

## Anglo-Indians in New South Wales - Australia.

The Anglo-Indian community, very similar to the European Community, has been immigrating to Australia since the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Visit the Exhibition “Tales of the East” in old Government House, Parramatta, which is open till August 2018.

**William Browne** (1762 - 1833) and his wife Sophie, Merchants from Calcutta, purchased a 200-acre farm called “Abbotsbury” near Cabramatta and later purchased a further 3,000-acres in the Illawarra. They brought their family and relations and 40 others from India to manage their farms.

Historians have narrated that Australia had many strong links with British India, and this fact is still reflected in Australian architecture - the ‘verandah’ was a gift from the Anglo-Indians. Administrators, army personnel, bishops, travellers and clergy moved between the two countries. Livestock from Bengal reached farms in New South Wales and horses from New South Wales were shipped to the Indian army. The Anglican Church in Australia came under the diocese of Calcutta. There were Indian-born people (even convicts) living in the earliest colonies. Their English surnames make it hard to identify the Anglo-Indians, but one, James Sievwright, a convict clerk at the Hobart post office in 1844, was fluent in English, French, German, Bengali, Hindustani, Persian, Greek and Latin.

Caroline Chisholm and Lachlan Macquarie spent many years in India. It is thought that some of Caroline Chisholm's students, from a school she opened in Madras, might have emigrated through the Bengal Australia Settlement Scheme.

In 1844, a major transportation of Anglo-Indians was organised by Sir William Burton, a judge in Madras. Burton was president of the Madras East India Society and sought relief for those who "are Christians and look to England as the land of their origin". The society sent two groups from Madras to Sydney in the ships William Prowse (1853) and the Paltryra (1854). (A similar scheme for Albany in Western Australia ended in a shipwreck). In 1875, Henry Cornish, an Anglo-Indian author, surveyed settlers who were transported by Burton; his results were published in his book titled ‘Under the Southern Cross’ (republished by Penguin in 1975). Twenty-four Anglo-Indians were compositors in Henry Parkes's newspaper, the Empire. James Spooner was at Towns and Company, Sydney; H. (Henry)

Moreau was a hairdresser in New Road, Sydney; William Grogan, James Dias and John Gotting were at Cunningham's printing press in Pitt Street, Sydney, while Thomas Reynolds and James Baker had left Sydney to join the Brisbane Courier. Benjamin Franz, John Hovenden and Thomas Martin had died, and several others had returned to India. Most were satisfied with their wages and conditions. Young married couples would have made a complete success of the scheme, wrote Cornish.

The Indian mutiny of 1857, (in which thousands of Anglo-Indians suffered greatly), resulted in increasing numbers of Indian-born settlers migrating to Australia, amongst them, officers of Hodson's Horse and other regiments. Colonel Andrew Crawford (who was English) had also arrived in Tasmania; he was a former Adjutant-General of the Bombay army. He began the Castra Farming Scheme in northern Tasmania, attracting retired Indian Army Officers.



### **Anglo-Indians contributed to the formation of the Federation**

Historians in India documented that twenty-four Anglo-Indian boys that arrived in Sydney around 1850, were from St George's Anglo-Indian School, Madras. (The school was built over 350 years ago and is today ranked as one of the oldest schools in the world, Wikipedia). They worked for **Sir Henry Parkes** as Journalists and Printers. Parkes owned the *Empire* newspaper in Sydney, and the *Evening News* and part-owner of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. These Anglo-Indians contributed to Parkes being one of the greatest **Premiers** in the history of Australia. Parkes was the most commanding figure in Australian politics and was referred to as the "**Father of Federation**".

### **These early Anglo-Indian migrants contributed to the Formation of the Australian Federation.**

The 1920s saw many Anglo-Indians flowing into Australia after the First World War; in the 1930s they migrated due to the growing instability in India and the rising demand for India's Independence.

### **First Major Exodus**

In the year 1947, when India gained Independence, 'boatloads' of Anglo-Indians migrated to Australia. It is thought that the handover of political power in August 1947 to the Indians and the subsequent end of the Raj, as well as the communal killings that were the result of Indian

independence, all engendered insecurity among many minority groups. Over 100,000 Anglo-Indians emigrated to Australia and there are many reports of their success in their adopted country.

### **Second and Larger Exodus**

**The largest Exodus occurred in the 1960s and 1970s** and emptied the Railway, Military, Police and other Anglo-Indian colonies. Anglo-Indians arrived with their elderly Parents and relations, and with ‘empty pockets’.

**Charles Barden**, who works in Parliament House, has access to the latest Census figures. He tells us that over 48,000 individuals in New South Wales have declared they were born in India and speak English at home. Many people in that census have cited ‘Anglo-Indian’ as their Nationality. Add to this number, children and grandchildren born in Australia to early Anglo-Indian migrants, and we have a large number of Anglo-Indians residing in Australia!

**It is estimated that there are more than 100,000 Anglo Indians residing in New South Wales.**

### **Achievements**

For forty years India was undefeated in Hockey and held all the world titles. Hockey Coaches, Players and Managers left India in large numbers and migrated to Australia. They brought with them their talent which now contributes to Australia’s dominance in this sport.



Noel French (who’s ‘only Goal’ has twice led Australia to victory in the finals of the “Grand Masters” world cup hockey) is on his way to Barcelona in June this year. We hope he brings back to Australia, (for the third time), the World cup. Noel carries with him the goodwill and wishes of ARAIA members.

Many and even more talented Anglo-Indians of noteworthy achievements, work in diverse fields such as sport, entertainment, military, engineering and other disciplines. Many have also won world recognition in sport and in beauty competitions. India, to date, has the largest number of Miss World winners, two of whom were Anglo-Indians.



In NSW, Australia, we have Bombay born and ARAIA member, Larry Stellar, OAM, also known as “The Legend” in the entertainment field.



Representing Anglo-Indians in the Australian Navy we have Keith Jonas, OAM.



Melanie Sears, with several world titles in Dancing, was the “Darling” of ARAIA’s Premier Egyptian NITE. The scintillating performance was breathtaking.



Hector Soans, ARAIA’s first President, Founder and philanthropist, with an inborn quest for high achievement, created over 120 offices in Australia and America, where the flowing script “ITP” would become the most recognised financial institution in Australia.



Audrey Murton, ARAIA Life Member and philanthropist. From a Chauffer driven Cadillac in India and expanding the Oberoi Hotel’s international chains, to creating every business person’s dream, Audrey’s national distribution company, ‘Brochure Flow’, serviced over 3,000 travel agents, airlines and tourist bureaus.



Prominent international, Calcutta born actress, Merle Oberon (1935).



Basil Sellers, Philanthropist, has been awarded almost every Honour that Australia and the Queen could bestow upon him. His donations in promotion of sport, is unmatched. His life is documented in the book titled “From India with Love”.

**Anglo-Indians are well-integrated into Australian culture: it is difficult to tell if the Aussie sitting beside you is an Anglo-Indian or of another ethnic group.**

### **The ‘Anglo-Indian Way’**

‘The Anglo-Indian Way’ is a Way of Life that is about being proud of one’s roots and heritage, while not being afraid of integrating with the larger community.

### **ARAIA’s Policy**

- Urge Anglo-Indians to vigorously think of their roots and their community.
- Striving to achieve the vision of the Founders by owning our own real-estate.
- ARAIA will **preserve our identity as Anglo-Indians** by enhancing the community’s visibility.

**Meet any of the Senior Leaders of ARAIA and share your thoughts with them.**

**Please share this information with family and friends either by emails or other forms of electronic transmission, such as Facebook.**

**Max French**

**Chairman, ARAIA**