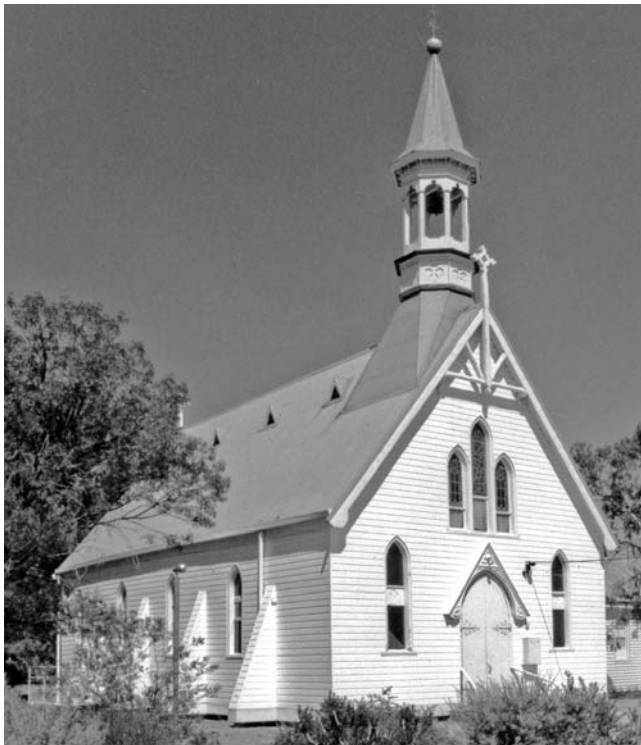
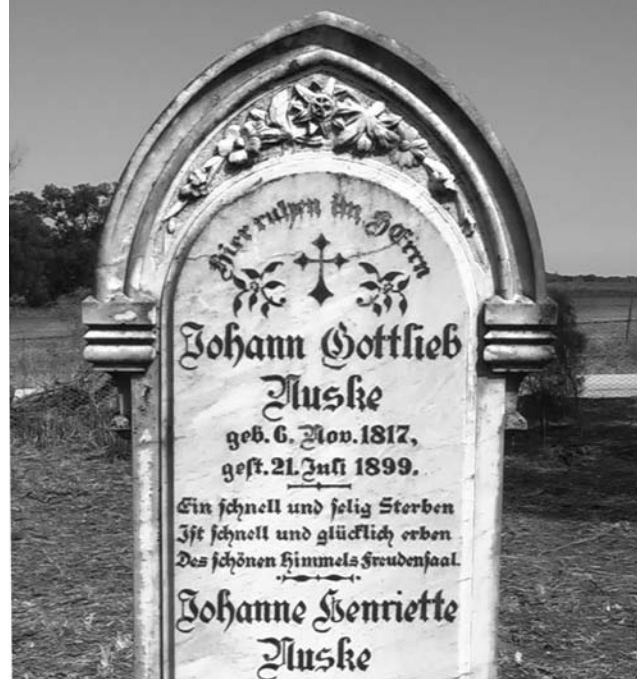




wendish news

WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

NUMBER 46 MARCH 2011



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Clockwise, from top: Lutheran Church, Warracknabeal; Nuske headstone at Katyip; Cemetery near Warracknabeal; Minyip town sign; Lutheran Church, Minyip.



Calendar of upcoming events

Join our tour to Warracknabeal and Minyip, 12–14 March 2011

Following our very successful tour to Dimboola last year, Betty Huf is organizing another wonderful Wendish tour to Victoria's Wimmera region, this time to the Warracknabeal and Minyip districts. The itinerary includes the local historical societies, cemeteries, an historical walking tour, Wheatlands Agricultural Museum, Areegra, Bangerang, Sheep Hills, Kirchheim and a slideshow presentation on the history of Minyip. Our Saturday evening meal will be at "The Rusty Nail" restaurant and Sunday lunch will be at the Minyip Hotel in the "Coopers Crossing" room.

