



# wendish news

WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

NUMBER 63 SEPTEMBER 2019



*Clockwise from top left: 1. The Sorbian choir “Budyšin” at the unveiling of the Schütze memorial at Rachlau (see p.10). 2. Kevin Zwar at his retirement luncheon (see p.11). 3. Our Tour group at the grave of Andreas Kappler in Lake Terrace Cemetery, Mount Gambier (see pp. 3–7)*

## Invitation to Annual Luncheon

You are warmly invited, along with family and friends, to attend our Annual Luncheon on Saturday 26 October in Ballarat, Victoria. See booking details on page 2.

## CONTENTS

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



# Calendar of upcoming events

## Annual Luncheon, Saturday 26 October 2019

Our Annual Luncheon will be held at the Lady Barkly room, Barkly Motorlodge, 43 Main Road, Bakery Hill, Ballarat, Victoria. All are welcome. Time: 12.00 for a 12.30pm start, Saturday 26 October 2019.

Cost: Approx. \$30.00 per person, to be paid on the day by individual attendees.

Please book by Monday 14 October 2019 by contacting: Glenys Wollermann, Telephone: (03) 9891 6652 or Email: [g.wollermann@y7mail.com](mailto:g.wollermann@y7mail.com)

**Bookings are essential.**

## Goethe Plaque Dedication, Sunday 24 November 2019

The unveiling and dedication of a memorial plaque will take place at 2.00 pm on Sunday 24 November at Grave site 13 in the “Other Denominations” section B at Melbourne General Cemetery.

The plaque will record the nine young children who were buried in this unmarked grave in the years 1854–1871. They include three daughters of Pastor Matthias and Mrs Harriet Goethe, of Trinity German Lutheran Church, East Melbourne; one daughter of Pastor Johann Peter and Mrs Annie Niquet of St John’s Lutheran Church, Ballarat; and five infant children of Carl and Wilhelmine Golgerth.

Members of AKi (the Historical Society of Trinity German Lutheran Church) and members of FoLAV (the Friends of Lutheran Archives Victoria) formed a “Goethe Plaque Working Group” to undertake this project. The group is grateful for the generosity of donors who have made this project possible: Trinity German Lutheran congregation, Doncaster-Ivanhoe Lutheran congregation, Wendish Heritage Society Australia, Friends of Westgarthtown, Friends of Lutheran Archives Victoria and Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society.

## Annual General Meeting, Saturday 14 March 2020

Our Society’s AGM will be held at 1.30 pm, followed by afternoon tea. All are welcome. The venue is our meeting room at St Aidan’s Community Centre, 12 Surrey St, Box Hill South, Victoria.

## 170th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Pribislaw, 26 April 2020

This celebration will take place at Ziebell’s Farmhouse, 100 Gardenia Rd, Thomastown, Vic. All descendants of *Pribislaw* passengers are invited. There were about 50 Wends who came to Australia on the *Pribislaw*, which was named after the last Wendish prince, who died in 1174. The ship was built in Ribnitz in Mecklenburg. The Bernstein Museum at Ribnitz has kindly arranged to build a scale model of the ship for Ziebell’s Farmhouse Museum. It will be unveiled at this Anniversary celebration.

*Ziebell’s Farmhouse (c.1850–51) is at 100 Gardenia Road, Thomastown, Vic. It is Victoria’s oldest German immigrant building. From 20 October 2019 it will be open to the public every Sunday from 11.30am–3.00pm.*

## Tour to South Australia, May 2020

Planning is underway for Lyall Kupke to lead our group on a tour of Wendish sites. The tour will take place in May 2020, to coincide with South Australia’s History Festival. **Please note that this will replace our usual Labour Day weekend tour.** More details will be provided in the next Newsletter.

For enquiries and bookings, contact:

Betty Huf, Telephone: (03) 5572 4959

Email: [bettyhuf@outlook.com](mailto:bettyhuf@outlook.com)



Betty Huf at the Family History Expo in Hamilton (see p. 7). PHOTO SUPPLIED BY ROB WUCHATSCH.





1. Early settler's limestone cottage, home of the Hirth family, Mount Gambier. 2. Replica of the brig "HMS Lady Nelson" at the Mount Gambier Visitor Centre.



