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Clockwise: 1. John Noack speaking about Leichhardt at the Austrian Club, see page 4 (PHOTO: COLIN HUF). 2. Janice Stockigt, our Guest Speaker on 5 April 2014, see page 3, and Hans Schroeder (PHOTO: JOHN NOACK). 3. Ziebell's Farmhouse Garden, see page 5 (PHOTO: GILLIAN BORRACK). 4. Jakob Gruhl (left) being presented with a book by the author, Robert Wuchatsch, see page 11 (PHOTO: JOHN NOACK).





# Calendar of upcoming events



## Labour Day Weekend Tour to Warrnambool, 8-9 March 2014

Our destination will be the Warrnambool area in Western Victoria. The tour will be led by local historian and researcher, Betty Huf. All are welcome. Betty's proposed itinerary is as follows:

### Saturday 8th March

**1.00pm: 'Cheeseworld'.** The tour will commence in this Museum (free entry) at the Warrnambool Cheese and Butter Factory at Allansford. It is located just off the Princes Highway at Allansford, and there is ample signage to direct you there. For those who arrive early, there is a large café area which provides reasonably priced light lunches (\$9–\$15), and a shop which sells a comprehensive selection of local gourmet produce. We will have a guide who will explain various aspects of the Museum collection, which includes many artefacts relating to the dairy industry and a wide range of engines and motoring accessories. Of particular interest are those dairy items which pertain to the Uebergang and Grauer families and the chassis of a steam car built by Johannes August Carl Ziegler in 1892, and reputed to be the first built in Australia.

**2.30pm: Warrnambool Cemetery.** A short guided tour of the cemetery will be conducted by Betty. There are some notable people buried here, including a former Premier of Victoria.

**4.00pm: Pleasant Hill Gardens.** These gardens were established outside the Fletcher Jones & Staff trouser factory which opened in Warrnambool in 1948. They became famous across Victoria as one of the most visited and photographed 'industrial' or private gardens in the State. Although no longer as glorious as in the past, it is still possible to enjoy a stroll through the garden, and wander along the façade of the former Fletcher Jones factory. A small

*Clockwise: Cannons of the Warrnambool Garrison (PHOTO: JOEL BLACKBURN); tumuli (volcanic rock) at Byaduk (PHOTO: BETTY HUF); interior of Byaduk Lutheran Church. (PHOTO: CLAY KRUGER).*

portion of the building houses an immense Market, and it is possible to envisage how extensive the factory was in its heyday whilst browsing amongst the many rows of 'treasures'. There will be afternoon tea available for tour participants to enjoy. The Market is open until 6pm.

**6.30pm: Dinner** (cost \$20) at the Warrnambool Lutheran Church Hall, corner of Henna and Koroit Streets. Guest Speaker Betty Huf will give a talk on 'Warrnambool Germans 1849–1900'.

### Sunday 9th March

**8.15am:** Meet at the Lutheran Church, corner of Henna and Koroit Streets to board the bus to Hawkesdale (bus fare approx. \$10 per person).

**9.00am: Worship service** at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Main Street, Hawkesdale, followed by morning tea with congregation members.

**11.00am:** Visit to the Lutheran section of the Hawkesdale Cemetery, followed by a drive through the Macarthur Wind Farm (the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere).

**12.30pm:** Lunch at the historic Macarthur Hotel, built in 1860.

**2.00pm:** Drive to the Byaduk Lutheran Church and Cemetery, and then on to view the Tumuli,



circular mounds of volcanic rock that rise up to 10 metres from the lava flow, and which are considered unique in Australia and rare on a world scale.

**4.30pm:** Return to Warrnambool via **Tower Hill Game Reserve**, which features a deep circular crater, which is one of the largest maars (shallow, flat-floored crater) in the world. After a drive inside the crater, we will return to Warrnambool.

**6.30pm:** BBQ with our hosts at the Warrnambool Lutheran Church. Congregation members will be given a brief presentation on the Wends, who they are, their culture and history.

