



wendish news

WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

NUMBER 67 SEPTEMBER 2021



Clockwise from top:

1. Tour group at Peters Hill Lutheran Church (see pp.4–9).
2. Aboriginal artwork in St Paul's Lutheran Church hall, Hahndorf.
3. Restored pulpit displayed in the Barossa Museum, Tanunda.
4. Historic headstones at Lobethal Lutheran Church.
5. Handwriting inside a Wendish Bible in the Lower Lusatian language, published in 1796.

Invitation to our Annual Luncheon

You are warmly invited, along with family and friends, to attend our Annual Luncheon on Saturday 23 October in Ballarat, Victoria. You do not need to be a member of our Society to attend the Luncheon. See booking details on page 2.

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Calendar of upcoming events

Given the current situation with coronavirus restrictions and the ongoing uncertainty, it is very difficult for us to plan ahead. Our events remain subject to conditions at the time. We will keep you informed.

Rentsch Reunion at Tarrington, Victoria

This Reunion has again been postponed. Because family members reside in a number of Australian States, the current uncertainty regarding interstate travel has led to the decision to reschedule this event to next year. The newly-published family history book, *Rentsch family in Australia 1851-2020*, is available for \$70.00, plus \$12.00 for postage.

Contact Ruth Walter: ruth.walter43@gmail.com

Mobile 0435 211 606 or

Monica Rentsch: rentschdescendants2020@gmail.com

Mobile 0438 735 239

Hochkirch 800th Anniversary and Oberammergau Passion Play Tour, June–July 2022

Details of this Tour were published in our last edition of *Wendish News*. Betty and Colin Huf have met with the Tour providers. The Tour plans still stand for a 16 June 2022 departure. The door is open for others to join the Tour.

Contact Betty Huf: Tel. (03) 5572 4959.

Email: bettyhuf@outlook.com

Hundrack Family History

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

Mobile 0448 376 522 or

June Winter: Mobile 0438 661 313

Annual Luncheon, Saturday 23 October 2021

Our Annual Luncheon will be held at the Lady Barkly room, Barkly Motorlodge, 43 Main Road, Bakery Hill, Ballarat, Victoria. All are welcome. This year marks our Society's 35th Anniversary.

Time: 12.00 noon for a 12.30pm start, Saturday 23 October 2021.

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

Please book by Saturday 16 October 2021 with Betty Huf; Tel. (03) 5572 4959; Email bettyhuf@outlook.com

Bookings are essential.

170th Anniversary of the arrival of the Pribislaw

This event has been postponed indefinitely. It will be held when international travel restrictions are lifted and it is possible for Dirk Weissleder to travel from Germany.

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 members who donated from 1 August 2020–31 July 2021 are as follows:

G. Allen, J. Ballinger, L. Bennett,
R. Bransdon-Parkes, D. Brown, J. & J. Burger,
S. Burke, C. Comas, M. Dalziel, B. Davies,
D. E. Deutscher, P. Eagles, G. Escreet,
C. Green, D. W. Gum, H. Handreck,
E. Hayden, S. Hayward, B. E. Healy,
D. Herbig, J. & A. Hoffmann, A. Hubbard,
T. Humphries, J. Huppertz, R. A. Jarick,
P. L. Jenke, J. & A. Keller, S. Kemfert,
R. & L. Kobelke, A. Koch, E. & G. Koch,
J. F. Kolloosche, A. Lueders, L. Maggs,
M. Matuschka, Y. Mibus, I. A. Mirtschin,
T. Modra, C. Moulder, B. & M. Nagorcka,
J. Pearce, J. Petschel, A. Proposch,
B. & B. Proposch, P. A. Richardson,
M. K. Robson, N. D. Rose, B. Ross,
M. Salzke, J. Scheetz, M. C. Scheetz, B. Schier,
G. Uebergang, A. Van Elst, V. Werner,
J. Williams J. D. & S. M. Zwar

Please note: Membership invoices for 2022 are enclosed with this Newsletter.



Past events

Retirement Luncheon for Joel and Janice Blackburn, 27 March 2021



This event was planned for 2020, but had to be postponed due to coronavirus restrictions. Our Society's committee honoured Joel and Janice with a special luncheon to acknowledge their valuable work and loyal service over many years: Janice as our Librarian and Joel as a former Vice President and former Website & Computer Manager. Although no longer on the Committee, Janice has continued to catalogue new acquisitions, with Joel updating the Library database as they are catalogued.

