

*Clockwise from top:*

1. Anniversary dinner, commemorating the 200th birthday of Pastor C.W. Schürmann, held at Tarrington on Saturday 6 June 2015 (see page 4).
2. Lara Schürmann, from Berlin, with a plaque about Wilhelm Schürmann which she presented to the Schürmann family on behalf of her relatives in Germany.
3. The plaque erected on the Schürmann family grave at South Hamilton Lutheran Cemetery.
4. Pastor Greg Lockwood chats with Margaret Linke after the Schürmann Anniversary service at Tarrington.

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY CLAY KRUGER AND COLIN HUF.

## CONTENTS

1. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS . . . . .	2
2. PAST EVENTS . . . . .	3
3. REUNIONS AND TOURS . . . . .	7
4. RESEARCH . . . . .	8
5. LIBRARY NEWS . . . . .	10
6. ITEMS FROM OTHER SOCIETIES' JOURNALS .	11
7. GENERAL NEWS . . . . .	12
8. DIRECTORY . . . . .	12





# Calendar of upcoming events



## Ziebell's Farmhouse: Open House and Garden, Saturday 3 – Sunday 4 October 2015

Ziebell's Farmhouse and heritage garden (pictured above) will be open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on both days. A gold coin donation is requested. You are invited to experience the homestead and the garden in its full glory. A German sausage sizzle, tea, coffee and biscuits will also be available. Ziebell's Farmhouse (c.1850-51) is at 100 Gardenia Rd, Thomastown, Vic. (Melway 8 H5). It is Victoria's oldest German immigrant building.

*For further information about this event, please contact Gillian Borrack on (mobile) 0418 596 538 or [gillian@westgarthtown.org.au](mailto:gillian@westgarthtown.org.au)*

## Luncheon at the German Club Tivoli, Saturday 17 October 2015

A special Luncheon will be held at 12 noon at the German Club Tivoli, 291 Dandenong Rd, Windsor, Vic. (Melway map 58 G8) Ample car parking is available at the venue. It is also easy to get there by public transport (Tram 5 or 64, Swanston St. Bus 216 or 219, Queen St.).

Our Guest Speaker will be Clay Kruger. Clay will give a slideshow presentation on the Schürmann weekend held in June. He will also show a video relating to the upcoming 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's Reformation, to be celebrated in Germany in April 2017.

Join us for some good German food and hospitality. Choose from the menu and pay as you order. All are welcome. Please pass this information on to others who may be interested.

*Please RSVP by 10th October to Clay Kruger, Unit 16, 1 City Rd, Ringwood, Vic. 3134. Ph. 03 8838 8737. Email: [wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au)*

## New Website

Our current website is over 10 years old and is much in need of an upgrade. We are very pleased to announce that we have engaged Robyn Zwar to redesign our website. Robyn is currently working on this project which we hope to complete by early 2016.



# Past events

## Annual General Meeting, Saturday 16 May 2015

We are pleased to report that our AGM on 16 May was very successful. We thank all members who sent strong messages of support in the lead-up to the AGM. We especially thank those who attended the Meeting or appointed proxies. We feel heartened by your strong encouragement for our Society to continue.

Our AGM was to be held on Saturday 11 April, but as we did not have a quorum at that meeting, we held a postponed AGM on Saturday 16 May.

The venue was our meeting room at St Aidan's Community Centre, 12 Surrey St, Box Hill South, Victoria. We had 17 people in attendance and approximately 80 proxies. We elected a new President, **Rob Wuchatsch**, and a new Vice President, **John L. Modra**. **Glenys Wollermann** was re-elected as Secretary. **Clay Kruger** very graciously agreed to continue for another year, in the absence of any other nominations for Treasurer. Committee members are **Betty Huf**, **Moirra Nagorcka**, **Beryl Nagorcka**, **Mary Cooper** and **Geoff Matuschka**.

Clay Kruger presented the Annual Financial Statement for 2014. He reported that our financial situation is very good. As at December 2014, the total balance in the bank account was \$19,302.13.

The number of members of our Society has remained fairly stable, at about 325. Our finances are in a strong and healthy position and we express our sincere gratitude to Clay for this. Clay also serves our Society in other ways: maintaining membership records, emailing our newsletters and organizing events, to name but a few.

The following is the Report that Robert Wuchatsch presented at the AGM:

## 2015 AGM – Acting President's Report

While events over the last year were overshadowed by the dispute within the committee, notable achievements were the successful relocation of our library from Ivanhoe to Box Hill South; publication of two excellent newsletters; continued provision of valuable family history information to members and others via library visits and email enquiries; and our 2014 Annual Luncheon.

