

A project to catalogue the many historical items at Ziebell Farmhouse is creating a museum standard record of the collection. Project Coordinator **Gillian Borrack** outlines the background, highlights and future of this immense task being undertaken with the assistance of Heritagecare and three very dedicated volunteers.



**From left:** Gillian Borrack, Marika Wanklyn, State Parliamentary Secretary for Planning Jenny Mikakos, Amanda Day and Sylvia Schultz

# CATALOGUE YOUR BLESSINGS

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**I**n late 2007, while representing the Friends of Westgarthtown at a Heritage Committee meeting at the City of Whittlesea, Sylvia Schultz and I enjoyed a presentation by Paige McAlpine from Conservation Volunteers Australia in her capacity as a Heritagecare Project Officer and coordinator of their Community Stewardship Program. Paige explained how Heritagecare works. It gives assistance to heritage places,

## HERITAGE

objects and organizations through volunteer participation. Individuals and groups responsible for looking after Victoria's heritage places and objects can apply to become a Heritagecare Project Partner. Conservation Volunteers Australia is responsible for the recruitment, administration and management of Heritagecare volunteers.

The Friends of Westgarthtown first became interested in cataloguing our collection in 2002. However, there were always so many competing projects to balance in our capacity as volunteers, and the explanatory panels took precedence. Happily our meeting with Paige came at a time when most of the panels were nearing completion and thus provided a marvellous opportunity. We registered the Friends of Westgarthtown's interest in December 2007, and in early January 2008, I met with Paige at the Ziebell Farmhouse to express our interest in becoming a project partner in a Community Stewardship project, and the Friends of Westgarthtown subsequently made a formal

application to Heritagecare.

We applied to catalogue to museum standard the collection of furniture, paintings, equipment, objects, displays etc currently housed at the Ziebell Farmhouse precinct at Thomastown. Our aim is to facilitate the management and protection of this collection. Some items in the collection are owned by the City of Whittlesea, others have been donated to the Friends of Westgarthtown, and some are on loan to the Friends of Westgarthtown. We believe the project will further help to strengthen the management partnership between the Friends of Westgarthtown and the City of Whittlesea who have been jointly working on the restoration of this heritage site for the past twelve years. The Ziebell Farmhouse precinct has been gradually restored and regularly opened for visitors over the past eleven years. This practical conservation project will protect and record the current collection, and we hope will encourage and facilitate further donations and loans into the future. All items will be photographed, measured, described with the history and ownership status recorded. The physical placement within each actual room or outbuilding will also be recorded as per museum standard methodology.

In our application, the Friends of Westgarthtown agreed to provide a laptop computer, software and memory sticks, measuring tapes and specialized tools where needed. Our application was successful and the commencement date was set for 21 April. However, due to Paige commencing maternity leave, the commencement date was postponed to 16 May to allow her replacement, Erin Schroeder, who commenced on 5 May to have some time before we started the project.

The project began in earnest in early June 2008, with three volunteers – Amanda Day, Marika Wanklyn and Phillip Davis. It was very cold through the winter months, and the volunteers who come each week on Wednesdays, cheerfully worked on, albeit well rugged up. In order to start work as soon as possible we used Heritage Victoria's Excel spreadsheet format rather than a professional collection database. The digital photos of all items are stored at this stage in a separate file. The cataloguing was quickly underway with Julia Cusack, Project Manager at Heritage Victoria, who made sure all our queries were clarified. The volunteers are in constant contact with Erin who regularly visits the Ziebell Farmhouse to meet with the volunteers and myself to document the work progress and management.

In August the State Government Community Cabinet (represented by Jenny Mikakos, Parliamentary Secretary



Heritagecare volunteers Amanda Day (rear) and Marika Wanklyn

for Planning) visited the Heritagecare volunteers at the Ziebell Farmhouse, along with representatives from the City of Whittlesea, Heritage Victoria, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Friends of Westgarthtown Inc. All were most impressed with the efficiency, disciplined work and dedication of the volunteers.

