

More Westgarthtown ANZACs

BY ROBERT WUCHATSCH

In *Friends of Westgarthtown News* Vol. 19, No. 1, April 2015 we told the stories of six Australian soldiers with Westgarthtown connections — Ewen Ewert, Fred Graff, Adolph Schmutsch and George, Joe and Ray Wuchatsch — who served at Gallipoli. At least nine more soldiers with Westgarthtown ancestry also served at Gallipoli in 1915. Below are details of three of them.

William Albert Hermann Frahm (1888-1939)

Albert Frahm was born at South Melbourne in 1888, the only son of Hermann Charles and Mary Jane (née Davies) Frahm, who married in Adelaide, South Australia on 14 December 1883. During the early 1890s, Albert's family moved to Tasmania and his father was caretaker and scenic artist at Hobart's Theatre Royal for 20 years. Hermann died in 1924 and Mary in 1938.

Albert's grandfather, Carl Frahm, was born at Ribnitz in Mecklenburg in about 1827. He arrived in Australia aboard the *Pribislaw* in February 1850 and lived first at Westgarthtown. His occupation was given as farmer when he was naturalized in 1852 but by 1854 he had a hay and corn store at Collingwood. On 20 June 1855 he married fellow *Pribislaw* passenger Friedericke Ziebell of Westgarthtown and they went on to raise a large family.

In September 1855, Carl took over the Northcote Arms Hotel, but during the late 1850s and early 1860s his address was variously given as Bendigo, Avoca and Westgarthtown. By 1862 he operated the Thomastown Dairy in Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, which retailed Westgarthtown's milk, butter and cheese. By 1864, he had a fruit shop in Swanston Street, then added oysters, wine and confectionery to his range of products. In 1870, he was also running a luncheon business in Collins Street, then the Temple of Pomona Hotel in Bourke Street. He was declared insolvent in 1873 owing over £2,000 to his father-in-law, Christian Ziebell, among other creditors.

Carl is said to have joined the rush to the Palmer River goldfields in North Queensland, which began in 1873, but by 1879 he had the Academy of Music Café



Private A. Frahm (*The Tasmanian Mail*, 27 May 1915)

and Restaurant in Adelaide. The building in which his café was located was burnt out several times during the 1880s causing him substantial losses. For four years during the late 1880s and early 1890s, he ran a produce business and café in Sydney, then returned to Adelaide and ran restaurants again until his retirement in 1908. He died at North Unley in 1912.

Albert Frahm enlisted twice for military service during World War 1. He was living at Paddington in Sydney as a glass cutter when he enlisted in the Australian Naval and Military Expedition's 1st Australian Expeditionary

Force on 16 August 1914. He was 26 and had previously served for 3½ years in the Field Artillery's 41st Battery, Citizen Forces. He gave his religion as Roman Catholic. He embarked aboard the *Berrima* at Sydney on 19 August as Private, No. 834, H Company of the A. N. & M. E. F. and arrived at Palm Island on 24 August.

On 11 September 1914 the A. N. & M. E. F. landed at New Britain and hoisted the British Flag at Rabaul the following day. By 17 September the terms of capitulation of German New Guinea had been signed and four days later the German and native forces surrendered at Herbertshöhe. On 24 September the A. N. & M. E. F. occupied Madang.

On 11 October the A. N. & M. E. F. captured the German naval yacht *Komet* and then occupied New Ireland on 17 October; Nauru on 6 November; The Admiralty and Western Islands on 19 November; and the German Solomon Islands on 9 December 1914. Early in January 1915, the A. N. & M. E. F. left New Guinea and Albert was discharged on the 18 January after serving 154 days, his term of enlistment having expired.

