



October 2021

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Bring on the music!

“It doesn't matter where you are from, music brings us together”.

(The Song Keepers)



Music forms unexpected links, in time, space and cultures. The amazing Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir is keeping alive some of the old German hymns that were brought out to Australia by early German settlers and missionaries. Recently they sang the hymns against the stunning backdrop of the Ormiston Gorge in the Northern Territory.

Early on, these hymns were translated into the Arrernte and Pitjantjatjara languages. Some years ago, the choir took the hymns back to Germany, where these old hymns have largely been lost, and reintroduced them there.

(Thanks to Renae Saxby for her stunning photo of the choir in Ormiston Gorge, and to @commonground).

There is a wonderful film that tells the story of the choir called *The Song Keepers*. It is a joyful and uplifting story, well worth watching.

Watch the movie here:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/1268042307847/the-song-keepers>

We have an old and very precious songbook of hymns belonging to GJ Rechner, which he brought with him in 1848. As he was heavily involved with missions, we wonder if these may be some of the same hymns they are singing now...



Gathering the stories – Podcasts are on the way!



In our last newsletter, we talked about our plans to gather together memories and stories about Light Pass and the cottage. We feel there is some urgency, as so many memories are being lost to us as the older members of the community pass on. Robyn has thrown herself into the task, and has already recorded her father, Tom Reuther, who grew up in Light Pass in the 1930's. He has a wonderful memory, and listening to his stories of life in those early days is fascinating. These recordings, along with others, will be made available to everybody – we'll let you know when it's all set up and ready to go.

We've been informed that there are also some other memories already recorded. Perhaps you, or a relative have memories of Light Pass and the cottage as well – if so, please share them! They are such an important resource, and others will love to hear them. You can write them down and email them to us, or contact us to see about recording them in an audio format.



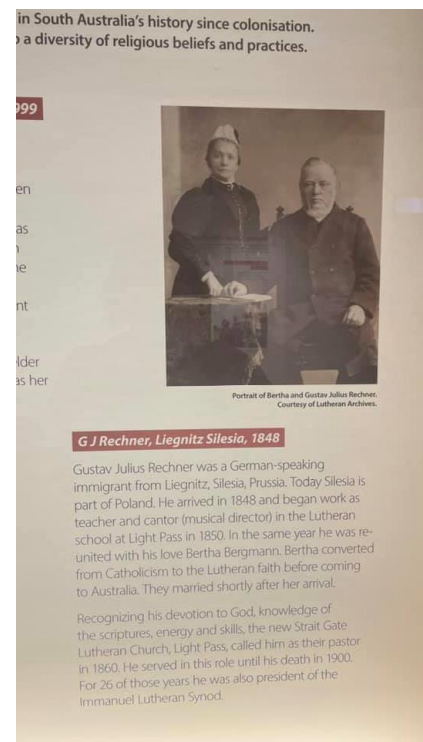
Pave the Way exhibition launch.

There was a special afternoon tea and launch of this exhibition at the Migration Museum in Adelaide - our family has 2 pavers in Settlement Square and was one of the families chosen for this exhibition and story sharing.

through till 28 Feb 2022 if you'd to go and see this yourself.



The exhibition is open like

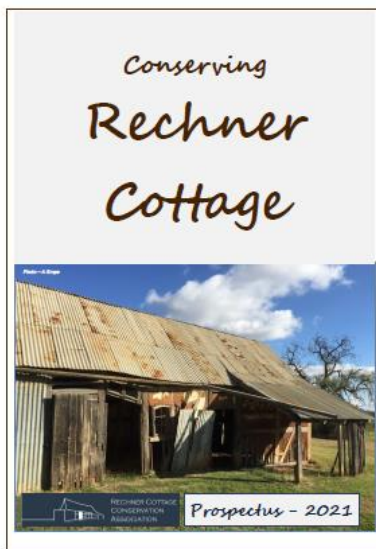


G J Rechner, Liegnitz Silesia, 1848

Gustav Julius Rechner was a German-speaking immigrant from Liegnitz, Silesia, Prussia. Today Silesia is part of Poland. He arrived in 1848 and began work as teacher and cantor (musical director) in the Lutheran school at Light Pass in 1850. In the same year he was reunited with his love Bertha Bergmann. Bertha converted from Catholicism to the Lutheran faith before coming to Australia. They married shortly after her arrival.

Recognizing his devotion to God, knowledge of the scriptures, energy and skills, the new Strait Gate Lutheran Church, Light Pass, called him as their pastor in 1860. He served in this role until his death in 1900. For 26 of those years he was also president of the Immanuel Lutheran Synod.

Rechner Cottage Conservation Association Prospectus



Would you like to know a little more about the Association and the work it is doing? We have prepared a short prospectus, which gives information about the cottage, the plans for conservation, and what is needed to achieve that.

It is a clear and easy read, and useful if you wish to share information about the project with friends or family members.

We have attached a PDF version along with this newsletter. Please feel free to share it – it will help us build a community of interest and support for the project. As enthusiasm, interest and excitement grow, then resources in terms of knowledge, financial support, and community involvement will follow.

The cottage gets a spring clean.

Spring has sprung - and you know what that means... .Yes, it's spring cleaning time! And the cottage has received a spring clean too, in readiness for the conservation work. We love all the old dusty and rusty bits and pieces that have been left there over the years, and are keeping them in case they come in useful later. And just because they have age and character, and tell a story.

Here's some of the bits and pieces that have been stored there...





As we head into the final stretch of the year, we hope you and your families are well.

Until next time,

Robyn, Catherine, Andy and Jo

The Rechner Cottage Conservation Association