The committee has been heartened by the strong show of support by members in recent times and the clear message that we should strive to keep the Society going. Now the dispute has been resolved, our aim for the next year will be to continue to produce our newsletters and assist with family research queries, but also to update the Society's website, now 10 years old. As part of the website update, we hope to digitise some of our many records to enable easier access.

These tasks will be our new committee's priorities, however, various factors have thinned our ranks. **John Noack** is taking a break from committee work and we thank him for his outstanding contribution to the Society over many years. **Joel Blackburn**, our Interim President and Computer/Website Manager, has been battling ill-health for the last nine months, including a lengthy spell in hospital. **Janice Blackburn**, our Librarian, has been busy caring for Joel. They have reluctantly advised that after 13 years they are unable to continue on the committee but wish to remain involved. We thank them for their enormous contributions and wish them well.

My thanks also go to all other committee members and helpers. We give special thanks to **Clay Kruger**, who has served 14 years on the committee. Clay has given 12 years of distinguished service as Treasurer, handling membership subscriptions and building and managing our funds into the very healthy financial position we find ourselves in today.

**Glenys Wollermann** has now served on the committee for 14 years. Starting with several years as Librarian, she has now been Minutes Secretary for 11 years, Secretary for 8 years and Newsletter Editor for 4 years. In particular, she has worked tirelessly over the last year under great difficulties. Thank also to **Betty Huf**, **Geoff Matuschka**, **Kevin** and **Robyn Zwar** and all others who have contributed over the past year.

Rob Wuchatsch  
16 May 2015





From left to right: 1. Historian Betty Huf speaks to visitors at the South Hamilton Lutheran Cemetery during the Schürmann 200th Birthday Anniversary historical tour. 2. Front cover of the book 'Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann – Missionary and Pastor' which was launched on the Anniversary weekend. 3. Headstone on Pastor C. W. Schürmann's grave in the South Hamilton Lutheran Cemetery.

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY CLAY KRUGER AND COLIN HUF.

## 200th Birthday of Pastor C.W. Schürmann, 6-7 June 2015

Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann (1815-1893) was the pioneer Lutheran missionary and pastor in Western Victoria, from 1854 to 1893. He was based at Hochkirch (later Tarrington), near Hamilton. A number of events were held on 6-7 June to celebrate the 200th Birthday of Pastor Schürmann. The following report is written by local historian Betty Huf. Betty co-authored a booklet about Pastor C.W. Schürmann's ministry, which was launched at this event. Betty was also the tour leader on the bus tour on 6 June.

Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann was born in Schleddehausen, Hannover on 7 June 1815. He decided at an early age to become a missionary and at the age of 17 began training in Berlin in 1832, transferring to the Evangelical Lutheran Missionary Society of Dresden for further training in 1836.

Schürmann, together with C. G. Teichelmann, was appointed by the Dresden Society as a missionary to the Aborigines in South Australia. After arriving in Adelaide on 13 Oct 1838, a site on the bank of the Torrens River was allocated to them for an Aboriginal school. They immediately set about

learning Kaurna, the local language, rapidly gaining fluency, and eventually publishing a grammar and vocabulary. They conducted Christian worship, preached in Kaurna as their fluency improved, and travelled far afield to join Aboriginal people in their activities. Some of them became Christians.

In 1840, due to the Dresden Society's financial problems, Schürmann was appointed Protector of Aborigines at Port Lincoln. There he immediately set about learning and recording the Nawu language.

When financial support for Schürmann was totally withdrawn he scraped together a little money and bought ten acres of land at Encounter Bay. There, in 1847, he married Wilhelmina Charlotte Maschmedt and they worked their little farm for a year.

In 1849 Schürmann was offered a salary to open an Aboriginal school near Port Lincoln. The school lasted for three years with an enrolment of 24 pupils.

In 1852 Schürmann accepted a call from Lutherans to establish a new congregation at Portland, Vic. However, his members were unable to purchase farming land until sales were conducted in the Hamilton area in 1853. A Lutheran church was built at South Hamilton but as Schürmann's congregation grew rapidly, a larger church was built in 1858 in a location which became known as Hochkirch (now





## Wilhelm (William) Schurmann

**Born: 8 April 1837 in Benares India**

**Died: 22 April 1865 in Hochkirch/Victoria**

William Schurmann was a son of Pastor Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann's brother, Reverend Johann Adam Schurmann, who served the London Mission in Benares/India and was a "distinguished translator". He translated the Bible into Urdu and Hindi (so called "Shurman Edition"), and also the Psalms.