## Past events

### Labour Day Weekend Tour to Mount Gambier, 9–11 March 2019

The tour to the Mount Gambier area of South Australia, led by Betty Huf, was a resounding success. A total of 24 people attended part or all of the activities on the itinerary. It was wonderful to see some "first timers" on the tour. Below is John Noack's report.

1. The "Lady Nelson" Visitor and Discovery Centre was an informative location for this tour to begin. There were many colorful tourist brochures on display and the large replica of the brig "HMS Lady Nelson" recalled the very important role performed by this ship from 1800 until its destruction by fire in 1824. In 1800, captained by Lieutenant James Grant, this brig became the first ship to sail from the west through Bass Strait. Two mountains which were sighted inland were named after Lord Gambier and Captain Schank. This area was first named "Gambierton" and later, "Mount Gambier".

2. Christina Smith was featured here in an impressive hologram video presentation. The hologram image of Christina Smith steps out of a wedding photograph to tell the story of early contact between settlers and Aboriginal people. Christina (nee Menzies) and her husband James were the first European settlers in this area. They migrated to Australia from Scotland in about 1840. In 1846, they settled at the Rivoli Bay sea-port. This Smith fam-

ily displayed great care and compassion towards the local Boandik Aborigines, by establishing a home and a school for them. Although James died in 1860, Christina continued to rear their seven children and care for the sick and needy in the area, including the Aborigines. She died in April 1893 and was buried in the Mount Gambier Cemetery.

3. Mount Gambier's RSL Museum provided a sad reminder that wars are waged at a great cost in money and in human lives. It has been estimated that 180 million people were killed in the World Wars and in other conflicts during the 1900s. This local RSL Museum displayed reminders of sand-bag shelters; of very large and cumbersome radios and of the feared Nazi flag and emblem. However, it was interesting to read the displayed article "Rommel's War without Hate", (or "Krieg Ohne Hass"), which depicts Field Marshal Erwin Rommel as a sort of "Gentleman General", who preferred to engage in "chivalrous conduct" and "soldierly honor". He pursued this aim [1] by insisting that all of his captured soldiers were given exactly the same rations of food as his own soldiers and also [2] by ensuring that captured hospitals and their doctors were able to continue treatment of their injured patients. The doctors were then repatriated through neutral Switzerland.



*Clockwise from top left: 1. Umpherston Sinkhole or “sunken garden”. 2. Meischel Park plaque. 3. Our Tour group at Blue Lake Pumping Station. 4. Meischel Park Cemetery plaque.*

---

**4. The Umpherston Sinkhole** or “sunken garden” was a part of the property of James Umpherston, who settled in this area in 1860. By 1884, he had developed this Sinkhole into a pleasant resort for his family and also for the townspeople of Mount Gambier. Sinkholes appear when rainwater, which absorbs carbon dioxide from decaying vegetation, then forms into carbonic acid, which soaks into and dissolves the limestone’s calcite or calcium carbonate below the surface. When the underlying limestone eventually collapses, a large sinkhole appears.

**5. Meischel Park** was called the “Boandik Lutheran Cemetery”, before about the year 1980. It had been used by the ELCA (the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia) from 1864 to 1907. This Boandik Congregation was originally established by Pastor C.W. Schürmann in 1859. From 1863 to 1878, Pastor J.F. Meischel served this congregation. Pastor J.E. Hansen was the next Pastor, from 1880-1912. However, as most families shifted elsewhere, the congregation closed in 1907. However, this ELCA branch began renewed activities in the 1930s and St Matthew’s Congregation was established in 1948.

The Mount Gambier Local Council assumed responsibility for this Cemetery in the 1970s and by 1986, this Cemetery became Meischel Park, being named after its second Pastor. The plaque lists the 76 burials between 1864 and 1907. These include such surnames as **Fiedler, Kalms, Koehler, Krause, Kreig, Kuehne, Lange, Leschke, Lindner, Meyer, Mueller, Nitschke, Noske, Paschke, Patzel, Pfeiffer, Pohlner, Proposch, Roesler, Ruwoldt, Schluder, Schubert, Vorwerk and Zippel.**

**6. The Lake Terrace Cemetery** is preserving the grave and the memory of Pastor **Andreas Kappler**. He left his Wendish homeland and his parish of Weissenberg in Lusatia, Saxony in 1848, in order to serve the pastoral needs of the Saxon and Prussian Wends and others, who had made Australia their new home. He spent much time and effort in locating the Lutherans over a very wide area and kept meticulous and detailed baptism and marriage records of the people he served.

