



Ziebell's time to shine

In a just a few weeks, Ziebell's Farmhouse garden will be open to the public as part of the **Australian Open Garden** program. With the broad exposure brought by Open Gardens Australia, many who attend will be first time visitors to Westgarthtown.

With the support of the City of Whittlesea, the Open Garden weekend forms part of Council's 2012 Cultural Heritage Program and is testament to the work that so many volunteers have put into the garden in recent years.

Thanks to the feverish efforts of those that have worked throughout the year, the garden is in stunning condition and is set to peak for the big day. A small army of volunteers has been assembled to assist across the weekend.

Also open on the same weekend will be John and Gillian Borrack's natural style garden at Mernda. Gillian is our secretary and Ziebell's Farmhouse garden coordinator. 35% of the proceeds from both gardens will be donated to the Friends of Westgarthtown (the remainder will be returned to Open Gardens Australia).

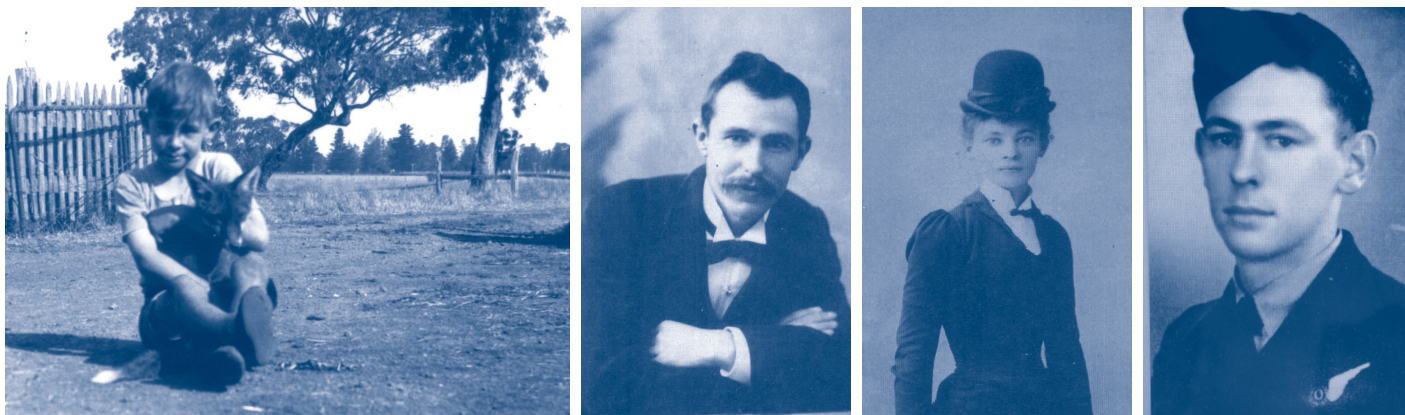
Ziebell's Farmhouse Open Garden

Date: 17 & 18 November 2012
Time: 10.00am – 4.30pm
Cost: \$7 per person. Children under 18 free.
Location: Ziebell's Farmhouse

Note: For this event parking and entrance to Ziebell's Farmhouse will be via Westgarthtown Lutheran Reserve, German Lane, Thomastown (Melway Map 8, H5).

John & Gillian Borrack's Open Garden

Dates, times and price as above
 30 Regent Street Mernda (Melway Map 390, A11).



George Carnegie with his pet fox; George's grandfather, William; George's grandmother, Agnes; and George in RAAF uniform.

George Carnegie's pet fox

BY ROBERT WUCHATSCH

George Carnegie, a great great grandson of Johann and Annie Zimmer of Westgarthtown, had an unusual pet—a fox. In this 1927 photo, young George is seen playing with the fox at Darebin House, which stood on the farm established by Michael and Maria (née Graff) Zimmer during the 1850s in O'Herns Road, Epping.