After Reverend Johann Adam Schurmann died on 1 October 1852 his son William came to Australia and lived with the family of his uncle, C.W. Schürmann, in Hochkirch in Victoria. Later William went to the Goldfields of Bendigo for some time without much success but owned some property in Hochkirch when he died. William died of tuberculosis on 22 April 1865 at just 28 years of age. He had no family.



*Clockwise from top: 1. Co-authors, Dr Christine Lockwood and Betty Huf, at the launch of their book on Pastor Schürmann's work in Australia. 2. The plaque about Wilhelm Schürmann, presented by Lara Schürmann to the Schürmann family in Australia. 3. Coffee and cake stop in Peshurst. 4. Tour participants visiting the Byaduk (formerly Neukirch) Lutheran Church.*

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY CLAY KRUGER AND COLIN HUF.

Tarrington). This was again replaced by a larger bluestone building in 1863.

Other congregations, ministered to by Schürmann, were established at Gnadenenthal, Tabor and Neukirch (Byaduk). Schürmann also travelled to Mount Gambier, Waldkirch (Freshwater Creek) and Grovedale to visit Lutherans there. Schürmann developed several large and loyal congregations, and ministered faithfully to them for nearly 40 years.

'Minna' Schürmann died in 1891. Clamor Schürmann died at the Lutheran Synod at Bethany, South Australia on 3 March 1893.

Sunday, 7 June 2015 marked the 200th Birthday of Pastor C. W. Schürmann. A weekend of events was held to commemorate this occasion.

On Saturday 6 June, local historian, Betty Huf, gave visitors a glimpse of Schürmann's life by showing them places in his parish. The tour commenced in the Tarrington (Hochkirch) churchyard, where two churches were built during Schürmann's minis-

try, and also where the manse was located.

The group then proceeded to the South Hamilton Lutheran Cemetery where everyone paid a respectful visit to the graves of Pastor Schürmann and some of his family members. A plaque, donated by Jan and Dirk Schürmann, relatives from Germany, was presented to the Schürmann family by Lara Schürmann (Dirk's daughter) to commemorate the previously unmarked grave of Wilhelm Schürmann, the son of C. W. Schürmann's brother Adam, who died while working as a missionary in India in 1852. Wilhelm emigrated to Australia to learn farming from his uncle's parishioners, but died of tuberculosis in 1865 at the early age of 28.

The tour then proceeded past the former St Luke's Lutheran Church, the grounds of which now house the Hamilton Pastoral Museum. This congregation was formed by Michael Deutscher and other dissatisfied members of Schürmann's congregation in 1857, who built the red-brick church in 1861. Then it was





*Clockwise from top: 1. The cottage of Peter and Agnes Burger, in which Pastor Schürmann conducted services for the Wendish families at Gnadenthal. 2. Metal cooking utensils in the fireplace, Burger Cottage. 3. The Tabor Lutheran Church, erected in 1884, in which Schürmann conducted many services. 4. Dinnerware in the Burger Cottage.*

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY CLAY KRUGER

on to the small church at Neukirch (now Byaduk) where interested tour participants inspected the cemetery and the small church. Although the building was not the one Schürmann preached in, it provided an idea of what its predecessor was like.

After another long drive to Penshurst, everyone enjoyed a coffee and cake at the Baghdad Café, before travelling to nearby Gnadenthal where the Burger cottage, with its relics of by-gone days, provided plenty of interest for all. To stand in the same building that Pastor Schürmann entered during the 1800s was a moving experience.

From there the tour moved to the Gnadenthal cemetery where Schürmann conducted a number of funerals, then on past the Herrnhut Commune site established by Schürmann's adversary, Johann Friedrich Krumnow.

The Tabor Lutheran Church complex was the last place visited. The bluestone church, erected in 1884, is where Schürmann preached many times.

Everyone then proceeded on to Tarrington where an Anniversary Dinner was held at Café Catalpa. Guest Speakers were Dr Christine Lockwood and

Dr Rob Amery, both of whom spoke of the significant contribution made by Schürmann to the preservation of Aboriginal culture and language in South Australia and the enormous value his work is to Aboriginals today.

