



GUSTAV'S NEWSLETTER

From

THE EUDUNDA FAMILY HERITAGE GALLERY
BRUCE STREET, EUDUNDA

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Another year draws to a close, a year of hard work devoted to an extremely worthy cause— our Heritage Gallery; a year of work executed by a small band of dedicated people – all volunteers - who have the Community at heart. The Federation Weekend proved to be a Winner, despite the chilly and damp weather. It is worth taking time to visit the impressive Railway/Wagon entrance Gates at Robertstown or else enjoy a thermos of tea and some biscuits at the Point Pass Water Feature. The Eudunda stone ruins with its Story tiles is a fitting place for a luncheon break. Peter Herriman took 490 photographs during the time of the Federation Weekend. These are on a CD-Rom and this CD may be purchased from the Gallery, it also may be viewed there, and images may be downloaded from it onto a disk! It is of 25 minutes duration. Peter has taken every effort to capture the whole weekend in photographs – the School Student Art work, the Bush Dance, Jenke's Garage, the Flower Show in the Institute - practically everything pertaining to the occasion.

The Heritage President, Dot Bonner, extends Seasons Greetings to the wonderful people who continue to support the Gallery with their donations of muscle, money and memorabilia. She loves you and she thanks you very, very much for your kindness.

AGRICULTURAL BUREAU OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Sutherlands – Approved 8th March 1905,
Closed 13th December 1918

Foundation Members – A.M.Twartz, J.F.G. Kernich, E.Schiller, C.Nitschke, C.H.Carter, F.Snell, B.Thiele, C.Strante, H.J.Dart.

Friedrichswalde – Approved 10th July 1912
Closed 10th June 1914

Foundation Members – A.G.Reichelt, F.W.Duldig, P.Goodfellow, T.Pfitzner, F.Pfitzner, E.A.Reichelt, F.Heintze, J.Heintze, F.W.Schutz, E.Duldig, W.Biesel, J.B.Coombe

Robertstown – Approved 22nd May 1893
Closed – 19th October 1901

Foundation Members – N.Westphalen, A.Rohde, S.Rohde, G.Pfitzner Jnr., A.Preusker.

Point Pass – Approved 4th April 1940

Foundation Members - M.W.Eckermann, F.Everett, H.Handke, A.T.Leditschke, V.Leditschke, T.J.Manhirer (President), Pastor J.E.Materne, C.B.F.Nicolai (Secretary), N.A.Nitschke, A.O.Pfeiffer, George Pfitzner, O.B.Pfitzner, K.Potter, E.E.Schild, A.Schild, H.Schild, A.T.Schmidt, E.G.Schmidt, L.Schmidt, A.E.Schmidt, W.Schmidt, B.G.Schulz, B.E.Schultz (Vice President), G.A.Schutz, Gordon O.Schutz, George O.Schutz, H.A.Schutz, H.E.Schutz, A.A.Schutz M.W.Schutz, Angus Farley, A.H.Farley, J.B.Jochinke,

Brownlow – Approved 30th October 1929
Name changed to Neales Flat 11th April 1947.

Foundation Members – A.H.&B.Schmidt, F.Partridge, C.G.&F.Rooocke, J.A.&Art Materne, A.&V.Semmler, H.Grosser, G.Biar.

Buchanan – Approved 29th August 1928

Foundation Members – C.Ruediger, B.Pfeiler, G.Prior, W.Gould, J.Stasinowsky, W.Durdin, L.Bell, W.Hucks, R.Roebuck, W.Armstrong, F.Rohde, H.Williams, C.Reichelt

(An extract from "One Hundred Years on the Land" by Caroline Guerin.)

FISHING WITH THE SCHUBERT FAMILY

From about 1910 for a number of years we used to occasionally go on fishing trips to Pelican Point which was about 6 miles down the River Murray from Morgan.

We traveled from our home at Sutherlands in a German Wagon which was pulled by 3 horses.

In the wagon (besides up to 6 people and their luggage) we had to carry chaff to feed the horses, containers of food and cooking utensils, chairs, boards to make tables, bedding and so-on. There were 30 miles of dirt and metal roads to travel and we would pass other wagons, buggies and spring drays on the way. It took the best part of a day to get there and then we had to tie up the horses, unpack, set up feed boxes for the horses and get wood for cooking. Prior to fishing we went crayfishing to get bait!! This was done with a piece of meat on the end of string or a net bag. The main fishing was done with crosslines tied each side of the river with hooks on ties on 9 inch traces. The line was visited each morning and evening and bamboo rods were used to fish during the day. The fish we caught were callop and cod. There were allocated reaches in the river and permission had to be obtained to fish. We had plenty of oranges and grapes to eat and we also shot ducks to supplement the food supply. Other groups were there camping and we would get together and have a yarn but some people got very jealous about their special fishing spots!

(A reminiscence from Eddie Schubert.)

