



April 2022

In this newsletter:

- **The next stage of conservation begins soon!**
- **Huge thanks for grants and donations.**
- **GJ Rechner's children's story book collection – we've found it!**
- **Barossa Heritage trail App up and running**
- **Inherited family traits – are you a gardener?**
- **Wine**

Stage 2 of the conservation begins soon!



Yes – it's finally happening! We now have the funds to begin stage 2 of the cottage conservation – this is where the cottage will be made structurally sound again. Beams will be repaired and replaced if necessary, and the roofing will be replaced. This essential stage will make sure the structure of the cottage is maintained for many years to come, protected from further deterioration and damage, and also safe. We hope to begin within four weeks, and we can't wait to keep you posted with progress updates, and photos of the process.

The third and final stage will be the re-pugging of the walls and putting up signage explaining the architectural features and history of the cottage.

Grants and donations

thankful
AND
grateful

We want to extend a very special thank you to family members, Tony and Kate Rechner, for their generous donation.

We are so grateful to all of you who have supported the cottage through your donations. You are the ones who have made all this possible. We raised over \$800 dollars through the People's Choice lottery, as well as money from the sale of our fundraising wines, recipe books and direct donations.

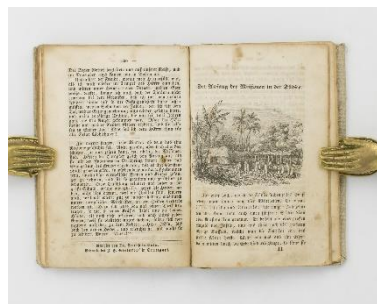
And thank you also to the organisations that have given grants. We have received a *South Australian Heritage Conservation Grant* - they have been very interested and supportive of the project, and the Minister gave us a special mention in his speech when announcing the grants. After the announcement, the *Barossa Leader* newspaper did an article on the cottage and its conservation – you can read it [here](#).

We have also been supported by the *Peter Lehmann Arts and Education Trust*, who have given us funds to be used for capturing and documenting the stories of the cottage and the history and memories of Light Pass. It will be wonderful to have this social history preserved, and easily accessible to all. The money will allow us to build a user-friendly website for sharing the stories, access proper recording equipment, and maintain them on a digital platform.

And as well, we have received a *Barossa Council Heritage Assistance Grant*. Without the support of everybody, this next stage would not have been possible.

GJ Rechner's Story Book Collection

A wonderful treasure belonging to GJ Rechner and Strait Gate church has been tracked down. It is a collection of approximately 110 books – mostly children's story books, written in the German language. Most were published between 1850 and 1880 – the earliest is 1833. It's thought to have been the Sunday School library. The collection includes the original manuscript catalogue for the library ("Verzeichniss der Bucher"), which gives the reference number, short title and brief borrowing history of each book. The books are generally in original cloth or simple trade bindings, and have been well-used. Some of the books have GJ Rechner's stamp in them.



We knew they existed and had been sold through an auction house but did not know who had bought them. It was wonderful to hear that the collection has been purchased by the Mortlock Wing of the State Library of South Australia, and that eventually they will be available for interested people to see them. It's also good to know that they will be properly conserved and in good hands.

You can read more about them, and see more photos by clicking [here](#).

Barossa Heritage Trails App.



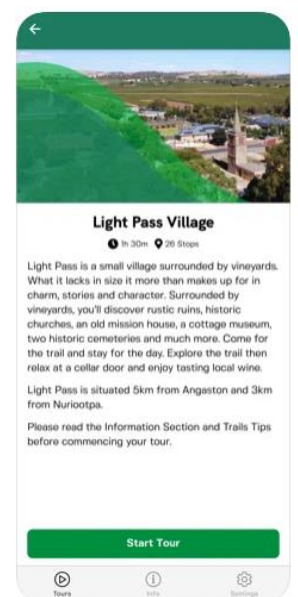
The **Barossa Heritage Trails App** is up and running! It showcases the beauty and history of the Barossa region through a series of easily-doable guided walks. You can discover the heritage, stories and experiences of different parts of the Barossa, including Light Pass, Angaston, Bethany, Mount Pleasant and the Barossa

Museum. There is also a heritage drive.

The stroll around Light Pass includes a variety of buildings, including Luhrs Cottage, Rechner Cottage and the Mission House, churches and homesteads. There is a lot of fascinating history to listen to at each stop, and the stories really bring the places to life.

Now that the weather is cooler, it would be an enjoyable day's excursion, especially if combined with lunch at a winery or bakery (try the bakery at nearby Nuriootpa – excellent pies!). If you can't get to the Barossa, you can use the App to do a virtual tour as well.

You can download the App through Google Play or the App store.



Inherited Family Traits – are you a gardener?

I had the idea to do a regular series on traits of our forefathers that we may have inherited, along the lines of the TV show, *Who do you think you are?* The first one was two years ago, and I posted this second one recently on Facebook. Hopefully the next one will come along a bit sooner than that! Let us know if there are any family traits you've noticed that we can try and trace back:)



Who do you think you are?

Are you a gardener? Are you happiest when you are digging, planting, watering or pruning? And if the weather smiles on you – and you manage to outwit insects, possums, bats and birds – even harvesting your produce? Do you ever say to yourself “that’s it – no more plants”, and yet still find yourself in the gardening section of Bunnings with a trolley full of greenery, and no idea how it got there? Don’t fight it – perhaps it’s in your DNA, passed down through generations....

GJ Rechner was a very keen gardener. Not always successful – he did try his hand at farming soon after his arrival in Australia, with little success. But at Light Pass he established quite a little farm. His grandson, JJ Stolz, remembers visiting as a child, and enjoying the delights of his “fine orchard and lots of vines”, where the children could “satisfy our hunger for fresh fruit to our heart’s content”. There were also vegetables, chickens and pigs. The grandchildren visiting from the city loved the freedom of the country, roaming around the gardens, the manse and church grounds at Light Pass.

On trips to the city, GJ loved to take along gifts from the garden/farm, such as a basket of fresh fruit and vegetables, or a goose for the roasting pan. No doubt the produce from the garden went a long way to help feed the large Rechner family and their many visitors too.



Wines

We still have fundraising wine available for purchase. I have celebrated the beginning of stage 2 of the conservation, and the arrival of my new grandson last week (the latest in a long line of Rechner descendants) with a glass of the GSM. Perfect for toasting special occasions, or even just because every day is worth celebrating. 100% of the profits from the wine support the conservation of the cottage.

We’ve attached an order form for you, and the tasting notes if you’d like help deciding which to get. Or try a mixed box, and that way no hard decisions are necessary...



1. *The latest Rechner descendant.*

Warm regards

Jo

(On behalf of *The Rechner Cottage Conservation Association* Committee)