

OPEN FOUNDATION COURSE

Margaret Henry - Lecturer

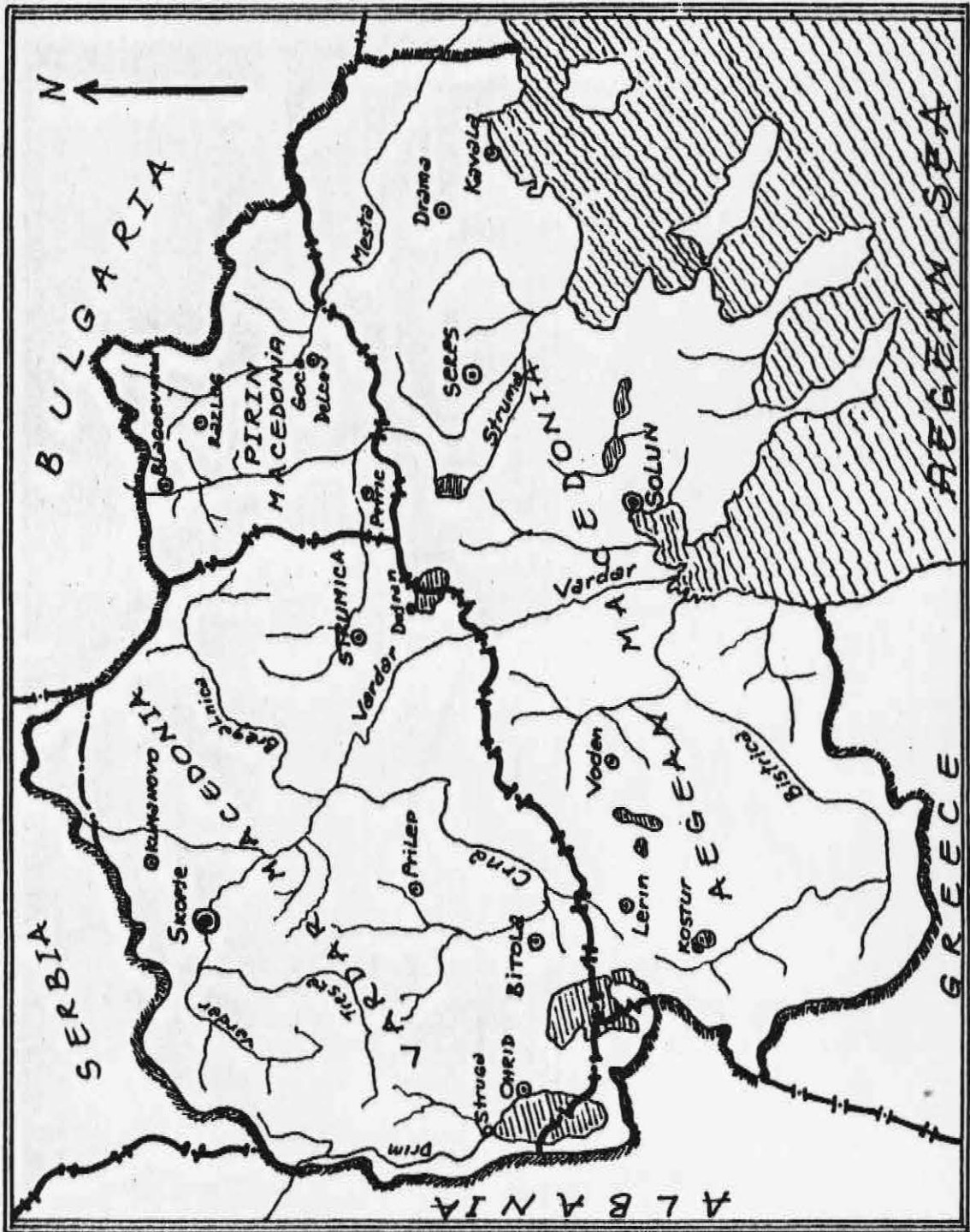
Tuesday, 1.00 - 3.00pm

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

FRACEDONIANS 'THEN' AND 'NOW' in NEWCASTLE

Submitted by **BLAGOJA BOZINOSKI**

As a geographical region, Macedonia covers a much larger area from the present state of Macedonia, as a state in Yugoslavia. Macedonia is a historic region of South Eastern Europe, situated in the centre part of the Balkan peninsula. Today the region of Macedonia is politically divided amongst three countries. Aegean Macedonia covers 34,203 sq. kilometers and takes in the Northern part of Greece; the Pirin Macedonia 6,480 sq. km. covers South Western Bulgaria; and the Republic of Macedonia in Yugoslavia covers 27,713. The current borders have been in existence since 1913 (see map)



MACEDONIA - showing the political boundaries since the Balkan Wars, 1912-13.