George's mother, Claudine Zimmer Carnegie, was the eldest daughter of William Dalrymple Carnegie and Agnes Amelia Zimmer, who were married at Fitzroy in 1892. Claudine was born at East Melbourne in 1894 and another daughter Agnes Beatrice in 1896, apparently while the family was living in Montreal, Canada where W. D. Carnegie was studying medicine. However, Agnes Amelia was forced to return to Australia in 1897 with a terminal illness and died soon after, aged 33. She had contributed over £400 towards her husband's studies from her share of the estate of her deceased parents Michael and Maria Zimmer and left further funds in her hastily arranged will to complete his medical course.

An intelligent and talented man, W. D. Carnegie (1863-1927), was born at Sacramento in California. After graduating from the Cooper Medical College, San Francisco in 1898, he returned to Melbourne where he practised for many years at Richmond and Fitzroy. He also researched medical illnesses, such as tuberculosis, wrote and composed musical productions and stood unsuccessfully for the seat of Melbourne in State Parliament. Sadly, his youngest child Agnes Beatrice Carnegie died in 1911 aged 15 and was buried with her mother in the Zimmer family plot at Westgarthtown. In

1917 Claudine married George O'Leary and they had one son, George Carnegie O'Leary born in 1918, before their divorce in 1925. Claudine then changed her surname back to Carnegie, so young George's name became George Carnegie Carnegie.

In 1938 George left Moyston near Ararat, where his mother ran the Southern Cross Hotel, for Melbourne. Soon after he moved to Canberra where he worked in the Commonwealth Public Service. In 1941 he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) as a wireless operator, having previously served two years in the local militia unit—3rd Battalion. After training in Victoria and South Australia, he joined 30 Beaufighter squadron as a navigator in July 1942 and flew nine sorties in New Guinea before being transferred back to Australia as a Flight Sergeant in June 1943. After completing a Signals Officer Course at Point Cook, he was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in May 1944 and posted to 31 Beaufighter squadron. He saw further active service in the South West Pacific area from November 1944 to October 1945, before his discharge as a Flight Lieutenant.

The photo of George with the fox and those of his grandparents William and Agnes Carnegie were given to me by George Carnegie after his visit to Westgarthtown in 1992, when I had the pleasure of showing him around the Lutheran church, cemetery and remaining farmhouses. George, who married while he was in the RAAF and had children, died in Canberra in 2010 aged 91. He is buried in the Woden Cemetery with his wife Val who died in 1992 and mother Claudine who died in 1976.

Marita Anders (1951-2012)

Marita Anders, a Lalor resident for over 60 years and a foundation member of the Friends of Westgarthtown, died on 29 March 2012 after a long illness, aged 61. Below is an edited summary of Darrel Caulley's eulogy for Marita at her funeral service at Calvary Lutheran Church, Greensborough.

Marita was a kind, thoughtful, compassionate, friendly woman, always caring for others and seeing the good in them. While Marita might have seemed a bit brusque at first, one soon found out she had a heart of gold and loved people.

Marita was born at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne on 12 March 1951 to Jaroslav and Klara Drahuszczak. A younger brother Peter was born on 8 May 1954. Marita Drahuszczak was baptised at St Johns Lutheran Church, South Melbourne in August 1951 and confirmed by Pastor Seyler of Trinity German Lutheran Church, East Melbourne on 17 April 1966.

Marita and Peter's parents had arrived in Australia from Germany on 21 November 1949. After a short time in a migration camp and then at Coburg, they moved to a house they had built in Howell Street Lalor at Christmas 1952, when Marita was 21 months old. Next Christmas, when Marita was nearly three, she recited the following prayer in her first language of German at the Thomastown Lutheran Church:

Come to us the Christ Child
Everything is prepared
To make us happy. Amen!

When she was five years old, Marita attended Sunday school at Thomastown Lutheran Church, where later as an adult, she taught Sunday School for many years. At 11, Marita who had attended Thomastown Primary School, went to school in Germany with her brother Peter, part of the time being spent on a farm with their aunt, Klara's sister. They stayed in Germany for five months. When she returned she attended Lalor High School and then worked in the National Bank.