The Project was due to finish on November 19. However, as the work was not completed, we applied to have the project extended and are happy to report we have recently been granted another six months and that Amanda, Marika and Phil have agreed to continue on with the project. The Friends of Westgarthtown are most appreciative of



Heritagecare Project Officer Erin Schroeder (seated) with volunteers (from left) Amanda Day, Phil Davis and Marika Wanklyn

the opportunity provided by Heritagecare to work with them on this project, and will be forever grateful to these three dedicated volunteers who have achieved with such enthusiasm, an incredibly professional catalogue.

## Pastor Steiniger's 1945 Travel Permit

Pastor Ewald Steiniger, who conducted services at the Thomastown Lutheran Church from 1935-64, was interned by the Australian Government from Easter 1942 until October 1944. Even after the war in Europe ended in May 1945, national security restrictions on the activities of aliens continued. The document reproduced here, and kindly made available by Dieter Steiniger, is a one day travel permit issued to Pastor Steiniger to enable him to travel from Trinity German Lutheran Church, East Melbourne to conduct a worship service at Thomastown on 26 June 1945.

**COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA** Form D  
*Defence (National Security—Aliens Control) Regulations*

**TRAVEL PERMIT**

*Certificate of exemption from necessity of reporting temporary change of residence.*

Granted to E.H.O. Steiniger.

Nationality German

Holder of Alien Certificate No. 6 issued at Russell Street, Melb.

**CONDITIONS**

The conditions under which this Certificate is issued shall be as follows:—

Period: 24/6/45 to One day.

Purpose: Conduct Service at Thomastown Church.

Remarks: Return permit on expiry.

E. Steiniger. Police Const 9620.  
Signature of holder. Signature of Aliens Registration Officer.

Place Russell Street, Melbourne. Date 23/6/45.

**NOTICE TO THE HOLDER OF THIS CERTIFICATE**

It is an offence, punishable by fine or imprisonment, for the holder to refuse to produce this certificate when legally required to do so, or to fail to comply with the conditions of this certificate; or for any person to alter, use or have in his possession a permit on which any endorsement has been forged or altered.

On the expiry of the period for which this permit is available, it must be given up at the nearest Police Station in the District where the holder then is, or in the District in which it was issued.

## Recent Museum Aquisitions

BY GEOFF BORRACK



### Carl Ziebell's Buggy

This buggy served the needs of Carl and Dorothea Ziebell and their family of ten children through the early 1900's as their principal horse drawn vehicle of transport. Carl, who was a skilled wheelwright, constructed the four-wheeled buggy on the property. Today, the buggy remains in excellent and serviceable condition, and is housed in the cart house as a unique example of Carl's craftsmanship, while representing a tangible link with family life in the late 1800's and early 1900's periods.

As such, the buggy is a vital acquisition for the Ziebell Farmhouse and the Friends of Westgarthtown are indebted to Lyn Ziebell, who made it available from the estate of her late husband James Ziebell, on whose property it resided after the sale of Ziebell's farm.

The buggy made many trips to service the needs of the Ziebell family, regularly visiting central Melbourne and the outlying districts. Carl and Dorothea were comfortably accommodated on cushioned leather seating, with waterproof overlap covers. There was adequate rear storage for items of purchase. The buggy is worth inspecting to appreciate the way in which forged iron components and finely honed timber could be combined to provide great strength, durability and delicacy of appearance in carriage building typical of the period. For heritage reasons, the buggy retains its original appearance from its last days of use in the first half of the twentieth century.

### Model of Ziebell's Farmyard

The farm model, which is located in the cart house, has been meticulously constructed and donated for permanent exhibition by Francis and Joe Adams, both of whom spent many of their formative years living and working on the Ziebell farm. The model was conceived to incorporate the principal working areas of the farmyard precinct, and includes the milking shed, various barns, fenced areas and the hay yard with its waterhole. The Adams brothers, because of their intimate connection with the farm, have rendered a very realistic model, enlivened by finely constructed models of farm equipment, animals and people. Constructed on a base of table tennis proportions, it is viewable from all four sides as a freestanding piece. As such, it makes a unique and informative contribution to the consolidation of the Ziebell Farmhouse as an historic precinct of national importance.