In 1860 Kappler visited Mount Gambier. Dr Edward Wehl persuaded him to stay. Kappler remained Pastor at St Martin’s Lutheran Church until his death in 1877. His tombstone states:





*Clockwise from left: 1. Betty Huf and Glenys Wöllermann placing tributes on Kappler's grave. 2. St Martin's Lutheran Church. 3. Interior of "Dingley Dell" cottage. 4. Some of Adam Lindsay Gordon's belongings on display in "Dingley Dell" cottage. 5. Patzel, Ruwoldt and Lindner headstones at St Martin's Lutheran Church.*

*In Memory of Andreas Kappler, Lutherischer Pastor an [at] der Martini Kirche in Mount Gambier. Geboren [Born] in Klein Hahnchen in Sachsen am 5th November 1802. Gestorben [Died] am 3rd Juni 1877. Sanft ruhe seine Asche. [His ashes are resting peacefully].*

Because his tombstone does not feature his ministry to Australia's pioneering Wendish settlers, our Society is discussing the provision of a plaque to commemorate Andreas Kappler's standing as Australia's only Wendish pastor. As a fitting tribute to Kappler, arrangements of Australian gum leaves and Lusatian linden leaves were placed on the grave by President Betty Huf and Secretary Glenys Wöllermann.

**7. St Martin's Lutheran Church** provided the venue for our Saturday evening's activities. On its foundation stone is recorded: *To the Glory of God. The Foundation Stone of this Church was laid by Dr W. Wehl, 21st Jan 1862. The Church was dedicated by the Rev A. Kappler, 5th Oct 1862.*

Pastor Colin Huf conducted a worship service which drew on the sentiments of an 1896 Harvest Festival Thanksgiving Service. This service had stressed both the need to receive blessings but then,

out of gratitude, to practise philanthropy and to be generous, especially to the poor and needy. A finger-food meal supplied by St Martin's Congregation was followed by two presentations, one on the Wends in Lusatia and in Australia and the other on the Germans of the Mount Gambier district.

**8. Early German Pioneering Settlers**, including their lives and times in the Mount Gambier District, were featured on a PowerPoint presentation. It revealed that Stephen Henty of Merino Downs visited this area in 1839 and grazed cattle here. The first permanent settler may have been Johann F. **Tollner** in 1849. In 1852, Wendish families, such as the Albert, Burger, Deutscher, Hundrack, Petschel and Rentsch families passed through this area on their wagon-trek to Portland. Later in 1859, Johan & Joachim **Ruwoldt** trekked overland from Adelaide to settle in this area, along with dozens of others.

In 1864, the settlers founded a German Club and in 1868, they formed a Liedertafel. In 1869, a jeweller named J.M. **Wendt** set up his business and later in the 1880s, Johannes Matthias **Jens** set up his well-known hotel business. Our Tour participants were able to enjoy the hospitality provided by Jens Hotel.



1. "Dingley Dell", Adam Lindsay Gordon's cottage near Port MacDonnell, S.A. 2. Adam Lindsay Gordon (1833–1870). 3. Our Tour group walking through a tunnel at the Blue Lake Pumping Station.

---

**9. Adam Lindsay Gordon** came to Australia from England in 1853 and became known as a creative poet and a competent, but cavalier, horseman. He is renowned for his feat of leaping on horseback over an old post and rail guard fence onto a narrow ledge overlooking Blue Lake, and then jumping back onto the roadway. The site of this daring riding feat is known as "Gordon's Leap". It is marked by an obelisk in memory of Adam Lindsay Gordon.

"Dingley Dell" near Port MacDonnell, Gordon's property and home from 1862–66, is preserved as a museum. It displays early volumes of his poetry, personal effects and his horse-riding equipment.

Gordon is honored by having his bust displayed in Poet's Corner at Westminster Abbey in London and with a Statue near Parliament House in Melbourne. In one of his poems called *Ye Wearie Wayfarer*, Gordon wisely states: "Life is mostly froth and bubble, Two things stand like stone. Kindness in another's trouble, Courage in your own."

