



wendish news

WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

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The horse-drawn wagon parade in Hamilton on 6 May, 2012. See Report on page 4. (Photo: J. Noack)

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Calendar of upcoming events

Wagon Treks Commemorative Luncheon, Saturday 13 October 2012

A special Luncheon will be held at the Austrian Club at 12.30 for 1.00 pm to celebrate the various Wagon Treks undertaken by our ancestors. Join us for some good German food and hospitality at the Austrian Club, 76-90 Sheehan Rd, Heidelberg West, Vic. (Melway 19 F9). All are welcome.

This Luncheon will provide an opportunity for a reunion of those who participated in the recent re-enactment of the 1852 Wagon Trek from S.A. to the Western District of Victoria. The Luncheon will also commemorate the 1868-69 Wagon Trek from Ebenezer (S.A.) to Walla Walla (NSW).

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Calendar of upcoming events ...continued from page 1

Pioneers involved in Wagon Treks include the ALBERT, BURGER, DEUTSCHER, GERSCH, HUF, HANDRECK, HUNDRACK, LIESCHKE, MATUSCHKA, MIRTSCHIN, NOACK, PETSCHER, PUMPA, RENTSCH, SCHEETZ, STARICK, STEPHAN, TOWK, WENKE and various other families.

The luncheon menu offers a choice of six main courses, ranging in price from \$16 to \$21. Dessert is available for \$4.50. You can pay as you order.

Please RSVP by 30 Sep. to Glenys Wollermann Tel (03) 9891 6652; email wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au Please give the names of all those attending, for their name-tags.

Ziebell's Farmhouse Open Garden, 17–18 November 2012

The historic Ziebell's Farmhouse Garden will be included in Australia's Open Garden Scheme for the first time this year. The Garden will be open from 10 am to 4.30 pm on both Sat. 17 and Sun. 18 November. The cost is \$7.00 per person; children under 18 are free. Ziebell's Farmhouse is Victoria's oldest German immigrant building. For this event, parking and entrance will be via Westgarthtown Lutheran Reserve, German Lane, Thomastown, Vic. (Melway 8 H5)

Labour Day Weekend Tour, 9-10 March 2013

Our tour destination will be the Grovedale and Freshwater Creek area, near Geelong, Victoria.

The proposed itinerary, organised by June Winter, includes lunch in Grovedale on Saturday 9th, a visit to an Aboriginal cultural centre and/or Cobbin Farm, followed by an evening meal at a local hotel. On Sunday 10th, we will have the opportunity to attend a church service in Grovedale, followed by morning tea. We will then visit the Grovedale Cemetery and the heritage-listed church and cemetery at Freshwater Creek. For those who wish to stay, there will be an opportunity on Monday to visit Geelong's Wool Museum and the Botanical Gardens on the foreshore.

Please book by Monday 25 February with June Winter (03) 5266 1383. Full details of the itinerary will be published in our next edition and will be available on our website www.wendishheritage.org.au under "News and Events". The tour to Natimuk has been postponed to March 2014.

Pleasant Sunday Afternoon, Sunday 7 April 2013

We will begin with a delicious community lunch at 12.30 pm followed by a brief AGM before hearing our guest speaker at 2.00 pm. As 2013 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig Leichhardt, we will hear about this famous German explorer and naturalist whose 1848 disappearance in inland Australia remains a mystery. 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.

Past events

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

The Tabor Lutheran congregation celebrated the centenary of its church building on 11 March 2012. Before this event, the participants in the Wendish Tabor Country Tour were able to spend Saturday at Penshurst including Mt Rouse, and at the Tabor concert, spend Sunday at Tabor and Gnadenthal and Monday touring Hamilton, including Good Shepherd College and the South Hamilton Cemetery.

Volcanoes at Penshurst

We began our Tour with lunch at the Wetlands Garden and a visit to the Historical Society at

the Court House. We then visited the Volcanoes Discovery Centre, where we learned that Mt Rouse was formed by volcanic eruption about 350,000 years ago and that it expelled flowing lava, which later became bluestone, and air-borne lava, which became scoria.