Macedonians, now, besides their own language speak a corresponding language depending in which country they belong politically.

Early 1900, especially after the 'Ilinden' uprising and after the Balkan Wars 1912/1913 many Macedonians left their country forever, migrating first into the neighbouring countries and then to America, Canada and Australia. The first Macedonian ~~to~~ come to Australia ~~came~~ in 1890. The first known Macedonian in Newcastle arrived in early 1924. According to Mr. L. Porkov (1) at that time, together with another three Macedonians, he was employed at the Gosford Quarries. Four months later he came to Newcastle. Two years later, two of them went back to Macedonia and some years later returned with their families to Australia.

With almost no English and just a few pennies in their pockets, it was very hard for them to survive. The first Macedonian migrants were employed by Broken Hill Proprietary Co. Ltd. in 1924.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s more Macedonian families were sponsored. Most of them were either family reunions or close relatives. Ten years later what was in the beginning just a few Macedonian families, developed into about 300 Macedonians who were living in Newcastle until the mid 1940s. Some of these families were migrants for ^{Asian} Macedonians and they settled in

Medowie, working on the farms. At the end of the 1940s the Macedonians in Newcastle faced major changes. With a population of around 600, they started to work together towards forming their own group. The first group called Balkan was formed in 1949. With the organisation of these groups, entertainment for the community went from visiting each others places for coffee, small family picnics and a stroll along the beach, to organised community dances, functions and celebrations.

For the first celebration of Macedonian National Day, August 2nd, Ilinden, on the 31st July, 1949, there was added a special ethnic programme on 2HD, inviting all members of the Macedonian community to take part in the celebration and they were cheered on with a few Macedonian folk songs. By this time with almost no new migrants arriving during the war, everybody knew each other. One of the first customary celebrations of a Macedonian wedding in Newcastle was that of Mr. Murgef, which drew about 500 guests. All the families were close knit and knew each other with most of them being related to each other or coming from the same village or town in Macedonia. (2)

1. Informal interview with Mr. Porkov, of Tighes Hill,
24.4.84

2. Newcastle Morning Herald, September 1949

The main wave of Macedonian migration to Australia however, did not occur until the 1960s and early 1970s. At this time the Macedonian emigrants from the Republic of Macedonia were the largest ethnic group among the Yugoslav migrants to Australia.

As a result of chain migration the Macedonians established themselves in specific areas. The pattern of employment follows the settlement pattern. This means that the sponsor employed the newly arrived relative at the same place of employment as himself. Thus, some of the suburbs around the BHP accommodated the most Macedonian families. The suburbs such as Mayfield, Tighes Hill, Islington and Hamilton, were the first to be flooded with Macedonian settlers, who were usually employed at BHP, Rylands, Stewarts & Lloyds, Lamp factory etc. Only a few migrants were employed as skilled workers - the dirtiest, heaviest and hardest work was done by newly arrived Macedonians.

With immigration reaching its peak in the mid 70s, the large numbers of Macedonians in Newcastle, as well as in other areas, tended to follow a pattern of living as in the old country. It should be stressed here that the majority of Macedonian immigrants during the settlement period were men who came with the intention of working for several years' and to return to the homeland with their savings. These men rented accommodation in the homes of their friends and relatives and it

was common to share the rooms and cooking utensils. Often the houses were overcrowded and in some instances, two or three families lived together.

. The reason for settling in specific areas was for the mutual support they received the one from the other, in order to alleviate some of the trauma of migration to a foreign and unfamiliar country. The newcomers were getting support from the ones who came before them. This of course leads to a concentration of the ethnic groups in specific areas.

The number of Macedonian immigrants grew every day - by the mid 70s there were more than 5000. Also by this time the first Macedonian soccer team was formed ('Macedonia'), later to be renamed 'Red Star' which left extremely fond memories for our community. In 1984 this was to be renamed once again to 'Newcastle Macedonia'. On the other side of the coin, to entertain the rest of the community was formed a dancing group 'Steve Naumov' and in their existence of more than 20 years they have been very active on the cultural scene. Participating on every big celebration, on social and religious functions, with their national costumes and the traditional dancing, they have been performing nationally and internationally. In 1981 they made their first overseas tour performing and representing the Macedonians of Newcastle.

