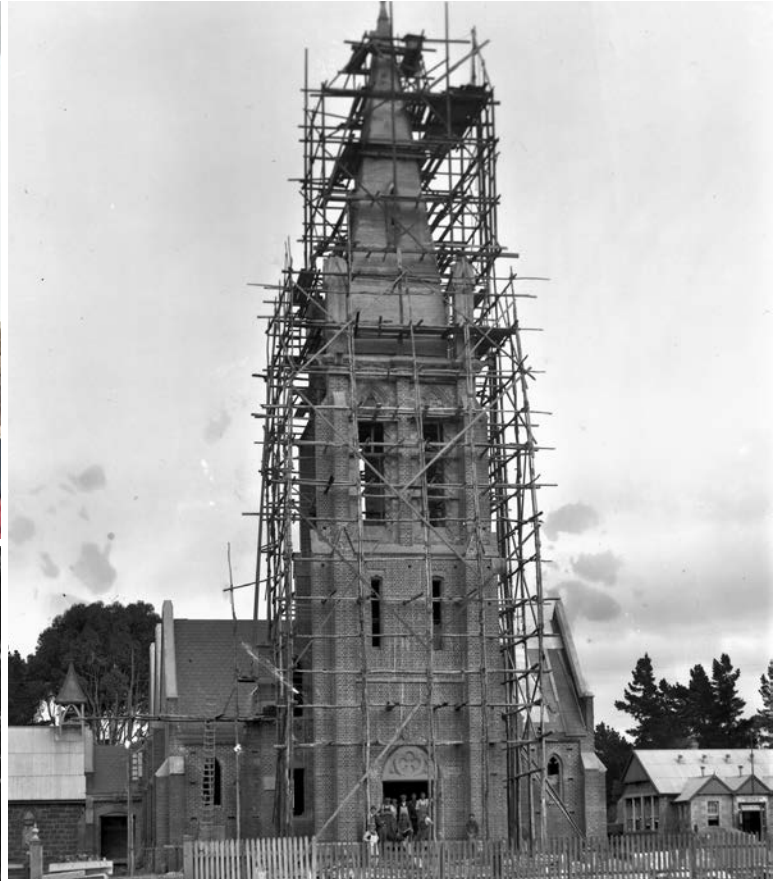




# wendish news

WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

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*Clockwise from top left: 1. J.A. Lehmann's boxes of glass negatives (see pp. 4-6). 2. Constructing the steeple, St Michael's Lutheran Church, Tarrington, Vic., in 1927. 3. J.A. Lehmann and family L-R: Cora, Gertrude, Jean, Rita, Jack. 4. Pastor W.H. Paech, workmen, Cora and Jean Lehmann with the bells of St. Michael's, Tarrington, prior to their installation in 1927.*

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# Calendar of upcoming events

Given the current situation with coronavirus restrictions and the ongoing uncertainty, it has been necessary for us to cancel or postpone our planned events. New arrangements will be made when it is possible to do so. We will keep you informed.

## Rentsch and Hundrack Family History Books

The Book Launch planned for October 2020 has had to be cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions, but the **Rentsch** family history book is progressing well and plans are for it to be in print by the end of the year. The cost will be \$70, plus \$12 for postage.  
*Contact Ruth Walter: [ruth.walter43@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.walter43@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 0435 211 606 or  
Monica Rentsch: [rentschdescendants2020@gmail.com](mailto:rentschdescendants2020@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 0438 735 239.*

The **Hundrack** Family Booklet is still a work in progress and a date of publication is yet to be finalized. *If you would like to be kept informed on the progress of this project, please contact:*  
*Julie Ballinger: [rj7bal@westvic.com.au](mailto:rj7bal@westvic.com.au)  
Mobile: 0448 376 522 or  
June Winter: Mobile: 0438 661 313.*

## Annual Luncheon 2020

This event has been postponed until further notice.

## Annual General Meeting 2021

To be advised.

## 170th Anniversary of the arrival of the Pribislaw

The celebration planned for 26 April 2020 had to be postponed due to coronavirus restrictions. The Friends of Westgarthtown are working towards a celebration in April 2021, if circumstances permit.

## Tour to South Australia

This event has been postponed to May 2021, but remains subject to conditions at the time.



Tarrington Church picnic, 1922.



# Past events

## Annual General Meeting, Saturday 14 March 2020

We were fortunate to be able to meet in person for our AGM, which was held prior to the first lockdown. The venue was our meeting room at St Aidan's Community Centre, 12 Surrey St, Box Hill South, Victoria. We are pleased to report that the meeting was very successful. We thank those who attended or appointed proxies and those who sent greetings and messages of support.

