

# wendish news

WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

NUMBER 41 AUGUST 2008



## INVITATION

You are invited to the 1858 Hamburg Ships' Dinner of the Wendish Heritage Society

**When:** Saturday 4 October 2008  
Pre-Dinner drinks 6pm, Dinner 7pm

**Where:** Ringwood Lutheran Hall  
cnr Wantirna and City Roads,  
Ringwood  
Melway Map 49 G10

**Cost:** \$30 per person, including pre-dinner sherries and a delicious meal. *Please BYO wine.*

**Guest Speaker:** Joel Blackburn – “*Did your Ancestors come from Werben?*”

Joel will speak about Werben in Lusatia, based on his visits with his wife's Domaschensch relatives.

About 150 Wends left Werben for Australia, including the Boettcher, Dahlitz, Domaschensch, Dreckow, Duschka, Gardi, Gniel, Gulbin, Handreck, Hussock, Jaitz, Kamenka, Kneffel, Koalick, Kollosche, Kschammer, Lewitzka, Lucas, Materna, Rammoth, Rapko, Riemer, Salmann, Schilka, Schuppan, Starick, Twartz and Voigt families. About 12 of these families migrated to Australia aboard the *Victoria* in 1858.

### 150th Anniversary Celebrations

At the Dinner, we will mark the 150th anniversary of the arrival in Melbourne of the 1858 Hamburg ships, including *Marbs, Magdalena, Bielefeld, Alfred, Horatio, Neumuehlen, Carl, Susanne, Podesta, Cesar and Helene, Manila* and *Dorothea*.

We will also celebrate the ships which arrived in Adelaide in 1858, including *Ohio, Alfred, Grassbrook, Susanne, Victoria, Sophie* and *Leontine*.

Full details of the above ships and their passengers are published in our March 2008 Wendish News No 40 pp.2-4. They are also on our Society's website [www.wendishheritage.org.au](http://www.wendishheritage.org.au).

Please use the enclosed reply form to book by Friday 26 September.

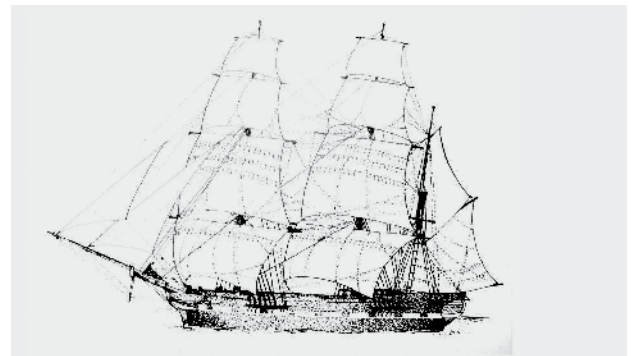
Email: [claykruc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:claykruc@optusnet.com.au)

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

## Calendar of upcoming events

Wendish Heritage Society, Annual Dinner:  
Saturday 4 October 2008

*Please refer to the invitation on this page*



**Freshwater Creek (Vic) Pioneers:  
Sunday 2 November 2008**

An invitation is extended to descendants of those buried in St David's Lutheran Church cemetery at Freshwater Creek, (known until 1917 as Waldkirch) and any other interested persons, to attend a commemorative afternoon on Sunday 2 November at 3 pm at the cemetery.

The first church in this Waldkirch settlement was dedicated by Pastor Schuermann of Hochkirch (later Tarrington) in October 1859. The first known burial was in 1860.

*For further information and to reply for catering purposes, please contact Mrs June Winter, 595 Reservoir Rd Mt Moriac Vic 3240. Telephone (03) 5266 1383*

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## Calendar of upcoming events... *continued*

### Goulburn & Murray (Mulwala) Family History Expo: Saturday 15 November 2008

This annual Expo is worthwhile for anyone researching their family history. Bob and Betty Proposch will again represent our Society at the Expo at Mulwala on Saturday 15 November, 10am – 4pm. *Information on the Expo program is available at [www.vicnet.net.au/~gmags](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~gmags)*

### Guided Tours of the Westgarthtown Heritage Precinct: Sunday 23 November 2008

Join in a guided tour of this historic precinct, followed by afternoon tea at Ziebell's Farmhouse.