### Monday 10th March

**9.30am: Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village.** (Admission: Adult \$16, Concession \$12.50). Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village is a maritime museum and outdoor village with Australia's richest shipwreck collection; all contained in an 1870's village located overlooking Warrnambool's Lady Bay. The Village provides a glimpse into the maritime lifestyles and trades of the 1870's era, the peak of Australia's maritime heritage. The museum houses two items carved by August Landmann, who emigrated on the *Wilhelmsburg*.

Please book ASAP with Betty Huf (03)5572 4959; email [bettyhuf@westvic.com.au](mailto:bettyhuf@westvic.com.au)

*Please Note: Accommodation in Warrnambool and District on this weekend is almost totally booked out due to the popularity of the Port Fairy Folk Festival. If you wish to be billeted amongst the Warrnambool congregation, please inform Betty who will forward your request on to the relevant people. Full details of the itinerary are also available on our website [www.wendishheritage.org.au](http://www.wendishheritage.org.au) under "News and Events".*

### Pleasant Saturday Afternoon, Saturday 5 April 2014

*Please note that the date for this event has been changed from Sunday 6th to Saturday 5th April.*

We will begin with a community lunch at 12.30 pm followed by a brief AGM. Our Guest Speaker at 2.00 pm. will be Janice Stockigt, an Associate Professor at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, University of Melbourne. She will speak about an historic visit to Bautzen by the Saxon Elector and his musicians in 1733, as well as her own visits to and research in Bautzen. All are welcome. The venue is the Ivanhoe Lutheran Church, 27 Livingstone St, Ivanhoe. This will be our final meeting at this venue.

RSVP to Glenys Wollermann Tel (03) 9891 6652; email [wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au)



Top: Interior of Ivanhoe Lutheran Church. Middle: the Auctioneer accepting bids for the property (PHOTOS: JOHN NOACK). Bottom: Some Ivanhoe members at the Auction: John Noack, Judith Bryant, Marie and George McKinnon, Eunice Craythorn, Vic and Janice Werbicky (PHOTO: CLAY KRUGER)

### New Venue for our Society

We are preparing to move our Wendish Library from the Ivanhoe Lutheran Church, which was sold on 11 October 2013.

The closing service was held on 13 October 2013. Settlement will take place at the end of April 2014, so we will still be able to use the Ivanhoe Lutheran Church for our Pleasant Saturday Afternoon and AGM on Saturday 5 April.

We have been offered temporary accommodation, for up to two years, in the double garage at Doncaster Lutheran Church, 51 Victoria Street, Doncaster. This will be our new venue from the end of April.

Please note that our postal address (PO Box 307, Heidelberg, Vic. 3084) remains the same.





*Clockwise: Daniel Huf and Vi Harms, the youngest and oldest present, cutting the cake; the cake commemorating the 200th anniversary of Leichhardt's birth; John Noack speaking on Leichhardt; a German-style meal with sauerkraut and dumpling at the Austrian Club. (PHOTOS: COLIN HUF).*

## Past events

### Luncheon at the Austrian Club, Saturday 12 October 2013

A special Luncheon was held at Melbourne's Austrian Club to continue the theme of celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Ludwig Leichhardt. Leichhardt is the famous German/Wendish explorer and naturalist who mysteriously disappeared in inland Australia in about 1848.

Two authors have recently published books on Ludwig Leichhardt. Dan Baschiera wrote *On Leichhardt's Path, 1845* which investigates Leichhardt's expedition through Kakadu. Darrell Lewis wrote *Where is Dr Leichhardt? The Greatest Mystery in Australia*. These books have been kindly donated to our Library and reviews of them have been posted on our website under "Publications/Book reviews". These two authors were happy for us to present highlights from their books at this Luncheon.

The picturesque Austrian Club (in Sheehan Rd, Heidelberg West, Victoria), provided us with good German food and hospitality. We set up about twenty display boards with information and illustrations from the two books on Leichhardt as well as the history and customs of the Wends.

