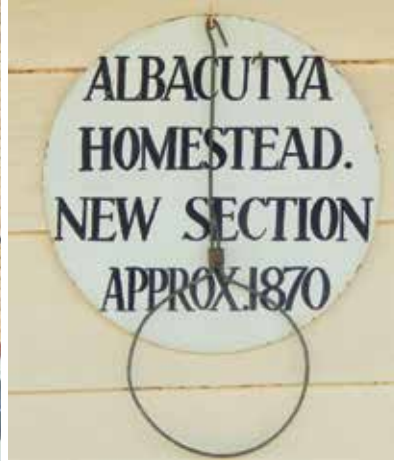




wendish news

WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

NUMBER 57 SEPTEMBER 2016



Clockwise from top:

1. Tour Group members at the Nhill Lutheran Church (see page 3).
2. Albacutya homestead in the Wimmera – Mallee Pioneer Museum at Jeparit.
3. Headstone of Helene Hampe (1840–1907), widow of Pastor G.D. Hampe, at Lochiel Lutheran Cemetery.
4. Peter Gebert in his Kumbala Native Garden, near Jeparit.
5. Daryl Deutscher, at the entrance to his Turkey Farm with Glenys Wöllermann, at Dadswell's Bridge.
6. Chemist display at the Dimboola Courthouse Museum.

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY CLAY KRUGER AND BETTY HUF

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Calendar of upcoming events

30th Anniversary Luncheon, Saturday 15 October 2016

We will celebrate a special milestone this year: the **30th Anniversary of our Society**. You are warmly invited, along with family and friends, to attend this special Anniversary Luncheon to be held at 12 noon on Saturday 15 October in the **Community Room at St Paul's Lutheran Church, 711 Station St, Box Hill, Victoria**. (Please note that the luncheon venue has been changed from the German Club Tivoli.)

The Church is near the corner of Whitehorse Rd and Station St. in Box Hill. Car parking is available behind the church (20 spaces) or in nearby streets. Parking is also available for the weekend rate of \$5.00 for the day under the Taxation Office building in Whitehorse Rd (access via Bruce St).

The Church is also easy to access by public transport. It is a short walk north down Station St from the Box Hill Railway Station. For tram travellers, there is a tram stop in Whitehorse Rd near Station St.

The Luncheon cost is \$35.00 per head for a traditional German meal, including sherries/orange juice/savouries beforehand, mulled wine with the main course, dessert and tea/coffee.

There will be Wendish music, costumes, memorabilia, slideshow, guest speaker, historical reflections, and more, including some surprises. You are welcome to bring memorabilia if you wish. We look forward to seeing you on this special occasion.

Contact: *Beryl Nagorcka (Convenor of the Anniversary Celebration Committee), 39 Kenilworth Crescent, Glen Waverley, Victoria, 3150.*

Telephone (03) 9802 6487

Email: bnagorcka@bigpond.com

RSVP: Monday 3 October 2016.

Payment (\$35 per head) is required with your booking.

Please include your name and the names of your guests.

Make cheque or money order payable to "Wendish Heritage Society Aust. Inc." and post to Beryl Nagorcka at the above address.

Alternatively, you may make payment by EFT. (BSB 06 3184 Account. No. 10092489). Please advise Beryl if payment has been made by EFT.

Also advise Beryl if you have special dietary requirements.

Labour Day Weekend Tour to Portland, 11-13 March 2017

Our tour leader, Betty Huf, has graciously offered to lead us on a tour of historic Portland on Victoria's south-west coast, on 11-13 March 2017. Please note that this is the Labour Day long weekend in Victoria and accommodation will need to be booked early due to the popularity of the Port Fairy Folk Festival.

The Henty family were the first Europeans to settle within the Port Phillip district (now known as Victoria), arriving at Portland Bay in 1834. Betty's proposed itinerary includes some interesting historic sites associated with the Hentys; the Portland Maritime Discovery Centre; a scenic ride along the foreshore on the Portland Cable Tram; a climb up the WWII Memorial Lookout Tower for an unbeatable 360 degree view of Portland; a walk around the town viewing the historic buildings, including those associated with Mary MacKillop, and a walk along the Portland Foreshore to view the ships and to see the B-double trucks unloading their woodchips.

