



# NEWSLETTER

Eudunda Heritage Gallery

19 Bruce Street, EUDUNDA, SA,



## CONTACTS

POSITION	PERSON	CONTACT
President	Jim Reese	Ph: (08) 8581 1268
Secretary	Fay Grosser	[Ph/ Fax: (08) 85 81 1326
Local Historian	Jim Reese	Ph:(08)8581 1268
Newsletter editor	Maxine Carter	Ph:(08)8581 0684 Email: phoenix-Srhe.net.au
Email	Eudunda Heritage Gallery	heritage@euduna.net
Web	Eudunda Heritage Gallery	www .eudunda..net/hertage

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Hello Everyone,

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Eudunda Club at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> July.

You are ail welcome to attend to catch up with all the Committees' activities over the past 12 months.

### HOW IT WAS

3y Erna Handke

Go back in time, before the Internet and computers, before automatics. Way, way back. I'm referring to when St. John's School re-opened in the early 1920's. In those years we started Primary School between the ages of 6 to 7 years. The School leaving age then was 14 years. 13 year olds could be granted an exemption from attendance at school - If they were needed at home and to those living over a certain distance from the Higher Primary School. In all kinds of weather I walked 3 miles to school. Some children

came on pushbikes, others on horse back and some even came by horse and cart.

The boys had a school bag on back, 'while the girls had a school case.

Occasionally as I walked to school with my brother and sister, the Butcher would come along and give us a ride on top of his cart. Farmers carting wheat in their German Wagons sometimes also gave us a ride.

Sitting atop of the wheat bags was great fun. I'm sure we could have walked quicker than the horses. School days started at 9.00 o'clock with the Head Master, Mr. Ziersch ringing the bell for all pupils to assemble in the school yard. Once assembled we would march to the Flag Pole. We saluted the Flag and then sang the National Anthem. God save Our Gracious King. "King George V".

This was followed by a daily inspection of hands, fingernails, shoes or boots and clean handkerchiefs, We then marched into the one-roomed school building, which was our classroom.

The Head Master was the sole teacher - he taught all grades in this one room. Once in school we would stand beside our desk, which seated 5 to 6 pupils and waited for the teacher to greet us with "Good Morning Girls and Boys" - we replied "Good Morning Mr. Ziersch". After being seated we answered the roll call. This was followed by the first lesson for the day. Religious Instruction. Some of the lessons we took throughout the week were Spelling, Dictation, Copy Book Writing, Composition, Mental Arithmetic, History and Geography. Spelling and Mental Arithmetic were very important. If we had too many errors we got an imposition. That meant we had to write out the correct answers 20 to 30 times, either at recess or during lunch. Remember when we started with slates and chalk, progressing to paper and pencils and finally pen and ink. Ink was placed along the front of our desks and was filled every morning. Writing was also very important, especially in our Transcription Book. We had to have one hand flat on the desk, our nose had to be about 12" from the book, our back straight and we had to hold the pen correctly.

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### **DISTRICT COUNCIL OF JULIA**

The Hundred of Julia Creek was bestowed on the district in 1851 by the then Governor of South Australia, Sir Henry Young, in memory of the daughter of George Gawler the second Governor of South Australia, Miss Julia Gawler. The district was Proclaimed on December 10<sup>th</sup> 1874, the first Chairman being Henry Thomas Morris (a nephew of the first Governor of the State and who arrived with his uncle aboard the "Buffalo" in 1836. Morris was also the manager of Anlaby Station, which covered most of the hundred of Julia Creek.

The Hundred of Julia Creek covered a total of 86 square miles, and had some 150 miles of district roads and 11 miles of main roads.

Council valuation of the District at the first assessment was 200 pounds (\$400). On May 12, 1932 the District Council of Julia amalgamated with the District of Neales to become the District Council of Eudunda.

### **SOME TRIVIA ABOUT JULIA.**

In 1895 the then owner of Anlaby Station, Mr. Henry Hampden Dutton, surveyed 2000 acres of the station and sold them as farms. In 1905 he sold a further 24,000 acres to the Government; this was subdivided and put up for closer settlement. In 1926 there were some 60 families living on these allotments. In 1911 he sold another 7000 acres on which a further 12 families settled. After World War 1 the repatriation department procured 4000 acres on which they settled a total of 10 returned soldiers and their families. In 1920 an office was built in Hampden which was used as an office until amalgamation with Neales when it became the Hampden Hall. The land on which the office/hall is situated was donated to council by Mr. H.H. Dutton.

Councillors who have represented Julia (up to amalgamation with Neales) are.. Mr. H.T. Morris, Messrs, Harding, Seargent, H.B. Treager, H. Martin, A.F.W. Pfitzner, H. Pfitzner, J. Holding, C. De Lucas, J.L. Lampard, T. Prior, J.A.J. Pfitzner, T. Prior, O.B. Pfitzner, D.S. Heaslip, W.G. Holding, and E.W. Pfitzner (Clerk).

### **MELVA'S MEMOIRS**

Written in 1988 by Melva Hintz who passed away in March 2005.

I was born on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December at the family home at Australia Plain in the great drought of 1914. My parents were Hermann Wilhelm Schulz and Anna Otilie Schulz (nee Eckert) and I was the fifth child of fourteen. The midwife at my birth was my

grandmother, Johanne Pauline Schulz (nee Lehmann), wife of my grandfather Johann Wilhelm Schulz.

