

Elements

OF WESTGARTHTOWN



Iron

Volume 23. No. 1 • April 2019

Iron at Westgarthtown

Iron was an essential element at Westgarthtown. The Ziebell and Wuchatsch farms had forges, their fires fanned by huge wooden bellows. Iron was used for horse shoes, axles and tyres on horse drawn carts, drays and waggons and for ploughs and other implements. Nails, pumps, tanks and roofing were made of iron and many of the graves in the cemetery were also enclosed with iron fences.



Above: Roofs at Ziebell's Farmhouse (Photo: David Johns). Cover photo: Andreil/Flickr

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ZIEBELL'S FARMHOUSE

Open Garden 2018

For the fourth time since 2012, Ziebell's Farmhouse garden was open to the public as part the popular Open Gardens Victoria program. Sue Allen operated the gate across the weekend of 17 & 18 November 2018.

WORDS & PHOTOS BY SUE ALLEN

What a wonderful job those volunteers must do'. These words were a constant commentary as visitors left the precinct after visiting the garden and buildings on the Open Garden Day. Some had been before and knew what to expect, but still they were so impressed with the recent extensive indigenous plantings in the south-west area of the Reserve near the entrance to Ziebell's Farmhouse. Much interest was shown in the

plantings of these local indigenous plants and many were intrigued by the large agaves near the bluestone wall of the farmhouse. These have been there since the early 20th century to discourage the cows from getting too close to the farmhouse.

Inside the precinct, the lupins and roses were popular, many loving the old-fashioned plants that filled the central garden. It was interesting to see and hear visitors take their children to the Mulberry tree and pick mulberries,



The garden in the week leading up to the event: path to the cart shed, central garden, a fuchsia, part of the new indigenous plantings in the reserve; Léon Borrack at the German sausage sizzle

recollecting their own experiences of picking and eating these tart berries in their own childhood.

Visitors who had not been before were amazed at the beauty, planning and lushness of the gardens and really appreciated the fact that there were so many volunteers ready to help them with names of plants and any other questions they had. Comments of praise also included the detailed and beautifully presented garden and building guides. One visitor told us that this precinct with its detailed information, helpful volunteers and the presentation of both the garden

and buildings was one of the best they had seen including some State-run museums.

Both days were hot and at times windy—but this did not detract from the enjoyment or attractions of the farmhouse and surrounds. There was always a cool or sheltered spot to sit and chat or just enjoy the gardens. Sylvia's bench seat in the central garden was popular and gave a restful view of the lupins and ferns, with the sound effects of the insects and bees enjoying the bounty of the flowering plants.

Visitors were most appreciative of the free tea, coffee and biscuits

and many enjoyed the barbecue offering German sausages and sauerkraut. Having these facilities, (quite often not available at other Open Gardens) all added to the experience. Being able to buy seeds and plants grown or harvested from the garden was very popular, many people walking out with quite a collection of plants to take home.

But in the end, it was the beauty, the range of old-fashioned plants, the layout and the connection to the story of the Ziebell family and their settlement in Westgarthtown that made this event such a success. This would never have happened without

the wonderful volunteers who come so regularly, working in the garden in all weathers and all seasons to have this garden at its peak for Open Gardens Victoria.

Well done to everyone involved, those people who put in many hours of work over the years to ensure this wonderful heritage garden is protected, maintained and available for us all to experience at the Open Garden Days.

Treasurer's note: *One of our most successful ever events, the 2018 open garden raised over \$3,500 for the Friends of Westgarthtown.*



Australia Day Awards 2019
(Photo: Léon Borrack)

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Gillian Borrack

At the City of Whittlesea's Australia Day awards ceremony on 26 January 2019, Gillian Borrack was recognized for almost 50 years of community work by being named 2019 Citizen of the Year.

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

Gillian, who was the driving force behind Ziebell's Farmhouse and Garden at Westgarthtown receiving museum accreditation from Museums Australia Victoria in 2018, had previously been awarded a Centenary Medal in 2001 for her tireless community work.

Gillian's connection to the City of Whittlesea began 60 years ago in 1959, when she was appointed to

a teaching position at Merrilands High School at Keon Park, where she taught for five years. She met her husband, John Borrack, when he was appointed to Merrilands High in 1960. John and Gillian were married in 1962 and later that year purchased five acres of land in the former Separation township at Mernda. Their land was then a cow paddock with two ancient gum trees and a derelict c. 1874 cottage, a few elm trees and remnant garden. In

1970 they built a new home and studio there and moved to Mernda from Eltham.