**10. The Port MacDonnell Maritime Museum** many displays vividly depicted the occupations and the living conditions of this area's pioneering settlers. Port MacDonnell was proclaimed a port by the Governor, Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell, in 1860. However, before this date, this area featured sheep, grain and dairy farming; stripping wattle trees and carting wattle bark (which was heated, made into powder and used during the tanning process); manufacturing hats from soft rabbits' fur; loading goods at the Port and fell-mongering, which involved preparing sheep skins for tanning.

Displays tell the story of over 30 ships which came to grief along the rugged local coastline in the 19th century. The museum houses a model of the *Admella*, which was wrecked in 1859, killing 89 passengers. This was one of the worst maritime disasters in Australia.

**11. The Cape Northumberland Lighthouse** remains were also interesting. This is the site of a monument to the gallantry of Benjamin Germein, who was the first Lighthouse Keeper from 1859 to 1865. Germein was the first to reach and save lives from the wrecks of the ships *Admella* in 1859 and the *John Ormerod* in 1861. The lighthouse experienced constant, extremely windy conditions and was eventually shifted further inland.

**12. The Blue Lake Pumping Station Aquifer** supplies water to the town and to surrounding areas. Water has been pumped from here since 1883. The Lake turns a vivid blue colour from late November through to March each year. From April through to November the water turns a dull grey. Our tour group travelled in a glass panelled lift down the original well shaft, then walked through an 80 metre tunnel to a viewing platform close to water level. The display of the water-pressure, with its powerful spray, is certainly impressive.

**13. The Engelbrecht Cave Tour** enabled Tour participants to inspect the Sinkhole and to descend below the busy streets of Mount Gambier after taking the required 164 steps down. It has obtained its name from Johann Carl Engelbecht (1833–1914) who was born in Magdeburg, Germany and came to Australia in 1857. He settled in Mount Gambier in 1865 and set up a distillery in 1885.

Today this picturesque cave is popular with tourists and also attracts certified cave divers from around the world. However, we were informed that during the latter half of the 1800s, this cave was used as a rubbish dump by its owner, Engelbrecht, and by other town residents. It continued to be used as a rubbish dump until the 1950s. In 1979 the local Lions Club commenced the huge task of removing the rubbish, a three year project. In 1995 Engelbrecht Cave was added to the South Australian Heritage Register.





*Rugged coastline at Port MacDonnell, S.A.*

We are very grateful to Betty Huf for her meticulous planning and organisation of the tour. We also thank the Mount Gambier folk for their special contributions towards this very memorable weekend: Vic and Kathy Peucker, Maren and Ed Peucker, Margaret Peucker and the Lutheran Ladies Guild and Mary Arthurson.

JOHN NOACK

*We gratefully acknowledge John Noack, Mick Ampt and June Winter for contributing photos of the Mount Gambier Tour. Special thanks to John Noack for his Tour report.*

## **Annual General Meeting, Saturday 6 April 2019**

We are pleased to report that our AGM on 6 April was very successful. We thank those who attended the Meeting or appointed proxies and those who sent greetings and messages of support.

We had 23 people in attendance, 5 apologies and 44 proxies. The main item of business was the Motion to adopt the “2012 Model Rules for an Incorporated Association” for our Society. We are very pleased to report that this Motion was carried unanimously.

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 **Maira Nagorcka**.

In her President’s Report, Betty Huf examined the 10 aims of our Society, as set out in our Rules, and gave a detailed outline of how each of these aims has been achieved. Betty thanked all Committee members for their support and for their contribution to the successful functioning of our Society in

the areas of our Annual Dinner, our March Tour, our Newsletters and Website, our Library and our Treasury and Secretarial portfolios. Their efforts on behalf of the Society are gratefully appreciated.

Treasurer Robert Wuchatsch presented the Annual Financial Statement for 2018. He reported that we had a successful year. The total credit monies held in accounts as at 31 December 2018 was \$18,314.80. This was an increase of \$1,781.74 since the previous year. It was decided that there will be no increase in membership fees for the coming year. Robert explained that there are three people involved in looking after the finances: Glenys (Secretary) collects the mail and sends the cheques to Robert for banking. Clay (Assistant Treasurer) handles the online banking, keeps the membership records up to date and prepares invoices and reminder notices.