An additional chapter of a book of short stories by Hans W. Finger about Leichhardt, called "Into the Red Heart", has been posted on our website under "Publications/Articles."

This Luncheon clearly helped those present to recall and to remember Australia's lost but not forgotten Germanic/Wendish Explorer Ludwig Leichhardt.

*A more detailed report of this Luncheon, with photos taken by Colin Huf, is available on our website, under "News and Events".*

JOHN NOACK, PRESIDENT





## Ziebell's Farmhouse Open Garden, 16-17 November 2013

The 163 year old Ziebell's Farmhouse and Heritage Garden at Thomastown opened for the second time on 16-17 November 2013 as part of the Open Garden Australia program. Managed by volunteers from the Friends of Westgarthtown, the house and garden were owned by the Ziebell family until purchased by the City of Whittlesea in 1993.

Over 300 people from all over Melbourne and beyond visited the gardens over the two days. About 1,200 square metres in size, the large informal gardens combine flowers, roses, shrubs, fruit trees and a vegetable patch. A semi-formal garden forms the centrepiece. Features are a 130 year old Cécile Brunner rose and a rare Queen of Sheba climber. There are over 50 rose varieties including some imported by the Ziebell family in the 1800s.

*Clockwise: 1. The Austrian National Anthem poster at the Austrian Club (PHOTO: COLIN HUF). 2-4: Ziebell's Farmhouse Garden in full bloom (PHOTOS: GILLIAN BORRACK).*

A new 14 page interpretive guide to Ziebell's Farmhouse was also launched during the Open Garden Australia weekend.

*Ziebell's Farmhouse (c.1850-51) is Victoria's oldest German immigrant building. It is located at 100 Gardenia Rd, Thomastown, (Melway 8 H5) and is open on the second Sunday of each month, from 1.00-4.00 pm.*

ROBERT WUCHATSCH, RESEARCHER





# Research

## Dallwitz: the most Wendish family in Australia?

We recently had a letter asking if the Dallwitz family who came to Australia were Wends. I replied that they could possibly have the title of the most Wendish Family in Australia. The Kopittke shipping records show that Johann Dallwitz, his wife and 5 children came out aboard the *Helena* in 1851 from Kortnitz in the Kingdom of Saxony, under the leadership of Johann Zwar. The Dallwitz family settled in the Barossa Valley with many other Wendish families in the area they called Ebenezer.

The Ebenezer community didn't have any success in getting a Wendish speaking Lutheran pastor. However they started a school in 1854. The teacher was Johann Dallwitz and he taught in Wendish for the first years. This school at Ebenezer was possibly the only Wendish school ever run in Australia. Johann taught there until he died in 1863. Then his son Andreas Dallwitz took over and was the teacher for 45 years. Another son Peter was also a teacher. Information in our Wendish files reveal that Peter and Andreas were both fluent in Wendish and apparently translated and printed some Biblical texts into Wendish for the youth of their day. They also wrote letters in Wendish, whereas many Wends wrote their letters, even to each other, in German.

I would be interested in other nominations you might have for 'the most Wendish Wends to come to Australia'?

We would love to get more information on the Dallwitz family. Both Johann and his son Peter Dallwitz died at an early age. Maybe this is a reason why we don't have a lot of information in our files. We would appreciate more detailed information for our records. Can you please help?

## Gallipoli

In April 2015 we mark the Centenary of the Anzac landing at Gallipoli. It would be interesting to compile a list of Australian Wends who served at Gallipoli. I have received a request from two doctors in Sydney who have a strong interest in history. They are currently writing a paper on doctors who were at Gallipoli and who made contributions to anaesthesia. They point out that Dr Bernhard Zwar, who served at Gallipoli and was later famous as a surgeon and as the head of the Royal Melbourne Hospital, also "made some important contributions to anaesthesia as a young doctor".



