



Bus Trip – Brinkworth & surrounds

In addition to meticulous planning of interesting tours and provision of folders with maps, photos and historical notes, Eric and Ruth Fiebig again managed to pick perfect weather for our bus tour. It was held earlier this year, on Saturday 11th April. To maintain costs, it had been decided to trial use of a school bus from Immanuel College. Pick-ups began at 8 am from Immanuel and 8.30 am from South Terrace as the sunny day began.

With 47 on board, driver Garry Kakoschke headed first to Dublin, a township surveyed in 1873. Rona McDonnell (nee Huppatz) informed us of her Irish ancestors' connections with this area. Migrating from County Clare in the 1850s, Rona's great grandparents eventually settled at Lower Light in the Dublin area. Small settlements became important stopovers for copper miners en route to Port Wakefield. Today, towns like Dublin are community hubs, the centre for clubs and activities including sports, churches and Country Women's Association. Rona's daughter-in-law is an active member of the local CFS. An attractive Mallala District Lions Club Reserve with memorial garden and facilities made a welcome stop for cold drinks and biscuits.

After the township of Port Wakefield we travelled through flat scrubby saltbush country followed by cropped paddocks of wheat, patches of mallee scrub and a wind farm on low far hills. Eric mentioned his role in designing a scheme for bringing piped water to this area. Local humour was on display with a "Loch Ness monster" made of car tyres visible in Bumbunga Lake, the salt lake east of Lochiel. Saltbush plantations were evident, harvested for sheep fodder. Ruth spoke of an early German settler, Welke, who settled here in the 1860s after moving on from the Barossa. German Lutherans and English Methodists gradually spread into this region.

Passing through Snowtown with attractive old buildings including pub with verandah and one enormous blade from a wind turbine on display, we noted the St Luke's Lutheran Church, designed by Eric von Schramek.

Continuing on via a flat plain with more cropped paddocks and saltbush we reached Condowie. Settled in 1873 and a thriving community for 100 years, a Wesleyan Church was dedicated in 1880. A Primitive Methodist chapel was begun in 1876 but closed in 1895 and used as a school. A new Methodist church was built in 1911. Early Lutheran settlers included Dohnt, Lehmann (a Wend?), Mattner, Ottens, Welke and Wundke. The first Lutheran church was built in 1878 on land donated by G F Welke. A second, larger church was built in 1882, and finally St John's Lutheran Church. Constructed opposite the Methodist church, it served from 1923 to 1988. Apparently in 1942 a newly-married couple, Eldon & Edna Wundke, decided to sit together and changed the practice at that time of men sitting on one side of the church, women and children the other. After closing, St

John's church was sold and removed but a cairn remains in the open field. Erected in the shape of a church, it features the original foundation stone and plaque. Christine Longmire, nee Wundke, explained she was baptized, confirmed and married here (to John!). The cemetery nearby includes graves for Dolling, Ottens, Welke and Wundke.



John & Christine Longmire at the Condowie cairn

Research notes provided by Eric and Ruth Fiebig noted the history of a series of Lutheran schools. Classes were often conducted in homes or the church building.

Finally we reached Brinkworth and St John's Lutheran Church for lunch. In their hall, congregational members served up a delicious meal starting with a wonderful range of casseroles, lasagnes, salads, rice and potatoes in their jackets. Dessert was fruit salad elegantly served up with cream and topped with strawberries. Although we tried to help out with some enjoying second and even third helpings, there was actually some left over!



Ruth Fiebig presents our book to our Brinkworth hosts, Helen Weckert & Coral Dutschke

Brinkworth was settled in the 1860s as a railway junction, with lines to Gladstone and Kadina now closed. Early settlers included the Beinke, Heinrich, Hentschke and Schumann families who started church services in their homes in 1875, conducted by Pastor Ey from Karlsruhe until Pastor Meyer

was called as first pastor. The Lutheran congregation next rented the local Wesleyan church and then the Bible Christian Church. Finally at nearby Angle Grove they built a church in 1891. It was closed in 1909, but although there is now no church its cemetery is still in use. In 1909 the current St John's Lutheran Church was built in Brinkworth.