But the most important and well-remembered year was 1969, when the first foundation stone was laid for the construction of the Macedonian Orthodox Church (St. Mary's) in School Street, Broadmeadow, strengthening the unity of all the Macedonians in Newcastle. After the official opening of the facilities in June 1970, the community's committee became an umbrella body to coordinate the other social and cultural groups,

One year later, the Macedonian Saturday school "Goce Delchev" was formed and three classes were held at the premises, and later on it was extended to Tighes Hill and Mayfield, with the latest addition being at Waratah West Public School, where insertion classes are learning the Macedonian language. Also a library was formed where all children can borrow Macedonian literature to learn more about the Macedonian culture and tradition.

In March 1984, the Macedonians elected a new committee and their main task was to renovate and extend the premises and concentrate on welfare needs of the community. The continuation of the existence of a welfare worker was a great help to the community. Macedonian interpreters and health workers also give the community great support.

Achieving our own Macedonian programme on 2NUR FM radio station, the people of the community are kept up to date with the

latest news from both overseas and around Australia. The Macedonian community of Newcastle was the first ethnic group to have their own newspaper - KOPNEZ - which was produced locally, serving the needs of the Macedonians and was the only form of communication being a symbol of their heritage. Blagoja Bozinoski the editor of Kopnez said 'the poem on the second page of the newspaper will tell you all you need to know about the true Macedonians.'

Now in 1989, the Macedonian community are mainly all ageing, with their needs being many and varied. There has been a Pensioners' Association formed and the need for a Day Care Centre has at last been recognized by the Government of Australia.

- KAROSKI Spase The Macedonian Community Profile
Rockdale, 1983
- BENYEI Laszlo An Integration Study of Migrants in
Australia.
Melbourne, 1978
- TKALCEVIC M. Macedonians in the Australian Society
Melbourne, (no date)
- BOZINOSKI Blagoja Kopnez, Macedonian monthly
Newcastle, 1985
- JUPP James The Australian People
Canberra, 1988
- Newcastle Morning Herald - Newcastle, September 1949

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AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Margaret Henry - Lecturer

Tuesday 1.00pm - 3.00pm

SUMMARY OF TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

MACEDONIANS THEN AND NOW IN NEWCASTLE

INTERVIEWER - BLAGOJA BOZINOSKI

INTERVIEWEE - MR. KIRIL MURGEV

DATE - 5th SEPTEMBER, 1989

Mr. Kiril Murgev was born in 1926 in a village, Gavato - Macedonia. A few years later, Kiril's father Michail came to work in Australia. He left his parents, his wife Stefanka and two children in the village. Then, the life of Pecalbar (people who go in other countries to earn money and return to their families call themselves 'Pecalbars'), was very hard. What he thought was that he will come for only a few years, but Mr. Michail Murgev spent the rest of his life in Australia. During that time he was supporting his family, and instead of going back to join them he decided to bring all of them to Australia. Kiril was 9 years old at the time, his older sister six and the youngest sister was born in Newcastle. Kiril was always proud of his father and when they joined him in late 1935 he thought he was the luckiest boy in the world.

After he left his school mates in Macedonia and he arrived in Newcastle, for him everything was different. With no friends and no English at all, only a few days later his father took him to Mayfield East Public School. Kiril knew it was not going to be easy, but he had to do it. The children made a lot of fun of him, and he, as a quiet boy was too embarrassed to talk with his father or to tell his teacher.

After finishing the primary school, Mr. Murgev went to study in Broadmeadow Central Technical School. At the end he finished with high marks and he was the captain of the school. After that he enrolled in BHP as an apprentice fitter and turner and he stayed there for more than 5 years. After working in the machine shop, Mr. Murgev's father was not very well and he decided to resign and take after the family business.

In 1949 Mr. Murgev met his wife and he was the first Macedonian in Newcastle to be married. At his wedding day, more than 300 guests were invited. The guests came from the surrounding cities such as Sydney, Wollongong, Brisbane and Melbourne.

By that time more Macedonian families had arrived in Newcastle. Mr. Murgev and his family were involved in sponsoring a lot of Macedonian families in Newcastle.

