



2005 Annual Dinner



Above: Guest speaker Kevin Zwar and Vice-President Joel Blackburn. Below left: Alan Bidstrup and Gladys Koch (President) Below right: Bruce Hughes, O.A.M.



The Society's Annual Dinner was held in the impressive new Community Centre at Calvary Lutheran Church Greensborough on Saturday 8 October. The ladies of the congregation and some helpers provided a sumptuous three-course German style meal.

Bruce Hughes, a descendant of pioneer Wends, was given a special welcome as he had in recent times been honoured with an OAM for many years of loyal service to his local community.

Our guest speaker for the dinner was recently retired pastor, Kevin Zwar. He began his address: "I want to share with you an unusual and remarkable coincidence in the first generation of Zwars to be born in Australia, where three Zwars became famous community leaders in Victoria. I am not descended from either family". A copy of his address is held in our Society's Library and is also available on our website at www.wendishheritage.org.au.



CONTENTS

PAST EVENTS	2
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
OBITUARY: PROF RICHARD DALITZ	3
RESEARCH	4
GENERAL NEWS	5
OTHER SOCIETIES	6
REUNIONS, CELEBRATIONS, FAMILY HISTORIES	6
BOOKS, LIBRARY, COMPUTER	7
DIRECTORY	8



Past events

Bautzen film crew visit

On 23 October 2005, a film crew from Bautzen visited our Research Centre, where they interviewed Bev and Benno Gotzky and filmed John Noack and Joel Blackburn. This film was shown on German television on 21 December 2005.

Westgarthtown Heritage Day

A very enjoyable day was held at the Westgarthtown Precinct in Lalor on Sunday 13 November 2005. Events on the day included a church service and picnic lunch at Ziebell's farmhouse. The afternoon recital featured popular classics played on the harmonium by John Noack and on flute and guitar by Carol Appelt and Igor Pelka. Afternoon tea was provided by the Friends of Westgarthtown at Ziebell's farmhouse.

Goulburn & Murray Family History Groups Expo



Bob and Betty Proposch

On 19 November 2005, Bob and Betty Proposch of Yarrowonga were our representatives at the annual Goulburn & Murray Family History Groups Expo held at Mulwala.

Bob and Betty reported that there were about 20 stalls where computer programs, DVDs, CDs and books could be purchased. These resources contained shipping lists; records of Births, Deaths and Marriages all over Australia, (but particularly Vic. and S.A.); municipal and war service records and a wealth of other information.

Bob and Betty handled many enquiries from the general public regarding the Wends and their origins. Particular interest was also shown by other Heritage Societies and stall holders in attendance.

We sincerely thank Bob and Betty for representing our Society, for handing out literature to answer the queries and for directing people to our website. We also thank them for offering to run a stall again this year if a Convention is held.

Visitors from Lusatia

Heiko Kosel and Anna Kossatz visited our Wendish Research Centre at Ivanhoe on Tuesday 27 December 2005. They were on a holiday in Australia and visited Hahndorf, the Barossa Valley and Yorke Peninsula in South Australia, the Westgarthtown/ Thomastown settlement and Immigration Museum in Melbourne and Anna's Kossatz relatives.

They informed us about their lives in Lusatia and raised issues relating to the Sorbs/Wends which are of concern.

Heiko is a lawyer and a member of the Parliament of Saxony. He is responsible for Bautzen and district and some issues which have arisen include the Parliament's desire to close more Sorbian schools, the destruction of villages near Schleife for coal mining, the clarification of Saxon laws relating to the Sorbs and the damaging of the bi-lingual street and town signs. Heiko also meets with members of the Brandenburg Parliament who represent the Cottbus area.

In regard to Wendish migration to Australia in the 1850s and 1860s, Heiko is interested to find out the reasons why families left Lusatia and what the conditions were like for these pioneers here in Australia. There was certainly more land available in Australia for the sons but clearing the land and building homes was hard work.

Looking into the future, Heiko was pleased with the work being done by the Sorbian Youth Society and the Domowina and he noted the influence of the literature produced by Alfons Frencl and Trudla Mahling. He suggested more effort to maintain the Sorbian schools, the possibility of exchange students and an art display. Heiko's email is Heiko@Koselec.de

Anna Kossatz lives in Cottbus where she is involved in Wendish/Sorbian issues. She helps in translation work at the Tourist Office and Courts, she organises celebrations, does liaison work between the Cottbus Town Council and the Domowina in Bautzen and she helps the Mayor.

She is also collecting information about her Kossatz relatives here in Australia.

