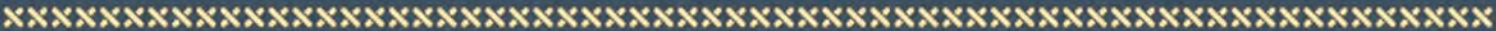




A PLACE TO CALL HOME?



MIGRANT x HOSTEL x MEMORIES



State Library of Western Australia





Children at the gates of the Bathurst Reception
Centre, New South Wales, 1951

NAA, A12111 1/1951/22/26

Scottish parents farewell their son as he leaves for
work at Bradfield Park, New South Wales, 1962

NAA, A12111 1/1962/22/6







Filming "The Helping Hand" to promote
the work of the Good Neighbour Council
at Dundas, New South Wales, 1963

NAA, A12111 1/1963/34/50





Nissen hut accommodation at Balgownie,
New South Wales, 1957

NAA, A12111 1/1957/22/20



Staff make cut lunches, known as 'crib'
at Villawood, New South Wales, 1957

NAA, A12111 1/1957/22/32

‘If you had a job, at the hostel they’d give you some packed sandwiches for lunch ... They gave me marmalade sandwiches, but everyone else working at the meat works were there with sandwiches with thick pieces of meat inside. I was so ashamed of my marmalade sandwich I hid it under the table.’

Bruce Ennis, Wacol





Catering officer Laszlo Makay shows
cooks how to prepare his recipes.
Bonegilla, Victoria, 1965

NAA, A12111 1/1965/22/5





A butcher preparing legs of lamb in
Bradfield Park, New South Wales 1968.

NAA: A12111, 2/1968/22A/31.

Lamb and mutton were common
meats served in hostels.





Spanish migrants hang out the washing and chat at Villawood.
New South Wales, 1963

A12111, 1/1963/22/8





English lessons at Bathurst
New South Wales, 1951

NAA, A12111 1/1951/22/34





English lessons at East Hills,
New South Wales, 1978

NAA: A12111, 2/1978/24A/24

Teaching English was an important service provided by hostels. Even after most had closed in the 1980s, some such as East Hills remained open as migrant resource centres, providing English lessons and other support.



