

Trudla receives Honour

Last year Trudla Malinkowa and her husband Jan Malink were awarded the Čišinski Prize 2021 from the Foundation for the Sorbian People, the highest honour of the Wend/Sorb community in Germany, for their long-standing contributions to the community.

We fondly remember Trudla from her visit to Australia in Oct-Nov 2018, when she travelled to the various Wendish historic sites in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales and gave wonderful talks about Wend/Sorb history to many Wendish descendants. She is well-known to Australian Wends as the author of the book, *Shores of Hope*, which details the story of Wendish migration to Australia and America.



Trudla (4th from left) and Jan receiving their award from Sorbian and government officials

Here is the article by Andreas Kirschke which details the contribution of Trudla and her husband Jan.

Sorbian community life, culture and research enriched

Trudla Malinkowa and Jan Malink are honoured for many years of service

Bautzen - Above the entrance is written in Upper Sorbian: “By the grace of God, by good authority and by the love of the Sorbs.” The inscription commemorates the building of the diaconate and school of the Evangelical Lutheran parish of St Michael in Bautzen in 1802. It is also the spiritual home of the academic Trudla Malinkowa (66) and her husband Jan Malink (65), the Sorbian Superintendent of the Saxon state church from 2003 to 2020. It could be the theme for their creative life.

For more than 20 years Trudla Malinkowa has been the editor responsible for the Sorbian evangelical monthly magazine *Pomhaj Bóh* (Help God). “With great commitment she writes and edits articles on the current community life of the evangelical Sorbs and on their history. She also has numerous book publications to her name.” This is how Dr Edmund Pech paid tribute to her in the Sorbian annual scientific journal *Lětopis* 2020.

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Trudla Malinkowa comes from a Sorbian evangelical farming family. She grew up in Quoos near Bautzen and studied stomatology in Leipzig. During her university years she married Jan Malink, an evangelical theology student from Bautzen. The pastor couple initially lived in Gröditz near Weißenberg, moving to Bautzen in 1994. Trudla Malinkowa already began publishing in the 1980s. She researched the life and work of the Sorbian catholic priest and writer Mikławš Andricki (1871-1908). In addition, she wrote the biography of the female teacher and writer Marja Kubašec (1890-1976).

After the political change [in 1990], which she actively helped to shape as a member of the Sorbian people's assembly, she devoted herself to a special chapter in the history of the evangelical Sorbs that had been neglected until then. She researched the Sorbian overseas migration, especially to Australia and the USA (Texas). The Sorbian Institute in Bautzen and the Saxony Ministry for Science and Culture supported her cause. Her book *Ufer der Hoffnung* (= Shores of Hope) came out in 1995 in Sorbian and in German. "A total of about 5000 Sorbs found a new home overseas in the 19th century," said Edmund Pech. "The author has reconstructed this history in an impressive way. The publication was well received at home and abroad." In 2009 it also was published in English. In 2010 it received an award in the USA.

Trudla Malinkowa later devoted herself to another untapped research field. She explored the history of Sorbian cultural monuments. From 2000 to 2020 she worked in the Bautzen Sorbian Institute significantly on the *Large inventory of Sorbian cultural monuments*. "Hundreds of objects have so far been included in this inventory, documented and evaluated according to their importance for Sorbian cultural history," emphasises Edmund Pech. "The author has reported on her work in countless lectures and essays."

In 2019 the document *Sorbian monuments. A guide to Sorbian memorials* was published. The book in Upper Sorbian, complete with numerous photos, is a comprehensive cultural-historical document. The German and English versions are currently being worked on. In addition, basic material from the inventory should also be accessible digitally in the future.

In 1994, together with her husband, Trudla Malinkowa was one of the founders of the Sorbian evangelical association. Jan Malink is a sixth-generation pastor. Born in Bautzen, he experienced ecumenism at an early age. His mother was catholic and came from Storch. His father was protestant and came from Lohsa. After his theological studies and vicarage, Jan Malink was the pastor at Gröditz from 1983 to 1994. In 1990 he sat as a representative of the Sorbs at the round table in Berlin. There he raised awareness for the topic of Sorbs and brown coal. In 1994 he became the pastor of the Evangelical-Lutheran parish of St Peter's in Bautzen. From 2003 until 2020 he worked as pastor of the parish of St Michael and at the same time as Sorbian superintendent. To this day he proclaims the word of God from the pulpit and through devotions on the Sorbian radio.