Further details will be provided in our next newsletter and on our website. Please make your own arrangements for accommodation.

Please book by 28 Feb. with Betty Huf, PO Box 26, Tarrington, Vic. 3301; Telephone (03) 5572 4959; email bettyhuf@westvic.com.au as bookings are desirable for some venues.



An aerial view of Portland, Victoria.

Reproduced with permission of the Port of Portland.

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Past events



Clockwise from top: 1. Betty Huf (left) and Janice Blackburn collecting salt crystals from Pink Lake, Lochiel. 2. Dimboola Historical Society Secretary, Evelyn King, explaining the history of salt harvesting at Pink Lake. 3. L. to R.: Geoff Matuschka, Richard Albert, Lyall Kupke, Kneller and Ken Lehmann and Glenys Wollermann at Pink Lake, Lochiel. PHOTOS: C. KRUGER & B. HUF.

New Website

Our new website went live on 3 March. We are very pleased to announce that the website has been enthusiastically received. We are very grateful to Robyn Zwar for her work in designing this wonderful resource for sharing Wendish culture, history and heritage. See www.wendishheritage.org.au

March Tour to Dimboola and district, 12–14 March 2016

This event, led by local historian and researcher Betty Huf, was a resounding success. Up to 25 people participated. Betty has received very good feedback from those involved in the tour. There were many highlights. Below is Betty's report.

Dimboola and Lochiel

The tour commenced at the **Dimboola Historical Society Courthouse Museum**. Whilst enjoying morning tea, the Dimboola folk gave an illustrated talk to the group about the salt harvesting that has taken place at nearby Pink Lake over the past decades. After a delectable luncheon made from local produce by the chef at the Mason Clarke Preserving Co., everyone journeyed to **Lochiel** to visit the site of the Lutheran church and cemetery which Pastor

G.D. Hampe established as a preaching place in 1882. Zion congregation was formed in 1887 and a church building of laths (slats) and clay was erected and used until the congregation was disbanded in 1937. Methodist services were also held in the church from 1919 to 1953. The unused and dilapidated building was demolished in 1957.

From there the tour stopped at **Pink Lake** to walk down to its edge. Unfortunately, it had rained during the previous week, resulting in the salt crystals that had previously been present being reabsorbed into the lake waters. Salt has been harvested from the Lake since the late 1860s. In the 1950s, at the height of the harvesting industry at the lake, a 16 tonne railway truck was loaded each day with bags that weighed between 10 and 20 kilos. Today, in conjunction with the Barengi Gadjin Land Council, the traditional land owners of the Wimmera region, salt is harvested from the lake for just 2 weeks each year. It is processed and available for purchase from Mount Zero Olives and various other local retailers.

Glenlee and Woorak

The tour then moved on to **Glenlee** where a local identity, Laurie Schneider, showed us the memorial dedicated to Alfred Traeger, a Lutheran radio engineer, who was born nearby. From 1926, Alf



Past events... continued



Top row, left to right: 1. Memorial plaque to Alfred Traeger at Glenlee. 2. Woorak Lutheran Church. 3. Interior of Woorak Lutheran Church. Bottom row, left to right: 1. Interior of Dimboola Lutheran Church 2. Sunday Worship at Jeparit Lutheran Church. 3. Tour participants relaxing in the Kumbala Native Garden log shed. PHOTOS: CLAY KRUGER & BETTY HUF

worked with John Flynn, founder of the Flying Doctor Service, and invented the now famous pedal wireless which created a communications revolution by enabling those in the remote areas of Australia to have access to School of the Air, doctors, hospitals, and any other services that they required. Traeger's affordable and easily operated pedal radios were also used internationally in countries as diverse as Canada and Nigeria.

