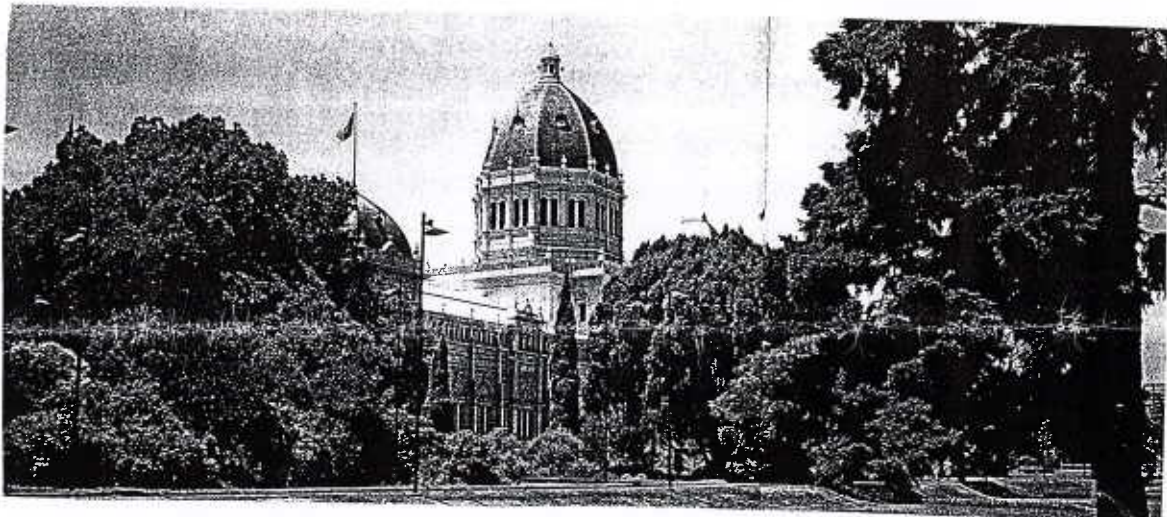




AUGUST ACTIVITY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Mayor's Room
Former Fitzroy Town Hall
201 Napier Street, Fitzroy
Wednesday 5 August 1998
7.30-8.00 p.m.**

**followed by a talk by Meredith Gould
Conservation Architect and Landscape Consultant
on the Melbourne Royal Exhibition Building, its possible World Heritage
Listing, and its relationship with the new Museum of Victoria, the Carlton
Gardens and the local community, 8.15 - 9.15 p.m.**



**Supper will be served. All welcome.
Cost: \$2 for members of The Fitzroy History Society, \$3 for non-members.**

**ESPRESSO BAR TO EMC
A THIRTY-YEAR HISTORY OF THE ECUMENICAL
MIGRATION CENTRE, MELBOURNE**

by Michele Langfield

The Ecumenical Migration Centre has been a vital part of Melbourne's response to postwar immigration since its inception in the early 1960s. This history is a study of change, dynamism and organisational survival. It highlights the role played by the EMC in caring for the needs of Melbourne's new ethnic communities, and emphasises its importance as an organisation which had 'a vision of Australian society that was genuinely pluralistic, well before this vision was widely accepted in the community at large'.

Beginning as a welfare organisation which assisted newly arrived non-English speaking migrants, the EMC soon assumed the role of advocate for both individuals and groups. Its work included community development as well as education to combat racism and promote tolerance within Australian society. It also became an insistent critic of government policy and practice, and was part of a network of organisations working to ensure that ethnic communities had a voice on a wide range of issues concerning migrant settlement. In these and other ways the EMC has played a vital part in the development of multiculturalism in Australia. At a local level, it has played a significant part in the history of inner-city Melbourne, particularly in Fitzroy, Carlton, Collingwood, Richmond and Footscray.

Michele Langfield is a senior lecturer in the School of International Studies at Deakin University. Her doctoral research was a study of government policy and public opinion about immigration from 1901 to 1939.

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