

Discovery of Wreckage from Pribislaw

BY ROBERT WUCHATSCH

In June 2002, I was very surprised to discover some remaining wreckage from the Pribislaw, the ship which brought over half Westgarthtown's German and Wendish families to Australia in February 1850. The Pribislaw's days on the sea ended in 1870 when it ran aground in the Shetland Islands during severe storms in the North Sea.

The wooden barque Pribislaw was built in Ribnitz, Mecklenburg by H. L. Miebrodt in 1847 and registered at Rostock in Germany. Of 354 tonnes, its hull was soon copper sheathed for long tropical voyages, its owner Ernst Brockelmann and captain P. W. Niemann having planned from the outset to enter it in the increasingly lucrative emigration trade. The Pribislaw was named after a 12th Century Wendish chieftain who became the first Duke of Mecklenburg.

Following its controversial 1849/50 voyage from Hamburg to Melbourne via Rio de Janeiro, the Pribislaw returned to Europe via Adelaide, Batavia and Port Elizabeth. It made several further voyages with German emigrants during the early 1850s, to both North and South America, before being sold to L. Burchard and Son in 1855. After apparently carrying cargo around northern Europe for the next fifteen years, the Pribislaw ran aground on Bigga Island in Yell Sound on 8 February 1870, whilst carrying pit props for coal mines from Christiania in Norway to Sunderland in England.

Aware of the Pribislaw's 1870 demise, I decided to visit the Shetland Islands during a recent European holiday,



Pribislaw c. 1904. Photo courtesy Shetland Museum

hoping to find a newspaper account of the stranding and/or even more importantly a photograph, given I had never seen an illustration of the ship. Unfortunately the Shetland Islands' first newspaper, the Shetland Times, did not begin until 1872, but I soon found out more about the Pribislaw than I had dreamed was possible.

The stranded Pribislaw was not badly damaged and no crew were hurt but she was condemned as not worth repairing and sold along with her cargo. She was purchased by local merchants Hay & Co, who towed her off the Bigga rocks to nearby Tofts Voe, from where she was taken to the Freefield Docks at Lerwick. She was then hauled out of the water at the south end of Hay's dock and converted to a store hulk, her masts being removed, windows and shutters installed in the sides and a double door cut into her bow.

According to Ian Tait of the Shetland Museum at Lerwick, the Pribislaw became well known to generations of Shetlanders who frequented the Freefield Docks, although he says few would have known her name. For most of her life off the sea she was used as a store for salt and barrels, most barrels filled with pickled herrings.

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Who Visits Westgarthtown?

BY ELLEN MITCHELL, TOURS CO-ORDINATOR

It was particularly gratifying over the last six months to welcome many new walking clubs and church groups from areas such as Balwyn, Ringwood and Watsonia, and students and teachers from as near as Mill Park and as far away as Canberra.

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

German language teachers from Canberra. On Saturday 31 August, 10.30 am – 1.30 pm, 12 German teachers from Lake Tuggeranong College, independent and public schools and the ANU visited Westgarthtown as part of a two-day German immersion program. Ziebell's Farmhouse was first on the list and it was German all the way until we reached Wuchatsch's Farmhouse during our Heritage Walk. There Robert introduced his latest research in pictures, documents and English. At the Church Irma Hatty, still in a state of recuperation from surgery, greeted the group in high spirits and presented some of her cherished memories and answered questions. Her husband Ted acted as driver and introduced the tones of the harmonium to the audience. A German-type lunch was then served in the Ziebell kitchen which included a variety of rye breads, 'Lachs-Schinken' (ham as smooth as salmon), smoked beef, tongue and bloodwursts, cheeses, pickles, gherkins, salad, a fruitplatter of giant strawberries and melons, and a cake simulating a 'Bienenstichkuchen'. The living room had been converted to a dining area, and Gaye Lohse's flower arrangements and ornaments enhanced the experience. As witnessed by Gaye, Robert, Irma, Ted and myself the Canberra teachers left with much more than a taste for German culinary fare (which had fitted into the boot of my vehicle with great difficulties).