The **Woorak** Lutheran Church was the next place of interest on the tour. St Paul's congregation was established by Pastor Hampe in 1878 and the present weatherboard church was built in the late 1880s. An informative chat about the history of the church was given by Laurie Schneider, followed by an unexpected afternoon tea graciously provided for us by some of the ladies from St Paul's congregation. The visit to the nearby **Woorak Cemetery** was appreciated by a number of the tour participants who were able to find the graves of distant relatives due to the very detailed noticeboard at the entrance gate.

Nhill

The tour then called at the **Nhill** Lutheran Church, where some congregation members presented us with a brief history of the church and congrega-

tion, and provided us with a guided tour over their church facilities. After a group photograph was taken on the church steps, we moved on to view the former **Noske Bros Flour Mill** and silo adjacent to the Adelaide to Melbourne railway line. The concrete silo, built in 1919, was the largest of its kind at the time, being 100 feet high with a capacity of 120,000 bushels. The Noske Bros built a similar silo at Horsham, and at various times owned flour mills at Warracknabeal, Natimuk, Nhill, Bordertown, Wycheproof, Murray Bridge and Charlton. In 1909 Noske Bros were shipping flour to places such as Glasgow, Singapore and Durban. By the 1950s the company had diversified into the stock feed industry, becoming a five million dollar company in the 1970s. They were taken over by Industrial Equity in 1975.

The Farmer's Arms Hotel in Nhill was the venue for our evening meal, after which we were enthralled by the DVD presentation of Raymond 'Whimpey' Reichelt OAM, a local wildlife advocate. He is renowned for his conservation efforts to protect and study the rare Mallee fowl, otherwise known as the Lowan bird. These unique birds construct large, temperature-controlled mounds in which to incu-



Top row: 1. Albcutyga Homestead 2. Wimmera-Mallee Pioneer Museum, Jeparit. 3. Museum sign. 4. Tour group at the Kumbala Native Garden. Middle Row: Exhibits at Dimboola Courthouse Museum and Wimmera-Mallee Pioneer Museum, Jeparit. Bottom row: 1. Mary Cooper (standing right) with Dimboola & Dist. Historical Society members. 2. Hindmarsh Hotel, Jeparit. 3. Woorak Cemetery. PHOTOS: CLAY KRUGER.

bate their eggs. After starting observation of the birds in 1972, Whimpey and his wife Maureen purchased 117 hectares of bush in the Winiam area where, in 1979, he started seriously recording the activities of the Mallee fowl that lived in the area. He took notes on the mound temperatures, shapes and humidity, as well as the birds' behaviour both in the bush and at the mound. He also established the Little Desert Nature Lodge, an accommodation and research facility for students, academics and tourists.

Jeparit

After Sunday morning worship in the Jeparit Lutheran Church, a scrumptious morning tea was enjoyed with the hospitable congregation before the group travelled to the **Kumbala Native Garden**, established by Peter and Leonne Gebert. Covering 2½ hectares, the garden has been planted extensively with Australian native plants. The garden has been

enhanced by Peter's artistic skills in recycling old objects into interesting and quirky constructions. There were many secluded and shaded areas amongst the shrubs and trees, where it was possible to sit and relax whilst watching the numerous native birds and insects that inhabit the garden.

Following a lunch at the Hindmarsh Hotel in Jeparit, a visit was made to the vast display at the **Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum**. This is a pioneer town with original buildings including a hall, church, chemist, school, jail, blacksmith and several family homesteads. The many displays portrayed the everyday lives and hardships experienced by the early pioneers of the Wimmera/Mallee area. The machinery display is the largest collection in Australia, ranging from blacksmith-made cultivating equipment to strippers and harvesters from the 1890s to 1940s.



Dimboola

After viewing the **Dimboola** Lutheran church and school complex, an evening meal in the church hall concluded Sunday's activities.

Monday commenced with a tour of the **Dimboola Cemetery**, where many of the participants found graves of personal interest to them. To conclude the tour, a visit was made to the **Dimboola Print Museum**. This is located in the former building of the local newspaper, the *Dimboola Banner*, and houses a rare and extensive collection of printing presses and associated machinery, all of which are still operable. Our tour guides gave us demonstrations on the various printing presses and explained the historical collection of print history and memorabilia. After a most enjoyable and informative tour, everyone made their way home, vowing to keep next year's Labour Day weekend free for our next tour to Portland.