*Tours depart at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm on Sunday 23 November from Ziebell's Farmhouse, 100 Gardenia Rd Thomastown Vic (Melway Map 8H5). All welcome.*

### Family History Sources at AIGS: Wednesday 26 November 2008

Our President, John Noack, will speak at the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, 1/41 Railway Rd, Blackburn on Wednesday 26 November from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm. The title for this talk will be "25 Sources for Germanic/Wendish Family History Research". The sources include biographies, church and civil records, cemeteries, family histories, histories of Germany, Lusatia and Australia, local areas, maps, naturalisations, passenger lists of Hamburg ships, photographs and war records.

### Labour Day Weekend Tour to Shepparton: 7–8 March 2009

Our tour destination on the Labour Day weekend in March 2009 is Shepparton and Tatura. All welcome. Full details in our February issue of Wendish News.



## Past events

### Visit to Tarrington's Nagorcka Sites, 8-9 March 2008.

Our Wendish Heritage Society and the descendants of Christian and Emilie Nagorcka (who had twelve children) celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of the Nagorcka ancestors in Australia in 1857 on the ship *Gottorp*.

A program from 12 noon Saturday to 5pm Sunday was very well organised by our Treasurer Clay Kruger and Local Historian Betty Huf.

A local reporter Brian O'Brien wrote an illustrated article which described very well both this celebration and the contribution of the Nagorcka family to the District. It was published in the Saturday Magazine of the local *Hamilton Spectator* titled "A huge impact on Hamilton region". He noted that in Europe, Christian had been a groom in the stables of the Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm III and that nearly all of the early settlers in the Tarrington and Hamilton district were Slavic Wends from Lusatia south-east of Berlin. These included the Burger, Deutscher, Handreck, Harnath, Kosch, Krause,

Kruger, Lehmann, Matuschka, Mirtschin, Pertz, Petschel, Rentsch, Salzke, Schmidt, Starick, Voight and Urban families.

Following Saturday's midday lunch, we visited five Nagorcka family sites and locations: Kitset Kitchens, Waltanna, Ovalbank formerly Peitz, Hochkirch Winery and the Tarrington Homestead.

Betty Huf prepared detailed notes and a map of the sites which we inspected on Saturday afternoon. Her detailed notes are on our Wendish website.

1) The **Kitset Kitchens factory** is located at 35 Baimbridge Road in Hamilton. Prior to Kitset and back in 1946, Stanley Nagorcka opened a joinery called "Nagorcka and Yuille", which produced windows, doors and cabinets for the district. In 1992, Stan's children, Mark and Mary Ann specialised in flat-pack, self-assembly kitchens, which are measured and cut according to the instructions from their computer. Kitset Kitchens at present has

*Above left: Hochkirch Winery owner Dr John Nagorcka serves June Nagorcka; Oil extraction machinery at Waltanna; The Waltanna Nagorckas – Tahlia, father Michael and Georgia. Right: Nagorcka descendants and Wendish Heritage Society members at Nagorcka's Tarrington Homestead.*



showrooms in Ballarat, Thornbury and Moorabbin and has orders from all over Australia.

- 2) **Waltanna** on the Glenelg Highway at Warrayure is the home of “Waltanna Tractors”. In 1975, James Nagorcka built his first four-wheel drive tractor and he went on to produce 175 in this series. For several years after 1985, he joined with Ford to produce 45 articulated tractors. After 1989, James specialised in rubber-tracked tractors, which are suitable for forestry work and oil exploration. In 2007, the family launched the “Waltanna Gold” brand of organic oils, produced from a variety of flaxseed grown on the farm.
- 3) **Ovalbank** is located on Nagorcka Road in Tarrington and is the property purchased by Christian on 23 November 1865. He called it Peitz, after the town in Lusatia, Prussia near where he was born, but the name was probably changed to Ovalbank during World War I. Christian and Emilie raised their twelve children there and used the cellar, which is still standing, for storing their food. The family sold this property in 2007.
- 4) The **Hochkirch Winery** is located at Croxton Park on the Hamilton Highway at Tarrington. The farm was bought by John’s grandfather Christian in 1909 and it is now owned by John and Jenny Nagorcka, who live close-by in their award-winning and impressive Gothic-revival style homestead. Their whole farm including the vineyard is a certified biodynamic property. They began Cellar Door sales in 2003 and have produced Riesling, Semillon, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir and Shiraz. Nearby, John’s sister Dianne produces wine under the “Tarrington Vineyard” label. No doubt the Vignerons Nagorckas agree with Dr Martin Luther’s motto for a happy life. Apart from saying: “*Hier stehe Ich*” (“Here I Stand”) or at meal times probably: “*Hier sitze Ich*” (“Here I Sit”), Dr Luther is supposed to have famously said, “*Er hat kein Wein, Weib und Sang, Lebt ein Narr sein Leben lang*” (“Who has no wine, women or song, lives a fool his whole life long”).