Such a display of volcanic activity leads to the almost obligatory ascent of Mount Rouse. Following a sumptuous afternoon tea at "Stony View", the site of the original Hempel homestead, we drove up Mount Rouse and climbed the short flight of steps to the summit. Mt Rouse is a massive accumulation of scoria rising 100 metres above the surrounding volcanic plain, giving good views of the surrounding district.



Clockwise: Tabor Tour group on Mt Rouse; Centenary cake; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Tabor; 1853 Burger Cottage, near Penshurst. (Photos: J. Noack, J. Blackburn)

Talent and Traditions at Tabor

After a delicious meal at the Penshurst Hotel, we attended Tabor's Centenary Celebration Concert on Saturday evening. Tabor's talent for entertaining was revealed in all the groups presenting musical items, including the Tabor Male Choir, plays and skits.

The Centenary Service was held in the church at 10 am on Sunday 11 March. The service booklet contained photos of the church's early stages of construction and the history of the three church buildings at Tabor. This Centenary Celebration was clear evidence of Tabor's respect and concern for its traditions and its pioneering heritage, which included early Germanic and Wendish families such as GARDI, KRUGER, LEHRACK, MATUSCHKA, MUDRA, NOWOTNA, RENTSCH, SCHEETZ, STARICK, and ZSCHECH. Following lunch in the church hall, we toured the Tabor Lutheran cemetery.

Gnadenthal or "Valley of Grace"

This area's pioneers included the ALBERT, BIESCHKE, BURGER, MIRTSCHIN, STEPHAN and URBAN families. We visited the well-kept Gnadenthal cemetery and the sites of the original Albert and Mirtschin homesteads. On display at the Mirtschin homestead were the family's very old wooden chest and wooden wheelbarrow. The Burgers made us

welcome at their 1853 Burger Cottages, which contain furniture, photographs, books and household and farm objects used in the pioneering days. We then visited the Tarrington Lutheran precinct. Our evening meal, with guest speaker Ossie Rentsch, was held at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Hamilton.

Hamilton's heritage

On Monday 12 March, tour participants were able to appreciate Hamilton's heritage.

The Ansett Transport Museum began its story when Reginald Ansett, in 1931, began a taxi service between Hamilton and Ballarat in his Studebaker car. By 1936 he had managed to purchase a Fokker Universal passenger plane and flew it from Hamilton to Melbourne. This began what soon became an International Airline.

The South Hamilton Lutheran Cemetery is testament to the area's early settlers and the hardships they faced. The Cemetery is well maintained and the stories of many of its occupants have been widely researched by local historians, such as Elizabeth Huf, in her book *Courage Patience and Persistence: 150 Years of German Settlement in Western Victoria* and by the many family historians and researchers in the process of tracing family trees.

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Past Events ...continued from page 3

St Michael's Lutheran Church was established on the site of the above cemetery but it later relocated eastwards to Hochkirch, now Tarrington. In 1858, its members erected their first church building on this new site and this was followed in 1863 by a magnificent bluestone church with a bell tower.

Some St Michael's members left this congregation and in 1857 formed St Luke's Lutheran Church. Foundation members included the BIENTKE, BIESKE, DEUTSCHER, FIEBIG, GERLACH, GRIESER, HUF, PETSCHER, SCHNEIDER and ZIESCHANG families. The church building is now part of the Hamilton Pastoral Museum. Its story and contribution to this area are well described by Coral Shepherd in the booklet, *St Luke's Lutheran Church 150th Anniversary*. The Museum also features antique implements, wagons and many other historical items.

This Tour also featured a fascinating drive around Hamilton. Our bus driver, Colin Huf, showed us various sites of interest, including Good Shepherd College, where students can study agriculture. The re-vegetation undertaken on this property by teachers there, such as Colin Huf, is most commendable.

Gratitude to the Tour Guides

Much planning is required for such tours, so the tour participants are most grateful to both Colin and Betty Huf for making this weekend a very valuable experience. We also thank all others who contributed to the success of this March 2012 Wendish Country Tour.

A more detailed report and photos are available on our website www.wendishheritage.org.au under Past Events.

