

Duck Pond Restoration at Ziebell's

BY GEOFF BORRACK



Geoff Borrack oversees the changes to Ziebell's Duck Pond.

The 'duck pond' in the paddock near Ziebell's Farmhouse has long existed, but it is a pond in name only, with ducks having been absent for fifty years or more. I can recall white Muscovy ducks dabbling there in shallow water in the 1940's, while dragonflies darted about. After being dry for many years, heavy rainfall filled the pond in Spring 2004 and transformed it into a visual delight - in effect a perfect mirror reflecting the stone protrusions and the large white eucalypt tree (see page 2). Three weeks later,

the water had dissipated, and the frogs which had been giving nightly performances packed up and left.

In August 2006, a day was spent with Ian Junor and his bulldozer redistributing and reforming the rocky edges into more cohesive, and we trust, attractive formations. A few isolated rocks lying on the surface of the paddock were given a new home, and smaller rocks interspersed to form gently graded edge slopes. Under the eucalypt tree, a popular place to sit on sunny days and admire the scenery, the existing rocks were rearranged into practical shapes and levels to provide low level seating. It is intended that local native grasses will be planted between the rocks to provide an attractive infill.

Eradication of tall grass throughout the pond and the rock formations will ensure that the 'duck pond' remains an enjoyable visual feature, and where one's imagination can always be stimulated to perceive our feathery friends enjoying a water setting.

INSIDE

Out & About	p2
Tours	p4
Heritage	p5
Ziebell's Garden	p6
Research	p7

Music in Warm Places

On Sunday afternoon 23 July 2006 the Friends of Westgarthtown, supported by the City of Whittlesea, again presented 'Music in Warm Places' as part of the City of Whittlesea's Heritage Program. This comprehensive program of events is sponsored by Westfield who also assisted the City of Whittlesea in bringing the *Pribislaw* timbers to Australia last year. We thank both for their continuing support.

This year the theme of the Heritage Program was 'Glimpses of the Past.' The Ziebell Farmhouse provided the setting to enjoy glimpses of the past through music in an intimate and warm setting. Igor Pelka on Guitar and Carol Appelt on flute and piano delighted the audience throughout the afternoon with arrangements of classical German pieces including Bach, Beethoven and Schubert, plus the Italian Giuliani sonata. The following

extract from a letter we received indicates the enjoyment of two members of the audience on their first visit to Ziebell's Farmhouse.

On Sunday 23rd July a friend and I were part of the audience at the 'Music In Warm Places' at the Ziebell Farmhouse. I would just like to comment on our enjoyment of the afternoon – it was a delightful way to spend a winter's day, made even more so by the warm fire and lovely afternoon tea after the very fine music.

We also enjoyed looking over the farmhouse and had the privilege of meeting and talking with one of the Ziebell descendants. Thank you for staging this afternoon and we look forward to attending some of the other events taking place as part of the Heritage Program.

Spring 2004 – Ziebell's Duck Pond filled with water



150th Anniversary Service at Thomastown Lutheran Church

Thomastown Lutheran Church will hold a special 150th Anniversary worship service on Sunday 12 November 2006 at 2.00 pm. Friends of Westgarthtown members, families and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

The worship service will be conducted by Pastor Brett Kennett of Calvary Lutheran Church and Pastor Joachim von Mitzlaff of Trinity German Lutheran Church, East Melbourne. The Rev. Greg Pietsch, President of the Lutheran Church of Australia, Victoria/Tasmania will also preach.

As the capacity of the church is limited, a public address system has been arranged to enable people outside the church to participate in the service. For enquiries regarding the service contact Irma Hatty on 03 9338 9064.



Thomastown Lutheran Church from the north-west, c. 1875

Following the service, afternoon tea will be provided at Ziebell's Farmhouse by the Friends of Westgarthtown. Photographs and memorabilia relating to the Thomastown Lutheran Church will also be on display at Ziebell's Farmhouse.

The special 150th Anniversary dinner to be held on 10 November 2006 has now been fully booked and should be a great success.

2005/06 Annual General Meeting

The Friends of Westgarthtown held its Annual General Meeting at Ziebell's Farmhouse on 23 July 2006. Caretaker Samantha Green, who we welcomed in the April 2006 Newsletter, has now moved closer to Melbourne University to concentrate on her studies — we said goodluck and farewell.

Following the AGM, in which all previous office bearers were re-elected (see page 8 for details), the 'Music in Warm Places' Heritage Program Event took place.

Visiting Ziebell's Farmhouse

Ziebell's Farmhouse is open to the public on the second Sunday of each month between 1-4 pm. For enquiries, call 03 9464 1805 or nmj1@bigpond.com.

