



# wendish news

WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

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*March Labour Day Weekend Tour to Historic Portland (see page 3). Clockwise from top:*

1. *Tour group at Treloar Roses. L-R: Joel and Janice Blackburn, Mary Cooper, Julie Ballinger, Betty Huf, Rachael and Gary Matuschka, Colin Huf (back), June and Peter Winter. Horse sculpture in foreground.*
2. *Portland Strawberries farm.*
3. *L-R: June Winter, Sue Gravenall, Rob Wuchatsch, Colin Huf and Peter Winter amongst the 'tree trunks' at the Petrified Forest, Bridgewater Bay.*
4. *Tour group heading to the Gannet colony at Point Danger.*

(PHOTOS 1 & 2: JOHN NOACK. PHOTOS 3 & 4: BETTY HUF.)

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# Calendar of upcoming events

## Annual Luncheon, Saturday 21 October 2017

You are warmly invited, along with family and friends, to attend our Annual Luncheon.

**Venue:** Barkly's Restaurant, 43 Main Road, Ballarat, Vic.

**Website:** [www.barklymotorlodge.com.au](http://www.barklymotorlodge.com.au)

**Phone:** (03) 5331 8838

**Date:** Saturday 21 October 2017

**Time:** 12.00noon for a 12.30pm start

**Cost:** \$28.50 per person

**Room:** Lady Barkly room (separate from the main dining room)

**Payment:** on the day by individual attendees.

**Guest Speaker:** Betty Huf on the topic 'Wendish Settlers of the Western District'.

*Please book by Sunday 15 October 2017 with Betty Huf, P.O. Box 26, Tarrington, Vic. 3301; Tel. (03) 5572 4959; email [bettyhuf@westvic.com.au](mailto:bettyhuf@westvic.com.au) Bookings are essential.*

**Accommodation:** rooms are available at the Barkly Motorlodge, from \$145.00. As the Royal South Street Competitions are running that weekend, accommodation will be at a premium. Those intending to stay overnight in Ballarat will have to book early to obtain a room. Phone: (03) 5331 8838.

## Curios from Yesteryear, Sunday 19 November 2017

The Museum at Ziebell's Farmhouse, German Lane, Lalor, Victoria, houses many heritage farm tools and domestic utensils. On Sunday 19 November, from 12 noon until 4.00 pm, a selection of these curios will be presented by guides who will explain their use and operation to visitors. Entry is free. Wander through the historic farmhouse, outbuildings and gardens. Purchase bratwurst from the sausage sizzle or sample scones baked in the farmhouse's wood-fired oven. Free tea and coffee will be available. This event is presented by the Friends of Westgarthtown, with assistance from the City of Whittlesea's Cultural Heritage Program.

## The "German Triangle" and Lutheran Settlement at Bayswater, Tuesday 21 November 2017

Ray Peace of the Knox Historical Society, Vic. will speak on the early German settlement at Bayswater on Tuesday 21 November at 7.45 pm, at the Knox Lutheran Church, 646 Burwood Hwy, Knox (Melway 73 D1). This event is being organised by the Friends of Lutheran Archives Victoria (FoLAV).

Early German settlers at Bayswater included J. Neumann, W. Schultz, J.F. Tillack, W. Tillack, A. Paech, W. Gerlach, M. Kleinert, D. Sasse, J.C. Froebel and H. W. Zeising.

Other activities before and after this talk will include:

**4.00pm:** Visit Knox Historical Museum at Ambleside Park, 3 Olivebank Rd, Ferntree Gully.

**5.00 pm:** Visit Ferntree Gully Cemetery

**6.00 pm:** Community meal in the foyer at Knox Lutheran Church, 646 Burwood Hwy, Knox.

Please bring finger food.

**7.15 pm:** FoLAV AGM

**7.45 pm:** Talk on the early German settlement at Bayswater.

**9.15 pm:** Christmas Supper. Please bring a plate.

You are warmly invited to attend these events.

