

## *A Ticket to Paradise?* educators' guide

This guide is designed to assist an Education Officer or teacher during their visit to the exhibition *A Ticket to Paradise?* The guide includes:

- information about the exhibition
- information about the education program
- brief background notes about post-war immigration to Australia
- the *A Ticket to Paradise?* education program.

### Information about the exhibition

*A Ticket to Paradise?* features primary sources from the National Archives of Australia's immigration collection. The exhibition focuses on migration to Australia after World War II. It features photographs, documents, videos, audio clips, an interactive globe and iPads. The featured content is ideal for students in years 6 and 10 studying 20th-century history.

### Information about the education program

The National Archives has developed a program to assist educators and students to engage with the exhibition. The program is designed to run for 45 to 60 minutes, and includes a step-by-step guide.

The program will help students to understand why migrants came to Australia after World War II, how Australian Government immigration policy altered over time, and the changing profile of people who migrated to Australia and some of the challenges they faced.

### Brief background notes about post-war immigration to Australia

- After World War II Australia embarked on a large-scale immigration program in response to fears that it would 'populate or perish'.
- The Australian Government initially sought British-born migrants only, but soon realised that it would need to receive migrants from the rest of Europe to meet population targets.
- People came to Australia due to a range of 'push or pull' factors including economic, social and political factors.
- Migrants faced challenges including language barriers, cultural differences, isolation and economic hardship.
- In 1973 the White Australia policy was dismantled, and immigration rules were changed so that people from non-European nations could migrate to Australia.
- Today Australia is composed of people from approximately 200 nationalities.

## *A Ticket to Paradise?* Postcard for students

Welcome to *A Ticket to Paradise?* This exhibition explores migration to Australia after World War II, using primary sources from the National Archives of Australia. Below are five activities to help you explore the exhibition. Discuss the following questions with others.

1. Go to the **interactive globe**. Use the slider on the map to investigate how the Australian Government's policy on migration has changed since World War II, regarding countries of origin. A thick red line represents large numbers of people migrating from a particular country. Select 'motivations' at the top of the map and then choose a video to watch. *Why did the person in the video come to Australia?*
2. Walk around the **exhibition**. Most of the featured photos were taken by Australian Government photographers to promote life in Australia to potential migrants. *Which photos would make you want to migrate to Australia?*
3. Go to the **timeline**. Look at the images of people and read the captions to find out what country they came from. Now read the timeline event dated January 1973. *How has migration to Australia changed since 1973?*
4. Go to the area showing **short films**. These films were created to promote Australia to potential migrants, or to reassure Australians that migrants were good for the country. Watch one film. *Do you think this film's target audience was potential migrants or Australians?*
5. Go to the **iPads**. Record your family's migration story by choosing a category such as 'motivations'. If you do not have a migration story to share then go to the radio. Use the white handles to tune the radio to Channel 130. Listen to the English lesson. *What challenges might migrants have faced in Australia?*

## *A Ticket to Paradise?* education program

A step-by-step guide for your visit to the exhibition *A Ticket to Paradise?*

1. Begin by reading 'A migrant's story' to students (below). This provides an introduction to the themes of the exhibition. If possible, read the story while students view the image of migrants learning English at a hostel (right). This will give students a visual cue about the exhibition.



### A migrant's story

At the end of World War II, around 1945, Laszlo Makay was living in a refugee camp in Germany. He spent six years in the camp, and while there he met his future wife, Eva. Laszlo was from Hungary and Eva was from Germany, but later they would both migrate to Australia.

During this post-war period Australia was trying to take in more migrants from Europe, so as to boost the economy and strengthen the nation's defences. An agreement between Australia and the International Refugee Organization allowed Laszlo and Eva to migrate to Australia.

Laszlo arrived in Australia six months before Eva. Like most migrants, they lived at a camp for new migrants until they found, or were allocated, more permanent homes and jobs. Laszlo and Eva lived at Bonegilla migrant camp, located near Albury–Wodonga in rural Victoria.

The accommodation at Bonegilla was basic. There was no heating or cooling and no fly wire to keep insects out. A year after Laszlo arrived, migrants living at the camp staged a protest to highlight the poor conditions and delays in the government finding them jobs. However, Laszlo and Eva worked to make the best of their situation: they made their hut comfortable and cheerful, and both found jobs at Bonegilla.

Most people who arrived at Bonegilla stayed for about a month, but Eva and Laszlo stayed for almost 20 years. They were married nearby and had a daughter named Trixie who spent the first seven years of her life at Bonegilla. Laszlo later became a catering officer at the camp. He served food from around the world so that new migrants would feel at home.

When asked why they stayed so long, Laszlo said that the accommodation was cheap and that they would have had difficulty finding better work outside of Bonegilla, where they had regular work and were part of the community.

This is just one of the stories of people who migrated to Australia after World War II. We will discover more in the exhibition *A Ticket to Paradise?*

## *A Ticket to Paradise?* education program

2. Distribute postcards to students so that they can explore the exhibition using the activities listed on them.

*Tip: Divide students into groups of five and direct each group to start at a different activity. This will help to spread out the cohort.*

3. Gather students together once they have had an opportunity to complete all five activities on their postcards. Allow about five minutes per activity, or 25 to 30 minutes in total.