Marita married Norbert Anders on 11 May 1974 at the Trinity German Lutheran Church. In 1975 Norbert and Marita travelled to Germany as both wanted to be with their beloved Omas. They spent two months

travelling around Europe, regularly returning to visit their grandmothers.

Marita and Norbert's son Adrian was born on 13 June 1976 and daughter Fiona on 4 February 1981. On 23 April 2004, she became a proud and very happy Oma to Matilda and later to Charlotte. Marita was a great family woman and dearly loved Norbert, Adrian, Fiona and Klara. Her love extended to her daughter-in-law, Georgina and her precious granddaughters. Her family was her life.

Marita was a member and Sunday School teacher at Thomastown Lutheran Church for many years until the church building was vandalized in November 1985, which forced the family to move to Calvary Lutheran Church, Greensborough. Although the church at Thomastown reopened in 1986, Marita decided the family should remain at Calvary as it had a Sunday school for her children and she became a Sunday School teacher there. Marita was a true Christian and loved to go to church.

Marita was a great volunteer. She worked in the kiosk at the Northern Hospital raising money to support its work.

She also helped raise money for scouts and volunteered in the canteens when Adrian and Fiona went to primary school and high school. When the Friends of Westgarthtown was formed in 1996, Marita and her family were foundation members. Later Marita and Klara catered during tours of Ziebell's Farmhouse. Marita loved cooking and entertaining and if anybody was indisposed she would cook for them. At funerals or church functions she would make sandwiches. She was a member of the Whittlesea Agricultural Show Society and for weeks before each show she would set up the Homecraft section (knitting, sewing, smocking, cake making).

Marita suffered terribly in the last weeks of her life, but never complained. Even in her last weeks she looked after people. Her Christian faith helped her to the end. Marita, we will remember you for the rest of our lives. Farewell!!! You will be missed.





Whittlesea Bicycle Users group (WhittBUG) Heritage Bicycle Tour to Westgarthtown 7 October 2012

Visitors from Poland and South Australia

On 1 May 2012, Dr Anitta Maksymowicz from Poland and Aileen and Wolfgang Preiss from South Australia visited Westgarthtown. They were given a tour of Ziebell's Farmhouse by Tatiana Joukoff and the Lutheran Church by Irma Hatty.

Dr Maksymowicz is Curator of the Lubuska Land Museum in Zielona Gora, Poland (formerly Grünberg, Silesia). She is author of the 2010 book *Emigration from the Brandenburg-Silesian-Posen Borderland to South Australia in the 19th Century*. She visited Australia from March-May 2012 to speak about German emigration and to visit German settlement sites in South Australia

and Victoria.

Tatiana Joukoff recently received an email from Dr Maksymowicz in which she thanked both Tatiana and Irma for showing her around Westgarthtown. She wrote 'Your guiding through the museum [Ziebell's Farmhouse] and explanations of the exhibition as well as telling me about the history has been a very significant lesson for me. I appreciate the work you do there to maintain the memory of the first settlers.'

A review of Dr Maksymowicz's book by John Noack can be read under Publications/Articles on the Wendish Heritage Society Australia's website www.wendishheritage.org.au



Left to right: Dr. Wolfgang Preiss and Anitta Maksymowicz thank Tatiana Joukoff and say farewell; Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia's visit to Westgarthtown on 9 June 2012; WhittBUG Heritage Bicycle Tour.



Members of the Kew Garden Club (left & centre) and Ivanhoe Garden Club enjoy their visits to Westgarthtown

Visits by Kew and Ivanhoe garden clubs

On 4 August 2012, the Friends of Westgarthtown welcomed 12 members of the Kew Garden Club, including horticulturalist Prue McColl, who first volunteered her time to Ziebell's garden as part of Heritage Victoria's HeritageCare Program. When that program finished Prue joined the Friends' garden volunteers and documented the plant lists for our Garden Guide. Prue continues to help in the garden along with our other volunteers. Her fellow Kew Garden Club members were very impressed with Ziebell's Garden. Rob and Gaye Wuchatsch led the tour and Prue spoke about the garden.

