

FoLA NEWS

Newsletter of Friends of Lutheran Archives Inc

Volume 23 Number 3

August 2013

Rev Volker Dally
at Australian
Lutheran College



Volker Dally Visit – A Pictorial Summary

During July Rev Volker Dally, Director of the Leipzig Mission Society, visited Australia to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the first Lutheran missionaries sent to South Australia. The missionaries' work in learning and recording Aboriginal languages has proven invaluable in preserving Aboriginal culture. Rev Dally visited a number of communities associated with the missionaries, and preached at the Lutheran churches at Bethany and Unley. [Photos from Gerhard Rüdiger]



Raukkan leader Clyde Rigney, far right, outlines Ngarrindjeri history at the traditional meeting place, overlooking Lake Alexandrina, near Raukkan, SA. From left: Verna Koolmatrjie (Elder), Paul Kuchel, (Manager of Raukkan Community), Lois Rathjen, Lois Zweck, Tony Rathjen, Volker Dally, Clyde Rigney.



Clyde Rigney at the Raukkan Museum explains the history of Point McLeay (Raukkan) Mission



Kurna elder, Dr Alitya Wallara Rigney, a member of the 2011 SA delegation to Leipzig, chats with Rev Dally, who hosted that visit. Alitya was the first principal of Kurna Plains School, Adelaide.



Gerhard Rüdiger, who organised Volker Dally's tour, Phyllis Williams and Anita Wano at Victor Harbor Lutheran Church during the 175-year celebrations

Meyer descendant, Naomi Hoff, speaks after unveiling the plaque to Missionary Meyer's school at Encounter Bay. Looking on are Pastor Murray Thomas from the Victor Harbor Lutheran Church, which sponsored the plaque, and a descendant of 'Encounter Bay Bob', who taught Meyer the local language.





Volker with the participants of a Barngarla workshop conducted by Prof Ghil'ad Zuckermann at Whyalla



The next generation of Barngarla learners at Port Augusta



Channel 7 interviews Volker Dally at Piltawodli, the former Native Location and site of mission school (Torrens Lake) → ← Prof Ghil'ad Zuckermann and Rev Volker Dally with Stephen Atkinson, Patricia Dare and Maureen Atkinson at Port Augusta



Rev Dally preaching at Bethany on Mary who listened and Martha who at Lazarus' resurrection became the first to witness to Jesus as the Christ.



Rev Dally's crash course in Australian Lutheran history from Dr and Mrs Proeve at Bethany



At the Faith Lutheran College winemaking centre at Tanunda, Barossa Valley

Anna Rivett, introducing the panel at the Cultural Symposium at the Art & Heritage Collection, University of Adelaide: Dr Lewis Yerloburka O'Brien, Dr Rob Amery, Rev Volker Dally, Dr Lois Zweck



Coming Events

Mazin Grace

Speaker: Dr Dylan Coleman

Monday 30 September at 7.30pm

Bethlehem House, Sudholz Pl, Adelaide

Mazin Grace is the fictionalised story of Dylan's mother's childhood at the Koonibba Lutheran Mission in the 1940s and 50s. It is an inspirational story of a brave girl who refuses to be told who she is, determined to find out the truth for herself.

Dylan Coleman is a Kokatha Aboriginal-Greek woman from the far west coast of South Australia. She has a PhD in creative writing and lectures in Indigenous health at the Yaitya Purrna Indigenous Health Unit at the University of Adelaide.

A Journey in Grace

Speakers: Rev Drs Dean Zweck, Erich Renner, Vic Pfitzner, Jeff Silcock

Monday 21 October at 7.30pm

****** (AGM at 7pm) ******

Bethlehem House, Sudholz Pl, Adelaide

This presentation will celebrate 175 years of Lutheran theology in Australia. Dean Zweck will give a historical overview of the first 100 years, outlining the sometimes tortuous and troublesome journey that was undertaken. Erich Renner discusses the long path to the formation of the LCA, highlighting the major theological matters that arose. Vic Pfitzner's talk is about theology in the formative years of the LCA, emphasising the major role played by the Commission on Theology and Inter-Church relations. Jeff Silcock will look at the current issues in theology, including the ordination of women and LCA's ecumenical involvement.

Anniversary celebrations

The 175th anniversary of the first Lutheran service in SA – held by Teichelmann and Schürmann on 4 November 1838 – will be celebrated by Bethlehem congregation Adelaide on Sunday 27 October with a choral festival.

FoLA will commemorate the arrival of the first of Kavel's people on the weekend of 16-17 November with a tour to Port Misery and a new look at Klemzig. Full details to come!

