



RECHNER COTTAGE  
CONSERVATION  
ASSOCIATION

rechnercottage@gmail.com  
ABN 23 257 323 682

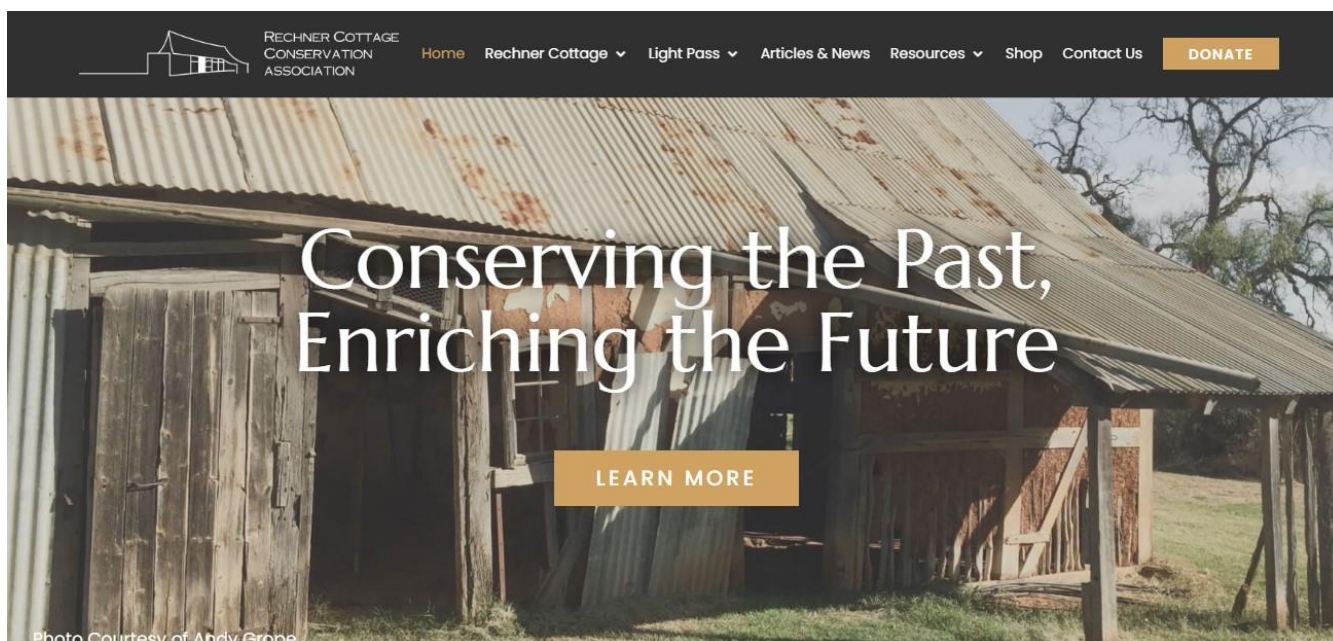
**November 2022**

**In this newsletter:**

- **Our new website**
- **Update on the Conservation**
- **Donating**
- **In fundraising news...order in time for Christmas!**
- **A visit to the cottage**



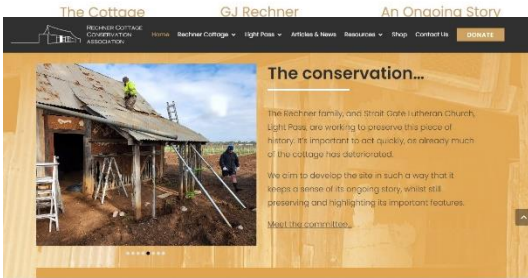
**The Rechner  
Cottage  
website has  
launched.**



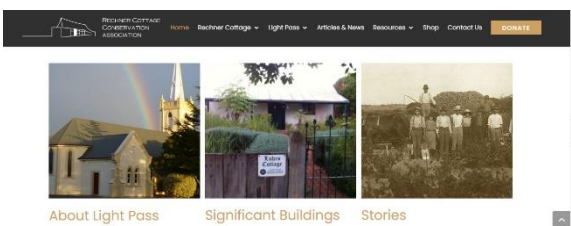
We are really excited to share the launch of our website with you. It's a place where you can lose yourself in the past, find out what's happening today, and be part of bringing what's precious from the past into the future. Here's what you'll find on it:



Read about **the history of the cottage**, and what makes it worth conserving. Discover more about **GJ Rechner** – his life, his family, and the many contributions he made to the church, the community, and missions. Find out how you can **be part of our vision** to enrich the future through conserving the past.



