



wendish news

WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

NUMBER 48 MARCH 2012



25th Anniversary Celebration (see report p. 3). Clockwise from top: John Noack and Bev Gotzky (in Wendish costume) cutting the cake; 25th Anniversary cake; Geoff Matuschka; guests at the luncheon; Beryl Nagorcka, Jenny Gellatly and Moira Nagorcka.

Calendar of upcoming events

Labour Day Weekend Tour to Tabor, 10–12 March 2012

Our tour destination will be the Tabor area in Victoria's Western District. All are welcome. We will take part in the celebration of the Centenary of the present Tabor church building. The itinerary, organised by Betty Huf, includes the Wetland Gardens, the Historical Society and Volcanoes Discovery Centre at Peshurst; Mount Rouse; Lutheran sites in the Gnadenenthal, Tarrington and Hamilton areas; the site of Herrnhut (Krumnow's settlement) Australia's first utopian commune and the Ansett Transport Museum.

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Calendar of upcoming events ...continued from page 1

For those who arrive in Peshurst on Saturday morning, Mount Rouse Historical Society Research Centre will be open at 11.00 am. It is located in the Court House (beside the Police Station) in Martin St, Peshurst. Please BYO lunch or purchase it in Peshurst. Registrations will be taken at the Court House either before or after lunch. A fee of \$20 per person will cover all entry fees and the cost of the bus tour for two days. At 2.00 pm the tour will leave from the Court House.

Please book by Monday 27 February with Betty Huf (03) 5572 4959; email bettyhuf@westvic.com.au

Full details of the itinerary are available on our website www.wendishheritage.org.au under "News and Events".

Pleasant Sunday Afternoon, Sunday 1 April 2012

We will begin with a delicious community lunch at 12.30 pm followed by a brief AGM before hearing our guest speakers at 2.00 pm. Hans and Natasha Schroeder will speak about German Lutherans in Russia. Lutherans have lived in Russia for more than 400 years. The venue is the Ivanhoe Lutheran Church, 27 Livingstone St, Ivanhoe, Vic. (Melways 31 E7). Please bring along some finger food for lunch. All are welcome.

Further information about the talk is available on our website under "News and Events".

Retracing the 1852 Wagon Trek from Rosenthal to Portland,

Thurs 3 May – Sun 6 May 2012*

* Please note that the date has been changed to avoid clashing with the Southern Grampians Sacred Music Festival on 26–29 April.

In 2012 it will be 160 years since a group of pioneer families travelled overland from the Barossa Valley in S.A. to Portland, and eventually Hamilton, in Victoria. Families included ALBERT, BURGER, DEUTSCHER, HUF, HUNDRACK, MIRTSCHIN, PETSCHEL and RENTSCH. The trek will be re-enacted by car, beginning in Rosedale, S.A. on 3 May and ending in Portland, Vic. on 6 May.

See <http://wendishwagontrek.com.au>

Contacts: Helen Petschel (03) 5024 1229; Chris Cook (03) 5024 1987; email chris@redcliffs.net or Betty Huf (03) 5572 4959; email bettyhuf@westvic.com.au

Reunion of Descendants of Solway Passengers, 13–16 October, 2012

A reunion is planned for the descendants of German pioneers who arrived at Kangaroo Island, South Australia aboard the *Solway*, 175 years ago in October 1837. The Reunion will be held on 13–16 October, 2012 at Kingscote, Kangaroo Island, S.A.

Contact: Jan Heppner (08) 8541 2820;
email janhch@bigpond.com

Past events

Hartwich / Hartwig Family Reunion and Book Launch, 1–2 October 2011

About 400 descendants of Michael and Eva Rosina Hartwich attended the Family Reunion and Book Launch at Hamilton on 1–2 October 2011. On the Saturday evening, 240 people enjoyed the dinner and concert, which featured talented family members and the Tabor Men's Choir.

The family history book, *Hartwich/Hartwig 1846–2011 – Michael and Eva Rosina*, was launched on the Saturday afternoon. There are 8, 335 names in the book, with 5, 701 being direct descendants. These include 72 sets of twins and 2 sets of triplets. The 636 page book which features many photographs was compiled by Ian Hartwich. We extend our congratulations and appreciation to Ian for a job

well done. A service of thanksgiving was held on Sunday 2 October at St Michael's Lutheran Church, Tarrington, conducted by Pastors Colin and Peter Hartwich with Ron Hartwich as organist.

