



# GUSTAV'S NEWSLETTER

Eudunda Heritage Gallery  
19 Bruce Street, EUDUNDA SA 5374

## No. 25 - MAY 2008

Welcome to our May Newsletter. We hope, by the time you read this, we have had some rain and green tinges are appearing on our hills and plains.

We are celebrating History Week on the 16th to 25<sup>th</sup> May. This year the theme is Schools of the District and we continue this theme with the May newsletter. Snippets marked with a \* have been taken from conversations Mary Hutchison had with our townfolk during the "Stories of Eudunda Childhoods" project. Where known, people have been acknowledged.

### HERITAGE HAPPENINGS

As usual we have been very busy. Did you hear Jon Lamb on the radio on Saturday April 12th talking to one of our garden volunteers Pam Dutschke? This was the day he officially opened our town Gardens. He gave our town and the gardens a really good endorsement, saying how much he was looking forward to the day. What a great day it was. The opening was a wonderful success, and we can be very proud of our gardens and all which has been achieved by our community and a very dedicated group of volunteers.

The Saturday after the opening Jon Lamb, once again spoke enthusiastically about our wonderful town and gardens. Whilst many people have shown a huge commitment to our gardens, Betty Pfitzner and Pam Dutschke deserve a special mention for their ongoing dedication and also we acknowledge the beautiful stone work Keith and Jim Dustan did. The stonework really is a unifying feature of our gardens.

Mitcham Council brought 50 people to our town for a tour, look through the gallery and lunch, provided by our committee. Praise was lavish and many of them walked up to share the opening of The Gardens after their lunch.

The Visitors Centre is up and going and there will be an official opening during History Week, date to be advised. Please come along and enjoy a sausage sizzle.

The Inaugural '*Just Shearing*' Shearing Challenge was also held on the 12th. Our treasurer's son Kevin Jenke and his family put on this day, which was a fantastic success. All the family and countless friends worked very hard. This is going to be a biannual event and we encourage support for this family fun day.

It was wonderful to see the old Westpac Bank bustling with people at the opening of Kathleen's Art Gallery. We are so pleased to see all the work they are putting in to ensure this fine old building will have many, many more years of life. Congratulations and may the Gallery be a success. Again, we encourage you to look through Kathleen's Art Gallery and admire (and buy!) her beautiful work.

We are really pleased to see so much activity in our area. All these events bring new people to our town and hopefully through our Heritage Gallery.

Another building having life breathed into it is the CWA Building. The RSL, who use these rooms as their clubrooms, have received a grant to update their kitchen. Many

working bees have been held there to redo all the inside and it is looking great. The new kitchen for the Eudunda Institute is getting closer with plans before council. Will keep you updated in the next newsletter.

### **AROUND THE ROOMS**

Thanks to Roger Schubert for getting us all the Sutherlands School records to copy. These are in the reference section and will be very useful for helping people in their family history research.

Talking research, Dot Bonner has finished a huge job and has the reference books and material all safely organised in the new steel cupboards.

Elaine and Rex Leditschke have been bringing in a steady stream of books and bits and pieces relating to Eudunda and surrounding areas. We sincerely thank them.

Have you seen the brass fly sprayer and new shelf in the cottage kitchen?

The Girl Guide/ Brownie and Boy Scout/ Cubs display is new, and includes a figurine in Boy Scout uniform. We are looking for a Girl Guide/ Brownie uniform to display on a figurine, do you have one you could donate, or any associated articles?

### **GALLERY GOSSIP**

Elaine and Rex Leditschke have moved to the Barossa. We will sincerely miss them both. Elaine was part of the committee since the beginning, only leaving when Rex retired and travel beckoned. Both Elaine and Rex are regulars on the roster for the rooms, and we appreciate their dedication to our Heritage Gallery. It is with much sadness we bid them farewell, though we hope they will be regular visitors. Thank you both so much for everything.

On the baby front we are proud to report a GREAT granddaughter to Irene and Ken Hall, Helaina: and a granddaughter to Dot and Pete Bonner, Kloe. We congratulate our committee members on these new 'leaves' for their family trees.

It was wonderful to see all Marg Doecke's family and friends join her in the gardens to celebrate her special birthday, thanks also Marg for the old tools you donated to the Gallery.

### **HANSBOROUGH SCHOOLS**

#### **1872-1943**

On September 30, 1872 the residents of Hansborough applied to the Education Department for a half time school with a Mr. Pymann from Murray Flats School. Mr. Pymann would teach at Shelford (Murray Flats) on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and then at Hansborough on Thursday and Friday. The board advised that they needed better information about the number of pupils attending.