FoLAV Event - 200th Anniversary of the birth of Ludwig Leichhardt Saturday 12 October 2013

A special Luncheon will be held at the Austrian Club at 12.30 for 1.00 pm. Leichhardt is the famous German/Wendish explorer and naturalist who mysteriously disappeared in inland Australia circa 1848.

Join us for some good German food and hospitality at Melbourne's picturesque Austrian Club, 90 Sheehan Road, Heidelberg West, Vic. (Melway 19 F9). All are welcome.

Please RSVP by 30 September to Glenys Wollermann Tel. (03) 9891 6652; email wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au. Please give the names of all those attending, for name tags.

Shanghai Exodus

Shanghai Exodus was the title of a talk by Dr Wolfgang Preiss at Bethlehem House on 24th June. It outlined the crucial emigrant movements of his family last century. His parents' journeys from Vienna to Shanghai as Jewish refugees just prior to the outbreak of WWII were followed a decade later – and after Wolfgang's birth there – by their escape from China.

The fascinating and enlightening character of Dr Preiss' presentation was much appreciated by a responsive and sizeable audience, which included several other erstwhile European emigrants from Shanghai (who added aspects in the ensuing discussion) and equally articulate members of two Australian Lutheran families (Stolz and Proeve) involved in crucial and fascinating ways assisting newcomers (including the Preisses) to Australia during the post-war period. A full-text version of the presentation is to appear in the up-coming issue of the FoLA Journal.

Maurice Schild

Dresden Mission documents digitised

When Rev Volker Dally, Director of Leipzig Mission, visited us in July he handed to the Archives a set of DVDs which contain digitised copies of many documents (minutes, reports, letters) relating to the early activities of the Dresden/Leipzig Mission in the 1830s and 1840s. Because the mission to the Aborigines in South Australia was its first missionary endeavour, these documents are of great interest to us.

We had negotiated with the Leipzig Mission and the Francke Foundation in Halle (which holds the archives of the Leipzig Mission) to get these digital reproductions made and they agreed to do this at no cost to us. We are very grateful to them for their willingness to supply them to us. We now have the huge task of transcribing and translating them. Do we have any volunteers?

The Kingshoot - Hahndorf Rifle Club



The ring target used for the Kingshoot.

What does the Kingshoot at Hahndorf have to do with FoLA and History Month? That was explained to us by Brian Hennig when he told us of a German tradition that has existed in South Australia since 1864. Brian wrote an article for the *Village Voice* in 2010 on the Hahndorf Rifle Club Kingshoot as follows:

The first club Koenigschiessen (Kingshoot) was conducted on 7 November 1864 in the old Germanic Schutzen tradition and was won by F H Sonnemann from a field of 27 shooters. His prize was a silver medal and three pounds three shillings (\$6.30).

The event was unique as a competitor fires only one shot at a time, then goes back to reload another cartridge and stands in line again to await another turn to shoot at the target. The white target was a steel disc with a black painted "bull" approximately 8 inches (250 mm) in diameter at its centre; the soft lead projectiles used to strike the steel leaving a mark that could be registered. Traditionally, this event is "shot off the post", which means that the competitor sits on a wooden box, supporting the rifle with both elbows on the knees, and rests the barrel of the rifle against a wooden post.

The Hahndorf Rifle Club now spans 3 centuries of German Ring Target shooting. The distance shot over is 200 yards (180 metres) but with modern rifles, powders and projectiles, the steel targets have been replaced with other materials that the projectile can penetrate without ricochet off the target. The target bull eye is 8 inch (20cm) in diameter and its value is 13 points. Aperture sights (iron sights) only are used on Kingshoot rifles today (originally only "open sights" in the rifle were used) and the number of scoring shots, 12 over two rounds, are fired in rotation. This method of shooting at a Kingshoot has not changed since the inception of the Hahndorf Kingshoot.

The Hahndorf Rifle Club now is the only club in Australia (and the Southern hemisphere. Ed) still shooting the original German Ring Target discipline and is one of the older rifle clubs still in existence in Australia today.

Brian told us that the club was formed in 1864 when a group of shooters met at what is now the Hahndorf Inn. The publican, Gottlieb Schuetze, was elected as the first president. In 1869 Alfred von Doussa became the driving force as secretary of the Club, establishing a shooting range on his property and from that time all shooters' results have been recorded.