Gillian says she ‘absolutely loved the small farming village and the rural environment where everyone knew their neighbours. Our children Léon and Marcel attended Mernda Primary School where there were less than 100 students. We had no water; electricity was relatively new; no rubbish collection; and only gravel roads. I became a founding member of the Plenty Valley Conservation Group in 1971 and so began my community involvement in the then Shire of Whittlesea.

Today it is vastly different—we have improving infrastructure

and the train is back. However, I will always retain my wonderful memories of Mernda as it was—a significant cultural landscape—and be thankful our family had the opportunity to live in that environment for so many years.’

Gillian continued ‘I was a founding member of the Friends of Westgarthtown in 1995. My mother-in-law, Augusta Borrack (née Ziebell), was one of ten siblings to grow up at Ziebell’s Farmhouse

in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Her mother, Dorothea Ziebell, died in 1969, aged 96. Two of Dorothea’s daughters, Sylvia Adams and Verona Ziebell, continued to live there after her death. In Dorothea’s lifetime no changes were made to the farmhouse. After the death of Sylvia Adams, Ziebell’s Farmhouse was purchased from the Adams family by the City of Whittlesea in 1993. My brother-in-law, architect Geoffrey Borrack, was engaged

by the council to supervise the restoration of the buildings. Geoff and my husband John had spent considerable time at their grandparents’ home when they were growing up. To this day water is not connected to

Ziebell’s Farmhouse and electricity was only connected in 2002.

In 1995 I was a committee member of the Friends of Plenty Gorge and recognized the advantage of a Friends group to support the work of Parks Victoria in the Plenty Gorge Park. I believed that a Friends group was needed to support the work of the City of Whittlesea in the restoration and ongoing use of Ziebell’s Farmhouse. I organized a meeting and a small group was

formed. We decided our interests went further than the restoration of Ziebell’s Farmhouse and we needed to include the whole legacy of the 16 founding families, most of whom arrived in Hobsons Bay in February 1850 aboard the *Pribislaw*. Thus the Friends of Westgarthtown was a more appropriate name to continue the research interest of another descendant, Robert Wuchatsch, who had written and published

threat of urban development. The significance of Westgarthtown to Victoria’s history was recognized when the Lutheran church and cemetery, along with the Graff and Wuchatsch farmhouses, were added to the state’s Heritage Register. Today, Westgarthtown remains one of the City of Whittlesea’s most notable heritage sites, a remarkable monument to the first settlers in the area and specifically to their

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With John Belot and Paul Schultz at German Fest in 2003; with John at Mernda 1970.



Westgarthtown, the German Settlement at Thomastown in 1985. The group was incorporated in 1996 as the Friends of Westgarthtown Inc.

The Westgarthtown Pioneer Precinct received legislative protection, due mainly to the diligence of concerned individuals in obtaining State listings for the site in 1992, because of its state and regional significance when the precinct was under imminent

German and Wendish origin. The importance of this German immigrant farming community and the buildings they constructed was further reinforced when Ziebell’s and Siebel’s farmhouses were added to the Victorian Heritage Register in 1993 and 1996 respectively. In 1999, Maltzahn’s Farmhouse, which had stood roofless and under threat of demolition for over a decade, was acquired by Heritage Victoria and



restoration began, being completed in 2002. This restoration followed a long campaign to save the building by members of the Friends of Westgarthtown and councillors from the City of Whittlesea. Today the Westgarthtown precinct at Thomastown which includes Ziebell's Farmhouse and the Lutheran church and cemetery, is included in the curriculum of many primary and secondary schools, both within the City of Whittlesea and the wider Melbourne metropolitan area.'

Gillian said she 'was pleased to accept the award of the City of Whittlesea's Citizen of the Year as recognition that volunteers working together within a community can achieve outcomes that individuals by themselves can rarely achieve. I remain close friends with many people I have worked with over almost 50 years in varying groups in the local area. School councils, a Severance Referendum, Plenty

"I REMAIN CLOSE FRIENDS WITH MANY PEOPLE I HAVE WORKED WITH IN THE LOCAL AREA OVER ALMOST 50 YEARS"

Valley Conservation Group, Friends of Plenty Gorge, Plenty Valley Arts, Mernda-Wollert Water Extension providing water to 18 rural properties; along with many City of Whittlesea council committees and forums. Information is shared, goals can be achieved and new friends made. Groups such as the Friends of Westgarthtown share their knowledge and expertise for the benefit of others, while members at the same time receive much support and strength from each other.

