

Dunera News



A publication for former refugees from Nazi and Fascist persecution (mistakenly shipped to and interned in Australia at Hay and Tatura, many later serving with the Allied Forces), their relatives and their friends.

No.107 FEB 2020



Dunera Reunions 2019

Melbourne: 10 November 2019

Sydney: 15 September 2019

Foundation Editor:

The late Henry Lippmann OAM

Editorial responsibility:

The Committee of the Dunera Association

The views expressed by writers of particular articles in this publication are the responsibility of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Dunera Association.

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Letters and articles for publication are welcome.

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From Friends of the Dunera Boys

Many of our friends on Facebook have expressed concern and dismay about the horrendous bushfire emergency that has engulfed many parts of Australia since December 2019.

We at the Dunera Association extend our heartfelt sympathies to families who have suffered losses and those who have lost loved ones. We also extend our gratitude to the brave firefighters in Australia and from overseas who are working tirelessly to contain the fires.

If readers wish to financially support the relief efforts we recommend that you make your donations to major charities and follow links to donations pages:

Red Cross Australia

www.redcross.org.au

Foodbank Victoria

www.foodbank.org.au

Salvation Army Australia

www.salvationarmy.org.au

World Wildlife Federation Australia

www.wwf.org.au

From the President



Ron Reichwald
President
Dunera Association

It is with great pleasure I write to you as the Dunera Association's new President. The coming year will be a significant one for the Dunera family and I am keenly anticipating the work of your committee in making sure the 80th anniversary commemorations, in honouring our Dunera boys, are of the highest quality.

At the last AGM, held on September 10, the following were elected as office bearers: Ron Reichwald, President; Geoff Winter (Canberra), Treasurer; and Tori Tilley, Secretary. Dr. Peter Felder is ex-officio, and the following were elected as committee members: Rebecca Silk, Selma Seknow, Jack Strom, Janet Arndt, John Ebert (Sydney), Ed Lippmann (Sydney), Kristin Otto, and Seumas Spark.

There has been an influx of new members onto the committee in recent years which means new ideas and perspectives. We are particularly pleased to welcome the involvement of additional Sydney committee members. However, the challenge for the committee and the members is to attract the third generation to take an interest in the Dunera community. The future of the Dunera story depends on this happening. To this end, we are attempting to engage with schools and other relevant groups via essay or project competitions. Apart from the 80th anniversary functions, other initiatives for 2020 include the establishment of: a Dunera Solar Farm at Hay, a Heritage Room at Jones Bay Wharf in Sydney, and application for government grants for our commemorations and projects.

In this edition, you will read of the 2019 reunions in Melbourne, Sydney, Hay; the opening of the Tatura Museum extension and Erwin Fabian exhibition; an obituary to Klaus Friedeberger; an interesting article on collection of letters, documents and papers on Lothar Markiewicz; and a contribution from the Singapore Internees group. Please also note the 'save the dates' for our 2020 reunions.

You can keep in touch or update your details at duneraboys@gmail.com, or join our Facebook group, Friends of the Dunera Boys. There is also a wealth of information on our new website, dunerassociation.com.

In the meantime, I wish all members and friends of the Dunera Association a happy and safe 2020.

Ron Reichwald, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ron Reichwald', written in a cursive style.

Reunions

Melbourne: 79th Reunion, 10 Nov 2019

The 79th reunion of members and friends of the Dunera Association was held on November 10 at Sukiert Hall, Caulfield Shule. Around 70 people attended and enjoyed the new venue and afternoon high tea format.

Peter Felder welcomed everyone present and remarked that it was the first time ever that, sadly, there were no Dunera men present. Peter thanked members for supporting him as president for the previous two years and announced that following the AGM held earlier, Ron Reichwald was the incoming President, Tori Tilley Secretary, with Geoff Winter continuing as Treasurer. Peter welcomed all on the incoming committee.

The guest speaker was Professor Justin Zobell who spoke about the life of his stepfather, Dunera Boy Werner Pelz (25 September 1921 – 21 May 2006).

Justin began by indicating that Pelz's life was in many ways shaped by his time in internment.

Pelz was born into a well-off Jewish family and had a privileged childhood in Germany. He was allowed to go to the UK in 1934 as a farm worker; however, as a German refugee he was rounded up in 1939 and sent to Australia on the Dunera.

Pelz described the richness of intellectual thought and inspiration from his teachers at the classes held in camp at Tatura as "an awakening". It was also the time that he converted to Anglicanism. He returned to the UK in 1942, became Reverend Werner Pelz,

married and took a position as an Anglican minister. Later he became disenchanted with Christianity and re-invented himself as a commentator and columnist. He was prominent in the left-wing press and on the BBC. Pelz wrote an autobiography, "Distant Strains of Triumph".

Following his second marriage, to Mary Zobell, Pelz attained a PhD in sociology and migrated to Melbourne with Mary and stepchildren (including Justin). He spent 14 years at La Trobe University, and later continued to lecture on western philosophy and sociology and continued to publish.

Justin described his stepfather as an amazing mix of cleric, sceptic, broadcaster and academic—much of it due to the formative experiences he had while interned at Tatura.

