

# FoLA NEWS

**Newsletter of Friends of Lutheran Archives Inc**

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Plough, Knox  
Museum, Victoria

See Story page 5



## Alf Traeger and the Pedal Radio

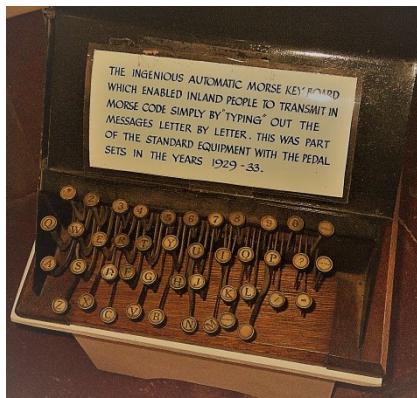
The work of Alfred Traeger OBE (1895-1980) is an example of how medical science, ideas and technology interacted to make a remarkable difference to the lives of people living in isolated rural areas. This case study, presented at the April FoLA meeting by Dr Pauline Payne, reveals how a practical approach to problem-solving and religious faith played significant roles in the achievements of Traeger and his colleague the Reverend John Flynn along with the board and staff of the Australian Inland Mission (AIM). The support and backing of businessmen and community groups in the technological developments would then provide a *mantle of safety* to the people of the Australian outback, assist in the development of the School of the Air and provide much valued social support.

Alfred, known as Alf, was born on 2 August 1895, in the Dimboola district of Victoria, to Johann Hermann Traeger and Pauline Louise, nee Zerna. When Alf was 12 the family moved to the family farm near Balaklava where his grandparents had settled after migrating from Germany in 1848. Alf's inventiveness and ability was evident when he built a telephone line from the house to the implement shed 50 metres away, using items found around the farm.

The family moved to Adelaide where Alf attended Martin Luther School and at 16 he began a four year course in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering at the Adelaide School of Mines. Before his graduation he had built a radio transmitter and was sending Morse code messages at 20 words a minute. After working in the Tramways workshop and at the General Post Office as a mechanic and telephonist, he got a job in Hannan Brothers workshop, where he serviced car and truck generators. He attended Bethlehem Lutheran Church and was a radio ham in his spare time.

The Reverend John Flynn (1880-1951) was greatly concerned about health issues for many Outback people and in 1912 he was appointed inaugural Superintendent of the AIM. Flynn had a vision to provide a *mantle of safety* by using nurses to set up bush hospitals in remote places and employing *flying doctors*. This required aircraft, infrastructure and communication so the people could make contact with the base station.

In June 1925, Flynn purchased a 600 volt generator from Traeger. This was mounted on the splashboard of a Dodge buckboard and the generator was driven by a belt with a pulley attached to the rear wheel when jacked up. They loaded with a transmitter, accumulators, dry batteries, shortwave receivers, a broadcast receiver and aerial, they set out for Beltana, Innamincka, Birdsville, Marree and Alice Springs. On this trip they learnt that Morse code was the only reliable means of communication in the Outback.



Morse code keyboard  
Photo: David Hewitt

Flynn concentrated on building a hospital in Alice Springs, but continued working on the radio project. Back in Adelaide he met Harry Kauper, the senior engineer at the new 5CL radio station, who offered the 5CL workshop to the team. Traeger was taken on as an assistant and together they assembled two outpost sets and tested Edison copper oxide batteries for transmitting power. Ernest Fisk of AWA in Sydney was very generous with his support and offered the AIM Board a gift of the experimental base station in Alice Springs.

In October 1926 Traeger went to Alice Springs with Flynn. Staying in the AIM Nursing Home he set up the first outback aerial mast behind the building and assembled the experimental mother base in the engine room. He set up a 32 volt lighting plant to provide power and carried out experiments with *baby sets* and successfully contacted Kauper in Adelaide. On 11 November the buckboard was loaded with wireless gear, aerial poles and nine heavy duty batteries and they set off to Hermannsburg Mission, 130 km away. Their much anticipated first attempt to send a message to Alice Springs was made, but failed due to having a wrong coil. They began teaching Pastor Albrecht as much Morse code as they could. In

Alice Springs with the correct coil they finally achieved bush communication by radio.