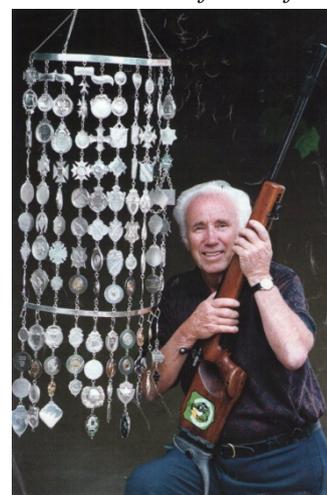
With 12 shots, with a maximum score of 13 for a "bull", it is possible to score 156 points. In 1918 Dick Borchers set a record of 153 points using a single shot Winchester rifle, firing hand-made lead bullets with black powder propellant. It was many years before this record was broken. It was not until 1978 that Dennis Overall shot the perfect score of 156 points. A year earlier Yvonne Hill, an Olympic shooter, became the first and only woman to date to win the Kingshoot. She used a borrowed rifle and scored 154 points and, like all the previous winners, was paid a small purse of prize money, then had a medal made to her design - which cost far more than the prize money. What price is honour?



The 1879 medal.

Since WWII there has been an enormous change in technology with the firearms now used. Centre fire cartridges used in modern rifles give only a slight improvement in accuracy and reliability, but the old black powder-charged rifles are more difficult to load and use. That is why it took so long for the 1918 record to be broken.

Familiar names from Hahndorf Lutheran circles echo throughout the story of the club: former FoLA newsletter editor Alan Wittwer for example, was Kingshoot scorer for many decades. For many years the Hahndorf Kingshoot has attracted entrants from all over Australia. It is truly part of our German heritage and a worthy subject for this year's history celebrations.



1995 winner, Norm Rule, with all of the medals, some of which would cost over \$5000 to replace.

Eric Fiebig and Brian Hennig

Pastor Philipp Oster 1862: Call for a history of Lutherans in SA

(translation from *Kirchen und Missions Blatt*, 1862)

Deut 32, 7: *Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations; ask thy father and he will shew thee; thy elders and they will tell thee.*

SA has now celebrated its 25th anniversary, and in this quarter century it has blossomed from a barren wilderness to a splendid, richly-blessed colony which combines so many advantages for the common good as few other countries on God's great earth can offer.

Might it not also be about time to remember the days past, to consider what the Lord has done for our fathers and elders among us, to gather the images of our colonial past, set them in a lively sequence in an historic framework for the use and edification of those who dwell among us now and those who will come after us?

... The first period [of immigration], from 1838-1847, is characterised by being in the main brethren from Prussia, who left hearth and home for the sake of their Lutheran faith and confession ... The new arrivals [after 1848] came from the most diverse regions of Germany in a variegated assortment,... but were all united in the one wish, to better their earthly lot. Those among them who displayed the skills, desire and strength for farm work or the trades, found the living that they sought, nourishment for their bodily needs, and on top of that, food for their souls, ... the real treasure hidden in the field, God's Word and Luther's teaching, which will never pass away.

Some of those early witnesses to the truth – scripturally sound, confessionally faithful, self-sacrificing, joyful givers – have already completed their earthly pilgrimage and entered into the heavenly Canaan; but we still have among us some of these elders and fathers, who have gained a rich treasure of Christian life experience; it seems to me that they should not bury this treasure, but seek it out, bring it into the light of day, ... so that it earns profit for the kingdom of heaven.

The later immigrants would learn to value, understand and esteem certain things more highly; make better use of many things, above all the spiritual treasure of heavenly goods which they are able – without any effort on their part – to share in as instruments in God's hand.

In this instructive and interesting material the rising generation of German youth ... would find guidance towards the fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom. Our congregations would be linked by a new bond of harmony, and a new field would be opened up for appreciating and serving one another with love and good works. Our elders, church councillors, pastors and teachers would be offered appropriate aids for the vivid presentation of true, living and fruitful Christianity.

Our Emigration and Immigration Festivals [celebrated on 8th June each year] would be provided with a rich trove of edification, to thank the Lord for His goodness and the wonders He performs for His children, and to praise and glorify Him in our congregations.

How many a prayer was heard and divine aid given in greatest need, how many were rescued in a case of life or death, how many proofs were given of the power of the Gospel, how many examples of sons or daughters lost and found, how many a witness to the Spirit, rewards for faithfulness, ... how many a testimony of the almighty power, the grace and mercy, wisdom and truthfulness of God could be recorded from that time.