News from Hay and Tatura

David Houston from the Hay Dunera Museum reported on events in Hay. As visitors to Hay know, the Dunera Museum is housed in two restored railway carriages at the former Hay railway station. Years ago a third carriage was obtained but funds have not been available to restore it. Grants

are now pending, at both local and state level, and the museum committee is optimistic that funding will be forthcoming to restore the third carriage. This will provide the cabling, solar power and display space that is badly needed.

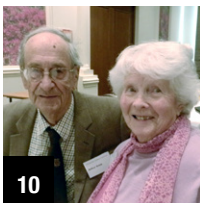
Evert Worm from the Tatura Historical Society reported on the September 2019 opening of a large extension to the Tatura Wartime Camps museum. It has

doubled the size of the museum and provided greatly improved conditions for display of the exhibits. There are plans to continue the upgrade of kitchen and bathrooms going forward.

Evert reminded all present that the museum is open every day from 1:00–3.00 pm and houses a large collection of artefacts, memorabilia, diaries and art work from the Tatura camps. ■



79th Melbourne Reunion



1. Tori Benedikt Tilley, Sam Eggleston, Karli Korbay, Travis & Danni Korbay; 2. Frank Hofmann, Robyn Hofmann, Frances Federer (Poland), Stefan Majka (Poland), Suzanne Hofmann (Perth), Gerry Hofmann (Perth); 3. Reichwald's with youngest; 4. Peter & Lynn Felder with the Hofmanns; 5. Gerry Hofmann, Suzanne Hofmann, Stefan Majka; 6. Travis Korbay, Paul Chodziesner, Rebecca Silk; 7. David Houston; 8. Edith Unger, Ron & Inge Rubin; 9. Ron Reichwald & Justin Zobell; 10. Lurline & Arthur Knee; 11. Carolyn Doyle & Justin Zobel; 12. Dean Putting & David Houston.

Sydney: 79th Reunion, 15 September 2019

The Sydney Reunion commemorating the 79th anniversary of the arrival of the HMT Dunera in Sydney was held at the Sydney Jewish Museum on Sunday, 15 September, 2019. Approximately 25 descendants and friends attended. Several regular attendees sent apologies due to the holding of a significant event at the Tatura Irrigation and Wartime Camps Museum, namely the opening of the museum extension and the exhibition of art works of Dunera Boy Erwin Fabian.

John Ebert, a Sydney committee member of the Dunera Association and organizer of the reunion, opened proceedings welcoming all attendees, particularly Dunera Boy Henry James, his wife Laura; Mrs Julie Lippmann, wife of Dunera Boy the late Henry Lippmann, founder of the Dunera Association and the first editor of the Dunera News; and Mrs. Hilary Weisser, wife of the late Mendel Weisser, a Dunera Boy.

John Ebert then introduced the president, Dr. Peter Felder, who outlined recent Dunera Association

developments, including the establishment of a Heritage Room at Jones Bay Wharf and the Dunera Solar Farm in Hay. Dr. Felder also outlined future events in

Melbourne on November 10 and in 2020 for the various 80th anniversary commemorations. He also appealed for additional committee members in Sydney.



Dr. Peter Felder

Rebecca Weisser, Dunera descendant, journalist and author, was called upon to mention the opening of another Erwin Fabian exhibition at the Robin Gibson Gallery in Sydney which will be open until October 2.

Our guest speaker, Louise Anemaat, was introduced by Dr. Felder. Coincidentally, she had been a student of Professor Konrad Kwiet, well-known in the Dunera community. Ms Anemaat is professionally an art gallery curator and is now an Executive Director of the State Library of NSW. Her presentation centred on the importance of libraries in the compilation of histories and how libraries and memories intersect with communities such as the Dunera community. Collecting institutions such as libraries safeguard these memories so the stories are not forgotten. Ms Anemaat also paid tribute to the collection of Henry Lippmann's papers that were donated to the Library of NSW. She was particularly honoured to be in the presence of Mrs Lippmann.

Collections such as these are at the heart of libraries around the world and allow historians and other readers to interpret and interrogate what was written in forming lessons from our

history. Ms Anemaat concluded, "Libraries play a vital part in the recording of our history and give us the tools to learn and interpret the information for the benefit of the future."

Ron Reichwald, secretary, thanked Ms Anemaat for her contribution to this reunion and gave her an inscribed copy of the book 'Dunera Lives'.

As a result of the President's earlier appeal, two attendees volunteered to join the Dunera committee as Sydney representatives.

Everyone then adjourned for an afternoon tea and mingling, completing a most successful reunion. ■

Sydney 79th Reunion

1. **Louise Aanemaat** guest speaker Executive director State Library of New South Wales; 2. **Ron Reichwald**; 3. **Rebecca Weissner**, Dunera descendant, and **Peter Felder**; 4. **Julie Lippmann** and **Ed Lippmann** (widow and son of Dunera boy Henry Lippmann); 5. **Tom Wolf** (builder of a model of the Dunera), and **Sandra Wolf** (daughter of Dunera boy Alfred Felix Katz); 6. **Anthony Ravesi** and **Celia Ravesi** (Celia is niece of Dunera boy Harold Powell); 7. **Paula James** (daughter), Dunera Boy **Henry James** (age 97 years), and **Leah James**.



