



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY DUBLIN

MEDIA RELEASE
For immediate release

9 January 2004

AUSTRALIAN EXPATS BOOK LAUNCHES IN DUBLIN

The Australian Embassy, Dublin is proud to host the launch in Ireland of the recently published book *Australian Expats: stories from abroad* on Thursday 29 January as part of its Australia Day week celebrations.

An initiative of the Southern Cross Group (SCG) and Australian Publisher Global Exchange, *Australian Expats: stories from abroad* is a unique collection of original stories by Australian expatriates from all walks of life, relating their experiences in many countries. **The book includes an intriguing tale by Australian expatriate Denise Burns about her experiences living in Ireland.**

Australian Expats: stories from abroad is the result of a call by the SCG to the Australian expatriate community world-wide in June 2003, for individuals to "tell their story". During the two-month submission period, the SCG received almost 180 stories from Australians in more than 30 countries. Many contributors were first-time authors. 33 stories appear in the book, along with a foreword aptly summarising the highs and lows of expat life by Australian author Nikki Gemmell. Many stories not in the book have been published on the SCG website to coincide with the book's launch.

Bryan Havenhand, Co-editor and Managing Director of Australian publisher Global Exchange, said that in choosing stories for inclusion in the book, a primary aim was to present the full diversity of the Australian diaspora. The youngest contributor is an 18-year-old au pair presently in Paris, while at the other end of the spectrum, one story in the book was written by a retired Australian expat living in the US in his seventies who left Australia in 1957. Stories come from professionals, volunteer workers, students, accompanying spouses and partners, and others, and are written in a variety of styles.

Anne MacGregor, Co-founder of the SCG and Co-editor of the book, said, "We think this is the first time that a book of this nature has ever been published. **It is estimated that some 860,000 Australians now live overseas, with approximately 10,000 in the Republic of Ireland.** Almost every Australian at home has an Australian friend or family member abroad. These stories are about ordinary Australians, the girl or boy next door, who have gone overseas and been changed and challenged. Their stories evoke the full spectrum of emotions. A theme explored by many authors is what it means to be Australian in the broader global community, and how their sense of identity as Australians has become more pronounced, if anything, by leaving the comfort zone of home."

The Southern Cross Group is an international volunteer-run non-profit advocacy and support organisation for the Australian diaspora. Global Exchange is an Australian publisher specialising in titles with the theme of "working and learning across borders".

The book is available online via the Southern Cross Group's website:

<http://www.southern-cross-group.org>

Australian Expats: stories from abroad, published October 2003, ISBN 1 876438053, by Global Exchange Pty Ltd, PO Box 852 Newcastle NSW 2300, Tel 61 2 4929 4688, Fax 61 2 4929 47 27

Further information:

Anne MacGregor, Southern Cross Group, Brussels: Tel + 32 2 5050 266, mobile 32 474 950 131
anne@southern-cross-group.org

Melanie Scaife, Australian Embassy, Dublin: Tel (01) 6645 302, melanie.scaife@dfat.gov.au