*Contact: John Noack (Secretary).*

*Email: [johnnoack@yahoo.com.au](mailto:johnnoack@yahoo.com.au)*

## Labour Day Weekend Tour to Horsham, 10–12 March 2018

**Save the date!**

Our next tour will be based at **Horsham**, in the Wimmera district of Victoria. Whilst planning is still in the early stages, it is proposed to visit historic sites in **Murtoa** on Saturday. One of the highlights will be a **Silo Art Tour** to view the impressive paintings on disused grain silos in the Wimmera on Sunday. More information will be forwarded nearer to the event.

*For enquiries and bookings, contact the tour leader, Betty Huf, Tel. (03) 5572 4959;*

*email: [bettyhuf@westvic.com.au](mailto:bettyhuf@westvic.com.au).*





## Past events



1. Colin Huf, Geoff Matuschka and Mary Cooper enjoying the ride on Portland's historic Cable Tram.
2. Beautiful roses at Treloar Roses. (PHOTOS: JOHN NOACK)

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

The tour of the historic harbour city of Portland, Victoria, was led by local historian and researcher Betty Huf and was a resounding success. We could not hope for a better tour leader! Over 20 people participated and all were very appreciative of Betty's itinerary, which included guided tours of the Port of Portland and of the Maritime Discovery Centre. The unexpected bonuses were an extended bus trip and a visit to Australia's only onshore mainland Gannet colony. In Betty's words, these put "icing on the cake" for the weekend. There were many other highlights, including Lyall Kupke's slideshow presentation, "Who are the Wends?" Below is Betty's report.

Portland is Victoria's oldest permanent settlement. The Henty family were the first European pioneers to settle there, arriving at Portland Bay in 1834. For Wends, Portland also features in the story of their settlement in Western Victoria for on 26 May 1852, the **Albert, Burger, Deutscher, Hundrack, Petschel** and **Rentsch** families arrived there after a month's journey overland from Rosenthal, S.A., the **Mirtschin** family having arrived by coastal schooner 11 days earlier. For this reason, this year's Country Tour to Portland held special significance for the group of 24 who made the journey there for the weekend.

### Saturday 11 March

On Saturday morning our group of wandering Wends went on Part 1 of an **historical buildings walk** around Portland. We commenced at the Town Hall (1863), now known as History House, which displays the early history of the city. We proceeded on to view the Customs House (1849), the old Post Office (1883), the former 'Steam Packet Inn' (1841) and various cottages dating from the 1850s and 60s. The walk concluded in Julia Street where a number of bluestone buildings erected by the Henty family in the 1840s could be seen. We realised that the Wends who arrived in 1852 would have seen some of the buildings that we were viewing.

One of the highlights of the tour occurred on Saturday afternoon when the group boarded a bus for a tour of the **Port of Portland**, which was organized for us by the Port of Portland CEO, Mr. Jim Cooper. We were amazed by the 'mountains' of woodchips and the huge hydraulic lifts used to empty the B doubles that bring the bark chips to the Port. While wending our way through the Port area large loaded trucks came into view, with huge cranes lifting long logs from them onto ships at the dock. We passed vast grain silos, a ship unloading fertilizer, as well as the infrastructure used by Alcoa to receive raw materials, and then to load the resulting ingots after processing. To our delight, our coach driver offered to give us a tour of Portland, which was not included in our original arrangement. Consequently,



1. Tour group ready for the bus tour of the Port of Portland. **Back:** Wayne Jones (coach driver), Geoff Matuschka, Colin Huf, Peter Winter, Rob Wuchatsch, Joel Blackburn, Julie Ballinger, Glenys Wollermann, Lyall Kupke, Gilbert Materne, Daniel Huf. **Front:** Ruth Jensz, June Winter, Sue Gravenall, Greg Brown, Dorothy Brown, Janice Blackburn, Mary Cooper, Lois Kupke, Jane Peters. **Kneeling:** David Jensz, Betty Huf, Tony Peters. (PHOTO: COLIN HUF)
2. Mary McKillop windows, All Saints Catholic Church, Portland (PHOTO: COLIN HUF)
3. This former bank is an example of the many historic bluestone buildings found in Portland. (PHOTO: JOHN NOACK)

we saw the Fertilizer plant, the Alcoa refinery and aluminium ingots ready for shipping. We then travelled along the streets of central Portland while our driver gave us a commentary on the distinctive bluestone buildings.