At the Arltunga Police Station, about 150km east of Alice Springs, the other *baby set* was installed, followed by another two outposts enabling daily contact with Alice Springs. A Morse code message sent from Hermannsburg to Alice Springs was transmitted to Tanunda as a telegram to Mrs Albrecht, there with her newborn baby who needed treatment. This success provided a vision of future possibilities.

Traeger was appointed as the Radio Engineer by the AIM board, because they knew that further developmental work was needed such as a hand-driven generator, produced with the help of the staff at the Adelaide Foundry.

In 1927, Flynn and Traeger were back on the road to Cloncurry in Queensland. They visited other settlements including Mornington Island and in November provided an example of how this communication equipment would also affect social and recreational life by gathering locals to listen to the Melbourne Cup.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

In 1928 AIM's Aerial Medical Service was established at its first base in Cloncurry where there was a hospital, telegraph service and was serviced by Qantas. A De Havilland DH50A was modified by Qantas. Flying Doctor flights would be made with a pilot, a nurse and the authorising doctor. The homestead owners were required to make an airstrip. Sending Morse code messages using hand-winding machines was proving difficult for housewives in remote homesteads and also for the nursing sisters.

On his 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday Traeger declared that he would buy bicycle pedals to drive the generators. Based on his drawings, Reg Cox of the Machinery and Electrical Company in Sydney constructed twelve generator units and nickel-plated bicycle pedals were obtained from the Malvern Star Company. By mid-November the famous photo of Traeger dressed in his suit and operating the pedal radio was taken. (see page 8)

With a team of new recruits from Bethlehem Church working with Harry Kinsbrunner, base operator in Cloncurry, they installed and tested a mother station in the vestry of the local church. Six *baby sets* were then installed in stations spread over an area of 90,000 square miles. Traeger installed the No.1 pedal set at Augusta Downs Station and taught the station manager's wife, Gertrude Rothery, how to use and maintain it. She was the first person to use the pedal wireless, sending a message to Kinsbrunner in Cloncurry and a telegram to Flynn in Sydney.

New equipment needed funding which came from pastoralists, such as Sidney Kidman, stock and station agents, AWA and the Country Women's Association (CWA). The local postmaster at Cloncurry, Eric Hastwell, became a close friend of Traeger and they exchanged ideas about how to make improvements. They observed the stress in some operators and knew that a better way of sending Morse code was needed. By 1931 Traeger had developed a Morse code automatic keyboard which looked like a standard typewriter but used a spring-operated drum and perforated strip to produce the Morse character. Traeger impressed members of the AIM Board when he demonstrated it and they approved 20 sets and more if needed. These were in use for many years and later used for emergency back-up.

In the early 1930s Traeger's field trips to set up pedal radio highlighted the need to develop a mobile pedal set so they could communicate from the roadside. Flynn recommended to the AIM board that Traeger should design and develop such a transceiver and within a year he produced one that could be carried by truck, horse or camel.

The next development was to replace Morse code with voice telephony. A concern was raised that homestead owners were unlicensed wireless operators. Traeger was involved in negotiations and amateur radio licenses were issued. Radio telephony was introduced to the Cloncurry network by 1935 and people could now chat to each other and the Flying Doctor could talk mid-air to patients and colleagues. This was a great triumph for Traeger.

Traeger was commissioned to build base radio stations in Port Hedland in the Pilbara region and at Wyndham in the Kimberley region. The shipping of masts and radio equipment was financed by the Dalgety Pastoral Company.

The Flying Doctor organisation had emerged as a separate entity from the Presbyterian Synod and it became The Royal Flying Doctor Service in 1955.

Now living in Adelaide, Traeger became an independent radio contractor and set up a new factory in Marryatville, known as Traeger Transceivers. His plan was to replace the pedal generator with a mechanical device using a 6 volt car battery. The news of the declaration of the Second World War was spread around the Outback by the network of Traeger wireless sets and sought by the Army for communications on the North Australian coast.

In 1932, aged 42, Traeger married Olga Schodde, whom he met at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. They had 2 daughters, Pauline and Anne, who were only eight and six when sadly Olga died prematurely. In 1956, at age 61, Traeger married Joyce Mibus, a widow with two young daughters, Suzanne and Glenda. Joyce and Alf's son, Michael, was born in 1958.

