



GUSTAV'S NEWSLETTER

19 Bruce Street, Eudunda. S.A 5374

NUMBER 19 JANUARY 2007

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS

We have been very busy since the last newsletter. Our catering efforts continue to be both a good fundraiser and an excellent chance to share our heritage with visitors to our town. The bus tours, taking a local guide with them, (usually Jim or Terry) follow the Colin Thiele Drive. The regular feedback we get from visitors on these tours are the 'boys' do an excellent and entertaining job. They are the frontline of our bid to share our enthusiasm of our district. This continues our chance to engage with the visitors. Again, compliments always abound. We gain valuable exposure and funds from the bus tours, and we normally all have a lot of fun. We took a bus load of committee members, volunteers and interested locals on the Colin Thiele Drive recently. Jim gave us the usual running commentary. We finished in the gardens, looking at all the new work there, and enjoying fellowship over a BBQ. At the Eudunda Show we celebrated, finally, after so long, RAIN. Unfortunately, this meant a

We hope you have noticed how well the Railway and Garden areas are developing. The little Railway Trolley is looking resplendent in its fine new paint job. We have had many positive comments on The Weighbridge. The photos and display that DOT and Delilah have put in there are very impressive, again a credit to our committee for taking a derelict building, restoring it and ensuring its ongoing part in our local heritage.

Cataloguing - the job we feel is never ending, continues.

Our regular cataloguing days means we are getting on top of it! Our next cataloguing day is 7th Feb. @ 9.30 a.m. All welcome to help!

The Inaugural Story Telling Festival, held in October, brought many visitors to our town and Heritage Gallery. Peter Herrimann set up running slide shows on both computers and an interview with Colin Thiele projected onto a screen in the meeting area - Colin was sharing stories of his childhood especially remembering the annual beach picnics and the train rides

when the guard came into the carriage calling out 'Look Out'¹ to warn of overhanging branches coming up, close to the train. Unfortunately this was taken literally and everyone rushed to the windows to stick their heads out and 'Look Out'. We see the storytelling festivals as another catalyst for collecting local stories, histories and also bringing more people to our Heritage Rooms. Have you seen the new walled pathway linking the Signal Box/Gardens with the Memorial Gardens? Listing the names of the Service Men and Women of Eudunda District, more of our heritage is now safely recorded. Can you guess how many names are on the tiles? Massive work all round by JIM DUNSTAN and a huge credit to him. Our community is lucky to have someone as committed and dedicated as Jim. Special mention here of the work GEOFF HANSEN and JOHN STEPHENS did getting the names together. JULIE MATHEWS for helping with the tiles and ANTHONY & LINDA PFITZNER for donating the stone. The whole garden complex is really looking great. Some of our committee members look after beds in the gardens and so are able to hear the 'Save Our Station' group sitting tight and waiting. We hope it won't be too long before work can start on the building and surrounds. A new group has been formed to work towards building a community

Several of our Committee Members are part of this group. We have started things rolling to gain Tax Deductible status. This will be great and hopefully will encourage more people to make cash donations to our Heritage Gallery. The Christmas Party was a great success. We sold out of Hot Potatoes and enjoyed the chance to catch up with so many people. We are already planning for this year!

FRIENDS OF THE GALLERY

The Annual Friends of the Gallery **MORNING TEA** will be held on 14th February, 2007. We will be holding it in the Eudunda Club at 10.30am. We hope you will all come along to share some good food and fellowship. The role you play as a Friend of the Gallery is important and we enjoy the chance to show our appreciation to each of you. There will be the usual 'mystery items' to test your memories as well as raffles. Mark it on your calendar now and please remember your name tags. Annual subscriptions are due and still only \$10.00. We would appreciate these being paid prior to the morning tea, as then we can give out the receipts at the Tea. We also hope you will use the morning to go and look through The Heritage Gallery - 'we are very proud of our rooms.

NEW SECRETARY

As a committee we sincerely thank

Faye has been our secretary since we began, she has left big shoes to be filled and we are very proud to welcome Irene Hall as our new secretary. Thank you very much Irene for taking on this big job. Faye stays on the committee and now feels she can actually contribute to the meetings rather than just writing! Have you seen the Schools Display Faye works on in the rooms?