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

Friends of Lutheran Archives

Do you have Lutheran ancestors? Have you checked with the Lutheran Archives in Adelaide to see whether they hold information about your relatives? Would you like to join the Friends of Lutheran Archives and help support the collection and preservation of important Australian and New Zealand Lutheran archival material. For further details, contact Lutheran Archives, 27 Fourth Street, Bowden South Australia 5007. Phone/Fax: 08 8340 4009. Email: lutheran.archives@lca.org.au

Thomastown Lutheran Church Services

Services are held on the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 11.15 am 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.com.au



Tours of Westgarthtown

BY GILLIAN BORRACK

Tours of Westgarthtown and the Ziebell Farmhouse during 2006 have continued to delight our visitors with all months having at least two tours, and many months three or four. Many visitors have enjoyed morning tea or lunch in the garden this year. Tatiana now has to ring a bell to bring everyone back together for the next segment of the tour. Some visitors who find walking difficult are more than happy to sit in the garden or farmhouse and wait for their companions to return.

Sales of the Westgarthtown booklet, preserves and seeds are much improved now that the Smokehouse doubles as a 'shop' during the larger tours. This is run most efficiently by Phyllis Waghorn. Marita Anders continues to cater for the afternoon teas and lunches which make our venue quite unique according to those visitors who regularly visit venues providing similar fare. The comments always run along the lines, "we were not expecting such beautiful food!" and we are extremely lucky and very grateful to have Marita and her mother Klara provide such beautiful food, while the helpers all bask in reflected glory.

Tatiana continues to provide a wonderful introduction to Westgarthtown and the Ziebell Farmhouse. We are gaining many enquiries as a result of 'word of mouth' introductions to other groups as well as our new 3 fold colour brochure and website. The tour program is shaping up to being equally busy in 2007.

Images: Members of the North Balwyn Probis group enjoy a spectacular afternoon at Westgarthtown on 28 September

German Dry Stone Walls in Victoria and Texas

Westgarthtown, Epping and Wollert on Melbourne's northern outskirts were not the only areas in the world where German emigrants built dry stone walls. As well as Victoria, Germans settling in Texas during the mid-nineteenth century also utilised local stone to construct fences on their farms, despite neither group having any tradition of building dry stone walls. In Australia these structures have always been known as dry stone walls but in Texas the walls became known as 'German fences'.

In a recent study entitled 'Rock Fences of the Texas Hill Country', author Laura Knott concluded 'The Germans who came to the Texas Hill Country were prepared for life in a new environment and were quite open to learning

new techniques. It would not be surprising, then, that they would also adopt rock fence construction if it appeared to be useful and pass it along through the apprenticeship system ...' Laura also noted that 'Rock fences appealed to, as Terry Jordan-Bychkov described it, "a Teutonic need for permanence" and the German settlers took to them with great enthusiasm ...'.

Knott's comments could just as easily apply to those Germans and Wends who settled on Victoria's volcanic plain, mainly in the City of Whittlesea but also at Gnadenthal, near Peshurst in Western Victoria. In 2006, Paul Schultz is constructing a dry stone wall on the family farm at Wollert using skills taught to him by his father, who had in turn learned them from his father.

Paul Schultz at the dry stone wall he is currently constructing and (inset) with a wall his grandfather Albert Schultz built



Winter/Spring Garden Report

BY GILLIAN BORRACK

The Ziebell Farmhouse garden has come through the dry winter and early spring extremely well. The additional daffodils planted this year added to the abundance of colour, together with the japonicas, violets, arum lilies, grape hyacinths, calendulas and deep blue forget-me-nots. Early spring saw the orchard trees in blossom and the roses throwing up vast numbers of buds, and the peony roses and wisteria arbour in full bloom. The climbing rose has now almost covered the new rose arbour and is currently full of magnificent blooms.

The back corner of the garden is now vastly improved, with an extended garden bed against the east wall of the drying shed planted by Nanette with seedlings and seeds from the main garden. The compost area now has two bays for handling the compost, one 'on the go' and one getting ready for use in the garden. The area behind the toilets has been cleaned out and now stores our additional black compost bins, improving the overall appearance of

the eastern section of the area behind the drying sheds. On the south side of that area the herb garden continues to flourish, as does the new rose bed planted last year. As the weather improves the garden is enjoyed more by visiting groups who delight in having their morning tea or lunch on the verandah or out in the lawn area of the garden.

For any new members, the Friends of Westgarthtown Garden Group holds a working bee day on the 1st Saturday of the month, anytime between 10am and 4pm. Bring your own lunch and gardening gloves; we supply tea, coffee and friendship. We also supply gardening tools, but if you have a favourite 'weeder', seat or kneeler please bring your own. If you cannot come to the Saturday working bee, but would like to help at another time, please call Nanette.

CONTACTS

Gillian Borrack - Working Bee Coordinator 9717 3559
Nanette Jelleff - Caretaker 9464 1805



Ernst Bernhardt Heyne

A Notable Early Westgarthtown Pioneer

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

Following the article about forgotten Westgarthtown settlers Christian and Johanna Kurtzmann, which appeared in the April 2006 *Friends of Westgarthtown News* (Vol. 10, No. 1), we now include details of another early pioneer whose connections with Westgarthtown were brief — Ernst Bernhardt Heyne.

Heyne, a trained botanist, was a foundation landholder at Westgarthtown but sold out in 1853. He appears to have returned in 1855 to teach at Westgarthtown's Neu Mecklenburg Lutheran School, but soon after found employment at Melbourne's Botanical Gardens, where he worked from 1856-1869. He then moved to Adelaide, where he established a plant nursery and seed shop which is still operated today by his descendants.