- 5) The **Tarrington Homestead** is located on Picnic Road at Tarrington. It was bought by Stephen Henty back in the 1860s and he named it after his home village in Sussex, England called “Tarring”. The home was leased by Arthur Nagorcka in 1912 and purchased by him in 1923. This Nagorcka branch of the family still owns it. The home’s second storey and iron-lace decoration creates a most impressive sight in the Tarrington country landscape.

Our guest speakers after our evening meal were Betty Huf, who described the early settlement in the district by the Wendish families mentioned above and Jeff and Wayne Nagorcka who described their visit to Germany and Lusatia in 2006, including their ancestral home, Peitz.

During the Thanksgiving service on Sunday, Pastor Zwar pointed to the faith, loyalty and contributions of the district’s early settlers, including the Wends. Members of the Wendish Heritage Society read the lessons and played the pipe organ.

After a delicious community lunch, Betty Huf conducted a tour of the South Hamilton Cemetery and donated a copy of a script to our Library. The script will also be included on our website.

An interesting feature was the display of Nagorcka family memorabilia in the Tarrington Hall.

Those who planned the weekend – meals, tours of inspection, talks and church service – can be sure that those who attended fully appreciated their work and we extend our sincere gratitude.

JOHN NOACK (BASED ON DETAILED NOTES PREPARED BY LOCAL HISTORIAN BETTY HUF).

### **Pleasant Sunday Afternoon and AGM, Sunday 6 April 2008**

Our Pleasant Sunday Afternoon began with a community lunch at Ivanhoe Lutheran Church at 12.30pm, followed by the Society’s A.G.M. The Directory on p8 lists the office-bearers and committee members who were elected. We welcome the addition of Western District historian Betty Huf to our committee as a Researcher.

In his President’s Report, John Noack thanked both our members who provide financial support through their membership subscriptions and also our committee members who donate their time and effort to fulfil the aims of our Society.

Our Computer Manager, Joel Blackburn continues to develop user-friendly family history programs containing useful records and data; our Treasurer, Clay Kruger is always busy keeping the financial records up to date and helping to organise events like our Tarrington visit in March; our Librarian, Janice Blackburn always finds more books and articles that need cataloguing and Ed and Glad Koch manage



to keep up with selecting relevant articles from the many journals which arrive each week.

Kevin Zwar has fully embraced the Computer Age and works very hard to keep our Website up to date and to answer the many family history questions which flood in on our Wendsonline facility.

Robert Wuchatsch and Betty Huf have made valuable contributions to research questions and Secretary, Glenys Wollermann compiles our minutes and deals with our mail in a most efficient manner.

Treasurer Clay Kruger presented a financial statement for the 2007 calendar year. The credit balance as at 31 December 2007 was \$9,434.68.

Our guest speakers, Kevin Zwar and Lena Mirtschin, informed us about immigrants from Nieder-Weisel to Australia in the 1850s. Kevin compared the group with Wendish immigrants, and Lena and Frieda Mirtschin reported on their study of the Nieder-Weisel people in the Ballarat area, where one can stay in the beautifully restored Nieder-Weisel mansion Bed and Breakfast.