Some 300 people attended the Anniversary service held at St Michael's church on Sunday 7 June. This was the day of Schürmann's 200th Birthday Anniversary. The service was conducted by the Rev. Greg Lockwood, a descendant of C. W. Schürmann. A highlight was the inclusion of some of the hymns and liturgy used in the service held on 21 March 1888 to commemorate Schürmann's 50th Ordination anniversary.

A luncheon followed, during which those present shared family stories, met distant relatives and viewed a display of Schürmann memorabilia.

One of the most poignant moments of the week-end occurred when a music box was wheeled out. Pastor Schürmann would listen to the tunes it played after he arrived home from his long trips around his parish. While they listened to Schürmann's favourite tune 'Home, Sweet Home', everyone imagined him





Clockwise from top: 1. Participants sharing memories after the Anniversary service at Tarrington. 2. Bruce Schürmann welcomes visitors to the Schürmann Anniversary service at Tarrington. 3. The altar of St Michael's bluestone church, with the pulpit above it, from which Pastor Schürmann preached from 1863 until his death in 1893. PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY CLAY KRUGER



hearing that very same song as he tried to relax in his own home after an arduous journey on horseback.

The launch of the booklet, *Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann – Missionary and Pastor* was conducted by Allan Schürmann, with the book signing by co-authors, Dr Christine Lockwood and Betty Huf, concluding the proceedings for the weekend.

BETTY HUF, HISTORIAN, HOCHKIRCH/TARRINGTON

Copies of the booklet '*Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann – Missionary and Pastor*' are available for \$15 plus P&P from Betty Huf, PO Box 26, Tarrington, Vic. 3301.

## Reunions and Tours

### Altus Family Reunion, Sunday 11 October 2015

The members of the Altus Family Reunion Committee have decided to hold possibly the last Reunion for the family. It will be held at the Tanunda Show Hall, Tanunda, S.A. at 10.30 am on Sunday 11 October 2015. The organisers hope that as many people as possible will be able to attend. Contact Eric Altus, Box 294, Kapunda S.A. 5373 (Ph. 08 8566 2635) or Helen Colliver, 108 Bay Rd, Moonta Bay, S.A. 5558 (Ph. 08 8825 3769).

### In the Footsteps of Martin Luther – April 2017



Rev Noel Noack, former Lutheran Bishop of Qld, and Dr Meg Noack, together with Mr Stan Klan, Principal of Great Trains of Europe Tours (Toowoomba), invite you to join them on a pilgrimage tour through Europe, in Martin Luther's footsteps.

This pilgrimage tour will honour the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It will include a pre-tour of Israel, "In the Footsteps of Jesus". The tour will depart on 24 April 2017, for 14 days.

Contact: Great Trains of Europe Tours, PO Box 4553, Toowoomba East, Qld 4350, Australia. Telephone: 0488 423 848 Email: [greattrains@bigpond.com](mailto:greattrains@bigpond.com) Website: [www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au](http://www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au)



# Research

## Query from Gertrud Mahling re 1854 Kleinwelka Bell Order

Mrs Gertrud Mahling of Bautzen, author of *Shores of Hope: Wends go Overseas*, contacted me recently to ask if we knew which group of Wends in Australia ordered a bell from a foundry at Kleinwelka in Saxony in 1854. She discovered the bell order during her research and would like to know who ordered the bell, in which church it was placed, what happened to it and where is it now. She said the bell may have been ordered by intending Wendish emigrants who took it with them to Australia or by Wends who had already settled in Australia.

As I did not know the answer to Mrs Mahling's query, I asked other members of our committee. Our treasurer, Clay Kruger, said the bell at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Tabor in western Victoria came from Kleinwelka. I then contacted Betty Huf, another committee member and researcher from Tarrington near Tabor. Betty confirmed that Tabor's bell was indeed made in Kleinwelka but not until 1887.

Three other Kleinwelka bells are known to exist in South Australia but these date from 1872 (Lights Pass), 1874 (Keyneton) and 1890 (Dutton). We would be grateful if any of our readers could help solve the mystery of the 1854 Kleinwelka bell for Mrs Mahling. Given the early date we think it is more likely the bell was ordered by a South Australian congregation than one in Victoria.

ROB WUCHATSCH

## New book releases

A new edition of *The Smallest Slavonic Nation: the Sorbs of Lusatia*, by Gerald Stone will be released on 19 November 2015. It can be pre-ordered from Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) for \$119.06 for hardcover.

