

Calendar of upcoming events

Join our March tour to Tatura and Shepparton, 7–8 March 2009

Our country destinations on the Labour Day weekend are Tatura and Shepparton. All are welcome.

We will meet late morning on Saturday 7 March at the Tatura Museum, 49 Hogan Street. At about 1.00 pm, a tour guide will show us around the Museum. We will then visit the German War Cemetery, Dhurringile and other sites. The Tatura area was the site of seven Prisoner of War and Internment camps during World War II. The camps held 4,000 to 8,000 people at any one time. A very interesting group of Tatura internees were the Templers. Over 500 Templers were transferred from Palestine to Tatura in 1941.

We will have an evening meal in Shepparton on Saturday with some members of the local historical societies. We will stay overnight at Shepparton, ready for a tour of heritage sites in Shepparton on Sunday.

Further details about this tour are on our Society's website www.wendishheritage.org.au
Contact Clay (03) 8215 9212; Glenys (03) 9891 6652 or email claykruc@optusnet.com.au

Bendigo Family & Local History Expo, 15 March 2009

The Bendigo Expo will be held at the Kangaroo Flat Leisure Centre in Browning Street, Kangaroo Flat, from 10 am – 4 pm. All are welcome. The Expo is run by the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, Bendigo Area.

For further information telephone Lyn (03) 5443 0706; Eileen (03) 5446 9474 or email bendigogen@hotmail.com

Pleasant Sunday Afternoon on Sunday, 5 April 2009

Members and friends are invited to our Pleasant Sunday Afternoon community lunch at Ivanhoe Lutheran Church at 12.30pm. Please bring along finger food for lunch.

Our 2009 AGM will follow at 1.30pm, at which we will hear reports about our various activities and hold elections for officers and Committee members for the next year. Since some committee members are considering retirement, our Society is seeking more members who are prepared to be on our Executive Committee and become office-bearers. Please consider how you can help in maintaining our Society and its aims.

Our guest speaker Joel Blackburn will present information, family names and photos relating to some of the villages in Lower Lusatia where the ancestors of Australia's Wendish descendants lived before migrating to Australia. These included Babow, Brahmow, Burg, Cottbus, Dissen, Drehnow, Drewitz, Gulbin, Heinersbruck, Jaenschwalde, Kolkwitz, Laugsdorf, Milkersdorf, Papitz, Peitz, Preilack, Sandow, Schmellwitz, Schmogrow, Sielow, Syrow, Tauer, Turnow, Werben and Zahsow

Wendish Display at the Lutheran Convention, Luther College, 2–5 October 2009

During the LCA Convention from Friday 2 – Monday 5 October, 2009 to be held at Luther College in Croydon, the Wendish Heritage Society

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Calendar of upcoming events... *continued*

will organize a display of Wendish books and posters, as well as drinks and snacks for Convention delegates who are also interested in their family's history and culture in both Germany and in Australia.

Our Society will share a room with other Australian groups involved in Germanic and Wendish heritage, including the Lutheran Archives, the Friends of Lutheran Archives, the Friends of Westgarthtown (Thomastown) and the East Melbourne Trinity German Lutheran Historical Society and Archives.

This will replace our usual annual dinner, which this year is being organized by the GSV's International Settlers' Group, as outlined below.

1859 Hamburg Ships' 150th Anniversary Dinner, Friday 16 October 2009

The International Settlers' Group, which is part of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, will host a 150th Anniversary Celebration Dinner for the 1859 Hamburg Ships to Melbourne at 11.30 am, Friday 16 October, 2009.

This will be held at the German Club Tivoli, 291 Dandenong Road in Windsor.

The twelve ships from Hamburg, which all arrived during 1859 and transported over 600 passengers and cargo to Melbourne, included the *Macassar* on 21 January, the *Vesta* on 29 Jan, the *Circassian* on 7 March, the *Alster* on 24 March, the *Richard* on 30 March, the *Johannes* on 31 March, the *Linda* on 4 August, the *Carlota* on 15 September, the *Alfred* on 23 September, the *P.C. Kinch* on 7 November, the *Cesar and Helene* on 22 November and the *Olympia* on 26 November.