New Gallery at Tatura Museum

On 15 September 2019, the Tatura Wartime Camps Museum hosted a function with a two-fold purpose: to open a new gallery and to launch the exhibition *Immigration and the Refugee: The Art of Erwin Fabian*.

Attended by more than 100 people, the new gallery was officially opened by Mayor Kim O'Keefe. Appreciation was expressed for the generosity from the Pratt Foundation, Tatura Milk Industries, Tatura Rotary Club, Jack and Stuart Pickworth, James Crawford and major funder Greater Shepparton City Council.

The second part of the formalities saw the opening of the exhibition of artworks by Dunera artist and sculptor Erwin Fabian. It was opened by the journalist Jana Wendt.

Jana talked about Erwin Fabian's early life—referencing how he was born in 1915 in Berlin to a family of artists. Erwin, she said, hoped from a young age to be an artist and studied at the School of Applied Arts in Berlin. He left for England in 1937 and eked out an existence in London designing book covers and posters. He was deported on the Dunera and interned in Hay, Orange and Tatura. In Hay he shared Hut 26 with

George Teltscher and Klaus Friedeberger and made lifelong friendships.

Jana spoke about the theme of human dignity. She said that, at this time when public discourse is becoming less and less civil, the work of artists like Erwin Fabian is much needed to remind us of our common humanity with people on society's fringe such as refugees. Most of Erwin's works are untitled yet they are powerful and have a great deal to say about the refugee experience.

Seumas Spark, an historian from Monash University, ended the proceedings by thanking the funders of the exhibition: Gandel Philanthropy, the Besen Family foundation, Gordon Darling Foundation, as well as George Ferguson and the Tatura Historical Society. Seumas also joined everyone present in sincere gratitude to Erwin Fabian himself and his assistant Emil Toonen. ■



From left: Researcher Carol Bunyan, Lurline Knee, historian Seumas Spark, and Arthur Knee.



Journalist Jana Wendt, and local councillor Kym O'Keefe



From left: Mandy Huppert and Rebecca Silk, daughters of Dunera boy Peter Huppert, beside signature sculpture by Erwin Fabian.

Migration and the Refugee: The Art of Erwin Fabian

Erwin Fabian, who died on 19 January 2020 at the age of 104, created a visual record of his internment using whatever materials that he could find. He later joined the 8th Employment company and was sent to the army Education Service where he illustrated army publications. After 1946 he made a living as a graphic artist first in Melbourne and then in London.

Fabian returned to Melbourne in 1962 and turned to sculpture, working mainly in metal, sometimes in wood, and also plastic. He had more than 60 exhibitions in Australia, Britain and Germany. His sculptures, drawings and paintings are held in collections public and private in Australia and Europe.

The Tatura exhibition contains both works he did while in camp in 1940 and 1941, as well as recent works on the global themes of forced migration and the experiences of refugees. In his later years, Erwin returned to the materials of ink and correction fluid on paper, not unlike his internment works in pen and ink on paper. His creativity remained undimmed to the end. ■



In 1940, Erwin Fabian was deported to Australia alongside some 2000 other 'enemy aliens'. He was just 25. Today, he is one of Australia's most significant modern artists, with a decades-long career as a sculptor and painter. Join us on Sunday 15 September for the launch of 'Migration and the Refugee'. The Museum will open its doors at 1pm, with official proceedings starting at 2pm.

The Mayor of Greater Shepparton City Council, Cr Kim O'Keefe, will open the new Exhibition Gallery. Special guest Jana Wendt will then open the Erwin Fabian exhibition, which features artworks never before shown in public. The selected artworks span Fabian's time spent in internment through to more recent years.

Pre-booked tickets: \$25
Door price: \$30

For more information visit
www.taturamuseum.org or call
03 5324 2111



More information:

Erwin Fabian's works can also be seen at Australia Galleries in Collingwood and the Robin Gibson Gallery in Sydney.

You can also listen to Philip Adams discuss the exhibition on his 11 September 2019 "Late Night Live" ABC Radio National program, where he was joined by the historian Seamus Spark and sculptor Emil Toonen.

www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/latenightlive/migration-and-the-refugee-the-art-of-erwin-fabian/11501368

The Markiewicz Collection

By Emma Muzzatti

Emma Muzzatti is an intern in the Sydney Jewish Museum's curatorial department, as part of The University of Sydney Master of Museum and Heritage Studies degree.

The Markiewicz collection consists of private letters, official documents and personal papers which record the survival stories of three family members: Lotte Markiewicz, a single mother sending her two children, Lothar and Ellen, on a Kindertransport to England, and her escape into the Berlin Underground. Ellen was looked after by Quaker families in England for the duration of the war, but Lothar, aged 16, was shipped as an 'enemy alien' on the Dunera to Australia. He was rapidly released from internment and sent back to England. Material in the collection sheds light on the Quakers' efforts for his release and return to England.

