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## *Hostel Stories take shelter in museum*

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A new exhibition detailing post-war migrant life in the hostels of South Australia opens on Saturday 30 November at the Migration Museum. *Hostel Stories: Migrant Lives* seeks to answer the many questions raised by the Museum's visitors over the years relating to the state's own hostel history. Hostels were temporary accommodation where people new to Australia lived, worked and adjusted to a new country for anything from a few weeks to as long as five years. Oral accounts combined with artefacts drawn from across the state will lift the lid on what life in the hostels was really like.

Open until the end of October 2014, this exhibition is one result of an ongoing research partnership between The University of Adelaide and the Migration Museum, on the little-known stories of the hostels and those who called them home in the years between 1947 and 1985. Complete with a replica Nissen hut, *Hostel Stories* is the first public presentation of the history of all South Australian migrant hostels.

The hostels were a government response to housing shortages during a period of mass migration. They were often the first home for those arriving in Australia following the Second World War. Hostels operated in South Australia in the post-war era up to the mid eighties and included accommodation at Rosewater, Finsbury/Pennington, Woodside, Gepps Cross, Elder Park, Smithfield, Gawler, Glenelg, Mallala, Whyalla, Woodville, and Semaphore.

Borne out of a thirst for knowledge from migrant families, the *Hostel Stories* research project was funded by a grant from the Australian Research Council and facilitated by the hundreds of former hostel residents who registered to be a part of the project. Many supplied first-hand accounts and photographs to build a picture of their past life in these often spartan places where the dream of a new life collided with the reality of communal living.

An ongoing research project, *Hostel Stories* continues to develop into the future, with the Museum hosting reunions for residents in 2014.

A dedicated *Hostel Stories* web site will be launched shortly.

Interviews with former residents plus high resolution images are available on request.

**What:** *Hostel Stories Exhibition*

**Where:** Migration Museum, 82 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide

**When:** Saturday 30 November 2013 – 31 October 2014  
(official launch Friday 29 November)

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