JOHN NOACK, PRESIDENT

Pleasant Sunday Afternoon, 1 April 2012

We began with a delicious community lunch followed by a brief AGM before hearing Hans Schroeder speak on German Lutherans in Russia. Lutherans have lived in Russia for more than 400 years. *More information about Hans Schroeder's talk is available on our website under "Past Events".*

At our AGM our existing office-bearers were re-elected. There was one change on the Committee, with Moira Nagorcka withdrawing her nomination because of her other commitments. We welcomed new member Bev Gotzky to the Committee.

Treasurer Clay Kruger reported that we are in a good position financially, with a balance of \$14,381 as at 31 Dec. 2011. At a time when many societies face a declining membership, it was gratifying to hear that ours has increased slightly.

Retracing the 1852 Wagon Trek from Rosenthal to Portland, 3-6 May 2012



This event was a resounding success. Trek participants retraced the route of their ancestors on the 1852 Wagon Trek from South Australia to the Western District of Victoria. The trek was re-enacted by about 80 people in 38 cars, starting in Rosedale S.A. and ending in Hamilton, Vic. The four day tour followed in the footsteps of the 1852 pioneering ALBERT, BURGER, DEUTSCHER, HUF, HUNDRACK, MIRTSCHEIN, PETSCHER and RENTSCH families. The original wagon trek took about four weeks. Here are some comments from tour participants:

"The whole event went extremely well. It was a huge success."

"The 40-pages of itinerary and travellers' notes made this trek a real adventure for all participants and not just for the descendants".

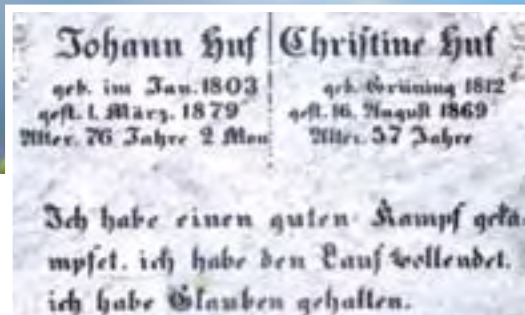
"There was an influx of people interested in following their ancestors on the path they would have taken."

"It was a wonderful experience, especially for those of us who are descendants of the original wagoners. We really felt like we were following in their footsteps and re-living their journey."

"Thank you all for making this trek so rewarding and so enjoyable. We think maybe because our ancestors were friends we easily became friends too."

The 2012 Trekkers began their journey at the site of the first church and cemetery situated on part of the Petschel land in Rosenthal (Rosedale). They recalled with thanks the bravery of the pioneers in undertaking an arduous four-week journey to seek a better life for their families.

In the 1852 Trek, 51 people travelled in eleven canvas-covered wagons, eight of which were horse-drawn and three bullock-drawn. They took 52 head of cattle. They soon reached Lyndoch, which had a small inn, the Lord Lyndoch. Today's Trekkers were able to visit the Lyndoch Bakery for coffee and kuchen.



Clockwise: Petschel family group; St Thomas Anglican Church at Condah, Vic; Blue Lake at Mt Gambier, S.A; Huf headstone at South Hamilton Lutheran Cemetery; town sign at Rosedale, S.A. (Photos: J. Noack)

At Springton, the Trekkers visited the large hollow gum tree which provided a home for the Herbig family when they moved into this area in 1855. Murray Bridge was the venue for a delicious evening meal, catered for by the Murray Bridge congregation. This was followed by several visual presentations, including one on the Wends and another on the people involved in the original trek of 1852 and in the scouting party of 1851.

At Wellington, where the 1852 Trekkers crossed the River Murray, today's Trekkers visited the old punt crossing point. Displays at the Courthouse Museum helped to bring these early days to life.

During the 1851 scouting expedition, the scouts lost track of their horses on a rainy night. Aborigines not only retrieved the horses for them but also provided a meal of fish for Blandowski, Blume, Huf and Nuske. Present-day Trekkers had a meal of fish and chips on the beach at Kingston to recall the goodwill shown in this early contact with the Aborigines.