### **Discuss the following questions:**

a. Why did people come to Australia after World War II? *Range of 'push or pull' factors including war, persecution, poverty, work and study opportunities, family (have students identify which are 'push' and which are 'pull' factors).*

b. In what ways did the Australian Government promote Australia to potential migrants as seen in the exhibition? *Posters, photographs, brochures, films.*

c. How has the Australian Government's policy on migration changed since World War II, regarding countries of origin? *Initially only Europeans were allowed to migrate to Australia; later people from non-European nations were also permitted.*

d. Why has this changed? *Changes to government policy allowing people of any race, colour or nationality to migrate to Australia.*

4. Draw students' attention to the image on their postcards.

### **Discuss the following questions:**

a. What does this image tell you about life in Australia? *There are jobs, it is safe for families, fun for couples, it is paradise.*

b. What does it tell you about the people the Australian Government wanted to attract to Australia? *Men to work the land, Europeans, young people.*

c. Do you think life was 'A Ticket to Paradise' as advertised? What are some of the challenges new migrants might have faced? *New language, new culture, far away from family and friends.*

5. Continue learning about post-war migration back in the classroom by using 'A Ticket to Paradise? classroom activities'.

## *A Ticket to Paradise?* classroom activities

If you are planning on visiting or have already visited *A Ticket to Paradise?*, here are some activities that will enrich your exhibition experience.

1. Build your students' knowledge about migration to Australia by using the National Archives' Virtual Reading Room (*Vrroom*). *Vrroom* provides access to classroom resources (groups of records), which include quality-assured information on various topics. Immigration-related groups aligned to the *Australian Curriculum: History/Humanities and Social Sciences* include:

### Primary

- Who were the people who came to Australia?
- Post-war migrant experiences of Australia

### Secondary

- The White Australia policy
- Australian migration from 1901 to 1918
- A wave of post-war migrants
- Multiculturalism in Australia

Locate these groups at [vrroom.naa.gov.au/immigration](http://vrroom.naa.gov.au/immigration).

2. Help your students strengthen their research skills. Students can discover records of interest by using the keyword search on *Vrroom* to delve into the 1000 available records. Try the following keyword searches for related results: 'multiculturalism', 'refugees', 'assimilation', 'discrimination', 'displaced persons' or 'migration'.

*Vrroom* also provides information on primary sources – what they are and why they are important to use when conducting research. Locate this information at [vrroom.naa.gov.au/about/primary-sources.aspx](http://vrroom.naa.gov.au/about/primary-sources.aspx).

3. Encourage your students to become genealogists and research their own family history. Ask students to talk to their relatives and find out:
  - What were the names of their family members who came to Australia?
  - When did they arrive?
  - Where did they come from?
  - Why did they migrate?
  - How did they travel to Australia?
  - Are there any stories they can share about their family's migration to Australia?

Students can use the National Archives' collection database RecordSearch to search for family history records by conducting a name search. National Archives fact sheets will also assist students with their research.

Locate RecordSearch at [naa.gov.au/collection/search](http://naa.gov.au/collection/search).

Locate Fact sheet 201 – Tracing ancestors in the National Archives  
[naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs201.aspx](http://naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs201.aspx).

4. Ask your students to use their research and share their family's migration story, either within the exhibition using the iPads provided or online at the National Archives' *Destination: Australia* website. Using the 'Sharing your family's migration story' questions (below), students can select one or more categories such as 'motivations' or 'first impressions' and answer the questions provided.

*Destination: Australia* also contains stories about the experiences of migrants. Questions to help students prepare to record their story in the exhibition are provided below.

Locate *Destination: Australia* at [destinationaustralia.gov.au](http://destinationaustralia.gov.au).

## Sharing your family's migration story

Please use the questions below as a prompt to help you share information about your family's immigration story for the *A Ticket to Paradise?* iPad activity. Should students be second generation Australians or more, they can use these questions to prompt responses to how they imagined their ancestors would respond to these questions.

### MOTIVATIONS

- Can you tell me where you or your ancestors came from and when?
- Do you recall what it was like there before emigrating?
- Considering your previous answers can you tell me the reasons why you decided to come to Australia?

### JOURNEY

- Firstly how did you or your family get here? By ship? By plane? And what did it feel like leaving? Were you sad or excited?
- Did you or your ancestors or relatives travel alone or was it with friends and family, and how old were you or they?
- Tell me a little about what the journey was like, was it long? Also did you or your family bring anything special with you, or was it just the 'shirt on your back'?

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

- This question is about when you first arrived. Can you tell us what your first vivid memory of Australia was?
- What did you think of Australians and Australian culture when you first arrived? Was there anything that was really different, compared to where you came from?
- Tell me the best and the worst things about your initial period in Australia. Were you homesick? Was the weather really hot or cold? What did you eat? Where did you sleep or live?

## SETTLEMENT

- Tell us about your memories of your first home, where it was and why you or your family decided to live there.
- When you did finally find a place to settle down, did you stay long or has there been a lot of moving around? What were the reasons behind that?
- What was the hardest part about settling in to your new life in Australia?

## WORK AND RECREATION

- What was your first job when you got here? Did you like it? Was it easy to find work when you first arrived? Or tell me a little about your relative's first job or business in Australia.
- So what is it like now in regards to work? Has it become easier to get better work or is it still hard?
- What's your perspective on your working life here in Australia?
- Tell me about what you do in your spare time and why it is important to you.
- Was there time for fun in the first period of arriving in Australia?

## FAMILY

- We can't talk about migration without involving the family. What's your family's attitude about migrating to Australia?
- What happened to the family members that were left behind when you migrated to Australia? Do you still keep in touch and talk about it much?

## CHALLENGES

- It must be daunting migrating to a new country. What types of challenges did/do you face coming to Australia and how did/do you deal with them?
- You must have learnt a lot of new things coming to a new country. Do you have any advice to give, or initial challenges, to mention to new migrants who are starting out?

## REFLECTION

- I'm interested to know what you think and feel about migrating to Australia. Any regrets? Would you do anything differently?
- Do you have any final standout memories that you would like to share?
- And finally, this really is the last question. Was coming to Australia a 'Ticket to Paradise' for you and your family?