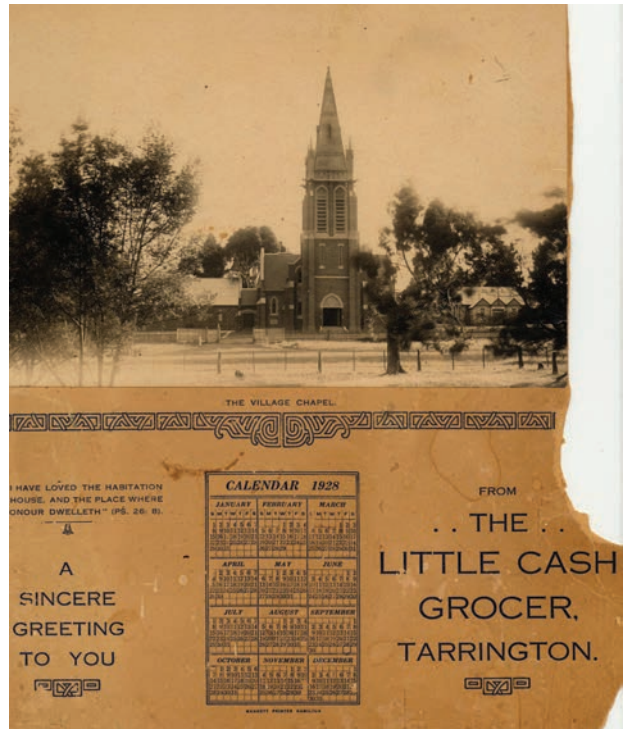
We had 13 people in attendance, 16 apologies and 16 proxies. The following Office Bearers were re-elected: President **Betty Huf**; Vice-President **John L. Modra**; Secretary **Glenys Wollermann**; Treasurer: **Robert Wuchatsch**. Current Committee members had indicated that they were willing to continue in their positions, except for Joel and Janice Blackburn who stepped down from the Committee, due to health issues. In addition to **Mary Cooper**, **Clay Kruger**, **Beryl Nagorcka**, and **Moira Nagorcka**, two more nominations were received: **Margaret Gork** and **Colin Huf**. All were declared elected as Committee members.



In her President's Report, Betty Huf (pictured left) used the different sections of our website as a framework to report on the activities of our Society over the past year. Her Report comprehensively covered our Society's aims, membership, research, library, general news, tours, reunions and newsletters. Betty paid tribute to Joel and Janice Blackburn, who have recently retired from the Committee, for the years of service that they have given to our Society and expressed gratitude to Janice for continuing in her role as Librarian. Betty concluded by thanking all Committee members for their assistance and support.



Treasurer Robert Wuchatsch (pictured left) presented the Annual Financial Statement for 2019. He reported that we had a successful year. The total credit monies held in accounts as at 31 December 2019 was \$20,029.84. This was an increase of \$1,715.04 since the previous year. It was decided that there will be no increase in membership fees for the coming year. Our membership numbers are holding up very well. Rob presented a proposed Budget for 2020, based on the 2019 Budget. The Budget was accepted.



1928 calendar depicting the newly dedicated St Michael's Lutheran Church. [This negative is not in the Lehmann collection.]

Assistant Treasurer Clay Kruger explained that we are fully insured through LCA insurance. Our tours and events are included. Some of our funds are in an LLL account to earn interest.

## 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 names of the members who donated from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020 are as follows:

R. Albert; G. Allen; J. Ballinger; R & J Bee; R. Bransdon-Parkes; D. Brown; B. Burger; J & J Burger; P. A. Burger; B. Chambers; M. Dalziel; D. Deutscher; P. Eagles; G. Escreet; C. Freeman; E. M. Gorman; C. Green; H. Handreck; N & A Hattwich; E. Hayden; S. Hayward; B. E. Healy; D. Herbig; J & A Hoffmann; C & E Huf; R. Jarick; J & A Keller; E & G Koch; J. Kollosche; M & R Kramer; K. Lehmann; A. Lueders; L. Maggs; Y. Mibus; N. Miller; I. A. Mirtschin; T. Modra; B & M Nagorcka; J. Pearce; A. Proposch; B & B Proposch; I. N. Proposch; Rethus family; P. A. Richardson; N. Rose; B. Ross; G. Saegenschmitter; N. Salzke; J. Scheetz; J. Schilg; S & A Simpfendorfer; R. Thornton; G. Uebergang; B. van Elst; V. Wehner; J. Williams; J. D. & S. M. Zwar.