For those who arrive on Saturday morning, a visit to Wheatlands Warehouse will be of interest. It is open from 9.30am–12 noon at 10–14 Scott Street, Warracknabeal. Please make your own arrangements for lunch. We will then begin the tour at 1.00 pm at the Historical Society Museum, 81 Scott Street. For further details about this tour contact Clay Kruger or visit our website www.wendishheritage.org.au
Please book by Saturday 5th March with Clay Kruger
Tel (03) 8215 9212; email claykruc@optusnet.com.au

"The German-Speaking Community of Melbourne 1855–1865", Sunday 3 April 2011

Volkhard Wehner will be our guest speaker at our "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon" on Sunday 3 April 2011. He will speak about his newly-published book *Heimat Melbourne: A History of the German-speaking Community of Melbourne, 1855–1865*. All welcome!

The "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon" will begin with a community lunch at 12.30 pm at Ivanhoe Lutheran Church, 27 Livingstone St, Ivanhoe. Please bring along some finger food for lunch. A brief AGM will be held, from 1.30–2.00 pm, followed by the guest speaker. Afternoon tea will be provided. Members and friends are encouraged to attend.

Volkhard Wehner is an historian and researcher with a special interest in the early German immigrants to Victoria. For further information see www.volkhardwehner.com

Hartwich Reunion, 1–2 October 2011

A Hartwich Reunion will be held in Hamilton, Victoria on 1–2 October 2011 for the descendants of AUGUST and ANNA HARTWICH (nee Hundrack). The Hartwich family history book will be launched at this event.

Contact: Lynne Price (03) 5572 5089 or June Winter (03) 5266 1383. June Winter, 595 Reservoir Rd, Mt Moriac, Vic. 3240 would like to hear from anyone who can help with family details of descendants of Christina Finger; Paulina Schulz; Esther Thiele and Maria Blobel or the Aumann family.

25th Anniversary Lunch, Saturday 15 October 2011

This year is a special year for us as it marks the 25th Anniversary of our Society. You are invited to our 25th Anniversary Lunch at 12.30 pm at German Club Tivoli, 291 Dandenong Rd, Windsor, Vic. on Saturday 15th October. A feature will be Clay Kruger's slideshow presentation on the history of our Society, including photos of our events over the years and photos of some of our Wendish ancestors.

We gratefully acknowledge the dedication of our President and founder, John Noack, who established our Society in 1986. John has devoted a vast amount of time and energy in researching and promoting the Wendish heritage and family history cause, and we owe our Society's success today to his groundwork. Please book by Saturday 1st Oct. with Clay Kruger
Tel (03) 8215 9212; email claykruc@optusnet.com.au

Retracing the 1852 Wagon Trek from Rosenthal to Portland, 27–30 April 2012

In 2012 it will be 160 years since a group of pioneer families travelled overland from the Barossa Valley, in South Australia to Portland, and eventually Hamilton, in Victoria. The families were mostly Wends led by Michael Deutscher. Family names included ALBERT, BURGER, DEUTSCHER, HUNDRACK, PETSCHER and RENTSCH. They left Rosenthal (now Rosedale) on 25 April 1852 in covered wagons pulled by bullocks or horses. The journey took about four weeks.

Plans are underway to re-enact the trek. The plan is to reduce the journey to four days and to travel by car rather than bullock wagon! It is anticipated that the journey will begin in Rosedale on Friday 27 April and end in Hamilton on Monday 30 April 2012. These plans are subject to change, depending on the number of people interested in taking part.

If you are interested, please contact Helen Petschel (PO Box 312, Red Cliffs, Vic. 3496; Tel (03) 5024 1229) or Chris Cook (59 Fitzroy Ave, Red Cliffs, Vic. 3496; email: chris@redcliffs.net).



Past events

Westgarthtown's 160th Anniversary, Sunday 21 November 2010

The Wendish Heritage Society Australia joined with the Friends of Westgarthtown, City of Whittlesea and Thomastown Lutheran Church to celebrate the 160th Anniversary of German and Wendish settlement at Westgarthtown.

The celebrations began with Sylvia Schultz, President of the Friends of Westgarthtown and Cr John Fry, City of Whittlesea, welcoming about 150 descendants, residents and friends to Ziebell's Farmhouse. Both spoke of the debt of gratitude owed to the enterprising German and Wendish settlers who established Westgarthtown from 1850 and also their hardworking descendants and others who have worked tirelessly in recent years to ensure the preservation of Ziebell's Farmhouse and the Thomastown Lutheran church and cemetery.