Albert then enlisted in the AIF at Claremont in Tasmania on 8 March 1915. He was assigned to the Australian Army Medical Corps, C Section, 7th Field Ambulance, Private, No. 3766. He embarked at Brisbane aboard the *Aeneas* on 29 June and reported for duty from Suez on 4 August 1915. He left for Gallipoli on 4 September and served there until 5 November when he was admitted to the 16th Casualty Clearing Station with jaundice. He was evacuated to Mudros the next day, then transferred to Malta on 12 November where he was treated for enteric fever. On 7 January 1916, he left for Egypt where he was admitted to the 2nd Auxiliary Convalescent Depot at Heliopolis with paratyphoid on 11 January.

On 28 January 1916 Albert embarked at Suez 'for three months change' in Australia and was admitted to the Hobart General Hospital on 10 March. On the voyage home he also had an operation for appendicitis. From 28 March to 29 June he was treated for enteric fever. With general debility and rheumatism he was finally discharged medically unfit from the AIF on 14 August 1916 and granted a war pension of £1.10.0 per fortnight from 29 August 1916.

Albert was army area officer in Hobart during 1917 and at Zeehan in 1919-20 and when he left the army he had reached the rank of Lieutenant. In January 1921 he married Elsie Young at Hobart. He worked in the drafting office of the Electrolytic Zinc Company at

Risdon for nine years, then for the Agricultural Bank and Farmers' Debt Adjustment Board. Shortly before his death at the Hobart Repatriation Hospital on 9 March 1939, aged 51, he had been appointed Council Clerk at Richmond, near Hobart. He was cremated at Cornelian Bay. Albert was survived by his wife Elsie and a daughter Helen.

Harry Julius Frederick Unmack (1896-1974)

Harry Unmack was born at Bendigo on 24 September 1896, He was the son of Charles and Lily (née Fry) Unmack, of Bendigo, who married in 1890.

Harry's grandfather, Carl Unmack, arrived in Australia aboard the *Peter Godeffroy* in December 1852 with a cousin who was also named Carl Unmack. He emigrated from Neu Buckow in Mecklenburg, the same village as the Ziebell family and others living at Westgarthtown. On

5 March 1856, Carl married Wilhelmine Westphal, who had arrived in Australia on the *Helene* only two months earlier, suggesting they knew each other in Germany. Wilhelmine was accompanied to Australia by Christian Ziebell on his return from a visit back to Germany. Although Carl and Wilhelmine gave their address as Westgarthtown at the time of their marriage, their usual address was Bendigo, where he had been a gold miner since 1854. Both were 26.

After gold mining and cattle dealing, Carl established a butchery business in Bendigo in 1876 in partnership with son-in-law Bernhard Sprenger, who married his eldest daughter, Fredericke. When Carl died in 1902 aged 71, he left seven children. Wilhelmine died in 1909. Both are buried in the Bendigo Cemetery. Harry's father Charles and his uncle Alfred continued the butchery partnership. Charles, who died in 1917, had a sister



Harry Unmack (Photo: ChrisRose10, ancestry.com)

Sophia who married Charles Ziebell, the Fitzroy chemist, who was a grandson of Christian and Sophia Ziebell.

Harry enlisted at Bendigo on 7 December 1914.

A process engraver employed by the Melbourne firm of Webb & Co., he was 18, but gave his age as 19. His religion was Church of England. Harry, who had previously served with the Senior Cadets, Citizen Forces was allocated to the 3rd Reinforcements, 4th Light Horse Regiment, Private, No. 816 and embarked for Egypt aboard the *Katuna* on 3 February 1915.

After training in Egypt, Harry joined the 4th Light Horse Regiment at Gallipoli on 5 August 1915. He was transferred to the 4th Machine Gun Squadron on 21 September, but was admitted to hospital on 10 November. He was evacuated from Gallipoli to Egypt and admitted to No. 15, General Hospital at Alexandria on 15 November with neurasthenia. He was transferred to No. 1, Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis on 21 December 1915 with concussion of the spine and the following day moved to the 1st Australian Convalescent Depot.