An alphabetical list of surnames of passengers for each 1859 ship has been compiled as an index to the original passenger lists. After 1855, passengers were recorded in their family groups in the order that they boarded their ship so they are not alphabetical. These original lists have been obtained from two sources:

- (1) The CD *Emigrants from Hamburg to Australasia 1850-1879*, compiled by Eric and Rosemary Kopittke and published by the Queensland Family History Society and
- (2) The passengers from British and Foreign Ports, compiled by the Public Record Office of Victoria (PROV) and made available on either the CD ROM "Immigration and Shipping Lists: Unassisted Shipping Index 1851-1923" or on the internet under the heading "Unassisted Immigration to Victoria: Index of inward Passenger Lists for British, Foreign and New Zealand Ports, 1852-1923".

The website for this is http://proarchives.imaging-neering.com.au/index_search_results.asp

These alphabetical indexes to 1859 passengers are also available for inspection at the rooms of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, Level B1, 257 Collins Street, Melbourne and at the Meeting Room of the Wendish Heritage Society, 27 Livingstone Street in Ivanhoe, Victoria.

Some Wendish families from both Lower Lusatia in Prussia (or Preussen) and from Upper Lusatia in Saxony (Sachsen) were on board four of these ships.

The barque *Johannes* brought the Wends Christian BUDER, a farmer from Preilack Prussia aged 36 with his wife Anna and four children Friedrich, Martin, Johann and Louise; George REICHAU from Jaenschwalde, Prussia a farmer aged 34 with his wife Auguste and 2 children Florentine and Auguste & F.W. STARICK a farmer from Jaenschwalde Prussia aged 29 with his wife Anna and a toddler Martin aged 3.

The clipper *Carlota* transported the Wends Martin BREITZA a farmer aged 23 with his wife Anna and Hans Breitza aged 20, both farmers from Jaenschwalde Prussia and G MATUSCHKA a smith from Drewitz Prussia aged 15.

The barque *P.C. Kinch*, a Danish barque under Captain C. L. Kohn, came with the Wends Towk spelt Thowk a farmer from Jaenschwalde Prussia aged 41 with wife Anna and six children Martin, Maria, Anna, Louise, Christian and Lise & Hans LEHMANN a farmer from Heinersbrueck Prussia aged 43 with wife Anna and their 6 children Anna, Martin, Maria, Hans, Elisabeth and Friedrich.

Finally *Cesar and Helene*, with the Wends Johann HEYNE a farmer from Rodewitz, Saxony aged 42 with his wife Caroline and their 3 children Anna, Magdalene and Heinrich.

The alphabetical surname index of all of the 1859 passengers from Hamburg to Melbourne can be found under Events on our Society's website: www.wendishheritage.org.au.

JOHN NOACK





Past events

1858 Hamburg Ships' Dinner, 4 October, 2008

Members and friends celebrated the 150th anniversary of the arrival of their ancestors' ships by attending our 1858 Hamburg Ships' Dinner, inspecting the detailed passenger lists and hearing Joel Blackburn speak about the large number of Wendish emigrants who departed from the town of Werben and from its surrounding villages.

The year 1858 was a busy one for Wendish emigration from Lower Lusatia and from the Spreewald. The alphabetical surname lists for each 1858 ship and its passengers can be inspected on our Society's website: www.wendishheritage.org.au.

JOHN NOACK

East Melbourne Dedication Anniversary, 12 October 2008

The members and friends of East Melbourne Trinity Lutheran German Church celebrated the Dedication Anniversary on Sunday 12 October with a church service at 11am and an historical presentation at 1.30pm by Betty and Colin Huf from Tarrington. Their detailed and well illustrated talk covered the impact of the early pioneering German and Wendish settlers in Western Victoria and described farm-life, churches and schools at such locations as Portland, Hochkirch/Tarrington, Gnadenenthal, Tabor, Byaduk, Peshurst, Herrnhut and South Hamilton. It provided a wealth of evidence of the important contribution made by the pioneers to the Western District.