BETTY HUF

## **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 August 2018 to 31 July 2019:

R. Albert; G. Allen; J. Ballinger; R. S. Bee; R. Bransdon-Parkes; D. Brown; J. Burger; P. A. Burger; R. Butler; C. Comas; M. E. Dalziel; B. Davies; D. Deutscher; P. Eagles; G. Escreet; C. Freeman; E. Gorman; C. Green; H. Handreck; N. Hattwich; E. Hayden; S. Hayward; D. Herbig; R. C. Heussler; J. & A. Hoffmann; C. & B. Huf; J. & A. Keller; G. Kelly; A. Koch; T. Humphries; J. Kollosche; M. Kramer; K. Lehmann; J. Lange; A. Lueders; N. Miller; T. Modra; C. Moulder; B. & M. Nagorcka; J. Pearce; S. Pfeiffer; A. Proposch; L. Proposch; T. Proposch; P. Richardson; M. K. Robson; N. Rose; B. Ross; E. Rouch; J. Scheetz; M. C. Scheetz; J. Schilg; S. & A. Simpfendorfer; G. Uebergang; B. Van Elst; J. Williams; J. D. & S. M. Zvar.

**Please note: Membership invoices for 2020 are enclosed with this Newsletter.**

## **Family History Expo in Hamilton, 1 June 2019:**

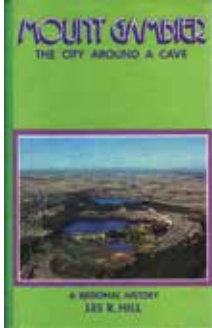
The Victorian Association of Family History Organisations (VAFHO) held an Expo at Monivae College, Hamilton, Victoria on Saturday 1 June.

We are grateful to Betty Huf for booking and setting up a display table for our Society. Colin Huf and Robert Wuchatsch also attended the Expo. Betty displayed her maps of Upper and Lower Lusatia, family history books and copies of *Wendish news*.



# Library

The following is Janice Blackburn's report of three new acquisitions:



**Mount Gambier: the city around a cave; photographs from the author's collection, by Les R. Hill.**

Les Hill, (1912–1999), compiler of this history of his home town, Mount Gambier in South Australia, was a descendent of Joseph and Maria Hill who, with their eight children, arrived in Port Adelaide from England in 1854. One of their sons, Samuel, and his wife, Louisa, grandparents of the author, came to settle in Mount Gambier in 1873. Les Hill had a passionate and life-long interest in family and local history. He was also a keen collector of old photographs, many of which are included in this book.

It also contains a comprehensive list of the early pioneers of the district, including a large number of German settlers. The biggest influx was in the middle and late 1850's and these new arrivals soon began to take a prominent part in public affairs. The earliest German settlers include **Reineke, Vorwerk, Schmidt, Studemann, Ruwoldt, Sturm, Lange, Schinkel, Lindner, Krummel, Unger and Wehl.**

Dr. Edward (Eduard) Wehl, one of the most notable of the early German settlers, was born in Germany in 1824 and arrived in Mount Gambier in 1849. He was in medical practice for a number of years, started the first flour mill in 1857, was elected first Chairman of the District Council of Mount Gambier in 1863, and was connected with various societies in the town. He was also a great benefactor of St. Martin's Lutheran Church and laid the foundation stone in 1862. The Wehl name is perpetuated in the town in Wehl Street.

Les Hill's legacy also continues in the Les Hill History Room at the Mount Gambier Public Library, the repository for a vast archive of family history.



**Seeds of blessings: history of the Lutheran Church in Mount Gambier:1862 St. Martin's 2012; Boandik 1859-1900; St. Matthews 1948-1967, compiled by members of St. Martin's Church 150th Anniversary Committee.**

This book was published in 2012 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the dedication in 1862 of St. Martin's Church. In 1860 the church at Boandik was dedicated and these two churches combined in 1900 as St. Martin's. In 1948 a new congregation was formed known as "The Evangelical Lutheran St. Matthews Congregation of Mount Gambier". Their first church was dedicated in 1953. This congregation amalgamated with St. Martin's in 1968 to form the current St. Martin's congregation.