We collectively share the load and collectively delight in the achievements. I can recommend being a volunteer to anyone—my eldest son Léon has also inherited my interest in

volunteering and is Treasurer of the Friends of Westgarthtown and designer of this newsletter.'

Gillian concluded her thoughts about being named the City of Whittlesea's Citizen of the Year for 2019 by saying 'my most favourite place would have to be my own home and garden at Mernda. In second place, however, is Ziebell's Farmhouse and Garden. I can recommend the enduring sense of place and welcome on entering that gate, no matter what the season or weather.

Clockwise from main: At Ziebell's Farmhouse with newborn son Léon 1972; partying with friends at Mernda 1997; Australia Day awards acceptance speech (with Mayor Lawrie Cox in the background); with the 169 year old Cecile Brunner rose at Ziebell's Farmhouse last year.



Inspecting a model barque similar to the *Pribislaw* at the Bernstein Museum, Ribnitz: Bernstein Museum Director Axel Attula, Sue Gravenall, Rob Wuchatsch and Jana Böhnke Archivist.

170TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Pribislaw model for Westgarthtown

Next year marks 170 years since the *Pribislaw* arrived in Australia. To celebrate, Rob Wuchatsch and Dirk Weissleder are driving an ambitious international collaboration between museums in three countries.

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

In November 2018 I visited Germany for a very enjoyable second launch of my Wuchatsch family book at Bautzen with my German relatives and friends there. On the way, I visited Hamburg, Rostock and Ribnitz with Dirk Weissleder, Chairman of the German Federation of Genealogists (DAGV), whose relative Friedrich

Wilhelm Weissleder (1829-1903) arrived in Australia in February 1850 with many of Westgarthtown's settlers aboard the *Pribislaw*.

Dirk Weissleder first became aware of the *Pribislaw* in 2016 when he saw my online reconstructed 1849/50 passenger list. In 2017 Dirk visited Westgarthtown (see *Elements*, October 2017) and we have since

done much more research together into the ship's history, voyages and passengers. Altogether the *Pribislaw* took about 550 emigrants to Australia and the US between 1849 and 1854 before carrying only cargo until it ran aground in the Shetland Islands in 1870 and was converted to a storage hulk.

While at Ribnitz in Mecklenburg, where the *Pribislaw* was built in 1847, we visited the Ribnitz Archives and the Bernstein Museum, the latter of which has several models of sailing ships on display. As a result of our visit, the museum has very

kindly arranged to have a 1:40 scale model of the *Pribislaw* built for Ziebell's Farmhouse

Museum. The Bernstein Museum at Ribnitz will also have its own 1:20 scale model of the *Pribislaw* built and placed on display there. There was much interest shown in Ribnitz in our visit and the local newspaper *Ostsee Zeitung Ribnitz-Damgarten* carried a lengthy front page report by journalist Edwin Sternkiker.

Following discussions with Dirk Weissleder, the Friends of Westgarthtown plans to hold an event on 26 April 2020 to celebrate the 170th Anniversary of the arrival of the *Pribislaw* in Australia during which the model of the *Pribislaw*

will be launched at Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum. As Dirk will attend these celebrations, he will give lectures on various aspects of the ship's history.

All descendants of *Pribislaw* passengers, whether Westgarthtown settlers or not, are invited to attend these 170th Anniversary celebrations. Further details will be provided in our October 2019 edition of *Elements*. As a result of recent research, I have now been able to identify 190 of the 197 passengers who emigrated to Australia aboard the *Pribislaw*. Unfortunately, no

passenger list has yet been found for this ship, despite over 40 years of searching.

To bring together everyone

interested in the *Pribislaw's* fascinating life on and off the sea, Dirk Weissleder has also formed a 'Friends of Pribislaw' group. For further details see www.pribislaw.de. Dirk also gave lectures on the *Pribislaw* in Burbank, California and Utah during his recent visit to the U.S. for the family history conference RootsTech 2019.

My 2010 reconstructed *Pribislaw* passenger list can be found on the Wendish Heritage Society Australia's website at www.wendishheritage.org.au/articles/pribislaw-184950-passenger-list/

ZIEBELL'S FARMHOUSE

Manager appointed

A new era will begin for Ziebell's Farmhouse on 16 April when the Friends of Westgarthtown's first paid member of staff commences work.

