

# A KEEPING PLACE

## THE MIGRATION MUSEUM & CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The Migration Museum preserves, documents and interprets the cultural diversity of the people of South Australia. Through its programs of collecting, conservation and exhibitions, as well as its education programs, it aims to create greater awareness of the history and cultural traditions of the different groups who have settled in South Australia since 1836.

The Migration Museum collects objects, documents, costume and textiles which represent South Australia's immigration and settlement history. The Museum also copies photographs and video material and records oral histories that relate to that history.

Objects that show the impact of settlement upon the Indigenous peoples of South Australia are also of interest to the Migration Museum.

The Museum collects any of the following:

- *Items brought to South Australia by immigrants, settlers and refugees*
- *Items made or used in South Australia that represent cultural diversity and the changing nature of cultural traditions*
- *Items that represent the interaction between Indigenous people and non-Indigenous settlers*
- *Items that show the contribution of immigrants to work, productivity and creativity in South Australia*
- *Items relating to events such as war that have influenced Australia's intake of immigrants and refugees*
- *Items relating to immigration and refugee agencies, accommodation and assistance*
- *Items representing the distinctive cultural identity of community groups – their festivals, religious and ceremonial events, arts, music, language, clubs and societies, sports, cuisine*
- *Items that represent rites of passage through life such as birthdays and weddings*
- *Items brought back, or sent to, immigrants and their descendants which indicate cultural ties with their place of origin*
- *Items that are personal and family memorabilia of immigration, settlement and cultural distinctiveness such as diaries, passports, identity papers, tickets of passage*
- *Items that reflect both cultural affirmation and cultural discrimination, such as documents of citizenship or documents of racism.*

The Migration Museum has acquired its collection mainly through donations from South Australians. As part of the process of accepting items from donors, the Museum also collects the 'story' of the item and any relevant material such as photographs and oral histories.

When the Museum receives an offer of an item for the collection, the offer is either accepted or refused by the Museum's Acquisition Committee. The committee is made up of the Museum's Director and its curatorial staff who may also refer to other specialists. The committee follows guidelines about what it will accept for the collection.

The Museum accepts an item into its collection if it is

- *Relevant to the purposes and stated aims of the Museum*
- *In good condition*
- *Accompanied by information about its history and significance*
- *Not a duplicate of an item already in the collection*
- *Legally owned by the person who is donating it*
- *Donated without any restrictions and encumbrances*
- *Able to be stored properly.*

Once an item is accepted into the Museum's collection it is then

- *Catalogued and given its own number*
- *Conserved and stored so that it will be preserved for future generations of South Australians*
- *Made accessible for research to increase our knowledge and understanding of South Australia's history*
- *Displayed and interpreted in the Museum's public programs of exhibitions, education programs and workshops.*

If you have material that you wish to donate, or if you would like advice about caring for historical material please contact the Migration Museum's curators.

Ms Viv Szekeres  
Director

Ms Christine Finnimore  
Senior Curator

Ms Jill MacKenzie  
Curator

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