

The first part of this research has recently been published as a book, "*Are Indians an Ethnic Minority? Volume One.*" It reveals how trading ships from India and China visited Australia and traded with the indigenous Australians centuries ago; how supplies, goods and cattle sustained the fledgling colony established by Captain Philip in New South Wales – how the colonisers were close to complete starvation and were rescued by supplies from India; how Australian merino sheep and other cattle have bloodlines that can be traced directly to India; how Indian sailors made the first ever inland trek in Australia, after the '*Sydney Cove*' was ship-wrecked near Lakes Entrance and the sailors walked to Sydney; how these sailors actually discovered the body of water between mainland Australia and Tasmania, which was later named Bass Strait. How George Bass was sent to confirm whether the strait really did exist, based on the information provided by three ship-wrecked Indian sailors who managed to walk for over a thousand kilometres to Sydney.

The sale of publications of this research will finance future research and more volumes of this work. Following this Len intends to locate sites of Australian Indian Historical Archaeological significance (some of which he has already located.) And have memorial plaques erected at the sites to publish Indian achievements in Australia. Len then intends to write articles and papers on his findings and to establish a directory of these sites. Another objective is to establish a permanent display of Photographs and Artifacts of Australian Indian History for the General Public. However, the main objective is to have Australian Indian History taught in schools as part of the Curriculum.

Len is interested in any information, photographs or stories about the Indians in Australia.

To purchase a copy of the book, "*Are Indians an Ethnic Minority, Volume One,*" or the play, *It "Happened in Heywood"* or for any further information, please contact:

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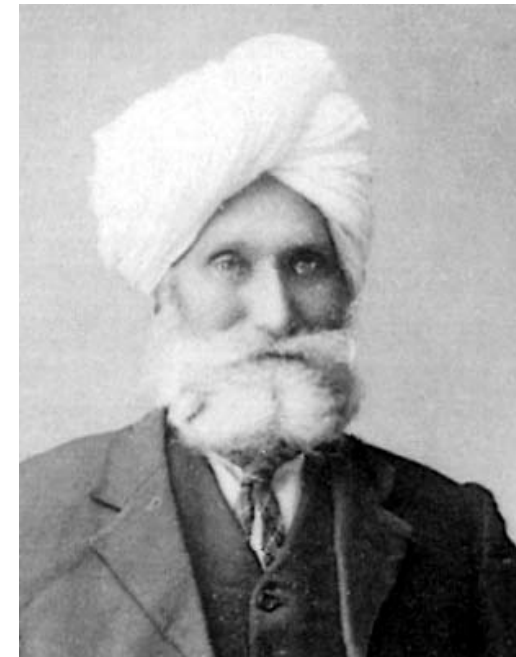
Websites:

<http://www.wix.com/jordanca/lenkenna>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Indian-History/133280213421590>

NATIONAL TOUR 2011 AUSTRALIAN INDIAN HISTORY SOCIETY Public Speaking and Photographic Exhibition

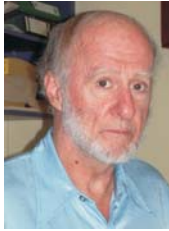
Len Kenna and Crystal Jordan



**Juan Singh, Indian Hawker
Hamilton, Victoria**

**Gurdwara Sahib Werribee
560 Davis Road. Tarneit, Victoria 3029**

HAWKERS



Len Kenna, an author, historian and playwright, was first interviewed on SBS Radio's Punjabi program in 1999, when he talked of his own experience as a youngster growing up in Hamilton. He recalled a Sikh hawker (whose name he remembers as Gunter Singh), who visited his town frequently, hawking goods imported from India and other parts of the world. Len remembers "Gunter Singh" playing cards with him and his friends, cooking delightful smelling Indian food and playing cricket with the other locals. Len's mother, would wash "Gunter Singh's" turbans for him, and Len's most enduring memory is of the brightly coloured turbans, draped all over their clothesline, flapping wildly in the wind! He even remembers that during the partition of India in 1947, the local priest at Hamilton had just returned from a stint in India, and organised a drive to raise money to send to people affected by the displacement and carnage of the Partition. Later in life, Len visited India and was determined to learn more and write about the Sikh hawkers he remembered so well since his childhood.

The result was a play, "*It happened in Heywood*," which shows the close relationship Indian hawkers enjoyed with Australian locals, despite the enforcement of "White Australia policy" in those days. A more detailed (although by far incomplete) explanation of the life styles of Indian Hawkiers in Colonial Australia can be obtained from reading "*It Happened in Heywood*" by Len Kenna.



Crystal Jordan has acted as a Research Assistant for Len Kenna over the last twenty years. She migrated to Queensland, from England in 1948 with her parents and family. Crystal has always had a keen interest in India and things Indian as her Grandfather was in the British Army and served in India and her Father was born in Bareilly, India.

Len Kenna and Crystal Jordan are currently conducting a National Speaking Tour and speaking on Australian Indian History at various venues, including Gurudwaras, Temples, Radio and Television. This Speaking Tour is touring in conjunction with the Australian Indian History Photographic Exhibition.

Hawkers lived lonely solitary lives tramping along country roads, following the same route and using regular camping places, where they sometimes stayed for several days. Although they earned good money and finished up financially successful, very few of them had wives and family with them. Few if any married in Victoria, although they were included into the community and made lasting friendships. They were always on the move -- sleeping in their wagons, camping out rough or at farm houses on their rounds, where in most cases they were welcomed into the home sharing meals, telling stories and receiving fodder for their horses. Sometimes they stayed for several days and on special occasions other Hawkiers joined them. On these occasions they camped away from the main house.



Sunda Singh started his Hawking career with his goods wrapped in a bundle strapped to his back. The cost of his License for hawking on foot was One Pound per year, and for a horse drawn hawker's vehicle, it was Two Pounds per year. Sunda soon bought a horsedrawn wagon and two horses.) His horses were called Jake and Bally. With this wagon he was able to travel much greater distances and it gave him a degree of independence. Sometime later he bought a farm at Allestree, Victoria. Before his death he paid for the painting of the interior of the Old Portland Hospital. Nearing his death he was sent to the Ballarat Hospital where he died. Sunda left behind a wife and family in Rai Pur, India.