



## Trudla has come!

*Trudla Malinkowa writes:* Thank you, dear Wendish friends in Australia!

From 10 October to 13 November 2018 I had the opportunity to visit the descendants of the Wendish immigrants to Australia. Geoff Saegenschnitter had invited me for such a visit for years, but because of personal reasons it was not possible to accept this invitation sooner. Together with the President of the Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia, Lyall Kupke from Adelaide, and the committee of the Society, Geoff organized my stay in South Australia till 26 October, focused mainly on the Barossa Valley and the Adelaide area.

The second part of my visit was organized by the President of the Wendish Heritage Society Australia, Betty Huf from Tarrington, together with the committee of that Society. The stay in Victoria included also a visit to the German/Wendish sites in the Western District and the Wimmera, as well as the Walla Walla district in New South Wales.

According to my interest, that was focused primarily on the traces that Wends left in the different Australian states and areas, my hosts together with the help of many others, organized a wonderful program. So I was able to see the main Wendish places in Australia, the settlements and farms where the Wends lived, the churches where they worshipped and the cemeteries where they found their rest. It was moving to stand at the graves of many persons that I knew from the history of the Wendish emigration, which were familiar to me because I read their letters and therefore knew about their hardships and difficulties, as well as their joys and hopes in their new homeland.

It was also interesting to learn something about the work of the two Wendish societies, about their efforts to keep the Wendish tradition in Australia. I am happy that I could visit the libraries and archives of both societies in Adelaide and Melbourne, to see the old religious books in Upper and Lower Wendish languages, which the immigrants had taken with them from their homeland as spiritual food in their mother tongue, as well as the unique collections of newer publications about the Wends and their history.

It was a pleasure for me to meet members and committee members of the Wendish societies, as

well as the historical societies in the Barossa Valley, SA, and Walla Walla, NSW. I was pleased that my four talks about "The Wends (Sorbs) in Germany and in Australia" that I presented in Tanunda, Melbourne, Ballarat and Walla Walla found interested audiences. It was a special challenge for me, because they were my first talks in English. I was honoured to launch the new book by Robert Wuchatsch, "Särka to Westgarthtown", in Ziebell's farmhouse in Westgarthtown.



*Trudla at the Klemzig pioneer memorial*

And last, but not least, I was happy to meet so many kind people, who showed me around, drove many hundreds of kilometres with me, did a lot of organizing, hosted me in their homes, took me to interesting people, historical museums, memorial stones, old and young Wendish linden trees, tourist places and special restaurants, shared their time with me, and did all that so well that I felt like I was at home.

Since I returned home in the middle of November I already have had the opportunity to inform the people in Lusatia about my Australian experiences. There have been two broadcasts of interviews with me on the Wendish radio, a short one of some minutes and a long one of a whole hour. The Saxon German newspaper published a whole page about my Australian research and visit. In December I presented my first speech on this topic in Bautzen; another speech will be held in February, also in Bautzen. On 22 November there was Robert Wuchatsch's German book launch in Bautzen. I am pleased that I could make contact with two Australian ladies, one interested in Wendish music, the other in the Wendish language. And I am happy

that at the last possible date I was able to include Australia in a book about Wendish memorials that will be published in 2019.

My visit in October/November last year was my first stay in Australia. I am sure I will never forget it. It was only possible because of the kindness and

support of many people in Australia. Therefore I cannot say anything but: Thank you, dear Wendish friends in Australia!

Gertrud Mahling / Trudla Malinkowa  
Bautzen, Germany, January 10, 2019

## *President's AGM Report* (given on 12 Aug 2018)

2018 has been an active year for us once again. We have presented a range of activities for members to participate in.

The annual bus trip has become a regular feature now for around 20 years and we have visited many different places in the country, both near and far. This year we decided to stay within the suburbs and so a bus was not needed. Our Not-a-Bus trip in April followed the footsteps of our ancestors from Klemzig to Hope Valley. Our Wendish ancestors generally spent their early years at one of these two places before they moved further out into the country. We visited the Klemzig Pioneer Cemetery, the Hope Valley Cemetery, and the Tea Tree Gully Heritage Museum (formerly Highercombe Hotel Folk Museum). A tasty and relaxing lunch was had at the Tea Tree Gully Hotel.