The 1852 Trek moved inland after Kingston. The

2012 Trekkers visited the Glencoe woolshed, now managed by the National Trust, and enjoyed an impromptu sing-a-long of shearing songs, accompanied by two guitarists. They then journeyed to Mt Gambier, location of the famous Blue Lake, and then on to Portland.

The original Trekkers arrived at Portland on 26 May 1852. As land was not yet available for purchase at Grange Burn /Hamilton, accommodation and jobs were found in Portland, Heywood and Mt Clay. After waiting patiently for a year, they were able to buy land in May 1853. They called their new settlement "Hochkirch on the Grange" and established their cemetery, now known as the Hamilton South Lutheran Cemetery.

A crowd of about 300 took part in the 2012 Trek's final day when a covered wagon paraded through Hamilton. Some wore period costume for the procession, which ended at the Hamilton South Lutheran Cemetery. A commemorative service was held to express the deep gratitude of the present

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Page 6 (clockwise): German wagon at Glencoe Woolshed; Jenny Robertson; Friedensburg; Trekkers at Wellington's old punt crossing; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Murray Bridge, S.A.

Page 7 (clockwise): Julie Kennett; Model T Ford; Herbig Family Tree at Springton, S.A.; covered wagon in Hamilton; June Winter and John Deutscher; the Tabor Male Choir; guitarists Peter Neilson and Ian McMahon singing shearing songs at Glencoe Woolshed; plaque at Wellington, S.A.; Friedensburg church and school. (Photos: J. Noack, C. Kruger)

generation for being the recipients of a very rich pioneering heritage. This was movingly expressed by the laying of wreaths by descendants on the graves of their ancestors.

The viewing of exhibits at the Pastoral Museum, the inspection of displays of Wendish scenery and customs and a delicious lunch at the Museum fittingly concluded a memorable modern-day Trek.

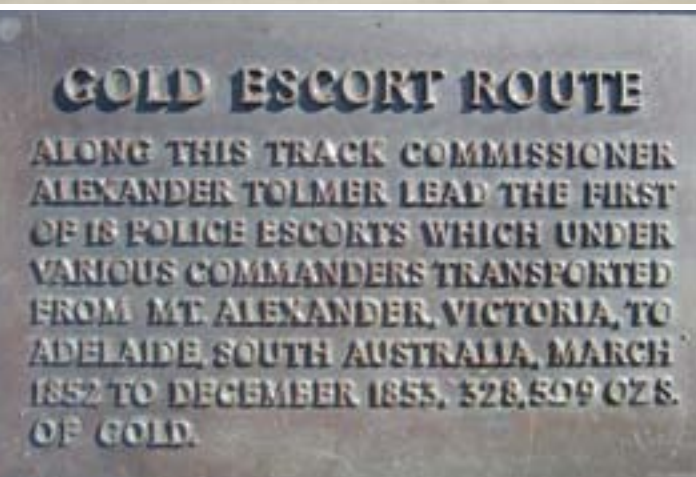
Participants are very grateful to the tour organisers: Helen Petschel and her husband Bob Walton, Christine and Ian Cook, and Colin and Betty Huf.

For a detailed report of the Wagon Trek, go to "News and Events" on our website: www.wendishheritage.org.au

JOHN NOACK, PRESIDENT

Highlights of the Wagon Trek on dual DVD are available for \$20.00 (including postage), from Clay Kruger. See contact details in the Directory on page 12. Please make cheques payable to "Wendish Heritage Soc. Aust. Inc."

Commemorative teaspoons are available for \$6.00 each, plus postage. Contact June Winter, 595 Reservoir Rd, Mt Moriac, Vic. 3240. Tel. (03) 5266 1383.





Research

Victor Edward Petschel (1918–1945)

Farmer of Wail, near Dimboola, Victoria

Recently a Peace Memorial Cabinet was unveiled at



Immanuel College in Adelaide by Mr Steve Georganas MP (representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs) in recognition of ten scholars who had paid the Supreme Sacrifice in World War 2. One of the ten was Edward Petschel, a Wend from Victoria.