Harry wrote back to Australia from Alexandria advising of his wounds. He:

‘conveyed the news that he had been blown up in a trench by a shell and was now in hospital...his back and side received the effects of the bursting shell...he expects to be in hospital for some time, and probably will be invalided home...he had experienced a couple of remarkable escapes from death. On one occasion he was carrying a box of ammunition on his shoulder, and it was blown off, while on another day he had only left a sap a few seconds when it was blown clean out.’

Harry was invalided to Australia aboard the *Karoola* which left Suez on 20 January and arrived back on 21 February 1916. Although he was sent home ‘for six months change’, he was discharged as medically unfit from the AIF on 14 May 1916 and awarded a war pension of £3 per fortnight from 15 May, reduced to £2 from 25 October 1917.

Harry’s sister Sophie’s husband, Lieutenant George Mills, also served during World War 1, with the 38th Battalion.

After his father’s death, Harry’s mother moved to Sydney. Harry was living at Forbes in 1923 and Eugowra in 1924, then in 1926 he married Constance Husband at Sydney. They had moved to Melbourne by 1931 where he worked as a process engraver. He died in 1972 aged 75. His wife had predeceased him in 1968 and both were cremated at Springvale.

FILM LAUNCH

Westgarthtown & World War I

BY JOHN FRY

The launch of our film on German descendants at war and on the homefront will be at Ziebell's Farmhouse Sunday 1 May 2016, 2.30-4.00 pm.

The Federal Member for Scullin, Andrew Giles, a supporter of the application for funding, will be in attendance. All members, friends and visitors are welcome.

Filming for this project was completed during Descendants' Day on 6 March. We are now going through the post-production phase of editing the hours of filming and adding the background music.

This has been an incredible exercise, where people just seemed to arrive at the right time in order to develop and complete the project.

- Rob Wuchatsch was the spur with his ongoing research into the families of Westgarthtown.
- The Friends of Westgarthtown Committee agreed with my proposal to submit an ANZAC Centenary Grant application.
- I then had a chance meeting with Adam Zwar, a Zimmer descendant, and after explaining the project, he agreed to narrate the film.
- Léon Borrack and I started developing the script, which Léon refined and then used his design skills to develop the outline of the shots to go with the script.
- Angela Belot came on board to produce the film and organised the production crew of Mark, Jessa and Alex to film it as well as Doretta Belot to provide the catering and medical support.
- Robert Wuchatsch, Rebekah Vagg and Lynn Vearing agreed to be interviewed about their family stories.
- Mark Kenfield is editing the film and audio post-production will be done by Marcel Borrack who offered to compose music and complete the sound design.

It is fair to describe this project as a labour of love, as much of the work was done for free, or at ‘mate’s rates’.

I can only thank all of the people who have been part of developing this project and invite everyone along to the launch, which itself is a 2016 National Trust Heritage Festival event.

Dr. Bernhard Traugott Zwar (1876-1947)

Bernhard Zwar was the son of Johann and Anna (née Kaiser) Zwar of Ebenezer in South Australia. His mother had worked at Zimmer's Farm at Westgarthtown for 14 months following her arrival in Australia in 1858, her passage money earned by her older sister Maria while working at Zimmer's from 1855-57. Anna was Johann Zwar's second wife and Dr Zwar the youngest of Johann's 13 children. Johann was a homeopathic doctor.

Zwar, born at Ebenezer in South Australia, began his medical studies in Adelaide in 1895. He completed his medical studies at Melbourne University and was appointed first to the Melbourne Hospital, then the Austin Hospital. In 1904 he travelled overseas for post-graduate studies and in 1905 visited Germany to meet family relatives at his parents' home village of Drehsa, near Bautzen. He was a fluent German speaker.

A captain in the 14th Army Medical Corps Field Ambulance since 1912, Zwar volunteered his services on 19 October 1914 and was appointed as a Major in the 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital, which embarked aboard the *Kyarra* on 14 December 1914. He was 38 when he enlisted. On arrival in Egypt in January 1915, Zwar was based at Mena until 19 April, when his unit left for Gallipoli, where he served on hospital ships from 25 April until 3 June 1915.