President Betty Huf expressed gratitude that they are still using their specialised skills for our benefit. Mary Cooper did a wonderful job hosting the luncheon, with the help of her family.

Joel and Janice thanked Mary and other committee members for organising such a lovely lunch and get-together, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

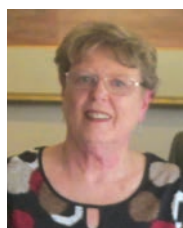
Annual General Meeting, Saturday 24 April 2021

We were fortunate to be able to meet in person for our AGM. The venue was the Doncaster Lutheran Church Hall at 51 Victoria St, Doncaster, Vic. This venue was chosen in order to meet the current restrictions regarding density limits. 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 17 people in attendance, 16 apologies and 36 proxies. The following Office Bearers were re-elected: President **Betty Huf**, Secretary **Glenys Wollermann**, and Treasurer **Robert Wuchatsch**. Vice-President John Modra stepped down from

his position. A nomination was received for **Mick Ampt**. He was declared elected as Vice-President. Current Committee members had indicated that they were willing to continue in their positions, except for Mary Cooper, who retired from the Committee. In addition to **Margaret Gork**, **Colin Huf**, **Clay Kruger**, **Beryl Nagorcka**, and **Moira Nagorcka**, a nomination was received for **Jenny Gellatly**. All were declared elected as Committee members.

President's Report



In her President's Report, Betty Huf reported on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the activities of our Society over the past year. Some events had to be cancelled, re-scheduled or postponed indefinitely. Despite the lockdowns, the Committee held

the usual four meetings (some online) and the usual two editions of *Wendish News* were published.

Our Researchers continued to answer numerous enquiries that arrived via our website. Betty paid tribute to retiring Committee member **Mary Cooper**, who participated with great enthusiasm and heartiness in our activities. While we will miss her cheery presence at our meetings, we sincerely hope she will continue to participate in our events. Betty concluded by thanking all Committee members for their support. In particular she acknowledged the work of the Secretary and Newsletter Editor **Glenys Wollermann**, the Treasurer **Rob Wuchatsch** and the Assistant Treasurer **Clay Kruger**.

Treasurer's Report



Treasurer **Rob Wuchatsch** presented the Annual Financial Statement for 2020. He reported that we had a successful year. The total credit monies held in accounts as at 31 December 2020 was \$23,500.82.

This was an increase of \$3,470.98 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 well. Rob presented a proposed Budget for 2021, based on the 2020 Budget. The Budget was accepted.



Tour to South Australia, 17–22 May, 2021



This page, left to right: 1. Lyall Kupke at the bow of the clipper ship, “City of Adelaide”. 2. Colin Huf with the original helm of the “City of Adelaide”. 3. Possum statue at Piltawodli (“possum home”), the site of the Kurna Aboriginal camping ground where German missionaries started a school and learned the Kurna language.

Opposite page, clockwise from top: 1. Tour group at Klemzig Memorial Gardens. 2. Rosedale Lutheran Church. 3. Hope Valley Cemetery.

Those of us who went on the South Australian tour organised by Lyall Kupke enjoyed a wonderful time visiting many Wendish and German historical sites. Each day was filled with new experiences and friendly interactions with members of the Wend/Sorb Society and Friends of Lutheran Archives folk. How fortunate we were to complete our Tour just a few days before Victoria entered its fourth lockdown. The following is John Noack’s report, based on research and tour notes provided by Lyall Kupke and various local resources.

The Tour was planned and conducted by Lyall Kupke, President of the Sorb/Wend Society of South Australia Inc. Much information was gleaned from the “Wendish Heritage Trail” interpretive signs, which have been researched and erected by the South Australian Wends at Hope Valley, Rosedale, Ebenezer, Neukirch, St Kitts and Peters Hill.

1. Port Misery, Monday 17 May

Tour participants assembled at Port Misery, in Settlers Drive, West Lakes. Port Misery was Adelaide’s first harbour. A plaque at this site is dedicated to the memory of the “*courage, sacrifice, faith and zeal of the immigrants from Great Britain and Northern Germany, who landed at the Old Port of Port Misery, 1837-1840, to establish and settle in the Colony of South Australia*”.