In the post-war years Traeger was asked to help an Australian doctor set up an aerial medical service in Nigeria and within 6 months his dedicated team in the Marryatville workshop produced twenty sets suited to African conditions. By 1962 in the most distant Flying Doctor area of the Eastern Goldfields, there were about seventy fixed outposts and several hundred portable devices. These devices were also used by the CWA, the School of the Air and the Isolated Children's Parents Association. The Charleville School of the Air daily roll call was 300!

A practical down-to-earth solution to the challenge posed by the need to get emergency medical help at night time when the mother station was closed, was the use of a two tone call on a tin whistle which was decoded when transmitted to the base station, released an electrical impulse, tripped a relay and rang an alarm bell to alert the base operator to turn on the transmitter. An aid developed by Sister Garlick for use by the Flying Doctor was a chart showing the human trunk divided into sections by numbers for easy identification of the pain or injury.

By the mid-fifties and into the 1960's solid state circuits and greatly improved batteries had been developed as well as new plastics and lightweight alloys. Traeger's colleagues in the Outback could now drive 4WD vehicles.

In 1944 Traeger received an OBE medal and he also received several other honours. He did not seek great financial gain from his endeavours and was a man of quiet faith. Traeger Transceivers Pty Ltd closed in 1974.

Traeger died on 30 September 1980. Memorials to Alfred Traeger, the *wireless wizard*, can be seen in Balaklava, Alice Springs, Dimboola Shire, Cloncurry, Townsville and Port Augusta. The Australian twenty dollar note has an image of Flynn, the body chart and Traeger's pedal radio. However, his greatest memorial must be his legacy of care to the people in the Australian Outback.

Naomi Muegge

## Coming Events

### The Leipzig Mission Contribution to the Formation of World-wide Lutheranism

**Speaker: Rev. Ravinder Salooja**  
**Monday 15 October at 7.30pm \*\*\* AGM 6.45pm \*\*\***  
**Bethlehem House, Sudholz Pl, Adelaide**

Dresden/Leipzig Mission, a uniquely Lutheran foundation among the non-denominational mission societies in the early 19th century, in turn initiated Lutheran churches in India and Africa. Its annual assemblies brought together mission supporters from all over the world, and its directors played a leading role in the formation of the Lutheran World Convention (1923), the forerunner of the Lutheran World Federation. This presentation by Leipzig Mission Director Rev Ravinder Salooja follows the trail from the Prussian Union and Dr Scheibel – also known as the father of Australian Lutheranism – to the LWF.

Rev Ravinder Salooja has been Director of the Leipzig Missionswerk (LMW) since 2016, after serving as parish pastor and in the department of International Education in Germany. The LMW cooperates closely with the LCA in PNG, and Rev Salooja is visiting Australia as a guest of the LCA.

### Agnes Dorsch plaque unveiling

**Sunday 14 October at 2.00pm**  
**Rydges Hotel and West Tce Cemetery, Adelaide**

Join us as the FoLA plaque on Agnes Dorsch's grave is unveiled. Meet in the Matthew Flinders Room at Rydges Hotel where speakers will reflect on Agnes' achievements including her academic and teaching careers, her life as a pastor's wife and her founding of the Women's Guild movement of the Lutheran Church in Australia. The unveiling will be at the gravesite.

### Sorbs/Wends of Lusatia

**Speaker: Trudla Malinkowa (Gertrud Mahling)**  
**Wednesday 17 October at 7.30pm**  
**Tabor Lutheran Church Hall, Tanunda**  
**Sunday 21 October at 2pm**  
**Glynde Lutheran Church, Glynburn Rd**

The Wendish author Trudla Malinkowa (Gertrud Mahling in German) is a researcher at the Sorbian Institute at Bautzen. Her book, *Shores of Hope*, tells the story of Wendish migrations to Australia and America.

### Looking after your Family Treasures

**18 October, 2-4pm at the Migration Museum, 82 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.**

#### History Trust of South Australia

Find out how to care for your treasured heirlooms or special collections such as family photographs, certificates, wedding dresses, war medals or even your childhood teddy! Bring items or share their stories and receive storage and cleaning advice in this hands-on workshop led by a History Trust museum curator. Free event but bookings essential. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y79mzwtm>

### NOTICE for FoLAV AGM, 2018

Robert Wuchatsch and Pastor Tim Stringer will speak on some aspects of *The Thomastown Pioneer Precinct and its surrounding Germanic and Wendish Settlers during the 1850s* on **Tuesday 9 October 2018 at 7.30 pm**.