The following information about Ernst Bernhardt Heyne comes from my 1985 book *Westgarthtown, the German Settlement at Thomastown*; the 1999 book *From Hamburg to Hobsons Bay: German Emigration to Port Phillip (Australia Felix) 1848-51* by T.A. Darragh and R.N. Wuchatsch; an article by F.M. McGuire in *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (1972); or was kindly provided by Margaret Ford, a Heyne descendant and Friends of Westgarthtown member.

Ernst Bernhardt Heyne was born at Meissen, Saxony on 15 September 1825, the son of Carl August Heyne, physician and Katherine Marie née Tierof. After studying botany at the University of Leipzig, he obtained a position at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Dresden. His brother, Carl, fled to America after killing an officer in a duel and this seems to have prompted Ernst also to leave Germany in the company of two other gardeners from Dresden. He arrived in Melbourne aboard the *Godeffroy* in February 1849, along with other Westgarthtown settlers Friedrich Gruenberg, Friedrich Grundel, Gottlieb Knobloch and Moritz Wehner. Heyne's sister Agnes followed him to Melbourne in 1851, as did his by then widowed mother Marie, in 1854.

Shortly after his arrival in Australia, Heyne commenced a series of long letters which were sent back to Germany and published in Dresden. These letters described the voyage out and Heyne's experiences and observations during his first ten months in Australia.



After working as a gardener on the Yarra River at Collingwood, Heyne saved enough money to be among the original purchasers at Westgarthtown in 1851 (20 acres at £1 per acre, comprising Lots 17 & 18, Section 25, Parish of Keelbundora).

Heyne had been naturalised as a New South Wales citizen late the previous year, enabling him to buy his land. When he took his oath of allegiance in Melbourne on 30 November 1850, Heyne was recorded as a 'Teacher of Languages', but it is not known if he ever followed this occupation in Australia. It is also unclear, given the discovery of gold in Victoria in 1851, whether he ever

continued on page 8

Ernst Bernhardt Heyne

continued from page 7

actually lived on his land at Westgarthtown. In April 1853 he sold his small holding to neighbour Johann Maltzahn for £55. Maltzahn's Farmhouse in Gardenia Road is located on land formerly owned by Heyne.

In May 1852 Heyne was one of three Germans who wrote to Lieutenant Governor Charles La Trobe applying for a grant of land in Melbourne on which to build a church and school. Early in 1853 he was one of twenty-four Germans who formally invited Matthias Goethe to become their pastor and that of the congregation they represented. In August 1853, then living at Richmond, Heyne was elected an elder of Trinity Lutheran Church, East Melbourne and he continued to be actively involved with Trinity Church until his move to South Australia in 1869.

In April 1853, Heyne became the Bendigo representative for the Melbourne Escort Company, a newly formed but short lived gold-carrying business. As well as being highly educated and speaking three languages — English, French and German — he was stated to have been experienced in cavalry and well-armed.

According to Victorian Civil Establishment Records, Heyne was teaching at the Neu Mecklenburg Lutheran School at Westgarthtown in 1855. However, from about 1856, he was employed first as a plantsman and then as secretary to Ferdinand Mueller in the Melbourne Botanical Gardens. Heyne accompanied Mueller on several expeditions and helped classify much of the botanical material Mueller collected in the 1850s. Heyne is commemorated by the plants *Aster heynei* F.Muell. = *Olearia xerophila* and *Cyperus heynei* Boeckel = *Cyperus ornatus* R.Br. In 1861 he was a member of the judging panel which chose the winner of *The Argus* Gold Prize Cup for Victoria's best cultivated vineyard.

Heyne was a prolific writer on horticultural topics. Following his resignation from the Melbourne Botanical Gardens in 1869 and move to Adelaide, where he established a nursery and seed business, he published *Vines and their Synonyms* (1869) and the highly successful *The Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Garden* (1871), which ran to three other editions under the title *The Amateur Gardener*. He also contributed many newspaper articles, both in Victoria and South Australia.

On 3 December 1870, Heyne married Laura Hanckel, at the Unitarian Church, Adelaide. Four children survived to adulthood – Agnes, Laura, Ida and Carl. The girls all became teachers and Carl, who trained at the Roseworthy Agricultural College, subsequently took over his father's nursery. Heyne died at his home in Norwood on 16 October 1881, aged 56.

FRIENDS OF WESTGARTHTOWN INC.

ABN 74 674 258 165 Inc. Reg No. A0032721Y

Enquiries (03) 9464 5062

PO Box 95 Thomastown VIC 3074

enquiries@westgarthtown.org.au

www.westgarthtown.org.au

President	Geoff Borrack
Vice-President	Sylvia Schultz
Secretary	Pauline Atkins
Treasurer	Gillian Borrack
Committee	Rob Wuchatsch Lorraine Flanders

Historian	Rob Wuchatsch
Heritage Architect	Geoff Borrack
Tours Coordinator	Tatiana Joukoff
Memberships	Gaye Wuchatsch
Caretaker	Nanette Jelleff
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 150th Anniversary in the year 2000.

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.