Do we have an offer to organise next year's trip? Our members have always enjoyed these excursions and look forward to them each year. If you would like to help organise one or have any ideas, please let the committee know.

Burnside Library once again invited us to contribute during History SA month in May. Australian Wends in World War One was the topic and five of our committee members told the stories of the contribution of their relatives in the armed forces. Families mentioned were Dalitz, Duldig, Noll (a Schuppan descendant), Herrmann (Rentsch descendants) and Zwar. This was an interesting presentation and was well received.

Stories of our Wendish ancestors in Australia (Burger, Dalitz, Rentsch, Kleinig, Pech, Zwar, and Hondow) were told by four committee members at our meeting in July. We were pleased to have a large audience to enjoy them.

Fellowship and German food have been enjoyed on two occasions: at the German Club in November, and at the Old Mill restaurant in Hahndorf in April. Our next one will be held at the German Club on Sat 3 November at 12 noon. We welcome anyone who can come.

We continue to use our newsletter to advertise our meetings and inform about Wendish history and culture. Please send us any interesting articles you write or find so that we can publish them. A number of members now receive the newsletter by email in colour. If you also wish to get it by email, make sure you tell us.

Our Honour Roll of Australian Wends in the Great War has created much interest. Thanks to the many people who submitted names and details. We have now listed 65 servicemen. We will continue to publish any further names that are submitted.

There has been some progress on the booklet about the Wends in South Australia this year. We will try to complete this next year.

Finally, my thanks go to the hard-working committee, especially for the contributions of their families' stories at our meetings. Our Secretary Pauline Burger keeps good records of our meetings. Treasurer Leona Coleman carefully manages our finances. Ruth Walter efficiently handles our book sales. Other members are very supportive. On behalf of all our members I thank all committee members for the time and effort you give to our society.

*Lyall Kupke*

# Coming Events

## **Sat 9<sup>th</sup> – Mon 11<sup>th</sup> March Wendish Heritage Society's Weekend Tour**

At Mt Gambier in South Australia. Tour leader is Betty Huf.

It is proposed to visit historic sites relating to the ministry of Pastor Schürmann to the early German settlers.

Other places include the Tantanoola Cave, Naracoorte caves, Engelbrecht Cave and Port MacDonnell.

Please make your own accommodation arrangements.

Please book by 28 February with Betty Huf: tel. (03) 5572 4959, email [bettyhuf@westvic.com.au](mailto:bettyhuf@westvic.com.au)

## **Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April Bus trip: 1852 Historic Wend Wagon Trek**

Following part of the trek of the pioneers from Rosedale to Portland, Victoria. We visit Callington, Wellington, Strathalbyn and Prospect Hill.

Details on the separate flyer with this newsletter. Book EARLY!

## **Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1 pm Talk: Working with draught horses**

Don Ross used draught horses on his farm in the Barossa throughout his life. He will share his experiences and talk about the importance of horses in the working life of our 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century ancestors (Wendish, German and English).

At City of Burnside Library in the Burnside Civic Centre, 401 Greenhill Rd, Tasmore. Parking at the back.

This is one of the events of the *SA History Festival* in May.

See the 2019 program ([www.historyfestival.sa.gov.au](http://www.historyfestival.sa.gov.au)) for booking details. Bookings (in April) are essential.

## **Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2 pm Talk: Stories of our Wendish Ancestors**

Rona McDonnell and Dennis Jenke will tell the stories of their Wendish ancestors (Huppatz, Jenke).

**\*\* NOTE:** Different venue - at the Glynde Lutheran Homes hall (**24 Avenue Rd, Glynde**). All welcome.

## **Sun 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2 pm Annual General Meeting**

**\*\* NOTE:** Different venue - at the Glynde Lutheran Homes hall (**24 Avenue Rd, Glynde**). All welcome.

# From the President

The Victorian Wendish long weekend in March is on again. This year the Victorians are coming to South Australia: to Mt Gambier in the South East. As usual they invite us to join them. Note that you will need to book with Betty Huf (details above). Germans were among the early settlers at the Mount, and they were ministered to by Pastor Schürmann from Hochkirch (Tarrington) in Victoria, where many Wends had settled. You will need to find your own accommodation. It promises to be another enjoyable weekend.