JOHN NOACK

## The Wends and the Nieder-Weisel Folk in Victoria

The Nieder-Weisel people came from the same village in Hesse, a German State, and over 300 emigrated to Victoria. Most knew each other and many families were inter-related. About a third of them returned to Nieder-Weisel, some after striking it rich and, some when tragedy took their loved ones. There was a strong connection to return to home. The Wends came from a large area of numerous villages, with some in Prussia and the others in the Kingdom of Saxony and many Wends were complete strangers to each other. A few returned home but not as many as the Nieder-Weisel people. A few from each group went on to America.

The Nieder-Weisel people were fluent in German. Some travelled to England in desperation to find work. After years in England many left when news came of great gold discoveries around the world – in California, New South Wales, and Victoria. Some Nieder-Weisel people therefore spoke English.

The Wends were fluent in their Wendish language and a number spoke German but, hardly any spoke English before arriving in Australia. The Wends tended to catch the train to Hamburg and then a German ship to Australia. Some went to South Australia and later trekked inland to Victoria and New South Wales.

The Wends settled in the Western part of Victoria, around Hamilton and Horsham, and some around Melbourne.

Almost without exception the Nieder-Weisel folk went by ship to Melbourne, usually via England. They met up with other German speakers in Melbourne

and walked to the Ballarat goldfields where they met with friends and relatives. Those who stayed after the gold rushes settled in the centre of Victoria, from Ballarat to Bendigo to Yackandandah.

Both groups came from Lutheran areas in Europe. In Victoria a number of Nieder-Weisel folk married English or Irish partners and became attached to English-speaking churches as all Lutheran services and most social events were in German. The Wends who settled in the Western part of Victoria tended to marry Wends or Germans and remained connected to the Lutheran Church. So far we haven't found any Wends who married Nieder-Weisel folk, but it probably happened somewhere in Victoria.

When one reads of the experience of the Nieder-Weisel people you can further appreciate that some people left Europe because of the wars and compulsory military service. As a reward for winning the battle that took the Nieder-Weisel village, Napoleon's soldiers were given more than a day when they could rampage and help themselves to anything they could lay their hands on in the district. The Nieder-Weisel people were devastated and hated the French, but some months later when the Prussians and their allies won back the area their soldiers were given the same rights. No wonder the locals ended up in poverty. Poverty was so prevalent that crime flourished. Parents sent their teenage daughters overseas rather than have them grow up in a community where morals had sunk to low depths.

We are indebted to Kelvin Williams for compiling the history of the Nieder-Weisel people before he died in 1999. One can read the excellent Nieder-Weisel Story in more detail on the website [www.users.bigpond.net.au/haintz](http://www.users.bigpond.net.au/haintz)

The Nieder-Weisel descendants propose to fund and erect a plaque to honour the pioneering spirit of many German families that migrated to Victoria after 1853 from the village of Nieder-Weisel near Frankfurt am Main.

Some of these families were Adami, Belloff, Bill, Bodenroeder, Broek, Dern, Dilges, Fett, Geibel, Gerlach, Giehl, Haintz, Haub, Hauser, Heinz, Hildebrand, Hinklemann, Jung, Kissler, Klein, Klippel, Klos, Knipper, Koch, Kohler, Krausgrill, Lechner, Lemp, Lenz, Loh, Maas, Marx, Matthaus, Muller, Plough, Reuss, Reuter, Richter, Riegelhuth, Schimpf, Schmidt, Seip, Studt, Volk, Vorbach, Wetzell, Wilhelmi, Winter, Worner, Zeiss, Ziegler and Zimmer.

*If you are a descendant of any of the above, you are invited to contact Alan Haintz on phone (03) 9836 3448, email [ahaintz@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ahaintz@bigpond.net.au) or Don Hauser on phone (03) 9654 7610, email [dlhauser@bigpond.com](mailto:dlhauser@bigpond.com) for further details.*

KEVIN ZWAR



# Internet Research

## Wendsonline

Hardly a day goes by without someone sending an email to [wendsonline@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wendsonline@optusnet.com.au), looking for information and answers relating to their Germanic and Wendish ancestors. Recent queries have come from Canada, New Guinea, New Zealand, Prague and USA as well as all the States of Australia.

The emails are forwarded on to all Wendish Heritage Society Committee members and in nearly all cases, they are given valuable help. Some have been amazed at the information we have sent back.