Another book by Gerald Stone, to be released on 17 December 2015, is *Slav Outposts in Central European History* (\$284.75 hardcover, \$95.25 paperback). It can be ordered from Booktopia ([www.booktopia.com.au](http://www.booktopia.com.au))

Thanks to Kevin Zwar and Lyall Kupke for providing this information.

## Windish / Slovenes in Hungary

Kevin Zwar continues to help with research queries from all over the world. In July, Kevin received the following query from Tibor Hoat and Joël Gerber of Germany:

*Dear Ladies and Gentlemen*

*While searching for Windish/Slovene communities and people dealing with Windish/Slovene language, culture and history, we came across your great website.*

*Ten years ago, we created a website both in English and German about the history, culture and traditions of the Slovene minority in Hungary, the goal of which is to inform the descendants of the Hungarian Slovenes around the world (who do not speak Porabian/Windish (Slovenian dialect in Hungary) anymore) about their roots and also to make the Slovene Raba Region/Vendvidek/Windish region known all over the world.*

*We thought you and perhaps also readers and the members of your website might be interested in our website: [www.vendvidek.com](http://www.vendvidek.com)*

*We are aware that the Wendish people (in Germany also called: Wenden/Sorben/Serbski) are Western-Slavic people in Europe and the Windish people (in Hungary also often called: Vendek/Slovenes and in the USA Windish) are Southern-Slavic people in Europe. But both Slavic groups are near German-speaking areas in Europe and when they migrated they brought the terms Wenden and Vendek respectively with them and both groups called their communities abroad, in English, Wendish and Windish.*

*When Tibor's father speaks Windish, he uses the term "Slovenski" for Windish. But when he speaks Hungarian, he uses the term "Vend/Vendül" for Windish. The term "vend" does not exist in the Windish language.*

*We are wondering if the term Wendish exists in the Wendish language. Do the Wendish people call themselves Wendish, when speaking in Wendish language, or is there another expression for it?*

*We met Windish people in the USA (descendants of immigrants from the Raba Region in Hungary). When they spoke English, they used the term Windish (we are Windish), but when they spoke Windish they used the term Slovenci (Mi smo slovinci). Is this similar with the Wendish language too? Thank you very much for your help!*

*Yours sincerely,  
Tibor Hoat  
Joël Gerber*





The following is Kevin Zwar's response:

Hello Tibor and Joël,

It was a wonderful surprise to receive your email. It raises an interesting point that I have sometimes tried to make: The Wends in Germany are called 'Sorbs' by the German writers and speakers, (and most of the Wendish literature etc is written in German by Germans).

In the 1800's and later the English term for the Wends has been 'Wends'. Some Australians call the Wends 'Sorbs', copying the Germans (but they don't say that the Germans speak 'Deutsch', or that they live in Deutschland – as the Germans do!).

However the Wends in Germany, when speaking about themselves, do not call themselves 'Sorbs' or 'Wends'. Like the 'Windish' writer, I am not clear what the Wends call themselves in their own Wendish language. I look forward to hearing from you again.

Wendish Greetings,  
Kevin P Zwar

Tibor and Joël responded with the following explanation:

Hello Kevin,

Thank you very much for your email!

The Windish people and Slovene people are the same ethnic group. The territory where Slovenes live belonged for centuries to Austria and Hungary. In the past the German speaking people used the term "Wenden" for Slavic speaking people living in the eastern part of the German speaking area and "Welsch" for Romance speaking people living in the western part of the German-speaking area. The Hungarians copied the term "Wenden" and used the term "Vendek" for the Slovenes. The term "Vendek/Wenden/Windisch", also "Welsch" actually means "stranger", people who do not speak German.

At the end of the 19th century, when the South Slavic nations (Slovenes, Croats, Serbs etc.) planned to create a South Slavic nation, the Hungarians and Austrians used the term "Vendek/Windisch" to say that the Slovenes are not Slavic people, but that they only speak a Slavic language. So it was a political issue too.

And at the time when a lot of Slovenes from Hungary (at the beginning of the 20th century) emigrated abroad, especially to the USA, they brought this term "Vendek/Windisch" with them and created an English way of spelling it: "Windish". But in their own Windish language they called themselves "Slovinci" (Slovenes).

After WWI the South Slavic nations created the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, later called Yugoslavia. And after the Cold War an independent State, Slovenia, was created in 1991.

Of course a lot of descendants of Slovenes living abroad and not speaking Slovenian any more, especially in the USA, were and still are confused, as to why they are now called Slovenes and not Windish. As these descendants do not speak Windish/Slovenian, they do not know what they are called in the Windish language.