BETTY HUF

AGM, Saturday 30 April 2016

We are pleased to report that our AGM on 30 April was very successful. We thank those who attended the Meeting or appointed proxies and those who sent greetings and messages of support for the Society's work.

We had 18 people in attendance and 67 proxies. We elected a new President, **Betty Huf** and a new Treasurer, **Rob Wuchatsch**. After 13 years of distinguished service as Treasurer, **Clay Kruger** stepped down from that role. At last year's AGM, we were very grateful that Clay graciously agreed to serve one more year. As a result of Clay's decision, Rob Wuchatsch stepped down as President in order to offer himself as Treasurer. We were very fortunate that Betty Huf agreed to be nominated as President. **John L. Modra** was re-elected as Vice President and **Glenys Wollermann** was re-elected as Secretary. Thankfully, **Clay Kruger** agreed to serve on the Committee, so we will not lose his wisdom and expertise. Other Committee members are **Janice Blackburn**, **Joel Blackburn**, **Mary Cooper**, **Beryl Nagorcka** and **Moirra Nagorcka**. Rob Wuchatsch thanked **Geoff Matuschka** for his 6 years of service on the Committee.

Clay Kruger presented the Annual Financial Statement for 2015. He reported that we have had a very successful year. The total credit monies held in accounts as at 31 December 2015 was \$19,832.25. Since then, our new website has been paid for, reducing our current balance to about \$13,000.00. The number of members of our Society has remained fairly stable, at about 300. The books

have been audited and found correct by Klaus Hattwich.

Clay Kruger was given a round of applause. Gladys Koch expressed appreciation to Clay for the wonderful job he has done as Treasurer for 13 years. She said he well deserves to retire and lead a gentleman's life!

In his President's Report, Rob Wuchatsch stated that the past year has been a very successful one. It was great to see "new blood" on the Committee: Vice President John Modra and Mary Cooper who joined for the first time and Moira and Beryl Nagorcka who rejoined the Committee after a break of several years. It was wonderful to welcome back Joel and Janice Blackburn, who following Joel's recovery from serious illness, were able to assist us with website and library matters. Major events in the past year were the 200th Anniversary celebrations at Tarrington in June 2015 of the birth of Pastor Clamor Schürmann; our annual luncheon at the German Club Tivoli in October 2015; and our tour to Dimboola & district in March 2016. Our main project was the update of our website, capably managed by Robyn Zwar. The new website was launched in March 2016. In the past year we have published two excellent newsletters. All feedback has been very positive. Rob thanked all who are involved. He also thanked Kevin Zwar for very capably handling family history enquiries from all over the world.

Sadly, we mourned the loss of our friend, Alfons Frencl, who passed away in Lusatia in October 2015. His interest and assistance for over 20 years were invaluable. In November 2015 Rob had the pleasure of visiting the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, where many contacts were made and much useful information exchanged. Rob thanked all Committee members and others who assist for the time and effort they give to the Society.

Newly elected President Betty Huf chaired the remainder of the meeting. She gave special thanks to Rob Wuchatsch for serving us so well as President and to Clay Kruger for his many years of good service as Treasurer.

Membership fees

At our AGM a motion was passed to raise membership fees to cover increasing costs. Membership fees for 2017 will be \$35.00 for single membership and \$40.00 for joint membership. Invoices for 2017 membership are enclosed in this newsletter.



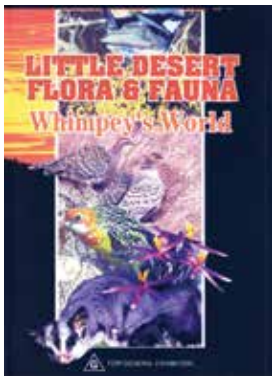
What's new at the library?



