

NEWSLETTER



**Eudunda Heritage Gallery
19 Bruce Street, EUDUNDA, SA, 5374**

Eudunda Heritage
Committee

NUMBER 15 SEPTEMBER 2005

Hello Everyone,

Our Annual General Meeting went very well. Irene Hall has joined our band of workers on the committee. Jim Reese will continue on as our President and Fay Grosser has again taken on the job of Secretary.

Presidents Annual Report

Well another year has passed us by and the Gallery has grown from being great to greater. We are the envy of galleries and country museums the state wide. This is no idle boast - this statement is only reiterating what visitors to the Gallery tell us, We are still working on the big task of cataloguing all the exhibits, a big job which any assistance offered would be gratefully accepted.

Our Friends were entertained during the year and once again may I say thank you to all the many Friends for your continued support.

While I am on the subject of 'thank you' may I say a big THANK YOU to Cathy and Ted Bowden at the Eudunda Bakery for their generous donations every weekend of surplus yeast cakes which we sell Saturdays, also amongst all our other very generous donors of produce etc which provide additional income for the Gallery, I would like to say thank you to Ellen Loffler who for many years has propagated and donated to us pot plants of all kinds for our produce table. Of course there are many more kind soles who donate items for our table and to you all "THANK YOU".

To our very energetic committee who give their time to the Gallery, to the girls who work the catering details, your efforts are immeasurable, to Fay, our very hard working Secretary, a big thank you, to Ora the girl who looks after the finances, good on you. To Maxine, thank you for taking the News Letter under your "wing" we do appreciate your efforts and last but by no means last, Terry what can I say about Terry, the time, effort and devotion you have put into the care and maintenance of the Gallery is immeasurable. Your band of helpers which include Brian Latz and Peter Loffler, must also be thanked for their roles in putting the Gallery into shape. To EVERY single member of the committee

"THANK YOU" for the parts you play in the efficient running of the Gallery. The Gallery itself is a testament to your input. We are now the proud owners of a brand new computer, which will play a big part in future programming for the Gallery, and we must thank Pat Matthews for her part in setting up the equipment.

Thanks also to the Regional Council of Goyder and ECBaT for their continued support of the Gallery. Finally from me, thank you one and all for allowing me to be your Chairman over the past 12 months, it is a simple job when you have a dedicated crew all working together with a common goal, to make this institution the greatest.

Jim Reese, President

HOW IT WAS - part 2

by Erna Handke

We had weekly tests, term exams and the Qualifying Certificate at the end of Year 7. I distinctly remember one occasion when we had a weekly test on a Friday - after the books were gathered and taken to Mr. Ziersch's table, the girl sitting next to me and I were whispering about the test - Mr. Ziersch spotted us and with a stern voice said, Come out to the front you two - put out your hand. We both got a whack with the ruler. Luckily it was not the strap. We never whispered again - we certainly learnt our lesson. Another form of punishment that Mr. Ziersch used was tugging on our hair plaits or pulling our ears. Oh, yes, Mr. Ziersch had a strap with two tails. A rumour went around that someone had cut off one tail. A few boys got to feel the strap. They had to touch their toes or bend over the desk to receive their punishment. I'm sure after all that punishment "nature" would have called. We had to put up our hand and ask "May I leave the room please Sir? Permission was always granted. The girls dunnies or lavatories as they were called then were made of iron and were situated right up at the far end of the school yard. After more lessons it was time for lunch. Before leaving the classroom for lunch, we always said a "Table Grace". If weather was fine, we ate our lunch of dripping or jam sandwiches somewhere in the yard, sitting under a tree. If the weather was inclement, the girls ate their lunch in the Porch, while the boys ate theirs in the shelter shed. We had an iron tank for drinking water. In summer this water became extremely hot, so water bags were hung under the shade of the gum trees. Attached to each bag was a drinking mug for all pupils to use - we didn't worry about cross-contamination then.

Shelter shed was also of iron. It was right down the end of the schoolyard, near the present single classroom. The shelter shed housed a long water trough, where we washed our hands. Many here have probably heard the saying "behind the shelter shed". I'm not sure what was meant to happen "behind the shelter shed" can anyone tell me? During recess and lunch if we didn't have lines to write, we played an assortment of games. Who remembers "sheep, sheep come home" - "hop scotch" - "rounders" - "marbles" - "knuckle bones" - "basket ball" - "hide and seek" - "chasey" - "oranges and lemons" - and "skipping". These games were lots of fun. When the bell rang to announce the end of lunch, we went back into the classroom again for more lessons. Singing lessons - Mr Ziersch would hit the tuning fork on the table to give us the right key. It is a big different these days. Girls also had sewing lessons one afternoon a week. During these lessons we produced samples of running stitch, hemming, button holes, tacking, fancy work. These were then put into a specimen book. While the girls had sewing lessons, boys did wood work in a room attached to the back of the classroom. I thoroughly enjoyed Physical Exercise classes - I still do exercises every morning before I get out of bed. For P.E. we would walk out of the classroom in grades in an orderly manner to assemble in lines in the school yard. We had to have an arms length between each pupil in order to perform our exercises. Then with help of the school fife band we had our marching practice - mark time, quick march. Turn left or right, Attention, stand at ease. We then marched back into the classroom, for more lessons, always keeping in time with the school fife band. Most nights we had homework and whoever did the neatest homework for the

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week, had the privilege of taking the Honour Book home over the weekend and copying their good work in the Honour Book. This book was well named, because it was truly an honour to have your work included in this one special book.