From 4-21 June he served on the island of Lemnos, but was invalided to Egypt, then England, with appendicitis. He was operated on in London on 16 July and able to commence light duties by 29 July. On 18 August he was attached to the 1st Australian Auxilliary Hospital at Harefield and worked there



Bernard Zwar (Photo: Kevin Zwar)

Do you prefer digital?

Electronic delivery for the *Friends of Westgarthtown News* is set to become an option for members later this year. Members will be asked to make a choice between email and postal delivery during our July subscription renewal period. Increased printing and postage costs mean that subscription fees no longer cover the cost of production and delivery. To help keep our membership fees low for everyone, we encourage you to consider becoming a digital member in 2016/17.

until 24 September. The following day he embarked for Egypt where he was attached to the No. 2 Australian General Hospital at Ghezireh from 10 October 1915 to 2 January 1916. Having completed his term of service, Zwar embarked aboard the *Ulysses* at Suez for Australia on 3 January and arrived back in Melbourne on 5 February 1916.

Zwar married a nurse, Essy Craig, at Hawthorn on 4 May 1916. They had met at the Melbourne Hospital. Essy joined the Australian Army Nursing Service in October 1914 and also travelled to Egypt aboard the *Kyarra*. She served with the 1st Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis, but fell ill with rheumatic fever, then typhoid fever, so was invalided back to Australia. Bernhard and Essy married in a Presbyterian ceremony at her mother's home, Zwar having been advised that his continuation as a Lutheran was likely to prejudice his status in the community.

Zwar went on to forge a distinguished medical career as both surgeon and administrator. As well as his private practice, he was honorary surgeon at the Royal Melbourne Hospital from 1919 and honorary consulting surgeon from 1935. He was also a member of the hospital's management committee from 1925 and president from 1937-45 and won acceptance for and implemented the hospital's relocation to Parkville. He was a lecturer in surgery at the University of Melbourne from 1924-35, served on its council from 1935 and was deputy chancellor in 1943-44. He filled many other roles with various medical associations and was appointed C.M.G. in 1941.

Zwar died at Malvern on 16 January 1947 aged 60 and was buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery. He was survived by his wife and only child John, also a doctor. Essy died on 18 December 1961.

Building dry stones walls for fun

BY PAUL SCHULTZ

I build dry stone walls for fun — no I build dry stone walls to do a permanent job — but for some strange reason I find it fun too.

My latest dry stone wall was built because I grew tired of fixing a wire fence that kept collapsing in the wet. I realised my grandfather, Albert Schultz, a gifted blacksmith artisan and builder, a man not to do things by halves, paved a laneway of flat bluestone rocks out of a paddock to my driveway. I thought if I move the fence to the laneway I can use two feet of the laneway as a foundation for my wall — thanks Grandad! Hence my wall, built in what I call Wollert style, with a few tweaks.

Three walls have influenced me to be a waller — predominantly a 4 foot 8-inch stone wall my grandfather Albert built on my farm; but also a 4-foot wall built by Scottish immigrants which I am currently restoring; and of course the Wollert walls. I learnt about building dry stone walls from my father, Leslie (Ron) Schultz, who maintained many of the walls around Wollert and Epping. Dad told me these walls were built by gangs of men who may have been convicts, but more likely they were built by contractors, hired by landowners to separate roads from private land and also divide up



Paul Schultz atop his latest wall (Photo: Gillian Borrack)

their farms. Cheap labour, free materials and some cleared land.

These walls were constructed to a height of well above 4 foot, with capping or top stones to retain stock up to the size of cattle, although most animals at the time were sheep. I have such a wall about 600 metres long which separates Bindts Road, Wollert from my property. By the way, a planned freeway will go right through this wall and obliterate much of it. Oh sorry, that sounds like politics and town planning — what boring and depressing subjects — this article is meant to be about the fun of dry stone walling.