Mr. Murgev was one of the oldest emigrants and he was willing to help new arrivals and was prepared to work for his new community members from interpreting to paying the bills, filling in the taxation papers, helping with the doctors, solicitors and so on.

Also Mr. Murgev was very proud when the Macedonian National Day 'Ilinden' was celebrated in 1949. He was the first secretary of the new-formed group 'Balkan'. Then, Mr. Murgev with his family, helped to build the Macedonian Church in Broadmeadow. This was everybody's dream. He said 'At that time we were so many Macedonians we could have had our own town'. Now, almost 5000 Macedonians is a good number when you consider only a few were here in early 1935.

The Macedonian community of Newcastle have most of the services they need. The best is that we follow our religion and traditions. The Australian government with the multicultural policy allow us to keep our culture and our traditions. To help the new arrivals, the government has formed several specifically ethnic departments such as Migrant Resource Centre, Multicultural Neighbourhood Centres and Migrant Health Units and Interpreter services etc.

Mr. Murgev is very happy to be part of a country like Australia and is glad his father made the decision to come here so many years ago. It would, however, have been much better had these services been available then for the migrants who came in the early days, but as Mr. Murgev says 'better late than never'!

This is a transcript of an interview with Kiril Murgev, one of the founders of the Macedonian Community in Newcastle, NSW. He is currently in Sydney and will be returning to Newcastle in the near future. He has been living in Sydney since 1975 and has been working in the field of education since then.

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Ms. Margaret Henry

Ms. Margaret Henry: Well, if I may, I like to say, first of all, that I was born in the village of Kresna, in the district of the Vardar valley, in the north-west of Yugoslavia, in the year 1925. My father was a teacher and my mother was a housewife. I was the youngest of four children.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

MACEDONIANS THEN AND NOW IN NEWCASTLE

INTERVIEWER - BLAGOJA BOZINOSKI

INTERVIEWEE - MR. KIRIL MURGEV

DATE - 5th SEPTEMBER, 1989

Ms. Margaret Henry: I was in my first year at the age of 10. I was in the village school and then I went to the primary school in Kresna. I was in my first year at the age of 10. I was in the village school and then I went to the primary school in Kresna. I was in my first year at the age of 10. I was in the village school and then I went to the primary school in Kresna.

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This is Blagoja Bozinoski Open Foundation Course Student of the Newcastle University, interveiwing Mr Kiril Murgev of Charlestown. Mr Murgev will be talking with me today about his life and Macedonians in Newcastle. Mr Murgev was born in the Macedonian village of Gavato and he has being living in Necastle since 1935.

Blagoja Bozinoski Mr Murgev, can you tell me when did you come to Australia and how?

Mr Murgev Well if I may, I like to say, first of all that my parents Mihael Murgev and my mother Stefanka were Macedonians, and I was born in the village of Gavto, in the foot of the Vrtruska mountain and Pelister, which is snow kept ^{cupped} all year round and its a picture country side.

Blagoja Bozinoski Are you the oldest in the family?

Mr Murgev I am the oldest in the family, yes, and I more less grew up in Macedonia in Gavto. Till I was 11, when I left school and I may add perhaps it was a very sad moment for me. When I told my school teacher, I was in fourth form because in Macedonian in those days, school was four year primary final, and I was in my final year and I spoke to the teacher and told her the news, that my father had decide to bring us to Australia. That was myself, my mother my young sister who was apparently six years old. And the teacher was suprized and she was in kind of shock and she said to me " why Kire you going to Australia, at the end of the world."...right at the very end of the world." Well I said all the boys my mates were all surprized I was leaving Macedonian to come to Australia. So, we said goodbye to all my friends, relatives and a very very sad moments, because my mother thought perhaps we would come to Australia and maybe stay here for few years and go back home, because she wanted to see her mother and father before they died.

Blagoja Bozinoski Did you come and settle directly in Newcastle

Mr Murgev?

Mr Murgev Well... when we did arrive in Australia, in late 1935 early 36 we come straight to Newcastle, yes and we, you could say in the surburbs of Mayfeild East.

Blagoja Bozinoski Tell me something about the voyage...did you come with a plane or a boat?

Mr Murgev Well... voyage was quiet a expericence, my mother being a country girl, she had never left the village until we decide to travel to Australia, she was so afraid to travel from Macedonia to Australia, to forigen land, and she will say to us; I will hold you by the hand and not let go.