NEALES FLAT CFS

A group of 26 interested landholders met in the Neales Flat church Hall on the 15th August 1975 to express their concern at the lack of fire fighting facilities within their area. This meeting was presided over by Mr. A.S.K. Holding who at the time was the Fire Supervisor for the District Council of Eudunda. Mr. Holding explained to those present that Eudunda was shortly to receive a new unit. When this occurred it was then likely that the Council would allow the surplus 1943 Austin unit to come to Neales Flat provided it could be housed and maintained properly. A motion was passed to ask the Council to allow the unit to come to

Neales Flat. A committee was formed – Wally Hage (President), Allen Kleinig (Secretary), with further members Vin Diener, Paul Schiller and Paul Heidrich. This was the beginning of the Neales Flat Country Fire Service.

(An extract from Neales Flat CFS History by Helen Schiller.)

ASCERTAINING WEIGHT OF CATTLE

Measure the girth close behind the shoulder, and measure the length from the fore part of the shoulder-blade along the back to the bone at the tail, which is in a vertical line with the buttock, both in feet. Multiply the square of the girth, expressed in feet, by five times the length, and divide the product by 21; the quotient is the weight, nearly, of the four quarters, in stones of 14 lbs, avoirdupois. For example, if the girth be 6 ½ feet, and the length 5 ¼ feet, we shall have 6 ½ multiplied by 6 ½ equal to 42 ¼, and 5 ¼ multiplied by 5 equal to 26 ¼; then 42 ¼ multiplied by 26 ¼ is equal to 1,109 and 1/16th, and this divided by 21 gives 52 4/5 ths stones nearly, or 52 stones 11 lbs. It is to be observed, however, that in very fat cattle the four quarters will be about 1/20th more, while those in a very lean state will be 1/20th less than the weight obtained by the rule. The four quarters are little more than half the weight of the living animal; the skin weighing about the 18th part, and the tallow about the 12th part of the whole.

(An extract from “Early Settlers Household Lore” by Mrs. N. Pescott.)

PARSNIP WINE

You first of all wash, cut, and crush the roots, and then allow them to soak all night in pure water, after which they have to be squeezed till all the liquor is out. This is then mixed with a little sugar, say a pound to each gallon, and allowed to stand in a cool place till fermentation ensues, after which it is tightly bottled and put away for use. It is better kept for a few months before using.

POST WORLD WAR 2 NEW EUDUNDA RESIDENTS

Kolac, Stegmeyer, Hess, Sakavicius, Petrovic, Bunde, Ordemann, Preglej, Didsmann, Gavrilovic, Weeken - some surnames of the people who left the war ravaged continent of

Europe, emigrated to Australia, and then settled in the Eudunda area, some for a longer time than others. Les and Maria (Mitzi) Preglej (pronounced Pregley) lived in Yugoslavia under President Tito's regime. Les was an electrician in the Yugoslav Navy. Because he objected to the regime he and his family were given 24 hours in which to leave the country. This was in 1941. Les, Maria, 4 children and Maria's foster father crossed the border into Germany. Helen and Veronica were the two older daughters, then there were Joe (4 years old) and Ludmila (a baby in arms.) They were Displaced Persons for 6 years. During these 6 years Les worked as a factory electrician in a town surrounded by three German Army Camps; the family lived in a dwelling located in a type of scrub. Finding food was a priority in their daily living. On one occasion when Les and Maria were walking to visit Maria's foster father in the hospital some kilometers away, they found a potato. It was so precious to them, and Maria was able to use that potato in the family's evening meal. Stinging nettles were their spinach. The property on which the Preglej family lived was owned by the aristocracy and it was forbidden that they kill the rabbits, or fish in the river, in order to have food to eat. Maria sold her jewellery, piece by piece, to have money for food, she also made Wine from Horse Turnips and sold that for food money. One daughter worked for a butcher and occasionally was given a piece of horse meat to take home. At the end of the War there were American and Russian camps and the Preglej family and Maria's foster father were fortunate in being placed into an American camp. Joe recalls that the family was given a loaf of white bread and a loaf of brown bread and a minute amount of butter a week. Les and Maria applied for Immigration to Canada, the officer said "Why not go to Australia? There are only 5 million people there." So camp by camp they were moved across Germany to Italy, and departed from Naples in June 1949, on a converted American Troop ship "General Stewart" to Australia. The food on the ship was outstanding, the children had never seen anything like it before and they ate oranges and bananas for the first time in their young lives. After 28 days the ship arrived at Outer Harbour and the family was taken by train to

the Woodside Army Camp. Before leaving Italy they were told that Australia was so sunny that they'd need only summer clothes, and that's what they brought with them! Only July 1949 was mid-winter! They lived in the Woodside camp for a year. There they were taught English. Joe attended the Woodside Primary School and learnt to play "The Teddy Bear's Picnic" on the fife, and Les worked for the South Australian Railways at Islington. They were looking for a place to live and a friend said to Les "There are so many empty houses at Eudunda. Why don't you go there?" And the Preglej's did!!