For more information and photos, see our website under "Publications".

Request from Smythesdale, Victoria

Many people of German origin settled in Smythesdale and district in the 1850s and 1860s.

The Woody Yaloak Historical Society is keen to locate any photographs or records of the Lutheran Church and the German gymnasium that were in Smythesdale. If you can help, please contact Margaret Roberts, Research Officer, Woody Yaloak Historical Society Inc, P.O. Smythesdale, Vic. 3351. Tel. (03) 5342 8754; email: wylhs@vic.chariot.net.au

We live in a small Wend world!

I received a request from the USA through the Wendsonline email service for any information about the enquirer's ancestor, George BOBACK. George was a Wend who emigrated to Australia in the 1850's, returned to Germany in the 1860's, and then moved to the USA. What chance would there be to supply information on a Wend who spent only about ten years in Australia in those early years?

By a string of coincidences, the answer is: "An amazing amount!"

It turns out that my great-grandfather, Peter Zwar, had bought property at St Kitts in South Australia from George Boback when George sold it to return to Germany with his wife and two sons. Some years later, the same St Kitts property came into the possession of Reg Munchenberg, who happens to be a leading historian in the Barossa Valley and has published valuable local histories, including *Prosperity and*

failure: a brief history of the Murray Flats and surrounding area, 1836–1900.

Aided by the Barossa historian Geoff Saegenschnitter, who also happens to be a descendant of my great-grandfather Peter Zwar, Reg could tell the enquirer about George Boback's first wife and child, who had both died at St Kitts. Then Reg and Geoff supplied many details of the second Boback wife and their two sons born at St Kitts. The enquirer in USA is a descendant of one of the two sons born in Australia.

There is a sad sequel. The Boback son born at St Kitts had two sons in the USA and both drowned as young children in a river tragedy. They were the last of this male line of the Boback family.

KEVIN P. ZWAR, RESEARCHER

Melbourne General Cemetery Stories Project

A Cemetery Stories Project is at present being planned in relation to the Melbourne General Cemetery. Research will involve the locating and recording of personal information about the Cemetery's more than 1,600 persons with Germanic and Wendish ancestry, in order to recreate their life stories and to shed more light on life in Victoria in the pioneering days of the 1800s. The Organiser is Herbert Mees and these plans are at present being put to history-related groups in Victoria for their consideration and future involvement in this historically valuable task.

If you can assist in any way, please contact Herbert Mees; email: herbertmees@bigpond.com

For more information, see our website under Publications / Cemetery Stories Project.

JOHN NOACK, PRESIDENT

Schultz, Sandmann, Topp family history book

The Wellersdorf Migration – A History of the Schultz, Sandmann, Topp Families 1849–2011 edited by Rex T. Motton & Phillip A. Richardson. (666 pages, HB, A4)

The Schultz & Sandmann families arrived in Melbourne, Victoria in 1849. They settled in Wollert in 1853 before moving to Gippsland in 1881.

Price: \$85 incl. p.& p. within Aust. Contact: Phillip A Richardson, 7 Regent St, Camberwell VIC 3124. Tel: (03)9889 1368; email: philar@netspace.net.au



Items from other Societies' journals

Strange German names

Ances-tree (July 2011) from Burwood, NSW offers an article by Jenny Paterson on the topic of unusual given names of German immigrants in the 1850s. Problems include errors in the records, spelling variations, name abbreviations and the usage of Latin in names. Some children were named after ships. Paterson provides a list of unusual names, including Adalbert, Ludolph and Wiltrudis.

Down on Wuchatsch's farm

Robert Wuchatsch pens his reminiscences about growing up in rural Thomastown in *The Friends of Westgarthtown Newsletter* (April 2012).

Charles John Ziebell

The Friends of Westgarthtown Newsletter (April 2012) also features Robert Wuchatsch's article on Charles John Ziebell (1870–1925) who was a pharmacist in Fitzroy. His business suffered in World War 1 when people boycotted his shop.

Benjamin Seeber

The above newsletter also features a biography by Robert Wuchatsch of Westgarthtown farmer Benjamin Seeber (1883–1959), son of Johann Christian Ludwig Seeber and Johanna Wuchatsch.