There were several school activities. I remember with fondness one being the annual school picnic held in Mr. Jenke's scrub. This is where we had numerous races, egg & spoon, flat races, sack, three legged, slippery pole and the rooster chase. Arbour Day was also a memorable annual event. On this day we planted trees in the schoolyard and often around the local streets - this was usually followed by a half day holiday.

Coming up to 4.00 o'clock it was the end of the school day. Mr. Ziersch would ring the bell and ask us to pack up our belongings. The school day dosed with singing of a hymn. Mr. Ziersch would dismiss us with "Good Afternoon Girls & Boys" and we would reply "Good Afternoon Mr. Ziersch". We then had to walk the 3 miles back home again. We dawdle along with our schoolbag and case and whenever we saw magpies we'd repeat the old saying in our day - one for sorrow - 2 for joy - 3 for letter - 4 for bag - 5 for silver - 6 for gold - 7 for a fortune never to be told.

It was a privilege to be taught by Mr. Ziersch, a very strict teacher. My schooling has taught me both discipline and respect. These qualities have been valuable to me over the 89 years of my life. ...

What an insight into a school day from 80 years ago. Editor

MELVA'S MEMOIRS - part 2 **by Melva Hintz**

Then came romance -1 met A.W. He came to visit me on Sundays. He rode a flighty horse called Tom, and sometimes

he came to visit me with horse and sulky - all he owned. He could not afford an engagement ring. The wedding date was set for September 20th 1933. So we went with my family by train to Adelaide to buy our wedding rings. A.W. later lost his ring cutting chaff.

I had taken dressmaking lessons in Eudunda so I made my own wedding dress of white Bemberg (german) silk - 4 shillings and 6 pence per yard. White dresses were in fashion then so I wore it as my best frock, and later wore it around the house.

We were married in my parent's home, In the 'piano room' as it was called, at 5 o'clock on a Wednesday by Pastor Hoff. Mother and us girls prepared a sit down evening meal in our large kitchen With A.W.'S family and all my brothers and sisters.

Next day we went to Tanunda to have our photos taken. We then went to live with A.W.'s family for a while, in 2 rooms above the cellar. My parents gave me my~glory box - items were linen, 4 sheets, 4 pillowcases, 4 pillows, a white Marcella quilt, and a feather cover, made from down we saved from our poultry over the years, 2 cows and a calf, some poultry and pigs which was then my income. I also did some dressmaking for locals - five shillings for a lady's dress. The cost of living was cheap, but no market for our goods. We had our food but no money for other things.

We bought our 3 piece bedroom suite from Eudunda for 6 pounds 10 shillings and a second hand sewing machine from Adelaide for 8 pounds 10 shillings. Mother Hintz gave us a double bed.

Paid for these items from my school savings account. Father added money to make 55 pounds to my account for working on the farm. After paying the 15 pounds (for the furniture and sewing machine) the rest of the money went for a deposit on our first home at Australia Plain, which we bought

for 200 pounds from Mr. Oscar Haevecker, who was also the local storekeeper and saddler where A.W. was then learning the trade. We also bought some second hand furniture for the home for 20 pounds from him.

At 10 o'clock on Wednesday February 28* 1934 Ola was born at home before the doctor came from Eudunda. "She was in a hurry to see the world" so A.W. fetched my Aunt Guste Eckert to assist. She weighed 5.1/4 pounds on my kitchen scales, which I still use today. My mother came to stay with me that night and A.W. slept in the chaff shed. So much for our life at Australia Plain. In 1936 we moved to a house rented in Eudunda for 10 shillings a week with a shop for A.W.'s saddlery business. In 1939 we bought the premises and added the wine shop. Plenty of work, washing and filling bottles of wine from large kegs in the cellar below, ready for sale in the shop. Then the family increased. Wilma was born on Saturday June 29th 1940, Louis on Friday May 12th 1944, and Maureen on Friday October 31st 1947.

Those were the happy days with young children. The children went to St John Lutheran School at Eudunda. I was a foundation member of the "Mothers Club" in January 1940. The yearly pet show was a great fundraiser which everyone enjoyed. Also we had weekly card evenings during the winter months. I always made all the children's clothes, undies, pants, 'white calico' school tunics, dresses etc. smocked lots of little girls dresses. - not much stock in stores for children's clothing and expensive. Myself, I only had one good frock and coat - lasted for years. Aprons were black Italian cloth, with coloured bindings.

..... to be continued

an absorbing account of daily life many years ago. Makes for great reading,

editor

Other office bearers for 2005/6 Vice President: Delilah Balmer Treasurer: Ora Jenke Committee: Yvonne Rohde, Yvonne Schulz, Blat Goulder, Dot Bonner, Glen John, Terry Carter, Marcus Reseigh, Joan Latz, Irene Hall.