They found a home in the former Pickert home, owned by Mr. Fred Materne, located on the Truro Road (2 kilometres on the right from the Morgan Road turn-off). Mr. and Mrs. Materne met the Preglej family at the Eudunda Railway Station with their truck, loaded everyone and everything on to it, and then Mr. Materne said "First we'll go to Eudunda Farmers," (the store) whereupon he purchased a huge amount of food and gave it to the family, refusing to accept payment from Les. Mr and Mrs Materne then took the Preglej family to their new home which had been cleaned and Kalsomined by the Materne children. Mr. Materne gave the Preglej's free rent for a year, Les rode his BSA Bantam to his work as a Porter with the S.A. Railways in Eudunda, Joe and Ludmila attended the Eudunda Area School. After their school years – Joe worked with the S.A. Railways as a Porter and later as a Guard; and then with Telstra. Joe married Marion Thiele, a local lass; they reside in Kapunda, moving there from Eudunda 10 years ago. Ludmila worked with the Eudunda Farmers Co-op. Society store in Eudunda and married Ivon Marschall, a local lad; they reside in Eudunda. Helen married Dusan Gavrilovic in Germany and Veronica married Milan (Mick) Petrovic in Adelaide. Both of these families resided in Eudunda, too, with Dusan employed as a Permanent Way Ganger with the S.A. Railways and Mick employed as a Fireman and then as an Engine Driver with the S.A. Railways. When the Railways built three new Railway cottages in Eudunda, near the swimming pool, the Preglej's moved from the Truro Road into one of them. Maria's foster father lived at Eudunda with them, and is buried in the Eudunda Cemetery. Les,

Maria and Joe were the first to become Naturalized Australian Citizens at Eudunda. The Ceremony was conducted 25th May 1956 by the Chairman of the District Council of Eudunda Mr. George Hambour M.P. in the Eudunda Institute. The Minister for Defence, Sir Phillip McBride, was present for the occasion and he gave the Address. Other speakers to voice congratulations were Sergeant A.J. Knight, H.O. Leditschke, H. Gehling, B.J. Schultz, J. Vander Lee, Mrs. H.M. Ziersch. A letter was received from the Immigration Minister, Harold Holt. Graham Nicholls sang "The Song of Australia." Both Les and Maria are buried in the Eudunda Cemetery.

CHRISTMAS IN 1836

Mrs. Mary Thomas arrived in South Australia on the pioneer sailing ship *Africaine* captained by Captain John Finlay Duff, 10th November 1836. She and her family departed England 28th June 1836. Her husband Robert Thomas was the founder of the first South Australian Newspaper entitled "The South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register." The following extract is taken from Mrs. Thomas' Diary.

"December 25 – This being our first Christmas Day and Sunday, Divine Service was held for the first time in the rush hut of the principal surveyor, a short distance from our tents. We attended, taking our seats with us, the signal for assembling being the firing of a gun. The congregation numbered 25 persons, including the two gentlemen who conducted the service. The thermometer stood at 100 degrees, and most of those assembled were in the open air.

In the afternoon we took a walk round the lagoon, and saw a large iguana basking in the sun. It was about three feet long, in form like a lizard, with a long pointed tail and of a beautiful light brown, in some parts approaching to gold colour.

We kept up the old custom of Christmas as far as having a plum pudding for dinner, likewise a ham, and a parrot pie, but one of our neighbours, as we afterwards found, had a large piece of roast beef, though we were not aware at the time that any fresh meat was to be had in the colony, and that, I believe, was partly salted. The fact was, when we landed at Glenelg, one of the passengers of the

Africaine took charge of Captain Duff's cow and calf, and the former, which had been tied to a tree near the lagoon, got over the bank and fell in, being so much injured that it was found expedient to kill her. Thus some of the colonists were supplied with their Christmas beef. 9 o'clock this evening and the thermometer is still upwards of 90 degrees, and the evening very close."

BURRA COPPER MINES

In 1868 Johann August Carl Pfitzner settled on a property 3 miles west of Point Pass, in the hills. In order to clear the heavy gum country Carl and his older brother Heinrich cut down the big timber, sawed the trunks and larger limbs into lengths and then split them into slabs for the timbering of shafts in the copper mines at Burra. Heinrich carted his loads per bullock team, whilst Carl used horses. Every trip took them as far as "The Pigeon Box", a reserve with water a mile or two south of Koonoona Station on the first day, followed by delivery of their loads at the mines and return on the second day to the reserve, with the home-run on the third day. Heinrich had a very good bullock team. He made pocket money by outpulling other bullock teams in a tug-of-war in which a strong iron ring was the hitching point. The Adelaide/Kapunda Railway was opened 13th August 1860 and Heinrich also carted supplies from this railhead to Burra. (An extract from *The Pfitzner Story 1802 – 1975*).

Two shearing sheds in the Robertstown District have their board floors constructed of discarded wooden slabs from the Burra mine shafts, obtained when the Mines closed.

DANCING LESSONS 1800's STYLE

The gold miners at Gulgong, N.S.W. who wished to learn dancing were taught this pleasure with the aid of life sized bags of dry vegetation suspended from the ceiling on a long rope. They were held by the men, to their chests in lieu of a real lady, while the fancy footwork was being taught.

FROLICHE WEINACHTEN

(A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS)

Editor: Margaret Rogers.