 and over. The next decade the numbers of British migrants that took up assisted passage steadily declined.

By 1973 a great deal of the legislation discriminating against aliens in the Commonwealth and State statutes had been removed. In 1973-74 a new housing agreement was negotiated between the Commonwealth and the States and resulted in making more funds available for housing low income families than before and provided funding through States' Home Builders' Accounts for loans through building societies and other approved lending institutions to enable the purchase of private homes, including migrants.

The first meeting of the Italian Welfare Committee Women's Committee for CoAsIt (Comitato Assistenza Italiani) was held on 24 January 1973 at the Italian Centre in Stewart Street, Wollongong. Mrs Carla Boccola was the 1973 President of the CoAsIt Women's Committee.

In March 1973 the Immigration Advisory Council's Committee on Migrant Education proposed a three year production schedule that provided for a further third series of 78 programmes of 30 minutes duration and in colour of "You Say the Word" television programme. Improvements to the educational and audio visual qualities were made prior to the distribution of the programme on an Australia-wide basis.

The German Male Choir, Sanssouci, celebrated their 10th Anniversary at Warrawong Community Hall on Saturday, 14 April 1972. A choir festival was held in Wollongong in November which Sanssouci participated. There were six German choirs, a total of about 400 singers from Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane and Canberra, that participated in the festival. The Sanssouci had 41 member-singers.

On 28 April 1973 members of the Latin American Association met at the Town Hall to elect a permanent committee. The Association had been formed in January 1973. Migrants from almost all the South and Central American countries joined the Latin American Association in Wollongong. Mr Marcos Vidal, who was from Chile, had been the Provisional President.

It was the kindness of strangers that often did more to help migrants in Wollongong feel welcomed and cared about. An incident in April 1973 demonstrated one such act of kindness amongst many that would have gone unrecorded. Mrs Maya Sergeant was a businesswoman and sometimes a volunteer adviser and welfare worker. When a young Turkish couple entered her shop with their little daughter, they suddenly noticed the little girl had gone missing. Mrs Sergeant tried to explain to them that they needed to go to the Police and report their daughter missing. The Turkish couple did not understand a word of English. Getting nowhere Mrs Sergeant without hesitation closed up shop and took the Turkish couple to the Police station. The story had a happy ending with the little girl in the arms of a policeman was returned to her parents.

Construction of the Church of St John the Baptist of the Serbian Free Orthodox in Wollongong was underway by April 1973. The church was built in Kenny Street, Wollongong and the blessing of the foundation stone was scheduled to occur in June. The church also served as a war memorial for the victims of World Wars I and II. The Free Serbian Orthodox Community also conducted Serbian language and Orthodox scripture classes under the charge of Mrs Milka Sucur who belonged to the Circle of Serbian Sisters "Kosovka Djevojka" Wollongong Branch. Her husband, Milutin Sucur, was the President of the Free Serbian Orthodox Church-School Congregation in Wollongong. Mr Markove and Mr Babic were the Secretary and Treasurer in 1973. The Free Serbian Orthodox Church-School Congregation of Wollongong was formed in 1960.

The first two couples to take part in the "Kmecka Ochet" a Slovenian style country wedding were from Wollongong and they were joined by couples from 16 other countries. Ivan Debljak and his fiancée, Dusica Begus, flew to Yugoslavia at the end of May 1973. They travelled more than 10,000 miles to Ljubljana in Slovenia where the marriage took place on 28 May 1973. Their trip was sponsored by the Triglav Slovenian Club in Sydney and the Planica Club in Wollongong. Both Ivan and Dusica were migrants from Slovenia. In 1973 there were about 800 Slovenians living in Wollongong.

Five nuns from the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary at Mittagong left their secluded Novitiate at Mittagong in May 1973 after it had been transferred to Elwood Victoria to live among the people in Wollongong. The Sisters had set up the Community Aid Centre in Fairfax Road in Warrawong which was established in November 1972 primarily to assist migrants in the area, though they were available

to help everybody. The Sisters had come from England, Ireland, France, Holland and Spain and were able to offer their services in seven languages and seven 'styles'. One of the nuns, Sister Elizabeth Balvers, spoke about the need to adjust to the mentality of the individuals. Citing as an example the Southern European, Sister Elizabeth explained people from this region were more spontaneous and displayed more freedom of expression. The nuns saw a growing number of needy, desperate, lonely, bewildered and isolated people who came into their centre for help, advice and comfort. The nuns promoted the learning of English of being of vital importance for all migrants to learn and with the Department of Education started English classes for migrant women. Interpreters in hospitals was another priority after the Sisters learnt of wrong treatment given because patients were unable to explain their symptoms. Language and culture barriers were another problem they wanted to tackle as they witnessed parents were too stern and tradition-bound and did not make allowances to the different way of life their children were exposed to.

Turkish dinners started at the Islamic Centre in Cringila from May 1973. A new arrival from Turkey, Chef Hussein Coban was in charge of the cooking. Except for one or two spices, Hussein was able to find all the ingredients for the meals he prepared. Kelab dishes were his speciality.

At the May 1973 annual meeting of the Estonian Society in Wollongong a new executive committee was elected. President was Mr C. Tehve and Vice-President was Mrs V. Kalnin. Mrs E. Ups was elected Secretary and Assistant Secretary was Mis H. Ups. Mr K. Kiviaru became Treasurer and Mr R. Kalnin was elected Assistant Treasurer. Committee members were Mr U. Kirss and Mr B. Jagus. The Estonian Society's traditional Janis Day was celebrated at Corrimal Beach on 9 June 1973.

The Irish Australian Sports and Social Club also held their annual meeting in May 1973 where Michael Shanahan was elected its President. Other elected office bearers Mr J. Devlin (Vice-President), Mr B. Boland (Secretary) Mr J. Donohue (Treasurer). 1973 Committee members were Mr L. Davis, Mr D. Byrne, Mr A. Brophy, Mr J. Brown and Mr J. Lyons.

In July 1973 it was decided that Unanderra No 1 Hostel was no longer required for migration purposes. The land and buildings at No 1 Hostel and the land that was used for No 2 Hostel was handed over by the Department of Immigration to the Department of Services and Property. On 20 August 1973 the Minister for Immigration declared Unanderra Hostel Unit No 2 and the land used for Unit No 2 Hostel surplus to requirements. The disposal of the Hostel could not commence until the lease with Transfield was terminated.

The Esperance Portugal Club (EPC) was formerly known as the EPC Kemblawarra Soccer Club and competed in the district second division competition. Soccer played an important role in the lives of the Portuguese and always included a soccer knockout competition during their National Day Celebrations. National Day Celebrations in 1973 were held on 10 June in Sydney. Two years earlier the National Day Celebrations took place in Wollongong and the (then) EPC Kemblawarra Soccer Club played host. Mr Joao Costa was President of the Soccer Club. In 1973 Joao assisted Father Marques of Sydney to establish Portuguese language classes for about 40 children. Mrs Gaspar was the teacher and lessons were held on weekdays in Warrawong and Lake Heights.

Italian language classes for more than 200 children of Italian parentage also were held and in 1973 there were eleven classes held for their benefit in Wollongong, Corrimal, Warrawong and Port Kembla. It was another two hours of school for the children that attended and classes were held each Saturday morning from 8am to 3pm. The teachers were Mrs E. Guerrieri, Mrs G. Bonacina and Mrs F. Clyburn, Miss L. Lacatena and Mr A. Adorni. The Italian classes were run by CoAslt Wollongong Branch and the Italian Government subsidised the scheme.

In November 1973, the Araci family arrived in Wollongong from Turkey. Mr Nedet Araci was a truck driver who travelled through all the Arab and European countries but in Australia he looked forward to settling down for good and opening his own business.

1974

In February 1974 German Saturday School opened its doors to five-year-olds as an experiment that followed a new trend in language teaching starting at an early age. Mr Hermann was the President of the German School Association of Wollongong-Illawarra. Other language classes were run to benefit children such as Italian, Greek, Spanish, Macedonian, Servian, Polish, Ukrainian and Turkish. The Governments of Italy and Spain subsidised the running of language classes and Greek and Macedonian students received their textbooks from their 'mother country'. On 11 February 1974 a new accelerated English Language Day Course was held at the WEA in Corrimal Street Wollongong. The classes ran for four hours a day. Evening courses were also made available.

Migration numbers were on the decline and some schemes or agreements with countries had ceased. Australia had subscribed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations and now had an obligation to respond to situations in overseas countries which caused people to flee, seek refuge or political asylum. A few examples of political asylum granted by the Australian government up to 1975 were two Czechoslovakian seaman who had failed to leave with their ship, Chilean refugees who were victimised by their Government, a South African who alleged he was denied political freedom, a Soviet musician who supposedly changed his mind and was flown back to his country only to return as a migrant, a few Asians who had been expelled from Uganda. Two Cambodian diplomats who no longer wanted to serve the Cambodian Government. Two South Vietnamese soldier's request for political asylum, however, were refused. Australia had yet to decide about accepting South Vietnamese refugees and needed to tread carefully as these decisions sometimes affected trade or diplomatic ties. Australia did provide aid to South Vietnam by giving cash and food.

During the 1970s where applications to migrate to Australia from areas of political, communal, religious or international strife was supported by family, friends or organisations Australia would view them humanely. This applied not only to the refugees from Chile, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, but would also be applied to the displaced Greek and Turkish Cypriots who fled to Australia to escape the hostilities that followed the invasion in 1974. People from Northern Ireland and Russian Jews in Italy escaped violence and fled to Australia. The 2016 Census recorded 837 people of Chilean heritage, 1,163 with Turkish heritage, 730 Hungarian and 370 Cypriot. There were 70 Jewish people but the Census did not distinguish of which ancestry. In 2016 people with Irish heritage was the third largest population in Wollongong.