Her email is a.kossatz@web.de



Calendar of upcoming events

Exiles and Emigrants: Epic Journeys to Australia in the Victorian Era

The 19th Century migrant experience, including sea travel is on display 9 Dec. 2005 – 26 March 2006 at the Ian Potter Centre, Federation Square, Melbourne.

Pleasant Sunday Afternoon: 2 April 2006

Members and friends are invited to our PSA Community Lunch at the Ivanhoe Lutheran Church at 12.30pm. Please bring finger food for lunch. This will be followed by a brief Annual General Meeting, including reports and the election of office-bearers.

Marita Hargraves of Hobart will then inform us about the German migration to Tasmania in the 1800s.

Knox Visit: 27 May 2006

Please note that our annual March tour will not take place in 2006, because of other events in March, including the Commonwealth Games.

Instead, we have arranged with the Knox Historical Society in Melbourne for a one-day visit to the Knox area on **27 May 2006**. We plan to investigate the extensive German and Wendish background of the Bayswater / Scoresby / Knox area, which was first settled in the 1860s.

All are invited to the Ambleside Park Homestead at 3 Olivebank Rd, Ferntree Gully (Melway map 74 D1) at 10am. Glen Turnbull, President of Knox Historical Society, will show us some relevant displays.

Museum entry fees are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Please BYO picnic lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided at 10 am. and throughout the day.

The day will include a tour of the Ferntree Gully Cemetery, where there is a section of German graves.

Family and Local History Expo: 19 August 2006

The Victorian Association of Family History Organisation (VAFHO) is planning a big Expo at the Dallas Brooks Centre in Albert St, East Melbourne on Saturday 19 August 2006. They have invited our Society to be part of this event.

Annual Dinner: Saturday 7 October 2006

This Dinner will be a celebration of the 20th anniversary of our Society. A member of the Deutscher family will be our guest speaker. More details will be presented in our August Newsletter.

Wendish Fest Tour cancellation

Geoff Saegenschnitter has regretfully advised us that the proposed tour to the U.S.A. in September 2006 to coincide with the annual Wendish Fest in Serbin, has been cancelled. He now proposes to offer this tour in **September 2007**. For details, contact him by email at saege@ozemail.com.au or by mail: C/- P.O. Greenock, S.A. 5360.

Obituary:

Professor Richard Dalitz

Professor Richard (Dick), Henry Dalitz died on 13 January 2006 aged 80, after suffering from a stroke. He was born on 28 February 1925 at Dimboola and, after gaining a degree in Mathematics and Physics at Melbourne University, he went to Britain in 1946 to do a PhD. He later held positions in New York and Chicago and in 1966 he became Research Professor at Oxford University, where he retired in 1990. He made the name Dalitz a byword in high energy physics.

His wendish Dalitz ancestors left Werben in Lusatia for Australia in 1858 and he visited East Germany in the 1970s in order to locate his family's early records. He prepared a biography of the Wendish poet Mato Kosyk and conducted early research into the ship *Pribislaw*, which brought about fifty Wendish emigrants to Australia in 1850.

On a visit to Australia in 1978, Professor Dalitz did some research on the *Pribislaw's* passengers, mainly at the National Australian Archives in Canberra, where he studied the Victorian naturalization records. He provided this information to Robert Wuchatsch during that trip and helped Robert greatly over the next ten years to further research the *Pribislaw* and its passengers. In regard to his *Pribislaw* input, in the late 1980s, Dick found a German article on the *Pribislaw* which said it was wrecked in the Shetlands in 1870.

In 2002, Robert and wife Gaye went there looking for photos of the wreck of the *Pribislaw* and discovered it had a whole new life off the sea.

An obituary by Frank Close was printed in *The Guardian* on 24 Jan 2006 and this was reprinted in *The Age*, Wed 8 Feb 2006.

We extend our thoughts and sympathy to his family.



Research

Free help for family history researchers

I was going through a pile of old papers recently when I came across an article in the *Sunday Magazine* of the *Herald Sun* of 2 April 2004. On p. 22, Amanda Ducker reminds us that:

“A vast trove of new information is available to everyone with an internet connection in a fraction of the time it once took to ferret through musty old library papers and church ledgers. The internet’s interactive nature is suited to genealogy, which is all about sharing information. Each month hundreds of millions of messages pass through www.rootsweb.com the world’s largest and oldest free Genealogy website. Genealogy is one of the most popular topics online. I believe it rates sixth... it comes after music, sex, money, food and cars, ahead of fishing, cricket, cooking, dancing and gardening. Another effective source is www.familysearch.org a free site launched by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1999.”