Helen Weckert introduced us to the history and features of St John's. It benefited from the addition in 1925 of oak furniture handcrafted by local Gus Schultze. When Condowie church closed in 1988, St John's acquired its Wurlitzer organ and pews. Another feature is 2 large seven-branched candelabra or candlesticks in the shape of the Menorah.



Helen Weckert in front of the Tamke altar at St John's, Brinkworth

Helen also explained about the *Native Flora - Living Herbarium* where local enthusiasts aim to preserve the natural history of Brinkworth and adjoining districts. Backing on to the church is senna shrubland - the last remnant remaining in this area. Along with the Australian Plant Society, the aim is to propagate plant varieties in this shrubland and restore the local flora.

We then split into two groups. One group headed for the Angle Grove cemetery in the bus. Quite a few kilometres from the church, it is well kept and full of German names like Heinjus, Waldhuter and Weckert - who originally donated the land. In 1876 a school, probably Lutheran, was started at Angle Grove in a disused wine shop. It was later transferred to a Bible Christian church building at nearby Magpie Creek.



Angle Grove Cemetery

The second group walked to the Brinkworth Historical Reserve Museum, located in the former Catholic church next door to St John's. Helen Weckert again spoke on the efforts of the local community in supporting its work. The museum holds records relating to all churches in the area as well as local Aboriginal heritage. It also provides changing thematic displays, and the current one was on agricultural machinery.

Fascinating to see photos and history of the sowing and harvesting equipment used early last century. Rona McDonnell was surprised to see that the first EF Troy stained glass window, on the right when entering, was dedicated by JJ Maloney to the memory of his parents. He was cousin to Rona's Irish grandmother who had settled at nearby Blyth.

Amongst many interesting memorabilia, photos and artifacts was a display of copies of old church minutes. The original minute books with German text were deposited with Lutheran Archives, but not before they were translated into English. One meeting noted that a vote was to be held at the following meeting, to decide who should exit the church first at the end of services - men or women. Since only men could vote at the time, good manners must have come to the fore, as the next meeting's minutes revealed that it was voted that women should exit first.

Our two groups then swapped over, thus providing manageable numbers for seeing through the museum at any one time. Too soon it was time to leave.

Continuing on through Blyth we saw their modern Lutheran church with a swept back roof, also designed by Eric von Schramek. Travelling further we saw a few cattle, sheep and even goats, but mostly flat dry farmland with saltbush and sparse trees and shrubs. The small village of Whitwarta was settled before Balaklava, and the first European woman to set foot on SA soil, Susanna Adams nee Fabian, is buried here. We finally reached the larger township of Balaklava for welcome refreshments, including ice creams and coffee. The attractive shopping area, wide streets and central grassy park was an invitation for some of us to stretch our legs.

Leaving Balaklava, the distant cemetery of Dalkey was pointed out, where settlers including the well-known Traeger family and also Beinke, Fuchs, Hoepner, Neumann, Schaeche, Zacher and the Wend Krueger are represented. Our tour continued through plains of bleached reaped crops serviced by huge grain stores - silos on our right, sheds on the left. At Mallala there are 6 roads which meet in the centre of the town, marked by a war memorial.

We learned that one major aspect of pioneers in all these settlement was their dedication to their Christian faith and determination to maintain this through the early construction of churches and providing some form of education, with or without schools. Whether Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist or Presbyterian, this faith enabled them to survive the hard work and poor seasons which tested their endurance. Being so close to Goyder's Line meant unreliable rains and a reducing population as wheat growing holdings were enlarged to become viable. It is sad that with reduced congregations so many church buildings have now disappeared.

Finally we returned safely to Adelaide after yet another informative and enjoyable bus trip. Although not connected to many Wendish settlers, it was an excellent overview of the early pioneers, the formation of communities and the valuing of all our ancestry.

Pauline Burger

Coming Events

Sun 19th July Talk: Our visit to Lusatia

Speaker: Lois Denham. Lois visited the Wendish lands last year and will share her experiences with us. At St Andrew's Lutheran Church Hall (22 Avenue Rd, Glynde). All welcome.