You write that the Germans call the Wendish people "Sorben". But in the past, the Germans termed them "Wenden". We assume that the Wendish people and the Windish people share a similar past.

1. Both are Slavic people who lived and still live bordering a German-speaking area.
2. Both were called Wendish and Windish respectively (strangers) by German-speaking people.
3. When they migrated overseas, they called themselves Wendish and Windish in English, but mostly spoke their Slavic mother tongue (at least in the first and second generations).
4. During the 20th century, a lot of national states were created in Europe and therefore, the Wendish and Windish people emancipated themselves and generated a national identity. They reflected on how they could term themselves as an ethnic group in their own language.
5. The people who had emigrated overseas had already lost the language of their ancestors and therefore didn't know that they are called "Slovinci" in their Slavic mother tongue.

Could it be that the Wendish emigrants in the 19th century called themselves "Serbski" in their own Slavic mother tongue? The word "Sorben" is only a German translation of the word "Serbski", so we assume that the Wendish people called themselves "Serby" and in their mother tongue their language "serbsky" or "serbscina", but not "Wendish".

The only difference between Windish / Slovene and the Wendish / Serby is that since 1991 the Slovenes have had a country of their own, Slovenia. Because of this the Windish people outside of Slovenia now have a mother country. Since 1991 the Windish communities have had a Slovenian ambassador in the USA. The Serby (in German: Sorben) do not have their own country; they are an acknowledged ethnic minority in Germany.

Greetings!  
Tibor and Joël

Thanks to Tibor Hoat, Joël Gerber and Kevin Zwar for this information, which adds to our knowledge of the Slavic peoples.

For research queries, contact Kevin Zwar at email: [wendsonline@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wendsonline@optusnet.com.au)





# What's new at the library?

**Churches of the Barossa Valley, by Roger Teusner and Myrene Teusner, with sketches by Rod Schubert.**



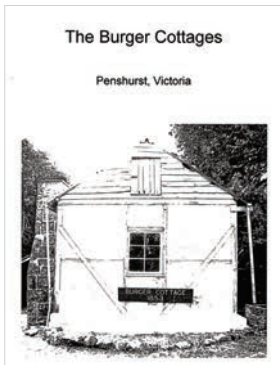
Profusely illustrated with sketches throughout the text, this book features the forty-two churches of the Barossa Valley in South Australia. In some instances the history of these congregations dates back to the earliest settlements with the various religious denominations represented in most of the major towns. It intrigues visitors to find that there are often several Lutheran churches in close proximity, as at Tanunda where there are four Lutheran churches, and a total of six churches within a short distance of the post office. This can be explained by the fact that in the early history of Lutheranism in the Valley a number of divisions occurred, with the result that several different Synods were established.

Each had its own churches. It was only in 1966 that a final union was brought about, whereby one Lutheran Synod was formed. Meanwhile 25 Lutheran Churches had sprung up in the Valley.

Of particular interest to Wends is the St. John's Ebenezer Lutheran Church. The beginnings of Ebenezer date back to 1851 with the departure from Hamburg in Germany of emigrants for South Australia. On board the ship *Helene* were 150-160 passengers, 98 of whom were Wends from Saxony. Upon their arrival on Christmas Eve in 1851, most of these Wends went to Rosenthal (Rosedale), moving north to Ebenezer in the New Year.

Their earliest services, including baptisms, took place firstly in a private home and then in a church school, erected in 1858. In 1859 the first Ebenezer church was built. This building was used for 46 years until the constant need for repairs necessitated the building of a new church in 1905. The small pipe organ, built in 1875, was still being used at the time of publication of this book, and is one of the few remaining organs built by Daniel Heinrich Lemke, the renowned Barossa Valley organ builder, who had emigrated from Posen in 1855.

## The Burger Cottages, Penshurst, Victoria



This compilation of documents lists details concerning the Burger Cottages situated at 71 Springfield Lane, Penshurst, Victoria, and the application to the Uebergang Foundation for funding for the preparation of a Cost Management Plan (CMP). This would lead to appropriate activities, as recommended by the CMP, to protect and preserve the Cottages which are of historical and architectural significance.

There is a strong connection between the Burger and the Uebergang families. Stuart Burger, the applicant for the funding, is the great-great grandson of Gottlieb Uebergang, from one of the four branches of the Uebergang family who migrated to Australia in the nineteenth century. The two buildings at the Burger family farm were built c.1853 by the Wendish immigrants Peter Burger (1795-1878) and his family. The Burger farm was part of the settlement of Gnadenthal, near Penshurst,

founded in the early 1850's by Wendish immigrants.