Texas Wends

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society Newsletter (Oct. 2011) reports on the commemoration of Pastor-Poet-Emigrant Jan Kilian, held in Bautzen in Sept. 2011. The commemoration marked the 200th anniversary of Jan Kilian's birth. The April 2012 edition gives a profile of Pastor Johann August Proft (1844–1896). Other Wendish ministers in America were Hermann Kilian, Andreas Schmidt, Johann Pallmer, Gottfried Lehnigk, Wilhelm Matuschka and Mato Kosyk (Kossick).

Peter and Magdalena (nee Rentsch) Zieschang

The March 2012 *Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia Newsletter* features an article by Malcolm Sears on a Wendish family who came to Western Victoria, returned to Saxony and then migrated to Texas in 1870. Magdalena's sister married Johann Poldrack and they farmed in the Wail / Pimpinio district in Victoria.

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). He married Clara

Spehr. The Oct. 2011 edition includes the Obituary of Anna Rosina PETSCHER (nee Schneider) born in Silesia in 1844. She married Carl Petschel in 1865. At the time of her death in 1939 she was Dimboola's oldest resident. The Dec. 2011/Jan. 2012 edition gives the Obituary of Tekla HAEBICH (nee Klysz) of Antwerp, who died in 1937, aged 80. She arrived in Australia aged 18 and married Carl Gottich Haebich. This edition also gives the Obituaries of Alma Johanna Reichenbach, nee DEUTSCHER, (1867–1948) and Ludwig Carl Reichenbach (1869–1955). The Feb. 2012 edition refers to the death in 1937 of Maria PETSCHER (nee ZWAR), aged 88. She arrived in Australia in 1851, married Christian August Petschel in 1868 and moved to Katyl in 1903.

Antwerp Cemetery

Dimboola & Dist. Historical Society Inc. Newsletter (Nov. 2011) includes an article on the Antwerp Cemetery, near Dimboola. Biographies are given for Errol John Bernhard DREHER (1895–1915) and Johann Julius SEMMLER (1854–1926).

Lochiel Pioneers

Dimboola & Dist. Historical Society Inc. Newsletter (July/Aug. 2011) informs us that 50 years ago, in 1961, a monument was erected to the memory of pioneer Lutherans who built a church at Lochiel, near Dimboola, in 1887. The church was removed in 1957.

Useful Websites

The March 2012 *Ancestral Searcher* gives this website for persons lost and found in South Australia 1838 – 1915, compiled from police and government gazettes. www.ach.familyhistorysa.info/deserters.html

Golden Links (Oct–Dec 2011) gives this website for South Australian Indexes Online. Searches include newspaper birth and death notice index, bdm certificate indexes, cemetery indexes, etc. www.genealogy.org.au

Links 'n' Chains (Feb. 2012) states that Family History South Australia now has online search facilities for SA births, deaths and marriages 1836–1854. Other topics that are searchable are shipping, cemeteries, 1841 Census, etc. www.familyhistorysa.info

Mallee Roots (May 2012) informs us that Photo Rescue is a website dedicated to old family photos. If you are lucky enough to find one belonging to your family, you may be able to claim it. <http://members.optushome.com.au/lenorefrost/jim.html>

PAUL KRUGER, JOURNAL REVIEWER



Reunions and Tours

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

A Reunion will be held for the descendants of German pioneers who arrived at Kangaroo Island, South Australia aboard the *Solway*, 175 years ago in October 1837. Surnames include Bauer, Bremer, Christian, Debus, Diese, Drebing, Drese, Fleim, Fortsch, Gramp, Grunhagen, Hanson, Hauser, Hutsch, Kleeman, Koehler, Kramer, Lage, Milde, Neander, Oppel, Oelrich, Pfeiffer, Pipkorn, Prophet, Schaeffer, Schmidt, Sturn, Theilmann, Wallschlager and Zilm. The Reunion will be held on 13–16 Oct. 2012 at Kingscote, Kangaroo Island.