By February 1974 the remaining 182 "igloo" huts at Fairy Meadow had now become surplus. 118 had been auctioned and 54 had been sold a month earlier. Some had been auctioned for just one dollar. Unfortunately, the Wollongong Council would not permit the huts to be erected in the area which meant many of the huts that were bought by the citizens of Wollongong were abandoned. Derelict relics of the abandoned huts to this day may be found in the bush along the escarpment. Overall, everyone was pleased to see the gradual disappearance of the huts from Wollongong's landscape. For the locals they were a blot on the landscape. For former migrants they either evoked memories of poor living conditions whilst others, who had lost everything in the war, they were a welcomed memory.

The work of the Settlement Services Branch of the Department of Immigration that assisted migrants to adjust to their new life in Australia was interrupted in 1974 when the Department of Immigration

became the Department of Labor and Immigration and settlement services were separated and redistributed to other government agencies.

On Thursday 7 February 1974, one hundred and thirty new arrivals made up of 24 Turkish families moved into Fairy Meadow Hostel.

The Returning Australians Scheme was available to Australians who had settled permanently overseas and wished to return to Australia. Initially restricted to married couples and families with children in April 1974 it was expanded to include single persons.

In April 1974 the NSW Branch of the Department of Services and Property offered a five-year lease to Transfield of the Unanderra No 1 Hostel.

In April 1974 production began on the third series in colour of "You Say the Word". Known as "The Toy Shop" it screened in 1975. The format was changed where it combined items of general information and interest into a drama with continuing characters centred on the lives of a group of people working in a toy factory. Well-known Australian actors appeared in both the drama and the teaching segments. Three buildings had been acquired and renovated at Fairy Meadow Hostel to provide studio facilities. The drama was filmed on 16mm film which was converted to video-tape at the studio of WIN 4.

In 1974 the migration quota was further reduced to 80,000.

On 12 June 1974 Clyde Cameron became the Minister for Labour and Immigration (formerly the Department of Immigration).

At the Annual General Meeting on 9 August 1974 the Wollongong Spanish Club announced that a \$20,000 grant had been promised to them by the Spanish Government. The first \$6,000 had already been received by the Club. The Club intended to extend its premises and plans had already been drawn. Voluntary labour and donation of building material helped to keep the building costs low. The Club also financed Spanish language classes for children of Spanish parentage and on sporting activities. The Spanish Club were supporters of the Warilla Wanderers Soccer Club, a junior soccer team and a boys' basketball team. At the 1974 AGM Benjamin Garcia was elected President, Jose Dominguez and Pedro Siles First and Second Vice-Presidents, and Jaime Velasco as Secretary and Father Fidel Barriain as Treasurer. Members elected to the 1974 committee were Jose Herrera, Jose Alvarez, Francisco Mellado and Jose Molina. Also at the meeting Mr Don Manual Garcia. Garcia was awarded life membership of the Club for outstanding services to the Club and the Spanish Community.

On 11 August 1974 the German Air Rifle Club Illawarra held a half yearly meeting where a vote was taken to join the AGA Club Germania Ltd. A majority of two thirds voted to maintain the Club's independence. The German Air Rifle Club was going to build its own shooting range at Albion Park which had been allocated to them by Shellharbour Council. The Illawarra Air Rifle Championship were held at Albion Park Showground Pavilion on 25 August where over 125 marksmen and women participated.

On Saturday 17 August 1974 Dragica Bedek of Warrawong married Garry Potts at the Warrawong Catholic Church. A Slovenian-style village wedding was planned and the reception was held at the Warrawong Community Centre. About 150 guests were served a Slovenian meal prepared by Mrs Bedek and her friends from the Slovenian Club, Planica. Two pigs, 80 chickens, a dozen legs of ham and heaps of Slovenian walnut cakes were served. Dragica Bedek was the eldest of seven children. The Bedeks migrated to Australia in 1967.

In 1974, in response to concerns about living conditions, pollution and environmental amenity, the Immigration Minister established a task force to study problems faced by migrants living at Cringila. Cringila was created in response to the establishment in 1927 of the Port Kembla Steelworks by Charles Hoskins and family and attracted migrants because of its proximity to the Steelworks and as a source of low-cost accommodation. Cringila is a combination of two estate subdivisions: Steeltown in the late 1920s and Belvedere in the mid 1930s.

On 5 October 1974 a bilateral migration agreement between Australia and Turkey was signed.

On 12 December 1974 Gulapka Krstanoska arrived in Australia from Meseista in Ohrid region (Macedonia) Yugoslavia with her daughter Violeta and son Cvetan. Her husband Bogoja had been in Australia since 1968. After Gulapka and the children came to Wollongong the family lived at her father's house in Cringila for about three months. The family then moved to her husband's relative's house for two years, then rented a place of their own in Cringila for two years until they rented another house in Cringila. They eventually purchased their own home in Cringila.

Tonitto's Continental Cakes was founded in 1974 by Italian migrant, Vincent Tonitto, when he moved to Wollongong. Vincent Tonitto completed his apprenticeship as a pastry chef in Italy before he came to Australia, bringing with him recipes from Northern and Southern Italy. Laurence Tonitto, Vincent's son, took over the business in 1995 and introduced a wide variety of new cakes and pastries and expanded the business. Tonitto's Continental Cakes was located in Wentworth Street, Port Kembla.

1975

In 1975, a visa required for all those enter Australia. British non-citizens even if they had resided in Australia for many years needed a re-entry visa if they decided to leave the country. This was a major change for the British migrants who had previously enjoyed the privilege of leaving and returning to Australia, even if they were not naturalized Australian citizens.

By May 1975 there were only 5,274 migrants in Commonwealth hostels in Australia with an average stay of 21.3 weeks. The majority of occupants were South American (34%), British (16.6%), Vietnamese (10%) and Timorese (6.4%). Family groups were now allowed to stay 12 months and married couples without children 6 months and singles for three months. All hostels now had child minding facilities for working mothers and for parents attending English classes which were held at the Hostels. Housing Officers provided advice on State-provided public housing, home funding and rental arrangements. Three banks operated within the Hostels with many bank managers bi-lingual. Legal aid was now available for migrants and interpreters were provided for some languages. Notices and documents requiring signatures were now provided in translation. Doctors attended hostels at surgeries and Baby Health Sisters provided check-ups for children and gave pre and post-natal care for babies. Families were taken on excursions and taught how to shop, catch buses, advised on driver licences and how an Australian family ran its household. Those transferring to a transitory flat were given advisory folders such as local schools, hospitals, posts offices amongst others and the Department's phone number in case of emergencies. All these arrangements were borne of the experiences Australian bureaucrats had undergone since their first encounters with Alien migrants in 1947.

The first group of Chilean refugees arrived in Australia in 1975. In 1973 after the military overthrow of the 1970 elected Marxist government, refugees from Chile fled their country and some came to Australia. The policies of the new Chilean military government caused unemployment, a decline in wages and a worsening standard of living for the lower and middle classes. What followed under General Pinochet's rule were numerous reports of human rights violations. This economic and

political climate in Chile continued into the late 1980s. The Department of Immigration in Australia had been accepting Chileans freely into Australia since about 1971 but soon after the 1973 coup d'état there was not a specific upturn of inquiries to suggest it was a quasi-refugee situation brewing. In 1974 however, the Australian Government considered reserving the balance of skilled workers migrant entry visas for political refugees from Chile. The first group of 7 Chilean political refugees arrived in Sydney on 9 March 1975 and together with their wives and children made a total of 34 people in all. The refugees who came to Wollongong and required accommodation were provided housing through the Commonwealth Hostel at Fairy Meadow which was the last remaining hostel operating in the area. The 2016 Census records 837 people of Chilean heritage living in Wollongong.

The Indochina Wars that took place from 1 November 1955 to 30 April 1975 was the first time conflicts occurred that required the resettling of refugees in Australia's own region of the Asia Pacific and who were able to reach northern Australia shores by boat. The Australian Government eventually viewed the refugee situation as a humanitarian rather than a political issue requiring international solutions. The Indochinese refugee arrivals occurred towards the end of the White Australia Policy in the late 1970s and the beginning of Multiculturalism in the 1980s. There were already about 500 Vietnamese in Australia who were students under the Colombo Plan and war orphans adopted by Australian families. When the RAAF evacuated 2000 Vietnamese refugees in April and May 1973, the Australian Government announced categories of Vietnamese citizens who were eligible for temporary entry into Australia. By May 1975 Australia had removed the guidelines and selection processes that enabled taking in large numbers of refugees from Vietnam who were classified as refugees and not migrants. There was still a selection process and Australia Government provided no guarantees that refugees would be granted permanent residence. The Government had no quotas but agreed to take a 'fair share' although initial intakes were quite small. Significant numbers of Vietnamese people began to arrive in Australia after the fall of Saigon in 1975 which coincided with the end of the traditional mass migration schemes. The new Vietnamese Government actually facilitated their leaving ridding itself of political opponents. Eventually the vast majority of the refugees settled in Europe, America, Canada and Australia.

The next large group of refugees to make their way to Australia were the Lebanese. The early Lebanese migrants started arriving in Australia in the mid-19th century. They came from the area of Mount Lebanon. Because this area was the province of Syria in the Ottoman Empire (Turkish territory), they were called 'Syrians' or 'Ottomans'. Financial hardship and religious persecution were some of the reasons the early Lebanese left their homeland country. Most of these early migrants remained within the Sydney region. There could have been a few in Wollongong but it is difficult to determine because in census records they are listed as 'other foreign countries'. In the 1933 census there were 33 Syrians living in Wollongong. Lebanon was declared a state in 1920 and gained independence in 1943. The Australian Government classified the Lebanese as Asians for the purposes of immigration and therefore not eligible to migrate to Australia until the immigration policy was changed and the removal of the White Australia policy in the 1970s. In 1971 there were about 3,400 Lebanese-born Muslims in Australia.