Please note: Membership invoices for 2021 are enclosed with this Newsletter.



## Johannes August (Jack) Lehmann: Teacher and Photographer of Tarrington, Victoria

Betty and Colin Huf are undertaking a major project: the scanning and indexing of the J.A. Lehmann collection of glass negatives, made between the years 1912 and 1942. Betty and Colin are astounded by the quality of many of the negatives and the skill of the photographer. The following is Betty Huf's report:

On 8 May 2000, Lyall Kupke, of Lutheran Archives Adelaide, wrote a letter to me regarding a collection of glass negatives which had been brought to his attention by Pastor Glen Schier of Bendigo. Lyall wrote:

*They were made by Tarrington teacher Jack Lehmann between the years 1912 and 1942. Apparently, he acted as the local photographer, and so has slides of the district weddings, sports teams, church activities etc. There are about 200 of these slides. Pastor Schier's father, Erwin Schier, was also a teacher at Tarrington, and apparently collected these when Lehmann left the district.*

Lyall suggested that they be sent to Tarrington as they would be of interest to local people and enquired if there was a facility to look after them. As Historian for St Michael's Lutheran Congregation at Tarrington, I readily accepted the offer of the slides, which duly arrived later that year and were briefly examined before being put into storage in the congregation's fire-safe Archive room.



*Posed photo of teacher J.A. Lehmann and students ploughing, c. 1922. Left side group: Ern Mitchell, Osmond Nagorcka, Stan Schurmann, Edgar Nagorcka, Felix Mueller. Centre group: Laurie Dreyer, Tommy Peterson (obscured), Les Schneider (middle front), Norman Matuschka. Right side group: Bertie Nuske, Edgar Thomson, Herb Hartwich, Harold Rissman, Walter Zschech. [Negative not in the Lehmann collection.]*

The creator of the glass negatives was Johannes August (Jack) Lehmann (1886–1973), a 1909 graduate of Concordia College Murtoa, who began teaching at the Hochkirch (Tarrington) Lutheran School in 1912. In 1910, Johannes Lehmann married Gertrude Mackenzie, of Pella. Three daughters were born during their time at Tarrington: Rita (1913), Cora (1916) and Jean (1922).

In 1914, a new school building was dedicated in which Lehmann taught, by himself, an average of 60 students in classes ranging from Grade 1 to Grade 8. This was a huge workload for him. The School Inspector's Report for 28 May 1915 states:

*The following subjects are treated in the English language: Reading, Writing, Poetry, Spelling and Dictation, Phonics, Grammar and Comprehension, Translation, Mathematics, Geography, Hygiene, History, Drawing, Singing, Physical training. In German language: Bible history, Catechism, Church history, Reading, Writing, Poetry, Word-building, Spelling and Dictation, Grammar and Composition.*

*The time devoted to the subjects treated in the English language is 19 hours 5 minutes – to those treated in the German language 7 hours 10 mins. The winter time-table shows that instruction takes place from 9.30 am to 4 pm, whilst in summer the hours are from 9 to 4 – making 28¾ hours for the week. The Head Teacher states that the extra half-hour during summer is devoted to German subjects – mainly religion.*

*It is impossible for the teacher to give satisfactory instruction to so many children. The head teacher is doing his best under adverse conditions.*

Lehmann continued to teach unaided throughout WWI, which was even more stressful for him due to the German nature of the community and the closer supervision by the District School Inspector, who examined his work at least twice each year throughout the duration of the war. In 1919 an untrained junior assistant was appointed, who was to be the first of a number of individuals whom Lehmann trained to gain their teaching qualifications. Enrolments rose during the 1920s until they reached 108 in 1927, placing a huge workload on Lehmann who still had only one assistant teacher, Erwin Schier, who had commenced his teacher training with Lehmann at Tarrington in 1923. In 1928 a third teacher was employed to ease the burden, but after 1932 the school reverted to a two-teacher school once more and remained that way until Lehmann departed in mid-1942. His Assistant Teacher, Erwin Schier, replaced Lehmann as Head Teacher.



*Top row: 1. Hamilton Brass Band and Committee members, c. 1930. 2. Tarrington street scene with Susie Huff's confectionery store and delivery truck.*

*Bottom row: 1. Detail, from a group photo, of Jean Lehmann with her teddy. 2. Boys paddling in the Tarrington Swamp.*

After 30 years at Tarrington during which he taught almost 400 students, Lehmann accepted a position in Melbourne and moved to Essendon. In their later years, the Lehmanns retired to Bendigo, Victoria to be near to their family. J. A. Lehmann died in 1973 at the age of 87, and Gertrude in 1975, aged 88.