Our Bus Trip on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April will follow part of the trail taken by those first Wends at Rosenthal (Rosedale) who moved to Victoria in 1852. We will take the section between Callington and Wellington on the River Murray. An interesting program has been organised. It's guaranteed to be popular, so make sure you book your seats early. Check the booking form enclosed. Note that the starting point is at the spot on South Tce which we have used many times before.

In May, as part of the SA History month festival, Don Ross will talk about the role of draught horses in the lives of the pioneer settlers. This will be held at the Burnside Library once again and you will need to book with the library. Details will be in the History Festival program booklet (or on the website) in April.

We have not organised any lunches at the German Club this year, because the German Club has sold their premises and will be moving to a new venue (as yet unknown).

Please note that our meetings on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and 25<sup>th</sup> August will be held at the hall in the Glynde Lutheran retirement homes at **24 Avenue Rd, Glynde**. This is the hall we have used many times before.

*Lyall Kupke*

# Australian Wends in the Great War



As Australia commemorates the sacrifices made during World War I, our Wend/Sorb Society is interested in identifying those Australians of Wendish descent who fought and/or died for this country. When the Wendish ancestry comes from the mother, we record her maiden name. Unless otherwise stated they served on the Western Front.

We continue (from five previous newsletters) the record of the Wends who served:

ALTUS, Frederick Wilhelm, from Wilkawatt, SA; 5<sup>th</sup> Pioneers Battalion; Returned to Australia June-July 1919.

DOMASCHENZ, Adolf, from Jeparit, Vic; 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion; Returned to Australia Jan-March 1919.

LIESCHKE, George Albert, from Anlaby, SA; 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, served at Gallipoli; Died of illness 3 May 1915, aged 28, buried Mundros East Cemetery, Lemnos Island.

LUCAS, Conrad Martin, from Paddington, NSW; 9<sup>th</sup> Field Company Engineers; Died of pneumonia 16 March 1918, aged 27, buried Cambridge Cemetery, England.

MIATKE, Edwin Anthony, from Riverton, SA; 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion, served at Gallipoli and Western Front; Returned to Australia Aug-Oct 1917.

MIATKE, Frederick Alick, from Walkerville, SA; 16<sup>th</sup> & 48<sup>th</sup> Battalions; Killed in action, 11 April 1917, aged 33, no known grave.

MIATKE, Walter William Roy, from Nailsworth, SA; 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion, served in Egypt; Returned to Australia June-July 1916.

NOACK, Martin Herman, from Pingelly, WA; 51<sup>st</sup> Battalion; Returned to Australia March-May 1919.

STARICK, John Edward, from Antwerp, Vic; 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion; Killed in action at Gallipoli, 8 May 1915, aged 21, buried Redoubt Cemetery, Cape Helles, Gallipoli.

We now have listed 74 servicemen. We will add to this list in the next newsletters as new names come in. If you have other names to submit, please contact the Editor (see contact details on back page).

## Sympathy

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

Tessa Beneke

# Stories of Australian Wendish soldiers

On 10 May 2018 at the Burnside Library, the Wend/Sorb Society of SA proudly presented the topic, *Australian Wends who served in World War One* (WW1). When Australia was called to fight the Germans in WW1 many Australians of Wendish descent joined up to defend their homeland. Committee members recounted the stories of their ancestors in a well-attended morning session, attended by about 50 people.

Leona Coleman spoke of typical war stories of three cousins connected with the **Schuppan** family, who arrived in Australia from Tauer, Lusatia, in 1858. Oswald and Bertram **Duldig** both enlisted in the army at Burra on 4 May 1916. Oswald was from World's End and Bertram was probably from Peter's Hill, though he gave his address as Riverton. Bert **Noll** of Wilmington enlisted in Adelaide a few weeks later on 22 June. All three were farmers or farm labourers; Bertram was 26 years, and Oswald and Bert, both 22 years. They all undertook basic training at Mitcham and sailed from Adelaide on 28 August 1916 on the *Anchisis* as part of the 10th Battalion, arriving at Plymouth England on 11 October. These three men served on the Western Front. On 20 September 1917 Oswald was killed in action in Belgium.