Included in this book is a short biography and photograph of all of the pastors who have served in these three churches. Most notable from a Wendish point of view is Pastor Andreas **Kappler**, the first pastor of St. Martin's and the first Wendish pastor in Australia. He was born in Saxony, Germany in 1802 and left Weissenburg, near Bautzen, in Saxony in 1848 to sail for Australia with his wife and six children, arriving in November, 1848.

Kappler cared for a number of "German Protestant" congregations being formed in Adelaide and Hahndorf, and conducted services in Tanunda, Burra, and various other places. He first visited Mt. Gambier in 1860 and was prevailed upon by prominent citizen, Doctor Eduard Wehl, to stay. This led to his appointment as the first pastor of St. Martin's.

This book has numerous illustrations, including photographs of some of the German pioneer members of the church.





### The German-speaking community of Victoria between 1850 and 1930: origin, progress and decline, by Volkhard Wehner.

In the course of the seventy-five years preceding World War 1, over six million Germans emigrated. Of these, approximately seventy thousand came to Australia where, until World War 1, they constituted the largest non-Anglo minority, and, in Victoria, at the time of Australian Federation in 1901, German immigrants made up two per cent of the population.

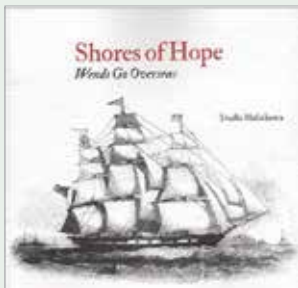
The immigration of Germans to Victoria commenced in 1849-50, and resulted in the formation of a number of settlements in and around Melbourne, Geelong, and the Western District of Victoria. This thesis investigates the factors which helped or hindered the emergence of a cohesive German community with particular reference to its East-Elbian origins, the role played by the Lutheran Church, and the various associations formed by the community, the character of its leadership, and the attitude of the Anglo host community towards their fellow German settlers. The thesis also examines a number of major events that impacted on both communities and changed their relationship with each other - from the discovery of gold in the 1850's to the war induced tensions of World War 1. The different development paths of rural and urban settlements also receive special attention in the discussion of whether rural communities were more resilient and better able to survive than were urban communities.

*We thank Volkhard Wehner for his generous donation of a copy of this publication to our Library. In our March 2018 edition of Wendish news we congratulated him on the award of his PhD from the University of Melbourne. Our library also has a copy of another of Volkhard Wehner's works: "Heimat Melbourne: a history of the German-speaking community of Melbourne, 1855-1865".*

JANICE BLACKBURN, LIBRARIAN

PHOTOS OF BOOK COVERS: JOEL BLACKBURN

### Book for sale: *Shores of hope: Wends go overseas* by Trudla Malinkowa



This is the English translation of the book *Ufer der Hoffnung* about Wendish/Sorbian migration to Australia and to Texas. It won the 2010 Concordia Historical Institute's Award.

Our Society has copies available for purchase, for \$40.00 plus postage. Contact Clay Kruger – Telephone (03) 8838 8737 or Email: [wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au) or [ck\\_32@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ck_32@optusnet.com.au). Please make cheques or money orders payable to "Wendish Heritage Soc. Aust. Inc." or contact Clay for EFT payment details.

The Wend / Sorb Society of South Aust. also has copies available, for \$40.00 plus postage. Contact: Ruth Walter, 43 Clifton St, Prospect S.A. 5082. Telephone (08) 8269 7168 or Email: [ruth.walter43@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.walter43@gmail.com)

Please make cheques or money orders payable to "Wend Sorb Society of S.A." or email Ruth for direct debit (EFT) details. These are the last copies available. A reprint is not expected at this stage.

Copies of the book *Five Centuries: the Wends and the Reformation* are also available for purchase from Ruth Walter.

### Seeking the Budarick family history book

Neville Gibbs would like to purchase a copy of *Budarick: Wends from Lusatia, 1855-1998* by Doreen M. Davis. If you know of the availability of this book, please contact Neville Gibbs by email: [mariagnevilleg@gmail.com](mailto:mariagnevilleg@gmail.com) or by phone (03) 5435 4015.



# Research

Kevin Zwar remained active in handling research queries, up until his recent retirement (see page 11). In recent months, he answered queries regarding the following families: **Wurst**, **Lewitzka** and **Kschammer**.