The Westgarthtown pioneers included the Germanic and Wendish settlers, who arrived in Victoria during the mid-1800s from various states, kingdoms and areas, in what in 1871 became Germany, including Lusatia and Mecklenburg. These pioneers were the original occupants of their particular selected block of land and this original occupancy allowed them to claim the right for their families to be buried in the local Westgarthtown Cemetery. Some of these surnames were Graff, Groening, Gruetzner, Gruenberg, Heyne, Kawerau, Knobloch, Maltzahn, Rosel, Siebel, Tim, Waehner, Wanke, Winter, Wuchatsch, Ziebell and Zimmer. Robert Wuchatsch has suggested a Wendish origin for Graff, Gruetzner, Rosel, Wuchatsch and Zimmer.

#### FoLAV activities before and after this talk will include the following:

- 1.00 pm **A Walking Tour** of various historical and physical features, including the preserved early blue-stone homes and the once romantic creek.
- 4.00 pm **Afternoon tea/coffee/biscuits** at Ziebell's Farmhouse Garden.
- 4.30 pm **Tour** of Ziebell's Farm House, the historic church and the cemetery
- 5.30 pm Depart for Calvary Lutheran Church, **Greensborough**.
- 6.00 pm **Community Evening Meal** in Greensborough Church Hall.  
Please bring a plate of finger food.
- 7.00 pm **FoLAV AGM** in Lutheran Church, Greensborough, during which the members will make further plans to promote and to support the valuable heritage-conserving work of the Lutheran Archives in Adelaide.
- 7.30 pm **Talk** by historian Robert Wuchatsch and Lutheran Pastor Tim Stringer on aspects of the mainly Lutheran Settlement at Westgarthtown, now Thomastown during the 1850s.

#### 9.15 pm **Supper**

You are invited to attend these events and to inform your friends and relatives about them.

**You will all be warmly welcomed by FoLAV.**

John Noack, FoLAV Secretary.  
Email: [johnnoack@yahoo.com.au](mailto:johnnoack@yahoo.com.au)

## Celebrating Lutheran Teachers College

The June 18 meeting of FoLA in Adelaide celebrated the 50th anniversary of the opening of Lutheran Teachers College at Winchester Street Highgate in 1968. A panel of ex-students and staff came together to tell their story of LTC in a series of vignettes, hosted by Dr Richard Hauser, noted author and former teacher and/or principal at various Lutheran schools around the country.

Richard opened the presentation with some general background details. LTC stood for Lay Training Centre as well as Lutheran Teachers College, giving a clear idea of the twin purpose of the institution. Following the formation of the LCA in 1966, the church decided to open a College on the former Concordia Seminary site, to continue the church's teacher, deaconess, social worker and lay training program. To balance the two former synods, the first Principal was Elvin Janetzki (former ELCA) and his deputy was Ralph Mayer (former UELCA). Other staff who served at LTC were Bill Stoll, John Koch, Elmore Leske and John Zweck. The original student body was made up of 48 teacher trainees (35 primary, 13 secondary), 9 deaconesses, 2 social workers, and 3 lay workers. There were 13 who graduated in the first year. In 1975, the campus moved to North Adelaide. In 1990, Pastor John Vitale was appointed as LTC lecturer in Queensland. The LTC Graduate Diploma in Theology in Education was externally accredited in 1992. Six years later, LTC merged with Luther Seminary to become Australian Lutheran College. LTC also served some other important purposes, such as providing orientation programs for church workers serving in the mission fields of New Guinea and Central Australia. Lecturers also presented workshops around the country, during their holiday breaks, to allow teachers already in schools to gain LTC accreditation.

Richard summed up this overview of LTC's story by observing that its history coincided with the boom in Lutheran schooling over that period (when 54 schools were opened), and that it made a huge contribution to the life and growth of Australian Lutheranism in the twentieth century. He then proceeded to introduce in turn, the remaining seven speakers. First was Elizabeth Noske, a primary teacher and one of the first graduating class of LTC. Next was Marion Schubert (nee Bogle) who trained as a deaconess and started out a few years older than her classmates. Robert Marriott, Anne Maczkowiack (nee Hermann) and Andy Thurlow spoke on behalf of the teacher graduates of LTC. Tim Ziersch represented LTC's social workers, while Dr. John Koch presented the staff perspective. Others who were also involved, like Ralph Mayer and Malcolm Bartsch, made comments from the audience.