From Age to Age: Netherby Lutherans 1883–2003, by Valda Deckert (Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Netherby, Victoria, 2003)

This booklet is a well-researched history of the Netherby Lutheran churches. Netherby is near Nhill in the Wimmera region in western Victoria. In August 1881, a group of settlers of German origin came from Murtoa and selected land in Netherby, then known as Warraquil. Family names included in Pastor G.D. Hampe's Lochiel parish register were **Dreher, Winter, Pfrunder, Ortlieb, Gogel, Petering, Peters and Hahnel**. They were followed shortly afterwards by German settlers from South Australia, including the **Deckert, Keller, Rethus, Linke, Frost and Rooke** families.

In July 1882 Pastor G.D. Hampe became itinerant Pastor to the Wimmera, conducting services at Wail, Katyil, Ni Ni (Woorak), Winiam and Lochiel. He was officially installed as pastor to this parish in Dec. 1882. Netherby was added to the parish by 1883. In the early days the services were held in homes, the school and the public hall. (Booklet kindly donated by members of Nhill Lutheran Church.)



Little Desert flora and fauna: Whimpey's world (DVD) [2003]

Located mid-way between Adelaide and Melbourne, the Little Desert provides a natural haven for much of Australia's fascinating wildlife. This DVD explores the region through the eyes of Ray "Whimpey" Reichelt who, with his wife Maureen, operated the Little Desert Lodge and Tours for over 25 years. During that period they raised environmental awareness and promoted conservation of rare and endangered species including the unique Malleefowl bird. (DVD kindly donated by Raymond "Whimpey" Reichelt.)

JANICE BLACKBURN, LIBRARIAN
PHOTOS OF COVERS: JOEL BLACKBURN.

For a complete list of our library holdings, visit our website:

www.wendishheritage.org.au/research/library-resources/our-complete-library-catalogue/

Help please! Seeking copies of the book *So this was Katyil, 1876–1982*, by R.T. Schuller

This 130 page book is about the settlement of Katyil in Victoria's Wimmera region. I have received requests from people who wish to obtain this book. Unfortunately the book is out of print. If you have a copy that you are willing to donate or sell, please contact me via our Society's postal address or via email wendsonline@optusnet.com.au.

KEVIN ZWAR, RESEARCHER



Tours – Visit to Upper Lusatia

The following is Geoff Saegenschmitter's report on his tour to Upper Lusatia.

During August 2015, my wife Enis and I had the opportunity to visit Upper Lusatia again.

Pastor Jan and Gertrud Mahling from Bautzen were our very gracious hosts for a weekend where we had the opportunity to attend a Vespers concert and service in his St Michael's Church on Saturday night and their regular German service on Sunday morning. The other large Lutheran church in Bautzen, St Peter's, is currently being extensively renovated internally and that congregation is also worshipping in St. Michael's Church in separate services. St Peter's is unique in that the rear half of the church is Lutheran and the front half is Catholic.

Pastor Mahling is the only Lutheran Pastor in Lusatia who still conducts church services in the Wendish language. The Wendish services are held once a month.

Wendish is the Mahling family's first language at home and amongst their immediate family. Their youngest daughter is now a Lutheran Pastor at Schleife. She is the first Wendish woman to become a Lutheran Pastor. She is also able to conduct church services in the Wendish language but that service is currently not required at Schleife.

Gertrud Mahling (Trudla Malinkowa in Wendish) is a researcher at the Wendish Institute in Bautzen. She is also the editor of the Lutheran Wendish monthly magazine *Pomhaj Boh* and a prolific and respected author in her own right on Wendish heritage and cultural topics. Her book *Shores of Hope: Wends go overseas* was originally released in both the Wendish and German languages in 1995 and translated into English and released in 2009. Many copies of that 302 page book were sold in Australia.

Gertrud is appealing for copies of Australian Wendish family history publications to add to their collection at the Wendish Institute (Sorbsche Institut) in Bautzen in addition to copies of our Wendish Heritage Society's regular newsletters. She has given us a listing of the Australian publications they currently have in their library.

She also drove us to many small villages in the Bautzen area. Farmers experienced an exceptional



Geoff Saegenschmitter in front of the Zwar ancestral home in Drehsa.

season with many corn crops growing head high. Many grain crops went down due to the stalks being unable to support the heavy ears of grain. We had the opportunity to see my Biar ancestral home in Groditz again and also, by chance, a Zwar ancestral home in Drehsa. Drehsa is essentially a one street village.