*Dr Bernhard Zwar, who served at Gallipoli. (PHOTO SUPPLIED BY KEVIN ZWAR)*

We welcome information on other Wends who served at Gallipoli.

## Grünberg and Züllichau dialect

A variety of Slavs inhabited the area now known as Germany long before the German tribes arrived. A number of German families came to Australia from the Grünberg and Züllichau areas of Silesia. The following article by Witold Czyz points out that, in the past, some of these Slavic people were also called Wends. They were Wends of a different Slavic variety!

*Dear Sir,*

*I have read parts of your work on the "Wends in Victoria" with interest. I have been researching the subject of the native Slavic population of Crossen and Züllichau for nearly a year. It might be of interest to you that the dialect spoken around Grünberg and Züllichau was a Silesian variety of Polish and it was still spoken there even in the 19th century. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries there are several accounts mentioning the "Oderpolacken" or "Oderpohlen". For instance, in the 18th century a minister from Bobersberg was offered the parish of Padligar "because of his knowledge of Polish". In the early 19th century the vicar of Padligar complained that he had to provide service in Polish because some of his parishioners did not understand German. Other German sources mention the Oderpolaken in the vicinity of Züllichau and Grünberg.*

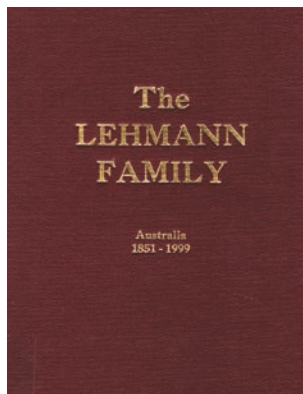


An early 19th century Silesian linguist and ethnographer, Samuel Bandkte, mentioned the *Wasserpölnisch* and *Oderpölnisch* in his works, regarding them as dialects of Polish. The last dialect-speaking villages were Kleinitz (last surviving speakers dying out in the 1860s, Ostritz (possibly in early 1900s) and Chwalim (Altren). In this last village, located on the Polish side of the border between the historical region of Greater Poland (later Provinz Posen) and Brandenburg, older people were still using the dialect in the 20th century. Famous Polish and German linguists - Kazimierz Nitsch and Reinhold Olesch - studied the language of Chwalim, confirming its Polish-Silesian character. Surprisingly, the Germans called the people of Chwalim "Wends", probably because they were Protestants, unlike the predominantly Catholic Poles. There are also other possible explanations discussed by Olesch in one of his works. The fact is, however, that they were immigrants from the neighbouring areas of Silesia.

Yours sincerely,  
Witold Czyz

## Australia's Cricket Coach

According to the book *The Lehmann Family (Australia 1851–1999)*, the Australian cricket coach, Darren Lehmann, is a descendant of the Wend Johann Lehmann. Johann Lehmann emigrated to Australia in the early 1850's from Laubsdorf, a village in the Lower Wendish area of Lusatia in Brandenburg. I think Darren is a great representative of the Wends. The average Wends were of stocky build. I wonder how many Wends have played Test Cricket for Australia?



KEVIN P. ZWAR, RESEARCHER



## Useful Websites

The June 2013 edition of *Australian Family Tree Connections* gives the following useful websites:

- For Tasmanian Birth, Death and Marriage records 1803–1933:  
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2125029> Searching is free, but the records are not indexed.
- For Queensland immigration records, there is a searchable Assisted Immigration Index 1848–1912 at:  
[www.archives.qld.gov.au/Researchers/Indexes/Immigration/Pages/Default.aspx](http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/Researchers/Indexes/Immigration/Pages/Default.aspx)
- For South Australian pioneers, search passenger lists, births, marriages and deaths, 1836–1850s at:  
[www.familyhistorysa.info/colonists.html](http://www.familyhistorysa.info/colonists.html)

The August 2013 edition of *Ballarat Link* states that property title history and information can be found at: [www.landata.vic.gov.au](http://www.landata.vic.gov.au)