Lotte married Max Markiewicz, and had two children, Lothar, born in 1924 and Ellen, born in 1926, in Berlin. Lotte and Max separated shortly after Ellen's birth, after which the children had limited contact with their father. In 1939 she arranged to send Lothar, 15, and Ellen, 13, to England on the Kindertransport. They would never live together as a family again.

Lothar kept more than 200 letters, which survived his journey from England to Australia, his return to England, and

his eventual settlement in Australia half a century later when he moved there with his wife, in 1993, to be closer to his son, Michael, and his grandchildren.

These letters, together with memorabilia from his time in Hay and Tatura, were recently donated to the Sydney Jewish Museum by Michael. The letters lay bare the dire situation for German Jews, documenting Lothar and Ellen's reasons for fleeing the persecution, and their experiences of being torn apart from each other. Each letter is an insight, building the story layer by layer. Yet I can imagine how easily they could have been thrown



5.7.41
 Love and all good wishes -
 My dearest Lothar, Many hearty thanks for the letter you sent to Mrs. Atkinson and myself. I was so happy to see from when that you are better and I hope that you now you have left the hospital and have a better time, especially as the climate must be more agreeable. You will be very and that Mrs. Wallauer has left and I am greatly looking forward to her reports about you. The left you with all you need, so you will not feel really lost. And you may day may love hope my dear boy, better. Try to get a change to the Australia as much out of your time as our are always have, good as you are.

Helen
 Catherine
 Dorothy
 Dorset

and I am sure there is much that will amuse you - so make the best of it! You know I am thinking of you with loving thoughts, and so are other friends, and your dear Mother and Ellen. Ellen is very well and happy, enjoying school life and looking forward to her holidays. Wanda, Freda is well and was glad to get your letter. Paul is working in a hotel in Wales, I have been ill after hard and rash work, and I am also looking for a new one, after the war will my boy and sister leave school this term I have heard and other some practical engineering job. Would you like to go to the Alps in Germany? Do you think that your Mother would want you to go and do you know him? He has not written to you about it is he? It is too unwise to return to England my dearest, be do not know what is in store for us here, and the journey is too strenuous for you. Tell me about it and always write to you. You are very much in my mind, and if I do not write often, it is

away. It happens—it happened in my family.

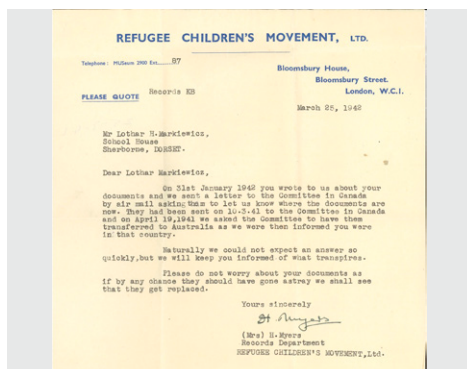
In May 1940, when he was 16, Lothar was arrested at his school in England as an 'enemy alien'. When he boarded the HMT Dunera he was not expecting to travel to Australia. Lothar was first interned at Hay and later at Tatura. Documents he kept speak of the conditions on the Dunera, such as a copy of the report sent to the British High Commissioner, and a list of their belongings stolen or destroyed; a school book, pen and photo album containing photos of his family, an irreplaceable reminder of home. Other items represent life in the Australian internment camps: a woodcut print of Hay, a class timetable from Tatura copied on the back of an envelope, and a programme from the

Tatura 'recreation department'. Amongst the drawings is an enigmatic cartoon with a chicken and the phrase, 'To the Egg Trustees and to those who shall become it again'.

Lothar was released in September 1941, and he returned to England on the Sterling Castle in November. He retained a programme of the on-board entertainment as a memento.

After returning to England his life settled; he continued his schooling, which had been abruptly interrupted by his deportation, eventually becoming a teacher. He kept in touch with friends he had made in Australia. Meanwhile, his mother's life in Berlin was becoming increasingly difficult. She was thrown out of her flat but she avoided deportation due to her job in a munition's factory.

The Markiewicz collection, cont'd



Lotte's letters to her son fail to inform him of her troubles. Instead, she focuses solely on finding out how he is, questioning his education, health and daily life. The changes in her circumstances are subtle, reflected in the numerous changes of address, and news and letters being transmitted by third parties in other countries. In September 1942, Ellen received a Red Cross letter from their grandmother, Frieda, who wrote that she is being deported to Theresienstadt. It is a sad farewell letter: 'I send you my last greetings ... stay healthy. Do not forget me.' Five months later, she was murdered. Not knowing this, the family continued to send care parcels for the next four years.

