

Immigration Stories

Stand in front of the Maritime Museum and look around you. Imagine this space 200 years ago.

The original people of this area are Whadjuk people. The Whadjuk name for Fremantle is Walyalup.

This area began to change quite a lot after the first European migrants arrived in 1829.

This 1830 painting of Fremantle shows the types of shelter lived in by early migrants.



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia.

Walk around the harbour side of the Museum and find this mural. It shows the original coastline of Fremantle on top and the current coastline underneath.

Can you see where more land has been added?

You can see how much things have changed since the arrival of migrants. Let's find out more about one of these changes.



Keep walking around the harbour side of the Museum and find the rocky section shown in this picture. If you reach the Museum windows you have gone too far.

At this point, a rocky sandbar once stretched across the river's mouth to form a shallow estuary. This was an important crossing point and fishing area for Whadjuk people.



As more migrants arrived, it was decided that the rocky sandbar would be removed to allow large ships to enter the harbour.

C.Y. O'Connor was the Government Chief Engineer who designed the new Fremantle Harbour in the 1890s, using explosives to blow up and remove the sandbar.

Do you think everyone agreed with the removal of this sandbar?

Walk back to the front of the Museum where you will continue your walk to find out more about C.Y. O'Connor.



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia.



Head down the centre path of the car park until you reach the C.Y. O'Connor statue.

Read the plaque beneath the statue to find out more about him. You might learn more about C.Y. O'Connor's migration story today.

What were some of his contributions to Western Australia?

The tall white building behind the statue is the Fremantle Ports Building. This picture shows the same statue with the original Harbour Trust building that existed until the early 1960s.

The workers in these buildings controlled harbour operations as thousands of migrants arrived at their new home over the years.



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia.

Use the zebra crossing to reach this sculpture, *Southern Crossing*, which represents the arrival of new migrants.

Read the panel on the side of the blue and grey gangway.

Talk about what the gangway represents. Consider what might be in the suitcase. Discuss the meaning of the approaching dingo.

How does this sculpture make you feel?



Return to the front of the Museum and find this statue, dedicated to the child migrants who came to Western Australia without their parents.

Think of some reasons why children came here on their own.

How do you think they felt when they arrived here?



Now explore the Welcome Walls.

Find these names, their year of arrival and the ship they came on:

Maria Iannello – Panel 47

Ilona and Frantisek (Frank) Hrubos – Panel 110

Stephen Anstey – Panel 22

Peters Family – Panel 330

Do you know anyone who has their name on these walls?