ED KOCH

Germantown Cemetery

June Winter is at present researching and writing the history of the Germantown Cemetery at Grovedale near Geelong in Victoria. She is seeking further information about those who are buried there and she is willing to help researchers who require information.

Contact: *Mrs June Winter, 595 Reservoir Rd, Mt. Moriac, Vic 3240. T el. (03) 5266 1383.*

Godeffroy Research Query

Barry Chapple and Sylvia Tanti (Einsiedel descendants) request information on where to find names of passengers who died en route to Australia on the ship *Godeffroy* 1848–49. Any help would be appreciated.

Contact: *Barry Chapple, 8 Claygate Way, Kingsley WA 6026 T el. (08) 9409 6895 or Mrs Sylvia Tanti, 25 Golf Links Road, Frankston Vic 3199 T el (03) 9783 8998.*

Hafner Research Query

Dr Schneider Berrenberg is seeking descendants in Australia of Johannes and Barbara Hafner who arrived on the ship *Electric* in 1857, with their children Barbara, Jacob and Johannes. Johannes Snr. was born in 1817 in Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany. During World War I German relatives lost contact with this family.

Contact: *Dr Ruediger Schneider Berrenberg, Eremitage Agios Antonios, GR-40003 Agiokambos Agias/Larissis, Thessalia, Greece. T el. & Fax: 0030 / 24940 / 51461.*

Friends of Lutheran Archives (FoLA)

The Lutheran Archives in Adelaide provide a wealth of material for family history researchers. Would you like to join FoLA and help support the collection and preservation of important Australian and New Zealand Lutheran archival material?

For further information, contact Lutheran Archives, 27 Fourth St., Bowden, S.A. 5007. T el. (08) 8340 4009. Email: lutheran.archives@lca.org.au

The Moravian Brethren at Bethel in South Australia (continued from last Newsletter)



Bethel Lutheran church

...The author then points out that some of the Moravian Brethren were growing tired of financially supporting those commune members less fortunate or industrious. They also felt that the preaching of the new Lutheran pastor was going over their heads.

At about this time, over in Ireland several evangelists named William Irvine and Edward Cooney were holding evangelical Christian meetings in halls, tents and homes, seeking converts and then sending them out around the world in pairs as “tramp preachers”. They claimed to trace their ideas back to the ministry of Jesus and took literally the instructions in Matthew 10 to preach, heal and cast out demons. They claimed that the established churches based their beliefs on later false creeds and confessions and that the followers of William Irvine alone could claim the Truth, since they alone were authorized by Jesus to preach the Gospel. Naturally, this claim created considerable friction with the established churches, including the Lutheran.



Two such “tramp preachers” called Sam Jones from Ireland and Jim Murray from New Zealand visited Bethel. They had followed the railway line south from Gladstone and at Stockport, they heard from a former Commune member Martha Matz about the discontent at Bethel. They met Hermann Geue while he was raking up hay and they sought a building for a gospel meeting. Since Rudolph Schmidt would not give his permission for them to use the Band Hall and the Pastor refused them the use of the Church, they held gospel meetings in the home of Hermann and Lydia Geue. Soon, families such as the Doeckes, Linkes, Schmidts and Vogts also joined in, with some attending conventions and seeking adult baptism in the nearby River Gilbert. After a convention held on Wuttke’s farm at Woodside, Sam Jones returned to Bethel with a new companion, Jimmy Valance from New Zealand and with one of the founders of this “church without a name”, William Irvine. The author notes that some followers “sensed there was something amiss with brother Irvine”. Part of it may have been his confidence that the world would end in the next couple of years! What did end was the Bethel Commune as a Moravian mission in June 1910, when some members

joined a branch of the Lutheran Church while others joined in preaching and professing Christianity around the world as Cooneyites or Two By Twos in the tradition of William Irvine and Edward Cooney. Descendants of these Bethel ancestors may therefore obtain more family information and background in either Australian Lutheran history books or by conducting a computer Google search on the “Bethel Australia Mission” and on the “Two by Twos” founded by Irvine and Cooney.

Our Library contains a dozen obituaries of Bethel residents compiled by Christoph and Woldemar Schondorf between 1883 and 1898 and translated by H.F.W. Proeve in 1988. David Simmons has drawn up a plan of the Old Moravian Cemetery. These include members of the John, Kornetzky, Kubasch, Lindner, Schondorf and Seekamp families. Christoph’s obituary reveals that the Brethren constituted themselves in Bethel with him as their pastor on 1 March 1857, the date of the 400th anniversary of the foundation of the United (later Moravian) Brethren in 1457. Christoph became deaf as he aged and he died on 22 Feb 1898, aged 83 years.