Mill Park Secondary College. Forty Year 7 students led by Sarah Cribben, visited Westgarthtown in early July. They were a well behaved group of boys and girls learning German at the College. Equipped with worksheets from our language trail book, they were meaningfully engaged as we circumnavigated the Ziebell and Siebel homesteads where they were required to draw the façade. After all these activities the students were rewarded with a mug of

hot chocolate and biscuits. This was the largest group of students this year (it makes for a very long row when seen walking down streets in Thomastown).

WALKING CLUBS

In June, July and August four walking groups came to Westgarthtown. 20 members of the Diamond Valley Walking Group led by Judy Blackman and 31 members of the Watsonia Probus Club Walk Group under the leadership of Laurel Cooper visited in June. The other two very enthusiastic and interested walk groups were the 'Ramblers' from the Lyceum Club visiting on 30 July with leader Beverly Gorr and the Chelsea 2003 ladies on 13 August, very capably organized by Anna Denton.

CHURCH GROUPS

A 'Seniorenkreis' of 40, associated with the Lutheran Trinity and Greensborough Churches, led by Elizabeth Etienne made a return visit on 10 April which included a remarkably rich luncheon organized by Elizabeth and a service by Pastor Joachim von Mitzlaff in the church. In the absence of an organist, the Pastor very capably accompanied the hymns with his guitar, while I acted as music stand. Fifteen ladies and gentlemen from the Balwyn Uniting Church also made the trip to Westgarthtown on 19 April for a guided tour and lunch.

OTHER GROUPS

In early May – for the very first time – Ziebell's Farmhouse received a visit from dementia sufferers hailing from 'Cillara' at Ringwood, brought to Westgarthtown by Judy Anderson and other carers. All went extremely well and it was very pleasing that much understanding and enjoyment was derived from the visit

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL VISIT WESTGARTH TOWN DURING 2002?

By the end of December 2002 over 500 persons in 22 guided tour groups will have made the trip to Westgarthtown this year, plus those attending during our public Sunday

TOUR ACTIVITY

afternoons, family reunions, Heritage Week, the Drystone Wall Exhibition etc. On the whole this has been achieved by word of mouth. Visitor numbers would soar with effective joint promotional strategies shared with other German pioneer precincts such as Schramm's Cottage at Doncaster, managed by the Doncaster and Templestowe Historical Society and Schwerkolt's Cottage at Mitcham, managed by the City of Whitehorse (assisted by the Nunawading and District Historical Society). It is now our aim to bring all these parties together with the view of achieving integrated and mutually beneficial policies in respect of promotion, functions and festivities governing these three historically outstanding remainders of German pioneer life in Victoria.

Westgarthtown Tour Thank You

The Friends of Westgarthtown receives numerous expressions of thanks, either verbally or in writing, following tours it conducts. The letter below, received recently from the Brighton Antique Club, makes it all worthwhile. Well done Ellen and Elizabeth and also Irma Hatty from the Thomastown Lutheran Church.

Dear Ellen,

On behalf of the members of the Brighton Antique Club, I would like to thank you, Elizabeth Trenerry and Irma Hatty for the most enjoyable and informative time we spent at Westgarthtown on Wednesday.

We thoroughly enjoyed all the information you and Elizabeth gave us and were delighted with Irma's personal account of her early memories of church life. The morning tea was most welcome.

Westgarthtown certainly is a remarkable place. We would like to congratulate the Friends of Westgarthtown for the excellent job they have done in preserving and restoring this remarkable historic site with its farmhouse, buildings, cemetery and delightful church.

Thank you to all of you for making it such a special day for us.

Yours sincerely,

Merilyn Bodinnar
Secretary

Heritage Week 2002 Forum and Tour

On Saturday 13 April 2002, during Heritage Week, the Friends of Westgarthtown and Plenty Valley Arts organized a very successful tripartite event - a Forum, lunch and bus tour, all under the generous sponsorship of the City of Whittlesea.

The Forum 'Heritage in Stone: Drystone Walls and Stone Buildings in the City of Whittlesea', was convened by Ellen Mitchell and inspired by Raelene Marshall and members of our local stone walls committee. It was held at the Whittlesea Civic Centre. Raelene's concurrent exhibition of stunningly assembled pictures and text on vertical scrolls, mounted in The Great Hall, complemented the Forum and provoked great interest among the 50 delegates.

