



Newsletter

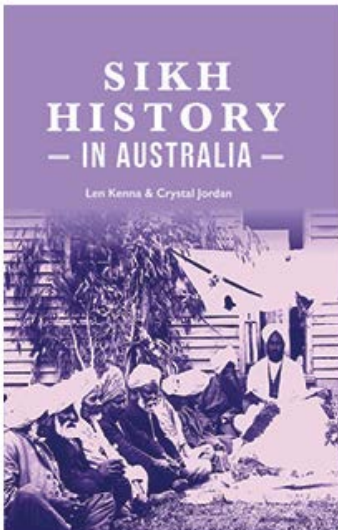
AIHS

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LATEST NEWS

Keep up to date with Australian Indian History with our Latest News and Information about what is happening. It is always being updated with old and new stories. Read about how Indians lived in Australia in the past and what is happening with Australian Indian History today. History is ongoing and today is tomorrow's history.

Left: AIHS Photographic Exhibition at Parklea 8 May 2011. Left: Len Kenna right: Baljinder Singh Nanda.



BRIEF HISTORY

Indians formed the largest self-funded migration of people who were not of European descent. These self-funded Indians formed a large trading network along the east coast of Australia, as well as branching out into other forms of rural work including cutting cane in Northern Australia. when the horse herd in Australia had increased sufficiently horses were exported back to India.

The first exports commenced in the 1820's and continued to the start of the Second World War. During that time well over 400,000 horses and 50,000 handlers travelled to India.

NEW BOOKS by Len Kenna & Crystal Jordan

Sikh History In Australia

In both English and Punjabi 2019
Translated by Dr. Balwant Singh Dhillon.

Bhakrodi to Woolgoolga 2023

Moti's journey to Australia from India and the unexpected events that followed.

COMING SOON

Siva Singh, Benalla, Booklet.

WHO ARE WE?

We are a non-profit organisation interested in researching, preserving and publicising Australian Indian History with the aim of reducing racism in the community.

The Group was first formed in 2002 and reformed as The Australian Indian Historical Society Inc. on 31 March 2012.

THE MOST ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT AUSTRALIAN INDIAN HISTORY

Why have both Len Kenna & Crystal Jordan worked on Australian Indian History for so long? From both of our childhoods we have had a strong interest in India. Also, it is common for Australians to work long term in this way. Good examples are local sporting clubs and community radio stations etc. Most of Australia's charity work is done by individuals and not by Religious Organisations.

When did the first Indians arrive in Australia? It was common for British Ships both Naval and Merchant to have Indian Sailors on board so all vessels sailing in Australian waters would have had Indian sailors in their crew. Even on Captain Cook's Endeavour in 1788. The first Muslim Indian landed in Tasmania in 1813. The first Hindus came as indentured labourer in 1816. The first Sikhs landed in Brisbane in 1844.

The meaning of ANZAC? Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. When the Australian and New Zealand Armies unit fight together, they are called ANZACS. And yes, several Indians including Sikhs enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force during WWI & WWII, however, there was only one Indian Anzac at Gallipoli. His name was Charles Khan from South Australia he was awarded the Meritorious Medal.

What exactly is the White Australia Policy of 1901? The White Australia policy restricted the migration of all non-white people to Australia.

What is the CEDT Test? The Certificate of Exemption for the Dictation Test (CEDT). The CEDT test was used to keep non-white people out of Australia by asking newly arrived people to sit for an examination which could be applied in any language, the Examining Officer would give the test in a language that was unfamiliar to the person taking the test. However, if a non-white person was living in Australia before 1901, they were exempt from the test if they wanted to re-enter Australia. However, they had to apply for the exemption before they left Australia. In 1923 the Act was altered to allow members of the families of non-white people living in Australia to enter Australia provided they had accommodation to come to, and that they could be supported, by the person sponsoring them.

Who were the First Indians to come to Victoria? The survivors of the Sydney Cove, It was previously named the Begum Shaw and is the 2nd most important ship to enter Australian waters. It sailed from Calcutta in 1797 with a crew of 42 Indian sailors known as Lascars, and 7 Anglo

Indians. It was run aground on an unnamed Island in Bass Strait now called, Preservation Island in 1798. It was carrying a cargo of items for trade. When it was salvaged, the cargo was taken to Sydney and successfully sold. It was the first speculative trading vessel to enter Australian waters and opened Australia to world trade.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT AUSTRALIAN INDIAN HISTORY

Post Captain Phillips was recalled from India with his officer corps to mount the First Fleet to Australia. The nine merchant vessels on the First Fleet were owned or under lease to the English East India Trading Company. There is no doubt that most of the seamen on board were Indians.

