Brazilians in Australia

a snapshot of Brazilian
migration to Victoria

Abrisa

Luciana Fraguas

"To all the volunteers who have supported us over the past 12 years, to our members who believed in our work, and for those pioneers who came, conquered and departed. To all of them we dedicate this work and hope new pioneers will continue to build our community in Victoria."
Abrisa Committee – 2014

Brazilians in Australia

a snapshot of Brazilian migration to Victoria

Abrisa

Luciana Fraguas

Contents

Our history started in 1871 and continues today with many Brazilians calling Australia home. In Victoria we were "a dozen" then and became 2,013 over the past century.

Note from

Alba Chliakhtine

Abrisa's Executive Officer

When a friend handed me the book *All of Us* (a collection of interviews with Brazil-born Victorian migrants), I was surprised to find out how culturally diverse our state was.

I knew very little about Australia when I made the decision to leave Brazil for Melbourne in 1988.

All of Us was a catalyst for the idea of *Brazilians in Australia, a snapshot of Brazilian migration to Australia.* In putting this book together we tried to capture a snapshot of the Brazilian community living in one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse places in the world. We wanted to show how our lives had changed, not just through the migration process, but also through living many years in a city that transformed both itself and us.

The Brazilian history in Victoria started in 1871 and continues today with many Brazilians calling Australia home. In Victoria we were a "dozen" then, and became 2,013 over the past century.

Some of us who have been here for a long time and have seen the transformation of a city that in the 1960's was home for predominantly Anglo-Saxon migrants to a vibrant metropolis voted the "most liveable city" in the world.

I still remember, soon after my arrival in 1988, sitting opposite the National Museum of Victoria and writing letters to friends. Back then, seeing the small number of people in the city during the weekends gave me a sense of emptiness and longing, as I had left behind a crowded Belo Horizonte, the capital of Minas Gerais in Brazil.

During the 1990s, I saw the first few "alfresco" cafés sprouting long the Southbank area. Melbourne was developing in charm in areas beyond the known tourist haunts such as Lygon Street. Today special spots such as Degraves Lane attract our visitors and make the city look even more special.

With only a small Brazilian population in Melbourne, we used to get together in small groups to celebrate our heritage. It was not until 2002, we saw the need for an official group and thus Abrisa, the Brazilian Association for Social Development and Integration in Australia, was created. Its main purpose is to welcome and support newly arrived Brazilians as well as celebrating our heritage through music, art and cuisine.

In recognition of more than 10 years of Abrisa, a group of us, journalists, photographers, designers, editors and many other volunteers, decided to create this book as a contribution to the story of migration to this country. Of course this would not have been possible without the willing participation of the interviewees involved.

With *Brazilians in Australia* we celebrate more than 10 years of Abrisa and recognise the many people who helped build our community. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Federal Government, Victorian Government (OMAC), the City of Melbourne and other local government councils who have supported our efforts throughout the past 12 years.

Finally, after 25 years in Australia, my story continues! As I grab my cappuccino every morning on my way to work at Madame Brussels' Lane, I have a sense of joy – not just for the taste and energy the Italian beverage gives me, but also a sense of pride I feel in conquering my dreams in a city that embraced so many cultural groups.

This is my story, but in the following pages you will read about many other Brazilians, who left everything behind to start a whole new story.

Note from

Luciana Fraguas

Journalist

What makes people leave everything behind and look elsewhere for what they perceive as a better life?

The history of Brazilian migration to Victoria is not recent; the Victorian census recorded 45 Brazilians living in the state as early as 1871. It is believed that these brave new migrants may have come to Australia on board English ships that stopped at Rio de Janeiro on their way to Australia.

What were their hopes and dreams? What were they looking for when they jumped on those ships? These are perennial questions. They were asked back then, and are still being asked today.

What makes people leave everything behind in their home country and look elsewhere for what they perceive as a better life? Is it a desire for the unknown or an adventure? Or it is just an unsettling feeling of wanting to explore the world and travel away from the country of your birth?

The reasons were unclear (and one could say they still are). The fact remains, however, that Brazilians kept coming to Australia.

This book is about the Brazilians who came and decided to stay. They are immigrants who made a difference in the lives of others and who worked and contributed to their new communities while adapting to their country of choice. It also presents statistical data that may help us form a more accurate picture of the Brazilian migration to Victoria and Australia in recent years.

This publication is the result of a project initiated by the Brazilian Association for Social Development and Integration in Australia (Abrisa). It was born out of a need by the growing Brazilian community in Victoria to be acknowledged and have their stories documented.

It was only made possible by the combined efforts of volunteers, who helped throughout the process of putting this document together.

I would, however, like to thank specifically the three journalists and contributors who helped with the interviews: Denise Frizzo, Natalia Ballotin and Cátia Nunes. The text was proof read by the amazing Amelia Cooper and Nicole Daws, great admirers of the Brazilian culture and way of life.

I would like to thank Suzana Alvarenga for helping me track down and identify some of the "characters" who arrived in the early waves of migration (1950's and 1960's) and Peta Farquhar, who sourced all the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data.

I also want to thank Alba Chliakhtine, Abrisa's Executive Officer, who invited me to work on this project and was enthusiastic from day one. Many thanks to Clarice Trevisan, the "master" graphic designer, who put our ideas on paper and gave them life. Roseli Diniz was a major driving force behind it all and was fundamental to making it happen.

But most of all a big thank to our 29 interviewees, who generously shared their stories and opened their houses (and hearts) to us. In the course of transcribing their interviews in the most accurate way, many of them were contacted a number of times, and all of them were in touch with us over a period of more than two years. They never wavered and were always happy to answer questions and talk to us.

Finally, I would like to thank my husband Peter and my children Alexis and Marcus as I wouldn't have been able to deliver this project without their love and support.

BRAZILIANS IN AUSTRALIA — A BRIEF HISTORY

BRAZIL-BORN AUSTRALIANS IN NUMBERS

The researcher James Jupp, in his major work *The Australian People: An Encyclopaedia of the Nation*, wrote about the first pieces of evidence of the earliest Brazilian interest in Australia.

"When Captain Phillip and the ships of the First Fleet were docked in Rio de Janeiro, en route to Australia, a Portuguese soldier stationed in Brazil boarded Phillip's ship Sirius and requested that he be allowed to join the crew and sail to New Holland. Phillip refused and returned the man to the shore."

The year was 1787 and although the soldier was Portuguese it is believed that many other English and Australian ships brought Brazilians to Australia this way.

There is also some evidence of earlier Brazilian migration in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but the first registered records of Brazilians migrating to Australia became available only at the turn of the twentieth century.

In 1891, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) listed 52 Brazil-born immigrants living in Victoria, nearly half of the total of 105 Brazilians living in Australia in 1901.
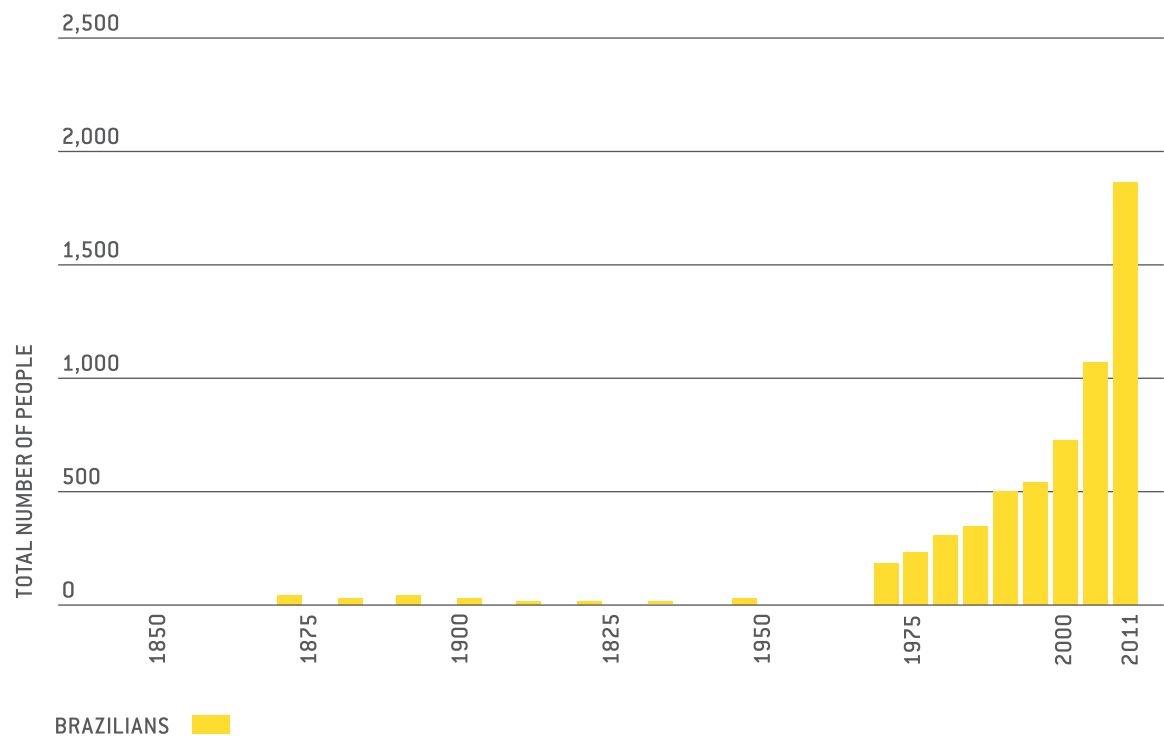
New data about the settlement in Victoria was not available until 1933 when there were 22 Brazil-born Victorians registered. The Brazilian population in Victoria, and consequently Australia, remained small until a larger scale migration from Latin America and other non-European countries started under the Australian Government's assisted migration program in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

With the Commonwealth Government's refugee and humanitarian programs in the 1980's, the number of Brazilians in Victoria rose to 550 in 1991. This growth continued to the end of the twentieth century.