Ruth Walter presented three **Herrmann** brothers named Ben, Edward (Kelly) and Albert (Jock). They were born in Hamilton, Victoria, in the 1890s and came from a farming background. Their mother was third generation Wendish Australian (**Rentsch**) and their father was German Australian. Ben served at Gallipoli and in France, where he was killed in August 1916. Kelly and Jock were both seriously wounded.



Ruth Walter

Marie Brazier and Ruth Fiebig presented their ancestor: the famous surgeon Dr Bernard **Zwar**, the son of Wendish leader Johann Zwar. Dr Zwar was born on 20 June 1876 in Stockwell, SA. He was appointed a Major in the Australian Imperial Force in Oct 1914 and allotted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Stationary Hospital. Dr Zwar tended the wounded at Gallipoli landing and later served in Egypt as a Medical Officer.



Dr Bernard Zwar

Pauline Burger presented the **Dalitz** brothers from Dimboola, Victoria. There were ten sons and three daughters in the family; five sons enlisted in the Australian army. The first to enlist in June 1915 were Frederick William (Bill) aged 29, a Methodist blacksmith, and Alwyn Clarence (Clarrie) aged 21, a Methodist carpenter. Bill was injured at Gallipoli in 1915 and recovered at Heliopolis, Egypt. In April 1917 he was awarded the Military Medal for guiding wagons to safety for 72 hours. Clarrie was captured on the Hindenburg Line on 11 April 1917 and sent to the German POW Camp (Güstrow Lager) until Armistice Day. The next two to enlist in March 1916 were Henry Charles (Chas) aged 24, a Presbyterian bricklayer, and Carl Walter (Wally) aged 19, a Lutheran grocer. Wally was killed in action in May 1917. In March 1918 Ernst Oswald (Os), a Presbyterian postman, enlisted.

In conclusion, these young men of Wendish heritage were proud to serve their nation and fight in World War One, but suffered much trauma, injuries and illnesses as a result. They are an inspiration to their descendants.

Marie Brazier



## Anti-German feelings during the Great War

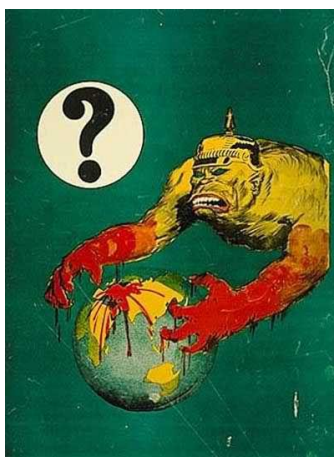
With this article I wanted to reveal how anti-German feelings affected one Wendish family at home in Australia during the Great War.

The project, Australian Wends in the Great War, has shown that many Australians of Wendish descent enlisted to fight for their country. John F. Williams, author of *German ANZACS*, has estimated that 18,000 Australians of German and Wendish ancestry enlisted, many of whom served overseas in World War One.

However, back home there were strong anti-German sentiments mostly based on surnames and place names, especially in South Australia with the renaming of towns, for example Blumberg to Birdwood. It was even to the extent that King George V by royal proclamation changed the name of the British Royal Family from the German Saxe-Coburg and Gotha to the English Windsor.



Anti-German poster



Anti-German poster

My branch of the Kollosche family has no documentation of such sentiment and was not adversely affected by the Great War as my

grandfather was a boy of 14 years in 1914. By war's end he was still too young to serve.

However other branches of the Kollosche family were not so fortunate!

In 2016 Jim Dunstan of Vaucluse, Sydney, who had become interested in Kollosche family history, contacted me. Jim is the son of Sir Donald Dunstan, former State Governor of South Australia. He related a Great War incident told to him as a boy of the Dunstan family.