Blagoja Bozinoski So, It was hard to leave?

Mr Murgev It was very very difficult and emotional time when we left home. We travelled through from Bitola our closest town and then through Greece and a from Athens by first boat to Cairo...and a some problems with the steam ship at the time we was at to stop at hotel for about two weeks.

Blagoja Bozinoski How big was the ship, was it a big ship?

Mr Murgev I would say, I think, name of the ship was Vimanate an Italian steam ship company ... was not very big. But like I said we stayed portside, then for about two weeks, we saw the city very nice. I enjoyed it. After that they told us we had to go aboard another Italian liner and then to travel to Australia aboard this liner. We stayed another two weeks before we left portside and after that we travelled through Suez Canal and a very exciting times. Watching cravan traders all diffrent people, coming from white people to really seeing black people which we never saw before; it was really nice.

Bozinoski Did you learn any english on the boat?

Mr Murgev No...No we had no English

Blagoja Bozinoski There wasn't any arranged classes to learn in English.

Mr Murgev No ...none like that at all.

Bozinoski What was the big difference between your home town and Newcastle, when you arrived?

Mr Murgev Well, our home town was like I said, was ... a... we lived in the country all our life, nice clean fresh mountain air, water and everything, and coming to Newcastle was a diffrent thing, Industrial city with much smoke and smog about. And to us somehow, we got used to it in time, but was a little bit diffrent.

Blagoja Bozinoski You said, you left school in the last year, did you continue in this city of Newcastle straight away or did you wait a bit, then went to school?

Mr Murgev Well...a...like I said, I should mention that my father was in Australia for some years when we arrived here in Australia, and he told me that, because I was only eleven I should get some education.

He would take me to school and the first thing he said to me, because, son he said, because you can't speak English and when anybody and somebody ask you something, you say no speak English, no speak English, everybody comes along, no speak English. Anyway this day I got dressed he was going to take me to school Mayfeild East Public School, and we lived in Mayfeild East and that wasn't very far to walk, only take us on ten minutes, and we walked into the Principal office. Mr Murray he welcomed us, and told us to sit down and he asked my dad were we come from, and why we come to the school. Well, my father said to Mr Murray, the Principal, he said first of all this is my son Kire and my family have just arrived from Macedonia. And ...oh he said, Macedonians, hey, you have long history, you have history of Alexander the Great, he says, you Macedonian. Yes my father said, yes, we are Macedonians. He told us about Alexander the Great and his victory, and whatever but I never understood anything. Dad was explaining to me better conversation what the Principal had spoken. And the Principal had turned around to me, and he said to me...here Kire... this table... say table: I say table, a chairs: I say chairs then he would continue conversation with my father and then not so long later he would repeat and ask me: what he told me what they called that. And I guessed and I didn't, and he said that was table and that was chair. And so it was a very interesting time with the principal.

Blagoja Bozinoski How did the children look up to you as a student with no English?

Mr Murgev Well after we had spoken with the Principal in his office, he said to us, I will take Kire to his class which is equivalent to his fourth year school in Macedonia, and this will be his six class in this school. and took me to the class room. And ...a ... we walked into the classroom with the Principal and my father, and all the students in the classroom

all stood up and he told them that; boys we have a new boy here that comes from Macedonia and he can't speak English and he would like to stay here and learn the language, and become a student and everybody applauded, and they was happy after that. The Principal left us my dad left and I remained in the class. Everybody was looking at me, you know, when the teacher told them I couldn't speak English, the children and students were asking... why he can't speak English...because they thought everywhere in the world they spoke English, why shouldn't I speak English (laugh). And everybody was looking at me. And anyway, the bell rang and it was interval time. And I didn't no^k how the news got around but the whole school was outside looking at me, you know, everybody, where you come from, what's your name, and all I am saying no speak English, no speak English and... a it was very emotional, and the boys was, you know, very pleased to see me, after that we got on pretty well.

Blagoja Bozinoski When you finished the primary school did you continue with a scholarship after that?

Mr Murgev Well that was my full year at Mayfeild East Primary School and after, and after that because of my age and that I sort of, I was transferred to Newcastle Technical school Broadmeadows and started my three years term with Central Technical School back in was 1937.

Blagoja Bozinoski 1937?

Mr Murgev I'll say 1937.

Blagoja Bozinoski What sort of memories have you got from Broadmeadow Technical College or School?