So what perceptions of LTC survived the fifty years since? Almost everyone spoke in glowing terms of the community life, the friendship, the volleyball competition and, in Andy Thurlow's words, the general esprit de corps of LTC. Dr Koch commented how *even the faculty joined in*. There was no hierarchy at LTC. Andy Thurlow reflected that *the lecturers never ruled by law. They trusted us* and this educational ethos was taken by the graduates into their own teaching careers. Some who came from interstate or from the country, particularly benefited from this acceptance within the group. Tim Ziersch was one of these.

The evening was chock full of stories about fun times and humorous activities, but the most lasting impression from the meeting was the powerful testimonies shared by several speakers as to LTC's impact on their personal faith. Robert

Marriott reflected: *What I gained from LTC was the ability to think and teach about faith, both personally and professionally and to see God at work. To know the God of goodness, the author of the real meaning of life. That is what endures from LTC.* Anne Maczkowiack learnt the concept of service and never dreamt of the opportunities which opened up for her and other graduates as a result. Marion Schubert commented that she *finally understood the essence of the Gospel that God loves me. You can't get anything better than that!* Dr John Koch noted the importance of worship at LTC and the opportunity it gave for experimentation and a degree of relaxation in worship. This blend of light-hearted entertainment and serious reflection made for a most memorable evening for FoLA members.

Ev Leske

### Call for Nominations

The FoLA Annual General Meeting will be held at **6.45 pm** on Monday 22 October at Bethlehem House.

If you would like to be a member of the committee, or if you know someone who would, please submit names to the Chairman, Geoff Saegenschnitter, or staff at the Lutheran Archives by **18 October**.

All nominations must be in writing and include permission from the person nominated.

***Nominations will not be accepted from the floor.***

## Report on FoLAV's 2017 AGM at Knox

The 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Lutheran Archives in Victoria was held on Tuesday 21 November at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Knox. Ten members were present and the submitted reports indicated that FoLAV is continuing to provide publicity for the work of the Lutheran Archives, to undertake historical research and to organize public events and activities for members here in Victoria.

**Finances:** The Treasurer indicated that the financial balance at 30 June 2017 was \$647.36 and that these funds will be used to erect a *Goethe Plaque* at the Melbourne General Cemetery, where some children of Pastor Goethe and children of some other parents have been buried.

**Research and Events:** Herbert Mees reported that during the 2017 Melbourne Open House Day, the German Lutheran Trinity Church attracted about 1,220 visitors. A pictorial display featured the church windows. The Trinity Archives are now open on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

**Elections:** Office-bearers for 2018: President Jenny Gellatly; Vice-President John Schubert; Secretary John Noack; Treasurer Robert Wuchatsch; Committee Members Herbert Mees, Stephanie Iwanowicz.

**Knox Historical Museum:** Activities before the AGM included a visit to the Knox Historical Museum at Ambleside Park, where photos and captions revealed the life and times of this area's early European settlers. Displays feature (1) aspects of everyday living, preparing and eating meals and organizing entertainment; (2) the parlour, featuring high-quality furnishings and used for entertaining guests, (3) well-equipped bedrooms and (4) the cellar for keeping items cool. The outdoor sheds contain early haulage vehicles, agricultural implements, including a horse-drawn plough, tools and drinking troughs.

**Settlers from German States:** The Museum's early Scoresby Parish plan includes settlers from various German States, who selected land in the *German Triangle*. Its boundaries were Mountain Highway, Boronia Road and Dorset Road. These settlers included J.C. Froebel, W. Gerlach, M. Kleinert, J.J. Neumann/Newman, A. Pach/Pech, D. Sasse, W. Schultz, J.F. Tillack, W. Tillack and H.W. Zeising.

A visit to the Ferntree Gully Cemetery, with its pioneer and Templar graves, was followed by a community evening meal at the Knox Lutheran Church and then by the AGM.