## Lawrence Vivian WOTZKO

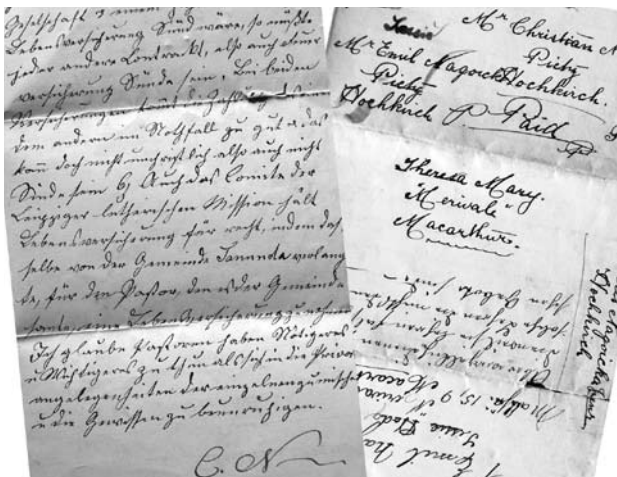
Recently, we had a request from Dr Cameron Hazlehurst of Australian National University for information on Lawrence Vivian WOTZKO, Service Number 2366, RAAF Sergeant Pilot who was believed killed on 4 August 1942 when two aircraft collided during a formation flying exercise. At the time of his death he was a flying instructor.

Dr Hazlehurst writes "I am writing a book about an air crash in Canberra in which four of Mr Wotzko's fellow members of 2 Squadron were killed, and I am keen if possible to locate letters, diaries, memoirs, or photos of men with whom they were serving at the time. Mr Wotzko had flown with Bob Hitchcock who was captain of the crashed plane."

Readers can email us information or provide contacts for Dr Hazlehurst.

## Other requests

Information has also been requested about the following names: Albinus, Andriske, Bahnisch/Baehnisch, Bartling Bensch, Borrack, Domashk, Fuss, Gietzen-danner, Gerlach, Gniel, Gulbin, Hagel, Hellwig, Kaiser, Kleinig, Kolosche, Kotzur, Kruger, Lehmann, Liebe Lorke, Miatke, Nagel, Pech, Peters, Salzke, Schober, Schultz, Schwartz, Seydlers [USA], Sommer, Sunderman and Wande.



## Here are some tips for searchers:

- (1) To save time, send as much information to Wendsonline about the ancestors, such as full names, spouse, village of origin, names of ships, year of birth and arrival in Australia if you have them.
- (2) Many Public Libraries throughout Australia carry CD sets of all the Births, Deaths and Marriages of South Australians. They include search facilities where one enters the Family Name and all the results are listed, sometimes in the hundreds. Phone your Library and ask if they carry the CD's.
- (3) The Wendish Society has records collected by Dr George Nielsen on about 250 Australian Wendish Families. The society has put these on computer and we send the relevant pages by email when a request is made for family information.
- (4) We also have over 900 church records on computer of Pastor Kappler from about the 1850's onwards and these can be emailed to you. Both Kappler and Nielsen records are sent free by email to members and ask for a donation of \$30 from non-members. Membership is \$20 per annum.

KEVIN ZWAR

## Research through Wendish website and Wendsonline

The research below has been conducted by Kevin Zwar, with some help from Committee members. This is in response to many queries and information submitted to Wendsonline, as described above.

Taking into account Australia's Privacy Laws, all names and personal details below have been used with the permission of the family researchers, for which we are grateful. The researchers' names and contact details are included so they can make contact with other relatives who may have further information. In future, we plan to post researchers' queries, some background information and contact details in "Family Searches" on our website [wendishheritage.org.au](http://wendishheritage.org.au) for wider distribution and easier access.

**Bensch/Baensch:** Deborah Stanton is researching Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Bensch who was born at "Deutschsager" near Crossen, Prussia; married Johanne Henrietta Winkler at Grovedale/ Germantown in 1880 and lived at Benalla, Connnewarre, Katamatite and the Riverina.