My new wall differs from normal Wollert style. One side has a height of 4 foot, with minimal packing stones and is straight edged, rather than tapered on both sides. The other side is slightly higher and tapers normally, with round or oval capping stones to give a different look. I like it and my tortoise shell cat Baby likes to run along it too.

Editor's note: For a previous article about Paul's interest in dry stone walls, see Friends of Westgarthtown News, Vol. 10, No. 2, November 2006.

Thomastown Lutheran Church Services

Services are held on the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 2.30 pm at the Thomastown Lutheran Church, German Lane, Lalor. For further details, contact Irma Hatty on 03 9338 9064 or see the Calvary Lutheran Church website at www.calvarychurch.org.au

Visiting Ziebell's Farmhouse

Ziebell's Farmhouse is open to the public on the second Sunday of each month, 1–4 pm. For enquiries, call 03 9464 1805 or enquiries@westgarthtown.org.au

Tours can be organised for groups of ten or more people. For information and bookings contact Tatiana Joukoff on 03 9464 5062 or joukofftatiana@gmail.com

Descendants' Day 2016

BY SYLVIA VAGG

Our third Descendants' Day on Sunday 6 March 2016 was held on a very hot day and we were all very grateful for the shade of the now mature garden trees and bushes on the southern boundary of Ziebell's Farmhouse. Over 50 people enjoyed another great day. Although the year has been extremely dry, the garden was resplendent, with the majority of roses still in bloom.

There were many new faces, with some people travelling from northern NSW to add another link to the growing group of descendants that have experienced the day. There were many apologies due to the predicted weather. It is pleasing to see that family groups are following the Unmack family lead and arranging a picnic lunch together, to renew and make new acquaintance with their previously unmet 'cousins'. While the event was very unstructured, an update on the activities of the Friends of Westgarthtown was provided, followed by a group photo of all the descendants to be used as part of the footage for the Friends of Westgarthtown's Anzac Centenary Project. Again the oldest and youngest attendees were acknowledged with a gift to mark the occasion and the day concluded with afternoon tea.



Top: The gathering at Descendants' Day (Photo: Jessa Rose).

Bottom: Robert Wuchatsch with Yvonne Herregraven (Photo: Yvonne Herregraven)

The Descendants' Day Committee met prior to the afternoon's activities and elected the 2017 Committee as follows: David Adams & Jessica Adams (Co-convenors), Rebekah Vagg, Heather Purdy, Sylvia Vagg, Megan Belot and Carl Ziebell. Margaret Dade, who has left the committee due to her Perth relocation, was thanked for her co-ordination of the Unmack family. If any descendant is interested in joining the committee, please do not hesitate to nominate.

The 2017 event (and all future Descendants' Days) will be held on the Sunday before the Victorian Labour Day holiday — which may be in March or February. So please put this in your perpetual diaries and let all your family know as well. We look forward to a bumper roll up in 2017 on Sunday 5 March. Thanks also to the Friends of Westgarthtown for their great support of the day.

Rosel descendant visits from New Zealand

BY ROBERT WUCHATSCH

Yvonne Herregraven, of Whangaparaoa Peninsula, North Island visited Westgarthtown on 17 October 2015 with her husband Gary Wilson and his niece Angela Crompton.

Yvonne is descended from Emma Rosel (1883-1950) and Daniel Robertson, who married in Melbourne in 1901, but moved to the South Island of New Zealand soon after. By 1912, they had settled at Napier, on the east coast of the North Island.

I met Yvonne, Gary and Angela at the Westgarthtown cemetery and showed them the plot where two infant Rosel children are buried. The old Rosel plot now also includes the graves of several post World War 2 Lutheran immigrants. After pointing out the former location of the Rosel family's cottage near the corner of Mt View Road and Tramoo Street, we walked to Ziebell's Farmhouse for a tour, after which they left for Wollert where the Rosel family moved in 1866.