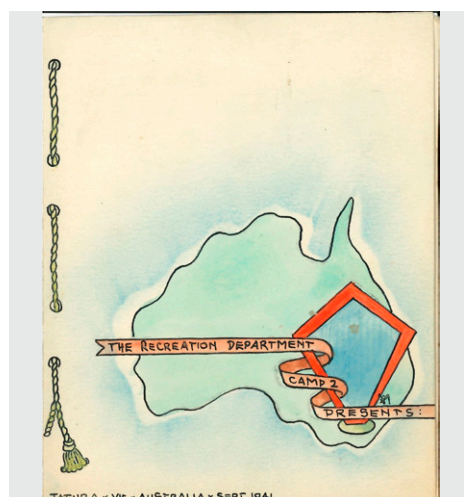
At the beginning of 1943, letters from Lotte stopped arriving. She had been forced into hiding. The children were almost exclusively hearing news about their mother via a friend, Margot Hehs, in Sweden. It wasn't until after the end of the war, in October 1945, that Lothar and Ellen received their first letter from

their mother in two years. Lotte had survived in hiding in Berlin. She moved to England after the war, and later settled in the United States with Ellen. They found out that their father, Max, had been murdered in Theresienstadt in 1943.

This narrative has been reconstructed from the letters themselves and from Lothar's short memoir that he wrote in 2005. Over the years, this history could have so easily been destroyed or lost.



Avoiding the destruction of family history has a personal resonance for me. My Nonno was interned as an 'enemy alien'; he had immigrated to Australia from Italy before the war with the hopes that his wife would follow shortly after. He didn't see my Nonna for almost a decade. He missed the birth of their first child and the baby's death at 18 months old. They would have used letters as



The Markiewicz collection, cont'd

their only means of communication. We don't have those letters anymore. Nonna threw them away after her husband's death in the late 1990s, as she hadn't seen the value in keeping them. My father bitterly regrets never expressing the desire to read them when he was younger—he is 71 this year. We don't know what longings, dreams or experiences were expressed in those letters, and with their loss we lose some of our own history too.

In lieu of the opportunity to research my own family history, I jumped at the chance to work on the Markiewicz collection. I'm glad I have played a part in preserving this history. If anyone can elaborate on the significance of the chicken cartoon, please contact the curators at the Sydney Jewish Museum: sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au ■



Obituaries

Henri Antonie de Jong

27 December 1934 – 5 October 2019

Minyan, St Kilda Hebrew Congregation, 10 October 2019. Read by Rabbi Glasman:

According to the wishes of the deceased there will be no eulogy, however the family have asked me to read this brief summary of his life.

Henri Antonie de Jong was born in Enschede Holland on December 27, 1934, the second child of Bernard de Jong and Erna de Jong-Zion.

After Nazi Germany occupied Holland in 1940, Bernard de Jong organised false identities for his family and they were hidden by non-Jewish Dutch families throughout the 2nd World War. This act of human solidarity saved their lives.

Following the completion of his secondary education Henri studied at the Enschede Textile College and then completed a Master of Science at Leeds University in England.

Always an enthusiastic sportsman, Henri represented Holland in tennis at the 6th Maccabiah Games in Israel in 1961. He met Eva Duldig on a tennis court in Tel Aviv and after a whirlwind romance the couple were married in this synagogue on the 28th February 1962.

Initially Henri and Eva lived in Arnhem, Holland, and their daughter Tania was born there in 1964.

In 1965, soon after the couple returned to Melbourne, their son Antony was

born. Pieter, their youngest child, was born in 1971.

Pieter is currently living in Brazil, and, as his wife Lucy is expecting their first child this month, he is unable to be with us here today.

Henri worked for many years in the textile industry in Melbourne, first for

Fibremakers, then Melba Industries. Later he established his own company, Henreva Associates, and together with his Japanese partners developed and supplied fabrics to the Australian Automotive Industry – including locally manufactured Holdens and Fords.

Henri led an active and fulfilling life. He walked his beloved dogs, Sam and Pippa, every day. He played bridge at championship level and met his friends on a regular basis. Most weekends he and Eva could be found in Mt Eliza where he enjoyed maintaining the family's bushland property.

He dearly loved his wife and children, and adored his granddaughters, Andrea and Emma.

May he rest in peace. ■



Klaus Friedeberger

23 August 1922—19 September 2019

By Julie Friedeberger



Klaus Friedeberger, a Dunera boy and abstract painter, died 19 September 2019, at the age of 97. | Photo courtesy of Julie Friedeberger

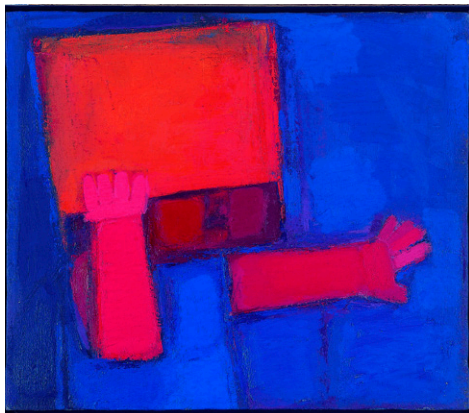
My beloved husband, Klaus Friedeberger, died in September 2019, at the age of 97.

Klaus was born in Berlin on 23 August 1922, to secular Jewish parents. Like so many Jews of his generation, he observed, “we were completely assimilated: we didn’t know we were Jews until Hitler arrived”. His father left the family when Klaus was 10, and emigrated to Brazil. In 1937 his mother, realising that she had to get him out of Germany before he became 16, found a place for him at the Quakerschool Eerde, near Zwolle in Holland. In April 1939 he was able to emigrate to England, with

the help of friends who were already there. His mother had escaped Germany a little earlier and found employment in England as a cook, but was very ill and died later that year.

