

August 2021

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The Barossa Council Development Approval

It's a big deal to receive this approval - it means that we can now proceed with the actual conservation stage of the process. So far we have undertaken stabilization works to prevent further deterioration of the cottage, including structural and ground works, and things like termite protection. And of course, we've organized numerous onsite surveys, assessments, reports and quotes.

For the Development Approval there was more to and fro-ing between us, the builders, engineers, the architect and the Council, which has all taken time.

But it means that the work we do will meet all standards, not only for heritage conservation, but also current safety standards. So people will be able to visit the site without worrying about anything falling on them. And that's a good thing!

So what's next? We already have plans drawn up by a heritage architect (Sam Hosking). We have a local builder keen to start (Andrew Steinkopf, who is experienced in conserving heritage buildings and has worked on pug cottages in the past). So we're all ready to go. Now we need to raise the funds needed for this major stage. Whilst we hope it can be done in stages, as funds become available, the total amount needed may be close to \$100,000.

We will be applying for any grants available to us. We will also be fundraising in any way we can. This is a little harder in these Covid-times, as some of the talks, tours and activities we had envisaged will not be able to go ahead. However, we will do what we can, and will let



you know of ways you can help. If you would like to be part of the project through a donation, please email us for the bank details.

And now on to other matters...



Wine.

To celebrate this next stage of the project, what better way than to raise a glass of Rechner wine? There are still some bottles of Rose and Shiraz available, and money from each bottle supports the cottage. An order form is attached.



Memories:

Do you have stories and memories of the cottage? We would love to hear them! Was it part of your childhood, or your family history? Were stories told to you about it? Did you live nearby, or visit it on trips to the Barossa?



We used to visit my grandparent's graves at the Light Pass cemetery, and I always loved looking at the cottage. I loved the peaceful setting and the sense the cottage holds of times past. I used to imagine the lives of its early inhabitants. Who built it? Who lived there? What were their lives like?

Mum used to tell us the story of the boy who locked his sister in the stable side. It caused a huge uproar, as when she was finally found, people accused the father of doing it. And the son was too frightened to own up to it...

With family so spread out, many of us do not get to hear these stories and recollections that used to be passed down through the generations. Many of them are being lost. We would love for you to share any memories that you have – perhaps we can even put them in a book. Along with the conservation of the cottage, we are researching the history of Light Pass and the Rechner family. It's so good discovering more about our family, so if you have any memories, please take the time to share them with us. Via email is fine.

GJ Rechner is featured at the Migration Museum.



The Migration Museum, in Kintore St, Adelaide, has a special display commemorating some of the early migrants of South Australia. Migrants have come to the state since the 1830's, from over 90 different countries. In this exhibition, some of their unique stories are told through photographs and words. Our very own GJ Rechner is one of the people featured. So go along and have a look. Whilst there, you can also search for his paver in Settlement Square at the Museum.

The exhibition runs until 22nd February. The museum is open from 10 am-5 pm daily, and admission is free.

We hope all is well with you and your families.

Until next time,

Robyn, Catherine, Andy and Jo

The Rechner Cottage Conservation Association