Contact [profesora01@gmail.com](mailto:profesora01@gmail.com)

**Borrack:** Tony Borrack's great-great-grandfather was Charles William Borrack, born in Hamburg and married in 1864 at Bunninyong. Charles' father



was Johan, a Master Mariner at Hamburg. Shipping details are sought.

Contact [a.borrack@bigpond.com.au](mailto:a.borrack@bigpond.com.au)

**Domashk:** Jeanette Liefing is researching Anna Domashk (1844-1891), sometimes spelt Domaschenz, who married Martin Matuschka at Birdwood (then Blumberg) in 1862, settled at Jindera in 1867 and moved to Flat Bush, New Zealand in 1879.

Contact: 13 Meon St Oamaru 9400 NZ or email: [email.janene@gmail.com](mailto:email.janene@gmail.com)

**Erbs:** Heather Coleman is researching Heinrich Friedrich, Wilhelm Erbs, who was born in about 1852 at Bremen and arrived in Australia on 15 Apr 1865 on a ship possibly called Launceston; a Henry Erbs died in 1880 at Ballarat. Contact telephone (03) 5148 3059 or email [admin@otp.com.au](mailto:admin@otp.com.au)

**Grimme:** Heather Coleman is researching Conrad Grimme, born about 1831 at Lauenstein in Hannover; occupation a Stellmacher or wheelwright; arrived in 1857 on La Rochelle.

Contact: see details under "Erbs family".

**Kolosche/Kollosche:** Brenton Tucker is researching George Kolosche, born in Werben Lusatia and arrived in 1854 on the *Malvina Vidal*; his daughter Maria Matilda Louisa was born in 1862 at Birdwood/Blumberg and married Samuel Tucker in 1883.

Contact: Brenton Tucker, 21 Brightman St, Flagstaff Hill SA 5159; telephone (08) 8270 3058; email [susantucker@bigpond.com](mailto:susantucker@bigpond.com)

**Maroske:** Lynette Hughes wonders whether the Queensland Maroskes are connected with the Southern Maroskes, who came from Turnow near Cottbus in Lusatia.

Contact: [lynetteahughes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lynetteahughes@yahoo.co.uk)

**Schultz:** Barry Chapple is seeking information about his great-great-grandfather, Peter Schultz, born about 1810, "a native of Hamburg", a storekeeper who married Christiana Juliana nee Rossel in 1849. He owned land in Elsternwick in 1854 and he died in 1884.

Contact: Barry Chapple, 8 Claygate Way, Kingsley WA 6026. Email: [baredex@iinet.net.au](mailto:baredex@iinet.net.au)

**Sunderman:** Heather Coleman seeks information about Heinrich Sundermann, a Miller born at Klovenhausen in Hanover, married Anna Finke in 1857 at the Lutheran Church East Melbourne; had two children George and Anna;

Contact: see details under "Erbs family".

**Wotzko Pilot:** As mentioned in detail in Wendsonline above, Dr Cameron Hazlehurst seeks information about the surviving family and descendants of Lawrence Vivian Wotzko, born in 1911 and a Flying Officer killed in a collision between two planes in 1942. His widow's address was 14 Clifford St in Prospect, SA.

Contact: [cameron.hazlehurst@gmail.com](mailto:cameron.hazlehurst@gmail.com)

## Trinity Archives in East Melbourne:

The following Research Projects are being undertaken by Herbert Mees, Renate Jurgens, Renate Haehnsen and other helpers at the Trinity Archives, East Melbourne. Enquiries, the contribution of additional information, as well as personal visits on Tuesdays between 10am-3pm, are welcomed at Trinity Archives, Trinity German Lutheran Church, 22 Parliament Place East Melbourne Vic 3002; Telephone (03) 9639 8137 on Tuesdays from 10am to 3pm only; Email [aki@kirche.org.au](mailto:aki@kirche.org.au).

### Kottmann – Bruhn

Erich Kottmann, a clavivola expert of Remscheid, today in the German Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia, came to Australia in 1912 under contract with the music company Allan & Co. and married Frieda Bruhn in 1914. Research is looking also into the Kerr family connections.

### Mittag – Lubahn

Wilhelm Johann Ludwig Mittag, a pianoforte maker of Schwerin, today in the German Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, and his wife Emma née Lubahn and family arrived in Melbourne in 1908; he helped to set up the Wertheim piano factory in Richmond, a building occupied today by TV Channel 9. Research is looking also at the Krueger and Fischer family connections.