In the book *Two faces of God: Religion and Social Class in the Brazilian Diaspora in Sydney*, Dr Cristina Rocha divided the Brazilian arrivals into two waves. The first wave, in the early 1970s, came with the arrival of unskilled migrants. The second wave, in 1990, was made up of young and educated professionals belonging to the Brazilian upper and middle classes.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARRIVING IN AUSTRALIA FROM 1800'S TO 2011

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE

2,500

2,000

1,500

1,000

500

0

1850 1875 1900 1825 1950 1975 2000 2011

BRAZILIANS

BRAZIL-BORN VICTORIANS AND YEAR OF ARRIVAL

Year	Count
1871	45
1881	42
1891	52
1901	42
1911	29
1921	31
1933	22
1947	36
1971	205
1976	252
1981	330
1986	386
1991	541
1996	588
2001	791
2006	1,155
2011	2,013

Arrived 1939–1979	202
Arrived 1980 – 1989	165
Arrived 2000 – August 2011	1359
Not stated	72
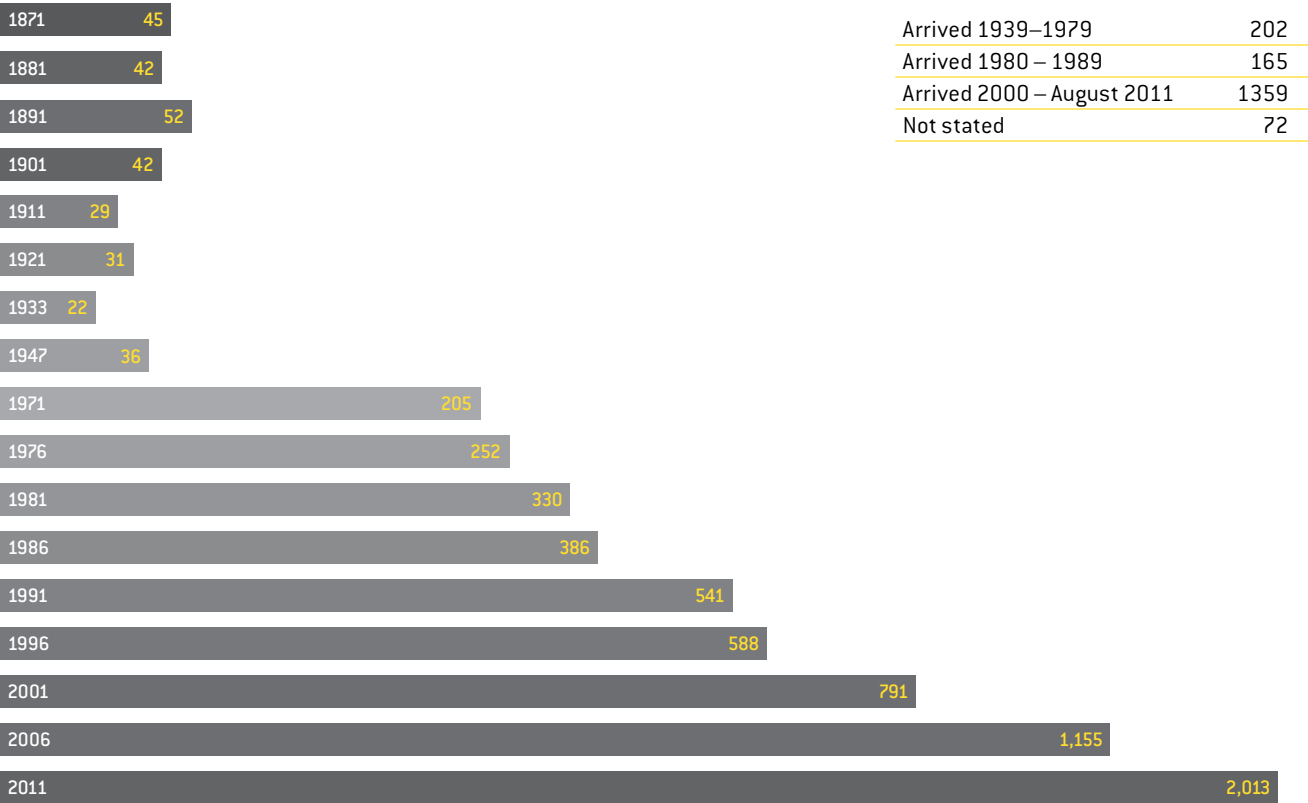
Data source: VICTORIA History of immigration from Brazil
http://museumvictoria.com.au/origins/

BRAZIL-BORN VICTORIANS — THE THIRD WAVE

The numbers picked up again at the turn of the twentieth century, following a third wave of arrivals. According to the 2011 Census, there are currently a record number of 14,508 Brazil-born Australians with 2,013 of them living in Victoria. This is nearly twice as many as in 2006, when there were 7,490 Brazilians living in Australia and 1,155 living in Victoria.

The first decade of the twenty-first century saw the biggest movement of Brazilian migrants to Victoria. 67.5% of the 14,508 Brazil-born population in Australia arrived in 2000.

As Dr Rocha points out, the censuses show that the community of Brazilian migrants is increasing, however, the numbers ignore the largest and ever increasing migrating sub-group: Brazilian students.

Australia is the country of choice for students from around the world, but particularly from Brazil. The country is placed fourth in the number of student visas granted; after China, India and South Korea. In 2004, 4,537 visas were granted and in 2011, 9,780 visas were granted to Brazilian students.

Brazil's Science Without Borders Program funds more than 20,000 students annually to study at selected overseas destinations and universities. There are currently about 1,500 Brazilian scholarship students in Australia and the number may increase if the Australian Government reviews its visa costing policies (the Brazilian government argues that at a cost of $535 each, the student visa is becoming prohibitive).

Many Higher Education institutions, including the University of Melbourne and Monash University, are paying attention to this trend and developing special programs and internships for Science and Engineering students.

Monash University's Director of Global Engagement, Dr Eugene Sebastian, said that Australia is benefiting from the striking growth in Brazilian students.

"Brazilians have transformed the student vibe on our campuses. They are an excellent group and add more richness and diversity to on-campus life and learning. In 2014, we have over 360 Brazilian students compared to only one in 2011. Our researchers are extremely enthusiastic and keen

to have more Brazilian PhD students. When they complete their doctoral research, these students become that invaluable research bridge between Australia and Brazil," said Dr. Eugene.

"Having a large number of students has also helped us develop some significant research links with Brazil's best institutions. For instance, we work closely with researchers in Rio de Janeiro on the 'Eliminating Dengue' project. Our researchers in biomedicine are now collaborating with researchers from the Federal University of Minas Gerais on infectious disease. Our links with University of Campinas (Unicamp) and University of São Paulo (USP) continues to strengthen around medicine, engineering, film-making and music," he said.

In 2012, the University of Melbourne hosted the Melbourne Latin America Dialogue, followed in 2013 by the Brazil-Australia Dialogue co-hosted with the USP and the Australian Embassy in Brazil.

The University supports several government scholarship arrangements including the Science Without Borders Program. "Since 2012, we have had 250 Brazilian students, ranging from over 25 specialisations, studying with us. Alongside their studies they have been given access to research and professional development opportunities," said Professor Susan Elliott, Deputy Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor International at the University of Melbourne.

"Typically our Brazilians students are self-starters eager to advance awareness of their own culture as well as volunteering ideas and opportunities that enhance their overall experience in Melbourne. This includes connecting with local industry to advance internship opportunities for fellow students and representing the Brazilian student community in Local Government forums," she said.

A POPULATION THAT HAS TRIPLED IN THE LAST 20 YEARS

THE FACE OF BRAZILIAN MIGRATION IN VICTORIA

Traditionally, Brazilians have tended to settle in New South Wales and Victoria, mainly in Sydney and Melbourne. In recent years, however, states such as Queensland and Western Australia have attracted more Brazilian migrants.