Lyall Kupke informed us that when the first immigrants arrived, there was no wharf. The passengers had to disembark by either being transported in small boats to the shore or by wading through the sea water. The Dresden missionary, Pastor Teichelmann, was very upset when a container carrying some of his theological books fell into the sea and his books were damaged. “Port Misery” is a most appropriate name for this original landing site.

2. Clipper Ship *City of Adelaide*

One of the many highlights of our Tour was the inspection of this 156 year old timber sailing ship, which is being restored. Mr Peter Christopher gave us a guided tour inside the ship, which is the world’s oldest surviving clipper ship. It jointly held the record for sailing between London and Adelaide in 65 days. Thousands of migrants were carried to S.A. between 1864 and 1887. Copper sheathing on the hull stopped marine growth; the bow at the front was narrow and sleek and up to 270 passengers were accommodated on the mid-deck for the journey. Single women were in the stern or back; the single men were in the bow or front, and the couples and families were in the mid-ship or centre.

This ship was returned to Adelaide in 2014 and about 100 volunteers are now restoring it. It will become the centrepiece of a new maritime heritage attraction in Port Adelaide.



3. Piltawodli, North Adelaide

This was the site of the Kurna Aboriginal camping ground. Piltawodli (“possum home”) was where the Dresden-trained Lutheran missionaries, Pastors Schürmann, Teichelmann and later Klose, started a school for the Kurna Aborigines and recorded the Kurna language, from 1838–1845. The language is now being restored and used by the Kurna people from the linguistic records of these missionaries.

4. Klemzig Pioneer Cemetery

This is the site of the first German settlement of Klemzig, established in 1838 under the leadership of Pastor Kavel. A memorial stone lists the names of pioneers known to have been buried here between 1838 and 1861. Klemzig was often the first stopping point for new German and Wendish immigrants in later years.

5. Hope Valley Cemetery

This Cemetery, at 1184 Grand Junction Road, Hope Valley, is the last resting place of pioneering settlers from both Hope Valley and nearby Dry Creek. Many Germans and Wends settled in these areas in the nineteenth century. Hope Valley was also often a first stopping point for new arrivals before they moved onto other areas. The Wendish Pastor Andreas Kappler from Saxony, who arrived in 1848, ministered to the Germans and Wends in this area for 12 years. Kappler’s Records indicate that

the Wends who passed through included the surnames **Borrack, Domaschenz, Duschka, Fladrich, Hondow, Huppatz, Konzag, Kruger, Lewitzka, Lokan, Miatke, Nowotna, Proposch, Sapiatzer, Schuppan, Teschner, Wotzko and Zoellner.** The **Duschka** and **Lokan** families remained at Hope Valley until the 1900s.

The first day ended with our attendance at the meeting of the “Friends of Lutheran Archives” in the Meeting Room at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Adelaide. Tanunda resident and local historian Donald Ross enthralled us with his presentation on “Barossa Farming in the Draught Horse Era”.

6. Rosedale, formerly Rosenthal, Tuesday 18 May

Located west of Tanunda in the Barossa Valley, this area was settled in 1849 mainly by Wends and Germans who arrived on the 1848 *Alfred* and on later ships. In 1852 most of the Wendish families (**Albert, Burger, Deutscher, Hundrack, Mirtschin, Petschel and Rentsch**) trekked overland by wagon to Western Victoria. This trek was re-enacted from 3 to 6 May in 2012 and recalled by those of us who repeated this pioneering journey in our modern cars.

The early settlers built their first church near their cemetery in 1852; their St Martin’s Church in the village in 1859 under Pastor Oster; and their St Johannes Church in 1866 under Pastor Dost.





1. Hoffnungsthal Pioneer Memorial plaque listing the founding families. 2. Memorial stained glass window in Langmeil Lutheran Church, Tanunda. 3. The 1871 school at St. John's, Ebenezer.