JOHN NOACK.

General News

A Word from our President

A very special welcome to our new members. As you read this newsletter you will catch a glimpse of the activities and interests of our Heritage Society. If you live in or around Melbourne take time to visit our Research Centre. Regular times are listed on the back page of this issue. The time of the Commonwealth Games might present such an opportunity to drop in for a chat or to browse our many books and files. If the advertised times do not suit your commitments feel free to contact our Secretary or one of our other officers for a special appointment. Normally we can find a Committee member who can help in such situations.

Our recently launched Website at www.wendish-heritage.org.au has sparked interest from many people not only in Australia but from Germany, the United States and other places around the world.

Make a note, also, of our Pleasant Sunday Afternoon on 2 April. Though we begin with a very brief Annual General Meeting, it is quickly followed by a Guest Speaker. This time it will be Marita Hargraves talking about the many people of

European/German background who migrated to Tasmania in the mid 1800s. Join us for an informal lunch at 12.30 p.m. in our Research Centre or just come for the meeting at 1.30 p.m. Members and friends are always welcome.

GLADYS KOCH (PRESIDENT)

Special resolution

We have been informed by the Dept. of Consumer Affairs that our Society’s constitution needs to include a process for resolving disputes if they arise. This requirement will be dealt with at our AGM on 2 April.

Vale Mrs Iris Sullivan

Mrs Iris Sullivan (1919–2005) passed away at Sorrento on 26 August.

She took part in the Society’s tour of Germany in 1994, and together with her cousin Barbara Healy and sister Doreen Bozen, was a willing helper in our Society’s activities. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family and friends.



Other societies

The following are summaries of items of interest from other societies' journals:

Hahndorf Pioneers 1839

The August 2005 edition of *Links 'n' chains: journal of the Liverpool Genealogy Society Inc.* lists the names, occupations, places of origin in Prussia and the ships which brought the founders of Hahndorf to S.A.

Helene 1853 in Sydney

Jenny Paterson provides 20 pages of information about the 223 German immigrants from Hamburg who arrived on the ship *Helene* at Sydney on 18 March 1853, in *Ances-tree: journal of the Burwood & District Family History Group*, Nov. 2005.

Hessian Archives in Darmstadt

The Hessian Archives in Darmstadt has a website www.hadis.hessen.de which includes a searchable database of Auswanderung (Emigrants). This site is in German and is mentioned in the September 2005 issue of the AIGS journal, *The Genealogist*.

A brief history of the Jarick family by Allan and Lois Lieschke

The Sep. 2005 issue of the *Friends of Peters Hill Church Inc. Newsletter* gives the family history of Christian Jarick, who arrived in Melbourne from Werben in 1854. The family then travelled to Peters Hill, and later to the Riverina in N.S.W.

Maria Kaiser's 1857 letter to Germany by Robert Wuchatsch

The Friends of Westgarthtown News of Nov. 2005 features the letter written in 1857 by Maria Kaiser, a young Wendish girl working at Zimmer's farm at Westgarthtown, to her parents in Saxony.

Lutherans in the South Burnett and Kingaroy districts of Qld.

The Sep. 2005 edition of *Die Zeitung: newsletter of the German Research Group, Genealogical Society of Qld.* gives a summary of the establishment of Lutheran churches by farmers of German and Scandinavian heritage.

Sorbs

The Sep. 2005 edition of *Die Zeitung* also presents a brief summary of the history of the Sorbs, from ancient to modern times.

GLENYS WOLLERMANN

Reunions, Celebrations, Family histories

Hartwich Family Reunion

A Hartwich family reunion is planned for 30 Sept and 1 Oct 2006 at Tarrington/Hochkirch near Hamilton, to celebrate the 160th anniversary of their arrival in Australia.

Contact: Mrs June Winter, 595 Reservoir Road, Mt Moriac 3240 Tel (03) 5266 1383.

Pumpa Reunion

A celebration of the 150th anniversary of Pumpa families in Australia will be held at the Barossa Arts and Convention Centre, Magnolia Rd, Tanunda, S.A., on 25th and 26th March 2006. Books \$100 plus \$15 postage.

Contact: Catherine Pumpa, P.O. Box 416, Edwardstown, S.A. 5039 Tel (08) 8371 0254. Fax (08) 8297 6581.

Reinke Reunion

Descendants of Carl F. Wilhelm Reinke and Louisa (nee Kratzmann), who arrived in Maryborough Qld. from Prussia on 26 Feb 1876 with their 10 children, will gather on 15 and 16 April 2006 at Goombungee Showgrounds.