### 2007/08 AGM

The Friends of Westgarthtown held its Annual General Meeting at Ziebell's Farmhouse on 2 August 2008 and there were a number of changes to office-bearers.

Geoff Borrack retired as President after almost four years and Sylvia Schultz was duly elected to replace him. In his report, Geoff thanked his fellow committee members for their dedicated work over the past year. In particular he thanked Gillian Borrack for all she has done in so many fields over the years. He also stressed the need for a larger participation by younger members and Westgarthtown descendants. Geoff, who was elected as Vice-President to replace Sylvia, will now concentrate on his work as Heritage Architect.

Other changes were the election of Léon Borrack to the committee as Treasurer. We welcome Léon, who takes the place of Gillian Borrack, who was elected as Secretary. Pauline Atkins and Rob Wuchatsch fill the remaining two committee positions.



#### Guided tours of the Westgarthtown Heritage Trail

The Friends of Westgarthtown conducted guided tours of the Westgarthtown Heritage Trail on Sunday 23 November as part the 2008 City of Whittlesea Heritage Program. Despite the cold weather, the tours commencing at Ziebell's Farmhouse attracted over 90 people

Sincere thanks go to all who helped on the day including tour guides Tatiana Joukoff and Robert Wuchatsch as well as Marita Anders (who organised afternoon tea), Nanette Jelleff, Duncan Steele, Sylvia Schultz, Paul Schultz and Gillian Borrack.

#### 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

#### 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](http://www.calvarychurch.com.au)

#### 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](mailto:lutheran.archives@lca.org.au)

## Some Westgarthtown sportsmen

BY ROBERT WUCHATSCH

Westgarthtown's young men were best known as dairy farmers, but some were also active and successful sportsmen.

Alfred and Henry Ziebell and Norman Wuchatsch were all members of Epping Football and Cricket Club premiership winning teams during the late 1920's and early 1930's. Some Epping residents with German ancestry also played, including members of the Binns, Lehmann, Nebel, Paulke, Rose, Umlaught and Young families.

### FOOTBALL

From 1926 to 1936, the Epping Football Club, playing first in the Bourke-Evelyn League and then the Diamond Valley Football League, won nine premierships, including seven in a row. Norman Wuchatsch, Alfred Ziebell, Joe Lynch (whose mother was a Kreitling), Harold Lehmann and Fred Nebel were all members of the 1927 premiership team which defeated Whittlesea. Otto Rose was also Secretary. Others to play in subsequent years were Albert Lehmann, Eddie Rose, brothers C. and S. Umlaught and Unmack-Ziebell descendants Denzel and Norman Young.

### CRICKET

The Epping Cricket Club was also successful in the Whittlesea District Association during the same period, winning premierships in 1929-30, 1931-32, 1932-33 and 1933-34. Norman Wuchatsch and Henry Ziebell were members of the successful 1929-30 team, along with S. Rose. Both Norman and Henry were bowler/batsmen. Others to play at different times were E. Lehmann and Alfred Ziebell.

In 1934-35, Norman Wuchatsch transferred to Thomastown, to captain a newly formed team there. Once when he was batting, he was hit by a fast ball which somehow lit a packet of matches in his pocket, causing them to flare up, much to the amusement of all and sundry.

Another Wuchatsch had played cricket in the district even earlier. Frederick William (Bill) Wuchatsch was a keen cricketer, playing his first game for Epping in 1893. In 1899-1900 when Epping did not compete he played for South Yan Yean (now Mernda) and with South Morang in 1900-01. During these years he was also a regular member of the Bourke East representative team which each year

played Evelyn. In January 1903, back with Epping, he took eight wickets for 31 runs in a losing match against Somerton. In the successful return match in February 1903, he scored 14 runs and took six wickets for 16 runs.

In 1903-04 Bill was a member of the premiership winning South Yan Yean team. From 1904-05 to 1906-07 he played with the re-formed South Morang Club.

Henry Ziebell's sons and grandsons, who inherited his cricketing abilities, have continued that family's tradition of playing competitive football and cricket. Sadly, Norman's son Robert (this newsletter's editor) inherited no such skills.