7. Hoffnungsthal (“Valley of Hope”)

Located east of Lyndoch, the land here formed a basin-like depression, surrounded by hills. The settlers had been warned by the local Aborigines that this basin sometimes filled with water, which could not escape. This advice was ignored but it was shown to be true, when, during a night in 1853, a torrential downpour flooded their homes. Most of these settlers wisely abandoned this area. The plaque erected at the site of the church lists 72 “Founding Families” in this district from 1847 onwards, including the **Borrack***, **Gassan***, **Gormann***, **Haeusler**, **Heppner**, **Habel**, **Huf**, **Jericho**, **Kilian***, **Koenig**, **Lehmann***, **Lindner**, **Mackenzie**, **Mann**, **Menzel**, **Miatke***, **Noack***, **Oster**, **Proposch***, **Reichstein**, **Schuppan***, **Schmerl**, **Schulz**, **Seelander**, **Semmler**, **Tepper**, **Thomas**, **Vogt***, **Winderlich**, **Zeunert** and **Zweck** families.

* Wendish families.

8. Langmeil in Tanunda

Langmeil was settled by Germans from Klemzig and Hahndorf in 1843. When they opened their first church in 1846, Pastor Kavel came here to live. His memorial describes him as “The Founder of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia”. He was born in Berlin in 1798. From 1826 to 1835 he was the pastor at Klemzig near Züllichau but, for conscience sake and to preserve “true Lutheran Faith and Confession”, he migrated in 1838 with his congregation to South Australia. He served Lutherans at Klemzig, Hahndorf and Langmeil “with singular devotion” and died as a result of a stroke in 1860, aged 62 years.

It was from Langmeil that the first missionaries to the Dieri Aborigines on Cooper’s Creek left later in 1866. The present church was built in 1888 - the 50th anniversary of the arrival of Kavel and his flock in Australia.

9. Light Pass

Located north-east of Tanunda, Light Pass was settled by Germans and Wends. They established their “Immanuel Congregation”, but some members left and formed the “Strait Gate Congregation” nearby.

10. Ebenezer

Further north of Tanunda, Ebenezer was settled by many Wends from Upper Lusatia in Saxony from 1852 onwards, under the leadership of Johann Zwar (1821–1912). Their first church, St John’s, was built and dedicated in 1859. The present church was built and dedicated in 1905.

In 1858, Johann Dallwitz started a school on his own land and taught in the Wendish language. Johann taught until 1863, and his son Andreas continued teaching until 1908. In 1871, a new school, which is still standing but is in poor condition, was built on church land.

In 1868, some German settlers, including the Wendish families of **Hennersdorf**, **Lieschke**, **Mickan** and **Wenke**, trekked with their wagons from here to Walla Walla in New South Wales.

Ebenezer was the site of the formation of the UELCA or the “United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia” in 1921.

11. Neukirch

Located north-west of Ebenezer, the Neukirch area was settled by Germans and Wends from Ebenezer and Hoffnungsthal. In 1859, they built their church, which is the third oldest Lutheran Church in Australia still in continuous use. (The other two are Nain (S.A.) and Thomastown (Vic.), dating from 1856.) The cemetery is located about 1 km west of the church. Early Wendish settlers included the **Bartsch**, **Biar**, **Biele**, **Doecke**, **Eckert**, **Freund**, **Genzer**, **Gersch**, **Hempel**, **Jenke**, **Kielian**, **Kleinig**, **Michalk** and **Noack** families.



12. St Kitts

Located north-east of Ebenezer, St Kitts was mainly settled by Wends from Ebenezer in the 1850s. In 1869, the settlers, including the Bartsch, Biar, Biele, Boback, Britza, Doecke, Eckert, Freund, Gersch, Haupt, Jenke, Kielian, Kleinig, Lehmann, Lieschke, Miersch, Noack, Urban and Zwar families, built their original St Petri Church and in 1910, they built the present church. This church was closed in 2000 and is now a private home. There was also a St Paul's Church (1904–1949), now also a private home. The day ended with a special barbecue hosted by Geoff and Enis Saegenschnitter at their home in Greenock. Good food, good wine and good company made this a very enjoyable occasion.

13. Peters Hill, Wednesday 19 May

Peters Hill was settled in 1856 by Prussian Wends from Lower Lusatia. These settlers included the Borrack, Duldig, Groch, Hondow, Lange, Johann and Gottlieb Noack, Petatz, Proposch, Schuppan, Teschner and Zoellner families. Some, including Johann Noack's family, lived in dug-outs in the sides of the hills, until their homes were built of stone, with thatched roofs. The settlers' first church was located near the Pioneer Cemetery and Marschall's Hut, but this church was demolished. The present church was opened in 1864. Martin Hondow was one of the Wendish-speaking elders who led the congregation. He served it for over 50 years. Pastor H.A.E. Meyer of Bethany, who was one of the Dresden missionaries, also conducted services here four times a year.