The Forum was opened by Cr Sam Alessi and chaired by Warren Ellem. It featured five speakers - Raelene Marshall, Robert Wuchatsch, Geoffrey Borrack, Lucy Ellem and Bruce Batten. All presenters made enlightening and expansive contributions to the imposing presence of drystone walls and bluestone buildings within the City of Whittlesea, while examining the impact of social and historical factors and the particularities of purpose, style and construction. Bruce Batten's presentation entitled 'Walls of Protection' held the audience spellbound and amused as he produced a series of 'objects' from toy rabbits to 'live' snakes in substantiation of one of his points that walls not only protected farm animals, but also vermin.

After a lively discussion between members of the audience and the Forum panel, lunch was served in the beautiful Fountain View Room. The bus tour, guided by Bruce Batten, took about 40 participants to the astonishing remains of drystone walls and 19th century bluestone buildings including farmhouses, churches and schools in Yan Yean, Wollert and Epping. Fenwick Stud Farm at Yan Yean emerged as the very highlight of our tour, surprising all with its impressive long drystone driveway to the bluestone farmhouse, kilometres of walls surrounding paddocks and one spectacular wall reaching two metres in height.

Afternoon tea was kindly served to us at St. John's Anglican Church in Epping. Upon returning to the Civic Centre after the tour many could not resist another look at Raelene's exhibition, part of which was later on display at Ziebell's Farmhouse.

William Westgarth (1815-1889)

BY ROBERT WUCHATSCH

Westgarthtown, established in March 1850, is named after William Westgarth. Victoria's first German settlement had a number of names during the 1850s – Keelbundora, the German Colony, Dry Creek, Neu Mecklenburg and Germantown – before the German and Wendish settlers renamed it Westgarthtown, in recognition of Westgarth's assistance both prior to and after their arrival in Australia.

Who was William Westgarth, what were his achievements and how did he help the Germans and Wends?

William Westgarth was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on 12 June 1815. He was the son of John Westgarth, Surveyor General of Customs for Scotland and Christian (nee Thomson). The Westgarth's were an old Durham family. Educated at Edinburgh and Newcastle, young William first worked for the mercantile firm George Young & Co of Leith, which had for some time been engaged in Australian trade.

In July 1840, shortly after his 25th birthday, Westgarth sailed from Leith aboard the ship Midlothian and arrived in Melbourne in December 1840. Although his first attempt at business in Melbourne was a failure, coinciding with the severe economic depression of the early 1840s, Westgarth joined in partnership with Alfred Ross in 1845 as an import merchant and soon prospered as Port Phillip recovered from depression. In 1851 he founded the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce and was elected its first president.

As well as commerce, Westgarth busied himself with public affairs, an interest which eventually led to his entry into politics. In 1842 he was a foundation member of the Melbourne Mechanics Institute and during the late 1840s was a prominent campaigner for Port Phillip's separation from New South Wales. Westgarth was also an active member of the Australasian League for the Abolition of Transportation. He was elected to the New South Wales Legislative Council in November 1850 and then shortly after Separation in July 1851 headed the poll as one of three Legislative Council members for Melbourne.

From 1851-1853, Westgarth worked tirelessly in both business and politics, as the new Colony of Victoria

experienced incredible growth and change during the first years of the gold rushes. The firm of Westgarth & Ross flourished as population and trade grew and politically Westgarth actively involved himself with such issues as tariff reform, promotion of manhood suffrage, abolition of property qualifications, state education and land reform.

In 1853, Westgarth made his second journey home to Britain, the first having taken place from 1847-49. Whilst there his father died on 23 February 1854. On 6 June 1854 he married Ellison Macfie in Edinburgh. William and Ellison were subsequently to have three daughters - Alice, Anne Christina and Mary Ethel (Molly). On his return to Australia in October 1854 Westgarth brought a prefabricated house with him and erected it at Toorak, naming it Tintern, having sold Maryfield, his former home from 1845-1853 on the Merri Creek at Brunswick.

Shortly after his return, Westgarth was appointed to the important position of Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry into the Goldfields of Victoria, established following the Eureka uprising at Ballarat. Two key recommendations of this commission were the introduction of an export duty on gold to replace the hated licence fee and the introduction of the miner's right, which gave diggers legal rights and the vote.