BY LÉON BORRACK

FOR over twenty years, our volunteer members have successfully partnered with the City of Whittlesea to operate and grow Ziebell's Farmhouse as a significant cultural heritage centre.

Last year we successfully submitted a proposal to Council to fund a part-time manager for Ziebell's Farmhouse to help reduce the ever-increasing day-to-day management activity undertaken by our committee.

This new position will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day running of the centre whilst also strategically pursuing

our vision of more people visiting Ziebell's Farmhouse more often.

Following an extensive search, the Ziebell's Farmhouse subcommittee was thrilled to appoint Gordon Johnston, a former director of the National Wool Museum in Geelong.

An experienced museum and cultural heritage professional, Gordon joins us from the Surf Coast Shire where he was Coordinator of Visitor Information Centres and Australian National Surfing Museum (ANSM).

We wish Gordon a warm welcome for his first day on 16 April.

1856 report on a visit to Friedrich Timm's farm, Wollert

On 14 January 1856, the *Tasmanian Daily News* carried a report by its Melbourne correspondent about his recent walk from Melbourne to the Plenty Ranges, Yan Yean and Mount Disappointment.

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

IN the article, the reporter writes of his visit to a farm owned by a German on the Darebin Creek at Wollert. The roadside inn referred to can only have been the Travellers' Rest Hotel owned by Patrick Burke and the German farmer must have been Friedrich Timm, who was an original settler at Westgarthtown before purchasing 258 acres in today's Bindt's Road in 1854.

...Bye and bye I arrived at Epping, where I noticed several rising vineyards; after which I entered fairly into the bush, at the distance of fifteen miles from Melbourne. On reaching a roadside inn, I found I might have taken a shorter cut to the place of my destination, but I was well rewarded for my slight detour. I was directed to the Separation Township. On the road, or rather foot-track, I entered the

NARRATIVE OF A PEDESTRIAN EXCURSION FROM MELBOURNE TO THE PLENTY RANGES, YAN YEAN, AND MOUNT DISAPPOINTMENT.

BY OUR MELBOURNE CORRESPONDENT.

I HAD made up my mind to make three excursions this vacation,—one to the reservoir at Yan Yean, a second to Station Peak and Steiglitz, and a third to Dandenong. On Sunday last, at 1 p.m., I strolled listlessly towards the tramway which is now being laid down at the eastern extremity of Carlton Gardens, with no present intention of accomplishing the first of these objects on that occasion. The balmy breeze from the east which was then blowing, and the tempered heat of the sun, soon, however, recalled the project my love of a ramble had suggested; so, at the end of half an hour, I quickened my pace, and found myself crossing the Merri Bridge at Northcote. Northcote, which two years ago scarcely counted more than three or four houses, I found now to be a tolerably respectable suburb, redolent with the fragrance wafted from market and flower gardens, with a frontage of nearly a mile to the main road. On bidding adieu to Northcote, I soon passed into the domains of agriculture, in the shape of well-fenced farms, here and there still alternating with gardens and embryo orchards, until I arrived at Irish Town, a roadside village of anything but Hibernian type, judging by the neat cottages and trimly kept gardens in which they were embosomed. Thus far the road was metalled in the centre, and like all our Victorian roads which have passed through that ordeal, would have gladdened the heart of M'Adam. Thence forward, and in the direction of my route, it had been ploughed up by the winter rains, and presented, after a two months' exposure to the sun and air, anything but a smooth surface, being better fitted for a monk to do penance on than for a pedestrian about to accomplish a long journey. The view before me, how-

Extract of the original article

house of a German, the owner of a farm of upwards of two hundred acres, which, with another small farm at Irish Town, [Westgarthtown, not Irish Town] he had acquired with the proceeds of five years' toil in these colonies. It transpired in the course of conversation that he was a native of Schwerin, and as I was well acquainted with that place, and

could talk with him to his heart's content on Northern Germany, I was rewarded with a basin of delicious milk, which I am happy to say is now to be found in abundance in every part of our country districts. My host informed me that a considerable number of his countrymen reside in this locality, and are thriving almost without an exception. I was rather astonished, nevertheless, at the isolation of himself and family from the great world sixteen miles distant, and his apparent ignorance of all that was transpiring there, the more so when he confessed that he had not till then heard of the capture of Sebastopol, or even of the retirement of the Haines ministry. My friend, however, seemed to cherish a particular aversion to the King of Prussia, designating him as both a 'spitzbube' [rogue] and a 'schlechter earl' [evil noble] and intimating his readiness to put an end to his career with an axe which he brandished in his hand if ever an opportunity offered. From the cottage of the Tedesche, which is on the banks of the Darebin Creek, I walked on to Separation...