In July 1940 came the internment, and the Dunera. Klaus was one of the youngest of the internees sent from Britain to Australia: he was 17 when he was interned, and “celebrated” his 18th birthday on the voyage.

He always remembered the kindness of the Australian guards on the train to Hay, and spoke affectionately of the excellent sandwiches they were given, and the apples! – rare treats after the



Child Playing With a Carton, 1960, by Klaus Friedeberger (from *The Guardian* obituary, 21 Oct 2019)

meagre rations dished up on the boat. He also remembered the wallabies bounding alongside the train on that long journey through a brown landscape—a surreal experience, he said; and he was always careful to point out that they were wallabies, not kangaroos. I'm not sure how he knew the difference, never having seen a kangaroo or a wallaby: perhaps the guards were the informants.

Internment proved an education for him. Although he was imprisoned behind barbed wire, there were so many brilliant, cultivated men locked up with him that it was more like an academy than a prison camp. Talking to the art critic Andrew Lambirth in 2016, he said "It was a brilliant experience in many ways. There was a camp school, choirs and quartets, and every morning those of us who painted did watercolours. I've got over a hundred watercolours I did in the camp."

Anyone who had something to teach came forward and taught it. There was the sculptor Heinz Henghes; the surrealist painter and stage designer Hein Heckroth; and the photographer Helmut Gernsheim; colour theory was taught by Ludwig Hirschfeld Mack from the Bauhaus, and art history by Ernst Kitzinger and Franz Philipp. And in Hay Klaus met Erwin Fabian, now aged 104 and a well-known Australian sculptor, who became a lifelong friend.

After two-and-a-half years of internment Klaus was released, and along with others joined a non-combatant labour corps in the Australian army, initially to pick peaches at Kyabram, and later to transfer supplies between trains at the break of gauge. It was hard but healthy work, and he



Black Space 21, 2014, by Klaus Friedeberger. Photograph: Delahunty Fine Art (from *The Guardian* obituary, 21 Oct 2019)

became physically very strong!

In 1946 he was demobbed and naturalised, and the following year began three years' study of painting at East Sydney Technical College (now the National Art School) under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme. He remembered Frank Medworth extolling "Tech" as "the best art school in the southern hemisphere". During this time he met a number of young Australian artists, including Arthur Boyd and Sydney Nolan, and exhibited with them at Contemporary Art Society exhibitions in Melbourne and Sydney. His fellow mature student Guy Warren

***"He helped me to see
better for the rest of his
life. Painting was his life,
and it became a vitally
important part of mine."
—Julie Friedeberger***

became another lifelong friend. Other firm friends were the painter Tony Tuckson and the sculptor Oliffe Richmond: both died in the 1970s.

In 1950 one of his paintings won the prestigious Mosman Prize, which funded a trip back to Europe. He settled in London and continued to paint; supporting himself with freelance work as a graphic designer, and later as art



Klaus Friedeberger in front of his painting, "Black Space." | Photo courtesy of Julie Friedeberger

director of the firm Osborne Peacock. He had intended to return to Australia, but life intervened, as it has a way of doing, and he never did.

Klaus and I met on 17 September 1960, in Florence, Italy. He was on holiday; I, from New York, was on the final leg of a cycling trip around Europe. In the Brancacci Chapel of the Santa Maria della Carmine, where the splendid Masaccio frescoes are, he approached me and offered me his opera glasses so that I could see them better. This uncharacteristic act (he was quite shy) was my great good fortune. We were married two years later, and he helped me to see better for the rest of his life. Painting was his life, and it became a vitally important part of mine.

Klaus' work was exhibited many times over the years. By the 1980s, after a

long period during which he continued to practise and teach graphic design, he was able to devote himself full time to painting. In 1986 a selection of his work was shown at the Warwick Arts Trust, and in 1992 a retrospective was held at Woodlands Art Gallery. In 2007 an exhibition of his early work, which included some of those “over a hundred watercolours” done in Hay camp, was held at England & Co. Gallery in Notting Hill; and in 2010 an exhibition curated by Simon Pierse took place at the School of Art galleries in Aberystwyth.

In his essay for the catalogue of Klaus' 2016 exhibition at the Delahunty Fine Art, London, Andrew Lambirth wrote:

“Looking at painting is about the discovery of the complete nature of an image which only comes into existence through the interaction of all its constituent parts when the viewer is standing in front of it.

“This communication from artist to viewer through the activity of direct looking is ultimately mysterious and inexplicable. We might describe it as the aura, presence, character, even the magic of a painting, and Friedeberger's work has it in spades.

“If all art worthy of the name offers access to the centre of things, it may be said that Klaus Friedeberger's paintings, drawings and collages throw a lasso around the centre; and in this case, the centre not only holds but reflects back an illumination that is rare in contemporary art.”

