

# GUSTAV'S NEWSLETTER

From

THE EUDUNDA FAMILY

HERITAGE GALLERY

BRUCE STREET, EUDUNDA

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## NUMBER 8. DECEMBER 2002

It is impossible to adequately and individually thank all the people who worked and put their hearts and souls into the restoration and presentation of the Gosling Cottage. Valuable time and effort, memorabilia, monies and Friends of the Gallery subscriptions made a dream possible. To have descendants of the Gosling Family present at the Official Opening on 13<sup>th</sup> October was the "icing on the cake." There are more dreams and visions in regard to the future of the Heritage Gallery, and with the support recently demonstrated, they will become a reality, too.

**Thank You Everyone,  
Sincerely - Dot Bonner.**

## HANS HEINRICH ECKERMANN

About 10 years after the State of South Australia had been founded, Hans Heinrich Eckermann, born 4<sup>th</sup> February 1808, then about 40 years old, with his wife Elizabeth (nee Schmaal) and several children, emigrated from Mecklenburg, Germany to South Australia. After a very long sea voyage the family first lived at Klemzig, occupied with gardening. However, aiming to be a farmer, Hans several years later transferred to Blumberg (Birdwood). This land in its natural state proved very poor pasture land for stock and not the best for wheat growing, and artificial fertilizers were not then available or thought of. So then he decided to move to the north and spent a few years at New Mecklenburg (Gomersal) where his brother-in-law Carl Schmaal lived. Later he secured land just to the west of Waterloo, probably induced by his brothers-in-law J. & H. Schmaal and G. Behn who had already established themselves on farms near Steelton. Hans and his wife reared 9 children,

a daughter and eight sons. All worked exceedingly hard, cleared the land and established themselves reasonably well. The working plant then available was primitive. At first scythes were used for hay-making. B. Neumann told me what a sight it was to behold some 6 brothers following one another scything off crop for hay. They would stop, stand up the scythes on the handles, pull out a whetstone, sharpen the blades and after a little puff start off again. Some of their wheat was carted to the nearest mill and in exchange bran and pollard was taken to feed stock and flour for the housewives to bake bread and "Kuchen". They raised steers, sheep, pigs and poultry for meat and eggs, cured hams and bacon, made quite an assortment of small goods, pickled pork, corned beef, made sausages and wursts, grew a vegetable garden and fruit trees and made pickles and jams. The women handmilked cows, poured the milk into dishes and when set, handskimmed off the cream, churned it into butter, and what delicious dairy butter it was. All money realised was carefully spent on clothing, household and farm necessities. This economic but sumptuous way of living was extended into the next and third generation; but thereafter was gradually more and more modified.

(Written by the late W.P. Eckermann who founded "Pella" Jersey Stud, Eudunda.)

## NORTHWEST BEND RAILWAY

By September 11<sup>th</sup> 1878 the North West Bend Railway was completed. One gang worked from the Kapunda end of the line, another from Morgan. It was a dramatic moment when the rails were linked at 5 o'clock in the evening. The official opening was performed on October 18<sup>th</sup> by Sir William Francis Jervois. It was a day of great rejoicing and

Landseers Warehouse was the venue for the banquet which followed. Accommodation was provided for more than two hundred people, yet many were turned away. The police had a busy time while the line was being built, for whenever the men could obtain strong drink they indulged too much. At this time neither Eudunda or Mount Mary had a lock-up, so quite frequently the drunks were chained to a large log by the railway line until they sobered-up. The Eudunda Register of Prisoners, Morgan area, shows that for the year 1878 by far the commonest crime was drunkenness! Out of 21 charges, fifteen were caused through strong drink and each man found guilty of the offence was fined 5/- . ( From "The Nor'West Bend Story" by Wynniss Ruediger.)

### **ROADS, ROADWORKS & MACHINERY**

On 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1851, a petition was presented to Parliament from the inhabitants of Truro residing near the Overland Route to Sydney for improving the road between Moorundee and Gawlertown, via Freeling. This road was proclaimed on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1851, In May 1857, 21 miles from Gawler , was surveyed and 29 miles was undefined. None of the road was formed and metalled. In the first half of the year 1859, Parliament allowed £ 350 for opening the road over the Murray Ranges and £ 150 for clearing the road through the Murray scrub. The maintenance of the Main Road was in the care of the Central Road Board who employed daymen and contractors to do the work. The Overseer of these maintenance gangs was called a Stationman. From 1877-1879 a dayman was employed to do work around the town of Truro: he was firstly paid 6/- and later 6/4 per day. In 1899 working hours were from 7.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. with one hour for dinner. The Overseer was paid 7/-, workmen 6/- and a man with a horse team 107/- per day. The daymen's work was usually to break and spread maintenance metal, this was usually done in the winter and spring months. The men had to find their own tools, but the Council paid for their picks to be sharpened. The daymen had the loan of Council wheelbarrows and some were also hired at 4 pence per day. In 1890 five new shovels were

purchased for the workers. Men were paid for actual time of work and no smoking was allowed by the men during working hours; no person under the age of 20 years was employed. In the Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> September 1918 it stated "J.Irvine be paid for road rolling but not for the time spent yarning when returning with the roller to the Council yard!"