The reasons for this may vary. South Americans are attracted to the Australian northern and western warmer climates, which are similar to their home country, and there is also a greater familiarity with New South Wales.

Sydney became well-known to many Brazilians when hosting the Olympic Games in 2000. Although time has passed and the novelty has worn off, Brazilian migrants see Sydney as the Rio de Janeiro "that turned out right", with the same

striking natural beauty and great climate but without the social, economic and infrastructure problems that plagues the South American country.

Although the Brazilian population in Australia has tripled in twenty years (from 1991 to 2011), Victoria is only the third most preferred state for most Brazilians to settle in. The 2011 distribution by state and territory showed New South Wales as the main destination for Brazilians, with the largest population of 6,503, followed by Queensland with 3,418 Brazilians.

"The Brazilians who come to Australia are well educated and usually come from middle to higher socio-economic backgrounds," said Alba Chliakhtine, Abrisa's Executive Officer.

"I call them socio-economic migrants; they are professionals looking for new career opportunities."

"We see Brazil-born Victorians well integrated within the Australia community and culture. One way to witness how the population is well-adapted to Victoria is to attend the Brazilian festivals and events we've held over the years. There are so many young families, and many of them are multicultural families, where one partner is married to a Brazilian. We have a high attendance, with between 40% and 50% of Australians at any of our festivals and annual events," she said.

There is an interesting side effect though to the waves of migration to Australia. In her research Dr Cristina Rocha points

out that, "as a result of differences in social class and cultural capital, there is little or no interaction between the early migrants and those who arrived more recently."

That is why community associations, such as Abrisa, are fundamental to promoting Brazilian cultural values for early and recently arrived migrants who can get together and relate to each other. According to Dr Rocha, this exchange of migratory experiences is one of the most important aspects of adapting in a new country.

BRAZILIANS LIVING IN AUSTRALIA (PREFERRED STATE)

New South Wales	6502
Queensland	3418
Victoria	2013
Western Australia	1748
South Australia	474
Australian Capital Territory	210
Northern Territory	73
Tasmania	70
Total	**14,508**

Source Australia Bureau of Statistics Census Data 2011

Northern Territory
74
0.5%

Queensland
3418
23.6%

Western Australia
1748
12%

New South Wales
6503
44.8%

South Australia
473
3.3%

Australian Capital Territory
211
1.5%

Victoria
2013
13.9%

Tasmania
70
0.5%
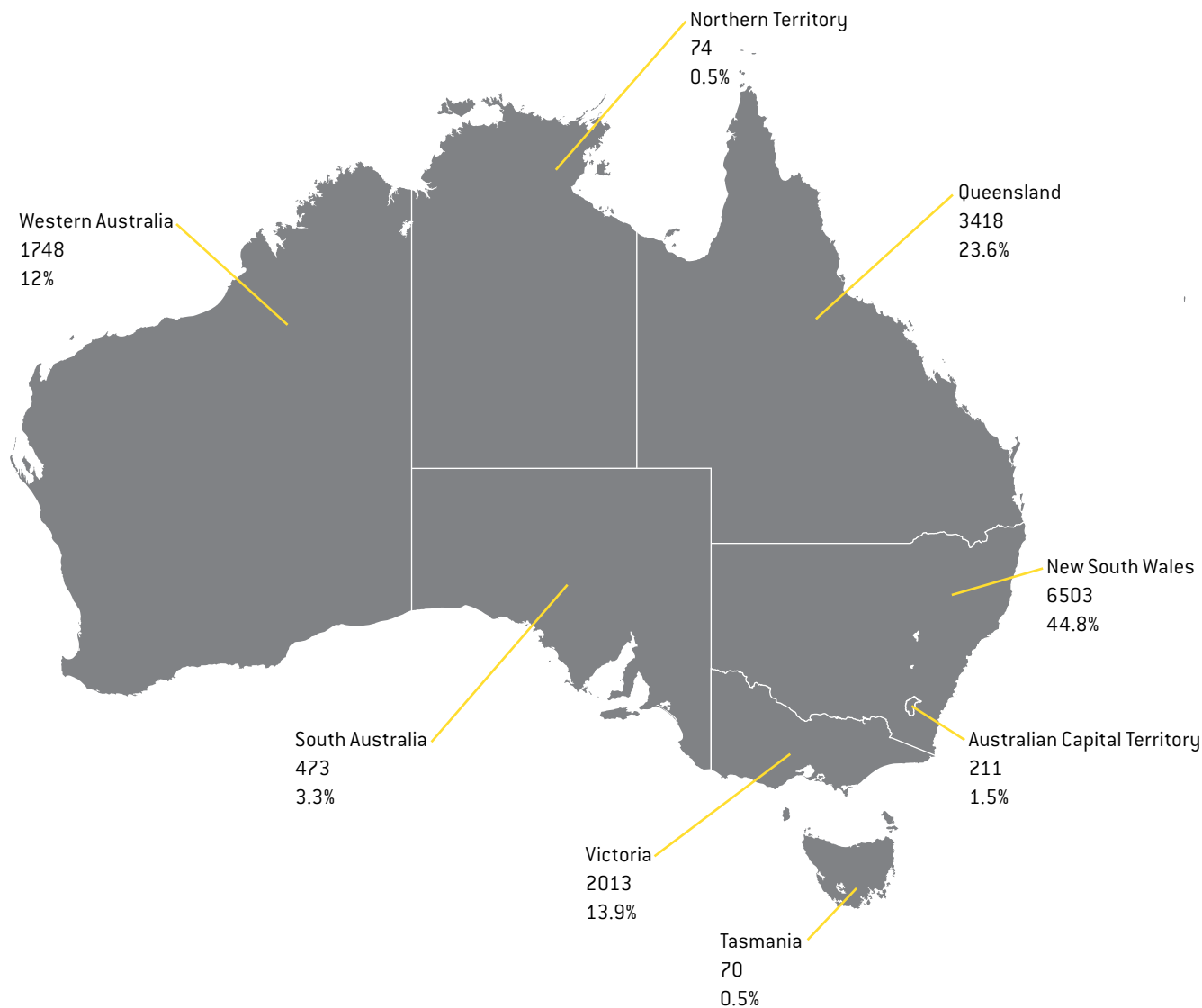
THE CULTURA BRASILEIRA PROGRAM

LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF BRAZIL-BORN VICTORIANS

State: Victoria

Highest Year of School Completed

Year 12 or equivalent	1638
Year 11 or equivalent	90
Year 10 or equivalent	70
Year 9 or equivalent	33

The 2011 Census shows that Brazil-born families have a high level of English language knowledge and education, with 81.3% (1,638) having completed Year 12, or equivalent , compared with 55.9% of the overall Australian population. In 2006 74.9% (865) completed Year 12, or equivalent.

They speak Portuguese, with 73% (1,475) choosing Portuguese as their preferred spoken language at home. English comes in second and is spoken by 13%, followed by Spanish and Italian. Twenty-six Brazilian-born Victorians speak Arabic at home, which is most likely to be their partner's language. In 1986 the main language spoken at home was English.

Renata Maria Younger is the coordinator of Abrisa's Cultura Brasileira Program which offers classes to Brazil-born Victorian children and anyone else interested in learning Portuguese as a second language.

Source Australia Bureau of Statistics Census Data 2011

According to Renata, most of the 16 children attending the program speak English, not Portuguese, at home.

The parents see their children's attendance at Cultura Brasileira as a way of enhancing their chances to confidently use the Portuguese language in different settings. "Most of the children have Brazil- born parents and their extended family still lives in Brazil. The main concern of the parents is that the children would not otherwise be able to communicate with that side of the family. A secondary concern is that the children are not only able to speak but also be able to read and write in Portuguese," she said.

The Cultura Brasileira program commenced in 2012 with the Beginners Level classes. In 2013 the program counted 16 enrolled children and now has a waiting list. The program focuses not only on the Portuguese language but also the Brazilian culture and its different meanings and elements.

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH SPOKEN AT HOME BY BRAZIL-BORN VICTORIANS

Portuguese	1475
English	353
Spanish	52
Italian	42
Arabic	26
Greek	15
Not stated	9
German	7
French	5
Hebrew	4
Irish	3
Dutch and Related Languages, nfd	3
Maltese	3
Belorussian	3

Source Australia Bureau of Statistics Census Data 2011

LIVING AND WORKING IN VICTORIA

Half (50.3%) of Brazilians living in Victoria are married, a slight decline from previous years. In 2006, the married couples represented 54.7% of the Brazilians living in Victoria.

The majority of these couples are childless (543 said that they have no children) and 399 couples have one or two children.

Brazilians living in Victoria are economically independent. The median individual weekly income for the Brazil-born Victorians (and Brazilians living across the country) was $650, compared with $538 for all overseas-born and $597 for all Australia-born. According to the Australia Bureau of Statistics Census Data 2011, the total Australian population had a median individual weekly income of $577.