Sun 30th August Annual General Meeting

Followed by a presentation on **The Wends at War: Wendish Australian soldiers in World War One.**

At St Andrew's Lutheran Church Hall (22 Avenue Rd, Glynde). All welcome.

From the President

Our Bus Trip to Condowie, Brinkworth and Balaklava on Saturday 11th April was another very enjoyable day. Thanks go again to the organisers, Ruth and Eric Fiebig. If you were not on the trip, you can read the detailed report by Pauline Burger and get an idea of what you missed. Our bus was almost fully booked once again, so this is a reminder to book seats early next year.

The Wendish Heritage Exhibition at Burnside Library on 28th May was also well-received. This has become a very popular event in the last years. Some people I spoke to said they regularly attend events at the Burnside Library and they had no Wendish connection at all. But they were delighted to learn about the Wendish settlers in South Australia and to hear about their culture. Thanks go to Marie Brazier for arranging this event with the Burnside Library staff, who are so welcoming and helpful.

Our next meeting (19 July) will be interesting and informative as Lois Denham tells of her experiences travelling through Lusatia last year.

Earlier this year Australians commemorated the landing of the Anzacs at Gallipoli 100 years ago. Over the next three years people throughout the world will be reflecting on the centenary of World War One. Perhaps it seemed that we were bombarded with television and radio programs about many aspects of the war. But I believe it is very important that we do reflect on the service and sacrifice of all who were affected by this terrible conflict. The television and radio programs helped us do just that.

Our Wend/Sorb Society would also like to remember the contribution of our Wendish ancestors in this conflict. The committee has been discussing this and you can read about our project on pages 6 & 7.

Meanwhile at our AGM on 30th August some committee members will share the stories of their Wendish relatives who served in the Australian armed forces during the Great War, as it was known then. It promises to be an interesting afternoon, so put it in your diary now.

Lyall Kupke

Sympathy

We express our sympathy to the family and friends of these members who died recently:

Pastor Len Loffler

Dulcie Tscharke. Dulcie had been a committee member for some years. She was a well-respected historian of the Barossa Valley and a great supporter of our Society.

Wendish Heritage Event at Burnside

The Wend/Sorb Society of SA again participated in the History SA Festival month in the afternoon of May 28th. We are very grateful to the Burnside Library for providing the opportunity to educate the community, share our heritage and promote our activities. Posters advertising the Event had been placed in the Library and other community places since February.

More than 90 patrons paid to attend. There were more requests to attend, but limits are imposed for safety reasons. Most of the committee and some Society members also participated with items and books on display. A program was printed and distributed to participants. Our mannequin was dressed in the beautiful and rare wedding dress that reminded one of the green forest colours.



Introduction was by Lyall Kupke, President of Wend/Sorb Society of SA, who gave a background of the Wends, our Society and its activities.

Professor Norm Habel, the author of *Tree Whisperer*, gave a power point discussion about Wendish heritage and his search for his family roots. He spoke about the Wend awareness of ecology and spirituality and their agricultural practices. The Wendish settlers were known as honourable, honest people who stood up for the rights of others. He spoke about the Wendish settlers'

understanding, compassion, harmony, and awareness of social justice for the indigenous people of this land. Dr Habel spoke about the Wends suffering in their previous homeland and thus their kinship with the indigenous people. There was much interaction between Dr Habel and the audience throughout his presentation.



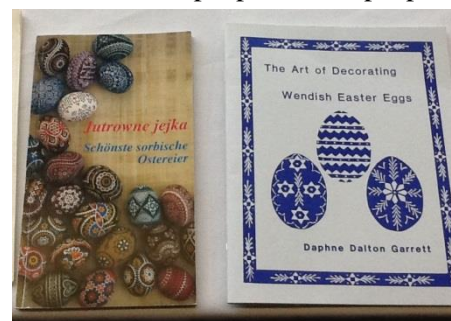
After Dr Habel we enjoyed Ruth Walter's talk on the Sorb anthem and flag. The sombre Sorb/Wend anthem was heard for the first time by many in the audience. The Library put the anthem on DVD for us, so now we can play the anthem at events.

Unfortunately the dance film from Germany could not be played due to time constraints. However, the audience enjoyed the DVD, with editing by Eric Fiebig, of the renowned Wendish custom of painted Easter eggs.