On 14 October 2012, 34 members of the Ivanhoe Garden Club visited Westgarthtown. The leader of their

group was Geoff Crowhurst, who is also an active member of Heritage Roses in Australia Inc. Rob also led this tour and Prue informed the group about the restoration and maintenance of Ziebell's Garden. Rob was very happy to learn that one of the visitors, Carmen Greene, is descended from Agnes Vockensohn, whose 1870 grave in the cemetery at Westgarthtown is marked by a redgum memorial.

The Friends of Westgarthtown are very pleased to be able to promote the garden at Ziebell's Farmhouse as an attraction in its own right and look forward to further visits by garden clubs and gardeners, including during our Open Garden Australia weekend on 17-18 November 2012.



Duckpond full of water (August 2012)

Elisa Hell

BY ROBERT WUCHATSCH

The fate of Elisa Ziebell, the long-lost daughter of Christian and Sophia Ziebell, is now known thanks to family history researcher and Nebel descendant, Melinda Tam, who provided much of the information below.

Johanna Christina Elisabeth Ziebell was born on 13 April 1832. Known as Elisa, she was Christian and Sophia's sixth child and arrived in Australia with her family on the *Pribislaw* in February 1850. On 21 January 1852, aged 19, she married

Johann Peter Hell from Holstein at the Independent Church, Melbourne.

Peter and Elisa Hell had two children—Eliese Fredericke Christina, born at Dry Creek (Westgarthtown) in 1853 and Eliza, born at Richmond in May 1854. Eliza, however, lived only one day and her mother also died at the same time, as both were buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery on 28 May 1854. The burials were registered in the name Hill, to which Peter Hell had changed his surname.

Peter Hell/Hill, a cabinet maker who also arrived aboard the *Pribislaw* and was naturalised on 25 June 1853 aged 31, remarried in 1858 to Mary Thomson, daughter of William and Hannah Thomson. They

Melbourne Cemetery Stories Project

A Cemetery Stories Project is at present being planned in relation to the Melbourne General Cemetery. Research will involve locating and recording personal information about the more than 1,600 people buried there with German and/or Wendish ancestry, in order to recreate their life stories and shed further light on the early history of Victoria.

Herbert Mees, General Editor of the 2004 book *A German Church in the Garden of God: Melbourne's Trinity Lutheran Church 1853-2003*, is project manager. Several families from Westgarthtown and surrounding areas, such as Krieger, Nebel and Ziebell, have relatives buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery. If you can assist with this historically valuable task, please contact Herbert Mees at herbertmees@bigpond.com

Wendish Heritage Society Australia

Do you have Wendish ancestry? The Wends (also known as Sorbs) are a Slavic people who spoke a Slavic language—Wendish or Sorbian. The Wends live in Lusatia, an area in eastern Germany which during the mid-nineteenth century was divided between Saxony and Prussia. Five families who settled at Westgarthtown were Wendish—Graff, Grutzner, Rosel, Wuchatsch and Zimmer.

The Wendish Heritage Society Australia researches and promotes the Wendish/Sorbian and Germanic heritage and family history in Australia. Its meeting room and research centre is located at the Ivanhoe Lutheran Church's meeting room, 27 Livingstone Street, Ivanhoe, Victoria and is open on the first Sunday each month February-November, from 1.30 – 5.30 pm. The Wendish Heritage Society Australia's postal address is PO Box 307, Heidelberg, Victoria 3084. For further details see www.wendishheritage.org.au

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 Tatiana Joukoff on 03 9464 5062 or tatianajoukoff@hotmail.com

Trinity German Lutheran Church Archives, East Melbourne

If you had German Lutheran ancestors in Victoria, the Trinity Church Archives at East Melbourne may be able to help you.

The most commonly used records held by Trinity Church Archives are the marriage, baptism and confirmation registers, church minutes and correspondence. Information on many early members of the Trinity congregation is also kept.