In 1855, Westgarth declined the offer of a position in Nicholson's proposed ministry, but remained active in both politics and business. However in 1857, he decided to return to Britain and there established the London firm Wm. Westgarth & Co., colonial agents and brokers. In his absence, James Spowers was added to the Westgarth & Ross partnership in 1858, but in 1863 Westgarth decided to retire from the Australian company to concentrate on his London business.

Westgarth successfully carried on business in London until shortly before his accidental death there on 28 October 1889 when he fell 40 feet from an attic window at his South Kensington home. He was 74. He was buried in the Westgarth family plot at the Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh. His estate was valued for probate at 140000 pounds. His inscription on the family headstone refers

to him as ‘A Man Greatly Beloved’. Westgarth has been described as an ‘unobtrusive, unostentatious, methodical, indefatigable supporter of all causes’ and ‘the type of conscientious citizen Victoria desperately needed in the period of gold-rush opportunism’. A Victorian Premier once said of him ‘Although Mr Westgarth became a true Londoner, he never ceased to remain a true Australian’. Westgarth’s wife Ellison died on 31 March 1911 aged 82 and is buried with him.

In 1888, Westgarth had revisited Australia for the first time in over 30 years, to attend the Melbourne Centenary Exhibition. With him he brought a large granite fountain which he donated to the people of Victoria and which stands today in the Exhibition Gardens in Nicholson Street, Melbourne. During the voyage out he wrote *Personal Recollections of Early Melbourne and Victoria*, the second last of his numerous books about Australia. In that book, he recalled his role in the development of early German migration to Victoria, noting

When I made my first Home trip, in 1847, I resolved to open, if I possibly could, German emigration to Port Phillip. Quite a number had already been settled, some from the earliest years, in South Australia, where their industry, frugality, sobriety, and general good conduct had made them excellent colonists.

After visiting the Commissioners of Emigration in London in 1847 and receiving assurances of financial support towards the passage monies for 200 German emigrants, Westgarth had then travelled to Hamburg to meet the shipowners J. C. Godeffroy and Sons and to Bremen, where he saw Eduard Delius, the emigration agent for South Australia. He also visited Silesia, journeying as far east as Liegnitz. Whilst in Germany he arranged for the production and distribution of 400 copies of a German language version of his 1848 book *Australia Felix; or, a historical and descriptive account of the Settlement of Port Phillip*.

Regarding Westgarthtown, Westgarth wrote in his 1888 book

... the grand prize for these Germans was the acquisition of land. Accordingly Captain Stanley

Carr (then on a visit with the German Prince of Schleswig-Holstein) and myself took up, in trust for such Germans as desired it, and had the means of payment, one of the square miles of surveyed land, as yet unapplied for, about twelve miles north of Melbourne, which was divided amongst them in lots as agreed upon. And there they are to this day, a thriving community. When, in company with Neuhauss, my wife and I visited them in 1857, just before finally quitting the colony, we found considerable progress in the form of a scattered village, with a little Lutheran church, and some show of gardening and cultivation. They seemed delighted to stick to their German speaking, and would not even try to speak English. One amusing

feature in the scramble as to allotments was that each tried, in most cases, to get trees, stones, and rocks in preference to clear ground, as if so much additional wealth. The trees might have had value for firewood, but in the other items they had probably more than they bargained for. We secured the land for them at a pound an acre, and the fact of their being so largely settled upon it raised its value at once considerably. All the land thereabout has now risen to many times this first cost. Many more Germans have since, as I understand, settled upon other land.

The earliest reference to the name Westgarthtown I have found so far is by Pastor Goethe, who used it in May 1856, when reporting proceedings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Victoria Synod meeting earlier that month. From about 1860, Westgarthtown became the most common name, although the school remained officially known as Neu Mecklenburg until its closure.

Westgarth, the shopping and residential pocket at Northcote, also takes its name from William Westgarth, but not for any local connection. It derives its name from the late 1880s railway station located on Westgarth Street, which was named after William Westgarth in 1853, in recognition of his work on behalf of Melbourne and Victoria.