"It is great to see how Brazil-born Victorians are well established in Australia. The families are formed by young professionals, many of them from multicultural marriages," said Alba Chliakhtine.

MARITAL STATUS OF BRAZIL-BORN VICTORIANS

State: Victoria	
Never married	653
Widowed	35
Divorced	144
Separated	62
Married	1013
Not applicable	107

Source Australia Bureau of Statistics Census Data 2011

Interviews

It would be impossible to write a book about the history of the Brazilian migration to Victoria, without mentioning Antonio Rodrigues, nominated by the South American and Australian Friends Society as "the first South American Cultural Ambassador" to Australia.

ANTONIO RODRIGUES
Rio de Janeiro – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 1956

A dancer from Rio de Janeiro, Antonio left Brazil in the early 1950's. He was 18 years old. Once in Europe, he joined the Katherine Dunham dance company, the only self-supported American black dance troupe at that time.

He came to Melbourne in 1956 while on tour with the Dunham Company. The tour ended and the company left Australia but Antonio stayed behind, falling in love with the country.

Antonio was not only a fantastic artist, portrayed in the Australian dance encyclopaedia *Creating Australian Dance, 1945–1965* and whose impressive photos are part of the Powerhouse Museum's permanent collection in New South Wales, he was also a community-driven and engaging person who tried to congregate the few Brazilians living in Melbourne in the 50's and early 60's.

He organised the first street carnival in Melbourne. Antonio used to invite the newly arrived migrants to small carnival parties in his house. "When I arrived in Melbourne I thought to myself 'I can't be the only Brazilian here' but then I met Antonio. We would come to his house and bring a dish to share. This was the way Brazilians got to know each other, and help each other, we didn't have a club or anything like that, this was it," said Asta Henny Voegel, also profiled in this book, about her friendship with Antonio.

For over 20 years he taught primitive and modern dance at his studio in Melbourne's Toorak Road and at Monash University. "He was ahead of his time, even in Brazil, a black dancer dedicated to his art and passion," recalls his 76-year-old sister, Marlene Rocha Bennett.

Antonio died in 1986. After his cremation, his ashes were laid to rest in the garden of the Uniting Church in Toorak. Within the church there is a Memorial Book which bears his name. He left three children, Antonio, Miranda and Urska.

ASTA HENNY VOEGEL

Rio de Janeiro – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 1961

"I tell everybody I belong to the world"
Asta Henny Voegel

sta Henny Voegel arrived in Melbourne in December 1961. A tall, blond, educated and attractive 24-year-old woman, Asta came to Australia alone, after travelling by ship. She left her native Rio de Janeiro and went to Genoa in Italy, before taking another ship to Melbourne – following the route of the many Europeans coming to Australia in those days.

Fluent in English, Asta didn't have trouble in finding a job as an accountant at an export and import company. She remembers a very serene Melbourne and, to her surprise, a city with just a few small buildings. It was quite a contrast for this young and brave "carioca" (a Brazilian term used to refer to the native inhabitants of the city of Rio de Janeiro).

"There were no buildings beyond the third or fourth floor, but I liked the city. I used to shop at the Victoria Market and walk down Bourke and Collins Street, it was a beautiful welcoming city," she said.

In Melbourne, Asta met another Brazilian who was the reference point for many who arrived in the 50's and 60's: Antonio Rodrigues, the famous black contemporary dancer who opened a dance school in Melbourne. They became friends and would catch up at his house most weekends to listen to Brazilian music and eat food which was cooked and shared by anyone attending these gatherings.

An event that marked her first years in Melbourne was the visit of Miss Iêda Maria Vargas, Brazil's Miss Universe in 1962. The 19-year-old received great media coverage at the time as a special guest attending the Moomba Festival (Australia's largest free community festival).

Asta also recalls the Brazilian Carnival parade she and a group of friends organised in 1976. "We were again at the Moomba Festival and went down Swanston Street, singing and dancing traditional carnival songs. Even the television showed our parade, it was quite an exhilarating event for us," she said.

With her perfect English accent, and after travelling around the world, Asta laughs and says people still cannot pick where she is from. "I tell them I belong to the world," she laughs.

Asta is 76 years old, has two children, five grandchildren, and still lives in Melbourne.

ROGER FRANKEL
Rio de Janeiro – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 1964

Roger Frankel arrived in Melbourne in January 1964 when he was 14 years old. "I came against my will. My father visited Australia twice, fell in love with the country and decided to settle. In the 1960's, Brazil was going through its toughest times – politically and economically unstable – and the military assumed dictatorial powers. My father wanted to live in a stable country where his children could receive a good education and a better quality of life. That's why we moved to Australia," he said.

(*continued...*) 1964 was a remarkable year in Australia. It was the year the aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne collided with the destroyer HMAS Voyager, cutting it in half and killing 82 people. It was also the year of the Beatles tour to Australia. "I saw the Beatles and all I could think of was Samba!" said Roger.

Roger's Melbourne was "very dull, without the passion you would find in the Latin countries. It was quiet, there were no Brazilians I knew of and nobody knew where Brazil was located – people asked me if I came from South America or Africa. I was a 'strange creature' for most of my friends, nevertheless I always felt that the people were very welcoming," he said.

Roger decided to follow a diplomatic career, "so I could get back to Brazil!" After finishing his Honours Degree in Politics and Economy, Roger joined the Foreign Service and eventually became Australia's ambassador to Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic. He then pursued a consultancy helping local companies enter markets in Latin America. He is now Brazil's Honorary Consul in Melbourne and a Psychotherapist.

He is proud to see the Brazilian community's growth in Australia. "Now when I go to Sydney or Melbourne, I hear people talking in Portuguese on the streets and that is great. The Brazilian migration is constantly growing and changing its face; the new migrants are entrepreneurs and work for international companies and in a range of professions. They are all very competent and are greatly contributing to Australia," said Roger.

Roger brokered a partnership between Victoria University and the Brazilian Olympic Committee where Australian sports scientists will exchange information with their Brazilian counterparts on the latest research in biomechanics and sports science.

He says he has a dream. "My family has lived in Brazil, and I hope my grandchildren will one day learn Portuguese," he laughs.

**"I saw the Beatles and all I could think of was Samba!"
Roger Frankel**

**"People used to love our parties;
we sometimes had up to 600 people at our events"
Nelson Cardoso**

NELSON CARDOSO
**São Caetano, São Paulo – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 1972**

At only 26 years of age, Nelson Cardoso was already
a reputable and well-established jeweller in Brazil.
This didn't stop him from applying for a job in
Melbourne, after hearing from a friend that an
Australian company was looking for qualified jewellers.

Nelson arrived in Melbourne in 1972. At that time,
Australia was going through a momentous political
event with Gough Whitlam leading the Australian

(*continued*...) Labor Party to victory in the Federal Election; the first Labor win in 23 years.

Australia had 14 million residents and Melbourne a population of just over two million people. "Melbourne had 'nothing' back then, not many cars on the road, and it was difficult to find people walking around on the streets of the CBD after five o'clock in the afternoon," he said.

To compensate for what he called "the emptiness of living away from home," Nelson often invited people he knew for gatherings at his house. This group of friends would spend the weekends playing Brazilian songs and eating traditional Brazilian food.

As the years went by, the community grew, the meetings became very popular and Nelson's house could no longer fit everyone in. This spawned the idea of setting up a club, so that the community would have a space where social events could take place.

In 1981, the Brazilian Club of Victoria was established with Nelson as one of its founders. For many years the Club was the central scene for numerous parties. "People used to love our parties; we sometimes had up to 600 people at our events," said Nelson.

The Club, which was located in Johnson Street, Fitzroy, became so successful that it also had its own music band and even a football team.

In 1984, Nelson left his role as the Club's president and a few months later the club closed. The Brazilian Club had 52 families as members, and many of them were not Brazilian, but people who loved and identified with the Brazilian culture.

The Club existed for only four years, but it was fundamental in establishing the community's first meeting point. It was the first organised association of Brazilians in Australia. According to Nelson, it successfully promoted what Brazilians know how to do best: food, music and football.

JAIRO NASCIMENTO
Belém, Pará – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 1973

Jairo Nascimento arrived in Melbourne with his family in 1973. "I came here because I wanted to start a new life in a different country," he said.

A great fan of Brazilian music, Jairo brought with him one of the country's most popular exports: the Bossa Nova rhythm.

Gifted with a beautiful voice, he sang and delighted many audiences across Melbourne. He first started

"I was very nervous but I gave my all and the crowd's response was overwhelming" Jairo Nascimento

(*continued...*) singing with a small group of musicians on the weekends at the Brazilian Club of Victoria. Once the Club had closed, Jairo continued to perform in bars, restaurants, clubs, festivals and at private functions.