**The German Community at Bayswater:** At 8pm, local historian, researcher and author, Ray Peace, delivered this presentation. The main reasons for the Germanic settlement here were that the Bayswater area contained good, cheap agricultural land and was within easy reach of Melbourne. Amongst the earliest settlers were the Schultz family who arrived here from Harkaway, the Gerlach family, who arrived in 1861 and Martin Kleinert, who came in 1874. Other early selectors included the Froebel, Lischke, Neumann, Pach, Tillack and Zeising families.

**Lutheran Cemetery, Church and School:** The community established its own Lutheran Section in the Ferntree Gully Cemetery and erected a Lutheran church in Bayswater West in 1872. This was used both for worship and as a school, until the school closed in 1879. A larger church building was erected on the corner of Mountain Highway and Sydney Road. This building was consecrated on 30 Jan 1881 by Pastor Hermann Herlitz and in 1884, the congregation joined the Doncaster-Harkaway Parish. As a result of anti-German attitudes during World War I, this congregation worshipped in nearby St Stephen's Church of England, which had been built in 1908. St Stephen's Congregation later bought the Lutheran church and moved it to their property as a hall.

**Bayswater's Germanic Legacy:** Diedrich Sasse was the first President of the Ferntree Gully Shire in 1889. Roads, streets and parks in the City of Knox, which recall some of these early settlers include Kleinert Road, after market gardeners Arthur and Ernest Kleinert; Newman Road, after Johann Christian Neumann; Pach Road, after the Pach family, later changed to Peck; Sasses Avenue, after Diedrich Sasse; Schultz Reserve, after William Schultz and Zeising Court, after orchardists Ernest and Heinrich Zeising. A lost Germanic legacy includes West Prussia Road which was changed in 1915 to Wantirna Road.

**Tillack and Zeising Families:** Typical family stories include the Tillack family who fled Bismarck's Germany after Anna sought to prevent her sons from being conscripted into the army. The family sailed to Tasmania under contract to the Van Diemen's Land Company and in 1859, crossed to Victoria, where they found gold near Sandhurst. Although Johann wasted some of his takings on gambling and drink, he met Mary Schultze in a bar, married her and in 1890, the Tillack family held title to seven subdivided blocks of land. Johann and Mary had ten children, including an adopted child. Their eldest daughter Mary Louisa became a member of the Mormon Church and the family moved to Utah and then to Canada.

The Zeising Family came from Breslau and in 1870, Heinrich Wilhelm Zeising selected 86 acres of land. In 1888, 11 acres were excised for the Boronia railway station and line. In 1916, the property passed to his son Albert and finally, in the early 1970s, this family orchard was sub-divided for housing.

**The German Community Today:** In the 1900s groups of new settlers such as the Templars or Friends of the Temple, who had settled in Palestine but who were interned or deported because of their connections with Germany, came to what is now the City of Knox. Others left Germany as a result of the chaotic conditions there resulting from World War II. Comfortable and efficient German retirement homes have been established in Bayswater, The Basin, including Martin Luther Homes, and Wantirna.

The members present displayed their gratitude to the speaker for his interesting talk by presenting him with the book, *A German Church in the Garden of God*, edited by Herbert Mees, and a bottle of Johann Gramp's Jacob's Creek red wine from the Barossa Valley.

**John Noack**

## Archivist's report

Janette and I are about to head to Sydney to attend the 2018 national synodical convention. At convention we are exhibiting on the work of Lutheran Archives, our services to the church and our ministries, and also giving presentations both at convention and at Women's convention. I am also attending as a delegate.

At the end of August Janette, Adam, Lois and I all gave presentations and workshops at an international German Genealogy and History conference held in Adelaide. Lois presented a workshop to introduce researchers to reading *Kurrentschrift* registers of pastoral acts; Janette presented *Finding Forebears in Poland*, and Adam presented on our Post-War migrant records. I provided an exhibition and an introduction to Lutheran Archives resources.

We congratulate Janette on her recent graduation from Edith Cowan University, WA, with a *Graduate Diploma of Science (Information Services) Specialisation in Archives and Records*. Janette completed her archival studies at the end of 2017 with outstanding results. She successfully juggled full-time employment with part-time study, which is particularly commendable for 2016 when she was also Acting Director at Lutheran Archives. Congratulations, Janette!