*Sir Donald's grandfather, Johannes Kollosche (B.A., M.A. 1901) was a well-liked South Australian primary teacher of some 16 years. In 1915 he was headmaster of Croydon Public School, when unexpectedly while teaching class he was arrested, taken to the local police station and locked up, classified as an 'enemy alien'. Parents, students and teachers made a delegation to the police station demanding his release. Thankfully because of their intervention he was released later that day.*

I have tried to verify this story by searching the South Australian Police Gazette online, but have found no report of the event!

Some years earlier, before being informed of the above incident, I had obtained a copy of a letter from Mary Langley (Johannes' daughter) to Ern Kolosche, dated March 1970. In the letter, as support of the above incident, Mary writes, "*To this day, Croydon signifies for me anti-German feelings bluntly expressed, family worries about the boys (brothers Harold, Gustav & Oscar) who were away at war, and the beginnings of my father's very serious illness*".

Following their return from the Great War, Harold, Gustav and Oscar changed their surnames from Kollosche to their mother's maiden name of Dunstan.

If you would like to read more about enemy aliens during the Great War visit "The Enemy at Home" website:

<http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/exhibition/enemyathome/the-enemy-at-home/index.html>.

Andrew Kollosche.  
(pronounced Kollo-sch-a.)

## Our new Website:

**[www.wendsorbsociety.org.au](http://www.wendsorbsociety.org.au)**

Our society now has a website! We encourage you to have a look at it.

It contains information about the Wend/Sorb Society of SA, its aims, its committee, and the events we are organising. We have included information about the Wendish Pioneer Heritage Trail, past newsletters, books for sale and various articles about Wendish history, culture and families. We have also listed the Australian Wends who served in World War One.

Our thanks go to Andrew Kollosche, from Armidale, NSW, for building and managing this website for us. Andrew has been involved in the computer industry in his working life and has set up a number of websites for various organisations. He is a member of our society and has researched and published the Kollosche family history (see his article on page 6). We really appreciate his willingness to assist us.

When you have checked the website out, let us know what you think. Any suggestions will be considered.

### **Change of venue for meetings**

For many years we have been holding our meetings in the hall at the Glynde Lutheran retirement homes complex. Last year this building was demolished and we had to meet elsewhere while a new replacement was being built.

The new hall has now been completed. So our meetings this year will be held again in this new hall at this address (**24 Avenue Rd, Glynde**).

Parking is available in the nearby carpark and in the surrounding streets.

## **Walla Walla Trek**

Our Wendish ancestors in Australia often had to travel long distances to get to new settlements. Our bus trip this year retraces part of the trek made by those Wends who first settled at Rosedale, but who then decided to move to Portland in Victoria. Eight families travelled overland with wagons and livestock for four weeks in 1852.

150 years ago, in 1868, another group of Wends and Germans travelled from the Barossa Valley in SA to the southern Riverina in NSW. Eight families and two single men totalling 56 people left from Ebenezer, SA, on 13 October 1868. There were 30 adults and 26 children (15 years and under). The leader of the group was Johann Gottlieb Klemke senior. The families were Fischer, Hennersdorf, Klemke, Lieschke, Mickan, Terlich and Wenke. Schmidt and Luhrs were the single men. Hennersdorf, Lieschke, Mickan and Wenke were Wendish families. They used 14 wagons and two spring carts (and 31 horses) to transport their possessions.

They travelled along the north side of the River Murray from Blanchetown to Wentworth where they crossed the River Darling by punt. At Balranald they crossed the River Murrumbidgee by punt and then followed along the Edward River to Deniliquin. They headed to Tocumwal on the River Murray and followed it to Albury. Then they went to the German settlement at nearby Jindera, arriving on 20 November 1868. In January 1869 they selected land at Walla Walla and established the settlement there.

In October 2018, as part of their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, about 90 people from Walla Walla re-enacted this trek over 5 days by car.

# For Sale

## Books from Germany - in English:

- *The Sorbs of Germany* - \$10, plus \$3 postage
- *Upper Lusatia* - \$15, plus \$3 postage
- *Bautzen* - \$12, plus \$3 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

**NEW book:** *Five Centuries: The Wends and the Reformation* - \$40, 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]

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

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.*

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