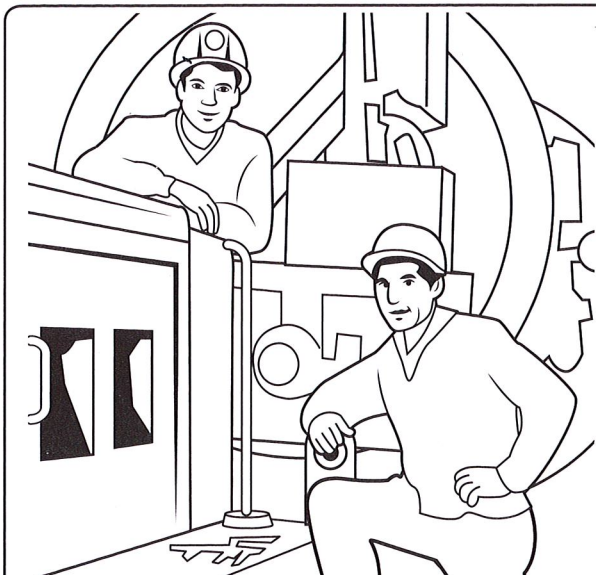


# The Snowy Mountains scheme



The Snowy Mountains scheme in New South Wales is a massive plant for generating electricity using water power. It also provides irrigation for land to the west of the Great Dividing Range. Construction began in 1949 and took 25 years to complete. It is recognised as being the birthplace of Australian multiculturalism.

People from over 30 countries worked together on the scheme at a time when Australia was keen to expand its population. In total, about 100 000 people worked on the scheme. Of those, two-thirds were displaced persons.

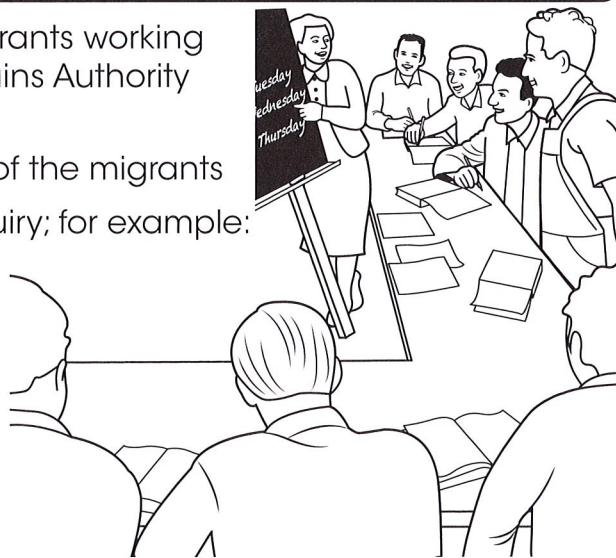
When construction began, foreign migrants were expected to blend into Australian society and immerse themselves in its Anglo-Irish culture. Within the quarter-century, the differences between nations were celebrated and accepted as powerful additions to the multicultural society that Australia had now become.

In 1959, to mark the first ten years of construction, the Avenue of Flags in Cooma's main street was unveiled. It was a tribute to all nations that were a part of the 'Snowy family' at that time.



Stories of groups of people who migrated to Australia (including from ONE Asian country) and the reasons they migrated, such as World War II and Australian migration programs since the war. (ACHHK115)

- Present a report on what life was like for migrants working on the scheme and how the Snowy Mountains Authority helped them to settle in Australia.
- Present your research from the perspective of the migrants
- Prepare questions to help you with your inquiry; for example:
  - Where did the workers live?
  - Did their families live with them?
  - What did they do in their spare time?
  - What type of work did they do?
  - What were the working conditions like?
- Remember to list all sources used.



## FACT FILE

The town of Cabramurra, constructed for the workers of the Snowy Mountains scheme, is the highest town in Australia at 1488 m above sea level.