(From "The District Council of Truro 1876 - 1976" by Reg Munchenberg.)

### **KEITH HAMPTON**

Keith is a Mylor born man (1929). Rejoined the Post Master General's Department (P.M.G. Dept.) - as Australia Post, Telecom and Telstra used to be known - at Stirling in the Adelaide Hills when he was a young man of 18 years. He enrolled in a P.M.G. Cable Line school at Rostrevor, and then when this course was completed Keith returned to Stirling to join cables. He was also employed on a digging gang - digging trenches for cable conduits; then he was employed in the removal of aerial telephone lines from Stirling to Glen Osmond in the Adelaide suburbs. Only Trunk lines were left above-ground on the Telegraph poles. Trunk lines were used for Distance calls. Keith married and he and his young family went to New Guinea, with Keith working for the P.M.G. doing everything that was applicable to P.M.G. cable work. When Keith first went to New Guinea, he was member of a contingent of 11 or 12 fellow P.M.G. employees. Five P.M.G. men flew from Adelaide to Sydney, where they collected more men from around Australia. They were then flown into Port Moresby and were collected from the airport by bus. Keith was there for 3 months before he was joined by his family. P.M.G. personnel were employed on a 21 month contract and then had 3 months leave. The contract was renewable. In New Guinea there were no communication cables between the towns, aerial towers transmitted all communications. The aerial towers transmitted the Signal to the Telephone Exchanges, and the calls were then distributed by cable. Keith did aerial work all over New Guinea. He went to Rabaul, Wee Wak, Lae, Madang and Mt Hagen, with Goroka being his final appointment. The

P.M.G. men were taken by helicopter to do the tower work in the Highlands. The helicopter circled the location until a break appeared in the clouds, then when there was a break; it swooped through and left the men at the tower base. They remained for two days at a time. Permanent accommodation was supplied at these towers, as was food. Keith did not wear sunglasses while squinting and looking upwards when working on the towers, which meant that his eyes were exposed to the sun - all with the result that he is now having eye problems. Working days were a 7.30/8.00 a.m. start with a 4.30 p.m. finish, 5 days per week. The Hampton family home in Lae was timberframed and air-conditioned. Keith tended his own garden and grew vegetables. There were dry times and the garden required watering, just like any other garden. In the Tropical Season 75% of the rain fell at night and by 10 a.m. next day it was all gone. New Guinea fish was beautiful; it was purchased from the locals at the Port Moresby and Lae Markets. Saturday morning fish was best. Keith's sons joined the Defence Forces while the family was in New Guinea - they sat for their entrance examinations there, but had to do the Basic Training in Australia. When the time came for Keith's daughters to attend Business College, he transferred to P.M.G. Bendigo as Foreman. Keith came to Eudunda in 1973, from Bendigo. By that time telecommunication was a separate entity and not included in the P.M.G. banner, therefore he was the Telecom Foreman at Eudunda. He worked with Andrew Maynard, Joe Preglej, Brett Warner, Malcolm Hintz, Anton Sakavicius, Eldred Grope and Gary Barclay. Keith was here at the time of the Telephone Exchange changeover from a Manual Service to an Automatic Service. It was Excitement Plus!! The underground cable had to be laid through the Railway Yard to Bruce Street and all went well from the Post Office, down Gunn Street and into the Railway Yard until attempting to tunnel in the space between the spur line leading to the Weigh Bridge and the direct Rail line to Adelaide/Morgan. The Telecom digging gang (which came from Nuriootpa) hammered, drilled and attempted all manner of things to penetrate the object obstructing their progress - the object turned

out to be a well reinforced Cinders Pit, a leftover from the Steam Train days. There was only one thing to do - Telecom tunnelled **under** the Cinders Pit. There is another Cinders Pit in the Railway Yard - it is adjacent to Ron Schultz's backyard fence. The Nuriootpa digging gang was utilized for the whole district; the men stayed in Eudunda during the week. Keith was foreman for the whole district changeover to automatic. Eudunda was the first to be completed. Then came Point Pass - Point Pass exchange was manned only at certain times each day; Sutherlands - there were set hours; Hampden - during A.G. Obst shop trading hours; Brownlow - manned by Mrs. Schutz; Australia Plains; with Robertstown {he last of all. Keith lives in a Railway Cottage, - '•> numbered 590 on a small enamelled plate on a verandah post, in Eudunda. Anton Sakavicius assisted Keith with the purchase of this home, informing him that it was on the market for an extremely reasonable price, and Keith took advantage of the opportunity!! Keith is very modest when approached about his fascinating career.