This, the first Hansborough School, started shortly at a site some 2kms downstream of the current Hansborough Bridge, on Moody's property 'Light Brook', later owned by M. Teague and now owned by R. & V. Oliver. This school in the hundred of Kapunda played host to the Moody's large number of children plus some other locals. A nearby waterhole in the bend of the River Light was popular with students at lunchtimes but caused problems for the female teachers who had difficulty inducing the students to leave the water to recommence lessons in the afternoon.

One unfortunate teacher who persisted too strongly finished in the waterhole with the assistance of some of the larger youths.

After the railway line passed through the community (in 1887) the school moved to a railway cottage near Jaeger's current property Kooninderie. The small block owners fronting the main Eudunda-Kapunda road provided the dozen or more pupils for this school. A wall was removed in the stone cottage to provide a long room for teaching. A small side room was occupied as the teacher's residence [these buildings can be seen

from the road, opposite Jaegers house. Ed]. A line of gums still in existence was planted during the schools history. Women teachers had to collect their own firewood by hand. The mainly female teachers found life difficult particularly when one over anxious parent persuaded parents to boycott the school by keeping their children at home. An ultimatum from the Education Department, presented by a School Inspector, to close the school if attendance didn't improve, solved the problem.

In 1907 a picnic was held for Hansborough State School in "Hansborough Park", Pine Creek, and arrangements were well in hand by teacher Miss Smith. Luncheon was provided by the parents.

In 1912 Anlaby Station was sold and railway personnel shifted to Hansborough Siding. Public subscription helped to build yet another Hansborough school during 1919 and 1920. This is currently the site known as Hansborough Hall. Twenty pupils attended. In 1943 under teacher Mr. Buckingham eight children were in attendance- two Holding, one Jaeger and 5 Siostrom students. When the Siostrom family (railway employees) shifted, the school was closed.

The Holding children continued their education at Hampden for the next three years traveling by rail! They caught the 11 am train to Hampden and returned on the 3.30pm. As more families arrived in the Hansborough district children were transported to Eudunda Area School by car, driven by Mr. Clem Reimann.

Families prominent at the Hansborough schools include Moody, Boxall, Oliver, Barnett, Holding, Jaeger, Schmidt, Lumston, Hansen and Farrisy.

Hansborough Hall was built as a school in 1919. It served the community of Hansborough as a school until 1943 and continued as a hall with many social functions and church services being held over the years, until it was sold in 1982. [From 'Hills, Valley and Plains' by Betty Dreckow]

### **Quotes from talks with Mary Hutchison**

\* Julia Primary School

We rode pushbikes to the Julia primary school. A couple of children rode ponies. A couple of families came in horse and jinker and some had to walk quite a distance. The school had one teacher teaching seven grades- sometimes over 20 children. I used to like winter at school. When it was rough we had a nice open fire and our teacher would read the Brier Rabbit stories or a story about mice named Oscar and Olga as we sat around the fire.

[Helen Michalk]

\* The lonely country roads.

It was necessary to walk to school, as in that day and age there weren't any school buses and parents just took it for granted that you either walked or rode a bike. Can you imagine a five year old walking that far on lonely country roads?

We didn't wear uniforms, just a nice tidy dress and sometimes an apron there weren't many children attending school, if my memory serves me right, I would be guessing though, about 25 or so. I attended school with Colin Thiele, his brothers and sisters too. I'm afraid his talents didn't brush off on me.

We didn't play a lot of sport mainly games like rounders, French and English, hop scotch, sheep sheep come home etc. some of my favourite lessons were geography, grammar, spelling and I did sewing and enjoyed that very much. I made many friends at school and one girl in particular was bridesmaid for me when I got married.

[Melva Zander]

\*Australia Plains

I lived four miles (6k) from the school bus stop at Australian Plains. The little school closed the year before I started. The first bus in grade one was an old greengrocer's ute with a canopy on the back and three wooden planks fixed across the tray to sit on; quite

cosy on a hot summer's afternoon. My father said I was lucky because I had a bicycle to get to Australian Plains, he had to walk.

[Des Pfeiffer]

\* When my mum started school she had to learn English, even though she was second or third generation Australian.

[Peter Herriman]

\* Oh, the Christmas parties!

Little Buchanan school- every year we had a party there. A supper and a dance. I can remember the Dads standing round the boots of cars... and of course Father Christmas with his bag of gifts

[Marg Doecke]

\* Your wheels are turning round

There were lots of us who would ride our bikes to school, two and a half miles, up hill and down dale. Many a sore knee was had from busters- going too fast. I remember one of the big boys riding fast, yelling out 'your wheels are going around!' Of course I stopped to look, no they weren't!!