I believe that we would be fulfilling a sacred duty with this history, especially if Christians, Evangelical Lutheran Christians who have emigrated for the sake of faith, keep in mind what Asaph says in Psalm 78: *I will open my mouth in a parable, ... showing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord and his strength and his wonderful works that he hath done.*

Pastor Philipp Oster made this appeal in the *Kirchen und Missions Blatt* of 1862, the first Lutheran paper in SA, but the paper was discontinued and only revived in 1865 by new editor, Pastor JC Auricht. He began publishing his own history of the church but soon had to stop because of the controversy it caused; he went on to write several histories but these have never been published. Oster's brother-in-law, Pastor Rudolph Ey, began a series of articles for the *Kirchenbote* in 1879 which may have included any stories received in 1862; the series was published in 1880 as *Mitteilungen*, and is available in translation as *Early Tales*.

In the year of its 175th anniversary, the LCA has issued a similar call for grass-roots stories of Lutheranism in Australia from the perspective of the individuals who make up the church, and the fascinating results can be read on the *175 stories* page on the LCA web-site. But there are still many inspiring stories to be told, above all from the pioneering decades of mission and church, manse and school. Do you have a story to tell?

Archivist's Report

Congregations that have recently deposited records (minute books, registers, etc.):

Cowell, Gawler (Immanuel), Laura parish, Padthaway, Port Pirie parish, Strathalbyn parish, Victor Harbor (St Paul), Waikerie parish, Yabmana (all SA); Edgehill, Henty (Zion) (all NSW); Imbil (Q).

Family histories that have been donated:

Basedow, Elsner, Klingberg, Lubke.

Some interesting acquisitions have been:

- UELCA Brotherhood minute books (1952-1966)
- Kidd, *Redlands Illustrated History*
- *That's my block. Minyip's Pioneers*
- Zubrzycki, *Settlers of the Latrobe Valley*
- Norm Habel, *Tree Whisperer. The story of Wilhelm Habel*

Archives Bookshop:

The Klingberg Kingdom (\$100, \$112 posted)
Beyond All Expectations. The works of Lutheran Missionaries from Dresden, Germany, among Aborigines in South Australia, 1838-1853

(\$11, \$14 posted)

'Together we are weaving our language'

(Missionary Meyer with the Ramindjeri-Ngarrindjeri people) (\$5, \$8 posted)

Deaths:

Three of our respected Friends have recently died.

Max Altmann was one of the respected historians of Hahndorf and the St Michael's congregation. He authored the Altmann family history in 1967.

Rhoda Heinrich wrote histories of Maitland, South Kilkerran and Port Victoria, and the family history *Heinrich of Seiffersdorf*. She served as a member of the Board of Archives and Research for 6 years (1984-1990). She was the first editor of the Friends of Lutheran Archives newsletter in 1991.

Pastor Noel Weiss was a volunteer at the Archives for over 14 years and helped by sorting records and putting them into good order. We recognise their great contribution to the preservation of the history of our Lutheran Church.

New Queensland history:

A recently-released book, titled *Queensland's German Connections. Past, Present & Future. 170 years strong 1842-2012*, highlights the contribution of German settlers, explorers, families, businesses, and politicians. The authors are respected historians Matthew Tesch, Peter

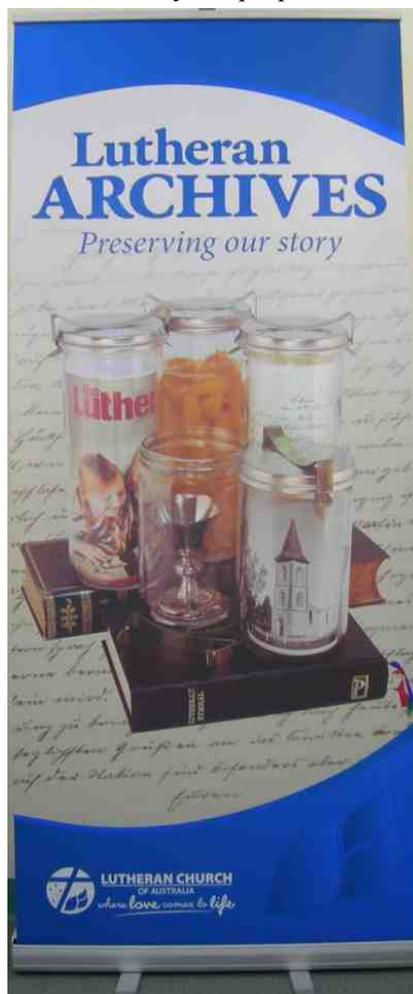
Ludlow and Robin Kleinschmidt. The numerous short articles are accompanied by colourful photos, illustrations and maps. It costs \$50 (\$65 posted) and is available from the German Australian Community Centre (www.gaccq.org.au). Highly recommended.