Although interrupted a little by light showers, everyone marvelled at the Blowholes at **Bridgewater Bay**, our next destination. The nearby 'Petrified Forest' created a great deal of discussion as we viewed the surreal landscape which looked like trees turned into rock, but was actually hollow tubes of limestone called 'solution pipes'. They were created by water seeping down through the sand and dissolving the limestone, with the mineral-saturated water then cementing the sand and forming the trunk-like pipes visible today. On our way back to Portland, we visited the Lutheran section of the Portland Cemetery, where some interesting interments were discovered, including that of the first resident Pastor of the Portland Parish, Pastor A. B. Schwarz.

On Saturday evening we enjoyed dinner at **Mac's Hotel**, significant because in 1852 the newly arrived Wendish travellers passed along the street where this building is now situated.

### Sunday 12 March

After worshipping at **St John's Lutheran Church** in Portland on Sunday morning, morning tea and fellowship was enjoyed with the local parishioners. This was followed by a visit to the **Maritime Museum**, where a guide gave us a comprehensive description of the early whaling industry which existed for a number of years before the initial settlement of Portland was formed. We were able to view the 14 metre skeleton of a sperm whale and even step inside its rib cage. Throughout the Museum, we saw many aspects of the maritime history of Portland, including the semaphore flag signalling system, a lighthouse lens, early fishing information, cotta boats, fossils and bones. A significant component of the exhibition room was the Portland lifeboat, built of wood at Williamstown in 1858, and in service from 1859 until 1915. It was used to rescue 19 of the 24 survivors of the *Admella*, which went aground on the Carpenter Rocks off the S.A. coast south-west of Mount Gambier on 6 August 1859.

Sunday lunch was eaten at the historic **Gordon Hotel** which is trading under the oldest continuous license in Victoria, issued in 1841. In the afternoon





*Top row: 1. Home of the Henty family, the first European pioneers in Portland. 2. Portland's first Town Hall, built in 1863. (PHOTOS: JOHN NOACK)*

*Bottom row: 1. Woodchips being unloaded at the Port of Portland. (PHOTO: COLIN HUF) 2. Portland's wooden Life Boat, built in 1857, which was instrumental in the rescue of 19 survivors of the Admella shipwreck in 1859. (PHOTO: JOHN NOACK)*

the group boarded an **historic cable tram** for a return ride which followed a route past Fawthrop Lagoon, the Portland Gardens and the foreshore area, pausing half-way at a whale-viewing platform near the Water Tower Museum, which now houses Portland's war memorabilia and stories of the local residents involved in the Army, Air Force and Navy. We experienced some humorous moments on the tram, created by our guide whose narration was rather difficult to understand. Our spirited attempts to assist her presentation proved to be totally ineffective!

A trip out to **Point Danger** followed, where our Maritime Museum guide enthralled us with a wealth of information about the **Gannet Colony** located there. It is the only mainland colony of Australasian Gannets and contains more than 6000 pairs of birds who nest on the Point and on nearby Lawrence

Rocks. As it was near the end of the breeding season we were able to watch fledglings flexing their wings in preparation for their departure to fish in the sea as adult birds.