The Schletze family currently own that property and were very welcoming to us. They live in a modern house on that property but the Zwar home, which is very old, is still in very good structural condition considering its age. It is 3 storeys high plus a cellar and attic. Two rooms are still periodically used as guest bedrooms. Every bit of space in that home was put to good use. The barn and animal winter shelter is under the same roof as the house. The animals were housed at ground level with winter stock feed stored above the animal enclosure.

Unfortunately their property records do not go back far enough to identify the exact Zwar ancestor who lived there.

I have been actively encouraging Gertrud Mahling to visit us in Australia to see regions of Wendish interest here and to meet those who assisted her with information for her *Shores of Hope* book. Gertrud is hopeful that she may be able to come here for a month or so in 2017. I have offered to be her host and to assist in preparing her Australian itinerary. It would be a very significant achievement if she could make this trip and she would be an excellent guest speaker at our Wendish Heritage Society's meetings.

GEOFF SAEGENSCHMITTER



Research

Seeking Lewitzka relatives in Australia

Kevin Zwar continues to help with research queries from all over the world. In July, Kevin received the following request, via our Society's website, from Reinhard Lewitzka in Germany:

I'll try to express my wishes in English. This is the best website I have found up to now, with interesting stories, backgrounds and historical details. By my name you can see that I am a Wend too. For almost my whole life I didn't know that. I am now 68 years of age. An uncle in his 80s came to Cottbus three years ago and told me his life story, as my parents never did. Since then I have found relatives with their roots in Guhrow and Briesen

*near Cottbus. Most of my Lewitzka relatives are living in Australia. Family names such as **Noack, Hondow, Dreckow, Nowsch, Dalitz, Gardi, Domaschenz** and **Lewitzke** are related to my family. I am interested in correspondence with an Australian family member. Do you know of anyone who may be interested? I am sure this will not be my final visit to your website.*

*My best regards
Reinhard Lewitzka.*

If you would like to respond to Reinhard's request, please contact me via our Society's postal address or via email wendsonline@optusnet.com.au.

I will then forward you Reinhard's contact details.

KEVIN P. ZWAR

For research queries, contact Kevin Zwar by email: wendsonline@optusnet.com.au

Luther 500 Tour 11 October – 4 November 2017

Those who join this tour will be present in Wittenberg on 31st Oct. for commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the nailing of the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in 1517.

The itinerary also includes Katharina von Bora's grave, Luther's ordination church in Erfurt, his birthplace in Eisleben, the Wartburg where he translated the New Testament into German, his "Wohnhaus" in Eisenach, plus other Reformation sites. The tour includes visits to Worms, Torgau, Coburg, Augsburg, Rüdesheim am Rhein, Oberammergau, Salzburg, Neuendettelsau, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Bautzen, Berlin, Leipzig, and Dresden. Also included is a Rhine Cruise.

All tours are fully escorted by David Zweck, using local guides.

Contact: Zweck Tours, PO Box 494,
Glenside SA 5065
Mobile: 0429 447 821 A/H: 08 8431 5468
Fax: 08 8431 8224
Email: zwecktours@adelaide.on.net
Aust-wide Freecall: 1800 814 559 after hours

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
Website: www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au



Items from other Societies' Journals

Westgarthtown ANZACS

In *Friends of Westgarthtown News* (April 2015), Robert Wuchatsch told the stories of six Australian soldiers with Westgarthtown connections – Ewen Ewert, Fred Graff, Adolph Schmutsch and George, Joe and Ray Wuchatsch – who served at Gallipoli. At least nine more soldiers with Westgarthtown ancestry also served at Gallipoli in 1915. In *Friends of Westgarthtown News* (April 2016), Robert Wuchatsch gives the details of three of them: William Albert Hermann Frahm (1888–1939); Harry Julius Frederick Unmack (1896–1974) and Dr Bernhard Traugott Zwar (1876–1947).