In 1985, Jairo was working with Jason Spiker, an Australian musician who played acoustic guitar influenced by Brazilian music. Together they formed Batucada, a Brazilian percussion band. Jairo, as a vocalist, performed at Hamer Hall at the Arts Centre, in front of 2,000 people. "I was very nervous but I gave my all and the crowd's response was overwhelming," he said, remembering the crowd clapping with awe at the close of his performance.

Jairo worked at SBS Radio Portuguese Language Program for 22 years in the position of journalist and broadcaster. During those radio programs, designed for the local Portuguese speaking community, he always found interesting facts about Brazilian music, history and other aspects of Brazilian culture to broadcast to the listeners.

In 1999, Jairo took part in the International Year of Old Persons celebrations, recognising the contribution by older citizens to Australian society. He was invited to record a song on the CD called *Tutmondijo, a Whole World Celebration*. Each track was performed by an artist from a diverse and culturally rich background. Jairo performed a Bossa Nova all-time classic called *Corcovado*, written by Antonio Carlos Jobim.

Jairo's contributions to the community continued. He was the artistic director of Viva Brazil Festival in Melbourne. The event was held in 2004 at Federation Square, in the heart of the city.

In 2006, Jairo was involved in a short animation for SBS Television entitled *One Minute to Midnight.* It was a storytelling project told by elderly Australians from different backgrounds.

Jairo volunteered with the Homeless World Cup Foundation in 2008, which aimed to use football to aid disadvantaged young men. While working as a Team Liaison Officer, Jairo accompanied and supervised the boys from the Brazilian team during training and matches.

He still plays music today and is a guest of honour at many Brazilian parties in Melbourne.

GIL MOREIRA

Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 1974

Soccer player Gil Moreira has now retired from the football pitch. He arrived in Australia in 1974 as a Brisbane City Soccer Club striker. Two years later, he left for a stint at Brunswick Juventus in Melbourne, followed by five years with the Chilean Club of Victoria.

During those years he saw the city change with the construction of Melbourne's tallest building – The Rialto Tower – and the digging of the underground city loop railway tunnel. Melbourne was now his home and having met a few Brazilians and other South Americans, he decided it was time they founded their own football team.

In 1985, Gil founded the Brazilian Old Boys Soccer Club, a veteran's club, for over 35 year olds. During the week, Gil worked as a car salesman. On weekends, however, you would always find him playing at Dendy Park, Brighton, with many regular supporters looking on. For him it was a chance to socialise and even to travel to other cities and countries.

"We had a team which became quite famous because we took part in several championships, we went to Fiji in 1994 and 1995, Bali in 1996 and Gold Coast from 1997 to 1999, we won many games, and it was a memorable experience," said Gil.

In 2000, at the age of 55, he stopped playing and became a coach. In 2010 he moved to the Gold Coast. His exit meant the end of the Victorian soccer club. "No one wanted to carry on in my place," he said. He still plays "footvolley" (a sport that combines volleyball and football. It was launched in Brazil in 1965) today and remains a sports fanatic.

"We had a team which became quite famous because we took part in several championships"
Gil Moreira

CELIA ABRAHAMS
(in memoriam)
Taubaté, São Paulo – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 1978

Celia Abrahams arrived in Melbourne in August 1978 with her husband and their three children.

A historical event marked the year of Celia's arrival. In November 1978, the opening of the West Gate Bridge ocurred in Melbourne's west after 13 years of construction. The bridge had collapsed on 15 October 1970 causing the death of 35 construction workers. The opening, according to Ericka de Camargo, Celia's daughter, was an event her mother would always remember.

Back in 1978, those who arrived in Melbourne were housed in a hostel for newly arrived migrants in Maribyrnong, in Melbourne's northwest.

Later, the family was relocated to a public housing building in Carlton. Celia didn't speak English so she set out to learn the language as quickly as possible, by attending one course after another.

Celia attended numerous courses for migrants to further improve her English and eventually was able to work as a bookkeeper for a private company.

Ericka recalls that 1978 was also the year of the first Lygon Street's Fiesta, the famous Italian festival. According to her, this festival gave Celia the idea of how great it would be to have a similar celebration for the Brazilian community living in Melbourne.

Celia was part of the first Brazilian Club created in Melbourne and helped to organise many events for the community. She was also the first president of the Paul Stephen Spiritist Centre.

"My mother always wanted to help the new migrants, to help them find their feet, as she knew how hard it was to start a new life on the other side of the world," said Ericka.

Celia passed away on 15 February 2004, after a long battle with cancer.

Photo Thaíse Zimmermann

Ericka de Camargo, Celia's daughter

ANETE DA SILVA
Manaus, Amazonas – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 1983

Anete da Silva was born in Manaus, the largest state in Brazil, located in the northwestern corner of the country. She came to Melbourne in 1983, a 24 year-old woman with her husband Manoel and two children in tow, leaving Brazil in search of a better future.

"When Manoel and I arrived in Australia neither of us could speak English, which made it all so much more difficult, especially because I found out I was expecting our third child. We all had to go to school to learn the language and to be able to work in our professions. Myself as a nurse and my husband as an electrical engineer," she said.

Anete's city of Manaus was very hot and highly populated, Melbourne, in contrast, was cold, windy and in Anete's view, a lonely place.

"We tried our very best to learn the language and build a life for our children and ourselves. Melbourne was full of opportunities for everyone that was willing to make the most of it," she said.

Anete has been involved with Abrisa since its foundation. She helped write the association's statute and form the first Abrisa committee.

In her years as a volunteer at Abrisa she and three Brazilian friends created the RIAM Group, a referral service that supported Brazilian women. She was also responsible for organising one of Abrisa's most

traditional annual celebrations, the São Cosme and São Damiao party.

Anete is an accredited interpreter and a Clinical Nurse Educator. She teaches and supports nurses studying or training in various Victorian Universities, ensuring that they meet the Australian nursing standards.

Anete has been a nurse for 31 years. She has completed a bachelor degree in nursing, and is looking for new post graduate courses to increase her nursing credentials. Anete and her husband Manoel have three children and seven grandchildren.

TANIA PALMER
(in memoriam)
Rio de Janeiro – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 1983

GRACILA STONE
(in memoriam)
Campos dos Goytacazes, Rio de Janeiro – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 1984

"Those two really painted the town red"
Carla Palmer, Tania's daughter

Gracila was a Portuguese language teacher and very passionate about her job. She taught many students and always invited them to the Brazilian parties, either at her house or at events held by the Brazilian community. She taught Portuguese Language classes at the Victorian School of Languages, the Centre for Adult Education and at LaTrobe University. Gracila also worked at the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Board and helped set up the curriculum for the Portuguese language as a second language subject at VCE level.

Tania and Gracila generously opened the door of their homes to Brazilian students and students from all over the world, helping them get settled in the new surroundings.

"We used to have Christmas parties in our house with 100 people. On many occasions I only knew half of the guests, but it was great!," said Carla Palmer, Tania's youngest daughter.

In 1983, Gracila Stone left Brazil with her husband and their two children, to return to his place of birth – Melbourne. Tania Palmer was born in Rio de Janeiro and also moved to Melbourne with her two daughters because of her husband, only one year after Gracila.

"Once they were in Melbourne, they immersed themselves in the local Brazilian community," said Samantha Stone, Gracila's daughter.

As well as being extremely generous and hospitable, Tania and Gracila both had a contagious positive energy. "They were both highly energetic women, when they came together, that was it," explains Virna White, Tania's oldest daughter.

Gracila passed away in 2003 and Tania in 2006. Both lost their battle against cancer when they were 56 and 55 years old respectively.

"I founded MelSamba because, as a sambista born in Vila Isabel, Rio de Janeiro, I could not live without a Samba School in my backyard" Carlos Ferreira

CARLOS FERREIRA
Rio de Janeiro – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 1985

Carlos Ferreira arrived in Melbourne in 1985 to become one of the city's well known interpreters and composers of samba jazz.

Carlos recalls that in the early 80's, Australia was in high demand for IT professionals. As he was completing 12 years working in the industry, the idea of moving to Australia to improve his English became more attractive. "I always dreamed of learning English while living overseas, where I could embrace new cultures. Furthermore, I was working part-time in Rio as a musician (my real passion) and I could also see new opportunities in the music industry in Melbourne."

When Carlos arrived the only information he had about his newly adopted city was a small photograph of the Melbourne Arts Centre. He also recalls that communicating with relatives back home wasn't easy. "Communication with Brazil was very expensive as Telecom (now Telstra) used to charge $2/minute for an international call. A 25-minute call to Rio would cost me the equivalent of a weekly rent of my flat in North Carlton. I will never forget the day I got a fax machine which could perform the miracle of exchanging instant letters with my parents. That was unreal!"

For Carlos, the experience to move to Melbourne was overwhelming and, like many other migrants, he felt a culture shock. "The music scene was very different back then. There was plenty of live music, mostly Dixie, Rock and mainstream Jazz, played in the many pubs

(*continued*...) and venues across inner city Melbourne. Brazilian music was basically restricted to Melbourne's small Brazilian community.