Geoff Borrack, Vice-President of the Friends of Westgarthtown, then launched the long awaited Westgarthtown Precinct Farm Buildings interpretive panels, located in Ziebell's Farmhouse. This exhibit, funded by the City of Whittlesea, was designed by Geoff and Leon Borrack and outlines the architectural features and agricultural uses of Westgarthtown's farmhouses and outbuildings, such as stables, barns and milking sheds.

John Hawker, Heritage Victoria's Horticultural Historian, then launched the Ziebell Farmhouse Garden Guide. This comprehensive guide, published by the Friends of Westgarthtown, includes a large garden plan, list of permanent plants and history of the garden. It was prepared by Sylvia Schultz and Ziebell's Farmhouse Garden Coordinator Gillian Borrack, with support by Heritagecare volunteer horticulturalist Prue McColl and design by Leon Borrack.



Top: Ziebell's Farmhouse

Bottom: Ziebell's Farmhouse garden

The garden has been restored since 1995 under the guidance of Sylvia Schultz, a fifth generation Ziebell descendant and former resident of Ziebell's Farmhouse.

The final speaker was Robert Wuchatsch, who spoke of continuing research into Westgarthtown's history and the Friends of Westgarthtown's plans to include a reconstructed list of Westgarthtown Cemetery burials on its website www.westgarthtown.org.au early in 2011.

Walking tours of Westgarthtown were then conducted by Tatiana Joukoff, the Friends of Westgarthtown's tour guide and historian Robert Wuchatsch. As part of the tours, Irma Hatty welcomed visitors to the Thomastown Lutheran Church and spoke about its history.

Our President John Noack and Secretary Glenys Wollermann represented the Wendish Heritage Society Australia, with a display table in Ziebell's Farmhouse. Some of the visitors learnt for the first time about the existence of the Wends. Volkhard Wehner, author of *Heimat Melbourne: A History of the German Speaking Community of Melbourne 1855 to 1865*, also sold and signed copies of his recently published book.

ROBERT WUCHATSCH, RESEARCHER



Research and Computer news

Wendsonline Research

Requests for information arrive from around the world via our research email address wendsonline@optusnet.com.au

The ultimate result for Wendsonline came recently with a request from Sven Wadsteen in Hamburg seeking information on his ancestor's journey from Hamburg to Australia in the 1800's. I was able to find the information for him, and he has offered to go to the State Archives of Hamburg to assist with future research.

Family History Books

Recently we had enquiries from people wishing to purchase the following books. If you have a copy that you would be willing to sell, please contact me.

- The Sallmann family history: *From Wendish Ancestors to Fifth Generation Australian* by Tony Sallmann.
- *The Jaeschke connections* by Dulcie Love.
- *So this was Katyil 1876–1987* by Roy Schuller.

Latest Family History Enquiries

If you wish to contact any of the folk who have requested information on the surnames below, please email me at wendsonline@optusnet.com.au

ALTUS, BECKER, BLAS, BRONTWIOCK / BRANDWIAK, ENGELKE, EINSEIDEL, FIEGERT, FIETZ, GASSAN, GLOVER, GULBIN, HOFFMANN, JEITZ, KAEHNE, KRUGER / KREUGER / KRUEGER, KSCHENKA, KSCIWAN, KUHL, KURTZMANN, NESBITT, OLSSON, PILAK, PREUSKER, REICHENBACH, RIEDLE, ROESLER, SCHNEIDER, SCEETZ, SCHAETZ, SCHUTZE, STRELEIN, TASSO, TILKA, TSCHENTSCHER, WADSTEIN / WADSTEEN, WANDA, ZINNECKER, ZSCHORN.

KEVIN ZWAR, RESEARCHER

Wendish Biographical Project

In 2010 the Wendish Heritage Society Australia commenced its online Wendish Biographical Project to document the lives of Australia's Wendish immigrant settlers. Biographies can be found on our website www.wendishheritage.org.au under Publications/Biographical Project. Included are biographies of individuals from these families: GRAFF, HEMPEL, KAISER, PANNACH, RICHTER, ROSEL, SCHUSTER, SEILER, STEPHAN, WUCHATSCH, ZIESCHE, ZIMMER and ZWAR.