Again and again, he is involved in publications. In 2010 the new Sorbian evangelical hymn book was published under his direction. On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, he produced the book *Fünf Jahrhunderte (= Five Centuries) Pjeć lětstotkow* as an outline of the history of the evangelical Sorbs. He often deals with historical studies. Topics include Sorbian personalities like Pastor Friedrich Heinrich Immisch (1819-1897) as the founder of the Inner Mission in Saxony, as well as Pastor and hymn-writer Jan Kilian (1811-1884), the leading clergyman of the Sorbian emigration movement to North America in 1854.

Jan Malink has led the annual Sorbian evangelical Church Day in Lusatia since 1984. In 2007 he was one of the co-founders of the Sorbian evangelical homeland day in the Hoyerswerda region. "The homeland day strengthens the self-esteem of the Sorbs. In this way we give them a spiritual home," emphasises the retired (or not really retired) Superintendent. He is particularly hopeful because of the discussion circles *Bjesadas* in Göda, Hochkirch, Königswartha and Bergen. They do cultivate and preserve the Sorbian language in everyday life. Currently Jan Malink is revising the "Sorbian Lectionary." The current version is from 1997. "The German version had some alterations in 2017. These should now be included and adopted into the Sorbian version. It is challenging, intensive work," says the native of Bautzen.

On October 16 he and his wife [were] honoured with the highest Sorbian award. It is the Čišinski Prize 2021 from the Foundation for the Sorbian People. This award recognises the couple's outstanding work in the field of publication. It recognises their commitment to researching Sorbian cultural history and their commitment to the Sorbian academic society *Maćica Serbska* and in the Sorbian Association. Hearty congratulations.

[And congratulations and thanks to Trudla and Jan from all of us in Australia too.]

Coming Events

Sat 2nd April Tour of Migration sites in Adelaide

We will visit the Port Misery landing place, the *City of Adelaide* clipper at Port Adelaide wharf, the Piltawodli Mission site to the Kaurna Aborigines, Klemzig Pioneer Cemetery, and Hope Valley Cemetery.

An all-day tour. See page 5 for details.

Bookings are necessary. Contact Lyall Kupke (mobile 0431 991 385, or email kupkell@yahoo.com)

Fri 6th May, 2 pm Talk: Re-imagining my Lokan ancestors

Dr Keith Lokan traces the movement of his Wendish ancestors as they leave Lower Lusatia in 1856 for SA and settle in Hope Valley / Tea Tree Gully, where they contribute to the community for over 100 years.

At the City of Burnside Ballroom in the Burnside Civic Centre, 401 Greenhill Rd, Tasmore. Enter from the carpark at the back. Note: the talk is in the Ballroom, not the Library.

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

See the 2022 program (<https://festival.history.sa.gov.au>) for booking details. Bookings (in April) are essential.

Sun 29th May, 2 pm Talk & video: Bautzen's 1000 year celebration

David Zweck visited Bautzen in May 2002 and he will show his video of the city's 1000th anniversary celebrations.

At the Glynde Lutheran Homes hall (22 Avenue Rd, Glynde). All welcome.

Sun 21st August, 2 pm Annual General Meeting

Followed by something interesting, yet to be decided.

At the Glynde Lutheran Homes hall (22 Avenue Rd, Glynde). All welcome.

Music - Sorb style

Last year I received this interesting email from a lad in Perth, WA. Check it out.

Hello Lyall,

My name is Tysun Chan, I'm a Sorb descendant living in Perth. My maternal ancestor, Johann Pech, immigrated to South Australia in 1850 from Eulowitz, near Bautzen. My grandparents Victor Pech and Sophie Pech (nee Wurst) lived in Laura. You may have bumped into a number of Pechs and Wursts throughout SA in your time.