In 1986 he had his first major performance, playing repique (a two-headed Brazilian drum used in samba baterias) with a small band to a packed Melbourne Concert Hall. Two years later, he was called by Sandra Barnes, a local promoter and events organiser, who invited Carlos to put a Brazilian outfit together for a multicultural music festival she was organising. "I called this band Bateria Nota Dez which eventually became The Melbourne Samba School (MelSamba)."

"I founded MelSamba because, as a sambista born in Vila Isabel, Rio de Janeiro, I could not live without a Samba School in my backyard, so to speak. There were none in Australia back then and it became my mission to promote our rich Brazilian culture (samba in particular) in Australia and overseas and of course to fill a cultural and musical gap here in Melbourne".

MelSamba students come from all over the world. "We have managed to teach and train a fantastic bateria (the percussion section of a Samba School) that sounds like a genuine Rio bateria. This is a remarkable achievement when you consider we are talking about Australia. Our crew is formed by people from all walks of life who were at some stage of their lives bitten by the Brazilian 'bug'. We have something very special indeed," said Carlos.

Carlos established Australia's first smoke-free jazz club, the Ozcat, in Fitzroy, in Melbourne's inner north, in 1999. The club became so successful that as a consequence, other jazz clubs in Melbourne adopted the same healthy policy. His push for smoke-free clubs was backed by Vic Health and QUIT.

"I really dislike smoking and all its dangerous effects on people's lives and our planet. I became sort of an ambassador for Vic Health and appeared in major newspapers and television channels lobbying for smoke-free venues. Ozcat was the first smoke-free jazz venue in Australia. I was called several times by presenters from talk-back radio and they would always ask me the same question: 'How can you have a smoke-free 'jazz' venue? What happens to the glamour of a smoky room?' And I would always reply: 'We have addressed this concern by making special opaque spectacles that our punters can wear. It will appear foggy…but don't you worry!' It was very hard at the beginning but the common sense prevailed," he said.

The original Ozcat in Fitzroy closed in 2001 when the pub in which it was established was sold and the new owner wanted the space to open a new gaming venue.

In June 2013, Carlos went back to Rio where he is now working on a range of new projects, including the MelSamba Brazil.

He is due to return to his Australian home by 2016 to follow his dream of leading a 200-strong bateria in Melbourne. He has led baterias in Cornwall England, at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland, and in Wellington, New Zealand. "It's now Melbourne's turn. I'll never give up on this dream."

MARCOS ANTONIO ROCHA

Rio de Janeiro – Brazil
First came to Melbourne in 1985 and
returned to stay in 1986

"I helped everyone, from marriage and divorce settlements to family disputes and paternity tests" Marcos Antonio Rocha

When Marcos Antonio Rocha first came to Melbourne, as a tourist with a group of Brazilian and Italian friends, he never thought this would be his new home. "I was 25 years old and loved travelling around the world and discovering new countries. I always wanted to come to Australia, and this curiosity brought me here," he said. The year was 1985 and the state of Victoria was celebrating its 150th anniversary.

"Melbourne was really nice, especially if you liked cold weather, cricket, AFL football, meat pies and beer!" he said. His friends didn't agree with him and went back home. "In my case," he said, "I was already dating my Australian girlfriend Aviva, and after returning to Brazil with my friends, came back again in 1986 to marry her in Melbourne."

Marcos' first business enterprise was a Tatts lotto agency in the suburb of Moorabbin in southeast Melbourne. A few years later, in 1992, he opened the first Brazilian Churrascaria (traditional Brazilian-style steakhouse restaurant) with restaurants in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. Why did he open a churrascaria? "Well, first I always had this 'pioneering spirit' and second because I could not find a good picanha (Brazilian cut of tender steer beef) and caipirinha (Brazil's national cocktail) anywhere in town," he said.

According to Marcos, Melbourne's nightlife in the 80's was "very quiet but still a beautiful place".

The Brazilian community was much smaller but in his view, more united.

In twenty years working in the business and six restaurants and nightclubs later, Marcos employed more than 200 people and became a point of reference for newly arrived migrants. They would come to his restaurant for work and ask for advice on arranging accommodation, jobs, legal help etc.

"I helped everyone, from marriage and divorce settlements to family disputes and paternity tests. I would refer them to the available services and guide them as much as possible. I would show them how to file complaints with law enforcement agencies and navigate the legal system."

Marcos has been married to Aviva for 28 years, has two children and divides his time between Melbourne and Rio de Janeiro.

David finds himself in a unique situation being Australian by birth, Chinese by heritage and Brazilian by culture.

DAVID CHONG
Sydney, New South Wales – Australia
In Melbourne since 1988

David Chong was born in Sydney, Australia in 1963, the son of Chinese acrobats who were touring the country at the time. They left Australia in 1964 after their request for migration was not accepted.

They continued to tour the world until 1969 when they arrived in Brazil to work in an Italian circus, the famous "Orlando Orfei". They loved Brazil, the culture was enticing, and there was a level of

economic stability. They left the circus in 1971 and settled in Belo Horizonte, capital of the state of Minas Gerais.

In 1988, at the age of 25, David returned to Melbourne by himself having qualified as a psychologist in Brazil. David finds himself in a unique situation being Australian by birth, Chinese by heritage and Brazilian by culture. When he arrived, "Melbourne was a country town on 'steroids', shops closed at 5pm, only opening late on Friday nights". He also recalls this "unused space", right in the heart of the Central Business District.

"The Southbank complex by the Yarra River had not been built, neither had Federation Square, there were only these tasteless buildings all around." He was also surprised at what he found to be a strong dialogue and acknowledgement of multiculturalism and gay rights in Australia.

Since arriving in Melbourne, David has established a successful career as a psychologist. He is the director of a training institute, the Leftbank Institute, and CAPA (Portuguese Speaking Counselling Service). Established in January 2011, CAPA offers professional, low cost psychological and counselling services in Portuguese to the Portuguese language speaking community. CAPA has continued to grow and now has four Brazilian psychologists offering in excess of 800 sessions annually.

CAPA also supports newly arrived mental health professionals (psychologists, social workers, counsellors) assisting them to navigate the accreditation and registration system and develop their profession in Australia. As a psychologist David has focused his work on various groups including: the homeless, migrants, gay people, youth, addiction and trauma patients.

David is a passionate cook and the lead singer and composer for Tatu Rei, a band which plays their original music in the traditional genre of Brazilian Popular Music (MPB). In 2009 David married Trevor Smith, his life companion.

"One of the challenges for immigrants is accessing services that understand and respect their culture, while providing the highest level of professional care" David Chong

DIDI FONSECA

Mirante do Paranapanema, São Paulo – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 1991

Within the Brazilian community very few people would know who Dionisio Araujo da Fonseca is. Known simply as "Didi", the owner of the Copacabana restaurant and night club is a familiar face for many Brazilians living in Melbourne.

Born in Mirante do Paranapanema, a small town in the state of São Paulo, Didi arrived in Melbourne in 1991. He left Brazil disappointed with what he felt was a corrupt government and a failed political system.

"I was a sergeant in the police force and had five cities under my supervision, I was in my last year of a law

degree but felt I had no prospect of a future there. I left everything behind and came to Melbourne; my plans were to stay here for about six months."

He remembers that he changed his mind and decided to settle in Melbourne the moment he arrived. With limited English language skills, and as any newly arrived migrant, Didi worked in various jobs and learnt English on the go.

He became a cook and, in 1992, accepted the offer to work with Marcos Antonio Rocha, also profiled in this book. In 1998 Didi, Marcos and two other partners opened Lamia, a Greek tavern.

According to Didi, Lamia was the biggest Greek restaurant in Melbourne, but not for long, as the partners decided to change the name and the business to offer the Brazilian and Latin community an option for a night out. They opened Copacabana International, a Brazilian Churrascaria. "Copacabana was the idea of Marcos Rocha who always inspired me by turning his dreams into reality. I was a follower who ended up helping to make this dream a reality and adding my own work and vision to it."

Didi remembers Melbourne's night scene in the 1990's as being more tranquil and quiet. There were fewer cases of street violence or aggression on the streets. But according to Didi, the 90's was a decade of great prosperity and growth.

Didi said his dream is seeing his four children through university. He is married to Jennifer, his partner in business and life.

Trajano Roberto arrived in Melbourne in January 1992 as an electrical engineer who felt there were no opportunities for work in Brazil and who thought his family's future was in Australia.

According to Trajano, in 1992, Melbourne was a quiet city. The retail shops had just started increasing their opening hours and the suburban shops would always close on Sundays. In that year Australia was going through economic recession. He remembers a great state migration when residents from Victoria were moving to Queensland. "Melbourne's population was in fact, decreasing," he said.

Trajano's biggest passion is football. He believes that there is space to improve Australian football and that the focus should be on children and youth rather than senior players. Driven by his passion, Trajano is a self-taught football coach who went on to gain official recognition and a Junior Coach's license.