After lunch in the church hall we gathered at the South Hamilton Cemetery where Betty Huf pointed out the resting places of family members. This was followed by a pilgrimage to "Wattle Park", the original Hartwich family property at North Hamilton.

We thank June Winter for this report. For further information and for copies of the family history book, contact: Lynne Price Tel. (03) 5572 5089 or June Winter, 595 Reservoir Rd, Mt Moriac, Vic. 3240; Tel. (03) 5266 1383. The full report of the Reunion, with photos, is under "News and Events" on our website.



25th Anniversary Celebration, Saturday 15 October 2011

2011 was a special year for us as it marked the 25th Anniversary of the Wendish Heritage Society Australia. Our Anniversary Celebration at the German Club Tivoli was a resounding success. The highlight was 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. Speakers included John Noack, Robert Wuchatsch, Kevin Zwar and Bev Gotzky. We gratefully acknowledged 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. Below is John's report on the Anniversary celebration. EDITOR

A Luncheon was held on Saturday 15 October 2011 at the German Club Tivoli, Windsor, to celebrate our Society's 25th Anniversary. The Society, established in 1986, has helped to maintain contacts with many descendants of the Wendish pioneers who arrived in Australia in the 1800s. The names of many of these immigrants were listed on souvenir place-mats, made by Clay Kruger.

The meal provided diners with appetizers, followed by a choice of chicken breast or smoked pork loin with vegetables for the main course and a choice of apple crumble or Black Forest cake for dessert.

During the afternoon, Clay Kruger presented a colourful and informative slideshow on our Society's 25 year history. Luncheon participants appreciated this trip down Wendish memory lane and the photos which depicted them at past events.

Some participants shared some of their memories, including Robert Wuchatsch, Bev Gotzky and Kevin Zwar. Kevin relayed his enjoyment in relation to his involvement with the Wendsonline website and he commended the work of Robyn Zwar and Joel Blackburn on the development and continuing updating of our popular website.

John Noack's talk on our Society's 25 Years from 1986 to 2011 explained (1) the Society's origins, (2) its facilities, (3) some of its many activities and (4) some thoughts about the Society's future.

In relation to origins, its early name was the "Sorbian Committee in Victoria". However, since the more commonly used name before the Second World War was "Wends", which grew out of the Roman name "Venedi", our Society therefore changed its name to the "Wendish Heritage Society Australia". Its aims included the promotion of both Wendish and Germanic history and culture and the provision of resources for family history researchers.

These resources were first housed in Eaglemont, then in 1994 in the Lutheran Church Office at Doncaster and finally in 2002 in the Meeting Room of the Lutheran Church at 27 Livingstone Street in Ivanhoe. This continues to be an excellent venue for the Society's growing library resources, activities and meetings.

The library books and files are organised into 25 sections or categories, including cemetery and church records, family history books, local histories, maps, photographs and shipping records.

Our twice-yearly Newsletter, which has been edited by John Noack and Glenys Wollermann, has kept members informed about our various events, research activities, tours, reunions, library news and interesting news items from other Societies. Our website is clearly popular for gaining information about the Wends, including family history.

Our many activities have included Pleasant Sunday Afternoons in April, which include our Annual General Meeting and a guest speaker and our annual Dinners, which have allowed us to celebrate the anniversary of the arrival of various ships to Australia and to focus on the contributions of various families to life in Australia.

Research Sundays on the first Sunday of the month from February to November make provision for library research and our annual Labour Day Weekend Tours have taken participants to many interesting areas of early settlement in Victoria and New South Wales.

The past 25 years of our Society's existence has benefitted greatly from the interest, the time, the effort and the continuing support of both our energetic Executive Committee and of our very loyal members whose financial help has contributed to our Society's growth, value and usefulness for family historians and other researchers.

Looking ahead, our Society is certainly not unique in such membership issues as the increasing number of well-earned retirements but, regrettably, a corresponding lack of involvement from the younger generation of Wendish descendants. Whatever the future may hold, hopefully there will always be a home somewhere for the very valuable and useful collection of resources.