**EPPING.**

**Cricket Club**

Members and supporters of the club are delighted at the auspicious opening of the season when the strong Whittlesea eleven was downed by 10 wickets. The win will do much to stimulate further interest in the club. Whittlesea batted first and was dismissed for 65 runs, mainly through the sterling bowling of N. Wuchatsch, who finished up with the good figures of six for 16. H. Ziebell, with two for 15, also bowled well, and will do better with further experience. Epping compiled 117 in their first effort at the wickets, the principal scorers being Jeffrey (22), Wuchatsch (16), V. Varcoe (15), Escott (13), W. Taggart (12), and H. Ziebell (11). Whittlesea, at their second attempt, although handicapped by the absence of their captain, G. Borton, reached 95, Wuchatsch (four for 44) and F. Riley (three for 5) having the bowling honors. Epping, requiring 43 to win, sent in Tom Dea and Stewart Escott, and the necessary runs were got by a display of hurricane hitting. Epping thus winning by 10 wickets.

Next Saturday, owing to the Whittlesea show being held, there will be no competition matches, and the Epping second eleven will play the second eleven of the Northcote C.Y.M.S. on the Epping ground. On November 17 the Epping team will play Hume Vale on the Epping ground. The club wishes to acknowledge donations from the following gentlemen:—Cr. B. McCormack, £1/1/-; R. J. Smith, £1/1/-; H. M. Woodhouse, 10/6; O. Rose, 10/6.

Historic team photographs from an era when Westgarthtown sportsmen successfully competed in local football (above, photograph courtesy Margaret Constantine) and cricket (left). An article that appeared in Northcote Leader on 9 November 1928 (above).

## Church 1898 west wall reconstruction

REPORT FROM *DER AUSTRALISCHE CHRISTENBOTE* JULY 1898 – TRANSLATED BY HERBERT MEES

The congregation at Thomastown near Melbourne found itself compelled to securing the western gable wall of their church which had been showing for a considerable time, a crack that kept getting increasingly wider. Now instead of doing this in a manner most cheap by affixing outside support piers which would have greatly detracted from the appearance of the church, they decided in a very honourable manner to demolish the wall and part of the adjoining walls as far as necessary and to rebuild them anew, which entailed considerable cost in view of the fact that the church is built of blue basalt (bluestone). Now, however, it looks again as new, and when the congregation

after an intervening period of several months during which it held its worship services in an English church, returned to its own house of worship that had been most beautifully decked out by women's hands, Pastor Herlitz first gave a short appropriate consecration address and spoke a consecration prayer and then preached on Matthew 5:1-12 in view of the particular occasion.

Editors note: A doorway which was originally located in the west wall, probably for entry to a planned but never constructed vestry, was not included in the new wall. Neither the stonemason's name or cost of repairs are known.

## Lutheran Church 1957 Sunday School Picnic

REPORT FROM *WHITTLESEA POST* 14 MARCH 1957

**O**n Labor Day (March 11) the Lutheran Sunday School held its annual picnic in ideal weather at Toorourrong Reservoir, near Whittlesea.

The arranging of the cars and the picnic sports was most ably conducted by Pastor E. Steiniger. The usual sports races were held for young and old. It was left to the Pastor to show the men a nice turn of speed as he won the men's race. It proved an enjoyable day for all who attended, especially the children all of whom won a 'prize'.

Mr Norman Young and Mr F. Winzler acted as judges for the races; Mr Winzler also provided a Volkswagen bus.

Miss Ruth Fuhlbohm was in charge of the children and Mrs Fuhlbohm distributed the prizes.



Members of the Thomastown Lutheran Church Sunday School enjoy a picnic at Toorourrong Reservoir.

### FRIENDS OF WESTGARTHTOWN INC.

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**Duncan Steele**

Editor **Rob Wuchatsch**  
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**W**estgarthtown is the oldest and most intact German/ Wendish settlement in Victoria. Established in March 1850, it will celebrate its 160th Anniversary in the year 2010.

**T**he 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.

**H**eritage 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.

**Z**iebell's Farmhouse is Victoria's oldest German immigrant building.

**S**iebel'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.

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