On 20 October Yvonne, Gary and Angela returned to Westgarthtown and Pastor Tim Stringer from Greensborough kindly gave them a tour of the Thomastown Lutheran Church. Yvonne later emailed to say thank you and that she had enjoyed seeing where her ancestors had lived and worshipped after their arrival from Germany in 1850.

For further details of the Rosel family, see *Friends of Westgarthtown News*, Vol. 14, No. 1 of April 2010.

Ernst Ziebell (1839-1910)

BY ROBERT WUCHATSCH

In *Friends of Westgarthtown News* Vol. 19, No. 2 of October 2015, we included Ben Collins' very interesting article about Jack Ziebell, the North Melbourne footballer, which first appeared in the *AFL Record* of 7-9 August 2015. Soon after the article appeared in the *AFL Record*, Frode Olsen, a Ziebell relative in Denmark, saw it online and contacted Ben, who forwarded Frode's emails on to the Friends of Westgarthtown. The information below regarding the Ziebell family in Denmark was kindly provided by Frode.

Christian Ziebell, having established his farm at Westgarthtown in 1850, travelled back to Germany in 1855. When Christian returned to Australia on the *Helene* in 1856 he brought various relatives and family friends with him. One was his nephew Ernst Ziebell, aged 16, from Helsingør in Denmark.

Ernst, born at Helsingør on 6 March 1839, was the son of Johan Heinrich Ziebell, Christian's younger brother and Juliane Mathilde (née Hartmann) Ziebell. Johan Heinrich Ziebell was born at Brüel, Mecklenburg on 27 May 1807 and trained as a butcher. It is not known when or why he moved to Denmark. Johann and Juliane, a butcher's daughter, were married at Helsingør on 4 February 1831 and Ernst was the third of their five children.

Juliana died on 13 May 1850 and on 22 September 1854, Johan Heinrich Ziebell remarried, to Mette Catherine Ostrup. They had one child, Carl Heinrich Ziebell, born 4 August 1855, before Johan Heinrich Ziebell's death on 21 February 1857 aged 49. Frode Olsen is Carl Heinrich Ziebell's great grandson.

Ernst, like his father, was a butcher. He presumably worked for Christian Ziebell following his arrival in Australia, as Christian had also been a pork butcher in Germany and is known to have produced hams and smallgoods at Westgarthtown. Christian's sons Carl and Heinrich later established a ham and smallgoods business at Somerton and Ernst probably worked for them there. In 1866 Ernst was best man for Christian's other son August Ziebell when he married Augusta Scheicher.

When Ernst married Rosanna Brady of Collingwood at Trinity Lutheran Church, East Melbourne on 1 April 1869, he gave his address as Epping and occupation as butcher. Rosanna, aged 23, was born at Ardrougher, County Cavan in Ireland, the daughter of John and Lucy (née Kiernan) Brady. Ernst and Rosanna had a



L to R: Frode Olsen's great-grand father Carl Heinrich Ziebell and the house in Bjerregade in Helsingør where Johan Heinrich Ziebell's butcher shop was located from 1847-1856. (Photos: Frode Olsen)

large family of 12 children, at least four of whom were born at Epping or Somerton. A daughter, Julia Matilda Ziebell, who died in 1872 aged 5 months, is buried at Westgarthtown.

Ernst Ziebell and his family moved from Somerton to northern Victoria in about 1874 and lived on 69 acres Ernst had selected at Tamleugh, near Violet Town. Several of his German-born neighbours there – Ewert, Lehmann, Garlepp and Seeber – were also from Epping or surrounding areas. Ernst later farmed at Caniambo, then moved to Albury, where he died on 24 April 1910 aged 72. Rosanna died in 1916.

Ernst and Rosanna's third child, Mary Ellen, born at Somerton in 1873, married Thomas Brew at Kojonup in Western Australia in 1893. Three of her four sons – Edward, Robert and William – then living in Sydney, enlisted with the AIF's 2nd Battalion and served on the Western Front during World War 1.

