



Wendish Heritage Society Australia Inc.

Poster - Could you be Wendish?

About the Wendish Names Poster

The committee of the Wendish Heritage Society Australia Inc. (WHSA) has produced a poster to highlight Wendish surnames of families who emigrated to Australia. Many descendants of these families may not realise they have Wendish heritage and the intention of this poster is to alert families to the possibility of their Wendish heritage.

Sport broadcaster Bruce McAvaney recently discovered his Wendish connection, and we hope others do the same. (See <https://greatersa.com.au/bruce-mcavaney-hidden-mid-north-connection/>)

Request from the WHSA Committee to Share and Display the Poster

We would appreciate your support in promoting and distributing the poster through e.g.:

- printing the attached PDF in colour in A4 or A3 and displaying on a noticeboard
- forwarding the digital PDF file to others who may be interested
- including the PDF in your newsletter and/or as a download on your website.

The poster can also be downloaded from the WHSA website.

A little about the Wends in Australia

The vast majority of Wends (or Sorbs) emigrated from Lusatia in what is now Germany between 1848 and 1860. They had their own languages and cultures but as the Wends also spoke German and mostly worshipped in Lutheran churches, they were often mistakenly considered to be German.

The Wends arrived as free settlers mostly in South Australia and Victoria and moved on to New South Wales and other states and territories. As is the experience for most migrants, their languages and that connection to culture were lost over time.

The good news for Wends in Australia is that the WHSA has a website with more information about the Wends and the revival of Wendish/Sorbian languages and cultures in Germany.

NB: Wends were only known as Wends in Australia and are also known as Sorbs in Europe.

Find out more on the WHSA website.



<https://www.wendishheritage.org.au/>