### Popp – Cassuben

Joachim (Jochen) Popp, a seaman of Finkenwerder, today part of the City of Hamburg, settled in Victoria in 1870 and became a miner at Deep Lead, Stawell. He was naturalised in 1873. His descendants discovered that their ancestry goes back to connections with Urbanus Rhegius (1489-1541), a contemporary of Martin Luther. Also research into the Cassuben side of the family.

### Theiss – Fatum (Feitum/Fetum)

The Theiss family of Lindenstruth, today part of Reiskirchen, a town ca. 11 km east of Giessen, today in the German Federal State of Hesse. The research goes back to the marriage in 1847 of Heinrich Theis and Eisabetha Margretha Fatum (Feitum) at Lindenstruth.

### Wehl – (von) Mueller

Dr Eduard (Edward) Wehl, a physician from Celle, today in the German Federal State of Lower Saxony, married Clara, the sister of Ferdinand (later Baron von) Mueller, in 1853. Research into members of the extended Wehl family and the Mount Gambier connection.



# What's new at the library?

- (1) *G. J. Rechner and his descendants: Rechner, Fischer/Fisher, Stolz and Reuther journeys* by Judy Gale Rechner. (Kindly donated by Judy Gale Rechner.)
- (2) *German settlers in South Australia* by Charles A Price examines the history of German migration to Australia.
- (3) *Loxton district and town* by Marjory R. Cosson, with three concluding chapters by W. R. C. Hirst and including on page 34 the original plan of G.F. Angas to settle Pastor Kavel's German immigrants on his land at the junction of the Rivers Murray and Darling and
- (4) *The Diamond Valley Story* by Dianne H. Edwards and reviewed by Ed Koch in Wendish News No. 39, August 2007, page 6.  
(Both kindly donated by Ed and Gladys Koch)
- (5) Pfeiffer family history from Langhermsdorf to Schoenthal and beyond, 1844-2004, compiled by Lynette and Graham Pfeiffer.
- (6) *Proeve – Pröve – Prove: 1380 – 1886 – 2006: a German feudal grant – an emigration to Queensland – a family anniversary: the story of a family* [second edition] by Heinrich (Henry) F. W. Proeve.
- (7) *Prosperity and failure: a brief history of the area North East and East of the Barossa in the hills and on the Murray Flats from Baldina to Palmer and to the River Murray. An overview of what happened in this area and the link with the Barossa between the years 1836 and 1900* by E G Munchenberg.
- (8) *Pumpa; Australian descendants: commemorating 150 years in Australia, 1856-2006*
- (9) *Rhine Villa - Cambrai and beyond: history of settlement* compiled by Heather Schirmer. Contents include the historical events and related stories pertaining to the settlement of the Cambrai area.
- (10) *Tabor, 1853-2003 150 years*. This book celebrates 150 years in the life of the Bethlehem Lutheran Congregation, Tabor, Victoria.
- (11) *Australian Lutheran* magazine complete from the first issue in 1913 through to the last in 1966 is now available in our library on fully searchable CDs. The Australian Lutheran was the nationwide magazine for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia. The magazine includes information on specific events and people, including marriages, deaths and obituaries.
- (12) *Moments and memories* by Ray Burger. Ray has written his own life story in the context of the historical record of the Burger family in Australia. The Burger ancestors, Peter and Agnes Burger (nee Schmidt) and their three children left Hochkirch in south east Germany in 1851. In 1853 they purchased land at Gnadenthal, near Penshurst, in the Western District of Victoria. The original Burger wattle and daub "pug" cottage still stands to this day.  
*We thank Ray Burger for donating a copy of his book to our Library and all members and friends who have made donations to our library*

JANICE BLACKBURN AND GLENYS WOLLERMANN

## Items from other Societies' Journals

### Wendish History

The South East Family History Soc. Newsletter (Nov 2007, p.6) offers *A brief history of the Wends/Sorbs* by Marlene Fennell, and is now available on our website.

