

Migration Stories: Northbridge Walking Trail

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

STATE LIBRARY

The State Library of Western Australia collects, preserves and shares the stories of Western Australia. This walk explores Perth's migrant heritage. It begins and ends at the State Library of Western Australia in the Perth Cultural Centre. Allow an hour to complete this walk.

Discover more...

The State Library collects items such as maps, photographs, diaries and newspapers that record the history of Western Australia.



Students can learn how to use these items to research history with free online resources and workshops.

Send workshop enquiries to ed@slwa.wa.gov.au

Links to additional resources can be found through the State Library catalogue and website.

slwa.wa.gov.au



@statelibrarywa

CMD913/DEC2024

1

Start at the State Library of Western Australia.

Western Australia is rich with the stories of people who have migrated here. The State Library shares these stories and records the impact of migration.

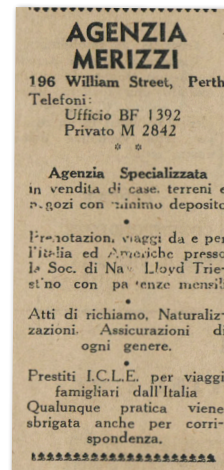
2

Walk to the corner of William and James Streets and go to 196 William Street.

Agenzia Merizzi's, a travel and land agent once located at 196 William Street.



BUSINESS PREMISES OF G. MERIZZI
REAL ESTATE AND TRAVEL AGENT,
WILLIAM ST, 1954 | BA1626/12



Giuseppe Gianfranco Merizzi (1927-2007) migrated from Tirano Sondrio in the late 1940s and became a migration agent. He was involved in the migration of many Italians to Western Australia.

3

Walk south to the corner of Roe and William Streets.

From here you can see the State Theatre Centre and the Horseshoe Bridge which takes traffic over the railway line. The area became known as Northbridge around 1970. The railway transported people and goods around the state and was crucial to new migrants seeking work.



HORSESHOE BRIDGE, C.1919 | 013607D

Q. *Why do you think newly arrived people settled by the railway?*



HASSchats Transport
Heritage Perth bit.ly/4hcyRWy

4

Cross William Street at the lights and walk west to the Northbridge Chinese Restaurant.

Moon Chow, a carpenter, is considered the first Chinese person to settle in Western Australia in 1829. Chinese people first came to Perth as labourers and farm hands and ran businesses such as market gardens, laundries, bakeries, furniture factories, tailor shops and grocery stores. In 1886, Western Australia introduced an Act of Parliament to regulate and restrict the immigration of Chinese people.



CHUNG AH SUE IN HIS
MARKET GARDEN, YORK,
1925 | 0B9826PD



Education Resources - Community
Language Teachers bit.ly/480d7cd

5

Keep walking to the Chinese gates. Go through the gates and through Chung Wah Lane and the Old Shangai food court to James Street.

The State Library of WA has a collection of restaurant menus which offer historians clues to the history of migration.



CHINESE GATES, 2020

128 James Street.

The Chung Wah Association, formed in 1909, advocates for the Chinese community. Migration from China remained small-scale until the end of the White Australia Policy. Between 1971 and 1980 only 275 people migrated from China.



HASSchats Chinese Migration
Heritage Perth bit.ly/3YknlkW



Preserving for the taste of it
State Library bit.ly/3zXh1Ga



chungwah.org.au

6

Travel west to the corner of James and Lake St.

There are many businesses in the area that are clues to Western Australia's migration history. Can you spot signs for Torre Butchers, An Sibin and Midori Teppanyaki?

Q. *What heritage do they connect with?*

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Continue to Russell Square. Walk up Moon Chow Promenade to the central rotunda.

Named after Lord John Russell, Secretary of State and Colonies, 1839, Russell Square became known as Parco dei Sospire - "the park of sighs" referring to the homesick Italians who would meet here to share news from home.

Q. *What else do you think they would have talked about?*

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Russell Square Rotunda.

In 1899, this park was designed by the head gardener for the City of Perth, John Braithwaite. The rotunda and the sculptures by artists Greg James and Drago Dadich were added in the 1990s.



RUSSELL SQUARE, PERTH
C.1914 | 696B/8

Q. *What cultural links can you find in the artwork?*

9

Walk along Megisti Promenade to the Greek Orthodox Cathedral.



GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL 2020

The first Greek people who came to Australia arrived in the 1820s, there have been many waves since. Many arrived between the 1950s and 1970s.

Q. *What was happening in Greece at this time?*

The Greek Orthodox Church provided support and comfort for the new arrivals. The Greek community worked together to raise funds and build what is now the Cathedral of St Constantine and Helene. Northbridge has had centres for many different faiths, including Greek Orthodox, Jewish, Catholic, Muslim and Protestant.



Preserving for the taste of it: The Greeks
State Library of WA bit.ly/4eyEw7v



hcwa.org/en/about/history

10

Walk east along Francis Street and turn left at Lake Street. Find The Re Store.

When migrants first arrived in WA, Italian food staples such as olive oil, coffee, and pasta were scarce. Italians relied on importers like Giovanni Re. The business thrived supplying migrant clientele with a taste of home.



OUTSIDE THE RE STORE
C.1990 | 134990PD

Q. What tastes from home would you miss?

HASSchats Italian History Perth
Heritage Perth bit.ly/3U2Fdxt

11

Turn into Aberdeen Street and walk east.

On the north side of the street you will find the Aberdeen Hotel, one of the oldest hotels in Perth. The original building was first licensed as a hotel in 1886 as the All Nations Hotel, welcoming travellers from all over the world.

ALL NATIONS HOTEL.
LANE- STREET, PERTH.
(Two minutes' walk from Railway Station.)
—
JOHN JONES, Proprietor.
Every effort will be made to study the comfort of Visitors from the country, the neighbouring colonies, or elsewhere, for whose special accommodation large well-ventilated suites of rooms are available. Charges moderate.
Special attention paid to furnishing Lunch or Supper at any hour for visitors and their friends.
Good Stabling and an attentive ostler.
Perth, July 6, 1887.

THE INQUIRER AND COMMERCIAL NEWS, PERTH | 6 JULY 1887

12

Continue east along Aberdeen Street. Find the North Metropolitan TAFE on the corner.

Today, international students and new Western Australians can access classes at North Metropolitan TAFE, including English tuition. During the pandemic, population decreased in all states. In the five years prior to the pandemic, a net gain was recorded (Source: ABS). Flows of migration change all the time.



NORTH METROPOLITAN TAFE 2023

 northmetrotafe.wa.edu.au

13

At the corner of Museum Street. Find St John's Lutheran Church.

The first Lutheran church was established 1902 and further German immigrants expanded the Perth Lutheran congregation.

Q. What do you think contributed to other waves of German immigration?

Preserving for the taste of it: The Germans State Library of WA bit.ly/3AtmyVk

14

Turn into Museum Street.

Built in 1897, 1 Museum Street is the only surviving historical residential building in the area.

In the late 19th century, there was a rapid expansion of building in Western Australia during the gold boom when many new migrants arrived.



27/29 MUSEUM ST | 005799D



HASSchats Thanks To The Goldrush Heritage Perth youtu.be/HSe79iwBkl4

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Find the State Library on Francis Street.

Enquire at the Welcome Desk about becoming a member of the State Library, it's free!



STATE LIBRARY BUILDING FROM FRANCIS STREET, 2024