At about the same time, the vascular dementia from which Klaus had begun to suffer a year or so earlier, began to

worsen. He was a fighter, though, and continued to climb the two flights of stairs to his studio to paint until shortly before this terrible disease finally robbed him of his ability to do so; and on 19 September 2019 he died at St Christopher's Hospice. After a long, distressing period of increasing incapacity his death was peaceful; and it was my relief that his suffering was over. He had lived a long, fulfilling life, made glorious paintings, had lifelong friends who loved him, and was a wonderful husband and my best friend for almost 60 years. ■

I would be happy to hear from anyone who remembers Klaus and would like to share their memories. I can be contacted at: jfriedeberger@clara.co.uk



Klaus and Julie Friedeberger | Photo courtesy of Julie Friedeberger



In Memory

Heinz (Henry) Hirsch

Died 9 September 2019, in Melbourne

Ilse Lamm

(widow of Erwin Lamm)

Died 12 September 2019, in Melbourne

Henri de Jong

(husband of Eva de Jong-Duldig)

Died 5 October 2019, in Melbourne

Klaus Friedeberger

Died 19 September 2019, in London

Ilse Blair

(widow of Hans Blau/Blair)

Died 29 August 2019, in Melbourne

Erwin Fabian

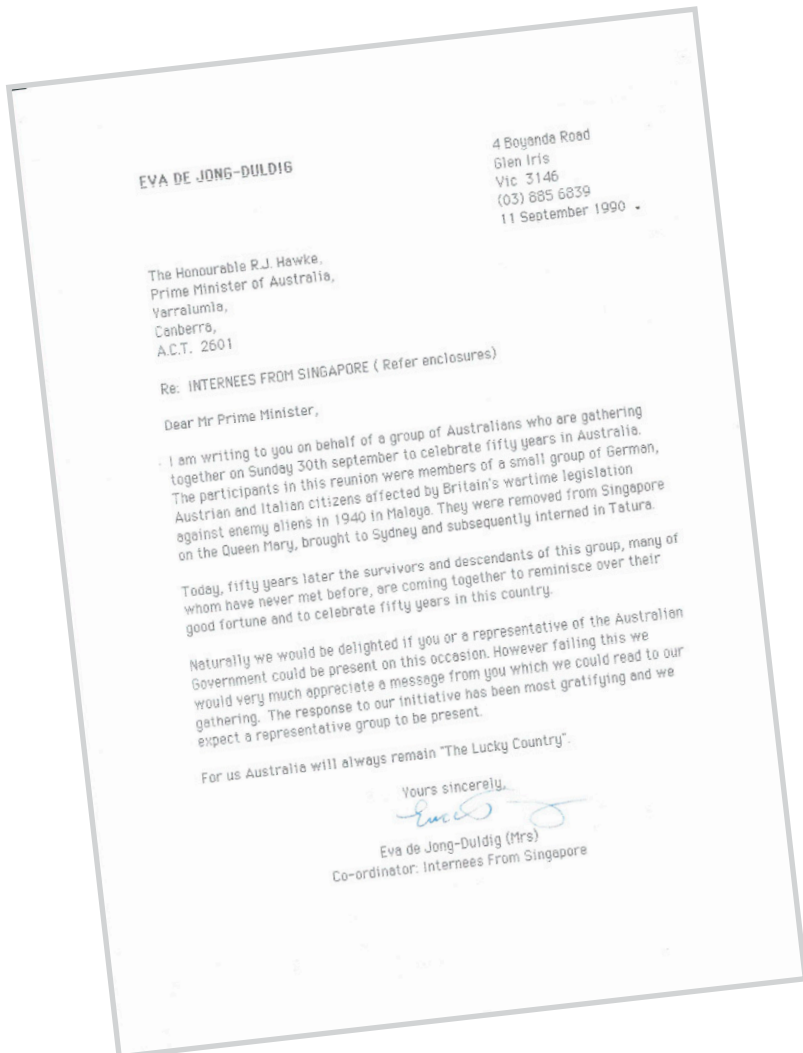
Died 19 January 2020, in Melbourne

We extend our thoughts and sympathies to their families.

The Singapore Letters

There are both anecdotal and historical records of Dunera internees engaging in lively correspondence with government authorities.

Later, in the run up to the significant 50th anniversary reunion, in 1990, of Dunera and Queen Mary (Singapore group) internees, letters were exchanged between the Dunera Association and the Governor General, Bill Hayden, who attended the reunion. There was also an exchange of letters between the Singapore internees and the prime minister of the time, Bob Hawke. We are grateful to Eva de Jong-Duldig for allowing publication of these letters. ■





OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

14 SEP 1990

Dear Mrs de Jong-Duldig

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 11 September 1990 concerning the reunion of passengers who were brought to Australia from Singapore aboard the Queen Mary fifty years ago to be held on 30 September 1990.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to arrange for a representative from the Australian Government to attend the Reunion.

However Mr Hawke would be pleased to provide a message for this occasion which will be forwarded to you closer to the date of the celebration.

The Prime Minister extends his best wishes for the success of the reunion.

Yours sincerely


Jenn Sinclair
Senior Adviser

Mrs Eva de Jong-Duldig
Co-ordinator
Internees From Singapore
4 Boyenda Road
GLEN IRIS VIC 3146

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

TEL NO.