Rob Wuchatsch continues to work on a number of projects, including the celebration in April 2020 of the 170th anniversary of the arrival of the *Pribislav* (see page 2). In mid-June, Rob gave a guided tour of the Westgarthtown precinct to Benji Fiedler, a Wendish descendant, and his partner Charlie. They are from Georgetown in Texas.

Betty Huf has organised a homeland tour for the **Mirtschin** and **Habel** families and friends, to take place in March–April 2020. She also assisted author Kevin O'Reilly with research for his book *George Mackenzie of Pella*.

John Noack has done the research and other work behind-the-scenes for the Goethe Plaque project (see page 2). He also answered a *Kossatz* query and a query regarding Samuel Hoffmeister, who was the inspiration for the swagman in *Waltzing Matilda*.

## Tribute to Karl Traugott Schütze (Korla Bohuwěr Šěca), Wendish author, teacher and entomologist, Saxony

*The following article was written by Arnd Sobe of Hochkirch, Saxony and edited by Betty Huf.*

Karl Traugott Schütze was born in 1858 at Klix (Klukš) and started his teaching career at Rachlau in 1877 after graduating from the Bautzen (Budyšin) Teachers Institute. In 1881 he married Johanna Emilia Albert, and six children were born to the couple. Besides teaching, Schütze spent a great deal of time pursuing his interest in natural science and research, especially in the surrounds of Mount Czorneboh (Čornobóh). He was fascinated by insects, and became an internationally-renowned entomologist from his various publications in regard to butterflies. Even today, his entomological writings are used as a basis for further research. Schütze used his proficient knowledge of the Sorbian language in books like *Čłowjek w přirodže* which is a popular scientific book that is especially well-known amongst the Sorbian people. As well as having research results printed in many publications, Schütze gave lectures in both German and Sorbian. In 1920 he retired from teaching and died at Rachlau in 1938 at the age of 80. He was buried in the Hochkirch (Buceky) cemetery.



*Unveiling the memorial plaque: Peter and his sister Annette Schütze, great grandchildren of Karl Traugott Schütze.*

The inhabitants of Rachlau felt that they should honour their famous resident so they organized a memorial, consisting of a rock from the Čornobóh mountain, on which was mounted a memorial plaque with an inscription in both Sorbian and German. The dedication of the memorial, which was placed in the garden of the school at which Schütze had taught, took place on 25 August 2018. The main speech was delivered by Professor Bernhard Klausnitzer, a prestigious entomologist from Dresden and an authority on the lifework of Schütze. A mulberry tree was planted beside the memorial to represent Schütze's interest in the rearing of silkworms.

*The life and lifework of Karl Traugott Schütze and his sons*, a book compiled for the occasion by Drs Elizabeth and Ludwig Elle, with information supplied by Professor Klausnitzer, was available for sale. Schütze's third son, Wladimir (Włodziměr), is known in the Rachlau area, not only as a teacher and school Principal, but also as a painter and artist. A special exhibition of his artwork, borrowed for this occasion, mostly from private collectors, was shown as part of the celebration.

Mr. Marko Schiemann, member of the Saxon Parliament, was the final speaker who expressed in Sorbian and in German his thanks to the local people for the invitation to attend the festivities. The choir Budyšin, dressed in their Sorbian costumes, together with the Hochkirch brass band, embellished the ceremony with several Wendish songs and accompanied two Wendish hymns. In a moving tribute, the great-grandchildren of Karl Traugott Schütze also presented two songs in German, after which all visitors enjoyed coffee and cake together.

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY ARND SOBE





---

## General News



*Left: Robyn, Kevin, Del and Jan Zwar at the luncheon to honour Kevin's hard work.*

### Retirement of Kevin Zwar

Kevin Zwar, who has handled our research enquiries for many years, recently announced his retirement from that role for health reasons.

Kevin was Foundation President of the Wendish Heritage Society Australia from 1986–1994, when he and Del moved to Sydney, where he served as Lutheran pastor at Sutherland for ten years. On his retirement to Mooroolbark in Melbourne, he served as our President again in 2006–07, then volunteered to handle our research enquiries. He also managed our website for several years.