On the cultural front I thought the Wend/Sorb Society might be interested in a musical piece I've composed, Upper Lusatia.

Listen on youtube: <https://youtu.be/CnKxN4EU52Q>

This piece interplays German classical and Sorb folk influences, I thought it would be nice to create something small to continue the Sorb heritage in modern times. The performers, Brenton and Jacqui Edgecombe, are actually from the group String Fever of Adelaide.

Regards

Tysun Chan

Mobile: +61 419 219 459

Dr Gerald Stone (1932 - 2021)

With the death of Dr Gerald Stone on 13 September 2021, the world lost its foremost authority of the Slavonic peoples. Dr Stone devoted his scholastic life to the study of Slavonic languages and society and was the world authority on the Wend/Sorb peoples.



Born in Surbiton, Surrey, in 1932, Gerald Stone was a graduate of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies of the University of London. He taught Slavonic languages and comparative Slavonic philology at the Universities of Nottingham (1966-71) and Cambridge (1971-2) before becoming a lecturer in non-Russian Slavonic languages at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of Hertford College from 1972 to 1999.

He was then an Emeritus Fellow of Hertford and continued his research into the historical linguistics of the Slavonic languages, especially Kashubian, Polish, Russian, Slovene, and Sorbian. His main interests were in pronominal address, language contact, dialectology, etymology, the Slav substratum in Trans-Elbian German, and scrutinising primary sources.

He was responsible for introducing Polish to the Oxford modern languages syllabus and was a language consultant to the Oxford English Dictionary.

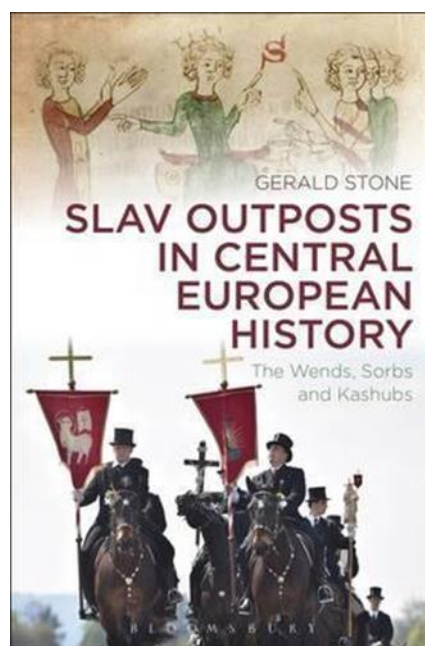
He was elected as a Fellow of the British Academy in 1992.

His distinguished publication record includes *The Smallest Slavonic Nation: the Sorbs of Lusatia* (1972), *An Introduction to Polish* (1980), and *Slav*

Outposts in Central European History: the Wends, Sorbs and Kashubs (2016).

The last-named book was reviewed in our newsletter No. 52 (July 2016). Here is a quotation:

'*Slav Outposts* is a comprehensive account of the history of this smallest and least known of Slavonic peoples. It tells the story of their settlement in central Europe in the 8th century and their gradual conquest by the Germans. Over the next 12 centuries they struggled to survive, and only the Wends/Sorbs of Lusatia have succeeded to do so.



'He discusses the adoption of Christianity, the conversion to Lutheranism during the Reformation, the development of the written language, the revival of interest in Sorb culture in the 19th century, the establishment of the *Domowina*, and the problems of survival in the 20th century during the Nazi and Communist periods. The Wends of Pomerania and Mecklenburg are examined, and even the interest of the Hanoverian King George I of England.

'The Old Lutherans and the migration of Wends to Australia and Texas are referred to.

'This book is now the authority on the history of the Wends/Sorbs in Europe and must be read by those who are interested in this history.'

Tour of the Migration sites of Adelaide - 2nd April

Last year we took the Victorians on this tour and it proved to be very enjoyable and informative. So we thought we would offer it again this year to our members.

It is an all-day tour (**Sat 2nd April**) and you will need your own vehicle. No bus is provided.