The majority of Lebanese arrived in Australia during the 1975-76 civil war in Lebanon. The Lebanese civil war ended to 13 October 1990 where up to 200,000 people, mostly civilians, perished. Australia had an Embassy in Beirut which had to be evacuated in March 1976. In late 1975, Influential Maronite Australians asked the Australian Government to allow Lebanese Christians into Australia to join their relatives. However, they could not be granted immediate entry under normal immigration categories so the Australian Government categorised them as refugees even though the Christians were not fleeing persecution, but the difficulties caused by the civil war. This became known as the 'Lebanese Concession' and Australian immigration officials were despatched to the Lebanon area but later were forced to evacuate to Cyprus. Lebanese were granted access to Australia under this scheme as part

of a concession to the rules as long as they stated they were fleeing the civil war, that they had relatives in Australia and met some health checks. The Australian Government did pay for their travel not their settlement costs. The Lebanese from poorer rural areas who sought a better life, Sunnis from northern Lebanon and Shias from southern Lebanon, heard of these concessions and applied and were granted entry to Australia. Very few were rejected. It turned out that most Christians or Muslims who lived in Beirut did not want to leave Lebanon. By September 1976 the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs reported to cabinet that they were completely overstretched and had lost control of the programme. The Canadians operated under the same conditions and were able to issue visas at twice the rate of the Australian officials. It took the Canadians 5 days whereas it took the Australians two weeks. The Australian officials could not prove if any hardships had been suffered by the Lebanese applicants nor was there any way to assess if they had family in Australia. Australian officials were also concerned with the possibility of conflicts that existed between the divisions in Lebanon would be transferred to Australia but this was not a fair criticism as Muslim Lebanese Australians had settled successfully in Australia with no significant problems. Neither had there been any problems from the first large group of Muslims to settle in Australia from Turkey in the 1960s. There was concern of the decline in quality of the Lebanese people being sponsored for entry under the relaxed entry requirements. Very bluntly, the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs reported that a high percentage were illiterate, had poor hygiene and the balance between Muslim and Christian had risen to 90% in favour of Muslims. About 4,000 Lebanese were allowed into Australia under the concessions and most of them settled in Southwest Sydney. Unfortunately, those who came to Australia under the Lebanese Concession arrived during a decline in manufacturing jobs. There was an extremely high level of unemployment among Australians of Muslim Lebanese background since the mid-1970s. A great number of the Lebanese who arrived under the Lebanese Concession arrangements were unable to obtain maximum benefit from the Australian education system and the children particularly were at a disadvantage in the job market. Although, many Lebanese, as well as their children and grandchildren, have done extremely well in Australia, producing the first female Governor of NSW, Marie Bashir and former Victorian Premier, Steve Bracks.

The Lebanese Concession was stopped by the Australian Government on 30 November 1976, less than a year after it had been created. In the absence of a formal refugee policy and with ad hoc arrangements put in place to cater for the Lebanon crisis, the Lebanon Concession was seen as a flawed immigration programme, a social policy disaster and a failure of Government in resettlement programmes and planning despite previous years of experience in settling migrants and refugees. A return to migrant selection criteria of economic viability, personal quality and ability to integrate now applied for Lebanese applicants except for spouses, dependent children and aged parents. All applicants, however, had to meet health and character requirements. By 1981 there was about 15,600 Lebanese-born Muslims in Australia and they have become the largest immigration population in Australia and a major departure from the earlier preference for British and Continental migrants. A strong village chain migration can account for the large numbers under the Australia Family Reunion policy. In the 2016 Census Wollongong recorded a total of 1,864 people with Lebanese ancestry.

The Muslims who settled into Canada fared much better and were not labelled as a mistake by their Government. John Oliver claimed, "*Australians have settled into their intolerance like an old resentful slipper*".

Civil war in East Timor in August 1975 produced a wave of about 2,500 evacuees to Darwin. About 1,800 elected to remain in Australia and were accommodated in Migrant Hostels in Sydney and Melbourne. In 1976 they were offered to apply for resident status of which more than a thousand take up the offer.

By 1975 the migration quota number was set to 50,000 the lowest level since the end of World War 2.

In 1975 the Department of Immigration was re-named the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and the settlement services were restored. Telephone interpreter services were introduced for more than 50 languages. Multilingual radio and television broadcasting services were introduced.

On 6 June 1975 James McClelland was given the portfolio and following the appointment of a caretaker government, on 12 November 1975 the Minister for Labour and Immigration was Tony Street. Following the general election, the Fraser Government establishes a new Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and with Michael MacKellar as Minister from 22 December 1975.

There was still a need to house migrants who were now coming to Australia not only as assisted migrants, but also fleeing civil wars or other conflicts in their homeland who sought refuge aided by the Australian Government such as the people from Czechoslovakia, Chile, Lebanon, Vietnam and Poland. Some were reliant on organisations or families to provide accommodation. By this time there was only one Commonwealth migrant hostel operating in Illawarra at Fairy Meadow. Work commenced on new buildings to house 150 people at Fairy Meadow Hostel in July 1975. Hughes Bros Pty Ltd of Port Kembla had been awarded the contract and built the \$969,146 brick and concrete buildings. The work was to be undertaken in 18 months and would bring the total capacity of Fairy Meadow Hostel to 300 people. The design of the new buildings was of two and three storeys that comprised 40 two and three bedroom units with bathrooms. This was a vast improvement on the temporary "igloo" buildings that had to be used for expediency, cost and without negative impact on building programmes of the late 1940s/early 1950s. The first stage of the hostel rebuilding programme of new brick units that accommodated 150 people had been built at Fairy Meadow Hostel in 1975. The 182 "igloo" Nissen huts that remained were auctioned or sold leaving about 10 Nissen or Quonset Huts. The second stage of the rebuilding programme that would allow accommodation for 555 people began after the huts were removed. Unanderra and Berkeley hostels were no longer operated by the Federal Government having either been placed under a caretaker basis or leased to private companies.

1976

An Australian team is sent to Thailand in March 1976 to process Indo-Chinese refugees offshore.

A 17 metre South Vietnamese fishing boat carrying five men aged from 16 to 25 seeking political asylum arrived in Darwin on the night of 28 April 1976. The men had left South Vietnam in February and tried for two months to find a country where they could settle. They travelled first to Thailand then to western Malaysia, Singapore, Sarawak and Sabah before landing in Darwin. This was the first recorded entry to Australia of South Vietnamese people by boat. The men were granted a one month temporary entry visa until their case was considered by the Australian Government. Three months later the men had been granted permanent residence. What followed was an exodus of those Vietnamese best equipped to leave.

A report on the refugee problem was issued in 1976 after an examination of the plight Vietnamese refugees from 1975 and Australia's response to them. The report found that Australia lacked policy for the acceptance of people into Australia as refugees rather than migrants. A comprehensive set of guidelines and the establishment of processes was recommended for refugee situations. A new, specially designed, secure detention centre for up to 48 people awaiting deportation opened at Villawood on 15 November 1976. On 24 May 1977 Minister Mackellar announced in Parliament a

strategy and series of initiatives for the development and implementation of a refugee policy. Prior to this, refugees had been admitted as migrants.

In 1976 the Community Hall and the Community Health Centre were opened at Cringila. Glenn Mitchell was the first manager of the Cringila Community Health Centre which was located at 26 Lake Avenue. In 1988 the role of the Community Health Centre evolved to become a Migrant Health Centre for the Illawarra Region. A new purpose-built centre was then constructed in 1991 at 32-40 Lake Avenue, the building at No 26 Lake Avenue was sold to a Cringila resident in 1994.

1977

In anticipation of the approval to dispose of the Unanderra Hostel, arrangements were made to offer the land for sale at a public auction on 10 March 1977. In May 1977 approval was given to sell the Unanderra buildings and land (29 acres) to Transfield. Contract of Sale was exchanged on 24 June 1977. The purchase price was \$800,000 and Transfield paid a deposit and as per the sales contract would pay the remaining amount over a ten year period with interest.

The second wave of Vietnamese refugees who came to Australia were those that were processed through refugee camps after the Australian Government agreed to a yearly quota and admit those refugees of their choosing. By mid-1977 Australia had accepted 2,900 refugees that included 900 boat people from Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam and by the end of 1977 the number of refugees from Indochina increased to 4,800 at a rate of about 200 per month.

In mid-1977 the University of Wollongong established a Centre for Multicultural Studies which operated until the end of 1996 but formally ceased in early 1997. Its first premises was in Crown Street until it moved to 22 Porter Street (corner of Railway Crescent) Wollongong, opposite the North Wollongong Railway Station. The Centre researched local and wider multicultural issues. It ceased operations due to the outcome of a general review of research centres and units that took place across the campus. The Centre for Multicultural Studies not only focussed on research and teaching but also held events such as the Migrant Film Festival which was held over two days screening films from the 1940s to the 1970s that highlighted the misunderstandings that arise from different cultural behaviours and the difficulties adjusting to new places, cultures and people. All the films approached the subject with humour.

In November 1977 Australian Immigration officials visited the island of Tengah off the East Malaysian coast where a large armada of refugee boats had prepared to set off for Darwin. The Australian officials tried to persuade Vietnamese refugees not to sail to Australia. The refugees had responded to the new tough refugee policies by the Thai and Malaysian government who now turned away refugee boats and saw Australia as a safe haven. The increased number of illegal boat entries forced the government to again send immigration officials to an island off east coast of Malaysia in early December 1977 where they tried to stop refugees from Indochina sailing to Australia. The Australian Government did not operate an open-door policy on refugees and wanted to discourage illegal entry. The Australian Government threatened refugees with turning their boats away if they had left Thailand or Malaysia without obtaining Australian immigration clearance. The Australian Government tried to make the refugees aware that there was a process to be undertaken so there was no necessity to make the hazardous boat journey to Australia. Australian staff were temporarily stationed in Thailand to organise intakes of Indo-Chinese refugees.