A more detailed report of this 25th Anniversary Celebration, with photos, is available on our Society's website under "Past Events". Robert Wuchatsch's article on the 25 year history of the Society is available on our website under "Publications / Articles".

JOHN NOACK, PRESIDENT

"Past events" continues on page 6 >



Research

Requests for information arrive from around the world via our research email address wendsonline@optusnet.com.au. It is always a pleasure when people send us the results of their research for our records.

The Wends of Cooktown by Gaye Gibbs

Who would have expected to read about a community of Wends and Germans at Cooktown in North Queensland in the 1800's? I knew about the Hope Vale Lutheran Mission near Cooktown, but was surprised when Gaye Gibbs sent me the history she was compiling on the community of Wends and Germans in the Cooktown District. Her work is a good example of the local history one can find with the help of "Trove" Australian newspapers archive and Wendsonline. Family names include ROSELER, MAROSKE, SCHIPKE, SAPIATZER, HOLZAPFEL, HEIN and SCHIPKE.

The Wends of Cooktown is on our website under "Publications / Articles".

One of our members is interested in contacting anyone researching the BUHR and LANGE families. Please contact me at wendsonline@optusnet.com.au if you would like to respond.

Early Days in the lives of Wends and Germans in Melbourne

The website www.westgarthtown.org.au gives information on publications that will help you get a great grasp of early life for your ancestors in Melbourne. One might find the books in a local library, or one can still purchase the books listed:

A German Church in the Garden of God 1853–2003, edited by Herbert Mees, is the definitive history of the German Lutheran Trinity Church, East Melbourne. This 700 page book provides a wealth of material, including photos, lithographs, maps and other documents on the life of German-speaking immigrants. Price: \$75 plus \$10 postage.

From *Hamburg to Hobsons Bay: German Emigration to Port Phillip 1848–1851*, by Thomas A Darragh and Robert N. Wuchatsch, covers the beginnings of German emigration to Victoria. It includes the names of the passengers who arrived aboard the *Godeffroy*, *Wappaus*, *Dockenhuden* and *Emmy* in 1849 and the *Pribislaw* and *Alfred* in 1850. Information is given on the lives of Germans and on German settlements in Melbourne, including translations of letters written by German and Wendish settlers describing life in their new homeland. Price: \$45 plus \$10 postage.

For purchases of the books listed above, contact Friends of Westgarthtown Inc., 62/321 Chapel St, Prahran, Vic. 3181. Tel. (03) 9464 5062.

Heimat Melbourne: a history of the German-speaking community of Melbourne 1855 to 1865 by Volkhard Wehner gives detailed information on community and business life in the German communities in Melbourne. Price: \$35 plus postage.

For purchases, contact Volkhard Wehner, P.O. Box 1002, Hartwell, Vic. 3124. Email info@volkhardwehner.com

"Trove" Australian Newspapers Archive

The National Library of Australia provides "Trove" at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/> where you can access old newspaper articles. When the site opens, enter 'Your Surname' and click. Then Click at the top on 'digitised newspapers and more'.

A tip: Change the 'sort by relevance' heading in the little box to 'sort by Date (earliest first)'. You will find some interesting newspaper reports – and maybe some surprising ones too!

KEVIN P.ZWAR, RESEARCHER

You can help to build our collection!

The Wendish Heritage Society Australia is preparing brief biographies of Wends who emigrated to and settled in Australia during the 19th Century. Biographies can be found on our website www.wendishheritage.org.au under "Publications / Biographical Project". Those wishing to provide draft biographies for possible inclusion on the website are invited to forward biographies of up to 500 words to Rob Wuchatsch at robert.wuchatsch@gmail.com. However, the Wendish Heritage Society Australia reserves the right to edit/include biographies as it sees fit.

The Society is also endeavouring to build up a collection of photographs of Wendish / German pioneers. We would be happy to receive contributions of annotated photographs from our members. Collections of photographs could be submitted on CDROM or DVDROM to *The Secretary, Wendish Heritage Society, P.O. Box 307 Heidelberg, Victoria 3084, Australia*. Single (or small numbers of) photographs may be sent as attachments to emails to our Secretary at: wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au

JOEL BLACKBURN, COMPUTER & WEBSITE MANAGER



Tours

Tour of Germany, Austria and Poland, Aug-Sept 2010

The following is the conclusion of Moira Nagorcka's tour report published in the previous two issues of Wendish News. This report, with photos, is also on our website under Publications / Articles.