Mr Murgev Well at school I found each day more easier for me, each week I learned a little bit more English and by the time I finished my three term with the Central Technical School, I, in my last year I finished up Senior Prefect of my school.

Blagoja Bozinoski And that was a very good achievement?

Mr Murgev Yes, that was a very good achievement, and I was liked by all the students and teachers at the school, at the school there and at the time, I was, we was I could say a ten Senior prefects with a captain and a vice captain at the school.

Blagoja Bozinoski What happened after you finished the school?

Mr Murgev Well, what happened, then was something we was taught what we had to do with ourselves when we left school. Weather we going to have a trade, or what ever and a lot of boys, or mates we at the time was deciding would be going as apprentice into the industries as electricians, machinist and various other trades and which I was not very fimilar, myself I didnt know much about the industries, oh well, I with some of the mates, I decide to I should take on fitting and machining or fitting and turning and after that I applied~~ed~~ for a position at B.H.P. and I was a apprentice as a fitter and turner.

Blagoja Bozinoski How long did you work at B.H.P after you finished the apprenticeship ?

Mr Murgev Well the apprenticeship^{le} was for 5 years, and I was in the machine shop and the various plants in the B.H.P. But most of the time on machine in the machine shop on fitting and turning. I was there for 5 years and that was right throught the war. After the war then I left because my father was sick and we had a small family business and I was deciding wheather I should stay in the industry or I should take over the business, and my decision was to take over the shop and let my father retire.

Blagoja Bozinoski You mentioned by the end of the forties there were a lot of migrants, do you remember how you celebrate our nation day in 1949?

Mr. Murgev Well after, '45, there was many migrants coming to Australia from Macedonia and by the end of say '49 the number increased to about say 20 families, and maybe 100 single people arriving in Australia at the time.

Blagoja Bozinoski Did you send any,... did you try to help any families migrating from Macedonia, did you sponsor any families?

Mr. Murgev Oh, yes we did lot. Actually my father, a lot of our relatives from back home, nephews, cousins, uncles, brothers, whoever we sponsor maybe much as 20 or more as ..ah... we just applied, ... and a landing permits for these people, that we brought out here, and through the assistance of the World Council of Churches, and we brought many many friends to Australia.

Blagoja Bozinoski How was your general feeling when a lot of Macedonian migrants started to arrived in Newcastle?

Mr. Murgev Well, ah... we was very pleased to see most of our relatives, we had since we had left back home, in '35 and at was a real sad and happy and sad emotional moments at the time.

Blagoja Bozinoski How did you help the early migrants Mr. Murgev?

Mr. Murgev Well I could say in a way, I was fortunate, because by then I could speak the language, by then, so I could read and write.

Blagoja Bozinoski So you was acting as interpreter?

Mr. Murgev So many of our people that came from overseas wanted to bring their own families or relatives, they all used to come to me, I used to do all the work for them, on paper, applications, forms, to the immigration department... letters coming backwards and forwards and inquiries used to come to my place, and we would talk about these situations and so forth, people with problems at the time with taxation... and all that. I wasn't very fluent at these things, but they thought I was genius and helped them along as much I could, and er they all liked me very much for being such a big help to them.

Blagoja Bozinoski So there..... was there any welfare service?

Mr. Murgev No I'm afraid not, I can't remember in those days. You had to go to solicitor. Anybody had to go to a solicitor they would always ask me to go with them as a interpreter, with them. I did as much as I could .

Blagoja Bozinoski So you was one of the first Macedonian ethnic workers who was unpaid. Tell me something about your marriage now, Mr. Murgev? Was it a proxy marriage or arranged marriage?

Mr. Murgev Ah....I wasn't a proxy marriage or arranged marriage. It was like I said, just met on a farm, she was a country girl and I was a country boy and we got attracted to each other and finally we got married.

Blagoja Bozinoski Macedonian customs are to have big weddings. Did you have a big wedding?

Mr. Murgev Yes, you could say, I had a big wedding. I invited all our Macedonian friends and relatives in Newcastle and surrounding cities like Sydney and Wollongong and Port Kembla and the migrants that we knew. They all come to my wedding. Besides all my Australian friends, was invited to the wedding and a lot of Australian friends and I was so happy because my very first teacher when I went first to school in Mayfield East who taught me Mr. Murray Lovett and I was very proud man and happy.

Blagoja Bozinoski Where was the wedding held.

