

# The Southern Cross Group

*Promoting mobility in the global community*



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Australian Expats Book Published

The Southern Cross Group (SCG) and Global Exchange are pleased to announce the publication of "Australian Expats: stories from abroad". The new book is a unique collection of original stories by Australian expats from all walks of life, relating their experiences in many countries.

The book is the result of a call by the SCG to the Australian expatriate community world-wide in June this year, for individuals to "tell their story". During the two-month submission period, the SCG received almost 180 stories from Australians in over 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 Gemmill. 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 Global Exchange in Newcastle NSW, 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 "Australian Expats", said from Brussels, "We think this is the first time that a book of this nature has ever been published. Some 860,000 Australians now live overseas and 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."

Following a successful world-wide launch at Australia House in London last week, events will take place in the week of 20 October in Australia in Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra, Brisbane and Sydney, when both editors will be in Australia to promote the book. Details of the Australian events are available online at:

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

Events to promote the book in Washington DC, Chicago, New York and Geneva are also being planned.

The book is available in all good bookshops in Australia, and the SCG's website is being kept updated to list all sources of the book for overseas Australians as stocks become available around the world:

[http://www.southern-cross-group.org/bookproject/our\\_book.html](http://www.southern-cross-group.org/bookproject/our_book.html)

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".

"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.

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