EDITOR

Berlin

After travelling through picturesque and peaceful countryside we arrived at our hotel in Berlin. We were surprised to see rabbits in a park in the centre of the city in the evening. On the following day we saw the Brandenburg Gate, the Jewish Memorial, "Checkpoint Charlie" Museum, and a large number of murals depicting the Fall of the Berlin Wall. A short service at the magnificent "Berliner Dom" (Berlin Cathedral) was inspiring, and the sound of the large pipe organ was most uplifting.

Potsdam

Not far from Berlin we visited Potsdam and the palace of Sans Souci which was the summer residence

of Frederick II, King of Prussia. A short distance away is the Cecelienhof Palace where the American, British and Soviet leaders held a conference at the end of World War II to determine the borders of Europe. Near Boizenburg on the river Elbe we saw "Checkpoint Harry" and old "Iron Curtain" artefacts which were once part of the border between East and West Germany. The border stretched for 1440kms from the Baltic Sea to southern Germany. Our itinerary included ancestral villages near Lauenberg which was a border post of the "Iron Curtain" until 1989.

Hamburg

On the following day we visited the port of Hamburg from which ships departed to take our ancestors to Australia. Nearby is St Michael's Cathedral, where some of our ancestors worshipped while awaiting departure. Finally, we said farewell to Hamburg, which brought our tour to a close, leaving us with many lasting memories.

MOIRA NAGORCKA



Cecelienhof, Potsdam



What's new at the library?

1. *Researching German women pioneers: putting the jigsaw together: proceedings of a workshop held at The University of Adelaide on 22nd May 2010*, edited by Dr. Herbert Stock. Women's stories have not been well documented, particularly 19th century women's stories. This workshop examines the significant contribution made by German women in colonial South Australia.
2. *Cassell's German dictionary in two parts, German-English – English-German* by Elizabeth Weir, 1901. (Donated by Moira and Beryl Nagorcka.)
3. *Dictionary of the English and German languages* by Dr. Friedrich Koehler, 1903. (Donated by John Noack.)
4. *Lower Wendish-English and English – Lower Wendish dictionary / Dolnosersko-Engelski a Engelsko-Dolnoserski slownik*, compiled by Martin J. Dobring. Martin Dobring of Michigan, U.S.A. has been interested in the Lower-Wendish language since learning that it was spoken by his grandfather and great-grandfather. He compiled a small dictionary in 1996 but the dictionary grew and ended up as a major project, first printed in 2002. This edition was published in April, 2011.
5. *Warracknabeal – Minyip: Clay Kruger's video of the 2011 Wimmera tour*, produced by Clay Kruger. This includes highlights of the Wendish Labour Day weekend in the Wimmera, 12–14 March, 2011, visiting historic sites around Warracknabeal and Minyip including local historical societies, cemeteries, Wheatlands Agricultural Museum, Areegra, Bangerang, Sheep Hills, Kirchheim, and many more places of interest. [DVD].
6. *Historical sketch of Victoria* by James Smith. This is an extract in facsimile form from *Australia, the first hundred years* which was a facsimile reprint of the *Picturesque atlas of Australasia*, edited by Andrew Garran and first published in 1886. The *Picturesque atlas of Australasia* covers Australasian history from the days of the earliest Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, English and French navigators to the 1880's.
7. *St. Luke's Lutheran Church 150th Anniversary: Hamilton Pastoral Museum*, compiled by Coral Shepherd. St. Luke's Church, built in 1861, is the oldest original Lutheran church existing in the Hamilton district. In about 1966 when the church was no longer required for worship services, a committee was formed to preserve its history and the history of the pastoral progress of the region. In 1974 the church was purchased by the Hamilton City Council and the name Hamilton Pastoral Museum was chosen. This book is the history of St. Luke's Lutheran Church as a place of worship and as a museum.
8. *Haustorfers from Natimuk Lake, 1851–2011*, compiled by Colin Haustorfer and Ivan Haustorfer. This book commemorates 160 years since arrival in Australia and 140 years since land selection at Natimuk Lake for Heinrich "Ernst" Eduard Haustorfer, one of the first land selectors in the Wimmera. (Donated by Colin Haustorfer.)
9. *The Hartwich / Hartwig family history: descendants of Michael Hartwich / Hartwig and Eva Rosina Brunsch, 165 years, 1846–2011*, compiled by Ian Hartwich. Michael and Eva Rosina left from Bremen, Germany aboard the *Pauline* and arrived in Port Adelaide, South Australia in 1846. They settled in Bethany, S.A. and then moved to Hamilton, Victoria in 1855.
10. *The Kossatz Tapestry*, by Betty Huf. This pure wool woven tapestry was commissioned to celebrate Victoria's 150th anniversary in 1985 and now hangs in the Hamilton Art Gallery. It was designed by Les Kossatz, a world-renowned Melbourne artist of Wendish descent.
11. *Bautzen / Budyšin*: a set of thirteen large coloured photographs of the beautiful old German city of Bautzen, particularly its historical fortified towers and defence installations. Bautzen, which in 2002 celebrated its one thousandth birthday, is in Upper Lusatia (Oberlausitz), Saxony, and is an important Wendish / Sorbian cultural centre.

