

## Defining Moments in Australian Migration Video Transcript

*Narrator:* Before World War Two, most migrants who came to live in Australia were from Britain or Ireland.

Lots of British people came after the war.

The war was terrible.

Millions of people were killed.

Whole cities destroyed and millions of people left homeless and displaced.

They had nowhere to go.

They had nowhere to live.

There were no jobs.

Often they were starving.

They seemed to have no hope, no future.

But Australia wanted migrants to help build up our nation.

So lots of these people called displaced persons or DPs were brought here.

They lived in camps for a while until they could get jobs.

Lots of them worked on the snowy mountains scheme.

That was a fantastic development.

It involved changing the way water flows from the snowy mountains from the east to the west.

This was a massive job.

Building dams to collect water, drilling through mountains to create tunnels for the water to flow through to power stations where it would create electricity and then onto more dams to be released into rivers to irrigate food crops.

Many of the European migrants who worked on the snowy scheme had been enemies during the war.

But now they had to work together, learn a new language to be successful citizens in their new land.

They did this and they're rightly proud of what they achieved and how they contributed to Australia.

In the 1950s, and the 1960s, many more Europeans came here, especially from Italy and Greece.

They left their homes and families, made great personal sacrifices, faced loneliness and isolation and worked hard to fit into the new community and create better lives.

They became Australian, but also changed what Australia was like bringing new ideas and ways of living with them.

In the 1970s and 1980s, there was another change in who was coming to Australia.

Before the 1960s, Australia had a strong White Australia policy.

Many people did not want Asian people to migrate here.

This changed, and people from different Asian countries were now welcomed as migrants.

One special group was the Vietnamese who were refugees from a war in Vietnam.

Some of them came in leaky boats, a very dangerous journey.

But most came by plane from refugee camps in Malaysia and Thailand.

The Vietnamese are now a strong and successful part of the Australian community.

In the 1990s, this changed again.

And the main people coming to Australia were New Zealanders.

There were also many Chinese who wanted to participate in democracy in a way that was not possible in China at that time.

And also refugees from wars, especially in the Middle East, in Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan, and also in Somalia in Africa.

Nowadays the main migrants to Australia are from India and China bringing their skills and determination to work hard to succeed.

All of these migrants faced defining moments in their own families, events that forced them to seek new lives and the courage needed to migrate to a new country.

They face difficulties in this new land. They had to learn a new language, understand a new culture.

These defining moments shaped their new lives and ultimately enabled them to make great contributions to Australian life.