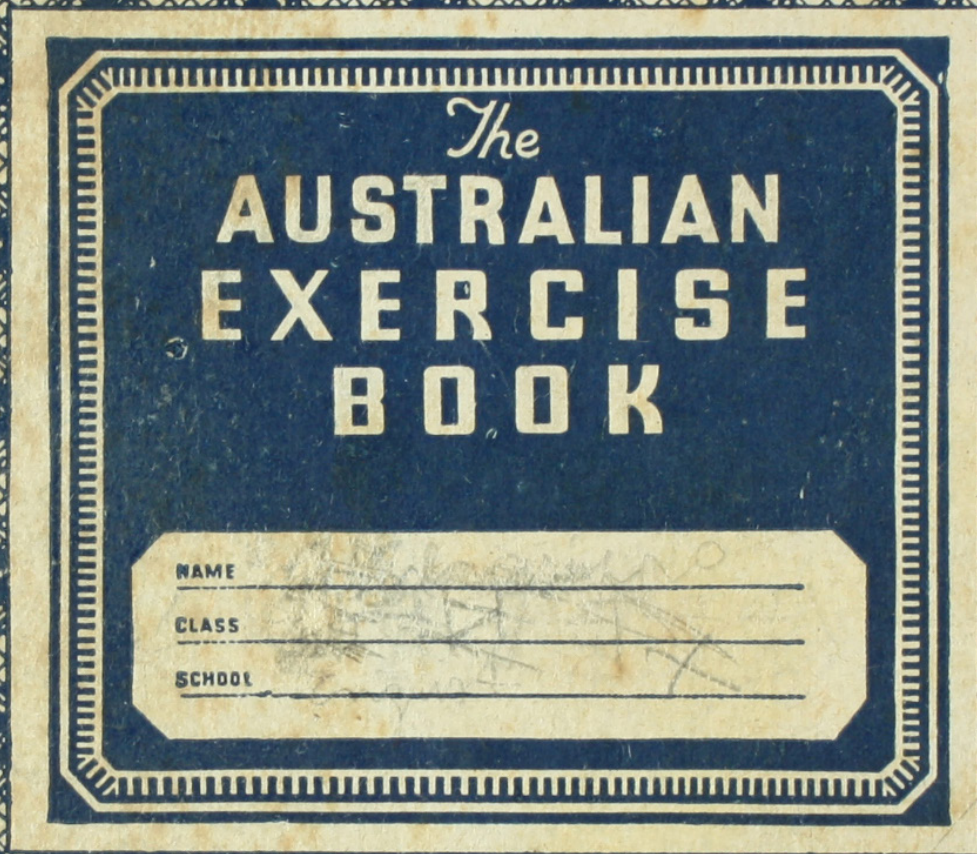


YEAR LEVEL 5-6



**KARL MUFFLER**



**MUSEUMS  
VICTORIA**



Karl Muffler, 1920s

This story is about a man who came to Australia as an immigrant. The Immigration Museum has discovered his story from objects that were donated to the museum by his family.

Perhaps you have an immigration story in your family. Perhaps you or your family have objects that can help you learn and understand more about your family's immigration story.

We would like you to use the museum objects to discover Karl Muffler's story. Perhaps you will discover things that we, at the museum, have missed. Discovering this man's story might help you find ways of discovering someone else's story – perhaps someone in your family or of someone else you know.

Here is some information about Karl Muffler to get you started. You should also look at the images of objects at the end of this document.

## KARL MUFFLER

Karl Friedrich Muffler was born in 1900 in south-west Germany. As a teenager, he decided to pursue a career in confectionery craft. By his 17th birthday he had completed his apprenticeship and became a certified 'Konditor'.

In 1929, Karl met Bill Iking, a German-Australian citizen who was recruiting German pastry chefs for employment in Melbourne. Karl was attracted by the idea and, despite speaking little English, migrated to Australia on the passenger liner 'Balranald' in 1930.

Karl worked in Melbourne at Iking's cake shop in Brunswick, then in 1935 established his own business, The Embassy, which operated in Malvern until the late 1930s. Karl was an innovative and artistic cake designer, introducing his customers to the 'Dolly Varden' cake (a novelty cake in the form of a full-skirted doll).

In March 1939, Karl married Mathilde (Hilde) Mayer who he met through the German Tivoli Club. Mathilde had migrated to Australia with her parents in 1929. In September 1939, he was placed in police custody and detained as an enemy alien, along with dozens of other German residents in Victoria. Karl remained interned for 6 years, mostly at Tatura camp in northern Victoria. He kept himself occupied decorating cakes, and learning woodcarving and drafting.

Meanwhile his wife Mathilde went to live with her parents. She was issued with a travel permit and her movements were restricted to within 15 miles of Melbourne's General Post Office. Eventually, she secured a job at the Table Talk biscuit factory in Prahran and received a permit to travel to and from work.

