

CAMD Case Study – CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND BELONGING:

Welcome Wall and Memorial Wall

Australian National Maritime Museum and Migration Museum, SA



Belonging and Memorialising

The Australian National Maritime Museum maintains a Welcome Wall in Darling Harbour near the site where millions of new settlers first stepped ashore in Australia. Standing just under 3 metres tall and 100 metres long, the Wall is big enough to hold 30,000 names. An online database stores historical information about the people named on

the Welcome Wall: when and how they came, who they came with, and where they lived. These stories are also shared with visitors within the museum galleries. In all, 126 countries are represented on the wall. The museum unveiled 2,311 new names on 6 new panels in 2009-10 at two ceremonies attended by over 3,500 visitors. See <http://welcomewall.anmm.gov.au/>

Adelaide's Migration Museum has a Memorial Wall where several communities, including those from the Baltic region, the Jewish Community, the Vietnamese, the Tatar-Bashkurts, Armenian and Pontian Greek communities, have mounted memorial plaques to commemorate the sufferings and loss of their fellow countrymen. There is also a plaque honouring the contribution of the British immigrants who were forcibly brought here as children after WW2 and a reconciliation plaque mounted by the Museum to commemorate the Kurna people of the Adelaide plains.

In 1999 the Vietnamese community dedicated a plaque on the Museum's Memorial Wall to those members of their community who died in the Vietnam war or were lost at sea through the terrible boat journeys here. Hundreds of members of the community as well as several State politicians attended the dedication. After the ceremony a young South Australian Vietnamese university student noted that although the ceremony was performed annually in Vietnam, it was the first time that it had been performed in South Australia despite the fact that many members of this community had been in Adelaide for 25 years. 'It is only now that we feel we belong here' he said.

http://www.history.sa.gov.au/migration/galleries_programs/memorial_wall.htm