Admission impossible directed by Alec Morgan. 54 min. Lindfield, NSW: Film Australia, 1992. DVD ADM

The true story of the behind-the-scenes political forces and propaganda campaigns that attempted to populate Australia with ‘pure white’ migrants. This compelling story tells how the shifts and upheavals in Asia – from colonial control to emerging new nations – caused great unease in Australia and strengthened the government’s resolve to keep Australia ‘white’ and ‘European’. – Back cover. Classification: PG (War footage)

Between the devil & the deep blue sea directed by David Schmidt. 53 min. Fitzroy. Vic: Liquid Creations, 2011. DVD BET

The filmmakers ‘travelled across Indonesia and met with 250 asylum seekers in jails, detention centres and hostels. Through candid interviews, hidden camera footage and in the words of asylum seekers themselves, the story of the ‘refugee’ is told.” – Back cover. Classification: Not classified. Resources for schools: http://deepblueseafilm.com/for-schools/

The Central Park five. 112 min. Sydney: SBS, 2013. DVD THE

“In 1989, five black and Latino teenagers from Harlem were arrested and later convicted of raping a white woman in New York City’s Central Park. They spent between 6 and 13 years in prison before a serial rapist confessed that he alone had committed the crime, leading to their convictions being overturned … the film tells the story of that horrific crime, the rush to judgment by the police … and the five lives upended by this miscarriage of justice.” – Distributor website. Classification: M (Coarse language)

The finished people directed by Khoa Do. 80 min. Australia: Madman Entertainment, 2004. DVD FIN

A small independent project, blending documentary and fiction, about life on the streets of Cabramatta. Classification: MA 15+

Go back to where you came from. 3 x 55 min. Series director: Ivan O’Mahoney. Bendigo. Vic: VEA, 2011. DVD GOB

These DVDs, with offensive language removed, are designed to be used in schools. In this documentary, six Australians of various ages and backgrounds, trace in reverse the steps that refugees take to get to Australia. See also an interactive classroom resource for secondary schools. http://www.sbs.com.au/shows/gobback

Note: The Library also holds a copy of the uncensored version. Classification: M (uncensored version). Also available: Go back to where you came from Series 2.


The brides of Khan tells … how couples from a wide range of cultures position that culture that attempted to populate Australia with ‘pure white’ migrants experience through the stories of a mother and her Australian-born 11-year-old daughter. Sparky D comes to town is about a young Australian of Croatian background whose plans for a wild night in town go awry after his father asks him to first pick up a family friend from the airport. Classification: Exempt (for educational use only). Ronin recommends: Parental guidance

Immigration nation: the secret history of us. 162 min. SBS, 2011. DVD IMM

This three episode series traces the development of multicultural Australia throughout the 20th century. Classification: PG (Mild themes and Holocaust images)

John Pilger books and DVDs

The Library holds a number of books and DVDs by the investigative journalist, John Pilger. The compilation most directly related to racism in an Australian context is the 2006 DVD, John Pilger’s Australia [DVD JOh]. Filmed over 15 years these films offer an uncompromising look at the social and political shifts for both Aboriginal and white Australians and the changing perceptions of Australia on the domestic and international stage. Contents: The secret country: The first Australians fight back; The last dream: heroes unsung; Secrets; Other people’s wars. Classification: M (Adult themes)


Based on the true story of a New Jersey school principal, Joe Clark, brought in to save a high school. He chained the doors to keep troublemakers out and strikers in. Some parents and teachers opposed him, but many students loved him. Classification: PG


When an Indonesian fishing boat abandons Iraqi and Cambodian refugees off the Western Australian coast, most are quickly caught by officials. However, three men evade capture and head off into the heart of Australia. Includes study guide. Classification: MA 15+

Resources available from the NSW Teachers Federation Library

23-33 Mary St Surry Hills NSW 2010 Locked Bag 3010 Darlinghurst NSW 1300
Ph 02 9217 2113 Fax 02 9217 2481 E library@nswtf.org.au Web www.nswtf.org.au click on Services tab

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Refugees, asylum seekers & anti-racism DVDs

Molly and Mobarak. 85 min. Canberra: Ronin Films, 2003. DVD MOL

Mobarak Tahiri, a young refugee from Afghanistan, receives a three year Temporary Protection Visa for Australia and with other refugees obtains employment in an abattoir in Young. He learns English and falls in love with an Australian girl, but his visa is due to expire. Classification: M

No advantage. 60 min. Sydney: ABC TV, 2013. Electronic resource.