Upon his arrival in Hochkirch, Lehmann was already interested in photography. One of the glass negatives in the collection at Tarrington, a photo of the Hochkirch bluestone church, is wrapped in newspaper dated 28 October 1913, making it the earliest datable slide. The dedication of the new School at Hochkirch in 1914 is another of Lehmann's early photos, as is that of Pastor Emil Kriewaldt, who died in 1916. Lehmann did not put any identification on his photographs, but fortunately used easily identifiable cardboard mounts which assist with the recognition of his work. Lehmann's

subjects in the early 1920s were school groups, family groups and significant events like the snow which fell at Tarrington in 1922 and the ELSA Synod held at Tabor in 1927. Later on, Lehmann produced portraits, family groups, wedding photos, sporting teams, postcards, calendars, Tarrington street scenes and souvenirs. He took photographs of the Herrnhut Commune, some of which were published in the 1932 Lodewyckx publication *Die Deutschen in Australien*. Five of the Herrnhut negatives still exist in the Lehmann glass negative collection at Tarrington, and depict scenes and buildings which no longer exist.

Lehmann also took photographs when he travelled. Amongst the collection are negatives depicting the Dedication of the Dimboola Lutheran Church in 1924, school children at Vectis in 1934 and Ni Ni Well church and school in 1921. There are holiday pictures taken in South Australia and the local



Lutheran congregations of **Tabor** and **Warrayure** also feature amongst the slides, as well as their schools and the **Lake Linlithgow** School.

Prior to the Tarrington sesquicentenary in 2003, many of the glass negatives were printed and the photos displayed at the celebrations in order to facilitate the identification of as many of them as possible. This resulted in about two-thirds of the photos being recognised. However, the photos, their identifications and the glass negatives were placed into storage again, where they remained until Easter this year, when the restrictions of the Stage 3 COVID - 19 lockdown, led us to search for a useful project to occupy our sudden inactivity. This resulted in Colin and I revisiting this forgotten collection of Lehmann negatives, so, with great enthusiasm, the heavy boxes of slides were retrieved.

To scan glass negatives requires using a special scanner with the light mounted in the top cover in order to pass the light down through the glass negative onto the scanner bed. Modern scanners available locally were expensive and not able to scan the large sized negatives of the Lehmann slides. The Canoscan 9900F scanner, which we had used to scan the negatives in 2003, is now obsolete equipment and will only work on an old XP computer that, fortunately, we still possessed. With the assistance of our IT consultant, we were able to get this old equipment working again and the scanning started. It was a very slow process scanning in the highest resolution possible. The majority of the slides were 170 x 120mm, but there were several boxes of 220 x 160mm slides and it took up to 12 minutes to scan each large glass negative. However, the final quality of the digitised images was amazing for negatives that are over 100 years old. It took a fortnight of constant work to clean, scan in high resolution, collate and re-box the slides ready for storage again.

The estimation of 200 glass slides turned out to be 465 individual negatives, with the

original 39 boxes containing, on average, twelve slides each. In most cases, Lehmann had written the contents of each box on the top and edges, which was of great assistance with identification in most cases, except where the inscriptions had become indistinct due to insect damage and general decay. Unfortunately, many of the negatives were damaged around the edges due to poor storage in a shed over the years since they were taken, with a small number being irreparably damaged.

Nevertheless, we were astounded by the quality of many of the negatives, and the skill of the photographer, Jack Lehmann. There were a number of posed photographs, featuring children from the Tarrington school, created to produce a photo of



*Top: Tarrington school children welcoming Pastor W. H. Paech, 1923. Note the flowers laid along the roadway.*

*Bottom: J.A. Lehmann taking photos of the Kowald/ Uebergang wedding at Tarrington in 1925. [Photo by Mrs Anna Uebergang.]*

particular interest. This collection of Lehmann slides is now in the Tarrington Archives, and I am still in the process of identifying, cataloguing, printing and labelling each picture so that it is ready for display at future functions. The 465 glass negatives are but a small number of the hundreds of photos that Lehmann must have taken. There are many examples of his photographs amongst Lutheran families with Tarrington connections and there is no doubt, due to his being the sole photographer in the district during the 1920s and 1930s, that his work is responsible for the pictorial heritage of Tarrington.

There is an unsubstantiated story that the glass negatives were purchased at a clearing sale in Bendigo and were destined to be used in the construction of hot house! If this was the case, we can thank those responsible for recognising the significance of the slides because they prevented them from becoming shadows on hot house plants to instead becoming reprinted images giving future generations a glimpse of life in the early 20th century.