There was a special shed for our bikes at school. When you think of it, how on earth did we get our bikes out of that jumble of wheels? The toilets were right next door. No way were us girls allowed anywhere near the boys toilets, even though it was right next door. We had to leave our school bags and hats on hooks in the porch, have a little play, till the teacher blew the whistle, and we lined up in a STRAIGHT line, from the largest to the smallest. The teacher would check our fingernails, our hair and our shoes- all had to be spotless and tidy- his cane under his arm as he marched up and down. We would study the clouds and have them explained to us. Then we'd sing the National Anthem, the flag would go up and into school we'd go.

[Mona Fiedler]

\* German and English

During the First World War we weren't allowed to speak German. The German schools were closed.

\* I started off at the German school. When that closed during the First World War I had to go to the public school. Couldn't speak a word of English. We had to speak German at home

\* Well I went to school at Brownlow. I was born there

\* I was eight year old when I went to school. I had a long way to walk on my own. If possible I went barefooted, unless it was very cold. Usually the weather wasn't so severe as Eudunda

\* It was a private school; I learned German and English both. Twenty pupils, one teacher

\* I was brought up with the German language. I knew nothing about English when I went to school

\* The bus only went as far as Sutherlands

I went to Bower School, but then I came into the Area School and we had to board here because the bus only went as far as Sutherlands. At school two of my best friends were Aboriginal girls. They were from the area around Keneba mission. My auntie adopted them, she found out about their mother so they were able to get back with their family. Come home from school, my jobs were listed down, get the cows, collect the eggs, and feed the chooks. By then it was tea time and dark. We had candles, a tilley lamp. My father made sure we had music lessons on Saturday afternoon.

[Pauline Minge]

\* Two and a half miles to school, we used to go barefoot. We had a garden at school. I stepped on the rake in the garden, got three prongs in my foot. Went home on tip toes

\* One day we went to school on horse back. We led the horse to school; shut it up in the

churchyard. After school we got on the horse, whole lot of kids watching. Horse took off; we fell on the metal road. I fell first and my brother fell on top of me.

**LIVING IN THE OLD BOWER SCHOOL** Maxine and I moved to Bower 14 years ago to an old home which had been a combined school/teachers residence with a later built stone school building also on the property. We knew nothing of the history of the school or the area but very quickly became aware of an interest in our school property by different passers by. Mostly families of former students to the newer school, some of whose parents were students of the first school. We placed an advert in the local paper asking for any info about Bower School; this became an amazing introduction to the heritage of Bower School. Marcus Reseigh, Margaret Rogers and Polly Minge each contacted us with oodles of information which included education department records and families to contact re their history. Since then we have been more enlightened by the many visitors to Bower School including teachers, students and families of. It is amazing how much history there is to Bower School. Our home is weatherboard - it was originally a community hall at Frankton - dismantled and relocated by ox drawn wagon to its present site in 1915 because the government closed the two Lutheran teaching schools in Bower at the outbreak of World War I. Mr. Severin, the carpenter/undertaker of Gunn Street, Eudunda took two years to rebuild this transportable building and converted it to one large class room and teacher's residence combined. What a Spartan existence teachers and students endured according to inspector's reports life was very tough for these students and their teachers. The history of Bower School has been enlightening to us and inspired us to preserve as much as we could about it. The new school was going to be my ultimate (men's shed) until I (Terry) took time to appreciate the fact that it was untouched from the day the education department closed the school (1961). Mrs. Otto, who owned the Bower Wine Shop/Saloon, bought the property to rent the weatherboard building to wood cutters and charcoal burners and locked the stone school house so that nobody ever used it. We have collected many school artifacts and been given books and so much information about Bower and its school - we hope someone will keep this going. Our home is built on hardwood stumps - 9 years ago we had a white ant treatment, necessary insurance in our environment - at that time the contractor found a trap door in the kitchen floor under which we found a hip flask brandy bottle with cork still in and an empty bottle of 'Nerve and Brain Tonic'!! This would suggest a teacher must have needed some self medication to help him cope. There is a dump on our property which has given up all sorts of medicine bottles and food containers and objects of interest as to people's life styles of the past decades. Recently our 10 year warranty treatment was again carried out. A new floor trap door for underhouse treatment had to be cut (Terry had made built in robes over one of the other traps)! Lo and behold right in the centre of the house in this trap was a carpenter's square, brass inlaid, which was obviously left behind by Mr. Severin when the house was reassembled. In our dry climate at Bower it is in remarkable condition. This would have been there since 1915 when the floor first went down to rebuild the school. The floor boards are an amazing 32 mm thick Baltic pine. Also found on this treatment job was the front cover of a school exercise book, covered with dust, but when cleaned up showed the name Gerhard Klitscher? Printed by the education department and priced at three pence, from before 1927 when the new school opened. History comes to our notice in many ways such as shoe/boot tips (remember them?) found around the playground area - also found alleys or marbles - most have been found in the past one to two years since the lack of rain and the wind has blown the soil away. My reply to people who ask, "What do you grow at Bower?" is "limestones" - the wind blows the soil away and more limestones appear. For an area where nothing much happens, there is so much history when we meet all the lovely people who can talk for hours on Bower and its Schools.