The audience filled the church and included a bus load from Geelong. One person who had come to Australia from Estonia in the 1950s expressed her amazement at the extent of the Germanic and Wendish contribution to Victoria. Betty has made this information widely available in her book, *Courage, Patience and Persistence: 150 Years of German Settlement in Western Victoria* which was published in 2003 and is in our Wendish Library.

JOHN NOACK.



Freshwater Creek's 150th Anniversary: Plaque Dedication, 2 November 2008

A bronze commemorative plaque was dedicated on 2 November, 2008 at Freshwater Creek, recognising the hard work and faith of pioneering German settlers who took up land in an area they named Waldkirch, (Church in the Woods) a few kilometres south west of Geelong. They were Lutherans practising worship every Sunday, and in 1859 built a small wattle and daub church where they gathered for fellowship and for giving thanks and praise to God.

This rare precinct has now officially been declared "an historic site". The Grovedale Lions Club took the lead in renovating the historic cemetery where the early pioneers, and those who followed them, now rest. They also provided the plaque and arranged the special dedicatory memorial gathering close to 9th October, the date on which the early settlers dedicated their first church back in 1859, when the area was called Waldkirch and their church St David's.

In 1869 the deteriorating church was replaced with a larger, gothic-style bluestone building with an imposing steeple of distinctive European design. It stands alongside the grounds where they had originally buried their deceased. During World War I, when German names were unpopular, the area was renamed Freshwater Creek. 140 years later, the church and burial grounds are regularly used to this very day.

The Lions Club recognized that the cemetery was of significance in the history of Victoria, and stepped in to help the small congregation to maintain the site. They raised funds, cleared the grounds, renovated the graves, established a small memorial garden and placed a significantly large, rare piece of rock from the earth's early crust found nearby and mounted a plaque on it to honour the hard labours and fortitude of those who brought all this into being.

The Salvation Army generously provided tents, seating and shelter for two hundred people who gathered for the celebration. Parish pastor, Rev. Rolf Lungwitz dedicated the plaque, Mr David Sleeman MHR unveiled it, and proceedings were managed by the Lions. Parish Ladies served tasty refreshments. St David's Lutheran Church and cemetery, on the road to Anglesea, is worth a visit by all who are interested in those who gave us the rich heritage we now enjoy.

We thank author June Winter for donating to our Society a copy of her booklet on the history of the Freshwater Creek Church and cemetery, and a list of burials in the cemetery.

ED KOCH

Far Left: Commemorative plaque at Freshwater Creek cemetery. Left: A close-up of the plaque at Freshwater Creek cemetery. Photos courtesy of Benalla & District Family History Group.



Website and internet research

Research queries from around the world continue to arrive via the email address on the Society's website: wendsonline@optusnet.com.au or on our wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au business line.

Schilka Search

Martin Schilka from Berlin in Germany has submitted his Wendish Shilka ancestry back to Hans Schilka (1620–1680) from Werben in Lower Lusatia. Martin wants to make contact with Shilka descendants here in Australia. Our Librarian Janice Blackburn, who has Domaschensch ancestors, also has a female Schilka ancestor!

His email address is martin.schilka@web.de

Three Australian websites with lists of Surnames

BUNNING family

www.genealogy-sh.com/bunning/index.htm contains 22,737 individuals and 7,688 families, representing 1,778 surnames in this database. This well-known Australian surname 'Bunning' has German roots.