*Borderline News* (Nov. 2012) gives these websites for information on how to read 19th century handwriting: [www.moonzstuff.com/articles/oldhandwriting.html](http://www.moonzstuff.com/articles/oldhandwriting.html) [www.census1891.com/hand.htm](http://www.census1891.com/hand.htm) [www.national-archives.gov.uk/paleography](http://www.national-archives.gov.uk/paleography)

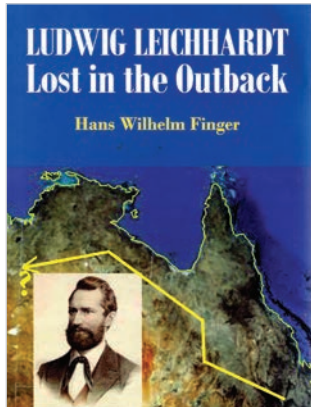
The Nov. 2012 edition of *The South-East Family History Group Newsletter* lists the following websites:

- For German settlers in South Australia, see <http://www.southaustralianhistory.com.au/german.htm>
- For German Genealogy (Genealoger), see [http://www.genealoger.com/german/ger\\_general\\_sites.htm](http://www.genealoger.com/german/ger_general_sites.htm)
- To access information on this site, use links on left hand side of page.
- A free surname search in Germany can be found at:  
<http://www.freesurnamesearch.com/search/germany.html>

PAUL KRUGER, JOURNAL REVIEWER



# What's new at the library?



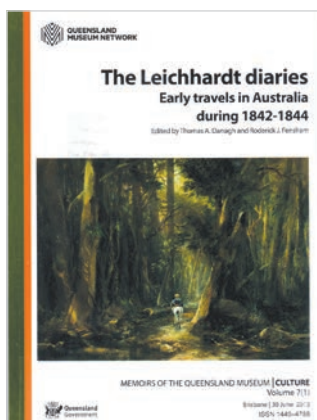
## 1. Ludwig Leichhardt: lost in the outback, by Hans Wilhelm Finger. *[Translated from German by Kylie Crane.]*

This edition was published in 2013, which marks the 200th anniversary of Ludwig Leichhardt's birth in 1813. It gives the life story of Ludwig Leichhardt. Beginning with his schooling and incredibly broad university education, Finger's detailed account follows the young German to Sydney in 1842, and describes his adaptation to his strange new world. It tells the story of his three expeditions; the long but successful trip to Port Essington; disastrous failure at Peak Range; and the final adventure when the men "disappeared into a wilderness that devoured them for good". Their disappearance is an enduring mystery, unlikely ever to be resolved. This account also describes his years in Europe, and draws on Leichhardt's letters, journals, log books and personal diaries. It includes many pages of previously unpublished text.



## 2. On Leichhardt's path Kakadu 1845: reflections walking a time tunnel, by Dan Baschiera. [3rd ed.]

The mystery of Leichhardt continues to haunt the outback: was it the desert, the "natives" or a social geography far more sinister? In 2008, during an off-track bushwalk near Jim Jim Falls, Dan Baschiera and his wife used Leichhardt's original hand written journal, made during his epic journey from the Darling Downs in southern Queensland to Port Essington in the Northern Territory, to locate a blaze (tree marking) in Kakadu National Park in the area of one of the explorers' camp sites. It took Baschiera two years of untangling what he believes were the distortions created by a nineteenth century colonial Australia in what he thinks were its attempts to discredit Leichhardt and hide his ethnological findings from the then scientific circles in London.



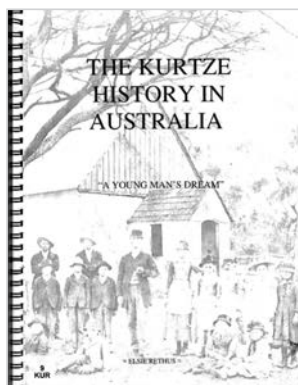
## 3. The Leichhardt diaries: early travels in Australia during 1842-1844.