### Lebenswecker

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society Newsletter (Jan 2008 p.14) tells of *hundreds of items on display* in their museum. One item, *The Lebenswecker*, was brought to Texas by Wendish forebears. This medical instrument, designed by Carl Braunscheidt in 1848, was designed to raise blisters to divert blood flow from an infection or illness in any part of the body by setting up a secondary inflammation in

another. It was reported to be successful. In 1944, the company producing it was destroyed by Allied bombing. *Let's hear from any Australian readers who own or know about this instrument!*

### Gray Day

The *Bremer Echoes* from Ipswich (Vol 26 No 1 March 2008 p.4) advertises a Gray Family Day & Reunion at Peak Crossing, 19 Oct 2008, inviting families with German names such as Beitsel, Neumann and Hoffschilt, who migrated from the Somerset area in England.

Contact: Jenny Addison: [grayreunion@optusnet.com.au](mailto:grayreunion@optusnet.com.au) or Mobile 0402 045 664.

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An article on page 13 offers ideas for removing photos from 'so-called "magnetic" photo albums' or stuck down on backing material.

### Plethora of Paperwork

In *Links & Chains* from Liverpool NSW (Feb 2008 p.19) Sarah Warwick offers help to those who find their family history "tangled" or "buried under a plethora of paperwork". She offers many helpful hints and more will be offered in their May edition.

### German Club

*The North Brisbane News* (Feb 2008 p.10) presents a brief *History of the German Club* in Brisbane beginning 1883. If you think you have connections in Queensland, be in touch with Glenda Hoetzel, Nth Brisbane Branch GSQ, PO Box 353 Cherside South, Qld 4032.

### German Vinedressers

*Timespan* from the Nepean F. H. Society Penrith (Dec 2007 p.25) draws attention to *German vinedressers* including Flick, Seckold, Gerhard, Justus, Wenz and Stein, who brought their families to NSW in 1838.

Contact Julie Watt, 39 Park St, Yahmoor, NSW 2573  
Tel. (02) 4683 3973, email: [wattlebee@bigpond.com](mailto:wattlebee@bigpond.com)

*Timespan* also lists a German Genealogy website:  
[groups.msn.com/GermanGenealogy/bavaria.msnw](http://groups.msn.com/GermanGenealogy/bavaria.msnw).

ED AND GLAD KOCH

## Reunion

### The Deutscher Family

A Reunion of Deutscher descendants will take place in Hamilton on 27-28th September 2008.

Contact: Daryl Deutscher Tel. (03) 5359 5220;  
or Arthur Deutscher Tel. (03) 5500 7914; or  
Ken Deutscher Tel. (03)9744 4438.

## 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](http://www.robynzwardesign.com)

### 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](mailto:johnnoack@yahoo.com.au). *Newsletter Editor*.

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

**Secretary:** Glenys Wollermann, 22 Bellara Street, Doncaster, Vic 3108. Tel: 03 9891 6652. Email: [g.wollermann@fhc.vic.edu.au](mailto:g.wollermann@fhc.vic.edu.au).

**Treasurer:** Clay Kruger, 16 Gracedale Ave, East Ringwood, Vic 3135. Tel: 03 9779 3599 Email: [claykruc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:claykruc@optusnet.com.au) (N.B. not "claykrug")

### 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](mailto:bettyhuf@westvic.com.au) *Researcher*.

**Ed Koch:** 2 Anderson Parade, Bundoora, Vic 3083. Tel: 03 9432 3113. Email: [edkoch@dodo.com.au](mailto:edkoch@dodo.com.au). *Journal perusal and reviews*.

**Gladys Koch:** same address and responsibilities as Ed Koch, above.

**Robert Wuchatsch:** Stony Rises Homestead, 2020 Princes Hwy, Pirron Yallock, Vic 3249. Tel: 03 5235 4220. Email: [robert.wuchatsch@bigpond.com](mailto:robert.wuchatsch@bigpond.com). *Researcher*.

**Kevin Zwar:** 58 Blackburn Road, Mooroolbark, Vic 3138. Tel: 03 9727 1390. Email: [wendsonline@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wendsonline@optusnet.com.au)  
*Website Manager*

## Wendish Heritage Society Australia Inc

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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.*