The couple were reunited after the war. Karl returned to work for Iking who now owned Paterson's cake shop in Windsor. He also worked at William Angliss Food Trades School teaching cake decoration. With no family left in Germany, Karl and Mathilde decided to stay in Australia, became naturalised in 1947, and had two daughters.

Karl's love of cake-decorating continued throughout his life. He even made one for his 50th wedding anniversary when he was almost 90. He died in 1996.

**There is a lot of information in this story so to make it easier to understand, complete the timeline using information from his story and from the images.**

Timeline of the life of .....

who came to Australia from .....

- Use the information in the immigration story on pages 2–5 to complete the Event column. There may be more than one event that occurred in the same year. Some events have been recorded for you.
- Choose an image from pages 6–7 which relates to each event and record it in the Image column.

Think about how each image helps you understand more about this immigration story.

Date	Event	Image description
1900		
1917		
1929		
1929	Mathilde Mayer migrated with her parents from Germany to Australia	
1930		Photo of Balranald
1930	Karl worked for Bill Ikingier at cake shop in Brunswick	
1935		Business card
1939	Start of World War 2	
1939 (March)		
1939 (September)		
1943		
1943-45	Took English language lessons	
1945	End of World War 2	
1945		
1945		
1946		
1946-1970s		
1947		
1996		



Living huts at Tatura, 1943

### Internment during World War 2

The outbreak of World War 2 in 1939 triggered a mass fear of invasion by Germany and later Japan. This led to panic that tens of thousands of Australian residents might become spies.

The Australian Government's response was the internment in camps of many German and Japanese residents. Australia interned about 7000 residents, including nationals from over 30 other countries, such as Italy, Finland, Hungary, Portugal and Russia.

Internees were usually separated from their families and tried to find ways to keep themselves occupied. They set up their own study classes, theatre groups and market gardens, and were issued 'internment currency' in order to purchase goods within the camp grounds.

Many volunteered to work on Australian farms to help with the manpower shortage and some, later in the War, joined the Australian army. Most made the best of the situation, but it was a traumatic experience that left some internees permanently scarred.

1

## KARL MUFFLER'S STORY



SS Balranald at Fremantle docks, 1930

Why did Karl Muffler leave his country?

How did he travel to Australia?

What was his occupation? Explain some things he might have done in his job.

1939 was an important year in world history. What happened in that year?



Internees at Tatura, 1943.  
Karl, second from left, back row.

His story tells us that he was an enemy alien. What is an enemy alien and why do you think some people in Australia believed Karl was an enemy alien?

He was placed in detention at Tatura internment camp. Explain what it means to be in detention?

How long was he held in detention? Explain how he might have felt.



Study class at Tatura, 1943

Perhaps you can think of a time in your life when you weren't allowed to move around freely and might have felt like Karl felt? List some words that explain how you felt.

What did Karl Muffler do to help the time pass while he was in detention?

Explain what you have been doing recently to help the time pass. Have you learnt any new skills? Have you spent time doing things you haven't done before?



Karl decorating a cake at Paterson's cake shop, 1970s

We are told he was naturalised in 1947. What does that mean?

What word do we use today?

Now you know more about Karl Muffler, you might have formed an image of what he was like and some of his characteristics. List three adjectives you would use to describe him. Here are a few ideas: hardworking, clever, artistic, resilient .....

Try to think of your own words too.

Why did you choose these words?

## 2

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



A Dolly Varden, is a woman's outfit fashionable from about 1869 to 1875 in Britain and the United States. It is named after a character in Charles Dickens, and the items of clothing referred to are usually a hat or dress.

Karl was an artistic cake designer. Find the images of some of his designs. How would you describe these designs?

One of his favourite designs was a Dolly Varden cake. Find the image of a Dolly Varden cake. Why do you think it was given that name?

On a separate sheet of paper, design your own novelty cake.

Find a recipe you could use to bake your cake.

You could also design your own artistic decoration.

Mr. & Mrs. A. Mayer  
request the pleasure of the company of

---

at the Marriage of their daughter,  
Hilde,  
to  
Mr. Karl Muffler  
at St. Mary's Church, Sandmoy Road, St. Kilda  
on Saturday, March 4th, 1929, at 5 p.m.  
And afterwards at a Dinner at The Hotel Alexander  
Spencer Street, City



### Karl and Mathilde's wedding

#### Find the menu for Karl Muffler's wedding.

You can see there is quite a long list of dishes. Imagine you had attended Karl's wedding.

What would you have chosen to eat? Think about why you made those choices?