Mr. Murgev Well, the wedding was held in the parish hall in the Church of England, parish hall, Hannell Street Wickham.

Blagoja Bozinoski Do you remember at that time is there any Macedonian families who owned their own businesses or all of them worked in BHP or other factories?

Mr. Murgev Yes, well later on we had, no, I would not very many. Maybe there was a fruit shop in Mayfield and a cafe .. a large milkbar which we all went to... others just working in the industry at the time.

Blagoja Bozinoski I believe it was very hard work in the industry at that time?

Mr. Murgev Yes, my father was an open heart man, and he worked very hard.... I can remember we lived in Mayfield East, most of the time he walked to BHP to work, and then he would come home very tired. In the evening after day shift, working in the open hearth, swinging a sledge hammer.... 14kg. sledge hammer ... and he would come home and show me, he couldn't even close his fist.... and then he be very tired and he would say by the time your mother gets tea ready on the table I will go to the local hotel, have a beer.

Would you like to come along he's saying to me.... I'll say 'alright why not'... and he took me to this local hotel in Mayfield East, there in Maitland Road and he introduce me to the manager and to the lady at the bar there. He say 'this is my son' and he got a beer and they give me a red drink and which I enjoy it very much. Well,... after that, dad will come home from work again and he would be very tired, still sweating from hot open hearth work they used to do there. And he'd say 'son I'm too tired to go to the hotel, would you run over and ask the manager there could he give you a bottle of Pilsner beer and bring it to me. I'll say 'sure dad' , and I run like anything, and before dad was even sitting on the table, there to have his tea, I'd be back with the bottle.

Blagoja Bozinoski So for you it wasn't difficult to run and come back and surprise your father?

Mr. Murgev No, I was very happy. I was very happy to see dad

Blagoja Bozinoski How did you see the idea of having a Macedonian church in Newcastle? Was that a wish for the Macedonian community in Newcastle?

Mr. Murgev Well, this was all after I got married of course. I must mention that my father was also a clarinet player who played with our other countrymen who played the bag pipe and drum and that was the only orchestra we had here and even for my wedding. They was the ones who performed the music and everything, folk dancing and so forth.... made it very enjoyable..... and ah... yes it was our dream. My father was prominent figure at that time and he always dreamed of having around all community centre where we can all get together and have social evenings, weddings, dances and christenings and whatever it was always our dream.

Blagoja Bozinoski So you think by having a Macedonian Church, the people come closer together?

Mr. Murgev Yes, oh yes, that was the idea of... of having the people all come to church because we are the orthodox religion and very religious people and we would like to like having our church, yes, this is what we all wanted and dream about.

Blagoja Bozinoski What else do you want to tell me about Mr. Murgev,..... about your life in Newcastle after 55 years living in it.

What sort of changes or can it be made any changes towards better for the Macedonian community or for the elderly Macedonian community?

Mr. Murgev Well, life has changed a great deal since we arrived in '35. We certainly had a hard time and no work and I can remember the tramways, the street cars along Hunter Street. There the most people were walking in the early days to save that 3d to catch the tram, year by year, I think more work was available and people started to work and we got used to the new changes with like having our own social unions and outings whatever and something to look forward to.

Blagoja Bozinoski Do you think now migrants are more accepted than what was 50 or 60 years back?

Mr. Murgev Well, in 50 - 60 years back what I can say is I don't know.... wasn't so many migrants at the time.... can't say that we was very popular but like I say I had a good time myself, maybe because I went to school, even to this day I could meet some of my buddies and I would be very much respected and liked. But then there was the other side - people that worked in the industry and couldn't get jobs and found it very hard, difficult.... what can I say.... not well respected I suppose.

Blagoja Bozinoski What would you tell to the younger generation.... the Macedonian generation now?

Mr. Murgev Well they are lucky to be in a lucky country because we made it what it is today through hard work and today Australia is truly democratic country and we all should be proud of.

Blagoja Bozinoski And with implementation of multiculturalism, definitely is making it better and easier for migrants living in Australia.

Mr. Murgev Sure, it is multiculturalism a good thing because people believe in their own heritage, their own culture, their own ideas, like to pass it on to the younger generations.

Blagoja Bozinoski Thank you. I appreciate for your time Mr. Murgev and I'm wishing you and your family all the best for the future.

Mr. Murgev I thank you very much Blagoja and I'm very happy to be of any assistance to you. Thank you.