BETTY HUF



# Research

As well as scanning and indexing the J.A. Lehmann collection of glass negatives (see p.4), Betty Huf has answered the following research enquiries:

Jenny Gellert – LWV historical photos for Western Zone Anniversary; Ruth Walter – **Rentsch** book updates; Karen Geurts – Andreas **Rentsch** & Magdalena (nee **Mirtschin**) family birth dates; Cheryl Brinkmann – **Herrmann** family Land Records (**Rentsch** family); Jan Lind – **Dutschke** family; Dr John Byrnes (Sydney geologist) – searching for whereabouts of Christian Nagorcka's diary, as his ancestor emigrated on board the same ship (*Gottorp*); Andrew Lane (Creative Director) – seeking a copy of *Courage, Patience and Persistence* in order to write a musical about the Hochkirch/Tarrington area (Captivation Musicals); Lyn Maggs – **Groves** family of Peshurst, Warrayure Lutheran School and **Rentsch** information; William Coleman (London) – information about Joseph **Vogt**; Karen Geurts – **Herrmann** family Confirmations from St Luke's Register, Hamilton; Ruth Walter – map showing location of **Rentsch** graves in South Hamilton cemetery; David Matiske – enquiring whether **Matiske** is a Wendish surname; Tom Hona – **Hona** family of Byaduk; April Fellenberg – requesting a copy of the **Fellenberg/Kliche** family history; Helen Bergen – re the surname **Mjadwesch**; Tammi Niewand – seeking permission to cite our website as an information source for the **Towk** family on genealogical websites; Michael Crouch – **Lokan** family; Stephen Mirtschin – **Mirtschin** home village information and contacts for proposed visit; Karen Schwarze – seeking a copy of *Quast and Pese Family History*; Karel Tepper. – marriage details for **Pech** family members; Gabriella Verstraeten, Matthew and Judith Rafferty – **Luy** and **Lindner** families; Daryll Bellingham – **Hoffmann** family, Queensland; Bronwyn Smith – Martin **Ruschen**; and Toni-Lee Koga – **Marschall** and **Dreckow** families.

## Gertrud Mahling's interview

Betty Huf has also completed Gertrud Mahling's interview questions. Gertrud has interviewed, via email, the Presidents of three Societies: the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, the Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia and our Society. The interviews will be published in a booklet titled *Raising Awareness of the Ethnic group known as Wends/Sorbs*. Gertrud asked Betty for an update and editing of the English text version of her interview.

## St Michael's Archives, Tarrington

Another project Betty is undertaking is the sorting, collating and digitisation of records from St Michael's Archives, Tarrington, including Tarrington Lutheran School Pupil Registers from 1941–2001 (658 students).

## Enquiries to Rob Wuchatsch

Rob Wuchatsch gave information to William Coleman re Joseph **Vogt** and to Jan Lind re the **Dutschke** family. Rob also handled enquiries from Phil Domaschenz re the **Domaschenz/Noack** family history; Tania Kirk re "The World Tree" in Pagan times; Genevieve Springham re the **Werchon** family; Helen **Lenz** re her Lenz ancestors; Pam McDiarmid re the 1850s wooden trunk brought out by the **Kubiel** family; Michael Craig re James Christopher **Craig**; Gaylee Kuchel re Johann Georg **Kuchel**; Stephanie Domaschenz re the Wendish spelling of **Domaschenz**; and Lorraine Dooley re Arthur Guido **Finster**. Catherine Gosling sent a link to a YouTube clip on the gherkin eating competition in the Spreewald (see below).

Joel Blackburn and John Noack assisted Phil Domaschenz with **Domaschenz/Noack** family history information, including photographs.



*Harvesting in the Wimmera.*

## Gherkin Eating Competition in the Spreewald

We thank Catherine Gosling for sending this link to an interesting YouTube clip on the gherkin eating competition in the Spreewald: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sE5Y3cmiR5w>

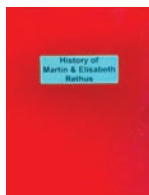


# Library



Janice Blackburn has retired from our Committee, but has very generously offered to continue to catalogue our Library resources. Many of the older books in our Library are now due for some maintenance.