by Terry Carter

## **HANSBOROUGH HALL**

Hansborough Hall was built as a school in 1919. It served the community of Hansborough as a school until 1943 and continued as a Hall with many social functions and church services being held over the years, until it was sold in 1982.

## **HANSBOROUGH HALL**

**OUR HOME** by Blat Goulder

Hansborough Hall, built in 1919, was the last of 3 schools which served the Hansborough area from 1872 to 1943.

For the last 25 years, Hansborough Hall has been the home of the Goulder Family. The galvanized lean-to, which held the lunch room during school days, and supper room/change rooms during later times, has been replaced with an owner built stone extension. These stones were kindly donated by our neighbours Mark and Marilyn Phillips, from a ruin on their property. This ruin was the home of the Travers family. (Mark and Marilyn have erected a stone cairn in recognition of the Travers Family in a nearby paddock). Purchasing the Hall in December 1982, house sitting responsibilities meant only weekly stays until 15<sup>th</sup> March 1983. Locals may remember this was the day the drought broke. As Charlie drove home from work what began as a shower soon developed into a heavy rainfall.

Our first official night in our new home was spent trying to keep the water from the door and meeting the local CFS/SES members who came to help. Special mention must be made of a young John Worrall, who was stuck out on the side of the road, 'on duty', and cut off on either side by fast rising torrents. It surely was one way to get to meet the neighbours; from near and far. Next morning they were all there, agog at the previous night's events. Never had they seen Pine Creek rise to such a level. They unanimously decided upon it being a once in a lifetime event! If only!! Unfortunately we lost a lot of our building materials, though after a trek down the River Light with Mel and Maureen Teague we managed to retrieve some of our timber from downstream, high on the riverbank. Doors etc sailed away for ever!

So our adventures at Hansborough Hall had really started. Sometimes good things come out of adversity; the missing timber was replaced with double sided stone walls; so much better.

Over the last quarter of a century the Hall has always been the most wonderful home. Our proudest moment being the birth of our daughter, at the Hall in 1987. We delight in her birth certificate having Hansborough as her place of birth. There have been band practices and meetings; parties and wakes. The place of final nights sleep as a single man for a groom and the honeymoon suite for another newly wed couple. Hand mixing tons of cement, the thrill of Mark and Marilyn lending us a cement mixer. Many children had their first experience driving a car or riding a motor bike at the Hall.

The joy of puddling mud, getting the mixture of straw and cow manure just right. The place little baby Sean enjoyed being before his death. There have been sleepovers and camp cooking. Tree planting days and stone building days. The pride a flush loo can bring; visitor's reactions to being dragged to look at said loo by excited children. No more trips out to the not so long, long drop on a winter's night!! Banners have been created and speeches written. There have been trips to the local hospital for stitches, unfortunately, both times with visiting children! Birthday Celebrations, and Melbourne Cup parties, hat wearing mandatory. Exams have been swotted for and Sports Day streamers made. In the early days the trains going past would always bring excitement, especially when the driver would blow his whistle to the wide-eyed children lined up along the fence.

Dear Clem Pfitzner, who until his death would come down daily to the roadside to collect his paper, always ready with a cheery wave and time for a chat. The bus waiting out the front for sleepy school children. More band practices!! Our dearest neighbours Jim, Angela

and Julie Schutz, our heartbreak at Jim's early death. Kookaburras, Echidnas, Dogs and Cats; Kangaroos, Wombats, Rabbits, Rats and Possums; Birds, Mice, Lizards and Snakes. Wedge Tailed Eagles soaring. The Red Van! Floods and more floods. Water through the house in the flood of 1999, on Christmas Day with a Hall full of people. Bonfires and fireworks. Getting the Headmasters desk from the original Hansborough School.