Our most recent and exciting news is that we have purchased a Bookeye4 A1-size cradle scanner and this has just been received. This is an overhead scanner which provides the ability to scan fragile and bound documents without damaging the items through handling. This purchase has been enabled through a generous grant from LCA NSW District of \$60,000 and a donation from FoLA for \$10,000.



The new overhead scanner in action

Deposits of records continue to be sent to the Archives. We have recently received close to 150 boxes of records from the life and ministry of Dr Erich Renner.

We are incredibly saddened by the number of deaths in recent times of our volunteers, board members and long-time supporters of FoLA. We give thanks to God for the lives of Pastors Max Stollznow, Carl Dohler, Kevin Schmidt and Gunther Bayha.

Rachel Kuchel

## Lutheran Archives Closures

Lutheran Archives will be closed to the public on the following dates. This is to allow the archivists to work on important projects without interruption.

- Tuesday 20 November
- Monday 10 December 2018 to Friday 4 January 2019 inclusive

## Vale Pastor Gunther Bayha

25 February 1934 - 18 June 2018

We were saddened to hear the news that Lutheran Archives volunteer and FoLA member Pastor Gunther Bayha passed away in June.

Born in Künzelsau, Germany, he emigrated to Australia in the 1950's. After his ordination in 1963, Gunther served as a Lutheran minister for nearly 33 years, in parishes here in Australia (Oak Flats NSW, Liverpool NSW, and Melbourne) and in Germany.

Gunther commenced as a volunteer for Lutheran Archives in March 2000. For the next 1½ decades he made an invaluable contribution to the Archives, by transcribing correspondence and documents from the Gothic German script (*Kurrentschrift*) into typed German, and providing an English summary of the documents.

The material Gunther transcribed was wide-ranging, but includes important correspondence from Bethesda and Hermannsburg Missions; Mission Presidents Rechner, Stolz and Kaibel; and documents from the Altenburg Archives relating to Missionaries Schürmann and Teichelmann. Most recently, Gunther was working on material about ELSA Home Mission in WA.

Our sincere condolences and thoughts and prayers go to Margaret and their family.

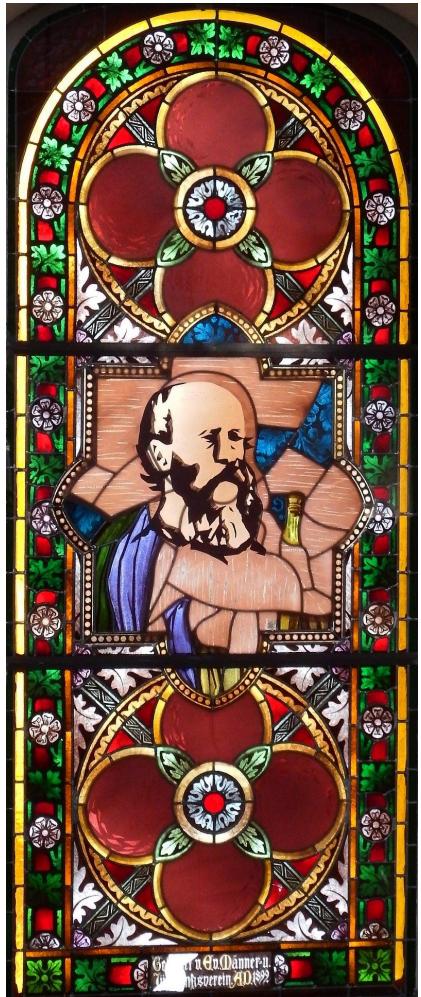
## In the footsteps of Teichelmann and Schürmann

In October 1838 the first Lutheran missionaries from the Dresden Mission Society arrived in South Australia, and this October, 180 years later, two representatives of German Lutheran churches will arrive in Adelaide to follow the footsteps of Teichelmann and Schürmann and their Dresden colleagues Meyer and Klose.

**Rev. Ravinder Salooja** is the new director of the Leipziger Missionswerk (the successor of the Dresden Mission) which cooperates closely with the LCA in support of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG). Beside his official contacts with the LCA, Rev. Salooja, son of Sikh/German parents, seeks to continue rebuilding the relationship with Aboriginal communities whose languages were recorded by the missionaries in the 1840s and successfully reclaimed and revived in South Australia since the 1990s. This follows a previous visit in 2013 by his predecessor, Rev. Volker Dally. Between 7 and 17 October Rev. Salooja will meet with members of the Aboriginal Kaurna, Ngarrindjeri and Barngarla communities.