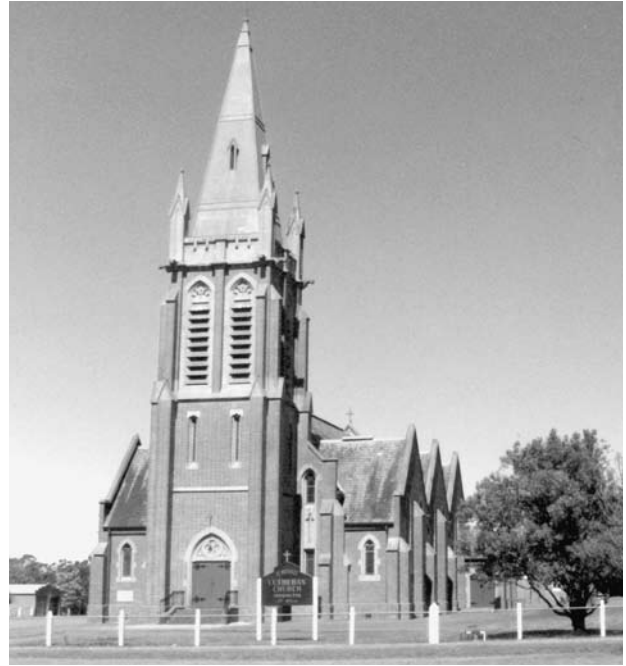
MIRTSCHIN Family

www.myrasplace.net/mirtschin/surnames.htm contains histories which relate to families who first arrived at South Australia, then trekked overland, for the most part, to the region inland of Portland Bay, Victoria. The three files are HUF, MIBUS and MIRTSCHIN and each in turn links to WECKERT, KORBER, BLUCHER and the original SA file. The HUF file in particular is a very large one and all these families spread throughout Australia over time.

SCHMIDT Family Tree

<http://familytrees.genopro.com/146517/Schmidt/default.htm> contains 5014 individuals and 1734 families, mainly people in Victoria.

KEVIN ZWAR



Reunions and Tours

Deutscher Reunion, 27–28 September, 2008

Over 200 Deutschers assembled at Hamilton on 27–28 September to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the arrival in Australia of the three ancestral Deutschers on board the ship *Alfred* on 6 December 1848: (1) Michael Deutscher with his wife Johanna Schwarz (2) Magdalena Maria with her second husband Johann Gottfried Liebe and (3) Peter Andreas Deutscher with his wife Agneta Albert.

In 1986, Ray Deutscher published *Deutscher A Family History, 1848-1986* in which he presented Zschorna as their ancestral village, a history of the Wends in Lusatia, the voyage on the ship *Alfred* and life for the early Deutschers at Rosenthal, Portland, Hamilton and Murtoa. Ray included Deutscher memories of farm and factory life, he noted that Deutscher was originally "Niemz", that Michael Deutscher helped to found St Michael's church at Hochkirch (p.53) and, following often heated disputes with Pastor Clamor Schurmann (pp.56–68), Michael donated land and helped to establish St Luke's Lutheran Church in South Hamilton (p.72).

Descendants could also refer to the book *Emigrants on the Alfred 1848* by Thomas Darragh. Michael Deutscher noted in one of his published letters that some of the settlers missed the large European gardens, the cities and the splendid palaces but in Australia

*This page: St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Tarrington
Facing page: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, South Hamilton;
Deutscher headstone in the South Hamilton Cemetery.*



they had freedom and plenty of food, wheat and fruit (p.57). He also wrote that the name they chose for their Barossa settlement was “Sachsenruh” or “Saxon Rest” but this was later changed to “Rosenthal” (p.58).

The Reunion’s busy Saturday program included registration, display viewing, car tours, pastoral museum visit, welcome address, dinner and a talk by Betty Huf on the Deutscher’s Wendish heritage.

The car tour featured Monivae College, the Hamilton Pastoral Museum, the Church Block and the South Hamilton Cemetery, all built on land originally purchased by Michael Deutscher, the Clyde Engineering works in Lonsdale Street, where the Thompson Street gate and fence of the Hamilton Botanical Gardens were made and St Michael’s church at Hochkirch/Tarrington.

The Church Block in the Pastoral Museum now contains a comprehensive display of horse-drawn vehicles which help to explain their different types and uses and which is most enlightening.

Daryl Deutscher welcomed the descendants at about 3pm and he explained how the idea of holding a 160th anniversary celebration arose. He paid tribute to Ray Deutscher for his magnificent effort in producing and publishing the Deutscher book in 1986 and in helping the Committee to locate descendants all over Australia. Daryl, on behalf of the Committee Rob, Ken, Arthur and Glenda Deutscher, Annette Hubbard and Glenda Campbell then welcomed everybody. Sponsors including Chris Deutscher, Deutscher Mowers and Ideal Fasteners were thanked for their support.