After Settlement Australia was placed under the protection of the East India Naval Station at Bombay.

The Church of England Vicar (now known as the Anglican Church) was the only Christian Minister sent with the First Fleet. He was under the control of the Archbishop of Calcutta.

When the Colony was in crisis and on the point of starvation in 1792 Governor Phillips successfully turned to India for help in supplying food and other supplies. As a result, the Home Secretary in London ordered that all supplies including animals should be purchased from India if they could not be purchased cheaper elsewhere. This was a momentous decision because after that time most food and animals were purchased from India. And from that time on all horse, cattle and sheep had strong bloodlines going back to India.

Four of the first five Governors of NSW had served in India. This was the first injection of technological transfer that later extended to most branches of the Public Service, including the Judiciary.

Most of the inland exploring and other work performed by cameleers was performed by Indians working with camels imported from India. Credit for their excellent work exploring and opening up the inland of Australia has wrongly been attributed to the Afghans.

In the early days of Settlement, the convicts felt sorry for the Indian lascars on ships visiting Sydney. When the *Shar of Hormus* landed in Sydney the convicts gave them cloths and blankets and were severely punished for their charity.

OUR RESEARCH OF MIRPUR, AZAD KASHMIR



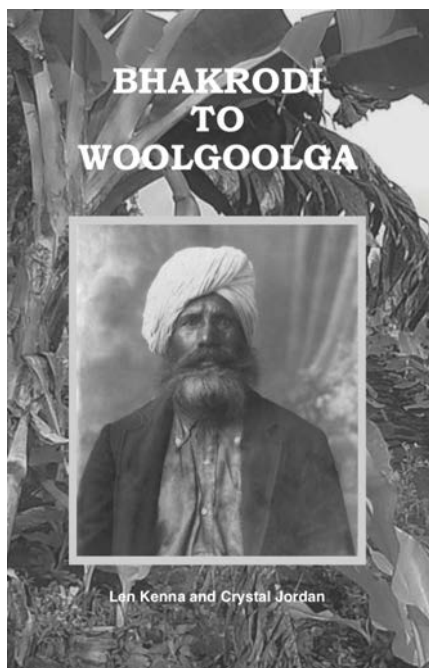
Above: Monga Khan seated right with other men from his family.

Over the years we have sought International Cooperation when researching and publishing family histories on a family regional and ethnic basis, this opens up a number of interesting aspects that would otherwise be overlooked.

In 2018 Len Kenna and Crystal Jordan met Awais Hussain and invited him to join with

them and help them follow the story of Monga Khan from Bathroi, Mirpur, Azad Kashmir, a Muslim hawker in Victoria who Len and Crystal had previously researched. This collaboration resulted in researching and writing of the migration of Mirpuris to Australia from approximately 1890.

Len and Crystal have worked with a number of other people using this method to enhance our work, since approximately 2010, for example: Baljinder Singh Nanda who was searching for his Grandfather Mehnga Singh from Lyallpur, Punjab, Keith Johnson a descendant of Mahomed Gujar from Kharian, Gujrat, Kirpal Husna from Bhakrodi, Nawanshahr, Punjab, Awais Hussain a Mirpuri descendant and avid researcher of family history, and Dr. Debbie Bargallie a descendant of Bargally (Barg Ali/Barg Allie) and other family members from Gujrat and Mirpur. Our research has benefitted from collaborating in this way. A book from our research of Mirpur is almost ready for publication.



BHAKRODI TO WOOLGOOLGA

This book examines Moti's journey to Australia and the unexpected events that followed. When he set out on his journey Moti wanted to increase his family's wealth and land holdings in the Punjab and to continue his Sikh way of life.

Moti achieved his main objective: he increased his family's wealth and land holdings in the Punjab but instead of continuing his Sikh way of life in the Punjab he stayed in Australia, in that way he developed a dual nationality. In his village he lived the life of an itinerant farm worker and when he was reaching retirement age his sons Husna and Kabul, joined him in Australia. This was the beginning of Moti's dynasty in Australia. His descendants lived in two worlds: in Australia and in the Punjab.

Books are Available from our Website or Email
australianindianhistory.com – australianindianhistory@gmail.com