The Trinity Church Archives are located at 22 Parliament Place, East Melbourne Victoria 3002. Opening hours are Tuesdays from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. For inquiries, please contact Renate Jurgens on 03 9761 1430 or at auntnati@optusnet.com.au

had three children—Hannah (1859-61), Mary (1861-82) and William (1864-90). Peter's first child Eliese (1853-66) also died young and was buried with her mother, sister Eliza and half-sister Hannah in the Melbourne General Cemetery.

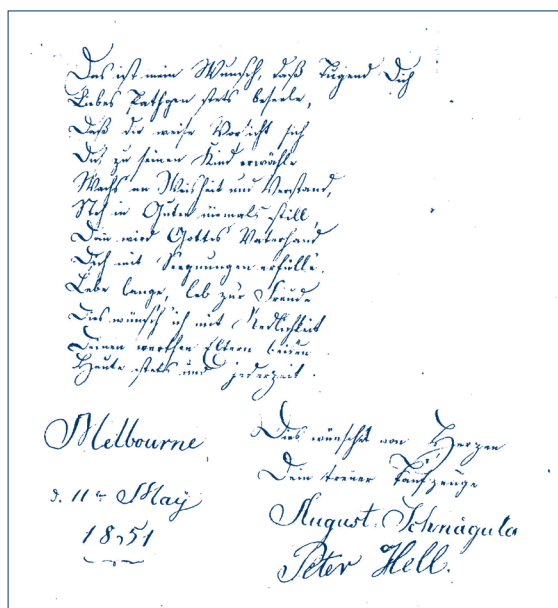
Peter Hell/Hill died at Richmond on 14 February 1890 aged 66 and was buried in the Boroondara Cemetery at Kew.

In 1851, Peter Hell had been a signatory with August Schnägula to a touching baptismal poem, which when translated from German reads as follows.

*This is my wish for you, dear little godchild:
That virtue may always inspire you,
That Providence in its wisdom
May choose you for its child.
Grow in wisdom and discernment,
Never fail doing what is good,
And God's fatherly hand
Will lavish blessings on you.
May you live long, may your life bring joy:
This is what in all honesty
I wish both your dear parents
For now, always and for evermore.*

*This is the heartfelt wish of
Your faithful sponsor
August Schnägula
Peter Hell*

Melbourne
11 May 1851



Poem translated from German to English by Herbert Mees

A Dutchman at German Town

BY ROBERT WUCHATSCH

Christian Ziebell and his son August are known to have employed German labourers on their farm at Westgarthtown. Some were said to have been deserting seamen, who had to hide in haystacks or up trees when troopers came looking for them.

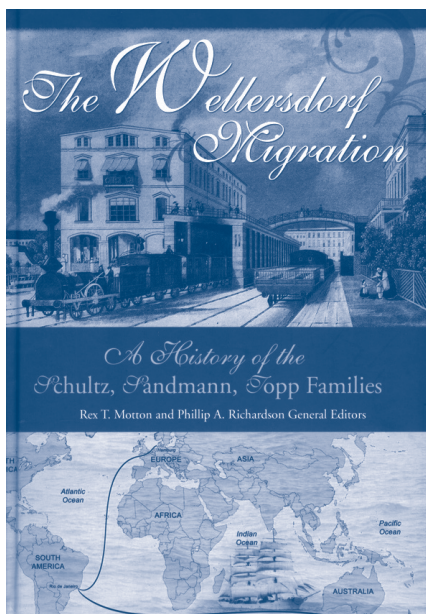
The following *Argus* report of 7 June 1873 advises of the death of a Dutch labourer at Westgarthtown, or German Town, as British people often called it.