Volume 7, part 1: *edited by Thomas A. Darragh and Roderick J. Fensham.*

This publication is the first printed English translation of the diaries of the German explorer and scientist Ludwig Leichhardt covering the period from 1842-1844. During the 30 months covered by the diaries, he arrived in Australia as a diligent student from the lower strata of Prussian society without connections, capital or prospects; and by the closing passages he reveals his intentions to mount the first expedition across the north-eastern quarter of the continent. The diaries reveal how Ludwig navigated his way through Sydney society and then found his confidence as a scientific traveller, along the way acquiring the many skills that define a "bushman". The pages illuminate the state of European settlement, the nature of aboriginal culture and the geography of the Australian east coast with detailed observations on the natural world. The diaries also bring

to life part of Australia's rich geographical, botanical and social history. The names and places indexes provide an excellent tool for assisting historians and genealogists. Included is an aboriginal word list, and also an index of the rock and mineral names used by Leichhardt .





4. History and family tree of Robert Louis Kurtze, 1831-1909, and his wife, Juliane Karolin Kramm, 1830-1916, written and compiled by Elsie M. Rethus. Presented to the Wendish Heritage Society by Jordana Lory.

Robert Louis Kurtze was born in 1831 at Schwiebus in Prussia, a province of Brandenburg near the Polish border (now called Schwiebodzin and within the Polish border). He arrived aboard the *Victoria* at Port Adelaide in 1857. In 1858 he married Juliane Karolin Kramm, also from Schwiebus, and they made their first home in Hahndorf. In 1860 they travelled by steamer to Portland, then overland to the Hamilton district. They arrived nearly two years after the first church was built at Hochkirch (Tarrington) in 1858, which was only five years after Pastor Schurmann's congregation began in 1853, so Robert and Juliane were also regarded as early pioneers of the district. Also included is a brief family history of Wilhelm Klambt and Augusta Klambt (nee Kaul) who were also early settlers in Hochkirch.



5. Ivanhoe, 11th and 13th October 2013. [DVD]: filmed and produced by Clay Kruger.

A video of the auction of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Livingstone Street, Ivanhoe, on the 11th of October, 2013, and also of the final service at the church on the 13th of October, 2013, attended by many past and present members of the congregation.

(PHOTOS OF BOOK COVERS: JOEL BLACKBURN)

For a complete list of our library holdings, visit our website: [www.wendishheritage.org.au/publications/library/](http://www.wendishheritage.org.au/publications/library/)

JANICE BLACKBURN, LIBRARIAN

## Visit the Wendish Library

All are welcome to visit our Wendish Library at 27 Livingstone St, Ivanhoe.

It is open on the first Sunday of each month February–November, from 1.30–5.30 pm.

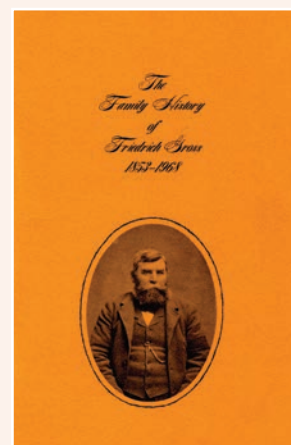
Please note: We will have a new venue from the end of April 2014. See page 3.

## Reunion

### Gross Family Reunion

A Reunion will be held for the descendants of **Friedrich Gross and his wife Eleonore (nee Müller)**. The Reunion will be held from 10.30 am to 4.00 pm on Saturday 26 April 2014 at the Darley Cricket Club, 11 Fitzroy St, Bacchus Marsh, Victoria. Please bring your own picnic lunch. The venue is licensed (no BYO alcohol). Tea and coffee will be provided.

Contact: Eugenie Gross (03) 5257 1431 or June Winter (03) 5266 1383.