At the Dinner on Saturday evening, the 200 descendants heard between the courses the Deutscher family’s journey from Bautzen to Hamilton presented by Evelyn and Peter Deutscher.

Guest speaker Betty Huf provided an informative illustrated talk on the Deutscher Family and their Wendish Heritage in the Hamilton district. She described the Wends as Slavic people now living in Lusatia, south-east of Berlin while their earlier homeland had been east of the River Vistula. Called “Venedi” by the Romans, they entered Lusatia in about 500 CE. Finally, some Wendish costumes, views of the Deutscher ancestral home at Zschorna (Cornjow) and the Hochkirch church shed useful light on the Deutscher Story.

The Thanksgiving Service at St Michael’s Lutheran Church in Tarrington allowed participants to reflect on the Deutscher’s 160 years in Australia. Colin Huf and Geoff Deutscher led the service and Howard Pohlner dealt with the Deutscher heritage and legacy in his sermon. John Noack played the pipe-organ.

A more detailed Reunion Report is available on the Society’s website: www.wendishheritage.org.au.

JOHN NOACK.

Saegenschnitter Tours

Geoff and Enis Saegenschnitter (Branson Rd, Greenock, SA 5360, Email: saege@ozemail.com.au) have told us of two big events this year – the group tour they led to New Zealand for 23 days in Sept/Oct 2008, and the Wendish heritage tour to Germany with an American group from 4–14 Dec 2008.

The NZ tour went very well and all of the group returned home safely. Their next tour will possibly be in 2010 either to Africa (politics/safety allowing) or alternatively, a round-the-world package.

Geoff and Enis joined an American tour group in Frankfurt for a tour which included many places of Luther interest, Christmas markets and cities, villages, churches, concerts and museums of Wendish interest. It was well organised and informative. Geoff’s grandmother, Saegenschnitter, was of Wendish descent through the Biar family and he visited the Biar ancestral home in Groditz. One of his great-grandmothers on his mother’s side of the family was Zwar, also Wendish. He has been interested in Wendish history in Australia and overseas for over 30 years.

They attended a Saegenschnitter family reunion in Leipzig in their honour. Many attendees had never met each other and Geoff met several for the first time, although he knew about them over the years.

The weather was often very cold (from –2 degrees Celsius to a high of about 5 degrees) and they experienced snow on a number of occasions.

JOHN NOACK



What's new at the library?

1. *Serbska protyka 2008*: The Upper Sorbian book calender for 2008 with text in Upper Sorbian or obersorbisch language. Editor: Alfons Frencl.
2. *Beiträge zur Geschichte der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Gemeinde in Weissenberg und Kotitz*: Contributions to the history of the Lutheran churches in Weissenberg and Kotitz, with text in German. Author: Dr. Wolfgang Beyer. Donated by Robert Wuchatsch.
3. *The history and family tree of Johann George Hohnberg, 1788–1856 and his wife, Anna Maria (née) Irmler, 1791–1875, and their known descendants, 1788–1971*. Authors: Desmond P. Hohnberg, Reginald S. Munchenberg and Donald A. Ross. Donated by Calvin Noack.
4. *Great Grosse blessings (Grosse Segen): 160 years of the Johann Traugott Grosse family in Australia, 1847–2007*: Editor and compiler John Grosse.
5. *The Unesco Courier: a window open on the world: August–September 1978: the Slavs: a culture in close-up*. This double issue of the Unesco Courier is entirely devoted to the history of the cultures of the Slav world, whose study forms a major part of Unesco's programme in the field of culture. Editor-in-chief: Rene Caloz. Donated by Felicity Bradford née Burger.
6. *Australian Dictionary of Dates and Men of the Time*: a CD-ROM.
This is a digital version of a 570 page book origi-