**Pastor Carsten Rostalsky** is the local minister of Dahme in Brandenburg, the home town of Missionary Teichelmann, about 100 km south of Berlin. He first encountered the legacy of this son of his town in 2011 when a small delegation of representatives from two of the three Aboriginal communities visited Germany. Ever since, Pastor Carsten, his congregation and the town have enthusiastically embraced the story. Most notably, during the recent renovation of the local Church of St Mary (Marienkirche Dahme), new images were installed in two windows and one of them now shows the image of Missionary Teichelmann, making this church the only place in Germany to commemorate his achievements.

Pastor Carsten also wants to learn what the reclamation and revival of their heritage languages means to the Aboriginal communities. Furthermore, he would like to establish contact with descendants of the Teichelmann family, some of whom still live on Yorke Peninsula and in other areas of Australia, while the Teichelmann name has disappeared from Dahme and vicinity.



Missionary Teichelmann window in St Marienkirche, Dahme, Germany

## Vale Pastor Carl Dohler

25 March 1936 – 14 August 2018

A graduate of Immanuel Seminary, Carl Dohler served as parish pastor at Millicent, and Glynde-Magill SA; St Marys NSW, Belconnen ACT, Pine Rivers QLD, and as Secretary and then Vice-President of the NSW district before his final post as Chaplain at Albury Lutheran Aged Care.

Retiring to Glynde in 2000, he soon became involved in Lutheran Archives, joining the Board in November of that same year. It was a difficult time for the Board, recently faced with a \$20,000 budget cut which threatened the position of the Archivist: the support of FoLA proved crucial at this time.

When Allan Wittwer stepped down as Board Chairman at the end of 2001, Carl was elected to that position, and was immediately confronted by the next challenge, posed by the critical shortage of space in the Archives on the one hand and the sale of the adjacent Church House property on the other. Carl guided the Board through the complex negotiations and detailed discussions resulting in the relocation of the Archives from North Adelaide to Bowden, resolved in 2002 and completed by the end of 2003. Though controversial at the time, the move trebled the space available not only for adequately housing the collection but also for accommodating a greatly expanded team of volunteers, in turn enabling much improved access to our records through detailed sorting and cataloguing.

Carl retired as chair in 2005 for health reasons, but continued his valuable contribution to the Board under Dr Maurice Materne until 2009.

Given his Doepler-Loehe family background, Carl's keen interest in the history of Australian Lutheranism was nurtured by his personal acquaintance with so many leading personalities, and he deposited in our collection many valuable well-annotated records from his family circle, as well as translating his father John Doepler's diaries for the FoLA Journal. He attended FoLA meetings regularly until shortly before his death.

## Coming events

**Tuesday 9 October at 7.30pm \*\*\*FoLAV AGM 7.00pm \*\*\***  
**The Thomastown Pioneer Precinct and its surrounding Germanic and Wendish Settlers during the 1850s**  
**Calvary Lutheran Church, 1 Oldstead Rd, Greensborough 3088**

**Sunday 14 October at 2.00pm**  
**Agnes Dorsch plaque unveiling**  
**Rydges Hotel, South Tce, and then West Tce Cemetery, Adelaide**

**Monday 15 October at 7.30pm \*\*\* FoLA AGM 6.45pm \*\*\***  
**The Leipzig Mission contribution to the formation of world-wide Lutheranism**  
**Speaker: Rev. Ravinder Salooja**  
**Bethlehem House, Sudholz Pl, Adelaide**  
**Gold coin donation**

**Wednesday 17 October at 7.30pm**  
**Tabor Lutheran Church Hall, Tanunda**  
**Sunday 21 October at 2pm**  
**Glynde Lutheran Church, Glynburn Rd, Glynde**  
**Sorbs/Wends of Lusatia**  
**Speaker: Trudla Malinkowa (Gertrud Mahling)**

**Thursday 18 October from 2.00-4.00pm**  
**Migration Museum, 82 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide**  
**Looking after your Family Treasures workshop**



*Left: Alf Traeger at his pedal radio*



*Right: A portable pedal radio  
See story page 1*

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### FoLA NEWS

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**Closing date for next issue**  
**Wed 7 November 2018**

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