Film Launch: Westgarthtown & World War One

A documentary on *Westgarthtown & World War 1* was launched on Sunday 1 May 2016 at Ziebell's Farmhouse. The launch was very successful. This moving documentary was presented by the Friends of Westgarthtown. It juxtaposes the treatment of citizens of German descent living in Westgarthtown with the experiences of their relatives who were fighting and dying for Australia during World War 1. The documentary can be viewed online at www.westgarthtown.org.au.

Ernst Ziebell (1839-1910)

Friends of Westgarthtown News (April 2016) includes an article by Robert Wuchatsch on Ernst Ziebell, nephew of Christian Ziebell. Christian Ziebell, having established his farm at Westgarthtown in 1850, travelled back to Germany in 1855. When Christian returned to Australia on the *Helene* in 1856 he brought relatives and friends with him. One was his nephew, Ernst Ziebell, aged 16, from Helsingor in Denmark. This article includes information kindly provided by Frode Olsen, a Ziebell relative in Denmark. One of Ernst Ziebell's descendants is North Melbourne AFL player Jack Ziebell.

Dalitz family of Dimboola

The Dimboola & District Historical Society Inc. Newsletter (May 2016) includes an article on "The war to end all wars through Dimboola eyes". One of the many Dimboola and district families who made huge sacrifices during the First World War was that of Heinrich and Elizabeth Marie Dalitz, and their 13 children of the Village Settlement. Five Dalitz boys enlisted and served overseas during the war: Bill, Charlie, Ossie, Wally and Clarrie. Bill and Clarrie were first to enlist in June 1915, just two months after the tragedy of their mother's death. Wally and

Charlie were next to follow in 1916, then finally Ossie enlisted in 1918. The article gives details of the service and sacrifice of each of the five brothers. It includes photographs and examples of the letters they sent home during the war. One of the brothers, Carl Walter (Wally) Dalitz was killed in action in Bullecourt, France in May 1917. He was 20 years of age. The eldest brother, Frederick William (Bill) Dalitz returned to Australia in May 1919. He married a schoolteacher and moved to Melbourne. One of their children, Richard Dalitz, became a world renowned scientist specializing in particle physics.

Australian Wends in the Great War

The Wend/Sorb Society of S.A. Inc. Newsletter (March 2016) features a list of Australians of Wendish descent who fought and/or died for this country. When the Wendish ancestry comes from the mother, her maiden name is given. The Society invites people to submit names and details of service men and women of Wendish descent who served in the First World War, so that they can be added to the list and published in following newsletters.

Contact: Lyall Kupke, 6 Emes Court, Athelstone, S.A. 5076; Tel. (08) 8365 2572; email kupkell@yahoo.com

Wendish costumes

The Wend/Sorb Society of S.A. Inc. Newsletter (March 2016) features an article on the costumes proudly held by the Society: a wedding costume, a dance costume and a number of heavy woollen underskirts. They came from the Hoyerswerda district of Middle Lusatia.

A Wendish custom of multiple surnames

The Wend/Sorb Society of S.A. Inc. Newsletter (March 2016) includes an article by Andrew Kolloosche on the custom of multiple surnames. He gives the following example: men who married a female farm heir and moved to her farm would adopt the wife's last name. Actually, they adopted the farm name. The farm was not divided, but always given to one sole heir. One of Andrew Kolloosche's ancestors was "Martin Miatke alias Kolloosche". Martin Miatke may have married a Kolloosche, moved to her farm and taken that name. His children would have been known by the name Kolloosche, even though they were really Miatke.

Rare Wendish artifacts

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society Newsletter (Jan. 2016) features an article on rare Wendish artifacts on display at the Bullock Texas State History Museum



in Austin, Texas. The items include a black wedding dress from 1879, a pine trunk from the 1840s used to transport family possessions to Texas and a rare book of Martin Luther's sermons brought to Texas by Pastor Kilian. Also featured is a mask from the 1920s–1930s of a Santa-like character named "Rumpliche". The Rumpliche mask and costume was part of the Wendish holiday tradition. The masked Rumpliche would visit each house with a sack to ask if the children had been naughty or good that year. If a child was naughty, he or she was put in the sack where they would say a prayer to be let out! Good children might receive toys and treats.