- nally published in 1879. *Men of the time* is a listing of biographies of men of note with connections to Australia. The Australian dictionary of dates has a listing of topics such as "Adelaide Charitable Institutions" and "Coal" and under each topic is a listing of events in date order that have occurred relating to this topic.
7. Translated extracts from a book. *Werben: Geschichte eines Spreewalddorfes*. Author: Siegfried Ramoth. Translated from the German into English by W. D. Verran. The extracts describe the migration of the Wends from Werben in Prussia to Australia in the nineteenth century. Donated by W. D. Verran.
 8. *Koonibba Jubilee booklet: 25 years of mission work among Australian Aborigines, 1901–1926*. Published in 1926, this book is an important historical record of the work of Lutheran missionaries with Australian aborigines on the Koonibba Mission Station in South Australia. The book is well illustrated with interesting photographs showing aspects of the life and activities of the people on the Station.
Our library also has a copy of the Second Jubilee booklet 1901–1951 which is a record of 50 years work among the Australian aborigines by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia, 1901–1951. Donated by Ken Noske.

JANICE BLACKBURN, LIBRARIAN

Items from other Societies' Journals

Westgarthtown Settlement in 1850

The Friends of Westgarthtown Newsletter (Nov 2008) informs us that Westgarthtown, now Thomastown, which was established in 1850, is the oldest and most intact German/Wendish settlement in Victoria. Heritage buildings include the Lutheran Church, cemetery and four farmhouses. Ziebell's farm is Victoria's oldest German immigrant-building, while Wuchatch's home is the oldest house in Melbourne to have been constructed, owned and continuously occupied by the same family. *Open days at Ziebell's farm, 100 Gardenia Road, Thomastown (Melway Map 8 H5) are on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 1.00 to 4.00 pm. Contact 03 9464 5062 to arrange a tour.*

Kartoffelfest

FOLA NEWS (Aug and Nov 2008) reports that

Friends of Lutheran Archives (FoLA) in Adelaide organised a Kartoffelfest. This was a different sort of a meal. Its seven potato based dishes gave a new twist to the term 'oral history', reminding us of the staple role of the 'earth apple' in the diet of our ancestors. The guest speaker presented traditions and trends in German potato culture.

NSW Immigrants

Ances-tree (July 2008) from Burwood in NSW offers an excellent article on German immigrant ships for which no list of passengers exists. These immigrants were either self funded or had private work contracts. The ships involved are the *Diana* (1858), *Amhurst* (1858) and the *Solon* (1859). This article suggests the names of many migrants who may have been aboard the *Solon*, like Eggert, Gossner, Hartmann, Hinkel



and Hoffmann. Obviously, this detailed resource could help researchers to fill in a few missing details about their ancestors.

Demonstration in Berlin for the Wendish heritage

The *Newsletter of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society* (July 2008) from Giddings in Texas, USA, carries a report of a demonstration in Berlin, Germany by Wends in Europe whose aim is to protect their heritage, their Sorbian/Wendish language and their culture from destruction. George Nielsen writes about how the Wendish Pastor John Kilian accepted a call to go over to USA, in order to care for the Wends who migrated on the *Ben Nevis* in 1854 to the bold new frontier in the West of USA. It's a great story.

1,000 Members

The above Texas Wendish Heritage Society recently published a *Blue Booklet* listing the names of more

than 1,000 members of their Society. Do you have any Wendish connections in USA? This little book could provide you with important information about them. We have a copy in our Library in Ivanhoe. You are welcome to come and inspect it on the first Sunday of each month from 1.00–5.30 pm.

Nieder-Weisel Plaque

The *Newsletter* of the International Settlers' Group within the GSV or Genealogical Society of Victoria (Oct 2008) reports that an interest group is proposing to fund a plaque, in order to honour the pioneering spirit of many German families who migrated from Nieder-Weisel (near Frankfurt am Main) Germany to Victoria after 1853.

Interested people can telephone Alan Haintz on (03) 9836 3448 or by email ahaintz@bigpond.net.au or contact Don Hauser on (03) 9654 7610 or email: dlhauser@bigpond.com for information.

ED AND GLAD KOCH.

General News

Anne Holzschuh in Australia



Anne Holzschuh lives at Jaenschwalde in Lower Lusatia, Brandenburg in Germany where her father is a medical doctor. Her education enabled her to become fluent in German, Sorbian/Wendish, French and English.

Anne is spending January and February in Melbourne working as a

Journalist at SBS radio, which is located in Federation Square, where she is helping to compile programs and to conduct interviews.

