

GUSTAV'S NEWSLETTER

Eudunda Heritage Gallery
19 Bruce Street, EUDUNDA SA 5374

No. 24 - February, 2008

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2008.
We hope you all had a joyous Christmas and that the New Year will keep you busy with many wonderful adventures.

'Friends of the Gallery' Morning Tea.

It is the most favorite time of our Heritage Gallery calendar...

It is on Wednesday February 13th at 10.30am at The Eudunda Club.

We hope you will all be able to come along to enjoy fine food and fellowship and don't forget your name tags.

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS

2007 was another busy year for our committee. Since our last newsletter we have been busy catering. We sold Hot Spuds at the Christmas Street Party. We really enjoyed the evening and sold nearly 100, with everyone commenting on how yummy they were!

We did our usual Cold Serves for lunch at The Eudunda Show in November. Whilst numbers were down due to having no horses, it was still very worthwhile, and always a chance to catch up with people. We donated 100 postcards for the show bags.

ECBaT finally signed off on the lease for The Heritage Gallery. This has been rather a long process as it was important we had everything correctly documented.

This year SA History Week is on from May 16th to May 25th 2008.

'Schools of Eudunda and Surrounding Districts' are this year's theme. Dale's motor garage in Barwell St will also be open for looking through. Read more about our plans for this year's History Week later in this newsletter. Our full programme will be included in the next Friends of the Gallery Newsletter, detailing the old schools you can look through, and some you will be able to look at from the outside! Whilst not strictly a Heritage Happening, we are also pleased to report the next step has been taken towards the new kitchen at the Institute. Plans have been back and forth between the committee and draftsman, with the final plan very close! Much Excitement!!

Another positive for our town is the Visitors Information Centre setting up in the front room of The Professionals office in Bruce St, between Rohde's General Store and Margaret Doecke's Country Fabrics 'n' Things.

it will be a real asset having the Visitors Information Centre in Bruce St. Many people still don't realise there is actually a main street in Eudunda!

Dale Palamountain has worked very hard for ECBaT to get the shop ready for The Visitors Information Centre. Drop in and look at the wonderful unique Centre he has created.

He has really complemented the work Terry Carter and Chris Adams did a couple of years ago to bring the shop building back to life.

MEMBERSHIP

It was suggested that we give our Friends of the Gallery an option on how they would like to pay for their membership, so we have listed the suggestion below, but the choice is yours.

Gold Friend of the Gallery
10 years Membership.....\$100.00

Silver Friend of the Gallery
5 years membership.....\$50.00

Bronze Friend of the Gallery
1 year membership.....\$10.00

AROUND THE ROOMS

Jim Dunstan has produced a photographic display of the 'Ziegler Farm' ruins which are on display at the Gallery so come in and have a look.

While you are there, notice the changes we have made to both the front of The Gallery and in The Shed.

We are really happy with how we are getting everything so organised.

We are starting 'Heritage Gallery Planning' meetings, the first one will be held after our meeting on March 11th.

Keep an eye on the Gallery verandah roof as work will commence in the near future to replace the old iron with new iron and fittings etc.

GALLERY GOSSIP

On the 15th of October 2007 when committee member Delilah Balmer and her husband Bruce became first time grandparents, bonnie Jayde was born to their daughter Jayde and partner Angus. Congratulations - Enjoy.

Sadly we note the passing of a dear Friend of the Gallery member, Erna Handke.

Erna was a wonderful and loyal Friend of the Gallery, was on the volunteer's roster when the Gallery opened to the public and always willingly gave her time to help whenever possible. Erna will be remembered and sadly missed.

We would love to include family news of Friends of the Gallery in the newsletter. Keep us all in touch. Please could you mail your news to 17-19 Bruce Street, Eudunda 5374 or drop them into the tray on the front desk at the Heritage Gallery.

SA HISTORY WEEK

Last year we choose Churches of the District as our theme. We had a very successful week, with many visitors coming to our town. Lots of locals also took the opportunity to look through the churches in our district.