For further details about Friedrich Timm, see *Friends of Westgarthtown News*, Vol. 13, No. 2, December 2009 at www.westgarthtown.org.au/archives.

Proposed archaeological excavation

The Friends of Westgarthtown believe the time is right to reveal the hidden heritage of Westgarthtown's bluestone schoolhouse.

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

The Neu Mecklenburg Lutheran School at Westgarthtown operated in the Thomastown Lutheran church building from 1855-65, then moved to a specially built schoolhouse from 1866-76. The bluestone schoolhouse consisted of a classroom and teacher's residence.

In November 2007, we published an article outlining the history of the school in our Friends of

Westgarthtown newsletter, then in October 2016 we included an article about the school's teachers. Sadly, the old schoolhouse was demolished during the 1940s. The footings remained visible until the 1970s when the area was covered and landscaped with earth excavated during construction of roads for the Urban Land Authority's housing estate on Ziebell's old dairy farm.

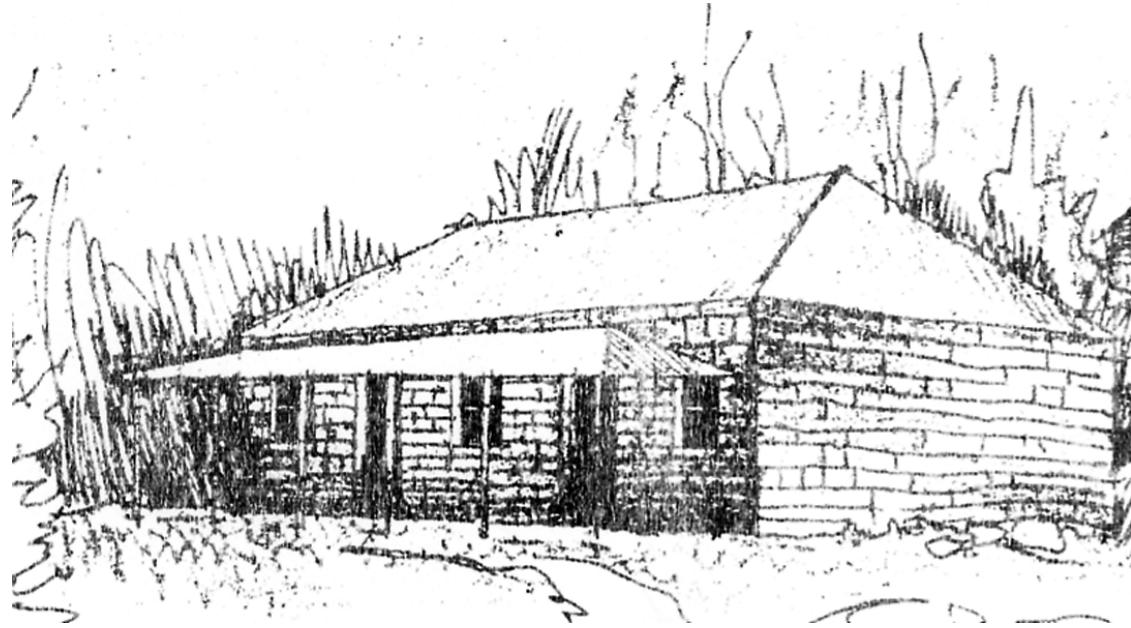
For over 20 years, it has been an

aim of the Friends of Westgarthtown to excavate, expose and place interpretive signage at the site of the former Lutheran schoolhouse and about ten years ago we placed this project on our rolling five-year plan. In 2011, we contacted Heritage Victoria and La Trobe University's Archaeological Department, but no progress was possible without any obvious avenues of finance.

The Friends of Westgarthtown believe this project should be activated now while there are still people alive who remember the old schoolhouse and can assist with the project and have their

stories recorded. A landscaped and interpreted schoolhouse excavation site would add one more jewel to Westgarthtown's impressive list of heritage attractions.