These thirteen biographies originally appeared in Tom Darragh and Rob Wuchatsch's book *From Hamburg to Hobsons Bay: German Emigration to Port Phillip (Australia Felix) 1848–51*, published in 1999. Information used to prepare these biographies was obtained from various sources, including shipping and naturalisation records; birth, death and marriage certificates; land records; newspapers; and local and family histories. Source notes have not been included, however, anyone wishing to obtain further details should contact Rob Wuchatsch at wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au

As the Wendish Heritage Society Australia wishes to include as many Australian Wendish immigrant settlers as possible in our online Wendish Biographical Project, members and other interested people are invited to contribute draft biographies of Wends not yet included. Draft biographies should be around 500 words and follow the same format. However, in the interests of consistency, the Wendish Heritage Society Australia reserves the right to edit/include biographies as it sees fit.

Draft biographies should be forwarded to Rob Wuchatsch, the Wendish Biographical Project coordinator, at the above email address.

ROBERT WUCHATSCH, RESEARCHER

Books for Sale

Shores of Hope by Trudla Malinkowa is the newly-published English translation of the book *Ufer der Hoffnung* about Wendish/Sorbian migration to Australia and to Texas. It won the 2010 Concordia Historical Institute's Award.

Please contact us as soon as possible if you wish to purchase a copy as we have only a few copies left for sale, for \$30 plus \$10 postage, within Australia.

For book purchases, please post cheque payable to "Wendish Heritage Soc. Aust. Inc." to Treasurer Clay Kruger (see contact details in the Directory on page 8).



Tour of Germany, Austria & Poland, August–September 2010

Moira Nagorcka, the writer of this report, travelled on a three-week personalized tour organized by David Zweck of Zweck Tours. Some of the highlights of the tour were the visits to the villages of our Wendish and German ancestors and the Passion Play at Oberammergau, which is performed only every ten years.

On arrival at Frankfurt airport in Germany on 25 August 2010, I met with fellow travellers from various locations, including Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Melbourne. Others had already started their own travels and met with the tour group at our first stop at Rudesheim, a famous wine town on the Rhine. After settling into the hotel we enjoyed a relaxing river cruise after our long journey. There were 26 people on the tour, travelling in three mini-vans, which enabled a daily mixing of passengers. On a walking tour around Rudesheim, I immediately noted centuries of history, dating back to Roman times. A short distance away is the “Niederwalddenkmal”, a large elaborate monument built in 1873 to commemorate the foundation of the German Empire.

Ulm

On the way to Ulm, our next destination, we visited the Sinsheim Auto & Technik Museum. Displays included a Concorde, cars of the Hitler regime, period costumes and early vehicles. On arrival in Ulm we walked to the “Altstadt” (old city) to see a well preserved “Rat Haus” (Town Hall) with colourful scenes painted on its walls and an ornate gold leaf clock. The Cathedral, built in 1377, has one of the highest spires in Europe. Nearby and almost unnoticed is Valentine’s Chapel, a small brick building built in 1475.

Oberammergau

Our journey from Ulm to see the Passion Play at Oberammergau in Bavaria was undertaken in steady rain which cleared just prior to the performance. The Play lasts for over five hours and commenced mid-afternoon, with a meal break half-way through, and finished in darkness. This was most effective during the telling of the Crucifixion and Resurrection. The Passion Play has been performed every 10 years since 1634. A highlight was the “Living Images” (actors in still-life scenes taken from the Old Testament), which preceded and complemented the story unfolding on stage. A total of 110 choir members and as many orchestra members combine with a large cast during the 102 performances held during the year.



Top: Town Hall with Cathedral at rear, Ulm

Bottom: Valentine's Chapel, Ulm

It is a massive undertaking much appreciated by the hundreds of audience members. Our accommodation was at nearby Ettal. We visited the church there and admired its ornate interior. Some of the tour group attended a service the next day at a Lutheran church, The Church of the Holy Cross, in Oberammergau.

Innsbruck

On the way to Innsbruck we visited the amazingly ornate palace, “Schloss Linderhof” (Linderhof Palace), of King Ludwig of Bavaria. Known as the “mad King” he sadly lived alone for the last 10 years



of his life with 14 servants, surrounded by ornate baroque furniture, 22 carat gold plating and Meissen framed mirrors. Further on we visited “Wies Kirche” (Church in the Meadow), a large church almost isolated by surrounding farmland. Passing through the Alps, with postcard scenery all the way, we arrived at our hotel in Innsbruck.