Janice is undertaking the major project of re-cataloguing, re-classifying, labelling, covering and repairing these books, where necessary. In addition, Janice is continuing to process new acquisitions. Recent acquisitions include:



**History of Martin & Elisabeth Rethus: Martin and Elisabeth Rethus (nee Kielow), Johann (John) and Maria Rethus (nee Hondow), and families compiled by Ann and John Keller.**

Janice has printed out this family history, which was donated to us on USB stick, and made it into a book and CD.

## Funeral orders of service, including obituaries

Janice has organized loose leaf binder folders containing the following funeral service orders, including obituaries:

### Funeral orders of service, Vol. 1, A–K:

Myra Anne Atkinson (1927–2015); James Thomas Beard (1931–2008); Delma Mary Helena Braendler (1938–2017); Raymond George Burger (1927–2012); Richard Henry Dalitz (1925–2006); Shirley Gwendoline Day (1928–2010); William (Bill) Day (1928–2009); Audrey Merlein Elsom (nee Gebert) (1931–2010); Frieda Linda Evans (nee Gersch) (1914–2010); William James Fry (1949–2018); Avis Sydonia Gellert (1921–2017); Edna Gellert (1917–2008); Stanley Groves (1932–2016); Clarence Otto Habel (1917–2007); Elsie Vera Habel (1924–2003); Clarence Paul Handreck (1936–2009); Basil Gordon Harders (1926–2010); Theodore Paul Harms (1927–2012); Viola Ruth Harms (nee Burger) (1924–2016); Leonard Albert “Len” Hartwich (1938–2018); Eric Paul Hassold (1918–2008); Ian Lloyd Herrmann (1933–2012); John Bernard Herrmann (1954–2017); Clementine Ella Huf (1916–1994); Geoffrey Allan Huf (1933–2014); Norman Adolph Huf (1933–2017); Percy Herbert Huf (1912–1979); Mervyn Johns (1928–2011); Arnold Kruger (1933–2016); Vera Kruger (1920–2009); Edwin Harold Kurtze (1914–1998).

### Funeral orders of service, Vol. 2, L–M:

Walter Harold Lange (1916–2001); Albert John Lawson (1913–2000); Sandra Kay Lehmann (1945–2008); Allan Arthur Lieschke (1928–2018); Lois Margaret Lieschke (1928–2018); Allan Herbert Linke (1931–2005); David Phillip Linke (1949–2018); Louie Grace Linke (nee Schultz) (1916–2015); Mervyn Albert Linke (1922–2012); Vera Linke (1927–2011); Lorna Emilie Menzel (1914–2005); Dorcas Eleanor Mibus (1927–2018); Judy Mibus (1958–2014); Leslie John Mibus (1918–2010); Basil Everard Mirtschin (1928–2002); Elma Esther Mirtschin (1927–2016); Frieda Mirtschin (1922–2017); Gerrard (Garry) Mirtschin (1923–2013); Gwen Mirtschin (1920–2015); Leslie Mirtschin (1920–2011); Lois Marie Mirtschin (1930–2018); Neil Allan Mirtschin (1929–2020); Sheila Sophie Mirtschin (1926–2012); Sydney (Syd) Alfred Mirtschin (1918–2010); Adrienne Modra (nee Schultz) (1917–2013); Max John Modra (1929–2012); Frank Murfin (1931–2015).

### Funeral orders of service, Vol. 3, N–Q:

Edna Emilia Nagorcka (1917–1998); Elsie Nagorcka (1920–2017); Laurel Doreen Nagorcka (1928–2013); Osmond Christian Nagorcka (1916–2003); Sylvie Alma Nagorcka (1927–2013); Errol Wayne Noack (1945–1966); Keith Walter Pelchen (1936–2018); David Charles Pietsch (1932–2018); Ida Caroline Presser (1906–2007); Jennifer Pauline Presser (1943–2019); Kenneth (Ken) Frederick Proposch (1929–2018).





### Funeral orders of service, Vol. 4, R–Z:

Margaret Pamela **Ruddell** (1932–2012); Elsa (Ella) **Schreiber** (1909–2011); Bettye Dawn **Schultz** (1931–2011); Herbert Gustav **Schultz** (1894–1986); Esther Naomi **Schulze** (1923–2013); Stanley Kenneth **Schurmann** (1912–2012); Val **Schurmann** (1916–2007); Alan David **Shaw** (1930–2010); Gary David **Tischler** (1958–2010); Carl Theodor (Theo) **Uebergang** (1919–2007); Selma Ethel **Uebergang** (1917–2003); Elsie May **Walkenhorst** (1914–2006); Judy **Walkenhorst** (1944–2017); Edmund (Jim) **Wiebusch** (1916–2004); Margaret Gaye **Wuchatsch** (1943–2014); Ruth **Zanker** (1934–2011).