**Task:** Imagine you were planning a special event. It might be a birthday party, a wedding, a school celebration, a sports celebration, a going back to school celebration. On a separate sheet of paper, design a menu and plan the food. Think about the people who might attend and what their tastes might be.

Explain why you think the food you chose would be suitable for this event.

## 3

## YOUR OWN STORY

Now you should be ready to discover the immigration story of another person. It might be a member of your family or someone else you know.

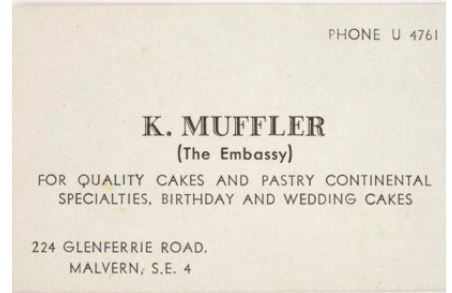
Remember to use the skills you have learnt discovering Karl Muffler's story. Maybe you have objects, photos or other images you could use. Perhaps you could conduct an interview or have a conversation. You could also research information online or in books.



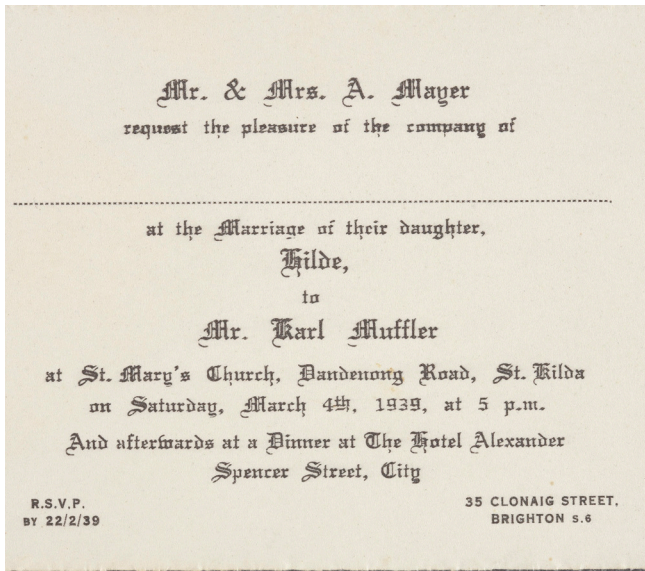
Exercise Book – English Language Lessons, Victoria & Tasmania, 1943-1945



Black and white pencil drawing by Karl Muffler (initialled), which he completed at Tatura internment camp, northern Victoria, on 28 January, 1942.



Business Card – Karl Muffler, The Embassy Cake Shop



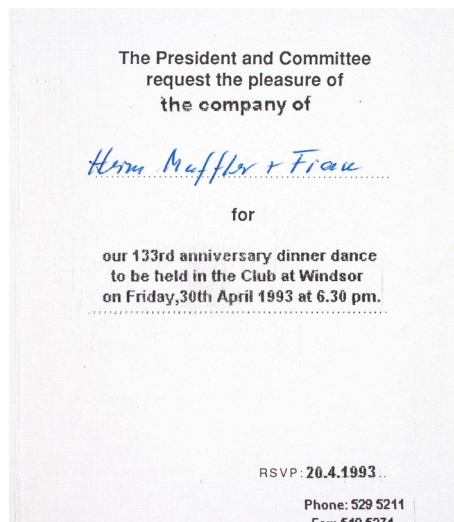
Wedding Invitation – Karl Muffler & Hilde Mayer



Wedding Menu – Karl Muffler & Hilde Mayer, 1939



Invitation – Club Tivoli Dinner Dance



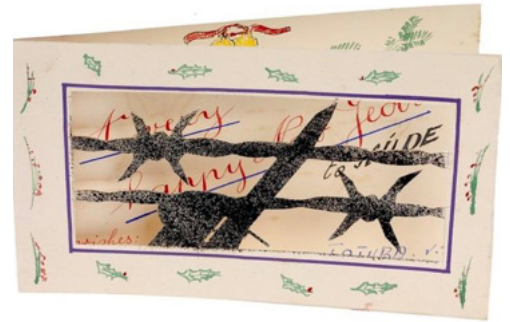




Karl Muffler, 1920s



Cake Design Book - Karl Muffler, William Angliss Food Trades School, 1940s



Greeting Card - Karl Muffler to Hilde Muffler, Tatura, 1940s



Internees at Tatura, 1943. Karl, second from left, back row.



Living huts at Tatura, 1943



Cake display at William Angliss Food Trades School, 1948



Karl and Hilde wedding portrait, 1939



Karl decorating a cake at Paterson's cake shop, 1970s



Tatura celebration with cakes by Karl



Travel permit for Hilda Muffler



Qualifications certificate, Karl Muffler 1917



Study class at Tatura, 1943