We are having Schools of Eudunda and Districts as this year's theme.

As the many small schools in the area closed, different fates awaited them all. Some are now only a small pile of stones in a paddock. Others became shearing sheds or used for hay storage.

Some lucky ones have another life fulfilling a different role. Within our district we have schools which have become studios and homes, Terry and Maxine Carter have returned Bower School to what it was in its heyday. We have some schools which have become weekenders.

Come along during History Week, 16th to 25th May 2008, get a map and follow the School Trail. Some of the Schools will be open for you to look through. Access will be limited with others, please respect these people's wishes and don't go onto their grounds, reminisce from outside the gate!

Dale Palamountain will have his garage open in Barwell St. Dale is continuously renovating this lovely old building. He has photos following the history and many uses of this building during its life.

There will be a full programme and details in the next newsletter. Please mark 16th-25th May 2008 in your diary now!

When you come to Friends of the Gallery morning Tea on Wednesday the 13th February, 2008 come and look through the Gallery as well.

It is also worth taking the time to wander through the town gardens. In the last year they have really developed. The RSL arches are in and the pathway through to the Memorial completed. Follow the handmade pavers, with names, footprints and handprints through Kids Scrub.

The basketball ring is in for the older children. Sit down in one of the new seats and relax. Listen to the birds, look past the old Railway Station (negotiations are still underway re restoring this once beautiful building) and see the old Water Spout, used by the steam trains, all shiny in its new coat of paint.

NGAPALA SCHOOL CENTENARY

Hi! Yes things are happening at the old Ngapala Primary School and on the 24th February 2008 it will be 100 years old. Opened in 1908 the old school is still proudly taking its place back there in those hills about 12 miles North West from Eudunda. The old building is in remarkably good shape; well a couple of things have changed, like board flooring and galvanised iron from the front porch area but on the whole very recognisable to those of us who attended just prior to the school closing in 1938. It's not hard to remember the days of warm summery heat or the cold of winter, being taught the 3 R's and much more. A small Committee was set up in June to investigate the possibilities of celebrating its centenary in 2008 and since that time it has been "all go." Meetings have been held monthly, with good attendance. Researching from Government Archives, families who may have had close relations with the running of the school years ago, and in the main we have been fairly successful. Relatives of past teachers also have come to the fore with photos and correspondence and ail this information has been gratefully received by the Committee. Remember all records, letters, woodwork models etc., will be on display inside the school, you never know what you may learn. Enthusiasm from past students has been spot on and as you can imagine they are very much in their senior years, so you can see we are ordering a nice mild day around 25° for what can be a great occasion for reminiscing.

At the time of writing this report all six students attending the school at the time of closure in 1938 are still surviving, but for some, health reasons may make it difficult to attend.

Well now, you and your "dorg" will be most welcome to come along on the 24th February, arrive about 10.30am-11.00am and we'll take it from there.

Catering wise: Sausage Sizzle and Salad will be available, also cool drinks.

There should be plenty of chairs available under the shade of the Pepper trees and Marquee, but just in case, throw in your favourite folding chair.

So come along and join with us to remember some of those important years in our lives so long ago.

Ralph Carter

Chairman

Ngapala School Centenary Committee

When an old person dies, a library is lost.

POINT PASS

Businesses in Point Pass thrived in it's heyday - saddlers, carpenters, blacksmiths, upholsterers, cheese and butter factory, even a watchmaker. One business that continues today is the local hotel, whose doors were opened in 1876. The original stone stables, with mellow walls two feet thick are part of the complex.

Two surprises for travellers between Eudunda and Point Pass are the Lutheran Church with its gold painted domed roof, and the old Lutheran College.

POINT PASS SPEEDWAY

On 28th February 1958 the Eudunda & District Car Club held its foundation meeting.

In March 1961, the Car Club committee approached the Point Pass Hall & Park committee and the Ngapala Cricket Club for permission to erect a 1/4-mile speedway on the Point Pass oval, to race go-karts on Saturday afternoons.