Special moments with family and friends, some long passed. Most of all, Hansborough Hall has been the place we have been so proud to call Our Home for the last 25 years. We eagerly await the joys and excitement the next 25 years will bring.

## **SA HISTORY WEEK 16<sup>TH</sup> – 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2008**

### **Eudunda Family Heritage Gallery**

Experience history from yesteryear

Our gallery is dedicated to early pioneer settlement and history in Eudunda and surrounding areas. View the family history trees and memorabilia. Wander through our restored 1880 Gosling cottage. See the display of locally made early farming equipment. Photographs and objects from the local hospitals, schools (as early as the 1870s), churches and railway are also on display. A wheelchair from the early 1900s, medical equipment, bibles and an organ used by German settlers are also on display. Allow approximately 1 ½ hours to fully appreciate our gallery. Public toilets on Bruce Street. Group limit 50. Parking available on street. Bookings required for groups only.

Friday 16 May, Saturday 17 May,

Friday 23 May and Saturday 24 May, 10.00 am – 4.00pm and Sunday 18 May and

Sunday 25 May, 11.00 am – 4.00 pm

Eudunda Family Heritage Gallery,

17-19 Bruce Street, Eudunda

(Bruce Street is a continuation of Gunn Street, signposted from the main road).

Enquiries: Jim Reese, 8581 1268; Yvonne Schulz, 8581 1359

### **Dales Garage**

Automobile nostalgia – cars and things

In 1921 an 1880s optometrist's room became a cycle and motor garage. It has continued to evolve becoming an automotive workshop and showroom, surviving stages of expansion, alterations and various auto dealerships. A car enthusiast now privately owns the garage. No bookings required for this event. Parking available on street.

Friday 23 May and Saturday 24 May, 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

Historic Motor Garage,

2 Barwell Street, Eudunda

Enquiries: Dale Palamountain,

8581 1071 or 0419 841 656

### **Eudunda Area School**

Eudunda Area School was officially opened in 1948 with 142 students from Eudunda and Point Pass. As outlying smaller district schools closed enrolments then came from Hampden, Julia, Sutherlands, Australia Plains and Stonefield. At the time of the school's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary a time capsule was buried which will be opened on 21 May at 9.00 am by two of the attending students from that time. The time capsule will be reburied with additional items from past and present students to commemorate the school's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Primary school children will demonstrate old school games played by children of yesteryear. The Heritage Gallery committee will supply morning tea for a small cost of \$4.00. Parking available off street. Bookings required for this event.

Wednesday 21 May, 9.00 am – 10.30 am  
School gym,  
Eudunda Area School,  
Reserve Road, Eudunda  
Enquiries: Pat Maloney, 8581 1500

### **St John's Lutheran School**

In 1872, just four years after the first Lutheran families moved into the district, the Emmaus Congregation built a Lutheran Church and school at Emmaus, near Eudunda. This congregation later moved into Eudunda where the present school was established in 1904. A new hall, built in 1995, has beautiful stained glass windows that were designed from drawings by the children. On 23 May a guided tour is available after the school assembly. Parking available on/off street. Bookings required for this event.

Friday 23 May, Assembly 8.50 – 9.30 followed by tea/ coffee.

Tour 10.00 - 10.30am

St John's Lutheran School hall, Eudunda  
Enquiries: Kaye Mathwin-Cox, 8581 1282

Email:

[kmathwincox@stjohns-eudunda.sa.edu.au](mailto:kmathwincox@stjohns-eudunda.sa.edu.au)

### **Neales Flat School reunion**

You are invited to attend the reunion of past students, family members and interested visitors at the old Neales Flat School. The building was created in 1874 and used as a school during the week and a church on Sunday. At times one teacher could teach up to 60 students. In 1917 it became a state school. The school closed in 1942 with an enrolment of 22 students. Come along and reminisce. Bring along memorabilia for a display and a pooled lunch. The school will be open from 11.00 am and a 'cuppa' will be available. A church service will also commence at 11.00 am next door. No bookings required.

Sunday 25 May, 11.00 am

Neales Flat School building, drive 2 kilometres along Thiele Highway from Eudunda post office, turn right onto Truro road, travel 6 kilometres, turn left into Foote Road (unsealed), then first right turn on Neales Road

Enquiries: Fay or Rodney Grosser, 8581 1326

### **Bower School Building 'Back to Bower school'**

Join a guided tour of Bower school. The school stands as it was when it closed in 1961, including the lunchroom, craft room and the student vegetable garden area. Original blackboards and timetables still hang on the walls and the building is furnished with school artefacts and memorabilia collected by the Carter family. See books and various items donated by former students and teachers. Other items of interest include rural objects of days gone by and the gum tree monument planted in 1919 by students. The ground is a little uneven to walk on for mobility impaired. Group limit 10. The private residence is not open to the public. Parking available on and off street. No bookings required for this event.