# Items from other Societies' journals

## Queensland's German Connections

*Missing Link: Journal of the Cooroy-Noosa Family History Group* (May 2013) features a book review of *Queensland's German Connections: Past, Present & Future, 170 Years Strong (1842–2012)*, edited by Matthew Tesch, written by Peter Ludlow & Robin Kleinschmidt. This 376 page book examines a broad range of topics with the common thread of Queensland's connections with Germany. It includes early German immigration, Darling Downs dynasties, Lutheran missionaries and the German legacy today.

## The 1850s Immigrants to Eastern Australia from Frauenstein

*Ancestree* (Nov. 2013) from Burwood, NSW features Part 2 of 'The 1850s Immigrants to Eastern Australia from Frauenstein in the Duchy of Nassau,' by Jenny Paterson. The article gives a summary of information from various sources, but particularly the Frauenstein church records. Frauenstein belongs to the well-known Rheingau wine region and many of these families were first recruited as vinedressers, assisted by the NSW government.

## Augusta Lydia Schirmer (nee Krause)

*Murrumbidgee Ancestor* (June 2013) features a vignette on **Augusta Lydia Krause** (1868–1954), born in Jindera NSW. She married Christian Samuel Hugo Schirmer in 1912. This vignette is written by her great grand-daughter, Heather Parkin.

## Grünberg family of Westgarthtown

*Friends of Westgarthtown News* (Apr. 2008) included an article on **Friedrich and Caroline Grünberg** (also spelt Gruenberg), original settlers at Westgarthtown. Since 2008, more information has come to light. The October 2013 edition features a revised and enlarged article by Robert Wuchatsch on the Grünberg family. It includes recent discoveries, including the surprising fact that Caroline was a nobleman's daughter.

## Winter family of Westgarthtown

*The Friends of Westgarthtown Newsletter* (Oct. 2013) also features an article by Robert Wuchatsch on **Friedrich Julius Winter** (1810–66) who arrived in Melbourne aboard the *Pribislaw* in 1850 with his wife Maria Katharine (nee Techel) and four children. A further six children were born in Australia. The article includes Geoff Borrack's sketch of the Winter house at Westgarthtown and photos of the Winter gravestones in the Westgarthtown Cemetery.

## Jochen "George" Popp

*The Reefs Rumbblings* (Feb. 2013) from Stawell, Victoria, features a biography by Scotney Hayter of **Jochen (George) Popp** (1843 – 1941), who founded the Stawell Vineyard Company.

## Dimboola's Obituaries from the Past

*The Dimboola & Dist. Historical Society Inc. Newsletter* (June/July 2013) includes the Obituary of **August Matuschka** (c.1842–1913), a well-known resident of Dimboola. He was a retired farmer and a bachelor. He was survived by three brothers, two in New South Wales and the other in New Zealand. In his younger days he was noted for his capacity as a shearer, and was the winner of several prizes.

## Mt Gambier's German Settlers

*The South-East Family History Group Newsletter* (Nov. 2012) includes an article on German settlement in Mt Gambier, South Australia. It lists German settlers and people of German heritage buried in Mt Gambier's earliest cemeteries. The May 2013 edition includes an article on "A Very Brief Summary of German Migration to South Australia."

## Texas Wends

*The Texas Wendish Heritage Society Newsletter* (July 2013) features an article by George Nielsen about his Wendish mother, growing up and other universal themes: "Emma Moerbe Nielsen: A Memoir".

PAUL KRUGER, JOURNAL REVIEWER





# General News

## Visitors from Western Australia

On 25 November 2013, we welcomed some visitors from Western Australia to our Wendish Library in Ivanhoe. Merle and Baz Best come from Duncraig. Their daughter and son-in-law, Judy and David Willock, come from Coolbinia. Merle Best is a very loyal member of our Society. The family was pleased to find some information on Merle's Giese ancestors.