In 1977 Prime Minister Malcom Fraser approved a major review of post arrival programmes and services for migrants which was headed by Melbourne Solicitor Frank Galbally. The Review of Post-Arrival Programmes and Services to Migrants was referred to as the Galbally Report. Mr Galbally had

once defended migrants from the Bonegilla 'riots' in the 1960s. The aim of the review was to make migrants more welcome, help them settle more easily into Australian life, to maintain their own cultures and to ensure they had the same rights and access to services as other Australians. Acting on the recommendations of the report Migrant Resource Centres were established, increased expenditure for grants to employ social welfare workers, project funding for 'once-only' projects of a welfare nature, community settlement centres to provide for the needs of newly arrived migrants who were not accommodated in Migrant Centres, community refugee settlement scheme, establishment of ethnic liaison schemes, Australian Ethnic Affairs Council and Institute of Multicultural Affairs, adult education programme, national accreditation of Authority for Translators and Interpreters, telephone interpreter service, ethnic radio and multicultural television, as well as other services.

In 1977 Migrant Resource Centres began to be established throughout Australia.

The last Australian ship to transport migrants to Australia under assisted migration schemes was the 'Australis' which arrived in 1977. Up until then the main form of transportation for migrants travelling to Australia was 'migrant ships'. Air travel began in the 1930s, however only wealthier migrants were able to access this form of transport. The introduction of long-range air travel in the late 1950s saw more and more migrants arrive by air.

In 1977 Draga (Danny) Gugucevski migrated to Australia from Macedonia with just \$75.00 in his pocket. He originally settled at Warrawong and worked as a fitter and turner at the Port Kembla Steelworks. Draga moved to Blackbutt two years later and then after 16 years moved to Flinders. After many years at the steelworks he left and worked as a manager of a tobacco shop at Gateway, Crown Central and Corrimall Court. In about 1993 he commenced running his own business NewXpress at Dapto Mall. After 27 years Draga sold his business and retired in 2020. Draga Gugucevski married Melisa and together brought up their children and later became proud grandparents.

The AI&S Karingal Hostel had begun shutting down from December 1977 when only 75 residents remained living in. Karingal was running at a loss despite withdrawing weekend and holiday services 7 months earlier. Karingal Hostel was considered for other purposes such as housing for the unemployed, but that did not eventuate and it was eventually demolished.

1978

In 1978 Australia moved to involve the United States in a concerted action and other receiving countries to persuade more nations to accept refugees from Indo-China. The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs undertook overseas missions and met with representatives of South East Asian Governments to discuss maintenance of maintaining orderly processing of refugees and sought international cooperation in resettlement. The minister also attended the UNHCR in Geneva and as a result participating countries offered to double the number of resettlement places and increase financial aid to the UNHCR for Indo-Chinese refugees.

In May 1978 the Galbally Report presented to Parliament fifty seven recommendations that included resettlement services, English language classes for adults and children, translation services, improved communication by Government with non-English speakers, extension of grants-in-aid to ethnic community organisations and establishment of Migrant Resource Centres. The report also recommended the establishment of the Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs and the extension of ethnic radio and the establishment of an ethnic television task force. When a commission was established for the implementation of the Report's recommendations it found the level of implementation impressive but with some inadequacies and made a further 89 recommendations. The report did not address the broader economic perspective from unemployment which was on the

increase particularly among the lower skilled migrants. Whilst the report would enable cultural social enhancement and maintain social ethnic groups it did not address issues of inequalities applicable to the migrant worker. Some critics viewed the report as being useful only to gain votes at the next election. The implementation of the recommendations would be affected by changing governments, community attitudes in response to negative press reports on migrant or ethnic groups and particularly when there were impending elections and funding cuts.

In 1978 the Illawarra Ethnic Teachers and Parents Association was formed and Mr Alex Adorni was the inaugural Chairman. Its charter was to represent all community language teachers both trained and untrained on all matters affecting areas of common concern.

By 1 June 1978 unofficial reports said there were 40 Vietnamese refugees starting a new life in Wollongong. Very little was known of them as Ethnic and Government agencies were said to have made no contact with them. There was no knowledge if they had families or friends, where they were living or how they coped with their new lifestyle and culture. Some authorities believed the Vietnamese kept to themselves out of fear of community resentment. Since January, twenty three Vietnamese had been taken on by AI&S but they were treated as normal job applicants and had not received preferential treatment, they were mostly unskilled and worked as general labourers. Once the Vietnamese were cleared to work and live in Australia they were free and no checks were made. The Good Neighbour Council had not received requests for help from the Vietnamese refugees but were aware they were living in the area. There were no interpreters in the region but once Vietnamese refugees were accommodated at Fairy Meadow Hostel that was expected to change. It was later revealed that they had turned to St Vincent de Paul Society in Wollongong back in April needing beds, blankets and general items to furnish a flat. The Society's Store Manager, Mr Noel Wilson, believed four men were living in a flat handy to the Steelworks and they had jobs. They apparently arrived by boat and wanted no publicity. A few days after they received help they returned to thank them. Of the twenty three who had taken up work at AI&S, six of them were originally from Villawood Migrant Hostel. They found private accommodation to live in. Refugees had to prove there was accommodation available for them before they could leave Villawood.

In 1978 Commonwealth Hostels Limited, established in January 1952 to administer Hostels ceased operation. On 2 June 1978 Commonwealth Hostels Limited became the Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services Ltd.

Fairy Meadow Hostel brick units had been closed since September 1977. With the pending arrival of Vietnamese refugees on 26 June, these units were to be re-opened. Migrant hostels were being rapidly filled and accommodation had become scarce. Fairy Meadow Hostel Units were the only Commonwealth Migrant Hostel accommodation in Wollongong. Former Fairy Meadow Hostel staff were offered their jobs back at the Hostel. About 50 staff were employed at Fairy Meadow Hostel before it closed and not as many would be needed.

On 19 June 1978 Mr Vojo Matejovic was appointed the Manager at Fairy Meadow Hostel and he arrived at to take up his post on Wednesday 21 June 1978. He had first come to Wollongong in 1950 and had been manager of the Staff Department of Balgownie Hostel. Mr Matijevic had managed the Greylands Hostel in Western Australia when the first Indo-Chinese refugees to Australia arrived there in 1975. Vojo Matijevic had worked with migrants since 1949.

On Monday 26 June 1978 up to thirty five staff commenced working at Fairy Meadow Hostel. In June 1978 Fairy Meadow Hostel was able to accommodate 275 people. The Indo-Chinese refugees were free to stay at the hostel or find other accommodation. The children would first be enrolled at

Towradgi Public School but the parents would be advised of other schools in the area which they might transfer.

Three Hundred Indo-Chinese refugees arrived in Wollongong on 26 June 1978 and most were accommodated at Fairy Meadow Hostel in the new section of home units. The refugees were in Wollongong specifically for orientation and English classes which ran for 11 to 12 weeks and not for employment. Once they completed the course Commonwealth Hostels in Sydney decided whether they remained in Wollongong or were moved to other areas. Some of the 300 refugees would find employment in the Wollongong area through the Commonwealth Employment Service but those who could not be placed in suitable jobs were expected not to stay in Wollongong. These Indo-Chinese refugees were not "boat people" but had undergone rigorous examination and medical tests in Bangkok and had been thoroughly screened. The Indo-Chinese Refugees accommodated at Fairy Meadow arrived in Australia under the auspices of the United Nations and were not "boat people".

On 28 June 1978 after landing in Sydney by Qantas Jet, 102 Indo-Chinese refugees, 98 Vietnamese and 4 Cambodians, arrived at Fairy Meadow Hostel and began a new life in Wollongong. Only 12 were of school age and would attend Towradgi Public School. By the end of the month it was expected that Fairy Meadow Hostel would accommodate up to 165 refugees. The refugee migrants would have to compete with locals for employment but the Commonwealth Employment Service was available to them. There were more than 5,000 registered unemployed in Wollongong at the time. The refugees were paid social security benefits but only received the money left after the Hostel board and lodging had been deducted. These benefits remained until they got a job or left the area. Benefits ranged from \$36 to \$171.60 per week.

The St Vincent de Paul Society outfitted the first 95 of these refugees with the help of the Red Cross, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Salvation Army and Good Neighbour Council. The Federal Government provided some funds and the various groups bought new clothing for the Vietnamese. Each received underclothing, coats, trousers and jackets. The Smith Family outfitted the second intake.

The Indo-Chinese refugees were subjected to more stringent health checks than migrants from other countries. They entered Australia in three ways: Through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees holding camp in Bangkok, by arriving in small boats or from Malaysia. Refugees requiring medical treatment were not medically cleared until the condition was under control. Refugees arriving on small boats were first sent to a quarantine station and unable to leave until medically cleared.

The newly arrived Indo-Chinese refugees (Vietnamese) faced attitudes from people that dated back to the White Australia policy. Locals feared them and believed that would bring diseases, criminals or corrupt Vietnamese rich from fleeing the Communist regime. It was also at a time that the region was experiencing severe unemployment. Locals preferred that the money spent on housing the refugees at Fairy Meadow Hostel was better spent on the region's poor, aged and Aborigines (sic). Local ethnic groups apparently felt that the refugees would end family reunions migration schemes many of whom had submitted applications to bring family members over years earlier. It was also believed that intakes of Indo-Chinese refugees affected intakes of refugees from Timor, Chile and Lebanon many of whom had hoped to migrate to Australia under the family reunion scheme. The Illawarra Ethnic Community and Good Neighbour Council leaders met on 27 June 1978 and discussed the public reaction to and widespread ill-feeling towards Indo-Chinese refugee arrivals. The Anglican and Catholic Bishops in Wollongong called for tolerance, goodwill and support for the Vietnamese from the people of Wollongong. The President of the New Australian Association said they welcomed the refugees not because of their race, religion or ideology, but because they are fellow humans in distress and shared a history. Acts of kindness were shown such as that from the Albion Park Catholic parish

who arranged a scheme to build a home for refugee family at Albion Park through donations from Albion Park and Oak Flats residents. The house was built with less than \$20,000 and the family would pay the parish back over a specified period of time. These payments would then go into another fund to build second house. This was part of the national episcopal conference challenge to house at least one refugee family in every parish. The people of Wollongong were reminded that 30 years earlier they had paid kindness to strangers who came to Australia after suffering through World War 2 and the Vietnamese people were in need of the same kindness. More Indo-Chinese refugees were expected in July and August.