Friday 23 May, Saturday 24 May and Sunday 25 May, 8.00 am – 5.00 pm

Bower School, between Eudunda and Morgan 27 kilometres on left from Eudunda,  
50 metres past phone box in Bower

Enquiries: Maxine or Terry Carter,  
8581 0684 Email: [phoenix@rbe.net.au](mailto:phoenix@rbe.net.au)

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## **GUM VALE SCHOOL**

Established on Section 62 Hundred of Bower. School 11 km North West of Bower.

In the early 1920's a number of families living in the area felt the real need for a school. It was eventually agreed that Harry Niemz's offer of land and location for the school be accepted and that parents help Harry to build the school.

A room measuring approx. 20 feet by 15 feet was constructed of limestone and mortar. It was well ventilated and an open fireplace yielded the required heat on cold wintry days – mallee roots and wood being freely supplied by the parents.

Though the school's enrolment never exceeded that of 24 pupils (1934), it was well served by dedicated, conscientious and industrious teachers to whom the children responded well, developing and maintaining a fine tone throughout the school's life.

(Gleaned from the D.I.'s reports.)

1927 holds a particular fascination and sense of achievement in the hearts of the old scholars who were in attendance at that time. Gum Vale School, only three years of age, took part in an Exhibition of School work which was displayed at Sutherlands on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1927. Competitions were held in book work, sporting activities and band work. Depending on the memory of old scholars the participating schools were:

Australia Plains, Geranium Plain, Rocky Plain, Sutherlands, Mount Mary, Bower, Neales Flat, Brownlow Centre, Peep Hill, Upper and Lower Bright, Robertstown West, Emu Downs and Robertstown. There is some doubt whether Eudunda, Buchanan, Hampden and Hansborough Schools were included in the competition. Apparently this was the first exhibition of its kind in the area and Gum Vale School, whilst numerically the smallest, came out on top. It proudly claimed the top awards in Sport, Fife Band and Drill (Physical Education). Gus Schroeder was awarded 100 yards Championship and ribbon, his brother Mart came second. Gus won the High Jump Trophy, Lu Niemz the 135 yards Boys race. Doris Lawrence was the most successful girl competitor. Lu Niemz was awarded six first prizes in bookwork, drawing, copy book, transcription, dictation, composition work and manual book. The girls displayed fine needlework and the boys displayed raffia hats. Mart Schroeder received highest marks as Kettle drum player and highest marks for a flute solo.

(an extract from "Emmaus to Worlds End" compiled by the Point Pass/Robertstown Jubilee 150 Historical Committee)

## **NGAPALA PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY 1908– 1938 (24<sup>th</sup> February 2008)**

Ngapala School was built in 1908, on a block donated by Mr. HA Pfitzner. This was one of several one-teacher schools built on the settlers' blocks created by the 1905 subdivision of a section of Anlaby Station (owned by the Dutton family). The name of the school was changed from Anlaby Public School to Ngapala Public School. After the closure of the school in 1938, pupils went to Julia Public School, until it was also closed in favour of the Eudunda Area School. The number of pupils varied from 22 in 1913 to 6 in 1938, which was the minimum number of pupils in order to keep a teacher employed. There was seating for 30 pupils. Most of the teachers boarded with Mr. Pfitzner. Mr. Pinson boarded with the Martin family (Frank Mosey's mother). Teachers at Ngapala Public School were Misses Nora Knightly, Daisy Curtis, Gertrude Laintoll, Flora Seidel, Minnie Hackett, Iris McAdam, Florence Burgess, Fay Parish, and Daisy Dunn. Male teachers were Victor Trebilcock, Leslie Williams, Lindsay Andrew, Archie Harrington, Joseph Johns, Henry Gaerth, KM O'Brien, Robert Cornell, and Len Pinson as the last teacher, who then transferred to Bethel Public School when Ngapala closed. The school is now owned by Matthew and Michelle Suridge, who are restoring it and wish to keep it as a historic building. *With grateful thanks to Goyder Council, Matthew and Michelle Suridge, the Ngapala School Centenary Committee (Chairman. Ralph Carter), the Eudunda Heritage Centre, and former pupils and teachers' families who have contributed stories, photos and memorabilia.*