German Census Records

International Settlers Group Newsletter (July 2016) informs us that the GSV Library, Level B1, 257 Collins St, Melbourne has been donated a copy of Roger's Minert's new *German Census Records 1816–1916: The When, Where and How of a Valuable Genealogical Resource*. This 275 page book considerably simplifies searching known German Census records and alerts the reader to previously unknown sources of Census records thought not to exist. The book is available to members of the Genealogical Society of Victoria.

EDITOR

Reunions

Altus Family Reunion, 10-11 October 2015

Members of the Altus family enjoyed a wonderful weekend of celebration on 10–11 October 2015 in the Barossa Valley and Kapunda. Prior to the celebration, Committee members placed flowers and markers on the graves as a mark of respect to those who came first in 1858.

Over 250 from most states of Australia enjoyed reuniting and renewing friendships. On the Saturday, families with their maps toured the areas of interest, visiting the original homestead, Church and Cemetery, Bethel, the Steinthal Cemetery, which has been restored by the Committee, and also Ebenezer and St Kitts.

On the Sunday, a Thanksgiving Service was held in the Tanunda Show Hall. After a welcome by Chairman Eric Altus, Bishop David Altus led us all in worship. Bible readings were given by Pam Eagles from Sydney, and Jane Nitschke from Nuriootpa. Musician Barb Altus accompanied the Choir, which was conducted by Stan Peltz. A special feature of the Service was the enthusiastic singing of the hymn "A mighty fortress." The first verse was sung in Wendish by Barb Altus, followed by members singing the second verse in German. Then the last verse was sung in English, accompanied by Helen Colliver. This signified the changes experienced in the family's life and times.

All appreciated the warmth of Bishop David Altus' message. At centre stage was the altar on which rested a beautiful antique Wendish Bible. Alongside it was the wooden chest brought to Australia, filled with her worldly goods, by Agneta Altus. These items created much interest and are still in the possession of family members.

Following the Service a meeting was held. Many greetings were received from far and wide. Committee members explained why they serve, and it was resolved by all present to continue. A donation of \$1,000 from the gathering was given to the Royal Flying Doctor Service. A luncheon and afternoon of fellowship followed. Family items and memorabilia were displayed around the Hall, and sales of family history books were popular.

HELEN COLLIVER

Radke Reunion

The Radke family held a very successful Reunion in Bethania, Queensland on 13–16 May 2016. Plans are now underway for the Radke Christmas Party Weekend to be held on 7–9 October 2016 at the Radke Heritage Farm, Station Rd, Bethania, Qld.

Contact: Philip Radke (07) 4635 6365

mobile: 0438 078 309

email: philipradke28@hotmail.com

Werchon Family Reunion, 1-3 Oct. 2016

The Wend/Sorb Society of S.A. Inc. Newsletter (July 2016) includes a notice of the Werchon Family Reunion to be held in Millicent, S.A. on 1–3 October 2016. Friedrich Werchon and Anna (Kossatz) came to Australia in 1859 with their sons Friedrich Wilhelm, aged 11, and Friedrich, aged 9. They settled in Blumberg (now Birdwood) and later moved to the south east. Both boys married Aberle sisters and had children. Reunion organisers are seeking contact with anyone who has a connection with this family.

Contact: Dawn (08) 8733 3945

mobile: 0417 875 481

email: singum1@bigpond.com



Vale



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY
JOEL BLACKBURN.

Anne Sandman died on 3 April 2016, at 84 years of age. Anne was a former Committee member. Anne's family includes her daughter Sue Burton, who is also a former Committee member.

Dr (Rev) Rufus Pech of Canberra died on 29 April 2016, at 89 years of age. His tribute in the *Canberra Times* on 3 May 2016 states: "A fruitful life – missionary, educator, family man, gardener..."

Both Anne Sandman and Rufus Pech 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: 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: \$35 for single membership and \$40 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.

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