

Welcome again to the MHP Newsletter

Since incorporation in 2001, the Migration Heritage Project has always had a mission statement:

***define, record, protect and promote migration heritage in Wollongong and Illawarra***

This will now appear in our newsletter banner to remind you why the MHP committee and members continue towards fulfilling its mission statement and why the MHP continues to share its news with its supporters and maybe one day we will have a migration museum in Wollongong that can showcase the contribution of migrants in our city in its diversity, culture and even food.

#### **NEW MHP WEBSITE**

Work on the new MHP website is progressing. The new website will be more interactive and provide increased opportunities to showcase the body of work that the MHP has achieved in the past 17 years. The MHP is excited to have Facebook, Instagram and YouTube social media platforms to communicate more instantly our news and endeavours. We will send you the link to the new website once it is up and running. The MHP committee continues to meet regularly with Camtu Pham from CleverLink who is developing the new MHP website. <http://www.cleverlink.com.au/>

#### **ONE FROM THE MHP ARCHIVES**

With Easter, including Orthodox Easter, just finished we thought it would be nice to revisit one of our past newsletter stories about Easter egg traditions. This story is from MHP Newsletter, Issue 13, dated March 2008.

#### **UKRAINIAN DECORATED EASTER EGGS (PYSANKY)**



Ukrainians at Easter time are hard at work creating beautiful works of art - preparing decorated Easter eggs – the PYSANKY. The eggs are decorated raw and the yolk is blown out through pinholes when they are finished. The process is intricate and each design is drawn onto a white egg and progressively covered in bees wax using a hollow-nibbed stylus, batik style. Then, beginning with light colours the egg is dipped in food (colour) dyes, dried and more wax patterns are applied. This process is repeated with gradually darker colours and with each dye the ornate patterns emerge. Finally the wax is removed by warming the egg over a candle.

*Funding:* The Ukrainian community received a small cultural grant from the NSW Ethnic Affairs Commission to revive the egg painting tradition in late 1980s. Electric nibbed styluses were also purchased to improve the application of the wax.

*History:* In keeping with tradition this ancient craft is passed from generation to generation. Archaeological evidence shows the pysanka tradition dates back to pre-Christian celebrations of spring when the eggs were made as offerings to ward off evil and bring prosperity in the year ahead.



*Easter Food Basket:* Nowadays the eggs symbolize the rebirth of Christ and form part of the blessing of the food basket. Families present a basket of pysanky, ham, cottage cheese, salami, salt, butter, horse radish, boiled eggs and decorative homemade paska bread to be blessed by the priest at Easter mass.

*Ukrainian Easter:* After Easter Sunday Mass people greet one another with the traditional Easter greeting: “CHRYSTOS VOSKRES” - CHRIST is risen to which the reply is: “VOISTYNU VOSKRES” - Indeed He is risen. It is also the custom to exchange or give Easter eggs with this Easter greeting. Families return home to break the long fast with an Easter breakfast of consecrated and other food. The meal begins with Easter grace and then a ceremonious serving of the blessed (boiled eggs), which the head of the family divides into portions. One portion for each person, greeting the family with the customary Easter greeting of “Chrystos Voskres” and extends to every individual the very best wishes. This particular ritual symbolises family unity and expresses hope for a happy and prosperous year.

Easter Monday is marked with a quaint custom, the origin is obscure, of dousing young females with water by the village young men. Usually the most popular girl gets the greatest share of dousing. The girl is obliged to pay for her freedom from dousing with her very best PYSANKA Easter egg.  
XPUCMOC BOCKPEC - CHRYSOTOS VOSKRES

*(Story and photographs courtesy of Ludwik Ihnat, OAM and Erika Ihnat). Ludwik is a founding member and good friend of the MHP.*

There are many different Easter traditions. The Greek Easter tradition was one researched by the MHP for its inaugural exhibition *Celebrations: Spirit of Communities* that was held in the Wollongong City Gallery in September 2003. Follow this link to the present MHP website to take you to the Celebrations Exhibition webpage: <http://www.mhpillawarra.com/celebrations.html> then select the Greek Easter and Greek Easter Egg icons to see more.

### **BELONGINGS AN INTERACTIVE INSTALLATION AT THE BIENNALE OF SYDNEY**

*Belongings* brings stories of displacement and hope to life in an interactive installation. On now until 11 June at the Biennale of Sydney, Cockatoo Island, Building 153. Follow this link for more information [https://www.sbs.com.au/feature/belongings?cx\\_cid=edm:myweek:18040](https://www.sbs.com.au/feature/belongings?cx_cid=edm:myweek:18040)

### **NEW CULTURAL PLAN FOR WOLLONGONG**

Council is developing a new Cultural Plan for Wollongong and invite the local community and creative community to share their thoughts for the Plan via a survey. The Plan is for the support of arts, heritage and culture in our City.

The survey can be completed:

- Online at Council's website: <https://www.haveyoursaywollongong.com.au/cultural-plan-for-wollongong>
- By visiting a Council Library to obtain a hardcopy that can be returned by post to council.
- By ringing Council on 4227 8239 and asking for a survey to be posted to your address.

The survey will be open from 26 March to 27 April 2018 and if you would like more information please call Kiosha Gardner at Council on 4227 8239.

### **VALE DRAGO RADINOVIC**

The MHP would like to acknowledge the passing of Drago Radinovic and extend its condolences to his family. Drago was a member of the MHP and was featured in the MHP exhibition *Collections of Hopes and Dreams* that was held in the Wollongong City Gallery November 2011 to March 2012 as well as being interviewed for the MHP's Wollongong's Migration Heritage Places Study, 2007. You can learn more about Drago's story in the MHP book *Every Story Counts: Recording Migration Heritage, A Wollongong Case Study*. Haven't got a copy of the book? Then follow this link and order a copy of the book: <http://www.mhpillawarra.com/resources.html>



The late Drago Radinovic in 2007 at 75 Auburn Street Wollongong site of former boarding house for Radinovic Family 1959-1963, Places Project, Theme 4, Accommodation and First Home.

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