

27 November 2019

## Museum celebrates 20 years of honouring those who crossed the oceans to call Australia home

The Australian National Maritime Museum will unveil 287 new names on the Museum's [Welcome Wall](#) at a special ceremony on Sunday 1 December 2019. The *Wall*, which is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, stands in honour of all those who have migrated from around the world to live in Australia.

Close to 30,000 names appear on the wall's bronzed panels with the number continuing to grow. The arrival of migrants to these shores is one of the major themes in Australia's maritime history, and a prominent focus for the Museum.

The ceremony will welcome John Goldstein, who was born on the ship on the Red Sea on the way to Australia as his parents fled Nazi Germany. John's father asked his son to teach them English once he started school. At the age of 15, he joined his father's business due to his father's ill health. Together with his brothers, he built the business up from a single bakery to 16 retail outlets and a factory on the Gold Coast.

Paul Page will speak on behalf of his deceased father-in-law Nicola (Nick) Auciello from Bari in Italy. Nick, who joined the Italian navy at age 15, was brought to Australia as an Italian prisoner of war and sent to Orange. He led a colourful life, eventually marrying an Aboriginal woman Shirley Miles in Queensland, having four children and working in their corner shop and then as a cleaner where he commenced his duties at 4 am every day.

Angela and Dominic Waters from Dublin came out on the same ship as Carol and Terence Bebbington from Bristol in the UK. Both couples met on the voyage to Australia and stayed friends in regular contact ever since. The Waters' three children gifted their names on the *Welcome Wall* as a 50-year wedding anniversary gift.

This ceremony will see 287 names added including 46 from the United Kingdom, 41 from Italy, 25 from Greece, 10 from the Netherlands, 8 from Germany, 7 from Poland, and many more from close to 100 countries. SBS Chief Sports Analyst and human rights advocate Craig Foster will be the MC for this very special occasion.

As a multicultural nation with one in four of Australia's 22 million people born outside Australia, the *Welcome Wall* is a celebration of diversity. It allows today's Australians to pay tribute to migrant forebears, family members and friends by having their names inscribed on the *Welcome Wall*.

The *Welcome Wall* was built on the Museum's northern boundary, facing Darling Harbour and Pyrmont Bay where many new settlers arrived. It is the only migration commemoration in Australia with capacity for adding stories. You can read many of these stories here:

<https://www.sea.museum/discover/welcome-wall/stories>.

The Museum is committed to sharing the nation's migration stories with funds raised through donations to the *Migration Heritage Fund* being used to upgrade permanent galleries and improve facilities which will strengthen visitors' understanding of our rich migration history.

**Media note:**

**Media are invited to attend the ceremony which starts at 11 am.**

**Images & interviews available on request.**

**For media information contact:**

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**Background for PR:**

**Speakers:**

- SBS MC – Craig Foster
- Geoff Lee, Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education and interim Minister for Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans representing The Premier
- John Goldstein and his daughter Simone Goldstein
- Paul Page (on behalf of his deceased father in law on the wall AUCIELLO Nicola (Nick)
- Angela Walters (on behalf of herself and husband Dominic Waters)

**Available for interview:**

**1. Goldstein – German/Jewish heritage**

- Simone Goldstein will be speaking with her Dad John who is in his 80s. John was actually born on the ship on the way to Australia (fleeing from Hitler).
- John taught his parents English and joined his father's business at 15 years of age due to his father's ill health. John and his brothers built that business from one bakery to 16 retail outlets and a factory on the Gold Coast.
- John's father was a diabetic and died in the factory beside him, John then stepped in and ran the business
- John was a key figure in the Jewish community and started the Gold Coast Marathon
- About 8 family members will be coming from the Gold Coast for the ceremony
- See more <https://wearegc.com.au/articles/growing-up-with-goldsteins/>

**2. Paul Page is speaking on behalf of his deceased father in law AUCIELLO Nicola (Nick) – from Bari in Italy**

- Nick was brought to Australia as an Italian POW and sent to Orange. He joined the Australian Navy at 15 years of age. He met his first Australian wife who owned a sheep station, the marriage only lasted a few years.
- He then moved to Qld and married an Aboriginal woman Shirley Miles with whom he had 4 children and owned a corner store

- Sold the store and took the family to Italy in 1975
- When they returned from Italy, they bought the house across the road from the store and Nick became a cleaner, up working from 4am each day
- Paul has great photos and newspaper clips.

### 3. **Angela Waters – Ireland**

- Angela and Dominic Waters came out from Dublin on the same ship as Carol and Terence Bebbington from Bristol in the UK. Both couples met on the voyage to Australia and have been friends ever since
- The Waters arrived in Australia 50 years ago on 3 December (2 days from the unveiling ceremony)
- The Waters married on 8 September 1969 (also celebrating their 50-year wedding anniversary)
- The Bebbingtons married on 8 October 1969 (also celebrating their 50-year wedding anniversary)
- The Waters lived in Sydney for 10 years and then moved to Queensland in 1980 for Dominic's work
- They had 2 children in Sydney and 1 child in Brisbane (their names on the Welcome Wall is their 50- year anniversary gift)
- The Waters and Bebbingtons catch up regularly