We begin in the morning at the **Port Misery** landing place on the Port River, where the first immigrants from England and Europe landed in the years 1837 to 1840. It was surrounded by mangrove swamps, until the West Lakes development turned it into a prestigious residential suburb in the 1970s. By late 1840 a wharf had been built at Port Adelaide in deeper water for the newly-arriving ships.

We will then journey to Port Adelaide to visit the clipper ship *City of Adelaide*, which was specifically built in 1864 to carry passengers and cargo from England and Europe to South Australia. It is one of a small number of ships that survive from the 19th century and is a good example of the ships that brought our ancestors to SA.



A comprehensive tour (cost \$20) will explain the conditions and hardships endured by the passengers on their voyage. This ship brought many thousands of migrants to SA over 23 years (1864-1887) and returned to England with loads of copper and wool.

Please note: there are some steps that need to be used to enter the ship. However, there is a good information room outside on the wharf for those who cannot manage the steps.

We will then have **lunch** at a café at Port Adelaide and enjoy some relaxing time together.

The next stop will be at the Torrens Lake Weir where we will see the monuments dedicated to the Lutheran missionaries (Schürmann, Teichelmann and Klose) who lived there next to the Aboriginal settlement. They started a school for the Kaurna children, and learnt and documented their language. This site is known as **Piltawodli**.



Then we will go on to the **Klemzig Pioneer Cemetery**. This cemetery is all that remains of the first German village in SA which was established by Pastor Kavel's people in 1839. It soon became a stopping-off location for Wendish and German arrivals before they moved on to other locations. We will inspect the various monuments here.

Picture on left: *Klemzig 1846*, by George French Angas

Our last stop for the day will be at **Hope Valley Cemetery**. Hope Valley and nearby Dry Creek were other locations where Wendish and German immigrants rested and educated themselves about this new land they had travelled to from the other side of the world. We will inspect some Wendish graves.

If you wish to come on this tour, you will need to book.

Contact Lyall Kupke (mobile 0431 991 385, or email kupkell@yahoo.com) for details about where and when to meet.

President's AGM Report (given on 29 Aug 2021)

As you are all aware, the last 2 years have been rather different – unprecedented is the word that got used a lot last year. Our plans for 2020 were swiftly ended when the country went into lockdown in March 2020 as it faced the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic in the world.

When restrictions began to ease after 6 months, the committee decided it was safe to hold a meeting in October. Dennis Jenke was at last able to show the story of his Wendish ancestor (Jenke) and we were pleased to view his carefully-prepared DVD presentation. Debra Burke gave us a fascinating account of her trip to Lusatia in 2019 to seek her Wendish heritage (Proposch family). Her beautiful photos and interesting commentary were a delight to see. Her summary in the April 2021 newsletter is excellent and will encourage many to follow her footsteps.

The 2020 AGM was postponed till 2021 and the committee decided that one year's subscriptions would cover the two years.

The long-awaited visit by the Victorian Wends took place in May this year with a small group of 16 people from Victoria and New South Wales. It was a thrill to be able to take them on four day-tours to visit the important sites of Wendish and German Lutheran significance in Adelaide, the Barossa Valley, Peters Hill and the Adelaide Hills. We were indeed blessed with beautiful weather each day and they enjoyed the busy and full schedules we arranged.

They attended our History month talk at Burnside, where Dr Lois Zweck examined the topic, *Migration – for better or worse?* and presented the experiences of numerous people from their letters or reflections. There was a large attendance in the Burnside Town Hall. And they visited the Lutheran Archives to see the old Wendish books there and research family histories.

They also appreciated the chance to attend the meeting of the Friends of Lutheran Archives where Don Ross gave his talk about *Working with Draught Horses*, which he gave to us in 2019.

The dinner, at which 26 South Australians joined the interstate group, was also a great opportunity to meet together and share stories. Betty Huf, the President of the Wendish Heritage Society Australia, introduced the visitors to us and spoke about the activities of their society.

Our society's next meeting in June was an interesting presentation by Ruth Walter about her experience in researching and writing her Rentsch family history, and then the trials in getting it published. She had a number of points which she had learned from the experience.