**EMPLOYMENT ENQUIRIES
ONLY**



Employment assistance
Wacol, Queensland, 1973

NAA, A12111 2/1973/22A/157





The general store at Villawood,
New South Wales, 1957

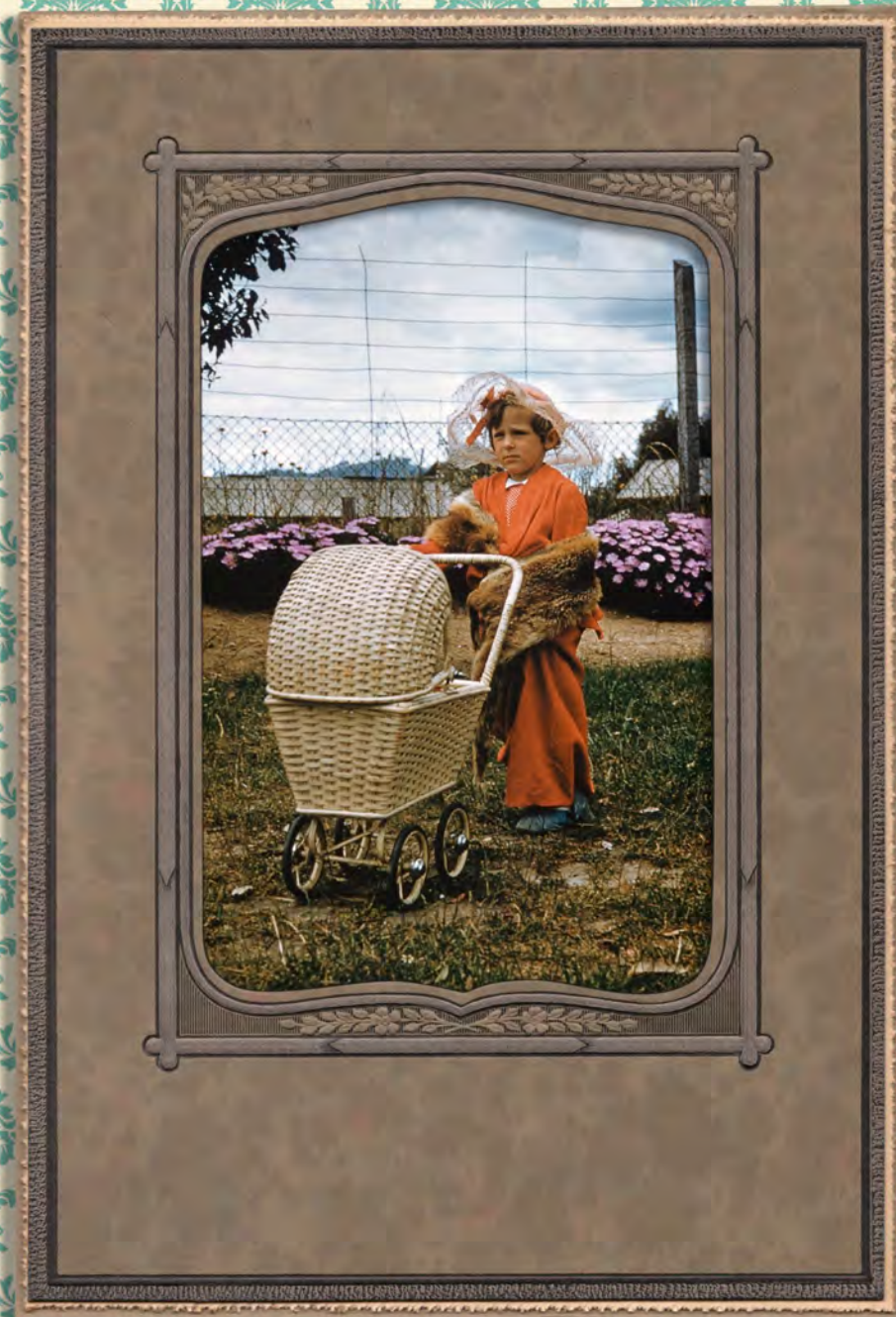
NAA, A12111 1/1957/22/37

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Dressing up at Bonegilla, New South Wales, 1956

NAA:A12111, 2/1956/22A/28

‘There’s a whole lot of (hostel) memories for me as a child. Lots of people being there together, a lot of them not very happy, the smell and taste of the custard and milky tea, the big industrial fans, people queuing up for food and sitting at the tables.’

Neil Ennis, Wacol





The kindergarten at Graylands,
Western Australia, 1974

NAA, A12111 1/1974/22/26





Children's health services at
Nunawading, Victoria, 1969

NAA, A12111 2/1969/22A/12





Gardening at daycare in Benalla,
Victoria, 1955

NAA, A12111 1/1955/22/39

‘It was scary for us. We didn’t have spiders where we had lived and all the kids there told us all about the snakes and poisonous spiders. We only found out later that the huntsman spiders weren’t poisonous.’

Des McNeice, Cabramatta





Afternoon rest time in the
child-minding centre at
Nunawading, Victoria, 1957

NAA, A12111 1/1957/22/51





Pre-school children at
Benalla, Victoria, 1955

NAA, A12111 1/1955/22/33



A Greek woman receives a farewell kiss from her friends before leaving Maribyrnong with her new employer, 1962.

NAA:A12111, 1/1962/4/89

The women are among a group of 75 Greek domestic workers who stayed in the hostel until they found jobs in Melbourne.





A member of the Good Neighbour Council,
Queensland, 1962

NAA, A12111 1/1962/19/71

The Good Neighbour Council of Queensland, through its 21 branches and 108 country representatives, offers newcomers from overseas a warm welcome. The council called on the co-operation of 73 affiliated organizations in the task of helping migrants feel a sense of 'belonging' in their new home. A regular visitor from the GNC of Queensland to Colmslie Migrant Hostel, Brisbane, is Mrs D Lindsay, seen here with some of her young friends who have recently arrived in Australia from Britain.