## **A few memories of growing up in the Eudunda district**

My father, Wilhelm Paul Eckermann, was the first teacher and headmaster of St John's. He was there till they closed the school during the First World War when there was so much hatred of anything German, though they were all loyal citizens and many people died for their country. My father went in for Jersey cattle then. He had to earn a living somehow for this big family. He had the Pella Stud Jersey Farm at Emmaus. My mother and father, grandmother and grandfather are buried there at the Emmaus cemetery. To start with we still lived up at the school house in town and the older children of us six each had a little milk round, helping with the delivery of milk. But when the school reopened after the war, we had to move. My father had the cattle then and he couldn't go back to teaching. The name of the hill behind our farm was Mt Misery. We used to love it, such a terribly tall place. One day, when I was about six, the school inspector asked us to name one of the highest mountains in the world and I put my hand up and said, 'Mt Misery'. I was terribly deflated when he didn't seem to think much of that. I would have been about ten when we moved out to the farm. My youngest brother was born out there. There were seven of us then. The government herd testers used to come out once a month and stay two nights. They'd take a morning and afternoon sample of the milk for the Jersey Herd Society. We were all very religious. We wouldn't ever think of doing anything on a Sunday. We'd go to church. Religion is really overshadowed by sport now. Sunday was the day of rest. If you played sport it was between friends. Very few people didn't go to Church. I think it's one of the saddest things that religion is swept under the carpet. We've all got to face eternity. There were 32 children going to the school at Emmaus. Seven grades in one room all sitting round a pot belly stove in winter. We had a wonderful time. There was an orchard, a lot of old sheds, an old house that the previous teacher had lived in and the ruins of an old manse as Emmaus had been a church center. The teacher would go home to his house across the road for lunch and we were trusted to look after ourselves. One lunch time we hid ourselves somewhere. One of the children got the giggles so he knew where we were. He blew his whistle and we started school again. Mr. Fred Tregoweth was the Emmaus school teacher. He taught me a love of literature. For sewing lessons we'd walk across the road to his wife. I was lucky enough to get a scholarship in grade seven and spend two years studying at Norwood High. After I'd been to Adelaide I took up elocution. I won quite a lot of prizes. My sister was very good at music. Musical and elocution competitions used to take place all around the country - Peterborough, Victor Harbour, Moonta, Minlaton etc. One town would have the competition for about a week. We were treated like royalty.

### **EDDIE SCHUBERT STORY – written 21<sup>st</sup> August 2001**

Eddie Schubert was born 24<sup>th</sup> August 1906. In the early days Eddie's grandparents and their children lived in a house by the road gate of the present property, a pepper tree still grows there.

As the sons grew up and began their own families they began their own properties.

One son went to Blumberg, another to where Clarrie Sander now lives, another purchased a 1000 acres North West of Bower. Eddie designed his Family home for his new bride. It was built in 1938 by Mr. Williams of Nuriootpa for 1200 pounds. Mr. Williams' father was a ganger for the South Australian Railways at Sutherlands. In the early part of the 1900's the Railway system comprising of Morgan (Lanosa) Eba, Mount Mary, Bower and Sutherlands was choked with wood. Mallee was 4/-(four shillings) a ton in 1910. The Sutherlands wood buyers were Frank Snell and a Mr. Mibus. When much of the land had been cleared of wood the farmers began sowing wheat, and the wheat buyer was Frank Snell. Eddie attended Sutherlands School with Albert Kaeding, son of Kaeding who had the wine shanty at Bower. Albert Kaeding caught the train from Bower to Sutherlands daily. School broke up each day at 3.45 p.m. and at 5.00 p.m. the train came through to Morgan. On one memorable occasion Albert had come to Sutherlands by train, and so, after school he was playing football on the road with his

schoolmates and was so absorbed in the game that he did not hear the train in the station. It was only when he saw it coming that he realized he should be on it. Albert ran parallel to the train while he was able, but the train did not stop for him. One Friday morning at 8.45, two level table-topped horsedrawn trolleys came through Sutherlands, with dismantled weatherboard panels on them. Albert Kaeding said to Eddie "I'll be going to the Bower on school on Monday morning!"

" But it was many more Mondays before Albert attended Bower School" said Eddie.

Bower School came from Frankton and it was erected by Severin, the Eudunda Undertaker.

Yeast Cake and freshly ground and brewed coffee for breakfast made memorable meals. The Schubert's had splendid gardens, grown in the water course which traverses their property. There were peaches, apples, pears, oranges, quinces, cherries, apricots as big as oranges - and then the vegetables which were grown! Pickled in 4 gallon tins which had been used for petrol, but which had been scrupulously cleaned for pickling purposes. When there are heavy rains, water rushes along this watercourse, it does not linger very long, there is a steep descent, and the water ends up at Bower where it utilizes the large cutting under the now extinct Railway Line.