As the support of the schoolhouse site's landowners—the Thomastown Lutheran Church and City of Whittlesea—is required, the Friends of Westgarthtown put forward a proposal to them at the recent April quarterly Westgarthtown Pioneer Precinct Committee meeting. As no objections were raised to the proposal, initial steps to commence the project were outlined and agreed to.



The schoolhouse (sketch: G. Borrack)

Westgarthtown Settler Stories

Discover the stories of early Lutheran settlers buried in the heritage listed Westgarthtown cemetery on an exclusive tour with their descendants.

BY JOHN FRY

The Friends of Westgarthtown will participate in the 2019 National Trust Australian Heritage Festival by providing a guided tour around the Thomastown Lutheran Cemetery on Sunday 28 April 2019. This event is presented by the Friends of Westgarthtown and supported by the City of Whittlesea's 2019 Cultural Heritage Program.

The free cemetery tour will commence at 1.30 pm and be led

by our tour guide John Fry and narrated by Heather Purdy, Melinda Tam and Robert Wuchatsch, descendants of some of the German families buried there. Afternoon tea will follow at Ziebell's Farmhouse Cultural Heritage Centre where tours will be available. A Lutheran Church service will also be held from 2.30 pm and all visitors are welcome.

Come and hear the stories of Westgarthtown's settler families.

While descendants have spread out across Australia, many have kept a close relationship with the area through the Friends of Westgarthtown. Some of these descendants will tell the stories of their families who arrived here from 1850 onwards and developed a strong farming community, facing all the trials and tribulations you would expect in migrating to a new country, and some you may not.

The Lutheran Cemetery, a private

church graveyard still in use, was established by Westgarthtown's early German and Wendish settlers. Ziebell's Farmhouse is owned by the City of Whittlesea and managed by the Friends of Westgarthtown.

Parking will be available in the church paddock off German Lane, which runs between Gardenia Road and Mount View Road, Lalor.

For further details of the National Trust Australian Heritage Program see www.nationaltrust.org.au



Photo: David Johns

Wuchatsch book launch

BY BETTY HUF

Rob Wuchatsch's new book *Särka to Westgarthtown: the Wuchatsch Family in Germany and Australia* was launched at Ziebell's Farmhouse, Thomastown on Sunday 28 October 2018.

This 525-page, copiously illustrated book, tells the story of the Wendish Wuchatsch family in Germany and Australia from the early 1700s. It covers in narrative style the lives of Johann, Hanna and Magdalene Wuchatsch and their descendants. Also included is a fascinating and somewhat poignant narrative of the members of the family who remained in Germany.

Rob began his research in 1970, taking almost 50 years to finally publish his Wuchatsch story. This is indicative of the amount of detail included and the immensity of effort required to research in several languages. Rob made many overseas journeys and countless hours of meticulous research

enabled a detailed description of the family's development through history. Not only has the history of this particular family been recorded, but Rob has placed them into their historical context by giving detailed descriptions of the Särka village and surrounds, and the social, religious and political climate in which the family lived. An example of this detail is contained in the interesting fact that the family brought several cannon balls with them in their luggage to Australia. The explanation of the significance of these Wuchatsch 'treasures' can be read on pp. 39-40.

An unusual inclusion in this book is Rob's account of the process he took to discover his family. He tells of his journeys back to Särka, his

impressions and the other emotions he felt, which he recorded in his diaries. He relates and notes in detail the archives, sources and people who helped him discover the information which provided the story of his family.

John Fry, President of the Friends of Westgarthtown, presided over the event. Betty Huf, President of the Wendish Heritage Society Australia spoke about the Wends and the Wuchatsch family, then Gertrud Mahling, a visiting Wendish historian from Bautzen in Germany, launched the book, commencing her speech in the Wendish language. Rob Wuchatsch responded by thanking the speakers and visitors and spoke about researching and writing the book.

Särka to Westgarthtown: the Wuchatsch Family in Germany and

Australia can be purchased via Rob's website www.stonyrisesrun.com.au for \$100 (\$85 plus \$15 postage).

Rob's new book should be read in conjunction with his 1985 book *Westgarthtown: the German Settlement at Thomastown* and his 1999 book *From Hamburg to Hobsons Bay: German Emigration to Port Phillip (Australia Felix) 1848-51*, the latter written with his friend and colleague, Tom Darragh.

Editor's note: Rob's 2017 book John Muston: Draper, Squatter, Speculator in Colonial Australia (*his late wife Gaye's great-great-grandfather*) won the Don Grant Award for Best Biography with a *Family History Focus*. This award is made annually by Family History Connections (Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies).