The rise in the number of refugees prompted the government to introduce a refugee policy framework and administrative machinery that set the foundations for Australia's Humanitarian Programme. In 1978 the Determination of Refugee Status Committee was established in Australia to process applications from people who wished to seek refugee status as defined by the UN Convention.

In 1978 nearly one-third of the Department of Immigration staff had migrant backgrounds.

In June 1978 as part of a review of immigration, the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs announced new policies that extended family reunions, commitment to humanitarian and compassionate responsibilities and the introduction of a numerical points system to ensure that new migrants met Australia's needs. Refugees were admitted under a separate criterion. Policies continued to be established, reviewed and revised. Between 1977 and 1978 under special refugee programmes Australia admits Soviet Jews and White Russians from China, Timorese from Portugal, Lebanese, East Europeans who gained asylum in Western Europe, Chileans who had fled to Argentina, Iraqi Assyrians who had sought refuge in Greece and later Armenians and Chaldeans, East Timorese family reunion programmes, Vietnamese family reunion programmes, Chinese and Cubans. By 1981 Special Humanitarian Programmes were introduced for those who were not classed as refugees. Australia becomes the fourth largest contributor to the UNHCR.

In July 1978, Mrs Talent D'Arcy began work as an interpreter in the Migrant Information Service at the Commonwealth Bank in Wollongong. It was a community service and not restricted to the Bank. She also provided interpreting services at Fairy Meadow Hostel where the bank had an agency. Mrs D'Arcy spoke Vietnamese, Cantonese and Mandarin as well as English. Mrs D'Arcy met her Scottish husband, Matthew, in Vietnam and they moved to Wollongong 11 years earlier. At the Bank of NSW Mr Vongsaphay provided interpreting services. Mr Vongsaphay had been the Loatian Government's Charge D'Affairs to Australia from 1971 to 1974.

On 17 July 1978 the Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr Phan Nien and three senior Government officers had a brief inspection of AI&S which was conducted under maximum security from which the Illawarra Mercury were only allowed to take photographs at the visitor's centre and were unable to speak to them. The visit was arranged for them to learn about the latest coke ovens technology. AI&S at the time had 26 Vietnamese refugees employed in the coke ovens area.

1979

There began a shift away from large-scale assisted programmes for migrant groups from particular source countries to a more targeted approach to attract migrants to fill specific skill and labour shortages. In 1979 a Numerical Multi-factor Assessment System for migrant selection began to be used that gave weight to factors such as family ties, occupation and language skills. Intending migrants were awarded points for such criteria as age, qualifications, education and family reunion.

By June 1979 there were about 208 refugees living at Fairy Meadow Hostel. The Fairy Meadow Hostel employed a full-time nurse and an Australian Doctor held surgery at the Hostel for two hours twice a week. Children aged two to five could be left at the pre-school centre while their mothers went to English classes. Almost 700 Indo-Chinese refugees had passed through since the first intake in June 1978. About 400 had moved into the community with the help of Welfare Officers who had found them homes and flats around Wollongong. Many also had moved to Sydney. The professionals and those with skills had fared better in finding employment. A doctor and chemist had been amongst the residents at the Hostel in June 1979. The unskilled relied heavily on labouring jobs at Port Kembla steelworks or with carmakers in Sydney.

By August 1979 rumours still ran high about the Vietnamese being given first preference for jobs over Australians and European migrants and jumping the queue on the Housing Commission waiting list. Six months earlier there had been 26 four-bedroom cottages available for allocation and 6 went to Vietnamese families. In August 1979 there were 27 applications for four-bedroom accommodation and 11 were from Indo-Chinese people. All family groups who required two or three-bedroom accommodation faced a considerable waiting period irrespective of nationality and the Commission claimed the Vietnamese were not given preference. Claims of Indo-Chinese refugees being given jobs ahead of other applicants were denied by AI&S. These false rumours were the same as those that were prevalent in the early days of post-World War 2 migrants in Wollongong. There were about 184 Vietnamese employed at the Steelworks and a great many had professional backgrounds. Once again, similar to many of the early post-World War 2 migrants. Many Australians did not know the difference between Vietnamese, Laotians and Chinese, again similar to the locals not understanding nationalities that were grouped as Balts or Displaced Persons. The Nazi Party planned a picket at Fairy Meadow Hostel against the Vietnamese refugees. It was to form part of their series of demonstrations designed to drive the refugees from the hostel. The Lord Mayor reacted to the news by telling them to stay out of town. The Nazi party had distributed leaflets throughout the Illawarra. It was reported that the Nazi Party had received financial support from about 200 Illawarra residents. They also protested against the Aborigines (sic) tribal land at Nowra and supported the reinstatement of the White Australia Policy and advocated for all non-European immigrants to be deported. A secret meeting of the Nazi Party members and sympathisers was held at the end of July in Wollongong. It was revealed by Mr Cameron, the then leader of the National Front, that supporters had been responsible for the Immigration Control Association leaflets in the Illawarra.

By October 1979 ethnic radio broadcasts were relayed to two of Australia's biggest migrant population centres, Newcastle and Wollongong.

On 8 December 1979 Ian Macphee became Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

During 1979-80 financial year two managerial residences were constructed at Fairy Meadow Hostel costing \$62,000.

In 1979 a new public school was established at Cringila.

The Migrant Resource Centre operated from 1979 in a house in Rawson Street in Wollongong. Many Migrant Resource Centres were established in high migrant settlement areas throughout Australia as a result of the Galbally Review. They were run by appointed committees drawn from Local, State and Federal Governments as well as representatives from local ethnic and other community groups. The Centre worked on many key campaigns with community groups in the 1980s and the early 1990s that included: jobs for women, the 14-year struggle to secure women the right to work at AI&S, the community languages campaign of 1982.

1980

In the 1980s more western countries developed ways to deter numbers of refugees and this generated a further rush to escape Vietnam before they were no longer able to come to Australia. Many people died trying to escape by boat, others made it to refugee camps in Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia. Journeys undertaken by boat were perilous for many reasons.

In May 1980, the Minister for Immigration announced changes in the migrant entry rules to facilitate family reunions.

The Minister for Immigration announced on in June 1980 that people in Australia without permanent resident status who had arrived in Australia before 1 January 1980, legally or illegally, had until 31 December 1980 to apply for permanent residency status under the Regularisation of Status Programme. Often a person would come to Australia on a temporary basis but instead of leaving after six months, they stayed on often working for family or friends.

A petition was received by the Honourable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives on 19 August 1980 from the citizens of Australia asking the Australian Government to adopt a humane policy in response to the grave threat to the life of refugees from various States of Indo-China that arose from the policies of the Government of Vietnam. The petition asked that Australia establish and maintain on the Australian mainland transit camps for housing and processing, mobilisation of the Defence Force to search for, rescue and transport to Australia refugees who have been able to leave the Indo-China States and accept the offer of the church groups who proposed to help settle the refugees.

An amount of \$21 million was provided in 1980-81 Budget for the new Multicultural Television Service which was planned to commence in October, and for ethnic radio services. A migrant intake was expected to rise to 95,000 in 1980-81 compared with 82,000 the previous year. A total of \$28 million was allocated to continue the Adult Migrant Education Program. Altogether more than \$25 million was to be provided for programs and services for migrants under the recommendations of the Galbally Report.

A 14-year campaign for the right to work in a male-dominated Steel industry in Port Kembla began in 1980. It was Australia's longest-run sexual discrimination case that concluded in 1994 and led to a change in workplace law. Robynne Murphy, who had a 30 year career as a steelworker with roles that included welder, crane driver and hot strip mill operator, directed a film called "Women of Steel" that told the story of the fight for equal rights led by the women that included Roza Klujaricek, Joncevska Slobodanka and Voulgaris Fotini. The film was awarded the 2020 NSW History Council Macquarie PHA Applied History Award.

1981

Between 1976-1981 Groups of Indochinese refugees (Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos) landed on Australian northern shores by boats where they were processed by Australian Government immigration, quarantine and customs officials before being sent to migrant hostels throughout Australia.

Vietnamese refugees and family reunion migrants continued to arrive in Australia until 1995. Today Vietnamese migration is no longer on a refugee basis.

Polish people had been residents of Wollongong during the early days following settlement and in the 1933 Census there were 6 Polish people recorded as living in the Wollongong area. Jews from Poland had been provided safe haven in Australia before the start of World War 2 and immediately after. Many people from Poland were settled in Australia as Displaced Persons under the International Refugee Organisation agreement. People from Poland also came to Australia as migrants. On 13 December 1981 the country of Poland was under martial law which led to repression, deaths, arrests and imprisonment of citizens. Pro-democratic movements such as the Solidarity movement became illegal overnight. Many Poles made the decision to emigrate and when Poland closed its borders those who were already abroad were unable to return. Like the post-World War 2 Polish refugees, people fled and many made their way to Austria who had opened its doors to them. By December 1951 about 50,000 Poles lived in Austria, many in the refugee camp at Traiskirchen reminiscent of what occurred nearly 40 years earlier in the post-World War 2 International Refugee Camps in Europe. About 22,000 Poles registered for political asylum which forced the Austrian Government to appeal to the US, Canada and Australia to increase their quotas for Polish refugees. From 1981 to 1985 Australia allowed permanent entry to Australia for more than 25,000 Poland-born settlers with many arriving as refugees. After Gorbachev's reforms and a deteriorated Polish economy communist rule ended for Poland in 1989. In the 2016 Census 1,639 people of Polish ancestry were residing in the Wollongong area.