A former resident explores the
remaining buildings during a
Bonegilla reunion, Victoria, 1988

NAA, A12111 2/1988/22A/4



‘There were lots of people who complained bitterly about the lack of baths, and how they would never get used to showers. There were lots of anti-migrant conversations commenting that Poms were dirty, they never had a shower. Really!’

Ann Paterson, Colmslie

Spartan communal washing
facilities at Bonegilla, Victoria, 1949

NAA: A12111, 1/1949/22/12





Turkish migrants at prayer at
Broadmeadows, Victoria, 1969.

NAA: A12111, 1/1969/22/82.

The Australian Government signed
the Turkish Migration Agreement in
1967, and by 1974 19,000 Turkish
migrants had arrived in Australia.

'We were all in the same boat in the hostel, and religious or social problems were left behind as everyone mucked in to support each other.'

Joy Mills, Heathcote



Passing the time at Mount St Canice, Tasmania, 1984.

NAA, A12111 1/1969/22/82



An English lesson at Mount St Canice Hostel, Tasmania, 1984.

NAA, A12111 1/1984/22A/58



Minister for Immigration - Phillip Lynch
visits Wacol Hostel, Brisbane, 1970.

NAA, A12111 1/1970/25/11.





A migrant family enters their new home
at Maribyrnong, Victoria, 1965.

NAA : A12111, 1/1965/22/25

Nissen huts were a common feature of
life in a 'silver city'.





British arrivals are driven by bus to a Sydney hostel, accompanied by a member of the Good Neighbour Council in 1962.

NAA:A12111, 1/1962/4/52





Children line up for milk at Scheyville in 1957.

NAA : A12111, 2/1957/22A/37

The Australian government's Free Milk Scheme was extended to schools and child care within migrant hostels.



Communal cooking facilities in
Tamarind, Northern Territory, 1984.

NAA: A12111, 2/1984/22A/405





Rows of huts at Bonegilla, Victoria, 1949.

NAA: A12111, 1/1949/22/20

Bonegilla was the largest migration reception centre, with more than 300,000 migrants passing through over a 24-year period.

‘Lots of people in the hostel seemed to stay there
for a long time without working, pining for home.’

Neil Ennis, Wacol

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MIGRANT ✕ HOSTEL ✕ MEMORIES

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1 February – 5 April 2020

Ground Floor Gallery

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Mazurka Polish dance at Holden Immigration Camp, Northam, Western Australia, 1953.

SLWA, 061263PD



Holden Immigration Camp, Northam, Western Australia, 1953.

SLWA, 061352PD



Holden Immigration Camp kitchen staff, standing
at left Ryszard Nowotny and at right Mr Basanovic,
Western Australia, 1952.

SLWA, 061286PD



John, Matthew, Elizabeth and Hendrick van Welie, from the Netherlands, outside the Holden Immigration Accommodation Centre, Northam, Western Australia, 1952.

SLWA, 061374PD



Dutch women airing the beds to rid them of bed bugs, Holden Immigration Camp, Northam, Western Australia, 1952.

SLWA, 061444PD



Silvo Bezgovsek at the desk of the Holden Immigration Camp power house, Northam, Western Australia, 1952.

SLWA, 061366PD.



Johanna, Wietze (Jnr), Gerda, Helene and
Wietze de Boer at Graylands Migrant Hostel,
Western Australia, 1953.

SLWA, 061468PD

Graylands Immigration Camp,
Western Australia, 1947.

SLWA, 009349D





Male English language class at Swanbourne Immigration Camp, Western Australia, 1949.

SLWA, 061455PD

Open day Graylands Migrant Centre,
Western Australia, 1979.

SLWA, 000977D



'We did leave to go back. All my father's family are in the UK, my mum's family is in Yugoslavia. It was Mum's push to come to Australia. My dad was a refugee in a camp in Europe growing up, didn't get any opportunities. My mum sold it to him as there would be those opportunities here. He hated it and still does.'

Adela Taylor, Nunawading

‘Australia has been good to us, really good. I know the first two years I didn’t like it. I said I’d take two jobs, save up and go home again. But we got used to it. Then we got a housing commission house and then the council helped us to buy it. It was great!’

Bruce Ennis, Wacol



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