JANICE BLACKBURN, LIBRARIAN

Past Events ...continued from page 3

Love and Lace at Westgarthtown, Sunday 20 November 2011

The Friends of Westgarthtown hosted a fascinating display of beautiful antique clothing and demonstrations of lace making at Ziebell's Farmhouse on Sunday 20 November. A highlight was Minna Thiele's wedding dress, along with love notes from the bride and groom, dating back to 1910. Clothing and photos were kindly donated by Gladys Knight and family, descendants of the Finger family who came to Australia aboard the *Pribislaw* in 1850.

Ziebell's Farmhouse, Corner Gardenia Rd and Aimwick Cres, Thomastown (Melway 8 H5) is open to the public on the second Sunday of each month, 1-4 pm. Tel. (03)9464 1805; email enquiries@westgarthtown.org.au



Items from other Societies' journals

Westgarthtown research

The Friends of Westgarthtown Newsletter (April 2011) includes information on Allan Lehmann (1922–) who served in World War II, Geoffrey Price (1930–1999), diplomat, who was a grandson of Friedrich Vockensohn and Ernestine Siebel and Leberecht Fiedler (1818–1882) who arrived aboard the *Pribislaw* in 1850. The Oct. 2011 edition includes information on settlers Johann Gründel (1811–1888), and Jakob Grützner (1823–1912).

Dimboola's Obituaries from the Past

The Dimboola & Dist. Historical Society Inc. Newsletter (July/Aug. 2011) includes the Obituary of Frederick William Koop (1870–1934). The Oct. 2011 edition includes the Obituary of a colonist for over 90 years, Mrs Anna Rosina Petschel (nee Schneider) 1844–1939. The November 2011 edition features the Obituary of Gustav Ernest Paschke (1868–1921).

Petschel family

Australian Family Tree Connections (Aug. 2011) features an article by Chris Cook on the Petschel family who arrived from Saxony in 1848, settled at Rosenthal (Rosedale), S.A. and then took part in the 1852 Wagon Trek to Victoria.

Herman Alfred Paech

The above newsletter also features an article by Paula Bartsch on Herman Paech of Walla Walla NSW, who was interned in World War I and later became a local politician.

South Australian family history

The Ancestral Searcher (June 2011) informs us that the State Library of South Australia has as part of its site "SA Memory", which gives information on people, places, issues and events from the colony's beginnings to the present day. See www.slsa.sa.gov.au

The Sept. 2011 edition states that a wealth of information can be found at www.familyhistorysa.info/ and that Adelaide cemetery records can be searched at <http://aca.sa.gov.au/>

Julius Henschke, sculptor and artist

FOLA News (May 2011) draws our attention to the information in the Australian Dictionary of Biography on Julius Henschke (1888–1955) of Tanunda, S.A. See <http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/>

Hahndorf Pioneer Women's Trail

The above newsletter gives information about the path used by the pioneer women of Hahndorf to take their produce to market.