Gertrud Mahling, Betty Huf, Rob Wuchatsch and John Fry.

Sam Ziebell

Sam Ziebell, a descendant of Christian and Sophia Ziebell, was elected to the Friends of Westgarthtown Management Committee in August 2018.

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

The other members of the committee welcome Sam and thank him for his interest and commitment to Westgarthtown.

Sam is the son of the late James Ziebell, who grew up at Westgarthtown. After graduating from La Trobe University, James married Lyn Wallace and moved to Alexandra, where Sam was born and raised, along with elder sister Jade and younger sister Tegan. James was a History and Economics teacher at Alexandra Secondary College for many years.

When Sam was ten his family

moved from the Alexandra township to a beef farm at nearby Crystal Creek which overlooked the Goulburn River. There Sam enjoyed the country life—trout fishing, horse riding, cattle work, footy, cricket etc—mostly done with his father. His pets included, horses, cattle, chooks, pigeons, goats, emus, sheep, rabbits and cats.

Sam, who lives in Ballarat and works as a Business Banker there with the National Australia Bank, has very fond memories of holidays spent with his grandparents Henry and Annie Ziebell when they lived at Maltzahn's Farmhouse at Westgarthtown. He recalls Henry's

large vegie patch; Annie's flower garden; the homemade merry-go-round with two old tractor seats; his Pop and Dad building his first cricket bat out of wood from the shed; sleeping on an old, hard, duck feather mattress in the loft; playing on the old waggon under the cypress tree in the middle of the yard; walking in the cemetery with his father and grandfather; and eating an oversized kohlrabi and turnips from Pop's garden the whole way back to Alexandra.

In 2002 Sam married Naomi Cadden and started with NAB. He worked in various places, including

Alexandra, Sale and Warragul in Victoria and Ballina in New South Wales, before finally moving to Ballarat. Naomi works in payroll for the Ballarat Base Hospital. Sam says Ballarat ticks a few boxes for the couple, including the city's Lake Wendouree, which is well stocked with trout and redfin.

He also likes the fact that a 5-10 minute drive gets him out in the countryside.

Despite living over 100 kilometres away in Ballarat, Sam says he is thankful for the opportunity to help out on the Friends of Westgarthtown committee.



Sam with a catch from Lake Wendouree (Photo: Naomi Ziebell)

Descendants' Day 2019

WORDS & PHOTOS BY MEGAN MORITZ (NÉE BELOT)

This year's annual Westgarthtown Descendants' Day was held on a very hot day 3 March 2019.

DESPITE the hot weather, however, the turnout was good, with just under 60 people attending.

To cope with the hot weather, a marquee was put up and people also gathered around the old farmhouse

and under the trees.

The garden was looking fantastic and halfway through the day the cool change came which was quite a relief. Cold drinks, tea and coffee were served for people to have with

their picnic lunches. For something a bit different we had a sausage sizzle for a gold coin donation which was a success. We will continue with this and the funds raised from the sizzle will go towards the supply of drinks, food and the running of the day.

The Annual Guest Book was filled out again and whilst most details do not need to be changed, it is also an important record of who attended. Next year Descendants' Day will be held on Sunday 1 March 2020 and we hope to be texting everyone to remind them. We will endeavour to make 2020 a big reunion with the addition of a 'lucky door prize' as well as honouring the oldest and the youngest attendees. We hope to see you there.



Youngest attendee Macy Adams



2019 Descendants' Day

Thomastown Lutheran Church services

SERVICES are held on the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 2.30 pm at the Thomastown Lutheran Church, German Lane, Lalor.

For further details, contact Irma Hatty on 03 9338 9064 or see the Calvary Lutheran Church website at www.calvarychurch.org.au

Visiting Ziebell's Farmhouse

ZIEBELL'S Farmhouse is open to the public on the second Sunday of each month, 1–4 pm. For enquiries, call 03 9464 1805 or enquiries@westgarthtown.org.au

Tours can be organised for groups of ten or more people. For information and bookings contact John Fry on 03 9464 5062 or johnsdfry@gmail.com

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Elements

OF WESTGARTHTOWN

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HISTORIAN	Rob Wuchatsch
ZIEBELL'S FARMHOUSE MANAGER	Gordon Johnston
HERITAGE ARCHITECT	Geoff Borrack
TOURS COORDINATOR	John Fry
CARETAKERS	Darren & Sheryl Kennedy