His biggest project is the development of the Hotham Sporting Club, a football training centre and club for young children. He plans to teach football and futsal to children and youth. "This football club is a way to offer training based on the Brazilian methods and style of play, I also see it as my way of thanking this country for giving me and my family the opportunity to work and live here," he said.

TRAJANO ROBERTO
Dourados, Mato Grosso do Sul – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 1992

"**This football club is a way to offer training based on the Brazilian methods and style of play**"
Trajano Roberto

EDVAL SANTOS
Salvador, Bahia – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 1993

Edval Higino Boa Morte Santos was born on November 11, 1967, in Salvador, Bahia. Known as Mestre Val Boa Morte, Edval founded the group *Capoeira Filhos da Bahia* in 1983. Ten years later, in 1993, he arrived in Melbourne, where he has been since, spreading Capoeira – a Brazilian form of martial arts which combines fight, dance, rhythm and movement.

He was one of the first Capoeira practitioners to arrive in Australia. Mestre Val Boa Morte has played an important role in establishing the Capoeira culture in Australia, participating in some of the first ever rodas (Capoeira playing circle) to be hosted on Australian soil.

Newly arrived in Australia, Edval was working as a busker, performing Capoeira acts on the street, when Circus Oz workers watched him and asked if he could teach them the movements. After that, he continued teaching Capoeira in different locations.

Edval describes Melbourne as a very different city in the beginning of 1990's. According to him, there were few places to go out at night and everything

was concentrated in Lygon Street, Johnson Street and Chapel Street. He also remembers that there were just one or two Latin clubs in the city.

Edval is proud to dedicate his life to the traditional martial art of capoeira. One of his projects, Capoeira Arts Organization (CAO), empowers children and adults from marginalised communities to share the benefits of Capoeira through workshops, training and performances.

Today, his Capoeira academy is located in Collingwood and it has between 120 and 150 students. "I have students from all over the world, they come from France, Italy, England, Germany, even from Brazil. They come and they just stay here, training six days a week," he said.

The students are encouraged to participate in the International Capoeira Encounter, which takes place once a year somewhere in the world. "Capoeira is art, sport and culture. Through culture we can educate many people," said Edval.

"Capoeira is art, sport and culture. Through culture we can educate many people" Mestre Val Boa Morte

ELIANA AGUIAR
Brasília, Distrito Federal – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 1999

Eliana Aguiar and her husband first migrated to Australia in 1988, but soon they felt it wasn't the right time and the couple left three years later. "As many migrants we came here seeking new challenges and opportunities to grow personally and professionally, however we did not settle in Adelaide and also due to family sickness, we decided to return to Brasilia, Brazil's capital city, in 1991."

(*continued...*) But after returning home the family felt they hadn't completely finished their "business" in Australia. Eliana's husband returned first in 1999. She and the couple's four children came six months later.

"Even after separating from my husband in 2001, life in Melbourne was smoother, as if it was meant to be. It wasn't easy, but I used every opportunity to transform my experiences into lessons," she said.

Eliana first applied for a part-time job at Holmesglen Institute of TAFE, in Chadstone. The job didn't last long, and she decided to take on some volunteering work at the Wesley Melbourne Mission. Her role as a personal carer involved visiting elderly persons from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background in their home.

Volunteering served as a pathway to further education and employment. "I started a course at Holmesglen Tafe, Certificate III in Aged Care and became a Personal Carer, later I began a Diploma Course, as Community Welfare Worker, it was just great and exactly what I was looking for."

In the meantime Eliana also became involved in a research group running a study entitled Health Care Culture of Brazilian Immigrant Women in Australia. The research showed the impact of immigration on the health of Brazilian women. Its findings pointed to the need of an organisation where the Brazilian community could receive support in Melbourne.

Later that year, in December 2002, Abrisa was founded. Eliana became its president in 2008. During her term, she focused her work on the Smile Club (*Clube do Sorriso*), which promoted events and meetings targeting the elderly migrants who are socially isolated or at risk of becoming isolated.

In the same year she co-founded the Paul and Stephen Spiritist Centre (Centro Espírita Paulo e Estevão), a religious group organisation which has the objective to promote the Spiritist doctrine in Australia.

Eliana is a Community Welfare Worker at the New Hope Foundation, providing settlement, welfare, advocacy, individual support and referral services for CALD clients since 1981. She works directly with the elderly from more than 70 nationalities who are socially isolated.

In 2013 she became the first representative from Victoria at the Regional Council of Brazilians Living Abroad. The council is an initiative created by Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Forty nine representatives from around the world met in 2013 at the IV Conference Brazilians Abroad held in Salvador, Bahia. Topics included the promotion of the Brazilian culture abroad, social welfare, education, human rights and new policies for the communities.

"The council representatives' volunteering job is to inform the government of our demands and aspirations in order to improve the services offered to Brazilians living in Australia and around the world. It was an amazing opportunity to work together and exchange best practices," she said.

Eliana lives in Vermont South, in the southern east suburbs of Melbourne, since 2000 with her four children.

SUZANA ALVARENGA
Itabira, Minas Gerais – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 2002

Suzana Alvarenga arrived in Melbourne in May 2002, the same year Abrisa was founded. She came to join her Australian husband whom she met in Chile. An international development consultant, at age 56 she was unable to find work until she met a group of fellow Brazilians who were planning to start an association.

Soon it was December and Federation Square had been completed, albeit a year late for the centenary of federation, when she attended Abrisa's foundation meeting and decided to become a volunteer. Not long afterwards she was sharing a small room at the back of a Clifton Hill church in what was Abrisa's first office. "I was there to create the database and answer phone calls, which didn't happen that often, we were just starting."

In 10 years as the backbone of the association she saw the database jump from 23 to over 1300 Brazilians, the start of the newspaper JA, followed by the Brazilian Festival in Victoria in 2004. "That gave a lot of visibility to Abrisa, and also to the Brazilian culture."

In recent years she has seen Portuguese being taught to adults and children, the Playgroup Criarte under Abrisa's coordination, projects like RIAM and NeighbourHug being developed, partnerships being established like CAPA (Portuguese Speaking Counselling Service); Samba Cine Club, among others.

She developed the idea of the Clube do Sorriso to promote social inclusion through music and parties.

At the age of 66 Suzana has no plans to retire. She hopes Abrisa grows and becomes a place for all Portuguese speakers living in Australia.

ALCIONE DA SILVA

Franca, São Paulo – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 2002

Alcione da Silva moved from São Paulo to Melbourne in April 2002 to undertake post-doctoral research into the impact of international immigration on the health of Brazilian women. She recalls Melbourne as "a cosmopolitan city, with a vibrant mix of old and new architecture, green parks and many cultural venues" and with very few Brazilians.

The 2001 national census recorded 4,704 Brazilian migrants in Australia but at that time in Victoria there were only 805. Considering this, Alcione was lucky to find out about Copacabana, a restaurant in Fitzroy where Brazilian migrants used to get together and where she met some of the women she interviewed for her research.

Their participation in the study revealed two things: "that the interview process helped the women gain greater control of their lives and have faith in their capacity to find solutions to improve their lives", and that "there was a lack of social interaction within the community and with the wider Australian society; a lack of social support to manage health problems such as depression; and barriers in accessing healthcare services."

It was with these issues in mind that Abrisa was formed in December 2002. The completion of her study in February 2003 coincided with protests following Prime Minister John Howard's deployment of troops to aid the US-led war in Iraq. It was with that vivid memory that she returned to Brazil in May 2003 to resume her teaching career. She now lives in Portugal.

"**There was a lack of social interaction within the community and with the wider Australian society; a lack of social support to manage health problems such as depression; and barriers in accessing healthcare services" Alcione da Silva**

FR. LUCIANO TOLDO

Anta Gorda, Rio Grande do Sul – Brazil
Arrived in Australia in 2004

Father Luciano Toldo was born in a city called "Anta Gorda", a small town in the south of Brazil, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. He began his ecclesiastic studies in 1990 in Porto Alegre, the capital of Rio Grande do Sul, but completed them in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Luciano would return to his home town in 2003 where he was finally ordained to the priesthood.

In 2004, before coming to Melbourne, Fr Luciano received his first appointment and was sent to Sydney to work with the Hispanic community as a chaplain. He thoroughly enjoyed his work and four years later started working with the Brazilian community in the St Therese Parish of Mascot, a Catholic parish in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

(*continued...*) He worked on many projects including the World Youth Day in 2008. "The World Youth Day is one of the main events in the Catholic church's calendar. My work involved receiving the students and organising accommodation, transport and food for hundreds of youth. It was very challenging but I found the experience extremely rewarding," he said.

Since 2009, Fr. Luciano continued his work with the Hispanic and Portuguese-speaking communities now in the Archdioceses of Melbourne. "Through our sensitive listening and pastoral commitment we responded to the needs of migrants and refugees. Our aim is to create a religious space for the Brazilian and Portuguese speaking migrants living in Melbourne," he said.