With approval, busy bees began at once to construct the track and a safety fence. The track consisted of dolomite, in an oval shape and was 440 yards in circumference. The safety fence was built with tyres, placed half in the ground, with timber rails bordering them.

The grandstand on the northern end was dismantled and was to be rebuilt at the start and finishing line, but this never eventuated.

In July 1961, a Point Pass Park Raceway Management Committee was formed to organize race meetings. All meetings were licensed under the Racing Drivers Association (RDA) of South Australia. An official of the RDA inspected the track and handicap marking was done. The club affiliated with the RDA for a fee of 10 Pounds, 10 Shillings.

Mr. Ken Partington, the Point Pass storekeeper was the caterer. Catering boxes were located in the pits and pavilion with a variety of foods, including pies and pasties being sold.

Mr. Spen Elliott of Eudunda offered his old school bus for officials to use as a Judges and Commentators box.

The first go-kart meeting was held on 22nd July 1961, with 62 entries for the day.

As more interest grew amongst the locals, it was decided to upgrade the facilities so that the following additional cars classes could be raced:

Micro-midgets - using engines up to 250cc capacity

T-Qs (now Formula 500's) - using engines up to 500cc capacity

The track was upgraded, with a higher safety fence being erected, consisting of eight (8) tons of sleepers placed on their side, 3 high, tied together with wire to posts that were placed in the ground. Most of the sleepers came from Port Augusta.

On some sections of the track, dirt was placed behind the sleepers to support them and also for improved spectator viewing.

In September 1962, lights were forwarded by the S.A. Gas Company for the track, to allow racing to take place at night. The gaslights were replaced by electric lights in January 1965.

On 1st January 1965, the club's name officially changed to Eudunda Motor Cycle and

Car Club, so that the dub was authorized to race solo and sidecar motorcycles on the Point Pass track.

From time to time, drivers from Adelaide would bring their Speed cars & Stockcars to give demonstrations to the spectators. Some of them were:

Ron Burns Dud Lambert Dean Hogarth

The local Golden Fleece Fuel Agent, Mr. Clarry Menzel used to deliver and sell racing fuel and oil to most of the riders and drivers at meetings.

Over the years, there were various local businesses that sponsored events at meetings, but the "Golden Fleece Company" sponsored championship events and provided trophies, prize money and sashes.

These events included:

"1964 Australian TQ Championship" - 25 laps

"1965 Mid North, TQ Championship" - 20 laps

"1966 South Australian TQ Championship" - 20 laps

"1966 Mid North Solo Championship" - 8 laps

"1968 Mid North, T-Q Championship" -15 laps

"1968 Mid North Solo Championship" - 8 laps

In season 1966-67, it was decided to cancel speedway racing because the financial return was unsatisfactory.

Only 1 meeting was held in the 1967-68 season, which was conducted on 6th January 1968, which was the last meeting conducted at the track.

There were no meetings in 1968-69 due to not being able to offer big enough prize money to attract top drivers, as the crowds that attended the meetings did not bring in sufficient gate takings to provide big prize money and subsequently interest waned.

This brought about the end of the club's activities at the once popular "Point Pass Speedway"

The track was rated by many competitors as the best in South Australia, during its time.

Laughter is a tranquilizer with no side effects.

CREAMY POTATO GRATINS

Beneath this gratin's deliciously crispy top awaits layers of moist potato complemented with garlic and subtle sweet, nutty flavours.

Ingredients (serves 2)

- Melted butter, to grease
- 400g (brushed) potatoes, peeled, thinly sliced
- 1 garlic clove, thinly sliced
- 160ml (2/3 cup) thickened cream
- Pinch of ground nutmeg

Method

1. Preheat oven to 220°C. Brush two 250ml (1-cup) capacity ovenproof dishes with melted butter to grease. Alternately layer the potatoes and garlic in the prepared dishes.
2. Combine the cream and nutmeg in a medium jug. Season with salt and pepper. Pour the cream mixture evenly among the dishes. Bake in oven for 45 minutes or until tender. Serve.