No visit to Portland would be complete without looking at some of the places significant in the early life of **Mary McKillop**, who was a teacher in the town from 1862 until 1866. The well associated with the McKillop's home in Portland, the site of the school where Mary taught, and All Saints Catholic Church, where Mary attended worship, were visited. In the evening a meal provided by the ladies of St John's Lutheran Guild was enjoyed. We were delighted to welcome a number of parishioners who joined us for the evening to see an excellent **slideshow presentation** on "Who are the Wends?" given by the President of the Wend/Sorb Society of S.A., Lyall Kupke.



## Past events... *continued*



*The mainland Gannet colony at Point Danger, with Lawrence Rocks in the distance. This is Australia's only onshore mainland Gannet colony. (PHOTO: JOHN NOACK)*

### **Monday 13 March**

Monday morning's first visit was to **Portland Strawberries**, where we were given an informative tour of the property by the owner, Pat Cuttler, who explained to us the highs and lows of growing strawberries and the environmentally friendly method of controlling pests that they use.

The final visit for the weekend was to **Treloar Roses**, Australia's largest rose supplier. Here we were hosted by a Wendish descendant, Gary Matuschka, who is a joint Managing Director, and his wife Rachael. Gary said Treloar's rose farm has about one million rose plants of 550 varieties in various stages of production, farmed by 55 staff at the peak during winter. He explained the process involved in the development of new varieties of roses, one of its most famous being the Jane McGrath rose. The business is also Australia's main producer of old English David Austin roses. Gary told how specialized staff (imported from Europe) was required to undertake the bud grafting process. Their roses are sold as two-year-old bare-rooted stock, with about 70 per cent sold wholesale to nurseries and resellers and the remainder sold through mail orders, online and door sales. Although nearing the end of the flowering season, there were still plenty of roses in bloom for us to admire. On departure, everyone was given a little bag containing Treloar's latest catalogue and information on how to successfully grow beautiful roses.

Everyone went home with a wealth of memories from the weekend and thankful that they had made the trip to Portland.

### **AGM, Saturday 22 April 2017**

We are pleased to report that our AGM on 22 April was very successful. We thank those who attended or appointed proxies and those who sent greetings and messages of support.

We had 14 people attend and 44 proxies. The following Office Bearers and Committee Members were re-elected: President Betty Huf; Vice-President John L. Modra; Secretary Glenys Wollermann; Treasurer Rob Wuchatsch; Committee Members Janice Blackburn, Joel Blackburn, Mary Cooper, Clay Kruger, Beryl Nagorcka and Moira Nagorcka.

Rob Wuchatsch presented the Annual Financial Statement for 2016. He reported that we have had a successful year. The total credit monies held in accounts as at 31 December 2016 was \$15,081.59. The major item of expenditure was our new website. It was decided that there will be no increase in membership fees for the coming year. The number of members of our Society has remained fairly stable, at about 270. Rob Wuchatsch is ably assisted by Clay Kruger in managing our Society's finances. Clay has taken on the role of Assistant Treasurer, managing the EFT banking and maintaining membership records.

In her President's Report, Betty Huf stated that the past year was a momentous one, in that the Society celebrated its 30th Anniversary. 60 people attended the celebratory luncheon on Saturday 15 October. It was an extremely successful and memorable occasion. Betty extended a huge thank you to Beryl Nagorcka, Moira Nagorcka and Mary Cooper, who organised this event.





The second event that the Society organised was the Labour Day weekend tour to the historic city of Portland. All 20 participants thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and appreciated the variety of experiences provided by the tour organiser.

Betty thanked all Committee members for their support throughout the year. She extended special thanks to Glenys Wollermann (Secretary and Newsletter Editor); Robyn Zwar (Newsletter and Website Designer); Kevin Zwar (Researcher); Rob Wuchatsch (Treasurer and Researcher); Clay Kruger (Assistant Treasurer); Joel Blackburn (Computer and Website Consultant); Janice Blackburn (Librarian) and John Modra (Vice President).