In 2017, Kevin's computer crashed, losing valuable data, including his research files. In desperation,

he asked me if I still had any of his research emails, which he usually copied to me. Being a hoarder, I was able to find and send him copies of over 800 emails he had sent to very satisfied enquirers.

Our Society's committee recently honoured Kevin and Del with a special luncheon to say 'Thank You' for all his hard work over so many years. Their daughters Robyn and Jan also attended. Robyn has designed our newsletter since 2004. We wish Kevin, Del and the Zwar family the very best for the future.

ROBERT WUCHATSCH

### Congratulations to Robert Wuchatsch

Congratulations to Robert Wuchatsch on being awarded equal first place in the Alexander Henderson Award for 2018 for his family history book *Särka to Westgarthtown: the Wuchatsch family in Germany and Australia*. The Book Launch was featured in our March 2019 edition of Wendish news. Robert was presented with the award at the A.I.G.S./Family History Connections awards lunch on 27 May 2019.

---

## Items from Other Societies' Journals

### New Website for Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia

The June 2019 issue of the *Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia Inc. Newsletter* includes an announcement that the Society now has a website: [www.wendsorbsociety.org.au](http://www.wendsorbsociety.org.au). The Society is interested in receiving feedback from users.

### Bendigo newspapers on Trove

The April-June 2019 issue of the *Bendigo Regional Genealogical Society Inc. Newsletter* features an article on the value of newspapers for family history research. Three of the older Bendigo newspapers which have been digitized on Trove are: *The Bendigo Advertiser* 1855–1918; *The Bendigo Independent* 1891–1918 and *Bendigonian* 1914–1918.

See <https://trove.nla.gov.au>

### Wendish Fest in Texas

The July 2019 issue of the *Texas Wendish Heritage Society Newsletter* features the program for the 31st Annual Wendish Fest in Serbin, Texas on 22

September 2019. The Moravians Polka Band will provide entertainment. It will be a full day of fun activities, great music and tasty food. Our President, Betty Huf is planning to attend this festival and will convey greetings from our Society.

### South Australia's Old Colonists

The June 2017 issue of *The Black Sheep (Journal of the East Gippsland Family History Group Inc. and the East Gippsland Historical Society Inc.)* features an article on photographs of old colonists held by the State Library of S.A.

Affluent businessman Emanuel Solomon held the first of several banquets in Dec. 1871 in the Adelaide Town Hall for fellow old colonists who dated their arrival before 1841. Guests visited the photographic studios of Henry Jones to commemorate the event.

These links will take you directly to the named photographs, with biographical details:

<http://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/B+47769>

<http://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/B+19985>



# Birthday Greetings

## 87th Birthday Greetings to Clay Kruger

Congratulations to our Society's Assistant Treasurer, **Clay Kruger**, on celebrating his 87th birthday on 23 July 2019.

We are very grateful to Clay for his continued dedication and efficiency in his role as Assistant Treasurer, and also for many other tasks behind the scenes: keeping membership records up to date, emailing the e-News Updates, mailing out our Newsletter and preparing name tags etc. for our events. Clay has also given well-prepared PowerPoint presentations of his travels to Lusatia to our Society and to other family history groups. As the elder statesman on our Committee, he is a truly

an inspiration to us all! We wish Clay many more years of good health and happiness.

## 80th Birthday Greetings to Janice and Joel Blackburn

Congratulations to both Janice and Joel Blackburn on reaching this special milestone. Janice's birthday was on 2 July and Joel's is on 24 September. They have 80 reasons to celebrate! We are grateful for their continued loyal service over many years: Janice as our Librarian and Joel as a former Vice President, former Website & Computer Manager and current Committee member.

## 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

### Office bearers:

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

**Vice-President and Computer and Website Consultant:**  
John L. Modra, 24 Moore St, Colac, Vic 3250 Tel: 0488 219 252  
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:** 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)

### Committee Members:

**Janice Blackburn:** 2 Astley St, Lower Templestowe, Vic. 3107. Tel: 03 9850 5766. *Librarian.*

**Joel Blackburn:** same address as Janice Blackburn.

**Mary Cooper**

**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)

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

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

**Wendish Heritage Society Australia Inc** ABN 78 951 996 351 Reg. A0031509R

PO Box 4050, Box Hill South, Victoria 3128

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.*