Notes & tips

- Make this recipe up to 1 hour ahead.

Hallett

Hallett lies within the northern arm of the Mount Lofty Ranges. Cutting through the town is the Barrier Highway, a major route from Adelaide to Peterborough, the Flinders Ranges, the Far-North, as well as Silverton and Broken Hill, and to Sydney and Brisbane. This important transport route provided the catalyst for the development of the three towns in the area - Hallett, Whyte-Yarcowie and Terowie.

Other factors contributing towards the development of the district as a whole were the opportunities for pastoral and agricultural industries. Goyder's Line passes right through the middle of the area. When considering the history of the Hallett area, several prominent historical themes can be seen in relation to the development of South Australia as a colony. These include pastoralism, agriculture, transport and railways, military operations and gold mining.

Pastoralism

Pioneering settlers were keen to establish runs in the northern part of the State, despite the fact that the area was mostly unexplored and not fully surveyed.

Agriculture

Regardless of the success of pastoralism, agriculture was always considered to be the economic backbone of South Australia. Pastoralism led to wealth for a few whereas agriculture provided a livelihood from the land for a large number of people.

Transport and the Railways

Transport was a vital component of the development of the Hallett area. The three towns in the area are all situated along the Barrier Highway. The railway used to run through the area with a station at each town. Of particular importance was the town of Terowie.

Military Operations

People from the Hallett district have fought in and contributed to various wars, including the Boer War, World War I and World War II. Various monuments stand in tribute to the fallen soldiers.

Terowie also played an important part with a large staging camp being situated there, where thousands of soldiers stayed between 1941 and 1945. Some of these buildings still survive including the cell block used to hold soldiers who had misbehaved.

Gold

The Hallett area is not associated with a significant range of mining activity. However, alluvial gold is distributed over a fairly large area around the Ulooloo Creek and has been mined at intervals over a hundred year period.

Today Hallett is not the thriving transport town it once was. With a current population of approximately one hundred, it does allow the visitor the opportunity to visit a town of real historic importance. It is also the gateway to many other areas of interest including Terowie, Sir Hubert Wilkin's Homestead, Whyte Yarcowie and Dare's Hill.

Source: Department of Environment and Natural Resources, District Council of Hallett, Heritage Survey

Hallett was settled in 1842 by John and Alfred Hallett on a pastoral run called "Willogoleche". The main streets of Hallett take the names of the brothers and the side streets the names of their children.

Hallett was the birth place of the most famous explorer and aviator of the northern polar area, Sir Hubert Wilkins.

Geranium

Geranium is a pretty farming town named after the wild geraniums that grow in abundance there. The town has a hall, two churches, store, garage, extensive sporting facilities and the only bowling green in the area, making it an important local centre and an attractive township for retiring farmers. Geranium lies on the far western border of the Southern Mallee.

In an era of centralisation to big towns, Geranium's future as a small centre seems assured. In 1999 the Geranium was named South Australia's Tidiest Town. The town still consistently features among the top achievers in these annual awards. Geranium went on to compete in the National Finals of Australia's Tidiest Town and won an Award of Excellence for Environmental Action and Education.

The Geranium residents put in many hours to achieve this award, indicative of the communal spirit of South Australians, who have the highest participation in the tidy town judging of any state in the nation. Geranium won the competition from a huge field of 316 separate communities and 220 schools, competing with many towns far greater in size and population.

from Australian Travel information

We are often asked at the Heritage Gallery about 'Gustav and his Dog' and how it originated.....

WHO AND WHY GUSTAV

When Eudunda celebrated 125 years of white settlement in 1995, local Artists Jim and Ronda Dunstan formulated the idea of figurines to depict characters of early pioneer days in Eudunda.

Gustav and his Dog were the first to appear. Jim and Ronda named Gustav after one of the fictional characters in a Colin Thiele book. The Dunstans then went on to do workshops with the Community and Schools making many more such figurines.