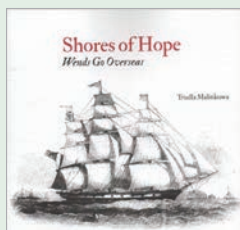
*Additions to our family history section of our Library are very welcome. If you would like to contribute copies of orders of service for funerals, weddings or christenings to our Library, please send them to us. See contact details in the Directory on page 12.*

JANICE BLACKBURN

PHOTOS OF BOOK COVERS: JOEL BLACKBURN

Our Library will be open by appointment, when restrictions are lifted. Please contact the Secretary. See page 12 for contact details.

## Books 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: [wensociety1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wensociety1@optusnet.com.au) or [krugercly35@gmail.com](mailto:krugercly35@gmail.com).

Please make cheques or money orders payable to “Wendish Heritage Soc. Aust. Inc.” or contact Clay for EFT payment details.



### Ruediger and Koenig books for sale

**Koenig 1848–1990: Christian & Karl Koenig and their descendants in Australia.**

Copies are available for \$2.00 plus postage.

Related surnames: Lemm, Schmidt, Gladigau, Kroschel, Noske, Kroeker, Hundrack, Hartwich.



**Ruediger: 140 years in Australia 1850–1990, Christian and Anna Elisabeth Ruediger: an update on the family tree from 1975 to 1990.**

Copies are available for \$2.00 plus postage.

Related surnames: Elix, Schenke, Reiss.

To purchase copies, contact Glenys Wollermann (Secretary): Tel. (03) 9891 6652; or email: [g.wollermann@y7mail.com](mailto:g.wollermann@y7mail.com).

PHOTOS OF BOOK COVERS: MICK AMPT



## Seeking the following books:



### **The Doecke family history book**

Monty Thomas would like to purchase a copy of *Saxony to South Australia: the Doecke story: the history and family tree of Michael Doecke and his wife Maria, nee Pilak, and their descendants, 1778–1979*.

If you know of the availability of a copy of this book, please contact Monty Thomas by email: [monty.thomas@tcm.co.za](mailto:monty.thomas@tcm.co.za)

### **The Kohn family history book**

Susan Woodbury would like to purchase a copy of the *Kohn family history: Germany to Australia, 1700–1999* by Lila Prero. If you know of the availability of a copy of this book, please contact Susan Woodbury by email: [gallery2you@bigpond.com](mailto:gallery2you@bigpond.com) or by mobile: 0409 881 770

### **The Mickan family history books**

An enquiry has come via our website from a person wishing to purchase copies of two publications: *From Cortnitz to South Australia: the Mickan story* and *From Cortnitz to South Australia: the Mickan story supplement*. If you know of the availability of these books, please contact Glenys Wollermann (Secretary). See contact details in the Directory on p. 12.

## Imagine you were born in 1900

The following article is from an unknown source but brings an interesting perspective to the coronavirus situation.

It's a mess out there now. Hard to discern between what's a real threat and what is just simple panic and hysteria. For a small amount of perspective at this moment, imagine you were born in 1900.

On your 14th birthday, World War I starts and ends on your 18th birthday. 22 million people perish in that war. Later in the year, a Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until your 20th birthday. 50 million people die from it in those two years. Yes, 50 million.

On your 29th birthday, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, the World GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy.

When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet. And don't try to catch your breath. On your 41st birthday, the United States is fully pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war.

Smallpox was epidemic until you were in your 40's, as it killed 300 million people during your lifetime.

At 50, the Korean War starts. 5 million perish. From your birth, until you are 55 you dealt with the fear of Polio epidemics each summer. You experience friends and family contracting polio and being paralyzed and/or die.

At 55 the Vietnam War begins and doesn't end for 20 years. 4 million people perish in that conflict. During the Cold War, you lived each day with the fear of nuclear annihilation. On your 62nd birthday, you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War.

Life on our planet, as we know it, almost ended. When you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends. Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900.

How did they endure all of that? When you were a kid in 1985 you didn't think your 85-year-old grandparent understood how hard school was, and how mean that kid in your class was.

Yet they survived through everything listed above. Perspective is an amazing art. Refined and enlightening as time goes on. Let's try and keep things in perspective. Your parents and/or grandparents were called to endure all of the above – you are called to stay home and sit on your couch!



## Wendish Turkey Farmers

Before Daryl Deutscher of Dadswells Bridge, Victoria, there was another renowned Wendish turkey farmer, Adolf Zwar of Broadford, Victoria. Rob Wuchatsch found an article on Zwar in the *Herald* newspaper of Saturday 7 August, 1948.