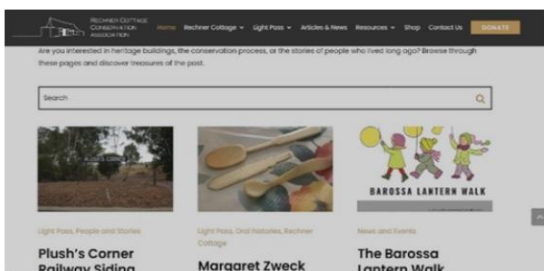
Find out more about **the conservation process** and keep up-to-date with what's happening. Meet the team behind the work. View the photo gallery.



**Discover Light Pass** – past and present. Rechner Cottage and its history are closely intertwined with the village of Light Pass. Read stories and listen to oral histories of its past - they make fascinating reading/listening. Light Pass has a wealth of historic buildings and a wonderful museum in the restored Luhrs Cottage – we'll be bringing them to you.



How can you help **support the conservation**? Shop our fundraising items here (you can now use our online order/payment form – easy!), donate with an easy click of the button, and find out about the grants we have received.



We have an ever-expanding data base of **articles, news and oral histories**. Whether you're interested in the history of the cottage, the many stories of the people and times that bring the history to life, building techniques, conservation, or what's happening now, you'll find plenty to explore here.

Please take the time to check it out and let us know what you think. You'll find it at [rechnercottage.com](http://rechnercottage.com), or just click here: [Rechner Cottage Conservation Association - Conserving the Past, Enriching the Future](http://Rechner Cottage Conservation Association - Conserving the Past, Enriching the Future)

A huge **Thank you** to *The Peter Lehmann Arts and Education Trust*, whose grant made it possible, and the team at *Morningstar Digital*, whose expertise and hard work helped bring our vision to reality.



*The rusted old iron roof has its own beauty.*

### Update on the conservation

Since the last flurry of activity which we reported in the October newsletter, we have had a little hiatus, due to having to wait for roofing iron to arrive from overseas. It is a special roofing iron with a wider corrugated profile than modern roofing and will be the same as the current one. In happy news, the iron sheets have now arrived. Now the roofers have to wait for a run of clear weather!

The old rusty iron roofing gives a wonderfully aged look to the cottage, so when the new roof goes on, it will probably look very glary and stark. But over time its appearance will soften and it should protect the cottage for at least another hundred years. The current roof is not the original, which was probably straw. It has already been replaced twice, this one going on in 1957.

After the roof goes on, the builder will be able to work on the interior, taking off and cleaning up old beams, and putting them back. Where they are no longer structurally sound, he will put up a new beam next to it, similar to the old one. More on that process once he gets started...

### Donating - how can you help?

As anyone who has renovated will understand, having commenced the conservation work it is always a process of discovery as footings and rafters are revealed. Unexpected discoveries mean more tasks are added to the list! Thankfully, so far we are on track to have the work completed in early 2023. However, we don't have all the funds needed yet – just enough for the next stage. Why not celebrate the Christmas season historically by donating towards the conservation?



*Large or small, your donation makes a difference*

**Donate through the Australian Cultural Fund:** Your donation is tax deductible and will be of enormous assistance in securing this piece of history for now and for future generations.

<https://artists.australianculturalfund.org.au/s/project/a2E9q000007LRtEAM/rechner-cottage-conservation-a-cultural-heritage-project>

Or donate through the **People's Choice Community Lottery** – all money from tickets goes towards the conservation. There are some great prizes, and tickets start from just \$2. If you normally give Scratchies for Christmas, maybe this would be a different alternative. It's a way of passing on our history to others, especially family members. Click here to buy tickets: [Rechner Cottage Conservation Association – Community Lottery](#)



**Buy our fundraising wines or cookbook** (see below).

If you'd like to get your hands dirty, our donors will be invited to contribute to the pugging of the walls in a guided workshop that uses the traditional pug recipe. As you can see, there is work to be done! Come and enjoy being part of this project.