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA -1876**

Among the leading manufactories are 43 for agricultural implements, 3 for soap and candles, 20 for coach and carriage building, 6 -for jam, 8 for boat building, 1 for meat preserving, 4 for ship building, 5 for marble polishing, 1 tweed factory, 13 clothing factories, 24 boot & shoe factories, 3 flax mills, 3 rope walks, 2 brush manufactories, 10 biscuit bakeries, 4 confectioner manufactories, 9 dried fruits & 3 olive oil factories. Among works may be enumerated 25 breweries, 135 distilleries, 27 foundries, 8 gas works, 7 potteries, 31 saw mills, 34 tanneries, 102 wine presses, 30 soda water manufactories and 1 ice works. Flour mills are very numerous, there being in 1876, 101 containing 320 pairs of stones, driven by steam machinery of the aggregate horsepower "of 1,978. During 1876, 727,272 gallons of wine were manufactured and 37,299 gallons exported. Sericulture is attracting considerable attention, and the silk produced has been pronounced by Marseilles merchants to be equal to any ever wound by them. (From "Bedside Book of Colonial Doings")

## FROM THE DAY BOOK OF WIESNER & CO. 1912 – 1917

Eudunda was extremely busy; it had professional builders and home builders, and many people and organizations going about setting up for themselves. Wiesner customers came from Greenock, Peter's Hill, Kapunda, Mount Mary, Eba, Morgan, Sutherlands, Robertstown, Point Pass, Neales Flat, Julia, Steinfeld, Friedrichswalde, New Residence – there were Indian Hawkers, too, as customers.

A.E. Gosling	1 tin Carbide	7 pence
	1 bucket, Enamel	3 shillings & 2 pence
Edwin Davey & Sons	1 packet 1 ½ x 10 screws	1 shilling & 4 pence
	16 feet 12 x 1 shelving @ 6 1/2d per ft.	8 shillings & 8 pence
P.H. Geister	1 Tennis Racket	10 shillings
W. Hemmerling	10 Gawler Bricks	11 pence
	15 lengths ridgecap 16 @ 2/-	1 pound, 10 shillings
Rev. K. Gutekunst	1 Bell	6 pence
Eudunda Unterhaltungs Club	4 pounds Eureka Tobacco @ 4/11 lb.	19 shillings & 8 pence
W.A. Steinborner	1 perambulator	2 pounds 12 shillings & 6 pence
D. Both	1 tarpaulin 20ft x 18ft	3 pounds, 5 shillings
Neales Council	2 carbide trays for generator @ 3/- ea.	6 shillings
Martin Traeger	1 bag Lime	4 shillings
Sunda Singh (Meribah)	6 rolls barbed wire @ 47/6	14 pounds, 5 shillings
	carriage (freight) on same	15 shillings & 10 pence
J.O. Kamm	2 Hymn Books @ 1/9	3 shillings & 6 pence
Roy Treloar	7 yards 6 inches Lino @ 4/- yd	1 pound, 8 shillings & 8 pence
W. Marschall	3 pairs sheep shears @ 3/9	11 shillings & 3 pence
E. Pfitzner	3 Sachse's No 3 plough shares	9 shillings
J. Keough, Eba	1 trough	2 pounds, 12 shillings & 6 pence
Wm. Roberts	25 pounds blasting powder @ 9d.	18 shillings & 9 pence
Robertstown/Bright Silver & Lead Mining Company	50 pounds gelignite	2 pounds, 18 shillings & 4 pence
Eudunda Cricket Club	1 cricket ball	4 shillings & 9 pence
Pfeiffer Bros.	½ gallon Stockholm Tar	1 shilling & 3 pence
G.H. Ziersch	1 Rex Washing Machine	2 pounds, 15 shillings
Oswald Rawolle	250 bricks	1 pound, 5 shillings
H.H. Dutton	Carriage (freight) on a tank to Mt. Mary	6 shillings & 10 pence
Elder, Smith & Co.	1 Ink well	2 shillings & 3 pence
F.W. Dreckow	1 anvil	2 pounds, 2 shillings & 6 pence
	1 #130 forge	5 pounds, 2 shillings & 6 pence
	3 cwt. Coal @ 3/-	9 shillings
	2 off 4x3 dray shafts	8 shillings & 6 pence
R. Matz	1 mincer knife	1 shilling & 3 pence

## REGENT'S CHRISTMAS PUNCH (a recipe from the 1800's)

Pare the rind of three oranges and three lemons as thinly as possible. Cut rind into thin strips and soak in a glass of warm syrup for 3 to 4 hours. Squeeze the oranges and lemons and add to the peel and syrup, then add a glass each of the finest Jamaican Rum, French brandy, arrack, and if you have any, a glass of good home-made pineapple syrup. Make a pot of strong China or green tea; when cold, pour 1 <sup>1/4</sup> cups on to the previous mixture, sieve and ice well. To serve, place punch-bowl on a bed of crushed ice, pour in the above mixture and top with two bottles of iced champagne.

(From "200 Years of Australian Cooking" by Babette Hayes.)

## SEASON'S GREETING FROM THE EUDUNDA HERITAGE GALLERY.

**Editor: Margaret Rogers**