Other later settlers included the Bartusch, Borgas, Domaschenz, Dreckow, Gormann, Huppertz, Jarick, Kschenka, Lehmann, Marschall, Miatke, Pumpa, Rethus, Russchen, Schmidt, Schwartz, and Zerna families. Some of these Germans and Wends intermarried.

A school was also established in the 1860s and a new school house and teacher's residence was built in 1884. This burned down in 1965. The Friends of Peters Hill Church Inc. maintains the heritage of this site. An interpretive sign gives the history of the school, including photos.

We visited the Huppertz Cemetery, a private cemetery about 1 km south of the church. There are about thirty headstones. A short distance away is the Pioneer Cemetery and Marschall's Hut. The names of the settlers buried in this Cemetery are listed on a signboard. Marschall's Hut is now a shelter for hikers on the Heysen Trail.

14. Riverton's "Scholz Park Museum"

This Museum complex includes an 1870s stone cottage and wheelwright and blacksmith shops that

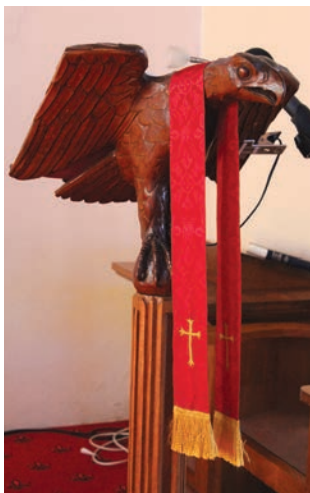


1. Interior of Neukirch Lutheran Church.

2. Plaque commemorating the pioneers buried at St. Peter's Lutheran Church cemetery, Peters Hill.

were the home and business of the Scholz family, from 1865–1966. The four-roomed cottage and all the tools, machinery, forges and bellows, horse-drawn carriages, wagon wheels, horse shoes and farming implements give visitors a fascinating insight into life in the pioneering days. Volunteers now provide very informative tours of this Museum.

In the evening, we enjoyed a guided tour by volunteers of the Barossa Museum in Tanunda. The Museum collection showcases the German heritage of the area. It includes a traditional German black wedding dress, a rare Kruger pipe organ, 1860s–1880s pottery by Samuel Hoffmann, and traditional German wagons, embroidery and craft.



This page: 1. Wendish Bible at Lutheran Archives. 2. Lectern at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hahndorf. 3. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hahndorf, built in 1890.

Opposite page: 1. Lovers' Graves, Lobethal. 2. Altar at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Birdwood. 3. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Birdwood.

15. Migration – for Better or Worse? Thursday 20 May

Dr Lois Zweck presented this topic at the Burnside Civic Centre, as part of the program for South Australia's History Festival. Pioneering problems faced all of the Wendish and German settlers who arrived in the mid-1800s. Letters sent to Germany indicated their difficulties in clearing their land; building their homes; establishing their farms and keeping their families healthy and educated. However, they also appreciated their new-found freedom to purchase their own land and to practise and to argue about their Lutheran religion. Their letters also stated the many improvements to their lives which they had gained here in Australia.

16. Lutheran Archives

The Archivist, Rachel Kuchel, gave a presentation on the wide range of records and historical items held in this national archive of the Lutheran Church of Australia. She also explained the correct methods for storing and preserving such items. Lyall Kupke, former Archivist, presented for our inspection some Wendish Bibles, hymn books, sermon books and prayer books, which our ancestors brought with them to Australia. Tour participants were able to book ahead to conduct some personal research.

17. Dinner at Payneham Tavern

This dinner allowed the Tour participants and others to meet and to be informed about each other's activities. Betty Huf explained that the Wendish Heritage Society Australia was founded in 1986 by John Noack and Kevin Zwar, and that the group will be celebrating its 35th Anniversary at its next Annual Luncheon at Ballarat in October.