SA Genealogy & Heraldry Society 40th anniversary:

I attended the anniversary dinner to celebrate this milestone. The Society has grown dramatically over 40 years and has been of great assistance to many family historians. Its active members have undertaken numerous projects, among which are the publication of the *Biographical Index of South Australians 1836-1885* and the Births, Deaths & Marriage Registration Indexes. The Germanic Special Interest Group started by Dulcie Love continues to meet each month under the able leadership of Aileen Preiss and Des Materne.

New Banner:

Lutheran Archives was one of the many church departments to get new and colourful banners for the LCA General Synod in April. The question of what to say and what to display was discussed at length. You can see the result. What do you think? Does it convey the purpose of the Archives?



Lyall Kupke

Mission 175: the Berlin connection

At first sight there is no apparent connection between the two mission societies whose missionaries began work in Australia in 1838 – the Dresden Mission Society in SA and the Gossner Mission in Queensland – but both can in fact trace their beginnings back to the Bethlehem Church in central Berlin, where Gossner was pastor at the time.

In 1800 **Johann Jänicke**, pastor of the Bethlehem congregation 1779-1827, began training missionaries to serve in English mission societies. Berlin-born Eduard Meyer was confirmed in his church in 1827, a few weeks after Jänicke's death: his confirmation certificate is signed by Pastor Rückert, Jänicke's son-in-law, who took over Jänicke's mission school. Clamor Schürmann and Gottlob Teichelmann came to Berlin to study at the Jänicke school under Rückert, but by the time they completed their training, Anglican mission societies insisted on all missionaries becoming Anglican. They refused, appealing to the Lutheran community for an opportunity to follow their calling as confessional Lutherans, and the Dresden Mission Society responded by established a training institute and beginning a search for a mission field of its own. Teichelmann and Schürmann transferred to Dresden in 1836, followed by Meyer in 1837; they were commissioned for SA in 1838, and Meyer in 1840.

Jänicke's successor at the Bethlehem Church was **Johannes Evangelista Gossner**, a convert from Catholicism and a popular preacher. In December 1836 he began training some young men who had been rejected by other mission societies; by July 1837 some of them were among the party en route to Scotland and destined for the Lang /Gossner mission in Queensland, where they arrived in May 1838. Although the mission at Zion Hill was shortlived, the Gossner Mission – like the Leipzig (formerly Dresden) Mission – flourished and is still at work today. The centenary booklet for the Gossner settlement at Nundah featured the outline of the Bethlehem Church where that story began; the church was destroyed in WWII, but its outline is preserved in the paving of Bethlehemskirchplatz, Berlin Mitte: google it for photos of an amazing light installation 'reconstruction'.

The current chairman of Gossner Mission, Harald Lehmann, made the long trip from Berlin to Nundah to be present at the anniversary celebrations in June. At the celebrations Queensland Bishop Noack presented a gift from Aboriginal Australia, a cross painted by an Aboriginal Christian artist, and he reciprocated with a gift from Gossner Mission, a cloth from Indian Christians commemorating 60 years of the World Council of Churches.



Bethlehem Church, Berlin



Harald Lehmann holding the cross presented by Bishop Noack, and, right, displaying the Indian cloth.

[Photos from Gerhard Rüdiger]



Coming events

Monday 30 September at 7.30pm
Mazin Grace
Speaker: Dr Dylan Coleman
Bethlehem House, Sudholz Pl, Adelaide
Gold coin donation

Monday 21 October at 7.30pm (AGM at 7pm)
175 Years of Lutheran Theology in Australia
Speakers: Rev Drs Dean Zweck, Erich Renner,
Vic Pfitzner, Jeff Silcock
Bethlehem House, Sudholz Pl, Adelaide
Gold coin donation

Weekend of 16/17 November
175th Commemoration of Arrival of First of
Kavel's People on 17 November 1838
Proposed Bus Tour to Port Misery & Klemzig

FoLAV Event

Saturday 12 October 2013 at 12.30pm
200th Anniversary of the birth of Ludwig
Leichhardt
Austrian Club, 90 Sheehan Road,
Heidelberg West, Vic

Cassette audiotapes and CDs of most FoLA talks
are available for \$5 posted.

Leichhardt publications

A three volume set published by the Queensland
Museum in the Memoirs of the Queensland
Museum series. Available 22 Oct 2013.

*The Leichhardt diaries: Early Travels in Australia
during 1842 -1844* (\$40)

*The Leichhardt papers: Reflections on his life and
legacy.* A compilation of 6 Papers delving into
Leichhardt the man and his impact on Australia.
(\$20)

*Bicentenary of Ludwig Leichhardt: Contributions
to Australia's natural history in honour of his
scientific work exploring Australia* (\$20)

Postage \$15 extra.

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