In September 2016 Betty and her family once again visited Hochkirch in Saxony. They were welcomed by their many friends and were guest speakers for the English class at the Parish school. To their delight, the location of the Mirtschin ancestral home in Döhlen had been discovered since their last visit, and they spent some time there with the current owners.

Betty thanked all Committee members for their support and said that she wanted them to know that their efforts on behalf of the Society are gratefully appreciated.

## Thank you to our donors

We sincerely thank our members who have made donations to the work of our Society, in addition to paying for their memberships. The following are the members whose donations were received from 1 July 2016 to 31 August 2017:

G. Allen, J. Ballinger, M. Best, R. Butler, R. Bransdon-Parkes, D. Brown, A. Burger, J. Burger, P. Burger, B. Chambers, C. Comas, M. E. Dalziel, D. Deutscher, P. Eagles, N. Gibbs, C. Green, J. Grosse, A. J. Handreck, H. Handreck, S. Hayward, B. Healy, D. Herbig, R. Heussler, T. Humphries, R. Jarrett, S. Johnson, J. & A. Keller, J. Kollosche, D. G. & H. J. Kosch, M. Kramer, H. & L. Lieschke, A. Lueders, N. Miller, J. Modra, R. Moller, B. & M. Nagorcka, J. Pearce, S. Phee, A. Proposch, L. Proposch, P. A. Richardson, N. Rose, E. Rouch, J. Scheetz, J. Schilg, S. & A. Simpfendorfer, G. Uebergang, B. van Elst, Y. & R. Zwar.

**Membership invoices for 2018 are enclosed with this Newsletter.** Please note that our banking details have changed from the CBA to Bendigo Bank. Our new details are included on your membership invoice.

## Research

Kevin Zwar continues to help with research queries from all over the world. In recent months he has answered queries regarding the following families: Jacob, Flessler, Wotzko, Fenkl, Ade, During, Fluge, Schlipalius and Wehrenberg.

Betty Huf and Rob Wuchatsch have been helping Gertrud Mahling with updated information for the new edition of her book, *Shores of Hope*.

Betty Huf has also done research on Pastor O. Nichterlein of Tabor and on the following families: Hundrack, Rentsch, Gude, Kliche, Harnath, Pech, Mol Kentin, Kruger, Nagorcka and Lehmann.

Rob Wuchatsch has also answered queries regarding the German-Australian Genealogy and History Alliance.

### Seeking copies of the book:

*Huf 150 years in Australia 1847–1997*,  
by Elizabeth Huf



There are requests from descendants of the Huf family who wish to purchase a copy. If you know of the availability of a copy of the book, please contact Betty Huf via email: [bettyhuf@westvic.com.au](mailto:bettyhuf@westvic.com.au) or via her postal address: P.O. Box 26, Tarrington, Vic. 3301.

(PHOTO OF BOOK COVER: CLAY KRUGER)

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



# Tours

## Travelling in the Footsteps of Martin Luther: A Pilgrimage Tour to Honour the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

This report, by Elizabeth Kraus, is on the pilgrimage tour through Europe, in Martin Luther's footsteps. The tour departed on 24 April 2017.

My interest in Stan Klan's Great Trains of Europe tour, 'In the footsteps of Martin Luther', began when I saw it advertised in the March 2016 issue of the *Wendish News*. But it was a postcard from Stan, in Germany, somewhat later, which confirmed my decision.

Late April 2017: Arriving a day before the tour, I enjoyed travelling on a hop-on, hop-off bus viewing the many faces of Rome, past and present. A couple from the tour and I explored the Coliseum and the Forum in depth, with superb local guides.

The 14 day tour commenced on 24 April. Stan with his wealth of experience, and great humour, guided 31 pilgrims; a very diverse and well-travelled group from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and the North Island of New Zealand. Many were teachers, of Lutheran and/or German heritage. There was a great sense of camaraderie amongst us.

Most of our tour was by train, travelling from Rome to Berlin via Munich, Erfurt and Leipzig.