## Birthday Greetings to June Winter



Congratulations to June Winter, who celebrated her 80th birthday on 25 January 2014. June celebrated this milestone with family and friends at an afternoon tea at St. Pauls, Lutheran Church, Grovedale. June and her husband Peter then went on a trip to Tasmania. The

trip was a surprise gift from their family. We are very grateful to June for organising and leading our very successful tour to the Grovedale and Freshwater Creek areas, near Geelong, Victoria, in March 2013.



*Left: June Winter (PHOTO: JANICE AND JOEL BLACKBURN). Top: Jakob Gruhl and Gladys Koch, holding photographs of the "Burger Cottage", the oldest surviving Wendish building in Victoria. Bottom: Jakob Gruhl at the Thomastown Lutheran Church. (PHOTOS: JOHN NOACK)*

## Visitor from Bautzen

On Saturday, 25 January 2014, our Society was pleased to receive a visit from Jakob Gruhl, a young man from Bautzen, on holiday in Australia for three months. Before visiting Melbourne, he and his partner Karoline went fruit-picking in New South Wales and South Australia, toured the South Australian coast and visited some of Victoria's goldfield areas.

Jakob grew up and went to school in Bautzen in Upper Lusatia. At Leipzig, he studied Museology (museum studies) and did his Diploma on the open-cut coal mining and the resulting destruction of Wendish/Sorbian villages in Lusatia. He also completed a project on the Sorbian Museum in Bautzen. He hopes to become a journalist.

At our Library, Jakob inspected the information in family histories compiled by Wendish descendants, the display of modern posters and some old postcards from 1906 and information about Wendish descendants in Australia today.

After a community lunch, Gladys Koch (nee Burger) presented Jakob with some photos of the Burger Cottage at Penshurst. Robert Wuchatsch

presented him with a copy of his book, *From Hamburg to Hobson's Bay*.

This visit concluded with a tour of the pioneer settlement at Thomastown, including Wuchatsch's Farmhouse, the Thomastown Lutheran Church, the Cemetery and Ziebell's Farmhouse. He noted that Ziebell's Farmhouse (c.1850–51) is Victoria's oldest German immigrant building and that Wuchatsch's Farmhouse is believed to be the oldest in Melbourne to have been built and owned by the same family. The Thomastown Lutheran Church, in use since 1856, is the oldest continuously used Lutheran church in Australia.

No doubt Australia's open spaces will continue to attract more adventurers from Germany, including Lusatia. In response, Wendish descendants here in Australia can show that their Lusatian heritage is still being remembered and celebrated.

*A more detailed report of Jakob Gruhl's visit, with photos, is available on our website under "News and Events".*

JOHN NOACK, PRESIDENT



## Vale



After a very brave battle, **Alison Blackburn** died of cancer on 3 September 2013. Alison was the youngest daughter of Janice and Joel Blackburn. Janice is our Librarian and Joel is our Vice-President and Computer / Website Manager. We extend our

sincere condolences to Janice and Joel and to all who are grieving for Alison.

**Gerrard (Gary) Mirtschin** of Hamilton died on 9 October 2013, at 90 years of age.

**Elsie Herrmann** (nee **Burger**) of Adelaide died on 26 December 2013, at 94 years of age.

Both Gary Mirtschin and Elsie Herrmann were very loyal members of our Society. We extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

## 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)

From May 2014, our new venue will be the double garage at Doncaster Lutheran Church, 51 Victoria St, Doncaster, Victoria. (Melways 33 J11)

**Hours:** Open the first Sunday of each month from February – November, 1.30pm–5.30pm for research, working bees and socialising.

**Our Society Logo:** The logo, an Australian gum leaf and a Lusatian linden leaf, represent the connection between the Wendish descendants in Australia and the Sorbs in Lusatia.

**Membership & Newsletter Subscription:** \$30 for single membership and \$35 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](http://www.robynzwardesign.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Glenys Wollermann.

### Office bearers:

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**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](mailto:wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au).

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### Committee Members:

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

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