To date she has visited the Healesville Sanctuary, viewed the exhibition of art works by Les Kossatz titled "The Art of Existence", interviewed the artist who has Wendish ancestry and inspected various Wendish family history books in the Wendish/Sorbian Library at Ivanhoe which explain in their introductions the living conditions experienced by the pioneering Wends from Lusatia in the mid-1800s.

Anne has also been able to meet our Committee at a lunch in early February and to visit the pioneer settlement of Westgarthtown (now Thomastown) in Melbourne. She plans to visit the early farming settlements in Victoria's Western District.

She has made available several copies of the Lower



Left: Les Kossatz and Anne Holzschuh;

Above: Sheep sculpture by Les Kossatz

Lusatian Newspaper "Nowy Casnik", which is mainly in the Sorbian language. The 13 January edition contains an article by Anne in German on "Gran Canaria" or the Canary Islands.

Wendish Artist and Sculptor Les Kossatz and "The Art of Existence"

Les Kossatz is a Melbourne artist and sculptor and a descendant of the Wendish Kossatz family. His exhibition of over 100 of his works titled *The Art of Existence* is on display from 22 Nov 2008 to 8 March



2009 at the Heide Museum of Modern Art in Bulleen. *The Age* Newspaper on Saturday 22 November noted that his “forebears” were “Wendish farmers from East Germany”. These works are explained and illustrated in the 264-page book *Les Kossatz: The Art of Existence*, which is in our Library at Ivanhoe.

At a German Fest held at Tarrington/Hochkirch in the early 1990s, some of his “Am Zoo Berlin” back-packs were featured in the Tarrington Lutheran Hall. These back-packs were loaded with luxuries from West Berlin, which, in the artist’s mind, were being transported back to Eastern Berlin after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Les grew up at St Andrews north of Melbourne and has been a lecturer at the RMIT School of Art and at the Monash Uni School of Art. Back in the 1960s, Les experimented with different sorts of materials and techniques and behind his work was a deep “interest in the tensions between the natural world and the conventions of society”.

During the 1970s, this tension developed into a deep concern over the “human desecration of the Australian landscape”.

By 1972, he was sculpting sheep from cast components and wool. His interest in sheep was inspired by his experience of nursing an injured sheep at his farm at St Andrews.

Les discussed his art with Guest Curator Zara Stanhope at Heide on 11 January and on 1 March, Les will show visitors through his studio in Carlton, where he has worked for the past 30 years in the old “Golden Glory Clothing Company” building.

A more detailed review and analysis is available on our website: www.wendishheritage.org.au

Berlin Wall’s 20th Anniversary in 2009.

The Age (Saturday 17 January 2009 p.18) reported that a three-day festival from 7 November 2009 at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin will mark the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Berlin Wall. The Brandenburg Gate, which was near the wall in East Berlin, was the symbol of both Germany’s postwar division and then of its unification. An artistic re-enactment of the fall of the wall which led to the end of the communist German Democratic Republic will be performed.

JOHN NOACK

Directory

Aims: The Wendish Heritage Society Australia Inc., researches and promotes the Wendish/Sorbian and Germanic heritage and family history in Australia.

Postal Address: PO Box 307, Heidelberg, Vic, 3084. (Please note the new box number)

Meeting Room and Research Centre: Ivanhoe Lutheran Church Meeting Room, 27 Livingstone Street, Ivanhoe, Victoria. (Melways 31 E7)

Hours: Open the first Sunday of each month from February – November, 1pm-5.30pm for research, working bees and socialising.

Our Society Logo: The logo, an Australian gum leaf and a Lusatian linden leaf, represent the connection between the Wendish descendants in Australia and the Sorbs in Lusatia.

Membership & Newsletter Subscription: \$20 for one calendar year due at the start of each year. The form is included in our August Newsletter for the following year. Additional donations can also be made for the expanding work of the Society and we thank most sincerely those of you who have made such generous donations.

Publicity: We welcome any publicity which you can give about our Society and its planned events.

Newsletter Design: Robyn Zwar Design www.robynzwardesign.com

Office bearers:

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