Though essentially following in Martin Luther's footsteps, we actually travelled somewhat in reverse order ie. Rome to Wittenberg, not Wittenberg to Rome as he did in 1510. Morning reflections and worship with our Tour Chaplain, Reverend Noel Noack, set the scene for each day. The weather was generally wintry, with few warm spring days. Not what we had expected – yet it didn't deter us!

Our first day focused on Catholic Rome. We visited St. John Lateran Cathedral and the Holy Stairs. How Martin Luther managed to scale those steps on his knees, I just can't imagine – I could only manage a couple! Then on to Vatican City, where we had a guided tour of the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica. The sheer scale and beauty of the paintings and sculptures were just amazing. Dinner on the Piazza Nova near Bernini's fountain (Four Rivers) and seeing the Pantheon and Trevi Fountain beautifully lit, topped off an amazing day.

The next day we were driven through the Umbrian countryside to the lovely hillside village of Assisi. Visiting the Basilica of St Francis containing 13th century paintings depicting his life by Giotto and Cimabue, was truly amazing and so peaceful. We learnt much of St. Clare's and St. Francis' lives.

Our journey from Rome to Bolzano by train, bus to Innsbruck through the Brenner Pass and then train to Munich, was spectacular – enhanced by a snow storm! A walking tour of inner Munich included the beautiful Frauenkirche and the famous Hofbrauhaus, followed by an extensive tour of Augsburg – both under very wet conditions! Augsburg was the setting for Luther's first interrogation by the Roman Catholic Church in 1518, the Lutheran Augsburg Confession of 1530 and the Peace of Augsburg 1555 guaranteeing Protestant freedom of worship.



Left: St Peter's Square, Rome; Right: Sacred Steps, Rome (PHOTOS: ELIZABETH KRAUS)





*Clockwise from top left: Bible installation, Wittenberg; Martin Luther statue, Eisenach; Luther House (museum of Martin Luther), Eisenach; Grave of Martin Luther, Castle Church, Wittenberg; Wartburg Castle, near Eisenach.*  
(PHOTOS: ELIZABETH KRAUS)

Travelling into the Alps, we were greeted with brilliant blue skies and freshly fallen snow. The horse drawn wagon ride to Neuschwanstein Castle and the castle itself were wonderful. A visit to the village of Oberammergau, home of the Passion Play, full of half-timbered houses and artisan shops, completed another great day.

On to Erfurt. Here Luther studied at the university in 1501, entered the monastery in 1504 and was ordained as priest at the Cathedral in 1507. A walking tour took in the medieval aspects of the city. In the late afternoon we attended evensong and prayer with the delightful Caecilien Choir from Frankfurt, held in the lovely old Evangelisches Augustinerkloster (St Augustine's Monastery). Our visit to Eisenach began with a lovely walking tour of the town, just brimming with the history of Luther and Bach. Then a long, wet, slippery steep walk to Wartburg Castle, where Luther spent time incognito, translating the Bible into German. It is a most interesting castle, noted for its architectural style, murals and for its room covered in mosaics.

Next stop: Leipzig! Here Luther debated with Johannes Eck in 1519. A walking tour of the medi-

eval centre set the scene for history buffs of Luther, Bach, Goethe and others. We visited both the lovely St. Thomas' Church, whose choir visited Geelong many years ago with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and St. Nicholas' Cathedral. I was amazed at the range of Luther souvenirs available! Travelling by bus we visited Eisleben and Mansfeld. Eisleben is noted as the birth and death place of Luther and also where he preached his last sermon, whereas Mansfeld was the home of his youth.

Wittenberg, officially Lutherstadt Wittenberg, was the high point of the tour. Here on 31 October 1517, 500 years ago, Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the Castle Church door. Statues of him and Philip Melancthon dominate the town square.