Salzburg

In Salzburg our first visit was to the Mirabell Gardens where scenes from ‘The Sound of Music’ were filmed. We then visited the Mozart Museum which houses the original piano (built by Anton Walter in about 1780) used by Mozart. There were interesting arcades and shops to visit in the old part of the city. We visited Hitler’s ‘Eagle’s Nest’ retreat at Berchtesgaden, Bavaria, 6,000 feet above the surrounding countryside. It was cold enough for a light dusting of snow. A highlight for me was attending a concert in the Marble Hall of the Mirabell Palace.

Röthenburg

Travelling through Bavaria we arrived at Röthenburg, a fascinating walled medieval town untouched by war. Cobbled streets and small specialty shops, including Christmas shops, abound. In the town square we met with the nightwatchman (appropriately garbed) and accompanied him on his rounds.

Eisenach

Eisenach was just inside what was known as “The Iron Curtain”. A guided tour of Wartburg Castle revealed much. Built in the 11th century, it was constructed of 40,000 tonnes of sandstone, and is three storeys high. Walls are six feet thick in the cellar and four feet thick in the other rooms. The “sleeping room” for ladies has four million pieces of coloured stones and glass. The chapel was built in 1320. In 1521 Martin Luther lived at Wartburg Castle under the Protection of King Frederick the Wise of Saxony,



Harpsichord with double keyboard, Bach Museum, Eisenach.

and translated the New Testament from Greek to German in only 10 weeks. Luther created the current German language from 18 dialects. There is a Festival Hall and a Performance Hall, the ceiling of which Franz Liszt altered to improve the acoustics. Walking through narrow passages and stooping to pass through doorways, we passed a servant’s room and small study to locate the room where Luther worked. In addition to a small table and chair in the room I noted a footstool that was made from a single vertebra of a whale.

J.S. Bach was born in 1685 and lived the first 10 years of his life in Eisenach. On visiting the extensive Bach Museum we were treated to a short demonstration of period instruments, including a chamber organ, a spinnet, a harpsichord with double keyboard, and a clavichord which Bach liked to play in the evening.

Moira Nagorcka’s tour report will be continued in the next Wendish News. This report, with photos, is also available on our website under Publications / Articles.

What’s new at the library?

The following is a selection of the library acquisitions since the last Newsletter.

1. *The Willing family history: Devon to South Australia, 1869 to 2002*, by Lorraine Willoughby.
2. *Victorian historical journal, vol. 72, nos. 1 & 2, Sept. 2001: a special issue celebrating 150 years of goldmining in Victoria*, edited by Richard Morton.
3. *History at first hand: abbeys, churches and ecclesiastical structure in the Euroregion Neisse*. Euroregion Neisse includes Upper Lusatia, Lower Lusatia, northern Bohemia and Jelenia Góra in western Poland.
4. *Friedrich Duldig, b.22-3-1852, d.7-6-1942, married on 17-2-1876 Louise Schuppan, b.18-11-1857, d.4-6-1923*, compiled by Max Duldig. This publication is an update of a section of the Schuppan book published in 1974 by Denis Gum. The section deals with the seventh child, Louise, who married Friedrich Duldig. Louise and Friedrich had fourteen children, all born at World’s End in South Australia.
5. *Finding forebears in Poland: a handbook for family historians on research and travel in the former Prussian*



provinces of Pomerania, Posen, Brandenburg and Silesia, researched and collated by Janette Lange with notes by Lois Zweck.

6. The following DVDs were kindly donated to our Society by Curtis Becker of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. Lutheran Archives in Adelaide also has copies of these DVDs.
- *Texas Wendish Heritage Society Museum dedication, Sept. 1988, Serbin, Texas.*
 - *Wendish Fest, Sept. 1996, Serbin, Texas.*
 - *Wendish Fest, Sept. 2000, Serbin, Texas.*
 - *Wendish Fest, Salute to America, post 9/11/2001.*

- *Wendish Fest, 2003. Preaching in German. Rev. H. Schroeter and Rev. P. Hartsfield.*
- *Wendish Fest, 2004, Serbin, Texas.*
- *Texas Lutheran Laymen's League Convention, 2004, Serbin, Texas.*
- *Wendish Fest, 2005, and the return of Pastor Kilian to Serbin, Texas.*
- *Cross Lutheran Church, New Braunfels, Texas, 13 June 2010.*
- *Lower Lusatia and the Spreewald region.*

JANICE BLACKBURN, LIBRARIAN

Items from other Societies' journals

1855 Ship *Peru*

Ances-tree, Journal of the Burwood & District FHG (July 2010) features Jenny Paterson's 17th instalment of *German Immigrant Ships to Eastern Australia*. This issue focuses on the *Peru*, which sailed from Hamburg to Sydney in 1855, with 310 assisted German immigrants (85 families).