The following statement is from the Victorian Heritage Database: "*The Burger Cottages are of architectural significance as possibly the only surviving example in Victoria of the rare lehmwickel (earth winding) technique, an unusual vernacular building method which probably originated in the medieval period in France and Germany...*" In this building method, split stakes of the local timber were wrapped around with layers of mud and straw to form a cylinder. These cylinders were packed closely together in rows in the spaces between the framing timbers or ceiling joists.

PHOTOS OF BOOK COVERS SUPPLIED BY 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





# Items from other Societies' journals

## 27th Annual Wendish Fest in Texas

*Texas Wendish Heritage Society Newsletter* (April 2015) informs us that entertainment at this year's Wendish Fest, to be held on 27 September 2015, will include three groups from Germany. A group of actors from the **Deutsch-Sorbisches Volkstheater** in Bautzen and a musical group, the Floppy Dolls, will perform a puppet show. Artists from the **Förderkreis für Sorbische Volkskultur** (Society to Promote Sorbian Folk Culture) will demonstrate the art of decorating Wendish Easter eggs.

## New website: [www.texaswendish.org](http://www.texaswendish.org)

*The Texas Wendish Heritage Society Newsletter* (April 2015) announces the launch of this new website. The site, still a "work in progress", is fast becoming a wonderful resource for sharing Wendish culture, history and heritage.

## Edward Reichenbach ("Ted Ryko")

*The Dimboola & District Historical Society Inc. Newsletter* (July 2015) features an article on the exhibition "Ryko – A Wild Life". About 100 people attended the opening of the exhibition in Nhill, Victoria on Sunday 21 June.

Edward (Ted) **Reichenbach** (1892–1968) was the son of Ludwig Carl and Alma Johanna Reichenbach, who farmed in the Nhill district. Ted first won acclaim when he broke the Adelaide to Darwin cycling record in 1914. He was also an accomplished photographer. Many of his photos were on display at the exhibition.

The book *Ryko the Byko* by Rev. Howard Pohlner (Ted's nephew) was launched at this event. The major part of the exhibition was put together by the Northern Territory Library to coincide with the bike ride re-enactment that took place last year between Tennant Creek and Darwin. Ted Reichenbach's great-niece, Wendy Schwedes, participated in the bike ride re-enactment and assisted with arranging for the Exhibition to be brought to Nhill. N.T. Library has now kindly donated the Exhibition to the Jeparit Pioneer Museum. The Reichenbachs married into Wendish families, including the **Deutscher** and **Teschner** families.

For further information, or to purchase "Ryko the Byko", please contact Wendy Schwedes. Tel: (03) 9094 3080 Email: [wschwedes@kangan.edu.au](mailto:wschwedes@kangan.edu.au).

## Carl Wilhelm Huf

*The Dimboola & District Historical Society Inc. Newsletter* (July 2015) features an article on "The war to end all wars through Dimboola eyes". The article gives the details of some of the local soldiers who were

killed in action. Among them is Carl Wilhelm **Huf**, whose father had farmed in the Nhill district for 30 years. Carl was killed in action in May 1915. He was 20 years of age. At the time of his enlistment he was working on his father's property near Sunbury, Victoria. In March 1915 his father, Charles, had offered the hospitality of his home at Sunbury to any Wimmera recruits who were in the city without relatives or friends.

## Australian Wends in the First World War

Do you have any Wendish relatives who served in the First World War? The Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia is interested in identifying those of Wendish descent who fought and possibly died for this country.

The July 2015 edition of their Newsletter gives these examples of Wends who served: Oswald Rudolf **Duldig** (killed in Belgium 1917, aged 23); Frank Ernest **Huppatz** (died of illness 1916, aged 23, buried in London) and John Edward **Huppatz** (enlisted 1917; returned to Australia 1919).

If you have information on men or women of Wendish descent who served in the First World War, please contact Lyall Kupke, 6 Emes Court, Athelstone, SA, 5076 or email [kupkell@yahoo.com](mailto:kupkell@yahoo.com).