Jack Ziebell is Ernst and Rosanna's great-great grandson, via their son Otto Ernst Ziebell, who was born c. 1877.

Grützner memorial restorations

BY ROBERT WUCHATSCH



The memorial at Thomastown Lutheran Cemetery (Photo: Dorothy Kelly)

The Grützner family memorial in the Thomastown Lutheran Cemetery at Westgarthtown has been restored.

This memorial, erected after the death of Anna Louise Grützner in 1871, was vandalised about 40 years ago, leaving only the bluestone base. A replacement marble memorial has now been installed and the names of all five Grützner family members buried there inscribed upon it. The work was arranged by the Friends of Westgarthtown and paid for by Diana Gibson, a Grützner descendant.

Jacob Grützner and his second wife Frances (née Ladhams) are buried in the nearby Wesleyan/Methodist Cemetery, located off Stewart Street, Thomastown. The memorial there has also been cleaned and levelled. Frances was born at Northcote on 4 March 1865, the daughter of George Ladhams, a gardener from Hunton, Kent in England and Isabella (née Koenitz) Ladhams, born in Madrid, Spain. George and Isabella had married in Melbourne on 1 December 1862.

In October 2014, during a research visit to Germany, I found Jacob Grützner's baptism recorded in the Lutheran Church Archives at Baruth, in Saxony. Jacob was born at Wartha bei Gutttau near Bautzen on 12 May 1823 and baptised on 15 May 1823. Interestingly, he was baptised in the name of Hedusch, the family's surname in Wendish, rather than its German equivalent of Grützner. Jacob's parents' marriage on 20 October 1814 was also recorded in the surname of Hedusch. Jacob's father, Michael Hedusch, was born at Klein Bautzen and his mother Agnetha Wudowenz at Wartha. Jacob had at least eight brothers and sisters but most died in infancy.

For further details of the Grützner family, see *Friends of Westgarthtown News*, Vol. 15, No. 2 of October 2011.

FRIENDS OF WESTGARTHTOWN INC.

ABN 74 674 258 165 Inc. Reg No. A0032721Y

Enquiries (03) 9464 5062

PO Box 1 Mernda Victoria 3754

enquiries@westgarthtown.org.au

www.westgarthtown.org.au

President **John Fry**
 Vice-President **Rob Wuchatsch**
 Secretary **Gillian Borrack**
 Treasurer **Léon Borrack**
 Committee **Paul Schultz**
Doretta Belot

Historian **Rob Wuchatsch**
 Tours Coordinator **Tatiana Joukoff**
 Caretakers **Darren Kennedy**
Sheryl Kennedy
 Editor **Rob Wuchatsch**
 Design **Léon Borrack**

Westgarthtown is the oldest and most intact German/Wendish settlement in Victoria. Established in March 1850, it celebrated its 165th Anniversary in 2015.

The Thomastown Lutheran Church at Westgarthtown is the second oldest surviving Lutheran Church building in Australia and the oldest still used as the principal worship centre of a Lutheran congregation.

Heritage Victoria has included the Lutheran Church, Cemetery and Reserve; and Graff's, Siebel's, Wuchatsch's and Ziebell's houses on its Heritage Register, recognising their outstanding heritage value and providing legislative protection for the future.

Ziebell's Farmhouse is Victoria's oldest German immigrant building.

Siebel's Farmhouse, erected in 1860, is the birthplace of Albert Siebel, who in 1934 established the Pura Dairy at Preston, to retail Westgarthtown's milk. Pura has now developed into a leading national Australian brandname.

Wuchatsch's Farmhouse is believed to be the oldest house in Melbourne to have been constructed, owned and continually occupied by the same family.

The Friends of Westgarthtown Inc. does not accept responsibility for the opinions expressed or the accuracy of the statements made by authors of articles published in this newsletter.