18. Hahndorf, Friday 21 May

Our Tour's final day began at Hahndorf, the village named after Captain Hahn, whose ship the *Zebra*, in 1839, carried the German migrants who settled here. We inspected St Michael's, at the western end of Hahndorf. The first church, a pug building erected in 1840, began under Pastor Kavel. The present St Michael's church was built in 1858. The plaque at St Michael's Cemetery explains the meaning of the symbols used in the cemetery: the cypress tree for mourning; stars for the Messiah; the dove for peace; the lily for resurrection; the bay laurel wreath for victory over death and the angel, for communication between the divine and humanity.

When Pastors Kavel and Fritzsche split in 1846, Fritzsche's followers stayed at St Michael's, while Kavel's followers began St Paul's congregation, at the eastern end of Hahndorf. We visited the present St Paul's church, which was built in 1890.

The early Hahndorf settlers are now remembered and commemorated by the "Pioneer Women's Walking Trail" from Hahndorf to Beaumont in Adelaide. It is about 26 km long. Walkers can recall the time when Hahndorf's young women walked during the night to Adelaide, carrying on their backs baskets of vegetables and dairy products for sale and then returning to Hahndorf with supplies such as sugar, tea, sewing thread and needles. This regular walk to and from Adelaide continued from 1839 until the late 1850s.

19. Lobethal and Lobethal College

Pastor Fritzsche arrived in South Australia in 1841 with his congregation and they settled in the village of Lobethal, which means "Valley of Praise". Kavel had asked Fritzsche to bring theological books with



him so that he could set up a college to instruct young men to become pastors and teachers. In 1845 a small pug-house was built near the church. It served as both a bedroom and a study for the students. Lessons were sometimes given as the students accompanied Pastor Fritzsche to his preaching places. Two of his students, **Mueller** and **Boehm**, became teachers and three became the first Lutheran pastors to be trained in Australia: **Hensel**, **Oster** and **Strempel**.

The Lobethal Museum was built in the 1950s to enclose and preserve the small pug-house, known as Lobethal College, which is the original Lutheran seminary and the earliest theological college in Australia.

The first church, built in 1845, was still used by the Lutheran school on the site, until recently.

A feature in the Lobethal cemetery are the two pine trees, which have grown separately on the graves of two early settlers, Maria Heinicke, who died on 7 March 1877 aged 19 years and Carl Pfeiffer, who died soon after on 21 April 1877 aged 22. Carl was engaged to Maria. When she became ill and died, Carl was inconsolable and died of a broken heart. These two pine trees have now intertwined and they appear to be only one tree. They are now worthy symbols standing as a tribute to their love.

20. Birdwood, formerly Blumberg

The first settlers at Blumberg, now known as Birdwood, arrived in 1847 aboard the *Hermann von Beckerath*. They had heard glowing reports about life in South Australia. Their decision to migrate was also influenced by the wide-spread failure of their staple potato crop, as well as rumours of wars and of widespread political unrest.

After travelling to Lobethal in bullock drays, they were advised by Pastor Fritzsche to continue further north to the land along the River Torrens. In early 1848, they leased land from the South Australian Company and built their homes with earthen walls

or wooden slabs and thatched roofs over saplings.

For two years the settlers worshipped in the home of the Elder, Christoph **Kruger**, (a man with a fine singing voice). In 1850, they built a small church north of the River Torrens. Then in December 1853, the congregation bought land closer to the village of Blumberg and built a larger church, the school and the required residences. Their pastor was Pastor Fritzsche, about whom a member wrote: “there beamed from his countenance benevolence and Christian kindness”.

Then in 1855, Fritzsche’s student Carl August Hensel was ordained, was called and then served in this congregation until 1882. The present “Holy Cross” Lutheran church was built in 1860 from local stones and mortar of lime and mud.

In March 1863, a Mission Rally was held at Blumberg, and it was agreed to start a mission to the Dieri Aborigines, who were living along Cooper’s Creek, where Burke and Wills had perished about two years previously. In October 1866, the mission party left Tanunda in their German wagons, preceded by a brass band.

As the sons of the farmers required more land, families moved on to Mount Gambier in 1852; to Carlsruhe in 1856; and to the Murray Flats. During the late 1860s, some Blumberg families made the six-week-long wagon trek eastwards along the Murray River, to settle at Jindera and Gerogery in New South Wales.