The article states that, in preparation for Christmas, *“thousands of turkeys, fattened under the tender care of Mr Adolf G. Zwar, of Broadford, raiser of the biggest turkey flock in the state, are now being killed.”*

Adolf Zwar explains the advantages of raising turkeys: they can be herded by sheep dogs, they are the best producers of meat per pound of food in any farmyard, and their loud cackling and gobbling deters thieves. However there are some disadvantages: they are prey to wedge-tailed eagles, crows and foxes; and they are temperamental birds, prone to stampede at unusual sounds.

The newspaper reporter, John Maughan, writes:

*“When the flock stampedes every bird will rise and fly madly. Mr Zwar and his dogs have learned that it is no joke to be hit by a 25 pound or 30 pound bird in flight. So when the flock stampedes he and his dogs flatten themselves on the ground in air raid precautions style...”*

*The stampedes can be expensive. One moonlight night...the flock stampeded and flew a mile down the nearby creek. When Mr Zwar went down the next morning he found more than 80 dead. Many were killed by foxes and some were fatally injured when they crashed into trees. The whole town of Broadford feasted on turkeys after that disaster.”*

### Turkeys Are So Temperamental!

By John Maughan

**I**N the green hills just over the Great Divide they are preparing your Christmas dinner already.

Thousands of turkeys, fattened under the tender care of Mr Adolf G. Zwar, of Broadford, raiser of the biggest turkey flock in the State, are now being killed.

Cold storage depots, now receiving the birds, say there should be plenty for everyone by Christmas.

Since the end of the war turkey-raising has become a bigger industry here than ever before. There are nearly twice as many turkey farmers now as in 1939.

Thousands of birds are being exported each year to Britain and the once-a-year surge of turkeys here is slowly developing into a series of more moderate feasts at all times of the year.

Why are so many farmers now raising turkeys? Well, take the case of Mr. Zwar, who, five years ago, was a dairy farmer.

“I got sick of dairy farming. I'd always had a few turkeys and I decided to get rid of the cows and go in for the turkeys in a big way. Turkeys are dumb all right—but there's nothing like them for a farmer who has time to experiment.”

And turkeys certainly are crazy—anyone who tries turkey-raising must first be sure he has unlimited patience.

When hatched in an incubator and put into a brooding pen, they are not sure exactly what food is. Mr Zwar has to teach thousands to eat. He puts colored marbles and pieces of wood in the turkeys' mash. They peck at the bright colors, get a little food at the same time and decide the food tastes fine.

For 10 weeks they live in the brooders and they are then turned out into the open. Because they look on the pens as their “mother” they are always reluctant to leave and have to be driven out with the sheep-dogs behind them.

Once out on the green hills they are prey for almost every kind of carnivorous animal.

Any passing wedge-tail eagle will tackle a turkey of any size. Crows will take the smaller birds. Foxes, the turkey farmer's greatest enemy, are always on the prowl.

Apart from these troubles, turkeys kill themselves. They stampede.

★

A STAMPEDE is a serious matter for the farmer, although it might sound funny to the uninitiated. The birds will take flight at almost anything unusual. Even a change of aircraft, but let a small Tiger Moth come over and the whole flock will be up and away.

The stampedes can be expensive.

One moonlight night, about a year ago, the flock stampeded and flew a mile down the nearby creek. When Mr Zwar went down next morning to round up the straying birds he found more than 80 dead. Many were killed by foxes and numbers were fatally injured when they crashed into trees.

The whole town of Broadford feasted on turkeys after that disaster.

But a turkey's temperamental hearing saves it from some things—including thieves. If any unknown approaches, the cackling and gobbling can be heard a mile off.

Offsetting all their craziness, turkeys are by far the best producers of meat per pound of food in any farm-

## General News

### 88th Birthday Greetings to Clay Kruger



Congratulations to our Society's stalwart, Clay Kruger, on celebrating his 88th birthday on 23 July.

We are very grateful to Clay for his continued dedication and efficiency in his role as Assistant Treasurer. Clay manages the online banking and also carries out many other tasks behind the scenes: keeping membership records up to date, preparing invoices, emailing the e-News Updates, mailing out our Newsletters and handling book sales, to name a few.

We wish Clay many more years of good health and happiness.



## Vale

**Beatrice (Trix) Chambers** (nee **Wuchatsch**) passed away peacefully on 15 June, 2020. She was 96 years of age. We are grateful for the loyal support she gave our Society over many years. We extend our condolences to her family 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.

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

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