Last stop, Berlin. A different perspective of Berlin for us all were the great views of the city aboard a hop-on hop-off bus. The tour ended on the morning of 7 May. Many stayed on a day or two before returning home as I did, whilst others continued on Stan's tour to Amsterdam and beyond, or took tours of their own throughout Europe.

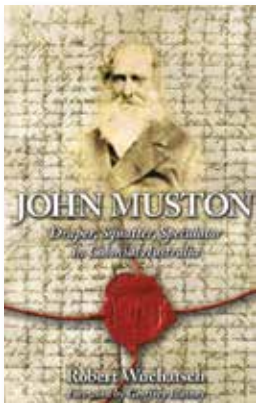
ELIZABETH KRAUS



# What's new at the library?

In addition to cataloguing and covering new books, our Librarian, Janice Blackburn, has laminated and catalogued sets of coloured photos of Bautzen, from calendars. They show traditional costumes etc. She has also custom made some clear plastic folders to store the sets of photos, which are an unusual size. Janice is also organising a folder for Agendas and Minutes of our meetings, since 2002.

## John Muston: draper, squatter, speculator in colonial Australia, by Robert Wuchatsch.



This newly-published biography of John Muston, written by Robert Wuchatsch, is dedicated to his late wife, Margaret Gaye Wuchatsch, who was a descendant of John Muston.

John Muston (1800–1876) led an interesting life. He was in turn a grocer in Derby; draper in Hobart Town; squatter on the Barwon River and Muston's Creek in Port Phillip; and a merchant, accountant and speculator in Sydney.

The book is based on John Muston's own personal and very detailed letters, discovered in the Library of Birmingham in 2010.

We thank Robert Wuchatsch for donating a copy of his book to our Society's Library.

(PHOTO OF BOOK COVER: CLAY KRUGER)

## Donations from Sheila Morton

We wish to thank Sheila Morton for her generous donation of a large number of history books to our Society. The books belonged to her husband, Dr Richard Morton, who is now in aged care. Our Library includes a copy of Richard Morton's PhD thesis (1990): *The enemy within the gates: the internment of Australian citizens during the Great War.*

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

[www.wendishheritage.org.au/research/library-resources/our-complete-library-catalogue/](http://www.wendishheritage.org.au/research/library-resources/our-complete-library-catalogue/)

# General news

## 85th Birthday Greetings



Congratulations to Clay Kruger on celebrating this special milestone on 23 July 2017. We are very grateful to Clay for his dedication and efficiency in his role as Assistant Treasurer, managing the EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) banking and maintaining membership records.

Clay also does many other tasks behind-the-scenes. We wish Clay many more years of good health and happiness.

## Wendish Visitor

On Wednesday 5 April 2017, Clay Kruger and Glenys Wollermann had the pleasure of meeting with a young man from Bautzen, Jan Bresan. Jan is a 20 year old University student who was visiting Melbourne. He contacted our Society via our website.





# Items from other Societies' Journals

## Westgarthtown's school teachers

The October 2016 edition of *Elements of Westgarthtown* (formerly the Friends of Westgarthtown News), features an article by Robert Wuchatsch on Westgarthtown's school teachers: Ernst Bernhard Heyne (1855); Gottlieb Renner (1856-62); Johann Stanger (1863-66 and 1870-76); and Eduard Meyer (1866-70). As well as teaching, the school masters often officiated at worship and funeral services, when the pastor from the Trinity German Lutheran Church at East Melbourne was unavailable.

## Sale of Wuchatsch's Farmhouse

The above Newsletter also includes an article by Robert Wuchatsch on the sale of Wuchatsch's Farmhouse at 74 Robert St, Lalor. An era spanning 166 years ended on 5 April 2016 when the Farmhouse passed out of ownership from the estate of Robert's mother, the late Muriel Wuchatsch. Johann and Magdalena Wuchatsch settled at Westgarthtown in March 1850. Their bluestone farmhouse is believed to have been built during the mid-1850s. It is believed that the new owners, Jawers Investments Pty Ltd, will develop seven lots for residential purposes and restore the farmhouse and other heritage buildings, in accordance with the subdivision permit.