Acknowledgements

Lyall Kupke’s meticulous preparation, his presentation of 40 pages of historical information and his travel guidance were greatly appreciated by all of the Tour participants. They are also grateful to all of the local persons who provided assistance and helpful information and who added much to the historical background and to the enjoyment of this Wendish Tour of various pioneering settlements in South Australia.

JOHN NOACK



Library news

Recent acquisitions include:

Funeral service order, including obituary, for Judith Patricia Pelchen (nee Adler) (1938–2021)

Our last two issues of *Wendish News* included lists of funeral orders of service, including obituaries, which our Librarian, Janice Blackburn, has organized into folders. We sincerely thank the people who have donated copies of funeral orders of service to add to our records. Further contributions are very welcome. Please send them to our Society's postal address.



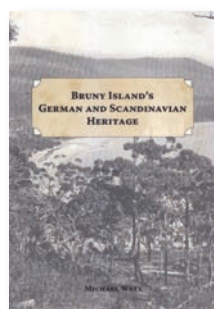
Rentsch family in Australia 1851–2020, edited by Ruth Walter

This book gives the life stories of Johann and Maria Rentsch and their descendants. It consists of 430 pages, with numerous photographs. Johann and Maria Rentsch and their four children emigrated from Bautzen, Saxony to South Australia in 1851. The descendants have now reached the seventh and eighth generations. Ruth Walter is a great, great granddaughter of Johann and Maria Rentsch. This family history includes many lively and enriching stories of her forebears.



Rozhlad (December 2020) (Sorbian cultural magazine)

This cultural magazine publishes articles in the Upper and Lower Sorbian languages. Of special interest in this edition is the interview by Gertrud Mahling of our President, Betty Huf. It covers the history of our Society and the ways in which it researches and promotes the Wendish/Sorbian and Germanic heritage and family history in Australia.



Bruny Island's German and Scandinavian Heritage, by Michael Watt (published in 2020)

Michael Watt investigates the settlements that German and Scandinavian immigrants established on Bruny Island, Tasmania in the nineteenth century. Particular families played important roles in coal mining, saw-milling and farming. The book includes detailed case histories of the following families: Abraham, Dunckel, Glau, Kaden, Ohlson and Zschachner. Appendix A lists the biographical details of all the German and Scandinavian immigrants. Appendix B lists the children of immigrants who settled on Bruny Island.



The descendants of Johann Gottfried Habel and Johanna Christiane nee Fiel in Australia, compiled by Dorothy Habel.

We thank Betty Huf for donating this copy of the Habel family genealogy to our Library.

PHOTOS OF COVERS: MICK AMPT

Our Library is open by appointment. Please contact the Secretary. See page 12 for contact details.



General News

89th Birthday Greetings: Clay Kruger



Congratulations to our Society's elder statesman, Clay Kruger, on celebrating his 89th birthday on 23 July. We are very grateful to Clay for his continued loyal service as Assistant Treasurer. Clay manages the online banking, keeps membership records up to date, prints invoices and mails out our Newsletters, in addition to other tasks behind the scenes. His dedication is an inspiration to us all!

70th Birthday Greetings: John Modra



Congratulations to our past Vice-President, John Modra, who will celebrate his 70th birthday on 26 September. We wish John many happy returns of the day. John served as Vice-President of our Society from 2015 until our AGM in April this year, when he stepped down from the Committee. John keeps in touch with local and overseas Wends via his Facebook site: www.facebook.com/groups/wendsdownunder



80th Birthday Greetings: Beryl Nagorcka

Congratulations to our Committee member Beryl Nagorcka on reaching this special milestone. Beryl celebrated her 80th birthday on 5 August. We wish Beryl many more years of good health and happiness.

Vale – Pastor Siegfried Albert

Pastor Siegfried Albert passed away on 7 July 2021. We were saddened to hear of his death from his daughter, Petra Albert. Her message reads:

Dear Zwar family, dear members and friends of the Wendish Heritage Society Australia,

I write you from Germany. I am a daughter of Pastor Siegfried Albert and his wife Annemarie. Since you honoured my father with a special tribute, I would like to inform you that my father passed away on July 7, 2021 at the age of 84.

The funeral took place in Bautzen on Thursday, July 15 and was based on the Biblical verse: "Put your life in the hands of the Lord; have faith in him and he will do it" (Psalm 37:5).