In addition to those already mentioned, Australia has taken in or provided "Safe Haven" for people from a broad range of countries including the former Yugoslavia, Albanian Kosovars, Bosnia-Herzegovina, India, Indonesia, East Timor, El Salvador, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia, Central Africa, Middle East, Afghanistan, Iraq, Malaysia, Burma and Sri Lanka.

The Australian Government had started to abolish all assisted passages in April 1981. Towards the end of 1981 the assisted passage scheme for British migrants officially came to an end, and all migrants including those not from the United Kingdom, had to pay for their own journey to Australia. Hostels were now mainly used for refugees and in response to humanitarian crises. Applications were still void provided they had been submitted before 1 May 1981 and migrants arrived in Australia by 30 June 1982.

1982

In 1982 assisted migration had truly ended. Government subsidised accommodation was mostly provided for refugees the only category now assisted by the Government. The Australian Government signed an agreement with the Vietnam for an 'orderly Departure Programme'. An Australian Migration Officer is posted to Hanoi. Vietnamese are offered sponsorship by relatives in Australia and in November the first group of immigrants from Vietnam is accepted under the Orderly Departure Programme. Up to 1982 the Australian Government had accepted more than 50,000 refugees from Indo-China of whom about 2,000 came by boat. Others were taken from Malaysia where they had been stranded. More than 11,000 people migrated directly from Vietnam to Australia.

On 7 May 1982 the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs was John Hodges.

In August 1982 the Federal Government decided to close Fairy Meadow Hostel with 100 men, women and children told to leave the Hostel by September. Forty staff members were also retrenched. The Authorities decided the Hostel was no longer viable and practical because Wollongong's steel industry was too depressed to absorb any more migrant workers. Once closed, the vacant hostel buildings remained until the Federal Government was sure it would not be needed for accommodation purposes. It was not unusual for Hostels to close when accommodation needs fell only to open again when a demand for migrant accommodation arose. Post arrival services previously provided at Fairy

Meadow Hostel were made available at other locations in Wollongong. The Illawarra Ethnic Council appealed to the Australian Government not to close the Hostel because it believed the Hostel was an established regional resource and should be put to use and the people of Wollongong should have a say in its future. One potential use was as a youth refuge, aged people's accommodation or a women's refuge. Decisions for the future use of the Fairy Meadow Hostel would not be made until 1983 and the first tenants moved into the accommodation in 1984.

A 1982 review by the Australian Government introduced 'individual determinations' of the refugee status to ensure only genuine refugees and not economic migrants, were admitted under Australian refugee programmes. The review terminated the White Russian programme and extended the Latin American programme. The refugee programme for Iraqi Assyrians in Greece also ended and were incorporated into a new Special Humanitarian Programme (SHP) for Middle Eastern minority groups. SHPs also applied to Soviet Jews and East Timorese. The Australian Government had announced a tightening of the refugee policy by applying the UN Convention Criteria on an individual basis rather than on the basis of the UNHCR's group mandate. The aim was to ensure that limited places were reserved for genuine refugees and not queue-jumpers. In July forty people believed to be from Afghanistan arrive in Sydney from India without visas and were refused entry. A number of refugees were resettled under the Rescue at Sea Pool (RSP) which is a UNHCR scheme where refugees are guaranteed a reserve of resettlement places if found at sea by ships from countries flying flags of convenience. In 1983 the new Government endorsed exiting refugee policy but diversifies intakes to reflect global dimensions of refugee problems. The refugee focus is now on Central and South America and the Middle East. Resettlement in Australia is a last resort and voluntary repatriation and local integration of the country of first asylum are the preferred solutions.

1983

In 1983 refugees were accepted from El Salvador, Sri Lanka, and Lebanon which raised concern in Australia about the increasing numbers of Asian migrants. Because of communal violence in Sri Lanka special concessions were made for family migration sponsorships and people adversely affected by the upheavals. Renewed fighting in Lebanon resulted in new special arrangements for Lebanese entry into Australia that gave priority to the processing of family migration sponsorships. A Human Rights Commission Report on Villawood Detention Centre is critical of Australia's system of arbitrary detention and removal of human rights and freedoms of the detainees.

On 11 March 1983 Stuart West became the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

The Illawarra Community Housing Trust conducted a meeting on 19 December 1983 to discuss the offer made by the Federal Government to rent the vacant Fairy Meadow Migrant Hostel at a cost of \$20,000. Housing Commission officers, Administrative Officers and Immigration had met with the Trust representatives on the Friday. The Trust Commission had lodged a second submission with the Government to use the hostel for low cost housing to which the Government had agreed to reduce the rent from \$81,600 to \$35,000. The offer of \$20,000 made on Friday was the lowest it would go. However, the money the Trust would make from leasing the hostel was to be less than the rent the Government was asking. The Trust voted to pay the \$20,000 rent that the Government sought having decided that they could break even if occupancy remained at 75 percent. The Housing trust rented the brick apartment blocks that had been built to replace the corrugated "igloo" huts.

In 1983 the market collapse sees BHP post a \$144 million loss and forces a rationalisation of its operations and a massive reduction of its workforce which led to widespread unemployment with the migrant steelworkers hit particularly hard.

1984

In 1984 the first 106 Africans are admitted into Australia as part of the refugee and humanitarian intake. They are mainly Ethiopian and most settle in Melbourne. The number of refugees to Australia from 1945 to 1984 totalled 418,870. The three main groups of refugees were Polish, Vietnamese and Hungarians.

The Immigration Minister, Mr West, handed control of the vacant Fairy Meadow Hostel to the Illawarra Housing Commission Trust on 6 February 1984. The Housing Trust sublet 34 family units to people who desperately needed accommodation. Other vacant hostels throughout Australia had also been used for low cost housing. The first tenants made up of more than 150 people that included children, moved into the units in about April 1985. The Trust first negotiated a 12 month lease at a cost of \$20,000 in August 1982. Upon handover the option for a two year extension on the lease was available. The units were refurbished by the Trust before the tenants moved in with funding from the Federal Government and its own investment funds and used trade apprentices and retrenched building workers. When the units were first built they did not have any cooking facilities because the migrant residents had to eat in the cafeteria. Walls were knocked out and partitions erected which enabled each unit to have a kitchenette complete with stove and refrigerator. The first ten families moved in on 2 April 1984 and another 24 families in mid-April 1984. The brick units would later be used as accommodation for University of Wollongong students.

In 1984 Karingal Hostel was demolished.

In July 1984 the Australian Press Council was asked to investigate the editorial policy of the South Coast newspaper, The Wollongong Star. It had published an article "Asians Rape South Coast Beaches". The story claimed that members of the Vietnamese community were invading the rock platforms and beaches around Wollongong in search of edible shellfish and the gathering of molluscs. This so-called "exploitation" was entirely legal. The Wollongong Star was a 32 page tabloid newspaper printed by Media Press (Sales) Pty Ltd and was edited and distributed by a Wollongong journalist. It sold in the region's newsagents for 30 cents and had a circulation of about 4,000. The report was assessed by the Wollongong Centre for Multicultural Studies director as racist and inflammatory and had written to both the Press Council and NSW Anti-Discrimination Board to prevent the newspaper from publishing similar stories. It was also suggested by the South Coast Journalists Association sub-branch that the high rate of unemployment was often the cause of tensions that translated to prejudices against a scapegoat group, such as the Vietnamese. There was nothing that the Board could do through legal channels but they had written to the newspaper and the Press Council and the article did not reach the existing NSW Anti-Discrimination legislation. The editor of The Wollongong Star admitted the article was a mistake and the journalist who wrote it had been sacked. Some 37 years later similar articles of Asians taking over the legal amount of cockles from Lake Illawarra continues, albeit without specific racial or discriminatory tone.

On 13 December 1984 Chris Hurford became the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

By 1984 more than 11,000 homes in 26 suburbs had been erected in the Illawarra.

1985

Australia accepts 1882 people from the Middle East under the Refugee and Special Humanitarian Programs most were Iranian Baha'is.

The Australian Government announced that the number of “boat people” had decreased and family reunions had increased. Reduction in the numbers in the Refugee and Special Humanitarian Programmes were made as well as the sale of surplus migrant hostel buildings and associated land.

1986

By February 1986 Transfield advised the Commonwealth Government that it wished to complete the purchase of Unanderra Hostel at the earliest possible date and pay the total monies owed. The matter was settled in July 1986.

1987

In 1987 the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs was changed to Department of Local Government and Ethnic Affairs and on 16 February 1987. Mick Young was given the portfolio.

In June 1987 Fairy Meadow Hostel was purchased by the University of Wollongong for student accommodation.

1988

New procedures for migrant entry from Vietnam commenced on 1 July 1988 after two years of negotiations with the Vietnam Government. Vietnam agreed to provide Australian authorities with a substantial list of people who were eligible to leave Vietnam. People wishing to emigrate no longer had to get permission from the Vietnamese authorities before lodging an application with Australian migration personnel, but Vietnamese authorities retained the sole right to grant exit permits.

On 12 February 1988 the Minister for Local Government and Ethnic Affairs was Clyde Holding followed by Robert Ray on 2 September 1988.

The NSW Drug and Alcohol Authority targeted 11 ethnic groups in its fight against addiction in December 1988. The communities targeted included Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Portuguese, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese many of whom were prominent in the Illawarra Region. An Ethnic Workers' Scholarship Scheme had been introduced to train bilingual workers to combat drug addiction. The six-week course was conducted by the Illawarra Area Health Service's Kembla Street drug centre.