The Wends of St Kitts

The Wend / Sorb Society of S.A Newsletter (June 2011) features an article by Dennis Jenke explaining how two groups of Wends, one reaching South Australia in 1851 aboard the *Helene* and the other arriving in 1854 aboard the *Steinwärder*, ended up in St Kitts in 1858. Wendish settlers included BARTSCH, GERSCH, JENKE, KLEINIG, LEHMANN and NOACK.

International Settlers Group

The International Settlers Group Newsletter (Oct. 2011) gives these websites: Evangelical Central Archives, Berlin: <http://www.landeskirchenarchivberlin.de/>

New database for genealogists, Brandenburg: <http://www.db-brandenburg.de/>

Dresden State Archive: <http://www.archiv.sachsen.de/107.htm>

German and Latin Terminology

The South-West Genealogist (Sept. 2011) provides a useful list of translations of common Latin terminology and common German headstone terminology.

PAUL KRUGER, JOURNAL REVIEWER



Some of the guests at our Society's 25th Anniversary celebration, next to a Wendish costume display.



General News

New Zealand visitors

On 27 October 2011 we welcomed Mario and Lois Abram from Auckland, New Zealand to our Research Centre. Lois is a descendant of the Grumwald family from Guben, Brandenburg. Our visitors were pleased with the information they were able to find in our Library.

CLAY KRUGER

Fred Kruger: Intimate Landscapes, 4 Feb–27 May 2012

This exhibition at the Ian Potter Centre, Federation Square, Melbourne features the work of noted

photographer J.F.C. (Fred) Kruger (1831–1888), a German migrant to Victoria.

Nieder-Weisel Plaque for Victorian Goldfields

A program of events planned for 18–25 January 2013 will include the dedication of a plaque in Ballarat, Victoria in honour of the German families who migrated from Nieder-Weisel to Victoria during the 1850s Gold Rush. See www.Niederweisel.com

Contacts: Alan Haintz (03) 9836 3448; ahaintz@bigpond.net.au or Don Hauser (03) 9654 7610; dlhauser@bigpond.com

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.

Newsletter Design: Robyn Zwar Design, www.robynzwardesign.com

Newsletter Editor: Glenys Wollermann.

Office bearers:

President: John Noack, 2 Devon Street, Eaglemont, Vic. Postal Address: PO Box 297, Heidelberg, Vic 3084. Tel: 03 9458 2848. Email: johnnoack@yahoo.com.au

Vice-President: Joel Blackburn, 2 Astley St, Lower Templestowe, Vic 3107. Tel: 03 9850 5766. *Computer and Website Manager.*

Secretary: Glenys Wollermann, 22 Bellara Street, Doncaster, Vic 3108. Tel: 03 9891 6652. Email: wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au.

Treasurer: Clay Kruger, Good Shepherd Retirement Village, Unit 16/1–5 City Road, Ringwood, Vic 3134 Tel: 03 8838 8737 Email: claykruc@optusnet.com.au, Skype: clam.kruc

Committee Members:

Janice Blackburn: same address as Vice President, above. *Librarian.*

Betty Huf: PO Box 26, Tarrington, Vic 3301. Tel: 03-5572 4959. Email: bettyhuf@westvic.com.au *Researcher.*

Paul Kruger: 10/14 Tintern Ave., Bayswater North, Vic 3153. Tel: 03 9729 2902. Email: plk@virtual.net.au *Journal Reviewer*

Geoff Matuschka: 6883 Hamilton Highway, Tabor, Vic 3289. Tel: 03 5573 5226.

Moira Nagorcka: 39 Kenilworth Crs. Glen Waverley, Vic 3150. Tel: 03 9802 6487. Email: magina@bigpond.com

Robert Wuchatsch: Stony Rises Homestead, 2020 Princes Hwy, Pirron Yallock, Vic 3249. Tel: 03 5235 4220. Email: robert.wuchatsch@gmail.com *Researcher.*

Kevin Zwar: (Co-opted member): 58 Blackburn Road, Mooroolbark, Vic 3138. Tel: 03 9727 1390. Email: wendsonline@optusnet.com.au *Researcher*

Wendish Heritage Society Australia Inc ABN 78 951 996 351

PO Box 307, Heidelberg, Victoria 3084

Research: Kevin Zwar is willing to help with enquiries, email: wendsonline@optusnet.com.au

Business Email: wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au

Website: www.wendishheritage.org.au

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.