I was baptised by Pastor Zwar on January 10<sup>th</sup> 1915 at St Petri Church, Point Pass.

Here my parents were members until us children were old enough to attend school. Then they transferred to Australia Plain Church and we went to Australia Plain School. We walked 2 miles to school, most barefooted. I sat for my Q.C. (Qualifying Certificate) test in Grade 7 at Eudunda High School and passed with 508 marks out of 700. Only 2 of the class went for the test. The other became my brother in law -Laurence Hintz - who had less marks. My teacher wanted me to be his infant class assistant, earning 28 pounds a year - a lot of money in those days. But my parents didn't approve, as I had to work home on the farm, and help with the younger children. We used to attend Sunday School on Saturday mornings, the teacher being Mrs. LC. Hintz - A.W's Mother. Every Sunday was a day of worship and we all went to church. I can still remember going to Point Pass with horse and buggy. After I left school I went to Confirmation lessons for 2 years - a mixed class of German and English catechism. I was confirmed in German at Australia Plain Church on November 24<sup>th</sup> 1929 by Pastor J.M.R. Ey, who also was church organist for a couple of years.

Sunday was always roast dinner at midday. Poultry and meat were put in the wood fire oven early in the morning. Vegetables were prepared on the side of the stove, and partly cooked by the time we came home from service. We added extra wood and dinner was soon ready to eat. Plus a large plum pudding, always a Sunday sweet. Plenty of dishes to wash - everyone helped. After leaving school, I worked at home on the farm. All the work was done by hand -milking cows, turning the separator, making butter, carrying heavy buckets of milk and food for the animals,

pumping water from the underground tank, Had lots of poultry, fowls, ducks, geese, turkeys, collecting eggs, packed them in cases in cocky chaff ready to take to market in Eudunda with horse and cart.

Being one of the oldest also helped with the harvest stooking hay, carting it with horses and German wagon to build the hay stack, sewing up the wheat bags ready for seeding next season, Plus helping to look after the younger children, feeding and putting them to bed.

Monday was washing day. We'd scrub clothes on the wash board, and carry water in buckets from the underground house tank, and boil it in the wood copper. Later we had a hand pump washing machine. Tuesday was ironing day. Wednesday and Thursday -mending and sewing. Friday ---baking cakes and biscuits for our Sunday relatives and friends. Saturday was cleaning house day. Sunday we went to service. This was our weekly routine. On Sunday afternoons and evenings was entertaining time. We had lots of musical instruments - piano, organ, violin, tin whistle, flute, button accordion, harp mouth organ etc. had a great time playing and singing, playing cards etc., and playing games with *the* younger kids. Everyone enjoyed the good old country life. After tea during the week I used to do my music lessons, after all the little ones went to bed. All home made food - ham, bacon, metwurst, jam, bread, milk, and cream -- was stored in the cellar. A butcher, baker and greengrocer used to call weekly on the farm before World War 2. After the war, everything changed, all goods in short supply, and power farming slowly came in.

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With the recent events at Karoonda the following has been taken from the front page of the Advertiser May 15, 1974.

### **TORNADO RIPS AT EUDUNDA**

The town of Eudunda, about 60 miles northeast of Adelaide, was hit by a tornado which

destroyed thousands of dollars worth of property yesterday afternoon. The funnel shaped tornado tore through the town at 12.45pm ripping off roofs, uprooting trees and tearing down power lines and fences. It cut a path about 50 metres wide as it passed through the town centre, wrecking a large warehouse in the main street. Eyewitnesses said sheets of roofing iron were suspended like leaves hundreds of feet above the town - only to fall down making noises like thunder. No one was injured although it is believed several elderly people were slightly shocked by the noise. Most people in the area said the tornado struck like a "bomb" as it sucked up pieces of wood, trees and iron. Several cars were reported damaged by flying debris. Several older houses had roofs lifted off and many houses lost verandahs. At least two large commercial garages had roof sections ripped off,

Almost half the roof of a motor garage owned by Mr. G.A. Krummel was torn off and deposited 50 feet away over another shed. We saw it coming across the road and tried to shut the doors, but all we could do was hold on to some cars as it hit" Mr. Krummel said. Mr. Lance Heinicke was at his home when the tornado headed towards his shed. He ran into it and tried to tie down the rafters. "I had the rope over one .. then it hit and I was hoisted about 12 feet into the air dangling on the rope. I let go and dropped to the ground. It was amazing, the first I've seen in 58 years and I hope the last". The clerk of the Eudunda District Council (Mr. W. J. Ross) estimated damage to the town at "many thousands of dollars". "If it wasn't a tornado we don't want to be around when one comes". A large freight shed at the railway station near the centre of town was ripped apart - sections of the roof and walls hurled about 100 yards away over 30 foot high pine trees.

## *COLIN THIELE*

Looking through the huge book "Chronicles of the 2Q<sup>th</sup> Century" I came upon a mention of Colin Thiele. It was listed in December 1951 -- Quote

The Adelaide poet Colin Thiele has revealed his wider literary talent in winning first prize in the radio play and radio features section of the Commonwealth Jubilee Competition". A photo of a young Colin Thiele accompanied the notation.

Don't forget our A.G.M. on July 27<sup>th</sup> and please note our new email and web site address.

Editor - Maxine Carter