A delicious afternoon tea was served for over 100 people whilst people networked.

Wendish heritage information was available at a special table by Brian Hennig, who was kept busy with many enquiries.



The Wakefield Press also attended with books of interest such as the Barossa Valley cookbooks, German painters, and a new book about the internment of Germans in South Australia during the First World War. The Society also sold many books and gave out membership forms.

Many thanks to the Burnside Library staff and Society members involved for their great assistance and support to make this event successful.

Marie Brazier

Kollosche family - 160th Anniversary

A family reunion was held in Birdwood, South Australia, on the occasion of the 160th anniversary of the arrival of George Kolosche in Australia.

It was a warm spring Saturday, the 4th day of October 2014, when descendants of George and Auguste Kolosche gathered at the Lutheran Church cemetery to commemorate 160 years since the arrival of George Kolosche in 1854 on our Australian shore.



The event planning commenced on a wet windy day in August 2012, when four cousins met at the same Lutheran Church cemetery in Birdwood, along with the cemetery curator Lois, who was able to positively identify the location of George's grave. Over a hearty lunch in the Blumberg Hotel next to a cosy fire, plans were hatched, and over the following two years a commemorative plaque was commissioned, and the word went out about the gathering. Shortly before the event the grave was repaired and the plaque installed.



Brian Kollosche unveils the plaque

On the day fifty relatives were in attendance to celebrate the unveiling of the plaque for George and Auguste. Andrew Kollosche, Master of Ceremony, addressed the audience with a short speech giving an overview of what led up to that moment. Then elder statesman Brian Kollosche had the honour of unveiling it.

The smorgasbord luncheon at the Blumberg Hotel, Birdwood, was a great success; family members rekindled old friendships and made new ones over a relaxing afternoon. The management of the pub generously provided a huge cake in honour of the occasion.

A sincere thank you to all who generously donated to the installation of the plaque. A donation was made to Birdwood Lutheran Cemetery to assist with general maintenance and preservation.

Saturday was a great day, the weather was kind, the company genial; you could say all was right with the world.

Let's not leave it so long to get together again!

Andrew Kollosche



Australian Wends in the Great War

Do you have any Wendish relatives who were involved in the Great War (1914-1918)?

When the Great War (now known as the First World War, or World War One, or WW1) began in August 1914, Australia had a population of just under 5 million. During 1914-1918, about 416,000 men enlisted, 60,000 of whom died and 156,000 were wounded. In his book, *German Anzacs*, John F Williams estimates that 18,000 Australians 'of enemy origin' (that is, with German ancestry) could have served overseas in the 1st AIF. Amongst these would be many of Wendish ancestry. They enlisted to fight for their birth country, despite the official suspicion in those times about anyone of German origin.

As Australia commemorates the sacrifices made during WW1, our Wend/Sorb Society is interested in identifying those of Wendish descent who fought and possibly died for this country.

Examples of Wends who served are:

DULDIG, Oswald Rudolf

Service no. 6242, 10th Australian Infantry Battalion; Killed in action, Belgium, 20 September 1917, aged 23.

HUPPATZ, Frank Ernest

Service no. 5840, 43rd Australian Infantry Battalion; Died of illness 16 December 1916, aged 23. Buried in Tidworth, England.

HUPPATZ, John Edward

Service no. 6990, 1st Australian Infantry Battalion; Enlisted 13 August 1917. Returned to Australia 28 August 1919.

In our next newsletter we will start an **Honour Roll**, which we will add to over the next three years. At the end we may consider also publishing a booklet with details of these servicemen.

We invite you to contribute the names of anyone of Wendish ancestry who served in WW1. Do you know of members of your family? Were there any women who served as nurses etc.?

You may include as much information as you like about these men and women. Here are some categories to guide you:

Name (full name or alias)

Mother's maiden name (if the surname isn't Wendish, but Wendish ancestry comes from the mother)

Date & place of birth

Home town

Occupation at enlistment

Religion at enlistment (sometimes Lutherans mentioned a different church to avoid being noticed)

Service no.

Enlistment date

Military unit (Battalion, Company etc.)