Contact: Jan Heppner (08) 8541 2820; email janhch@bigpond.com or Pastor David Christian (08) 8391 0063; email davjoyxian@adam.com.au

Touring the Land of the Wends

Chris Elmore is a great-great-grandson of Johann Samuel Rohr (1810–1890) and Anna Dorothea Petras (1822–1911).

His interesting report of his tour to the homeland of his Wendish ancestors, with photos, is available on our website under “Publications”.

It will be published in our next edition of Wendish news.

What’s new at the library?

1. *Fred Kruger: intimate landscapes*, by Isobel Crombie. [Published for the Fred Kruger exhibition at The Ian Potter Centre, NGV Australia at Federation Square, 4 Feb–27 May, 2012]. This is the first comprehensive account of the life and work of photographer, German-born migrant J.F.C. (Fred) Kruger (1831–1888), who arrived in Melbourne in 1860 aboard the barque *Boreas*. After working as an upholsterer he changed profession to become a photographer. His work ranges from picturesque views of Victoria to portraits of properties both large and small, and images that deal with current events around his home town of Geelong. One of his most notable assignments was to record life at the Aboriginal settlement of Coranderrk in 1876 and 1883.
2. *A journey through the Spree Forest*, text by Georg Schwikart and photos by Wolfgang Korall. Over 200 coloured photographs show the Spree Forest in Brandenburg, Germany, in all its variety with four special sections focussing on a diverse range of subjects such as the Spree Forest gherkin, the Slavic fort of Raddusch, the writer of hymns, Paul Gerhardt, and the region’s many sagas and fairytales.
3. *Barossa food*. [Rev. ed.] by Angela Heuzenroeder. This is a combination of recipes, history and stories from the Barossa Valley in South Australia, which lays claim to a distinctive regional food culture. The author follows the seasons to describe foods eaten in the Barossa for over 160 years. She draws on the memories and recipe notebooks of people in the Valley, as well as her own experiences, to provide 100 authentic recipes.
4. *Wagon trekking: following the 1852 trail of our ancestors in 2012-style: Rosenthal & Hoffnungsthal, South Australia to Portland & Hamilton District, Victoria*. History, notes and trail maps prepared for the retracing 3–6 May 2012, by Helen Petschel and Christine Cook. The 160th anniversary of the 1852 pioneering overland trek from Rosedale (formerly Rosenthal) and Hoffnungsthal in South Australia to Portland, Hamilton, Gnadenthal, and Hochkirch in Western Victoria was celebrated in May 2012. Participants retraced by car in four days the route taken by the pioneers in horse-drawn wagons, a journey of over four weeks.
5. *The tale of Frieda Keysser. Volume 1, 1875–1910. Frieda Keysser and Carl Strehlow: an historical biography. Investigations into a forgotten past*, by John Strehlow. This historical biography is based on the diaries of the author’s grandmother, Frieda Keysser, who, at the age of 20, left northern Bavaria, Germany, in 1895 to marry Lutheran missionary, Carl Strehlow. They came to Australia and devoted 30 years to reviving and building Hermannsburg Mission in the Northern Territory where Frieda played a crucial role in the survival of Central Australia’s Aboriginal population. Frieda’s diaries lay forgotten in a cellar in Berlin for over 50 years. With their meticulous observation and careful recording of names, places, and facts they constitute a rich and invaluable record of pioneer life of that period.
6. *The Scandinavians in Australia, New Zealand and the Western Pacific*, by J. Lyng. Published in Melbourne in 1939, this book by a Danish-born migrant examines the history of



the Scandinavians who came to Australia, New Zealand and the Western Pacific. He discusses the factors influencing their migration, and their contribution to the life of their adopted country, for example, in the gold-fields, in church life; in various societies, etc.