1989

In 1989 Prime Minister Hawke provided asylum to Chinese students in Australia following the Tiananmen Square massacre in China. In the same year the first Cambodian refugees arrived by boat many of whom were suspected as being economic migrants. By about 1992 only about 381 Cambodians had arrived.

In 1945, at the start of post-World War 2 migration and settlement, Australia's population was around 7.4 million. Between 1947 and 1971 immigration was responsible for 59% of Australia's population growth. By 1981, just before the 1988-89 major reforms to Australia's migration programmes, Australia's population was 15 million.

Major immigrations reforms in 1988-89 divided the Migration Programme into three streams: family, skilled and humanitarian, and a research assessment capacity was developed within the Department. The Migration Legislation Amendment Act, 1989 received Royal Assent on 19 June 1989 and came into

operation on 19 December 1989. It was the most comprehensive reform of immigration legislation since 1958. The Act enabled the Australian Government to stop the abuse of the immigration programme by people entering illegally, mainly visitors who had overstayed their welcome. It also included the introduction of mandatory deportation and the selling of illegal entrants' possessions to recover costs of detention and deportation. Twelve months grace was given to enable illegal entrants to make application to remain in Australia. The new Act was not meant to disadvantage asylum seekers whose status remained as it was before 19 December 1989. The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia were critical of the new Act on the grounds of infringement of basic human rights of many Australians and potential migrants.

In 1989 the former Dining Hall/Cafeteria at Fairy Meadow Hostel was converted for use as a Science Centre.

In mid-1989 the Illawarra Ethnic Teachers and Parents Association which was formed in 1978 was an organisation with 32 classes, 2,000 students and 90 teachers. Many of the organisation's volunteers also gave up their time as well to maintain cultural groups languages and cultures. Funding cuts introduced by the Federal Government in 1989 reduced the level of assistance that could be given. The Association had to reduce the hours of part-time staff. The association was vital for the continued language teaching as there was insufficient resources in the public education system to cater for the level of demand and diversity of language groups throughout the State.

1990

On 4 April 1990 the Minister for Local Government and Ethnic Affairs was Gerard Hand.

The Australian Government announced on 9 May 1990 that the migration rules were to be adjusted because of a number of flaws in the procedures with the initial changes to the relevance of asylum seekers related to illegal entrants. A month later temporary entry permits for people seeking entry as refugees or on humanitarian grounds were introduced. The permits provided refugees with four years protection and the opportunity to apply for permanent residency. Asylum Seekers on four year temporary residence permits were given access to government services such as Special Benefits, Family Allowance, Family Allowance Supplement, Medicare, labour market programs, English language training and education. Further reviews of the Migration Regulations took place and amendments provided that no person who came to Australia illegally before 19 December 1989 would be able to obtain permission to remain. They were given to was 18 December 1993 to apply for permission to remain. On 26 October 1990 a new system for determining claims for refugee status and humanitarian stays was introduced plus provision of significantly larger resources to speed up the decision-making process on refugee applications. Many more reviews, provisions, detention centres in Australia and off-shore processing procedures, changes to legislation and Acts and much more continued with regard to asylum seekers, refugees and people coming to Australia on humanitarian grounds. Even at the time of writing, this contentious and political football continues but is not discussed any further in this document as its focus is on migration agreements. Migrants continue to arrive in Australia but it is very different from the migration agreements and arrangements and applications are assessed under family streams, skills stream and special eligibility. Migration under the family stream grew significantly at the expense of skilled migrants. The 1996-1997 Migration (non-Humanitarian) Programme incorporated a shift towards skilled migration to restore a balance. Much of the Australian Governments focus has been forced onto on asylum seekers and refugees. Consecutive elected Governments continue to throw funding or reduce funding, change laws or apportion blame on previous Government's ill-devised asylum seekers processes, each thinking they have the better answer. Unauthorised entry into Australia continues today as does all its associated problems, irrespective of who is in Government.

1991

In 1991 the first detention centre was established in Port Hedland for people who had arrived illegally by boat.

1992

On 21 December 1992, the Enterprise Migrant Centre in Melbourne is closed. It was the last remaining operating migrant accommodation centre.

1993

On 24 March 1993 the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs was Nick Bolkus.

1994

The Migration Reform Act of 1992 introduced in September 1994, moved away from discretionary powers.

A 1994 Memorandum of Understanding established an Immigration Cooperation Programme between Australia and Laos.

By December 1994 the number of immigrants from the Philippines and Portugal that settled in Shellharbour had greatly increased while Vietnamese and German numbers had dropped. Shellharbour's German and former Yugoslavian immigrants were the largest non-English speaking communities in the Region. This was included in a Shellharbour Local Government Area report entitled 'Profile of the Ethnic Communities – Shellharbour Local Government Area'.

1995

Vietnamese refugees and family reunion migrants continued to arrive in Australia until 1995. Today Vietnamese migration is no longer on a refugee basis.

Like the term "Balts" that was wrongly used to describe all Displaced Persons when the term Balts referred to only three specific ethnic groups of Displaced Persons, the term Vietnamese is used to describe all from that country but in fact encompasses 54 ethnic groups with differences between people in rural and urban areas and across cultural groups as well as people from North Vietnam and people from South Vietnam.

After arrival and processing most of the Vietnamese who came to Australia were settled in localities that had high immigration settlements from previous waves of migration which is why in NSW there is a large concentration around Cabramatta and later Fairfield. These towns were also located within the Western Sydney's manufacturing sector where most Vietnamese refugees found their first job.

Once again there were objections to the new arrivals being given government handouts and jobs. An echo of protests from times past. The Vietnamese community has fared well with many of the second-generation being high-achieving and university educated just like the second-generation of the post World War 2 refugees, Displaced Persons and migrants.

1996

In 1996 the Department of Local Government and Ethnic Affairs became the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. On 11 March 1996 Phillip Ruddock became Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

In August 1996 the State Government announced a grant of \$56,000 that was administered through the Wollongong City Council to run a programme aimed at raising literacy and numeracy skills for Vietnamese migrants and enhancing opportunities for work or further education.

In October 1996 the Migration Programme shifted from family towards skilled migration.

On 6 October 1996, William (Bill) Beedles, late of Berkeley, passed away. A Barrister, he had migrated to Australia from Wirral, Liverpool in the United Kingdom in 1950 and at first lived at a Cringila hostel. He was a former steelworks pipe fitter who had left school at 14. He spent three years studying for his matriculation and then a further eight years study law between his day job and milking cows on a rented farm at Figtree. Bill Beedles had also worked as a motor mechanic, labourer, soldier, surveyor's assistant, solicitor and barrister. A man who loved to recite poetry, it was this love of poetry which led to his marrying his wife Marie having met while she was working at the Steelworks Canteen. Bill Beedles decided late in life, after he had married and had five children, to study law after he was a witness at a court case and realised the barrister there was no more clever than himself. Bill Beedles would get up early in the morning, milk the cows, go to bed after he got home from work then got up again at 10pm after the children had gone to bed and study under a kerosene lamp to about 2am. On 23 November 1967, the South Coast Times reported Mr Beedles had passed his final exam to become a barrister at law. To celebrate he took the day off and brought his family into Wollongong for lunch at Coles. Bill Beedles practised as a barrister in Sydney but in about 1972 joined a solicitor's firm at Oak Flats before he formed his own practice.

1997

1997-98 Australia Government strengthened its border management functions.

Slave and Blaguna Nikolvska arrived in Wollongong on 27 September 1997. They had migrated from Dolenci in the Demir-Hisbab region of Macedonian. They had two sons Nikola and Drage who had migrated to Australia before them. When Slave and Blaguna first arrived in Wollongong they lived with their younger son Drage and then stayed with Nikola. They continued living with their son.

1999

On 17 May 1999 a group of 83 Chinese tried to enter Australia illegally by boat near Port Kembla. They were returned to China. They had been falsely promised jobs on the Olympic projects in Sydney.

In 1999 BHP closed its Newcastle Steelworks.

2000

In 2000 a new stand-alone company, OneSteel, is established after BHP spins off its long products division.

2001

The numbers for the 2000-2001 Migration (non-humanitarian) Programme planning level was for 76,000 migrants. The Skills Streams, especially in high demand occupations such as information technology and accounting was 40,000, the Family Stream was set at 34,400 and a total of 1,600 was reserved for the Special Eligibility Stream. The Humanitarian Programme was set at 12,000 places. Planning levels are revised each year in response to Australia's needs as was the post-World War 2 immigration programme. In the past 50 years Australia had settled 600,000 refugees and displaced persons.

In 2001 BHP merges with global resources giant Billiton and becomes BHP Billiton. In March of the same year BHP Billiton announced its demerge from the steel business.

11 September 2001 a terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in New York occurred.

On 26 November 2001 the department changed its name to Department of Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs. Phillip Ruddock remained as its Minister.

"Act first, apologise later", was one way to interpret the actions taken by the University of Wollongong when in December 2001 they demolished Nissen Huts that remained on the former Fairy Meadow Migrant Hostel site. The illegal demolition also demonstrated the total disregard the University had of post-World War 2 migrants who had called this place home while they helped build the nation's future and contributed much to the economic and cultural growth of the Illawarra Region. Several Nissen Huts had been demolished but their disappearance was not noticed until four months later. The Wollongong Council Heritage Officer, a historical archaeologist who was a member of the Wollongong Council's Heritage Committee and the Heritage Committee's Chair all voiced their disappointment and shock as well as public outcry of what had occurred. The University's Buildings Director did not even know if the University had the necessary council approval to demolish the buildings but went ahead based on "safety concerns". The University had gained control of the former hostel site in 1987 and over that period had surreptitiously got rid of the huts. Wollongong Council threatened to prosecute the University of Wollongong after it illegally demolished two of the huts that remained from the former Fairy Meadow (Balgownie) Hostel. A public meeting was convened to save the Nissen Huts.