Mariners Records

Golden Links, Newsletter of the Bendigo Regional Genealogical Society (July/Aug/Sept. 2010) provides the website for mariners and ships in Australian waters. This is worth searching to see if your ancestor was a passenger on Australian coastal ships in 1855-1922: <http://mariners.records.nsw.gov.au>

Dimboola's Obituaries from the Past

The Dimboola & District Historical Society Inc. Newsletter (August 2010) includes the Obituaries of Johann Frederick Carl UNGER (1880-1948) and Esther UNGER (1883-1952).

Texas Wends

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society Newsletter (July 2010) features an article by Dr George Nielsen on "Wends who broke the pattern": Johann August Urban (1849-1885) and Mato Kosyk (1853-1940). In the October 2010 Newsletter, Dr Nielsen presents "Becoming men: how two Wends did it in 1882." This is an account of a journey on horseback by Johann Herman Dube, aged 17 and Johann Kieschnick, aged 18, covering over 260 miles of regional Texas. There is also reference to Wendish migration to Texas prior to the *Ben Nevis* of 1854. There was the Mitschke family from Kaschel, Saxony, who sailed the *Oceanus* from Bremen in 1851, arriving in Galveston in 1852. Also on this ship was fellow Wend, George Sonsel.

Wendish homeland visits

The Friends of Peters Hill Church Newsletter (Sept. 2010) features an article by Bernice Koch describing her travels to her Wendish homeland in June 2010.

The Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia Newsletter (Aug. 2010) features another Wendish pilgrimage. Keith and Jan Lokan tell of their visit to Lower Lusatia to research family history.

Bus Trip to Murray River Flats

The August 2010 *Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia Newsletter* gives a report of their bus tour to Summerfield, Mannum, Nildottie and Swan Reach. A highlight was John Noack regaling fellow travellers with memories of his salad days at Swan Reach.

Newspaper Archives

Australian Family Tree Connections (Sept. 2010) provides the New Zealand Papers Past website: <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>

This edition also provides the website for Australian digitized newspapers 1803-1954:

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>

Historic Photographs

Australian Family Tree Connections (Sept. 2010) informs us that this website allows you to upload your historic photographs and pin them to a map location where they can be compared with the same view today: www.historypin.com/

Google Books

A useful site if you are looking for a particular book. Try entering "Wends" in the search area and you may be surprised: <http://books.google.com.au/>

PAUL KRUGER, JOURNAL REVIEWER



General News

Nieder–Weisel Plaque Dedication

The bronze memorial plaque commemorating over 300 pioneers who migrated from the village of Nieder–Weisel to the Victorian goldfields was successfully unveiled and dedicated in the garden of the 12th century church in Nieder–Weisel on 3 October 2010. A DVD of this event is available for \$12.00 including postage. The DVD runs for approximately 40 minutes and includes edited speeches in English.

For DVD purchases, please post cheque payable to “Don Hauser”, 55 Agnes St, Jolimont, Vic. 3002. Tel (03) 9654 7610 or email: dlhauser@bigpond.com
Funds are now being raised for a duplicate

memorial in the Ballarat goldfields area. Visit www.niederweiselmemoial.com

Do we have your correct email address?

If you have given us your email address but have not received any emails from our Society, please send an email to wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au so that we can check that your address is recorded correctly.

Please note that you will continue to receive our Newsletters via post; the emails are brief updates sent in between Newsletters.

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.

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, 1.30pm–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: \$25 for single membership and \$30 for joint membership 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.

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www.robynzwardesign.com

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This edition was edited by Glenys Wollermann.

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The Wendish Heritage Society Australia Inc. does not accept responsibility for the opinions expressed or the accuracy of the statements made by authors of articles published in this newsletter.