This episode of Four corners goes inside Australia’s offshore refugee processing centres on Nauru and Manus Island. View online at: http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2013/04/29/3745276.htm Classification: PG (Parental guidance recommended for persons under 15 years)

Once upon a time in Cabramatta directed by Bernadine Lim. 3 x 52 min. SBS, 2012. DVD ONC

“In this one tiny Sydney suburb, the 1980s and 1990s see the emergence of street gangs, a heroin epidemic and the first political assassination in Australia’s history. The Vietnamese people are vilified and demonised ... But as the century draws to a close there is a remarkable turnaround. The Vietnamese people finally find their voice and claim their rightful, democratic place in their adopted home. Cabramatta is a community transformed, Australia, a continent changed forever.” – Back cover. Classification: M (Drug themes and infrequent coarse language)

Once upon a time in Punchbowl. 4 x 52 min. SBS, 2014. DVD ONC

“This four-part documentary series hears from community leaders, police, families and individuals, as they combine to tell the compelling and dramatic story of a proud and resilient community, under intense pressure and scrutiny ... This is a community that has been besieged by events beyond their control for 30 years ... But they have emerged stronger than ever with a resilience and strength that will carry them into the future.” – Back cover. Classification: M (Coarse language, mature themes and violence)


“Our boys follows the lives of five students and their teachers at this cash-strapped government school in Sydney’s inner west. Canterbury Boys has a rich mix of nationalities: 90 percent of the boys come from non-English speaking backgrounds, many are refugees or come from disadvantaged homes.” – Back cover. A study guide is also available http://www.abccommercial.com/librarysales/program/our-boys Classification: Exempt (for educational use only)

Remember the Titans directed by Boaz Yakin. 109 min. Disney Enterprises, 2000. DVD REM

Based on events in Alexandria, Virginia in 1971, when forced high school integration was taking place. A successful high school football team is thrown into crisis when popular coach Bill Yoast is replaced by African-American Herman Boone, and hostility and prejudice threaten the town. Classification: PG (Parental guidance recommended for persons under 15 years; adult themes)

Salute written & directed by Matt Norman. 88 min. Paramount Pictures, 2009. DVD SAL

This film tells the story of Australian Peter Norman, the silver medallist of the men’s 200 metres final at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics. The other medallists, the Americans Tommie Smith and John Carlos, who gave the Black Power salute at the medal ceremony, regard him as a brother. The film salutes this almost forgotten (in Australia, but not in the United States) man. Classification: PG (Civil rights themes)

A sense of place produced & directed by Marie Ferris. 28 min. Civic Square, ACT: Ronin Films, 2007. DVD SEN

An “intimate portrait of four Vietnamese Australians who, for the past 30 years, have searched to build their identity and home in Australia.” – Back cover. Classification: Exempt (for educational use only). Ronin recommends: Parental guidance.

We’ll be right, mate! Sudanese youth in transition. 40 min. Sydney: University of Western Sydney, 2008, DVD WEL

Designed “to assist young Sudanese people as they begin the journey from high school to vocational training, higher education or employment in Australia.” – Publisher website. Classification: Not classified.

Wide eyed. 57 min. Jane Elliott, 2008. DVD WID

This DVD is a compilation of clips taken from Jane Elliott’s blue-eyed/brown-eyed documentaries made during the past four decades. In response to the assassination of Martin Luther King in 1968, the then third-grade teacher conducted an exercise in which her students were differentiated by eye colour, thereby illustrating to them the unfairness of judging others by physical characteristics. A study guide is also available. Listen to a podcast of Jane Elliott on the Radio National Life Matters programme: http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2010/2903742.htm Classification: Not classified.