We would like to thank all those who have donated already – big or small, your donations help immensely and make this all possible. We acknowledge particularly Kate and Tony Rechner, for their generous donation.

We are also immensely grateful to the organisations who have seen the value of the project and assisted with grants – the Barossa Council and the South Australian government through their Heritage Grants programmes, and the Peter Lehmann Arts and Education Trust.



### In fundraising news

Order by 10<sup>th</sup> December to ensure delivery in time for Christmas!



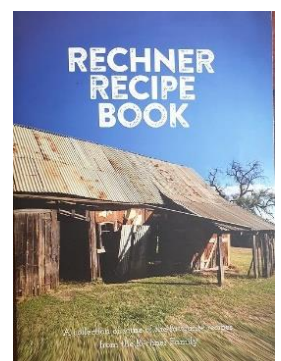
**Wines:** Now's the time to start thinking about **ordering wines for Christmas** – either for your own table, or to give as a unique gift. We still have a great selection of wines to choose from, from Craneford Wines in the Barossa and Ekhidna Wines from Matt Rechner, a GJ Rechner descendent. In the early Barossa communities, producing and sharing a glass of wine was an important part of the social and cultural structure, and we are happy to continue that.

The easiest way to order and pay by card is by using the order form on the website ([Shop - Rechner Cottage Conservation Association](#))

Or there is an order form attached, with details for bank transfers.

**Recipe books:** Another great idea for Christmas gifts is the beautifully produced Rechner Recipe Book. It has lovely old family photographs scattered throughout. We can also now offer it as a downloadable PDF, for \$30. This is a great option as a gift for relatives overseas, to connect them with home and family.

Postage in Australia is \$15 – enquire for overseas postage prices.





*Looking beautiful in the spring sunshine.*

## A visit to the cottage.

Would you love a day out in the Barossa, visiting the cottage, but can't quite get there? Come and share ours!

I was lucky enough to visit Adelaide last week (coming from Brisbane, that's a real treat), and Mark, another Rechner descendent, offered to take me up to the Barossa to see the cottage. I couldn't get in the car quick enough!

After days of rain, the day was warm and sunny, and the Barossa pulled out all stops to look its most gorgeous. And it was lovely to see the cottage surrounded by green grass and yellow daisies – the last photo I'd seen, it was all dirt. We felt a special sense of connection with the cottage because of the family history, and the more we learn about it, the more connected we feel.



*The Barossa - all vines and roses*

We took a good look at the changes made so far to the cottage (from a distance, as it's a worksite), and wandered around the cemetery, where we have parents and grandparents buried. We could hear chickens contentedly clucking, which was fitting, as originally the complex of buildings was surrounded by fruit trees and vegetable gardens, and was home to chickens, ducks, geese, cows and pigs.

The Mission House is next to the cottage. It is also of heritage value. Built in 1861, the central part was the original manse. Additions were later added. At various times it has been used as a school, accommodation for missionaries on furlough, Sunday school rooms and church flats.



*The Mission House was the original manse*



*The cemetery is a peaceful place*



*The second manse, built 1908.*

Across the road, we took a photo outside the old 'new' manse, where JJ Stolz brought up his family. The Reuthers also lived there (you can listen to Tom's memories of his childhood there on the website). It was built in 1908, after the doctor said the old original manse was not suitable for the elderly Bertha Rechner. Now a private residence, it is beautifully looked after. Although a modern addition has been added at the back, you can't see it from the road.

We met up with Darlene Cooper, of the Luhrs Cottage Preservation Society.

Darlene has been of enormous help to us with the website, sharing stories, information and photos about Light Pass. She gave us a guided tour through Luhrs Cottage – its displays showcase the life of the pioneers, and it has hundreds of interesting objects.



*Luhrs Cottage sits next to the old manse.*

All in all, a wonderful visit!



*Last week in the vineyards  
just down the road from  
Rechner Cottage*

---

As always, we hope you and your family are well and staying safe and dry. And we thank you for your continued interest and support this year. It's been an exciting one, and next year will be even more so, as the conservation is completed. There's lots more in the pipeline though! We look forward to the journey with you.

Warm regards

Jo

(on behalf of the *The Rechner Cottage Conservation Association* Committee).