## Johann Julius Schneider (1871-1941)

*The Dimboola & District Historical Society Inc. Newsletter* (Nov. 2016) includes this brief obituary that was published in the local newspaper, the *Dimboola Banner*, in November 1941:

*The district is poorer for the loss of one of its stalwart pioneers, Mr Johann Julius Schneider, of Maringa, who has died at the home of his son, Mr. Albert Schneider, at the age of 70 years. He was born at Angaston, South Australia. The late Mr. Schneider was a very active man, in his youth he was an outstanding athlete, footballer and rower and took a keen interest in all sports. He was manager of the former eucalyptus factory at Antwerp, Victoria before clearing land and commencing farming at Antwerp. He was a great friend to the aboriginal population at Antwerp and endeavoured to provide them with as much employment as he could. The late Mr. Schneider had an extremely large circle of friends, who held him in the highest regard.*

## Memories in my luggage: literary portraits of German migrants to Australia, by Sabine Nielsen

*The International Settlers Group Newsletter* (Oct. 2016) includes a summary of a talk given by Sabine Nielsen on the subject of her latest book. *Memories in my luggage* tells the individual stories of many German immigrants to Australia, mainly in the post-World War II period. Sabine has first-hand knowledge of the migrant experience and it remains close to her heart. She believes that few Australians understand what it means to arrive as a migrant and few Germans understand what it means to leave behind all that one knows and start anew in a foreign land. Immigrants carry within them memories, connections to a place and people, and a feeling of belonging to that place. Examples of chapter headings include:

- Finding my way. Inge Martinow, arrived 1948.
- In the end you're on your own. Ernst Erdt, arrived 1951.
- In my heart, I'm still there. Genie Fiebig, arrived 1935.
- Who's for more meat? Paul Anders, arrived 1941.
- I'm a Berliner. Fritz Schwab, arrived 1954.
- A bassoonist from Dahlem? George Dreyfus, arrived 1939.

Sabine Nielsen's books are available in both English and German from the International Language Bookshop in Kew, The Bookery in Fitzroy and Jeffreys in Malvern, Victoria or they may be purchased online.

See [www.memoriesinmyluggage.com.au](http://www.memoriesinmyluggage.com.au) or [www.sabinenielsen.net](http://www.sabinenielsen.net).

## Australian Wends in the Great War

The Wend/Sorb Society of S.A. Inc. Newsletter (July 2017) continues (from the last three newsletters) 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](mailto:kupkell@yahoo.com)



## Vale



**Frieda Mirtschin** died on 17 June 2017, at 95 years of age. She grew up on a farm near Peshurst in western Victoria, the second eldest of eight children of Carl and Sophie Mirtschin. Frieda was the loved sister of Orris Lennon, Lena, Clarence (dec.), Gary (dec.), Vincent (dec.), Mervyn (dec.) and Douglas (dec.). Frieda's funeral was held in Ballarat on 20 June 2017. She was a long-standing member of our Society. We are grateful for her support over many years. We extend our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

**Kevin Modra** died on his 73rd birthday on 18 July 2017. Many Friends of Lutheran Archives members attended his funeral service at Blackwood in Adelaide, South Australia on 24 July. Kevin served for 50 years in Lutheran communities in South Australia, Northern Territory, Papua New Guinea and Queensland. He was Chairman of FoLA from 2014 – 2016. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife Margaret and family.

**Basil Nowotna** of Horsham, Victoria died on 5 September 2017, aged 87 years. He was a long-standing member of our Society. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family.

## 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.

**Newsletter Design:** Robyn Zwar Design, [www.robynzwardesign.com](http://www.robynzwardesign.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Glenys Wollermann

**Librarian:** Janice Blackburn

**Website Consultant:** Joel Blackburn

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