2002

On 18 March 2002 the 6 millionth post war migrant, a female information technologist from the Philippines came to Australia. Cristina Jurado was accompanied by her husband Karlo and their two children. They arrived by air and landed at Sydney International Terminal.

After the terrorist attack in New York in 2001 and Bali in 2002 resources for the reception of migrants was diverted towards their detention.

In July 2002 BHP Steel separated from BHP Billiton and was listed on the Australian Stock Exchange as an independent stand-alone company.

On 10 November 2002 the Federal Election returned the Coalition Party to power. The Federal Government's actions against the Tampa at the end of August and the legislative package in September known as the 'Pacific Solution' may have influenced election outcomes.

2003

On 1 April 2003 a public meeting was convened by the Migration Heritage Project with the University of Wollongong representatives to exchange views on how a large part of the history of Wollongong would be lost forever if the remaining Nissen and Quonset huts at former Balgownie/Fairy Meadow Migrant Hostel were to be demolished or even moved from their original site. This meeting, together with lobbying from heritage consultants, played a role in broadening the understanding of the value of saving the Nissen Huts. Lobbying began to have the huts placed on the NSW State Heritage Register.

By 2 April 2003, five remaining huts at the former Fairy Meadow (Balgownie) Hostel site were at risk of being removed or destroyed to make way for the new University of Wollongong Campus that was set to commence developing infrastructure later in the year. A year earlier Wollongong City Council had threatened to prosecute the University after it illegally demolished two of the huts. One hut had been sold and taken to a farm at Griffith and the University rejected to compromise and bring the hut back to the Fairy Meadow site. The University was never prosecuted for the sale and demolition of the huts. Of the five remaining huts, Wollongong City Council had resolved to move 3 of the huts but had yet to determine their destination. A proposed site was Australia' Industry World but that did not eventuate. The other two huts were demolished. Wollongong Heritage Advisory Committee were called to assess the site for "State significance".

An article appears in the Illawarra Mercury on Saturday, 26 April 2003, featuring Beryl Fletcher (nee Child) and Joyce Hallsworth (nee Earl) who lived at Berkeley Hostel. They were organising a reunion for the following year to mark the 50th anniversary for the 1954-1956 intake of migrants into Berkeley Hostel. They spoke of how nothing was left of the former Berkeley Hostel and how important it was for the huts at Fairy Meadow Hostel to be saved from demolition.

In July 2003, Assistant Planning Minister for NSW, Dianne Beamer, who as a child lived at a migrant hostel, announced plans to protect the Huts at the former Fairy Meadow (Balgownie) Hostel by nominating they be placed on the NSW State Heritage Register.

In August 2003 BlueScope Steel was chosen as the proposed new name for the company. An early morning flag ceremony on Tuesday, 18 November 2003, at the Port Kembla Steelworks north gate saw the BHP flag replaced by the flag of BlueScope Steel. The BHP name had been associated with steelmaking in the region for almost 70 years. The name BlueScope had been endorsed by the shareholders a week earlier at the Annual General Meeting in Melbourne.

On 7 October 2003 the Minister for Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs was Amanda Vanstone.

By December 2003 the population of Australia was estimated at 20 million.

2004

University of Wollongong restored one Nissen Hut and two Quonset Huts on the site of the former Balgownie/Fairy Meadow Migrant Hostel. Two of the huts were relocated from the flood-prone area to their present location beside the large former Kitchen/Dining Hall. The huts have been onto a raised berm. As of 2020 one hut remains unused, one is used as the University of Wollongong Alumni Book Store and the former Kitchen/Dining Hall was first used for the University Science Centre and is now used for a child care centre.

2006

On 27 January 2006 the department reverted to the Department for Multicultural Affairs with Amanda Vanstone remaining on as its Minister.

2007

On 23 January 2007 the Department for Multicultural Affairs became Department for Immigration and Citizenship. Kevin Andrews was the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship followed by Chris Evans on 3 December 2007.

In 2007, researchers for the Migration Heritage Project Thematic study undertook an inspection of the former location of Unanderra No 1 and No 2 Hostel and found no obvious evidence or potential sources of the former migrant workers' hostel at Unanderra nor any acknowledgement of the early migrant workers who were Displaced Persons, British migrants and their families or the hundreds of migrants from other European countries who contributed so much, not only to the Illawarra, but to Australia generally. Similar inspections took place at Berkeley Hostel, Karingal and Steelhaven Hostels, MWSDB "Balts" Hostel, where no obvious evidence remained of their existence or acknowledgement of the migrants who lived in these hostel contributed to the social, cultural and economic growth in the Illawarra.

2009

In 2009 the Viva la Gong and Migration Heritage Project collaborated in a photographic exhibition with photographer, Mayu Kanamori. The series of artworks reflected on the post-World War 2 migrant experiences. The 25 former Wollongong migrants were photographed at the location of the places they first lived when they arrived in Wollongong. Many of those places did not exist and so they were photographed either in front of empty land or developed sites. The photographs were exhibited on the exterior walls of the Wollongong City Gallery during Viva la Gong. Included in the festivities was an adaptation of life in a Nissen Hut called 'Not Missin' the Nissen', by Creative Arts Students from the University of Wollongong. Small replicas of Nissen Hut, also created by the students were placed and moved about the mall during Viva la Gong. All the exhibitions enabled residents to learn of the experiences of post-war migrants in Wollongong, many for the first time.

In July 2009 Wollongong City Council voted to give the huts at the former Balgownie/Fairy Migrant Hostel a local heritage listing on the draft Wollongong Local Environmental Plan.

On 28 August 2009, Wollongong MP, Noreen Hay, announced that the Nissen hut and the Quonset Huts located at the former Balgownie/Fairy Migrant Hostel in Fairy Meadow were officially added to the NSW State Heritage Register. It had taken six years since they were first recommended to be saved. The huts were eventually re-located near to the former cafeteria/dining hall on raised berms to avoid risk of flooding. The move placed them in a cluster more representative of how they would have appeared when the site was used as a migrant hostel. The huts had been refurbished by the University of Wollongong and the hut that previously housed the Science Centre was now used as a Child Care Centre. Any future development plans for the huts now needed NSW Heritage Council approval.

2010

On 14 September 2010 Chris Bowen became the Minister of Immigration and Citizenship.

2011

Jens Madsen, a migrant from Denmark and the business owner of a photographic business for 44 years passed away on 31 July 2011.

2013

On 14 February 2013 Brendan O'Connor became the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship. Kate Lundy was the Minister for Multicultural Affairs (2012-2013). Tony Burke became the Minister for Immigration, Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship on 1 July 2013.

On 18 September 2013 Scott Morrison became the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship. In the same year the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service amalgamated under one portfolio signifying the increased focus on protecting Australia's borders and managing the movement of people and goods across them. Once again settlement services and multicultural affairs were redistributed and shared by other Departments.

2014

On 23 December 2014 Peter Dutton became Minister for Immigration and Border Protection and then Minister for Home Affairs when it changed on 20 December 2017 under which immigration and citizenship now falls.

Migration and humanitarian reforms continue to this day.

2016

The Vietnam War Comradeship Monument was unveiled at McCabe Park in Wollongong on 30 October 2016. It came about 3 years after the President of the Vietnamese Community in Wollongong, Teresa Tran, approached Wollongong City Council to build a monument next to the Vietnam War Memorial at Flagstaff Hill. The Vietnamese Community wanted to have the monument next to Vietnam monument because the Australian Army and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam fought together against the Communist of Vietnam. The Wollongong Heritage Council voted against the Flagstaff Hill and suggested other sites as more appropriate. The funds for the monument were raised by the Vietnamese Community, the granite was donated by John Flood, OAM, from Muswellbrook, a Vietnam veteran and Edminston Jones Architects from Wollongong designed the Comradeship Monument which was built by John Vaccaro and Zoran Naumovski of VN Developments. Each year the Vietnam Community holds a special ceremony to pay respect to the fallen soldiers. It is a place for community peace and healing.

2020

Women of Steel documentary opened in cinemas in November 2020. The documentary directed by Robynne Murphy tells the story of the battle by hundreds of women wanting to the right to work in a male-dominated Port Kembla Steelworks. The film was awarded the History council of NSW's 2020 Macquarie PHA Applied History Award. It presents the powerful story of Australia's longest running

sexual discrimination case from 1980 to 1994 and led to a change in workplace law forever spearheaded mainly by migrant women of all nationalities.

Rieste Andrievski first solo art show opened at Wollongong Art Gallery in December 2020. The Cordeaux Heights artist art show honoured the migrants and the steel industry. The solo exhibition was called "Pecalba: An Industrial Migrant Landscape". Riste Andrievski was born in Macedonia in 1973 and arrived in Australia with his parents in 1974.

2021

A fifty year reunion was attended by dozens of former residents of Balgownie Hostel at a local venue in Wollongong in February 2021. Most of the people at the reunion were children or young teenagers when they migrated to Australia and came to the Illawarra with their parents.

In March 2021 Wollongong Council flew the Greek National Flag at its Burelli Street building in honour of the 200th anniversary of Greek Independence Day acknowledging the Greek community in the Illawarra as a large and important group.

In July 2021 Giuseppe (Joe) Scozzafava's Shellharbour Auto Shop ceased business. Joe was an Italian migrant who worked as a hoist operator at the Port Kembla Steelworks before he started his own business first with a service station in Port Kembla, garages at Dapto and again at Port Kembla and finally at Shellharbour Village. Joe retired from business in 2001 and the auto shop was taken over by his sons.

In June 2021 a reunion was held at the Historical Aviation Restoration Society (HARS) at Albion Park Rail between the Vietnamese refugees rescued at sea by the members of the Royal Australian Navy 40 years earlier on 21 June 1981.