Inquiries: K. Reinke Tel (07) 5541 0580; or B. Pile Tel (07) 4696 7118.

"I trace my family history so
I will know who to blame!"

Spreading branches: newsletter of the Narre Warren & Dist. Family History Group Inc., Aug. 2005



Books, library, computer

Books For Sale

Eric Heinrich's family has made available to our Society a number of Koenig family histories and a number of Ruediger family history supplements.

Koenig 1848-1990: Christian and Karl Koenig and their descendants in Australia

Copies are available for \$10.00 plus \$5.00 for postage. Related surnames: Lemm, Schmidt, Gladigau, Kroschel, Noske, Kroeker, Hundrack, Hartwich.

Ruediger: an update on the family tree from 1975-1990

Available for \$10.00 plus \$5.00 for postage. This is the updated family history of Christian and his wife Anna Elisabeth Nitschke. Related surnames: Elix, Schenke, Reiss.

Missionary to the Kurna: the Klose letters

This fascinating book contains some of the letters of the earliest German Lutheran missionaries to come to South Australia. It is published by Friends of Lutheran Archives.

Samuel Gottlieb Klose, born 1802 in Loewenberg, Silesia, was an early German Lutheran missionary sent to work among the Aboriginal people in S.A. Klose reported regularly to his senders, the Dresden Missionary Society. Letters covering the first 5 years of his service in and around Adelaide, written in old gothic script but now translated into English, reveal the amazing faith and courage he and his colleagues displayed in reaching out to the Kurna people with the Good News of Jesus our Saviour.

His earliest letters tell of his call to S.A., the obstacles he had to deal with to reach our shores and begin his work, and how he coped at the very beginning of white settlement in this foreign land. An amazing story of dedication and caring, the more so when you remember that he and his fellow missionaries were Germans struggling to master English and at the same time befriending the local native people and learning to speak their language.

We hold a copy of this book, and also have a few copies for sale for \$12.00 plus \$2.50 for postage.

REVIEW BY ED KOCH

By Ark to Ararat: a tale of the Victorian goldfields

This publication contains extracts from the diary of Johann Georg Schmidt, who trundled a cart around the Victorian gold diggings offering the miners Bibles and other Christian literature. Information is also given about Matthias Goethe, J.G. Haussmann, J.P. Niquet, C.W. Schuermann, H. Herlitz and others. This book is available for \$7.00 plus \$2.50 postage.

Recent Library Acquisitions

- *Die Lausitz: Sorbische Trachten*
(donated by Kevin Zwar)
This book features many photographs of Wendish/Sorbian national dress. The text is in German.
- *Family record of Johann Gottfried Hoffmann 1849-1979.*
We thank Cyril Dymke of Natimuk, Vic. for making the original available to us for copying.
- *The Geier family history: descendants of Johann Gottfried and Amelia Charlotte Geier 1848-2005.*
- *Klingner family history: Karl Wilhelm and Anna Elisabeth Klingner 1853-2005.*
- *The Nitschke family history: descendants of Johann Gottlieb Nitschke and Johanna Eleanore Nitschke nee Kappler, 1841-2005.*
- *Noacks of Schoenhoehe 1850-2005*
- *Seeking the Seelanders: family of Gottfried and Anna Seelander 1838-2004.*
- *Fourteen poems of Handrij Zejler*
[in German: Andreas Seiler] (1804-1872)
translated and introduced by Gerald Stone, Oxford.
- *The battle of Hochkirch: History of Friedrich II of Prussia*
by Thomas Carlyle, March 2000.

Website tips:

Visit 37 Maps of German areas over the centuries:

www.rootsweb.com/~wggerman/map/index.htm

The Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe:

www.sggee.org/index.html

Emigrants on the Alfred, 1848

This book, translated and edited by Thomas A. Darragh and published by FoLA in 2003, gives accounts of the voyage and settlement by the *Alfred* passengers Alois Kranewitter, Heinrich Luestner, Ernst Kaulvers, Michael Deutscher, Christiane Hiller, nee Petschel, and Andreas Albert. It is available for \$15.00 plus \$5.00 postage.

Please make cheques payable to Wendish Heritage Society Aust. Inc. and send to P.O. Box 297, Heidelberg, Vic 3084.



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 297, Heidelberg, Vic, 3084.

Meeting Room and Research Centre

Ivanhoe Lutheran Church Meeting Room, 27 Livingstone Street, Ivanhoe, Victoria. (*Melways 31 E7*)

Hours: Open on the first Sunday of each month from February to November, 1.00pm-5.30pm for research, working bees and for 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

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(N.B. not "claykrug")

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