Rank

Where served

Details & years of service

Fate (details of death, or return to Australia)

Decorations (medals)

Any interesting information or stories

Photograph

How do you get this information? See the instructions on the next page.

Send your information to Lyall Kupke, 6 Emes Court, Athelstone SA 5076, or email to kupkell@yahoo.com

How to search for the military service records of your relative.

The best source of information is in the military records which are kept at the Australian War Memorial. All military service records have been digitised and can be viewed (and printed out) on your home computer.

They can be accessed easily by going to the National Archives of Australia website: www.naa.gov.au

Then follow these steps:

Under the heading, The Collection, click on War service records

Under the heading, Australian Army, click on World War 1

Under the heading, Name Search, click on NameSearch

Click on RecordSearch

Click on Name Search

Enter Family name

Select Category of records = World War 1

Click on Search

Click on Display

Under heading, Digitised item (or View digital copy) there is a picture of sheets of paper. Click on this picture.

This will show you the military file for your serviceman. You can read it through and get the detailed information you need, and print them if you wish.

Below are photos of **Benno Oscar Hennig**, who served at Gallipoli and in France in the years 1914-1918. His Wendish ancestry is from his mother who was a Fladrich. He came from Cambrai, SA, which was known as Rhine Villa when he enlisted in September 1914. He was working as a wheelwright, and he gave his religion as Lutheran. He served in the 16th Battalion, rising up the ranks from private to sergeant. He returned to Australia in October 1918 and was discharged on 12 December 1918 to return to his wife and family. He lived a long life, dying in 1973, aged 78 years.



Sgt Ben Hennig



Ben Hennig

At our AGM (30 August) you can hear more stories about Ben Hennig and other Wendish Australians who served in WW1.

For Sale

Books from Germany - in English:

- *Easter with the Sorbs* - \$1, plus \$1 postage
- Korall & Schwikart, *Journey through the Spree Forest* (in English with lovely pictures) - \$35, plus \$10 postage

Also the best books about the Wends in Australia:

- Burger, *The Coming of the Wends* - \$12, plus \$3 postage
- Nielsen, *In Search of a Home* (second edition, hard cover) - \$40, plus \$10 postage
- Malinkowa, *Shores of Hope* - \$30, plus \$10 postage

CDs:

- *From Wendish to German to English (A Journey into Wendish Culture, History & Language)*
This marvellous CD has been produced by the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. It contains English narration, German and Wendish singing by a German choir performing at Texas in 2002, talks by noted Wendish (Sorbian) historians Dr George Nielsen and Gertrud Mahling (Trudla Malinkowa). George Nielsen talks about Wendish migration to Australia. *A real treat!*
Cost = \$30, plus \$3 postage

New CDs:

Cost \$10 each, plus \$3 postage

- Kocor, *Serbski kwas* (The Sorbian wedding). [Operatic in style, joyful, recurring folk themes.]
- Kocor, *Naleco* (Spring). [Majestic oratorio, with memorable, joyful and folk-like themes]
- Zahraj nam rejiku (*Sorbische Folklore mit Sprjewjan*) [Lively folk music, instrumental and vocal work]
- Krawc-Schneider, *Missa Solemnis* [Solemn impassioned classical work, organ and choir, sung in Latin]

Calendars:

I will take orders for Calendars for 2016 – with scenes from Lusatia

These are really beautiful, and they make great Christmas presents. You must order *straight away*, so that we can get them from Germany before the end of the year.

Cost = \$25, plus \$10 postage

Contact Ruth Walter, 43 Clifton St, Prospect SA 5082, (tel. 08 8269 7168),
email: ruth.walter43@gmail.com (**Note new email address)

Please make cheques or money orders to Wend Sorb Society of South Australia.

We welcome any contributions to this newsletter. Please send them to the Editor at the address below.

This newsletter was published by the **Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia Inc.**

President: Lyall Kupke

Secretary: Pauline Burger

Treasurer: Leona Coleman

Editor: Lyall Kupke.

Correspondence to the President: Lyall Kupke, at 6 Emes Court, Athelstone SA 5076

email: kupkell@yahoo.com

tel: (08) 8365 2572