Irene can be contacted on
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Gallery email

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(Irene kindly provided a profile for those of you who have yet to meet Irene at the request of the Ed)

"Ken and I moved from Pooraka (a suburb of Adelaide) to Eudunda two years ago and we love it here and would like to say thank you to everyone who have made us feel so welcomed. I am fortunate to be involved with the Eudunda Heritage Gallery and was recently appointed to the position of Secretary and I look forward to learning a lot more about the heritage of Eudunda and getting to know a lot more people. Ken and I lived at Pooraka for 40 years and during that time Ken was involved with the Pooraka Football Club and I was involved with the Pooraka Girl Guides & Brownies, the Pooraka Progress Assoc., The Pooraka Netball Assoc. (playing and umpiring) and also

As the years rolled by and our two children Vicki and David grew up and got married and with 5 wonderful grandchildren we have been kept busy watching them play soccer, football and netball.

Like so many other families we have been blessed with a great family and spend a lot of time together and so in closing we would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year for 2007.

Ken and Irene Hall".

NEW IN THE ROOMS

Sadly the Catholic Church (St. Laurence O'Toole) has closed and been sold. We were given the Foundation Stone from the church and Terry made part of the original Altar Rail into a stand, framing the Stone. Erna Handke donated the wooden Candlestick Holder and Kevin Hines the brass one.

We have more St. Johns Ambulance Uniforms; a Qantas poster has been laminated. We have new Souvenir tea towels, calico bags are in and our new blue bags as well.

INTERESTING GALLERY ITEMS

A length of pipe which came from the original pipes laid from the Government Dam (which is located behind no's 11, 13, 15, & 17 Morgan Road, Eudunda) to the overhead railway tanks in the railway yard for the steam trains. Water was pumped

The Government Dam was filled by many drains, concrete lined and unlined, and the Government Dam is part of the golf course too.

This pipe was donated to the Heritage Gallery by Lurline Freund (nee Rawolle).

A small brown lockable leather bag with handle which was used by Mr. Edward Benno Twartz as his money bag.

Mr. Twartz was born at Sutherlands on the 29th June 1898 and was also educated there. In 1913 he went to Uranquinty in NSW to assist his brother Oscar and together they leased a property there. In 1914 he returned to South Australia, collected a horse team and wagon and with his brother Ben, walked the team to the NSW farm.

In 1918 he married Christina Louise Anna Lutze and in 1978 they celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Mr. Twartz lived to be more than one hundred years old.

Unfortunately the original donation details are unknown.

GALLERY GOSSIP

Ora had a busy week for her 70th birthday, sharing numerous lunches and dinners with family and friends.

Sadly Faye and Rodney had to put off a planned trip to N.Z. due to the passing of Rodney's brother Merv.

We wonder whether the sympathy and 'clucking over' Jim R received after a recent fall whilst hosting a bus tour was worth the pain and loss of blood he experienced! Phone calls from the visitors to check up on him for days!! Well done Jim on mopping yourself up and continuing with your guide duties.

Yvonne S recently had another hip replacement and happily reported, after a whole day catering at the Show, how wonderful it was to be pain free after four years.

Thanks Blat for collating all the above news. Ed.

HISTORIC 1839 EVENT

CELEBRATED AT NEALES FLAT

On December 23rd 2006 there was a larger than expected gathering of interested people to witness the unveiling of a plaque to honour the heroism of John Craig in saving the life of Isaac Hearnshaw on that date in 1839. MC for the day, Marcus Reseigh, invited all the guests into the Neales Fiat Hall and after a delightful lunch they were entertained by Carolyn Daniels and Dean Brown, former Premier of SA, who related their part of the history of that date. (Carolyn Daniels is the descendant of Isaac Hearnshaw, and Dean Craig Brown is the great, great grandson of John Craig.) After the speeches the main party removed to Woithe Road for the official unveiling of the plaque.

of Tillet's Natural Stone Quarries who donated the stone and affixed the plaque and also to the Goyder Tourism Committee whose recommendation to council led to the funding of the plaque. Thanks too, to Peter Herriman for collecting the stone from Black Hill and to the willing group that built the cairn with just a couple of days to spare. (The cairn builders deserved a mention too - they were - Marcus for supplying the 'rocks', Sue and Steve Thornhill for their equipment, overseer Jae and the Hoffmann and the Herriman children that took part; they now have a place in history too). Everyone was then invited back to the Hall for refreshments and asked to sign the guest book and convener of the day, Jae Dalglish, distributed souvenir booklets that were published for the occasion by The Mallee Trading Post Inc.