Mr Candler, the district coroner, held an inquest on the 5th inst., at German Town, Epping, on the body of Conrad Van Wingerdan, a Hollander, aged 35 years. The deceased was a farm labourer, in the employ of August Ziebell, German Town, and was missed on Tuesday morning. Next morning a hat was noticed floating in a waterhole about seven chains from an uninhabited house, and the body of the deceased was then found in the water. The deceased had been drinking lately. The waterhole was a made one, containing about 8ft. of water, on private land, and not fenced-in, though the land was fenced. The hole was in the way between Ziebell's house and the hotel at Thomas Town, and off the road, but dangerous on account of being so surrounded with high grass and weeds that one could not see it till he had nearly reached it. The deceased left the Belmont Hotel, Thomas Town, about midnight on Monday, having been there since about 8 o'clock, and having had several nobblers of gin. The publican, Michael Larmer, said deceased was the worse for drink, but capable of taking care of himself and of walking. He had left the house in a worse state before this occasion, but was never so drunk that he could not go away. Dr. Neild, having made a *post-mortem* examination, deposed that the cause of death was drowning. There were a few superficial marks, but no sign of violence. A verdict of "Found drowned, without serious marks of violence," was returned.

The unfortunate Dutchman, who died on 3 June 1873, was buried in the Westgarthtown cemetery on 5 June following the inquest. He had worked for August Ziebell for 18 months. His gravesite is now unmarked and unknown, as is that of another Ziebell farm labourer, John Schuster, who was killed on the farm in 1871 when he was thrown from a horse (see *Friends of Westgarthtown News*, March 2002 Vol. 6, No. 1).

Schultz, Sandmann & Topp families history book

BY ROBERT WUCHATSCH



In June 2012, the comprehensive and attractive book *The Wellersdorf Migration: A History of the Schultz, Sandmann, Topp Families* edited by Rex T. Motton & Phillip A. Richardson, was launched at Poowong North.

The Schultz and Sandmann families arrived in Australia from Wellersdorf in Silesia, Germany in 1849 aboard the ship *Dockenuden*. Soon after they moved to Mill Park, before purchasing land at

Wollert, where Schultz descendants remain today. Johann Traugott Sandmann's wife Maria Dorothea was a daughter of Johann Gottlob and Maria (née Kluge) Schultz. Sandmann died in 1860 and is buried at Westgarthtown, as are many members of the Schultz family.

In 1862, Maria Dorothea remarried to Johann Topp, a stonemason who arrived in Australia from Germany in 1859. As well as farming, Topp built various buildings in the district, most notably the Westgarthtown school building in 1865/66. The Topp family later moved to Gippsland where many of their descendants still live.

This profusely illustrated 666 page hardback book is a significant contribution to Victoria's German Heritage. It allows us to see how these particular immigrant families adapted, thrived and have contributed to the Australian nation we live in today. A welcome and impressive achievement of the book is the section based on research in German archives regarding the Schultz family's landholdings in Germany. The book's editors and contributors can be well pleased with the result of their efforts which date back to a family reunion held in 1999.

Copies of the *The Wellersdorf Migration* can be obtained for \$85 (including packing and postage) from Phillip A. Richardson 7 Regent Street Camberwell Vic 3124. Phillip's telephone number is 03 9889 1368 and email philar@netspace.net.au.

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Westgarthtown is the oldest and most intact German/Wendish settlement in Victoria. Established in March 1850, it celebrated its 160th Anniversary in 2010.

The Thomastown Lutheran Church at Westgarthtown is the second oldest surviving Lutheran Church building in Australia and the oldest still used as the principal worship centre of a Lutheran congregation.

Heritage Victoria has included the Lutheran Church, Cemetery and Reserve; and Graff's, Siebel's, Wuchatsch's and Ziebell's houses on its Heritage Register, recognising their outstanding heritage value and providing legislative protection for the future.

Ziebell's Farmhouse is Victoria's oldest German immigrant building.

Siebel's Farmhouse, erected in 1860, is the birthplace of Albert Siebel, who in 1934 established the Pura Dairy at Preston, to retail Westgarthtown's milk. Pura has now developed into a leading national Australian brandname.

Wuchatsch's Farmhouse is believed to be the oldest house in Melbourne to have been constructed, owned and continually occupied by the same family.