7. *The Slavs: their significance, political and cultural history*, by Bohuslav Chropovský. This is a beautifully illustrated book on the history, culture, and customs of the Slavs. It describes the coming of the Slavs into regions which already had older settled populations. They influenced, and were influenced by, both culturally and economically, the other ethnic groups with whom they came into contact.
8. *Serbska protyka 2012*. [Upper Sorbian book calendar for 2012; text in Upper Wendish], edited by Alfons Frencl and published in Bautzen, Germany. Features include an article by our Researcher, Robert Wuchatsch and photographs of our President, John Noack, the front page of the *Wendish News*, Aug. 2010 and a Wendish get-together in Melbourne.
9. *Footprints of the pioneers: stories of Henty's early settlers*, co-ordinated by Yvonne Booth. In Henty (NSW) the Henty Cemetery Project set out to identify more than 250 unmarked graves. Henty's history is told through the stories of the pioneers buried there. These stories give an insight into the social history of Henty and how its pioneering families worked and lived.
10. *Postcards from the Spreewald: daily life in Lower Lusatia, Germany, c1900*.
A set of 21 colour photographs enlarged from postcards dated c1900 depicting daily life in Lower Lusatia of that period – costumes, customs, boating, farming, spinning, etc. in villages and towns including Burg, Cottbus, Lehde, Leipe, Lübbenau, Peitz, Straupitz, Werben, and Wotschofska.

11. *Sweet Barossa memories*, with narration by Ted Egan. [CD].

This CD features 16 songs in praise of the Barossa Valley region interspersed with narration on the history of the German migration and settlement in the area. Music, lyrics and text for narration were written by David Herbig, who lives close to the famous giant old hollow redgum tree in Springton in which his forebears – Friedrich and Caroline Herbig – made their home.

Our library has a very large and extremely comprehensive collection of family histories of individual Wendish and German families. Recent additions to this section of the library are:

12. *In our forbears' footsteps: a tribute to the Habner / Prime ancestors and a remembrance of their lives and ours*, by John Woodside. A story of one branch of the Habners and Primes, their arrival in Australia and what they have done since they arrived. (Kindly donated by John Woodside.)
13. *The Fellenberg and Kliche family history, 1841–2009. Descendants of Gottfried and Dorothea Elisabeth Fellenberg, and of Johann Gottfried and Anna Elisabeth Kliche*, researched and compiled by Rhonda Steinberner and Lorraine Willoughby.
14. *The wandering Weckerts: the family history of Carl August Weckert and his wife Johanne Beate, née Schulz, and their descendants, 1858–2011*, by Allan Lieschke and Lorraine Willoughby.
15. *The Steinert family in Australia: descendants of Johann Gottlob Steinert and his wife Anna Rosina, née Ullrich*, researched by Lorraine Willoughby.
16. *The Winter family from Diirschwitz to Australia*, by Lyall Kupke and Collin Pfeiffer.

To view a complete list of the holdings of our library visit our website at www.wendishheritage.org.au/publications/library/

JANICE BLACKBURN, LIBRARIAN

General News

Visitor from Poland

On 1 May 2012 Aileen and Wolfgang Preiss (from South Australia) and Dr Anitta Maksymowicz (from Poland) toured the Westgarthtown Precinct and visited our Wendish Library. Anitta is the Curator of the Lubuska Land Museum in Zielona Gora, Poland (formerly Gruenberg, Silesia). Our visitors greatly appreciated their tour of Ziebell's Farmhouse and Thomastown Lutheran Church, with tour guides

Tatiana Joukoff and Irma Hatty. They were also pleased to browse the family history books in our Wendish Library.

John Noack's book review of *Emigration from the Brandenburg-Silesian-Posen Borderland to South Australia in the 19th Century* by Anitta Maksymowicz (published in 2010) is available on our website under Publications / Articles.

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Nieder-Weisel Plaque for Victorian Goldfields

A program of events planned for 18–25 January 2013 will include the dedication of a plaque in Smythesdale, near Ballarat, Vic. 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

Birthday Greetings to Clay Kruger

Happy Birthday to our Treasurer, Clay Kruger, who is eight decades young. Clay celebrated his birthday with family and friends in July. We very much appreciate the good-natured dedication and efficiency Clay has shown in his many years of service to our Society.



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 Lusitan 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.*

Bev Gotzky: 14 Clendon Street, Brighton East, Vic 3187. Tel. 03 9599 2250

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.

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.