The original 'Gustav and his Dog' moved around the town to different locations, and have now become identifiable with the 125 years Celebration.

When the Heritage Committee first assembled its collection in the old Wiesner Building (the two storey former emporium in the south west corner of the Railway Parade and Kapunda Street junction) Jim and Ronda gave the figurines of 'Gustav and his Dog' to that body of people.

The Eudunda Family Heritage Committee adopted 'Gustav and his Dog' as its Official logo in acknowledgement of our District's hardworking Pioneers and their faithful, four legged offsidiers.

EUDUNDA COMMUNITY CLUB

The Unterhaltungs Club has a long unique history, being numbered among the earliest organisations in Eudunda, and the second Club in the State.

Unfortunately the first Minute Book was lost but at the Golden Jubilee of the Club held in January 1938, Mr. R.J. Nicholls, Chairman of the Board of Management in giving a resume of the Eudunda Club during the last 50 years had this to say.

“The original building now occupied by the Club was erected about 53 years ago by Hoffmann Bros. (Carl and Bernhard) with the intention of obtaining a wine licence, but mainly owing to the opposition of Messrs Wiesner and Hilbig, who employed quite a number of men at the time and who feared that some of

the hard-case employees would be better off without wine so close and easily obtainable, the licence was refused. The building was then turned into a boarding house but that did not pay owing partly to the fact that the mortgage, held by Mr. Kruger (snr.) was too high, and was therefore discontinued and the property was taken over by the mortgagee. Shortly afterwards, on January 1st 1888, the Club was founded and established in this building which had been taken over by lease from Mr. Kruger. The exact number of foundation members is not obtainable, as the records until the end of 1890 have been lost. Only 20 to 25 of the old names are ascertainable. The son of the Mortgagee was engaged at £1 per week, but he used to repair boots and shoes, being a bootmaker in a room along side of the bar.”

Many farmers of German origin also belonged and emigrants arriving from Europe were welcomed and given assistance if it were needed. One of the Club’s promoters was Dr. Feige, who, at all times, had great compassion for those living in poverty, such as farm families in the drier areas. The Doctor’s name does not appear in the early minutes but this is probably accounted for by the fact that he was undoubtedly a foundation member and, not having time for committee work, did not rate a mention until later.

The Club was incorporated in May 1888. It was essentially German in character and in the early years few English names appear in the records. Only a small percentage of members were allowed to be non-German. This may be because they received far less votes for possible admission than those of German origin. This appears to have changed slightly in 1896, when a motion was made to increase non-German membership to 20 per cent. By the minutes, men wishing to join had to be nominated and a ballot taken, as to their acceptability. The minutes even record the number of votes each applicant received. The obviously unpopular person sometimes only gained admission by a little as one vote. Fortunate indeed were the few for whom the elections were unanimous.

The first beer was obtained from Greenock, but the order was cancelled because the contents soon became as thick as honey. Later beer was obtained from the Kapunda Brewery. *from-* One Hundred Years with The Eudunda Club 1888 - 1988

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I believe everything happens for a reason.

If something happens that I don't necessarily agree with or I'm unhappy with, I'll just remind myself to stay positive and trust that things will happen the way they should."

Author Unknown

We hope you enjoyed our Newsletter, and if you have any ideas or suggestions you would like included in the next newsletter, please let us know. Cheers from everyone at the Gallery.
Editors-Irene Hall & Blat Goulder

SUNSET by Jessica Millsaps

Every night the horizon lights up

Swirls of pink and orange

Fading to blue and purple

Few bother to look anymore

At a blessing

That only comes once a day

Each sunset is different

No two exactly alike

Difference flows throughout

While it is the only similarity

Over the ocean

Or through the sky scraper

Out on the prairie

Or in an apartment

You can still see a piece

A piece of something

Something never to return

A sunset

For the colours are shimmering

For a moment they stay

Only to disappear into change

Change just as beautiful as the last

This is why no matter where you go

One thing remains the same

A difference in sunsets

In your very own sunset