Fr. Luciano came to Melbourne with three very specific objectives. "Firstly, I came to offer my priesthood to my own community, to celebrate masses, baptisms, funerals etc. I also want to run various religious activities, such as prayer meeting groups for the Portuguese-speaking community, which will bring our community together. Finally, I want to host a celebration in honour of Our Lady of Aparecida, Brazil's principal patroness. I hope that I can find members of the community to help me in all these tasks!"

Fr. Luciano believes his main mission is to help other migrants like him connect with their faith and to develop a sense of belonging. "It is important that all those who come here reconnect with their faith and feel part of Australian society. This is my main mission, it has always been," he said.

"We, Melbournians, are so blessed for all the gifts that the church gave on the past and is giving in these modern days. The church is a welcoming place for new parishioners and communities to express their faith. The values and principles that the church inspires in its members have contributed significantly to the social integration and to the spiritual richness of our state. This is a mission that continues to be on the church's high priority list," he said.

"It is important that all those who come here reconnect with their faith and feel part of the Australian society. This is my main mission, it has always been"
Fr. Luciano Toldo

SIMONE OCCULATE

São Paulo – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 2008

Simone Occulate migrated to Melbourne in 2008 on a skilled migrant visa. "The Australian job market was in need of qualified workforce, and as my husband and I are experienced professionals in the area our IT skills were highly in demand."

Her first impressions of Melbourne, was of a city that shared some similarities with her own home town. "The number of restaurants, bars and the wide variety of cultural events reminded me a lot of São Paulo," she said.

Her first step as a permanent resident in a new city was to turn to other Brazilians. Simone visited Abrisa's office looking for IT professionals' contacts and started volunteering at the association, backing up computer files, establishing Abrisa's website and updating software.

However she didn't find the professional assistance needed to find work as a Data Architect, the role responsible for the planning, modelling and managing of an organization´s data. She eventually found a job but didn't forget the idea of establishing a group to help other Brazilians get their foot in the door into the competitive local job market. Her aim was to make this transition easier for the newly arrived.

In 2010, with the IT market still feeling the effects of the global financial crisis, and with companies holding off on recruiting, she decided to create an IT meet-up group with three other people.

They get together once a month in different locations in the city. "We assist Brazilians that get in touch with us or come to the meetings about the recruitment process in the IT market . We help with referrals and share experiences that go beyond professional help."

They also organise a few social outings to play squash and bowling, and hope one day to be part of a network of IT groups across Australia.

Photo Thaíse Zimmermann

ANILTON MONTEIRO TELES

Jesuíta, Paraná – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 2006

PAULO EDUARDO SCHREINER

Novo Hamburgo, Rio Grande do Sul – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 2008

Paulo Eduardo Schreiner

As Assembly of God church missionaries, Anilton Monteiro Teles and Paulo Eduardo Schreiner moved from São Paulo, the biggest city in Brazil, to Melbourne following an invitation by the Brazilian-Portuguese community in Sydney.

Anilton arrived first, in January 2006. He came alone and this was his first experience living abroad. His family would join him two years later. Paulo Eduardo arrived in 2008. After being sent as missionaries to Romania, Ukraine and Holland, Paulo Eduardo and Anilton say they are happy here.

"We can do our work in peace, the weather is very similar to the place where we came from and it is so different from the East European countries where we lived for 12 years where, in winter, the temperatures would reach minus 35 degrees!" said Paulo.

He found Melbourne to be a beautiful city, modern and with a great quality of life but felt that the Portuguese community lacked the religiosity and spirituality that one would find in abundance in the country he just left behind. Although the Brazilian community was able to attend other religious gatherings, they felt there was a need to establish a church for the Assembly of God followers.

"As everyone has the need to follow God within the religion of their choice we didn't think twice and in 2010 we were opening the first Evangelical (Pentecostal) Portuguese language service," said Paulo.

Firstly people used to attend the services in a house but soon it was possible to have their own church with support of community.

The Assembly of God church is located in Pakenham, a satellite suburb of Melbourne on the edge of the West Gippsland region of Victoria, and has around 40 people coming to meetings on weekends.

The two presbyters believe it is important that migrants socialise and speak their own language when living abroad. According to Paulo, Brazilians and other Portuguese speakers often look for a spiritual comfort to bear the distance of family and friends. Beyond the services there are also pray works, Bible studies and Sunday Bible School.

Together, Paulo Eduardo and Anilton manage five Assemblies of God in Melbourne, Sydney, Rockhampton, Toowoomba and Wollongong.

Anilton Monteiro Teles

ANTONIO MOREIRA
Recife, Pernambuco – Brazil
Arrived in Melbourne in 2011

Since leaving Brazil for Canada in 2006, Antonio has been representing Brazilian culture while playing with percussion groups everywhere he goes. After spending some time travelling, learning and experimenting in different cultures, he finally chose Melbourne, his partner's hometown, to live (at least for the time being). The couple went through what he describes as a very long and distressing visa application process before was finally allowed to settle in Australia in 2011.

"There is always a story behind every beat, every dance, every ritual and those stories are here until today for a reason" Antonio Moreira

As an artist, Melbourne seemed the place to be. In his first year Antonio attended a number of festivals including Moomba, the Comedy and Fringe festivals, the Australasian World Music Expo and Viva Victoria. In this short period of time he was also appointed by the Multicultural Arts Victoria as one of the Multicultural Ambassadors for the Melbourne Festival, the city's major arts event.

"Through my role as a Multicultural Ambassador I had the opportunity to engage with local and international artists in a deeper level. I also find it extremely important for our communities to have someone to represent them, directly or indirectly, opening up doors and also giving them a voice. It is fantastic that multicultural artists are being recognised by the City of Melbourne and I appreciate the opportunity to have my ideas heard."

Antonio also runs the Maracatu Estrela do Mar, an Afro-Brazilian percussion group that plays "Maracatu de Baque Virado" and other rhythms from the northeast of Brazil. The group has completed a year of existence and is working towards a new goal, which is to promote community capacity building through arts activities.

"Many studies have been done to suggest that involvement in community arts activities results in positive social outcomes, therefore I would like to provide these experiences, through my art and my work, to disadvantaged communities within Victoria," he said.

Antonio sees culture as part of one's identity. "Culture is about identity, we must stay connected to our culture and be proud of it. I think it is important to respect, understand, represent and learn about yours and other cultures, there is always a story behind every beat, every dance, every ritual and those stories are here until today for a reason," he said.

REFERENCES

Jupp, James, 2001, *The Australian People: An Encyclopedia of the Nation, its People and their Origins*. "Brazilians," pp. 187–88. Cambridge University Press.

History of immigration from Brazil, Museum Victoria Archive, viewed 12 November 2013, <http://museumvictoria.com.au/origins/>

Rocha, Cristina, 2006, *Two Faces of God: Religion and Social Class in the Brazilian Diaspora in Sydney*, in, Kumar, P. P. (ed.), *Religious Pluralism in the Diaspora.*

DIAC Department of Immigration and Citizenship Student visa Annual Report, 2010, *Student visa program trends 2004–05 to 2010–11*, 2010 viewed 10 October 2012, <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/statistics/study/_pdf >

Australia Bureau of Statistics. *Australian Social Trends 2011: International students in Australia*, 2011. ABS viewed 7 September 2013, < www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/>

Trounson, A. The Australian, 2013, *Brazil makes case for cut in visa fee*, viewed 25 July 2013, < www.theaustralian.com.au>

Brazil's Department of Foreign Affairs, *Brazilians around the world (Brasileiros no mundo)*, 2009 and 2011 editions, viewed 20 August 2013,

Australia Bureau of Statistics, 2013, *Average Weekly Earnings*, Australia. ABS viewed 19 August 2013 <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats>

International Education Advisory Council. *Discussion Paper for the Development of an International Education Strategy for Australia*, viewed 25 May 2012 <https://aei.gov.au/IEAC2/Consultation(IEAC)/Documents/>

Cardim, F, Carvalho P, Harcourt T and Thirlwel M. *Great Southern Lands – Building ties between Australia and Brazil*, 2013, Lowy Institute for International Policy.

Alan Brissenden, A and Glennon, K. *Australia Dances: Creating Australian Dance, 1945–1965*, 2010, Wakefield Press.

New South Wales Powerhouse Photo Library Archives. Selections from the *Katherine Dunham Collection at the Library of Congress*, United States viewed 26 July 2012 <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/ihas/html/dunham>

The Age Newspaper, 1964, *Miss Universe polishes her crown for procession*, viewed 30 July 2012 <http://news.google.com/newspapers>

Fraguas, L, 2014, *Brazil wants to extend its visa agreement with Australia, Interview in Portuguese with Ambassador Rodrigo do Amaral Souza, Foreign Affairs Immigration Department Director*, retrieved 26 January 2014 <www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/portuguese/>

Abrisa
Brazilian Association for Social Development and Integration in Australia