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Ziebell Family Reunion

Descendants of Christian and Sophia Ziebell are reminded that the 2002 reunion will take place at Ziebell's Farmhouse on Sunday 17 November 2002.

The farmhouse will be open from 11 am to 4 pm. Please bring your own picnic lunch and/or afternoon tea. Tea and coffee making facilities are available. Some chairs are available, but if you want to be sure of a seat, please bring your own.

Spread the word to all descendants please. Ring Sylvia Schultz on 9408 1302 if you have any queries.

Proposch Family Reunion

Descendants of the Proposch family are currently researching their family history and intend to hold a Proposch Family Reunion at Ziebell's farmhouse in October 2004.

The reunion has been timed to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Proposch family's arrival in Australia aboard the *Malvina Vidal*, which reached Melbourne from Hamburg on 5 October 1854. After a week in Melbourne, the Proposch family and about 40 other Lower Lusatian Wends from the *Malvina Vidal* left for Adelaide on 12 October on the coastal steamer *Havilah*, arriving there on 16 October 1854.

Three Proposch sisters – Auguste, Lydia and Martha – daughters of Christian and Elizabeth Proposch, married three Westgarthtown men – Jack Grutzner, Jack Siebel and Charles Wuchatsch respectively. Their parents had moved overland from South Australia to Victoria in about 1880 and lived for a short time at Westgarthtown during the early 1890s.

For further details contact Eileen Gorman, 41 Kirkwood Road, Eaglehawk, Victoria, 3556. Eileen's email address is egorman@origin.net.au

Website - Germans in Australia

Dave Nutting, a German language school teacher at McKinnon Secondary College in Melbourne, has constructed an extremely interesting and useful website about German speakers in Australia,

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Church Repairs and Cemetery Gates

The City of Whittlesea is arranging repairs to the church and the installation of cemetery gates in accordance with plans prepared by Geoff Borrack. The work is expected to commence shortly.

including Westgarthtown. The website address is www.teachers.ash.org.au/dnutting/germanaustralia/

Friends of Westgarthtown 2002 AGM

The Friends of Westgarthtown's 6th Annual General Meeting will be held at Ziebell's Farmhouse on 20 October 2002, at 2.00 pm.

Membership subscriptions for the 2002/03 year are now due. If you are not paid up, you can complete the renewal form included with this newsletter and pay by mail or in person at the AGM.

If you are not a member, but wish to join the Friends of Westgarthtown, write to us at PO Box 95, Thomastown, Victoria, 3074. Fees \$10 per year for individual members; \$15 for families. Concession rates \$5 individual; \$10 family.

Thomastown Lutheran Church Services

Services are held on alternate Sundays (second and last Sunday of the month) at 11.15 am at the Thomastown Lutheran Church, German Lane, Lalor.

For further details, contact Pastor Stephen Pietsch at Calvary Lutheran Church, Greensborough on 03 9435 6846.

Ziebell's Farmhouse Open Days & Tours

Ziebell's Farmhouse is open to the public on the second Sunday of each month between 1-4 pm. For enquiries contact Gaye Lohse on 9464 0140.

Tours can be organised for groups of 10 or more people. For information and bookings contact Ellen Mitchell on 9836 2917

Ziebell Farmhouse Garden

The gardening group continues to meet on the first Saturday of each month between 10am and 4pm. Anyone interested in joining our garden group is most welcome. All you will need are a pair of gardening gloves, your lunch and a spare hour or two. All tools are provided unless you have your own favourite weeder. For more information ring Gillian Borrack on 9717 3559.

German Lane

Work commenced late in August 2002 on the realignment of German Lane to include additional spaces for car and bus parking. New concrete footpaths and post and wire fencing from the cemetery to Edgar's Creek will also be constructed. The eastern entrance to German Lane will also be upgraded to both improve safety and make the approaches more attractive.

1924 Report on Thomastown Lutheran Church

The following short but interesting report appeared in the Lutheran Herald of 19 May 1924.

THOMASTOWN (near Melbourne). The nice solid stone church here, built about seventy years ago in the time of the late Pastor Goethe, has been neatly painted and done up and looks well. The old organ, somewhat antiquated, has been replaced by a new model. Pastor Frank made suitable reference to the newly painted church and the organ at his last service there and expressed the hope that the nice church with its new tones would always be well filled and would be a home of great help and blessings to all.