Extra thanks go to Faye Grosser for opening the Hall and helping with the chores and to the Neales Flat Community for the use of their lovely Hall as the venue for the occasion, (a last minute arrangement that was far more inviting than a tent in a paddock!) A special vote of thanks should go to all those tireless representatives of the two councils (Mid Murray and Goyder) and the various tourism and heritage committees that found time to attend on a date so close to Christmas. A special mention must be made of the input of Jim Reese, who,

how overwhelmed he was with how the Neales Flat and Bower folk undertook the day. He really appreciated everything and saw the day as a great success.

COLIN THIELE **1920-2006**

Eudunda residents are saddened to hear on the 4th September 2006 of the passing of Colin Thiele. Colin Thiele, affectionately known as Eudunda's Favourite Son, as he grew up in the hills above Eudunda, and some of his books, although fiction, were based on "stories" around the district. Colin's book "Sun on the Stubble" has been a favourite of many a 'baby boomer' as they read this book at school. This was only one of a hundred published books and many other works of poetry, short stories and other articles, some successfully became movies on the big screen and video. Colin even has another book to be released in March this year. Colin and Rhonda had retired to Queensland, many years ago, for health reasons and to be close to their daughters. Colin's health becoming worse over the last couple of months. He should have had an operation, but was too weak to have it, and eventually the inevitable happened. He died peacefully in hospital not long after phoning "Rhonnie" that morning. As you may well be aware, the Eudunda and Robertstown districts

always had a large section of its display for Colin and his "Family Tree" and displays many of his artefacts, news clippings and books. Some of his books are also for sale at the Gallery.

The Gallery committee has also worked hard to develop the "Colin Thiele Drive" which you can go on at any time, as maps and info are available at the Gallery and the Visitors Centre (Eudunda Hotel or known locally as the Top Pub'). Visitors and residents alike, admire the great silhouettes of "Gustav and his dog" which stand at all three entrances to Eudunda, modelled on one of Colin's characters and typifies the relationship between the old farmer and his dog. They also share time relaxing in the Centenary Gardens with Colin and Mr. Percival, the well Grafted and now bronzed sculpture by Chris Radford which is located in the gardens.

You may or may not be aware that Eudunda has a web site dedicated to Colin Thiele. You can view it at: www.eudunda.net/colinthiele

After Colin's passing, many people wrote to the web site from all over the world to pass on condolences to his family. Some themes came out of these letters. That Colin was a very caring person - so many emails were expressing how he had personally helped that person in some way, even though some things might have been "out of his field" he was willing to

from Stephany Evans Steggall, Colin's biographer. The book is scheduled to be published this year). All this - despite the terrible pains of arthritis. He kept his humour throughout his life, and he was a very humble man.

For anyone who had ever had any contact with Colin Thiele, they will tell you, that they felt great pleasure and a "glowing feeling" at just how Colin could be so humble, happy and always willing to "tell a story" and to listen to you as well. (I can also let you into a secret that Rhonda also has those great qualities). The Heritage Gallery had made up a booklet of signatures of condolence from its members and the public to send up to Rhonda and family. Photos of the first "Eudunda Storytelling Festival" held just after his passing was included. The Festival, especially the Friday Night - "Yarns around the bonfire" was dedicated to Colin, especially as he was so excited to hear that Eudunda was doing something like this. He expressed memories of his days with a Professor who used to take his class at teachers college out of bonfire yarns.

COLIN, YOU WILL BE SADLY MISSED, BUT YOUR STORIES AND GENEROSITY WILL LIVE ON IN YOUR BOOKS AND THE SOUL OF THE EUDUNDA DISTRICT. *Peter Herriman*

Webmaster, Colin Thiele website