01 62 104100 27 03 30 3 00 P.02



PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

It is a great pleasure to send my warmest good wishes to the survivors and descendants of the ex-Singapore Tatura internees as you gather to celebrate fifty years of life in Australia.

Given the hardships suffered by the internees, I was pleased to hear from the coordinators of your reunion that "for us Australia will always remain The Lucky Country".

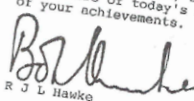
Australia is justifiably proud of its multicultural heritage. Those of you who came in unhappy circumstances aboard the Queen Mary fifty years ago provide a striking example of the commitment and contribution to Australia made by people who have not been daunted by trauma and hardship.

Experiences such as yours in Tatura, strengthened by the good will you consistently showed to a nation which was less than welcoming, have helped Australians develop a more mature and sophisticated attitude to our multicultural society.

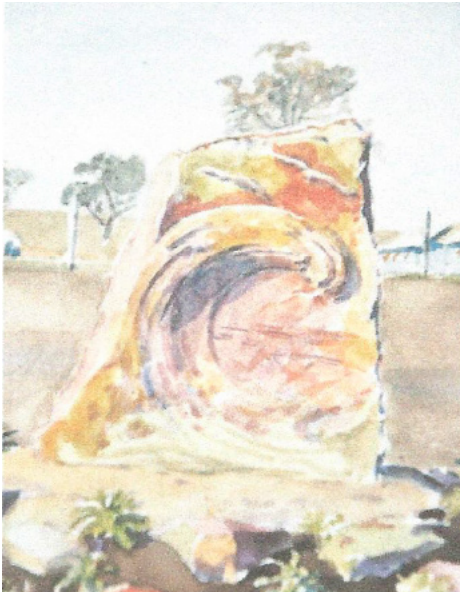
Australia has benefited greatly from the skills of the business people, industrialists, engineers, artists and musicians, doctors, lawyers and others among the original internees. The contribution they have made, and their children and grandchildren, is a matter of record.

Your will to survive and prosper has made it possible for so many of you to meet again, fifty years on. This is a magnificent achievement, and I am sure you will all get enormous satisfaction from this reunion.

May I wish you well, and extend my congratulations to the organisers of today's celebrations. Australia is proud of your achievements.


R J L Hawke

Dunera Association Tatura Reunion



Watercolour by Leonhard Adam of the original
Memorial Sculpture at Tatura by Felix Emile Braun.

Celebrating the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the Queen Mary and Dunera internees

When Sunday, 19 April 2020

Where Tatura Irrigation & Wartime Camps
Museum
49 Hogan Street, Tatura, Victoria

12:30 Arrival—viewing of exhibits in the
new gallery

1:30 Welcome—update on the Museum
and Dunera reunion events in 2020

1:45 Afternoon tea

2:00 Tatura Camps Visit—Briefing
by Tatura and District Historical
Society volunteers; visits to camps
courtesy of property owners.

Singapore Internees: Only One Reunion

On 18 September 1940 a party of 266 men, women and children, nearly all Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany and Austria, sailed from Singapore on the converted troopship *Queen Mary*. They were considered a security risk for this strategic British colony. The internees, ranging in age from one month to 78 years, arrived in Sydney on 25 September 1940 and two days later arrived in Tatura. They did not realise it at the time, but their forced deportation from Singapore most probably saved their lives as the British garrison of Singapore fell to the invading Japanese army in February 1942.

Despite continuous petitions for release made to the Australian government they remained interned till the formation of the AIF 8th Employment Company early in 1942, when 85 male Singapore internees enlisted. Soon after, the remaining 115 women and children became the only group of ex-overseas Jewish internees released into Australian civilian life during World War II.

After the war nearly all these families became naturalised Australians, made their home in Melbourne, and remained there for good.

Unlike their Dunera counterparts, the ex-Singapore community had only one reunion—in September 1990. Fifty years

after their deportation from Singapore on the *Queen Mary* and for the first time since they left Tatura, former internees and their descendants assembled in Melbourne to celebrate their arrival in Australia (see image). The event generated considerable media interest and Prime Minister Bob Hawke sent a congratulatory letter.

Today few of the original Singapore internees remain; however in the intervening years they and their descendants have made a significant contribution to Australian society.

— **Eva de Jong-Duldig**

Founder Duldig Studio Melbourne
Former Singapore Internee



Singapore Internees (with their descendants) held their one and only reunion in Melbourne, September 1990, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their arrival in Australia | Photo courtesy of Eva de Jong-Duldig

Save the Dates

80th Anniversary Reunions

Tatura Reunion Sunday 19 April 2020 (see page 22)

Sydney Reunion Sunday 30 August 2020

Hay Reunion 4-6 September 2020

Melbourne Reunion Sunday 8 November 2020

Details of each of these special events will be provided prior to each event.

For the story of the Dunera Boys, Singapore Internees, events, back issues of Dunera News, and much more, visit our website:
duneraassociation.com

All correspondence to:

The Secretary – Dunera Association

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Photo p. 19: Olive Tree by Oana Craciun on Unsplash (copyright-free)

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