Our newsletter continues to advertise our meetings and provide information about Wendish history and culture. We welcome any contributions. Andrew Kollosche continues to maintain our website which contains many interesting items. We thank him for this.

We have progressed with our booklet about the Wends in South Australia and the end is in sight. We hope to publish this next year.

I wish once again to express our deep thanks to Eric and Ruth Fiebig, who resigned from our committee late in 2019 after many years' involvement. Their bus trips are vividly remembered by many of us. Eric's computer skills have been invaluable for the preparation of our Wendish Pioneer Heritage Trail signs and in the production of the book, *The Coming of the Wends*. The April 2021 newsletter records their numerous contributions. We have been very pleased to award them Life Membership of the Society in grateful thanks.

Finally, I wish to thank the members of our committee for the time and effort they willingly give. Special thanks to our efficient Secretary, Pauline Burger, and our reliable Treasurer, Leona Coleman, for their additional work to keep us going.

Lyall Kupke

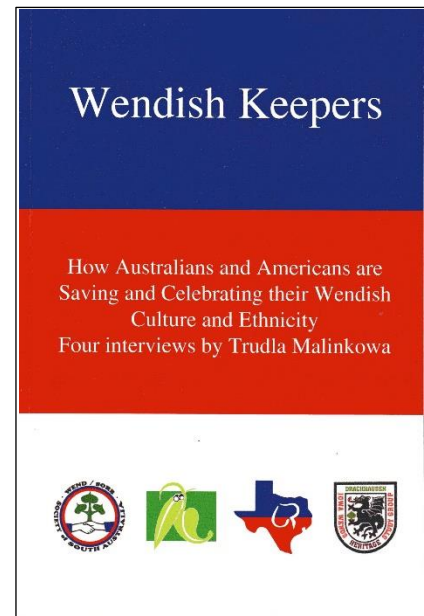
Wendish Keepers – a new book

Last year Trudla Malinkowa interviewed the leaders of the four Wendish societies in Australia and America about their aims, their history and activities. The interviews were published in a Sorb magazine.

The 4 societies are:

- Texas Wendish Heritage Society
- Iowa Wendish Study Group
- Wendish Heritage Society Australia
- Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society has also published the interviews (in English). We have some copies for sale (see page 8 of the newsletter).



Cycling the Wendish Heritage Trail

Do you enjoy the flow of fresh air across your face as you ride your bicycle? Do you enjoy country scenery? Why not combine this enjoyment with visits to our Wendish Heritage sites.

The Uncool Cycling Club (Australian Cycling Adventures for the Average Cyclist) has prepared two rides which take in familiar Wendish sites.

Ride 1) **Wendish Dutton Loop Ride**: this starts at Stockwell in the Barossa Valley and takes in the Wendish historic sites of Ebenezer, Neukirch and St Kitts, before going to the scenic village of Dutton, and then returning to Stockwell.

Ride 2) **Peters Hill Trail, Riverton**: This starts at Riverton and goes to Peters Hill, before returning to Riverton.

You can read about these rides at this website:

<https://uncoolcyclingclub.com/wendish-dutton-loop-ride-sa/>

and

<https://uncoolcyclingclub.com/peters-hill-trail-riverton-sa/>

The rides are mainly on gravel and dirt roads, so you need to take care.

Good directions and maps are shown, with some fabulous photos. The distance and elevation is shown.

Thanks to Leon & Karen Doecke for alerting me to this site.

Sympathy

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

Rex Kakoschke

Heather Konzag (former member)

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
- *Five Centuries: The Wends and the Reformation* - \$40, 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: Trudla Malinkowa, *Wendish Keepers* - \$30, plus \$10 postage
[The story of the four Wendish societies in Australia and America]

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 in 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, *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]

Wendish/Sorbian Flags (small, on a stick) \$5, plus \$3 postage

Contact Ruth Walter, 43 Clifton St, Prospect SA 5082, (tel. 08 8269 7168, mobile 0435 211 606),
email: ruth.walter43@gmail.com

Please make cheques or money orders to Wend Sorb Society of South Australia,
or email Ruth for Direct Debit (EFT) details.

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.**

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