## Kollosche family – 160th Anniversary

*The Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia Inc. Newsletter* (July 2015) gives a report on the family reunion held at Birdwood, South Australia, on the occasion of the 160th anniversary of the arrival of George **Kolosche** in Australia. On 4 October 2014, fifty relatives attended the unveiling of a plaque for George and Auguste Kolosche at the Birdwood Lutheran Cemetery. The luncheon at the Blumberg Hotel, Birdwood, was a great success. Family members rekindled old friendships and made new ones.

## Australian newspapers online – Trove

*The South Gippsland Genealogical Society Inc. Newsletter* (June 2015) includes an article titled "Searching in Trove newspapers" by Frances Alexander.

Trove makes available digitized newspapers from all over Australia, dating back to the early days of settlement.

You may find useful information about your ancestors in shipping intelligence notices; birth, death, funeral, marriage, engagement, in memorial notices; court cases; inquests; coroner's reports; house sales; etc. as well as in general news stories that give an insight into everyday life.

See [trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper](http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper)





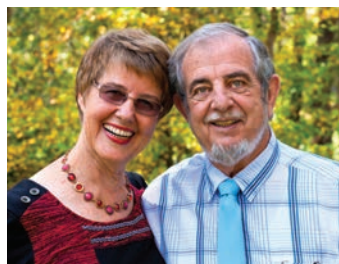
# General News

## Welcome back to Joel and Janice Blackburn

In our April 2015 newsletter we reported that Joel Blackburn had spent eight weeks in hospital and was battling ongoing health issues.

We are very pleased to give you the good news that Joel's health has improved. At our Committee meeting on 8 August, we appointed Joel as our Website Consultant. We also appointed Janice Blackburn as Librarian. Both Joel and Janice had stepped down from the Committee, because of Joel's ill health. We are very pleased to welcome them back and we send Joel our best wishes for his continued recovery.

## Golden Wedding Anniversary



Congratulations to Kevin and Del Zwar, who are celebrating 50 happy years of marriage on 30 September. Delrose Zwar (nee Heinrich) grew up in World's

End, near Burra in South Australia. Kevin often says, "I had to go to the end of the world to find a wife!"

We are very grateful to Kevin for his dedication and efficiency in answering family history research queries. We wish Kevin and Del many more happy years together.

## Directory

**Aims:** The Wendish Heritage Society Australia Inc., researches and promotes the Wendish/Sorbian and Germanic heritage and family history in Australia.

**Postal Address:** P.O. Box 4050, Box Hill South, Victoria 3128

**Meeting Room and Research Centre:** St Aidan's Community Centre, 12 Surrey St, Box Hill South, Victoria. (Melway 61 C1)

**Hours:** By appointment. Please contact the Secretary.

**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 September 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

**Librarian:** Janice Blackburn

**Website Consultant:** Joel Blackburn

## Office bearers:

**President:** Robert Wuchatsch, Stony Rises Homestead, 2020 Princes Hwy, Pirron Yallock, Vic 3249.  
Mobile: 0400 127 830 Email: [robert.wuchatsch@gmail.com](mailto:robert.wuchatsch@gmail.com)

**Vice-President:** John L. Modra, 24 Moore St, Colac, Vic 3250  
Tel: 03 5231 5497 Email: [riskwithinreason@gmail.com](mailto:riskwithinreason@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Glenys Wollermann, 22 Bellara Street, Doncaster, Vic 3108. Tel: 03 9891 6652  
Email: [wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au](mailto: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: [ck\\_32@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ck_32@optusnet.com.au)

## Committee Members:

**Mary Cooper:** 22 Cherry St, Glen Waverley, Vic 3150  
Tel: 03 9802 5433 Email: [marycooper570@gmail.com](mailto:marycooper570@gmail.com)

**Betty Huf:** PO Box 26, Tarrington, Vic 3301  
Tel: 03 5572 4959 Email: [bettyhuf@westvic.com.au](mailto:bettyhuf@westvic.com.au) *Researcher*

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

**Beryl Nagorcka:** 39 Kenilworth Crescent, Glen Waverley, Vic 3150 Tel: 9802 6487 Email: [bnagorcka@bigpond.com](mailto:bnagorcka@bigpond.com)

**Moirá Nagorcka:** same address as Beryl Nagorcka.  
Email: [magina@bigpond.com](mailto:magina@bigpond.com)

**Wendish Heritage Society Australia Inc** ABN 78 951 996 351  
PO Box 4050, Box Hill South, Victoria 3128

Kevin Zwar is willing to help with research enquiries. Email: [wendsonline@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wendsonline@optusnet.com.au)

Business Email: [wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au)

Website: [www.wendishheritage.org.au](http://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.*