You are probably aware that my father was both a pastor in a predominantly German-speaking parish and a Sorbian superintendent until his retirement. Therefore, his funeral service was held in both languages, in German and in Sorbian / Wendish.

In sadness, but also in love and gratitude, we said goodbye to my father. "If we live, we live for the Lord. If we die, we die for the Lord. Whether we live or die, in God we are safe" (Romans 14:8).

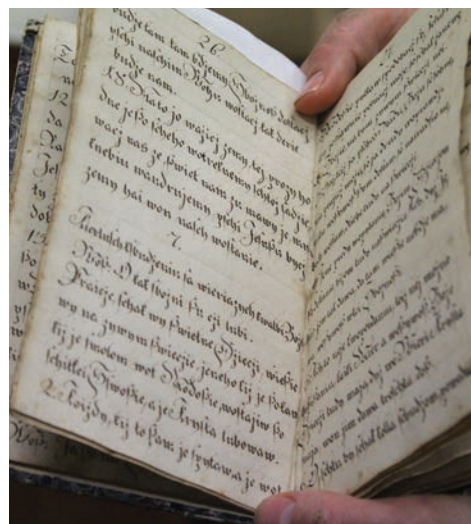
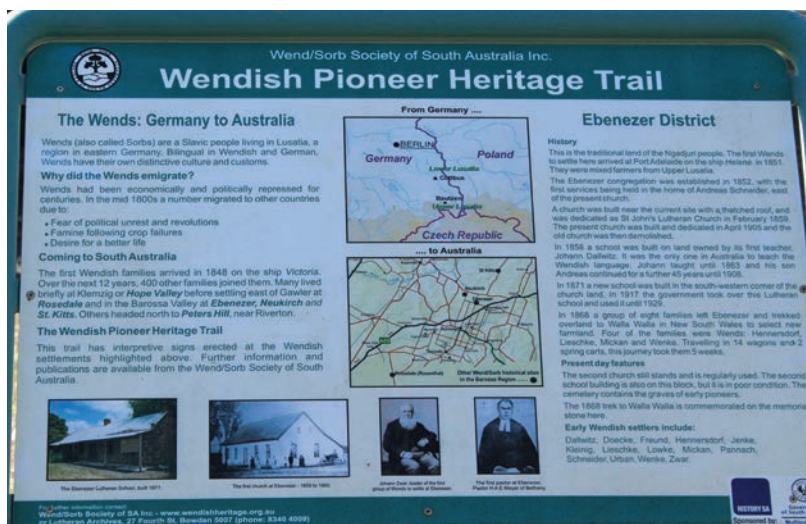
*I greet you warmly, God bless you
Petra*

Kevin and Del Zwar responded with the following tribute:

We have fond memories of Pastor Albert from our two visits to Bautzen in 1984 and 1994, and we send our sympathies to his daughter, Petra, and the rest of the family.

Pastor Albert was a huge help to Kevin over many years while researching the Zwar Wendish ancestry.

It was a privilege to attend the Wendish Festival in Radibor in 1994 where Pastor Albert conducted the opening church service in Wendish, and we sang the hymns (in our best Wendish) along with the congregation.



1. Interpretive sign at Ebenezer. 2. Devotional book (handwritten) with Bible extracts, at Lutheran Archives.

TOUR PHOTOS: JOHN NOACK AND MICK AMPT

Directory

Aims: The Wendish Heritage Society Australia Inc., researches and promotes the Wendish/Sorbian and Germanic heritage and family history in Australia.

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Meeting Room and Research Centre: St Aidan's Community Centre, 12 Surrey St, Box Hill South, Victoria. (Melway 61 C1)

Hours: By appointment. Please contact the Secretary.

Our Society Logo: The logo, an Australian gum leaf and a Lusatian linden leaf, represent the connection between the Wendish descendants in Australia and the Sorbs in Lusatia.

Membership & Newsletter Subscription: \$35 for single membership and \$40 for joint membership for one calendar year due at the start of each year. The form is included in our September Newsletter for the following year. Additional donations can also be made for the expanding work of the Society and we thank most sincerely those of you who have made such generous donations.

Publicity: We welcome any publicity which you can give about our Society and its planned events.

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