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NEWS

Thu, Sep 08, 2005

Students look to Bonegilla

MICK McGLONE

TWO Melbourne students made a nostalgic trip to the Border yesterday.

Rose Tato, 40, and Rene Sephton, 21, are in the final year of a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at RMIT and neither had visited the Bonegilla Migrant Camp where their parents called home when they arrived in Australia.



Rose Tato and Rene Sephton connected with their heritage at Bonegilla yesterday. Picture: RAY HUNT

Both will incorporate their impressions of the camp and their families experiences in the final showing of their work, which will complete their degree course.

Roses parents Juan and Carmen emigrated to Australia from Spain in 1961.

They returned to Spain eight years ago.

"When I think of my mother breastfeeding my brother in one of those tin sheds in the heat and with the flies, in such a bizarre place I can only shake my head," she said.

Rene is trying to understand the experiences of her family through her grandmother, Helen.

"My grandparents and my mum came to Australia in 1955 when my mum was just five," she said.

He family was from the island of Samos, near Turkey.

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