The original 'somewhat antiquated' organ was

subsequently raffled off by the church to raise funds. The winner, whose name is not known, promptly gave it to the youngest member of congregation, Alan Dunn, then an infant. It was kept by Alan's mother Mrs Caroline Dunn for many years until shortly before her death in 1974, when it was finally passed on to Alan.

The original organ or harmonium is a small desk like musical instrument which stands about a metre high. It appears to have been manufactured some time prior to 1856, so it was probably second hand when acquired by the Thomastown congregation.

It is hoped the organ may be able to be displayed during a future Westgarthtown Open Day.

William Westgarth (1815-1889)

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William Westgarth's widowed mother and several sisters also migrated to Australia. His sisters Anne (later Mrs Horatio Ellerman) and Elizabeth (later Mrs Patrick McArthur) arrived in 1849 and his mother and sisters Sophia (later Mrs Johann Christian Heussler) and Susan arrived in 1856. Mrs Westgarth, Sophia and Susan moved to Moreton Bay (Queensland) shortly after arrival in Australia. Mrs Westgarth died there on 21 February 1878 and is buried at Toowong, Brisbane.

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Following the Second World War she was used for storing broken glass. She remained a Lerwick landmark until the 1960s, when unused and dilapidated she was broken up, part of her being in the way of a new fish processing plant. The Shetland Museum, which was as pleased to learn about the ship's life pre-1870 as I was to discover its life off the sea, holds several artefacts from the Pribislaw, including a small carved heraldic dolphin and three trenails.

Whilst at Lerwick, I was also advised that a large wooden beam from the Pribislaw remained where she

had rested for over 90 years and receiving directions, soon found it. The beam had probably supported one of the Pribislaw's decks, the heads of some very old nails protruding from it, along with an old bolt or two. Parts of the ship are also said to lie on the seabed nearby, the stern having eventually collapsed back into the water. As the Pribislaw was the ship upon which my family emigrated to Australia, I was unable to resist the temptation to souvenir some small pieces of wood and bring them home. The Friends of Westgarthtown is currently investigating the feasibility of having the old wooden beam brought to Australia for display at Ziebell's Farmhouse, although as shipping would be expensive, this may yet prove too difficult to arrange.

Works Report

BY GEOFFREY BORRACK

Ziebell's Farmhouse

Internal Fitout – Two oil lamps were recently purchased for Ziebell's Farmhouse as part of the fitout program. The lamps will be suspended in the kitchen and the main bedroom respectively. The bedroom lamp is an original antique c. 1890 with elegant brass fittings and white china shade. Other purchases include a standard brass oil lamp, office furniture (for the small attic room) and gardening tools.

The fitout is a continuing program, which is being achieved gradually as opportunities arise to purchase items which are as authentic as possible, combined with availability of funds. The next purchases planned are a timber dresser for the kitchen and a glass display cabinet. Plans have been drawn and forwarded to the builder for pricing of a 3.6 x 1.0 metre timber trestle table, to be made in two lengths of 1.8 metres. This table will accommodate up to 14 people seated in the main living room for special functions.

Display Lighting – Display lighting with hanging rails has been installed in the two west bedrooms and living room, with small service lights installed in all rooms and the attic, along with power points. The lights are on dimmer switch controls, so the lighting can be maintained at a low level when required.

Historic Display – The historic display to be mounted on the main walls of bedroom one and the adjoining small end bedroom is currently in the planning stage. This display will become a permanent feature incorporating important aspects of the German Settlement at Westgarthtown. A special display will feature the Ziebell family and descendants associated with farming operations. Historical details of the ship Pribislaw will also be included. Numerous original documents and photographic records will be included in the display with historical notes.

Owing to the detailed nature of the display, the necessity for historical accuracy and the professional standard required in mounting the display, progress has been slower than hoped for, however planning is now approaching the stage when quotations for the installation can be obtained.

House Repairs – Repairs to be undertaken shortly by the City of Whittlesea include the replacement of the attic skylights which have developed rainwater leaks and the installation of a downpipe to the verandah gutter.

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FRIENDS OF WESTGARTHTOWN INC.

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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.