### **Memoirs of Melva Zander (nee PRIOR)**

On the July 4<sup>th</sup> 1919 I was born to Ada and Walter Prior, at Walter's parents' home, which was situated about 4 miles from Hampden and not far from Julia. As a kid I spent about nine years at this home and when approximately five and a half years old started school at the Julia School. It was necessary to walk to school, as in that day and age there wasn't any school buses and parents just took it for granted that you either walked or rode a bike. Can you imagine a five-year-old walking that far on the lonely country roads? There were no other children on the way and I had to walk, so no company until my fathers cousin came from Copley in the far north to live with his Uncle and Aunt, sometimes he would accompany me, but in the mornings he used to help with milking and would be running late occasionally, so he'd run across the paddocks so as he wouldn't be late for school, so I still missed out on company. We didn't wear uniforms, just a nice tidy dress and sometimes an apron. There weren't many children attending school, if my memory serves me right, I would be guessing though, about 25 or so. I attended school with Colin Thiele, his brother and sisters too. I'm afraid his talents didn't brush off on me.

However when I was in grade 4 my father decided to buy a property of his own, so we shifted to a farm not far from Hampden My father did farming and mother had to feed us kids so she seemed to be doing endless baking, because by now I had a sister and a small brother, and what with Dad having men to help him with the work there was always someone needing food. I learned to hand milk cows quite young and sometimes helped my mother with the milking before I went to school, and when I came home at night milking was on the agenda once again. By now I had a bike, sometimes it was O.K. but quite frequently there would be flat tyres and no one to fix it up, so I had to walk it home. We only had school bags and never took too many books home not like now days, how the young folk carry those back packs, jam packed with books I don't know, I think of all the bad backs in years to come. We didn't play a lot of sport mainly games like rounders, French and English, hop scotch, sheep sheep come home etc. Some of my favourite lessons were geography, grammar, spelling and I did sewing and enjoyed that very much. I made many friends at school and one girl in particular was bridesmaid for me when I got married. Unless we were going to High School we didn't continue our schooling after grade 7. After leaving school, I did three years music and two years dress making gaining a credit in year two.

You can't separate peace from freedom  
because no one can be at peace  
unless he has freedom



### **LIVING IN THE OLD BUCHANAN SCHOOL** BY David Gibb

When I was a teenager I hoped that one-day I'd live as an artist in an old school in the country, a few sidetracks and other career ideas later I ended up living in the Eudunda district pursuing a career as an artist. In 1990 friends who own an old school told me about another one in the area that would be on the market soon. It's a unique building with plenty of character in a great setting and was just what I wanted. I love this place and can't imagine ever selling it.

Old classrooms make ideal artist's studios, not only because they are large rooms, but also most importantly they have big windows. The Buchanan School like many others was built with most of the windows facing south, making it a good studio as this gives good light that doesn't vary much during the day. These three tall sash windows are my favourite part of the building. The old classroom is also my living room and bedroom; it's a good size for a multi use room at 5x7 metres with the ceiling a tad under 4 metres. It really suits my lifestyle and has good acoustics too. The transportable was a more recent addition by the previous owners; it came from a school in Adelaide in the '80s. My kitchen and bathroom are in the side room, I use the classroom as a storeroom as it's very large and difficult to keep cool or warm.

A school is also ideal if you want to buy a property that isn't in a town without having to buy a lot of land. The old Buchanan School is on one acre and one perch of land, with views of the surrounding rolling hills through the sugar gums and pine trees planted around the boundary by the students not long after the school was built by the local community in 1926. They also planted flowers that still pop up every now and then amongst the native wildflowers and grasses. Gardening attempts while I've been here have not been so successful, the possums and rabbits enjoyed the failed veggie patch as much as the ill-fated grapevines, but most of the newer trees have survived. As I write this in early April 2008, most of the ground is bare earth, but somehow the birds find enough to eat. I can watch them drinking and bathing in a small pond from the southern windows, my favourites are the white winged choughs that have taken up residence in the last few years. Occasionally a roo cruises through; sometimes stopping for a snooze under the trees and there's also the odd lizard or snake.

I've met some of the original students, a couple of them still live nearby, and I've also met people who remember going to meetings and parties here. I don't plan to radically change

the old stone classroom, I'd like it to continue to look like the same community building they remember. I also like it just as it is.

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